# MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2017 mrt★com *235,000 readers in print and online monthly*


**SMOKING QUESTIONS**

Texas may snuff out smoking for anyone younger than 21.

Page 4A



**THE CHAMPION**

CassieJo Bennett of Greenwood and her steer "Woody" took home the Grand Champion in the exotic class award during the Midland County Livestock Show. Check out her feature on what it takes to win online.

mrt.com

# THE $2.7 BILLION DEAL

**Noble's gains**

■ Noble will gain 2,400 Delaware Basin gross drilling locations targeting lower and upper Wolfcamp A.

**Noble's expected spending**

■ Noble now expects to spend an additional $150 million in the Delaware Basin, bringing reported Delaware Basin spending to about $500 million in 2017.

**Noble's potential**

■ Net resource potential of the acreage being acquired is over 1 billion barrels of oil equivalent in the Wolfcamp alone.

**Noble's planned production**

■ Noble plans to increase the production on the new acreage from 10,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day to between 60,000 and 70,000 BOE by the end of 2020.

## Noble buys Clayton Williams Energy

■ Noble Energy accelerates activity in the Permian Basin

**By Mella McEwen**
*mmcewen@mrt.com*

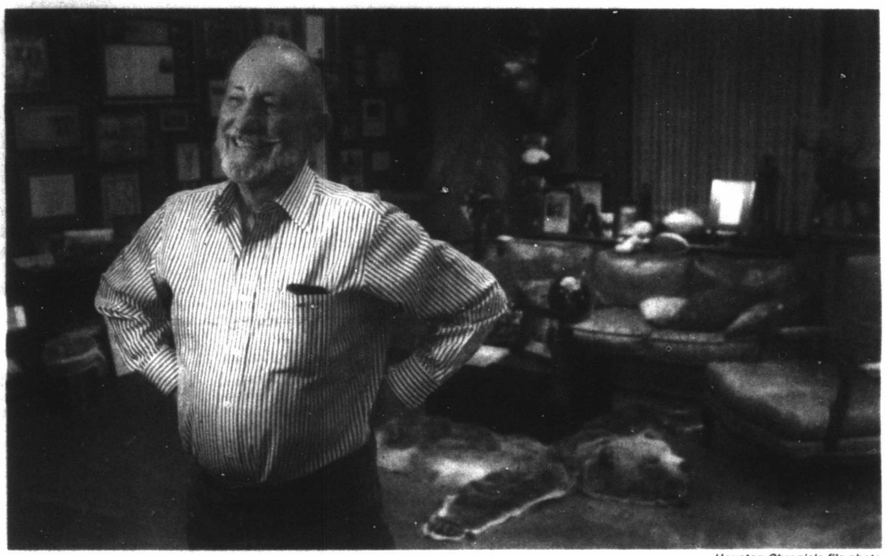
Noble Energy is hitting the accelerator as it snapped up Midland's Clayton Williams Energy in a cash-and-stock deal valued at $2.7 billion, significantly expanding its Delaware position.

Deena McMullen, spokesperson for Noble, told the Reporter-Telegram by email "We are very excited about the Clayton Williams Energy acreage given it is highly contiguous and adjacent to our existing position. Through this acquisition, Noble Energy will achieve an industry-leading position in the Southern Delaware."

The acquisition involves Clayton Williams Energy's 71,000 net acres in Reeves and Ward counties, which are adjacent to Noble's existing 47,200 net acres. Noble's Delaware Basin operations are focused in Reeves County, McMullen said. The announcement comes on the heels of Noble's purchase of drilling rights on 7,200 acres in the Delaware for $300 million.

"I am very proud of the company we have built over the past 25 years and I am pleased that Noble Energy will be leading the development of our properties going forward. Noble Energy's long track record of operational excellence and value creation, as well as its reputation as a tremendous corporate citizen, make it the ideal partner for us. We look forward to being shareholders of Noble Energy and benefiting from its world class asset portfolio," Clayton W. Williams Jr., chairman and chief executive officer of Clayton Williams Energy, stated in the release announcing the deal.

Please see NOBLE/2A



*Houston Chronicle file photo*

Oil man and former Texas gubernatorial candidate Clayton Williams poses for a photo in his office in 2011 in Midland.

## CELEBRATION OF DR. KING

**The things he said**

Monday was Martin Luther King Day, which celebrates the life and achievements of Martin Luther King Jr., the influential American civil rights leader, according to timeanddate.com.

The following are quotes attributed to King, according to www.goodreads.com

—

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

—

"Faith is taking the first step even when you can't see the whole staircase."

—

"There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but he must take it because conscience tells him it is right."

—

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

—

"Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it."

—

"People fail to get along because they fear each other; they fear each other because they don't know each other; they don't know each other because they have not communicated with each other."

—

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

*Source: www.goodreads.com*




*James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram*

Dodiane Franklin sings during a brunch hosted by The Negro Business and Professional Women's Club of Midland to celebrate Martin Luther King Day on Monday, at the Martin Luther King Center. See more coverage on Page 4A.

## Conaway: Trump has 3 big areas to address starting on Day 1

**Editor's note:** This is the first in a series of stories about what U.S. Rep. Mike Conaway of Midland foresees for the nation, issues it faces and solutions that could be implemented.

**By Trevor Hawes**
*thawes@mrt.com*

On Friday, President-elect Donald Trump takes over for President Barack Obama, and Trump has indicated that he'll cut short typically lengthy ceremonial activities and get right to work.

The initiate has Republican U.S. Rep. Mike Conaway of Midland excited, and according to Conaway, Trump's presidency could mean the arrival of more productive times in the nation's capital and better times for Americans.

"We're going to transition from the high expectations, the things he said he would do during his campaign to actually delivering," Conaway said Monday during a visit to the Reporter-Telegram. "That's where it's hard because he's going to have to meet some high expectations."

Conaway said there are three main areas Trump will work at in his early days in office. First, there's that which Trump can do on his own, namely through executive order, which will happen Friday.

"The shortened parade means he's going to leave the viewing stand at the White House, go right to the Oval Office and start signing executive orders, revoking President (Barack) Obama's executive orders ... and grab the reins of state right of the bat. We

Please see CONAWAY/4A

**Weather**
Partly sunny
47/35
Get your complete forecast on 5B

**Did you know?**
The European Union wastes **88 million tons** of food per year, according to a recent report. Page 8A

**The big number**
There were **four people** who died in an early Saturday car crash. Page 2A

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

Brought to you daily by Juan Burrito

Vol. 88, No. 312
Daily $2, Sunday $3

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# DPS: Four die in early Saturday crash on SH 158

*From staff reports*

Four people died Saturday morning after a two-car accident 6 miles southeast of Midland on State Highway 158, according to information released Monday by the Department of Public Safety.

Kantrell D. Hires and three teenagers also from the Gulf Coast community of Portland died after their 2004 Chevrolet Impala collided with a truck that, according to DPS, had been traveling in the opposite direction but hydroplaned and crossed into their lane on 158.

DPS reported that a 2007 Ford F-150 pickup was traveling eastbound on 158 around 6:32 a.m. when it hydroplaned and crossed into the westbound lanes. Two of the four traveling in the Impala were wearing their seat belts at the time of the crash, according to DPS. The man from El Paso driving the truck was taken to Midland Memorial Hospital with "non-incapacitating injuries." He also was wearing a seat belt, according to DPS.

Law enforcement officials reported rainy conditions and wet road conditions at the time of the accident.

The third fatality accident of 2017 increased the total number of people who have died on roads inside Midland County this month to six.

## NOBLE

From 1A

Investment banker Grant Swartzwelder, founder and managing director of Dallas-based Wilcox-Swartzwelder & Co., told the Reporter-Telegram by email, "Clayton Williams Energy has some really good acreage and established infrastructure. The pricing is consistent with what others have paid. Noble is clearly creating critical mass in the Permian with their recent activities and now Clayton Williams."

As part of the company's valuation assessment, Noble Energy identified significant value relating to existing production and midstream opportunities. After adjusting for these items and net debt assumed, the purchase price represents approximately $32,000 per core Southern Delaware acre.

Clayton Williams Energy shareholders will receive 2.7874 shares of Noble Energy common stock and $34.75 in cash for each share of common stock held. In the aggregate, this totals 55 million shares of Noble Energy stock and $665 million in cash. While the aggregate amount of cash and stock in the transaction will not change, on an individual basis shareholders will be able to elect to receive cash or stock, subject to proration. The value of the transaction, based on Noble Energy's closing stock price as of January 13, 2017, is approximately $139 per Clayton Williams Energy share, or $3.2 billion in the aggregate, including the assumption of approximately $500 million in net debt.

> *"Clayton Williams Energy has some really good acreage and established infrastructure. The pricing is consistent with what others have paid. Noble is clearly creating critical mass in the Permian with their recent activities and now Clayton Williams."*
>
> **Grant Swartzwelder,** investment banker

The per share consideration represents a 21 percent premium to the average closing share price of Clayton Williams Energy over the past 30 days, and a 34 percent premium to the price on January 13, 2017, the last day of trading prior to the transaction.

Funds managed by Ares Management, L.P., which owned approximately 35 percent of the outstanding shares of Clayton Williams Energy as of December 31, 2016, have agreed to vote in favor of the transaction. Following completion of the acquisition, Clayton Williams Energy shareholders are expected to own approximately 11 percent of Noble's outstanding shares.

Noble Energy intends to fund the cash portion of the acquisition through a draw on its revolving credit facility. As of the end of 2016, the company's $4 billion facility was completely undrawn.

Noble officials say the combination of the two companies will create the industry's second largest acreage position in the Southern Delaware subbasin. The combined 120,000 acres will contain more than 4,200 drilling locations with more than 2 billion barrels of oil equivalent in what Noble officials call net unrisked resources.

Closing is expected in the second quarter, subject to customary regulatory approvals, approval by the holders of a majority of Clayton Williams Energy common stock, and certain other conditions.

As part of the deal, Noble will also receive an additional 100,000 net acres elsewhere in the Permian Basin.

Houston-based Noble entered the Delaware in 2015 with the acquisition of Rosetta Resources. McMullen told the Reporter-Telegram the properties are being managed out of the company's Houston offices, with a field location in Pecos. Asked if the acquisition could lead to a regional office in Midland, she said staffing needs will be evaluated during the process of integrating the properties prior to closing in the second quarter.

David L. Stover, Noble Energy's chairman, president and chief executive officer, said in the announcement of the acquisition that the company is rapidly accelerating its activity plans for 2017, operating three rigs on its Southern Delaware acreage and one on the Clayton Williams Energy position, with a second rig to be added to the new acreage following the closing of the deal. Noble will then add a third rig later in the year with the intent of ending 2017 with six rigs operating on Noble's Delaware Basin acreage.

Clayton Williams Energy brings to Noble 2,400 gross drilling locations targeting the upper and lower Wolfcamp A zones as well as the Wolfcamp B and C zones. Noble sees significant upside potential from other zones. Future horizontal drilling plans will include laterals averaging 8,000 feet.

By 2020, Noble hopes to increase production on the new acreage from 10,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day to between 60,000 and 70,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day.

The deal also includes existing midstream assets of over 300 miles of oil, natural gas and produced water gathering pipelines — over 100 miles for each product.

Noble now expects to spend an additional $150 million in the Delaware Basin, bringing reported Delaware Basin spending to approximately $500 million in 2017.

## Obituaries



### Bonnie Maxine Thurman Brown

Services for Bonnie M. Brown are to be at 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at First Baptist Church Seminole, Texas with Reverends Gene Hawkins and Joe Stuart officiating. Burial will follow at Gaines County North Cemetery.

The family will receive friends and family at visitation scheduled for 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at Ratliff Funeral Home in Seminole, Texas.

Bonnie Maxine Thurman Brown, of Seminole, passed away on January 13, 2017 in Midland, Texas. Bonnie was born July 30, 1920, in Shell Knob, Missouri to Lawrence Alonzo Thurman and Dona Brock Thurman. Her mother died in 1921. Bonnie and older sister Treva (1917) were cared for by family until Lawrence married Sally Agnes McAfee in 1923. A brother Carl (1924) and sister Mattie (1926) were born to Lawrence and Agnes. The family lived in oil field towns in Oklahoma and Texas. Lawrence died in 1936. The family moved to Seagraves, Texas.

Bonnie graduated from Pearsall High School. She then attended Draughn's Business School in Lubbock. She married Glenn Wayland Brown in Seagraves November 9, 1940 and lived in Seminole until 2009 when she moved to Midland.

Glenn and Bonnie raised two children, daughter Treva and son Carl. The couple were members of First Baptist Church Seminole since 1941. She enjoyed music, especially the organ, and was a faithful member of the church choir.

Bonnie worked in various positions with the Seminole Public Schools, and was office manager for Hoffman Oil Well Service for 13 years.

After retirement, Glenn and Bonnie enjoyed 10 years of travel with friends Roy and Edytha Banks of Andrews. The couple was married 68 years, faithful to their Lord and the church, loved and cared for family and friends, were loyal and reliable employees, and worked diligently at making their home a place of beauty and comfort.

Special thanks, love, and unending gratitude is due Mary Emma Frier who was Bonnie's devoted caretaker, helper, companion, encourager, and loyal friend since 1969. Also, love and appreciation is extended to Pat Brookshire who has been a wonderful caregiver and friend for over three years. Other caregivers include Gail Perry, Barbara Sidle, Susie Lindley (Pat's daughter), Mary Pena, and the nurses and aides at Manor Park Rehab and Midland Memorial Hospital.

Bonnie was preceded in death by her husband, Glenn Wayland Brown; parents, Lawrence Alonzo Thurman and Dona Brock Thurman; stepmother, Sally Agnes McAfee Thurman Montgomery; sisters, Treva Oleta Higdon Routh and Mattie Lois Thurman Chenoweth; brother, Carl Leon Thurman; mother-in-law, Cornelia Scott Brown; father-in-law, James Levi Brown; and son-in-law, Clarence Russell Lyday.

She is survived by her daughter, Treva Lyday of Arlington; son, Carl Brown and spouse Pam of Midland; granddaughters, Robin Lyday and husband Michael Anderson of Arlington, and Mary Wallach and husband Adam with great-granddaughter Ellie Ryan of Rowlett; grandsons, John Lyday of Arlington, Caleb Brown and wife Lara with great-granddaughter Marian Joy of Oakland, California, Joshua Brown and wife Melanie with great-grandson Jay Hudson and great-granddaughter Gentry Quinn of Mont Belvieu, and Benjamin Brown of Austin; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

The family suggests donations in Bonnie's name be made to the Africa Ministry Project, 4910 17th Street, Lubbock, TX 79416, Kairos Prison Ministry International (*www.kairosprisonministry-.org*), or charity of your choice.



### Jane Wininger Rehders

Jane Wininger Rehders, 95 of Odessa, Texas passed away on January 14, 2017 in Odessa.

A celebration of her life will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at St. Andrew Cumberland Presbyterian Church with Reverend Dr. Jimmy Braswell, officiating.

Arrangements are under the direction of Sunset Memorial Gardens & Funeral Home.

Jane Wininger Rehders was born in Good Pine, LA to C. Benton Wininger and M. Kate Bonner on June 24, 1921. She graduated from Wichita Falls High School in 1939. She married Malcolm Dean "Bud" Rehders in Farmington, New Mexico. She retired from Superior Electric in 1983. She was active in ABWA and Make A Wish. She and close friends Betty Winfrey and Irene Scott had small ceramics business B.J. Creations.

She was preceded in death by both parents; sisters, Janice Wininger and Bonnie Wininger Gross and husband M.D. "Bud" Rehders.

She is survived by her sister, Rene Cotton, her son Herb Rehders and wife Candy; granddaughter, Jamie Miller and husband Harry; great granddaughters Ciara and Briana Miller; granddaughter, Katherine Rehders, son Benny Rehders and daughter Kerri Heflin; great grandson, Corey Heflin and wife Tally, great-great grandson Canaan Heflin; great-grandson, Tyler Heflin and Colton Summers; and granddaughter, Mirenda Morgan and husband Terry, great granddaughters Tera Roberts and husband Brett and Nicole McMurrian; granddaughter, Melissa Warren and husband Mike, great granddaughter Stephanie Hobbs and husband Mike, great-great grandchildren Payton Hobbs and Liam Hobbs, daughter Carolyn Stevenson and granddaughter Toni Marschall, great granddaughters Hayley and Keeley Marschall, grandson Jeffrey Kyle Hayter.

Honorary Pallbearers will be Irene Scott, Don Roberts, Teresa Chambers, Elaine Davidson, Bobby Jernigan, Freddie Smith and Mike Griffis.

Jane Rehder's family would like to give a special thank you to Brookdale, ORMC 4th floor nurses and her caregiver Bianca Gonzales.

Memorial donations may be made to Hospice.

SUNSET MEMORIAL GARDENS & FUNERAL HOME





### Ysidro L. Ramirez

Ysidro Lara (Chiria) Ramirez, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, went to be with our Lord on Saturday, January 14, 2017, after a brief illness.

Dad was born in Ackerly, Texas to the late Merced and Cruz Ramirez. At the age of nine, he lost his mother and was raised by his paternal aunt and uncle, Rafael and Ramona Hernandez.

On May 22, 1948 he married the love of his life, Ernestina Heredia at St. George's Catholic Church, Midland, Texas. He went on to become a member of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church until the time of his death.

Dad attended school at the Mexican American School, which offered an education up to the eighth grade. He served in the United States Army in 1946. He went on to receive his honorary high school diploma from the Midland ISD in 2014, presented to him by the Midland ISD Superintendent.

After his return from the Army, Dad was employed by the City of Midland Sanitation Department for many years, followed by Midland ISD, and he retired from Rollins Service Corporation. After his retirement, dad continued to work part-time until his health declined in 2015.

Dad was an avid sportsman, playing semi-pro baseball with Los Potrillos/ Midland Colts, the local Mexican-American baseball team, playing teams from the surrounding area of the Permian Basin. He also played golf for many years and was a founding member of the Chicano Golf Association. Several times in his golfing years, dad shot his age or under, with the results published in the local newspaper. Dad enjoyed watching his favorite baseball team, the Texas Rangers, along with watching professional golf on television. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Dad is preceded in death by his parents, his aunt and uncle, son Roberto, and siblings Martina Ramirez, Lovia Morales, Carlos Hernandez, Inez Diaz, and Felicitas Valles.

He is survived by his wife of 68 years; his children, Cecilia (Lupe Madrid), Anna Ornelas, Robert (Elsa), and Carol (Rene Larez); 10 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren; siblings, Christina Gamboa, Cruz Ramirez, Senaida Avila, Cruz, Leonard, Rafael, Jr., Ray, and Cecilio Hernandez; brother-in-law, Merced Valles; and many nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers will be his grandsons, Steve Ochoa, Victor R. Ochoa, Jeremy Burton, Marcus Jackson, Alexander Cuevas, Robert Ramirez, John Ramirez, and Rafael Hernandez.

The family wishes to thank Dr. and Mrs. Francisco Salcido and staff, Dr. Fernando Boccalandro, Dr. Ghanta Amaranath, Dr. Anand Reddy, the nursing staff of Medical Center of Odessa, and the Hospice staff of Midland. The family would also like to thank those that visited dad and kept him in their thoughts and prayers during his illness.

Rosary will be recited on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church. Father David Herrera will be the celebrant. Burial will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park.

Funeral service is under the direction of Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home and Chapel.

Family messages and condolences may be emailed to *pipkin@nts-online.net* or you can visit the website at *www.lewallengarciapipkinfh.com*.

Lewallen Garcia Pipkin Funeral Home
2308 N. Big Spring • Midland, TX • (432) 682-3700

## Death Notices

### Connie Mack Adams

Connie Mack Adams, age 86, from San Angelo, passed away on January 15, 2017.

Services and visitation will be on Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at Ellis Funeral Home in Midland. Visitation will be at 10:00 a.m. with the service starting at 11:00 a.m.

### Micle G. Williams

Micle G. Williams, 55, of Midland, Texas, passed away Friday, January 13, 2017.

Blake is survived by his parents; children, Michael Williams and Tiffany Ross; and by one brother.

Funeral services will take place Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. at Ranchland Heights Baptist Church in Midland.

# Gene Cernan, last astronaut to walk on the moon, dies

*Associated Press*

HOUSTON — Former astronaut Gene Cernan, who as the last person to walk on the moon returned to Earth with a message of "peace and hope for all mankind," died on Monday, his family said. He was 82.

Cernan was with his relatives when he died at a Houston hospital following ongoing heath issues, family spokeswoman Melissa Wren told The Associated Press. His family said his devotion to lunar exploration never waned.

Cernan was commander of NASA's Apollo 17 mission and on his third space flight when he set foot on the lunar surface. On Dec. 14, 1972, he became the last of only a dozen men to walk on the moon — and he traced his only child's initials in the dust before climbing the ladder of the lunar module the last time. It was a moment that forever defined him in both the public eye and his own.

"Those steps up that ladder, they were tough to make," Cernan recalled in a 2007 oral history. "I didn't want to go up. I wanted to stay a while."

Cernan called it "perhaps the brightest moment of my life. ... It's like you would want to freeze that moment and take it home with you. But you can't."

Decades later, Cernan tried to ensure he wasn't the last person to walk on the moon, testifying before Congress to push for a return. But as the years went by he realized he wouldn't live to witness someone follow in his footsteps — still visible on the moon more than 40 years later.

"Neil (Armstrong, who died in 2012) and I aren't going to see those next young Americans who walk on the moon. And God help us if they're not Americans," Cernan testified before Congress in 2011.

Cernan died less than six weeks after another American space hero, John Glenn, the first American to orbit the Earth in 1962. Their flights weren't the first or last of the Mercury and Apollo eras. Yet to the public they were the bookends of America's space age glory.

On Dec. 11, 1972, Cernan guided the lander, named Challenger, into a lunar valley called Taurus-Littrow, with Harrison "Jack" Schmitt at his side. He recalled the silence after the lunar lander's engine shut down.

"That's where you experience the most quiet moment a human being can experience in his lifetime," Cernan said in 2007. "There's no vibration. There's no noise. The ground quit talking. Your partner is mesmerized. He can't say anything.

"The dust is gone. It's a realization, a reality, all of a sudden you have just landed in another world on another body out there (somewhere in the) universe, and what you are seeing is being seen by human beings — human eyes — for the first time."

WORD OF THE DAY
brought to you daily by
Jim Burrito
quandary
[kwon-duh-ree, -dree]
noun
1. a state of perplexity or uncertainty, especially as to what to do; dilemma.



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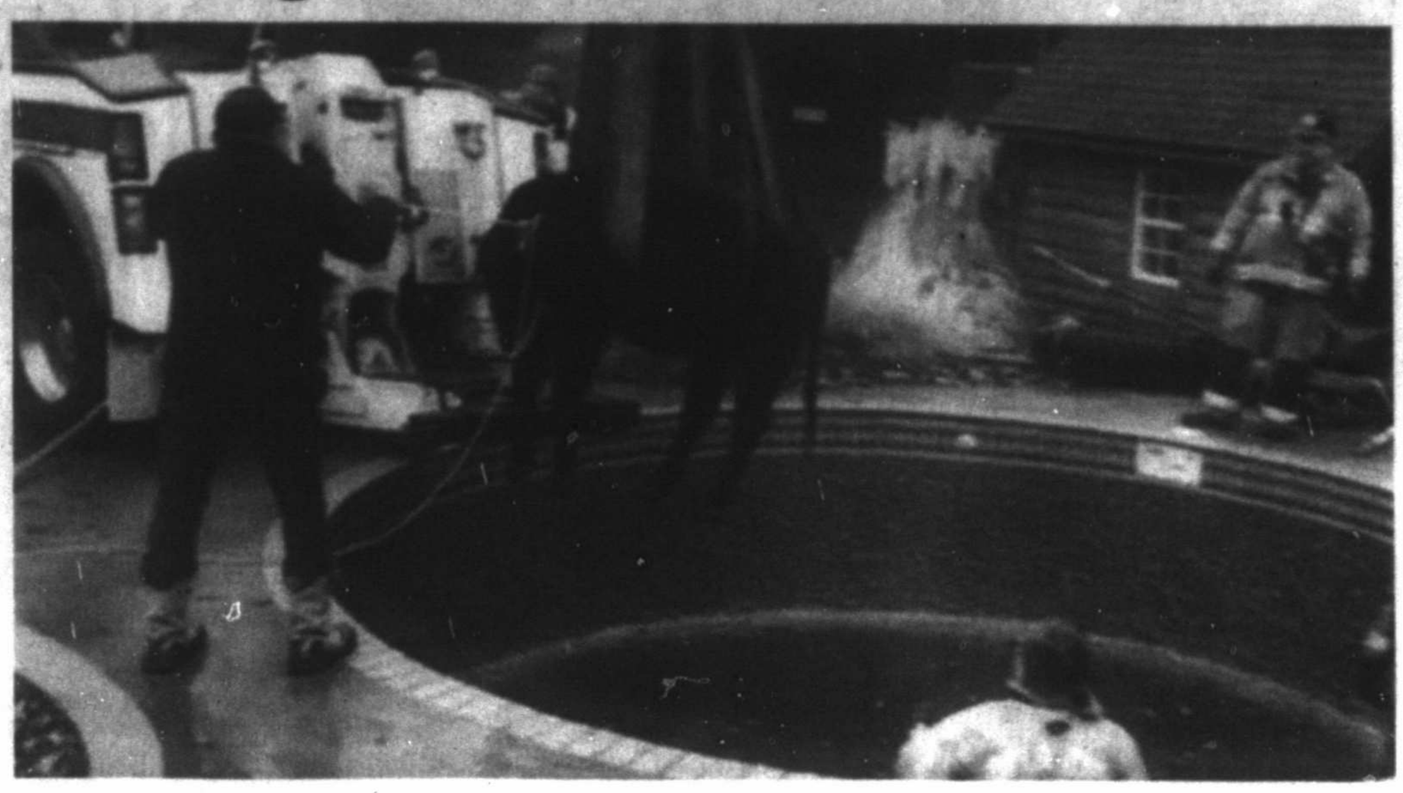
# Firefighters rescue cow stuck in pool



Mike Seeley/Oklahoma City Fire Department via AP

Firefighters hoist a cow out of a swimming pool outside a home Sunday in Oklahoma City. A homeowner reported hearing some sort of "snorting" coming from his swimming pool area and emergency responders arrived and discovered a hole in the swimming pool's liner and a cow trapped in the water.

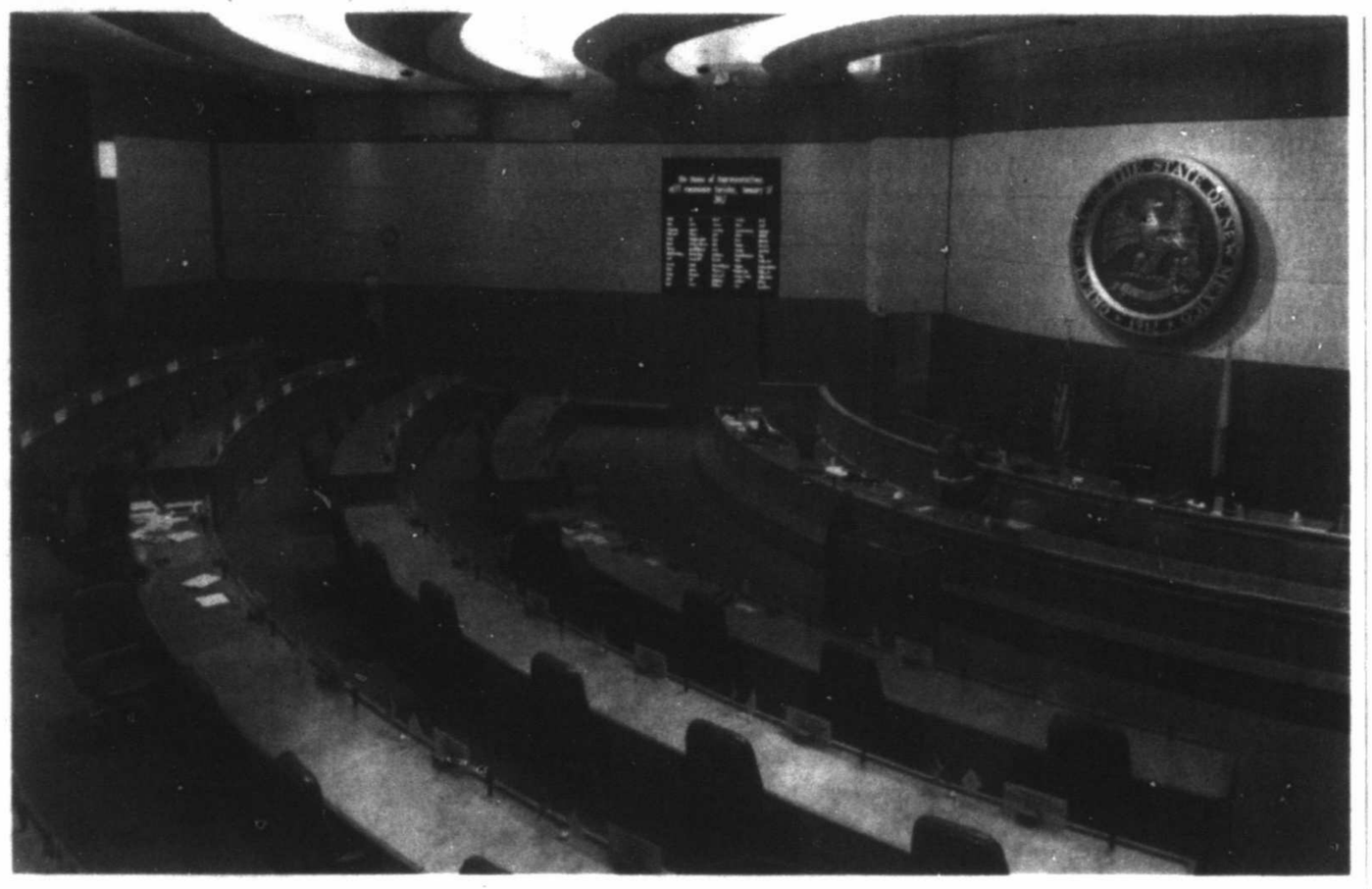
*Associated Press*

OKLAHOMA CITY — Think it's hard for firefighters to rescue a cat in a tree? Try a cow in a swimming pool.

Firefighters in Oklahoma City were summoned Sunday morning after a homeowner reported hearing some sort of "snorting" coming from his swimming pool area. Emergency responders arrived and discovered a hole in the swimming pool's liner and a cow trapped in the water.

Oklahoma City Fire Department Battalion Chief Benny Fulkerson says firefighters used their pumps to remove about 5 feet of water from the pool so the cow wouldn't experience hypothermia. Crews then brought in a wrecker to hoist the nearly 1,500-pound animal from the pool and to safety.

Fulkerson says the cow appeared to be uninjured after its ordeal.



Morgan Lee/Associated Press

Final preparations are made on the floor of the New Mexico House of Representatives on Friday in Santa Fe, N.M., in anticipation of the legislative session. Lawmakers are confronting budget shortfalls, frustration over a weak economy, and concerns about violent crime and school performance as they convene today.

# Budget crisis steers legislative agenda in New Mexico

**By Morgan Lee**
*Associated Press*

SANTA FE, N.M. — New Mexico lawmakers are confronting budget shortfalls, frustration over a weak economy, and concerns about violent crime and school performance as they convene for a 60-day session.

The session begins today with a fresh slate of Democratic majority leaders in the House of Representatives, where Republicans lost majority control in November elections, and the Senate.

Policymakers are preparing to extend recent agency budget cuts into the coming year to address a deficit and plunging tax revenues linked to a downturn in the oil and natural gas industry.

GOP Gov. Susana Martinez and allied lawmakers are insisting the budget crunch can be resolved without raising taxes by streamlining government and reducing government pension contributions.

House Democrats are promising a slate of proposals designed to spur economic growth, while seeking a statewide minimum wage.

Lawmakers also are taking up hot-button issues of gun control and could join efforts to overhaul the presidential electoral college in response to Donald Trump's victory.

Some big issues coming up in the session:

**BUDGET CRISIS**

The governor has proposed sweeping school district cash balances to help restore reserves and protect the state's credit rating. Democratic lawmakers have given a cold reception to Martinez's proposal to reduce take-home pay among 80,000 state workers and teachers to avoid possible furloughs or salary cuts.

The governor and lawmakers are largely in agreement on extending recent agency spending cuts and preserving spending on public safety, child protective services and early education programs.

Proposals to shore up state revenues include a

Please see BUDGET/7A

## An overview of New Mexico's 60-day legislative session

*Associated Press*

**SANTA FE, N.M. — The New Mexico Legislature convenes Tuesday. Here's a look at the House and Senate:**

**Start to finish:**
The Legislature convenes at noon today. It's formally called the first session of the 53rd Legislature.
Lawmakers adjourn after 60 days at noon March 18. The governor then has until April 7 to sign the last bills.

**The makeup:**
The House has 70 members: 38 Democrats and 32 Republicans. The Senate has 42 members: 26 Democrats and 16 Republicans.
There will be at least 19 lawmakers who are new to the Legislature or returning after a hiatus — 13 in the House and six in the Senate.

**Pay:**
New Mexico has the nation's only unsalaried legislature. Lawmakers receive $164 a day during the session to reimburse them for expenses. Travel is reimbursed separately at 53.5 cents per mile, allowing for one-round trip per session.

**The agenda:**
Under the state Constitution, the session lasts longer in odd years to allow for a wide range of policy initiatives in addition to budget, revenue and taxation measures. Constitutional amendments also can be considered, and several already are proposed to fund early childhood education, reduce restrictions on concealed handguns and replace the public education secretary with an elected state board of education.
Lawmakers are grappling with how to craft a new budget and close a current-year deficit amid plunging revenues linked to a downturn in the oil sector. Early solvency proposals run the gamut from take-home pay reductions for state workers and school teachers to tax increases on gasoline and food. Tax reform and economic development proposals also will be on prominent display in response to lagging employment opportunities and dissatisfaction with the economy.
Additional proposals are under consideration to reinstate the death penalty, increase DWI penalties and reform how the state handles political and campaign ethics complaints.

**What to expect:**
There were 696 bills introduced during the last 60-day session in 2015. Of those bills, 191 were passed by the Legislature. The governor signed 158 measures into law and vetoed 33, including 14 that were approved unanimously.
The previous Legislature, under a Republican House majority, sent a single constitutional amendment to voters for approval in November that now allows judges to deny bail to defendants considered exceptionally dangerous. It also allows pretrial release to non-threatening people who might languish in custody because they cannot afford bail.

**Politics:**
Democrats won back majority control of the House in November and further consolidated their hold on the Senate. State senators won't be up for re-election until 2020.
The 2018 campaign to replace second-term GOP Gov. Susana Martinez already is underway. Democrat U.S. Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham declared her candidacy in December, with several other experienced politicians weighing a run. Martinez can't run again due to term limits.

**Learning more:**
Contact lawmakers by calling the legislative switchboard: (505) 986-4300. Find bills, committee schedules, lists of members and a link for webcasts of House and Senate proceedings on the Legislature's website: www.nmlegis.gov.

# States can offer lesson as GOP proposes deep tax cuts

**Christina A. Cassidy and Andrew Demillo**
*Associated Press*

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — President-elect Donald Trump and congressional Republicans who have pledged to cut federal taxes to boost the economy might consider looking first at lessons learned in GOP-controlled states that adopted similar strategies, only to see growth falter and budget gaps widen.

The situation is worrisome enough in Kansas, Oklahoma and Indiana that lawmakers are now debating whether to reverse course and raise taxes. And political leaders in states that have seen expanded Republican control, such as Arkansas and Iowa, are signaling caution about any new tax-cut proposals.

"It does not take a Ph.D in economics to know that we can't say yes to every spending need, and we should also not say yes to every tax-cut idea," Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson warned late last year.

The reforms show that tax changes always carry an element of uncertainty — about the economy, government needs and even the prices of commodities such as oil. Although the federal and state tax systems are significantly different, both are subject to forces beyond lawmakers' control.

A recent Associated Press survey found that more than half of the states — 33 — are currently dealing with a budget shortfall or expect to confront one in the coming fiscal year. Experts say state economic growth has been slower than expected.

Please see CUTS/7A

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# TODAY IN MIDLAND

### Today in Midland

On Jan. 17, 2001 George W. and Laura Bush made Midland their last Texas stop before flying to Washington for before his inauguration. ... Lucias D. Bunton, a legendary West Texas federal judge, died at the age of 76.

### Things to do

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

■ Bridge game play, 1 p.m., Allison Bridge Center, 913 W. Wadley Ave. $6. permianbridgeclub.com.

■ Karbach Brewing Tap Takeover, 5:30 p.m., The Hemingway, 2200 W. Wadley Ave. Will feature craft beer tastings of six different beers.

■ Bingo, 6 p.m., Tall City VFW Post 7208, 1308 E. Taylor Ave. Children welcome.

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

■ One Piece Film: Gold, 7:30 p.m., Tall City Stadium 14, 4915 SW Loop 250 N. $13.53. fathomevents.com.

■ $2 Tuesdays bowling after 8 p.m. Bowlero, 5320 W. Loop 250 N. bowlero.com.

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

### Meeting

**Midland College**
4 p.m.
Gibson Board Room

### Stay connected

Web: mrt.com
Twitter: @mwtnews
Facebook: facebook.com/TheReporterTelegram

### MISD parent meetings

MISD junior high campuses will host eighth-grade parent meetings that concern ninth-grade registration for 2017-18 school year. They will take place at:

■ Alamo Junior High, 6:30 p.m. Jan. 26
■ Abell Junior High, 6:30 p.m. Feb. 13
■ San Jacinto Junior High, 6:30 p.m., Feb. 16
■ Goodard Junior High, 6:30 p.m. Feb. 21

All eighth-grade parents are invited to attend.

*Source: Midland ISD*

### 'Tall Cop' to address youth drug use

The Midland ISD Education Foundation is organizing an important community event about drug and alcohol trends among the youth in the Midland area.

The free event is called "Tall Cop in the Tall City" and will take place on from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Feb. 6 at Stonegate Fellowship.

Jermaine Galloway, known as the "Tall Cop," is an expert on the American drug and alcohol culture and travels the country conducting educational events.

*Source: Midland ISD*

### When it's open

**Midland County Tax Assessor/Collector**
210 N. A St.
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, Friday
8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday
688-4810

**Midland Central Appraisal District**
4631 Andrews Highway
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday through Friday
699-4961

**Department of Public Safety: Driver's License Office**
2405 South Loop 250 West
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday and Wednesday through Friday
8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesdays
498-2100

**U.S. Postal Service**
Downtown, 100 E. Wall St. 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday
Village, 2315 W Louisiana Ave. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday
Graves, 3304 W Wadley Ave. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday
ClayDesta, 612 Veterans Airpark Lane. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday
GMF Midland, 1000 Loop 40 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday

### Lottery

**Pick 3 morning:** 1-6-0
**Pick 3 day:** 7-9-9
**Pick 3 evening:** 0-5-9
**Pick 3 night:** 1-1-3
**Daily 4 morning:** 3-1-9-2
**Daily 4 day:** 1-1-8-1
**Daily 4 evening:** 0-8-1-3
**Daily 4 night:** 0-0-0-3
**Cash Five:** 12-17-21-22-27
**Texas Two Step:** 22-23-25-28 BB 6
**All or Nothing morning:** 1-2-4-6-9-10-13-16-19-20-21-23
**All or Nothing day:** 1-2-3-4-6-7-10-17-19-20-21-22
**All or Nothing evening:** 1-5-6-10-11-12-13-14-17-19-22-24
**All or Nothing night:** 1-2-4-5-6-8-11-12-13-15-21-22
**Triple Chance:** 4-13-18-21-26-36-45-50-53-54

### Today in history

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 17, the 17th day of 2017. There are 348 days left in the year.

**On this date:**

In 1961, President Dwight D. Eisenhower delivered his farewell address in which he warned against "the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex."



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

# MLK DAY IN MIDLAND

The Negro Business and Professional Women's Club of Midland held a brunch at the Martin Luther King Center to celebrate Martin Luther King Day on Monday.

## King Day celebrations highlight transition from Obama to Trump

**By Bill Barrow**
*Associated Press*

ATLANTA — As Americans celebrate the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., civil rights leaders and activists are trying to reconcile the transition from the nation's first black president to a president-elect still struggling to connect with most non-white voters.

In more than one venue Monday, speakers and attendees expressed reservations about President-elect Donald Trump and his incoming administration, some even raising the specter of the Ku Klux Klan.

"When men no better than Klansmen dressed in suits are being sworn in to office, we cannot be silent," said Opal Tometi, a Black Lives Matter co-founder, told a crowd in Brooklyn.

King's daughter offered a less direct message, encouraging 2,000 people at her father's Atlanta church to work for his vision of love and justice "no matter who is in the White House."

Bernice King spoke at Ebenezer Baptist hours before her brother, Martin Luther King III, met privately with the president-elect at Trump Tower in New York. The younger King described the meeting as "productive."

Trump won fewer than 1 out of 10 black voters in November after a campaign of racially charged rhetoric, and tensions have flared anew with his recent criticism of civil rights icon John Lewis, whom the president-elect called "all talk" and "no action."

Bernice King avoided a detailed critique of Trump, but said the nation has a choice between "chaos and community," a dichotomy her father preached about. "At the end of the day, the Donald Trumps come and go," she said, later adding, "We still have to find a way to create ... the beloved community."

The current Ebenezer pastor, the Rev. Raphael Warnock, did not call Trump by name, but praised his predecessor. "Thank you, Barack Obama," he said. "I'm sad to see you go."

In South Carolina, speakers at a state Capitol rally said minority voting power has never been more important and some attendees expressed unease about Trump joining forces with Republican congressional majorities.

"It's going to be different, that's for sure," said Diamond Moore, a Benedict College senior who came to the Capitol. "I'm going to give Trump a chance. But I'm also ready to march."

In New York, Martin Luther King III told reporters that Trump pledged to be a president for all Americans, but King III added "we also have to consistently engage with pressure, public pressure" because "it doesn't happen automatically."

Trump did not participate publicly in any Martin Luther King Jr. Day observances. President Barack Obama and Michelle Obama took part in a service project at a shelter in Washington.

Back in Atlanta, Sen. Bernie Sanders brought the Ebenezer assembly to its feet with his reminder that King was not just an advocate for racial equality, but a radical proponent for economic justice — a mission that put him at odds with the political establishment.

"If you think governors and senators and mayors were standing up and saying what a great man Dr. King was, read history, because you are sorely mistaken," roared Sanders, who invoked the same themes from his failed presidential campaign.

Sanders, who struggled to attract black voters in his Democratic primary fight with Hillary Clinton, recalled King opposing the Vietnam War as exploiting the poor. He also noted King was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, where he'd gone to rally striking sanitation workers, white and black.

Activist priest Michael Pfleger, himself a self-described radical, built on Sanders' message with a 45-minute keynote message indicting the nation's social and economic order, which he said would get worse under Trump.

The Chicago priest said "white hoods" of the Klan "have been replaced by three-piece suits." He bemoaned high incarceration rates, a "militarized, stop-and-frisk police state," profligate spending on war and a substandard education system.

Pfleger said many Americans too quickly dismiss violence in poor neighborhoods as the fault of those who live there, when the real culprit is a lack of opportunity and hope. "If you put two lions in a cage and you don't feed them," he said, "one will kill the other in the pursuit of survival."

Warnock, meanwhile, zeroed in on Trump for his treatment of Lewis, now a Georgia congressman who represents most of Atlanta.

## CONAWAY

From 1A

all have high expectations that he'll move through that low-hanging fruit pretty quickly."

Second concerns cabinet members. "The next area will be how his nominees — once confirmed and in place — work to stop this avalanche of regulations that have come at us full bore for eight years now, the stuff that can stop, the stuff that can unwind," Conaway said.

Of perhaps most critical importance is the legislative agenda as part of Trump's administration. "Whether it's Obamacare, tax reform — all of those things will require the House and the Senate to join shoulder-to-shoulder with him," Conaway said, it should be an easy road in the House, but the Senate poses a particular challenge.

"With 241 House Republicans, I'm pretty confident that we can pass center-right solutions that President Trump can use as a way to move the Senate," the longtime representative said. "The frustration we've had the past six years, including the two years that Republicans managed the Senate, is we couldn't get to 60 votes, we couldn't get over that threshold."

Senate votes often require 60 out of 100 votes to pass legislation. Republicans hold 52 seats, and Trump will have to work to get eight Democrats' votes to avoid gridlock.

Conaway said Trump's strategy will be going into the states where 25 Democrat senators are up for re-election, 10 of states of which Trump won, and get residents to push their senator to vote to move legislation through. "That's probably going to be Trump's greatest contribution to the legislative side: being able to get the Senate off high center," he said.

Conaway said the negotiation is right up Trump's alley. "I think President Trump will revel in closing that deal. This is about getting it done, and I'm excited about watching him get after the Senate Democrats." Plus, the convincing process will show the nation who the "obstructionists" are.

"It's passing the House, you've got a president who's for it, you've, hopefully, got 52 Senate Republicans who are for it, and the Democrats are standing in the way of making this happen," Conaway said. "I think Trump will spend that political capital to make that happen on a variety of things."

Conaway said the needs of residents in District 11 are the same as others across the country: "The repeal of Obamacare (because) it's failing, people are hurting; fundamental tax reform; and Mr. Trump has talked about a wall on the southern border."

The representative said he doesn't take the construction of a border wall between the U.S. and Mexico literally. "When I hear him say that, how I translate that in my mind is operational control of the border, knowing who and what are coming and going across our border. That is in America's best interest. Putting that framework together ... would be in the top three that Mr. Trump needs to deal with and engage on."

Conaway said he hopes he can engage Trump on Medicare and Social Security reform, even though the president-to-be hasn't been keen on addressing those issues. Something has to be done, however. "We've got a limited amount of time left before those trust funds become huge issues. The sooner we institute the changes, renegotiate the Medicare promise, the easier it's going to be."

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

## Texas may snuff out smoking for anyone younger than 21

**By Lauren McGaughy**
*The Dallas Morning News*

AUSTIN — This could be the year Texas raises the smoking age to 21.

For a decade, the concept has been a pipe dream of Democrats and doctors bent on finding ways to keep Texans, especially kids, from picking up the habit. But this year it has backing from some powerful Republicans whose support could mean Texas will become just the third state to hike its smoking age above 19.

"We can move this bill forward," said Rep. John Zerwas, a Richmond Republican and physician who will champion the effort in the House. He will be joined by Rep. Donna Howard, D-Austin, and Sens. Joan Huffman, R-Houston, and Carlos Uresti, D-San Antonio, who will each file a bill.

Raising the minimum legal age to buy products like cigarettes and chewing tobacco has been the goal of Texas Democrats for at least a decade. But with Republicans decrying the effort as an infringement on personal liberty that could cost the state millions of dollars in lost tax revenue, the wish went up in smoke every time it was proposed.

Five times, Uresti has tried to convince fellow lawmakers that hiking the smoking age will save lives and reduce the state's health care costs in the long term. He started small in 2007, proposing Texas raise the tobacco purchase age to 19. He failed.

In 2009, he got his bill through the Senate, but it died in the House. In 2011, 2013 and 2015, the proposal never made it off the starting block. This year, with bipartisan support, Uresti said he's excited about possibly realizing this longtime goal.

"We have as good a chance as we've ever had," said Uresti. "I'm just glad. I welcome all the support we can get."

Raising the smoking age will save lives and money, according to Dr. Ernest Hawk, vice president of cancer prevention at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

"This is a high priority for us as an institution because it's exactly what we're here to do," Hawk said. "This directly aligns with our mission of eliminating cancer in Texas and the world because this is one of the best ways to do that."

Tobacco use in Texas and nationally is down, thanks in large part to anti-smoking campaigns and increased cigarette taxes, Hawk said. And smoking rates are lower in Texas than the country's average, with just 15.9 percent of adults admitting to the habit in 2013.

