MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

TUESDAY, JULY 25, 2017 mrt★com *235,000 readers in print and online monthly*

VEHICLE FATALITY

Midland man died Friday after his vehicle rolled over on Interstate 20.

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SCHOOL DISTRICT

Midland Central Appraisal District increased final property valuations by 11.74 percent in its July report. Find out what this means for MISD inside.

Page 2A

MPO agrees on a draft list of projects

Two of planning group's 'committed' road projects to begin this year

By Trevor Hawes
thawes@mrt.com

There are dozens of transportation projects in Midland-Odessa that need funding, but there is only so much money available to spend. At Monday's Permian Basin Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting, the policy board agreed on a draft version of region's top priorities.

"We've been at this for a little raftover four months now, and ideally tonight we will walk away with your approval of a draft list of projects," MPO Executive Director Cameron Walker told the board to open discussion of the action item.

The new list is formally known as the Vision 2040 Master Transportation Plan Amendment No. 4. Around transportation circles, it's the MTP. The document lays out which projects the MPO plans to address, how much they're estimated to cost and when they're expected to begin. First up are the already-approved overpass at Loop 250 and Fairgrounds Road in Midland County and a new location realignment at John Ben Shepperd Parkway South and Farm-to-Market Road 3503 in Ector County. Both are slated to begin this year.

Other "committed" projects — meaning funding is budgeted for them — and year-of-expenditure estimated costs are:

- Construction of a new interchange on U.S. Highway 385 at Loop 338 in Ector County: $17.7 million.
- Reconfiguration of the interchanges on Interstate 20 from Lamesa Road to FM

Please see **MPO**/2A

Court approves asbestos removal

■ Commissioners' project is for building county is purchasing for archives

By Simone Jasper
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Midland County commissioners took action Monday approving funds to go toward the asbestos abatement process for a building that could store county archives.

Commissioner Randy Prude of Precinct 4 said the county is in the process of closing on a facility located near its courthouse. The commissioners' court on Monday approved removing asbestos from the building, a process that would start after closing.

The court voted last month to move forward on a contract to purchase a building on North Loraine Street. County Judge Mike Bradford previously told the Reporter-Telegram the total cost for the 14,000-square-foot facility is $400,000.

In another action item, commissioners approved a grant application for rifle-resistant body armor from the Criminal Justice Division. Officers would wear plates to give them extra protection, according to Midland County Sheriff Gary Painter.

"What we have is highly effective," he said. "This gives us more (protection)."

Also at Monday's meeting, commissioners

- voted to renew an agreement for the Texas VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday), a service that allows crime victims to keep track of offenders.
- heard a report from John Trischitti III, Midland County Public Library director, about library usage.

Trischitti said library numbers are strong in terms of foot traffic, program participation and other measures. Computer usage is down, but it is not an "apples to apples comparison" because of changes in library hours this fiscal year and the closure of the downtown branch for a project, he said. He also shared with commissioners a map and numbers showing the library's reach in

Please see **ASBESTOS**/2A

Oncor, Sharyland to swap assets

■ Oncor receives retail customers, distribution network; Sharyland receives 258 miles of transmission lines

By Mella McEwen
mmcewen@mrt.com

Oncor Electric Delivery Co. LLC and Sharyland Utilities LP have announced an asset swap agreement that could positively impact Sharyland customers.

Under the agreement, Oncor will receive Sharyland's retail customers and its distribution network. In turn, Sharyland will receive approximately 258 miles of 345 kilovolt transmission lines located in West and Central Texas.

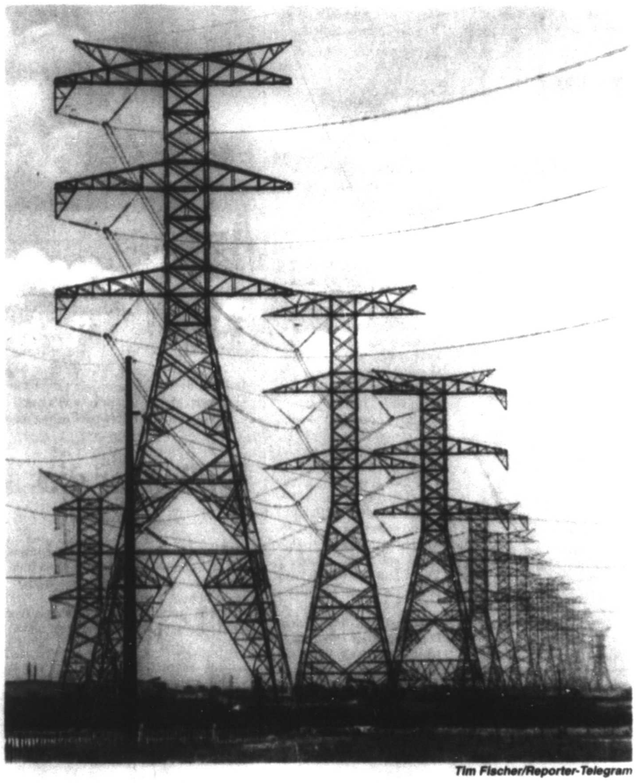
The deal is estimated to be valued at $400 million and is expected to close later this year, pending approval by the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

Sue Mercer, Oncor customer operations manager, West Texas Region, estimated the company will receive 54,000 retail customers, which is the equivalent of a year's growth.

She described the deal as a win-win for Sharyland customers, who can expect to see significantly lower rates.

Upon completion of the agreement, Sharyland and Sharyland Distribution & Transmission Services, along with other parties, will dismiss their rate case.

"This provides significant rate relief for our retail distribution customers," said David A. Campbell, CEO of Sharyland Utilities and InfraREIT Inc., in a statement provided to media outlets. "This transaction is the right thing to do for our customers and for the communities we serve.



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Oncor announced a deal Monday with Sharyland, Oncor will receive Sharyland's approximately 54,000 retail customers and its distribution network and Sharyland will receive about 258 miles of high power 345 kilivolt transmission lines from Oncor, like these in the Greenwood area.

We would like to thank the staff of the Public Utility Commission of Texas, the Texas Office of Public Utility Counsel, and the other parties for working diligently and constructively with the companies to reach these agreements."

"Since our inception, Sharyland Utilities has been strongly committed to serving as a community-centric utility, providing our customers with safe, reliable, affordable power," said Hunter Hunt, chairman of Sharyland Utilities, in that same statement. "We believe the most community-centric action we can take is to give our customers access to a world-class utility like Oncor with the lowest rates in the state, and focus our forward strategy in support of the transmission infrastructure necessary for our communities to continue to grow and prosper."

The announcement drew praise from elected officials representing this area.

State Sen. Kel Seliger and State Rep. Drew Darby — who represents nine West Texas counties — said in a statement

Please see **SWAP**/2A

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Price of oil
$46.34 ▼ $0.57
September 2017

Did you know?
Trump's new communications chief says television cameras will be allowed again in the White House briefing room. Page 7A

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

Brought to you daily by JimBurrito

Vol. 89, No. 136
Daily $2, Sunday $3

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2017 WELLNESS TOUR
August 16-19, 2017 | Midland, TX | midlandwellnesstour.com

Midland ISD to benefit from valuation revision

■ Additional $13 million expected because of 11.74 percent property value gain

By Stewart Doreen
sdoreen@mrt.com

The Midland ISD board got more than $13 million in good news at its Monday budget workshop.

The Midland Central Appraisal District increased final property valuations by 11.74 percent in its July report. Because of the revision, tax revenue is expected to increase to $214.8 million, according to a budget forecast provided by the district. Last month, the budget forecast showed local tax revenue of $201.4 million.

The budget forecast also showed that for the 2016-17 year, the school finance payment to the state was more than $2 million less than expected. Instead of having to pay $48.302 million, the district will send $46.2 million to Austin to be distributed to "property poor" districts. The lower payment results in $2 million less being taken out of reserves to pay for last school year's expenditures.

For the 2017-18 school year, the additional $13.4 million will help pay bills that were going to paid from the reserve fund. Last month, trustees received a budget forecast that showed $8.264 million being taken out of reserves to help pay MISD's school finance bill ($39.4 million) and $185 million in other expenditures.

This new budget forecast shows the district can pay the $185 million in expenses, an even larger school finance payment ($41.6 million) and put more than $3 million in reserves.

Under the new budget, MISD employees will keep their raises. Trustees said teachers should receive a 1.726 percent increase to their salaries and the district will pay for increases to health care benefits. When everything is taken into account, the increase in total compensation for teachers will be closer to 4 percent, according to trustees.

The board found a way to fund the raises while keeping total expenditures down. The budget forecast shows total expenditures down from $239.5 million in 2015-16 to $226.8 million in this upcoming school year. Around $6 million of that comes from cuts made inside the district, according to the budget forecast. Payroll has been trimmed by more than $5 million during the same period.

If there was an area of the budget that created concern for trustees, it was the forecast for the school finance payment. Previously, the school finance payment for the 2018-19 school year was $48.8 million. The new budget forecast shows a payment of $59.4 million. Still, the extra local tax revenue this year and next is expected to leave the district in better shape. Reserves could be around $35.3 million at the end of 2018-19 instead of $21.8 million, the number projected by the budget forecast turned in last month.

In other news

The district on Monday announced three high profile hires.

■ Leslie Sparacello will be the new principal at Midland High School. Sparacello is the academic dean at John Jay High School in Northside ISD (San Antonio area). MISD reports she has 19 years in administrative experience.

■ Edgar Tibayan will be the new principal at Emerson Elementary. Tibayan, a former elementary school teacher and former Ysleta ISD Teacher of the Year, has seven years of administrative experience. The district reports he was named Texas Middle School Principal of the Year in 2015 and Texas Secondary Principal of the year in 2016.

■ Darla Moss will be the next chief financial officer for the district. The district reports Moss had more than 12 years of experience in school finance and 30 years in accounting and finance. The last six years Moss has served a CFO for the Liberty-Eylay Independent School District, a Class 4A school district in Texarkana.

Man arrested on assault charge

A Midland man was arrested Saturday after allegedly assaulting a woman, according to court documents.

Ray Saenz Gonzalez, 20, was being held Monday on a $25,000 bond for a third-degree felony charge of assault of a family/house member with a previous conviction.

Midland police were dispatched Saturday in reference to a disturbance.

Gonzalez

Gonzalez allegedly pushed a woman causing her to fall back onto a doorknob. Then he pushed her face onto a couch causing her physical pain, according to his arrest affidavit.

Gonzalez was arrested in 2016 on family violence charges, according to the affidavit.

If convicted of the third-degree felony charge, Gonzalez could face up to 10 years imprisonment.

MPO

From 1A

715 in Midland County: $4.5 million.

■ Construction of a new interchange on I-20 at County Road 1250 in Midland County: $19.84 million.

■ Construction of a new interchange on Loop 250 at CR 1150 and CR 60 in Midland County: $21.5 million.

■ Construction of a new interchange on Loop 338 at Yukon Road in Ector County: $19.2 million.

■ Ramp reconfigurations in the area of Loop 250 and State Highway 191 in Midland County: $6.26 million.

These projects are slated to begin in the next three years. Walker told the Reporter-Telegram after the meeting that what's most interesting to him about the list, which totals more than four dozen projects, is that the first 17 non-committed projects are all new.

Furthermore, a total of 25 projects are slated to begin in the next decade, though Walker put the more reasonable timetable at seven years because of increased funding transportation funding from Proposition 1 and Proposition 7. Financial contributions from the Midland and Odessa development corporations also are a factor. Between them, the ODC and the MDC are committing about $20 million toward a dozen projects over the next 10 years.

Several of the projects focus on I-20, and the MPO ultimately hopes to convert the thoroughfare's bidirectional service roads to one-way. When talking about the large presence of I-20 projects, Walker told the board, "The message is I-20 is important to us, conversion to one-way frontage roads is important to the board."

In its 6-0 vote, the policy board also approved MPO staff to conduct a 10-day public comment period. Midland County Commissioner and policy board Vice Chairman Robin Donnelly was absent Monday.

The board also voted 6-0 to approve the Unified Planning Work Program, which effectively is the MPO's annual budget.

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

Swap

From 1A

that they have hosted town hall forums and written numerous letters to the Public Utility Commission and the Office of Public Utility Counsel on behalf of Sharyland customers experiencing high transmission rates.

"This is an important development in providing relief to the exorbitant rates Sharyland customers have experienced," Seliger said. "I am eager to see the impact this has on improving those rates."

"This is welcome news for our constituents with savings on the horizon, and I'm grateful for Oncor's progress here," Darby said. "I urge careful review by the PUC and OPUC to make sure this provides the relief needed by home and business owners this summer."

Sharyland will be giving Oncor its retail distribution assets and retail distribution operations in the Stanton, Brady, Celeste service territories — communities around Midland, Stanton, Colorado City, Brady, Greenville and Celeste — and the McAllen service territory. Sharyland will retain its transmission system in the Texas Panhandle and in the Stanton and McAllen service areas.

Even though Oncor will be giving Sharyland 258 miles of transmission lines, Mercer said the company will continue to maintain approximately 122,000 miles of transmission and distribution lines and over 3.4 million advanced meters.

She said Oncor intends to make employment offers to approximately 130 Sharyland employees to join the company and help build and maintain those transmission and distribution lines.

Both companies are expected to make a joint change-in-control filing with the PUC no later than Aug. 4. The PUC will then have 180 days to take action. Mercer said completion of the transaction is contingent upon receiving PUC approval. Brian Lloyd, PUC's executive director, has already expressed his approval of the deal, she said.

"If customers are paying lower rates, that helps the economy," she said.

Asbestos

From 1A

Midland and surrounding counties.

■ heard a report from representatives of the county's truancy court and Midland ISD.

James R. Henry, truancy court director, said the two entities and local youth programs have recently worked together to prevent cases from coming to court.

No one spoke during public hearings about matters related to the district clerk and county clerk's office records.

Bradford was not present at Monday's meeting.

Photo: Property at 509 N. Loraine is shown Monday. Midland County Commissioners are in negotiations to purchase the property, former halfway-house for New Direction Ministry, to be converted to a storage facility. **CREDIT:** *Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram*

Midlander dies after rollover on I-20

From staff reports

A Midland man died Friday afternoon after his vehicle rolled over on Interstate 20 in Howard County, according to the Department of Public Safety.

Jesus T. Serrata, 49, was driving a Jeep Grand Cherokee when the vehicle had a blowout and rolled over, according to the DPS press release.

Serrata was transported to Medical Center Hospital in Odessa, where he died. He was not wearing a seat belt. The wreck occurred about 5 miles west of Big Spring around 1:08 p.m. Friday.

92-year-old veteran attacked trying to defend US flag

Associated Press

KAUFMAN — A 92-year-old Marine veteran has been injured while trying to defend the U.S. flag outside his Texas home.

Howard Banks fought in World War II and was left legally blind by a flare on Iwo Jima.

After hearing noises outside his Dallas-area home earlier this month, Banks says he went outside and found someone trying to pull his flag down from its pole.

The would-be thief knocked him down before running off, and neighbors rushed to help.

Banks was left with bumps, bruises and a twisted knee.

Police are investigating.

Meanwhile, fellow Marine veterans from Honor Flight Austin visited Banks at his home Sunday and offered him a free trip to Washington, D.C. to express their appreciation for his service.

Burr-Hamilton? Texas lawmaker singles out 'female senators'

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Passions are running high on Capitol Hill — but pistols at 10 paces over health care?

GOP Rep. Blake Farenthold of Texas is angry with some fellow Republicans in the Senate who are balking at parts of legislation to overturn "Obamacare." After GOP promises to repeal the law, that "is just repugnant to me," he says.

Who's to blame?: "Some of the people that are opposed to this, there are some female senators from the Northeast," Farenthold said.

And it's a good thing — they're women, according to the congressman from Corpus Christi.

"If it was a guy from south Texas, I might ask them to step outside and settle this Aaron Burr-style," he said. That was a reference to the 1804 firearms duel in which Vice President Aaron Burr killed former Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton.

Who are those female senators from the Northeast?: Farenthold named no names. But Susan Collins of Maine has been consistent in opposing the GOP replacement for Obamacare. She remains concerned about deep cuts in Medicaid and has criticized the bill-writing process, with about a dozen men crafting the measure behind closed doors.

Under the latest iteration of the bill, 22 million more people would become uninsured by 2026, many of them Medicaid recipients, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

Other female senators who have expressed reservations are Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, some distance from the Northeast.

Farenthold made his comments in a radio interview Friday with Bob Jones of Corpus Christi radio "1440 Keys."

For weeks, Senate Republicans have struggled to agree on a bill to repeal and replace much of the 2010 law. Lacking support, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has postponed votes twice but hopes to bring the latest measure up again today.

Obituaries

Brian Dale Cooke

Brian Dale Cooke died in his home in Odessa, Texas on July 20, 2017 after a valiant eight-month battle with painful and debilitating health issues arising from surgical complications.

He was born in Canoga Park, California on July 2, 1963.

He is survived by his loving and faithful wife, Terry Lynn Cooke, of Odessa, Texas; his daughter, Cambrie Anne Holguin and her husband Dustin Jeffrey Holguin, of Midland, Texas; his son, Keegan Dale Cooke and his wife Gloria Jean Victoria Cooke, of Lubbock, Texas; his father, Steven Cooke, of Odessa, Texas; his sister, Trace Maltsberger and her husband Dean Maltsberger of Odessa, Texas; his mother-in-law, Carole Ann Zea of Odessa, Texas; and his aunt, Mary Jane Smith, of Odessa, Texas; and his uncle, John Wayne Smith, of Odessa, Texas.

He is preceded in death by his beloved mother, Diana May Cooke, of Odessa, Texas; and his dear father-in-law, William Frederick Kerley and his wife Bonnie Kerley from Runaway Bay, Texas.

Brian was a graduate of Texas Tech University and earned his Master's degree in Special Education. Before becoming a Special Ed teacher for Midland Independent School District in 2005, he worked for 17 years in Big Spring as a clinical social worker at the Big Spring State Hospital and at MHMR. Brian became a Christian at the age of 18 while attending Antioch Christian Church in Odessa, Texas. He met his wife at Antioch in 1982 and they were married there in 1985. While living in Big Spring, Texas, he was active in his local church. After moving back to Odessa, Texas in 2005, he returned to Antioch and acted faithfully as a servant and elder there until his health would no longer permit him to serve in that great capacity.

He was a man known for his gentle and silent strength, his patience, and his determination to be a benefit to everyone in his presence. He was a man known for his warm quietness, careful diligence in his work, and his proclivity for serving his Lord by serving those around him. The weight of his loss is profound - the world is now a lesser place because of his absence.

The memorial service will be held at 3:00 p.m. on July 27, 2017 at Antioch Christian Church which is located at 4040 Maple Ave in Odessa, Texas. Instead of flowers, and in honor of Brian's proclivity for service, the family requests that donations be made to Antioch Christian Church's general mission fund.

Arrangements are entrusted to Sunset Memorial Gardens and Funeral Home. To send family condolences please sign his guestbook at *www.sunsetodessa.com*.

SUNSET MEMORIAL
GARDENS & FUNERAL HOME

Death Notices

Ben Dumas

Ben J Dumas, 84, of Midland passed away July 24, 2017.

No services are scheduled at this time with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Midland.

Ben is survived by his wife, Fran Dumas; son, Joel Dumas; and daughter, Mary Carol Finley.

mrt★com

TODAY IN MIDLAND

WORD OF THE DAY
brought to you daily by
JimBurrito
Terracotta
[kot-uh]
noun
1. a hard, fired clay, brownish-red in color when unglazed, that is used for architectural ornaments and facings, structural units, pottery, and as a material for sculpture.

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5. Is an H-E-B Plus coming to northeast Midland? 4,058
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7. Texland Estate home on the market for $1.5 million 2,413
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20. LL Northern's 8-10 team wins Texas West state title 702

Things to do

■ Watercolor art classes by Sara Drescher, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., Arts Council of Midland, 1506 W. Illinois Ave. To register, email sara@artbysaradb.com.

■ Grant Writing Workshop Sessions, 11 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Ellen Noel Art Museum, 4909 E. University Blvd., Odessa. Register by emailing asst@odessaarts.org.

■ Bingo, 6 p.m., Tall City VFW Post 7208, 1306 E. Taylor Ave. Children welcome.

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

■ Live Trivia by Challenge Entertainment, 7 p.m., Basin Burger House.

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

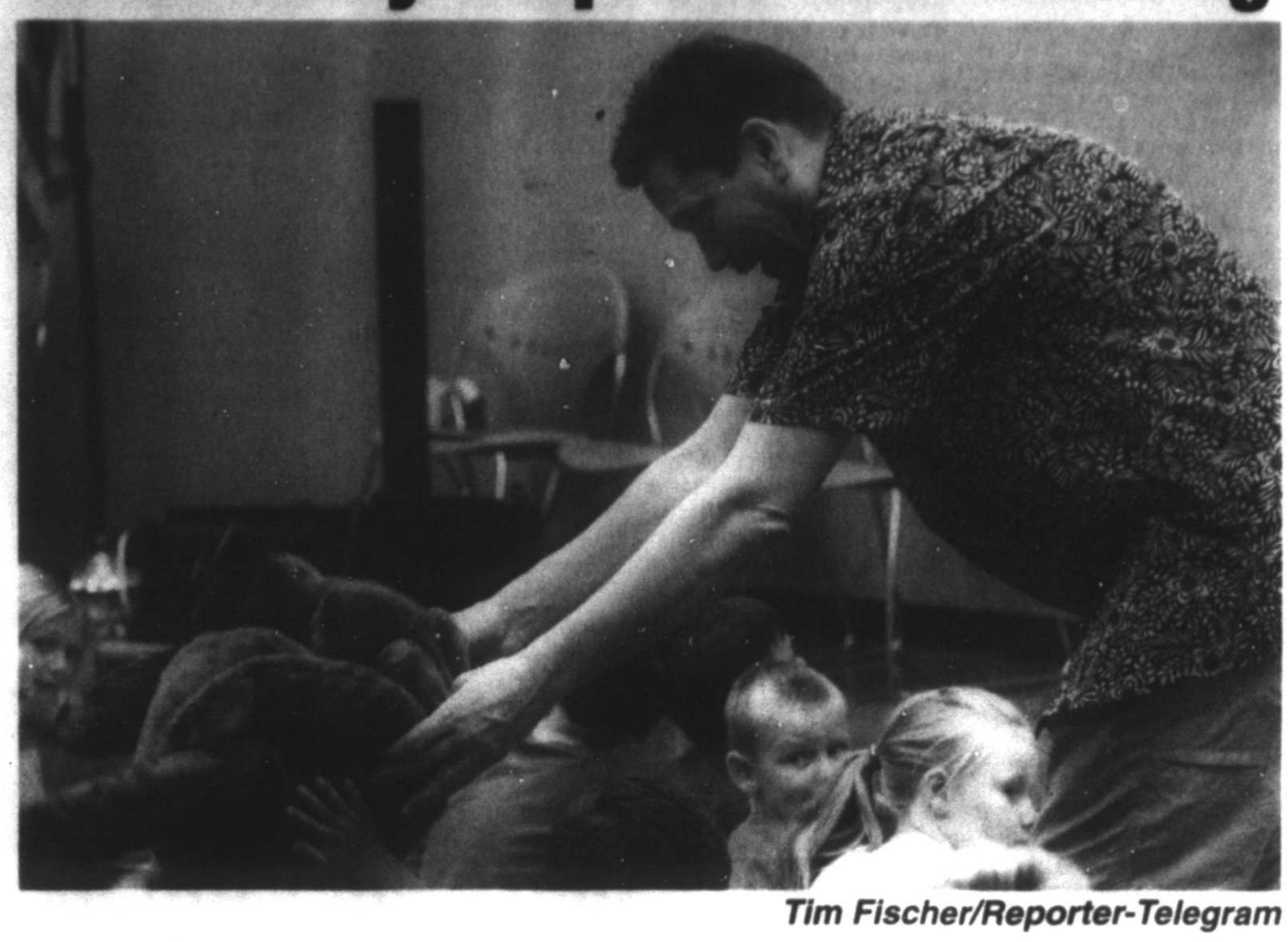
■ Karaoke with Ali, 8 p.m., Your Place, 3704 W Wall St.

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

Meetings

City Council
10 a.m.
Council Chambers City H all
300 N. Loraine Ave

Community snapshot: Wild learning



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Lucas Miller, the singing zoologist, entertains children and adults Friday with his program teaching about animals as part of the summer programs at the Midland County Public Library Centennial branch.

Dome shows

(Blakemore Planetarium, 1705 W. Missouri Ave.)

■ "New Horizons" dome show, noon, Tuesdays-Saturdays, 3 p.m. Sundays. museumsw.org.

■ "The Secret Lives of Star" dome show, 2 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays through Aug. 31. museumsw.org.

■ "Dawn of the Space Age" dome show, 4 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays through Aug. 31. museumsw.org

Pool hours

Doug Russell Aquatic Center, 900 Midland Drive, is closed today.

Washington Aquatic Center, 1601 E. Indiana Ave., noon to 7 p.m. Family night is from 7-9.

The cost of entry at city of Midland pools is $3 per person, with free admission for children under 2.

Source: City of Midland

Roadhouse to host

Tip a Cop

Police officers and Law Enforcement Torch Run members from Midland and Odessa will be at Texas Roadhouse 5-9 p.m. Thursday for the annual Tip A Cop Night, a fundraiser for Special Olympics Texas. Officers will serve tables and collect tips which will be donated to Special Olympics.

All tips will go toward SOTX programming for the more than 360 athletes in the Permian Basin/Big Bend area.

Lottery

Pick 3 morning: 7-4-6
Pick 3 day: 3-7-8
Pick 3 evening: 5-8-5
Pick 3 night: 1-0-1
Daily 4 morning: 6-3-3-7
Daily 4 day: 6-0-4-5
Daily 4 evening: 4-4-8-7
Daily 4 night: 4-2-9-8
Cash Five: 3-16-17-20-28
Triple Chance: 2-13-15-21-27-31-33-41-45-49

Texas Two Step: 4-5-33-35
BB: 21
All or Nothing morning: 1-3-4-7-9-10-12-16-19-20-22-24
All or Nothing day: 1-4-5-6-9-10-11-12-14-15-17-24
All or Nothing evening: 5-6-8-10-11-13-14-16-18-20-21-22
All or Nothing night: 1-4-5-8-9-10-11-12-15-17-19-23

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Weather

Monday's temperatures
High 96
Low 75
Normal high 95
Normal low 70

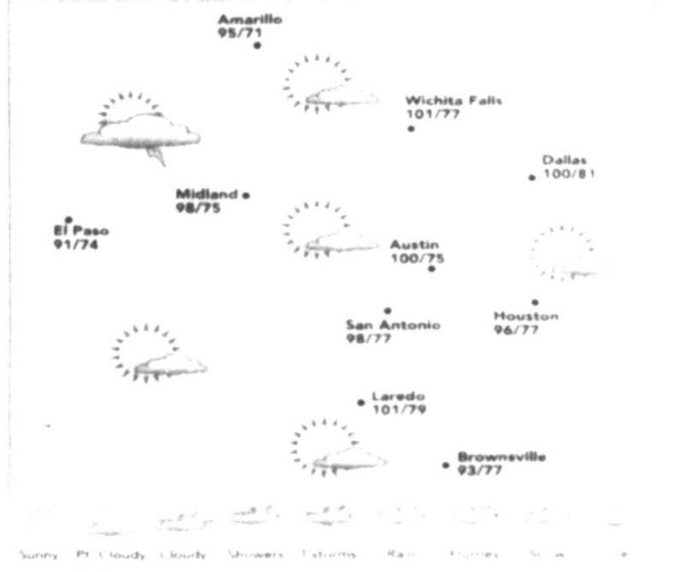
July 24's records
Record high: 106 set in 1995
Record low: 62 set in 1947

Precipitation
Sunday ..... 0.08 in.
Monday ..... 0.00 in.
Month total ..... 1.48 in.
Year total ..... 10.22 in.
Normal total (year to date) ..... 7.49 in.

Winds
Average: 6.1
Highest sustained: 17
Highest gust: 21

July 25 forecast

Forecast for Tuesday, July 25, 2017



High: 97
Low: 74
Conditions: Sunny during the day/mostly clear at night
Winds: 10-15 mph during the day and night
Chance of rain: None
Sunrise ..... 7:23 a.m.
Sunset ..... 8:16 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 and Moon in Leo if born before 6:32 a.m. (ET). Afterward, the Moon will be in Virgo.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, July 25, 2017:

This year could be momentous if you allow your unique perspective to mix with unstoppable creativity. You will have many special memories of what occurs. You will see financial gains, but you'll need to resist going overboard with your spending. If you are single, some of you will enjoy remaining single, whereas others will be entranced by potential suitors. If you are attached, the two of you could find yourselves renegotiating certain parts of your relationship. A bond needs to have both partners interacting on an equal level. VIRGO knows how to rain on your parade.

ARIES
(March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You are full of interesting ideas. You could become somewhat fixated on turning an idea into reality. You'll want certain actions done exactly as you think they should be. Feeling this way, perhaps it would be best for you to take the lead. Tonight: Know when to call it quits.

TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You could be overthinking an issue and making a mountain out of a molehill. Once you let go of this matter, you will find that your ingenuity kicks in. Decide to drop the word "problem" from your vocabulary. Ask a friend for feedback, if need be. Tonight: Kick up your heels.

GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You might be pushed to the forefront, whether it's at work, at home or while doing something else. You naturally know what to say and when. Try to avoid becoming fussy and critical in the afternoon. Ask yourself what is going on with you. Tonight: Head home.

CANCER
(June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You might be weighing the pros and cons of a change. Determine what it will bring to your life as well as what it is likely to cost. Know that you do not need to make a decision just yet. Discuss this topic with someone you consider a friend. Tonight: Return calls first.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ The unexpected plays a strong role in your morning. You know how to work with spontaneity. Matters involving travel could come to the forefront. Your ability to get past a problem emerges. Avoid being judgmental about a money matter. Tonight: Think before acting.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★ You might want to socialize and network in the afternoon, but use the morning just for you. Whatever you do to relax will help you feel better in a substantial way. Try to stop being so critical of yourself, and you'll be much happier as a result. Tonight: Do your own thing.

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LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Your powers of persuasion and your innate charm soar in the morning. A rude comment or a moment of negativity could color your afternoon. Resist the desire to cocoon at home. This behavior will not serve you, unless you have a lot of research to do. Tonight: Get plenty of rest.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Use the morning to impress someone who seems to have doubts about you. Mix in some humility with your knowledge and capabilities. A meeting in the evening points to success and a happy situation. You'll see the positive results of your efforts. Tonight: Join a friend for dinner.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Your desire to know more comes through. Whether you expose yourself to a different culture through a foreigner or you choose to sign up for a workshop, you'll be satisfied with the outcome. Ask a friend to join you on a fun adventure. Tonight: Burn the midnight oil.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ A get-together with a close friend or loved one might take up most of the morning. Decide to take a new approach to an existing problem. Imagine what it would be like to free yourself of this issue, then use your ingenuity to make it happen. Tonight: Brainstorm away.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You could be feeling as if you'd prefer to be more social. You'll have to jump on an exciting opportunity fast, as it is unlikely to reappear. A close one-on-one conversation might ensue, and you'll be surprised by what you hear. Tonight: Enjoy some good company.

PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Focus on getting as much done as possible. You will want to clear up some extra time ASAP, the reason will become apparent as soon as this afternoon. Make a call later in the day to someone you don't often see, and make plans to visit him or her soon. Tonight: Be available.

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Saudi economic pain tests crown prince's resolve for change

By Alaa Shahine
Bloomberg

Saudi Arabia's drive to reduce the economy's reliance on oil has hit a snag: its reliance on oil.

More than a year after the kingdom's dominant leader, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, unveiled a blueprint for the post-oil era, the drop in crude prices is making economists more skeptical about whether some of the plan's medium-term targets can be met. The reason: lower oil revenue deprives the government of money needed to balance its books by 2020 while trying to stimulate growth to ease the transition's burden on the population.

IMF data released Friday underscored the challenge. The fund lowered its forecasts for Saudi economic growth this year to "close to zero." Analysts at Citigroup, EFG-Hermes and Standard Chartered see a bleaker picture, expecting the economy to shrink for the first time since the global financial crisis in 2009, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Deeper economic pain will test the authorities' resolve to pursue tough reform measures as they seek to go against the run of history, which suggests that successful diversification efforts depended largely on policies put in place before a price shock.

"Unless you start seeing some economic growth drivers kicking in, which would really have to come from the government and would require higher oil prices, the pace of fiscal reforms would likely remain slower than in 2016," when authorities cut spending and lowered costly subsidies, Monica Malik, chief economist at Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, said in an interview.

"We see the possibility of having a very low growth or stagnant economic environment with the deficit still remaining high," she said. "This is a key risk."

Brent crude prices have declined 15 percent this year to $48 a barrel, well below the level that the kingdom needs to balance its budget, as producers grapple with how to eliminate a global supply glut. Under an accord between OPEC and other major producers, Saudi Arabia has cut its output.

The International Monetary Fund revised its forecast for Saudi growth this year to 0.1 percent from 0.4 percent. And while it now expects non-oil GDP to grow 1.7 percent after stalling last year, the new figures compare with an earlier estimate of about 2 percent.

The non-oil activity remains "too weak to offset" the expected overall contraction, said Mohamed Abu Basha, Cairo-based economist at EFG-Hermes, an investment bank.

"We don't really see much quality growth," he said by email. "Credit growth is nil, project awards weak and the contraction in cement consumption is in double digits."

Just as oil discoveries transformed Saudi Arabia — dotting the Arabian desert with major cities and bolstering the kingdom's political influence — so do low prices offer an opportunity to reshape the economy, Prince Mohammed says. In the past two years, authorities cut spending, curtailed costly energy subsidies and announced plans to sell government stakes in multiple companies, including oil giant Saudi Aramco.

