

MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

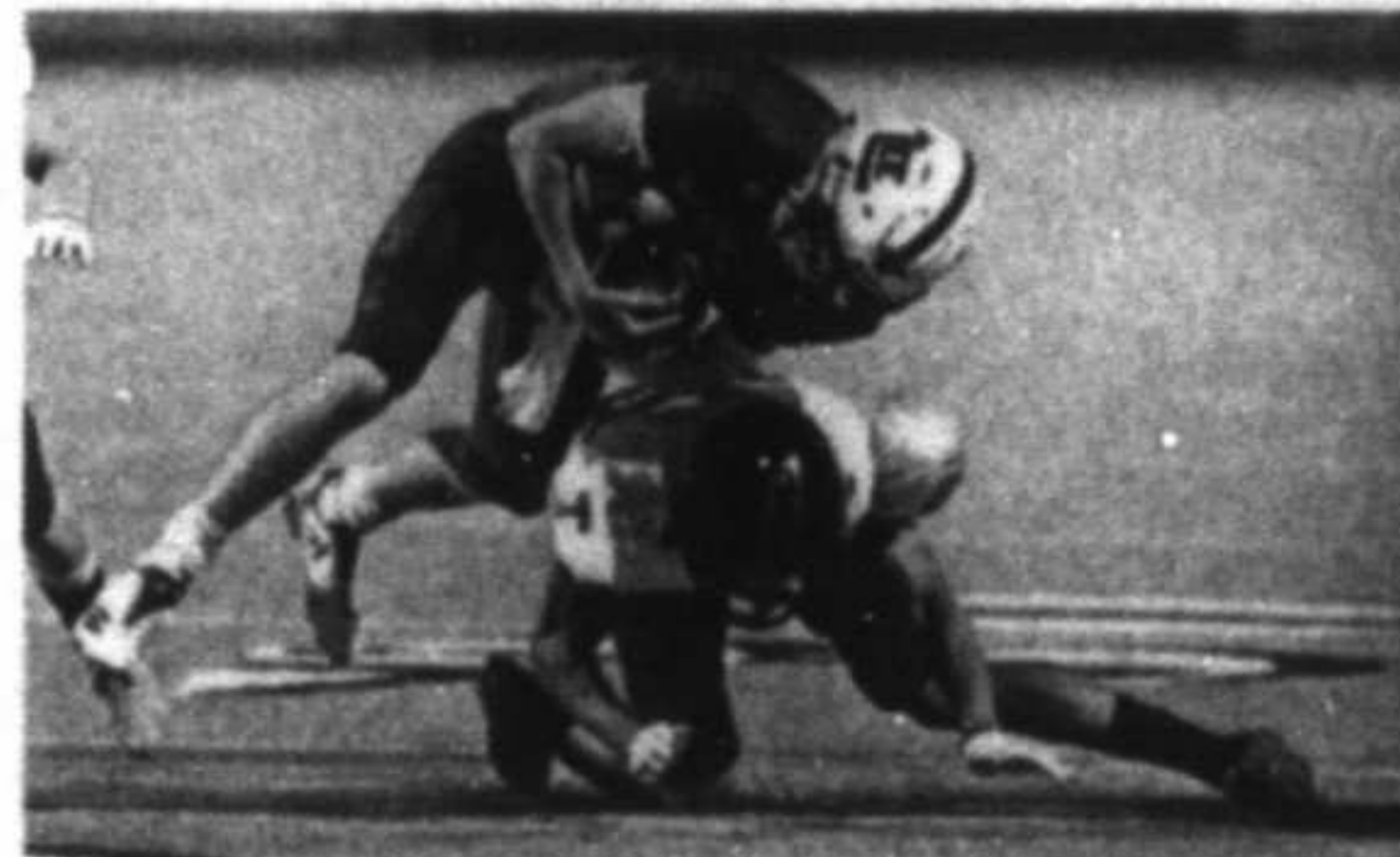
MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2017

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

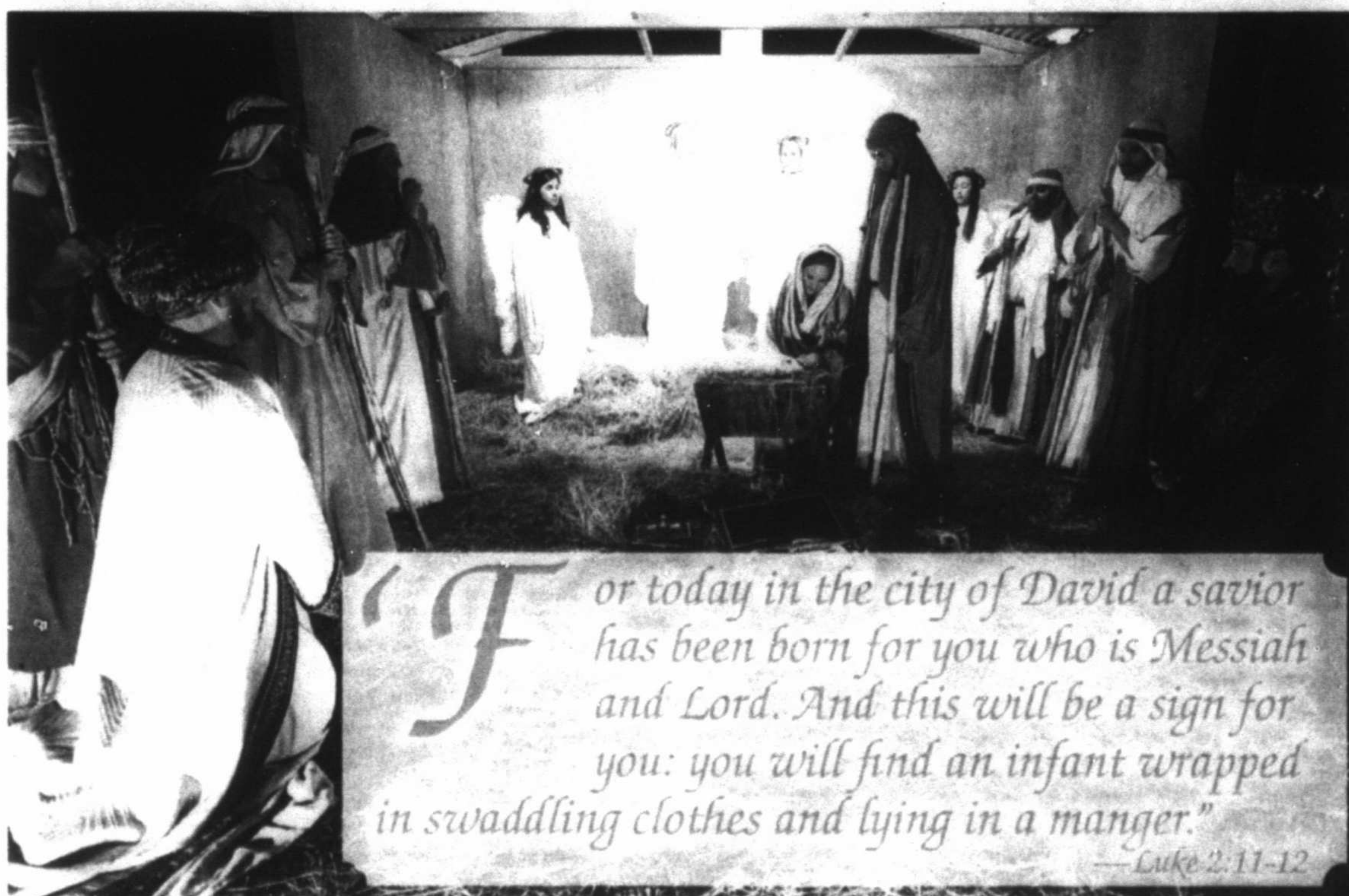
The Reporter-Telegram went to press early Christmas Eve to give our employees more time to spend with their families during the holiday.



HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

The MRT has chosen its 2017 postseason all stars.

Page 3C



"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

—Luke 2:11-12

Presented by First Baptist Church on Dec. 13.

James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

The Grinch needs a good cardiologist, and other holiday stories explained by scientists

By Susan Sruluga
The Washington Post

It was the first time in his career fixing hearts at Johns Hopkins Medicine that David Kass had been asked to diagnose a condition like this: A heart two sizes too small suddenly grows three sizes in one day.

For the residents of Whoville, yes, the transformation was wondrous. But when asked to be the Grinch's cardiologist, Kass considered what medical conditions might have caused such a change. Never before had he been asked to diagnose a storybook character — but then again, how many storybook characters have cardiac issues? "Horton has hearing problems," he noted, but you would need an ear, nose and throat specialist for that. It's all not Christmas.

And so researchers at Johns Hopkins, Georgetown University and other learned places are bringing their expertise to some of the holiday's classic tales.

Georgetown professors answered questions such as: Does Santa use big data to find the perfect gift for every child? Why doesn't Claus age?

And they even wondered — Grinch-like — whether there might be some toy-licensing violations going on in Santa's workshop.

At Johns Hopkins, they called on a theoretical particle physicist to explain the ghosts who bring Scrooge into his past and his future in Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."

Moving forward in time is easy, said physicist-physician Bah, an assistant professor at Hopkins: Just start moving close to the

speed of light.

"In principle, physics allows you to go forward in time compared to another person," he said, drawing on Albert Einstein's theory of special relativity: If one person (say, a ghost) is moving fast compared to someone else, his clock will tick slower; 10 years in the ghost's reference frame could be 30 for the person holding still.

"But we don't know how to move back in time," said Bah, whose name is inescapably Scroogian.

"You would have to have negative energy density. We don't know how to make that, or what that even means." (Indeed.)

If there were a way to tear a hole in the fabric of space — called a naked singularity ring — "if you

Please see GRINCH/2A

The Christmas Truce miracle: Soldiers put down their guns to sing carols and drink wine

By Gillian Brockell
The Washington Post

On a frosty, starlit night, a miracle took place. In 1914, a melody drifted over the darkness of No Man's Land. First "O, Holy Night," then "God Save the King."

Peeking over their trenches for what must have been the first time in weeks, British soldiers were surprised to see Christmas trees lit with candles on the parapets of the enemy's trenches.

Then a shout: "You no shoot, we no shoot!"

The Christmas Truce was a brief, spontaneous cease-fire that spread up and down the western front of World War I. It's also a symbol of the peace on Earth and goodwill toward humans so often lacking not just on the battlefield but in our everyday lives.

In that spirit, the National World War I Museum and Memorial in Kansas City has published an online gallery of hundreds of accounts of such Christmas truces — letters home from soldiers that were published in British papers.

Here, a sampling of these letters shows the variety and wonder of the Christmas Truce:

"This has been the most wonderful Christmas I have ever struck. We were in the trenches on Christmas Eve, and about 8.30 the firing was almost at a stand still. Then the Germans started shouting across to us, 'a happy Christmas' and commenced putting up lots of Christmas trees with hundreds of candles on the parapets of their trenches."

—Cpl. Leon Harris, 13th (Kensington) Battalion London Regiment

"At 2 am on Christmas morning a German band played a couple of German tunes and then 'Home, Sweet Home' very touchingly which made some fellows think a bit. After they played 'God Save The King' and we all cheered." —Pvt. H. Dixon, Royal Warwickshire Regiment

"We would sing a song or a carol first and then they would sing one and I tell you they can harmonise all right." —Pvt. G. Layton, A Company, 1st Royal Warwickshire Regiment of the British Expeditionary Force

"Half-way they were met by four Germans, who said they would not shoot on Christmas Day if we did not. They gave our fellows cigars and a bottle of wine and were given a cake and cigarettes. When they came back I went out with some more

Please see TRUCE/4A

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on social media



Did you know?

A federal court partially lifted the Trump administration's ban on refugees. Page 4A

The big number

About 100 times less bacteria exists in snow than in the same amount of bottled water. Page 2A

Word of the Day:

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

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Daily \$2, Sunday \$3



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Classified 1D | Comics 6B | Dear Abby 3B | Obituaries 2A | Puzzles 7C | TV 3B

Cathy Estlin
FINE JEWELRY

God bless you during this wonderful season when we remember the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. As the word says, "He is Lord."

Science Says: Are poinsettias poisonous? Some holiday truths

By Lindsey Tanner
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Are poinsettias really poisonous? Are snowflakes really pure as the driven snow? Does feasting really put on the pounds? Sure as sugarplums, myths and misconceptions pop up every holiday season. Here's what science says about some of them.

FLOWER POWER

Poinsettias, those showy holiday plants with red and green foliage, are not nearly as harmful as a persistent myth says. Mild rashes from touching the plants or nausea from chewing or eating the leaves may occur but they aren't deadly, for humans or their pets. Poinsettias belong to the same botanical family as rubber plants that produce latex, so some skin rashes occur in people allergic to latex. According to a Western Journal of Emergency Medicine research review, the plants' toxic reputation "stems from a single unconfirmed death of a 2-year-old in Hawaii in 1919."

Dr. Rachel Vreeman, an Indiana University pediatrician who has researched holiday myths, cited a study on more than 20,000 poison control center reports involving contact with poinsettias.

"In none of those cases were there deaths or serious injury. In fact, more than 95 percent of them required zero medical care," she said.

The anglicized name comes from Joel Poinsett, a 19th century U.S. diplomat who brought the plant back from Mexico.

THE WHITE STUFF

To form snowflakes, moisture high in the atmosphere is frozen by clinging to particles that may include dust specks or soot. Add germs to that list. University of Florida microbiologist Brent Christner has found that bacteria commonly found on plants are surprisingly abundant in "nucleators" present in snow from populated areas, barren mountain peaks and even Antarctica.