But raising the tobacco purchase age to 21 could result in an additional 12 percent decrease in tobacco use among adults, according to a 2015 report from the National Academy of Medicine, and a "33 percent reduction in the use of all tobacco products by 18- to 20-year-old Texans," according to a 2013 analysis by the Texas comptroller's office.

That's because people who don't start smoking when they're teenagers are less likely to pick up the habit when they get older. Raising the smoking age, Hawk added, means there's "more distance" between the population most curious about cigarettes — teens — and those who could legally buy the product for them.

> *"We have as good a chance as we've ever had. I'm just glad. I welcome all the support we can get."*
>
> **Rep. Carlos Uresti,** Texas congressman

The state will also save money in the long run because it won't have to care for as many people beset by tobacco-related illnesses, like cancer and emphysema, and fewer babies with tobacco-linked ailments would be born if the smoking rate decreases. The savings could be as much as $406 million over five years, according to an analysis from the Department of State Health Services.

Texas could save nearly $5.6 billion in health care costs over 25 years, the department estimates, and preterm births would reduce by 11.6 percent over 20 years.

"Reductions in tobacco-related illnesses will take decades to realize," the state analysis reads. "But there would be immediate reduction in adverse physiological effects and poor infant health outcomes."

While the long-term benefits are clear, the four lawmakers who want to raise the smoking age are likely to have to fight against those who argue that doing so will cost Texas in the short term.

Every smoker knows the state taxes every pack of cigarette, tin of dip and can of snuff. Raising the minimum age to buy these products by three years would mean a loss of nearly $100 million in taxes over five years, according to a 2013 analysis of one of Uresti's past bills. Some Republicans might also have a problem with Texas throwing its lot in with the likes of Hawaii and California, the only other states that have raised the smoking age above 19.

Hawk — who said he was "pleasantly surprised" this idea has Republican support for the first time in a decade — said the club won't be so small for long. More than a dozen other states are considering raising the smoking age, he said, pointing again to the long-term cost benefits, which far outweigh the short-term costs.

Zerwas also shrugged off both potential criticisms.

"There's obviously some people who are going to see this as an infringement on rights and stuff, and those voices need to be heard," Zerwas said. "And yeah, that's a loss of potential revenue, but one we can probably make up somewhere else.

"What's more important than the health of our youth and future generations?"

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PAID CONTENT

# for your information

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

## There is still time to prepare your trees and landscaping for a beautiful summer

**Imagine the weather** is warm and you're sitting in your favorite lounge chair in the back yard. The grass is lush and green, the trees spread their shade overhead and your flowers and shrubs are healthy and happy.

If all that is important to you, then NOW is the time to prune trees, schedule fertilization and prevent the weeds from ever getting a start, says Luke Richards of Richards Horticulture Service.

Strong roots make beautiful plants—and fertilizing those roots in cool months makes that happen. Luke and his team can fertilize your tree roots to prepare them for summer. They start this in February or March.

March is the time to start a fertilization program on fescue grass and shortly after is when to start the 4-6 week fertilization process for Bermuda and St. Augustine. Those times are coming sooner than you think, so call Richards Horticulture today to get on their schedule.

Get ahead of those ugly weeds by having the Richards Horticulture team apply pre-emergent in February.



For lush, beautiful greenery this summer have Richards Horticulture fertilize and apply pre-emergent soon. Call them at 686-0643.

A key step for trees is to have them pruned by a professional. That way it will be pruned according to its natural shape and in a way that preserves its health. Luke Richards and his team at Richards Horticulture can do exactly that for you.

If it's been a few years since the last professional pruning, it may take more than one season to get your trees back in shape. Luke suggests, "Don't just imagine how you want the tree to look next year. Think about how it should look in about three years. Sometimes we need to give it that long to look its very best."

In most cases now—during the dormant season—is the best time for pruning. For Live Oaks, ask the Richards Horticulture experts. "Pruning an oak tree at the wrong time can create an open wound that makes it susceptible to oak wilt, fungus or insects," Luke points out. His team will make sure your trees are protected.

Each branch must be pruned cleanly so no dead wood is left.

They will remove dead limbs and those interfering with roofs, power lines and other objects. Dead limbs left in tree that spread out over high traffic areas can become a hazard over time. Limbs rubbing against shingles, power lines or other structures should be removed to prevent damage to both the tree and the structure.

So call Richards Horticulture today and save your place on their list. Let them prepare your landscaping for the summer.

*The phone number for Richards Horticulture Service, in business since 1978, is 432-686-0643. See their stone yard at 2710 Garden City Highway. Company President Luke Richards is a Certified Arborist. Their website is www.rhsgreen.com*

## Imagine relaxing at home in your beautiful new sunroon this year!

**After working hard all day**—at a desk, in a shop or in the field—wouldn't it be great to come home to your own personal retreat? A place where you can relax, sip on a drink and enjoy the view of your yard and landscaping while being protected from the elements?

With a patio enclosure from American Home Improvement, you can have all that! It's a simple add-on to that will add beauty and value to your home.

It's simple because you're enclosing your patio, so you already have at least one of the walls, and probably two or three of them.

You'll want your sunroom to have plenty of bright, clear windows to help you enjoy the view of your landscaping. This will also let in plenty of natural light so you can read, write, play games with the kids or grandkids or anything else you want to do.

You can use the room for a home office you'll actually enjoy working in. Make it an exercise room, informal dining, entertaining—the possibilities are endless.

Even with all those wonderful windows you may be concerned about heat and cold. There are two ways you can help that. First, American Home Improvement can install insulated windows that will keep most of the heat and cold out—not to mention closing out dust and insects. Second, you can talk to your HVAC expert about heating and air conditioning your sunroom.

Install lights, ceiling fans and all the amenities you want. Whatever makes your sunroom the best experience possible, it's there for you.



There's just no better way to enjoy the outdoors than with your sunroom from your friends at American Home Improvement. Call them today at 550-7224 to learn how you can have the sunroom you've always wanted.

There are several amazing styles to choose from. Talk to your American Home Improvement representative about which one best complements your homes décor. At their showroom at Highway 191 and FM 1788 American Home Improvement has installed some of the more popular options, so you can get a feel for how wonderful it will be to have your own sunroom.

Once you've made your choices, your American Home Improvement representative will carefully measure your space and get everything ordered. When everything comes in, they will install it for you. Most installations take just a very few days—and you're ready to start enjoying your exciting new space.

If you call American Home Improvement now you could be enjoying your sunroom with family and friends by the time the first birds of spring are chirping.

And you'll be working with hometown folks. American Home Improvement is locally owned and operated, and has been for decades. Rodney and Karen Martin are ready to help you get the sunroom or patio room you've always wanted for your home. Call them today!

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The answer is City Wide Electric. Joe and Linda Fussell recently added longtime computer expert Joby Fussell to their team. Joby was behind one of Midland's first Internet access companies back in the 1990s, MarsHill, so he has years of experience. Security cameras, computer wiring, networking and anything computer related is no problem.

Of course, City Wide Electric's Joe Fussell and Jorge Mendoza are still available for any electrical issues such as wiring, eave lighting, ceiling fans, wired smoke alarms, cable TV.

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## Driver needed for Agriculture commish Sid Miller

■ No "Jesus shot" will be necessary for those wanting to drive the state's Agriculture commissioner around

**KEN HERMAN**

*Austin American-Statesman*



It seems that Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller, he of the cowboy ways and colorful words, drives some people nuts. Now you have an opportunity to drive him everywhere.

The commish is looking for a driver. The official title on the job posting is "Special Assistant to the Commissioner — Vehicle Driver," and the "job objective" portion of the posting says the special assistant will "perform highly complex motor vehicle operations work for the Commissioner of the Texas Department of Agriculture."

Looks like "highly complex motor vehicle operations work" is something many of us call "driving." I like to drive. I think I want this job. (Come to think of it, something about Uber for goober somehow seems appropriate here, but that would be wrong.)

"Work involves safely operating motor vehicles used in the transport of the Commissioner and other Executive TDA staff," the job objective says. "Work under limited supervision with considerable latitude for the use of initiative and independent judgment."

I like working under limited supervision. Who doesn't?

The job involves 14 "essential duties" and one "non-essential" duty. I can do all of these, though the non-essential one seems a bit ill-defined. It's the dreaded "Perform other duties as assigned."

The first essential duty listed is to "oversee and ensure the safe loading and unloading of the commissioner and other Executive TDA staff and transporting to the destination in a timely manner." From what I've seen of Miller and his rodeo trophies, loading and unloading him shouldn't be a problem. Loading up his hats and guns could be challenging.

Other essential duties include picking "the most practical route to be traveled, considering safety and economy" (I have three apps for that and know where every Buc-ee's is), operating "various types of motor vehicles, such as automobiles, vans and trucks," helping with "any equipment or baggage" and adhering to "established work schedule with regular attendance."

I'm good on all of those, but less good on several other "essential duties" that sound like they include filling out lots of forms. But I can learn. In fact, I recently learned how to use the newspaper's online expense account submission form just as that system was phased out in favor of a new one I hope to master by 2019 when the new system will become the old system.

Now let's look at the "Environmental/Physical Conditions" section: "Involves traveling by car, frequently driving for long distances and frequent overnight travel. Mostly sedentary in nature but may involve walking, standing for extended periods of time, pulling and pushing; kneeling, stooping and bending; performing tasks requiring fine motor skills and coordination and safely lifting and carrying items weighing up to 50 pounds."

Sounds like the commish doesn't pack light for road trips. I'm guessing on a long trip there could be several pounds of 10-gallon hats. But doesn't "Sid Miller's Excellent Road Trip" sound like a movie you'd want to see?

Despite my ongoing trepidation about the "Perform other duties as assigned" verbiage, I'm up for this job. There's no way that traveling with Miller wouldn't be a hoot. There's no way that anything having to do with Miller isn't a hoot. This guy exudes hoot. He is maximum hootage, save for maybe when his Twitter account passes along an obscenely derogatory comment about Hillary Clinton or passes along fake news on Facebook or when he bad mouths a steak or when he uses state money in questionable ways for travel.

Miller last year reimbursed the state for a taxpayer-funded Oklahoma City trip that the Houston Chronicle reported might have been for him to receive an anti-inflammatory injection known as a "Jesus shot." No charges were brought against Miller, and he has declined to say if he got the injection.

The driver salary is listed at $2,450 to $2,916.67 per month. OK, that's not big bucks, crunching out to a max of $35,000 a year, which probably is a living wage in Miller's hometown of Stephenville. But money isn't everything, folks — unless you like to buy things.

And it looks like I meet all the qualifications. I have a high school diploma or equivalent. I have "work experience providing executive level support" (You ever try to satisfy persnickety editors?). I have a valid driver's license and the required "acceptable driving record." I'm willing to "travel up to 80 percent of the work period."

And I have "minimum one year work experience in the operation of motor vehicles on a commercial basis." Wait a minute. No, I don't. But I think we can get that waived just like former Gen. James Mattis got a waiver on the provision that said military folks have to be nonmilitary for seven years prior to be eligible to run the Defense Department.

I will, however, have to check with my rabbi prior to applying to get his input on any potential involvement with taking Miller for a Jesus shot, should that come up.

One other thing: Does the fact that the posting popped up after Miller's recent meeting with Donald Trump indicate Miller is not confident of getting a Washington job in the new administration?

*Distributed by Tribune Content Agency*

## OPINION EXTRA

### Trump likely will connect with inaugural address

Donald Trump's knack for keeping his message simple — some would say dumbing it down — will likely be on display this week when he addresses the nation as its 45th president. If so, he'll fit right in with his predecessors.

Since the days of George Washington, the inaugural address has provided an opportunity for presidents to set a tone and lay out goals for the coming term. In its use of language, it can also indicate the level at which the speaker is trying to connect with the electorate.

To get a sense of the linguistic precedent that Trump's predecessors have set, I ran more than two centuries of inaugural speeches through an online evaluator, which considers such variables as vocabulary and sentence length and spits out the estimated grade level required to comprehend the text. Anything above 12 indicates college-level complexity. Above 18 or so, the reader would need a graduate degree.

While some presidents stand out — George Washington and John Adams had the highest scores, George H.W. Bush had the lowest — the long-term trend was by far the most striking. From the late 18th century, the estimated grade level required to understand inaugural addresses declined more or less steadily, from far beyond graduate school to about 10th grade.

To be sure, the trend might have something to do with the ability of 21st-century algorithms to deal with 18th-century turns of phrase. That said, it's also consistent with the way presidential communication has changed in the ages of radio, television and Twitter. Although this undoubtedly indicates some dumbing down, it also suggests that the country's leaders have gotten better at reaching a population that, for the most part, lacks a college degree.

Judging from Trump's past speeches, his inaugural address probably won't score too differently from those of recent presidents. The evaluator assessed his acceptance speech at the Republican National Convention, for example, as accessible to a 10th-grader.

Factually and ethically challenged as Trump may be, he knows how to connect.

**— Mark Whitehouse, Bloomberg**

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## Trump's agenda is overly ambitious

**DAN K. THOMASSON**

*Tribune News Service*



Franklin Roosevelt famously began his first 100 days in office frantically trying to deal with an historic economic depression that already was 3 years old and had reached crisis-level proportions. Nearly two terms in the White House later, his efforts were incomplete.

Donald Trump, through the Republican National Committee, has issued a list of 30 goals he hopes to achieve in his first year and he's asked recipients their opinion about the priority each should be given — high or low. The list not only makes Roosevelt's proposals look anemic but the ideas would also change the nation, for better or worse, in ways hardly ever imagined.

The list begins with key Trump campaign promises and ends with the president-elect pledging to cancel every "unconstitutional" action taken by Barack Obama. In between are two dozen objectives that would reshape the size of government, restrict congressional service through term limits and pretty much abandon the current public school system, among other things.

Much of this super-ambitious agenda has been around a long time, including congressional term limits, first proposed by Lyndon Johnson in his 1965 state of the union address. The idea of school choice, permitting the use of taxpayer money to finance charter and parochial schools, is a long-time conservative Republican goal. Other Trump agenda items, like the "clean up Washington corruption act," are just naturally what should be expected of any presidential administration, including Trump's, where there is growing concern about potential ethical conflicts between his private and official public dealings.

At the top of the list are two enormously controversial and expensive items — the construction of the wall along the country's border with Mexico, and the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, which has been a thorn in the side of Republicans for Obama's entire time in the White House.

The cost of constructing such a wall has been estimated as high as $800 billion, which seems like a lot of money for a barrier that a growing number of experts contend won't do much more than slow down the tide of illegal immigration, if it works at all. Also, its moral implications throw into question this country's reputation of being one of the most welcoming in world history.

As for the ACA, aka Obamacare, the GOP mill in Congress is already grinding it out with Democrats, who are trying to stall outright repeal until Republicans come up with a replacement that saves major features on which there already is bipartisan agreement. These include transportability of policies, no disqualification for pre-existing conditions and the coverage of children on parent's insurance until age 26. This is expected to take well into summer.

Also near the top of the Trump priority survey is the appointment and confirmation of a "strong constitutionalist" to the U.S. Supreme Court to fill the seat left vacant by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia. Confirmation is expected to be highly contentious, but outnumbered Democrats will be hard put to hold off Senate approval.

The agenda also includes approval of the Keystone XL oil pipeline project, which Obama rejected, and the passage of a package to rebuild the nation's infrastructure. Among what would be the more difficult and time-consuming goals is a proposal to "unleash a middleclass tax relief" act. Trump also wants to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Act and withdraw from the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations. He wants to lift restrictions on $50 trillion worth of developable shale, oil and "clean coal." He also would end the ban on offshore drilling. Good luck.

He would cancel billions of dollars in contributions to the U.N.'s climate change programs, remove "2 million criminal aliens," introduce plans to defeat the Islamic State, establish "America First" foreign policy through "peace and strength," and at the same time end any policy sequestering defense funds. Whew!

And on the seventh day ...

There is enough on this list to occupy most mortals for decades, and the consequences of these actions, if carried out, could certainly reminder us all that one should be careful what one wishes for.

The fact is, accomplishing even a good portion of the agenda will require a second term.

As one of those asked online to prioritize each proposed initiative, I decided against taking the survey. That's not my job, for obvious reasons.

Roosevelt started out with 100 days. The Depression ended seven years later and it took a war to do it.

*Distributed by Tribune Content Agency*

**From the Left | Doonesbury**




**From the Right | Mallard Fillmore**





AP file photo

President-elect Donald Trump stands with Education Secretary-designate Betsy DeVos on Nov. 19, 2016 in Bedminster, N.J. Charter school advocate and wealthy Republican donor Betsy DeVos is widely expected to push for expanding school choice programs if confirmed as education secretary, causing outrage among teachers' unions. But Democrats and rights activists also are raising concerns about how her conservative Christian beliefs and advocacy for family values might impact minority and LGBT students.

# DeVos to face questions over schools, conservative activism

By Maria Danilova
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Charter school advocate Betsy DeVos is widely expected to push for expanding school choice programs if confirmed as education secretary, prompting pushback from teachers unions. But Democrats and activists also are raising concerns about how her conservative Christian beliefs and advocacy for family values might impact minority and LGBT students.

The wealthy Republican donor's financial and political clout will be on display today as she goes before the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, which has members who have benefited from her largesse. Committee Chairman Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., said in a statement that DeVos "will work tirelessly to ensure every child has access to a high quality education."

Critics say the choice of DeVos belies President-elect Donald Trump's promises to "drain the swamp" and bring new faces to politics and policy in Washington.

"He is basically proposing a bunch of people to be in the Cabinet that are political insiders with lots of money and have used that money to buy politicians and DeVos definitely fits that description," said Carmel Martin, executive vice president of the Center for American Progress, a liberal think-tank.

DeVos has long taken pride in her political and financial activity.

"I have decided . to stop taking offense at the suggestion that we are buying influence," DeVos wrote in a 1997 column in Roll Call. "Now I simply concede the point. They are right. We do expect something in return." She said wants to foster a conservative governing philosophy and respect for traditional values.

DeVos, a former Michigan Republican Party chairwoman, heads the American Federation for Children, an advocacy group that promotes school choice and voucher programs. She and members of her family have given millions of dollars to Republican candidates over nearly three decades, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.

She grew up in Holland, Michigan, one of four children of Edgar Prince, an engineer who made a fortune in an auto parts company. She met her husband Dick DeVos, an heir to the Amway marketing empire, while attending a Christian liberal arts college. Dick DeVos unsuccessfully ran for governor of Michigan in 2006. During that campaign he suggested that schools should teach intelligent design, a theory that holds that life was created by a higher force, along with evolution. The couple has four children, none of whom attended public school.

Her brother, Erik Prince, founded Blackwater, a private security company that the U.S. employed in the Iraq war and came under scrutiny when its guards were prosecuted in the deaths of 14 civilians in Baghdad in 2007.

DeVos has donated to the political campaigns of at least four committee members, according to the financial questionnaire she filed with the committee. Sen. Patty Murray of Washington, top Democrat on the committee, said she worries about DeVos' "extensive financial entanglements and potential conflicts of interest."

In response, Trump's transition team said teachers unions have donated to Democratic senators on the committee and DeVos has given money to members in both parties who support her education goals. Republicans also point out that Penny Pritzker was a major donor to Democrats and President Barack Obama before he picked her as commerce secretary.

DeVos spent the past two decades advancing charter schools — institutions that are run privately but financed with taxpayers' money. Her husband started an aviation-oriented charter school in Michigan. She also has pushed for providing low-income families with publicly funded vouchers to enable them to send their kids to private and religious schools of their choice.

Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, said DeVos has an obvious antipathy to public schools and has "fought against any regulation that protected against cronyism and corruption."

DeVos supporters counter that injecting healthy competition into the public school system will be to everyone's benefit. "The ability to shop around for education options that work best for your child is really key here," said Mary Clare Reim, a research associate with the conservative Heritage Foundation.

Labor unions and civil rights groups also question whether DeVos' traditional beliefs may prevent her from championing the interests of LGBT students and other minorities.

DeVos has donated to a number of conservative groups, including Focus on the Family, which calls homosexuality a "sin" and supports "sexual orientation change efforts." Her record prompted five openly gay senators to write to the committee saying she's repeatedly tried to undermine LGBT rights.

But Greg McNeilly, a long-time aide to DeVos, said DeVos supports same-sex marriage and last donated to Focus on the Family many years ago, when the group was involved in character-building for children and "absolutely never" supported conversion therapy. McNeilly is gay.

# Death penalty bill introduced in Washington state

By Rachel La Corte
*Associated Press*

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Gov. Jay Inslee and Attorney General Bob Ferguson on Monday announced a proposal to abolish the death penalty in Washington state.

Inslee imposed a moratorium on capital punishment in 2014, but repeal bills introduced since that time have stalled in the Legislature. Ferguson said that he hoped with the attorney general's office officially requesting legislation, it would help elevate the conversation among lawmakers.

Inslee and Ferguson were joined by former Republican Attorney General Rob McKenna, Republican Sens. Maureen Walsh and Mark Miloscia and Democratic Sens. Jamie Pedersen and Reuven Carlyle and Rep. Tina Orwall, also a Democrat. Republicans hold a slight majority in the Senate and Democrats hold a slight majority in the House.

"This issue transcends politics," Ferguson said.

Last month, Inslee invoked the moratorium as he reprieved Clark Elmore, who was sentenced to death for the rape and murder of a 14-year-old girl. Elmore is the first of Washington's death row inmates to exhaust his appeals since the moratorium was put in place.

Reprieves aren't pardons and don't commute the sentences of those condemned to death. As long as the moratorium is in place, death-row inmates will remain in prison rather than face execution.



Ted S. Warren/Associated Press

Sen. Steve O'Ban, R-University Place, right, talks to reporters Monday outside the Legislative Building at the Capitol in Olympia, Wash. O'Ban, who is the vice-chair of the Senate Law & Justice Committee, said he opposed legislation proposed Monday by Gov. Jay Inslee and Attorney General Bob Ferguson to abolish the death penalty in Washington state.

Inslee said that capital punishment is a difficult issue, but said he ultimately issued his moratorium "because the evidence is absolutely clear."

"Death penalty sentences are unequally applied in the state of Washington, they are frequently overturned and they are always costly," he said. "I could not in good conscience allow executions to continue under my watch as governor under these conditions."

McKenna said that death penalty appeals are so lengthy that "this is a system in which justice is delayed and delayed to a point where the system is broken.

"It isn't working anymore," he said. "It is time to move on."

The proposed bills, sponsored by Miloscia in the Senate and Orwall in the House, would remove capital punishment as a sentencing option for aggravated murder and mandates instead a sentence of life in prison without possibility of parole. The law, however, would not be retroactive, meaning the sentences of Elmore and seven other inmates sentenced to death would not change. However, as long as the moratorium is in place, Elmore and the others would remain at the state prison in Walla Walla.

There have been 78 inmates, all men, put to death in Washington state since 1904. The last execution in the state came in September 2010, when Cal Coburn Brown died by lethal injection for the 1991 murder of a Seattle-area woman. After spending nearly 17 years on death row, he was the first Washington inmate executed since 2001.

## Cuts

From 3A

with revenue in some places failing to meet projections or keep up with rising spending needs.

Hutchinson, who took office vowing to slash income taxes, has proposed a much more modest cut of $50 million annually for low-income taxpayers. Meanwhile, a top Arkansas GOP lawmaker has said any tax-cut ideas may have to be set aside for a few years until the state's financial picture improves. State revenue is running $8.8 million behind projections for the fiscal year.

After Indiana Republicans cut income, corporate and property taxes, the state developed a $300 million budget gap. GOP lawmakers are now pushing a plan to raise gasoline taxes and adopt a new registration fee for motorists to help pay for road improvements. Critics say the effort is simply shifting the tax burden from the wealthy to everyone else.

"This is going to be the first session I remember coming into that the Republicans are advocating for tax increases," said Senate Minority Leader Tim Lanane, a Democrat. "At the same time, we're continuing to give tax breaks to corporations and businesses. How are they going to explain that?"

In Kansas, lawmakers have struggled to balance the budget since they slashed personal income taxes in 2012 and 2013 at the urging of Republican Gov. Sam Brownback. The state has faced economic pressures related to a decline in agriculture and oil prices, but the broad-based tax cuts are viewed largely as an unsuccessful effort to stimulate the economy.

Lawmakers are now debating their third tax increase since the cuts were passed, with the state facing projected shortfalls of $1.1 billion through June 2019. The Brownback administration has proposed higher taxes on certain business owners, cigarettes, beer and liquor. Other plans include diverting highway money to general government programs, scaling back contributions to the pension program for public employees and liquidating a $317 million investment fund.

Brownback's budget director, Shawn Sullivan, warned of dire consequences if the proposals are not approved.

"You're left with huge tax increases or huge (budget) cuts," Sullivan said. "Even the mix between the two is huge."

## Budget

From 3A

state revenues include a gas-tax increase, taxing online sales by out-of-state retailers and restoring taxes on food. A wide array of tax incentives and loopholes are under review for possible repeal.

THE ECONOMY

Efforts are underway to create a statewide minimum wage that would exceed the federal minimum wage. The Albuquerque area, Santa Fe and Las Cruces already have minimum hourly pay requirements.

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In 18th century England, gambling dens employed someone whose job was to swallow the dice if there was a police raid.

The main library at Indiana University sinks over an inch a year. When it was designed engineers failed to take into account the weight of all the books that would occupy the building.

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John 2:1 (ESV)

*My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*

# IMF boosts growth forecast for US, cites Trump impact

By Martin Crutsinger
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The International Monetary Fund on Monday raised its forecast for the U.S. economy over the next two years, saying President-elect Donald Trump's policies should boost economic growth, particularly in 2018. But officials warned that if Trump's protectionist trade proposals set off a trade war, that could be "quite destructive" for the global economy.

The IMF also increased 2017 growth projections for a number of other countries including China, Germany, Japan and Britain, but warned that the global economy faced a number of downside risks from rising protectionism to a jump in interest rates.

The 189-nation global lending agency's latest economic outlook took note of the significant impact Trump's election has already had in giving a boost to U.S. stock prices, interest rates and the dollar. The new outlook puts U.S. economic growth at 2.3 percent this year and 2.5 percent in 2018. That would be an improvement from lackluster U.S. growth around 1.6 percent in 2016.

During the campaign, Trump said his economic policies of tax cuts, regulatory reform and boosts in infrastructure spending would lift U.S. growth to annual rates of 4 percent.

The new forecast represents a boost of 0.1 percentage point this year and an increase of 0.4 percentage point for 2018, when Trump's stimulus plans would be expected to be phased in. That is a half-point higher growth than the IMF was forecasting in October, before Trump's election.

In contrast, the World Bank last week left its U.S. forecast unchanged at 2.2 percent growth in 2017 and 2.1 percent for 2018, arguing that there was too much uncertainty over the fate of Trump's proposals to incorporate them in a forecast.

But IMF Chief Economist Maurice Obstfeld told reporters at a briefing Monday that he viewed the IMF's upgrade for the United States as a moderate increase that took into account the U.S. election results.

"We now have the presidency and the legislative branch in the same hands. It seems very clear to us that some of the promises will be delivered on," Obstfeld said. "We know the direction of policies. We don't know the specifics."

He said that the IMF had chosen not to incorporate Trump's threats of imposing higher tariffs on countries such as China and Mexico if their trade policies do not change because of a belief "that at the end of the day, countries will realize these are not in their best interests given the threat of retaliation. ... The outbreak of a trade war would be quite destructive."

For the overall global economy, the IMF left its projections unchanged growth of 3.4 percent for this year and 3.6 percent for 2018, both up from 3.1 percent growth in 2016, a year when global growth slowed to its weakest performance since the 2008-2009 financial crisis.

But the IMF saw better prospects in a number of countries including Germany, Japan, Spain and Britain, thanks in part to a rebound in growth in many parts of the world in the second half of last year that provided momentum going into 2017.

"The global economic landscape started to shift in the second half of 2016," Obstfeld said, helped by a rebound in manufacturing activity in many countries and the financial market rally that started with Trump's November election victory.

But Obstfeld said there was a wider than usual range of upside and downside risks in part because of the uncertainty over how much of Trump's program will win congressional approval and what the spillover effects will be for the rest of the world.

While Trump's election victory boosted economic prospects in the United States, the impact has been uneven for the rest of the world. Some countries could see stronger growth from the increase in activity in the United States, the world's largest economy, but some emerging market countries may face challenges as global interest rates rise.

The new outlook boosted the growth forecast for China, the world's second largest economy, by 0.3 percentage point to 6.5 percent this year. The IMF expects the Chinese government to providing further stimulus to the economy.

The outlook also boosted 2017 growth projections for Germany, Japan, Spain and Britain to reflect stronger-than-expected performances in the second half of last year. At the same time, the IMF lowered its forecasts for Italy, South Korea, India and Brazil, reflecting disappointing performances in the last half of 2016.

The IMF said that growth prospects in Latin America were being hurt by rising uncertainty about the outlook in Mexico, given Trump's statements overhauling trade relations between the United States and Mexico, about The IMF slashed its growth projections for Mexico by 0.6 percentage point in both 2017 and 2018 to 1.7 percent this year and 2 percent next year.

Obstfeld said that among the risks facing the global economy at the moment were "higher popular antipathy toward trade, immigration and multilateral engagement" among voters in the U.S. and Europe.



*Geert Vanden Wijngaert/Associated Press*

A worker removes expired food in a local supermarket Monday, in Brussels. The European Court of Auditors has chided the European Union's executive branch in a report, "Combating Food Waste," that decries the bloc's lack of effort in reducing the food waste, estimating the EU wastes 88 million tons of food per year.

# 88 million tons a year: Auditors decry EU food waste

By Raf Casert
*Associated Press*

BRUSSELS — The sheer waste of food had been bothering teacher Marijke De Jongh for so long that two years ago she set up a pop-up restaurant to serve perfectly good groceries and meat that were approaching their expiry date.

With her Rekub team, she followed it up with an app that brings thousands of consumers to retail shops were they can buy food closing in on its sell-by date.

Still, the efforts of a small group of conscientious consumers are no match for the masses that still waste food from farm to fork.

The European Court of Auditors on Tuesday chided the European Union's executive branch in a report, "Combating Food Waste," that decried the bloc's lack of effort in reducing the food waste. It estimated the EU wastes 88 million tons of food a year for a population of 510 million.

"The Commission is not combating the food waste effectively," said ECA member Bettina Jakobsen, noting a lack of strategy and inspiration being used to tackle the problem.

The report said more efforts should be made all along the food chain and special precautions should be taken when setting farm policy to make sure that less produce is discarded. An EU study, however, shows about half that waste can still be tied to households, not policy.

The ECA also recommended making food donations easier, since they are still mired in legal and tax issues that sometimes become a disincentive for food producers to give food away. It said with better EU regulations that could be turned around.

At the same time, De Jongh continues to try to make a difference at a local level in Antwerp, northern Belgium. After her pop-up experiment in 2015, she is planning a permanent Rekub eatery now.

"We have to keep this moving and put it on everyone's radar," she said.

# UN chief: Consider sanctions on those thwarting Mali peace

By Edith M. Lederer
*Associated Press*

UNITED NATIONS — Secretary General Antonio Guterres is urging the U.N. Security Council to consider imposing sanctions on key players in Mali who are obstructing implementation of a 2015 peace agreement if there are no immediate results on the ground.

The new U.N. chief said in a report to the council circulated Monday that progress in implementing the peace deal between the government and rebel groups remains too slow.

"The peace process in Mali is at a critical juncture," he said. "Notwithstanding some progress made over the past 18 months ... the signatory parties continue to disagree on key interim measures, thus stalling the process for all other provisions."

Guterres said that amid renewed fighting between a government-allied militia known as the Platform and a coalition of groups seeking autonomy in northern Mali that includes ethnic Arabs and Tuaregs, key provisions of the agreement have not been put in place. He cited the failure to establish interim authorities and mixed patrols as well as the postponement of a national reconciliation conference scheduled for December.

The Tuareg rebellion in Mali's far north has been a source of conflict for decades with the government.

# US, Cuban Interior Ministry sign law-enforcement deal

By Michael Weissenstein
*Associated Press*

HAVANA — The Obama administration and Cuba's Interior Ministry have agreed to share information on international criminal activity such as terrorism, human trafficking and money laundering despite Republican objections to U.S. law-enforcement cooperation with President Raul Castro's government.

The State Department signed the memorandum of understanding Monday with the Cuban Interior Ministry, which is responsible for internal security in Cuba, including crackdowns on political dissidents.

The signing in Havana was closed to the press but the State Department said it was witnessed by President Barack Obama's point man on normalization with Cuba, Deputy National Security Adviser Ben Rhodes.

In the wake of Donald Trump's presidential election victory, the Cuban government has launched a last-minute rush of deals with the Obama administration and U.S. businesses in an attempt to build as much momentum as possible behind normalization before Obama leaves office.

Trump has promised to re-evaluate Obama's agreements with Cuba and cancel those that he doesn't believe serve U.S. interests.

Trump has named several anti-Castro Cuban-Americans to his transition team.

While they have not spoken publicly since joining the transition, Obama's pledge to share intelligence with Cuban state security has generated particularly heated criticism from Republican former diplomats and Cuban-American members of Congress.

The memorandum signed Monday commits the U.S. and Cuba to sharing information, carrying out joint investigations and possibly stationing law-enforcement officials in each other's countries. It was signed by Jeffrey DeLaurentis, chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Havana, and Vice Adm. Julio Cesar Gandarilla, the newly appointed Cuban interior minister.

The Obama administration says it is in both countries' interests to fight international crime like human smuggling, drug trafficking and child sexual abuse.

"The goals of the President's Cuba policy have been simple: to help the Cuban people achieve a better future for themselves and to advance the interests of the United States," the National Security Council said in a written statement. "While significant differences between our governments continue, the progress of the last two years reminds the world of what is possible when we are defined not by the past but by the future we can build together."

On Thursday, the Obama administration ended a year of negotiations with the Cuban government by ending a 21-year-old "wet foot, dry foot" immigration policy that allowed any Cuban who made it to U.S. soil to stay and become a legal resident.




# EDUCATION



## System that masks school's effectiveness is waste of time

**Editor's note:** Texas Aspires is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization working in partnership with education, business and community leaders to provide greater opportunity for Texas children by improving education in the state.



COURTNEY BOSWELL
*Executive director of Texas Aspires*

Texas' preliminary A-F ratings were released Jan. 6, ahead of the convening of the 85th Texas legislative session on Jan. 10. The ratings offer a glimpse into how districts would have performed in the 2015-16 school year under current legislation that requires school and district ratings to be made public in 2018 based on 2016-17 school data.

Education is a fiercely personal issue in Texas. The vast majority of Texans, no matter where they grew up, attended public schools at one point or another, so we all think we know how well schools are doing. But times are changing. The truth about the quality of our schools is a mystery to most, but shouldn't be.

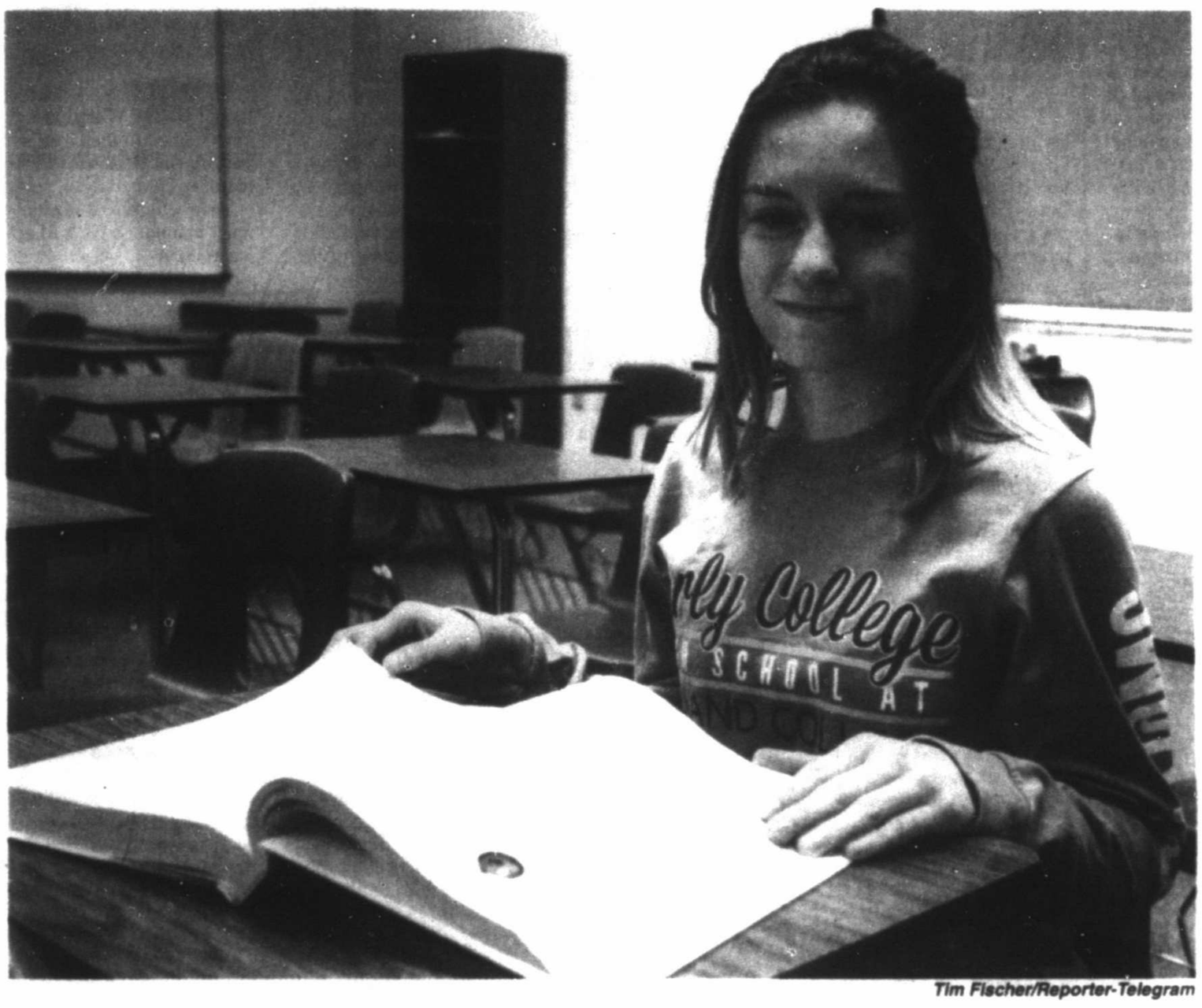
An A-F accountability system would transition the state from a system that rates campuses "met standard" or "improvement required." Under the current system, 93.7 percent of campuses were labeled as "met standard," while only 5.5 percent were labeled "improvement required." A number of superintendents and school boards have publicly opposed the A-F accountability system.

Hearing that your local schools aren't as good as you thought they were isn't pleasant in the short run. But glossing over opportunities for improvement in the long run is tantamount to abuse. It's our responsibility at the state level to protect our children, and any system that masks the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of a school, such as the one proposed by many superintendents, is a waste of time.

District leaders have their own interests at heart, which is why they are intentionally painting an incomplete and incorrect picture of A-F. That's why we created TruthonA-F.com: to provide parents and communities the information they need to make informed decisions about a system that is being disparaged for adult reasons at the expense of student outcomes.

To learn more about Texas' A-F system, visit our new website at TruthonA-F.com.

# HANNA'S HOMEWORK



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Hanna Walker, senior at Early College High School at Midland College, sits for a photo Thursday. She plans to continue her education to become a math teacher.

## More MISD students seek dual credit

**By Simone Jasper**
*sjasper@mrt.com*

High school senior Hanna Walker doesn't mind being the youngest student in some of her classes. For her, the experience will be worthwhile when she earns both a high school diploma and an associate degree this spring.

"It's one of the best feelings to be in a college class with 18- and 19-year-olds when you're 17," Walker said. "It's an amazing feeling to graduate with an associate degree ahead of my peers."

Walker, who attends Early College High School at Midland College (ECHS), is one of an increasing number of high school students taking dual-credit courses at the college. MC administrators said the options help students reach higher education goals and strengthen the relationship between the college and Midland ISD.

Through dual enrollment, high school students take courses that allow them to earn both high school and college credit for free. MISD students can choose traditional dual credit or other options, including ECHS, Advanced Placement (AP) and early admissions.

The dual-credit options at MC have expanded from choices available in the 1980s, when MC became one of the first institutions in the state to have the offering. Executive Vice President Richard Jolly said dual credit doesn't fit every student, but it's a route parents should consider.

"Each student and each family needs to be educated, informed and knowledgeable not only about the options but what's best for their child," he said.

Dual-credit students constitute about 20 percent of overall enrollment at MC, according to Jolly. And 32 percent of students enrolled in dual-credit courses in 2013-2014 later returned as full-time students at the college for at least one semester, according to MC Institutional Research.

William Feeler, dean of Fine Arts and Communications and Dual Credit, said the options help high school students think about pursuing further education.

"Dual-credit students on high school campuses gain a new seriousness about high school education," Feeler said. "It's used as recruitment for students who might not be interested in going to college. They're going for bachelor's or master's degrees."

After years of decline in dual-credit enrollment, the number of students enrolled in 2015-2016 increased from the previous academic year, according to MC Institutional Research. The number of dual-credit students increased again this academic year, reaching 1,233.

In fall 2015, more than 133,000 Texas high school students were enrolled in dual-credit courses, a jump from about 42,000 students a decade earlier, according to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board data.

At MC, Feeler said one factor contributing to higher enrollment is the popularity of ECHS, which started in 2009. The high school is designed so low-income, at-risk and other underrepresented students can earn a high school diploma and an associate degree in four years.

About 96 percent of 2016 ECHS graduates earned associate degrees, according to Principal Renee Aldrin. She expects more teenagers will apply to the school in the future.

"The word is out that our students are successful and they have diplomas and associate degrees," Aldrin said.

The ECHS model was appealing to Walker, who chose to forgo extracurricular activities and time with friends to study at the academically focused high school.

"I'm a first-generation college student," Walker said. "This school pays for everything. It would be hard for me to get a college education."

Walker is working toward an associate of science degree and wants to become a math teacher. After graduation, she plans to start as a junior at Sul Ross State University at MC.

"I'm so impressed with these kids," school counselor Terre Arnett said. "They come in as freshmen, and we build them to be structured. When I was 14, I wasn't prepared for it. That's why I call it academic boot camp."

Please see **DUAL CREDIT**/2B



JENNIFER SEYBERT
*Abell Junior High School*

## Look at level when discussing how to improve student performance

In the last few weeks, the big news in Texas education circles is the new accountability ratings. We are preparing now for an A-F rating system in 2018.

I have read article after article about the nonsense of how these ratings were established. I am sure that the majority of stakeholders are also aware of these new ratings and are just as curious as I was to see how our local schools fared. And, overwhelmingly, our little spot in Texas didn't do well at all. But it wasn't just Midland ISD. Schools that were traditionally considered to be "top-notch" also had troubles in the new system.

The Texas Education Agency released last week a list of schools that are nominated for the National Blue Ribbon award: the best of the best schools in Texas. And, surprisingly multiple schools on that list had ratings of C or lower. In fact, 14 of the 26 schools had at least one C or D. This just shines an even brighter light on the flawed system.

But, this rating system isn't the only flawed system in education. When this system was released, my first thought was, "Wow, this new accountability rating system for schools is exactly what we do to children every, single day."

And, not just children, but little children; 5- and 6-year-olds. We grade our students day in and day out with not much more than a thought to what we are doing to our youngest learners. So, please feel free to be outraged at the new school rating system. But please also be outraged at the grades we slap on our students every day.

It might seem petty, and it might seem that I am delusional, but I promise that I am not. I am a practitioner. I work daily with students, teachers and parents. Until you have sat with a crying mom who is looking at her first-grader's report card with an "F" for reading, you can't fully understand what this does to a child. How do you explain that a first- grader, a 6-year-old, "failed reading"? What does that even mean?

And, does that mean the same thing in every classroom? Does it mean that the child can't read or can't memorize site words assigned for homework? Does it mean the child can't sit still during small group? Does it mean the child is still nonverbal? Does it mean that homework is rarely completed? What does an "F" mean?

When searching for the meaning of our newest school ratings, let's also have a conversation about the ratings we give our students because there is most definitely a connection between the two.

I understand that grades are important for high school students and college applications, top 10, scholarships, etc. I have now worked at all levels of

Please see **SEYBERT**/2B

## Texas A-F school grades give boost to charters

**By Julie Chang and Melissa B. Taboada**
*Austin American-Statesman*

■ ANALYSIS

Critics of the new A-F grading system for Texas schools have long warned that the state's letter grades would give an undeserved boost to charter schools.

An American-Statesman analysis of the advisory A-F grades issued this month shows that charter schools did fare better compared with their traditional public school peers under the letter grade system than they did under the state's old ratings.

The advisory grades show how schools and districts would have performed for the 2015-16 school year if the A-F rating system already had been in place. Under the existing accountability system, charter schools that year were slightly more likely to have at least one failing mark than traditional public schools.

But traditional schools — not charters — were more likely to fail under the new letter grades, even though data from the same year were used to calculate them, the Statesman analysis shows.

Just as defenders of traditional public schools had feared, the results of the advisory grades have emboldened those who support school choice — a blanket term for efforts to use public dollars to pay for alternatives to traditional public schools.

"Public education is at a crossroads. There are active people trying to truly dismantle the public education system in order to encourage privatization of our public schools, therefore incorporate charters or vouchers. Do I think it's part of a larger dynamic of harming our public schools? Definitely," said state Rep. Mary González, D-Socorro, who has proposed legislation to repeal the A-F system.

The letter grades released this month are a snapshot to give schools and the public a taste of how the new A-F system will work when it's finalized next year. The letter grades aren't punitive or official, and the accountability ratings released in August still stand.

While many charter schools aren't opposing the A-F system, traditional public schools for months have complained that the plan should be repealed, arguing that the letter grades provide little meaningful information to guide student learning and are meant to make traditional public schools look bad.

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who has named passing school choice legislation one of his top priorities during the legislative session, said Wednesday that the A-F system is here to stay and this month's grades show why school choice is so important.

Please see **CHARTERS**/2B

# PolitiFact: Promise on schools morphed into other reforms

By W. Gardner Sel
*Austin American-Statesman*

■ ANALYSIS

Greg Abbott ran for governor calling for Texas to detach the repeatedly worst-performing elementary schools from local school districts and give them new oversight by grouping them together.

In his campaign's compendium of gubernatorial goals, Abbott said state law should be revised to direct the state education commissioner to launch a Texas Achievement School District for the state's 15 elementary or charter schools faring the worst for two straight years on the state's academic accountability system. Abbott said the leader of each new district would be chosen by the commissioner. And, Abbott proposed, each affected school would be in the district for three years before returning to its previous district or being recommitted for three additional years.

That district model, Abbott said, "would be intended to create a swift, automatic process under which the very worst schools would be removed from the control of their local school districts each year and placed under management of the ASD, which specializes in the task of improving failing schools."

So, has this happened?

A version of the special districts was folded into legislation during the 2015 legislative session, Abbott's first as governor, but didn't make it into law. Still, a related idea did take hold.

Lonnie Hollingsworth of the Texas Classroom Teachers Association told us that a measure by Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas, included language providing for an academically lagging school to be overseen by a new special district.

The Senate-approved version of West's Senate Bill 669 provided for the establishment of Texas Opportunity Districts at certain low-performing campuses. According to a Senate Research Center summary, the legislation held that a campus found low-performing for two straight years could be shifted from the oversight of a school district to management by a new opportunity district headed by an appointee of the state commissioner and "staffed by experts in school turnaround."

The district's superintendent would be "empowered with a range of tools to turn around the campus," the summary says, "including repurposing the school or contracting with an alternative management organization. The school would be returned to the jurisdiction of the local district once performance was on track," the summary says.

SB 669 won Senate approval in May 2015, but House members didn't give it a hearing, according to legislative records. On May 26, 2015, senators made a late run at placing the essence of West's plan into House Bill 1842 — with the proposed districts awkwardly dubbed State Turnaround Districts (STDs). Yet the West-backed addition didn't make it into the final version of HB 1842 signed into law by Abbott.

