

MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2017

mrt★com

320,000 readers in print and online

EDUCATION

State board begins work on long range plan for public schools.

Page 18



MAVERICKS LOSE

The Dallas Mavericks lost to the Phoenix Suns putting them 15th in the Western Conference. The Spurs won their game against the Clippers.

Sports

RAISING THE STEAKS



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Hoy Boyson enjoys a beer as he talks with Julie Albers, bartender. Monday at Longhorn Steakhouse.

People line up early for LongHorn Steakhouse's first day

From staff reports

Monday was a big day for those wanting their steak done a little differently.

LongHorn Steakhouse opened its doors, giving fans of red meat another choice in Midland. Located in the Midland Park Mall parking lot, LongHorn Steakhouse joins a list of chain steak restaurants with Midland locations, including Texas Roadhouse, Logan's Roadhouse, Saltgrass Steakhouse, Outback Steakhouse and Cattle Baron Steak & Seafood.

People were lined up even before the scheduled 3 p.m. opening, looking to be the first in the city to try the newest addition to the restaurant scene.

LongHorn Steakhouse will employ between 85 and 90 people, according to Managing Partner Mike Watts, and the restaurant can seat between 160 to 180 customers inside its 5,850-square-foot restaurant. Other LongHorn locations in Texas include Lubbock, Amarillo, San Antonio and Austin.

Shortly before the restaurant opened, Watts talked to the Reporter-Telegram and

Malls beef up dining, entertainment options to boost traffic

By Alex Veiga
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Shoppers braving the mall this holiday season may notice more that's new than the day's discounts.

Many mall owners are spending billions to add more upscale restaurants and bars, premium movie theaters with dine-in options, bowling alleys and similar amenities. Some have turned swaths of space that previously housed department stores

what patrons can expect. Watts said he will be leading operations in Midland for at least two years after being recruited from Tulsa, Oklahoma.

MRT: With 2 percent unemployment how hard was it to find workers for the restaurant?

Mike Watts: I think staffing was challenging to a point. We had tons of applicants we were able to screen very thoroughly. We were staffed up in the amount of time we wanted to be staffed up. That allotted time for proper training. I would say that on a scale of 1 to 10, it was probably a 5.

MRT: LongHorn Steakhouse is located in the parking lot at Midland Park Mall and parking looks as though it could be tight. Will location be an issue?

Mike Watts: I don't think it will be an issue. I know that during the holiday season parking will be tight. It is something that we have had to deal with for a couple days just having guests come and

MRT: Was the

over to health clubs and grocery stores. Others are undergoing no less than a ground-up transformation to make room for office space, hotels and apartments.

The trend has been gaining traction as the companies that operate malls look for ways to keep people coming in at a time when Macy's, Sears and other big department store chains have shuttered hundreds of stores and consumers increasingly opt to shop at Amazon.com and other e-commerce sites.

Please see MALLS/4A

park with us and with people going to the mall. I think after the holidays are over, parking won't be much of an issue at all. Most of the most parking lot behind me is empty 90 percent of the time.

MRT: What will make LongHorn Steakhouse a unique experience, especially for those who enjoy steaks?

Mike Watts: The quality. Our steaks are fresh, never frozen, so when you get a fresh-never-frozen steak that will change the quality drastically. You are getting aged beef, properly maintained, boldly seasoned and grilled to perfection. When it is grilled

Please see LONGHORN/4A

Energy industry confronts NAFTA doldrums

By James Osborne
Houston Chronicle

President Donald Trump sent shock waves through the Texas business world when he opened up the North American Free Trade Agreement for renegotiation four months ago.

Would he tear up the deal? Would he imperil what for many is a lucrative cross-border trade between Texas and Mexico?

But so far developments have been slow in coming, with government officials announcing that negotiations would extend through at least the end of March.

"Most people think this is going to take a while," said Chet Thompson, president of the American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers, which represents a number of Texas refineries. "You have the Mexican election and the U.S. midterms to contend with. This could easily go through 2018."

Texans in Washington are left trying to figure out what the White House is trying

Please see NAFTA/2A

DPS: Two dead after collision on SH 158

From staff reports

Two people died Saturday afternoon in a two-vehicle collision on State Highway 158, four miles east of Midland, according to the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Orlando F. Oveido, 24, of Rio Grande City and Diego Pena, 24, of Roma died at the scene after their Nissan Versa struck the rear of a truck tractor that was towing a semi-trailer, according to the DPS press release.

The truck tractor was traveling west on SH 158 and began to slow down to make a left turn. Oveido failed to control his vehicle's speed and struck the rear of the semi-trailer, according to the release.

Oveido and Pena were not wearing seat belts.

The truck driver was wearing a seat belt and was not injured.

The men are the 40th and 41st persons to die on roads inside Midland County this year, according to Reporter-Telegram records. This year will go down among the deadliest year on roads inside Midland County, going back to at least 2014 when there were 44 fatalities. Last year, there were 18. In 2015, there were 30.

This fatality accident was the second this month. A 29-year-old Pinedale, Wyoming, man died on Dec. 9 in a two-vehicle wreck at the intersection of Business Interstate 20 and South Loop 250.

Visit us on social media **Price of oil** \$57.16 ▼ \$0.14 January 2018 **The big number** 3 people killed when a train derailed in after going over an overpass. Page 8A **Word of the Day:** juxtapose Do you know what it means? Find out the definition on Page 3A. Brought to you daily by Vol. 89, No. 283 Daily \$2, Sunday \$3 63647 00001 6

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SETHI COUTURE

Obituaries



Casandra "Casey" Garren

Casandra Coradell "Casey" Jones Garren, of Midland Texas passed from this life at the age of 47 on December 15, 2017. The family will receive guests from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Wednesday, December 20, 2017 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home in Midland. Funeral services will be at 2:00 pm Thursday, December 21, 2017 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Chapel with Rev. Corey Brand officiating. A reception will follow the service at The Branch at NPW.

Casey was born in Sherman TX to C.A. and Bettye Jones on August 7, 1970. She attended S&S from Kindergarten thru 9th grade and then moved to Maud, Oklahoma with her parents and graduated high school in 1988. Casey married her high school sweetheart Larry Garren on September 1, 1988. They celebrated 29 years of marriage this year. Casey was always very proud of her children and her husband, she was an amazing mother to her children and others that came into her life. Casey is survived by her loving husband Larry Garren of Midland; daughter Kaley Garren; son Jordy Garren and wife Paige; five grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her mother Bettye Jones, and her father Claytis Jones.

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

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



Iretta Faye Mace Stanford

Iretta Faye Mace Stanford, 84, of Midland passed away Saturday, December 16, 2017 in Midland. Funeral service celebrating her life will be 2:00 pm Wednesday, December 20, 2017 at the Northwestern Baptist Church, 3901 Mockingbird Lane, Midland,

Texas with visitation beginning at 1:00pm. Burial will be Thursday, December 21, 2017 at the Eldorado Cemetery in Eldorado, Texas.

Iretta was born on September 26, 1933 to J.H. "Skeet" and Faye Floyd Mace in Dalhart, Texas and moved to Eldorado at a young age. She graduated a year early from Eldorado High School where she was a cheerleader and Valedictorian of her class. She then attended Texas Tech University. Iretta married Albert L. Stanford, a petroleum engineer, also from Eldorado, on June 6, 1953; they were married for 64 years.

Iretta was a homemaker and elementary school teacher in Louisiana and also in Midland where she retired after 23 years. She was very artistic and enjoyed sewing and crafting. Iretta loved attending sporting events, especially when any of her children or grandchildren were involved and always cheered on the Red Raiders. She found great joy in her family and loving and caring for them.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her grandson Chris Stanford, and her daughter-in-law Connie Stanford. She is survived by her husband Al, sister Paula and her husband Dr. Harlan Fisher, daughter Faye Phillips and her husband Brad, son Dr. Jim Stanford, son Mike Stanford and his wife Mary, and son Paul Stanford. Grandchildren include Brian Phillips and his wife Chere, Cara Wats and her husband Michael, Geoffrey Stanford, Sarah Hatstat and her husband Bobby, Brady Stanford and his wife Anna, Tracy Stanford, Joey Stanford, Nick Stanford and fiancée Kaitlynn Smith. Great grandchildren include Foster and Jack Phillips and Michaela Wats.

Iretta will always be in our hearts, because that is where she is still alive.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the ALS Association Louisiana Mississippi Chapter (web.als.org) or the charity of your choice.

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

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(432) 550-5800



James "Jimmy" Phillips

James "Jimmy" Phillips, 69, of Midland passed away on Saturday, December 16, 2017 surrounded by his

family. Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, December 20, 2017 at 11:00 am at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Chapel in Midland.

Jimmy was born on June 29, 1948 to Mary Alice and James A. Phillips in Wilmington, NC. Jimmy was a career Military and served two tours in Vietnam after retirement, he then served as Midland's Veteran Services Officer. But his true calling might have been entertainment. He discovered music early and was spinning records almost before he could walk. He later shared with other music lovers hosting the Blues Nest on KOCV. He was a walking encyclopedia of music, facts and trivia. His iTunes playlist contained songs from over 8,000 albums. His love of fast and classic cars ran a close second and he was an avid NASCAR fan. He had an infectious laugh and loved spinning yarns and telling jokes. He was, in fact, quite the entertainer.

He is survived by his wife, Sherry Phillips; sister Deborah Downs; sons, Jonathan Phillips; Anthony "Bryan" Phillips; James "Alex" Phillips III (Kim); and stepson, Christopher Cooper (Susan); grandchildren, Alexa, James IV, Austin, Jonathan Jr., Justin, Joseph and Jacob Phillips; canine companion, Katya, who stayed devotedly by his side.

He is preceded in death by his parents.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests memorials be donated to Hospice Midland; and any local SPCA.

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

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Kermit Kelso Lewis

Kermit Kelso Lewis, 83 of Midland, Texas was born on March 28, 1934, in Midland, Texas. On the morning of December 16, 2017 he left

his earthly body and gained his wings to be with the love of his life in heaven. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend.

He was the son of Leonard (Shorty) Lewis and Lois Bartlett. As a young man he gave his life to Christ and was baptized at Cotton Flat Baptist Church. He graduated from Midland High School in 1953 and proceeded to join the military in 1956 where served in the US Army until 1958, at which time he was honorably discharged. He loved fishing, hunting, golfing, and the occasional poker game. In the fall of 1962 he met and fell in love with Frances Barnett while he was working for Drlico in Laurel, Mississippi. On April 5, 1963 they were wed and then blessed with three children Perry, Kim, and Tammy. In the early years of their marriage they were transferred to several cities following his job before returning and settling in his hometown of Midland, Texas. Throughout his years he had an array of business anywhere from trucking to inspection services and sandblasting. However his true passion and heart was planted in farming cotton. He relished in his morning ritual of opening the Coop so that the early birds could enjoy their morning coffee in a seat at the "round table of knowledge."

He is preceded in death by wife Frances Lewis, parents, stepfather Bill Roush, and daughter in law Shelly Lewis.

He is survived by his three children Perry Lewis and his children Ben, Blair, and Bryce Lewis of Midland; Kim and husband Tony Foster and their children Kelsey, Kade, and Kourtney Foster all of Midland; Tammy and husband Kevin Shelton and daughter Mollie Shelton of Abilene, Texas; his stepmother Teresa Lewis of Rising Star, sisters Kay and husband Jerry Prosser of Mansfield, Sharon and Ronnie Bond of Cross Plains, and brother Randy Lewis of Rising Star. He is also survived by a number of nieces and nephews.

Palbearers include Doug Boone, George Hargrave, Ricky Railey, Andy Schumann, Jody Schumann, and Scott Shirley.

There will be a visitation on Tuesday, December 19, 2017 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Ellis Funeral Home. A Funeral Service will be held in the Ellis Funeral Home Chapel on Wednesday, December 20, 2017 at 1 pm. Burial will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers the family has asked that you make donations to Hospice of Midland, 911 W. Texas Ave Midland, Texas 79701 or your favorite charity.

Online condolences may be offered at www.ellisfunerals.com

Ellis Funeral Home
Funerals & Cremations

Dignity 821 Andrews Hwy. (432) 683-5555

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



Margaret Gilbert Berger

June 15, 1921 - December 15, 2017

Margaret Gilbert Berger passed away at her home on Friday, December 15, 2017. She was 96 years old and she lived a full life filled with love for her family and friends.

Margaret was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma and was raised in Oklahoma City. She graduated from Classen High School and the University of Oklahoma. At OU she joined the Chi Omega Sorority, and was a lifelong member of the organization. She met her husband of 61 years at a XO mixer before World War II. During the war while Bob served overseas, Margaret volunteered at Tinker Air Force Base making meals for young pilots training for the war effort. They were married in 1945 after the war.

Margaret and Bob moved to Midland in 1951 and raised five children here. They were blessed with 12 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren. Margaret was the ultimate mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Her family was the most important thing in her life.

She was always available for them and there were few times in her life when she did not have some of her family around her. She was a very fun lady who enjoyed life, traveling, and card games. Margaret and Bob joined Holy Trinity Episcopal Church when they moved to Midland, and they were members of the church for over fifty years. Margaret was involved in many charitable organizations in Midland, and she was very concerned about the needs of others.

Margaret had many, many friends, and foremost among them in her later years was Berenice Gomez, who helped her in the home and was a wonderful companion. Another great companion was Sandra Reynosa who spent many hours with Margaret in the evenings. She was also helped greatly by caregivers from Nurses Unlimited and most particularly by Diane Marques, Faith Farusa, Darlene Wilson, Frances Rattiff, Bob Anglin and Wanda Hill. The family would also like to thank Cindy Manley and Hospice of Midland for the care and devotion to Margaret's comfort.

Margaret is survived by her son Walter Berger and his wife Gloria from Denver, Colorado; her son Byron Berger and his wife Gail from Conejos County, Colorado; her daughter Patti

Gensert from Midland; her son Kent Berger and his wife Shannon from Midland, and her son Eric Berger and his wife Carrie from New Orleans, Louisiana, and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.

There will be a visitation at Ellis Funeral Home from 5pm to 7pm on Tuesday, December 19, 2017. Funeral services will be held at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church on Wednesday, December 20, 2017 at 1pm.

Donations in Margaret's honor may be directed to the Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity, Trinity School of Midland, or the Buffalo Trails Council Boy Scouts of America.

Online condolences may be offered at www.ellisfunerals.com

Ellis Funeral Home
Funerals & Cremations

Dignity 801 Andrews Hwy. (432) 683-5555

Death Notices

Betty Meldrum

Betty Meldrum, 81 of Midland, passed away on December 16, 2017. There will be a memorial service at Solid Rock Fellowship on Wednesday, December 20, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

Faye Hawkins

Faye Hawkins, 88 of Midland, passed away on Sunday, December 17, 2017 in Midland. The family will receive friends on Tuesday, December 19, 2017 from 5:00-7:00PM at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home in Midland. Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, December 20, 2017 at 3:00PM at First Baptist Church Chapel in Midland. Burial will follow at Resthaven Cemetery.

She is survived by her children, Steve Hawkins and Sara Draper.

Herbert "Hoot" Martin

Herbert "Hoot" Martin, 88, of Big Spring, passed away Sunday, December 17, 2017. Memorial services will be held at 4:00 pm, Thursday, December 21, 2017 at First Baptist Church Chapel in Midland. All floral arrangements may be delivered to Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home in Midland.

Royes Chacon

Royes Chacon Viscaino, 65 of Midland, passed away on Sunday December 17, 2017. He is survived by his daughter, Diana Lucio and three sons, Reymundo Viscaino, Auden Viscaino and Jesse Viscaino; three brothers and four sisters.

Viscaino

Royes Chacon Viscaino, 65 of Midland, passed away on Sunday December 17, 2017. He is survived by his daughter, Diana Lucio and three sons, Reymundo Viscaino, Auden Viscaino and Jesse Viscaino; three brothers and four sisters.

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

NAFTA

From 1A

to accomplish.

What has many corporate leaders worried is U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer's focus on a provision within NAFTA that allows companies that feel they have not been treated fairly by a host government to take their claims before an independent tribunal.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce maintains the provision is critical to protecting U.S. investments abroad. And considering the billions U.S. oil companies are readying to invest in Mexico now that its energy sector is open to foreign investors, oil executives are among NAFTA's biggest cheerleaders.

Last week, during a hearing before the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Texas congressmen expressed concern that if the Trump administration demanded a roll back in investment protection, it could do damage to increasingly intertwined energy markets in the United States, Mexico and Canada.

"On the one hand, the White House says we believe in energy dominance for our country and North America. On the other hand, the U.S. trade representative is undercutting that," Rep. Bill Flores, R-Waco, said.

The risk for Texas were NAFTA to be done away with - as President Donald Trump has threatened - is the loss of business for the state's dominant oil and gas industry. Mexico is the biggest export

market for U.S. natural gas producers, at the same time refineries along the Gulf Coast rely on crude from Mexico and Canada to operate.

But Trump is riding increasing skepticism within the Republican and Democratic parties on free-trade deals that many see as giveaways to multinational corporations at the expense of the domestic workforce.

But just how far he is willing to go remains an open question among lobbyists in Washington.

"We hope some of this is just negotiating tactics," Thompson said.

In the meantime, corporate lobbyists are eagerly making their case for the White House to preserve NAFTA more or less as is - with some adjustments here and there to account for economic and technological advances made since the original agreement was signed into law by former president Bill Clinton in 1993.

At the center of those efforts are the growing oil and gas production out of North America, with the United States, Canada and Mexico ranking first, fifth and 11th on the global list of largest oil producers.

And more centrist congressmen from both parties are taking note.

"We're on our way to replacing OPEC with a de facto NAPEC," said Rep. Pete Olson, R-Sugar Land. "The Eagle Ford Shale doesn't stop at the Rio Grande, waiting for a visa to cross."

The Midland Reporter-Telegram will be closing at 2:30pm on Wednesday, December 20th for our Annual Christmas Party

A Merry Christmas

MRT Midland Reporter-Telegram

WORD OF THE DAY
brought to you daily by



Juxtapose
[juh-stuh-pohz, juh-stuh-pohz]
verb
1. to place close together or side by side, especially for comparison or contrast.



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AT YOUR SERVICE

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This date in Midland history

On Dec. 19, 1996, the Lee High School football team crowned San Antonio MacArthur, 54-0, in Irving's Texas Stadium to win the first of three straight Class 5A state football championships.

Things to do

- Palette Club Painting, 9 a.m. to noon, Palette Club, 907 W. Wadley Ave., paletteclubmidland.com.
- Watercolor art classes by Sara Drescher, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., Arts Council of Midland, 1506 W. Illinois Ave. To register, email sara@artsacmid.com.
- Bridge game play, 1 p.m., Allison Bridge Center, 913 W. Wadley Ave. \$6. For more information call 682-8595.
- Evening Family Storytime offers songs, stories and literacy activities for ages 2 to 6 and their caregivers, 4:30 p.m., Midland County Public Library Central branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N.
- Downtown Family Game Night with a variety of classic and new board games, 4:30 p.m., Midland County Public Library downtown branch, 301 W. Missouri Ave.
- Bingo, 6 p.m., Tall City VFW Post 7208, 1306 E. Taylor Ave. Children welcome.
- Live Trivia by Challenge Entertainment, 7 p.m., Bush Burger House, 607 N. Colorado St.
- "The MeshugaNutcracker! The Chanukah Musical" is a musical comedy that mixes Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite" with dancing dreidels, 7 p.m., Tall City Stadium 14, 4915 SW Loop 250 N. \$17.28. talhomevents.com.
- Two-Dollar Tuesdays with the same price for games, shoes, select beans and arcade card after 8 p.m., 5320 W. Loop 250 N. bowlero.com.
- "Merry-achi Christmas" with Mariachi Sol de Mexico de Jose Hernandez, 8 p.m., Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$29.50-\$45.50. wagnerarts.org.
- Karaoke with Ali, 8 p.m., Your Place, 3704 W. Wall St.
- Karaoke and pool tournament at The Lone Star Bar, 621 W. Wall St.

Holiday Event

TODAY IN MIDLAND
Winter Farmer's Market



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

The Midland Farmers Market hosted Winter Market on Saturday at the Museum of the Southwest. Between November and March, the market operates two Saturdays a month. For the schedule, visit midlanddowntownfarmersmarket.com.

Very Merry Midland: Reindeer Games, 5-8:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 303 W. Wall St. The event downtown features Santa's Workshop, ice skating, giant human snow globe, live holiday window displays and a reindeer exhibit. Free admission but \$6 for skating and snow globe photos. Doyourcity.us.

Dome Shows
■ "In My Backyard" dome show, noon, Tuesdays-Saturdays in December. Blakemore Planetarium, 1705 W. Missouri Ave. museumsw.org.

Lottery
Pick 3 morning: 2-9-9
Pick 3 day: 1-9-9
Pick 3 evening: 4-5-2
Daily 4 morning: 5-2-0-1
Daily 4 evening: 9-0-0-1
Daily 4 night: 9-2-5-4
Cash Five: 7-9-27-30-33
Triple Chance: 15-18-24-32-39
40-42-46-50-51

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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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Your determination manifests in such a way that others see its impact. People observe and admire your drive, and might even decide to give it a try in their own lives. A partner or close associate is likely to appear and add fun to the moment. **Tonight:** A force to be dealt with.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You initially might hesitate to pursue a long-term goal, but later will decide to go for it. Someone clearly celebrates your commitment. You might opt to start sharing more of yourself with certain friends. As a result, your bonds will strengthen. **Tonight:** Consider opening up.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Your smile expresses a satisfied mood. You have put yourself on the line to achieve as much as you can, and you have met the bar. Reach out to a child or loved one who might need some of your help. You'll express the holiday spirit to the fullest. **Tonight:** Put on some music.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ You sense a new resilience within you, though you'll choose not to express it. Someone might want to pitch in and help you with your holiday shopping. By accepting this person's offer, you're likely to find the perfect gift for him or her as well. **Tonight:** Get some R and R.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ A friend clues you in to what could be a perfect scenario for you to act out with a loved one. Be sure to thank this person for his or her thoughtful suggestion. A meeting provides lots of food for thought. Know that you are calling the shots. **Tonight:** Whatever makes you happy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ You might feel as if you need to button your lips and refrain from discussing your holiday plans. Not everyone feels so gleeful about the holi-

days. You don't want to upset someone who isn't as upbeat as you are. **Tonight:** Wrap some gifts, or bake your favorite cookies.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You can't help but zero in on the right course of action to take. Trust your intuitive abilities, and follow through on those moments of inspiration. A meeting or get-together will make you smile, as others seem extra enthusiastic. **Tonight:** Make time for a holiday concert.

BORN TODAY
Illusionist Criss Angel (1967), actress Jennifer Beals (1963), actress Alyssa Milano (1972)

Weather

Forecast for Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Monday's temperatures
High: 66
Low: 31
Normal high: 58
Normal low: 30

Dec. 18's records
Record high: 78 set in 1939
Record low: 12 set in 1996

Precipitation
Saturday: 0.00 in.
Sunday: 0.00 in.
Month total: 0.36 in.
Year total: 17.70 in.
Normal total (year to date): 14.36 in.

Winds
Average: 5.8 mph
Wind speed: 10 mph
Gust speed: 16 mph

Dec. 19 forecast
High: 63

Low: 39
Conditions: Partly sunny during the day/clear at night
Winds: 5-10 mph during the day and night

Chance of rain: 30 percent chance during the day
Sunrise: 7:44 a.m.
Sunset: 5:48 p.m.

Source: National Weather Service

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Federal judge retires as he faces accusations from women

By SUDHIN THANAWALA
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The sexual misconduct allegations that have cut a swath through Congress brought down a prominent member of the judicial branch Monday with the resignation of Alex Kozinski, a federal appeals court judge known for his blunt and colorful legal opinions.

Kozinski, a 67-year-old member and former chief judge of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, the nation's largest federal appeals court, said in a statement that a battle over the accusations would not be good for the judiciary. He retired, effective immediately.

The move came days after the 9th Circuit opened a misconduct inquiry following the first in a pair of Washington Post stories that said 15 women — some of whom worked for him as law clerks or in other positions — accused him of groping them, making lewd comments or showing them pornography.

Kozinski, who was known to have a bawdy side well before his resignation, said that while speaking in a "candid way" with male and female clerks, he "may not have

been mindful enough of the special challenges and pressures that women face in the workplace."

"It grieves me to learn that I caused any of my clerks to feel uncomfortable; this was never my intent," he said. "For this I sincerely apologize."

The 9th Circuit hears cases from nine Western states, including California and Arizona, and has been bitterly criticized by President Donald Trump following rulings that blocked his travel ban against mostly Muslim countries.

Some legal experts said Kozinski's resignation may help the judiciary avoid an embarrassing, drawn-out investigation that would damage its reputation and potentially imperil its independence. Federal judges are appointed for life and can be removed only by impeachment by Congress. The goal is to maintain judicial independence by preventing the easy removal of judges for unpopular decisions.

"I take him at his word that he probably understood that this could be very detrimental to the federal judiciary and to individuals in the judiciary and his colleagues," said Carl Tobias, a professor at the University of Richmond School of Law.



Paul Sakuma

Judge Alex Kozinski, of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, gestures Sept. 22, 2003 in San Francisco. Kozinski announced his immediate retirement Monday, days after women alleged he subjected them to inappropriate sexual conduct or comments.

It was not clear whether the investigation of Kozinski by the judiciary will continue. An email to a 9th Circuit spokesman was not immediately returned.

Complaints against judges rarely result in their forced removal from the bench. But some federal judges have stepped down in recent years amid controversy.

Mark Fuller, a trial judge in Alabama, left the bench in 2015 following an allegation that he beat his wife during a

fight in a hotel room in Atlanta; and Richard Roberts, the chief trial judge in Washington, D.C., retired on a medical disability on the same day in 2016 that a woman filed a lawsuit accusing Roberts of sexual assault in 1981.

The son of Holocaust survivors from Romania, Kozinski was appointed to the appeals court in 1985 when he was in his mid-30s by Republican President Ronald Reagan. He is known as a libertarian.

Sarah Palin's son charged with beating his father

By Seema Mehta
Los Angeles Times (TNS)

New details emerged Monday about the arrest of Track Palin, the eldest son of former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, with charging documents saying he broke into his parents' home and beat his father, who was brandishing a gun but refused to shoot.

