MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2017 mrt★com *235,000 readers in print and online monthly*

NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP

Get coverage in Sports from last night's final game.

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ONLINE FEATURES

- Olivia Newton-John to perform at Wagner Noel PAC on June 11
- Giveaway: Two night stay at the Gaylord Texan

mrt.com

Craddick 'saddened' driver may have texted before crash

By Ben Wear
Austin American-Statesman

State Rep. Tom Craddick, the author of a bill that seeks to ban the use of hand-held phones while driving to type, read or surf the internet, said last week he was "saddened" to learn that the driver of the pickup involved in the March 29 fatal crash in Uvalde County may have been texting while driving.

"I am saddened by the loss of life and appalled to learn that this crash could have been prevented if the driver of the truck had been paying attention to the road, not texting on his phone," Craddick said. "No message or email is important enough to risk injury or death while driving on our Texas roadways."

The news that texting could have caused the crash comes as the Legislature once again considers bills that put into state law a ban on some uses of hand-held phones while driving.

The Legislature has seen such bills in every session since 2009, and passed a version in 2011 that was vetoed by then Gov. Rick Perry.

House Bill 62, from Craddick, passed the House March 16 on a 114-32 vote and is pending in the Senate, where it has not yet been referred to a committee. But an identical bill from state Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo (who has carried texting bans in each of the last five sessions), was approved by the Senate State Affair Committee on March 14 on a 6-3 vote.

The Craddick and Zaffirini bills would not ban talking on a hand-held phone while driving, although that is illegal in many cities, including Austin.

The hang-up for both bills, as it was in 2015, is a coalition of the Senate's most conservative members known as the Freedom Caucus.

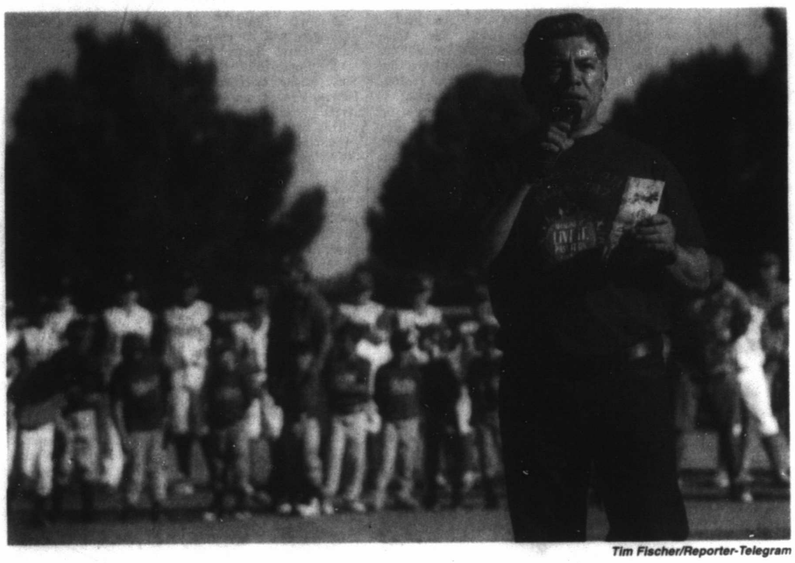
That group, led by state Sen. Konni Burton, R-Fort Worth, made up all or most of 13 members in the 31-member Senate who last session opposed bringing up Zaffirini's bill for debate and a vote.

A bill, under Senate rules, must have 19 votes to come up for action. Zaffirini in 2015 was one vote short of that threshold and it appears it faces similar resistance this time. Zaffirini, and thus Craddick, face the same challenge this time around.

Wednesday's tragedy, should officials confirm texting while driving's role in the collision and resulting deaths of 13 people, figures to be a powerful argument for advocates of the texting ban.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

Making the pitch for parks



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Mayor Jerry Morales speaks Monday during the opening day of Little League about the upcoming vote to support keeping the 4B tax to pay for renovations of all Midland parks and sports areas.

Chick-fil-A near northside Wal-Mart to be rebuilt

By Trevor Hawes
thawes@mrt.com

Chick-fil-A faithful will be happy to hear that the location adjacent to the north side Wal-Mart will be rebuilt.

The Planning & Zoning Commission voted 6-0 to approve Burger Engineering's request for a zone change from planned district to an amended planned district at 4508 W. Loop 250 N., the site of an existing Chick-fil-A restaurant that originally was zoned in 1995.

City staff said the plan is to demolish the old building and replace it with new construction and better traffic circulation. The new facility will be 5,000 square feet, which is 1,030 square feet larger than the current building, staff said. There will be 52 parking spaces to be shared with the adjacent Texas Roadhouse restaurant, and ingress and egress locations will remain the same.

Staff said the restaurant was remodeled in 2006 and 2011.

Construction continues on the city's fourth Chick-fil-A location, located at the corner of Andrews Highway and Loop 250. Simon Properties announced in March that the Chick-fil-A location inside Midland Park Mall will also undergo remodeling soon.

All Planning & Zoning matters must also be approved by City Council.

In other business

- New retail: Commissioners voted unanimously for a zone change from a planned district for a transition district

Please see **CHICK-FIL-A**/3A

More engineering, entrepreneurship opportunities approved

- MDC board votes to partner with UTPB

By Trevor Hawes
thawes@mrt.com

More engineering programs and a creative and entrepreneurial space at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin are one step closer to reality after the Midland Development Corp. board voted to partner with the university.

The board approved 5-0 a measure to give UTPB $5 million, to be paid in equal installments over five years, to build the third floor of the school's new engineering building, which will make room for chemical and electrical engineering programs.

Also part of the terms is the creation of a business incubator and makerspace. UTPB will vacate up to 10,000 square feet at the Center for Energy and Economic Diversification building for the project, and the school will operate the program.

More info

Read the story behind the partnership between the MDC and UTPB: http://bit.ly/2nZz1lu

The partnership satisfies the visions of MDC and UTPB. About 1 in 10 students at UTPB are pursuing engineering degrees. UTPB President David Watts said at the meeting, and the school wants to grow to meet demand. He estimated that about 1 in 7 students will study engineering after the new building and programs are ready.

MDC three years ago had budgeted $5 million for the creation of a business incubator and makerspace to allow residents — both students and non-students — to develop their ideas and get business help along the way, according to a previous Reporter-Telegram report.

The new engineering building is being constructed near the CEED. MDC Chairman Brent Hilliard told the Reporter-Telegram that the partnership will create a unique system of entrepreneurship and economic development. Students can get

Please see **MDC**/2A

Weather
Sunday
76/40
Get your complete forecast on 5B

Energy prices

WTI Futures	$50.24	▼ $0.36
WTI Posted	$47.00	-- $0.00
WTS Posted	$42.35	▼ $0.60
Natural Gas	$3.128	▼ $0.062
Gasoline	$2.276	▲ $0.024

The big number
A father was arrested hours after his 2-year-old son found a loaded gun on the kitchen table and fatally shot himself in the head. Page 3A

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

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Obituaries



Mary Frances Hamilton Herndon

Mary Frances Hamilton Herndon, 87, of Midland, Texas, passed away Sunday, April 2, 2017.

She was born December 18, 1929 in Nashville, Arkansas, the youngest of four children, to Ida and Carroll Edward Hamilton. She grew up in Arkansas until age 9 when her family moved to East Texas. She attended school in Mt. Vernon, Texas and graduated in 1946. She then attended Business College in Dallas. She worked in Dallas and moved to Abilene, Texas in 1950 where she worked in the oil industry as a secretary.

Mary met and married Eldon Herndon in Abilene on April 15, 1953 and moved to Midland, where they resided, their entire married life. She and Eldon were self-employed for several years in various businesses.

She was a charter member of the Golf Course Road Church of Christ for 49 years and was active in teaching and participating in the church where she worked as a secretary for a short time. She and Eldon became members of the Fairmont Park Church of Christ in 2012.

Mary is survived by her husband, Eldon of Midland; one son and daughter-in-law, Forrest and Kirsten Herndon; and one grandson, Bryce Herndon, all of Abilene; two granddaughters, Brittni Herndon of Abilene and Lynzee Herndon of Austin; and two great-granddaughters, Bailee and Kynzee.

She was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers, one sister, and one daughter, Melissa Herndon.

The viewing will be from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 5, 2017 at Fairmont Park Church of Christ in Midland. Interment will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park.

Pallbearers will be Art May, Nelson Patton, Frank Bartlett, Kent Gaultney, Dewitt Smith, and Eric Lewis.

Honorary pallbearers will be the elders of Fairmont Park Church of Christ.

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

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



Allen Frame

Allen Frame, 61, of Midland, Texas, passed away Saturday, April 1, 2017.

A visitation was held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home on Monday, April 3, 2017.

Funeral services will be at 2:00 p.m. at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Chapel on Tuesday, April 4, 2017.

Interment will be held at 10:30 a.m. (MST), Wednesday, April 5, 2017 at Jal Cemetery in Jal, New Mexico.

Allen was born October 24, 1955 in Kermit, Texas to Frank and Evelyn Frame. He graduated from Jal High School and married Terri Wheeler in May 2007. Allen loved fishing and boating, and had a great love for sports.

He is survived by his wife, Terri Frame; sisters, Mary and Nita; brother, Rick; one son, Bradly Frame; two daughters, Crystal Richardson and Jenny Frame; two stepsons, Shawn and Josh Wheeler; and by six grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his mother, Evelyn Frame of Jal.

The family would like to express their gratitude toward Home Hospice of Midland and friends and family.

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

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



Dennis Ray Gwin

Dennis Ray Gwin, 67, passed away on March 31, 2017.

He was born November 10, 1949 in Portales, New Mexico to Cecil and Hildreth Gwin. He attended Hobbs High School in Hobbs, New Mexico. After graduation, Dennis joined the United States Navy where he served for six years.

He graduated from Eastern New Mexico University in 1976. He moved to Midland, Texas and spent several years working as a CPA for various oil companies.

After 17 years working for Slough Equipment in Odessa, Texas, he retired at the age of 65. He enjoyed fishing and bowling.

Dennis is preceded in death by his loving parents and numerous aunts and uncles.

Left to cherish his memory is his wife, Pamlia Gwin of Midland; stepchildren, J.J. Johnson and family of Church Point, Louisiana and Jillian Johnson Kavanaugh and husband Michael of Seattle, Washington; brothers, David Gwin of Hobbs and Stephen Gwin of Hobbs; mother-in-law, Francene Lawless Esensee and husband E.W. of San Angelo, Texas; and an uncle, Richard Reed of Midland.

The family would like to thank the staff of Midland Memorial Hospital and Dr. John McKenna for the care they gave to Dennis.

A memorial service will be held at Lewallen Garcia Pipkin Funeral Home Chapel at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, April 5, 2017 with Pastor Danny Bisbee presiding.

Interment with military honors will be at 3:00 p.m. at the Prairie Haven Cemetery in Hobbs.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the American Heart Association 3205 W. Cuthbert Ave. Midland, TX 79701 may be made in Dennis' honor.

Funeral arrangements are in the care of Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home.

Online condolences can be made at *www.lewallangarciapipkinfh.com*.

Lewallen Garcia Pipkin Funeral Home
2500 N. Big Spring - Midland, TX - (432) 682-3701



Gloria Mendoza Ramirez

Gloria Mendoza Ramirez, of Midland, Texas, went to be with her Lord and Savior on March 31, 2017 at the age of 80 after a brave battle with cancer.

Gloria was born in Midland to Juan and Luz Mendoza. She was raised and grew up in Midland, where she attended school and worked as a cotton farmer in her early years and later as a housekeeper for many years for the Windhams. She married her first husband, Eliseo Chavarria, in southern California where she had three children. Later, she moved back to Midland, where she met and married second husband, Juan C. Ramirez.

Gloria was a loving mother, sister, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend. She loved gardening in her yard and she loved helping people. Her family was her first priority, with whom she loved like no other. She was very vivacious and full of life and laughter. She loved listening to music and dancing. Everyone who came across her always remembered her great sense of humor and loving personality.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Juan and Luz; step-father, Cipriano Larez; her daughter, Diane Chavarria; two brothers, Angel and Joe Mendoza; a sister, Mary Mendoza; and by her husband, Juan Ramirez.

She is survived by her daughter, Elizabeth Chavarria (Eric); her son, Joseph Chavarria (Renee); four granddaughters, Celeste, Alex, Nikki, and Hailey; one grandson, Ethan; one great-grandson, Jackson; and by her sisters, Alice Diaz and Corina Munoz.

She will be greatly missed but always in our hearts.

There will be a viewing at 10:00 a.m. and a Rosary at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 5, 2017 at Thomas Funeral Home in Midland.

A service will be held on Thursday, April 6, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe.



Isabel Villarreal Stahl

Isabel Villarreal Stahl, 47, passed away at her home in Stillwater, Ok. on Wednesday, March 22, 2017 surrounded by her family. Arrangements are under the care of Palmer Marler Funeral Home of Stillwater.

Isabel was born August 26, 1969 in Midland, TX. to Martin and Josefa (Armendariz) Villarreal. She grew up in the Midland area where she attended school and graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in 1988.

She later attended Shawnee Beauty College where she obtained her Barber licenses. She has worked as licensed Barber for the past twenty plus years.

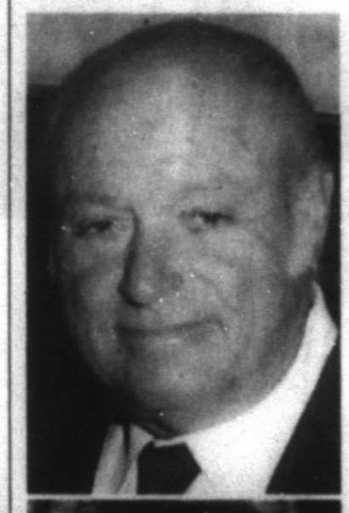
She met Justin Stahl in Ada, Oklahoma on February 9, 2013. He proposed to her on December 12, 2014 which led to their marriage just 3 months later on March 14, 2015 in Eureka Springs, AR. Isabel never had any children of her own, but her nieces, nephews, and two furr babies were the enjoyment of her life. Family was very important to her. She never met a stranger. To her family and frie. she was better known as "Isa" or "Izzy". Isabel also enjoyed cooking, shopping for antiques, "DIY" projects and gadgets. She was always finding some new "project" to make, and many of those items you could find in her home such as her dining room table, her bedroom head board, and patio table.

She is survived by her husband, Justin and two canine companions, Bella Donna, and Clyde; parents, Martin & Josefa Villarreal of Midland, TX; two sisters, Elisa Paredes and husband Estevan, and Anna Baeza and husband Oscar all of Midland, TX; nine nieces, Amanda, Alexandria, Ava, Anaya, Abigail, Amaya, Adleigh, Bridget, and Hanna; seven nephews, Anthony, Christian, Avery, Will, Evan, Carter, and Levi; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Ronald and Carla Stahl of Bridgewater, SD; three brothers-in-law, Donald Stahl and wife Sarah of Rapid City, SD, Wade Stahl of Yankton, SD, and Brent Stahl of Bridgewater, SD; three sister-in-law, Heidi Stahl of Denver, CO, Katie Voeltz and husband Mike of Sioux Falls, SD, and Beverly Stahl of Minneapolis, MN; numerous aunts, uncles, and a host of friends.

She was preceded in death by her infant sister, Cecilia Villarreal, paternal and maternal grandparents.

Isabel will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Rosary will be held Thursday, April 6, 2017 at 6:30pm at The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Mass of Resurrection will be Friday, April 7, 2017 at 10:00am at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church.





Ronny Dale Smith

Ronny Dale Smith passed away peacefully on March 31, 2017 in Midland, Texas. He was 75 years of age.

He was born November 23, 1941 in Dublin, Texas to Atlas and Dixie Smith and graduated from Midland High School in 1960. He served two tours in Vietnam with the Army and was honorably discharged in 1973.

Ronny was an entrepreneur who owned and operated several businesses including Smith Music Company, West Texas Wheels, and A-1 Bail Bonds.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Dixie and Atlas Smith; his brother, Don Tex Smith; and his daughter, Kim Howard.

He is survived by his wife, Ellis Leonard Smith, the love of his life for 43 years; children, Ronny Dale Smith II and wife Kasey, Kevin Smith, and Casey Smith Goree and husband Tyler; grandchildren, Hilary Howard Nixon and husband Mike, Cameron Howard and wife Lindzee, and Ryan Smith; great-grandson, John Clark Howard; and by numerous nieces and nephews.

Ronny will be remembered by his family and friends as a loving husband, supportive father, and dear friend. His loyalty, immeasurable kindness, and boundless generosity touched the lives of many throughout his lifetime. He had a zest for life that was contagious, as witnessed in his favorite past-times with family and friends.

Whether he was taking long road trips, playing golf, watching TCU football with his sons, or doting on his daughter and wife, he had an abundant appreciation for life. Ronny's adventures and sense of humor made him an engaging story-teller whose laughter could light up a room. His devotion, charitable nature, spirited stories, infectious laughter, and loving memories will live on in the hearts of all who were blessed to call him family and friend.

Honoring Ronny as pallbearers will be Dwaine Smith; Derel Smith, Don "D.K." Jones, Bill Carter, Stuart Atnipp, Tyler Nobles, Howard Flowers, and Bobby Avent.

The family will receive friends on Tuesday April 4, 2017 from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, April 5, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Chapel in Midland. Burial will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park.

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

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



Baby Piper Grace Charbonnet

Baby Piper Grace Charbonnet was born on Sunday, January 8, 2017 in Houston and went into the arms of her Savior on Saturday, January 14, 2017.

Piper was born to Daniel and Lisa Charbonnet just moments ahead of her twin sister, Avery Rose Charbonnet. After months of trepidation leading up to their early delivery, Piper filled the room with a brilliant, hope-filled cry immediately upon her arrival.

She fought valiantly within the womb; holding on despite tremendous pressure that resulted from lifesaving intrauterine surgery at 16 weeks gestation. She fought for 12 long weeks, beating the odds, and wowing all of her doctors and nurses, but most importantly, biding precious time of growth and development for her and her much smaller twin sister.

She continued to fight for six beautiful days here on this earth. Just enough time for most of her family to meet her, touch her, pray over her. Enough time to love her and memorize her perfect little form. Enough time to leave such an enormous imprint on all those who met her to know, that no matter how long she might have lived, there could never have been enough time.

Piper passed beneath her parent's tears and laying in her mother's arms. And although she was so small, and her life was so brief, the light she brought will shine eternally through all those she touched and inspired.

She is survived by her parents, Daniel and Lisa Charbonnet; her big brothers, Noah Levi and Grayson William; her big sister, Emery Kate; her identical twin, Avery Rose; her paternal grandparents, Craig Stephen Charbonnet and Sheila Johns Charbonnet; her maternal grandparents, Edwin William Langley and Diane Tatlock Langley; along with an abundance of loving aunts, uncles, and cousins.

She is joined in Glory with her cousins, Miles Thomas and Charlotte Hope Merrick.

Following a private graveside service, a celebration of life service will be held at First Baptist Chapel in Midland on April 7, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. The family asks that all those who choose to join in celebrating Piper's life wear light and bright colors.

To honor Piper, as well as all those at Texas Children's Hospital who fought so valiantly for her life both in and out of the womb, the family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Human Coalition at the link provided below.

https://secure.humancoalition.org/in-memory-of-piper

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

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

Death Notices

Alberto Navarrete Ramirez

Albert Navarrete Ramirez, 84, passed away on Saturday, April 1, 2017.

A funeral mass will be Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish & Shrine.

He is survived by two sons, Gonzalo Navarrete and Alvaro Navarrete; five daughters, Guadalupe Rico, Dora Espinoza, Alma Padilla, Elsa Ruiz, and Maria Navarrete; and by three brothers and one sister.

Robert William Helm

Robert William Helm, 85 of Midland, Texas, passed away on Sunday, April 2, 2017.

A visitation will be at Nalley-Pickle and Welch Funeral Home from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 6, 2017.

Graveside services will be at Resthaven Memorial Park on Friday, April 7, 2017 at 12:00 p.m.

Robert is survived by his wife, Irene M. Helm, and daughter, Kathleen H. Baker.

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

MDC

From 1A

their education at UTPB, take their ideas to the makerspace, learn how to start a business at the incubator and get further help and funding through UTPB's Small Business Development Center.

"(The partnership) represents a great opportunity for the area," Watts said. "It will be a major step forward."

Board member Keith Stretcher said the program will help the oil and gas industry with recruitment obstacles. City Councilman Jeff Sparks, an oil and gas man himself, said, "It will do wonders for the workforce. It's going to be a big boost for my industry."

The MDC board's approval isn't the final say. The measure must be approved by City Council, and Watts said the chemical and electrical engineering programs will go in front of the University of Texas System board of regents May 9 and 10.

In other business

■ Doctor recruitment: The board approved payment of $361,660.58 to the Midland County Hospital District for the continuation of its reimbursable physician recruitment agreement.

Midland Memorial Hospital staff indicated during a board presentation that the program, now in its second year, has been very successful. They noted 100 percent doctor retention and that the hospitalist program is close to being fully staffed.

The vote was 3-0; MDC board member Gary Douglas opted to abstain because he is on the hospital board and Stretcher abstained because his son-in-law is among the doctors being actively recruited.

■ Spaceport update: Parkhill Smith & Cooper staff said during a presentation that construction work at Spaceport Business Park is moving along. They said utilities work is expected to be completed in the beginning of May and paving should be finished a few months afterward.

An item for site improvements is expected at the next meeting.

■ Pipeline proposal: The board voted 5-0 to license right-of-way to EnLink North Texas Gathering for the company's pipeline project.

■ Reaching out: The MDC is putting stronger focus on social media outreach to inform the community about its activities and potential businesses about opportunities in Midland. You can follow the MDC on Twitter at @midlandtxedc, on Facebook at MidlandTXEDC and on LinkedIn.

Like Trevor on Facebook and follow him on Twitter at @HowdyHawes.

WORD OF THE DAY
brought to you daily by
JimBurrito

Nihilism
[nahy-uh-liz-uh m, nee-]
noun
1. total rejection of established laws and institutions.
2. anarchy, terrorism, or other revolutionary activity.

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Godofredo A. Vasquez/Houston Chronicle via AP

Authorities investigate the scene where Clinton Greenwood, Harris County Precinct 3 assistant chief deputy, was fatally shot outside the Baytown courthouse Monday in Baytown.

Texas deputy constable fatally shot after arriving for work

Associated Press

BAYTOWN — A highly regarded Texas law enforcement officer was shot and killed Monday moments after arriving for work in an attack that prompted a massive manhunt for the gunman.

The shooting of Harris County Precinct 3 Assistant Chief Deputy Clinton Greenwood did not appear to be random, according to Baytown police Lt. Steve Dorris, but a motive was not immediately clear.

"Whether or not he was specifically targeted, or whether this was because of the uniform he was wearing or the place he pulled up to in the morning, we just don't know that right now," Dorris said.

No arrests had been made as of Monday evening. Dorris said authorities were still "actively investigating" the shooting but declined to offer additional information.

Greenwood, a 30-year law enforcement veteran, was shot outside a county courthouse building in Baytown, east of Houston. He suffered a single gunshot wound and was airlifted to a Houston hospital where he died.

The attack led to the lockdown of a nearby high school and a broad response by law enforcement as authorities closed intersections as part of their search for the suspect. Access to businesses in the area was limited as law enforcement helicopters searched by air and officers spread into nearby neighborhoods.

Montgomery County sheriff's Lt. Tim Cannon told the Houston Chronicle that he had known Greenwood for decades and was struggling to understand who would harm him.

"Clint was absolutely a target, for whatever reason. We don't know," he said. "But he didn't need to be a target. Clint was there to help. And whoever this person was, Clint probably would have reached out to help him as well."

A reward of up to $65,000 has been offered for information that would lead authorities to arrest and charge someone in the case.

Greenwood received his law license in the 1980s and worked for the Harris County district attorney's office. At one point, he oversaw the office's civil rights division. He also once served as part of the command staff for the Harris County sheriff's office, one of the busiest in the country.

"My heart goes out to the family and friends of Assistant Chief Deputy Greenwood and the Harris County law enforcement community in the wake of this heinous murder," Gov. Greg Abbott said in a statement. "Texas is taking action to strengthen penalties for those brazen enough to commit crimes against law enforcement, and we will send a message that such vile acts will not be tolerated."

The shooting of Greenwood was reminiscent of the 2013 slaying of a prosecutor as he exited his car and walked into work southeast of Dallas. Authorities say the gunman who killed Mark Hasse outside the Kaufman County courthouse later fatally shot the county's district attorney and his wife. The deaths were retribution after Hasse and District Attorney Mike McLelland prosecuted gunman Eric Williams for the theft of county equipment, authorities have said.

4 Odessans die in 2-vehicle collision

From staff reports

Four Odessans — including an 8-year-old girl — died Sunday afternoon in a two-vehicle wreck on South Loop 338, 4 1/2 miles north of Odessa, according to a press release from the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Thirty-year-old Christopher Soliz was driving a Ford F250 northbound, and Calistro Carrillo, 35, was driving a southbound Dodge pickup towing a cargo trailer.

Soliz lost control, entered the southbound lane, and the vehicles collided, according to the release.

Soliz was transported to Medical Center Hospital, where he later died. Carrillo died at the scene.

There were four passengers in Soliz's pickup — Elizabeth Navarrette, 29, and three children. Navarrette died at the scene; the 8-year-old girl was transported to MCH, where she died.

Two girls, 10 and 2, were transported to MCH.

The roadway was wet at 4:21 p.m. — the time the wreck occurred.

Carrillo was wearing a seat belt, but the three people in the Ford who died were not, according to the release.

The 2-year-old was in a child safety seat, and it is not known if the older girl was wearing a seat belt.

2-year-old boy shoots himself, father arrested

Associated Press

CORPUS CHRISTI — Police in South Texas have arrested a father hours after his 2-year-old son found a loaded gun on the kitchen table and fatally shot himself in the head.

Corpus Christi police officer Gena Pena says 22-year-old Eric Javier Morales is charged with criminally negligent homicide and is being held at the Nueces (nyoo-AY-ces) County jail.

Pena says the child shot himself Sunday morning. Morales was not home at the time, but the child's mother was there, as was a 1-year-old child.

Morales went to the hospital where the 2-year-old boy was taken and later met with investigators before being charged.

Jail records don't indicate whether Morales has an attorney who can respond to the allegations against him.

CHICK-FIL-A

From 1A

to local retail district (LR-2) for the future site of a Dollar General. The lot is generally located southeast of the intersection of State Highway 349 and Tejas; it does not have an address, city staff said.

■ Building issues: Resident Laurence Oeth is seeking to construct a detached accessory building on his property at 4506 Cimmaron Avenue, but he faced resistance from the commission. Oeth wants to build a two-story building with a garage on the first floor and living quarters on the second, which he said during the comment period would be occupied by his au pair or guests.

The city said the 800-square-foot structure couldn't be used as a rental property, and Oeth said he wouldn't use the building for that purpose. The city also said the property needed to be replatted.

At issue for the commission was the physical location of the building. Plans are to build the structure 3 feet back from the lot line, which would line up with an existing fence that was also built 3 feet back from the lot line. The fence would terminate at the building.

Commissioner Reggie Lawrence proposed an amendment in what he said was more in line with decisions in the past to require 5 feet back from the lot line. Commissioner Josh Sparks seconded the motion, and the commission voted 4-2 to approve the change. Commissioners Chase Gardaphe and Brad Bullock voted against the vote.

The final vote of 5-1 include the amendment. Gardaphe voted no.

■ Request denied: Property owner Ryan Almand sought a zone change for his adjacent properties at 4905 King Richards Row. The request was to change Almand's pair of one-family dwelling districts (1F1 and 1F2) to agricultural estate (AE). The properties were surrounded by residential to the north and west and agricultural estate to the south and east.

Almand said he someday might want horses, but the city said the property doesn't meet the minimum lot size of 2 acres. City staff said one animal unit requires 20,000 square feet; in terms of equine livestock, two horses equals one animal unit.

A neighbor spoke in opposition to the request, saying that he wants to keep the neighborhood without livestock and that he was concerned another barn would be built, in addition to an existing barn on the property, for use by a construction company. Almand said he owns a construction company and indeed was considering a second barn, though he would not do business out of the structure. Rather, it would be used to store items on his truck such as ladders or extra tile.

The city recommended the commission deny the request, which it did by getting no second on the motion to approve the zone change and a 4-2 vote to deny the zone change.

■ New tower: Commissioners approved 6-0 a request for a specific use permit for a wireless communication system. At the site of the Plaza Oaks Shopping Center, north of Wadley Avenue and Garfield Street, is a 100-foot "stealth" communications tower with an unmanned building. The request was to build a new stealth tower with wider canisters, which hide antenna equipment, for use by Verizon Wireless.

■ Love for planning: City Councilwoman Sharla Hotchkiss closed the meeting by applauding the city's planning staff for "coming out in full force" to the Great American Cleanup this weekend. Hotchkiss said she is ever-impressed by planning staff, who consistently make efforts to take part in events to improve the city. Staff received enthusiastic applause by all in attendance.

Like Trevor on Facebook and follow him on Twitter at @HowdyHawes.

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This day in Midland

On April 4, 2002, Tommy Franks threw out the first pitch at First American Bank Ballpark (currently called Security Bank Ballpark) as the Scharbauer Sports Complex opened.

Things to do

- Watercolor art classes by Sara Drescher, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., Arts Council of Midland, 1506 W. Illinois Ave. To register, email sara@artbysaradb.com.
- Bridge game play, 1 p.m., Allison Bridge Center, 913 W. Wadley Ave. $6. For more information call 432-682-8595.
- Building Bots: Robotics and Engineering Funlab, 5:30 p.m., The Petroleum Museum, 1500 Interstate 20 West. $20 members, $25 non. PBpetro.org.
- Indie Lens Pop-Up: "National Bird," follows whistleblowers who are determined to break the silence around one of the most controversial issues: the secret U.S. drone war, 6:30 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland, 3301 Neely Ave. Free. basinpbs.org.
- Bingo, 6 p.m., Tall City VFW Post 7208, 1306 E. Taylor Ave. Children welcome.
- Live Trivia by Challenge Entertainment. 7 p.m., Basin Burger House.
- Ronnie McDowell, 7 p.m., Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $33. liveonstage-pb.com.
- $2 Tuesdays with the same price for games, shoes, select beers and arcade card after 8 p.m. Bowlero, 5320 W. Loop 250 N. bowlero.com.
- Karaoke with Ali, 8 p.m., Your Place, 3704 W Wall St.
- Wine, Women and Shoes benefiting Midland Rape Crisis and Children's Advocacy Center with a performance by RaeLynn, wine tasting, the Shoe Guys, food and shopping at Midland College, 3600 N. Garfield St. $125 general admission, $400 for girlfriend package of four, $50 for Keys to the Closet. winewomenandshoes.com/event/midland.

Lake Levels

(the percentage full measurements are listed)

	This week	Last month
Thomas	62.11	62.58
Spence	13.55	13.56
Ivie	24.40	24.64
Totals	25.93	26.11

Source: Colorado River Muncipal Water District

Watering schedule

The current outdoor watering schedule allows residents and businesses in the city of Midland to water twice per week.

Even-numbered addresses may water outdoors on Saturdays and Wednesdays.

Odd-numbered addresses may water outdoors on Fridays and Tuesdays.

Any violation may result in a fine up to $500.

The ban on washing outdoor surfaces is still in effect.

Blue Ribbon Run

The ninth annual Blue Ribbon Run: The Race to End Child Abuse is set for Saturday at Midland Memorial Stadium, 2001 W. Cuthbert Ave. The event is organized by the Midland County Child Welfare Board, which advocates for abused and neglected children in Midland County.

Participants can choose to run the 1K run, 5K run, or both. To register, go to www.midlandchildwelfare.com. Runners can also register the day of the race starting at 7:30 a.m.

Donations can be made via the Sleep-In-Supporter option at online registration.

Lottery

Pick 3 morning: 1-4-0
Pick 3 day: 0-7-7
Pick 3 evening: 5-9-5
Pick 3 night: 1-3-0
Daily 4 morning: 0-7-5-5
Daily 4 day: 1-7-1-5
Daily 4 evening: 1-2-6-0
Daily 4 night: 3-9-0-3
Cash Five: 6-7-10-22-26
Triple Chance: 4-8-12-16-18-25-37-46-53-54
Texas Two Step: 9-10-22-31
BB: 27
All or Nothing morning: 1-2-3-4-9-11-12-14-18-20-22-23
All or Nothing day: 5-8-11-12-13-15-16-17-19-20-21-24
All or Nothing evening: 1-5-6-7-8-10-12-16-18-20-21-24
All or Nothing night: 1-2-3-4-5-8-10-15-18-19-22-23



AP file photo

In this file photo, wild horses are seen during a BLM tour in the Pine Nut Mountains on Jan. 23, 2015, just outside of Dayton, Nev. Wild horse advocates have scored a victory in Nevada in an ongoing legal battle with rural interests who they say want to round up federally protected mustangs across the West and sell them for slaughter. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco denied an appeal Monday by the Nevada Association of Counties and Nevada Farm Bureau Federation.

Court denies mustang appeal sought by Nevada counties

By Scott Sonner
Associated Press

RENO, Nev. — Wild horse advocates in Nevada scored a victory Monday in an ongoing legal battle with rural interests they say want to round up federally protected mustangs across the West and sell them for slaughter.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco denied an appeal by the Nevada Association of Counties and Nevada Farm Bureau Federation representing ranchers and others who argue overpopulated herds are damaging the range and robbing livestock of forage.

The decision upholds an earlier ruling by a federal judge in Reno who dismissed their lawsuit in 2015 seeking to force the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to expedite widespread roundups across Nevada.

The 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver upheld a similar decision in Wyoming in October.

In both cases, the American Wild Horse Campaign and others argued the courts have no authority to order the agency to gather horses in violation of the U.S. Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act.

"We're pleased that the courts continue to dismiss attempts by these grazing interests to use the judicial system to rewrite federal law that Congress designed to protect wild horses from capture, not to favor the livestock industry," said Nick Lawton, a lawyer for the campaign that formerly went by the name American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign.

The Nevada suit filed in 2014 demanded BLM sell older horses deemed unadoptable without the usual prohibition on resale for slaughter. The Farm Bureau argued the overpopulation "has severe impacts on the health of the horses as well as the ecological health and sustainability of Nevada's rangelands."

A three-judge panel of the U.S. appellate court agreed with Judge Miranda Du of Reno, repeating her conclusion the plaintiffs had failed to identify any specific final agency actions that could be challenged.

"Instead, NACO seeks judicial oversight and direction of virtually the entire federal wild horse and burro management program in Nevada," the three-page ruling issued Monday said.

The BLM estimated a year ago that there were 67,027 wild horses and burros roaming federal land across 10 Western states — 40,000 more than the agency maintains the range can sustain. About half are in Nevada.

BLM removed about 8,000 of the horses and burros from the Western range in 2002, but fewer than 4,000 in each of the past two years, due in part to budget constraints.

Terri Farley, a Reno-area based author of the children's book series, "Phantom Stallion," and Mark Tewell, who owns Wild Horses of Nevada Photography in nearby Dayton, joined the campaign in opposing the rural counties' lawsuit.

"This decision should help put a stop to baseless lawsuits from the livestock industry" intended to force the government to round up mustangs across the West, Lawton said.

Dems claim votes to block Gorsuch; GOP will override them

By Erica Werner and Mary Clare Jalonick
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats claimed the votes they needed Monday to block President Donald Trump's Supreme Court nominee, but the victory was only fleeting, setting up a historic showdown with Republicans who intend to rewrite Senate rules and muscle Neil Gorsuch onto the high court.

The coming fight was assured as the bitterly divided Judiciary Committee voted 11-9, along party lines, to send Gorsuch's nomination to the full Senate, where Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky has vowed he will be confirmed on Friday.

Short of the 60 votes needed to overcome procedural hurdles, McConnell is ready to lead Republicans in a unilateral voting change so significant in the rules-conscious Congress that it's been dubbed the "nuclear option," lowering the confirmation threshold to a filibuster-proof simple majority in the 100-member Senate.

Sen. Chris Coons of Delaware became the key 41st vote for the Democrats on Monday, declaring during committee debate that Gorsuch's conservative record showed an activist approach to the law and that he evaded questions during his confirmation hearings. Coons also said that Republicans' treatment of former President Barack Obama's Supreme Court nominee, Merrick Garland, left lasting scars after they denied him so much as a hearing following the death of Justice Antonin Scalia early last year.

"We are at a historic moment in

Please see GORSUCH/5A

Drove for Uber? Rented out your home? Here are some tax tips

By Joseph Pisani
Associated Press

NEW YORK — If you're driving for Uber or renting out a room through Airbnb to make some extra cash, don't forget — you likely need to pay taxes on what you earned, even if it's a part-time gig.

Unlike full-time jobs, where taxes are automatically withheld from every paycheck, it's usually up to freelance workers to keep records and put aside money to eventually pay the IRS.

And since the IRS considers on-demand workers to be self-employed, it also helps to keep track of expenses that can help reduce your tax bill.

Here are some tax tips for those working as part of the on-demand economy:

No forms doesn't mean no taxes

You may not receive a form at the end of the year listing everything you earned. That doesn't mean you can skip paying taxes. You may owe the government on what you earned and could get in trouble if you don't pay.

Those earning money through on-demand apps such as Uber or Lyft need to report the income on a Schedule C form, says Fred Slater, a certified public accountant and principal at MS 1040 LLC in New York. And if you used Airbnb or other home-renting sites to bring in income, use Schedule E.

Any money you made is easily traceable since transactions take place online. "You'd be nuts not to report it," Slater says.

Pay taxes every quarter

Typically, you'll need to pay taxes every three months throughout the year. Making those payments can prevent you from having to send one big sum to the IRS at the end of the year. Known as estimated tax payments, they're due on April 15, June 15, Sept. 15 and Jan. 15. The IRS website has more information on estimated taxes and how to figure out how much you need to pay. It's at https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/estimated-taxes.

If you have a separate full-time job that already deducts taxes out of your paycheck, the IRS says you can ask your employer to increase your tax withholdings to also cover on-demand gigs. You would need to give your employer a W-4 form and indicate how much more to withhold, according to the IRS.

Keep track of expenses

Much of what you spend for on-demand work can be used to reduce your tax bill. If you're driving your car for Uber or Lyft, for example, car washes, fuel costs and auto repairs can be deductible, says Frederick Towles, an accountant at The Towles Group Inc. in Uniondale, New York. But you'll need to keep records of what you spend throughout the year. And also keep track of the miles you drive getting to a customer and during the ride, says Towles. Mileage tax

Please see TAX/5A

Ex-deputies plead to lesser charge in pursuit beating case

Associated Press

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. — Two former California sheriff's deputies pleaded no contest Monday to charges of disturbing the peace in a deal to avoid a retrial in connection with the televised beating of a man who tried to escape from authorities on horseback.

The plea came days after a jury deadlocked while deliberating assault charges against former San Bernardino County sheriff's deputies Michael Phelps and Nicholas Downey.

As part of the plea agreement Monday, prosecutors agreed to dismiss the felony assault charges and both were sentenced to one year of probation.

"After reevaluating the evidence and learning that the jury was hopelessly deadlocked, there is no reasonable likelihood that another jury would be able to reach a verdict," San Bernardino County District Attorney Mike Ramos said in a statement about the deal.

Another ex-deputy, Charles Foster, was found guilty last week of assault by a public officer under the color of authority. His attorney has vowed to appeal.

The case against the deputies stemmed from an April 2015 incident when they chased Francis Jared Pusok while he was on a horse that authorities said he stole in the desert.

