PROMOTING MIDLAND

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DEVELOPMENT | 9A



COACH OF THE YEAR

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Money is no barrier to school finance reform.

VIEWPOINTS | 1B



TRENDS TO WATCH

Energy law firm details three trends that could upend energy companies in 2019.

OIL REPORT | 1F

MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2018 mrt★com *320,000 readers in print and online*

Conaway says compromise in hands of Dems

■ Midland Republican's role as agriculture chairman to end next term

By Simone Jasper
sjasper@mrt.com

When the upcoming congressional term gives Democrats a majority of House seats, U.S. Rep. Mike Conaway said he and fellow Republicans become part of the "loyal opposition." The Midland lawmaker has experienced power shifts in Congress and thinks the party in control determines whether there will be across-the-aisle compromise.

"That whole issue is driven by the majority because I may be willing to work with the Democrats when they're in the majority next year," Conaway said Tuesday. "But if they don't want to work with us, then it's not going to happen."

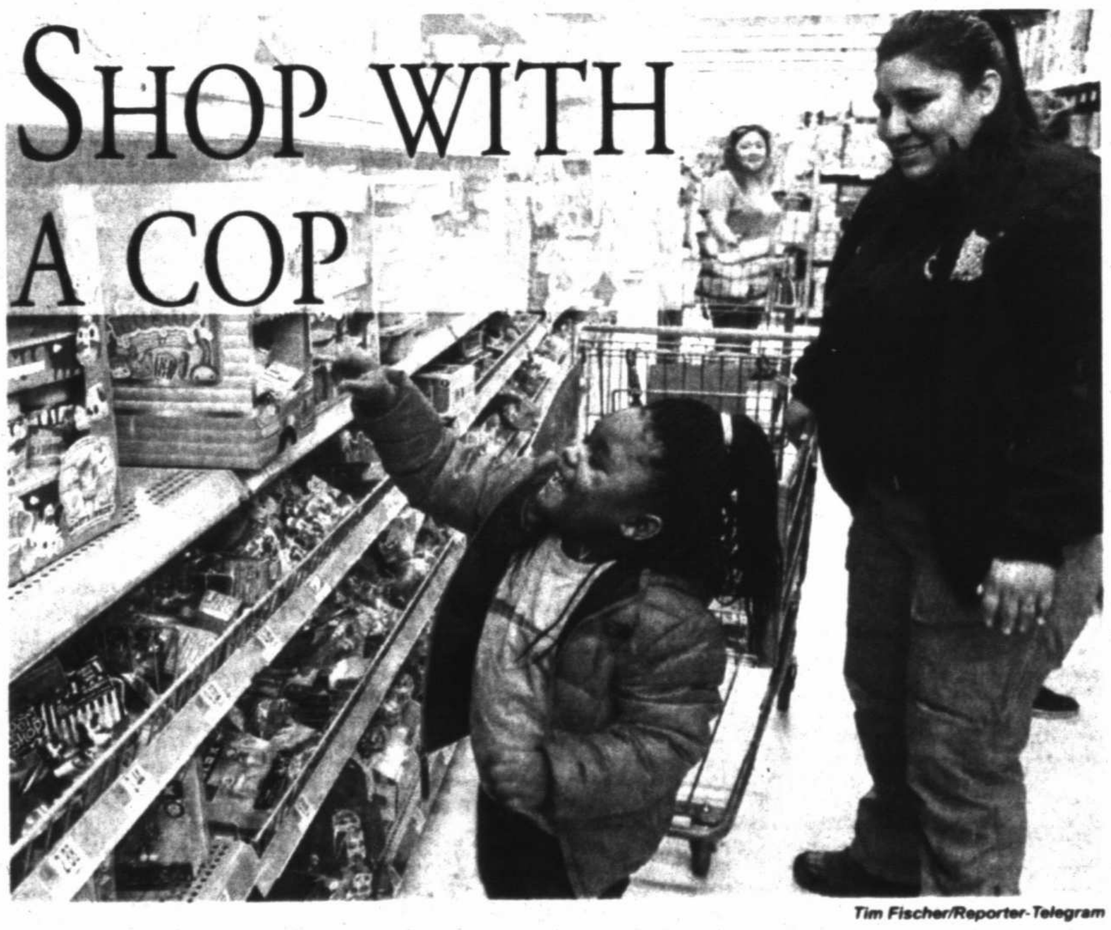
The new Congress signals an end to Conaway's current role as chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture. He recently celebrated the passing of a farm bill, which improves the safety net, as well as the integrity of, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), according to the committee.

Conaway said no Democrats were on board when an earlier House version passed, but support shifted when a compromise was introduced. He told the Reporter-Telegram the bill received the highest number of votes ever for that type of legislation.

"We got that kind of vote total on a bill of consequence — there's no piece of

Please see **HANDS**/5A

SHOP WITH A COP



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Sharveze Ryans, 5, picks out toys she wants Friday as Midland Sheriff Investigator Victoria Reyes follows her through the toy isles at the Midland northside Walmart during the annual Shop with a Cop. The annual program is a joint venture between Midland Deputy Sheriff Association and Midland Rape Crisis Center with local donations from Tim Culp, Denzil West, Michael Fleck, Diana Newton and organized by Sheriff Investigator Dennis Morris. They were able to shop for 42 children this season. View more photos from the event, as well as a toy and bicycle giveaway at the Halff Park Boys and Girls Club, on **Page 4A**.

Energy recovery would stall if oil prices stay below $50

By Jordan Blum
Houston Chronicle

Houston and Texas could lose thousands of jobs if oil prices remain below $50 a barrel for an extended period, stalling an energy industry recovery that only a few months ago appeared to be gaining momentum, economists said.

More inside

■ Oil suffers worst week in almost 3 years amid broader malaise

■ WaterBridge Resources secures $800M for Permian expansion

The oil sector has found itself in a downward spiral since early October as growing supplies of crude and fears of another global oil glut triggered a 40 percent plunge in prices from a recent high of $76 a barrel down to below $46. Oil settled Thursday at $45.88 a barrel, the lowest since July 2017.

Prices of $60 a barrel are considered healthy for the industry, generating enough profits for companies to spend, grow and hire. At $50 a barrel, growth flattens, energy economists said, and below $50, companies begin to scale back spending and hiring. If prices fall below $40, then another prolonged downturn could take hold.

"It really hurts at $40," said Bill Gilmer, economist at the University of Houston's Institute for Regional Forecasting. "It's just amazing how fast (oil has) come down."

More Information

If crude stays well below $50 a barrel for more than 18 months, Gilmer said, then the Houston area could lose anywhere from 10,000 to 20,000 energy-related jobs. That still pales in comparison to the 75,000 to 90,000 jobs lost in the region from late 2014 to 2017 when prices plummeted from more than $100 a barrel to a low of $26.

Less than one-third of those jobs have returned since the recovery got underway.

Please see **STALL**/5A

Grocery stores to stay open Christmas Eve, close for holiday

From staff reports

For Midlanders wanting to add last-minute ingredients to their Christmas meals, Monday is the last chance to pick up items from many local supermarkets. The grocery stores will close earlier than usual Christmas Eve and reopen Wednesday.

■ **Albertsons Market**
Monday: 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Tuesday: Closed

■ **H-E-B**
Monday: 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Tuesday: Closed

■ **Market Street**
Monday: 12 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Tuesday: Closed

■ **Super Mercado**
Monday: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Tuesday: Closed

■ **Walmart**
Monday: 12 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Tuesday: Closed

Did you know?

Toys R Us' closure

has hit Toys for Tots hard. Read more on **Page 7A**.



The Economist

Texas' largest MSAs will see 80 percent of new jobs through 2045. **Page 1B**

The big number

The Dow Jones was down another **300 points** in Thursday afternoon trading. **Page 10A**

Word of the Day: mistletoe

Do you know what it means? Find out the definition on **Page 3A**.

Brought to you daily by JumBurrito

Vol. 90, No. 287
Daily $2, Sunday $3

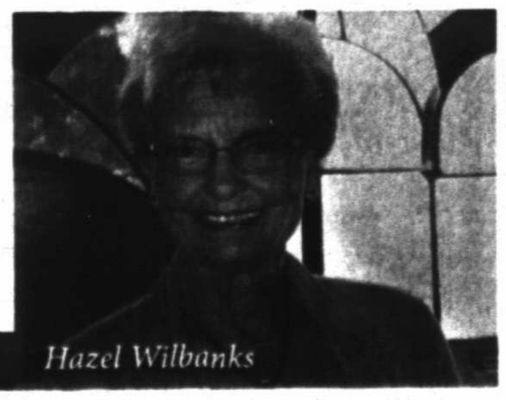
Index Classified 1D | Dear Abby 4E | Lottery 3A | Obituaries 2B | Opinion 4B | Puzzles 6E | Sports 1B | TV 7E

I reserved my perfect residential lot at Village South!

My sister is a long time resident of Manor Park, and I have been thinking about making the move for a while.

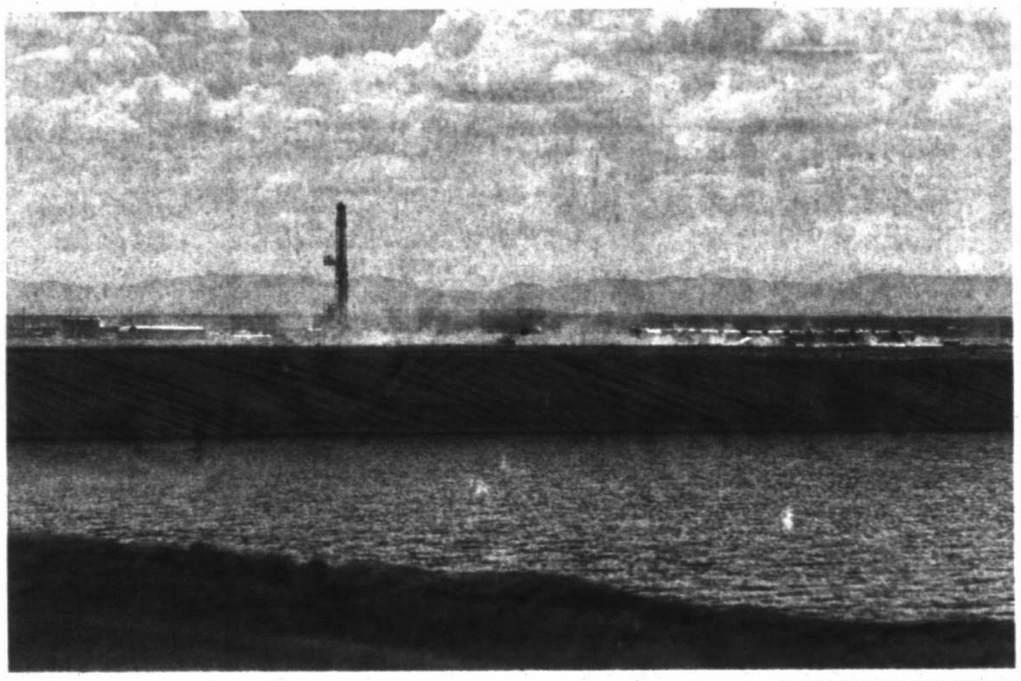
When I heard about their new development for active seniors, Village South, I chose my floorplan and signed up!

Village South at Manor Park



Hazel Wilbanks

Manor Park's newest gated enclave! manorparkinc.org 699-3414



Callaghan O'Hare/Bloomberg

A WaterBridge Resources LLC rig operates Aug. 22 behind a Colgate Energy LLC frack pond in Reeves County.

WaterBridge Resources secures $800M for Permian expansion

By Sergio Chapa
Houston Chronicle

Houston-based WaterBridge Resources LLC has secured up to $800 million in financing that will be used to expand its presence in the Permian Basin of West Texas.

WaterBridge announced Friday morning that its subsidiary WaterBridge Operating LLC entered into an $800 million debt deal with a consortium of 16 banks led by SunTrust Robinson Humphrey.

The water infrastructure company will use the money to pay down debt and buy nearly 70 miles of water gathering pipelines and 19 saltwater disposal wells in four counties as part of two separate deals with Houston-based Halcon Resources and Oklahoma-based NGL Energy Partners LP.

Under a $325 million deal, WaterBridge is buying nearly 60 miles of water gathering pipelines and 10 saltwater disposal wells from Halcon in Pecos, Reeves, Ward and Winkler counties. Halcon will become a customer of WaterBridge with 15-year guarantee on water and disposal services.

NGL Energy Partners is selling 10 miles of water pipeline, nine saltwater disposal wells and all related contracts to WaterBridge for $238 million.

"The WaterBridge team remains focused on improving and increasing our unique infrastructure footprint to better serve Delaware producers current and future requirements," WaterBridge Founder, President and CEO Stephen Johnson said in a statement.

Founded in December 2015, WaterBridge was launched with the backing of Houston-based private equity firm Five Point Energy.

WaterBridge owns an operates water gathering pipelines and saltwater disposal wells in the southern Delaware Basin of West Texas and the Arkoma Basin in southeastern Oklahoma.

Oil suffers worst week in almost 3 years amid broader malaise

■ The U.S. benchmark is down 38 percent this quarter.

By Grant Smith and Catherine Ngai
Bloomberg

Oil capped its biggest weekly decline since 2016 on concerns that weakening economic growth and surging U.S. supply will lead to a surplus next year, overwhelming OPEC's efforts to stabilize the market.

Futures sank 11 percent last week in New York, the most since January 2016. Crude joined a sell-off in wider financial markets after an interest rate increase by the Federal Reserve and the threat of a U.S. government shutdown added to economic uncertainty. Meanwhile, investors remain skeptical that cuts agreed by OPEC and its allies are sufficient to avert a looming oil glut.

"Traders are still concerned with the global slowdown and assets selling off as well," said Kyle Cooper, a Houston-based consultant at Ion Energy Group LLC. "There's also concern about the government shutdown looming."

Crude has slumped on fears the relentless expansion in American shale will undermine efforts by OPEC and its partners to balance the market. Concerns over growth persist even as Fed Chairman Jerome Powell promised to be more cautious on raising rates next year, while a closely watched speech by Chinese President Xi Jinping offered no new reforms to stimulate the world's second-largest economy.

West Texas Intermediate for February delivery fell 29 cents to settle $45.59 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The U.S. benchmark is down 38 percent this quarter.

Brent for February settlement slipped 53 cents to $53.82 a barrel on London's ICE Futures Europe exchange. Prices were down 10.7 percent for the week and have lost 35 percent since September. The global benchmark crude traded at an $8.23 premium to WTI.

Oil's slump persisted last week on broader market turmoil spurred by a plunge in global equities after the U.S. central bank lowered the forecast for 2019 economic growth to 2.3 percent from 2.5 percent in September. The S&P 500 Index sank as much as 1.4 percent, reversing an earlier gain fueled by conciliatory comments on interest rates from a Federal Reserve official.

"It's a bears' world," said Stephen Brennock, an analyst at PVM Oil Associates Ltd. "At the heart of this subdued backdrop is a bearish bias on the supply side," while at the same time, "oil demand prospects have dimmed as storm clouds gather over the global economy."

Meanwhile, President Donald Trump warned of a lengthy partial government shutdown if Democrats don't back a stopgap spending measure that includes money to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. The demand comes hours before a deadline to approve the must-pass legislation.

OPEC and its allies was expected to give greater clarity on their strategy to stabilize oil markets on Friday by publishing a list of production cuts agreed by each country, according to people familiar with the matter. The figures to be published are in line with expectations, showing that participating nations will curb output by about 3 percent, mostly from October levels, delegates said.

BP sells 3 wind farm operations in Texas

Houston Chronicle

London-based oil and gas producer BP sold three wind energy operations in Texas and said it will use the money to upgrade technology in its remaining U.S. wind operations. The price was not disclosed.

The three wind facilities include Silver Star with 60 megawatts of generating capacity and about 100 miles southwest of Fort Worth, Sherbino Mesa 2 with 145 megawatts in Pecos County about 40 miles west of Fort Stockton and Trinity Hills with 225 megawatts and about 50 miles southwest of Wichita Falls. They were bought by funds managed by affiliates of Los Angeles-based Ares Management Corp.

Once the deal is done, BP will own interests in 11 wind farms in eight states, 10 of which it operates, with a net ownership of more than 1000 megawatts of wind power. It takes 1 megawatt to power about 200 homes on a hot summer day in Texas.

The sale leaves BP with one remaining wind energy site in Texas, Sherbino 1, which has a generating capacity of 150 megawatts, according to the company's website.

Administration moves closer to opening Arctic refuge for oil

By Ellen Knickmeyer
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration moved closer on Thursday to opening thousands of miles within Alaska's pristine Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas leasing, issuing a draft report that concluded the polar bears, caribou and other wildlife could safely share their untouched wilderness with oil and gas producers.

The report released by the Bureau of Land Management studied the environmental impact of opening between two-thirds and all of 1.65 million acres of coastal plain within the remote refuge for oil and gas leasing.

Release of Thursday's legally required environmental impact statement marks one of the last major actions in office by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, an ardent supporter of the oil and gas industry who leaves office Jan. 2 amid ethics investigations.

In a statement, Zinke called the step toward opening Alaska's North Slope for oil and gas development a move toward an "energy-dominant America."

A strong leasing program within the wilderness area "helps us realize our tremendous energy potential without harming our environment or way of life," said Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, chairwoman of the Senate's Energy and Natural Resources Committee, in another statement.

The administration's environmental review acknowledged that opening the coastal plains within the nation's largest wildlife refuge would impact Alaska Native hunters, as well as caribou herds and other arctic animals and migratory birds that depend upon the refuge.

The report concluded, however, that the lease sales could be carried out "while balancing biological and ecological concerns."

President Donald Trump had insisted Congress include a provision mandating the lease sales within the wildlife refuge in recent tax legislation. Trump said a friend had told him that every Republican president since Ronald Reagan had tried and failed to open the wildlife refuge for oil and gas.

President Bill Clinton vetoed a GOP plan to allow drilling in the refuge in 1995.

Democrats defeated a similar Republican proposal a decade later.

Environmental groups accuse the administration of hurrying the process through, barring adequate review of the risks of opening one of the United States' wildest remaining areas to oil and gas prospecting and drilling.

Official publication of Thursday's environmental impact statement opens a period of public review, which ends in February.

"The process laid out in the plan is rushed and reckless, defying good science and meaningful dialogue with stakeholders," Jamie Williams, head of the nonprofit Wilderness Society, said in a statement.

"Some places should remain untouched for future generations," Williams said.

"This is a land grab, pure and simple, and the individuals responsible care little about impacts to wildlife or the damage they would be inflicting on Alaska Native people," executive director Adam Kolton of the Alaska Wilderness League said.

The report examines wildlife and habitat at risk from opening the wilderness area.

For example, a declining local population of 900 polar bears uses the targeted area for raising cubs and hunting.

The pounding of seismic testing for underground oil and gas reserves could drive those bears to abandon dens and the cubs in them, the report acknowledges.

Bears at large would be at increased risk from oilfield spills and chemicals, traffic, and run-ins with oil and gas and construction crews, the report warns.

"The potential for injury or mortality could be high when developing new oil and gas projects in polar bear habitat," the report said.

The risks are known and could be reduced, however, it concludes.

The Trump administration and congressional Republicans said the oil and gas leases would help pay for the tax cuts approved by Congress and signed by Trump in December.

Environmental groups and other critics call hopes of any big payoff unfounded, citing falling oil prices globally and the high costs of operating in the Arctic's difficult terrain.

The administration plan calls for at least two major lease sales over the next decade of at least 625 square miles each in the refuge's coastal plain.

The legislation limits surface development to 3 square miles.

However, the Bureau of Land Management in its environmental review said it interpreted that limit as applying only "at any given time," suggesting oil and gas drilling sites could use more than 2,000 acres over time.





WORD OF THE DAY
brought to you daily by
JumBurrito

mistletoe
[mis-uh l-toh]
noun
1. a European plant, Viscum album, having yellowish flowers and white berries, growing parasitically on various trees, used in Christmas decorations.
2. any of several other related, similar plants, as Phoradendron serotinum, of the U.S.: the state flower of Oklahoma.



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TODAYINMIDLAND

Getting prepared



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Employees of Susie's South Forty produce holiday candy packages Dec. 5 at the store.

Restaurants open on Christmas Day

Midlanders will have very few places to eat out on Christmas Day.

■ Saltgrass: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. To make reservations, call 699-0476.

■ Garden Grille and Bar at the Hilton Garden Inn: 5-10 p.m.

■ The Bistro at the Courtyard by Marriott: 6-10 a.m. (breakfast)

■ Buffalo Wild Wings: 4 p.m.-2 a.m.
Will close at 3 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

■ Dennys: Will be open 24 hours

■ IHOP: Loop 250 location will close at 2 p.m. on Christmas Day; Interstate 20 location will be open 24 hours

■ Jack in the Box: 6 a.m.-10 p.m.

Also, H-E-B, Albertson's/Market Street, Walmart and Super Mercado will be closed on Christmas Day. Walmart will close at 9 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

Things to do

Today

■ Christmas Pajama Party by Crestview Kids, 8:30-11:30 a.m., Crestview Baptist Church, 301 N. Loop 250 W.

■ Sunday Bounty Tournament, 1 p.m., KoJack's Poker Club, 3205 W. Cuthbert Ave. Membership required.

■ "The Nutcracker" by Midland Festival Ballet, 2:30 p.m., Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $20-$59. midlandfestivalballet.org.

■ Bingo Nights, 4 p.m., American Legion, 501 Veterans Airpark Lane. 682-5511.

Monday

Christmas Eve Lunch, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Midland Soup Kitchen Ministry, 1401 Orchard Lane. Free.

Friday

"The Great Russian Nutcracker: Dove of Peace" by the Moscow Ballet, 7 p.m., Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. nutcracker.com.

Saturday

■ Lightwire Theatre's A Very Electric Christmas, 7:30 p.m., Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $29.50-$104.50. wagnernoel.com.

■ Aaron Watson, 8 p.m., Dos Amigos, 4700 N. Golder Ave. $25 advance, $30 door. dosamigos.com.

Holiday trash

Please note that from now until Jan. 7, the city of Midland trash pickup will be once a week.

So adjust the way you use dumpsters the next couple of weeks. It's a good idea to use dumpsters for trash consisting of food scraps and anything biodegradable. That means items that will decay and smell bad. So, produce, meat and bones, dairy, those types of items should be thrown like usual. But please hang on to wrapping paper and bows from Christmas presents. They can wait till trash pickups increases again on Jan. 7.

Also, boxes from Christmas presents, packaging and No. 1 and 2 plastics can be recycled, reduced or reused. Please be certain to tie your trash bags so no trash escapes. And if your dumpster gets full, please hold all trash till it's emptied. Over stuffing dumpsters leads to litter.

Source: Keep Midland Beautiful

Today in history

Today is Sunday, Dec. 23, the 357th day of 2018. There are eight days left in the year.

Source:Associated Press

Lottery

All or Nothing morning: 1-3-4-5-7-9-11-12-14-17-19-22
All or Nothing day: 1-4-5-8-9-10-13-14-18-20-21-22
All or Nothing evening: 1-2-3-5-6-12-13-14-15-16-19-21
Daily 4 morning: 7-0-6-6
Daily 4 day: 0-2-2-4
Daily 4 evening: 9-9-2-2
Pick 3 morning: 1-2-4
Pick 3 day: 7-9-3
Pick 3 evening: 0-9-0

Because of an earlier deadline, the night drawings were unavailable.

Stay connected
facebook.com/TheReporter-Telegram
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Weather

Saturday's temperatures
High ... 75
Low ... 43
Normal high ... 57
Normal low ... 30

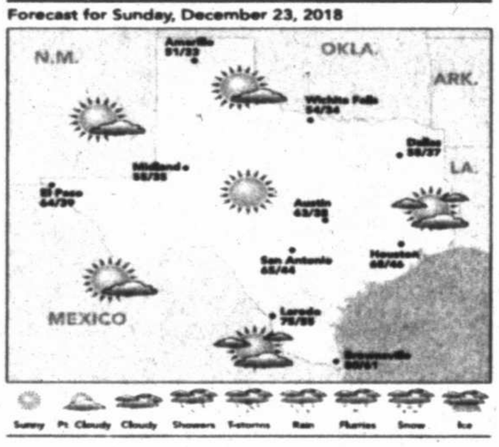
Dec. 18's records
Record high: 79, set in 1933
Record low: 4, set in 1989

Precipitation
Friday ... 0.00
Saturday ... 0.00
Month total ... 0.88 in.
Year total ... 17.55 in.
Normal total (year to date) ... 14.44 in.

Winds
Average speed: 9.8 mph
Highest speed: 20 mph
Highest gust speed: 23 mph

Today's forecast

Forecast for Sunday, December 23, 2018



High: 53
Low: 35
Conditions: Sunny during the day/mostly clear at night
Winds: 5-15 mph during the day and night
Chance of rain: None
Sunrise ... 7:46 a.m.
Sunset ... 5:50 p.m.

Source: National Weather Service

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

A baby born today has a Sun in Capricorn and a Moon in Cancer.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for **Sunday, Dec. 16, 2018:**
This year you have the ability to see both sides of an issue. The challenge remains to find a solution that is workable for you and the other party involved. If you are single, hopefully you won't want to get into petty fights. You become more and more capable of having a quality bond with someone. If you are attached, the two of you could be working out some important issues. Once you clear the air, you and your sweetie will be very content with each other. LEO loves to remind you of the fun of kissing and making up.

ARIES
(March 21-April 19)
★★★ You could feel pushed to perform or act in a certain way. Emotions might be intense and touchy. You mean to express your feelings in the most agreeable way for another person to hear. Do not be surprised by this person's strong stance. **Tonight:** Easy works.
This Week: Use your creativity to make the week flow.

TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)
★★★ Reach out to a loved one you really care about. You might need to have a conversation with a person you care about, but who can be inordinately cold or withdrawn. Avoid an ultimatum, if possible. **Tonight:** Know that others are explosive.
This Week: If you can take some extra time off, you will be happier.

GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ A discussion in the morning will encourage you and a partner to clear up the remaining holiday details. By midafternoon, the holiday spirit hits you. Put on some music while you finish up any wrapping you have to do. **Tonight:** Invite a friend over.
This Week: You have a lot to share.

CANCER
(June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Your mood appears to be contagious. You will need to jump over an obstacle that involves a loved one's resistance. Run errands and catch up on calls. Touch base with friends and start swapping good wishes for the holiday. **Tonight:** Indulge a loved one.
This Week: You might go on a shopping spree and get some great buys.

LEO
(July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You sense some rumbling behind the scenes. Your mind could be working overtime. You might feel as if you cannot come to a solution or find a good response. Caring exists between you and another person. **Tonight:** Give a higher-up the control he or she needs.
This Week: You hit your power days Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Honor what is going on with a parent or older relative. An unanticipated expense emerges from out of the blue, which will encourage you to curb any frivolous spending. Still, you might opt to buy some small items for last-minute presents. **Tonight:** Out late.
This Week: Not until later in the week do you feel mellow and content.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You'll express the fervor of the holidays and encourage others to join in. A loved one could be cantankerous at best, but you'll help even this person out. Whatever you do naturally pleases others. Stop midday and assess what is left to do. **Tonight:** Happy at home.
This Week: Zero in on what you want.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You'll be thinking ahead with the understanding that a roadblock is about to appear. You will move through your errands efficiently. You instinctively might recognize that someone has been left out. Do some backtracking. **Tonight:** At home.
This Week: You will need to run the show.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You express unusual vitality and excitement about the next few days. Your creativity seems to feed off the holiday. You will delight a loved one just by sharing your thoughts and feelings. Make plans to join a group of friends. **Tonight:** Opt to be a duo.
This Week: Be willing to reach out to someone who seems withdrawn.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You could be off-kilter and not sure how to handle a difference of opinion between you and a significant other. You could feel pushed beyond what you can deal with. Maintain a sense of humor, and you'll be OK. **Tonight:** Stay on top of your obligations.
This Week: A partner or loved one dominates the scene.

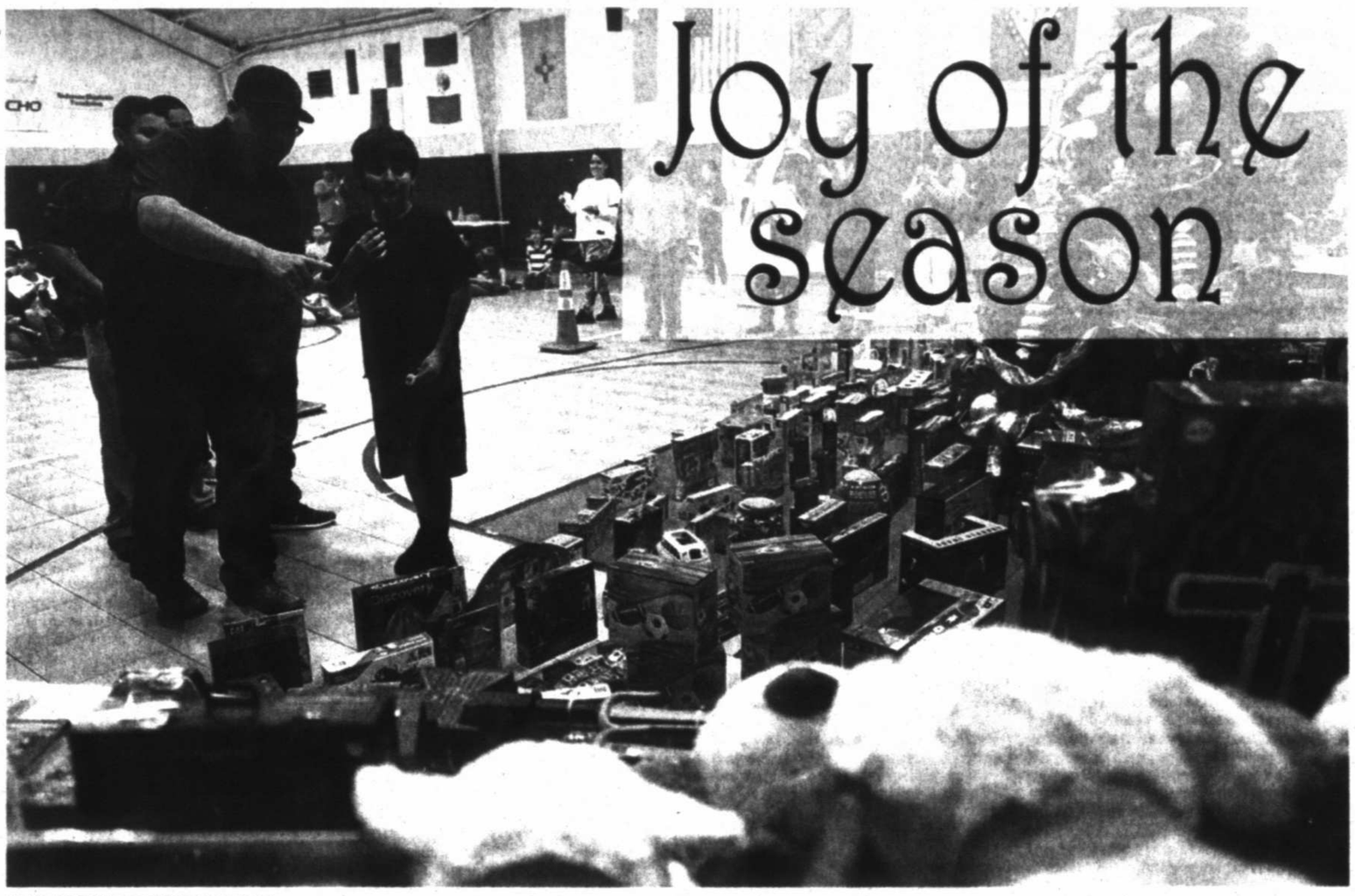
AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ You'll make an effort to complete what must be done. Take some time for yourself. Schedule a massage or take a walk. Doing some exercise will prevent you from getting stressed out. Listen to what is being suggested. **Tonight:** If tired, make it an early night.
This Week: Defer to a loved one.

PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Allow your imagination to take the lead. What comes up out of the blue could seem worrisome, but it's actually not a problem. Letting a loved one know how you feel can only add to his or her self-confidence. **Tonight:** Catch a kiss under the mistletoe.
This Week: You make a special effort to help others have a great few days.

BORN TODAY
Musician Eddie Vedder (1964), actress Susan Lucci (1946), musician Harry Judd (1985)

UGLY TREE?
GET IT REMOVED
CONTACT THE PROFESSIONALS AT
allor edge
TO REMOVE DEAD OR UNWANTED TREES

Joy of the season



Benjamim Rodrigeuz picks out a present







Boys and Girls Club photos by James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Christmas party featuring a toy and bicycle giveaway with assistance from Pioneer Natural Resources and Academy Sports, Dec. 21. 2018, at the Haiff Park Boys and Girls Club





Shop with a Cop photos by Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

LEFT: Midland Sheriff Deputy Susan Richardson shops with Adaleigh on Friday at Midland northside Walmart during the annual Shop with a Cop. The annual program is a joint venture between Midland Deputy Sheriff Association and Midland Rape Crisis Center with local donations from Tim Culp, Denzil West, Michael Flack, Diana Newton and organized by Sheriff Investigator Dennis Morris, they were able to shop for 42 children this season.
RIGHT: Sharveze Ryans, 5, picks out toys she wants Friday as Midland Sheriff Investigator Victoria Reyes follows her.

In Texas and nationally, Obamacare enrollment slips but averts big decline

By Bob Sechler
Austin American-Statesman

Enrollment for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act slipped from last year but has bucked forecasts for a big decline, providing ammunition to proponents and critics alike just as the debate over health care is set to take center stage in 2019.

About 8.45 million people in the 39 states, including Texas, that use the federal HealthCare.gov marketplace signed up for 2019 coverage by the Dec. 15 deadline, according to preliminary federal data, off from about 8.82 million during open enrollment last year. Still, the 4.2 percent slide marked an improvement after a sluggish start this year that saw signups down by double digits at one point on a percentage basis from the comparable period of 2017.

In Texas, about 1.09 million people signed up for 2019 coverage under the Affordable Care Act — commonly known as Obamacare — a decline of about 3.6 percent from 1.13 million who signed up last year for 2018 coverage.

Some health care advocates had feared a more significant drop this year, based on what they viewed as continued attempts to undermine the law by the Trump administration and Republicans in Congress, who are opposed to it.

"The numbers are not bad," said Kay Ghahremani, chief executive of the Texas Association of Community Health Plans. "They are actually better, really, than what we were thinking after the first couple of weeks of the enrollment period."

Ghahremani said the enrollment numbers show the importance that people place on access to health insurance and medical care.

But critics of the law say the decline in overall signups, despite being relatively small, is the latest evidence that the Affordable Care Act is failing and has made premiums for people who buy their own health insurance on the marketplace too expensive if they aren't eligible for federal subsidies.

"Outside of a government-provided health care scheme for those at a certain level of poverty, there hasn't been growth" in enrollment, said Rob Henneke, general counsel for the conservative Texas Public Policy Foundation. "People (who aren't eligible for subsidies) today have worse access to care at higher cost than they did before."

The fate of the Affordable Care Act will be hotly debated in the coming year after a federal judge in Fort Worth ruled this month — on the eve of the final day of open enrollment — that the entire federal law is unconstitutional. Texas led a coalition of 20 states that sued to throw out the law, and Henneke is a lawyer on the legal team that successfully argued the case.

Proponents of the law have said they will appeal the ruling, and 2019 coverage under it won't be affected. But the move has put pressure on Republicans in Congress and elsewhere who have opposed the Affordable Care Act to come up with alternatives in the event that the ruling is upheld.

Gov. Greg Abbott, a long-time critic of the Affordable Care Act, said in the wake of the ruling that Texas "will begin the process of reforming state regulations and proposing changes to (state) laws" — ensuring health care will be a major issue during the upcoming session of the state Legislature that begins next month.

"Texas will be ready with replacement health care insurance that includes coverage for preexisting conditions" if the ruling stands, said Abbott, a Republican.

His announcement has won him praise in many corners of the health care debate, with even supporters of the Affordable Care Act saying that waiting to see what happens in the court case would be a bad idea.

"I'm encouraged (Abbott) is willing to engage and develop options for coverage," Ghahremani said. "He took a proactive stance in what otherwise could be causing people a lot of angst."

County-level data for 2019 coverage under the Affordable Care Act hasn't been released yet by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. But local health care advocates said enrollment was solid in the Austin metro area, albeit down slightly from last year.

Kori Hattemer, director of financial programs for local nonprofit Foundation Communities, said her organization met its target of helping about 5,000 people enroll this year. Still, she said she thinks reductions by the Trump administration in federal promotion of the signup period likely crimped turnout.

"It felt like there was a lot less awareness" of open enrollment this year, Hattemer said. "There is only so much we can do (to get the word out) in our capacity as a nonprofit."

Other factors that might have reduced turnout include the lack of a financial penalty in 2019 for people who opt to go without health insurance. Republicans in Congress opposed to the Affordable Care Act removed the fine beginning next year, after failing to repeal the health care law.

The Trump administration also has increased the availability of short-term health plans that don't have to comply with the ACA's coverage requirements, which might have siphoned some enrollees as well. In addition, the strong economy nationally may have enabled more people to access employer-provided health insurance.

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HANDS

From 1A

legislation that impacts rural America or affects the psyche of rural America more than the farm bill," he said.

Conaway represents Texas' 11th Congressional District, which includes Midland-Odessa, Brownwood, Llano, Granbury and San Angelo. While running for the House seat, he said he told people in Lamesa he would represent agricultural interests.

Though he came into Congress without a farming background, Conaway marks more than a decade serving on the agriculture committee. He will be the ranking member at the start of the year. Though he doesn't think work on his committee will focus on President Donald Trump, he envisions others moving in that direction. "What I've heard from the chairmen — incoming new chairmen of the various committees — they are going to go after Trump," he said.

Conaway weighed whether Democrats under the possible leadership of Nancy Pelosi will do "what's good for the country" and give Trump a victory to reference during his 2020 run. He also considered the potential for lawmakers to focus on impeachment and investigations without moving forward on public policy issues that could help with the president's re-election.

"Hope springs eternal in folks in West Texas," Conaway said. "You can't live out here and not be hopeful. But I could also see that her side is so anti-Trump that they lose sight of the legislative work they're supposed to do."

Conaway said House Republicans' role during the next term will involve offering alternatives and compromises. He was elected to Congress in 2004 and experienced times when the GOP was in the minority.

"You really weren't making an impact, but you're in the fight," Conaway said. "You're trying to be the loyal opposition."

As for a future beyond this term, Conaway said there's a need for someone to go after District 11's agriculture and oil and gas interests. When he stops having influence or being a leader, he said it will be time for someone else to step in to serve.

STALL

From 1A

as oil companies became more efficient and learned to profit by lowering costs and employing fewer workers.

That's why Karr Ingham, an economist for the trade group Texas Alliance of Energy Producers, said he doesn't expect widespread layoffs again. If oil stays below $50 a barrel, it will certainly stop job growth in the Texas energy sector, but it won't mean deep job cuts.

"This is not catastrophic for Houston or the state of Texas," he said. "Oil and gas employment is nowhere near where it was in 2014. There's no cliff to fall off from."

But drop in oil prices already appears to be having an effect. The Houston independent oil company ConocoPhillips has said it will keep spending flat in 2019. Producers in West Texas' Permian Basin, such as Diamondback Energy and Parsley Energy, said last week that they're cutting the number of drilling rigs they're running. The long-struggling oilfield services company Weatherford International, which operates largely out of Houston and employs 28,000 people, just received a delisting warning from the New York Stock Exchange as its shares have traded below $1 a share for an extended period.

Weatherford's stock ended Thursday at 25 cents a share.

Oil prices were rising into early October over expectations that global supplies would tighten because of falling output from countries such as crisis-ridden Venezuela and U.S. sanctions that would keep Iranian oil off global markets. But the White House opted to give waivers from the sanctions to some of the world's biggest energy consumers, including China and India, leaving much more Iranian oil on the market.

At the same time, the world's top three producers — the United States, Russia and Saudi Arabia — pumped out record volumes of oil, more than 11 million barrels per day each. In just over a year, U.S. production surged from 10 million to 11.6 million barrels a day, with the Permian Basin in West Texas accounting for about one-third of all U.S. output. Ingham said that U.S. production is unlikely to fall, meaning, oil prices are unlikely to rebound much next year.

"We just keep churning out oil here at a pretty spectacular rate," Ingham added. "U.S. production isn't going in decline unless something more drastic happens."

In early December, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, Russia and other allies agreed to cut production by 1.2 million barrels a day for the first six months of 2019. That deal helped stop oil prices from cratering, but failed to keep them from falling below $50 a barrel. Concerns about an impending global economic slowdown, which would depress demand, have also added downward pressure on prices. Still, some observers say traders have discounted the impact of the OPEC cuts too much, and they expect oil prices to rise above $50 a barrel relatively early next year. "The markets are overreacting," said Patrick Jankowski, senior economist with the Greater Houston Partnership.

Big companies will largely do fine with oil at $50 a barrel, he said, although some of the smaller and mid-sized players could struggle if they are carrying high debt loads and the cash flow needed to service that debt dwindles.

U.S. Marshals Service fugitive

RONDALE FARRIS

DOB: 7-19-1980
Height and weight: 6 foot; 250 pounds
Charge: Homicide and Aggravated Assault with Deadly Weapon


Farris

- Wanted as of 12-20-2018
- $500 Cash Reward to the first person who calls Midland Crime Stoppers this week with information that leads to this fugitive's arrest.
- Call 694-TIPS or 1-800-7-LOCKUP, online at midlandcrimestoppers.com or text TIP247 plus your message to 274637
- Mobile App 'P3 TIPS' or go to www.p3tips.com
- As always you will remain anonymous
- NEVER attempt to apprehend this subject yourself. Subject may be armed or dangerous.

Crime of the week

Midland Police Department needs help identifying two suspects involved in an aggravated robbery that occurred at Erin's Liquor Store No. 2, 1317 N. Lamesa Road on Dec. 4. Two males entered the store and robbed it at gunpoint.

One suspect is a black male who was wearing a black hoodie; he was armed with a handgun. The second male was wearing a black/blue jacket; his face and hands were covered.

The suspects are considered armed and dangerous. (Reference case number is 181204046.)

If you have any information on these suspects and your tip leads to an arrest, you could earn a $1,000 cash reward. Caller ID is never used and you always remain anonymous. Call 432-694-TIPS (8477) or use mobile app P3 TIPS.

Please like our Facebook page at /MidlandTxCS to view the surveillance video.

How to submit a secure tip

- **Hotline:** 694-TIPS or 1-800-7-LOCKUP
- **Online:** www.midlandcrimestoppers.com
- **Text:** Text TIP247 plus your message to 274637
- **Mobile app on IPhone or Android phones:** Mobile App 'P3 TIPS' or go to www.p3tips.com
- **Facebook:** Click 'Submit A Tip' on left side of our Facebook page



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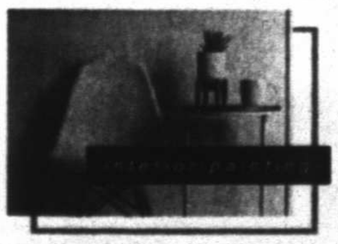


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The inside story: How the Odessa case factored in the police and the FBI finding one of the country's worst serial killers

By Del Quentin Wilber
Los Angeles Times



Mark Rogers/Odessa American via AP

Samuel Little leaves the Ector County Courthouse on Dec. 13 in Odessa after pleading guilty to killing Denise Christie Brothers in 1994 and receiving another life sentence. Little has admitted to killing 90 people.

The FBI analysts sat mutely, listening intently to the scratchy audio feed from an interview room across the hall.

The two women were anxious, having spent months collecting and assessing ephemeral crumbs from the nomadic life of Samuel Little, a 77-year-old California prisoner and once-competitive boxer whom they suspected of multiple murders.

They had no hard evidence — no fingerprints, no DNA, no witnesses. Little had been convicted in 2014 of strangling three women in Los Angeles, and they were convinced there were more. How many, they didn't know.

The analysts mostly had a gut feeling, informed by detailed research into four decades of Little's itinerant wanderings across the country and how he seemed again and again to intersect with long-cold investigations into bodies and bones.

Their only hope was to obtain a confession, a task that fell to a Texas detective known for his expertise in sociopaths and psychopaths. But no one was optimistic.

Huddled in a guard break room in the California State Prison in Lancaster on May 17, the analysts shifted uneasily in their seats, their ears locked on a speaker and eyes fixed on stack of notes, police reports and crime scene photographs.

They were as ready as they could be, though nothing could have prepared them for what was to come — the unspooling of one of the nation's worst serial killing sprees, involving dozens of deaths.

It would take dogged police work and more than a little luck. Unlike investigations that start with a victim and lead to a killer, this time a suspect would have to lead to the corpses. But was Little ready to talk?

The extraordinary investigation began in April 2013 when FBI analyst Christie Palazzolo received a call from Los Angeles homicide detectives, according to the FBI analysts, police investigators and a review of court files.

The LAPD detectives wanted to talk about Little. He had been arrested in 2012 at a homeless shelter in Kentucky on a warrant for a narcotics violation in Los Angeles.

Authorities had then linked him to three long-unsolved cases — women who were strangled in Los Angeles in 1987 and 1989. His DNA was found in semen on the shirts of two and skin under the fingernails of the third. The half-naked bodies had been found in an alley, a parking garage and a dumpster.

Born in 1940 and raised in Ohio, Little had been in and out of trouble for most of his life. He spent about a decade behind bars and had been arrested scores of times on charges ranging from assault and rape to armed robbery and burglary.

He was repeatedly accused of targeting vulnerable women — largely prostitutes, drug addicts, the homeless and others living on the street or on the edge.

He was acquitted of the 1982 killing of a mentally disabled woman in Florida and a grand jury declined to indict him that year in the death of a prostitute in Mississippi. Both cases involved women who were strangled — just like the three in Los Angeles.

Two years later, he was convicted of assaulting two women in San Diego, and spent two years in prison. Evidence showed he had tied one up with stockings in a car and choked her nearly to death.

In old mug shots, Little looked every bit the ex-boxer — powerful, broad-shouldered but trim, with bushy hair and a thick mustache. In a 1972 police photo, when he was 31, Little looked bored, with his head cocked, as if shrugging off his latest arrest.

LAPD detectives found Little an enigma in 2013, however, partly because he refused to speak with them. That's when they asked Palazzolo to reconstruct his life — in case he had killed anyone else.

Palazzolo is one of 10 analysts assigned to the FBI's Violent Criminal Apprehension Program. Based in northern Virginia, ViCAP maintains a database of homicides and other violent crimes that police can search for clues to help find suspects or put names to unidentified victims.

The analyst, 34, and her colleagues provide hundreds of leads each year to local-level police that help break open so-called cold cases — long-unsolved murders.

Despite Little's use of aliases — Samuel McDowell was a favorite — Palazzolo was able to comb his criminal history and discover more arrests in other states.

She plowed through commercial databases, finding where he rented an apartment, lived in a hostel or held an odd job, including one at a cemetery.

The analyst next dug into the ViCAP database, looking for unsolved homicides that overlapped with her 150-page timeline of Little's life. She discovered a handful but suspected he might have committed more.

One stood out: the 1994 strangling of 38-year-old Denise Christie Brothers in Odessa. Her partially clothed body had been found in bushes in a vacant lot. Records showed Little had interacted with local police around that time, meaning he was in Odessa.

"This just felt like him," Palazzolo said.

ViCAP transmitted a national alert in June 2013 urging detectives to check their files for unsolved stranglings and other assaults that might fit Little's modus operandi, and the next year the FBI sent Palazzolo's final report to the LAPD.

Little was convicted in L.A. County Superior Court in September 2014 of murdering the three Los Angeles women and sentenced to life in prison. Although he appealed, investigators expected him to die in prison, taking his murderous oeuvre to the grave.

Just over three years later, in December 2017, Angela Williamson was attending a law enforcement conference in Tampa, Florida.

Armed with a doctorate in molecular biology and extensive experience in forensics, the 41-year-old Australian-born analyst splits her work between ViCAP and a Justice Department program that funds local-level police efforts to better investigate sexual assaults and related homicides.

She was chatting with Texas Ranger James Holland, who had just given a presentation about how to interview sociopaths and psychopaths, when two investigators from a Florida law enforcement agency sidled up.

They asked whether Williamson and Holland knew anything about a guy named Samuel Little. He had killed three women in Los Angeles and might have killed others in Florida, they said. They wanted Holland's insights.

Holland and Williamson promised to look into the suspect.

In March, Holland called Williamson at ViCAP and told her they had to do something "about this Little guy," she recalled.

Williamson turned in her cubicle and got Palazzolo's attention. She had a Texas Ranger on the phone and wondered if Palazzolo knew anything about Little.

"You bet I do!" Palazzolo said excitedly. "Tell him about the Odessa case."

Within weeks, the trio was in Lancaster to interview Little. They brought the Odessa case file, newspaper clips and Palazzolo's detailed timeline of Little's life, as well as other material. He had no idea they were coming — their plan was to surprise him.

"I was pretty pessimistic," Palazzolo recalled. "I thought he would just tell us to leave. Remember, he hadn't spoken to anyone about any of this. Why would he?"

Just after 10 a.m. on May 17, Holland sat down with Little and gave him some peanut M&M's. In his Texas drawl, the ranger began chit-chatting about this and that — Little's time on the streets, his competitive boxing.

The ranger played to Little's ego, saying the FBI and Justice Department were very interested in him.

It didn't work. Little had beat murder raps before, and he insisted he would win his appeal in Los Angeles and soon be free.

Listening on the audio link, Palazzolo and Williamson slumped in their chairs. This was going nowhere.

After 30 minutes or so, Holland brought up the Odessa case. It seemed to flip a switch in the killer's head, although investigators still aren't sure why.

Little became animated and suddenly began discussing the 1994 slaying. Better yet, his surprisingly precise recall matched details in the crime scene photographs and reports.

"Game on!" Palazzolo said in the guard break room.

That night and the next, Holland and the analysts convened at the hotel and reviewed the day's audiotapes. In two days, Little had described 20 slayings in detail.

He had also cataloged his killings: "Jackson, Mississippi. — one. Cincinnati, Ohio — one. Phoenix, Arizona — three," he had told Holland, leaving the analysts to perform the addition.

Yet none of Palazzolo's suspected cases matched Little's grim tally. They turned to the ViCAP database but also struck out. It can be an imperfect tool because it relies on local-level police to enter data on their cases.

So Palazzolo tried Google, entering one of the cases into the search engine. She stared in shock at the results.

"I just found one," she told Williamson. Investigators would later corroborate Little's confession in that killing. The discovery spurred the team to step up the investigation.

Ultimately, Little confessed to killing 90 women between 1970 and 2005, including the two cases he had beaten in Florida and Mississippi. He admitted to strangling 18 in Los Angeles.

His bloody count, if confirmed, would rank Little among the deadliest serial killers in U.S. history.

Police have corroborated at least 36 of Little's confessions and are vetting others.

"This is not a case of him boasting," said Kevin Fitzsimmons, the supervisory analyst for ViCAP. "Law enforcement has verified he did these things. It takes a lot of work, but we are doing it."

Confirming the confessions has been difficult. Most of the victims lived in society's shadows and few of the killings drew intense police attention or publicity.

Many of the deaths occurred before the advent of DNA testing. Many were attributed to accidents, drug overdoses or exposure — not homicide — because police recovered only bones or a decomposing corpse and didn't have clear evidence of a crime. One reason is Little left no telltale stab or gunshot wounds. He said he usually stunned or knocked out his victims with powerful punches before strangling them.

He also did not always sexually assault his victims. In any case, many were prostitutes with multiple partners, so rape kits were of limited utility.

Another complicating factor was Little's memory.

Investigators say it's nearly photographic when it comes to his victims, methods and other details. He recited one woman's last meal — allowing detectives to verify his account by checking autopsy results that listed the contents of her stomach.

But his recall of dates is less solid — he can be off by a decade. And he sometimes can't name the towns where he stalked and strangled his prey.

"When you spent your life living in your car, things tend to blur," said Williamson. "You can imagine calling a police department and saying you have a potential homicide that occurred off a dirt road in 1984, or it could be 1974, or 1994. Did they even find the body? If they did, was it just bones?"

That was the case in early October in Maryland when Prince Georges County Police Det. Bernie Nelson got a call from a colleague in nearby Washington, D.C., asking whether he had any information about a 1972 homicide.

The D.C. detective told Nelson that a serial killer had claimed he had picked up a woman at Washington's old Greyhound bus terminal, and had driven down a dirt road and strangled her near an abandoned house.

The D.C. detective had no such homicides in his files but thought police in nearby counties might.

Nelson visited the dusty police file room and found the handwritten homicide ledger from 1972. Near the end, he found an apparent match: On Dec. 1, police had recovered the bones of an unidentified white woman off a dirt road.

According to the file, a hunter had discovered the remains near a deserted house about a quarter-mile down a rugged road off a major thoroughfare. The medical examiner suspected the victim, 20 to 25 years old, had been strangled six to 12 months earlier.

Nelson learned Little was arrested on a gun charge at the Washington bus terminal on May 28, 1972. He had been arrested in Florida on a rape charge three weeks earlier, but released from custody. Nelson suspected he had killed the woman during those three weeks.

By Nov. 8, Nelson and his boss, Sgt. Greg McDonald, and an FBI agent were in Wise County, Texas, where Little was in jail awaiting trial in the Odessa murder. (On Thursday, he pleaded guilty to that charge. Prosecutors had agreed not to seek the death penalty in exchange for Little's continued cooperation with the Texas Rangers and FBI.)

In their hotel, they met detectives from four other jurisdictions, also waiting for time to talk to Little.

Before questioning the prisoner the next morning at the sheriff's office, the visiting detectives were briefed by Holland, the Texas Ranger, and told what to expect.

Little suffered from diabetes and had a pacemaker. He sometimes became sexually excited when he recalled his crimes and would ask to see photographs of his victim to relive the event. The killer could become angry if asked to help a victim's family find closure.

Little also tended to go off on tangents and would speak of himself in the third person. His memory for faces and the scenes was eerily sharp. He was a decent artist, Holland said, and might be able to render a victim's likeness.