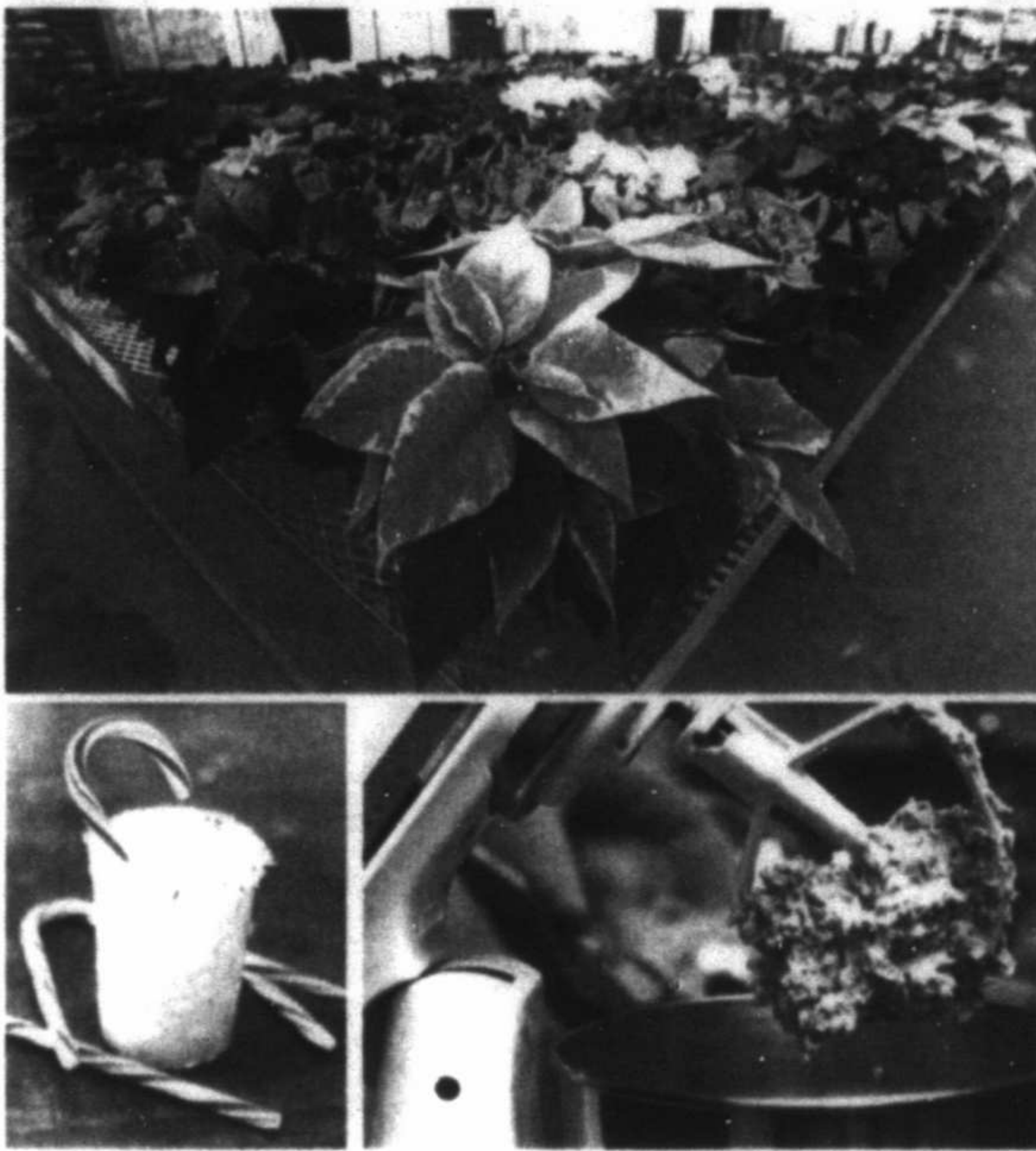
So is catching snowflakes on your tongue a bad idea? "There's a yuck factor," Christner said. "It's better than yellow snow."

He said the number of bacteria in snow would probably be about 100-fold less than in the same amount of bottled water.

"There are a lot more things to be worried about in making you sick than ingesting snowflakes," he said.

MOODY BLUES

The same things that can make holidays merry and bright — family time — can also be



AP file photos

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Hundreds of experimental poinsettias in colors of pink, red, white and even polka dot patterns, fill the University of Maryland Research Greenhouse Complex on Nov. 3, 2003 in College Park, Md. Poinsettias are not nearly as poisonous as a persistent myth says. Mild rashes from touching the plants or nausea from chewing or eating the leaves may occur but they aren't deadly, for humans or pets. Cookie dough clings to the beaters of a standing mixer. Sampling holiday cookie dough, or any raw dough, can make you sick. And recent research says it's not just because dough often contains raw eggs, which may harbor salmonella bacteria. Raw flour is another culprit. A New England Journal of Medicine study published in 2017 details a 2016 E-coli outbreak that hit dozens of people in 24 states that was linked with raw flour. Eggnog is photographed Nov. 10, 2014 in Concord, N.H. If extra shots of bourbon in your eggnog have you feeling lousy the next day, drinking more alcohol — hair of the dog — won't cure you. George Koob, director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, says, "You are in a sense self-medicating a mild withdrawal syndrome by drinking more. The problem is that's going to wear off and you're going to have an even worse hangover. It's what we would call misregulation in social psychology."

stressful. Holiday blues are a real thing for many people grieving loss or absence of a loved one, and wintertime can trigger true but transient depression in some people, a condition sometimes called seasonal affective disorder. It's linked with lack of sunlight in winter and some scientists think affected people overproduce the sleep-regulating hormone melatonin. Research suggests it affects about 6 percent of the U.S. population and rates are higher in Scandinavia. But contrary to popular belief, suicides peak in springtime, not winter. No one has figured out why.

HAIR OF THE DOG

Forget that bloody mary. If extra shots of bourbon in your eggnog have you feeling lousy the next day, drinking more alcohol — hair of the dog — won't cure you.

Here's what George Koob, director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, has to say about that:

"You are in a sense self-medicating a mild withdrawal syndrome by drinking more. The problem is that's going to wear off

and you're going to have an even worse hangover."

Alcohol is dehydrating so replenishing with lots of water or other non-alcoholic drinks can help relieve the symptoms. But experts emphasize that prevention is the healthiest cure.

Says Koob: "It all boils down to, don't drink too much."

So what about that saying, "hair of the dog?" According to an old folk remedy, a dog bite could be cured by putting the animal's hair in the wound.

DOUGHN'T EAT IT

Bakers beware: sampling holiday cookie dough, or any raw dough, can make you sick. And recent research says it's not just because dough often contains raw eggs, which may harbor salmonella bacteria. Flour is another culprit. A study published last month in the New England Journal of Medicine details a 2016 E. coli outbreak that hit dozens of people in 24 states that was linked with flour. Some patients had eaten or handled raw dough made with flour contaminated with that bacteria. Authorities recalled 10 million pounds

of flour, some of which had been sold to restaurants that allow children to play with raw dough while waiting for their meals. Baking generally kills any bacteria.

A headline on a Food and Drug Administration consumer update sums up the agency's advice: "Raw dough's a raw deal."

THE BOTTOM LINE

The truth about holiday weight gain depends on whether your Champagne glass is half empty or half full. One often-cited study says it's commonly assumed that the average American gains 5 pounds between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. But the study authors found the average was a little less than 1 pound. Other studies have found it's closer to 2 pounds, still barely enough to make your pants feel tight. An extra piece of pie or one gigantic holiday feast won't doom you, says Indiana University's Vreeman. The problem, she says, is that the extra pound or two at holiday time becomes a pattern year after year and adds up.

Obituaries



Eugene L. Conner



Helen McCullar Brown

Helen McCullar Brown, 82, of Spring and Midland, TX passed away on December 20, 2017. She was born on May 3, 1935 in Denton, TX to James Franklin McCullar and Helen Voss McCullar. She graduated from Lamar High School in Houston, TX and earned her bachelors degree in Education from the University of Texas.

Helen married Donnie E. Brown on July 4, 1958 and remained happily married for over 59 years. Helen was a teacher for 15 years teaching elementary in Austin, TX, Dickinson, TX, Thornton, CO, and Oklahoma City. In her spare time, she enjoyed mentoring and tutoring her students. After teaching, she transitioned to a medical administration career working for Gilbert Medical Center in Oklahoma City, Dr. Herbert R. Cavanaugh, Midland, TX and Dr. Raj Patel, Midland, TX.

A woman of great character and a loving heart, she spent her lifetime caring for her family and friends. She touched the life of everyone who knew her. The love of books and cooking kept her busy when she was not planning something for her loved ones. Christmas was her favorite time of the year as she would decorate her house endlessly for her family's enjoyment.

Helen is preceded in death by her parents James Franklin McCullar and Helen Voss McCullar and her beloved sister Elizabeth Ann (Libby) McCullar Barrett.

Helen is survived by her loving husband Donnie E. Brown of Midland and Spring TX, and children David E. Brown and wife, Patty of Midland, TX; Dyanne E. Bennett and husband, Doug of Spring, TX; and Derek E. Brown of Spring, TX. Loving Grandmother to Danielle Emmite and spouse Craig, Devin Brown, Chelsea Brown, Haley Brown, Jordan Brown, Ray Tatsch, and Martin Pfiffer. Proud Great Grandmother to Eland Emmite, Addison and Brynlee Tatsch and Camden Pfiffer.

Memorial Services will be held at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, December 27, 2017 at Klein Funeral Home Memorial Parks, 16131 Champion Forest Drive, Spring, TX 77379.