A KNBC-TV helicopter tracked the pursuit as Pusok fell off the horse and deputies repeatedly punched and kicked him on the ground. A deputy tried to use a stun gun on him, but it was ineffective.

During a 2 1/2-hour chase, Pusok fled by car and then on horseback after being sought in connection with a burglary and the theft of a motorcycle.

Pusok was face down with his legs outstretched and hands behind his back as a deputy threw punches and kicks.

One deputy kicked him in the crotch. Other deputies arrived moments later. Prosecutors had argued the deputies had "crossed the line under the color of authority."

The county reached a $650,000 settlement with Pusok.

GORSUCH

From 4A

the history of the United States Senate" due to actions by both parties, Coons said. "We have eroded the process for reaching agreement and dishonored our long traditions of acting above partisanship."

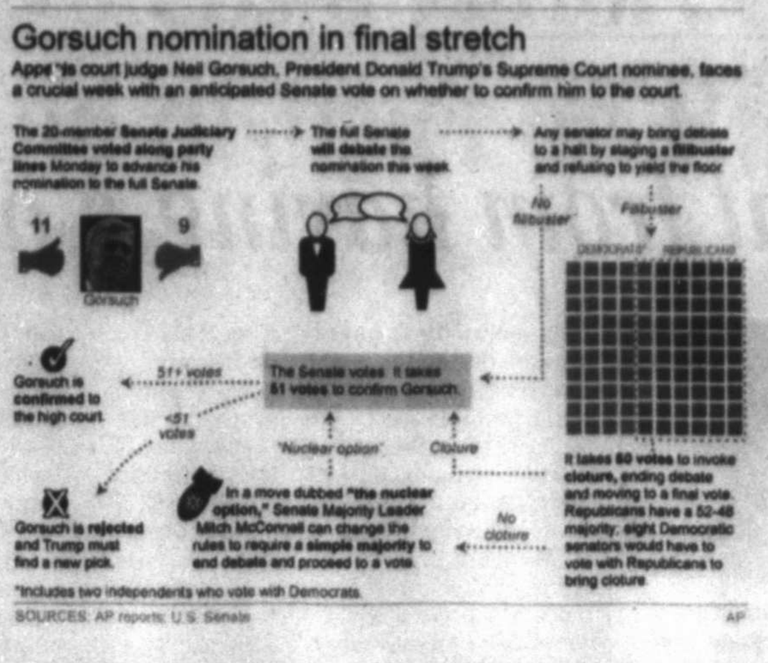
The long-term consequences of the coming confrontation could be profound, as the rules change Republicans intend to enact would apply to future Supreme Court nominees, too, allowing them to be voted onto the court without any input from the minority party. And though predicting a justice's votes can be difficult, confirmation of the 49-year-old Gorsuch is expected to restore the conservative majority that existed while Scalia was alive, which could then be in place or even expand over decades to come as some of the more liberal justices age.

For Republicans and Trump, Gorsuch's confirmation will be a moment of triumph, a bright spot in a troubled young administration that's failed on the legislative front with the health care bill and is under investigation over Russia connections. The nomination of Gorsuch, by contrast, has won universal praise from Republicans, some of whom call his appointment Trump's best move so far as president. Gorsuch has spent more than a decade on the federal appeals bench in Denver where he's issued consistently conservative rulings, and he appeared on Trump's list of potential candidates partly generated by the Federalist Society and Heritage Foundation during the campaign.

Gorsuch's confirmation will also be vindication for McConnell's strategy of refusing to fill Scalia's seat last year, instead leaving it open for the next president, even though few imagined then that that person would be Trump.

The showdown over the "nuclear option," expected on the Senate floor Thursday, is likely to be accompanied by much handwringing from senators bemoaning the decay of the chamber's traditions of bipartisanship and

Please see BLOCK/8A



TAX

From 4A

deductions for businesses were worth 54 cents per mile driven in 2016, according to the IRS.

Renting your home

You don't need to pay taxes if you rented out your house for less than two weeks. But you will owe them if you rented it out for 15 days or more throughout the year. You may be able to deduct some expenses to lower your tax bill, such as mortgage interest, repairs or utilities used while it was rented out, so make sure keep track of those payments.

More help online

Last year, the IRS posted a tax guide for on-demand workers with links to forms, calculators and videos. Find it at: https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/sharing-economy-tax-center.

PAID CONTENT

for your information

To appear in *For Your Information* call Paul Wiseman at 697-7468 or your Midland Reporter-Telegram account executive at 682-5311.

Michael Melson client: It was such a blessing, getting the Veterans Aid and Attendance Benefit for my Mom

Starting in 2011, Midlander Vicki Carr spent about three years trying to get Veteran's Administration benefits for her now deceased mother. Because her father had served in WWII Vicki's mother was eligible for the Veterans Pension or, as it is more commonly known, Veterans Aid and Attendance Benefits. Getting that help was far from easy.

Vicki had moved her mother here from Florida in order to take care of her. At first Vicki and her husband, who both have jobs outside the home, were able to leave her mom at home alone during the day. As her mom's condition deteriorated, it created both an emotional and physical drain on Vicki and her husband. It was very difficult to watch the woman who'd always been so strong, slowly become weaker and weaker.

Finally, rather than risk having unknown caregivers in their house, Vicki put her mom in a series of nursing homes, several of which closed or were sold, forcing some moves.

Mom's social security and tiny savings could only cover part of the costs. Vicki and her brother were prepared to pay the difference, but needed some help. A worker in one of the facilities told Vicki that the VA could help, but they did not know how to get that help.

With hope in hand, Vicki then met a Veteran's Service Officer in Midland, who gave her a list of paperwork he said was all she needed. After faithfully answering all the questions and sending the forms in, several months later she got the news.

She was denied

Vicki took the denial letter to a Second Veteran Service Officer who looked over her denial letter and was told she should be denied .Vicki went no further. Time passed, then Vicki saw Micha Melson's newspaper article and decided to call. When Vicki met Michael, things began to happen. Michael, who for years has been helping people receive the Veterans Aid and Attendance Benefit they've earned, listened to her story and offered to try again. Michael reopened the case and presented information from the VA's own regulations as to why Vicki's mom should be approved and not denied.

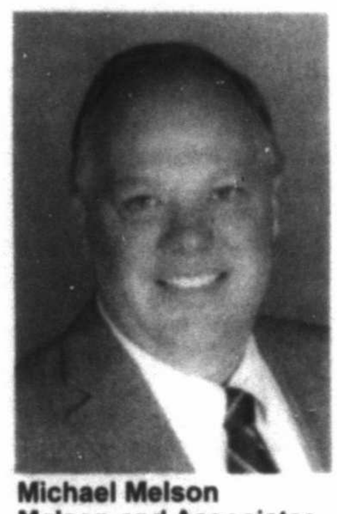
Finally, after just three weeks, Vicki's mailbox contained an official document that said benefits were approved—and Vicki broke down in tears. "I cried—it was such a blessing," and a huge relief—not just from the financial aspect, but seeing the fruit of all the efforts finally pay off brought those tears of joy.

During the process Michael would stop by and check on her and offer encouragement. She notes that everyone at the Michael Melson office is friendly, helpful and genuinely concerned about being of service. She has recommended their service to others.

Anyone who has served their country, or is a spouse of a veteran, may be entitled to the Veterans Aid and Attendance benefit. Please call Michael Melson's office to learn more—the consultation is free.

Call Michael Melson, a native Midlander, for a free brochure and consultation at (432) 683-0796. Call him to schedule a community awareness/educational workshop in your nursing home, church group, business group, etcetera.

Michael Melson is a VA



Michael Melson
Melson and Associates

Accredited Claims Agent and is not connected with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Melson and Associates works under the direction of an attorney. Your information will remain confidential.

Breathe easier in spring when Advance Cleaning cleans your ducts

Can you believe how early spring came this year? We can already look forward to lots of wind and lots of dirt. Inevitably, some of that dirt and debris ends up in your home and your air conditioning system.

Then it gets into your nose and on your furniture. Between sneezing, coughing and cleaning furniture, all that dust can make you droop like a beagle's ears.

So, what can you do about it?

With the latest equipment available and highly trained technicians, Advance Duct Cleaning is ready to clean your air ducts professionally and thoroughly. Right now their schedule is not as tight as it will be later in the season. If you call them now, they can clean your ducts right away. Your air conditioning unit will work more efficiently and you may actually be able to breathe easier.

Dust isn't the only thing that can get into your ducts. Pet dander (especially if your return air vents are at floor level), and dirt (not just dust) can aggravate allergies. They can also reduce your HVAC systems' efficiency.

Make it easy on your hard working A/C and heater! With mechanical systems, it's always true—the easier it is on your unit, the longer it will last. Take care of it and it will take care of you.

Also, Advance Duct Cleaning has followed the lead of their carpet cleaning branch and is going "green" to help the environment, while taking the same great care of their customer base. On stone floors when it is necessary to remove epoxy from floors, the old method was to use a harsh chemical because that was the only thing that would remove such a hard glue. Now there is a soy-based stripper that is fully biodegradable.

For duct cleaning they are now using hypoallergenic deodorizers in the cleaning process. They also offer super high efficiency filters that trap much more of the airborne allergens than standard filters do.

This is a great time to call Advance Duct Cleaning for an appointment. Owner Holman Padgett has spent more than 40 years obtaining the right education, skills, and staff to make sure your job will be done right. As always, remember, "When Advance comes in, the dirt goes out!" That means your ducts are clean from top to bottom.

Call Advance Cleaning at 550-8325. Advance Cleaning is certified by the Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification. Their website is www.myadvancleaning.com.



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Trump would benefit from having a brain trust

■ There's no one there to help shape his populist nationalism into governance



ROSS DOUTHAT
New York Times News Service

The series of columns I've been writing lately, floating implausible proposals for an ideologically unstable age, has been a useful way of avoiding the depressing subject of the Trump administration's first 100 days — because really, in the face of such incompetence and chaos, what is there to say?

But precisely because this administration seems so hopeless, any constructive advice for the Trump White House automatically falls into the category of implausible ideas. So I can continue my ongoing series while also talking about Donald Trump — by proposing, as this week's unlikely-to-happen proposal, that our president should go out and get himself a brain.

I do not mean a vat-grown cerebral cortex cooked up in some underground anti-aging lab funded by Silicon Valley immortalists … though I gather those may be soon available as well. I mean a brain in the sense that people (unkindly, but not inaccurately) used the term to describe Bill Kristol when he was the aide-de-camp to Vice President Dan Quayle 25 years ago: a person, or better a group of persons, who can tell Trump what specific policies he ought to support.

Because a core weakness of this White House, more devastating (for now) than the pugilistic tweets and permanent swirl of scandal, is the absence of anyone who seems to have thought through how one might translate Trumpism, the populist nationalism on which the president campaigned, into substantive policy on any specific issue except a temporary visa freeze.

The dearth of Trumpists in official Washington was always going to be a major problem for this administration, both in staffing the White House and in negotiating with Congress. But it's been worse than anticipated, because Trump himself doesn't know what he wants to do on major issues and there's nobody in his innermost circle who seems to have a compelling vision that might guide him.

A certain Steve Bannon — perhaps you've heard of him — was supposed to help Trump figure all this out, perhaps with an assist from Michael Anton, the once-pseudonymous pro-Trump essayist now ensconced in the National Security Council. But there's little evidence that either man's policy vision has advanced much beyond, "The conservative movement has failed, let's try something else." Bannon seems to have been particularly useless during the health care negotiations, encouraging Trump to work with the Freedom Caucus one day and trying to bully them the next, while throwing out various critiques of the Paul Ryan bill that didn't point toward anything coherent.

It was probably unreasonable to expect a 60-something whose life experience is all in media and Hollywood to suddenly turn into a one-man think tank, no matter how many French far-right agitators he name-drops. But a think tank is basically what Trump needs: a small brain trust committed to figuring out what parts of the mainstream GOP vision he should support and what heterodoxies it makes sense for him to champion, so that he isn't stuck governing on the Heritage Foundation's austerity budgets while his friends outside the administration urge him to expand Medicaid.

Some Trump supporters — the folks behind the new journal American Affairs, most notably — are trying to play that role already. But they're getting going slowly; Trump needs something sooner, faster, now. He needs, in effect, a think tank inside the White House: a small group, separate from the process-oriented Domestic Policy Council, whose only task is to brief the president regularly on how Trumpist premises should shape any given legislative deal.

The way things are going, there won't be many such deals struck. But this brain trust would have a longer-term purpose, too: It would be assigned to build up an easy-to-explain agenda that Trumpish candidates could run on in 2018, that Trump could champion if he tries to triangulate between Ryan and the Democrats, and that the president could campaign on when he runs for re-election. (Aren't you excited for 2020, dear reader?)

Who might staff it? The people involved with American Affairs would be candidates, but I would also look to other dissident-conservative publications like The American Conservative, junior (that is, not yet set in their views) staff at places like Heritage and the American Enterprise Institute, lesser known right-leaning outfits like the Institute for Family Studies, and the offices of creative populists like Sen. Mike Lee of Utah. Possible brain trusters might include figures like F.H. Buckley, the George Mason law professor and Trump speechwriter who recently urged the president to come out for single-payer; Mickey Kaus, the once-liberal blogger turned Trumpista; and Henry Olsen of the Ethics and Public Policy Center, author of a forthcoming book on Reagan's populism.

All of this assumes that Trump cares about Trumpism as something more than a grift, and that he can accept advice and counsel in a sustained way, without changing his mind the instant someone makes a different case. As I said, it's a deeply implausible idea.

But so is every solution to this White House's struggles — and we've still got most of four years left to go.

GUEST VIEW

Legislators should raise the age of criminal responsibility to 18

Dallas Morning News

If you are a 17-year-old in Texas, you can't legally buy cigarettes or beer or even a lottery ticket. You can't vote. You cannot marry without parental consent. But you can go to jail if you're caught shoplifting an expensive designer handbag — because the state's criminal laws view 17-year-olds as adults.

This legal inconsistency doesn't promote public safety or reduce recidivism rates — and it has serious consequences for former young offenders when they start looking for jobs and housing. For all these reasons, Texas lawmakers should raise the age of criminal responsibility to 18.

Adolescent brains differ from those of adults and, reflecting that fact, most states place the age of criminal culpability at 18 or older. But that's not true everywhere. In New York, for example, 16-year-olds are considered adults in criminal matters. When a 16-year-old is arrested in Buffalo or Manhattan, police have no duty to notify his or her parents, nor do police need to ask parental permission to question a 16-year-old suspect.

Change the age to 17, and the same is true in Texas.

Seventeen-year-olds tend to commit the same crimes as 16-year-olds — drug possession and theft — and don't belong in the adult criminal justice system any more than younger adolescents do. The 17-year-olds are at greater risk of sexual victimization in adult systems than adolescents kept in juvenile custody. They receive fewer rehabilitative and mental health services than teens in the juvenile system, and they tend to have higher recidivism rates after release. And those 17-year-olds have adult criminal records.

Rep. Harold Dutton Jr., D-Houston, leads the House Juvenile Justice and Family Issues Committee. He wrote HB 122,which raises the age of criminal culpability from 17 to 18. (Sen. Bryan Hughes, R-Mineola, filed a similar bill, SB 941.) A March hearing on the House bill produced a long list of supportive witnesses — groups ranging from the Texas NAACP to the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission to the Texas PTA — and one opponent. It was approved.

The bill does carry a fiscal note. In order to care for 17-year-olds, some counties may have to add capacity to their civil courts and increase their juvenile probation and services staff. The state should help with these costs.

But it's hard to directly compare the costs of handling 17-year-olds in the adult system with how they would be treated in the juvenile system. Adults can be jailed for minor offenses that, in the juvenile system, would result in a sanction — a date in court or with a probation officer — and release.

Other states have raised the age of criminal responsibility without overwhelming their juvenile justice systems or blowing their budgets. Texas can do the same.

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When your business isn't exactly that

■ Loss of internet data privacy should concern business, consumers



CHRIS TOMLINSON
Houston Chronicle

Data from how you use the internet reveals almost everything about you, and soon I'll have access to it.

President Donald Trump is expected to sign a bill allowing internet service providers to sell me a list of every website you've ever visited, how long you stayed on each site and other critical information that will give me insight into your psyche.

If I am really clever, I can use that information to write stories that will spark your interest and then place appealing advertisements next to those articles every time you log on.

That's the best-case scenario. The worst case is that I can crunch the numbers, identify you by name and then publicly humiliate you based on what websites you visit.

Congress passed this law to allow telecommunications companies to make billions from online advertising. Google and Facebook already make their billions by analyzing what you search for on the internet or how you behave socially, but your web-use data is much more valuable.

The bill repeals rules that forbade internet service providers from sharing your web history and other critical data out of respect for your privacy. But internet service providers paid members of Congress a pretty penny to get those rules dropped.

From now on, every time you use the internet, a major corporation will be taking notes about how to use your data to make money.

This isn't just about whether you watch cat videos or visit porn sites. The most frightening part is that the repeal of internet privacy protections is only the beginning of a process that will be more intrusive than any strip search or home invasion.

"There is tremendous business interest in harnessing the power of digital commerce," said Bob Hedges, data privacy expert and lead partner in the management consultant firm A.T. Kearney's Financial Institutions practice. "The need for privacy and data is only going to keep increasing."

This legislation sets a precedent by declaring that the conveyor of your data owns it, not you. In a more connected world, when every electric device is connected to the internet, the effect could be profound and disturbing.

"If I am using a sensor to keep track of butter, milk and beer in my refrigerator and to order it for me, then it's good that the grocer knows that and can send it to me," Hedges said. "But does the grocer, or anyone really, have the right to sell that information to my insurance company? Because then they would know the cholesterol level in my diet."

People aren't stupid, though. I don't use Google's email service because I don't want that intrusion, and many Americans agree with me. That's why Hedges warns that giving internet service providers this data will likely hurt companies that sell goods and services online by convincing many people to avoid the internet.

"What's necessary to facilitate digital commerce is the confidence of the consumer that the data is secure and that the data is private," he said. "What the relaxation of the regulations risks is doing is undermining that privacy, which will ultimately undermine the confidence of the U.S. consumer."

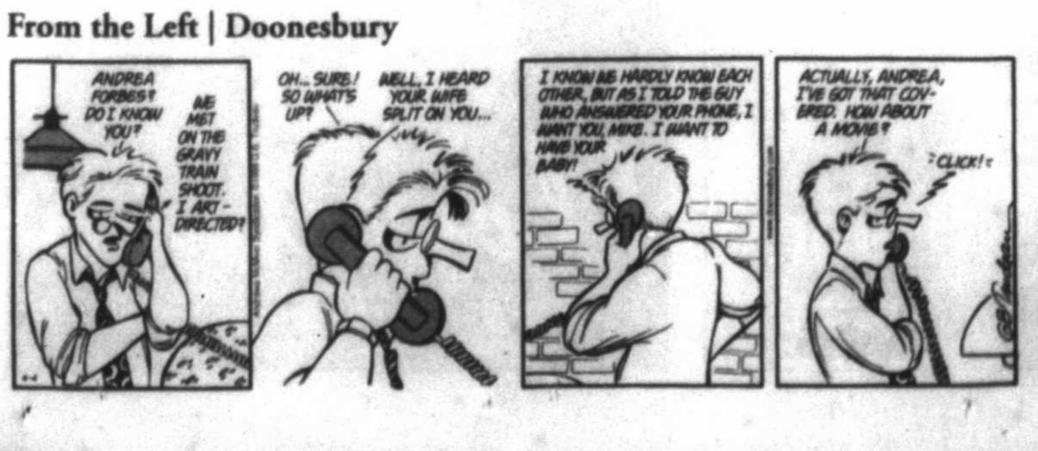
Every other developed country has recognized these risks to personal privacy and digital commerce and gone in the opposite direction. In Europe, Australia and the United Kingdom, to name a few jurisdictions, the data you generate belongs to you. No one can reveal it without your permission.

That seems fair to me. Google has almost a billion accounts for its Gmail service, where users know the company will give them free email in return for letting Google scrape their emails for data. That's a trade they are willing to make.

People opt in for Gmail, though. Most internet users don't have a choice in service providers. Providers are not required to give users a choice of what data to sell.

Stripping away privacy protections is bad for consumers and bad for business. Unfortunately, we'll have to wait for widespread abuses before members of Congress wake up to their horrible

From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



Trump steps up effort to dispute and distract on Russia

By Deb Riechmann and Julie Pace
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After weeks on the defensive, President Donald Trump has stepped up his efforts to dispute, downplay and distract from revelations stemming from the investigations into the Kremlin's interference in last year's election and possible Russian ties to his campaign associates.

The White House says the real story is not about Russia — it's about how Obama administration officials allegedly leaked and mishandled classified material about Americans. Trump and his aides have accused former officials of inappropriately disclosing — or "unmasking" — the names of Trump associates whose conversations were picked up by U.S. intelligences agencies.

"Such amazing reporting on unmasking and the crooked scheme against us by @foxandfriends," Trump tweeted Monday. 'Spied on before nomination.' The real story."

The White House has not pointed to any hard evidence to support such allegations, and instead has relied on media reports from some of the same publications Trump derides as "fake news."

The truth is buried somewhere in classified material that is illegal to disclose. Here's a look at what the White House believes is the real story.

The Flynn affair

Trump fired national security adviser Michael Flynn following news reports that Flynn misled the White House about his contacts with Russia's ambassador to the U.S. But the White House says the problem is that Flynn's conversations were in the news at all.

"The real story here is why are there so many illegal leaks coming out of Washington?" Trump tweeted after firing Flynn in February.

The White House has called for investigations into the disclosure of multiple intercepted conversations that Flynn had with Ambassador Sergey Kislyak before the inauguration. The government routinely monitors the communications of foreign officials in the U.S. It's illegal to publicly disclose such classified information.

Officially, the White House said Flynn was forced to resign because he had given inaccurate descriptions of the discussions to Vice President Mike Pence and others in the White House. But Trump has continued to defend Flynn, suggesting he was only fired because information about his contacts came out in the media.

"Michael Flynn, Gen. Flynn is a wonderful man," Trump said. "I think he's been treated very, very unfairly by the media."

The Obama administration

White House officials say some Obama holdovers are part of a so-called deep state out to tear Trump down.

Last week, the White House latched onto a month-old television interview from an Obama administration official who said she encouraged congressional aides to gather as much information on Russia as possible before the inauguration.

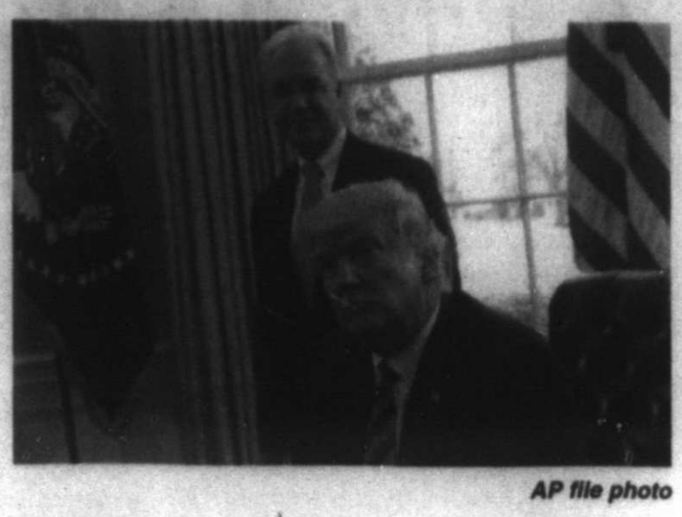
Evelyn Farkas, the former deputy assistant secretary of defense, said she feared that information "would disappear" after President Barack Obama left office. She was no longer in government at the time, having left the Pentagon about a year before the election.

White House spokesman Sean Spicer called Farkas' comments "devastating" and said they "raised serious concerns on whether or not there was an organized and widespread effort by the Obama administration to use and leak highly sensitive intelligence information for political purposes."

On Monday, Spicer suggested there should be more interest in a Bloomberg report in which anonymous U.S. officials said that Susan Rice, Obama's national security adviser, asked for the identities of people related to Trump's campaign and transition dozens of times.

Spicer remarked that he was "somewhat intrigued by the lack of interest" in the Rice revelations. But he added: "I do think that it's interesting, the level, or lack thereof, of interest in this subject."

As national security adviser, Rice would have regularly received intelligence reports and been able to request the identities of Americans whose communications were intercepted.



AP file photo

President Donald Trump with Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price are seen March 24 in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington. With prospects in doubt for repealing "Obamacare," some Republicans say the Trump administration can rewrite regulations and take other actions to undo much of the health care law on its own.

The Hill weighs in

The White House has embraced a top Republican's assertion that information about Trump associates were improperly spread around the government in the final days of the Obama administration. It appears the White House played a role in helping House intelligence committee Chairman Devin Nunes, R-Calif., acquire some of that information.

Nunes announced last week that he had seen intelligence reports showing that Trump aides' communications were picked up through routine surveillance. But he said their identities may have been improperly revealed. The California congressman later said he viewed the reports at the White House.

The White House contends that Nunes' information — which has not been made public — validates Trump's explosive claim that his predecessor wiretapped his New York skyscraper. Nunes has disputed that but still says he found the reports "troubling."

The White House's apparent involvement in helping Nunes access the information has overshadowed what Trump officials contend are real concerns about how much information about Americans is disseminated in intelligence reports. Trump has asked the House and Senate intelligence committees to include the matter in their Russia investigations.

Don't look for Congress to quickly pass tax code overhaul

By Stephen Ohlemacher
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After their humiliating loss on health care, Republicans in Congress could use a quick victory on a big issue. It won't be an overhaul of the tax code.

Overhauling the tax code could prove harder to accomplish than repealing and replacing Barack Obama's health law. Congressional Republicans are divided on significant issues, especially a new tax on imports embraced by House Speaker Paul Ryan. And the White House is sending contradicting signals on the new tax, adding to the uncertainty.

House Republicans also can't decide whether to move on from health care. Ryan canceled a scheduled vote on a House GOP plan after it became obvious that Republicans didn't have the votes.

"This is a setback — no two ways about it," Ryan said of the loss on health care. "I will not sugarcoat this — this is a disappointing day for us.

Ryan said he will continue to work on the issue but one of his top lieutenants on health care, Rep. Kevin Brady, R-Texas, says he is now "100 percent" focused on a tax overhaul.

Ryan says Congress can work on both at the same time. It won't be easy. Here's why:

Republican divide

House and Senate Republicans largely agree on the broad outlines of a tax overhaul. They want to lower tax rates for individuals and corporations, and make up the lost revenue by scaling back tax breaks.

But they are sharply divided on a key tenet of the House Republican plan.

The new "border adjustment tax" would be applied to profits from goods and services consumed in the U.S., whether they are domestically produced or imported. Exports would be exempt.

House GOP leaders say the tax is key to lowering the top corporate income tax rate from 35 percent to 20 percent.

But good luck finding a single Republican senator who will publicly support the tax. Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, is the latest in a long line of Republican senators to come out against the tax.

Absent Democrats

Please see CODE/8A

Bill O'Reilly and ex-Fox chief are hit with more allegations

By David Bauder
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A Fox News contributor came forward Monday to level more sexual harassment allegations against deposed chief executive Roger Ailes, two days after it was revealed that the network's most popular on-air personality, Bill O'Reilly, has settled multiple complaints about his own behavior with women.

O'Reilly was due to return to the air on Monday following a weekend report in The New York Times that he and his employer had paid five women a total of $13 million to settle allegations of sexual harassment or other inappropriate conduct by Fox's ratings king.

Meanwhile, the lawyer for another woman who says she was punished for rebuffing O'Reilly's advances called on New York City's Human Rights Commission to investigate O'Reilly's behavior.

The new lawsuit against Ailes was brought by Fox's Julie Roginsky and is notable because it accuses Fox's current management of trying to cover up for Ailes.

Roginsky said that Ailes, who lost his job last summer following sexual harassment complaints that he has denied, suggested she have sex with "older, married, conservative men." She said Ailes would insist upon a kiss hello at their meetings, requiring Roginsky to bend over so he could look down her dress.

She was seeking a permanent role on Fox's show "The Five." But after a meeting in April 2015 where she turned down Ailes' advances, he wouldn't meet with her again, and she never got the regular role on the late afternoon show, she said.

Later, she said, she was pressured to join "Team Roger," a group of people who publicly defended Ailes when the first harassment complaint made public against the Fox boss was brought by Gretchen Carlson last summer. Roginsky refused.

She said that even though Fox executives knew she had her own harassment allegations against Ailes, she was never encouraged to speak to the law firm hired by Fox News parent 21st Century Fox to investigate claims against him. And she said Fox never looked into her charges. Her lawyer would not say Monday why

Please see FOX/8A

Repeal in doubt, what Trump alone can do on 'Obamacare'

By Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With prospects in doubt for repealing "Obamacare," some Republicans say the Trump administration can rewrite regulations and take other actions to undo much of the health care law on its own.

Some of those moves could disrupt life for millions of people, many in states that the new president carried. And then there's the risk of court challenges. Remember the White House travel ban?

"In a world where Obamacare is not going to be repealed and replaced, do you work to try to make it succeed, or do you take steps to undermine it in order to continue blaming President Obama and the Democrats for the dysfunction of the health care system?" asked Nicholas Bagley, a University of Michigan law professor who's analyzed the administration's leeway to make changes. "Right now we don't know the answer, and we are getting conflicting signals from the administration."

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office recently concluded that insurance markets would probably be stable "in most areas" under the Obama-era Affordable Care Act, or ACA. But President Donald Trump has said "it's imploding, and soon will explode."

GOP congressional leaders, who had to pull their repeal bill, describe a multi-pronged attack on "Obamacare" that includes administration action. Democrats warn of "sabotage." Enduring political turmoil is seen as contributing to insurers' worries about returning to the health law's markets next year.

Here's a look at the pros and cons of some actions Trump could order:

Stop cost-sharing subsidies

In addition to subsidized insurance premiums, the ACA provides financial assistance for deductibles and copayments to consumers with modest incomes. House Republicans have challenged the constitutionality of aid payments, estimated at $7 billion this year.

A U.S. district judge in Washington agreed, finding that the law does not explicitly authorize such expenditures. The case is on hold by mutual consent of the House and the Trump administration. Insurers, who are legally obligated to provide assistance to qualifying customers, continue to be reimbursed by the government. That could end unless the legal issue is resolved.

Pro: For opponents of the ACA, stopping the cost-sharing payments would be the boldest step they could take short of outright repeal.

Con: Insurers would bail out or jack up premiums to make up for the loss of government payments. A market "death spiral" could begin in short order. "There's a tension here for the White House between avoiding a crisis in the insurance markets and facilitating the collapse of a program they bitterly oppose," said Larry Levitt of the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation.

Officials won't comment on pending litigation, but there doesn't appear to be any policy change in the new administration.

Tweak insurance benefits

The ACA requires insurers to cover ten categories of "essential health benefits," from prevention to prescriptions, maternity to mental health. Although broad categories are written into law, key specifics are spelled out in regulations and guidance. The administration could propose changes.

Pro: It could bring down premiums for consumers who are comfortable buying less-than-comprehensive policies. That might entice more people into the market. "Every American ought to be able to purchase the kind of coverage that they want," Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price told Congress.

Con: Patient advocacy groups battled for the ACA's required benefits and they'll fight changes seen as harmful. "Essential health benefits are critical to assure access to what most people think is basic care," said Mara Youdelman of the National Health Law Program. "If the administration attempts to get around the four corners of the law, we would certainly explore options for litigation."

Remake medicaid

Alongside subsidized private insurance for people who don't have job-based coverage, the ACA expanded Medicaid to serve millions more low-income adults. With the repeal effort stalled, some of the 19 states that have refused the expansion may come forward.

That gives the Trump administration an opportunity to steer an important program in a different direction.

Price and Seema Verma, Trump's new head of Medicare and Medicaid, have told governors they are willing to consider a broad range of new Medicaid approaches, including work requirements. Verma also says she wants to improve health, not just treat disease.

Pro: States may gain more authority over a program that consumes major resources. The whole country could learn from individual state experiments. More low-income people may gain coverage.

Con: New requirements may discourage some from signing up. "The majority of people are working," said Judy Solomon of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, which advocates for the poor. "For those who aren't, it's because of illness or caring for someone."

Wink on insurance penalty

Tax penalties on people who remain uninsured are the most unpopular part of the Obama-era law. The Trump administration has already eased enforcement. The IRS scrapped a plan to hold up tax returns of people who fail to indicate if they have coverage.

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Proverbs 3:11-12

"My son, do not reject the discipline of the LORD Or loathe His reproof, For whom the LORD loves He reproves, Even as a father corrects the son in whom he delights."

National Archives to White House: Save all Trump tweets

By Stephen Braun
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The National Archives and Records Administration has told the White House to keep each of President Donald Trump's tweets, even those he deletes or corrects, and the White House has agreed.

The head of the archives, David S. Ferriero, told two Democratic senators in a letter last week that the White House has assured him it's saving all Trump's Twitter blasts.

The archives contacted the White House about the matter because the Presidential Records Act requires such correspondence to be preserved for history. Ferriero did not say when the agency contacted White House officials to remind them about the records requirement, but officials briefed the White House counsel's office about the law on Feb. 2, according to the archivist's letter to Sens. Claire McCaskill of Missouri and Tom Carper of Delaware.

The archivist's letter, dated March 30, doesn't describe precisely how the White House is saving Trump's tweets. The Obama administration used an automated system to keep copies of President Barack Obama's tweets.

McCaskill and Carper raised the issue of Trump's tweets in early March following a spate of instances in which Trump had deleted or altered earlier tweets. The two senators had previously raised concerns about Trump's tweets in a letter to White House counsel Don McGahn.

The two senators also pressed the archives for information about reports that some White House staffers had been ordered to avoid emails or use smartphone apps that do not preserve emails because of Trump administration concerns about leaks to the media. Ferriero told them he was aware of those press reports but said that White House guidance "to all employees expressly forbids the use of such apps." Ferriero also said he was not aware of government officials who have been instructed to avoid using email as a method of work-related communication.

Trump's almost-daily use of his official White House Twitter account and his separate private Twitter account has been heavily scrutinized by the media and by political friends and foes since his November election and even more so since his inauguration.

Kushner, Ivanka Trump face ethical land mines ahead

By Julie Bykowicz
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump, presidential relatives with powerful White House jobs, can help shape America's foreign and domestic policies.

They've also built a business empire worth as much as $740 million that has ties around the world, newly released financial disclosures show.

What happens when their government and private sector worlds collide?

Like other federal employees, the daughter and son-in-law of the president are required to adhere to transparency and ethics rules, and by law they cannot take any action in their government positions that affects their individual financial holdings.

New disclosures of the breadth and tangle of Kushner's financial holdings demonstrate why determining whether either White House adviser is violating the rules is no simple question. If they help the president on tax reform, trade policy or banking regulations, the couple are likely to face a steady stream of ethics challenges and calls for recusal, forcing them to balance their desire to work on those issues against the political impact that negative attention may bring to the president — and themselves.

"The problem with conflicts is that they rarely present themselves in black and white," said Peter Henning, a law professor at Wayne State University who wrote a book about public corruption.

President Donald Trump doesn't face the same issues. The president, who broke with precedent to retain a financial interest in his real estate empire, and vice president are not subject to the conflicts of interest laws that govern his employees, although the anti-bribery statute and others do apply. Trump has said he believes he can't have a conflict.

"I could actually run my business and run government at the same time," he said in January. "I don't like the way that looks, but I would be able to do that if I wanted to."

White House officials, meanwhile, may face regular dilemmas, including assessing whether they're getting too close to crossing a legal line. That's not so simple.

It might "look bad" if Kushner helps negotiate a tax reform proposal that continues to allow real estate investors such as himself to carry forward losses, Henning said. But because so many in his industry would benefit, Henning said Kushner would probably be on the right side of the conflict laws — even if there is a political price to pay.

Code

From 7A

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, says he wants to work with Democrats to overhaul the tax code.

"A bipartisan bill would allow us to put in place more lasting reforms and give the overall effort additional credibility," Hatch said.

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has said it is bad policy to pass major legislation without bipartisan support.

"Without some meaningful buy-in, you guarantee a food fight," McConnell wrote in his memoir last year. You guarantee instability and strife."

But in the House, Republicans haven't reached out to Democrats in any meaningful way.

Where's the White House?

"Obviously we're driving the train on this," White House press secretary Sean Spicer said.

But President Donald Trump's administration has been all over the map on tax reform. Trump at one point said the House border tax is too complicated, then said it's in the mix.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told a Senate panel that "there would be no absolute tax cut for the upper class" in Trump's tax plan.

However, the plan Trump unveiled during his presidential campaign would provide big tax breaks to high-income households.

Since taking office, Trump has promised "massive" tax cuts for the middle class.

A former Treasury official under President Barack Obama says the White House needs to stake out clear goals on tax overhaul to guide the debate in Congress.

"I think it's important for the administration to signal early the general shape" of what they would like to accomplish so that there are fewer proposals vying for attention, said Michael Mundaca, a former assistant Treasury secretary now at Ernst & Young.

Tax change is difficult

There is a reason it's been 31 years since the last time Congress rewrote the tax code. Since then, the number of exemptions, deductions and credits has mushroomed. Taxpayers enjoyed $1.6 trillion in tax breaks in 2016 — more than the federal government collected in individual income taxes.

That huge number could provide plenty of tax breaks that lawmakers can scale back so they can lower tax rates significantly.

There is just one problem — all of the biggest tax breaks are very popular and have powerful constituencies.

Nearly 34 million families claimed the mortgage interest deduction in 2016. That same year more than 43 million families took advantage of a deduction of state and local taxes.

The House Republicans' tax plan would retain the mortgage deduction and eliminate the deduction for state and local taxes.

Fox

From 7A

Roginsky never contacted the firm on her own.

Roginsky said that during a meeting in December, new Fox top executive Bill Shine told her that he didn't believe the allegations against Ailes until recently. But the lawsuit alleges that Shine and other top Fox executives should have known about Ailes' behavior much earlier. "Shine and other senior executives kept Ailes' conduct secret and enabled it," said the lawsuit, filed in state court in New York.

Fox News representatives did not immediately return messages for comment.

Roginsky said she believes that Shine hasn't given her an opportunity for advancement in retaliation for her harassment complaint and her refusal to speak out against Carlson.

At a Los Angeles news conference Monday, lawyer Lisa Bloom detailed allegations against O'Reilly by Wendy Walsh, a regular guest on the prime-time show "The O'Reilly Factor."

Bloom said that O'Reilly had told Walsh that he would recommend her for a paid contributor role on the network. Walsh and O'Reilly had dinner in Los Angeles in 2013, but when Walsh refused his invitation to come to his hotel room, his attitude changed and she was soon dropped from the show, according to Walsh.

Walsh said she came forward because she was told by a Times reporter that many of the women who have accused O'Reilly of harassment are bound by gag orders. She said she is not bound by any such agreement, and the statute of limitations for suing has run out.

"Nobody can silence me because my voice is not for sale," Walsh said. "Nobody can buy my voice."

O'Reilly said over the weekend that he is vulnerable to lawsuits from people who threaten to cause him bad publicity unless they get paid. He said he had "put to rest any controversies" to spare his children.

O'Reilly is host of Fox's most popular program, and his ratings have gone up over the past year with the intense interest in politics. Independent studies show he generates more than $100 million in advertising revenue per year for TV's top-rated cable news network.

Block

From 5A

comity.

But both parties are to blame. When the Democrats were in the majority, they removed the 60-vote threshold for lower-court nominees in 2013 when Republicans were blocking Obama picks to a critical federal court. Republicans said then that Democrats would come to regret it.