After Little finished his breakfast from McDonald's, the Prince George's County detectives entered the drab interview room and confronted an old man with gray hair in a black-and-white-striped jail uniform. Although he had been brought in a wheelchair, Little seemed spry.

He boasted of his boxing prowess as a youth and engaged in a bit of a shadow boxing for the investigators. He said he still tried to keep in shape by doing sit-ups and push-ups.

Nelson, knowing other investigators were waiting in line, quickly shifted to the crime.

Little recalled the case, he said. He said he was living out of his car when he met an attractive white woman, a prostitute, at Washington's bus station, and flirted with her. When she learned he had a beat-up car, an Oldsmobile, she agreed to leave town with him.

She told him she came from Massachusetts and had just been divorced. As she left the bus station, Little recalled, she tossed her purse in the air and screamed, "Wahoo, I'm free!"

Little didn't remember her name or their destination — perhaps Boston or Baltimore. A few miles outside Washington, he told the detectives, the woman encouraged him to pull off a parkway and onto a dirt road.

As they were having sex, Little was overcome by the urge to kill and began to choke the woman. He thought she was dead but she suddenly awoke and scrambled from the car.

He followed her, put her in a choke hold and forced her to the ground. Little recalled her last words as he choked the life from her: "I'm too young to die."

His recollection matched perfectly with Nelson's timeline and crime scene evidence — down to curves in the road and a tree where the bones were recovered.

Prince George's police expect to charge Little in the coming weeks so they can close the case on their books. Prosecutors will not indict Little, Nelson said, because he is already serving life sentences.

Nelson's goal now is to identify the woman. He has clues — she was from Massachusetts, had extensive dental work by at least two dentists, and had just gotten divorced.

Little has even promised him a sketch of her face.

The killer told Nelson he remembered it well — down to how her dirty blond hair washed over his hands when he squeezed her neck and how her eyes stared lifelessly into the stars.

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Toys R Us closure hits Toys for Tots hard

By Terry Spencer and Joshua Replogle
Associated Press

HIALEAH, Fla. — When Toys R Us closed, Toys for Tots felt the loss.

The toy giant's decision to close its stores this year left some huge holes for the annual charity drive to fill.

Toys R Us shoppers donated more than 250,000 toys last year and the company gave $5 million in corporate contributions — 40 percent of all corporate giving to the Marine Corps community effort.

The company's 800 stores usually had boxes near the doors where customers could toss a toy on their way out. They also took monetary donations.

From Florida to Spokane, Washington, several Toys for Tots campaigns say the closures hurt. In Orlando, for example, donations were down 25 percent. In Bakersfield, California, the local group reported being 10,000 toys down earlier this month.

Kelly Wilson, the north Atlanta coordinator for Toys For Tots, said her city needed 268,000 more toys last week. She said donations collected at local Toys R Us stores would fill a large tractor-trailer or more each year.

"We are hopeful that all of our contributors just went somewhere else, got a toy from Kroger or Publix ... Target or Walmart since Toys R Us is not available," she said.

Toys for Tots national spokesman Ted Silvester said losing Toys R Us was a "tough pill." But he said other corporate sponsors such as Hasbro, Disney and Build-A-Bear helped fill the void while Marine units asked the public for more individual donations. In some cities it's too late to donate toys this year, but monetary donations are accepted to buy last-minute gifts.

Silvester said while it won't be known until next month whether the Toys R Us closure resulted in an overall drop nationally in presents donated, numerous cities like New York and Detroit required additional toys. So did regions hit by disasters this year, such as Northern California and the Carolinas.

> *"What Toys for Tots provides is hope, it allows children to feel, to be a child, to be happy, to receive something, to be able to be a kid."*
>
> **Keiondra Ross,** mother

He said the national Toys for Tots Foundation assists any of the 809 local drives that need additional gifts. Toys for Tots distributed 18 million toys to 7 million children across the U.S. last year.

"The loss of Toys R Us hurt but we hope we will be able to meet the needs of all the families this holiday season," Silvester said. Toys R Us closed in June after filing for bankruptcy last year, unable to compete with online retailers and discount stores like Target and Walmart. More than 30,000 workers lost jobs.

At the Marine Corps warehouse in suburban Miami last week, vans and trucks from community groups, women's shelters, churches and schools lined up daily to pick up toys for families they assist. Outreach to local givers and a shipment of Hasbro toys from the national foundation filled any hole left by Toys R Us, said Gunnery Sgt. Dennis Polo, who led the local effort.

On one particular morning, several Marines and civilian volunteers loaded boxes as the months-long effort reached its final days. Polo said his 19 years in the Marines helped him meet the challenge by organizing the mission like a battlefield deployment.

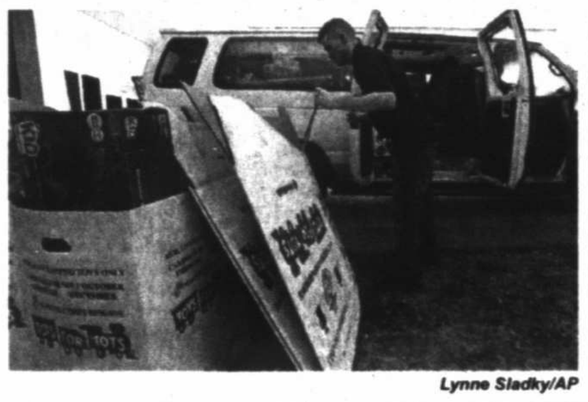
The warehouse is orderly, with toys separated by age group and gender. Charities submit orders giving details of their recipients and the Marines prepare customized boxes in advance to await pickup. Chaos is kept to a minimum — but Polo's weary voice gives away the effort that makes it happen.

"It is very tedious work but very, very needed," said Polo, whose family immigrated to Miami from Cuba when he was 15 and still lives here. "It is not just collecting toys and giving toys, it is matching the gift to each child."

Dabf Montesir and Quante Watkins were picking up toys for McDonald's Playworld, a Miami charity that works with low-income families — boxes of goods filled their van. (The charity is not associated with the fast-food chain.) Montesir said he's glad Miami's Toys for Tots overcame the loss of Toys R Us because the presents his group receives help alleviate strain for needy parents who can't afford gifts for their children.

Keiondra Ross' three children are receiving gifts through McDonald's Playworld. The single mother, who works at a Veterans' Administration hospital cafeteria, said it's difficult to pay for her family's needs, so extras like Christmas presents are tough. On this day just before Christmas, the family's apartment sat dark to cut the electric bill.

"What Toys for Tots provides is hope," Ross said. "It allows children to feel, to be a child, to be happy, to receive something, to be able to be a kid."



Lynne Sladky/AP

Stf. Sgt. Brian Spittler loads a vehicle with toy donations Wednesday at the Marine Corps Toys for Tots depot, Wednesday in Hialeah, Fla. The recent closure of Toys R Us created some collateral damage — the Toys for Tots charity drive. More than 250,000 toys donated by consumers and $5 million, 40 percent of corporate giving, came through Toy R Us last year, holes the annual Marine Corps' community effort is working to fill.

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Monday, December 24, 2018

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(Doors open at 4:00 P.M.)

8:00 P.M. Vigil Mass of Christmas – Bi-lingual
Preceded by Carols at 7:30 P.M.

11:00 P.M. Choral Christmas Eucharist
Preceded by Carols with combined Choirs & Brass
at 10:30 P.M.

CHRISTMAS DAY
Tuesday, December 25, 2018

Mass for Christmas Day

10:00 A.M.
With Musical Prelude beginning at 9:30 A.M.



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A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP

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Open and closed: shutdown's varied impact on parks, tourists

By Michael R. Sisak
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The huddled masses are still able to visit the Statue of Liberty. The Grand Canyon is open for business. The government says other national parks "will remain as accessible as possible," although some roads at Rocky Mountain National Park are closed as snow goes unplowed.

But, while the star-spangled banner yet waves at Fort McHenry in Baltimore, the gates at the War of 1812 landmark are locked.

Tourists trekking to parks and historic sites across the U.S. on Saturday are seeing a mix of impacts from the federal government's second shutdown in less than a year.

Some attractions are staying open thanks to funding from states and charitable groups.

At some parks, you're welcome to take a hike — but you're largely on your own. At others, like the closed Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania, you're out of luck.

Utah's state government is paying to staff the visitor centers at Arches, Bryce Canyon and Zion national parks. Arizona is ponying up to keep trails, shuttles and restrooms open at the Grand Canyon. New York is footing the bill for the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island for the third shutdown in five years.

"Many travelers have planned their visit for months in advance and have traveled from all over the world to be here," said Utah Gov. Gary Herbert, a Republican. "We want them to return home with memories of magnificent vistas and welcoming people, not locked doors."

The shutdown is affecting nine of the 15 Cabinet-level departments, including Interior, which runs national parks, and Agriculture, which runs national forests. About 16,000 National Park Service employees — 80 percent of the agency's workforce — are being furloughed.



Craig Ruttle/AP

A ferry full of passengers steams toward the Statue of Liberty on Saturday in New York. The national landmark remained open despite a partial government shutdown after New York Governor Andrew Cuomo made funding available to keep the monument open.

It's also closing some of the nation's presidential libraries.

The George H.W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum in College Station is closed, but the family gravesite — where the 41st president was recently buried — will stay open. George W. Bush's presidential library in Dallas is open, but archive services won't be available.

Temporary and permanent exhibits at the Clinton Presidential Library and Museum, a top tourist attraction in Little Rock, Arkansas, are closed, but the restaurant is open and offering "Shutdown Specials."

At Acadia National Park in Maine, austerity measures include closing some bathrooms, curbing trash collection and cutting back on snowplowing.

A lack of plowing is closing roads at Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado, the fourth most popular national park in the country, and the visitor centers are locked. "This is really disappointing," said Sarah Schlesinger of Boulder, Colorado, who went to the park with two nieces from Florida who had never seen snow before.

Unplowed roads also could hinder access to Crater Lake in Oregon, Mount Rainier in Washington and other parks normally inundated with snow this time of year.

Hotels, restaurants, stores and gas stations at Yosemite National Park in California remain open and seem unaffected by the shutdown, which has canceled some programs, closed visitor centers and left campgrounds unstaffed.

"It's basically free to get in the park and people are coming and going as they please," said Jade Lezon, a cashier at the El Portal Market, near an entrance to the park. "It looks like summer today. Perfect weather for a government shutdown."

Superintendent Cassius Cash of Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee said visitors should practice "leave no trace" principles to avoid fouling up the park when no visitor services are available. The holiday period is typically one of the park's busiest weeks, he said.

"During the government shutdown national parks will remain as accessible as possible," said National Park Service spokesman Jeremy Barnum, noting that wilderness-type vault toilets are still available where visitor centers are closed.

At Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, nonprofit organizations are teaming up to keep the visitor center open at the government-run USS Arizona Memorial. The memorial itself is closed until March for repairs to the loading dock, but visitors are still being taken on a narrated harbor tour of Battleship Row and the surrounding area.

Navy sailors operating the tour boats aren't affected by the shutdown.

At Alcatraz, getting in might be harder than getting out. The company that provides ferry services to the federal penitentiary-turned-National Park site in San Francisco Bay kept its daytime tours going on Saturday, but canceled behind-the-scenes and night tours.

At the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, it was business as usual after New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, said the state would fund operations, as it did when the federal government shut down in 2013 and in January. It'll cost the state about $65,000 per day, Cuomo said.

"Thanks to New York kicking in the funding!" said Steffen Manheim, a tourist from Maine.

In Arizona, Gov. Doug Ducey activated the state's Grand Canyon Protection Plan, which calls for the state to underwrite the cost of public safety and basic services at the desert treasure. Arizona developed the plan after it stepped in to fund operations during the last shutdown, 11 months ago.

Oklahoma quickly becoming medical marijuana hotbed

By Sean Murphy
Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — The rollout of statewide medical and recreational marijuana programs typically is a grindingly slow process that can take years. Not so in Oklahoma, which moved with lightning speed once voters approved medical cannabis in June.

The ballot question received 57 percent support and established one of the nation's most liberal medical pot laws in one of the most conservative states. Six months later, the cannabis industry is booming.

Farmers and entrepreneurs are racing to start commercial grow operations, and the state is issuing licenses to new patients, growers and dispensary operators at a frantic pace. Retail outlets opened just four months after legalization. By contrast, voters in North Dakota, Ohio and neighboring Arkansas approved medical pot in 2016 but have yet to see sales begin amid legal wrangling and legislative meddling.

"I think we really are the wild, wild West in many respects," said attorney Sarah Lee Gossett Parrish, whose firm in Norman represents several cannabis businesses. "Here in Oklahoma, we're a pretty independent constituency. We are primarily a red state, but we don't like a lot of government controls."

Indeed, unlike virtually every other state, Oklahoma officials created no list of qualifying medical conditions for people to get medicinal marijuana. That has prompted a flood of applications for personal licenses to purchase pot.

Since August more than 22,000 have been approved and thousands more are in the pipeline. There are now 785 licensed dispensaries. Some small Oklahoma towns have as many as a half-dozen. Norman and Stillwater, the state's two largest college towns, have 45 combined.

Sage Farms is among more than 1,200 licensed commercial growers. Owner Ben Neal has been using high-tech growing techniques for years to produce tomatoes, lettuce, peppers and other vegetables at his six greenhouses in rural Tulsa County. He's now converted a third of his operation to growing marijuana, hired three new workers and just harvested 200 pounds of various strains that will be auctioned next month.

Neal said he has been offered $2,800 per pound for the entire crop, a total of $560,000. He's shocked at how quickly Oklahoma has embraced the industry.

"Nine months ago, I was saying that Oklahoma would be the last state that ever does it, and then all of a sudden this happened," Neal said.

In the bedroom community of Shawnee, east of Oklahoma City, business is steady at the Oklahoma Roots dispensary. Chance Gilbert grows, processes and sells marijuana inside what once was a metal fabrication shop.

"It's kind of radical how fast it's gotten going," said Gilbert, who expects to produce about 50 pounds of marijuana a month once at full capacity. "We assumed it would be an Arkansas model, that it would be years before it was implemented and rolled out."

The primary driver behind Oklahoma's quick rollout was a broadly written, citizen-led ballot question that included quick deadlines and required regulators to grant a license to every qualified applicant. But several political ingredients combined to push the effort along. First, instead of the general election in November, Gov. Mary Fallin placed the question on the June primary ballot, where it passed overwhelmingly despite opposition from law enforcement, doctors and clergy. That allowed more time for the program to ramp up before the Legislature returns in February.



IRON HORSE LODGE OPENS FIRST 2 PHASES OF A 550 ROOM WORKFORCE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

MIDLAND, Texas, Dec. 19, 2018 – AWT Logistics, LLC, the developers of **Iron Horse Lodge,** announced today that the first two phases of their 6-phase Workforce Housing Development are set to open in January 2019, offering 200+ single occupancy rooms. Situated between Midland and Odessa, Texas, the quiet, farmland location ensures peaceful and quiet living conditions for oilfield workers, while placing them in a strategic central location.

AWT Logistics, LLC, a newer player in the Permian Basin Workforce Housing game, was founded by Oil Industry Executives and a Major Houston-Based Engineering and Construction Group with a clear understanding of today's oil and gas employers' need to house workers as part of an employee recruitment and retention strategy.

"We were confident in our ability to deliver a superior product at the same budgets being spent at places that resemble overcrowded prison camps," says company CEO & Developer Scott Rettberg. "If you can't stay at a facility for one week, you shouldn't place your valued employees there for one year." The company spared little expense to ensure that the site, houses, and rooms contained the highest level of amenities and inclusions offered in the workforce housing industry. These include a wide variety of breakfast and dinner meal options, fiber optic cable to Wi-Fi distribution at over 200Mps for today's mobile and distributed digital content users, new flat screen TVs and DirecTV in every bedroom, twice weekly maid service, free laundry rooms, wide open grass common areas with BBQs, tables, horseshoe pits, shades and heaters for outdoor down time. A full-service gym loaded with commercial grade cardio and weight machines is open 24 hours and so is access to round-the-clock customer service staff.

Iron Horse Lodge features low density housing with no more than 14 buildings and in many cases just 50-70 large bedrooms per 2-acre lot. This leaves plenty of comfortable spacing and room for parking against each house. Offering a comfortable, quiet, and stress-free environment for today's oilfield workforce is a model the company plans to continue on additional properties currently being planned.

"We were able to offer significantly more value profitably, without raising costs and as the model continues to work we see no reason to stop acquiring properties to develop," says Rettberg, whose team is gearing up to develop additional workforce housing projects.

The Permian Basin is in a long-term boom, with an estimated 50,000+ workers still migrating here for work. Providing quality housing solutions for their workers is an effective way to recruit and retain workers for local oilfield drilling, completion, service, pipeline, and production companies. Iron Horse Lodge General Manager, Steve Glynn adds, "Our vision was to treat workforce residents like valued guests and the rest will take care of itself. By making sure our guests have quality rest, enjoyable amenities, and stress-free living conditions - we are helping improve worker safety issues in the field."

For lodging questions:
432-271-8100
kiara@ihlodge.com
ihlodge.com

EYE ON DEVELOPMENT



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Visit Midland booth at the Texas Tech spring scrimmage tailgate photographed March 24 at the Scharbauer Sports Complex.

VisitMidland drives economic impact through travel, tourism

Midland Chamber of Commerce

VisitMidland works to promote the entire community of Midland as a destination for meetings, events, sporting events and leisure travel. As Midland's official destination vmarketing organization, VisitMidland's mission is to encourage economic growth by developing, promoting, enhancing and supporting Midland as a vibrant visitor destination.

VisitMidland provides several complimentary services that range from securing group rates at Midland hotels and attractions, providing visitor information, maintaining a calendar of events, publicity, transportation coordination, attending bid proposals, event enhancement and support through every step of the meeting or event planning process.

Based on the Midland Metropolitan Statistical Analysis in 2016, travel and tourism employed over 3,310 individuals, generated $11.7 million in local tax receipts and $494.5 million in direct visitor spending in Midland, according to information from Dean Runyan Associates.

From Oct. 1, 2017-Sept. 30, 2018, VisitMidland worked with 155 events with the potential to bring in an estimated 37,756 in total event attendance, 21,062 room nights and an estimated economic impact $58.364 million to Midland.

Notably, in 2018, VisitMidland worked with COM Aquatics and the Texas Events Trust Fund to secure the 2018 USA Swimming Southern Zone Age Group Championships in Midland. This five-day event brought in visitors from eight states and had an estimated economic impact of $3.437 million in total business sales to the Midland economy. VisitMidland provided support through the VisitMidland Sports & Entertainment Grant, on-site volunteers, promotional towels for each swimmer and coach, airport welcome banners and digital publicity. With the success of this event, VisitMidland and COM Aquatics have secured the 2019 USA Diving Zone F Championships.



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Brad Barnett, with VisitMidland, talks about the tourism the new Midland Center will bring to Midland on May 10 during the groundbreaking ceremonies at the site.

"With the strong relationships that we have built with our tourism partners, we fully anticipate success in the coming year," said VisitMidland Executive Vice President of Tourism and Facilities Brad Barnett. "Our strategy is to concentrate on bringing events to Midland that will put heads in beds between Thursday and Saturday nights, therefore, continuing to be a strong and vital presence with our tourism partners and the city of Midland."

Through advertising across multiple media platforms, attending tradeshows, community relations and sales outreach, VisitMidland aims to bring economic development and generate revenue for Midland through travel and tourism.

For more information on where to eat, play, shop and stay in Midland, visit www.VisitMidland.com.

RRC: Number of permits issued is down in Midland region, across the state

From staff reports

The Railroad Commission reported a drop year-over-year in the number of permits issued statewide and in its Midland region in November.

The RRC showed 933 original drilling permits in November across the state (compared to 1,187 in November 2017). In the RRC's Midland region, the number of permits fell from 657 to 437. The RRC reported increases for oil completions (207 to 374) and gas completions (10 to 73).

The Midland region continued to hold a commanding lead in the Railroad Commission's report for drilling permits and completions. In each case, the Midland region accounted for more than 46 percent of the activity across the state.

In November, of the 933 permits issued, 46.8 percent were for the Midland region. Also, of the 794 oil completions, 47.1 percent were in the Midland region. Of the 151 gas completions, 48.3 percent were in the Midland region,

The commission's number of drilling permits across the state in October included 870 permits to drill new oil or gas wells, one to re-enter plugged well bores and 62 for re-completions of existing well bores. The breakdown of well types for those permits is 212, oil; 55, gas; 595, oil or gas; 60, injection; two, service; and nine, other.

In November 2018, commission staff processed 794 permits for oil; 151, gas; 36, injection; and one other completion, compared to 388, oil; 74, gas; 29, injection; and one other completion in November 2017. Total well completions processed for 2018 year-to-date are 10,236, up from 6,291 recorded in the same time period in 2017.

By the numbers

Texas Drilling Permits and Completion statistics for November

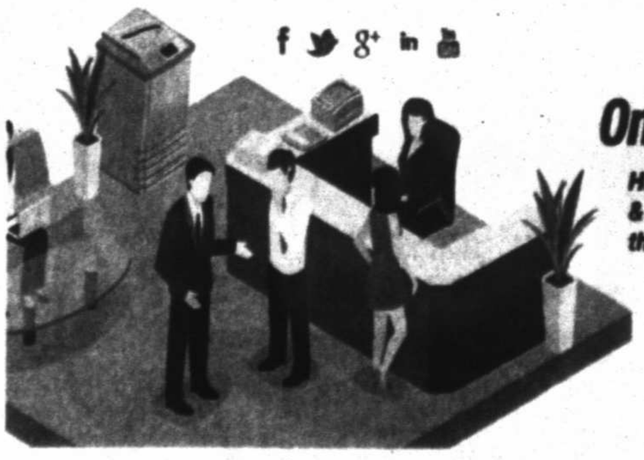
Region	Drilling permits	Oil completions	Gas completions
Midland	437	374	73
San Antonio area	158	87	21
Refugio area	59	106	14
Southeast Texas	38	28	6
Deep South Texas	14	2	3
East Central Texas	5	7	1
East Texas	41	9	15
West Central Texas	27	25	1
San Angelo area	64	88	0
Lubbock area	34	24	0
North Texas	35	34	4
Panhandle	21	10	13
Total	933	794	151

Source: Railroad Commission of Texas

Building permits Dec. 10 – 14

5606 Westridge Blvd.	Hotel	6000 N. Briarwood Ave.	New Commercial	3305 Sycamore Ave.	Residential Alteration
2201 Camp Drive	Hotel	6000 N. Briarwood Ave.	New Commercial	6002 Beals Creek Drive	New Residence
503 E. Interstate 20	Commercial Alteration	6000 N. Briarwood Ave.	New Commercial	2308 College Ave.	Residential Alteration
300 N. Marienfeld Street	Commercial Alteration	6000 N. Briarwood Ave.	New Commercial	6000 Beals Creek Drive	New Residence
6000 N. Briarwood Ave.	New Commercial	6000 N. Briarwood Ave.	New Commercial	5000 Pimlico Drive	Residential Addition
6000 N. Briarwood Ave.	New Commercial	6000 N. Briarwood Ave.	New Commercial	6500 Los Conchos Lane	Residence-Detached
6000 N. Briarwood Ave.	New Commercial	6000 N. Briarwood Ave.	New Commercial	803 Chaparral Street	New Residence
6000 N. Briarwood Ave.	New Commercial	6000 N. Briarwood Ave.	New Commercial	3700 Timber Wolf Trail	New Residence
6000 N. Briarwood Ave.	New Commercial	6000 N. Briarwood Ave.	New Commercial	3917 W. Wall Street	Sign
6000 N. Briarwood Ave.	New Commercial	3309 Neely Ave.	Commercial Alteration	409 W. Loop 250 N.	Sign
6000 N. Briarwood Ave.	New Commercial	3113 Caldera Blvd.	Commercial Alteration		
6000 N. Briarwood Ave.	New Commercial	1613 E. Pecan Ave.	Residential Addition		
6000 N. Briarwood Ave.	New Commercial	5212 Balfour Court	Residence-Detached		

Source: City of Midland



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Stock market woes raise fears of recession

By Josh Boak
Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Fears of a recession have been mounting with the U.S. stock market appearing to be headed for its worst December since 1931 — during the Great Depression.

Wall Street's sustained slump has been fueled by investor concerns about lower corporate profits, higher corporate debt, a festering trade war between the United States and China and a broader global slowdown.

And the worries are mounting. On Wednesday, stocks tumbled over concerns that the Federal Reserve will continue raising rates. And they plunged again Thursday as President Donald Trump appeared open to a partial government shutdown unless he receives funding for a wall along the border with Mexico.

So is a U.S. recession imminent?

Not necessarily.

Plenty of economic gauges suggest that far from being derailed by a stock market that's set to suffer its first annual loss in a decade, the $20 trillion U.S. economy is barreling forward. Employers are hiring, consumers are spending ahead of the holidays and economic growth has been brisk, thanks in part to President Donald Trump's deficit-financed tax cuts.

But the economy has been growing since mid-2009 and nothing — not even what's become the second-longest U.S. expansion on record — lasts forever. As the expansion has aged, economists and business leaders are increasingly predicting that it will end within the next two years.

The fact is that recessions are a regular part of the economic cycle. A downturn won't necessarily happen in 2019. But the free-fall in stock prices could hasten the day. After Wednesday's sell-off, the Dow Jones industrial average was down another 300 points — or more than 1 percent — in Thursday afternoon trading.

"While we aren't explicitly forecasting a recession next year, we wouldn't rule out a mild one," said John Higgins, chief markets economist of Capital Economics. "At the least, we expect a significant economic slowdown."

Nearly half the chief financial officers surveyed by Duke University's Fuqua School of Business foresee a recession by the end of next year. And by the end of 2020, 82 percent do so.

Here's a look at how the movements of the stock market and the barometers of the economy might determine the risks of a recession.

Does a sustained fall in stock prices herald a recession?

Sometimes. Not always.

Both the previous two U.S. recessions overlapped with stock market sell-offs. The Dow plunged nearly 34 percent in 2008 after the housing bubble burst. And it shed about 7 percent in 2001 when the tech stock bubble burst. But stocks also declined in 2002 — a year when the U.S. economy expanded.

The fact is that the stock market captures just a piece of the broader U.S. economy. Less than half of U.S. households even own any stock, according to New York University economist Edward Wolff. And more than 80 percent of the stock market's value is controlled by the richest 10 percent of households, according to his calculations.

The bulk of most Americans' net worth is derived from a different asset: Their homes.

How bad is the stock market decline?

It's painful. But Wall Street has endured far worse sell-offs.

Year-to-date, the Dow has lost about 5 percent — just a small fraction of its 2008 plunge. And the recent losses follow an extraordinary winning streak: From its bottom in March 2009, the Dow has rocketed 250 percent. This means that investors who have held on have earned a rich profit — even including the losses since October.

That said, the sell-off of the past two months has been severe — about 12 percent. This means the market has entered "correction" territory, commonly defined as a decline of at least 10 percent.

What's behind the economy's strength?

Look to the job market. The 3.7 percent unemployment rate is near a half-century low. Average hourly wages have climbed 3.1 percent in the past 12 months, the strongest such increase since 2009.

The solid employment picture has helped fuel consumer spending. Retail sales have grown 5.3 percent so far this year as more Americans have eaten out and shopped online, according to the Census Bureau. The jobs market is also where to watch for signs of a recession. Ahead of the 2008 financial crisis, the monthly hiring levels swung from gains to losses and unemployment shot up. The Labor Department issues a weekly report on people applying for unemployment benefits. A sustained increase in such applications would signal that employers are shedding workers in anticipation of a downturn.

Does the housing market point to a recession?

This is tricky. By some measures, like the Census Bureau's report on home construction, the housing market never really recovered from the meltdown of a decade ago. As a result, housing has contributed relatively little to the economic recovery, which makes it less likely to be a major force that tips it into a recession.

Q&A: What it means when stocks enter a 'bear market'

By Alex Veiga
Associated Press

Wall Street's sharp downturn beginning in October has pulled the Nasdaq composite index into what's known as a bear market. The benchmark S&P 500 index is in what Wall Street calls a correction, and is headed toward a bear market, threatening to end the more than 9-year U.S. bull market run.

Here are some common questions asked about bear markets, corrections and what it means for average investors:

How is a bear market different from a market correction?

A correction is Wall Street's term for an index like the S&P 500, the Dow Jones Industrial Average, or even an individual stock, that's fallen 10 percent or more from a recent high. A bear market occurs when the index or stock falls 20 percent or more from the peak.

Corrections are common during bull markets, and are seen as normal and even healthy. They allow markets to remove speculative froth after a big run-up and give investors a chance to buy stocks at lower prices.

The S&P 500, Dow and Nasdaq entered a correction this month. The Nasdaq slid into a bear market Friday as a sell-off in Apple, Google's parent Alphabet and other big names weighed on the technology heavy index.

It's the first year since World War II that the S&P 500 has had two corrections in the same calendar year.

All told, the Dow fell 414.23 points Friday to 22,445.37. That's 16.3 percent below its record close of 26,828.39 on October 3. The S&P 500 index slumped 50.84 points to 2,416.58. It's now down 17.5 percent from its high of 2,930.75 on September 20. The Nasdaq tumbled 195.41 points to 6,332.99, or 21.9 percent below its peak of 8,109.69 on August 29.

What's bothering investors?

Many investors are growing worried that corporate profits — which drive stock market gains — are poised to weaken.

Profits have been extremely strong this year, thanks largely to tax cuts: earnings for the S&P 500 rose 21.7 percent in the third quarter after a 25.2 percent gain in the second quarter.

But an array of threats to company earnings has emerged in recent months, from interest rate hikes by the Federal Reserve to the Trump administration-led trade war. And there are increasing signs the global economy is slowing, too. Growth in China for instance has weakened and the German economy had its first quarterly decline since early 2015.

How often do market corrections become bear markets?

In the S&P 500, the index that investors pay the most attention to, there have been 22 corrections since 1945, not including the current one, and 12 bear markets, for a total of 35 major downturns, said Sam Stovall, chief investment strategist for CFRA. That works out to corrections becoming bear markets a little less than 40 percent of the time.

When was the last time we had a bear market?

The last bear market for the S&P 500 ran from Oct. 9, 2007 through March 9, 2009. In that 17-month period, as the U.S. housing downturn and mortgage crisis erupted, triggering a credit crunch, the index fell 56.8 percent.

How long do bear markets last and how deep do they go?

On average, bear markets have lasted 14 months in the period since World War II, while market corrections have lasted an average of five months. The S&P 500 index has fallen an average of 33 percent during bear markets in that time. The biggest decline since 1945 occurred in the 2007-2009 bear market.

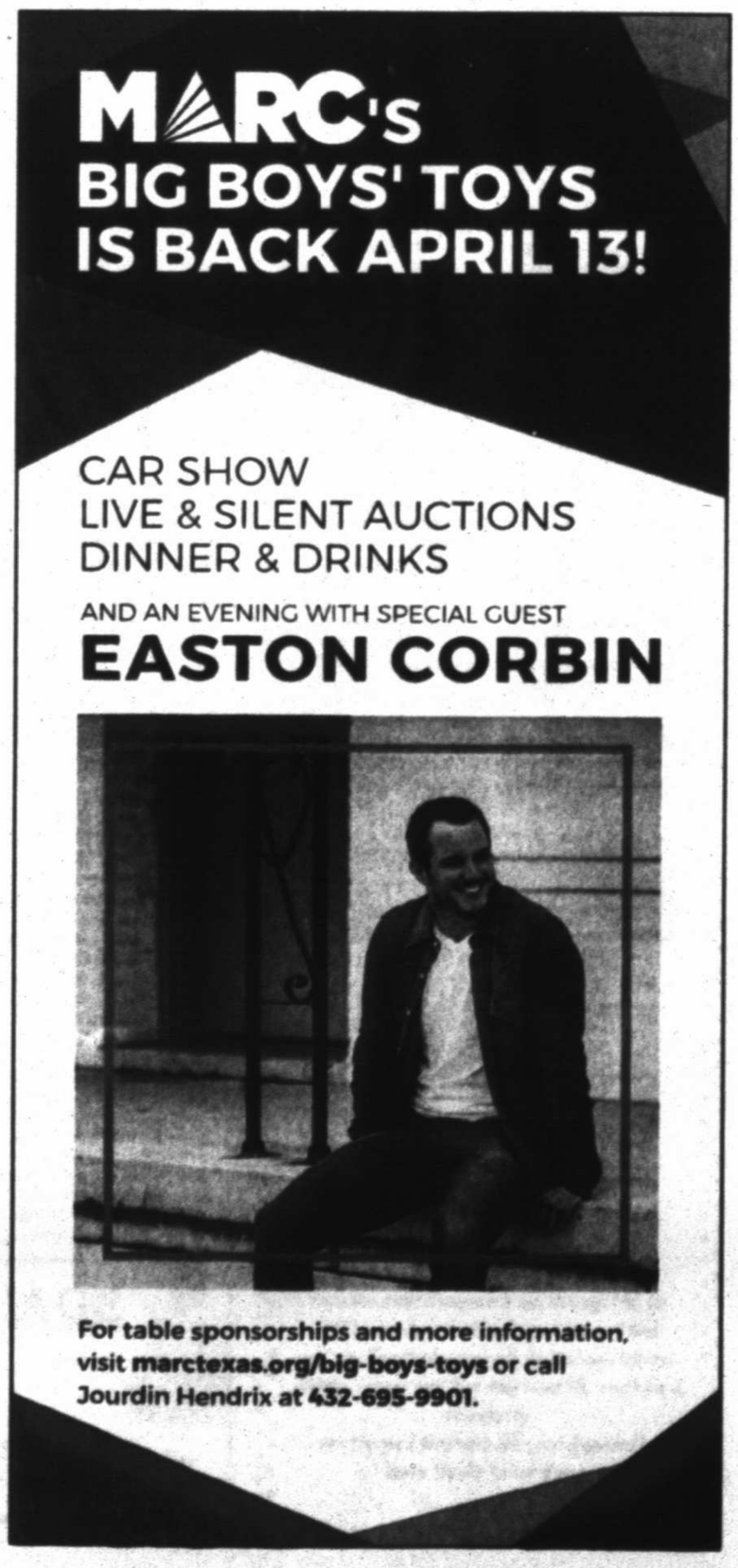
What are the signs that a correction or a bear market has ended?

Generally, investors look for a 20 percent gain from a low point as well as sustained gains over at least a six-month period.

On average, bull markets last 4.5 years. The current bull market has been going on for almost 10 years.

The shortest bear market for the S&P 500 was in 1990. It lasted almost three months, sliding 20 percent in that period. The longest was a 61-month bear market that ended in March 1942 and cut the index by 60 percent.





As advisers leave, Trump's guardrails come off

By Julie Pace and Zeke Miller
Associated Press

■ ANALYSIS

WASHINGTON — Last year, during one particularly frenetic stretch in Donald Trump's presidency, a top Republican senator said there were three men guarding the country from chaos: Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, White House chief of staff John Kelly and then-Secretary of State Rex Tillerson.

Within weeks, not one will be left in the administration.

Mattis will be the last to go, and his abrupt resignation Thursday marks the end of the "contain and control" phase of Trump's administration — one where generals, business leaders and establishment Republicans struggled to guide the president and curb his most disruptive impulses. They were branded in Washington as the "troika of sanity," the "axis of adults" and the "committee to save America."

But as Trump careens toward his third year in office, their efforts are in tatters and most are out of a job.

The early consequences of the new era were already apparent at year's end, with Trump on the verge of a government shutdown over the advice of GOP leaders and ordering the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Syria over Mattis' objections. A similar pull-back in Afghanistan appeared to be in the works.

The financial markets, spooked by uncertainty from a nearly yearlong trade war, tanked.

"We are headed toward a series of grave policy errors which will endanger our nation, damage our alliances & empower our adversaries," Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., tweeted after Mattis' resignation.

The shrinking circle around Trump is now increasingly dominated by a small cadre of longtime Trump loyalists and family members, ex-Fox News talent and former GOP lawmakers who were backbenchers on Capitol Hill before being elevated by the president.

Attracting top flight talent will only get more difficult as more investigations envelop the White House once Democrats take over the House in January.

To some of Trump's most ardent supporters, the exodus leaves the president with a team that is more in line with his hardline campaign promises. They viewed some of his early advisers as obstacles to enacting the unabashed nationalist agenda they believe Trump had been elected to implement.

Mattis said in his resignation letter that Trump deserved a Pentagon chief "whose views are better aligned with yours." It was not readily apparent who that might be, as Trump's decision in Syria drew widespread bipartisan condemnation last week.

Soon after Trump entered the White House, aides seeking to restrain the brash and inexperienced president's foreign policy decisions recognized that those best adept at advising him were or had recently been in uniform.

Trump, who never served himself but attended a military academy as a youth, granted them outsized respect.

Mattis was one of three generals who filled the top ranks of Trump's staff, along with Kelly and H.R. McMaster, who spent a year as national security adviser.

Mattis' appointment required a congressional waiver to laws meant to preserve the civilian nature of the Department of Defense.

Mattis and outgoing Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Joseph Dunford became almost weekly dinner guests of the president early in his administration, particularly before first lady Melania Trump moved to Washington late last spring.

The seemingly informal briefings for the president were in fact carefully orchestrated persuasion sessions designed to ease the president into abandoning some of his disruptive campaign rhetoric and accepting the advice of his senior national security advisers.

But Mattis' departure highlights how those early efforts delayed Trump's disruption, rather than averted it.

On issues from trade to defense, Trump aides have tried eye-popping tactics to wait out the president — Gary Cohn, the former chair of the National Economic Council, went so far as to remove documents related to a tariff action from the Resolute Desk in hopes of convincing the president to adjust course — but their exertions proved fleeting.

Mattis' decision to resign followed a clash with the president over withdrawing troops from Syria, where a small military force has been fighting Islamic State extremists. The president is also said to be seeking to draw down American forces in Afghanistan, another move with which the Pentagon disagrees.

Trump's split with Mattis followed a pattern of public breakdowns with advisers who served as guardrails in the administration.

Trump initially hailed Tillerson, the ExxonMobil chief executive, as out of "central casting" when he was tapped as secretary of state, before being unceremoniously discarded by the president earlier this year. Earlier this month, Tillerson described Trump as "pretty undisciplined, doesn't like to read, doesn't read briefing reports, doesn't like to get into the details of a lot of things, but rather just kind of says, 'This is what I believe.'"

Kelly suffered a similar fate. Hired to bring order to the Oval Office, the retired Marine ultimately found he, too, could not control Trump, who subjected Kelly to a series of public humiliations. Kelly is slated to leave in two weeks.

Trump treated Mattis with respect in announcing his departure via tweet, though he cast the move as a retirement rather than a resignation.

It was Mattis who made clear in his letter that he was leaving over a dispute with the president. Still, he said he would remain on through February to allow Trump time to nominate and confirm a successor, expressing concern about high-level turnover at the Pentagon at a critical juncture.

Indeed: The last of the committee to save America was trying to mitigate the damage one last time.

Mattis outlines strategic hazards facing next Pentagon chief

By Lolita C. Baldor and Robert Burns
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The extraordinary resignation letter that Defense Secretary Jim Mattis handed to a surprised President Donald Trump was not just a product of two years of accumulating frustration with an impulsive boss, but an outline of the strategic hazards facing the next Pentagon chief.

Mattis, who was quietly back at work Friday while stunned Pentagon staff soldiered on around him, implicitly warned in his letter to the president of the threat to the U.S. from allowing alliances to fray and of the risk that disrespecting allies will undermine U.S. credibility.

It was an outline of the challenges facing the nation and whoever takes over as defense secretary when Mattis leaves Feb. 28.

"As this Administration continues to implode, Secretary Mattis' extraordinary resignation is a significant loss and a real indication that President Trump's foreign policy agenda has failed and continues to spiral into chaos," said Sen. Bob Menendez, the ranking Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee.

Mattis announced on Thursday his plan to resign, a move prompted by the decision by the president to pull all of the approximately 2,000 U.S. troops from the fight against the Islamic State group in northeastern Syria.

Mattis also was dismayed by plans under consideration to cut the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan and, as his letter made clear, did not see eye to eye with a president who has expressed disdain for NATO and doubts about keeping troops in Asia.

The person nominated to succeed Mattis will face a Senate likely to probe for evidence of new strategic direction in hotspots like Syria, Afghanistan and the Korean peninsula.

In making clear that he could no longer tolerate Trump's approach to American foreign policy, Mattis appeared to fashion a resignation letter that not only expressed his reasons for leaving but also sounded an alarm. He implicitly criticized the president's unwillingness to stand up to Russia or take a stronger stance against Chinese assertiveness.

"I believe we must be resolute and unambiguous in our approach to those countries whose strategic interests are increasingly in tension with ours," Mattis wrote. "It is clear that China and Russia, for example, want to shape a world consistent with their authoritative model ... to promote their own interests at the expense of their neighbors, America and our allies."

Nurturing and extending U.S. alliances was a pillar of Mattis' approach to his job, which means he was at odds with Trump on that score from the earliest months of his tenure.

"While the U.S. remains the indispensable nation in the free world, we cannot protect our interests or serve that role effectively without maintaining strong alliances and showing respect to those allies," Mattis wrote.

William Cohen, a former defense secretary and long-time friend of Mattis, put a finer point on this Mattis assertion by saying in response to his resignation, "He cannot be expected to stand behind a president who disrespects our allies and ingratiates himself to our adversaries."

In addition to the frayed state of U.S. relations with NATO, Mattis' successor also is likely to face other hazards hinted at in his resignation letter. These include preserving and rationalizing a strategy for ensuring a lasting defeat of the Islamic State group by the dozens of nations that had backed the U.S. after it entered Syria in 2014.

German officials expressed polite irritation that Washington had not consulted them on the Trump decision to pull out of Syria.

"As an ally and member of the anti-IS coalition we would have considered prior consultation by the U.S. government about the withdrawal of U.S. troops helpful," government spokeswoman Ulrike Demmer said.

The Pentagon was still reeling Friday from the news that Mattis was leaving.

Inside what is normally a very orderly building, military members who are trained to take orders, salute and move ahead were stunned and a bit shaken.

Military missions in Syria and Afghanistan that just a week ago seemed clear and mapped out, were now thrown into chaos. Deep in the bowels of the Pentagon, planners scrambled to pull together a troop withdrawal strategy for Syria that the White House would accept, all while knowing that their boss a few floors above them quit over that order.

Mattis, 68, is the first Pentagon chief to resign in protest over a president's foreign policy in many decades. In fact, there may be no historical equivalent to the circumstances of Mattis' departure. The last defense secretary to resign was Chuck Hagel in November 2014, and although he had expressed differences with President Barack Obama over Syria policy, Hagel was essentially pushed out by an administration that viewed him as ineffective.

Robert McNamara, who served as defense secretary for seven years over two Democratic administrations, left the Pentagon in February 1968, three months after President Lyndon Johnson announced McNamara was resigning to become president of the World Bank. McNamara differed with Johnson and the military over Vietnam war policy amid an escalating anti-war movement, but his departure was not an explicit rejection of Johnson's policies.

'The toughest year': US immigration changes dominated 2018

By Matt Sedensky and Julie Watson
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Children torn from parents, refugees turned away and a relentless stream of changes to immigration regulation and enforcement.

To those who champion President Donald Trump and believe cracking down on immigration translates to better lives for Americans, 2018's breathless headlines were a fulfillment of campaign promises. To many others, they harkened back to dark moments in U.S. history.

"This is our generation's sort of existential moment," said Frank Sharry, head of pro-immigration group America's Voice. "Are we going to continue to be a nation that practices 'e pluribus unum' and welcomes people from around the world to make this country better? Or are we going to shut the door?"

Throughout 2018, the answer has largely been the latter.

Even as those living in the U.S. illegally remain targets, the administration has sought to redefine what legal immigration looks like, too, slowing or halting those seeking to come to the country for a job offer, through their relationship to a citizen, or to find a home as a refugee or asylee.

"There has been this constant chip, chip, chipping away at the legal immigration system using every tool of the executive branch," said Doug Rand, who worked in the Obama administration before helping found Boundless Immigration, which helps people navigate the immigration system.

Trump's so-called "travel ban," the first iteration of which was unveiled in the president's first week in office, was upheld in June by the U.S. Supreme Court, stopping most visas for residents of Libya, Iran, Somalia, Syria, Yemen, North Korea and Venezuela.

It's had very real consequences for people like Soolmaz Dadgari, an Iranian who came to the U.S. in 2017 so her 4-year-old daughter, Arina, could take part in an experimental study to treat a rare genetic disorder. Dadgari's husband has been unable to get a visa to join them, and sanctions make it hard for him to send money. She alone cares for a child who can't walk or talk and requires 24-hour help, as well as another 11-year-old daughter.

"I have no hope," said Dadgari.

Though global wars, persecution and famine have persisted, the U.S. capped refugee admissions at 45,000 for the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, the lowest ceiling since the State Department began tracking the figure in 1980. Far fewer were actually admitted in that time frame — about 21,000 refugees — and the number is likely to fall further, with the cap for the current fiscal year set at 30,000.

Meantime, tens of thousands fleeing violence in Central America sought asylum in the U.S. this year. The Trump administration responded by narrowing who is eligible, declaring that neither those escaping gang violence or domestic abuse nor those who cross the border illegally qualify. Both changes have been blocked by federal courts.

"I don't know what to do," said Ivis Muñoz, a 26-year-old coffee farmer from Altima, Honduras, who joined a caravan heading to the U.S. in October after a gang member shot him and threatened to kill him. He planned to seek asylum but learned along his journey he was unlikely to be accepted. For now, he remains in Mexico. "I want to go to the United States, though I'm scared they'll send me back. I'm afraid to be in Honduras, but I don't feel safe here either."

More than any other shift in policy, the Trump administration's move to separate apprehended migrant children and parents shook people around the world. Though Trump eventually ended widespread use of the practice, scars remain.

Evelin Roxana Meyer and her family have struggled financially, so her husband set off for the U.S. in hopes of finding work, bringing their son along. They were picked up by Border Patrol agents and separated, with the father deported and the son spending four months in detention. He turned 12 alone at a Texas facility, and the once-affectionate boy returned home angry in September. He rarely goes out, spending most of his time in his room watching TV. He's refused to go to school and will have to repeat the sixth grade. He talks back to his parents and hits his little sister.

"This was the toughest year of all," said 38-year-old Meyer.

Many who support Trump, though, see hope in the president's actions.

Neil Gouveia came to the U.S. from Guyana as a 7-year-old and considered himself a "liberal New Yorker" until 2016, when he was drawn to Trump for what he believed was his strength on national security. He thinks the year's action on immigration will ultimately lead to greater dialogue and better policies, and he still believes America stands as a beacon for much of the world.

"People will say what they want to say about America, but there's hardly anyone who still wouldn't want to come here," said Gouveia, 39, a collegiate fundraiser. "They still know it's like winning the lottery."

Daniel Stein, who heads the Federation for American Immigration Reform, which supports restrictive immigration measures, believes the year's imagery has moved more people to his side of the debate. To those who see an extended assault on a cornerstone American value, he's unmoved.

"They have a vivid imagination," Stein said. "We have one of the world's most generous immigration programs."

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John 10:9-11
I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.
I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

Breaking up (with Facebook) is hard to do: Here's how

By Barbara Ortutay
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Every relationship has a breaking point. Even yours with Facebook.

There's a way out, though the social network will try to win you back with promises to do better. Maybe even flowers.

For some users, though, the past two years of privacy scandals, election manipulation by Russian trolls, executive apologies and even the political disagreements with friends and relatives have become too much. The latest: an alarming New York Times report detailing the massive trove of user data that the company has shared with such companies as Apple, Netflix and Amazon.

A growing number of people say they are deleting Facebook, or at least considering it.

While Facebook has tried to address some of these problems, it's not enough for some users. Hard as it might seem to quit, especially for those entwined with it for years, it can be done.

Mostly.

Goodbye forever

Before deleting your account, rescue your posts and photos. Facebook lets you download the data you've shared with Facebook since you joined. This includes your posts and photos, as well as the "activity log" — the history of everything you've done on Facebook, such as likes and comments on posts, use of apps and searches. The download also includes your profile, messages, list of friends and ads you've clicked on.

This process should give you a good — perhaps scary — idea of what Facebook has on you.

What you won't get are photos other people shared with you, even if you've been tagged. You need to save those individually. And some stuff will remain, including what others have posted about you, your chats with others and your posts in Facebook groups (though your name will be grayed out). To delete all this, you'll need to sift through your "activity log," accessible through your profile page, and delete each item individually.

Once you've saved everything and gone through your activity log, sign in one last time. Go to http://bit.ly/198wlol and click on the blue button. Facebook says the process could take a few days. Your delete request will be cancelled if you log back in during this time. Facebook says it may take up to 90 days for all the data associated with your account to be wiped, but you can't change your mind after the first few days are up.

If you used your Facebook account for third-party apps and sites, you'll need new usernames and passwords for each.

Trial separation

If you're not quite ready for a divorce, deactivating your account is an option. To do this, go to your account settings.

Deactivating means other people won't be able to see your profile, but if you log back in, the whole thing is canceled and you are "active" again. Ditto if you log into an outside app or site using your Facebook account.

FOMO (fear of missing out)

Depending on whether you were a full-time Facebook addict or an occasional lurker, the psychological separation could prove harder or easier than the physical one. Facebook has become a one-stop shop for so many things. You can keep up with friends and family, find out about or create local events, buy and sell stuff, keep up with the news, raise money for a cause or join groups of like-minded people such as parents, porch gardeners and people with a rare disease.

There are other places to do many of these things. There's Eventbrite for events, Letgo for buying and selling stuff, Peanut for moms to connect, Meetup to find and meet like-minded people, GoFundMe for raising money and Twitter, or, gasp, your local newspaper's website for the news. The difference is there's no single other place to do all these things, and your friends might not be there.

If you find your mind wandering back to Facebook as you go through your day, thinking how you might craft a post about a thought you've just had or an article you came across, it's OK. Let it go. It's all part of the breakup process.

And while you may not see updates about near-forgotten schoolmates or that random person you met six years ago, the people who matter most will stick around. For them, there's email, the phone, and meeting in person for coffee.

About those other apps

If your boycott of Facebook has more to do with your view of the company than with tiring of the Facebook service, you might consider deleting Instagram, WhatsApp and Messenger as well — they are all owned by Facebook. Deleting your Facebook account won't affect your Instagram or WhatsApp account. If you want to keep using Messenger, you can create an account using your phone number instead of your Facebook profile.

Digital detox: Resorts offer perks for handing over phones

By Dee-Ann Durbin
Associated Press

Can you take a vacation from your cellphone? A growing number of hotels will help you find out.

Some resorts are offering perks, like snorkeling tours and s'mores, to guests who manage to give up their phones for a few hours. Some have phone-free hours at their pools; others are banning distracting devices from public places altogether.

Hotels that limit cellphone use risk losing valuable exposure on Instagram or Facebook. But they say the policies reflect their mission of promoting wellness and relaxation. And, of course, they hope that happily unplugged guests will return for future visits.

"Everyone wants to be able to disconnect. They just need a little courage," said Lisa Checchio, Wyndham Hotels' chief marketing officer.

People's inability to disconnect is an increasingly serious issue. Half of smartphone users spend between three and seven hours per day on their mobile devices, according to a 2017 global survey by Counterpoint Research, a technology consulting firm. In a separate study by the nonprofit Common Sense Media, 69 percent of parents and 78 percent of teens said they check their devices at least hourly.

Wyndham knew it had a problem when hotel managers requested more beach chairs to accommodate all the people who would sit in them and stare at their phones. It discovered that the average resort guest was bringing three devices and checking them once every 12 minutes — or roughly 80 times a day.

On Oct. 1, Wyndham Grand's five U.S. resorts began offering prime spots by the pool, free snacks and the chance to win return visits when guests put their phone in a soft, locked pouch. The phones stay with the guests, but only hotel staff can unlock the pouches.

Wyndham says 250 people have used the pouches so far at resorts in Florida and Texas. The program will be found at more Wyndham hotels next year.

Wyndham Grand resorts also give families a 5 percent discount on their stay if they put their phones in a timed lockbox. The hotel provides supplies for a pillow fort, s'mores, a bedtime book and an instant camera for adults and kids who don't know what to do with all the newfound time on their hands.

That appeals to Matthew Cannata, who heads public relations for the New Britain, Connecticut, schools. He worries about the impact of technology on his two young children, and he tries to keep devices out of sight during family meals.

"Any chance I can get to put the phone away is great. Sometimes, people need to be forced to do things to start a thought process and then create a habit," he said.

At the Grand Velas Riviera Nayarit in Mexico, a so-called Detox Concierge will "cleanse" your suite of all electronic devices and replace them with games like Jenga and chess. Guests at its sister resort, the Grand Velas Riviera Maya, trade in their phones for a bracelet that gives them free access to activities like snorkeling; they must do at least four activities to earn back their phones. A timer placed in the lobby shows how long each family has lasted without their devices.

Emily Evans likes the idea of rewarding people for putting their phones away. A senior at Eastern Kentucky University, she says she barely keeps her phone charged while on vacation, but her girlfriend is constantly checking her phone.

"I feel most millennials would choose discounts and saving money over having their phone out to Instagram and Snapchat pictures of their meals," Evans said.

At Miraval, a Hyatt-owned resort in Arizona, the emphasis is less on family time than on mindfulness and tranquility. Miraval, which will soon open two more resorts in Texas and Massachusetts, bans phone use in most public areas.

Guests are encouraged to tuck their phones into soft cotton bags and leave them on small wooden beds in their rooms. Staff wears name tags with gentle reminders that guests should unplug and "be present."

Some resorts encourage a total ban. Wilderness Resorts, an African safari operator, intentionally provides no Wi-Fi at many of its camps. Adrere Amellal, a 40-room hotel at the Siwa Oasis in Egypt, lets guests have phones in their rooms, but there's no electricity or Wi-Fi.

Not all vacationers want to be weaned from their devices. Phones double as cameras, music players, travel guides and e-readers. They also might be critical in an emergency.

David Bruns, a communications manager for AARP Florida, uses two phones. He tries not to check his work phone after hours, but he carries his personal phone everywhere.