So, what did work out?

HB 1842 set in motion some new deadlines for districts to improve failing schools, including allowing the commissioner to install a board of managers to replace district leaders who fail to fix underperforming campuses. After two years of academically unacceptable ratings, districts must develop reform plans with input from parents and other community members.

Under the law, after three years of academically unacceptable ratings, the commissioner can approve a plan to fix the school, install new school or district leadership or close the school. After five years of unacceptable ratings, the commissioner must either install new district management or close the school.

We rate this Abbott promise a Compromise.

*Distributed by Tribune Content Agency*

# MAKINGTHEGRADE

FROM STAFF REPORTS


Daugherty

Midland High School senior **Kate Daugherty** has been honored by the Midland Downtown Lions Club. She is the daughter of David and Kim Daugherty.

She is a member of Students in Philanthropy, academic decathlon team, National Honor Society and the tennis team. She is an academic letterman.

She attends Stonegate Fellowship and participates in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Young Life, Young Life Capernaum and the First Presbyterian Youth Group.

Daugherty plans to attend Southwestern University and major in biology.

* * *


Weaver

Lee High School senior **Sarah Weaver** has been honored by the Midland Downtown Lions Club. She is the daughter of Kim Weaver.

She is a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, orchestra and is Guide Club treasurer. She is a recipient of the Rensselaer Award.

She volunteers with Midland Teen Court and Keep Lee Beautiful.

Weaver plans to attend Texas Tech University and major in pre-med.

* * *


Sparks

Midland Classical Academy senior **Will Sparks** has been honored by the Midland Downtown Lions Club. He is the son of Todd and Karen Sparks.

He is a member of the Assembly Team, movie cast, tennis tea and is senior assistant for American history. He is a Round Table leader and flag football captain.

He attends First Baptist Church and participates in Young Life.

Sparks plans to attend University of Oklahoma or Texas A&M University to study business.

* * *

Midland Christian School senior **Parker LeRoy** has been honored by the Midland Downtown Lions Club. He is the son of Bethany and Dan LeRoy.

He is a choir president, is a member of the speech team and participates in theater. He has received an Abilene Christian University Presidential Scholarship.

He is a singer and percussionist in his church's youth worship band and volunteers with the class for 2-year-olds.

LeRoy plans to attend ACU and major in biology.

* * *


Tidwell

Trinity School ninth-grader **Nikkie Galindo,** who plays flute, has earned a spot in All-State Band. She was selected during auditions Jan. 7 in Lubbock.

The band will be performing at the Texas Music Educators Association convention next month in San Antonio.

* * *

Lee High School senior **Isaac Tidwell** has been honored by the Midland West Rotary Club. He is the son of Bridgett Jeromy Tidwell.

He is a member of National Honor Society and robotics team, is an academic letterman and is involved in welding.

He volunteers with Meals on Wheels, with his church's kid's ministry and at elementary schools.

Tidwell plans to attend University of Texas of the Permian Basin and major in mechanical engineering.

* * *

Midlanders **Alexandra Speight** and Alexandra Haest have been named to the Dean's Honor Roll for the fall semester at Oklahoma City University.

To be eligible, students must maintain a GPA of at least 3.5.

* * *

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Midlander **Shelby C. Collins** has been named to the Dean's List for the fall semester at Samford University.

To be eligible, students must maintain a GPA of at least 3.5.

* * *

WHEATON, Ill. — Midlander **William Barrett** has been named to the Dean's List for the fall semester at Wheaton College.

To be eligible, students must maintain a GPA of at least 3.5.

* * *

CLEMSON, S.C. — Midlander **Mary E. Janousek** recently graduated from Clemson University.

She received a master of science in youth development leadership.

* * *

SEARCY, Ark. — Midlander **Bailey Warpula** has been named to the Dean's List for the fall semester at Harding University.

To be eligible, students must maintain a GPA of at least 3.65.

# EDUCATIONBRIEFS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

## MC to offer pharmacy technician course

The Midland College Health Sciences Continuing Education department will be offering pharmacy technician training beginning Feb. 13. The course will prepare students to enter the pharmacy field and take the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board exam, said Wendy Wood-Collins, director of MC's Health Sciences Continuing Education department.

Classes will be 6-9:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays for six weeks beginning Feb. 13 at Advanced Technology Center, 3200 W. Cuthbert Ave.

Limited scholarships are available. For more information, visit www.midland.edu/hsce or call 681-6354.

## GISD to offer credit-by-exam tests

Greenwood High School will be offering credit by examination tests, with or without prior instruction, from 8 a.m.-noon March 1-2. Tests will be administered on the student's campus.

To be eligible to take the test with prior instruction, students must have received a grade of at least 60 in the course. To receive credit, the student must score a minimum grade of 70.

To be eligible to earn credit by examination without prior instruction, students must score a minimum of 80.

Friday is the deadline to register for the exams. For more information, contact the school counselor.

## PBAF has new online scholarship application

Permian Basin Area Foundation has launched AcademicWorks, an online scholarship application platform. Students and counselors can view eligibility, selection criteria and apply for scholarships online at the foundation's website, www.pbaf.org.

The foundation will accept only applications submitted through the AcademicWorks system, Vicki Rice, scholarships and donor relations. Students must create an AcademicWorks user account before accessing the application, she said in a press release.

For the 2017-18 school, year, the completed electronic scholarship application, supporting documents and reference forms must be received by the foundation no later than March 31, unless otherwise specified.

To learn more about scholarships, grants, and the philanthropic work of donors partnering with Permian Basin Area Foundation, visit www.pbaf.org or call 617.3213.

# CHARTERS

From 1B

"We will not repeal A to F. We finally have an accountability system, and, boy, are they running for the hills," Patrick said during an event hosted by the right-leaning Texas Public Policy Foundation think tank.

The A-F system, passed by the Legislature in 2015, is based largely — 55 percent — on state standardized test performance. The Texas Education Agency is expected to make some tweaks to the system before it's put into official use, but as it stands now, schools and districts are graded in four areas:

■ How students perform on the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness.

■ How students improve on the STAAR year over year.

■ How well students are prepared for careers and college after high school.

■ How campuses and school districts close performance gaps between low-income and higher-income students.

At least 16 other states have adopted similar letter grade rating systems, but there's been considerable pushback from Texas school districts. At least 150 school districts, including Austin, Bastrop and Dripping Springs, have passed resolutions calling on lawmakers to trash the letter grade rating system.

It's not clear why charter schools did better under the A-F system than the current system, but traditional public school advocates said that charter schools tend to "cherry pick" the students they admit and focus their coursework on doing well on standardized tests.

David Dunn, head of the Texas Charter Schools Association, says that's not the case, pointing out that many charter schools also performed poorly in the A-F advisory ratings.

"We're encouraged by the fact that there are fewer campuses compared to traditional ISDs at the D or F level," Dunn said. "But stepping back, bigger picture, none of us can be terribly pleased with the results. This rating system shows that the education system in Texas — writ large, whether you're in a charter or in a traditional school district, there's a lot of room for improvement, and we've all got a lot of work to do."

IDEA charter school campuses in Austin did fairly well, achieving two A's and no failing grades. Executive Director Larkin Tackett said that while the new system might be imperfect, it meets the bar for how all decisions should be made, which is by determining what is best for students and their families. The state's results track with IDEA's internal benchmarking, he said.

"This is telling us we can do better and we need to develop better strategies, not that the system is rigged or is so bad that we're going to ignore it," Tackett said.

The charter KIPP Austin Public Schools for years had strong marks under the state's systems, but didn't fare as well under A-F, receiving eight unacceptable grades at its nine schools. But Executive Director Steven Epstein said overall, KIPP welcomes such measures that help provide accountability and transparency to the public.

"Communities and families deserve to have as much information as possible to make the best possible choices for their students' education," Epstein said. "We use state accountability as well as other indicators to inform our work and accomplish our mission of getting students to and through college."

*Distributed by Tribune Content Agency*

# DUAL CREDIT

From 1B

The ECHS model hasn't only made a difference for MISD. The students tend to outperform others in MC classes, Jolly said.

"The difference with Early College High School is supportive rigor," Jolly said. "They're coming eight hours a day. When they're not in college, they're back in the high school wing in study hall or the library."

For MISD students attending traditional high schools, MC partners with the school district to offer classes that meet the college's academic standards. The dual-credit courses are taught at Lee and Midland high schools by professors or teachers.

Feeler said students have expressed interest in the option, but schools sometimes can't provide enough classes to fill the demand.

"The legislature is wanting to open dual credit more to high school instruction," Feeler said. "The issue is high school instructors have to be qualified in order to teach dual credit."

When teachers aren't available, MC has online and on-campus dual-credit classes for students attending MISD and other local schools. Students at Midland Christian School, Midland Classical Academy, Premier High School, Richard Milburn Academy and Trinity School have enrolled, according to Feeler.

Feeler said the students perform at about the same level as others at MC. He said offering dual credit for career and technical fields has helped strengthen relationships with MISD schools.

"The faculty working with Early College High School students on campus and instructors and high school students on (MISD) campuses form the seamless relationship we have," Feeler said.

MC works less directly with Advanced Placement (AP), another option for high school students seeking college credit. Through AP, students take college-level coursework that cumulates in an exam. High AP exam scores transfer more widely than traditional dual-credit courses, according to Judy Bridges, director of advanced academic services for MISD.

"The main difference our students have noticed is within the state of Texas," Bridges said. "Midland College dual credit transfers out to other state colleges and universities. With the AP exam, you have to get the right score of 3, 4 or 5. AP courses have the advantage if students are going to private schools or outside the state."

MISD offers pre-AP courses in junior and freshman high schools and AP courses at Lee, Midland and Early College high schools. Students enrolled in AP courses receive credit at MC while learning at MISD campuses.

Bridges said the dual-credit setup can influence exam scores.

"It depends on how much students study," Bridges said. "There's a disconnect with dual credit and AP for some classes. They think if they're going to school within Texas, it's already accepted. They find it's hard to study for the AP exam."

Despite some apathy toward the exam, Bridges said interest in AP classes has remained steady, with 44 classes offered between Lee and Midland high schools.

But another dual-credit choice at MC is losing popularity, according to Jolly. He said fewer high school students have opted for early admissions recently.

"They can come out here for classes," Jolly said. "Some students do that — they used to do it more. We have summer school and winter and spring interim classes, when students take one course over three weeks."

Three decades after the first dual-credit classes at MC, Jolly said local high school students have influenced the college.

"They changed us as a college, and we changed the community," Jolly said. "We're supposed to affect and effect the community we serve. We had to adapt and adjust where we teach it and how we teach it."

# SEYBERT

From 1B

education — from pre-K through graduate-level courses, so I get that grades are necessary sometimes. I also understand that grades are one way to measure performance and are somewhat of a necessity in schools. There has to be accountability, and grades help to give structure for that. But what worries me is that we are grading students based on inconsistent systems and labeling them before they even have the opportunity to grow.

By giving a first-grader an "F" for reading or math, we are selecting that child as a high school dropout at least 9 times out of 10. By lining up "A" honor roll students in front of peers during assemblies, we are highlighting the idea that early success is the only acceptable success. This "honor roll" system is no different than the state of Texas sending out lists of grades for all Texas schools.

When our "imperfections" are highlighted across the state, it causes doom and gloom. It causes teachers to want to give up. This is no different than what it does to our students. Failing students want to give up. So, be horrified at the thought of the Texas Education Agency sending out a press release with grades for our schools, but be equally horrified at how we have become entrenched in publicly highlighting students for grades. Because, highlighting the A's also shines a very bright light on the F's.

I would love a total overhaul of the grading of students and schools. I would love to see "developing" and "mastered" as words used on report cards instead of "A" and "F" — for both schools and students. So, from my standpoint as a school leader, this makes our PLCs (professional learning communities) so very important. The conversations that our teachers have during this sacred time with each other can be used to create mastery standards for students and to discuss how students will be measured and graded based on a common standard.

Conversations within PLCs can help with standardization of grading, intervention ideas for struggling students, brainstorming for new and innovative methods and techniques and collaboration with colleagues. We must continue as school leaders to keep this time sacred for our teachers because the success of students depends on allowing our teachers to have time with each other.

What this also means is that when thinking about how we can get better and improve performance, let's think at the student level instead of the school level. Let's look at individual learners and their potential versus worrying about global school grades that really don't mean much. The "grades" that TEA slapped on us mean one thing: We must continue to work at reaching our students and help each one, individually, grow as learners. There is no other way.

*Jennifer Seybert is principal of Abell Junior High School.*

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## TUESDAY PRIME TIME — JANUARY 17, 2017

FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION PLEASE CHECK MOVIE LISTINGS

| | G | S | R | C | W | 6 PM | 6:30 | 7 PM | 7:30 | 8 PM | 8:30 | 9 PM | 9:30 | 10 PM | 10:30 | 11 PM | 11:30 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BROADCAST | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| KMID ABC | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 2 | Jeopardy! | Wheel of Fortune | Middle (N) | Am.Housewife (N) | Fresh Off Boat (N) | O'Neals (N) | Agents of SHIELD "The Patriot" (N) | | Local 2 News/ 10 | (:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live | | (:35) News Nightline |
| KOSA CBS | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | CBS 7 News | Ent. Tonight | NCIS "Off the Grid" (N) | | Bull | | NCIS: New Orleans "Let It Ride" (N) | | CBS 7 News | (:35) Stephen Colbert | | (:35) J.Corden |
| KWWT CW | 5 | 14 | | 5 | 14 | M*A*S*H | M*A*S*H | A. Griffith | A. Griffith | MacGyver "For Love or Money" | | Hogan's Heroes | Hogan's Heroes | Carol Burnett | Perry Mason | | Twilight Zone |
| KPEJ FOX | 8 | 5 | 5 | 8 | 3 | Big Bang Theory | Big Bang Theory | New Girl (N) | The Mick (N) | Bones (N) | | Fox 24 News | TMZ | Modern Family | Two and a Half | Hot In Cleveland | Met Your Mother |
| KMLM IND | 11 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 11 | Rocks/Manuscripts | Housecall | Update News | Behind the Veil | Light of the Southwest | | Light of the Southwest | | Aleph Course | Mission: M25 | Ministerios Vida | Nueva |
| KWES NBC | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | News-West 9 | NewsWest 9 Now | The Wall "Ebony and Deanna" (N) | | This Is Us "The Big Day" (N) | | Chicago Fire "The People We Meet" (N) | | NewsWest 9 at 10 | (:35) The Tonight Show | | (:35) Seth Meyers |
| KPBT PBS | 13 | 13 | | 13 | 8 | PBS NewsHour | | American Experience | | Frontline "Divided States of America" 1/2 cont'd Jan 18 (N) | | | | Charlie Rose (N) | | Newsline | Tavis Smiley |
| KUPB UNI | 4 | 4 | | 4 | 16 | La rosa de Guadalupe | | Despertar contigo | | Vino el amor | | El color de la pasion | | Noticias Tejas | Noticiero noctu. | Contacto Deportivo | |
| KOSA MNT | 16 | 16 | | 16 | | Last Man | Last Man | X-Files "Piper Maru" | | X-Files "Apocrypha" | | Mike&M. | Mike&M. | Anger M. | Anger M. | Tosh.0 | Access H. |
| PREMIUM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FLIX | 340 | 575 | | 165 | | (5:15) ★★ Luckytown | | ★★ Hot Rod Andy Samberg. | | | | ★★ First Kid Sinbad. | | (:15) ★★ Tapeheads John Cusack. | | | |
| HBO | 300 | 590 | 14 | 14 | | Movie | Vice News | ★ Now You See Me 2 Jesse Eisenberg. | | | | (:10) ★★★ The Cell Jennifer Lopez. | | | | The Young Pope | |
| HBO2 | 302 | 591 | 15 | 101 | 23 | (4:45) ★ Enemy at t... | | Young Pope (P) (N) | | ★ By the Sea ('15, Dra) Angelina Jolie. | | | | (:05) Bright Lights | | | Movie |
| HBO5 | 304 | 592 | 16 | 102 | | (5:40) ★ Child 44 ('15, Thril) Tom Hardy. | | | | ★★ Forgetting Sarah Marshall | | | | ★ Hall, Caesar! Josh Brolin. | | | Movie |
| MAX | 380 | 597 | 17 | 120 | 24 | (4:10) ★ The Good ... | | ★★★★ The Man From U.N.C.L.E. | | | | ★★ All ('01, Bio) Mario Van Peebles, Will Smith. | | | | | Movie |
| MAX2 | 382 | 598 | 18 | 122 | | Movie | ★★ The Crew Richard Dreyfuss. | | | ★★ Magic Mike | | | | (:50) ★★ I Spy ('02, Spy) Eddie Murphy. | | | Movie |
| PLEX | | | 96 | | | (5:25) ★ Austin Po... | | ★ The Double-0 Kid Corey Haim. | | (:35) ★★ The Musketeer | | | | (:20) ★★★ The Emperor's Club | | | |
| SHOW | 320 | 565 | 19 | 140 | 25 | ★★ Secret in Their Eyes Chiwetel Ejiofor. | | | | Inside the NFL (N) | | Homeland | | Inside the NFL | | ★★ Saw III | |
| TMC | 336 | 573 | 22 | 155 | 26 | (5:15) ★ Jane Wants... | | ★★★ Sling Blade Billy Bob Thornton. | | | | (:15) ★ Forsaken | | (:45) ★★★ Rat Race | | | |
| CABLE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A&E | 27 | 58 | 28 | 35 | 47 | Intervention "Daniel/Robert" | | Intervention "Karissa" | | Intervention "Diana" | | Remini: Scientology | | (:05) L. Remini "Golden Era" | | (:05) Intervention "Karissa" | |
| AMC | 40 | 74 | 23 | 42 | 51 | (3:30) ★ The Dark Kn... | | ★★ Armageddon (1998, Adventure) Liv Tyler, Ben Affleck, Bruce Willis. | | | | | | | | ★ The Shawshank Redemption | |
| BET | 58 | - | | 40 | | (4:00) ★ I Can Do B... | | (:05) Being Mary Jane | | Being Mary Jane (N) | | Being Mary Jane | | Martin | Martin | Fresh P. | Fresh P |
| BRAVO | 65 | 76 | | 41 | | Beverly Hills | | Bev Hills Social (N) | | Beverly Hills (N) | | Ladies of London (N) | | Watch (N) | Housewives Atlanta | | LadiesL |
| CNBC | 46 | 52 | | 39 | 72 | Billion Dollar Buyer | | Shark Tank | | Shark Tank | | Billion Buyer (N) | | Shark Tank | | Shark Tank | |
| CNN | 43 | 50 | 51 | 30 | 56 | OutFront | | A. Cooper 360 | | A. Cooper 360 | | CNN Tonight | | CNN Tonight | | A. Cooper 360 | |
| DISC | 50 | 60 | 31 | 24 | 42 | Moonshiners | | Moonshiners (N) | | Moonshiners (N) | | Killing Fields (N) | | Moonshiners | | Fields "Smoking Gun" | |
| DISNEY | 56 | 64 | 36 | 25 | 36 | Underc. | Good Luck | StuckMid | GoodLuck | Liv/Mad | Liv/Mad | Bunk'd | Bunk'd | Jessie | Jessie | Girl M. | Friends |
| ESPN | 32 | 35 | 48 | 31 | 30 | NCAA Basketball Kan./MS St. (L) | | | | NCAA Basketball Michigan at Wisconsin (L) | | | | SportsCenter | | SportsCenter | |
| ESPN2 | 34 | 36 | 49 | 32 | 31 | NCAA Basketball Texas at Baylor (L) | | | | ITF Tennis Australian Open Men's and Women's Second Round Site: Melbourne Park (L) | | | | | | | |
| FNC | 45 | 48 | 53 | 23 | 55 | On the Record | | The Kelly File | | Hannity | | | | The O'Reilly Factor | | The Kelly File | |
| FOOD | 64 | 70 | 27 | 68 | 54 | Chopped | | Chopped Junior (N) | | Chopped | | Chopped (N) | | Chopped | | Chopped | |
| FREEFORM | 53 | 63 | 34 | 42 | 33 | ★★ Big Daddy ('99, Com) Adam Sandler. | | | | ★★★ Bruce Almighty Jim Carrey. | | | | The 700 Club | | Gilmore Girls | |
| FSSW | 37 | 38 | 50 | 45 | 29 | SportsDay OnAir | Mavs Live Pregam (L) | NBA Basketball Dallas Mavericks at Chicago Bulls Site: United Center -- Chicago, Ill. (L) | | | | | Mavericks Live (L) | Cowboys Legends | Rangers insider | Stars Insider | Inside LSU Bask |
| FX | 31 | 56 | 59 | 64 | 69 | ★★★★ Gone Girl ('14, Myst) Rosamund Pike, Ben Affleck. | | | | | | Taboo "Episode 2" | | | Taboo | | Taboo |
| HALLMARK | 54 | 71 | 58 | | 34 | Last Man | Last Man | Last Man | Last Man | Middle | Middle | Middle | Middle | G. Girls | G. Girls | G. Girls | G. Girls |
| HGTV | 63 | 69 | 26 | 48 | 44 | Fixer Upper | | Fixer Upper | | Fixer Upper (N) | | H.Hunt | House (N) | Fixer Upper | | Fixer Upper | |
| HISTORY | 71 | 59 | 29 | 50 | 43 | Curse of Oak Island | | Oak Island (N) | | Curse Oak Island (N) | | (:05) Forged Fire (N) | | (:05) Oak Island | | (:05) Oak Island | |
| LIFETIME | 28 | 30 | 25 | 28 | 48 | Dance Moms "No Clowning Around" | | Dance Moms: Chat "The Fresno Curse" (N) | | Dance Moms "ALDC Ain't Dead Yet" (N) | | Celebrity Wife Swap | | Celeb Wife "Verne Troyer/ Hines Ward" | | Dance Moms: Chat "The Fresno Curse | |
| MSNBC | 47 | 53 | | 49 | 73 | Hardball | | All in With C. Hayes | | Rachel Maddow | | The Last Word | | 11thHour | Hardball | Rachel Maddow | |
| NBCSN | 38 | 43 | | | | NHL Top | NHLTop10 | NHL Live! (L) | | NHL Hockey Chicago vs Colorado (L) | | | | | (:45) NHL Overtime (L) | A Skiing | |
| NICK | 55 | - | 39 | 34 | 37 | Paradise | Thunder | Thunder | GShakers | F.House | F.House | F.House | F.House | Friends | Friends | Friends | |
| SPIKE | 30 | - | 55 | 53 | 58 | Cops | Cops | Cops | Cops | Campus | Campus | Cops | Cops | Campus | Campus | Cops | Cops |
| SYFY | 66 | 82 | 41 | 57 | 67 | ★★ Final Destination 2 ('03, Thril) Ali Larter. | | | | ★★★ Source Code Jake Gyllenhaal. | | | | ★★ The Core ('03, Sci-Fi) Hilary Swank | | | |
| TBS | 25 | 33 | 44 | 66 | 41 | Seinfeld | Seinf. "The Barber" | Big Bang Theory | Big Bang Theory | Big Bang Theory | Big Bang Theory | Big Bang Theory | Big Bang Theory | Conan Matthew Lewis, Johnnyswim (N) | 2 Broke Girls | Conan | |
| TCM | 41 | 75 | 24 | 63 | 66 | (4:30) ★ The Sea Ha... | | ★★★ Jailhouse Rock | | | | (:45) ★★ Weary River | | | ★ Two Way Stretch | | |
| TELE | 20 | - | 10 | 20 | | Caso cerrado | | La fan | | La Doña | | El Chema | | Al rojo | (:35) Titular | La Doña | |
| TLC | 51 | 61 | 32 | 38 | 52 | OutDaughtered "Quint-cation Chaos" | | OutDaughtered "A Thanksgiving Miracle" | | OutDaughtered "The Quints Take Manhattan" (N) | | | | OutDaughtered "The Quints Take Manhattan" | | | |
| TNT | 24 | 34 | 40 | 26 | 50 | ★★★ Gravity (2013, Thriller) George Clooney, Sandra Bullock. | | | | ★★ Disturbia (2007, Crime Story) Sarah Roemer, Carrie-Anne Moss, Shia LaBeouf. | | | | Last Ship "Uneasy Lies the Head" | | The Last Ship "Friendly Fire" | |
| TVLAND | 49 | - | 35 | 54 | 35 | Griffith | A. Griffith | Griffith | Loves Ray | Loves Ray | Loves Ray | Teachers | T. Shade | Queens | Queens | Queens | Queens |
| USA | 26 | 55 | 42 | 27 | 49 | NCIS "Prime Suspect" | | WWE Smackdown! in long-running rivalries | | WWE superstars do battle | | Shooter "Primer Contact" (SF) (N) | | Incorporated "Executables" | | Law & Order: S.V.U. "Home Invasion" | |
| WGN | 19 | 85 | | | | Cops | Cops | Cops | Cops | ★★★ Tremors (1990, Horror) Fred Ward, Michael Gross, Kevin Bacon. | | | | ★★★ Tremors (1990, Horror) Fred Ward, Michael Gross, Kevin Bacon. | | | |

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# 4-year-old girl reads more than 1,000 books

By Samantha Schmidt
*The Washington Post*

Before Daliyah Marie Arana was even born, her parents say, she was learning how to read.

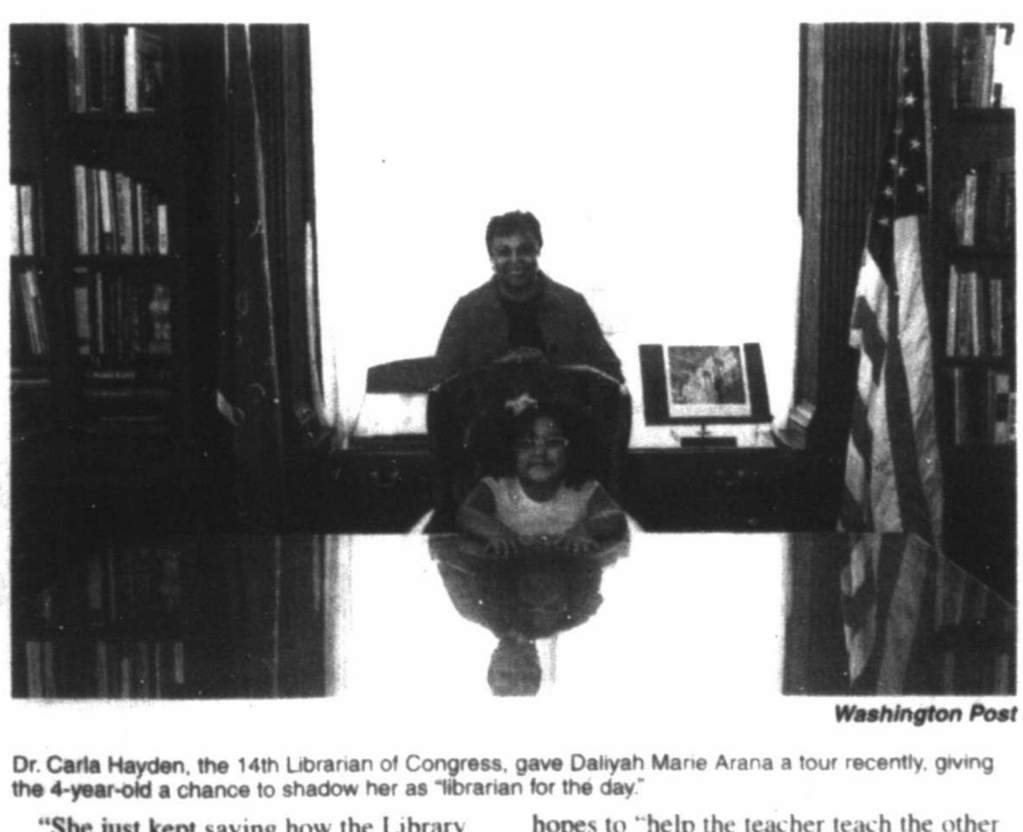
While she was pregnant with Daliyah, her mother would read books to her other young children on a daily basis. When Daliyah was an infant, she would hear her older brother reading chapters of books out loud in their Gainesville, Georgia, home. And by the time she was about 18 months old, she was recognizing the words in the books her mother read her.

"She wanted to take over and do the reading on her own," her mother, Haleema Arana, said in an interview with The Washington Post. "It kind of took off from there. The more words she learned, the more she wanted to read."

So it was no surprise when, at 2 years and 11 months — the age that most children barely understand the concept that text carries a message — Daliyah read her first book on her own.

Now 4 years old, Daliyah has read more than 1,000 books and has managed to read certain college-level texts. And the preschooler's skilled reading and passion for literature impressed even the leader of the nation's library, Carla Hayden, the 14th Librarian of Congress. On Wednesday, Hayden hosted Daliyah at the Library of Congress, giving the 4-year-old a chance to shadow her as "librarian for the day." Wearing her glasses, pink dress and matching pink bow, Daliyah walked the sprawling hallways of the world's largest library and sat in on executive roundtable meetings — as any high-profile librarian would do.

Hayden, who made history this year as she became the first woman and the first African American to run the nation's library, tweeted photos of Daliyah's visit from the library's official account. One showed Hayden and Daliyah walking precisely in step, both holding their hands behind their backs, with Daliyah looking up at Hayden with eyes of wonder.



Washington Post

Dr. Carla Hayden, the 14th Librarian of Congress, gave Daliyah Marie Arana a tour recently, giving the 4-year-old a chance to shadow her as "librarian for the day."

"She just kept saying how the Library of Congress is her most favorite, favorite, favorite library in the whole wide world," Arana said.

Of course, the young bookworm is no newcomer to libraries. As she told the Gainesville Times, Daliyah has her own library card, and is a regular at her local library, the Hall County Library in Gainesville.

"I like to check out books every day," Daliyah said. "And I want to teach other kids to read at an early age, too," Daliyah told the Gainesville Times.

Through the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program, Haleema Arana got the idea to start counting the number of books Daliyah read. She was about 3 years old at the time, and had likely already read about 1,000 books with the help of her mother. In the year or so since, Daliyah has met the program's 1,000-book goal, and aims to reach 1,500 by the time she enters kindergarten next fall, when she hopes to "help the teacher teach the other kids how to read," her mother said.

Her parents have never tested her exact reading level, but Daliyah is capable of reading books that her 10- and 12-year-old siblings bring home from school, and seeks help only when she gets stuck on a big word, Arana said. Her favorite writer is Mo Willems — author of the "Pigeon and Elephant" and "Piggie" series — and she has a special interest in dinosaurs, her mother said. She can spit out numerous facts about dinosaurs and dreams of someday digging up dinosaur fossils as a paleontologist. (Yes, the 4-year-old knows the definition of the word "paleontologist.")

To give her a challenge — and to cater to her love of books — her mom gave her a college-level text, a speech called "The Pleasure of Books" by William L. Phelps. Daliyah learned to read the speech so well, pronouncing words such as "punctiliousness" and phrases like "annihilates formality," that her mother posted a video of her reading it on YouTube.

"And there is no doubt that in these books you see these men at their best the 4-year-old reads. ... They wrote for you. They bland themselves out ... they did their ultimate best to entertain you, to make a favorable impression. You are necessary to them as an audience to an actor; only instead of seeing them masked, you look into their innermost heart of hearts."

Her mother hoped that by posting the video, she could encourage other parents to teach their children how to read at a young age, she said. Exposing her children to books from infancy has made all the difference, Haleema Arana said.

"She's able to just absorb so much and retain so much so fast," Arana said.

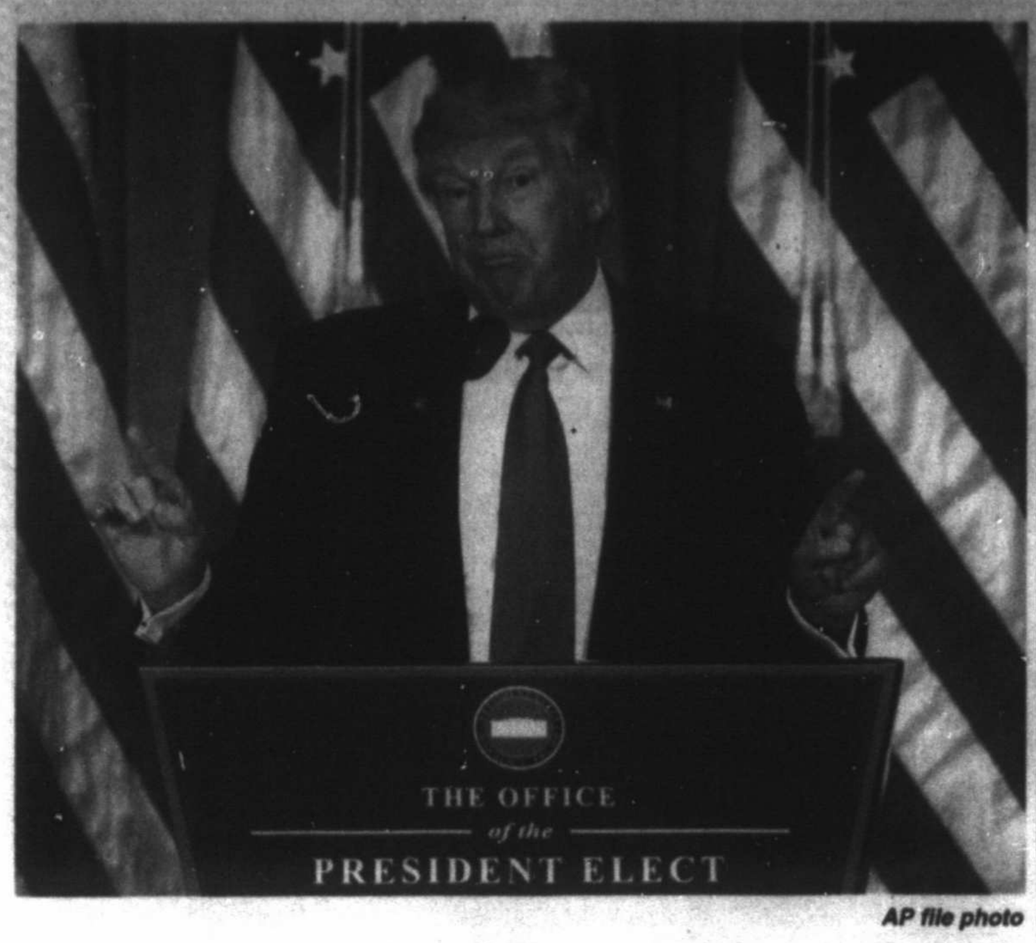
Daliyah's vocabulary and reading comprehension has perhaps also benefited from her bilingual home — her father, Miguel Arana, is Mexican, and often speaks to Daliyah in Spanish. Although the 4-year-old cannot yet speak the language fluently, she can understand many words and hopes to work toward learning how to read in Spanish, her parents said.

The avid reader has already gained recognition in her home town, serving as a "librarian for a day" at the local library and even being asked to recite the famous "I Have a Dream" speech at an upcoming Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration.

Her mother decided to reach out to the Library of Congress to see if she could take her daughter's "librarian" experience to a new level. The library responded, inviting the family to spend the day with Hayden.

As she toured the children's section of the library Wednesday, Daliyah read books to Hayden and met other members of the library staff. When they asked the 4-year-old librarian for recommendations, an idea immediately came to her mind. She suggested they install whiteboards in the library hallways, so that children like her can practice writing on them.

"They said they would try to make that happen," her mother said.




AP file photo

In this file photo dated Jan. 11, President-elect Donald Trump speaks during his first news conference as president-elect, in New York. Did students mimic Donald Trump's aggressive attacks against his rivals with name calling, bullying and other questionable behavior in their classrooms?

# Did Donald Trump or the 2016 election cause more bullying in schools?

**By Abbie Bennett**
*The News & Observer (Raleigh, N.C.)*

Can ugly campaign rhetoric and electoral bullying trickle down to students, leading to more bullying in schools? What about in North Carolina?

That's what Politico tried to discover with data mined from a handful of school systems across the country. Did students mimic Donald Trump's aggressive attacks against his rivals with name calling, bullying and other questionable behavior in their classrooms?

Anecdotal reports of such behavior have been called the "Trump effect" by teacher unions, advocacy groups and opponents of the president-elect.

Politico requested bullying and harassment reports from more than a dozen school systems, including the largest in the country and some in battleground states such as North Carolina where negative campaigning probably was at its height.

Wake County and six other districts had fulfilled Politico's request as of last week: Milwaukee, Fairfax, Virginia.; Houston, Denver, Portland, Oregon; and Columbus City, Ohio.

In those districts, there was no significant spike in reported incidents of bullying or harassment, according to the data Politico collected.

The Education Department's Office for Civil Rights also provided data showing reports of racial harassment appear to be happening at about the same rate this fiscal year as in the previous few years.

Incidents of reported racial harassment in schools reached a peak of 404 in fiscal year 2013 and have declined since then, according to Politico's report. There were 344 reported incidents in K-12 schools in fiscal year 2016, according to the office. There have been 53 incidents reported so far in fiscal year 2017 (which started in October).

But Politico's report still was missing data, including reports from the four largest districts in the country: New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Miami-Dade. According to Politico's report, New York, Los Angeles and Chicago are still working on the request for information.

Miami-Dade refused to provide the data unless Politico paid $204 for it. No other system placed a fee on the information.

When Politico requested the information from Philadelphia, the school system flatly refused to provide it, saying bullying and harassment statistics were not public information under Pennsylvania law.

Politico also noted that the data in its report only included incidents of bullying and harassment that were reported, noting that many incidents probably go unreported.

"So it's not necessarily a full picture of what's going on," Politico said in its report. "But the numbers do provide a useful snapshot of bullying activity in K-12 districts across the country."

Politico's data also only included reports through November. And there's anecdotal evidence that tension increased in schools during and after the election, Politico reported.

One incident that made headlines involved a black Minneapolis-area high school student who found racist graffiti in a school's restrooms, along with phrases such as "Make America Great Again" and "Trump Train" alongside racial slurs, a teacher reported. Videos also surfaced that appeared to show students in different areas of the country promoting Trump's proposed wall at the Mexican border, or harassing students of Hispanic decent.

An online survey by the Southern Poverty Law Center conducted in the days after the election showed that 80 percent of the more than 10,000 teachers, counselors and administrators who responded to the survey said that tensions had increased at their schools and that students were anxious about their futures.

*Distributed by Tribune Content Agency*

# Trump's pick for education secretary could put school vouchers back on map

**By Joy Resmovits**
*Los Angeles Times*

Fifteen years ago, a controversial question about America's schools dominated headlines, prompted ballot measures in various states and led wealthy philanthropists to dig deep into their pockets in the name of educational reform.

Should government money pay for students to attend private — even religious — schools?

Betsy DeVos, Donald Trump's pick for education secretary, whose confirmation hearings begin today, was one of the biggest backers of the yes camp.

But after voters in some states gave vouchers a resounding no, the issue fizzled in all but a few, mostly conservative places.

DeVos' nomination — and the president-elect's backing — could put vouchers back on the map in a major way.

DeVos, a Republican fundraiser from Michigan, has backed school vouchers across the country. And although Trump said little about education on the campaign trail, he did at one point suggest legislation to create a major school voucher program as one of his priorities for his first 100 days.

The plan calls for $20 billion in federal money — combined with $110 billion from the states — to give the nation's poor students $12,000 each toward private school tuition, provided enough funding is collected, according to Trump's team. The tuition could pay for religious schools as well as boarding schools and academies that focus on a specific subject areas or philosophies.

Vouchers have long been a political wedge issue. Advocates, who are largely conservative, describe them as a chance to break up a failing education system and give students more options, as well as a way to strike back at court decisions that keep religion out of schools.

Foes fear vouchers will destroy traditional public schools and erode the separation of church and state. And there are questions about regulations: Private schools aren't required to offer bilingual education, classes for English learners or the same level of services as public schools for students with disabilities.

As of 2017, only 14 states and Washington, D.C., had voucher programs, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. There are 61 programs at the state and district level, according to the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, a pro-voucher group.

Because there has yet to be a major voucher program that approaches the size of Trump's proposal, research on school vouchers is inconclusive. At best, it has found small gains for some groups of students and the public school systems they leave — and at worst, studies show that students who used vouchers have lost ground academically.

"But we have no idea what would happen if those voucher programs get big," said David Figlio, an education and social policy professor at Northwestern University who has evaluated voucher systems.

In Florida, he said, students who move to private schools as part of a statewide voucher program don't do better or worse, but the schools they leave improve a little because the voucher program inspires them to compete. In Ohio and Louisiana, students who use vouchers sometimes score worse than their public school peers on state tests.

DeVos got involved with vouchers in the 1990s, when she and her husband, a billionaire investor who is the son of Amway's founder, began managing a small national organization that gave scholarships to low-income children to attend their schools of choice.

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## GUEST VIEWS

# Texas needs to toss out standardized testing

Victoria Advocate

■ A new letter-grading system created by the Texas Legislature flunked its first test, to put it mildly.

Legislators created the system to supposedly simplify the labyrinth of standardized testing that has saddled public schools. Instead, they managed to make the situation even worse.

Nothing is simple about our country's misguided obsession with standardized testing. These tests are flawed in many documented ways, and this letter-grading system is the latest example of the problem.

The Texas Legislature created this additional layer of complexity during its 2015 session. As part of the bill passed then, legislators required the Texas Education Association to provide a tentative mockup in January of a campus-by-campus report card. This report card is supposed to be a work in progress, but serves instead as an alarm for lawmakers to scrap this nonsense before it goes any further.

All Crossroads school superintendents contacted criticized the rating system. Victoria superintendent Robert Jaklich said the system was comparing "apples to oranges."

Shiner Superintendent Trey Lawrence, whose schools fared relatively well, said of the various standardized tests, "I don't prefer any of them. We've gone testing crazy in the state of Texas."

Clay Robinson, a spokesman for the Texas Teachers Association, told the Associated Press that the new grading system shows what educators already know: "The schools in the upper-middle class neighborhoods do pretty well, generally, and the schools in poor areas don't."

Lawmakers give lip service to local control, but they do exactly the opposite with standardized testing and other mandates. Local school boards, who answer directly to parents, are the best judges of a district.

A sea of students filling in bubbles on multiple-choice questions reveal little about a school district's success or failure. The National Center for Fair and Open Testing explains how such testing rewards quick answers to superficial testing:

"They do not measure the ability to think deeply or creatively in any field. Their use encourages a narrowed curriculum, outdated methods of instruction, and harmful practices such as grade retention and tracking."

Texas poet Sara Holbrook recently wrote in Huffington Post that even she couldn't answer the ridiculous State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness questions about her own work. Many harken back to the good old days when they imagine public education was better. Consider that Texas didn't even begin standardized testing until 1980. Thus, the good old days might have been better because high-stakes testing didn't exist.

According to a Dallas TV station investigation, the cost to develop and administer these tests has been about $60 million-$90 million a year. Given that this is a tight budget year for the Legislature, now would be a good time to abandon standardized testing altogether.

Some Republicans in Congress and national education experts have suggested other ways for evaluating students and schools. These alternatives to high-stakes testing deserve a much closer look.

Texas could lead the way in true education reform. That would be a report card to celebrate.

*Distributed by Tribune Content Agency*

# State key to education fix

El Paso Times

A new report on El Paso's educational attainment levels lays out the difficult work ahead for the city to be economically competitive in the coming decades.

The summary is jarring: "El Paso is losing its ability to compete for 21st century jobs and simply doesn't have the workforce with the skills necessary to perform the kinds of high wage jobs that are driving the new global economy."

The report was prepared by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems for El Paso's Council on Regional Economic Expansion and Educational Development (CREED). It is tied to a statewide initiative called 60X30TX, with a goal of having 60 percent of Texans ages 25 to 34 obtaining some sort of post-secondary credential by 2030.

El Paso's challenge is immense. Currently, only 30 percent of people ages 25 to 64 have an associate's degree or higher. That's the lowest among five Texas metroplexes, and lower than other regional metro areas.

By 2020, 65 percent of all jobs will require post-secondary education and skills, according to the report.

El Paso has made progress in educational attainment in the past couple of decades. By many measures, El Paso does a better job than other regional cities in educating Hispanics and immigrant children.

But it hasn't been enough. One key reason is that the state of Texas has failed to provide adequate funding to address the challenges of educating English-language learners, low-income students and others who are historically less likely to finish college.

The key recommendation in the CREEED report is getting significantly more students ready for college by the time they finish high school.

El Paso's school districts have made innovations in recent years that show promise in preparing students for post-secondary education. Those efforts must accelerate, a fact recognized by education leaders throughout El Paso.

But El Paso can't do it alone. In fact, the state's laudable 60X30TX effort will struggle to succeed unless state leaders fix a school-funding system that almost everyone acknowledges is broken.

Texas' challenge is a demographic one, said Dennis Jones, president emeritus of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems. The Texas student population is becoming more and more like El Paso's student population — increasingly Hispanic, low income, and from immigrant families learning English.

Such students are just as smart as students from other backgrounds, but face unique challenges in learning. Educating them requires additional resources, meaning more money. Texas has known this for decades, but hasn't had the political will to address it.

The 60X30TX effort acknowledges that getting more students to complete a post-secondary education is crucial to Texas' future. By definition, that means getting more students of color, many from immigrant backgrounds, through college.

To accomplish that, the governor, lieutenant governor and Legislature will have to muster the political will to fix the school funding system and provide educators with the resources they need to educate Texas' student population.

*Distributed by Tribune Content Agency*

# Georgia students offer aid to Syrian refugees in Greece

**By Lauren McDonald**
*The Brunswick News, Ga.*

FREDERICA, Ga. — In Glynn County, the Syrian refugee crisis is only a headline, and the devastating images and statistics exist far away.

Since it began six years ago, the civil war in Syria has torn families from their homes and from each other, displacing millions who seek shelter where they can find it.

The international crisis has entered the family's backyard of two Frederica Academy students.

Nina and George Poulakis, who moved with their parents to St. Simons Island from Athens, Greece, have been confronted with the harsh realities faced by the millions of Syrian refugees during their biannual trips home to see their extended family.

"All these families were being kicked out of their homes and having to go on ships over to Greek islands to seek refuge," Nina said. "And a lot times, the kids would die on the way over."

She recalls watching the news while in Greece and seeing horrifying images of children's bodies washing up on beaches. In parts of Athens, lines of refugees spill out of buildings onto the sidewalks.

"They sleep on cardboard blankets, some only have one blanket," Nina said.

When the Poulakis returned home Nina and Georgia could not simply forget what they'd seen. They decided to find a way to help.

"I thought, well I can't do much because I don't live in Greece," Nina said. "But then I thought, maybe if me and my brother started collecting toiletries, stuffed animals, coloring books for the children there, if there was a way for us to transport the stuff over there, that would be a big contribution."

Soon, this plan had a name — Boxes for Borders.

Nina and George then set out to spread the word around Frederica Academy, in hopes of collecting the supplies for the children of Syrian refugees, along with money to mail these items across the ocean to a volunteer organization in Athens.

*Distributed by Tribune Content Agency*

| TODAY: Partly sunny | WEDNESDAY: Mostly sunny | THURSDAY: Sunny | FRIDAY: Mostly sunny | SATURDAY: Mostly sunny | SUNDAY: Sunny |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| High: 47 Low: 35 | High: 58 Low: 42 | High: 64 Low: 43 | High: 62 Low: 42 | High: 62 Low: 42 | High: 58 Low: 34 |

## Local forecast

There is a 30 percent chance of scattered showers today and tonight, according to the National Weather Service. Otherwise expect slightly above-average temperatures for most of the week.

The record high for Jan. 16 is 79 set in 1971. The record low is 15, set in 1972. On Jan. 16 of last year, the high was 55 and the low was 32.