But even a rebound in prices to as much as $55 a barrel won't be enough to balance one of the highest budget deficits in the Middle East by 2020. To do that, according to Dima Jardaneh, head of Middle East and North Africa research at Standard Chartered in Dubai, the kingdom "would likely require an incremental increase in oil prices to around $70."

The kingdom's Tadawul All Share Index declined 0.4 percent at 1:19 p.m. in Riyadh, the most in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council. The index is little changed this year, compared with a 23-percent gain for the MSCI Emerging Markets Index.

Low crude prices are hobbling the crown prince's economic plans at a time when foreign policy challenges threaten to cost him political capital. His military has been mired in a costly war in Yemen for more than two years, and he's led a group of four nations into a diplomatic standoff with Qatar that could drag on.

To be sure, the IMF commended the Saudi reform efforts and said it expects the budget gap to fall to 9.3 percent of GDP this year from 17 percent in 2016 — and to just above 1 percent by 2022. "This assumes that the major non-oil revenue reforms and energy price increases outlined" by the government last year will go ahead as planned, it said.

The government has imposed taxes on tobacco and soda as well as a levy on expatriates' families this year. Value-added taxes are set to be introduced from 2018. Officials have also touted plans to launch a four-year, 200-billion-riyal ($53 billion) program to support private sector activity this year.

Authorities, however, reversed a decision to cut public sector bonuses in April, citing better-than-anticipated budget data in the first quarter. The kingdom will also likely delay the second round of subsidy cuts to later in 2017 or early next year, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

"We believe that the government has already signaled that it is considering a slower pace of fiscal consolidation so as to support growth in the near term," Jardaneh said.

Economic output shrank in the first quarter by 0.5 percent. Non-oil industries expanded at an annual rate of 0.6 percent from 0.4 percent in the previous three months.

"Any additional stimulus measures will have a confidence-boosting effect," said John Sfakianakis, director of economic research at the Gulf Research Center in Riyadh. "But it will take time to impact headline growth numbers as we already done with the first half of the year."

ENERGYBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Russia calls for tighter compliance with oil output cuts

MOSCOW — Major oil producers need to show greater discipline in sticking to output cuts aimed at raising the price of crude, Russia's energy minister said Monday.

OPEC and several non-OPEC states like Russia decided last year to rein in output, but prices have fallen below $50 a barrel in recent weeks amid concerns about higher production in the U.S., which was not part of the deal, and some countries' lack of discipline in enforcing the cuts.

Following a meeting of OPEC and non-OPEC countries in the Russian city of St. Petersburg on Monday, Alexander Novak said complained that "some countries are not yet fully implementing" the cuts.

"Despite the high level of compliance with the agreement, we insist on all countries fulfilling their obligations 100 percent," he said, in comments reported by Russian state news agencies.

Novak added that he would be open to tighter monitoring of output, and a possible extension of the cuts beyond their scheduled end in March 2018.

The International Energy Agency has estimated that compliance with the OPEC output cut fell to 78 percent in June, from 95 percent the previous month.

Beyond high U.S. output, oil prices have also been pressured by production increases in OPEC members Libya and Nigeria, which have exemptions from the cuts due to political instability.

Associated Press

Iowa women claim they vandalized oil pipeline in protest

DES MOINES, Iowa — Two women with civil disobedience arrest records are claiming they damaged valves and set fire to construction equipment along an oil pipeline that crosses Iowa and three other states.

Jessica Reznicek and Ruby Montoya were arrested for criminal mischief at the Iowa Utilities Board office Monday after damaging a sign outside the agency's building.

The Des Moines women released a statement before their arrest claiming they burned construction machinery, cut through pipe valves with a torch and set fires with gasoline, rags and tires along the Dakota Access pipeline route.

Both women have been arrested in the past year for protesting the $3.8 billion pipeline crossing North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa and Illinois. It began operating June 1.

Pipeline owner Energy Transfer Partners did not immediately respond to messages.

Associated Press

Anadarko slashes spending amid continued low oil prices

Anadarko Petroleum Corp. posted a second-quarter net loss on Monday and said it plans to curb capital spending by $300 million this year amid a volatile oil market.

The Woodlands-based oil explorer lost $415 million, or 76 cents a share, in the April-June period, compared with a loss of $692 million, or $1.36 a share, in the same period last year. Total sales increased from $1.9 billion to $2.7 billion.

Anadarko is the first major U.S. oil producer to announce plans to cut investment spending as oil prices languish below $50 a barrel. Smaller oil producers in West Texas have previously said they would slow activity if prices remained too low.

"The current market conditions require lower capital intensity given the volatility of margins realized in this operating environment," said Al Walker, Anadarko's chairman and chief executive, in a statement.

Houston Chronicle

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You CAN upgrade to warm wood tone—and still have carefree flooring

As you consider your spring remodel plans, don't give up on having warm wood tones anywhere you want them. After all, wood floors are unmatched for natural beauty. For years so many homeowners have wished they could have the warmth tones of wood everywhere—even in the kitchen, entryways and bath. But real wood comes with a price.

Not so much the dollar investment, although that can indeed be more than for most flooring. It's about the wear, scratches and stains that you have to deal with on wood. Maintenance can be constant and the worry never ends.

These days there's an amazing solution available at Southwest Floors. It's called HDP or high definition porcelain tile from Florida Tile—and the look is almost impossible to distinguish from real wood!

Southwest Floors' Travis Kendrick says this is one of their top selling lines, and it's no wonder. This HDP looks so much more like real wood than earlier wood-patterned tiles.

With older wood grain tile technology the pattern might repeat every few feet, giving your floor an oddly repetitive and manufactured look—unlike the completely random patterns found in real wood. Instead, HDP uses digital technology to stretch patterns to 100 feet in length, making it much more natural and more appealing to the eye.

Do you like the darker, more richly colored woods? Would you love a lighter tan or gray shade to brighten a large room? Or is a basketweave mosaic perfect for your home? HDP offers so many options.

All HDP tile maintains its amazing beauty for years and years, withstanding foot traffic, dirt and spills with just a little sweeping and mild mopping. This will allow you to relax even when the nieces and nephews escape the kitchen with grape juice, or spill Cheerios from one end of the dining room to the other.

Travis says wood-patterned tiles like this and others they offer account for almost 80 percent of their sales. You've probably seen this in homes you've visited, but you may not have realized that it wasn't real wood. This does explain why the homeowner wasn't worried about where in the house the kids went, or why wood was in the kitchen and maybe the bath.

Ready to use your imagination? Go see Travis Kendrick or Nick Burton at Southwest Floors and let them open your mind to the possibilities.

Southwest Floors was opened by Robert Burton in 1990. They carry a wide selection of carpet, tile, wood and vinyl tile flooring. The address is 1113 Andrews Highway, next to McDonald's. The phone number is 689-9312. Hours are 9-5:30 Monday through Friday and 10-1 Saturday.

The aptly named Berkshire series evokes a nostalgic Americana feeling. With its rich colors and hand-scraped texture, Berkshire looks and feels like panels of reclaimed lumber with a rich history. Find this and more amazing flooring at Southwest Floors, 1113 Andrews Highway.

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If you're a business owner or manager I'm assuming your answer is "Yes." And the fact that you're reading the FYI page means you're already in touch with a powerful way to reach those customers.

This page and its cousins, Healthy Living (Mondays) and Around the Oil Patch (in Sunday's Oil Report) consistently deliver new business to businesses who advertise there.

Want proof? City Wide Electric' Joe Fussell says: *"My articles on FYI in the Midland Reporter-Telegram make my phone ring the day they run and for several weeks afterwards. Articles for exterior home lights and for computer service have done especially well for us.*

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You may believe your business will pick up automatically because the economy is improving. Well, people may have more money to spend, how will they know to spend it with YOU? That's where FYI comes in for people like Joe Fussell.

To learn more about how to drive more business your way, call me, Paul Wiseman, at 432-697-7468 or your Midland Reporter-Telegram representative today!

Trump: Upcoming health vote is GOP's chance to keep vow

By Alan Fram
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A peeved President Donald Trump browbeat Republican opponents of his party's reeling health care bill Monday, asserting that his predecessor's signature overhaul has meant "death" and saying the Senate's planned faceoff vote is their chance to keep their pledge to repeal it.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said he'd call a pivotal vote Tuesday on beginning debate on the legislation, a roll call that seemed likely to go badly for the GOP. He said he's "made a commitment to the people I represent" to undo President Barack Obama's health care overhaul, in what seemed a pointed reminder to Republican senators that they've made the same vow.

McConnell, R-Ky., did not describe precisely what version of the GOP legislation senators would be voting on. That omission has caused confusion and frustration among some Republican senators, though others have said they expect McConnell to clarify that by the time voting begins.

At the White House, Trump lambasted Democrats who helped enact the 2010 health care law and now uniformly oppose the GOP attempt to scrap and rewrite it.

"They run out and say, 'Death, death, death,'" Trump said, with a backdrop of families that he said have encountered problems getting affordable, reliable medical coverage because of Obama's statute. "Well, Obamacare is death. That's the one that's death."

Some Democrats have said the GOP repeal effort would lead to death for patients who lose coverage. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has said various versions of the legislation would mean more than 20 million Americans would become uninsured by 2026.

Alex Brandon/Associated Press

President Donald Trump, accompanied by Vice President Mike Pence, Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price, and others, speaks about healthcare, Monday in the Blue Room of the White House in Washington.

Trump focused much of remarks on GOP senators. McConnell is nursing a slim 52-48 majority and the possible absence of Arizona Sen. John McCain, who's battling cancer, which would mean two GOP defections would sink the measure.

"For Senate Republicans, this is their chance to keep their promise. Over and over again, they said, 'Repeal and replace, repeal and replace.' But they can now keep their promise," Trump said.

At least a dozen Republican senators have publicly opposed or criticized the legislation, more than enough to kill it. That's forced McConnell to step back twice from anticipated votes and to revise his bill in hopes of mollifying unhappy moderates and conservatives.

McConnell's measure legislation would uproot much of Obama's law, eliminating its tax penalties on people not buying policies, cutting the Medicaid health care program for the poor and providing less generous health care subsidies for consumers.

He's revised it once and then said he'd push a vote on legislation simply repealing Obama's statute. But McConnell and administration officials have also considered additional changes to the repeal-and-replace bill that might lure senators, leaving the focus of today's vote uncertain.

Complicating McConnell's task, Ohio GOP Gov. John Kasich said it would be a mistake for the Senate to move ahead today "and force a one-sided deal that the American people are clearly against." Kasich's stance could make it harder for wavering Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, who's criticized the measure's Medicaid cuts, to back the legislation.

Yet in one possible sign of progress by leaders, Portman said it's "not as important to me" to know what bill McConnell would move to if the Senate votes to begin debate.

Kasich panned the bill for a lack of "bipartisanship, transparency or open dialogue." In a statement, the 2016 GOP presidential contender said Congress should take no action on recrafting the nation's health care system until it can "step back from political gamesmanship and come together with a workable, bipartisan plan."

Yet Portman and other undeclared Republican senators were also being pounded by the White House.

"Republicans have a last chance to do the right thing on Repeal & Replace after years of talking & campaigning on it," Trump tweeted earlier Monday.

Trump's contentious tone toward his own party underscored the high stakes as he tries avoiding the specter of Republicans sinking one of his top priorities.

Characteristic of his scattershot effort on his party's health care drive, Trump also spent the morning tweeting insults at Democrats, the news media and his own attorney general, Jeff Sessions, about their handling of investigations into his 2016 campaign's possible collusion with Russia.

In comments highlighting GOP tensions, Rep. Blake Farenthold, R-Texas, said it is "absolutely repugnant" that Republican senators aren't following through on campaign promises to repeal Obama's law.

Without naming them, he mentioned "female senators from the Northeast" and said, "If it was a guy from South Texas, I might ask him to step outside and settle this Aaron Burr style," a reference to the firearms duel in which Burr killed Alexander Hamilton.

Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, has opposed the GOP replacement plan. Other Republicans expressing reservations include Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska.

Farenthold spoke Friday on 1440 KEYS radio's "The Bob Jones Show" in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Should the Senate approve the legislation, House GOP leaders were hoping to shove it quickly through their chamber.

Fed will likely focus on low inflation but leave rates alone

By Martin Crutsinger
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve has already achieved one of its two mandates: With the unemployment rate at just 4.4 percent, the Fed has essentially maximized employment.

It's the Fed's other goal — price stability — that's stayed persistently out of reach. Inflation has been edging further below the Fed's 2 percent target. Problem is, too-low inflation tends to slow consumer spending, the U.S. economy's main fuel. Many consumers delay purchases if they think the same price — or a lower one — will be available later.

Low inflation will likely be a key discussion point when the Fed holds its latest policy meeting this week. The central bank has raised its benchmark interest rate twice this year, but no one expects another hike when its meeting ends Wednesday. And unless inflation picks up, some analysts foresee no further rate increase this year.

Fed Chair Janet Yellen deepened the uncertainty earlier this month when she sounded less sure about her position that a slowdown in inflation this year was due to temporary factors. Yellen conceded that Fed officials were puzzled by recent developments. Her remarks lifted financial markets as investors interpreted her words to suggest that the Fed might slow its pace of rate increases.

"In the past, Yellen was pretty confident that inflation would come back, but that is now in doubt," said Sung Won Sohn, economics professor at California State University-Channel Islands.

Over the past 12 months, the inflation gauge the Fed monitors most closely has risen just 1.4 percent, according to the latest data. That's down from a 1.9 percent year-over-year increase in January. In part, it's why some economists say they suspect the Fed may be keeping its rate increases on hold, waiting to see if inflation in coming months rebounds from its current slowdown.

After leaving its key rate at a record low near zero for seven years after the financial crisis erupted in 2008, the Fed has raised it modestly four times — in December 2015, December 2016 and twice so far this year, in March and June. Even now, the rate remains historically low, in a range of 1 percent to 1.25 percent.

Months ago, the Fed had signaled its readiness to raise rates three times this year on the assumption that it needed to be more aggressive to ensure that consistently low unemployment didn't contribute to high inflation later on.

In June, Yellen and other officials sought to explain away the unwelcome slip in inflation as a result of such onetime factors as a plunge in consumer cellphone charges and a dip in prescription drug prices.

But in delivering the Fed's semiannual report to Congress this month, Yellen acknowledged some doubt. She described inflation as a "two-edge" problem, with the threat that prices could either rise too slowly or suddenly jump if a tight job market triggered wage pressures that stoked inflation.

Yellen didn't rule out another rate increase this year. But investors have themselves grown more uncertain, with the CME Group's closely watched gauge foreseeing a 47 percent chance of another rate increase by year's end.

Diane Swonk, chief economist at DS Economics, said she still thinks the Fed will raise rates one more time this year — in December — but only if her forecast of a rebound in inflation comes true.

"I think we are going to get to a third rate hike this year, but it will be driven by the inflation data," she said. "There is a real desire on the part of the Fed to hit the pause button until the haze clears and they can see more clearly what is happening."

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, said he believes the Fed will act again by December, in part because of concerns that stock prices and other asset prices have been lifted too high by investors who have become too optimistic about how long the Fed will delay its tightening of credit.

"The valuations in financial markets are very high right now," Zandi said. "This has got to be making Fed officials nervous."

Zandi also said he thought the Fed could provide details this week about its plans to start paring its enormous $4.5 trillion in holdings of Treasury and mortgage bonds, which it accumulated after the 2008 financial crisis in a drive to ease long-term borrowing rates. Some say they think the Fed will begin in either September or October to begin shrinking those holdings, a move that is expected to put gradual upward pressure on long-term borrowing rates, including mortgages.

Eventually, Zandi predicted, as the job market strengthens further, the Fed will have to switch from worrying about inflation that is too low to inflation that will start to exceed its 2 percent target. He said he foresees three additional Fed rate increases next year.

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To nominate a deserving Midlander, visit www.mrt.com/20under40

The 20 individuals selected for the 20 Under 40 honor will be featured in Midland Magazine's Nov. 19, 2017 edition.

*20 Under 40 nominees must be 39 years or under as of Dec. 31, 2017 and may not be nominated by a family member.

OPINION

Ryan, McConnell should shoot for a big deal

■ Nation is at a crisis point where citizens are giving up on representative government en masse

HUGH HEWITT
Special to the Washington Post

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Speaker Paul Ryan face a very difficult choice as they survey the smoking ruins of their "unified GOP government" after nearly six months in office. They and their lieutenants could decide to pivot from health care to racking up small victories and awaiting reinforcements from the 2018 elections. Or they could go for a big deal with Democrats. It's a tough choice for Ryan and McConnell, but I'm hoping they opt for the latter.

Putting off fixing the disaster that is Obamacare is risky, though not impossible. If Republicans score enough small victories between now and November 2018 — cutting corporate taxes and confirming all Court of Appeals judges and perhaps next summer another member of the Supreme Court — it may be possible to hold both houses of Congress. Sen. Dean Heller, R-Nev., is a dead man walking for his role in pulling the first thread that led to the unraveling of "repeal and replace," but McConnell might calculate that wins in Florida, Missouri and elsewhere may leave him in a stronger position in January 2019 than he was at the start of this year.

Ryan is in more dangerous terrain, as every member of his caucus "owns" the failure to repeal and replace — especially the Freedom-Caucus, which threw the process into disarray only to retreat (too late) with a fig leaf — and as a result the carnage of the collapsing Obamacare experiment. Real people with real illnesses and deeply flawed Medicaid insurance will discover in increasing numbers that paper insurance doesn't deliver real health care when their children are sick. A "watch it fail" approach to Obamacare, when the crisis is real and the consequences for poor children are so enormous, is not just bad politics; it is also immoral.

The alternative to waiting for 2019 is a bipartisan approach — if Democrats will have it. A health-care deal could be done, leaving the fringes of both party caucuses on the outside looking in. Devolution of authority over Medicaid to the states, and repeal of the insurance mandate and absurd taxes such as the medical device tax, are the GOP must-haves. The Democrats will have their list.

Odds of success increase if the parties go big at the start by removing the sequester's limits on defense spending and adding immigration reform to the deal: appropriations for President Donald Trump's wall paired with legalization of the law-abiding, undocumented population but no path to citizenship. A truly ambitious "go big" option could also include a settlement of the judicial confirmation wars, because the more moving parts, the better the chances of success. McConnell, Ryan and Democratic leaders Charles Schumer and Nancy Pelosi could get together with a half-dozen of the smartest members from both parties to work on an expedited basis and go big.

The GOP Congress has failed. Unless there's a Lazarus-like resurrection of the health-care bill, the session is effectively over. Tax reform isn't likely going to do any better than health-care reform, especially with Wall Street Journal ideologues demanding the end of the state and local income-tax deduction and the capping of the mortgage-interest deduction. (F.A. Hayek doesn't vote in large numbers. Blue-state voters with Republican congressmen do.) The GOP must get its appellate court nominees through the Senate, or the party wipeout could expand to seats previously thought safe.

The 2018 prospects look bad for both parties. The GOP lacks policy victories, thanks to imprudent Freedom Caucus members and scared moderates. The Democrats are lost in Trump hatred to the point where a large part of the country thinks that they and the mainstream media are deranged. Both parties have cause for concern. We are at a crisis point where citizens are giving up on representative government en masse. So why not swing for the fences?

GUEST VIEW

Republicans should stop blocking cities from acting

Bloomberg

"Government closest to the people," House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wisconsin, has said, "governs best." He's right — and he might want to remind his fellow Republicans of the principle.

Republican-led state legislatures are increasingly pre-empting local governments from taking action on a wide variety of issues. Often pushed by representatives of rural areas, these laws are blocking local innovation, infringing on the rights of urban constituencies and stopping the kinds of experiments that, when successful, can spread nationally.

The 2016 Republican Party platform is full of paeans to local authority. Mass transit is "an inherently local affair" and "zoning decisions have always been, and must remain, under local control." Minimum wage levels "should be handled at the state *and* local level" (emphasis added). Yet on these and other matters, the party's state legislators have been monopolizing power.

Republicans in Tennessee effectively blocked Nashville from creating a bus rapid transit system and implementing zoning laws intended to increase affordable housing. Half of all states now prevent localities from setting their own minimum wages. Nearly as many have blocked municipal paid-leave laws. Local action on gun safety, soda taxes, and LGBT rights has all been targeted, too — and with increasing frequency.

To be fair, this is not just a Republican problem. Earlier this year, Democrats in New York's state capital voided a fee on plastic bags adopted by the New York City Council.

Yet the problem runs deepest in red states, and Texas provides an especially egregious example. In its regular session that ended in late spring, the Legislature stripped localities of their authority to require background checks for drivers that work for ride-hailing services like Uber and Lyft, prohibited localities from adopting construction-related fees to help fund affordable housing and limited the size of the fee that cities can charge for the use of public property.

Apparently, that wasn't enough. Gov. Greg Abbott has called the Legislature back for a special summer session to consider 20 other issues, many of which would further curtail local authority. One, known as the "bathroom bill," would prohibit cities from allowing transgender individuals to use the bathroom that corresponds with their identity. Business leaders have lined up against it, apparently unwilling to repeat North Carolina's disastrous experience, and the Republican house speaker has opposed it.

As a general matter, governments at all levels should stay out of bedrooms and bathrooms. And wherever possible, states should stay out of the way of cities. There will be times when regulatory uniformity is necessary, but states should give greater deference — and Republicans should offer more than lip service — to the principle of local control.

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Texas Senate is the hare, House is the tortoise during special session

■ Strategy of full speed ahead versus slow and steady has its charms, especially when end-of-session deadlines can be fatal

ROSS RAMSEY
Texas Tribune

Does this seem familiar? The Texas Senate is ripping through an ambitious agenda, racing through the 20 issues on the governor's special session agenda in an effort to finish within the 30 days allotted for that work.

The Texas House is more deliberate, spending its time on the single issue that must pass — sunset legislation that would continue, for two more years, the lives of five government agencies — and leaving the other 19 issues for later.

This full-speed ahead versus slow-and-steady tension was the hallmark of the regular legislative session earlier this year. Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, presiding officer of the Senate, laid out an ambitious plan, giving the low bill numbers — Senate Bill 1, Senate Bill 2 and so on — to his legislative priorities and hurrying those off to the House for consideration and collaboration.

That strategy has its charms, especially to anyone with enough legislative experience to know that end-of-session deadlines are often fatal even to bills that have widespread support in both chambers of the Legislature.

Get the work done early, before the storm that always comes at the end.

It has a tactical disadvantage, however, because the chamber that hurries sends all of its darlings to the chamber that's moving slowly. It's like sending a stream of hostages to a kidnapper. If the Senate wants a lot of bills passed and the House does, too, there are opportunities for trade. If not — if the Senate wants things and the House doesn't have a wish list — it puts the hurry-up Senate in the jaws of the we'll-get-to-it-sometime House.

The governor can't really change the flow of things. He can implore. He's got the bully pulpit. But his only official role here is to start the session, name the subjects for consideration and then wait to see whether any bills make it back to him for signature or veto. Except for his power to pick the subject matter, it works a lot like the regular session.

Last week, Senate Republicans used every rule available to speed consideration of the sunset legislation, because Gov. Greg Abbott said it had to pass before he would open the agenda to other issues.

Once Abbott opened the gates, the Senate set 13 committee meetings for Friday, Saturday and Sunday — racing through the items on the special session agenda in order to get as many of them as possible in front of the full Senate before the end of the session's second week.

The House, meanwhile, has limited its attention to the must-do sunset legislation, content to lumber through the red-meat items on Abbott's agenda after that one is out of the way.

"This isn't a race," House Speaker Joe Straus told the San Antonio Express-News when asked about the different tempos.

That's right, sort of. Hardly anyone outside of the Texas Capitol and the bubble that surrounds it really cares about the inch-by-inch progress of legislation, about which side acted first and whose amendments got on; they just care about what passes and what doesn't, about who voted their way and who didn't.

The difference in speed will give Patrick and the Senate — and the governor, if he wants to join in — an opportunity to pressure the House to act on what the Senate has sent over. They win on the noisemaking front.

It gives the House the power to edit the Senate's work, to decide what ultimately gets to the governor and what doesn't, to control the flow of the special session. It plays into one of the Capitol's favorite clichés, too: "The process is designed to kill bills — not to pass them."

Time, the truest friend to legislative assassins, is especially short in special sessions. The first of the session's four Fridays is already behind us. The House — the tortoise in this race — is just coming up to the starting line. The hare — the Senate — is already sprinting.

All by itself.

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NATION BRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON

Trump's new messenger says briefings back on camera

President Donald Trump's new communications chief says television cameras can start rolling again in the White House briefing room.

Anthony Scaramucci — the Wall Street financier who joined the administration last week — tweeted on Monday that "the TV Cameras are back on."

Under Press Secretary Sean Spicer — who resigned over Scaramucci's new role — the daily press briefings had become must-see TV.

But in recent weeks, Spicer moved into a more behind the scenes role, putting the briefings largely in the hands of his deputy, Sarah Huckabee Sanders, who made them off-camera events.

On Friday, Scaramucci accepted his new position at an on-camera briefing, and announced that Sanders will replace Spicer as press secretary. The last on-camera White House briefing prior to that was June 29.

Scaramucci said that going forward, the briefings will be back on camera.

"We're televising the briefings. We went to audio as an experiment and now we're back on audio and video," he said Monday. "I talked to the president about it this morning."

Scaramucci said that if there was a reason to go off-camera, he or Sanders would explain why.

Over the weekend, Scaramucci pledged on Fox News to begin "an era of a new good feeling" and said he hopes to "create a more positive mojo."

Spicer's briefings became memorable television in the early days of the administration.

His tenure got off to a rocky start, when on Trump's first full day, Spicer claimed that the media inaccurately portrayed the size of Trump's inauguration audience and stormed out of the briefing room without answering questions.

Spicer, who often displayed a fiery demeanor in tense on-camera exchanges with reporters, became part of culture in the way few people in his job have, particularly through an indelible impersonation by Melissa McCarthy on NBC's "Saturday Night Live."

She portrayed Spicer as a hostile figure who tore through the briefing room on a portable podium, willing to attack the press.

By Catherine Lucey
Associated Press

WASHNGTON

Trump tells reporter to be 'quiet'

President Donald Trump told a reporter asking questions Monday to be "quiet."

A White House reporter called out questions as Trump posed for photographs with interns in the East Room.

Asked if Attorney General Jeff Sessions should resign, Trump rolled his eyes.

When the reporter asked the president if he had a message on health care, Trump said "quiet."

The president then told the interns that the reporter "was not supposed to do that" and was "breaking a code."

Reporters typically call out questions to the president when covering photo ops or bill signings. The president frequently answers.

Trump last week named Wall Street financier Anthony Scaramucci as his new communications director.

Scaramucci has said he'd like to hit the "reset button" with the media.

Associated Press

Andrew Harnik/Associated Press

White House senior adviser Jared Kushner, with his attorney Abbe Lowell, right, departs Capitol Hill on Monday in Washington after meeting behind closed doors before the Senate Intelligence Committee on the investigation into possible collusion between Russian officials and the Trump campaign.

Bombshell stories spur news war with a twist

By David Bauder
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Print outlets like The New York Times and Washington Post have developed a mutually beneficial relationship with cable television news over a string of bombshell stories about the Trump administration. It's a news war with a twist.

Prime-time lineups on CNN and MSNBC are repeatedly thrown into chaos by late-breaking stories that, while nerve-wracking, nonetheless provide the sort of compelling, can't-turn-away programming that producers dream about.

"It's hyper-unpredictable," said Charles Moore, executive producer of "Anderson Cooper 360" on CNN. "The unpredictability has become the norm and that is very unique."

Last Wednesday saw a succession of stories breaking after 6:30 p.m.: News about another effort to repeal President Barack Obama's health care law, President Trump's son and son-in-law compelled to testify before Congress and Sen. John McCain diagnosed with cancer. Into this, the Times dropped its startling interview with the president expressing regret at appointing his attorney general. So much for the show that Denis Horgan, executive producer of MSNBC's "All In with Chris Hayes," had spent hours preparing.

"It's hitting like waves crashing over you," Horgan said. "You're just trying to catch up."

With old rivals the Times and Post competing furiously to break exclusives, it feels like there's something new every few hours. The exposure these stories get on television amplifies their impact, said Rick Edmonds, a veteran newspaperman and media business analyst at The Poynter Institute.

Spokeswomen for the Times and Post said stories are released online when they're ready, and cable television schedules aren't taken into consideration. But it certainly doesn't hurt that these networks reach their biggest audiences in the evening, and have politically oriented programs eager for the latest developments.

The newspapers, and news organizations like The Associated Press, aggressively make their reporters available to talk about their stories on the programs. Networks also have contributor agreements where some reporters are regular guests, as CNN has with Maggie Haberman of the Times and Adam Entous of the Post.

Attention given to these stories help the bottom line, Edmonds said, and is particularly helpful at a time the news companies are shifting emphasis to digital operations. The Times added 308,000 new digital-only subscriptions during the first three months of 2017, its best-ever quarterly performance. A similar measurement from the Post wasn't immediately available.

The TV producers don't get any advance warning about a story. "We see it whenever anyone else sees it in their email alerts or over Twitter," Moore said, noting that CNN checks with its own reporters before rushing another organization's story to air.

In years past, the shows were usually able to set their evening lineups by 5 or 5:30 p.m., the producers said. If there was breaking news, it tended not to be political.

Now, Moore said, "the rhythms of the day are non-existent."

The shows keep experts on call to prepare for the unpredictable, and favor versatile guests able to pivot. One day last week, Moore had CNN's Jeff Zeleny on to speak from the White House lawn, but he wound up reporting on a different story than the one he was originally booked for.

Producing in this atmosphere is frantic and exhausting, "but it's why we signed up for this," Horgan said.

"You've got a whole lot of news organizations, particularly the Times and the Post, who are clicking on all cylinders and doing work that blows your mind," Horgan said. "It feels like an exciting time to be a journalist."

The late-breaking developments don't get nearly the attention on Fox News Channel, still the top-rated network on cable. The news frequently casts Trump in a negative light, and Fox is the venue most Trump supporters prefer. A day after cable rivals chewed over Trump's previously unreported discussion with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Fox's Sean Hannity — who usually tapes his show in the late afternoon — admonished the "destroy-Trump" media for how it handled the story.

With the bad news about Trump, Fox has turned attention to an old target: defeated Democrat Hillary Clinton, now a private citizen living in Chappaqua, New York. During the week of July 13, Hannity's show spent 44 minutes and 34 seconds talking about efforts to pass a new health care law, and one hour, seven minutes and 31 seconds talking about Clinton, said the liberal media watchdog Media Matters for America.

Fox averaged more viewers in prime time than CNN and MSNBC combined during the first month of the Trump administration, and before Bill O'Reilly's forced exit. MSNBC has taken the best advantage of the news environment lately. Its July prime-time average of just under 2 million viewers compares to 2.38 million for Fox and CNN's nearly 900,000, the Nielsen company said.

Evangelical leaders rally around Kushner amid Russia probe

WASHINGTON — Evangelical leaders are rallying around White House senior adviser and Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner as he meets with congressional leaders investigating Russian meddling in the 2016 election.

A host of Christian leaders, from South Carolina Pastor Mark Burns to Liberty University president Jerry Falwell Jr., have been taking to Twitter and releasing statements voicing their support for Kushner as he spends two days speaking with congressional investigators on Capitol Hill.

"I've known Jared for many years. He's a man of integrity, character, and a great, personal friend," wrote Paula White, a gospel preacher and Trump friend who prayed at Trump's inaugural. "(E)nough-is-enough," she wrote.

Liberty University president Jerry Falwell Jr. blasted the "endless attempts by the media to keep the fake Russia collusion story alive — solely to obstruct the president's agenda" in a statement Monday.

Kushner insisted Monday that he had done nothing improper during the campaign as he met with members of the Senate intelligence committee for nearly three hours behind closed doors. He's set to meet with lawmakers on the House intelligence committee today.

The coordinated statements are the work of Johnnie Moore, an evangelical activist from California, who recently attended a faith outreach meeting at the White House and tweeted a powerful photo of Christian leaders surrounding the president, heads bowed in prayer.

"We've all had it," said Moore, adding that he and other Christian leaders have become close to Jared over the years. Moore said that he decided on Monday morning that he wanted to release a statement and sent a note around to fellow faith leaders asking if they had anything to add.

Trump won an overwhelming 80 percent of the white evangelical vote in the November election, and a Pew Research Center survey marking his first 100 days in office found three-fourths of white evangelicals approved of his performance as president, versus thirty-nine percent of the general public.

Kushner, who is an orthodox Jew, acted as a liaison to the religious community, said Burns, the pastor from South Carolina, who served as an opening act at many Trump rallies.

By Jill Colvin
Associated Press

No apology from Fox in its battle with The New York Times

By David Bauder
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Fox News Channel on Monday clarified, but didn't apologize for, a weekend segment that The New York Times said falsely accused the newspaper of revealing intelligence information that enabled Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi to elude capture by U.S. forces two years ago.

Times spokeswoman Danielle Rhoades Ha said Fox was guilty of "sheer hypocrisy" because the network had also reported about a U.S. raid that netted valuable intelligence soon after it took place.

The dispute between the two news outlets was magnified by White House attention. A "Fox & Friends" report Saturday was headlined, "NYT foils U.S. attempt to take out al-Baghdadi." President Donald Trump was apparently watching, because less than a half hour later he tweeted that the Times "foiled U.S. attempt to kill the single most wanted terrorist, Al-Baghdadi. Their sick agenda over National Security."

The issue surfaced following a Friday interview of Gen. Tony Thomas, head of the U.S. special operations command, by Fox correspondent Catherine Herridge. They talked about a May 16, 2015, raid in Syria where U.S. forces killed a top al-Baghdadi aide and captured his wife. Thomas said the raid garnered a valuable lead that could have led the U.S. to al-Baghdadi, but it went cold after it was leaked "in a prominent U.S. newspaper" about a week later. Herridge, writing for Fox's web site, tied it to the Times.