"I don't think I would like being made to put the thing down," Bruns said. "It feels like that is more about me being told what to do by people I am paying to do something for me."

Ayana Resort and Spa in Bali, Indonesia, understands that, so it tries to meet guests halfway. Its winding River Pool bans phones between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. But it invites guests to take photos and post away to social media before and after those times.



Facebook via AP

This image shows Facebook's product called Portal. It's rare that a new gadget these days serves a true need. Rather, it creates a want. You certainly don't need the Facebook Portal, whose primary purpose is to let you make video calls through Messenger. But — given you can get past the company's shoddy record on protecting user privacy, a big if — do you want it? Or one of its would-be rivals from Amazon or Google?

Privacy and other matters with Facebook's video-call gadget

By Barbara Ortutay
Associated Press

NEW YORK — It's rare that a new gadget these days serves a true need. Rather, it creates a want.

You certainly don't need the Facebook Portal, whose primary purpose is to let you make the types of video calls you can already make on Facebook's Messenger app. And given the company's poor record on user privacy, do you even want it? Or a similar device from Amazon or Google?

The Portal is part of a new category of gadgets best described as screens for making video calls, listening to music and responding to voice commands for tasks you can also do on your phone. Unlike tablets, these microphone- and camera-equipped screens are meant to rest at a fixed location in your living room, kitchen or, gasp, your bedroom.

If you are a tech trailblazer willing to try new things — and have no qualms on privacy — here are some things to consider.

Why have one

Facebook's $349 Portal Plus is a great device for making video calls using Messenger. It's also gigantic — 15.6 inches, measured diagonally, or roughly the size of the window of many microwave ovens. There's also a smaller sibling, simply called the Portal, at $199.

Both models are designed to do one thing and one thing well — let you chat with other people on their own Portal or through the regular Messenger app. Yes, the Portal can do a few things more, such as tap Amazon's Alexa voice assistant, but these features feel tacked on, much like trying to cook breakfast sausages with a toaster created just to cook hot dogs.

Unless you are in a long-distance relationship and want to spend hours each evening gazing into your sweetheart's eye (while also getting dinner and laundry done), you can certainly live without one, just as you can live without a hot dog cooker. That's especially true if you are concerned about the number of screens in your home, especially screens that could be watching you.

Google's Home Hub ($129) and Amazon's Echo Show ($230) can do a lot more, but their video-calling capabilities aren't as good as the Portal's. With Home Hub, for instance, you can see the person calling you, but the device itself has no camera for two-way videos.

If video calling is your thing, you're better off with a Portal. The device's camera can recognize people in a room and follow them as they move around. So you can literally pace up and down while you argue with your mother. (Facebook says it doesn't use facial-recognition technology to identify individuals.)

Portal also has a cute "story time" feature that adds face masks and other animation while you to kids on the other side of the call.

The Google and Amazon devices don't do either.

Siloed systems

All three devices allow you to add multiple users, so different people in your household can call their circle of friends. But you're locked into that company's messaging system.

Try explaining to your 87-year-old grandfather why he can't FaceTime you on the Portal or Skype on the Home Hub. Hell will freeze over before you can get him to sign up for Facebook just to chat with his great-grandchildren. And you haven't even mentioned the Cambridge Analytica privacy scandal yet.

The good news is you can make calls from these devices to smartphones, though in the Portal's case, you need the device to tell the animated stories. Traveling parents likely won't be lugging one to read to their kids at home.

As for compatibility, Facebook's Messenger has more than 1 billion users, and many of your friends are likely already on it, at least in the United States. But Portal doesn't work with Facebook's WhatsApp, which is popular overseas. Setting up the device is relatively simple.

The Home Hub works with Google's Duo messaging service, so friends and relatives will have to at least install the Duo app on their phones. It's also difficult to set up. After much cursing and online searches for the right settings, I still get error messages. Google press representatives didn't immediately respond to help requests.

On the Echo Show, the recipient of your call needs to have the Alexa app, if not an Echo device with a screen. You need to set it up on a phone first by giving Alexa access to your contacts list and making sure this person is on it. You can also call others on Skype after connecting your Skype account.

Privacy matters

Clearly a lot of thought went into making the Portal optimal for connecting with friends and family. It's just a shame that it comes in a year full of privacy scandals for the company.

True, Google has had its share of privacy issues this year, including an Associated Press report that it tracks people's location even when they tell it not to. But with Facebook, it's something new every few weeks, culminating with revelations this week from The New York Times that Facebook shared user data with more than 150 other companies without people's explicit permission.

While it's possible to use Messenger on the phone without having a Facebook account, Portal still requires one. Facebook says it's to enable other features, such as displaying Facebook photos on your Portal. But these features aren't essential to video calling — just essential to fold the Portal experience into Facebook's massive advertising system.

Facebook says it doesn't listen to, view, record or store the content of your calls, so if you believe Facebook — and that's a big if — it's not going to try to target ads based on whom you talk to or what's hanging on your walls in the background.

But other information, such as the length and frequency of your calls, is fair game and may be used for advertising purposes — such as ads for video-calling services.

No doubt to address privacy concerns, Facebook has included a plastic cover for the Portal's camera. You can also turn it off using a button.

But promises and plastic covers aren't enough when Facebook has shown carelessness with its users' data over and over.



Is 'Fox &Friends' getting feistier with its Friend in Chief?

By Paul Farhi and Sarah Ellison
The Washington Post

The long friendship between President Donald Trump and "Fox & Friends" appears to have turned downright frosty.

Fox News Channel's perky morning show is typically a safe space for Trump and his surrogates, a home for flattering live interviews and relentless cheerleading on everything from building his proposed border wall to highlighting the supposed threat of a Central American migrant caravan.

Trump, a regular F&F viewer, frequently returns the favor by live-tweeting things he's seen and heard on the show, turning a program derided by liberal critics into one of the most influential news sources on the air.

The mutually beneficial relationship predates Trump's run for office; Trump had a regular guest spot on the program for four years starting in 2011, phoning in weekly to advance, among other things, his discredited "birther" conspiracy theory about President Obama.

But over the past three days, a chill has crept into the friendly confines.

On Friday, co-host Brian Kilmeade pushed back on Trump's plans to withdraw American troops from Syria. In an interview with White House press secretary Sarah Sanders, Kilmeade said the policy would give Russian President Vladimir Putin "a big win." He declared, "(Trump) said President Obama was the founder of ISIS. He just re-founded ISIS."

The day before, Kilmeade said withdrawing from Syria was potentially "worse" than President Barack Obama's decision to withdraw troops from Iraq in 2011. He called the decision "totally irresponsible."

And on Wednesday, fellow host Steve Doocy sounded appalled by Trump's apparent acquiescence to a temporary federal funding bill that didn't contain funds for Trump's cherished dream of building a wall on the southern border. "What a stunning turn of events," said Doocy, adding, "If he agrees to the (bill) . . . he loses, and the Democrats will win everything they want."

Perhaps attesting to "Fox & Friends' "influence, Trump reversed course Thursday, withdrawing his support for the bill backed by Democrats and setting the government on a path to a partial shutdown. But Trump seemed to react defensively to Kilmeade's criticism of his Syria withdrawal, tweeting on Friday morning, "I've done more damage to ISIS than all recent presidents . . . not even close!"

It's hard to say whether all this represents a portentus turn in the Trump-F&F alliance or just a momentary spat among the best of friends. But it is unusual. The Guardian newspaper once said the show "manages to serve as a court sycophant, whispering in the ear of the king, criticizing his perceived enemies and fluffing his feathers."

F&F's executive producer, Gavin Hadden, declined to address the program's relationship with Trump. In a statement, he said F&F "covers stories that are most important to our viewers. That's what we did this week and will always do."

A network spokeswoman, Carly Shanahan, suggests criticism of the president is nothing new for the program. She offered a list of 28 instances during Trump's presidency in which the show went rogue.

Example: Kilmeade's grilling of deputy White House press secretary Raj Shah earlier this year over the White House's vetting of Rob Porter, the staff secretary who resigned after his former wives accused him of physical abuse.

"You relied upon (background checks) and you got burned because you had a two-time accused domestic abuser there at a very sensitive position," Kilmeade told Shah at the time.

Kilmeade also suggested last summer that Trump had been "outsmarted" by former aide Omarosa Manigault Newman after he allowed himself to be pulled into a feud that would help her sell a tell-all book.

Perhaps tellingly, however, 10 of the 28 examples cited by Fox occurred over the past three weeks, suggesting "Fox & Friends" may be getting feistier. One such example was a contentious tag-team interview by the co-hosts with presidential adviser Kellyanne Conway on Wednesday.

Although Fox's prime-time opinion hosts — Tucker Carlson, Sean Hannity and Laura Ingraham — are usually reliably in Trump's camp, the president has skeptics elsewhere at Fox, particularly on its news side.

Anchors Bret Baier and Chris Wallace have been among Trump's toughest TV interviewers. Weekday anchor Shepard Smith has irregularly lapsed into an on-air fact-checker and occasional critic.

"An important note," Smith said after Trump had suggested in October that "unknown Middle Easterners" were hiding amid the migrant caravan, "Fox News knows of no evidence to suggest the president is accurate on that matter, and the president has offered no evidence to support what he has said."

In an interview with The Washington Post this fall, Baier noted that there are built-in divisions within Fox News, mostly between the opinion side and the news side: "It's two different operations," he said. "We are under one corporate umbrella, and they are very successful on the opinion side. On the news side, we have a different mandate."

Baier also noted that Trump "is a president who takes things and goes right to Twitter. Over time, the country is getting a feel for how extraordinary that is. It is a different way of communicating that's changed how we interact with the White House."

In Baier's case, he said that it made him want to be sure everything he said on air was accurate.

But as is often the case, Fox's opinion hosts seemed to speak with one mind, driving the same message throughout the morning and evening hours, when Fox's audience is at its peak. This "message discipline" was instilled by Fox's late cofounder, Roger Ailes, who shaped the daily agenda.

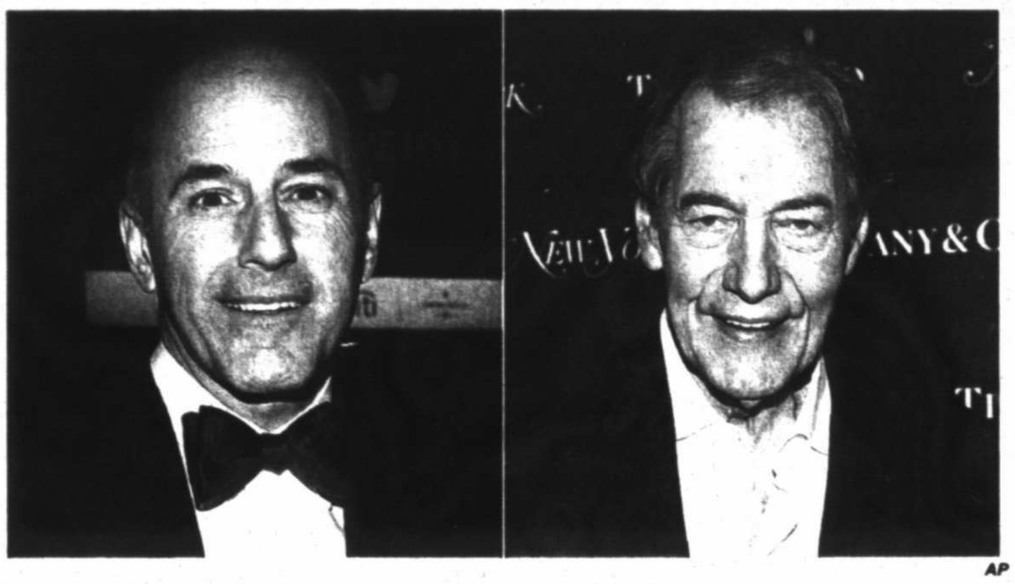
Last week, Doocy led the network's charge to persuade Trump to hold firm on funding for the border wall. He was backed up by evening host Dan Bongino, who was filling in for Sean Hannity. Bongino led his program as Hannity probably would have: with a story about funding the wall.

He noted that commentators such as Rush Limbaugh and Ann Coulter have urged the president not to back down. In Coulter's case, Bongino said, she argued that Trump could lose the next election if he gave in.

Laura Ingraham started her show on the "can-do American spirit" of a man who had started a Gofundme site to help fund the border wall. She noted that Trump was "making a stand for his wall. It's what voters want, but leadership stood in his way." She said Trump's position now forces the hand of Democrats.

Message received. By Friday, Trump had reversed course and had placed himself at the head of the parade.

"The Democrats now own the shutdown!" he tweeted.



AP

This combination photo shows Matt Lauer, former co-host of the "Today" show, left, and Charlie Rose, former co-host of "CBS This Morning." A year after morning news shows at NBC and CBS abruptly lost male anchors Lauer and Rose in sexual misconduct scandals, the "Today" show has done appreciably better weathering the storm.

'Today' fares better than CBS after loss of male anchors

By David Bauder
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A year after morning news shows at CBS and NBC abruptly lost male anchors Charlie Rose and Matt Lauer in sexual misconduct scandals, the "Today" show has done appreciably better weathering the storm.

Momentum at "CBS This Morning," the most buzzworthy morning show for a handful of years, stopped dead with Rose's firing. This month CBS announced the exit of Ryan Kadro, the show's top executive who had worked there since its 2012 launch, leaving an uncertain future.

"Today" is hardly problem-free — remember Megyn Kelly? — but it has the steadiest audience of all three network morning shows. The elevation of Hoda Kotb into Lauer's role is widely perceived as a winner.

Rose lost his job in November 2017 following allegations of improper behavior with women who had worked with him. Lauer's downfall, also due to reports of inappropriate relationships with women, came less than two weeks later.

The NBC show currently averages 4 million viewers a morning, a 3 percent drop from 2017 before Lauer's exit, the Nielsen company said. CBS has lost 10 percent of its audience in the same period, to just under 3.2 million. ABC's "Good Morning America," the first-place broadcast with 4.1 million viewers, lost 5 percent of its audience.

The long history of "Today" likely helps it absorb hits. The show launched in 1952 and while it has had missteps — it has never recovered the dominance it enjoyed prior to the ham-fisted departure of Ann Curry a decade ago — "Today" viewers can be confident it will be around tomorrow.

"It just has the strongest DNA out of all the morning shows," said Shelley Ross, who produced rivals at ABC and CBS.

For much of the past half-century, CBS has been an after-thought in the mornings, a distant third-place broadcast that changed names, formats and personalities as often as an impatient designer changes paint. That's what made "CBS This Morning" so encouraging; with a newsy emphasis, it gained a larger share of the audience in the morning and was now competitive in a lucrative marketplace.

Rose, a skillful interviewer who moonlighted on both "60 Minutes" and his own PBS show, teamed with Gayle King and Norah O'Donnell.

In retrospect, Rose seemed more important to the success and chemistry of his show at the time than Lauer did. Rose was replaced by former "Face the Nation" host John Dickerson and, in October, Bianna Golodryga was added as a fourth anchor.

Lauer spent two decades as "Today" co-host, and in his heyday with Katie Couric was part of the most successful anchor team in morning show history. But his reputation took a significant hit with the Curry drama and he wasn't as popular at the end of his run.

"There was concern when Matt Lauer left that they would be hurt more than turned out to be the case," said Garth Tiedje, an analyst and senior vice president at Horizon Media.

In fact, Kotb earned the permanent job beside Savannah Guthrie after "Today" did unexpectedly well in the ratings when she was an emergency fill-in. Kotb's "Q" score, a statistical measure of her popularity, is strong among women — who make up the bulk of morning news show audiences — and more than doubles Lauer's last score among older women, according to Marketing Evaluations, Inc.

"Everybody loves Hoda," Ross said. "She's a magical part of the equation."

That doesn't mean everything is sunshine and flowers at "Today," which has to be concerned about an erosion of younger women viewers.

In the second week of December, its audience among 18-to-49-year-old viewers was down 23 percent compared to the same week in 2017, Nielsen said. It faces questions about its third hour following Kelly's departure, and the fourth after Kathie Lee Gifford said she was leaving the show. NBC declined to comment.

The "Today" show executive producer, Libby Leist, was appointed to her job in January.

For all morning shows, the fact that more people wake up with a handheld computer on their nightstands in addition to a television remote is ultimately a bigger concern than anchors who have lost their jobs.

In the days following Kadro's departure, CBS dealt with damaging news stories suggesting that King was unhappy and considering leaving, and that networks were mulling a top-to-bottom renovation. The network declined comment on the reports or ratings, but said its newsy emphasis remains intact now and for the future.

The danger in responding to ratings weakness with big changes is that it could play into a narrative of CBS being less able than its rivals of being able to settle on one type of morning show for the long term.

"It's always hard to fight against the pull of history if it's a long trajectory," Tiedje said. "But I also think that shouldn't cloud the decisions that need to be made for the future."

2018 Byron Johnston Holiday Classic
Girls' Pool Play Schedule and Bracket

Pool A	Pool B
Midland High	Midland Lee
Bushland	Plainview
El Paso Pebble Hills	El Paso Eastlake
Greenwood	Midland Classical

Thursday – December 27th Schedule

9:00 AM	Chap Center	Greenwood	vs	Bushland
12:00 PM	Chap Center	Plainview	vs	Midland Classical
3:00 PM	Chap Center	EP Eastlake	vs	Midland Lee
6:00 PM	Chap Center	EP Pebble Hills	vs	Midland High

Friday – December 28th Schedule

8:00 AM	Chap Center	Midland Lee	vs	Midland Classical
8:00 AM	Midland High	EP Eastlake	vs	Plainview
11:00 AM	Midland High	EP Pebble Hills	vs	Greenwood
11:00 AM	Chap Center	Midland High	vs	Bushland
2:00 PM	Chap Center	Midland Classical	vs	EP Eastlake
6:00 PM	Midland High	Bushland	vs	EP Pebble Hills
6:00 PM	Midland Lee	Plainview	vs	Midland Lee
6:00 PM	Chap Center	Greenwood	vs	Midland High

No. 4 Pool A
Dec 29 @ 9:00 AM (Midland High)
No. 4 Pool B
→ 7th Place Winner

No. 3 Pool A
Dec 29 @ 8:30 AM (Chap Center)
No. 3 Pool B
→ 5th Place Winner

No. 2 Pool A
Dec 29 @ 11:30 PM (Chap Center)
No. 2 Pool B
→ 3rd Place Winner

No. 1 Pool A
Dec 29 @ 2:30 PM (Chap Center)
No. 1 Pool B
→ 2018 Byron Johnston Champions



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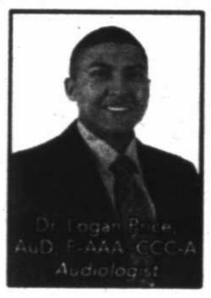
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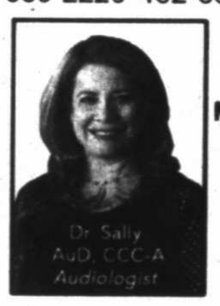
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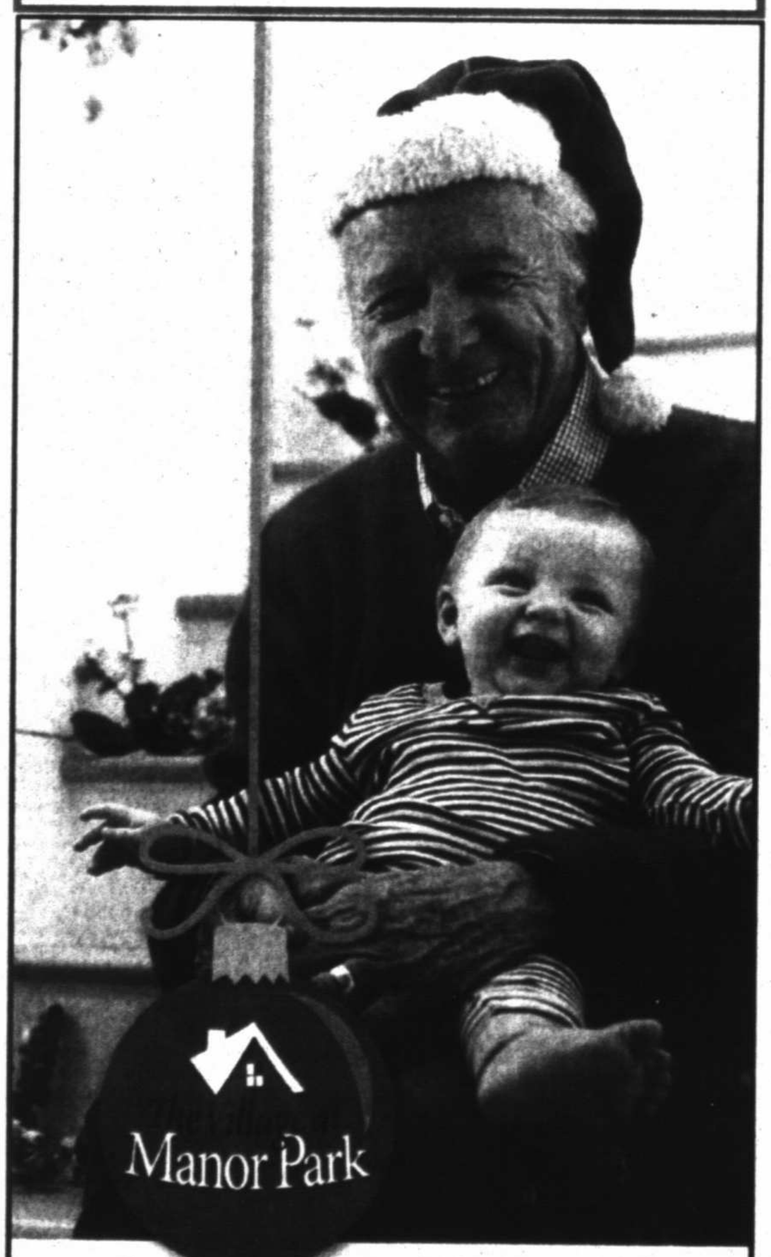
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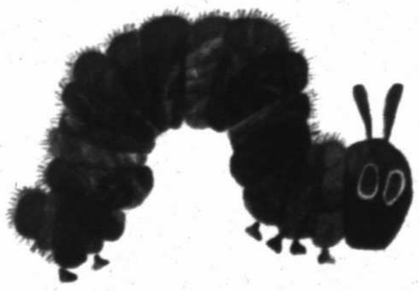


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Money is no barrier to school finance reform

DALE CRAYMER
President, Texas Taxpayers and Research Association



When state legislators convene in January to address major issues facing Texas, "school finance" and "property tax relief" are expected to top the priority list. But revenue growth may be moderate, calling into question just how much lawmakers can accomplish, especially when schools will need an additional $4 billion in the next budget cycle just to keep up with growing enrollment.

The truth is, there is plenty of money available to address school finance. How?

Under Texas' current school finance formulas, that $4 billion cost will be split between the state and local school districts, with schools covering their share with the property tax. Local school property values are projected to increase 6.8 percent over each of the next few years, generating a $7.5 billion increase in the local share for the biennium. With school districts that much "wealthier," the state's overall school formula obligation is projected to actually drop by $3.5 billion from what it now spends.

Lawmakers should just say "no" to that savings. At an absolute minimum, the state should freeze the amount it spends on public schools at today's level of spending. That doesn't cost the next budget one extra penny, and "frees up" $3.5 billion for schools.

That money could be used to limit the growth of school property taxes, fund new program improvements, or a combination of both — options that could be done easily and equitably through the state's school finance formulas.

So how do our current school finance formulas generate $3.5 billion in state savings?

The state and local school districts share responsibility for school finance in Texas. The state essentially guarantees districts will have a certain amount of revenue for each student they educate. School districts pay their share by levying a property tax. But some districts have very little taxable property relative to the number of students — perhaps a few modest homes with a lot of young families. These "property poor" school districts don't raise very much

Please see **CRAYMER**/2B

'EXCEPTIONAL TIME TO VISIT'



Photos by James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Event attendees enjoy the Winter's Magic third anniversary celebration of the I-20 Wildlife Preserve on Jan. 23, 2016, at the preserve

Never know what you will find at Wildlife preserve

KRISTEN BETTON
I-20 Wildlife Preserve



As West Texas settles in to winter, we are once again reminded of the seasonal beauty found in our native surroundings. At the I-20 Wildlife Preserve, the leaves have fallen from the trees, leaving the gnarled branches bare. Without the trees' canopy hiding birds and other animals, we are able to get a better glimpse of the daily life of wild animals inhabiting the preserve. It is an exceptional time to visit and take in the wonders of our area. You never know what you may find; after all, this place is wild.

The preserve's new education program, Starting Out Wild, introduced young scientists to the wonders of nature through age-appropriate concepts and lessons. The bi-weekly class will resume in the spring with additional classes. In addition to Starting Out Wild, the preserve continues to offer three other educational programs to kindergarteners through high school students in our region.

The preserve also welcomed more than 40,000 visitors this year. While the majority were from our beloved city, we were thrilled to see visitors from Canada, Brazil and even Hong Kong. The preserve continues to provide a natural space for locals and visitors to the Permian Basin.

The preserve hosted the annual Christmas Bird Count on Saturday. The Midland Naturalists and the Texas Master Naturalists were on site observing and counting early winter birds in the area. Data collected will be submitted to the Audubon for its 119th annual Christmas Bird Count census.

We at the I-20 Wildlife Preserve would like to share a few things to remember while visiting.

Wild animals are meant to be wild and should not be agitated by human interaction. People trying to interact with or capture wild animals often discover the animals may retaliate and cause serious injury.

It's also important that visitors refrain from offering non-native food sources to the preserve's wildlife. Their diet is very specific and it's hard to predict how their bodies will react to new foods. It is best for wild animals to find food that suits their specific dietary needs.

When walking on the preserve's trails, please enjoy your surroundings without touching them. Picking flowers will remove a vital source of food and nectar for birds and insects. Food sources for flower-loving preserve inhabitants can become scarce during winter months. It is also important to leave stumps, limbs and rocks in place because they provide natural habitats that protect wildlife from winter's harsh elements. Parents can use this as an opportunity to teach children to enjoy wildlife while respecting their surroundings.

The preserve offers a beautiful backdrop for holiday, graduation and birthday photography. All photography is welcome, but please do not use confetti or glitter. It is difficult to clean up, and animals may confuse it for food; it could cause serious injury to their digestive systems. Also, for your safety, please stay on the trail during photo shoots.

Finally, for the safety of visitors and wildlife, please leave your dogs and bikes at home.

Kristen Betton is communications director for the I-20 Wildlife Preserve.

Largest MSAs will see 80 percent of new jobs

THE ECONOMIST
By M. Ray Perryman



About 72.4 percent of Texans live in the state's biggest metropolitan areas, a proportion which has been rising over time. Though smaller population centers and rural areas make a significant contribution (particularly those in the oil-rich regions of the Permian Basin, South, and East Texas), The Perryman Group's long-term forecast indicates that, through 2045, over 80 percent of new jobs will be in one of the seven largest metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) in Texas.

The Austin-Round Rock MSA remains one of the top performers in the state and continues to attract national attention; the area is projected to be a strong performer over the forecast horizon. Nearly 665,100 new jobs are likely to be added by 2045, which represents a 1.78 percent annual growth rate.

The Dallas-Plano-Irving Metropolitan Division has been performing very well, and expansion will likely continue at an impressive pace. Employment is expected to increase by 1.67 million during the 28-year period, a 1.78 percent annual growth rate.

The Fort Worth-Arlington Metropolitan Division has been performing well over the past year, and our long-term forecast indicates growth at rates well above the nation as a whole and similar to the state. Employment is projected to expand by nearly 587,200 jobs, representing an annual growth rate of 1.58 percent.

The El Paso MSA has recently been experiencing modest growth, a pattern which is expected to continue. Though slightly behind the pace of the rest of the state, the area is projected to see employment expansion at a rate of 1.52 percent yearly (for a gain of about 187,200 jobs).

The Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land MSA has seen healthy growth buoyed by the energy sector. Through 2045, employment is expected to increase by approximately 1.8 million to reach 5.0 million, an annual growth rate of 1.64 percent.

The McAllen-Edinburg-Mission MSA has experienced spotty growth during the past year, although the unemployment rate remains among the highest in the state. The area is projected to see employment growth on par with the other large MSAs, adding over 156,900 jobs through 2045 (a 1.64 percent annual growth rate).

The San Antonio-New Braunfels MSA economy has recently been experiencing healthy growth, and the unemployment rate for the area is below the US and the state. Through 2045, the San Antonio-New Braunfels MSA is forecast to see employment rise at a 1.66 percent yearly rate, generating an addition of nearly 637,800 jobs.

Texas' large metropolitan areas will continue to drive overall growth in the future as the state economy and population becomes more concentrated in these population centers. The Perryman Group's long-term projections indicate that the Austin-Round Rock and Dallas-Plano-Irving areas will remain the strongest performers, with notable gains in other metropolitan areas as well.

M. Ray Perryman is president and CEO of The Perryman Group (www.perrymangroup.com). He also serves as Institute Distinguished Professor of Economic Theory and Method at the International Institute for Advanced Studies.

ROSS RAMSEY
Texas Tribune



Mike Collier lost, but outdid Beto O'Rourke in most Texas counties

■ Beto O'Rourke, the Texas Democrat who got most of the attention in this year's general election, got more votes than any other Democrat on the statewide ticket. But one of them out-performed O'Rourke in 171 counties

In 171 of the state's 254 counties counties O'Rourke famously visited during the campaign — Collier got more votes than the Democrat at the top of the ticket.

In terms of wins and losses, it wasn't enough of a difference to make a difference. Texas Republicans won all of the statewide races. With this year's victories, they've now done that a dozen times in a row, starting in 1996.

But the Democrats lost by smaller margins than usual. The state didn't turn blue, as some of their most exuberant partisans had hoped, but it edged toward the purple territory that marks a swing state. Texas hasn't had margins like this at the top of the ballot since 1998 — 20 years ago.

Overall, O'Rourke got more votes than Collier (or any other statewide Democrat) — more than 4 million of them in the general election. Justin Nelson, the party's candidate for attorney general, got 3.9 million — coming in with 147,534 fewer votes than O'Rourke. Collier and Kim Olson, who ran for agriculture commissioner, weren't far behind him.

O'Rourke beat U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, his Republican opponent, in 32 counties; by that measure, he outdid his Democratic ticket-mates. Nelson won in 31 counties, Olson in 30, Collier in 29 and so on. Lupe Valdez, the party's candidate for governor, won in just 20 counties, the least of any of the statewide non-judicial candidates.

The flip of that: Republican Gov. Greg Abbott won more counties — 234 — than any other Republican at the top of the ballot. Cruz won the fewest, with 222.

Valdez only got more votes than O'Rourke in two counties, outdoing him by one vote in Wheeler County and by three votes in Loving County, where she had nine supporters and he had only six. She was, by the numbers, the biggest loser of the night, finishing 1.1 million votes behind Abbott. O'Rourke's deficit — 214,921 votes — was the smallest of the statewide Democrats (or, if you prefer, Cruz skated by on the thinnest ice of the Republican winners). Nelson, running against Attorney General Ken Paxton, finished fewer than 300,000 votes behind, out of almost 8.4 million votes cast.

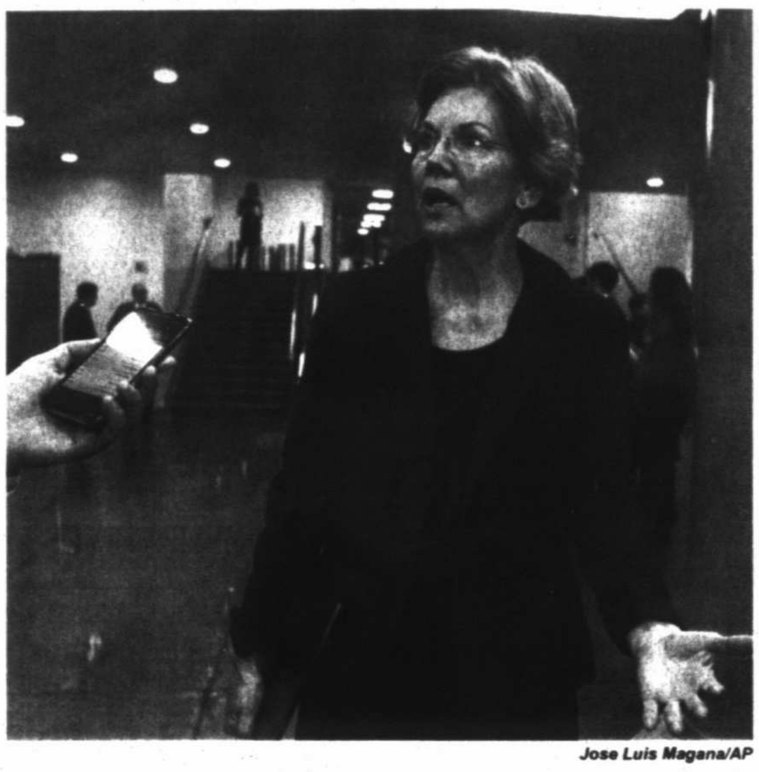
The results were red, just like they have been for years. But they weren't deep enough to comfort the majority party. Abbott's was the biggest win. George P. Bush, the state's land commissioner and the heir to one of the biggest names in Texas political history, beat Miguel Suazo by almost 900,000 votes.

Republican incumbents with perceived weaknesses or without Abbott's finances or Bush's name didn't do as well as they might have expected.

State Comptroller Glenn Hegar, whose contest didn't get much attention, won by almost 600,000 votes. He and Railroad Commissioner Christi Craddick, who won by a similar margin, were the exceptions.

Paxton managed to win in spite of three pending felony indictments. Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller survived in spite of four years of attention-grabbing episodes — some intentional,

Please see **RAMSEY**/2B



Jose Luis Magana/AP

Sen. Elizabeth Warren D-Mass., speaks to reporters Friday on her way to her office, as the Senate takes up a House-passed bill that would pay for President Donald Trump's border wall and avert a partial government shutdown, at the Capitol in Washington.

Elizabeth Warren's generic drugs plan: More placebo than cure



MEGAN MCARDLE
Washingto Post Writers Group

Over the past decade or so, the market for generic drugs has become, as research chemist Derek Lowe puts it, "more and more deranged." Prices of boring old drugs, off patent for decades, have experienced the kind of breathtaking spikes and dizzying crashes that are usually reserved for exotic financial instruments. Only instead of some larval billionaire losing the keys to his Lamborghini, desperate patients are losing access to drugs they depend on.

In theory, generic markets should be the Walmart of the health-care world, where everything is dirt cheap and readily available. In practice, the makers of branded drugs often display a malevolent ingenuity at keeping generic competition at bay. And even when they play fair, a number of factors, including tighter safety regulation and more complex formulas, often means that too few firms enter the market. Lots of drugs, especially those used by only a smaller number of patients, have at best a handful of firms producing them. So if one company has production problems or decides to withdraw from the market entirely — supply contracts dangerously, as prices shoot skyward.

Scott Gottlieb, the Food and Drug Administration commissioner, has been pushing the agency to relieve the regulatory bottlenecks that exacerbate these price swings. But that's not enough for Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass. Warren is preparing for a presidential run, and you don't get to be president by saying "The FDA is working on it." No, you call for action! Specifically, Warren wants the federal government to get into the business of manufacturing drugs or contracting with third parties to do the production.

In Warren's defense, when the supply of a vital good is interrupted, the public wants the government to do something. However, the public would also prefer that the government do something that actually works. And there we run into trouble with Warren's scheme.

One can describe all sorts of reasons that state-owned firms ought to be better than the profit-grubbing variety. Freed from the incessant demands of greedy investors, state-directed firms can invest for the long term, pursuing innovation and social welfare rather than profit.

One can describe it easily enough; what's hard is finding one of these creatures in the wild. Rather than providing a shining rebuke to free-market fundamentalists, state-owned enterprises (SOEs) often seem to have a secret mandate to prove their skeptics right about everything.

There are examples of well-run SOEs, but they're suspiciously concentrated in one tiny patch of northern Europe where government institutions more generally outperform counterparts in the rest of the world. And even high-performing SOEs are vulnerable to a change in administration. PDVSA, Venezuela's state-run oil company, used to be regarded as one of the best in its class. Then Hugo Chávez decided that he would rather use the company's investment funds for social spending than for stodgy old petroleum extraction, and rather have the firm managed by cronies than professionals. Venezuela's disastrous economic collapse can be traced directly to those decisions.

President Trump's election has finally nullified the conservative shibboleth that Washington could be fixed if only we could get a businessman into the Oval Office. Unfortunately, the left is busy reviving its own shibboleth, the mirror image of the conservative mistake: that whenever markets frustrate us, the government can and should step in and do it better. Nationalize the health-care system, bring back public housing development ... and if you don't like the price or availability of various drugs, then have the feds become drug-makers, too.

This idea is particularly silly given that so many of the problems that make it harder for generic drug-makers to enter the market are created by government regulations in the first place. Unless the government enterprise bypasses the regulatory hurdles constraining supply, it will face much the same difficulties that private firms do. And if the government is going to relax regulatory requirements, wouldn't it make more sense to just retool the way the market works for everyone?

Well, yes, it would, if what you wanted to do was actually fix the problem. But that involves a lot of fiddly, boring, regulatory tweaks and can't possibly happen fast enough to aid Warren's run for president. It's unsurprising that Warren has instead hit upon what I call a "Washington issue" — a proposal with little policy merit that nonetheless retains great political charm because it can be explained to voters in under two sentences. Which may be good enough for a presidential candidate. But it's not nearly good enough for the country.

CRAYMER

From 1B

revenue with their property tax. If they don't generate enough to meet the guaranteed per-student amount of revenue, state money makes up the difference.

Other districts may have tremendous oil and gas wealth or major industrial facilities, but not many homes and students. These "property wealthy" districts generate substantial local tax revenue, far above the per-student amount the state guarantees. To equalize "wealth" statewide across districts, the state requires these districts to share their excess through a system commonly known as "recapture," or "Robin Hood."

Understand that the terms "wealthy" and "poor" refer to the value of the property within the school district – not to the students and their families. A property "wealthy" district may have a high proportion of economically disadvantaged students, and a property "poor" district might not.

A snapshot of any given year shows the system is substantially equitable – all districts essentially get similar amounts of revenue per student, whether the district is "poor" or "rich."

But equity has a dark side that comes into play when that snapshot become a motion picture — moving from one year to the next.

Thanks to a healthy economy, Texas home and business values are increasing each year. That's good news for those who see the value of their assets rise, but it's not necessarily good news for school districts. State aid formulas recognize that districts are now a bit "wealthier" than before, so districts qualify for less state aid — such as the $3.5 billion state "savings" discussed earlier.

This shift of a greater share of school operation funding to the local school property will worsen over time if the Texas Legislature fails to act in 2019. In fact, should current trends continue, our schools will be completely funded by property taxes and recapture in as few as a dozen or so years.

Fortunately, lawmakers periodically review school finance and adjust the formulas based on existing needs and available revenue — something they should do again when the gavel convenes the 86th Legislature.

Dale Craymer is president of the Texas Taxpayers and Research Association (www.ttara.org), a non-profit, membership-supported organization of businesses and individuals interested in the state and local fiscal policies in Texas and the way those policies impact the economy.

Obituaries



Louise Thomas

Mrs. A.A. Thomas Jr nee Louise Holmsley of Fredericksburg formerly of Midland passed away on Tuesday, December 18th at the age of 88 years.

Louise Holmsley was born on November 2nd, 1930 in Comanche, Texas to George and Annie Jo Boykin Holmsley. She married A.A. Thomas Jr on June 9th, 1949 in Ft. Worth, Texas. Mrs. Louise Thomas is survived by two daughters, one son and spouses: Debbie and Jack Guidry of Keller Donna and Greg Oehler of Fredericksburg, Drue and Melanie Thomas of Midland 10 Grandchildren 11 Great Grandchildren Sister: June Huffman of Ft. Worth.

Louise is preceded in death by parents and husband

Funeral services for Mrs. Louise Thomas will be held on Thursday, December 27th at 10:00 a.m. in the Zion Lutheran Church, Fredericksburg

Graveside services and interment will follow in the Resthaven Memorial Park, Midland, Texas at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, December 28th

Pallbearers: Greg Oehler, Jack Guidry, Jerry Koonce, Rusty Welch, Ronnie Cadenhead, Jerimiah Jolly

Visitation for Mrs. Louise Thomas will begin on Thursday, December 27th from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. in the Zion Lutheran Church

In lieu of flowers the family asks that memorials be given in her name to the Hill Country Memorial Hospice, Zion Lutheran Church, Fredericksburg or to the charity of your choice

Arrangements are by the Schaetter Funeral Home. Expressions of sympathy may be sent at www.schaetter.com.

Midland Reporter Telegram

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



John Leach Hawkins

John Leach Hawkins, 76, of Midland, Texas passed away on December 20, 2018. The family will receive friends from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m on Wednesday, December 26, 2018, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory in Midland. A funeral service will be held at 2:00 p.m on Thursday, December 27, 2018, at Mid-Cities Community Church-Neely Campus, 3309 Neely, in Midland. Interment will follow in Resthaven Memorial Park, Midland, Texas.

John was born on June 21, 1942 in Rotan Texas to Fredrick and Chrystelle Hawkins. Always a fearless risk-taker, after graduating from Sweetwater High School, he had his mother drive him to the edge of town and drop him by the highway so he could begin his new life. He made his way to Midland where he found employment with Mobil Pipeline and worked for them for over 30 years. Mobil sent him to New Mexico, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wyoming, Nigeria, Holland and even Spain. His career was interrupted only by his time serving his country as an Army Electrician with the 507th Engineering Detachment in Vietnam during which time he earned several decorations and medals including one for Sharpshooter.

Upon returning home, he happened upon the love of his life, Jerry Ruethel Berry, of Seminole, Texas, to whom he was married for over 51 years. Their bond so great, he survived her by only 19 days.

John didn't have a lot to say but when he spoke, it was either riddled with dark humor or unconventional wisdom. The family's favorite "Dad-ism:" Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit, intelligence is knowing not to put it in a fruit salad."

John is preceded in death by his wife, Jerry, his parents Fred and Chrystelle Hawkins of Rotan, Texas and his younger sister, Lynda Kenner also of Rotan.

John is survived by oldest daughter, Kelly, and her husband, Ben Ferguson, daughter, Holly Lazzari; son, Juston Hawkins; and daughter, Jaime, and her husband, Tommy Cole, all of Midland.

Also surviving John are his brothers, David Hawkins, and wife, Minnie, Tim Hawkins and wife, Pam, as well as his brother in law, David Berry, and wife, Lucy.

John was known as GrandJohn to his six grandchildren: Montgomery and Cayden Light of Midland, Case Martin and Jayden Lazzari of Oklahoma and Brody and Reagan Cole of Midland. John also has several beloved nieces and nephews.

The family would like to express their gratitude for the kind condolences, meals, prayers and all the shared memories that made us laugh and cry.

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

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

Death Notices

Augustina Machuca

Augustina Machuca, 99, of Midland, passed away Wednesday, December 19, 2018. The family will receive guests from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 26, 2018 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home in Midland. Funeral service will be held at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, December 27, 2018 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Chapel. Interment will follow at Fairview Cemetery.

Isidro Jay Padilla

Isidro Jay Padilla, 49 of Midland, Texas passed away Thursday, December 20, 2018. Services are pending with Heavenly Gate Funeral Home.

Jovita Hermosillo Roman

Jovita Hermosillo Roman, 78, passed away on December 21, 2018. She is survived include her two sons, Jesus F. Roman, Samuel Roman; six daughters, Rosa Eva Dominguez, Lucila Garcia, Graciela Amesquita, Rosa Emma Montoya, Patricia Montoya, Gloria Munoz; three sisters, twenty-five grandchildren, thirty-three great grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren.

Visitation will be Wednesday, December 26, 2018 at Avalos-Sanchez and Thomas Funeral Home Chapel from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m and Thursday, December 27, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 27, 2018 at Jehova Proveera.

Interment will follow at Resthaven North Cemetery.



Jacy Lewis/Reporter-Telegram

Mike Collier, running as a democrat for Lt. Governor, speaks Oct. 22 outside the Ector County Democratic Party during the Blue Wave Block Party.

RAMSEY

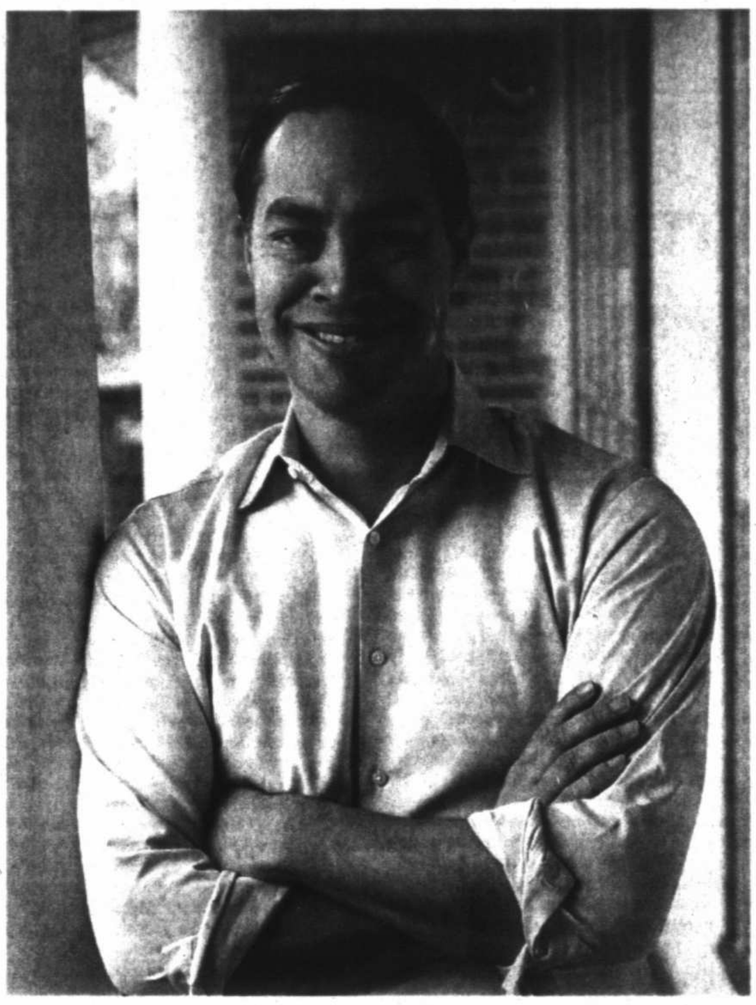
From 1B

some not. And Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, a favorite of the GOP's most fervent base voters, was in the middle of the pack, running about 400,000 votes behind Abbott, and only about 400 votes ahead of Cruz.

It was enough. Winning is winning, etc. And one election isn't a trend.

Democrats increased their strength in urban Texas. Republican strength in suburban parts of the state was considerably weaker than it has been. Most of the rural areas went the other way, giving Republicans even bigger shares of the vote than usual.

That was one of the big takeaways from the U.S. Senate race, but there were some cracks in that lesson — 171 of them. Collier didn't win his race, or even do as well as Democrats above him on the ballot. But he did get more votes than the Democrats' new star in two-thirds of the state's counties.



Eriv Gay/AP

Democrat Julian Castro poses for a photo at his home Dec. 11 in San Antonio. Castro says he is launching a presidential exploratory committee ahead of a likely White House run in 2020. Castro was the nation's housing secretary until 2016 and spent five years as mayor of San Antonio.

Ex-Mayor Castro's plans hinge on Beto O'Rourke

GILBERTO GARCIA
San Antonio Express-News



Julián Castro never leaves anything to chance.

Two years before his first campaign — a successful 2001 run for San Antonio City Council — Castro, then a second-year Harvard Law School student, already was plotting out the details of that campaign. A full year before the election, he held a fundraiser in Cambridge, Mass., hitting up his Harvard classmates for $2,000 in seed money.

Given what we know about Castro's commitment to long-term political planning, it was kind of amusing when some members of the media took the latest bit of news about the former San Antonio mayor — his formation of a presidential exploratory committee — at face value and declared he was exploring the possibility of a campaign.

In fact, the exploration phase of Castro's presidential odyssey took place two years ago.

Castro deserves credit, however, for his slow, incremental rollout, a two-year tease which periodically enabled him to get a new round of coverage for apparently moving closer to a decision that he'd already made.

In a June 2017 episode of the Austin PBS show "Overheard with Evan Smith," Castro said of a presidential campaign, "I'm not taking that off the table." Two months later, he filed paperwork for his Opportunity First political action committee, a clear table-setting move for a presidential run. In January of this year, he launched a public-relations campaign for the PAC.

In February, he told NBC News he had "every interest in running." In May, he told C-SPAN, "I'm going to think about it." In October, he said this to Rolling Stone: "I'm likely to do it." Last month, he proclaimed, "I'm hoping to do it."

Castro's cautious nature has become a source of irritation among some of his fellow Texas Democrats over the past few years, as they've watched him twice (2014 and 2018) pass up opportunities to run for governor.

That's why Castro's 2020 move is so intriguing. It feels contrary to his nature. The political phenom who repeatedly bucked calls for him to go statewide now is skipping that rung on the ladder and shooting for the White House.

It would be a cruel twist, then, if his prospects get quashed by Beto O'Rourke, a Texas ally who, unlike Castro, dared to run statewide (taking on Republican U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz) and gained national stardom in the process of losing.

O'Rourke has yet to declare his intentions, but a new CNN poll puts the outgoing El Paso congressman in third place among likely 2020 Democratic candidates, behind former Vice President Joe Biden and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders. Castro sits in the bottom tier of the 20 candidates polled, joining Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper at less than 1 percent.

From the beginning, Castro's presidential gambit has been informed by three premises: there is nowhere for him to go, politically speaking, in this Republican state, so he might as well take his case to national voters; the 2016 election of a reality-show star, Donald Trump, lowered the bar when it comes to how much experience we expect from presidential candidates; and 2020 will be a generational-change election.

In a sense, every election is a reaction to the one that immediately preceded it. After losing in 1968 with Hubert Humphrey, a Vietnam War defender favored by party bosses, Democrats democratized their nomination process and picked an anti-establishment dove, George McGovern.

When McGovern got trampled by Richard Nixon in the 1972 general election, Democrats decided they needed to reclaim their hold on wandering Southern conservatives, so they selected a centrist, born-again Christian from Georgia named Jimmy Carter.

The lesson that many Democrats extracted from Hillary Clinton's 2016 loss to Trump is that the party needs young, dynamic leadership unburdened by corporate or party-establishment ties.

The outlines of Castro's biography make him ideal for the current climate. A 44-year-old Latino who made it from San Antonio's West Side to the Ivy League; the architect of an innovative, city-funded pre-K program; a walking demonstration of what can be achieved when opportunity aligns with hard work.

Castro's stated intention for his PAC — which raised $489,675 and spent $468,708 through Nov. 26 — was to fund a new generation of Democratic talent.

Along those lines, the PAC donated $2,000 to Georgia gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams and $1,000 to Xochitl Torres Small, the 34-year-old winner of a tight congressional race in New Mexico.

Castro's PAC also delivered plenty of funding love to Dems in the early presidential primary states of Iowa and New Hampshire: $2,500 to three Iowa congressional hopefuls, another $2,500 to four Iowa state candidates and $1,000 to the New Hampshire Young Democrats.

This effort is reminiscent of the way Jimmy Carter used his 1974 role, running the Democratic National Committee's midterm campaign drive, to collect IOUs and cultivate his brand.

Carter got lucky in 1976 because Ted Kennedy chose to stay out. Another Southern underdog, Bill Clinton, had a similar stroke of good fortune in 1992 when New York Gov. Mario Cuomo declined to run.

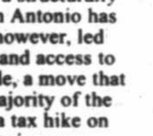
Castro needs a similar bit of luck just to elbow his way into the scrum of candidates who'll be vying for the 2020 nomination. O'Rourke, with his contagious exuberance, guileless charisma and Texas border roots, would knock Castro out of his chosen lane.

While both men have relatively thin résumés by the standards of pre-Trump presidential politics, Castro, with his signature Pre-K program and the development of downtown San Antonio, can claim a stronger record of policy achievement.

But it's like noting that the Everly Brothers were technically better singers than Elvis Presley. It may be true, but disciplined earnestness always will come up short against rock-star magnetism.

Ex-San Antonio mayor worth taking seriously as presidential candidate

ERICA GRIEDER
Houston Chronicle



Julián Castro, the former mayor of San Antonio, announced this month that he has formed a presidential exploratory committee.

That doesn't mean he's officially a candidate, and it's impossible to predict at this point who his rivals would be or who would be most likely to succeed. But Castro is among the Democrats worth taking seriously.

Thus far, however, Castro hasn't been seen as a top contender for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination in 2020 and it's not clear whether this week's announcement will change anything.

It's admittedly hard to keep track of all the Democrats who have indicated an interest in running for president in 2020 or who are considered to be among the party's potential candidates. Polls suggest Castro would not win the nomination in 2020 — if the question was decided based on the results of a nationwide straw poll this month.

He isn't as experienced as potential Democratic contenders U.S. Sen Bernie Sanders of Vermont or former Vice President Joe Biden. In addition to his time as mayor of San Antonio, Castro served in President Barack Obama's Cabinet as the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. He wrote a book, and has been a visiting faculty member at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin.

Some voters might think that's not enough experience in a presidential race, and Castro, 44, has much lower name ID among Americans nationwide than someone like Biden, who has been in public life for decades.

With that said, it's probably not a good idea to read too much into early polling. Consider another potential contender, Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper. He isn't among the frontrunners for the Democratic nomination either, according to the polls, and I'm not sure if most political observers see him as apotentially serious contender in 2020.

But Hickenlooper, like Castro, has explicitly said he's considering a bid for the nomination. And Hickenlooper, like Castro, is someone whose candidacy would be worth taking seriously. Wrapping up his second term as governor, he's a well-regarded centrist with an impressive record in business as well as politics.

We all have our preferred candidates and pet theories about the mood of the electorate at this point. But the Iowa caucus is more than a year away, and we don't even know who's running.

Apparently Oscar De La Hoya, the boxer, might be among the Democratic contenders.

De La Hoya made that announcement in September after being asked about the rumors presumably circulating in California, where he lives.