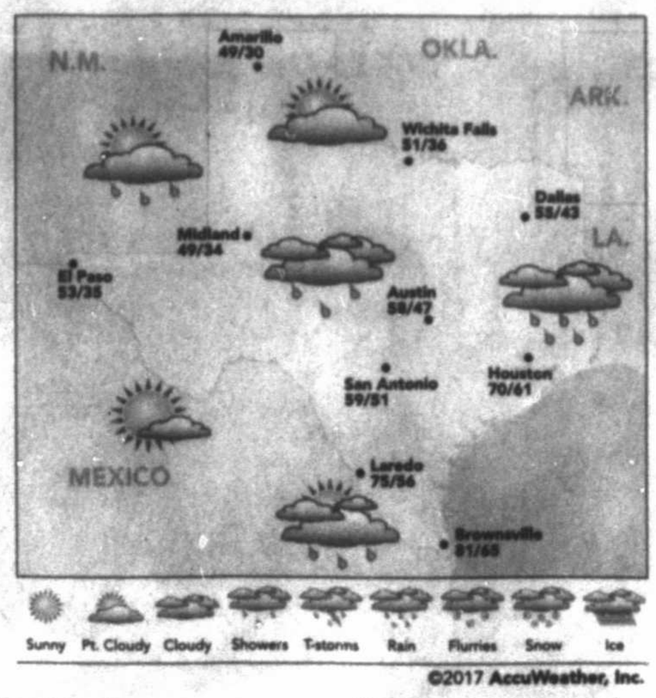
## Weather brief

DALLAS

### Powerful Texas storm delivers damaging winds, heavy rain

A powerful storm system has unleashed strong winds and torrential rains across much of Texas, knocking out power, damaging homes and flooding streets.

The National Weather Service says tornadoes touched down Sunday night in a Dallas suburb and elsewhere, but there were no reports of injuries. The weather service had issued a tornado warning Monday for the Houston area.

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**Precipitation**

| | |
|---|---|
| Sunday | 0.81 in. |
| Monday | 0.00 in. |
| Month total | 0.96 in. |
| Year total | 0.96 in. |
| Normal total (year to date) | 0.24 in. |

**Monday's temperatures**

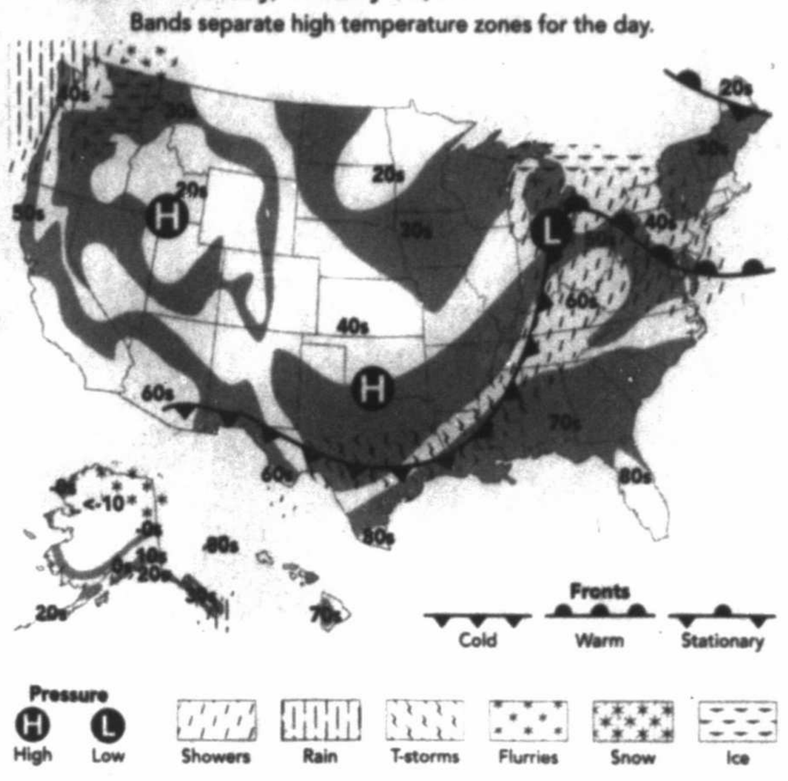
| | |
|---|---|
| High | 64 |
| Low | 35 |
| Normal high | 57 |
| Normal low | 30 |
| Sunrise | 7:49 a.m. |
| Sunset | 6:49 p.m. |

## National weather

AccuWeather.com

Forecast for Tuesday, January 17, 2017

Bands separate high temperature zones for the day.




## *Mom and ex at loggerheads over daughter's cellphone*

# DEAR ABBY

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



**DEAR ABBY:** I bought my 11-year-old daughter a cellphone. My ex does not approve. We have been divorced for six years, and he still can't get over it. He despises me. He refuses to listen to why I want her to have a cellphone.

While I want her to be responsible with it, I realize she will make mistakes — which she already has by being on her phone too much. (It has been taken away from her once.) I want her to carry the phone with her in case of emergencies. If it is confiscated at school, her dad will no doubt tell me, "I told you so."

Should I abide by his wishes and not allow her to have the phone, or do you think my points are valid? — MOM WITH PHONE ISSUE

**DEAR MOM:** Wanting your daughter to have the cellphone in case of emergency seems valid to me. If you are her custodial parent, I think that prerogative belongs to you.

But I do have a question: Who took the phone away from your daughter? If you did it because she was abusing the privilege, then she will learn her lesson if you are consistent. If a teacher takes it away from her at school, there should be consequences and you should ensure that they are enforced.

**DEAR ABBY:** I have an unusual problem. I'm very accident-prone. Over the past several years I have been in a cast many times, sometimes for long periods. My friends constantly tease me about it when what I'd really appreciate is a little compassion and maybe a little help while I am recovering. How do I let these people know that their teasing is hurtful? — WENDY IN CALIFORNIA

**DEAR WENDY:** If you have been in a cast "many times" over the past few years, your friends may be suffering from compassion fatigue. If their making light of your predicament is hurting your feelings, you have to tell them so. And while you're at it, tell them what you DO need from them.

On a slightly different note, don't you think it's time to determine why you are so accident-prone? Is it clumsiness? Poor vision? Discuss this with your medical provider, because he or she might advise neurological testing, or even some sessions with a licensed mental health professional. Please consider this advice.

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a healthy, somewhat older lady with a reasonable appetite who unfortunately sleeps alone. Consequently, I have a few toys to help me on sleepless nights. One of my biggest worries, however, is that if I should expire and my loved ones discover my toy collection after my demise, they will be shocked.

I don't want to give up my toys, but I am worried about what my loved ones will think of me should I cease to exist before my appetite decreases. Surely one of these days it will. But in the meantime, what happens if I die and they discover my secret? — KEEPING A LID ON IT

**DEAR KEEPING:** What will happen? You will die with a smile on your face.

# GOREN BRIDGE

*With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch*

### Larry's patience

Both vulnerable, North deals

NORTH
♠ A K 9 5
♡ A 2
◇ 10 7 6 4 2
♣ Q 2

WEST
♠ Q 3
♡ Q J 7
◇ A Q J 9
♣ J 10 8 7

EAST
♠ J 8 6 4 2
♡ K 9
◇ 8 5 3
♣ 9 6 3

SOUTH
♠ 10 7
♡ 10 8 6 5 4 3
◇ K
♣ A K 5 4

The bidding

| NORTH | EAST | SOUTH | WEST |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Pass | 1 | Pass |
| 1♠ | Pass | 3 | Pass |
| 4 | All pass | | |

Opening lead: Jack of ♣

After a slightly pushy auction, Hard Luck Louie found himself at the helm in four hearts. He captured the opening club lead with dummy's queen, led a club to his ace, and ruffed a club in dummy. He cashed dummy's ace of trumps and just needed to get back to his hand to lead another round of trumps. He cashed dummy's two top spades, intending to ruff a spade back to his hand, but he got nervous when the queen fell from West.

Louie led a diamond to his king and West's ace. West played a fourth round of clubs, allowing East to ruff with the king of hearts. West still had two trump tricks and Louie was down one. "Sorry partner," said Louie. "With my horrid luck, we probably shouldn't be bidding these really close games."

Lucky Larry also got to four hearts and faced the same opening lead. Larry foresaw the re-entry problem and was in no rush to ruff a club. He won the first trick with dummy's queen and immediately led a diamond to his king and West's ace.

West shifted to a tricky low spade, but it didn't matter. Larry won with dummy's ace, led a club to his ace, and ruffed a club. Larry cashed dummy's ace of trumps, crossed to his hand with a diamond ruff, and led a low heart from his hand. The expected 3-2 split in trumps allowed Larry to claim 10 tricks and his contract.

# 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*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2017:

This year you greet many new situations. The good news is that you adjust quickly to all types of variables. You tend to find unusually strong and dynamic solutions. Some of you will buy a house or remodel. If you are single, you have an earthy quality that is heightened to new levels. The person who enters your life this fall could be significant to your life. If you are attached, you and your sweetie often feel pulled between your personal commitments and enjoying just hanging out. You could decide to make a major life change this fall that could make both of you very happy. LIBRA can be charming, but he or she is not as grounded as you'd like.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★ You definitely want to be responsive to others, yet you somehow trigger controversy when trying to be supportive. At the base of what is happening is a misunderstanding. This problem easily could be attributed to the usage of a word and its different meanings. Tonight: Make nice.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★ Pace yourself. You might be tempted to move a personal matter in a different direction. You have a lot of ground to cover, and many errands to handle. Postpone a lengthy discussion until later; you'll want to be relaxed for it. Tonight: Go for a walk after dinner, if possible.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ You have great ideas, and you know how to add that extra flourish that others often lack. Be as clear as you can in a discussion. You might find someone else's ideas even more exciting. Confirm meeting times and places. Tonight: Be mischievous.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★ You could feel pressured by a situation that you believe is unlikely to change. You have talked it out, and although a disagreement might emerge, you sense a good response from others. Ask for more of what you want. Continue giving someone space. Tonight: Happy at home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★ You might be happiest proceeding exactly as you have been. However, a mix-up could occur and cause an unanticipated snafu, which is likely to take you in a different direction. Avoid a misunderstanding by confirming meeting times, places, etc. Tonight: Make yourself available.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★ Your focus is on your finances. You easily could make an error if you are not sure of yourself. If this is the case, back away and do not make a decision. Confusion surrounds communication. Double-check messages and meeting times. Tonight: Wherever you land.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ You might see some hassles appear on the horizon, but you won't have a problem dealing with any uproar. Confusion around communication might even make you laugh, as what occurs could be close to absurd. Go for what you want. Tonight: The world is your oyster.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★ You might want a break from everything that is happening. Others continue to seek you out, and even if you try to avoid conversations, calls and people, no one is likely to give up. Stay centered, despite all the confusion. Save a break for another day. Tonight: Head home early.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★ A meeting intrigues you, as it presents a different perspective. You could feel as if you are getting some misinformation, and you very well might be. Ask questions, and maybe you will get a clearer perspective. Try to avoid snap judgments. Tonight: Finally time for friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★ Try as you might, you can't seem to get rid of a problem. Some of the information you are receiving could be bogus. Listen carefully, and soon you will figure out what is really going on. Your sense of direction is excellent, but confirm meeting times. Tonight: Ask questions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★ You might not be in any shape to follow through on a high-priority matter, as your mind drifts to other issues. Detach and you will gain a better perspective. Understanding takes you down a new route, though you might experience some confusion. Tonight: Get into a movie.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★ You might have had enough of what's been going on that you need to pull back. One person takes priority over others. As a result, those who are close to you might think you are sending mixed messages, even though you aren't. Tonight: Accept a loved one's suggestion.

BORN TODAY

Boxer Muhammad Ali (1942), actor Jim Carrey (1962), actress Betty White (1922)

# DAILY CROSSWORD

**ACROSS**

1 Baja vacation spot
5 Tree's sticky output
8 Neck mark from necking
14 Razor name
15 Suffix with pay
16 Taking the place (of)
17 Silly sort
19 Polish port where Solidarity was founded
20 Music producer Brian
21 Dueling sword
22 "Hannah and __ Sisters": Woody Allen film
23 Formal pronouncements
25 Zeros
30 Pay with plastic
32 __ of: done with
33 Not at home
34 The Judds, e.g.
35 Migration formation
36 Move in the wind
37 Anniversary celebration at the Met, say
42 Numbered musical piece
43 Grunting female
44 Slowing, on a music score: Abbr.
45 Little point to pick
46 Sick __ dog
47 Spitball need
50 Disputed Mideast territory
53 R&B singer Baker
55 "That's all __ wrote"
56 Fermented honey drink
58 The USA's 50
59 Nissan model
62 Infantile vocalizations, and a hint to the starts of 17-, 25-, 37- and 50-Across
64 Series of related emails
65 Luau instrument
66 Curved molding
67 Fort Bragg mil. branch
68 Boston hrs.
69 Dandelion, e.g.

**DOWN**

1 Confined, as a bird
2 Not accented, as syllables
3 Ornamental pin
4 Doofus
5 Ivory in the tub
6 State without proof
7 Prefix with -lithic
8 Bogart film set in a California range
9 Truly
10 Irish county bordering Limerick
11 Next of __
12 Wide shoe widths
13 Guffaw
18 Face adversity well
24 Cries of triumph
26 Layered cookie
27 Bridal attire
28 Avocado dip, for short
29 Eyelid sore
31 Dates one person exclusively
35 Ex-GIs' gp.
36 Lustrous fabric
37 Bell hit with a padded mallet
38 Samoan capital
39 Skating leap
40 Have a good laugh
41 Address for a noblewoman
46 Traditional Hindu retreat
47 Delivers a lecture
48 Facial expression
49 Postwar British prime minister
51 Autumn blossom
52 Suffuse (with)
54 Queried
57 Help with a heist
59 Actor Erwin
60 "Come again?" sounds
61 FDR agency
63 Illegal parker's risk

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | A | C | K | | | A | L | F | A | | T | W | O | S |
| E | N | O | T | E | | D | E | A | L | | S | H | U | L |
| H | E | M | E | N | | H | I | R | T | | A | I | R | Y |
| A | M | E | L | I | A | E | A | R | H | A | R | T | | |
| B | I | T | | S | P | R | | A | E | C | | E | S | P |
| | C | H | E | L | S | E | A | H | A | N | D | L | E | R |
| | | | P | E | E | N | S | | | E | R | I | C | A |
| L | O | G | O | | S | T | A | T | S | | W | E | S | T |
| E | D | I | C | T | | | L | E | A | C | H | | | |
| F | O | G | H | O | R | N | L | E | G | H | O | R | N | |
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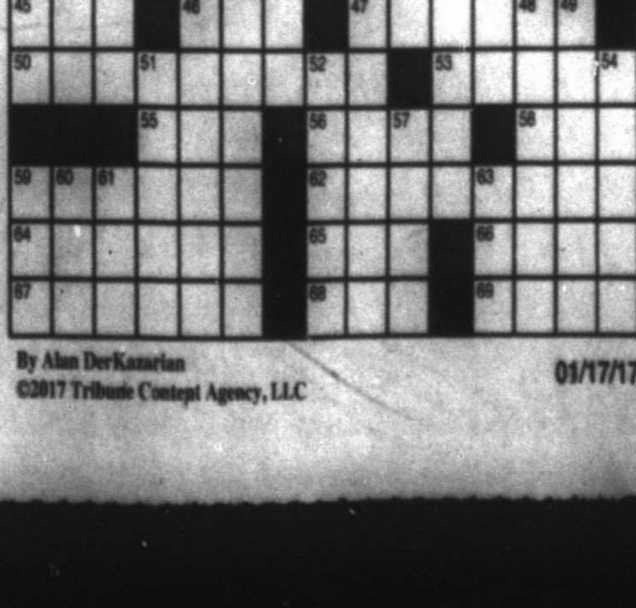
xwordeditor@aol.com 01/17/17



By Alan DerKazarian
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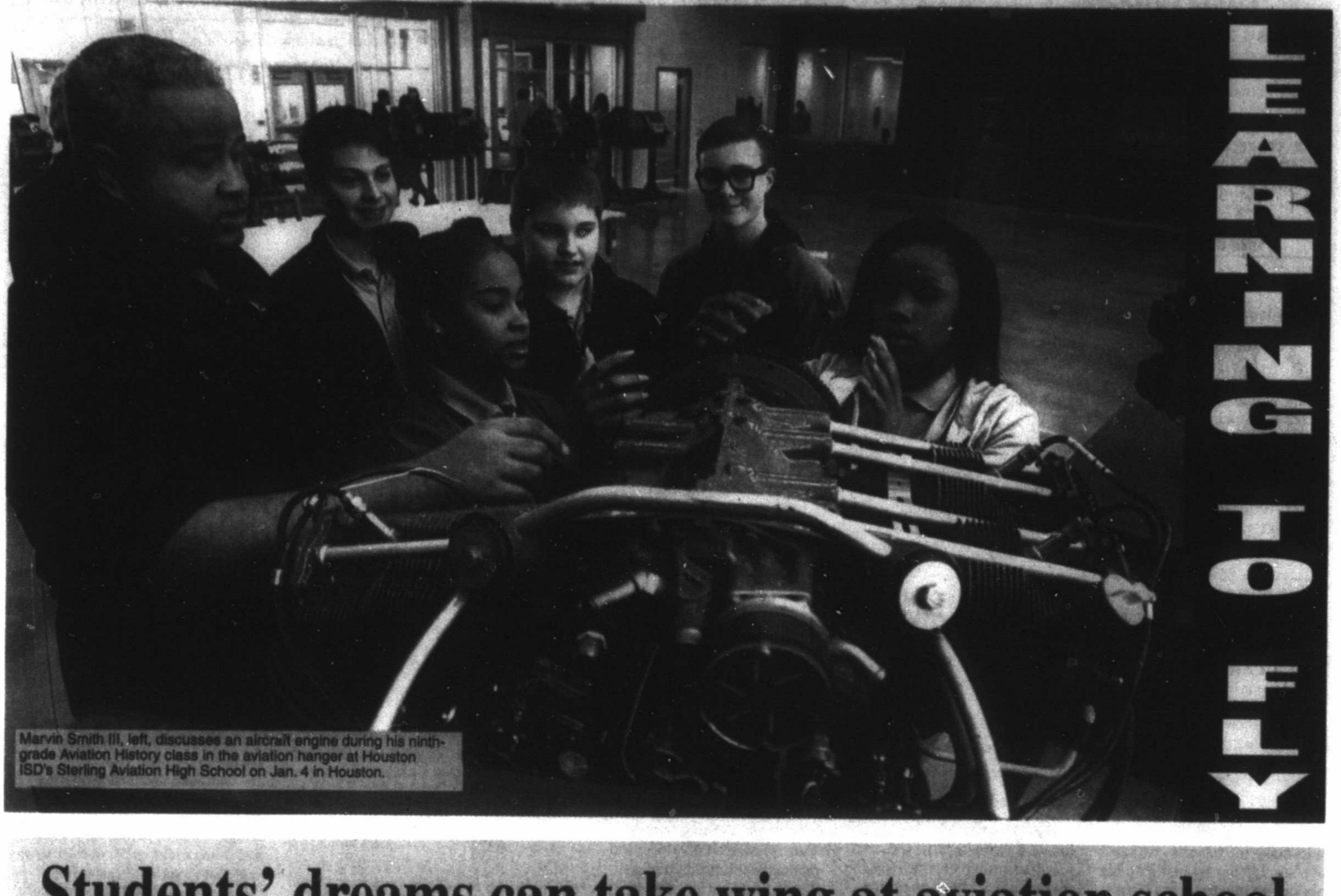
01/17/17



LEARNING TO FLY

Marvin Smith III, left, discusses an aircraft engine during his ninth-grade Aviation History class in the aviation hangar at Houston ISD's Sterling Aviation High School on Jan. 4 in Houston.

# Students' dreams can take wing at aviation school

■ Sterling Aviation may be only U.S. high school with private airplane hangar

Students could not put down their cellphones when they walked into Sterling Aviation High School recently. They took video of themselves walking through the sleek, three-story building, complete with a faux-runway painted along first-floor hallways.

But while the two new gymnasiums, observation deck with views of nearby Hobby Airport and collaborative learning spaces sparked interest among students, the full-sized airplane hangar stole the show.

The new Sterling Aviation High School may be the only high school in the United States with its own private airplane hangar. At 7,100 square feet, the dedicated space will soon house two single-engine planes, which used to bake in the sun as students studied their parts at the old campus next door. Flight simulators will be brought over from the old campus in coming weeks, and 17 engines totaling about $50,000 are mounted to movable stands across the space.

A handful of schools in places like Iowa, Nevada, Michigan, Massachusetts, Ohio and New York City have opened aviation technical schools at regional airports, but few, if any, have their own independent airplane hangars financed by public school districts.

Houston ISD and school leaders said building the on-site hangar — which is not adjacent to a runway of any kind, so there will be no takeoffs and arrivals — was more of a necessity than a luxury.

Principal Justin Fuentes said having the hangar on campus means the school is not at the mercy of aviation companies or leases.

"We wanted something sustainable," Fuentes said. "When we've partnered with businesses in the past, some have ended up failing and we'd get cut off."

Sterling has housed a pilot program for at least 10 years and introduced an aviation mechanic program last year. About 200 students are enrolled in both aviation programs this year. The school's magnet aviation programs are available to students districtwide.

The new Sterling school, which opened Jan. 4, is the first comprehensive high school financed by Houston ISD's 2012 bond and the first built in the district in nearly 16 years. The bond calls for the renovation or rebuilding of 40 schools, including 29 high schools. Sterling's new 237,000-square-foot campus, which can serve about 1,800 students, will replace the original brick school built in 1965.

The school's price tag — $67.5 million — came in below the district's $72 million budget for construction and furnishing it with equipment and technology. The construction cost alone was about $49 million. A high school that serves about 2,000 students should cost about $53.4 million to build, adjusting for inflation and regional price differences, according to a 2014 Texas Comptroller study.

"I think it's important; the neighborhood needs something great," Fuentes said. "Former bonds have come and gone, and not much has changed around here. We're the farthest-south school in HISD, and you get the assumption that it's forgotten. But this proves HISD and the city care. Now, this is a showpiece in the neighborhood that elevates the whole area."

The Rev. A.L. Hickman, pastor of the nearby New Commandment Christian Fellowship Church, agreed.

"It's like a rose sticking out of a garden," said Hickman, a special education co-teacher at the school. "Every week my parishioners would ask about it. No one in this community doesn't know the school is here now, and they're so grateful to have it."

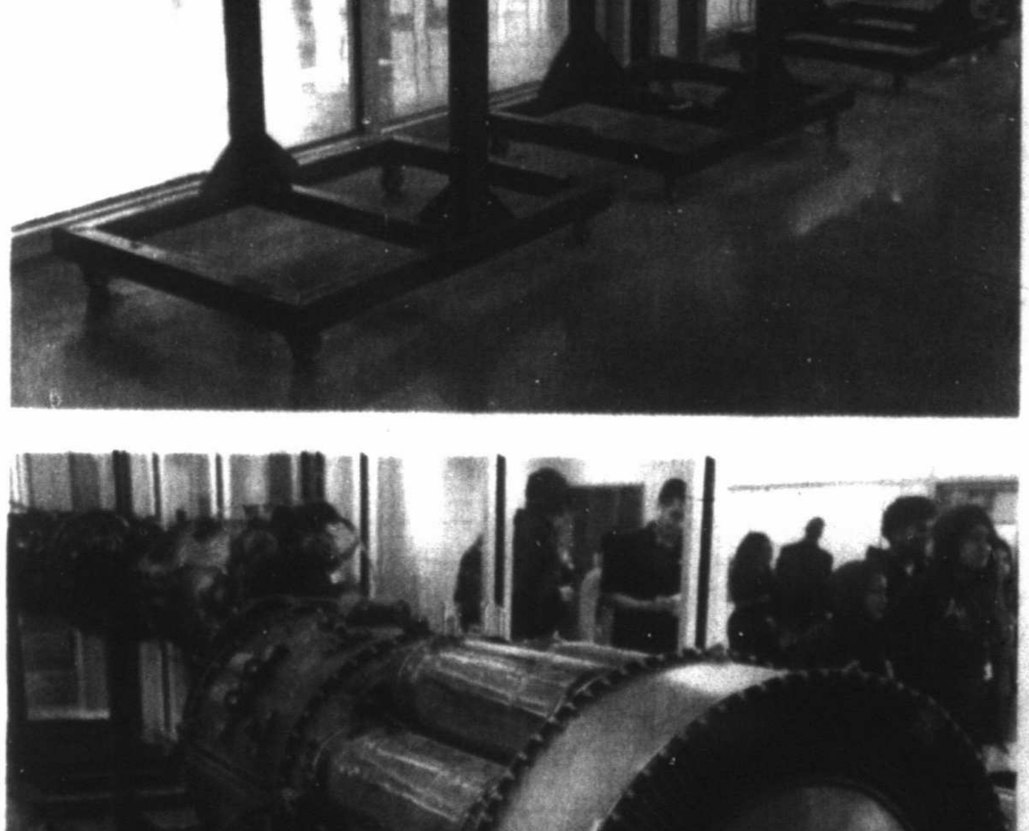
He saw dozens of alumni and curious community members driving around the new campus last week.

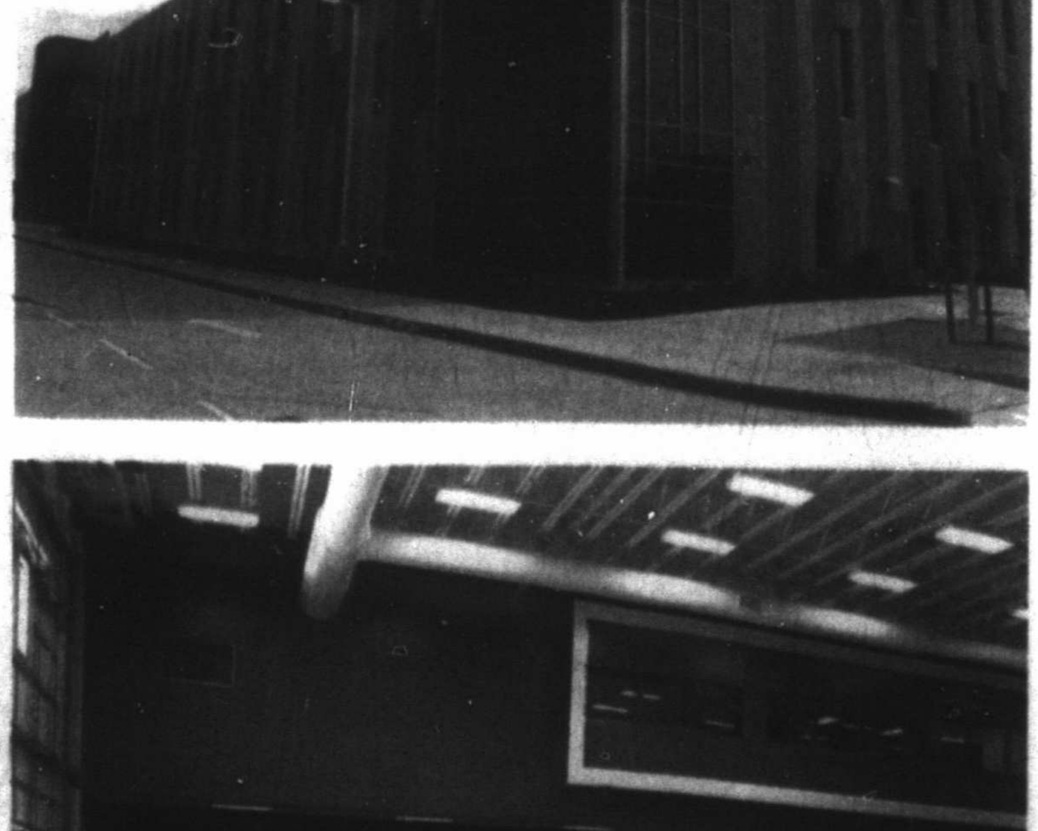
On the day the school opened, a teacher walked four students through issues that could arise on one of the hangar's 17 engines. Older students will be tasked with studying the engines, breaking them down and rebuilding them.

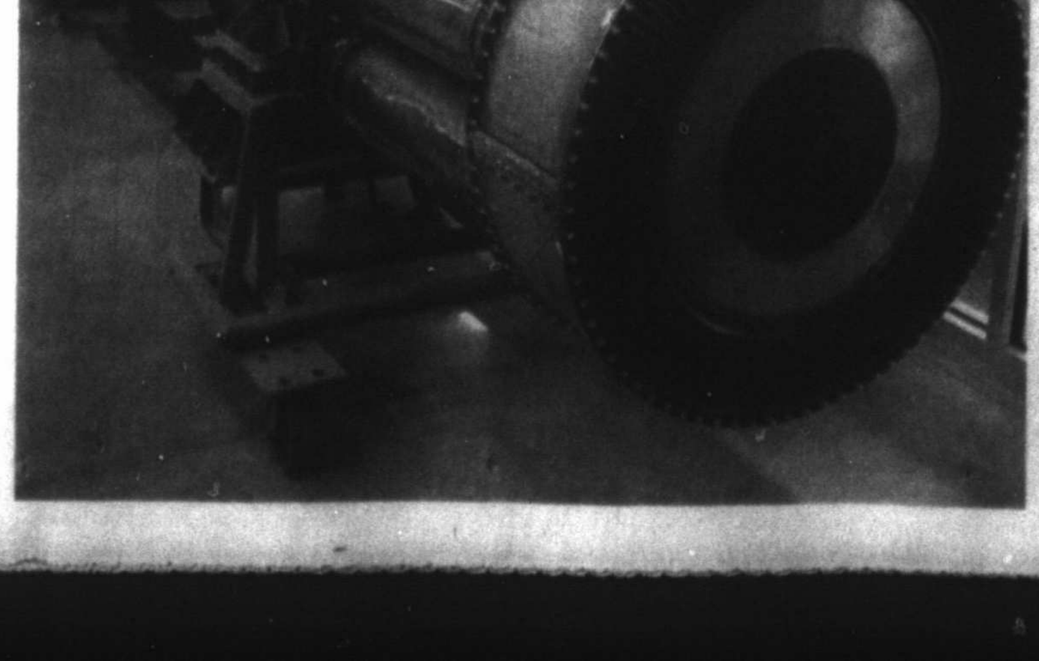
Armonnie Neal, a 16-year-old sophomore at the school, said she was eager to enroll in the aviation program even though she hopes to eventually become a nurse.

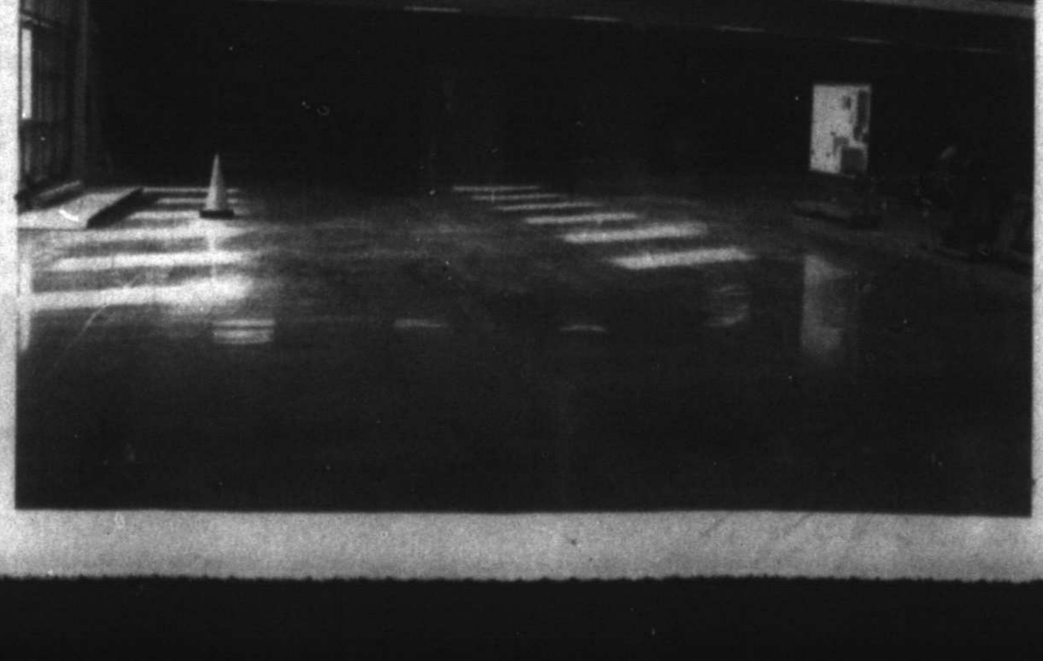
"I've never seen some of these engines before," she said, looking around the hangar. "It's important for the school to have this. People want to be pilots and mechanics, and having this space will show us more about airplanes. It's so big, and it looks so much more professional."

STORY BY SHELBY WEBB | PHOTOS BY JAMES NIELSEN | HOUSTON CHRONICLE



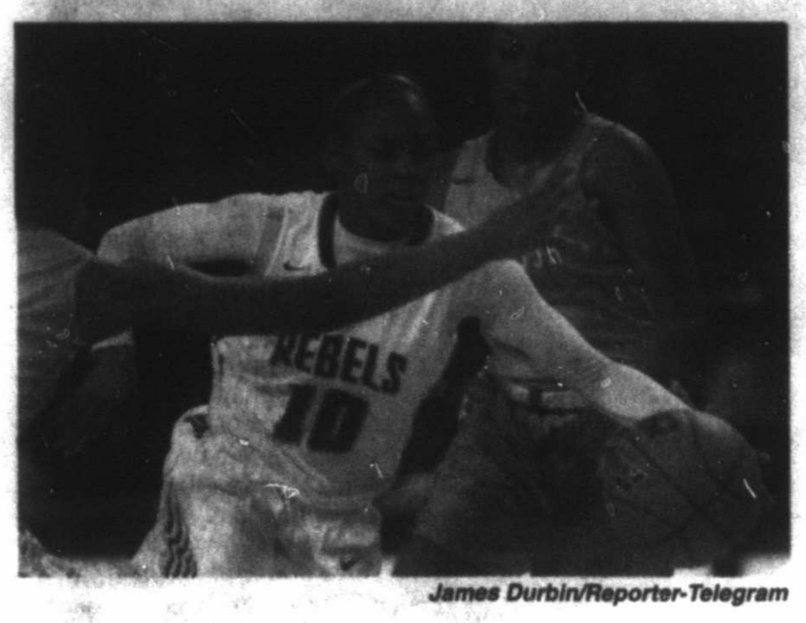






HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL REPORT

## Lee, MHS meet under different circumstances



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Lee's Braydyn Hill (10) dribbles the ball past the Odessa High defense Friday at Chaparral Center.

By Christopher Hadorn
*chadorn@mrt.com*

Today is rivalry day for girls basketball teams in District 2-6A.

Amarillo Tascosa (14-8, 3-0) and Wolfforth Frenship (19-7, 3-0) battle for sole possession of first, Odessa Permian and Odessa High play for city bragging rights, and Lee-Midland High renew a clash at Chaparral Center that has decided district title banners in recent years. Tip-off is at 6 p.m.

In 2015, Midland High forced a co-district championship with Lee by defeating its rivals, 38-36, in the regular season finale, and the Lady Rebels won an outright district title in 2016 by squeaking past second-place MHS, 44-43, in the final game.

This year's installment of the Tall City rivalry will take on a different theme as Lee (13-6, 1-2) and Midland High (9-14, 0-3) are both simply trying to notch a win and not fall too far behind the pack with seven games remaining.

"It's a rivalry, and it would be silly not to look at it that way now," Lady Rebels head coach Alfred Acosta said. "For us, it's an important game because it's the next game. A lot of people are going to be putting extra on it. For our team, it's going to be the next game up and that's how we are going to approach it."

It wasn't easy for Lee to secure its first victory as it needed overtime to hold off Odessa High, 51-42, last Friday.

The Lady Rebels, who blew second-half leads in their first two district losses, let a 12-point second-half lead disintegrate against the Lady Bronchos, but prevailed in overtime behind their reserves and a defense that allowed only three points after regulation.

"We said one thing we are going hang our hat on is the defensive end of the floor," Acosta said.

Meanwhile, the Lady Bulldogs haven't been able to overcome the one lopsided quarter in their first three district losses.

In Friday's 53-38 loss at Amarillo Tascosa, Midland High was hurt by its opponent's 17-0 run to the start the second quarter and a 7-0 run in the third period.

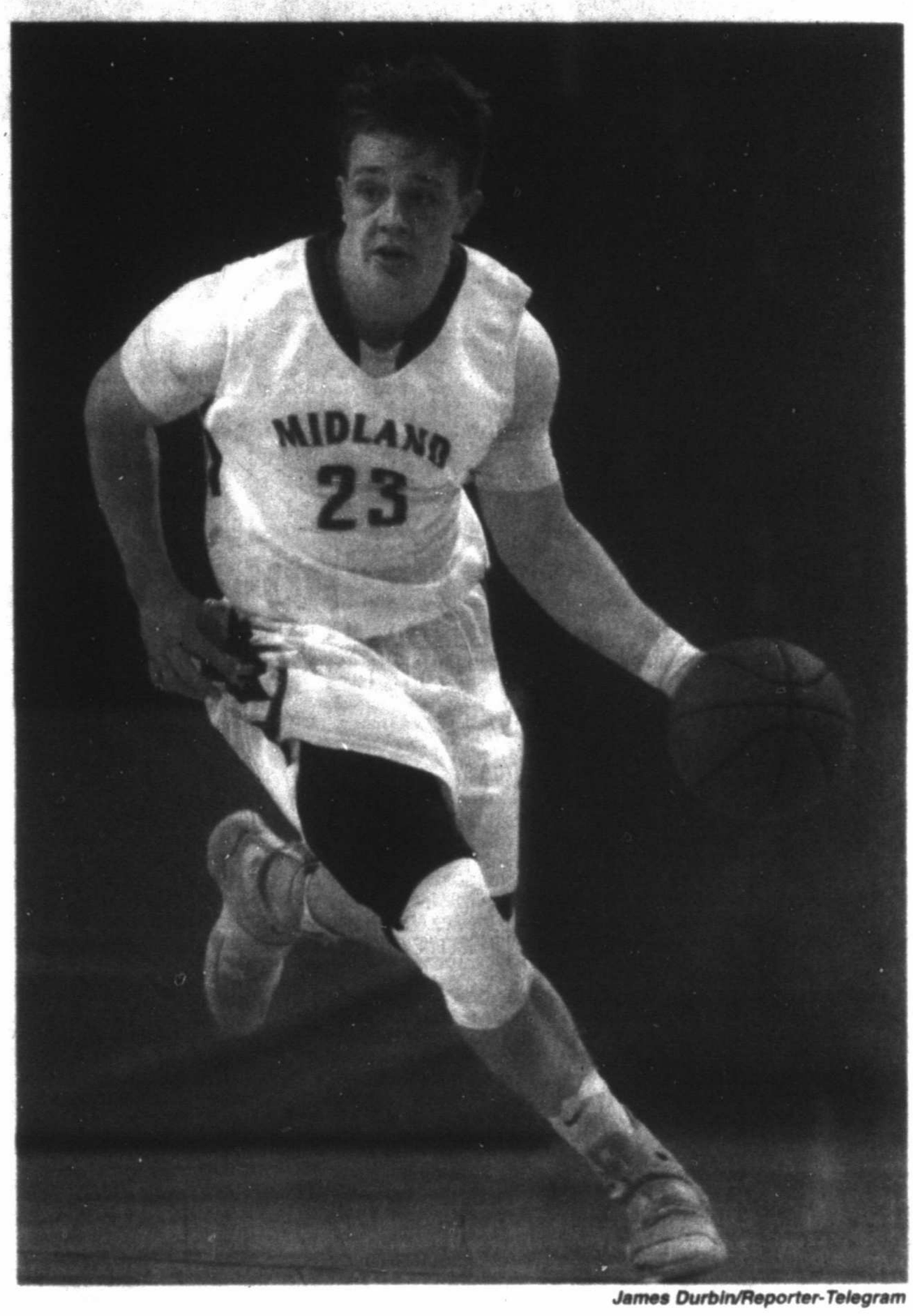
The Lady Bulldogs will be fighting against an 0-4 start today.

Please see MATCHUPS/3C

# CHAPS FALL AT HOME

## Evans' 33 points propels WTC past Chaps

By Oscar LeRoy
*oleroy@mrt.com*



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Midland College's Grant Weatherford (23) moves the ball against Western Texas College on Monday at Chaparral Center.

Coming off a 1-for-10 shooting performance, the Midland College men's basketball team didn't expect Jordan Evans to have as big of a night as he did on Monday.

The 6-foot sophomore guard for Western Texas College shot lights out against the Chaparrals and scored a game-nigh 33 points to lead the Westerners to a big 86-74 road win at Chaparral Center.

Evans was 14 of 20 from the floor and was 5 of 10 from 3-point range to help stun the Chaps (11-7, 2-2 in Western Junior College Athletic Conference), who were riding a four-game winning streak.

"In the last game (a 57-50 win over New Mexico Military Institute) Jordan went 1 for 10 and 0 for 8 from the 3 and I told him we needed him on the road," WTC coach Andre Owens said. "He came out and performed today. We needed that. We needed every one of those points. We needed that."

Evans had 22 of his points in the second half, as the Westerners (11-6, 3-1) erased a 32-31 halftime deficit.

As a team, WTC made 14 of 37 3-pointers. The Westerners came into the game shooting 38 percent from long range.

"Since we came back from the break, (the team's shooting) hasn't been well, but before the break we were shooting it really well, around 41 percent. But 14 is a lot," Owens said.

This game was quite a contrast from the last time the Chaps played on Thursday night, in which they had one of their better defensive performances in a 67-57 victory over Howard College.

For MC head coach Jordan Dreiling, he saw too many defensive breakdowns on Monday.

Please see CHAPS/3C

## Energized Lady Chaps bounce back, beat WTC

By Oscar LeRoy
*oleroy@mrt.com*

Midland College women's basketball coach Ron Jones emphasized that every win matters in the Western Junior College Athletic Conference.

While it wasn't pretty, the No. 17-ranked Lady Chaparrals got a much-needed 73-56 win over Western Texas College on Monday night at Chaparral Center.

The Lady Chaps (11-5, 2-2) overcame 20 turnovers by holding WTC (7-7, 0-3) to just 23 percent shooting and beating the smaller Lady Westerners on the boards, 52-31.

"I'm pleased with the energy we had tonight," Jones said. "We sustained our energy, we still made a lot of mistakes and we didn't close the way we want to, but if we can get to where our energy should be, then we can build on that."

MC sophomore forward Tichina Coleman said it was important for her team to bounce back, end a two-game slide and carry the energy they have in practice over to the games.

"I think with this game we went out and proved that, hey, Midland College is not out of the race," Coleman said. "It felt good that we got together and played hard.

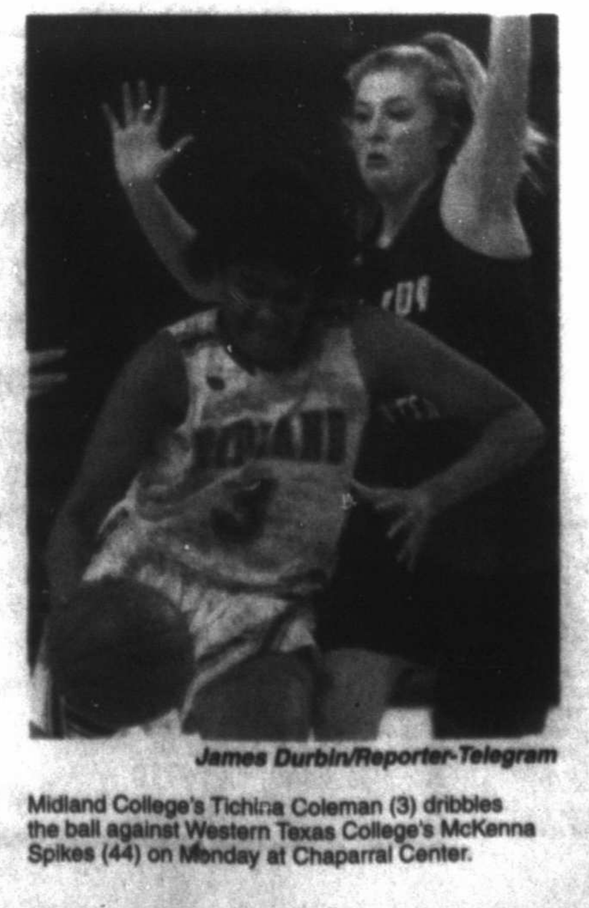
"The key today was playing for each other, knowing that we were going to have each other's backs. Even if we get down, we had to keep encouraging and keep making sure we have everyone's heads held up high. And when we have a run to make sure that we stay aggressive and keep that energy the entire game. I think we did a good job of doing that tonight."

Early in the game turnovers plagued the Lady Chaps as they had 12 of them in the first half.

However, the Lady Westerners couldn't take full advantage as they shot a brutal 17 percent in the first half. MC took a 29-19 lead at the break.

Jones attributed many of those turnovers to an attempt of trying to speed the game up in order to sustain that energy and get into some sort of

Please see LADY CHAPS/3C



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Midland College's Tichina Coleman (3) dribbles the ball against Western Texas College's McKenna Spikes (44) on Monday at Chaparral Center.

## Prescott feels pain, but is part of promise for Cowboys

By Schulyer Dixon
*Associated Press*

FRISCO — Dak Prescott tried to negotiate the length of his second meeting with reporters in less than 24 hours after experiencing the pain of a last-play loss in the NFL playoffs for the first time.

The Dallas rookie quarterback told someone to pick the maximum number of questions, and when he thought it was too high, Prescott suggested his uniform number — four — and broke into a faint smile while everyone laughed Monday.



Prescott

Prescott and fellow rookie Ezekiel Elliott, the NFL rushing champion, can understand what Tony Romo and Jason Witten have been feeling for years trying to end what is now a 21-year Super Bowl drought for a franchise with five titles.

It will be up to the young stars to make it happen after the promise they showed in a gut-wrenching 34-31 divisional playoff loss at home to Green Bay.

"It was a missed opportunity ... because this team won't be back together, not the same team, not the same exact men and players won't be back together," said Prescott, who added to a number of NFL rookie QB bests by becoming the first to throw three touchdowns in a playoff game in the Super Bowl era. "But for the people that will for this organization, the youth in this team, it's a building block. We're going to get better from it. We'll make plenty more runs."

The Cowboys had a replay of 2007, when they were the top seed in the NFC at 13-3 with a bye and home-field advantage before losing to the New York Giants. It was the fifth straight divisional loss for Dallas, going back to 1996, the year after the last Super Bowl win.

The feeling, though, might be a little more like 1991, when the Cowboys lost to Detroit in the same round and went into the offseason feeling the need to add an elite pass-rushing end. Charles Haley was a key part of three Super Bowl wins in four years.

The Dallas defense was mostly adequate this season working alongside a first-rate offense with one of the NFL's best offensive lines. But the Cowboys couldn't stop Aaron Rodgers, just like two years ago when they were built similarly and lost a divisional game during a trip to Green Bay.

There won't be much work to do on offense, once the Cowboys figure out what to do with Romo, who is likely to be traded or released after Prescott once again affirmed his status by rallying Dallas from an 18-point deficit in the second quarter and from 15 down in the fourth.

Prescott and Elliott have three years left on their rookie contracts — Prescott at an extreme discount for his position if his performance doesn't fade.

Star receiver Dez Bryant appears primed for the final three years of his $70 million contract after perhaps his best game considering how often the Cowboys went to him to try to get back into the game. The 28-year-old had his first two career playoff TDs against the Packers.

Witten is entering the final year of his deal after finally catching his first postseason touchdown and figures to be back for a 15th season.

"I'm proud of these guys," Witten said. "A lot of them are young. For them to play that way, it's not easy to do. There's a lot of things to build on moving forward."