Track Palin, 28, was arrested Saturday and is charged with first-degree burglary, fourth-degree assault and criminal mischief; he remains in custody. A court filing describes a chaotic scene at the family's home in Wasilla, Alaska, when Track Palin confronted his father over a truck he wanted to pick up.

His father, Todd Palin, had told him not to come to the home because Track Palin had been drinking and taking pain medication, according to a sworn police affidavit and charging documents.

"Track told him he was (going to) come anyway to beat his ass," according to an affidavit filed by Wasilla Police Officer Adam LaPointe.

When Todd Palin confronted his son at the door with a pistol, the younger Palin broke a window and entered the house and started beating his father, according to court filings. Palin pushed his father to the ground and hit him repeatedly on the head, the documents say.

Sarah Palin, the 2008 Republican vice presidential nominee, called police at 8:30 p.m. and said her son was "freaking out and was on some type of medication."

When police arrived, they saw Todd and Sarah Palin fleeing the house in separate vehicles. Todd Palin with blood running down his face and Sarah Palin looking "visibly upset," the documents say.

Police confronted Track Palin in the residence. He called them "peasants" and told them to lay down their weapons, according to the documents. Eventually, Palin left the house and was placed in handcuffs.

He told police that when he arrived at the house, his father had his gun aimed at him, and he had urged his father to shoot him several times before entering the house, according to the documents.

When police interviewed Todd Palin, he was bleeding from multiple cuts to his head, and one car was discharging liquid, documents say. The Wasilla Police Department did not respond to a request for comment about whether its officers interviewed Sarah Palin.

A judge set Track Palin's bail at \$5,000. He remains in custody at the Mat-Su Pretrial Facility in Palmer, Alaska. Palmer District Attorney Roman

J. Kalytiak said if Palin remains in custody, his office must take the case to the grand jury within 10 days. If Palin pays bail and is released, prosecutors will have 20 days to go before the grand jury.

An attorney for Sarah and Todd Palin declined comment on the case.

"Given the nature of the actions addressed ... by law enforcement and the charges involved, the Palins are unable to comment further," John Tiemessen said in a statement. "They ask that the family's privacy is respected during this challenging situation just as others dealing with a struggling family member would also request."

Track Palin has had previous brushes with the law. In January 2016, he was arrested for allegedly punching his girlfriend at the same Wasilla home. He pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm while intoxicated, and took a plea deal that resulted in other charges being dismissed. His girlfriend later filed for custody of their child and sought a protective order against him.

At the time of that arrest, Sarah Palin was campaigning for then-candidate Donald Trump during the GOP primaries and caucuses. She alluded to her son's arrest during a campaign rally, suggesting that he suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder after returning from a military deployment in Iraq. She described soldiers "who come home from the battlefield bringing new battles with them (and) coming back different than when they left for the war zone."

"When my own son is going through what he goes through coming back, I can certainly relate to other families who feel

these ramifications of PTSD," she said, before blaming then-President Barack Obama for not respecting veterans.

During the 2008 presidential campaign, when Sarah Palin was Sen. John McCain's running mate, she frequently spoke of her son's service in the military. He was stationed in Iraq during most of the general election campaign.

Palin had been governor of Alaska for less than two years and was a relative unknown when she was thrust onto the national stage. The move eventually proved unpopular among some conservatives who questioned whether Palin had the experience and knowledge to be a heartbeat away from the presidency.

But Palin's folksy personality and colloquialisms strongly resonated with the party's base, and she became a powerful force in national GOP politics following her and McCain's loss in 2008.

She resigned as governor the following year, but was a frequent presence in the media and on the campaign trail as a forceful critic of Obama and an early supporter of the tea party. Palin sparred with the GOP establishment, and her endorsement swung Republican primary races and drew dollars.

She was the subject of several books as well as a documentary by Steve Bannon. She starred in a television show and flirted with a presidential run in 2012. Her prominence has waned since then, but she remains a popular draw among socially conservative voters.

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MALLS

From 1A

"The mix of uses at our malls is changing," said Stephen Lebovitz, CEO of mall owner CBL Properties. "It's becoming less apparel and more dining, more entertainment, more service, more fitness, wellness — the types of categories that are more popular."

CBL, which owns and manages 119 properties, including malls, outlets and open-air retail centers, has been adding more non-retail tenants after a wave of retailer bankruptcies and store closures in 2015 and this year, including at Gymboree, Payless Shoe-Source and The Limited.

At its CoolSprings Galleria mall in a suburb of Nashville, CBL has put in a bowling alley and an indoor trampoline park, among other attractions. Lebovitz said the company is also trying to add dine-in movie theaters with reclining seats. "It's a nicer, more experience-focused type of

use."

Carving out space for movie theaters, videogame arcades and food courts isn't a new strategy. What's noteworthy is the degree to which mall owners are now counting on tenants that sell experiences, rather than physical goods. The share of space occupied by non-retail tenants at regional shopping malls reached nearly 13 percent last year, according to commercial real estate tracker CoStar. It was 10.5 percent in 2012.

Since 2014, about 90 large U.S. malls have invested more than \$8 billion in major renovations, according to a study by commercial real estate firm JLL. Some 41 percent of the malls in the study spruced up their food and beverage offerings with an emphasis on restaurants that serve more varied fare and, in some cases, alcohol.

"It was not that long ago that the food offerings in the traditional food court at shopping centers in the '80s and '90s were really

more about just giving you something to eat while you shop," said James Cook, director of retail research at JLL. "Now the food and beverage is part of the attraction."

Westfield's Century City mall in Los Angeles has spent \$1 billion to add more than 400,000 square feet of retail space. The renovation included a swanky outdoor dining plaza with gourmet restaurants and cafes. It also added the first Eatly on the West Coast. The Italian food market, which houses a variety of restaurants, drew an average of 3,600 people a day during its opening weekend.

The mall features a 15-screen movie theater, grocery store, fitness clubs and a health clinic. Westfield also installed an events and entertainment space. Pop bands Fitz & the Tantrums and DNCE took the stage at the mall's reopening gala in October, and "The Nutcracker" ballet played more recently.

LONGHORN

From 1A

to perfection and is a tender and juicy cut of meat, that is something we feel — that served with a smile and the knowledgeable staff that we have — is going to separate us from the competitors in the market.

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name steakhouse so they affiliate it as a steakhouse, our steaks are phenomenal — but our chicken and seafood as well is fresh, never frozen, and the same quality indicator — that all-natural, fresh chicken that is so fresh and juicy and the salmon that has never been frozen but coming to you fresh — is going to have more of a fresh flavor. Although we are a steakhouse, all three of our proteins, chicken, fish and steak are phenomenal products.

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PBS slams Tavis Smiley after he says it made 'a huge mistake' dumping his show

By Christie D'Zurilla
Los Angeles Times (TNS)

Tavis Smiley called out PBS on Monday for making what he calls "a huge mistake" when it stopped distributing his show over allegations of sexual misconduct against him.

"I'm going to do anything to protect my reputation," Smiley said on "Good Morning America."

PBS didn't take the host's morning-show offensive sitting down.

"Tavis Smiley needs to get his

story straight," a PBS spokesperson said in a statement. The rep also confirmed the decision to keep Smiley's show on indefinite suspension.

On "GMA" — where Smiley maintained his innocence while also admitting to "consensual" relationships with colleagues and an "intense" atmosphere during production — he faulted PBS for not sharing the identities of his accusers during an investigation conducted by an outside law firm.

"Witnesses who have bravely come forward to speak with the independent investigators retained by PBS report a fear of retribution

for speaking out. PBS stands by its decision to respect the anonymity of those who are afraid to come forward publicly. Additional allegations are continuing to come to light since last week's announcement," the network spokesperson said.

In response to Smiley's explanation that his company did not prohibit relationships between employees because "I don't know where your heart's going to lead you," PBS's rep said the network was "certain that it should not lead to multiple sexual relationships between the owner of a company and subordinates over many years

particularly where employment decisions may be linked to sex."

Last week on Facebook, Smiley said, "I have the utmost respect for women and celebrate the courage of those who have come forth to tell their truth. To be clear, I have never groped, coerced, or exposed myself inappropriately to any workplace colleague in my entire broadcast career, covering six networks over 30 years."

PBS on Monday noted conflicts between that post and his comments on "GMA."

On the show, "Mr. Smiley acknowledged he has had multiple sexual encounters with his

employees, then struggled to recall the number of current employees with whom he has had sex," the PBS spokesperson said. "This contradicts his Facebook post from last week, where he cited only one previous relationship with an employee."

Smiley said on "GMA" that he found out he was being investigated only after he got calls from former staffers who were getting "strange phone calls asking strange questions." That's when he lawyered up.

"They were prepared to close this investigation without talking to me..." Smiley said, "and when they did, they talked to me for three hours and they never told me who the accusers were, what the allegations were." Quizzed as to whether it was important that he know the identity of his accusers, he said, yes, so he better answers any questions.

PAID CONTENT

for your information

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

Save 50 percent on Christmas decor this week at Flowerland!

He who hesitates saves big! That's the lesson on festive Christmas decorations at Flowerland.

Maybe you just discovered that you're now the host for this year's family Christmas—and your holiday decor

ating needs a last-minute boost. Or perhaps you're looking ahead to next year, and want to save significant money in the process.

There are so many reasons to go by Flowerland this week and connect with

your inner Santa. You'll still find him and some of his elves busy with those last-minute gift projects. There are still lots of sparkingly decorative ornaments and decorations for your tree and for your home.

This year, as always, Flowerland's Chief Designer, Chris Collum, AIFD, TMF, has reached new heights with the most amazing selection of Christmas you'll find anywhere. While his decorating is the ultimate, you can choose your own favorite colors and designs, picking them right off the tree like low-hanging fruit if you want.

His designs are always spectacular because Chris spends the year gathering the brightest ideas for your home's holiday décor. No question, you've got to see what he's found this year! Everything on the trees and on display anywhere in the showroom is available for you to purchase for your own home or for gifts at 50 percent off the list price.

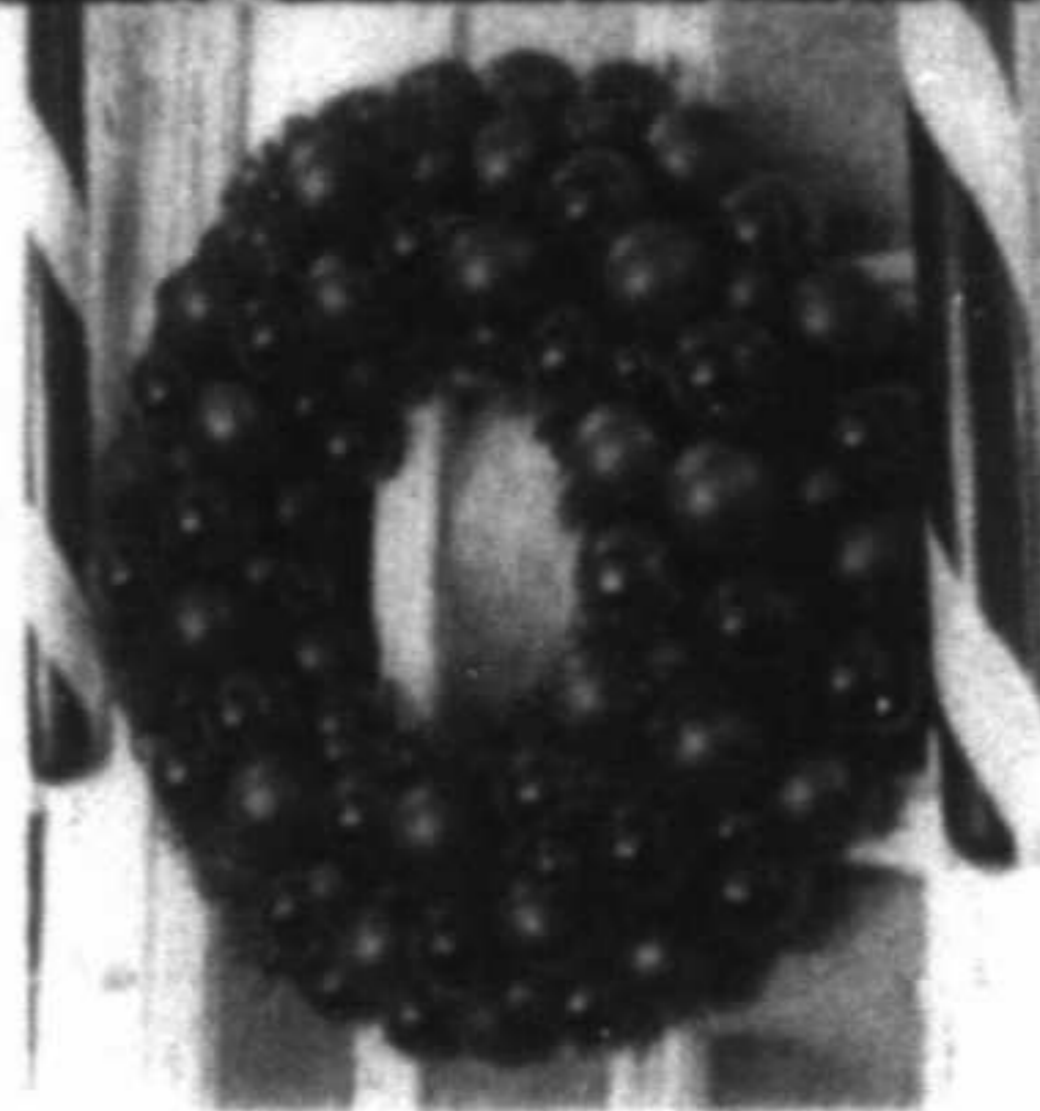
Friends and family will be asking you, "Where did you get these beautiful decorations? These are amazing!" So it's up to you to decide whether to fess up.

You can browse among the classic colors of red and green, or soak up the more reflective designs in gold and silver. Woodland creatures gaily dressed in holiday regalia are ready to greet you when you do.

Plus the most traditional—Joseph, Mary, Baby Jesus and the animals around the manger are on hand as



Save 50 percent this week on Christmas décor at Flowerland as you surround yourself with the spirit of the season. Flowerland is at 413 Andrews Highway in Midland.



well. Stop in just to breathe in the joy of the holiday—and take home a special for yourself or as a gift. It's what the season is all about!

Flowerland is located at 413 Andrews Highway in Midland. The phone number is 682-1634. Flowerland is an FTD and Teleflora florist. Their web address is www.flowerlandmidland.com.

Special offer on gas logs this season at Bill's Fireplace

This is the season for coming home, lighting some warm gas logs and relaxing with family, friends, hot chocolate and all.

So if you don't have gas logs or the ones you have are showing their age, this is the time to call Bill's Fireplace. If you call between now and Christmas, you'll get a special offer.

Owner Bill Rodriguez wants you to have a top-quality Peterson gas log set, so he's ready to help you. With the purchase of a log set, Bill will clean the firebox (not including the chimney) and check the gas valve and connections for leaks, at no extra charge. And, of course, he always offers complete service after the sale. Peterson gas logs come with a lifetime warranty.

Gas logs (and accessories like fireplace screens and tools for anyone with a wood burning fireplace) can make great gifts, even if there's not quite time to get them installed before the holiday. The promise of gas logs can make her very happy at gift opening time!

If you have a wood burning fireplace, Bill is still the area's longtime expert on chimney cleaning. For fire safety reasons, your chimney should be cleaned after every cord of wood you burn, depending on the type of wood. If you burn something soft like pine, it should be cleaned after every half cord.

Bill recommends every chimney have a cap on it, for several reasons. First, it keeps out rain, sleet and snow—whose moisture can rust the damper and make it inoperable. Second, because it keeps critters out—birds can build nests that clog the chimney, and squirrels. You do not want a squirrel to fall down the chimney and get loose in your home! Bill installs chimney covers that look great and protect your fireplace and chimney from all the risks listed above.

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Get a special deal on warm gas fireplace logs now. Call Bill's Fireplace and get free cleaning of your firebox and a free check of your gas valve for logs when you buy a Peterson gas log set. Here Bill Rodriguez displays two treasures: A 1969 letter from Odessa's William A. Graham offering to sell Graham's business, The Home Store, to Bill; and a newspaper article telling how Bill and family are all involved in helping the community.

as the owner of Bill's Fireplace Center—Bill Rodriguez has pleased hundreds of area homeowners during that time, with an impressive number of repeat customers across generations now. He's ready to put his experience and integrity to work for you this season.

Not satisfied simply to do an outstanding job for customers, Bill feels that he and his entire family owe the community at large—so they volunteer in charitable organizations such as Casa de Amigos, Safe Place and others.

A fireplace should be a place to relax and enjoy life. Call the experienced expert for repairs, chimney cleaning and for the installation of warm, cozy gas logs. And get ready to relax in front of that fireplace!

Bill's Fireplace Center is located at 1509 North Big Spring. Owner Bill Rodriguez has owned Bill's Fireplace Center for 40 years. Call Bill's at 682-5157.

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OPINION

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Tuesday, December 19, 2017 | Page 6A

Congratulations to president for winning a war

■ The uber-hawks and biased journalists among us should take note that the war against ISIS was won

There is nothing more characteristic of the Trump era, with its fire hose of misinformation, scandal and hyperbole, than that America and its allies recently managed to win a war that just two years ago consumed headlines and dominated political debate and helped Donald Trump get elected president — and somehow nobody seemed to notice.

I mean the war against the Islamic State, whose expansion was the defining foreign policy calamity of Barack Obama's second term, whose executions of Americans made the U.S. look impotent and whose utopian experiment drew volunteers drunk on world-historical ambitions and metaphysical dreams. Its defeat was begun under Obama, and the hardest fighting has been done by Iraqis — but this was an American war too, and we succeeded without massive infusions of ground troops, without accidentally getting into a war with Russia, and without inspiring a huge wave of terrorism in the West.

Why haven't we noticed this success? One reason is the nature of our victory. As Max Abrahms and John Glaser wrote recently in the Los Angeles Times, the defeat of the Islamic State didn't happen the way many foreign policy hawks envisioned, because it didn't require also

ROSS DOUTHAT
New York Times News Service



going to war with Bashar al-Assad or creating a new Syrian opposition army. At the same time, it happened more easily than intervention skeptics feared — so there isn't a pundit chorus, right or left, ready to claim vindication in the victory.

Other reasons for the lack of attention are suggested by National Review's David French, in a piece that helped inspire this one: a war-weary assumption that if you crush one terrorist group another just springs up (true to a point, but crushing an ambitious terrorist state is still a real achievement); a popular appetite for bad news that leaves little room for celebrating victory; and the inability of Trump to take credit for anything without immediately firing up some unrelated controversy.

But this is also a press failure, a case where the media is not adequately reporting an important success because it does not fit into the narrative of Trumpian disaster in which our journalistic entities are all invested.

I include myself in this indictment. Foreign policy is the place where the risks of

electing Trump seemed to me particularly unacceptable, and I've tended to focus on narratives that fit that fear, from the risk of regional war in the Middle East to the perils in our North Korean brinkmanship.

Those fears are still reasonable. But all punditry is provisional, and for now, the Trump administration's approach to the Middle East has been moderately successful, and indeed close to what I would have hoped for from a normal Republican president following a realist-internationalist course.

In particular, Trump has avoided the temptation often afflicting Republican uber-hawks, in which we're supposed to fight all bad actors on 16 fronts at once. Instead, he's slow-walked his hawkish instincts on Iran, tolerated Assad and avoided dialing up tensions with Russia. The last issue is, of course, entangled with the great collusion debate — but it's still a good thing that our mini-cold war has remained relatively cool and we aren't strafing each other over Syria.

The Saudi war in Yemen remains a humanitarian catastrophe and our relationship with the House of Saud remains corrupt. But the war in Yemen was already an American-abetted disaster under Obama, and the Trump White House has at least called for Riyadh to lift its Yemen embargo and seen the new king promise some mild social and economic reforms.

And the Trump strategy on Israel and the Palestinians, the butt of many Jared

Kushner jokes, seems ... not crazy? The relatively mild reaction to recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital may be a case study in expert consensus falling behind the facts; the Arab world has different concerns than it did in 1995, and Trump's move has helped clarify that change.

Likewise, getting the Saudis to lean hard on the Palestinians, to float radical ideas for a supersized Gaza and a very Israel-friendly solution elsewhere, is as plausible an attempt to break the logjam as was the pressure Obama put on Israel. The truth is that the specific two-state vision of the late 1990s was overtaken by events a while ago, and demonstrating that some Arab states are more amenable to accommodating Israel is a useful step toward diplomatic clarity.

The rule with this White House is that if you write in praise of anything it has done, something disastrous swiftly follows. So if this column conjures up a Saudi invasion of Lebanon, a renewed intifada, or something terrible in the Koreas — well, I apologize in advance.

But if you had told me in late 2016 that almost a year into the Trump era the caliphate would be all-but-beaten without something far worse happening in the Middle East, I would have been surprised and gratified. So very provisionally, credit belongs where it's due — to our soldiers and diplomats, yes, but to our president as well.

OUR VIEW

Recipe for winning local elections isn't complicated

Last weekend we read about the road bond campaign that dominated high-voter regions of town, including central and north Midland.

As we look back at the election, the road bond campaign didn't re-invent or change the dynamics of local politics in Midland. The organizers had a solid message about an urgent need, campaigned to the entire community and let the facts speak for themselves.

People needed to know exactly what was on the ballot, and officials report there were 72 presentations around town for anyone who cared enough to attend one. And in the end, campaign officials were successful, whereas those involved with the tax ratification election in October 2016 and the 4B election in May failed.

Case in point: The road bond election lost six of 23 precincts. That was a 180-degree turn compared to what was experienced during the previous two local elections. The TRE won just one of 45 precincts and the 4B election captured five of 35.

In reviewing these local elections, we also learned that those supporting local tax elections will have friendly precincts (204, 205 and 403 in central and north Midland come to mind) and those they will have to work harder to win over. Precincts 405 (around Lee High School), 407 (north of Wadley Avenue and west of Midland Drive) and 410 (northwest Midland) appear to be the toughest sells based on the 2017 tax elections.

Those looking to ask the community for tax dollars in the future have data to pore over. Anyone running a campaign who has the community's best interest at heart better go through it. You can find out the areas of town where people vote, the areas where they don't vote, those precincts more likely to support certain initiatives and those where the measures will be a tougher sell.

But in the end, anyone who looks at the road bond campaign versus previous elections knows the quality of the campaign matters, the quality of the message being delivered matters and the ability to connect with Midlanders matters. Remember all those people who said fewer Midlanders voting means an item has a better chance of passing? 2017 didn't confirm their theory.

The same can be said of 2012, 2009, 2005, 2003, 2001 and 1999. Property tax or sales tax, large voter turnout or small, we saw Midlanders support passage of tax elections during those years. That brings us back to this adage — a good campaign and better message will win elections.

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE

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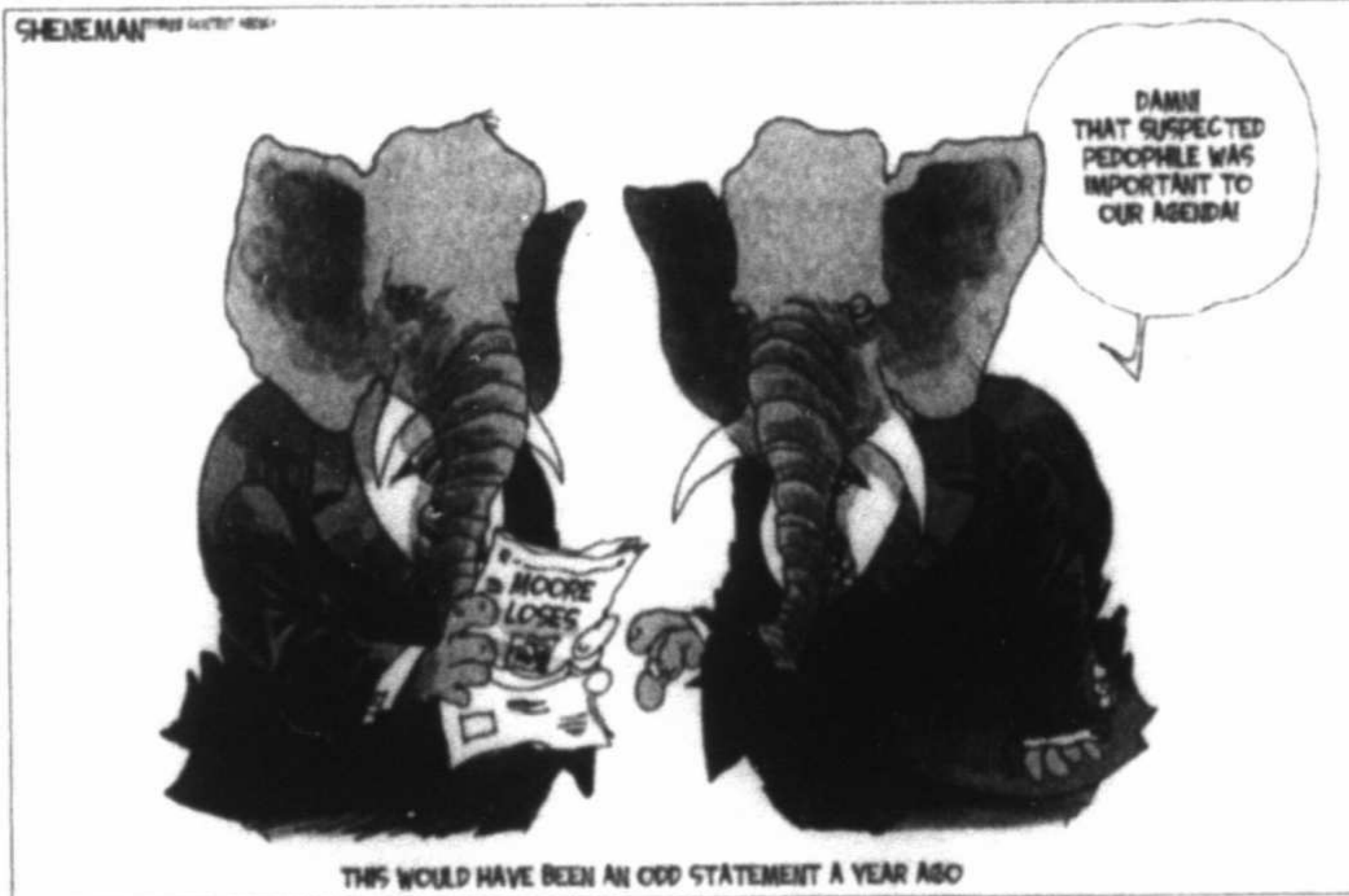
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Dems should be sad that Moore lost

■ If Democrats were serious about competing in Alabama, they would not have nominated a pro-abortion extremist in one of the most pro-life states in the country

MARC THIESSEN

Special to the Washington Post



Poor Al Franken. The Minnesota Democrat was kicked to the curb by a party that, until a few months ago, not only turned a blind eye to sexual misconduct but also lionized serial predators such as Bill Clinton and Ted Kennedy. So why was Franken a bridge too far for Democrats? Because he stood in the way of their effort to claim the "moral high ground" when Roy Moore was elected to the United States Senate.

