

MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2018

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HEAT INDEX

Dig around at the Treasure Hunters Expo.

Page 1B



FRESH RED RAIDERS

Jarrett Culver and Zhaire Smith are the highest-scoring freshman duo in Texas Tech history. Tech plays Purdue on Friday night.

Page 1C

Midland-Odessa to return to record-setting growth

Economic index could surpass highs set in era of \$100 oil by summer

By Mella McEwen
mmcewen@mrt.com

Midland and Odessa are on course to repeat or even surpass the white-hot economic growth of 2010-2014 that was

fueled by triple-digit crude oil prices. Most components of the January Midland-Odessa Regional Economic Index are at record levels, and a sharply higher revision in the area's employment data has shortened the time for the index to reach and surpass its previous peak,

said economist Karr Ingham. The January index jumped 18.3 percent compared to January 2017 and, reaching its low point in October 2016, has risen 18.8 percent over the ensuing 15 months. Ingham — who prepares the index for the Midland Development Corp. — said the

index is down 3.8 percent from its record high reached in January 2015 as crude prices were headed to 13-year lows. He said it is likely the index will reach and surpass that record high sometime in the

Please see GROWTH/2A

BATTLING A BLAZE



Photos by James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Firefighters work to put out a blaze Tuesday night at New Wave Energy Services at 4309 S. County Road 1270. Responding to the call — which came in at about 8 p.m. — were 12 Midland Fire Department units, three or four Midland County units, three Odessa Fire Department units and two North East Volunteer Fire Company units, city spokeswoman Elaine Ladd said via email. One person was transported to Midland Memorial Hospital for smoke inhalation. The cause of the fire is likely static electricity from offloading fuel from a vehicle, she said. Midland County Fire Marshal Dale Little is leading the investigation, which is continuing. No charges have been filed in connection with the fire, Ladd said.



Ruling would let consumers buy booze from Walmart and Costco

■ Unlike residents of more than 30 U.S. states and many foreign nations, Texans who want to buy a fifth of vodka or bourbon can't find their favorite spirit on the shelves of their local Walmart or Costco. A landmark ruling issued by a federal court in Austin could soon change that.

By Jay Root
Texas Tribune

A protectionist Texas law that has kept Walmart, Costco and other giant retailers from selling hard liquor was found unconstitutional by a federal judge this week, prompting cheers from free-market advocates — and vows of a quick appeal from one of the parties on the losing side.

The Texas law that was struck down — unique in the United States — forbids publicly traded businesses from owning liquor stores while allowing family-owned companies to grow into giant chains without fear of competition from large national or international corporations.

If the late Tuesday ruling by U.S. District Judge Robert Pitman survives appeals, Texas consumers — like those in at least 31 other states and many foreign countries — will be able to buy vodka, tequila and bourbon from Walmart-owned stores and from other multinational retailer outlets.

"For decades, these laws have stood in stark contrast to Texas values," said Travis Thomas, spokesman for Texas for Consumer Freedom, which advocates for free-market reforms in Texas. "The State of Texas should not pick winners and losers in private industry."

The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, the chief defendant in the litigation, declined comment, citing the ongoing nature of the lawsuit. The Texas Package Stores Association, which has fought to keep the law on the books and intervened as a defendant in the lawsuit, promised to appeal the ruling to the U.S. Fifth Circuit in New Orleans.

The association's executive director, Lance Lively, said the group was disappointed at Pitman's ruling, saying it would "overturn decades of Texas law regulating the sale of liquor in Texas." The Texas Package Stores Association represents state liquor store owners.

"We will appeal the trial court's decision and continue to fight for family-owned liquor store owners against the world's largest corporate entities that seek to inflate their profits by spending sensible state funds that protect both consumers and small businesses," Lively said.

Please see REEB/2A

Please see BOOZE/2A

Texas is finding a new way to call itself a red state

■ Glenn Heger, the state's comptroller of public accounts, is warning lawmakers that Texas' bond ratings are at risk because of a couple of pending expensive problems. That's just the tip of the iceberg.

By Ross Ramsey
Texas Tribune

Texas policymakers have a serious math problem.

In just the first two days of the week, state legislators heard from Texas Comptroller Glenn Heger that pensions and other expensive issues have attracted

■ ANALYSIS

the attention of the nation's bond rating agencies, and a specially assembled committee took in the latest chapter of the state's persistent school finance troubles.

Come January, those pricey problems will confront a Legislature elected by voters who are both price-sensitive and product-sensitive — people who want lower taxes but also better schools and roads and all that other stuff they've asked government to handle.

It's not like Texas is facing hard economic times. But the gains in state economic activity are being gobbled up by the Legislature's chronic tendency to write its fiscal policy for the moment — and

not for the tomorrows and the days after tomorrows that lie ahead.

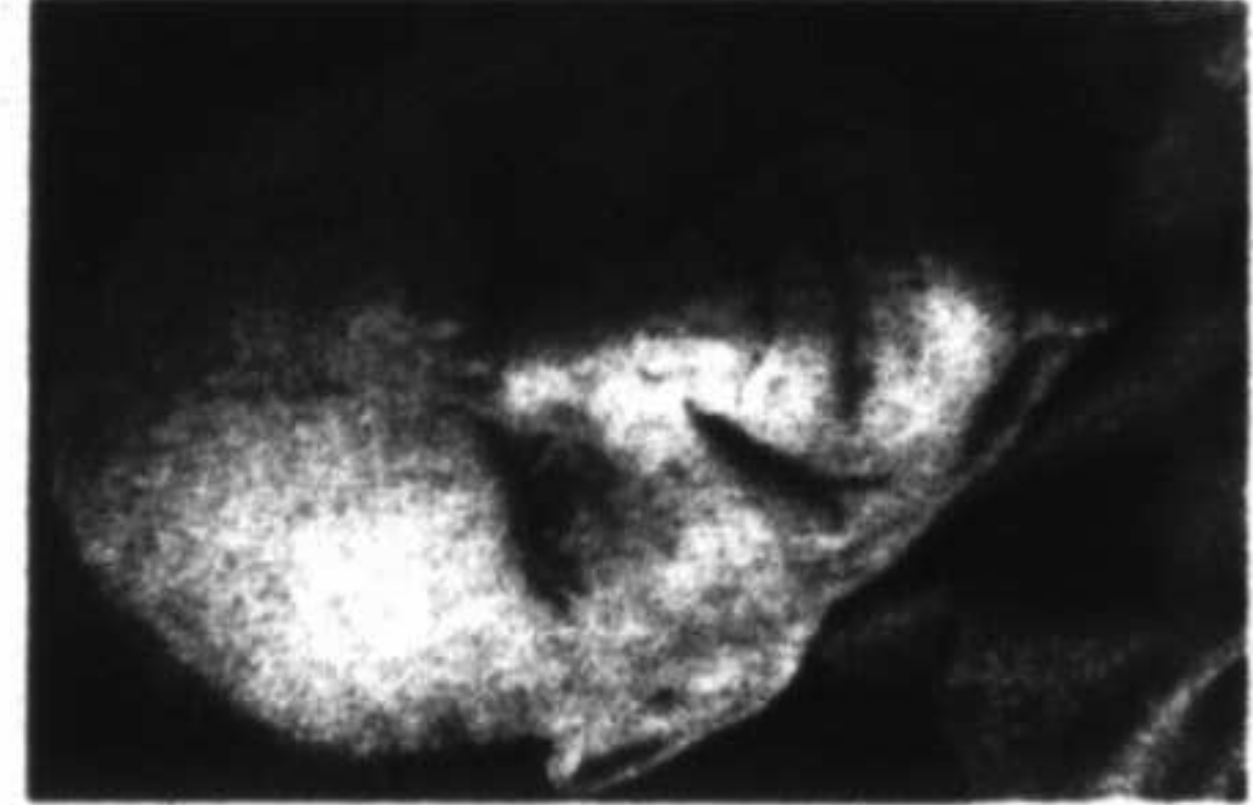
Before Heger brought his crystal ball to the Capitol, the Legislature was already staring at forecasts of tight budgets ahead. The Texas Taxpayers and Research Association showed a so-far undisputed look last year, saying lawmakers would start the next budget almost \$8 billion short of what's needed to continue current programs, services and policies.

Sure, there's more money coming in. But lawmakers already know they'll need another \$2 billion to pay for the Medicaid program in the current budget. A \$3.6 billion sales tax deferral for roads and highways has to be made up. It goes on like



AP file photo
Juan Miraflores opens the back door Sept. 4, 2014, while helping friend Gaston Kirby collect the last of his belongings from his flooded home in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey in Houston. Harvey left a long, long to-do list of repairs and replacements and policy problems ranging from housing to health care to infrastructure to local zoning to energy.

Obituaries



Donald Wesley Troy

Troy
Donald Wesley Troy, born in Hutchinson, Kansas on May 10, 1922 to Albert and Mary Margaret Troy, died peacefully, surrounded by loving family and caretakers on March 18, 2018. Don always claimed to have been blessed with a charming and adventurous life and "an adorable wife." He often said, "I have been lucky my entire life." At the age of 18, Don joined the U.S. Army Air Corps and then went into the U.S. Army Air Force, earning his wings as a fighter pilot. He flew 260 combat missions over Burma in WWII, and later Korea "without a scratch" to pilot or airplane, earning more than a dozen medals and awards, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal and the Bronze Star for heroism in combat.

Don met the love of his life, Mary Elaine Starks, at a USO dance in Houston in 1941. They married in 1945 after he returned from service. He claimed Mary Elaine for inspiring him to attend the University of Houston. He graduated in 1949 with a mechanical engineering degree and worked as an engineer for Texas until his retirement in 1985.

Don and Mary Elaine raised three children: Mike and Steve, born in Houston, and Lisa, born in Fort Worth. The family moved to Midland in 1999. Don worked hard to provide for his family and their future. He earned the love and devotion of his children and their families.

Both Don and Mary Elaine enjoyed their retirement. They were active members of St. Luke's United Methodist Church. They played in the hand bell choir and Don spent many hours as a driver for the church van. He volunteered countless hours at the Midland Food Bank and served as a docent at the Petroleum Museum. They traveled the world enjoying Alaskan cruises, European tours, and trips to Australia and Costa Rica. They loved visiting their children and were always eager to help with the grandchildren. Don was an avid bridge player, last playing with his group the week before his death. He

Red

From 1A

that, ending with a prediction that the Legislature will have a \$7.9 billion bill to climb — all that before you consider Hegar's comments and the costs of Hurricane Harvey and solutions to the current school finance conundrum.

The aptly named Texas Tomorrow Fund is part of the problem, and has been for more than a decade. The original idea was simple enough: Pre-pay college tuition and lock in the cost of tuition and fees at a state college or university when the student in question is ready to go. The prices turned out to be low, especially after the state put a constitutional guarantee behind the fund and then legislators gave their tuition-setting powers to the schools themselves.

It turns out that the schools raise tuition slower than the Legislature itself. Even so, Hegar told the Senate Finance Committee on Tuesday that the difference between the state's Tomorrow Fund obligations and the amount it charged for them is around \$240 million. You can't blame most of the state government's current scowling for the problem; enrollment was shut off in 2003, as rates were deregulated. But you can blame every budget-writer from then to now for not setting aside money to cover the gap, which is measured every year by actuaries. It's not like this was uncharted territory.

The biggest financial drag on Hegar's list of fearsome beauties is the Teacher Retirement System, which is gigantic, covers a huge number of retired people and a lot of people who hope to retire someday on them. It's the TRS obligation that Hegar wanted to tell the senators about, the dent in the state budget that has the attention, he said, of the agencies that rate bonds and, by so doing, determine how much the state has to

Booze

From 1A

Experts said an appeal could take more than a year to play out in the federal court system — longer if it were to wind up in the U.S. Supreme Court. In the meantime, Texas can expect the status quo in liquor retailing.

If publicly traded companies are allowed to sell directly to consumers, existing law would still require the companies to build separate facilities, though they can be adjacent to existing stores. The fight over the arcane Texas liquor laws began three years ago when Walmart sued the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission in federal court in Austin, arguing state liquor laws unfairly gave third-party-owned stores the right to obtain licenses while preventing private companies from doing so.

In a sweeping 20-page opinion, the Supreme Court ruled against the state's position, saying that the 21st Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which gave states the right to regulate alcohol, did not prevent private companies from selling liquor directly to consumers. The ruling was a landmark decision, as it was the first time the Supreme Court had ruled on the issue of alcohol regulation in over 100 years.

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Death Notices

Paul Earl Lucas

Lucas, Jr., passed away on March 18, 2018 in Odessa, Texas. Funeral Services will be at 1:00 pm, Friday, March 23, 2018 at Sunset Memorial Gardens and Funeral Home with Rev. Cheryl Chapman and Rev. Clark Rocco officiating. Arrangements are entrusted to Sunset Memorial Gardens and Funeral Home.

Stephanie Darlene Phillips, 50, died March 19, 2018 in Midland, Texas. She was a graduate of Roswell High School in Roswell, New Mexico. She worked as an administrative assistant for RSP Permian of Midland, Texas. She enjoyed photography, event planning, sewing, participating in her group bible study, as well as spending quality time with family and friends. Sally's greatest love was her husband and two kids, along with their four small precious dogs. They are survived by their son, Joe Castro, III of Waco, Texas; daughter, Stephanie Castro of Midland, Texas; sister, Brenda "Linda" C. Marroquin. He is preceded in death by his parents. Sally is also survived by her siblings, Loraine U. Reyes, Serilda U. "Lily" Aranda, Beanie Morales, Irene U. Davis, Raquel Carrasco, Debra Beck, Raymond Urquidez, Jr., Joe Urquidez, Rudy Ramirez, Oscar Vallin, and Roy Urquidez. She was preceded in death by her parents and her siblings, Juanita Ramirez, Nell Morales and Andy Urquidez.

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

Joe B. Castro, Jr. and Celia "Toby" Castro
Joe B. Castro, Jr., 61, and his wife, Celia "Toby" Castro, 58, of Midland, passed away in Reno, Texas on Sunday, March 11, 2018. Memorial services will be held on Saturday, March 24, 2018, at Ebenezer Church in Midland, Texas at 2:00 pm. Joe was born on July 1, 1956 to Mary Helen Ortega and Joe Castro, Sr. in Van Horn, Texas. He was a graduate of Robert E. Lee High

Booze

From 1A

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Growth

From 1A

lighth called the revisions released earlier this month by the Texas Workforce Commission "nothing short of stunning." The expectation was for sharp upward revisions in both Midland and Odessa monthly employment estimates in 2017, and the results were even more dramatic than many have been anticipated, especially in Midland.

Original estimates put the number at 90,200 employed Midlanders at the end of 2017, a gain of 3.1 percent from December 2016 estimates averaging 88,500 for 2017, up 1.3 percent from a year earlier. The revised estimates put Midland employment at 91,800 — a gain of 7,600 — at the end of 2017, a surge of 16.5 percent over December 2016 estimates. The new monthly average for 2017 was 93,400, a gain of 4,900 jobs and an increase of 7 percent compared to the previous year.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics said Midland with the 4th lowest unemployment rate in the nation, tied with El Paso, Chicago, Dallas, and San Antonio. The original employment estimate at the end of 2017 was 71,200, up 1.6 percent from 2016 levels, with a monthly average of 70,400 — a gain of 6.7 percent

compared to the 2016 monthly average. Under the revised data, Odessa's employment at the end of 2017 was 75,600, a gain of 4,400 jobs — or 7.6 percent — while the monthly average was revised up to 73,200, a gain of 3,100 jobs — or 4.6 percent.

For the combined Midland-Odessa area, year-end 2017 employment of 161,400 was revised to 173,400, a gain of 12,000 jobs or 9 percent — up from the original 2.4 percent. The average monthly employment level rose from the original 158,600 to 166,600, a gain of 8,000, or 5.9 percent, up from the original 1 percent. "Midland's population is burgeoning, and the MDC is excited to engage with the new opportunities and challenges of the growing economy," said Sen. Harris, interim administrator with the MDC, told the Reporter-Telegram by email.

"The MDC recognizes the urgent necessity for expanded capacity in housing, child care, and roads, and is working to address those issues. We look forward to more participation in infrastructure, health care, and education as we establish partnerships to meet Midland's needs. Sustainable economic and population growth can be achieved."

Hegars said the composition of the index compares to a "solid growth" and in some cases with recent high growth was led by consumer spending. Retail sales tax receipts set a January record, surpassing the previous high set in January 2015 and coming in 33.5

percent above January 2017 receipts.

In Midland, sales tax receipts were 27.4 percent higher than January 2017. Automotive spending also set a January record, beating the previous high set in January 2014. January 2018 automotive spending was 48.3 percent higher than January 2017.

Yet another January record was set by building permit valuations, which at \$80.4 million was 149.4 percent above the \$32.2 million of the previous January. In Midland, building permit valuations growth was even sharper, with January's \$50.8 million up 219.9 percent from January 2017's \$15.87 million.

Midland and Odessa issued a combined 150 permits for new homes, only the fifth time in the life of the index that new housing permits have reached that number. The figure was 34.6 higher than the 97 issued the previous January.

In Midland, the 74 permits issued in January was a gain of 34.5 percent from the 55 issued in January 2017. Sales of existing homes rose 249 homes, or 2.9 percent, to 249 homes from 242 in January 2017. The average sales price of \$259,066 was 5.1 percent higher than the January 2017 average of \$246,500, which was 8.6 percent higher than January 2016.

homes sold actually fell by 11, or 6.3 percent, to 164 homes from 175 sold in January 2017. The average price, however, rose 4.7 percent to \$286,115 from \$273,287 in January 2017.

Midland-Odessa's thriving economy continues to attract outside dollars, as represented by the 16.1 percent rise in office buildings over January 2017 and the hefty \$2.7 percent leap in hotel-motel tax collections. In Midland, hotel-motel tax collections were up 74.3 percent compared to the previous year, higher than last month's 68.4 percent bid-motel activity in the fourth quarter of 2017 did not match its previous record set in 2015 "but is rapidly closing that gap."

The Midland-Odessa economy is on pace to complete the recovery from the downturn of 2015-16 and begin a new chapter in real economic growth. Midland is the first half of 2018, perhaps even as early as the second quarter of the year," Hegars said. Strong economic expansion is 2018 as in place with improved credit prices, wage growth, and a rebound in global demand growth and the expansion of the GDP-constrained production. Midland's economic growth through the end of the year, and continued expansion in the second half of 2018. While the outlook for 2018 is solid, Hegars said the only potential hiccup for the economy is a record of high inflation. Hegars said the U.S. economy is on pace to complete the recovery from the downturn of 2015-16 and begin a new chapter in real economic growth.

WORD OF THE DAY
brought to you daily by

vocalize

(vo-cal-ize)

verb
vocalized; vocalizing
transitive verb
1: to give voice to; utter;
specifically: sing
2 a: to make voiced rather
than voiceless: voice
b: to convert to a vowel

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MAIN
SWITCHBOARD
432-682-5311

PUBLISHER
Jeffrey Shabram 687-8880
jshabram@mrt.com

NEWSROOM
EDITOR
Stewart Doreen 687-8856
sdoreen@mrt.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Mary Dearen 687-8852
mdearn@mrt.com

ASSISTANT
MANAGING EDITOR —
BUSINESS & OIL
Trevor Hawes 687-8854
thawes@mrt.com

SPORTS EDITOR
Oscar LeRoy 687-8809
oleroy@mrt.com

OIL EDITOR
Mella McEwen 687-8860
mcewen@mrt.com

PHOTO EDITOR
Tim Fischer 687-8833
tfischer@mrt.com

FEATURES EDITOR
Rich Lopez 687-8839
rlopez@mrt.com

ONLINE EDITOR
Mercedes Cardero 687-8850
mcardero@mrt.com

CIRCULATION
CUSTOMER SERVICE
688-2700

DIRECTOR
Sharon Becker 687-8829
sbecker@mrt.com

ADVERTISING
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
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SALES MANAGER
Chad Anderson 687-8813
canderson@mrt.com

RETAIL ADS
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CLASSIFIED ADS
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MISD survey

Midland ISD has partnered with independent research and communications firm K12 Insight to administer a school quality survey, which is open to all parents, school employees and students in grades four through 12. School district parents and employees will be emailed an invitation and survey link. If the district does not have a valid email address on file, parents can also take the survey at <http://tiny.cc/midlandparents>. Students in grades 4-12 will have an opportunity to take the survey at school. Although they will use their student ID to access the survey, their responses will be confidential. The survey is open through April 6.

Source: MISD

Know a member of the military coming home?

Military families can call 352-0785 or email Vicki Gomez (zmogov@caldoona.net) when they know their member of the military is flying into Midland International Airport so the Permian Basin Welcome Home Committee can be there to greet them.