Gorsuch will be confirmed "and he should be," the No. 2 Senate Republican, John Cornyn, said during Monday's debate. "If Judge Gorsuch is unacceptable to our Democratic colleagues, there will never be a nominee by this president that you will find acceptable. Never."

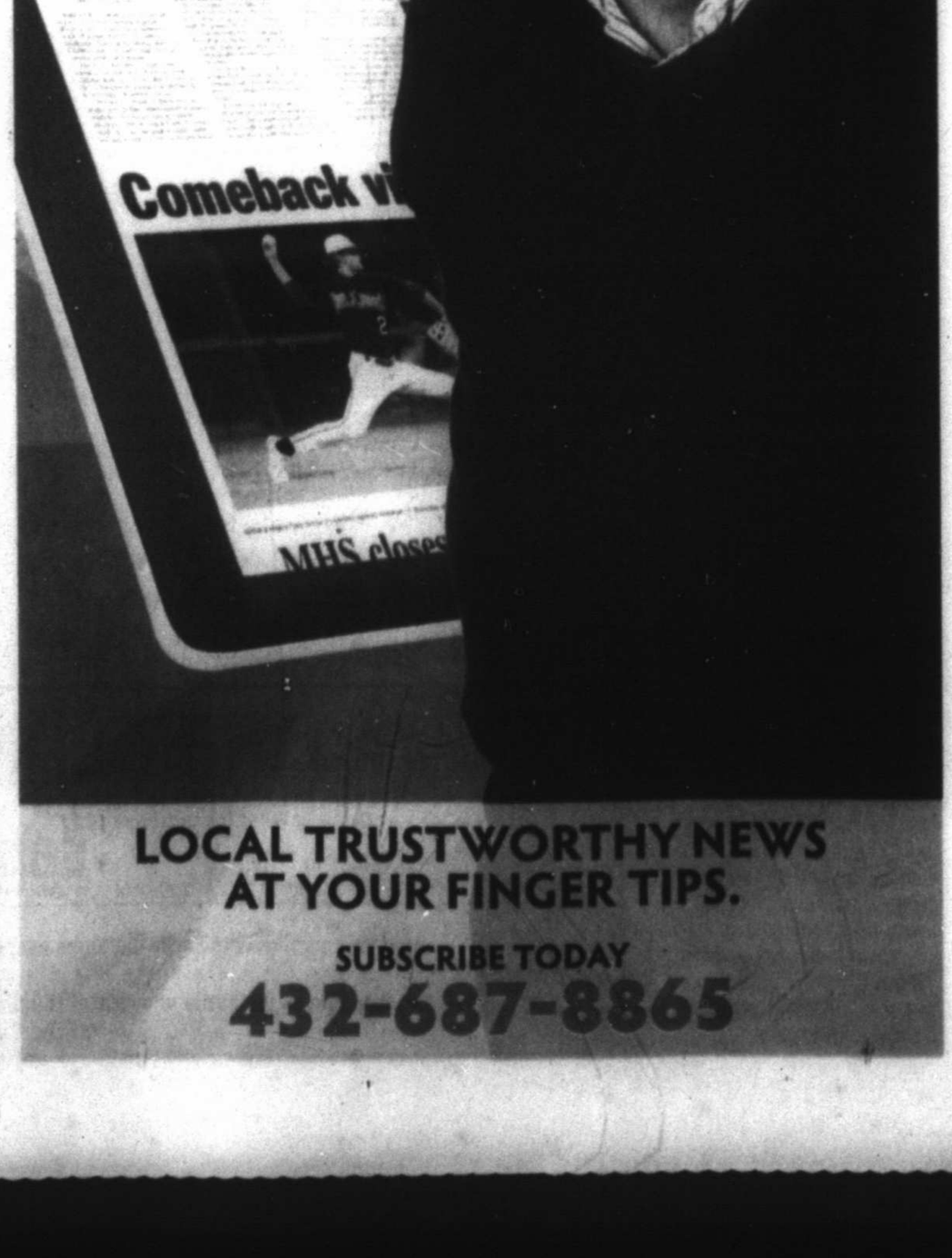
Gorsuch now counts 55 supporters in the Senate: the 52 Republicans, along with three moderate Democrats from states Trump won last November — Joe Manchin of West Virginia, Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota and Joe Donnelly of Indiana. A fourth Senate Democrat, Michael Bennet from Gorsuch's home state of Colorado, has said he will not join in the filibuster against Gorsuch but has not said how he will vote on final passage.

Democrats claim the Republicans' treatment of Garland was worse than anything they ever did or are doing, and with Trump in the White House they are under intense pressure from liberal voters to oppose the president on every front. That gives them very little leeway to let Gorsuch onto the court unchallenged, even though all the current justices were confirmed without filibusters, aside from a half-hearted effort against Justice Samuel Alito.

Several Democrats also say Gorsuch has not done enough to demonstrate his independence from Trump at a time when the president has frequently assailed the judiciary and is embroiled in one controversy after another.



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Applying for financial aid could be harder

IRS shuts down data-retrieval tool students use to complete FAFSA

By Danielle Douglas-Gabriel
Washington Post

An online resource that makes it easier to apply for college scholarships, grants and loans will be out of commission until next year, putting for millions of students at risk of losing out on financial aid.

Families filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the form the government and colleges use to determine financial aid, have come to rely on the Internal Revenue Service Data Retrieval Tool to speed up the process. The web-based resource lets people upload tax-return information and eliminate tedious paperwork, but the IRS and Education Department disabled the tool last month, citing suspicious activity by hackers.

The federal agencies issued a joint statement last week, saying the tool will remain offline until October as extra security protections are put in place. The IRS shut down the data-retrieval tool after identity thieves tried to use personal information from it to file fraudulent tax returns. The agency has grown more cautious after a 2015 cyberattack in which identity thieves breached 330,000 taxpayer accounts and tried to break into an additional 280,000 accounts.

"While this tool provides an important convenience for applicants, we cannot risk the safety of taxpayer data," IRS Commissioner John Koskinen said in a statement. "Protecting taxpayer data has to be the highest priority."

Koskinen's statement "betrays a disheartening lack of understanding about how vital this tool has become in streamlining the financial-aid application process," said Justin Draeger, president of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA). The government, he said, has ignored a petition from financial aid administrators, admissions officers and guidance counselors to ease application demands that could lead to delays and backlogs for students during the outage.

James Runcie, who heads the Federal Student Aid office at the Education Department, said the agency has "heard from students, parents and the financial-aid community that applying for aid is harder" without the tax tool, and pledged to help families successfully submit applications.

Applicants can fill out the paper FAFSA form or still use the online version and manually enter tax return data. But student advocates worry that both of those options will lead to errors. And those errors may result in students being asked to verify information with addi-

Please see **AID**/2B

UTPB policy

The University of Texas of the Permian Basin has a flexible priority deadline for receiving state funds, according to Ed Kerestly, director of the Office of Financial Aid. He said students who filed the FAFSA before March 15 are the first to receive consideration.

He said UTPB has awarded funds after that deadline in the past and will consider student applications it receives after that date this year.

Kerestly also said not having the tool could influence the number of students needing to verify information.

"We have not seen any huge increase in students selected for verification," Kerestly said. "We're realizing it's more likely students are not going through the IRS retrieval [tool], so we might expect that to increase."

Teachers launch districtwide shoe collection program

By Simone Jasper
sjasper@mrt.com

Midland ISD students in need of shoes can receive them through a new teacher-led initiative. The Kix4Kids program is hosting a donation drive this weekend to collect shoes to fulfill the demand.

Terri Tafoya, third-grade teacher at Pease Communications and Technology Academy, helped launch the districtwide program. She wanted to make a difference after her colleague Felix Reyes, physical education teacher at Pease, noticed students lacked adequate athletic shoes.

"Education is special in our lives," Tafoya said. "We buy shoes for children and have done it on our own. Nobody has done a whole-district effort. We buy the supplies or do it on our own dime."

Tafoya, who previously served on nonprofit boards, is accustomed to helping others. This school year is her first at Pease, and she's thankful other MISD employees support Kix4Kids.

"We have such a sense of community in this district," Tafoya said. "It's a perfect [example] of what this district is about. We're about educating children and helping them with whatever comes about."

Kix4Kids is hosting its first public donation drive 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. Saturday at the center court of Midland Park Mall. The program will accept gently used or new athletic shoes.

Also this month, the MISD central office is starting Kicking Complaints to the Curb. Through the campaign, employees will be encouraged to make donations to Kix4Kids. The project helps to promote positive attitudes and buy additional shoes, according to Jami Owen, executive director of the MISD Education Foundation.

"Everybody can donate shoes — new shoes can be better than hand-me-downs," Owen said. "I thought for the central office we could have a 13-year-old kid who needs size 13 shoes. Not a lot of people have those sitting around. So we decided we could buy those."

Owen, who learned about Kix4Kids during the planning phase, was soon on board with the concept.

"It's a simple program," Owen said. "Everybody needs shoes. A lot of kids get hand-me-downs. A lot of kids need new ones to perform in sports."

School counselors help Kix4Kids identify students needing shoes. Donors can bring shoes to a collection box at the MISD central office or give money through the MISD Education Foundation.

Tafoya said Kix4Kids received support from Midland Park Mall and Affordable Storage, which provided boxes. She said the program is an opportunity for Midlanders to help students throughout the year.

"It's not just educators but all of us," Tafoya said. "We forget the need in the community."



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Terri Tafoya and Felix Reyes, at Pease Elementary, helped launch Kix4Kids, a shoe donation program aimed at providing shoes for MISD students in need.

Kix4Kids

For more information, contact kix4kidstx@gmail.com or visit the program's Facebook page.

BRANDON SHUMAN
Midland Classical Academy



Proper use of art of rhetoric helps community to flourish

During the fall, I wrote in this column that a liberal arts education makes a man free. Instead of teaching subjects it teaches skills. And the basic skills it cultivates are how to think and learn for oneself. But I did not elaborate how this process occurs. Neither did I demonstrate how a society of self-taught, free-thinkers contributes to the flourishing of their communities. A liberal arts education promotes community, so long as one critical ingredient accompanies it — love.

Both Cicero and John Adams — the illustrious Roman statesmen and the second president of the United States — thought of politics as the "divine science." The ancient philosopher Aristotle famously described man as a "political animal." The medieval poet Dante conceived of heaven as a vast and harmonious body politic. These men and others rightly perceived that people everywhere crave community.

To be human is to desire participation in a life shared with others. Only through community can we be fully known and understood — even to ourselves. There are dimensions of who we are that solitude alone cannot draw out. Human beings are social creatures who willingly interact with others in order to meet our material wants and psychological needs. But mere transactions and personal interface do not create community. We do not desire to be simply among people but with them.

Think about it. There is little community within a dysfunctional family despite the close proximity and social structure that pays the bills and puts food on the table. The missing ingredient is love. Community requires shared understanding and love.

And the shared understanding and love upon which community is built is accomplished through the proper use of the liberal art of rhetoric.

Before continuing we must define our terms. By rhetoric, I do not mean what is often supposed by this word. Persuasive though it may be, rhetoric when prop-

Please see **SHUMAN**/2B

Highland Park hires former SMU dean to lead STEAM program

■ Dallas-area school district's Moody Innovation Institute is funded by $5.8 million grant

By Elvia Limón
Dallas Morning News

Highland Park ISD has hired the former dean of Southern Methodist University's engineering school to lead its new Moody Innovation Institute, funded by a $5.8 million grant awarded to the district last year.

Geoffrey Orsak is executive director of the institute, which will provide professional development for teachers and hands-on, cross-disciplinary learning to students in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics, or STEAM.

The Galveston-based Moody Foundation awarded the Highland Park Education Foundation a $5.8 million grant in August to overhaul the way students receive STEAM education.

"It was a good fit for Moody to come to a district that was already high-performing and try to push it even higher for our kids," Orsak said. "We can use that as a model to replicate in other school districts around the state and nation, which is a real key aspect of this as well."

If the institute's curriculum is successful within five years, it could be shared with other Texas districts as a way to approach STEAM-based education, Orsak said.

"There is a lot of work to be done in five years," he said. "Rearranging the curriculum is a big challenge and it's going to take the best of all of us to do it. I'm glad that we've got the team in place that will ensure success for the long term for this project."

A Texas two-step

Though the institute is in the planning phase, Orsak said it will have two main components when it opens in the 2017-18 school year. The first will be a deep dive into professional development for teachers, especially

Please see **ORSAK**/2B



Milton Hinnant/Dallas Morning News

Dr. Geoffrey Orsak, executive director of the Institute for Engineering Education at SMU, is shown in October 2003 in Dallas. Highland Park ISD has hired the former dean of Southern Methodist University's engineering school to lead its new Moody Innovation Institute, funded by a $5.8 million grant awarded to the district last year.

SHUMAN

From 1B

erly used is never merely persuasion. Persuasion can bring great flourishing or irreparable harm. Demagogues are persuasive. Half-truths, even outright lies, can be manipulated through the right shadows to lead people astray. Fraud never fosters community. It always destroys it. Manipulative persuasion for the purpose of bamboozling people is the abuse of rhetoric. Rhetoric's proper function is always grounded in truth guided by love. Rhetoric is not therefore the art of persuasion. Rather, it is the art of persuasion toward the highest ends.

Rhetoric, in the classical sense is not a speech class. It is the art of communicating "the sense" of a subject. It is the apex of a subject's grammar and logic. Grammar identifies a subject's basic data and information. It identifies the subject's dots on the page. Logic connects that subject's dots together. Rhetoric articulates what the subject's dots and subsequent image means. The liberal art of rhetoric is the culmination of the preceding two phases of the trivium — the three stages of learning.

Consider the trivium and the respective powers of each art in the realm of language. Grammar makes sense of words. Grammar harmonizes words into a sentence or a thought. Logic makes sense of sentences. Logic harmonizes multiple sentences and thoughts into a perspective or worldview. But what does rhetoric harmonize? Rhetoric harmonizes multiple perspectives into mutual understanding. When this is done with genuine concern and care for other people, community is created. The proper function of rhetoric is then the art of harmonizing different minds into community with each another.

Grammar may be informative. Logic may be convincing. Rhetoric may be persuasive. But among the highest ends of these liberal arts is community.

But acknowledging the proper use of rhetoric also implies that it can be used improperly. When rhetoric is done without concern for the interests of others, or when it is selfishly employed devoid of love it does not produce community but mistrust and enmity. Instead of harmonizing minds, it hostilizes them against each other. When language itself becomes weaponized, the very words we speak become toxic darts to manipulate, cheat and take advantage of those we should love. Such words widen the moats and buttress the fortresses in which we guard our deceit and entrench our frail souls against the assaults from our closest enemies.

What can be done? As long as we are human, language and rhetoric will be employed. The question for us then becomes "how will we use them?" Will the words we speak build community or bring apocalypse? Words are powerful. It is with words that wars begin and end. Words create and dissolve marriages. Our words will either yield life or herald death. If we are to thrive, our words must be rightly spoken and we must train our children to use their words rightly.

If our community is to flourish our students must be taught the liberal art of rhetoric and to use it properly. They must be trained to carefully consider the words of others and measure their own wisely. They must be taught the arts of discovering the facts of reality, connecting reality's facts to make sense of the world for themselves and effectively communicating that sense to others. And they must be guided to conduct these arts in love.

Mastery of the liberal arts equips students with the skills necessary to become self-learners and free thinkers. Such individuals will implement the ideas that will forge the future, for they possess understanding and vision to discover hidden possibilities and imagine innovative solutions. Free thinkers are by definition free — but free to what purpose?

Self-learning and free-thinking that lack love frequently produce undesirable outcomes. Education that desires positive outcomes must promote both true knowledge and proper loves. Love detached from reality is disabled sentiment. Knowledge unguided by love is destructive. A holistic education therefore, seeks to produce brilliant minds and compassionate hearts.

For community to thrive, mastery of the liberal arts must be directed under the influence of love. And students who are trained to properly wield the forces of grammar, logic and rhetoric become the kind of people who create the community we crave.

Brandon Shuman is dean of arts and humanities at Midland Classical Academy.

ORSAK

From 1B

those in STEAM subjects. The second will be the curriculum alignment for STEAM education throughout the district.

Orsak said 18 Highland Park ISD staff members are working on the design of the curriculum so they can develop training for teachers. He said the institute plans to start its teaching development in the summer, and it will hire two academic coaches to guide staff through the new program.

The grant also will establish the Moody Advanced Professional Studies Center, which will help students partner with community members in STEAM fields and with internship opportunities.

The institute will bring access to technology to all of the district's classrooms, although the type and when it will be implemented hasn't been determined.

"We are looking at what's available and what type of technology that's going to make a difference in high schools, middle schools and elementary schools," he said. "We are going to make these so that students are comfortable with how they are used, and they are not just sitting around learning how to use them. They will actually use devices to solve rich problems."

Jan Peterson, executive director of the Highland Park Education Fund, said the technology will be used as a tool to enhance student learning.

"We often are effective when we use technology, but we want to use it in ways that advance the classroom," she said. "Technology should be used as a tool, but it's not the end result."

PURSUING A PASSION

Before coming to Highland Park ISD, Orsak was dean of SMU's Lyle School of Engineering from 2004 to 2012. He also served as president of the University of Tulsa in 2012.

Peterson said the district considered Orsak an ideal candidate for the institute because of his previous work with STEAM education at SMU.

"He was in the engineering school, where he got more women involved," she said. "He grew the program. That is what we are trying to do. We want to develop it into something that really matters, and his creativity and innovation certainly attracted us to him."

Orsak said he regards his new post as an opportunity to continue pursuing his lifelong interest of K-12 STEAM education, and preparing for study in those areas youngsters who might otherwise become discouraged.

"The curriculum is demanding," Orsak said. "It's painful to see our neighbors who want to study engineering and are just not well-prepared for it. It's key that we get this fixed."

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

Midland College students **Jamie Parks** and **Heather Dudley**, members of Phi Theta Kappa , were named to the All-Texas Academic Team in a ceremony March 24 at the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library at the University of Texas.

The All-Texas Academic Team awards are given annually to community college students nominated by faculty for outstanding academic achievement, community service, leadership and expression. Each college may nominate up to two students, and the nominations are reviewed by Phi Theta Kappa, an international honor society, according to a press release from MC.

* * *

Midlander **Kacey Barton** was among Sul Ross University students to win awards at the annual Texas Intercollegiate Press Association convention last week in Dallas.

Barton won third place in information graphic.

The university won 29 awards — three onsite for The Skyline news magazine, 16 for previously published articles in Skyline, seven for The Brand student yearbook and three for The Sage literary magazine.

* * *

Lee High School senior **Desarea Stanford** has been honored by the Negro Business and Professional Women of Midland. She is the daughter of Jerry and Jessica Stanford.



Stanford

She is a member of National Honor Society, basketball team and AVID.

She attends Life House Fellowship and volunteers with Keep Midland Beautiful and at her church.

* * *

Lee High School senior **Anthony Ford** has been honored by the Negro Business and Professional Women of Midland. He is the son of Van Jackson and Latasha Ford.

He is a member of the football, basketball and track teams, Latin Club and Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

He attends Goodwill Baptist Church.

* * *

Three Midlanders were named to honor rolls for the fall semester at Oklahoma State University.

Christopher Evans was named to the President's Honor Roll, and **Madison Byrom** and **Isabel Nosek** were named to the Dean's Honor Roll.

To be eligible for the President's Honor Roll, students must maintain a 4.0 GPA. For Dean's Honor Roll they must maintain a 3.5 GPA.

MAKING THE GRADE

FROM STAFF REPORTS

EDUCATION BRIEFS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

See MC/Si MC is Saturday

The fifth annual See MC/Si MC at Midland College is Saturday. The event is an opportunity for prospective students and their families to visit the campus and talk with academic program personnel, financial aid advisors and college admissions staff.

There will be music, children's activities, college presentations, campus tours and prizes, including a laptop computer.

There will be a free hamburger lunch for the first 2,000 people.

See MC/Si MC begins at 8:30 a.m. with a robotics competition, followed by a presentation on careers at 10 a.m. at the Marie Hall Academic Building. The main event is 11 a.m. -2 p.m. near Beal Plaza outside the Scharbauer Student Center.

For more information, call 686-4910.

MC to host Bark in the Park

The Lady Chaps softball team, Phi Theta Kappa and Lone Star Sanctuaty for Animals are hosting Bark in the Park on Saturday. A free tailgate party with hamburgers is set for 11:30 a.m. at the softball field behind Fox Science Building. A game between the Lady Chaps ad the Odessa College Lady Wranglers will begin at 1 p.m.

People attending may bring their dogs, which must be on leashes. Lone Star also will bring animals.

Camp Fire to host summer camp

Registration will begin April 24 for Camp Fire West Texas' summer day camp, which will be at St. Mark's United Methodist Church.

The camp begins June 5 and continues through Aug.18. Hours are 7:45 a.m. -5:30 p.m. weekdays. Activities include games, field trips and sports.

Fee is $75 per week and included lunch and snacks. Financial assistance is available based on family size and income level.

For more information call 570-4144.

Contact your representative

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Trustees — Linda Cowden, Will Green, Steve Kiser, Charlene McBride, Steve Castle, Ken Peeler, Ralph Way, Larry Lawrence, Paul Morris

Kansas school wants students to become literate in Spanish

By Oliver Morrison
The Wichita Eagle

WICHITA, Kan. — As a new semester of Spanish I started at North High School in January, Francisco Gonzalez, a sophomore, stood in front of 30 classmates holding a pair of orange soccer cleats.

Francisco played soccer all the time as a kid, he said — in the street, with his cousins in the house or on a team at the YMCA in Wichita. He didn't get to play much on the team, he told the class, because he was always late.

"The coach would be mad at me," Francisco said in Spanish. "We used to run a booth at the flea market, and my dad had to close the whole store. So we were always late to practices and even sometimes games."

Even though Francisco has been formally studying Spanish for only a semester, his teacher, Andrea Brandt, knew he could handle speaking for several minutes, because the class was for "heritage speakers." Francisco, like many of the students, had been speaking Spanish at home his entire life.

North High has the biggest group of heritage speakers in Wichita — about half of the 600 students enrolled in Spanish at North are in classes targeted for people who are already fluent in the language. North High was the first to offer the fast-paced classes a decade ago and has the largest program in the city now.

A group of foreign-language teachers has been meeting across the district to discuss adding a special certificate to the diplomas of students who make it all the way through the program and can demonstrate mastery of two languages.

But not everyone makes it that far. Some students come into class expecting an easy A, Brandt said, but quickly discover they have their work cut out for them.

Although they may be bilingual, they are not yet "bi-literate," she said, because they haven't yet received formal instruction in Spanish. So they often still struggle with some combination of reading, writing and grammar.

After a recent quiz, one-third of Francisco's classmates scored 100 percent. The topic was about the letters "B" and "V," which can be tricky for someone who speaks Spanish but has not studied it in school; in Spanish, both letters often sound the same. So many students didn't know which letter to use to spell words they have been using their whole lives.

Jennifer Parga, the chairwoman of the foreign language department at North, said she has a class of more than 30 students in Spanish IV and 11 students in AP Spanish.

"We teach them when they go to college, this Spanish skill, this language that you have, it's worth something, you shouldn't be ashamed of it, use it," Brandt said. "A lot of time when they grow up, it's you have to learn better English. That shouldn't negate that what you have, it's valuable."

Even though the students have some background in Spanish, Brandt said, their experiences vary greatly.

Some were born in Mexico, some in the U.S. and a few elsewhere. Some students spent some time studying Spanish in elementary school before moving to the U.S. Others have never had any Spanish instruction at all. So the teachers test each student to see where to place them.

Even within each student's family, the ability to speak Spanish can vary quite a bit. Alondra Lerma, a freshman, recently was with her mom when an English speaker needed to communicate with her about some new furniture. So Alondra translated. But she said her dad was skeptical and preferred that Alondra's older sister do that translating.

That hurt her feelings.

"My dad knows I can talk Spanish, I don't know," Alondra said. "I feel like he doesn't believe I have enough knowledge of the language, he doesn't trust my knowledge."

Alondra said she confronted her dad about what happened later.

"I told him, 'Dad, I know how to speak Spanish, I'm not good at reading or writing it, but I'm good at translating in English,'" she said.

Alondra, like many of the students, say that they switch languages at home, depending on who is there. If a relative is visiting who speaks only Spanish, then they might speak only Spanish. If a friend is visiting, Alondra said, her dad will often try to chat with them in English.

Other students said their parents will speak to them in Spanish and they'll respond in English. "My dad used to say, 'If they talk to you in

Please see SPANISH/4B

AID

From 1B

tional documents, a time-consuming process that could take them out of the running for aid awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Advocacy groups and members of Congress have pleaded with states to push back their financial aid deadlines in light of the shutdown, since most jurisdictions rely on the FAFSA to dispense grants. Colleges and universities also want the application by March to divvy up their own institutional dollars.

Because the window for submitting the form opened in October — two months earlier than usual — high school seniors completed 603,000 more FAFSA applications by mid-February than they did a year earlier, according to the National College Access Network. But the organization fears that low-income students without the proper guidance from parents or counselors are still wading through the application process, and the outage could discourage completion.

The consequences of disabling the tax tool extend beyond financial aid. People enrolled in income-driven repayment plans must update their tax information every year for the government to cap their monthly student-loan bill to a percentage of their earnings. The IRS tool streamlines that certification process, but without it, people may take longer to complete the form and miss their deadline. And that could increase the amount of money they pay per month.

"You incur higher costs and you face potentially unaffordable payments until you can get your information in," said Lauren Asher, president of the Institute for College Access and Success (TICAS), an education nonprofit organization. "Everything that makes the process harder makes it less likely that people are going to make it all the way through."

Colleges, consumer groups and lawmakers have been critical of the IRS and Education Department's handling of the shutdown. The agencies waited a week after taking the the tool offline to inform the public and offered little explanation. The House and Senate education committees have requested a briefing on the cause and urged Education Secretary Betsy DeVos to do more to get the word out to students and borrowers.

There is no mention of the outage on the government website, studentloans.gov, where people apply for income-driven plans, and only a small alert on the FAFSA homepage. Draeger said students filling out the FAFSA complain of still being directed to the disabled IRS tool and having trouble returning to their application.

The retrieval tool has been in operation for nine years and used by millions of families to shave time off the application process. The federal government offers more than $150 billion in grants, loans and work-study funding for college, but has struggled to get students to apply — a feat some worry will only get harder now that the tax tool is down.

52 FACES OF COMMUNITY

To nominate a Face of Community, please visit mrt.com/52Faces

PRESENTED BY CHEVRON AND THE MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

TUESDAY PRIME TIME — APRIL 4, 2017

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

		S	R	S	W	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
KMID	ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Middle (N)	Am.Wife (N)	The Boat (N)	Imagi-nary (N)	Agents of SHIELD "What If" (N)		Local 2 News	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:35) Nightl.
KOSA	CBS	7	7	7	7	7	CBS 7 News	Ent. Tonight	NCIS "A Bowl of Cherries" (N)		Bull "Dressed to Kill" (N)		NCIS:NO "NOLA Confidential" (N)		CBS 7 News	(:35) The Late Show	(:35) J.Corden
KWWT	CW	5	14		5	14	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	A. Griffith	A. Griffith	MacGyver "Every Time She Smiles"		Hogan's Heroes	Hogan's Heroes	Carol Burnett	Perry Mason	Twilight Zone
KPEJ	FOX	8	5	5	8	3	The Big Bang	Big Bang Theory	New Girl (N)	The Mick (N)	Prison Break "Oggia" (P) (N)		Fox 24 News	TMZ	Modern Family	Two and a Half	Hot/ Cleve.	Met Mother
KMLM	IND	11	12	12	11	11	Our Messiah	Housecall	Update News	Behind the Veil	Light of the Southwest "Part 1"		Light of the Southwest "Part 2"		Aleph Course	Mission: M25	Ministerios Nueva Vida	
KWES	NBC	9	9	9	9	9	News-West 9	NewsWest 9 Now	Voice "Knockouts Premiere" (N)		Trial & Error (N)	Trial & Error (N)	Chicago Fire "Take a Knee" (N)		News-West 9	(:35) The Tonight Show		(:35) Seth Meyers
KPBT	PBS	13	13		13	8	PBS NewsHour		Last Days of Jesus Uncover the events that led to Jesus's crucifixion. (N)				Frontline		Charlie Rose (N)		Newsline	Tavis Smiley
KUPB	UNI	4	4		4	16	La rosa de Guadalupe		Pequeños Gigantes USA		Vino el amor		La piloto		Noticias Tejas	Noticiero noctu.	Contacto Deportivo	
KOSA	MNT	16	16		16		Last Man	Last Man	The X-Files		X-Files "Chinga"		Mike&M.	Mike&M.	Anger M.	Anger M.	Tosh.0	Access
FLIX		340	575		165		(5:05) ★ The Ladyk...		★★ Hoodlum Laurence Fishburne.						(:15) ★ Paid in Full Wood Harris.		★ Johnny Skidm...	
HBO		300	550	14	14		BillMaher	News	★ Absolutely Fabulous: T...		Girls		Crashing	TstLook /(:45)	★ Independence Day: ...		RockHard	
HBO2		302	551	15	101	23	(4:35) ★ X-Men: Ap...		Bill Maher		Big Little Lies (N)		★★★★ The Big Lebowski				★ 28 Days Later	
HBO5		304	552	16	102		(5:25) ★ Batman v Superman: Dawn of...				★ Straight Outta Compton O'Shea Jackson Jr..					Big Little Lies	Movie	
MAX		380	557	17	120	24	(5:25) ★ Rush Ho...		★★★ Old School			(:35) ★ National Lampoon's Animal H...			(:25) ★★★★ The Martian			
MAX2		382	558	18	122		(:05) ★★★ Casanova Heath Ledger.				★ Marauders			(:50) ★★★ Ocean's Thirteen George Clooney.				
PLEX				96			(5:10) ★ Songcat...		★★ Moonlight Mile Jake Gyllenhaal.				★★★ Seven Years in Tibet			(:20) ★★ Scorpio		
SHOW		320	565	19	140	25	(:15) ★ Disgraced (2017, Documentary)				Billions		Homeland		★★ 3:10 to Yuma Russell Crowe.			
TMC		336	573	22	155	26	★ Attack of the Lederhosen...		★ Amigo Undead				★★★★ Cinderella Man Russell Crowe.				Movie	
A&E		27	58	28	35	47	Intervention "Sturgill J"		Intervention "Justin/ Kayne"		Intervention "Zach and Theresa"		Intervention "Jessica"		60 Days In		(:05) Intervention "Justin/ Kayne"	
AMC		40	74	23	42	51	★★★ Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory						★★ 13 Going on 30 Jennifer Garner.			★ Willy Wonka & the Cho...		
BET		58	-		40		To Be Announced						Rebel (N)				Daily S.	Game
BRAVO		65	76		41		Beverly Hills		BevHills Soc (N)		Beverly Hills (N)		Imposters (N)		Watch	Beverly Hills		VanderR
CNBC		46	52		39	72	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		The Partner (N)		Shark Tank		Shark Tank	
CNN		43	50	51	30	56	OutFront		A. Cooper 360		A. Cooper 360		CNN Tonight (L)		CNN Tonight		A. Cooper 360	
DISC		50	60	31	24	42	Deadliest Catch		Deadliest Catch		D. Catch "Legends Born and Broken" (N)				Gold Rush Parker		Deadliest Catch	
DISNEY		56	64	36	25	36	Underc.	G. Luck	StuckMid	G. Luck	Liv/Mad	Liv/Mad	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Jessie	Jessie	Girl M.	Friends
ESPN		32	35	48	31	30	NBA Countdown (L)		NBA Basketball Milwaukee vs Oklahoma (L)						NBA Basketball Minnesota vs Golden State (L)			
ESPN2		34	36	49	32	31	Bracket Genius (N)		Basketball				SportsCenter		SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
FNC		45	48	53	23	55	The First 100 Days		O'Reilly Factor		TuckerCarlsonTon		Hannity		O'Reilly Factor		TuckerCarlsonTon	
FOOD		64	70	27	68	54	Chopped Junior		Chopped (N)		Chopped		Chopped (N)		Chopped		Chopped	
FREEFORM		53	63	34	42	33	(4:30) ★ What a Gi...		The Fosters (N)		Switched Birth (N)		The Fosters		The 700 Club		★ Ella Enchanted	
FSSW		37	38	50	45	29	Stars Insider	Pre-game (L)	MLB Baseball Cleveland Indians at Texas Rangers Site: Globe Life Park - Arlington, Texas (L)						Rangers Live (L)	Big 12	WPT Poker Legends of Poker	
FX		31	56	59	64	69	Movie		★★★★ Captain America: The First Avenger				The Americans (N)		The Americans		Legion "Chapter 8"	
HALLMARK		54	71	58		34	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls
HGTV		63	69	26	48	44	Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper		Home Town		H.Hunt	H.Hunt	Fixer Upper	
HISTORY		71	59	29	50	43	Forged "The Shotel"		Forged in Fire: Cutting Deeper "Night of Champions" (N)						(:05) Forged "Katar"		(:05) Forged in Fire	
LIFETIME		28	30	25	28	48	Little Women: LA "On Thin Ice"		Little Women: LA - A Little Extra (N)		Little Women: LA "Vision Quest/ Big Little Lies" (N)				LW Atlanta "In It to Twin It"		Women "The Girl Who Cried Divorce"	
MSNBC		47	53		49	73	Hardball		All in		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word		11thHour	Hardball	Rachel Maddow	
NBCSN		38	43				NHL Hockey Tampa Bay vs Boston (L)					(:45)	Overtime (L)		NHL Hockey Edmonton vs Los Angeles (L)			
NICK		55	-	39	34	37	Hunter	Thunder	Thunder	GShakers	F.House	F.House	F.House	F.House	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
SPIKE		30	-	55	53	58	Movie		★★★ The Hangover ('09, Com) Ed Helms.				Adam Carolla (N)		★★★ The Hangover Ed Helms.			
SYFY		66	82	41	57	67	Face Off		Face Off		Face Off (N)		Cosplay Melee (N)		Face Off		★★★ Dredd	
TBS		25	33	44	66	41	Seinfeld	Seinfeld "The Pie"	BigBang "Pilot"	The Big Bang	The Big Bang	The Big Bang	Detour (N)	The Big Bang	Conan Chris Pratt, Tom Papa		The Detour	Conan
TCM		41	75	24	63	66	(4:30) ★ The Good...		★★★ Gold Diggers of 1933						★★★★ Holiday Katharine Hepburn.		★ Fifth Avenue ...	
TELE		20	-	10	20		Caso cerrado		La fan		La Doña		El Capo (SP)		Al rojo	Titular.	La Doña	
TLC		51	61	32	38	52	My Big Whitney Gets a Date		My Big Life "Belly Up" (N)		My Big "Big Girl in the Big Apple" (N)		She's In Charge (N)		(:05) My Big Fat Fabulous Life		(:05) In Charge "Doggone Crazy"	
TNT		24	34	40	26	50	(4:30) ★ Rudy Sean Astin.		★ The Replacements Replacements are brought in to substitute for a team of striking football players.						★★★ Rudy A young man is determined to fulfill his dreams of playing football for Notre Dame.			
TVLAND		49	-	35	54	35	Griffith	(:35) Griffith	Griffith	(:50) Ray	(:25) Ray "The Sigh"		Ray	Ray	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens
USA		26	55	42	27	49	Chrisley Knows	Chrisley Knows	WWE Smackdown! WWE superstars do battle in long-running rivalries.				Chrisley (N)	Chrisley Knows	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family
WGN		19	85				Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Outsider "Stranger in a Strange Land"		Outsider "Stranger in a Strange Land"		Outsider "Stranger in a Strange Land"		Outsider "Stranger in a Strange Land"	

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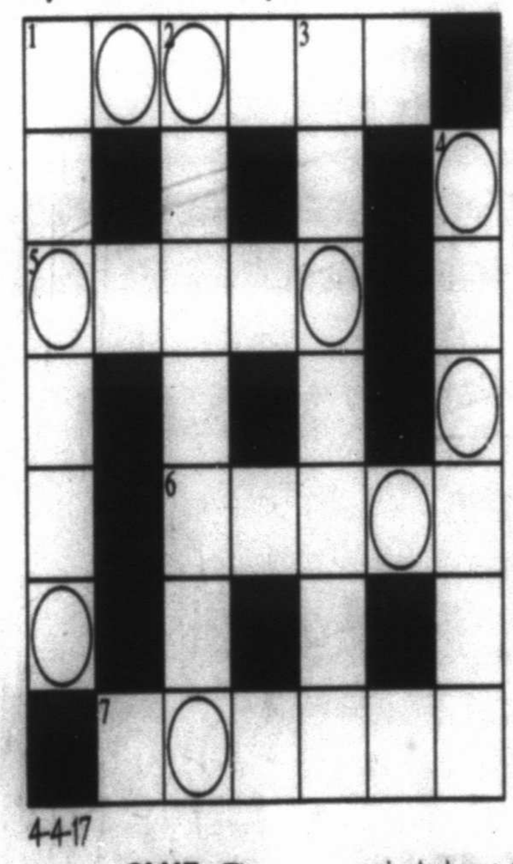
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by David L. Hoyt



ACROSS

CLUE	ANSWER
1. ___ iron	FLAWFE
5. Domain, sphere	MELRA
6. Federation	NNUOI
7. Atomic ___	EWGTIH

DOWN

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Deserving	RHOYWT
2. Aspect	UREFAET
3. Rodent-like mammal	ELNMIGM
4. ___ tree	UAWTLN

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

4-4-17

CLUE: The ___ carried about 100 passengers.

BONUS

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ANSWERS: 1A-Wahhe 5A-Realm 6A-Union 7A-Weight 1D-Worthy 2D-Feature 3D-Unnerving 4D-Walnuts 5-Mayflower

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



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

"_____" _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: HITCH FLOSS PANTRY MEADOW
Answer: The rabbit was dirty after digging in the garden and needed to — HOP IN THE SHOWER

CULINARY CREATIVITY



Courtesy photo

Midland High School juniors Jesus Lozano, from left, and Zachary Breaux plate chicken caesar salad under the supervision of restaurant owner Chip Hight at Opal's Table on Sunday. The students practiced at the restaurant to prepare for the culinary arts division of the SkillsUSA Texas Leadership and Skills Conference, scheduled for Thursday through Sunday in Corpus Christi. Another local chef, Manny Garcia of DoubleTree by Hilton, helped the students after school with knife skills, professionalism and work ethic. Two other MHS students, senior Brayden Gray and junior Karissa Kidder, will compete in the commercial baking division of the competition.

GUEST VIEW

Pre-K isn't simply day care, it's necessity

Dallas Morning News

Educators say the best way to see what quality pre-K looks like is to spend some time watching 3- and 4-year-olds learn.

On a recent morning at DISD's Harllee Early Childhood Center, active tots moved freely and orderly around vibrant classrooms, taking their turns at computers, working in teams, writing letters on dry erase boards. Some worked at interactive screens designing what healthy meals look like. Others worked individually with a teacher recognizing words in English and Spanish.

This certainty wasn't babysitting. This was structured and age-appropriate learning — the kind that research shows gives youngsters the best foundation to succeed throughout their academic careers.

Nestled on Eighth Street across from Townview Magnet Center, Harllee is an example of what advocates say could be the game-changer in closing achievement gaps, combating dropouts and boosting the economy. DISD students are twice as likely to be ready for kindergarten if they've attended a high-quality pre-K program.

Harllee opened two years ago and has the promising ingredients that experts say can move the needle. In its first year, 60 percent of the 4-year-old students came in proficient on rapid letter naming; this year, 81 percent after a year in the 3-year-old program.

Its class sizes are small.

