

MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2018

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THE WAIT IS OVER

The new casual dining restaurant Ohana Poke opened Tuesday.

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MHS BEATS TASCOSA

After managing only four hits in last Saturday's 5-1 home loss, the Bulldogs responded with authority and cranked out 13 hits — six for extra bases — in a convincing 8-1 victory in District 2-6A action.

Page 1C

Police chief put on administrative leave

Formal complaint has been filed against Steve Henry, city spokeswoman says

From staff reports

Midland Police Chief Steve Henry was placed on paid administrative leave Tuesday morning following a formal complaint, according to a press release from the city's spokeswoman.

An investigation into the complaint is being conducted by outside counsel and is expected to take at least 30 days, spokeswoman Elana Ladd said. Deputy Chief Seth Herman will serve as acting chief while Henry is on leave.

The nature of the complaint is

alleged conduct that violates the harassment policy of the city of Midland's personnel policies.

"We take all complaints and allegations extremely seriously," Mayor Jerry Morales said in a statement. "That is why we have hired outside counsel to investigate the complaint thoroughly and objectively."

Any personnel decisions or changes in employment status will be made by City Manager Courtney Sharp upon receipt of the investigation's findings, Ladd said.

Ladd told the Reporter-Telegram that the city has retained

the services of law firm

Cotton Bledsoe Tighe & Dawson to investigate the matter.

"We retained outside counsel to make sure (the investigation) is objective and independent," she said. "We're taking this very seriously."

Henry assumed the position of police chief on Jan. 1. He succeeded Price Robinson, who retired in August after serving as chief for eight years. Henry most recently was chief deputy at the Pinal County (Arizona) Sheriff's Office. Before that, he was with the Chandler (Arizona) Police Department for 14 years.



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Midlanders talk with Police Chief Steve Henry Jan. 25 during a meet-and-greet at Rosa's Café. Henry, who assumed the position on Jan. 1, will be on administrative leave while a formal complaint against him is investigated, the city spokeswoman said Tuesday.

Conversation continues with positive case made for fossil fuels

Start the Conversation, PBPA to host founder of Center for Industrial Progress

By Stewart Doreen
sdoreen@mrt.com

An effort to bring Midland and Odessa together takes its next step Thursday night.

Start the Conversation — an initiative to transform above-the-ground activities in both communities — is partnering with the Permian Basin Petroleum Association to bring in Alex Epstein, the founder of the Center for Industrial Progress. He is expected to make his case for fossil fuels and "their unique ability to provide cheap, reliable energy for the world." He started the Center for Industrial Progress to offer "a positive, pro-human alternative to the green movement," according to the think tank's website.

His book, "The Moral Case for Fossil Fuels," makes one of the most persuasive arguments for continuing the use of fossil fuels, according to the website, which also states that Epstein is known for his willingness to debate anyone over the morality of fossil fuel use.

Patrick Payton, a Stonegate Fellowship pastor and a leader of the Start the Conversation effort, said Epstein helps people to see that the oil and gas industry enables us to have the quality of life all Americans enjoy. He also said Epstein isn't against alternatives but that the facts show those alternatives aren't as plentiful and reliable as oil and gas.

Please see FUELS/2A



The city is eyeing improved bicycling and pedestrian infrastructure after receiving more than \$200,000 in state funds. The Metropolitan Planning Organization public policy board on Monday approved providing the fiscal year 2017-20 Transportation Improvement Program to include the project, which will feature 5.4-mile bike lanes, curb extensions at intersections and signage for other pedestrian crossings. The city will put about \$125,000 of its own money toward the project. Read more about this in *Eye on Development* in the Sunday edition of the Reporter-Telegram. Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

MC tuition to remain same for in-district students

By Simone Jasper
sjasper@mrt.com

Students living in the Midland College district won't face changes to tuition and fees this fall. The MC board of trustees on Tuesday voted to approve the next academic year's costs, which will go up for out-of-district and non-resident students.

In-district students will pay \$89 per semester credit hour for lower-division courses and \$137 per semester credit hour for upper-division courses, which are the same rates as this academic year.

Rick Bender, vice president of

Please see MC/2A

UTPB tuition, fees to increase for next two years

By Simone Jasper
sjasper@mrt.com

Students at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin will soon pay more to attend the school. The UT System Board of Regents voted Monday to approve two-year tuition and fee proposals, including a request from UTPB that had higher increases than the other institutions.

UTPB's cost will go up 8.5 percent for in-state undergraduates from fall 2017 to fall 2018. During the same time period, increases for that group of students attending other institutions range from 0.1 percent at UT San

Please see UTPB/2A

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Price of oil

\$63.42 ▲ \$1.36

Did you know?

A package exploded at a FedEx shipping center in San Antonio on Tuesday. Page 4A

Word of the Day:

unshaked

Do you know what it means? Find out the definition on Page 5A.

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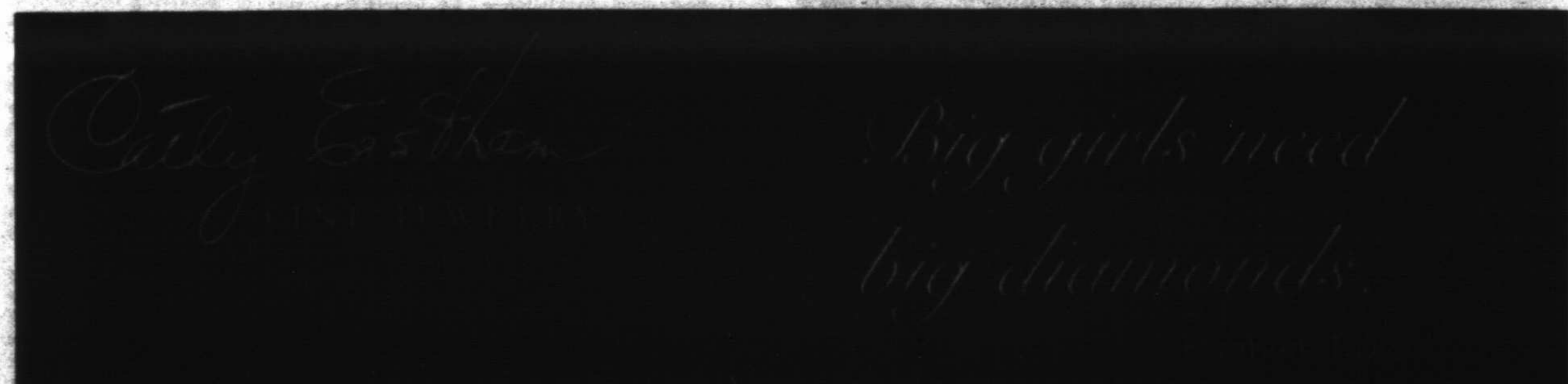
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Daily \$2, Sunday \$3



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CRIME BRIEFS

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

MIDLAND Man charged with sexual assault, indecency

A Midland man was arrested Saturday after he allegedly had sexual contact with a child, according to court documents.



Kyle Lawrence Blevins, 31, was being held Tuesday on a \$50,000 bond for a first-degree felony charge of aggravated sexual assault of a child and a \$25,000 bond for a second-degree felony charge of indecency with a child by sexual contact.

A Midland police detective arranged for a child to be transported to the Midland Rape Crisis and Children's Advocacy Center for an interview. The date of the interview was not provided in court documents.

Blevins had inappropriate sexual contact with the child, according to his arrest affidavit.

If convicted, Blevins could face up to life imprisonment for the first-degree felony charge and up to 20 years imprisonment for the second-degree felony charge.

MARFA Man charged with murder in wife's death

A Marfa man was arrested Monday on a murder charge in connection with the death of his wife, according to a press release from the Jeff Davis County Sheriff's Office.

Daniel Merrill Sullivan, 30, was being held Tuesday in Hudspeth County jail on a \$130,000 bond.

Deputies were dispatched Friday at about 7 p.m. in reference to an unconscious woman. Sullivan told deputies that someone had murdered his wife, Sophia Eleanor Sullivan, 31. He said he found her on the floor and unresponsive, according to the release. He then took their 7-year-old son to a neighbor's house to call 911.

Sophia Sullivan, a Marfa high school teacher, had multiple stab wounds on her arms, side and back, according to the release. Deputies collected swab samples from Sullivan's hands and found positive traces of blood, according to the release. He was given a polygraph test on Monday and failed it, according to the release.

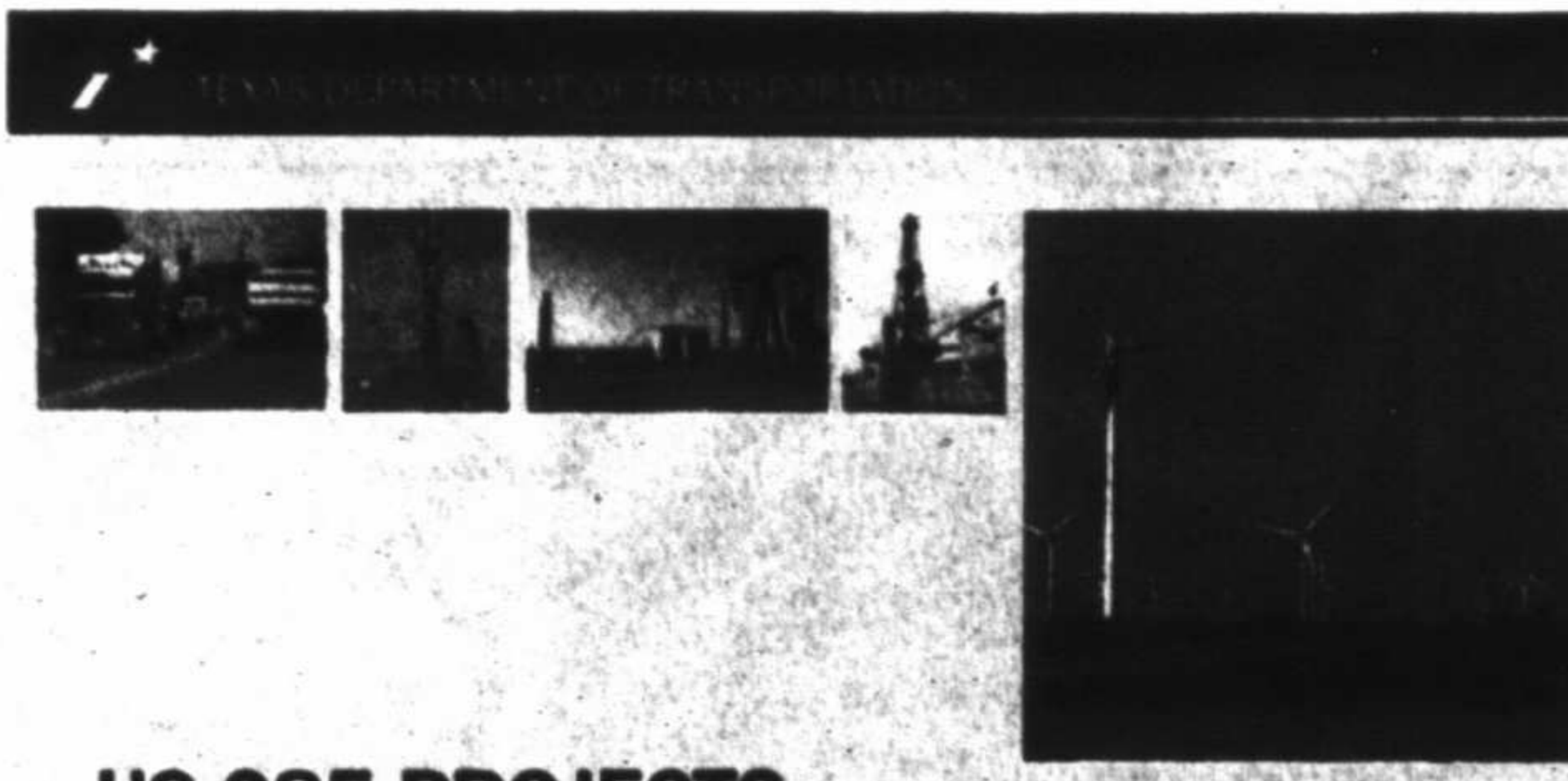
The couple's son allegedly stated on three separate occasions that his father had killed his mother. Sophia Sullivan's body has been sent to Lubbock County Medical Examiner's Office for an autopsy.

HUNTSVILLE Court won't stop execution of Lubbock woman's killer

The state's top criminal court has refused to halt next week's scheduled execution of a San Antonio man convicted of killing a 29-year-old Lubbock woman, stuffing her body into a suitcase and then throwing the luggage into the trash.

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals dismissed an appeal Monday from lawyers for 37-year-old Rosendo Rodriguez III as improper and didn't rule on merits of the arguments. Attorneys contended a medical examiner improperly testified at Rodriguez's trial, that a recent settlement of a lawsuit involving the examiner wasn't disclosed to them, that prosecutors engaged in misconduct and that Rodriguez is innocent.

He's set for execution March 27 for the 2005 slaying of Summer Baldwin. He also confessed to killing a 16-year-old Lubbock girl who'd been missing for more than a year.



US 285 PROJECTS

Major rehab projects coming to US 285

From staff reports

The Texas Department of Transportation Odessa District has big plans coming for U.S. Highway 285, a major artery for the oil and gas industry in the western Permian Basin.

On Monday, TxDOT told members of the Permian Road Safety Coalition what changes are coming. Here is an outline of what is planned.

■ **Ranch-to-Market Road 652 to County Road 232:** This 10.8-mile road segment will be rehabilitated and rebuilt. The project includes culvert replacements, signs, pavement markings and a few passing lanes. Construction is expected to be completed in early 2019. The bid price was \$12.5 million.

■ **CR 232 to State Highway 302:** Passing lanes will be added, as will signs and pavement markings. There also will be culvert replacements. This 10.5-mile stretch is expected to be completed in spring 2019.

■ **RM 652 to New Mexico:** This road segment will be widened to a "super 2" configuration, which has alternating passing lanes. Bridge rail, signs and pavement markings will be added. Letting is planned for April, and construction is set to begin

this summer. The cost estimate is \$33.5 million.

■ **SH 302 to FM 1216:** The super 2 configuration is also coming to this area, along with bridge rail, signs and pavement markings. The project will let in May, and construction is expected to begin in 2018. The cost estimate is \$33.5 million.

Future US 285 projects include:
■ **Reeves County:** \$15 million earmarked for work from Interstate 20 to 2 miles south of CR 113, and \$8.5 million earmarked for more passing lanes from RM 652 to CR232 — both expected to let in January 2019. In June 2021, letting expected for a \$27.8 million project that includes rehabilitation and passing lanes from 2 miles south of CR 113 to the Pecos County line.

■ **Pecos County:** A \$28 million project is planned for rehabilitation and passing lanes from the Reeves County line to 0.3 miles south of FM 1776. Letting is estimated at July 2021.

Other projects in the region include work on SH 302 and RM 652.

TxDOT encourages all people and companies who travel these roads to share their input with Bryan Lutz (bryan.lutz@txdot.gov) or Gene Powell (gene.powell@txdot.gov).

MC

From IA

administrative services, said the college wanted to "hold the line" next year on tuition and fees, something it isn't always able to do.

"Currently, we're right at the state average," Bender said. "Most schools will probably raise their tuition next year, so we hope that keeps us below the state average."

But for 2018-19, tuition will increase \$2 per semester credit hour for out-of-district students and non-resident students taking lower- and upper-division courses. Bender said MC considered the increase after comparing the college to other institutions and state averages.

The increase in tuition and fees will generate an estimated \$85,000, according to agenda documents from the board meeting.

The recommendation to the board also included continuing to waive the general use fee for all dual-credit and Early College High School students. Another request was keeping the \$74 per semester credit hour tuition rate for out-of-district and non-resident dual credit students.

Also for 2018-19, general use fees will remain at \$25 per semester credit

Tuition and fees per semester credit hour in 2018-19

Lower-division courses	
In-district	\$200
Out-of-district	\$241
Non-resident	\$183
Upper-division courses (majority of applied technology)	
In-district	\$137
Out-of-district	\$189
Non-resident	\$206

hour, and residence hall costs will not change.

But prices for meal plans are going to rise. The 19-meal-per-week plan for fall or spring will increase \$50 per semester to reach \$1,400. The 12-meal spring interim and summer plans are set to go up by \$20 and \$25 per term, respectively.

"We always anticipate an increase from our food service contractor, so we're just trying to anticipate what that cost might be," Bender said.

In terms of other revenues, the college is awaiting property values but already knew its appropriations from the

Texas Legislature would be the same as this year. For expenditures, Bender said the college wants spending to remain steady.

"Overall, we feel like we have very fair and very competitive tuition rates, and we are just trying to keep them as low as we can," Bender said.

Also at the meeting, board members:

■ approved the purchase of a \$39,044 gas kiln from Bailey Pottery Equipment Corp. for the art department.

■ received presentations about the nursing program and dual-credit academics for Midland ISD students.

FUELS

From IA

products. He said Epstein's message isn't political or "angry" but data-based and helps paint the picture of the high quality of life people enjoy because of fossil fuels.

Epstein is expected to talk for 20 to 30 minutes, and there will be an opportunity afterward for questions from the audience, Payton said.

Epstein is the second speaker hosted by Start the Conversation and others interested in cooperation between the two communities. Payton said last fall that the effort was to match the excellence achieved below ground when it comes to education, health

care, quality of life and local government. The energy industry is the bond that makes Midland and Odessa different than other two-city communities, he said previously.

In November, Eric Metaxas, author of "If You Can Keep It," kicked off the series.

Payton during the process has provided his own commentaries at the website — www.starttheconversationpb.com. He said his next post could address the call to action and what the hundreds connected with Start the Conversation want to see happen.

Ultimately, Payton expects a shared, unified vision to come forward for the next five to 20 years.

UTPB

From IA

Antonio to 5.7 percent at UT Arlington.

"We're still going to be one of the lowest-price public institutions in the state, even with the increase," said Mark McGurk, vice president of business affairs at UTPB.

The university in academic year 2016 had a lower published tuition and fee price than its peers, and its base academic cost (tuition and fees for undergraduate students enrolled in 15 semester credit hours and graduate students enrolled in nine semester credit hours) for in-state undergraduate students in fall 2017 was below all other UT schools, according to the Board of Regents agenda book.

"The percentage seems higher because the base is so low," said UTPB President Sandra Woodley.

The changes this fall will raise UTPB's base academic cost for resident undergraduates by \$306 to reach \$3,922. Other costs will be as follows: \$10,147 for non-resident undergraduate students; \$2,896 for resident graduate students; and \$7,126 for non-resident graduate students.

For fall 2019, in-state undergraduate UTPB students will see a 7.9 percent increase in tuition and fees, reaching a base academic cost of \$4,233. That change will bring the cost slightly higher than UT Rio Grande Valley, which made a proposal with lower percentage increases.

The Board of Regents had required all eight institutions to gather input about the impact of tuition increases from students and community members, according

to a press release. Another requirement was creating a detailed plan for using the increased revenue to support students and faculty.

The summary of the UTPB plan estimates \$4.7 million in new net revenue will be generated from the increases in fiscal year 2019 and \$3.1 million in fiscal year 2020.

UTPB outlined priorities for additional revenue that align with the institution's strategic plan: student success; student support; infrastructure and technology; and faculty recruitment, retention and excellence.

Student success, with support from 30 percent of new net revenue, includes continuing a contract to monitor analytics through the Educational Advisory Board as well as transitioning to professional advisers to impact student graduation outcomes.

"Right now, our faculty does most of the advising to the students, and it's not consistent across all disciplines," McGurk said.

The student support category mostly constitutes fees for the library, student services, athletics, campus recreation, medical services and advising. The priority related to infrastructure and technology is associated with the technology fee, which has not increased since 2015.

The remaining 34 percent of new net revenue will be allocated for faculty recruitment and retention, which includes personnel for its continued growth.

"We want to make sure our faculty are compensated appropriately for the work that they're doing," Woodley said.

Dollar increases from previous fall semester:

Resident undergraduate	2014	\$300
Fall 2015		\$311
Non-resident undergraduate	2014	\$308
Fall 2015		\$310
Resident graduate	2014	\$227
Fall 2015		\$254
Non-resident graduate	2014	\$207
Fall 2015		\$254

Source: UT System Board of Regents agenda summary

SMILES & TEETH

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TODAY IN MIDLAND

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- Things to do Storytime at the Library, 10:30 a.m. (birth-2 years), 11:30 a.m. (2-6 years), Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N. Tickets required for later sessions due to limited space.



Easton Kello, 4, builds a car March 14 at the DreamBulldGo Travel Adventure Lego exhibit at the Midland County Public Library Centennial branch. The exhibit will continue through April 21.

- Most viewed on mrt.com (local items) Prostitution operation results in 62 arrests in Midland, Odessa 87,079

fighter facing arson charges working on fire he allegedly started 3,451

residents can also expect tips on crime prevention and fire safety. The meeting will be in the school library.

2018-19 school year became available this week. Midland ISD campuses that have pre-K programs include Bonham, Burch, Burnett, Bush, DeZavala, Emerson, Fulton, Franks, Greathouse, Henderson, Houston, Jones, Lamar, Lang, Parker, Phik, Scherbauer, South, Travis and Vebrough.

Watering schedule The current outdoor watering schedule allows residents and businesses in the city of Midland to water twice per week. Even-numbered addresses may water outdoors on Saturdays and Wednesdays. Odd-numbered addresses may water outdoors on Fridays and Tuesdays.

Lottery Pick 3 morning: 4-6-6 Pick 3 day: 9-5-0 Pick 3 evening: 6-3-0 Pick 3 night: 1-6-0 Daily 4 morning: 4-3-6-6 Daily 4 day: 9-2-3-8 Daily 4 evening: 5-3-4-9 Daily 4 night: 4-3-6-2 Cash Flow: 10-17-22-31-38 Mega Millions: 14-30-51-64-70 MEG: 9 MegaMill: 3 Triple Chance: 9-9-12-23

Weather Today's temperatures High: 66 Low: 33 Normal high: 71 Normal low: 42 March 20 records High: 94, set in 2017 Low: 14, set in 1965

Today's weather AccuWeather.com Forecast for Wednesday, March 21, 2018 Conditions: Mostly sunny during the day/partly cloudy at night Winds: 10-15 mph during the day/10-20 mph (gusts as high as 25 mph) at night

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have: 5-dynamic; 4-positive; 3-average; 2-so-so; 1-difficult. Note: Bigar's Stars is based on the degree of your sun at birth. The sign name is simply a label astrologers put on a set of degrees for convenience. For best results, readers should refer to the dates following each sign.

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Another blast in Austin, but unrelated to other bombings

By Paul J. Weber and Will Weissert
Associated Press

AUSTIN — Emergency teams rushed Tuesday night to another reported explosion in Austin — this one at a Goodwill store — but police and federal authorities said the blast wasn't related to recent bombings that have killed and injured people and caused panic across Texas' capital for weeks.

Police and emergency response teams said an "incendiary device" exploded, injuring a man in his 30s. Nearby stores, shopping centers and restaurants were evacuated. But police and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives said a short time later that it was unrelated to the previous blasts.

Gary Davis, president and CEO of Goodwill Texas, stood outside a police barrier huddling with other Goodwill employees. He said the device was contained in a bag and detonated when a worker moved it.

"We put all the donations we get in a big cardboard box. He pulled something out in a bag, completely normal, and the device went off," Davis said.

He added: "In this town, if an incendiary device goes off, everybody just scatters and panics. We're all on edge."

That incident came as investigators who have pursued a suspected serial bomber terrorizing Austin for weeks uncovered what seemed like valuable new leads.

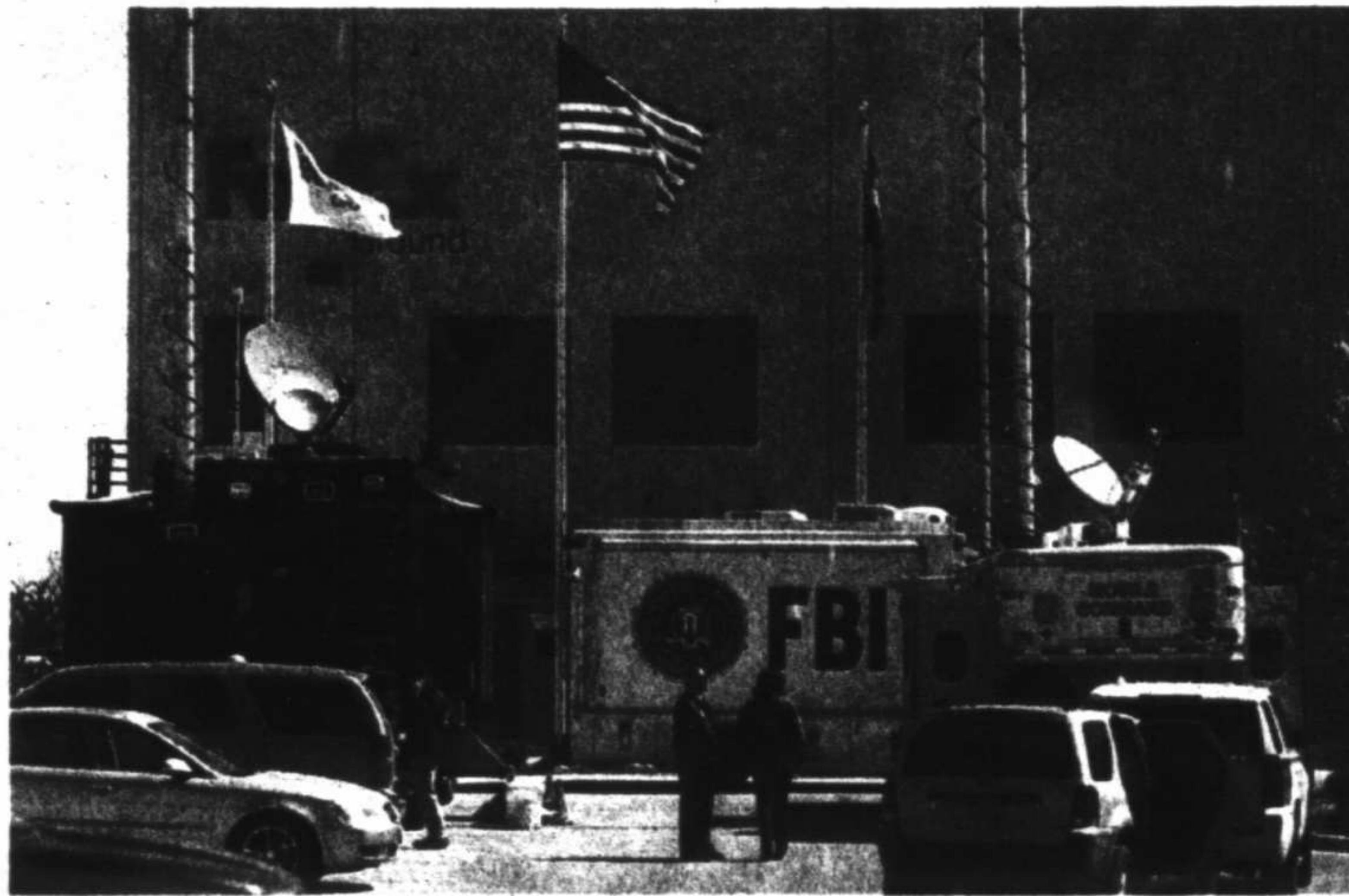
Even before the report of Tuesday night's explosion, it had already been a busy day. Before dawn, a bomb inside a package exploded around 1 a.m. as it passed along a conveyor belt at a FedEx shipping center near San Antonio, causing minor injuries to a worker. The Austin Police Department, the FBI and other federal agencies confirmed that the package center blast was related to four previous ones that killed two people and seriously injured four others.