Democrats were looking forward to spending the next year wrapping Moore around the necks of Republicans. They were gearing up for a Senate Ethics Committee investigation that would keep Moore in the spotlight for months and preparing to demand public hearings where his accusers could be paraded before the media. They were waiting with bated breath for the cavalcade of bigoted gaffes Moore would have made. They were looking forward to seeing Republicans squirm, as they were forced to court an increasingly toxic Moore for his vote in a narrowly divided Senate. And they were ready to pummel Republicans when, in the end, the GOP-controlled Senate would fail to expel him — knowing full well there was no precedent for removing a senator from office for actions he allegedly committed decades ago, before he was a senator, and that voters knew about before electing him.

"Sen. Roy Moore, R-Ala.," would have been the greatest Christmas gift Democrats could have wished for. Instead, Santa left them with a lump of coal. Moore isn't coming to Washington after all. There will be no investigation, no public hearings. The voters of conservative Republican Alabama, in their wisdom, decided that Moore was not worthy to represent them in the United States Senate. Roll tide!

Of course, the idea that Democrats could have claimed moral superiority when it comes to the sexual abuse of women was laughable to begin with. Just last year, Democrats gave Clinton — who faced credible allegations of rape and other sexual misconduct — a hero's welcome at their convention in Philadelphia. They nominated Hillary Clinton, who rather than believe the women stood by her husband through the allegations, as their

standard-bearer. And just a few years ago, they named a Senate caucus room for Ted and John F. Kennedy, both harassers as well.

Watching the party of Clinton, Kennedy, Franken, Conyers, Weiner, Condit and countless others exonerating anyone over sexual misconduct would have been rich indeed. But Moore's election would have given Democrats a credible pretext to do just that.

Instead, they got Doug Jones. Democrats never intended for Jones to win. After all, if they were serious about competing in Alabama, they would not have nominated a pro-abortion extremist in one of the most pro-life states in the country. Indeed, Jones would have lost easily Tuesday night if any Republican other than an alleged sex predator had been on the ballot. And he is virtually guaranteed to lose his seat in 2020.

Democrats will take the unexpected benefits of his victory, which narrows the GOP's Senate majority from 52 to 51, complicating President Donald Trump's ability to pass legislation and confirm judges (including a possible Supreme Court pick) next year. They will try to spin it as a repudiation of Trump, which it was not. (Trump maintains a 59 percent approval rating in Alabama.) And they know it means they have one less seat they need to win in order to regain control of the Senate in 2018.

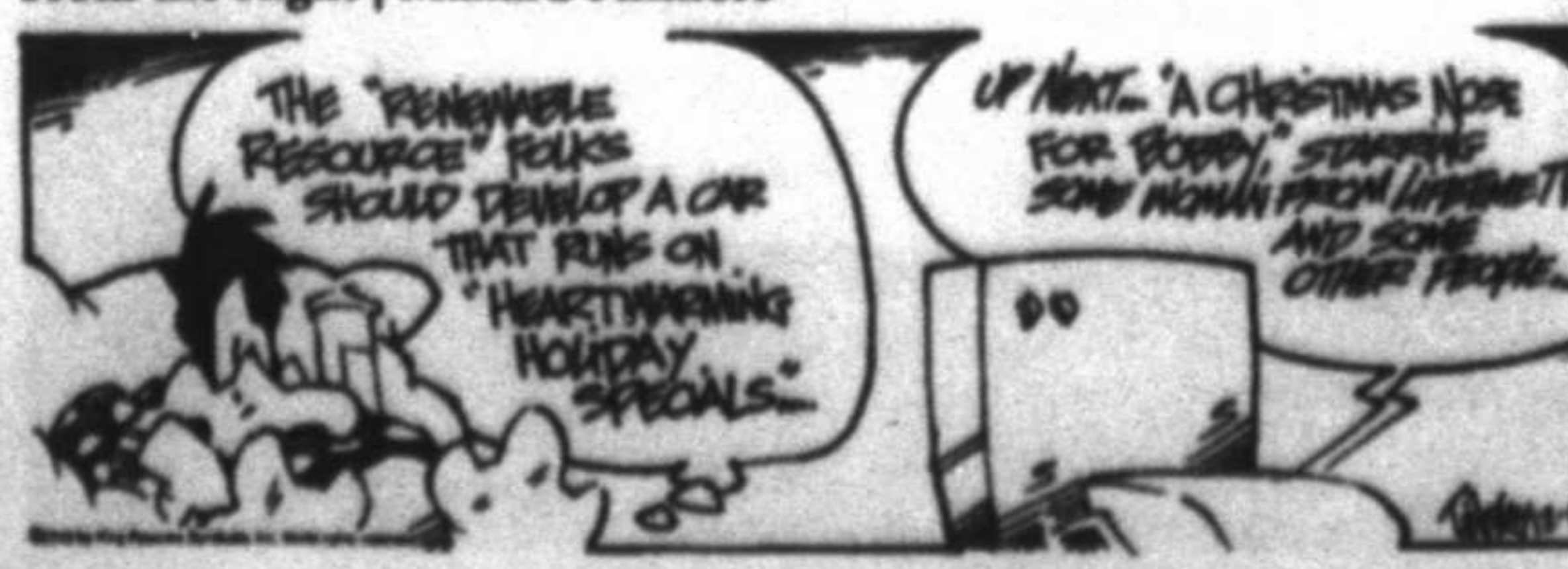
But all that pales in comparison with what Moore would have done for the Democratic Party as a Republican senator. That is why so many conservatives in Alabama either wrote in another candidate or stayed home, giving Jones the victory. And it is why Alabama's senior senator, Richard C. Shelby — possibly the most astute political mind on the Republican side of the aisle — came out publicly against Moore the Sunday before the election. They knew that Moore is the Democrats' caricature of a Republican come to life. Democrats are glad to gain a Senate seat, but with a Moore victory they might have gained a whole lot more.

Thank God for the people of Alabama.

From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



House GOP pushing \$81B disaster relief for fires, hurricanes

By Andrew Taylor
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Republicans plan to unveil an \$81 billion disaster aid package to help hurricane-ravaged communities and states hit by wildfires, almost double the amount requested by President Donald Trump last month.

The emergency aid would provide \$26 billion for community development block grants, which would help Florida, Texas and the Caribbean rebuild along with Western states recovering from wildfires.

There's funding for prevention of future flooding, highway repairs and help for small businesses. The package also would provide \$3.8 billion for agriculture. Florida lawmakers have said citrus crops in their state have been suffering.

"It's a big win for Florida's agriculture," said Rep. Tom Rooney, R-Fla. Last month, Trump requested \$44 billion, his third emergency request since hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria slammed the Gulf Coast and Caribbean. The request sparked howls from lawmakers from hurricane-hit states.

"While it was not everything, it was further than the administration proposed," Rep. Pete Sessions, R-Texas, said Monday.

The emergency relief could be paired with a stopgap spending bill to avert a government shutdown at midnight Friday or advance separately.

The Senate's top Republican announced a lengthy wish list that he hopes to attach to a must-do spending

bill this week, but there's no agreement with the chamber's Democrats and little time to waste.

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is eyeing the measure as a shortcut to power several other items into law, including hurricane relief, a renewal of a children's health insurance program and funding to stabilize "Obamacare" insurance markets.

Put top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer has other priorities, chiefly protection from deportation of immigrants commonly referred to as "Dreamers" and securing spending increases for domestic agencies to match huge budget increases sought by defense hawks for the Pentagon.

The must-pass spending bill would be the main item of congressional business remaining after Republicans wrap up action on their hard-fought tax bill. Lawmakers are eager to head home for the holidays.

GOP leaders are aiming for Tuesday votes in both the House and Senate on the tax measure, which would be the biggest win by far for Trump on Capitol Hill.

As Republicans controlling Congress hashed out their tax measure, however, a stack of unfinished legislation has piled up.

Negotiations have produced some progress, but many disagreements remain. Perhaps most significantly, Democrats are demanding that Trump fulfill pledges to address the immigration issue, which involves protections for immigrants who were brought to the country illegally as children and who have often known no other home than the U.S.

Republicans leaders don't want to

take on the politically explosive issue of immigration this year but promise it will be taken care of next year. And GOP leaders have so far rejected Democratic demands that domestic agencies and foreign aid accounts receive spending increases at parity with the \$60 billion to \$70 billion or more increase that Republicans want to award the Department of Defense.

In the House, GOP leaders have announced a plan to pair a huge Pentagon funding bill with record spending increases with a stopgap spending measure called a continuing resolution that would keep the rest of the government running at current levels through Jan. 19.

They have also added a GOP-drafted renewal of the popular Clinton-era Children's Health Insurance Program.

The House GOP plan has little chance of surviving in the Senate. Unlike the tax bill, which is advancing under special filibuster-proof procedure, Democratic votes are needed to pass the year-end measure.

"We need action on Dreamers, and we need our Republican colleagues to cooperate," Schumer said. "On these issues and more, there is a lot of work left to do."

And in the Senate, McConnell promised several additions of his own, including tens of billions of dollars in hurricane aid, renewal of a controversial overseas wiretapping program that's valuable in fighting terrorism, and a budget waiver that would make sure the tax bill doesn't trigger cuts to Medicare and other benefit programs under pay-as-you-go rules enacted when Democrats controlled Congress.

The complexity of the agenda — and Capitol Hill's spotty track record of bipartisan success in the Trump era — has spawned speculation that lawmakers will do the bare minimum to avert a shutdown and punt almost all the rest of the issues into the new year.

"Congress must do what is right for the American people and take action this week," McConnell said, urging his colleagues to "come together and help pass a funding agreement that fulfills our responsibilities to the nation."

NEWSBRIEFS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

MISSISSIPPI Nightclub is shut after shooting wounds 4 people

ETHEL — A rural nightclub in central Mississippi is temporarily shut down after four people were shot and wounded there during the weekend.

Attala County Sheriff Tim Nail tells multiple news outlets that a fifth person was also injured, but not shot, during the disturbance early Sunday at the Attala County Lounge near Ethel.

MISSOURI Pitcher Hamels gives mansion to camp for special needs kids

REEDS SPRING — Texas Rangers pitcher Cole Hamels and his wife, Heidi, are donating a mansion and 100 acres of land in southwest Missouri to charity that provides camps for children with special needs and chronic illnesses and their siblings.

The 32,000-square foot home will be donated to Camp Barnabas. The mansion and land is near Table Rock Lake near Reeds Springs. Heidi Hamels grew up in Buffalo, Missouri.

FLORIDA Attorney charged with paying female inmate for sex

ST. PETERSBURG —

Authorities say a Florida attorney used his position to gain access to a women's jail and film himself having sex with a female inmate.

A Pinellas County Sheriff's Office news release says 54-year-old Andrew Spark was arrested Sunday and charged with soliciting for prostitution and other counts.

Detectives began investigating Spark last month following a tip that he was soliciting sex from female inmates at the Pinellas County Jail.

The release says Spark had sex with one 28-year-old inmate at least six times since her June arrest on drug charges. Spark has never represented the woman, but investigators say he began paying her for sex about three years ago.

Detectives are trying to determine if Spark engaged in similar activity at other jails.

NORTH CAROLINA Disabled woman dies in North Carolina house fire

GREENSBORO — Officials say a disabled woman has died in a house fire in North Carolina.

The News & Record of Greensboro reports firefighters responding to a fire around 11:30 a.m. on Monday found flames coming out of the windows in the front and back of the house.

Spokesman Dwayne Church said firefighters found the unidentified woman's body in a bedroom.

Holiday travel chaos ahead after airport outage

Jonathan Landrum Jr.
San Antonio Express-News

ATLANTA — While power has been restored to the world's busiest airport, the travel woes will linger for days.

Thousands of people were stranded Monday morning at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, where more than 1,000 flights were grounded just days before the start of the Christmas travel rush.

A sudden power outage that Georgia Power said was caused by a fire in an underground electrical facility brought the airport to a standstill Sunday about 1 p.m.

All outgoing flights were halted, and arriving planes were held on the ground at their point of departure. International flights were being diverted, officials said. San Antonio International Airport, though, reported little impact from Atlanta's troubles.

Delta Air Lines, with its biggest hub in Atlanta, will be hardest hit. By Sunday evening, Delta had already canceled nearly 900 flights and another 300 Monday, nearly all of them in Atlanta, according to tracking service FlightAware.com.

Robert Mann, an aviation consultant and former American Airlines executive, said it likely will be Tuesday before Delta's operations in Atlanta return to normal, and for passengers "it could be most of the week" because there aren't many open seats on other flights in the last week before Christmas.

One bit of good news, according to Mann: Delta has more spare planes and available crews in Atlanta than anywhere else, which should help it to recover.

Delta customers flying to or from Atlanta can make a one-time change to travel plans without incurring a \$200 change fee. The airline also encouraged travelers not to pick up their bags Monday because

of anticipated congestion at the airport.

Still, when flights at Atlanta were grounded for most of one day last spring, it took Delta five days — and about 4,000 canceled flights — before it fully recovered.

Like Sunday's outage, that April storm hit Delta's largest hub at a busy travel time when there weren't many empty seats to accommodate customers from cancelled flights. At the time, CEO Ed Bastian vowed Delta would make "significant improvements" to its system for scheduling and tracking aircraft crews to recover more quickly from disruptions.

Other airlines also canceled flights for the rest of Sunday. American Airlines canceled 24 departures and an equal number of arrivals, said spokesman Ross Feinstein. The airline also diverted three planes that were headed to Atlanta when the outage struck, sending them instead to

Dallas, Nashville and back to Philadelphia.

The city of Atlanta provided shuttle service to the Georgia Convention Center on Sunday for travelers needing a place to stay.

Delta passenger Emilia Duca, 32, was on her way to Wisconsin from Bogota, Colombia, when she got stuck in Atlanta. She said police made passengers who were in the baggage claim area move to a higher floor. She said restaurants and shops were closed. Vending machines weren't working.

"A lot of people are arriving, and no one is going out. No one is saying anything official. We are stuck here," she said. "It's a nightmare."

Some passengers said there was a lack of information from airport officials and little help from first responders to get the disabled and the elderly through the airport without the use of escalators and elevators.

"They had these elderly

people, handicapped people lined up in wheelchairs," said stranded passenger Rutia Curry. "The people were helpless, they can't get down the stairs. It was just a nightmare."

Passenger James Beatty said there was no real method for evacuation. "I mean there was 40 or 50 people per the terminal area that were confined to wheelchairs and some that couldn't get through the airport very well, some of them actually couldn't walk and there was no plan at all to get them out of here without any power."

Beatty said passengers carried those who used wheelchairs down stairs.

The FAA said it would staff the airport control tower throughout the night so it could handle flights once they resume. The FAA said the tower could operate normally but flights were affected because airport equipment in the terminals was not working.

According to a Georgia Power statement, the utility

believes a piece of equipment in an underground electrical facility may have failed, causing the fire. The fire was next to equipment for a backup system, causing that to also fail.

"No personnel or passengers were in danger at any time," the statement said. No areas outside of the airport were affected by the power loss. The utility said there are "many redundant systems in place" to ensure the power supply to the airport and that such outages at the airport "are very rare."

Anthony Foxx, who served as U.S. transportation secretary under former President Barack Obama, tweeted that he was among the many travelers stuck for hours on a plane on the tarmac.

"Total and abject failure here at ATL Airport today," he tweeted, adding that there was "no excuse for lack of workable redundant power source. NONE!"

In another tweet, Foxx said it seemed like the


problem was "compounded by confusion and poor communication."

Once he was off the plane, Foxx tweeted that he hoped to rent a car to drive to Charlotte, North Carolina, to catch a flight Monday morning.

Sara Melillo and her husband, Greg Presto, were traveling from Kenya, where they live, to Pittsburgh to spend Christmas with his family when they were stuck on the tarmac for six hours. The couple had made stops in Nairobi and Amsterdam and landed shortly after the lights went out in Atlanta.

Melillo said the pilot didn't have a lot of information for the travelers but the plane had air conditioning and attendants offered water and juice a few times. She described the Delta terminal as "big chaos" with not enough customer service for the hundreds of people trying to find a flight to their next destination and a place to sleep for the night.

DAILY PROMISE
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HENRY

Luke 2:6-7

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

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Mortimer Mouse was the original name of Mickey Mouse before Walt Disney's wife, Lillian, convinced him to change it.

Doritos was originally born from the tortilla lovers of Disneyland.

Attention Readers
In observance of
Christmas Day
The Midland Reporter-Telegram will be closed
Monday, December 25th, 2017

Advertising Deadlines

Classified Word Ads	
Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Mon., Dec 25th	Fri., Dec 22nd, 4pm
Tues., Dec 26th	Fri., Dec 22nd, 4pm

Classified Display Ads	
Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Mon., Dec. 25th	Thurs., Dec 21st, 2pm
Tues., Dec 26th	Thurs., Dec. 21st, 2pm

Retail Display Ads	
Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Mon., Dec 25th	Thurs., Dec 21st, 2pm
Tues., Dec 26th	Thurs., Dec 21st, 2pm

CIRCULATION HOURS
Customer Service calls will be taken
Monday, December 25th from 7 AM-10 AM only

Amtrak train on new route derails, kills 3

By Rachel La Corte, Gillian Flaccus And Michael Sisak
Associated Press

DUPONT, Wash. — An Amtrak train making the first-ever run along a faster new route hurtled off an overpass south of Seattle on Monday and spilled some of its cars onto the highway below, killing at least three people, injuring more than 100 and crushing two vehicles, authorities said.

Attention quickly turned to the train's speed. A website that maps location and speed using data from Amtrak's train tracker app showed the train was going 81.1 mph about a quarter of a mile from the point where it derailed, where the speed limit is significantly lower.

Seventy-seven passengers and seven crew members were aboard when the train derailed and pulled 13 cars off the tracks. Authorities said there were three confirmed deaths and more than a dozen people with critical or serious injuries.

About two hours after the accident, a U.S. official who with others was briefed on the investigation said he was told at least six people were killed. No additional briefings were provided by late afternoon, and the official said he had no new information to explain the discrepancy in the numbers.

The official was not authorized to discuss the investigation publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

A track chart prepared by the Washington State Department of Transportation shows the maximum speed drops from 79 mph to 30 mph for passenger trains just before the tracks curve to cross Interstate 5, which is where the train went off the tracks.

The chart, dated Feb. 7, 2017, was submitted to the Federal Railroad Administration in anticipation of the start of passenger service along a new bypass route that shaves 10 minutes off the trip between Seattle and Portland.

It was not clear how fast the train was moving at the precise moment when it derailed.

Kimberly Reason with Sound Transit, the Seattle-area transit agency that owns the tracks, confirmed to the AP that the speed limit at the point where the train derailed is 30 mph. Speed signs are posted two miles before the speed zone and just before the speed zone approaching the curve, she said.

In a radio transmission immediately after the accident, the conductor can be heard saying the train was coming around a corner and was crossing a bridge that passed over Interstate 5 when it derailed. Dispatch audio also indicated that the engineer survived with bleeding from the head and both eyes swollen shut.

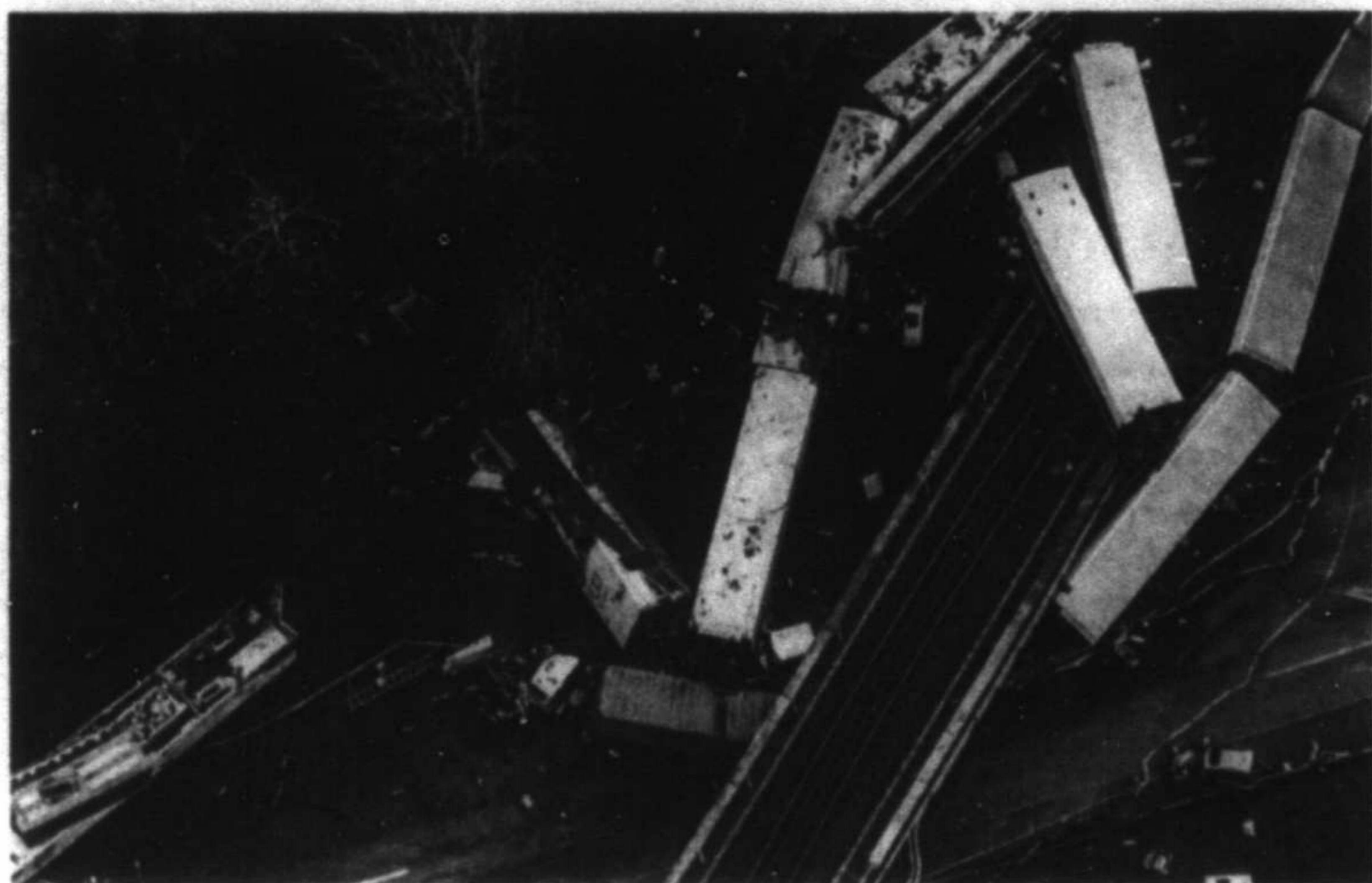
"I'm still figuring that out. We've got cars everywhere and down onto the highway," he tells the dispatcher, who asks if everyone is OK.

Aleksander Kristiansen, a 24-year-old exchange student at the University of Washington from Copenhagen, was going to Portland to visit the city for the day.

"I was just coming out of the bathroom when the accident happened. My car just started shaking really, really badly. Things were falling off the shelf. Right away, you knew that this was not something minor," he said.

The back of his train car was wide open because it had separated from the rest of the train, so he and others were able to jump out to safety. He was at about the middle of the train, either the sixth or seventh car, he said, and was "one of the lucky ones."

Emma Schafer was headed home to Vancouver.



Bettina Hansen/The Seattle Times via Associated Press

Cars from an Amtrak train that derailed above lie spilled onto Interstate 5 Monday in DuPont, Wash. The Amtrak train making the first-ever run along a faster new route hurtled off the overpass Monday near Tacoma and spilled some of its cars onto the highway below, killing several people, authorities said.

Washington, on winter break from the Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle and was napping when the crash occurred.

She awoke to find her body at a 45-degree angle and her train car dangling from the overpass. Someone behind her was pinned by the legs, she said, and she and others who could walk exited the train by crawling onto a car underneath theirs that had been crushed.

"It felt oddly silent after the actual crashing. There was a lot of metal, a lot of screaming, a lot of being thrown around. It was very quiet. Then there was people screaming," Schafer said.

"I don't know if I actually heard the sirens, but they were there. A guy was like, 'Hey, I'm Robert. We'll get you out of here.'"

Dr. Nathan Selden, a neurosurgeon at the Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, said he and his son drove through the accident scene while traveling north to visit Seattle. The doctor asked if he could help and was ushered to a medical triage tent in the highway median.

The most seriously injured had already been whisked away, but the patients he helped appeared to have open head wounds and skull, pelvic or leg fractures, as well as small cuts and neck sprains, he said.

He called it a miracle that an infant child he saw from the scene appeared completely unharmed.

President Donald Trump used the deadly derailment to call for more infrastructure spending in a tweet sent about three hours after the accident. He said the wreck shows "more than ever why our soon to be submitted infrastructure plan must be approved quickly." The accident happened on a newly completed bypass.

The train was making the inaugural run on the new route as part of a \$180.7 million project designed to speed up service by removing passenger trains from a route along Puget Sound that's bogged down by curves, single-track tunnels and freight traffic.

The Amtrak Cascades service that runs from Vancouver, British Columbia, to Eugene, Oregon, is jointly owned by the Washington and Oregon transportation departments. Amtrak operates the service for the two states as a contractor and is responsible for day-to-day operations.

The Amtrak schedule called for the train to leave Seattle around 6 a.m. and arrive in Portland about 3 1/2 hours later.

The new bypass was built on an existing inland rail line that runs along Interstate 5 from Tacoma to DuPont, near where Train 501 derailed. Track testing began in January and February in advance of Monday's launch and continued through at least July, according to the Washington State Department of Transportation.