Eugene L. Conner

Eugene L. Conner, 91, of Midland, passed away Friday, December 22, 2017. The family will receive guests from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Tuesday, December 26, 2017 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home in Midland. Graveside services will be held at 1:00 pm, Wednesday, December 27, 2017 at Resthaven North Cemetery.

Eugene was born on May 8, 1926 to Ed and Pearl Conner in Rule, Texas. He served in the Military Service during WWII from 1945 to 1946 as a Technician Fifth Grade in the 723rd Engineer Depot Company. He then married Frances Mozelle Hamilton January 9, 1947. Eugene was a US Letter Carrier for 30 years in Midland, he loved golfing and tinkering around.

He is survived by his children, Frances Davis of Lubbock, Bobby Conner and wife Pat of Lubbock, Neil Vicker of Midland, Tommy Conner of Midland, and Nancy Jezek and husband David of Midland, nine grandchildren: Jim Ed Davis, Amy Davis, Matt Conner, Bryan Conner, Chris Vickers, Amanda Vickers, Lindsey Conner Hill, Payne Conner, and Tyler Jezek and one great-grandchild, Avary Davis.

Eugene is preceded in death by his wife, Frances Mozelle Conner, parents; Ed and Pearl Conner, his granddaughter, Laura Claire Conner, son in law, Bill Davis and his brothers, Marshall, Reginald and Don Ed Conner.

The family would like to express their gratitude to the staff and caregivers at Ashton Medical Lodge and Hospice of Midland.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Midland.

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

Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory (432) 850-5800

GRINCH

From 1A

somehow go through that ring, and come back out, then you would go back in time," he said. "But physically, there is no process that can make a naked singularity ring."

Easier option: Suspend disbelief. Read more Dickens.

Steve Farber, principal investigator at the Carnegie Institution for Science and a Johns Hopkins biology professor, took on another question: Why did Rudolph have a very shiny nose?

He knew there are creatures that light up naturally, such as sea anemones and coral that glow a brilliant red. His team routinely inserts fluorescent jellyfish-like proteins into the zebrafish he works with to make the fish glow to study cardio-

vascular disease. His theory would take a sort of one-in-a-million chance, but it goes something like this:

Say one of the reindeer is pregnant and feeling lousy while Santa's sleigh is soaring over the Holy Land. She passes out, and despite Santa Claus's desperate efforts to maneuver, the sleigh crashes into the Red Sea. The reindeer gets cut on some coral that has a protein in it that, if you ever saw it, you would even say it glows.

"The question is, how would you get that DNA into Rudolph's DNA?" Farber asked, from the pregnant reindeer's blood to the egg cell that will one day be baby Rudolph.

"There are particles related to viruses called mobile genetic elements that have the ability to cut genomes and insert sequences into the

DNA."

But why would just the nose light up? If some DNA from the coral got into a protein that's only in the nose — such as a smell receptor — that could explain it.

Still, while it would be easy to inject the DNA into an egg cell in a lab, it's a little hard to imagine that transfer happening in nature.

Harder than imagining a jolly fat man flying a sleigh around the world in one night? For some, yes.

When Kass, a cardiologist whose research into heart failure has led to discoveries that have helped many people, was asked if the university's public-relations team could videotape him evaluating the Grinch, he said, "I'll do it, but I have to put on a fake Austrian accent and wear my glasses like Chuck Schumer."

He didn't let them slide down his nose, as the Democratic U.S. senator from New York often does, but he was able to come up with a novel explanation. Kass has evaluated many diseased hearts — small and large. If a heart grew as rapidly as the Grinch's, it struck Kass as highly unlikely that the Grinch would be cheerful and active, lifting his sled, handing out presents and whatnot.

Kass drew on research that had interested him, in Science, in which a molecular

biologist at the University of Colorado at Boulder studied how a Burmese python's heart grows dramatically after a very large meal, such as a rabbit.

Then, he turned elsewhere in the literature. Just before the rapid expansion of his heart, the Grinch had stolen Who pudding, roast beast and everything down to the very last can of Who hash.

It was obvious: The Grinch must be a snake.

He is very green, but ... "He does have legs," Kass acknowledged. "But Dr.

Seuss put legs and fur on all sorts of things," including plants. "To me, that's not a defining feature."

And in the end, if his diagnosis ("Snake") is correct, his medical advice would be easy. "Just don't eat so much at once."

More specifically, "Avoid eating something where someone would look at it and not be able to figure out how you ate it all. It's probably generally decent advice, whether you're a snake or not. It may describe a lot of us after Christmas dinner."

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Anne Frank and seven others remained in hiding for 2 years in the "Secret Annex", a small apartment behind her father's business in Amsterdam.
Anne Frank is on YouTube. She was captured on film while leaning out of her window to get a good look at a wedding.

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WORD OF THE DAY



Rhetorical

[ri-tawr-i-kuh l, -tor-]

adjective

1. used for, belonging to, or concerned with mere style or effect.



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LEFT: Members of Midland High Legend Carollers sing Christmas hymns Dec. 2 at Wadley Barron Park for the annual City of Midland Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony. RIGHT: Crowds gather the Christmas tree lighting.

TODAY IN MIDLAND

Merry Christmas

Many people in the United States celebrate Christmas Day on Dec. 25. The day celebrates Jesus Christ's birth. It is often combined with customs from pre-Christian winter celebrations. Many people erect Christmas trees, decorate their homes, visit family or friends and exchange gifts. The Bible does not give a precise date for the birth of Jesus. It is also unclear when December 25 became associated with the birth of Jesus, although it may have been around two hundred years after his birth. In the early centuries of Christianity, the anniversary of the birth of Jesus was not a cause for celebrations. The idea of turning this day into a celebration started in the early Middle Ages in Europe.

During Reformation and up until the middle of the 1800s, Christmas was often not celebrated because partying

and merry making was seen as unchristian. From about 1840, celebrating Christmas became more widespread. December 25 was declared a federal holiday in the United States in 1870. Since then Christmas Day has become a steadily more important holiday.

timeanddate.com

Christmas Day

■ Christmas services, 8 and 10:30 a.m., 5 p.m.: Spanish service, 12:30 and 7 p.m. at St. Stephen's Catholic Church, 4601 Neely Ave. ststephens-midland.com.

■ Christmas Mass, 9 a.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, 1301 E. Garden Lane.

■ Holy Eucharist Service, 10 a.m. at Christ Church Anglican, 5501 N. Midkiff Road. ccanglican.com.

■ Christmas Day services: Rite II 10 a.m., Healing Service 5:15 p.m. at

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity, 1412 W. Illinois Ave. holytrinity.org.
■ Christmas Mass, 10 a.m. at St. Ann's Catholic Church, 1906 W. Texas Ave. stannsparrish.us.

Christmas Day weather history

Average high: 57
Average low: 30
Warmest: 78 degrees in 1955
Coldest: 7 degrees in 1983
Most precipitation: 0.53 of an inch in 1939
Most snow: 1.7 inches in 1939
Last year's weather: High, 72; low, 34

Today in History

Today is Monday, Dec. 25, the 359th day of 2017. There are six days left in the year. This is Christmas Day.
Today's highlight:
On Dec. 25, 1776, Gen. George Washington and his troops crossed

the Delaware River for a surprise attack against Hessian forces at Trenton, New Jersey, during the American Revolutionary War.

On this date:
In A.D. 336, the first known commemoration of Christmas on Dec. 25 took place in Rome.

In 1818, "Silent Night (Stille Nacht)" was publicly performed for the first time during the Christmas Midnight Mass at the Church of St. Nikolaus in Oberndorf, Austria.

In 1991, Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev went on television to announce his resignation as the eighth and final leader of a communist superpower that had already gone out of existence.