That explosion occurred at a FedEx facility in Schertz, northeast of San Antonio and about 60 miles southwest of Austin.

Later in the morning, police sent a bomb squad to a FedEx facility outside the Austin airport to check on a suspicious package that was reported. Federal agencies and police later said that package had indeed contained an explosive that was successfully intercepted and that it, too, was tied to the other bombings.

Authorities also closed off an Austin-area FedEx store where they believe the bomb that exploded was shipped to the distribution center. They roped off a large area around the shopping center in the enclave of Sunset Valley and were collecting evidence, including surveillance camera footage.

U.S. Rep. Michael McCaul, a Republican from Austin who is



William Luther/San Antonio Express-News

Federal officials investigate the scene on Tuesday morning of a package bomb explosion at the FedEx ground shipping facility in Schertz. Officials have said the bomb appeared to be related to the four recent package explosions in Austin.

Austin bombings put chill in city known for keeping it light

AUSTIN — Suddenly, the "Keep Austin Weird" slogan doesn't feel so fun anymore. The beloved local motto — repeated with equal pride by college students, self-proclaimed slackers, 20-something tech hotshots and high-priced lobbyists — isn't supposed to apply to something as sinister as the string of deadly recent bombings.

The blasts have sent a deep chill through a hipster city known for warm weather, live music, barbecue and, above all, not taking itself too seriously.

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

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

The first three explosives were hidden in packages left on doorsteps, while a bomb that went off on Sunday used a more sophisticated trigger. Another parcel detonated Tuesday at a FedEx processing facility in Schertz, about 60 miles from Austin, near San Antonio.

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

The package shipped via FedEx came from Austin and was heading back to an Austin address, but authorities have not divulged details about where it was going.

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

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

The population has grown from less than 500,000 in 2010 to nearly 900,000 two years ago, according to census figures and city estimates. Factors in suburbs that have sprouted past Austin's northern and southern limits and the growth is even faster. The expansion has been fueled by an increasingly large Hispanic community, which has helped make Austin more diverse.

Nelson Linder, president of the Austin chapter of the NAACP, originally suggested it was no coincidence that the first two blasts hit victims with ties to people active in Austin's black community. But Sunday's explosion involved a Hispanic along a public trail that could have snared anyone. Now the entire city is watching closely.

"I got everybody's attention," Linder said. "No one is safe."

Austin is also a liberal bastion, happy to be the blue hole in the middle of the deeply conservative red drought of Texas. The county sheriff even campaigned and

won on promises not to honor all requests from federal authorities when they ask that people jailed on non-investigation charges, such as drunken driving, be held longer for possible deportation.

Last year in response, the GOP-controlled state Legislature approved one of the nation's toughest laws against so-called sanctuary cities, empowering state and local police to inquire about immigration status during routine interactions such as traffic stops. The law prompted the sheriff to change policies.

Austin's economic surge has been anchored by a thriving tech sector featuring companies like Dell, Samsung and Apple. Facebook and Google also have offices here, and there's a chance Amazon's coveted HQ2 could be coming as well.

Kan Herman, an Austin American-Statesman columnist with a widely dry wit who has lived in the city since 1979 except for five years when he worked in Washington, puzzled over the question of why.

"There's a lot of new people who come to town, and maybe they're not accepted in for some reason — although this is a fairly accepting community, even if you're from California," Herman said. "It could be someone who says, 'Austin isn't what it used to be.' Who knows? That's what's so diabolical about this."

Austin has endured dark times before. It was still a sleepy college town in August 1966, when Marine-trained sniper Charles Whitman climbed to the observation deck of a clock tower on the University of Texas campus and opened fire in an attack that introduced Americans to the idea of a mass shooting.

Still, the bombings have not scared people into staying home or disrupting daily routines. Two bombs exploded during the South by Southwest festival last week, but the blasts were far from the main attractions. A PGA golf tournament begins Wednesday on the city's western outskirts, well removed from any blast site.

Austin is also home to the UT campus, one of the nation's largest universities, with about 50,000 students. Fall football games draw 100,000 fans. But no bombs have so far been placed near the university, and they have similarly avoided the city's tech and entertainment districts.

Instead the explosions have hit random or suburban enclaves that could be neighborhoods anywhere.

Need Holmes lives in the one where Sunday's bombing happened. She said the attack left her and many others sleepily shaking their heads.

"I'm hoping someone turns the person in," Holmes said. "Or that serial bomber will find another neighborhood to put the fear of God in."

Associated Press

chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, said that investigators have obtained

surveillance videos that "could possibly" show a suspect, but are still poring through video.

"I hope his biggest mistake was going through FedEx," McCaul, who has spoken to

federal investigators and Austin police Chief Brian Manley, said of the bomber in a phone interview.

He added that the person responsible for the bombings had previously been "very sophisticated in going around surveillance cameras."

"They've got a couple of videos that could possibly be the person but they're not sure at this point," McCaul said.

Before it exploded, the package had been sent from Austin and was addressed to a home in Austin, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton said.

In a statement, FedEx officials said the same person responsible for sending the package also shipped a second parcel that has been secured and turned over to law enforcement. A company spokeswoman refused to say if that second package might have been linked to the one reported at the distribution center near the airport.

The Schertz blast came less than two days after a bombing wounded two men Sunday night in a quiet Austin neighborhood about 3 miles from the FedEx store. It was triggered by a nearby invisible tripwire, suggesting a "higher level of sophistication" than agents saw in three package bombs previously left on doorsteps, according to Fred Milnowski, the agent in charge of the Houston division of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

A criminologist at the University of Alabama said if a single perpetrator is behind the blasts, changing the means of delivery increases the bomber's chance of getting caught.

"I think it would suggest that the bomber is trying to stay unpredictable," Adam Lankford said. "But it also increases the likelihood that he would make a mistake."

Authorities have not identified the two men who were hurt Sunday, saying only that they are in their 20s and white. But William Grote told The Associated Press that his grandson was one of them and that he had what appeared to be nails embedded in his knees.

In Washington, President Donald Trump said the assailant behind the bombing is "very sick."

During an Oval Office meeting Tuesday with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the president said, "This is obviously a very sick individual or individuals," and authorities are "working to get to the bottom of it." Despite bombing tactics that have now shifted, investigators have repeated prior warnings about not touching unexpected packages and urged people to be wary of any stray object left in public. Austin police say they have now responded to more than 1,200 reports of suspicious packages in a little more than a week — without finding anything dangerous.

Teen shoots girl in Maryland school

By Matthew Barakat and Jesse J. Holland
Associated Press

GREAT MILLS, Md. — A teenager armed with a handgun shot and critically wounded a girl inside a Maryland school on Tuesday and the shooter was killed when a school resource officer confronted him moments after the gunfire erupted. A third student was in good condition after he was shot.

The shooting at Great Mills High School, a month after 17 people were killed at a Florida high school, intensified calls for Congress to act on gun violence at schools. This weekend, students across the country plan an anti-gun violence march on the nation's capital.

In Maryland, it wasn't immediately clear whether the shooter took his own life or was killed by the officer's bullet. St. Mary's County Sheriff Tim Cameron said, though the officer was credited with preventing any more loss of life.

Authorities didn't release a motive, but said they believe the girl and the shooter — 17-year-old Austin Rollins — previously had a relationship. It wasn't clear how the 14-year-old boy was wounded.

The officer, who doubles as a SWAT team member, was unharmed. Police did not identify the victims, but the family of 16-year-old Jaelynn Willey, a sophomore at Great Mills, confirmed that she had been shot.

Jaelynn is one of nine siblings, according to a statement from the family, and a member of the swim team.

"Jaelynn is an amazing young lady, whose peaceful presence and love of her fellow students and family is known throughout her Maryland-based school," the family statement said.

A fundraiser for the family on the youngering.com website had already raised more than \$25,000 by Tuesday evening.

Police officers responded swiftly to the shooting about 60 miles southeast of

Washington. "We sympathize. We empathize. We have moments of silence. But we don't have action," said the No. 2 U.S. House Democrat, Steny Hoyer, who represents the area in Congress. "Wringing our hands is not enough."

In this case, it appeared the shooter illegally possessed the gun. In Maryland, a person must be 21 to possess a handgun, unless carrying one is required for employment. It's unclear how Rollins obtained the weapon.

Attempts to reach his family were unsuccessful. One of the shooter's friends, 14-year-old Jordan Hutchinson, and his mother dropped off a condolence card at the Rollins home.

Jordan recalled meeting Austin five years ago during a snowstorm, and building snow forts together. "Austin was a nice kid. We did sleepovers all the time," he said.

The sheriff praised the school resource officer, Deputy First Class Blaine Gaskill, a six-year veteran in his first year at the high school, for containing the situation in less than a minute.

"He had to cover significant ground," Cameron said. "The premise is simple: You go to the sound of gunfire."

Students endured a lengthy lockdown, covering inside classrooms and a locker room while officers worked to make sure there were no more threats on campus.

Police eventually kicked in the locker room door, said Ziyanna Williams, a 14-year-old ninth-grader.

"They came in with guns, and they probably thought there might be another shooter, of course," she said. "About an hour or two later they came — more police came — and told us they would search us and search our bags and stuff."

Eventually, the students were escorted outside and taken to another school to be reunited with their parents.

Sen. Ben Cardin, D-Md., said at a midnight, universal background

checks and a ban on assault-style weapons are needed. He said he believes momentum is building for reform, fueled by student activism.

"I can tell you that Americans are listening to our students," he said. "I think our political system will respond."

Maryland's Senate joined the House on Monday night to ban bump stocks, which enable a semi-automatic rifle to mimic a fully automatic weapon. Teachers' union leaders issued statements Tuesday saying more policies must be changed nationwide to keep schools safe.

Republican Gov. Larry Hogan, meanwhile, accused the Democratic legislature of failing to take action on "one of the most aggressive school safety plans in the country." It commits \$125 million for capital improvements such as secure doors and windows, metal detectors and security cameras. It also includes an extra \$50 million annually to pay for school resource officers, counselors and technology.

Hogan said "it's outrageous that we haven't taken action yet," with less than three weeks left in the session.

House Speaker Michael Busch, a Democrat, said legislators have "every intention" of passing legislation to make schools safer.

Just last month, the St. Mary's County sheriff's office said it arrested two teenage boys for "threats of mass violence" and a 29-year-old man on related charges after the teens made threats about a potential school shooting at Leonardtown High School. Police said they obtained a search warrant that led to them finding semi-automatic rifles, handguns and other weapons, along with ammunition.

"This is what we prepare for and this is what we pray we will never have to do," the sheriff said Tuesday. "The notion that it can't happen here is no longer a notion."

Storms strike college, leave trail of damage across South

By Brynn Anderson and Jay Reeves
Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Ala. — With violent weather plowing through the Southeast, the kitchen windows exploded at Richard Brasher's home in eastern Alabama.

Using couch cushions for protection, Brasher hid in the bathtub with his wife, daughter and two grandchildren as the storm passed near Jacksonville State University. The roar was terrifying, Brasher said. "I thought we were gone," he said.

Officials suspected a tornado was to blame for the damage there. With electrical transformers exploding and trees crashing down all around, Brasher, 66, said it felt like wind "picked up and shook the whole house." "We were scared to death. It blew the paint off my house," he said.

The storm threatened millions of people across the Deep South, prompting tornado warnings Monday in Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia. The area around Jacksonville State University in Alabama was among the hardest hit and thousands of buildings and vehicles were battered by huge hail after the night of violent weather.

Several schools opened, schools were closed, trees and power lines were down Tuesday evening. Jacksonville State advised people to avoid standing near campus

Most students were away for spring break.

Part of the roof was ripped off the nursing school and Pete Matthews Coliseum, a 3,500-seat basketball arena. Pieces of lumber and bent metal covered the ground along with insulation that looked like yellow cotton candy.

To the west in Collins, the lots of automobile dealerships were full of cars and trucks that no longer had windows. The sheriff shared a photo of a county jail bombarded by hail but said the prisoners were fine.

Schools were closed in several counties because of damage. Alabama Power Co. said more than 9,000 homes and businesses were without electricity.

Forecasters had warned that the storms would threaten more than 29 million people, raising the risk of powerful tornadoes, damaging winds and hail the size of tennis balls.

Cities in northern Alabama reported power outages and the National Weather Service in Huntsville reported at least three confirmed tornadoes in the area.

The National Weather Service said five teams were out in Alabama assessing storm damage.

The weather service was also sending survey crews to at least two Georgia communities to investigate whether tornadoes caused widespread damage to homes there.

Wreckage of ship blown apart in WWII found, offering closure

By Becky Bohrer
Associated Press

JUNEAU, Alaska — The recent discovery of the USS Juneau in the depths of the South Pacific has provided some closure to people with connections to the ship, which was blown apart during World War II. Hundreds died, including the five Sullivan brothers from Waterloo, Iowa, whose story was chronicled in a 1944 movie.

An expedition backed by Microsoft co-founder and philanthropist Paul Allen reported finding the wreckage over the weekend.

David Reams, senior director of maritime operations for Allen, said the team's primary aim was to find the USS Lexington, which it reported finding earlier this month more than 500 miles (805 kilometers) off the eastern coast of Australia. With some extra time, Reams said the team decided to look for other "wrecks of interest" in the same general area.

The team used sonar data and a remotely operated underwater vehicle to identify and verify the wreckage.

"Well, that's gonna be the J. There's the U, N, E, here's the A. That's it. That is the Juneau," Robert Kraft, director of subsea operations for Allen, said in a video clip provided by Allen's organization.

The name across the stern and the gun configuration helped identify the ship, he said. Kraft also said the stern was next to the bow and nearly a kilometer (0.6 miles) from the ship's midsection, speaking to the level of destruction the ship endured.

This is the fifth U.S. vessel that Allen's teams have reported discovering. Data from the three most recent, which include the USS Indianapolis last summer, are particularly noteworthy because data is being gleaned from deep-water wrecks that have not been



Underwater video image courtesy of Paul Allen shows a propeller, part of wreckage from the USS Juneau, a U.S. Navy ship sunk by the Japanese torpedoes 76 years ago, found on Monday in the South Pacific. Philanthropist and Microsoft co-founder Allen has announced that wreckage of the sunken ship on which five brothers died in World War II has been discovered in the South Pacific. A spokeswoman for Allen confirms wreckage from the USS Juneau was found Saturday off the coast of the Solomon Islands.

seen before, said Paul Taylor, communication branch head for the Naval History and Heritage Command.

Wreckage of the USS Juneau — named for the city in Alaska — was found about 2.6 miles (4.2 kilometers) underwater, off the coast of the Solomon Islands, Allen's organization said.

The vessel was destroyed on Nov. 13, 1942, during intense fighting with the Japanese during the Battle of Guadalcanal. It was hit twice by torpedoes, the second of which split the ship in two. While about 115 men survived the explosion, rescue efforts did not start for several days in part because of the danger in the area, according to the Naval History and Heritage

Command. Ultimately, 683 of the ship's 697 sailors died, Taylor said. Ten survived and four had transferred to another ship to provide medical aid before the USS Juneau sank, he said.

Bob Neymeyer, a historian at the Sullivan Brothers Iowa Veterans Museum, called the discovery of the ship's wreckage "stunning news." The brothers, "blue collar kids living in a factory town of Waterloo, Iowa," had convinced the Navy to assign them to the same ship, he said. An Associated Press photographer shot photos of the brothers as they enlisted in Des Moines.

Even after so many years, and at a time when most World War II veterans have died, Neymeyer

said the Sullivan family's sacrifice stands out. He said the deaths were the largest single-family combat loss in American military history.

"We have people visit the museum and many of them want to know where the Sullivans are buried and we would tell them somewhere in the South Pacific," Neymeyer said. "Now we can tell them more specifically where the remains are after 75 years and that brings more closure than somewhere in the South Pacific."

Reams said the team does not publicly disclose exactly where they have found ships to discourage wreck hunters but for U.S. ships it does provide that information to the Naval History and Heritage

Command for its own records.

Samuel Cox, director of the Naval History and Heritage Command, said he was struck at how well preserved the three most recent ships found were.

With the USS Juneau, he said the extreme violence with which the ship met its end was obvious from the images captured, including twisted metal and guns blown from their normal position. He said discoveries like this, made by reputable organizations with no intent to disturb a site, can provide important information on the condition of a wreck site and even on what happened. It also can help provide closure for families, and it's important that the sacrifices that have been made are not forgot-

ten, he said.

Mary and Raymond Testa, who live in Texas, were excited when they heard the USS Juneau had been found.

Mary Testa had inherited letters from her mother that had been written by a sailor aboard the ship, William Meeker Jr. Meeker's mother also was Mary Testa's godmother.

The letters have since been donated to the Juneau-Douglas City Museum, in Alaska's capital city. Mary Testa said the discovery of the ship was unbelievable. Her husband said he couldn't stop talking about it.

"I contacted everybody I could possibly think of ... who has any relationship to the ship," Raymond Testa said.

The Moral Case for Fossil Fuels

An Evening with Author Alex Epstein

THE
MORAL
CASE
FOR
FOSSIL
FUELS

Some say fossil fuels are a self-destructive addiction that will destroy our planet. Yet at the same time, by every measure of human well-being, from life expectancy to clean water to climate safety, life has been getting better and better. Alex states, "Energy is our ability to improve every single aspect of life, whether economic or environmental." Join PBPA and Start the Conversation as we embrace our home and learn about why what we do here in the Permian Basin improves lives around the world!

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OPINION

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There have been necessary firings (at three weeks, the ouster of Michael Flynn was long overdue), cruel firings (Rex Tillerson, check out Twitter) and spectacularly ill-advised firings (the cashiering of James Comey that led directly to the hiring of Robert Mueller).

Now, with Trump frontally attacking the special counsel, there is speculation that the president will deliver his worst firing yet. Moving against Mueller would make the axing of Comey look like a shrewd play. It would likely fail to achieve its objectives and backfire politically, while — as far as we know at the moment — not even be necessary to trying to cover up a corrupt election bargain with the Russians.

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King Features Syndicate

charged anyone with crimes related to collusion, even figures who would presumably be central to any conspiracy, including Flynn and Paul Manafort. Absent collusion, an obstruction case is likely to be attenuated — what was Trump's corrupt motive? — and not result in his impeachment and removal or criminal charges.

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And it would make that outcome more likely. Democrats already hate and fear Trump, the factor that has been driving Democratic turnout in special elections and threatens to swamp the GOP House majority in the fall.

Shutting down a legitimately constituted investigation into his campaign and White House would make an insanely motivated (and often simply insane) opposition even more so.

If Trump doesn't like the press coverage of Mueller's investigation now, wait until he sees the press coverage of his firing and whatever comes next. Mueller would supplant Comey as the sainted martyr of the Trump era. Any litigation over his firing would get wall-to-wall coverage. And whatever Mueller has learned would certainly make it into the hands of Congress and end up plastered in the nation's newspapers.

The timing doesn't make sense, either. Having spent a year cooperating with Mueller, why fire him now, when he might not be wrapping up, but has probably already done the lion's share of his work?

Moving at this point would only be rational if Trump fears some thermonuclear revelation that wouldn't be survivable. It's

not clear what, in the current news and political environment, that would be.

Everything is so perishable, and Trump has such a strong hold on his party's base, he could presumably weather almost anything. Back in the halcyon 1990s, Bill Clinton proved how quickly people can acclimate to an unthinkable scandal and how a political party will defend almost anything if it involves the fate of an elected president.

None of this is to say that there aren't legitimate grounds for complaint about Mueller. He was supposed to be hunting down collusion with Russia and has instead been prosecuting violations of the Foreign Agents Registration Act that normally don't result in criminal charges. There are legitimate questions about how the Russian investigation began, and a second special counsel to examine the conduct of the FBI in 2016 may be in the offing (the firing of FBI official Andrew McCabe on the advice of professionals at the bureau suggests more revelations to come).

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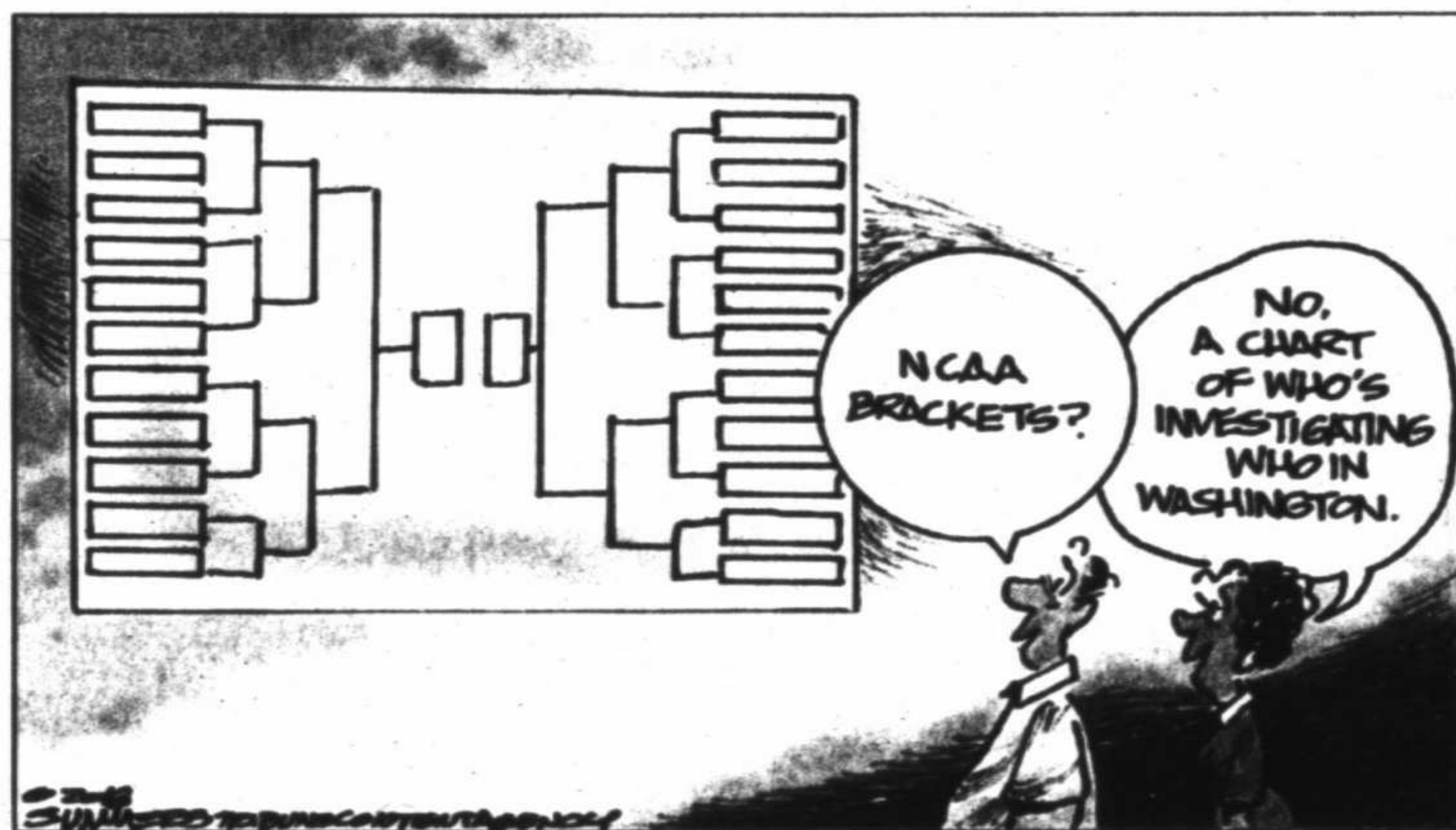
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All hail America's imperial viceroy

■ Ryan Zinke runs his department much like a 19th-century colonial governor — and not just because he showed up on horseback his first day of work

DANA MILBANK

Washington Post Writers Group

Were these normal times, we would now be saying "sayonara" to Ryan Zinke. President Trump's secretary of the interior has inspired a half-dozen ongoing investigations into his travel expenses, his blending of official business with political activities and personal pleasure, and his whimsical management of a 70,000-person, 500 million-acre agency.

And now this: Testifying before Congress last week, Zinke was questioned by Rep. Colleen Hanabusa, D-Hawaii, who mentioned that two of her grandparents were held as Japanese American internees during World War II. She asked Zinke why the administration wants to cut funds to preserve Japanese American internment sites.