The Pentagon announced the raid the day after it happened and it was widely reported — including by Herridge, who said on "Fox News Sunday" on May 17 that "a treasure trove of information" was gathered.

The Times published a more detailed story on June 18, 2015 about some of the intelligence gathered in the raid, and that was apparently the story to which Thomas referred.

The Times said that story was described to officials in the Pentagon before it was published and no objections were raised. No senior American official complained publicly about the story until now, two years later, the newspaper said. Furthermore, the Times said it stretches credulity to think the security-conscious al-Baghdadi would not have taken steps to protect himself more than three weeks after learning about the raid.

Rhoades Ha said no one from Fox contacted the Times for comment before Herridge's piece was published. She said the online story was changed to reflect comment from the Times after the newspaper reached out.

Fox host Pete Hegseth repeatedly referred to the "failing" New York Times, echoing the descriptive phrase Trump frequently uses. Hegseth said the Times "is not just failing in its credibility. It's failing our country."

"It's failing the American people," said co-host Abby Huntsman.

"You want a patriotic journalist," said the third host, Clayton Morris. "This is why the police don't release information about police investigations — because it jeopardizes their case."

The Times called the morning show commentary malicious, and demanded an apology.

On Monday, "Fox & Friends" host Steve Doocy aired a portion of Thomas' remarks. He noted that the Times had described its findings to the Pentagon at the time and that the story had drawn no complaints.

"It wasn't an apology, nor did it begin to address the larger issues with the 'Fox & Friends' weekend segment, one of which was sheer hypocrisy," Rhoades Ha said. Considering Herridge had said in her 2015 report that intelligence gathered in the raid could lead the U.S. closer to al-Baghdadi, she said through that logic that Fox itself was unpatriotic.

In a news report on the dispute aired on Fox Monday, "Media Buzz" host Howard Kurtz criticized his company for not reaching out to the Times for comment following Thomas' remarks. He didn't pass judgment on Doocy's statement.

The dispute surfaced less than a week after Times television critic James Poniewozik said in a review of "Fox & Friends" that Trump was "the show's subject, its programmer, its publicist and its virtual fourth host."

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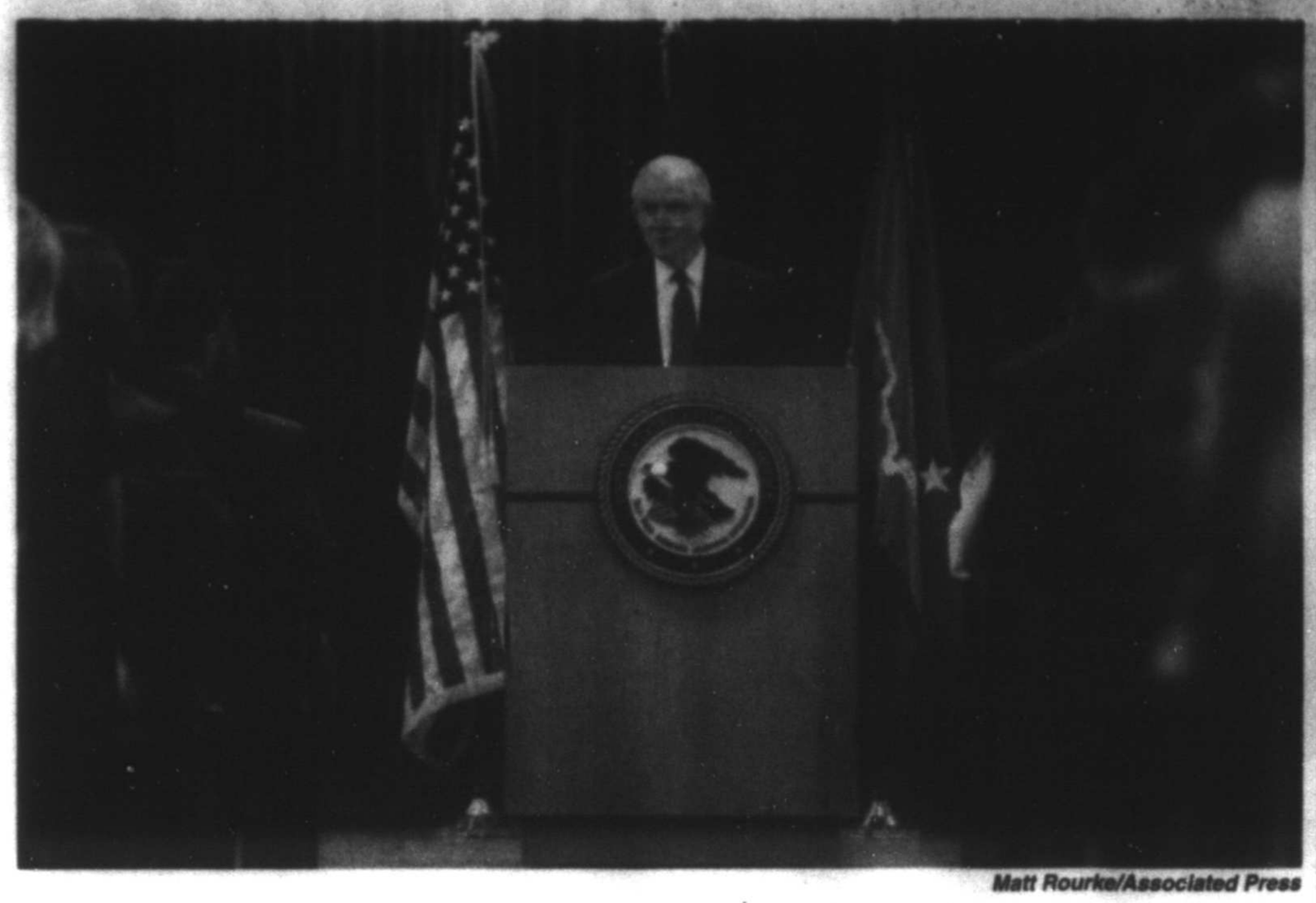

Matt Rourke/Associated Press

Attorney General Jeff Sessions speaks at the U.S. Attorney's Office on Friday in Philadelphia.

AP sources: Trump speaks to advisers about firing Sessions

By Jonathan Lemire and Jill Colvin
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has spoken with advisers about firing Attorney General Jeff Sessions, as he continues to rage against Sessions' decision to recuse himself from all matters related to the Russia investigation.

The president's anger again bubbled into public view Monday as he referred to Sessions in a tweet as "beleaguered." Privately, Trump has speculated aloud to allies in recent days about the potential consequences of firing Sessions, according to three people who have recently spoken to the president. They demanded anonymity to discuss private conversations.

Trump often talks about making staff changes without following through, so those who have spoken with the president cautioned that a change may not be imminent or happen at all. What is clear is that Trump remains furious that the attorney general recused himself from the investigations.

"So why aren't the Committees and investigators, and of course our beleaguered A.G., looking into Crooked Hillary's crimes & Russia relations?" Trump tweeted Monday. His tweet came just hours before his son-in-law, White House senior adviser Jared Kushner, traveled to Capitol Hill to be interviewed about his meetings with Russians.

Trump's intensifying criticism has fueled speculation that Sessions may resign even if Trump opts not to fire him. During an event at the White House, Trump ignored a shouted question about whether Sessions should step down. The attorney general said last week he intended to stay in his post.

If Trump were to fire Sessions, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein would be elevated to the top post on an acting basis. That would leave the president with another attorney general of whom he has been sharply critical in both public and private for his handling of the Russia probe, according to four White House and outside advisers who, like others interviewed, spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations.

It could also raise the specter of Trump asking Rosenstein — or whomever he appoints to fill the position — to fire Robert Mueller, the special counsel leading the investigation into Russia's meddling in the 2016 election and potential collusion with Trump's campaign.

The name of one longtime Trump ally, Rudy Giuliani, was floated Monday as a possible replacement for Sessions, but a person who recently spoke to the former New York City mayor said that Giuliani had not been approached about the position. Giuliani told CNN on Monday that he did not want the post and would have recused himself had he been in Sessions' position.

The president's tweet about the former Alabama senator comes less than a week after Trump, in a New York Times interview, said that Sessions should never have taken the job as attorney general if he was going to recuse himself. Sessions made that decision after it was revealed that he had met with a top Russian diplomat last year.

Trump has seethed about Sessions' decision for months, viewing it as disloyal — arguably the most grievous offense in the president's mind — and resenting that the attorney general did not give the White House a proper heads-up before making the announcement that he would recuse himself. His fury has been fanned by several close confidants — including his son Donald Trump Jr., who is also ensnared in the Russia probe — who are angry that Sessions made his decision.

Trump and Sessions' conversations in recent weeks have been infrequent. Sessions had recently asked senior White House staff how he might patch up relations with the president but that effort did not go anywhere, according to a person briefed on the conversations. Sessions was in the West Wing on Monday but did not meet with the president, according to deputy press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

Newt Gingrich, a frequent Trump adviser, said that the president, with his criticisms of Sessions, was simply venting and being "honest about his feelings. But that doesn't mean he's going to do anything," Gingrich said. Still, he said the president's comments would have repercussions when it comes to staff morale.

"Anybody who is good at team building would suggest to the president that attacking members of your team rattles the whole team," Gingrich said.

Sessions and Trump used to be close, sharing both a friendship and an ideology. Sessions risked his reputation when he became the first U.S. senator to endorse the celebrity businessman and his early backing gave Trump legitimacy, especially among the hard-line anti-immigration forces that bolstered his candidacy. Several of Sessions' top aides now server in top administration posts, including Stephen Miller, the architect of several of Trump's signature proposals, including the travel ban and tough immigration policy.

After Trump's public rebuke last week, Sessions seemed determined to keep doing the job he said "goes beyond anything that I would have ever imagined for myself."

"I'm totally confident that we can continue to run this office in an effective way," Sessions said last week.

Armand DeKeyser, who worked closely with Sessions and became his chief of staff in the Senate, said he did not see the attorney general as someone who would easily cave to criticism, even from the president.

"If Jeff thinks he is in an untenable position and cannot be an effective leader, I believe he would leave," DeKeyser said. "But I don't think he's reached that point."

But Anthony Scaramucci, the president's new communications director, said that it's time for Trump and Sessions to hash out a resolution, regardless of what they decide.

"My own personal opinion, I think they've got to have a meeting and have a reconciliation one way or another. You know what I mean? Either stay or go, one way or another," he said.

The Justice Department declined to comment.

No Russia collusion, 'nothing to hide,' Kushner tells Senate

By Mary Clare Jalonick
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's son-in-law and adviser Jared Kushner answered questions from Senate investigators for hours behind closed doors Monday, acknowledging four meetings with Russians during and after Trump's victorious White House bid and insisting he had "nothing to hide." He emerged smiling to publicly declare, "All of my actions were proper."

Kushner, a quiet insider who generally avoids the spotlight, was the first top Trump lieutenant to be quizzed by the congressional investigators probing Russia's meddling in the 2016 presidential election. The wealthy developer-turned-presidential adviser spoke privately with staff members of the Senate intelligence committee and will return to talk to the House intelligence panel today.

"Let me be very clear," Kushner said afterward in a rare public statement at the White House. "I did not collude with Russia, nor do I know of anyone else in the campaign who did so."

Trump watched on TV as Kushner made his appearance outside the West Wing and "thought Jared did a great job," said White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders. She said his House testimony today will show "what a hoax this entire thing is."

Earlier Monday, Kushner released an 11-page statement that was billed as his remarks to both the Senate and House committees. In it, he acknowledged his Russian contacts during the campaign and then the following weeks, in which he served as a liaison between the transition and foreign governments. He described each contact as either insignificant or routine and he said the meetings, along with several others, were omitted from his security clearance form because of an aide's error. Kushner cast himself as a political novice learning in real time to juggle "thousands of meetings and interactions" in a fast-paced campaign.

His statement was the first detailed defense from a campaign insider responding to the controversy that has all but consumed the first six months of Trump's presidency. U.S. intelligence agencies have concluded that Russia sought to tip the 2016 campaign in Trump's favor. Congressional committees, as well as a Justice Department special counsel, are investigating whether Trump associates coordinated with Russia in that effort and whether the president has sought to hamper the investigations.

Kushner said Monday he "will continue to cooperate as I have nothing to hide."

He provided for the first time his recollection of a meeting at Trump Tower with a Russian lawyer who was said to have damaging information about Trump's Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton.

Emails released this month show that the president's son, Donald Trump Jr., accepted the meeting with the idea that he would receive information as part of a Russian government effort to help Trump's campaign. But Kushner said he hadn't seen those emails until recently shown them by his lawyers.

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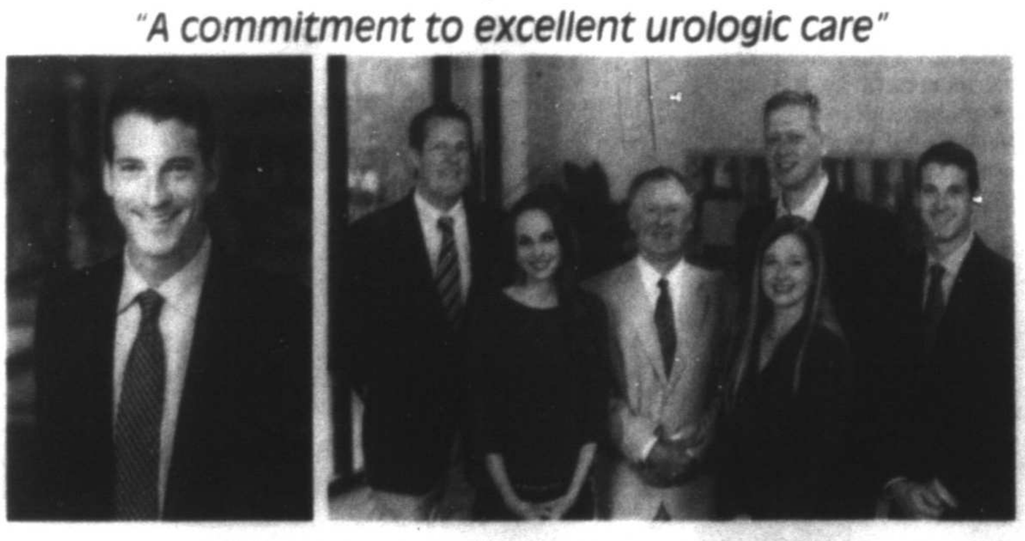

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School arrives sooner for some students

State exemption allows public school districts to start earlier

By Shelby Webb
Houston Chronicle

Parents and teachers in the Houston area may need to rethink those late-August family trips to Disney World or the beach.

In Alief, Katy and the Channelview school districts, the first day of school has crept back up to Aug. 16. A day later, yellow school buses will roll out in the Crosby, Dayton and Spring districts to carry students "back to school."

They will be joined Aug. 21 by teachers, students and administrators in six more Houston-area districts: Clear Creek, Klein, Pasadena, Pearland, Stafford and Spring Branch.

Despite a Texas law requiring districts to start the school year no earlier than the fourth Monday of August, districts that house more than half of Texas students are taking advantage of an exemption afforded to so-called districts of innovation to resume classes sooner, according to the Texas Education Agency. Districts have been able to apply for the distinction in the past year.

In fact, 17 of 25 public districts in the region will resume classes before Aug. 28, according to the Harris County Department of Education. Houston ISD, however, stuck with the Aug. 28 start date.

GETTING 'A CHOICE'

School start dates have long been a touchy subject across the country, particularly outside of the Northeast, where schools typically start after Labor Day.

School return

Back to school in Midland County
Midland ISD: Aug. 28
Greenwood ISD: Aug. 17

Tourism officials and some parents argue that starting school earlier hurts states' economies and makes it more difficult to visit with family or to attend summer camps.

States have begun toying with laws that govern when schools should start their academic years. In Florida, lawmakers allowed schools to begin classes as early as Aug. 10 in 2016, and state lawmakers in Wisconsin, Michigan, South Carolina and North Carolina have debated moving start dates up over the past two years. Kentucky, on the other hand, passed a law earlier this year forcing some districts that started in early August to start their school years no earlier than the Monday closest to Aug. 26.

Texas set its fourth Monday in August law in 2007 — after some schools began the first week of the month.

But Maria DiPetta, a spokeswoman for Katy ISD, said moving up the start date will allow schools to have roughly the same number of instructional days in the fall semester as they have in the spring. It also will let kids get out of school before the Memorial Day weekend and allow high school students and teachers to register for summer college courses, which often begin

Please see **SCHOOL**/2B

PRESERVINGHISTORY

Ashley Landis/Dallas Morning News/TNS

Andy Fancher, 18, interviews World War II U.S. Navy veteran Bob Gagnon, 92, on July 13 in Mansfield.

Duncanville teen films veterans' stories

■ 'We're running out of time,' home-schooled senior says

By Brendan Mayer
Dallas Morning News

MANSFIELD — Andy Fancher walked through the front door of yet another stranger's home last week, eager to meet the 52nd subject for his documentary series.

The 18-year-old wore braces and slicked back hair. He arrived from his home in Duncanville carrying a bag of equipment, including two LED bulbs, tripods and a $1,200 camera.

"There he is," Fancher said, his voice loud and welcoming as he met Norman Gagnon at the door. "Is this the man of the hour?"

Gagnon goes by Bob. He's a 92-year-old World War II veteran from Massachusetts who served in the Navy from 1942 to 1946. Three months ago, he moved from California to his grandson's home in Mansfield after the recent deaths of his wife, daughter, son and nephew.

When it comes to war, Gagnon talks about his experiences only when asked.

That's why Fancher is here. In his free time, the home-schooled high school senior records testimonies of veterans, mostly from World War II, then edits the videos and puts them on his YouTube channel, Andy Fancher Presents.

"I'm preserving their stories," Fancher says. "In 10 years, we may not have these guys to tell their stories anymore."

Gagnon sat quietly while Fancher organized the set. He was impressed with all the professional equipment and excited to share his experiences overseas. More importantly, he was surprised that a complete stranger — a teenager — was interested in recording his story.

Soon, the interview would begin, and Fancher would learn about Gagnon's upbringing before the war. He'd learn what kamikazes sound like as they fall from the sky, and that Gagnon once saw a torpedo surging through the water.

But before all of that, as Fancher tinkered with the lighting and tested the microphones, Gagnon started the interview with a question of his own.

"What prompted you to do this?"

A sparked interest

It all started with the great-grandfather Fancher never met.

Fancher was 9 and looking through family photos when he stumbled on a black-and-white picture of a man in military uniform. Fancher had never seen it before. On the back of the photo it said, "Italy 1945." This was Fancher's great-grandfather, Gene T. Fancher, who served in the Army during World War II.

Gene died in 1970. Very few people in Fancher's family knew much about his time overseas. Fancher had questions: What was life like before the war? Did he ever see combat? Was he scared?

But there were no answers.

"If someone had interviewed my great-grandfather, that would've been very significant for me to have today, to hear his firsthand account of the war," Fancher said.

That sparked an interest in the 9-year-old to learn as much as he could about World War II. He watched films, read books and collected memorabilia.

But at 16, Fancher realized that the very people who lived during this historical period were dying. So he bought an expensive camera and created a YouTube channel. He would seek veterans and record their stories before it was too late.

A year and a half later, Fancher has now interviewed 52 veterans, both during the school year and summer break. He spends his free time editing the interviews, which last an average of two hours, then mixes in music and war footage. The final copy is a YouTube video cut to roughly five minutes. He also writes a short Facebook post on his page about each veteran.

The hardest part of this process is finding veterans. Fancher has driven as far as College Station to record a testimony and relies on word of mouth and referrals to conduct more interviews in the Dallas area.

His most popular video, featuring John Ferris, has roughly 1,000 views. Fancher's friends never watch the series. Neither do many of his family-members. He'd love it if more people were interested, but that's not what's most important right now.

Five veterans Fancher has interviewed have died since he started the project. Ferris passed away 12 days after filming.

"Capturing these stories now is very important," he said.

Fancher calls all his veterans on Christmas. He grew so close to Carl

Please see **STORIES**/2B

MIDLAND COLLEGE PROFILES

By Rebecca Bell

Alum develops his love of math while attending Midland College

Editor's note: This is one in a series on Midland College students and alumni.

Arashi Shimizu has been interested in airplanes since he was a boy in Osaka, Japan. Now, the 22-year-old Midland College alumnus is pursuing that interest in Texas.

Shimizu

"At first, I wanted to be a pilot," Shimizu said. "Then, I found that I enjoy and had a skill in design. I figure that I can combine my love of airplanes and my affinity for design in a career as an aerospace engineer."

A native of Japan, Shimizu arrived in Midland in 2013, after having obtained an F1 nonimmigrant student visa. He had just graduated from high school in Osaka and wanted to study at a U.S. college. Shimizu has an uncle living in Midland, so the Permian Basin seemed like a logical destination.

"I had visited the Los Angeles area when I was in junior high school, but had never been to Texas," Shimizu said. "My parents were agreeable to my desire to study in the U.S. In fact, I continue to feel extremely fortunate and am very grateful for their continued support of my educational endeavors."

After arriving in Midland, Shimizu took English as a Second Language (ESL) courses at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin. He enrolled at Midland College in 2015.

"College algebra was my very first class at Midland College," he said. "Throughout school in Japan, I was horrible in math. Math became more 'friendly' at Midland College. As a boy in Japan, I never dreamed I'd be doing something like aerospace engineering — a career that requires a lot of math skill."

During his two years at MC, Shimizu spent a considerable amount of time in the Math Lab. He said that when he first started taking courses, the lab instructors and tutors not only assisted him with math, but also helped him improve his English.

"The Math Lab has a friendly, inviting atmosphere; everyone in there is terrific," Shimizu said. "I found it to be a place where I could hang out and visit with teachers, peer tutors and other students. We would discuss math problems, talk about our day's activities or plans for the weekend. In the course of those conversations, I gained confidence in my English. I can't believe I'm saying this — the Math Lab is fun."

Shimizu became one of MC's top math students and started tutoring other students in the lab. He graduated in May with an associate degree and will be attending Texas A&M University to pursue a degree in aerospace engineering. Always wanting to excel in his studies, Shimizu received

Please see **PROFILE**/2B

UT reports 4 gun-related incidents in past year

■ First anniversary approaches for campus carry law

By Ryan Autullo
Austin American-Statesman

University of Texas police responded to four gun-related incidents in the past 12 months, but only one — involving a photo shoot for a newspaper — can be tied to the controversial state law permitting students to carry concealed handguns in most campus buildings.

Campus carry went into effect Aug. 1, about two weeks before the fall semester opened at UT. Opponents of Senate Bill 11 feared there would be a rise in gun-related violence at the campus.

But as the one-year anniversary approaches, those concerns have been unfounded.

Told ya so, say pro-gun activists.

"After decades of resounding success with the concealed handgun license program in Texas, I'm not the least bit surprised to see the campus carry law being implemented successfully and without incident," said Sen. Brian Birdwell, the author of the bill. "It's a testament both to the irrationality of the original prohibition and the law-abiding nature of handgun license holders."

School officials had asked students to call police if they spotted someone flashing a gun on campus, which is unlawful under the campus carry law. There have been four complaints, with one report of gunfire and one arrest, according to police incident reports obtained by the American-Statesman through an open records request.

Only one person carrying a gun on

Please see **GUNS**/2B

GUNS

From 1B

campus was identified in those documents as a student. Huyler Marsh, a graduate student in accounting, posed for a photo for an August story on campus carry in The New York Times. Marsh posed for a photo in a campus library, raising the back of his red plaid shirt to expose a .45-caliber handgun in his waistband. The gun no longer was concealed, triggering a university investigation. UT released a statement saying the dean of students reviewed the incident and spoke with Marsh.

The person who lodged the complaint was not affiliated with UT, according to the incident report.

The UT Police Department did not list a suspect for the other three incidents, one of which resulted in an arrest for taking a gun into a prohibited area:

■ In the afternoon on Jan. 27, police were dispatched to the 2300 block of Guadalupe Street — a strip of restaurants and shops known as the Drag. A person near the University Co-op flashed a gun at the complainant, according to the report. Police could not find the accused person.

■ About 10 a.m. April 27, police responded to a report of gunfire at the corner of Dean Keeton Street and San Jacinto Boulevard. No injuries were reported, but the person believed to be the target, a 27-year-old construction worker, was issued a trespass warning, and police escorted him off campus.

■ About 2 p.m. May 18, police pursued a vehicle after a passenger pointed a handgun out of the window at 38th Street and Lamar Boulevard. They lost track of the vehicle at 51st Street and Avenue F. Austin police joined the search but did not find the vehicle or the passengers.

"UT Austin's leadership, faculty, staff and students worked very hard to develop policy and educate the campus," UT spokeswoman Cindy Posey said in a statement.

Posey would not say which incident led to the arrest, but she said the arrested person was not Marsh.

"All of this stuff could have happened without campus carry," said junior-to-be Quinn Cox, the vice president of UT's chapter of Students for Concealed Carry.

The American-Statesman (recently) made a request through the university for reports of gun-related incidents in the three years before campus carry went into effect. School officials have not provided that information yet.

This month, a federal judge in Austin threw out a lawsuit filed by three UT professors who had asked that their classrooms remain gun-free. They claimed the possible presence of firearms could have a "chilling effect" on classroom discussion. But U.S. District Judge Lee Yeakel ruled that the threat of physical harm is not heightened just because a student might have access to a gun.

Even though gun owners appear to be on their best behavior, opponents of campus carry continue to condemn it. Jessica Jin, founder of the anti-campus carry group Cocks Not Glocks, said the lack of reported incidents from the past year only proves that students do not need guns for protection.

"I think it's really funny that we're presented with accounts of how little of a problem it's been in terms of actual students pulling out weapons, but I wonder why these questions aren't framed by how the lack of incidents also prove the lack of necessity for guns on campus," Jin said.

Rumors circulated on social media May 1 that a student with a concealed permit flashed a gun to thwart a knife attack that left one person dead and three others injured. But police said they could not confirm the rumors. Kendrex White, a student who might have been suffering from mental illness, was arrested and charged with murder.

Members of Jin's group drew laughs and headlines last year when they set up shop in the middle of campus and distributed dildos to protest the law. They were fighting absurdity with absurdity, she said, adding that the group is tossing around ideas for another campaign.

Jin said the odds that someone wielding a gun would be in position to stop a violent attack is "so many zeroes behind a decimal point."

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STORIES

From 1B

Matthews, a World War II Marine who enlisted at age 16, that they continued spending time together until his death in January. Some veterans are so grateful to be interviewed that they give him their personal war mementos.

One veteran gave Fancher his World War II Navy uniform, equipped with navy blue pants and a shirt with a white-striped collar. Another gifted his green Vietnam flak jacket and machete. It's the same jacket he wore when a land mine killed his best friend and shot a piece of shrapnel through the right vest.

"These veterans really appreciate what I do," Fancher said. "I guess a bonding occurs between me and this stranger. So much so, that they want me to leave with something."

'Running out of time'

The lights were on and the camera was rolling.

Fancher sat with one leg crossed, jotting notes on a pad as he listened to Gagnon's story.

He laughed with Gagnon when the veteran explained that his parents wouldn't let him join the Marines. He leaned in when Gagnon said he experienced night terrors years after the war. His eyes widened when Gagnon described just how close he was to the kamikaze pilots.

"When the kamikazes started their drop, there would be this screaming engine, but you never knew which ship it was aiming at," Gagnon said. "So you crossed your fingers and said, 'Please don't hit us.'"

Gagnon's grandson and great-granddaughter watched the interview from a side table in the kitchen. They were thrilled that Fancher was there. They'd never recorded Gagnon's experiences and will now have his story preserved for future generations.

The interview lasted 40 minutes. Fancher's final question was the same one he asks every veteran.

"Is there anything you want to be remembered for?"

Gagnon paused.

"I'm getting remembered every time somebody says, 'Thanks for what you did.'"

Fancher stood and shook Gagnon's hand. He thanked him, and asked if he could have a photo — also something he always asks. Some of these photos are printed and framed in Fancher's bedroom.

It will take about a month to edit the video, but when it's done, Fancher hopes people will watch Gagnon's story. He hopes they'll learn what someone did to protect the freedom of this country and that it encourages people to ask their grandparents or great-grandparents questions about World War II.

He also hopes it spreads the message of his project.

"We're running out of time," Fancher said. "I've only interviewed 52 veterans."

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EDUCATIONBRIEFS

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

Skills training scheduled

Midland College will be offering Bridge Academy — marketable skills training — Aug. 28 through Oct. 19. The classes are 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday at the Advanced Technology Center, 3200 W. Cuthbert Ave.

The class is designed for adults who have been out of school for a while or who do not have adequate computer, customer service or reading/communication skills, said Lynda Webb, dean of Adult and Developmental Education.

Registration fee is $30. Participants must complete an application; seating is limited. For more information, contact the Midland College Workforce Continuing Education department at 681-6335 or stop by the Midland College ATC.

Clinic to offer student physicals

MISD Care Clinic, 709 W. Louisiana Ave., has scheduled physicals, which are available to any student in the district.

The physicals will be administered 8 a.m.-noon through Friday and 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Aug. 7-11.

MC bookstore to price match for textbooks

The Midland College Bookstore, operated by independent contractor Texas Book Co., has announced a new textbook price match guarantee policy effective through Sept. 1.

If someone finds a lower price on a textbook, the bookstore will match that price, and give the difference on a bookstore gift certificate, said Walter Waller, Texas Book Co. textbook manager at the MC Bookstore.

The bookstore matches both in-store and online retailers BN.com and books sold on Amazon as "ships from and sold by Amazon.com."

Waller said if students have already purchased books and find a better price later, the bookstore will price match through the first week of the 2017 fall semester. Students must have a copy of their receipt, and the book must be in the competitor's stock at the time of the match.

MC honor society receives recognition

Midland College chapter of Phi Theta Kappa was recognized at the honor society's Texas Region meeting, which was March in Corpus Christi. The chapter was recognized as a 5-Star Level Chapter, the highest level that can be achieved, and received Honors in Action, College Project Participation, Most Improved Chapter and Icarus awards.

The latter award is for outstanding service project, according to a press release from MC. Throughout the year, chapter members participated in various community events and philanthropic projects, including a clothing drive for people in Haiti and a suitcase drive for High Sky Children's Ranch residents.

At the state meeting, four of MC Phi Theta Kappa members were inducted into the Hall of Honor: Emily Cooley, Sarah Cooley, Heather Dudley and Jamie Parks. Chapter advisor Terry Gilmour received the Horizon Award for "going above and beyond" for students.

Online writing classes planned

TAOS, N.M. — D.H. Lawrence Ranch Initiatives is partnering with the University of New Mexico Continuing Education to host a series of online creative writing workshops.

The University of New Mexico recently announced the workshops, which are aimed at giving writers feedback and the opportunity to work with writing instructors. Classes cater to poets, novelists, short story writers and nonfiction writers.

Courses run from October through November and are limited to 15 participants per class.

The English-born Lawrence, author of several novels, including "Lady Chatterley's Lover," and his wife, Frieda, owned a ranch in Taos.

Teachers plan Kilimanjaro climb fundraiser

ANDERSON, S.C. — Two South Carolina teachers will climb Mount Kilimanjaro to raise money for a new playground at the elementary school that was the site of a fatal shooting.

Helen Watson and Raquel Lemrick will return to Tanzania next week. The pair had no intention of climbing Africa's tallest peak again, after doing so last year, but decided to return to raise money for a new playground at Townville Elementary School.

Townville Elementary was the site of a 2016 playground shooting that killed 6-year-old Jacob Hall and injured two other students and a teacher.

The two will wear superhero costumes to honor Jacob, who had a passion for superheroes reflected in the theme of his memorial service. They will unfurl a "Townville Strong" banner at the summit.

Source: Anderson Independent-Mail

Contact your representative

Midland ISD
Address: 615 W. Missouri Ave., Midland, TX, 79701
Phone: 432-240-1000
Website: midlandisd.net
Facebook: facebook.com/midlandisd/
Interim superintendent: Rod Schroder 240-1001
District 1: James Fuller, District 2: Robert Marquez, District 3: Tommy Bishop, District 4: John Kennedy, District 5: Karen Nicholson, District 6: Rick Davis, District 7: Bryan Murry

SCHOOL

From 1B

the first week of June.

"Yes, this summer will be cut short for students, but there are many benefits they'll see throughout the year," DiPetta said.

All 25 local districts elected to give students the entire week of Thanksgiving off and will close schools the week of March 12 for spring break. Six districts — including Alief, Channelview, Dayton, Katy, La Porte and Stafford — will end their school years before Memorial Day.

Districts can obtain the district of innovation status that permits, among other changes, the earlier start by showing academic performances and detailing the statutes from which the district would like to be exempt. The exemptions are mainly limited to operational rules, such as calendars; whether districts can hire teachers who lack certifications; and some class-size rules.

Cypress-Fairbanks ISD is among a smaller number of area districts that kept its start date the same. It is not a district of innovation and therefore didn't qualify for the exemption, something that puzzles Dan McIlduff, the district's assistant superintendent of educational support services.

"I don't understand what the difference is," McIlduff said. "If the state allows people to do it by filling out a piece of paper, why not let everyone have a choice?"

Sales tax holiday

AUSTIN — The annual Texas sales tax holiday will be the second weekend in August as children prepare to return to school.

The Texas comptroller's office says the tax-free weekend, for a number of school-related items, will be Aug. 11-13.

The Texas law exempts most clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks priced less than $100 from sales and use taxes. That could save buyers about $8 on every $100 spent.

The sales tax exemption for Texas also includes items sold online, or by telephone or mail. Shoppers can use layaway plans to get the tax break.

There are exceptions. For example, the sales tax holiday does not apply to jewelry, handbags, purses, briefcases, luggage, umbrellas, wallets, watches and similar items.