Honor those who served

There are many organizations in operation right here in the Permian Basin that are at the task of serving all kinds of needs for present and former members of our military. Some of them are:

- Show of Support (887-2167)
- Honor Our Troops (888-0177)
- Real Thanks (528-0633)
- Centers for Children and Families (570-1084)
- Midland College Veterans Affairs Office (885-4511)
- Permian Basin Welcome Home Committee (388-3458)
- Soldiers of Today and Yesterday (831-3429)

Things to do

■ MOSC: Lone Star Brass Clay-O-rama Concert, 11:45 a.m., Clay/O-rama Plaza, 6 Davis Way. Free. MOSC.org.
■ Panto Night, 8 p.m., Panchford Hills Golf Club, 1600 E. Wadley Ave. panchfordhills.com.

TODAY IN MIDLAND
Stampede to fundraise

Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Midland Christian students run and walk around the football field Wednesday to raise money during the annual Mustang Run. See more photos in a future Education section.

■ Shotgun and Silhouette 2018: Luncheon with former first lady Laura Bush hosted by the Junior League of Midland, 11:30 a.m., Midland Country Club, 6101 N. Highway 348. jmidland.org. Business attire required.
■ Plant-based Nutrition and Diabetes by the Library's Medicine Center, 6-7 p.m., Midland Memorial West Campus, 4214 Andrews Highway.

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Lottery

Pick 3 morning: 1-1-2
Pick 3 day: 1-3-2
Pick 3 evening: 4-4-8
Pick 3 night: 2-0-7
Daily 4 morning: 6-3-6-1
Daily 4 day: 1-3-5-7
Daily 4 evening: 3-0-0-2
Daily 4 night: 4-5-1-8
Cash Five: 16-10-22-32-35
Triple Chance: 3-4-24-29-35-38
41-42-51-53

Lotto Texas: 6-0-10-37-38-51
Powerball: 3-4-10-29-01 BR:
25 Power Play: 2
All or Nothing morning: 1-2-3-5-7-9-10-13-17-18-19-22
All or Nothing day: 4-5-8-11-13-14-15-17-20-21-22-23
All or Nothing evening: 3-7-8-10-11-12-14-15-20-21-23-24
All or Nothing night: 2-4-5-7-9-10-12-13-14-15-16-21

Weather

Wednesday's temperatures
High.....82
Low.....42
Normal high.....72
Normal low.....42

March 21's records
Record high: 96 set in 2017
Record low: 25 set in 1989

Precipitation
Tuesday.....0.00 in.
Wednesday.....0.00 in.
Month total.....0.01 in.
Year total.....0.06 in.
Normal total (year to date).....1.66 in.

Winds
Average speed: 10.8 mph
Highest speed: 22 mph
Highest gust speed: 27 mph
Today's forecast
High: 86

Forecast for Thursday, March 22, 2018



Low: 58
Conditions: Mostly sunny during the day/partly cloudy at night
Winds: 15 mph during the day/20 mph (gusts up to 30 mph) at night
Chance of rain: None
Sunrise.....7:50 a.m.
Sunset.....8:02 p.m.

Source: National Weather Service

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

A baby born today has a Sun in Aries and a Moon in Taurus. If born before 12:30 a.m. Afterward, the Moon will be in Gemini.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, March 22, 2018: This year you are full of energy, and experience your life in a new light. You will focus on your communication with friends and loved ones. You even might sign up for a workshop on how to communicate effectively. If you are single, the person you choose to relate to now might not be so appealing in a year. Stay open to others, and try not to commit for a while. If you are attached, the two of you seem to enjoy each other even more. You will see a change in how the two of you relate. **GEMINI** often pops in and out of your life.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★☆☆ You could be more in tune with what is going on than you realize. Return calls, schedule meetings and push forward any matters involving communication. Later in the day, misunderstandings might dominate. Take a step back from the chaos. **Tau**ght: Lie low.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★☆☆ You can be precise.

five. If you find this tendency emerging, try to figure out what triggers it. Going within yourself usually works, as you can root out the cause. In the next few weeks, be careful, as misunderstandings run rampant. **Tau**ght: Do something that makes you smile.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★☆☆ Speak your mind. Your words will help clear up a problem. Your ruling planet, Mercury, goes retrograde today. Expect some misunderstandings. A blast from the past could appear. You might meet someone with whom you have a karmic tie. **Tau**ght: All smiles.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★☆☆ You might feel tense with all the activity around you. Be more direct in how you discuss a problem, but don't hit anyone below the belt. A change within your community or at work could cause some stress. Try not to introduce any tension. **Tau**ght: Make sure you go to the gym.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★☆☆ You are flying high. Matters involving long-term goals will be tossed into the limelight. You might want to reflect on what you have taken for granted. You have changed, so your desires could have changed as well. Make an adjustment, if need be. **Tau**ght: Out with friends.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★☆☆ You are in the limelight.

light, and others appreciate your efforts. However, finding a point of agreement could be challenging. You might find the process long and tedious. Push this matter aside for a while, as your ruling planet, Mercury, goes backward. **Tau**ght: Let go of problems.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★☆☆ The more reflective you are, the more likely you will be to find out why others are being sensitive. Say little, and listen a lot. Check out all the information that is being shared before taking action; otherwise, a problem could occur. **Tau**ght: A change of plans is a good thing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★☆☆ Keep your day and plans intact. Don't be surprised if you need to make a last-minute adjustment. Be so clear with a loved one as possible, especially when discussing your relationship. Avoid a misun-

derstanding. **Tau**ght: Respond with sensitivity to a request.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★☆☆ You are full of energy, but try not to direct it toward a grumpy associate or roommate. You inadvertently might set off a quarrel, which won't be easy to resolve. Be sweet and distance yourself. You'll discover how creative you can be around a loved one. **Tau**ght: Do your thing, but be sensitive to a partner.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★☆☆ You might not have the answers you seek, but you do have information. Take time to make some calls for yourself, even if just to schedule a routine checkup. You might be concerned about a health-related issue; know that you will handle it. **Tau**ght: Happiest at home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★☆☆ You hear good news that you might want to share. Know that you are heading in the right direction. Both attached and single Aquarians could find relating to loved ones stressful in the next few weeks. Don't worry, this is just a phase. **Tau**ght: Allow your inner child to emerge.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★☆☆ Your sense of direction will help push a project forward. Listen carefully to what those you are working with have to say. Remain open to the possibility of change. Refuse to stand on ceremony if you experience a misunderstanding. **Tau**ght: Cozy up at home with a good book.

BORN TODAY
Actress Renee Witherspoon (1976), author James Patterson (1947), football player J.J. Watt (1989)

SMILES & TEETH

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110 West Texas Ave. Midland, TX 79701 432-682-9729
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Man dies in 2-vehicle wreck on I-20 service road

From staff reports

A 31-year-old Opelousas, Louisiana, man died Tuesday morning in a two-vehicle wreck in the 2500 block of West Interstate 20 north service road, according to a press release from the Midland Police Department spokeswoman.

Dustin Enos was eastbound in a Mercury Grand Marquis and was approaching a yield sign. A Peterbilt tractor-trailer was westbound in the same block and was attempting to enter the main lanes of the interstate. Enos failed to yield right of way and collided with the tractor-trailer, according to the

release.

Enos died at the scene of the wreck that occurred about 6 a.m. He was wearing a seat belt.

The tractor-trailer driver was not transported for injuries, according to the release.

Enos is the fourth person to die on roads in Midland County this year and the second this month, according to Reporter-Telegram records.

The most recent wreck occurred March 11, when a 21-year-old Midland man died in a two-vehicle wreck on State Highway 349 and County Road 140, according to a previous Reporter-Telegram article.

Odessa council forced to change

City of Odessa commits to closed-door meetings reform

By Corey Paul
Odessa American

The Odessa City Council will start keeping audio recordings of all closed-door meetings instead of written summaries, making it easier for the public to hold the officials to account if future violations of the Texas Open Meetings Act seem apparent.

The agreement stems from a settlement between the city of Odessa and the Odessa American in a lawsuit filed by the newspaper in June 2017. The suit alleged that the City Council violated the state open meetings law weeks earlier, when a majority voted to oust the head of the board overseeing economic development tax money following a closed-door discussion.

"We thought it was important not just from a media standpoint but from an open government standpoint to take them to task for not following laws that were created to keep elected officials from going into closed sessions to do whatever they want out of the public view," OA Editor Laura Dennis said. "For too long this council had skirted the open meetings act and it was time to take action. We won't stand for backroom deal making when the public has a right to know."

As part of the settlement, finalized Monday, the City Council "denies it violated the Act, or if it did, the violation was only technical and resulted in no harm" to the OA or the general public.

Now, the city will be required to keep the audio recordings for at least two years, allowing a judge to examine the records if future lawsuits allege violations of the open meetings act. Keeping audio recordings of closed sessions goes beyond what the law currently requires.

"It sounds like even though they might not be admitting any wrongdoing, they realize they could do a lot better," said Kelley Shannon, executive director of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas, adding that a recording provides "indisputable evidence of what was discussed, if it comes up. Hopefully this entire episode helps those public officials better understand the Texas Open Meetings Act, which they must follow. It's the law."

After the May 9 vote, the elected officials who were in the room refused to provide an explanation for the decision to remove the volunteer appointee, Jimmy Breaux, from the Odessa Development Corp., despite his public requests. The City Council's closed door session lasted about 56 minutes.

At the time, the meeting continued a pattern of se-

crecy by the City Council, which spent almost half the time during their regular meetings behind closed doors as they had facing the public by that point in 2017.

"It's supposed to be exception that you are going into closed session, not the normal way of doing business," Shannon said.

In response to the public blowback from the May 9 meeting, the City Council began meeting less often behind closed doors.

In addition to the audio recordings, the settlement calls for the city to comply with requirements of the Texas Open Meetings Act and pay part of the OA's legal fees, \$12,500.

"By settling this it is less costly to taxpayers than if we had forced it to go to trial — where the city would have lost," Dennis said. "It was a clear violation and showed disregard for open government."

The OA alleged that at a minimum, the City Council had failed to announce the justification for the closed meeting as the law required before they went behind closed doors.

But the OA also argued that the City Council failed to provide the proper notice of the meeting by appearing to hide the true purpose of the closed session — discussing Breaux's removal. The public notice before the meeting called for the City Council to "consider the removal of current ODC board members prior to the expiration of their terms."

District 3 Councilwoman Barbara Graff and District 5 Councilman Filiberto Gonzalez had placed that item on the meeting agenda, purportedly to discuss removal of each of the five ODC members, even their own appointees.

Before the OA's lawsuit, the newspaper and television station KOSA filed a criminal complaint with County Attorney Dusty Gallivan alleging violations of open meetings law by the City Council.

"The meeting that was held, discussing the removal of Jim Breaux as the head of the Odessa Development Corp., violated the Open Meetings Act," Gallivan wrote in a May 25 letter to City Council members and former City Attorney Larry Long.

But Gallivan said the violations he found did not appear to rise to the level of a criminal offense, citing his own research and a review by a Texas Ranger. Before the OA sued, the May 9 meeting had already drawn rebukes from state open meetings experts.

"We hope other elected officials will take note that the public is watching," Dennis said. "Follow the rules and do what the law allows and don't try to keep public business out of the public's eye."

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

With police near, suspected Austin bomber blows himself up

By Jim Vertuno
and Will Weissert
Associated Press

PFLUGERVILLE — As a SWAT team closed in, the suspected bomber whose deadly explosives terrorized Austin for three weeks used one of his own devices to blow himself up. But police warned that he could have planted more bombs before his death, and they cautioned the city to stay on guard.

Mark Anthony Conditt, an unemployed college dropout who bought bomb-making materials at Home Depot, was tracked down using store surveillance video, cellphone signals and witness accounts of a customer shipping packages in a disguise that included a blonde wig and gloves. His motive remained a mystery.

Police finally found the 23-year-old early Wednesday at a hotel in a suburb north of Austin known as the scene for filming portions of "Friday Night Lights." Officers prepared to move in for an arrest. When the suspect's sport utility vehicle began to drive away, they followed.

Conditt ran into a ditch on the side of the road, and SWAT officers approached. That's when he detonated a bomb inside the vehicle, Austin Police Chief Brian Manley said.

Police discovered a 25-minute video recording on a cellphone found with Conditt, which Manley said he considers a "confession" to the bombings. It described in great detail the differences among the bombs, he said.

"It is the outcry of a very challenged young man talking about challenges in his own life," Manley said of the recording.

Law enforcement officials did not immediately say whether Conditt acted alone in the five bombings in the Texas capital and suburban San Antonio that killed two people and badly wounded four others.

Investigators released few details about Conditt, except his age and that he was white. Neighbors say he was home schooled. He later attended Austin Community College from 2010 to 2012, according to a college spokeswoman, but he did not graduate.

In posts dated from 2012, a blogger who identified himself as Mark Conditt of suburban Pflugerville wrote that gay marriage should be illegal. He also called for the elimination of sex

offender registrations and argued in favor of the death penalty. He listed his interests as cycling, tennis and listening to music.

Of gay marriage, Conditt wrote: "Homosexuality is not natural. Just look at the male and female bodies. They are obviously designed to couple."

Jay Schulze, who lives in Pflugerville, said he was jogging Tuesday night when he was stopped by police and asked about the bombings. He said police flew drones over Conditt's home for about six hours between Tuesday evening and early Wednesday morning.

Schulze described the home as "a weird house with a lot of people coming and going" and a bit rundown.

A neighbor who watched Conditt grow up said he always seemed smart and polite. Jeff Reeb said he has lived next to Conditt's parents for about 17 years and described them as good neighbors. Conditt had visited his parents regularly, he said.

Conditt's family released a statement saying they had "no idea of the darkness that Mark must have been in." His uncle, Mike Courtney, said his nephew was a "computer geek" who was intelligent and kind.

Austin was hit with four bombings starting on March 2. The first explosions were from packages left on doorsteps. Then a bomb with a tripwire was placed near a public trail. A fifth parcel bomb detonated early Tuesday at a FedEx distribution center near San Antonio.

Rep. Michael McCaul, a Republican from Austin, said Conditt's "fatal mistake" was walking into a FedEx store to mail a package because that allowed authorities to obtain surveillance video that showed him and his vehicle, along with his license plate number. From there, investigators could identify the suspect and eventually track him using his cellphone.

Police warned of the possibility that more bombs had yet to be found.

"We don't know where this suspect has spent his last 24 hours, and therefore we still need to remain vigilant to ensure that no other packages or devices have been left to the community," Manley said.

By late afternoon, federal officials



Conditt

had a "reasonable level of certainty" that there were no more package bombs "out in the public," said Fred Milanowski of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. But authorities urged continued awareness just in case.

"We think we're on top of this, but we just don't know," FBI agent Chris Combs said.

Homemade explosives were recovered from Conditt's home. His two roommates were detained for questioning. One was later released.

Investigators said one room in the home contained bomb components and explosive materials but no finished bombs.

They were analyzing Conditt's internet history to find out how he learned to make bombs.

Police initially believed the bombings may have been hate crimes because the victims of the earliest blasts were black, but they backed off that theory after Hispanic and white victims from different parts of the city were also affected.

Milanowski, the agent in charge of the Houston division of the ATF, said it was "hard to say" if the bombing suspect had acted alone. Investigators were confident that "the same person built each one of these devices."

Isaac Figueroa said he and his brother heard sirens and helicopters around 2 a.m. Wednesday in the area and drove toward them, then cut through nearby woods on foot after they hit a police roadblock.

The 26-year-old said they saw a sport utility vehicle that was pinned between large vans and "looked like it had been rammed off the road." He said police later deployed a robot to go examine the vehicle.

The suspect's death followed a day of rapid-fire developments in the case. On Tuesday, the bomb at the FedEx shipping center in suburban San Antonio exploded on a conveyor belt.

Later, police sent a bomb squad to a FedEx facility outside the Austin airport to check on a suspicious package. Authorities subsequently said that package contained an explosive that was tied to the other bombings.

Officers then recovered footage of Conditt wearing a blonde wig and gloves as he turned over packages to send at a FedEx store in south Austin. That was enough to set in motion the manhunt that ended with Wednesday's fatal explosion.



Eric Gay/Associated Press

Officials remove car of the suspect in a series of bombing attacks in Austin from the scene where he blew himself up as authorities closed in Wednesday in Round Rock.

Austin bombings put chill in city known for keeping it light

By Will Weissert
and Jim Vertuno
Associated Press

AUSTIN — Suddenly, the "Keep Austin Weird" slogan doesn't feel so fun anymore.

The beloved local motto — repeated with equal pride by college students, self-proclaimed slackers, 20-something tech hotshots and high-priced lobbyists — isn't supposed to apply to something as sinister as the string of deadly recent bombings.

The blasts have sent a deep chill through a hipster city known for warm

weather, live music, barbecue and, above all, not taking itself too seriously.

Could all that make Austin, whose population and economy are booming, whose politics are liberal and whose diversity is rich more likely to be targeted? No one really knows.

Police in the Texas capital are still seeking a motive for the five bombings that have killed two people and badly wounded four others since March 2. The blasts have struck multiple locations, making detecting a pattern difficult.

The first three explosives were hidden in packages left

on doorsteps, while a bomb that went off on Sunday used a more sophisticated tripwire. Another parcel detonated Tuesday at a FedEx processing facility in Schertz, about 60 miles from Austin, near San Antonio.

Investigators say the blasts could be acts of domestic terrorism or possibly hate crimes since the victims of the first attacks were all black and Hispanic, though the two men hurt in Sunday's explosion were white.

The package shipped via FedEx came from Austin and was heading back to an

Austin address, but authorities have not divulged details about where it was going.

"For us, it's personal. This is our home," Police Chief Brian Manley said Tuesday. He noted that many crime statistics still rank Austin among the nation's safest cities.

"We're facing a big challenge, and we will get through this," Manley said. "We don't want to lose, in the middle of all this, that we're still a safe city."

The population has grown from less than 800,000 in 2010 to nearly 930,000 two years ago, according to census figures and city estimates. Factor in suburbs that have sprawled past Austin's northern and southern limits and the growth is even faster. The expansion has been fueled by an increasingly large Hispanic community, which has helped make Austin more diverse.

Body of slain woman, 24, discovered in trash bin

Associated Press

SAN ANGELO — Investigators say the body of a woman has been discovered in a West Texas trash bin in a death being investigated as a homicide.

The Tom Green County Sheriff's Office on Wednesday identified the victim as 24-year-old Camille Garcia. Officials say a citizen on Tuesday afternoon found the body in a dumpster in north San Angelo. Authorities didn't immediately

announce a cause of death or any arrests.

The sheriff's office described the victim as a "young mother."

Sheriff's investigators didn't immediately return a message Wednesday to provide additional details.

OPINION

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Thursday, March 22, 2018 | Page 6A

Republicans may regret their silence on Trump

■ The GOP has created a kind of collective-action problem for itself

I don't usually dispense relationship advice in this column. But the adage about marriage is often true of politics: What is not said is more destructive than what is said.

For example, over the last 18 months the president has said and done a number of things that warranted dissent from Republicans — not just from party leaders, but from rank-and-file legislators, pundits and other commentators. But the dogs did not bark, opting to stay silent.

We need not take up too much space quibbling over specifics. All one need do is play the "What if Obama said this?" game to see that the moral arc of the GOP has bent toward President Trump.

Then, a few weeks ago, the president proposed sweeping steel and aluminum tariffs and heaped praise on the benefits of trade wars. Suddenly, Congress and much of the conservative commentariat rose up in protest.

Trump's top economic advisor, Gary Cohn, who reportedly almost resigned last summer over the president's morally equivocating response to a neo-Nazi rally, apparently found tariffs a nobler hill to die on.

JONAH GOLDBERG

Tribune News Service



As a free-trader, I welcome this response. But just imagine you're a run-of-the-mill Democratic congressional candidate looking to unseat a Republican who never spoke up about Trump's "s*** countries" remark, the unfolding drama over Stormy Daniels, Trump's endorsement of Roy Moore, his attacks on the First Amendment or his flirtation with cutting off aid to hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico because of a spat with the mayor of San Juan.

How easy it would be to say: "My opponent never objected to these things, but when Trump tried to save manufacturing jobs, he leapt to his feet to protest at the bidding of the same fat-cat free-traders and globalist big businesses that outsourced so many of your jobs. My opponent is OK with the president endorsing and campaigning for an accused child molester, but he will fight to the death to

keep cheap Chinese steel from pouring into this country."

Yes, it's a dumb economic argument — steel tariffs would cost more American manufacturing jobs than they'd save — but it's a great political one.

This is just one illustration of the Republican dilemma. The president divides the right while he unifies the left. Praise Trump on his controversial statements and you risk alienating suburban Republicans, particularly women. Criticize Trump and you risk not only his wrath, but also the wrath of the portion of his base that demands rhetorical fealty to Trump in all things. Because this constituency has disproportionate influence in conservative media and GOP primaries, the safest course of action is often silence, or some clever dodge like, "I don't respond to tweets."

The GOP has created a kind of collective-action problem for itself. By making these individual decisions out of self-interest in the moment, the party as a whole ends up getting pulled in a direction not of its own choosing.