Zinke smirked. "Oh, konnichiwa," he replied to Hanabusa, a fourth-generation American.

Even after he had time to reflect, Zinke was unapologetic. "How could ever saying 'Good morning' be bad?" he said over the weekend.

Actually, it's closer to "Good afternoon," but let's follow Zinke's logic on this: He'll soon be greeting a Jewish lawmaker with "Shalom," an African-American lawmaker with "Jambo," Mexican-American questioners with a spirited "Que pasa?" and Native Americans with "How." It is the benevolent ruler who greets the natives in their ancestral tongues.

That's fitting, because Zinke runs his department much like a 19th-century colonial governor or imperial viceroy — and not just because he showed up on horseback his first day of work. As The Washington Post's Lisa Rein reported, Zinke assigned a staffer to hoist a special secretarial flag whenever he enters Interior Department headquarters. He also commissioned a commemorative coin with his name on it.

The Interior Department is Zinke's plaything. He toyed with disbanding 200 federal advisory boards (most members of the national parks advisory board resigned, saying Zinke sidelined them), but he created a new one — a group of big-game trophy hunters to advise him on big-game trophies. To run the national parks, Zinke tapped an official who improperly helped Washington Redskins owner Daniel Snyder remove 130 trees to improve his estate's river views. Now Zinke's talking about \$70 entrance fees at national parks, because freeloaders — the elderly, the disabled, veterans and "fourth-graders" — pay discounted fees.

Zinke reorganized dozens of senior career employees, suspecting them of disloyalty. As The Post's Dino Grandoni and Juliet Ellipsin reported

last week, Zinke's Bureau of Land Management distributed "vision cards," featuring an image of an oil rig, to be worn by the natives — er, the employees. And Zinke's department now has political appointees screening grants, a process overseen by a kindergarten classmate and football buddy of Zinke's.

Zinke's fine tastes befit a colonial ruler. It's possible that, as his spokeswoman says, he didn't know about a decision by career staffers to spend \$138,670 to replace three sets of doors in his office. But he certainly knew of the tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars spent on private plane and helicopter rides. This included a \$12,000 private flight from Las Vegas to an airport near his home in Montana after an event he did with a political donor made him miss a commercial flight, and \$6,000 on government helicopters so Zinke could go horseback riding with Vice President Pence.

The department's inspector general is trying to sift through Zinke's expenses, which don't adequately "distinguish between personal, political and official travel," she said.

Zinke, asked about his expenses at a Senate hearing last week, replied that "I never took a private jet anywhere" — because he flew on prop planes.

At Thursday's House hearing, Rep. Nanette Barragán, D-Calif., asked why he had not replied to her letter about his expenses. Zinke, rebuking Barragán for her lack of "courtesy," replied by waving a copy of a reply that he said had been addressed to the top Democrat on the committee.

It turned out the letter was not addressed to any Democrat.

The viceroy needs't trouble himself with such details. Nor need he fret that he told lawmakers last week that "Florida did not get an exemption" from expanded offshore oil drilling — even though Zinke himself announced in January that Florida was "off the table."

Zinke has worked hard to reach such stature. Back when he was a Navy SEAL, he was found to have billed the government for personal travel to his home in Montana.

"I ended up having to repay \$211 in unauthorized expenses," he wrote in his book, "American Commander," "but the biggest penalty was being embarrassed for wrongdoing."

It would seem the viceroy is no longer vulnerable to such sentiments.

From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



OPINION

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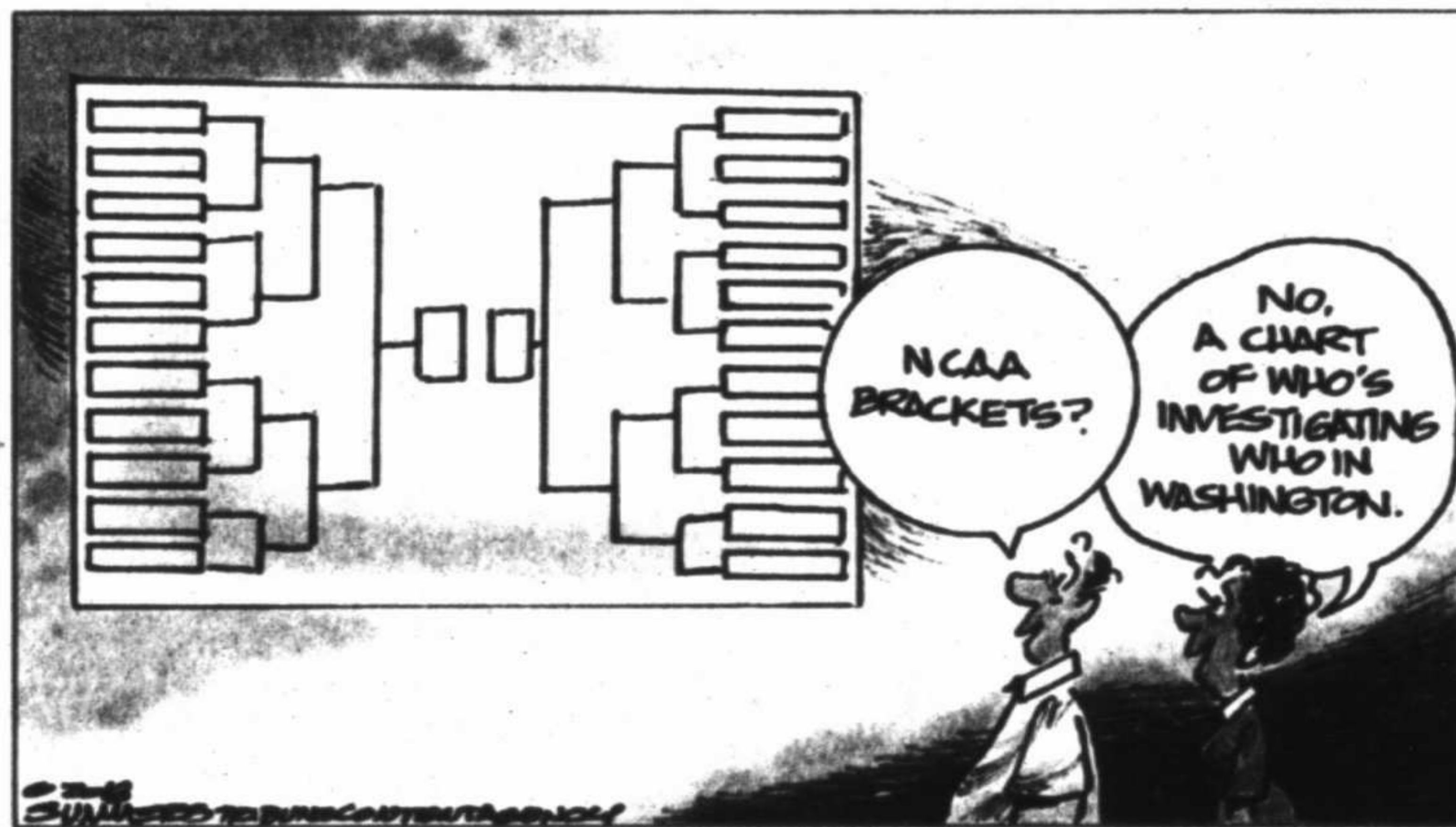
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And now this: Testifying before Congress last week, Zinke was questioned by Rep. Colleen Hanabusa, D-Hawaii, who mentioned that two of her grandparents were held as Japanese American internees during World War II. She asked Zinke why the administration wants to cut funds to preserve Japanese American internment sites.

Zinke smirked. "Oh, konnichiwa," he replied to Hanabusa, a fourth-generation American.

Even after he had time to reflect, Zinke was unapologetic. "How could ever saying 'Good morning' be bad?" he said over the weekend. Actually, it's closer to "Good afternoon," but let's follow Zinke's logic on this: He'll soon be greeting a Jewish lawmaker with "Shalom," an African-American lawmaker with "Jambo," Mexican-American questioners with a spirited "Que pasa?" and Native Americans with "How." It is the benevolent ruler who greets the natives in their ancestral tongues.

That's fitting, because Zinke runs his department much like a 19th-century colonial governor or imperial viceroy — and not just because he showed up on horseback his first day of work. As The Washington Post's Lisa Rein reported, Zinke assigned a staffer to hoist a special secretarial flag whenever he enters Interior Department headquarters. He also commissioned a commemorative coin with his name on it.

The Interior Department is Zinke's plaything. He toyed with disbanding 200 federal advisory boards (most members of the national parks advisory board resigned, saying Zinke sidelined them), but he created a new one — a group of big-game trophy hunters to advise him on big-game trophies. To run the national parks, Zinke tapped an official who improperly helped Washington Redskins owner Daniel Snyder remove 130 trees to improve his estate's river views. Now Zinke's talking about \$70 entrance fees at national parks, because freeloaders — the elderly, the disabled, veterans and "fourth-graders" — pay discounted fees.

Zinke resigned dozens of senior career employees, suspecting them of disloyalty. As The Post's Dino Grandoni and Juliet Eilperin reported

last week, Zinke's Bureau of Land Management distributed "vision cards," featuring an image of an oil rig, to be worn by the natives — er, the employees. And Zinke's department now has political appointees screening grants, a process overseen by a kindergarten classmate and football buddy of Zinke's.

Zinke's fine tastes befit a colonial ruler. It's possible that, as his spokeswoman says, he didn't know about a decision by career staffers to spend \$138,670 to replace three sets of doors in his office. But he certainly knew of the tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars spent on private plane and helicopter rides. This included a \$12,000 private flight from Las Vegas to an airport near his home in Montana after an event he did with a political donor made him miss a commercial flight, and \$6,000 on government helicopters so Zinke could go horseback riding with Vice President Pence.

The department's inspector general is trying to sift through Zinke's expenses, which don't adequately "distinguish between personal, political and official travel," she said.

Zinke, asked about his expenses at a Senate hearing last week, replied that "I never took a private jet anywhere" — because he flew on prop planes.

At Thursday's House hearing, Rep. Nanette Barragán, D-Calif., asked why he had not replied to her letter about his expenses. Zinke, rebuking Barragán for her lack of "courtesy," replied by waving a copy of a reply that he said had been addressed to the top Democrat on the committee.

It turned out the letter was not addressed to any Democrat.

The viceroy needs't trouble himself with such details. Nor need he fret that he told lawmakers last week that "Florida did not get an exemption" from expanded offshore oil drilling — even though Zinke himself announced in January that Florida was "off the table."

Zinke has worked hard to reach such stature. Back when he was a Navy SEAL, he was found to have billed the government for personal travel to his home in Montana.

"I ended up having to repay \$211 in unauthorized expenses," he wrote in his book, "American Commander," "but the biggest penalty was being embarrassed for wrongdoing."

It would seem the viceroy is no longer vulnerable to such enticements.

From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



Border wall, tunnel tussle hold up sweeping spending bill

By Andrew Taylor
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Talks over a \$1.3 trillion government spending bill dragged Tuesday as congressional negotiators found themselves tangled in side issues ahead of a Friday deadline.

If lawmakers can agree on the bill, President Donald Trump will reap a huge budget increase for the military while Democrats will cement wins on infrastructure and other domestic programs that they failed to get under President Barack Obama.

First, though, Congress needs to vote. Leaders already missed Monday's deadline to file legislation and progress slowed as negotiators struggled to resolve several sticking points.

Most battles over budget priorities in the huge bill were essentially settled, but a scaled-back plan for Trump's border wall and a fight over a tunnel under the Hudson River still held up a final agreement.

Republican leaders had been hopeful a deal could be announced Tuesday evening, allowing for votes in the House and Senate this week. If a bill — or at least a stopgap measure to keep operations running — doesn't pass Congress by midnight Friday, the government will shut down for a third time this year.

The measure on the table would provide major funding increases for the Pentagon — \$80 billion over current limits — bringing the military budget to \$700 billion and giving GOP defense hawks a long-sought victory.

"We made a promise to the country that we would rebuild our military. Aging equipment, personnel shortages, training lapses, maintenance lapses — all of this has cost us," said House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis. "With this week's critical funding bill we will begin to reverse that damage."

Domestic accounts would get a generous 10 percent increase on average as well, awarding Democrats the sort of spend-



J. Scott Applewhite/Associated Press

The Capitol is seen early on Tuesday in Washington. Two major issues, the border wall and a tunnel and rail project, are holding up the massive government-wide spending bill that must pass Congress before a midnight Friday deadline to avoid another government shutdown. An agreement could be announced as early as today.

ing increases they sought but never secured during the Obama administration.

Democrats touted billions to fight the nation's opioid addiction epidemic. More than \$2 billion would go to strengthen school safety through grants for training, security measures and treatment for the mentally ill. Medical research at the National Institutes of Health, a longstanding bipartisan priority, would receive a record \$3 billion increase to \$37 billion.

"We have worked to restore and in many cases increase investments in education, health care, opioids, NIH, child care, college affordability and other domestic and military priorities," said Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., a key negotiator of the measure.

Agencies historically unpopular with Republicans, such as the IRS, appear likely to get increases too, in part to prepare for implementation of the

Republicans' recently passed tax measure. The Environmental Protection Agency, always a GOP target, may get a reprieve this year.

Lawmakers agreed on the broad outlines of the budget plan last month, after a standoff forced an overnight shutdown. The legislation implementing that deal is viewed as possibly one of few bills moving through Congress this year, making it a target for lawmakers and lobbyists seeking to attach their top priorities.

But efforts to add on unrelated legislation to tackle politically charged issues, such as immigration and rapidly rising health insurance premiums, appeared to be faltering.

An effort to extend protections for so-called Dreamer immigrants brought to the country as children appears to have failed. Democrats seemed likely to yield on \$1.6 billion in wall funding,

as outlined in Trump's official request for the 2018 budget year, but they were digging in against Trump's plans to hire hundreds of new Border Patrol and immigration enforcement agents.

A dispute over abortion seemed likely to scuttle a Senate GOP plan to provide billions in federal subsidies to insurers to help curb health insurance premium increases.

Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., was working on Trump's behalf against funding for a Hudson River tunnel and rail project that's important to Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and Republicans from New York and New Jersey.

The bill would add \$143 billion over limits set under a 2011 budget and debt pact that forced automatic budget cuts on annual agency appropriations. Coupled with last year's tax cuts, it heralds the return of trillion-dollar budget deficits as soon as the

budget year starting in October. Republican conservatives are dismayed by the free-spending measure, meaning Democratic votes are required to pass it. That gave Democrats leverage to force GOP negotiators to drop numerous policy riders that Democrats considered poison pills.

Ryan said negotiations are ongoing about adding a widely backed measure that aims to strengthen federal background checks by prodding states to provide all records that disqualify people with severe mental health problems and other issues from buying firearms.

Republicans continued to press to fix a glitch in the recent tax bill that subsidizes grain sales to cooperatives at the expense of for-profit grain companies, lawmakers said.

"We need to fix that problem," said House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif. Schumer was demanding a provision of his own, tax subsidies to construct low-income housing, in exchange, lawmakers said.

The president, meanwhile, has privately threatened to veto the whole package if a \$900 million payment is made on the Hudson River Gateway Project, a priority for Schumer. Trump's opposition is alarming Northeastern Republicans such as Rep. Peter King of New York, who lobbied Trump on the project at a St. Patrick's luncheon in the Capitol last week.

The Gateway Project would add an \$11 billion rail tunnel under the Hudson River to complement deteriorating, century-old tunnels that are at risk of closing in a few years. The project enjoys bipartisan support among key Appropriations panel negotiators on the omnibus measure who want to get the expensive project on track while their coffers are flush with money.

"I think we ought to get it done and it has good bipartisan support," Schumer said. "I'm not going to get into a back and forth with the president. This is a needed project, and I hope Congress rises to the occasion."

First lady vows to fight cyberbullying despite critics

By Darlene Superville
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Melania Trump pushed back against critics Tuesday, declaring her commitment to combating cyberbullying despite the hits she has endured for taking on the issue while her husband routinely goes on Twitter to berate foes and call them names.

"I am well aware that people are skeptical of me discussing this topic," the first lady said. "I have been criticized for my commitment to tackling this issue, and I know that will continue. But it will not stop me from doing what I know is right. I am here with one goal: helping children and our next generation."

Mrs. Trump commented as she convened executives from major online and social media companies at the White House to discuss cyberbullying and internet safety. The meeting came more than a year after she announced that cyberbullying would be her cause if Trump were elected president.

The choice was immediately assailed. On Tuesday, a defiant sounding Mrs. Trump said she's not backing down.

The first lady said she gets many letters from children who have been bullied or who feel threatened on social media. She told the executives "I believe together we can make a real difference in encouraging positive behaviors on social media."

Amazon, Snap, Facebook, Google, Twitter and Microsoft sent representatives, as did the Internet Association and the Family Online Safety Institute.

"She really wanted to know how we can best educate parents so that they can use the tools that companies provide to keep kids safe online," said Stephen Balkam, CEO of the Family Online Safety Institute, told The Associated Press following the hour-long meeting.

"She is most concerned about anonymity online and thinks that it's a contributor to the ways in which people behave," Michael Beckerman,

president and CEO of the Internet Association, said in a written statement that the meeting gave the industry a chance to highlight investments in policies, controls, resources and programs "that help promote a positive and safe online experience for people of all ages."

"Internet companies take this responsibility seriously and care deeply about the safety and well-being of their youngest user," Beckerman said.

The first lady said afterward that parents must find ways to help children become "responsible digital citizens." Her son, Barron, turned 12 Tuesday, putting him one year closer to the age of eligibility to join Facebook and other social media sites.

"We have a real opportunity to teach positive online behaviors, but that also means addressing issues offline such as kindness, empathy, and respect," Mrs. Trump said in the written statement. "I am grateful to the technology experts for their collaboration and willingness to come together at our meeting today. I look forward to continuing our focus on educating children on the power of positivity."

Balkam said he had reached out to prior first ladies but Mrs. Trump "stepped up" and "decided this is her cause."

"The first lady addressed the issue that was on everyone's mind, which is the president's own social media use," he said. "She addressed it and said 'I'm going to do this anyway.' There was no further discussion, he said.

The president's penchant for online name-calling has led to calls for Twitter to terminate his account and ban him from its service.

But San Francisco-based Twitter, which has 68 million U.S. users, has declined, maintaining that the news value of Trump's tweets eclipses complaints of bullying.

During the presidential campaign, Trump often belittled his rivals, both Democratic and Republican, with name-calling: "Crooked Hillary," Clinton, "Lyn" Ted Cruz, "Little Marco" Rubio.

Last summer he went after MSNBC's "Morning Joe" host: "Crazy Joe Scarborough and dumb as a rock Mika are not bad people, but their low rated show is dominated by their NBC bosses. Too bad!"

Last week, he celebrated the firing of FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe days before his retirement was to take effect. Trump had accused McCabe of being biased against him.

"Andrew McCabe FIRED, a great day for the hard working men and women of the FBI - A great day for Democracy," the president tweeted, adding an insult for McCabe's former boss, "sanctimonious James Comey."

The major technology companies have strict policies prohibiting harassment and other bullying behavior on their services, but primarily rely on users to report and weed out abuses. They try to clearly spell out the kinds of remarks and other posts that won't be tolerated in special sections, but the efforts so far have fallen short, leading to rampant abuses that even some of the companies acknowledge have driven away or tormented portions of their audience.

Saudi crown prince soaks in Trump's praise as US tour opens

By Josh Lederman
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — At 32 years old, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman controls a vast fortune, a well-heeled military and the future of a nation in the throes of sweeping economic and social change. His ambitious bid to remake Saudi Arabia received a ringing endorsement Tuesday from President Donald Trump as the future leader opened a marathon tour of the United States.

Soaking in Trump's plaudits in the Oval Office, Prince Mohammed said little and left most of the talking to his host, who offered an optimistic forecast of lucrative U.S. arms sales to the kingdom and more Saudi investment in the United States. Thousands of American jobs will result, Trump said, even voicing approval for the crown prince's "tremendous" move last year to push aside his older cousin to become first-in-line to his father King Salman's throne.

"Your father made a very wise decision," Trump said.

Prince Mohammed is on a mission during his three-week U.S. visit to improve the perception of his nation in the eyes of Americans, who have viewed Saudi Arabia warily because of its conservative social mores, unequal treatment of women and, more recently, deadly military campaign in Yemen. Even as the crown prince joined Trump for a meeting and working lunch, Congress was discussing legislation to scale back U.S. military support for a Saudi-led coalition in Yemen, with a preliminary vote planned for Tuesday afternoon.

Trump and the crown prince looked past that and other points of friction as

they dined together in the Cabinet room, flanked by Vice President Mike Pence, Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner and a bevy of Cabinet secretaries. Instead, they focused on areas of easy agreement: Saudi investments in the U.S., American arm sales to the kingdom and sharp criticism of mutual foe Iran.

Trump sounded an ominous note as he looked ahead to a May decision about whether to stay in the Iran nuclear deal, loathed by both Trump and the Saudis.

"We'll see what happens," Trump said. "Iran has not been treating that part of the world, or the world itself, appropriately. A lot of bad things are happening in Iran."

Prince Mohammed dodged a shouted question on the Iran deal, but waxed optimistic about prospects for closer economic ties amid "new waves of opportunities in different areas."

"The opportunities are very huge," Prince Mohammed said in English.

While in Washington, the crown prince is holding separate meetings with a long roster of influential U.S. officials, including the

secretaries of defense, treasury and commerce, the CIA director and congressional leaders from both parties. Kushner and White House envoy Jared Greenblatt, who are drafting Trump's long-awaited Mideast peace plan, will also join the crown prince for dinner, the Saudi Embassy in Washington said.

For all his taboo-busting changes at home and risky moves in the Middle East, Prince Mohammed is still a mystery to the United States and much of the West. He has allowed women to drive and opened movie theaters shuttered since the 1980s, advocating a more moderate brand of Islam than that which has dominated Saudi life for the last four decades.

But he's also asserted power in the Middle East in an altogether new way for a Saudi monarch, detaining some of his country's richest and most powerful men in a stunning anti-corruption campaign that netted over \$100 billion. Critics saw it as part of an authoritarian power grab that disregarded civil law.

HENRY

Psalm 119:105

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

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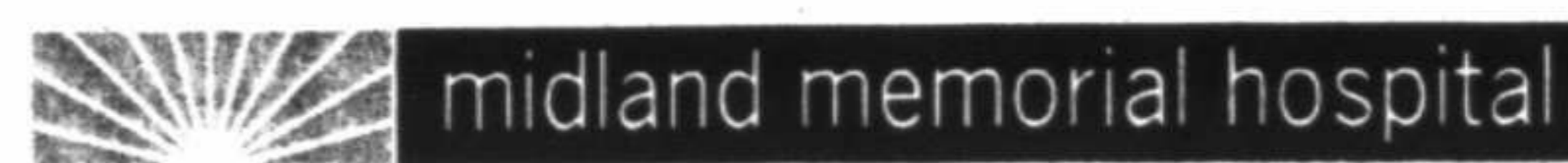
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HEALTH+ WELLNESS



Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Wednesday, March 21, 2018 | Section B

Lifestyle Medicine Center among 2017 highlights

Midland Health

In 2017, Midland Health continued to further its vision to make Midland the healthiest community in Texas by opening a new Lifestyle Medicine Center at Midland Memorial Hospital West Campus. This center offers a holistic approach to managing sickness, as well as offering preventative care. The center also offers The Ornish Program — a noninvasive and scientifically proven program shown to reverse heart disease through diet and lifestyle. We are one of only four medical facilities in Texas to offer it. Stay tuned as we continue to expand our lifestyle

COMMENTARY

medicine offerings and roll out a full corporate wellness program in 2018. Nine new providers were brought to our area including five hospitalists, an interventional cardiologist, a family medicine physician, a pediatrician and a general surgeon — a collaborative effort to further expand our network of healthcare providers. In addition, two neonatologists were brought in from Lubbock to provide 24/7 care for more premature infants who would have previously been transferred out. We also began laying the groundwork

for Midland Quality Alliance, a clinically integrated network of healthcare delivery that ties payments to quality metrics and the cost of care. Our network of providers will continue to grow, and synergy between hospital staff, primary care providers and post-acute care facilities will ensure each patient has a coordinated plan of care. This can only be made possible with the use of Beacon, our new electronic health record that will go live in June. Highlights from 2017 annual report

Financial

■ Net gain before capital contributions

was \$8.1 million

■ Contributed capital and gifts was \$2 million compared to prior year of \$5.1 million.

■ Admissions decreased from the prior year by 4.58 percent, for a total number of admissions of 11,115 compared to prior year total admissions of 11,649.

■ Net operating revenue was \$258.9 million, an increase of \$12 million from the prior year.

■ Total days cash on hand improved from the prior year by 8.3 days, for a total day's cash on hand of 56 days.

Please see HIGHLIGHTS/3B

FOUR-LEGGED THERAPY



Rebecca Haberman with Daxler, from left, Leanne Howell, founder of Hospice Hounds — who will help restart the program — and Heather Faris with Max, will be part of the Hospice Hounds therapy dogs program.

Hospice Hounds program seeks volunteers

By Simone Jasper
sjasper@mrt.com

When she brings her dog around others, Rebecca Haberman notices the joy the animal brings to them. She is helping to reboot a program that allows trained dogs and their owners to visit Hospice patients at local residences, nursing homes and other facilities.

"We went from there being a lack of interest — because people didn't know about the program — to revitalizing the program because there is interest and there's definitely a need," said

Haberman, community outreach liaison at Hospice of Midland.

Haberman is doing more than just spreading the word about the program, called Hospice Hounds. She and Heather Faris, volunteer coordinator for the nonprofit, plan to certify their own pets as therapy dogs.

"Who doesn't want to take their dog to work every day, in a sense?" Faris said. "That's what our Hospice Hounds volunteers get to do, and they get to make someone else's day brighter."

For the program, participants and their dogs will go through Therapy

Dogs International (TDI) certification. To join TDI, dogs must be a minimum of 1 year old and have sound temperament, according to the website for the New Jersey-based organization.