Each 4-year-old class has a teacher and teaching assistant for 22 students; for 3-year-old classes, the limit is 18 students. That meets or beats the 11:1 ratio experts recommend. Students that young need more one-on-one interaction so specific lesson plans can be developed to help them grow.

Harllee's teachers are keenly focused on early-childhood education.

Principal Onjaleke Brown favors teachers who understand that the youngest students are not going to always walk in a straight line. If a prospective teacher thinks the classroom must always be quiet, he or she is not the one for Harllee — and maybe not for early-childhood education at all.

It's a dual-language campus that's not just teaching academics.

A learning-through-play curriculum teaches life skills and how to interact with kids for healthy social and emotional growth. The 160 kids in pre-K and kindergarten come to the campus from throughout the district.

Parent Maria Calderon has a message for folks who might be skittish to send their young ones off: Enroll them. Her daughter, 3-year-old Carla, whose first language is Spanish, has not only learned her letters and math in English and Spanish, but she's become more independent.

It also can't hurt to have a dynamic principal who knows the value of pre-K because she herself started school as a 3-year-old in DISD.

Brown is a veteran educator who wears glittery green shoes to work. Young students often look down in the first days of school, she explains. When they notice the shoes, they look up to see who's wearing them. This is a woman who knows how to reach kids where they are.

We know quality programs like Harllee's are costly; good teachers and individualized instruction come with higher price tag. That's why we've repeatedly urged lawmakers to invest more money in them.

These vulnerable kids are worth it.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

Duncanville students help build Little Free Libraries

By Loyd Brumfield
Dallas Morning News

DUNCANVILLE — When Chris Dodge looks at a map of Little Free Libraries in the U.S., she gets wistful — and encouraged.

"It's all solid red dots. They're all over the place," said Dodge, a former teacher at Smith Elementary here. "But there were very few south of Interstate 20, and for miles around there was nothing.

"Now, that's starting to change."

Dodge and a coterie of allies — including construction and architecture students at Duncanville High School — plan to design, build and distribute Little Free Libraries across the city over the next few weeks.

About 50,000 Little Free Libraries — mini-structures that house a variety of books that are often placed in front of homes, schools and businesses — have sprouted around the world. Readers are encouraged to take books, read them, return them or replace them with others.

After placing a library at Duncanville's Trinity United Methodist Church, Dodge thought they should be more prevalent in her city. She approached Duncanville High School principal Tia Simmons, and the first-year school leader practically finished her sentence for her.

"She said, 'Oh, let's get our shop kids to build those,' " Dodge remembers.

Simmons was familiar with the concept of Little Free Libraries when she was principal at a school in Spring ISD near Houston and was eager to expand the concept at her new school, she said.

"There's never been an idea that's come to me before that I haven't had some babies who could work on it," Simmons said. "It's a kind of trust that, yes, we have some people who can get this done for our community."

In Tamara Gurnell's afternoon Advanced Technology Construction class, students busily construct the libraries, outfitting them with personal touches designed by Marissa Alsabrook's architecture students.

"It's pretty amazing," said Melissa Perez, a senior who plans to major in architecture in college. "It's like when you were younger and you draw something and you say, 'Hey, I want to do this,' and you get to see it happen."

As she talks, Perez watches students put a roof on a library that she designed.

"I like to see my personality come out in these projects. It's my favorite thing," she said.

She's also a major cheerleader for the project, excitedly mentioning that the first one will be unveiled at Armstrong Park, a focal point for several city events.

"We're thinking of making a facade that looks like a giant row of books," she said. "Hopefully, we can encourage people to make their own (libraries)."

There are plans to roll out 12 libraries during the project's first phase, Perez said. In addition to Armstrong Park, organizers eventually hope to place libraries at all nine elementary schools, Rotary Park and possibly Harrington Park.

The Rotary Club of Duncanville gave approximately $550 toward the project, Dodge said, and DeFord's Wholesale Maintenance Supply donated lumber. The libraries will be under the stewardship of the Kappa Upsilon chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma International, a women's educators service organization.

"Just about everyone in town is helping," Dodge said, estimating that it costs about $75 to build each library.

Gurnell, in her third year at Duncanville, describes her class as "wood shop on steroids," as students rapidly move from project to project.

"This has been an amazing opportunity for students because they are learning how to give," Gurnell said. "We brought the idea to them in the fall but couldn't get to it until after the holidays. For some, this is the first thing they've ever built."

Construction duties are split among students who build roofs, some who build the main structures and others who build decorative touches.

Colleges are merged to cut costs

By Sophie Quinton
Stateline.org

WASHINGTON — Students who apply to Georgia State University no longer receive a rejection letter if they don't get in. Instead, they're invited to enroll in Georgia State's Perimeter College — the former community college that was absorbed by the Atlanta university last year.

Now that the two schools are one, students who attend classes on one of the five Perimeter College campuses can easily transition to complete a four-year degree at the university. Georgia State expanded its system for advising and tracking students to Perimeter College and used money saved through the merger to hire more people to counsel them.

In just a year since the schools consolidated, the graduation rate for first-time, full-time students in two-year programs at the college doubled, from 6 to 12 percent.

As state policymakers nationwide consider merging colleges to cut costs, Georgia is proving that it's also possible to use mergers to help students succeed. Preliminary research suggests that the first four mergers in the university system, out of 14 total since 2011, have made students more likely to stay in college.

The state's consolidation strategy may not work in other states. And merging two- and four-year colleges may be the hardest consolidation to pull off. But Tim Renick, who leads Georgia State's efforts to keep students on track to earn their degrees, said it's worth asking if it might.

The University System of Georgia has fielded calls from policymakers in 10 other states who want to find out how the state has combined colleges so successfully, said Shelley Nickel, executive vice chancellor for strategy and fiscal affairs at the university system.

Pennsylvania and Vermont are considering merging schools to cut costs and adjust to changing demographics. And Oregon state Sen. Peter Courtney, a Democrat, has proposed allowing community colleges and public universities to merge, both in order to cut costs and increase transfer rates.

SPANISH

From 2B

English, respond in English,'" Alondra said. "And if they talk to you in Spanish, respond in Spanish."

Natalie Castillo, a senior who hopes to use her Spanish skills as a Wichita police officer after college, lived in Mexico when she was younger and learned some Spanish in school but became frustrated recently when she visited during the summer.

"I would listen, but there were words I wouldn't get," she said. "I was kind of frustrated because I speak Spanish, but I didn't know what those stuff mean."

Like Alondra, Jesus Ramirez, a freshman, said his parents automatically look to his older sister to translate first because they assume she knows more.

Jesus hopes that improving his Spanish will allow him to translate for his mom at the doctor's office and to communicate better with uncles and grandparents who don't speak English. And when he has children, he said, he wants them to learn Spanish as well.

"I feel bad for the people who don't teach their kids Spanish," he said.

The two Spanish tracks for beginners and heritage speakers merge again in Spanish IV, after two years of native Spanish and three years of Spanish for beginners. Even though the native speakers in Spanish IV are typically more fluent at speaking, Brandt said, the beginners have had an extra year of writing and grammar.

Jesus Ramirez just saw his mother apply for and receive her citizenship, he said.

Although some of the students said they would like to travel in the Spanish-speaking world one day, most said they plan to settle in Wichita near their families.

Not all of their parents are authorized to live in the U.S., but they are not worried about having to move to a Spanish-speaking country yet.

Many of Francisco's classmates chose to study Spanish for typical reasons: They need at least two years of a language to be eligible for a scholarship or to get into the college of their choice.

At the end of the recent class, as they packed up, one of the students asked Brandt, the teacher, "Where are you from, Miss? I'm from Durango (Mexico)."

"I'm from Wichita, born and raised," Brandt said without missing a beat.

Brandt is a third-generation Latina, but none of her five siblings speak Spanish.

"(My parents) grew up in a time where being bilingual and speaking with an accent was not OK," she said. So she didn't really discover Spanish until later as a high school and college student.

A community member recently complained that North High posts its messages to parents in both English and Spanish, Brandt said. But she doesn't get why so often people think that learning one language has to come at the expense of learning another.

"It's knowledge, why not know more things? If you can know more than one, know more than one," Brandt said. "If you can know three, why limit yourself to just one?"

Distributed by Associated Press



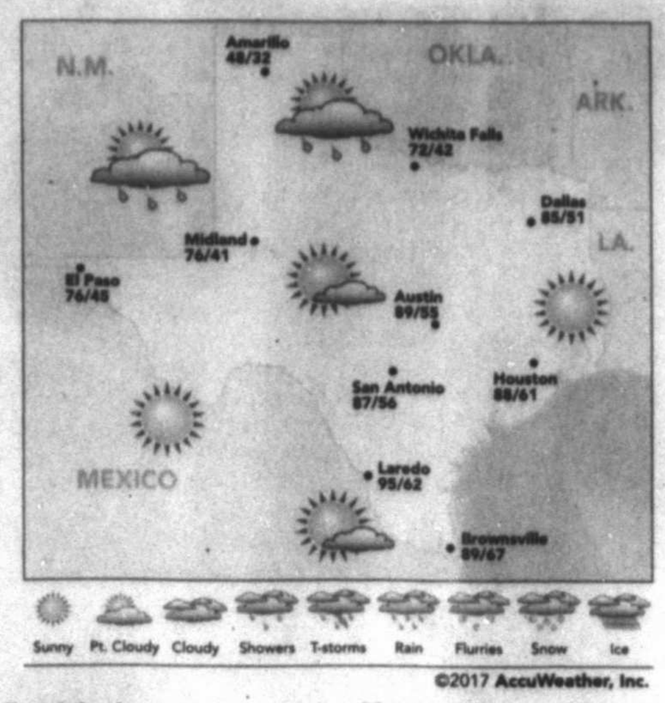
TODAY: Sunny	WEDNESDAY: Sunny	THURSDAY: Mostly sunny	FRIDAY: Sunny	SATURDAY: Sunny	SUNDAY: Sunny
High: 76 Low: 40	High: 66 Low: 42	High: 77 Low: 52	High: 83 Low: 57	High: 90 Low: 60	High: 90 Low: 59

Local forecast

Gusts up to 50 mph are expected today and blowing dust appears likely, according to the National Weather Service. Tonight, the NWS expects winds to remain strong, with sustained winds up to 30 mph and gusts up to 40 mph.

Conditions calm down the rest of the week.

The record high for March 3 is 97, set in 2011. The record low is 29, set in 1975 and equaled in 1987. On March 6 of last year, the high was 75 and the low was 40.



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Precipitation	
Sunday	0.98 in.
Monday	0.00 in.
Month total	0.98 in.
Year total	3.30 in.
Normal total (year to date)	1.94 in.

Monday's temperatures	
High	81
Low	49
Normal high	76
Normal low	45
Sunrise	7:33 a.m.
Sunset	8:11 p.m.

Weather brief

COLOMBIA

Desperate hunt continues for children in town where 262 died

MOCOA — At least 43 children were among the confirmed dead from torrents of mud, water and debris unleashed on the city by a rain-swollen river, according to President Juan Manuel Santos. The national disaster management agency said Monday that the official death toll had increased to 262.

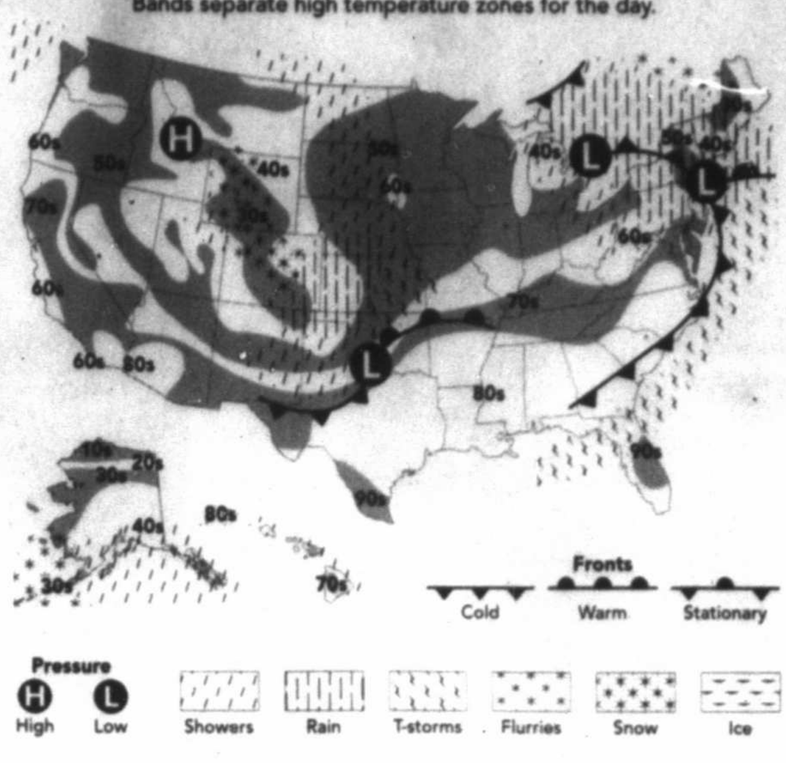
The young may have been particularly vulnerable in this disaster because nearly all were in bed when the floods surged through.

National weather

AccuWeather.com

Forecast for Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Bands separate high temperature zones for the day.



Grandparents' pink grad gift comes right out of the blue

DEAR ABBY

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



DEAR ABBY: My daughter is graduating from high school in May. She has been accepted to a prestigious university, entirely because of her own hard work and dedication.

My father-in-law recently informed us that his new wife had selected our daughter's graduation present, and they are excited to give it to her. They chose a pink luggage set. My husband and I are mystified about why they decided this would be the perfect gift for our daughter. We know she will be embarrassed — but gracious — if she receives this gift in front of our family and friends on graduation day. We would like to spare her the awkwardness and having to return an inappropriate gift.

Abby, would it be rude of us to strongly encourage them to rethink their gift? How do we broach the subject so we don't cause hurt feelings or a rift? We are grateful for their generosity, but we know the gift won't suit our grad. — MYSTIFIED MOTHER

DEAR MOTHER: I do not advise your becoming involved with this. Warn your daughter in advance what the gift will be so she isn't caught flat-footed on graduation day. If she chooses to exchange the luggage for something she feels will be more appropriate, she should do so. Luggage that stands out like a sore thumb may be easier to spot on an airport carousel, but it can also be more vulnerable to theft than something that blends in.

DEAR ABBY: I have a tough problem. I care very much for my girlfriend. She keeps me in check and does everything for me. However, my best friend's sister and I are extremely close. By close, I mean we have conversations about how things would be if we were dating. We have so much fun together. We never, ever argue, whereas my girlfriend and I are constantly fighting. I legitimately want the other girl, but I don't know what I should do. — SCARED AND STUCK IN ST. PAUL

DEAR SCARED AND STUCK: You are a free man, neither married nor engaged. Because you have romantic feelings for someone else, gather your courage and level with your girlfriend. Tell her that you appreciate everything she has done for you, but you want to be free to date other people and think she should, too. The news will probably come as a shock to her, but it's the honest thing to do and better for both of you.

DEAR ABBY: My ex-husband recently died, and I have just learned he had an illegitimate son 25 years ago. The son tracked me down wanting to know things about his biological father. My late husband and I had two children before this one was born. So, do I tell my children they have a half- brother and his aunts they have another nephew? — TRACKED DOWN IN ILLINOIS

DEAR TRACKED DOWN: I see no reason to make any announcements right now. Keep the news to yourself until you are sure that the man wants more contact with his relatives and isn't just looking for medical information that could affect him. You also should make absolutely certain that he truly IS your late husband's son by discussing it with an attorney before sharing any news or details.

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, April 4, 2017:

This year you often wear your heart on your sleeve. People tend to misread your intentions. Be open to questions. If you are single, you could attract someone who is emotionally unavailable. Be careful, and get to know potential suitors well before committing. If you are attached, your sweetie often acts in surprising ways. The good news is that this creates an element of excitement for your relationship. LEO is always great company.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★ You will share some news with a loved one, who, based on his or her reaction, seems rather surprised. You could be taken aback by this person's response. Tap into your imagination for some help in dealing with this difference of opinion. Tonight: Add more spice to your life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★ Your mind is likely to keep replaying the same story over and over. Take a walk, or throw yourself into some other kind of physical activity that helps your mind relax. Return calls and emails. You will hear some unusual news today or in the near future. Tonight: Happy at home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★ You could surprise a friend, or vice versa. The unexpected is likely to run through your day. At the same time, you'll realize that you are becoming more and more accustomed to these bouts of chaos. Feelings seem to be intense. Tonight: Go along with the moment.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★ You are full of fun, and you are able to see what is happening around you. You will come up with some strong ideas, but without testing them out first, you won't know whether they are likely to backfire. Listen to others' suggestions and feedback. Tonight: Indulge a little.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★ You can't seem to get a word in edgewise, as others seem to dominate right now. You also might not choose to be part of that energy. Clear out as much as you can, then call it a day. By sunset, you'll sense a change and will feel more like yourself. Tonight: Happy wherever you are.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★ You could be full of fun, despite the fact that a loved one seems to be acting in an unpredictable way. You suddenly might feel very concerned about issues that exist between you. Try to keep your cool, and decide to have a talk in the near future. Tonight: Get some zzz's.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ Someone is likely to showcase his or her unreliability. You could experience a whole range of emotions as you react to this person's unpredictable display. Recognize how important it is to understand this person but also be as independent as possible. Tonight: In the limelight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★ You will need to keep your feelings under control. You tend to assume the role of the leader, and you also enjoy maintaining the status quo, at least for the most part. You might feel caught off guard when disruptions occur. Tonight: Make plans to visit with a loved one.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★ Your impulses might point you in a different direction from where you thought you were headed. Your knee-jerk reaction is far from subtle. Listen to what others have to say, even if it frustrates you. A solution will appear soon enough. Tonight: Detach and observe more.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★ Let a close friend or loved one know how you feel. You might get a moody or tearful response, but know that he or she will recuperate quickly. Plan to get together with this person very soon, and make sure you keep the lines of communication open. Tonight: Dinner for two.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★ You could feel out of place, no matter what you are doing. Your generosity goes above and beyond, and others know it. Stay true to yourself, and you will be A-OK. Trust that you will land on your feet, no matter what happens. Tonight: Say "yes" to a special offer.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★ Use the daylight hours to the max. Your creativity soars to an almost unprecedented level. Be aware of the costs of your ideas and actions. You do not want any surprises to appear and ruin a project or turn off a key person. Tonight: Get some much-needed R and R.

BORN TODAY

Actor Robert Downey Jr. (1965), magician David Blaine (1973), actor Heath Ledger (1979)

GOREN BRIDGE

With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Knowledge gained

North-South vulnerable. South deals

NORTH
♠ A 5
♥ K J 9 8 3
♦ K 6 3
♣ 6 4 3

WEST
♠ 6 2
♥ 2
♦ Q J 10 4 2
♣ K Q J 10 5

EAST
♠ 8 7 3
♥ Q 10 7 6 5
♦ 9 5
♣ 9 8 7

SOUTH
♠ K Q J 10 9 4
♥ A 4
♦ A 8 7
♣ A 2

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠	2NT*	Dbl	3♣
3♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♠	All pass		

*Both minors, at least 5-5

Opening lead: King of ♣

The Unusual no-trump convention has been popular among tournament players for over 40 years. It can be an effective competitive tool, but it will occasionally give declarer a road map to the play of the hand.

Dummy was a little disappointing. The 10 of hearts rather than the nine and the slam would be cold. This hand would require work. South captured the opening club lead in his hand with the ace, cashed the king of spades, and crossed to dummy with the ace of spades. West, who was known to be at least 5-5 in the minors, had followed suit to both spades. He could hold at most one heart.

Taking advantage of the knowledge gained so far, declarer led dummy's jack of hearts with the intention of running it should East play low. This would lose if West's unknown card was the outstanding trump or the singleton queen of hearts. It would succeed if West held any heart but the queen, or if West held a six-card minor, which was a possibility.

East chose to cover the heart jack with the queen, so South won with the ace and drew East's last trump. He crossed to dummy with the king of hearts and led the nine of hearts to ruff out East's 10.

Another trip to dummy with the king of diamonds allowed South to discard one of his minor suit losers on the eight of hearts. One trick was conceded to the opponents and South claimed the rest.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Complain and complain
5 Frolic in the field
9 Searched for shells in the shallows
14 Where to find Java
15 Governor Kasich's state
16 Be a ham
17 Verizon invoice, e.g.
19 Way to get there
20 Saint at a gate
21 Melt frost from, as a windshield
23 Self-serve salad site
24 Old World Style sauce brand
26 The "c" in a + b = c
28 Govt. agency that lends to start-ups
30 Second wife of Henry VIII
34 "It's __-brainer!"
35 Humerus neighbor
36 "__, black sheep ..."
37 Pierced ear parts
39 Gives approval to
41 Horse's harrumph
42 Consider carefully
44 Coup d'__
46 Opposite of SSW
47 Country divider that allows unrestricted travel
49 Free app annoyances
50 __ Manor: "Batman" mansion
51 Mani go-with
53 Sound of disdain
55 Tot's reply to a taunt
57 Shady retreat
61 Appliance maker
63 Sensitive elbow area, and a literal hint to the circled letters
65 Flat hat
66 Spring blossom
67 Moniker
68 Perfumer Lauder
69 Pinup Hayworth
70 Raised, as cattle

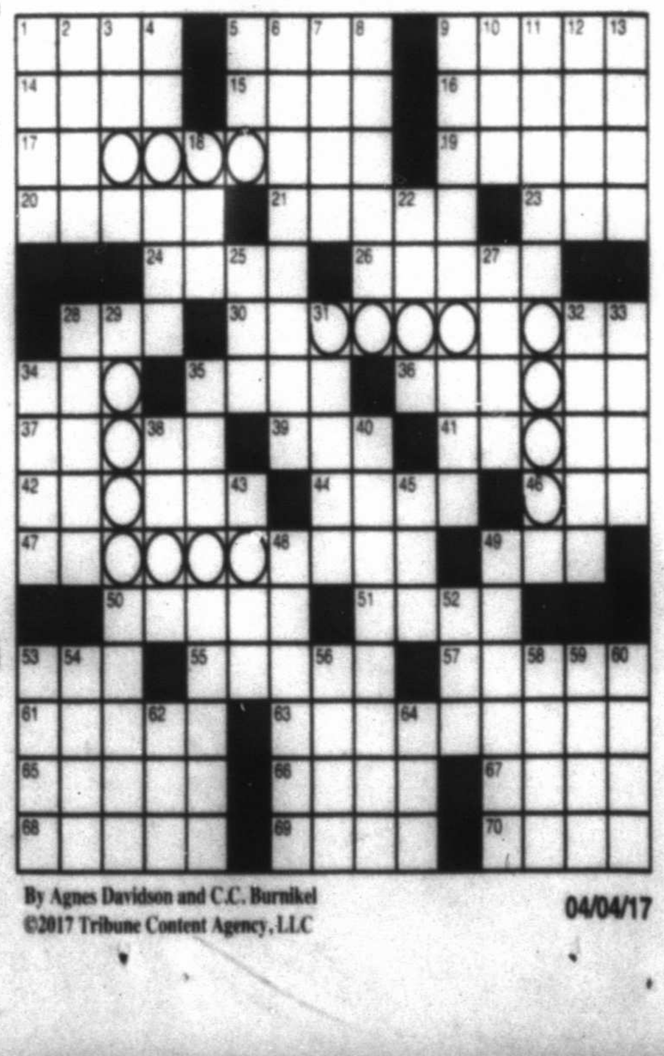
DOWN

1 "Li'l Abner" creator Al
2 Arthur with three Grand Slam singles titles
3 Civil mayhem
4 Bakery-café bread company
5 Steal from
6 "Hmm, gotta think about that ..."
7 Eight furlongs
8 Well-mannered
9 "Mom's gonna kill us!"
10 Latin "I love"
11 Molecular link with two pairs of electrons shared by two atoms
12 Sundance's sweetie
13 Bambi, for one
18 Hurler's stat
22 __ salad
25 Guy's partner
27 Actor Alda
28 Nosy one
29 "Button-Down Mind" comedian
31 Not wearing a thing
32 Tall tales
33 "Big" comics kid
34 Dog food brand
35 Milk-souring warning number
38 Novelist Ferber
40 "Hit the gas!"
43 Rice-A-__
45 "__ we alone?"
48 Colorful timber tree
49 Online rent-a-room option
52 Week segment
53 Yankee Ruth
54 Iowa college town
56 TomKat's daughter
58 Wild hog
59 "I'll pick up the tab"
60 Oboe or bassoon
62 Marriage announcement word
64 CIA cousin

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

xwordeditor@aol.com 04/04/17



By Agnes Davidson and C.C. Burnikel

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04/04/17

EXTRA CREDIT



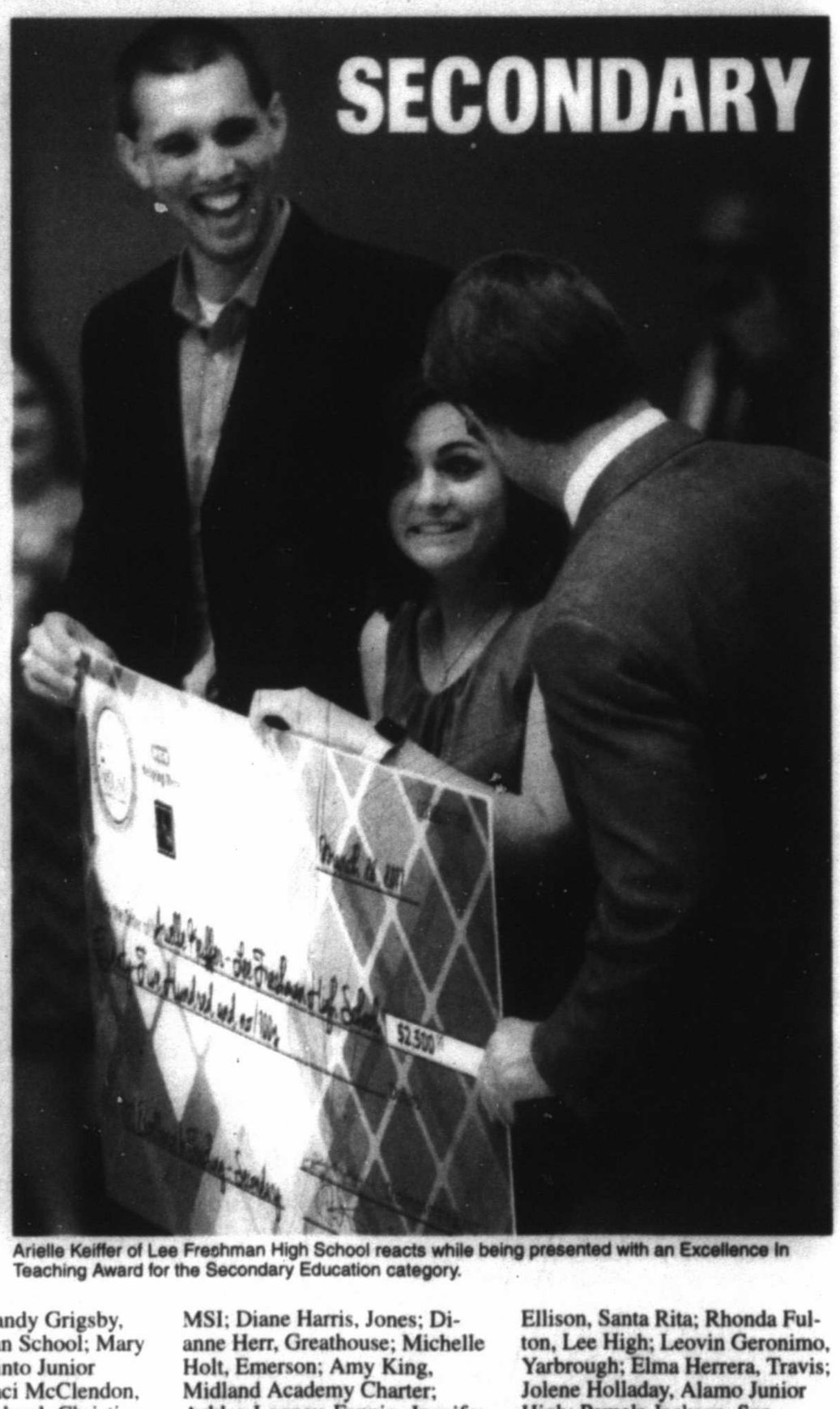
Andra Lancaster of Goddard Junior High School is presented with an Excellence In Teaching Award for the Unsung Hero category during the Excellence In Teaching award banquet March 28 at Green Tree Country Club.

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARDS

PHOTOS BY JAMES DURBIN | REPORTER-TELEGRAM



Malyssa Ewing of Yarbrough Elementary is presented with an Excellence In Teaching Award for the Elementary category.



Arielle Keiffer of Lee Freshman High School reacts while being presented with an Excellence In Teaching Award for the Secondary Education category.

From staff reports

The Midland Chamber of Commerce honored 82 teachers and non-classroom personnel March 28 at the 25th annual Excellence in Teaching & Unsung Hero Awards at Green Tree Country Club.

All Midland County campuses had the opportunity to submit nominees in three categories: elementary, secondary and unsung hero (a non-classroom staff member whose efforts contribute to the campus' overall success). All campus winners received a gift valued at $50, and each of the three category winners received a check for $2,500.

For the ninth consecutive year, H-E-B was the presenting sponsor, and the Unsung Hero awards weren underwritten by the Abell-Hanger Foundation.

The teaching award winners are Arielle Keiffer, Lee Freshman High School and Malyssa Ewing,Yarbrough Elementary School. The winner of the Unsung Hero Award is Andra Lancaster, Goddard Junior High School.

The campus award winners are:

Secondary

Veronica Abila, Coleman High School; Toni Bracy, Midland Alternative Program; Jennettie Brock, Brooks Middle School; Kristi Carr, Abell Junior High School; Jennifer Cooks, Alamo Junior High School; Amanda Courtright, and Goddard Junior High School.

And Lathrice Davis, Early College High School at Midland College; Mandy Grigsby, Midland Christian School; Mary Kinder, Sam Jacinto Junior High School; Staci McClendon, Midland High School; Christina Ortez, Lee High School; Suzanne Rhynes, Greenwood High School; and Sue Statser, Trinity School.

Elementary

Dianna Arroyos, Bonham; Ana Bailey, Bunche; Michelle Brown, Henderson; Crystal Burchfield, Parker; Susana Canava, DeZavala; Bevra Carruth, Travis; Kristel Cruz, Houston; Sarah Duran, Bowie FAA; Javier Esquivel, Burnet; Martha Fentem, Pease CTA; Cary Garton, Rusk; Cristal Gilbert, Scharbauer; and Tracy Gomez, Carver Center.

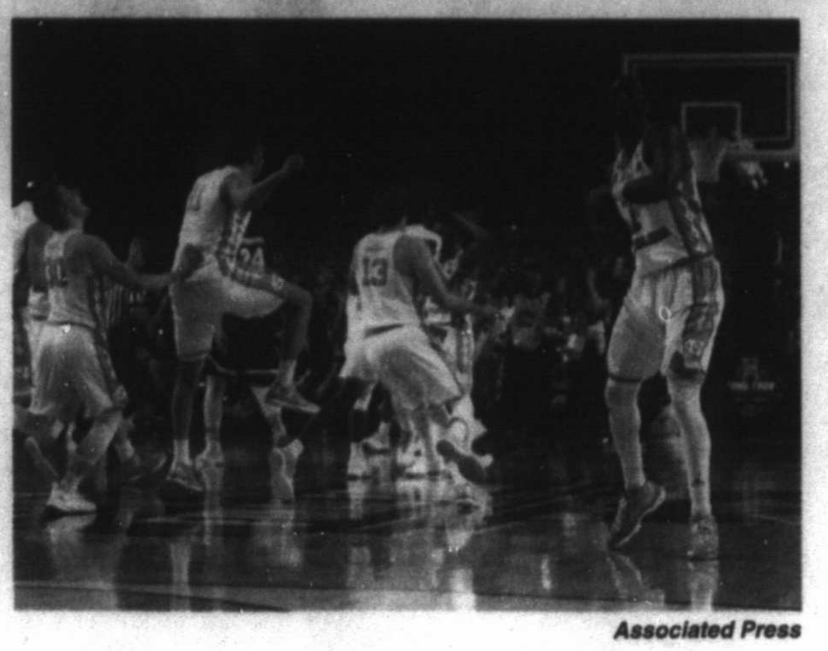
And, Jennefer Graham, Milam; Socorro Gutierrez, Washington MSI; Diane Harris, Jones; Dianne Herr, Greathouse; Michelle Holt, Emerson; Amy King, Midland Academy Charter; Ashley Looney, Fannin; Jennifer Meneses, Crockett; Caitlin Merrill, Santa Rita; Patricia Morales, Bush; Kathy Ruiz, Long; Emily Seider, Lamar; Lesley Stigall; and Lauren Weestra, Fasken.

Unsung Hero

Sylvia Baiza, Midland Alternative Program; Diane Bles, Fannin; Tanisha Brannon, Henderson; Cynthia Brooks, Carver Center; Diana Bustillos, DeZavala; Keitha Butler, Rusk; Adriana Campos, Midland Freshman; Mario Carillo, Midland High; Kristi Childers, Greathouse; Irasema Duarte, Fasken; Crystal Edwards, Scharbauer; Lindsay Elliott, Crockett; Alisa Ellison, Santa Rita; Rhonda Fulton, Lee High; Leovin Geronimo, Yarbrough; Elma Herrera, Travis; Jolene Holladay, Alamo Junior High; Pamela Jackson, San Jacinto Junior High; and Nancy Jacquez-Royval, Jones;

And, Katria Kimble, Abell Junior High; Gayla Kirkland, Parker; Monica Leon, Coleman High; Carla Lozano, South; Kristie Maguire, Lamar; Jake Martinez, Lee Freshman; Bianca Mercado, Washington MSI; Lisa Paredes, Bunche; Darla Patty, Midland Christian School; Lupe Ramirez, Pease CTA; Selina Ratliff, Milam; Rosie Rendon, Bowie FAA; Adrian Revilla, Houston; Elizabeth Richmond, Long; Celina Rodriguez, Burnet; Dominga Rodriquez, Midland Academy Charter; Vicki Washington, Bonham; and Martha Ybarra, Bush.

North Carolina beats Gonzaga to win title



North Carolina forward Theo Pinson, right, celebrates at the end of the championship game against Gonzaga at the NCAA tournament Monday in Glendale, Ariz. North Carolina won 71-65.

Associated Press

By Eddie Pells
Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. — It's OK, Carolina, you can open your eyes.

An unwatchable game turned into a beautiful night for the Tar Heels, who turned a free-throw contest into a championship they've been waiting an entire year to celebrate.

Justin Jackson delivered the go-ahead 3-point play with 1:40 left Monday and North Carolina pulled away for a 71-65 win that washed away a year's worth of heartache.

It was, in North Carolina's words, a redemption tour — filled with extra time on the practice court and the weight room, all fueled by a devastating loss in last year's title game on Kris Jenkins' 3-point dagger at the buzzer for Villanova.

Most of Roy Williams' players returned for another run. To say everything went right for them at this Final Four would not be the truth.

The Tar Heels followed a terrible-shooting night in the semifinal with an equally ice-cold performance in the final — going 4 for 27 from 3-point land.

Gonzaga, helped by 8 straight points from Nigel Williams-Goss, took a 2-point lead with 1:52 left, but the next possession was the game-changer.

Jackson took a zinger of a pass under the basket from Theo Pinson and converted the shot, then the ensuing free throw to take the lead for good. Moments later, Goss-Williams twisted his ankle and could not elevate for a jumper that would've given the Bulldogs the lead.

Isaiah Hicks made a basket to push the lead to 3, then Kennedy Meeks, in foul trouble all night, blocked Williams-Goss' shot and Jackson got a slam on the other end to put some icing on title No. 6 for the Tar Heels (33-7).

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL REPORT

Riding high after big win



MRT file photo

Greenwood's Ashton Rowoldt watches a pitch during the game against Monahans on March 17 at Greenwood High School.

Greenwood goes into second half with momentum

By Christopher Hadorn
chadorn@mrt.com

The Greenwood softball team finds itself in the thick of the District 4-4A race at the halfway point.

The Rangerettes finished the first half on a high note when they handed first-place Andrews its first District 4-4A loss with a stunning 8-3 win Saturday.

With the score tied at 3, GHS junior Kyndall Dove socked a go-ahead grand slam in the sixth inning that was the difference.

It was quite the confidence booster for Greenwood (12-8-1, 2-2), which beat Andrews for the first time in 11 years and was out-scored, 22-2, in two losses to the Lady Mustangs during the 2016 season.

"We were so hyped up," Dove said. "We really wanted to win. I think that we really driven by the fact that nobody really thought that we were going to beat Andrews."

One year after missing the playoffs, the Rangerettes (12-8-1, 2-2) are tied with Monahans (19-8, 2-2) for third-place, one game behind co-leaders Fort Stockton (10-11, 3-1) and Andrews (23-3, 3-1).

Greenwood's young team, laden with juniors and sophomores, also proved to coach Lee Anne Curry that they weren't going to let outside distractions interfere with their focus on Saturday's instrumental game against Andrews.

Greenwood High held prom Saturday evening.

"We didn't want Coach Curry to hold it against us that we lost because of prom, so I think that we did good because we wanted to show her that we weren't worried about prom, that we were worried about the game," Dove said.

Prior to Saturday's game against Andrews, the Rangerettes were coming off the low point of their season when they fell 14-3 to Fort Stockton in five innings on March 21.

Greenwood used the 10-day layoff to regroup.

"We had come apart against Fort Stockton and the girls even agreed, 'Oh my gosh, we looked like we did last year' and they didn't want to see that again," Curry said. "That break, I think really helped us mentally and physically as far as Kyndall kind of resting her arm a little bit."

In addition to her offensive heroics, Dove pitched an admirable game against the Lady Mustangs, holding them to six hits, none for extra bases.

GHS junior catcher Payslee Sims, who has been Dove's battery mate for several years, has noticed that her pitcher has taken her craft to another level.

"It's like night and day from last year

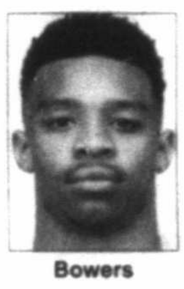
Please see GREENWOOD/3C

MHS' Bowers heads to UTEP as preferred walk-on

By Christopher Hadorn
chadorn@mrt.com

Midland High senior wide receiver Juleion Bowers has accepted a preferred walk-on opportunity with the UTEP football program.

Bowers announced the decision Sunday on his Twitter account.



Bowers

Bowers said Monday he picked UTEP's preferred walk-on offer over opportunities to play at FCS school Jackson State, Central Methodist University (Mo.), Sul Ross State, Kansas Wesleyan and Maryville College (Tenn.).

Bowers said although the Miners' Division I FBS status was a plus, it wasn't the determining factor in going to El Paso.

"I was really just looking for the best opportunity to fit in at and the best financial situation for my family," Bowers said.

The 5-foot-9, 170-pound Bowers was one of four big-play receivers in Midland High's high-octane offense that set a school-record with 517 points scored during its 9-3 campaign in 2016.

Bowers had 35 receptions for 525 yards and six touchdowns.

Bowers is also a standout sprinter in the 200-yard dash and MHS' relay teams in track and field.

"I am willing to play anywhere," Bowers said. "If they need me at any position, I will play it. But I am going to play receiver at UTEP."

Bowers said the opportunity to play at UTEP came to fruition in mid-February when he spoke to his friends Broderick Harrell and Ronald Awatt, former Wolfforth Frenship players on the Miners' roster.