Voters don't judge parties on their lists of principles, but on their real-world priorities. Not objecting to something sends as clear a signal as objecting does. It's fun to listen to Republicans vent off the record, but most Americans don't get to

hear any of that. They do hear the silence, however.

And so does Trump. Over the weekend, the president floated a fairly obvious trial balloon, tweeting, "The Mueller probe should never have been started," and calling it, in all caps, a "WITCH HUNT!"

It's not shocking that the president would want to fire special counsel Robert Mueller, but he has never attacked him directly before. The usual suspects cheered on Trump, while most of the party was silent.

One of the few exceptions was Sen. Lindsey Graham, who said firing Mueller would be the "beginning of the end of his presidency." House Speaker Paul Ryan offered a lackluster response through a spokesperson: "Mr. Mueller and his team should be able to do their job." Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said ... nothing.

Off the record, Republicans often say they're afraid Trump responds to being told not to do something by doing it out of spite. That's a real concern. But it's not an excuse.

If Trump does fire Mueller and a constitutional crisis ensues, the previously silent, suddenly angry Republicans will be asked why they're speaking up now. That is, if they speak up at all.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

OUR VIEW

Tonight's pro-fossil fuel speaker at Wagner Noel should be a must-see

We are fortunate that many speakers come to Midland to offer their thoughts on the issues of the day. Between our nonprofits and educational institutions, qualified men and women address residents and offer food for thought. We hope our readers have taken, and continue to take, advantage of these opportunities.

The Permian Basin Petroleum Association and Start the Conversation are bringing in a speaker today who is a must-see for everyone in the community. Alex Epstein is the founder of the Center for Industrial Progress, which describes itself as a positive, pro-human alternative to the green movement. Epstein, according to the think tank's website, is known for his willingness to debate anyone over the morality of fossil fuel use.

Of course, we believe Epstein will be preaching to the choir during most of today's free event, which is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. at the Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. That's not the point of this view. We hope our readers will attend this event to hear how Epstein defends the oil and gas industry.

Those in the industry and those who live in our community are the first line of defense for oil and gas activities. When uninformed people around the state and country speak about industry issues, we have an obligation to correct the record. We believe those attending the event tonight will be better prepared to do that after hearing Epstein speak. We also believe Epstein will provide data that will serve as another reminder that the oil and gas industry in the Permian Basin is set for long-term prosperity.

This leads us to another goal of the event: to bring Midland and Odessa together. Start the Conversation is an initiative that seeks to transform above-the-ground activities in both communities. One of its goals is to make sure a long-term vision is established that helps improve public education, health care and local government in both communities. It is a worthy goal.

We encourage our readers to spend a night with a person who will show us the blueprint for making the case for fossil fuels and "their unique ability to provide cheap, reliable energy for the world." And then we hope our readers go to starttheconversationpb.com to see the next steps in bringing the two communities together. If this initiative has any hope in succeeding where other efforts haven't, it requires participation.

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Politicians often question patriotism

■ Liberals don't hate America, progressives aren't 'stupid and evil,' and conservatives aren't racists

MARC THIESSEN

Washington Post Writers Group



I'm a rock-ribbed conservative who wants Republicans to keep control of Congress. But I'm not unhappy that Republican state Rep. Rick Saccone appears to have lost the special election in Pennsylvania's 18th Congressional District.

Why? Because he insulted my mother. Trailing his Democratic opponent in a district Donald Trump won by 20 points, but which still has more registered Democrats than Republicans, Saccone hit on a genius idea to turn out the vote: At a campaign rally just before voters went to the polls, he declared that liberals hate America and hate God. "I've talked to so many of these on the left," he said. "...??. And I tell you, many of them have a hatred for our country. ...??. I'll tell you some more — my wife and I saw it again today: They have a hatred for God."

My mother is a liberal Democrat, and I can tell you: She does not hate America or God. Quite the opposite: she is one of the most patriotic people I know. She grew up in Nazi-occupied Poland, fought with the Polish underground, was taken to Germany as a prisoner of war, was liberated by Patton's Army and moved to London. Eventually, she became a doctor and made her way to the United States and became a citizen.

There is no one prouder to be an American. When Poland held its first free elections in 1989, Polish Americans living in the United States were invited to vote. Many did so, but my mom refused. She loved the land of her birth, but she was an American citizen now and would not vote in a foreign election. When someone hears her thick Polish accent for the first time they often ask, "Where are you from?" She answers proudly: "New York City."

She's also a proud Democrat, who voted for Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. We disagree about politics, but we both love America and want to make this country great. We just have different ideas about the best ways to do it.

So when Saccone says liberals hate America, he's talking about my mother. I take it personally. And you should, too.

Whether you are liberal, conservative or in between, I'll bet that you have a loved one who disagrees with you about politics. It might be a sibling or a parent or a beloved cousin, aunt or uncle — or even your kids. We should not stand for politicians from either party who insult them or

question their motives or their patriotism.

Too often, politicians on both the left and right do just that. We saw this recently when, during an event in India, Clinton insultingly claimed that Trump won the parts of the country that weren't "moving forward." She said those voters liked what she characterized as Trump's message that "you know you didn't like black people getting rights. You don't like women, you know, getting jobs. You don't want, you know, to see that Indian American succeeding more than you are." If you have a loved one who didn't vote for Clinton in 2016, you should be offended. I doubt the people you love are against civil rights, or women working, or people of color succeeding. They just thought Clinton was a terrible choice for president — an impression she confirmed with those comments.

We see it in the gun control debate that followed the Parkland, Florida, school shooting. Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) said that if you're not in favor of immediate action on guns, "you're an accomplice" to the Parkland killer. Seriously? Do you have a loved one who disagrees with you about gun control? Are they accomplices to mass murder? No, they just disagree that gun control is the solution.

The problem exists on both sides of the aisle, and it's not just politicians. American Enterprise Institute President Arthur Brooks recalls how a few years ago he was giving a speech at a large conservative event. "I said that while my own views are center-right, I have no reason to believe progressives are stupid or evil," he recalls. "An audience member countered, 'You're wrong: They are stupid and evil.'" Brooks is from Seattle, which means almost every member of his family is progressive.

Progressives are not stupid and evil. Conservatives are not racists and misogynists. Our fellow Americans who disagree with us are not our enemies. They are our fellow Americans who differ with us. And we should not put up with politicians, on the left or right, who can't seem to understand this.

From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



A Facebook employee walks past a sign at Facebook headquarters March 15, 2013, in Menlo Park, Calif. The San Jose Mercury News reported Saturday that building permits compiled by Buildzoom show Facebook plans to erect the 465,000 square-foot building at its campus in Menlo Park, Calif.



AP file photo

Crisis experts say Facebook has mishandled the data scandal

By Mae Anderson
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The crisis-management playbook is pretty simple: Get ahead of the story, update authorities and the public regularly, accept responsibility and take decisive action. Crisis-management experts say that until Wednesday, Facebook was 0-for-4.

Facebook's two top executives, CEO Mark Zuckerberg and chief operating officer Sheryl Sandberg, went radio silent after news broke last Friday that political consulting firm Cambridge Analytica may have used data improperly obtained from roughly 50 million Facebook users to try to sway elections, including the 2016 White House race.

It was not until five days after the scandal erupted that Zuckerberg spoke up.

Meanwhile, some Facebook users have been leaving the social network or mulling the possibility, and Facebook's stock is down 9 percent since Friday.

Facebook's handling of the growing public-relations crisis is remarkable in that one of the world's biggest companies seems not to be playing by well-established crisis-management rules.

"This will go down as the textbook case study as how not to handle a crisis," said Scott Galloway, a New York University professor of marketing. "The only thing we know about

this and are comfortable predicting is that it's going to get worse."

In his statement Wednesday — posted, of course, on Facebook — Zuckerberg acknowledged that mistakes were made, outlined changes the company has undertaken, and accepted responsibility for the problem.

Experts said acknowledging accountability was a positive but the fact that Zuckerberg didn't outright apologize is a negative.

"My biggest skepticism is that we've seen this play before," said Helio Fred Garcia, a professor of crisis management at NYU and Columbia University in New York. "They're caught coming short of customers' privacy expectations. They tweak procedures. But they don't seem to learn from mistakes, don't really seem to care."

Most Fortune 500 companies adhere to well-established crisis-management rules. When video surfaced of a passenger being dragged from an overbooked United Airlines flight last April, for example, CEO Oscar Munoz at first hedged but then apologized. When Pepsi ran an ad last spring featuring Kendall Jenner that appeared to trivialize the "Black Lives Matter" movement, the company pulled the ad, saying, "Clearly we missed the mark, and we apologize."

The point is to at least make an effort to seem remorseful to win back public trust, experts say. But despite user outcry on

its own Facebook page and a call from Congress for Zuckerberg to testify about Facebook's role in election-meddling, Facebook seems to be charting its own course.

"At this point, 'Why did you wait so long to make a statement?' is now news in itself," Paul Argenti, a business professor at Dartmouth, said before Zuckerberg spoke up.

It's a pattern Facebook has long followed, according to Garcia. Facebook hedged during its early days in 2007 over a controversial advertising program called Beacon that did not alert users it was sharing their activity, and it did so again in its response to Russian bots hijacking Facebook ad software during the Trump campaign in 2016.

"Facebook has been too late. Facebook has done too little and has been too legalistic" each time, Garcia said. "I have yet to find a crisis Facebook handled that I could stand in front of crisis management classes and say, 'Here's an example of how to handle a crisis.' They've never been able to handle a crisis."

Now that Zuckerberg has addressed the public, the PR flap may eventually be forgotten. But it will take a lot longer than if the company had addressed public concerns immediately, Garcia said.

"It's much harder to restore trust once it has been lost than to preserve trust before it has been lost," he said.

YouTube bans firearm sales and how-to videos, prompting backlash

By Polly Mesendz
and Mark Bergen
Bloomberg

YouTube, a popular media site for firearms enthusiasts, this week quietly introduced tighter restrictions on videos involving weapons, becoming the latest battleground in the U.S. gun-control debate.

YouTube will ban videos that promote or link to websites selling firearms and accessories, including bump stocks, which allow a semi-automatic rifle to fire faster. Additionally, YouTube said it will prohibit videos with instructions on how to assemble firearms. The video site, owned by Alphabet's Google, has faced intense criticism for hosting videos about guns, bombs and other deadly weapons.

For many gun-rights supporters, YouTube has been a haven. A current search on the site for "how to build a gun" yields 25 million results, though that includes items such as toys. At least one producer of gun videos saw its page suspended on Tuesday. Another channel opted to move its videos to an adult-content site, saying that will offer more freedom than YouTube.

"We routinely make updates and adjustments to our enforcement guidelines across all of our policies," a YouTube spokeswoman said in a statement. "While we've long prohibited the sale of firearms, we recently notified creators of updates we will be making around content promoting the sale or manufacture of firearms and their accessories."

YouTube has placed greater restrictions on content several times in the past year, responding to a series of issues with inappropriate and offensive videos. Most of those changes involved pulling ads from categories of videos. Google is more

reluctant to remove entire videos from YouTube but has been willing to do so with terrorism-related content.

The firearms decision comes days before Saturday's March For Our Lives, a rally organized by survivors of the Feb. 14 school shooting in Parkland, Florida, that left 17 dead.

The new YouTube policies will be enforced starting in April, but at least two video bloggers have already been affected. Spike's Tactical, a firearms company, said in a post on Facebook that it was suspended from YouTube due to "repeated or severe violations" of the video platform's guidelines.

"Well, since we've melted some snowflakes on YouTube and got banned, might as well set IG and FB on fire!" Spike's wrote on Facebook, where it has over 111,000 followers, referring to the social network and its Instagram app.

InRange TV, another channel devoted to firearms, wrote on its Facebook page that it would begin uploading videos to Pornhub, an adult content website.

"YouTube's newly released released vague and one-sided firearms policy makes it abundantly clear that YouTube cannot be counted upon to be a safe harbor for a wide variety of views and subject matter," InRange TV wrote. "Pornhub has a history of being a proactive voice in the online community, as well as operating a resilient and robust video streaming platform." Pornhub didn't immediately return a request for comment on the matter.

Last month, gun-control activists escalated the pressure on tech giants for giving a platform to the National Rifle Association. A flurry of businesses cut ties with the pro-gun group after the deadly Parkland school shooting. Companies with streaming services, such as Amazon.com, Apple and YouTube, declined to remove the NRA channel.

Facebook's Zuckerberg admits mistakes — but no apology

By Barbara Ortutay, Danica Kirka and Gregory Katz
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Breaking five days of silence, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg admitted mistakes and outlined steps to protect user data in light of a privacy scandal involving a Trump-connected data-mining firm.

Zuckerberg said Wednesday that Facebook has a "responsibility" to protect its users' data and if it fails, "we don't deserve to serve you."

But Zuckerberg stopped short of apologizing.

And he wrote "what happened" instead of "what we did," leaving Facebook one step removed from responsibility.

Richard Levick, chairman of the crisis-management firm Levick, gave Zuckerberg's response a "B-" grade, in part because of how late it came.

Zuckerberg and Facebook's No. 2 executive, Sheryl Sandberg, had been quiet since news broke Friday that Cambridge Analytica may have used data improperly obtained from roughly 50 million Facebook users to try to sway elections. Cambridge's clients included Donald Trump's general-election campaign.

Facebook shares have dropped some 8 percent, lopping about \$46 billion off the company's market value, since the revelations were first published.

Even before the scandal broke, Facebook has already taken the most important steps to prevent a recurrence, Zuckerberg said. For example, in 2014, it reduced access outside

apps had to user data. However, some of the measures didn't take effect until a year later, allowing Cambridge to access the data in the intervening months.

Zuckerberg acknowledged that there is more to do.

In a Facebook post on Wednesday, Zuckerberg said it will ban developers who don't agree to an audit. An app's developer will no longer have access to data from people who haven't used that app in three months. Data will also be generally limited to user names, profile photos and email, unless the developer signs a contract with Facebook and gets user approval.

In a separate post, Facebook said it will inform people whose data was misused by apps. Facebook first learned of this breach of privacy more than two years ago, but hadn't mentioned it publicly until Friday.

The company said it was "building a way" for people to know if their data was accessed by "This Is Your Digital Life," the psychological-profiling quiz app that researcher Aleksandr Kogan created and paid about 270,000 people to take part in. Cambridge Analytica later obtained information from the app for about 50 million Facebook users, as the app also vacuumed up data on people's friends — including those who never downloaded the app or gave explicit consent.

Chris Wylie, a Cambridge co-founder who left in 2014, has said one of the firm's goals was to influence people's perceptions by injecting content, some misleading or false, all around them. It's not clear whether Facebook would be able to tell users whether they had seen such content.

Federal Reserve hikes interest rate to highest level in a decade

Heather Long
The Washington Post

The Federal Reserve on Wednesday lifted its key interest rate from 1.5 percent to 1.75 percent, the highest level since 2008.

The move, the central bank's first major decision under new Chairman Jerome Powell, was widely expected as the U.S. economy continues to strengthen and stock markets remain near record highs. The Fed also significantly boosted its forecast for U.S. growth this year and next. The U.S. economy is on track to expand 2.7 percent this year and 2.4 percent in 2019, Fed officials now say, a jump from their previous projection done before the Republican tax cuts were finalized.

"The economic outlook has strengthened in recent months," the Fed said in its statement Wednesday.

The Fed anticipates hiking rates three more times in 2018, part of an ongoing move away from the extraordinary measures it took to stimulate the economy during and after the Great Recession. But the central bank opened the door to potentially doing four hikes. The higher rates are likely to be welcomed by savers but not by borrowers, who will face more expensive loan terms.

Americans should expect even faster growth and lower unemployment ahead, Fed officials said. Unemployment is now expected to fall

to 3.8 percent this year and 3.6 percent in 2019, which would be the lowest level since 1969.

Markets rose after the Fed announcement, but had flattened by Wednesday's close, with the Standard & Poor's 500 up 0.1 percent and the Dow Jones industrial average down 0.18 percent.

"Fiscal policy has become more stimulative. Ongoing job gains are boosting incomes and confidence, [and] foreign growth is on a firm trajectory," Powell said in his first news conference, which was significantly shorter than those of his predecessor Janet Yellen.

There's growing concern among economists that the GOP tax cuts and the additional boost in federal government spending could cause the U.S. economy to overheat, requiring the Fed to hike rates even more than three times this year. Of the 15 Fed board members, six anticipate the Fed will hike four times this year and one believes five hikes will be necessary. It's not quite enough to tip the official forecast to four rate increases, but it's getting close. The vote to increase the rate Wednesday was a unanimous 8-0.

"I think they will end up tightening four times this year, but they don't have to signal that yet," said Jim O'Sullivan, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics.

The Fed hasn't hiked rates four times in a year since 2006.

Powell, a Republican with a reputation for bipartisan work in Washington, was careful not to criticize President Donald Trump or congressional leaders, but he did say the tax cuts are unlikely to lead to the 3 percent growth the White House is touting. He also noted that there's growing concerns about a trade war hurting the U.S. economy.

"A number of participants of the FOMC (the Fed board) did bring up the issue of tariffs," Powell said, adding that the Fed is hearing from many business leaders that "trade policy has become a concern going forward."

But so far, Powell said, the Fed has not altered its economic projections because of Trump's tariffs on aluminum and steel or likely trade actions against China.

Despite Wednesday's move, U.S. interest rates are still far lower than the historic norm of about 5 percent. Rising interest rates are typically good for savers, who are likely to receive higher interest on the savings they have in the bank. Borrowers, however, face higher costs when they try to get a mortgage, auto loan or small business loan.

Americans with credit card debt are especially vulnerable to rising interest rates. The average credit card rate is already a full percentage point higher than it was a year ago and is likely to jump up more this year as the Fed hikes rates further.

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WEEKENDER

YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS IN THE PERMIAN BASIN

BEST BETS

FRIDAY



ON THE MIC Baritone vocalist Andre Chong brings his award-winning voice to First Methodist Midland in a public concert as part of the Texas Music Clubs annual convention 8 p.m.

SATURDAY



OFF TO MARKET Grab your fresh goods at the Last Winter Market at the Museum of the Southwest. The farmers market's season opener is April 7, 8:30 a.m.



BANGA GONG In a unique performance, more than 20 percussionists performing in this free, experimental show at UTPB's Stonehenge. Enjoy a bite from the food truck court for a musical lunchtime experience. Noon.

ON THE ROCKS The West Texas Food Bank hosts its First Forever Full Margarita Fiesta at the Wagner Noel with a Mexican dinner, dancing and music by the Spazmaris. Cocktail attire. 7 p.m.

SUNDAY



PHOTO OP Photos with the Easter Bunny are rare but get photos with the Easter Bunny at Midland Park Mall to spend time with the Easter Bunny and the Easter Bunny to get that perfect picture. 4-5 p.m.

See complete weekend event guide on Page 2.

MOVIES

Film opened and closed with a Midland message.

TALL CITY 14
Opening: "Midnight in Paris"
Closing: "The Artist"
The greatest showman in the world is back in town. "The Artist" is a love story between a silent film star and a young actress in the golden age of Hollywood.

CINERCY CINEMAS
Opening: "The Shape of Water"
Closing: "The Shape of Water"
The Shape of Water is a love story between a mute man and a fish-like creature in a dystopian world.

STAYING IN
The Shape of Water is a love story between a mute man and a fish-like creature in a dystopian world.



BREAKFAST FOR DINNER POP-UP

Rich Lopez/Reporter-Telegram

Food truck Bus 22 has been the centerpiece of the downtown Urban Market, which happens two Sundays a month with a variety of local vendors. Bus 22 will try to attract a nighttime crowd by hosting the Breakfast for Dinner Pop-up with Far West Coffee. Past breakfast menu items have included Butterfinger caramel crunch crepes, braised beef Benedict and PB and J waffles. The pop-up is planned for 7 p.m. Friday at 312 N. Colorado St. across from So Fly Boutique.



ROBERT EARL KEEN

HEAT INDEX: Dig around at Treasure Hunters Expo, Robert Earl Keen returns

By Rich Lopez
rllopez@mrt.com

ROBERT EARL KEEN AT WAGNER NOEL

A Texas music icon returns to Midland and this time, it's not for the holidays. Robert Earl Keen has brought his "Merry Christmas from the Fam-O-Lee" show to town multiple times in recent years, but this time, fans will see him do what he does best. With his front porch, Texas-spun catalog of songs, he doesn't simply headline a venue. Keen has the kind of star power that not only is electric onstage, but also personal enough to make the audience feel like they are sharing something special. 8 p.m. Friday at 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$29-\$54. wagnernoel.com.

WALL ST. ANTIQUES TREASURE HUNTERS EXPO

Antiques, garage sale finds and

shoppers of all kinds likely can find what they are looking for — or not looking for — at this annual expo. Hunt through an eclectic collection of vintage pieces, repurposed decor and unusual trinkets for some added flair to your home. You never know what you need until you attend this huge shopping extravaganza.

9 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday at Horseshoe Pavilion, 2514 Arena Trail.