"If Arnold (Schwarzenegger) can be governor, if (Donald) Trump can be president, then why can't a Mexican-American who won an Olympic gold medal, who's over 35 and a U.S. citizen, run for presidency?" De La Hoya told reporters while in Las Vegas for aboxing event.

That's an entirely reasonable point. But I suspect I'm unlikely to vote for De La Hoya, especially given Castro's announcement and the follow-up announcement from his twin brother, U.S. Rep. Joaquin Castro, a Democrat from San Antonio, during their joint appearance on "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert."

"He's going to run for president," Joaquin Castro said, after his brother politely deflected Colbert's direct question to that effect.

Neither of the Castros has an Olympic gold medal. But I've been impressed by them both over the years, and voters across the country might see virtues to Julián Castro's candidacy.

Julián Castro would be the first Mexican-American, major-party presidential nominee in history, for example. He was effective as mayor of San Antonio.

The office is arguably a structurally weak one, given that San Antonio has a city manager. Castro, however, led asuccessful effort to expand access to pre-kindergarten citywide, a move that required persuading a majority of the city's voters to approve a tax hike on themselves via a sales tax increase.

Julián Castro might not be the kind of politician who captivates cable news anchors, but he does have a record of getting results. It's effectively impossible to make predictions about his chances of winning the Democratic presidential nomination, at this point.

But Castro's candidacy should be taken seriously, because he's a serious candidate.

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(BEHIND ROGERS FORD)
520-8900
www.helpinghandsmidland.com

Because we feel it is important that you know how and where your donations to Helping Hands are spent, here is what was done in the past week:

Electric	5 families	$1,064.89
Water	3 families	$2,529.11
Rent	29 families	$21,825.90
Transportation	1 family	$601.00
Medical	3 families	$698.80
Total		$26,719.70



Thank You St. Stephen's Women's Organization, St. Stephen's Youth Groups, St. Ann's Catholic Church, and Midland Memorial Hospital...

...for taking care of our kids and their families this Christmas. This year we partnered again with MISD's Project Head Start program to provide Christmas food, clothing and toys to 129 families and their 349 children. Each of those families received a $50 gift certificate each for Thanksgiving and Christmas at Super Mercado for groceries. Each child received a complete set of new clothing plus a toy that they specifically asked for, and then the parents were allowed to pick two additional toys per child that were so generously provided by the parishioners of St. Ann's Catholic Church. The older children each received a $100 gift card to Walmart. We could not have done this without the help of the parishioners of St. Ann's and St. Stephen's, and the employees of Midland Memorial Hospital. Special thanks to Carmen Rodelo from the St. Stephen's Women's Organization for coordinating the effort. Thanks to everyone who made this a wonderful Christmas for these families who are so terribly in need. God bless all of you!

Pictured above are some of the volunteers who helped with the Christmas program held last Saturday: Aliyah Anchondo, Carlos Licon, Ivis Licon, Carlos Moreno, Anaya Perales, Anali Urquidez, Yvette Hinojos, Elijah Nunez, Seles Sanchez, Leslie Ramos, Yajaira Villegas, Diana Carrasco, Isaac Reyes, Addison Jones, Audrey Sokolowski, Gerardo Galvan, Seerrah Castillo, Carmen Rodelo, Rachel Rodelo, Norma Martinez, Elizabeth Nunez, Chris Jones, Rebecca Dominguez, Chris Gutierrez, Gladys Qualls.

Merry Christmas from all of us at Helping Hands!

Trump is about to repeat Obama's mistake

MARC THIESSEN
Washington Post Writers Group



During his time in CIA custody, 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed told his interrogator something prophetic. The United States may enjoy some fleeting battlefield successes, Mohammed declared, but in the end "we will win because Americans don't realize ... we do not need to defeat you militarily; we only need to fight long enough for you to defeat yourself by quitting."

President Trump should ponder Mohammed's words as he prepares to withdraw U.S. forces from Syria — a move that will bring a smile to Mohammed's face.

Trump knows the consequences of suddenly withdrawing from a country. The Obama administration "created this huge vacuum" in Iraq in 2011, Trump correctly observed during the presidential debates, adding, "we should have never been in Iraq, but once we were there, we should have never gotten out the way they [did]." Once Trump was inaugurated, he changed former president Barack Obama's restrictive rules of engagement and freed up our military to drive the Islamic State from the territory it had seized. He deserves enormous credit for this achievement.

But just because the Islamic State controls no territory does not mean it is defeated. In 2011, the group controlled no territory in Iraq, yet thanks in no small part to Obama, it soon grew to establish a caliphate the size of Britain. Not only did the Islamic State revive itself, but the resurgent terrorist network also spread its murderous tentacles farther around the globe, establishing cells in 29 countries that have carried out 143 terrorist attacks that have killed 2,043 people and injured many thousands more. We are still living with the deadly consequences of Obama's catastrophic mistake. On Dec. 13, authorities in Bari, Italy, arrested a Somali man named Omar Moshin Ibrahim, believed to be a member of the Islamic State, who was threatening to bomb St. Peter's Basilica in Rome on Christmas Day.

Today, the Islamic State is much stronger than it was when Obama withdrew from Iraq in 2011. The Defense Department estimates that the Islamic State retains about 30,000 fighters in Iraq and Syria and is "more capable" than its predecessor group al-Qaeda in Iraq was at the latter's peak in 2006-2007. By contrast, when Obama pulled our troops out they had only about 700 fighters. According to the Institute for the Study of War, the Islamic State "was able to smuggle as much as $400 million out of Iraq and reinvest it into legitimate businesses across the wider Middle East." With the loss of its caliphate at Trump's hands, the Islamic State has gone back to its roots as a terrorist insurgency. It remains dangerous and well-funded and has global reach.

A U.S. withdrawal from Syria will not only remove the pressure on the Islamic State, it will create a vacuum in Syria that will be filled by the world's worst actors. Al-Qaida, which has been rebuilding its capabilities while watching the United States weaken its Islamic State rival, will now also have a haven.

Iran and its terrorist proxy, Hezbollah, will establish forward operating bases in southwestern Syria to threaten Israel. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has declared that Israel will not tolerate this and warned that Israel could retaliate against Iran proper. So, a U.S. withdrawal could precipitate a disastrous regional war.

Turkey will go after the Kurdish fighters we recruited and trained to fight the Islamic State. In Iraq, Obama could at least rationalize that the United States had left behind Iraqi security forces to keep the Islamic State remnants down. If Turkey takes out our Kurdish allies, there will be no one left on the ground in Syria to fight the Islamic State.

Finally, the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad will resume its campaign of atrocities against innocent Syrian men, women and children. If we thought the refugee crisis provoked by Obama's failure to act in Syria was bad, imagine the flood of Syrians seeking refuge in the West if Trump repeats Obama's mistakes.

Trump was right to denounce Obama for declaring victory against the Islamic State and withdrawing U.S. forces. So why is he now doing exactly what he criticized Obama for doing? The president needs to ask himself: Who is celebrating this decision? Answer: Iran, Russia, the Assad regime, Hezbollah, the Islamic State — and, in his prison cell at Guantanamo Bay, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed.

When your enemies are cheering, you have made a mistake. It's not too late to change course.

OPINION EXTRA

An immigration deal: Fund the border wall and save the dreamers

Rather than shut down the government, why don't the president and Congress agree to appropriate the $5 billion he wants to build the border wall and provide legal status and a path to citizenship to the "dreamers"?

Earlier this year, President Donald Trump proposed an immigration bill. Among many other proposals, it would have given a path to citizenship to up to 1.7 million young people who:

1. Came to the United States as children brought by their parents before 2007.

2. Have been educated in this country and are high-school graduates or in U.S. schools.

3. Have never been convicted of a felony or a significant misdemeanor.

In most polls, some 85 percent of Americans say they believe these dreamers should be allowed to remain, to study and to work. Voters don't like to reward people for coming here illegally, but the dreamers were brought here at an average age of 6. We don't punish people in this country for their actions as 6-year-olds. Voters don't like to do favors for immigrants who come here and then are convicted of crimes; the dreamers haven't done so.

One of us thinks the $5 billion the president wants for the wall will be money well spent; the other ... isn't so sure. But what we propose for the dreamers would not cost the U.S. government anything. It would not make them eligible for any but trivial federal benefits (the "path to citizenship" referred to normally takes about 10 years) more than offset by taxes as they work.

Giving the dreamers this opportunity would certainly be good for them; it would also be great for the country. Over many years, the dreamer students we know have demonstrated motivation far beyond the norm. A scholarship program one of us co-founded has 3,400 students in college. Their retention rates and average GPAs are well above those of their classmates. At Trinity Washington University's graduation in May, dreamers made up 6 of the 11 Phi Beta Kappas graduating — and there were only 20 dreamers in the class.

The bipartisan Dream Act was first introduced in Congress in 2001, by Sens. Richard Durbin, D-Illinois, and Orrin Hatch, R-Utah. Over and over, Congress has come agonizingly close to passing it. The House Republican leadership was prepared to bring a bill to the floor to give status to the dreamers (among other things) in 2013; it was abandoned when Rep. Eric Cantor, R-Virginia., lost his primary and his stance on immigration was blamed.

It has never been the right time to give help to the dreamers, despite overwhelming public support for doing so.

Let's do it now. Whether you support money to build the wall or regard it as a waste, everyone knows it is of central importance to the president, and he is proving he is prepared to fight for it. Why shouldn't Congress take advantage of the best opportunity in years to give the dreamers the open door they deserve?

In a day or two we can have greater border security and a more humane future for young people.

All it takes is bipartisan leadership.

It is the right time.

— Newt Gingrich, Donald E. Graham
Special to the Washington Post

Midland Reporter-Telegram

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President's missteps put spotlight on how constitutional-ish our system is

JONAH GOLDBERG
Tribune News Service



America is often described as a constitutional democracy or constitutional republic. That's not really true. The best you could say is that our system is constitutional-ish.

Consider the bizarre controversy over President Donald Trump's decision to pull out of Syria. As a matter of policy, I think it's a terrible decision he will live to regret. Nearly every foreign policy expert feels the same way, including — if reports are true — military leadership and the president's own National Security Council.

Outside of a few negligible but reliable boosters such as perennially dovish Sen. Rand Paul (R-Kentucky), everyone thinks this amounts to a reprieve for ISIS and a betrayal of the Kurds, who've done much of the heavy fighting for us. Of course, the Iranian mullahs, Russian dictator Vladimir Putin, Turkish president for life Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Syrian butcher Bashar al-Assad are all gleeful.

But as unfathomable as the president's policy decision may be, the constitutional context in which he made it is far weirder.

On both sides of the aisle, congressional leaders are denouncing the president's decision, largely for the reasons stated above. But take a step back and consider the fact that all of these outraged senators and congressmen are furious about the president retreating from a war they did not authorize.

The Constitution is very clear: Congress — and only Congress — has the power to declare war. It hasn't formally declared war since World War II (1942, to be exact, when it declared war on German-allied Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania). Since then, it has sometimes used phrases like the "authorization of military force," and other times presidents have acted unilaterally, invoking U.N. resolutions or really almost nothing at all. To the extent that Congress has complained, the outrage has usually been partisan. Congressional Democrats hate it when Republican presidents don't get their approval, and vice versa.

The so-called war on terror, well into its 18th year, is a sprawling enterprise around the globe (one I largely support as a matter of policy), tenuously justified by constitutionally flimsy pronouncements by Congress. The Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Terrorists passed after 9/11 doesn't cover ISIS in Syria (or Africa, or the Philippines, or cyberspace).

The president basically has carte blanche to wage war — and retreat from it — without any real congressional sanction. President Obama invaded Syria without congressional authorization. President Trump ramped up that war without congressional authorization. And now he wants to pull out without congressional authorization.

War is just the most grave and appalling example of bipartisan congressional cowardice. Congress gave the president almost unilateral authority over trade decades ago, even though the Commerce Clause gives Congress total authority over trade, both foreign and domestic. I understand why many support the president's trade policies toward China, but why Congress yawned as the president invoked national security threats to wage trade wars with Canada or the EU is a different matter.

Again, this isn't about Trump. Congress has been surrendering vast swaths of its constitutional authority to the president, to the courts and to a permanent bureaucracy for a century. Indeed, critics of the Mueller probe have a point when they complain that the executive branch should not be conducting what is in effect an impeachment inquiry. We've stumbled into this bizarre situation because Congress handed over much its oversight of the presidency to the Department of Justice and the FBI, which did not even exist until 1870 and 1908, respectively.

The Founders never imagined that Congress would just give away so much of its power. James Madison wrote in Federalist No. 48 that Congress would always be "extending the sphere of its activity and drawing all power into its impetuous vortex."

While the problem has been worsening for generations, the era of cable television and social media has put the trend into overdrive. The legislative branch is often little more than a peanut gallery — a parliament of pundits, as I've often called it — full of people who use their office as a way to get on TV or as a stepping stone to a presidential bid.

Schools often teach that we have three "co-equal" branches of government. But that's not what the Constitution established. Congress is the first and supreme branch of government, with the power to declare war, write laws, create all of the courts save the Supreme Court, and raise taxes.

We don't live in that Constitutional system. We live in a constitutional-ish one.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



BBB reminds those free trial offers aren't always free

BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

As you start wrapping up your last-minute gift selections this week, many of us may still be looking online for some quick-ship items. But, be careful with some of the ads you see popping up. A new study by Better Business Bureau (BBB) sheds light on some of those tricky free trial offers you may be faced with on social media, in search engines or even through email that trap you using deceptive tactics.

Many of these items tout miracle diet pills, the latest anti-wrinkle skin cream or the most advanced teeth whitening products, all you need to pay is a small shipping charge of around $1.95. If you don't like the product, you can return it for free. However, many times that's not the case, and the consumer ends up getting charged for the product even if they try to return the item, while also getting lumped into a recurring monthly charge.

The ad lures you in typically by appearing as a flashy news article or even using big celebrity names like Oprah Winfrey or Ellen DeGeneres. According to the report, those celebrity endorsements may be fake, and even identified as fictional in the fine print at the bottom of the website However, that language is often difficult to find on the website.

BBB received around 37,000 complaints and scam tracker reports about free trials over the past three years. Average losses to individuals of these complaints is around $186. This is also a growing issue. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) complaints mentioning 'free trial' doubled between 2015 and 2017, with losses in cases over the last 10 years totaling around $1.3 billion.

Many victims reporting these cases were female (72 percent), with the highest reports coming from the 30 to 39 age range. Around 30 percent of the ads were reported to come from social media, while others were found through email and sponsored content. Payment is often requested by credit card, and while credit cards do offer added protection, some victims found it difficult to get their money back because many of these ads did include fine print, even though its size and location was often misleading. And while victims were often able to stop future charges, they often reported difficulty in getting ahold of the company altogether.

So, what should you do if you spot one of these ads?

Research: Make sure to check the business out first at bbb.org. Read complaints and customer reviews from previous customers and see if there are any advertising concerns noted by BBB.

Read the fine print: In many of these cases, consumers did not see or have the chance to read the fine print associated with the ads. Read any details associated with the ads.

And what if you feel like you've become a victim of a free trial offer?

Contact the company: Try to get in touch with the company to stop any recurring charges, and get a refund if you think it's necessary

Contact your credit card company: Call the customer service number on the back of your credit card to complain to the bank to stop any future charges and see if there is an option to receive a chargeback.

Complain: File a complaint with BBB at bbb.org or report the fraud at bbb.org/scamtracker, and submit the ad through BBB's AdTruth website for us to review. Report it also to the FTC and the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3).

Heather Massey is the Regional Director for the Permian Basin office of Better Business Bureau serving Central, Coastal, Southwest Texas and the Permian Basin. She is available for media interviews and speaking engagements. You can reach her by phone 741-2592 or email: hmassey@permianbasin.bbb.org.

For more consumer information, BBB Business Reviews or to file a complaint, visit your local Better Business Bureau online at bbb.org/central-texas.

Tell a mother you know that she's doing a good job

CYNTHIA M. ALLEN
Fort Worth Star-Telegram



Recently, a complete stranger hugged me in the grocery store. I had just finished having a stern conversation with my 3-year-old, whose perpetual capriciousness about her present state of being — she wanted in the shopping cart, then wanted out again, and she was loud about it — is a regular feature of my day. And it makes performing even simple errands a herculean feat.

While kneeling down with her to discuss my expectations for the remainder of our supermarket visit, my 2-year-old busied herself filling our cart with apples.

After our "discussion" was over, I returned the fruit to the stand and remember feeling overcome by a wave of vulnerability. So many parenting exercises, especially the unpleasant ones, are performed before an audience — in the produce section, on the playground, in the church pew.

Parenting can be a very public job. And everyone is a critic.

My exasperation and embarrassment must have been evident. When I turned around, a woman about my age was standing before me; there were two small children, about the ages of mine, in her cart. Before I could say a word she wrapped me in a bear hug. "You handled that with grace," she said, "talking to your daughter like you did. You're doing a great job. You got this."

I was shocked and overcome by the unexpected validation.

Many of my mom friends, especially those who stay home full-time or work nontraditional jobs from home so they can remain with their children, have done so at great personal cost — to their careers, their finances, and sometimes their emotional health. Because, let's face it, being a mom isn't often gratifying.

Strange though it may sound to working moms, many moms who stay at home lament the structure of a conventional workplace — metrics to meet, regular performance evaluations, a boss who offers guidance, encouragement, constructive criticism instead of judgment.

In the workplace, when you tackle a huge project, there is sometimes a bonus; when you're struggling with something, there is often a mentor to guide you through. Even extra hours spent completing work are their own reward when a goal is met.

In the absence of such resources and rewards, and in the frequent presence of so many people primed for judgment, it's extremely hard as a mother to know how well you're doing.

Countless tomes in the library and the bookstore that tell us if we're struggling as parents, we're not doing it right. They tell us based on science and research and expert advice that if we do "x" with our children "y" will result, and our kids will not only be well-behaved, but grow up to be smart and productive and happy.

If only it were that simple.

There is no dearth of articles that describe the challenges of full-time working moms and celebrate their victories. Their struggles are real; they deserve recognition and support.

But there is a unique set of challenges for mothers whose primary job is raising their kids, chief among them the ubiquitous uncertainty that we are any good at it.

Good parenting doesn't necessarily result in happy kids; nor does it always result in well-behaved ones. And it seldom results in praise.

That's OK. Still, it's nice to get affirmation from time to time, if only to reassure us we are not failing.

Later that afternoon, my three-year-old commenced similar mischief in Target. I knelt down to talk with her, and seeming to remember our earlier incident, she replied, "I will do better, Momma." I kissed her forehead and rose to my feet to find another woman standing there.

"You're a good mom," she smiled at me.

At least for one day I was completely certain that as a mom, I got this.

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Conservation measure rollback threatens sage grouse

KATHY LOVE
Special to The Washington Post

The mating dance of the sage grouse is like a ballet with percussion and wind. If you were to view it in slow motion, here's what you'd see:

Costumed in a white fur-like ruff, the male grouse makes a whooshing sound by rubbing his wings against the ruff's feathers.

His sharply pointed tail feathers fan out like a shield, and dangling filoplumes sprout from his head like a crown — but it is the flashing yellow air sacs on his chest that dominate the spectacle, protruding as he jerks his head upward. He bounces, deflating the sacs with a series of loud popping noises. Pause. Repeat. Then he gives three low-pitched hoots followed by a hollow plopping sound. In real time, he performs this ballet up to 10 times a minute.

Sage grouse once numbered in the millions, and explorers such as Lewis and Clark encountered flocks of thousands. But the birds' population dwindled precipitously in the last decade of the 20th century.

A 2014 study found they declined by a further 56 percent between 2007 and 2013, coinciding with the rapid expansion of oil and gas extraction in their native habitat.

Today, there are fewer than 500,000 alive in 11 Western states, about half of the grouse's historic range.

Now, the sage grouse, with its spectacular mating dance, is being further threatened by a Trump administration plan to roll back conservation measures on 9 million acres in seven states — 80 percent of the birds' remaining habitat in the vast "sagebrush steppes" of the American West.

The grouse depend on returning every year to the same mating grounds. Only one or two males, chosen by females based on the vigor of his dance, will successfully mate with a female. Once mated, the females travel up to 10 miles to find a nesting site that is near food and water and provides sagebrush for cover.

After the eggs hatch, the hen abandons the nest, leading the chicks to water and food in the form of insects. When the chicks are older, and the summer sun parches the landscape, she will lead them to higher altitudes for water and lower temperatures.

The birds have evolved over millennia to survive in extreme conditions, from below-zero temperatures in whiteout blizzards to deserts that routinely reach 100 degrees.

In the winter, they grow feather-like appendages on their feet to help them walk on snow. In extreme cold, they burrow into it.

Sage grouse are considered indicator species for the great expanse of open range where they reside. At least 297 species of birds, 87 species of mammals, 63 specials of fish and countless species of reptiles and insects call the sagebrush steppe their home. Loss of sage grouse habitat affects them all.

In September 2015, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decided not to put sage grouse on the Endangered Species List, which would have restricted development within their habitat. Energy and mining executives were relieved — and so were ranchers and other landowners. They wanted to take care of the problem themselves.

With "What's good for the bird is good for the herd" as their mantra, the ranchers worked with state and federal land managers to preserve sage grouse habitat. They removed invasive trees and kept cattle away from sensitive areas during mating and nesting seasons. These steps were both unprecedented and profitable: By allowing the birds to flourish, ranchers were ensuring the health of the land their cattle depended on.

"The whole approach was based on cooperative, locally led conservation," said Duane Coombs, a Nevada rancher and coordinator for sage grouse conservation. "It involved sitting down at a table and talking about mutual objectives. Sure, there are differences that come up, but you have to just talk through them and focus on common goals. That's the basis of a civil society."

The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies encouraged member states to create grouse conservation plans. Wyoming, a state rich in oil, gas, minerals — and sage grouse — drew 5-mile buffers around sage grouse mating grounds. They banned industry activity within six-tenths of a mile from those grounds and limited surface disturbance to 5 percent of each square mile within the larger buffered zone. Other states soon followed Wyoming's lead.

Oil and gas developers weren't happy. But after the 2016 election, they knew they had a friend in high places. The Trump administration promised it would revisit sage grouse protections — a significant move because the federal Bureau of Land Management manages half of all sage grouse habitat, and leases large areas to ranchers and industry.

On Dec. 6, the administration announced the elimination of Obama-era regulations that conserve sage grouse habitat. The concept of cooperative conservation based on common goals was lost in the face of greater profits for the fossil fuel industry.

Trump administration officials deny that the rollback will have an impact on the birds, but document language emphasizes the intent is to eliminate regulations that might "impede local economic opportunities."

It is sad that fossil fuel extraction will contribute to climate change while simultaneously threatening an iconic bird that has existed on the sagebrush steppe for millennia.

Kathy Love is the author of "Sage Grouse, Icon of the West."

Trump has forfeited America's Cold War victories

DANA MILBANK
Washington Post Writers Group



Perhaps the timing of George H.W. Bush's death last month was merciful. This way he didn't have to see America lose the Cold War.

Bush presided over the Soviet Union's collapse in 1991. But the triumph he and others earned with American blood and treasure over 71 years, defeating the Soviet Union and keeping its successor in check, has been squandered by President Trump in just two.

Trump's unraveling of the post-war order accelerated this last week when he announced a willy-nilly pullout from Syria, leaving in the lurch scores of allies who participated in the campaign against the Islamic State, throwing our Kurdish partners to the wolves, isolating Israel, and giving Russia and Iran free rein in the Middle East. Then word emerged that Trump is ordering another hasty withdrawal, from Afghanistan. Trump's defense secretary, retired Gen. Jim Mattis, resigned in protest of the president's estrangement of allies and emboldening of Russia and China.

The TV series "The Man in the High Castle" imagines a world in which Nazis won World War II. But we don't need an alternative-history show to imagine a Soviet victory in the Cold War. We have Trump.

Mattis, in his memorable resignation letter (a bookend to George Kennan's "long telegram" of 1946) wrote: "Our security, prosperity and values … are strengthened … by the solidarity of our alliances. Because you have the right to have a secretary of defense whose views are better aligned with yours on these and other subjects, I believe it is right for me to step down from my position."

Mattis spelled out the views of his that are apparently not "aligned" with Trump's: "treating allies with respect," believing in the 29 NATO democracies (Trump has repeatedly raised questions about NATO's utility); respecting the 74-nation "defeat-ISIS coalition" (now to be abandoned in Syria); and recognizing threats from China and Russia, which "want to shape a world consistent with their authoritarian model … at the expense of their neighbors, America and our allies."

Republicans now profess to be alarmed. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., who has enabled Trump at every step, says he's "particularly distressed." Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., sees "chaos." But that is too little, too late. Turkey says it will postpone an invasion of Syria as U.S. forces leave — the better to "bury" our Kurdish allies. And Russian President Vladimir Putin exults: "American troops should not be in Syria and have been there illegally."

Indeed, a Soviet leader hardly could have outlined a better scenario than Trump has created for Putin:

A rift between the United States and NATO allies over the future of the alliance.

A U.S. demand that Russia be returned to the Group of Seven , as Russia continues provocations in Ukraine.

A U.S. threat to pull out of the World Trade Organization, and a round of U.S.-imposed tariffs that severely weakened it.

A U.S. president abandoning human rights, accepting Saudi Arabia's murder of a U.S.-based journalist and embracing repressive leaders around the globe.

A U.S. president creating a rift with Europe over Iran (the nuclear agreement) and climate change (the Paris accord).

A U.S. president embracing as "very honorable" North Korea's brutal dictator without any tangible concessions on nuclear weapons.

A U.S.-launched trade war that, the Federal Reserve said this last week, is partially responsible for cooling worldwide growth.

Lost confidence among Americans in elections, the Justice Department, the FBI, the courts and the free press.

And the loss of a bipartisan consensus against the Russian threat. Forty percent of Republicans called Russia an ally or friend in a Gallup poll, up from 22 percent in 2014.

Why has Trump squandered so much for so little? Maybe it's because, during the 2016 campaign, Russia was privately negotiating a business deal in Moscow with him and releasing stolen documents that hurt his Democratic opponent. (Meanwhile, Trump was praising Putin and his campaign was softening the GOP platform on Russia.)

Whether special counsel Robert Mueller concludes there was a quid pro quo, Putin clearly has benefited from Trump's presidency.

In Helsinki, in front of the world, Trump accepted Putin's word over that of U.S. intelligence agencies. Trump has chafed at aides' insistence on Russia sanctions, and the few who could resist Trump's pro-Putin instincts are gone: H.R. McMaster, Rex Tillerson, John Kelly and now Mattis.

Generations of Americans paid any price and bore any burden, from Berlin to Saigon to Havana. Now, 29 years after the wall fell, Trump is handing Moscow the Cold War victory it could never win.

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Trump's GOP critics say that leaving Syria means we lose. We already did.

AARON DAVID MILLER & RICHARD SOKOLSKY
Special To The Washington Post





In the wake of President Donald Trump's announcement that he intends to quickly withdraw United States military forces from Syria, the who-lost-Syria debate has quickly ratcheted up - much as it did when critics cited President Barack Obama's "indecision" as the reason America's Syria policy "fell apart."

The reaction from members of the president's party in Congress was immediate and harsh. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said "An American withdrawal at this time would be a big win for ISIS, Iran, Bashar al Assad of Syria, and Russia. I fear it will lead to devastating consequences for our nation, the region, and throughout the world." Similarly, Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., tweeted "The decision to pull out of Syria was made despite overwhelming military advice against it. It is a major blunder. If it isn't reversed it will haunt this administration & America for years to come."

But Trump's decision didn't cause the U.S. to lose in Syria. For all practical purposes, Syria was already lost. Much like his predecessor, Trump's decision is motivated by a calculation that the U.S. can't alter the military or political balance in Syria that has long favored Russia and Iran. The timing of the president's announcement is unfortunate, as is his apparent failure to consult with allies and Congress before making it. But Trump was right about one thing. With a modest military footprint and little public support for a larger American role, the U.S. can't really compete with Russia or Iran on the ground.

Trump said back in March that "We're knocking the hell out of ISIS. We'll be coming out of Syria, like, very soon." Not only was he engaged in wishful thinking - indeed, at a press briefing last week, a State Department spokesman said "the job is not yet done" - taking action now based on that sentiment will likely make the goal of wiping out the Islamic State more difficult to achieve in the future.

Trump's string of withdrawal tweets and accompanying video were all music to Russian President Vladimir Putin's ears - Putin calling Trump's decision "correct" pretty much confirms this. The same goes for the Iranian regime, which, like Putin, considers Syrian President Bashar al Assad a client. Ditto leaders in Turkey — a NATO member whose Syria aims don't sync with ours.

And it's fair to assess that Trump's hasty declaration was the final straw leading up to Defense Secretary James Mattis' Thursday resignation, complete with Mattis' stinging sign-off to Trump that "you have the right to have a Secretary of Defense whose views are better aligned with yours." Mattis' exit will likely have wider, possibly grim, national security implications.

But it should have been clear by now to Graham, Rubio and anyone else that Moscow and Tehran had long ago won the strategic fight for Syria. Russian military intervention in 2015 saved Assad and secured long-term military basing rights for the Russian military. As Steven Cook observed in July, Syria is "the centerpiece and pivot of Russia's strategy to reassert itself as a global power." Iran, in its long-term effort to gain regional power and further its proxy war against, among others, rival Saudi Arabia, has lent Assad the assistance of the Iranian military and Iran-backed Shia militias. Though a predominantly Sunni country like Saudi Arabia, Turkey shares Shia-dominated Iran's goal of thwarting anything that bolsters Kurdish autonomy, including close military cooperation between the U.S. military and Kurdish forces in Syria and Iraq.

To achieve their ends, Russia and Iran have been more willing to devote resources toward keeping Assad afloat than the U.S. has been prepared to either remove him from power or stand behind the assorted elements in Syria who've tried and so far failed to overthrow him. There are valid reasons for American reticence, but Americans should let go of the idea that we were ever trying very hard to win.

The core U.S. security interest in Syria is denying the Islamic State a geographic base from which to conduct terrorist violence. And under both Obama and Trump, American forces with Kurdish allies have succeeded in taking back most of territory that the Islamic State once held and tens of thousands of the Islamic State's fighters in Iraq and Syria. But the threat hasn't been totally neutralized.

The Islamic State can't be defeated once and for all by military means alone because it is driven by political, economic and sectarian grievances that can only be alleviated by better governance. On its own, the Syrian government has neither the motivation nor the means to substantially address these grievances or to reconstruct areas liberated from Islamic State control. The U.S. has the means, but not the will. The roughly 2,000 American troops and the handful of American diplomats in Syria were insufficient to the task, and the eagerness to get out, articulated by Trump, is inconsistent with the reality that staying could mean remaining for decades to rebuild, or at least stabilize, Syria. Earlier this year, when the Trump administration held back $200 million allocated for Syria reconstruction, it sent a message that there was no American appetite for investing in Syria beyond immediate military containment of Islamic State forces.

As long as the U.S. military has been engaged in the fight against these Islamic State forces, Russia, Iran and Turkey have been happy to let Americans make this sacrifice. And aside from ensuring that the various parties to the Syria conflict, including Hezbollah, stay away from the Golan Heights, Israel has played a relatively minor role in the anti-Islamic State campaign. But any of these countries are certainly capable of providing a military counterweight to the Islamic State - the question is what will come of the region when the United States really does leave. There's no guarantee that Russia or Iran, which share a common interest in seeing the Assad regime survive, will step up once we've left. In contrast to the U.S., however, if and when Syria and its backers decide to conclusively take on the Islamic State, their approach is unlikely to employ much regard for humanitarian concerns or civilian lives. Syria, already an overwhelming human tragedy, could easily see even more death and destruction.

Critics of the president's decision are right that America is once again going to throw its reliable Kurdish allies under the bus. But the Kurds could have forseen this, both because of their previous experiences with the U.S. in Iraq and Trump's chronic unhappiness with the Syria deployment. As Amb. James Jeffrey, now the administration's envoy for Syria, told the New York Times in January, "We told the Turks that the Kurds were temporary, tactical, and transactional to defeat ISIS."

Please see SYRIA/7B

The Grinch has lost his mind

KATHLEEN PARKER
Washington Post Writers Group



'Tis not the season to be jolly, thanks to Donald Trump.

His sudden, unilateral decision to withdraw troops from Syria, forcing the resignation of Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis — one of the last bulwarks against the president's impulsivity — has cast a pall on the holidays and, perhaps, the future.

In his letter of resignation, Mattis said the president deserves a defense secretary who is "better aligned" with his worldview. This alone is a terrifying thought — what madman (or woman) would fit that description? There can't be many generals left who would want the task of taking orders from a commander in chief who developed his military strategy playing Monopoly.

Having lost his battle to keep the president away from making stupid decisions that will backfire, he surrendered to what he apparently saw as his only option — abandoning ship. Whether this was strictly voluntary is unclear, but Mattis has publicly disagreed with the president on multiple issues. Not without cause.

From this president's bizarre flirtation with North Korea's Kim Jong Un — declaring without basis the end of Pyongyang's nuclear aspirations — to his on-again-off-again romance with Russian President Vladimir Putin and a problematic trade war with China, Trump has behaved more like a casino goer playing roulette than the leader of the world's most-stabilizing force.

To put it bluntly, not that this is news: The man knows nothing of which he speaks; he ignores expert advice (see Mattis and, concerning Syria, national security adviser John Bolton); he doesn't bother himself with written reports, which he seems either unable to read or to comprehend, and relies on Fox News for information and Twitter for communication. He announced his Syria decision via tweet.

As you ponder the absurdity of Trump deploying and withdrawing troops around the globe, try to imagine a combat veteran like Mattis tweeting his orders to his fighting men and women in the trenches or the deserts. There's something so utterly unpresidential about tweeting matters of import — and, frankly, so unmanly — one wonders why Mattis remained as long as he did.

The answer is duty, a word too good to share a paragraph with the president's name.

At this hingepoint, when Trump has thrown the Middle East into uncertainty and peril, Mattis' duty was to turn his back to the commander-in-chief, and he did just that.

Mattis also expressed in his letter that the U.S. needs to be "unambiguous" with Russia and China. It may be that Trump was being just that by pulling out of Syria, which Putin praised as "correct." China has thought Trump a fool for so long, little he does bestirs the giant from its machinations.

Meanwhile, the Kurds will be left to fend for themselves against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, Turkey and the Islamic State, while Israel is left in limbo. The editorial board of Israel's Haaretz newspaper called Trump's decision a "slap in the face to Benjamin Netanyahu" and said that U.S. involvement was "an important counterweight to the Russians in establishing the rules of the game in the region."

Haaretz writer Amos Harel wrote what many in the U.S. have noted: "Trump is in such big trouble and acts in such an erratic manner that the Israeli government cannot be certain of his support over the long term."

The "trouble" is of course special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation, predicted by some to be completed by February. Whether Trump's decision to pull out of Syria was a wag-the-dog maneuver to shift public attention from his miseries can be debated, though nothing about his personality or record would cause one to strenuously protest such an assertion.

In his tweets, Trump boasted that the Islamic State is finished in Syria and, therefore, the U.S. need not stay. Even if this were so, our presence in Syria was about more than killing terrorists, who are eternity's whack-a-moles — limited by neither geography or time. It was also about making sure they would not sprout again.

This is the essence of what Mattis has said about Afghanistan as well, warning that a significant troop withdrawal would threaten American security at home. Terrorist groups across the Middle East have been waiting us out, as they've always done and will do — for all of time, if that's what it takes to end us.

That is, if President Trump doesn't beat them to the punch.

GUEST VIEW

Someone please get President Trump on the golf course

Normally in times of national trouble, we want the president at his desk in the Oval Office in the White House in Washington.

But given events of the last few days, we are inclined to urge a different course. A golf course. For the president. Somewhere he is holding a putter instead of a smartphone. Somewhere he is otherwise occupied. Somewhere the whirlwind of problems he is stirring are stopped.

From national and international security to the stability of the government and economy, this has been a really bad run for the country. And, unfortunately, much of it is traceable straight back to the twittering whims of the president.

Let's review:

The president is removing 2,000 troops from Syria who are the bulwark against Iranian and Russian influence in the entire Middle East as well as the force denying ISIS the ability to re-establish.

The president is removing 7,000 troops from Afghanistan, a move that could hasten the Taliban's dominance of the country where we have fought so hard to deny terrorists safe haven. Afghanistan is also in the midst of peace negotiations with the Taliban, and we would have thought that the president understood that one way to succeed at negotiating is to look strong throughout. This move only undercuts the democratically elected government of Afghanistan as it seeks to hammer out an agreement that will lead to long-term peace and stability.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, the man who has steadied the course of American military power during this administration, has announced his resignation because of differences with the president over Syria. Mattis is not the sort of person one can easily replace.

The president has said he is ready to let the U.S. government partially shut down if he does not get billions of dollars to fund a border wall. Such funding is tough to get in normal circumstances. In this case, he is only strengthening Democrats, who will soon take control of the House, by risking postponing any budget agreement after the start of a new Congress. In any case, after promising to own the shutdown, he now is claiming it will belong to Democrats. Our concern isn't who "owns" it politically, but what damage a shutdown might do to the American economy.

Markets go up and down, but the story of the American economy, at least as it's told through Wall Street, is getting uglier. Markets hate turmoil. America is in tumult.

The best thing to do right now might be to suggest a warmer climate to the president. Wouldn't a few days at Mar-a-Lago be good medicine? Sunny weather. Green grass. Hey, that course record isn't going to set itself. And anyway, it's the holidays. Time for a bit of cheer. Air Force One is ready when you are.

Just sign this spending bill here. That's it. Fore!

— The Dallas Morning News

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

From now on, Trump will try to use foreign policy to distract us

BRIAN KLAAS
Special To The Washington Post



The adults in the room are gone. Thursday, Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis quit because he could no longer abide President Donald Trump's ally-bashing isolationism. With his departure, it's clear that the only way to stay in the West Wing is to be a Trumpian toady, blindly repeating the president's lies and uncritically enabling his worst impulses. (The jobs of Stephen Miller, Kellyanne Conway, Sarah Sanders and Trump's family members are safe).

Those people have virtually no knowledge of the rest of the world. Trump has surrounded himself with sycophants while systematically purging experts like Mattis who tried to serve the country. During the presidential campaign, Trump was asked who his main foreign policy advisers were. His answer then is our reality now: "I'm speaking with myself, No. 1, because I have a very good brain and I've said a lot of things."

Trump is advising Trump.

We are entering a new and dangerous stage of Trump's presidency. It will be defined by a reckless man who will happily burn down the international order or launch missiles to distract the country as he tries to save his own skin. History will likely judge the first two years of the Trump era as the comparatively normal and stable period.

Unfortunately, it's a perfect storm. Trump is already the most incurious and poorly informed president in modern history. But now he faces few constraints from advisers who understand the risks of rule-by-tweet. Trump is more likely to lash out than before, too.

He surely understands that the legal cases closing in on him pose an existential threat not just to his presidency but to his post-presidency freedom, too. He also understands — or will soon realize — that his domestic agenda will be dead on arrival in the Democratic-controlled House come January.

The next two years are certain to prove frustrating. And for a man obsessed with branding, "Donald the Lame Duck" isn't a moniker that he will accept quietly. He will want to create news that buries his bad news. Given his domestic constraints, however, foreign policy will be the logical recourse.

Under past administrations, there have been worries of a "wag the dog" scenario, in which a president mired in scandal launches a foreign war to divert attention. But that setup doesn't necessarily fit Trump's worldview.

The foreign policy of his first two years featured a blend of isolationism (withdrawing from the Paris climate agreement and the Iran nuclear deal) and meaningless but ostentatious displays of American firepower (bombing one runway in Syria). It is, therefore, less likely that he will send hundreds of thousands of troops to start a war, and more likely that he will bring troops home from places where they are essential for international and national security.

So how would Trump manufacture a crisis? Claiming some alleged offense by a friendly nation, he could make good on his long-standing threat to withdraw from NATO, thereby removing the linchpin of postwar international security. In pursuit of good press on North Korea, he could draw down or remove troops from the South, leaving our allies in the region exposed to the whims of a totalitarian madman for whom Trump has professed "love." Or he could completely abandon Afghanistan, creating a security vacuum that threatens a repeat of the pre-9/11 period.

Such moves would embolden foreign autocrats to take more risks.

s they see Trump stuck in scandal and America's role waning in the world, they will test the limits of American power, inviting a greater risk of disaster. Putin's recent capture of Ukrainian sailors may have been testing the waters. The Baltic states are right to be worried.

At the same time, Trump could consider launching limited military campaigns that mirror the limited missile strike on Syria in the spring of 2017. Airstrikes on Venezuela? Sure, it sounds crazy, but the advisers who stopped him from intervening there previously are largely gone from the White House. Bombing Iran? If a "Fox & Friends" anchor says the mullahs are making Trump look weak, does anyone believe that he wouldn't be tempted?

And, unfortunately, any new American adventures abroad are far more likely to be done without the support of American allies. Our foreign friends have spent the last two years trying to figure out when they're being bullied and when they're being abandoned.

Now, with the president of the United States more likely to see "steel slats" in a prison cell than stretching across America's southern border, our allies are starting to calculate that the best approach might just be to hold on, weather two crazy years (or less) and wait for a new president.

As Americans, we don't have that luxury. This is the moment we've feared. If Trump believes that he has to decide between protecting himself and protecting the international order that guarantees peace and security, we all know what his "very good brain" will choose.

A recession is coming; Trump is going to make the recovery worse

CATHERINE RAMPELL
The Washington Post



The vital signs aren't good. The S&P 500 has fallen more than 10 percent since its September peak, which technically puts us in "correction" territory. In the past few weeks, markets whipsawed over whether we do or do not have a trade deal with China (we don't) and whether President Donald Trump will further jack up tariffs on Chinese-made goods (still unclear).

Stock wobbles alone don't necessarily imply an immediate downturn, of course. (They "forecast nine of the last five recessions," Nobel laureate Paul Samuelson once quipped.) But consumers also report rising pessimism to pollsters. The Treasury yield curve — which shows interest rates for bonds at different maturity dates — has partially inverted, which can signal that traders think the Federal Reserve will have to slash rates to goose the economy. Virtually every independent forecaster foresees a slowdown once the sugar rush of Trump's tax cuts wears off in the next year or so. And in a recent survey of economists by the Wall Street Journal, more than half predicted that we'd have a full-blown recession by 2020.

Statistically speaking, given how long the economy has been growing, a recession is overdue - and the eventual collapse may bear Trump's fingerprints. After all, his new trade barriers have lifted manufacturing costs, closed off markets and clouded the future for American firms with global supply chains. Economists say Trump's trade war is the biggest threat to the U.S. economy in 2019. In loonier moments, the president has also threatened to default on our debt, ramp up the money-printing press, reinstate the gold standard or deport all 11 million undocumented immigrants. Some of those policies would ignite not just a recession but an immediate global financial crisis.

Or perhaps the contraction will follow some non-Trump-related catastrophe, like an oil shock or a wave of defaults in the growing leveraged loan market. It's often impossible to ascribe blame accurately.

Yet there's one thing we can expect with reasonable conviction: Even if Trump isn't the direct cause of the next recession, he's likely to make it so, so much worse.

There are, alas, many ways the administration is likely to bungle a recession response — it may have even done so already. The first issue is that Trump has already shot most of our fiscal bullets, leaving us with less ammunition when we actually need it.

At times, it's justified to run up deficits: specifically, during a recession. When the private sector is shrinking, the public sector helps plug the shortfall (through higher spending and/or tax cuts). Republicans and Democrats — including Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama — have followed that standard Keynesian response over the years. When the economy is good, however, economists advise shrinking the deficit as much as possible or even running a surplus. Repair the roof when the sun is shining.

Instead, Trump has done the opposite. When he entered office, budget deficits were expected to rise steadily over the next decade thanks to (among other factors) more baby boomers claiming Medicare and Social Security. Trump decided to widen deficits even further, adding $2 trillion over the next decade through tax cuts and spending increases. Now, with gaping budget holes, it will become much harder to provide fiscal stimulus when the time comes.

Plus, whatever the actual cost, the Trump-led GOP seems poised to block greater spending during the next recession. National Economic Council Director Larry Kudlow opposed Barack Obama's major stimulus package in the last downturn. Outside adviser Stephen Moore recently counseled the president to "veto every spending bill headed his way between now and the 2020 election." Even if Trump ignores such guidance, the tea-party-influenced GOP, which has held onto control of the Senate, will probably have even less appetite for fiscal stimulus than it did in 2009 — when just three Republican senators and zero Republican representatives voted for the Recovery Act.

Trump might also pursue policies that would inflict even more damage. As he tweeted recently, he's a "Tariff Man"; he thinks import duties make America richer by shielding struggling industries from foreign competition. (Economic research overwhelmingly says this is wrong.) It's not hard to imagine him trying to fix a contraction by throwing up even more barriers to trade.

This beggar-thy-neighbor, protectionist approach has been tried at the start of a downturn before - during the Great Depression. The problems began with the 1930 Tariff Act, sometimes called Smoot-Hawley after the lawmakers who devised it. As with Trump's recent tariffs, the new rules made the cost of doing business much more expensive for U.S. firms that purchased foreign goods as components of their own products. They also triggered a cascade of retaliatory counter-tariffs around the world. Global trade crashed. Economists agree that Smoot-Hawley deepened and extended the Great Depression, not just here but worldwide.

What if, in a crisis, Trump somehow received - and then listened to - sound economic advice? Even then, he would face a nearly impossible task, especially if the advice required enacting expensive and unpopular measures such as bailouts, which rank-and-file voters on the left and the right have told pollsters that they revile. During the 2008 collapse, Obama and Bush both stuck their necks out to corral votes for politically risky bills, measures that were necessary to stop the panic but that were not obviously beneficial to the short-term interests of politicians. Both also genuinely tried to reach across the aisle to get bipartisan buy-in where possible. Trump has rarely evinced much political courage himself, much less inspired it in others. We're all in it together is not really his vibe.

Speaking of leadership, there's also the problem of our deteriorating international standing. In the last financial crisis, having good relationships with foreign central banks, finance ministers and other leaders abroad proved crucial for coordinating fiscal and monetary responses. We set up currency swaps with other countries, for example, to stanch the bleeding, and we agreed to synchronized stimulus plans at the Group of 20 meetings in London. Given this experience, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development warned its members recently that they should start planning and coordinating their responses to "a sharp downturn" far in advance.

But Trump has picked trade wars with adversaries and allies alike. He's insulted foreign leaders, such as Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (whom he called "dishonest & weak"), when they even politely object. And he's otherwise proved himself an erratic, unreliable partner, with a dubious grasp of basic economics. He obsesses over bilateral trade deficits, which are driven by macroeconomic factors like savings and investment rates rather than by anyone "taking advantage"; he reportedly thinks countries can pay down their debts by simply printing more money; he says Mexico is paying for his border wall through the NAFTA replacement (it's not). Foreign leaders would understandably be skeptical of U.S. entreaties for multilateral problem-solving.

If, in fact, we even bother with such overtures. Trump views the world as zero-sum. Anytime another country is improving, it must be at our expense: If Germany runs a trade surplus, for instance, or if German economic growth picks up, that must be because it's stealing business from somewhere else. Given this outlook, he may be suspicious of any multilateral response to a global downturn, as University of California at Berkeley economics professor Barry Eichengreen observed in a recent talk.

Finally, there's this administration's unusually shallow bench of economic talent. Consider the team that led us out of the 2007-2008 financial panic. Whatever their shortcomings — and not foreseeing the crisis was surely one of them - they collectively offered tremendous expertise, experience and relationships. Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke had spent his academic career studying the Great Depression. Bush's treasury secretary, Henry Paulson, had been chief executive of Goldman Sachs; he knew the players on Wall Street, and they respected him. Timothy Geithner, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and later Obama's treasury secretary, understood the plumbing of both the financial system and the federal government. (In an earlier stint at Treasury in the 1990s, he was involved in responses to financial crises in Brazil, Mexico, Indonesia, South Korea and Thailand.)

By contrast, Trump chose as his treasury secretary Steven Mnuchin, a guy who had zero policymaking experience and whose top private-sector achievements include investments in "Avatar" and "The Lego Batman Movie." Mnuchin worked on Wall Street — including at Goldman Sachs — but he has largely frittered away whatever trust he built up there. Like other Trump economic officials, he has been frequently, and brazenly, deceptive about administration policies and their consequences: whether tax cuts will reduce deficits, whether we have a deal with China on trade, how quickly the U.S. economy can reasonably be expected to grow over the coming years and so on. On that last point, Mnuchin, Kudlow, Council of Economic Advisers Chairman Kevin Hassett and other administration officials have repeatedly claimed that 3 or 4 percent growth is "sustainable," despite the fact that every independent economic prognosticator says otherwise.

Such obvious fibs may seem minor, but they have consequences. If we can't trust officials to tell the truth about little things now, why would anyone trust them when they're trying to calm financial markets? Lack of credibility is a minor inconvenience when times are good; it's a disaster in a crisis.

To deal with a financial calamity, you need people in charge who not only actually know stuff but also inspire confidence that they know stuff. Trump seems to have selected very senior personnel - when he's selected them, anyway; about half of key Treasury posts remain vacant - based not on expertise or credibility, but how much they praise him, especially in public. His televised Cabinet meetings are flattery sessions. Mnuchin has averred that Trump possesses "perfect genes."

Trump's appointments at the Fed, mercifully, have been qualified. If all else fails, these politically independent technocrats, led by Chair Jerome Powell, will follow whatever theory and data suggest that economic policymakers should do, regardless of the news cycle or the proximity of the next election.

Unfortunately, Trump has been busy trying to discredit this one remaining competent economic institution, too. Rather than following decades of precedent — that administrations never comment on monetary policy — he rants about interest rate hikes and says he regrets appointing Powell. Trump seems more invested in setting up the Fed as a scapegoat in case the economy turns than in preserving the credibility it will so desperately need to do something about it. And that is what we should be most worried about. Because if Trump destroys the central bank's hard-won political independence — and convinces markets that the Fed's choices are based on political arm-twisting, rather than dispassionate analysis — he could hobble the Fed's ability to effectively intercede not only in the next recession but in every single one thereafter.

Trump was right to pull out of Syria and Afghanistan; this is what he should do next

U.S. REP. RO KHANNA
Special To The Washington Post



President Donald Trump is receiving an onslaught of criticism for his decision to withdraw troops from Syria and Afghanistan. Congressional Democrats should not pile on without offering an alternative vision. We should applaud the president's desire to put an end to these interventions, but should challenge him to assemble a team that does so with better planning and diplomacy. We should articulate a foreign policy doctrine of responsible withdrawal that prioritizes restraint and human rights.

Let's start with a fact that the mainstream media has glossed over when criticizing Trump's Syria decision: His decision is in compliance with U.S. and international law. The presence of U.S. troops in the Syrian civil war was never authorized by Congress. We are also violating international law by invading Syria without the approval of the United Nations. Before any administration official can advocate keeping troops in Syria to fight the Islamic State, Congress needs to offer authorization.

Trump also deserves credit for standing up to the war hawks within his own administration who started inventing rationales for remaining in the country: countering Iran and seeing an end to the Assad regime. That is the definition of mission creep. While Syrian President Bashar al-Assad is a brutal dictator and should be tried at the Hague for international war crimes, the United States should not militarily overthrow him.

There is no doubt Trump should have articulated a more prudent withdrawal strategy. He could have consulted beforehand with our allies and regional partners. One alternative to an immediate withdrawal in Syria is announcing a full withdrawal over the next few months. That would give us time to prepare local forces and to deploy intelligence platforms and networks that address potential terrorist threats.

We also cannot just leave without some consideration of our moral obligations to the Syrians that come from having engaged in war. We need to provide humanitarian assistance to civilians and accept our fair share of refugees. Trump should have used his leverage with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to ensure a cease-fire and guarantee protection for the Kurds. We should not sell Turkey Patriot missiles until we get that commitment.

In the case of Afghanistan, Trump announced that we will be reducing our troop level by 7,000. This is, fortunately, a reversal of his deployment of 3,000 troops there in September 2017. His instincts as a candidate of ending the war and bringing our troops home were spot-on.

We have spent more money in Afghanistan than we did in the Marshall Plan and continue to spend more than $40 billion each year. Our military approach has not worked. After the 2008 surge, the Taliban now exerts influence or maintains control over 70 percent of Afghan territory instead of just 40 percent.

There should be a short timeline for bringing home our troops to allow for a smooth transition. We should engage in direct talks with the Taliban and seek a negotiated settlement, involving regional actors such as Pakistan, Iran, Russia, China and India. The task calls for the talent of a negotiator with the skill of a Bill Perry, George Shultz, or George Mitchell. We should also retain the right to strike terrorist cells that directly threaten our homeland, while taking precautions to avoid harm to civilians that can create new conditions for hate.

Most urgently, the president should apply his newfound commitment to anti-interventionism to Yemen's devastating civil war. The United States should stop taking Saudi Arabia's side in Yemen, especially in light of the brutal murder of Jamal Khashoggi. After pressure from a bicameral War Powers Resolution that Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont) sign it and demand that Saudi Arabia stop bombing ports and allow Yemenis to access food and medicine.

In an Independence Day speech in 1821, then-U.S. Secretary of State John Quincy Adams said America should offer "her heart, her benedictions and her prayers. . . . But she goes not abroad in search of monsters to destroy." Almost 200 years later, the world is a very different place. But Adam's wisdom still applies as we seek to lead in the 21st century.

A few days ago, I was with Trump as he signed one of my bills. I said, "Mr. President, China has not been in a war since 1979. If we want to win the race against them, we should not get bogged down in war." He nodded and then observed that they have enriched themselves without firing a shot.

SYRIA

From 6B

The Syrian Democratic Forces, or SDF, a militia comprised mainly of Kurdish and Arab fighters, has ties to a Syrian Kurdish political party that, in turn, has ties to the Kurdistan Worker's Party, or PKK, one of Turkey's nemeses. Syrian Kurds aren't fighting as a favor to the United States. They seek to establish an autonomous Kurdish enclave in Northeast Syria, which could ultimately bring the U.S. into a larger conflict with Turkey.