Today's birthdays: Singer Jimmy Buffett is 71. Country singer Barbara Mandrell is 69. Actress Sissy Spacek is 68. Former White House advisor Karl Rove is 67. Singer Annie Lennox is 63.

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Weather

Sunday's temperatures

High: 54
Low: 40
Normal high: 57
Normal low: 30

Dec. 24's records

Record high: 82, set in 1955
Record Low: 6, set in 1983

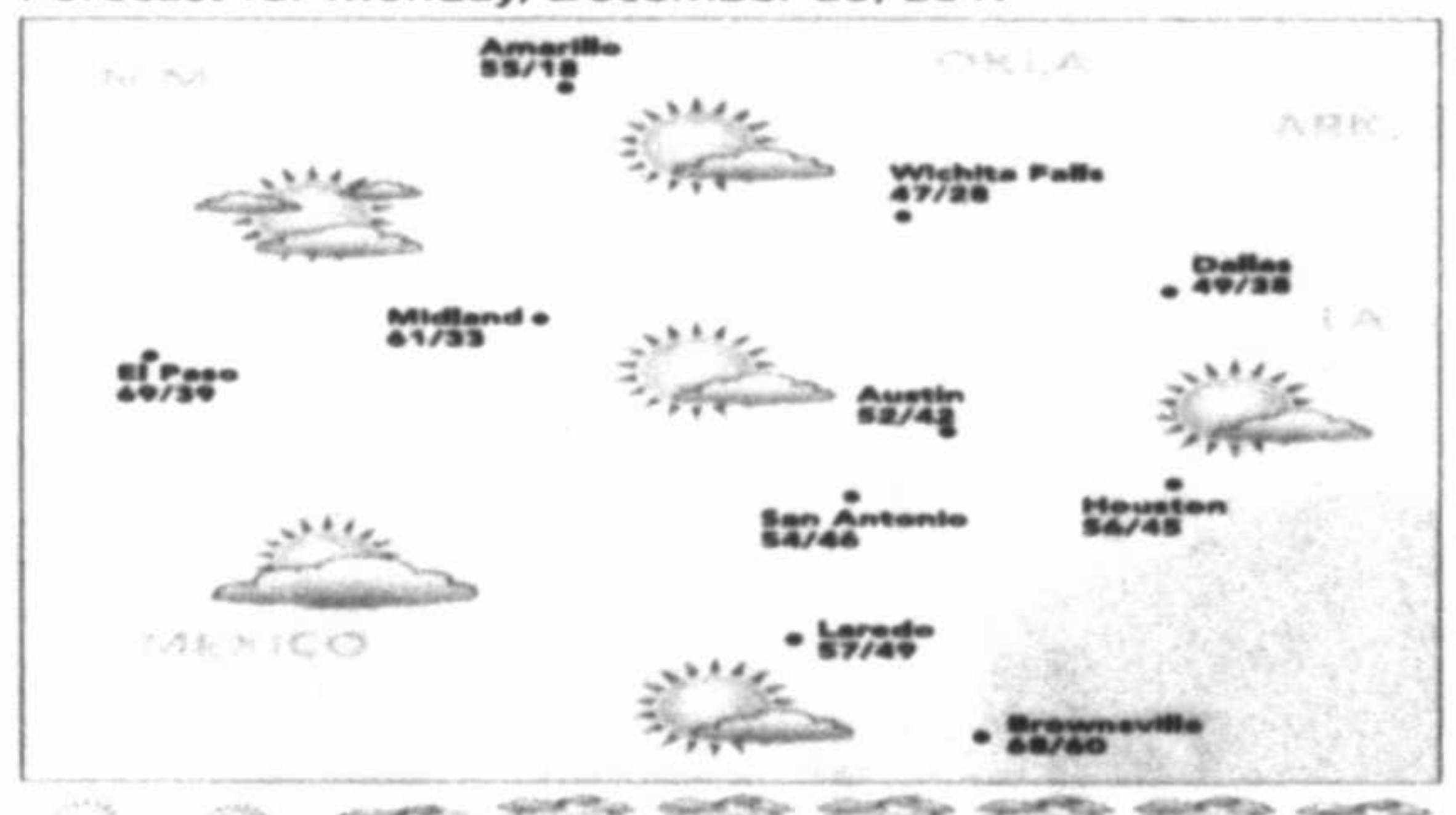
Precipitation

Saturday: 0.00 in.
Sunday: 0.00 in.
Month total: 0.39 in.
Year total: 17.73 in.
Normal total (year to date): 14.48 in.

Winds

Wind speed: 14 mph
Gust speed: 31 mph
Highest gust speed: 38 mph

Forecast for Monday, December 25, 2017



Dec. 25 forecast

High: 58
Low: 36
Conditions: Mostly sunny during the day/partly

cloudy at night

Winds: 5-15 mph during the day and night
Chance of rain: None

Sunrise

7:47 a.m.

Sunset

5:51 p.m.

Source: National Weather Service

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

A baby born today has a Sun in Capricorn and a Moon in Pisces if born before 7:20 p.m. (ET). Afterward, the Moon will be in Aries.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for

Monday, Dec. 25, 2017

This year you often have mixed feelings about what needs to happen. At times, you are overly serious, yet at other times you are able to make excellent decisions in a snap. People trust you and your decision-making skills, and with this trust lies a lot of responsibility. If you are single, you are likely to meet someone special. You might surprise yourself with how ready you are for a commitment. If you are attached, the two of you finally are able to fulfill a mutual long-term desire. Both of you will broaden your horizons and share your experiences with your loved ones. ARIES has a totally different style than you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ You are determined to facilitate others' enjoyment of the day. You recognize the true meaning of Christmas, and you'll make the most of your experiences. Someone you care about might push you away, as he or she can't deal with your upbeat spirit! Tonight: Start the cleanup.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Be more direct and forthright with someone you respect. Share some holiday cheer, and try to brighten this person's day. You might have a difficult time letting this person know how much you value him

or her. An element of confusion surrounds a get-together.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Pressure builds, partially because a key person in your life can't seem to figure out what he or she wants. You might need to bypass this individual when it comes to making plans. Reach out to a loved one at a distance. Tonight: Be more available, as a friend or two might drop by.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ When it feels appropriate, make calls to others. Listen to their news. By reaching out, you'll make the distance seem less irksome. Go out of your way to find out what is going on with a loved one who seems down. Not everyone enjoys the holidays. Tonight: You call the shots.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ A loved one makes a point of wanting to share more one-on-one time with you. Clarify what is important to you, especially if it involves spending some quality time with this person in the near future. Tonight: Break past an obvious restriction, and stay on top of your schedule.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ One-on-one relating becomes more rewarding as the day goes on. People around you have some strong feelings, which probably need to be aired. You'll wonder what it would be best to do in the long run. Ask for help in making a decision. Tonight: Out with a favorite person.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You won't hesitate to pitch in and do what is needed. Whether it is helping a child play with his or her new toys or listening to an older relative reminisce, you are there for others. Later in the afternoon, you will want some personal time to yourself. Tonight: Unwind at home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Dedicate the morning to helping a child open his or her gifts. A friend tends to prioritize life differently from how you do. Listen to this person's suggestions, and understand that he or she tends to speak from a position of experience and knowledge. Tonight: Write thank-you notes.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You might be preparing to make some changes in the near future, but you have to wait for the right timing. Remain focused on your friends and family. Your efforts make a big difference. Postpone any financial decisions, especially if it involves your finances. Tonight: Make it easy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Sometimes you misdirect your energy. If you are single, you could be considering forming a stronger connection to someone. You tend to favor more conventional arrangements. Return calls to those at a distance before late afternoon. Tonight: Relax in your most preferred way.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Be careful, as you are likely to encounter a dilemma that could involve someone else's feelings. You might realize that you have forgotten someone this holiday season who could be significant to your well-being. Find a way to compensate for this slip-up. Tonight: Hang out.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Use the daylight

hours to the max, because that is when you feel on top of your game. Others tend to be responsive to your efforts. Listen to your intuition when making a decision regarding a meeting time and place. Ask questions, if need be. Tonight: You are wherever the action is.