'PORTRAITS OF COURAGE: A COMMANDER IN CHIEF'S TRIBUTE TO AMERICA'S WARRIORS' CLOSING

This exhibition at the Museum of the Southwest is a collection of President George W. Bush's works in oils that honors servicemen and women. The centerpiece of the exhibition is a mural of service men and women in their uni-

Please see HEAT INDEX Page 3B

'Pacific Rim Uprising' is cheer-at-the-screen fun

MARK KENNEDY

Associated Press



At the end of the monsters-versus-robots flick "Pacific Rim," a breach at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean is closed, plugging a hole that allowed hellish creatures to emerge and terrorize the globe. But after the movie earned \$400 million worldwide, was that portal really going to stay closed?

No, of course not. And, with sincere apologies to the front-line cities on the Pacific Rim facing a mauling, we say thank goodness, because the new sequel "Pacific Rim Uprising" is a visually stunning, expertly crafted dose of cheer-at-the-screen fun. It's the definition of what a blockbuster sequel should be.

"Pacific Rim Uprising" uses a lighter palette and is geared toward a younger audience than its 2013 predecessor, but it keeps all the key elements, upping the special effects and finding honest moments and humor in the midst of world-destroying carnage. It satisfies on every front.

Success wasn't foreordained for the sequel. Original writer Travis Beacham and director-writer Guillermo del Toro haven't returned (though del Toro is still a producer), nor have its original stars, Charlie Hunnam and Idris Elba. (Elba had a very good reason for not showing up: He blew himself up in the final moments of the original to keep the Pacific portal closed.)

Steven S. DeKnight, who created and ran the TV series "Spartacus" on Starz, was tapped to direct while del Toro focused on the smaller monster movie "Shape of Water." DeKnight also teamed up with Emily Carmichael, Kara Snyder and T.S. Nowlin to craft the new story, which champions outsiders and misfits as well as celebrates makeshift families and teamwork. Plus, some stuff gets pummeled.

First, a step back for anyone not familiar with this horrific

near-future: Aliens have sent giant monsters called Kaiju to soften us humans up ahead of world domination. But we've created 270-foot tall robots called Jaegers to fight back. They're so big they need to be manned by pairs of operators who build a neural bridge between their minds so they can work together.

The new film opens in 2035, 10 years after the last Kaiju was defeated and the breach closed. It's the calm before the storm. Our heroes now are Jake (John Boyega), the rebellious son of Elba's character, and the teen orphan Amara (Cailee Spacy), who builds her own Jaeger out of spare parts. They join together to help the military fight a new opponent — a rogue Jaeger that comes out of the sea and stomps around menacingly. It is soon clear there's a conspiracy afoot.

Boyega, fresh off his "Star Wars" gig, is great here, is a dashing rogue who struggles under his father's shadow but soon earns the respect of his peers. "We are a family now and we are Earth's last defense," he says. He and Spacy have an easy rapport and some moments between them seem genuinely charming and goofy.

Charlie Day and Burn Gorman reprise their roles as squabbling scientists, and Rinko Kikuchi is back as the adopted daughter of Elba's character. The rest of the cast is multitalented, competent and very sweet. The robots now have hologram interiors and the monsters seem less homages to past

Please see KENNEDY/Page 3B

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EVENTS & MORE



'PACIFIC RIM: UPRISING'

KENNEDY

From Page 1B

movie Kaijus and more designed to permanently upset our dreams.

If the first movie's fight sequences were often set in the rainy dark, "Pacific Rim Uprising" embraces the light. Cities are flattened during the day as monsters and robots slug it out. Skyscrapers get punched, debris cascades down and cars get swiped around. The connection between special effects and human actors is seamless and astonishing. The level of detail — from complex cityscapes like Shanghai and Tokyo to the icecaps of Siberia — is brilliant.

The filmmakers have abandoned del Toro's political touches — pollution as a factor in the creature attacks and building a wall to stop them, for example — but wisely adopted his

sly humor. In one loud fight sequence, massive monsters and robots trade punches and one buckles, pancakes on the street and skids to a thudding, thundering stop, only slightly nudging a parked cherry red subcompact in the process. The little car's alarm soon wails indignantly. Those little touches — Muzak played in a tense elevator during an invasion or a battle beside a museum's dinosaur exhibit — lighten the violence.

Part of the success of the "Pacific Rim" films is that they have cobbled together enough elements of other films to make them familiar yet newish. They owe "Blade Runner," "Independence Day," "Minority Report," "Star Wars" and, of course, "Transformers" — not to mention every Godzilla movie ever made — some residuals. But

they also have defined and introduced their own world and language.

It may not be nuanced, but it taps into something mythical — ferocious monsters rising from nowhere to be battled by 21st century swordfighters. And it's exhilarating, like when one triumphant Jaeger gazes down at a downed opponent after a climactic fight and insouciantly lifts its middle fingers. "Pacific Rim Uprising" is so confident in itself that it basically promises a third film as the end credits roll. We can't wait.

"Pacific Rim Uprising," a Universal release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for "sequences of sci-fi violence and action, and some language." Running time: 111 minutes. Three and a half stars out of four.

Soderbergh's 'Unsane' is pulp seen through an iPhone

Steven Soderbergh, who briefly retired from Hollywood after lamenting its timid small-mindedness, has shot his second post-hiatus film entirely on an iPhone.

"Unsane," a pulpy psychological thriller, is an exercise in both genre and technology. It's a B-movie iMovie. And it's 98 minutes of proof that the laborious apparatus of filmmaking can be not only light on its feet, but fit snugly inside your pocket.

"Unsane," made secretly over two weeks last June, is also unusually timely. In the script by Jonathan Bernstein and James Greer, Claire Foy, the breakout star of "The Crown," plays a data analyst named Sawyer Valentini who has relocated from Boston to Pennsylvania to flee a stalker.

Foy, proving every bit as good in a low-budget, on-the-fly indie as in a sumptuous period drama, plays Sawyer with deep inner trauma masked by tough, guarded exterior. When her married boss calls her into his office to, wink wink, suggest they travel together to a weekend conference, she immediately senses the danger and briskly returns to work. But when Sawyer attempts a one-night-stand with a Tinder date — she assures the guy the night will go "exactly like you want it to go," so long as he never contacts her again — she violently withdraws from him at their first embrace and locks herself in the bathroom.

Seeking the advice of a therapist, she speaks to someone at an anonymous behavioral center named Highland Creek. The meeting goes well, Sawyer thinks, but as she's departing she's asked to wait in the lobby. Later, a curt attendee comes to lead her down a dark, darkened hall, ushers her into a room, locks the door, and asks Sawyer to empty her bag, hand over her phone and disrobe. "Procedure," she says.

A growing sense of nightmare takes hold, but it's not elevated by the usual shrieking score or stylish flourishes of a horror film. Sawyer eventually learns that her offhand acknowledgement of occasional suicidal thoughts has gotten her admitted for 24 hours, and that she's unwittingly signed away her rights for that time. Her fury quickly leads to screams that extend her stay and increase her dosages, dispensed in little paper cups. Her mother (Amy Irving) can do little to free her.

Inside, the atmosphere is only a shade tamer than "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" or "Shock Corridor." But while

JAKE COYLE

Associated Press



"Unsane" initially feels reminiscent of past insane asylum horrors, the terror of Soderbergh's film is more of a waking nightmare. Through the unfiltered, plain lens of an iPhone, Sawyer's predicament is frighteningly ordinary. The hospital isn't a shadowy gothic trap. It's a realistic suburban bureaucracy. "They got beds. You got insurance," explains a fellow inmate played by a terrific Jay Pharoah ("Saturday Night Live").

"Unsane," though, severely heightens things with a twist. Sawyer believes her stalker (Joshua Leonard) has infiltrated the hospital and is working there as an orderly. She has said she sees him everywhere. Is this a delusion? Is Sawyer, in fact, unstable? Or is this another case of a woman's accusations against a sexual harasser being ignored and explained away? Even Sawyer isn't sure which it is, at times.

"Unsane" keeps those seesawing possibilities alive for a good while, but eventually settles definitively — disappointingly, because it saps the mystery — on one side. A movie predicated on realism teeters toward preposterousness. Yet while Soderbergh made the film shortly before the Harvey Weinstein accusations unspooled, "Unsane" captures much of the pain, confusion and self-doubt that can follow sexual abuse — and the potentially dire consequences of not heeding a victim's warnings.

"Think of your cell phone as your enemy," Sawyer is told by a stalker adviser, played by an uncredited Matt Damon, who instructs her on the perils of social media exposure. But Soderbergh's movie is a testament to the power of one's phone, and not just because it was shot with one. In "Unsane," nothing portends that something terrible will befall someone more than when they, against their better judgment, give up their phone.

"Unsane," a Fingerprint Releasing and Blecker Street release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for "disturbing behavior, violence, language, and sex references." Running time: 98 minutes. Three stars out of four.

HEAT INDEX

From Page 1B

forms of all ranks. The show also includes works by his teachers who worked with him as he crafted his skill. The exhibition includes an audio component via a phone app that works in proximity to the show. Guests can bring headphones or they can be purchased at the front desk.

Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. through Saturday, 2-5 p.m. Sunday. Closes Sunday at Museum of the Southwest, 1705 W. Missouri Ave. \$5 daily admission, free on Sundays. museumsw.org.

'THE JUNGLE BOOK' BY THE PICKWICK PLAYERS

Although not the Disney version with all the memorable songs, "The Jungle Book" has been a hot ticket for Midland Community Theatre. So much so, a Saturday matinee show has been added to its closing weekend. Get a ticket now as other shows have or are selling out.

7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 2:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at Midland Community Theatre, 2000 W. Wadley Ave. \$28. mctmidland.org.

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ON SCREEN



'BENJI'

In Netflix reboot, 'Benji' is still a good boy

It's been a mere 14 years since the last "Benji" movie. But in dog years, that's an eternity.

"Benji," which lands on Netflix on Friday, is an earnest attempt to rekindle the most earnest of film franchises, which dried up with "Benji: Off the Leash!" in 2004. In an entertainment world more cacophonous than a kennel, bringing back such an exceedingly wholesome creature is a kind of a test: Can the humble, wordless tricks of a mongrel born and bred in the '70s still charm young viewers?

"Benji" is a remake of Joe Camp's 1974 original, an independently released film (all the studios passed) made as scrappily as its mangy mutt star, played by the then-veteran pup Higgins, co-star of "Petticoat Junction." Yet "Benji" became a bona fide pop-culture sensation and the year's 10th biggest box-office hit, ranking among the likes of "Blazing Saddles," "Young Frankenstein" and "The Godfather Part II." (It was, um, a different time.)

But the appeal of a heroic pooch is, of course, eternal. There remains no better way to separate the wheat from the chaff of humanity than the moral calculus offered up by dog movies: The good are those who are kind to canines; the bad are those who aren't.



JAKE
COYLE
Associated Press

Simple as that. Unlike that prissy Lassie or that show-pony terrier from "The Artist," Benji is beloved because he's a flea bag off the streets. Benji is Every Dog, with just a touch more training.

"Benji" is written and directed by Brandon Camp, son of Joe Camp, and he's aimed to preserve much of his father's template. The location has been switched from Texas to New Orleans. The single parent skeptical of adopting a stray is now an EMT mom (Kiele Sanchez) instead of a dad. But the basic formula is much the same, down to even the inclusion of Charlie Rich's original theme, "I Feel Love." A brother and sister pair (Gabriel Bateman and Darby Camp, unrelated to the director) get caught in a pickle and Benji comes to the rescue.

This is a movie about a dog that not only thoroughly understands

English but also grasps the importance of forensic evidence in a police investigation. And yet "Benji" is less believable when the superdog isn't around. There's an implausible kidnapping plot, some rather grating and over-acted family dramatics and villains who appear to be going for a record in cliché ne'er-do-wellings.

But the dog is, as ever, irresistibly winning. Here, his feats surpass even those of the door-opening Raptors in "Jurassic Park." Benji does them one better, opening a locked room with a key he grips in his mouth.

For those looking for the most benign family-friendly entertainment, the nostalgic and corny "Benji" will do the trick. The greatest irony is that the film is produced by Jason Blum, whose production company, Blumhouse, has become synonymous with contemporary R-rated horror. Now he has proven — so long as he doesn't have more sinister sequels for "Benji" planned — that he can raise lovable beasts from the dead, too.

"Benji," a Netflix release, is not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. It contains some intense scenes, mild violence and growling that could contain dog expletives. Running time: 87 minutes. Two stars out of four.

Reel & Stream

By Nancy Adamson | nadamson@mrt.com

Exquisite 'Shape of Water' won't be everyone's cup of tea

PICK O' THE WEEK

"The Shape of Water" (R) It's easy to see how this magnificent movie won the Oscar for best picture. It is a beautifully told love story that reflects the subject in profound detail. But I suspect not everyone will appreciate the film, and as terrific as it is, "Dunkirk" still ranks as the best film of the year. A

ICK! O' THE WEEK

"Pitch Perfect 3" (PG-13) The trilogy comes to a disappointing end with this song-heavy finale that's short on humor and storylines that made the first two films so cute. Many of the songs, too, lack the pizzazz that distinguished the first two films. C-

MORE REVIEWS

"Call Me By Your Name" (R) The week's other great love story is also beautifully told and just as unconventional as "The Shape of Water." Set in the mid-1980s — a time when homosexuality was far less tolerated than now — follows the friendship and eventual affair between a teenager and an older man. Timothée Chalamet's Oscar-nominated performance is stunning. The film's only flaw may be its length, which clocks in at about 2 hours and 12 minutes. A-

"Citizen Soldier" (R) Documentary uses actual footage and recollections from the surviving members of an Oklahoma National Guard unit sent to Afghanistan at the height of the surge. As compelling as it can sometimes be, the footage sequences also take up too much time showing the downtime and hiking footage. B-

"The Disaster Artist" (R) Don't even attempt to see this brilliant film unless you are familiar with "The Room," the 2003 movie — and I use the term loosely — made by Tommy Wiseau. Widely considered one of the worst — and inexplicable — movies ever made, James Franco created a mirror-image version for this story based on the book about the making of the infamous film. An added bonus for those who watch on DVD is the audio commentary track featuring the Franco brothers and Wiseau. A-

"Ferdinand" (PG) Jon Cena is perfectly cast as the burly bull that would rather smell flowers than train to fight. Of course, he may be the only one of his fellow bulls that actually understands the endgame of taking on a matador or why none of those who go to fight ever return. B+

"I, Tonya" (R) Watching the film is like watching the actual story as it unfolded on national television all those years ago. You don't know what to believe but watching all those lives unravel is a remarkable sight. B+

"Justice League" (PG-13) Typical comic book movie drones on for about an hour with saving-the-world drivel that involves several mind-numbing, multi-million dollar action sequences filled with throwaway dialogue. Then comes the resurrection of Superman and new life is breathed into the film. The final hour is a deluge of DC Comics goodness that (almost) makes the first hour worth the wait. B

"Point Blank, Robert Frank" (unrated) There is a lot of uninteresting talk in this film about the work of photographer Frank and very little exhibition of his actual work. The phrase "a picture is worth a thousand words" was not adhered to in this documentary. C

"Thor: Ragnarok" (PG-13) A terrific sense of humor — including one of Stan Lee's best cameos to date — saves the story and effects from being a fanboy's date's worst nightmare. B

REDBOX STOP 10 DVD RENTALS

The top 10 DVD rentals at Redbox kiosks for the week of March 12:

1. Thor: Ragnarok — Disney	6. Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri — Fox
2. I, Tonya — Universal	7. Wonder — Lionsgate
3. Coco — Disney	8. The Disaster Artist — Lionsgate
4. Daddy's Home 2 — Paramount	9. Lady Bird — Lionsgate
5. Murder on the Orient Express — Fox	10. A Bad Moms Christmas — Universal

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FILM CAPS

"7 Days in Entebbe" (PG-13) The 1976 hijacking of an Air France flight leads to a diplomatic standoff in Uganda as the Israeli government races the clock to rescue the passengers. With Rosemund Pike, Daniel Bruhl, Eddie Marsan, Ben Schnetzer. Written by Gregory Burke. Directed by Jose Padilha.

"Black Panther" (PG-13) Chadwick Boseman stars as the King of Wakanda faces external threats to his peaceful home. With Michael B. Jordan, Lupita Nyong'o, Danai Gurira, Martin Freeman. Written by Ryan Coogler & Joe Robert Cole. Directed by Coogler.

"Game Night" (R) A weekly get-together levels up when the couples participate in a murder-mystery party. With Jason Bateman, Rachel McAdams, Billy Magnussen, Sharon Horgan, Kyle Chandler. Written by Mark Perez. Directed by John Francis Daley & Jonathan Goldstein.

"I Can Only Imagine" (PG) Faith-based drama based on the life of MercyMe singer Bart Millard. With J. Michael Finley, Madeline Carroll, Trace Adkins, Priscilla Shirer, Cloris Leachman, Dennis Quaid. Written by Jon Erwin & Brent McCarrie, based on the song by MercyMe. Directed by the Erwin Brothers.

"Love, Simon" (PG-13) A teenager frets about coming out to his family and friends and over the identity of the unknown classmate for whom he has fallen for online. With Nick Robinson, Katherine Langford, Alexandra Shipp, Jennifer Garner, Josh Duhamel. Written by Isaac Aptaker and Elizabeth Berger. Directed by Greg Berlanti.

"Midnight Sun" (PG-13) Teen love is threatened by a 17-year-old girl's life-threatening sensitivity to sunlight. With Bella Thorne, Patrick Schwarzenegger, Rob Riggie, Quinn Shephard. Written by Kenji Sper. Directed by Scott Speer.

"Pacific Rim Uprising" (PG-13) A new generation of the gigantic, human-piloted fighting machines must vanquish monstrous beasts to save humanity. With John Boyega, Scott Eastwood, Jing Tian, Callee Speany, Rinko Kikuchi, Burn Gorman, Adria Arjona, Charlie Day. Written by Emily Carmichael & Kira Snyder and Steven S. DeKnight and T.S. Nowlin; story by DeKnight and Nowlin; based on characters created by Travis Beacham. Directed by DeKnight.

"Paul, Apostle of Christ" (PG-13) Luke struggles to spread the Gospel as Paul is held captive during the reign of Roman emperor Nero. With Jim Caviezel, James Faulkner, Olivier Martinez, John Lynch, Joanne Whalley. Written and directed by Andrew Hyatt.

"Peter Rabbit" (PG) James Corden gives voice to Beatrix Potter's notable hare in this mix of live-action and animation. With Rose Byrne, Dommonique Glendon, voices by Daisy Ridley, Elizabeth Debicki, Margot Robbie. Written by Rob Lieber and Will Gluck. Directed by Gluck.

"Sherlock Gnomes" (PG) Garden gnomes Gnomes and Juliet and their family and friends return, aided by the famous detective in this animated sequel. Voices by James McAvoy, Emily Blunt, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Phyllis Smith, Michael Caine, Jimmy Diggs. Directed by John Stevenson.

"Tomb Raider" (PG-13) Alicia Vikander stars as Lara Croft, who searches for her long-missing father in this reboot of the action-adventure game series based on the video game. With Dominic West, Walton Goggins, Daniel Wu, Derek Jacobi, Kristin Scott Thomas. Written by Geneva Robertson-Dworet and Alastair Siddons. Directed by Roar Uthaug.

"Unsane" (R) Inside a mental institution, a young woman confronts her greatest fear. With Claire Foy, Joshua Leonard, Jay Pharoah, Juno Temple, Aimee Mullins, Amy

Irving. Written by Jonathan Bernstein & James Greer. Directed by Steven Soderbergh.

"A Wrinkle in Time" (PG) Three spiritual guides lead a young girl on a journey of empowerment. With Storm Reid, Oprah Winfrey, Reese Witherspoon, Mindy Kaling, Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Michael Penn, Zach Galifianakis, Chris Pine. Written by Jennifer Lee, based on the novel by Madeleine L'Engle. Directed by Ava DuVernay.

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DINING

WEEKENDER PUBLISHES A PORTION OF THE RESTAURANT GUIDE EACH WEEK. ENTREE PRICE RANGE IS BASED ON THE AVERAGE ENTREE PRICE ON THE MENU:
\$ = \$1-10, \$\$ = \$10-20 AND \$\$\$ = \$20 OR MORE. RESTAURANTS ARE GIVEN A GENERAL RATING BASED ON QUALITY OF FOOD, SERVICE, CLEANLINESS, ATMOSPHERE AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE.
1 SPOON = POOR, 2 SPOONS = AVERAGE, 3 SPOONS = ABOVE AVERAGE, 4 SPOONS = GOOD AND 5 SPOONS = EXCELLENT.