The Texas tax break weekend has been an annual event since 1999.

Associated Press

Interfering activities

Some parents, like Kaite McCalmon-Moore, are unhappy that their kids will be returning to classes sooner.

Two of her three daughters signed up last fall to attend their favorite sleepaway camp and did not think that spending a few weeks in Wimberley would conflict with extracurricular activities.

But because of Katy ISD's earlier start, 16-year-old Ana will miss her high school's cheerleading practices leading up to the first day of school, and 13-year-old Brooklyn won't be able to attend her school's marching band camp.

Ana had hoped to audition for cheerleading squad captain before she learned she would not be in town during the school's camp, her mother said.

"What this has done is really shorten summers," McCalmon-Moore said. "There's less time for summer camps (and) college visits."

McCalmon-Moore said Ana attends the private Saint John XXIII College Preparatory but said the school moved up its start date to coincide with Katy ISD's.

She acknowledges that her family's summer situation is different from ones likely faced by families with lower incomes but said starting the year so early makes it more difficult for students to participate in summer camps and district activities that begin before the school year.

And, McCalmon-Moore said, "It's so freaking hot here in mid-August."

Other parents rejoiced on social media posts over earlier start and release dates, glad their children will be finished with classes before Memorial Day.

La Porte ISD will be among those letting students out of school before Memorial Day, which was one of that district calendar committee's main goals, said Danette Tilley, executive director of secondary education.

'Going to the minutes'

But officials there found a work-around to starting the school year during the third week of August. They are starting the 2017-18 school year a week earlier than last year but removed some early-release days and made it so most of their teacher development days will occur before the school year begins.

After the Legislature passed a 2015 law measuring the school year in minutes and not days, La Porte ISD also tacked about five extra minutes to their school day, allowing them to end earlier.

"Going to the minutes made us be very deliberate in thinking about the days we were at school: how we were going to use them and how much time would be beneficial for the students," Tilley said.

PROFILE

From 1B

permission to observe summer classes at A&M to prepare for the fall semester.

He said he is adjusting to life at a large university. Like many A&M students, Shimizu rides his bike from his apartment to campus.

"When I'm riding my bike, I wish I was still in dry West Texas," Shimizu said. "It's really hot and humid in College Station, very much like it is in Osaka. I like the climate in Midland much better."

When he isn't studying, Shimizu enjoys experimenting with design. In Midland, he designed and built a 3D printer, which he then used to design and implement model airplanes and various parts for other 3D printers. When he moved to College Station, he donated the printer to Midland College, and it is now used in MC's Idea Factory located at the Advanced Technology Center on Cuthbert Avenue.

Building another 3D printer in on his to-do list at College Station.

"I'm glad the old printer is being put to good use at Midland College," Shimizu said. "It's the least I could do for the place that helped me to appreciate and love math. After all, I'm pursuing my childhood interests and using the skills I learned at Midland College to become an aerospace engineer."

Rebecca Bell is dean, Community Relations at Midland College.

A TODAS LAS PERSONAS Y PARTES INTERESADAS:

Trinidad Ready Mix, LLC ha solicitado a la Comisión de Calidad Ambiental de Texas (TCEQ) por un Permiso Estándar de Calidad de Aire Núm. De Registro 147304, lo cual autorizaría la construcción de una planta de lotes de concreto ubicada en 5206 Farm-to-Market Road 715, Midland, Midland County, Texas 79706, Midland, Condado de Midland County, Texas 79706. En la sección de avisos públicos de este periódico se encuentra información adicional sobre esta solicitud.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

Trinidad Ready Mix, LLC, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for an Air Quality Standard Permit, Registration No. 147304, which would authorize construction of a permanent concrete batch plant located at 5206 Farm-to-Market Road 715, Midland, Midland County, Texas 79706. Additional information concerning this application is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper.

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Mentoring children for a better Midland
714 W. Louisiana Ave.
Midland, Texas 79701
432-687-0195

TUESDAY PRIME TIME — JULY 25, 2017

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

	C	S	A	C	W	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
KMID ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	The Middle	Fresh Off the Boat	Black-ish	Black-ish "VIP"	Somewhere Between "2.0" (N)		Local 2 News (N)	(39) Jimmy Kimmel Live		(39) News Nightline
KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	CBS 7 News (N)	Ent. Tonight	NCIS "Shell Game"		Bull "Make Me"		NCIS: New Orleans "End of the Line"		CBS 7 News (N)	(39) The Late Show		(39) J.Corden
KWWT CW	5	14		5	14	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H "The Bus"	A. Griffith	A. Griffith	Mama's Family	ALF	Hogan's Heroes	Hogan's Heroes	Carol Burnett	Mason "The Case of the Positive Negative"		Twilight Zone
KPEJ FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Lethal Weapon "Best Buds"		The Mick	Brooklyn 99	Fox 24 News (N)	TMZ		Two and a Half	Hot in Cleveland	Met Your Mother
KMLM IND	11	12	12	11	11	Our Messiah	Housecall	Update News	Behind the Veil	Light of the Southwest "Part 1"		Light of the Southwest "Part 2"		Aleph Course	Mission: M25	Ministerios Nueva Vida	
KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	NewsWest 9 (N)	NewsWest 9 Now	America's Got Talent "Superstar DJ Khaled joins the judge's panel. (N)		Judge Cuts 2" Music		World of Dance "The Cut 2" (N)		NewsWest 9 (N)	(39) The Tonight Show		(39) Seth Meyers
KPBT PBS	13	13		13	8	PBS NewsHour (N)		American Experience "Summer of Love"		Rare: Creatures of the Photo Ark (N)		Frontline		Charlie Rose (N)		Newsline	Tavis Smiley
KUPB UNI	4	4		4	16	La rosa de Guadalupe		José de Egipto				Rosario Tijeras		Noticias Tejas	Noticiero noctu.	Contacto Deportivo	
KOSA MNT	16	16		16		Last Man	Last Man	X-Files "Per Manum"		X-Files "Three Words"		Mike&M.	Mike&M.	Anger M.	Anger M.	Tosh.0	Access H.
FLIX	340	525		165		(5:45) ★★★ No Country for Old Men				★★★ Requiem for a Dream				(:45) ★★ The Eye (08, Hor) Jessica Alba.			Movie
HBO	300	550	14	14		Movie	Vice News	★★★ Erin Brockovich Julia Roberts.				Insecure	(:50) Ballers		VICE		
HBO2	302	551	15	101	23	(5:05) ★ War Dogs		Thrones "Stormborn"		Ballers	VICE				1stLook A(16) ★ Be Cool John Travolta.		
HBO5	304	552	16	102		(5:45) ★★★ Executive Decision				★★ Jason Bourne ('16, Act) Matt Damon.					(:20) ★★ Pearl Harbor Ben Affleck.		
MAX	380	557	17	120	24	(4:45) ★ Race		★★★ Role Models				(:40) ★★ Bachelor Party Tom Hanks.				★ The Signal Brenton Thwaites.	
MAX2	382	558	18	122		(:35) ★ Warcraft ('16, Act) Travis Fimmel.				★★★★ Deadpool			(:50) ★★ Daredevil ('03, Fant) Ben Affleck.				Movie
PLEX			96			(5:25) ★ Chicken Wi...		★★★★ The Young Victoria				(:40) ★★★ Elizabeth: The Golden Age			(:45) ★ The Journey of August ...		
SHOW	320	545	19	140	25	Movie	(:25) ★ Risk Julian Assange.			I'm Dying Up Here		Twin Peaks			★ The American		Movie
TMC	336	570	22	155	26	(5:00) ★ Drug War		★ Killing Season Robert De Niro.				(:35) ★★★ The Hurt Locker ('09, Thri) Jeremy Renner.				★ A Bronx Tale	
A&E	27	58	28	35	47	Hoarders "Ben and Robin and Kevin"		Hoarders "Sandi and Vivian"		Hoarders Overload "Ellen and Sybil"		(:10) Hoarders "Leza and Linda"		(:05) Hoarders "Merlene/ Jeff"		Hoarders "Sandi and Vivian"	
AMC	40	74	23	42	51	(5:00) ★ Rocky IV		★★★ Tombstone ('93, West) Val Kilmer, Kurt Russell.						★★★ The Outlaw Josey Wales			
BET	58	•		40		(5:00) ★ Madea's Big Happy Family				Being "Feeling Raw"		Being Mary Jane (N)		Being Mary Jane		Martin	Martin
BRAVO	65	76		41		Below "Kissing Up"		Below Deck		Below Deck (N)		A Night	A Night	Watch (N)	Below Deck		H.Wives
CNBC	46	52		39	72	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		The Profit (N)		Shark Tank		Shark Tank	
CNN	43	50	51	30	56	OutFront		A. Cooper 360		A. Cooper 360		CNN Tonight		CNN Tonight		A. Cooper 360	
DISC	50	60	31	24	42	Super Predator		GreatWhiteKiller (N)		Sharks-City: L.A. (N)		Sharks-City (N)		Shark (N)	Sharks-City: L.A.		SharkCit
DISNEY	56	64	36	25	36	Underc.	Bizaard.	StuckMid	Andi M.	Liv/Mad	Liv/Mad	Underc.	Underc.	Bunk'd	Jessie	StuckMid	Andi M.
ESPN	32	35	48	31	30	Humanitarian Awards		Soccer International Champions Cup (L)				SportsCenter		SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
ESPN2	34	36	49	32	31	SportsCenter		WNBA Basketball New York vs Minnesota (L)				DBL "Playoffs"		Drone Racing Lg. (N)		E:60	
FNC	45	48	53	23	55	The Story		TuckerCarlsonTon		The Five		Hannity		TuckerCarlsonTon		The Five	
FOOD	64	70	27	68	54	Chopped		Chopped		Chopped		Chopped (N)		Chopped		Chopped	
FREEFORM	53	63	34	42	33	(5:00) ★ When in Ro...		Fosters "Contact" (N)		The Bold Type (N)		The Bold Type		The 700 Club		★ The Sandlot	
FSSW	37	38	50	45	29	Houston Tex. (N)	Pre-game (L)	MLB Baseball Miami Marlins at Texas Rangers Site: Globe Life Park -- Arlington, Texas (L)						Rangers Live (L)	CBCampL) Artsinsider	(:15) Bull Riding Championship	
FX	31	56	59	64	69	(4:30) ★ Men in Bla...		★★★ 22 Jump Street Channing Tatum.					★★★ 22 Jump Street Channing Tatum.				
HALLMARK	54	71	58		34	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls
HGTV	63	69	26	48	44	Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper		Good Bones (N)		H.Hunt	H.Hunt	Fixer Upper	
HISTORY	71	59	29	50	43	Forged in Fire		Forged in Fire (N)		Forged in Fire (N)		(:05) Amer. Ripper (N)		(:05) Forged in Fire		(:05) Forged in Fire	
LIFETIME	28	30	25	28	48	Dance Moms "Same Old Frenemies Part 1"		Dance Moms "Same Old Frenemies Part 2"		Dance Moms "Special" (N)				(:05) Little Women "Reunion: Part Two"		Dance Moms "Same Old Frenemies Part 2"	
MSNBC	47	53		49	73	Hardball (N)		All in (N)		Rachel Maddow (N)		The Last Word (N)		The 11th Hour (N)		Rachel Maddow	
NBCSN	38	43				AMA Motocross Tennessee National				AMA Motocross Redbud National				AMA Motocross Spring Creek National			
NICK	55	•	39	34	37	H.Danger	Thunder	Thunder	Nicky	F.House	F.House	F.House	F.House	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
SPIKE	30	•	55	53	58	Ink Master		Ink Master		Ink Master		Ink Master (N)		Ink Mstr	Tattoo	Tattoo	Tattoo
SYFY	66	82	41	57	67	★★★ Zombieland Woody Harrelson.				Face Off (N)		★★★ Bridge to Terabithia				Face Off	
TBS	25	33	44	66	41	Sein. "The Pilot"	The Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Wrecked (N)	Conan Alec Baldwin, Al Madrigal, Joe List		Wrecked	Conan
TCM	41	75	24	63	66	Trial	WF Days	★★ Hot Rod Andy Sambidge.				★★ Hot Rod Gang		★ The Ghost of Dr...		(:55) ★ Hot Cars	
TELE	20	-	10	20		Caso cerrado (N)		Jenni Rivera: Ma (N)		Sin Senos Si Hay (N)		Señor de cielos (N)		Al rojo	Titulares	Sin Senos Si Hay Par	
TLC	51	61	32	38	52	Daughter "Dawn of the Terrible Twos"		OutDaughtered: Life with Quints (N)		Daughter "Good Quints Gone Bad" (N)		(:05) Rattled "Secret DNA Test"		(:05) Daughter "Good Quints Gone Bad"		(:05) Rattled "Secret DNA Test"	
TNT	24	34	40	26	50	★★ Get Hard (2015, Comedy) Kevin Hart, Alison Brie, Will Ferrell.				Animal Kingdom "Grace" (N)		Animal Kingdom "Grace"		Law & Order "Lost Boys"		Law & Order "Falling"	
TVLAND	49	-	35	54	35	MASH	(:35) MASH	(:10) MASH	(:50) Ray	(:25) Loves Ray		Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens
USA	26	55	42	27	49	NCIS "Family Secret"		WWE Smackdown! WWE superstars do battle in long-running rivalries.				Shooter "Remember the Alamo" (N)		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Pop"		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Possessed"	
WGN	19	85				M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	★★★ Gravity (2013, Thriller) George Clooney, Sandra Bullock.				★★★ Gravity (2013, Thriller) George Clooney, Sandra Bullock.				Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother

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Mixed messages from mom have teen looking for clarity

Dear Abby

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

DEAR ABBY: I'm 17. My mom and I often disagree on things. Don't get me wrong — I don't care what she does in her free time, but lately I have learned she's talking to people about bisexuality. I don't know how to handle this or how to talk to her about it.

I feel betrayed. When I told her I was gay, she rejected my sexuality, and now she's possibly wanting relationships with other females? Even now, when we watch the news and something about the LGBT community comes on, she still mutters about marriage being between one man and one woman.

I don't want things to escalate into a big blowup over this because our relationship is just being repaired. Please help me. Am I wrong to be concerned, or do I have the right to be? — TEEN IN DAYTON, OHIO

DEAR TEEN: I don't think it would escalate into an argument if you were to tell your mother you are confused by the mixed messages you're getting from her. It should be the opening of an interesting discussion, as long as you don't let it deteriorate into a fight. It seems odd to me, too, that she would reject your sexual orientation if she's leaning in both directions herself.

As to her feelings about marriage equality, you might be interested to know that not everyone thinks the idea of marriage (LGBT or otherwise) is appealing. If your mother is interested in open relationships, she may be part of that group.

DEAR ABBY: I went on a road trip with a friend who is normally kind and generous. She insisted on driving the entire way. She often exceeded the speed limit and kept less than 20 feet between us and the 18-wheel truck ahead.

She read texts, answered her cellphone and made phone calls while she was driving. She's very demonstrative when she talks, so while she drove, holding her cell with her left hand, she'd take her other hand off the wheel to gesture. More than once she nearly hit a guardrail.

I was so frightened I broke into sobs. She responded by laughing at me! Can you give me a tactful way to tell her how dangerous her driving really is? — TERRIFIED IN MEMPHIS

DEAR TERRIFIED: No, because it's obvious that your friend is in deep denial not only about how dangerous her driving is, but also about how it affects her passengers and other drivers around her. But I can suggest that from now on, YOU provide the transportation if you're going anyplace together. You were lucky this time. The next time it could cost you your life.

DEAR ABBY: One day, I found two bottles of wine under my husband's bed. I told him I had found them and he didn't have to hide wine from me. Yesterday, I found two bottles of beer in his underwear drawer.

This is unusual behavior for a 65-year-old man. He is retired. I am still working. What should I do? — PERPLEXED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR PERPLEXED: It's important that you find out what's causing your husband to act this way. Notify your doctor there has been a sudden change in his behavior and schedule physical and neurological exams for him. When seniors begin hiding items for no reason, it could indicate the onset of dementia.

Goren Bridge

With Bob Jones

European youth

Both vulnerable, South deals

NORTH
♠ A K 9
♡ A 6 4 2
◊ 1 0 6 5
♣ A J 8

WEST
♠ Q 8 2
♡ Q 7 3
◊ 9 4 3 2
♣ 9 4 2

EAST
♠ 10 6 5 4
♡ K J 5
◊ A J 7
♣ K 7 3

SOUTH
♠ J 7 3
♡ 10 9 8
◊ K Q 8
♣ Q 10 6 5

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Pass	Pass	1♡	Pass
1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All pass		

Opening lead: Four of ◊

Today's deal is from a competition in Europe earlier this year. North-South were apparently playing Acol, a four-card major system with a 12-14 one no-trump range. This system has been popular in Great Britain, and other places, for many years. The auction may look strange to American eyes, but it wouldn't turn a head in Europe. South was 13-year-old Liz Gahan, who showed excellent technique in the play.

East won the opening diamond lead with the ace and continued the suit to South's king. Gahan led a club to dummy's jack, losing to the king, and East cleared the diamonds. Gahan saw that she was going to need a second trick from the heart suit while keeping West from gaining the lead. This technique is known as an "avoidance play."

Gahan led the nine of hearts and passed it to East, who cleverly won this with the king. This might have proved embarrassing had declarer's hearts been queen-ten-nine, but East was hoping that partner held the queen-eight of hearts and would then be able to win the defense's second heart trick and have an entry for the long diamond. East shifted to a spade. Gahan's jack was covered by the queen and won with dummy's ace.

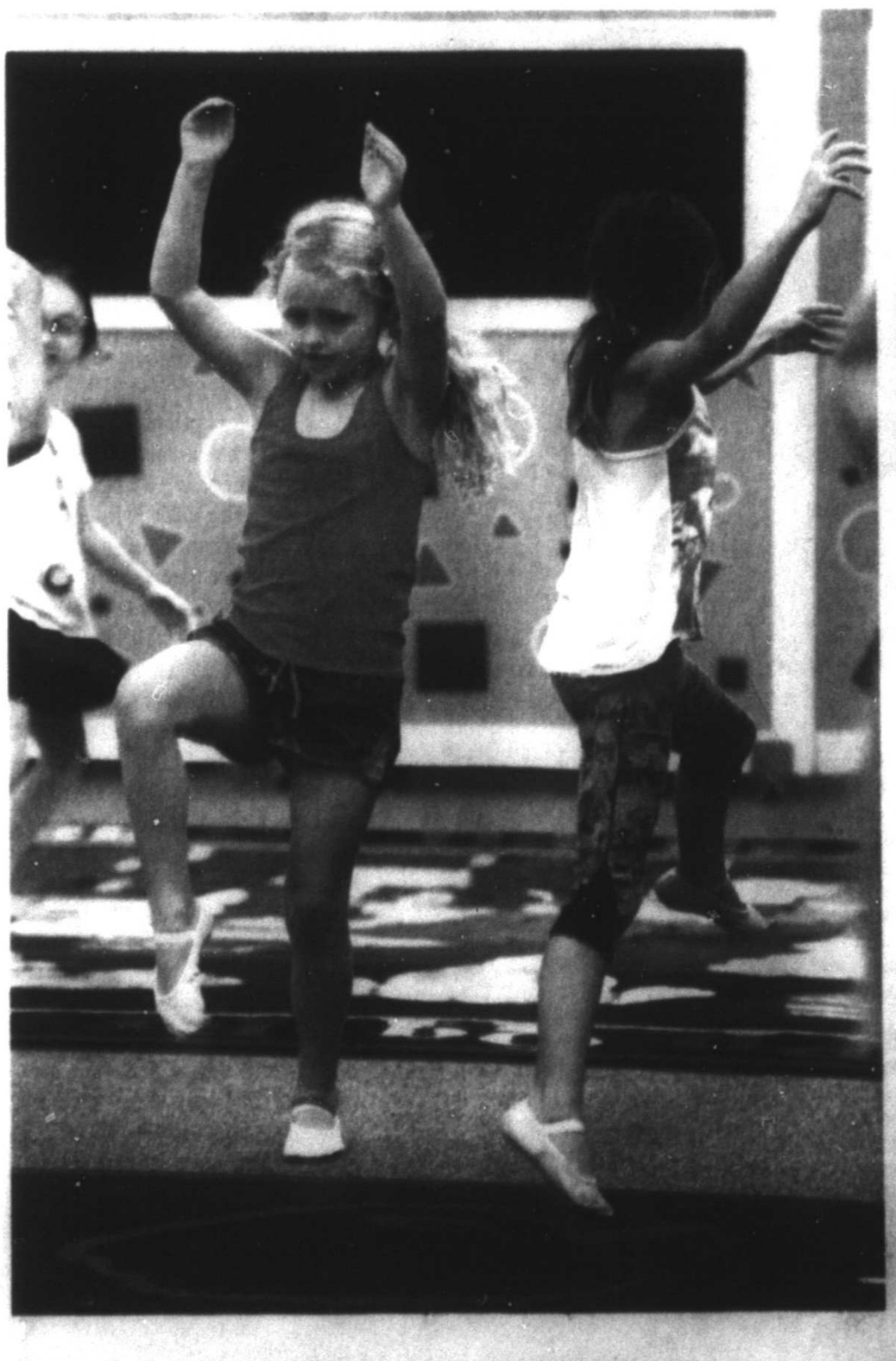
South cashed three club tricks, ending in her hand while shedding a spade from dummy, and led the eight of hearts. Regardless of what the defense did, Gahan was able to develop the second heart trick that she needed while keeping West off play. Nine tricks in all and a well-earned result.

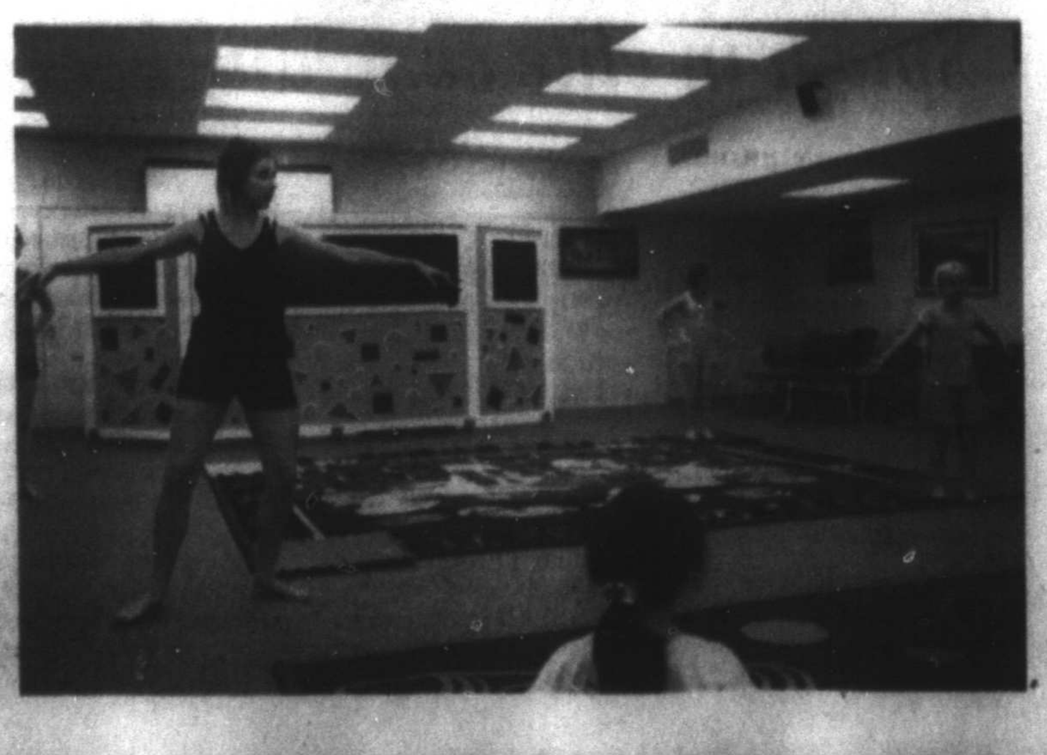
Camp Time

Dance of a Lifetime

Nutcracker Ballet Dance Camp hosted by Midland Festival Ballet was held July 18 at the Midland County Public Library Downtown Branch

McKenzie Prater, 7, dances during the camp.





Beltre closer to 3,000 hits despite Rangers' loss

By Sean Shapiro
Associated Press

ARLINGTON — Giancarlo Stanton hit more two home runs and moved into a tie for the major league lead, sending Adam Conley and the Miami Marlins over the Texas Rangers 4-0 on Monday night.

Stanton has 32 homers, including six in his last seven games, and matched Yankees rookie Aaron Judge for most in the majors. Stanton hit a two-run drive in the first inning and a solo shot in the eighth.

Texas star Adrian Beltre went 4 for 4, giving him 2,993 career hits. He is in line to become the 31st big leaguer to reach 3,000.

Conley (3-3) pitched seven impressive innings during his second start since getting recalled from Triple-A New Orleans on July 18. He allowed seven hits and struck out five as he pitched past the sixth inning for the first time this season.

Martin Perez (5-8) went seven innings.

Dee Gordon opened the game with a double and Stanton put Miami ahead.

The Marlins made it 3-0 in the sixth when Christian Yelich scored from first on a double by Marcell Ozuna.

Stanton hit his 11th homer in July, connecting in the eighth off reliever Jeremy Jeffress. Stanton also threw out a runner from right field.

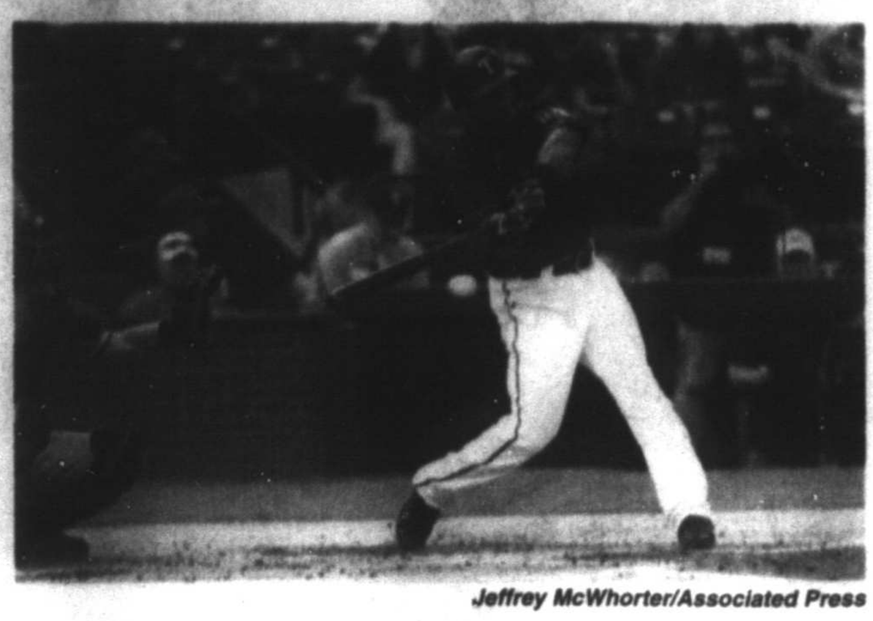
Moment of silence

The Rangers had a moment of silence before the game for longtime fan Sister Frances Evans, who died Friday, 10 days before her 91st birthday. Sister Frances had attended games in Arlington since 1972. She and Sister Maggie Hession were well-known at Rangers games as the "Ranger Nuns."

Trainer's room

Marlins: DH Justin Bour left the game and is day-to-day with a right oblique strain after grounding into a double play in the first inning. ... RHP Tom Koehler was optioned to Triple-A, while LHP Hunter Cervenka was recalled. Marlins manager Don Mattingly said it was a move that will allow him

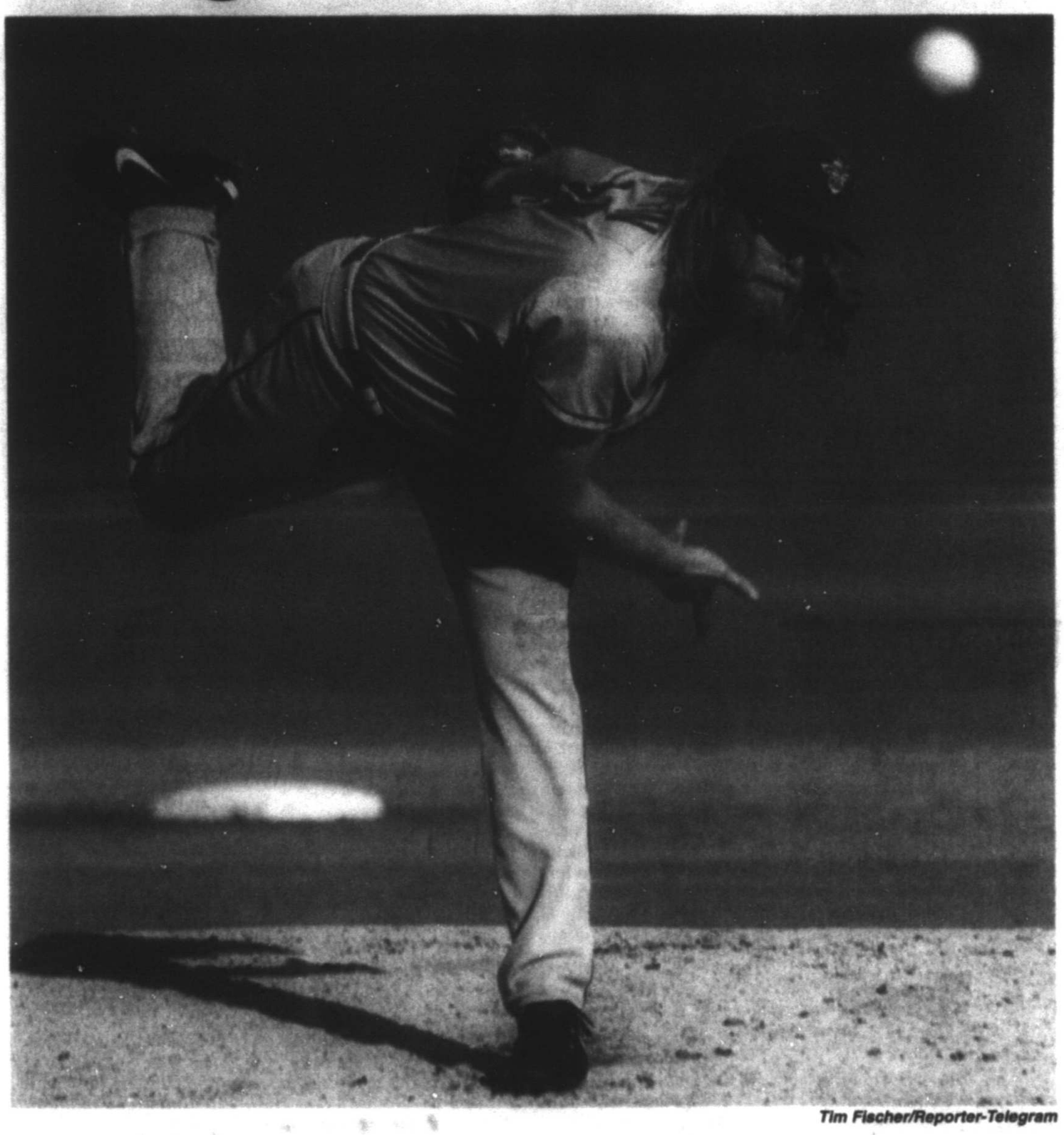
Please see RANGERS/3C



Jeffrey McWhorter/Associated Press

Texas Rangers' Adrian Beltre connects on his 2990th hit against Miami Marlins starting pitcher Adam Conley during the first inning of a baseball game Monday in Arlington.

Ranger comes to town



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Texas Rangers pitcher, A.J. Griffin, on rehab with the Frisco RoughRiders, pitches against the Midland RockHounds on Monday at Security Bank Ballpark.

A.J. Griffin feels good in rehab start

By Will Korn
wkorn@mrt.com

A familiar face returned to the Tall City on Monday.

Texas Rangers starting pitcher and former Midland RockHound A.J. Griffin took to Security Bank Ballpark for his third rehabilitation start after suffering a left intercostal (oblique) strain in a Rangers' road start against the Toronto Blue Jays on May 26.

The former 13th round draft pick of the Oakland Athletics in 2010 scattered four hits over five scoreless innings for the Frisco RoughRiders against the RockHounds. Limited to either five innings or 75 pitches, the 6-foot-5, 230-pound right-hander struck out five and walked two on 72 offerings.

Frisco eventually fell, 13-1, after Midland exploded for five runs in the seventh inning and eight more in the eighth inning. Still, Griffin said he felt at ease in Monday's outing facing a formidable RockHounds offense and fire baller Grant Holmes, one of the top young arms in the Texas League.

"I felt pretty good," said Griffin, who last pitched in Midland in a rehab start on June 19, 2016. "I was staying inside my delivery for the most part. I got a little outside of it in the fourth inning and I was kind of firing it up a little bit. It's hard to locate pitches when you do that. We got back on track and had a decent little fifth inning. It was good."

Griffin, 29, made his first rehab start with the Rangers' Arizona League on

Please see GRIFFIN/3C

State attorney: No sex assault charges for Michael Irvin

By Terry Spencer
Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Former Dallas Cowboys star Michael Irvin will not be charged with sexual assault after Florida prosecutors said Monday that hotel video and other evidence aren't sufficient to prove his accuser's allegations.

Irvin

Broward County Assistant State Attorney Christine Adler wrote in a report that without additional corroboration of the accuser's account, prosecutors "would not be able to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that a sexual battery occurred."

A 27-year-old woman accused Irvin of drugging and sexually assaulting her at the W Hotel in Fort Lauderdale in March. Irvin, 51, had insisted for months that he had been falsely accused.

Irvin, who settled a sexual assault lawsuit in 2011, told a press conference Monday that these latest allegations had cost him "millions" in endorsements and business opportunities, but declined to give details.