The tracks, known as the Point Defiance Bypass, were previously owned by BNSF and were used for occasional freight and military transport.

The mayor of Lakewood, Washington, a city along the new route, predicted a deadly crash — but one involving a fast-moving train hitting a car or pedestrian at a grade-crossing, not a train tumbling off an overpass. At a recent public meeting, he called on state planners to build overpass-like rail structures instead of having trains cross busy streets.

Eric Corp, a councilman for the small city of DuPont near the derailment, said he rode the train with about 30 or so dignitaries and others on a special trip Friday before the service opened to the public Monday.

Here's why you don't have to rush to get a divorce before 2018

ALEXIS LEONDIS

Bloomberg

Republican lawmakers are giving unhappy couples just a little more time to try to work out their differences.

The final version of the GOP tax bill includes a controversial provision that would scrap the break divorcees get for paying alimony — but it will only apply to divorce or separation agreements executed after Dec. 31, 2018.

An earlier iteration of the House legislation called for the "divorce penalty" to take effect next year.

Under the revised legislation, taxpayers making alimony payments would no longer be allowed to deduct the payments from their taxable income.

Recipients would no longer need to report the benefit as taxable income. Historically, men have paid alimony to women.

Right now, every dollar in alimony reduces the payer's taxable income by the same amount.

Critics have said getting rid of the deduction would not only increase the financial strain of supporting an ex, but could also lead to more legal disputes and deprive the less-well-off party of much-needed income.

Any change could also have lasting consequences for child support, which is often calculated in tandem with alimony.

The GOP tax legislation seems to say that settlements renegotiated after Dec. 31, 2018, can include language opting out of the new tax treatment of alimony, according to Manhattan divorce lawyer Michael Stutman.

Still, Stutman said it would be wise for parties to add language in amended settlements saying payments may need to be renegotiated for a more "appropriate allocation" if the tax treatment of the payments is different from what's expected.

About 800,000 American couples called it quits in 2015, a rate of about a

100 divorces every hour, figures from the National Center for Health Statistics showed.

While divorce rates have dropped among younger adults in the past quarter century, those among older married couples have risen, according to the Pew Research Center. For those over 50, divorce rates doubled.

On the seventh day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, seven swans swimming.

The seven swans swimming represent the seven sacraments and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

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December 20

6:30-7:30 p.m. - Healing and Wholeness Service in the Chapel. *The Longest Night Service, also known as Blue Christmas is a modern Christian service designed to temper the struggle with darkness and grief faced by those living with loss. Loss may include the death of a loved one, divorce or separation, separation due to military service, the loss of a job, or living with serious illness. Shannon Weisenfels will be sharing her personal journey with grief.*

December 24 - Christmas Eve Worship Services

10:00 a.m. - Worship in the Chapel
5:30 p.m. - Family Worship with Candle lighting in the Sanctuary. Nursery available
7:30 p.m. - Worship with Communion in the Chapel. Nursery available
9:00 p.m. - Worship with Communion and Candle Lighting in the Sanctuary

December 25 - Christmas Day, No Services

First Presbyterian

EDUCATION

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Tuesday, December 19, 2017 | Section B

SBOE begins work on public school long-range plan Board members are gathering input on what is needed to prepare students

By Eva-Marie Ayala
Dallas Morning News

State officials say they want engaged families, quality teachers and better access to opportunities for all students. But how does Texas get there?

The State Board of Education has kicked off work to build Texas' next long-range plan for public schools, which officials hope will be the blueprint that drives future policy decisions and even legislation.

Texans who are gathering at a series of public forums on the plan agree, but they're adamant that they want a plan with teeth, too, to make sure kids are ready for life after high school, whether that be in college or a career.

A group of educators, parents, busi-

ness representatives and others shared their ideas on what to include in that plan during one of the public meetings Wednesday evening at the El Centro-West campus in Dallas.

"We don't want something that just sits on a table," said Barbara Cargill, a state board of education member from The Woodlands who is on the steering committee developing the plan.

"We want something that will give us direction to take action, to make public education better."

The plan will cover objectives such as improving students' academics and boosting teacher recruitment, preparation and retention.

The last time Texas launched a long-range plan for public education was in 2001, which was to carry the state over five years. Much of that plan focused

on academics, with goals to increase enrollment in pre-kindergarten and boost the number of campuses earning the highest state schools accountability rating.

But Texas has been without a road-map for far too long, said Erika Beltran, a state board member from Fort Worth.

The state is about to launch its second accountability system since the last plan was developed and also is working toward another ambitious goal: to have 60 percent of 25- to 34-year-olds earn a degree or career certification by 2030.

Texas needs a more comprehensive approach that focuses on not only academic measures but addresses equity, funding, teacher quality, workforce needs and more.

"This is something that we as a board — and others — can turn to to filter

our decisions that we make for kids," Beltran said.

At last week's meeting, community members said they wanted to boost the overall image of teaching and develop mentoring programs to attract the brightest candidates into the field. They want schools that are safe places for children to learn. They want focused programs that help kids learn even when balancing their lives with disabilities or language barriers.

"I really hope that they take what we say and give it some weight and open the door for more community involvement," said parent Lori Kirkpatrick, who unsuccessfully ran for a spot on the Dallas school board.

Chanel Brown, a volunteer who

Please see PLAN/2B

TEACHING LIFE LESSONS



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

At center, Denise Vosika, an economics teacher at Lee High School, talks with junior Madi Castro and senior Gina Khieuon Thursday in the Lee High School library.

Economics teacher to be recognized for students' AP scores

Lee High's Denise Vosika pushes students to be successful

By Simone Jasper
sjasper@mrt.com

When Lee High School students register for Advanced Placement economics courses, they know they will face a challenging year. Over time, Denise Vosika has built a reputation as a teacher who pushes her students to be successful.

Like all AP courses, Vosika's microeconomics and macroeconom-

ics class introduces high schoolers to undergraduate-level curriculum. The coursework culminates in two tests, and students with high exam scores can earn college credit.

"Even if they don't pass that AP test, they're going to walk into a college classroom of micro- or macroeconomics and be ready," Vosika said. "It is as much about the learning as it is about the test scores."

Nearly 80 percent of Lee High students who took microeconomics and macroeconomics AP tests this spring received "passing" scores of 3,

4 or 5. Also, the results from 2013 to 2017 often surpassed both the Texas and global mean scores, according to information gathered by parents of gifted and talented Midland ISD students.

To recognize Vosika's efforts, the GT Parents Association is planning a ceremony this afternoon at the Lee High library. The association is scheduled to present the teacher with a plaque and a \$300 check during the event.

Please see HONOR/2B

MIDLAND COLLEGE PROFILES

By Rebecca Bell

Native Peruvian pursues passion for music

Eighteen-year-old Miguel Ardiles arrived in Midland from Lima, Peru, on Aug. 15. He didn't know much English, but studying music in the United States had been a dream of his for quite some time. His aunt, Edith Ardiles, lives in Midland, and she welcomed Miguel into her home so that he could attend Midland College and pursue his passion for playing the guitar.



Ardiles

"I started taking guitar lessons in Peru when I was a child," said Ardiles. "My mother had cancer, and I would practice while she would sit or lie on the couch listening. I think it soothed her."

Ardiles studied guitar with the Andean guitarist Raul Garcia Zarate, who is best known for popularizing the Peruvian song "Adios Pueblo de Ayacucho."

"Raul Garcia Zarate was the best teacher in Peru," said Ardiles. "He helped me to develop my own style, which is Peruvian and classical fusion. I played in my first concert when I was 12 — just two months before my mother passed away. She was too sick to attend the concert, but the concert was videotaped. I was able to show the video to my mother, and she was very proud."

While guitar is Miguel Ardiles' favorite instrument, he also plays the piano, tuba, trumpet and saxophone.

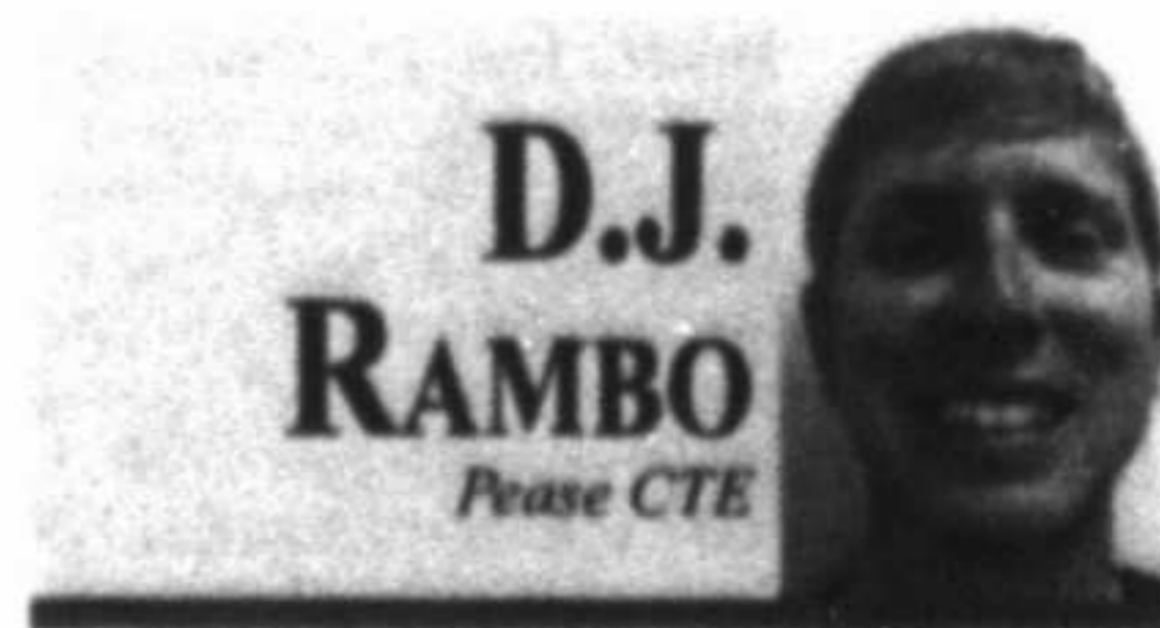
"Music is appreciated much more in the U.S. than it is in Peru," said Ardiles. "That's why I wanted to study here, even though my father didn't want me to come to the U.S. because it is so far away, and he thought I was too young. Fortunately, my aunt was able to convince him to allow me to live with her

Please see PROFILE/2B

PC game Minecraft can be a teaching tool

Minecraft is a game that most people certainly have heard of. If you do not know about the game, ask a child who will likely to give a very enthusiastic response that can last up to several minutes (or hours depending on the child). As of the time I wrote this article, Minecraft was the No. 1 best-selling PC game in history. Minecraft has been so successful that it caught the attention of Microsoft, which purchased the game, as well as the founding company, Mojang, in 2014.

I first heard about Minecraft about three years ago when numerous students in my class constantly talked about it. Hearing about this game so annoyed me



that I wanted nothing to do with it. The concept of Minecraft sounded confusing to me, and I could not figure out why it was such a popular game with children. About a year after I first heard about it, I caved in and bought the game to check it out. As the saying goes: "curiosity killed

the cat." It definitely killed my skepticism about the game, and I became hooked within just a couple days. One night I played Minecraft so intensely that it was 1 a.m. before I realized it.

For those who don't know about Minecraft, it is an open-world concept game where players can build, mine, fly, explore and do just about anything their heart desires. Players can be in creative mode, which allows them to build with unlimited blocks and fly around the world they are in. They also can be in survival mode, where they create weapons using materials they find; obtain food by

Please see RAMBO/2B

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MFHS WINTER WISHES



Courtesy photo

Midland Freshman High School recently hosted its fourth annual Winter Wishes. More than \$3,500 was raised and 70 Christmas wishes were granted to students.

LHS, LFHS band members try out for All-Region band

From staff reports

Members of the Lee High School and Lee Freshman High School bands participated in the TMEA Region 6 All-Region Band tryouts on Dec. 9 in Abilene.

Thirty-three LHS students participated; 23 students were selected to the All-Region Band. Five students were selected as first chair, and 17 students have an opportunity to audition for the Texas All-State Band.

Twenty-two LFHS students participated; 12 were selected to the Freshman All-Region Band. Five students were selected as first chair. Also, three freshmen were selected to the Region 6 TMEA All-Region Band and competed against older students. Two of those students, Nathan Perez and Cole Pool, will have a chance to advance to the Texas All-State Band.

LEE HIGH SCHOOL

■ First chair: **Laura Wilson**, oboe; **Alexis Parada** — Eb clarinet; **Rachel Stansell**, Bb clarinet; **Zach Mitchell**, alto saxophone and tenor saxophone

■ Students who advanced to area: **Angel Muniz**, piccolo; **Laura Wilson**, oboe; **Cole Pool**, bassoon; **McKenzie Bonner**, Bb clarinet; **Wei Jin Sun**, Bb clarinet; **Noah Alaniz**, trumpet; **Zoe McCright**, trumpet; **Luke Rodriguez**, horn; **Jayden Lee**, horn; **Madi Garcia**, horn; **Nathan Perez**, trombone; **Ryan Sun**, euphonium; **Dylan Blasé**, tuba; **Parada**; **Stansell** and **Mitchell**.

■ Students who were selected to All-Region Band: **Melody Barraza**, flute; **Zach Limb**, alto saxophone; **Dominic Williams**, percussion; **Lainey Wilson**, horn; **Evelyn Flores**, trombone; **Austin**

Williams, euphonium; **Wilson**; **Pool**; **Parada**; **Stansell**; **Bonner**; **Wei Jin Sun**; **Mitchell**; **Alaniz**; **McCright**; **Rodriguez**; **Lee**; **Garcia**; **Perez**; **Ryan Sun**; and **Blasé**.

LEE FRESHMAN HIGH SCHOOL

■ First chair: **Hannah Lee**, flute; **Bethany Smith**, oboe; **Carston Holder**, alto saxophone; **Marcus Marquez**, trumpet; **Brandon Hinds**, trombone.

■ Students selected to All-Region Band: **Edni Castro**, Bb clarinet; **Ryan Palmer**, alto saxophone; **Isaac Wilcox**, horn; **Jaden Bullock**, trumpet; **Adrian Escontrias**, trumpet; **Richard Loya**, trumpet; **Lee**; **Smith**; **Holder**; **Marquez**; and **Hinds**.

■ Students selected to high school All-Region Band: **Pool**, **Perez** and **Willis**.

Source: MSD

BOWIE READ-IN



Courtesy photo

Carol Schumpert, Bowie Fine Arts Academy fourth-grade writing and social studies teacher, reads to Ian Bernard, Gracie Bernard, Joseph Salinas, Ayree Salinas, Emmanuel Trujillo, Kara Trujillo and Sasha Salgado at "read-in" Dec. 5. About 45 students and their families attended the inaugural event at the school library.

RAMBO

From 1B

hunting animals and planting gardens; and build an appropriate shelter to protect themselves from monsters that are ready to attack or blow up the players. Minecraft is available in multiplayer mode so numerous people can build in the same world at the same time.

Parents and teachers need to be in tune with what children are engaged in and find ways to use it as an educational tool. Minecraft is one of the rare games that can be used in every classroom subject and beyond. Children are still fascinated with the game, so this is our chance to capitalize on it and use it to our advantage.

Here are some ideas for you to use Minecraft with your children or students:

■ Math and Minecraft go hand in hand in several ways.

One, it is very easy to integrate area and perimeter in the game. Have the child build something with a square shape in Minecraft, and after they are done they can count the blocks on each side and calculate the area and perimeter. For older elementary and junior high children, integrate volume as well and have them find the answer. Each block in Minecraft is one meter long, wide, and high. Older students can calculate the exact area and perimeter using that information.

Another topic that usually is introduced in fifth grade is finding the area of composite shapes. A teacher approached me and told me that her students were not doing well in this topic, so I taught it using Minecraft to see how the students would respond. As I broke the composite shape down into two different shapes using different blocks, it clicked for the class. Students' scores in this topic went up dramatically, and it was all because of the game.

■ You can use Minecraft in science by allowing students to be creative.

If younger students are having a difficult time understanding ecosystems, there is a world that can be downloaded that introduces different habitats. For older students who are learning about the respiratory system, download a world where students can explore how air travels down the trachea to

the lungs and ultimately to the blood.

If you google the subject you are looking for followed by "Minecraft world," there's a good chance that a world already has been made.

■ Reading and Minecraft work very well together, believe it or not.

You can have the child recreate a scene from a book they are reading and have them act out what they have read so far. You can also have them place signs in order and have them type the sequence of events in the story. Signs have many uses, such as creating a story and having the child read it out loud. They also can be very helpful with comprehension, phonics or any other topic the child is not doing well in.

■ Minecraft can also be used in social studies, foreign languages or art.

You can show the child a building from the 1700s and have them recreate it by using the features being studied. Signs can also be used to label different parts in a house in the language they are learning. In art, students can recreate a painting to the best of their ability to identify shading, tint and more.

Minecraft can even be used as an assessment tool. You can get real creative and make rooms with four doors as the answer choices. Place the question on a sign on the side of the room, then place chests behind each door. The right answer choice can have food of some sort, while the wrong answer choice can have rotten flesh.

These are just a few ideas on how Minecraft can be tailored to the needs of the child to increase learning in whatever subject is being taught. This game has the amazing power of immediately engaging students, so I challenge you today to help your children or students by implementing ideas such as this to bring learning to their level. A big thing holding us back is fear, so for the sake of the children, let's get out of our comfort bubble and do what's best for them.

D.J. Rambo teaches technology at Peace Communications and Technology Academy.

TEACHER

From 1B

Rooney Mestas, GTPA president, said past AP scores show Vosika has prepared her students to reach the school district's goal: to graduate college- and career-ready students.

"She's doing everything we could ever ask for and then some," Mestas said.

The association in 2018 will examine ways to incentivize the district's other AP teachers, according to Mestas.

Recently, the GTPA analyzed AP course enrollment numbers and test results for the past five years, based on information from the College Board and MSD.

While a majority of Lee High's AP economics students passed their course's 2017 tests, 50 percent or fewer Lee and Midland high school students received passing scores on some other AP exams — including literature and composition, English, U.S. history, biology, calculus and physics.

Vosika said her students deserve credit for their scores.

"The kids that take my AP class — they work very hard," she said. "They know when they sign up; they've heard of my reputation."

Another way Vosika's students stand out is that they consistently take AP tests at the end of the course. This year, 96 and 100 percent of those enrolled took the microeconomics and macroeconomics exams, respectively.

"It's too hard for you to take this class and to not take it," Vosika said. "I just don't make it an option. Everything we do every day is targeted toward them getting that credit."

Student Gina Khieu plans to study political science and wanted to take Vosika's course to receive credit toward a degree. She said knowing previous students' scores motivates her to do well in the class.

"I think it's amazing that it's such a hard course and a hard test," Vosika said her students

and that she actually has a lot of her students pass it and get that college credit," said Khieu, a senior.

To prepare her students, Vosika familiarizes them with AP exam questions and gives daily quizzes to test their knowledge of course concepts. The rigor extends to students who are taking non-AP economics classes.

"She makes sure everyone is capable of getting to the success mark and then going beyond that," said Madi Castro, a junior. "Her strategy of teaching, it helps you. It's not just by the book every day."

As the recognition event nears, Vosika said she has long known that all her students strive to excel. For AP students, she is proud that most take credits with them to college.

"I do this so that they get those scores, and I couldn't imagine going to a different job every day," she said.

"Miguel is one of my students, and I have admired his diligence and drive to succeed," said William Christopher Brown, associate professor of English and technical writing. "When I heard him play the guitar at his first recital, I was very impressed with his musical style and his talent."

Ardiles is spending Christmas in Lima with his father and brothers. He plans to return to Midland in January to continue his studies.

"I've met some really great people who are very supportive of helping me attain my education in music and business," said Ardiles. "I fell blessed to be in Midland and attending Midland College."

Rebecca C. Bell is dean of Community Relations, at Midland College.

will be held across the state through February. (There isn't a meeting currently scheduled for Midland or Odessa, according to the SBOE website). The input will be forwarded to the steering committee, which meets through May.

Lanet Greenhaw, vice president of education and workforce at the Dallas Regional Chamber, is one of 10 public stakeholders on the steering committee working on the plan. Others include a Dallas ISD pre-kindergarten teacher and a student from Weatherford ISD.

Greenhaw, a former Richardson school trustee, said she was

eager to participate after feedback from local employers indicated that the area needs a more skilled workforce. Only about 13 percent of Dallas County students graduate from high school ready for post-secondary education, according to the nonprofit Commit Partnership.

"We need to hear more input from the business community where we should be going on this because it's a huge task to educate kids and get them ready for jobs that don't even exist yet," she said.

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PLAN

From 1B

helps high school seniors through the college application process, said she's come across Dallas-area students who really struggle to get to that next level in life. Her group at the meeting discussed ways to make sure all students have the same opportunities to enroll in advanced courses or participate in activities that prepare them for college.

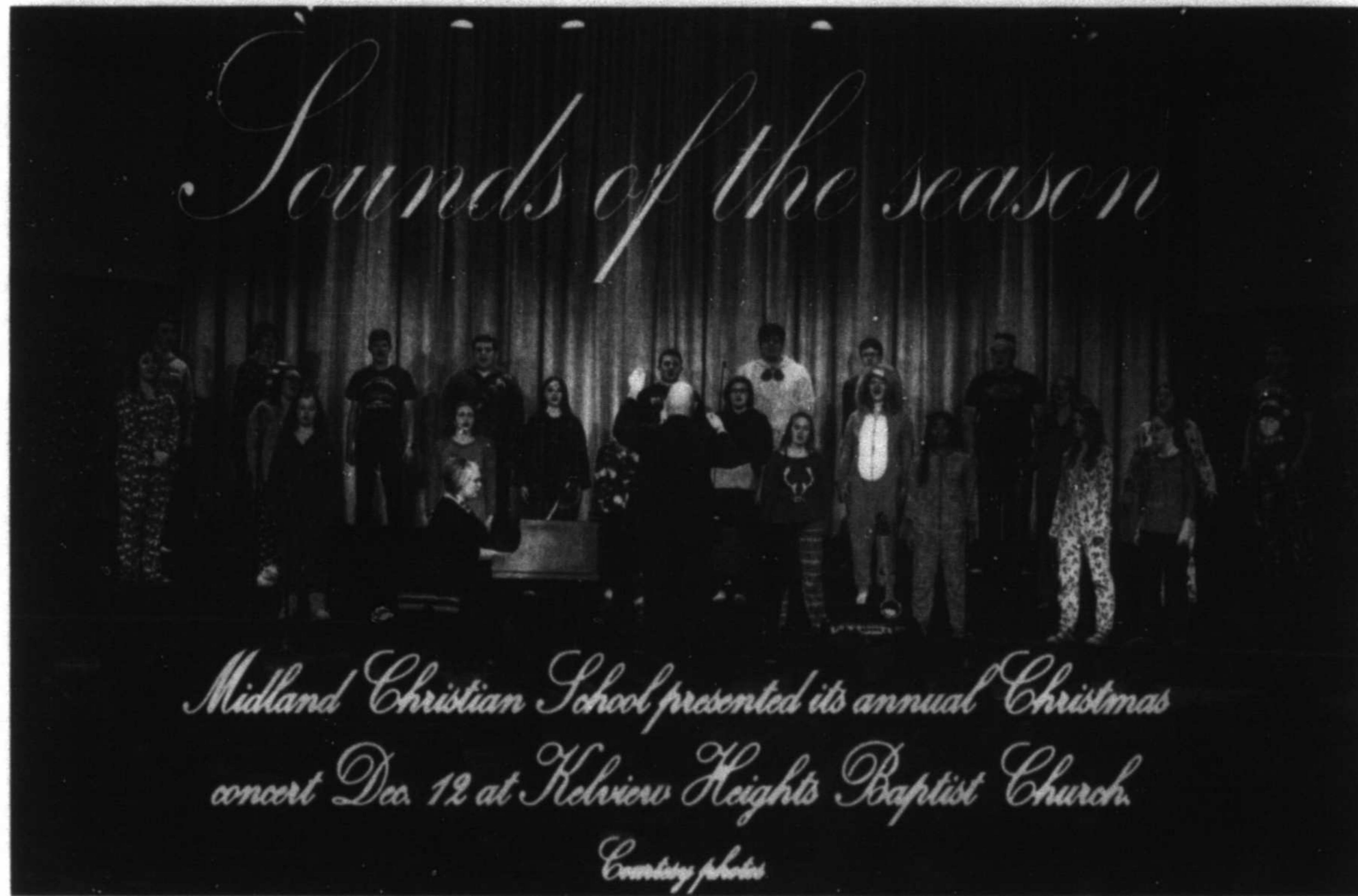
"Sometimes students lack the support they need or sometimes the technology," she said. "I heard a lot tonight about improving equity and access."

Community meetings

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EXTRA CREDIT

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SPORTS

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

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Tuesday, December 19, 2017 | Section C

Bryant, Cowboys happy over return of Elliott

By Schuyler Dixon
Associated Press

FRISCO — Dallas receiver Dez Bryant doesn't remember the last time he was double-teamed as much as he was in the Cowboys' paper-thin win over the Oakland Raiders.

Throw that near the top of the list of reasons the Cowboys are happy running back Ezekiel Elliott's six-game suspension over domestic violence allegations has ended.

"He's got some abilities that not many people have," said quarterback Dak Prescott, who was NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year last season while his fellow first-year star was the league's leading rusher. "We're going to believe in him when he comes back, giving him the ball and him making

people miss and getting those dirty 8-yard runs and eventually it turns into 15 yards, and you know the rest of it. Defenses can't play us the same."

Bryant agrees, pointing to the 40-yard catch he made in single coverage three plays after referee Gene Steratore used a folded index card between the chain and the ball to confirm what he said he had already seen as a Dallas first down on Prescott's fourth-and-1 sneak.

Before that catch to set up the tiebreaking field goal in the final two minutes of a 20-17 Dallas win, the Raiders held Bryant to one 19-yard grab.

"Even at halftime I asked coach Jack Del Rio, I said, 'Hey man, what's up with all this doubling? Let's play some football,'" Bryant said. "Just

joking. Nothing too serious. They gave us one-on-one one time and they paid for it."

The Cowboys (8-6) have won three straight games to keep their wild-card hopes alive after losing the first three without Elliott. His return should help Prescott as much as anyone. A year after setting an NFL rookie record for passer rating, Prescott had three of the four worst ratings of his career in the six games without Elliott.