Mary Jankowski offers a class that prepares pet owners and their dogs to pass the TDI evaluation. Testing includes an assessment of the animal's behavior near people using wheelchairs, crutches or other service equipment, according to the TDI website.

"We train for the protection of the

Please see HOUNDS/3B

CHRIS
TOMLINSON

Houston Chronicle

Health care could use a dose of technology

AUSTIN — Most of us don't want a robot for a doctor, but everyone should want our human doctor to have a robotic assistant.

Researchers release more than 10,000 medical studies a year, but doctors take a decade to adopt many of these newly developed best practices because they don't have time to keep up, studies show.

The internet, electronic health records and artificial intelligence can help doctors make correct diagnoses and make better decisions. And that is just one way that technology can make health care more efficient, more accurate and less costly.

"We're probably 25 years behind everyone else in how we're leveraging tech," said Dr. Andrew Pendley, director of the emergency medicine department at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta. He and dozens of other health care professionals spoke at the South by Southwest Interactive Conference in Austin last week.

For years now, I've listened to doctors, mostly older people, complain about laws requiring them to keep electronic health records. And while some companies have made a hash of the new software, the potential to improve patient care is unparalleled, especially in a system as complex, and at times dehumanizing, as health care.

"I saw a lot of the inefficiencies in our own hospital, not only in the processes, but also the ineffectual communication," said Dr. Lance Watson, emergency department director at Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City, explaining why he's embraced new technology. "I think a lot of times the patient can get lost."

If employed properly, electronic

Please see TOMLINSON/3B

FDA begins push to cut cigarettes' nicotine

By Matthew Perrone
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal health officials took the first step Thursday to slash levels of addictive nicotine in cigarettes, an unprecedented move designed to help smokers quit and prevent future generations from getting hooked.

The Food and Drug Administration floated the proposal last summer, but provided new details in a government filing on the potential impact of drastically cutting

nicotine from cigarettes, by as much as 80 percent.

Currently, there are no limits on nicotine, which occurs naturally in tobacco plants. Under law, the FDA can regulate nicotine although it cannot remove it completely.

Under one scenario, the FDA estimates the U.S. smoking rate could fall to as low as 1.4 percent by 2060, down from the 15 percent of adults who smoke now. The agency also calculates that about 5 million more people would quit cigarettes within one year of implementing limits.

The greatest impact, though, would

come from preventing young people from ever becoming addicted, they said.

Limiting nicotine "could help keep future generations of kids who experiment with cigarettes from making the deadly progression from experimentation to addiction," said Mitch Zeller, the head of the FDA's tobacco center.

Key to FDA's proposal: Nicotine is highly addictive, but not deadly. Instead, it's the burning tobacco and other substances inhaled through smoking that

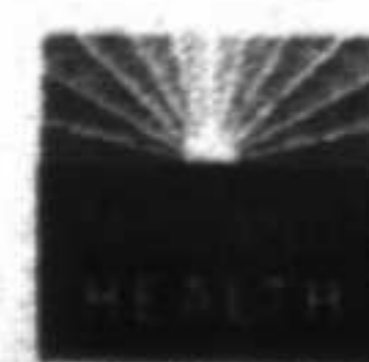
Please see NICOTINE/3B

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total joint
center



Obituaries



Christopher

James Mahaffey, Christopher James Mahaffey, 46, of Odessa, Texas, was called up to Heaven on March 17th, 2018. He unexpectedly succumbed to a severe infection of his heart after courageously fighting the past couple of weeks surrounded by his family. He was born in Lubbock, Texas on October 23, 1971 to parents Eric and Pam Mahaffey. He graduated from Permian High School in Odessa, Texas in 1990 and soon after went to work in the oil field for the Schlumberger, where he worked all over the world for 20 years. Christopher was loved by many of his co-workers and admired for his wisdom and expertise as a fire supervisor and later when he went out on his own as a consultant. Whether he was working in Texas, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Ohio, or Chad, Africa, Christopher would always cross paths with someone that knew him. Christopher was a very devoted husband, father, and grandfather.

Despite his sometimes tough exterior, deep down he was a very thoughtful, loving and caring person who never missed an opportunity to show his family and friends how much he cared for them. He would take the time to send flowers to his wife, attend sporting events for his kids, and hold his grandchildren every chance he got. Christopher was also an avid collector of an array of items including watches, coins, firearms, and subscribed to many "of the month" clubs.

Christopher is survived by his parents, Eric and Pam Mahaffey of Odessa, his mother-in-law Shirley Miller of Odessa. He is survived by his wife Stacie Mahaffey of Odessa, and children Krysta Halford and fiancé Alric Emanuel Jr. of Georgetown, Texas, Christin Mahaffey of Odessa, Joe Dale Halford III of Odessa, Tasha Ziegler of Odessa, Nick Mahaffey of Odessa, Collin Mahaffey of Odessa, Brianna Mahaffey of Odessa, Brian Mahaffey of Odessa, and grandchildren Zayven Emanuel and Mackenzie Halford. He is survived by his brother Patrick Mahaffey and wife Candy of Odessa, and sister Ashley Gahr and husband Late of Odessa. Along with many nephews, aunts, cousins and extended family.

He will always be missed but never forgotten and will continue to live in our hearts forever and bring us joy with remembrances.

Celebration of life service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, March 21st at First Baptist Church Odessa, located at 709 N. Lee Street in Odessa, Texas. Services are entrusted to Shawn Smith from First Baptist Church Odessa.

Frank W. Williams Funeral Director
6435 Chalmers Drive
Odessa, TX 79704
(432) 366-7794



Eddy Leon Houshian

Eddy Leon Houshian, 73, of Midland, passed away on Thursday, March 15, 2018, surrounded by his family.

There will be a memorial service held on Friday, March 23, 2018 at 2:30 pm at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Chapel in Midland with Rev. Robbie Boyd officiating. Eddy was born on October 9, 1944 to Faye and Leon Houshian in Bridgeport, TX. Eddy graduated from Rankin High School in 1963. He served in the United States Army from 1965-1967 where he served 19 months in Okinawa. He began his career in law enforcement in 1968 with the San Angelo Police Department as a patrolman. Later, he was hired on with the Monahans Police Department as a patrolman and was later promoted to a patrol sergeant. As Eddy acquired his experience he spread his wings and began working with the Midland Police Department in 1972 and progressed through the ranks of patrol officer, patrol sergeant, detective and detective sergeant.

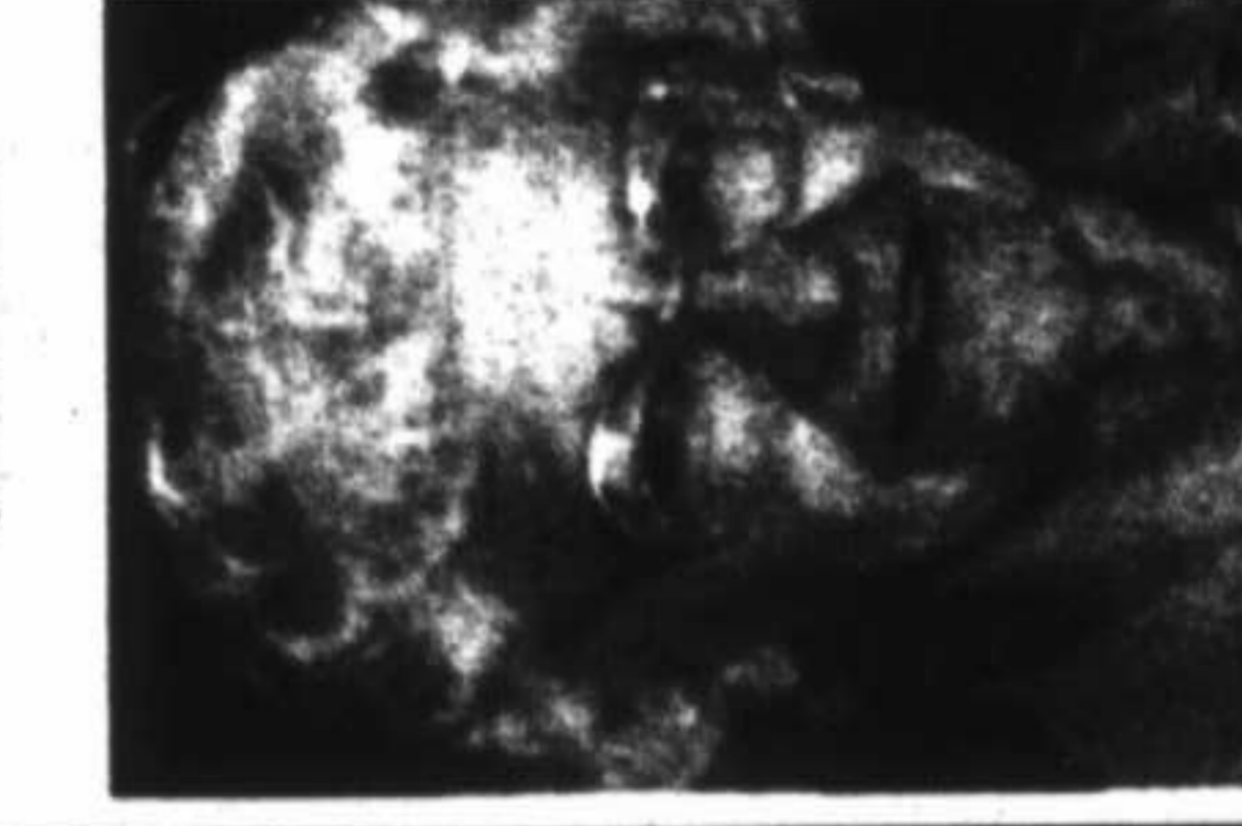
Eddy loved fishing and hunting as well as traveling. He also enjoyed reading, sitting in his office, and "what not". Most importantly, he enjoyed spending time with his family. He will be deeply missed by his friends, family and all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife of 21 years, Shirley Houshian of Midland, daughter, LaNae and husband Chad of Odessa, mother, Faye Cormier, Bridgeport, TX; sister, Debra Forrester and husband Stephen of Bridgeport, TX; children in love, Steve J Todd, Jr. and wife Shanna of Midland, Scott Todd and wife Sandi of Midland, and Sherry Wilkes and husband Rusty of Midland. Derrick Gray of Maryland, grandchildren, Hayden and Addison Todd, Savannah and Addison Todd, Matthew Wilkes, great granddaughter, Layla Todd and numerous nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his father, Leon Houshian, and brother, Gary Houshian. In lieu of flowers the family suggests memorials be donated to St. Jude Children's Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Pl, Memphis, TN 38105.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Midland made at www.upwelch.com

Nalley-Pickle & Welch
Funeral Home
& Crematory
6432 50th Street
(432) 506-5069



Marian Wilson

Our Beloved Marian Wilson, 95, beautiful, loving life ended peacefully on Friday, March 16, 2018 at Baptist Retirement Community Skilled Nursing Home in San Angelo, Texas.

She is survived by her three sons, Paul, Allen and David; one daughter, Diane; eleven grandchildren and several great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by two brothers, four sisters, one granddaughter and her husband Theodore of 52 years.

Visitation will be held at Shafter Funeral Home in San Angelo, Texas on March 21, 2018 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Funeral Services will be held at Shafter Funeral Home's Sherwood Way Chapel in San Angelo, Texas on March 22, 2018 at 10 a.m. followed by graveside services in Innes, Texas at the Resthaven Cemetery at 2 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society and/or First Baptist Church in Innes, Texas; where she had been a long-time member as well as respected Pillar of the Community and Loved by All.

Online condolences may be made at www.shafterfunerary.com.

Funeral services will be held at 1:30 PM, Thursday, March 22, 2018 at the Resthaven Cemetery in Innes, Texas. Burial will be in the Resthaven Cemetery in Innes, Texas. Visitation will be held at 4:00 PM, Thursday, March 22, 2018 at the Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel with Doug Shelby, pastor of East Side Baptist Church, officiating.



Martha Lue Harvey

Martha Lue Harvey, 79 of Midland, passed away on March 18, 2018. Martha was born in Pampa, Texas on August 29, 1939 to Betty Buchannon and Walter Hickey. She graduated from Odessa High School in 1958 and immediately joined the Army where she served in Military Intelligence.

She married Jerry Jones, Sr. in 1958 and, together, they had Debbie Jones Thurman, Jerry Jones, Jr. and Vicki Jones Collins. She later married Jim Watts and they had David Watts. In October of 1972, she married Wayne Harvey. They remained friends and companions until his death in 2000.

Martha worked for the Postal Service for thirty nine years beginning from loading mail trucks to managing the entire CFS Unit. While she took great pride in her achievements at work, her greatest desire was for others to know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. In her forty plus years of membership at Kehew Heights, she served faithfully teaching the three year olds, fifth and sixth grade classes, pre-school choir, AWANA club, sang in the choir, and served expect nothing in return. Due to her love of music, she taught herself the accordion at the age of eleven and that love carried over to all of her children. Martha's most enduring legacy and the thing that mattered most to her is the fact all four of her children are serving in one of the respective churches in their capacity or another.

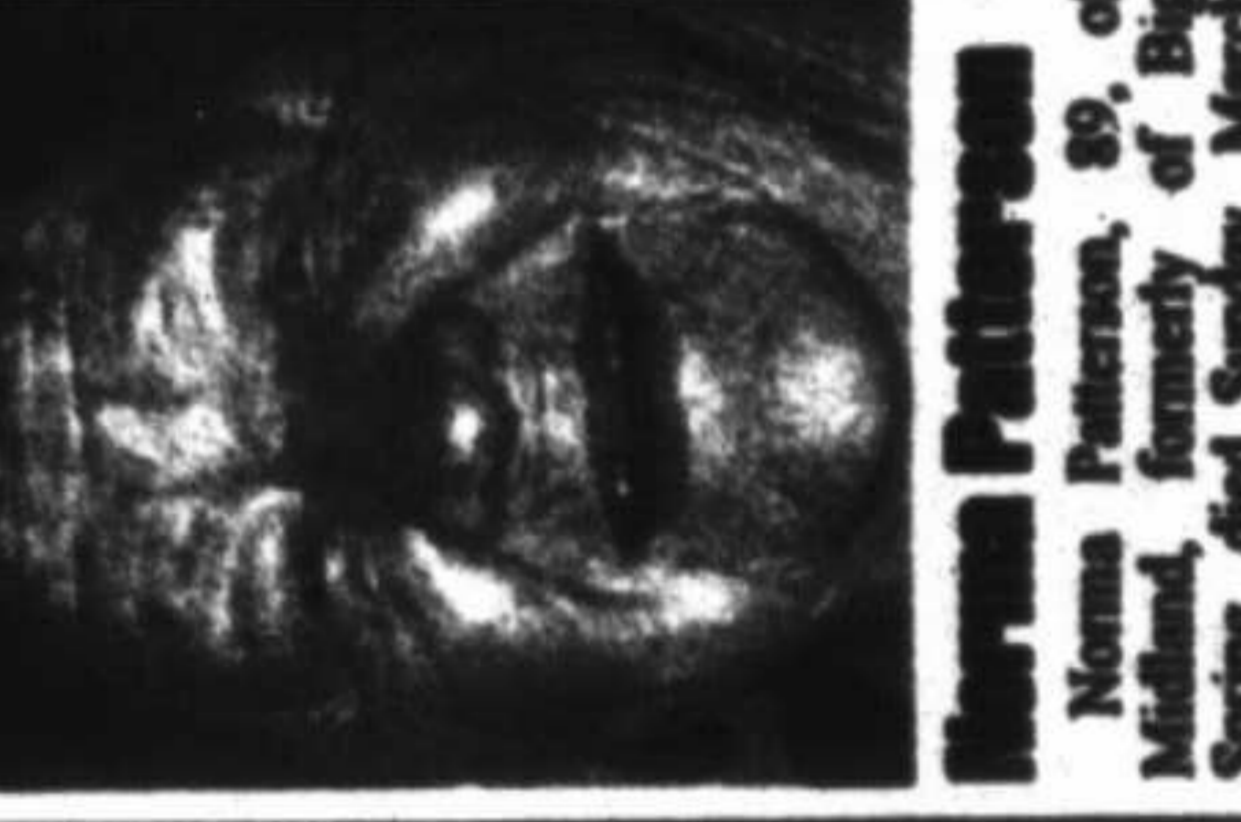
Martha is preceded in death by her mother, father, and brother, Bobbie Hickey. She is survived by her four children and their spouses as well as numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.

A visitation was held at Ellis Funeral Home on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 from 6-8 pm. A funeral service will be held at Kehew Heights Baptist Church Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at 11:30 am with Pastor Jeff Franklin officiating. Burial will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park.

The family of Martha Harvey would like to thank friends and family members for their outpouring of love and support.

Online condolences may be made at www.ellisfunerals.com.

Ellis Funeral Home
Funerals & Cremations
6432 50th Street
(432) 506-5069



Norman Patterson

Norman Patterson, 89, of Midland, formerly of Big Spring, died Sunday, March 18, 2018 at Midland Memorial Hospital. Graveside services will be at 4:00 PM, Thursday, March 22, 2018 at Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel with Doug Shelby, pastor of East Side Baptist Church, officiating.

Norman was born on May 22, 1928 in Pecos, Texas to Beatrice Bonnie Jones and Robert "Big" Patterson of Big Spring. He grew up in the Spring and was homebound. He enjoyed playing bridge, golfing, and watching the Dallas Cowboys.

and traveling. Norma had been living in Midland since 1975. She was a Baptist. She is survived by her husband Robert Patterson of Midland; one sister, Beverly Jones of Big Spring; one brother, Isaac (Butch) Jones and wife Peggy of Breckenridge; her sister-in-law Jane and husband Don DeBiac of Las Vegas and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sisters: Lois Ann Jones, Jacqueline "Betsy" Martin, Janell "Gay" Hart, Iris "Ira" Bauman and Ellen Jones and her brothers: Gary Jones and Walter "Auntor" Jones and one niece, Jacqueline "Christ" Durham.

The family suggests memorials to your favorite charity in lieu of flowers.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com.

than 18 stores, in one day, so he could do his shopping. On Fridays, she'd get there at 5:30am to take him to the donut shop to see his buddies. During the last two weeks of his life, she was there around the clock. She's the one who would leave at 11:30 at night to go to three 7-11's to find him a coke study, only to return home to find him asleep. She would set her alarm and wake up every two hours to turn him. She was his best friend. Her dedication and devotion to him has been a blessing to the family and one that will never be forgotten.

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

SUNSET
MEMORIAL
GARDENS & FUNERAL HOME



Stephen "Steve" Edward Spain

Stephen "Steve" Edward Spain, 64, of Midland, passed away Monday, March 5, 2018. He had been fighting severe diabetes and heart and lung disease for a long time.

A memorial service will be Saturday, March 24, 2018 at 11:00 am at St. Luke's United Methodist Church with Pastor Tom Long officiating. A reception will follow the service.

Stephen was born April 10, 1953 to Sidney J. and Elizabeth (Geer) Spain in Cisco, Texas. He attended elementary school in Marshall and secondary school in Lufkin, graduating from high school in 1971. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Texas Christian University with a major in church music with emphasis on organ. He remained an ardent supporter of the Horned Progs and led many people.

As a youth, he worked at many jobs, starting as a paper boy. He flipped hamburgers, worked at a steel mill and at a funeral home. He was a Cub Scout and a Boy Scout. He played bassoon in the school band. During college years, he played the organ at Carwell Air Force base for five religious services each weekend: 1 Catholic, 1 Jewish, and 3 Protestant.

Upon graduation, he became the organist/chairman for First Christian Church. Later he was on the music staff for Hope Lutheran Church and for Trinity Presbyterian Church, where his greatest pride was helping to design their Schatz organ. Stephen was an accomplished pianist at Midland College, was an active member of the American Guild of Organists, and worked with the Allegro choir, a semi-professional group. At the time of his death, he was the organist for St. Luke's UMC.

Social jobs included ARCO, Union Texas Petroleum, Clay/Delta National Bank, and the Jack Sherman dealership as Midland manager. He organized Midland Turnbrowed Club, planning and executing social events, trips, and races. In addition to his Minn dogs, he was devoted to his dogs through the years: Mandy, Rober and Kasha. He enjoyed sailing and playing bridge. Stephen related his life in contact with his fellow TCU organists and Professor Ernest Smith. He deeply loved his family.

Services include his parents, Sidney and Elizabeth Spain of Tyler, brother, Roger Spain of Lubbock, Texas, II; sister, Candy and husband Andy Jones of Midland; nephews, John

Johns and Daniel Johns of Mansfield. Special friends are Bert Boatie and Donna Whiles.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials to the music department of St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 3011 W. Kansas, Midland, Texas 79701 or a charity of your choice.

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

Nalley-Pickle & Welch
Funeral Home
& Crematory
6432 50th Street



Virginia Ginger White

Virginia Ginger White (Jacks) White, born on July 17, 1971 in Bossier City, La to Sue Ann Magill Jacks and Dennis Jacks, passed away at age 46 on March 9, 2018 in Dallas, TX. Virginia graduated from University of Maryland and worked in the Tech industry as a Software Developer at Midas + (Condotex). Virginia was the beloved wife of Russ.

She was preceded in death by her grandmothers, Shirley Chair Jacks and Mandell Nyobha Magill, and grandfathers, Eugene Byron Jacks and Belmont Neil (Ace) Magill. Virginia is survived by her son, Nicholas White and Dylan White; brother Daniel Jacks; sister, Cricket Jacks Hutchison; nieces, Kaylee Hutchison and Katelynn Jacks; and nephew, Michael Jacks. She had a passion for quilting, making beautiful aprons, and singing. She was a member of Texas Democrats, and the treasurer of Texas Democratic Women.

In lieu of flowers those who wish may donate in Virginia's name to <http://www.amccancer.org/donate-cancer/how-you-can-help>, PFLAG, and Planned Parenthood. Thanks to the many doctors and specialists that took great care of her, friends far and wide, and her online support network from Two Pies and the L.L.V.S. during her long, courageous fight with cancer. Although it was a struggle, she made it look easy. Nevertheless, she can pay their respects at the celebration of life service, officiated by Emily Wright-Maggon, on Saturday, March 24 from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Church, 3301 Neely, Midland, Texas, 79707.

Death Notices

Stephanie Burton

Collette Phipps

Stephanie Dorrison Collette Phipps, 50, passed away on March 19, 2018 in Midland, TX. Services for the family are pending with Avila-Stanley & Thomas Funeral Home. She is survived by her father, Michael; beloved husband, Martin Phillips; brother, Kai Kawai; sister, Kristopo Kawai; daughters, Candice Williams, Madison Krawack; son, Skyler Williams; step-son, Casey Phipps; step-daughter, Mikha Stalk; seven grandchildren. Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Avila-Stanley & Thomas Funeral Home.

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

TOMLINSON

From 1B

health records provide a top-to-bottom view of a person's health and medical history. Whenever a provider adds more information, the picture becomes complete and can more easily be shared among specialists.

When millions of these records are anonymously collated, researchers can gain insights. By applying artificial intelligence, computers can take those insights and send them back to the doctor holding the computer tablet in the exam room.

The doctor can receive a pop-up message, for example, that says in 87 percent of cases like this one, the correct diagnosis is a chemical imbalance in the blood and can be cured with a medication. Or the artificial intelligence may warn a doctor against prescribing a drug that would interact poorly with one prescribed by another doctor.

Studies show that 30 percent of health care costs are attributable to unnecessary tests, physician error and other wasteful practices. This is not surprising, since the average doctor makes between 8,000 and 12,000 decisions a day, causing decision fatigue.

"We're probably not as good as

doctors in the 10th hour of our shift as when we started," Watson said.

Artificial intelligence, though, never gets tired.

Research is also demonstrating how virtual reality can help patients overcome pain and anxiety as well as learn new behaviors and improve their health.

Cedars-Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles has found that patients reported 25 percent less pain when they used virtual reality to escape what Dr. Brennan Spiegel calls the psycho-social jail cell of the hospital room.

"We had a control group that watched a two-dimensional video instead of an immersive virtual reality experience, and that also worked, but not as much as the virtual reality," Spiegel said. "If VR is a therapy, then we need a VR pharmacy, and that's something we're working on."

Doctors have seen the greatest benefits from VR, so far, in treating mental health issues. Companies are developing tools for autistic children to better understand their world, and there are now artificial therapists that interact with clients and encourage them to see human doctors.

Psychologists for decades have used with great success primitive

VR systems to treat phobias, such as fear of heights or flying. More realistic VR experiences are now used to treat veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, not only from combat, but also from sexual assault.

"The technology has finally caught up with the vision of applying it for clinical purposes," said Skip Rizzo, director of the Institute for Creative Technologies at the University of Southern California's Department of Psychiatry.

Doctors, administrators and insurance companies, though, remain the biggest obstacles to greater adoption, every expert agreed.

Lobbyists for doctors have tried to convince me for years to condemn electronic health record requirements, complaining that doctors have better things to do than interact with computers. What's needed, though, are tools to help doctors leverage technology more effectively.

Rather than lecture about the good old days of medical arts, we need doctors to leverage computer science to apply evidence-based treatments and double-check a doctor's work. We would not only get better outcomes, but save money, too.

MARCIA NORTON

Centers



Kids can learn to value environment by spending time outdoors

These days, it seems that children are isolated from the simple pleasures of exploring nature. They usually stay inside, connected to the phone/Wi-Fi/computer/video games and other electronic gadgets. It is time to unplug and teach your children about the wonders of nature.

The simple act of being outside can lift children's moods and can actually lessen depressive symptoms. The arrival of summer, being out of school and planning summer activities brings a time of hope, renewal and excitement. The sunshine naturally makes you want to be outside, and sunlight does have mood-lifting properties.

Please see NORTON/4B

HOUNDS

From 1B

patient but also for the protection of the dog," said Jankowski, who owns Lone Star K9 Academy in Greenwood.