"Just being accused of something like this, this is as devastated as it can be," said Irvin, a Fort Lauderdale native who works as an analyst for the NFL Network and as a Christian speaker. Irvin was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2007.

He said only murdering someone is worse than falsely accusing the person of sexual assault.

"And this might even be worse because you are leaving someone alive after accusing them of drugging someone and then raping someone." He said he and his wife have prayed for the woman, but he wants prosecutors to charge her with making a false police report.

According to Adler's report, the accuser told investigators she had known Irvin for about seven years but they had a platonic relationship. The woman, whose name has been redacted, said she had texted the former University of Miami wide receiver a few weeks before their encounter and he told her he would be in Fort Lauderdale soon and would call her.

She said that on the day of their encounter, they agreed to meet at a bar at about 10:30 p.m., where she had two glasses of wine with Irvin, his friend who owned the bar and a friend of hers.

Please see IRVIN/4C

Spieth in elite company because of majors, not style points

By Doug Ferguson
Associated Press

■ COMMENTARY

SOUTHPORT, England — Jordan Spieth was happy enough to see his name on the claret jug without wondering where he fit in among the rest of the British Open champions whose names are engraved on the oldest trophy in golf.

Spieth

In that respect, nothing has changed.

Spieth wasn't keen on comparisons when he became the youngest Masters champion since Tiger Woods, the youngest U.S. Open champion since Bobby Jones or the youngest to win two majors since Gene Sarazen. And now that Jack Nicklaus is part of the conversation, he shies away from them even more.

Spieth and Nicklaus are the only players to capture the third leg of the Grand Slam at age 23.

"I'll be careful with my answer," Spieth said Sunday when asked about his place among the greats. "It's amazing. I feel blessed to be able to play the game I love, but I don't think comparisons ... I don't compare myself. And I don't think that they're appropriate or necessary. So to be in that company no doubt is absolutely incredible, and I certainly appreciate it."

To hear his name listed in such elite company is merely a reward from the work he put in to get there.

"But I'm very careful as to what that means going forward," he added. "Because what those guys have done has transcended the sport. And in no way, shape or form do I think I'm anywhere near that whatsoever. So it's a good start, but there is a long way to go."

Maybe.

But if he were to win the PGA Championship in three weeks, he will be only the sixth — and youngest — to have all four majors.

The prospect is exciting, though recent history illustrates why success can be so fleeting in golf.

Rory McIlroy looked unstoppable when he won the British Open and PGA Championship at the end of 2014, and then headed to Augusta National for a shot at the Grand Slam. Who could possibly beat that blend of power and scoring? Spieth won the Masters in a runaway. McIlroy has finished six shots behind at Augusta in each of the three chances he has had to complete the Grand Slam.

Phil Mickelson won the British Open in 2013 and was a U.S. Open away from a career Grand Slam — the major where he was runner-up six times. In three chances since, Mickelson has finished 15 and 18 shots out of the lead and missed the cut last year.

More than winning at Royal

Please see SPIETH/2C

'HOUNDSWATCH

MONDAY'S SCORE
Midland 13, Frisco 1

TODAY'S GAME
Frisco at Midland, 6:30 p.m.

INTERNET
www.milb.com

RECORDS
Midland 12-19
Frisco 13-18

Monday	Today	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Midland 13, Frisco 1	Frisco at Midland, 6:30 p.m.	Frisco at Midland, 6:30 p.m.	Midland at Corpus Christi, 7:05 p.m.	Midland at Corpus Christi, 7:05 p.m.

DAILYRUNDOWN

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

ON TV

BASEBALL

NYBC: D-Bat Elite North (TX) vs. Team Combat (CA), 9 a.m., CBSSN

NYBC: Tri State Arsenal Prime (NJ) vs. Sandcrabs Baseball (TX), Noon, CBSSN

Cape Cod League: Bourne at Falmouth, 5 p.m., FCSA

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Big Ten Media Days, 8 a.m., BTN

MLB

Chicago White Sox at Chicago Cubs, 1 p.m., MLB

Houston at Philadelphia, 6 p.m., AT&T

Colorado at St. Louis, 7 p.m., MLB

Miami at Texas, 7 p.m., FSSW

MEN'S SOCCER

ICC: Chelsea FC vs. Bayern Munich, 6:30 a.m., ESPNDEP, ESPN3

Copa Sudamericana: Chapecoense vs. Defensa y Justica, 5 p.m., FXDEP

Copa MX: Dorados de Sinaloa vs. Club Deportivo Universidad de Guadalajara, 6:50 p.m., UDN

ICC: Tottenham Hotspur vs. AS Roma, 7 p.m., ESPN, ESPNDEP

Copa Sudamericana: Independiente Santa Fe vs. Fuerza Amarilla, 7:30 p.m., FXDEP

Copa MX: Club Atlas vs. Potros UAEM, 8:50 p.m., UDN

MEN'S WATER POLO

World Aquatics Championship Quarterfinal 1, 7:30 a.m., OLYHD

World Aquatics Championship Quarterfinal 2, 9 a.m., OLYHD

World Aquatics Championship Quarterfinal 3, 1:30 p.m., OLYHD

World Aquatics Championship Quarterfinal 4, 3 p.m., OLYHD

SWIMMING

Day 3 from Budapest, Hungary, 10:30 a.m., NBCSN

Day 4 from Budapest, Hungary, 2:30 a.m., OLYHD

TENNIS

World Team: Springfield at Washington, 6 p.m., TENNIS

ATP: German Tennis Championships, 4 a.m., TENNIS

WNBA

Washington at San Antonio, 11:30 a.m., NBAtv

New York at Minnesota, 7 p.m., ESPN2

Indiana at Dallas, 7 p.m., FSSW+

Seattle at Los Angeles, 9:30 p.m., NBAtv

WOMEN'S SOCCER

UEFA Women's EURO 2017: Russia vs. Germany, 1:45 p.m., ESPN3

UEFA Women's EURO 2017: Sweden vs. Italy, 1:45 p.m., UDN, ESPN3

ON RADIO

MLB

Houston at St. Louis, 6 p.m., KBYG 106.1 FM, 1400 AM (Big Spring)

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

TEXAS LEAGUE BASEBALL

Frisco at Midland, 6:30 p.m., KCRS 97.5 FM, 550 AM

TEXAS TECH FOOTBALL

TEXAS TECH SINGLE GAME TICKETS ON SALE

Texas Tech single-game tickets for all six games at Jones AT&T Stadium this season are now on sale to the general public through the Texas Tech Ticket Office.

Prices start as low as $20 each for the season opener against Eastern Washington, which is part of a special promotion courtesy of American National Bank. Tickets for the season opener can be purchased online by using the promo code "ANB17" or by contacting the Tech Ticket Office.

Ticket prices for the remaining five games on Tech's home slate begin at $50 for the homecoming contest against Iowa State. Prices vary based on the specific section in the stadium. A full stadium map with pricing sections is located below.

In addition to single-game tickets, Red Raider fans can still purchase season tickets for as low as $184 a seat to see Tech host the likes of Pac-12 foe Arizona State as well as fellow Big 12 members Oklahoma State, TCU and Kansas State.

The list of ticket options for 2017 also includes the "Red Raider Pass," a mobile-only selection designed for the fan on the go. The "Red Raider Pass" is on sale for $150 a seat, nearly 20 percent off the lowest season ticket package available. Only 500 passes are available via this offer, which can be purchased by visiting www.TexasTech.com/RedRaiderPass.

Mini-plan options are still available as well for just $120 a seat, allowing fans to choose one game between Oklahoma State (Sept. 30) or TCU (Nov. 18) and then two others from Eastern Washington (Sept. 2), Arizona State (Sept. 16), Iowa State (Oct. 21) or Kansas State (Nov. 4).

For more information, call the ticket office at 806-742-TECH.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

American League

BOSTON RED SOX — Optioned RHP Kyle Martin to Pawtucket (IL). Transferred LHP Robbie Ross Jr. to the 60-day DL.

KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Acquired RHPs Trevor Cahill and Brandon Maurer and LHP Ryan Buchter to San Diego for LHPs Matt Strahm and Travis Wood, INF Esteury Ruiz and cash.

MINNESOTA TWINS — Acquired LHP Jaime Garcia, C Anthony Recker and cash considerations from Atlanta for RHP Huascar Ynoa. Recalled RHP Alan Busenitz from Rochester (IL).

NEW YORK YANKEES — Traded RHP Dillon McNamara to San Francisco for future considerations.

OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Optioned INF/OF Matt Olson to Nashville (PCL). Recalled RHP Josh Smith from Nashville.

SEATTLE MARINERS — Optioned SS Taylor Motter to Tacoma (PCL). Sent RHP Evan Marshall to the AZL Mariners for a rehab assignment.

TEXAS RANGERS — Placed RHP Tyson Ross on 10-day DL. Recalled C Brett Nicholas from Round Rock (PCL). Transferred RHP A.J. Griffin from Round Rock to Frisco (TL) on rehab assignment.

National League

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Optioned LHP Anthony Banda to Reno (PCL). Reinstated RHP Taijuan Walker from paternity leave.

CHICAGO CUBS — Optioned RHP Felix Pena to Iowa (PCL). Reinstated RHP Kyle Hendricks from the 10-day DL.

CINCINNATI REDS — Sent RHP Anthony DeSclafani to the AZL Reds for a rehab assignment.

COLORADO ROCKIES — Sent RHP Chad Bettis to Albuquerque (PCL) for a rehab assignment.

NEW YORK METS — Placed RHP Zack Wheeler on the 10-day DL, retroactive to July 23. Recalled RHP Tyler Pill from Las Vegas (PCL).

SAN DIEGO PADRES — Selected the contract of INF Dusty Coleman from El Paso (PCL). Recalled RHP Jose Ruiz from Lake Elsinore (Cal).

American Association

GARY SOUTHSHORE RAILCATS — Signed RHP Jesse Pratt. Traded C James Alfonso to Southern Illinois (Frontier) for a player to be named.

WINNIPEG GOLDEYES — Released INF Patrick Brady.

Can-Am League

QUEBEC CAPITALES — Released RHP Tyler Gillies.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

CLEVELAND CAVALIERS — Named Koby Altman general manager.

DETROIT PISTONS — Signed G Luis Montero to a two-way contract.

SAN ANTONIO SPURS — Re-signed C Pau Gasol to a three-year contract. Signed F Matt Costello to a two-way contract.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

CAROLINA PANTHERS — Fired director of player personnel Mark Koncz. Signed WR Trevor Graham.

DALLAS COWBOYS — Released WR-KR Lucky Whitehead.

DENVER BRONCOS — Signed executive vice president of football operations and general manager John Elway to a five-year contract. Announced the retirement of S David Bruton Jr.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Signed OT Arturo Uzdavinis. Placed RB Latavius Murray and LB Shaan Washington on the PUP list and DT Sharrif Floyd on the active/non-football injury list.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS — Placed LB Dannell Ellerbe, OT Terron Armstead, C Max Unger and G Senio Kelemete on the PUP list. Signed WR Willie Snead.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

ARIZONA COYOTES — Signed G Marek Langhamer to a one-year, two-way contract.

NASHVILLE PREDATORS — Signed F Austin Watson to a three-year contract.

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS — Agreed to terms with D Brian Dumoulin on a six-year contract.

American Hockey League

MILWAUKEE ADMIRALS — Signed C Angelo Miceli to a one-year contract.

ECHL

WORCESTER RAILERS — Named David Gwozdz director of retail and merchandise operations and Victoria Martinelli accountant.

LACROSSE

National Lacrosse League

BUFFALO BANDITS — Signed T Kevin Brownell to a two-year contract and F Craig England to a one-year contract.

COLLEGE

FRISCO BOWL — Named Sean Johnson executive director.

LEES-MCRAE — Named Mark Potsgrove assistant men's basketball coach.

NEW MEXICO — Announced women's golfer Reva Morris is transferring from Youngstown State.

RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE — Named Brian Claypool softball coach.

WAGNER — Named Alex Fehmer assistant women's lacrosse coach.

WNBA GLANCE

Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
Connecticut	12	9	.571	—
Washington	12	9	.571	—
New York	10	9	.526	1
Atlanta	9	11	.450	2½
Chicago	8	13	.381	4
Indiana	8	13	.381	4

WESTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	16	2	.889	—
Los Angeles	14	6	.700	3
Phoenix	11	9	.550	6
Dallas	10	12	.455	8
Seattle	9	11	.450	8
San Antonio	3	18	.143	14½

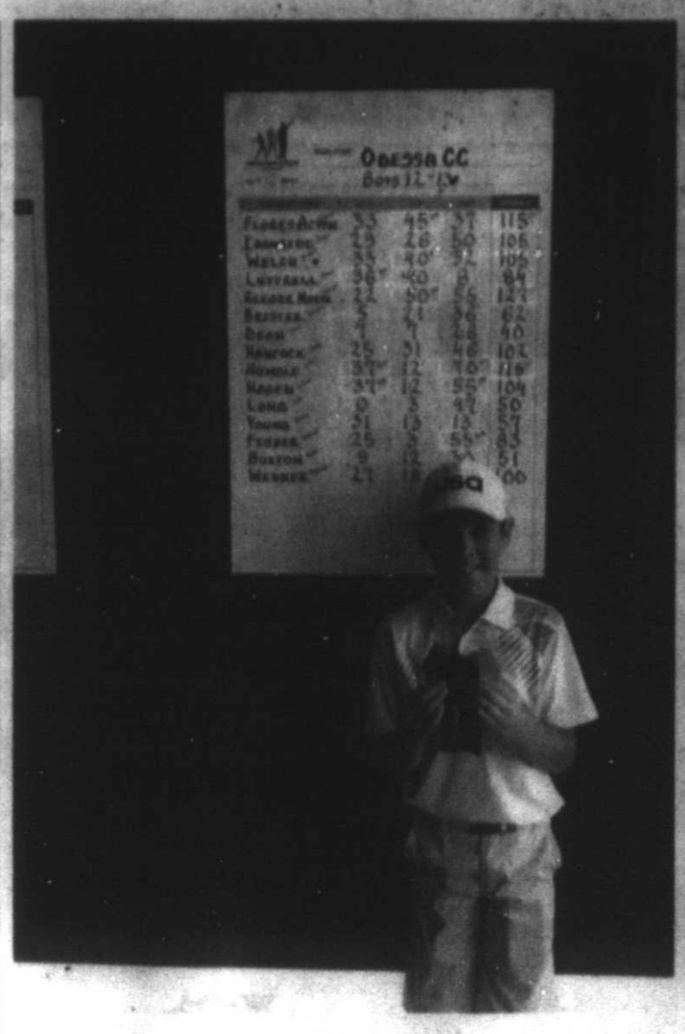
Scores and schedule

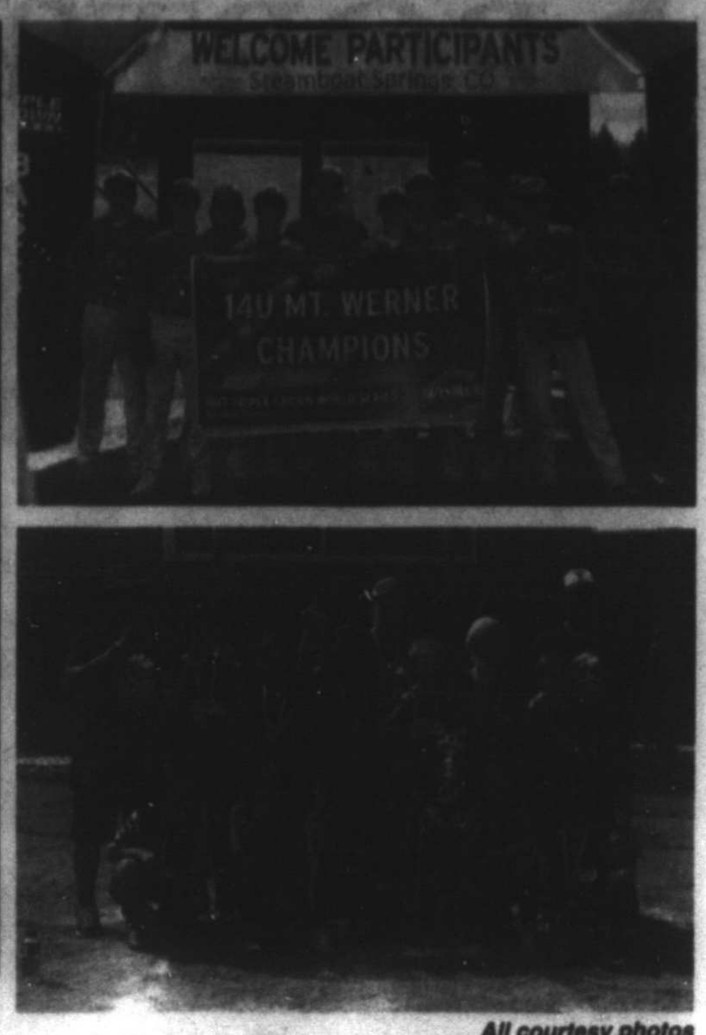
Monday's Scores

No games scheduled

Today's Games

Washington at San Antonio, 11:30 a.m.
Phoenix at Atlanta, 6 p.m.
Chicago at Connecticut, 6 p.m.
New York at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
Indiana at Dallas, 7 p.m.
Seattle at Los Angeles, 9:30 p.m.





All courtesy photos

LEFT: Midland's Jake Humble poses after becoming a local qualifier in the Drive, Chip & Putt Championship held June 30 at Odessa Country Club. He will be competing in the Sub-Regional Qualifier in Fort Worth on Aug. 12. **UPPER RIGHT:** Midland's West Texas Edge, a 14-under baseball team, won the Triple Crown Wold Series over the weekend in Steamboat Springs, Colo. Team members are Gage Jordan, Rhett Clark, Hayden Westenberg, Cody Grebeck, Michael Widener, Tripp Pennington, Andrew Flatt, Luke Greenlee, Case Thompson, Kyler Wagaman and Taylor Calcote. **LOWER RIGHT:** The Midland Firecrackers, an 8-under team out of Midland United Girls Softball, recently won the USA Softball's West Texas All-Stars Tournament in Lubbock. Bottom row left to right, Sienna Rodriguez, Emberlee Ybarra, Lyllanna Suarez, Olivia Burleson, Kenzie Yonts, Maliyah Carrillo. Top row left to right, coach Alfredo Rodriguez, Kaiden Esparza, Jaylesia Atkins, Leeya Gonzales, coach Stacy Jones, Emily Jones, Claire Sherrod, Karli Kershaw, coach Ralph Carrillo.

YOUTH SPORTS

WEST TEXAS EDGE WINS BIG TOURNEY

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, Colo. — Midland's 14-under West Texas Edge baseball team won the Triple Crown World Series over the weekend.

The team went 10-1 in the tournament and that included having to play four games on the final day. West Texas Edge had to defeat Mapleton Mountain Eagles out of Lehi, Utah, twice, 6-3 and 10-0, to claim the title and avenge its earlier loss.

West Texas Edge outscored their opponents 100-35 in a field that consisted of teams from 12 different states.

The Edge also won the overall skills challenge with wins in the home run derby (Rhett Clark), base running (Gage Jordan) and throwing accuracy (Luke Greenlee).

In addition to Clark, Jordan and Greenlee, members of the Edge are Hayden Westenberg, Cody Grebeck, Michael Widener, Tripp Pennington, Andrew Flatt, Case Thompson, Kyler Wagaman and Taylor Calcote.

HUMBLE QUALIFIES FOR DRIVE, CHIP, PUTT COMPETITION

Midland's Jake Humble, a member of Green Tree Country Club, has qualified and will be advancing to the Sub-Regional Qualifier of the Drive, Chip & Putt Championship.

The event will take place on Aug. 12 at Fort Worth's Mira Vista Country Club. Humble, 11, advanced after qualifying at a local event at Odessa Country Club on June 30. This is the second time Humble has made it as a local qualifier.

The Drive, Chip & Putt Championship is a joint initiative founded in 2013 by the Masters Tournament, United States Golf Association and the PGA of America and it's a free nationwide golf development competition aimed at growing the game by focusing on the three fundamental skills employed in golf. The Drive, Chip and Putt Championship provides aspiring junior golfers, ages 7-15, an opportunity to play with their peers in qualifiers around the country.

Participants who advance through local, sub-regional and regional qualifying in each age/gender category earn a place in the National Finals, which takes place at Augusta National Golf Club the Sunday before the Masters Tournament is broadcast live by the Golf Channel.

To submit an item for Youth Sports, please send all information to sports@mrt.com by 5 p.m. Mondays.

Earnhardt Jr. headed to NBC broadcast booth in 2018

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Dale Earnhardt Jr. will have a new way to voice his racing opinions next season — on television.

NASCAR's most popular driver will join NBC Sports Group's coverage of stock car racing next year and there may be more options once he climbs out of the car for good.

The agreement with NBCUniversal announced Monday will allow Earnhardt to pursue "a wide range of opportunities in the company's media businesses, including movies, television, podcasts, and other areas" including football and perhaps even the Olympics.

"I've always just drove race cars. So this is probably the first real job I've had in 20 years," Earnhardt said on a conference call. "This is an incredible opportunity for me to start an entirely new career."

He seems like a natural, too.

Earnhardt has been voted the series' most popular driver 14 consecutive times and provides some of the most thoughtful analysis in the series. Add those traits to his down-to-earth approach and his desire to succeed and it could be a perfect match. NBC Sports Executive Producer and President of Production Sam Flood said Earnhardt has already contemplated following Chris Collinsworth around for a "Sunday Night Football" game or watching an Xfinity Series race in the television truck just to see how things work.

"His love of the sport and his passion for the history of the sport makes him look at it in a different way," Flood said. "It's fun to hear how curious he is about TV."

Earnhardt got a brief taste of broadcasting last year, working with Flood while he dealt with concussion-related symptoms.

But discussions with NBC didn't begin until after Earnhardt announced in April he would retire after this season, in part because of his injury history. Two big crashes last summer forced him out of the final 18 races, and he missed two races during the 2012 playoffs also because of concussion-related symptoms. The 42-year-old Earnhardt intends to compete in two Xfinity races next season and plans to be involved in the sport in other ways.

Earnhardt said negotiations began after he decided to leave racing and continued for several months before the two sides agreed to the deal in the past few days.

SPIETH

From 1C

Birkdale was the manner in which Spieth did it.

That evokes more comparisons.

Even though Spieth already has 11 victories on the PGA Tour, including his three majors, he does not bring intimidation to the first tee. Geoff Ogilvy spoke to that two years ago at St. Andrews when Spieth was trying to win the calendar Grand Slam.

"He beats you with better golf. He doesn't beat you because he hits it further," Ogilvy said that day. "Tiger's intimidation was that he always did something amazing. Jordan doesn't beat you with a crazy par, or a crazy chip-in. He just beats you because he's better."

But there were Tiger-like qualities that emerged from a six-hole stretch of golf at Royal Birkdale that became part of major championship lore.

Spieth salvaged a 5 on the 13th hole while playing his third shot with a 3-iron from the driving range, so far away that he wasn't even sure of the yardage and couldn't see any part of the hole. He faced a delicate pitch over a pot bunker and then a must-make putt.

What followed was a 6-iron that nearly went in for an ace, a 50-foot eagle that found the center of the cup and a 30-foot birdie across the 16th green.

Was this really happening?

The feelings must have been similar watching Nicklaus make his charge on the back nine to win the 1986 Masters. The drama was similar to Woods running off three straight birdies at Valhalla when he won his third straight major in a playoff at the 2000 PGA Championship.

The payoff for Spieth was more than the third leg of the Grand Slam. It might have been a big step in creating a mystique, a trait shared by precious few over history.

"These are the intangibles, the things I just don't understand," Zach Johnson said. "I'm not suggesting I can't do it. He just does it all the time."

Ernie Els even raised the prospect of Spieth reaching the 14 majors won by Woods.

"When you get on a roll like that, guys kind of starting knowing that you know how to win," Els said. "And almost like Tiger, where people can maybe feel like they can't do it against Jordan. Because he's been up there a few times now."

And as he showed Sunday at Royal Birkdale, he has a sense of the occasion. Next up is how that translates at the PGA Championship.

MIDLAND HUMANE COALITION

UPCOMING EVENTS

8/03 6:30-8:30 Microchipping at Beer Garden's Yappy Hour
8/06 6:00-8:00 PetSplash at Sherwood Aquatic Center, Odessa
8/14 6:00 Adoption Center Volunteer Orientation

PLEASE VISIT THE EVENTS SECTION OF OUR WEBSITE
WWW.MIDLANDHUMANE.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION

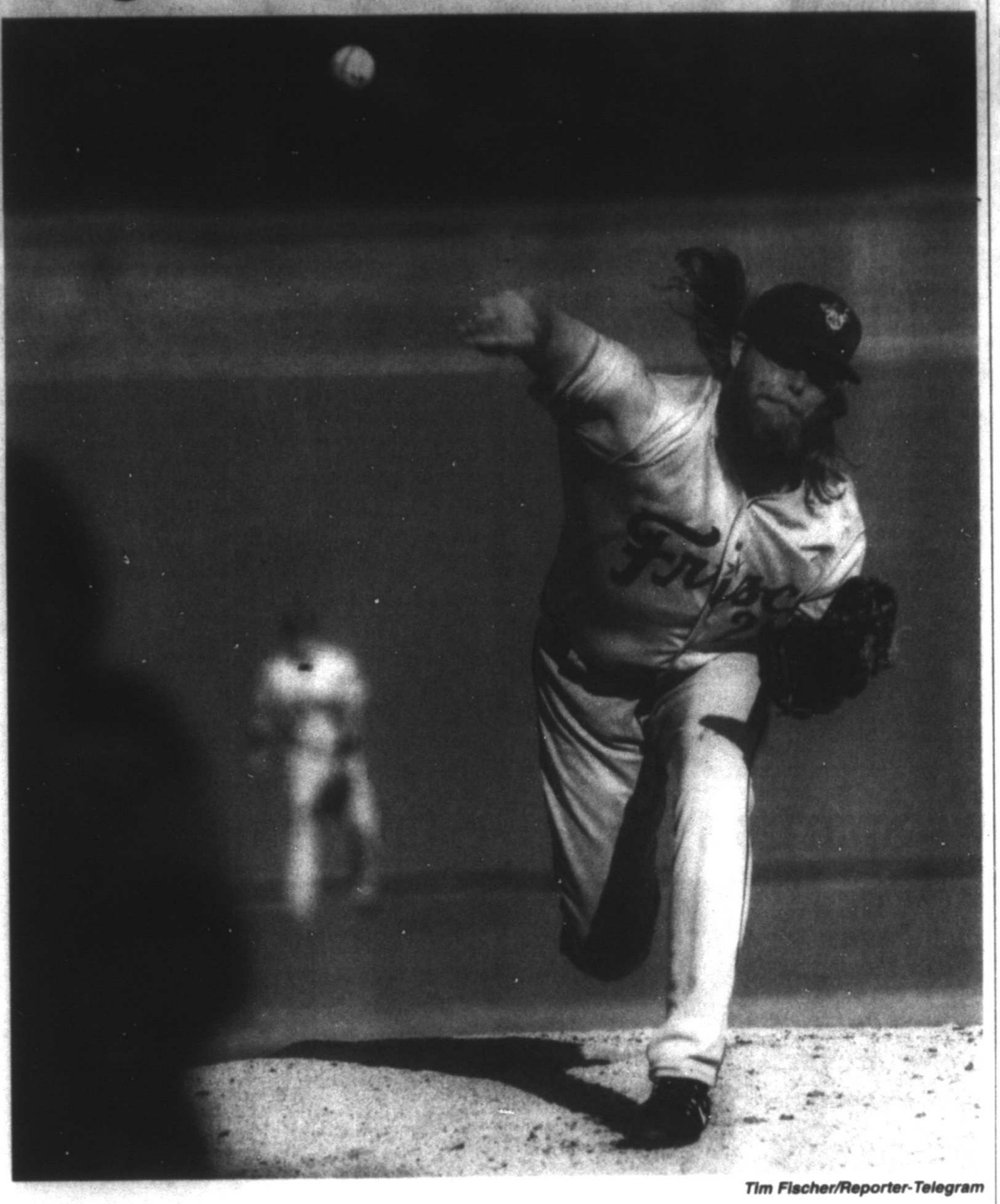
MIDLAND HUMANE COALITION
P.O. Box 53213
Midland, TX 79710
midlandhumane.org

ENHANCED ADOPTION CENTER
Is located within Midland's PetSmart Store
ADOPTION HOURS
Monday thru Saturday 12-7 & Sunday 12-6
432.520.3134 ext. 7

AD SPONSORED BY
BROWN'S PERMIAN ELECTRIC CO.

Minnie Penny is a 2 yo female Chihuahua Mix who came to us from Pet Solutions. She's very sweet, but shy and will need to go to a quieter home without small children.

Day of rehab at the park



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Texas Rangers pitcher, A.J. Griffin, on rehab with the Frisco RoughRiders, pitches against the Midland RockHounds on Monday at Security Bank Ballpark.

ROCKHOUNDS REPORT

ROCKHOUNDS 13, ROUGHRIDERS 1
At Security Bank Ballpark

TOP HITTERS: Midland's J.P. Sportman went 2-for-6 with a grand slam, five RBI and two runs scored, while teammate B.J. Boyd was 3-for-6 with a triple, three RBI and two runs. ... RockHounds designated hitter Jermaine Curtis finished 3-for-5 with a double, an RBI, a walk and two runs. ... Andy Ibanez led Frisco by going 2-for-3 with an RBI.

TOP PITCHERS: In his third rehab start since July 14, Texas Rangers starter A.J. Griffin allowed four hits, struck out four and walked two over five scoreless frames for Frisco. ... Midland starter Grant Holmes struck out five and allowed three hits in seven scoreless innings. He earned his seventh win of the season.

HIGHLIGHTS: Midland scored five runs in the bottom of the seventh. Boyd broke the 0-0 tie with a single to right field before singles to left by Vinsergy Rosa and Sportman to left made it 3-0. Tyler Ramirez followed with a two-run single to center field to extend Midland's lead to 5-0. ... In the eighth, a single by Ibanez cut Frisco's deficit to 5-1 ... The 'Hounds added eight runs in the bottom half, headlined by Sportman's grand slam to right field. Midland racked up seven hits and four walks en route to the eight runs.

NOTES: The RockHounds have now won four straight games. ... Despite scoring 13 runs, Midland still left 13 runners on base in the win. ... Curtis extended his on-base streak to 25 games with a double to right field in the third. ... After he struck out five batters Monday, Holmes has taken over the Texas League lead in strikeouts with 107. ... With his three-bagger in the eighth, Boyd tied for the league lead in triples with six. ... The two teams resume their series at 6:30 p.m. today.

TODAY'S PROBABLES: Frisco - RHP Pedro Payano (0-0, 0.96); Midland - RHP Casey Meisner (1-3, 7.59).

TL standings

Second Half
North Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Springfield	20	11	.645	—
Tulsa	18	13	.581	2
Arkansas	14	17	.452	6
Northwest Arkansas	13	18	.419	7

South Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Antonio	19	12	.613	—
Corpus Christi	15	16	.484	4
Frisco	13	18	.419	6
Midland	12	19	.387	7

Monday's Scores
Midland 13, Frisco 1
Tulsa 6, Springfield 4
San Antonio 10, Corpus Christi 1
Arkansas 4, Northwest Arkansas 3

Today's Games
Frisco at Midland, 6:30 p.m.
Tulsa at Springfield, 6:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Corpus Christi, 7:05 p.m.
Northwest Arkansas at Arkansas, 7:10 p.m.

ROCKHOUNDS 13, ROUGHRIDERS 1

Frisco	ab	r	h	bi
Kin.-Fields 3B-4	0	2	0	0
Ibanez 2b	3	0	2	1
Tendler rf	3	0	0	0
Trevino c	4	0	0	0
Heineman rf	4	0	0	0
Bolinger 1b	4	0	0	0
Prater dh	2	1	0	0
Cardona cf	3	0	1	0
De Leon ss	3	0	0	0
Totals	**30**	**1**	**5**	**1**

Midland	ab	r	h	bi
Tarasovich 3b	5	2	2	0
Boyd cf	6	2	3	3
Curtis dh	5	2	3	1
Rosa 1b	4	2	1	2
Sportman rf	6	2	2	5
Schrock 2b	3	1	2	0
Ramirez lf	4	0	2	2
Murphy c	4	0	0	0
Martin ss	4	2	1	0
Totals	**41**	**13**	**16**	**13**

Frisco.....000 000 010—1
Midland.....000 000 58x—13

E - De Leon (13). DP - Midland 1. LOB - Frisco 5, Midland 13. 2B - Curtis (8). 3B - Boyd (6). HR - Sportman (7).

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Frisco						
Griffin	5.0	4	0	0	2	5
Wiles L, 7-8	2.0	5	5	4	2	1
Palmquist	0.0	3	5	5	2	0
Filomeno	1.0	4	3	3	2	2
Midland						
Holmes W, 7-10	7.0	3	0	0	0	5
Sturdevant	1.0	2	1	1	1	0
Navias	1.0	0	0	0	0	1

Palmquist pitched to five batters in the eighth.
HBP - by Holmes (Tendler); by Griffin (Murphy).
T - 2:37. A - 2,907.

GRIFFIN

From 1C

July 14 and his second with Triple-A Round Rock Express last Wednesday. In order for the Rangers to clear a spot on their 40-man roster, he was placed on the 60-day disabled on June 19 and is eligible to return Wednesday.

Griffin, who made 13 starts for the RockHounds during the 2011 and 2012 seasons, said he'll never forget his time in Midland as a key stop in his development. He enjoyed the baseball and some good times with former teammates in West Texas.