Eventually, continued U.S. support for the SDF might have led to an independent Kurdish polity and the need to protect it. With Turkey as a formal American ally, that expectation was always unrealistic. The appropriate course, leading up to withdrawal from Syria, would have been for the Trump administration to offer Syrian Kurds incentives to reach an accommodation with Assad and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to preserve as many of their gains as possible.

A failed state, Syria's civil war has resulted in hundreds of thousands of deaths, created millions of refugees and emboldened a self-styled caliphate that sponsors global terrorist violence. The timing and the implementation of Trump's decision to withdraw is unwise from the narrow perspective of continuing to degrade the Islamic State, but in many ways it reflects the lack of desire that he, his predecessor, Congress and the American people have for assuming responsibility to resolve the crisis. It's hard to make the case that it's worth American blood and treasure to maintain an open-ended deployment there to accomplish goals that are beyond our capacity to achieve. Trump's withdrawal will make the fight against the Islamic State harder. Still, there's no point pretending. We've never been willing to expend the resources necessary to have real leverage that would give us a meaningful capacity to compete with the countries that do.

Miller, a vice-president at the Woodrow Wilson Center, was a former State Department analyst, negotiator and adviser in Republican and Democratic administrations. Sokolsky, a non-resident senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, was a member of the Secretary of State's Office of Policy Planning from 2005-2015.

CARAFANO

From 8B

Forward deployed forces would benefit from that extended conventional umbrella — making forward forces like Fort Trump more survivable.

In short, moving forward gives America and its allies every advantage and sends a stronger signal to Vladimir Putin — that he should keep his hands off Western Europe.

A 25-year Army veteran, James Jay Carafano, is editor of the book The Changing Faces of War. A Heritage Foundation vice president, Carafano directs the think tank's research into issues of national security. A graduate of West Point, he holds a Ph.D from Georgetown University.

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WEISBROT

From 8B

expanding NATO's military encirclement of Russia.

Ironically, despite Trump's personal friendliness with Putin — and whatever private financial gains he has sought there — he has been more aggressive toward Russia through stepped-up sanctions, sending lethal weapons to Ukraine, proposing to abandon the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces treaty and continuing to expand NATO.

This is no way to manage relations between the two countries that have the vast majority of the world's nuclear weapons.

Of course even talking about our new military base in Poland shows how far U.S. foreign policy toward Russia has descended into stupidity and recklessness.

It will take much more public awareness and political mobilization to reverse course.

A native of Chicago, Mark Weisbrot is co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research and holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Michigan.

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PRO

"Should US keep its forward base in Poland to deter Russian aggression?"

CON

US base in Poland flashes hands-off signal to Putin



JAMES JAY CARAFANO
Tribune News Service

In the 1950s, NATO war planners pondered how to defend the nascent alliance against the Soviet war machine. On paper, the magnitude of the threat looked overwhelming.

War-gaming showed that British and U.S. forces would be unable to stop a Soviet incursion in the east.

The best option: consolidate our forces at the beaches at Normandy, where the Allies had first come ashore in 1944, and strengthen their position as much as possible before the Soviet troops arrived. Then... hold on.

That plan was rejected. After all, what nation would commit to an alliance that would leave all or even most of their territory at the mercy of foreign invaders?

Instead, the NATO planners decided they would conduct a forward defense. They would man the frontlines of the alliance.

That decision accomplished two goals. First, it deterred aggression by telling Moscow that the entire alliance was willing to defend NATO soil.

Second, it forced the alliance to develop the infrastructure and logistics needed to support and reinforce the frontline troops.

And it worked. Throughout the Cold War, NATO fielded enough conventional forces — ships, planes, and soldiers — that Moscow never crossed the line.

The U.S. should learn from this experience as it considers Poland's request to permanently forward deploy American forces in their country.

To be fair, there are respectable arguments against building what that Polish President Andrzej Duda famously labelled "Fort Trump" when he pitched the idea to the U.S. president in September.

Retired Army General Ben Hodges, for example, worries about the risk of defending and supporting troops that close to Putin. And, he notes, it will be expensive to build the facilities — schools, commissaries, housing, etc. — needed to take care of military members and their families.

"There are other ways to deter Russia than to build permanent bases," Hodges argues.

Hodges' assessment makes sense, as did the initial assessment made by the 1950s NATO war planners.

Fort Trump would be a costly speed bump to Russian aggression. But if the goal is to rebuild NATO's credibility as the real guarantor of trans-Atlantic security, flying the stars and stripes over Fort Trump might be exactly the right move to make.

There is an honest debate to be had about what the NATO footprint should look like, but there is no question NATO needs to move its frontline forward.

Committing to the forward defense of Poland, one of America's strongest and most trusted allies in Central Europe, would be an unmistakable hands-off sign for Putin.

Further, for NATO to demonstrate fully that it can defend Central Europe, the alliance will have to figure out how to extend its air and missile defense umbrella.

Moreover, they'll need to demonstrate they can: control airspace, protect cyber and space systems, and move supplies and reinforcements quickly in time of crisis.

A base in Poland will force NATO to address these issues sooner rather later. That's a good thing.

And it will give the Trump administration even more authority when pressing allies to boost their defense spending to what's expected of NATO members — about 2 percent of their Gross Domestic Products — so they have the capacity they require to fight forward.

Of course, Fort Trump by itself cannot guarantee peace on the continent. Russia already has fielded medium-range nuclear missiles that can hit every European capital.

It is highly unlikely that the U.S. will field its own intermediate-range nuclear missiles to offset that threat. Instead, the Pentagon will likely deploy highly-lethal conventional weapons that can hold key Russian targets at risk.

Please see CARAFANO/7B

Its only reason for being is to reap profits for America's weapons makers



MARK WEISBROT
Tribune News Service

Dangle a couple billion dollars in front of Donald Trump — who seems to see himself as America's premier arms merchant, when he's not using the presidency to make money for himself and family — and you can see his eyes light up.

"Fort Trump," we will call it, suggested Poland's President Andrzej Duda, who knows how to manipulate an insatiable ego.

Trump responded positively: "Poland would be paying billions of dollars for a base, and we are looking at that."

But even some of the more hawkish military analysts, such as Ben Hodges, commander of U.S. Army Europe from 2014 to 2017, have argued that this is "unnecessarily provocative." The idea was roundly rejected by the U.S. and Germany when it was first suggested in 2016.

If the power of the weapons industry were to prevail, however, it wouldn't be the first time.

In fact, that's a big part of the story of how we got in this New Cold War in the first place. As the New York Times pointed out:

"At night, Bruce L. Jackson is president of the U.S. Committee to Expand NATO, giving intimate dinners for Senators and foreign officials. By day, he is director of strategic planning for Lockheed Martin Corporation, the world's biggest weapons maker."

That was 1997. Two years later, Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic would join NATO, allowing America's weapon makers to haul in billions of dollars in new arms sales. Ten more countries would join over the next nine years, bringing NATO's military to Russia's doorstep.

The United States and Germany promised Russia in 1990, as the Soviet Union was collapsing, that they would not expand NATO even "an inch" to the east.

Although many Americans have forgotten World War II, the Russians have not: They lost 27 million people to Nazi invaders.

Needless to say, they are not fond of the violent neo-Nazis that the U.S. government has supported in Ukraine, or the idea that Ukraine could end up with the next NATO military base on their border.

These are the most important structural causes of the New Cold War, not Russia's annexation of Crimea — which violated international law — or Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

Americans are understandably upset about any foreign interference in our elections. As are Hondurans, Chileans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, Italians, Iranians and citizens of scores of other countries where the United States has intervened much more heavily — sometimes sponsoring military coups to reverse election results.

This even includes Russia itself, where Americans organized and spent heavily to elect their ally, Boris Yeltsin, in 1996.

Election expert Nate Silver noted lsdy week that Russian troll farms, memes and tweets were much too small and without evidence of effectiveness to have made a difference in the 2016 election.

But in any case, the New Cold War with Russia has deeper structural causes that will not be resolved through sanctions, threats — and certainly not by

Please see WEISBROT/7B

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Cowboys try to wrap up NFC East, this time vs Bucs

By Schuyler Dixon
Associated Press

ARLINGTON — Ezekiel Elliott and the Dallas Cowboys failed in their first attempt to wrap up the NFC East by losing to Indianapolis when the Colts badly needed a win for their playoff chase.

Now the NFL's rushing leader and his teammates will try again Sunday, this time facing an opponent with nothing on the line a week after Tampa Bay was eliminated from postseason contention with a loss in Baltimore.

"I think everyone in this locker room understands how important this game is," Elliott said with Dallas coming off the franchise's first shutout loss in 15 years . "I think it would be kind of beating a dead cow to come in here and harping on what happened last week."

Jameis Winston and the Bucs (5-9) are putting the wraps on a strange year that began with the quarterback's personal-conduct suspension, followed by his inability to keep the job once Ryan Fitzpatrick cooled off.

Fitzpatrick's struggles gave him another shot, and Winston is set for his fifth straight start, the longest stretch for either QB this year.

"Even though we're out of contention, it still feels good to win," said receiver Mike Evans, a bright spot for an offense that had little trouble churning out yards but often didn't turn them into points. "Christmas is coming up. It'll be good to have Christmas sitting on a 'W.'"

The Cowboys (8-6) just want to end their division race.

Dallas ran off five straight wins to earn the enviable position of needing one victory in the final three games to reach the postseason for the second time in three seasons with Elliott and quarterback Dak Prescott, the NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year on a playoff team two years ago.

Moving the ball wasn't a problem for the Cowboys in the first half of the 23-0 loss to Indianapolis, but they squandered several scoring chances. A defense that has carried Dallas most of the season had the bigger letdown in the second half.

The Cowboys can win the division with another loss if Washington and

Please see COWBOYS/4C



Michael Conroy/AP

Dallas Cowboys' Ezekiel Elliott (21) is tackled by Indianapolis Colts' Clayton Geathers (26) on Dec. 16 during the second half in Indianapolis.

Against all odds



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Greenwood head coach Jared Sanderson, pictured Dec. 14, is the 2018 MRT Coach of the Year.

MRT COACH OF THE YEAR

Sanderson kept injury-plagued Greenwood on winning path

By Oscar LeRoy
oleroy@mrt.com

Like all head coaches, Jared Sanderson had a vision of what he wanted his football program at Greenwood to accomplish when he was hired in 2017.

After making the playoffs in his first season, the Rangers took the next step this past season as they accomplished things they haven't done in a while. They won their first district championship in a decade, got a rare road win at Monahans and got over the first-round playoff hump by going three rounds deep in the postseason.

While the Rangers had the talent on paper, it certainly wasn't easy to attain a 10-3 record as a rash of injuries early in the season almost derailed the expectations that they had.

But Sanderson helped the Rangers stay the course and they accomplished much of what they wanted to do this season. Because of that, Sanderson is the Midland Reporter-Telegram's Coach of the Year.

"The thing that I'm most proud of is where we started and the vision we had for the program, and to see it happen, meant a lot to me," he said.

"We knew we had a good group, a lot of returners on both sides of the ball, a lot of guys with game experience. We envisioned an opportunity to have a successful season by winning football games and winning a district championship was something that we felt we could attain."

The Rangers knew that by winning a district championship, they would have a higher seed going into the Class 4A Division II playoffs. By having a

Please see COACH/4C

Eagles again counting on Nick Foles in high-stakes games

By Rob Maaddi
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Nick Foles understands his Super Bowl MVP trophy isn't going to help when J.J. Watt and Jadeveon Clowney are chasing after him.



Foles

No matter the pressure, he usually stays calm and plays with poise.

The Philadelphia Eagles are again counting on Foles to win high-stakes games. Foles, who was 3-0 in the playoffs last season, led the 14-point underdog Eagles to a victory on the road against the Rams last week to keep them in the playoff race.

He has to do it again Sunday when the Eagles (7-7) host the Houston Texans (10-4).

"Because I've done those things doesn't guarantee me anything when I step on the field next time," Foles said about his recent success. "Every time you step on the field, it's a new game."

Foles is starting because Carson Wentz has a stress fracture in his back. He replaced Wentz last December after a knee injury ended his season. The Eagles already were the No. 1 seed in the NFC at that time. Now they're desperate to stay in the mix.

"We're fighting for our lives right now. It's a little different for us, different feel," coach Doug Pederson said.

Having Foles around is a confidence-booster for the team.

"Obviously, he's been a starter in this league before, so that's something that he's comfortable with, and he just understands the plan and goes and executes," Pederson said. "He just wants to win. He doesn't care about credit and all that. He wants to win, and he's helped us do that."

The Texans are closing in on an AFC South title and looking to secure a first-round bye. It'll be a tough challenge on the road and they know Foles is no ordinary backup.

"He's a good player, he's smart, he knows what he's doing," said Watt, who has 14½ sacks after playing only eight games the previous two seasons because of injuries. "He does great things. He can move around a little bit, he knows

Please see FOLES/4C

No. 22 Army routs Houston 70-14 in Armed Forces Bowl

By Stephen Hawkins
Associated Press

FORT WORTH — Army quarterback Kelvin Hopkins Jr. ran for 170 yards and an Armed Forces Bowl-record five touchdowns and the No. 22 Black Knights overwhelmed Houston 70-14 on Saturday to reach 11 wins for the first time in program history.

The Black Knights (11-2) won their ninth consecutive game since an overtime loss at playoff team Oklahoma exactly three months earlier.

Hopkins had a nifty 77-yard TD run on the last play of the first quarter for a 14-0 lead. The junior quarterback initially ran right before cutting back the other way and alluding one tackler. He sent two other defenders sliding to the ground when he switched directions again back toward the middle of the field.

Houston (8-5) lost for the fourth time in five games since starting 7-1 and getting into the AP Top 25 poll for one week in late October. The Cougars suffered their most-lopsided loss in their 27 bowl games, and their biggest loss overall since a 66-10 loss at UCLA during the 1997 regular season.

Along with his 11 rushing attempts before coming out of the game midway through the third quarter when it was 49-7, Hopkins completed the first 1,000-yard passing season for Army since 2007. He was 3-of-3 passing for 70 yards, including a 54-yarder that set up one of his three 1-yard TD plunges. He also had a 2-yard TD run.

On the first play of the second quarter, Cameron Jones had a 23-yard fumble return for an Army touchdown after James Nachtigal forced the turnover when he sacked Clayton Tune.

Army got 507 of its 592 total yards on the ground in its highest-scoring game this season — and the most points in the program's nine bowl appearances. The Black Knights won a bowl for the third consecutive year, including last year's Armed Force Bowl over San Diego State.

Tune, the true freshman filling in for injured playmaker D'Eriq King, was 21-of-32 passing for 230 yards and was sacked 10 times. He was responsible for both Houston TDs, a 3-yard pass to Romello Brooker in the second quarter and a 6-yard run with 6 1/2 minutes left.

The takeaway

Houston: The Cougars didn't

Please see ARMY/3C



Jim Cowsert/AP

Army running back Jordan Asberry (3) rushes the ball against Houston on Saturday during the first half of the Armed Forces Bowl in Fort Worth.

DAILY RUNDOWN

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

TV LISTINGS

College Basketball

Diamond Head Classic, 3:30 p.m., ESPN2

Diamond Head Classic, 6 p.m., ESPNU

Las Vegas Classic, 6:30 p.m., FS1

Diamond Head Classic, 9 p.m., ESPN2

Las Vegas Classic, 9 p.m., FS1

Diamond Head Classic, 11:30 p.m., ESPNU

Men's Soccer

Bundesliga: FC Augsburg vs. VfL Wolfsburg, 8:30 a.m., FS1, UDN

PL: Everton FC vs. Tottenham Hotspur FC, 10 a.m., NBCSN

Bundesliga: TSG 1899 Hoffenheim vs. 1. FSV Mainz 05, 11 a.m., FS1

National Basketball Association

Dallas at Portland, 8 p.m., FSSW

National Football League

Houston at Philadelphia, Noon, CBS

Tampa Bay at Dallas, Noon, FOX

Pittsburgh at New Orleans, 3:25 p.m., CBS

Kansas City at Seattle, 7:20 p.m., NBC

National Hockey League

Philadelphia at NY Rangers, 6 p.m., NHL

NY Islanders at Dallas, 7 p.m., FSSW+

Tennis

ATP: Hawai'I Open, Finals, 3 p.m., TENNIS

RADIO

National Basketball Association

Dallas at Portland, 8 p.m., KBST 1490 AM (Big Spring)

National Football League

Houston at Philadelphia, Noon, KBYG 106.1 FM/1400 AM (Big Spring)

Tampa Bay at Dallas, Noon, KQRX 95.1 FM, KBEST 95.7 FM (Big Spring), KTXC 104.7 FM (Esp)

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

American League

CLEVELAND INDIANS — Signed OF Brandon Barnes and RHP Brooks Pounders to minor league contracts.

LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Agreed to terms with RHP Matt Harvey on a one-year contract.

TAMPA BAY RAYS — Agreed to terms with RHP Charlie Morton on a two-year contract.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Signed 2B Eric Sogard to a minor league contract.

National League

CINCINNATI REDS — Designated LHP Robby Scott for assignment.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Designated RHP Ryan Meisinger for assignment.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

ATLANTA HAWKS — Transferred F Alex Poythress from Erie (NBAGL).

FOOTBALL

National Football League

HOUSTON TEXANS — Activated CB Kayvon Webster from injured reserve.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Signed S Rolan Milligan from the practice squad.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Placed OT Jermey Parnell and S Ronnie Harrison on injured reserve. Signed CB Breon Borders and OL Brandon Thomas from the practice squad.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

CALGARY FLAMES — Assigned F Ryan Lomberg to Stockton (AHL). Activated F Michael Frolik from injured reserve.

COLORADO AVALANCHE — Recalled G Joe Cannata from Utah (ECHL) to Colorado (AHL).

LOS ANGELES KINGS — Placed D Dion Phaneuf on injured reserve, retroactive to Dec. 11. Activated F Ilya Kovalchuk from injured reserve.

VEGAS KNIGHTS — Recalled G Zach Fucale from Fort Wayne (ECHL) to Chicago (AHL).

American Hockey League

BELLEVILLE SENATORS — Recalled G Jake Paterson from Brampton (ECHL).

CLEVELAND MONSTERS — Recalled F Dan DeSalvo from Toledo (ECHL).

PROVIDENCE BRUINS — Recalled D Oliver Galipeau from Atlanta (ECHL).

SAN DIEGO GULLS — Recalled F Tyler Soy from Tulsa (ECHL).

SYRACUSE CRUNCH — Recalled G Martin Ouellette from Orlando (ECHL).

UTICA COMETS — Recalled G Ivan Kulbakov from Kalamazoo (ECHL).

ECHL

ECHL — Suspended Adirondack D Michael Sdao three games.

ADIRONDACK THUNDER — Loaned G Devin Buffalo to Utica (AHL). Added G Dylan Peace as emergency backup.

ATLANTA GLADIATORS — Released F Jared Ross.

BRAMPTON BEAST — Signed G Anthony Dumont-Bouchard.

FORT WAYNE KOMETS — Released F Aidan Muir. Traded F Justin Kea to Orlando.

GREENVILLE SWAMP RABBITS — Traded F Alex Globke to Tulsa.

KALAMAZOO WINGS — Signed G Dave Desander.

ORLANDO SOLAR BEARS — Traded F Justin Kea to Toledo. Added G Bobby Fowler as emergency backup.

READING ROYALS — Traded G Charlie Millen to Orlando.

SOUTH CAROLINA STINGRAYS — Signed F Josh Gratton.

NBA GLANCE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	25	9	.735	—
Philadelphia	21	12	.636	3½
Boston	18	13	.581	5½
Brooklyn	15	19	.441	10
New York	9	25	.265	16

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Charlotte	16	15	.516	—
Miami	14	16	.467	1½
Orlando	14	17	.452	2
Washington	12	20	.375	4½
Atlanta	8	23	.258	8

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	22	9	.710	—
Indiana	21	12	.636	2
Detroit	15	15	.500	6½
Cleveland	8	25	.242	15
Chicago	8	25	.242	15

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	18	15	.545	—
Houston	16	15	.516	1
Memphis	16	16	.500	1½
Dallas	15	15	.500	1½
New Orleans	15	18	.455	3

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	21	10	.677	—
Oklahoma City	20	10	.667	½
Portland	18	14	.563	3½
Utah	16	17	.485	6
Minnesota	14	18	.438	7½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	21	11	.656	—
L.A. Lakers	19	13	.594	2
L.A. Clippers	19	13	.594	2
Sacramento	17	15	.531	4
Phoenix	8	24	.250	13

Friday's Scores

Charlotte 98, Detroit 86

Toronto 126, Cleveland 110

Atlanta 114, New York 107

Indiana 114, Brooklyn 106

Chicago 90, Orlando 80

Milwaukee 120, Boston 107

San Antonio 124, Minnesota 98

Sacramento 102, Memphis 99

Utah 120, Portland 90

L.A. Lakers 112, New Orleans 104

Saturday's Scores

L.A. Clippers 132, Denver 111

Phoenix at Washington, late

Toronto at Philadelphia, late

Milwaukee at Miami, late

San Antonio at Houston, late

Dallas at Golden State, late

Oklahoma City at Utah, late

Today's Games

Atlanta at Detroit, 3 p.m.

Washington at Indiana, 4 p.m.

Charlotte at Boston, 5 p.m.

Chicago at Cleveland, 5 p.m.

Miami at Orlando, 5 p.m.

New Orleans at Sacramento, 5 p.m.

Phoenix at Brooklyn, 5 p.m.

Minnesota at Oklahoma City, 7 p.m.

L.A. Clippers at Golden State, 7:30 p.m.

Dallas at Portland, 8 p.m.

Memphis at L.A. Lakers, 8:30 p.m.

NHL GLANCE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	36	27	7	2	56	148	103
Toronto	35	23	10	2	48	130	96
Buffalo	36	20	11	5	45	108	105
Boston	36	20	12	4	44	102	91
Montreal	37	19	13	5	43	115	117
Detroit	37	15	17	5	35	105	121
Florida	34	14	14	6	34	109	122
Ottawa	36	15	17	4	34	118	140

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	34	21	10	3	45	125	103
Columbus	35	20	12	3	43	114	109
Pittsburgh	35	17	12	6	40	116	110
N.Y. Islanders	34	17	13	4	38	98	97
N.Y. Rangers	33	15	13	5	35	97	107
Carolina	33	14	14	5	33	85	97
Philadelphia	34	14	16	4	32	101	123
New Jersey	34	12	15	7	31	102	122

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Winnipeg	35	23	10	2	48	127	101
Nashville	37	22	13	2	46	111	95
Colorado	36	19	11	6	44	125	109
Dallas	35	17	15	3	37	96	98
Minnesota	34	17	15	2	36	102	97
St. Louis	34	14	16	4	32	96	114
Chicago	36	13	19	6	32	108	139

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Calgary	37	22	12	3	47	127	103
San Jose	37	19	12	6	44	121	111
Anaheim	37	19	13	5	43	95	106
Vegas	36	20	15	3	43	114	108
Edmonton	35	18	14	3	39	99	105
Vancouver	38	17	17	4	38	117	124
Arizona	34	14	18	2	30	83	94
Los Angeles	36	13	20	3	29	82	109

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Friday's Scores

Washington 2, Buffalo 1

New Jersey 5, Ottawa 2

Chicago 2, Colorado 1

Saturday's Scores

Boston 5, Nashville 2

Columbus 4, Philadelphia 3

Florida 2, Detroit 1

St. Louis 3, Calgary 1

Montreal 4, Vegas 3, OT

Los Angeles 3, San Jose 2, OT

Colorado at Arizona, late

Anaheim at Buffalo, late

Washington at Ottawa, late

Pittsburgh at Carolina, late

N.Y. Rangers at Toronto, late

Dallas at Minnesota, late

Winnipeg at Vancouver, late

Tampa Bay at Edmonton, late

Today's Games

Columbus at New Jersey, 11:30 a.m.

Boston at Carolina, 4 p.m.

Florida at Chicago, 6 p.m.

Philadelphia at N.Y. Rangers, 6 p.m.

Detroit at Toronto, 6:30 p.m.

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

Los Angeles at Vegas, 7 p.m.

Arizona at San Jose, 7 p.m.

SKI REPORT

New Mexico

Angel Fire — Wed 5:43 am machine groomed 19-19 base 32 of 78 trails 49% open, 6 of 7 lifts, Mon-Thu: 9a-4p Fri: 9a-8p Sat: 9a-8p Sun: 9a-4p

Enchanted Forest XC — Wed No Recent information machine groomed 6-16 base 40 of 40 trails, 20 miles Mon-Fri: 9a-4:30p Sat/Sun: 9a-4:30p

Pajarito — Plan to Open 12/30 Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p

Red River — Wed 7:40 am machine groomed 24-24 base 42 of 63 trails 67% open, 6 of 7 lifts, sm Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p

Sipapu — Wed 10:49 pm packed powder machine groomed 17-23 base 30 of 43 trails, 70% open 6 of 6 lifts Mon-Fri 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p

Ski Apache — Wed 8:57 am machine groomed 24-24 base 5 of 55 trails, 9% open 2 of 10 lifts, sm Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p

Ski Santa Fe — Wed 4:29 pm variable machine groomed 33-33 base 81 of 83 trails 98% open, 7 of 7 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p

Taos — Wed 10:52 am machine groomed 29-33 base 62 of 110 trails, 56% open 13 of 15 lifts, sm Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p

ROCKIES

Colorado

Arapahoe Basin — Wed 5:21 am 3 new powder machine groomed 41-41 base 118 of 145 trails, 81% open, 1199 acres, 9 of 9 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p

Aspen Highlands — Wed 5:44 am packed powder 30-40 base 110 of 122 trails 90% open, 983 acres, 5 of 5 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-3:30p Sat/Sun: 9a-3:30p

Aspen Mountain — Wed 5:41 am packed powder machine groomed 23-25 base 67 of 76 trails 88% open, 622 acres, 6 of 8 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-3:30p Sat/Sun: 9a-3:30p

Beaver Creek — Wed 4:22 am 3 new packed powder machine groomed 30-30 base 121 of 150 trails, 78% open, 1432 acres, 23 of 25 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-3:30p Sat/Sun: 9a-3:30p

Breckenridge — Wed 8:06 am 1 new packed powder machine groomed 44-44 base 177 of 187 trails, 94% open, 2745 acres, 33 of 35 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p

Buttermilk — Wed 5:42 am packed powder 16-17 base 36 of 44 trails 82% open, 416 acres, 5 of 8 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-3:30p Sat/Sun: 9a-3:30p

Cooper — Wed 5:31 am 1 new packed powder machine groomed 27-42 base 41 of 41 trails 100% open, 400 acres, 4 of 4 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p

Copper Mountain — Wed 5:26 am 1 new packed powder 33-33 base 140 of 158 trails, 89% open, 20 of 23 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p

Crested Butte — Wed 5:36 am 1 new packed powder machine groomed 31-31 base 85 of 121 trails, 70% open, 666 acres, 12 of 15 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p

Echo Mountain — Wed 10:38 am machine groomed 16-16 base 4 of 8 trails 50% open, 2 of 3 lifts, sm Tue-Fri: 11a-9p Sat: 9a-9p Sun: 9a-5p Open Tue-Sun Dec 24: 9a-5p Dec 31: 9a-5p

Eldora — Wed 5:52 am 1 new powder machine groomed 25-25 base 49 of 65 trails 75% open, 340 acres, 10 of 10 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p

Keystone — Wed 4:57 am 1 new packed powder machine groomed 29-29 base 100 of 128 trails 88% open, 2769 acres, 20 of 20 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p

Loveland — Wed 4:37 am 3 new powder machine groomed 38-38 base 78 of 94 trails 83% open, 1212 acres, 9 of 10 lifts, sm Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p

Monarch — Wed 5:50 am 1 new packed powder machine groomed 32-32 base 56 of 64 trails 88% open, 704 acres, 7 of 7 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p

Powderhorn — Wed 5:22 am packed powder machine groomed 25-25 base 32 of 42 trails 76% open, 4 of 5 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p

Purgatory — Wed 4:54 am machine groomed 17-23 base 31 of 101 trails 31% open, 476 acres, 8 of 12 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p

Silverton Mountain — Wed 5:48 am 2 new powder 30-75 base 69 of 69 trails, 100% open, 26819 acres Mon-Fri: 9a-3p Sat/Sun: 9a-3p

Ski Granby Ranch — Wed 8:28 am 1 new packed powder machine groomed 18-18 base 18 of 40 trails, 45% open, 180 acres, 4 of 5 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p

Snowmass — Wed 5:45 am 1 new packed powder 23-36 base 84 of 93 trails 90% open, 2791 acres, 18 of 20 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-3:30p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p

Steamboat — Wed 5:17 am 4 new packed powder machine groomed 36-47 base 168 of 169 trails 99% open, 2931 acres, 16 of 18 lifts, sm Mon: 8:30a-4p, 9:30p-8:30p Tue: 8:30a-4p Wed-Fri: 8:30a-4p, 9:30p-8:30p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p, 9:30-8:30p

Texas A&M thumps Marshall 92-68

Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION — Christian Mekowulu and TJ Starks each scored 17 points and Josh Nebo added 16 as Texas A&M defeated Marshall 92-68 on Saturday afternoon.

The Aggies dominated the Thundering Herd in rebounds (54-30), points in the paint (58-24) and bench points (44-14). Rondale Watson led the Thundering Herd with 19 points and C.J. Burks added 18, while A&M's Savion Flagg led all rebounders with a dozen.

Marshall led 27-24 with 6:47 remaining in the first half, before the Aggies heated up to close out the first 20 minutes. Starks, who came off the bench for the first time this season, sank a 3-pointer to tie the game at 27-27 with 6:23 to the break, and A&M guard Brandon Mahan and Nebo took over from there.

Mahan scored A&M's next four points, and Nebo then collected three field goals — including two tip-ins and a dunk — in the final four minutes to lift the Aggies to a 41-33 lead at the break. It was all downhill from there for the Thundering Herd, who saw a two-game win streak snapped.

Marshall backup forward Iran Bennett hurt his ankle in the first half in trying to defend an A&M drive to the basket, and Bennett sat out the second half with a walking boot on his right foot.

Big picture

Marshall: The Thundering Herd are closing out their nonconference schedule with a couple of "name" opponents in A&M and Virginia, and the experience of playing a couple of salty SEC and ACC foes will only help Marshall in Conference USA play — despite the double-digit thumping on Saturday.

A&M: The Aggies continue to play without senior guard and leader Admon Gilder, who's missed all 10 games with an undisclosed health issue, but they're playing their best ball of the season with SEC play right around the corner.

A&M has won five consecutive games for the first time since opening last season 8-0, a squad that made the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament.

Up next

Marshall also breaks for Christmas before playing at Virginia on New Year's Eve, in its last nonconference game before opening Conference USA play on Jan. 3 at Old Dominion.

A&M breaks for a few days for Christmas prior to playing host to Texas Southern on Dec. 29, in its final nonconference contest before beginning SEC play on Jan. 5 at home against Arkansas.

MEN'S TOP 25 COLLEGE BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NO. 3 TENNESSEE 83
WAKE FOREST 64

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Grant Williams had 22 points and 10 rebounds as No. 3 Tennessee trounced Wake Forest 83-64 on Saturday for its sixth consecutive victory.

Kyle Alexander scored a career-high 19 points and had eight rebounds to help Tennessee (10-1) extend its home winning streak to 15 games. The Volunteers haven't lost at Thompson-Boling Arena since last season, falling 94-84 to Auburn on Jan. 2.

Chaundee Brown scored 19 points and Brandon Childress added 14 for Wake Forest (6-4). Jordan Bone had 18 points and Admiral Schofield scored 12 for Tennessee.

NO. 4 MICHIGAN 71
AIR FORCE 50

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Iggy Brazdeikis scored 19 points and Charles Matthews added 17 to lead Michigan past Air Force.

The Wolverines (12-0) went on a 19-3 run in the first half and never looked back. Michigan is 12-0 for only the third time in school history. The Wolverines also did it in 1985-86 and 2012-13.

Jordan Poole and Isaiah Livers scored 11 points each for Michigan. Lavelle Scottie led the Falcons (4-7) with 16.

NO. 5 VIRGINIA 72
WILLIAM & MARY 40

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — De'Andre Hunter scored 18 points, Kyle Guy had 16 and Virginia pulled away after halftime and beat William & Mary.

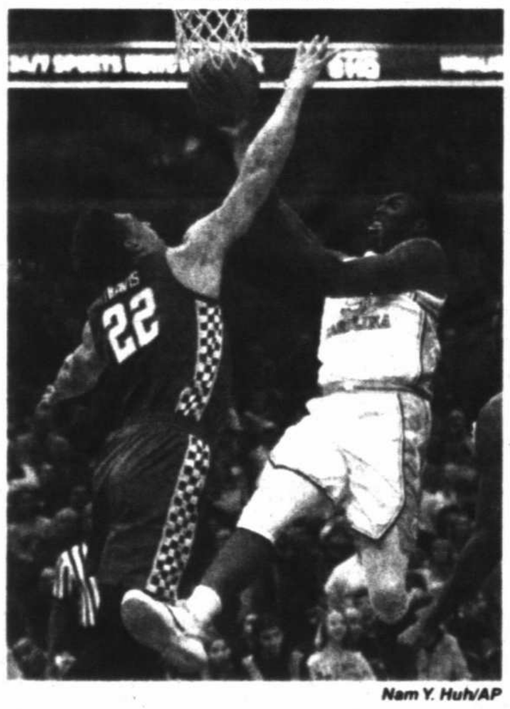
The Tribe (4-8) used a 14-3 run spanning halftime to trim a 17-point deficit to 34-28 early in the second half, but Mamadi Diakite's basket sparked a 17-2 run that put Virginia (11-0) in command again. Guy had nine points in the run, including the last six.

NO. 7 AUBURN 93
MURRAY STATE 88

AUBURN, Ala. — Samir Doughty scored 20 points, Austin Wiley had 17 points and 10 rebounds and Auburn held off Murray State.

Doughty and Wiley were two of five players to score in double figures for Auburn (10-2). Chuma Okeke had 17 points, Harper finished with 12 and Bryce Brown added 11.

Ja Morant led Murray State (8-2) with 25 points and eight rebounds.



Nam Y. Huh/AP

North Carolina forward Nassir Little, right, shoots against Kentucky forward Reid Travis on Saturday during the first half in the fifth annual CBS Sports Classic in Chicago

NO. 19 KENTUCKY 80
NO. 9 NORTH CAROLINA 72

CHICAGO — Keldon Johnson scored 23 points, Reid Travis added 20, and Kentucky beat North Carolina in a matchup between two of college basketball's winningest programs.

Johnson scored 16 in the second half, helping the Wildcats (9-2) hold off the Tar Heels (8-3) in their first meeting since the 2017 NCAA South Regional final. Kentucky won its second in a row since an overtime loss to Seton Hall at Madison Square Garden.

NO. 11 FLORIDA STATE 81
SAINT LOUIS 59

SUNRISE, Fla. — David Nichols scored a season-high 19 points off the bench and Florida State shot a season-best 55 percent to beat Saint Louis in the one-day Orange Bowl Classic.

The Billikens shot only 30 percent — their season low, and the best effort yet for Florida State's defense.

NO. 15 OHIO STATE 80
UCLA 66

CHICAGO — C.J. Jackson scored 20 of his 22 points in the second half, and Ohio State handed UCLA its third consecutive loss.

Kaleb Wesson had 15 points and 12 rebounds for the Buckeyes (11-1), who have won five in a row since its only loss of the season last month against Syracuse. Ohio State got its second win at the United Center this season in the opener of the CBS Sports Classic.

NO. 16 WISCONSIN 84
GRAMBLING STATE 53

MADISON, Wis. — Ethan Happ scored 19 points and grabbed his 1,000th career rebound, sending Wisconsin past Grambling State.

Happ finished with eight rebounds for Wisconsin (10-2). He is the 15th player in Big Ten history to reach 1,000 rebounds.

D'Mitrik Trice scored 14 points for the Badgers. Dallas Polk-Hilliard had 17 points and 10 rebounds to lead Grambling State (6-7).

NO. 22 INDIANA 94
JACKSONVILLE 64

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Juwan Morgan recorded the second triple-double in Indiana history and the 22nd-ranked Hoosiers won their sixth straight, 94-64 over Jacksonville on Saturday night.

Morgan finished with 10 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists, joining Steve Downing against Michigan in 1971 as the only Indiana player to accomplish the feat. Downing did it with points, rebounds and blocks. Morgan went 5-for-5 from the field and added three blocks and two steals.

NO. 23 IOWA 110
SAVANNAH STATE 64

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Joe Wieskamp scored a career-high 24 points, Jordan Bohannon had 18 on six 3s and Iowa blew past Savannah State for its fourth straight victory.

Tyler Cook scored 16 points in 17 minutes for the Hawkeyes (10-2).

Zach Sellers had 18 points for Savannah State (3-11), which has lost seven in a row.

NO. 25 NEBRASKA 86
CAL STATE FULLERTON 62

LINCOLN, Neb. — James Palmer Jr. scored 23 points and Nebraska took control midway through the first half to defeat Cal State Fullerton.

Nebraska (10-2) won its 18th straight home game, a streak dating to last season. Isaiah Roby had 20 points for the Cornhuskers.

Kyle Allman Jr. had 14 of his 16 points in the second half to lead Cal State Fullerton (3-9).

COLLEGE BASKETBALL SCOREBOARD

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEN

College Basketball Scores

Saturday

EAST

Alabama A&M 67, Tulane 59
American U. 82, Md.-Eastern Shore 58
Brown 78, Marist 53
CCSU 93, Maine 90, 2OT
Duquesne 85, E. Kentucky 84, OT
Fairfield 63, New Hampshire 57
Georgetown 102, UALR 94, OT
Harvard 75, George Washington 61
Hofstra 107, Rosemont 54
Holy Cross 80, Siena 57
La Salle 57, Towson 51
Lehigh 88, St. Francis (Pa.) 76
Mount St. Mary's 83, St. Mary's (Md.) 44
Niagara 78, Army 66
Richmond 74, High Point 59
Rutgers 68, Columbia 65, OT
Saint Joseph's 45, Loyola of Chicago 42
Stony Brook 74, Quinnipiac 73
Syracuse 82, Arkansas St. 52
Temple 82, Drexel 64
Villanova 81, UConn 58
Wagner 77, Hartford 68
West Virginia 74, Jacksonville St. 72
Yale 99, Iona 84

SOUTH

Alabama A&M 67, Tulane 59
Auburn 93, Murray St. 88
Austin Peay 75, Liberty 66
Campbell 70, Alabama St. 69
Clemson 78, South Carolina 68
Davidson 88, Central Penn 54
Florida 77, Florida Gulf Coast 56
Florida St. 81, Saint Louis 59
Georgia 70, Georgia Tech 59
Hampton 89, Howard 82
Kentucky 80, North Carolina 72
Louisiana Tech 73, Texas A&M-CC 68
Memphis 99, Tennessee St. 41
Miami 75, FAU 55
NC State 98, SC-Upstate 71
Nicholls 84, Mobile 67
Old Dominion 76, Morgan St. 53
Richmond 74, High Point 59
Seton Hall 78, Maryland 74
Tennessee 83, Wake Forest 64
Thomas More 78, Mount St. Joseph 47
UNC Greensboro 83, Samford 75
VCU 70, Wichita St. 54
Virginia 72, William & Mary 40
W. Kentucky 71, Saint Mary's (Cal) 68

MIDWEST

Boston College 65, DePaul 62
Bradley 83, SE Louisiana 60
CS Northridge 85, SIU-Edwardsville 79
Cent. Michigan 81, Jackson St. 72
Cincinnati 77, SC State 56
Dayton 81, Presbyterian 69
E. Michigan 91, Siena Heights 71
Edgewood 77, Wis. Lutheran 70
Evansville 86, Green Bay 75
Iowa 110, Savannah St. 64
Michigan 71, Air Force 50
Michigan-Dearborn 58, Aquinas 55
Milwaukee 67, W. Michigan 66
Milwaukee Engineering 96, Lakeland 84
Missouri St. 93, Ark.-Pine Bluff 72
N. Illinois 100, Chicago St. 59
N. Iowa 84, North Dakota 62
Nebraska 86, Cal St.-Fullerton 62
Ohio St. 80, UCLA 66
Spalding 59, Adrian 58
UMKC 95, Elon 59
Winthrop 79, S. Illinois 71
Wis.-La Crosse 58, Carroll (Wis.) 54
Wisconsin 84, Grambling St. 53

SOUTHWEST

Arkansas 73, Texas State 70
Texas A&M 92, Marshall 68

FAR WEST

Boise St. 83, Pacific 71
CS Northridge 85, SIU-Edwardsville 79
Indiana St. 72, Colorado 67
Long Beach St. 84, Colorado St. 61
Ohio St. 80, UCLA 66
Penn 75, New Mexico 65
Rider 74, N. Colorado 67
San Francisco 74, Stanford 65
UC Riverside 80, Loyola Marymount 53
UC Santa Barbara 84, Idaho St. 65
UNLV 73, Hawaii 59
Utah Valley 85, Sam Houston St. 79
Weber St. 83, Delaware St. 69

WOMEN

College Basketball Scores

Saturday

EAST

Liberty 55, Duquesne 51
Loyola (Md.) 75, Monmouth (NJ) 67
Northeastern 63, Maine 55

SOUTH

Auburn 96, Elon 42
Liberty 55, Duquesne 51
Ohio 109, Richmond 58
Towson 76, Marshall 69
Tulane 67, Texas St. 61

MIDWEST

Jackson St. 72, Ill.-Chicago 57
Minnesota 91, Rhode Island 71
Notre Dame 87, Marquette 63
St. Mary's (Minn.) 72, North Central (Minn.) 57
Xavier 61, New Orleans 45

SOUTHWEST

Oklahoma 77, SMU 61
Southern Cal 73, Texas-Arlington 61
Texas Tech 75, Texas Southern 55

FAR WEST

Jackson St. 72, UIC 57
Long Beach St. 56, Utah St. 48
Pacific 72, Cal St.-Fullerton 64
Saint Mary's (Cal) 83, Old Dominion 65
UConn 76, California 66
Utah Valley 56, UC Riverside 53

MIDLAND HUMANE COALITION

P.O Box 53213 | Midland, TX 79710 | midlandhumane.org

We are just $57,000 short of our goal of $3M to build the Van and Joe Mabee Wellness & Treatment Center, visit our website at midlandhumane.org for ways you can help us reach the goal by the end of 2018!

Tell us your rescue story! Send a 30-60 second video of how your adopted pet has changed your life. Use Facebook Messenger or email it to ourstory@midlandhumane.org and you might just see it on local tv!



Cammie is a 4-month-old female Domestic Short Hair with dilute calico markings. She has a solid grey nose and half grey mark that splits her chin. Cammie was rescued from Midland Animal Services with her sister, Lilly. Both Cammie and Lilly are shy in their new surroundings. They are friendly and enjoy petting and affection in the safe zone of their kennel space.

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(fully vetted & chipped)

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MIDLAND HUMANE COALITION

$70 Spay & Neuter Vouchers available for Midland County & City of Midland residents! Learn more & sign up at: **midlandhumane.org**

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Mark Zaleski/AP

Tennessee Titans quarterback Blaine Gabbert (7) is pressured by Washington Redskins outside linebacker Ryan Kerrigan (91) Saturday in the second half in Nashville, Tenn.

Gabbert keeps Titans' hopes alive, beating Redskins 25-16

By Teresa M. Walker
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Blaine Gabbert threw a 2-yard touchdown pass to MyCole Pruitt with 4:30 left and the Tennessee Titans kept their playoff hopes alive by rallying to beat the Washington Redskins 25-16 on Saturday.

Gabbert came off the bench for the third time this season after the Redskins knocked Marcus Mariota out of the game late in the first half with a stinger. Gabbert hit Taywan Taylor for 35 yards to jump-start the winning drive, Derrick Henry ran four times for 33 yards, his last an 18-yarder to the 2. Gabbert then hit Pruitt at the back of the end zone.

The Titans (9-6) now must beat Andrew Luck and the Indianapolis Colts and have either Baltimore or Pittsburgh lose once to earn the AFC's second wild-card spot for a second consecutive playoff berth.

Safety Kevin Byard intercepted Josh Johnson's pass on third-and-3 with 1:17 left. Then Malcolm Butler picked off a pass as time expired and ran 56 yards for an emphatic TD.

The Redskins (7-8) have lost five of six.

Mariota had thrown for 110 yards when sacked with 48 seconds left in the first half by defensive end Jonathan Allen. His right, throwing shoulder and arm were examined, then he walked to the locker room and was replaced by Gabbert.

The Titans said Mariota suffered a stinger, the same injury that knocked him out of Tennessee's loss Nov. 18 at Indianapolis. He also was knocked out of the season opener with an elbow injury that cost him a start.

Gabbert threw for 101 yards, and Henry finished with 84 yards and a TD on 21 carries.

Adrian Peterson ran for 119 yards for Washington. That put him over 1,000 yards for the season for the first time since 2015 and made him the 12th player in NFL history with eight or more seasons with 1,000 yards rushing.

Johnson threw for 153 yards and a TD. Dustin Hopkins kicked field goals of 50, 40 and 46 yards, and Washington finished with three sacks.

The fourth quarterback to start this season for Washington this season, Johnson drove the Redskins on the NFL's second-longest drive this season, taking the ball with 26 seconds left in the first quarter and then eating up 10:58 off the clock, going 98 yards over 17 plays. Johnson capped the drive with a 7-yard TD pass to Michael Floyd for a 10-6 lead.

Injuries

With Washington already thin at guard, guard Zac Kerin hurt a knee on the Redskins' second drive of the game but was able to return. Redskins defensive end Matt Ioannidis hurt a hamstring.

Titans Pro Bowl defensive tackle Jurrell Casey aggravated a knee that kept him out of practice all week with 4:21 left.

Up next

Redskins: Host Philadelphia.

Titans: Host the Colts.

NFL glance

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	9	5	0	.643	374	310
Miami	7	7	0	.500	295	374
Buffalo	5	9	0	.357	215	333
N.Y. Jets	4	10	0	.286	292	359

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	10	4	0	.714	352	281
Tennessee	9	6	0	.600	293	270
Indianapolis	8	6	0	.571	372	300
Jacksonville	4	10	0	.286	225	289

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	8	5	1	.607	364	316
Baltimore	8	6	0	.571	341	253
Cleveland	6	7	1	.464	339	348
Cincinnati	6	8	0	.429	337	413

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Kansas City	11	3	0	.786	499	380
x-L.A. Chargers	11	3	0	.786	395	298
Denver	6	8	0	.429	306	299
Oakland	3	11	0	.214	260	418

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	8	6	0	.571	276	269
Philadelphia	7	7	0	.500	311	318
Washington	7	8	0	.467	281	335
N.Y. Giants	5	9	0	.357	307	348

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-New Orleans	12	2	0	.857	459	292
Carolina	6	8	0	.429	333	344
Atlanta	5	9	0	.357	358	381
Tampa Bay	5	9	0	.357	344	403

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Chicago	10	4	0	.714	383	264
Minnesota	7	6	1	.536	323	308
Green Bay	5	8	1	.393	332	331
Detroit	5	9	0	.357	284	333

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-L.A. Rams	11	3	0	.786	448	343
Seattle	8	6	0	.571	363	282
San Francisco	4	10	0	.286	301	373
Arizona	3	11	0	.214	192	367

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Saturday's Scores
Tennessee 25, Washington 16
Baltimore at L.A. Chargers, late

Today's Games
Atlanta at Carolina, Noon
Houston at Philadelphia, Noon
N.Y. Giants at Indianapolis, Noon
Green Bay at N.Y. Jets, Noon
Minnesota at Detroit, Noon
Buffalo at New England, Noon
Cincinnati at Cleveland, Noon
Jacksonville at Miami, Noon
Tampa Bay at Dallas, Noon
L.A. Rams at Arizona, 3:05 p.m.
Chicago at San Francisco, 3:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh at New Orleans, 3:25 p.m.
Kansas City at Seattle, 7:20 p.m.

Monday's Game
Denver at Oakland, 7:15 p.m.

TITANS 25, REDSKINS 16

Washington	3	7	3	3—16
Tennessee	6	3	0	16—25

First Quarter
Was—FG Hopkins 50, 12:09.
Ten—Henry 1 run (kick failed), 5:37.
Second Quarter
Was—Floyd 7 pass from J.Johnson (Hopkins kick), 4:28.
Ten—FG Succop 42, :00.
Third Quarter
Was—FG Hopkins 40, 4:57.
Fourth Quarter
Ten—FG Succop 39, 14:55.
Was—FG Hopkins 46, 8:09.
Ten—Pruitt 2 pass from Gabbert (Succop kick), 4:30.
Ten—Butler 56 interception return, :00.
A—69,746.

	Was	Ten
First downs	17	20
Total Net Yards	292	291
Rushes-yards	34-161	27-99
Passing	131	192
Punt Returns	0-0	1-16
Kickoff Returns	1-28	1-31
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	2-57
Comp-Att-Int	13-23-2	17-25-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-22	3-19
Punts	2-53.5	4-42.3
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	8-49	2-10
Time of Possession	33:03	26:57

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Washington, Peterson 26-119, J.Johnson 4-22, Thompson 4-20. Tennessee, Henry 21-84, Mariota 1-7, D.Lewis 3-5, Jennings 1-2, C.Davis 1-1.

PASSING—Washington, J.Johnson 13-23-2-153. Tennessee, Mariota 10-13-0-110, Gabbert 7-11-0-101, Henry 0-1-0-0.

RECEIVING—Washington, Crowder 5-78, Doctson 3-30, Sprinkle 2-22, Peterson 1-8, Thompson 1-8, Floyd 1-7. Tennessee, Taylor 3-64, C.Davis 3-45, Jennings 3-29, D.Lewis 3-20, Pruitt 2-29, Fitzser 2-16, Henry 1-8.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

Newman leads Wake Forest past Memphis 37-34 in bowl comeback

By John Zenor
Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Jamie Newman's season started on a sour note and finished on a sweet one.

Newman ran for a 1-yard touchdown with 34 seconds left to cap a big performance and Wake Forest's comeback in a 37-34 victory over Memphis in the Birmingham Bowl on Saturday. The quarterback who lost the competition for the starting job in fall camp, then replaced an injured Sam Hartman, delivered big play after big play in a storybook ending to the season.

"When Sam got hurt and Jamie became the starter, it wasn't like, 'Woe is us,' and 'we're in trouble,'" Wake Forest coach Dave Clawson said. "Jamie and Sam were going back and forth all of camp and then Jamie got hurt (bruised quad) in the last scrimmage."

Even after that go-ahead score, the Demon Deacons (7-6) had to wait to celebrate until Riley Patterson's 43-yard field goal attempt went wide right as time expired.

Both teams scored touchdowns over the final 1:15. Memphis (8-6) lost a big lead for the second straight game after jumping ahead by 18 points in the first half.

Voted the game MVP, Newman ran for three touchdowns and passed for a fourth to lead Wake Forest, throwing for 328 yards and rushing 23 times for 91 more.

He led the Demon Deacons on a 75-yard drive starting at the 1:15 mark, covering most of it with completions of 49 and 20 yards to Alex Bachman.

"Alex Bachman made some great plays down there, a lot of one-on-one balls, 50-50 balls, and he won," Newman said.

He rebounded from an early sack on that last scoring drive, and from a pick-six in the first half, too.

"We practice this every Wednesday throughout the week," Newman said of the two-minute drill. "This was just another day at the office out there."

Bachman's second catch was reviewed and the spot was upheld at the 1-yard line after his right arm hit the pylon. Newman kept the ball for the go-ahead score.

Bachman finished with seven catches for 171 yards.

Memphis swiftly moved into position to at least tie the game. Brady White found an open Joey Magnifico on the right sideline for a 44-yard gain, with the tight end battling for extra yards down to the 17.

"I fully expected us to win that game," Tigers coach Mike Norvell said.

The Tigers went backward after that, though, including a false start penalty after Patterson lined up to attempt a game-tying kick.

Wake Forest safety Cameron Glenn said it felt "kind of like an out-of-body experience" when the kick went right.

"I felt like my soul just lifted out of my body or something," Glenn said. "It's crazy."

In the Tigers' last outing, they had led by 17 points against No. 7 UCF in the American Athletic Conference championship game, only to lose 58-41.

Subbing for All-America running back Darrell Henderson, Patrick Taylor Jr. had given Memphis the lead with a 9-yard touchdown to cap a 14-play, 88-yard drive. Before that, the Tigers had come up empty on nine consecutive drives.

"We just kept talking to our guys on the sideline, 'just continue to play,'" Norvell said. "We were struggling there at times in the third and fourth quarter getting things going offensively. I thought our guys responded."

Tony Pollard scored on a 97-yard kickoff return to tie the NCAA career mark with seven. Memphis also scored on a 37-yard interception return by Chris Claybrooks.

The takeaway

Memphis: Lost its fourth straight bowl game and second straight big lead. Ran for 207 yards without Henderson, who skipped the game to prepare for the NFL draft.

Wake Forest: Outgained Memphis 529-378 in total yards. Last five bowl wins have all come after early deficits, including four double-digit holes.

HS FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP ROUNDUP

STAFF REPORTS

6A DIVISION II
LONGVIEW SNAPS
81-YEAR DROUGHT

ARLINGTON – Longview edged Beaumont West Brook, 35-34, in Saturday's Class 6A Division II state championship game at AT&T Stadium, claiming its first state title since 1937.

The Lobos (16-0) rallied from a 34-26 deficit in the fourth quarter and took a 1-point lead when Jessie Anderson scored on a 2-yard run with 4:42 left. Longview's Haynes King completed 16 of 27 passes for 423 yards and two TD passes, while Lobos receiver Kamden Perry hauled in eight receptions for 218 yards and a TD.

The Bruins (13-3) rushed for 369 yards in a losing cause, as La'Ravien Elia had 136 rushing yards and a TD, while Jakobi Holland provided 122 rush yards and two scores. Westbrook's Deonte Simpson had six catches for 106 yards and two TDs.

5A DIVISION I
HIGHLAND PARK
REPEATS AS CHAMPS

ARLINGTON – Chandler Morris tossed three touchdown passes to lead Dallas Highland Park to a 27-17 victory over Alvin Shadow Creek in the Class 5A Division I state championship game, Saturday at AT&T Stadium.