Also, pet owners interested in Hospice Hounds are required to become trained Hospice of Midland offering. Faris said their service holds significance for patients and their families.

"Patient care volunteers really are just going to either give the caregiver that much-needed break or just social time," Faris said. "Some of these people don't have anybody, and getting a visitor is (exciting)."

For patients, Haberman said interacting with therapy dogs can reduce loneliness and anxiety. She said the nonprofit meets physical, emotional and spiritual needs during the final stages of their lives.

"They've been in so much pain medically, and you don't know the

hardships they've gone through..." Haberman said. "If there's just a way that we can remedy that — even by bringing a dog in to play with them for a couple of hours each day — they have that joy."

Haberman said Hospice Hounds complements another Hospice of Midland offering, Pet Peace of Mind. The program has resources to help patients take care of their pets and looks for placement opportunities if a new home is needed.

"The anxiety or stress of worrying just goes away because they know that their animal will be well-taken care of, and they can pass in peace," Faris said.

For the programs, Faris said contributions are welcome and asks that donors indicate which cause they are supporting. She said Hospice of Midland will accept pet supplies as well as gift cards so that food can be purchased to fit animals' diets.

NICOTINE

From 1B

cause cancer, heart disease and bronchitis. Smoking causes more than 480,000 deaths each year, despite decades of anti-smoking measures that have pushed the smoking rate to new lows.

The agency is first seeking comment on a number of issues, including potential unintended consequences, such as the creation of a black market for higher nicotine products.

The FDA gained authority to regulate ingredients in cigarettes and other tobacco products in 2009. But FDA's regulatory efforts have been hampered for years by legal challenges by Big Tobacco companies.

Cigarette makers generally have vowed to take part in the nicotine discussions, often emphasizing the long, complicated

nature of creating new regulations.

"Altria has already been preparing for any reasonable potential standard, and we plan to participate in every step of this process," said Altria, parent company of Marlboro-maker Philip Morris USA, in a statement.

Tobacco industry analyst Bonnie Herzog estimates it will be four to five years before the FDA puts in place any changes, due to "the sheer complexities and risks involved."

Low-nicotine cigarettes are not a new idea and several companies, including Philip Morris, experimented with selling the products in the U.S. during the 1980s and 1990s, without much success. There are several techniques for removing nicotine, including chemical extraction and cross-breeding plants.

The FDA has sponsored several recent studies

showing that when smokers switch to very low nicotine cigarettes they smoke less and are more likely to try quitting. The research is considered pivotal to establishing that smokers won't compensate by smoking more cigarettes or inhaling more deeply if nicotine levels are low enough. That was sometimes the case with "light" and "low tar" cigarettes marketed in decades past. Those products were banned as misleading.

The plan to restrict nicotine in cigarettes is part of a broader anti-smoking push outlined by FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb. For smokers who can't or won't quit, he envisions a new class of FDA-reviewed products that deliver nicotine without the toxic byproducts of burning tobacco.

While some of those products might bear similarities to electronic

cigarettes, the FDA has not granted any company permission to market its product as a "reduced-risk" alternative to cigarettes.

The FDA gained authority over e-cigarettes in 2016, but Gottlieb delayed a deadline for manufacturers to submit their products for review until 2022. He said the decision — heavily criticized by anti-smoking groups — was necessary to give both the FDA and manufacturers more time to prepare.

It remains unclear whether e-cigarettes — which heat liquid nicotine into a vapor — help smokers quit.

"The jury is still out on the value of those products as alternatives," Gottlieb said, but he added there are opportunities for other potentially lower-risk products.

HIGHLIGHTS

From 1B

(To view all audited financials, visit midland-health.org/2017financials.)

Quality

- Certified Knee and Hip Replacement Center of Excellence by DNV
- Total Joint Center Blue Distinction Center+ by Blue Cross Blue Shield
- Mission LifeLine Non STEMI Bronze Award from American Heart Association
- Silver Beacon Award of Excellence by the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses

Construction

- Completed buildout of Lifestyle Medicine Center at West Campus
- Completed upgrades to Cath Lab equipment
- Completed OR Central Core renovations
- Completed installation

of rainwater harvesting tank at the Midland Health Community Garden at West Campus

■ Completed renovations for Texas Oncology Infusion Therapy

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Why Remove Chlorine From Your Water?

According to the U.S. Council of Environmental Quality, "Cancer risk among people using chlorinated water is as much as 93% higher than among those whose water does not contain chlorine."

"Up to two-thirds of the harmful effects of chlorine are due to inhalation and skin absorption while showering." - The American Journal Of Public Health.

When chlorine is added to our water, it combines with other natural compounds to form trihalomethanes (chlorination byproducts), or THMs. These chlorine byproducts trigger the production of free radicals in the body, causing cell damage, and are highly carcinogenic. Chlorine is also suspected of contributing to hardening of the arteries, the primary cause of heart disease.

Chlorine damages your skin and hair by killing cells and attacking the cells that retain moisture. Chlorine-free showers and baths will leave your skin softer and more hydrated. Your hair will be silky smooth and hair color will last longer. Washing your clothes in chlorinated water fades colors and damages fabric... Our Whole House Filter Removes Chlorine and Other Hazardous Chemicals in Your City Water! And Helps Prevent Scaling! Call Us TODAY!

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HEALTHBRIEFS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

HealthSouth to be rebranded next month

HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Midland/Odessa is planning an open house on April 3 to unveil the facility's new name and rebranding initiative.

The inpatient rehabilitation hospital will be known as Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Midland/Odessa, effective April 1, according to a press release. The open house is set for 4-6 p.m. and will include a brief presentation, refreshments, giveaways and tours of the facility's recently opened private patient room expansion.

"Our new brand reflects more than the change of our name and logo," said Chris Wortham, CEO of HealthSouth Midland-Odessa, in a statement. "It reinforces our commitment to working together to continuously improve the care we provide our patients. With a focus on clinical collaboration and strengthening relationships, we will continue to play an important role in making a difference in the lives of our patients."

All Texas locations of the Birmingham, Alabama-based HealthSouth Corp. will change to the Encompass Health name and branding on April 1.

Barbecue fundraiser to benefit MS support group

Permian Basin Multiple Sclerosis Support Group and Basin Dickson BBQ are planning a fundraiser for 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday at the parking lot of Sam's Club, 1500 Tradewinds Blvd.

Representatives from the support group will be in attendance to increase awareness of the disease, according to a press release.

For more information, contact John Floyd at 681-7648 or jfloyd@midlandtexas.gov or Richard Dickson at rdickson432@gmail.com.

Midland soon will have second community garden

Midland soon will have a second community garden. The YMCA is planning a 32-plot garden that will open this summer. For more information or to donate funds for the Midland YMCA garden, visit facebook.com/midlandymca-communitygarden, or email Elizabeth Harris at eharris@midlandymca.org.

Garden accepting plot applications

The Midland Health Community Garden at Midland Memorial Hospital West Campus is accepting applications for spring and summer. Plots are available for \$16 per season. To download an application, visit www.midlandhealth.org/garden or email midlandhealthgarden@gmail.com.

Walking club to meet, attend Stanton event

Midland AVA Walkabout Volkspart Club will meet 6 p.m. April 2 at Murray's Deli, 3211 W. Wadley Ave. The April walk is a 10K in Stanton at Old Orchard Days on April 14. The group will carpool from

JumBurrito, 4509 N. Midkiff Road, at 7:30 a.m. The walk will begin at about 8:15 a.m. at the Stripes store on Interstate 20 in Stanton. For more information, call Sammy at 432-210-9506.

Plant-based nutrition is class topic

The Lifestyle Medicine Center's next class is on plant-based nutrition. The class is set for 6 p.m. Thursday. Classes are open to the public and patients of the Lifestyle Medicine Center.

Each class is \$5. To register, go to midlandhealth.org and click on classes & events. For more information, call 221-5433.

Upcoming classes are: March 29 - Meditation and Finding Balance

Weekly support groups & hotlines

■ TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursdays, Christian Church of Midland, 2609 Neely Ave. 694-8643.

■ Overeaters Anonymous; 3 p.m. Sunday, 7 p.m. Tuesdays, St. Stephen's Catholic Church, 553-1031.

■ Survivors of sexual abuse; interactive Bible study to help deal with the consequences of sexual abuse meets Tuesdays. Child care available; House of Hope, 570-5935.

■ Peer to Peer support group for veterans, active duty, guard, reserves and their families, 6 p.m. Tuesdays, Permian Basin Community Center, 401 E. Illinois Ave., Suite 403; Wil Hoggard, 213-5342, wilham.hoggard@wtcmlm.org.

■ PDAP meetings: 7-8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays: Parents group and younger group (12-17), 1208 W. Wall St.; college group (18-26), 2503 W. Ohio Ave.; older group (27 and over), First Presbyterian Church 11:30-1:30 p.m. Wednesdays: older group, 1208 W. Wall St., includes lunch.

■ Alcoholics Anonymous — hotline 580-7868.

■ Serenity Group, 8 p.m. daily, 3101 N. "A" St., Building C; 683-3100. 710 Group, 7 a.m., noon and 8 p.m. Wednesdays, 710 Ohio Ave.; 682-8162.

■ Alpha Omega, 8 p.m. Tuesdays and 11 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays, 311 S. Pecos St.

■ 12-Step Group of Alcoholics Anonymous, 7 p.m. Tuesdays, 10 a.m. Saturdays, Christ Church Anglican, 5501 N. Midkiff Road, Bldg. A, 553-7220.

■ Al-Anon (support group for family members of alcoholics), Serenity Group 3101 N. "A" St. Bldg. C noon Monday, Wednesday and Friday; 8 p.m. Monday and Wednesday.

■ Narcotics Anonymous — hotline 582-2926.

■ Laundry Group, 8 p.m. daily and noon Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 104 N. Marshall St.

■ Xodus Group, 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays, PDAP, 1208 W. Wall St., 634-7609.

■ CODA Group, 12-step program for relationships, 7 p.m. Fridays and Sundays, Christ Church Anglican, 5501 N. Midkiff Road, Bldg. A, 599-4490.

■ La Hacienda Alumni, support group for former patients, 7 p.m. Thursdays,

Christ Church Anglican, 5501 N. Midkiff Road, Bldg. A, 553-7220.

Finding a doctor

Access to a primary care provider is one mission of Midland Health. Residents who need help finding a physician or setting up an appointment can call 221-3627 (221-DOCS).

Hope Chest

Hope Chest is a program that provides support for women during their pregnancy and after their baby is born.

Hope Chest allows mothers and mothers-to-be to earn necessities such as diapers, wipes, clothing and car seats through a point system.

Points are earned by attending prenatal appointments and childbirth classes, and once the baby is born, moms continue to earn points at pediatrician visits until the child turns 2.

The program office is at Midland Memorial Hospital West Campus. For more information or to enroll in the program, call 221-1150. To make a monetary donation or donate brand new baby items to Hope Chest, call the March of Dimes office at 416-7310.

MMH payment options

Midland Memorial Hospital recognizes that our community is facing challenging financial times. Resources are tight and families are having to make important decisions about what to spend money on now and what has to wait.

Realizing health care can be expensive and the increasing deductibles make it hard to manage, the hospital has adjusted its payment procedures. We want to make sure you receive the care you need, when you need it. To find out about the new options now offered to better accommodate your payment needs, call 221-4705.

Source: Midland Memorial Hospital

Help line for long-term or disabled care

The Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services has a toll-free number residents can call to obtain information on services for the disabled or long-term care.

For more information, call 855-937-2372.

Contact your Hospital District representative

Midland Memorial Hospital 400 Ronald Redfern Goever Parkway, Midland, Texas, 79701

Phone: 221-1111

Website: www.midland-health.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/midlandmemorialhospital

Twitter: twitter.com/midlandmemorial

Midland Memorial President Russell Meyers 221-1584

Directors — District 1: Tracie Greene, District 2: Dwan Tomlin, District 3: Larry Mercer, District 4: Corinda Hyatt, District 5: Cari Chaplin, District 6: Joe Kiowski, District 7: Jeffrey Board

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Jeff Wheeler/Minneapolis Star Tribune/TNS

Hadley Lucca, making slime with her mom, Sarah, took part in a groundbreaking study at the University of Minnesota that uses electrical currents to help children with cerebral palsy.

Study: Electrical brain stimulation could benefit children with cerebral palsy

By Chris Serres

Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

MINNEAPOLIS — Every so often, Hadley Lucca will spend hours in front of her bedroom mirror, struggling to put on earrings or pull her long, golden locks back into ponytails.

For Hadley, 11, activities that other girls her age take for granted can sometimes seem insurmountable. As an infant, she survived a stroke that resulted in hemiplegia, a type of cerebral palsy in which one side of the body is significantly weaker than the other.

"Hadley is a real trooper," said her mother, Sarah Lucca, a teacher from Elko New Market. "She wants to be independent just like the other kids, and that means not having to count on others to do things like put up her hair."

Now, neuroscientists at the University of Minnesota are experimenting with technology that could one day help Hadley achieve her dream of living independently.

In a first-of-its-kind study, researchers found that stimulating targeted areas of the brain with a mild electrical current can enhance the motor skills of children with cerebral palsy, which is the most common motor disability in childhood. The findings, published last month, mark the first time that the exploratory procedure known as "transcranial direct current stimulation" — which involves passing an electrical

current through the skull and into the brain — was found to be safe with children with cerebral palsy.

"This has the potential to transform lives," said Bernadette Gillick, principal investigator of the study and director of a pediatric research lab at the University of Minnesota Medical School.

As part of the study, researchers enrolled 20 people, 7 to 21, who had experienced a stroke around or before birth on one side of the brain, resulting in cerebral palsy and limited hand function. The children came from as far away as Florida, Montana and New York, and underwent direct stimulation sessions for 10 consecutive days, combining 20 minutes of electrical stimulation each day with hours of hand exercises.

The technology deployed is surprisingly low-tech.

Researchers attached a rubber headband with sponges and electrodes to the scalp, and then delivered mild currents powered by two 9-volt batteries. The currents were delivered to the part of the brain that controls hand movement, known as the motor cortex, in the hope that the injured neurons — cells that transmit information — would become more active and exert more control over the affected limb.

The results were overwhelmingly positive: All the children who participated showed some improvement in hand

Please see STUDY/6B

Big Boys TOYS PRESENTS

JOSH TURNER
and Special Guest Artist

Saturday, April 14, 2018

Norton

From 3B

Being out in nature helps children become more aware of their surroundings, and they can engage all their senses. Children can explore and learn about things outside. Nature can stimulate their curiosity and improve their attention span and being outside strengthens learning. Exposure to outdoor, green settings also can help reduce the symptoms of attention deficit disorders in children.

Children need to be exposed to the natural world. Parents need to teach their children how to appreciate nature. One way to help them connect with nature is to get children to help out with a garden. This way, they will get in touch with the soil, learn to care for plants and watch them grow. It is really a feeling of accomplishment for a child to pick something he/she grew from a seed.

Children also love to take outdoor field trips or have other outdoor activities with the family.

Plan trips to nearby nature spots. Sibley Nature Center and the local library usually

offer various activities for children in the summer. Children can also learn about our area by going to the Petroleum Museum. Some day trips could include the Monahan Sand Hills, the Lubbock Lake State Historical Site, Fort Concho (San Angelo), or Carlsbad Caverns (New Mexico). A picnic in the park is a fun activity; let the children plan and create the menu. Plus, when is the last time you visited Wadley Barron Park and sat down to feed the ducks?

Learn to enhance children's outdoor experiences by teaching them good observation skills. Teach children about various plants and animals; perhaps take a picture identification book with you on the day trip. Have children go on a "picture scavenger hunt" by finding particular flowers, insects, trees, lizards, or cacti and take pictures of what they find.

Finally, teach children the importance of nature conservation and how to value their environment. We want to make sure they have a good environment in which to grow up. With a little creativity and imagination, your children will learn to love nature and benefit from it.

STUDY

From 4B

function when the study period ended. Even more significant, the children showed no serious side effects either during the study or during six months of follow-up visits, which suggests that brain stimulation could be a feasible intervention for improving coordination in children with cerebral palsy, researchers said.

Neuroscientists have been experimenting with transcranial direct brain stimulation in adults for more than 20 years. A multitude of studies have suggested that delivering a low electrical current to the brain may have therapeutic benefits for treating depression, sleep disorders and even enhancing the libido. To the alarm of some in the medical community, the technology has become so popular that brain-stimulating kits are now being marketed and sold online, replete with diagrams and video tutorials.

Yet researchers had not explored the use of the technology with children, largely because of safety concerns and government regulation. Even now, the UM researchers cautioned against drawing sweeping conclusions from the study. While children who participated showed gains, the study's sample size was not large enough to produce statistically significant results, researchers said.

Gillick, the neuroscientist who led the study, said she occasionally gets phone calls and emails from parents of children with cerebral palsy who are seeking advice on how to attempt brain stimulation on their children at home. She cautions against using the devices outside of a clinical setting, noting that researchers are still not sure of the long-term effects of administering even low-level currents to a child's brain.

"This is not ready for prime time," said Gillick, who spoke recently via Skype from Auckland, New Zealand, where she

presented details of her studies. "As much as I'd like to say that we've found something that's going to help early and have durable, long-lasting effects across a person's entire life span, we don't know that yet."

Even so, Gillick's study has already garnered international attention and has fueled hope that researchers can dampen the effects of cerebral palsy by intervening earlier, while a child's motor skills are still developing. Even modest gains can have a lasting impact for someone with cerebral palsy, she said. "A 5 percent reduction in a disability can be the difference between someone being able to feed themselves and attend school and live independently," she said.

As one of the participants in the study, Hadley Lucca was asked to describe her goals and ambitions. The girl, who has muscle weakness and limited mobility in her right arm, quickly drew up a list of activities that she has long struggled to conquer on her own. Her list included tying her hair into ponytails, putting on earrings and baking cookies.

By the end of the two-week study, Hadley showed progress in all her goals, and had finally succeeded in putting on earrings without her mother's help. On a recent afternoon, Hadley gleamed with excitement as she described her accomplishment. "I kept trying it this way, and that way, until I finally got it," she said, grinning widely. Her next big goal, she said, is mastering the art of making ponytails.

Looking out further, Hadley said she dreams of one day attending the University of Minnesota and becoming a dog trainer.

"I keep telling Hadley there is nothing she can't do," her mother said. "There are only those things that she can't do — yet."

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

Researchers: Sitting in plane window seat could reduce risk of getting sick

By Mike Stobbe
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Worried about catching a cold or the flu on an airplane? Get a window seat, and don't leave it until the flight is over.

That's what some experts have been saying for years, and it's perhaps the best advice coming out of a new attempt to determine the risks of catching germs on an airplane.

It turns out there's been little research on the risks of catching a cold or flu during air travel. Some experts believed that sitting in a window seat would keep a passenger away from infectious people who may be on the aisle or moving around.

The new study, published Monday, came to the same conclusion.

For somebody who doesn't want to get sick, "get in that window seat and don't move," said the study's lead researcher, Vicki Stover Hertzberg of Emory University in Atlanta.

The study was ambitious: Squads of researchers jetted around the U.S. to test cabin surfaces and air for viruses and to observe how people came into contact with each other.

But it also had shortcomings. In a total of 10 flights, they observed only one person coughing. And though the experiment was done during a flu season five years ago, they didn't find even one of 18 cold and flu viruses they tested for.

It's possible that the researchers were unlucky, in that they were on

planes that happened to not have sick people on them, Hertzberg said.

The new study was initiated and funded by Boeing Co. The Chicago-based jet manufacturer also recruited one of the researchers, Georgia Tech's Howard Weiss, and had input in the writing of the results. "But there was no particular pressure to change stuff or orient it one way or the other," Hertzberg said.

The article was released by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The researchers did some mathematical modeling and computer simulations to determine how likely people were to come close to a hypothetical infectious passenger sitting in an aisle seat on the 14th row of a single-aisle airplane. They concluded that on average, only one person on a flight of about 150 passengers would be infected.

Researchers who were not involved said it would be difficult to use the relatively small study to make any general conclusions about the risks of an airline passenger getting a cold or flu, let alone other diseases like measles or tuberculosis.

But it's a novel study about a subject that hasn't been well-researched, they said. Studies have looked at how respiratory viruses spread in labs and in homes, but "this is the first time I've seen it done for airplanes," said Seema Lakdawala, a University of Pittsburgh biologist who studies how flu spreads.

She and others not involved in

the research were intrigued by the study's findings about how people moved about the cabin and came in contact with each other.

It found:
■ About 38 percent of passengers never left their seat, 38 percent left once, 13 percent left twice, and 11 percent left more than twice.

■ Not surprisingly, a lot of the people getting up had an aisle seat. About 80 percent of people sitting on the aisle moved at least once during their flights, compared with 62 percent in middle seats and 43 percent in window seats.

■ The 11 people sitting closest to a person with a cold or flu are at the highest risk. That included two people sitting to their left, the two to their right, and people in the row immediately in front of them and those in the row behind.

A lot of frequent fliers will be interested in the study's results, said Edward Pizzarello, an investor in a Washington-area venture-capital firm who also writes a travel blog.

"It's absolutely a fear I hear from people all the time. They just believe that they're going to get sick from going on an airplane, or they get sick from being on an airplane," he said.

Pizzarello said he's an aisle person, because he doesn't want to feel trapped in the window seat if he needs to get up.

He said that from now on he may sit by the window if a sick person sits next to him.

Husband donates kidney to wife on 23rd anniversary

By Howard Cohen
Miami Herald

The suggested wedding gift for a 23rd anniversary is a silver plate.

For Monica Calle, her husband, Cesar, had something a bit more personal in mind for their 23rd wedding anniversary: his kidney.

The five-hour, life-saving donation happened Feb. 19 at Memorial Regional Hospital in Hollywood, Florida. This was the first kidney transplant at the affiliated and new Memorial Transplant Institute, according to

the hospital. In September, the Memorial Transplant Institute received federal approval from United Network for Organ Sharing to open its adult and pediatric kidney transplant program at Memorial Regional Hospital and Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital in Hollywood.

The institute also received approval to establish a living donor kidney recovery component.

"You guys got us back into shape, you got us strong ready to tackle the next adventure of our lives," Monica, who works at

the hospital in scheduling patients' surgeries, told the surgical team in a video posted on the Memorial Healthcare System's Facebook page.

In the hospital's release, surgeon Dr. Juan Arenas, chief of the Transplant Institute said: "We are so glad we finally accomplished what we set out to do. It was a long road to get here, but we had an incredible match, an incredible choice of patient and donor recipient and everything went as planned."

Before the operation, Monica, 39, was on nightly dialysis for three years due

to polycystic kidney disease, a genetic disorder she said came from her mother. She was diagnosed 10 years ago, The Sun-Sentinel reported.

"This is an amazing, amazing gift. God put this man into my life for a reason," she said of her husband Cesar, 52, who is a computer network technician.

"He really did. Twenty-three years ago he came into my life for a reason," she said in the release. "He knew what he was doing, and he saved my life."

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

I wouldn't consider going out of town because we have the best healthcare in Midland. It's just the greatest there is, in my opinion.

Nancy Terry

Nancy Terry could not enjoy seeing her great-grandchildren participate in sports because she could not walk up to sit in the bleachers. That all changed after getting a knee replacement procedure at the **Total Joint Center**. Nancy enjoyed a shorter recovery time and the expert care of the doctors and staff while staying close to home with the support of friends and family. Thanks to the **Total Joint Center**, Nancy got her quality of life back and for the first time, she was able to climb the bleachers to see her great-grandchildren receive their basketball trophies.

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SPORTS

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

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Wednesday, March 21, 2018 | Section C

OHS earns victory over Bulldogs, takes 3rd seed

By Oscar LeRoy
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Nothing was guaranteed for the Odessa High boys soccer team when they came to Grande Communications Stadium to play Midland High in the regular season finale on Tuesday night.

Considering that the Bronchos hadn't clinched a playoff spot, they couldn't take for granted a Bulldog team that was still fighting to possibly improve its playoff seeding.

That's why when OHS captured a 2-0 victory over MHS, Bronchos head coach Eliseo Ortiz was doused with ice water on a not-so warm March night.

With the victory, OHS (13-11-1, 5-0-3-2, 17 points in district) not only clinched a playoff spot but will be the No. 3 seed in the playoffs thanks to having the tiebreakers.

"We had a rough four, five games in district but we found a way to win games against Tascosa and Permian, so I think we had a little bit of confidence coming in the game," Ortiz said. "We wanted to beat Midland High. We had not beaten them in regulation, I don't think, in four years. It was a big win for us. The boys wanted it. Playoffs wasn't a for-sure thing and we wanted to take care of that. I'm happy with the boys. This is the third year of making the playoffs and they did it with a very young team."

MHS (10-8-2, 4-3-2-1, 17 points) will be the No. 4 seed and will face either El Paso Socorro or El Paso Eastwood in the tiebreakers.

Please see BOYS/2C



Bates

MHS outlasts OHS in PKs, wins roller coaster match

By Oscar LeRoy
oleroy@mrt.com

The Midland High girls soccer team went through a gamut of emotions during its regular season finale against Odessa High at Grande Communication Stadium on Tuesday.

MHS experienced the high of being ahead late in the match, the frustration of having OHS get a penalty kick goal with 5:39 left in the game to tie it at 2-all, and the Lady Bulldogs experienced the satisfaction of getting a 4-3 penalty kick win in District 2-6A action.

But the Lady Bulldogs (14-4-3, 7-0-3-0, 20 points in district) knew it could have been so much more as the PK win only

garnered them two points, leaving them one point back of second place OHS (16-7-0, 6-1-2-1, 21 points).

"Obviously this was a huge game for us. Going into the playoffs, we knew we had to fight in order to get the outcome we wanted," said MHS senior Kylie VonHolle, who scored her 31st goal of the season in the 58th minute. "I'm so proud of these girls and how hard they fought. Unfortunately, it wasn't exactly the outcome we wanted but it's what happens and we have to go forward."