"Just going out there and grinding out ballgames with your friends and then trying to find fun things to do after the game, cruising around the Texas League. We found some fun things to do -- we won't get into that," Griffin joked. "Just like anything, you just try to have fun and obviously you try to go out there and win a ballgame every day, put yourself all in to it."

It has been an up and down 2017 campaign for the University of San Diego product. Just prior to his injury, Griffin had allowed only two runs on 11 hits over a dominant three-start stretch with the Rangers from April 17-May 9.

That span included one of the most special moments of his career -- a complete game, four-hit shutout for an 11-0 Rangers victory against his hometown San Diego Padres at Petco Park on May 9.

"I can't really write it up any better than that, (except) I guess if I gave up four fewer hits than it would have been a little better," said Griffin, who started the year 4-0 with Texas. "Just to be able to go out there and perform and throw the ball the way I like to, pitching for the first time in my hometown as a professional, it was fun.

"I had some family and friends there and it was a nice little Tuesday afternoon game."

Griffin said his goal is to return to full strength and soon re-join the Rangers, who currently find themselves in the middle of a dogfight for the American League's second wild card spot.

But for now, he said he remains focused on to his recovery on the mound. Griffin is expected to make at least one more rehab start before possibly joining the Rangers in early August.

"I try to put the blinders on a little bit," Griffin said. "Obviously I still see what the guys are doing and watch the games and stuff up at the Rangers' (level). But if I'm not healthy, I can't help them. I just try to focus on doing the things I need to do and get healthy and hopefully be apart of the big league club."

Added Griffin: "(I) Just keep being ready. That's all you can do is just be ready whenever they call you up or decide to throw you back into the fire."

Follow Will on Twitter: @Will_MRT

MLB ROUNDUP

American League

BLUE JAYS 4
ATHLETICS 2

TORONTO — Pressed into service on short rest after a pair of abbreviated outings, Francisco Liriano gave the Blue Jays the strong start they sorely needed.

Liriano pitched five innings to win for the first time in three starts, Russell Martin homered and Toronto beat the Oakland Athletics 4-2 on Monday night, snapping a three-game losing streak.

After pitching a combined 3 2/3 innings in his previous two starts, Liriano (6-5) returned on three days rest, moving up a day to take the turn of injured righty Aaron Sanchez (blister). Liriano allowed two runs and two hits, walked two and struck out five.

Liriano walked the first two batters he faced but caught a break when catcher Martin threw out Rajai Davis trying to steal third. Ryon Healy followed with an RBI single, but Liriano set down the next 12 straight before Matt Chapman's solo homer in the fifth.

ROYALS 5
TIGERS 3, 12 INNINGS

DETROIT — Salvador Perez and Mike Moustakas hit consecutive homers in the 12th inning, and the Kansas City Royals won their sixth straight game, 5-3 over the Detroit Tigers on Monday night.

Hours after the Royals helped their pitching staff by acquiring Trevor Cahill and two relievers in a trade with San Diego, Kansas City outlasted the Tigers to stay 1 ½ games behind first-place Cleveland in the AL Central. Jorge Bonifacio also homered for the Royals, who won despite squandering a 3-0 lead in the sixth.

Jakob Junis (3-2), one of seven relievers used by Kansas City, pitched a hitless 11th for the win. Kelvin Herrera finished for his 20th save in 23 chances.

Drew VerHagen (0-1) took the loss, allowing the homers to Perez and Moustakas in his third inning of work.

Perez put the Royals up 4-3 with his 20th homer of the year, a line drive that stayed inside the foul pole in left field, to lead off the 12th. Moustakas followed with a drive to right for his 29th home run of 2017.

ORIOLES 5
RAYS 0

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — The Baltimore Orioles and Tampa Bay Rays are teams currently heading in different directions.

Kevin Gausman pitched six strong innings, Adam Jones homered and the Orioles sent the Rays to their season-worst fifth straight loss, 5-0 Monday night.

"It all feeds off the starting pitching," Jones said.

The Rays began the day tied for the second AL wild-card spot. Baltimore won for the sixth time in eight games.

"It's all about how we finish as a team," Gausman said.

Gausman (7-7) gave up five hits and struck out eight. He has permitted seven hits over 13 scoreless innings in two starts this season against Tampa Bay.

Interleague

WHITE SOX 3
CUBS 1

CHICAGO — Just getting a win against any team, anywhere, felt good for the scuffling Chicago White Sox.

That it came at Wrigley Field against the Cubs made it a little sweeter.

Adam Engel and Matt Davidson homered and the White Sox snapped a nine-game losing streak with a 3-1 victory over their crosstown rivals in their North Side ballpark on Monday.

"I was emotional just because we've been down eight days in a row," White Sox manager Rick Renteria said. "We've been looking for a victory and looking for our (starter) to give us a little length and he did."

Miguel Gonzalez (5-9) allowed one run and seven hits in 7 1/3 innings to end a four-game losing streak and win for just the second time in 11 decisions.

Engel lined his third homer of the season off reliever Justin Grimm (1-1) into the wind and several rows into the left-center bleachers to snap a 1-all tie in the sixth. Davidson led off the eighth with his 19th homer, which sailed over the left-field stands and onto Waveland Avenue.

"It felt good just to put us ahead," Engel said.

Jose Abreu had two hits and doubled in a run for the AL-worst White Sox, who ended their longest slide in four years.

The Cubs lost for just the second time in 10 games following the All-Star break to fall a half-game behind idle first-place Milwaukee in the NL Central. Monday's game was the first of four consecutive this week between the Cubs and White Sox.

INDIANS 6
REDS 2

CLEVELAND — It's taken longer, much longer than expected. But after four shaky months, the Cleveland Indians may be finally hitting their stride.

Josh Tomlin pitched six efficient innings, Carlos Santana homered twice and the Indians won their fourth straight, 6-2 over the tumbling Cincinnati Reds on Monday night in the makeup of a May 25 rainout.

Tomlin (7-9) gave up two homers but stayed in the strike zone and won his third straight start. Cleveland's solid bullpen did its part as well, with Andrew Miller working two innings and Cody Allen finishing up.

Santana homered in the seventh and eighth as the defending American League champions, who came stumbling home from a 1-5 road trip, moved over .500 (25-24) at Progressive Field for the first time since winning their home opener on April 11.

"You've got to have a short memory in baseball," said Tomlin, who won his third start in a row. "Baseball is a game of failure in every aspect. It's good to understand what the road trip was and understand we needed to be better and got here, got home, and we've played pretty good baseball so far."

National League

CARDINALS 8
ROCKIES 2

ST. LOUIS — Randal Grichuk hit a two-run homer, Mike Leake pitched seven scoreless innings and the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Colorado Rockies 8-2 on Monday night.

Leake's six-strikeout performance was his best since giving up one run over eight innings against Washington on June 30. It was the first win for Leake (7-8) against the Rockies since Aug. 10, 2011.

Kevin Siegrist pitched the Cardinals out of a two-on, one-out jam in the eighth by getting Gerardo Parra to strike out and Mark Reynolds to fly out. Tyler Lyons struck out the side in the ninth.

The Cardinals improved to 20-5 against the Rockies at home since the 2010 season. Colorado fell to 3-14 in its last 17 road games.

Grichuk's two-run homer off Rockies starter Antonio Senzatela (10-4) gave the Cardinals a 4-0 lead in the fourth, extending his home run streak to a career-high four games.

Jose Martinez and Tommy Pham each hit solo home runs in the seventh off Chris Rusin to make it 6-0. It was Martinez's second pinch-hit homer of the season and fourth total for St. Louis.

RANGERS

From 1C

to bring an extra lefty out of the bullpen.

Rangers: RHP Tyson Ross was put on the 10-day disabled list with a blister on his right index finger. C Brett Nicholas was recalled from Triple-A after C Robinson Chirinos sprained an ankle Sunday. Chirinos is still on the active roster and could play in case of an emergency situation.

Up next

Marlins: RHP Dan Straily will make his 21st start looking for his eighth win. He has allowed eight hits or more in back-to-back losses.

Rangers: LHP Cole Hamels will make his 11th start and is looking to bounce back after giving up nine hits in his first loss of the season against Baltimore on July 20.

MLB GLANCE

Standings

American League
East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	55	45	.550	—
New York	51	46	.526	2½
Tampa Bay	51	49	.510	4
Baltimore	48	51	.485	6½
Toronto	45	54	.455	9½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	52	45	.536	—
Kansas City	51	47	.520	1½
Minnesota	49	48	.505	3
Detroit	45	53	.459	7½
Chicago	39	57	.406	12½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	65	33	.663	—
Seattle	49	51	.490	17
Los Angeles	49	51	.490	17
Texas	48	51	.485	17½
Oakland	44	55	.444	21½

National League
East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	59	38	.608	—
Atlanta	47	50	.485	12
New York	45	51	.469	13½
Miami	45	52	.464	14
Philadelphia	34	62	.354	24½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	53	48	.525	—
Chicago	51	47	.520	½
Pittsburgh	49	50	.495	3
St. Louis	48	51	.485	4
Cincinnati	41	58	.414	11

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	68	31	.687	—
Colorado	58	43	.574	11
Arizona	56	42	.571	11½
San Diego	43	55	.439	24½
San Francisco	36	62	.360	30½

Scores and Schedules

American League
Monday's Scores
Chicago White Sox 3, Chicago Cubs 1
Toronto 4, Oakland 2
Baltimore 5, Tampa Bay 0
Cleveland 6, Cincinnati 2
Kansas City 5, Detroit 3, 12 innings
Miami 4, Texas 0
Houston at Philadelphia, late
Boston at Seattle, late
Minnesota at L.A. Dodgers, late

Today's Games
Chicago White Sox (Rodon 1-3) at Chicago Cubs (Lackey 6-9), 1:20 p.m.
Cincinnati (Castillo 1-3) at N.Y. Yankees (Montgomery 6-5), 6:05 p.m.
Houston (Morton 7-4) at Philadelphia (Pivetta 3-5), 6:05 p.m.
Oakland (Gray 6-4) at Toronto (Valdez 0-0), 6:07 p.m.
Baltimore (Miley 4-8) at Tampa Bay (Faria 4-1), 6:10 p.m.
Kansas City (Duffy 8-6) at Detroit (Fulmer 10-7), 6:10 p.m.
L.A. Angels (Chavez 5-10) at Cleveland (Clevinger 5-8), 6:10 p.m.
Miami (Straily 7-5) at Texas (Hamels 4-1), 7:05 p.m.
Boston (Pomeranz 10-4) at Seattle (Hernandez 5-4), 9:10 p.m.
Minnesota (Berrios 9-3) at L.A. Dodgers (Maeda 9-4), 9:10 p.m.

National League
Monday's Scores
Chicago White Sox 3, Chicago Cubs 1
Cleveland 6, Cincinnati 2
St. Louis 8, Colorado 2
Miami 4, Texas 0
Houston at Philadelphia, late
Atlanta at Arizona, late
Minnesota at L.A. Dodgers, late
N.Y. Mets at San Diego, late
Pittsburgh at San Francisco, late

Today's Games
Chicago White Sox (Rodon 1-3) at Chicago Cubs (Lackey 6-9), 1:20 p.m.
Cincinnati (Castillo 1-3) at N.Y. Yankees (Montgomery 6-5), 6:05 p.m.
Houston (Morton 7-4) at Philadelphia (Pivetta 3-5), 6:05 p.m.
Milwaukee (Davies 11-4) at Washington (Gonzalez 6-5), 6:05 p.m.
Miami (Straily 7-5) at Texas (Hamels 4-1), 7:05 p.m.
Colorado (Gray 3-1) at St. Louis (Lynn 8-6), 7:15 p.m.
Atlanta (Foltynewicz 8-5) at Arizona (Walker 6-4), 8:40 p.m.
Minnesota (Berrios 9-3) at L.A. Dodgers (Maeda 9-4), 9:10 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Lugo 4-2) at San Diego (Chacin 9-7), 9:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Taillon 6-3) at San Francisco (Bumgarner 0-4), 9:15 p.m.

Texas box

MARLINS 4, RANGERS 0

Miami	ab	r	h	bi
D.Gordon 2b	5	1	1	0
Stanton rf	3	2	2	3
Yelich cf	4	1	1	0
Ozuna lf	4	0	2	1
Realmuto c	3	0	1	0
Rour 1b	3	0	1	0
I.Suzki ph-dh	2	0	0	0
T.Moore 1b	4	0	0	0
Dietrich 3b	3	0	0	0
Rojas ss	4	0	1	0
Totals	**33**	**4**	**8**	**4**

Texas	ab	r	h	bi
Gomez dh	4	0	1	0
Choo lf	4	0	1	0
Andrus ss	4	0	1	0
Beltre 3b	4	0	4	0
Napoli 1b	4	0	0	0
Odor 2b	4	0	0	0
Lucroy c	3	0	0	0
Mazara lf	4	0	0	0
DShields cf	2	0	1	0
Totals	**33**	**0**	**6**	**0**

Miami	.000	001	010	—4					
Texas	.000	000	000	—0					

E—Odor (9), Rojas (2). DP—Miami 1, Texas 2. LOB—Miami 6, Texas 8. 2B—D.Gordon (15), Ozuna (20). 3B—DeShields (1). HR—Stanton 2 (32), Ozuna (1).

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Miami						
Conley W,3-3	7	7	0	0	0	5
Barraclough	1	0	0	0	1	1
Ramos	1	1	0	0	1	0
Texas						
Perez L,5-8	7	7	3	3	2	3
Jeffress	2	1	1	1	2	2

T—2:34. A—24,654 (48,114).

Monday's linescores

AMERICAN LEAGUE
BLUE JAYS 4, ATHLETICS 2

Oakland	.100	010	000	—2	2	0
Toronto	.100	200	10x	—4	8	1

C.Smith, Axford (7), J.Smith (7) and Phegley; Maxwell, Liriano, Biagini (8), Tepera (8), Osuna (9) and Martin. W—Liriano 6-5. L—C.Smith 0-1. Sv—Osuna (25). HRs—Oakland: Chapman. Toronto: Martin.

ORIOLES 5, RAYS 0

Baltimore	.000	000	031	—5	9	0
Tampa Bay	.000	000	000	—0	6	1

Gausman, O'Day (7), Brach (8), Bleier (9) and Joseph; Snell, Romo (8), Whitley (8) and W.Ramos, Sucre. W—Gausman 7-7. L—Snell 0-6. HRs—Baltimore: Jones.

INTERLEAGUE
WHITE SOX 3, CUBS 1

Chicago	.000	011	010	—3	10	0
Chicago	.010	000	000	—1	9	0

Gonzalez, Jennings (8), Swarzak (8) and K.Smith, Narvaez; Hendricks, Grimm (5), Strop (7), Uehara (8), Duensing (9) and Contreras. W—Gonzalez 5-9. L—Grimm 1-1. Sv—Swarzak (1). HRs—Chicago: Engel, Davidson.

INDIANS 6, REDS 2

Cincinnati	.000	011	000	—2	5	0
Cleveland	.100	020	21x	—6	9	0

Adleman, Wood (7), Cingrani (8) and Mesoraco; Tomlin, A.Miller (7), Allen (9) and R.Perez. W—Tomlin 7-9. L—Adleman 5-8. HRs—Cincinnati: Cozart, Gennett. Cleveland: Santana 2.

Cowboys dump WR Whitehead after link to shoplifting arrest

Associated Press

OXNARD, Calif. — The Dallas Cowboys have released receiver and kick returner Lucky Whitehead after the third-year player was linked to a shoplifting arrest in his home state of Virginia, with his agent saying he believes it was a case of mistaken identity.

Whitehead said he "didn't know about that" as he was escorted off the field by a member of the Cowboys' public relations staff after the first morning walkthrough practice of training camp Monday in Oxnard, California.

Prince William County Police Sgt. Jonathan Perok said 25-year-old Rodney Darnell Whitehead Jr. was arrested around 1:30 a.m. June 22 for taking about $40 worth of food and drink from a convenience store.

Sun Belt chief hails benefits of future 10-team structure

By Brett Martel
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Sun Belt Conference commissioner Karl Benson struck a celebratory tone Monday while discussing the impending departure of two of the league's 12 teams.

Smaller will be better was the message from Benson, who left little doubt during the league's annual media day that his preference is for the Sun Belt to maintain the 10-team, two-division structure it will have in 2018.

"We are not actively looking or have any signals out there that we would entertain any new members," Benson said. "We got to 10 in a very methodical, thoughtful way. ... We have no interest in looking elsewhere."

This season will be the Sun Belt's last with New Mexico State and Idaho. Next season, the remaining 10 teams will be split along geographical lines into five-team divisions. In the West will be Arkansas State, Louisiana-Lafayette, Louisiana-Monroe, South Alabama and Texas State. The East Division will contain Appalachian State, Coastal Carolina, Georgia Southern, Georgia State, and Troy. The conference will host its inaugural title game in 2018 as well, with the division winners meeting at the home of the higher-ranked team.

That is when Benson envisions the Sun Belt being at its best. Its geographic alignment will be more practical, reducing travel burdens on teams and fans alike while also promoting regional rivalries, he said.

"We believe the structure we've created (for 2018) is the right structure," Benson said. "It's sustainable."

There are some cases in which Benson may not be able to prevent growth. The Sun Belt has two non-football members, Arkansas-Little Rock and Texas-Arlington. If either of those schools adds football — something UALR is exploring — the Sun Belt would have to accept it.

If that happens, Benson doesn't plan to search for a 12th football member to even out the divisions.

"The Big Ten was an 11-team football league for over 15 years," Benson said. "They did just fine."

Some other topics discussed during Sun Belt media day:

Heading out

While Idaho has opted to return its football program to the second-tier Football Championship Subdivision, necessitating its departure from the Sun Belt, New Mexico State would have preferred to remain. However, its agreement with the Sun Belt as a football-only member in 2014 gave the conference the option to end the relationship. Now the Aggies are preparing for life as an FBS independent.

"We certainly would like to make some noise going out and set ourselves up for our future. We need to attract the attention of other conferences," Aggies coach Doug Martin said. "We'd certainly like to be in a conference and we would like for all of our sports to be in the same conference."

Martin said he understood why many Sun Belt members might not want to accept New Mexico State in all sports because of the travel time and costs.

The Aggies were predicted to finish 10th in the league's preseason poll. Appalachian State is the favorite, followed by Troy and Arkansas State.

Results-oriented scheduling

In recent years, Benson has urged Sun Belt teams to play no more than one game per season against a power conference team, at least two games against peer conferences and one game against an FCS program. In essence, he's asking Sun Belt teams to limit the big individual paydays they get from playing Power 5 teams for the sake of building up win totals across the league.

The results have already begun to show, Benson said. Last season, six Sun Belt teams played in bowl games and four were victorious. Placing more teams in bowls means more money from agreements with the College Football Playoff, which last year accounted for nearly half of the Sun Belt's $31 million in gross revenue.

"Our financial models are built on success in the College Football Playoff," Benson said.

For that reason, he's also urging Sun Belt teams to be cautious about scheduling Tuesday night games. He's not convinced the benefits of national TV exposure always outweigh the challenges mid-week games create for teams and fans.

Immediate goals

Benson likes the Sun Belt's 2017 prospects for collectively outperforming the four other non-power conferences — the American Athletic, Conference USA, Mid-American and Mountain West.

He said the Sun Belt's goal this season is to place a team in a New Year's Day bowl game — and win it.

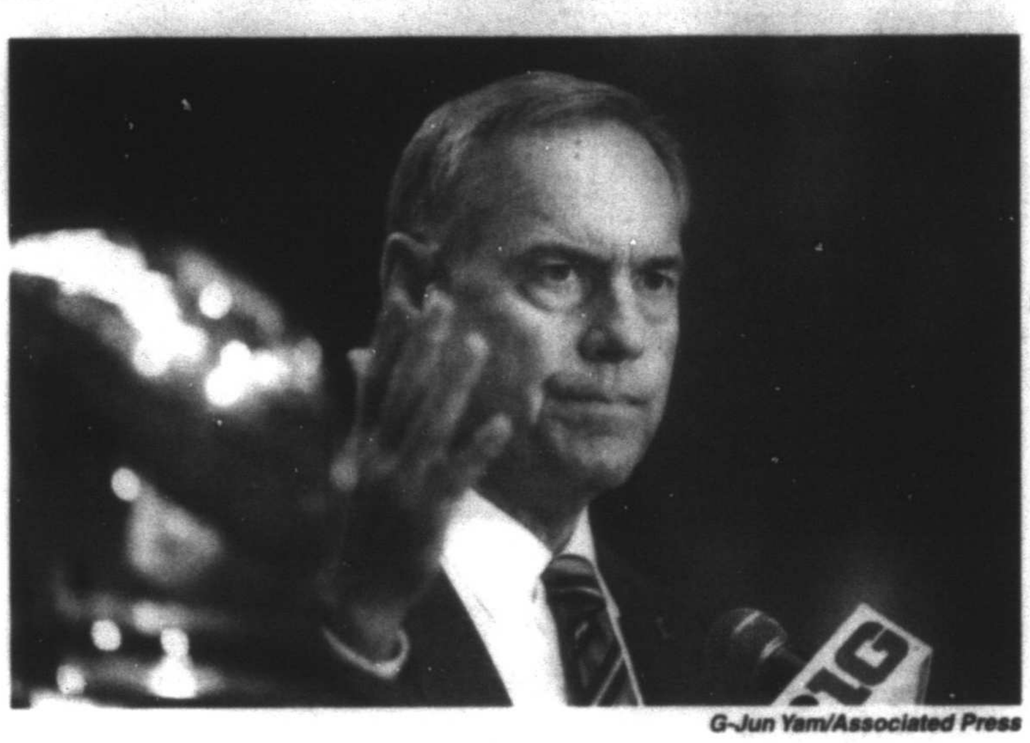
"That is a realistic goal — not in the future, but today," he said.

MSU's Dantonio vows Spartans will 're-establish ourselves'

By Jim Litke
Associated Press

"There will be challenges along the way. I don't think there's any question about that. But we established ourselves as a championship program inch by inch. There was nothing ever given to us. And that's how we've handled it. That's how we've taken it. We have to go back to that mindset, understand that things don't come easy."

Mark Dantonio, Michigan State head football coach



G-Jun Yam/Associated Press

Michigan State head coach Mark Dantonio speaks at Big Ten Media Day on Monday in Chicago.

CHICAGO — Spartans coach Mark Dantonio vowed Monday to re-establish a program rocked by tragedy and beset by disciplinary issues last season by using the same "inch by inch" philosophy that made Michigan State a championship contender.

"Sometimes you're measured a little bit by how you handle the problems not just in all the good times," Dantonio said at the Big Ten Conference media days. "We've had some good times and those are easy to stand up there and sing the fight song and put a hat on.

"Not as easy when you are going through these type of things," he added, referring to last season. "But at the end of the day that's why I was hired. I was hired to solve problems and that's what we're going to do."

The season began under a cloud after former punter Mike Sadler died in a car crash a year ago that also took the life of Nebraska punter Sam Foltz. After wins versus Furman and at Notre Dame to open the season, the Spartans lost their next seven.

The team couldn't overcome the losses of quarterback Connor Cook, as well as Aaron Burbridge, Jack Conklin and Shilique Calhoun. The offense also became predictable under coordinator Dave Warner, a favorite target of critics.

The turmoil took its toll and Michigan State finished 3-9 last year after three conference titles, six straight winning seasons, a playoff appearance and two New Year's Day bowl games under Dantonio. Six times the defense allowed 30-or-more points in a game. Eight defensive linemen did not return from the previous season.

The offseason wasn't much better: In June, three players were charged with criminal sexual conduct after a woman said she was raped and forced to perform oral sex in the bathroom of an on-campus apartment during a party in January. They were immediately dismissed and Dantonio joined athletic director Mark Hollis for an emotional news conference on a campus already reeling from allegations of sexual assault against Larry Nassar, a former MSU doctor who also worked for USA Gymnastics.

Players-only meetings became a regular feature after practices earlier this year. They were spurred, in part, by senior linebacker Jon Reschke's decision to leave the team after what he termed "insensitive and totally regrettable" remarks about a teammate.

Members of the Spartans so-called "Eagle Council," a rotating group of a dozen players selected by teammates to assume the leadership mantle, also began stressing individual accountability.

"We wanted guys to be able to speak their minds on any issue affecting the team," said linebacker Chris Frey. "There's always been a divide between offense and defense, but even there we're trying to get guys to communicate."

At the spring Green-White scrimmage, Dantonio addressed one of the team's biggest questions, naming Brian Lewerke as his starting quarterback. In and in Monday's session, he strengthened that commitment. He also compared Lewerke favorably with former QB and current Oakland Raider Connor Cook.

"He's got game experience. He's almost up to 220 pounds, he's got a great arm, he's very cool under pressure. I think he understands our players," Dantonio said. "I think he's a very quick learner."

"We've got four good quarterbacks. Four guys that are big, four guys that have Big Ten abilities," he added a moment later. "I've been impressed with all of them at one point in time. But right now I think Brian Lewerke, I think is a little bit of a cut above and we're looking forward to his progress."

But even more than that crucial position is how the Spartans rebound from the tough issues that plagued the program last year.

"There will be challenges along the way. I don't think there's any question about that. But we established ourselves as a championship program inch by inch," Dantonio said. "There was nothing ever given to us. And that's how we've handled it. That's how we've taken it. We have to go back to that mindset, understand that things don't come easy."

IRVIN

From 1C

She said about 2 a.m. the foursome went to another bar, where she had two more glasses of wine. She said that she, Irvin and his friend went back to Irvin's hotel room. Irvin's friend left shortly after.

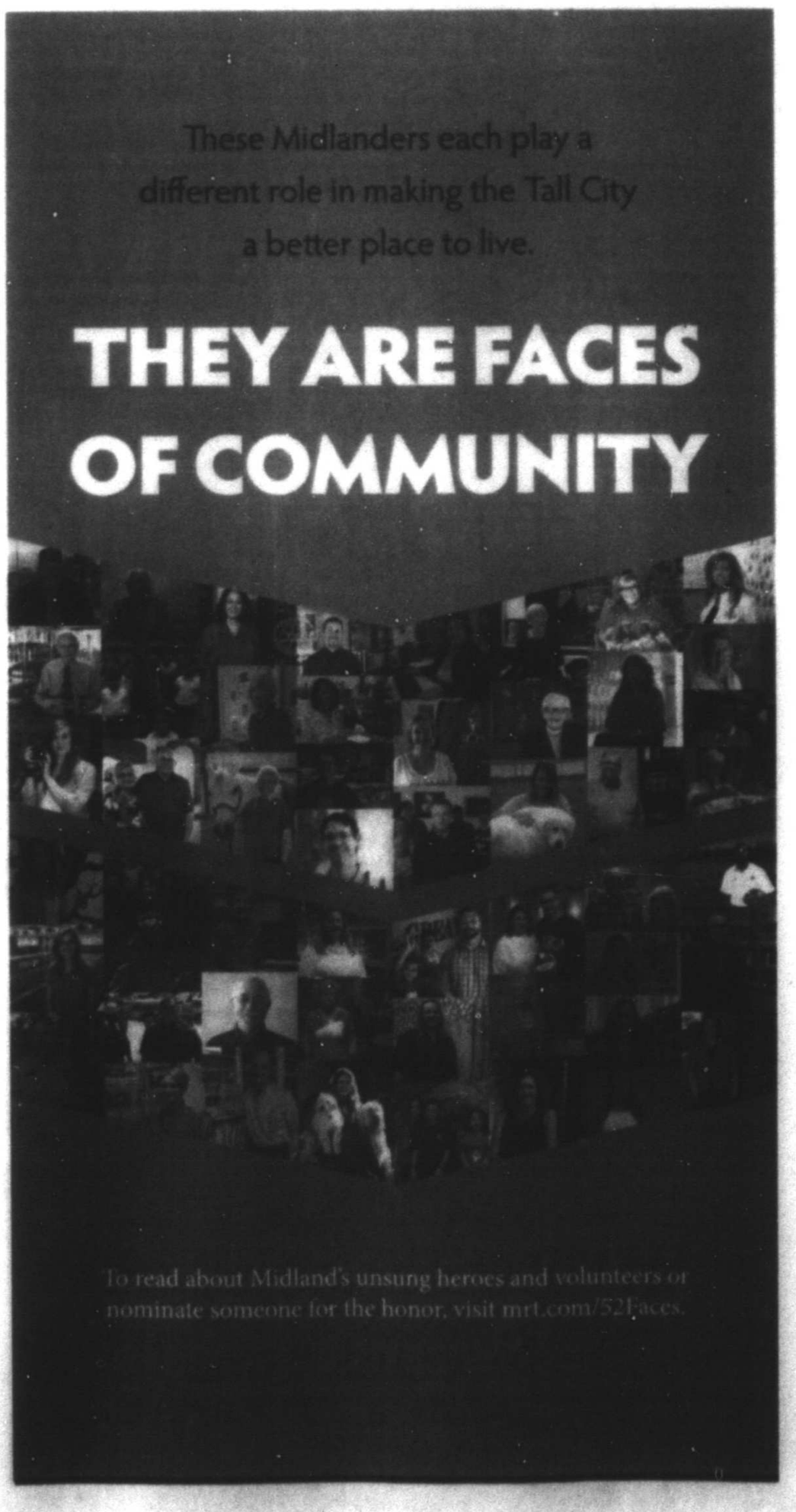
She said she felt sick and thinks someone drugged her drink. She said she fell asleep on the room's couch and woke up to Irvin on top of her trying to have sex. She said she pushed him off and told him "No," but he tried again. She said he then grabbed his belongings and left, with her following him to the lobby where she demanded to know where her shoes were and grabbed his bag. He told her to go back to the room and get some rest, but she took Uber home. She told her allegation to a friend, who called 911 and then took her to the hospital. That's where police took an initial statement.

But according to Adler, video shows the woman carrying a glass of red liquid as she enters the hotel with Irvin and his friend at about 3:30 a.m. She appears to sway a little and then dances in front of the elevators. The friend is seen leaving the hotel about a half hour later. He told investigators the woman didn't appear sick or sleepy and had been jumping on the furniture. He said he warned Irvin that he didn't trust the woman, but he said "Oh, we're friends."

Shortly after 6 a.m., she and Irvin are seen on video exiting the elevator. She does not appear to be upset, according to Adler. She then tries to grab a bag resting on his suitcase and they appear to be arguing. He goes toward the parking garage and she exits a side door.

Adler said investigators found no evidence of sexual assault in Irvin's room or on the accuser's body. Also, the accuser's blood and urine tests showed she had cocaine, ecstasy and other drugs in her system.

Adler said the accuser's foggy memory, inconsistent statements, drug use and the video "make this a case where there is not a reasonable likelihood of conviction."



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SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

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

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

7/25/17

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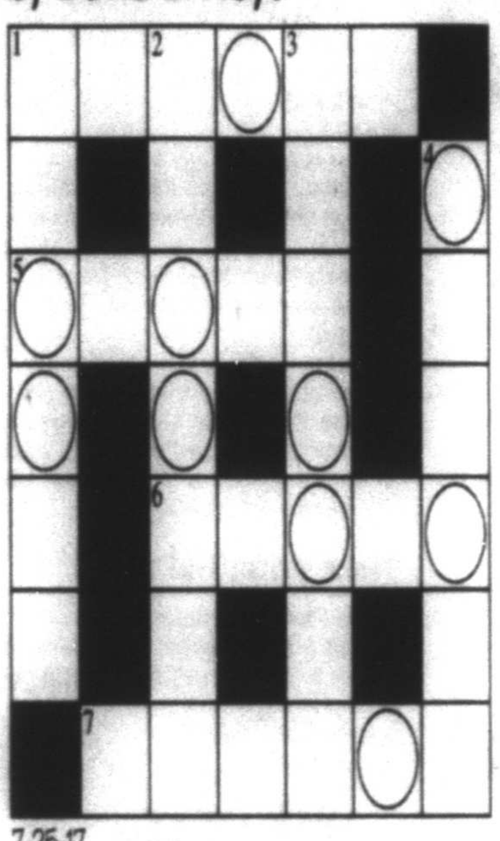
SOLUTION TO MONDAY'S PUZZLE

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

JUMBLE® CROSSWORDS™

by David L. Hoyt



ACROSS

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Pale yellow	XEFNAL
5. Take over	PRUUS
6. Daughter of Tantalus	BONIE
7. Insist, maintain	REASTS

DOWN

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Penny-pinching	AFGLRU
2. Graduate	SLUMAUN
3. Survey	PROEEXL
4. Divide in two	CBITSE

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

7-25-17

CLUE: This founding member of the European Union is home to about 500,000 people.