# DAILYRUNDOWN

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

## ON THE AIR

**ON TV**

**MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**

Kentucky at Mississippi State, 6 p.m., ESPN

Texas at Baylor, 6 p.m., ESPN2

Pitt at NC State, 6 p.m., ESPNU

USF at UCF, 6 p.m., ESPNews

Arkansas at Texas A&M, 6 p.m., SEC

Illinois at Purdue, 6 p.m., BTN

Michigan at Wisconsin, 8 p.m., ESPN

Vanderbilt at Georgia, 8 p.m., ESPNU

Tennessee at Ole Miss, 8 p.m., SEC

Wichita State at Evansville, 8 p.m., CBSSN

New Mexico at Boise State, 10 p.m., ESPNU

**MEN'S SOCCER**

Africa Cup of Nations: Ghana vs. Uganda, 9:55 a.m., beIN

Africa Cup of Nations: Mali vs. Egypt, 12:55 p.m., beIN

FA Cup: Lincoln City FC vs. Ipswich Town FC, 2 p.m., FS2, FXDEP

Copa Italia, Rd of 16: FC Internazionale Milano vs. Bologna FC 1909, 2 p.m., GolTV

Copa Centroamericano: El Salvador vs. Belize, 3 p.m., UDN

Copa Centroamericano: Costa Rica vs. Nicaragua, 5:30 p.m., UDN

Copa MX: Mineros de Zacatecas vs. Puebla FC, 6:50 p.m., ESPNDEP

Copa Centroamericano: Panama vs. Honduras, 8 p.m., UDN

Copa MX: Cimarrones de Sonora FC vs. Club Tijuana, 8:50 p.m., ESPNDEP

**NBA**

Houston at Miami, 6:30 p.m., NBAtv

Dallas at Chicago, 7 p.m., FSSW

Minnesota at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m., FSSWSA

Denver at LA Lakers, 9:30 p.m., NBAtv

**NHL**

Dallas at NY Rangers, 6 p.m., FSSW+

Chicago at Colorado, 8 p.m., NBCSN

**TENNIS**

Australian Open, 6 p.m., TENNIS

Australian Open, 8 p.m., ESPN2

**WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**

Oklahoma at Texas, 6 p.m., FS1

Memphis at USF, 6 p.m., CBSSN

Michigan State at Northwestern, 8 p.m., BTN

**ON RADIO**

**NBA**

Dallas at Chicago, 7 p.m., KBST 1490 AM (Big Spring)

Minnesota at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m., KBYG 106.1 FM/1400 AM (Big Spring)

## WHAT'S ON DECK

### High school

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**

Lee vs. MHS, 6 p.m., Chaparral Center

Greenwood at Lubbock Titans, 6:30 p.m.

Trinity at Abilene Christian, 6 p.m.

Fort Stockton at Andrews, 6 p.m.

Big Spring at Brownwood, 6:15 p.m.

Midland Christian at MCA, 6:30 p.m.

Jim Ned at Stanton, 6:30 p.m.

Coahoma at Merkel, 6:30 p.m.

Forsan at Christoval, 6:30 p.m.

Grady at Klondike, 6:30 p.m.

Garden City at Water Valley, 6:30 p.m.

**BOYS BASKETBALL**

Lee vs. MHS, 7:30 p.m., Chaparral Center

Trinity at Abilene Christian, 7:30 p.m.

Fort Stockton at Andrews, 7:30 p.m.

Big Spring at Brownwood, 7:30 p.m.

Midland Christian at MCA, 8 p.m.

Jim Ned at Stanton, 8 p.m.

Coahoma at Merkel, 8 p.m.

Forsan at Christoval, 8 p.m.

Grady at Klondike, 8 p.m.

Garden City at Water Valley, 8 p.m.

**GIRLS SOCCER**

Midland High at Lubbock High, 5 p.m.

## TRANSACTIONS

**BASEBALL**

**American League**

KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Agreed to terms with LHP Danny Duffy on a five-year contract.

**National League**

SAN DIEGO PADRES — Named Ramon Vazquez infielders coach, Johnny Washington first base coach and Jonathan Mathews outfielders coach.

**Texas League**

FRISCO ROUGHRIDERS — Named John Alper chief sales officer.

**American Association**

KANSAS CITY T-BONES — Released C Nolan Johnson and C Tyler Moore.

LINCOLN SALTDOGS — Signed INF Trever Adams and RHP Daniel Carela.

WINNIPEG GOLDEYES — Signed RHP Victor Capellan.

**Can-Am League**

OTTAWA CHAMPIONS — Released INFs Alexander Malleta, Jason Coker and Donel Duarte and RHP Randy Hamrick.

ROCKLAND BOULDERS — Signed OF David Popkins.

**FOOTBALL**

**National Football League**

DALLAS COWBOYS — Signed Gs Clay DeBord and Kadeem Edwards, WR Shaquelle Evans, LB Jeremiah George, DE Lenny Jones, CBs Sammy Seamster, Jeremiah McKinnon and Duke Thomas, DB Jameill Showers, RB Rod Smith, TE Connor Hamlett and DE Zach Wood to reserve/future contracts.

HOUSTON TEXANS — Announced offensive coordinator George Godsey will not return next season.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Named Tyrone Wheatley running backs coach.

NEW YORK JETS — Signed G Brian Winters to a four-year contract extension.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Signed C Ross Burbank, FS Pierre Desir, RBs George Farmer and Kelvin Taylor, DTs Tylor Harris and Shaneil Jenkins, FB Malcolm Johnson, WR Kenny Lawler, TE Marcus Lucas, C/G Will Pericak and RB Kelvin Taylor to reserve/future contracts.

TENNESSEE TITANS — Signed CB Tye Smith to a reserve/future contract.

**Canadian Football League**

WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS — Re-signed WR Darvin Adams.

**HOCKEY**

**National Hockey League**

CAROLINA HURRICANES — Recalled G Alex Nedeljkovic from Charlotte. Reassigned G Michael Leighton to Charlotte.

NEW YORK RANGERS — Recalled G Magnus Hellberg from Hartford (AHL). Assigned F Marek Hrivik to Hartford.

**ECHL**

READING ROYALS — Announced Tucson (AHL) recalled D Michael Boivin.

**SOCCER**

**Major League Soccer**

NEW YORK RED BULLS — Traded M Dax McCarty to Chicago for $400,000 in General Allocation Money.

**COLLEGE**

ALABAMA — Named Greg Byrne athletic director. Promoted Mike Locksley to full-time offensive assistant football coach.

EASTERN WASHINGTON — Announced the resignation of football coach Beau Baldwin to become offensive coordinator at California. Named Aaron Best and Jeff Schmedding co-interim football coaches.

TENNESSEE — Named Charlton Warren defensive backs coach.

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL POLLS

### Men

**Associated Press**

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Jan. 15, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and last week's ranking:

| | Record | Pts | Prv |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Villanova (28) | 17-1 | 1580 | 3 |
| 2. Kansas (32) | 16-1 | 1562 | 2 |
| 3. UCLA (3) | 18-1 | 1472 | 4 |
| 4. Gonzaga (2) | 17-0 | 1433 | 5 |
| 5. Kentucky | 15-2 | 1357 | 6 |
| 6. Baylor | 16-1 | 1315 | 1 |
| 7. West Virginia | 15-2 | 1185 | 10 |
| 7. Creighton | 17-1 | 1185 | 8 |
| 9. North Carolina | 16-3 | 1063 | 11 |
| 10. Florida State | 16-2 | 964 | 9 |
| 11. Oregon | 16-2 | 931 | 13 |
| 12. Louisville | 15-3 | 900 | 14 |
| 13. Butler | 15-3 | 823 | 12 |
| 14. Arizona | 16-2 | 757 | 16 |
| 15. Notre Dame | 16-2 | 748 | 20 |
| 16. Virginia | 13-3 | 677 | 19 |
| 17. Wisconsin | 14-3 | 644 | 18 |
| 18. Duke | 14-4 | 614 | 7 |
| 19. Florida | 14-3 | 405 | 23 |
| 20. Cincinnati | 15-2 | 373 | 22 |
| 21. Purdue | 14-4 | 309 | 17 |
| 22. Xavier | 13-4 | 294 | 15 |
| 23. Saint Mary's (Cal) | 15-2 | 210 | 21 |
| 24. South Carolina | 14-3 | 125 | — |
| 25. Maryland | 16-2 | 121 | — |

Others receiving votes: TCU 29, Southern Cal 14, SMU 8, Nevada 7, Northwestern 7, UNC-Wilmington 6, Iowa State 5, Akron 1, Kansas State 1.

**USA Today**

The top 25 teams in the USA Today men's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Jan. 15, points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

| | Record | Pts | Pvs |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Kansas (23) | 16-1 | 785 | 2 |
| 2. Villanova (4) | 17-1 | 759 | 3 |
| 3. UCLA (2) | 18-1 | 725 | 4 |
| 4. Gonzaga (3) | 17-0 | 718 | 5 |
| 5. Kentucky | 15-2 | 655 | 6 |
| 6. Baylor | 16-1 | 641 | 1 |
| [illegible] Creighton | 17-1 | 596 | 8 |
| [illegible] West Virginia | 15-2 | 583 | 9 |
| [illegible] North Carolina | 16-3 | 480 | 12 |
| 10. Oregon | 16-2 | 467 | 11 |
| 11. Louisville | 15-3 | 444 | 15 |
| 12. Florida State | 16-2 | 393 | 10 |
| 13. Arizona | 16-2 | 385 | 16 |
| 14. Butler | 15-3 | 381 | 13 |
| 15. Notre Dame | 16-2 | 372 | 20 |
| 16. Virginia | 13-3 | 338 | 18 |
| 17. Wisconsin | 14-3 | 322 | 17 |
| 18. Duke | 14-4 | 301 | 7 |
| 19. Xavier | 13-4 | 214 | 14 |
| 20. Cincinnati | 15-2 | 206 | 22 |
| 21. Florida | 14-3 | 187 | 23 |
| 22. Purdue | 14-4 | 133 | 19 |
| 23. Saint Mary's | 15-2 | 115 | 21 |
| 24. South Carolina | 14-3 | 79 | — |
| 25. Maryland | 16-2 | 30 | — |

Others receiving votes: Northwestern 20, UNC-Wilmington 17, Southern Cal 17, California 16, Indiana 14, TCU 10, Miami 5, Middle Tennessee 4, New Mexico State 4, SMU 3, Nevada 2, Utah 2, Illinois State 1, Kansas State 1, Minnesota 1.

### Women

**Associated Press**

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Jan. 15, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and last week's ranking:

| | Record | Pts | Prv |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. UConn (33) | 16-0 | 825 | 1 |
| 2. Baylor | 17-1 | 786 | 2 |
| 3. Maryland | 17-1 | 744 | 3 |
| 4. Mississippi State | 18-0 | 728 | 4 |
| 5. South Carolina | 15-1 | 696 | 5 |
| 6. Notre Dame | 16-2 | 668 | 6 |
| 7. Florida State | 17-2 | 628 | 7 |
| 8. Washington | 18-2 | 591 | 8 |
| 9. Louisville | 16-4 | 528 | 9 |
| 10. Stanford | 15-3 | 489 | 13 |
| 11. Oregon State | 16-2 | 482 | 10 |
| 12. Texas | 12-4 | 422 | 16 |
| 13. UCLA | 13-4 | 415 | 17 |
| 14. Miami | 14-4 | 401 | 14 |
| 15. Duke | 15-3 | 387 | 12 |
| 16. Ohio State | 15-5 | 348 | 11 |
| 17. Virginia Tech | 15-1 | 322 | 15 |
| 18. Arizona State | 13-4 | 265 | 19 |
| 19. DePaul | 16-4 | 230 | 21 |
| 20. Oklahoma | 14-4 | 202 | 22 |
| 21. N.C. State | 14-5 | 140 | 23 |
| 22. Kansas State | 14-4 | 121 | 25 |
| 23. South Florida | 14-2 | 102 | 20 |
| 24. West Virginia | 14-4 | 78 | 18 |
| 25. Texas A&M | 14-4 | 42 | — |

Others receiving votes: Green Bay 35, Syracuse 21, California 20, Michigan 12, LSU 6, Kentucky 4, Northwestern 2, Temple 2, Drake 1, Georgia Tech 1, Texas Tech 1.

## SKI REPORT

**New Mexico**

Angel Fire — Mon 5:51 am 7 new powder machine groomed 22 - 30 base 58 of 78 trails [illegible] open, 7 of 7 lifts, Mon-Thu: 9a-4p; Fri: 9a-4p; Sat: 9a-4p; Sun: 9a-4p;

Pajarito — Reopen [illegible] 3 new 30 - 48 base [illegible]

[illegible] open, [illegible] of 7 lifts, Wed-Fri: 9a-4p; Sat/Sun: 9a-4p; Open Wed-Sun;

Red River — Mon 7:23 am 6 new powder machine groomed 40 - 42 base 58 of 58 trails 100% open, 7 of 7 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p; Sat/Sun: 9a-4p;

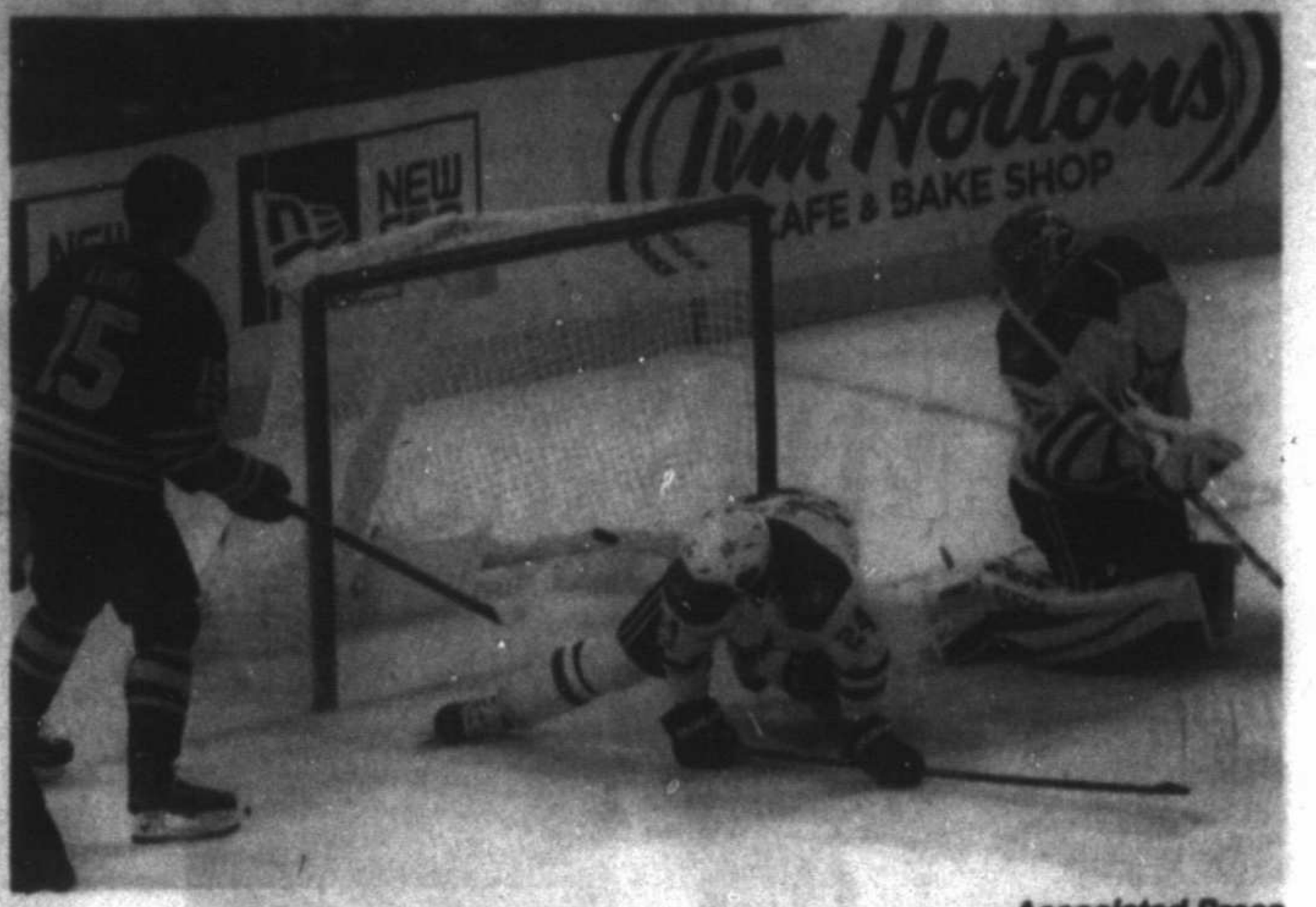
Sandia Peak — Reopen 01/20 12 new 21 - 21 base 39 of 39 trails, 100% open, 4 of 5 lifts, Fri: 9a-4p; Sat/Sun: 9a-4p; Open Fri-Sun;

Sipapu — Mon 6:30 am 4 new powder machine groomed 26 - 32 base 39 of 42 trails 93% open, 6 of 6 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p; Sat/Sun: 9a-4p;

Ski Apache — Mon 6:56 am 2 new powder machine groomed 44 - 56 base 45 of 55 trails

# Eichel scores twice in Sabres' 4-1 win over Stars

By Jonah Bronstein
*Associated Press*



Associated Press

Buffalo Sabres forward Jack Eichel (15) puts the puck past Dallas Stars defenseman Jordie Benn (24) and goalie Kari Lehtonen (32) during the second period of a game Monday in Buffalo, N.Y.

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Buffalo Sabres hoped to get a spark from the return of Tyler Ennis..

They didn't expect it to happen so quickly.

Ennis scored 19 seconds into the first period and Jack Eichel had the final two goals and the Sabres defeated the Dallas Stars 4-1 on Monday.

It was Ennis' first game back after missing 30 games with a groin injury that required surgery.

"It's great to have Enzo back. He's such a skilled player and he makes everyone around him better," Eichel said. "It's awesome to see him back healthy. He obviously adds a new dynamic to our team."

Jake McCabe also had a goal and Robin Lehner made 31 saves after missing the past three games with an illness.

The Sabres snapped a two-game losing streak and beat the Stars for the first time in four matchups.

Radek Faksa scored for the Stars in the opener of a three-game road trip. Kari Lehtonen stopped 25 shots. Dallas has lost two in a row and six of eight.

"They jumped on us early," Stars coach Lindy Ruff said. "Their energy was a lot better in the game than ours was. That was about as slow as I've seen our team."

The Stars entered the game ranked 29th in the NHL in penalty killing, and fell behind Buffalo by allowing two power-play goals in two chances.

Dallas has killed 74.3 percent of its penalties this season. Buffalo is at 74.4 percent after the Stars didn't score on their only power play.

Stars captain Jamie Benn showed his frustration late in the second period when he snapped one stick over his knee and smashed another one on the bench. Benn had three of the Stars' 12 giveaways. He has one point and is a minus-3 in three games since returning from a lower-body injury.

"I think it's contagious and it runs through the team," Benn said. "So I definitely need to do a better job with body language and definitely my play on the ice."

Ruff noticed Benn was struggling and took him off the top line in the third period.

"It almost seemed every time he had the puck, something bad happened," said Ruff, the former Sabres coach.

Eichel gave the Sabres a 3-1 lead 7:07 into the second period when he scored from the left side of the net on a power play. It was Eichel's first goal in five games. He scored again into an empty net with 9.3 seconds left for his third two-goal game of the season.

Buffalo built a 2-0 lead in the first 13 minutes.

Ennis took the first shot of the game and beat Lehtonen with a wrist shot from the right circle.

"I got a goal early, but I was still pretty rusty," Ennis said. "I can play a lot better. There's still an extra step, a little more pop in my skating."

McCabe got his first goal of the season on a power play with 7:26 remaining in the first when he intercepted Benn's clearing pass and took a slap shot from the high slot.

Buffalo's Taylor Fedun had a goal disallowed prior to the power play when it was ruled that Lehtonen touched the puck after a delayed penalty on Faksa for hooking.

Faksa poked in the rebound off Jiri Hudler's slap shot that hit the post to make it 2-1 with 4:46 remaining in the first period.

The Stars appeared to tie the game 1:38 into the second period when Patrick Eaves tipped in Stephen Johns' long shot. But Sabres coach Dan Bylsma successfully challenged that Eaves was offside.

## NHL GLANCE

### Standings

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

**Atlantic Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Montreal | 45 | 27 | 12 | 6 | 60 | 138 | 113 |
| Boston | 47 | 23 | 19 | 5 | 51 | 117 | 117 |
| Ottawa | 41 | 22 | 15 | 4 | 48 | 105 | 107 |
| Toronto | 41 | 20 | 13 | 8 | 48 | 128 | 120 |
| Florida | 45 | 20 | 17 | 8 | 48 | 106 | 122 |
| Tampa Bay | 45 | 21 | 20 | 4 | 46 | 125 | 133 |
| Detroit | 44 | 19 | 19 | 6 | 44 | 112 | 127 |
| Buffalo | 43 | 17 | 17 | 9 | 43 | 101 | 120 |

**Metropolitan Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Washington | 44 | 29 | 9 | 6 | 64 | 138 | 94 |
| Columbus | 42 | 29 | 9 | 4 | 62 | 141 | 95 |
| Pittsburgh | 43 | 27 | 11 | 5 | 59 | 153 | 131 |
| N.Y. Rangers | 44 | 28 | 15 | 1 | 57 | 152 | 116 |
| Philadelphia | 46 | 22 | 18 | 6 | 50 | 132 | 148 |
| Carolina | 43 | 21 | 15 | 7 | 49 | 121 | 117 |
| New Jersey | 45 | 18 | 18 | 9 | 45 | 101 | 129 |
| N.Y. Islanders | 42 | 17 | 17 | 8 | 42 | 120 | 128 |

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Central Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Minnesota | 42 | 28 | 9 | 5 | 61 | 138 | 92 |
| Chicago | 46 | 27 | 14 | 5 | 59 | 126 | 116 |
| St. Louis | 44 | 23 | 16 | 5 | 51 | 124 | 129 |
| Nashville | 43 | 20 | 16 | 7 | 47 | 119 | 114 |
| Dallas | 45 | 18 | 19 | 8 | 44 | 119 | 138 |
| Winnipeg | 47 | 20 | 23 | 4 | 44 | 129 | 145 |
| Colorado | 41 | 13 | 27 | 1 | 27 | 82 | 137 |

**Pacific Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Anaheim | 46 | 24 | 13 | 9 | 57 | 123 | 116 |
| San Jose | 44 | 26 | 16 | 2 | 54 | 117 | 102 |
| Edmonton | 45 | 23 | 15 | 7 | 53 | 128 | 121 |
| Calgary | 46 | 23 | 20 | 3 | 49 | 119 | 125 |
| Los Angeles | 44 | 22 | 18 | 4 | 48 | 111 | 110 |
| Vancouver | 45 | 20 | 19 | 6 | 46 | 111 | 130 |
| Arizona | 42 | 13 | 23 | 6 | 32 | 90 | 134 |

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

### Scores and schedules

**Monday's Scores**

Buffalo 4, Dallas 1

N.Y. Islanders 4, Boston 0

Detroit 1, Montreal 0

San Jose 5, Winnipeg 2

Tampa Bay 2, Los Angeles 1

Pittsburgh 8, Washington 7, OT

Arizona at Edmonton, late

**Today's Games**

Carolina at Columbus, 6 p.m.

Dallas at N.Y. Rangers, 6 p.m.

Buffalo at Toronto, 6:30 p.m.

Ottawa at St. Louis, 7 p.m.

New Jersey at Minnesota, 7 p.m.

Florida at Calgary, 8 p.m.

Chicago at Colorado, 8 p.m.

Nashville at Vancouver, 9 p.m.

Tampa Bay at Anaheim, 9 p.m.

# NBAROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

**WARRIORS 126**
**CAVALIERS 91**

OAKLAND, Calif. — Stephen Curry and the Golden State Warriors certainly looked ready to trade some more blows with LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers come June.

The two-time reigning MVP hit five 3-pointers and had 20 points while matching his season best with 11 assists in Golden State's 126-91 rout of the defending champs Monday.

Klay Thompson scored 26 points with five 3s, and Draymond Green produced his third triple-double of the season with 11 points, 13 rebounds and 11 assists. He also equaled his career best with five blocks — and had another dustup with King James in the process.

**NUGGETS 125**
**MAGIC 112**

DENVER — The Nuggets found a connection while hanging out on their recent trip to London.

That bond trailed them back to Denver.

Nikola Jokic scored a career-high 30 points, Emmanuel Mudiay dished out a career-best 13 assists and the Nuggets followed up their "home" win in London with another at the Pepsi Center, beating the Orlando Magic 125-112 on Monday.

Jokic also grabbed 11 rebounds and Kenneth Faried scored 20 points for the Nuggets, who certainly packed their surging offense with them when they returned home from Europe. They routed Indiana 140-112 last Thursday during the NBA's Global Games series and remained on that sort of shooting streak, hitting a season-high 58.4 percent from the floor. They also had 33 assists and 76 points in the paint.

**PACERS 98**
**PELICANS 95**

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana Pacers guard Jeff Teague figures he'll eventually get that elusive triple-double.

Until then, he's content to pile up wins.

For the fourth time in 30 days, the former All-Star guard flirted with his first career triple double and Paul George scored 19 points to help the Indiana Pacers hold off the New Orleans Pelicans 98-95. Teague finished with 16 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds — the closest he's come yet this season.

"I'm happy I'm getting some rebounds," Teague said. "I was one of the worst rebounders last year, so to actually get some rebounds this year is good."

The Pacers rebounded from Thursday's embarrassing performance in London by leading almost wire to wire. They trailed only once, at 2-0, and were only tied just three times — twice in the first 66 seconds and at 91 with 4:10 left in the game.

**76ERS 114**
**BUCKS 104**

MILWAUKEE — Once Joel Embiid regained his footing, the Philadelphia 76ers were fine.

Embiid scored 18 of his 22 points in the second half and the 76ers won for the fourth time in five games, beating the Milwaukee Bucks 113-104 Monday.

The Sixers improved to 13-26. Their only recent loss was Saturday at Washington, when Embiid didn't play.

Embiid is limited to 28 minutes per game while trying to overcome injuries that have slowed his career.

"My legs were really heavy and I didn't play against Washington, so I got out of shape so easily," Embiid said. "In the second half, I just got it going. I rely on my defense to get my offense going and we played really well defensively."

Embiid had 12 rebounds. He made four of nine shots and 13 of 18 free throws.

"He started the game in the first half, very unlike Joel, he really struggled," 76ers coach Brett Brown said. "The way he came on in the second half, particularly with his competitive physical mind and the way he played, really set the stage and set the table for our defense."

## NBA GLANCE

### Standings

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

**Atlantic Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Toronto | 27 | 13 | .675 | — |
| Boston | 26 | 15 | .634 | 1½ |
| New York | 18 | 24 | .429 | 10 |
| Philadelphia | 13 | 26 | .333 | 13½ |
| Brooklyn | 8 | 32 | .200 | 19 |

**Southeast Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Atlanta | 24 | 17 | .585 | — |
| Washington | 21 | 19 | .525 | 2½ |
| Charlotte | 20 | 21 | .488 | 4 |
| Orlando | 17 | 26 | .395 | 8 |
| Miami | 11 | 30 | .268 | 13 |

**Central Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cleveland | 29 | 11 | .725 | — |
| Indiana | 21 | 19 | .525 | 8 |
| Milwaukee | 20 | 20 | .500 | 9 |
| Chicago | 21 | 21 | .500 | 9 |
| Detroit | 19 | 24 | .442 | 11½ |

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Southwest Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| San Antonio | 31 | 9 | .775 | — |
| Houston | 32 | 11 | .744 | ½ |
| Memphis | 25 | 18 | .581 | 7½ |
| New Orleans | 16 | 26 | .381 | 16 |
| Dallas | 13 | 27 | .325 | 18 |

**Northwest Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Utah | 26 | 16 | .619 | — |
| Oklahoma City | 25 | 17 | .595 | 1 |
| Portland | 18 | 25 | .419 | 8½ |
| Denver | 16 | 23 | .410 | 8½ |
| Minnesota | 14 | 27 | .341 | 11½ |

**Pacific Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Golden State | 35 | 6 | .854 | — |
| L.A. Clippers | 28 | 14 | .667 | 7½ |
| Sacramento | 16 | 24 | .400 | 18½ |
| Phoenix | 13 | 27 | .325 | 21½ |
| L.A. Lakers | 15 | 30 | .333 | 22 |

### Scores and schedules

**Monday's Scores**

Atlanta 108, New York 107

Washington 120, Portland 101

Philadelphia 113, Milwaukee 104

Indiana 98, New Orleans 95

Denver 125, Orlando 112

Boston 108, Charlotte 98

Golden State 126, Cleveland 91

Utah at Phoenix, late

Oklahoma City at L.A. Clippers, late

**Today's Games**

Houston at Miami, 6:30 p.m.

Toronto at Brooklyn, 6:30 p.m.

Dallas at Chicago, 7 p.m.

Minnesota at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m.

Denver at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m.

**Wednesday's Games**

Memphis at Washington, 6 p.m.

Portland at Charlotte, 6 p.m.

Toronto at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.

New York at Boston, 6:30 p.m.

Atlanta at Detroit, 7 p.m.

Milwaukee at Houston, 7 p.m.

Orlando at New Orleans, 7 p.m.

Indiana at Sacramento, 9:30 p.m.

Oklahoma City at Golden State, 9:30 p.m.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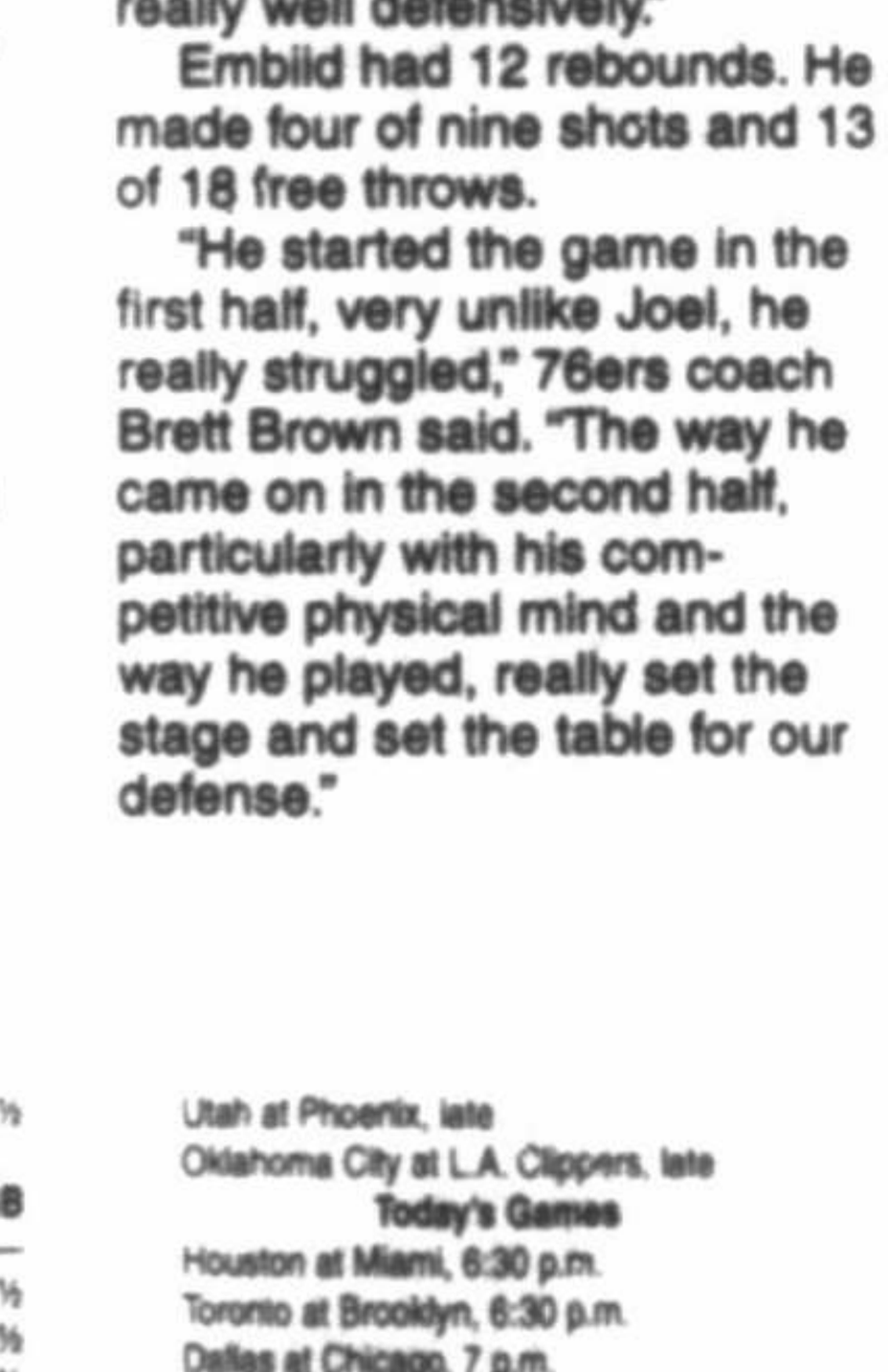


Delilah is a 1 yo female grey and orange Calico. She is very affectionate & loves attention, but does not like being picked up which is causing her to get looked over by potential adopters.

# MATCHUPS

From 1C

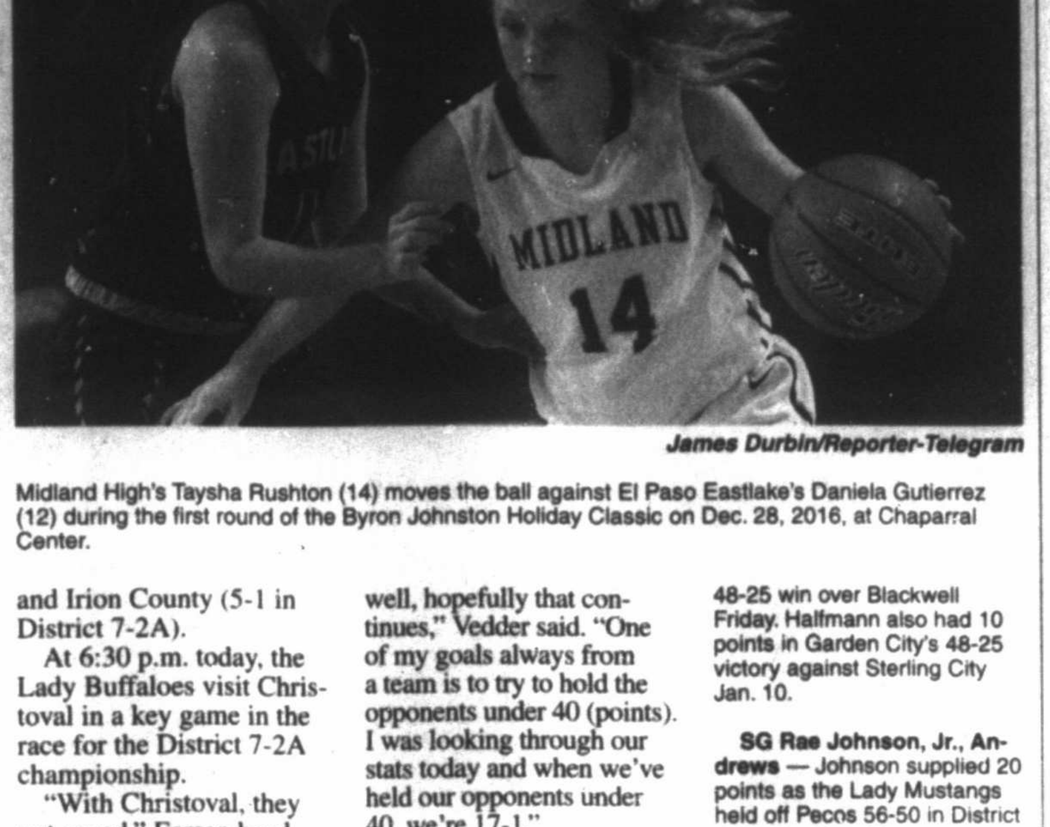
**District 2-6A girls basketball standings**

| Team | District W | District L | Overall W | Overall L |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wolfforth Frenship | 3 | 0 | 19 | 7 |
| Amarillo Tascosa | 3 | 0 | 18 | 8 |
| Odessa Permian | 2 | 1 | 15 | 10 |
| Lee | 1 | 2 | 13 | 6 |
| Odessa High | 0 | 3 | 17 | 7 |
| Midland High | 0 | 3 | 5 | 14 |

All games tip-off at 6 p.m. unless noted

**Friday's Scores**
Lee 51, Odessa High 42; Amarillo Tascosa 53, Midland High 38; Wolfforth Frenship 66, Odessa Permian 44

**Today's games**
Lee vs. Midland High at Chaparral Center; Odessa Permian at Odessa High; Amarillo Tascosa at Wolfforth Frenship



*James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram*

Midland High's Taysha Rushton (14) moves the ball against El Paso Eastlake's Daniela Gutierrez (12) during the first round of the Byron Johnston Holiday Classic on Dec. 28, 2016, at Chaparral Center.

which would severely hurt their chances to extend their streak of 11 consecutive playoff appearances dating back to the 2005-06 campaign.

"We are not approaching this game any differently," MHS head coach Wes Torres said. "We are looking to go 1-0 (today). Our approach is to win the game and worry about everything else after the game is over."

A victory would put Midland High back in the thick of the playoff race, where the top four teams in the six-team district earn postseason berths.

"Although Tascosa and Frenship are at 3-0, anything is possible these next seven games," Torres said. "As you've seen, anything can happen. We are just focused on us. We are going to break through at some point."

### Forsan in three-way race for first

At the halfway point in District 7-2A, Forsan (18-6, 5-1) is locked in a three-way tie with Christoval (5-1 in District 7-2A) and Irion County (5-1 in District 7-2A).

At 6:30 p.m. today, the Lady Buffaloes visit Christoval in a key game in the race for the District 7-2A championship.

"With Christoval, they got speed," Forsan head coach Lloyd Vedder said. "They try to trap a lot and try to get you out of your game. They do a good job of moving the ball around. They got a good inside, outside game."

Thus far, Vedder has been impressed with how his Lady Buffaloes have spread the ball around their five starters, Chasidy Grantham, Macey Evans, Rhian Cunningham, Kendall Phillips and Jenna Evans and not relied on one person to be the team's dominant scorer.

Vedder said Forsan has played its best basketball when its defense is clicking.

"We're defending very well, hopefully that continues," Vedder said. "One of my goals always from a team is to try to hold the opponents under 40 (points). I was looking through our stats today and when we've held our opponents under 40, we're 17-1."

*Follow Christopher on Twitter: @chris_MRTsports*

**PLAYER OF THE WEEK**
**PG Leia Beattie, Fr., Midland Classical** — Beattie averaged 23 points in the Lady Knights' two victories, including a 26-point showing during MCA's 55-40 win against Lubbock Christian Friday.

**HONOR ROLL**
**SG Payge Grable, Jr., Stanton** — Grable recorded 24 points and went 18 of 18 from the charity stripe to guide the Lady Buffaloes to a 56-40 win over Merkel Jan. 10.

**SG Kortney Halfmann, Sr., Garden City** — Halfmann lit up the scoreboard with 28 points in the No. 5 Lady Kats' 48-25 win over Blackwell Friday. Halfmann also had 10 points in Garden City's 48-25 victory against Sterling City Jan. 10.

**SG Rae Johnson, Jr., Andrews** — Johnson supplied 20 points as the Lady Mustangs held off Pecos 56-50 in District 4-4A play Jan. 10.

**SG Reagan Long, Jr., Trinity** — Long scored 20 points and sank five 3s to propel the Lady Chargers to a 44-14 win over Abilene Christian Jan. 10.

**SF Cylie Mebane, Sr., Greenwood** — Mebane scored 16 points in both of the Rangerettes' blowout wins in District 4-4A play.

**PF Blaire Neatherlin, Jr., Midland Christian** — Neatherlin had 15 points and nine rebounds to help No. 4 MCS rally to a 38-36 win over TAPPS 1-5A rival Grapevine Faith Saturday.

**SF Alyssa Peterson, Sr., Stanton** — Peterson registered 23 points as Stanton defeated District 5-3A foe Merkel 56-40 on Jan. 10.

# Andrews coach under investigation

*From staff reports*

ANDREWS — Andrews girls basketball coach Brooke Miller has been removed from her coaching position for the time being while she's involved in an investigation by the Andrews Police Department, the Andrews County News reported Monday.

According to the Andrews County News, Lady Mustangs junior varsity coach Annie McKee will coach the varsity team in Miller's absence.

No further details about the investigation were available.

# BBALLCAPSULE

COMPILED BY WILL KORN

**LEE AT MIDLAND HIGH**
**When/where:** 7:30 p.m. today, Chaparral Center
**Records:** Lee 7-15, 0-1 in District 2-6A; MHS 9-12, 0-1 in District 2-6A
**Last game:** Odessa High 78, Lee 74 Friday; No. 17 Amarillo Tascosa 87, MHS 53, Friday
**Five things to watch:**

■ Both Lee and MHS enter this all-important affair especially hungry for a victory after tough losses to open the district season Friday. The Rebels grinded to the end in a 78-74 home loss to Odessa High, while the Bulldogs got a taste of Class 6A's No. 17-ranked team, Amarillo Tascosa, in an 83-57 defeat.

In what should be a tight district, the difference between 1-1 and 0-2 could prove to be massive.

■ The Bulldogs have won the last six meetings against the Rebels by an average of 12.3 points per game. But this season, the two rivals might be more evenly matched than they've been in the last three years. Can Lee snap the losing streak and put themselves in the driver's seat for the potentially critical head-to-head tiebreaker?

■ At least on paper, the Rebels have a key mismatch positioned in their favor.

Senior point guard Sema'J Davis could pose a problem for a particularly small MHS backcourt. This is Davis' fourth season playing against MHS with Lee's varsity squad and he's scored an average of 12.6 points per game versus the Bulldogs dating back to his sophomore season.

As he showed on the football field as the Rebels' quarterback in the fall, Davis size and athletic ability make him difficult to slow down. At 6-foot-1, he might require a rotation of defensive attention from the Bulldogs. If he has his way, Lee has a real chance of picking up a huge win.

■ On the other end, the Bulldogs' streaky 3-point shooting could present defensive trouble for the Rebels. When guards Camran Rock, Ty Kendrick and Courtney McMaryion are connecting from the outside, MHS tends to pick up the pace, score quickly and score in bunches. How well the Rebels close out on the Bulldogs' shooters will also be key today.

■ Down low, the battle for the interior should be interesting. Lee will trot out seasoned and aggressive senior forward James Lydia, who is coming off a 22-point game in the Rebels' loss against OHS on Friday. Lydia's motor earns Lee a few extra possessions each game and he is usually good for at least a handful of easy buckets in the paint.

MHS will match up physical forwards Dillon Springer, Joseph Barron and Suddin Sapien against Lydia in the post. That's a group looking to contribute more consistently on offense for the Bulldogs and what better time to break out than against rival Lee?

**Next:** Wolfforth Frenship at Lee, 7:30 p.m. Friday; MHS at Odessa High, 7:30 p.m. Friday

**District 2-6A boys basketball standings**

| Team | District W | District L | Overall W | Overall L |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Amarillo Tascosa | 1 | 0 | 13 | 4 |
| Wolfforth Frenship | 1 | 0 | 14 | 7 |
| Odessa High | 1 | 0 | 10 | 13 |
| Odessa Permian | 0 | 1 | 13 | 10 |
| Midland High | 0 | 1 | 9 | 12 |
| Lee | 0 | 1 | 7 | 15 |

**Friday's Scores**
Amarillo Tascosa 67, Midland High 53; Odessa High 78, Lee 74; Wolfforth Frenship 50, Odessa Permian 28

**Today's games**
Lee at Midland High, Chaparral Center; Odessa Permian at Odessa High; Amarillo Tascosa at Wolfforth Frenship. All games at 7:30 p.m.

# CHAPS

From 1C

"Our 2-3 (zone) wasn't very good and our man was even worse," Dreiling said. "We need two good days of defensive-minded practices. And then you've got to hit shots. We had another game with four 3s (on 15 attempts) and how many times are we going to do that? We shoot it a lot (in practice), probably more than anybody in the country in junior college, and it's not translating to the game. And let's be honest, you have a kid who averages nine (points) a game, hit for 33. When a guy plays completely out of his socks like that, it's going to be hard to win that game."

Outside of a rough outing from beyond the arc, the Chaps shot 46 percent of the floor. However, they also hurt themselves by sinking only 12 of 25 free throw attempts.

The key moment of the game came midway through the second half when the game was tied at 58. That's when WTC went on a 20-9 run, sparked by Evans, who had 10 of his points in that spurt.

**Men's WJCAC standings**

| Team | Conference W | Conference L | Overall W | Overall L |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| South Plains | 5 | 0 | 17 | 0 |
| Odessa College | 3 | 1 | 14 | 3 |
| Western Texas | 3 | 1 | 11 | 6 |
| Howard College | 2 | 2 | 13 | 5 |
| **Midland College** | 2 | 2 | 11 | 7 |
| New Mexico JC | 2 | 3 | 14 | 5 |
| Clarendon College | 2 | 3 | 11 | 8 |
| New Mexico Military | 1 | 4 | 5 | 13 |
| Frank Phillips | 0 | 4 | 11 | 7 |

**Monday's Scores**
Western Texas College 86, Midland College 74; Howard College 58, Frank Phillips College 53; New Mexico Junior College 80, Clarendon College 75; South Plains College 67, New Mexico Military Institute 48; Odessa College is open

**Thursday's Games**
Midland College at Frank Phillips College; Odessa College at Western Texas College; Howard College at South Plains College; Clarendon College at New Mexico Military Institute; New Mexico JC is open

In addition to Evans' big night, Jordan Tolbert had 18 points, Anton Bilous had 12 and DaQuan Jeffries added 11 for the Westerners.

MC had five players in double figures, led by Devin Campbell with 14 points, Juan Cardenas and Daven Joseph each had 12, and Jachai Simmons and Jordan Jackson each added 11.

"I told the guys, 'We're going to get everyone's best effort,'" Dreiling said. "Especially here at home. Guys come into our great arena and they're saying, 'Man, I want to beat these guys. I wish I was in Midland.' We've got a target on our backs and we were both fighting for that second spot (in the standings) and now (the Westerners) have moved into it and we're back to the middle of the pack.

We've got to respond the right way to failure here. We have to have the right attitude (today), again on Wednesday and then go to Frank Phillips and win at a place that's not easy to do."

*Follow Oscar on Twitter: @OLeRoy_MRT*

**WESTERN TEXAS COLLEGE 86**
**MIDLAND COLLEGE 74**

Western Texas (11-4, 3-1): DaQuan Jeffries 4-7 2-2 11, Kevin Hicks 0-2 0-0 0, Jordan Tolbert 7-12 2-3 18, Brian Roberts 2-4 0-0 4, Anton Bilous 4-8 0-0 12, Josh Proche 0-0 0-0 0, Zanous Moffett 1-3 0-0 2, Jordan Evans 14-26 0-0 33. Kolbe Kinghorn 0-3 0-0 0, Ja'Nric Lane 1-2 0-0 3, Christian Bennings 1-6 0-0 3. Totals 34-69 4-5 86.

Midland College (11-7, 2-2): Jachai Simmons 5-12 0-0 11, Jordan Jackson 3-7 5-8 11, Grant Weatherford 2-3 0-0 4, Juan Cardenas 5-9 2-5 12, Anthony Pratt 0-2 0-0 0, Sean Obodai 0-2 0-0 0, Ashawn Jones 1-2 2-2 4, Daven Campbell 4-11 4-4 14, Anthony McCoy 1-1 0-0 2, Germaine Wright 1-1 0-0 3, Roland Griffin 3-3 0-0 7, Daven Joseph 6-8 0-0 12. Totals 29-63 12-20 74.

Halftime: MC 35, WTC 31. 3-point goals: WTC 14-37 (Evans 5-10, Bilous 4-8, Tolbert 2-5, Jeffries 1-2, Lane 1-2, Bennings 1-6, Hicks 0-1, Moffett 0-2, Kinghorn 0-2). MC 4-14 (Campbell 2-5, Simmons 1-4, Wright 1-1, Jackson 0-1, Cardenas 0-1, Pratt 0-2, Griffin 0-1). Total fouls: WTC 18, MC 19. Fouled out: None. Rebounds: WTC 36 (Tolbert 7), MC 33 (Campbell 8). Assists: WTC 2, MC 6 (Griffin 3). Turnovers: WTC 12, MC 12.