While Alfred Morris did an adequate job filling in for Elliott, Prescott's difficulties making plays downfield could be traced to defenses not having quite the same respect for the Dallas running game. The Cowboys face Seattle (8-6) at home



Eric Risberg/Associated Press
Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Dez Bryant (88) catches a pass against Oakland Raiders cornerback Sean Smith (21) during the second half of an NFL game Sunday in Oakland, Calif. The Cowboys won 20-17.

Please see COWBOYS/4C

Making an impression

MHS grad
Mannix
shines for
Nevada

By Christopher Hadorn
chadorn@mrt.com

It didn't take long for Nevada true freshman wide receiver McLane Mannix to make a splash at the NCAA Division I Football Bowl Subdivision level.

It took only two quarters in fact.

In the Wolf Pack's season-opening 31-20 loss at Northwestern, Mannix burst on the scene with a 41-yard touchdown reception in the second quarter, which was the first catch of his college career.

The Midland High grad and Midland Christian alum never slowed down, as he made TD receptions in his first three games and had three 100-yard receiving performances in his debut season.

Mannix finished the year with 57 catches for 778 receiving yards and six touchdowns. His yardage total ranked third nationally among all freshmen receivers during the 2017 regular season.

The 5-foot-10, 175-pound wideout was a little surprised how quickly circumstances worked in his favor after he missed significant practice time in the pre-season with a hamstring pull.

"I didn't really know how much I was going to play right off the bat," Mannix said. "I got limited reps in the first quarter against Northwestern and then in the second quarter, (offensive coordinator Matt Mumme), he just decided to take a deep shot for a touchdown. I guess after that, I



Tom R. Smedes/Associated Press
Nevada wide receiver McLane Mannix runs down the sideline against UNLV in the first half of an NCAA game Nov. 25 in Reno, Nev.

became the starting slot receiver."

When Mannix was sidelined by a hamstring injury, he said mental repetitions played a major role in his preparation.

"It was very frustrating," Mannix said of his hamstring setback. "I missed almost three weeks of fall camp. I had to work out every day with our strength coach (Jordan Simmons). It was pretty frustrating having to watch practice every day and I couldn't really do anything running wise."

"I just studied the playbook. I watched film every day with (receivers coach Timmy Chang). I learned the schemes. I learned the defenses. I guess I executed the offense and my scheme."

Even though Mannix had individual success as a freshman, Nevada had a trying season as it fell short of a bowl bid with a 3-9 record.

However, the Wolf Pack finished strong by winning two of its last three games — a 59-14 win over San Jose State and a 23-16 victory over

rival UNLV.

"That was very important, going into the offseason and going into next season with some momentum," Mannix said. "We're a very young team and we've got a lot of good recruits coming in this next year. I think we're going to have a really good team next year."

Like his Nevada team, Mannix closed the season with a flurry too, registering seven receptions for 107 yards in the finale against UNLV.

Mannix also made two punt returns for 51 yards, including a long return of 34 yards.

"It was really big," Mannix said. "My parents, my grandparents and my brother and my sister all came down for that game. I was able to have another 100-yard game. I actually did some punt returns in that game too and I was pretty excited for that, the first time all year."

Please see MANNIX/4C

It's time for a whole bunch of things to happen in NFL

By Barry Wilner
Associated Press

It's time.

After 15 weeks of the NFL season, it's time to acknowledge a whole bunch of items that have become apparent.

Some did so over the course of the schedule, and some became crystallized Sunday.

Such as:

■ Teams get antsy and/or dumb when they play the Patriots.

Looks as if the AFC road to the Super Bowl will go through Foxborough again, but not because an opponent played with fear against New England. Many do, of course. And others make ridiculous decisions with a chance to beat Tom Brady and Company; think back to the two most recent NFL championships the Patriots won, against Seattle and Atlanta.

The Steelers had no fear Sunday. And they had some real bad luck once more; in the AFC title contest last January, they lost Le'Veon Bell early. This time, it was Antonio Brown.

Yet they were in position to win, or at worst, force overtime. But Ben Roethlisberger gambled when he didn't need to — and lost.

"We're not going to look back and second-guess anything or anybody," Roethlisberger said. "We lost a game and I threw a pick in the end zone at the end of the game to lose it."

Just as bad, the Steelers were in control in the fourth quarter and didn't look comfortable. Happens all the time against the Patriots, especially for Pittsburgh.

■ The Seahawks are out of control.

Pete Carroll is one of the NFL's best coaches; nobody gets his guys to play harder. However, what Carroll has been getting for more than a month will cost Seattle a playoff berth, ending five straight appearances. The Seahawks commit far too many penalties, lose their minds over some flags, and are as undisciplined as any team. It's a shame, because Russell Wilson has enhanced his game so much, but has little to show for it.

"No, there is nothing to be happy about. That was a really dismal performance by us," Carroll said after getting hammered by the Rams, 42-7.

■ The NFC is the place to go in the postseason.

Sure, Patriots-Steelers was entertaining Sunday. Whether it will be so in a month if the teams meet again, who knows?

It's time to recognize the wide-open NFC is a can't-miss prospect, from the wild-card round throughout.

The Eagles, despite major injuries, have showed spunk to go with impressive depth. The defense needs to get stingy again, but that offense, even with Nick Foles replacing Carson Wentz, is a challenge for everyone.

Minnesota has a defense to play with anyone, and like Philly, terrific coaching. The Rams have an offense to play with anyone and, like Philly and Minnesota, terrific coaching.

New Orleans hasn't looked as strong recently, but it has Drew Brees, the most proven NFC QB likely to make these playoffs. For once, the Saints have a running game and an impressive D.

The other NFC South members probably going to the postseason, the Panthers and Falcons, are capable of beating anyone anywhere. Or losing to anyone.

For 2017, you can take the AFC. We'll revel in the NFC.

■ Change must come in Ohio.

The Bengals sure seem to have quit on Marvin Lewis, the second-longest

Please see WILNER/4C

Suns complete 97-91 comeback win against Mavericks

By Sean Shapiro
Associated Press

DALLAS — Alex Len had 14 points and 14 rebounds to help the Phoenix Suns rally past the Dallas Mavericks 97-91 on Monday night for their second consecutive comeback victory.

TJ Warren scored 19 points and Isaiah Canaan added 17 as Phoenix (11-21) improved to 2-0 on a three-game road trip despite playing without injured guard Devin Booker.

Dallas (8-23) lost its third straight game and has one win in its last seven.

Harrison Barnes had 26 points and Devin Harris added 14 for Dallas. Yogi

Ferrell and Wesley Matthews each scored 13.

Phoenix came from behind and won the game in the fourth quarter.

After the Suns had trailed for the entire second half, Canaan tied it 79-all on a 3-pointer with 7:29 remaining. Len gave Phoenix its first lead since the second quarter on a pair of free throws.

Phoenix led by as many as eight in the fourth quarter, 89-81, but didn't seal the victory until Warren made one of two free throws with 11.4 seconds remaining and knocked down two more with 5.6 seconds left.

The Suns erased a 15-point deficit Saturday in a 108-106 win against Minnesota.



Liz Otero/Associated Press
Dallas Mavericks guard Devin Harris (34) drives against Phoenix Suns forward Daruol House Jr. (23) during the first half of an NBA game Monday in Dallas.

DAILY RUNDOWN

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

College Football Boca Raton Bowl: Akron vs. FAU, 6 p.m., ESPN... Men's College Basketball Marshall at Xavier, 5:30 p.m., FS1...

WHAT'S ON DECK

High School Boys Basketball Midland High at Crane, 7 p.m. Trinity at Lubbock All Saints, 7:30 p.m....

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL American League Boston Red Sox - Agreed to terms with Cleveland Indians... National Football League NFL - Suspended Carlos Linares...

UIL HS FOOTBALL PAIRINGS

2017 UIL FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS AT&T Stadium, Arlington Monday Class 1A Six-Man Division - Abilene County (14-0) vs. Jewett (13-1), 11 a.m....

NHL GLANCE

Table with columns: Conference, Team, GP, W, L, OT, Pts, GF, GA. Includes Eastern and Western Conferences.

NFL GLANCE

Table with columns: Conference, Team, W, L, T, Pts, PF, PA. Includes AFC and NFC.

FIGHT SCHEDULE

Dec. 20 At MetLife, Japan, Ryohei Koike vs. Yuta Toyama, 12, for interim WBO junior bantamweight title...

Coahoma's Billingsley honored on APSE Class 3A all-state team

From staff and wire reports

Coahoma senior linebacker Caimon Billingsley has been named to the honorable mention defense of the 2017 Texas Associated Press Sports Editors Class 3A all-state high school football team.



Billingsley

Billingsley had 112 tackles, two sacks, five fumbles, four forced recoveries and one fumble return for a touchdown during the Bulldogs' 2017 regular season.

TEXAS APSE CLASS 3A ALL-STATE FOOTBALL TEAM The 2017 Texas Associated Press Sports Editors Class 3A all-state high school football team, released Monday. Voting based on regular-season performance. Players are listed in alphabetical order at each position.

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE Linebacker CHRIS BANKS, Coaling, Jr. - 97 percent grade, 19 penalties...

Garrett Nichols, Wall, Sr. - 87 percent grade, 28 knockdowns... Dylon Gallagher, Lone Oak, Sr. - 45-1,280 yds, 18 TDs...

Offensive Player of the Year Jason Jackson, Coaling, Sr. - 2,077 yds, 49 TDs... Defensive Player of the Year Austin Williams, Scurryville, Sr. - 112 tackles, 37 TFL, 12 sacks...

Defensive backs: Abel Casale, San Diego, Sr. - 7 INT, 3 INTs on TDs... Quarterback: Demarion Overshorn, Arg. Sr. - 142 tackles, 5 sacks, 5 INTs...

Linebacker: Tanner Barard, Hockley, Jr. - 112 tackles, 37 TFL, 12 sacks... Running backs: Eric Gipson, Jefferson, Jr. - 118 carries, 5 sacks, 23 TFL...

Receiver: Zach Adams, Coaling, Sr. - 112 carries, 1,280 yds, 18 TDs... Quarterback: Jason Jackson, Coaling, Sr. - 2,077 yds, 49 TDs...

Linebacker: Austin Williams, Scurryville, Sr. - 112 tackles, 37 TFL, 12 sacks... Running backs: Eric Gipson, Jefferson, Jr. - 118 carries, 5 sacks...

NPSL: Barnes steps down as Sockers FC coach

From staff reports

The Midland-Odessa Sockers FC announced Monday that head coach Matt Barnes has stepped down from his post after a four-year stint.



Barnes

Barnes' decision was motivated by his desire to spend more time with his family during the summer months in San Antonio, where he serves as head

coach at St. Mary's University. The Sockers FC achieved many milestones under Barnes, which included an appearance in the 2017 National Premier Soccer League national championship game...

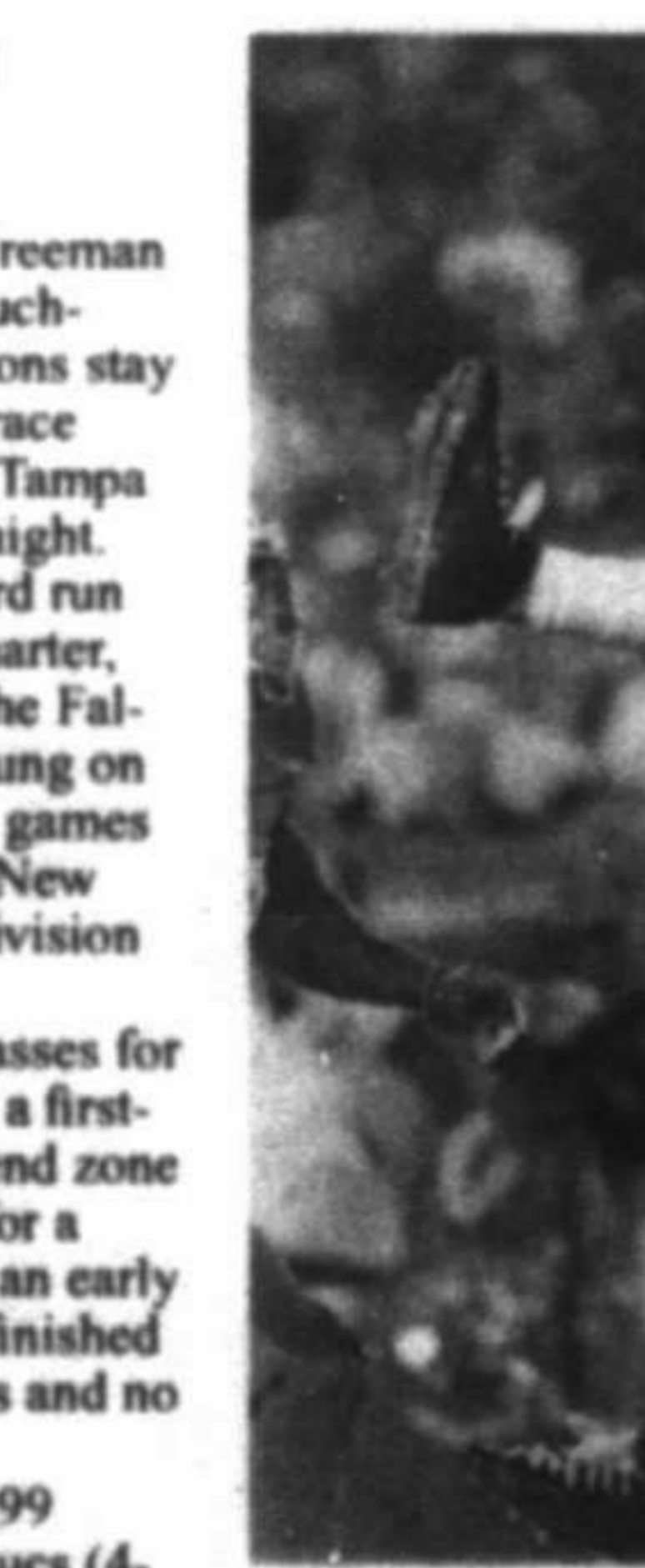
er operations Jeff VonHolle said in a press release. "Without his leadership on the pitch, Sockers FC would not have been able to grow the way it has in that time."

The Sockers FC are now in search of a head coach for the 2018 season. The Sockers are seeking coaches with college or club level experience, and that have a multitude of contacts with college coaches in order to bring players to West Texas.

Freeman runs for 126 yards, Falcons hold off Bucs 24-21

By Fred Goodall Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Devonta Freeman rushed for 126 yards and a touchdown to help the Atlanta Falcons stay close in the tight NFC South race with a 24-21 victory over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Monday night.



Phelan M. Ebenbach/Associated Press

Freeman scored on a 32-yard run midway through the fourth quarter, restoring a 10-point lead for the Falcons (9-5), who then barely hung on to win for the fifth time in six games and remain one game behind New Orleans and Carolina in the division standings.

Freeman also caught five passes for a team-high 68 yards and had a first-half fumble recovered in the end zone by teammate Levine Toilolo for a touchdown. Matt Ryan threw an early TD pass to Justin Hardy and finished 17 of 31 passing for 212 yards and no interceptions.

James Winston threw for 299 yards and three TDs for the Bucs (4-10), including a 16-yarder to Adam Humphries that trimmed Atlanta's lead to 24-21 with 3:51 remaining. Winston, who also threw TD passes of 30 yards to O.J. Howard and 42 yards to Mike Evans, got the ball back with a minute left and nearly sent the game into overtime.

The third-year pro completed three straight passes to move the ball from his 29 to the Atlanta 36. Patrick Murray came on to try a 54-yard field goal to tie it, but the kick sailed wide right as time expired.

The Falcons play at New Orleans next Sunday, then close the regular season at home against Carolina — the two teams they're chasing in the division race.

The Bucs have lost nine of 11 following a 2-1 start, taking a step back after finishing 9-7 a year ago in their first season under coach Dirk Koetter.

Gruden was fired after the 2008 season and moved into the broadcast booth the following season. The Bucs haven't made the playoffs since 2007 and don't have a postseason win since their Super Bowl run 15 years ago.

The coach's sons — Deuce, Mike and Jayson — led the Bucs out of the tunnel before the game as the team's honorary flag runners.

Gruden is the 11th member of the Ring of Honor, joining Hall of Famers Lee Roy Selmon, Warren Sapp and Derrick Brooks, as well as Doug Williams, John Lynch, John McKay, Mike Alstott, Jimmie Giles, Paul Gruber and Malcolm Glazer.

MIDLAND HUMANE COALITION UPCOMING EVENTS 12/31 Toasting for Tails New Year's Eve Bash at DoubleTree 9 pm - 1 am tickets: toastingfortails.eventbrite.com

Bushong's 25 propels Klondike past MCA

From staff reports

LAMESA — Alexi Bushong scored a game-high 25 points to lead the Klondike girls basketball team to a 57-46 win over No. 4-ranked Midland Classical in a non-district game Monday.

MCA (8-4) had two players score in double figures, as Lea Beattie recorded 21 points and Kori Kirk contributed with 10.

Trailing 42-40 through three quarters,

the Lady Knights were held to only six fourth-quarter points by the Lady Cougars' defense.

KLONDIKE '17 MIDLAND CLASSICAL

Midland Classical (8-4) — Kori Kirk 10, Hilary Sundeland 2, Lea Beattie 21, Jenny Cook 4, Malena Beattie 9
 Klondike (8-2) — Hannah Archer 5, Megan Armentano 4, Alex Bushong 25, Cheyenne Gubler 6, Macy Sharp 1, Kamaron Rodda 14
MCA — 18 19 19 8 — 64
Klondike — 18 11 18 — 47
 Free throws — MCA 5-5, Klondike 9-10. 3-point goals — MCA 3 (Kirk 3, Beattie 3, M. Beattie 3), Klondike 6 (Bushong 5, Archer 1). Total fouls — MCA 14, Klondike 13. Fouled out — None.
 Next MCA at Greenwood, 6:30 p.m. today.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL TOP 25 POLLS

Rank	Team	W	L	PTS	REB	AST	STL	BLK
1	Villanova	11-0	1902	1	1	1	1	1
2	Michigan St	10-1	1880	2	2	2	2	2
3	Arizona St	10-0	1429	5	5	5	5	5
4	Duke	11-1	1390	4	4	4	4	4
5	North Carolina	10-2	1332	7	7	7	7	7
6	Miami	9-0	1308	6	6	6	6	6
7	Kentucky	9-1	1231	8	8	8	8	8
8	Texas A&M	9-1	1156	9	9	9	9	9
9	Kansas	9-1	1071	10	10	10	10	10
10	West Virginia	9-1	1040	11	11	11	11	11
11	Syracuse	8-2	801	3	3	3	3	3
12	Connecticut	8-2	801	3	3	3	3	3
13	Virginia	9-1	796	16	16	16	16	16
14	Kansas	8-2	791	13	13	13	13	13
15	TCU	10-0	789	14	14	14	14	14
16	Purdue	11-2	766	17	17	17	17	17
17	Oklahoma	8-1	691	18	18	18	18	18

TEXAS COLLEGE BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Men
NO. 15 TCU 91, TEXAS SOUTHERN 72
 FORT WORTH — Vladimir Brodzkiy had 18 points and 10 rebounds, leading undefeated No. 15 TCU over winless Texas Southern 91-72 on Monday night.
 Consecutive 3-pointers from Alex Robinson and Kenrick Williams sparked a second-half surge, giving the Horned Frogs (11-0) some breathing room after a surprisingly close first half. The Frogs led by just two at the break, but their lead grew to 25 after halftime. JD Miller led TCU with 20 points.
 Trae Jefferson, averaging 22.8 points per game, finished with 29 for Texas Southern (0-12). He had 13 points before the break, shooting 3 of 5 from 3-point range.
 Texas Southern went on a 16-5 run late in the first half, punctuated by Robert Lewis' 3-pointer with 2:24 left to give the Tigers their first lead since 2-0. But the Horned Frogs closed out the half with a 6-0 run in the final minute, including two free throws by Desmond Bane after the officials put a 10-second back on the clock.
 TCU stretched its winning streak to 16 dating to last season, the longest in the nation. Texas Southern has yet to play a home game and remains winless.

Women
NO. 6 BAYLOR 85, NICHOLLS STATE 43
 THIBODAUX, La. — Kalani Brown had 18

points and seven rebounds in a return to her native south Louisiana, and No. 6 Baylor defeated Nicholls State 85-43 on Monday night.
 Lauren Cox scored 15 points on 7-of-8 shooting for Baylor (10-1), which also finished with a 55-23 rebounding advantage en route to its seventh straight victory.
 Freshman Ursin Moon, also playing near home, made her first career start and delighted a throng of green-clad fans behind the Baylor bench. She scored her most points yet with 11. Tykeria Williams scored 21 for Nicholls State (5-5), but she had little help as the Colonels saw their four-game winning streak snapped.
 Kristy Wallace added 14 points for the Lady Bears, who outshot Nicholls 55.9 percent (33 of 59) to 28.3 percent (17 of 60).
 Nicholls was able to keep the game competitive throughout the first quarter, largely because the Lady Bears' shooters needed a few minutes to find their range.
 Baylor led just 12-10 late in the first period and was still as close as 23-17 early in the second period when Tia Charles fed Cassidy Barrios for a layup.
 Juicy Landrum, who finished with 11 points, hit a 3 to begin Baylor's onslaught, igniting a 10-1 run that became a 35-4 surge that spanned until late in the third period and made the score 58-21.

TABC HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL RANKINGS

SUGAR LAND — High school basketball rankings as compiled by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches for the week of Dec. 18.

BOYS PUBLIC

Class 5A
 1. Denton County, 19-0; 2. Austin Wakarusa, 16-2; 3. Cypress Falls, 13-2; 4. SA Wagner, 12-2; 5. Spring Delaney, 14-2; 6. South Garland, 10-2; 7. Klein Forest, 12-0; 8. Houston South Houston, 13-1; 9. Katy Tompkins, 14-0; 10. Allen, 13-2; 11. Odessa, 12-0; 12. Adine Eastwood, 12-0; 13. North County, 12-0; 14. Fort Bend South, 11-0; 15. Clovis Stearns, 14-0; 16. Dallas Jesuit, 11-1; 17. Duncanville, 14-0; 18. Wilson Elston, 15-2; 19. Lake Travis, 14-0; 20. South Grand Prairie, 13-4; 21. Odessa Permian, 11-0; 22. Odessa, 13-0; 23. Lee Francois, 15-0; 24. Houston Clear Lake, 13-2; 25. SA MacArthur, 15-0.

Class 6A
 1. Waco, 19-0; 2. Mansfield Timmerman, 15-3; 3. Justin Northwest, 13-3; 4. Austin LBJ, 10-2; 5. N. Ashar Memorial, 9-0; 6. Prosper, 17-0; 7. EP Bagan, 14-1; 8. Rockwall Hills Brooks, 15-1; 9. Little Elm, 11-0; 10. Dallas Wilson, 4-2; 11. Sabine Springs, 15-1; 12. Midfield, 11-3; 13. Alan Shafter Creek, 10-4; 14. Fort Bend Elgin, 12-0; 15. Lancaster, 7-6; 16. CC Wilshire Memorial, 14-0; 17. SA Houston, 8-4; 18. FW Troon Tech, 8-4; 19. Dallas South Oak Cliff, 8-2; 20. Crosby, 13-1; 21. Lantieri, 15-0; 22. 16-0; 23. Conroe, 15-1; 24. Dallas Marshall, 11-5.

Class 7A
 1. Dallas, 20-0; 2. Houston, 19-1; 3. San Marcos, 9-4; 4. Dallas Carter, 12-1; 5. Carter, 13-1; 6. Abilene Wylie, 14-1; 7. Midfield Heritage, 14-0; 8. Joplin, 12-0; 9. Dallas Lincoln, 12-0; 10. Dallas Renaissance, 14-0; 11. Wilmer Hutchins, 7-6; 12. CC West Oak, 11-0; 13. Prosper, 12-0; 14. W. W. Wood, 9-4; 15. Lubbock Eastwood, 9-0; 16. Dallas, 13-4; 17. Houston North Forest, 7-0; 18. Waco, 14-0; 19. Waco, 14-0; 20. Dallas, 14-0; 21. Dallas, 14-0; 22. Dallas, 14-0; 23. Dallas, 14-0; 24. Dallas, 14-0; 25. Dallas, 14-0.

Class 8A
 1. Dallas, 19-0; 2. Mansfield Timmerman, 15-3; 3. Justin Northwest, 13-3; 4. Austin LBJ, 10-2; 5. N. Ashar Memorial, 9-0; 6. Prosper, 17-0; 7. EP Bagan, 14-1; 8. Rockwall Hills Brooks, 15-1; 9. Little Elm, 11-0; 10. Dallas Wilson, 4-2; 11. Sabine Springs, 15-1; 12. Midfield, 11-3; 13. Alan Shafter Creek, 10-4; 14. Fort Bend Elgin, 12-0; 15. Lancaster, 7-6; 16. CC Wilshire Memorial, 14-0; 17. SA Houston, 8-4; 18. FW Troon Tech, 8-4; 19. Dallas South Oak Cliff, 8-2; 20. Crosby, 13-1; 21. Lantieri, 15-0; 22. 16-0; 23. Conroe, 15-1; 24. Dallas Marshall, 11-5.

Class 9A
 1. Dallas, 20-0; 2. Houston, 19-1; 3. San Marcos, 9-4; 4. Dallas Carter, 12-1; 5. Carter, 13-1; 6. Abilene Wylie, 14-1; 7. Midfield Heritage, 14-0; 8. Joplin, 12-0; 9. Dallas Lincoln, 12-0; 10. Dallas Renaissance, 14-0; 11. Wilmer Hutchins, 7-6; 12. CC West Oak, 11-0; 13. Prosper, 12-0; 14. W. W. Wood, 9-4; 15. Lubbock Eastwood, 9-0; 16. Dallas, 13-4; 17. Houston North Forest, 7-0; 18. Waco, 14-0; 19. Waco, 14-0; 20. Dallas, 14-0; 21. Dallas, 14-0; 22. Dallas, 14-0; 23. Dallas, 14-0; 24. Dallas, 14-0; 25. Dallas, 14-0.