"They asked me if I was looking for a place to play ball and introduced me to their coach," Bowers said. "I sent him my film, he liked my film and it went from there."

Bowers said UTEP head coach Sean Kugler, defensive line coach/walk-on coordinator Andrew Browning and former receivers coach Theron Aych, now at Arizona, were involved in drawing him to UTEP.

"The coach has a really exciting personality," Bowers said. "The coaching staff is fun to be around. They will work with you."

Bowers said he plans to major in accounting. The MHS senior will visit UTEP on April 14 to meet with the coaching staff.

Follow Christopher on Twitter: @chris_MRTsports

AL champion Indians rally in 9th, win opener at Texas

By Stephen Hawkins
Associated Press

ARLINGTON — Abraham Almonte hit a tiebreaking single in a three-run ninth inning, and the Cleveland Indians opened their American League title defense by rallying for an 8-5 win over the Texas Rangers on Monday night.

Making his first opening-day start for Texas, Yu Darvish had a 5-1 lead behind Rougned Odor, who homered twice and drove in four runs in his first two at-bats since a new contract last week that the Rangers sealed with two horses.

Edwin Encarnacion, Cleveland's new slugger, tied the score 5-5 with an eighth-inning homer off Matt Bush, and the Indians went ahead against Sam Dyson, who had 38 saves last season.

Andrew Miller (1-0) struck out two in a perfect eighth, and Cody Allen got the save by striking out the side around Elvis Andrus' triple.

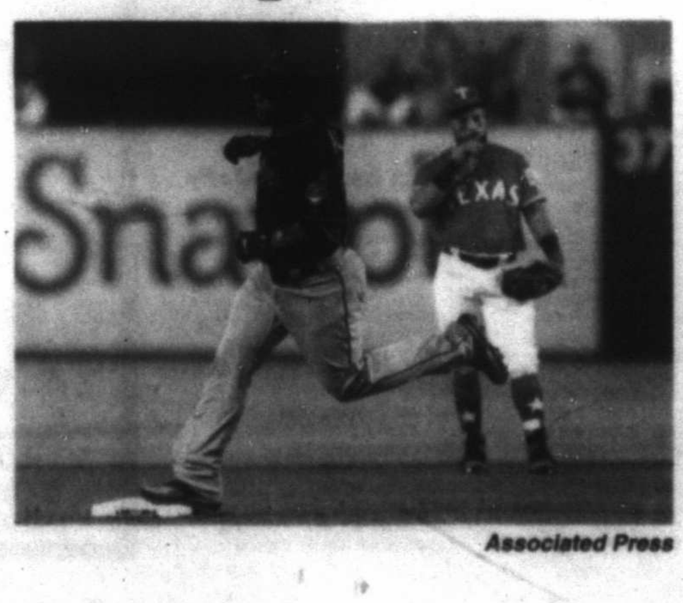
Jose Ramirez also homered for Cleveland. Tyler Naquin's leadoff single began the ninth-inning rally, Yandy Diaz sacrificed and Almonte singled. Carlos Santana added an RBI double and scored on Michael Brantley's single.

Indians starter Corey Kluber, the 2014 AL Cy Young Award winner, made his third consecutive opening day start and gave up three homers and five runs over six innings.

Darvish, entering the final season of his six-year deal, allowed four runs while walking four and throwing two wild pitches over 6 1/3 innings.

Odor got a $49.5 million, six-year deal last week that included

Please see TEXAS/3C



Associated Press

Cleveland Indians' Edwin Encarnacion, left, runs the bases past Texas Rangers second baseman Rougned Odor after a solo home run during the eighth inning of an opening day baseball game in Arlington on Monday. The Indians won 8-5.

DAILY RUNDOWN

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

ON TV

BOXING

Edner Cherry vs. Omar Douglas, 8 p.m., FS1, FXDEP

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Clemson at Georgia, 6 p.m., SEC

Creighton at Nebraska, 6:30 p.m., BTN

Sam Houston State at Texas, 6:30 p.m., LHN

Oklahoma State at Wichita State, 7 p.m., ESPNU

CURLING

Men's World Championships: Germany vs. China, 10 a.m., UHD

Men's World Championships: USA vs. Japan, 8 p.m., UHD

MLB

Cleveland at Texas, 7 p.m., FSSW

Seattle at Houston, 7 p.m., ROOT

Chicago Cubs at St. Louis, 7 p.m., MLB

MEN'S SOCCER

La Liga: Athletic Bilbao vs. Espanyol, 12:20 p.m., beIN, beIN2

Bundesliga: TSG 1899 Hoffenheim vs Bayern Munich, 1 p.m., FS1

Bundesliga: Borussia Dortmund vs. Hamburger SV, 1 p.m., FS2

Bundesliga: 1. FC Köln vs. Eintracht Frankfurt, 1 p.m., FSP, FXDEP

Coppa Italia: Rom vs. Lazio, 1:45 p.m., GolTV

PL: Leicester City vs. Sunderland, 1:45 p.m., NBCET

PL: Watford vs. West Bromwich Albion, 1:45 p.m., NBCET

PL: Burnley vs. Stoke City, 1:45 p.m., NBCET

PL: Manchester United vs. Everton, 2 p.m., NBCSN, NBCU

La Liga: Atletico Madrid vs. Real Sociedade, 2:20 p.m., beIN, beIN2

Copa MX: Morelia vs. Cruz Azul, 6:50 p.m., UDN

CONCACAF Champions Semifinal, Leg 2: FC Dallas vs. CF Pachuca, 9 p.m., UDN, Facebook

NBA

Milwaukee at Oklahoma City, 7 p.m., ESPN

Memphis at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m., FSSWSA

Minnesota at Golden State, 9:30 p.m., ESPN

NBA D-LEAGUE

East Semifinal, Gm 1: Maine at Fort Wayne, 6 p.m., ESPNews

NHL

Tampa Bay at Boston, 6 p.m., NBCSN

Arizona at Dallas, 7:30 p.m., FSSW+

Edmonton at Los Angeles, 9:30 p.m., NBCSN

TENNIS

WTA: Volvo Car Open, 9 a.m., TENNIS

ON RADIO

MLB

Cleveland at Texas, 7 p.m., KBEST 95.7 FM (Big Spring), KPET 105.1 FM/690 AM (Lamesa)

Seattle at Houston, 7 p.m., KXCS 105.5 FM (Big Spring)

NBA

Memphis at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m., KBYG 106.1 FM/1400 AM (Big Spring)

Dallas at Sacramento, 9:30 p.m., KBST 1490 AM (Dallas)

WHAT'S ON DECK

High school

BASEBALL

Midland High at Odessa Permian, 4:30 p.m.

Amarillo Tascosa at Lee, 4:30 p.m.

Pecos at Greenwood, 7 p.m.

Trinity at Lubbock Christian, 6 p.m.

BOYS GOLF

District 4-4A Tournament, Ranchland Hills GC

GIRLS GOLF

Lee, MHS at District 2-6A Tournament, Abilene

District 4-4A Tournament, Ranchland Hills GC

SOFTBALL

Odessa Permian at Lee, 4:30 p.m.

Pecos at Greenwood, 5 p.m.

Alpine at Midland Christian, 5 p.m.

Colorado City at Stanton, 5 p.m.

Midland High at Odessa High, 7 p.m.

DISTRICT 2-6A BASEBALL STANDINGS

District 2-6A Baseball Standings

Team	District W	District L	Overall W	Overall L	Overall T
Odessa High	5	2	15	8	0
Wolfforth Frenship	5	2	13	10	0
Lee	**4**	**3**	**7**	**13**	**0**
Midland High	**4**	**3**	**10**	**12**	**0**
Odessa Permian	1	6	6	15	1
Amarillo Tascosa	2	5	5	16	1

Monday's Scores

Odessa High 4, Amarillo Tascosa 3 (9 innings, completion of suspended game); Amarillo Tascosa 9, Odessa High 4

Today's Games

Amarillo Tascosa at Lee, 4:30 p.m., MHS at Odessa Permian, 4:30 p.m., Odessa High at Wolfforth Frenship, 7 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

American League

DETROIT TIGERS — Optioned LHP Daniel Stumpf to Toledo (IL).

NEW YORK YANKEES — Agreed to terms with C Eddy Rodriguez on a minor league contract.

SEATTLE MARINERS — Placed LHP Dillon Overton on paternity leave. Recalled RHP Chase De Jong from Tacoma (PCL).

TAMPA BAY RAYS — Designated C Luke Maile for assignment.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Placed RHPs Glenn Sparkman and Bo Schultz and OF Dalton Pompey on the 10-day DL, retroactive to Thursday.

National League

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Agreed to terms with 2B Colin Walsh on a minor league contract.

COLORADO ROCKIES — Agreed to terms with C Ryan Hanigan on a minor league contract. Selected the contract of 1B Stephen Cardullo from Albuquerque (PCL).

MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Placed C Andrew Susac on the 10-day DL, retroactive to Thursday.

NEW YORK METS — Signed INF Josh Rodriguez to a minor league contract and assigned him to Las Vegas (PCL).

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Agreed to terms with OF Stephen Piscotty on a six-year contract.

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Recalled RHP Neil Ramirez from Sacramento (PCL). Selected the contract of 3B Aaron Hill and 1B Chris Marrero from Sacramento.

American Association

FARGO-MOORHEAD REDHAWKS — Released RHP Richie Mirowski.

KANSAS CITY T-BONES — Released OF Tyler Massey.

LAREDO LEMURS — Released RHPs Carlos Contreras and Scott Weismann.

LINCOLN SALTDOGS — Released C Alfonso Reda and RHP Richard Castillo.

TEXAS AIRHOGS — Signed OF Jon Crank.

WICHITA WINGNUTS — Signed OF Harrison Kain and INF Shane Hoelscher.

Women's National Basketball Association

LOS ANGELES SPARKS — Named Bobbie Kelsey assistant coach.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

BUFFALO BILLS — Promoted Marion Kerner to director of player engagement and alumni.

DETROIT LIONS — Signed LB Nick Bellore.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Signed QB Case Keenum and P Ryan Quigley.

TENNESSEE TITANS — Agreed to terms with CB Demontrey Hurst.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS — Signed LB Zach Brown.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

ARIZONA COYOTES — Granted D Oliver Ekman-Larsson a leave of absence for the remainder of the season.

BUFFALO SABRES — Called up F Alexander Nylander from Rochester (AHL).

CAROLINA HURRICANES — Reassigned Fs Phil Di Giuseppe and Lucas Wallmark to Charlotte (AHL). Recalled Fs Bryan Bickell and Andrew Poturalski from Charlotte.

DALLAS STARS — Reassigned F Justin Dowling to Texas (AHL).

DETROIT RED WINGS — Recalled RW Evgeny Svechnikov from Grand Rapids (AHL) under emergency conditions. Reassigned F Axel Holmstrom from Skellefteå AIK (Sweden) to Grand Rapids.

NEW YORK ISLANDERS — Reassigned D Parker Wotherspoon from Tri-City (WHL) to Bridgeport (AHL).

PHILADELPHIA FLYERS — Recalled D Reece Willcox from Reading (ECHL) to Lehigh Valley (AHL).

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING — Reassigned F Joel Vermin to Syracuse (AHL).

American Hockey League

BAKERSFIELD CONDORS — Signed F Joe Gambardella and D Ryan Mantha to amateur tryout agreements.

GRAND RAPIDS GRIFFINS — Released F Tyler Spink from a professional tryout agreement.

HERSHEY BEARS — Assigned F Domenic Monardo to South Carolina (ECHL).

IOWA WILD — Returned G C.J. Motte to Quad City (ECHL).

SAN ANTONIO RAMPAGE — Announced F Rocco Grimaldi and D Duncan Siemens have been recalled by Colorado (NHL).

TORONTO MARLIES — Recalled F Tony Cameranesi from Orlando (ECHL).

ECHL

ALASKA ACES — Claimed G Steven Summerhays off waivers from Florida.

MANCHESTER MONARCHS — Loaned D Robert Hamilton and Colton Saucerman to Springfield (AHL).

QUAD CITY MALLARDS — Released G Jake Reed as emergency backup.

READING ROYALS — Fired coach Larry Courville. Promoted assistant coach Kirk MacDonald to interim head coach. Signed G Justin Fazio to an amateur tryout agreement. Released G Justin Kowalski as emergency backup.

SOUTH CAROLINA STINGRAYS — Released D Mitch Nylen.

TULSA OILERS — Signed F Calvin Spencer. Loaned Fs Phil Brewer and Danick Gauthier to Manitoba (AHL).

COLLEGE

ARKANSAS — Named Mike Neighbors women's basketball coach.

AUSTIN PEAY — Named Matt Figger men's basketball coach.

BUFFALO — Announced it is cutting baseball, men's soccer, men's swimming and diving and women's rowing programs.

GEORGETOWN — Named Patrick Ewing men's basketball coach.

KENTUCKY — Freshman G Dei'Aaron Fox will enter the NBA draft.

PROVIDENCE — Signed field hockey coach Diane Madl to a contract extension.

RICE — Named Mark Linebaugh men's assistant basketball coach.

TEXAS A&M-COMMERCE — Named Jaret von Rosenberg men's basketball coach.

UCONN — Announced freshman F Juwan Durham is leaving the men's basketball program.

UNC WILMINGTON — Named C.B. McGrath men's basketball coach.

WILLIAM PENN — Named Steve Williamson women's basketball coach.

NHL GLANCE

Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
x-Montreal	79	46	24	9	101	220	192
Toronto	78	39	24	15	93	242	228
Ottawa	78	41	27	10	92	203	206
Boston	79	43	30	6	92	228	207
Tampa Bay	78	39	29	10	88	222	218
Florida	79	33	35	11	77	202	231
Detroit	79	32	35	12	76	201	236
Buffalo	79	32	36	12	76	197	229

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
x-Washington	78	52	18	8	112	254	178
x-Pittsburgh	78	48	19	11	107	266	221
x-Columbus	78	49	21	8	106	239	180
x-N.Y. Rangers	79	47	26	6	100	252	213
N.Y. Islanders	78	37	29	12	86	226	237
Carolina	78	35	29	14	84	204	220
Philadelphia	79	36	33	8	64	212	229
New Jersey	78	27	37	14	68	175	229

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
z-Chicago	79	50	22	7	107	299	202
x-Minnesota	79	46	25	8	100	254	201
x-St. Louis	78	43	28	7	93	219	204
x-Nashville	79	40	28	11	91	231	217
Winnipeg	79	37	35	7	81	237	249
Dallas	79	32	36	11	75	213	250
Colorado	78	31	34	13	75	194	264

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
x-Anaheim	79	43	23	13	99	212	196
x-Edmonton	78	44	25	9	97	231	200
x-San Jose	79	44	28	7	95	213	196
x-Calgary	79	44	31	4	92	220	214
Los Angeles	78	37	34	7	81	186	191
Vancouver	78	30	39	9	69	174	228
Arizona	79	29	41	9	67	190	251

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

x-clinched playoff spot

z-clinched conference

Scores and schedule

Monday's Scores

Detroit 5, Ottawa 4, SO

Toronto 4, Buffalo 2

Montreal 4, Florida 1

Today's Games

Philadelphia at New Jersey, 6 p.m.

Tampa Bay at Boston, 6 p.m.

Columbus at Pittsburgh, 6 p.m.

Washington at Toronto, 6:30 p.m.

Detroit at Ottawa, 6:30 p.m.

Carolina at Minnesota, 7 p.m.

N.Y. Islanders at Nashville, 7 p.m.

Winnipeg at St. Louis, 7 p.m.

Arizona at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.

Chicago at Colorado, 8 p.m.

Calgary at Anaheim, 9 p.m.

Vancouver at San Jose, 9:30 p.m.

Edmonton at Los Angeles, 9:30 p.m.

Lee's Reed in 2nd at District 2-6A tourney

From staff reports

ABILENE — Lee's Rebecca Reed is in a tie for second place in the individual standings after the first round of the District 2-6A Girls Golf Tournament at Diamondback Golf Club on Monday.

Reed shot a 72 and is in a tie with Odessa Permian's Briana Venegas. Wolfforth Frenship's Haley Vargas leads the tournament with a 69. Midland High's Faith DeLaGarza is in fourth place with a 73.

As a team, Lee is in third place, one shot back of Permian (335) and eight shots back of Frenship (328). Midland High is in fourth place with a 353.

The final round concludes today with the top two teams and the top two individuals not on qualifying teams advancing to the Region I-6A Tournament April 24-25 in Arlington.

Reed and Lee are aiming for their second straight regional tournament appearance, while DeLaGarza is shooting for her third straight trip.

District 2-6A Girls Golf Tournament
Diamondback Golf Club, Abilene
Monday's first round

Team standings - 1. Wolfforth Frenship I 328; 2. Odessa Permian I 335; 3. Lee 336; 4. Midland High 353; 5. Odessa High 356; 6. Wolfforth Frenship II 358; 7. Amarillo Tascosa I 360; 9. Amarillo Tascosa II 427; Odessa Permian II 427; 10. San Angelo Central 442

Medalist standings - 1. Haley Vargas, Frenship I, 69; 2. (tie) Rebecca Reed, Lee, 72; Briana Venegas, Permian I, 72; 4. Faith DeLaGarza, Midland High, 73; 5. (tie) Chloe Bice, Lee, 80; Hailey Cernoch, Odessa High, 80; Emily Serrano, Permian I, 80; 8. Mikayla Childers, Midland High, 81; 9. Hallie Oden, Frenship II, 85; 10. (tie) Kaytlin Raney, Frenship I, 86; Alyssa Hamilton, Frenship I, 86

Team scores

Frenship I (325) - Haley Vargas 69, Kaytlin Raney 86, Alyssa Hamilton 86, Kaitlyn Gossett 87, Stefanie Roldan 94

Odessa Permian I (335) - Briana Venegas 72, Emily Serrano 80, Adrianna Hernandez 89, Kristen Parsons 94, Marina Solis 101

Lee (336) - Rebecca Reed 72, Chloe Bice 80, Laura Werner 91, Kristyn Anderson 93, Rachel Hulder 95

Midland High (353) - Faith DeLaGarza 73, Mikayla Childers 81, Averee Curtee 98, Kelly Ann Hernandez 101

Odessa High (356) - Hailey Cernoch 80, Aumbree Cox 88, Caitlyn Thomas 93, Iris Ramirez 94, Trinity Reyes 100

Frenship II (358) - Hallie Oden 85, Chase Ford 92, Brooklyn Hix 92, Avery Kemal 120

Tascosa (360) - Mikayla Flores 89, Jenny Vongkaysone 94, Gabrielle Rosas 98, Kallinn Amphay 99, Aspen Bouraing 105

Tascosa II (427) - Berkley Bruckner 97, Hailey Ross 102, Vaneesha Patel 107, Anna Champlin 111, Miles Mayring 120

Permian II (427) - Britney Mancha 100, Ann-Faith Roman 107, Kayla Gonzalez 108, Ashlynn Powell 112, Gabby Ibanez 121

San Angelo Central (442) - Karleigh Rose 97, Paige Harris 102, Hallie Walker 108, Avery Rios 135

DISTRICT 5-3A TOURNAMENT GOLF RESULTS

District 5-3A Tournament
at Comanche Trail Golf Course, Big Spring
Monday's first round
Second round: Shady Oaks, Baird, April 13

Boys

Team Standings - 1. Merkel 335; 2. Jim Ned I 360; 3. Clyde 371; 4. Stanton 380; 5. Coahoma I 380; 6. Jim Ned II 437; 7. Coahoma II 472

Medalist standings - 1. Colton Milburn, Merkel, 74; 2. Parker Dean, Merkel, 77; 3. Brandon Berry, Clyde, 85

Team results

Merkel (335) - Colton Milburn 74, Parker Dean, Merkel, 74, Dakota Bryan 94, Matt Rogers 90, Quinton Hale 102

Jim Ned I (360) - Wyatt Hughes 92, Grayson McGlothlin 90, Jase Higgins 90, Jackson Hanna 89, Gavin Thompson 91

Clyde (371) - Heath Owens 91, Brandon Berry 85, Caleb Cates 93, Tracy Riley 106, Jace Biehl 102

Stanton (380) - Logan Daly 86, Blake Snellgrove 90, Braden Waggoner 126, Cooper Millsap 97, Peyton Barnhill 114

Coahoma I (380) - John Porras 98, Mason Moore 96, Tyler McFall 107, Reuben Campos 87, Bryson Cline 106

Jim Ned II (437) - Colton Harris 98, Kade Kimmel 108, Garrett Beard 110, Cortland Baum 12

Coahoma II (472) - Taylor Barnes 103, Alex Gonzales 118, AJ Gutierrez 113, David Davis 138

Colorado City medalists - Johnathan Rankin 97, Conner Hickson 130, Selvy Lee 127

Stanton medalists - Cody Beasley 124, David Hunt 126, Mac Stevens 130

Girls

Team standings - 1. Merkel 403; 2. Jim Ned 406; 3. Clyde 416; 4. Colorado City 475

Medalist standings - 1. Callie Dotson, Merkel, 86; 2. Kevie Enloe, Jim Ned, 90; 3. Mikaela Cates, Clyde, 90

Team scores

Merkel (403) - Callie Dotson 86, Savannah Cook 98, Kaitlyn Davis 109, Lexi Smith 110, Rylee Gilbreath 100

Jim Ned (406) - Kevie Enloe 90, Sydney Burton 102, Abby Ordonio 113, Taylor Johnston 101, Peyton Fetus 114

Clyde (416) - Mikaela Cates 90, Bethany McClure 103, Taylor Anchete 115, Cayle Gerhart 110, Bokley Stone 122

Colorado City (475) - Clancy White 121, Sydney Quinn 111, Kaitlyn Kimball 120, Jadyn Griffith 130, Conley Niblett 123

Stanton medalists - Kayli Inman 98, Kirsten Church 131

Coahoma medalist - Sydni Sparks 119

Colorado City medalist — Sara Roach 122

Jim Ned medalist - Madison Fussell 109

As NBA season winds down, many races are undecided

By Tim Reynolds
Associated Press

With just over a week left in the NBA regular season, there's still a ton to be decided before the playoff field is set.

In the East, four spots remain unclaimed. In the West, two are up for grabs. And while some seedings look wrapped up, none are officially clinched.

Want drama? It's not hard to find.

"To be in competition like this, it's a privilege," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said.

Monday was a most-needed day for most of the NBA to catch its breath. The league always tries to avoid scheduling games on the day of the NCAA men's championship game and would have done so this year if a Portland-Minnesota game didn't have to be postponed because of floor conditions earlier this season.

Things pick up in earnest again today.

So to get ready for the final nine days of the season, here's a primer on playoff chases.

TOP OF THE EAST

Boston (50-27)

Cleveland (49-27)

The Celtics host the Cavaliers on Wednesday, with the winner assured of leaving that night with the No. 1 spot in the East standings. If Cleveland wins, it essentially becomes two victories since the defending champions will also own the head-to-head tiebreaker with Boston. ... LeBron James got his first ring in 2012 as a No. 2 seed in the East with Miami, so it's not like he'll be deterred even if the Cavs don't get that top spot. ... Boston is trending up, going 9-2 in its last 11 games. The Cavs have nine wins in their last 20 games.

BEST OF THE WEST

Golden State (63-14)

San Antonio (59-17)

The Warriors have won 11 straight, might get Kevin Durant back this weekend and face only one playoff-bound team in the final five games. It's only a matter of time before Golden State wraps up the No. 1 seed in the West and home-court advantage throughout the playoffs. ... San Antonio can't be caught for No. 2, and coach Gregg Popovich has two full weeks to get his players rested and his rotation ready.

EAST NO. 3

Toronto (47-30)

Washington (46-31)

Toronto has the season series 2-1, so it's like the Raptors have a two-game lead with five left. But the Raptors play four of their last five on the road, and still don't have Kyle Lowry back from wrist surgery. ... Washington still has to play Miami twice, Detroit and Charlotte, teams very desperate right now to get in. ... Both the Raptors and Wizards have wrapped up home-court advantage for the Eastern Conference quarterfinals.

WEST NO. 3-4-5

Houston (52-25)

Utah (47-30)

Los Angeles Clippers (47-31)

The Rockets' magic number for clinching the No. 3 spot is 1, and the only mystery is if MVP candidate James Harden will get some rest. ... The Jazz are in the playoffs for the first time since 2012 and now have to hold off the Clippers in order to host Game 1 of the post-season for the first time since 2001, when John Stockton and Karl Malone were still starters in Utah. ... The Clippers won the season series against Utah 3-1, big if tiebreakers are needed.

EAST NO. 5

Milwaukee (40-37)

Atlanta (39-38)

Milwaukee's schedule is brutal with four road games in the final five, including ones at Oklahoma City, Indiana and Boston — teams all playing for something. ... Atlanta took the season series 3-0, but the Hawks have a three-game, four-day stretch this week that goes Boston, at Cleveland, Cleveland.

REST OF THE WEST

Oklahoma City (43-33)

Memphis (42-35)

Portland (38-38, plays Monday at Minnesota)

Denver (36-40)

New Orleans (33-44)

The Thunder are in, the Grizzlies are on the brink of officially getting in, and the No. 6 seed might come down to the winner of the Oklahoma City at Memphis game on Wednesday. ... Portland is surging, having won six straight to open up a cushion over Denver and reach .500 for the first time since being 12-12. ... Denver still has to go to Houston, plus plays Oklahoma City twice in the final three games. ... New Orleans is alive only in the mathematical sense.

EAST NO. 7

Chicago (38-39)

Miami (37-40)

Indiana (37-40)

Charlotte (36-41)

Detroit (35-42)

The Bulls won't play another playoff team until the playoffs, if they get in. Chicago's final five games are at New York, at Philadelphia, at Brooklyn, then home for Orlando and home for Brookiyn again. ... Miami goes to Charlotte on Wednesday, in an enormous game for both teams. ... Indiana's next two games are against playoff-bound Toronto and Milwaukee, and the Pacers go to Orlando on Saturday to face former coach Frank Vogel. ... All five of Charlotte's remaining opponents are playoff-bound or hoping. ... Detroit needs a miracle.

TO THE LOTTERY

New York, Philadelphia, Orlando, Brooklyn, Dallas, Minnesota, Sacramento, the Los Angeles Lakers and Phoenix have been eliminated.

Rebecca Lobo puts down stakes at Hall of Fame

By Doug Feinberg
Associated Press

DALLAS — Rebecca Lobo grew up 15 minutes from the Basketball Hall of Fame and held her wedding reception there.

Now she'll be enshrined there.

"I was the kid going to the old Hall of Fame with the conveyor belt where you would shoot at the baskets at the end," said Lobo, part of the 11-person class announced Saturday. "To me the coolest part was the lockers where you saw how big people's feet were.

"Until I made the finalists this year it was something I never thought would happen. I was on cloud nine yesterday. I'm so appreciative. It was something that I never thought was in the realm of my life."

Lobo helped UConn win the first of 11 titles in 1995 and was coach Geno Auriemma's first big recruit.

Lobo's mother died in 2011 of breast cancer.

In addition to Lobo, making the Hall and attending the announcement were: former NBA star Tracy McGrady, Kansas coach Bill Self, Notre Dame women's coach Muffet McGraw, Texas high school coach Robert Hughes, Harlem Globetrotters owner Mannie Jackson and NCAA official Tom Jernstedt. Zack Clayton, Nikos Galis, Jerry Krause and George McGinnis also were elected.

Lobo had a whirlwind weekend. She was working the women's Final Four for ESPN and had to catch an early morning flight Saturday to Phoenix for the announcement. After watching the men's semi-finals, she got a lift from McGraw back to Dallas for the women's title game Sunday.

NBA GLANCE

Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Boston	50	27	.649	—
x-Toronto	47	30	.610	3
New York	29	48	.377	21
Philadelphia	28	49	.364	22
Brooklyn	18	59	.234	32

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Washington	46	31	.597	—
Atlanta	39	38	.506	7
Miami	37	40	.481	9
Charlotte	36	41	.468	10
Orlando	27	50	.351	19

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Cleveland	49	27	.645	—
Milwaukee	40	37	.519	9½
Chicago	38	39	.494	11½
Indiana	37	40	.481	12½
Detroit	35	42	.455	14½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-San Antonio	59	17	.776	—
x-Houston	52	25	.675	7½
x-Memphis	42	35	.545	17½
New Orleans	33	44	.429	26½
Dallas	32	44	.421	27

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Utah	47	30	.610	—
x-Oklahoma City	43	33	.566	3½
Portland	38	39	.494	9
Denver	36	40	.474	10½
Minnesota	31	45	.408	15½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Golden State	63	14	.818	—
x-L.A. Clippers	47	31	.603	16½
Sacramento	30	47	.390	33
L.A. Lakers	22	55	.286	41
Phoenix	22	56	.282	41½

x-clinched playoff spot

z-clinched division

Scores and schedule

Monday's Score

Minnesota 110, Portland 109

Today's Games

Brooklyn at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.

Charlotte at Washington, 6 p.m.

Orlando at Cleveland, 6 p.m.

Toronto at Indiana, 6 p.m.

Chicago at New York, 7 p.m.

Denver at New Orleans, 7 p.m.

Milwaukee at Oklahoma City, 7 p.m.

Memphis at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m.

Portland at Utah, 8 p.m.

Dallas at Sacramento, 9:30 p.m.

Minnesota at Golden State, 9:30 p.m.

MIDLAND HUMANE COALITION

UPCOMING EVENTS

4/6 6:30-8:30 Microchipping at Beer Garden's Yappy Hour

4/10 6:00-8:00 Volunteer Orientation at MHC's Adoption Center

4/22 9:00-12:00 Shot & Chip Clinic, location TBD

6/24 3rd Annual Hot Dog Run 5K and 1K

PLEASE VISIT THE EVENTS SECTION OF OUR WEBSITE

WWW.MIDLANDHUMANE.ORG

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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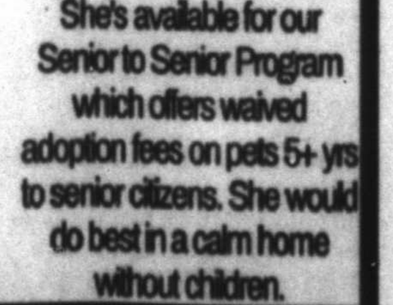
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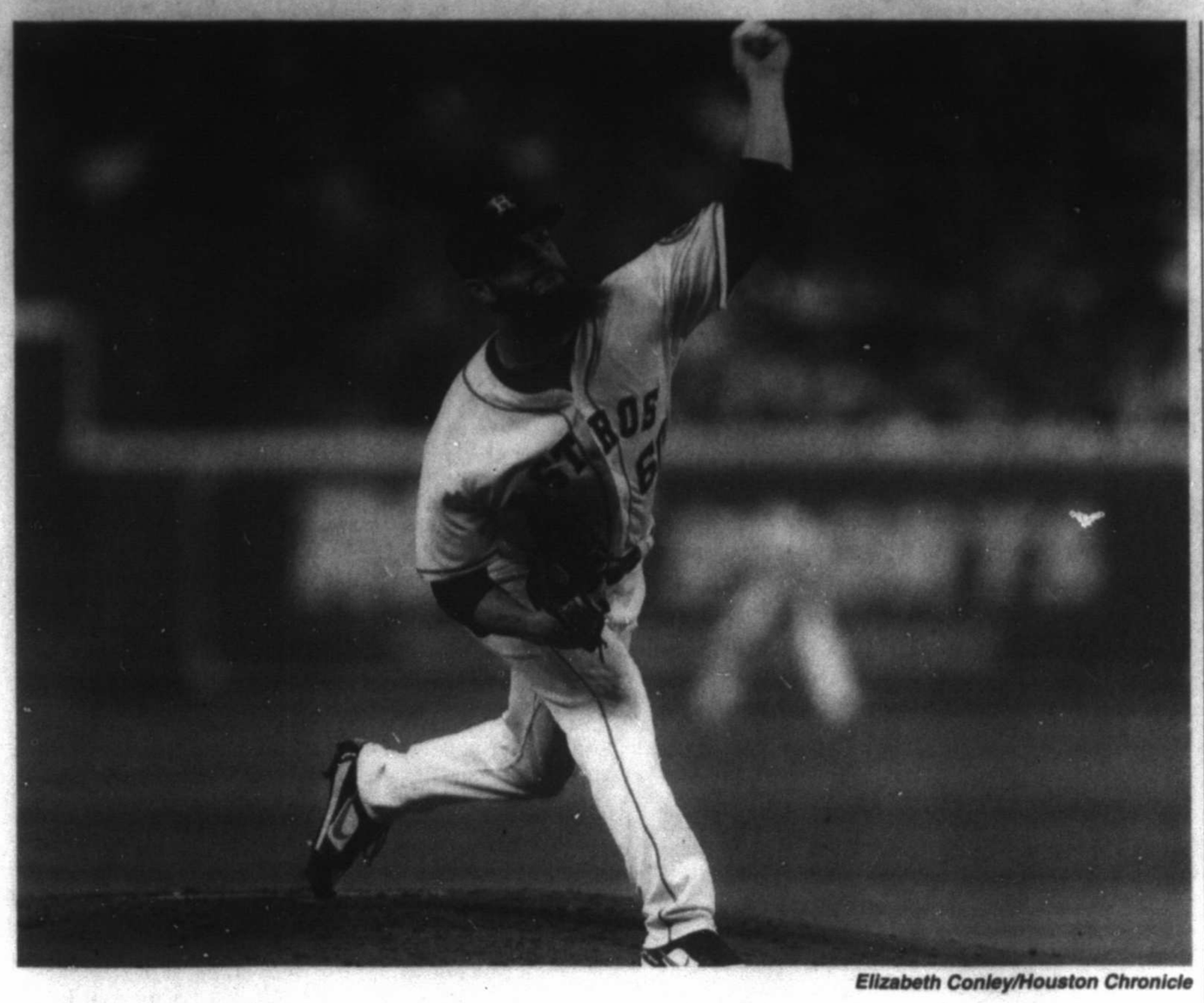
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Smokey is a 9 yo grey med haired female who's shy at first, but responds well to kindness & patience. She's available for our Senior to Senior Program which offers waived adoption fees on pets 5+ yrs to senior citizens. She would do best in a calm home without children.



Elizabeth Conley/Houston Chronicle

Houston Astros starting pitcher Dallas Keuchel (60) pitches in the fifth inning against Seattle Mariners catcher Mike Zunino (3) on Monday in Houston.

Keuchel, Correa lead Astros over Mariners

By Kristie Rieken
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Dallas Keuchel allowed two hits over seven innings, Luke Gregerson and Ken Giles completed the three-hitter and the Houston Astros beat the Seattle Mariners 3-0 on Monday night in their opener.

George Springer became Houston's first player since Terry Puhl in 1980 to lead off the first game with a home run. Carlos Correa homered and drove in two runs as Houston won on opening day for the fifth straight year.

Keuchel (1-0) went 9-12 with a 4.55 ERA last year after winning the AL Cy Young Award in 2015. Winning on opening day for the third year in a row, he struck out four. Giles allowed a hit and Giles walked one with three strikeouts for the save.

Felix Hernandez (0-1), making his 10th opening day start, allowed two runs and five hits while striking out six in five innings before leaving with tightness in a groin. Hernandez pulled up after racing to cover first base for the second out of the fourth inning on Josh Reddick's grounder. Hernandez was looked at by trainers and threw a couple of warmup pitches before finishing the inning.

He returned to pitch a 1-2-3 fifth inning, then was replaced by Nick Vincent.

Springer hit his 10th leadoff home run. Correa made it 2-0 in the fourth with a 449-foot drive that sailed over the train tracks atop left field, then hit a sacrifice in the sixth.

Keuchel retired his first 10 batters before Robinson Cano singled and Nelson Cruz walked. A two-out walk by Danny Valencia loaded the bases, but Keuchel retired Leonys Martin on a groundout.

Trainer's room

Astros: Houston starter Collin McHugh is to make am injury rehabilitation start on Thursday at Triple-A Fresno. McHugh opened the season on the 10-day disabled list because he experienced "dead arm" this spring. The Astros hope he will need just one start before returning to the rotation.

Up next

Mariners: RHP Hisashi Iwakuma is scheduled to pitch for Seattle on Tuesday in the second game of this four-game series. Iwakuma went 16-12 with a 4.12 ERA and 147 strikeouts in 33 starts last season.

Astros: Lance McCullers is slated to pitch for Houston on Tuesday. McCullers was 6-5 with a 3.22 ERA in 14 starts last year in a season plagued by injuries.

MLBROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

American League

ORIOLES 3
BLUE JAYS 2

BALTIMORE — Mark Trumbo homered off Jason Grilli (0-1) with two outs in the 11th inning in a rematch of last year's AL wild card playoff, won by Toronto 5-2 on an 11th-inning home run by Edwin Encarnacion.

Tyler Wilson (1-0), the fourth Baltimore reliever, pitched one shutout inning in the 25th Camden Yards opener.

TWINS 7
ROYALS 1

MINNEAPOLIS — Miguel Sano homered and drew the third bases-loaded walk during a dreadful seventh inning for Kansas City's bullpen, and the Twins won an opener for the first time in nine years.

Ervin Santana (1-0) gave up two hits and two walks while striking out three over seven innings, aided by two diving catches of sinking line drives by center fielder Byron Buxton.

Matt Strahm (0-1) and Travis Wood allowed four runners while recording only one out.

National League

PHILLIES 4
REDS 3

CINCINNATI — Cesar Hernandez opened the Phillies' season with a homer on Cincinnati's eighth pitch, and Jeremy Hellickson drove in a run with his first career triple.

Hellickson (1-0) pitched into the sixth, allowing a run and six hits, and he also contributed his RBI triple in the sixth. Right fielder Scott Schebler failed to make a diving catch of his two-out liner, letting the ball get by him as Hellickson chugged across an infield turned muddy by several innings of rain.

Jeanmar Gomez gave up Scooter Gennett's two-out, two-run homer in the ninth before retiring Billy Hamilton on a routine fly for the save.

METS 6
BRAVES 0

NEW YORK — Noah Syndergaard struck out seven over six sharp innings in his first opening day start for New York before leaving with a blister, Asdrubal Cabrera snapped a seventh-inning tie with a single and the Mets broke through following a pivotal replay reversal at the plate in which Wilmer Flores initially was called out.

NATIONALS 4
MARLINS 2

WASHINGTON — Adam Lind's first swing as a member of the Nationals resulted in a pinch-hit, go-ahead, two-run homer in the seventh inning, and Bryce Harper went deep on opening day for the fifth time in his young career, leading Washington past the Miami Marlins 4-2 on Monday.

Stephen Strasburg (1-0) earned the win, allowing two runs and six hits in seven innings, pitching out of the stretch the whole way. It was his return to action after missing last September and the playoffs with a right elbow injury.

Matt Wieters singled ahead of Lind's drive off David Phelps (0-1) that made it 3-2.

DODGERS 14
PADRES 3

LOS ANGELES — Joc Pederson launched a grand slam and the Dodgers backed Clayton Kershaw with a franchise-record four home runs on opening day.

Pederson drove in five runs. Yasmani Grandal homered twice and Corey Seager added a three-run shot.

Interleague

RED SOX 5
PIRATES 3

BOSTON — Rookie Andrew Benintendi hit a three-run homer off Gerrit Cole (0-1) that capped a five-run fifth inning as Boston began its post-David Ortiz era.

Rick Porcello (1-0) gave up three runs and six hits in 6 1/3 innings while striking out five. Craig Kimbrel retired Starling Marte on a game-ending popup with two on for the save.

TEXAS

From 1C

a pair of horses. The feisty second baseman, who hit 33 homers last season, is only 23 and already in his fourth season with the Rangers.

Carlos Gomez's 461-foot home run put the Rangers ahead 2-1.