BONUS

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ANSWERS: 1A-Flaxen 5A-Usurp 6A-Niobe 7A-Assert 1D-Frugal 2D-Alumnus 3D-Explore 4D-Blaze B-Lawmaking

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

JUMBLE

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

SPEWT

FINUY

DANURO

CLOYNO

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Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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

"_____" _____ _____ _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: OFFER GRIPE FUNGUS APPEAR
Answer: The fish that started their own rock band were — GROUPERS

DAILY CROSSWORD

Edited By Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Physicist Newton
6 Maker of TimeCutter riding mowers
10 Crimson Tide, to fans
14 "Ask someone else"
15 Fail to enunciate
16 "Don't have __!": "Calm down!"
17 "Royal passing rubber checks?
19 Ding-__
20 Mailing label phrase
21 Shopping to beat the band
23 Sign of a Broadway hit
24 International accord
25 "English Einstein?
30 Feel sick
31 Suggestive sideways look
32 Ten sawbucks
36 Just okay
38 Calculate again
41 The "Y" of YSL
42 Lesley of "60 Minutes"
44 Blood fluids
46 "All you can __": buffet sign
47 "Pack animal carrying a Mexican treat?
51 Shout of jubilation
54 Butter square
55 Stop fretting
57 Weather map line
61 "In the Valley of __": 2007 Tommy Lee Jones film
62 "Gdansk gentleman?
64 Brand with a Swoosh logo
65 Utility abbr.
66 Worked (up)
67 Fly high
68 __ Martin Cognac
69 Fills fully

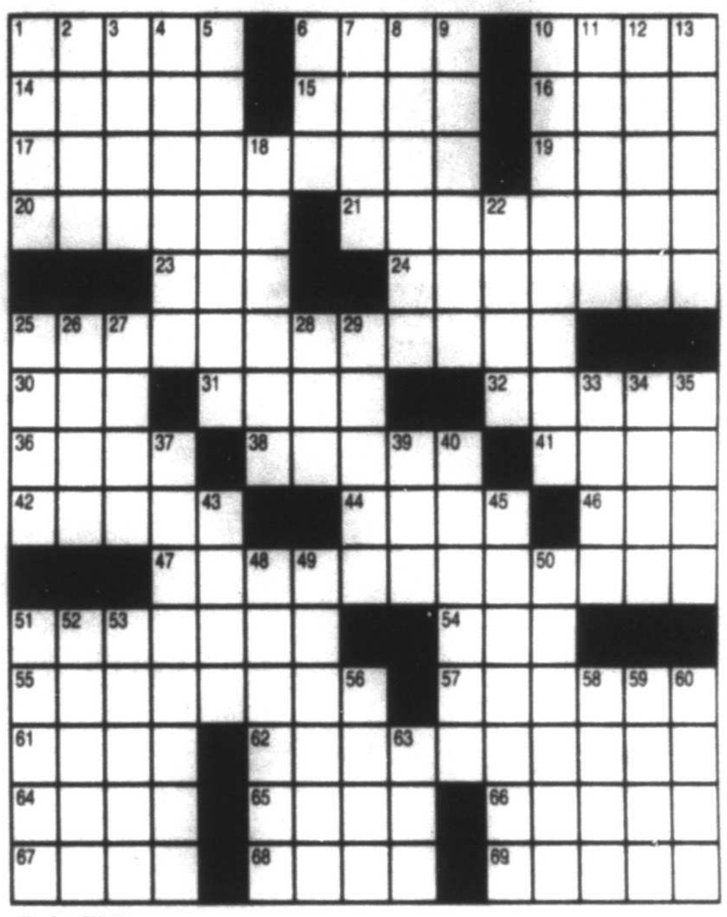
DOWN

1 Signs, as a document
2 French silk
3 Mailing label abbr.
4 Surrounded by
5 Chicago's time zone
6 "What a shame!"
7 Hodgepodge
8 Miler or sprinter
9 Princess Leia's last name
10 Metaphorical coin that keeps turning up
11 Oak-to-be
12 Painter Claude
13 "Well, gosh"
18 Stickier
22 Bic Clic __ pen
25 Low singing voice
26 More than a melee
27 "Casablanca" heroine
28 Word before maiden names
29 "The Godfather" enforcer Luca
33 Finished
34 Saline sign of sadness
35 Spanish "this"
37 Pooh Bear's lament
39 Police rank: Abbr.
40 "That'll be enough of that subject" ... and a hint to solving the answers to starred clues
43 "Superstar" rapper __ Fiasco
45 Ones inflicting humiliation
48 Farm machine
49 Fix, as a shoe
50 Thomas More's perfect world
51 Chirpy birds
52 Sun: Pref.
53 Honshu port
56 Theoretical matter involved in the Big Bang
58 Lightning streak
59 On the quiet side, at sea
60 Cincinnati team
63 Slippery, as a road

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

xwordeditor@aol.com 07/25/17



By Joe Kidd
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1.

G M
N O
I V

2.

BASE
SAFE
BASE
BASE
BASE

Print Your Answers Here:

1. _____ _____
2. _____ _____ _____ _____

Today's Answers:

1. Moving around
2. Safe on second base

7-25

Created by Tom Underwood
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WUZZLES® 7-25

Answers

1. Moving around
2. Safe on second base

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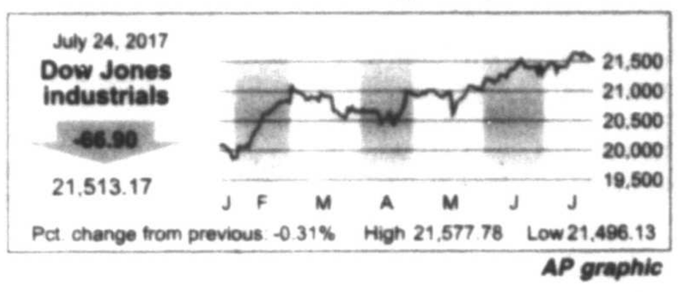
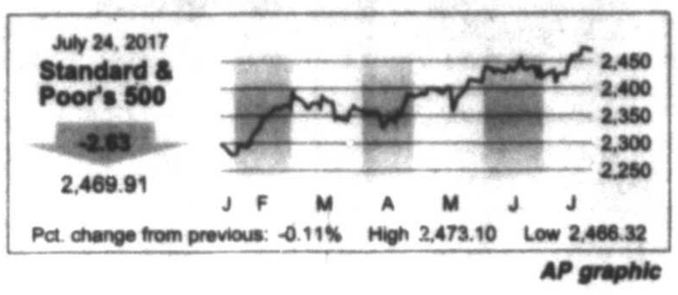
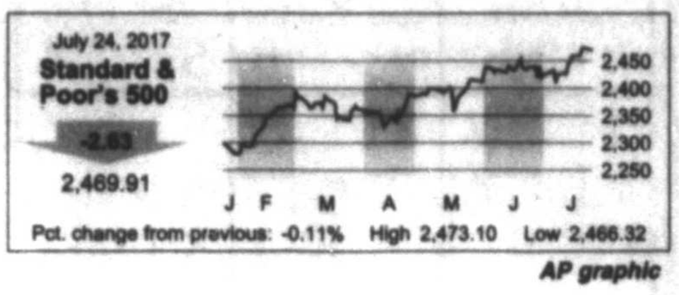
A DAY ON WALL STREET



AP graphic



AP graphic



AP graphic

OIL PRICES

FUTURES

Monday: $46.34
Previous: $45.77

POSTED

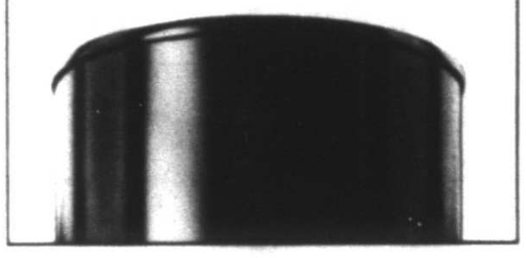
Monday: $43.00
Previous: $42.25

WEST TEXAS SOUR

Monday: $39.60
Previous: $38.85

NATURAL GAS

Monday: $2.899
Previous: $2.970



NYSE

Most Active ($1 or more)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
ReynAm s	1344740	65.40	-1.49
GenElec	558430	25.43	.48
BkofAm	483064	23.91	+.11
FordM	476391	11.29	.24
VanEGold	369080	22.05	-.36

Gainers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
BlueApron n	7.41	+.86	+13.1
Auxvant n	23.20	+2.14	+10.2
InfrREIT n	21.70	+1.80	+9.0
RayAdvM	15.92	+1.32	+9.0
SunTr wtB	14.07	+1.07	+8.2

Losers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
GlassBr rs	2.87	-.62	-17.8
EmergeES	6.75	-1.22	-15.3
FarmSant	2.65	-.46	-14.8
Hi-Crush	8.05	-1.25	-13.4
US Silica	26.95	-3.65	-11.9

Diary

Advanced	1,267
Declined	1,608
Unchanged	135
Total issues	3,010
New Highs	150
New Lows	25
Volume	2,874,217,156

AMEX

Most Active ($1 or more)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
BritATob s	203023	69.25	-2.30
NwGold g	53865	3.06	.03
TherapMD	45082	5.89	-.20
Amplyr rs	43196	1.05	.03
Globalstar	41140	2.00	.03

Gainers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Innsuites	2.00	+.23	+12.7
CRH Med	3.60	+.40	+12.5
nTestConp	8.20	+.60	+7.9
Taiwng r	3.73	+.23	+6.6
Pfenex	5.05	+.31	+6.5

Losers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
DeltaApr	18.00	-2.75	-13.3
SagaComm	37.75	-4.65	-11.0
YumaEn rs	2.00	-.15	-7.0
Alc Gld rs	4.20	-.30	-6.7
Contango	5.60	-.39	-6.5

Diary

Advanced	124
Declined	203
Unchanged	31
Total issues	358
New Highs	16
New Lows	9
Volume	102,694,471

NASDAQ

Most Active ($1 or more)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Novavax	308946	1.51	-.03
SirusXM	240191	5.38	.09
PwShs QQQ	216141	144.77	-.66
Apple Inc	207639	152.09	+1.82
Microsoft	203807	73.60	.19

Gainers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
SciGames	34.15	+7.30	+27.2
HebronTc n	3.90	+.68	+21.1
WebMD	66.10	+10.91	+19.8
PetMed	47.95	+7.41	+18.3
AcelRx	3.65	+.50	+15.9

Losers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Hibbett	13.10	-6.60	-33.5
AEterr g rs	2.30	.57	-19.9
TearLab rs	2.80	.51	-15.3
EvrsprT rs	16.47	-2.69	-12.1
SeriesT rs	3.65	.53	-12.6

Diary

Advanced	1,511
Declined	1,294
Unchanged	237
Total issues	3,042
New Highs	130
New Lows	50
Volume	1,650,275,932

A US company offers to implant chips in its employees

By Dan Beyers
The Washington Post

Would you ask an employee to get a chip implanted in her hand? Sounds invasive and intrusive. But come Aug. 1, one company in Wisconsin will be giving it a try.

Three Square Market — a developer of software used in vending machines — is offering all of its employees the option to get a microchip implanted between the thumb and forefinger. It's quick, painless and the company will even pick up the $300 fee. And don't worry: There's no GPS tracking capability ... yet.

The company is expecting 50 of its employees to voluntarily sign up for the implants.

The RFID (Radio Frequency ID) chips would allow those employees who volunteer to participate in the program to open doors, pay for purchases, share business cards, store medical information, pay for stuff at other RFID terminals and login to their computers all with a wave of the hand.

"Eventually, this technology will become standardized, allowing you to use this as your passport, public transit, all purchasing opportunities, etc.," chief executive Todd Westby wrote in a blog post announcing the program, claiming it would be the first of its kind in the United States.

The program is also meant to be a real-life opportunity for Westby's company to test and expand the technology for its own products. "We see this as another payment and identification option that not only can be used in our markets, but our other self-checkout and self-service applications that we are now deploying, which include convenience stores and fitness centers," added another company executive.

A Swedish organization named Epicenter began doing the same thing earlier this year, and its workers seem to love it. "People ask me; 'Are you chipped?' and I say; 'Yes, why not,'" one Epicenter employee said in this CNBC report from April. "And they all get excited about privacy issues and what that means and so forth. And for me, it's just a matter of, I like to try new things, and just see it as more of an enabler and what that would bring into the future."

Three Square Market claims it will be the first company in the United States to implant chips in its employees.

McCormick says Wall Street was wrong about $4.2 billion deal

Bloomberg

McCormick & Co. got slammed by investors last week for agreeing to buy the French's food business for $4.2 billion, a price that Wall Street deemed too high.

But the notion that the business could be acquired for something closer to $3 billion — a price cited in reports earlier this year — was based on bad information, McCormick Chief Executive Officer Lawrence Kurzius said in an interview. Companies offering anything near that price dropped out in early rounds of the bidding process, he said.

"The price that was floated was never in the cards — that speculation was not well-informed," Kurzius said. "It was unfortunate that that was out there, but I'm really comfortable with what we paid."

McCormick announced the deal late on Tuesday, agreeing to acquire French's mustard, Frank's RedHot sauce and other products from the U.K.'s Reckitt Benckiser Group Plc. The news sent the spice company's shares down 5.2 percent the following day, marking their biggest dip since January 2014.

The transaction price equated to about 20 times the division's earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization, which RBC Capital Markets analyst James Edwardes Jones called "a very high price."

When reports first surfaced in April that Reckitt was looking to sell the French's business, news outlets said the division was valued at about $3 billion.

Many of the food industry's biggest companies, including Campbell Soup Co., Conagra Brands Inc., Post Holdings Inc., Pinnacle Foods Inc. and J.M. Smucker Co., were seen as possible suitors for the Reckitt business, people familiar with the situation said earlier this year.

Given the competitive nature of the bidding process, there's no way Reckitt would have agreed to anything in the $3 billion range, Kurzius said.

As McCormick looks ahead to integrating French's, the company expects the deal to boost earnings in the first year. McCormick generates more than 40 percent of its revenue outside the U.S. and can use that international footprint to boost sales of the new products, Kurzius said.

The CEO said he's taking Wall Street's reaction in stride.

"Sometimes the market reacts in ways you don't fully expect," he said. "If I got a chip on my shoulder every time the stock went down, I'd be carrying a log on my back."

US stock indexes mixed

Stocks mostly fell Monday, and broad-market indexes inched modestly backward at the start of a busy week of corporate earnings reports and a meeting of the Federal Reserve. Technology stocks, though, added to their big gains for the year and helped push the Nasdaq composite to another record.

The Standard & Poor's 500 lost 2.63 points, or 0.1 percent, to 2,469.91 after nine of the 11 sectors that make up the index logged losses. It marks the first three-day losing streak for the index in a month.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 66.90 points, or 0.3 percent, to 21,513.17. The Nasdaq composite rose 23.05 points, or 0.4 percent, to 6,410.81.

The Nasdaq is up 19.1 percent this year, nearly double the rise for broader-market indexes as investors have massed into technology stocks in their search for strong growth as the global economy remains sluggish.

Amazon.com and several other big-name tech companies are set to release their second-quarter results in coming days, part of a busy week where more than a third of S&P 500 companies are due to report.

Metal prices end mixed

Gold fell 60 cents to settle at $1,254.30 per ounce, silver slipped 1 cent to $16.44 per ounce and copper added a penny to $2.74 per pound.

MIDLAND STOCKS

Midland-Headquartered Publicly Traded Companies

Concho Resources (CXO)
Closing Price $128.38 Up 1.18

Dawson Geophysical (DWSN)
Closing Price $3.89 Down 0.13

Diamondback Energy (FANG)
Closing Price $93.21 Up 1.22

Legacy Reserves (LGCY)
Closing Price $1.23 Down 0.02

Mexco Energy (MXC)
Closing Price $5.25 Up 0.17

Natural Gas Services Group (NGS)
Closing Price $24.55 Down 1.20

ProPetro Holdings (PUMP)
Closing Price $12.44 Down 0.59

RSP Permian (RSPP)
Closing Price $33.38 Up 0.27

Ring Energy (REI)
Closing Price $12.57 Up 0.12

Viper Energy Partners (VNOM)
Closing Price $16.19 Up 0.59

HOW STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST FARED

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
AK Steel		21	6.03	.17	-40.9
AT&T Inc	1.96	14	36.23	.28	-14.8
Abraxas		...	**1.82**	**+.01**	**-37.0**
AdaDvsEq	**.92e**	...	**14.72**	**+.05**	**+15.8**
AMD		...	14.16	-.28	+24.9
Alibaba		44	152.26	-.37	+73.4
Ambev	.06e	6	5.92	.02	+20.6
Amgen	**4.60f**	**16**	**181.06**	**+.85**	**+23.8**
Anadarko	**.20**	...	**44.21**	**+.15**	**-36.6**
Annaly	1.20a	10	11.91	+.04	+19.5
Apache	**1.00**	...	**47.96**	**-.45**	**-24.4**
Apple Inc	2.52*	18	152.09	+1.82	+31.3
ApldMatl	**.40**	**18**	**46.78**	**-.03**	**+46.0**
Archrock	.48	...	11.05	.35	-16.3
ATMOS	**1.80**	**24**	**85.95**	**-.27**	**+15.9**
AutoData	2.28	27	103.54	-1.04	+.7
BP PLC	**2.38**	**51**	**34.46**	**-.22**	**-7.8**
BkofAm	.48f	14	23.91	+.11	+8.2
B iPVxST rs			11.01	-.19	-56.8
BarngsCp s	1.20		15.50	+.08	+.1
BarrickG	.12f	26	15.43	-.76	-3.4
BasicEnS			45		
BerkHa A	...		**17257689.03**	**+44.02**	**+5.6**
BkHillsCp	**1.78f**	**21**	**69.84**	**-.63**	**+13.9**
BlueApron n			7.41	+.86	-20.7
BrMySq	**1.56**	**33**	**56.60**	**-.05**	**-4.9**
BritATob s			69.25	-2.30	
BrownFA s	...	**29**	**49.88**	**+.30**	**+7.8**
BrownFB s	...	...	**47.98**	**-.28**	**+6.8**
CSX	.80	25	50.82	-.86	+41.4
CVS Health	2.00	13	77.10	+.07	-2.3
CallonPet	...	**34**	**10.95**	**+.07**	**-28.8**
Caterpillar	3.12	33	108.18	+1.59	+16.6
Celestic g		10	13.45	+.07	+13.5
CntryLink	2.16	10	22.76	-.61	-4.3
ChesEng		42	4.66	-.03	-33.6
Chevron	**4.32**	...	**103.20**	**-.05**	**-12.3**
Chicos	.33	12	8.59	-.33	-40.3
Cimarex	.32	45	95.03	+.01	-30.1
Cisco	1.16	16	31.86	+.02	+5.4
Citigroup	1.28	13	66.10	+.10	+11.2
CliffshRs		8	7.50	+.21	-10.8
CocaCola	**1.48**	**27**	**44.84**	**-.19**	**+8.2**
ColgPalm	**1.60**	**24**	**71.85**	**-1.42**	**+9.8**

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
Comcast s	.63	22	39.47	-.16	+14.3
ConAgra	**.85f**	**19**	**33.84**	**-.04**	**-14.4**
ConchoRes	...	...	**128.38**	**+1.18**	**-3.2**
ConocoPhil	**1.06**	**47**	**42.61**	**-.04**	**-15.0**
CrackerB	4.80f	25	157.73	-.79	-5.5
CSVLgNG rs			11.79	-.81	-74.5
CrosTim	**1.10e**	**15**	**15.11**	**-.13**	**-15.9**
DCP Mid	3.12	20	34.57	+.02	-9.9
DTE	3.30	25	106.37	-1.57	+8.0
Delcath rs			15	+.01	-83.7
DevonE	**.24**	...	**31.74**	**-.22**	**-30.5**
DxGBull rs			29.78	-1.70	
DrGMBll rs			16.99	-1.03	
Disney	**1.56**	**19**	**107.00**	**-.09**	**+2.7**
DowChm	**1.84**	**21**	**66.22**	**+.08**	**+15.7**
DryShips s		1	1.67	-.50	-100.0
eBay s		5	36.38	-.23	+22.5
EOG Resce	**.67**	...	**93.31**	**+.40**	**-7.7**
EnCana g	.06	20	9.95	+.12	-15.2
Energen	.08		51.26	+.87	-11.1
EnPro	**.88**	**45**	**72.38**	**-.24**	**+7.5**
ENSCO	.04	1	5.35	-.04	-45.0
EntProP1	1.68f	21	27.41	+.09	+1.4
Ericsson	.11e		6.32	+.03	+6.4
ExxonMbl	**3.08f**	**35**	**79.87**	**-.25**	**-11.5**
Facebook		**37**	**166.00**	**+1.57**	**+44.3**
FairmSanl			2.85	-.46	-77.5
FordM	.60a	12	11.29	-.24	-6.9
FrptMcM		...	12.96	-.05	-1.7
GATX	**1.68**	**11**	**62.52**	**+.86**	**+1.5**
GabBluIT	**.94e**	...	**9.20**	**+.03**	**+27.1**
GAInv	**1.15e**	...	**35.06**	**-.05**	**+12.4**
GenElec	**.96**	**24**	**25.43**	**-.49**	**-19.5**
GenMotors	**1.52**	**5**	**35.82**	**-.25**	**+2.8**
GtPlainEn	**1.10**	**19**	**30.34**	**-.17**	**+10.9**
Hallibrtn	.72	...	42.51	-1.87	-21.4
HP Ent n	.26	20	17.84	-.17	+2.9
HuntBncsh	.32	19	13.19	+.22	-.2
ICICI Bk	.10e	...	9.47	+.20	+39.1
iShBrazil	1.03e	...	37.20	+.14	+11.6
iShChinaLC	.76e	...	42.19	+.15	+21.5
iShEMkts	.84e	...	43.76	+.13	+25.0
iS Eafe	1.70e	...	66.37	-.18	+15.0
iShR2K	1.77e	...	142.75	+.20	+5.9

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
Intel	**1.09**	**15**	**34.50**	**-.23**	**-4.9**
InterDig	1.20	9	79.19	+.55	-13.4
JPMorgCh	2.24f	14	91.28	+.39	+5.8
JetBlue	...	12	22.76	-.69	+1.5
JohnJn	**3.36**	**20**	**133.01**	**-2.30**	**+15.5**
Keycorp	.38	17	18.30	+.28	+.2
KimbClk	**3.88**	**20**	**123.81**	**-1.47**	**+8.5**
KindMorg	.50	70	20.33	-.36	-1.8
LegacyRes	.60m	...	1.23	-.02	-42.0
Lubys	...	...	**2.87**	**-.08**	**-32.9**
MGM Rsts	.36p	30	33.99	-.04	+17.9
MaresthnO	.20	...	11.88	+.03	-31.4
Mattel	.80m	24	20.80	-.83	-24.5
McDnlds	3.76	28	151.85	-2.07	+24.8
Merck	1.88	17	62.57	-.06	+6.3
MerltMed	...	**49**	**38.35**	**+.10**	**+44.7**
MexcoEn	...	...	5.25	+.17	+5.0
MicronT	...	12	31.67	-.34	+44.5
Microsoft	1.56	26	73.60	-.19	+18.4
Nabors	.24	...	7.61	-.08	-53.6
NOilVarco	.20	26	33.18	-.27	-11.4
NeuroDerm		...	38.35	+5.15	+72.7
Novavax	...	...	1.51	+.03	+19.8
NSTFB	**.55e**	...	**14.68**	**-.09**	**+3.6**
NTXGI	**.85**	...	**14.56**	**-.03**	**+6.1**
Nvidia	.56	53	166.15	-1.95	+55.7
OcciPet	**3.08f**	...	**59.41**	**-.62**	**-16.6**
PDC Engy	...	...	**44.86**	**+.86**	**-38.2**
Pandora	...	...	9.64	+.17	-26.1
PerTech	...	21	**8.69**	**-.03**	**+55.7**
PerkDrl	...	...	**1.30**	**-.05**	**-60.0**
PettUTI	**.08**	...	**19.18**	**-.57**	**-28.6**
PennaRE	**.64**	**8**	**11.81**	**-.21**	**-37.7**
Prmian	.63e	26	9.27	-.04	+20.2
Petrobras		...	8.55	+.07	-15.4
Pfizer	**1.28**	**14**	**33.32**	**-.16**	**+2.6**
PlotNtr	.08	...	160.10	-.11	-11.1
PlainsAAP	**2.20**	**29**	**26.54**	**+.40**	**-17.8**
PlugPowr h	...	...	2.37	-.07	+97.5
PwShs QQQ	1.52e	...	144.77	+.66	+22.2
Praxair	**3.15**	**24**	**135.22**	**+.49**	**+15.4**
PrmEgy	...	...	**47.50**	...	**-12.0**
PUVixST rs	...	...	28.70	-1.09	...
ProctGam	**2.78f**	**23**	**88.18**	**-.43**	**+4.9**
Qualcom	2.20	16	53.22	-.62	-18.4

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
RangeRs	.08	28	20.42	-.59	-40.6
RegionsFn	.36f	15	14.40	+.17	+.3
ReynAm s	2.04f	25	65.40	-1.49	+16.7
RiteAid	...	42	2.49	+.01	-69.8
Rowan	.40	5	11.28	+.11	-40.3
RoyDShllA	3.76	82	53.91	-.15	-.9
SpdrDJIA	3.96e	...	215.09	-.44	+8.9
S&P500ETF	4.13e	...	246.82	-.06	+10.4
SpdrOGEx	.73e	...	31.62	-.03	-23.7
SabrR	2.24e	19	39.80	+.10	+13.2
SanderFm	**.96**	**12**	**119.67**	**+.91**	**+27.0**
Schlmbrg	2.00	59	66.42	-.11	-20.9
SiriusXM	.04	36	5.38	-.09	+20.9
Smucker	3.12f	16	119.61	+1.13	-6.6
SnapInc A n	...	...	14.08	-.40	-42.5
SwstnEngy	...	...	5.64	-.13	-47.9
SP Engy	2.04e	...	64.99	-.12	-13.7
SPDR Fncl	.46e	...	24.91	+.11	+7.1
SP Util	1.55e	...	52.79	-.50	+8.7
TOP Shi rs	...	...	.45	+.19	-99.9
TelefEsp	**1.20e**	...	**10.88**	...	**+18.3**
Tesla Inc	...	...	342.52	+14.12	+60.3
Tesoro	2.20	16	96.71	-.28	+10.6
3M Co	4.70	26	210.00	-1.16	+17.6
Tornhmark	**.80**	**17**	**78.49**	**+.17**	**+6.4**
Transocn	...	8	8.51	...	-42.3

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
TriContl	**.96e**	...	**24.81**	**+.03**	**+12.5**
Twitter	...	...	20.00	-.11	+22.7
TylerTech	...	**58**	**180.06**	**+2.72**	**+26.1**
US Silica	.25	...	26.95	-3.65	-52.5
USSI	**1.32**	**19**	**37.55**	**+.40**	**-18.8**
US OilFd	...	...	9.50	+.16	+18.9
USSteel	.20	...	23.80	+.12	-27.9
Vale SA	.29e	...	9.19	+.17	+20.6
ValeantPh	...	3	17.54	+.04	+20.8
ValeroE	2.80	18	67.68	-.10	-.9
VanEGold	.12e	...	22.05	-.36	+5.4
VanE JrGld	...	...	32.48	-.66	+2.9
VangFTSE	1.10e	...	42.24	-.08	+15.6
VerizonCm	2.31	11	43.71	-.52	-18.1
VulcanM	**1.00**	**40**	**126.50**	**+.31**	**+1.1**
WEC Engy	2.08	22	62.50	-.87	+6.6
WalgBoots	1.60f	16	79.60	+.70	-3.8
WestfnInl	...	...	4.22	-.16	-15.4
WebMD	...	35	66.10	+10.91	+33.3
WellsFargo	1.52	13	54.27	+.10	-1.5
WhitingPet	...	...	4.97	-.07	-58.7
WmsCos	1.20	45	31.67	+.22	+1.7
XcelEngy	**1.44f**	**22**	**46.90**	**-.52**	**+15.2**
Xerox rs	.25p	11	30.56	+1.11	+32.9
Yamana g	.02	...	2.49	-.13	-11.4

Can't find your favorite stocks or mutual funds listed?
Send your favorite to sdoreen@mrt.com or mmcewen@mrt.com.
We will regularly update the Permian Basin stocks list.

INDEXES

52-Week High	Low	Name	Last	Chg	Net %Chg	YTD % Chg	52-wk % Chg
21,691.53	17,883.56	Dow Jones Industrials	21,513.17	-66.90	-.31	+8.86	+16.33
9,765.66	7,622.92	Dow Jones Transportation	9,428.20	-43.07	-.45	+4.25	+19.45
726.82	616.19	Dow Jones Utilities	719.02	-6.46	-.89	+9.01	-.08
11,963.55	10,281.48	NYSE Composite	11,904.71	-19.89	-.17	+7.67	+10.72
6,396.26	5,028.24	Nasdaq Composite	6,410.81	+23.05	+.36	+19.09	+25.76
2,477.62	2,084.59	S&P 500	2,469.91	-2.63	-.11	+10.32	+13.90
1,781.91	1,475.36	S&P Midcap	1,775.80	+2.88	+.16	+7.00	+14.87
25,768.00	21,593.94	Wilshire 5000	25,766.20	+54.26	+.21	+9.99	+14.64
1,452.04	1,156.06	Russell 2000	1,438.05	+2.21	+.15	+5.98	+18.86

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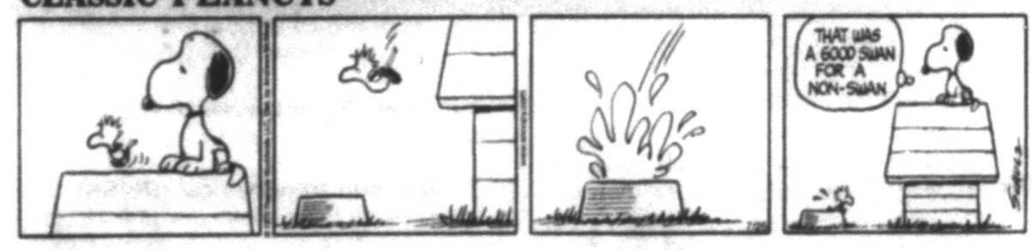
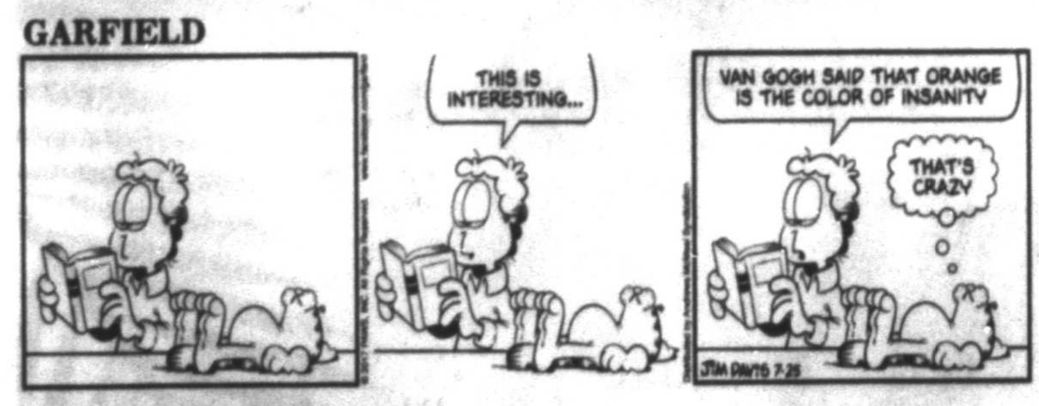
CLASSIC PEANUTS

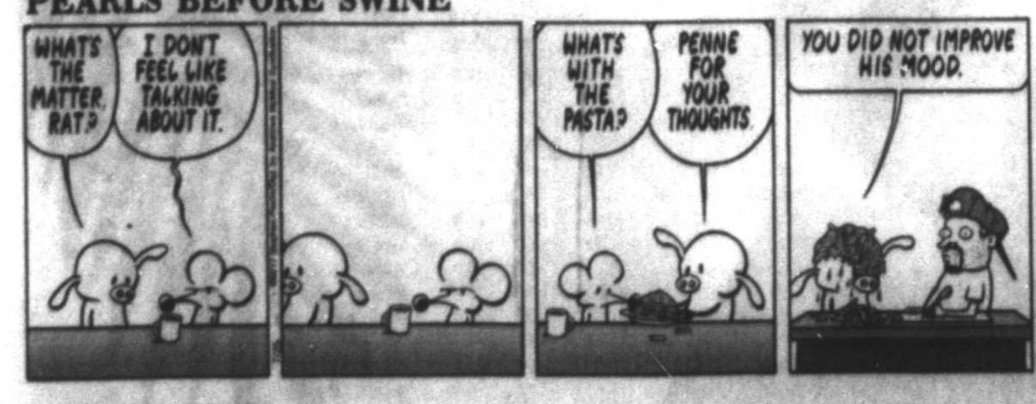


SHOE

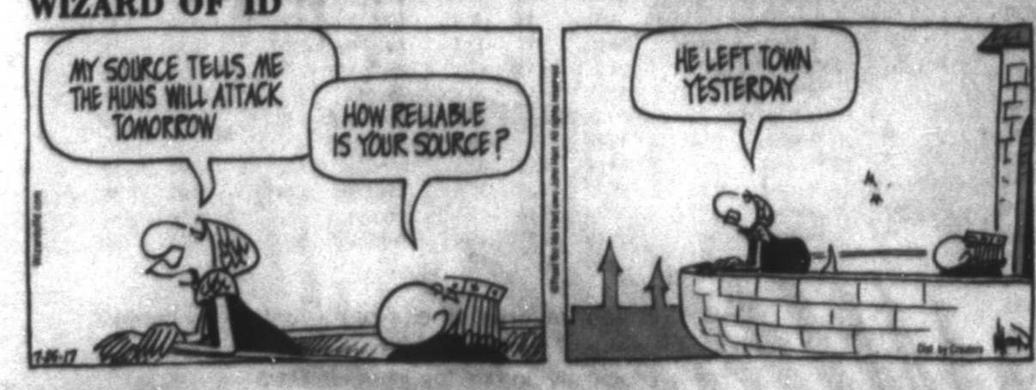
GARFIELD



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



WIZARD OF ID



DILBERT

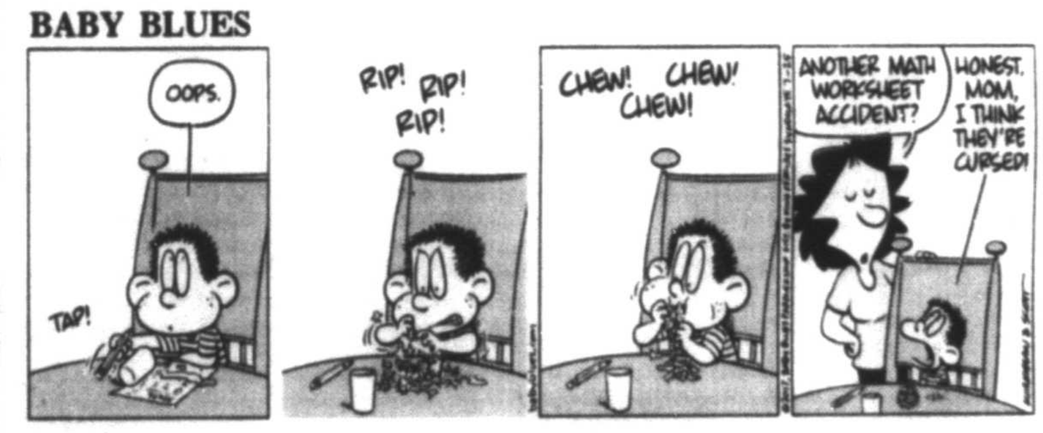
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

LUANN

MARY WORTH

ZITS

BABY BLUES



MUTTS

CLOSE TO HOME

"For heaven's sake! Do you always have to let people know you're a general?!"