MEXICAN

ABUELOS Mix of traditional Tex-Mex with unique menu items featuring steak and seafood. Tired of rice and beans on the side? Try papas con chile and espinaca casserole. 2908 W. Loop 250 N. | 685-3335 | abuelos.com | \$\$ | 4 spoons

AJUA'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT Tex-Mex favorites such as enchiladas, tacos, burritos and combination plates. Daily specials and menudo served on weekends. 3205 W. Cuthbert Ave. 694-4116 | \$ | 2 spoons

ALAN'S PANADERIA Specializing in breakfast with what many claim is the best menu in town. We also recommend the tacos de barba-coa. 1313 N. Lamesa Rd. | 570-6806 | \$ | 3 spoons

CANCUN GRILL Stylish downtown Mexican restaurant inside Wall Towers. Start with the corn queso and then move on to the seafood enchiladas or one of the steaks. 223 W. Wall St. 618-0390 | \$\$ | 4 spoons

CANDILEJAS MEXICAN RESTAURANTE Don't underestimate this hole-in-the-wall restaurant serving traditional Tex-Mex fare. Quick service, daily specials and delicious food. 701 S. Marienfeld St. 683-5344 | \$ | 3 spoons

CARAMBA'S SPANISH INN Bustling Mexican restaurant with a variety of foods and combination plates. Tex-Mex favorites and burgers, steaks and seafood. 3116 W. Front St. 520-9724 or 520-9525 | \$ | 4 spoons

CASA LOPEZ CAFE Sports bar, restaurant and catering service with entrees including enchiladas and fajitas and appetizers such as bacon wrapped shrimp and stuffed jalapenos. 4411 W. Illinois Ave. 699-7373 | \$ | 4

CHARLAS RESTAURANTE & BAR With a casual atmosphere and full service bar, Charla's serves enchiladas, shrimp nachos, tortilla soup and tropical salad. Delicious chips and salsa. 3330 W. Illinois Ave. 699-2440 | \$ | 3 spoons

CHIPOTLE MEXICAN GRILL The chain restaurant offers overstuffed burritos but go for the bowl with tasty carnita meat that's somewhere between a salad and a meal. | 2820 W. Loop 250 | 633-0173 | Chipotle.com | \$ | 4 spoons

CHITO'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT & SPORTS Traditional Mexican fare with sports bar atmosphere. Breakfast served on weekends. 4400 N. Midland Drive 689-8646 | \$ | 4 spoons

DONA ANITA'S Some of the best chile rellenos in town. Or try the tacos or enchiladas. Huevos con chorizo, menudo, huevos rancheros and migas on Sundays. 305 W. Florida Ave. 683-6727 | \$ | 3 spoons

DOS COMPADRES We recommend the carne guisada or any of the enchiladas with a tangy and mild green sauce. 2200 W. Wadley Ave. #1 Oak Ridge Square 684-7239 www.doscompadres.net | \$ | 3 spoons

EL BANQUETE Traditional Mexican cuisine such as soft beef and pork tacos. Breakfast burritos, fajitas and enchiladas. 1802 Rankin Highway 620-0123 | \$ | 2 spoons

EL BURRITO RESTAURANT Serving burritos for more than 30 years. Breakfast and lunch burritos on homemade tortillas and other Tex-Mex favorites. Also known for their burgers. 1106 N. Big Spring St. 683-

9701 | \$ | 4 spoons
FAJITAS BRAVO Delicious and tender beef and chicken fajita burritos. Or try nachos, burgers, quesadillas or barbecue. 409 E. Scharbauer Drive 682-6848 | \$ | 3 spoons

FREEBIRDS Create your own burrito, tacos, nacho, salad or bowl with fillings that range from cilantro lime rice, black beans and tomato sauce to carnitas, queso and pico de gallo. 3322 N. Loop 250 West www.freebirds.com 689-9100 | \$ | 4 spoons

GARCIA'S BURRITOS Pick up a breakfast burrito starting at 7:30 a.m. on weekdays. Or try a fajita plate with beans, rice, guacamole and sour cream. 1306 N. Lamesa Road 684-4383 | \$ | 2 spoons

GARELY'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT Chilaquiles Rojos and the enchilada suprema palmas are just a couple of the tasty, authentic dishes at this restaurant but the service is spotty. 1805 Rankin Hwy. 686-7393 | \$\$ | 3 spoons

GERARDO'S CASITA Try the tortilla soup or the fajitas. Don't forget a margarita from the full-service bar. 2407 N. Big Spring St. 570-8012 www.gerardocasita.net | \$ | 4 spoons

GRANADO'S CAFE AND CATERING Students and downtown workers flock to this small eatery with big flavors. Nachos, tacos and burgers all make a good lunch but breakfast is a nice morning option. Menu-do and caldo on Fridays and Saturdays. | 703 W. Wall St. | 698-3238 | 3 spoons

JORGE'S CAFE Serving Tex-Mex fare. Jorge's does a simple queso without chunks of peppers or tomatoes — you'll either love it or hate

it. 4400 N. Big Spring St. 683-6303 | jorges.com | \$ | 4 spoons

JUMBURRITO Drive-thru or eat-in for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Try the stew meat with cheese and avocado and smother it with queso and/or jumburritos' hot sauce. Expect a line for weekend breakfast. 1301 Lamesa Road, 682-5060 | 2101 W. Wadley Ave. 683-7017 | 908 S. Midkiff Road, 689-0350 | 4509 N. Midkiff Road, 689-3894 | jumburrito.com | 4 spoons

LA BODEGA MEXICAN RESTAURANT AND BAR Try the chile rellenos — stuffed with beef, chicken, cheese or shrimp, deep-fried and topped with red sauce, sour cream, pecans and raisins — or the rueda, described on the menu as a Mexican pizza. The upstairs bar allows smoking and keeps later hours than the restaurant. 2700 N. Big Spring St. 684-5594 www.mylabodega.com | \$ | 4 spoons

LA HERRADURA MEXICAN CUISINE Go for breakfast and try the huevos rancheros with beans, potatoes and tortillas. Menudo, caldo de res and cabrito en salsa verde on the weekends. 1422 Rankin Highway 687-3000 | \$ | 2 spoons

LA MISION Festive, colorful restaurant with great Tex-Mex favorites. In a hurry? Go for the lunch buffet. 1008 S. Big Spring St. 682-0320 | \$ | 4 spoons

MANUEL'S COUNTRY STORE AND DELI Home of the "Son of a Gun" plate — a 90 percent lean hamburger steak with onions, jalapeno gravy, beans, potatoes and tortillas — Manuel's also is known for its hot sauce. After you try it, you can buy

some to take home with you. 3905 State Highway 349 | manueldeli.com | 682-2258 | \$ | 4 spoons

MICHAELA'S ON THE GO Take-out only restaurant specializing in burritos. 4411 West Illinois Avenue, Suite A1. 689-0920 | \$ | 3 spoons

MOE'S SOUTHWEST GRILL A slightly confusing menu but the selection of burritos, tacos, nachos come freshly made in front of you. 3302 Garden City Highway | 687-1481 | Moes.com | \$\$ | 2 spoons

MONTERREY COCINA MEXICANA The same family has been running this restaurant since 1957. Many may remember the wonderful food and live music when it was located on East Illinois Avenue. It's been in West Midland for several years now, and the food is just as fabulous. 3323 Midland Drive, #100 689-0032 www.monterreycocina.com | \$ | 4 spoons

NEME'S COCINA FR-ESCA This outpost off Big Spring Street and Loop 250 serves tacos, tortas and quesadillas. Flavorful but spice can sneak up on you for an extra kick. | 4401 N. Big Spring St. | 312-4302 | Mkt.com/nemes | \$ | 3 spoons

ON THE BORDER MEXICAN GRILL & CANTINA Atmosphere is busy and fun at this casual restaurant chain featuring Tex-Mex standards such as fajitas, burritos and grilled meats. 4306 Loop 250 Frontage Rd., 897-4740 | ontheborder.com | \$ | 3 spoons

OSCAR'S SUPER BURRITO Serving Lee High School students, and other loyal customers, for years, Oscar's offers almost endless choices of burritos and other Tex-Mex favorites for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Try the brisket and cheese burrito and don't skimp on the salsa. 4306 Neely Ave. | 699-0242 | 4 spoons

PENO'S CAFE & CATERING COMPANY Try the tacos or the variety of breakfast burritos. Some menu items can be bought by the pound. Order tamales by the dozen. 4305 W. Illinois Ave. 262-5720 Facebook: Café J-Peno | \$ | 3 spoons

REYNA'S DELI Offer a wide range of authentic Mexican dishes and classics such as tacos and enchiladas. Open for breakfast. 3100 S. County Rd 1210 699-1495 | reynasdeli.com | \$ | 3 spoons

REYNA'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT An order of fajitas is too much for one person to eat, but they're so good you'll try anyway. 3601 W. Wall St. 699-2109 | \$ | 4 spoons

ROSA'S CAFE & TORTILLA FACTORY If you're a native Midlander, you get it. If you're not, try the queso and tortillas or the chicken fajitas with queso or the combo burritos. It's worth the long drive-through lines. Three locations with a fourth on Rankin Highway coming soon. 903 Andrews Highway 520-2358 2501 N. Big Spring St. 620-0634 | 4301 N. Midland Drive 520-0489 | \$ | 4 spoons

TAQUERIA JALISCO One patron on Yelp called it a "hidden gem." Another said the carnitas are "delicious, juicy morsels of fried porky goodness." We heartily agree. 4416 Briarwood Ave., Suite 100 | facebook.com/TaqueriaJalisco | 699-2195 | \$ | 5 spoons

TAMPICO SPANISH INN Go early to get a table. Start with an appetizer such as queso, quesadillas or avocado salad. 2411 W. Wall St. 682-5074 | \$ | 4 spoons

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Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Thursday, March 22, 2018 | Section C

Boswell resigns as Lee boys basketball coach

By Will Korn
wkorn@mrt.com

Lee head boys basketball coach Justin Boswell told the Reporter-Telegram Wednesday that he is stepping down as head coach after two seasons with the program.

Boswell declined to provide detail on the decision or on his future, but said he was grateful for the opportunity to coach the Rebels.

Lee was Boswell's second

stint as a head coach.

"It was my decision to step away from the program," Boswell said. "I made that decision and I'm not really able to talk about what I'll do next. I do want to thank coach (Athletic Coordinator Clint) Hartman and Mr. (Lee principal Stan) Van-



Boswell

Hoozer for affording me the opportunity to coach at Lee. They were great to work for."

Boswell, who replaced former head coach Chris Packer, was hired for the Lee job in the summer of 2016 after spending the previous nine seasons as the head coach at Class 4A Taylor.

In his two seasons with the Rebels, Boswell compiled an overall record of 17-45 and a mark of 3-17 in District 2-6A play. This season, Lee finished

8-23 overall and 1-9 in district play but made noticeable strides after the program stumbled through two consecutive three-win seasons from 2014-16.

Boswell, who is originally from Crane, said he believes the program improved under his direction and is hopeful that the Rebels, as well as the game itself in and around the Permian Basin, can continue to grow with a new coach.

"The important thing is that we've been able to

make some improvements from where it was when I got here," Boswell said. "Whoever is going to follow, hopefully it's in a better spot to where they can continue to lift the program and basketball in this area."

Said Midland ISD Executive Director of Athletics Randy Rowe of Boswell's resignation: "He is a good man."

"It was a mutual decision in his best interest and in our best interest."

Rowe said the Lee head coaching position has

been officially opened to applications and added that Lee current assistant coach David Drafahl is a candidate for the vacancy. Rowe said Boswell will serve as the team's interim head coach until a new coach is hired for the position.

Drafahl joined Boswell's staff at Lee for the 2017-18 season after spending the previous five seasons as the head coach at Class 4A Waco La Vega.

Follow Will on Twitter: @Will_MRT

Rockin' Raiders



Tony Gutierrez/Associated Press

Texas Tech's Keenan Evans (12) and Zhaire Smith (2) celebrate in the closing seconds as Florida's Chris Chiozza (11) jogs back to the bench during a second-round game in the NCAA men's basketball tournament in Dallas on Saturday.

Sweet 16 fresh: Culver at home, Z-Smith a 360 for Texas Tech

By Stephen Hawkins
Associated Press

DALLAS — Jarrett Culver grew up close to the Texas Tech campus with basketball dreams to play somewhere else.

"I had dreams about going other places, and bigger places, stuff like that," Culver said.

Now he is going to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament as a freshman guard on his hometown team.

Culver and Zhaire Smith, whose 360-degree alley-oop dunk is already one of the highlights of this year's tourney, are the highest-scoring freshman duo in Texas Tech history.

"On the first day or the second day he got the job, he offered me, so I felt like that

spoke volumes to me," Culver said of second-year coach Chris Beard. "Even though I'm a homegrown Lubbock person, he just recruited me hard and stayed on me, and wanted me bad. The things that he was saying about the culture he's building and stuff, I felt like that would be good, and I felt like this was the best fit."

Texas Tech (26-9) is in the Sweet 16 for the first time since 2005, when Culver was only 6 years old and Beard was an assistant coach there for Bobby Knight. The Red Raiders play Purdue (30-6) in an East Region semifinal game Friday night in Boston.

Martin Zeno holds the school's freshman scoring record with 413 points in 2004-05 as part of Tech's last Sweet 16 team. Culver (402

points) and Smith (397) are now 2-3 on that list for the Big 12 runner-up that reached a program-best No. 6 ranking in the AP poll in February.

"Them just being able to play on big stages like this is great," Tech's All-Big 12 senior guard Keenan Evans said. "I didn't go to the tournament my freshman year, I wasn't on a ranked team my freshman year, and I don't know how I would have handled that. So it's definitely good for them to learn that this early on."

Smith had 10 points and eight rebounds in Tech's NCAA opener, a win over Stephen F. Austin during which he made a 360-degree spin in the air on an alley-oop from Evans. They connected on another alley-oop when Smith added 18 points, nine rebounds and

seven assists in their second-round win over Florida.

"Their freshmen, where do they come from? My goodness, the years that they've had. Their freshman class is big-time," Florida coach Mike White said. "They've got a good mix of those guys, along with Keenan and some older guys, some good seniors."

Evans is one of five seniors on what is a unique roster for Beard and the Red Raiders. Culver and Smith are among six freshmen that includes Davide Moretti, a play-making guard from Italy who has also played in every game this season.

Smith is from Garland, Texas, just outside of Dallas, and already knew Culver from

Please see TECH/3C

Calm Kennedy leading the Aggies into Sweet 16

By Brent Zwerneman
Houston Chronicle

COLLEGE STATION — As Texas A&M's final practice before the NCAA Tournament wrapped up last week in Charlotte, N.C., Aggies coach Billy Kennedy grabbed a basketball and launched a half-court shot. It missed.

He tried a handful more, with the closest bouncing off the front of the rim, before the Aggies had to leave the Spectrum Center court to make way for the next team.

"Wish I would have made one," Kennedy said with a grin.

He would have kept trying if allowed, until he made one. The fact that he did or didn't is a wonder in itself, something Kennedy's players witness every day just by his sturdy presence.

"What he's been through, and the way he's fighting to this day, it's incredible to see," A&M junior center Tyler Davis said.

Nearly seven years ago, not long after he was named A&M's coach, Kennedy was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, defined by the Mayo Clinic as a "progressive disorder of the nervous system that affects movement."

Thanks to exercise and a squeaky clean diet initiated and nurtured by his wife, Mary, Kennedy appears healthier than he did in 2011. It's why he's able to still launch half-court shots. There's something else, too, that Kennedy puts at the top of his list: an unwavering faith.

It's why he believes he's still coaching basketball at a high, demanding level, and why he believes his team recovered from an 0-5 start in Southeastern Conference play to make the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament.

The seventh-seeded Aggies (22-12) take on third-seeded Michigan (30-7) on Thursday in the Staples Center in Los Angeles, as A&M tries advancing to the Elite Eight for the first time.

"It just shows that God is faithful, and you're going to hear that from me whether people want to hear it or not," Kennedy said Tuesday.

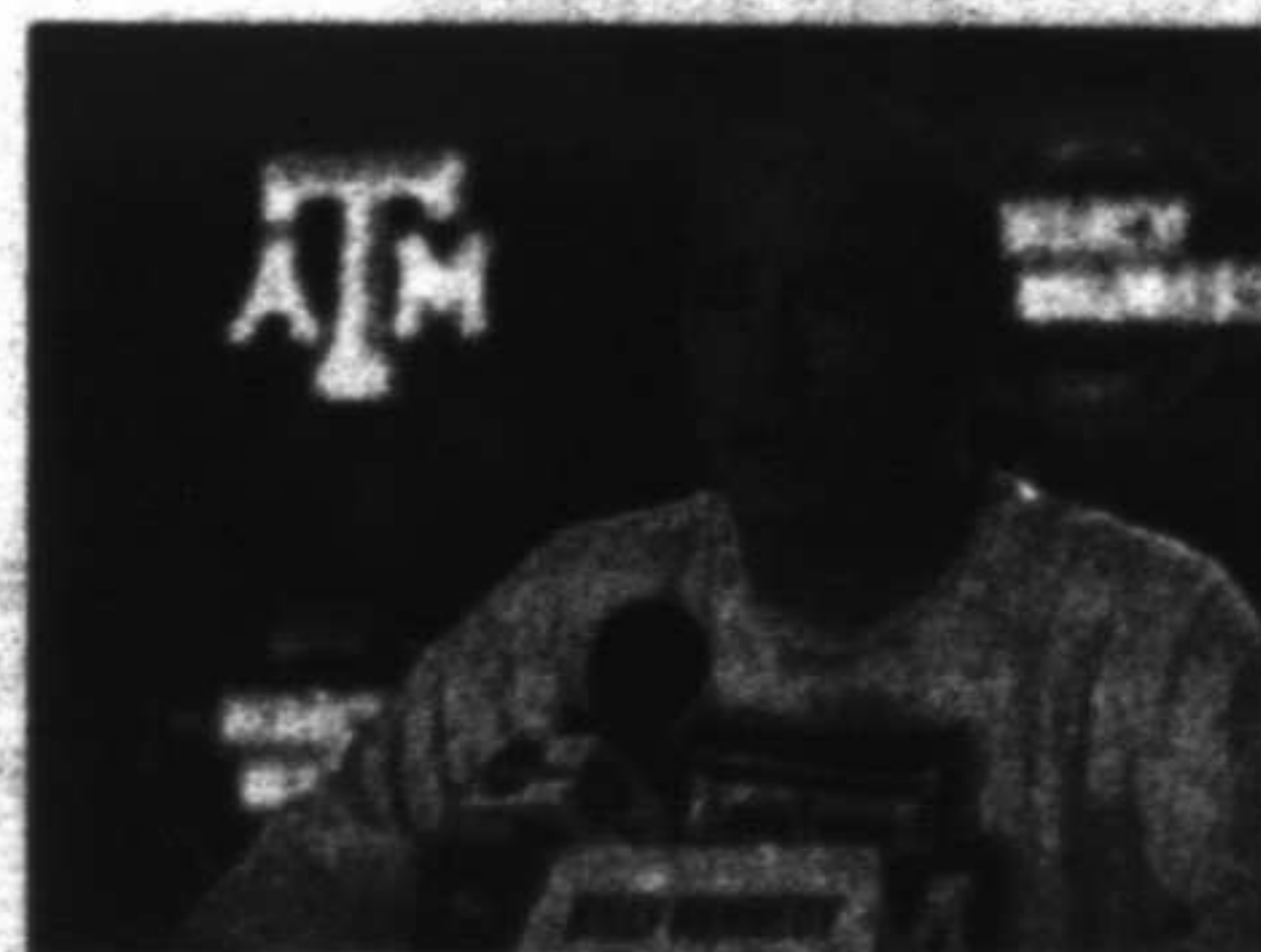
Kennedy, 54, is as even-keeled a coach as one will find on a sideline, to the point it frustrates fans who want him to show more emotion. The New Orleans native has always been that way, though, with players from one of his prior coaching stops dubbing him "Dirty Harry" for his cool, quiet demeanor, and based on the old Clint Eastwood tough-guy character.

Davis, the Aggies' first-team All-SEC player, said Kennedy's serenity under fire is what allowed a talented A&M team to bounce back from a rugged league start, when the program was besieged by injuries and suspensions.

"He's a soldier, man," Davis said. "He's never a down guy, and he's never too up, either, to show us that he's not down. His inspiration and the way he's a faithful man of God — that's a big thing for me."

"You never want to let that man down, because of how hard he's working to get us right, even when he's going through his

Please see AGGIES/3C



Mark J. Terrill/Associated Press

Texas A&M head coach Billy Kennedy speaks during a news conference at the NCAA men's basketball tournament on Wednesday in Los Angeles.

Astros expect to be Texas' best once again

One week away from the start of Major League Baseball's season, the state of Texas seems to be deeply divided.

On one hand are the defending World Series Champion, Houston Astros, who captured the state's first fall classic on its collective fourth attempt. The Astros and their fans, still brimming with jubilation after hoisting the Commissioner's Trophy last November, added a pair of quality arms to a 101-win roster and are considered by many to be front runners to repeat as world champions.

On the other hand stand the Texas Rangers, who seemed to have entered an era of playing second fiddle in the Lone



Star State. Texas managed just 78 wins a season ago, didn't re-sign former ace Yu Darvish, whiffed on Japanese superstar Shohei Ohtani in free agency and opted to remain particularly frugal this offseason.