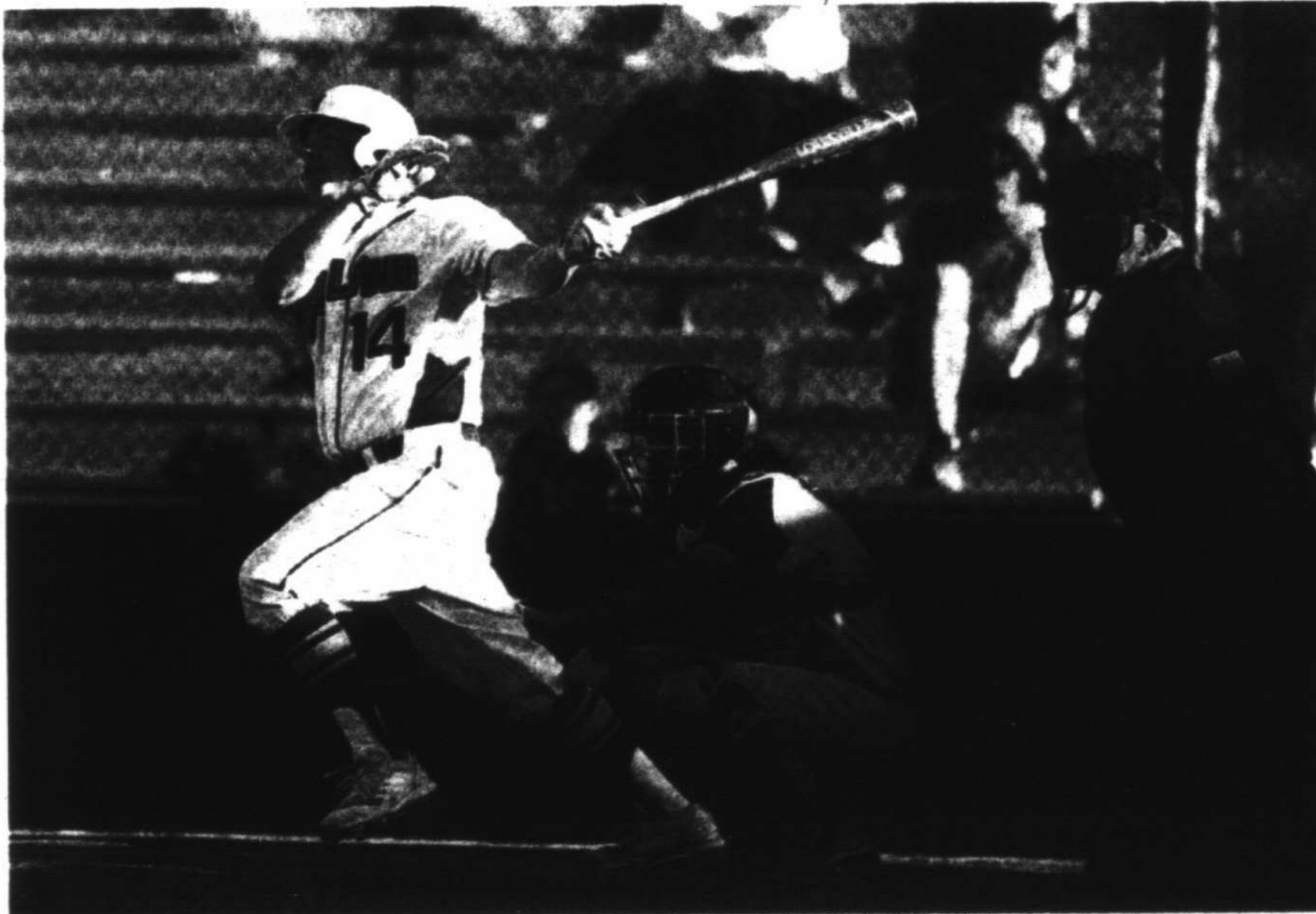
MHS coach Cooper Barham agreed that his team could have come away with so much more but added that this was the first time his team had played a match this

Please see GIRLS/2C



Barham

NEW DAY, NEW GAME



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Midland High's Smith Eesman (14) hits against Amarillo Tascosa on Tuesday at Zachary Field.

Bulldogs' bats come alive in win over Tascosa

By Will Korn
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On Tuesday afternoon, the Midland High baseball team happily applied one of baseball's most treasured lessons: Every day is a new day.

After managing only four hits in last Saturday's 5-1 home loss against Odessa High, the Bulldogs responded with authority and cranked out 13 hits — six for extra bases — in a convincing 8-1 victory over visiting Amarillo Tascosa in District 2-6A action at Zachary Field.

MHS leadoff hitter Cooper Jauz led the way by going 2-for-3 with a pair of triples, two RBIs, two runs and a walk, helping the Bulldogs (15-8, 2-2 in District 2-6A) to score in the each of the game's first five innings. Junior outfielder Sean Porter also provided fireworks as

he went 3-for-4 with a solo home run. Bulldogs assistant coach Danny Neighbors — filling in for head coach Barry Russell, who was absent due to family reasons — said his players didn't do anything special in Tuesday's contest. They just returned from Saturday's defeat with a positive attitude, ready to compete once more.

"It's a new day, a new game and they had a great attitude (Tuesday) with a lot of energy," Neighbors said. "They wanted to come out and play well at home and we always want to play well at home. They came out and did it and I'm extremely proud of them. We pitched it well, played good defense and knocked it around the yard pretty good."

Porter said he and his teammates were well prepared to put together a bounce back performance.

"We just stayed back (at the plate)," Porter said. "We knew who was probably going to pitch and so we just worked on that after Saturday. We wanted to come out here and get a big win, get back to .500 (in district). That was really our motivation."

After MHS starter Randall Blansett worked his way out of a two-out jam in the top of the first, the Bulldog bats came alive immediately in the home half.

Jauz led off the game with a triple and quickly scored on an RBI groundout by two-hole hitter, Ivan Dominguez. The Bulldogs added two more singles in the frame before the third out was recorded. In the second, an RBI double to center and a groundout by Jauz extended the

Please see BASEBALL/3C

Lady Rebels fall to Frenship after encouraging start

By Christopher Hadorn
chadorn@mrt.com

Inning to inning consistency is a facet that has alluded the Lee softball team thus far in District 2-6A play.

On Tuesday, the Lady Rebels played three fine innings to begin their 2-6A game against hard throwing ace Torrey Hogan and visiting Wolf-ford Frenship at Gene Smith Field.

However, the wheels came off in the fourth inning and Lee couldn't recover.

The Lady Tigers scored 12 runs between the fourth and sixth innings to roll to a 12-1 run-rule victory over the Lady Rebels in six innings.

Frenship (16-7-2, 2-1 in District 2-6A) cruised for 11 hits and four doubles in the final three innings, while taking advantage of three errors by Lee (11-12-2, 0-3).

The lopsided ending spoiled a good start by the Lady Rebels, as they took a 1-0 lead in the second stanza when Zyman Carrasco hit an opposite field double to left field, scoring Alex James, who tripled with two out. Carrasco, a left-handed pitcher, also limited Frenship to no runs and only two hits in the first three innings.

"We played well for a few innings, but in this district to win, you've got to play seven complete innings and that's what they did," Lee head coach Mandy Davis said of the Lady Tigers. "They played six complete innings and they never shut down."

The one run in the second inning was Hogan's lone blemish, as the Frenship pitcher tossed a three-hitter.

Hogan struck out four and issued three walks. Hogan, a sophomore who was the 2017 District 2-6A Newcomer of the Year, peppered the strike zone as she fired 56 of her 82 pitches for strikes.

"When her ball is moving, she can



Carrasco

Please see SOFTBALL/3C

Oklahoma's Trae Young leaving for NBA after freshman season

Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — Oklahoma star Trae Young is leaving for the NBA after a standout freshman season that ended with him leading the nation in scoring and assists.

The 6-foot-2 guard averaged 27.4 points and 8.7 assists this season, and many projections have him going early in the first round of the June 21 draft. He announced the move on Twitter and posted the reasons for his decision on ESPN early Tuesday, saying he was ready to put in the work needed to play in the NBA.

"I know there will be doubts again as I prepare for the draft. I don't pretend to be ready to play in the NBA today, but I am determined to do what I've always done: invest in the work to prepare for the league and the incredible challenges it presents,"

he wrote.

Young grabbed headlines early in the season when he scored 43 points against Oregon on Nov. 26 and less than a month later tied the NCAA record with 22 assists against Northwestern State. He later scored at least 40 points three times in a six-game span. Along the way, a who's who of NBA stars, including LeBron James, Stephen Curry and Chris Paul, became fans.

Young had a flair for the dramatic, too. He scored 22 of his 27 points in the second half in a 75-65 win over Texas Tech on Jan. 9. He had 24 points in the second half against TCU and five more in overtime in a 43-point outburst that helped Oklahoma beat TCU 102-97 on Jan. 13. He had 18 of his 26 after the break in an 85-80 win over Kansas. He scored 31 of his 44 points in the second half to help the Sooners

top Baylor 98-96.

Young made his first major adjustment after a loss to Oklahoma State, when he scored 48 points on 14-for-39 shooting in a loss. He listened to Oklahoma coach Lon Kruger, who wanted him to stay aggressive but be smarter. The next game, he took only nine shots in that win over Kansas. "We're extremely pleased for Trae," Kruger said. "We've very excited for him going forward and the next chapter in his basketball career. We expect it to all work out for him in a fantastic way."

Young is the first major-conference player in NCAA Division I to total 900 points and 250 assists in the same season, finishing with 876 points and 279 assists. His points are the fourth-most in a single season by a Sooner, trail-

Please see YOUNG/4C



Keith Brofski/Associated Press

Oklahoma's Trae Young answers questions during a news conference March 13 for an NCAA basketball first round game in Pittsburgh. Oklahoma star freshman Trae Young is leaving for the NBA after a standout season. The 6-foot-2 guard averaged 27.4 points and 8.7 assists this season, and many projections have him going early in the first round. He posted the reasons for his decision on Twitter early Tuesday, saying he was ready to put in the work needed to play in the NBA.

DAILY RUNDOWN

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

TV Wednesday, March 21 Australian Football League Richmond vs. Carlton, 3 a.m., FSP College Baseball Pitt at Penn State, 5:30 p.m., BTN College Softball Central Arkansas at Mississippi State, 6 p.m., SEC Texas State at Texas, 6 p.m., LHN Curling Women's World Championships: USA vs. China, 1 p.m., NBCSN Figure Skating Men's Short Program, 4 a.m., OLYHD Golf PGA: WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play, Day 1, 1 p.m., GOLF Major League Baseball Spring Training: Chicago Cubs at Texas, 3 p.m., FSSW Men's College Basketball NIT: Western Kentucky at Oklahoma State, 6 p.m., ESPN2 NIT: Utah at Saint Mary's, 8 p.m., ESPN National Basketball Association Toronto at Cleveland, 6 p.m., ESPN, ESPNDEP Washington at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m., ESPN, ESPNDEP, FSSW+ NBA G League Salt Lake City at Rio Grande Valley, 7 p.m., ELVN National Hockey League Boston at St. Louis, 7 p.m., NBCSN Tennis ATP/WTA: Miami Open, 10 a.m., TENNIS Women's College Basketball D2 Semifinal: Union vs. Central Missouri, 6 p.m., CBSN D2 Semifinal: Ashland vs. Indiana (PA), 8:30 p.m., CBSN RADIO National Basketball Association Washington at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m., KBYG 106.1 FM/1400 AM (Big Spring)

WHAT'S ON DECK

JC Baseball Howard College at Midland College, 6:30 p.m.

MC SOFTBALL

MC'S KISTNER HONORED BY WJCAC Midland College sophomore pitcher Cystine Kistner was named Western Junior College Athletic Conference Softball Pitcher of the Week for March 11-17. Kistner went 3-0 last week, worked 19 innings and only allowed three earned runs with

30 strikeouts and only four walks. Howard College's Addison Lewis was named WJCAC Softball Position Player of the Week after the freshman catcher/outfielder hit .571 for the week with two triples, two home runs, 10 RBI, nine runs scored and two stolen bases.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL American League CHICAGO WHITE SOX - Reassigned RHP Michael Ropicki and CF Jacob May to minor league camp. NEW YORK YANKEES - Acquired RHP Aramis Garcia as a Rule 5 Draft return from Florida and assigned him to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (A). TAMPA BAY RAYS - Sent RHP Luis Rengifo to the L.A. Angels to complete an earlier trade. NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS - Outlined RFP James Shroy to CF Jeremy Haulster to Phoenix (AFL). COLORADO ROCKIES - Outlined RHPOF Jordan Peterson to Albuquerque (PCL), reassigned RFP's Daniel Hernandez and pitcher Ropes and CF Jon Venters to minor league camp. LOS ANGELES DODGERS - Outlined RHP Dylan Bundy and LHP Aaron Louder to minor league camp. Reassigned RFP's John Pitar and Dominican Salers to minor league camp. MIAMI MILLS - Outlined CF Brandon Lee and RFP's Nick Johnson and Sandy Alton to New Orleans (PCL). NEW YORK METS - Outlined RFP's Gavin Cochrane and Luis Guillorme to minor league camp. Reassigned CF Matt Davidson, CF Juan Lagares, RFP Ty Kelly, LHP Matt Putsis and RFP Condon and RFP's Drew Smith, AJ Galin and Corey Taylor to minor league camp. PITTSBURGH PIRATES - Outlined 3B Mike Moustakas, RFP Nick Williams and CF Christopher Borch to Indianapolis (A), Reassigned CF Todd Cunningham, CF Adam Williams, RFP's Pat Ryan, Josh White and Cole White, and RFP's Ben Mottling, Corey Seiler and John Johnson to minor league camp. WASHINGTON NATIONALS - Outlined CF Victor Robles to Syracuse (A), Reassigned LHP Daniel Butler to minor league camp. FOOTBALL NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE (NFL) JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS - Released WR Allen Hurns and TE Terrance Williams. CLEVELAND BRONCOS - Signed RFP's Jarrod Ross and WR 1980s draft pick DJ Dallas for the 17th pick. PITTSBURGH STEELERS - Signed S Mingo. Signed a free-agent contract. WASHINGTON FOOTBALL - Released QB Matt Ryan. Reassigned QB Matt Ryan to O'Connell to complete a previous trade. HOCKEY NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE DALLAS STARS - Reassigned LHP Curtis McElroy to team 2 (AHL). TENNIS Associated Press: Rafael Nadal will enter the NBA draft.

NHL GLANCE

Table with NHL standings for Eastern Conference, Metropolitan Division, and Western Conference, Central Division.

MENS NIT GLANCE

Table with Mens Nit Glance for First Round, Second Round, and Championship.

MLB SPRING TRAINING GLANCE

Table with MLB Spring Training Glance for American League and National League.

Chaps finish third at Lion Invite

From staff reports

POTTSBORO — The Midland College golf team improved by 14 strokes on Tuesday to finish third at the Lion Invite at Tanglewood Resort.

The Chaparrals shot a 291 on Tuesday to finish with a 596 total in a 10-team field dominated by NCAA Division II programs.

Southeastern Oklahoma State won the team title with a 580 total, while Ranger College was second with a

592. MC sophomore Michael Salazar shot a 69 on Tuesday and finished in fourth place in the individual standings with a 143 total.

Calum Bruce, Chris Ayers and Alex Motes each finished with 151 totals and were tied for 15th. Justin Benson, playing as an MC individual finished in a tie for 18th with a 152 total along with Midland High grad and former MC golfer Lucas McCubbin, who is now playing for Texas A&M-Kommer. MC's Bailey Knorr finished with a 160 total.



Salazar

MC next plays in the Bearkat Invitational in Montgomery April 2-3.

Leon Smith of Tanglewood Tanglewood Resort, Pottsville Pa. 72, York: 6:58

Thursday final results Team standings - 1. SE Oklahoma State 287-288, 2. Ranger College 295-297-292, 3. Midland College 300-291-295, 4. Texas A&M-Kommer 300-297-297, 5. Northwestern Oklahoma State 300-294-297, 6. SE Oklahoma State 300-295-295, 7. Texas A&M-Kommer 300-295-297, 8. St. Thomas (Texas) 300-295-294, 9. Oklahoma Park 300-294-294 Individual standings - 1. Zach Jones, SE Oklahoma State, 70-69-132; 2. Blake Hartford, Texas A&M-Kommer, 69-70-132; 3. Hayden Foster, SE Oklahoma State, 69-70-142; 4. (tie) Michael Salazar, Midland, 74-69-142; 5. Hugh Post, Ranger College, 74-69-142; 6. (tie) The University of Western Texas College, 69-77-142; 7. (tie) Michael Salazar, Midland, 74-69-142; 8. Parker Palmer, Northwestern Oklahoma State, 74-74-142; 9. Michael Wappany, Western Texas College, 73-74-147; 10. Michael Salazar (MC) - Midland College 74-69-142, Alex Motes 70-70-132, Calum Bruce 77-74-151, Chris Ayers 70-70-151, Bailey Knorr 80-70-152, MC individual, Justin Benson, 77-70-152

Orioles, right-hander Alex Cobb agree to four-year deal

By Eduardo A. Encina The Baltimore Sun

SARASOTA, Fla. — With fewer than 10 days to go until Opening Day, the Orioles are nearing their biggest upgrade of the off-season: a deal with former Tampa Bay Rays right-

hander Alex Cobb, according to an industry source. The Orioles had interest in Cobb, 30, since the first weeks of the off-season, but the starting pitcher's demands never seemed to be in line with what the club was willing to give, especially in terms of the years of commitment. Still, the pairing of Cobb

and the Orioles made sense. Even with the additions of right-hander Andrew Cashner and the return of Chris Tillman a



Cobb

make-good, one-year deal, adding Cobb — with his track record of success in the American League East — always seemed to be a move that could legitimately move the Orioles from pretender to contender in a bulked-up division.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

Boys

From IC

bi-district round of the Class 6A playoffs late next week at a date and place to be determined. While it was a night of jubilation on the OHS side, the Bulldogs were left frustrated.

"It's not how we wanted to go out," MHS coach J.D. Bales said. "We started off flat with no energy. We came out with better energy in the second half but just couldn't put the last piece of the puzzle together to put one on the board. It's not a good feeling but we'll regroup, we'll recuperate and bounce back."

The Broncos took a 1-0 lead at the half thanks to a fortunate bounce off a free kick by Alon Rubio. The ball deflected off goalkeeper's Noah

2018 District 2-6A boys soccer standings

Table with 2018 District 2-6A boys soccer standings showing teams, wins, losses, and goals.

2018 District 2-6A girls soccer standings

Table with 2018 District 2-6A girls soccer standings showing teams, wins, losses, and goals.

Girls

From IC

season with something on the line. "These are the fun games to play, because in the playoffs every game is like this," he said. "It was awesome to see my girls go down 1-0 and fight back, tie it and eventually take the lead. Hats off to Odessa High. They're a very, very tough team. To be honest, it could have gone either way.

"We don't get the three points for the win, but this is the first time we've gone to penalty kicks all year, so it was good to experience that. We'll take the positives away from that."

This was an evenly-played match through the first half as each team couldn't find the back of the net thanks the play of each team's defenses and goalkeepers.

"Odessa is a very good team. In order to beat them, you have to outsmart them," VonHolle said. "In the first half, we weren't playing smart, we weren't playing together. In the

second half, we came out strong, we came out fighting, and that's how we needed to play."

OHS finally broke through early in the second half when Jamie Natividad scored off an assist by Alondra Venegas in the 48th minute.

VonHolle's goal in the 68th minute tied it at 1. Then MHS took a 2-1 lead with 18:38 remaining when Sam Hernandez scored off a corner kick by Reagan Rivas, as Hernandez fought through a crowd in front of the goal to punch it through. It stayed that way until MHS was

called for a foul on Natividad inside the box, allowing Venegas to tie the match at 2-2 when she converted on the penalty kick. That conversion by Venegas essentially denied MHS the opportunity to earn the three points it needed to overtake the Lady Broncos for the No. 2 seed.

"It was very frustrating," VonHolle said. "Unfortunately there wasn't much we could do about that one, but that adds fuel to the fire going forward. Everything happens for a reason."

In the penalty kick phase, Hannah Ware, VonHolle, Reagan Rivas and Demmi Anders converted on their attempts, while OHS got PK goals from Miranda Cardona, Venegas and Malerie Ramirez.

MHS will play the No. 2 seed out of District 1 in the bi-district round sometime late next week, as the opponent, date and place are still to be determined.

Follow Oscar on Twitter: @OLeRoy_MRT

Follow Oscar on Twitter: @OLeRoy_MRT

LEE SOCCER ROUNDUP

Boys

REBELS TOP PERMAN ODESSA — The Lee boys soccer team rallied from an early 1-0 deficit with three unanswered goals to topple Odessa Permian 3-1 in the two teams' District 2-6A finale, Tuesday at Puffin Stadium.

Fighting for its playoff life, Permian (10-12, 3-1-5-0, 11 points) took a 1-0 lead in the 25th minute on a corner kick, before Tyler Smith leveled the match in the 35th minute on an assist by Luis Arends.

The Rebels (15-7, 6-1-2-1, 21 points), who will likely be the district's second playoff seed, broke a 1-1 halftime tie when Esau Boto scored unassisted in the 62nd minute.

Sophomore Marco Jurado then tallied the match's final goal in the 68th, assisted by Johnny Thang.

Lee head coach Scott Hicks said his team played relaxed with playoff seeding on the line.

"It was awesome," Hicks said. "There was no pressure. We knew we were the second seed, third at worst and once that sunk in, they just played."

Girls

PERMAN BLANKS LEE ODESSA — The Lee girls soccer team allowed an early goal and couldn't recover in a 4-0 loss against Odessa Permian to close out the District 2-6A season, Tuesday at Puffin Stadium.

Lee ended its season at 8-12-1 overall, 0-1-0-0, 2 points in district play.

The playoff-bound Lady Panthers (15-7-1, 4-0-5-1, 13 points) took a 1-0 lead in the third minute and then added two more goals just before halftime.

Lee head coach Mark Hinesaw said the Lady Rebels, though eliminated from playoff contention, competed hard throughout the evening.

"The energy level was good," Hinesaw said. "Giving up a goal that early changed the complexion of the match. But the girls battled hard and saw some of the things we need to improve on for the future."

Advertisement for Saturday & Sunday, March 24th & 25th, 9 am - 5 pm. Guns, knives, reloading supplies, pistol grips, coins, jewelry, Army surplus & complete line of ammunition. Bought, Sold & Traded.

Advertisement for Midland Humane Coalition. 324 8:00-12:00 - Shot & Microchip Clinic at Ulmer Park Pavilion. 406 8:30-8:30 Microchip Clinics at Bear Garden's Yappy Hour. 422 2:00 - Bark in the Park at Security Bank Ballpark. 626 4th Annual Hot Dog Run 8K and 1K. TRAP NEUTER RETURN PROGRAM. THIS PROGRAM IS HELPING RESIDENTS TRAP STRAY CATS & HAVE THEM VACCINATED & ALTERED. LEARN MORE & PLEASE DONATE. MIDLANDHUMANE.ORG/NE. ENHANCED ADOPTION CENTER. Open for adoptions Mon-Sat 12-7, Sun 12-6. Adoption Fees (fully vetted & clipped): Cats \$120, Dogs \$150. 432.820.2124 ext. 7. Located within Midland's Postnet Store. AN SPONSOR BY Brown's Premium Electric Co.