Class 10A
 1. Dallas, 20-0; 2. Houston, 19-1; 3. San Marcos, 9-4; 4. Dallas Carter, 12-1; 5. Carter, 13-1; 6. Abilene Wylie, 14-1; 7. Midfield Heritage, 14-0; 8. Joplin, 12-0; 9. Dallas Lincoln, 12-0; 10. Dallas Renaissance, 14-0; 11. Wilmer Hutchins, 7-6; 12. CC West Oak, 11-0; 13. Prosper, 12-0; 14. W. W. Wood, 9-4; 15. Lubbock Eastwood, 9-0; 16. Dallas, 13-4; 17. Houston North Forest, 7-0; 18. Waco, 14-0; 19. Waco, 14-0; 20. Dallas, 14-0; 21. Dallas, 14-0; 22. Dallas, 14-0; 23. Dallas, 14-0; 24. Dallas, 14-0; 25. Dallas, 14-0.

Class 11A
 1. Dallas, 20-0; 2. Houston, 19-1; 3. San Marcos, 9-4; 4. Dallas Carter, 12-1; 5. Carter, 13-1; 6. Abilene Wylie, 14-1; 7. Midfield Heritage, 14-0; 8. Joplin, 12-0; 9. Dallas Lincoln, 12-0; 10. Dallas Renaissance, 14-0; 11. Wilmer Hutchins, 7-6; 12. CC West Oak, 11-0; 13. Prosper, 12-0; 14. W. W. Wood, 9-4; 15. Lubbock Eastwood, 9-0; 16. Dallas, 13-4; 17. Houston North Forest, 7-0; 18. Waco, 14-0; 19. Waco, 14-0; 20. Dallas, 14-0; 21. Dallas, 14-0; 22. Dallas, 14-0; 23. Dallas, 14-0; 24. Dallas, 14-0; 25. Dallas, 14-0.

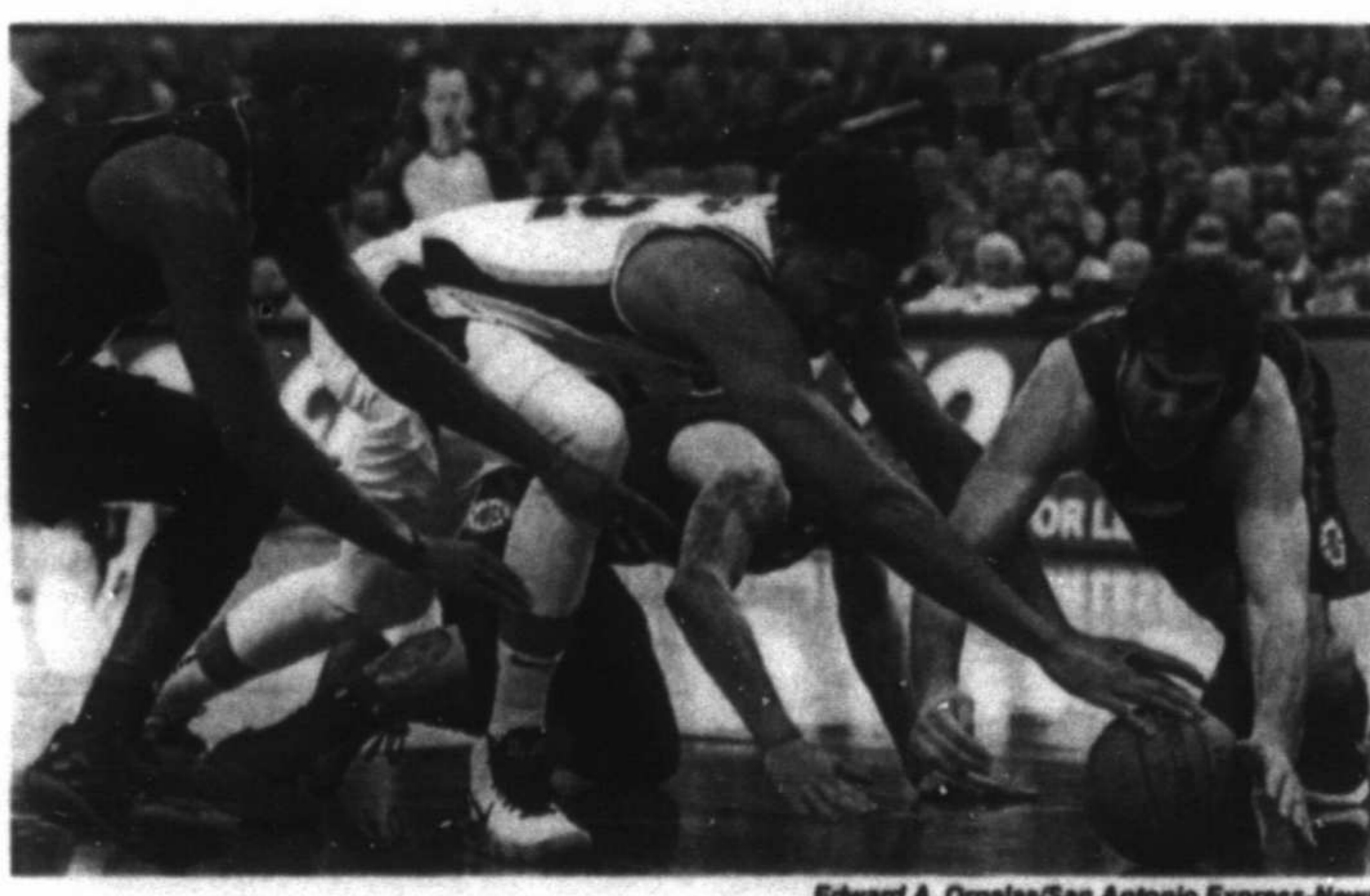
Class 12A
 1. Dallas, 20-0; 2. Houston, 19-1; 3. San Marcos, 9-4; 4. Dallas Carter, 12-1; 5. Carter, 13-1; 6. Abilene Wylie, 14-1; 7. Midfield Heritage, 14-0; 8. Joplin, 12-0; 9. Dallas Lincoln, 12-0; 10. Dallas Renaissance, 14-0; 11. Wilmer Hutchins, 7-6; 12. CC West Oak, 11-0; 13. Prosper, 12-0; 14. W. W. Wood, 9-4; 15. Lubbock Eastwood, 9-0; 16. Dallas, 13-4; 17. Houston North Forest, 7-0; 18. Waco, 14-0; 19. Waco, 14-0; 20. Dallas, 14-0; 21. Dallas, 14-0; 22. Dallas, 14-0; 23. Dallas, 14-0; 24. Dallas, 14-0; 25. Dallas, 14-0.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL SCORES

W	L	PTS	REB	AST	STL	BLK
15	TCU	91	20	10	10	10
72	TEXAS SOUTHERN	72	18	10	10	10
85	BAYLOR	85	18	10	10	10
43	NICHOLLS STATE	43	18	10	10	10

SPURS 109, CLIPPERS 91

SAN ANTONIO — LaMarcus Aldridge scored 19 points and the San Antonio Spurs beat the undermanned Los Angeles Clippers 109-91 on Monday night in Kawhi Leonard's home debut this season.
 Tony Parker had 16 points and seven assists in 23 minutes, his second-longest stint after missing the first 19 games while recovering from left quadriceps tendon surgery.
 San Antonio is taking a similar incremental approach with Leonard, limiting his minutes after he missed the first 27 games of the season due to right quadriceps tendinopathy.
 Leonard did not play in the second half against the Clippers after scoring seven points in 16 minutes during the first half, ending his streak of 110 straight games scoring in double figures.



San Antonio Spurs forward Rudy Gay (22) and LA Clippers guard Javun Evans (1), from left, Austin Rivers (25) and Miles Teodocic (4) chase after a loose ball during second half action Monday at the AT&T Center. The Spurs won 109-91.

ROCKETS 120, JAZZ 99

HOUSTON — Eric Gordon scored 17 of his season-high 33 points in the fourth quarter to power a huge run that put the Houston Rockets on top, and they cruised to their 14th straight win, 120-99 over the Utah Jazz on Monday night.
 Houston used a 15-0 run early in the fourth to take the lead and was up by four midway through the quarter after a layup by Joe Ingles.
 The Rockets then scored 11 points in a row, capped by two 3-pointers from Gordon to make it 111-96 with about three minutes to go.
 James Harden added 26 points, Clint Capela had 24 points and 20 rebounds and Gordon finished with a season-high seven 3-pointers.
 The Rockets struggled from long range for most of the night, making just nine of 31 3-pointers in the first three quarters. They found their groove in the final period, when they made eight of 12 with five from Gordon to pull away for their 20th win in 21 games.

ing to yell to the referee, I'm fouling, I'm fouling! but they didn't call it. Then they threw the ball to Bogdanovic and he made the pass and I was able to get my hand on it," Rozier said. "As soon as I stole the ball I took a look at the clock and saw there were four seconds and I knew I had time."

HORNETS 109, KNICKS 91
CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Frank Kaminsky scored 15 of his season-high-tying 24 points in the first half to give the Charlotte Hornets a jolt off the bench in a 109-91 victory over the New York Knicks on Monday night.
 Kaminsky didn't miss a shot until the fourth quarter, finishing 10 of 13 overall and 4 of 6 on 3-pointers to provide a boost for a Hornets' bench that has struggled so much lately that interim head coach Stephen Silas has shortened the playing rotation.
 But Monday's win was so comfortable Silas was able to use all 12 of his players in a game in which Charlotte (11-19) led by as much as 27 points.
 The Hornets snapped a three-game skid and ended the Knicks' four-game winning streak.
 Kaminsky entered late in the first quarter with the Hornets trailing 15-11 and he soon sparked a 22-4 run that turned a 19-15 deficit into a 37-23 lead with 10:25 left in the first half.

HAWKS 116, HEAT 104
ATLANTA — Teauron Prince scored 24 points, Dennis Schroder added 23 and the NBA-worst Atlanta Hawks beat the injury-riddled Miami Heat 116-104 on Monday night.
 The Heat, down to just nine healthy players, were without leading scorer Goran Dragic, forward James Johnson and key reserve Justise Winslow. Miami center Hassan Whiteside missed his 10th straight game with a bruised left knee and 15th overall.
 Miami had won four of five and was trying to move two games over .500 for the first time this season. Josh Richardson scored 25 points and Dion Walters finished with 23.
 Kare Bazemore finished with 16 points and five steals for the Hawks, who snapped a four-game skid to improve to 7-23.

THUNDER 95, NUGGETS 84
OKLAHOMA CITY — Russell Westbrook scored 16 of his season-high 38 points in the fourth quarter, including the tiebreaking free throw with 2:3 seconds left, to lift the Oklahoma City Thunder to a 95-84 victory over the Denver Nuggets on Monday night.
 Westbrook made the first of two free throws to put the Thunder ahead. He missed the second, and the Nuggets called timeout with 1:7 seconds left. Denver's Gary Harris missed short on an off-balance 3-pointer as time expired.
 Westbrook also had nine rebounds and six assists for the Thunder, who have won seven of 10 to even their record at 15-15. Oklahoma City survived, despite just eight points from Paul George and four from Carmelo Anthony.
 Harris scored 17 points, Ty Lyles

NBA GLANCE

W	L	PTS	REB	AST	STL	BLK
26	7	789	—	—	—	—
20	8	714	2%	—	—	—
16	14	531	8%	—	—	—
14	15	482	10%	—	—	—
11	18	279	13%	—	—	—

NBA GLANCE

W	L	PTS	REB	AST	STL	BLK
26	7	789	—	—	—	—
20	8	714	2%	—	—	—
16	14	531	8%	—	—	—
14	15	482	10%	—	—	—
11	18	279	13%	—	—	—

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ing to yell to the referee, I'm fouling, I'm fouling! but they didn't call it. Then they threw the ball to Bogdanovic and he made the pass and I was able to get my hand on it," Rozier said. "As soon as I stole the ball I took a look at the clock and saw there were four seconds and I knew I had time."

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Central Florida head coach Scott Frost holds the winning trophy after defeating Memphis in the American Athletic Conference championship NCAA football game Dec. 2 in Orlando, Fla. Scott Frost is The Associated Press coach of the year after leading UCF to an unbeaten season and a spot in the Peach Bowl.

Associated Press Coach of the Year is UCF's Scott Frost

By Ralph D. Russo
Associated Press

Scott Frost is The Associated Press coach of the year after leading Central Florida to an unbeaten season and a spot in the Peach Bowl.

Frost has already accepted the Nebraska head coaching job, but plans to complete the season with UCF and coach the 10th-ranked Knights against No. 7 Auburn.

Frost received 21 first-place votes and 100 points from 57 Top 25 poll voters who submitted ballots. Kirby Smart of Georgia finished second with seven first-place votes and 55 points. Clemson's Dabo Swinney finished third with seven votes and 38 points.

Oklahoma's Lincoln Riley (four, 36) was fourth and Miami's Mark Richt (five, 28) was fifth. UAB's Bill Clark (six), Wisconsin's Paul Chryst

(three), Iowa State's Matt Campbell (two), Fresno State's Jeff Tedford (one) and Auburn's Gus Malzahn (one) also received first-place votes.

Frost took over at UCF two years ago with the Knights coming off an 0-12 season. He got them to a bowl game last season, going 6-7. This season, the Knights exceeded all expectations. UCF won the American Athletic Conference and were the highest-scoring team in the country at 49 points per game.

"I was very fortunate to work with a special group at UCF for the last two years," Frost said in a statement to the AP. "I've told them a number of times that what they accomplished this season was nothing short of impossible. Any honor or award I receive based on what we accomplished as a team is a credit to those student-athletes. I'm very proud to have been a part of this magical

season." The 42-year-old Frost took the job as Nebraska coach right after the AAC title game, returning to his alma mater and home-state school. He has essentially been doing two jobs since, recruiting for Nebraska and preparing the Knights for the bowl game.

Frost was offensive coordinator at Oregon before taking the UCF job. The former Nebraska quarterback is taking over a team that went 4-8 this season under Mike Riley.

The AP coach of the year was started in 1998. Frost is the first coach from UCF to win the award and the second coach from outside a Power Five or BCS automatic-qualifying conference to win. The first was Gary Patterson of TCU in 2009, when the Horned Frogs were members of the Mountain West Conference.

Panthers name Tina Becker COO, she now runs daily operation

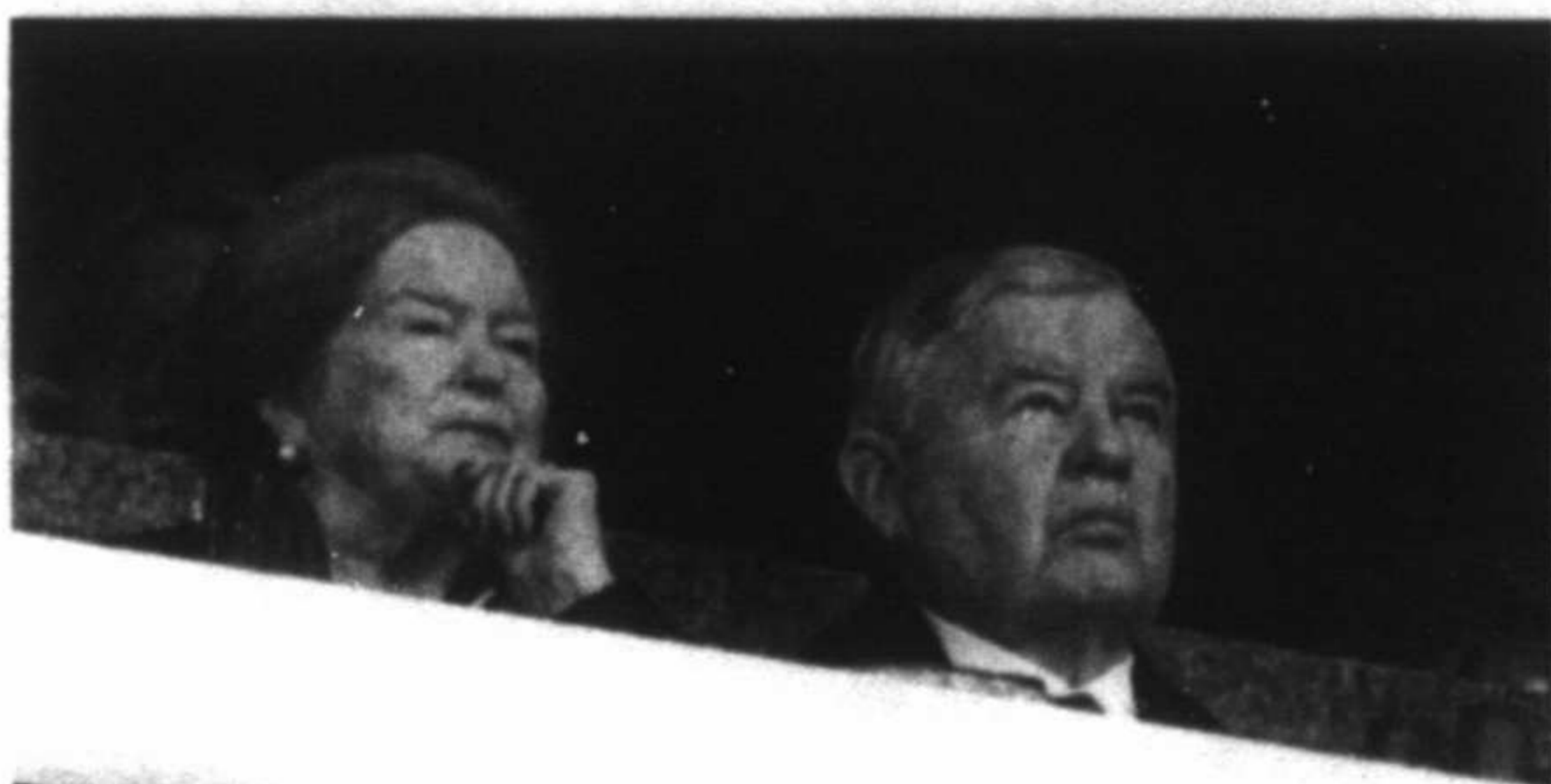
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The Panthers have announced Tina Becker has been promoted to Chief Operating Officer and been given full control of the day-to-day management of the organization.

The move comes after the NFL launched an investigation into alleged sexual and racist misconduct by longtime owner Jerry Richardson. The 81-year-old is stepping away from the daily operation of the team and will focus on the pending sale of the franchise.

"These have been some of the most difficult days of my 19 years with the Panthers, but I am lifted up by the strong resolve and the commitment our employees have shown to this organization," Becker said in a news release Monday. "Our team on the field is performing at a very high level, and I believe is bound for the Super Bowl."

"My immediate focus will be to ensure the corporate side of the organization performs at the same



Mike McCann/Associated Press

Carolina Panthers owner Jerry Richardson watches the action during the first half of an NFL game between the Carolina Panthers and the Green Bay Packers on Sunday in Charlotte, N.C. The Carolina Panthers have announced that owner Jerry Richardson is selling the NFL franchise amid an investigation by the league into allegations of sexual and racist misconduct by Richardson in the workplace.

high level, while addressing the real concerns that have been raised in recent days."

Team president Danny Morrison had resigned earlier in the year, and there was no COO before, or after, his resignation.

Becker began her career with the Panthers as a cheerleader and later became the squad's coach. She has served in a variety of other management roles during her career with the Panthers, including directing the organization's

business and administrative operations, ticketing and sponsorship, and stadium operations as well as dealing with league affairs.

Prior to joining the owner's office, Becker was the team's director of entertainment from 2012-14.

1st bowl game since 2008 for Florida Atlantic

Associated Press

Boca Raton Bowl: Akron (7-6) vs. FAU (10-3), Dec. 19, 6 p.m. (ESPN)
Line: Florida Atlantic by 22.

Series Record: first meeting.

What's at stake

In coach Lane Kiffin's first year at Florida Atlantic, the Owls reached a bowl for the first time since a 2008 Motor City Bowl victory, and a win would represent another step forward for the program. The Owls, who went 3-9 each of the past three years, have won nine consecutive games and captured the Conference USA title this season. The reward is

a postseason game in their home stadium.

Key matchup

LB Ulysees Gilbert will likely need to tackle Devin Singletary a lot to keep underdog Akron in the game. Gilbert is a first-team all-Mid-American Conference selection who has recorded more than 120 tackles each of the last two seasons. Singletary has rushed for 1,796 yards and an FBS-high 29 touchdowns for Florida Atlantic while averaging 6.5 yards per carry.

Players to watch

Florida Atlantic: Helping to create holes for Singletary are LT Reggie Bain,

LG Roman Fernandez and C Antonio Woods. Each is a Conference USA first-team choice.

Akron: DB Alvin Davis is only 5-9 and 170 pounds, but he was a second-team MAC selection and will likely have a big cheering section because he grew up in Fort Lauderdale. He has 159 tackles in two seasons and will be a key part of the Zips' run defense.

Facts & figures

Each team started 1-3. ... FAU rebounded to become a 10-win team for the first time at the FBS level. ... Akron recovered to reach the Mid-American Conference championship game for the first time since

2005, then lost to Toledo 45-28. ... FAU leads the FBS with 20 interceptions, and Akron is second with 19. ... The Owls rank sixth in rushing offense with 283 yards per game, and ninth in scoring offense at 39.8.

... Owls 5 Jalen Young is tied for first with seven interceptions. ... FAU linebacker Azeez Al-Shaair is fifth in the nation with 134 tackles. ... Owls junior QB Jason Driskel is 9-1 as a starter. ... Kerrith Whyte became the first Owl to ever return a kickoff for a score against Louisiana Tech, and averages 29.5 yards per return. ... Akron has 29 players from Florida, including 12 from South Florida.