On paper, the Astros have little excuse not to finish at least 15 games ahead of the Rangers in the American League West standings. But such is the essence of baseball.

Fact is, we have absolutely no idea what will happen after six months and 162 games are played.

The Astros visit Globe Life Park to face the Rangers for a four-game set to open the 2018 season. Here's a breakdown of each team entering this season.

HOUSTON ASTROS (101-61 in 2017)

Houston likely didn't have to do much this offseason to cement its status as a legitimate AL contender. But — perhaps as a response to the New York Yankees acquiring Giancarlo Stanton in December — the Astros fortified their rotation by acquiring Pittsburgh Pirates ace Gerrit Cole for a package of four prospects in mid-

January.

The former No. 1 pick and flame-throwing Cole will join a Houston rotation fronted by a pair of Cy Young Award winners in Dallas Keuchel and Justin Verlander to form perhaps the AL's premier group. Add in hard-throwing specialist Lance McCullers and Charlie Morton, a postseason wonder last fall, and the Astros figure to be more than difficult to hit against.

The club also imported journeyman and right-hander Joe Smith — one of the game's most reliable relievers — to its bullpen, helping to potentially shorten the game for a bevy of trusted starters.

Please see ASTROS/2C

Texas freshman Mo Bamba leaving school for NBA draft

By Jim Vertuno
Associated Press

AUSTIN — No more Mo Bamba for Texas. The freshman forward said Tuesday he will leave Texas for the NBA after one season of dominant rebounding and record-setting shot blocking. In a short statement, Bamba called his one season with the Longhorns "incredibly rewarding."

Texas pretty much knew

this was coming. Bamba was ranked among the top recruits in the country when he signed with the Longhorns and was considered a likely one-and-done college player.

Still, Texas hoped to make the most out of their young star from New York City. Texas had finished last in the Big 12 in 2016-17 and the arrival of the 6-foot-11 forward with a 7-9 wing span was supposed to anchor

a Longhorns revival in coach Shaka Smart's third season.

Bamba averaged 12.9 points and 10.5 rebounds. He also set a school record for blocks in a season with 111 in 30 games as Texas went 19-15 and lost in the first round of the NCAA Tournament after missing the tournament last season. His rebounding and blocks led the Big 12.

Bamba was hampered late in the season by a

sprained toe on his left foot, which caused him to miss three games as the Longhorns fought for late season wins to earn an NCAA bid.

He could be the third Longhorns player to leave early and be drafted in the first round since 2015, joining Myles Turner and Jarrett Allen.

Texas hasn't advanced past the first weekend of the NCAA Tournament since 2008.

NBA ROUNDUP

76ERS 119, GRIZZLIES 105
PHILADELPHIA — Robert Covington, J.J. Redick and Dario Saric each had 15 points to pace all five Philadelphia starters in double-figures, and the 76ers continued their push for home-court advantage in the playoffs with a 119-105 victory over the Memphis Grizzlies on Wednesday night.

CAVALIERS 132, RAPTORS 129
CLEVELAND — Cavaliers associate head coach Larry Drew considered whether Wednesday's clash with the Eastern Conference-leading Toronto Raptors would be a statement game, took a look at his injury-depleted roster and rejected that notion.

But LeBron James clearly didn't agree. His intense look at the Raptors' bench following his 3-pointer with 8:07 to go seemed to send a message that the short-handed Cavs weren't rolling over. James' death stare might have also included a signal about post-season conference supremacy as well.

PELICANS 98, PACERS 92
NEW ORLEANS — Anthony Davis capped a 28-point, 13-rebound, five-block performance with a 15-foot baseline fade, a gritty put-back and two free throws in the final minute, and the New Orleans Pelicans outlasted the Indiana Pacers 98-92 on Wednesday night.

E'Twaun Moore scored 23 for New Orleans, which had to overcome a scrappy defensive effort by Indiana to win its third straight.

CLIPPERS 127, BUCKS 120
MILWAUKEE — DeAndre Jordan had 25 points and 22 rebounds to lead the Los

Angeles Clippers past the Milwaukee Bucks 127-120 on Wednesday night.

Austin Rivers added 22 points and Lou Williams scored 19 for Los Angeles, which bounced back after a deflating loss to Minnesota on Tuesday night.

The Bucks lost All-Star forward Giannis Antetokounmpo to a right ankle sprain late in the first half. Antetokounmpo appeared to get hurt when he tripped over teammate Shabazz Muhammad under Milwaukee's basket. He stayed in the game for a brief period, but hobbled around the court while grimacing. He went to the locker room with about four minutes remaining in the second quarter and did not return.

NUGGETS 135, BULLS 102
CHICAGO — Nikola Jokic had 21 points, seven rebounds and five assists on "Serbian Heritage Night," and the Denver Nuggets routed the Chicago Bulls 135-102 on Wednesday night.

Denver shot 61.4 percent (51 for 83) from the field and had seven players score in double figures. Paul Millsap had 22 points and eight rebounds in 27 minutes, and Wilson Chandler made five of the Nuggets' 20 3-pointers on his way to 19 points.

HORNETS 111, NETS 105
NEW YORK — Dwight Howard had 32 points and 30 rebounds, becoming the first player with a 30-30 game against the Nets since Kareem Abdul-Jabbar in 1978, and the Charlotte Hornets stormed back to beat Brooklyn 111-105 on Wednesday night.

Kemba Walker scored 10 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter for the Hornets, who trailed by as many as 23 points in

NBA GLANCE

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division
W L Pct GB
Toronto 53 19 736 —
Boston 48 23 676 4½
Philadelphia 46 25 571 12
New York 38 46 261 27
Brooklyn 23 49 219 30

Southeast Division
W L Pct GB
Washington 48 23 571 —
Miami 39 33 542 2
Charlotte 31 41 431 10
Orlando 21 50 226 19½
Atlanta 21 50 226 19½

Central Division
W L Pct GB
Cleveland 42 29 582 —
Indiana 41 31 569 1½
Milwaukee 37 34 521 5
Detroit 32 39 451 10
Chicago 24 47 338 18

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Southwest Division
W L Pct GB
Houston 57 14 800 —
New Orleans 42 30 582 15½
San Antonio 41 31 577 16
Dallas 22 49 293 26
Memphis 19 52 269 30

Northwest Division
W L Pct GB
Portland 44 27 620 —
Oklahoma City 42 29 582 2
Utah 40 31 563 4
Denver 39 33 542 5½

Pacific Division
W L Pct GB
Golden State 53 19 736 —
LA Clippers 43 29 532 15
LA Lakers 31 39 443 21½
Sacramento 23 49 219 30½
Phoenix 19 53 264 34½

Wednesday's Scores
Cleveland 132, Toronto 129
Philadelphia 119, Memphis 105
Charlotte 111, Brooklyn 105
Miami 119, New York 105
Denver 135, Chicago 102
LA Clippers 127, Milwaukee 120
New Orleans 98, Indiana 92
Washington at San Antonio, 10 p.m.

Today's Games
Memphis at Charlotte, 6 p.m.
Philadelphia at Orlando, 6 p.m.
Detroit at Houston, 7 p.m.
LA Lakers at New Orleans, 7 p.m.
Utah at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Sacramento, 9 p.m.

3-point range in the third, 15 for 34 from beyond the arc for the game, and is now only three makes away from the franchise record of 808 set last season.

"They're shooting the right ones," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "I get that analytics question all the time: 'Do you just want to shoot a bunch of 3s?' It depends. You've got to have the right guys and you've got to shoot the right ones."

Wayne Ellington scored 16, Justise Winslow added 15, Goran Dragic had 14 and Josh Richardson finished with 12 for the Heat, who remained seventh in the Eastern Conference playoff race. They're now 1 1/2 games ahead of No. 8 Milwaukee after the Bucks lost to the Los Angeles Clippers, and 6 1/2 games clear of No. 9 Detroit.

Beasley had a brilliant start and added 22 points on 10 for 15 shooting for New York, and

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Utah 40 31 563 4
Denver 39 33 542 5½

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Mark Humphrey/Associated Press

Nevada guard Jordan Caroline (24) shoots against Texas forward Mohamed Bamba in the second half of a first-round game of the NCAA basketball tournament on March 16, 2018 in Nashville, Tenn.

Deandre Ayton leaving early for NBA

Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — Arizona freshman big man Deandre Ayton is leaving early for the NBA after one dominating season.

Ayton made the announcement on his Twitter feed Wednesday.

The 7-foot-1, 260-pound Ayton was named the Pac-12 player of the year in 2017-18 after averaging 20.1 points on 61 percent

shooting and 11.6 rebounds per game.

The Bahamian big man has the size of a center, but the athleticism of a small forward.

He has excellent footwork, a good midrange jump shot and passes well out of double teams, traits that have him projected to be a lottery pick in the NBA draft, possibly the No. 1 overall pick.

PRO GOLF SCORES

Ball Match Play
At Austin Country Club
Austin, Texas
Thursday, March 22, 1 p.m.
First Round

Roundings in parentheses
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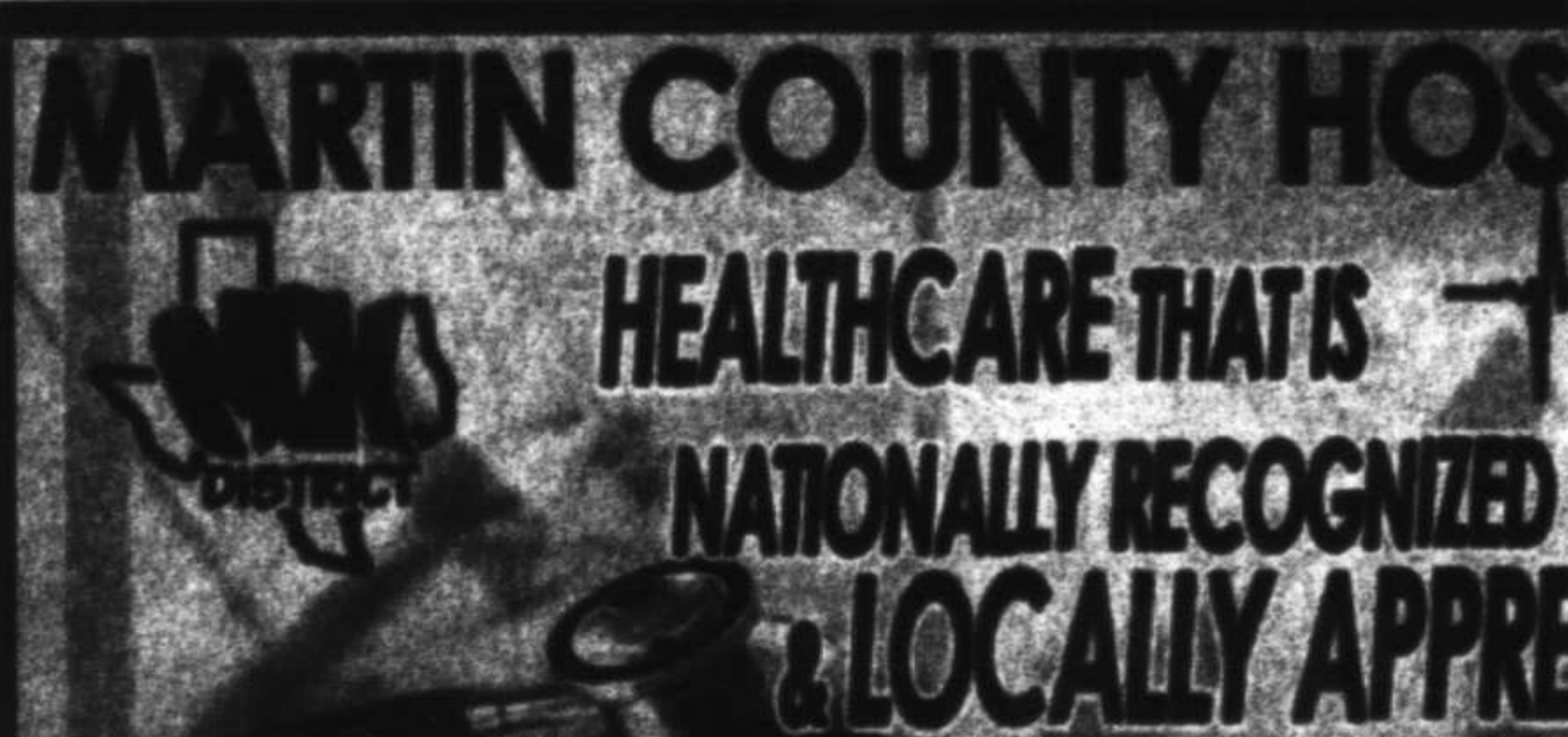
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REALTOR ASSOCIATE **NEVADA**

First Round MARCH 19-19	Second Round MARCH 19-19	Regional MARCH 22-22	Regional MARCH 24-24	National MARCH 31
1 Virginia (21-22)	16 UNBC (24-10)	16 UNBC (24-10)	16 UNBC (24-10)	16 UNBC (24-10)
2 Kentucky (21-11)	17 Kentucky (21-11)	17 Kentucky (21-11)	17 Kentucky (21-11)	17 Kentucky (21-11)
3 Kentucky (21-11)	18 Kentucky (21-11)	18 Kentucky (21-11)	18 Kentucky (21-11)	18 Kentucky (21-11)
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MAIN EVENT SPORTS ON AIR

SLIDES - JUMPERS - WATER GAMES - TRAINS
INTERACTIVE BULL RIDING - LAZERTAG - BUNNIE HOP - MAZE - BOWLING
TWISTER - OBSTACLE CHALLENGE AND MANY MORE...

CORPORATE ADVERTISING - COMPANY MONIES
CUSTOMER FUN DAYS - FUND RAISERS
CHURCH EVENTS - BIRTHDAY PARTIES
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www.SalesTeamRealtors.com

FLORIDA STATE

GROUPS & PARTY PACKAGES

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4305 N County Rd 1140, Midland, Texas 79705

WEST VIRGINIA

MAIN EVENT SPORTS ON AIR

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INTERACTIVE BULL RIDING - LAZERTAG - BUNNIE HOP - MAZE - BOWLING
TWISTER - OBSTACLE CHALLENGE AND MANY MORE...

CORPORATE ADVERTISING - COMPANY MONIES
CUSTOMER FUN DAYS - FUND RAISERS
CHURCH EVENTS - BIRTHDAY PARTIES
FAIRS AND CARNIVALS

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432.682.6999



432.682.6222



mrtclassifieds@mrt.com

Endeavor
Energy
Resources

DOT Driver II

JOB DESCRIPTION: Job responsibilities include local (within Midland City and County) transportation by truck for Endeavor Energy completions or production crews. Cargo transport varies depending on driver's licensing.

Essential Functions:

- Follow instructions, and maintain compliance with all DOT, company and customer safety and operational policies and procedures
- Properly load and unload product at various customer locations in a professional, courteous, timely, safe, and efficient manner
- Connect and disconnect hoses, operating pumps and valves for loading and unloading
- Complete all paperwork accurately and timely, if applicable
- Complete other related tasks as assigned by manager

Minimum Requirements:

- High school diploma or GED required, must be at least 18 years of age
- Ability to read, write and communicate effectively required
- Computer proficiency is required
- Valid Texas Driver's License is required
- Class A CDL and Haz Mat is preferred but not required
- Must be able to pass background screening including MVR and criminal
- Must be able to work nights, weekends, and an extended workweek
- Strong customer service skills, and the ability to effectively prioritize, multi-task, manage time, organize and execute tasks in a high-pressure environment

Supervisory Responsibilities:

No supervisory responsibilities are associated with this position.

Work Environment:

Work is often outdoors. Working conditions range from mild to hot temps, high winds, flying dust, slipping hazards and conditions and frequently exposed to loud noise from heavy equipment and machinery.

Physical Demands:

Ability to sit, stand, walk, reach with hand and arms, climb, squat, kneel, and bend is required. Must also be able to occasionally lift, carry, push, pull, move, and drag up to 50 lbs.

Position type and expected hours of work:

This is a full-time position. The ability to work overtime is a requirement to performing this job.

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

Endeavor
Energy
Resources

Now hiring for a Frac Technician.

The Field Technician will provide advanced refracting services to support the Frac operations on location. Endeavor Energy will provide all necessary training for new employees. This is a non-driving position.

Job Duties:

- Comply with all OSHA and company safety procedures, rules and regulations
- Proper pre and post trip of equipment
- Consistently demonstrate safe unloading of fuels while handling, hooking and unhooking hoses and operating pumps while following directions and standard operating procedures
- Safely using pipe wrenches, crescent wrenches and other hand tools
- Immediate reporting and cleaning of any spills during shift
- Maintain professionalism through working courteously with supervisors, dispatchers, fellow co-workers and customers
- All other duties as assigned

Minimum Qualifications:

- Ability to work in a fast-paced environment
- Proven capability to work both independently and collaboratively with different levels of management and individual contributors
- Demonstrated ability to manage work in stressful situations
- High school diploma or GED required, must be at least 18 years of age
- Ability to read, write and communicate effectively required
- Computer proficiency is required
- Valid Texas Driver's License is required
- Experience working on Frac site or similar responsibilities is preferred

Work Environment:

Work is often outdoors. Working conditions range from mild to hot temps, high winds, flying dust, slipping hazards and conditions and frequently exposed to loud noise from heavy equipment and machinery.

Physical Demands:

Ability to sit, stand, walk, reach with hand and arms, climb, squat, kneel, bend, and occasionally lift/carry/push/pull/move up to 60 lbs.

Position type and expected hours of work:

This is a full-time position.

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

SALES JOBS



Multi-Media Sales Executive

The Midland Reporter-Telegram, part of Hearst Communications, is excited to announce that due to our continued growth in the Midland, TX market, we are seeking Multi-Media Sales Executives just like you to join our team! Our industry is changing into a digital world, and we are looking for experienced professionals who are eager to facilitate our innovative efforts.

Join Midland's leading media company and become part of the winning sales team that offers advertisers a robust suite of digital and print products to help them achieve their business objectives. We are seeking digital savvy, highly motivated sales professionals to sell our marketing solutions to local businesses. Our ideal candidate will be goal oriented, in a relationship hunter, driving to win new business, and has a track record of exceeding monthly goals.

Multi-Media Sales Executives maximize advertising sales potential, through the development of quality business relationships and promotion of advertising advertising products. This position requires a heavy amount of prospecting and lead-generating. This position requires a heavy amount of prospecting and lead-generating.

development with local businesses. We pride ourselves on simplifying the marketing process for our customers, while helping advertisers track the impact of their campaigns and understand their advertising options. In short, we help our customers grow their business.

Responsibilities include:

- Consistently meet monthly all print and digital revenue goals.
- Understanding the client's advertising needs, and develop the ideal marketing solution for them.
- Delivering customized sales presentations in person, or by phone/web-conferencing.
- Generating new leads by making cold calls and maintaining an awareness of new business openings in the area.
- Be the face of the Midland Reporter-Telegram and ensure a superior customer experience.

The Ideal Candidate:

- Be a self-motivated and results oriented
- Has an outgoing, confident personality
- Has a proven track record in sales
- Has a proven track record in sales
- Has a proven track record in sales

Required Skills & Experience:

- 2+ years of sales experience with a proven record of successfully exceeding goals
- Proven to educate clients in their marketing options and clear deals
- Exceptional communication and presentation skills
- Strong computer skills, digital sales experience a plus
- Bachelor's degree preferred

What's in it for you?

- Field training
- Competitive Base Salary & Commission
- Medical, Dental and Vision Coverage
- Flex spending accounts
- Short & Long-Term Disability Insurance
- 401K with company match
- Field car & fuel

Email your resume to David.Robbins@hearstap.com or mail to David Robbins, 201 E. Ninth Ave, Midland, TX 79701

Instructor-Transportation Trainer

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

Required Qualifications:

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

EOE

Oil & Gas Sales

Minimum 2 Years Sales Experience w/Oilfield Service Company or Other Related Oilfield Sales. Must Have Proven Sales Track Record. Prefer Candidates Have Existing Customer Base w/ Current or Prior Employer As Well as Contacts. Salary DOE. Direct Hire Position. SEND RESUME to resume@gothjobs.com

OPPORTUNITY

A business with operations in west Texas is looking for an enthusiastic individual with self-starting skills to join our growing business. We presently operate — Disposal Well Systems and — Fresh Water Systems.

Responsibilities will include working with our existing customers and soliciting new business. Additionally, will be working with our field operation personnel. A working knowledge of a disposal system and fresh water facility is certainly expected.

Compensation is negotiable based on experience.