Morris, the son of Arkansas head coach Chad Morris, completed 23 of 35 passes for 262 yards with one interception to earn Offensive MVP honors. Highland Park's Finn Corwin had 12 catches for 142 yards and a TD.

The Scots (16-0) claimed its second straight state championship and sixth overall in school history.

Jamarian George, of the Sharks (15-1), scored on a 99-yard run, the longest play from scrimmage in state championship game history.

5A DIVISION II
ALEDO ROLLS BY
FORT BEND MARSHALL

ARLINGTON – Buoyed by a string of 41 unanswered points, Aledo cruised past Fort Bend Marshall, 55-19, in Friday's Class 5A Division II state championship at AT&T Stadium.

The Bearkats (16-0) claimed their eighth state title, tying Katy, Southlake Carroll, Celina and Richland Springs for most state championships in history. Aledo's Jase McClellan was named the Offensive MVP after rushing 21 times for 149 yards and scoring four total TDs.

Leading 14-12 in the second quarter, the Bearkats erupted with 41 unanswered points to extend their advantage to 55-12 with 5:47 left in the fourth. The Buffalos finished the season at 15-1.

UIL Football State Championships
AT&T Stadium, Arlington
Wednesday
Conference 1A Six-Man Division II –Strawn 48, Follett 0
Conference 1A Six-Man Division I – McLean 100, Milford 70
Conference 2A Division II –Mart 76, Gruver 33
Thursday
Conference 2A Division I – Mason 44, New Deal 6
Conference 3A Division II– Newton 21, Canadian 16
Conference 3A Division I – Grandview 35, Malakoff 21
Friday
Conference 4A Division II –Cuero 40, Texarkana Pleasant Grove 28
Conference 4A Division I – Waco La Vega 35, Liberty Hill 21
Conference 5A Division II – Aledo 55, Fort Bend Marshall 19
Saturday
Conference 5A Division I – Dallas Highland Park 27, Alvin Shadow Creek 17
Conference 6A Division II – Longview 35, Beaumont West Brook 34
Conference 6A Division I – Duncanville (14-0) vs. Galena Park North Shore (15-0), late

ARMY

From 1C

have King or NFL-bound defensive tackle Ed Oliver. King, who will be back next season, was responsible for 50 touchdowns in 11 games before knee surgery. Oliver missed four games because of a bruised right knee, then skipped the bowl game to focus on preparing for the NFL draft.

Army: After a 10-loss season as freshmen, the Black Knights senior class won 29 games the past three seasons. They finished with back-to-back seasons of at least 10 wins. Army is an AP Top 25 team for the first time since 1996, the academy's only other 10-win season.

Up next

Houston plays its 2019 season opener Aug. 31 at Oklahoma.

Army opens the 2019 season at home against Rice on Aug. 30.

2018-19 COLLEGE BOWL GLANCE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saturday, Dec. 15
Celebration Bowl
At Atlanta
N.C. A&T 24, Alcorn State 22
Cure Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
Tulane 41, Louisiana-Lafayette 24
New Mexico Bowl
Albuquerque
Utah State 52, North Texas 13
Las Vegas Bowl
Fresno State 31, Arizona State 20
Camellia Bowl
Montgomery, Ala.
Georgia Southern 23, Eastern Michigan 21
New Orleans Bowl
Appalachian State 45, Middle Tennessee 13
Tuesday, Dec. 18
Boca Raton (Fla.) Bowl
UAB 37, Northern Illinois 13
Wednesday, Dec. 19
Frisco Bowl
Ohio 27, San Diego State 0
Thursday, Dec. 20
Gasparilla Bowl
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
Marshall 38, South Florida 20
Friday, Dec. 21
Bahamas Bowl
Nassau
FIU 35, Toledo 32
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl
Boise
BYU 49, Western Michigan 18
Saturday, Dec. 22
Birmingham (Ala.) Bowl
Wake Forest 37, Memphis 34
Armed Forces Bowl
Fort Worth
Army 70, Houston 14
Dollar General Bowl
Mobile, Ala.
Buffalo (10-3) vs. Troy (9-3), 7 p.m. (ESPN)
Hawaii Bowl
Honolulu
Louisiana Tech (7-5) vs. Hawaii (8-5), 10:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Wednesday, Dec. 26
SERVPRO First Responder Bowl
Dallas
Boston College (7-5) vs. Boise State (10-3), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Quick Lane Bowl
Detroit
Minnesota (6-6) vs. Georgia Tech (7-5), 5:15 p.m. (ESPN)
Cheez-It Bowl
Phoenix
California (7-5) vs. TCU (8-4), 9 p.m. (ESPN)
Thursday, Dec. 27
Independence Bowl
Shreveport, La.
Temple (8-4) vs. Duke (7-5), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Pinstripe Bowl
Bronx, N.Y.
Miami (7-5) vs. Wisconsin (7-5), 5:15 p.m. (ESPN)
Texas Bowl
Houston
Baylor (6-6) vs. Vanderbilt (6-6), 9 p.m. (ESPN)
Friday, Dec. 28
Music City Bowl
Nashville, Tenn.
Purdue (6-6) vs. Auburn (7-5), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Camping World Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
West Virginia (8-4) vs. Syracuse (8-4), 5:15 p.m. (ESPN)
Alamo Bowl
San Antonio
Iowa State (8-4) vs. Washington State (10-2), 9 p.m. (ESPN)
Saturday, Dec. 29
Peach Bowl
Atlanta
Florida (9-3) vs. Michigan (10-2), Noon (ESPN)
Belk Bowl
Charlotte, N.C.
South Carolina (7-5) vs. Virginia (7-5), Noon (ABC)
Arizona Bowl
Tucson, Ariz.
Arkansas State (8-4) vs. Nevada (7-5), 1:15 p.m. (CBSSN)
Cotton Bowl Classic
Arlington
CFP Semifinal, Notre Dame (12-0) vs. Clemson (13-0), 4 p.m. (ESPN)
Orange Bowl
Miami Gardens, Fla.
CFP Semifinal, Oklahoma (12-1) vs. Alabama (13-0), 8 p.m. (ESPN)
Monday, Dec. 31
Military Bowl
Annapolis, Md.
Cincinnati (10-2) vs. Virginia Tech (6-6), Noon (ESPN)
Sun Bowl
El Paso
Stanford (8-4) vs. Pittsburgh (7-6), 2 p.m. (CBS)
Redbox Bowl
Santa Clara, Calif.
Michigan State (7-5) vs. Oregon (8-4), 3 p.m. (FOX)
Liberty Bowl
Memphis, Tenn.
Missouri (8-4) vs. Oklahoma State (8-4), 3:45 p.m. (ESPN)
Holiday Bowl
San Diego
Northwestern (8-5) vs. Utah (8-4), 7 p.m. (FS1)
Gator Bowl
Jacksonville, Fla.
NC State (9-3) vs. Texas A&M (8-4), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Tuesday, Jan. 1
Outback Bowl
Tampa, Fla.
Mississippi State (8-4) vs. Iowa (8-4), Noon (ESPN2)
Citrus Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
Kentucky (9-3) vs. Penn State (9-3), 1 p.m. (ABC)
Fiesta Bowl
Glendale, Ariz.
LSU (9-3) vs. UCF (12-0), 1 p.m. (ESPN)
Rose Bowl
Pasadena, Calif.
Washington (10-3) vs. Ohio State (12-1), 5 p.m. (ESPN)
Sugar Bowl
New Orleans
Texas (9-4) vs. Georgia (11-2), 8:45 p.m. (ESPN)
Monday, Jan. 7
College Football Championship
Santa Clara, Calif.
Cotton Bowl winner vs. Orange Bowl winner, 8 p.m. (ESPN)
Saturday, Jan. 19
East-West Shrine Classic
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
East vs. West, 3 p.m. (NFLN)
NFLPA Collegiate Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
American vs. National, TBA (NFLN)
Saturday, Jan. 26
Senior Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
North vs. South, 2:30 p.m. (NFLN)

Aikman shines, Thursday night NFL package a winner

BARRY WILNER
Associated Press

Thursday night football is here to stay, even if it's gone for the rest of 2018.

In past years, some — make that many — would have said "good riddance." That would be misguided this year.

First off, Fox's presentation generally was strong and on target. Indeed, Troy Aikman, who has been Fox's lead analyst for 17 years, might have had his best season.

Seemingly energized by having a true national game, in prime time with no competition, Aikman not only was spot-on with his analyses, he was more than willing to criticize play calling, performance and officiating.

Presenting your convictions and then sticking to them is a must for a top analyst, and Aikman came through for viewers the way he did as a three-time Super Bowl champion quarterback for Dallas.

"I think after 17 years of doing it somewhat the same way, this was an opportunity to kind of change up my schedule," says Aikman, who at first had some reservations about balancing his family and business responsibilities.

"I think that is fair to say 'energized.' It felt more like an event, being the only game, and in prime time. On Sunday afternoon, especially for the late game, it sure seems like that's when most people prefer to view football. But the prime time has a little bigger of a feel to it.

"We did not feel as restricted to the action on the field; we never feel completely restricted. It certainly freed me up and allowed me to have even more fun within the broadcast."

Fox also wound up with some very solid matchups with intriguing storylines. Yes, NBC had the season opener, a Thursday nighter hosted by the champion Eagles in a rematch of a January playoff game with the Falcons. That wound up 18-12, eerily similar to Philadelphia's previous win over Atlanta. It also, of course, didn't have two teams coming off short weeks.

Then, Fox prospered with three of the better games of the entire season, games that wouldn't have had the same cachet later in the schedule.

Cincinnati's 34-23 victory over Baltimore — look at where those two teams reside now! — was entertaining, with Andy Dalton torching the Ravens with four touchdown passes. It also had the added spice of the Bengals having knocked the Ravens out of playoff contention in the 2017 finale.

A week later — and this was Aikman at his best, even if Jets fans swear play-by-play voice Joe Buck was outwardly rooting for the hosts — the Browns finally got a win, with Baker Mayfield stamping himself as an emerging force in just the third game of his rookie year.

"There were so much expectations with Baker Mayfield in that city. The team had not won a lot of games, and the fans were expecting the team would start to win games, so there was this optimism around the city," Aikman recalls.

"Having been there for the preseason and then we go back in the regular season, you could just feel this energy building and it was a fan base that just wanted to celebrate. And then Baker comes off the bench to lead them to that victory. It was huge and fun to be a part of."

Jets-Cleveland was followed by the Rams' 38-31 shootout victory against the Vikings, when Jared Goff and Kirk Cousins combined for eight TD throws and 887 yards through the air.

For those enamored of the video-game fireworks, well, that was nirvana.

There was plenty of offense all year, even with only three full days between games. Oddly, the only Thursday nighter with teams coming off a previous Thursday contest, Saints at Cowboys the week after Thanksgiving, had the fewest points, 13-10 for the Cowboys.

That also was a mesmerizing drama in which Dallas' defense stamped itself as capable of carrying a contender, shutting down Drew Brees and the ultra-prolific Saints. It also might have featured Aikman and Buck's best work.

"I have become comfortable with where I am at within my job, so to speak," Aikman says. "I always have been comfortable with my opinions and how I feel about the play on the field, and how it should be done and how teams should go about playing the game.

"There have been a lot of league issues and things happening as it relates to our game. I am not trying to grandstand or get on a soap box; that's not my nature. I think I have to be honest in how I feel, and I feel strongly enough in my beliefs to feel I am speaking for the majority of the people viewing."

There was a string of nine Thursday nighters, including New Orleans' 31-17 victory over Atlanta on Thanksgiving night on NBC, in which it took at least 27 points to win. The Steelers went for 52 against Carolina, Denver scored 45 vs. Arizona, and Houston got 42 on Miami.

So complaints about not enough rest between games mostly would come from defensive players — the same folks who have protested, often with validity, about how the rules are stacked against them.

Two teams never made it to the Thursday night spotlight, Tampa Bay and Buffalo. Nobody missed them.

Three others had Thursday outings, but on Thanksgiving afternoon, when Chicago visited Detroit and Washington was at Dallas.

The Eagles, Cowboys, Saints and Falcons all had two Thursday appearances. Aikman and Buck had 14 such games, including Redskins-Cowboys in the late-afternoon Thanksgiving spot. They doubled up Thursday/Sunday assignments seven times.

The longtime partnership Aikman and Buck share made the extra duties much easier to handle.

"Joe is unbelievable, such a ridiculous talent," Aikman says. "Joe is as gifted at his craft as anyone I played with. It's a real marvel how smooth he is and what he sees.

"It's like being married, when you've been around someone for so long you know their habits and patterns, and I know where Joe wants to go right from the start, how he wants to set the tone."

Overall, ratings for the 13-game Thursday night package on Fox, with its simulcast on NFL Network, were up 2 percent over the 2017 season split between CBS and NBC. The average was 14,304,000 viewers, with Chargers-Chiefs in the last of the midweek games shattering the competition at 17.4 million on Fox/NFLN. That also was a 29-28 outcome in which LA scored a TD and 2-point conversion to win at the very end.

NFL games on Thursday nights are a money maker, so much so that the World Series in October hasn't had a scheduled game that night since 2013. Of course, Fox now has the rights to both, and has no plans to create such a conflict.

Wait, how about the World Series leading into Thursday night football?



Michael Ainsworth/AP

Former Dallas Cowboys player and broadcaster Troy Aikman Thursday before a game between the Dallas Cowboys and the New Orleans Saints, in Arlington. Thursday night football is here to stay, even if it's gone for the rest of 2018. In past years, some make that many would have said "good riddance." That would be misguided this year. First off, Fox's presentation generally was strong and on target.

COACH

From 1C

higher seed, they thought that would help them get their first playoff win since 2012.

Sanderson believed that in order to achieve those goals, things had to go right and they would have to avoid key injuries.

The big test

Unfortunately for the Rangers, they started to experience key injuries even before the season started. Two players were involved in a car accident and then senior starting quarterback Jake Somers suffered a thumb injury in an intrasquad scrimmage. The injuries started piling up from there.

"You always have one or two injuries but never to the extent that we had," Sanderson said. "We didn't have minor or nagging injuries, they were injured and had to miss some weeks."

The good news is that many of these injuries happened early in the season and the Rangers were able to make adjustments, although it wasn't easy at times.

"We were able to roll some other guys in and get them some good experience, which gave them confidence down the road and it gave our team confidence of having the ability to put another kid in," Sanderson said. "At one point we were struggling a little bit to figure out who we were because we had changed scheme-wise and what we could do with the kids that we had. Do we need to change? Do we need to adapt and do some things differently because of our personnel? We stayed the course and overall we got everybody back at the right time, especially right before district."

Sanderson said the team not only developed more depth but it made the team stronger.

"We tried to preach to keep playing hard and worry about the things that we can control," he said. "I think the kids accepted that it was what it was and it worked."

Learning to adapt

Sanderson has been coaching 15 years and he said that over time he's learned that he can't control everything that happens, especially injuries.

"You've got to figure out a way not to be emotional about it and make good educated decisions on what you have," he said. "I'm learning how to handle situations better as a coach and not get caught up in injuries, not get caught up in winning games. Sometimes I have to listen to our own coaching. Whatever I talk to kids about we've got to do it as coaches."

Sanderson is also about a cool as most coaches one can encounter. He never gets over-excited and usually displays a calm demeanor. He said that much of that can be attributed to having kids – 11-year-old son Colt and 7-year-old daughter Averi.

"I used to not be like this at all," Sanderson admitted. "I think having kids has changed me as a person for the better. I'm not as quick tempered as I used to be, I'm more laid back and I think my patience has grown.

"I think it helps being in this position to not jump to conclusions and make emotional decisions. You have to step back and really think about what you're going to do and why you're going to do it because it just doesn't affect you, it affects the whole, it affects the team, it affects the community how you handle certain situations. My wife has helped me in that area and my kids have helped me grow as a person."

Sanderson likes to consider the football team as a part of his extended family but also loves to have his own family around the program. His son runs with the Greenwood flag every time the Rangers score a touchdown.

Coaching start

After graduating from Breckenridge High School, Sanderson went to Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene to play football.

He said he wasn't sure at the time of what he wanted to do in life, but he knew he wanted to be involved in sports.

After taking some education classes with some of his teammates, he figured that coaching is what he wanted to do. As it turned out, the rest of his teammates in those classes also became coaches.

"The most influential people outside of my house have been coaches," he said. "I had an unbelievable high school coach that I totally respected, and then I had an opportunity to go play football in college and I had an unbelievable college coach. I learned so much about how to handle certain situations and two different styles of coaching. I revert to those guys a lot when I think about how I want to handle things, how I want to coach and the person that I want to be. One of the things that influenced me the most is how the coaches coached us and how they treated us and taught us to be men."

Sanderson brings those qualities to his job, but he knows that he can't do it alone. It takes the support of the administration and the work of the staff and kids to help the program succeed.

"I can't say enough how hard our staff worked and how hard our kids worked to get the job done," he said.

Other coaches considered for the award: Garden City's Jeff Jones, Lee's Clint Hartman and Midland Christian's Greg McClendon.

Follow Oscar on Twitter: @OLeRoy_MRT

COWBOYS

From 1C

Philadelphia lose. They don't want to go there.

"Guys were excited to get back there and get rid of that last game and kind of build from scratch and kind of build our swag back," said cornerback Byron Jones, who was voted to his first Pro Bowl this week. "I know we're going to come out feisty and fierce."

Things to consider as the Cowboys try to build on a 9-1 home record in the series with the Bucs, 11-1 if you include two playoff wins in the 1980s:

Race is on

Elliott and Todd Gurley of the Los Angeles Rams have been locked in a duel for the rushing lead for several weeks. Elliott, the 2016 rushing champion as a rookie, extended his lead despite the Cowboys' paltry showing at the Colts. He's 98 yards ahead with two games left, and also leads in yards from scrimmage.

Deceptive numbers

The Buccaneers have thrown for 4,464 yards, fourth-most passing yards through the first 14 games in NFL history behind the 2013 Broncos (4,713), 2000 Rams (4,706) and 2011 Saints (4,639). They've dropped from first to third in total offense (416.6 per game) over the past two weeks after leading the league for much of the year.

Although they still have the No. 1 passing attack (318.9), that hasn't translated into scoring enough points to win consistently. The Bucs are 12th in points scored (24.6) and 30th in points allowed (28.8).

Easy on Lee

It would be putting it mildly to say the Cowboys eased Sean Lee back in after the linebacker missed five games with his second hamstring injury of the season. He played seven snaps against the Colts. The emergence of rookie Leighton Vander Esch and Jaylon Smith is the primary reason, although the defense played poorly enough last week that perhaps more playing time for Lee is warranted.

FOLES

From 1C

the system, he knows the guys, knows how to find the open guy and get it to him. He does a great job."

Unlike the Eagles, the Texans fell apart after losing their star quarterback last season. They were 1-8 without Deshaun Watson, who tore a knee ligament in the seventh game. Watson has been outstanding since his return and has Houston on the verge of a playoff berth.

"Everything he's put himself through to be in a position to where he's at today, I can really appreciate that," Pederson said.

Here's some things to look for when the Texans seek their first win over the Eagles in five tries:

Simple and balanced

The Eagles cut back on their pre-snap movement on offense and committed to running the ball in their 30-23 win over the Rams. All three touchdowns were on running plays, two by Wendell Smallwood and one for rookie Josh Adams.

Getting defensive

Already missing three-fourths of their starting secondary and starting nickel cornerback Sidney Jones, the Eagles got a big boost when rookie Avonte Maddox returned to play outside cornerback against the Rams.

Maddox and second-year pro Rasul Douglas had strong performances to help limit a high-powered offense. They'll face another difficult challenge going against DeAndre Hopkins and Demaryius Thomas.

Kicking edge

Texans kicker Ka'imi Fairbairn leads the NFL with 34 field goals and has made 12 in a row, including all five tries in a win over the Jets on the road last week.

"His ability to be able to make all of the different types of kicks that you need to make, especially in outdoor games on the East Coast, it's very important," Texans coach Bill O'Brien said. "He's a very talented kicker."

Double trouble

The Eagles are going with more formations featuring tight ends Zach Ertz and Dallas Goedert on the field together and using two wide receivers and one running back. It helps to create matchup advantages and also improves blocking in the run game.

"That personnel for them with (Goedert) and Ertz on the field at the same time is very challenging. No doubt," O'Brien said.

Leading the way

Hopkins leads the AFC and is third in the NFL with 1,321 yards receiving and he ranks third in the AFC with 11 TD catches. He has 507 career receptions, the second-youngest player (26 years, 6 months, 9 days) to reach 500 behind Larry Fitzgerald (26 years, 2 months, 29 days).

"There's a lot of people that I look up to in those categories that are wearing the yellow jacket right now that I've passed," Hopkins said. "So, of course that means a lot to me."

HS BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

STAFF REPORTS

Friday's late results

Boys

JIM NED 59
COAHOMA 26

COAHOMA – Jim Ned held Coahoma to only 13 points through three quarters and coasted to a victory in the Bulldogs' District 5-3A opener.

Bryson Cline led Coahoma with nine points.

JIM NED 59, COAHOMA 26
Jim Ned (12-2, 2-0 in District 5-3A) – Rhett May 5, Cortland Baum 4, Ethan Senne 18, Caden Martin 2, Case Ford 3, Caden Burke 11, Alex Rosales 3, Dylan Bryant 9
Coahoma (0-1 in District 5-3A) – Brice Martin 2, Joe Manning 7, Zach Schneider 3, Gage Clark 3, Gage Hill 2, Bryson Cline 9

Jim Ned	13	9	25	12 – 59
Coahoma	4	6	3	13 – 26

Girls

JIM NED 53
COAHOMA 23

COAHOMA – Jim Ned took a commanding 36-14 halftime lead in a rout of Coahoma in District 5-3A play.

Caitlyn Corley scored a team-high seven points for the Bulldogettes, who fell to 0-3 in district.

JIM NED 53, COAHOMA 23
Jim Ned (3-0 in District 5-3A) – Taylor Burton 13, Jarvis Mosey 2, Alexis Espinoza 12, Leticia Salas 6, Claire Graham 14, Brooke Galvin 6
Coahoma (0-3 in District 5-3A) – Maree Grant 2, Caitlyn Corley 7, Paige Atkins 2, Karol Corales 5, Cassie Grant 5, Abbie Lopez 2

Jim Ned	11	25	11	6 – 53
Coahoma	5	9	2	5 – 21

Olympian slams ref who told teen wrestler to cut dreadlocks

Associated Press

BUENA, N.J. — An Olympic champion wrestler has reached out to a New Jersey high school wrestler who had his dreadlocks cut off minutes before his match after a referee told him to lose the hairstyle or forfeit his bout.

Jordan Burroughs, a 2012 Olympic gold medalist and four-time world champion, posted and spoke on social media early Saturday about the incident Wednesday at the Buena Regional High School match, saying he had never seen anything like it in a quarter-century of wrestling.

"This is nonsense," a message on Burroughs' twitter account said. "My opinion is that this was a combination of an abuse of power, racism, and just plain negligence." In a video posted on Instagram, he criticized parents and coaching staff at the match for not intervening, calling it "absolutely shameful."

High school wrestler Andrew Johnson, who is black, had a cover over his hair, but referee Alan Maloney, who is white, said that wouldn't do. Johnson went on to win Wednesday's match but appeared visibly distraught. An SNJ Today reporter tweeted a video of Johnson getting his hair cut.

Burroughs drew attention to his demeanor, saying, "He was hurting, and that wasn't fair."

Burroughs called Johnson "courageous" for his performance in the match despite "all of the adversity and racism that you were facing in the moment" and said he understood his reasons for agreeing to the haircut, although it might have been "more powerful" to walk away.



Michael Frankel/SNJTODAY.COM via AP

Buena Regional High School wrestler Andrew Johnson gets his hair cut courtside minutes before his match Wednesday in Buena, N.J., after a referee told Johnson he would forfeit his bout if he didn't have his dreadlocks cut off. Johnson went on to win the match after a SNJ Today reporter tweeted video if the incident, the state's Interscholastic Athletic Association says they are recommending the referee not be assigned to any event until the matter has been reviewed more thoroughly.

Michael Cherenson, spokesman for the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association, said Saturday the organization had reached out to leagues and conferences that assign referees "and they've all agreed" not to assign Maloney to any event until the matter has been reviewed.

Gov. Phil Murphy weighed in on the issue on Twitter, posting a photo of the haircut and saying he was "deeply disturbed" by the story.

"No student should have to needlessly choose between his or her identity and playing sports," the Democratic governor said.

The state attorney general's office has confirmed an investigation by the Division on Civil Rights. The school superintendent said in a letter to the community that they support and stand by all student athletes.

Maloney came under fire in 2016 for using a racial slur against a black referee, according to the Courier Post newspaper. Maloney told the newspaper he did not remember making the comments. After the incident was reported, he agreed to participate in sensitivity training and an alcohol awareness program. A one-year suspension was overturned.

A woman answering the phone at a listed number for Maloney said the ordeal is being blown out of proportion and the referee was simply following rules.

Burroughs also said he hoped to be in touch with Johnson soon and promised to send him "a few cool things for Christmas."

Shiffrin ties World Cup record with 35th win in slalom

Associated Press

COURCHEVEL, France — Mikaela Shiffrin wrote more World Cup history Saturday, winning a slalom for a women's record-equaling 35th career victory in the discipline and 50th win overall.

Shiffrin extended her first-run lead of 0.04 seconds to finish 0.29 clear of Petra Vlhova, who has been runner-up to the American star in all three traditional slaloms this season.

Shiffrin tied her childhood idol Marlies Schild of Austria with 35 slalom wins on the World Cup circuit. Schild's final slalom victory, in December 2013, was achieved at the age of 32. Shiffrin turns 24 in March.

Shiffrin is also the youngest of the eight skiers, four men and four women, to win 50 World Cup races across all disciplines. Swedish great Ingemar Stenmark's 86 wins is the record.

"It's so distracting that they give out those numbers for me," Shiffrin said in a post-race interview. "I was trying as hard as I could not to focus on that today."

Olympic slalom champion Frida Hansdotter was third Saturday, trailing Shiffrin by 0.37.

Shiffrin has won every slalom race since her surprise fourth-placed finish at the Pyeongchang Olympics in February.

She said she was "maybe a bit lucky today" after overcoming a rare error early in her first run. Shiffrin lost speed through a combination of gates, but made up time lower down the Courchevel course to edge ahead of Vlhova.

"I don't know how I snuck away with the lead in the first run. Petra skied better than I did," Shiffrin said.

Shiffrin's seventh win this season, from just 11 races started, earned 100 World Cup points. It extended her lead in the overall standings to a massive 501 points over second-placed Vlhova.

In the World Cup prize money table, Shiffrin's 351,000 Swiss francs ($352,000) is more than three times any other woman racer.

Shiffrin and Schild are joined in the record book for at least one week before the next slalom at Semmering, Austria.

Though now-retired Schild was a pure slalom specialist — gaining only two World Cup race wins in other disciplines — Shiffrin has already won in every discipline.

Shiffrin is also the two-time defending overall champion while Schild never won a giant crystal globe for the season-long title.

Their careers overlapped for a couple of seasons, and Shiffrin beat Schild into the silver-medal position when she won Olympic slalom gold at the 2014 Sochi Winter Games.

Shiffrin's reward over a brief holiday break is to spend time with her French boyfriend, Mathieu Faivre, who competes in giant slalom.

"I'm going to see Mat tomorrow (Sunday), hopefully," she said. "We might be able to ski together a little bit."

WEST TEXAS SPORTS

STAFF REPORTS

To submit an item for West Texas Sports, please either fax, bring in, mail or email your information in hard-copy form to the Reporter-Telegram sports department.

Please make your submission as detailed as possible, including dates of events, deadlines, fees, age groups, etc.

To bring your item to the MRT, come to 201 E. Illinois Ave. in Midland. To mail your information, send it to Reporter-Telegram, c/o Sports Department, 201 E. Illinois Ave., Midland, TX 79701.

You can email it to sports@mrt.com.

BASEBALL

GCM Baseball Academy
What: Professional private baseball lessons & clinics covering pitching, fielding, catching and hitting provided by three former professional players.
For: Ages 5 & up.
Cost: Individual lessons $65 an hour or $40 for 30 minutes. Bulk purchases & group lesson rates available at discount.
For more info: Call (432) 425-6108

Private batting and pitching instruction
For more info: Call Danny Jordan at 230-0096 for instruction on mechanics and pitch selection in a one-on-one setting

Private hitting and catching instruction
For more info: Call Scott Chapman at 967-2364 for instruction in a one-on-one environment.

Pitching, hitting and fielding lessons
For more info: Call Barry Russell at 296-2438

Private Baseball/Softball lessons
For more info: Contact Extra Innings Midland/Odessa at (432) 617-4487 or visit www.extrainnings-midlandodessa.com

Midland Little League Umpires Needed
For more info: Contact 889-6080

WTX Baseball
What: Instruction for players 5 and up
For more info: wtxbaseball.com; facebook.com/wtxbaseballmidland; 413-0329

BASKETBALL

I-20 Jamboree Tournament
What: Boys/girls tournament with 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 and ninth grade divisions
When/where: Dec. Jan. 5-6, Sweetwater High, Sweetwater
Cost: $175 per team with three-game guarantee
For more info: Call Chris Cardenas at 325-374-2910 or e-mail cardenas_chris@yahoo.com

Permian Basketball Association needs officials
For more info: Jim Cox, 685-4143 or 553-3714

YMCA needs basketball referees
For more info: 682-2551

Midland Hoops 32 Basketball Skills Training
Cost: $25 per session, one to two people; $15 for groups of three or more
For more info: Contact Eddie Venzant at 254-6894 or go to midlandhoops32.com; venzanteddie@yahoo.com.

BOWLING

Tuesday Night Petroleum Men's League
When: Meets at 6:45 p.m.
For more info: Melton Post 684-5176 or Cactus Lanes 694-0177

Edith McElmore Three-Person League
When: 10 a.m. Wednesdays
Where: AMF Lanes
For more info: Call AMF Lanes at 689-9725

Reeds Super Bowl
What: Fall/winter leagues registration is currently ongoing.
For more info: Call 432-704-5385

Rock n' Bowl
When: 8 p.m.-1 a.m. Saturdays
Where: Reed's Super Bowl, 3920 W. Wall St.
Cost: $10-25
For more info: Call Zoe Reed at 575-399-5241 or Kevin Reed at 575-441-6646

Color Pin Bowling
When: 7:30 p.m. Fridays
Where: Reed's Super Bowl
Cost: $18 for three games. Cash prizes awarded.
For more info: Call Zoe Reed at 575-399-5241 or Kevin Reed at 575-441-6646

CAMPS/CLINICS

Ten Star All Star Camp
For whom: Boys and girls ages 10-19
For more info: Call (704) 373-0873 for a brochure

COM Aquatic Camps
What: Swimming, diving, snorkeling
Ages: Preschool and grade school
For more info: Call 684-7755

Tennis clinics and lessons
Contact Coach Jon Lanier for clinics and lessons at jlanier@midlandchristianschool.org

CYCLING

Permian Basin Bicycle Association Meetings
When: 7 p.m., third Monday of every month
Where: MCH Mission Fitness, corner of Highway 191 and Faudree Road, Odessa
Dues: $25/$30 for a family
For more info: Peyton's Bikes 699-1718 or go to www.pbbabx.com

DODGEBALL

Sticks and Kicks Leagues
Who: Kids, adults, co-ed players
Cost: $35 per player (8 game season)
Where: Register at Sticks and Kicks, 3918 W. Wall
For more info: Call 520-6633

FLAG FOOTBALL

YMCA Officials Needed
What: The YMCA needs officials for Youth Flag Football games Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.
For more info: Call 682-2551

FOOTBALL

Permian Basin Officials Chapter seeks officials
Note: Education and training will be provided
For more info: Call Terrell Pierce at 559-5004 or Jesse Mendoza at 432-254-9214

GOLF

Hogan Park Women's Golf Association
What: Membership open to any woman over 18 who is interested in golf. All skill levels welcome
When: Playdays are 9 a.m. Thursdays, business meetings held before play the first Thursday of the month
Dues: $35
Handicap fee: $25
For more info: call Mary Jane Belden at 432-638-1654 or Debbie Bounds at 432-413-6040

MARTIAL ARTS

Aikido
When: Monday-Friday, 7-9 p.m.; Saturdays, 12:30 p.m.
Note: Specializing in traditional Hombu style Aikido
For more info: Call John Riggs, 684-7008 or 770-3155

Private Martial Art/Self-Defense Lessons
For: Men-Women-Children
What: Learn Basic Skills to Advanced Techniques
Note: Private, Semi-Private and Group Lessons are available
For more info: Call Master Oscar Jimenez, 432-559-5009, ojimenez3@att.net

Matthews Martial Arts
When: Monday through Thursday, 5-8 p.m.
What: Karate-Judo-Jujitsu-Kempo-KungFu
For: Ages 3 and up
Where: 3205 Cuthbert
For more info: Contact Jason Matthews at 488-7467 or 689-8444

MISCELLANEOUS

Student-Athlete Sports Consultant
For: Assisting high school student athletes with academic-athletic scholarships.
For more info: Call Jacob Santillano at (915) 240-1030

POKER

Lone Star Poker League
What: Free to play Texas Hold 'em Poker tournaments.
For: Beginners to experienced players. Ages 21 and up.
When/where: 6:30 p.m., Sunday, Wednesday and Friday at Woofers & Tweeters; 6:30 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday at Rednecks Drafthouse. Players must be signed in by 6:15 p.m. each night.
For more info: Go to www.lonestarpokertour.net

PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING

Old School Wrestling School
What: Professional wrestling school for all ages.
Where: 404 E. 61st St., Odessa
When: 7-10 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays; 2-6 p.m. Sundays
Cost: $50 down; $35 a month.
For more info: Call Fred, 770-7001, or Sam, 349-3055

RUGBY

Mad Dog Rugby Football Club
Practices: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7-9 p.m. at Reyes-Washburn Park (north field)
For more info call: 432-697-6418

RUNNING

Permian Basin Running Club
Cost: $20 per year for individual membership; $30 for per year for family membership
For more info: Go to www.pbrunningclub.com or email Shawn Halley, president at halleyshawn@pbrunningclub.com

Gazelles Training Group
When: 6 a.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
For more info: Call Popcorn Leonard at 512-762-1020 or 682-0988

SHOOTING

Comanche Trail Shootists
What: Single Action Shooting Society affiliated club in Midland
When: Monthly shoots first Saturday and third Sunday of each month, first Saturday beginning at 10 a.m.; Third Sunday from 1 p.m. (Mandatory safety meeting at 12:30 p.m.) Also shoot on fifth Sunday on months that have them (begin at 1 p.m. and are no cost to the shooter); Mandatory safety meeting at 9:30 a.m.
Where: Timberline Ranch adjacent to Jake's Clays
For more info: Go to comanchetrailshootists.org or call Hoodoo Brown 682-1422.

Midland Shooters Association
What: All types of shooting practice and competition, featuring archery, benchrest rifle, bulls-eye rifle, high power rifle, pistol silhouette, rimfire silhouette, 3 gun, practical pistol, skeet, trap 5 state and sporting clays.
When: Members can access rifle and pistol ranges from sunrise to sunset seven days a week. Shotgun ranges open 11 a.m. until dusk Wednesday to Sunday.
For more info: Go to www.midlandshooters.com

SOCCER

Permian Basin Soccer Association
What: Registration for women's spring/summer season
Where: Dunagan Park, located at corner of Gist and Terrell
When: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 7-8:30 p.m.
For more info: Contact Jesus Chavez at 557-7032 anytime or Josh Chavez at 238-6947 after 6:30 p.m.

Midland Soccer Association
For: Youth Recreational League Ages 4-18
When: Spring/Fall Games
Note: Also information on becoming a certified referee
For more info: Register online at www.midlandsoccer.com and go to 432-684-5425

SOFTBALL

Midland Softball Association Tournament Schedule
Now available at www.midlandsoftball.com
For more info: call Tommy Hawkins at 520-9100

Midland Men's Woodbat Fastpitch Association
For more info: Call 634-6474 or visit www.facebook.com/pages/Midland-Texas-Mens-Fastpitch or wyofastpitch@gmail.com

SWIMMING

COM Pre-competitive swimming
Where: Mabee Aquatic Center
Cost: $49 per month
Prerequisite: Must be able to swim 25 yards of freestyle or backstroke
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Water Aerobics Classes
When: All times, Monday through Saturday
Who: All skill levels
For more info: Call Tommy McAlister at 684-7755

COM Learn to Swim
Ages: All ages
Note: Private, semi-private and group lessons are available
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Masters Swimming
What: Competitive or non-competitive program for adults of all skill levels
When: 5-6 a.m., 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Cost: $40 per month (includes cardio training)
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Diving Instruction
Who: All ages and levels invited
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Learn to Dive
What: Learn basic skills for beginners then advance to pre-competitive and competitive diving that emphasize skilled diving techniques and participation in diving meets
Ages: 4 and up
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Competitive Dive Team
Who: Try out for Bronze, Silver, Gold Prep or Gold levels of COM Dive Team.
What: Emphasizes is on diving techniques and participation in local and out of town competitive meets
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Elite Dive Team
What: Highest level of COM diving. Concentrates on perfecting Olympic level skills, national and international travel
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Competitive Swim Team
Who: Try out for COM Swim Team, tryouts available by appointment
What: Emphasizes stroke correction and participation in local and out of town competitive meets
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Adult Conditioning
What: Allows adult participation use of top quality lap pools and fitness room during specified hours
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Water Walking Class
What: Unstructured, self-paced class
For more info: Call Tommy McAlister at 684-7755

COM Senior Fitness Class
Who: Senior citizens that need help with physical conditions resulting from injury, disease, chronic conditions, advanced age, etc.
For more info: Call Tommy McAlister at 684-7755

Central YMCA Water Aerobics Classes
When: Early morning, morning and evening
For more info: Call Leaf Faller 682-2551

Central YMCA Arthritis Water Exercise Classes
When: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
For more info: Call Leaf Faller 682-2551

Central YMCA Swimming Lessons
Who: All ages and ability
For more info: Call Leaf Faller 682-2551

Central YMCA Synchronized Swimming
For: Ages 6 and up
For more information: Call Leaf Faller 682-2551

TENNIS

West Texas Tennis Association
What: West Texas Tennis Association, a non-profit community tennis association, promotes and oversees USTA leagues, programs and events in the area.
For more info: Call Heidi Winkler at 972-955-8080, e-mail WestTexasTennis@gmail.com or visit www.westtexas-tennis.com.

Bush Tennis Center Clinics
What: Balloon Tennis 34 (ages 3-4); Redball 58 (ages 5-8); Orange and Green Ball 910 (ages 9-10); Junior Development (6th-8th grade; freshman-JV); Junior Select (varsity); RSR Adults (adult beginners); Intermediate Adults; 4.0-5.0 Adults (advanced adults); Also Junior Team Tennis registration now open
Where: Bush Tennis Center
For more info: Visit www.bushtenniscenter.com or call, 620-8180.

USTA Team Tennis Adult Leagues
When: Leagues run May through November
Where: Midland College Tennis Center
For more info: Sherry 620-8610 or Email www.midlandtennis@aol.com

Midland College Tennis
What: Clinics, lessons, leagues, tournaments
Where: Midland College Tennis Center
For more info: Call 687-4046

Midland College Tennis Club
When: A community tennis club
Where: Midland College Tennis Center
Annual Dues: Adults $65, youths $30, families $140
For more info: Call 563-1333 or email midlandtennis-club@aol.com

Midland Women's Tennis Association
Social women's doubles tennis, all levels
When: 9 a.m. Tuesdays
Where: Midland College
For more info: Call 954-707-0622 or email jmalcolm-texas@gmail.com. Or go to the Midland Women's Tennis Association Facebook page

ULTIMATE FRISBEE

Midland Drought Ultimate Frisbee Club
What: The Club plays weekly casual pick-up games on Monday (from 7 p.m. to dark) and Saturday mornings (from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) and offer occasional opportunities for tourney travel
For ages: Males and females from the high school level to adult
For more info: Go to www.midlandultimatefrisbee.weebly.com or call Matt at 432-288-3139

WALKING

Midland Walkabout AVA Club
For: All Ages
Annual dues: $15 per family
Walks: One Saturday morning per month
When: First Monday of the month at Murray's Deli on Wadley at 6 p.m.
Who: All ages
For more info: Call 432-697-4310, email gary.petersen@mygrande.net or visit midland-walkabout.wordpress.com

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50 min. Facial of Your Choice
Seaweed Mud Mask
80 min. Massage of Your Choice
Aveda Manicure & Pedicure
Shampoo | Blow Dry | Style
Light Lunch & Beverage
FREE GIFT WITH PURCHASE



A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS
Reg. $300 | **$280**
80 min. Aromatique Massage
Aromatherapy Facial
Aveda Manicure & Pedicure
Shampoo | Blow Dry | Style

WINTER WONDERLAND
Reg. $215 | **$195**
Aromatique Massage
Aromatique Facial
Mini Manicure & Pedicure

HOLIDAY CHEER
Reg. $145 | **$130**
Mini Facial
Focus Massage
Mini Manicure & Pedicure

LET IT SNOW
Reg. $115 | **$105**
Aromatherapy Salt Glow
45 min. Mini Pedicure

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D
SUNDAY
December 23, 2018

homes & classified

814 Neely Ave.



New townhome! Ready soon! This home boasts upscale amenities and construction with many details that make living here a pleasure. A few include wood flooring, gorgeous stairwell, storage under the stairs, Christmas closet, high efficiency HVAC units, 6' masonry fence in back, 22' ceiling in the great room and 8' doors. Within 2,693 square feet, there are three bedrooms, two living areas, two full bathrooms, two half bathrooms and a two-car garage. Schools for this area include Fannin Elementary, San Jacinto Jr. High and Midland High.

When the door opens you will immediately notice the height of the ceiling and the staircase leading up to a landing and living area. This main room is open to the kitchen so everyone can visit easily. Your kitchen has a 10' island and Thor commercial appliances including a 48" built-in freezer and refrigerator. You will love the amount of storage in the kitchen including a walk-in pantry.

The sequestered master is downstairs - relax in the oversized shower with double shower heads, two dressing area, dual sinks and a seperate water closet. The closet is unique with the many built-ins it includes. Every shelf and rod can be tailored for the buyers needs. Upstairs, there is a home office, second living area, and two bedrooms which share a Jack and Jill bathroom.

Outside, there is a small backyard making yard work a breeze. You have plenty of room to barbeque or enjoy the outdoors on the covered porch.

In addition to all of the above, this house has a great downtown location! Near dining, town and shopping, it makes getting anywhere a breeze. Listed at $489,000. MLS#50018458. For additional information, contact Cindy Kellough, Broker (432)556-4044 or Christina McMillan, Broker Associate (432)556-4155.



5312 Quicksand Cove



Another custom home designed by award winning Dallas architect and built by Glenn Miller will be ready soon! Upscale details are everywhere! Wood look tile flooring, modern lighting, oversized baseboards, and crown molding. Plantation shutters, 10' and 12' ceilings, 8 doors and exposed brick in the dining room create a wonderful living space.

Located on a cul-de-sac in the Greathouse Subdivision, this home has 3,081 square feet with three bedrooms, three full bathrooms, one half bathroom, two dining areas, one living area, a two car garage and a separate one car garage. Schools for this home include Greathouse Elementary, Abell Jr. High and Lee High.

As you enter, you will notice a spacious hallway with arched doorways leading to the great room. To the left is the formal dining area and to the right are two bedroom suites. The bedrooms each have walk in closets and their own bath. Between them is a half bath for guests.

The great room features a stacked stone fireplace and walls of windows looking out to the covered back porch. It is open to the gourmet kitchen where you will enjoy stainless appliances, granite countertops and a huge island with a sink and seating space. Walls of cabinets create an amazing amount of storage in addition to the corner walk in pantry. A chef's pantry has adjustable shelves for convenience. Connecting the formal dining to the kitchen is a butler's pantry which has more storage in addition to another pantry.

Informal dining is nearby as well as a hall leading to the laundry room. Here, there are cabinets, a work area and sink. A mud bench in the hall creates great organization. Access to the two-car garage is here as well. The single garage can be turned in to anything-a shop or party room!

The sequestered master features a tray ceiling, very spacious walk-in closet, two dressing areas and sinks, and an oval tub for relaxing! This house has all the extras you will enjoy! Listed at $579,000. MLS#50019272. For additional information, contact Cindy Kellough, Broker (432)556-4044 or Christina McMillan, Broker Associate (432)556-4155.





Cindy Kellough
Broker & Co- Owner
(432)556-4044



Christina McMillan
Broker Associate
(432)556-4155

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Email resume to: john.cegelski@apachecorp.com. REF: PEM

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Home & Office Cleaners wanted $600/weekly. Cleaning position available, working days Mon.- Fri. 11am-2pm. Minimum requirement. Email: patriciatracy184@gmail.com

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Applicants must have a dependable vehicle, valid driver's license and proof of insurance.

For more information and to be considered for a route please contact the Midland Reporter Telegram representative listed below.

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Oscar Ronquillo
432-687-9001

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MRT Midland Reporter Telegram

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The purpose of this position is to assist Circulation department in reaching goals for start pressure, volumes, retention, single copy, and customer service. The primary function of the Circulation Clerk is to handle administrative functions of the department including tracking and analysis.

Maintain reports for Circulation including tracking of start pressure, volumes, service and collection statistics, and retention for all properties in West Texas primarily the Plainview Herald and Midland Reporter Telegram. Report return information to the Accounting department on a timely basis for Plainview Herald and the MRT.

Process customer and DSM written and email correspondence, and respond to their phone inq... es. Work with the call center to resolve customer complaints as well as helping walk in customer's in reference to their account.

Work with customers and delivery staff to resolve delivery questions and service issues for our West Texas properties.

Special projects and administrative support tasks assigned by Circulation Managers as needed.

Designated back-up for other Circulation & Finance support staff members as needed.

Able to react to change productively and handle other essential tasks as assigned.

In order to communicate with company personnel and customers English is vital.

College degree or equivalent years of experience in office management or related areas required.

Proficient computer skills including Microsoft Office package (Excel, Word, PowerPoint and Access), experience in data entry and typing speed minimum 35wpm required.

Customer Service Skills, computer skills, analytical skills. Must be goal oriented, energetic and have good time management and organizational skills. Must be able to react to change productively.

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Nephrologist needed by Midland Kidney Care, PLLC at locations in Midland, TX, Odessa, TX, Big Spring, TX, and Fort Stockton, TX. Requires M.D. or foreign equivalent; completion of residency in Internal Medicine; completion of fellowship in Nephrology, eligibility for medical licensure in Texas. Fax CV to Kristen Kirsch at 949.258.5711.