Trainer's room

Indians: LF Michael Brantley went 1 for 5. He was limited to 11 games last season following right shoulder surgery and another procedure to repair a biceps problem. ... 2B Jason Kipnis started the season on the DL with right shoulder inflammation.

Rangers: 3B Adrian Beltre, going into his 20th season only 58 hits shy of 3,000, missed opening day for only the second time. He's on the 10-day disabled list with right calf tightness. He missed the 2001 opener for the Los Angeles Dodgers after appendix surgery.

Up next

Indians: RHP Carlos Carrasco starts for the first time since being struck by a line drive that broke a bone on his right hand last Sept. 17 and forced him to miss all the postseason. He had some elbow discomfort this spring.

Rangers: Martin Perez starts the Rangers' second game for the third time in four seasons. He made a team-high 33 starts last season.

GREENWOOD

From 1C

to this year," Sims said of Dove. "She is reacting to the ball. She's going to her spots that I call for her. She is doing great."

Both Sims and Dove cited chemistry as a reason for Greenwood's growth this season following 9-20 campaign.

Curry said players are willing to sacrifice to do what's for the team. For instance, 2016 All-District 4-4A first team honoree Natalee Karcher has moved from shortstop and third base in order to help the Rangerettes in right field and has embraced the transition.

The GHS girls have also matured on the diamond with their defense.

"The girls are fielding better," Curry said. "Their throws are so much better. They communicate. I think that's probably the biggest asset to this season."

At 5 p.m. today, Greenwood hosts Pecos (0-4 in District 4-4A) to start the second half.

"I'm excited with their play and we're not going to let that one win be our season," Curry said.

Lee hosts Permian to start 2nd half

Fifth-place Lee (18-6, 2-3 in District 2-6A) hosts Odessa Permian at 4:30 p.m. today to kick off the second-half of District 2-6A play.

Lee defeated Permian, 4-2, on the road in its first district game before suffering three straight losses.

The Lady Rebels lost the first two games in that losing skid by a total of two runs, so Lee coach Wes Overton feels his team could have easily gotten off to a 3-0 start.

Lee ended the skid with a 9-2 victory over Amarillo Tascosa Friday.

"These girls are resilient," Overton said. "I have been telling them you have to have a short memory."

The Lady Rebels are one game back of Permian, Odessa High and Wolfforth Frenship, who all sit in a three-way tie for second place at 3-2 and hold the No. 2-4 playoff spots if the season ended today.

"Anything can happen, this week will be a big week for us," said Overton, whose Lady Rebels also visit Odessa High on Friday.

District 2-6A Softball Standings

Team	District W	District L	Overall W	Overall L	Overall T
Midland High	4	1	19	6	0
Odessa High	3	2	17	6	1
Odessa Permian	3	2	13	8	1
Wolfforth Frenship	3	2	14	10	0
Lee	2	3	18	6	0
Amarillo Tascosa	0	5	5	21	1

Friday's Scores
Lee 9, Amarillo Tascosa 2.; Midland High 8, Wolfforth Frenship 6; Odessa High 5, Odessa Permian 2

Today's Games
Odessa Permian at Lee, 4:30 p.m.; Wolfforth Frenship at Amarillo Tascosa, 4:30 p.m.; Midland High at Odessa High, 7 p.m.

MHS takes sole possession of first

Midland High (19-6, 4-1) held off a late rally by Wolfforth Frenship to win 8-6 Friday and take sole possession of first place in District 2-6A.

MHS entered Friday in a three-way first-place tie with Permian and Frenship.

The Lady Bulldogs, ranked No. 19 in the Texas Girls Coaches Association Class 6A poll, visit second-place Odessa High (17-6-1, 3-2) at 7 p.m. today at Ratliff Softball Complex.

MCS schedule change

Midland Christian's Saturday TAPPS Division II, District 1 home game at Freddie Ezell Softball Complex against Fort Worth Southwest Christian has been moved to Friday.

The Lady Mustangs (11-15-1, 2-2) will host the Lady Eagles in a doubleheader at Freddie Ezell Softball Complex starting at 5 p.m. Friday.

Follow Christopher on Twitter: @chris_MRTsports

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Kyndall Dove, Jr., Greenwood — Dove hit a go-ahead grand slam in the sixth inning to push the Rangerettes to a 7-3 victory over Andrews Saturday. Dove had three hits and held the Lady Mustangs' batters to six hits in the circle.

HONOR ROLL

Shea Keithley, Jr., Midland High — The leadoff hitter went 3-for-5 with a double, three runs scored and a stolen base to propel the Lady Bulldogs into sole possession of first place with an 8-6 win over Wolfforth Frenship.

Clarissa Martinez, Sr., Midland Christian — Martinez fired a no-hitter and had 10 strikeouts in MCS' 11-0 victory over Crane that was called in the fourth inning due to weather on March 28.

Karlie Savage, Fr., Greenwood — Savage was 4-for-4 with three RBI in GHS' win over Andrews.

Zaitha Suarez, Jr., Midland Christian — In MCS' series against Fort Worth Christian, Suarez had two RBI in the first game and went 3-for-4 with a home run, a double, three RBI and two runs in the second game.

Sarah Welsh, Sr., Lee — Welsh was 3-for-3 with an RBI double, three runs scored and a walk in Lee's 9-2 win over Amarillo Tascosa on Friday.

COLLEGE BASEBALL POLLS

Collegiate Baseball

TUCSON, Ariz. — The Collegiate Baseball poll with records through April 2, voting is done by coaches, sports writers and sports information directors.

	Record	Pts	Prv
1 Oregon State	24-1	496	1
2 Louisville	24-3	496	2
3 TCU	22-5	494	3
4 St. John's	21-4	492	4
5 Clemson	24-5	491	5
6 North Carolina	22-6	487	6
7 Texas Tech	25-6	484	8
8 Auburn	23-7	482	7
9 Florida Gulf Coast	24-5	477	9
10 Florida	20-9	473	10
11 South Carolina	19-8	471	11
12 Oklahoma	25-6	470	12
13 Arizona	20-7	470	15
14 Arkansas	22-6	468	13
15 Kentucky	21-8	466	20
16 Cal State Fullerton	17-10	465	14
17 Southern Miss	24-3	460	23
18 Maryland	19-8	457	26
19 Mississippi State	19-10	453	
20 San Diego	19-6	451	
21 Wake Forest	21-6	449	28
22 LSU	19-10	446	17
23 Virginia	21-6	444	21
24 Vanderbilt	18-11	442	22
25 Michigan	22-6	441	27
26 Coastal Carolina	19-10	436	
27 UCF	22-7	434	
28 Oregon	17-8	432	24
29 Kent State	17-8	425	
30 UConn	16-9	424	

Baseball America

DURHAM, N.C. — The top 25 teams in the Baseball America poll through March 26, selected by the staff of Baseball America.

	Record	Prv
1 Oregon State	24-1	1
2 Louisville	24-3	2
3 TCU	22-5	3
4 North Carolina	22-6	4
5 Clemson	24-5	5
6 Texas Tech	25-6	6
7 Auburn	23-7	8
8 Florida	20-9	9
9 Oklahoma	25-6	11
10 Arizona	20-7	13
11 South Carolina	19-8	7
12 Cal State Fullerton	17-10	10
13 Kentucky	21-8	16
14 St. John's	21-4	14
15 LSU	19-10	9
16 Arkansas	22-6	21
17 Wake Forest	21-8	24
18 Florida Gulf Coast	24-5	12
19 Long Beach State	16-11	--
20 Stanford	14-9	15
21 Southern Miss	24-5	--
22 Mississippi State	19-10	--
23 Virginia	21-8	19
24 Florida State	18-11	12
25 Maryland	18-8	--

MLB GLANCE

Standings

American League East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	1	0	1.000	--
Baltimore	1	0	1.000	--
Boston	1	0	1.000	--
Toronto	0	1	.000	1
New York	0	1	.000	1
Central Division				
Cleveland	1	0	1.000	--
Minnesota	1	0	1.000	--
Kansas City	0	1	.000	1
Chicago	0	0	.000	½
Detroit	0	0	.000	½
West Division				
Houston	1	0	1.000	--
Seattle	1	0	1.000	--
Los Angeles	0	0	.000	½
Oakland	0	0	.000	½
Texas	0	1	.000	1

National League East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	1	0	1.000	--
New York	1	0	1.000	--
Washington	1	0	1.000	--
Miami	0	1	.000	1
Atlanta	0	1	.000	1
Central Division				
St. Louis	1	0	1.000	--
Cincinnati	0	1	.000	1
Pittsburgh	0	1	.000	1
Chicago	0	1	.000	1
Milwaukee	0	1	.000	1
West Division				
Los Angeles	1	0	1.000	--
Arizona	1	0	1.000	--
Colorado	1	0	1.000	--
San Francisco	0	1	.000	1
San Diego	0	1	.000	1

Scores and Schedules

American League
Monday's Scores

Boston 5, Pittsburgh 3
Baltimore 3, Toronto 2, 11 innings
Detroit at Chicago White Sox, ppd.
Minnesota 7, Kansas City 1
Cleveland 8, Texas 5
Houston 3, Seattle 0
L.A. Angels at Oakland, late

Today's Games

N.Y. Yankees (Sabathia 0-0) at Tampa Bay (Odorizzi 0-0), 6:10 p.m.
Cleveland (Carrasco 0-0) at Texas (Perez 0-0), 7:05 p.m.
Seattle (Iwakuma 0-0) at Houston (McCullers 0-0), 7:10 p.m.
L.A. Angels (Shoemaker 0-0) at Oakland (Manaea 0-0), 9:05 p.m.

National League
Monday's Scores

Washington 4, Miami 2
N.Y. Mets 6, Atlanta 0
Boston 5, Pittsburgh 3
Colorado 7, Milwaukee 5
Philadelphia 4, Cincinnati 3
L.A. Dodgers 14, San Diego 3

Today's Games

Colorado (Anderson 0-0) at Milwaukee (Davies 0-0), 6:40 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Arrieta 0-0) at St. Louis (Wainwright 0-0), 7:15 p.m.
San Francisco (Cueto 0-0) at Arizona (Corbin 0-0), 8:40 p.m.
San Diego (Richard 0-0) at L.A. Dodgers (Maeda 0-0), 9:10 p.m.

Texas boxes

INDIANS 8, RANGERS 5

Cleveland	ab	r	h	bi
C.Sntna dh	4	1	2	1
Lindor ss	3	0	0	1
Brntley lf	5	0	1	1
Encrnco 1b	5	2	2	1
Jose Rm 2b	3	1	1	2
Gomes c	4	0	0	0
Naquin cf	4	1	1	0
Y.Diaz 3b	4	0	1	1
M.Mrtn 3b	0	0	0	0
A.Almnt rf	2	2	1	1
Totals	34	8	9	7

Texas	ab	r	h	bi
C.Gomez cf	4	1	1	1
Choo dh	4	0	1	0
Mazara rf	4	1	2	0
Napoli 1b	3	1	0	0
Odor 2b	4	2	2	4
Lucroy c	4	0	0	0
Gallo 3b	3	0	0	0
Andrus ss	4	0	2	0
Profar lf	4	0	0	0
Totals	34	5	8	5

Cleveland	001	200	113	—8
Texas	014	000	000	—5

DP—Texas 3. LOB—Cleveland 5, Texas 5. 2B—C.Santana, Y.Diaz, Mazara, Andrus. 3B—Andrus. HR—Encarnacion, Jose Ramirez, C.Gomez, Odor. SB—A.Almonte, Gallo. CS—C. Gomez. SF—Lindor.

Cleveland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Kluber	6	6	5	5	3	6
Otero	2-3	0	0	0	0	0
Logan	1-3	1	0	0	0	1
Miller W	1	0	0	0	0	2
Allen S,0-0	1	1	0	0	0	3

Texas	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Darvish	6-1/3	4	4	4	5	4
Bush BS,0	1-2/3	1	1	1	0	0
Dyson L	2-3	4	3	3	0	0
Claudio	1-3	0	0	0	0	0

HP—Darvish 2.
T—3:21. A—46,350 (48,114)

ASTROS 3, MARINERS 0

Seattle	ab	r	h	bi
Segura ss	4	0	1	0
Haniger rf	3	0	0	0
Cano 2b	4	0	1	0
Cruz dh	3	0	0	0
K.Seager 3b	2	0	0	0
Vienca 1b	3	0	0	0
Martin cf	4	0	0	0
Zunino c	3	0	0	0
J.Dyson lf	3	0	0	0
Mrsnick cf	0	0	0	0
Totals	29	0	3	0

Houston	ab	r	h	bi
Springer cf-rf	3	1	1	1
Bregman 3b	3	1	1	0
Altuve 2b	4	0	1	0
Reddick rf-lf	3	0	1	0
Y.Grml 1b	3	0	0	0
B.McCnn c	3	0	0	0
Aoki lf	3	0	1	0
Totals	27	3	5	3

Seattle	000	000	000	—0
Houston	100	101	00x	—3

E—Zunino (), DP—Seattle 1, Houston 1. LOB—Seattle 7, Houston 3. HR—Springer, Correa. SB—Bregman. SF—Correa.

Seattle	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Hernandez L,0-1	5	5	2	2	0	6
Vincent	2-3	1	1	1	1	0
Pazos	1 1-3	0	0	0	0	0
Fien	1	0	0	0	0	0

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Keuchel W,1-0	7	2	0	0	2	4
Gregerson	1	1	0	0	1	1
Giles S,1-1	1	0	0	0	1	3

HBP—by Keuchel (Seager). WP—Gregerson.
T—2:29. A—41,678 (42,060).

Monday's linescores

AMERICAN LEAGUE
ORIOLES 3, BLUE JAYS 2, 11 INNINGS

Toronto ..... 000 011 00000 —2 11 0
Baltimore ..... 002 000 00001 —3 9 0

Estrada, Biagini (7), Howell (8), J.Smith (9), Loup (10), Grilli (10) and Martin Gaviman; Givens (6), Brach (8), Britton (9), Wilson (11) and Castillo. W—Wilson 1-0. L—Grilli 0-1. HRs—Baltimore, Trumbo.

TWINS 7, ROYALS 1

Kansas City ..... 000 100 000 —1 3 0
Minnesota ..... 000 100 60x —7 8 0

Duffy, Strahm (7), Moylan (7), T.Wood (7), Minor (8) and S.Perez; E.Santana, Belisle (8), Kintzler (9) and Castro. W—E.Santana 1-0. L—Strahm 0-1. HRs—Kansas City, Moustakas. Minnesota, Sano.

INTERLEAGUE
RED SOX 5, PIRATES 3

Pittsburgh ..... 000 000 300 —3 8 1
Boston ..... 000 050 00x —5 10 1

Cole, Nicasio (6), Rivero (7), Hudson (8) and Cervelli. Porcello, M.Barnes (7), Scott (8), Hembree (8), Kimbrel (9) and Leon. W—Porcello 1-0. L—Cole 0-1. Sv—Kimbrel (1). HRs—Boston, Benintendi.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
NATIONALS 4, MARLINS 2

Miami ..... 000 200 000 —2 6 0
Washington ..... 000 001 21x —4 9 0

Velguez, Phelps (6), Ticuwa (8), Ziegler (8) and Realmuto; Strasburg, Solis (6), Treinen (9) and Wieters. W—Strasburg 1-0. L—Phelps 0-1. Sv—Treinen (1). HRs—Washington, Lind, Harper.

METS 6, BRAVES 0

Atlanta ..... 000 000 000 —0 7 0
New York ..... 000 000 60x —6 7 0

Teheran, Krol (7), Roe (7), O'Flaherty (7), Jose Ramirez (7) and Flowers. Syndergaard, Robles (7), Salas (8), Gsellman (9) and Rivera. d'Arnaud. W—Robles 1-0. L—Krol 0-1.

ROCKIES 7, BREWERS 5

Colorado ..... 020 200 201 —7 10 0
Milwaukee ..... 000 050 000 —5 7 3

Gray, Oberg (5), Estevez (6), Dunn (7), Oviedo (8), Holland (9) and Wolters. Guerra, Milone (4), C.Torres (6), Marinez (7), Knebel (7), J.Barnes (8), Hughes (9) and Bandy. W—Estevez 1-0. L—Marinez 0-1. Sv—Holland (1). HRs—Colorado, Reynolds.

DODGERS 14, PADRES 3

San Diego ..... 100 000 110 —3 5 0
Los Angeles ..... 015 330 02x—14 14 1

Chacin, Bethancourt (4), M.Diaz (5), Stammen (7), J.Torres (8) and Hedges. Ionains, Kershaw, Hatcher (8) and Grandal. W—Kershaw 1-0. L—Chacin 0-1. HRs—San Diego, Schimpf. Los Angeles, Pederson, Grandal 2, Seager.

PHILLIES 4, REDS 3

Philadelphia ..... 210 001 000 —4 10 0
Cincinnati ..... 001 000 002 —3 9 1

Hellickson, Benoit (8), Ramos (7), Neris (8), J.Gomez (9) and Rupp. Feldman, Asdin (5), B.Wood (6), Storen (7), Lorenzen (8), Iglesias (9) and Barnhart. W—Hellickson 1-0. L—Feldman 0-1. Sv—J.Gomez (1). HRs—Philadelphia, Hernandez, Galvis. Cincinnati, Gennett.

Ernie Els gearing up for what could be his last Masters

By Doug Ferguson
Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Ernie Els has memories at every corner of Augusta National, typical of someone who is playing the Masters for the 23rd time.

Nothing haunts him as much as the sight of the practice green.

That's where he was in 2004, hopeful of a playoff after closing with a 67, tied for the lead as Phil Mickelson made his way up the last hole to face an 18-foot birdie putt. Els couldn't see the 18th green because of the crowd. All he could do was listen for the outcome.

The putt swirled in the cup. Mickelson leapt. The cheer shook the ground.

Els scooped up his golf balls and walked away.

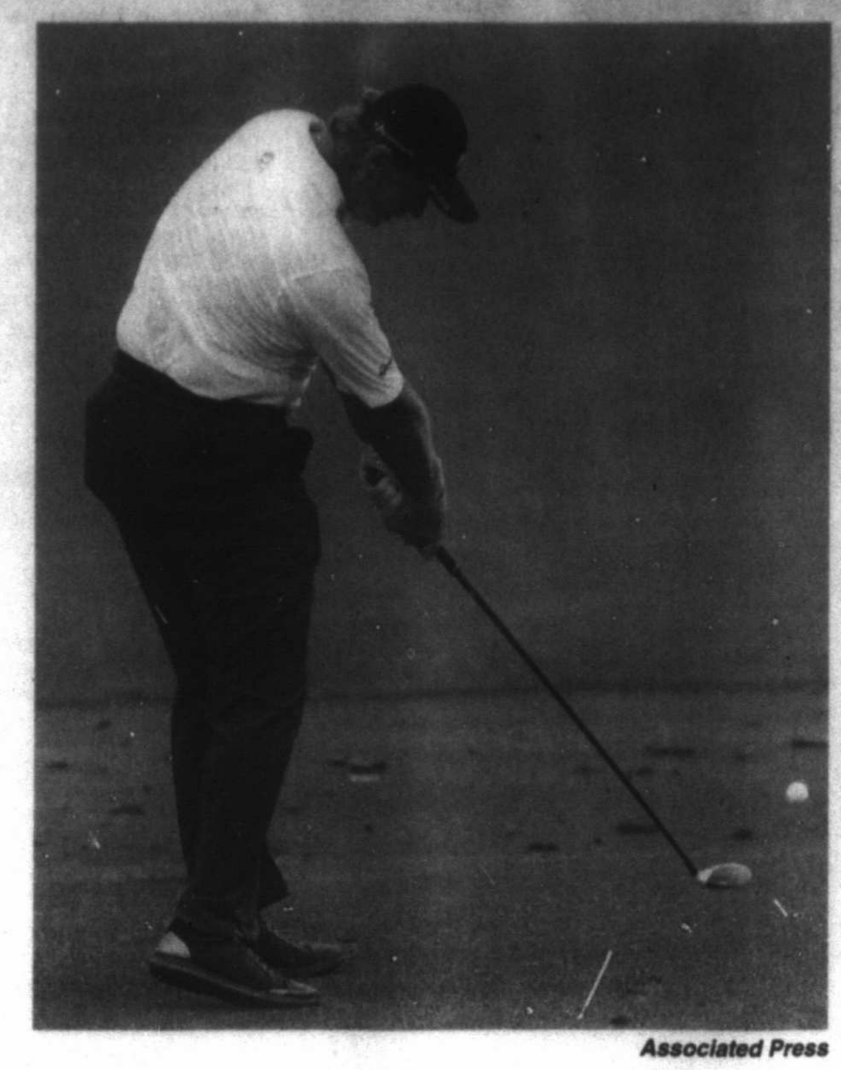
"That was a blow," Els said Monday in a quiet reflection. "I didn't play quite good after that."

The moment stands out even more this week as the 47-year-old South African returns for what could be his last Masters. Past champions can play for life, and most everyone would have put Els on that list when the Big Easy showed up for the first time in 1994.

He won the first of his two U.S. Opens that summer. Two British Open titles followed, the last one in 2012 at Royal Lytham & St. Annes, which earned him a five-year exemption to the Masters.

That exemption runs out this week.

"You can put a line on it and say most probably it will be the last one," Els said. "We'll see, unless we do something down the road. But you know, it's been good. Whatever. If I come back again, great. If I don't, it's been good."



Associated Press

Ernie Els hits on the driving range during practice for the Masters golf tournament Monday in Augusta, Ga.

Els is on a list of great players who never won a green jacket.

Greg Norman seemed to have chances just about every year for a decade. He sent a shot into the gallery in 1986 for bogey that allowed Jack Nicklaus to win a sixth Masters. A year later, Larry Mize chipped in from 140 feet on the 11th hole to win a sudden-death playoff. Norman famously blew a six-shot lead to Nick Faldo in 1996, and Jose Maria Olazabal beat him in a back-nine duel in 1999.

Tom Weiskopf was runner-up four times. David Duval had a chance to win four in a row starting in 1998, when Mark O'Meara beat him with a 20-foot birdie on the last hole. Duval last played the Masters seven years ago.

Much like Els, Duval wonders how his career at Augusta National would have gone if O'Meara had not birdied the last two holes. Would he have won more than once?

"I think so," Duval said. "Because then you know about finishing. But it goes back to the first question. Who knows? Because you still have to do it."

Els doesn't quite have the hard-luck history at Augusta National as Norman, Duval or even Ken Venturi before them. His only other real chance to win the Masters was in 2000, when he missed every putt coming down the stretch and was runner-up to Vijay Singh.

The only year he didn't qualify was in 2012, and there was an outcry for Augusta National to award him a special invitation, in part because of his stature in the game. Els had been inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame two years earlier.

Els knows all about expectations, especially at Augusta. And when he still didn't have a Masters trophy after 10 years, it began to wear on him. Nothing was worse than Tuesday night at the Masters, when past champions headed upstairs for dinner in their green jackets.

"When it didn't happen, it became a bit of struggle," he said.

Sure enough, Els never had another top 10 at the Masters after that close call in 2004.

"I've heard him talk about it. It frustrated him badly," said Charl Schwartzel, who spent time in Els' junior program in South Africa before winning the 2011 Masters. "If you don't do it early enough, it becomes a thing. And once something becomes a thing in his game, you fight elements you don't want to be fighting."

Els doesn't exactly come to Augusta National in top form.

He has missed the cut in nine of his last 10 starts worldwide, the exception a tie for 13th in the Qatar Masters two months ago. His most recent memory of the Masters is a six-putt from 2 feet to make a 9 on the first hole of the first round. A proud man, he stuck it out and played 1 over the rest of the way for an 80.

Els is still traveling and working, yet he is winding down.

There was a peace about him Monday as he ducked in from the rain under an eave of the Augusta National clubhouse. His daughter, Samantha, just learned she has been accepted to Stanford next year. His Els for Autism foundation is thriving.

He wants this to be a good week at the Masters, because it might be his last one.

Minus a green jacket, he has few complaints in a game that has brought him 57 victories around the world, U.S. Open titles at Oakmont and Congressional, and claret jugs from Muirfield and Lytham.

"The other majors, things happen to you," he said. "This one didn't."

Blaney's strong start should earn him attention

By Jenna Fryer
Associated Press

■ COMMENTARY

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — It's time to pay attention to Ryan Blaney, the second-year NASCAR driver who is as close to a throwback as fans are going to get from this current crop of talent.

He's a second-generation Cup driver, North Carolina raised, and prefers Bill Elliott T-shirts and Talladega 500 hats to anything hip and trendy.

More important, Blaney is pretty good behind the wheel of a race car and has proven through the first six races of this season that he won't bow down to the stars of the sport. His 25th-place finish Sunday at Martinsville Speedway tells next to nothing about his race, where he ran inside the top 10 for a large portion of the day and scored points in the first two stages.

But he also mixed it up on the track with seven-time champion Jimmie Johnson, and had yet another run-in with Dale Earnhardt Jr. It was the second time in three weeks the two tangled on the track, and Earnhardt hit decline on his cellphone when Blaney called to discuss the incident after Sunday's race.

"Too soon ol boy," Earnhardt wrote on Twitter.

Blaney lives on land that Earnhardt's owns, and he landed in the doghouse when he used an expletive on his team radio about NASCAR's most popular driver. He atoned for it by giving Earnhardt's wife flowers the next week, and vowing to bring the beer the next time Blaney hangs out with Earnhardt.

Earnhardt chuckled Sunday when the two had contact yet again.

Johnson found nothing funny about how hard Blaney raced him, and grumbled on his radio about the 23-year-old.

But Blaney, at least on his team radio, doesn't back down and is adamant he can hold his own on the track. His results this year have gotten him noticed — he was second in the Daytona 500, seventh at Las Vegas and ninth at California — and he currently sits seventh in the point standings.

Blaney is theoretically a Team Penske driver, although he's farmed out to The Wood Brothers and pilots the iconic No. 21 Ford. The relationship has returned that car to prominence, and has Blaney closing in on his first career Cup victory. If looking for a new favorite driver, Blaney is the one to back before it becomes the cool thing to do.

Jimmie Johnson

He's off to the worst start of his storied career. He's yet to score a top-five finish this year, and the reigning NASCAR champion has never before gone four races into the season without cracking that mark. He finished 15th on Sunday at Martinsville, where he should have been among the contenders. A nine-time winner at the Virginia track, his victory there last fall was the springboard to his record-tying seventh title.

There was tension on his team radio, too, as he bickered with crew chief Chad Knaus midway through the race. Johnson was angry with Blaney and Kyle Larson, and racing harder than Knaus would have liked.

Ricky Stenhouse Jr.

He brazenly moved Kyle Busch out of his way Sunday at Martinsville to stay on the lead lap, and it led to his first career top-10 finish at the track.

That's almost a win for Stenhouse, who was also fourth earlier this month at Phoenix.

Although he's only 20th in the standings, Stenhouse has a pair of top-10 finishes to open the season and he only had a grand total of six of them last year.

Danica Patrick

Her 17th-place finish at Atlanta is her best so far this year, and she found herself in the middle of several incidents at Martinsville. She blamed one on good friend Denny Hamlin, and wondered on her radio why he continues to wreck her.

But the bigger story concerning Patrick came late Saturday night when she used her social media channels to intimate she and Stenhouse had gotten engaged. It was an April Fool's joke, but one she didn't claim until early Sunday when she again used social media to poke fun at those who believed the post and take life too seriously.

Can Rahm win Masters in his 1st try?

By Jim Litke
Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Rap music might be the last thing you'd associate with Augusta National. Jon Rahm is proving there's a first time for everything.

The 22-year-old Spaniard oozes talent, which explains why he hit town as the most heralded Masters rookie since Rory McIlroy in 2009, and perhaps even Tiger Woods in 1997. Almost as impressive is how well Rahm handles interviews in English after only five years on this side of the Atlantic. He credits long hours listening to rappers Eminem and Kendrick Lamar.



Rahm

"It was more, not necessarily to learn new words, but to be able to pronounce certain words and be able to talk faster, talk without pausing," Rahm said Monday. "Otherwise, right now I would probably still be in the first part of the interview trying to explain how I felt. ... It really helped me to keep up with some conversations."

Those language skills will come in handy this week, since Rahm is the subject of one of the more intriguing questions heading into the Masters. Namely, can golf's latest "next Nicklaus" pull together enough of the puzzle pieces to solve Augusta National in his first go-round?

More than a few of his elders, frankly, wouldn't be the least bit surprised.

Phil Mickelson, whose brother, Tim, coached Rahm during his college career at Arizona State, labeled the youngster a likely top-10 player even before he turned pro last summer. Turns out Lefty, a two-time Masters champion himself, wasn't far off.

Despite playing just 17 times on the PGA Tour since, Rahm already posted a win, two second-place finishes and nine top 10s, and has climbed to No. 12 in the world. Two weekends ago, he took top-ranked Dustin Johnson to the final hole of match play before losing 1-up at the World Golf Championships.

The loss stung, especially his uncharacteristically shaky start on the front nine of the final day. But he learned a lesson that could prove invaluable if Rahm finds himself contending in a pressure cooker like the Masters.

"I couldn't control my body, honestly. I don't know, it was like my body was independent from my mind. I was trying to focus and do my routine, but things just weren't happening," he recalled.

Rahm made a charge on the back nine, "and if I had been a little luckier on 17 and 18, maybe I would have had a chance to score in the match or go into a playoff.

"But the damage was already done," he added a moment later. "I tried my hardest. But I learned that, you know, if I'm having a good day, I can face the No. 1 player in the world."

No surprise there. Rahm has always been a quick study when it comes to golf, even as a youngster growing up in tiny Barrika, Spain. Most people in the town of 1,500 believed soccer was the only game worth following, but Rahm chose countrymen and Masters champions Seve Ballesteros and Jose Maria Olazabal instead as his guiding lights.

He arrived at Arizona State with little hype and less English, but mastered the skill to move the golf ball both ways and left as the team's unquestioned leader and the No. 1-ranked amateur in the country. After he filled out to 6-foot-2 and a solid 220 pounds, his confidence grew as he learned to harness his raw power. Once you've watched Rahm play, the last word you'd use to describe him is "cocky."

Asked whether he'd earned his place in the conversation about favorites this week, he broke into a broad smile and copped an attitude not unlike his favorite rappers.

"If I didn't think I could win it, I wouldn't be here," Rahm began.

He thought it over, then added a moment later: "That's up to you guys. I feel like if I say it does belong, it sounds a little bit arrogant. What I would say is certainly I do feel like I belong here, that I belong where I am right now."

Fleetwood returns to Masters, this time as a player

By Doug Ferguson
Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Tommy Fleetwood is making his second appearance at the Masters, the first as a player.

Three years ago, Fleetwood came to the Masters as a spectator because he figured he would be in the field at Augusta National and it wouldn't hurt to take in the entire experience of Masters week.

It just didn't work out that way. The 26-year-old from England was No. 52 in the world deep into 2014 and signed up for the Dubai Open on the Asian Tour with hopes of cracking the top 50 in the world by the end of the year to get a Masters invitation. He missed the cut and finished the year at No. 51.

A wasted trip? Not really.

"I just wanted to see it," he said. "I think whoever you speak to says it's not just the golf course, but the surroundings, the club, everything takes a little bit of getting used to. Augusta, it's in everybody's mind and everybody's dreams and it's just that place that you know that you want to go to, so it's a little bit surreal when you first go."

If nothing else, he figured that trip in 2014 as a spectator would keep him from being in awe when he did make it as a player.

Wrong again.

"It doesn't quite work like that. When you get to the golf course, it's still the same feelings," Fleetwood said. "It doesn't disappoint when you arrive, and you drive down Magnolia Lane."

As a spectator, his favorite spot was Amen Corner. It's one of the busiest places at Augusta National, but Fleetwood was struck by how tranquil it seemed to be on the 12th green, and particularly the 13th tee tucked away in the corner. There was only one way to find out, and he took care of that by qualifying.

Fleetwood was on the cusp of the top 50 when he was runner-up in the Mexico Championship, moving him up to No. 35 in the world and securing that Masters invitation. And going over the bridge to the 12th green, then up to the 13th tee, lived up to his expectations.

"Those were the two places when I watched I couldn't get to and I was desperate to get there," he said. "That's what I was most excited about."

UNDERACHIEVER: Rickie Fowler was listed in a magazine survey of players (who didn't have to give their names) as the most overrated player on the PGA Tour two years ago. He responded by winning The Players Championship in a finish so compelling that he made birdie on the island-green 17th hole at the TPC Sawgrass three times on the final day (twice in a playoff).

The topic came up again on Monday whether he has met expectations thus far in his career. Fowler described it as "under."

But that doesn't mean he's been disappointed. The Honda Classic was his seventh victory worldwide, and while he hasn't won a major, Fowler played in the final group at three majors in 2014. He also felt good about where his game is headed this year.

"I'm ready for a fun ride coming in," Fowler said. "Yeah, I would have liked to have won more. I would have liked to have been there in some more majors like I was. Hey, it's tough out there, but I'm enjoying the ride."

Fowler shot 80 in the first round at the Masters a year ago and missed the cut.

BEST LEFT UNSAID: Justin Thomas and Jordan Spieth have been friends since they were 14. The play pranks on each other (Spieth nearly had Thomas' car towed in Phoenix) and the needle is sharp.

No matter the friendship, some topics are off-limits.

Thomas was asked if he can needle Spieth about the 12th hole last year at the Masters, where Spieth put two in the water for a quadruple bogey that cost him a second straight green jacket.

"No, that's not really cool," Thomas said. "That's all I have to say about that."

MASTERS TRADITION: PGA champion Jimmy Walker has his own tradition at the Masters.

"I try to get an egg salad sandwich in me as quick as possible," he said. "I've already had two, and I was requested to bring some home for dinner tonight."

Egg salad, along with pimento cheese, are among the more popular sandwiches at Augusta National.

More than a sandwich, the entire week is one to savor, Walker said.

"It's a week I always try to slow down and enjoy it," he said, "because it's so cool to be here."



Associated Press

Roger Federer poses for a photograph in front of the Miami skyline after defeating Rafael Nadal in the men's singles final at the Miami Open tennis tournament Sunday in Miami. Federer won 6-3, 6-4.

While tennis heads to clay, Roger Federer heads for vacation

By Steven Wine
Associated Press

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. — Roger Federer had an occasional lapse at the Miami Open, such as when he lost track of the score during a match and lined up to serve on the wrong side.

A senior moment. After all, he's 35 now.

In a concession to age, Federer plans to step away from the tour for at least the next eight weeks. He's dominating a young man's sport and won his third title of the year Sunday at the Miami Open, but he wants to pace himself.

Plus, with 7-year-old twin daughters and 2-year-old twin sons, Federer has other things to do.

"The body needs a break, the mind needs a break, the family needs me again," he said. "I want to be there. I'm looking forward to that now."

While Federer begins a well-earned vacation, there's still plenty for tennis fans to look forward to during the clay season that starts this week. Rafael Nadal believes he's ready for a good run on his favorite surface, and Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray are expected to return soon from injuries.

Nadal, 30, lost to Federer for the third time this year Sunday, dropping his record in Key Biscayne finals to 0-5. That ties for the worst by any player at any tournament in the open era.

Nadal hasn't won a tournament since last spring and hasn't won a major since he earned his 14th Grand Slam title at the 2014 French Open. But he graded the past three months favorably, viewing three runner-up finishes on hard courts as a positive.

"I am close to what I need to be and at a very high level," Nadal said. "I believe I'm ready to win titles."

Does that include the French Open? Nadal will play a full clay schedule, but he's not ready to declare himself a top contender at Roland Garros, where he has won a record nine titles while losing twice in 74 matches. The tournament begins May 28.

"I don't know if I am a candidate yet to win the French Open," he said. "Four tournaments remain before the French Open. Let's see what's happening in those four tournaments."

Federer likes Nadal's chances.

"The clay court is around the corner," Federer told his longtime rival during Sunday's trophy ceremony. "I'm sure you're going to tear it to pieces over there."

Also likely to be in the mix on clay are 2016 French Open champion Djokovic and runner-up Murray. Both skipped Indian Wells and Key Biscayne in March because of elbow injuries, and both are expected to return this month.

As for the women's tour: Who knows? Elena Vesnina won Indian Wells and Johanna Konta won Key Biscayne, and for both players, it was the biggest title of her career.

It's uncertain when Serena Williams will return from a knee injury that has sidelined her since she won her 23rd major title at the Australian Open two months ago. In her absence, women's draws will be wide open.

Men's draws will be without Federer for a while. He's off to his best start since 2006 with a record of 19-1, all on hard courts. But he plans to skip all of the clay tournaments leading to the French.

Federer even hedged slightly in committing to Roland Garros, the Grand Slam least suited to his graceful game because of the grinding it demands.

"You'll probably see me at the French again," he said.

Federer said he's healthy and wants to stay that way after missing the final six months of 2016 because of a knee injury. With that in mind, he plans to wait until a couple of weeks before the French to start practicing on clay.

"My knee was really strange on the clay last year, so maybe being away from the clay as much as possible is a good thing," he said.

Before Federer began his break, he put in a plug for idyllic Key Biscayne, a premier tournament site for 31 years. Organizers say the event will stay in Miami, but its future has been in question since a 2015 appeals court decision that prevents improvements to the complex.

"The coolest atmosphere on tour," said Federer, now a three-time champion. "It really is a beautiful stop. I hope it's going to be a successful tournament for years to come."

WESTTEXASSPORTS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

To submit an item for West Texas Sports, please either fax, bring in, mail or email your information in hard-copy form to the Reporter-Telegram sports department.

Please make your submission as detailed as possible, including dates of events, deadlines, fees, age groups, etc.

To bring your item to the MRT, come to 201 E. Illinois Ave. in Midland. To mail your information, send it to Reporter-Telegram, c/o Sports Department, 201 E. Illinois Ave., Midland, TX 79701.

You can email it to sports@mrt.com.

Baseball

GCM Baseball Academy
What: Professional private baseball lessons & clinics covering pitching, fielding, catching and hitting provided by three former professional players.
For: Ages 5 & up.
Cost: Individual lessons $65 an hour or $40 for 30 minutes. Bulk purchases & group lesson rates available at discount.
For more info: Call (432) 425-6106

Private batting and pitching instruction
For more info: Call Danny Jordan at 230-0096 for instruction on mechanics and pitch selection in a one-on-one setting

Private hitting and catching instruction
For more info: Call Scott Chapman at 967-2364 for instruction in a one-on-one environment.

Pitching, hitting and fielding lessons
For more info: Call Midland High baseball coach Barry Russell at 296-2438

Private Baseball/Softball lessons
For more info: Contact Extra Innings Midland/Odessa at (432) 617-4487 or visit www.extrainnings-midlandodessa.com

Midland Little League Umpires Needed
For more info: Contact 889-8080

WTX Baseball
What: Instruction for players 5 and up
For more info: wtxbaseball.com; facebook.com/wtxbaseballmidland; 413-0329

Basketball

Permian Basketball Association needs officials
For more info: Jim Cox, 685-4143 or 553-3714

YMCA needs basketball referees
For more info: 682-2551

Midland Hoops 32 Basketball Skills Training
Cost: $25 per session, one to two people; $15 for groups of three or more
For more info: Contact Eddie Verzant at 254-6894 or go to midland-hoops32.com; verzanteddie@yahoo.com.