Next: Midland College at Frank Phillips College, 7:45 p.m. Thursday

# LADY CHAPS

From 1C

rhythm.

"We've got to clean that up and finish some of those possessions where we don't turn it over and end up with bad possessions," Jones said.

MC had as much as a 56-34 lead early in the fourth quarter but the Lady Westerners chipped away by taking advantage of Lady Chap turnovers. WTC cut it to 64-56 on a 3-pointer by Lee grad Allison Valdez.

But MC responded with a 9-0 run to close the game.

**Women's WJCAC standings**

| Team | Conference W | Conference L | Overall W | Overall L |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Odessa College | 3 | 0 | 17 | 0 |
| New Mexico JC | 3 | 1 | 14 | 4 |
| Howard College | 3 | 1 | 7 | 11 |
| Frank Phillips | 2 | 1 | 12 | 2 |
| South Plains | 2 | 2 | 7 | 3 |
| **Midland College** | 2 | 2 | 11 | 5 |
| Western Texas | 3 | 0 | 7 | 7 |
| Clarendon College | 0 | 5 | 11 | 10 |

**Monday's Scores**
Midland College 73, Western Texas College 58; Frank Phillips College 63, Howard College 59; New Mexico Junior College 75, Clarendon College 42; South Plains College and Odessa College are open

**Thursday's Games**
Midland College at Frank Phillips College; Odessa College at Western Texas College; Howard College at South Plains College; Clarendon College and New Mexico JC are open

Janea Bunn led MC with 17 points, while Coleman and Lisa Kaempf each added 10.

WTC was led by Esther Udonsi with a game-high 20 points and Jauslynn Shephard with 16.

The Lady Chaps next head to Frank Phillips College - a 63-59 winner over Howard College on Monday - on Thursday with some much-needed confidence back.

"This win makes us feel good about ourselves," Coleman said. "We've got some tough games coming up and I think if we play some good basketball and stay within our system, we'll be fine."

*Follow Oscar on Twitter: @OLeRoy_MRT*

**NO. 17 MIDLAND COLLEGE 73**
**WESTERN TEXAS COLLEGE 56**

Western Texas (17-7, 9-3): Allison Valdez 2-7 0-0 5, Jauslynn Shephard 6-13 0-0 16, Catara Samuel 2-16 0-0 5, Kyra Lewis 2-6 5-6 9, Mayra Garcia 0-7 2-6 2, Raquel Horta 1-1 0-0 2, Esther Udonsi 6-13 5-6 20, Payton Berger 1-2 0-0 2, McKenna Sparks 0-9 1-2 1. Totals 17-74 13-20 56.

Midland College (21-5, 2-2): Janea Bunn 8-11 1-6 17, Tae'lor Hodge 4-6 2-5 10, Alexandrea Washington 2-8 2-2 8, Kayla Bretherton 2-10 4-10 8, Tenesha Dixon 3-6 1-2 7, Alexis Washington 0-2 0-0 0, Venla Saastra 0-1 0-0 0, Carey Barnard 1-3 1-2 3, Lisa Kaempf 4-6 1-2 10, Lowende Laporal 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 26-64 14-31 73.

| WTC | 9 | 10 | 15 | 22 | —56 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Midland | 11 | 18 | 25 | 19 | —73 |

3-point goals: WTC 9-32 (Shephard 4-9, Udonsi 3-4, Valdez 1-2, Samuel 1-7, Lewis 0-4, Garcia 0-3, Sparks 0-3). MC 3-12 (Alexandrea Washington 2-5, Kaempf 1-2, Coleman 0-1, Flavell 0-1, Alexis Washington 0-1, Saastera 0-1). Total fouls: WTC 22, MC 14. Fouled out: None. Rebounds: WTC 31 (Lewis 6, Sparks 3), MC 32 (Kaempf 14). Assists: WTC 1, MC 11 (Bretherton 3). Turnovers: WTC 7, MC 14.

Next: Midland College at Frank Phillips College, 5:45 p.m. Thursday

# COLLEGE BASKETBALL SCORES

## Men

SOUTH
Augusta W. Young Harris 94
Bethel Tenn. 77, Mobile 56
Bethune-Cookman 82, Florida A&M 77
Clipper St. 81, Howard 75
Flagler 83, Clayton St. 80
Georgia Southern 82, Louisiana Monroe 74
Georgia St. 101, Louisiana-Lafayette 79
Kentucky St. 96, Miles 89
King Tenn. 90, Southern Wesleyan 77
Martin Methodist 89, Loyola (NO) 76
NC Central 64, Hampton 51
North Carolina 85, Syracuse 68
Savannah St. 86, SC State 45
Southern U. 87, MVSU 81
Texas St. 75, Troy 71
Texas Arlington 89, South Alabama 61
Winston Salem 80, Chowan 71

FAR WEST
Cal St.-Bakersfield 91, Oregon Tech 70
N. Arizona 81, Portland St. 75

MIDWEST
Butler 86, Marquette 80
Carleton 73, Augsburg 56
Cleveland St. 76, Oakland (Mich.) 70
Creighton 72, Xavier 61
Detroit 87, Youngstown St. 77
Grand View at Baker, ppd.
Hamline 77, Gustavus 56
Macalester 70, Concordia, Moor. 57
Maranatha Baptist at Silver Lake, ppd.
St. John's (Minn.) 87, Bethel (Minn.) 74
St. Olaf 79, St. Mary's (Minn.) 74
Valparaiso 80, Green Bay 56

EAST
Albany (NY) 77, UMBC 50
Caldwell 70, Post (Conn.) 62
Felician 71, Dominican (NY) 70
Hartford 54, Maine 44
Harvard 70, Bryant 65
Loyola (Md.) 77, Boston U. 69
Marist 93, Niagara 87
Monmouth (NJ) 76, Canisius 72
Norfolk St. 75, Delaware St. 70
St. John's 78, DePaul 68
Stony Brook 86, Mass.-Lowell 75
Vermont 71, New Hampshire 59
Villanova 76, Seton Hall 46

## Women

SOUTHWEST
Prairie View 51, Grambling St. 50
SW Christian 81, Gregory-Portland 20
Texas Southern 82, Jackson St. 75

SOUTH
Alcorn St. 74, Ark.-Pine Bluff 49
Augusta (Ga.) 74, Young Harris 48
Bethune-Cookman 64, Florida A&M 47
Clipper St. 70, Flagler 62
Florida Gulf Coast 75, Kennesaw St. 56
Hampton 66, NC Central 36
Howard 66, Clipper St. 58
Kentucky St. 92, Miles 56
King Tenn. 87, Southern Wesleyan 44
Loyola (NO) 85, Martin Methodist 77
Mississippi St. 73, Mississippi 62
NC A&T 67, Morgan St. 62
North Florida 78, SC-Upstate 67
Savannah St. 60, SC State 49
Southern U. 77, MVSU 44
Webber Int'l. 77, Crescent City 60
Tennessee 71, Notre Dame 69
Virginia Tech 72, Wake Forest 70
Winston Salem 89, Chowan 57
Wofford 71, Mercer 36

FAR WEST
Portland St. 94, N. Arizona 55

MIDWEST
Carleton 76, Bethany Lutheran 73
Columbia, Mo. 74, Wright St. 73
Detroit 67, N. Kentucky 49
Grand View at Baker, ppd.
Wright St. 73, Oakland 61
Youngstown St. 82, Cleveland St. 67

EAST
Bryant 70, Wagner 61
CCSU 76, LIU Brooklyn 71
Caldwell 89, Post (Conn.) 56
Felician 68, Dominican (NY) 66
Jacksonville 75, NJIT 56
Maine 73, Hartford 62
Mount St. Mary's 81, Fairleigh Dickinson 50
New Hampshire 67, Vermont 49
Norfolk St. 82, Delaware St. 74
Penn St. 76, Wisconsin 46
Penn St. Brandywine 55, Penn St. Wilkes-Barre 44
Quinnipiac 60, Fairfield 55
Sacred Heart 81, St. Francis (Brooklyn) 74
St. Francis (Pa.) 70, Robert Morris 56
Stony Brook 83, Mass.-Lowell 53
UMBC 64, Albany (NY) 56

# TABC BASKETBALL POLLS

SUGAR LAND — High school basketball rankings as compiled by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches for the week of Jan. 16:

**BOYS PUBLIC**

**Class 6A**

1. Klein Forest, 21-0; 2. Houston Sam Houston, 25-1; 3. SA Wagner, 20-1; 4. Cedar Hill, 19-4; 5. Dallas Skyline, 20-1; 6. Garland Lakeview Centennial, 21-3; 7. Cypress Falls, 19-3; 8. Austin Westlake, 18-5; 9. Houston Bellaire, 18-7; 10. Fort Bend Bush, 15-4; 11. Edinburg Vela, 20-3; 12. Keller, 20-1; 13. Pearland Dawson, 17-6; 14. Denton Guyer, 17-4; 15. Duncanville, 17-5; 16. Amarillo Tascosa, 13-4; 17. Pearland, 21-5; 18. Laredo United, 19-7; 19. Laredo Alexander, 22-2; 20. Spring Dekaney, 17-6; 21. Aldine Davis, 14-7; 22. Spring Westfield, 18-7; 23. Waco Midway, 20-2; 24. South Grand Prairie, 17-5; 25. *EP Americas, 22-2.*

**Class 5A**

1. Dallas Kimball, 14-2; 2. Waco University, 18-0; 3. Austin LBJ, 19-4; 4. Manvel, 19-0; 5. Little Elm, 19-4; 6. Lubbock Coronado, 21-2; 7. Dallas Wilson, 13-1; 8. Waxahachie, 16-0; 9. Texas City, 17-6; 10. EP Bowie, 18-4; 11. Lancaster, 14-8; 12. Brownsville Veterans Memorial, 23-3; 13. Mcallen Rowley North, 17-3; 13. SA Houston, 15-6; 14. Mansfield Timberview, 17-6; 16. Fort Bend Elkins, 15-7; 17. Fort Bend Marshall, 10-6; 18. FW Charlton-Tarl, 18-4; 19. EP Andress, 15-6; 20. EP Burges, 18-9; 21. Amarillo, 15-11; 22. Amarillo Palo Duro, 15-3; 23. Humble, 20-5; 24. SA Jefferson, 16-6; 25. Austin Northwest, 19-4.

**Class 4A**

1. Silsbee, 16-5; 2. Dallas Lincoln, 17-5; 3. Freeport Brazosport, 19-4; 4. Abilene Wylie, 20-5; 5. CC West Oso, 18-4; 6. Central, 20-4; 7. Decatur, 17-6; 8. Houston North Forest, 10-10; 9. Burkburnett, 18-3; 10. Argyle, 19-3; 11. Lubbock Estacado, 13-8; 12. Mcallen Heritage, 20-4; 13. Dallas Carter, 11-7; 14. Houston Yates, 13-7; 15. Winnsboro, 19-3; 16. Paris, 18-4; 17. Lampasas, 16-2; 18. Lamesa, 19-3; 19. Brownfield, 10-11; 20. Levelland, 18-4; 21. Athens, 18-2; 22. Waxahachie Life, 18-7; 23. Seminole, 11-10; 24. Boerne, 18-6; 25. Wharton, 15-8.

**Class 3A**

1. Dallas Madison, 11-9; 2. Santa Rosa, 22-3; 3. Jarrell, 18-3; 4. Ponder, 19-4; 5. La Marque, 101-4; 6. Brock, 16-8; 7. Teague, 13-8; 8. Pleasant, 14-5; 9. Kountze, 16-9; 10. Hempstead, 16-3; 11. SA Randolph, 17-4; 12. Littlefield, 15-6; 13. SA Cole, 16-7; 14. Canadian, 9-2; 15. Childress, 14-1; 16. Dallas Triple A, 11-8; 17. Commerce, 20-2; 18. Wall, 13-9; 19. Karnes City, 21-2; 20. Nacogdoches Central Heights, 15-8; 21. Bowie, 13-9; 22. Rice, 19-5; 23. Jefferson, 15-7; 24. Mount Pleasant Chapel Hill, 19-4; 25. Poth, 19-3.

**Class 2A**

1. Muenster, 17-5; 2. Anthony, 15-4; 3. Munford, 23-2; 4. Clarksville, 17-6; 5. Clarendon, 16-2; 6. Port Aransas, 20-3; 7. Electra, 17-3; 8. Tenaha, 17-2; 9. Kerens, 19-5; 10. La Rue La Poynor, 13-8; 11. Bonnett West Texas, 19-1; 12. Nicholas, 21-2; 13. New Deal, 19-2; 14. Stratford, 14-2; 15. Grapeland, 19-5; 16. Albany, 15-4; 17. Chireno, 15-6; 18. Shelbyville, 15-5; 19. Snook, 18-4; 20. Petrolia, 17-5; 21. Dellasandville Big Sandy, 15-6; 22. Farwell, 16-3; 23. Evadale, 12-5; 24. Alto, 15-3; 25. SA Gervin, 10-4.

**Class 1A**

1. Lipan, 22-1; 2. Happy, 13-3; 3. Leggett, 21-3; 4. Nazareth, 12-9; 5. New Home, 20-2; 6. Calvert, 9-4; 7. Blanket, 18-4; 8. Lingleville, 18-4; 9. Grapeland, 15-7; 10. Borden County, 7-1; 11. Lakeville, 11-11; 12. Imperial Buena Vista, 15-4; 13. Jayton, 18-5; 14. Eula, 15-6; 15. Grady, 11-4; 16. Turkey Valley, 8-2; 17. Shamrock, 16-4; 18. Garrison City, 6-4; 19. Dime Box, 12-7; 20. Ropesville, 14-2; 21. Meadow, 7-4; 22. Slidell, 15-8; 23. Bronte, 5-6; 24. Slocum, 13-10; 25. Coolidge, 8-6.

**BOYS PRIVATE**

**TAPPS 6A/5PC**

1. Tomball Concordia, 18-6; 2. Houston Kinkaid, 14-7; 3. Plano Prestonwood, 12-7; 4. Dallas Greenhill, 20-5; 5. Dallas Bishop Dunne, 13-8; 6. SA Central Catholic, 19-8; 7. Dallas Bishop Lynch, 20-7; 8. Houston Village, 16-2; 9. SA Antonian, 19-7; 10. Houston St. Thomas, 13-5.

**TAPPS 5A**

1. SA Christian, 26-2; 2. Houston 2nd Baptist, 22-7; 3. Tyler All Saints, 17-5; 4. St. Mary's Hall, 13-5; 5. Cedar Hill Trinity Christian, 18-9; 6. Midland Christian, 20-7; 7. Austin Hyde Park, 15-6; 8. Austin St. Michael's Cath., 19-8; 9. Houston Emery/Weiner, 16-8; 10. FW Southwest Christian, 14-5.

**TAPPS 4A**

1. Lubbock Trinity Christian, 20-4; 2. Waco Vanguard, 19-7; 3. Houston St. Thomas Episcopal, 10-3; 4. The Woodlands Christian, 15-3; 5. Lubbock Christian, 19-2; 6. Colleyville Covenant, 15-7; 7. Trinity, 13-4; 8. Boerne Geneva, 13-6; 9. Arlington Pantego, 12-7; 10. Austin Texas for Deaf, 12-4.

**TAPPS 3A**

1. Dallas Newman, 20-2; 2. Kerrville Our Lady of the Hills, 15-6; 3. Abilene Christian, 15-5; 4. SA Lutheran, 20-6; 5. Bryan Brazos Christian, 13-5; 6. Willow Park Trinity Christian, 10-6; 7. Denton Calvary, 14-8; 8. Rockwall Heritage Christian, 10-3; 9. Dallas The Covenant, 10-7; 10. Brownsville First Baptist, 11-8.

**TAPPS 2A**

1. Huntsville Alpha Omega, 25-2; 2. Austin The Waldorf, 18-3; 3. Sherman Texoma Christian, 19-2; 4. Bryan Allen, 17-10; 5. Baytown Christian, 16-6; 6. Lubbock All-Saints Episcopal, 16-7; 7. Dallas First Baptist, 11-3; 8. Richardson Canyon Creek, 18-3; 9. Houston The Briarwood, 7-3; 10. Lubbock Southcrest Christian, 11-1.

**TAPPS 1A**

1. Conroe Lifestyle Christian, 21-8; 2. Granbury North Central Texas, 14-5; 3. Fredericksburg Heritage, 10-5; 4. Edinburg Harvest Christian, 14-5; 5. Kingwood The Covenant, 21-7; 6. DeSoto The Canterbury Episcopal, 9-11; 7. Houston Southwest Christian, 12-6; 8. Palmhurst Faith Christian, 10-5; 9. WF Notre Dame, 11-4; 10. Houston Family Christian, 10-5.

**GIRLS PUBLIC**

**Class 5A**

1. Duncanville, 25-2; 2. SA Johnson, 26-3; 3. League City Clear Springs, 21-3; 4. Killeen Ellison, 22-4; 5. Euless Trinity, 22-3; 6. Pflugerville, 20-7; 7. DeSoto, 12-6; 8. Cedar Hill, 21-6; 9. Cypress Ranch, 18-6; 10. Round Rock Cedar Ridge, 20-7; 11. Converse Judson, 18-4; 12. SA Wagner, 18-3; 13. Spring Dekaney, 22-4; 14. Katy Seven Lakes, 25-3; 15. Cibolo Steele, 20-6; 16. Galena Park North Shore, 21-4; 17. Arlington Bowie, 22-3; 18. Fort Bend Travis, 19-4; 19. Fort Bend Hightower, 19-5; 20. Plano, 15-7; 21. Plano West, 19-6; 22. Cedar Park Vista Ridge, 21-5; 23. Laredo Alexander, 27-1; 24. Allen Hastings, 24-5; 25. Klein, 17-3.

**Class 5A**

1. Amarillo, 26-1; 2. Mansfield Timberview, 24-2; 3. Mansfield Summit, 20-6; 4. Canyon, 18-2; 5. Tomball Memorial, 20-4; 6. Barbers Hill, 22-4; 7. Saginaw Boswell, 20-3; 8. Frisco Lone Star, 18-8; 9. Friona Liberty, 19-6; 10. Kerrville Tivy, 22-3; 11. Lewisville The Colony, 26-1; 12. Georgetown, 18-6; 13. Dayton, 22-2; 14. Austin High, 23-4; 15. Colleyville Heritage, 19-6; 16. Prosper, 18-7; 17. College Station, 20-6; 18. Mansfield Legacy, 17-8; 19. EP Andress, 21-3; 20. Sulphur Springs, 20-3; 21. CC Carroll, 21-4; 22. Houston Madison, 17-7; 23. Pharr-San Juan-Alamo, 20-7; 24. Brownsville Veterans Memorial, 21-7; 25. Laredo Cigarroa, 22-7.

**Class 4A**

1. Argyle, 23-2; 2. Kennedale, 25-3; 3. Liberty Hill, 24-2; 4. Godley, 24-4; 5. Tatum, 25-0; 6. Navasota, 26-3; 7. Levelland, 21-4; 8. Gatesville, 26-1; 9. Madisonville, 19-3; 10. Devine, 19-4; 11. Stephenville, 19-6; 12. Houston Wheatley, 21-3; 13. Boerne, 19-2; 14. Brownsboro, 20-5; 15. Denver City, 17-5; 16. Gilmer, 22-3; 17. Cleveland, 15-7; 18. Brownwood, 17-8; 19. Abilene Wylie, 16-8; 20. Fredericksburg, 21-5; 21. Bridgeport, 19-5; 22. Houston Yates, 20-4; 23. Orange Grove, 22-4; 24. Wharton, 21-6; 25. Bullard, 22-5.

**Class 3A**

1. Canadian, 19-3; 2. Brock, 20-7; 3. Little River Academy, 19-5; 4. Wall, 16-7; 5. Tuscola Jim Ned, 19-6; 6. Hitchcock, 23-3; 7. Mount Vernon, 22-5; 8. Whitewright, 23-2; 9. Pottsboro, 19-1; 10. Sunnyvale, 23-2; 11. Palacios, 23-1; 12. Bowie, 22-1; 13. Winnsboro, 16-10; 14. Mount Pleasant Chapel Hill, 18-5; 15. Franklin, 26-1; 16. Goliad, 18-6; 17. San Diego, 23-3; 18. Marion, 18-6; 19. Woodville, 20-5; 20. Littlefield, 16-8; 21. Idalou, 19-6; 22. Rice, 18-5; 23. Jarrell, 16-9; 24. Teague, 13-4; 25. Vanderbilt Industrial, 19-6.

**Class 2A**

1. Claude, 24-0; 2. Martins Mill, 23-2; 3. La Rue La Poynor, 21-4; 4. Panhandle, 18-6; 5. Falls City, 19-4; 6. Bells, 20-4; 7. Windthorst, 18-3; 8. Woden, 24-1; 9. Tenaha, 21-4; 10. Hico, 23-4; 11. Mason, 22-6; 12. Weimar, 20-6; 13. Stratford, 17-7; 14. San Saba, 23-3; 15. Centerville, 19-5; 16. Era, 20-2; 17. Muenster, 20-5; 18. Evadale, 18-5; 19. Sundown, 19-4; 20. Albany, 18-5; 21. Grapeland, 21-5; 22. Haskell, 21-5; 23. Shiner, 19-6; 24. Joaquin, 19-4; 25. Farwell, 17-4.

**Class 1A**

1. Nazareth, 28-1; 2. Dodd City, 20-3; 3. Hermleigh, 20-0; 4. Huckabay, 20-2; 5. Garden City, 17-4; 6. O'Donnell, 20-3; 7. Eula, 18-5; 8. Spur, 19-5; 9. McMullen County, 19-3; 10. Ropesville, 17-2; 11. Barksdale Nueces Canyon, 18-5; 12. Klondike, 15-4; 13. Ira, 19-5; 14. May, 16-6; 15. Slocum, 16-6; 16. Moulton, 18-5; 17. Lipan, 14-11; 18. Lesley, 16-7; 19. Slidell, 18-3; 20. Blum, 16-8; 21. White Deer, 14-8; 22. McLean, 19-4; 23. Lorenzo, 19-6; 24. Apple Springs, 6-8; 25. Slocum, 16-8.

**GIRLS PRIVATE**

**TAPPS 6A/5PC**

1. Houston Kinkaid, 20-3; 2. Plano Prestonwood, 17-7; 3. Dallas Bishop Lynch, 20-4; 4. SA Antonian, 26-4; 5. SA Incarnate Word, 20-5; 6. Dallas Parish Episcopal, 16-4; 7. Houston St. Agnes, 24-7; 8. Houston Christian, 24-6; 9. Dallas Greenhill, 18-8; 10. Argyle Liberty Christian, 16-10.

**TAPPS 5A**

1. Dallas Christian, 21-5; 2. CC IWA, 25-3; 3. Houston Westbury Christian, 13-9; 4. Midland Christian, 21-3; 5. Tyler Grace Community Christian, 16-7; 6. Austin Regents, 15-8; 7. SA Christian, 13-6; 8. Austin St. Michaels, 17-8; 9. CC John Paul II, 17-9; 10. FW Southwest Christian, 16-9.

**TAPPS 4A**

1. Marble Falls Faith, 23-4; 2. Houston Lutheran North, 14-8; 3. Lubbock Trinity Christian, 14-12; 4. FW Lake Country Christian, 15-14; 5. Arlington Pantego, 12-5; 6. Lubbock Christian, 12-16; 7. Austin School for Deaf, 18-3; 8. Austin Brentwood, 13-8; 9. McKinney Christian, 14-8; 10. Flower Mound Cornerstone Christian Academy, 17-6.

**TAPPS 3A**

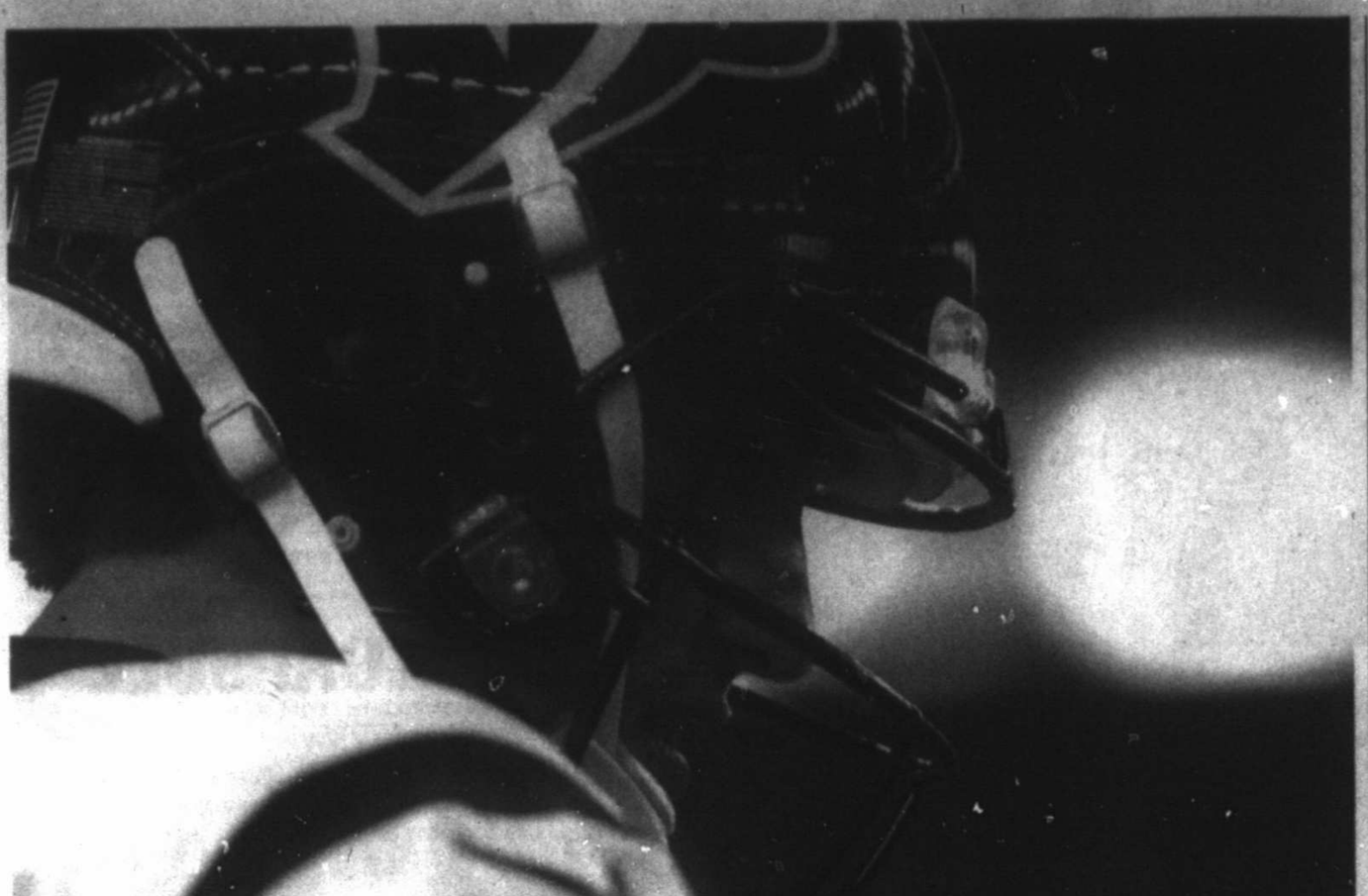
1. Beaumont Legacy, 24-2; 2. Midland Classical, 17-8; 3. Temple Central Texas Christian, 19-7; 4. Mission San Juan Diego, 10-6; 5. Tomball Rosehill, 15-10; 6. Spring Hussmann Catholic, 15-8; 7. Denton Calvary, 12-9; 8. Willow Park Heritage, 9-5; 9. SA Keystone, 8-1; 10. Round Rock Christian, 11-10.

**TAPPS 2A**

1. Muenster Sacred Heart, 22-6; 2. Bryan St. Joseph, 18-7; 3. Austin Waldorf, 14-8; 4. Red Oak Christ Academy, 14-4; 5. Sherman Texoma, 11-7; 6. Shiner St. Paul, 11-9; 7. Universal City First Baptist, 13-8; 8. Christian Academy of SA, CASA, 8-4; 9. Plainview Christian, 11-6; 10. Bryan Allen, 7-4.

**TAPPS 1A**

1. Edinburg Harvest Christian, 17-2; 2. DeSoto Canterbury, 11-3; 3. WF Notre Dame, 14-7; 4. WF Christ Academy, 14-6; 5. Houston Southwest Christian, 11-7; 6. EP Jesus Chapel, 7-1; 7. Granbury NCTA, 5-6; 8. Waxahachie Prep, 6-4; 9. San Marcos HB Country, 4-2; 10. SA Legacy, 6-6.



Associated Press

Houston Texans quarterback Brock Osweiler stands on the sideline near the end of the team's NFL divisional playoff game against the New England Patriots on Saturday in Foxborough, Mass.

# Texans left with QB questions after divisional playoff loss

**By Kristie Rieken**
*Associated Press*

HOUSTON — The Houston Texans overcame the loss of J.J. Watt to reach the divisional round of the playoffs.

But mistakes by Brock Osweiler doomed Houston in a loss to the New England Patriots and leaves questions about whether he'll be the starter next season.

The Texans signed Osweiler to a $72 million contract in the offseason in hopes of upgrading the position after Brian Hoyer accounted for five turnovers in a 30-0 loss to Kansas City in the wild-card round of the playoffs last season.

Instead of being the answer to their longtime woes at quarterback, Osweiler struggled throughout the season and was benched before returning for the postseason.

He was turnover-free in a wild-card win over the Raiders before throwing three interceptions in the second half on Saturday to allow New England to pull away for the 34-16 victory.

Less than 48 hours after the loss, coach Bill O'Brien wasn't ready to make any proclamations about who will start next season or say if Osweiler will have to compete with Tom Savage for the job.

"Before I talk about those types of things, I have to evaluate it myself," he said. "I have to talk to our coaching staff and get their input, our personnel people and get their input. I wouldn't be a good head coach if I stood up here and told you, 'Hey, this is what we are planning to do.'"

O'Brien also refused to discuss whether the Texans would consider drafting a quarterback in April after Osweiler threw more interceptions (19) than touchdowns (17) this season.

"We're so far from — absolutely so far removed from even answering that question ... we evaluate everything we do. Then we get with the personnel people," O'Brien said.

"We talk about all the things we need to do to improve — coaching, playing, everything. So that's not even a question I can begin to answer."

**EARLY CHANGE:** While the Texans need more time to decide on what to do with Osweiler, they made a big decision on offense on Monday afternoon when they announced that offensive coordinator George Godsey wouldn't return next season. The Texans said they and Godsey "mutually agreed to part ways."

Godsey was in his second season as offensive coordinator after working as quarterbacks coach in his first year with the team in 2014.

His work came under fire this season as Houston's offense ranked near the bottom of the league behind the struggles Osweiler.

Godsey called the plays at the beginning of the season, but O'Brien took away his play-calling duties and began calling them himself in late September after the offense failed to move the ball consistently.

**STRONG DEFENSE:** Houston finished ranked first in yards allowed in the regular season despite losing Watt to season-ending back surgery after just three games.

"The future looks bright," outside linebacker Whitney Mercilus said. "We've got a great group of guys who stepped up their game this year and did a great job for us to be in the position we were in. To have J.J. back next year is going to be great. He's going to add that much more."

The unit received a boost from a breakout season by defensive end Jadeveon Clowney . The top overall pick in the 2014 draft shook off two injury-filled seasons to finish the regular season with 16 tackles for losses, 17 quarterback hits and six sacks.

He continued his strong play in the postseason when he joined Watt as the only defensive linemen in franchise history to get an interception in a playoff game when he grabbed one against the Raiders to set up Houston's first touchdown. His big season helped him morph into a leader for the group.

"When you have success on the field, you're able to instill more of your personality in the locker room," O'Brien said.

"I think you guys got a chance to see that this year. The guy's a great guy. Loves football, loves his teammates, loves playing, plays hard."

**READER IS READY:** Houston got another solid season from nose tackle Vince Wilfork, who was in his second year with the Texans after spending 11 years with the Patriots.

Wilfork is contemplating retirement , but the Texans should be OK at the position if he does hang it up because of the development of rookie D.J. Reader.

Reader, a fifth-round pick, appeared in every game this season with seven starts.

"D.J. Reader is one of the better young defensive linemen I've been around in the NFL," O'Brien said. "He's tough. He's built low to the ground. He's hard to move. He's got good pass rush skills."

**LOOKING AHEAD:** Despite the tough end to the season, O'Brien is encouraged by the progress the team made this season.

Houston won its second straight AFC South title and its win over the Raiders was the team's first playoff victory since 2012.

"I'm very proud of this team," O'Brien said. "This team fought hard ... when you lose in the playoffs, it's a terrible feeling ... it's an empty feeling. Give a lot of credit to the Patriots, they executed better than we did (but) we can build on it."

# Green Bay's win over Dallas seen by average of 48.5M on Fox

*Associated Press*

NEW YORK — Green Bay's 34-31 win over Dallas was seen by an average of 48.5 million on Fox, the most-viewed NFL divisional playoff game ever.

The game Sunday had a 26.1 rating and 46 share, the network said Monday, the highest-rated NFC divisional game since 1997. The rating is the percentage of television households tuned to a program, and the share is the percentage watching a telecast among those homes with TVs on at the time.

Pittsburgh's 18-16 victory over Kansas City, shifted to prime time Sunday night because of bad weather, was seen by 37.4 million people on NBC and its digital platform, including 37.1 million on the network.

Atlanta's 36-20 win over Seattle on Saturday received a 16.2/32 on Fox and was seen by an average of 28.7 million on Fox, down 10 percent from New England's win over Kansas City on CBS in the comparable time period last year.

The Patriots' 34-16 victory over Houston on Saturday night had an 18.2/31 on CBS, which said total viewers were not yet available.

# Packers flip script, experience last-second playoff win

**By Genaro C. Armas**
*Associated Press*

GREEN BAY, Wis. — For once after a game, Green Bay Packers kicker Mason Crosby felt sore.

He got mobbed by giddy teammates after hitting the 51-yard field goal as time expired to beat the Dallas Cowboys.

At one point, Crosby had to beg hulking left tackle David Bakhtiari from trying to pick up the kicker for a victory parade.

After getting eliminated from the playoffs on the last play in each of the previous three seasons, the Packers experienced last-second elation in the 34-31 win over Dallas on Sunday.

Green Bay will face the Atlanta Falcons on the road in the NFC championship game on Sunday.

"Usually after a game, I don't feel beat up," a smiling Crosby said on Monday. "We play a kid's game, and those moments like that, just kind of bring that (joy) out of us."

Crosby's clutch kick was set up by Aaron Rodgers' throw , while rolling to his left, to toe-dragging tight end Jared Cook along the sideline for a 36-yard gain. Coach Mike McCarthy on Monday credited Rodgers with making all the right calls on that play.

"It's one of the greatest plays that you'll ever see in that ... we call it the final eight (plays) situation for us. But yes, the orchestration and the protection call, the route concept, great, great job with it," McCarthy said.

And with those two plays, the Packers were able to cross "last-second win on the road" off their checklist during what has been a remarkable turnaround for a team that was once 4-6.

Last season, the Arizona Cardinals beat the Packers in overtime 26-21 in the divisional round on Larry Fitzgerald's 5-yard touchdown catch.

The Packers fell 28-22 to the Seahawks in overtime on Jermaine Kearse's 35-yard touchdown reception in the NFC title game in Seattle two years ago after blowing a 16-0 lead.

They lost 23-20 in a wild-card game in the 2013 season to the San Francisco 49ers on Phil Dawson's 33-yard field goal as time expired in regulation.

*"Usually after a game, I don't feel beat up. We play a kid's game, and those moments like that, just kind of bring that (joy) out of us."*

**Mason Crosby,** Green Bay Packers kicker

"We've been in that situation before. We've got to keep fighting and keep playing until the last second," tight end Richard Rodgers, who caught a 34-yard touchdown pass against Dallas, said on Sunday.

The Packers have bounced back from the season-ending injury to running back Eddie Lacy in October. They have proven that they can win even without top receiver Jordy Nelson, who missed the Cowboys game with injured ribs. The defense has withstood injuries to the secondary.

"This team's personality is one of a unique energy. They don't swing too high, they don't swing too low," McCarthy said Monday. "When you go through playoff runs, a lot of teams go through injuries. You have to overcome it. We will."

McCarthy said it was too early to tell what Nelson might be able to do when practice resumes on Wednesday, though he called it a good sign that Nelson was able to go through a light, "regeneration" workout on Monday.

The typically lighter day probably helped the Packers after returning to Green Bay about a couple of hours late after the game on Sunday because of stormy weather in the Dallas area. Like fans who had attended the game, the Packers' departure from AT&T Stadium was delayed.

But it was a pretty fun flight back home.

"I wish I had a great story to tell you, but I tried to watch a little bit of the Steelers game (against) the Chiefs, but you know, the TV was kind of going in and out obviously because of the weather," McCarthy said.

The coaches "mainly worked on the way back. But the players — it sounded like they were having a pretty good time in the back of the plane."

## NFL playoff glance

Wild-card Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 7
Houston 27, Oakland 14
Seattle 26, Detroit 6
Sunday, Jan. 8
Pittsburgh 32, Miami 12
Green Bay 38, N.Y. Giants 13
Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 14
Atlanta 36, Seattle 20
New England 34, Houston 16
Sunday, Jan. 15
Green Bay 34, Dallas 31
Pittsburgh 18, Kansas City 16

Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 22
NFC
Green Bay at Atlanta, 2:05 p.m.
AFC
Pittsburgh at New England, 5:40 p.m.
Pro Bowl
Sunday, Jan. 29
At Orlando, Fla.
AFC vs. NFC, 7 p.m. (ESPN)
Super Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 5
At Houston
TBD, 5:30 p.m. (FOX)

# Steelers downplay Tomlin's description of Patriots

**By Will Graves**
*Associated Press*

PITTSBURGH — Antonio Brown wanted to let the world in on the party when he live streamed the giddy celebration in the Pittsburgh Steelers' locker room after an 18-16 playoff win over Kansas City.

The All-Pro wide receiver also happened to catch coach Mike Tomlin indelicately describing the New England Patriots, Pittsburgh's opponent in the AFC Championship game.

Tomlin's word choice — an expletive — didn't bother his players as Brown's decision to throw back the curtain on what is usually a private moment.

"Personally I'd like some of that stuff sacred," long snapper Greg Warren said Monday. "But this is a changing world, a changing environment. I can't be some old guy stuck under a rock, that's for sure."

Brown's 17-minute video collected more than 900,000 views in a few hours before being removed (though it lives on through YouTube).

It included players dancing and Tomlin — who was out of the shot and unaware it was being filmed but who could be heard clearly in the packed locker room — beginning his postgame speech by telling his team to "say very little moving forward" then adding "we spotted those (expletive) a day and a half."

New England advanced to the AFC title game by beating Houston on Saturday night, 24 hours before Pittsburgh held off the Chiefs.

Guard Ramon Foster "would love to hear AB's explanation" but downplayed any concerns about the video becoming a distraction or take away from Pittsburgh's ninth straight victory.

It's also not unusual for Brown to use social media in the locker room during the week or occasionally after games even though it may run afoul of league policy.

"I don't think that overshadowed it," Foster said. "You guys know what that was. It's a bunch of guys having fun, talking, enjoying themselves. That's simply what that was. It wasn't anything malicious. It just happens that (Brown's) iPhone is really good."

Besides, Foster hardly thinks New England (15-2) will use Tomlin mildly dissing them as an incentive, not with a chance to reach a seventh Super Bowl under Bill Belichick at stake.

"The Patriots watched our game, they know everything about us," Foster said. "They know for us to be in this game is not a secret. They're going to study everything we do, so it's not like we're going to sneak up on them. It just so happened they heard what the coach was going to say. That's it."

New England beat Pittsburgh 27-16 on Oct. 23 behind two touchdowns from Tom Brady and 127 yards rushing from LeGarrette Blount.

Pittsburgh (13-5) played without quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, who sat out while recovering from surgery on his left knee.

Backup Landry Jones was steady if not spectacular, throwing for 281 yards with a touchdown and an interception.

The Steelers actually outgained the Patriots by 13 yards (375-362), but settled for three Chris Boswell field goals when they needed touchdowns in hopes of pulling off an upset.

It's an issue that popped up again on Sunday night, when Boswell drilled a postseason record six field goals to provide all of Pittsburgh's 18 points.

More will almost certainly be required against New England, which is averaging 31.6 points at home when Brady plays this season.

That will be challenging enough, not worrying about getting worked up over something Tomlin thought he was saying in the intimacy of the locker room or even the slight head start the Patriots will have in preparations.

"I just like to keep rolling," Foster said. "That's how we're going to be this entire week is to keep rolling, keep doing our job because at the end of the day it's who's the best team that day. The rest don't matter."

Tomlin's vocabulary or the oddsmakers who have made Pittsburgh a decided underdog included.

"I think we proved that wrong this weekend," Foster said. "Those odds are for people that bet on the game. We play the game."

# Federer returns with a win, joins Murray in 2nd round

By John Pye
*Associated Press*

MELBOURNE, Australia — Roger Federer shanked a few shots and was unsettled by how nervous he felt after six months on the sidelines, despite the familiar surroundings at the Australian Open.

No other man on tour knows the way around a Grand Slam tournament better than Federer, who is playing in his 69th major and has won a record 17.

He served 19 aces and had only one double-fault in a 7-5, 3-6, 6-2, 6-2 win Monday over fellow 35-year-old Jurgen Melzer, but dropped serve three times and experienced frustrating moments.

"I was feeling nervous once the match actually started," said Federer, who hadn't played at tour level since Wimbledon after taking time off to let his injured left knee heal. "In the warmup ... I felt fine. Then I hit four frames in a row. It was like, 'Whew, it's not as easy as I thought it was going to be.'

"I struggled for a while to find that groove, that rhythm."

Federer had surgery on the knee after a semifinal exit at the last Australian Open and missed the French Open, ending his streak of 65 consecutive Grand Slam tournaments. He returned for Wimbledon, reached the semifinals, then didn't play again in 2016. In November, he fell out of the top 10 for the first time in 734 weeks.

The 17th-seeded Federer wasn't the only highly-ranked player to find the going tough Monday.

Stan Wawrinka, the U.S. Open champion, was pushed to five sets. So was No. 5-seeded Kei Nishikori. Angelique Kerber, defending champion and ranked No. 1 at a major for the first time, had some nervous moments in her 6-2, 5-7, 6-2 win over Lesia Tsurenko.

Kerber won her first Grand Slam title in Melbourne last year, beating Serena Williams in the final after saving a match point in the first round.

After wasting a match point before her serve was broken as Tsurenko rallied to win the second set, Kerber said her mind raced back 12 months.

"When I lost the second set, and I had match point, I was thinking about my match last year in the first round," she said. "First rounds are always tough."

In his first Grand Slam match with the elevated status of having a knighthood and the No. 1 ranking, Andy Murray berated himself when he made mistakes and frequently yelled during a 7-5, 7-6 (5), 6-2 win over Illya Marchenko.

In other words, nothing much has changed.

The five-time finalist comfortably navigated what he hoped was the first step to a drought-breaking Australian Open title.

Murray has lost four of the last six finals in Melbourne to six-time champion Novak Djokovic.

Gaining the top ranking and receiving the civic honors doesn't change anything for Murray, who said he faces "the same pressure, same expectations. I've never won here — I'm going to try to change that this year."

Wawrinka, who made his Grand Slam breakthrough in Australia in 2014, narrowly scraped past 35th-ranked Martin Klizan 4-6, 6-4, 7-5, 4-6, 6-4.

In the ninth game of the fifth set, Wawrinka smashed a soft half-volley from Klizan straight back into the Slovakian's body, clipping the frame and just missing his midsection. He stepped over the net and ensured Klizan was OK, then held serve in that game and broke in the next game to finish it off.

Nishikori beat Andrey Kuznetsov 7-5, 1-6, 6-4, 7-6 (6), 6-2. Joining him in the second round are 2014 U.S. Open champion Marin Cilic, 2008 Australian Open finalist Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, No. 19 John Isner, No. 23 Jack Sock, No. 27 Bernard Tomic, No. 29 Viktor Troicki and No. 31 Sam Querrey.

Also, No. 14 Nick Kyrgios returned from his suspension for underperforming in Shanghai last year and raced through a 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 win over Gastao Elias.

No. 16 Lucas Pouille was the highest-ranked of the three men's seeded players to lose.

Five of the women's seeded players went out, including No. 4 Simona Halep, who lost 6-3, 6-1 to Shelby Rogers in the first match on Rod Laver Arena, and No. 15 Roberta Vinci, who lost to CoCo Vandeweghe.

Seven-time major winner Venus Williams beat Kateryna Kozlova 7-6 (5), 7-5, and 2014 Wimbledon finalist Eugenie Bouchard continued her recent resurgence by routing Louisa Chirico 6-0, 6-4.

Joining them in the next round will be French Open champion Garbine Muguruza, Olympic gold medalist Monica Puig, No. 8 Svetlana Kuznetsova, No. 10 Carla Suarez, No. 11 Elina Svitolina and No. 20 Zhang Shuai.

Sixteen-year-old Destanee Aiava became the first player born in this millennium to play in the main draw of a major, but the milestone match ended in a 6-3, 7-6 (4) loss to Mona Barthel.



Associated Press

Roger Federer celebrates after defeating Jurgen Melzer in their first round match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, on Monday.