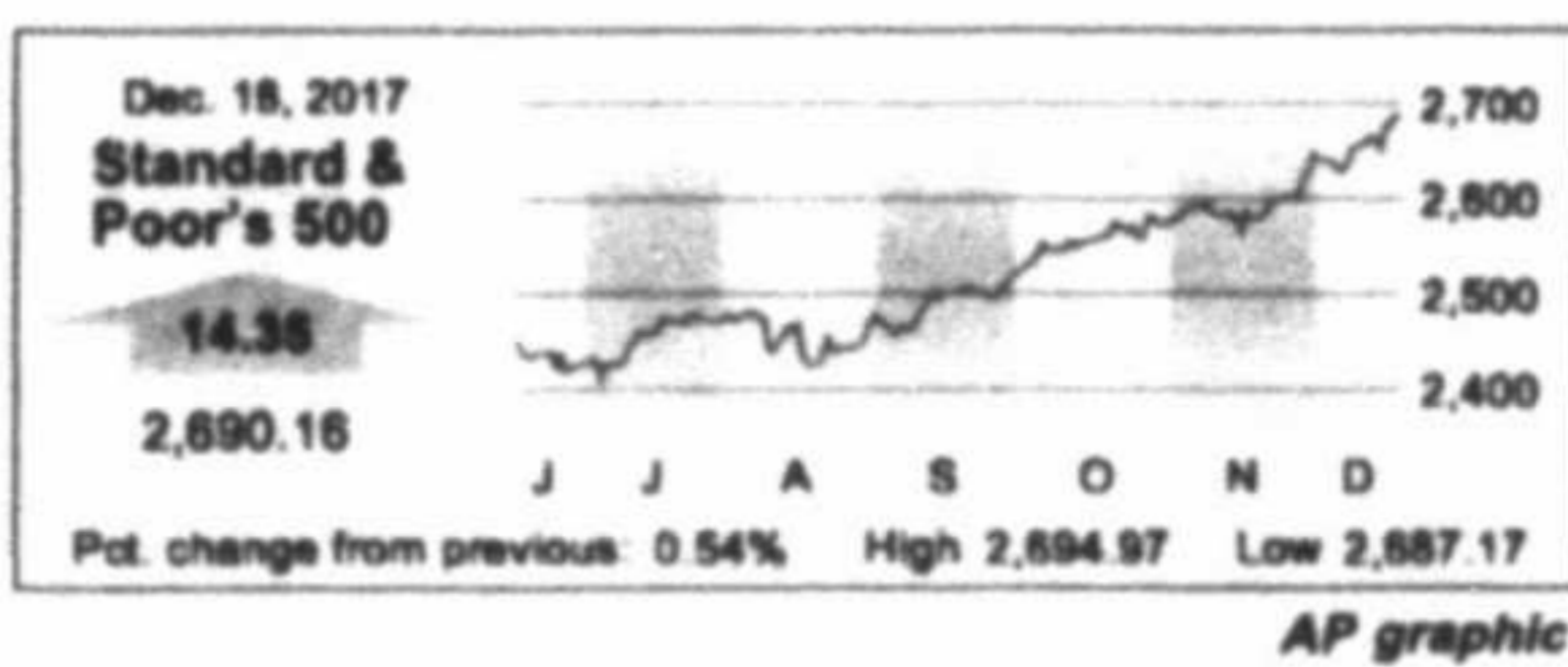
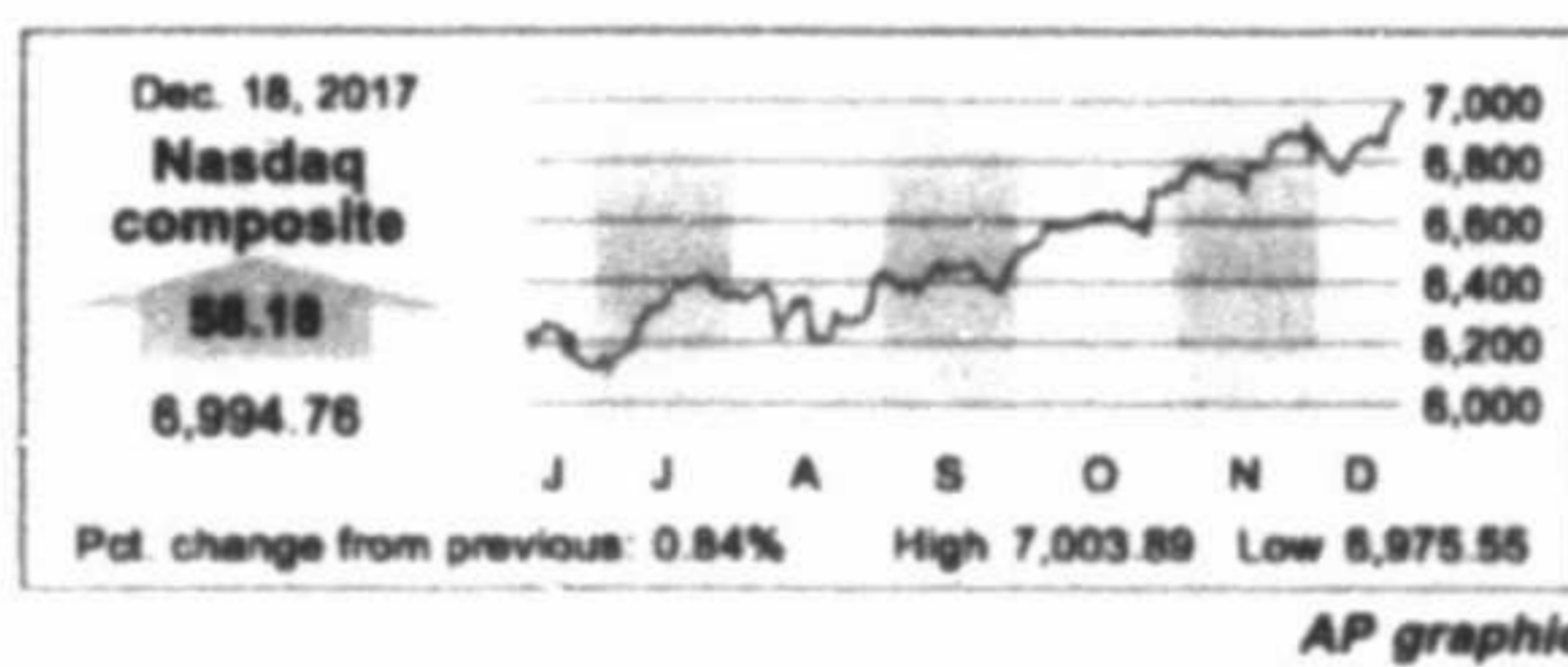
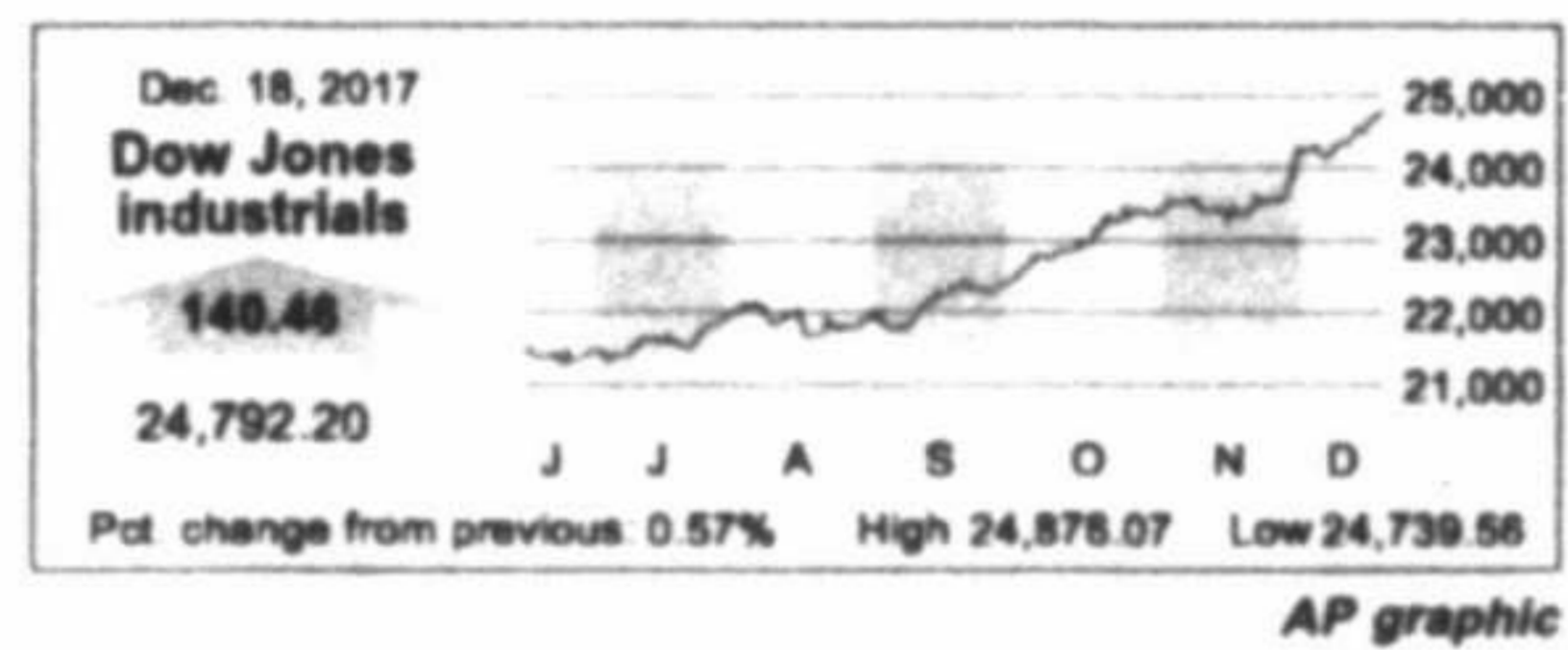
2017-18 BOWL GLANCE

Thursday, Dec. 14 Celebration Bowl At Atlanta NC A&T 21, Georgia State 14 New Orleans Bowl Troy 30, North Texas 20 Coca Cola Orlando, Fla. Georgia State 27, Western Kentucky 17 Las Vegas Bowl Boise State 38, Oregon 28 New Mexico Bowl Albuquerque Marshall 31, Colorado State 28 Camelto Bowl Montgomery, Ala. Middle Tennessee 38, Arkansas State 30	Friday, Dec. 15 Sun Belt (F1) Bowl Akon 7 (4) vs. FIU (10-3), 8 p.m. (ESPN) Wednesday, Dec. 13 Frisco (Texas) Bowl Louisiana Tech (8-5) vs. SDSU (7-5), 7 p.m. (ESPN)	Friday, Dec. 15 Camping World Bowl Orlando, Fla. Oklahoma State (9-3) vs. Virginia Tech (9-3), 4:15 p.m. (ESPN)
Thursday, Dec. 21 Gatorade Bowl At St. Petersburg, Fla. Temple (8-6) vs. FIU (8-6), 7 p.m. (ESPN) Friday, Dec. 22 Bahamas Bowl Nassau Ohio (8-4) vs. UAB (8-4), 11:30 a.m. (ESPN) Famous Male Peleto Bowl Stoke Central Michigan (8-4) vs. Wyoming (7-5), 2 p.m. (ESPN)	Friday, Dec. 22 Birmingham (AL) Bowl South Florida (9-2) vs. Texas Tech (8-6), 11 a.m. (ESPN) Armed Forces Bowl Fort Worth, Texas San Diego State (10-2) vs. Army (9-3), 2:30 p.m. (ESPN) Duke General Bowl Wells, Ala. Appalachian State (8-4) vs. Texas (11-2), 6 p.m. (ESPN)	Saturday, Dec. 23 Sun Belt (S1) Bowl New Mexico State (5-4) vs. Utah State (8-4), 4:30 p.m. (CBS/ESPN) College Bowl Classic Arkadelphia, Texas Southern Cal (11-2) vs. Ohio State (11-2), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Saturday, Dec. 23 Hawaii Bowl Honolulu Fresno State (9-4) vs. Houston (7-4), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN) Tuesday, Dec. 19 Heart of Dallas Bowl West Virginia (7-5) vs. Utah (8-6), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)	Saturday, Dec. 23 Independence Bowl Shreveport, La. Southern Mississippi (8-4) vs. Florida State (8-6), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN) Fiesta Bowl Tucson, Ariz. Boston College (7-5) vs. Iowa (7-5), 4:15 p.m. (ESPN) Foster Farms Bowl Santa Clara, Calif. Arizona (7-5) vs. Purdue (8-4), 7:30 p.m. (FOX)	Saturday, Dec. 23 Liberty Bowl Memphis, Tenn. Iowa State (7-5) vs. Mississippi State (8-4), 11 a.m. (ESPN) New York State (7-5) vs. Memphis (10-2), 11:30 a.m. (ABC) Florida Bowl Orlando, Fla. Washington (10-2) vs. Penn State (10-2), 3 p.m. (ESPN) Orange Bowl Miami Gardens, Fla. Wisconsin (12-1) vs. Miami (10-2), 7 p.m. (ESPN)
Sunday, Dec. 24 Hawaii Bowl Honolulu Fresno State (9-4) vs. Houston (7-4), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN) Tuesday, Dec. 19 Heart of Dallas Bowl West Virginia (7-5) vs. Utah (8-6), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)	Wednesday, Dec. 27 Independence Bowl Shreveport, La. Southern Mississippi (8-4) vs. Florida State (8-6), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN) Fiesta Bowl Tucson, Ariz. Boston College (7-5) vs. Iowa (7-5), 4:15 p.m. (ESPN) Foster Farms Bowl Santa Clara, Calif. Arizona (7-5) vs. Purdue (8-4), 7:30 p.m. (FOX)	Monday, Jan. 1 Outback Bowl Tampa, Fla. Michigan (8-4) vs. South Carolina (8-4), 11 a.m. (ESPN2) Peach Bowl Atlanta UCF (10-3) vs. Auburn (10-3), 11:30 a.m. (ESPN)
Thursday, Dec. 21 Gatorade Bowl At St. Petersburg, Fla. Temple (8-6) vs. FIU (8-6), 7 p.m. (ESPN) Friday, Dec. 22 Bahamas Bowl Nassau Ohio (8-4) vs. UAB (8-4), 11:30 a.m. (ESPN) Famous Male Peleto Bowl Stoke Central Michigan (8-4) vs. Wyoming (7-5), 2 p.m. (ESPN)	Friday, Dec. 22 Birmingham (AL) Bowl South Florida (9-2) vs. Texas Tech (8-6), 11 a.m. (ESPN) Armed Forces Bowl Fort Worth, Texas San Diego State (10-2) vs. Army (9-3), 2:30 p.m. (ESPN) Duke General Bowl Wells, Ala. Appalachian State (8-4) vs. Texas (11-2), 6 p.m. (ESPN)	Monday, Jan. 1 Outback Bowl Tampa, Fla. Michigan (8-4) vs. South Carolina (8-4), 11 a.m. (ESPN2) Peach Bowl Atlanta UCF (10-3) vs. Auburn (10-3), 11:30 a.m. (ESPN)
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BUSINESS & OIL

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A DAY ON WALL STREET



OIL PRICES

FUTURES	
Monday:	\$57.16
Previous:	\$57.30
POSTED	
Monday:	\$53.50
Previous:	\$53.75
WEST TEXAS SOUR	
Monday:	\$50.75
Previous:	\$51.00
NATURAL GAS	
Monday:	\$2.745
Previous:	\$2.612



Campbell, Hershey bet that salty snacks will reignite sales

By Craig Giammona
Bloomberg

In a packaged-food industry suffering from weak demand and shifting consumer tastes, there's still one safe bet: salty snacks. Potato chips, popcorn and other savory fare have remained strong sellers, even as other categories languish. And that's driving companies' M&A strategies: Campbell Soup Co. and Hershey Co. both announced deals on Monday that give them well-known savory brands.

Campbell is acquiring Snyder's-Lance Inc. for about \$4.9 billion in cash, adding Cape Cod potato chips, Snyder's pretzels and Pop Secret popcorn to its portfolio. Hershey, meanwhile, is snapping up Amplify Snack Brands, spending roughly \$921 million for a business that's best known for SkinnyPop popcorn.

It's no coincidence that the two deals are targeting the same category, said Ken Shea, an analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence. "It's a group that's been growing consistently," he said.

Campbell and Hershey occupy different parts of the supermarket, but their core products are suffering a similar form of stagnation. Canned soup has lost favor with many Americans, sending Campbell into a three-year slump. At Hershey, management is grappling with sugary treats becoming more

taboo especially its hallmark milk chocolate.

As tastes change, the 10 largest packaged-food companies in the U.S. have seen about \$17 billion in revenue evaporate over the past three years. Consumers are seeking out more fresh food, which is typically found on the perimeter of supermarkets. Breakfast cereal and other longtime staples are increasingly getting left out of grocery carts.

Though potato chips and pretzels aren't typically viewed as healthy, they've remained popular with Americans seeking convenience and on-the-go snacking. And the category of pre-popped popcorn, such as SkinnyPop, has surged in recent years.

Campbell's expects the Snyder's-Lance deal to begin adding to earnings by fiscal 2019, which ends in July of that year. The Camden, New Jersey-based company has already seen the power of savory snacks within its current lineup. While soup has slumped, sales of its Goldfish crackers have helped boost results.

Campbell shares rose as much as 2.2 percent to \$50.66 on Monday in the wake of the announcement. Snyder's-Lance climbed 6.9 percent to \$50.01, in line with the deal price.

Hershey rose up to 1 percent to \$115.32. Amplify, whose ticker BETR is meant to convey the idea of better snacking, gained as much as 72 percent to \$12.01 — close to its \$12-a-share transaction price.

Deals and hopes for corporate tax cuts drive stocks higher

NEW YORK — U.S. stocks climbed again Monday and set more records as investors grew more certain Republicans will pass their tax plan this week. Technology companies climbed, as did banks and retailers, which are likely to see lower taxes.

Stocks have made hefty gains as the GOP appeared to shore up enough support to pass the bill, and Congressional Republicans are scheduled to start voting on the legislation Tuesday. The biggest gains have gone to companies that pay relatively higher tax rates, including smaller, U.S.-focused companies, banks and retailers.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index gained 14.35 points, or 0.5 percent, to 2,690.16. The Dow Jones industrial average advanced 140.46 points, or 0.6 percent, to 24,792.20. The Nasdaq composite traded above 7,000 for the first time but later slipped below that milestone. It rose 58.18 points, or 0.8 percent, to 6,994.76. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks climbed 18.50 points, or 1.2 percent, to 1,548.92.

Metal prices rise

Gold rose \$8 to \$1,265.50 an ounce. Silver added 14 cents to \$16.21 an ounce. Copper picked up 1 cent to \$3.15 a pound.

MIDLAND STOCKS

Midland-Headquartered Publicly Traded Companies

Concho Resources (CXO)
Closing Price \$138.51 Up 2.11

Dawson Geophysical (DWSN)
Closing Price \$4.92 Up 0.13

Diamondback Energy (FANG)
Closing Price \$109.65 Up 0.13

Legacy Reserves (LGCY)
Closing Price \$1.23 Down 0.03

Mexco Energy (MXC)
Closing Price \$3.99 Up 0.24

Natural Gas Services Group (NGS)
Closing Price \$25.40 Down 0.30

ProPetro Holdings (PUMP)
Closing Price \$19.00 Up 0.15

RSP Permian (RSPP)
Closing Price \$36.91 Up 0.39

Ring Energy (REI)
Closing Price \$13.22 Up 0.38

Viper Energy Partners (VNOM)
Closing Price \$21.97 Up 0.27

NYSE

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 on stock)				GAINERS (\$2 on stock)			
Name	Vol	Last	%Chg	Name	Last	%Chg	%Chg
BojiAm	60032	29.48	+4.5	Amplify	12.01	+5.01	+71.6
Vipshp	64791	11.75	+3.31	Vipshp	11.75	+3.31	+39.2
SAPX00TF	62066	208.20	+1.67	SandGrn	23.09	+2.74	+13.5
SPDR Fnd	60812	28.06	-2.5	SancheEn	4.91	+4.9	+11.1
ICMEdm	54551	46.69	+5.2	Telcel	24.68	+2.45	+11.0

LOSERS (\$2 on stock)				DIARY			
Name	Last	%Chg	%Chg	Advanced	Declined	Total Issues	Volume
PSEACOLV	13.58	-10.52	-43.7	2,097	859	2,956	3,478,506,761
PLGEMM	82.61	-35.84	-36.3	Unchanged	96	1,052	
CSVnH n	35.98	-4.92	-12.0	New Highs	265	19	
Jarpu n	6.70	-8.0	-10.7	New Lows	19		
SandRGP	2.05	-2.0	-4.9				

AMEX

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 on stock)				GAINERS (\$2 on stock)			
Name	Vol	Last	%Chg	Name	Last	%Chg	%Chg
Parsons	44628	1.90	-7.1	Ducolac	2.58	+1.36	+111.5
NyNth g	19479	1.91	-2.5	Amplify	2.73	+5.5	+25.2
Ducolac	145124	2.58	+1.36	NyNth g	2.31	+1.9	+9.0
DigitalP	12257	5.50	-3.5	Conting	3.65	+2.6	+7.9
Globstar	48282	1.18	-0.3	AbtChia	8.92	+6.3	+7.6

LOSERS (\$2 on stock)				DIARY			
Name	Last	%Chg	%Chg	Advanced	Declined	Total Issues	Volume
ValconR	2.68	-4.3	-13.8	204	136	340	201,396,816
RugR pA	8.00	-1.01	-12.2	Unchanged	28	232	
Norway n	3.26	-3.0	-9.0	New Highs	11	12	
Noveltek	2.74	-2.5	-8.4	New Lows	12		
GenGroup	2.55	-2.1	-7.6				

NASDAQ

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 on stock)				GAINERS (\$2 on stock)			
Name	Vol	Last	%Chg	Name	Last	%Chg	%Chg
Am	49225	46.25	+1.70	LangP n	72.38	+50.37	+229.9
MotorT	32284	43.71	+1.31	Carback	2.29	+1.26	+122.3
StrucM	31080	5.43	+0.06	WinP n	218.00	+70.96	+48.3
Apple	28881	176.42	+2.45	ModuLk	2.19	+7.0	+47.0
CSX	28812	53.99	+6.6	AmerTel	2.12	+6.0	+39.5

LOSERS (\$2 on stock)				DIARY			
Name	Last	%Chg	%Chg	Advanced	Declined	Total Issues	Volume
Abena	10.05	-2.19	-17.9	Declined	948	194	
OpaePh n	19.05	-3.50	-15.5	Unchanged	104	223	
Arcoms n	3.78	-6.0	-15.2	Total Issues	253	38	
GalvInT	2.00	-3.5	-14.9	New Highs	253		
LaTigA B	9.95	-1.65	-14.2	New Lows	38		

Toys 'R' Us may close at least 100 stores

By Lauren Coleman-Lochner
and Matt Townsend
Bloomberg

Toys "R" Us, which filed for bankruptcy in September, is considering closing at least 100 U.S. stores in the face of weak holiday sales, according to people with knowledge of the situation.

U.S. sales have declined about 15 percent this Christmas-shopping season from a year earlier, according to people recently briefed on the matter who asked not to be identified because the information isn't public.

The number of closed stores could reach approximately 200, one of the people said, but no decision has been made. "Final decisions about our real estate portfolio will be done only after careful consideration about the best interests of our business," said spokeswoman Amy von Walter. "Any speculation on that figure is premature and likely to be inaccurate."

The Wayne, New Jersey-based company operated 879 U.S. stores as of the end of January, according to its last annual report. The prospect of Toys "R" Us closing locations deals another potential blow to its biggest suppliers, Mattel and Hasbro. The toy makers have already blamed Toys "R" Us's bankruptcy for hurting results. Mattel, the maker of Barbie and Fisher-

Price, has been particularly hard hit, with sales plunging in North America last quarter.

Shutting stores is common practice for bankrupt retailers, but Toys "R" Us has said that its Chapter 11 filing wouldn't herald a big retrenchment for the largest toy-store chain.

Chief Executive Officer Dave Brandon said in September that the company was pushing ahead with plans to open more stores in some cities.

And it was contemplating extending the lease on its Times Square location, which opened in August as a temporary holiday shop.

But with sales continuing to tumble, Toys "R" Us may have tough choices ahead. The bankruptcy process makes it easier to exit leases and shut down the company's worst-performing locations.

And the company has said that it would continue to evaluate its store fleet as part of the restructuring process. Weak holiday results threaten to complicate the retailer's plans to get its finances in order and emerge from bankruptcy with an improved balance sheet.

Before filing for bankruptcy, the company had been weighed down by roughly \$5 billion in debt, stemming from a leveraged buyout last decade led by Bain Capital.

HOW STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST FARED

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	%Chg	YTD	Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	%Chg	YTD	Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	%Chg	YTD
AES Corp	52f	11	10.95	+1.6	+5.8		Concast	63	19	39.54	-1.7	-4.5		JPMorgCh	2.24f	16	106.96	-8.2	-24.0	
AK Steel	15	5.49	+1.9	+46.2			ConAgra	85	21	37.77	+8.1	+4.5		JohJn	3.28	20	141.80	-8.3	-23.1	
AT&T Inc	2.00f	14	38.46	+2.2	+5.8		ConchoRes	-	-	128.91	+2.11	+4.5		Kimberly	3.88	30	119.85	+1.4	+4.8	
Abraxas	-	53	2.13	+8.3	+17.1		ConocoPh	1.96	42	52.34	+1.7	+4.4		Kirby	5.0	33	18.00	-0.8	-13.1	
AdVDrEq	1.32e	-	15.19	+1.1	+6.8		Cracker	4.80	29	166.07	+1.38	+5		Kroger	5.0	14	27.00	+5.7	+21.8	
AMD	10.00	-	10.96	+0.9	+8.2		CSVDisc n	-	-	5.52	-1.5	-9.2		LoganFis	-	-	1.23	-0.3	-22.0	
AlkermT	40	65.67	+7.91	+1.5	+2.2		CSVnH n	-	-	6.00	+2.7	+7.0		Lobby	-	-	2.78	+4.8	+34.8	
Alkerm	40	173.37	-10	-7.4	-10.9		Creatim	8.0e	14	14.21	-0.8	-6.9		Marsh	1.51	9	25.85	+1.26	+7.9	
AlpAerA P	1.35e	-	10.85	+0.9	+9.7		DCP Mid	3.12	52	36.78	-0.8	-4.2		MayhewO	2.0	-	15.43	+4.2	+19.8	
Amgen	5.28e	16	176.14	+3.0	+1.8		DDR Corp	7.0	10	8.79	-0.8	-4.4		McD	0.40f	30	174.20	+1.3	+43.1	
Amplify n	46	12.01	+0.1	+0.8	+6.5		DTE	3.30	22	111.16	-2.06	-12.8		Merck	1.92f	14	56.22	-0.2	-4.5	
Anadarko	2.0	-	48.53	+1.81	+3.4		DuPont	24	84	38.86	+3.8	+6.7		Merid	-	-	52	64.35	-8.5	-97.4
Apache	1.00	-	39.82	+4.6	+37.1		DigitalP	-	-	5.50	+3.5	+79.7		MicroT	-	-	3.99	+1.3	+9.2	
Apple Inc	2.52	21	176.42	+2.45	+1.4		Diney	1.80f	19	115.80	-2.4	-6.5		Microm	9	43.71	+1.31	+8.4		
Applied	46	17	53.40	+9.6	+68.5		DocuSign	-	-	2.58	+1.38	+287.4		Microsoft	1.68	30	85.38	-4.7	-39.0	
Archrol	48	10.60	+4.3	+19.7			EOG Reser	87	-	98.91	+1.36	+1.2		Mondelez	3.0	30	43.11	-2.7	-2.8	
ATWOC	1.80	25	88.71	-8.7	-10.6		Energys	0.0	-	53.11	+8.4	+7.9		Nations	24	-	5.72	+2.4	+6.1	
AutoData	2.52f	12	116.64	+4.5	+15.4		EgyTiq s	1.18f	20	17.00	+2.3	+12.0		NORVaco	2.0	-	33.34	-2.6	-11.0	
BP PLC	2.38	29	48.84	+5.0	+4.3		EgyDPI	2.20f	24	17.64	+1.4	+6.8		Ndelt h	-	-	3.9	+0.8	+2.2	
BojiAm	48	17	29.48	+4.5	+33.4		EnPro	8.0	82	92.32	+1.80	+37.1		Nkls s	8.0f	28	64.81	+0.3	+27.5	
B IPVST n	-	-	27.78	-4.1	-14.8		ENSCO	84	-	5.19	+1.0	+4.6		NyNth g	-	-	1.91	-2.5	-7.7	
Barringer	1.20	-	15.95	+3.2	+3.0		EnPhoP	1.60f	21	26.41	+3.2	+3.3		NTSYS	3.0e	-	14.91	-8.2	-65.2	
BassEnt	-	-	45	-	-		Ericsson	11e	-	6.71	+2.0	+15.1		RTX	8.0	-	14.48	+8.9	+64.4	
Bechtel A	-	-	2429258	88+368.08	+22.8		ExxonM	3.88	32	82.84	-8.6	-8.1		Valis	8.0f	58	197.90	+3.4	+85.4	
BlackHill	1.78	18	88.78	-3.8	-4.8		Facebook	-	-	24	180.									