BORN TODAY

Actor Humphrey Bogart (1899), Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (1971), musician Jimmy Buffett (1946)

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Trump sends Christmas greetings to US troops abroad

By Darlene Superville
Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. — President Donald Trump opened his first Christmas Eve in office by offering season's greetings to U.S. troops stationed around the world and applauding the sacrifices their families make when their loved ones are away.

"Today and every day, we're incredibly thankful for you and for your families," Trump said from his Florida estate, where he is spending the holidays with his family. "Your families have been tremendous. Always underappreciated, the military families. The greatest people on Earth."

Trump spoke briefly by video hook-up on Sunday to members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard stationed in Qatar, Kuwait and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and patrolling the Strait of Hormuz in the Middle East.

Vice President Mike Pence rallied U.S. troops stationed in Afghanistan during a surprise visit last week.

Trump complimented each branch of the armed forces. He said the Army's "Iron Brigade" combat team in Kuwait is performing a "vital mission" by partnering with the Iraqi, Kuwaiti, Saudi Arabian and Jordanian armies, and providing force protection in Syria and Iraq.



President Donald Trump gestures during a Christmas Eve video teleconference with members of the military at his Mar-a-Lago estate Sunday in Palm Beach, Fla.

He said a Kuwait-based, Marine air-ground task force has provided more than 4,000 flight hours of close air support in the campaign against the Islamic State group, and he thanked sailors aboard the USS Sampson for defending "high-value assets" in the Strait of Hormuz.

Trump also singled out the Air Force's 69th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron in Qatar for engaging more than 700 IS and Taliban targets in five separate countries and winning two trophies in an Air Force bomb competition. He called winning both an "amazing achievement."

But he seemed to reserve the most praise for the Coast Guard, which impressed the president with its rescue operations during a devastating hurricane season in Florida, Texas, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

"You've done such an incredible job in Texas and Florida and Puerto Rico," Trump said. "Many Republicans are very happy but, I have to tell you, the people of Florida, Texas, Puerto Rico and lots of other states are even more happy. What a job you've done ... saved thousands and thousands of lives."

Puerto Ricans, however, may question the president's upbeat assessment

of their state of mind.

Power generation on the U.S. territory is at 65 percent of normal, with nine of Puerto Rico's 78 municipalities still completely in the dark more than three months after Hurricane Maria walloped the island. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has estimated power will not be fully restored across Puerto Rico until May. More than 200,000 homes were damaged and more than 30,000 people have lost their jobs, sparking an exodus of more than 200,000 Puerto Ricans to Florida alone.

In closing, Trump offered thanks to those who are away from their families to "defend all of our families, our freedoms and our pride."

"Every American heart is thankful to you and we're asking God to watch over you and to watch over your families," he said, before he asked journalists to leave the room so he could begin taking questions from the service members.

Trump planned to join first lady Melania Trump later Sunday to answer telephone calls from kids seeking updates on Santa Claus' whereabouts from the NORAD Tracks Santa program. The North American Aerospace Defense Command has tracked Santa's flight for more than 60 years.

TRUCE

From 1A

of our fellows and we were met by about 30 Germans, who seemed to be very nice fellows. I got one of them to write his name and address on a postcard as a souvenir. All through the night we sang carols to them and they sang to us and one played 'God Save the King' on a mouth organ." — Rifleman C.H. Brazier, Queen's Westminsters of Bishops Stortford

"We soon came up to them. About 30 could speak English. One fellow wanted a letter posted to his sweetheart in London." — Gunner Masterton

"Between the trenches there were a lot of dead Germans whom we helped to bury. In one place where the trenches are only 25 yards apart we could see dead Germans half-buried, their legs and gloved hands sticking out of the ground. The trenches in this position are so close that they are called 'The Death Trap', as hundreds have been killed there." — A junior officer

"On Christmas Day we were out of the trenches along with the Germans, some of whom had a song and dance, while two of our platoons had a game of football. It was surprising to see the German soldiers — some appeared old, others were boys, and others wore glasses ... A number of our fellows have got addresses from the Germans and are going to try and meet one another after the war." — Pvt. Farnden, Rifle Brigade

"On our right was a regiment of Prussian Guards and on our left was a Saxon regiment. On Christmas morning some of our fellows shouted across to them saying that if they would not fire our chaps would meet them half-way between the trenches and spend Christmas as friends. They consented to do so. Our chaps at once went out and when in the open Prussians fired on our men killing two and wounding several more. The Saxons, who behaved like gentlemen, threatened the Prussians if they did the same trick again. Well, during Christmas Day our fellows and the Saxons fixed up a table between the two

trenches and they spent a happy time together, and exchanged souvenirs and presented one another with little keepsakes." — A British soldier

"One of our men was given a bottle of wine in which to drink the King's health. The regiment actually had a football match with the Germans who beat them 3-2." — A British officer

"You said I should probably hardly know it was Christmas Day, but far from it; we had a most extraordinary day and quite different from others ... Lots of English and Germans met between the two lines and had talks ... there were bicycle races on bikes without tyres found in the ruins of the house." — A British officer

"A hundred yards or so in the rear of our trenches there were houses that had been shelled. These were explored with some of the regulars and we found old bicycles, top-hats, straw hats, umbrellas etc. We dressed ourselves up in these and went over to the Germans. It seemed so comical to see fellows walking about in top-hats and with umbrellas up. Some rode the bicycles backwards. We had some fine sport and made the Germans laugh." — Brazier

"I daresay you will be surprised at me writing a letter on such paper as this, but you will be more surprised when I tell you that it contained cake given to one of our men by a German officer on Christmas Day, and that I was given some of it ... We were able to bury our dead, some of whom had been lying there for six weeks or more. We are still on speaking terms with them, so that we have not fired a shot at them up to now (Dec. 29), neither have they, so that the snipers on each side have had a rest." — Pvt. Alfred Smith, 1st Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment

"Really you would hardly have thought we were at war. Here we were, enemy talking to enemy. They like ourselves with mothers, with sweethearts, with wives waiting to welcome us home again. And to think within a few hours we shall be firing at each other again." — Masterton

Judge partially lifts Trump administration ban on refugees

By Martha Bellisle
Associated Press

SEATTLE — A federal judge in Seattle on Saturday partially lifted a Trump administration ban on certain refugees after two groups argued that the policy prevented people from some mostly Muslim countries from reuniting with family living legally in the United States.

U.S. District Judge James Robert heard arguments Thursday in lawsuits from the American Civil Liberties Union and Jewish Family Service, which say the ban causes irreparable harm and puts some people at risk. Government lawyers argued that the ban is needed to protect national security.

Robert ordered the federal government to process certain refugee applications. He said his order applies to people "with a bona fide relationship to a person or entity within the United States."

President Donald Trump restarted the refugee program in October "with enhanced vetting capabilities."

The day before his executive order, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, Acting Homeland Security Secretary Elaine Duke and Direc-

tor of National Intelligence Daniel Coats sent a memo to Trump saying certain refugees must be banned unless additional security measures are implemented.

It applies to the spouses and minor children of refugees who have already settled in the U.S. and suspends the refugee program for people coming from 11 countries, nine of which are mostly Muslim.

In his decision, Robert wrote that "former officials detailed concretely how the Agency Memo will harm the United States' national security and foreign policy interests."

Robert said his order restores refugee procedures in programs to what they were before the memo and noted that this already includes very thorough vetting of individuals.

In a statement, Department of Justice spokeswoman Lauren Ehrsam said: "We disagree with the Court's ruling and are currently evaluating the next steps."