**Monday**
**At Melbourne Park**
**Melbourne, Australia**
**Purse: $37.4 million (Grand Slam)**
**Surface: Hard-Outdoor**
**Singles**
**Men**
**First Round**

Jeremy Chardy, France, def. Nicolas Almagro, Spain, 4-0, retired
Ryan Harrison, United States, def. Nicolas Mahut, France, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
Tomas Berdych (10), Czech Republic, def. Luca Vanni, Italy, 6-1, retired
Viktor Troicki (29), Serbia, def. Damir Dzumhur, Bosnia Herzegovina, 6-4, 6-4, 2-6, 6-3
Victor Estrella Burgos, Dominican Republic, def. Alaz Bedene, Britain, 7-6 (7), 7-5, 0-6, 6-3
Kei Nishikori (5), Japan, def. Andrey Kuznetsov, Russia, 5-7, 6-1, 6-4, 6-7 (6), 6-2
Alex de Minaur, Australia, def. Gerald Melzer, Austria, 5-7, 6-3, 2-6, 7-6 (2), 6-1
Bernard Tomic (27), Australia, def. Thomaz Bellucci, Brazil, 6-2, 6-1, 6-4
Mischa Zverev, Germany, def. Guillermo Garcia-Lopez, Spain, 6-3, 7-6 (5), 6-4
Sam Querrey (31), United States, def. Quentin Halys, France, 6-7 (10), 7-6 (4), 6-3, 6-4
John Isner (19), United States, def. Konstantin Kravchuk, Russia, 6-3, 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-1
Andrey Rublev, Russia, def. Yen-hsun Lu, Taiwan, 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (5), 6-3
Dusan Lajovic, Serbia, def. Stephane Robert, France, 6-0, 6-3, 6-3
Diego Schwartzman, Argentina, def. Pablo Cuevas (22), Uruguay, 6-3, 6-3, 6-0
Malek Jaziri, Tunisia, def. Go Soeda, Japan, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3
Marin Cilic (7), Croatia, def. Jerzy Janowicz, Poland, 4-6, 4-6, 6-2, 6-2, 6-3
Andy Murray (1), Britain, def. Illya Marchenko, Ukraine, 7-5, 7-6 (5), 6-2
Kirkin Khachanov, Russia, def. Adrian Mannarino, France, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (9), 6-3
Paolo Lorenzi, Italy, def. James Duckworth, Australia, 6-4, 7-6 (4), 6-7 (4), 6-4
Lukas Lacko, Slovakia, def. Albert Ramos-Vinolas (26), Spain, 4-6, 7-5, 1-6, 6-4, 6-3
Andreas Seppi, Italy, def. Paul-Henri Mathieu, France, 6-4, 7-6 (4), 6-7 (3), 7-5
Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (12), France, def. Thiago Monteiro, Brazil, 6-1, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-2
Jack Sock (23), United States, def. Pierre-Hugues Herbert, France, 6-4, 7-6 (4), 6-3
Steve Darcis, Belgium, def. Sam Groth, Australia, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2
Noah Rubin, United States, def. Bjorn Fratangelo, United States, 6-7 (4), 7-5, 3-6, 6-2, 6-2
Dudi Sela, Israel, def. Marcel Granollers, Spain, 5-7, 6-3, 6-2, 6-0
Alexander Bublik, Kazakhstan, def. Lucas Pouille (16), France, 6-0, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4
Dan Evans, Britain, def. Facundo Bagnis, Argentina, 7-6 (8), 6-3, 6-1
Steve Johnson, United States, def. Federico Delbonis, Argentina, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4
Stan Wawrinka (4), Switzerland, def. Martin Klizan, Slovakia, 4-6, 6-4, 7-5, 4-6, 6-4
Nick Kyrgios (14), Australia, def. Gastao Elias, Portugal, 6-1, 6-2, 6-2
Roger Federer (17), Switzerland, def. Jurgen Melzer, Austria, 7-5, 3-6, 6-2, 6-2

**Women**
**First Round**

Monica Puig (29), Puerto Rico, def. Patricia Maria Tig, Romania, 6-0, 6-1
Shelby Rogers, United States, def. Simona Halep (4), Romania, 6-3, 6-1
Duan Ying-Ying, China, def. Rebecca Sramkova, Slovakia, 6-3, 6-4
Mona Barthel, Germany, def. Destanee Aiava, Australia, 6-3, 7-6 (4)
Garbine Muguruza (7), Spain, def. Marina Erakovic, New Zealand, 7-5, 6-4
Samantha Crawford, United States, def. Lauren Davis, United States, 4-6, 6-3, 6-0
Vitalia Diatchenko, United States, def. Kiki Bertens (19), Netherlands, 7-5, 7-6 (5)
Julia Goerges, Germany, def. Katerina Siniakova, Czech Republic, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4
Irina-Camelia Begu (27), Romania, def. Yaroslava Shvedova, Kazakhstan, 5-7, 6-3, 6-4
Allison Riske, United States, def. Madison Brengle, United States, 7-5, 6-3
Jelena Jankovic, Serbia, def. Laura Siegemund (26), Germany, 6-1, 1-6, 6-4
Venus Williams (13), United States, def. Kateryna Kozlova, Ukraine, 7-6 (5), 7-5
Kristina Kucova, Slovakia, def. Christina McHale, United States, 6-4, 6-0
James Fourlis, Australia, def. Anna Tatishvili, United States, 6-4, 6-3
Anastasiya Sevastova (32), Latvia, def. Nao Hibino, Japan, 6-4, retired
Soriana Cirstea, Romania, def. Irina Khromacheva, Russia, 6-2, 6-1
Kristyna Plaskova, Czech Republic, def. Viktorija Golubic, Switzerland, 6-3, 2-6, 6-4
Natalia Vikhlyantseva, Russia, def. Vania King, United States, 6-3, 6-2
Pauline Parmentier, France, def. Misaki Doi, Japan, 7-5, 7-5
Zhang Shuai (20), China, def. Aleksandra Sasnovich, Belarus, 6-0, 6-3
CoCo Vandeweghe, United States, def. Roberta Vinci (15), Italy, 6-1, 7-6 (3)
Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (24), Russia, def. Evgeniya Rodina, Russia, 6-1, 7-6 (2)
Ashleigh Barty, Australia, def. Annika Beck, Germany, 6-4, 7-5
Svetlana Kuznetsova (8), Russia, def. Mariana Duque Marino, Colombia, 6-0, 6-1
Elina Svitolina (11), Ukraine, def. Galina Voskoboeva, Kazakhstan, 6-0, 6-2
Stefanie Voegele, Switzerland, def. Kurumi Nara, Japan, 2-6, 6-2, 6-3
Julia Boserup, United States, def. Francesca Schiavone, Italy, 6-2, 6-4
Carla Suarez Navarro (10), Spain, def. Jana Cepelova, Slovakia, 6-2, 6-2
Carina Witthoeft, Germany, def. Eri Hozumi, Japan, 7-5, 7-6 (6)
Peng Shuai, China, def. Dana Kasatkina (23), Russia, 6-0, 7-6 (5)
Angelique Kerber (1), Germany, def. Lesia Tsurenko, Ukraine, 6-2, 5-7, 6-2
Eugenie Bouchard, Canada, def. Louisa Chirico, United States, 6-0, 6-4

# Justin Thomas leaves Hawaii riding a big wave

By Doug Ferguson
*Associated Press*

HONOLULU — Winning never gets old, even for the young.

That's why Justin Thomas was mildly annoyed when one of the perks from his victory at the Sony Open vanished before his eyes. Fresh off his sweep of Hawaii, he looked up from his phone and said to his father, "320."

The number wasn't at all related to any of the scoring records he set at Waialae Country Club. It was the number of text messages that mysteriously got wiped out before he could even read them. It's a safe bet they all read the same way.

Thomas, all of 23, is playing some pretty good golf.

"Pretty unbelievable what he's doing right now," said Jordan Spieth, who has known Thomas since they were 13. "He's got full control of his game, full confidence, and he's executing under pressure. It's a lot of fun to see — stuff that myself and a lot of our peers have seen going back almost 10 years now."

The last two weeks — really, the last three months — everyone else has started to notice.

Thomas won the CIMB Classic in Malaysia for the second straight year. During his short break from golf, he concentrated on shoring up his accuracy off the tee and his efficiency with the wedge and the putter. He showed up in Hawaii for the new year and swept both PGA Tour events convincingly — a three-shot victory Hideki Matsuyama on Maui, a seven-shot victory over Olympic gold medalist Justin Rose on Oahu.

That led one of two questions. Who is this guy or where was this guy?

More than just a wire-to-wire victory in the Sony Open, Thomas opened the tournament with a 59, only the eighth sub-60 round in PGA Tour history. And he never really let up until he set the 36-hole scoring record, tied the 54-hole scoring record, and tapped in for birdie on his final hole to set the 72-hole scoring record.

In two weeks on two islands, he was 49 under par.

This being the Aloha State, it's fair to ask if this was hello or goodbye. Was this a two-week stretch in which Thomas stamped himself a veritable rising star? Or was it simply a player riding the kind of wave found across the island on the North Shore?

Or maybe, as Spieth suggested, it's neither.

"He's already been there," Spieth said. "He's gone through the process. He's succeeded at each level and just moved up the totem pole. When you get out to the big tour, sometimes it takes a little bit of time to win, or win in bunches."

Spieth speaks from experience.

He won in his first year, then went through a winless PGA Tour season as a sophomore. In his third season, Spieth rocketed to the top of golf by winning the Masters and U.S. Open, chasing the Grand Slam and winning the FedEx Cup to go with his five victories.

This is the third year for Thomas. He already has won three times in five starts, as many titles as anyone captured all of last year. And it's not even February, so maybe more great golf is on the horizon. The first major is still three months away.

"I wouldn't say it's a good player that's hot, and I wouldn't say it's a birth of a guy, either," Spieth said. "I would say it's just a tremendous player who's already been at that level. It just takes winning a couple of times, I think. Then they start to fall."

# Wagner leads (relatively) old guard for US figure skating

By Dave Skretta
*Associated Press*

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Ashley Wagner remembers being glued to her TV in the winter of 1998, when a sprightly young figure skater named Tara Lipinski was dazzling the judges on her way to gold at the Nagano Olympics.

Wagner was 7 years old at the time. Lipinski was just 15.

Nearly two decades later, Wagner is still trying to follow Lipinski's footsteps, albeit in much different fashion. That dainty skater who captured Wagner's imagination all those years ago became the youngest Olympic champion in history, while Wagner will head to Kansas City for the U.S. figure skating championships this week aiming to become one of the oldest next year in South Korea.

She is at the forefront of what might best be described as the antithesis of a youth movement, a push by American figure skating's old guard to finally return the U.S. to the Olympic podium.

Wagner would be 26 in Pyeongchang. Mirai Nagasu would be 24. Gracie Gold would be 23.

Not exactly young in the world of figure skating.

"I've always admired Michelle Kwan," Wagner said of the two-time Olympic medalist, who spent a decade competing at the elite level. "She clawed onto that top spot for so long, and that's something I always wanted in my career.

"I've been around for so long, I've seen athletes come and go," she continued, "and I've been able to cling to my spot because I'm so hungry to be something in this sport, and be remembered for achieving something great. Whether that's my world silver medal or an Olympic medal down the road, we'll see."

Wagner qualified for the 2014 Sochi Olympics and finished sixth in the ladies' competition, then helped the U.S. team win a bronze medal in the newly formed team event.

But along with Gold's fourth-place finish and ninth for Polina Edmunds, the Americans once more struggled to find Olympic success. The nation that produced champions such as Scott Hamilton and Brian Boitano on the men's side and Peggy Fleming and Dorothy Hamill on the women's side has not had a ladies' medalist since Sasha Cohen won silver at the 2006 Torino Games.

The drought follows 11 straight Winter Olympics with at least one ladies figure skating medal.

So perhaps it's a good thing the U.S. team could be on the experienced side in Pyeongchang. So many of the missteps in recent years have come with teams of youngsters — Edmunds had not yet turned 16 in Sochi — rather than skaters who have been through the grind.

Yes, there's something to be said for youthful exuberance in a sport where showmanship is often rewarded, but there is also a benefit to knowing how to deal with nerves on a world stage.

"Ashley has said this before, I think: We're like bottles of wine," Nagasu said, "and we just get better with age. I've really learned through figure skating there are going to be ups and downs."

# Obama celebrates World Series champion Chicago Cubs

By Darlene Superville
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama celebrated the World Series champion Chicago Cubs on Monday and spoke about the power sports has to unite people.

"Throughout our history sports has had this power to bring us together even when the country is divided," Obama said at a White House ceremony for his hometown team. "Sports has changed attitudes and culture in ways that seem subtle but that ultimately made us think differently about ourselves."

"It is a game and celebration," he said, and noted that "there's a direct line between Jackie Robinson and me standing here." Robinson, a second baseman for the Brooklyn Dodgers, broke Major League Baseball's color line to become its first black player.

The White House event came four days before Obama hands the presidency over to Donald Trump following one of the most divisive elections in recent memory.

It also follows a weekend in which civil rights icon John Lewis said he didn't consider Trump a legitimate president because of Russian meddling in the election. Trump responded on Twitter by criticizing Lewis as "all talk" and suggesting the Democratic congressman take better care of his Georgia district.

Obama has a home in Chicago, but is a longtime White Sox fan. He rooted for the Cubs after the Sox failed to reach the playoffs.

> *"Throughout our history, sports has had this power to bring us together even when the country is divided. Sports has changed attitudes and culture in ways that seem subtle but that ultimately made us think differently about ourselves."*
>
> President Barack Obama

His wife, first lady Michelle Obama, however, is a lifelong Cubs fan. She greeted Cubs players before the ceremony, which Obama noted was her first appearance at some of the roughly 50 events he has hosted for championship college and professional sports teams.

The Cubs gave Obama two baseball jerseys — home and away — with the number 44, among other gifts. Cubs first baseman Anthony Rizzo also wears the number, and Obama referred to Rizzo as "my fellow 44." Obama is the nation's 44th president.

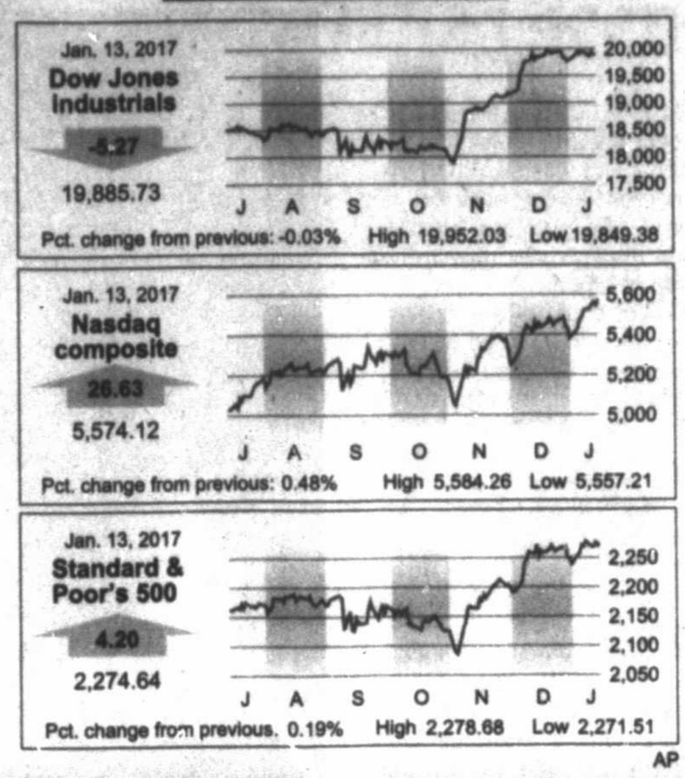
Obama said it will be hard for him to wear the jersey, but told the Cubs: "Do know that among Sox fans I am the Cubs' No. 1 fan."

Hours after the Cubs won the series in November, Obama asked the team on Twitter if it wanted to visit the White House before his term ends Friday.

The World Series title was the first for the Cubs since 1908, and they won it by defeating the Cleveland Indians in seven games.

# THE MARKET IN REVIEW

## A DAY ON WALL STREET




## NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Name Div Last Chg

A-B-C

AGNC Inv 2.16 18.84 -.03
AMAG Ph 23.00 +.50
ASML Hld 1.21e u115.30 -.53
Abraxas 2.79 + .04
AcadiaPh u17.96 +2.15
Achillion 4.20 .05
ActivsBliz .76f 38.95 .18
AdobeSy 108.53 .06
Advisory Bd 41.76 +.01
Aeropstl 70.02 + .06
Aeropostl 22.48 - .61
AlderBioph 21.35 + .52
Alexion n 36.93 .42
AlkermPh 11.75 - .07
Allergan rf 41.80 .01
Alphabet C 807.88 -1.40
Alphabet A 830.94 -1.47
Amgen 3.92 - .03
Amarin 8.17 - .01
Amazon 814.77 -1.50
AmBcrp 1.60 .01
AmAirlines 40.47 .65
AmCrDBr 20.80 .03
Amgen 4.60f 156.12 + .76
AmicusTh 5.95 + .36
AmkorTch 10.46 .03
Amyris 7.72 .02
AnalogDev .76f 72.67 -.45
AnthemInP 87.00 .01
Apollohtrv .60m 6.03 - .01
Apple Inc 2.28 119.04 .31
ApldMatl .40 u33.79 + .48
ApldOptoel u28.22-1.64
ArenaPhm 1.42 .03
AriadPhr 1.52 16.97 + .14
Ariad rf 23.68 .02
ArrayBio 10.87 + .76
Arrowhn 2.06 .11
ArtisanPh 5.42 .01
AsiaInfoLn 2.94 u10.80 + .06
Autodesk 81.32 - .67
AutoData 2.28f 103.77 - .03
AvisBudg 44.64 -1.16
Axovant 14.30 + .01
BGC Ptrs .60 9.11 - .01
BMC Stk 47.65 + .15
BP PLC 2.40e 37.66 - .10
BP Prud 1.64e 62.70 - .16
BabsonCap 1.20 18.67 - .01
BaidInc 188.73 07 - .29
BakrHu .68 60.92 -1.50
BcoBrades .73e 9.63 + .17
BiogenIdc 30f 318.23 01 + .09
BioMarin 77.45 + .06
BlackBerry 7.66 + .04
BlackRock 3.80 u377.83 + .10
Blackstone 1.52 30.96 -.15
Boeing 1.88 158.93 + .34
BookSamSA 12.65 .06
BostBeer 161.90 + .49
BostSci 1.24 23.83 - .40
BreitBurEn 1.60 17.13 + .18
Bridgstone 1.20 39.15 - .05
Broadcom 4.60 156.12 + .76
BrkfldAsst .80 39.15 - .05
BrkfldPrp .76 18.45 - .04
BrkfldRenew .44 6.16 - .11
Brookdale 15.81 .06
BrownFA s .445.64 + .03
BrownFB s .445.96 - .21
Brunswick 90.55 .95 - .56
CBL Assc 1.06f 10.97 - .16
CBS B 72.62 .32
CF Inds s 1.20333.96 - .53
CNH Ind 14 9.07 - .12
CVS Health 1.70f 81.98 -.62
CabotOilG .08 21.92 - .39
CalionPet 15.21 .29
Calpine 12.23 - .01
Calresco g .30 13.29 + .83
CdnNRs gs .92 31.43 - .03
CapOne 1.60f 88.45 - .96
CapstnTurb 1.4263.46 - .01
Caterpillar 3.08f 94.48 + .49
Cemex 29f 7.97 + .01
Cemig pf 14e 2.60 .06
CentralPac 1.07f26.42 - .02
CentryLink 2.16f25.26 + .06
Cerner 72.45 + .06
Chegg rf 5.42 .01
ChesEng .02 5.21 - .07
Chevron 4.28 116.36 + .22
Chicos .32 10.13 - .57
Cimarex .32 139.65 + .81
Cisco 1.04 14.30 .07
Citigroup .64 66.59 .83
ClayEng 2.03
CocaCola 1.40 25 40.88 - .07
ColgPalm 1.56 24 65.98 + .03
Comcast 1.10 22 72.77 +1.35
ConAgra .80 20 38.51 - .26
ConchoRes 134.76 + .37
ConocoPhil 1.00 50 59.49 + .44
CrackerB 4.60 21 157.80 - .82
CSVInvNG 3.61 - .11
CSVelIVST 55.28 - .09
CSVixSh rs 6.67 + .02
CrosTim 1.06e 14 18.56 + .24
DCP Mid 38.03 - .19
DTE 2.92 22 98.30 - .07
Datasrs rs 1.42 - .09
DevonE .24 46.41 - .05
DrGMBr rs 20.47 - .20
DrGMBl s 8.37 + .08
DrxGBull s 9.70 + .15
Disney 1.56f 19 108.06 + .53
DowChm 1.84 19 57.80 - .49
DryShs rs 1.87 + .03
EOG Resrc .67 105.39 + .02
EmpStat 1.04 23 34.09 —
Energen .08 54.12 -1.40
EngyTsfr 4.22 36.12 + .03
EnPro .84 51 67.68 + .85
EntProdPt 1.64 21 27.38 + .08
Ericsson rs .05 14 8.41 - .01
ExxonMbl 3.00 34 86.35 + .01
FMC Tech 29 35.85 - .15
Facebook 35 128.34 +1.72
FlatChrys 9.73 - .22
FordM .60a 12 12.63 + .04
FrptMcM 15.19 - .08
GATX 1.60 8 57.72 + .70
GabMulIT .94e 72.52 + .03
GameStop 1.48 6 22.73 -1.99
GAInv 1.16e 32.19 + .14
GenElec .96f 29 31.36 - .03
GtPlainEn 1.10f 16 27.35 - .11
Groupon 3.58 + .01
Halliburtn .72 54.64 - .84
HuntBncsh .32f 19 13.47 + .15
IShBrazil 1.03e 35.94 - .48
iShChinaLC .76e 36.57 + .08
iShEMkts .84e 36.66 - .03
iS Eafe 1.70e 59.59 + .22
iShR2K 1.77e 136.26 + .98
Infosys .62e 11 14.50 - .75

Name Div Last Chg

A-B-C

Microsoft 1.56f 62.70 + .09
Momo 22.03 + .47
Mondelez 1.76 44.60 - .29
MonstrBrs s 44.51 +1.40
Mylan NV 39.03 + .43
MynaMD 16.33 .04
NXP Sem 99.38 - .08
Nathlnstrm 80.31 + .33
Navient 64 16.85 + .30
NektarTh 12.93 + .11
NetApp 76 35.93 + .12
Netflix s u133.70 +4.52
Neurocrine 42 25.+ .14
NewsCpA 20 12.05 + .03
NexstarB 96 63.55 +1.30
Nvidia rf 92.22 - .01
Novavax 1.43 .02
NuanceCm 15.57 + .01
Nvidia 58f103.43 .01
Ocasrc 8.49 .08
OfficeDpt 10 + 1.63 + .04
OnSmicnd 4.71 + .04
Ophthotech 4.86 .06
OpkoHlth 3.39 + .03
Organovo 3.70 + .03
OvaScience 1.63 + .03

P-Q-R

PDL Bio 20 2.27 .02
PTC Inc 49.23 - .08
Paccar 96a 67.32 + .19
PacifCnt 44 26.20 + .30
PainASiv 17.46 + .48
Peloton 96 41.28 + .97
PettPtt 08 27.53 + .79
Paychex 1.84 57.41 + .16
Paypal 41.60 - .04
PeopUtdF 68 19.66 - .21
PhrmaEra 20.14 + .96
PortolaPh 25.14 + .19
PSOpTrCmd 17.35 .02
PwShs QQQ 1.52e u123.16 + .42
PriceTR 2.16 73.66 -.15
PrmEgy 54.00
PrUltPQ s u71.24 + .81
ProspctCap 1.00 8.63 - .04
Qiagen 28.66 + .03
Qualcom 2.12 66.88 - .76
Radiosh rf 45.46 - 1.26
Regenrn 368 16.3 + 2.79
RoseStrs s 54.66 93 - .34

S-T-U

SLM Cp 11.36 + .16
SabreCorp 52 25.14 + .18
SandersFrm 99f 94.46 +1.10
SangTher 4.40 + .45
SantaderSt 17.83 - .10
Sanyness 3.58 + .13
Seagate f 2.52 36.90 - .15
SearsHldgs 8.74 .07
SemiHcs 1.56 19.21 - .01
SilvStd g 10.07 - .11
Sunclair 72 32.30 - .80
SiriusXM .01g 4.61 + .03
SkywksSol .12 78.33 - .58
Spher3D gn 29 - .01
Splunk 56.42 + .06
Sprouts 19.92 - .56
Staples 48 9.17 .08
Starbucks s 1.00f 57.85
StlDynam .56 35.83 - .09
Stemcyte 79.66 - .13
Stemline 48.72 - .34
SunPower 7.45 - .14
Sunrun 6.25 + .08
SunTrust 1.80 54.16 - .05
Symantec 30u26.14 + .44
SynrgyPh 6.73 - .06
TMobileUS 57.15 + .01
TD Ameritr 1.20 42.86 - .12
TTM Tch 14.65 + .45
TaiwSemi 1.01e 31.43 - .13
TASER 25.23 + .96
Telenav u8.05 + .06
Tesaro u158.41 +9.43
TesiaMot 237.75 +8.16
Textmd 1.00 75.00 + .15
TractSupp 96 76.35 - .10
TripAdvis 52.92 + .04
21stCFoxA 1.20 30.03 - .22
21stCFoxB 1.20 29.25 + .17
21Vianet 7.81 - .04
Umpqua 64 18.74 + .03
UBSI 1.32 45.10 + .50
UrbanOut 27.05 + .03

V-W-X-Y-Z

VCA Inc u91.25 + .25
VanEkTCpB 1.94 79.42 .27
VanThinBd 2.79e 84.03 .06
VanThinStk 3.44e 47.52 + .14
Viewcmm 2.40 + .03
VertxPh 83.17 + .75
Viacom rfA 38.39 + .23
Vipshop 11.56 + .03
VmpelCm .04 3.97 .02
Vodafone .69e 26.53 .12
WagBoots 1.50 83.82
WebroCorp 47.69 + .54
Wendys Co .24f 13.89 + .06
WDigital 2.00 75.61 - .01
WholeFood .56f 30.68 - .16

## NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Name Div Last Chg

A-B-C

AGNC Inv 2.16 18.84 -.03
AMAG Ph 23.00 +.50
ASML Hld 1.21e u115.30 -.53
Abraxas 2.79 + .04
AcadiaPh u17.96 +2.15
Achillion 4.20 .05
ActivsBliz .76f 38.95 .18
AdobeSy 108.53 .06
Advisory Bd 41.76 +.01
Aeropstl 70.02 + .06
Aeropostl 22.48 - .61
AlderBioph 21.35 + .52
Alexion n 36.93 .42
AlkermPh 11.75 - .07
Allergan rf 41.80 .01
Alphabet C 807.88 -1.40
Alphabet A 830.94 -1.47
Amgen 3.92 - .03
Amarin 8.17 - .01
Amazon 814.77 -1.50
AmBcrp 1.60 .01
AmAirlines 40.47 .65
AmCrDBr 20.80 .03
Amgen 4.60f 156.12 + .76
AmicusTh 5.95 + .36
AmkorTch 10.46 .03
Amyris 7.72 .02
AnalogDev .76f 72.67 -.45
AnthemInP 87.00 .01
Apollohtrv .60m 6.03 - .01
Apple Inc 2.28 119.04 .31
ApldMatl .40 u33.79 + .48
ApldOptoel u28.22-1.64
ArenaPhm 1.42 .03
AriadPhr 1.52 16.97 + .14
Ariad rf 23.68 .02
ArrayBio 10.87 + .76
Arrowhn 2.06 .11
ArtisanPh 5.42 .01
AsiaInfoLn 2.94 u10.80 + .06
Autodesk 81.32 - .67
AutoData 2.28f 103.77 - .03
AvisBudg 44.64 -1.16
Axovant 14.30 + .01
BGC Ptrs .60 9.11 - .01
BMC Stk 47.65 + .15
BP PLC 2.40e 37.66 - .10
BP Prud 1.64e 62.70 - .16
BabsonCap 1.20 18.67 - .01
BaidInc 188.73 07 - .29
BakrHu .68 60.92 -1.50
BcoBrades .73e 9.63 + .17
BiogenIdc 30f 318.23 01 + .09
BioMarin 77.45 + .06
BlackBerry 7.66 + .04
BlackRock 3.80 u377.83 + .10
Blackstone 1.52 30.96 -.15
Boeing 1.88 158.93 + .34
BookSamSA 12.65 .06
BostBeer 161.90 + .49
BostSci 1.24 23.83 - .40
BreitBurEn 1.60 17.13 + .18
Bridgstone 1.20 39.15 - .05
Broadcom 4.60 156.12 + .76
BrkfldAsst .80 39.15 - .05
BrkfldPrp .76 18.45 - .04
BrkfldRenew .44 6.16 - .11
Brookdale 15.81 .06
BrownFA s .445.64 + .03
BrownFB s .445.96 - .21
Brunswick 90.55 .95 - .56
CBL Assc 1.06f 10.97 - .16
CBS B 72.62 .32
CF Inds s 1.20333.96 - .53
CNH Ind 14 9.07 - .12
CVS Health 1.70f 81.98 -.62
CabotOilG .08 21.92 - .39
CalionPet 15.21 .29
Calpine 12.23 - .01
Calresco g .30 13.29 + .83
CdnNRs gs .92 31.43 - .03
CapOne 1.60f 88.45 - .96
CapstnTurb 1.4263.46 - .01
Caterpillar 3.08f 94.48 + .49
Cemex 29f 7.97 + .01
Cemig pf 14e 2.60 .06
CentralPac 1.07f26.42 - .02
CentryLink 2.16f25.26 + .06
Cerner 72.45 + .06
Chegg rf 5.42 .01
ChesEng .02 5.21 - .07
Chevron 4.28 116.36 + .22
Chicos .32 10.13 - .57
Cimarex .32 139.65 + .81
Cisco 1.04 14.30 .07
Citigroup .64 66.59 .83
ClayEng 2.03
CocaCola 1.40 25 40.88 - .07
ColgPalm 1.56 24 65.98 + .03
Comcast 1.10 22 72.77 +1.35
ConAgra .80 20 38.51 - .26
ConchoRes 134.76 + .37
ConocoPhil 1.00 50 59.49 + .44
CrackerB 4.60 21 157.80 - .82
CSVInvNG 3.61 - .11
CSVelIVST 55.28 - .09
CSVixSh rs 6.67 + .02
CrosTim 1.06e 14 18.56 + .24
DCP Mid 38.03 - .19
DTE 2.92 22 98.30 - .07
Datasrs rs 1.42 - .09
DevonE .24 46.41 - .05
DrGMBr rs 20.47 - .20
DrGMBl s 8.37 + .08
DrxGBull s 9.70 + .15
Disney 1.56f 19 108.06 + .53
DowChm 1.84 19 57.80 - .49
DryShs rs 1.87 + .03
EOG Resrc .67 105.39 + .02
EmpStat 1.04 23 34.09 —
Energen .08 54.12 -1.40
EngyTsfr 4.22 36.12 + .03
EnPro .84 51 67.68 + .85
EntProdPt 1.64 21 27.38 + .08
Ericsson rs .05 14 8.41 - .01
ExxonMbl 3.00 34 86.35 + .01
FMC Tech 29 35.85 - .15
Facebook 35 128.34 +1.72
FlatChrys 9.73 - .22
FordM .60a 12 12.63 + .04
FrptMcM 15.19 - .08
GATX 1.60 8 57.72 + .70
GabMulIT .94e 72.52 + .03
GameStop 1.48 6 22.73 -1.99
GAInv 1.16e 32.19 + .14
GenElec .96f 29 31.36 - .03
GtPlainEn 1.10f 16 27.35 - .11
Groupon 3.58 + .01
Halliburtn .72 54.64 - .84
HuntBncsh .32f 19 13.47 + .15
IShBrazil 1.03e 35.94 - .48
iShChinaLC .76e 36.57 + .08
iShEMkts .84e 36.66 - .03
iS Eafe 1.70e 59.59 + .22
iShR2K 1.77e 136.26 + .98
Infosys .62e 11 14.50 - .75

Name Div Last Chg

Microsoft 1.56f 62.70 + .09
Momo 22.03 + .47
Mondelez 1.76 44.60 - .29
MonstrBrs s 44.51 +1.40
Mylan NV 39.03 + .43
MynaMD 16.33 .04
NXP Sem 99.38 - .08
Nathlnstrm 80.31 + .33
Navient 64 16.85 + .30
NektarTh 12.93 + .11
NetApp 76 35.93 + .12
Netflix s u133.70 +4.52
Neurocrine 42 25.+ .14
NewsCpA 20 12.05 + .03
NexstarB 96 63.55 +1.30
Nvidia rf 92.22 - .01
Novavax 1.43 .02
NuanceCm 15.57 + .01
Nvidia 58f103.43 .01
Ocasrc 8.49 .08
OfficeDpt 10 + 1.63 + .04
OnSmicnd 4.71 + .04
Ophthotech 4.86 .06
OpkoHlth 3.39 + .03
Organovo 3.70 + .03
OvaScience 1.63 + .03

P-Q-R

PDL Bio 20 2.27 .02
PTC Inc 49.23 - .08
Paccar 96a 67.32 + .19
PacifCnt 44 26.20 + .30
PainASiv 17.46 + .48
Peloton 96 41.28 + .97
PettPtt 08 27.53 + .79
Paychex 1.84 57.41 + .16
Paypal 41.60 - .04
PeopUtdF 68 19.66 - .21
PhrmaEra 20.14 + .96
PortolaPh 25.14 + .19
PSOpTrCmd 17.35 .02
PwShs QQQ 1.52e u123.16 + .42
PriceTR 2.16 73.66 -.15
PrmEgy 54.00
PrUltPQ s u71.24 + .81
ProspctCap 1.00 8.63 - .04
Qiagen 28.66 + .03
Qualcom 2.12 66.88 - .76
Radiosh rf 45.46 - 1.26
Regenrn 368 16.3 + 2.79
RoseStrs s 54.66 93 - .34

S-T-U

SLM Cp 11.36 + .16
SabreCorp 52 25.14 + .18
SandersFrm 99f 94.46 +1.10
SangTher 4.40 + .45
SantaderSt 17.83 - .10
Sanyness 3.58 + .13
Seagate f 2.52 36.90 - .15
SearsHldgs 8.74 .07
SemiHcs 1.56 19.21 - .01
SilvStd g 10.07 - .11
Sunclair 72 32.30 - .80
SiriusXM .01g 4.61 + .03
SkywksSol .12 78.33 - .58
Spher3D gn 29 - .01
Splunk 56.42 + .06
Sprouts 19.92 - .56
Staples 48 9.17 .08
Starbucks s 1.00f 57.85
StlDynam .56 35.83 - .09
Stemcyte 79.66 - .13
Stemline 48.72 - .34
SunPower 7.45 - .14
Sunrun 6.25 + .08
SunTrust 1.80 54.16 - .05
Symantec 30u26.14 + .44
SynrgyPh 6.73 - .06
TMobileUS 57.15 + .01
TD Ameritr 1.20 42.86 - .12
TTM Tch 14.65 + .45
TaiwSemi 1.01e 31.43 - .13
TASER 25.23 + .96
Telenav u8.05 + .06
Tesaro u158.41 +9.43
TesiaMot 237.75 +8.16
Textmd 1.00 75.00 + .15
TractSupp 96 76.35 - .10
TripAdvis 52.92 + .04
21stCFoxA 1.20 30.03 - .22
21stCFoxB 1.20 29.25 + .17
21Vianet 7.81 - .04
Umpqua 64 18.74 + .03
UBSI 1.32 45.10 + .50
UrbanOut 27.05 + .03

V-W-X-Y-Z

VCA Inc u91.25 + .25
VanEkTCpB 1.94 79.42 .27
VanThinBd 2.79e 84.03 .06
VanThinStk 3.44e 47.52 + .14
Viewcmm 2.40 + .03
VertxPh 83.17 + .75
Viacom rfA 38.39 + .23
Vipshop 11.56 + .03
VmpelCm .04 3.97 .02
Vodafone .69e 26.53 .12
WagBoots 1.50 83.82
WebroCorp 47.69 + .54
Wendys Co .24f 13.89 + .06
WDigital 2.00 75.61 - .01
WholeFood .56f 30.68 - .16

## MUTUAL FUNDS

Name Sell Chg

**AB Funds Adv**
GlblBd Adv 8.34 .01
Intmdn Adv 4.49 —

**AMG Managers**
Managers In 21.72 - .02
Yacktman 19.26 - .01

**AQR Funds**
MgdFutStr I 9.41 - .01
MultiStrat N r 8.79 + .01

**Akre Funds**
Focused A 25.37 - .06

**Amer Beacon Instl**
LgCpVal Inst 17.87 - .06
SmCpVal Inst 21.58 - .11

**Amer Century Inv**
AllCapGr 69.64 - .13
Equity 8.86 .01
EqIncome 9.01 .01
GrowthInv 28.75 - .07
HeritageInv 23.51 - .06
IntlDisc 12.94 - .11
NewOppty 28.61 - .08
OneChoice 2022 22.84 - .04
Ultra 30.64 - .07
ValueInv 6.98 .01

**Amerian Funds A**
AMCAPA p 27.24 - .07
BalA m p 24.39 - .04
BondA m p 12.76 .02
CapIBA m p 58.34 - .02
CapWGA m p 39.27 - .02
EupacA m p 42.64 - .05
FdInvA m p 55.52 - .15
GwthA m p 47.83 - .07
HITrA m p 13.42 .01
IncomeA m p 21.97 - .04
IntlGrIncA m p 33.44 - .11
NewPerspA m p 34.43 - .16
NwWrldA m p 58.07 - .09
SmCpWldA m p 49.37 - .08
WAMutInvA m p 41.75 - .06

**Artisan Funds**
IntlInstl 27.77 - .06
IntlVal Instl 32.93 - .07
MidCapInstl 43.74 - .08
MidCapVal Inst 24.61 - .04
SmCpInstl 43.70 - .08

**Baird Funds**
CorePlusBd Inst 10.92 .01

**Bernstein Funds**
DiversMu 14.74 .01
IntDur 14.43 .01
NYMu 14.74 .01

**BlackRock Instl**
EqtyDivI 21.62 - .06
GlobAlcI 12.46 - .01
GlobOppsI 21.39 - .04
HiYldI 7.87 .01
InflProtSecI 11.49 .01
LgCpGrI 24.97 - .06
SmCpEqI 24.97 - .06
TotRetBdI 10.93 .01

**BlackRock Instl**
EqtyDivI 21.62 - .06
GlobAlcI 12.46 - .01
GlobOppsI 21.39 - .04
HiYldI 7.87 .01
InflProtSecI 11.49 .01
LgCpGrI 24.97 - .06
SmCpEqI 24.97 - .06
TotRetBdI 10.93 .01

**Boston Partners**
LgCpValInv 19.91 - .06
SmCpValInv 18.61 - .08

**Brandywine Funds**
Brandywine 14.64 - .04

**Buffalo Funds**
SmallCap 28.49 - .17

**CGM Funds**
Focus 29.46 - .17
Mutual 37.77 - .09
Realty 30.44 - .04

**Calamos Funds A**
GrowthA p 44.26 - .06
IncGrOpA p 17.19 - .03

**Calamos Funds I**
GrowthI 45.66 - .06
IncGrOpI 17.19 - .03

**Cambiar Funds**
SmCapIns 19.48 - .08

**Cohen & Steers**
RltyShrs 84.66 - .19

**Columbia Funds A**
DivIncZ 20.57 - .04
MidCpGrA 39.31 - .08
SelComA 39.31 - .08

**Columbia Funds Z**
DivIncZ 20.57 - .04
MidCpGrZ 39.31 - .08
SelComZ 39.31 - .08

**Columbia Trust**
MidCpGrI 39.31 - .08
SelComI 39.31 - .08

**Davis Funds A**
NYVentA p 41.30 - .02

**Dbl Jun Instl**
Value 28.04 - .04

**Diamond Hill Funds**
LgCpInstl 39.15 - .06

**Dimensional Fds**
DFAIntlVal I 18.06 - .06
DFAIntlVal III 18.11 - .06
DFARelEst I 24.92 - .04
DFAUSCrEq I 30.93 - .06
DFAUSCrEq III 30.93 - .06
DFAUSLgVa I 29.25 - .06
DFAUSLgVa III 29.25 - .06
DFAUSSmVa I 27.52 - .08
DFAUSSmVa III 27.52 - .08
DFAUSTgVa I 29.74 - .06
DFAUSTgVa III 29.74 - .06
DFAWrldExUS I 16.52 - .05
DFAWrldExUS III 16.52 - .05
DFAWrldSmVa I 20.79 - .07
DFAWrldSmVa III 20.79 - .07
DFAWrldexUS III 16.52 - .05
DFAWrldexUS I 16.52 - .05

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SATISFACTION GUARANTEED!!!

The wiseman built his house on a rock
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*All Types of Roof and Roof repair • Free Estimates*
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HARTMAN ROOFING INC.
Mention this ad. and receive $300.00 off a full roofing job or $50.00 off any repair of $200.00 or more

## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE




## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE




## FUNKY WINKERBEAN



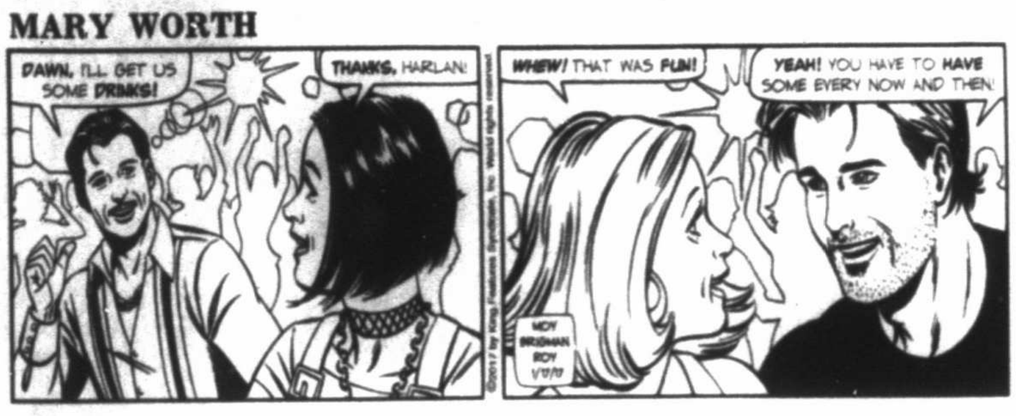

## LUANN




## BLONDIE




## MARY WORTH




## BEETLE BAILEY




## ZITS




## CLASSIC PEANUTS



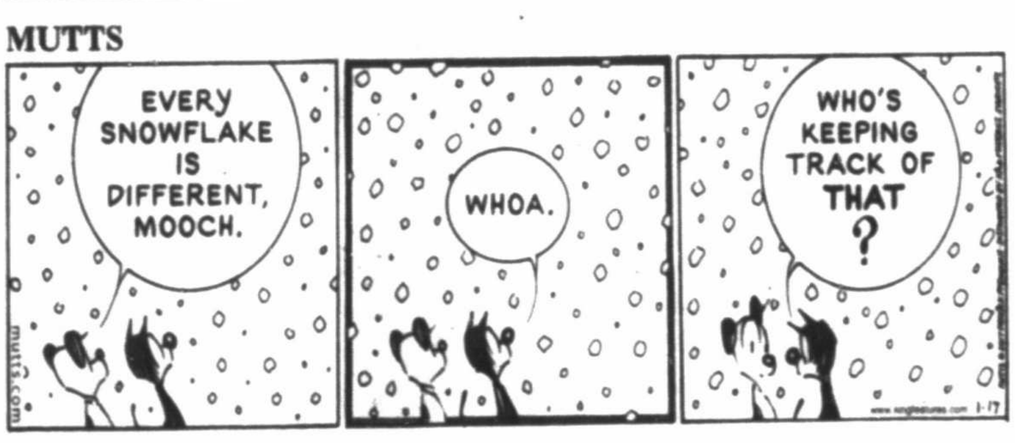

## BABY BLUES




## SHOE



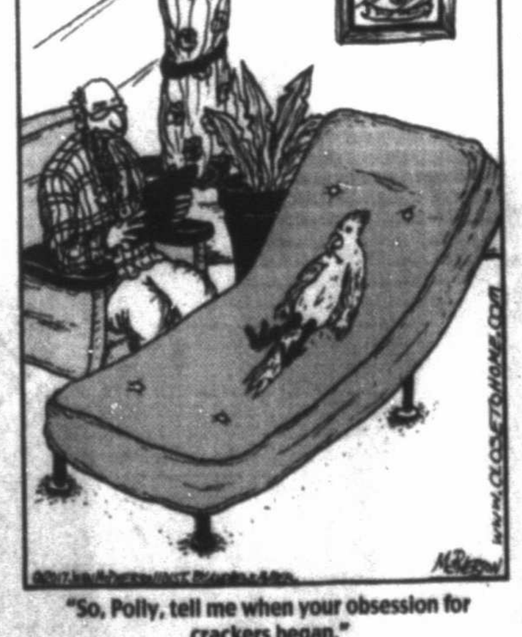

## MUTTS




## GARFIELD




## CLOSE TO HOME



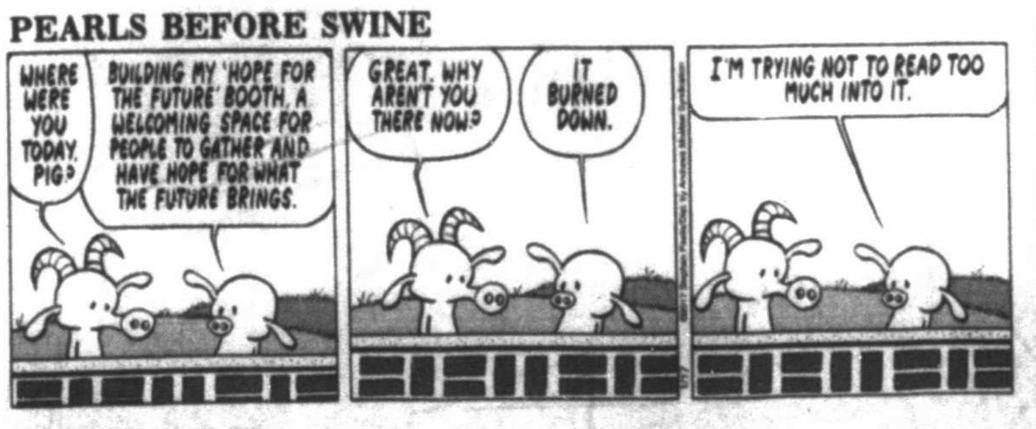

"So, Polly, tell me when your obsession for crackers began."

## DENNIS THE MENACE



"HOW OLD AM I? I'M NOT OLD AT ALL!"

## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE




## WIZARD OF ID




## LOCKHORNS



"I USED TO EAT WHEN I WAS DEPRESSED... NOW IT'S THE OTHER WAY AROUND."