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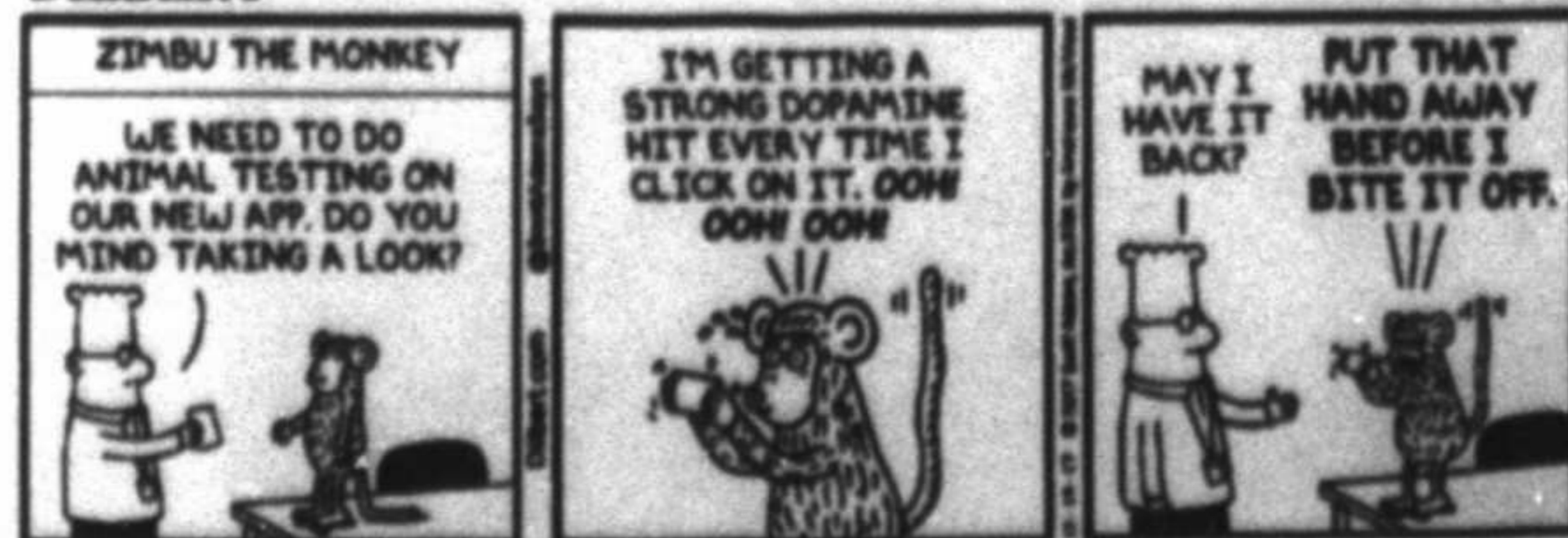
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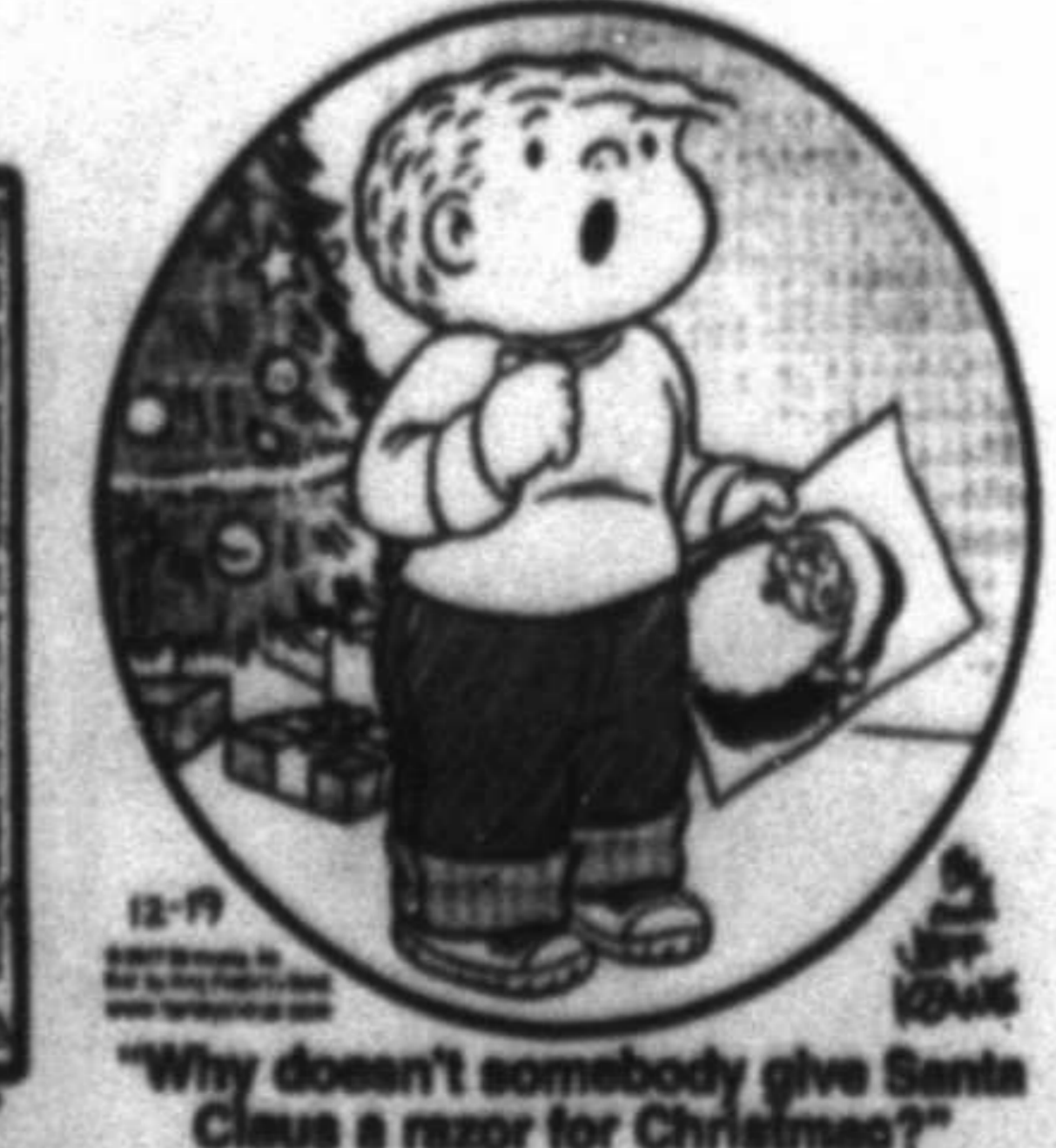
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Now hiring individual with strong computer skills, billing background helpful. Up to \$16 per hour depending on experience. Contact HR Department at 800-295-2542

ENERGY AND UTILITIES

Design Engineer
Natural Gas Services Group has an immediate opening for a Design Engineer. Responsibilities: Software improvement, design equipment, cost estimates, scheduling, client interaction and other duties as assigned. Qualifications: Strong computer skills, cost analysis capabilities, time management skills, and must be detail oriented. Education: Bachelor of Science in Engineering is required. BSME or BSCE preferred. Experience: 5 years of experience in natural gas business or related business. Knowledge of industry codes, piping and vessel codes, industrial drafting standards and symbols, wiring, instrumentation and client interaction are essential. Excellent Salary and Benefit package. For more information or to submit your resume, contact employment@ngsg.com or call 432-262-2700.

MANAGEMENT-EXECUTIVE

District Manager
The Midland Reporter-Telegram
The MRT has an opening for a Circulation District Manager. This individual would be responsible for overseeing a delivery force of independent contractors/carriers, as well as performing other duties involved with the delivery and distribution of our newspaper, other contracted products, and niche publications.
This position requires excellent communication skills, must be able to work flexible hours (largely in the early morning hours including weekends), have reliable transportation. Candidate with previous newspaper delivery experience preferred but not required.
This is a full time salaried position, eligible for full benefits including health, vision, dental and paid time off with excellent starting salary.
To apply, please email your resume and cover letter to shecker@hearst.com
No phone calls please.

OTHER JOBS

UINTAH
SURVEYOR
Land Survey Crew Chiefs
UINTAH is looking to hire in Sandhills, TX | Carlisle, NM
Qualifications:
• Minimum of 2 years experience with Trimble GPS Surveying Products
• Experience in Oil and Gas Surveying
• Experience collecting survey data to support Civil Engineering design projects
Excellent benefit package and competitive wages
apply online at www.uintah.com
The employer and/or customer of any goods or services required and all applicants must have a valid driver's license with an MVR that meets the company's requirements.

OTHER JOBS

All Positions
Flowerama now hiring all positions. Please apply in person at 907 Andrews Hwy, Midland, TX.

OTHER JOBS

EARN UP TO \$500 PER WEEK!
Do you have a reliable car with insurance and a phone??
Become an independent contractor delivering the Midland Reporter-Telegram in the Midland, Odessa, Andrews, Stanton, and Big Spring areas.
Please come by our office located at 201 E. Illinois and fill out a carrier information sheet. Oscar Ronquillo 432-687-9001

OTHER JOBS

Earn up to \$1,900 a week
ARROWS UP
Open Interviews
Heavy Equipment Operators
Tuesday, December 19th
Wednesday, December 20th
Thursday, December 21st
Consistent hours. OVERTIME
Call - 303-398-0319 to RSVP for attendance and schedule interview.

RESTAURANT-FOOD SERVICES

BUFFALO WILD WINGS
Now hiring all positions. Apply in person from 2-5pm. Buffalo Wild Wings 5107 W. Wadley Ave.

SKILLED LABOR

Commercial Construction Project Superintendents
Mid-Tex of Midland, Inc. Now hiring commercial construction project superintendents. Competitive pay plus excellent benefits. Experience in commercial construction a must. Please send resumes to 5206 W. Wadley Ave. Midland, Texas 79707 or email them to Billy Mays at billy@midtexofmidland.com. You may also fax your resume to (432) 694-9627.

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CONTRACT WELDERS & SINGLE HAND WELDERS NEEDED
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Fab Tech Drilling Equipment
2228 Steven Road, Odessa TX 79764

TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

DRIVER NEEDED
Hazard, Tankers & Class A CDL
Contact Roman Hernandez 432- 894-1416
Fernando Uribe 432-558-0966
Send Resume to: Lynia.Garcia@CatalystOilfield.com

Class A CDL Drivers & Leasing Owner/ Operator
Total Logistics Corp. is hiring Class A CDL drivers. Multiple positions are available. Must have a clean driving record and be able to pass a DOT drug/alcohol test and physical. Also leasing owner/ operators. Please apply at 2701 Earhart Drive, Midland, TX or call 432-561-8850 between 8-5 M-F for more info.

LOCAL TRUCK DRIVER CDL A OR B / SHOT CREW MEMBER

Austin Powder Company is hiring at our Midland, TX location.
Duties:
• Operate company vehicles to transport products to and from job sites
• Loading/unloading product for delivery, frequent lifting of 40-50 pound product bags or boxes
• Perform labor support at job sites and location
Qualifications:
• Class A or B CDL
• 2+ years' CDL driving experience
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General Announcement

The Midland Reporter-Telegram will be closing at 2:30pm on Wednesday, December 20th for our Annual Christmas Party.

Merry Christmas AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



Midland Reporter-Telegram mrt.

General Announcement

Attention Readers

In observance of **Christmas Day**
The Midland Reporter-Telegram will be closed Monday, December 25th, 2017

Advertising Deadlines

Classified Word Ads
Publishing On: **Deadline is:**
 Mon., Dec 25th Fri., Dec 22nd, 4pm
 Tues., Dec 26th Fri., Dec 22nd, 4pm

Classified Display Ads
Publishing On: **Deadline is:**
 Mon., Dec. 25th Thurs., Dec 21st, 2pm
 Tues., Dec 26th Thurs., Dec. 21st, 2pm

Retail Display Ads
Publishing On: **Deadline is:**
 Mon., Dec 25th Thurs., Dec 21st, 2pm
 Tues., Dec 26th Thurs., Dec 21st, 2pm

CIRCULATION HOURS
 Customer Service calls will be taken Monday, December 25th from 7 AM-10 AM only.
 We will re-open Tuesday, Dec. 26th for regular business hours.

Let Classifieds Work For You!

Call 432-682-6222

Legal and Public Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to the Decree and Order for Partition by Public Sale entered in Cause No. 7104 in the 118th District Court in Martin County, Texas, the following property will be sold by public auction:

THE SURFACE ONLY OF SECTION 43, BLOCK 37, TOWNSHIP 1 NORTH, TEXAS & PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY SURVEY, ABSTRACT NO. 233, MARTIN COUNTY, TEXAS, CONTAINING 640.81 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS.

Such sale will be for cash, which may also be in the form of certified funds. The public auction will take place in front of the northeast corner of the Martin County Courthouse on the 2nd day of January, 2018 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

For information about the property, please contact Brent Preston at (806) 470-0464.

Midland Independent School District
 Midland, Texas
 Notice to Vendors

Request for Proposals for Kitchen Equipment Repair

The Midland Independent School District invites qualified vendors to submit a sealed proposal(s) for **REP # 18-01 Kitchen Equipment Repair** through the MISD electronic bid system. Proposals will be publicly opened and read in accordance with the proposed documents in the office of Rebecca Mutt, Director of Procurement Services, at 615 W. Missouri Avenue, Suite 707, Midland, Texas at 10:00 A.M. Wednesday, January 19, 2018. Request for Proposal documents may be obtained by registering as a supplier at www.midlandisd.net/donovan14 - Bid Opportunities. For any questions, contact MISD Procurement Services department at (432) 240-1905.

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
 OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 08 Rule 37 Case No. 0308023
 DATE OF ISSUANCE: Dec 1, 2017 Status/Permit No. 833125
 NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Jan 5, 2018

Address: Railroad Commission of Texas
 ATTN: Drilling Permit Unit
 P.O. Box 12967
 Austin, Texas 78711-2967
 Fax: (512) 483-8780
 Email: SWR37@RRC.TEXAS.GOV

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the LARIO OIL & GAS COMPANY, RRC Operator No. 486710) has made application for a spacing exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Statute Rule 37 (19 Tex. Admin. Code section 3.37). Applicant seeks exception to the LEASE LINE requirement for the NEW DRILL permit in Sec. 23, 26, 36 T48, T&P RR CO Survey, A-109, SPRABERRY (TRENDA AREA) R 40 EXC Field, MIDLAND County, being 21.7 miles SE direction from MIDLAND, Texas. PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted **WITHOUT A HEARING**, if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessee of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protester should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's District Services Department at (512)483-8848. If you have questions which are specific to the Application or the information set forth in this Notice, please contact the Commission's Drilling Permit Unit at rule 37 (512)483-8791.

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER, OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY JAN 5, 2018 AT 5:00 P.M. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO PROTEST AND THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.

THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION REQUIRES PUBLICATION

The location and identity of the well is as shown below:

FIELD: SPRABERRY (TRENDA AREA) R 40 EXC

Lease/Unit Name: CLARK 4
 Lease/Unit Well No.: 402W0
 Lease/Unit Acres: 680.45
 Nearest Lease Line (ft): 1.0
 Nearest Well on Lease (ft): 1.0

Lease Lines: 320.0 F S L, 726.0 F W L
 Survey Lines: 320.0 F S L, 726.0 F W L

Wellbore Profile(s): Horizontal

Lateral: TH1

Protestation Point Location
 Lease Lines: 50.0 F S L, 330.0 F W L
 Terminus Location
 SH County: MIDLAND
 Section: 14 Block: 36 T48 Abstract: 1041
 Survey: T&P RR CO / MOORE, H H
 Lease Lines: 50.0 F N L, 330.0 F W L
 Survey Lines: 50.0 F N L, 330.0 F W L

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:
 SPRABERRY (TRENDA AREA) R 40 EXC: Special Rules 330G, 90.0 acres.
 This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 10500 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, Ryan Bergeman, at (512)4783458.

Lost and Found

LOST CAT, West Kansas Area in Midland, Female. Mostly white with blond on the ears and rings on half the tail. Blue eyes. Has microchip. \$100 reward for safe return. Call 432-425-5008 or 432-878-7130

General Announcement

Thank You Jesus! Mark BerryH2.com Missioning for Christ Teach the Lord's Word 1-4

Autos For Sale/Lease

Passenger Cars
 2001 TOYOTA Avalon, White. Has engine replacement, new tune up, new car stereo, new tires and rims. Must see! \$4,500. 432-348-0041.

Antique and Vintage

1985 SHELBY Cobra Replica. 1500 miles, custom built small block 427, 525 HP, 5 speed Tremec transmission. \$45,000.00 (432) 681-0233.

2015 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED SPORT S 4X4, great condition, clean carfax, white w/ black appearance group by Mopar w/ black 3 piece hard top. 41,000 mi. \$29,900. 432-889-8337.

ORIGINAL PRICE \$89,900, now priced \$8,995! 1996 Lexus LX470 SUV, black, garage kept, regularly serviced. Call after 5pm 432-682-6138

Legal and Public Notices

CADILLAC 2006 DTS. One owner, 60K so-called miles. Garage kept. Have records of all service & oil changes. \$9950. 432-212-1830

Passenger Cars

VOLKSWAGEN 2007 Beetle, 79K miles. Good tires, new battery, new fuel pump. Runs well! \$4500. Call Edward 432-362-8938

Passenger Cars

LABRADOR RETRIEVER PUPPIES/Grand Hunting Retriever Champ, bloodlines Xmas day delivery in Midland! \$1,000 English Labs OFA Cert. Hips & elbows Avail. in time for Xmas! Brookes 432-978-5300

Pets/Animals

TWO FEMALE Bichon Frise, 12 weeks old. Born on Sept. 08. \$600 each. Top photos of parents, Max adult weight 18 pounds. Call 432-684-9993 or 432-583-6964

Get Framed

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

432-682-6222 or fax to 432-682-6999

Who's Who For Service

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

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HUNTFORSNOW



John Leicester/Associated Press

This photo taken from a 4K video Oct. 18 shows a skier performing a jump during training on the glacier above Saas-Fee, Switzerland. The glacier attracted skiers and snowboard athletes from an array of nations, who came hunting for snow on which to train early in the season ahead of the 2018 Pyeongchang Olympics.

Climate change hits Winter Olympic preparation

By Eddie Pells
and John Leicester
Associated Press

SAAS-FEE, Switzerland — The athletes' half-hour commute in the Swiss Alps — up two gondolas, then through a tunnel in the world's highest underground train to a glacier at 11,000 feet — served up daily grim reminders that global warming is threatening their line of work.

After exiting the train, they squeezed through a field of grayish mud to reach shrinking snowfields scarred by new crevasses. Occasionally, they heard the sharp roars of glacial ice breaking off in monster chunks, then echoing across the peaks where they trained jumps, tricks and turns for the Pyeongchang Olympics. Most days, they basked in brilliant, snow-melting sunshine that bathed the whole scene in deceptive beauty.

Another subtle but telltale indicator of climate change's disruptive impact on winter sports: Many athletes — here 5,000 miles away from the Rockies and 3,500 miles from the Green Mountains of New England — had the letters "USA" emblazoned on their jackets. Americans once had little need to swap continents to guarantee offseason access to snow. But warming is forcing athletes to hunt farther from home for wintry conditions, particularly just months away from an Olympics.

"Without the snow and the cold in the places in the States where it's normally cold, we have to travel over here and find a place on a glacier to get a couple of jumps off," said Jon Lillis, world champion in aerials skiing. "Something that terrifies every winter athlete daily is the fact that the conditions are not as good as they used to

be. You see videos of people skiing on glaciers back in the '80s and '70s, and half of that glacier doesn't even exist anymore."

Last year, the aerials team stopped water training at its headquarters in Park City, Utah, in mid-October, then sat and waited a month for snow that came late to the mountain that hosted the Winter Games 15 years ago. The World Cup season began in China, and the Americans were forced to travel there not having set foot on snow in months. The results, not surprisingly, were dismal: not a single podium and only one finish in the top 5.

Lesson learned: This season, they uprooted to glaciers at Saas-Fee, Switzerland, and Ruka, Finland, for autumn training needed to be competitive at February's Winter Games in South Korea.

The hunt for offseason training spots like these is increasingly a scramble, and not just for the Americans. The hellishly named "Lucifer" heat wave that baked Europe in July and August wreaked havoc on teams' schedules. Canadian skicross racers had to cancel plans to train on Italy's Stelvio glacier that turned a sickly gray, rerouting to Mount Hood, Oregon, instead. Canadians endured issues elsewhere, scrubbing a planned summer training trip to Argentina because of hostile weather and extreme winds.

France's moguls team cut short a July training camp on its home glacier in Tignes after a crevasse opened under the course, which this year had just one jump instead of the usual two because of a shortage of snow, said team member Ben Cavet.

He was shocked by the visible deterioration of his regular venue for summer training.

"It's crazy, you know? I always thought global warming was like your granddad

going. 'Oh, I used to go and ski here 20 or 30 years ago and there was more snow.'" Cavet said in an interview. "But now we really are talking eight years. I can see a huge difference. Up on the glacier, now there's this huge cliff, you know like a big rock, that you couldn't even see before."

"It is worrying, very worrying," he added. "What scares me about global warming is that you can see that the world is suffering in some of the most beautiful places on Earth."

Other glaciers suffered, too. Austria's Moelltaler Glacier closed from Aug. 15-Sept. 7 because of what its operators said were "water gutters in the ice" and other safety concerns.

The Stubai Glacier, also in Austria, is deteriorating. U.S. coach Mike Jankowski, who brought some of the snowboarders and freeskiers there after the Saas-Fee trip, said there are concerns that some of the big buildings, drilled into the permafrost on the glacier, might not be stable for much longer.

Italy's Stelvio, billed as the Alps' largest summer skiing area, shut for 21 days in August, a sobering first since the opening of its lifts in the 1950s. Italian athletes who still came to train were hauled up on snow-cats.

"Partly it was because of the heat," said Umberto Capitani, in charge of the ski area. "But it's also been three years that we've had very little snowfall."

The Horstman Glacier in Whistler, Canada, near the 2010 Olympic Alpine venue, has deteriorated so badly that a renowned recreational snowboard camp was canceled, and other activities curtailed.

"There used to be like nine lanes for different camps there, and now it's five or six," said U.S. moguls skier Troy Murphy.

Disease wastes corals, despite end of bleaching

By David Flesher
Sun Sentinel

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — A mysterious epidemic continues to sweep South Florida's reefs, transforming corals into lifeless skeletons and threatening undersea structures that support tourism, provide hurricane protection and serve as homes to a vast range of marine life.

Called white plague, white blotch and other names, depending on the pattern of damaged or destroyed tissue, the disease has infected more than 20 South Florida coral species from the Middle Keys through Palm Beach County, according to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. On the reefs running from mid-Miami-Dade County through Martin County, scientists have observed a 35 percent loss of reef-building coral.

"The reef is in a state of emergency," said Jennifer Stein, South Florida marine conservation coordinator for The Nature Conservancy. "It needs a lot of attention, a lot of research, a lot of focus, especially with this disease."

The disease arose during a worldwide, three-year coral catastrophe called bleaching, in which unusually warm ocean water led many corals to expel the piece of algae that provided them with color and gave them a source of nutrition through photosynthesis. Although coral can recover from bleaching, the ordeal weakens them and makes them vulnerable to disease. Particularly hard hit was Australia's famed Great Barrier Reef.

Despite the conclusion of the bleaching episode last summer, South Florida coral reefs have not recovered, with more and more corals falling victim to a disease that can kill within two weeks of infection. Scientists at universities, state and federal governments and environmental groups are racing to study the disease, in hopes of finding ways to stop it.

Corals are tiny animals that live inside skeletons they construct from minerals drawn from seawater. Generations of these skeletons form coral reefs, rocky structures built up over centuries, with a thin layer of living coral tissue on the surface.

Despite occupying only a tiny fraction of the footprint of the world's oceans, coral reefs provide habitat for about a quarter of the world's marine species. South Florida's reefs, the only near-shore reefs in the continental United States, draw thousands of visitors for fishing, diving and snorkeling and provide homes to fish, crabs, lobsters, sponges, sea turtles and other creatures.

Since appearing in South Florida in late 2014, as corals were weakened by bleaching, the epidemic has spread quickly. A 35 percent loss of stony coral has taken place off the South Florida coast north of the Keys, judging from the losses seen at sites monitored by Nova Southeastern University, said David Gilliam, assistant professor of marine and environmental science at the university's Halmos College of Natural Sciences and Oceanography.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

These websites will help with countless renovation decisions

Dear Propeller Heads: Inspired by my newfound love of HGTV, I decided to take on a major home renovation. I figured if they can make a doublewide farmhouse chic in an hour, why can't I? I'm feeling a little overwhelmed. Any tips?

A: Of course, it makes total sense that you would come to the arbiters of style, the Propeller Heads. Our design aesthetic has been coveted ever since we built a decorative wall of empty soda cans at the threshold of our cube and hung that nearly nude pic of George Costanza (bit.ly/2zoFITM) in the gentlemen's lavatory.

For real, at least this PropellerHead is in the throes of a major reno herself and I am happy to share some of my tips. To paint a picture and begin our episode of Nerd this House, I am currently doubling the square footage of a hundred-year-old English Tudor home located in an eclectic historic neighborhood. I am trying to keep the feel of the home true to the stucco cottage look of the original construction while making it more comfortable for my family in the long-term. Not a bad intro, right? Cut to pics of my cute kids, dog playing in the yard, neighbors waving, and me looking longingly into the distance while drinking my morning coffee.

We had plans drawn, secured a contrac-



tor, made a timeline, but here's where they get you ... the decisions. Oh, the decisions.

You have to pick out flooring, paint, fixtures, cabinetry, windows and doors. But wait, you have to pick out how many lights and where they go. I have to know if I want my faucet to come out of the sink or the wall. I need to know how many outlets I want and where they should be located. I need to pick out hinges for my doors? Isn't there only one kind? Duh, the openy-closey kind.

There is going to be no substitute for forming partnerships with competent people to help you with a build or remodel, but you need to make sure that your likes and dislikes are reflected. There are tools out there to help you form taste if you don't have it, or just tell you what ship-lap is and why it's the new black.

If you're planning:
Magic Plan (magic-plan.com): If you are going more DIY or just want to have

your own homework to complement your team's, this app will let you take pics or video of your space with your phone or tablet, it will measure and draw a floor plan for you, help you select materials and quantities based on your project, and has an option to order them through the app.

Home Design 3D (en.homedesign3d.net): If you have some skills and want to get really detailed, this app will help you draw 3D plans of your house or project, will let you try out furniture and design elements in your space, and allows virtual walk-throughs during different times of day so you can really feel the end result.

If you're designing:
Houzz (houzz.com): This is probably the best-known name out there for this kind of thing. You can just window shop and look at styles, or rooms, or houses, to get inspiration. You can also search "coffered ceiling", or "live edge end table", or "sparkly chandelier" and not only find design ideas, but also how a room is put together around that item or where to purchase it. You can then save those ideas in folders and connect with others (including your builder, contractor, designer, etc.) so you have a virtual vision board to work with. Yeah, I said vision board.
Hutch (hutch.com): If you want things a

little more curated, you can try out things in your space that have been hand-picked by tastemakers to see how it feels and discover your style by stealing someone else's.

Zillow Digs (zillow.com/digs): Sort of Pinterest for home design (also, you can use Pinterest for your project too, beeteedubs). You can explore design options by room, cost, and color scheme, and then save them to online vision boards (I know, I said it again). Upon entering the site, you can give some information about your style preferences to help target your experience.

Color capture (bit.ly/2zj9GPX): If you would rather find inspiration from the colors you encounter organically than peruse paint chips, this app by Benjamin Moore allows you to take a picture of a color you like, match it to one in their massive catalogue of offerings, and get ideas of a total color palette that will complement.

The best advice I can give you is to realize that the decisions are endless and difficult at some point for even the most highly-acclaimed armchair designer. Explore your options, try to figure out what you like, and remember: the calming neutral palette of the Jedi will never go out of style.



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