The ACLU argued the memo provided no evidence for why additional security was needed and didn't specify a timeframe for implementing the changes. The groups say the process for imposing the policy violated a federal law.

August Flentje, a Justice

Department attorney, told the judge that the ban is temporary and "is a reasonable and appropriate way for agency heads to tackle gaps" in the screening process.

The lawsuits from the two groups were consolidated and represent refugees who have been blocked from entering the country.

The ACLU represents a Somali man living in Washington state who is trying to bring his family to the U.S. They have gone through extensive vetting, have passed security and medical clearances, and just need travel papers, but those were denied after the ban.

Lisa Nowlin, staff attorney for the ACLU of Washington, said in a statement they were happy for their client — "who has not yet had the opportunity to celebrate a single birthday with his younger son in person — will soon have the opportunity to hold his children, hug his wife in the very near future, and be together again as a family for the first time in four years."

Two other refugees included in the Jewish Family Service lawsuit are former Iraqi interpreters for the U.S. Army whose lives are at risk because of their service.

Another is a transgender woman in Egypt "living in such extremely dangerous

circumstances that the U.S. government itself had expedited her case until the ban came down," said Mariko Hirose, a lawyer with the Jewish Family Service case.

Yet another is a single woman in Iraq, Hirose said. Her husband divorced her after she was kidnapped and raped by militants because she worked with an American company.

Her family is in the U.S. but she's stranded by the ban, Hirose said.



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

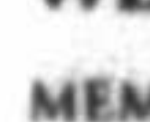
11:00 P.M. Choral Christmas Eucharist Preceded by Carols with combined Choirs & Brass at 10:30 P.M.

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OPINION

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Monday, December 25, 2017 | Page 6A

Handel's 'Messiah' lets us sing of greater things

■ It is a Christian masterpiece known by everyone, a soaring work of genius that never loses its ability to astonish and inspire

It is surely possible to be somewhere in the United States in the Christmas season without ready access to a performance of Handel's "Messiah," perhaps in the middle of Denali National Park or the Mojave Desert.

The work is ubiquitous and deserves every bit of its popularity. It is a Christian masterpiece known by everyone, a soaring work of genius that never loses its ability to astonish and inspire, whether at a performance of the New York Philharmonic or at a local church singalong.

After hearing it performed on Christmas Day in 1843, Ralph Waldo Emerson described a common reaction, "I walked in the bright paths of sound, and liked it best when the long continuance of a chorus had made the ear insensible to music, made it as if there was none; then I was quite solitary and at ease in the melodious uproar."

In his new book, "Messiah: The Composition and Afterlife of Handel's Master-

RICH LOWRY
King Features Syndicate



piece," Jonathan Keates traces the history of the work.

A native German who lived in London, G.F. Handel was extraordinarily prolific, composing roughly 40 operas and 30 oratorios. His towering status isn't in question. Beethoven, born nearly a hundred years later, deemed him "the master of us all."

Although the "Messiah" is invariably called "Handel's Messiah," it was a collaboration. The librettist Charles Jennens, a devout Christian, provided the composer with a "scriptural collection," the Biblical quotations that make up the text.

Jennens wrote a friend that he hoped Handel "will lay out his whole genius and skill upon it, that the composition may excel all his former compositions, as the subject excels every other subject. The

subject is Messiah."

He needn't have worried. Handel completed a draft score in three weeks in the summer of 1741. The legend says that while composing the famous "Hallelujah" chorus, he had a vision of "the great God himself." There is no doubt that artist and subject matter came together in one of the most inspired episodes in the history of Western creativity.

An oratorio shares some characteristics of opera, but there is no acting. Handel was an innovator, writing English-language oratorios and giving the chorus a bigger role. Typically, leading characters anchored a dramatic plot. The drama in "Messiah" was the Christian story itself, the birth, passion and resurrection of Christ told in scripture.

The work premiered in Dublin, at a performance so crowded that the ladies were urged to come without hoops in their skirts. A correspondent rendered a verdict that has stood up: "The Sublime, the Grand and the Tender, adapted to the most elevated, majestic and moving Words, conspired to transport and charm the ravished Heart and Ear."

It took years for the "Messiah" truly to find its audience, though. Back in London,

some wondered whether a theater was the appropriate venue for such elevated material. As one querulous writer put it, "An Oratorio either is an Act of Religion, or it is not; if it is, I ask if the Playhouse is a fit Temple to perform it in." (Everyone is a critic.)

Of course, the greatness of the Messiah won out. Handel was buried at Westminster Abbey a national hero. A statue depicts him writing the "Messiah" aria, "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth." By the 19th century, the work was a staple in Britain and the U.S. (associated with Christmas, even though Handel had it performed at Easter).

"It consistently manages to transcend the limits of religious and confessional dogma," Jonathan Keates writes. "Its emotional range, the ways in which it embraces the multiplicity of existence, the directness of its engagement with our longing, our fears, our sorrows, our ecstasy and exaltation, give the whole achievement an incomparable universality."

On the title page of his "Messiah" word book, Charles Jennens quoted Virgil, "majora canamus," or let us sing of greater things. The immortality of Handel's "Messiah" assures that we always will.

OPINION EXTRA

The mythical 'war on Christmas' drives us apart

Merry Christmas! Isn't it great to be able to share those words freely again, after the long, dark years when we could only blink them to one another in Morse code or pass them furtively on slips of torn fast-food napkins, lest jackbooted thugs of the deep state kick down our doors and drag us to the nearest FEMA concentration camp?

What can I say but, Thank you, President Donald Trump. Resisting our right to speak the phrase openly is yet another campaign promise on which you have bravely delivered. As you with grand pauses informed the Values Voter Summit in October: "Guess what? We're ... saying 'Merry ... Christmas' ... again!" Please.

The so-called war on Christmas has been a staple of conservative media for years, the Fox News version of Hermey the Elf and Yukon Cornelius. Like the bare-breasted women in his tabloid newspapers, it's proof that Rupert Murdoch will stop at nothing to gin up a crowd — unless it involves spending money on actual newsgathering. The drama of big government trying to steal Christmas (Ayn Rand meets Dr. Seuss) never fails to stir the blood of elderly libertarians.

In fairness, maybe people haven't been saying "Merry Christmas" inside Fox News headquarters. Given all the sexual harassment alleged to go on there, it doesn't sound like a very joyful place. But in the actual world, I've never noticed a shortage of merries, Christmases or the two of them together. Think of "The Christmas Song," which surely is playing somewhere in America every moment of every day from Thanksgiving to the end of December. And every time Nat King Cole comes to the last line, there they are: "Although it's been said many times, many ways: Merry Christmas to you!"

Not even bleeped. Then there's the figgy pudding song: "We wish you a merry Christmas, we wish you a merry Christmas ..."

The Judy Garland song: "Have yourself a merry little Christmas ..."

The Jose Feliciano song: "I wanna wish you a merry Christmas from the bottom of my heart."

Even the song about bells where the choir can scarcely keep up with all the "merry, merry, merry, merry Christmas."

Year in and year out, we hear the words at shopping malls, grocery stores, gas stations and restaurants. I don't know how the president has missed it. Do the rich cosmopolitans of Mar-a-Lago prefer "Joyeux Noel"?

Christmas ought to be something nobody exploits to drive us apart. It's such an all-American celebration: inclusive, optimistic, mongrel and forgiving — the epitome of too-muchness and puppylike enthusiasm. The English writer Charles Dickens may be, as Hollywood insists this year, "The Man Who Invented Christmas."

But Americans took the day and made it a season, then stretched the season clear across autumn. We deck not just halls but entire houses in dancing lights with synchronized soundtracks. We dress our cars in reindeer antlers and our families in matching holiday pajamas. Have we made Christmas a wee bit vulgar? Only in the original sense of the word. America's Christmas is something common, that is, available to all.