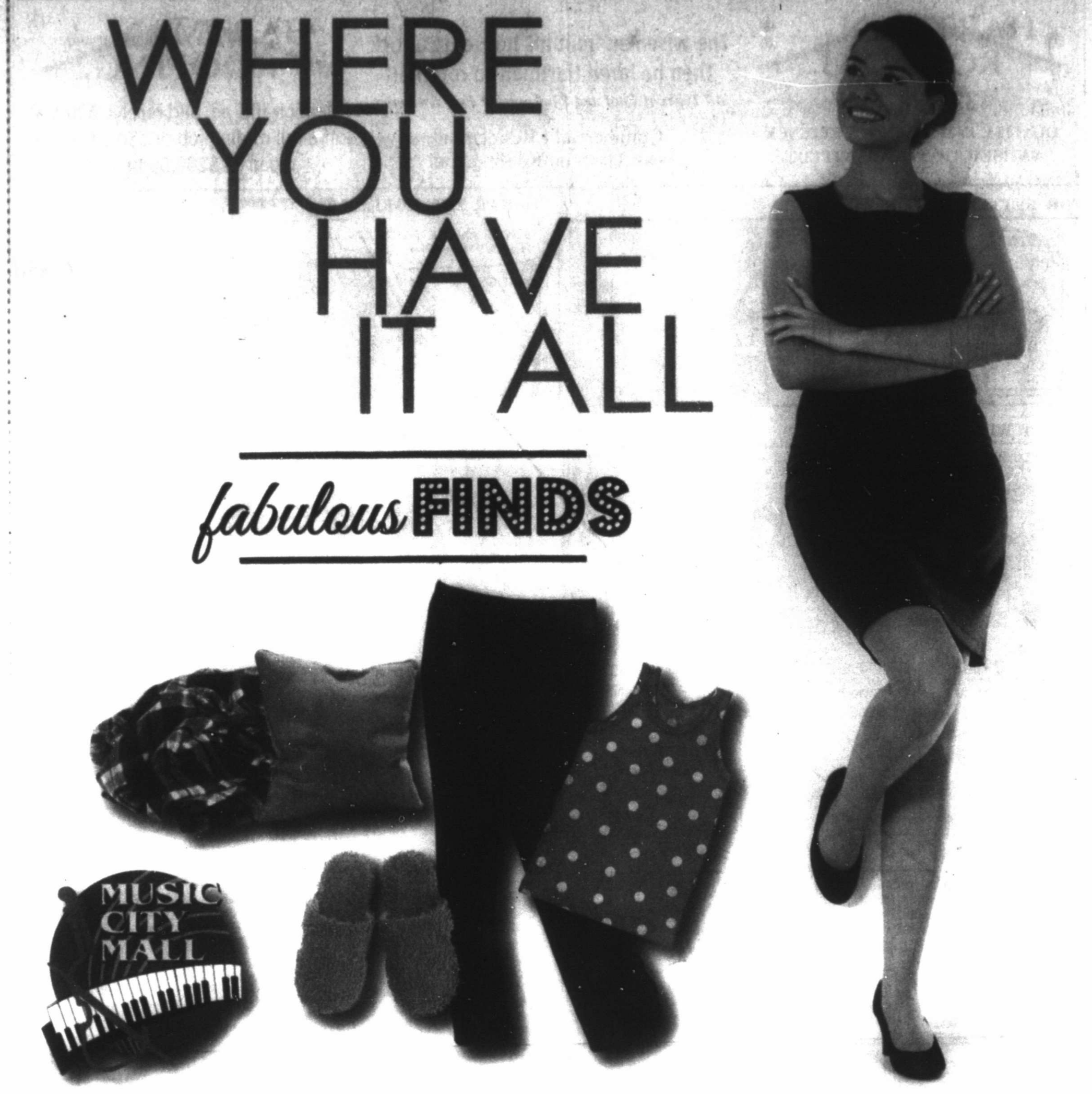
## FAMILY CIRCUS



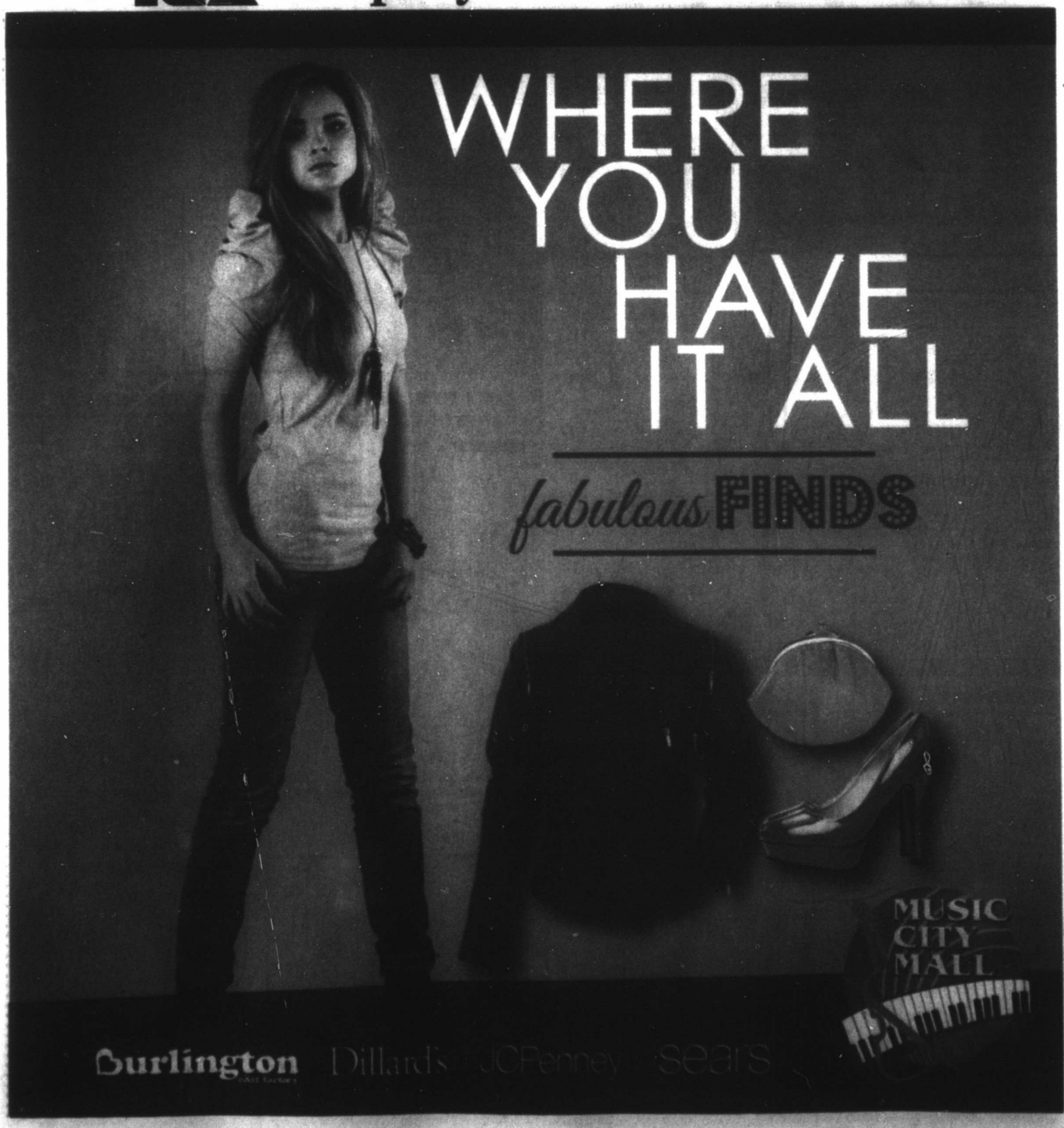
"I can't wear those to school. They look BRAND-NEW!"

## DILBERT






An ICA Company For employment opportunities: www.icajobs.net



# mrt★com/jobs



Employment ads by:

432.682.6999

432.682.6222

mrtclassifieds@mrt.com

## EDUCATION-TRAINING

**Special Needs Teacher**

Large Church seeking staff to teach one to two times a month in Sunday morning special needs program. Hours are 9 a.m. -12 p.m. with opportunity for additional hours through the week in other children's programs. Please contact Donna Fields at donnefields@firstmethodistmidland.com for more information or to apply.

## ENERGY AND UTILITIES

**All Field Positions**

Rush Wellsite Services, LLC is now hiring for all field positions. Wireline Operators, Engineers, Crane Operators, CDL Drivers, all with experience. Please submit your resume to jobs@rushwellsite.com or complete an application at our office, 3006 N County Rd 1106, Midland, TX 79706 P: 432-458-3528

**Automation Technician**

**Tanklogix** is hiring for the position of Senior Level Automation Technician. We are seeking qualified, committed professionals to join our team in the fast-growing automation industry. This position requires a minimum of 3 years oilfield experience and 2 years electrical experience. Journeyman electricians preferred. Competitive pay based upon qualifications. Great benefits and working environment. Applicants must pass a background check, drug screen, and electrical aptitude test. Applications must be picked up at 12200 W. Hwy 80 E., Odessa, TX. Applicants must provide a resume in person. Applications must be received by January 23rd, 2017 at 4:00 P.M.

**General Labor, Pit Lining, Foreman**

**Bugle Energy Services, LLC** is hiring for general labor, pit lining and a foreman with minimum of 2 years experience , spray crew with experience in spraying polyurea, (experience in bed lining spraying or auto painting acceptable) Apply in person at 5205 FM 715. Monday, Wednesday or Friday between 7 am - 5 pm or call to set up appointment at (432) 218-7839. Must be able to pass a drug test.

**Warehouse Person**

**Natural Gas Services Group** is seeking a Warehouse person. Must have experience with inventory, cycle counts, shipping and receiving. Must be able to lift 60 pounds, pass physical, drug and background check. NSGSI offers a competitive salary and benefits Send your resume to employment@ngsgi.com or call 432-262-2700.

**West Texas Mud Loggers Needed**

**Co. in business since 1953. Good benefits. Exp. Req. Send resume w/contact info. & exp. to: OFFICE@PWL-INC.COM**

## HEALTHCARE

**LVN**

**LVN -Full Time** needed for Addiction medical clinic. Early morning hours. Medication Management, TB tests, blood draws, medical orders. Paid vacations, holidays, personal days. Routine travel between Midland and Odessa. Periodic travel to Abilene/San Angelo area required. No health insurance available. Please fax resume to 800-471-8364.

**Registered Nurse**

Immediate opening for **RN,** experience preferred. FT. Excellent benefit package. Send resume with references to: **jodyclinic@gmail.com or Midland Women's Clinic, Attn: Jody Bulla, 2500 W. Illinois Ave Suite 100, Midland, TX 79701.**

## HUMAN RESOURCES

**Human Resources Manager**

Local manufacturing company seeking professional Human Resource Manager experienced in all areas of HR management & administration including hiring, terminations, benefits, workers compensation, & related functions. Other experience including HS&E, payroll, and bilingual are a plus. Contact Palmer of Texas at 432-523-5904 P.O. Box 1089 Andrews, TX. 79714

## MANAGEMENT-EXECUTIVE

**Assistant Managers**

**Panera Bread** is coming to Midland, Texas and we have immediate positions open for Assistant Managers. If you have restaurant management experience, excellent communication skills and experience managing and motivating a team, Panera Bread wants to talk to you! As an employee of Panera Bread, you'll receive competitive pay, bonus program, meal discount, medical, dental and vision benefits, paid vacation, and an opportunity for growth. Send resumes to Careers@tcgbc.com. The Cain Holding Group, LLC, a Franchisee of Panera Bread is an equal opportunity employer.

## OTHER JOBS

**Gate Attendants needed**

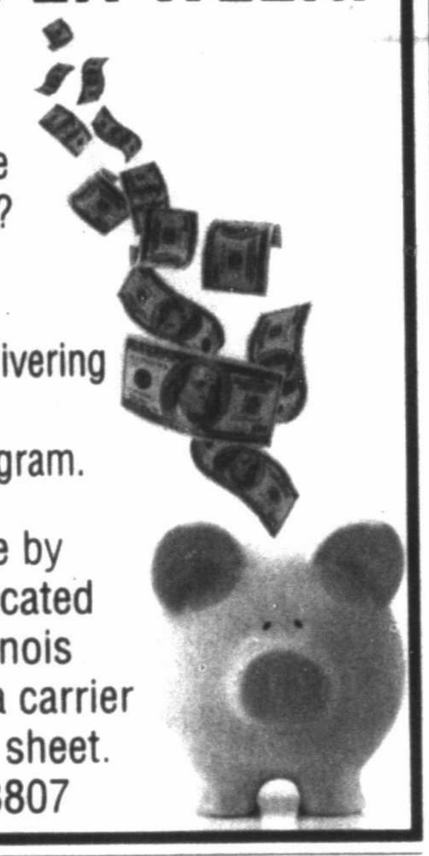
**Gate Guard Services is looking for Gate Attendants in West Texas area, must have RV or Traveling trailer and must pass background. Requirements needed: Non-Commissioned license. Please call Patty for more information @ 361-949-6992.**

GATE GUARD SERVICES, L.P.

## OTHER JOBS

**EARN UP TO $500 PER WEEK!**

Do you have a reliable car with insurance and a phone?? Become an independent contractor delivering the Midland Reporter-Telegram.



Please come by our office located at 201 E. Illinois and fill out a carrier information sheet. Linda 687-8807

**Multiple Positions Available**

Midland County has the following positions available:

* **Technical Clerk-Elections** * **Maintenance Helper** in Jail
* **Jailer** * **Senior Foreman- Road & Bridge**
* **142nd District Court Bailiff** * **Employee Relations Coordinator**

Please see our website www.co.midland.tx.us/departments/hr/pages/employment.aspx for more details, pay and applications. To be considered you must send a completed application with job reference numbers to the address indicated on the application.

**NOW HIRING EQUIPMENT OPERATORS**

Entry Level & Experienced Equipment Operators. Must have a Class A CDL License. Apply at TITAN PETROSERVICES 6100 E I-20. MIDLAND TX or submit resume online at www.titanpetroservices.com

**Veterinary Technician & a Kennel Technician**

**Full time Veterinary Technician & a Kennel Technician. Call 432-687-4118 for for more information and an interview.**

## RETAIL JOBS

**SALES ASSOCIATE**

**Wood's Boots** is currently hiring part time sales associates. No phone calls! If you are interested in wearing boots and jeans to work, and working with great customers, come see us at 4803 Andrews Highway & 812 West I-20

## SALES JOBS

**Outside Sales Rep**

**Midland Reporter-Telegram**

The Midland Reporter-Telegram is looking for someone with excellent communication skills to provide outstanding customer service to our Retail Advertising customers. Responsibilities include prospecting new clients, working closely with new and existing clients to develop multi-media advertising campaigns that provide outstanding results, tracking sales activity, and meeting/exceeding established monthly sales goals.

Qualified candidates must be a self-starter and possess excellent communication and organizational skills, be detail oriented and assertive, excel in spelling/grammar/punctuation, excel in time management, and possess a positive attitude.

We are willing to train and offer a competitive compensation and benefits package, guaranteed commission for three months, a cell phone allowance and the opportunity to advance your career in an exciting, progressive and innovative organization in one of the fastest growing markets in Texas.

If you want to join a **GREAT TEAM** and are ready to **SUCCEED**, please send a resume to:

Chad Anderson, Advertising Sales Manager 201 E. Illinois Midland, TX 79701 or **cranderson@mrt.com** No phone calls please

## SALES JOBS

**Salesperson**

**Experienced pump salesperson needed. Excellent compensation and benefit plans provided. Please submit resume by fax to 432-570-1115 or email to bobby@basinengine.com. Applications can be filled out at 1914 S. County Rd. 1083, Midland, TX 79706**

**Sales Person**

**Sales Person Wanted. Experienced in RV industry. Texas RV Superstore formally Ken's RV. Call for more info. 432-697-6447**

## SKILLED LABOR

**Field Mechanics**

**Basin Engine & Pump**

Mechanics needed for Industrial Oilfield Shop. Must be experienced working on centrifugal & positive displacement pumps. Furnish your own tools. Uniforms provided. Benefits package includes vacation, health insurance and retirement match savings. Salary depends on experience. Please submit resume by fax to 432-570-1115 or email to bobby@basinengine.com. Applications can be filled out at 1914 S. County Rd. 1083, Midland, TX 79706.

**Survey Field Hand**

**Survey Field Hand Needed. 432-934-5502**

## TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

**Class A CDL Drivers**

Purity Oilfield Services, LLC. (EOE) is now hiring Class A CDL drivers with winch and/or vac truck experience. Competitive pay and excellent benefits. Please contact 432-699-8600 for more information, submit a resume at mkiker@purityoilfieldservices.com, or stop by in person to apply at 11109 West CR 46, Midland, TX 79707

**Class A CDL Driver with Hazmat & Tanker endorsement**

Service Seal LLC has an immediate opening for a Class A CDL Driver with Hazmat & Tanker endorsement. We are a stable company that offers a **sign-on bonus**, competitive hourly pay and excellent benefits. More information regarding our benefits will be given during the interview process. This position requires at least 3 years of verifiable professional driving experience, strong computer skills along with passing the pre-employment background screening. Our Drivers have most weekends off and will not have many overnight deliveries. Please submit your resume to tammy@oilcenter.com for review and consideration or contact Rodolfo Sanchez at 432-889-6985 to complete an application in person.

**Local CDL Truck Driver Needed**

**Must be willing to drive and work in warehouse Apply at: 11524 county Rd. 128 W. Midland TX**

**Truck Pusher/Salesman**

**Truck Pusher/Salesman for a local trucking company. Must have experience, good references and ability to follow D.O.T. regulations. Please send resume' to P. O. Box 53, Midland, Texas. 79702.**

**Vacuum Truck Driver**

**Vacuum Truck Drivers needed. Midkiff Transports, Class A CDL required. Apply at 8601 FM 715, Midland, Texas.**

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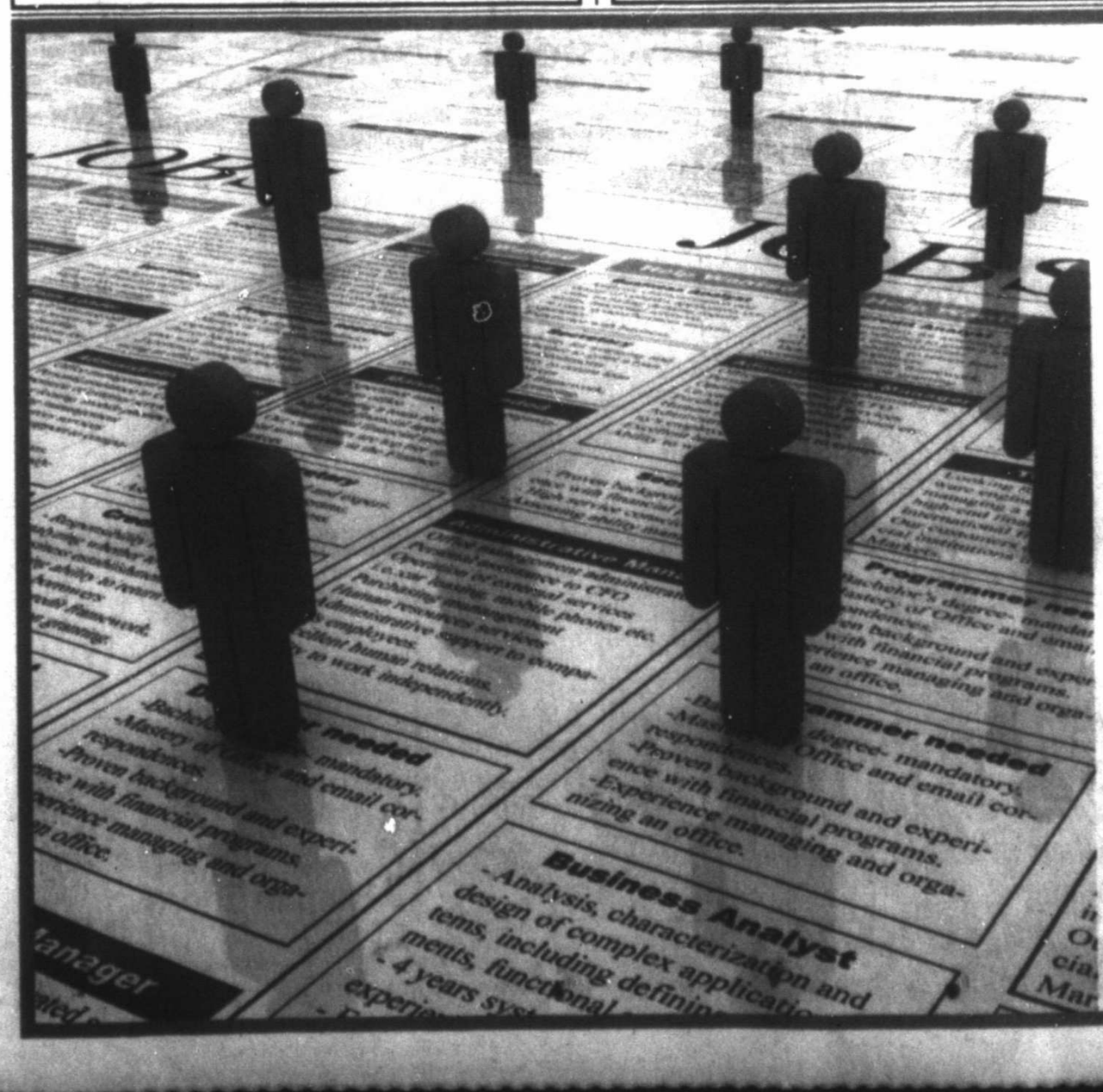

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## Do you know an outstanding Midlander?

## Nominate them for **52 Faces of Community**

The 52 Faces of Community campaign allows Chevron and the Midland Reporter-Telegram to honor Midland's unsung heroes and volunteers. We all know those who go the extra mile to help the community – help us share their stories.

**LOOKING FOR PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN:**

Health & Human Services, Veterans Affairs, Kids & Family Services, Senior Health & Support, Pets and Animal Care, Corporate Citizenship, Arts, Environment, Education, Diversity, Corporate Partnership and Religious Organizations.

To nominate a Face of Community, please visit mrt.com/52Faces.

Have questions? Email us at news@mrt.com.

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**Chevron supports Midland.**

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# mrt classifieds

432.682.6999 432.682.6222 mrtclassifieds@mrt.com

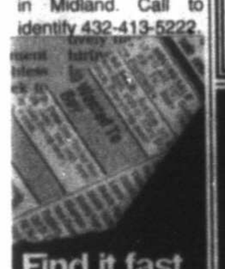
## 31 Events and Notices

### General Announcement

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

### Lost and Found

FOUND: LAB mix dog around Andrews Hwy. in Midland. Call to identify 432-413-5222.



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A fully reporting public Company is seeking a fast growing, profitable company in the oil & gas industry that is planning to "Go Public". The company must have a profitable operating history or strong future potential. This opportunity gives the Company wanting to "Go Public" a quick and relatively inexpensive method of listing their shares of stock. If interested and you qualify as an accredited investor, please contact:

Mr. Charles Barkley, Attorney-at-Law
(704) 543-4110
or
cwbarkley@gmail.com

## Autos For Sale-Lease

### Passenger Cars

2003 PORSCHE 911. CONVERTIBLE Hard-top / Soft top. Lifetime garage. 6,800 miles. $35,000. Saddle Club. Charlie 432-570-1822.

2008 BMW 750I Series Perfect condition. Beautiful black color. Asking $13,500. 432-770-7982

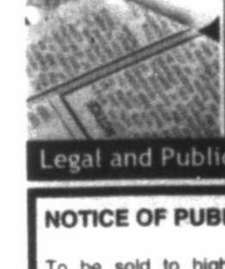
NEW 2016 Red Mercedes-Benz SLK 350 convertible. 950 mi. Paid $71,500 ask. $59,000. 325-473-2609, San Angelo, TX.



TOYOTA Sienna. 2000. 233K miles. One owner. Clean Carfax. New brakes, front end suspension, timing belt. Good tires. $2,000 OBO. Call 432-557-0519.

### Pickup Trucks

FOR SALE CHEVROLET 2304 1/2 ton pickup. $5,950. See at 1501 W. Illinois. Call 432-557-3366. Bill Jackson.



Fax Your Ad 682-6999

## Vans and Mini Vans

2013 Town & Country minivan, 72k miles, leather seats, free lifetime oil change, all upgrades, text 432-528-0395. se habla espanol.

### 4WD and SUV

2008 CHEVY Tahoe. 5.3L V-8, 79,000 miles, 4x4, 3rd row, factory tow package, new Michelin tires, new factory radio/cd, "Blue Granite" with gray cloth interior. 1 owner well maintained. Very clean. $13,500 432-312-7099

## Recreation Vehicles

2016 PREMIER Travel Trailer. 42 foot, 2 bedroom, 3 slides, fiberglass, front kitchen, 3 A/C's, washer/dryer, electric awning, all options. No smokers. No pets. In Odessa. $30,000. Must sell! 432-438-8172.

REDUCED HARLEY DAVIDSON 2005 Road King. 13K miles. $7,500 OBO. MUST SEE! 432-697-8787 leave message.

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## Merchandise

### Miscellaneous 4-Sale

Brand New Startrac stationary excercise bicycle. All the bells and whistles Asking $1000 or best offer. Please call Kelly 432-556-1045

LANDSCAPING BRICKS - 8" Windsor Stone (red) 310 bricks never been used. On pallet (extra pallet loading) $1.30 / brick (min 50) $350 for pallet. Call (432) 352-6832.

## Pets-Animals

### Other Pets

FREE TO good home 3 year old female Chocolate Lab mix Spayed. 432-214-4996.

## Real Estate Rental-Sale

### Residential Rentals

### Apartment Rent Unfurn

4407 CROCKETT Apt A, 2bed/1bath. $825 mo, $825 dep. 432-978-2074.

4407 CROCKETT Apt D, 2bed/1bath. $825 mo, $825 dep. 432-978-2074.

EFFICENDY APARTMENT call Candy 432-222-0454. 907 W. Dakota in rear. $600 monthly utilities paid appliances furnished. $200 deposit.

### Residential Rentals

### Apartment Rent Unfurn

LOWEST RENT! Spacious 1 - 2 Bedroom Apartments. 432-687-4514.

ONE BEDROOM, electric, water, cable paid. Monthly $800 or weekly. American Realty. 432-520-7577

SPECIAL - Midland ★ Come to quiet, owner in residence, Whispering Oaks. We have very nice 2 bedroom apartments available for good quality tenants at exceptionally special low rates. Some have garages, all have covered parking, paid water and basic cable. Please call 432-694-4001 ★

### House Rent Furnished

FULLY FURNISHED room for rent $300 deposit. $575 month. all bills paid. pool included. Great location 432-528-0395

### House Rent Unfurn

1-BR, -1 BATH, YARD, WASHER & DRYER. ALL BILLS PAID. $800.00 PER MO. 432-634-6445

2 BEDROOM duplex near Midland Memorial Hospital. $800 monthly bills paid. Please call 432-230-9667

3 Bed, 2 Bath, 2 car garage, built in 2001. $900 month. rent to own. 575-937-9377

4512 PARKDALE. 3 bedroom 2 bath single carport, recently remodeled. Non smoker. 600 credit score required. $25 application on anyone over 18. $1,450 month. $1,450 depos. ft. 1 year lease. 432-940-0920.

### Rooms for Rent

BOARDING ROOMS available. Furnished with TV, premium Suddenlink, Wifi, private enterance. All bills paid. 683-2614.

### Residential Sales

### Single Family Homes

HOUSE FOR sale in Forsan, TX. 3 bedroom, 1 bath, 1,500 sq. ft. $15K cash. 469-544-9503

OWNER WILL finance 811 N. Ft. Worth, 3 bedroom, 1 bath, central heat & air. Low monthly payments. $99,900 with $8,000 down. Call Annalea at 432-260-6009

## Lots and Land

### Acreage

GREAT INVESTMENT! Mitchell county 160 acres irrigated farm. Valley Center Pivot with 600 gallon per minute water well. Included in current USGS wolf camp study, released Nov 15, 2016. 325-242-0771.

### Commercial

5 ACRE fenced caliche yard, available for sub lease. $1,200 month. 432-631-6079

COMMERCIAL YARD/ BUILD TO SUIT FOR LEASE 5 ACRES, FENCED 2 AC CALICHED ELECTRIC GATE $2200/MONTH JUST EAST OF MIDLAND 432-664-7764

EAST HWY 80 SHOP. 2400 sq. ft. with office. Tim Riggan 432-664-2718

NEW CONSTRUCTION 60' x 100' Shop 1500 sq. ft. office 5 acre yard Tim Riggan 432-664-2718

## Commercial

NOW LEASING • Office/Warehouses • • Small Office Suites • • Fenced Yards Various locations Call 432-661-4057

OFFICE / RETAIL space for lease. 45' X 75' 2209 N. Big Spring. Call Matt 800-672-3911

OFFICE/ WAREHOUSE 3650 sq ft with 8 offices, conference room, kitchen/ breakfast area. Plus 1500 sq ft warehouse with HVAC. Fenced yard with a wash bay for vehicles. 1601 Idlewide. $5,300/ month. 432-638-1341.

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## Residential Rentals



LOCATION LOCATION For lease 5 bedroom, 3 living, 2 1/2 bath, 2 car garage. $2,100 month $2,100 deposit. 432-697-5920.

## CondoThomeRentUnfurn

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ALL real estate advertising herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to indicate any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, age, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitations or discrimination.

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## Residential Rentals

MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT. 3BD/2BA, $1000/mo plus $1000 deposit. 2BD/1BA $800/mo plus $800 deposit. Call 432-210-4955, 432-634-4762 until 5pm, after 5pm text only for more info.

## Lots and Land

### Acreage

21.23 AC. N. OF SAN ANGELO. LEVEL WITH NICE MESQUITE TREE COVER. DEER, HOGS, TURKEY, QUAIL & DOVE. NEAR LAKE E. V. SPENCE. $2,926 DN-$486/MO. CALL/ VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO. 800-876-9720 ranchenterprisesltd.com

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47.75 AC. W. TX. HUNTING, N OF ODMSTOCK. DEER, JAVELINA, TURKEY, QUAIL & DOVE. $2,375 DN-$394/MO CALL/ VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO. 866-286-0199 ranchenterprisesltd.com

## Commercial

READY-RANCH RR
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VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.READY-RANCH.COM

• Kent County
*11,165 ac. n. of Snyder. 4 houses, pens/roping arena, 800 ft. rstn., creek, lakes. Whitetail deer, mule deer, and quail ..... $790/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/ac
• Nolan County
*646 ac. over 1 mile SOLD creek, blinds, feeders, elevation change, oak ..... $3,550/ac
*565 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, gulls, surface water, some utilized traffic ..... $750/ac
*150 ac. big canyon, SOLD aks, cedar/mesquites, great deer, turkey, qu ..... $895/ac
• Martin County
*135 ac. Sulphur Springs SOLD deer and whitetail, hogs, varmints, metal silo ..... $1,150/ac
(432) 684-7764 or (432) 934-7777
No Realtors - Buy Direct!!!
Deal with Landowners that know the Country!!!
***Owner Financing Available***

## Mobile-Modular Homes

### Mobile Homes Rent

1407 WCR 135, 3 bedroom 2 bath, doublewide mobile home. 1/2 acre. $800 month, deposit. No pets. American Realty. 432-520-7577.

Mobile Homes for rent ranging between $650 - $800. Deposit $500. Fenced in yard. Paved roads. Ready to move in to. 432-687-6324.

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## Legal and Public Notices

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

To be sold to highest qualified bidder at public sale under carrier's liens of FERC Tariffs No. 35.4.0 & No. 51.4.0 and carrier's lien of UCC sec. 7.307(a) & 7.308:

**SECURED PARTY/CARRIER:** Centurion Pipeline L.P.

**DEBTOR/SHIPPER:** Jamex Marketing, LLC as successor in interest to Bridger Trading, LLC (the "Shipper").

**DAY, DATE, & TIME:** Mon., Jan. 30, 2017, 10:00 A.M. Central Standard Time.

**PLACE:** Office of Centurion Pipeline L.P., 5 Greenway Plaza, Suite 110, Houston, TX 77046.

**COLLATERAL:** 9,391.40 BBL of "Crude Petroleum" (as defined in said Tariffs), of the Shipper that is in the possession of the Carrier, for delivery to the winning bidder at the Carrier's terminal at Colorado City, TX or at Cushing, OK.

**AMOUNT DUE:** $3,019,058.88 plus reasonable attorneys fees and expenses of sale.

**FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT:** Michael T. Morgan, General Manager, Centurion Pipeline L.P., 5 Greenway Plaza, Suite 110, Houston, TX 77046, Tel 713-350-4980.

## SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

| | | | | | | | | |
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| 3 | 4 | | 6 | | 8 | | | |
| 1 | | 5 | | 2 | 7 | | | |
| | 9 | 7 | | | | | | |

Level: 1 2 3 4

*Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk*

SOLUTION TO MONDAY'S PUZZLE

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| 2 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 9 |
| 6 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 3 |
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| 1 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 7 |
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| 9 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 6 |

1/17/17

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PAINTING, SHEET rock, repairs, fans, electrical, plumbing, tile-floor & bath. Permian Maintenance 432-697-5417

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**J&J ROOFING**
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REYES ROOFING Free Estimates, Replace, or New Roofs, Wind & Hail damage, Insurance Claims, Help with your deductible. 432-238-4254

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Trimming, yard cleanup, mowing & maintenance. Very professional. Dependable service.
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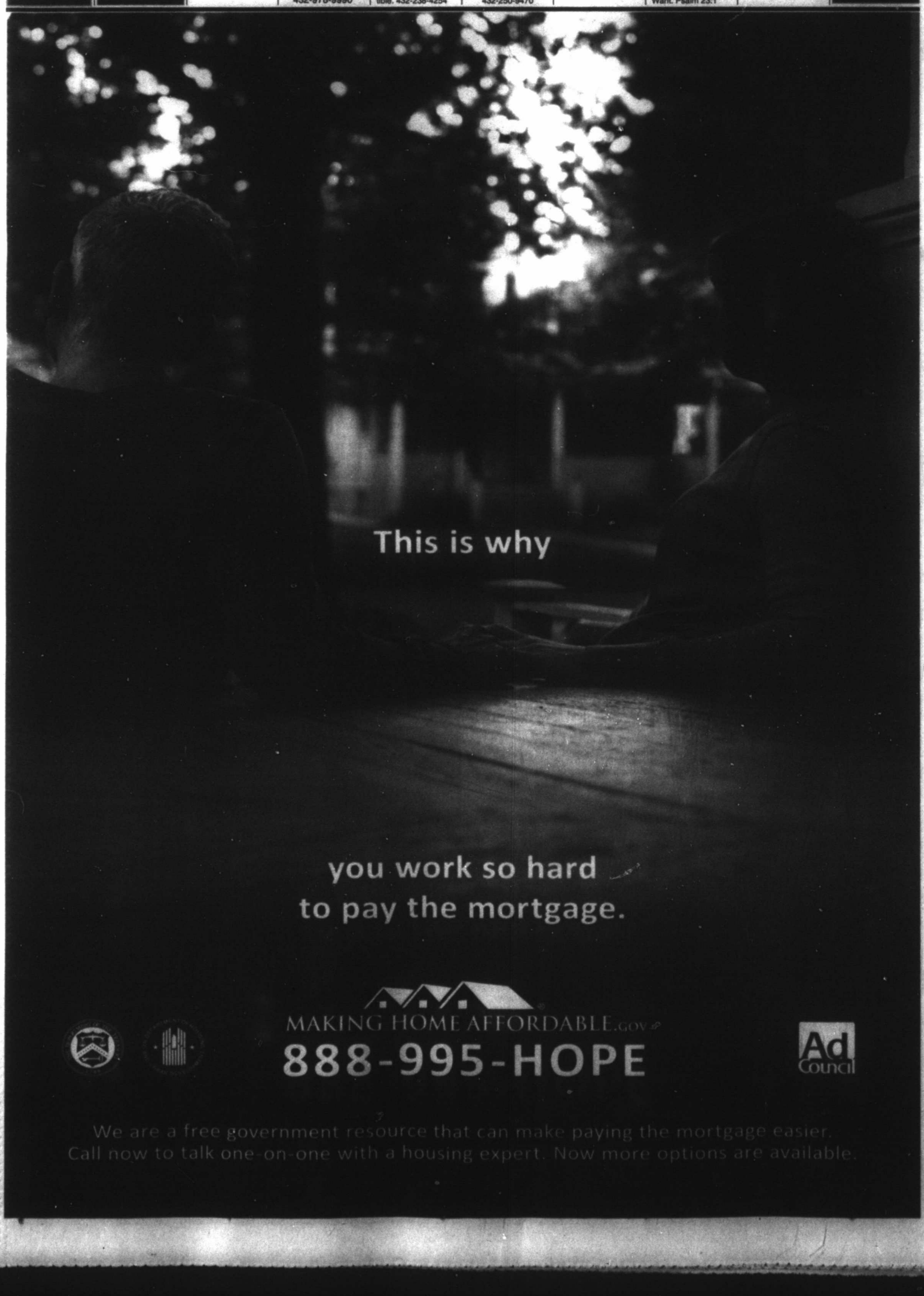

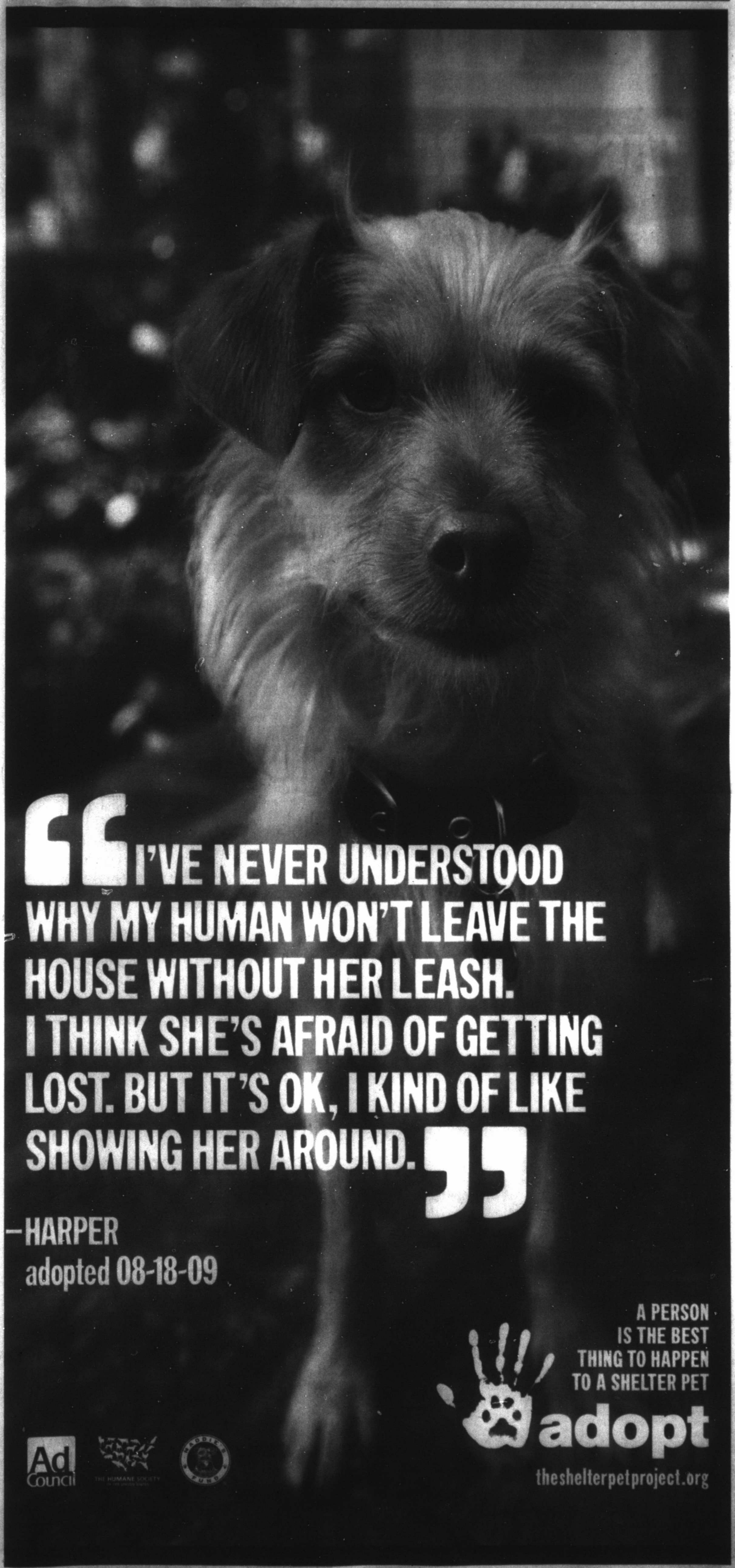
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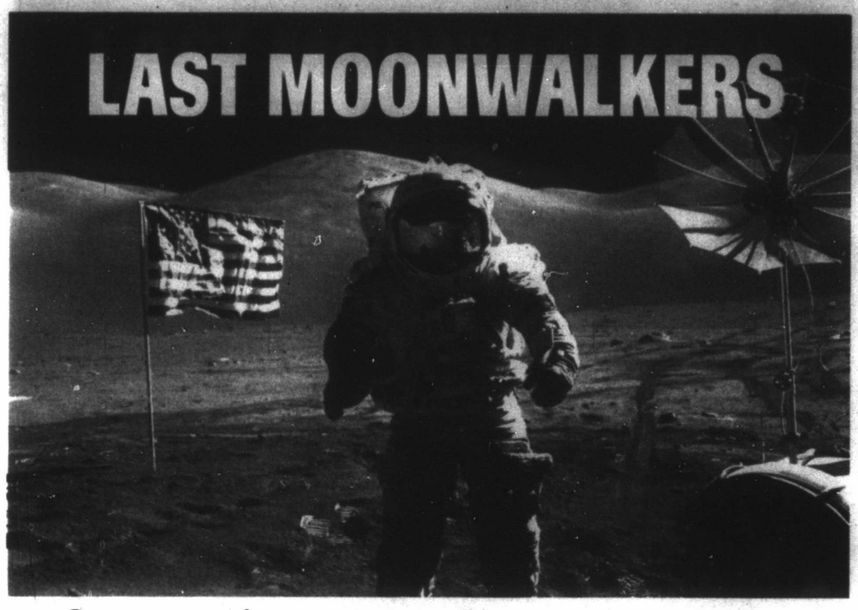


# 9 prominent early astronauts carrying on US space history

**By Seth Borenstein**
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Early U.S. space history is fading with the deaths of Gene Cernan, the last man to walk on the moon, John Glenn, the last of the Mercury 7 astronauts, and Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon. But others survive, veterans of a time when Americans were glued to their television sets to watch their heroics, from fiery Saturn V launches to ocean splashdowns.

More than half of the first 30 astronauts NASA hired have died. "There's going to come a time and it's probably going to be in the next decade or so when none of the moonwalkers are going to be left," said National Air and Space Museum associate director Roger Launius.

"As this history recedes into the background and fewer and fewer people remember it, the more mythological it becomes," he said. "The majority of the human race has been born since we've left the moon, so they don't have knowledge of it."

Here are nine U.S. pioneering astronauts who are part of living space history:

### Buzz Aldrin

The second man to walk on the moon is still active promoting space travel, especially to Mars. The 86-year-old veteran of Apollo 11 and Gemini 12 made news recently when he fell ill while visiting Antarctica to study conditions similar to Mars. The Florida resident was released from a hospital in New Zealand last month.

### Michael Collins

Collins, 86, circled the moon while Aldrin and Neil Armstrong walked on the moon during Apollo 11 in 1969, then went on to work for the U.S. State Department and become the first director of the National Air and Space Museum. Now living in Florida, Collins, who also flew on Gemini 10, makes a few public appearances; he has painted and written books.

### James Lovell

Lovell, 88, was one of NASA's most frequent early fliers, best known as the commander of the ill-fated Apollo 13 mission, which teetered on catastrophe. Their ordeal later inspired a hit movie, in which Lovell was played by Tom Hanks (the real Lovell makes a brief appearance as a ship captain). He also flew on Gemini 7, Gemini 12 and the Apollo 8 mission that circled the moon for the first time. He lives in Illinois and makes public appearances, sometimes with Aldrin.

### Fred Haise

Haise, 83, was also on that aborted Apollo 13 mission. He was scheduled to command a flight to land on the moon, but it was cancelled. He served as a test pilot for the space shuttle prototype Enterprise and worked in the aerospace industry. Like many of the others on this list, he is the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame and now lives in Texas.

### Alan Bean

Bean, 84, was the fourth man to walk on the moon in Apollo 12 and later turned from space to art, especially painting. His paintings often have a space theme. He lives in Texas.

### John Young

Young, 86, was the first person to fly in space six times, including a stint commanding the first space shuttle flight in 1981. Before that he flew two Gemini missions and on Apollo 10 and 16. As commander of Apollo 16, he walked on the moon. He later became NASA's chief astronaut and a tireless advocate of astronaut safety. He lives in Texas.

### Frank Borman

Borman, 88, commanded Apollo 8, the first flight in which humans circled the moon. It is a crew remembered today for their Christmas Eve broadcast, in which they read from Genesis and Borman signed off wishing blessings to "all of you on the good Earth" — a serene ending to the tumultuous year of 1968. He had previously flown in Gemini 7. He later became chief executive of the now-defunct Eastern Air Lines.

### Harrison "Jack" Schmitt

Schmitt, 81, was the first scientist astronaut, a geologist who got to walk on the moon on Apollo 17 and was the next to last person on the moon, getting in the lander before Cernan. He later was elected to the U.S. Senate from New Mexico. He teaches a bit at the University of Wisconsin and is a prominent scientist who rejects the mainstream view of man-made global warming.

### Tom Stafford

Stafford, 86, commanded Apollo 10, the second flight around the moon, which preceded Apollo 11's moon landing. Stafford, who also flew on two Gemini flights, later commanded the Apollo-Soyuz test program, which paved the way for U.S.-Soviet cooperation. A Florida resident, he would go in to a career in NASA management and was often consulted as an outside expert for the space agency after he retired.

# Texas Hold 'em may be the next frontier in AI

**By Carol Christian**
*Houston Chronicle*

Texas Hold 'em, the main event at the World Series of Poker, is so complicated that computers can't excel at it, or so goes the conventional wisdom.

But now comes word of two researchers who have developed an artificial intelligence with decision-making ability to rival that of humans.

Tuomas Sandholm, a computer science professor at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, and Noam Brown, a doctoral student there, created a system called Libratus that they believe can beat the world's best players at no-limit Texas Hold 'Em, according to Wired.com. The no-limit version allows any bet at any time.

Earlier this month, just before the Jan. 11 start of a match between their Libratus system and four top players at a Pittsburgh casino, Sandholm and Brown learned that another research team had already claimed the title on behalf of another artificial intelligence system known as DeepStack.

Led by Michael Bowling, the team at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta, published a paper stating that their DeepStack system had beaten some top human players. According to Wired.com, the Alberta team declined to discuss details because their paper hadn't undergone peer review yet.

The Canadian research involved "dozens of participants and 44,000 hands of poker," the team's paper stated.

An artificial intelligence that can beat the world's best players at Texas Hold 'em can prove useful in other areas, including financial markets, physical security and global politics, according to Wired.com.

*Distributed by Tribune Content Agency*

# UK to close Halley Research Station in Antarctica for winter

*Associated Press*

LONDON — British scientists have decided to close the Halley VI Research Station in Antarctica for the winter amid concerns about safety.

The British Antarctic survey said Monday that changes to the ice presents "a complex glaciological picture" that causes concern about the shelf on which the station is located in the coming months. The survey says a new crack on the floating Brunt Ice Shelf in Antarctica will force them to remove people before the Antarctic winter.

# *Some employment practices seem new, different and confusing*

**Dear PropellerHeads:** I am thinking about changing jobs and the tech companies I have been looking at talk about a lot of weird stuff … like no vacation. What's up with that?

**A:** This doesn't surprise me. As much as punching a time clock, a 12:00 p.m. lunch hour, and bonus checks handed out by a drunken partner at the holiday party are not really the norm any more, there are some employment practices that seem a little new, different and confusing to those thinking about making a move.

Start-up and tech companies tend to be on the leading edge of these types of employment trends but we are seeing some of these cultural shifts across multiple industries. Let me break down some of the biggies:

Vacation. It's not "no vacation". The companies that are flipping the script on accrued vacation and PTO buckets (Netflix, LinkedIn, Riot Games) are moving to unlimited paid time-off policies. Whaaaa??? You mean I can get paid and never come to work again? Sort-of, not really, keep dreaming (for.tn/2hHAHj4).

What these policies really do is hand time management responsibilities back to the employees, similar to the motivations that spurned flex work-place and flex scheduling policies. The key to the success of these policies is trust, and so far companies that have instituted them have found on average that abuse is rare and total time-off taken is slightly higher or similar to the accrued amounts used in the past.

Hey, some companies like Evernote and Airbnb will even pay for you to go on vacation — cnnmon.ie/2ivuRn5. Excuse me, I'll Airbnb BRB.

Performance. You mean I don't have to walk down a long hallway with sweaty palms once a year just to hear I am a "Performer" or "Solid Contributor" or "Some Other Mediocre Word For Still Employable"?

Yes, it's true many companies are moving away from an annual review process and throwing those lame performance ratings out the window. The key to the statement above is "once a year." The school of thought is performance conversations should be immediate and often. You should never be curious about how you are performing in your current role and what that means for you within the organization.

By freeing the organization of structure and adhering to standardized performance periods, companies feel like they are limiting the conversation and aren't really developing their employees, evaluating their performance effectively, or creating a way to improve performance in the long-run. Deloitte (bit.ly/18AceYm) was a leader in this movement a couple of years ago, but this concept is still radical in most work places today.

Org Chart. Wait, I won't have a boss? Whose picture am I going to use to wallpaper my dartboard?

Many companies are rethinking the traditional hierarchical structures. This is a nice overview of the main categories - bit.ly/2iBwkrX. The one you might want to take a deeper look at is in part 5 of this series, the Holacracy (bit.ly/2iX2oW6). Zappos got coverage for being the largest company to explore the realm of "no bosses" with around 1500 employees. Their thinking was that saying goodbye to job titles and traditional reporting structures would breed more meaningful employee contributions and feedback to organizational decisions.

Work Space. While we're stripping away titles, let's take away your office too. Remember a few years ago when we thought everyone wanted to work from home? Guess what, we stopped talking to each other. I mean, when was the last time you stopped at Peg's cube and chatted?

Many companies are still thinking — and rethinking — the importance of work environments. We've seen companies with luxurious campuses, catered meals, and collaborative work spaces becoming more popular in recent years. Not to say the days of working in your stretchy pants from home will ever go away completely, but companies are realizing that human interactions among their employees are driving some significant results. Which of these does your organization fit into — bit.ly/2hKcT33?

Hopefully, a deeper look into the motivations for these employment trends will help you with your job search. In the meantime, if you still need a pic for your dartboard, Peg would be a good choice. She sucks. We were all thinking it…I just said it.

*When the PropellerHeads at Data Directions aren't busy with their IT projects, they love to answer questions on business or consumer technology. Email them to questions@asktheropellerheads.com or contact us at Data Directions, Inc. 8510 Bell Creek Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23116. Visit our website at www.asktheropellerheads.com.*


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