Bowling

Tuesday Night Petroleum Men's League
When: Meets at 6:45 p.m.
For more info: Melton Post 684-5176 or Cactus Lanes 694-0177

Edith McElmore Three-Person League
When: 10 a.m. Wednesdays
Where: AMF Lanes
For more info: Call AMF Lanes at 689-9725

Reed's Super Bowl
What: Fall/winter leagues registration is currently ongoing.
For more info: Call 432-704-5385

Rock n' Bowl
When: 8 p.m.-1 a.m. Saturdays
Where: Reed's Super Bowl, 3920 W. Wall St.
Cost: $10-25
For more info: Call Zoe Reed at 575-399-5241 or Kevin Reed at 575-441-6646

Color Pin Bowling
When: 7:30 p.m. Fridays
Where: Reed's Super Bowl
Cost: $18 for three games. Cash prizes awarded.
For more info: Call Zoe Reed at 575-399-5241 or Kevin Reed at 575-441-6646

Camps/Clinics

Ten Star All Star Camp
For whom: Boys and girls ages 10-19
For more info: Call (704) 373-0873 for a brochure

COM Aquatic Camps
What: Swimming, diving, snorkeling
Ages: Preschool and grade school
For more info: Call 684-7755

Tennis clinics and lessons
Contact Coach Jon Lanier for clinics and lessons at jlanier@midlandchristianschool.org

Elite Training Soccer Camp
When/where: June 13-18, Hobbs, N.M.
Fee: $150 before April 1, $200 after
For more info: eliteirvingcoach@yahoo.com

Midland College 2017 Girls Basketball Camps
Session I: Beginners FUNdamental Camp
For: Grades 1st-5th
When/where: 9:30-11:30 a.m. July 17-20, Midland College Physical Education Gymnasium
Cost: $75 (includes camp T-shirt)
Session II: FUNdamental & Competition Camp
For: Grades 6th-11th
When/where: 1-5 p.m., July 17-20, Midland College Physical Education Gymnasium
Cost: $125 (includes camp T-shirt)
For more info on either camp: Call Ron Jones at 432-685-4581 or email rjones@midland.edu

Cycling

Permian Basin Bicycle Association Meetings
When: 7 p.m., third Monday of every month
Where: MCH Mission Fitness, corner of Highway 191 and Faudree Road, Odessa
Dues: $25/$30 for a family
For more info: Peyton's Bikes 699-1718 or go to www.pbbatx.com

Dodgeball

Sticks and Kicks Leagues
Who: Kids, adults, co-ed players
Cost: $35 per player (8 game season)
Where: Register at Sticks and Kicks, 3918 W. Wall
For more info: Call 520-6633

Flag Football

YMCA Officials Needed
What: The YMCA needs officials for Youth Flag Football games Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.
For more info: Call 682-2551

Football

Permian Basin Officials Chapter seeks officials
Note: Education and training will be provided
For more info: Call Terrell Pierce at 559-5004 or Jesse Mendoza at 432-254-9214

Golf

2017 Jackalopes Golf Tournament
When/where: Tuesday, March 28, Andrews County Golf Course, 1 p.m. shotgun start
Cost: $500 for 3-man team o $175 for an individual. Sponsorships also available
For more info: Call the Odessa Jackalopes at 432-552-7825 or stop by the Jacks office at 4201 Andrews Highway in Odessa.

Lacrosse

West Texas Lacrosse Spring 2017 Learn 2 Play Clinics & Games
What: Learn the lacrosse basics, rules and play scrimmage games.
For: Boys 3rd through 8th grades
When: 2:30-3:30 p.m. Sundays, March 19-April 23 (except April 16)
Where: Scharbauer Sports Complex-Auxiliary Turf Fields
For more info: Go to www.westtexaslacrosse.org

Martial Arts

Aikido
When: Monday-Friday, 7 to 9 p.m., Saturdays, 12:30 p.m.
Note: Specializing in traditional Hombu style Aikido
For more info: Call John Riggs, 684-7008 or 770-3155

Private Martial Art/Self-Defense Lessons
For: Men-Women-Children
What: Learn Basic Skills to Advanced Techniques
Note: Private, Semi-Private and Group Lessons are available
For more info: Call Master Oscar Jimenez, 432-559-5009, ojimenez3@att.net

Matthews Martial Arts
When: Monday through Thursday, 5-8 p.m.
What: Karate-Judo-Jujitsu-Kempo-KungFu
For: Ages 3 and up
Where: 3205 Cuthbert
For more info: Contact Jason Matthews at 488-7467 or 689-8444

Miscellaneous

Student-Athlete Sports Consultant
For: Assisting high school student athletes with academic-athletic scholarships.
For more info: Call Jacob Santillano at (915) 240-1030

Poker

Lone Star Poker League
What: Free to play Texas Hold 'em Poker tournaments.
For: Beginners to experienced players. Ages 21 and up.
When/where: 6:30 p.m., Sunday, Wednesday and Friday at Woofers & Tweeters; 6:30 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday at Rednecks Drafthouse. Players must be signed in by 6:15 p.m. each night.
For more info: Go to www.lonestarpokertour.net

Professional Wrestling

Old School Wrestling School
What: Professional wrestling school for all ages.
Where: 404 E. 61st St., Odessa
When: 7-10 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays; 2-6 p.m. Sundays
Cost: $60 down; $35 a month.
For more info: Call Fred, 770-7001, or Sam, 349-3055

Rugby

Mad Dog Rugby Football Club
Practices: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7-9 p.m. at Reyes-Washburn Park (north field)
For more info call: 432-697-6418

Running

Permian Basin Running Club
Cost: $20 per year for individual membership; $30 for per year for family membership
For more info: Go to www.pbrunningclub.com or email Shawn Hailey, president at haileyshawn@pbrunningclub.com

Gazelles Training Group
When: 6 a.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
For more info: Call Popcorn Leonard at 512-762-1020 or 682-0968

Shooting

Comanche Trail Shootists
What: Single Action Shooting Society affiliated club in Midland
When: Monthly shoots first Saturday and third Sunday of each month; first Saturday beginning at 10 a.m.. Third Sunday from 1 p.m. (Mar/fatory safety meeting at 12:30 p.m.) Also shoot on fifth Sunday on months that have them (begin at 1 p.m. and are no cost to the shooter); Mandatory safety meeting at 9:30 a.m.
Where: Timberline Ranch adjacent to Jake's Clays
For more info: Go to comanchetrailshootists.org or call Hoodoo Brown 682-1422

Midland Shooters Association
What: All types of shooting practice and competition, featuring archery, benchrest rifle, bulls-eye rifle, high power rifle, pistol silhouette, rimfire silhouette, 3 gun, practical pistol, skeet, trap 5 state and sporting clays.
When: Members can access rifle and pistol ranges from sunrise to sunset seven days a week. Shotgun ranges open 11 a.m. until dusk Wednesday to Sunday.
For more info: Go to www.midlandshooters.com

Soccer

Permian Basin Soccer Association
What: Registration for women's spring/summer season
Where: Dunagan Park, located at corner of Gist and Terrell
When: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 7-8:30 p.m.
For more info: Contact Jesus Chavez at 557-7032 anytime or Josh Chavez at 238-6947 after 6:30 p.m.

Midland Soccer Association
For: Youth Recreational League Ages 4-18
When: Spring/Fall Games
Note: Also information on becoming a certified referee
For more info: Register online at www.midlandsoccer.com and go to 432-684-5425

Softball

Midland Softball Association Tournament Schedule
Now available at www.midlandsoftball.com.
For more info: call Tommy Hawkins at 520-9100

Midland Men's Woodbat Fastpitch Association
For more info: Call 634-6474 or visit www.facebook.com/pages/Midland-Texas-Mens-Fastpitch or wyofastpitch@gmail.com

Swimming

COM Pre-competitive swimming
Where: Mabee Aquatic Center
Cost: $49 per month
Prerequisite: Must be able to swim 25 yards of freestyle or backstroke
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Water Aerobics Classes
When: All times, Monday through Saturday
Who: All skill levels
For more info: Call Tommy McAlister at 684-7755

COM Learn to Swim
Ages: All ages
Note: Private, semi-private and group lessons are available
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Masters Swimming
What: Competitive or non-competitive program for adults of all skill levels
When: 5-6 a.m., 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Cost: $40 per month (includes cardio training)
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Diving Instruction
Who: All ages and levels invited
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Learn to Dive
What: Learn basic skills for beginners then advance to pre-competitive and competitive diving that emphasize skilled diving techniques and participation in diving meets
Ages: 4 and up
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Competitive Dive Team
Who: Try out for Bronze, Silver, Gold Prep or Gold levels of COM Dive Team.
What: Emphasizes is on diving techniques and participation in local and out of town competitive meets
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Elite Dive Team
What: Highest level of COM diving. Concentrates on perfecting Olympic level skills, national and international travel
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Competitive Swim Team
Who: Try out for COM Swim Team, tryouts available by appointment
What: Emphasizes stroke correction and participation in local and out of town competitive meets
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Adult Conditioning
What: Allows adult participation use of top quality lap pools and fitness room during specified hours
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Water Walking Class
What: Unstructured, self-paced class
For more info: Call Tommy McAlister at 684-7755

COM Senior Fitness Class
Who: Senior citizens that need help with physical conditions resulting from injury, disease, chronic conditions, advanced age, etc
For more info: Call Tommy McAlister at 684-7755

Central YMCA Water Aerobics Classes
When: Early morning, morning and evening
For more info: Call Leaf Faller 682-2551

Central YMCA Arthritis Water Exercise Classes
When: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
For more info: Call Leaf Faller 682-2551

Central YMCA Swimming Lessons
Who: All ages and ability
For more info: Call Leaf Faller 682-2551

Central YMCA Synchronized Swimming
For: Ages 6 and up
For more information: Call Leaf Faller 682-2551

Tennis

West Texas Tennis Association
What: West Texas Tennis Association, a non-profit community tennis association, promotes and oversees USTA leagues, programs and events in the area.
For more info: Call 432-210-0611 or www.westtexastennis.com for more information.

Bush Tennis Center Clinics
What: Ballcon Tennis 34 (ages 3-4); Redball 58 (ages 5-8); Orange and Green Ball 910 (ages 9-10); Junior Development (6th-8th grade; freshman-JV); Junior Select (varsity); RSR Adults (adult beginners); Intermediate Adults 4.0-5.0 Adults (advanced adults); Also Junior Team Tennis registration now open
Where: Bush Tennis Center
For more info: Visit www.bushtennriscenter.com or call 620-8180

USTA Team Tennis Adult Leagues
When: Leagues run May through November
Where: Midland College Tennis Center
For more info: Sherry 620-8610 or Email www.midlandtennis@aol.com

Midland College Tennis
What: Clinics, lessons, leagues, tournaments
Where: Midland College Tennis Center
For more info: Call 687-4046

Midland College Tennis Club
When: A community tennis club
Where: Midland College Tennis Center
Annual Dues: Adults $65, youths $30, families $140
For more info: Call 563-1333 or email midlandtennisclub@aol.com

Midland Women's Tennis Association
Social women's doubles tennis, all levels
When: 9 a.m. Tuesdays
Where: Midland College
For more info: Call 954-707-0622 or email jmalcolmtexas@gmail.com. Or go to the Midland Women's Tennis Association Facebook page

UTSA Mixed 40 and Over Mixed Doubles League Weekend
When/where: April 7-9, Bush Tennis Center
What: All players age 40 and over by the date Dec. 31, 2017 are welcomed to play. Four different competitions include levels: 6.0, 7.0, 8.0 and 9.0. The winning team advances to sectionals June 2-4 in San Antonio
For more info: Visit westtexastennis.com or e-mail westtexastennis@gmail.com

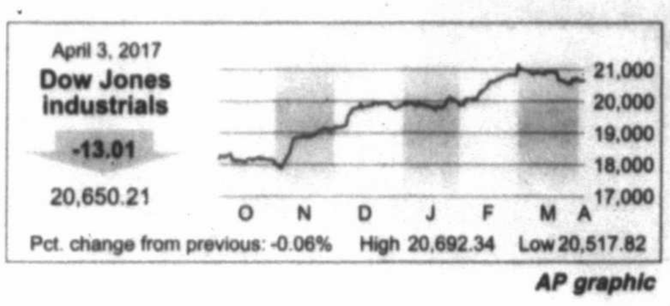
Ultimate Frisbee

Midland Drought Ultimate Frisbee Club
What: The Club plays weekly casual pick-up games on Monday (from 7 p.m. to dark) and Saturday mornings (from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) and offer occasional opportunities for tourney travel
For ages: Males and females from the high school level to adult
For more info: Go to www.midlandultimatefrisbee.weebly.com or call Matt at 432-288-3139

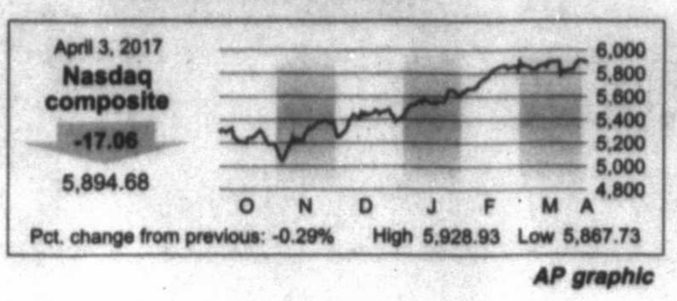
Walking

Midland Walkabout AVA Club
For: All Ages
Annual dues: $15 per family
Walks: One Saturday morning per month
When: First Monday of the month at Murray's Deli on Wadley at 6 p.m.
Who: All ages
For more info: Call 432-697-4310, email gary.petersen@mygrande.net or visit midlandwalkabout.wordpress.com

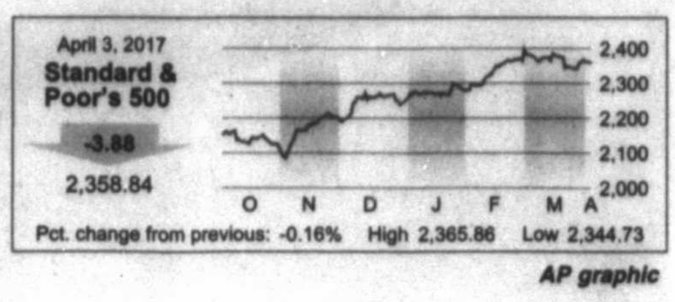
A DAY ON WALL STREET



AP graphic



AP graphic



AP graphic

OIL PRICES

FUTURES

Monday: $50.24
Previous: $50.60

POSTED

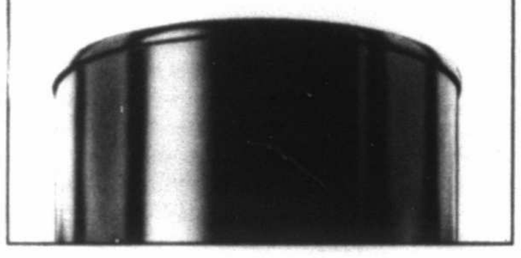
Monday: $47.00
Previous: $47.00

WEST TEXAS SOUR

Monday: $42.35
Previous: $42.95

NATURAL GAS

Monday: $3.128
Previous: $3.190



NYSE

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
SPDR Fncl	924503	23.68	-.05
SwstnEngy	896175	7.89	.28
BkofAm	859771	23.59	...
S&P500ETF	724066	235.23	.41
FordM	648229	11.44	.20

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
YingliGr rs	2.55	+.38	+17.5
AzurePwr n	21.75	+3.09	+16.6
GranaMon	3.44	+.31	+9.9
500.com	14.44	+1.03	+7.7
LumberLiq	22.46	+1.47	+7.0

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
HertzGl	15.96	-1.58	-9.0
SwEBioFu23	7.55	-.70	-8.5
Calix	6.65	-.60	-8.3
Group1	69.00	-5.08	-6.9
TrnaRty	17.98	-1.29	-6.7

DIARY

Advanced	1,299
Declined	1,656
Unchanged	101
Total issues	3,056
New Highs	98
New Lows	17
Volume	3,261,824,736

AMEX

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
NwGold g	40372	3.06	-.08
B2gold g	34686	2.87	+.04
iShInIda bt	27206	31.82	+.34
CastleBr	25643	1.62	+.07
BritATob s	24098	65.99	-.33

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
GeeGroup	6.39	+1.44	+29.1
Intellichk	2.78	+.17	+6.5
Auxilio n	5.05	+.28	+5.9
AmShrd	4.57	+.25	+5.8
DeltaApri	18.60	+.97	+5.5

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
VoltInfoSci	6.30	-.60	-8.7
AvalonHld	2.20	-.18	-7.6
StrmEn wt	3.06	-.24	-7.3
CortMatls	24.05	-1.85	-7.1
Plexus	5.40	-.41	-7.1

DIARY

Advanced	155
Declined	192
Unchanged	22
Total issues	369
New Highs	14
New Lows	4
Volume	114,681,389

NASDAQ

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
FrontierCm	348738	2.05	-.09
Intel	308204	36.16	-.09
PwShs QQQ	230416	132.30	.08
MicronT	213359	28.64	.26
NovoCure n	200817	111.10	+3.00

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Cyclacel rs	6.42	+2.74	+74.5
NovoCure n	111.10	+3.00	+37.0
SteadyM n	7.50	+1.70	+29.3
Polarity rs	16.55	+2.88	+21.1
BiondVax n	6.80	+1.00	+17.2

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Dresser rs	2.80	-.61	-17.7
EXACBc n	3.40	-.70	-17.1
GlobalPower	2.75	-.50	-15.4
TearLab rs	2.45	-.39	-13.7
AcordaTh	19.40	-2.60	-12.4

DIARY

Advanced	788
Declined	2,047
Unchanged	191
Total issues	3,026
New Highs	96
New Lows	34
Volume	1,766,213,532

Car sales keep falling, but buyers pay more for trucks, SUVs

Associated Press

DETROIT — Passenger car sales continued to plummet last month and were a drag for many automakers, even with offers of some very juicy discounts.

For now, the auto industry isn't worried because it's making solid money selling reams of SUVs and trucks to consumers who are loading them up with expensive features. But some analysts see the large inventories of cars as a looming problem.

Toyota, Ford, Fiat Chrysler and Honda each reported sales declines for March, all because of tumbling car sales. General Motors, Nissan and Volkswagen sales rose largely because of SUV sales as most major automakers reported March sales figures on Monday.

Ford suffered the biggest loss with a 7.5 percent drop, followed by Fiat Chrysler at 5 percent, Toyota at 2 percent and Honda at just under 1 percent. Nissan sales were up more than 3 percent, Volkswagen's rose just under 3 percent and GM posted an increase of just under 2 percent.

Analysts were expecting a 2 percent to 3 percent increase for the industry overall in March, the first monthly sales jump this year. But some automakers' figures were below estimates.

Analysts see some warning signs in the figures, and some cautioned that sales could slow later this year.

Drawing in buyers required a lot of cash, low-interest loans and other incentives. Dealer stocks are growing because cars and trucks aren't moving off the lots as fast as they did in the past.

The LMC Automotive consulting firm said incentives hit a March record, averaging $3,768 per vehicle and the highest amount since March of 2009. In addition, cars and trucks are sitting on dealer lots for an average of 70 days, the highest level for any month since July of 2009 during the sharp economic downturn.

Jessica Caldwell, executive director of industry analysis for the Edmunds.com car-buying website, says if inventories aren't reduced, automakers will have to offer even more incentives, which will reduce industry profits. Even some truck and SUV inventories are starting to climb, she said.

Because vehicle values could fall if demand falters, that could mean an end to sweet lease deals for consumers, she said. That could mean lower sales, production cuts and a drag on the economy in a worst-case scenario, she said.

Yet even at Ford, which saw a 24 percent decline in car sales, executives were happy with monthly numbers largely because of a 10 percent increase in sales of the F-Series pickup.

Vice President of Sales Mark LaNeve said buyers are loading out the trucks with premium options, boosting average sale prices by $2,500 over a year ago.

"(Sport) Utilities and trucks are trucks are very positive in terms of our economics," he said.

Ford's numbers were reflected in industry figures. LMC says average prices rose to $31,074, beating the previous March high of $31,049 set last year. Caldwell said people are going for more expensive features such as leather seats, premium sound systems and electronic safety devices.

US stocks fall

U.S. stocks started the second quarter with a thud Monday after car makers reported disappointing March sales, a possible warning about other types of spending.

Stocks tumbled in morning trading after automakers including Ford and General Motors said passenger car sales slumped last month. Auto parts and rental car companies also tumbled. Spending by shoppers is a critical part of economic growth and investors found themselves wondering if spending will keep growing as it has in recent years. Small companies slumped, as their performance is closely linked to U.S. economic growth.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell as much as 18 points around midday, but finished down just 3.88 points, or 0.2 percent, at 2,358.84. The Dow Jones industrial average lost as much as 145 points but wound up with a loss of 13.01 points, or 0.1 percent, to 20,650.21. The Nasdaq composite shed 17.06 points, or 0.3 percent, to 5,894.68. The Russell 2000 index of small-company stocks gave up 16.25 points, or 1.2 percent, to 1,369.67.

Metal prices end mixed

The price of gold rose $2.80 to $1,254 an ounce. Silver lost 4 cents to $18.21 an ounce. Copper dropped 5 cents, or 1.8 percent, to $2.60 a pound.

Charter won't have to compete with other cable companies now

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Federal regulators are letting Charter out of a requirement that would have forced it to compete with other broadband providers and possibly cut prices.

The decision relaxes one of the conditions imposed on Charter when it absorbed Time Warner Cable and represents another sign that the country's telecom cop is tilting in favor of the industry it monitors.

Charter Communications had agreed to extend its network to areas where there is already a broadband provider. This requirement was enacted because most U.S. households don't have a choice for high-speed home internet. Greater competition could lower prices.

But smaller cable companies worried about that competition and asked the Federal Communications Commission to revisit the requirement.

Under a new regime, the FCC said Monday that Charter can instead build in areas where there isn't high-speed internet already.

The agency's new chairman, Ajit Pai, says getting more Americans online — what's called "closing the digital divide" — is important to him. He wants to cut regulations to encourage broadband companies to expand their networks and doesn't see the point of mandating a network buildout where there is already service.

The reversal is the latest in a slew of measures at the FCC that benefit the telecom industry.

Pai said in a statement Monday that the previous buildout requirement had not been in the public interest and was "against the goal of promoting greater Internet access for all Americans."

MIDLAND STOCKS

Midland-Headquartered Publicly Traded Companies

Clayton Williams Energy (CWEI)
Closing Price $131.21 Down 0.87

Concho Resources (CXO)
Closing Price $128.38 Up 0.04

Dawson Geophysical (DWSN)
Closing Price $5.38 Down 0.18

Diamondback Energy (FANG)
Closing Price $104.08 Up 0.37

Legacy Reserves (LGCY)
Closing Price $2.39 Up 0.10

Mexco Energy (MXC)
Closing Price $4.00 Up 0.14

Natural Gas Services Group (NGS)
Closing Price $26.50 Up 0.45

ProPetro Holdings (PUMP)
Closing Price $13.44 Up 0.55

RSP Permian (RSPP)
Closing Price $41.17 Down 0.26

Ring Energy (REI)
Closing Price $10.70 Down 0.12

Viper Energy Partners (VNOM)
Closing Price $18.40 Up 0.42

HOW STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST FARED

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
AA Stlwk	...	24	7.11	-.09	-30.5
AT&T Inc	1.96	16	41.57	+.02	-2.5
Abraxas			2.01	-.01	-21.8
AdamsDrvEq	.92a		13.66	.09	+7.5
AMC			14.54	-.09	+29.1
AmrcnUSA			12.00	.19	+5.4
AmerAirsMLP	1.35e		12.71		+.9
Amrgen	4.60f	15	163.89	-.18	+12.1
Anadarko	.20	...	61.79	-.21	-11.4
Apache	1.06	...	51.04	-.35	-19.6
Apple Inc	2.28	17	143.70	+.04	+24.1
ApridMatri	.40	19	38.89	-.01	+20.5
ArmsworMkt		9	8.28	-.07	+13.4
Armtrnzx	.48		12.15	.25	-8.0
ATWOS	1.80f	22	78.96	-.09	+6.4
AutoData	2.28	27	101.27	-1.12	-1.5
BP PLC	2.38	41	34.40	-.12	-8.0
BakrHu	.68		59.69	.13	-8.1
BkofAm	.30f	19	23.59	...	+6.7
B iPrivSP rs			15.85	+.06	37.9
BarringGlC s		25	15.34	+.07	-9
BasicEnrS			45		
Berkhire A	...	...	162500	00.00+	750.00 +2.7
BlkrWilsCp	1.78f	21	66.10	-.37	+7.8
BlackBerry			7.80	+.05	+13.2
BrMySq	1.56f	32	54.21	-.17	-7.2
BrownFA s	...	29	47.07	...	+1.8
BrownFB s	...	...	45.88	-.30	+2.1
CVS Health	2.00f	13	78.05	-.45	-1.1
CallonPet		60	13.26	+.10	-13.7
Caterpillar	3.08	28	92.27	-.49	-.5
Celestic g		10	14.32	-.21	+20.8
CntryLink	2.16	10	23.60	+.03	-.8
ChestEng			5.92	-.02	-15.7
Chevron	4.32f	...	107.80	+.43	-8.4
Chicos	.32f	19	13.84	-.36	-3.8
Cimarex	.32		118.12	-1.37	-13.1
Cisco	1.16	17	33.58	-.22	+11.1
Citigroup	.64	13	59.68	-.14	+.4
CitayEng	...	...	131.21	-.87	+10.9
CliffsNRs		6	8.29	+.08	-1.4
CocaCola	1.48f	25	42.41	.03	+2.3
ColgPalm	1.60f	26	73.37	+.18	+12.1
Comcast s	.93f	21	37.56	+.13	+8.8

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
ConAgra	.80	21	40.36	+.01	+2.0
ConchoRes	...	...	128.38	+.04	-3.2
ConocoPhil	1.06f	...	49.45	-.42	-1.4
CrackerB	4.60	25	159.14	-.11	-4.7
CSVelIVST			72.62	-.41	+55.3
CrosTim	1.07e	13	14.83	+.18	-17.5
Cyclacel rs	15p		6.42	+2.74	+21.4
DCP Mid	3.12	19	39.01	-.22	+1.6
DTE	3.30f	23	101.66	-.45	+3.2
DXC Tch n			67.95	...	...
Dataram rs			1.24	+.09	-43.6
Delcath rs			.08	-.01	-91.0
DevonE	.24	...	42.03	+.31	-8.0
DxGMBr rs			14.04	-.80	-60.0
DxSCBear rs			18.59	+.55	-6.3
DrGMBll s			5.81	+.35	+22.0
DxGBull s			9.43	+.44	+23.4
Disney	1.56f	20	113.20	-.19	+8.6
DowChm	1.84	20	63.06	-.48	+10.2
DryShip rs	.02	1	1.34	-.31	-95.5
EOG Rescs	.67	...	96.96	-.59	-4.1
Energen	.08		54.25	-.19	-5.9
EngyTsfr	4.22		36.36	-.16	+1.5
EnPro	.88f	60	70.19	-.97	+4.2
EntProdPr	1.64	22	27.57	-.04	+2.0
Ericsson	.11e		6.55	-.09	+12.3
ExxonMbl	3.00	36	82.07	+.06	-9.1
Facebook		34	142.28	+.23	+23.7
FastChrys			10.41	-.52	+14.1
FordM	.60a	6	11.44	-.20	-5.7
FrptMcM			13.24	-.12	+.4
FrontierCm	.42	...	2.05	-.09	-39.3
GATX	1.68f	10	60.30	-.66	-2.1
GasMoRT	.94e	...	8.06	-.01	+11.3
GAlinv	1.15e	...	33.41	-.10	+7.2
GenElec	.96	24	29.88	+.08	-5.4
GenMotors	1.52	6	34.17	-1.19	-1.9
GtPlainEn	1.10	17	29.04	-.18	+6.2
Hallibrtn	.72	...	49.28	+.07	-8.9
HP Enl n	.26	9	17.57	-.19	+1.3
HuntBncsh	.32	20	13.35	-.04	+1.0
iShBrazil	1.03e	...	37.90	+.44	+13.7
iShChinaLC	.76e	...	38.72	+.23	+11.6
iShEMkts	.84e	...	39.61	+.22	+13.1

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
iSh20 yrT	3.05		121.67	+.96	+2.1
iS Eafe	1.70e		62.20	-.09	+7.7
iShBxHYB	5.09		87.36	-.42	+.9
iShR2K	1.77e		136.03	-1.45	+.9
Intel	1.09f	16	36.16	+.09	-.3
InterDig	1.20	10	85.95	-.35	-5.9
JPMorgCh	1.92	15	87.52	-.32	+1.4
JohnJn	3.20	19	124.69	+.14	+8.2
KimbClk	3.88f	22	131.51	-.12	+15.2
Kinross g		71	3.56	+.05	+14.5
LegacyRes	.60m	...	2.39	+.10	+12.7
Lubys	...	...	3.19	+.08	-25.5
MastThera			.15	+.02	+69.0
McDnlds	3.76	24	129.61	...	+6.5
Merck	1.88	17	63.47	-.07	+7.8
MeritMed	...	36	28.75	-.15	+8.5
MexcoEn			4.00	+.14	-20.0
MicronT		35	28.64	-.26	+30.7
Microsoft	1.56	29	65.55	-.31	+5.5
Mondelez	.76	31	43.05	-.03	-2.9
MorgStan	.80	15	42.71	-.13	+1.1
Nabors	.24		12.72	-.35	-22.4
NatGrid	3.35e	...	63.23	-.25	+8.4
NOilVarco	.20	31	39.66	-.41	+6.0
NovoCure n			11.10	+3.00	+41.4
NSTFB	.55e	...	14.18	+.03	+.1
NTXDi	.65	...	14.33	+.07	+4.4
OcciPet	3.04	...	63.74	+.38	-10.5
Oracle	.60	22	44.61	...	+16.5
PDC Engy	...	...	61.56	-.79	-15.2
ParTech	...	21	7.08	-.09	+26.9
ParkDri	...	...	1.70	-.05	-34.6
PattUTI	.08	...	24.16	-.11	-10.3
Penney	...	...	6.02	-.14	-27.6
PennaRE	.84	10	14.94	-.20	-21.2
Prmian	.44e	26	9.34	-.01	+21.1
Petrobras	...	...	9.75	+.06	-3.6
Pfizer	1.28f	14	34.24	+.03	+5.4
PickNrl	.08	...	185.48	-.75	+3.0
PlainsAAP	2.20	29	31.34	-.27	-2.9
PwShPfd	.86	...	14.95	+.13	+5.1
PwShs QQQ	1.52e	...	132.30	-.08	+11.7
Praxair	3.15f	21	118.00	-.60	+.7
PrmEgy	...	...	48.00	-2.00	-11.1
PUVixST rs	...	...	16.32	+.15	...

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
ProctGam	2.68	24	89.68	-.17	+6.7
RangeRs	.08	...	28.57	-.53	-16.9
RegionsFn	.26	17	14.58	+.05	+1.5
RexahnPh			.56	+.05	+290.8
RiteAid		38	4.19	-.06	-49.2
Rowan	.40	7	15.33	-.25	-18.8
RoyDShllA	3.76	79	52.36	-.37	-3.7
SpdrDJIA	3.96e	...	206.25	-.09	+4.4
S&P500ETF	4.13e	...	235.33	-.41	+5.3
SpdrOGEx	.73e	...	37.29	-.15	-10.0
SabnR	1.92e	16	34.40	-1.20	-2.1
SanderFm	.96	12	103.44	-.40	+9.8
Schlmbrg	2.00	68	77.70	-.40	-7.4
SiriusXM	.01p	39	5.10	-.05	+14.6
Smucker	3.00f	16	131.06	...	+2.4
SnapInc A n		...	22.35	-.18	-8.7
SwstnEngy	...	...	7.89	-.28	-27.1
Sprint	...	...	8.67	-.01	+3.0
SP Engy	2.04e	...	69.78	-.12	-7.4
SPDR Fncl	.46e	...	23.68	-.05	+1.8
SP UNI	1.55e	...	51.30	-.01	+5.6
SunocoLog	2.08f	25	24.31	-.11	+1.2
TelefEsp	1.03e	...	11.11	-.08	+20.8
Tesla Inc	...	...	298.52	+20.22	+39.7
Tesoro	2.20	12	80.50	-.56	-7.9
3M Co	4.70f	23	190.72	-.81	+6.8

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
Torchmark	.60f	17	76.66	-.38	+3.9
TriContl	.82e	...	23.06	-.06	+4.6
Twitter	...		14.84	-.11	-9.0
TylerTech	...	49	153.53	-1.03	+7.5
UBSI	1.32	21	41.45	-.80	-10.4
US OilFd	...	...	10.55	-.09	-10.0
USSteel	.20	...	33.88	+.07	+2.6
Vale SA	.29e	...	9.49	-.01	+24.5
ValeantPh	...	3	10.47	-.56	-27.9
ValeroE	2.80f	18	66.23	-.06	-3.1
VanEGold	.12e	...	23.20	+.39	+10.9
VanE JrGld	...	...	36.63	+.85	+16.1
VangEmg	1.10e	...	40.03	+.31	+11.9
VangFTSE	1.10e	...	39.26	-.04	+7.4
VerizonCm	2.31	12	49.18	+.43	-7.9
VulcanM	1.00f	39	119.36	-1.12	-4.6
WEC Engy	2.08	21	60.60	-.03	+3.3
WalgBoots	1.50	18	82.95	-.10	+.2
WeathfIntl	...	...	6.42	-.23	+28.7
WellsFargo	1.52	14	55.49	-.17	+.7
WstnRefin	1.52	28	34.96	-.11	-7.6
WhitingPet	...	...	9.34	-.12	-22.3
WmsCos	1.20f	51	29.84	+.25	-4.2
XcelEngy	1.44f	21	44.40	-.05	+9.1
Xerox	.25m	10	7.25	-.09	+25.1

Can't find your favorite stocks or mutual funds listed?
Send your favorite to sdoreen@mrt.com or mmcewen@mrt.com.
We will regularly update the Permian Basin stocks list.

INDEXES

52-Week High	52-Week Low	Name	Last	Chg	Net %Chg	YTD % Chg	52-wk % Chg
21,169.11	17,063.08	Dow Jones Industrials	20,650.21	-13.01	-.06	+4.49	+16.42
9,639.33	7,029.41	Dow Jones Transportation	9,086.24	-30.27	-.33	+.47	+16.24
723.83	616.19	Dow Jones Utilities	697.51	+.23	+.03	+5.75	+4.36
11,688.45	9,918.72	NYSE Composite	11,463.91	-28.94	-.25	+3.68	+12.58
5,928.06	4,574.25	Nasdaq Composite	5,894.68	-17.06	-.29	+9.50	+20.50
2,400.98	1,991.68	S&P 500	2,358.84	-3.88	-.16	+5.36	+14.17
1,761.08	1,409.53	S&P Midcap	1,709.55	-10.10	-.59	+2.95	+18.89
25,008.97	20,583.79	Wilshire 5000	24,562.49	-62.23	-.25	+4.85	+15.74
1,414.82	1,073.46	Russell 2000	1,369.67	-16.25	-1.17	+.92	+23.56

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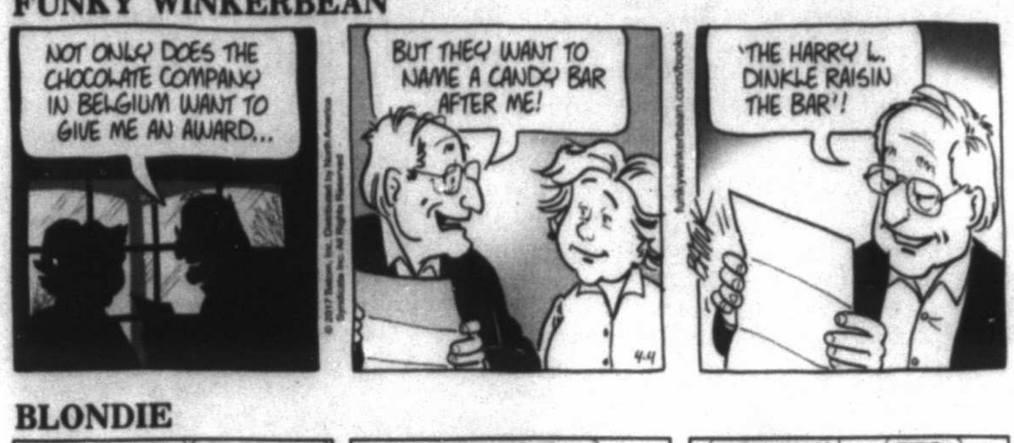
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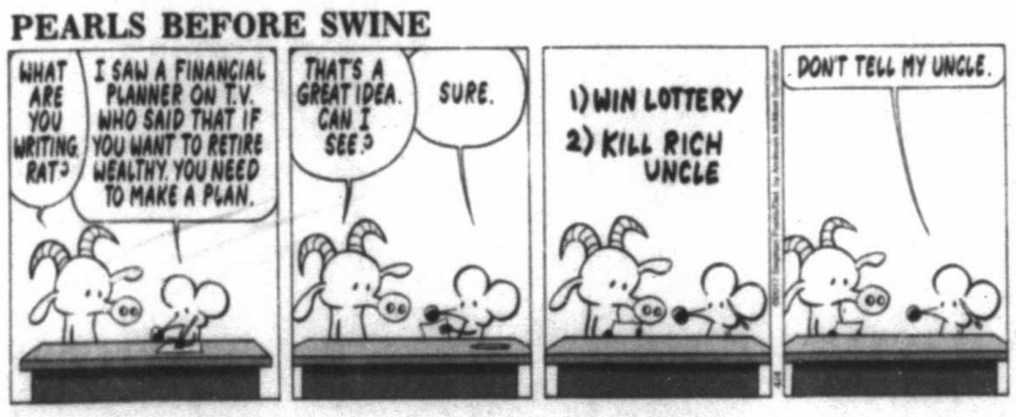
SHOE



GARFIELD



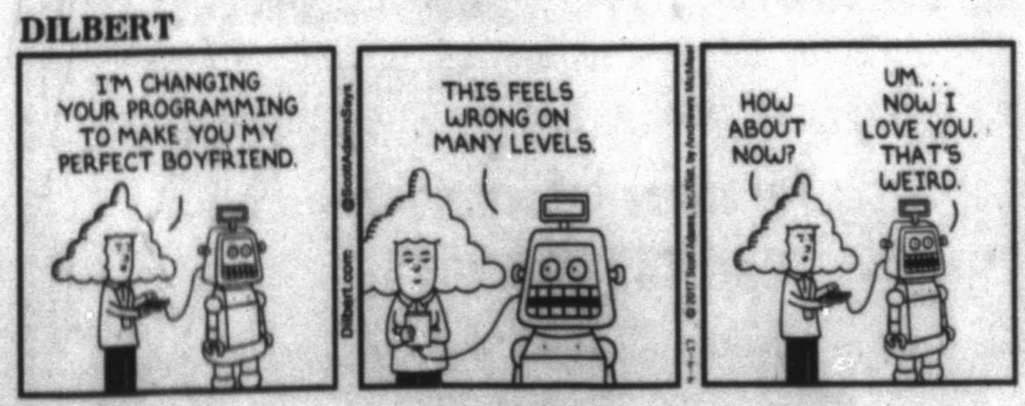
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



WIZARD OF ID



DILBERT



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ZITS



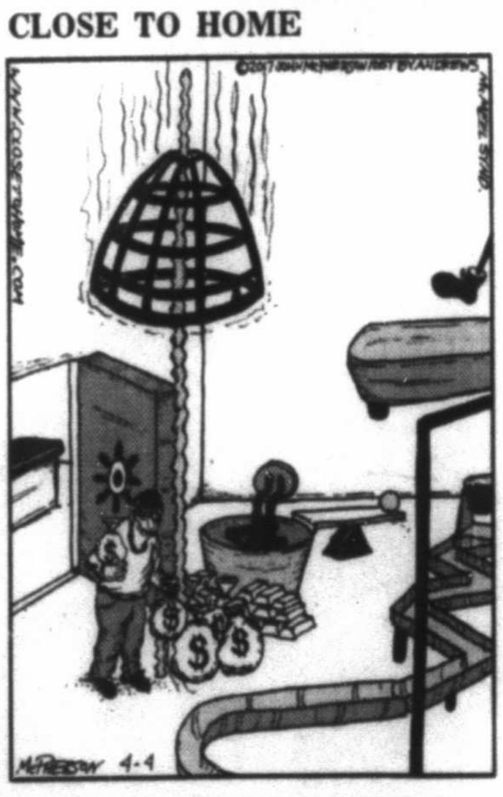
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MUTTS



CLOSE TO HOME



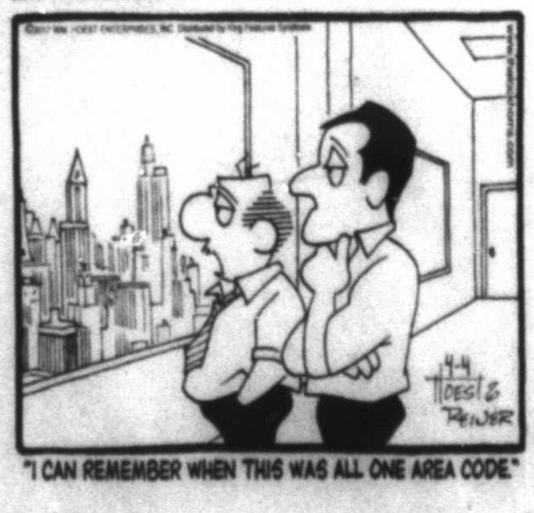
At the Milton Bradley corporate vault.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"DAD DIDN'T GET A HOLE-IN-ONE, BUT HE DID GET A WINDSHIELD IN THE PARKING LOT."