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New and Reduced Listings

1708 Fort Worth - Commercial building w/4827 sq. ft. Previously used as St. Andrews Presbyterian Mission $595,000
5312 Quicksand Cove - Beautiful Glen Miller Low Maintenance patio home. Large custom kitchen. w/stainless appliances & granite/ Kitchen opens to living & dining, spacious bedrooms! $575,000
910 Kansas Ave - beautiful Old Midland property w/beautiful hardwood flooring throughout, kitchen w/great entertainment space! $375,000
2601 Golf Course Rd - Custom home built by Walt Turner. 2 Living, 2 Dining, 3 Bedroom, 2 bath home, Lots of custom features, great storage and pretty landscaping. Move in and make it your own! $325,000
2911 Sunburst Dr - Fabulous 3 Bedroom/2 Bath home w/Wydewood Estates $279,000

Two Bedrooms

4700 Boulder #607 - Updated bright kitchen with appliances included, updated bathrooms, fresh paint, downstairs corner unit w/fenced in yard ..... U/C...$87,000
4700 Boulder #1111 - Bottom floor 2 bedroom condo w/fenced yard area w/ great updates!!! Sequestered master and inside connections for washer and dryer $84,000

Three Bedrooms

1011 Seaboard Ave- Luxurious traditional southern beauty in heart of Old Midland. Custom built in 2010 on a lot w/mature trees! Open plan, gourmet kitchen and each bedroom has private bath. Just spectacular! Move in condition!! $995,000
1008 W Olds - Unique Old Midland English Tudor style home w/3 Bedrooms/3 Full baths and 2 half baths. Must see to appreciate! $799,500
3 Lakes Dr - Charming two story 3/3.5 with many updates and charm in this Frank Welch design. $795,000
221 Woodridge Circle - Wonderful custom Patio Home in coveted location. Perfect kitchen, sequestered master, sparkling pool. 3 LA, 2 offices/Hobby room, Grand attached workshop w/multiple uses. $685,000
11 Saddle Club Dr- Wonderful in Saddle Club! Fresh paint and new carpet! New AC in May 2018! $675,000
805 Cimarron - Saddle Club Townhouse! Outdoor kitchen, fire pit, 3 car carport pergola. New windows in 2013. HVAC is high efficiency with Space guard filters. One outdoor unit replaced in 2016 ..... $615,000
5312 Quicksand-Beautiful Glenn Miller Low Maintenance patio home now under construction. Completion, late Summer 10'-12' ceilings, crown molding, large windows, Large custom kitchen w/stainless appliances & granite/ Kitchen opens to living & dining, Spacious MBR with tremendous bath & walk thru closet! $575,000
614 Hardy Ave- Beautiful low maintenance townhome in old Midland. Wonderful open floorplan! First floor is the master suite w/huge walk-in closet, powder bath & utility. 2nd floor has 2 guest BR's w/jack & jill, office and x-mas closet! $499,000
5310 Oak Valley Dr - Wonderful in Greathouse! Spacious kitchen w/plenty of storage, granite, double ovens, office nook, beautiful wood burning fireplace, Gorgeous Pergola! $450,000
612 E County Rd 130 - Well maintained home w/Workshop/3rd car garage/RV carport behind main house. Lovely detached guest house in rear of the 2 acre tract with 2 BR's & 2 baths ..... SOLD...$395,500
5711 Los Patios - Beautiful Carrasco resale in Los Patios! This home offers so much-high ceilings, oversized bedrooms, & HUGE great room. Great kitchen and wonderful landscaped backyard w/plush grass, covered back patio and plenty of space for kiddos or pets. ..... SOLD...$390,000
3005 Seville St - Top quality workmanship! Custom finishes! Beautiful granite selection, chef's kitchen w/great work space & pantry. Extra storage! Plus so much more!..Odessa ..... U/C...$389,000
1008 Boyd Ave - Fantastic and updated Ranch style home in Old Midland. Open floor plan w/wood and tile flooring throughout. Backyard has turf and lots of space for entertaining. ..... U/C...$379,900
910 Kansas Ave - Beautiful Old Midland property w/beautiful hardwood flooring throughout, kitchen updated w/stainless appliances & granite countertops. Open flowing plan. low maintenance back yard w/great entertainment space! $370,000
3221 Patrick- Open flowing plan w/large breakfast bar, custom cosmetic large island, double ovens, & granite countertops! ALL BR's are large enough to accommodate king size beds! Tons on storage- Large 2 car garage w/ great storage- enough perks? ..... SOLD...$374,500
5900 Los Patios-Wonderful Kohler made w/ Los Patios unique floor plan! Formal Dining Room plus breakfast nook! Open Kitchen w/granite & lots of storage! Sequestered Master Bedroom w/vaulted ceiling! Two nice size bedrooms share bath! Perfect sized yard! 2 Car Garage! SOLD...$366,500
2601 Golf Course Rd-Custom home built by Walt Turner. 2 Living, 2 Dining, 3 Bedroom, 2 bath home. Lots of custom features, great storage and pretty landscaping. Move in and make it your own! $325,000
3700 County Rd 1290- AS IS WHERE IS SALE. CASH ONLY. Investor special. 2.5 acres to do what you want with, house needs TLC. Garage apartment with kitchen and bath has income potential too. 4 car garage. $299,000
2911 Sunburst Dr - Fabulous 3 Bedroom/2 Bath home in Wydewood Estates $279,000
1008 Odessa-Great old Midland location on the corner! Wonderful mid century architecture. Needs some TLC $275,000
3001 Pointer Ln. -(Bldg. 6 Unit A) LOW MAINTENANCE, quality constructed homes with sky high ceilings, granite, hardwood floors, downstairs master with dual sinks and a HUGE 2 car garage. Yes your truck will fit! In Odessa just off of Billy Hext. ..... U/C...$270,000
3001 Pointer Ln.-(Bldg. 6 Unit C, Bldg. 8 Unit B) Beautifully designed, quality constructed, brand new townhomes on the East side of Odessa just off of Billy Hext. LOW MAINTENANCE, quality constructed homes. Too many amenities to list – come & take a look! ..... U/C...Each Unit $235,000
3001 Pointer Ln.-(Bldg. 5 Unit B and Bldg. 9 Unit B) - Quality constructed, brand new Townhomes on the East side of Odessa. LOW MAINTENANCE, with sky high ceilings, granite, hardwood floors, downstairs master with dual sinks and a HUGE 2 car garage. Too many amenities to list – come and take a look! ..... U/C...Each Unit $235,000

Three Bedrooms

2012 Garfield St-Low maintenance 3 Bedroom/2.5 Bath Town Home with nice courtyard, Many possibilities! ..... U/C...$215,000
3001 Pointer Ln.-(Bldg. 6 Unit D) East side of Odessa just off of Billy Hext. Beautifully designed, quality constructed, brand new townhomes. Too many amenities to list. ..... U/C...Each Unit $210,000
3001 Pointer Ln- (Bldg. 5, Unit A and C and Bldg. 9 Unit A)—Under Construction completion date est.9/2018. Superior quality, high-end amenities, BEAUTIFUL Townhomes on the far East side of Odessa off of Billy Hext. ..... U/C...Each Unit $210,000
5310 Lenora Ave- Beautifully updated 3 Bedroom/2 Bath home w/every possible amenity! Wood-look tile floors, Wonzer kitchen! Fabulous Master Bath redo! Gorgeous tile! Huge Outdoor patio w/colored concrete flooring! Beautiful tree in front! So so much newness & awesomeness!! ..... SOLD...$325,000

Four Bedrooms

907 Clinton - Beautiful in Saddle Club Townhomes! Many updates throughout. Lots of light! Wood and tile flooring, Bathrooms updated with travertine tile and new fixtures. Fantastic Chef's kitchen w/double ovens, updated counter tops and lots of storage $785,500
2901 Sunset Dr - Updated family home w/so much character, space to entertain and pool. White kitchen is obviously the hub of home. Bar, built-in desk and workshop, New windows, steel doors! $635,000
910 Harvard - One of the best views of the duck pond in Midland! Renovated in 2017. Beautiful 4/3, 3 car garage on corner lot in coveted Old Midland. Gourmet kitchen, Separate mother-in-law suite and tons of storage $575,000
2911 Sheldon Ave - Wonderful town house in central Midland! 4BR/3BA/2LA or 3BR/3BA/3LA, great storage, 2 car garage plus circle drive, Saltillo tile, large gallery kitchen, 2 fireplaces, small pool, Spacious, yet low maintenance! $549,000
5007 Castleford Rd.-Like New with so many beautiful updates throughout this premier home in coveted location! Inground pool and spa w/large covered and open patio spaces, secondary grilling patio, Living /family room w/double FP. Wow! ... $539,500
2208 Healy Ave- LOTS OF EXTRAS! 4BR, 2 1/2BA in main house and 1 1/2BA in pool house. .47 acre lot w/patio, cabana, pool, hot tub and yard, in "old Midland". Great for family or entertaining ..... U/C...$499,000
4707 Cherrywood Ct- Interwood Beauty! 4 Bedrooms/3 Baths on cul-de-sac. Move in ready with great yard and community POOL! ..... U/C...$492,000
3000 Deering Dr.-Beautiful 4BR/3.5BA home in Country Club North in Odessa. Open floor plan, nicely updated, all within a gated private drive on 1/2 acre. Sun Room, patio and Sparkling POOL! $469,000
4707 County Rd 60 - SPECTACULAR 2013 custom built 4BR/3.5BA on approx.1 acre. Open Floor Plan, large sequestered master, 1Eca size bedrooms w/huge closets, entertaining area & custom grill $429,000
1423 Aladon St - Terrific 4BR/4BA, 2 living area, 2 dining area home in central Midland! Low maintenance exterior, but tons of space inside! Updated kitchen, nice covered patio in back, storm cellar! hardwood and tile floors, you'll love this versatile plan! $415,000
2107 Humble Ave - Lovely spacious 4 Bedroom/2.5 Bath home in Elk Mar Terrace! $398,000
2910 W Sheldon Ave- MUST SEE 'OLD MIDLAND' HOME! Amazing family home w/traditional charm. Perfect 4BR/2BA, great floors, fabulous trees, updated kitchen, covered outdoor patio w/ lots of grass. ..... U/C...$375,000
3024 San Pedro Dr-Located in Mission Estates. Wonderful 4BR/3BA home w/open floor plan,lots of windows, natural light & hardwood floors! Huge Family Room w/wood burning fireplace! Large & open kitchen. Formal Dining! Both converted and open patio! Midland or Odessa schools! ..... SOLD...$345,000
6719 Yellow Rose Ct- New construction, never lived in 4BR/2BA, open floor plan to include fireplace, granite, blinds, carpet, covered patio and low maintenance rock front yard $315,000

Five or More Bedrooms

2808 Sunburst Dr - Spectacular family home! BIG/BIA. Sequestered master and sequestered guests, tar tons of storage, flagstone pergola patio and fabulous pool! $599,000
3400 Brentwood Dr - ODESSA-Multi use property! Zoned commercial but can be residential. Currently: is office but could be 6 or 7 BR/5BA so many possibilities! $799,000

For Lease

1323 NE Corral Dr- Brand new, never lived in, 4BR/2BA on large corner lot. For lease ..... Monthly $2,200
1211 Godfrey St - Fully furnished super cute & spacious home on quiet street, Small backyard w/a patio and grill, Spacious rooms, stainless appliances & tons of storage ..... For lease monthly $1,600
1201 Florida, Midland- 3,600 sq. ft., 1,800 sq. ft. each unit, recently updated carpet, paint, fixtures, Ready for lease ...per unit monthly $2,300
1201 Golden City Hwy- Two spaces available, both are 1800 sq ft., perfect for retail or office use. Recently remodeled w/fresh paint and carpet, Each unites (1) RR Terrific high traffic location on Garden City Hwy in SE Midland, Convenient to downtown, Rankin Hwy and Interstate 20 and many restaurant and retail businesses ..... $2,500 each monthly...Call RRE Scott or Brandee Hall 682-1111
1409 Connell St.-6,000 sq. ft. industrial/office w/2 restrooms, paved and fenced yard, Perfect for light duty manufacturing, warehouse or storage ..... Call RRE Scott or Brandee Hall 682-1111
E Loop 250 B - 5 acre tract off loop 250 near CR 1150 ..... Call RRE Scott or Brandee Hall 682-1111

Lots, Land and Acreage

I-20, West Moody & Loop 338 in West Odessa-119.26 acres, terrific frontage, Call RRE Scott or Brandee Hall 682-1111 ..... $2,000,000
0101 E Hwy 349- Once in a lifetime opportunity for building a dream home or 2 on file 1.99 ac tract of land! 0 Midland Country Club $799,000
3006 Cardinal Ln- Rare chance at acreage in the city! 3.5 acres of pure heaven. Build your dream home in this wonderful neighborhood. Just drive by and take a look! To see it is to love it! $599,000
5703 E. Co. Rd. 80-2784 sq. ft. with+/-lot plan $399,900
1600 E Taylor Ave, Midland - 3.440 acres of vacant land zoned commercial $195,000
2701 S. County Rd. 1110-Prime location 1.336 acres, to build a home that could face either South County Road 1110 or East County Road 16 ..... $67,000

Commercial Investment Property

1207 S Garfield St - One story office w/2 story 2 bay shop/warehouse, 5,712 sq ft. ..... Call RRE Scott or Brandee Hall 682-1111
604 Hwy 163 B- Industrial warehouse of 4,560 sq ft on 4.18 acres. (for lease) ..... Call RRE Scott or Brandee Hall 682-1111
3900 E. Co. Rd. 1290, Midland, Tx.-Includes 5 buildings on 9.802 acres. Total of 50,035 sq. ft. ..... Call RRE Scott or Brandee Hall 682-1111
1409 Connell St.-6,000 sq. ft. industrial/office w/2 restrooms, paved and fenced yard, Perfect for light duty manufacturing, warehouse or storage ..... Call RRE Scott or Brandee Hall 682-1111
2500 W Louisiana Ave-Location...Location...Location this 45 room facility originally built in 1954 w/new additions since. ...U/C...$2,900,000
3501 Lamesa Rd-4550sf. 50X75 4P3750 sf of main floor w/lobby and 2 bathrooms, 800 sf, is being used as apartment w/1 bath, Kitchen, living and BR space. Currently Midland Gymnastics center $750,000
400 Illinois Ave- An approximately 8,924 sf Office Building, Built in 1982 and previously used as the City of Midland Municipal Court Building $700,000
10001 W CR 72, Midland- 5,020 acres; 4,200 sq. ft. office built in 2015; 2 modular buildings to house overnight drivers; Perfect truck yard $750,000
1708 Fort Worth- Commercial building w/4827 Sq. ft. Previously used as St. Andrews Presbyterian Mission $495,000
11525 W Hwy 158, Gardon City- 20 acres of Ranch/Pasture land w/a 2,300 sq. ft. home/ 4 bed, 3 bath, whole house generator $400,000
1625 Florida Ave - Great access to I-20/Bus. 80/Front St. 3 private offices, lobby/office, kitchen & bath; Warehouse w/two overhead doors - heated & insulated-not cooled, additional storage in loft area/ plus a private office $399,000
600 Broadway St- Light Industrial facility located on the South service road of Interstate 20 at the intersection of First Street or FM 820, Cashorna, TX. FM 820 connects to the Snyder Hwy on the north side of Cashorna $399,000
3400 Brentwood Dr- Odessa- Multi use property! Zoned commercial but can be residential. Currently: is office but could be 6 or 7 BR/5BA so many possibilities! $799,000

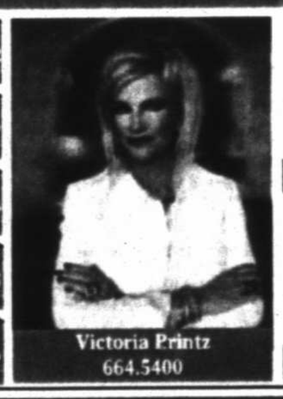
Out of Town Properties

3000 Deering Dr. - Beautiful 4BR/3.5BA home in Country Club North in Odessa. Open floor plan, nicely updated, all within a gated private drive on 1/2 acre. Sun Room, patio and Sparkling POOL! $469,000
3005 Seville St - Top quality workmanship! Custom finishes! Beautiful granite selection, chef's kitchen w/great work space & pantry. Extra storage! Plus so much more!..Odessa ..... U/C...$389,000
3024 San Pedro Dr- Located in Mission Estates. Wonderful 4BR/3BA home w/open floor plan,lots of windows, natural light & hardwood floors! Huge family room w/wood burning fireplace! Large & open kitchen. Formal dining! Both converted and open patio! Midland or Odessa schools! SOLD...$345,000
3400 Brentwood Dr- ODESSA-Multi use property!! Zoned for commercial but can be residential. Currently: is office w/a least 6 offices-Storage area, kitchen, dining & 4 restrooms, 2 utility rooms and BONUS 432 sf. upstairs studio apartment w/bedroom, bathroom & separate outside entrance. Parking pad, courtyard, sunroom & enclosed patio! $299,000
5641 Pointer Ln.-(Bldg. 6 Unit A) LOW MAINTENANCE, quality constructed homes with sky high ceilings, granite, hardwood floors, downstairs master with dual sinks and a HUGE 2 car garage. Yes your truck will fit! In Odessa just off of Billy Hext ... U/C ..$270,000
3001 Pointer Ln.-(Bldg. 6 Unit C, Bldg. 8 Unit B) Beautifully designed, quality constructed, brand new townhomes on the East side of Odessa just off of Billy Hext. LOW MAINTENANCE, quality constructed homes. Too many amenities to list – come & take a look! ..U/C...Each Unit $235,000
3001 Pointer Ln.-(Bldg. 5 Unit B and Bldg. 9 Unit B) - Quality constructed, brand new Townhomes on the East side of Odessa. LOW MAINTENANCE, with sky high ceilings, granite, hardwood floors, downstairs master with dual sinks and a HUGE 2 car garage. Too many amenities to list – come and take a look! ..U/C...Each Unit $235,000
3001 Pointer Ln.-(Bldg. 6 Unit D, Bldg. 8 Unit C) East side of Odessa just off of Billy Hext. Beautifully designed, quality constructed, brand new townhomes. Too many amenities to list. ..U/C...Each Unit $210,000
3001 Pointer Ln- (Bldg. 5, Unit A and C and Bldg. 9 Unit A)—Under Construction completion date est.9/2018. Superior quality, high-end amenities, BEAUTIFUL Townhomes on the far East side of Odessa off of Billy Hext ..... U/C...Each Unit $210,000



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Suju McKee
413.4209


Kerri Payne
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Deborah Jallan
553.4267

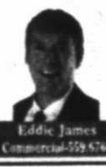
The VICTORIA Printz Team, Realtors®

683-1000


Celeste Rogers
230.8228


Alex Rubacak
Marketing Director


Erica Cross
Marketing


Eddie James
Commercial-559.6769


Bellinda Duke
PPM Property Manager


Mary Taylor
PPM Licensed Agent


Monica Barroso
PPM Marketing Director

4+ BEDROOMS

1410 Bluebird Ln - Absolutely spectacular updated 5 bed/4.5 bath/3 living (great room, formal, study)/2 dining/6 car garage estate on 4 fenced acres in prime location! Dazzling Pool! Outdoor shop/6th car garage/RV parking! Water well+city water/septic! ..$1,995,000
1001 Humble - Absolutely Spectacular 5 Bed/5 Bath+4+Flex Living/2 Dining/4 Car Gar On Landscaped Corner Lot In Heart Of Desirable Old Midland! Unbelievable Re-Model From Ground Up! Gleaming Hardwood, Slate & Marble Flooring Thru-Out! $1,500,000
4524 Corsair Ct - Sweeping golf course views with 5 bed/4 full bath/2 half bath/4 living/2 dining/ Gleaming hardwood floors, soaring ceilings, gourmet kitchen w/large island/ All the bells and whistles! Extra long pool in backyard complete with a cabana, outdoor kitchen and fireplace! $1,395,000
401 Sir Barton Pkwy.- Stunning custom (by Woodruff)- to be completed 5/18! 6-7 bed/4-5 living/2 dining/5.5 bath+ guesthouse w/kitchen & bath! Top appliances, all hardwood floors, upstairs game room & plumbed for pool/water well! $1,350,000
8200 Dunblane - Spectacular private Mediterranean home on 2.5 acres! 4 bed/3 bath/4 living (finished 140 sq.ft. basement)/2 dining/oversized 3 car garage w/fabulous patio & beautiful/lush landscaping! Large patio w/pergola & outdoor kitchen & living! $995,000
1605 Country Club Dr - Spectacular find in the heart of Old Midland! Very spacious (4461 sq.ft.) 5 bed/3 bath/3 living/4 dining home on a lovely (huge) landscaped lot! Two fireplaces and large closets! $749,900
5804 Drexel Ct - Fabulous 4 bed/3.5 bath/3+living (study, great room, formal, huge game room, sitting area-master, 2 more office areas)/2 dining/3 car home on lushly landscaped (fg) lot on cul-de-sac! Many updates! $719,000
2109 Deauna Ln.-Dramatic one-of-a kind 6 bed/6 bath+ 2 1/2 bath/2 dining/9 living (studies, theater, formals, great room, game room, gym)/2 kitchens! Soaring ceilings, lovely marble flooring, theater w/equipment! In-ground pool! $715,000
6312 Prairie Ridge - Spectacular 4 bed/3.5 bath/2 living/2 dining/4 car garage home on beautifully landscaped lot! Gourmet kitchen, soaring ceilings, crown molding & designer color pallet! Outdoor living area & kitchen w/huge backyard! $645,000
10310 SCR 1210 - Fantastic unique property! 1.2 acres w/runway, hanger, office & living accommodations! 50x76 hanger w/retractable door! 2-story w/5 bedrooms/6 full baths/3 living/3 dining/2 car garage w/workshop! $549,000
5010 S County Rd 1213 - Fabulous Country Property 4bed/3Bath/2Dining/1Living/2 Oversized Garage/Plus A 1852'! Workshop, Miles Of Tile & Walls Of Windows! High Ceilings Throughout Home, Gourmet Kitchen Has Gas Cooktop & Granite Counters $429,000
4913 Hacienda - Fabulous Mark Payne resale completed in 2016! 4 bed/2 bath/2 living (great room+game room)/dining area/2 car on lovely street! High ceilings, walls of windows, gas fireplace & gourmet kitchen w/stainless appliances! Lovely, pristine landscaped grounds! $415,000
1010 Haverford Blvd. - Fantastic 4 bed/3.5 bath/2 living/2 din/2 gar (+extra parking pad) home on lovely landscaped lot w/outdoor kitchen (grill, cooktop, fridge, sink, electricity wired)! In-line plan w/spacious beds & large closets! Tile/brick privacy fence & covered patio! $399,900
5709 San Miguel Ave.-Rare gem in Adobe Meadows! One of the largest & most incredible landscaped backyard! Stunning 4 bed/2.5 bath/3 living (great room, game room,media room)/2 dining home w/open living concept! Granite thru-out! $389,000
2511 Culpepper - Centrally located on quiet cul-de-sac, this home is perfect for large families w/ plenty of room for all! 5 Bd/3 baths/ w/ 2 living areas (3,267sq ft) featuring stream in the heart of the house, light & bright living room, cozy den w/ wood-burning fireplace! $369,000
1409 San Miguel Ct - Absolutely Fabulous 4 bed/2.5 bath/2 living (great room+game room)/2 dining/2 car garage home w/lovely landscaped grounds, huge extended patio & lovely large pergola on quiet cul-de-sac! $349,900
3011 Bermuda Ct - Absolutely fabulous 4 bedroom/2.5 Bath 2 living areas and 2 dining/ 2 car gar! Gorgeous kitchen w/granite countertops! Soaring ceilings, walls of windows, crown molding, lovely tile and stained concrete flooring! $345,000
3215 SCR 1080 - Gorgeous home on 1 acre in highly desired greenwood school district perfect for large family w/ room for animals & play! 4 bed/2 bath (2016) home offers a modern contemporary style, open living-kitchen-dining concept light & bright w/ vaulted ceilings! $337,000
813 W Golf Course Rd - Ranch style home great for entertaining! 4 bed/3 bath/2 living/2 dining/2 car gar home on landscaped lot! Huge kitchen! Recent updates: interior paint, new pergola, new roof, a/c's, water heaters, windows & new insulation! ... $329,000
1515 San Francisco-absolutely fantastic 3 bedroom/2 bath/2 living/2 garage home w/ low maintenance zeroscape front yard & landscaped back! Gourmet kitchen w/ stainless appl, granite, island, pantry & skylight $295,000
1900 E 90th Ct-Fabulous 4 bed/2 bath on landscaped cul-de-sac lot! Spacious open living! Kitchen w/granite & stainless appliances! Soaring ceilings, walls of windows & walks of tile flooring (carpet in beds)! $269,000

1, 2 & 3 BEDROOMS

9211 Ellen Joyce Way - Stunning 2-story 3 bed/2.5 bath/2 living/2 dining/3 car garage home w/low maintenance backyard & covered patio! Gourmet kitchen: granite, tile backsplash, "wood" like tile flooring & walls of windows! $577,500
11603 W County Rd 58 - Fabulous spacious home in the country w/gigantic shop. 3 bd/3 bath 3148 sq ft home w/attached 2-car gar includes 2 living areas, 2 dining areas, ? dining areas, huge sequestered master bed & baths, & office on 2.45 Acres $499,900
1505 Whitfield Rd - Unbelievable remodel inside this 3 bed/2.5 bath/2 living/2 dining/2 garage home w/professional landscaping! Gourmet kitchen, marble countertops, freshly painted walls, crown molding & "wood look" flooring! $449,000
5212 Ellen Joyce Way - Spectacular Lance Friday home! 3 bed/2 bath/2 car garage home w/large open living/kitchen, professional grade appliances, buyers still have time to pick finishes! Completion date August 2018! $429,900
5111 Ashdown Pl - Fantastic & spacious 3 bed/2.5 bath/spacious living/2 dining/2 garage home in quiet neighborhood! Recent updates: kitchen cabinetry, master bath w/ granite & private courtyard updated w/turf & pergola $398,000
3216 Sentinel Dr - Cute 3 bed/2 full bath on low maint. corner lot w/circle drive! Front courtyard w/covered patio & fg back covered/open patio! Great room w/floor-to-ceiling brick fireplace, tile flooring & walls of windows! New carpet, interior paint, metal roof! $319,000
414 E Oak - Fantastic 3 bed / 2 bath completely updated with custom finishes! Move in ready! Great kitchen with granite and large island! Hardwood / tile flooring throughout! Great fenced backyard with large concrete patio! $308,000
2907 Corona Dr - Fabulous newer home (2010) in heart of Fannin! 3 bed/2 bath/large great room opens to gourmet kitchen w/granite countertops & stainless appliances! Large backyard with pergola & extended patio! Immaculate! $299,900
2701 SCR 1223 - Great property! this land includes 2701 & 2703 for a total of 2.109 acres! mobile home (3 bed / 2 bath -approx 2100 sqft) pass with sale of the property! home has great stone fireplace! $270,000
4409 Trevino St - Fantastic find! Updated & immaculate 3 bed/2 bath/great room+dining area/2 car garage home! Recent interior paint, carpet (in beds only) & tile! Updated gourmet kitchen w/stainless appliances! Private backyard w/covered patio! $259,000
606 Dallas Jl (Coleman) - Quaint 2 bed/2 bath home nicely maintained (age unknown) in fabulous location in coleman! Easy access to downtown! Located on quiet cul-de-sac! Large living & dining area w/ nice-size kitchen! Central heat & cooling system, gas range, & dishwasher! $49,900
1015 W Cedar (Coleman) - 2 bed/1 full bath and 1 three quarter bath/2 living/2 dining/one car-carport home on large lot in Coleman, TX! Huge back & front yards w/lots of trees for shade, covered patio & chain-link fenced yard! $30,000

COMMERCIAL, LAND AND LOTS

6000 HCR 1150 - Acreage minutes away from Midland! 12.20 acre tract located in the city limits of Midland on HCR 1150! Residential development or building your dream home in the country! 2 water wells & overhead electricity lines on three sides! $305,000
1004 W Front - Absolutely great business opportunity with office space included. Fully functional laundry mat with all equipment less than 3 years old. 6 Offices up front can be used for separate company or convert the whole building to a full service laundry facility ... $300,000
4002 Spring Meadow Ln - 8+ town residential development opportunity! Four lots to be sold as one package! See Meadowpark covenants & restrictions for building requirements for single family residences. Located in center of the subdivision! $300,000
1414 Tejas - Development potential- can be subdivided! 7.9 acres in 349 Ranch Estates on N Big Spring across from Midland Country Club! $299,000
2701 SCR 1223 - Great property! Land includes 2701 & 2703 for a total of 2.109 acres! AS-IS 3 bed/2 bath mobile home pass with sale of property! 30 mature trees, 2 trailer hook ups, boat/RV parking, 2 storage bldgs w/electricity! 2 water wells & 2 septic tanks! $270,000
2722 S Commercial Dr (Coleman) - Fantastic commercial building multi-purpose! Over 3100 sq.ft.- fabulous space & rooms on huge corner landscaped lot w/large paved parking lot! 3 dining areas/2 baths & bright front entry! $169,000
3013 Judee Kate Rd - Located in Timber Wolf Estates, this residential lot is 0.9 acres in Martin County. Buyer must use Anderson Construction as builder. Stonyland Electric, Septic with Broken K and Martin Water Well. Deeds and Restrictions available $133,000
Timber Wolf Estates, Marth - Brand new subdivision, approx. 3-9 acre lots, plat available. Water/septic/fence can all be added at buyer's expense. Stonyland electric company. Builder specific: Robert Anderson, Minimum size home 2,500 square ft. ..... $70,000 - $130,000
1301 Dunn Way, Snyder, TX 79549 - 6 Acres perfect for industrial use located in industrial park southeast snyder! Approximately 1 acre yard fenced with caliche pad. Includes a metal office building 200 sq.ft. and small storage building! $65,000
6001 Eldon Rd - 5 acre residential lot in fast growing subdivision in Timber Wolf Estates. Builder Exclusive with Anderson Construction, minimum 2800 sq.ft. home. Must use Broken K for septic and Marks Water Well Service. Deeds and Restrictions apply ..$65,000
6011 Eldon Rd - 5 acre residential lot in fast growing subdivision in Timber Wolf Estates. Builder Exclusive with Anderson Construction, minimum 2800 sq.ft. home. Must use Broken K for septic and Marks Water Well Service. Deeds and Restrictions apply ..$65,000
3001 Timber Wolf Trail - 4.3 acre residential lot in fast growing subdivision in Timber Wolf Estates. Builder Exclusive with Anderson Construction, minimum 2800 sq.ft. home. Must use Broken K for septic and Marks Water Well Service. Deeds and Restrictions apply $70,000

UNDER CONTRACTS & SOLDS!

2302 Haynes Dr ..... UNDER CONTRACT!
2507 Spur Ave ..... UNDER CONTRACT!
204 Ridglea Dr ..... UNDER CONTRACT!
3600 SCR 1195 ..... UNDER CONTRACT!
700 Dimaggio ..... UNDER CONTRACT!
5901 N Midland Dr ..... UNDER CONTRACT!
3222 Camarlo ..... UNDER CONTRACT!
600 W Cuthbert Ave ..... UNDER CONTRACT!
5200 Castle Pine Rd ..... UNDER CONTRACT!
3100 Rio Mar Ct ..... UNDER CONTRACT!
4212 Timbergion Pl ..... UNDER CONTRACT!
3303 Feldspar Ln ..... UNDER CONTRACT!
6016 Rio Grande Ave ..... UNDER CONTRACT!
715 N Hughes ..... UNDER CONTRACT!
7002 Sienna Dr ..... UNDER CONTRACT!
5700 San Saba ..... UNDER CONTRACT!
7401 Briarwood ..... UNDER CONTRACT!
2401 Arbor Circle ..... SOLD
2214 Roosevelt Dr ..... SOLD
9401 Cypress Ct ..... SOLD
44 Lafayette Place ..... SOLD
3300 Alford ..... SOLD
725 Pinehurst Dr ..... SOLD
4705 Cindy Pl ..... SOLD

PRINTZ PROPERTY MANAGEMENT 684-8202 FOR LEASE

9211 Ellen Joyce Way... 3 bed/2.5 bath $4,000
4002 42 Spring Meadow Ln.... 3 bed/2.5 bath $2,000
3000 A Haynes Dr $2,600


For information on rentals contact Leasing Agent, Maria Arispe at 528-9196

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Legal and Public Notices

The City of Midland, Texas, invites parties who are interested in leasing land to develop a private aircraft hangar on Lots D, E or both located in the NW Executive Hangar Area of Midland International Air & Space Port. Commencing December 11, 2018, proposals may be obtained at the Airport Administration offices on the third floor of the Midland International Air & Space Port Terminal Building, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday-Friday, except for scheduled holidays, or contact Justine Ruff at jruff@midlandtexas.gov to request an electronic copy. A Pre-Proposal meeting will be held at the Airport Administrative Offices on the third floor of the Terminal Building at 2 p.m. on January 8, 2019. The deadline for this RFP is January 31, 2019, at 2:00 p.m.

Legal and Public Notices

Public Notice
Bid #2019-002

Midland College is accepting competitive sealed bids for a turboprop engine to be used in a training environment. Bid packets may be picked up Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., in the Purchasing Office, located at 3600 North Garfield, Midland, Texas. **Bids will be accepted until 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 8, 2018** in the Purchasing Office, at which time they will be opened and read aloud. For bid information contact Barbara Fennell, Director of Purchasing, (432)686-4250 or bfennell@midland.edu. A final determination may be made at a future board meeting. The College reserves the right to accept or reject any and or all bids submitted.

Legal and Public Notices

Midland Independent School District

Midland, Texas

Notice to Vendors

Request for Proposal - Internal Connections

The Midland Independent School District invites qualified vendors to submit a sealed proposal(s) for **RFP Internal Connections.** Additional information is available at www.crwconsulting.com/rfp. Proposals will be publicly opened and read in accordance with the proposal documents in the Purchasing Department located at 615 W Missouri Ave, Suite 707, Midland, TX at **1:30 pm, Tuesday, January 15, 2019.** For any questions, contact MISD Purchasing department at (432) 240-1965.

Legal and Public Notices

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
Replacement Automated Weather Observation System

Sealed bids for the installation of Automated Weather Observation System III with Present Weather Sensor, Thunder Strike Alert (AWOS III PT) need to be addressed and delivered to City Secretary's Office, 300 N Loraine, Midland, TX 79701. Bids will be accepted until January 31, 2019, at 2:30PM, then publicly opened and read. Any bid proposal received after closing time will be returned unopened.

In general, the Aviation Construction work consists of: Installation of Automated Weather Observation Systems III. The system shall be installed in accordance with this specification and as approved in Federal Aviation Administration Advisory Circular 150/5220-16, latest version and FAA Order 6560-20B, or latest version.

Bidding documents may be examined at: www.flymaf.com

Technical questions concerning the specifications should be directed to Aaron Easton, Deputy Director of Airports, at aeaston@midlandtexas.gov.

Legal and Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed Request for Proposals will be received until 2:00 PM local time, January 16, 2019, in the City Secretary's Office, City Hall, 300 N. Loraine, Midland, Texas for the following:

RFP 19000866 Request for Proposals for Apparent Water Loss Detection Software Services.

To receive a copy of the RFP, please contact the City of Midland Purchasing Office at 432-685-7234 or email us at purchasing@midlandtexas.gov. Proposals must be submitted no later than 01/16/19 at 2:00 PM local time to the City Secretary's Office, City Hall, 300 N. Loraine, Midland, Texas.

If the Contract is awarded, it will be awarded to either the lowest responsible bidder, or to the bidder who provides goods or services at the best value for the City of Midland. In determining the best value for the City of Midland, the City of Midland may consider the criteria enumerated in Section 252.043 of the Texas Local Government Code.

City of Midland, Texas

Legal and Public Notices

CITATION BY PUBLICATION -
DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP

The State of Texas § **JACK WILSON,** Applicant's Attorney
County of Midland § **508 W. WALL ST. STE. 444**
§ **MIDLAND, TEXAS 79701**

To all persons interested in the estate of

BENJAMIN GUEBARA, Deceased
Cause No. **P19436**
in COUNTY COURT, Midland County, Texas

The alleged heir(s) at law in the above-numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship in this estate on 4/18/2018, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of **BENJAMIN GUEBARA,** Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

The court may act on this application at any call of the docket on or after 10:00A.M. **12/31/2018,** which is the first Monday next after the expiration of 10 days of posting this citation, at the Midland County Courthouse, 500 N. Loraine, Midland, Texas 79701.

All persons interested in this case are cited to appear before this Honorable Court **by filing a written contest or answer** to this Application should they desire to do so. **To ensure its consideration, you or your attorney must file any objection, intervention, or response in writing with the County Clerk of Midland County, Texas on or before the above-noted date and time.**

Given under by hand and seal of the COUNTY COURT of Midland County, Texas at the office of the Midland County Clerk in Midland, Texas on December 17th 2018.

Alison Haley
County Clerk, Midland County, Texas
P.O. Box 1350, Midland, Texas 79702

By SHON BRENT Deputy

Legal and Public Notices

Notice on Sale of Personal Property to satisfy a landlords lien for CASH ONLY. Sale date is January 10, 2019.

Aztec Storage Center
500 S Midland DR
Midland TX 79703
Time 10:00am

#119 Leanna Trost

Aztec Storage Center
1131 E 52nd Street
Odessa TX 79762
Time 11:00 am

#O-37 & #O-44 Idann Dutchover
#O-83 Jerry Cullison
#O-90 Mary Lam

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

The Bottom Line

76 percent of adults have read a daily newspaper in the past five days.

Midland Reporter-Telegram
mrt.com

Source: Scarborough Research, 2018

201 EAST ILLINOIS AVENUE • MIDLAND TEXAS 79701 • 432-682-5311

Legal and Public Notices

ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS
NOTICE TO PROPOSERS

Sealed proposals addressed to the Honorable Mayor and City Council of Midland, Texas, will be received at the office of the City Secretary, City Hall, 300 N. Loraine, Midland, Texas 79701, until 2:30 p.m., Thursday, January 24, 2019, for furnishing all necessary materials, machinery, equipment, superintendence, and labor for constructing certain improvements at Midland International Air & Space Port, Midland, Texas. These improvements are contained in plans and specifications entitled, "Midland International Air & Space Port, Terminal Building Ramp Side Exit Stairs Demolition, " dated November 2018.

Immediately following the closing time for receipt of proposals, proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. Any proposal received after closing time will be returned unopened.

Principal items of work are set forth in specific detail in the proposal section of these specifications; however, work items may be generally described as demolition of four existing ramp side exit stairs and doors, installation of exterior glass system, demolition of existing stair foundations, installation of concrete pavement, installation of concrete sidewalk, and modifications to existing water service points at aircraft boarding bridge piers.

Work will also include other miscellaneous materials, equipment, machinery, superintendence, and labor for constructing these improvements for the Midland International Air & Space Port, Midland, Texas.

A proposal security/bid bond guaranty is to accompany the proposal, thereby guaranteeing the good faith of the proposer and that proposer will enter into the written contract. The guaranty is to amount to 5 percent of the total proposal amount and must be in the form of cash or certified check, issued by a bank satisfactory to the City of Midland, or a bid bond.

Proposers are expected to inspect site of work and inform themselves regarding all local conditions.

Information for bidders/proposers, proposal forms, specifications, and plans are on file in the office of the Director of Airports, Midland International Air & Space Port, Midland, Texas, at the office of Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc., (PSC), Consulting Engineers, 1700 West Wall Street, Suite 100, Midland, Texas 79701, 432 697 1447.

Paper copies of plans and specifications may be secured at the PSC, 1700 West Wall Street, Suite 100, Midland, Texas 79701, 432 697 1447, at a cost of $100.00 for a set of specifications and full size plans. Cost for plans and specifications is refundable. Download documents (PDF file extension format) can be obtained from the PSC Info Exchange web site after registering as a plan holder with the office issuing paper copies. No cost or deposit required for this option.

CITY OF MIDLAND, TEXAS
Amy M. Turner
City Secretary

Legal and Public Notices

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

REAL PROPERTY

WHEREAS, BY VIRTUE OF A WRIT OF EXECUTION ISSUES BY THE DISTRICT CLERK OF MIDLAND COUNTY TEXAS, ON THE 4TH DAY OF AUGUST 2017, IN A CERTAIN CAUSE NUMBERED CC19507 OUT OF THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW #2 OF MIDLAND COUNTY TEXAS, STYLED LINE QUEST, LLC VS RWI CONSTRUCTION INC. RECOVERED A JUDGEMENT AGAINST RWI CONSTRUCTION INC. FOR THE ACTUAL DAMAGES IN THE AMOUNT OF $25,650.00; PRE-JUDGEMENT INTEREST AT THE CONTRACT RATE OF 5% IN THE AMOUNT OF $175.68. REASONABLE AND NECESSARY ATTORNEY'S FEES IN THE AMOUNT OF $2,000.00 FOR THE PROSECUTION OF THIS CASE THROUGH JUDGEMENT POST JUDGEMENT INTEREST ON ALL THE ABOVE AT THE RATE OF 5%, COMPOUNDED ANNUALLY FROM THE DATE THIS JUDGEMEMT IS ENTERED UNTIL ALL AMOUNTS ARE PAID IN FULL.

TO ME, AS SHERRIF GARY PAINTER DIRECTED AND DELIVERED I HAVE LEVIED UPON THIS 6TH DAY DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2018 AND WILL BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 10:00 AM AND 4:00 PM AT APPROXINATELY 10:00 AM ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY IN JANUARY, 2019, IT BEING THE 2ND DAY OF SAID MONTH, JANUARY 2ND 2019, AT MIDLAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE OF MIDLAND, COUNTY, PROCEED TO SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, FOR CASH IN HAND, ALL RIGHT, TITLE AND INTEREST, IF ANY, WHICH THE DEFENDANT RWI CONSTRUCTION HAD ON THE 2ND DAY OF JANUARY, 2019, OR AT ANY TIME THEREAFTER, OF IN AND TO THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY.

BEGINNING at reinf rod found for the southeast corner of said 11.36-acre tract of land and in the southwest corner of a 60 foot right of way dedicated to the public in Volume 4142, Page 183, Official Public Records of Midland County, Texas and in the south right of way line of State Highway 191 from which the southeast corner of Section 31, Block 40, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey, Midland County, Texas bears N 75° 18' 28" E. a distance of 1230.55 feet, S 14° 06' 35" E for a distance of 200.01 feet;

THENCE, S 75° 18' 28" W with the north right of way line of State Highway 191 for a distance of 200.04 feet to a reinf rod set for the southwest corner;

THENCE, N 00 22- 23" W departing north right of way line of State Highway 191 for a distance of 381.42 feet to a reinf rod set for corner;

THENCE, N 18° 23' 29" W for a distance of 326.43 feet to a reinf rod set for the northwest corner and in the south right of way line of a 50-foot private road;

THENCE, N 75° 15' 03" E with the south right of way line of a 50 foot private road for a distance of 192.68 feet to a reinf rod set for the northeast corner and in the northwest corner of and in the southwest corner of a 60 foot right of way dedicated to the public in Volume 4142, Page 183, Official Public Records of Midland County, Texas;

THENCE, S 14° 07' 46" E with the southwest corner of a 60 foot right of way dedicated to the public in Volume 4142, Page 183, Official Public Records of Midland County, Texas and being a common line with the east line of said 11.36 acre tract of land for a distance of 795.71 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING and containing 128791 square feet or 2.96 acre of land. (the "Property")

SAID PROPERTY IS LEVIED ON AS PROPERTY OF RWI CONSTRUCTION INC. AND WILL BE SOLD TO SATISFY THE JUDGMENT, INTEREST, COURT COST, FEES AND OTHER COSTS OF SUIT.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND ON THIS 4TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2018

GARY PAINTER SHERIFF
MIDLAND COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: INVESTIGATOR JOHN MAYNARD

Fax Your Ad 24-7 682-6999

Legal and Public Notices

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Region 18 Education Service Center (Region 18 ESC) is soliciting sealed Request for Proposals for Leased Lit Fiber, Internet Access and Leased Lit Transport Only for the EDLINK18 Telecommunications Consortium. Proposal forms and specifications are available from the Region 18 ESC website at https://www.esc18.net/apps/pages/request-for-proposals. Sealed proposals must be submitted by 2:00 p.m. CST, January 10, 2019. Region 18 ESC reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

Legal and Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Meeting: **Housing Authority of the City of Midland 700 W. Scharbauer Drive Midland, Texas 79705**

Date of Meeting: **Monday, February 25, 2018**

Time of Meeting: **10:00 AM**

Purpose: **Preview and Public Comments on CFP-5 year Action/Annual Plans for the Public Housing Program.**

The purpose of the hearing is to obtain input from the city residents in reference to the Five-Year Plan Submission to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for fiscal year 2019. Total funds being allocated for this year are estimated at $204,628.00 for Operating Funds and $141,827.00 for Capital Funds. All residents are encouraged to attend this hearing. All documents are on display at the Midland Housing Authority office from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. prior to public hearing at the address above. Persons can also submit written comments prior to public hearing.

For further information please call Teressa Thompson-Davis, Executive Director at 432-682-0011.

Legal and Public Notices

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS
CAUSE NO. CV54107

TO ANY SHERIFF OR ANY CONSTABLE WITH THE STATE OF TEXAS: YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to cause to be published once each week for four consecutive weeks in a newspaper printed in Midland County, Texas, the accompanying citation, of which the herein below following is a true copy.

TO: The Unknown Heirs at Law of Kenneth M. Blaylock, Deceased, Defendants, GREETINGS:

YOU AND EACH OF YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear before the Honorable 385th Judicial District Court of Midland County, described below, at the Courthouse being located at 500 N. Loraine St., Suite Number 801, in the City of Midland, Midland County, Texas, by filing a written answer with the Clerk of the Court at or before 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of forty-two days from the date of issuance of this citation, the same being filed in said court, on the docket of said court and styled,

LIVE WELL FINANCIAL, INC.
Plaintiff,
v.
WILINDA M. BLAYLOCK, KENNETH JAMES BLAYLOCK, AND THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF KENNETH M. BLAYLOCK, DECEASED,
Defendants.
Cause No.: **CV541079**
Court: **385th Judicial District Court, Midland County, Texas**
Pleading: **Plaintiff's Original Petition**
Date of Filing: **December 22, 2017**
Nature of Suit: **Suit involving land: Plaintiff, Live Well Financial, Inc., its successors in interest and assigns, by and through its attorney of record, Thuy Frazier of McCarthy Holthus, LLP, 1255 West 15th Street, Suite 1060, Plano, Texas 75075, brought suit against Defendants Wilinda M. Blaylock, Kenneth James Blaylock, the Unknown Heirs at Law of Kenneth M. Blaylock, and any other person claiming any subordinate right, title, interest in 217 N. Eisenhower Drive, Midland, Texas 79703 and legally described to wit: LOT THIRTEEN (13), REPLAT OF BLOCKS 122,123 & 125, BLOCK ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE (125), WILSHIRE PARK, AN ADDITION TO THE CITY OF MIDLAND, MIDLAND COUNTY, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF OF RECORD IN CABINET B, PAGE 170, PLAT RECORDS OF MIDLAND COUNTY, TEXAS.**

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any Judgment or Decree which will be binding upon you.
The officer executing this citation shall promptly serve the same according to requirements of law, and the mandates hereof, and make due return as the law directs.
ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE, at Midland, Midland County, Texas.

Issue Date: November 8, 2018
ATTEST: Alex Archuleta, District Clerk
500 N. Loraine St.
Suite Number 300
Midland, Midland County, Texas 79701

(SEAL) By _____
Angela L. Gardea

NOTICE
You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of forty-two days after you were served this citation and the above pleading, a default judgment may be taken against you.

Thuy Frazier
McCarthy & Holthus, LLP
1255 West 15th Street, Suite 1060
Plano, Texas 75075
Plaintiff's Attorney

Midland Reporter-Telegram
Media Group

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

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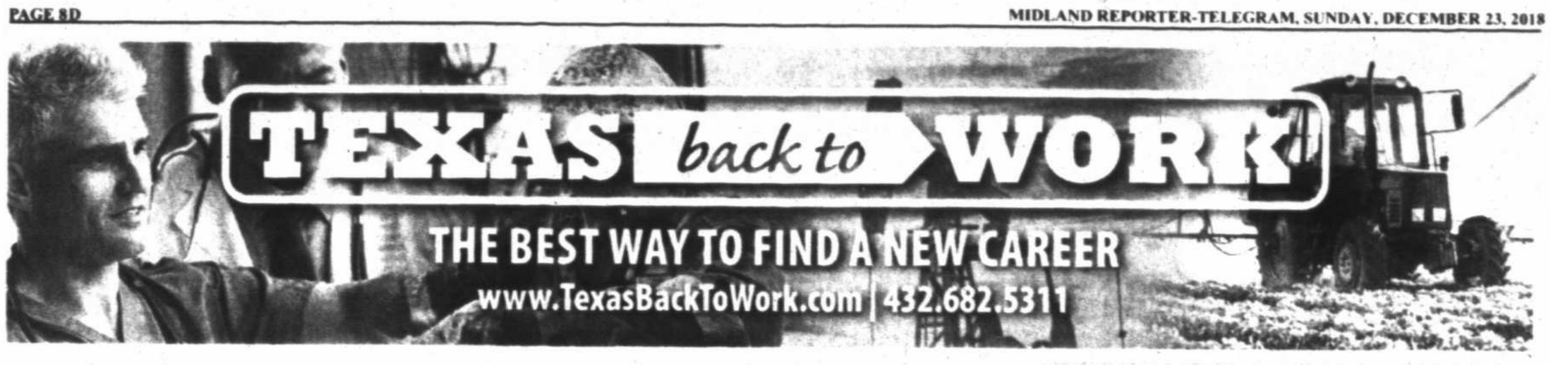
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OILFIELD WATER LOGISTICS

Owl Energy Services is currently looking for applicants to fill positions open for General Labor/Field Hands and Poly Line Installation.

The job hours are Monday through-Friday with occasional weekend work.

A valid driver's license is required for the position. Must be able to pass drug test.

Benefits offered with the position include paid holidays, no per diem, medical coverage and a 401k plan.

No telephone calls are accepted. Applicants must apply in-person to fill out an application at the Midland office located at 2052 Commerce St. Must bring ID's with you.

Since its beginning over 89 years ago, the Midland Reporter-Telegram has been a strong supporter of the first amendment, striving hard in taking the responsibility to be the top trusted news source for providing information about the people, places and happenings in the Permian Basin on a daily basis.

The newspaper is currently looking to fill an opening for a Circulation Clerk.

Responsibilities for the position include assisting the circulation department in reaching goals for start pressure, volumes, retention, single copy, and customer service. The primary of the position is to handle administrative functions of the department including tracking and analysis.

Other responsibilities include maintaining reports for circulation including tracking of start pressure, volumes, service and collection statistics, and retention for all properties in West Texas primarily the Plainview Herald and Midland Reporter-Telegram and reporting return information to the accounting department on a timely basis for both papers. Other duties include processing customer and DSM written and email correspondence, and respond to their phone inquiries; work with the call center to resolve customer complaints as well as helping walk in customers in reference to their account; working with customers and delivery staff to resolve delivery questions and service issues for our West Texas properties; working on special projects and administrative support tasks assigned by circulation managers as needed; serving as the designated back-up for other circulation & finance support staff members as needed; being able to react to change productively and handle other essential tasks as assigned. English speaking skills are vital to communicate with company personnel and customers.

Requirements for the job including having a college degree or equivalent years of experience in office management or related areas required; possessing proficient computer skills including Microsoft Office package (Excel, Word, PowerPoint and Access); experience in data entry and typing speed minimum 35 wpm required. Costumer service, computer, analytical skills are needed, as well as being goal oriented, energetic and have good time management and organizational skills. Applicants must also be able to react to change productively as this position is instrumental in analyzing data, interacting with all department personnel and resolving customer problems.

A sign-on bonus is available with the position.

Interested applicants can send their resumes by email to Circulation Director Sharon Heckler at sheckler@hearstnp.com.

AGRI-EMPRESA, LLC

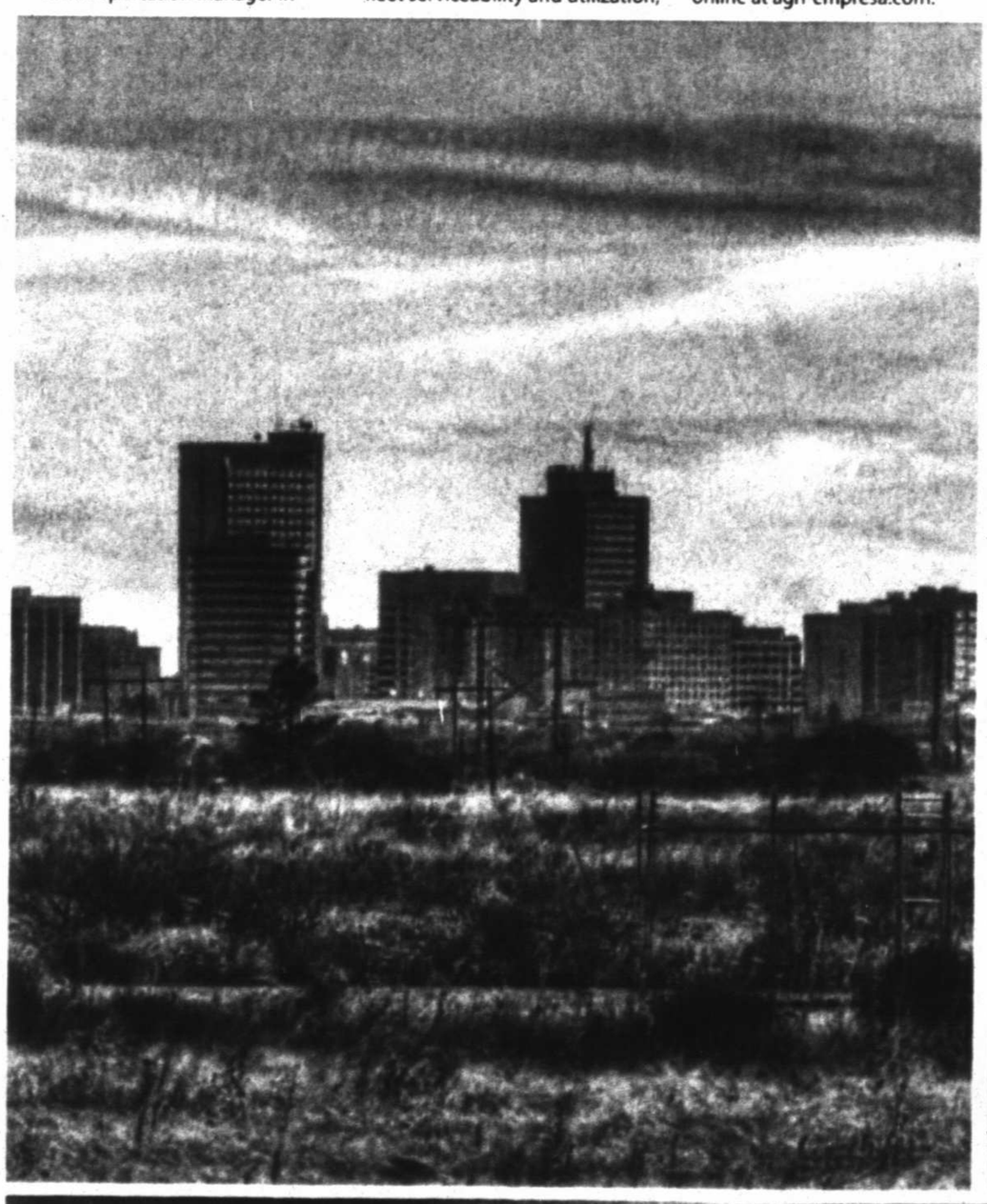
With over 40 years of providing top quality service to their customers, Agri-Empresa, LLC is known as the Permian Basin's largest privately-owned manufacturer, packager, and distributor of oilfield and industrial use chemicals with operations extending throughout Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico.

The company is currently looking for applicants to fill the position of Transportation Manager in Midland.

Responsibilities for the position includes being responsible for trucking segment monthly P&L; develop appropriate decision-making processes and protocol to optimize the use of their internal fleet in concert with third party carriers; plan and evaluate capacity and performance utilizing multiple transportation modes including dry bulk, flatbed and tanker; work with driver supervisors and local maintenance to ensure optimum fleet serviceability and utilization; and effectively communicate across organization and with external suppliers and customers.

The full-time position offers a salary between $100,000 - $130,000 plus bonus depending on experience, as well as a full benefits package including medical, dental, vision and a 401k plan.

Interested applicants can send in their resumes by email to careers@agri-empresa.com. For more information about the company, visit their website online at agri-empresa.com.



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ACE A 30-MINUTE INTERVIEW



By Kim Thompson

It's no surprise that preparing for an interview combined with your desire to be the best candidate can be somewhat stressful. The pressure builds when your interview is scheduled to last 30 minutes and you need to make a lasting impression.

Recently a friend of mine was invited for an interview, and even though he was excited about the opportunity, he had concerns over the amount time to discuss his background and skills. The 30-minute time slot seemed to create more angst for him than a half-day of interviews.

We discussed a new strategy he could use to help him focus on the questions being asked rather than the clock ticking behind him. The pressure he was feeling was getting him off-focus: Instead of ramping up his answers he was worried about trying to cram his whole career history into 30 minutes.

He is not alone in admitting the same dilemma that other candidates face – "How do you make a good impression in 30 minutes or less?" The biggest mistakes job candidates make during short, structured interviews is failing to prepare and overwhelming the interviewer(s) with too many details.

Here are some tips we discussed that could help you feel less anxious and more confident the next time you are invited for a 30-minute interview.

- Answer questions in terms of broad strokes, overarching contributions that lend credibility to your skills. Stay away from getting too involved with details. When every accomplishment is explained word-by-word you run the risk of losing the interviewer's attention and the momentum.
- Break your career into themes; look for the common problems you solved throughout your career. Identify the skills you used and make sure they relate to the job description.
- List your accomplishments on a sheet of paper and use the job position as a guide to address the employer's needs. Since you only have 30-minutes each answer counts.
- Listen to the questions asked. If you aren't sure you understand, ask for clarification before answering. Mistakes happen when candidates ramble.
- Highlight your contributions. It's better to leave the interviewer(s) with a handful of significant skills than to overwhelm them with everything you can do.
- Prepare and practice with your introduction. Don't memorize it, just be comfortable in talking about your background with the emphasis on matching the needs/requirements the employer is looking for.
- Know why you want the job and what interests you in working for the employer.
- Have at least three of four questions to ask that pertain to the job and employer's needs. Time is valuable and the questions you ask need to send a perception that you have researched the company and are interested in contributing.
- Take some deep breaths before the interview and smile. Non-verbal language always speaks louder than words. Even if your interview is over the phone, people can sense smiling versus being uptight and anxious.

Your goal is to make yourself distinguishable from other candidates by having clear answers that convey you are the right candidate for the job. Always inquire about the next steps.

How do you prepare for 30-minute interviews? What have you learned from your interview experiences?

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Cindy Del Bosque
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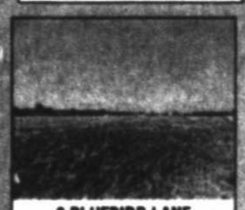
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$350,000



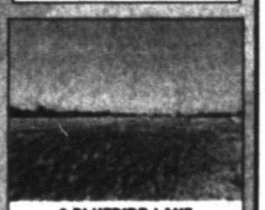
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We wish you a Merry Christmas and a
truly Happy New Year!

The Bottom Line

76 percent of adults have read a daily newspaper in the past five days.

Midland Reporter-Telegram
mrt.com
Source: Nielsen Scarborough Research, 2018
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Legal and Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR BID

Midland County Hospital District is accepting proposals for NICU and Pharmacy for Midland Memorial Hospital.

Bidders may contact Aaron Brown and Zachary Stevenson at ADAMS for bid documents and questions on or after Monday, December 24, 2018.

Aaron Brown, Project Manager
ADAMS Management Services Corporation
abrown@adamspmc.com

Zachary Stevenson, Executive Director
ADAMS Management Service Corporation
zstevenson@adamspmc.com

A Bid Bond in an amount not less than five percent (5%) will be required for all bids. A Performance Bond and Payment Bond in an amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price will be required by the Owner.

The successful bidder will be required to enter into a general contract with the Midland County Hospital District.

Three (3) hard sealed copies and **One (1) electronic copy** of all bids must be received in the Department of Materials Management of Midland Memorial Hospital - Main Campus, 400 Rosalind Redfern Grover Parkway, Midland, Texas, 79701 by **4:00 PM, February 1, 2019.**

Send the electronic (PDF) copy of your submission to: amy.fultz@midlandhealth.org
To protect your privacy, you may elect to password protect your electronic submission with the password provided after the submission deadline.

Under no circumstances will bids received beyond 4:00 PM, February 1, 2019 be accepted.

All bids must be sealed and labeled **BID # 1255-122418**

All bids must be price protected until **February 1, 2020.**

All bids will remain confidential until after an award has been made. Vendors will then be allowed to review the bids in the purchasing office according to the policies and procedures of Midland Memorial Hospital. Midland County Hospital District reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive formalities.