Please send resume to Jim Ford at jmford@yahoo.com

NOW HIRING
Associate Traffic Engineer

Job Duties:

- Support or substitute for the City Traffic Engineer as needed
- Oversee and/or participate in the development, configuration, and operation of the City's computerized control systems
- Manage and perform various studies for traffic signals, stop signs, crosswalks, school zones, speed limits and others
- Review commercial and residential development requests
- Review all phases of the planning process for commercial and retail development
- Prepare analysis and recommendations in support of geometric, roadway, intersection, and other infrastructure improvements
- Prepare analysis and recommendations for the installation and maintenance of traffic control devices within the city.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in civil engineering or related field with a minimum of three years' experience in traffic engineering or related field.
- Master's degree in civil engineering or related field may be substituted for three years' experience.
- Valid Texas driver's license required.
- Certification as an Engineer in Training (EIT) preferred.

Benefits:

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

apply online at www.midlandtx.com/gojobs

Steel Sucker Rod Applications Engineer

Endurance Lift Solutions is currently hiring for a Steel Sucker Rod Applications Engineer. An ideal candidate will have a degree in Engineering, 5 or more years, experience, and knowledge of artificial lift and subsurface engineering. Company offers medical, dental, vision and life benefits, and a safe harbor 401(k) plan. Please apply by sending your resume to hr@endurancesolutions.com.

OUT OF CITY DELIVERY DRIVER/ MISCELLANEOUS DUTIES

- Must have a clean, valid license & acceptable driving history
- Late night/early morning hours
- Drive all traffic lanes
- Strong commitment to safety is a must
- Professional communication with management, co-workers and customers
- Ability to lift, push or pull up to 60-lbs
- Must be able to reach, bend, lift as needed
- Must be able to work independently & in a team environment
- Ability to read, understand & follow oral and written instructions
- Perform other duties as delegated or assigned by Supervisor
- Required education: High School or equivalent

This is a full time position that offers paid vacation and full package of benefits.

Please mail resumes to P-410 c/o Midland Reporter Telegram 201 E. Ninth, Midland, TX. 79701



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Let our print and online job resources help you zoom in on more of the area's best career opportunities!

Midland Reporter-Telegram Jobs Section
432-682-6222 In Print & Online mrt.com

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

Part Time Day Associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE

Must be able to work Monday thru Saturday from 8am-6pm. Tuesday will be here later till about 8 or 9 pm. Need to be able to work on your feet thru 6-8 hour shift. Will work at night occasionally. We will train the right person. \$11.00 per hour

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

Apply in person at:
201 E. Illinois, Lobby
Information Desk -
Monday - Friday 8-5
or email: jmeddick@
hearst.com
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Field Service Mechanics

Come join our family! Jones Bros. Dirt and Paving
We want your work experience and your hard work!
NOW HIRING FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITION:

Field Service Mechanics

Requirements: 3 years mechanic experience.
Must have own tools, Valid Texas Drivers License. Pay will depend on work experience, 50 plus work week.
Benefits: Medical, Dental, Vision, Life Insurance. Paid vacation after 1 year of service, and 401K

Apply in person at Jones Bros. Dirt & Paving Contractors, Inc.
1401 S. Grandview
Odessa, Texas 79701

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

Night time associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE

Must be able to count at a fast pace. Be able to work between the hours of 12-5 am Sunday night thru Friday night and be able to work Saturday night 6pm-4am. Will be working inside and outside depending on the job you are doing that night. Will be 5-6 nights per week. We will train the right person. \$11.00 per hour

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

Apply in person at: 201 E.
Illinois, Lobby Information
Desk - Monday - Friday
8-5 or email: jmeddick@
hearst.com
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Restaurant Positions

Onsite Japanese Restaurant PT
Would you like to make \$10 to \$20 an hour, depending on position?
Now hiring Hibachi Chef, Waitresses, Hostesses, Cashiers, Bartenders,
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Manager & Cashiers

Smoker's Outlets has openings for MANAGER TRAINEE & CASHIERS
Full-time & Part-time position must have own transportation
Apply in person Mon-Fri 8-5
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Multi-Media Sales Executive

The Midland Reporter-Telegram, part of Hearst Communications, is excited to announce that due to our continued growth in the Midland, TX market, we are seeking Multi-Media Sales Executives just like you to join our team! Our industry is changing into a digital world, and we are looking for experienced professionals who are eager to facilitate our innovative efforts.

Join Midland's leading media company and become part of the winning sales team that offers advertisers a robust suite of digital and print products to help them achieve their business objectives. We are seeking digital savvy, highly motivated sales professionals to sell our marketing solutions to local businesses. Our ideal candidate will be goal oriented, is a relentless hunter, driving to win new business, and has a track record of exceeding monthly goals.

Multi-Media Sales Executives maximize advertising sales potential through the development of quality business relationships and promotion of new/renewing advertising products. This position requires a heavy amount of prospecting and lead-development with local businesses. We pride ourselves on simplifying the marketing process for our customers, while helping advertisers track the impact of their campaigns and understand their advertising options. In short, we help our customers grow their business.

Responsibilities include:

- Consistently meet/exceeds all print and digital revenue goals.
- Understand the client's advertising needs, and develop the ideal marketing solution for them.
- Delivering customized sales presentations in person, or by phone/web-demos.
- Generating new leads by making cold calls and maintaining an awareness of new businesses opening in the area.
- Be the face of the Midland Reporter-Telegram and ensure a superior customer experience.

The Ideal Candidate:

- You're self-motivated and results oriented.
- You have an outgoing, resilient personality.
- You enjoy the thrill of the hunt in new business.
- You're confident and not willing to accept average.

Required Skills & Experience:

- 2+ years of sales experience with a proven record of successfully exceeding goals.
- Passion to educate clients in their marketing options and close deals.
- Exceptional communication and presentation skills.
- Strong computer skills, Digital Sales experience a plus.
- Bachelor's degree preferred.

What's in it for you?

- Paid training
- Competitive Base Salary & Commissions
- Medical, Dental and Vision Coverage
- Flex spending accounts
- Short & Long-Term Disability Insurance
- 401K with company match
- Paid time off & more!

Send resume to David Robbins at david.robbins@hearst.com
No Phone Calls Please.

Environmental Scientist

Full service environmental consulting firm seeking an experienced environmental scientist to support operations in the Permian Basin out of Arlesia, NM. Competitive salary, benefits, and bonus opportunities. Please apply at www.hrtcomp.com/careers EOE

Geological and Chemical Lab Technicians

Hiring: Geological and Chemical Lab Technicians (Midland, TX)
Previous lab experience and B.S. degree in geology, chemistry, or related field preferred. Send resume to griffith@midland.com

MIDLAND

NOW HIRING

Systems Administrator

Performs network and system support functions on segments of the computer environment, including planned and emergency maintenance, performance and security analysis, and monitoring, tuning, and implementing new products and procedures. Analyzes emerging technology and makes recommendations for constant improvements to network and infrastructure services and capabilities.

Job Duties:

- Designs and coordinates segments of the IT architecture.
- Manages server applications, including but not limited to social media, Active Directory, operating systems, and email.
- Produces and maintains IT design, architectural, and specifications documentation, as identified.
- Monitors information storage systems, schedules, and tests, including backup and recovery tasks, as identified.
- Provides research, development, and planning of the IT infrastructure.
- Is responsible for the validating, building, and testing IT solutions, analyzing IT infrastructure technical issues, and overseeing the design, planning, building, and testing of new IT solutions, as assigned.
- Performs related duties as assigned.
- Subject to recall 24/7

Qualifications:

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

Benefits:

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

apply online at www.midland.com/jobs
Equal Opportunity Employer

MIDLAND

NOW HIRING

Foot Technician

Diagnoses, repairs and maintains city trucks and heavy equipment.

Job Duties:

- Diagnoses equipment and vehicle malfunctions such as ignition, steering, emission control, electrical, and heating and air conditioning. Estimates costs and submits to specifications.
- Determines the appropriateness of off-site repairs such as oil and filter changes, tire and muffler.
- Inspects vehicles for state stickers.
- Determines readiness and fitness of new vehicles. Installs special equipment.
- Employee must provide own hand tools. City supplies major equipment including power tools, air, compressed oxygen, and other diagnostic equipment.
- Replaces blue print, electrical diagrams, manuals and other specifications in order to make repairs.
- Performs emergency repairs for various departments.
- Maintains records of work performed such as work orders, logs, historical information, and special written requests.

Qualifications:

- High School graduate or GED
- Knowledge of proper tools used in welding and fabrication
- Three years training as a mechanic or in a related field
- Valid Texas Class A CDL, Driver's License within one year of employment
- Texas Department of Public Safety Inspector Certificate required within one year of employment

Benefits:

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

apply online at www.midland.com/jobs
Equal Opportunity Employer

Experienced Plumber/ Journeyman or Tradesman

All service work - residential and commercial. No new construction. Must have valid drivers license and acceptable driving history. This is a full time position that offers paid vacation and also includes health and dental insurance. Come Randy's Rooter & Plumbing, 500 W. Washington, Midland, Texas.
Apply between 8am-4pm.

PIONEER

NATURAL RESOURCES

NOW HIRING

Instrumentation & Electrical Technician

Maintains all electrical equipment used to monitor and control oil well services equipment. Works night.

Qualifications:

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

Comprehensive Benefits package!

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

Apply at www.pnr.com/careers/job-openings

Plumber Apprentices

Plumber apprentices needed for new commercial projects. Must possess valid DL. Experience preferred. Good work environment with competitive pay and standard benefits. Call 432-682-6222

PIONEER

NATURAL RESOURCES

NOW HIRING

Local Drivers

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

Qualifications:

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

Comprehensive Benefits package!

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

Apply at www.pnr.com/careers/job-openings

PIONEER

NATURAL RESOURCES

NOW HIRING

Transportation Truck Driver

Responsible for driving Water, Dump, and/or Belly Dump Truck and hauling water/sludge to drill rigs, treating crews, etc. Hauls water/sludge from well locations to proper disposal facilities.

Qualifications:

- High school education or equivalent.
- Experience can range from commercial truck driving experience preferred to one year as a water truck driver required.
- Valid Class A CDL with Tanker endorsement.
- Clean driving record.
- Salary competitive and commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Comprehensive Benefits package!

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

Apply at www.pnr.com/careers/job-openings

Delivery Driver

Wanted: DELIVERY DRIVER for local oilfield chemical service company. Good pay, good benefits. Requirements: • High School Diploma or GED • CDL • Must be willing to acquire or currently possess: Hazmat endorsement, Tanker endorsement.
Call Tim (409) 350-4101

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Midland Reporter-Telegram

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Legal and Public Notices

Notice Of Application For Fluid Injection Well Permit

XTO Energy, Inc., Op. No. 945836, 6401 Holiday Hill RD, BLDG 5, Midland, Texas 79707 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is non-productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Ellenberger formation in the Clay Henry SWD #1. The proposed injection well is located approximately 23.6 miles southeast from Midland and will be assigned to the Spraberry (Trend Area) Field for identification purposes, in Midland County, Texas. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 12850'-14050'.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Request for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P. O. Box 12957, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512-463-6792).

General Announcement

* Up to 95% off Miss Cayce's Clean Sweep SALE! * Starts Tuesday March 26-Sat 24 10-4 1012 Andrews Hwy (behind Westlake, next to KC Hasty Buffet) help us clean out before the New arrival! * Furniture, rugs, home decor, props, displays, antiques, beautiful Halloween, Fall, Christmas wreaths, Teardrops and garlands! gifts, lamps, chandeliers, ribbon, wreaths, centerpieces, Santa's, angels, and sooo much more! * Valentines 40% off!

Thank You! Jeanel
Mark Berryhill.com
Ministering for Christ
Teach the Lord's
Word 1-4

Fax Your Ad
682-6999

Legal and Public Notices

NOTICE TO Physicians and Providers

Superior HealthPlan Inc., a licensed HMO in Texas, 5900 E. San White Blvd., Austin, TX 78741, provides CHIP, Medicaid and Commercial benefits to eligible members. Application can be made to participate any time.



Autos For Sale-Lease

Antique and Vintage

FOR SALE
2007 SHELBY GT500
Red/White 170 miles
\$49,995, call
(432) 558-2155
no drivers

FORD 2004 F 150,
XLT 4 door crew cab,
white with gold trim
completely loaded,
sliding bed cover, new
tires, very clean, engine
great, 4 WD, low
package. 100K miles.
\$8,790.00 575-637-
7957 for appointment.



Recreation Vehicles

Houseboat-Standout
cruiser Super Model
55FT. Powered with
two 350 Chevy en-
gines, low hours, con-
diti on, upper deck &
waterfalls, Kohler
generator, always 6,
Lake Amistad,
Del Rio, TX. \$65,000
OBO. (432) 681-8885.

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Fax Your Ad
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Garage-Estate-Yard Sale

ESTATE SALE

3010 HYDE PARK
Fri. 9-3, Sat. 9-1, Sun. 2-4
See photos at EstateSales.net
No children please - too many fragile
items & surrounding pool
JUDY JACKSON'S ESTATE SALES

ESTATE SALE

BY JOSEPH AND TEAM
3700 South County Road 1316 - Odessa
(Behind Pee Wee Ballroom)
Thursday 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Friday 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Saturday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
For pictures go to
https://www.estatesales.net/TX/Odessa/
78769/1811853

ESTATE SALE

1710 BLANESDA RD
Thurs. & Fri. 9am-
5pm. Dallas Country
Club, Chlothe 2 for
\$1, the 8 am, mto.

Fax Your Ad
682-6999

Estate Sales

★ ESTATE SALE ★
★ by PATRICIA & TEAM ★
307 Carol Lane - Midland, Texas
Thurs, March 22nd & Fri, March 23rd, 8:30am-3:00pm
Sat. March 24th 8:30am-12:00pm

This house has something for everyone. Layton camper trailer, Jeep, furniture, antique trunks, National cash register model 313, Magnavox stereo, Linen, Tables with chairs, depression glass, jewelry, tools, yard tools. So much more.

Go to EstateSales.Net to view all picture

Get Framed

See how this ad caught your eye with its effective use of a border as a frame? Ask your Rep. about framing your ad today!

432-682-6222

or fax to 432-682-6999

432-682-6999

Yard, Garage, Sales

3005 IONIFFEN ROAD
CASH ONLY
Fri. 12-2:30
Sat. 8:30-3:00
Holiday decor, yard equipment and furniture, washing machine and various outdoor furniture, many other kitchen and household items, drapery and bed linen, seasonal decorations, commercial grade washing equipment, fishing equipment, bike toys, and basketball game, more L.H. pig golf from water softener, and kids bike

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Who's Who For Service

You can advertise your business for as little as \$47.00 monthly. Call 682-6222 for details.

 Svcs- Professionals	APPLIANCE REPAIR REPAIR SERVICES and Parts for Refrigerators, Freezers, Stoves, Washers & Dryers. Free Service Call with Repair. Free Removal. Full Warranty. Very Affordable Prices. M&M Appliances 1007 N Midkiff, Midland Call 432-570-8278	PATIO CLEANING UPSCALE PATIO & CLEANING SERVICE Professional Patio, Window & Gutter Cleaning. Create Surface Restoration. Will beat off old patio furniture. Spring Clean Your Patio's Now. Free estimate with an appointment. Call Rick Sanders @ 432-298-0723 email: upscalepatiocleaning@gmail.com web: www.upscalepatiocleaning.com	LAWNGEVITY 30 Years experience. All your lawn care needs. I don't send a crew, I'm one of the crew! We show up!!!!!! 432-661-9518	WATER TREATMENT Culligan of West Texas Residential & Commercial FREE WATER ANALYSIS 563-2690
HOUSEKEEPING 18 years experience. References available. Elva @ 432-553-0928	PROFESSIONAL HOUSE CLEANER. Excellent references. Trustworthy, & honest, hard worker. Reasonable rates. Call Nette 432-559-0808.	ADVANCED BRICK DOCTOR. brick & mortar repair. All types of new construction specializing in block and brick fence. Steve Rickey. 432-853-2858.	FLAWLESS PAINT & HANDYMAN SERVICE. Specializing in painting, drywall, drywall repair and texture, epoxy floor finish, tile and popcorn acoustic removal. Workmanship satisfaction guarantee. Ask about name your own price program. 10% senior citizen & veterans discount. Call for your free estimate. 432-528-2885	PAINTING, SHEET ROCK, repairs, fans, electrical, plumbing, tile-floor & bath. Perimeter Maintenance 432-897-5417
HOUSEKEEPING 18 years experience. References available. Elva @ 432-553-0928	WEST TEXAS CLEANING SERVICES Experience 10 years, we are a trustful, honest, hardworking company offering reasonable rates. Weekly, bi-weekly, move-out and move-in, and deep cleaning services are available. Contact Cecilia Ortiz for your free estimate! (214)-608-5438 References are available.	ABC CONSTRUCTION Wood, chain link, block, gates & repairs are my specialty. Native Midlander building since 1978. Call Lonnie 432-528-5282	ELLIS & Sons Plumbing & Air Conditioning Sales & Service. Service all brands. 853-2579. TALCB090482.	PRECISE PAINTING FEMALE PAINTER: Interior/Exterior, residential. Very professional, takes pride in her work, very dependable & affordable. FREE Estimates. 432-250-4843
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			PAINTING, SHEET rock, repairs, fans, electrical, plumbing, tile-floor & bath. Perimeter Maintenance 432-897-5417	RETIRED MIDLAND Retiree weekly or bi-weekly, mow, scalp, trim, and edge lawns Call (432)-697-2030
			RAINBOW LANDSCAPING We do it all! Mowing, edging, beds, flower pots, junk hauling. Free estimates. 20+ years experience. Mandy service. Call Bryan at 432-301-1788	LEYYA LAWN CARE Trees & Lawns. Professional & Efficient 432-250-9470 Free Estimates.
			MURPHY'S LAWN CARE Mowing, edging, trimming, hedge/shrub trimming, clean-ups. 888 or Midland. (432) 687-2121	BLUE'S SPRINKLER SYSTEM Install and repairs. Backflow assembly tester. Lic. 6255 432-688-8863 432-704-2847

CLASSIFIEDS

The Midland Reporter-Telegram

JOB



CARS



HOMES



SERVICES



MERCHANDISE



GARAGE SALE



TO ADVERTISE CALL

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OR PLACE

YOUR AD

ONLINE @

mrt.com



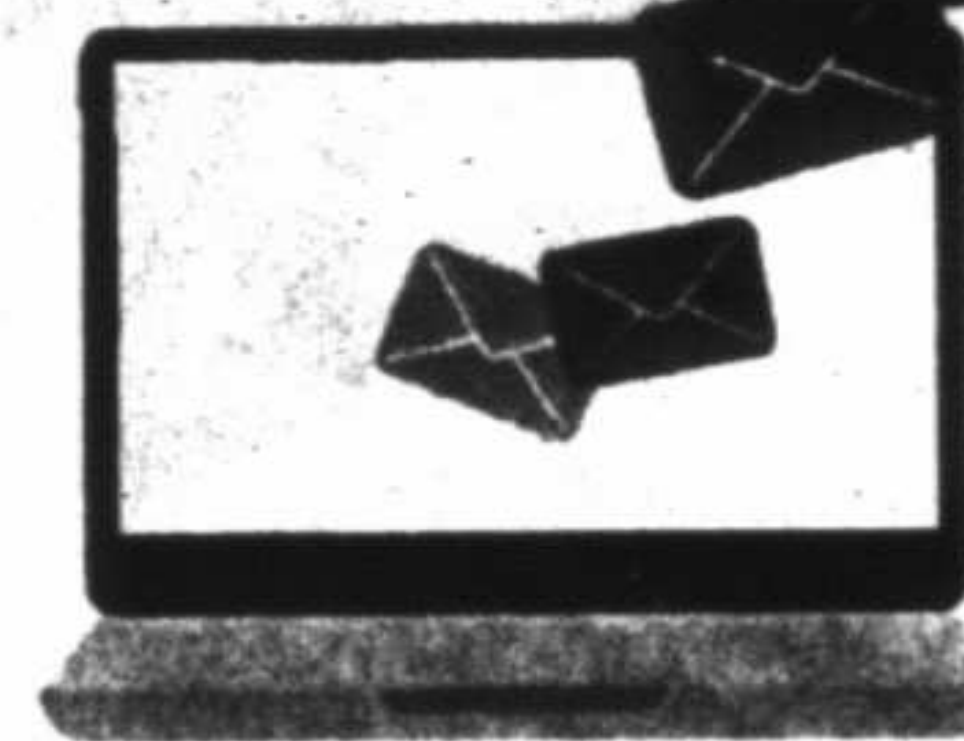
MRT MEDIA GROUP, A NAME YOU TRUST.

MRT Media Group has an extensive offering of digital promotional tools that produce measurable results for today's online marketing arena. MRT Media Group reaches over 300,000 readers through mrt.com, and can target millions of consumers on thousands of web and social media sites anywhere across the nation. Or we can help you reach your target market right here at home easily and effectively. Our goal is to be the premier media provider in the community. Let our team of experts work with you to develop a results-driven, first rate digital marketing strategy for your business.

Content Marketing



EMAIL MARKETING



Your website isn't going to sell your products and services if you don't have traffic



Is your website properly optimized and marketed?