DENNIS THE MENACE

"THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE."

LOCKHORNS

"KNOCK IT OFF, LORETTA!"

FAMILY CIRCUS

"Billy's saving some of his lunch to feed the animals and that's not allowed."

7/18 & 7/19 WEEK 1
THE SPONGEBOB SQUARE PANTS MOVIE SPONGE OUT OF WATER (PG)
THE ADVENTURES OF TIN TIN (PG)
7/25 & 7/26 WEEK 2
HAPPY FEET 2 (PG)
CATS & DOGS 2: THE REVENGE OF KITTY GALORE (PG)
8/1 & 8/2 WEEK 3
STORKS (PG)
THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE (PG)

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CLERICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE

Administrative Clerical Assistant

Immediate opening for an administrative clerical assistant. Bilingual preferred. 2 years A/R and general office experience required. Must have HS diploma. Drug screen required. Competitive salary, excellent benefits. M/F/D/V EOE. Apply in person @ 3520 E Garden City, PO Box 10859, Midland, TX 79702.

Receptionist & Machine Shop/Assembly Shop

Now Hiring, Peak Completion Technologies is currently interviewing for a **Receptionist at our Midland office.** Duties include acting as the first point of contact for the company via phone or in person as well as assisting in the day-to-day operations of the office. Applicants should have verifiable work experience in a similar position. We also have positions available in our **Machine Shop and Assembly Shop for experienced candidates.** Peak offers an excellent benefits package and competitive pay in a drug free workplace. These are full time positions, with pay based on experience. Apply in person between 8 AM and 5 PM on weekdays at 7710 W. Hwy 80, Midland. EOE

PEAK COMPLETIONS

ENERGY AND UTILITIES

A/P Specialist

Natural Gas Services Group has an opening for an A/P Specialist. Responsible for entering & closing invoices, entering new vendor information, filing checks and backup, reconciling statements and at times a back-up receptionist. This person must have 2 years' experience of A/P at a large company and working knowledge of general accounting practices. Familiarity with SYSPRO program a plus. NSGSI offers a competitive salary and benefits. Send your resume to **employment @ngsgi.com or call 432-262-2700.**

Dispatcher

Now hiring dispatcher. High school diploma or GED. 1 Year experience in O&G industry. 1-3 in dispatching Geographical knowledge of area. Strong verbal, computer, and file management skills. Able to ensure DOT regs to drivers. Salary + benefits. Come grow with us apply online at: www.cranewv.com. Call 432-614-2114 for more info.

Downhole Tool Service Techs

National Oilwell Varco now hiring downhole tool service technicians. Competitive pay and benefits. Apply in person or submit resume online at nov.com/careers or 8301 Groening Road, Odessa, TX 79765. (near the H & P Yard). 432-563-1173

HEALTHCARE

Licensed Physician Assistant

Licensed Physician Assistant needed Midland-Odessa. Addiction Medicine clinic. 1 day per week each office. 6:00am-9:00am (days/hours flexible). Patient histories, physical exams. Liability insurance provided. Contract rate offered. Email CV employment@wtcr.org Fax 214-722-1622

NURSE (FT)

NURSE (FT), Midland Pediatric Associates. Seeking personable and cheerful individual to join our team. Will be required to answer phones, greet patients and others, make appointments, arrange referrals, assist with computerized medical records, and other duties. Must have license to practice nursing, working knowledge in a medical office, good communication skills. Come by the office to file out an application with resume, 4214 Marnies Cr, Midland, TX 79707.

OTHER JOBS

EARN UP TO $500 PER WEEK!

Do you have a reliable car with insurance and a phone?? Become an independent contractor delivering the Midland Reporter-Telegram in the in the Midland, Odessa and Andrews area.

Please come by our office located at 201 E. Illinois and fill out a carrier information sheet. Oscar Ronquillo 432-687-9001

RESTAURANT FOOD SERVICES

Dishwasher & Line Fry Cook

La Bodega Mexican Restaurant. Apply in person at 2700 N. Big Spring.

Restaurant Positions

Osaka Japanese Steakhouse FT

Would you like to make $15 to $20 an hour, depending on position? Now hiring Hibachi Chefs, Waitresses, Hostesses, Cashiers, Bartenders, Bus Help, Dishwashers & Kitchen Help. Come apply in person: 11am-2pm at **1207 Tradewinds Blvd. 79706 or online at: www.my-osaka.com**

SALES JOBS

Inside Sales Trainee

Inside sales trainee, bi-lingual, knowledge of building materials a plus, computer skills a must. Call Katherine for interview. 432-520-4646

SKILLED LABOR

Lead Carpenter

Campbell Construction Company seeking Lead Carpenter. Pre-employment drug test required. Good Benefits. Salary DOE. Apply at 241-A Spring Park Drive, Midland or send resume to PO Box 11293, Midland, TX 79702 or fax to (432) 683-5943.

Commercial Construction Project Expeditor

Mid-Tex of Midland, Inc. Now hiring a commercial construction project expeditor. Competitive pay plus excellent benefits. Experience in commercial construction is a must. Please send resumes to 5206 W. Wadley Ave; Midland, Texas 79707 or you may email your resume to Alan White at alan@midtexofmidland.com.

Field Tech

Oilfield Service company in Midland area hiring Field techs, experience preferred in mobile home set up. CDL drivers with experience moving mobile homes and/or pump, vacuum trucks. Stable company requires clean driving record, zero tolerance on drug/alcohol tests, Full time including some weekend work. Benefits after 90 days. Call 432-682-7302, Fax resume 979-234-2599 or email: applications@wpeserv.com

TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

Drivers & Mechanics

Catalyst Oilfield Services is currently hiring for CDL drivers and mechanics. Hazmat certification is required for all drivers. Please contact Roman Hernandez at (432) 894-1416.

TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

DRIVERS & SPOOLERS

JW Enterprise is looking for **Drivers & Spoolers** with Class A CDL. Must have good driving record and pass drug screen. Competitive wages and on the job training for spooling. Pay DOE. Contact 432-770-1190 or 432-664-3408 for more information. Serious inquires only.

TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

LIGHT DUTY MECHANIC

JW Enterprise is hiring a **light duty mechanic or general shop help.** Must be able to pass drug test and have a Class C drivers license with a clean driving record. Flexible pay to be determined by experience. Contact 432-664-0954.

TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

Office Position

JW Enterprise seeks an individual to hire for an office position. Duties include DOT compliance clerk, filing and data entry. To inquire, please call 432-458-3675 or 432-664-3408. Resumes may be sent to d2williamson@yahoo.com. Serious applicants only please.

TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

Warehouse/Delivery Driver

CDL not required.

Please apply in person at: **Sims Plastics** 2700 W Front Midland, TX 79701

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Legal and Public Notices

Comisión de Calidad Ambiental del Estado de Texas

AVISO DE RECIBO UNIFICADO DE SOLICITUD E INTENCIÓN DE OBTENER PERMISO Y AVISO DE SOLICITUD Y DECISIÓN PRELIMINAR ESTÁNDAR

Registro propuesto No. 147304 de permiso estándar de calidad de aire para plantas de lotes de concreto

Solicitud: Trinidad Ready Mix, LLC. ha solicitado a la Comisión de Calidad Ambiental del Estado de Texas (TCEQ por sus siglas en inglés) un Permiso de Estándar de Calidad ATMOSFÉRICA, NÚM. De Registro 147304, el cual autoriza la construcción de una Planta de Lotes de Concreto ubicada en 5206 Farm-to-Market Road 715, Midland, Midland County, Texas 79706. Este enlace a un mapa electrónico de la ubicación general del sitio o de la instalación es proporcionado como una cortesía y no es parte de la solicitud o del aviso. Para la ubicación exacta, consulte la solicitud. http://tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hb610/index.html?lat=31.9403&lng=-102.0301&zoom=13&type=r. La planta que se propone emitirá los siguientes contaminantes atmosféricos: material particulado incluyendo (pero no limitado a) agregados, cemento, polvo de caminos y partículas menores a 10 micrómetros de diámetro y menores a 2.5 micrómetros de diámetro.

Esta solicitud se presentó a TCEQ el Mayo 23, 2017. El director ejecutivo de la TCEQ ha concluido las revisiones técnicas y administrativas de la solicitud y ha determinado que la solicitud reúne todos los requisitos de un permiso estándar autorizado por 30 TAC § 116.611 (Título 30 del Código Administrativo de Texas, Sección 116.611), lo cual establecería las condiciones bajo las cuales la planta debe operar. El director ejecutivo ha concluido la decisión preliminar de otorgar el registro porque reúne todas las normas relevantes. La solicitud del permiso, la decisión preliminar del director ejecutivo, y el permiso estándar, estarán disponibles para ser revisados y copiados en la Oficina Central de la TCEQ, en la Oficina Regional de Midland de la TCEQ, y en la Midland County Public Library - Central Library, 301 West Missouri Avenue, Midland, Midland County, Texas, empezando el primer día de la publicación de este aviso. Los archivos de cumplimiento de la ley de la instalación, si existen, están disponibles para la revisión del público en la Oficina Regional de Midland de la TCEQ, 9900 W. IH-20, Suite 100, Midland, Texas. Visite www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cbp para revisar el permiso estándar.

Comentarios Públicos/Reunión Pública. Usted puede presentar comentarios públicos o una petición para reunión pública. Véase la sección de contactos. La TCEQ tomará en cuenta todos los comentarios públicos en la decisión final de la solicitud. **La fecha límite para presentar comentarios públicos es 30 días después de que se publique el aviso en el periódico.** Cuestiones tales como valor de la propiedad, ruido, seguridad de tráfico y zonificación no están dentro de la jurisdicción de la Comisión para abordarse en este proceso judicial.

El propósito de la reunión pública es proporcionar la oportunidad de hacer comentarios o preguntas acerca de la solicitud. Si el director ejecutivo determina que existe un importante grado de interés público con respecto a la solicitud o si lo solicita un legislador local, se llevará a cabo una reunión pública. Una reunión pública no es una audiencia de caso impugnado. Si se lleva a cabo una reunión pública, la fecha límite para entregar comentarios públicos se prolonga hasta el fin de la reunión pública.

Oportunidad para una audiencia de caso impugnado. Usted puede solicitar una audiencia de caso impugnado. El solicitante o el director ejecutivo pueden pedir que la solicitud sea remitida directamente a una audiencia de caso impugnado después de la revisión técnica. **La fecha límite para presentar audiencia de caso impugnado es 30 días después de que se publique el aviso en el periódico.** Una audiencia de caso impugnado es un procedimiento legal similar a un juicio civil en un tribunal de distrito del estado. **A menos que se presente una solicitud para una audiencia de caso impugnado dentro de 30 días de esta notificación, el director ejecutivo puede autorizar la solicitud. Si no se recibe una solicitud para audiencia dentro del periodo de 30 días, no se dará otra oportunidad para audiencia. Si una solicitud para una audiencia es recibida dentro del plazo de 30 días, entonces el periodo para solicitar una audiencia de caso impugnado se prolongado a 30 días después del envío por correo de la respuesta a comentarios del director ejecutivo.**

Una persona que pueda ser afectada por las emisiones de contaminantes atmosféricas de la instalación tiene el derecho de solicitar una audiencia. Para solicitar una audiencia de caso impugnado, una persona debe vivir actualmente en una residencia permanente dentro de 440 yardas de la instalación propuesta. Para solicitar una audiencia de caso impugnado, usted deberá proporcionar lo siguiente: (1) su nombre (o para un grupo o asociación, un representante oficial), dirección y número de teléfono; (2) el nombre del solicitante y número del permiso; (3) la declaración "[yo/nosotros] solicito/solicitamos una audiencia de caso impugnado"; (4) una descripción específica de cómo se vería afectado negativamente por la solicitud y las emisiones atmosféricas de la planta de manera que no es común para el público en general; (5) la ubicación y la distancia de su propiedad con relación a la planta; y (6) una descripción de cómo usa la propiedad que puede ser afectada por la planta; y (7) una lista de todas las cuestiones de hecho en disputa que usted presenta durante el periodo de comentarios. Si la petición la hace un grupo o asociación, uno o más miembros que tienen derecho a solicitar una audiencia deben ser identificados por su nombre y dirección física. Los intereses que el grupo o la asociación busca proteger también se deben identificar. También puede presentar sus modificaciones propuestas a la solicitud que satisfarían sus inquietudes. Véase la sección de contactos.

Acción de la TCEQ. Después del plazo final para comentarios públicos, el director ejecutivo tomará en cuenta los comentarios y preparará una respuesta para todos los comentarios públicos pertinentes y materiales, o significativos. Si no se recibe una petición oportuna para una audiencia de caso impugnado, o si todas las solicitudes para una audiencia son retiradas, el director ejecutivo puede emitir la aprobación final de la solicitud. Si todas las solicitudes oportunas no son retiradas, el director ejecutivo no emitirá la aprobación final del permiso y enviará la solicitud y las peticiones a los Comisionados para su consideración en una reunión programada de la comisión. La Comisión solo puede conceder una solicitud para una audiencia de caso impugnado sobre asuntos que el solicitante entregó en sus comentarios oportunos que no fueron remitidos posteriormente. **Si se concede una audiencia, el tema de la audiencia estará limitado a cuestiones de hecho en disputa o preguntas mixtos de hechos y ley relacionados a preocupaciones pertinentes y materiales de calidad de aire entregado durante el periodo de comentarios.** Cuestiones tales como valor de la propiedad, ruido, seguridad de tráfico y zonificación no están dentro de la jurisdicción de la Comisión para abordarse en este proceso judicial.

Lista de Correspondencia. Aparte de presentar comentarios públicos, puede solicitar que lo incluyan en la lista de correos para recibir avisos públicos en el futuro para esta solicitud específica. Véase la sección de contactos.

Información disponible en línea. Para detalles sobre el estatus de la solicitud, favor de ver la Base Integral de Datos de los Comisionados (CID, en inglés) en www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Una vez que haya obtenido acceso a la CID usando en el enlace, entre el numero de registro al inicio de este aviso.

Contactos. Los comentarios públicos o peticiones para una reunión pública o audiencia de caso impugnado se deben presentar a la Oficina del Secretario Oficial, MC-105, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087, o por internet al www.tceq.texas.gov/about/comments.html. Cualquier información privada que usted presente a la TCEQ formará parte del registro de la agencia, esto incluye direcciones de correo electrónico. Para mayor información sobre esta solicitud o el proceso de permisos, favor de llamar gratis al Programa de Educación Público de la TCEQ, al 1-800-687-4040.

Puede obtener información adicional de Trinidad Ready Mix, LLC, 5204 Farm-to-Market Road 715, Midland, Texas 79706 o al llamar Erbey Urias, operador al (432) 894-3357.

Fecha de Expedición: Julio 28, 2017

Legal and Public Notices

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Consolidated Notice of Receipt of Application and Intent to Obtain Permit and Notice of Application and Preliminary Decision

Air Quality Standard Permit for Concrete Batch Plants Proposed Registration No. 147304

Application. Trinidad Ready Mix, LLC, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for an Air Quality Standard Permit, Registration No. 147304, which would authorize construction of a permanent concrete batch plant located at 5206 Farm-to-Market Road 715, Midland, Midland County, Texas 79706. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application. http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hb610/index.html?lat=31.9403&lng=-102.0301&zoom=13&type=r. The proposed facility will emit the following air contaminants: particulate matter including (but not limited to) aggregate, cement, road dust, and particulate matter with diameters of 10 microns or less and 2.5 microns or less.

This application was submitted to the TCEQ on May 23, 2017. The executive director has completed the administrative and technical reviews of the application and determined that the application meets all of the requirements of a standard permit authorized by 30 TAC § 116.611, which would establish the conditions under which the plant must operate. The executive director has made a preliminary decision to issue the registration because it meets all applicable rules. The application, executive director's preliminary decision, and standard permit will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ central office, the TCEQ Midland Regional Office, and the Midland County Public Library - Central Library, 301 West Missouri Avenue, Midland, Midland County, Texas, beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The facility's compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review at the TCEQ Midland Regional Office, 9900 W. IH-20, Suite 100, Midland, Texas. Visit www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cbp to review the standard permit.

Public Comment/Public Meeting. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting. See Contacts section. The TCEQ will consider all public comments in developing a final decision on the application. **The deadline to submit public comments or meeting requests is 30 days after newspaper notice is published.** Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the TCEQ's jurisdiction to consider in the permit process.

The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or ask questions about the application. A public meeting about the application will be held if the executive director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing. If a public meeting is held, the deadline to submit public comments is extended to the end of the public meeting.

Contested Case Hearing. You may request a contested case hearing. The applicant or the executive director may request that the application be directly referred to a contested case hearing after technical review of the application. **The deadline to submit a request for a contested case hearing is 30 days after newspaper notice is published.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court. **If no hearing request is received within this 30 day period, no further opportunity for hearing will be provided, and the executive director may approve the application. If a hearing request is received within the 30-day period, then the time period for requesting a contested case hearing will be extended to 30 days after the mailing of the executive director's response to comments.**

A person who may be affected by emissions of air contaminants from the facility is entitled to request a hearing. To request a hearing, a person must actually reside in a permanent residence within 440 yards of the proposed plant. If requesting a contested case hearing, you must submit the following: (1) your name (or for a group or association, an official representative), mailing address, daytime phone number; (2) applicant's name and registration number; (3) the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing;" (4) a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the application and air emissions from the facility in a way not common to the general public; (5) the location and distance of your property relative to the facility; (6) a description of how you use the property which may be impacted by the facility; and (7) a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period. If the request is made by a group or association, one or more members who have standing to request a hearing must be identified by name and physical address. The interests which the group or association seeks to protect must be identified. You may submit your proposed adjustments to the application which would satisfy your concerns. See Contacts section.

TCEQ Action. After the deadline for public comments, the executive director will consider the comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. The executive director's decision on the application, and any response to comments, will be mailed to all persons on the mailing list. If no timely contested case hearing requests are received, or if all hearing requests are withdrawn, the executive director may issue final approval of the application. If all timely hearing requests are not withdrawn, the executive director will not issue final approval of the permit and will forward the application and requests to the Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled commission meeting. The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material air quality concerns submitted during the comment period.** Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the Commission's jurisdiction to address in this proceeding.

Mailing List. You may ask to be placed on a mailing list to receive additional information on this specific application. See Contacts section.

Information Available Online. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database (CID) at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Once you have access to the CID using the link, enter the registration number at the top of this notice.

Contacts. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www.tceq.texas.gov/about/comments.html, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Any personal information you submit to the TCEQ will become part of the agency's record; this includes email addresses. For more information about this application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program toll free at 1 800 687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Trinidad Ready Mix, LLC, 5204 Farm-to-Market Road 715, Midland, Texas 79706 or by calling Mr. Erbey Urias, Operator at (432) 853-3357.

Notice Issuance Date: June 28, 2017

Legal and Public Notices

Notice is hereby given that on Extra Space Storage will sell at public auction on August 11,2017, to satisfy the lien of the owner, personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the following locations:

Facility 1813: 3111 Caldera Blvd Midland, TX 79705 (432)-664-0193, August 11, 2017, 10:30 am
Brianna Vasquez unit#1501 household goods

Facility 1770: 5005 Andrews Hwy, Midland, TX 79703 (432)694-5959, August 11, 2017, 11:00 am
Aaron Miller unit#1029 Household Goods, Kevin Thompson unit#844 Household Goods, Kelsey Lee unit#905b household goods, Erica Chavez unit#429 lawn care.

Facility 1814: 2504 N Loop 250 W Midland, TX 79707 (432)-694-1111, August 11, 2017, 11:30 am
Shawna Harris unit#264 Household Goods, Melissa Thames unit#212 Household Goods, George Frantz unit#804 Household goods, Jacob Plunkett unit#1411 Furniture, Kenneth Mundy unit#644 Decorations, Bed, Kevin Korell unit#911 Furniture, Kevin Korell unit#912 Furniture Auctioneer: Jack Parnell 432-238-2735. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

General Announcement

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

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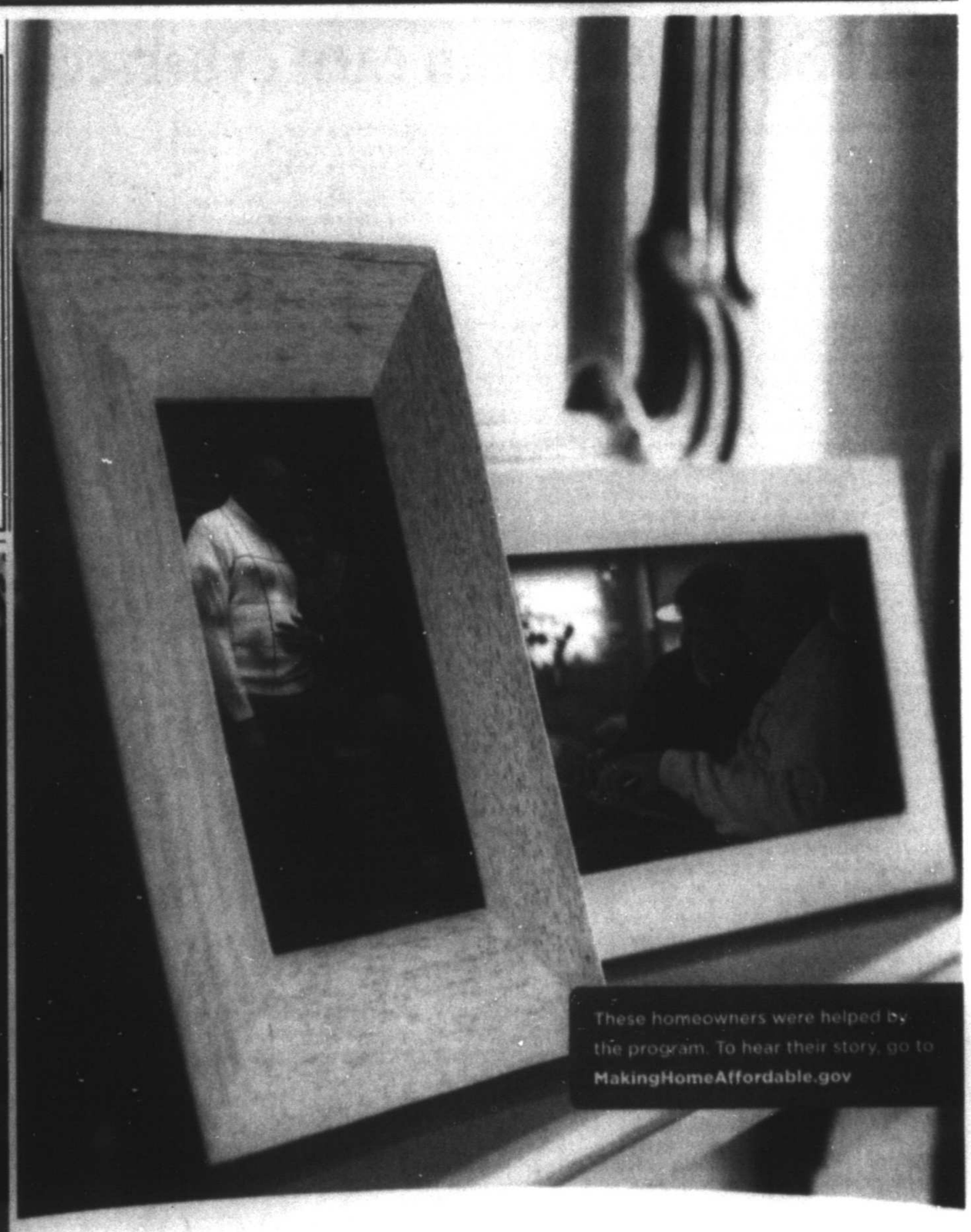

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Rick Loomis/Los Angeles Times/TNS

Veronica Myers, 19, leads a group of Girl Scouts in a game during a summer day camp in Long Beach, on July 3. Girl Scout troops of girls ages 5 to 17 are being taught everything from robotics to video game design these days, and now, the organization is adding cybersecurity to its list of badges and patches.

Girl Scouts soon can earn cybersecurity badges

By Alexa D'Angelo
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — By selling Thin Mints and Tagalongs in kindergarten, Elizabeth Lewelling earned Girl Scout badges for customer service and managing money.

Now going into eighth grade, she's setting her sights on a topic a bit more complicated than the cookie business: cybersecurity.

The 12-year-old from Palmdale is one of 1.8 million Girl Scouts nationwide who will have the opportunity starting in 2018 to adorn their vests, tunics and sashes with merit badges for information security.

The move illustrates the ongoing evolution of the 105-year-old activity organization for girls, which in recent years has expanded its merit badges beyond those associated with traditionally feminine skills — think "baby sitter" or "dinner party" — to include more topics related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

It's a shift Lewelling appreciates.

"I'll definitely be trying to get cybersecurity badges," Lewelling said. "I'm going into eighth grade now, and we use technology for everything so I want to know how I can protect myself online. It's really important."

The 18 new badges — earned by mastering online safety, dealing with cyberbullies and coding, among other skills — are the result of a multiyear partnership between the national girls' nonprofit and the Silicon Valley network and enterprise security company Palo Alto Networks. Girl Scouts of the United States of America Sylvia Acevedo, chief executive, said the launch of the program shows the organization's "advocacy for cyberpreparedness."

They join an increasingly contemporary array of insignias ("computer expert," "inventor," "product designer" and "website designer" were all added in recent years), though the organization has not purged longstanding badges or themes.

"We might have coding workshops but because this is Girl Scouts, we're also focusing on developing risk-taking, empathy, goal-setting and confidence so that girls are prepared to overcome obstacles they might face as female coders," said Melanie Larsen, spokesperson for the Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles. "It's a holistic approach — and an all-girl environment is a safe space for girls to really feel comfortable speaking up and taking risks."

The badges will be available to troops across the country, though local chapters can supplement them with additional patches and programs.

It's not the first technology-and-scouting collaboration. Girl Scouts of the USA recently partnered with Google to offer coding activities.

In the greater Los Angeles area, troops have collaborated with the Society of Women Engineers and Women in Gaming International. There are introductory rocketry, circuitry and astronomy programs, coding camps and a popular Lego robotics program, Larsen said.

It's a big change from "electrician," "health" and "naturalist" — the initial science-related badges offered to girls in 1913.

Girl Scouts got its start when Juliette Gordon Low assembled a group of 18 girls to create a young women's alternative to the Boy Scouts. In the beginning, they played basketball, hiked, swam and camped — actions that then challenged gender roles of the time.

The expansion of science and technology-related badges and programs marks "a real transitional moment for the Girl Scouts," said Kathleen Denny, adjunct professor of sociology at Trinity University, who has researched the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts.

"A historian writing about the Girl Scouts once said the organization was looking to develop a traditional, up-to-date woman," Denny said. "They've always had that progressive, feminist impulse — but never losing sight of the preparation for more traditional roles of wives and mothers."

Denny said that children's organizations, particularly those for just boys or girls, can have a profound impact on a child's attitude and overall sense of self.

That could help young women see a place for themselves in the technology industry — a booming sector but one well-known for its gender gap.

The worldwide deficit of qualified cybersecurity professionals will reach 3.5 million by 2021, according to research by information security firm Cybersecurity Ventures.

A study by research firm Frost & Sullivan found that women hold only 11 percent of information security jobs globally. And 69 percent of women who haven't pursued careers in information technology said they made that choice because they didn't know about the opportunities available to them, according to research from the Computing Technology Industry Association.

"This collaboration will go a long way in eliminating traditional barriers to access to cybersecurity education, like gender and geography," said Rinki Sethi, senior director of information security at Palo Alto Networks. "Getting ahead of tomorrow's cyberthreats will require a diverse team of problem solvers to approach challenges in innovative ways."

Young Daisies and Brownies won't be fending off cyberattacks from criminal hackers and rogue nation states — there will be an age-appropriate curriculum, designed in partnership with Palo Alto Networks, Larsen said. That includes basic computer skills, techniques for staying safe online, and practice in keeping private information private.

Girl Scouts of the USA and Palo Alto Networks declined to comment on Palo Alto Networks' financial contribution to the scouting organization.

Lewelling, the Girl Scout Cadette, credits her seven years with the organization for steering her to topics she hadn't, and probably wouldn't have, encountered.

That includes robotics, mechanical design, programming and medicine.

For now, her "digital movie maker" and "netiquette" badges hold a special place on her vest. Time will tell if the cybersecurity badges earn primo vest placement as well.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

Tech company uses data from jumps to predict injuries

By Josh Dubow
Associated Press

MENLO PARK, Calif. — The epiphany hit Phil Wagner about a decade ago when he was stuck in Southern California traffic pouring over reams of data in his car and he realized how he could take information about how athletes jump and land and predict where they are most susceptible to their next injury.

Wagner has turned that idea into a leading company in the growing field of sports science analytics as teams seek whatever edge they can to keep their players on the field instead of in the operating room.

Sparta Science tracks athletes making six jumps in 90 seconds with its force plate technology and proprietary software to predict what injuries they're in danger of suffering, what workouts they need to stay healthy and what sport or position best suits their athletic ability.

"People ask how can you tell this from a 90-second jump," Wagner said. "But it's more like an iceberg. You see the top, which is the jump. But under the water is reams and reams of data points of the individual's history, ethnicity and demographics and that tells a whole story."

Take, for example, a pitcher. Basically, Wagner's theory goes a pitcher pushing off a rubber with his lower body is a similar process to jumping. Any discrepancy on how you transfer weight and generate the force can show that the upper body might need to compensate and therefore be more susceptible to arm injury.

Wagner, a former strength and conditioning coach who then went to medical school, launched Sparta Science in 2010 as a training company and counted NBA player Jeremy Lin as one of its first notable clients. Sparta added the software component four years ago and signed contracts with pro teams such as the Colorado Rockies, Cleveland Cavaliers and Atlanta Falcons.

Sparta currently has teams as clients in Major League Baseball, the NBA, the NFL and MLS, as well as several colleges and international rugby teams.

The force plate is the main tool Sparta uses to determine the load, explode and drive for each jump. Using the relationship between the three aspects of the jump and inputting other information such as gender, age, sport, position, injury history, use and even ethnicity, the software can help teams learn about potential injury risk and figure out how to best use certain athletes.

"For me after 12 years of looking at a lot of things to implement, I'm excited about this because it really can help us on both sides," said Jeff Foster, who runs the NFL combine as the director of National Football Scouting. "It's not too often that we can find anything that crosses over the performance and the medical. That's to me what's exciting about the force plate technology."

System has shown ability to modify genetic sequence of organisms

Dear PropellerHeads, I've been told I have a bit of a God complex. Anything in the tech world that can help me achieve my full glory?

A: You mean become a full-fledged deity? Your best bet for that is to spend countless hours in your parents' basement, glued to your computer, playing one of "The Sims" titles (thesims.com). Unlimited power, destroy free will, drive your drones to the brink of insanity!!! Not that I would know anything about that … Moving on, let's look at something a little more 'real world' and hopefully more positive.

Although it's not exactly new (discovery and research began as early as 1993), CRISPRs (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats) hold a lot of potential to shape the future of humankind (bit.ly/2cI9CvM) . Scientists currently use CRISPR research to find out how genes function and using a newer technology known as Cas9, are able to modify the genetic code of DNA.

I know …What is it? CRISPR research has its beginnings in bacteria, where

Ask the PropellerHeads

Spanish microbiologist Francisco Mojica noticed patterns imbedded in bacterial DNA that allowed the organisms to 'memorize' invading diseases and fend off future invasions. These 'memories' were stored as genetic spacers of sorts between the native DNA sequences. Exciting stuff right?

OK, it's not, but what has come from that research since then does get more interesting. Mojica and those that followed have used those patterns and cornerstone spacers (later known as CRISPRs) as genetic on/off switches for activating different genes. This allows them to isolate specific genetic sequences to see what their true function is, and helps further decode the genetic mysteries surrounding countless diseases and mutations.

But what about my God complex? Bear with me, we're getting there. As I mentioned earlier, a system known as Cas9 (which is actually the name of the key enzyme produced by the system), produces CRISPRs that scientists bind to DNA sequences and change what genes are active. The use of this system has already shown the ability to permanently modify the genetic sequence of living organisms (mice), and can be used to change hereditary traits. More recently (2015), researchers developed another CRISPR (Cpf1) which is smaller than Cas9 and cuts DNA in an offset manner (Cas9 cuts both strands in the same place), which makes Cpf1 easier to deliver into cells and reduces the likelihood of mutations after incorporation.

Still a little dry for you? The implications of this research are both very exciting and very scary. It could lead to a time where genetic code can be manipulated in embryos to eliminate all sorts of illnesses and disabilities. The downside is that there's always an ethical debate over the science of playing God (read up on eugenics if you want to see the potential perils).

So, I apologize for tricking you. This probably doesn't get you any closer to achieving god-like status (unless you spend years getting a degree in biological engineering and specifically study this field), but you did get a pretty sweet science lesson.

If you want to read more about this research, I encourage you to check out the Broad Institute (broadinstitute.org). If you need me, I'll be checking in on the Sim I put in a house with no exits or food, but with a view of a great barbeque going on right outside.

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