Bids shall be addressed to:

Amy Jean Fultz
Director of Supply Chain
Midland County Hospital District
Midland Memorial Hospital
400 Rosalind Redfern Grover Parkway
Midland, Texas 79701

Legal and Public Notices

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals addressed to the Honorable Mayor and City Council of Midland, Texas, will be received at the office of the City Secretary, City Hall, Midland, Texas until 2:30 p.m. C.S.T., Wednesday, January 23, 2019 for furnishing all necessary materials, machinery, equipment, superintendence, and labor for constructing certain improvements at Midland International Air & Space Port, Midland, Texas. These improvements are contained in the plans and specifications entitled, "Midland International Air & Space Port, Airport Security Access Control Software, Hardware, Cable, and CCTV System Upgrade," dated December 2018.

Immediately following the closing time for receipt of bids, proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. Any bid received after closing time will be returned unopened.

Principal items of work are set forth in specific detail in the proposal section of these specifications, however, work items may be generally described as: Upgrade Matrix System Access Control Software and Servers, replace CCTV cameras, install new CCTV video software and servers, replace sections of copper cable with fiber optic cable and install miscellaneous hardware, conduit, cabling and supports required to upgrade Access Control and CCTV systems.

Work will also include other miscellaneous materials, equipment, machinery, superintendence, and labor for constructing these improvements for the Midland International Air & Space Port, Midland, Texas.

A bid proposal guaranty is to accompany the bid, thereby guaranteeing the good faith of the bidder and that bidder will enter into the written contract. The guaranty is to amount to 5 percent of the total bid and must be in the form of cash or certified check, issued by a bank satisfactory to the City of Midland, or a bid bond.

Bidders are expected to inspect the site of work and inform themselves regarding all local conditions.

This project is an AIP Project. The proposed contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, as amended, and to the equal opportunity clause contained in these specifications. The Bidder must supply all the information required by the proposal form.

Successful bidder will be required to submit a Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities prior to award of the contract and notify prospective subcontractors of the requirement of such a Certification where the subcontract exceeds $10,000.00. Samples of the Certification and the Notice to Subcontractors appear in the specifications.

In all areas of employment, women will be afforded equal opportunity for employment. Employment of women shall not diminish standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Minimum wages and labor rates for construction of proposed work have been established by the Secretary of Labor. A schedule of labor classifications and wage rates to be paid are included in the specifications and will be made a part of the contract. Bid form shall contain a statement that prices bid are based on such wage rates.

This project is subject to Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, Minority Business Enterprise Contract Provisions, Foreign Trade Restrictions, Davis-Bacon, Federal Debarment and Suspension, Drug-free Workplace, and other requirements stated in the Instructions to Bidders and other sections of the project specifications and contract documents.

Policy. It is the policy of the Department of Transportation (DOT), that disadvantaged business enterprises as defined in 49 CFR Part 26 shall have the maximum opportunity to participate in performance of contracts financed in whole or in part with Federal funds.

Buy American Provision. Proposed contract is subject to the Buy American Provision under Section 9129 of the Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990. Details of such requirement are contained in the Specifications.

MAF treats bidder/offers' compliance with good faith efforts' requirements as a matter of responsiveness.

Requirements of 49 CFR Part 26, Regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation, apply to this contract. It is the policy of MAF to practice nondiscrimination based on race, color, sex, or national origin in award or performance of this contract. All firms qualifying under this solicitation are encouraged to submit bids/proposals. Award of this contract will be conditioned upon satisfying requirements of this bid specification. These requirements apply to all bidders/offerors, including those who qualify as a DBE. A DBE contract goal of 1.5 percent has been established for this contract. Bidder/Offeror shall make good faith efforts, as defined in Appendix A, 49 CFR Part 26, to meet the contract goal for DBE participation in performance of this contract.

Successful bidder/offeror will be required to submit the following information: (1) names and addresses of DBE firms who will participate in the contract, (2) description of work that each DBE firm will perform, (3) dollar amount of participation of each DBE firm participating, (4) written documentation of bidder/offeror's commitment to use a DBE subcontractor whose participation it submits to meet contract goal, (5) written confirmation from the DBE that it is participating in the contract as provided in commitment made under (4); and (6) if contract goal is not met, evidence of good faith efforts. Successful Bidder or Offeror must provide written confirmation of participation from each DBE firm the Bidder or Offeror lists in their commitment. The successful Bidder or Offeror must submit DBE written confirmation of participation within five days of Bid Opening.

Information for bidders, proposal forms, specifications, and plans are on file in the offices of Director of Airports, Midland International Air & Space Port, Midland, Texas and Parkhill, Smith & Cooper Inc., (PSC) Consulting Engineers, 1700 West Wall Street, Suite 100, Midland, Texas 79701, 432.697.1447.

Paper copies of the plans and specifications may be secured at the PSC office, 1700 West Wall Street, Suite 100, Midland, Texas 79701, 432.697.1447, at $50.00 for a set of specifications and full size plans. The cost for the plans and specifications is **NON REFUNDABLE.** Download documents (PDF file extension format) can be obtained from the PSC Info Exchange web site after registering as a plan holder with the office issuing paper copies. No cost or deposit required for this option.

CITY OF MIDLAND, TEXAS
Amy M. Turner
City Secretary

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2011 LINCOLN Towncar Limo, 47 K original miles, looks good run good. Asking $24,000. 830-777-0120

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Oil and Gas

FOR SALE. 400 gross acres of royalty. For sale is a .125 interest, E/2 S/2 NW Section 48, Blk F, G&MMMB&A Survey, Winkler County Texas. Located in two shale areas. Any reasonable offer I will consider. Call 405-919-6228

Lots and Land

Acreage

700 SCENIC acres in SW Runnels County. Upland elevations to Large Creek Bottom. Large Ponds(Stocked) & Rural Water Meter on Property. Electric close to Property. Whitetail Deer,Quail,Turkey,Dove Provides Excellent Hunting. All Minerals & Water Rights will Convey. $1800.00 Per Acre. Contact: Rick **580-920-8881**

Ranches



10,436 ac Motley Co. 100 ac lake. Big Whitetail, Big Muledeer, exceptional quail, hunters, house, electricity & water.
Joe Wilson 214-784-3725
jcwilsonranches.com/walkercanyon



BIG DEER - EXOCTICS
NW TX. 2363 Ac high fence ranch for sale in Knox Co
Fully furnished new barndominium
Joe 214-784-3725
jcwilsonranches.com/indianspring



84 +/- ac. Voca TX. 8 miles from Brady. Beautiful property covered with oaks. This property has a large tank, pad for house, good fencing, electricity, and a well. Perfect for hunting and building. Surrounded by large ranches. $380,000. Call Becky with James Long Real estate for more information at 214-662-9561

Commercial

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- **Kent County**
  - *11,155 ac. n. of Snyder, 4 houses, pens/roping arena, 800 ft. min. creek, lakes. Whitetail deer, mule deer, and quail $795/ac
  - *4,212 ac. Maveric Creek, canyons, whitetail and mule deer and quail $825/ac
  - *1,771 ac. windmill, creek, blinds and feeders, great whitetail and mule deer, turkey, hogs, quail $850
- **Baylor County**
  - *648 ac. over 1 mile **SOLD** creek, blinds, feeders, elevation change, oak; $3,550/ac
  - *585 ac. Pecan Creek, New Living/Shop, 200 acres cleared for cattle, blinds/feeders, windmill $4,425/ac
- **Howard County**
  - *842 ac. canyons, blinds/feeders, great deer, cedar/mesquite, surface water, some oilfield traffic $750/ac
  - *150 ac. big canyon, **SOLD** oaks, cedar/mesquites, great deer, turkey, jav $895/ac
- **Martin County**
  - *135 ac. Sulphur Springs **SOLD** deer and whitetail, hogs, varmints, metal sto $1,150/ac

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House Rent Unfurn

1011 DENTON St Midland, Tx 79703 3bed 2bath $2,500 Neg. Monthly includes W/D 432-557-4768

Residential Sales

Single Family Homes

HOUSE NEEDING a home 3 bedroom 2 bath, location/ move your choice of areas $19,500. Like to discuss details 469-363-2480

LOT FOR SALE 204 S Mineola is fenced in with driveway. Owner finance $59,000K, down payment $5,000, payments $500 per month 432-631-2905

Lots and Land

Acreage

LAND FOR SALE
Lots 2 acres plus
SE Midland County
$8K down,
$895/mo Call
432-631-3650

RECREATIONAL PROPERTY Opportunity. 455+/- acres of gently rolling Mesquite/ Cedar pasture very close to Lake Ivie priced at $1,000,000.00. Seller is also offering a beautiful 3br, 3.5ba home and acreage on Lake Ivie priced at $400,000. Call David at ERA 325-277-3946

Commercial

BEER STORE FOR RENT 10' x 18' cooler, 5 doors and 1 walk door, $2,000 month, $1,000 deposit. 432-528-1609

CORNER LOT FOR SALE 412 BAIRD, water tap, sewer tap, paved. Walk to Court house $189,000K 432-631-2905

FOR SALE by Owner 5550 W I-20 North Service Rd, Odessa 3.9 acers shop, office, water well, 432-631-5677/432-349-4224

Classifieds Can! Call 432-682-6222

Single Family Homes



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Merry Christmas

7210 BCR 113 A REAL SHOW STOPPER! Parade of Homes Entry by Stevens Construction. 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths on one acre in Chaney Ranch. Loads of extras. 2 living, 2 dining, 4 car garage, with over 3800 square feet per plan $819,900

FOR LEASE!
5104 B Rainbow- 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage. UPDATED $2,500/Month
3002 W Wall 1,000 office. GREAT LOCATION $2,200/Month
603 Howard ..... UNDER CONTRACT
6200 NCR 1130 - HOME ON THE RANGE ..... UNDER CONTRACT

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FEATURED HOME

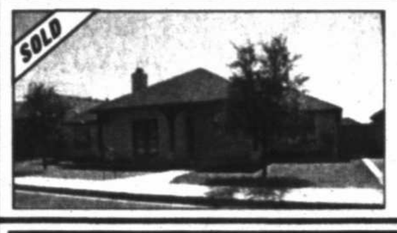


5417 SECRETARIAT STREET

5 Bedrooms/ 4 Baths/ 4 Car Garage,
Priced @ $1,375,000

NEW CONSTRUCTION

Carrasco Homes



5309 Balfour Court
3 Bedrooms, 3 Baths,
3 Car Garage,
Priced @ $435,000

Ashingdon Homes



5109 Binney Cove
3 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths,
3 Car Garage,
Priced @ $499,500

"Gifts of time and love are surely the basic ingredients of a truly Merry Christmas."

- Peg Bracken

RESIDENTIAL LISTINGS/HOME SITES/ACREAGE

RESIDENTIAL

800 Duke Ave	Odessa/3Bdrm/2Ba	SOLD
3301 Stewart Ave	3Bdrm/2Ba/2 Car Garage	SOLD
2905 Sand Hill Circle	3Bdrm/2Ba/2Car Garage	SOLD
1704 English Drive	3 Bdrm/ 2 Ba	U/C
3307 Durant Drive	3 Bdrm/2.5 Ba/2 Car Garage	$319,900
1908 Fringewood Drive	4 Bdrm/ 3 Ba/ 3 Car Garage	SOLD
2511 Colonial Oaks Court	4 Bdrm/4.5 Ba/4 Car Garage	$775,000
5417 Secretariat Street	5 Bdrm/4 Ba/4 Car Garage	$1,375,000
4225 Tanforan Ave	5 Bdrm/ 6.5 Ba/ 4 Car Garage	$1,949,101

NEW CONSTRUCTION

5113 Trenwood Dr	Black Brush Homes/4 Bdrm/3 Ba/2 Car Garage	SOLD
1203 Rhett Dr	Midland Gallery Homes/3 Bdrm/2 Ba/2 Car Garage	U/C
5297 Balfour Ct	Carrasco Homes/4 Bdrm/3 Ba/3 Car Garage	SOLD
1205 Burgandy Dr	Elgin Homes/ 4Bdrm/ 3Ba/ 2 Car Garage	$423,500
1207 Burgandy Dr	Elgin Homes/ 4Bdrm/ 3Ba/ 2 Car Garage	$425,500
5303 George Yard Ct	Ashingdon Homes/3 Bdrm/3 Ba/3 Car Garage	SOLD
7311 E. Co. Rd. 113	Crystal Homes/4 Bdrm/4 Ba/3 Car Garage	$798,500

SUBURBAN/ACREAGE

12044 E. Goldenrod	Gardendale/Beautiful 14 Acre Home Site	SOLD
2600 S. Co. Rd. 1080	6.879 Acres	$80,000
2372 Co. Rd. 2631	Stanton/3Bdrm/2Ba	$143,500
14821 N. Loyola	Gardendale/4 Bdrm/2 Ba	U/C
2430 SE Co. Rd. 3001	Andrews/ 3Bdrm/ 2Ba	$169,000
7005 E. Co. Rd. 90	Greenwood/4Bdrm/3Ba	$259,900
1504 N. Co. Rd. 1068	Greenwood/ 4Bdrm/2Ba/10 Acres	$307,500
7000 S. Co. Rd 1105	3Bdrm/3Ba/2 Car Garage	$329,000
626 E. Co. Rd 130	2Bdrm/2Ba/4 Car Garage	$349,000
1901 N. Co. Rd. 1110	Greenwood/ 4Bdrm/ 3Ba/2 Car Garage	$419,900
12215 E. Co. Rd. 101	Greenwood/4 Bdrm/2.5 Ba/3 Car Garage	$540,000
Co.Rd. 190	160 Acres	$800,000
10715 FM 307	Greenwood/4 Bdrm/2.5 Ba/2 Car Garage	$895,000
10 FM 307	12.17 Acres	$895,000

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

110 E 29th St	Odessa/7420 Sq.Ft/3 Unit Strip	$695,000
302 S. Marienfeld	11,980 Sq. Ft.	$750,000
3400 Thomason Dr	8,512 Sq. Ft./2 Buildings	$1,800,000

OUT OF TOWN PROPERTIES

2043 Co. Rd. 2300	Stanton/1.16 Acres	$66,500
2045 Co. Rd. 2300	Stanton/1.16 Acres	$66,500
2047 Co. Rd. 2300	Stanton/1.16 Acres	$66,500
2049 Co. Rd. 2300	Stanton/1.16 Acres	$66,500
Tract C E. Co. Rd. 3501	Stanton/8.75 Acres	$84,000
Tract EE Co. Rd. B3501	Stanton/8.75 Acres	$87,500
4112 LCR 254	Colorado City Lake/3Bdrm/3Ba/1Car Garage	$145,000
Tract AE Co. Rd. B3501	Stanton/24.76 Acres	$148,500
0 Co. Rd. B 4101	Stanton/322 Acres	$800,000
Co. Rd. A 4301	Ackerly/320 Acres	$1,280,000
I-20 Service Rd	Stanton/66.26 Acres	$1,300,000
0 FM 2051	Lamesa/531 Acres	$2,656,000

FEATURED PROPERTIES



7005 E. CO. RD. 90
Greenwood/ 4Bdrm/ 3Ba, Priced @ $259,900



2430 SE. CO. RD 3001
Andrews/ 3 Bdrm/ 2Ba, Priced @ $169,000



12215 E. CO. RD. 101
Greenwood/ 4Bdrm/ 2.5 Ba/ 3 Car Garage, Priced @ $540,000



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the very best of this
holiday season,

Merry Christmas



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Wishing God's blessings upon you and your families as you gather to celebrate the birth of our Lord. I am blessed to count you as friends and family. Merry Christmas to You All!

Sandy J. Hanson

FEATURED LISTINGS

3711 Northfield	5 bedrooms, 4 baths, 2 living, beautiful pool	MLS #50016213	SOLD	$765,675
1902 E. Co. Rd. 1121	4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2.22 acres in Greenwood	MLS#50018196	UNDER CONTRACT	$499,900
9708 FM 307	3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 6.5 acres in Greenwood	MLS #50015627	UNDER CONTRACT	$449,900
9708 FM 307	Residential or Commercial Land, 8 acres, owner finance	MLS #50005743		$430,500
5709 E. Co. Rd. 60	3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 3+ acres in Greenwood	MLS#50018555	UNDER CONTRACT	$364,900
9708-A FM 307	3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1.26 Acres in Greenwood	MLS #50017805	UNDER CONTRACT	$295,000
5110 Ric Drive	3 bedrooms, 2 baths, with garage	MLS#50018694	UNDER CONTRACT	$149,900
5252 Lake Co. Rd. 256	3 Bed, 2 Bath, On Lake Colorado City, owner finance, all closing cost paid	MLS #106038	REDUCED PRICE	$89,400

Sandy J. Hanson
REALTOR ASSOCIATE
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HOME CHRISTMAS TREE SAFETY

The holidays are a joyous time to be at home with family and friends. If you celebrate Christmas, you may enjoy decorating a tree on your own or with your loved ones. However, it's important to be mindful of safety with a real tree in your home. Consider the following tips.

Find a fresh tree. A fresh Christmas tree with bright green needles is less likely to catch fire. The tree shouldn't be shedding its needles before you bring it home.

Light it right. Not all holiday lights are built the same. Before purchasing lights or stringing your tree, check the box to make sure all your Christmas lights have been tested in a lab by the UL or ETL/ITSNA. If a string of lights is damaged, toss it out.

Safe setting. Of course, to avoid a fire, set your tree in a safe spot away from radiators, candles, fireplaces, vents or lights. Always keep the tree base filled with water to keep your tree healthy and a fire at bay.

Don't over-decorate. While it can be tempting to load your tree with every decoration, an overloaded tree is more likely to come crashing down. Decorate lightly if possible, especially if you have small children or playful pets in the house.

Power down at night. Even though it can seem appealing to leave your tree lights on all night, power them down when you turn in for the night to ensure safety.

As a Member of the Top 5 in Real Estate Network®, I have a wealth of real estate and homeownership information that may be of help to you. Feel free to contact me any time to learn more about this important information, and be sure to forward this article on to any friends or family that may be interested as well.

Sincerely,
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npine@live.com
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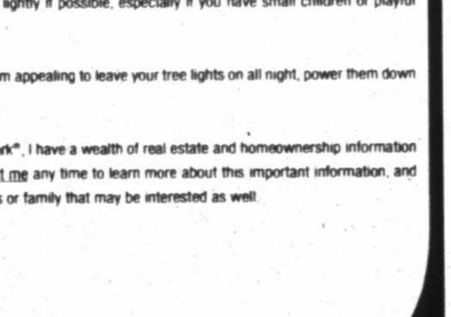
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509 EUGENE...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS #50017745 ... SALE PENDING

EE HOMES, INC. - VISTA DEL SOL
7210 E. CO. RD. 95...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS #50017108 ... $542,735
7419 ECR 96...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS #50018197 ... $495,000

7415 ECR 96...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS #50018195 ... $482,180

J C CHAVEZ CONSTRUCTION
1112 E. COWDEN...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS #50018046 ... SALE PENDING

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5307 ALYSHEBA LANE...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50015038 ... $4,500,000
604 SOLOMON LANE...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50009355 ... $2,950,000
4200 FM 1208...Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ... MLS #50015234 ... $1,975,000
2905 SINCLAIR AVE...Leah Watkins 599-2187 ... MLS #50017581 ... $1,775,000
6401 LOS CONCHOS LANE...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50017736 ... $1,750,000
2016 GLADEWOOD DR...Chandler Roberts 634-8579 ... MLS #50016626 ... $1,200,000
6016 HOMESTEAD BLVD...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50017876 ... $1,150,000
5701 DEVLIN PLACE...Jerry Lesikar 425-1096 ... MLS #50016172 ... $1,150,000
3901 FAIRWOOD DRIVE...Larry Hatfield 349-4788 ... MLS #50016330 ... $995,000
2510 COLONIAL OAKS CT...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50012754 ... $845,000
215 WINDRIDGE CIRCLE...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #R50018161A ... $750,000
6345 PRAIRIE RIDGE...Jerrilyn Garrison 202-0276 ... $735,000
3917 FAIRWOOD COURT...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ... MLS #50014785 ... SALE PENDING
218 WINDRIDGE CIRCLE...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS 50016318A ... $679,000
191 JADEWOOD...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50018475 ... $675,000
2101 DEEANNA...Susan Palmer 978-7816 ... MLS #50013118 ... $675,000

4700 WOODHOLLOW DR...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #50019335 ... $625,000
4017 BAYBROOK DR...Pam Dodd 413-0780 ... $599,500
7209 ECR 110...Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ... MLS #50018207 ... $599,000
5005 MIRA VISTA CIRCLE...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50018379 ... $595,000
1705 CUTHBERT AVE...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50018987 ... $529,000
4900 Castleford Road...Kay Bivens 934-5895 ... MLS #50019147 ... $505,000
1902 ECR 1121...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #50018196 ... SALE PENDING
2010 COLEMAN COURT - POLO PARK...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ... MLS #50018282 ... $459,000
2 STUTZ COURT...Donna Omar 349-1458 ... $458,000
5315 GREATHOUSE AVE...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50018580 ... SALE PENDING
2601 S. CR 1000...Larry Hatfield 349-4788 ... MLS #50018240 ... $450,000
3329 LANCEWOOD, ODESSA...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50018889 ... SALE PENDING
5505 CASA GRANDE TRL...Darla Davis 260-8007 ... MLS #50018297 ... $449,900
1313 BRIGHTON PLACE...Danny Norwood 413-2764 ... MLS #50018337 ... $449,000
2002 S. CO. RD 1006...Larry Hatfield 349-4788 ... MLS #50018502 ... $410,000
5901 FRIO DR...Darla Davis 260-8007 ... MLS #50019100 ... $399,950
3617 IMPERIAL AVE...Cheryl Parrish 352-3053 ... MLS #50018691 ... $389,900
1711 NORMANDY...Larry Hatfield 349-4788 ... MLS #50018068 ... $389,500

2105 WHITNEY DR...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50017202 ... $350,000
5801 DIAMOND DR...Lavonne Johnson 770-3883 ... MLS #50018292 ... $300,000
5801 CHAMPIONS DR...Kim Merrill 664-4702 ... MLS #50018339 ... SALE PENDING
3202 RED...Jose Alvarez 296-1395 ... MLS #50015808 ... $354,900
1403 CERILLOS AVE...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50018851 ... $350,000
2500 S COUNTY RD 1051...Darla Davis 260-8077 ... MLS #50018303 ... $329,900
1310 Rattler La...Tina Atkins 661-0062 ... MLS #R50017726A ... $327,500
5607 RODEO ST...Cheryl Parrish 352-3053 ... MLS #50018100 ... SALE PENDING
6405 VANGAURD...Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ... MLS #50018835 ... $310,000
3600 STANOLIND AVE...Lisa Russell 741-5964 ... $315,000
1611 WRANGLER...Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ... MLS #50017923 ... $310,000
214 RIDGLEA DR...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... $300,000
3214 LOCKHEED DR...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50018581 ... $299,000
4902 SUNDOWN CIRCLE...Tina Atkins 432-661-0062 ... MLS #50015039 ... $287,500
1100 MILLTOWN RD...Denise Brasher 889-5022 ... MLS #50018700 ... SALE PENDING
712 RUBY...Jose Alvarez 296-1395 ... MLS #50015851 ... $124,000

THREE BEDROOMS IN MIDLAND

5316 CAMDEN...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #R50017793A ... $899,000
6613 CACTUS TR...Betty Hicks 697-8585 ... MLS #50018951 ... $600,000
2901 SEABOARD...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50018490 ... SALE PENDING
4008 BAYBROOK DR...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50018321 ... SALE PENDING
3402 FELDSPAR LANE...Lisa Russell 741-5964 ... MLS #50016810 ... $485,000
1900 SPARKS...Danny Norwood 413-2764 ... $435,000
9700 FM 307...Sandy Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #50015627 ... SALE PENDING
2100 OAKLAWN...Susan Palmer 978-7816 ... MLS #50016876 ... $379,000
5412 SAN SABA...Susan Palmer 978-7816 ... MLS #50018991 ... $373,000
2707 CALDERA DR...Skye Farms 294-3336 ... MLS #50017251 ... $369,900
5217 GREEN TREE BLVD...Stephanie Rogers 978-9757 ... MLS #50015633 ... $364,900
2509 STANOLIND AVE...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS#50019158 ... $360,000
4705 65 SPRING MEADOWS...Donna Omar 349-1458 ... MLS #50017536 ... $360,000
60 CAMBRIDGE...Jose Alvarez 296-1395 ... MLS #50015990 ... $329,900

4604 MEADOWWOOD CT...Jerrilyn Garrison 202-0276 ... MLS #50019255 ... $325,000
413 O' ROARKE...Jerrilyn Garrison 202-0276 ... MLS #50019103 ... $320,000
1002 SHEA LANE...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50018822 ... SALE PENDING
907 PINE CT...Susan Palmer 978-7816 ... MLS #50015319 ... $310,000
207 RIDGELEA DR...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50018800 ... $300,000
1806 COUNTRY CLUB...Jerrilyn Garrison 202-0276 ... MLS #50016979 ... $300,000
3010 CARVER...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50018754 ... $300,000
2914 MOSS AVE...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50018858 ... SALE PENDING
2305 SHANDON AVE...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50019279 ... SALE PENDING
3203 SOUTHRIDGE COURT...Donna Omar 349-1458 ... MLS #50018478 ... $295,000
100 W CARPENTER...Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ... MLS #50018407 ... $289,000
2406 PRINCETON...Susan Palmer 978-7816 ... MLS #50019310 ... $287,000
6706 SPUR DR...Lisa Russell 741-5964 ... MLS #50018073 ... $284,900
2604 FAULKNER...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50018411 ... SALE PENDING
2102 MARCIE COURT...Kim Merrill 664-4702 ... MLS #50018022 ... $259,999
4515 PALMER DR...Leah Watkins 599-2187 ... MLS #R50018873A ... $257,500
4309 COUNTRY CLUB DR...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50018996 ... $250,000

1301 INDIANA...Danny Norwood 413-2764 ... MLS #50018480 ... $249,900
2205 WARD...Betty Hicks 553-8194 ... MLS #50018311 ... SALE PENDING
5101 S COUNTY RD 1142...Darla Davis 260-8077 ... MLS #50017831 ... $239,950
1113 CEDAR CREEK...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50018563 ... SALE PENDING
3274 FM 3113 Stanton, TX...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ... MLS #50017456 ... SALE PENDING
2905 DOUGLAS...Karen Foster 559-4086 ... MLS #50017080 ... SALE PENDING
4302 PRINCETON...Kim Merrill 664-4702 ... MLS #50016791 ... SALE PENDING
3304 LOUISIANA...Lavonne Johnson 770-3883 ... MLS #50017779 ... SALE PENDING
4612 PLEASANT DR...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50019044 ... SALE PENDING
1503 CIMMARON, ODESSA...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50018956 ... $175,000
105 E. CEDAR...Gina Reyes 553-6381 ... MLS #50017600 ... $166,000
5110 RIC DRIVE...Sandy Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #50018694 ... SALE PENDING
9700- A FM 307...Sandy Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #50017805 ... SALE PENDING

ONE/TWO BEDROOMS IN MIDLAND

2709 Louisiana...Larry Hatfield 349-4788 ... MLS #50017641 ... SALE PENDING
2202 WESTERN DR...Ashley St. John 352-6254 ... MLS #50018519 ... SALE PENDING
1210 CEDAR CREEK RD...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50018607 ... SALE PENDING
407 N FT. WORTH...Danny Norwood 413-2764 ... MLS #50018466 ... $114,300

HOMES IN MIDLAND COUNTY

4210 E. CO. RD. 63...Martha Manulik 557-8744 ... MLS #50017203 ... 2 Acres/$850,000
2100 SCR 1110...Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ... MLS #5017702 ... SALE PENDING
9706 FM 307, GREENWOOD...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ... MLS #50016993 ... 31 Acres & 2 Houses/$650,000
7200 E CO. RD. 110, GREENWOOD...Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ... MLS#50018207 ... $529,999
11414 WCR 52...Mark Pfeiffer 222-5071 ... MLS #50018867 ... 5+ Acres/$525,000

2707 MARIE DR...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50018018 ... SALE PENDING
5701 S. CO. RD. 1295...Larry Hatfield 349-4788 ... MLS #550017078 ... $450,000
12200 E. CO. RD. 90, GREENWOOD...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ... MLS #50016831 ... $445,900
2002 S. CO. RD 1006...Larry Hatfield 349-4788 ... MLS #50018502 ... $399,900
615 ECR 150...Reannah Glover 553-5357 ... MLS #50019110 ... $399,000
3903 SCR 1105...Susan Palmer 978-7816 ... MLS #50017665 ... SALE PENDING

9700 FM 307...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #50015627 ... SALE PENDING
4107 W COUNTY RD 184...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50018544 ... $365,000
2917 S COUNTY RD 1223.5...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #R50017520A ... SALE PENDING
7201 ECR 90...Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ... MLS #50018221 ... SALE PENDING
7300 E. CO. RD. 61...Jerrilyn Garrison 202-0276 ... SALE PENDING
10801 E. CO. RD. 104, GREENWOOD...Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ... SALE PENDING

HOMES OUTSIDE OF MIDLAND COUNTY

9700 FM 307, GREENWOOD...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #50015627 ... $449,900
6919 STONEHENGE RD., ODESSA...Wendy Waddell 638-9955 ... MLS #108928 ... SALE PENDING
14735 N CHINABERRY, GARDENDALE...Ashley St John 352-6254 ... MLS #50019308 ... 1.5ACRES/$375,000

COLORADO CITY...Jerrilyn Garrison 202-0276 ... MLS #50006943 ... 10 Acres/$300,000
3030 CO. RD. 310, HUBBARD CREEK LAKE-BREKENRIDGE...Josie Alvarez 296-1395 ... $275,000
409 E. 98TH STREET, ODESSA...Amanda Gunter 413-7330 ... $109,900

6311 CHRISTOPHER LN...Denise Brasher 889-5022 ... MLS #50011032 ... SALE PENDING
3332 LCR 252, COLORADO CITY...Larry Hatfield 349-4788 ... MLS #50015304 ... $99,000
5252 LAKE CO. RD. 256...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #106038 ... $89,400

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL

7400 W. CO. RD. 116...Tina Atkins 432-661-0062 ... MLS #5001278 ... 12.55 Acres/$1,000,000
4300 S. CO. RD. 1131, GREENWOOD...Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ... MLS #50009725 ... 43 Acres/$1,375,000
9706 FM 307...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ... MLS #50016099 ... 31 Acres & 2 Houses/$650,000
9706 FM 307...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ... MLS #50016100 ... 17+ Acres/$599,000

5701 S. CO. RD. 1295...Larry Hatfield 349-4788 ... MLS #J50017076 ... $450,000
9700 FM 307...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #50005743 ... $430,500
200 S COLLEGE DR...Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ... MLS #50018506A ... $400,000

LAND AND LOTS

4200 FM 1208...Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ... MLS #50015227 ... $1,975,000
E. CO. RD. 67...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ... MLS #50013484 ... 56.82 Acres/$800,000
4000 CARDINAL LANE...Karen Foster 559-4086 ... MLS #5008598 ... $695,000
3604 CARDINAL LANE...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50015313 ... $600,000
9706 FM 307, GREENWOOD...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ... MLS #50016993 ... 17+ Acres/$599,000
9706 FM 307...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #50005743 ... $430,500
4220 BLACKBIRD DR...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #R50017698 ... $375,000
4221 BLACKBIRD DR...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50017910 ... $376,000
4211 BLACKBIRD DR...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50017911 ... $376,000
4100 BLACKBIRD DR...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #R50018001 ... $360,000
4000 BLACKBIRD DR...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #R50018002 ... $350,000

4011 BLACKBIRD DR...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #R50018003 ... $350,000
4115 BLACKBIRD DR...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #R50018004 ... $350,000
0 BLUEBIRD LN...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50001939 ... $350,000
4210 BLACKBIRD DR...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #R50018000 ... $325,000
0 BLUEBIRD LN...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS#50019141 ... $320,000
0 BLUEBIRD LN...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS#50019140 ... $320,000
CO. RD. 60 W. AND 1253...Lavonne Johnson 770-3883 ... MLS #50007449 ... 3 Acres/$150,000
CR1057 Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ... MLS #50016972 ... 2AC/$104,000
CR1057 Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ... MLS #50016976 ... 2AC/$104,000
CR1057 Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ... MLS #50016971 ... 1.96AC/$99,500
CR1057 Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ... MLS #50016973 ... 1.96AC/$99,500
CR1057 Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ... MLS #50016975 ... 1.96AC/$99,500
CR116 Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ... MLS #50015967 ... 1.8AC/$90,500
CR116 Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ... MLS #50016969 ... 1.5AC/$92,500

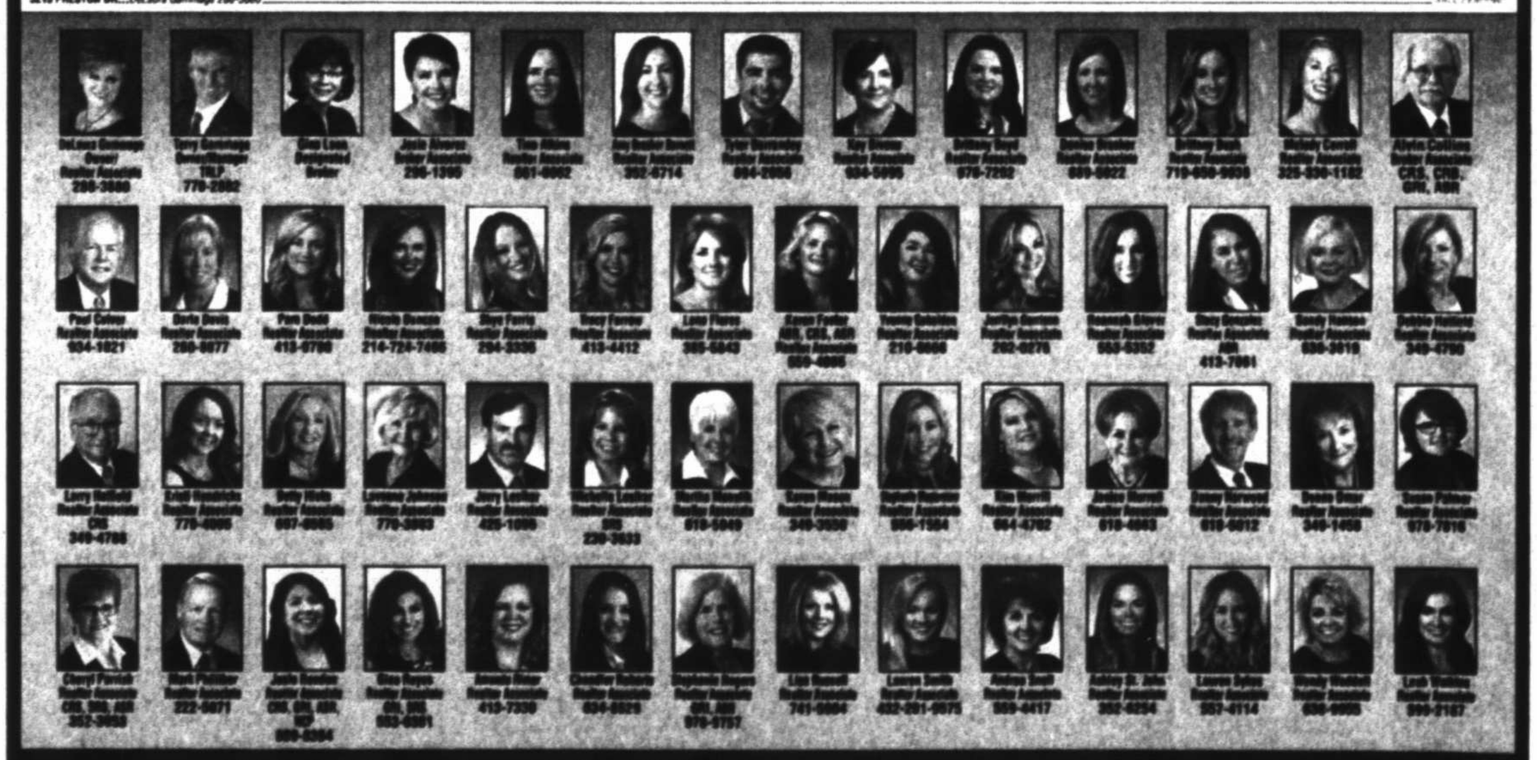
CR116 Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ... MLS #50016970 ... 105AC/$90,000
1010 SCR 1009...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ... MLS #50017685 ... $77,900
1608 SCR 1009...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ... MLS #50017686 ... $77,900
GREENWOOD LOT...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ... MLS #50017649 ... $42,500
3300 SIENNA LANE, GRADY ISD...Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ... MLS #50009231 ... $34,500
3372 SIENNA LANE, GRADY ISD...Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ... MLS #50009226 ... $32,000
3373 SIENNA LANE, GRADY ISD...Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ... MLS #50009229 ... $30,400
2904 FOXGLOVE ST., GRADY ISD...Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ... $29,504
3377 SIENNA LANE, GRADY ISD...Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ... MLS #50009228 ... $29,400
3376 SIENNA LANE, GRADY ISD...Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ... MLS #50009225 ... $29,200
3367 SIENNA LANE, GRADY ISD...Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ... MLS #50009232 ... $26,240
9000 E. CO. RD. 67, GREENWOOD...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ... MLS #50013484 ... 56.82 Acres/$10,500 Per Acre

FOR LEASE

1913 MCCALL...ASHLEY ST...John 352-6254 ... MLS #50018731 ... $8,000/MONTH
4311 ST. ANDREWS...Pam Dodd 413-0780 ... $2,400/MONTH

TOWNHOMES AND PATIO HOMES

3104 TEALWOOD PLACE...Janice Murrell 349-7242 ... MLS #50018487 ... SALE PENDING
3215 PRESTON DR...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... SALE PENDING



"Voted Midland's Favorite Real Estate Agency!" Midland Reporter-Telegram's 2007-2018 Reader's Choice poll

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NEW CONSTRUCTION IN MIDLAND

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700 S. TILDEN ST....Josie Rendon 889-8394 ..... SALE PENDING
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1400 S. CO. RD. 1120....Josie Rendon 889-8394 ..... MLS #50017229 ..... $469,300
509 EUGENE....Josie Rendon 889-8394 ..... MLS #50017745 ..... SALE PENDING
GE HOMES, INC. - VISTA DEL SOL
7210 E. CO. RD. 95....Josie Rendon 889-8394 ..... MLS #50017108 ..... $542,735
7419 ECR 96....Josie Rendon 889-8394 ..... MLS #50018197 ..... $488,680
7415 ECR 96....Josie Rendon 889-8394 ..... MLS #50018195 ..... $482,180
J C GOMEZ CONSTRUCTION
1112 E. COWDEN....Josie Rendon 889-8394 ..... MLS #50018046 ..... SALE PENDING

FOUR OR MORE BEDROOMS IN MIDLAND

5307 ALYSHEBA LANE....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50015038 ..... $4,500,000
604 SOLOMON LANE....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50009355 ..... $2,950,000
4200 FM 1208....Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... MLS #50015234 ..... $1,975,000
2005 SINCLAIR AVE....Leah Watkins 599-2187 ..... MLS #50017581 ..... $1,775,000
8401 LOS CONCHOS LANE....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50017736 ..... $1,750,000
2016 GLADEWOOD DR....Chandler Roberts 634-8529 ..... MLS #50016678 ..... $1,200,000
6016 HOMESTEAD BLVD....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50017876 ..... $1,150,000
5701 DEVLIN PLACE....Jerry Leskar 425-1096 ..... MLS #50016172 ..... $1,150,000
3901 FAIRWOOD DRIVE....Larry Hatfield 349-4788 ..... MLS #50016330 ..... $995,000
2510 COLONIAL OAKS CT....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50012754 ..... $845,000
215 WINDRIDGE CIRCLE....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #R50016161A $750,000
6345 PRAIRIE RIDGE....Jerrilyn Garrison 202-0276 ..... $735,000
3917 FAIRWOOD COURT....Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ..... MLS #50014785 ..... SALE PENDING
216 WINDRIDGE CIRCLE....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS 50016318A $679,000
191 JADEWOOD....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50018475 ..... $675,000
2101 DEEANNA....Susan Palmer 978-7816 ..... MLS #50013118 ..... $675,000
4700 WOODHOLLOW DR....Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #50019335 ..... $625,000
4017 BAYBROOK DR....Pam Dodd 413-0780 ..... $599,500
7209 ECR 110....Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... MLS #50018207 ..... $599,000
5005 MIRA VISTA CIRCLE....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50018379 ..... $595,000
1705 CUTHBERT AVE....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50018987 ..... $529,000
4000 Castleford Road....Kay Bivens 934-5995 ..... MLS #50019147 ..... $505,000
1902 ECR 1121....Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #50018196 ..... SALE PENDING
2010 COLEMAN COURT - POLO PARK....Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ..... MLS #50018282 ..... $459,000
2 STUTZ COURT....Donna Omar 349-1458 ..... $450,000
5315 GREATHOUSE AVE....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50018580 ..... SALE PENDING
2601 S. CR 1000....Larry Hatfield 349-4788 ..... MLS #50018240 ..... $450,000
3329 LANCEWOOD, ODESSA....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50018889 ..... SALE PENDING
5505 CASA GRANDE TRL....Darla Davis 260-8007 ..... MLS #50018297 ..... $449,900
1313 BRIGHTON PLACE....Danny Norwood 413-2764 ..... MLS #50018337 ..... $449,000
2002 S. CO. RD 1006....Larry Hatfield 349-4788 ..... MLS #50018502 ..... $410,000
5901 FRIO DR....Darla Davis 260-8007 ..... MLS #50019100 ..... $399,950
3617 IMPERIAL AVE....Cheryl Parrish 352-3053 ..... MLS #50018691 ..... $389,900
1711 NORMANDY....Larry Hatfield 349-4788 ..... MLS #50018068 ..... $389,500
2106 WHITNEY DR....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50017202 ..... $350,000
5801 DIAMOND DR....Lavonne Johnson 770-3883 ..... MLS #50018292 ..... $360,000
5801 CHAMPIONS DR....Kim Merrill 664-4702 ..... MLS #50018339 ..... SALE PENDING
3202 REO....Josie Alvarez 296-1395 ..... MLS #50015808 ..... $354,900
1403 CEBOLLOS AVE....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50018851 ..... $350,000
2500 S COUNTY RD 1051....Darla Davis 260-8077 ..... MLS #50018303 ..... $329,900
1210 Rattler La....Tina Atkins 661-0062 ..... MLS #R50017728A $327,500
5607 RODEO ST....Cheryl Parrish 352-3053 ..... MLS #50018100 ..... SALE PENDING
6405 VANGUARD....Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... MLS #50018835 ..... $310,000
3600 STANOLIND AVE....Lisa Russell 741-5964 ..... $315,000
1611 WRANGLER....Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... MLS #50017923 ..... $310,000
214 RIDGLEA DR....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... $300,000
3214 LOCKHEED DR....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50018581 ..... $299,000
4902 SUNDOWN CIRCLE....Tina Atkins 432-661-0062 ..... MLS #50015039 ..... $297,500
1100 MILLTOWN RD....Denise Brasher 889-5022 ..... MLS #50018700 ..... SALE PENDING
712 RUBY....Josie Alvarez 296-1395 ..... MLS #50015851 ..... $124,000

THREE BEDROOMS IN MIDLAND

5316 CAMDEN....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #R50017793A $699,000
0613 CACTUS TR....Betty Hicks 697-8585 ..... MLS #50018951 ..... $600,000
2901 SEABOARD....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50018490 ..... SALE PENDING
4000 BAYBROOK DR....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50018321 ..... SALE PENDING
3402 FELDSPAR LANE....Lisa Russell 741-5964 ..... MLS #50016810 ..... $405,000
1900 SPARKS....Danny Norwood 413-2764 ..... $435,000
9708 FM 307....Sandy Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #50015627 ..... SALE PENDING
2100 OAKLAWN....Susan Palmer 978-7816 ..... MLS #50016876 ..... $379,000
5412 SAN SABA....Susan Palmer 978-7816 ..... MLS #50018991 ..... $373,000
2707 CALDERA DR....Skye Farris 294-3336 ..... MLS #50017251 ..... $368,000
5217 GREEN TREE BLVD....Stephanie Rogers 978-9757 ..... MLS #50015633 ..... $364,900
2509 STANOLIND AVE....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS#50019158 ..... $360,000
4705 #5 SPRING MEADOWS....Donna Omar 349-1458 ..... MLS #50017536 ..... $350,000
#9 CAMBRIDGE....Josie Alvarez 296-1395 ..... MLS #50015990 ..... $329,900
4004 MEADOWWOOD CT....Jerrilyn Garrison 202-0276 ..... MLS #50019255 ..... $325,000
413 D' ROARKE....Jerrilyn Garrison 202-0276 ..... MLS #50019103 ..... $320,000
1002 SHEA LANE....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50018822 ..... SALE PENDING
907 PINE CT....Susan Palmer 978-7816 ..... MLS #50015319 ..... $310,000
297 RIDGLEA DR....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50018800 ..... $300,000
1805 COUNTRY CLUB....Jerrilyn Garrison 202-0276 ..... MLS #50018979 ..... $300,000
3010 CARVER....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50018754 ..... $300,000
2914 MOSS AVE....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50018858 ..... SALE PENDING
2305 SHANDON AVE....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50019279 ..... SALE PENDING
3203 SOUTHRIDGE COURT....Donna Omar 349-1458 ..... MLS #50018478 ..... $295,000
100 W CARPENTER....Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... MLS #50018407 ..... $289,000
2406 PRINCETON....Susan Palmer 978-7816 ..... MLS #50019310 ..... $287,000
6706 SPUR DR....Lisa Russell 741-5964 ..... MLS #50018075 ..... $284,900
2604 FAULKNER....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50018411 ..... SALE PENDING
2102 MARCIE COURT....Kim Merrill 664-4702 ..... MLS #50018022 ..... $259,999
4515 PALMER DR....Leah Watkins 599-2187 ..... MLS #R50018873A $257,500
4300 COUNTRY CLUB DR....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50018996 ..... $250,000
1301 INDIANA....Danny Norwood 413-2764 ..... MLS #50018493 ..... $249,900
2205 WARD....Betty Hicks 553-8194 ..... MLS #50018311 ..... SALE PENDING
5101 S COUNTY RD 1142....Darla Davis 260-8077 ..... MLS #50017831 ..... $239,950
1113 CEDAR CREEK....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50018563 ..... SALE PENDING
3274 FM 3113 Stanton, TX....Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ..... MLS #50017456 ..... SALE PENDING
2905 DOUGLAS....Karen Foster 559-4086 ..... MLS #50017080 ..... SALE PENDING
4302 PRINCETON....Kim Merrill 664-4702 ..... MLS #50016791 ..... SALE PENDING
3304 LOUISIANA....Lavonne Johnson 770-3883 ..... MLS #50017779 ..... SALE PENDING
4612 PLEASANT DR....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50019044 ..... SALE PENDING
1503 CIMMARON, ODESSA....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50018956 ..... $175,000
105 E. CEDAR....Gina Reyes 553-6381 ..... MLS #50017600 ..... $165,000
5110 RIC DRIVE....Sandy Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #50018694 ..... SALE PENDING
9700- A FM 307....Sandy Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #50017805 ..... SALE PENDING

ONE/TWO BEDROOMS IN MIDLAND

2709 Louisiana....Larry Hatfield 349-4788 ..... MLS #50017641 ..... SALE PENDING
2202 WESTERN DR....Ashley St. John 352-6254 ..... MLS #50018519 ..... SALE PENDING
1210 CEDAR CREEK RD....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50018607 ..... SALE PENDING
407 N FT. WORTH....Danny Norwood 413-2764 ..... MLS #50018486 ..... $114,300

HOMES IN MIDLAND COUNTY

4216 E. CO. RD. 83....Martha Manolik 557-8744 ..... MLS #50017203 ..... 2 Acres/$850,000
2100 SCR 1110....Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... MLS #5017702 ..... SALE PENDING
9706 FM 307, GREENWOOD....Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ..... MLS #50016993 ..... 31 Acres & 2 Houses/$650,000
7209 E CO. RD. 110, GREENWOOD....Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... MLS#50018207 ..... $529,999
11414 WCR 52....Mark Pfeffer 222-5071 ..... MLS #50018667 ..... 5+ Acres/$525,000
2707 MARIE DR....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50018018 ..... SALE PENDING
5701 S. CO. RD. 1295....Larry Hatfield 349-4788 ..... MLS #550017078 ..... $450,000
12200 E. CO. RD. 89, GREENWOOD....Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ..... MLS #50016831 ..... $440,000
2902 S. CO. RD 1006....Larry Hatfield 349-4788 ..... MLS #50018502 ..... $399,900
615 FCR 150....Reannah Glover 553-5352 ..... MLS #50019110 ..... $399,000
3903 SCR 1105....Susan Palmer 978-7816 ..... MLS #50017665 ..... SALE PENDING
9708 FM 307....Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #50015627 ..... SALE PENDING
4187 W COUNTY RD 184....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50018544 ..... $365,000
2917 S COUNTY RD 1223.5....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #R50017520A ..... SALE PENDING
7291 ECR 90....Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... MLS #50018221 ..... SALE PENDING
7300 E. CO. RD. 61....Jerrilyn Garrison 202-0276 ..... SALE PENDING
10001 E. CO. RD. 104, GREENWOOD....Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... SALE PENDING

HOMES OUTSIDE OF MIDLAND COUNTY

9708 FM 307, GREENWOOD....Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #50015627 ..... $449,900
COLORADO CITY....Jerrilyn Garrison 202-0276 ..... MLS #50008943 ..... 10 Acres/$300,000
6311 CHRISTOPHER LN....Denise Brasher 889-5022 ..... MLS #50011032 ..... SALE PENDING
0919 STONEHENGE RD., ODESSA....Wendy Waddell 638-8955 ..... MLS #108929 ..... SALE PENDING
3039 CO. RD. 310, HUBBARD CREEK LAKE-BREKENRIDGE....Josie Alvarez 296-1395 ..... $275,000
3332 LCR 252, COLORADO CITY....Larry Hatfield 349-4788 ..... MLS #50015304 ..... $90,000
14735 N CRANBERRY, GARDENDALE....Ashley St John 352-6254 ..... MLS #50019308 ..... 1.5ACRES/$375,000
400 E. 98TH STREET, ODESSA....Amanda Gunter 413-7330 ..... $189,900
5252 LAKE CO. RD. 256....Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #108038 ..... $89,400

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL

7400 W. CO. RD. 110....Tina Atkins 432-661-0062 ..... MLS #5001278 ..... 12.56 Acres/$1,000,000
4309 S. CO. RD. 1131, GREENWOOD....Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... MLS #50009725 ..... 43 Acres/$1,375,000
9706 FM 307....Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ..... MLS #50016099 ..... 31 Acres & 2 Houses/$650,000
9706 FM 307....Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ..... MLS #50016100 ..... 17+ Acres/$999,900
6701 S. CO. RD. 1295....Larry Hatfield 349-4788 ..... MLS #50017076 ..... $450,000
9708 FM 307....Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #50005743 ..... $430,500
298 S COLLEGE DR....Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... MLS #50018506A $400,000

LAND AND LOTS

4200 FM 1208....Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... MLS #50015227 ..... $1,975,000
E. CO. RD. 67....Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ..... MLS #50013484 ..... 50.87 Acres/$900,000
4000 CARDINAL LANE....Karen Foster 559-4086 ..... MLS #5008598 ..... $695,000
3604 CARDINAL LANE....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50015313 ..... $600,000
9706 FM 307, GREENWOOD....Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ..... MLS #50016993 ..... 17+ Acres/$999,900
9708 FM 307....Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #50005743 ..... $430,500
4220 BLACKBIRD DR....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #R50017998 ..... $375,000
4221 BLACKBIRD DR....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50017910 ..... $375,000
4211 BLACKBIRD DR....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50017911 ..... $375,000
4100 BLACKBIRD DR....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #R50018001 ..... $350,000
4000 BLACKBIRD DR....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #R50018002 ..... $350,000
4011 BLACKBIRD DR....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #R50018003 ..... $350,000
4115 BLACKBIRD DR....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #R50018004 ..... $350,000
0 BLUEBIRD LN....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50001939 ..... $350,000
4210 BLACKBIRD DR....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #R50018000 ..... $325,000
0 BLUEBIRD LN....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS#50019141 ..... $320,000
0 BLUEBIRD LN....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS#50019140 ..... $320,000
CO. RD. 80 W. AND 1253....Lavonne Johnson 770-3883 ..... MLS #50007449 ..... 3 Acres/$150,000
CR1057 Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... MLS #50016972 ..... .28AC/$104,000
CR1057 Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... MLS #50016976 ..... .28AC/$104,000
CR1057 Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... MLS #50016971 ..... 1.96AC/$99,500
CR1057 Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... MLS #50016973 ..... 1.96AC/$99,500
CR1057 Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... MLS #50016975 ..... 1.96AC/$99,500
CR116 Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... MLS #50015967 ..... 1.8AC/$90,000
CR116 Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... MLS #50016968 ..... 1.5AC/$92,500
CR116 Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... MLS #50016970 ..... 105AC/$80,000
1010 SCR 1000....Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ..... MLS #50017685 ..... $77,000
1008 SCR 1000....Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ..... MLS #50017686 ..... $77,000
GREENWOOD LOT....Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ..... MLS #50017649 ..... $42,500
3368 SIERRA LANE, GRADY ISD....Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... MLS #50009231 ..... $34,560
3372 SIERRA LANE, GRADY ISD....Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... MLS #50009276 ..... $32,000
3373 SIERRA LANE, GRADY ISD....Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... MLS #50009229 ..... $30,400
2904 FOXGLOVE ST., GRADY ISD....Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... $29,504
3377 SIERRA LANE, GRADY ISD....Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... MLS #50009228 ..... $28,480
3376 SIERRA LANE, GRADY ISD....Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... MLS #50009275 ..... $28,288
3387 SIERRA LANE, GRADY ISD....Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... MLS #50009232 ..... $26,240
0000 E. CO. RD. 67, GREENWOOD....Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ..... MLS #50013484 ..... 50.82 Acres/$10,500 Per Acre

FOR LEASE

1913 MCCALL, ASHLEY ST....John 352-6254 ..... MLS #50018731 ..... $0,000/MONTH
4311 ST. ANDREWS....Pam Dodd 413-0780 ..... $2,400/MONTH

TOWNHOMES AND PATIO HOMES

3104 TEALWOOD PLACE....Janice Murrell 349-7242 ..... MLS #50018487 ..... SALE PENDING
3215 PRESTON DR....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... SALE PENDING



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