NCAA MEN'S GLANCE

Associated Press

FIRST FOUR
At UD Arena
 Dayton, Ohio
 Tuesday, March 13
 Hartford 71, LIU Brooklyn 61
 St. Bonaventure 65, UCLA 58
 Wednesday, March 14
 Texas Southern 64, N.C. Central 46
 Syracuse 69, Arizona State 56

EAST REGIONAL
First Round
 Thursday, March 15
 At PPG Paints Arena
 Pittsburgh
 Villanova 67, Hartford 61
 Alabama 66, Virginia Tech 63
 At American Airlines Center
 Dallas
 Texas Tech 76, Stephen F. Austin 60
 Florida 77, St. Bonaventure 62
 Friday, March 16
 At Little Caesars Arena
 Detroit
 Purdue 74, Cal State Fullerton 48
 Butler 78, Arkansas 62
 At Wells Fargo Arena
 San Diego
 Marshall 61, Wichita State 75
 West Virginia 65, Murray State 68

Second Round
 Saturday, March 17
 At PPG Paints Arena
 Pittsburgh
 Villanova 81, Alabama 58
 At American Airlines Center
 Dallas
 Texas Tech 68, Florida 66
 Sunday, March 18
 At Little Caesars Arena
 Detroit
 Purdue 76, Butler 73
 At Wells Fargo Arena
 San Diego
 West Virginia 94, Marshall 71
 At TD Garden
 Boston
 Regional Semifinals
 Friday, March 23
 Villanova (23-4) vs. West Virginia (25-10), 6:27 p.m.
 Purdue (20-4) vs. Texas Tech (26-9), 8:57 p.m.
 Regional Championship
 Saturday, March 24
 Semifinal winners

SOUTH REGIONAL
First Round
 Thursday, March 15
 At American Airlines Center
 Dallas
 Tennessee 73, Wright State 47
 Loyola of Chicago 64, Miami 62
 At Taco Bell Arena
 Dallas, Texas
 Kentucky 78, Davidson 73
 Butler 61, Auburn 69
 Friday, March 16
 At Spectrum Center
 Charlotte, N.C.
 Kansas State 66, Creighton 59
 UMKC 74, Virginia 54
 At Bridgestone Arena
 Nashville, Tenn.
 Cincinnati 68, Georgia State 59
 Nevada 67, Texas 63
 Second Round
 Saturday, March 17
 At Taco Bell Arena
 Dallas, Texas
 Kentucky 85, Butler 75
 At American Airlines Center
 Dallas
 Loyola of Chicago 63, Tennessee 62
 Sunday, March 18
 At Spectrum Center
 Charlotte, N.C.
 Kansas State 69, UMKC 49
 At Bridgestone Arena
 Nashville, Tenn.
 Nevada 75, Cincinnati 72
 At Phillips Arena
 Atlanta
 Regional Semifinals
 Thursday, March 22
 Nevada (23-7) vs. Loyola of Chicago (28-5), 6:07 p.m.
 Kansas State (24-11) vs. Kentucky (26-10), 8:37 p.m.
 Regional Championship
 Saturday, March 24
 Semifinal winners

MIDWEST REGIONAL
First Round
 Thursday, March 15
 At PPG Paints Arena
 Pittsburgh
 Rhode Island 63, Oklahoma 76, OT
 Duke 88, Iowa 67
 At INTRUST Bank Arena
 Wichita, Kan.
 Kansas 76, Pennsylvania 60
 Seton Hall 94, N.C. State 63
 Friday, March 16
 At Little Caesars Arena
 Detroit
 Michigan State 82, Bucknell 78
 Syracuse 57, TCU 52
 At Wells Fargo Arena
 San Diego
 Auburn 62, College of Charleston 58
 Cameron 76, New Mexico State 68

Second Round
 Saturday, March 17
 At PPG Paints Arena
 Pittsburgh
 Duke 87, Rhode Island 62
 At INTRUST Bank Arena
 Wichita, Kan.
 Kansas 63, Seton Hall 78
 Sunday, March 18
 At Little Caesars Arena
 Detroit
 Syracuse 55, Michigan State 53
 At Wells Fargo Arena
 San Diego
 Cameron 64, Auburn 53
 At Colonial Life Center
 Omaha, Neb.
 Regional Semifinals
 Friday, March 23
 Kansas (23-7) vs. Cameron (25-9), 6:07 p.m.
 Duke (26-7) vs. Syracuse (23-19), 8:37 p.m.
 Regional Championship
 Saturday, March 24
 Semifinal winners

WEST REGIONAL
First Round
 Thursday, March 15
 At INTRUST Bank Arena
 Wichita, Kan.
 Houston 67, San Diego State 65
 Michigan 61, Montana 47
 At Taco Bell Arena
 Dallas, Texas
 Gonzaga 69, UNC Greensboro 64
 Ohio State 81, South Dakota State 73
 Friday, March 16
 At Spectrum Center
 Charlotte, N.C.
 Texas A&M 73, Providence 69
 North Carolina 84, Lipscomb 69
 At Bridgestone Arena
 Nashville, Tenn.
 Xavier 102, Texas Southern 83
 Florida State 67, Missouri 54
 Second Round
 Saturday, March 17
 At Taco Bell Arena
 Dallas, Texas
 Gonzaga 69, Ohio State 64
 At INTRUST Bank Arena
 Wichita, Kan.
 Michigan 64, Houston 63
 Sunday, March 18
 At Spectrum Center
 Charlotte, N.C.
 Texas A&M 66, North Carolina 65
 At Bridgestone Arena
 Nashville, Tenn.
 Florida State 73, Xavier 70
 At STAPLES Center
 Los Angeles
 Regional Semifinals
 Thursday, March 22
 Texas A&M (22-12) vs. Michigan (20-7), 6:37 p.m.
 Florida State (22-11) vs. Gonzaga (24-4), 8:57 p.m.
 Regional Championship
 Saturday, March 24
 Semifinal winners

FINAL FOUR
 At The Alamodome
 San Antonio
 National Semifinals
 Saturday, March 24
 South Carolina vs. West Virginia
 East champion vs. Midwest champion
 National Championship
 Sunday, April 2
 Semifinal winners

Alliance of American Football to kick off after Super Bowl

By Barry Wilner
Associated Press

Pro football — actual games — won't disappear from TV screens, mobile devices and the American consciousness once the Super Bowl ends next February.

The Alliance of American Football will kick off the following Sunday. On network television (CBS) as well as through a multitude of free digital platforms.

Yes, spring football. We know, from the USFL to the World League to the XFL, the idea has not worked. Here's why the Alliance has a strong chance of succeeding: the folks involved.

The Alliance is the creation of Pro Football Hall of Famer Bill Polian, one of the most respected and accomplished executives in NFL history, and Charlie Ebersol, a longtime TV and film producer. Ebersol's father, Dick, defined NBC Sports' programming for more than two decades and created "Sunday Night Football." Dick Ebersol, who also pioneered NBC's Olympic broadcasts, will serve on the board of directors.

Former players such as Justin Tuck, Hines Ward and Jared Allen will have significant roles in a league the younger Ebersol calls a "true partnership."

"That's the best way a

league can perform and will be ultimately the key to success, having an interwoven product," he says.

"Whenever you have an endeavor that involves the kind of teamwork football involves," Polian adds, "it implies a partnership, the need to get their buy-in and do things, particularly in a startup, that represent their best interests ... to make sure players know we have their best interests at heart. That is the guiding philosophy."

Co-founder Polian, who built the Bills, Colts and Panthers into Super Bowl teams, will oversee the football side, helped by former player and front office executive J.K. McKay, who has been involved in other startups.

The league will have eight teams — cities and stadia to be announced, though look for complementary sites, not NFL venues, and warmer climates given the February-late April schedule. Rosters will be culled from NFL cuts to the 53-man maximum after preseason, which Polian calls "the core of our constituency"; collegians who have gone undrafted, including underclassmen who have lost any remaining eligibility; players looking to return to the sport; and free agents from the CFL or elsewhere.

As a single entity, the Alliance will own all

contracts and players will be dispersed in a variety of manners. If someone played in the NFL or in college for a Florida team or school, he'd likely wind up on a Florida-based franchise, for example. There also will be a mechanism after those allocations for a team interested in a certain player to get his rights. And then coaches of specific teams will have access to a group of players outside the allocations.

A draft of players in late fall after the college season concludes — "Players who probably are coming off injury or some other situation where they want to perhaps play in our league in order to enhance their draft status," Polian explains — also is planned.

With an eye on player safety, the Alliance also will eliminate kickoffs. There is a unique plan for outside kicks, with the team wanting to try one instead taking possession at its 35-yard line on a fourth-and-10 to try one play to keep the ball.

"This eliminates two plays that if you were reinventing the game are plays you would probably leave out," Polian says.

The three-point stance for linemen, judged by many a dangerous technique, also could be banned.

The preponderance of video reviews by officials won't be an issue in the

Alliance, Polian says. Each coach will be allowed two challenges and that's it for replay.

And here's one everybody but a placekicker will love: all extra points are 2-point conversion plays from the 2-yard line.

Ebersol has spent three years putting together the Alliance. He and Polian, backed by the numbers showing America's passion for the sport, see a huge void the league can fill.

"Football is so dominant for six months of the year," Ebersol says. "It even hides a number we focused on: millions of fans who stop watching the top five sports in America when football is off the air. Millions of football fans who don't want to watch other sports."

"And there are 59 million who play fantasy sports, 29 million of them stopped when football ended."

"So what to do to really empower our fans? Fans are investors. They invest time and emotion and money ... and what they get in return is the thrill of victory and agony of defeat. We wanted to empower the fans so they will be rewarded for being fans of their team, so fans have a real stake in the league."

How will they do so? Ebersol mysteriously says to "stay tuned."

NCAA WOMEN'S GLANCE

Associated Press

ALBANY REGIONAL
First Round
 Friday, March 16
 At Columbia, S.C.
 Virginia 65, Colleton 62
 South Carolina 68, N.C. A&T 52
 Saturday, March 17
 At Stone, Conn.
 UConn 146, Saint Francis (Pa.) 52
 Quipac 68, Miami 72
 Duke 72, Belmont 59
 Georgia 68, Mercer 63
 At Tallahassee, Fla.
 Florida State 91, Little Rock 69
 Buffalo 102, South Florida 79

Second Round
 Sunday, March 18
 At Columbia, S.C.
 South Carolina 68, Virginia 59
 Monday, March 19
 At Stone, Conn.
 UConn 71, Quipac 49
 At Athens, Ga.
 Duke 66, Georgia 49
 At Tallahassee, Fla.
 Florida State 88, South Florida 62
 Buffalo 102, South Florida 79

Regional Semifinals
 Saturday, March 24
 At Albany, N.Y.
 South Carolina (28-4) vs. Buffalo (29-5), 10:30 a.m.
 UConn (26-4) vs. Duke (24-4), 1 p.m.
 Regional Championship
 Sunday, March 25
 Semifinal winners, 6 p.m.

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL
First Round
 Friday, March 16
 At State Farm, Ind.
 Notre Dame 68, Cal State Northridge 61
 Villanova 81, South Dakota State 74, OT
 At College Station
 DePaul 69, Oklahoma 79
 Texas A&M 69, Duke 76
 At Eugene, Ore.
 Minnesota 69, Oregon 77
 Oregon 69, Seattle 65
 At Columbus, Ohio
 Central Michigan 78, LSU 69
 Ohio State 67, Georgetown 45

Second Round
 Saturday, March 17
 At State Farm, Ind.
 Notre Dame 68, Villanova 72
 At College Station
 Texas A&M 69, DePaul 79
 At Eugene, Ore.
 Oregon 101, Minnesota 73
 Sunday, March 18
 At Columbus, Ohio
 Central Michigan 66, Ohio State 76
 Saturday, March 24
 At Spectrum, Wash.
 Notre Dame (21-9) vs. Texas A&M (23-4), 5 p.m.
 Oregon (28-4) vs. Central Michigan (28-4), 5:30 p.m.
 Regional Championship
 Sunday, March 25
 Semifinal winners, 6 p.m.

WEST REGIONAL
First Round
 Friday, March 16
 At Rialto, B.C.
 Maryland 77, Princeton 57

N.C. State 62, Elm 24
 Saturday, March 17
 At Knoxville, Miss.
 Oklahoma State 74, Syracuse 57
 Mississippi State 61, Wichita 59
 At Los Angeles
 UCLA 71, Arizona 69
 Creighton 76, Iowa 79
 At Austin
 Arizona State 73, Nebraska 62
 Texas 69, Illinois 63

Second Round
 Sunday, March 18
 N.C. State 74, Maryland 61
 At Knoxville, Miss.
 Mississippi State 71, Oklahoma State 69
 At Los Angeles
 UCLA 88, Creighton 64
 At Austin
 Texas 69, Arizona State 64
 Regional Semifinals
 Friday, March 23
 N.C. State (24-9) vs. Mississippi State (24-1), 6:30 p.m.
 UCLA (23-7) vs. Texas (23-6), 8 p.m.
 Regional Championship
 Sunday, March 25
 Semifinal winners, 6:50 p.m.

LEXINGTON REGIONAL
First Round
 Friday, March 16
 At Louisville, Ky.
 Louisville 74, Duke State 48
 Morehead 64, Dayton 69
 At Knoxville, Tenn.
 Oregon State 69, Western Kentucky 69
 Tennessee 103, Liberty 69

Second Round
 Saturday, March 17
 At Knoxville, Tenn.
 Baylor 69, Kentucky 69
 Saturday, March 17
 At Knoxville, Tenn.
 Florida Gulf Coast 69, Missouri 70
 Stanford 69, Georgia 69

Regional Semifinals
 Saturday, March 18
 At Louisville, Ky.
 Louisville 69, Morehead 72
 At Knoxville, Tenn.
 Oregon State 69, Tennessee 59
 At West
 Baylor 69, Missouri 59
 Saturday, March 18
 At Knoxville, Tenn.
 Stanford 69, Florida Gulf Coast 70
 Regional Semifinals
 Friday, March 23
 At Lexington, Ky.
 Oregon State (23-7) vs. Baylor (23-1), 5:30 p.m.
 Louisville (24-4) vs. Stanford (24-10), 6 p.m.
 Regional Championship
 Sunday, March 25
 Semifinal winners, 11 a.m.

FINAL FOUR
 At Columbia, Ohio
 National Semifinals
 Friday, March 23
 Albany champion vs. Syracuse champion, 6 or 8:30 p.m.
 Texas City champion vs. Lexington champion, 6 or 8:30 p.m.
 National Championship
 Sunday, April 1
 Semifinal winners, 6 p.m.

Cowboys acquire Olawale from Raiders

Associated Press
FRISCO — The Oakland Raiders traded fullback Jamize Olawale to the Dallas Cowboys in a deal that also includes a swap of picks in the upcoming NFL draft.

Dallas sent Oakland

one of its two fifth-round picks (No. 173 overall) in exchange for a sixth-round pick (No. 192 overall). The Cowboys now have three picks in the sixth round.

Olawale went to training camp with the Cowboys in 2012 and was on their

practice squad before going to the Raiders and making his NFL debut by playing in the last three games that season. He has played in 77 career games.

The deal announced Tuesday came only five days after fullback Keith Smith

left the Cowboys to sign a two-year deal with the Raiders.



Women's tourney attendance at highest level since '08

By Doug Feinberg
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Dawn Staley and her South Carolina Gamecocks did more than just prepare for their opening-round games in the women's NCAA Tournament. They did everything they could to make sure people attended.

The team spent an hour Thursday night calling season ticket holders who hadn't bought tickets yet for the first and second round in Columbia. The goal was for attendance to surpass 10,000.

The move paid off as the Gamecocks had 11,085 people attend their opening-round win over North Carolina A&T and then 10,307 come to the second-round victory over Virginia. Those numbers helped bolster overall attendance at the first two rounds to its highest level in a decade, with an average of 5,067 fans taking in the first 48 games.

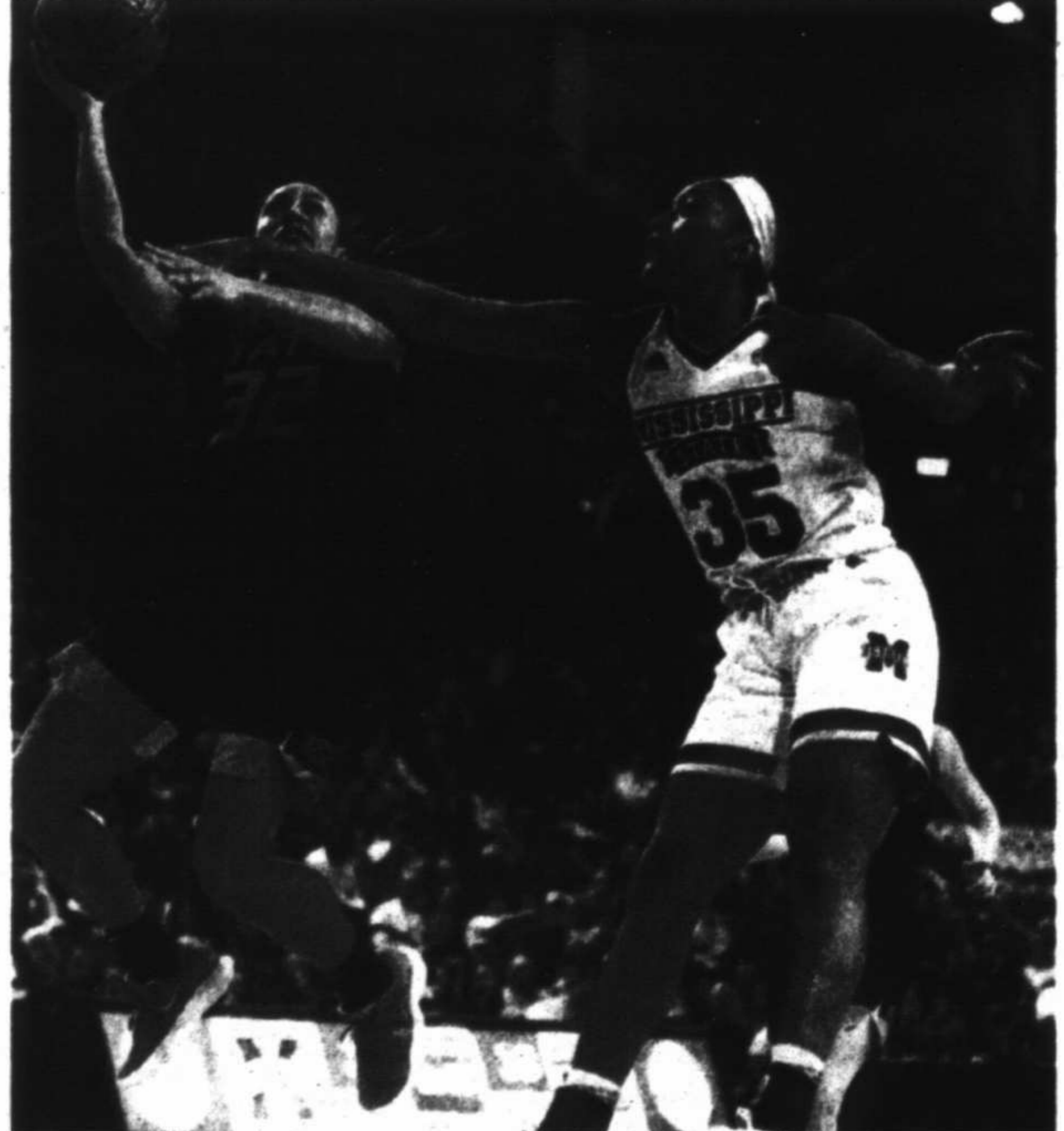
"The way the community responded to my challenge was quite incredible," Staley said. "I don't know if that many people would've come to the game just on us relying on the marketing department. They did a great job with us on executing the challenge."

The ticket office and everybody just worked overtime to accommodate so many ticket-buying customers.

Staley also called on friends like Charlotte Hornets center Dwight Howard to donate tickets for local kids to use to attend the games.

"They come to a lot of our games, they support us, and I wanted to support them," Howard told The Associated Press while the Hornets were in New York to play the Knicks. "Hopefully, they can do a really good job this year in the tournament. They had a really close one the other night. I will be watching their games and hope they get some good wins."

Gamecocks star A'ja



Oklahoma State guard Loryn Goodwin (32) attempts a layup Monday while Mississippi State guard Victoria Vivareo (26) defends during the second half of a round-two game in the NCAA women's basketball tournament in Starkville, Miss. Mississippi State won 71-68.

Young

From 1C

ing only Wayman Tisdale (932 and 919) and Buddy Hield (925).

Oklahoma reached as high as No. 4 in the Top 25, and Young was an early favorite for most player of the year awards. That changed when the Sooners lost seven of their final nine regular-season games and were bounced by Oklahoma State in the opening round of the Big 12 Tournament.

Still, Young ended the regular season as the national leader in both scoring and assists. He closed the season with 28 points and seven assists in Oklahoma's 83-78 overtime

loss to Rhode Island in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

"I did it all while dealing with the pressure of playing for his hometown team."

"The basketball world was studying every move I made, and I am proud of how all of us — my coaches, my teammates and myself — handled it," he wrote on ESPN. "In the end, I have to make the decision that I believe is best for me, but it doesn't mean I do so without a heavy heart, without some regret that we won't get to run it back together next season."

Wilson, who grew up in South Carolina, recalled how shocked fans were when she called them.

"Someone I called stopped me and said: 'Do you know who I'm on the phone with? It's A'ja,' and I'm like, 'Yeah.' Some people didn't believe it was me. So yeah, it was a lot of fun," she said.

The Gamecocks player calls accounted for more than 1,000 tickets sold.

Given the 9 p.m. tip on Sunday for the second round, Staley told fans to wear their best pajamas to the game. She even offered an excuse slip for those who came to the game and may have overslept for work or school the next day.

SBC rival Mississippi

State was just behind the Gamecocks in attendance, with nearly 10,000 fans checking out the first two rounds.

"I think it's the new teams, Mississippi State and South Carolina drew really well," Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw said. "It's good to have more teams doing well."

NCAA basketball officials are hoping for more strong numbers at the regional this weekend in Albany, New York; Kansas City, Missouri; Spokane, Washington; and Lexington, Kentucky. Albany already has sold nearly 7,600 tickets. It helps having UConn and South Carolina headed there. The surprise is 11th-seeded Buffalo, which reached its

first Sweet 16; Bulls fans have only a 4½-hour drive to Albany to see their team play.

"We are so excited to see so many fans come out and support the teams competing in the first and second rounds of the NCAA Women's Basketball Championship and are really seeing a positive impact of the top 16 seeds serving as hosts," said Rhonda Luffin Bennett, chair of the women's basketball committee.

"We have had some memorable games between some outstanding teams so far, and we look forward to continued great attendance at our four regional sites and the Women's Final Four."

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

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Man wrestles with coming clean about his infidelity

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to my wife for 10 years. We have two beautiful daughters and have always had a great relationship. Last month I was invited to go on a trip overseas and was hesitant about asking my wife. Once I did, she immediately said yes and told me to have a good time on the trip. She recently chose a career in the military and is away from home now. While I was in Europe, I had three affairs and, at the time, enjoyed them. But Abby, this is not the man I am! I always maintained that I'd never, ever do something like that, and I'm still in shock that I did. My excuse at the time was that I was used to having a woman around me, and that I was compensating for my wife's absence. While that's no excuse, I have been dealing with my guilt by shedding tears because I love my wife so much. Should I tell her what I did? I know it will never happen again, and I don't want her to resent me. Some people have told me not to say anything, while others say I should. What should I do? —HURTING HUSBAND

DEAR ABBY: My husband's 45-year-old sister-in-law recently got a boob job. She's a professional woman who used to be very conservative. Now she comes to family dinners wearing clingy low-cut shirts that leave little to the imagination. (Once she almost fell into the pool.) My husband, teenage sons and I are uncomfortable. Does she want us to comment on them? She clearly wants them noticed, based on her attire. I'd ask her to cover up, but is that appropriate? She is very easily offended. If I do, it will likely be our last conversation. —EMBARASSED IN MONTANA DEAR EMBARRASSED: While it would be nice if you could talk to your sister-in-law about this, because you can't, I'll offer another solution: When she's coming for dinner, crank the thermostat WAY DOWN. And if she indicates that she's chilly, offer her a sweater. Problem solved.

GOREN BRIDGE

With Bob Jones Technique rewarded. East-West vulnerable, South deals. NORTH: ♠J7, ♥K765, ♦AJ95, ♣853. WEST: ♠KQ1096, ♥QJ84, ♦Q86, ♣K. EAST: ♠85, ♥92, ♦97432, ♣J1074. SOUTH: ♠A432, ♥A103, ♦K, ♣AQ962. The bidding: SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST 10 10 10 10 2NT Pass 2NT All pass. *Negative. Opening lead: King of ♠. South had a difficult rebid after his partner's negative double. His choice of two no-trump was reasonable, but it led to a contract that was way against the odds to come home. Even a 3-2 split in clubs with the king outside wouldn't be enough as there was only one entry to dummy and the diamonds were "blocked".

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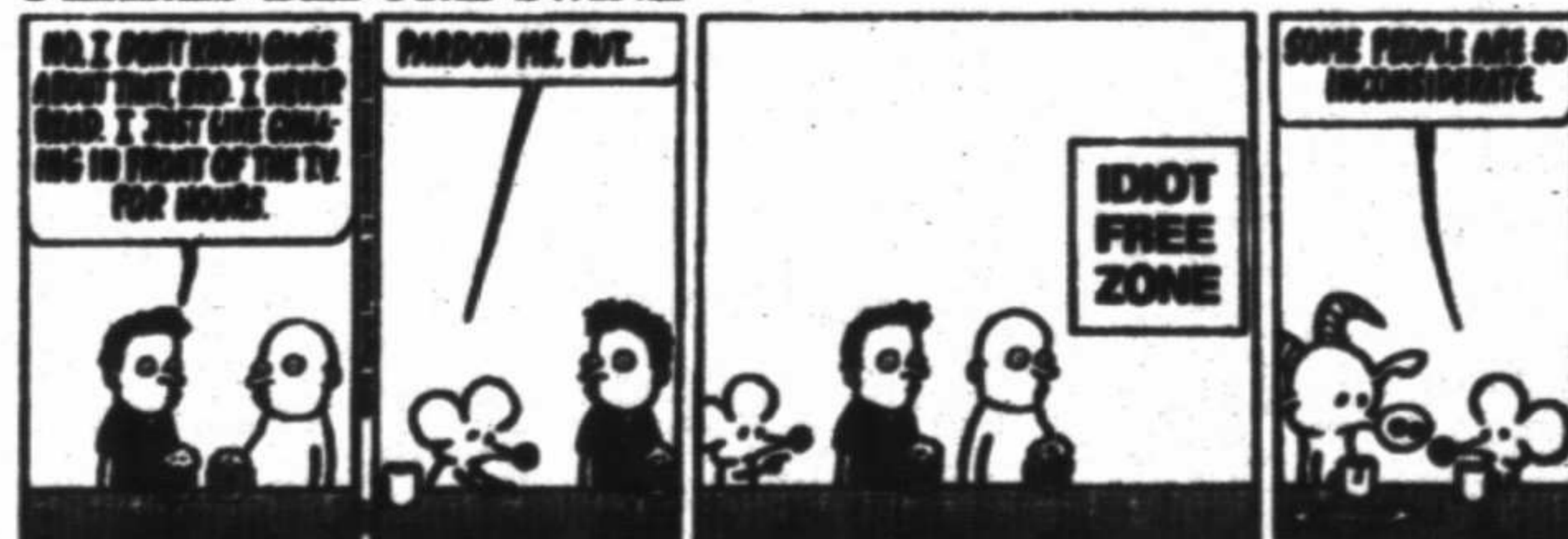
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THE MARKET IN REVIEW

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Table of stock market activity for the New York Stock Exchange, including columns for stock name, price, and volume.