It's time to take control of your Social Media

DIGITAL MARKETING SERVICES

MRT Media Group has an extensive offering of digital promotional tools that produce measurable results for today's online marketing arena. We offer marketing solutions through digital channels such as search engines, websites, social media, email, and mobile apps.

We don't sell advertising, we offer marketing solutions!

MRT Digital Services will help you find your customers and engage with them to grow your business!

Contact us today 432-683-5311

Kid Scoop

© 2018 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schindler, Graphics Vol. 34, No. 15

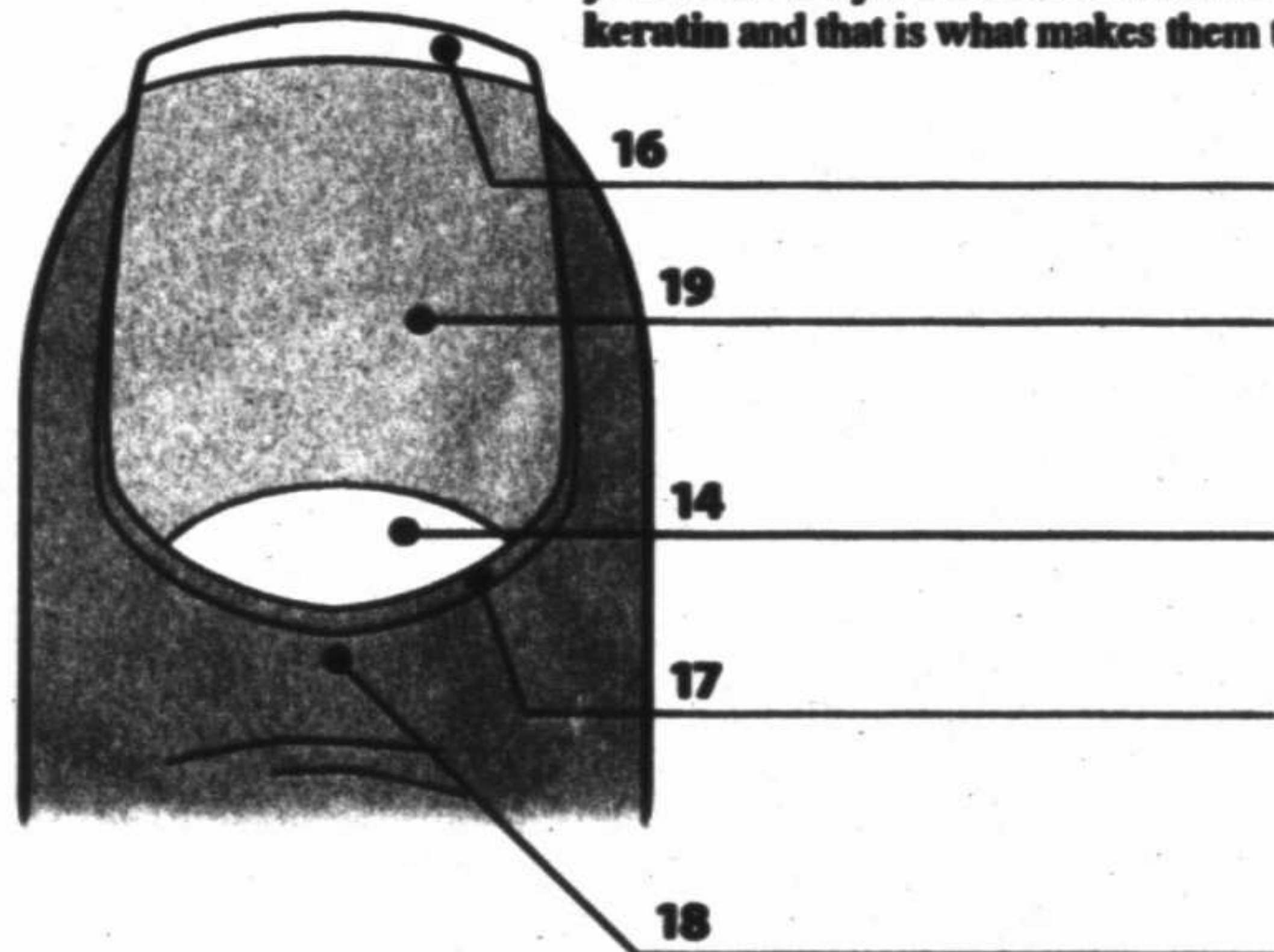


Got an itch?

Aren't you glad you have fingernails to help you scratch it? And your toenails come in handy to protect your toes when you stub them!

Hard as Nails!

Since fingernails and toenails are so hard, some people think they are bones. NOT TRUE! Fingernails and toenails are more like your hair than your bones. Both are made of keratin and that is what makes them tough.



Keratin shows up in other animals as well. They are part of a horse's hooves, cats' claws, hair, porcupine quills, bird feathers and even a rhino's horn!

The hard surface of your nails helps to protect the tips of your fingers and toes. Your fingernails make it easier to scratch an itch or peel an orange.

Nails By the Numbers

Do the math to label the diagram of a fingernail.

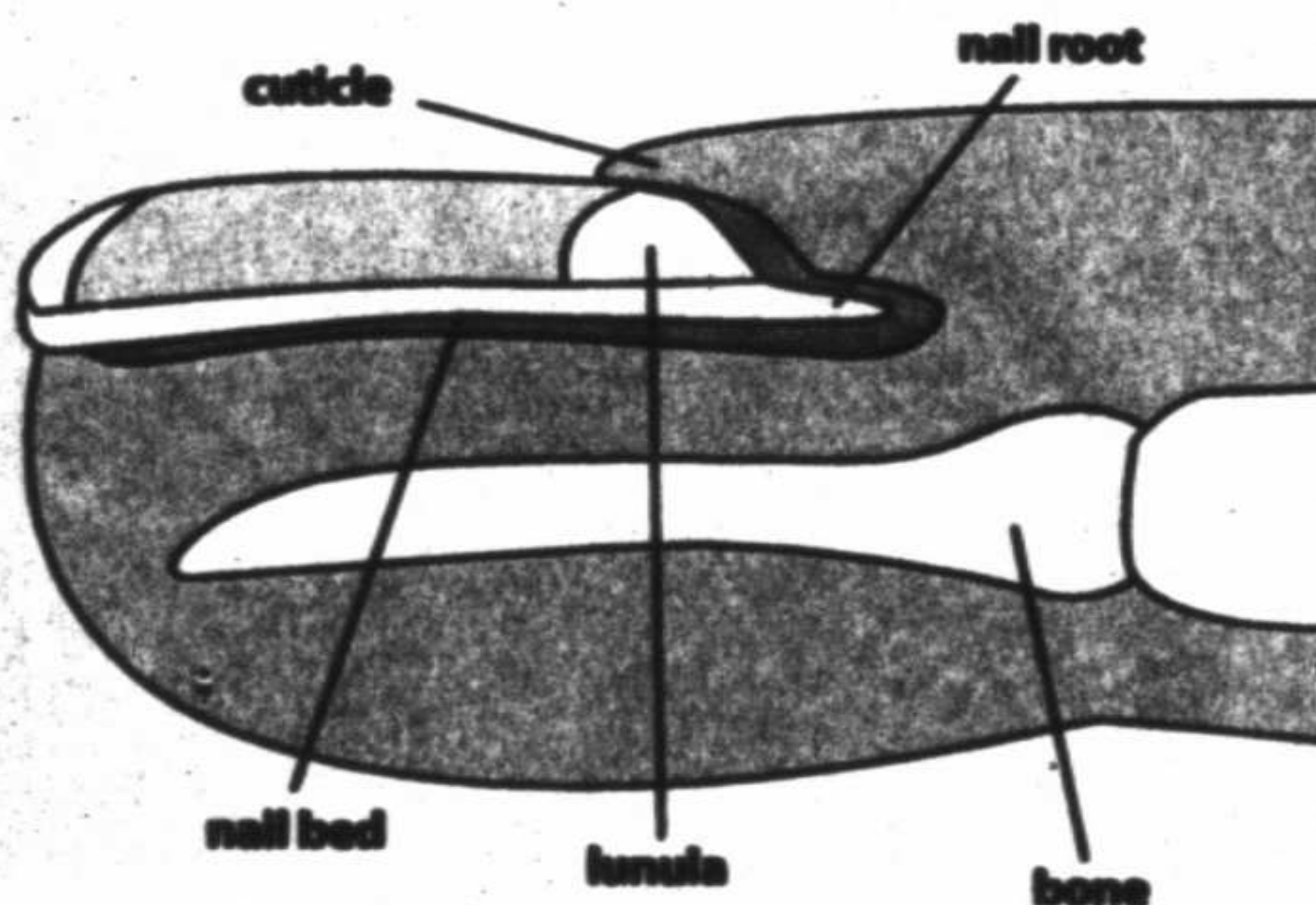
- 21 - 7 = lunula
- 25 - 7 = mantle
- 23 - 4 = nail plate
- 22 - 5 = cuticle
- 24 - 8 = distal edge

Why doesn't it hurt when I cut my nails?

The part of your nails that you can see is dead, so it doesn't hurt to cut them. If a nail tips away from the tender skin underneath, OW! That really hurts. That is why your fingers and toes need tough nails, to protect the sensitive skin underneath.

Nails start in the nail root, which is hidden under the cuticle. At the root of the nail, new cells grow. The new nail cells push the old nail cells along the nail bed.

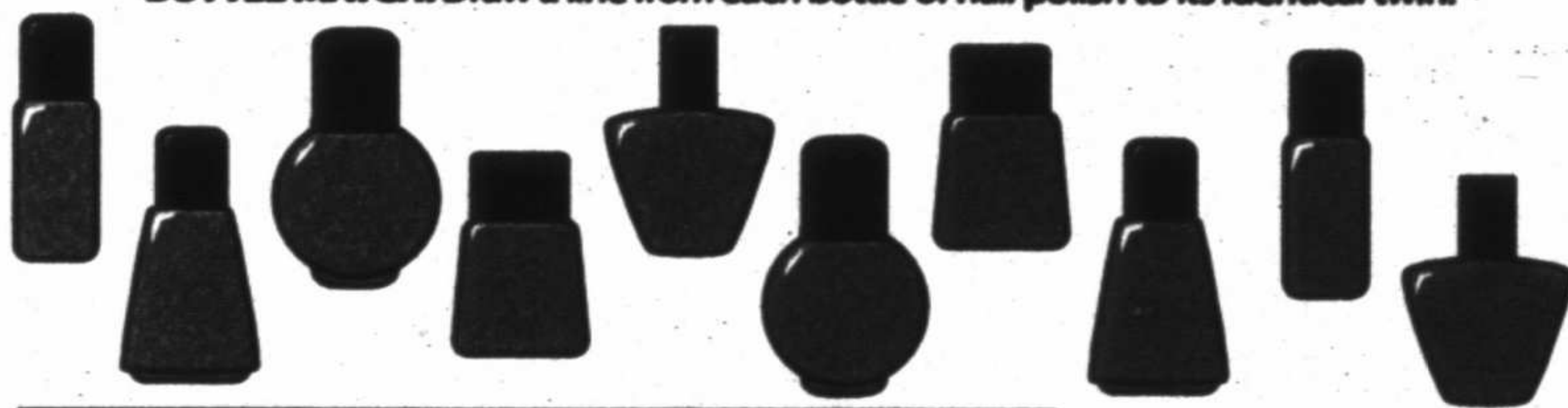
The cuticle is the tiny sliver of skin where your nail comes out from under your skin. Cuticles help to protect the new nail as it grows out from the nail root.



That pale half circle just above the cuticle is called the lunula. Use the code below to see what this Latin word means.

E = L M = N S
I = M O = T

BOTTLE MATCH: Draw a line from each bottle of nail polish to its identical twin.



Standard Link: Observation: Find the difference between common objects.



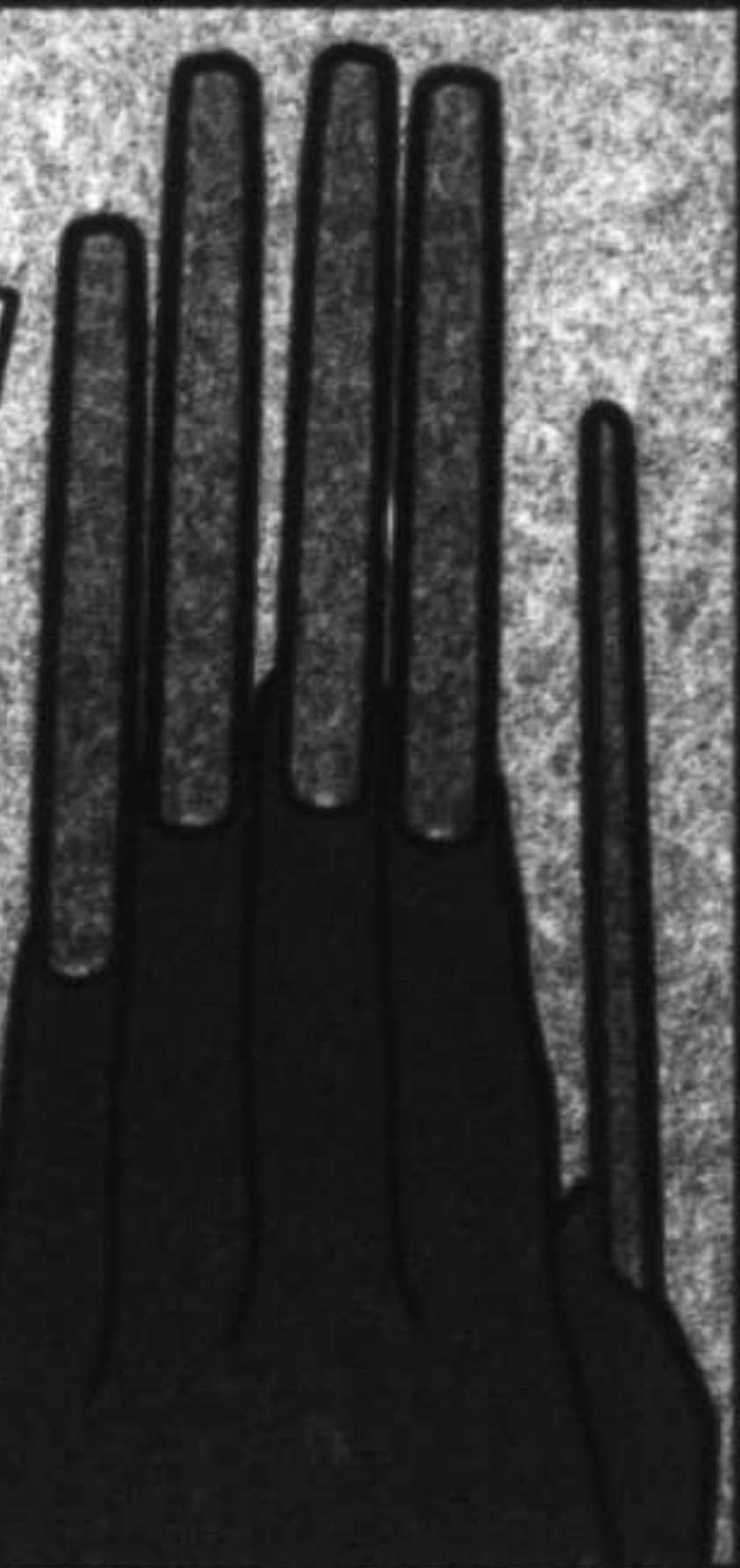
Kid Scoop Puzzler

Replace the missing words.

LENGTH GROW HARD RING

The Uncut Story

Most people cut their nails as they grow. But Shadrach Chidley decided to let his nails grow on one. They grew and grew for years and years. He let the nails on his left hand for 62 years! If you added up the of each nail on his left hand, the length came to nearly 30 feet! His thumbnail was the longest at just about 6 feet 5 inches!



Source: Guinness Book of World Records

Kid Scoop Word Search

SENSITIVE
TOENAILS
FEATHERS
KERATIN
CUTICLE
SCRATCH
HOOVES
QUILLS
LUNULA
SLIVER
CLAWS
RIPS
ROOT
CATS
SKIN

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

A F K S C R A T C H
L E S E V O O H T F
U A I N R T O O R C
N T N S S A E G U Q
U H S I T N T T U S
L E W T A B I I K S
A R A I C C L I N P
N S L V L L N A I I
L S C E S L I V E R

Standard Link: Letter recognition, Fluency and automatic word recognition, Sight and sound reading, Pencil spelling patterns.

Weekly Writing Corner

Healthy Snack

Students write an advertisement for a healthy snack.

Try this, my signature snack. It's a fruit smoothie. It has all the fruits kids love. There are kiwis, mangos, apples, peaches, oranges and others. Kids will love it. It's \$12.99 for the blender, plus \$5.99 processing and handling.

Alanna, 5th grade

Apples are a healthy snack, because they are healthy. Candy isn't, it makes teeth fall out.

Logan, 2nd grade

My healthy snack is called "Cook Your Own Food." "Cook Your Own Food" lets kids prepare their own spaghetti, mac 'n' cheese, pizza poppers, etc. The good thing about it is that it contains one serving of fruits and vegetables in every packet. The snacks only take an average of five minutes to prepare.

Tristan, 4th grade

You should eat healthy snacks because you get stronger and smarter. Chips and soda make you weak and you won't be smart. Stay in school and eat things like apples, oranges, grapes, bananas or apple juice. They're good for you.

Somaya, 3rd grade

My favorite healthy snack is pineapples because they are juicy, tasty and yellow. My favorite color is yellow so I love food that is that color.

Jalen, 1st grade

A really healthy snack is fruit salad. A fruit salad is a mixture of juicy, yummy, colorful fruit. There are many ways to eat it because there are many delicious kinds of fruit. These bright fruits have many flavors so if you don't like one, you might like another.

Alison, 2nd grade

Are you tired all the time? Yes? Well, not anymore. I have a healthy banana and strawberry protein shake. Guess what it does. It makes you stay awake for 30 hours. Not 24 hours, but 30 hours. Once it wears off, you are awake for an extra hour.

Meghan, 5th grade

Do you want to be healthy? Well, try fruit pops. They make your taste buds smile. You can get them in any kind of fruit. Kids love them. You can buy them at any grocery store. Kids would love them for a bedtime snack.

Caroline, 2nd grade

Write On!

Freedom of the Press

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Deadline: April 15
Published: Week of May 13
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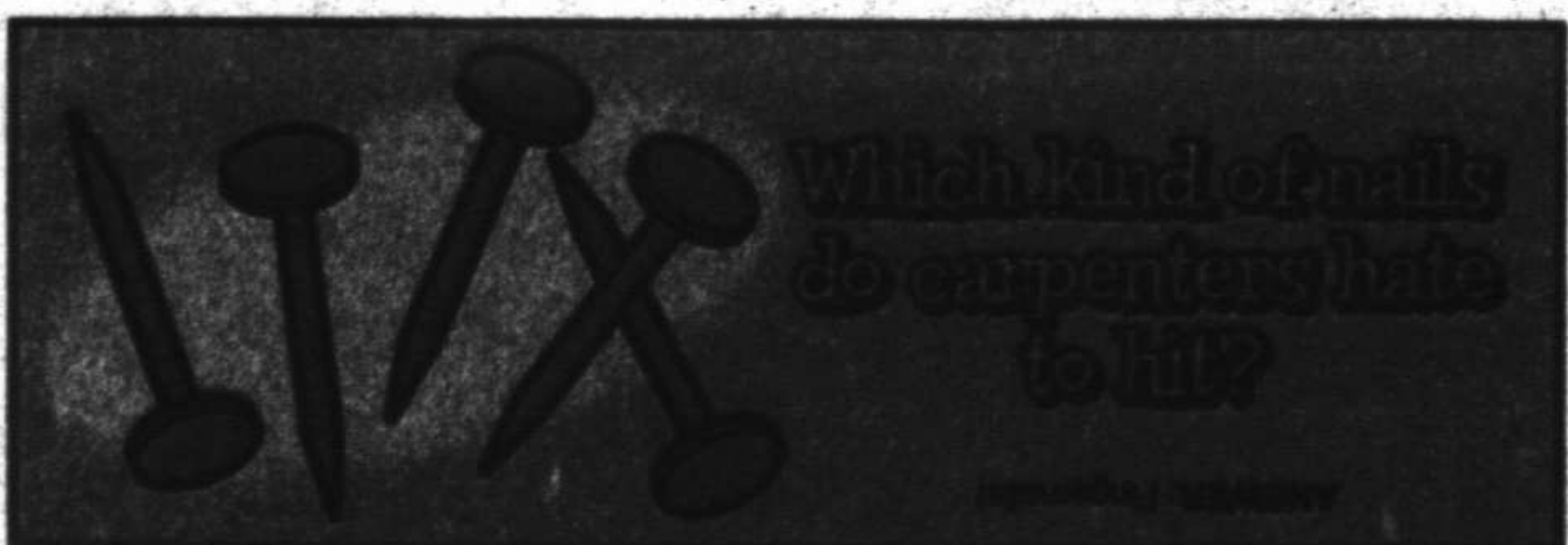
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