LOCKHORNS



"I CAN REMEMBER WHEN THIS WAS ALL ONE AREA CODE."

FAMILY CIRCUS



"If we ask you to do something do you promise to say yes?"

Hunting for the Easter Bunny?



You'll Find Him at the Dillard's Courtyard

Every Child receives a FREE pair of bunny ears

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MUSIC CITY MALL

Music City Mall • 42nd & JBS Parkway • Odessa, TX

An ICA Company For employment opportunities: www.icajobs.net



The Permian Basin Iris Society Presents

The 29th Annual

Iris Show

Saturday April 15, 2017

Music City Mall

Located at the Burlington Courtyard

Enter 9am-11:30am View 3-5pm

MUSIC CITY MALL

It's free – everyone is welcome to enter and view.
Enjoy single stalk entries, design,
educational boards, and iris photography.

For more information
Call 432.230.2484

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ENERGY AND UTILITIES

Geotech/ Mudlogger

Two years of wellsite experience or 1 year of experience plus 12 semester hours of college. Use MainLog software. Email resume with references to admin@miphillips.com and 'GEO-TECH' in subject line

Horizontal Drill Operator

Black Gap Utilities is now hiring! Starting pay at $20 plus overtime and benefits. Must have experience drilling in rock and dirt. Some travel required, and must be willing to do other basic utility construction tasks. Please email resume or info to blackgaputilities@gmail.com

Mudlogging Salesman

Hydro Carbon Mudlogging Salesman proven sales record only. Salary plus commission. For details please call 325-450-7160

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Creating True Value

TRUE CHEMICAL SOLUTION is a service oriented specialty chemical company that is now hiring for all positions.

- Sales
- Service Tech
- CDL with Hazmat

Please call Kelly Gabriel 432-664-7363 for more information.

OTHER JOBS

Automotive Technicians

Twilight Services Inc. is looking to hire 2 Automation Technicians FT. Company truck provided plus benefits and pay is DOE. Apply in person at 3306 South County Road 1156, Midland, TX 79706. We are located behind Texas Department of Criminal Justice Bldg. on East Hwy 158. Call (432) 686-2655 for directions.

PCC Performance Chemical Company

Performance Chemical Company is an independent oilfield service company dedicated to providing premier services and products to Operators in the Upstream, Midstream, and Downstream markets.

We're currently looking to add to PCC's talented team of technical experts by interviewing for a Senior Chemical Consultant position.

Applicants must have at least 20-years oil and gas industry technical services chemical experience and a bachelor's degree.

Performance Chemical Company offers:

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- Competitive Wages
- Annual Merit & Bonus Program
- Quality Training Programs
- Medical, Dental & Life Insurance
- 401(K) Retirement Plan

Please forward resume to:
Corey.Petro@perf-chem.com Phone: (432)332-3059
9105 W I-20 Midland, TX 79706
PCC is an EOE

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Delivery Drivers & Treater Truck Drivers

Now Hiring - Tech Management, an oilfield chemicals & services company is currently seeking Delivery Drivers and Treater Truck Drivers for the Midland/Odessa area. Applicant must have a Class A CDL with Hazmat and Tanker endorsements. Oilfield experience is preferred. Competitive pay with benefits including: 401K, Health/ Vision/ Dental Insurance, Paid PTO and holidays, and more. Please call 432-684-4939 for more information and to receive an application.

TECH MANAGEMENT LLC

RESTAURANT FOOD SERVICES

Buffalo Wild Wings Now Hiring All Positions

Management Fax Resumes to 806-783-8991.
All other positions apply in person at Buffalo Wild Wings locations
5107 W Wadley in Midland, 4241 Grandview in Odessa

Restaurant Positions

Osaka Japanese Steakhouse FT

Now hiring Hibachi Chefs. Waitresses. Hostesses. Cashiers. Bartenders. Bus Help. Dishwashers & Kitchen Help.
Please apply in person: **1207 Tradewinds Blvd. 79706**

RETAIL JOBS

Kitchen Manager - Candy Manufacturer (Midland)

This position is responsible for managing and helping the kitchen staff in the candy making processes from raw materials to finished goods in accordance with established standards of quality, productivity, cleanliness, and safety. This position is directly responsible for the management of kitchen personnel, equipment, raw materials, inventory, and execution of the production schedule to assure the adequate supply. **Please send your resume to angie@susiessouthforty.com.**

SALES JOBS

Outside Sales Rep. & Hydraulic Field Service Tech

Outside Sales Representative: Midland/Odessa Area, Diamond Hydraulics Inc - Midland, Texas. **Job Duties** • Make sales calls to customers: In Person, phone and email • Handle customer accounts: Customer service, pick-up and delivery of equipment • Generate sales reports each week and submit them to management • Utilize all available resources to reach out to prospects and turn those prospects into customers. **Requirements** • Familiarity with hydraulic components: Cylinders, Pumps, Motors Etc. • Strong communication, negotiation and interpersonal skills • Self-Motivated and Driven • Experience with Windows based computer programs.

Hydraulic Field Service Technician Job Duties

• Diagnose and repair, or commission, hydraulic components or systems at customer sites. • Prepare detailed field service reports. • Perform work on inside service repairs when not working on field assignments. • Read hydraulic schematics. **Requirements:** • Thorough working knowledge of hydraulic components (i.e. Cylinders, Pumps, motors, filters, etc.) • Good driving record required. • Able to answer calls 24/7. • Capable of lifting more than 50 pounds. • Able to stand for long periods of time. • Flexible work schedule able to work long durations at times. • Must pass drug screen

Please forward resume to hhensley@diamondhydraulicsinc.com. or fax: 409-986-7437

SALES JOBS

Sales Assistant

Century Graphics is seeking a full time sales assistant. Candidate should be detail oriented and able to work in a fast paced environment. Must have exceptional customer service skills, be proficient in basic computer programs such as Microsoft Office, and be able to lift up to 30 lbs. Good communication skills (written and oral) are also necessary. Experience is preferred but we will train the right candidate. Pay is negotiable. Apply in person at 501 W. Industrial Ave, Midland; or send resume to Jobs@Centurygs.com.

SKILLED LABOR

Seeking Field Service Technicians

J & W Services and Equipment Co. are seeking field service technicians. Experience preferred. However we are willing to train. Hourly pay and overtime with benefits of group health and dental. Life insurance and 401k participation after one year of employment. You can stop by 3510 E. Hwy 158 in Midland or go online to: www.jandwservices.com for application and submit to jobs@jwwellheads.com

TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

CDL Drivers

$8,000 Sign On Bonus! Now hiring experienced Class A CDL with X Endorsement Drivers to deliver fuel (gas & diesel) to area Truck Stops and Convenience Stores. Minimum 2 yrs exp required. Enjoy a robust benefit package including medical, dental, life, disability insurances, paid vacations, 401K/Profit Sharing, Safety Rewards, $8,000 sign on bonus and more!!! Email resume to dpladson@petroleumwholesale.com or fax 281-681-7692 today!

DRIVERS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY

Regional Ice Manufacturer Seeking FULL-TIME Route delivery Drivers for the Midland, TX. Area. Home Every Night. Class A or B CDL Required. Pre-Employment Drug Screen and Clean Driving Record a Must. Able to lift a minimum of 50 lbs. Pays hourly wage plus commission. Full Benefits Package Available. Apply online at arcticglacier.com

Helpers Needed Immediately

Regional Ice Manufacturer Seeking Helpers for Route Delivery for the Midland, TX Area. Able to lift a minimum of 50 lbs. Hourly wage $11.00 an hour. APPLY AT www.arcticglacier.com

★

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Legal and Public Notices

Notice is hereby given that on Extra Space Storage will sell at public auction at the storage facilities listed below, to satisfy the lien of the owner, personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the following locations: Auctioneer: Jack Parnell Lic # 16100 (Karen's Auction Resource): 10% buyer's premium.
Facility 1772: 1904 West Loop 250 N, Midland, TX 79705, (432)258-1370, April 14, 2017, 10:00 AM
Jarad Conde/Torque Line Indstopher Powell unit#1066 totes, Kevin Thompson unit#844 household goods, Irma Gandar unit 912b household goods and boxes
Jared Conde/Torque Line Industries Unit #0811 Tires and parts, Joy MarioWilhoit Unit# A018 beach comber cart and horse statue
Facility 1770: 5005 Andrews Hwy, Midland, TX 79703 (432)694-5959, April 14, 2017, 11:00 am
Paula Rogers unit#236 household goods, Kevin Thompson household goods 1970 ford mach 1 mustang vin 0f05fh140727, Tamika Johnson unit#502 household goods, Kevin Thompson unit#841 household goods, Michael Christopher Powell unit#1066 totes, Kevin Thompson unit#844 household goods, Irma Gandar unit 912b household goods and boxes
Facility 1814: 2504 N Loop 250 W Midland, TX 79707 (432)694-1111, April 14, 2017, 11:30 AM
Sammy Aponte Cruz unit#669 household items, Ramon Lujan unit#809 tools, household items.
Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property

General Announcement

Mark Berryhill.com Ministering for Christ Teach the Lord's Word 1-4

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

Legal and Public Notices

Midland Independent School District

Midland, Texas

Notice to Vendors

RFP #17-014 Medicaid and SHARS Billing Services

The Midland Independent School District invites qualified vendors to submit a sealed proposal(s) for **RFP #17-014 Medicaid and SHARS Billing Services** through the MISD electronic bid system. Proposals will be publicly opened and read in accordance with the proposal documents in the office of Rebecca Mull, Director of Procurement Services, at 615 W. Missouri Avenue, Suite 707, Midland, Texas at 2:00 P.M. Tuesday, May 2, 2017. Request for Proposal documents may be obtained by registering as a supplier et www.midlandisd.com/domain/44. For any questions, contact MISD Procurement Services department at (432) 240-1965.

Lost and Found



REWARD OFFERED for the return of my Minature Boxer, black & white male. Please call 432-682-2836 or 432-288-0720

Autos For Sale-Lease

Passenger Cars

1968 CHEVELLE Sport coupe body. Motor, transmission and other parts. $5,000 for all. 432-238-6423.

CADILLAC 2012 SRX Premium Edition. Cadillac red, 61K miles, all service records, brand new tires. Asking $20,000. For more information Tony 432-238-4134

Passenger Cars

LINCOLN 2000 Towncar Signature Series, white w/ gray leather interior. Well maintained. 81,887 miles. $3,000 OBO. 432-638-8284. See at 902 Harvard Avenue.

MAZDA 2, 2013. Excellent condition. 15,500 miles!! Call after 11:00 AM 432-296-9142 Pearl White Beautiful, fun to drive AM/FM, CD, IPod MP4,MP3 adaptable. 4 door. Automatic. $6,700.

NISSAN 2014 Altima 2.5 SV, gray extended warranty 50 k miles. 5 years, $11,000. 432-687-2113

REDUCED FORD 2014 Focus, silver, 23,981 K miles, Sirius radio, lots of extras. Asking $10,000. Must Sell - Call for appointment: 432-230-2795 after 3pm

VOLVO 2011 XC 70, navy exterior, light gray leather interior, 29,700 miles. $22,000. Call 432-218-8484

Motorcycles

HARLEY 2011 Ultra Classic, two tone metallic root beer. Looks new, too many extras to mention. 26K miles, all services up to date and verifiable. Lots of spare parts & accessories. Must see, firm at $13,500. 230-4122 for Mike

REDUCED HARLEY DAVIDSON 2005 Road King. 13K miles. $6,500 OBO. MUST SEE! 432-697-9787 leave message

RV Vehicles

2001 Polaris Ranger Clean, Excellent condition, low hours. $4,800. Call 432-889-6073

Recreation Vehicles

2003 POLARIS Magnum (4 wheeler) 3.30 4x4 w/front & rear racks. Runs great. $2,800. Call 432-889-6073

2007 CAPRI Rodeo truck camper, has shower, cook top, sink, hot water heater, water storage with water pump, propane compartment, microwave, refrigerator, & A/C. All works great & in very good condition. $4,700.00
Call 432-413-9190.

☆ 2014 ROYAL Traveler 5th wheel, 42' 3 slide outs, 2 AC's, tri axle, rollout awning, 2 bedrooms, sleeps 6. washer & dryer. Loaded. No pets. non smoking, located in Odessa. Must sell $32,500 OBO 303-944-4160

2015 36' trailer. 2 slides, fairly new, washer & dryer. 2 A/C's, Never had pets, children or smoking. $23,000. 817-846-7675

2015 WINNEBAGO Micro Mini, model 1760FD, never been used. $15,000 Contact Bob @ 432-559-4405.

FIBERGLASS 2016 5th wheel 45ft. self contained 2 BD, 5 slide outs, washer dryer, dishwasher, large refrigerator & freezer. 2 hide a bed couches. 1 in the living room, the other in the 2nd bed room. Table & chairs garden tub w/optional shower, 2 a/c. Winterized. Lots of living/storage space has a large living room. Very comfortable, like new. Asking $42,777 (obo) will deliver. 505-307-1954

Antique and Vintage

1941 CHEVY & 1948 Cadillac. Call if interested. Call 432-288-0720. Price negotiable.

1949 PACKARD SEDAN restored, flat-head 8 cylinder. $6,000. Call 432-210-8517 for an appointment.

Pickup Trucks

NEW TODAY!

2008 FORD F-150 Triton SuperCrew Cab Pickup w/ 6 ft bed, white w/ gold trim. 129,000 miles, excellent condition. Lots of options. $10,000 OBO, 432-260-7000

NEW TODAY!

2014 WHITE Ford F-150 XLT 4X4 SuperCrew Cab Pickup w/ 5 1/2 ft bed, 27,000 miles, EXCELLENT condition. Tons of options $32,000 OBO, 432-260-7000.

DODGE 2005 Ram 1500, 103 K miles, single cab, white, new tires & more. Good condition 1 owner $6,000. 432-269-8680

TOYOTA 2012 Tundra Crew Max. 4x4 pickup, silver, w/toolbox one owner, excellent condition. 147K barely broke in for Toyota. $21,000. Call 432-889-6073.

4WD and SUV

2014 F-350 King Ranch Dually, excellent condition, white, navigation, sunroof, loaded, factory 5th wheel, 24,000 miles. $53,000 OBO. 432-889-7889

CHEVY 2011 Tahoe LTZ, fully loaded, diamond ext, tan int, 107K miles, very good condition. $20,000. Call Jesse 432-853-2355. Also have '98 JEEP Wrangler for sale.

Motorcycles

2007 V-STAR Yamaha 1100. Only 420 miles. $4,000. One owner. 432-238-6423.

HARLEY DAVIDSON 2013, Road King Classic. Two-tone red/merlot. 380 miles. Garage kept, Mint condition. Asking $15,750. 432-254-0025.

KAWASAKI 2015 Mule Pro FXT-LE. 4x4, windshield, hardtop, comes w/ 2011 Century UT, $15,000. Call Stacey Haines 940-765-5828

MY PARENTS ARE GROUNDED! For sale 1999 Monaco Dynasty Motor home. 38 Foot diesel. Washer & dryer. Large refrigerator. 2 TV's. 65,000 Miles. 1 Slide. Lots of wood! $60,000. Great shape. Please call Terry at 432-230-7213.

Merchandise

CondoThomeRentUnfurn

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Lots and Land

FOR SALE: 7 lots on beautiful Lake Buchanan in the Hill Country of Burnet, County. Donall Estates subdivision, on scenic Hwy 2341. Has access to POA boat launch, nice floating fishing dock and recreation area on the lake. Canyon of the Eagles Resort and Nature Park and the Vanishing Texas River Cruise are just down the road on Hwy 2341. Priced at $30,000. Please call 817-579-5840.

WEST TEXAS TRANS PECOS AREA, NEAR LAKE AMISTAD. 40 - 65 ACRES. MESQUITE, CEDAR, BRUSH COVER. WHITETAIL, JAVELINA, BLUE QUAIL, TURKEY, DOVE STARING AT $2,084 DOWN, $339/MO.
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ApartmentRentUnfurn

MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT. 3BD/2BA $1000/mo plus $500 deposit. 2BD/1BA $800/mo plus $500 deposit. Call 432-210-4955, 432-634-4762 until 5pm, after 5pm text only for more info.

CLEAN WEST side 2 bedroom, 1 bath, down stairs front door parking. $800 rent plus $600 deposit. 432-853-0015.

Apartment Rent Unfurn

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Miscellaneous 4-Sale

FREON 12 WANTED
Certified buyer will pick up and pay CASH for cylinders & cases of R12 cans. (312)291-9169, sell@refrigerantfinders.com

Appliances

NEARLY NEW WHITE GE compactor, gently used, original price $678. Asking $300 OBO. 432-631-3966

MASSAGE TABLE, black, mattress pad, sheet, head rest with covers, 8 in. bolster. Great condition. $350. 432-638-4672.

TWO BURNER gas grill set up for MG but also includes 2 propane bottles. $90. 432-218-8869

TWO FUNERAL plots at Resthaven Memorial Gardens in Midland. Please call Kelly 432-556-1045

Residential Rentals

House Rent Unfurn

4602 LANHAM, 3 bedroom 2 bath duplex. All tile floors, $1,300 month $1,300 deposit. Pets permitted with deposit Background & credit check required. 12 month lease minimum. 432-557-0018

4707 B Harvard 2 bedroom. 2 bath, 2 carport, new pant, tile, granite & carpet. No pets non smoking $1,300 monthly 432-620-9222 or 432-425-2739

5106 B RAINBOW, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1 garage, 1 carport. New granite, carpet, tile & paint. No smoking. No pets. $1,800 monthly. 432-620-9222 or 432-425-2739

Nice 2 bedroom houses. $850- $975 monthly. 432-694-9853.

Residential Sales

Single Family Homes

3201 ECR 139 4/2.5 house & 3 acres & old 3/2 BR mobile $115,500. Up Group 432-296-1470

5009 HEATHER Saddle Club South Fabulous redo!! 4/4.5/3/2 $399,500 **UP Group 889-2934**

BEAUTIFUL 4 BDRM, 3 bath home, move in condition, in Heritage Oaks. 4/3 down stairs w/ huge upstairs game room & office nook. 2,592 sq. ft. $414,900. 5905 Oak Creek Dr. **OPEN HOUSE** Saturday 4/1 10am-12pm Call 432-638-7223.

Lake LBJ waterfront in Highland Haven near Marble Falls, Texas. 3/2/2. Priced reduced, $459,000. fireplace oversized 2 car garage, boat & boat house included, automatic sprinkler system. Approximately 2,156 sq. ft. All offers will be considered. 830-220-8981.

Vacation Resort

LAKE HOUSE IN DEEP WATER Estates on Lake Brownwood with excellent boat dock. Call 325-636-3612 or email huntland@web-access.net

Commercial

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5 acre tract With 7650 sq. ft. shop & office.

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Call Tim Riggan @ 664-2718

FOR LEASE!!! FOR LEASE!!!

NEW CONSTRUCTION

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- **Kent County** 11,155 ac. ft. of Snyder. 4 houses, pens/roping arena. 800 ft. mtn. creek, lakes. Whitetail deer, mule deer and quail. $795/ac
- 4,212 ac. Maveric Creek, canyons, whitetail and mule deer and quail $825/ac
- 1,771 ac. windmill, creek, blinds and feeders, great whitetail and mule deer, turkey, hogs, quail $850
- **Nolan County** 646 ac. over 1 mile SOLD creek, blinds, feeders, elevation change, oak $3,550/ac
- 565 ac. Pecan Creek, New Living/Shop, 200 acres cleared for cattle, blinds/feeders, windmill $4,425/ac
- **Howard County** 842 ac. canyons, blinds/feeders, great deer, cedar/mesquite, surface water, some rolling/flat terrain $750/ac
- 150 ac. big canyon SOLD anks, cedar/mesquites, great deer, turkey, ja $895/ac
- **Martin County** 135 ac. Sulphur Springs SOLD deer and whitetail, hogs, varmints, metal sto $1,150/ac

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Lots and Land

Acreage

PROPERTY FOR sale by owner. Redeveloping community on southside 407 S. Benton Street, Midland, Texas. Serious inquirres 619-253-6776

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RANCH FOR SALE
4,212 Acres near Snyder Tx Water 3 houses great hunting Owner Financing $795/ Acre (432) 664-7764

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4,500 sq. ft. Dock High Warehouse. Midland Industrial Warehouse $1,125/mo. 830-388-0216.

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COMMERCIAL YARD/ BUILD TO SUIT FOR LEASE
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2 AC CALICHED
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JUST EAST OF MIDLAND
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Mobile Homes Sale

4 bedroom 2 bath 2 living areas in Airline Mobile Home Park # 886. 432-813-4050

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THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

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

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

SOLUTION TO MONDAY'S PUZZLE

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

4/4/17

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Bathroom and Kitchen renovation specialists, Native Midlanders'
Friday Building Corporation 432-638-7495.

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If you can think it, we can build it.
Free Estimates, Call Hiram 432-599-1328

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RELIABLE & consistent high-quality cleaning with years of experience. Weekly, bi-weekly, monthly and one time rates available. For your home, office, real estate and new construction. 432-212-6176

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Home Services & Home Improvement

Brick-Block-Stone

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JS Concrete

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Handyman Services

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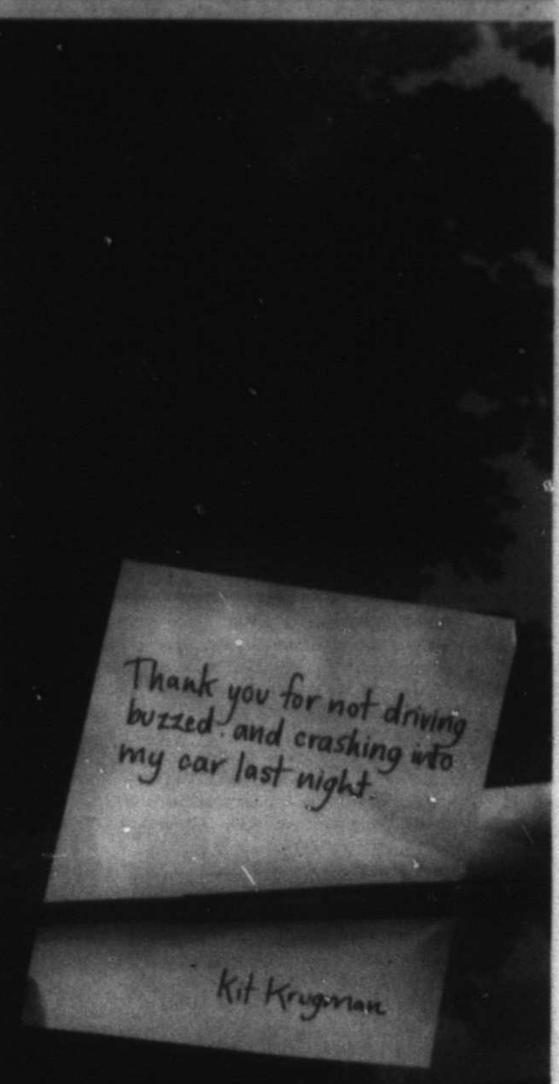
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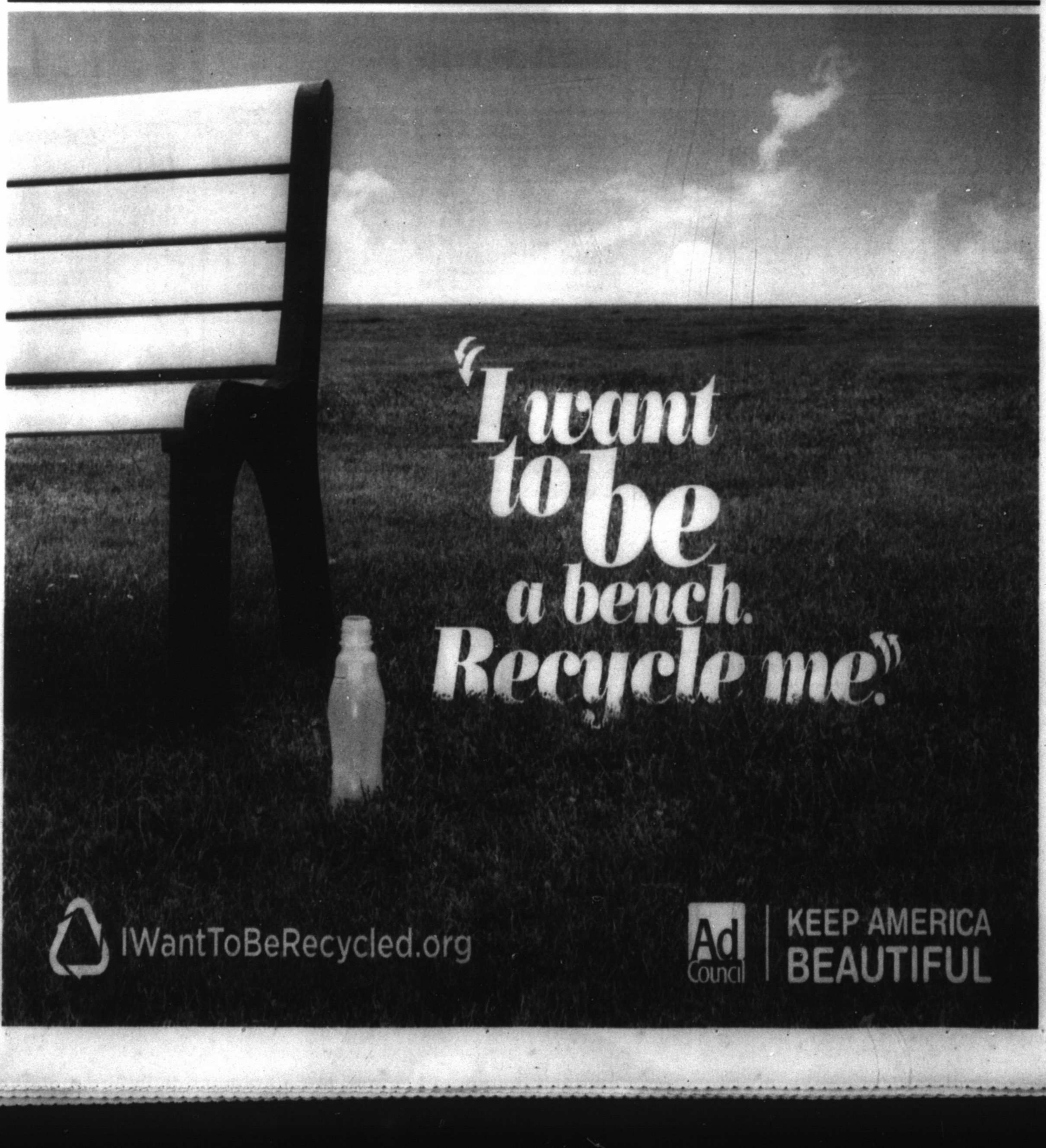
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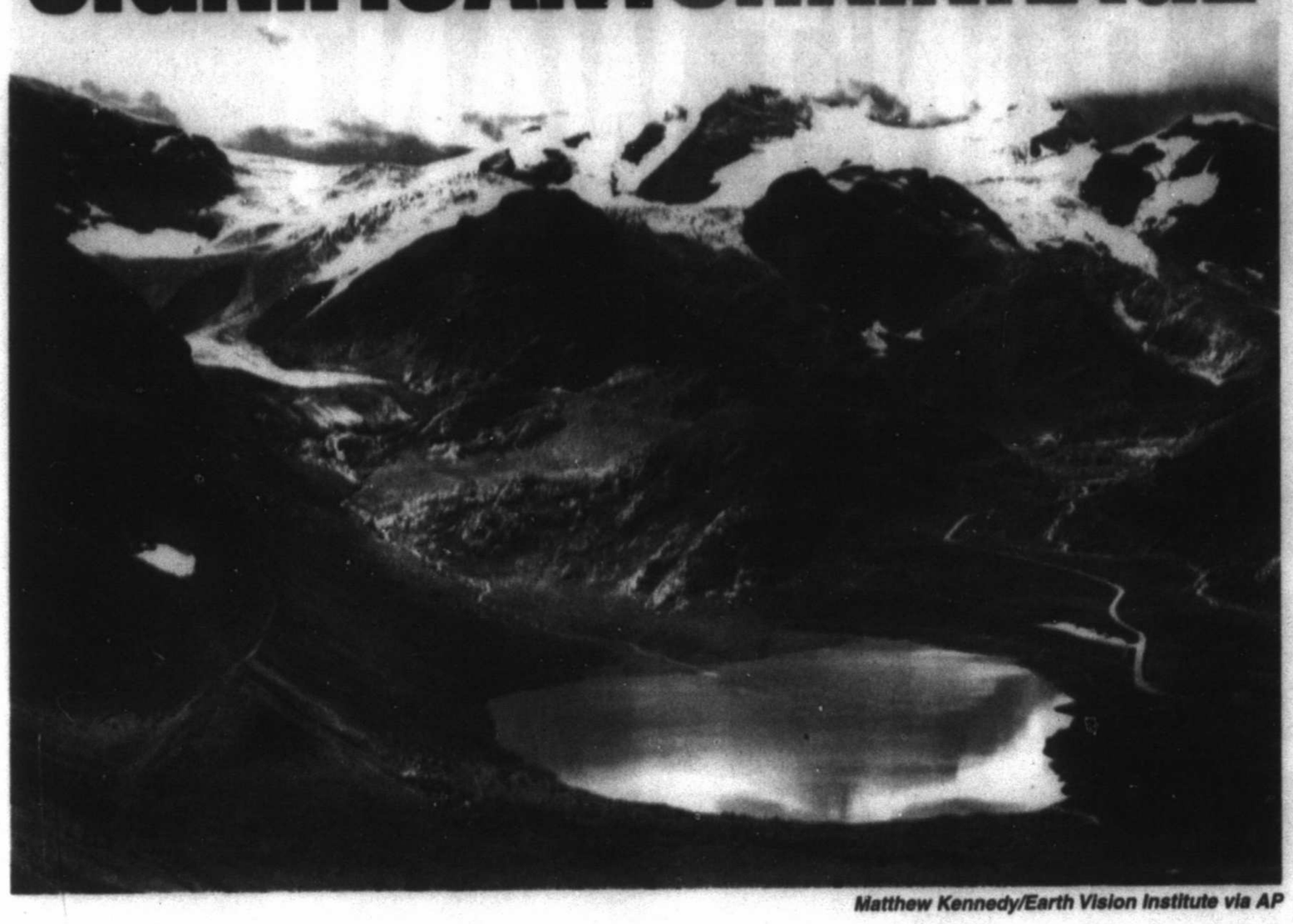


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Matthew Kennedy/Earth Vision Institute via AP

In this photo provided by James Balog/Extreme Ice Survey and Matthew Kennedy, the Stein glacier in Switzerland in 2015. Over the past decade or so scientists and photographers keep returning to the world's glaciers, watching them shrink with each visit. Now they want other people to see what haunts them in a series of before and after photos.



In this photo provided by James Balog/Extreme Ice Survey, the Mendenhall glacier outside of Juneau, Alaska in 2015.



In this photo provided by James Balog/Extreme Ice Survey, the Solheimajokull glacier in Iceland in 2015.



In this photo provided by James Balog/Extreme Ice Survey, the Trift glacier in Switzerland in 2006.

Then and now: How glaciers around the world are melting

By Seth Borenstein
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Over the past decade, scientists and photographers keep returning to the world's glaciers, watching them shrink with each visit. Now they want others to see how a warming planet is melting masses of ice in a series of before-and-after photos.

In the Geological Society of America's GSA Today journal , a group of ice researchers and a photographer-filmmaker published pictures showing how much five of the world's glaciers have thinned.

"There is something fundamentally compelling about the approach they take. For all our emphasis on models and math, seeing is still believing," said University of Colorado ice scientist Ted Scambos, who wasn't part of the team.

Under natural conditions, glaciers at times melt and retreat while others grow and advance. But measurements from Earth's 5,200 glaciers show warming temperatures have increased the number of melting glaciers and the speed of glacial retreat, according to the study. Scientists primarily blame man-made global warming from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas.

"There is something that touches the heart more profoundly when you see it in pictures than when you see it in maps or reports or graphs," said photographer James Balog, who founded the nonprofit Earth Vision Institute. "It certainly brings it alive."

Iceland

The Solheimajokull glacier has shriveled by about 2,050 feet between 2007 and 2015.

Alaska

The forward edge of the Mendenhall glacier outside of Juneau has receded about 1,800 feet between 2007 and 2015.

Switzerland

The Stein glacier has shrunk about 1,800 feet between 2006 and 2015.

Switzerland

The Trift glacier has retreated nearly three quarters of a mile between 2006 and 2015.

Peru

Ohio State ice scientist Lonnie Thompson has visited the Qori Kalis glacier since 1974. Between 1978 and 2016, it has shriveled 3,740 feet. Thompson described his regular expeditions to the Peruvian glacier "like visiting a terminally ill family member."

Scientists: Cod population in New England drops 80 percent

Associated Press

BOSTON — Massachusetts scientists say they have reached the same conclusions as their federal counterparts in a study about the poor status of cod fish in the Gulf of Maine.

The Boston Globe reports the scientists found the region's cod are at a historic low of about 80 percent less than the population from a decade ago.

Micah Dean oversaw the survey for the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries. He says he hopes fishermen who doubted federal government's science on the issue will find the results credible.

Republican Gov. Charlie Baker commissioned the survey last year after fishermen voiced concerns that the federal government was relying on bad science and exaggerating the cod's distressed status. The state spent more than $500,000 trawling for cod as part of the study.

Remains of a new pyramid discovered in Egypt

Associated Press

CAIRO — A top antiquities official says an Egyptian excavation team has discovered the remains of a new pyramid that dates back to the 13th Dynasty, some 3,700 years ago.

The head of the Ancient Egyptian Antiquities Sector, Mahmoud Afifi, said in a statement Monday that the remains were located north of King Sneferu's bent pyramid in the Dahshur royal necropolis south of Cairo. Due to the bent slope of its sides, the pyramid is believed to have been ancient Egypt's first attempt to build a smooth-sided pyramid. The necropolis was the burial site for courtiers and high-ranking officials.

Adel Okasha, the head of Dahshur necropolis, said that the remains belong to the inner structure of the pyramid, including a corridor. Other remains included blocks showing the interior design of the pyramid.

Japanese fleet returns from Antarctic hunt with 333 whales

Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan's whaling fleet returned home Friday after killing 333 whales in the Antarctic, achieving its goal for the second year under a revised research whaling program.

The Fisheries Agency said the five-ship fleet finished its four-month expedition without major interference from anti-whaling activists who have attempted to stop it in the past.

Japan says the hunt was for ecological research. Research whaling is allowed as an exception to a 1986 international ban on commercial whaling. Opponents of the Japanese program say it's a cover for commercial whaling because the whales are sold for food.

The International Court of Justice ruled in 2014 that Japan's Antarctic whaling program should stop because it wasn't scientific as Tokyo had claimed. Japan conducted non-lethal whaling research in the Antarctic in 2015, and revised its program in 2016 by reducing the catch quota to about one-third of what it used to kill.

Officials said the whalers used parts of the whales to determine their age, nutrition, and reproductive conditions.

Apps help solve the 'what do you want to do?' dating conundrum

Dear PropellerHeads, I'm going on a first date with someone tonight and they just asked me what I had planned for us. Ummm…

A: What do you wanna do tonight? I dunno, what do you want to do? That's roughly 73 percent of dating discussions these days. While your companion might like for their partners to be spontaneous, that's probably something they appreciate after the first date. Whether it's your first time meeting a new friend (and you procrastinated), or you and your spouse decide to head out last minute one night, I think we can help. Just in case you're really late on making plans I'm going to stick to apps you can use on your mobile device.

First, if you're still missing your partner for the evening (lucky them!), then you can read our previous write up on dating apps like Tinder & OKCupid. Chances are someone else in your area is looking for a night out with some good company, too!

Things usually go smoother during the evening if everyone is well-fed. Keep your date from getting hangry with Open Table (opentable.com). While the app is nothing new, it adds to the ratings & pictures you'd find on yelp (yelp.com), but also allow you to make a reservation on the run.

Dinner and a movie is a pretty standard for dates. If you want to play it safe, you can check out the heavy hitter in that group with Fandango (fandango.com) to read reviews, purchase tickets for local theaters, and bypass the lines of fools waiting for their old fashioned printed tickets. If you want to have more options, consider Eventbrite (eventbrite.com). It has information on concerts, festivals, classes, and other events in your area. If you connect it to your Facebook, it will let you know if any of your friends are attending as well.

Ok, you've gotten sustenance and entertainment out of the way? If you did your job well, and you're both consenting adults, you might be need something like Hotel Tonight (hoteltonight.com). The app specializes in finding great last minute deals at hotels, including higher end ones, so you can end your evening in style.

Heading back home instead? If you've been hitting up nice restaurants, concerts, or getting cocktails, it may make sense to let someone else do the driving. Using Uber (uber.com) or Lyft (lyft.com) to get you and your date around mean you don't have to worry about drinking and driving, or waiting in long entry/exit to event parking.

Okay, it's the next morning and you're either really pleased with how well you did getting things together at the last minute or embarrassed about messing up date night. Either way, it never hurts to try and improve your date's impression of you. Consider sending a little something to say, "I really enjoyed our date" / "I'm really sorry". Florist Now is an app that works similarly to ProFlowers and 1-800-Flowers, but it uses local florists to send something special to your special someone. It's available for both iOS (apple.co/2o8Amh3) and Android (bit.ly/2o8BAci).

Alright, we've done all the hard lifting for you, you have to handle the rest. Remember, if things don't go well, we didn't tell you it was ok to ask for a lock of her hair, frak…

When the PropellerHeads at Data Directions aren't busy with their IT projects, they love to answer questions on business or consumer technology. Email them to questions@asktheropellerheads.com or contact us at Data Directions, Inc. 8510 Bell Creek Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23116. Visit our website at www.asktheropreellerheads.com.

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