A DAY ON WALL STREET

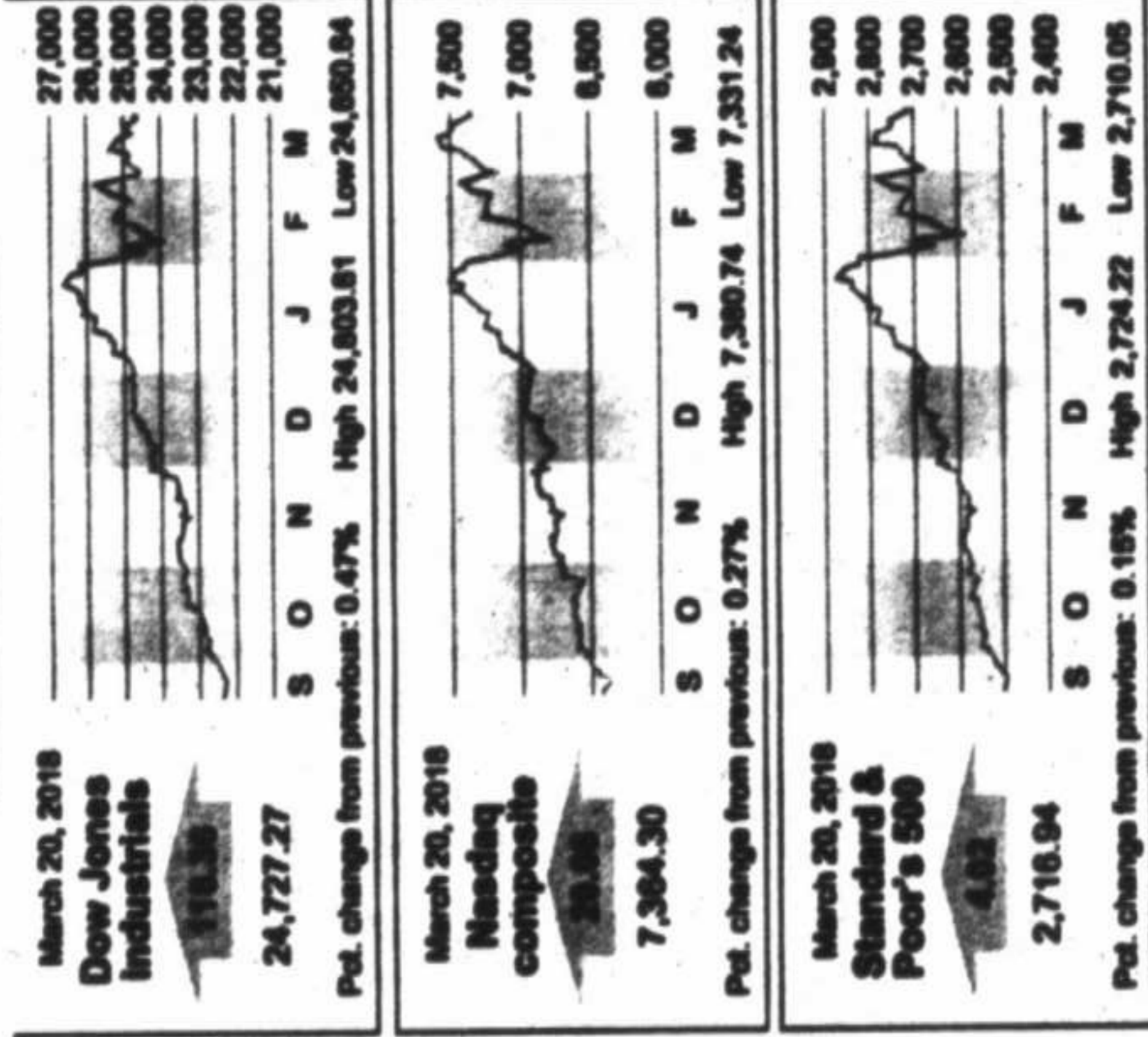


Table with columns: Most Active (NYSE), Most Active (AMEX), Most Active (OTCBB), and Most Active (NASDAQ).

Table with columns: Dow Jones Industrials, Dow Jones S&P 500, and Dow Jones Russell 2000.

Table with columns: Most Active (NYSE), Most Active (AMEX), Most Active (OTCBB), and Most Active (NASDAQ).

MUTUAL FUNDS

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Large table containing market data for NASDAQ National Market, Mutual Funds, and American Stock Exchange.

AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Table of market indices including Dow Jones Industrials, S&P 500, and Russell 2000.

PERMIAN BASIN STOCKS

Table of stock prices for the Permian Basin region, including various oil and gas companies.

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mrtclassifieds@mrt.com

SALES JOBS



Multi-Media Sales Executive

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

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

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

Responsibilities include:

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

The Ideal Candidate:

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

Required Skills & Experience:

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

What's in it for you?

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

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

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- 401K with company match
- Paid time off & more!

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

Instructor-Transportation Trainer

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

Required Qualifications:

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

Steel Sucker Rod Applications Engineer

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

MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN ITS DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR NIGHT TIME ASSOCIATE

Night time associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE
Must be able to count at a fast pace. Be able to work between the hours of 12-6 am Sunday thru Friday night and be able to work Saturday night 8pm-1am. Will be working inside and outside depending on the job you are doing that night. Will be 5-6 nights per week. We will train the right person.
\$11.00 per hour

These positions require some physical lifting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least 8-9 hrs. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department involves processing and handling of newspapers. Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card with current security card with Departmental identification.

Apply in person at: 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk - Monday - Friday 9-5 or email: jrobbins@hearstmp.com
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE



MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN ITS DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR PART TIME DAY ASSOCIATE

Part Time Day Associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE
Must be able to work Monday thru Saturday from 8am-4pm. Tuesday will be here later till about 8 or 9 pm. Need to be able to work on your feet thru 8-9 hour shift. Will work at night occasionally. We will train the right person.
\$11.00 per hour

These positions require some physical lifting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least 8-9 hrs. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department involves processing and handling of newspapers. Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card with current security card with Departmental identification.

Apply in person at: 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk - Monday - Friday 9-5 or email: jrobbins@hearstmp.com
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

OUT OF CITY DELIVERY DRIVER MISCELLANEOUS DUTIES

- Must have a clean, valid license & acceptable driving history
- Late night/Early morning hours
- Obey all traffic laws
- Strong commitment to safety is a must
- Professional communication with management, co-workers and customers
- Ability to lift, push or pull up to 50-lbs
- Must be able to reach, bend, lift as needed
- Must be able to work independently & in a team environment
- Ability to read, understand & follow oral and written instructions
- Perform other duties as delegated or assigned by Supervisor
- Required education: High School or equivalent

This is a full time position that offers paid vacation and full package of benefits.
Please mail resumes to P-418 c/o Midland Reporter Telegram 201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX 79701

Restaurant Positions
On-site Japanese Restaurant PT
Would you like to make \$16 to \$20 an hour, depending on position?
New Midland Japanese Restaurant, Midland, Texas, Garden, Sun Way, Dalmatian & Italian Help. Come apply in person: 11am-3pm at 4287 Yorkwilde Blvd. 79705 or online at: www.ny-calls.com

Manager & Cashiers
Bender's Buffet has IMMEDIATE OPENINGS for MANAGER, WAITRESS & CASHIERS
Part-time & Full-time positions must have own transportation
Apply in person: 11am-3pm
8000 E University, Ste 11, Odessa, TX

Let Classifieds Work for You! Call
432-682-6222

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

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

Experienced Plumber/ Journeyman or Tradesman
All service work - residential and commercial. No new construction. Must have valid drivers license and acceptable driving history. This is a full time position that offers paid vacation and also includes health and dental insurance. Come Randy's Rooter & Plumbing, 309 W. Washington, Midland, Texas. Apply between 8am-4pm.

Plumber Apprentices
Plumber apprentices needed for new commercial projects. Must possess valid DL. Experience preferred. Good work environment with competitive pay and standard benefits. Call 432-687-8888

Delivery Driver
Wanted: DELIVERY DRIVER for local oilfield chemical service company. Good pay, good benefits. Requirements: • High School Diploma or GED • CDL • Must be willing to acquire or currently possess: Hazmat endorsement, Tanker endorsement. Call Tim (409) 250-4101

The Classifieds: Your Ticket to Local Finds

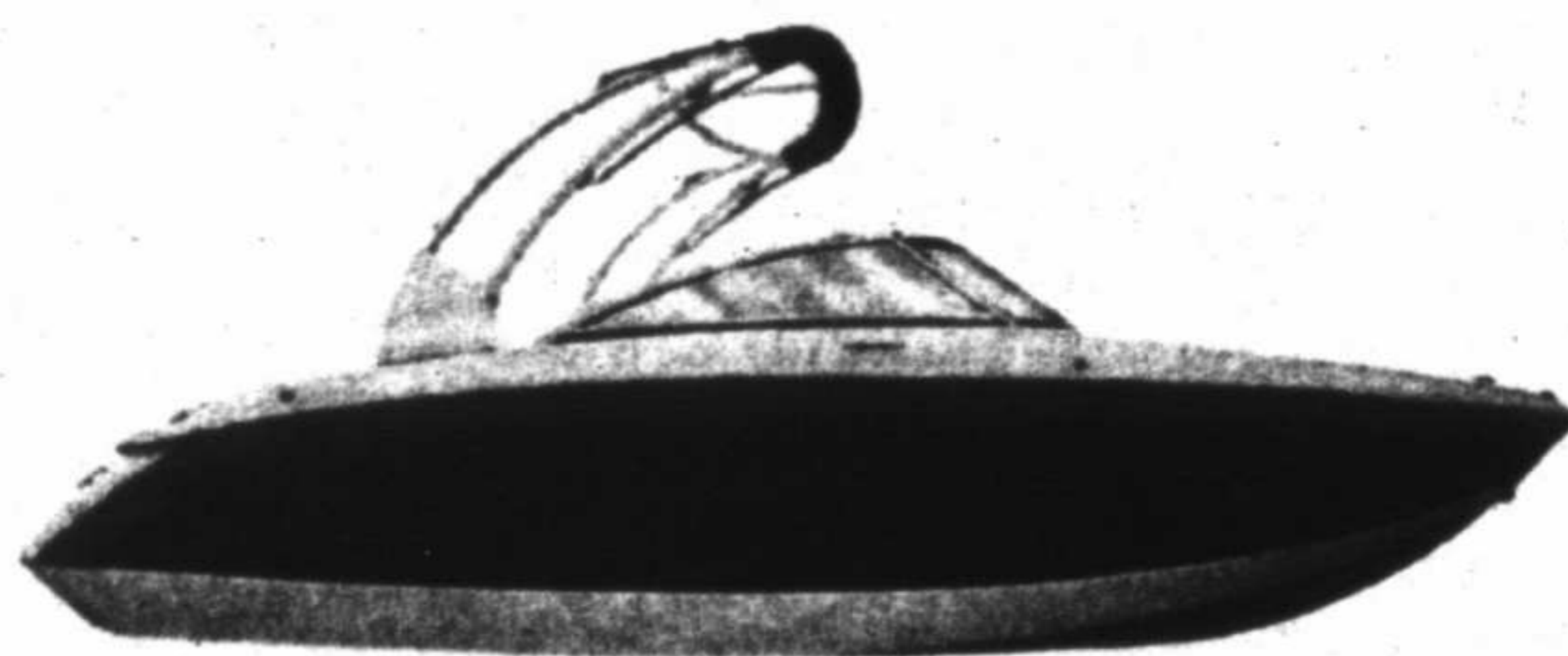
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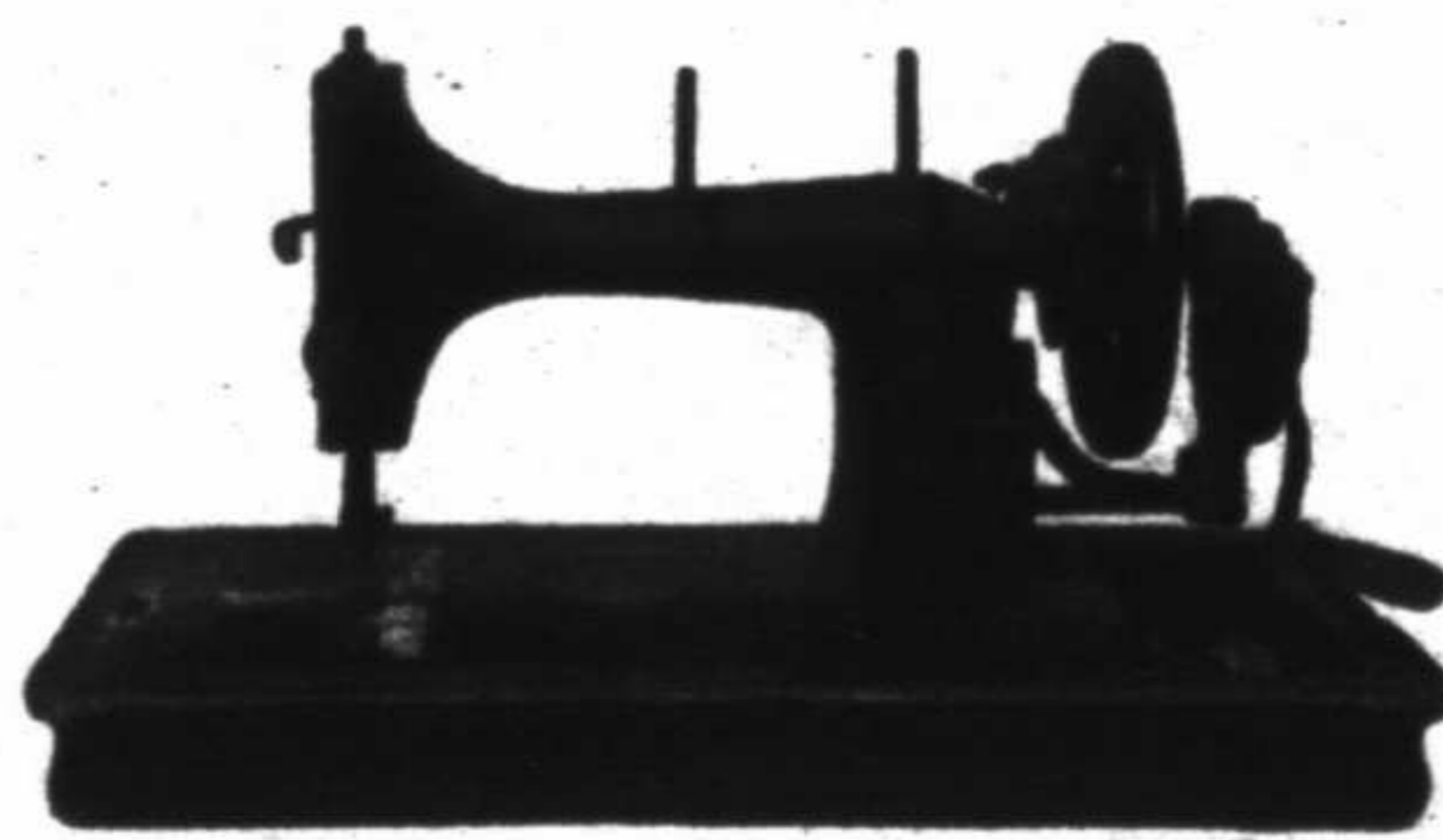
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New Deals In Your Area Every Day



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 Boats & Personal
 Watercraft
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Midland Reporter-Telegram CLASSIFIEDS SECTION

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Who's Who For Service

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

 <p>Svcs- Professionals</p>	<p>APPLIANCE REPAIR REPAIR SERVICES and Parts for Refrigerators, Freezers, Stoves, Washers & Dryers. Free Service Call with Repair. Free Removal. Full Warranty. Very Affordable Prices. M&M Appliances 1007 N Midkiff, Midland Call 432-570-8278</p>		<p>PATIO CLEANING UPSCALE PATIO & CLEANING SERVICE Professional Patio, Window & Gutter Cleaning. Create Surface Restoration. Will haul off old patio furniture. Spring Clean Your Patio's Now. Free estimate with an appointment. Call Rick Sanders @ 432-298-0723 email: upscalepatiocleaning@gmail.com web: www.upscalepatiocleaning.com</p>		<p>LAWNGEVITY 30 Years experience. All your lawn care needs. I dont send a crew, I'm one of the crew! We show up!!!!!! 432-661-9518</p>		<p>WATER TREATMENT Culligan of West Texas Residential & Commercial FREE WATER ANALYSIS 563-2690</p>		
	<p>PROFESSIONAL HOUSE CLEANER. Excellent references, trustworthy, & honest, hard worker. Reasonable rates. Call Nells 432-559-0809.</p>		<p>HAULING & Cleanouts Home, storage, or office. 432-889-1316</p>		<p>AMH FENCING A rating on Angie's List. Residential fence, builder and repair. Reliable, professional, and quick response. Local for 12 years. 432-254-9207</p>		<p>ELLIS & Sons Plumbing & Air Conditioning Sales & Service. Service all brands. 663-2679. TALCB005482.</p>		<p>BATHROOM REMODELING. Residential & commercial. Call Gene 432-661-2556</p>
<p>WEST TEXAS CLEANING SERVICES Experience 10 years, we are a trustful, honest, hardworking company offering reasonable rates. Weekly, bi-weekly, move-out and move-in, and deep cleaning services are available. Contact Cecilia Ortiz for your free estimate! (214) 608-5436 References are available.</p>		<p>ADVANCED BRICK DOCTOR, brick & mortar repair, All types of new construction specializing in block and brick fence. Steve Wickey. 432-853-2858.</p>		<p>CRC Interior and Exterior Painting Re-modeling, fencing & fabrication. Clayton R. Cross. 432-770-8505. 1st ESTIMATE FREE.</p>		<p>PAINTING, SHEET rock, repairs, fence, electrical, plumbing, tile-floor & bath. Perimeter Maintenance 432-697-5417</p>		<p>DAVID'S TREE & LAWN SERVICE Trimming trees & shrubs, leaf clean ups, mowing and more! Please call to make appointment 432-348-0894 www.facebook.com/davidstreeservice</p>	
<p>HOUSEKEEPING 18 years experience. References available. Eha @ 432-553-0928</p>		<p>FLAWLESS PAINT & Handyman services. Specializing in painting, drywall, drywall repair and textures, epoxy floor finish, tile and popcorn acoustic removal. Workmanship satisfaction guarantee. Ask about some your own price program. 10% senior citizen & veterans discount. Call for your free estimate. 432-528-2885</p>		<p>PRECISE PAINTING FEMALE PAINTER. Interior/Exterior, residential. Very professional, takes pride in her work, very dependable & affordable. FREE Estimates. 432-250-4843</p>		<p>ARBOR MAX SOLUTIONS Professional Landscaping & Tree Care. Call to Schedule not deduct applic. Taylor Maxwell Degraded Horticulturist Certified Arborist TX068A 432-529-1737</p>		<p>M & M Landscaping 22 years experience. Grass seeding, Xeriscaping, tree & shrub removal. Native Midlander 432-230-3372.</p>	
<p>My brother and I are seeking work . Anything you need headed off give us a call. Need your house or yard cleaned give us a call. Very reasonable prices Call (432)- 631-1048</p>		<p>ABC CONSTRUCTION Wood, chain lift, block, gates & repairs are my specialty. Native Midlander building since 1979. Call Loretta 432-528-5282</p>		<p>AAAAA PROFESSIONAL tree pruning, tree & stump removal. Over 20 years experience. Senior discounts. 432-889-3318.</p>		<p>RETIRED MIDLAND Sweeper weekly or bi-weekly, mow, scalp, trim, and edge lawns Call (432)-887-2030</p>		<p>LEVVA LAWN CARE Trees & Lawns. Professional & Efficient 432-250-0470 Free Estimates.</p>	
<p>RAINBOW LANDSCAPING We do it all! Mowing, edging, beds, flower pot, junk hauling. Free estimates. 20+ years experience. Monthly service. Call Bryan at 432-301-1788</p>		<p>BLUE'S SPRINKLER SYSTEM installs and repairs. Backflow assembly tester. Lic. 8285 432-888-8883 432-704-2847</p>		<p>Fax Your Ad 682-6999</p>		<p>Fax Your Ad 682-6999</p>			

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The Midland Reporter-Telegram

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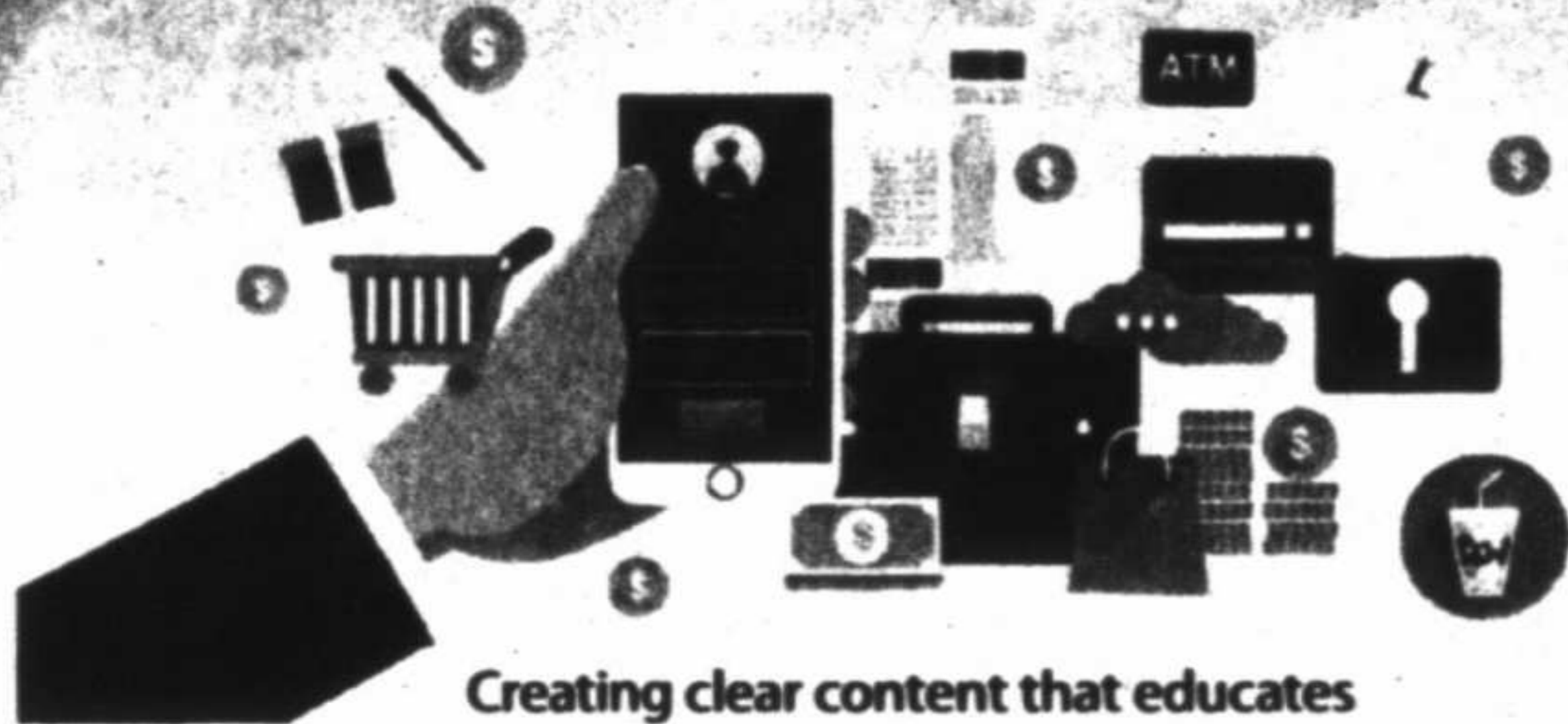
<p>MERCHANDISE</p> 	<p>GARAGE SALE</p> 	<p>TO ADVERTISE CALL 432-682-6222 OR PLACE YOUR AD ONLINE @ MRT.com</p> 
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MRT MEDIA GROUP, A NAME YOU TRUST.

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

Content Marketing



Creating clear content that educates and inspires your customers

EMAIL MARKETING



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



Is your website properly optimized and marketed?



It's time to take control of your Social Media

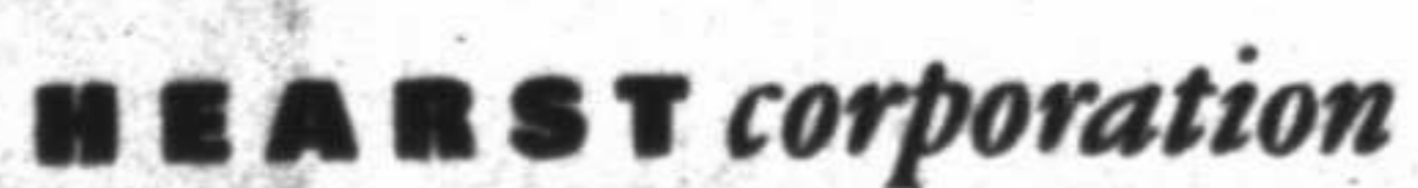
DIGITAL MARKETING SERVICES

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

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

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

Contact us today 432-683-5311





Digital Media Account Executive, Midland, TX

"We must be alarmingly enterprising and startlingly original. We must be honest and fearless. And we must spark a revolution."

• William Randolph Hearst, 1887

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As a Digital Media Account Executive, you can expect the following:

- Drive digital product sales.
- Be the Digital Media Guru with a solid understanding of Digital Media, Marketing and Advertising.
- Ability to conduct sales calls with SMB owners.
- Be in the field and on sales calls, leading by example, to sell our various digital products using the current and evolving sales process.
- Consult and educate clients in Digital Advertising and Marketing.
- Assist sales and marketing in promoting the entire line of digital products.
- Develop coaching plans and track results through sales management team.
- Identify trends, quantify impact, and communicate improvement opportunities to the product team
- Primary source of sales pitch and strategy development and implementation for digital products.

Requirements:

- Highly knowledgeable with digital media, SEO, SEM, Digital Advertising.
- Confidence in pitching and closing business.
- Strong focus on teamwork and ability to manage relationships across multiple departments
- Ability to multi-task, meet deadlines, and thrive in a fast-paced, deadline-oriented environment
- Bachelor's Degree preferred
- Valid US driver's license and reliable transportation.

The perks:

- A great work environment it's never boring here!
- Paid in-depth sales and product training.
- Competitive base salary, uncapped commissions for unlimited earning potential, and significant opportunity for advancement within the company
- Collaboration ideas and input are always welcome
- Health, dental, 401k, paid time off we have you covered

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



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TEXAS WORK

Empower your business with the right people for the job.