Which is how it should be, for the Christmas story is about erasing divisions and distinctions and borders and walls. A Jewish baby is born in Palestine in abject poverty and hailed as a king. An unwed teenager becomes the ideal mother, and her baffled boyfriend the model of manhood. Angels from heaven choose for their audience a scrappy band of shepherders with dirty hands and the stink of work upon them. And relentless foreigners, lacking proper papers, pursue a beacon of liberty, traveling through the night with a light from above.

You may recognize those last words as a snippet from Irving Berlin, the Russian boy who wrote "God Bless America," the Jewish songwriter who dreamed a "White Christmas." So very American. Mel Tormé, co-creator of "The Christmas Song," with its roasting chestnuts and nipping frost, was the son of Russian Jewish immigrants; another Jewish artist, Robert May, came up with the story of a little reindeer with a bright, red nose.

Our Christmas comes from everywhere. From a parish priest in a German village ("Silent Night"); from a Puerto Rican virtuoso, blind at birth ("Feliz Navidad"); from a glamorous New Yorker whose genome connects to Africa and Ireland and Venezuela ("All I Want for Christmas Is You"). Frank Capra, son of Sicily, convinces us annually that "It's A Wonderful Life." Animator Bill Melendez, from Mexico's Sonora, gathers the Peanuts gang around their scrawny tree.

I could go on, but you get the idea. A spirit of togetherness and equality is essential to America's Christmas and rarely more needed than now. Words don't matter: Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, even Good Festivus, if you prefer. And God bless us, every one.

— David Von Drehle
The Washington Post



Merry Christmas to one and all

■ "Merry Christmas" is a phrase full of good wishes and one that proceeds from at least some sense of joy and hope in this world

JAY AMBROSE
Tribune News Service



Somehow, it's there. It peaks through, it squeezes through, its real meaning still touching the hearts of many, conveying love, hope and charity. I am talking about Christmas and the wonder of it next door to the misuse of it, as in Black Friday. That's when the gift buying erupts with mobs too often brawling over bargains in shopping centers, fists being thrown and guns being shot.

Imagine that — two shootings really did happen this year — but instead of talking about gun control let's talk about emotional control, about people getting to the best within them. Surely some in those shopping centers forgave whatever rudeness came their way, figured kindness more important than maybe saving a few dollars and happily, sincerely said "Merry Christmas!" to their compatriots.

Here is a phrase full of good wishes and one that proceeds from at least some sense of joy and hope in this world. The words may be politically incorrect, but would it really be a huge offense to any sensible person not sharing one's faith to hear so innocent and well-meaning an expression? Of course, there are those who belittle it, such as a New Yorker satirist saying its use is required by President Donald Trump's Compulsory Acknowledgement of Christ Act.

To be fair, Trump has gone a bit far in his own remarks about the phrase, but one could as easily write a satire noting the fact that Kim Jong Un has banned anything even slightly resembling a Christmas celebration in North Korea. Then, for laughs, one could add that he may move to the United States and run as president on a platform of removing Nativity scenes not just from public areas, but from private areas, including churches. The polls aren't high now, but ...

It is in fact the case, of course, that Nativity scenes had to have their day in court to make it allowable to display them on government property, though only if accompanied by non-Christian re-

ligious symbols. There are schools in the country that do not even allow the word "Christmas" to make an appearance this time of year. And the Pew Research Center tells us that fewer than a majority of Americans now celebrate Christmas as a religious holiday, but as a cultural holiday. What is more, relatively few Americans give a darn.

All of this fits snugly with other studies showing a sharp decline of religion overall in an America increasingly more secular. You see it in such facts as these: Just 20 percent of households attend church regularly; those with no religious affiliation is 22 percent today, compared to 4 percent in 1992; clergy are hard to come by, and millennials, our future, are the least religious Americans of all.

We happen to live in an age when religion is widely denigrated even though it helps us cohere as a moral society. For instance, a higher percentage of regular church-goers give to charities (including non-religious charities) in higher amounts than the non-religious. Varied studies, and not just a few, show the highly religious are happier, healthier and live longer than the non-religious, though all of this comes in a distant second to the spiritual experience of God in one's life.

The good news, at least from my perspective, is that the vast majority of Americans do believe in God and that 90 percent do celebrate Christmas. They do it in a variety of ways, but for a great many it is dear, sweet family time of a kind that the great 19th century English writer Charles Dickens helped institute in the way the day is now observed. Spirits are obviously lifted. The Christ story still resonates in the minds and souls of millions. Violent consumerism does not come first with everyone. We can sleep in heavenly peace.

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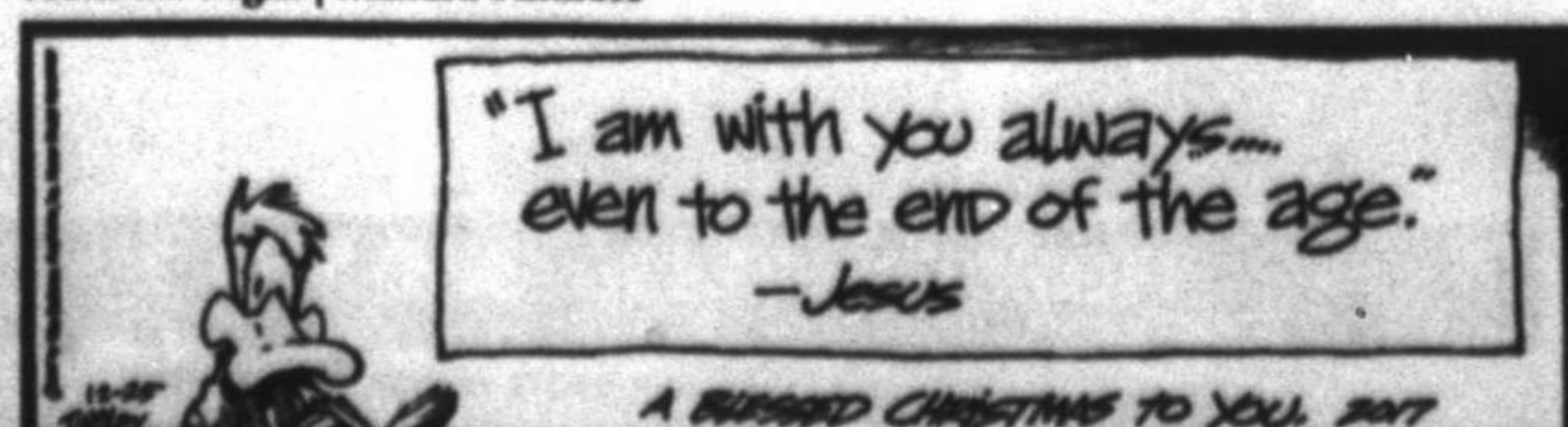
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From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



Dimming Christmas lights reflect Venezuela's grim crisis

By Scott Smith
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela — Marilyn Pitre recalls taking her family on evening strolls at Christmas time through Altamira Plaza in Venezuela's capital, soaking up the dazzling lights and giant tree made of light bulbs in a display that once drew comparisons to New York City's Rockefeller Center.

That was before crisis struck Venezuela. Now the 40-year-old mother of two wouldn't dare set foot in the plaza after dark, fearing robbers. And this season, for the first time in years, no festive lights will bring it to life.

It's a sight that many say mirrors the mood in the once-prosperous oil nation. Middle-class residents have cut back on gifts and struggle to afford basic ingredients needed to cook traditional Christmas dishes.

The poor have been hit hardest, some scavenging trash piles year-around to fill their stomachs.

Pitre, pausing in Altamira Plaza on a bright afternoon after leaving work, said she tries to look beyond the shortages and political strife to the deeper meaning of Christmas.

"As Catholics, we celebrate the birth of Jesus," she said. "But it's not the same as before."

Venezuela, a country of 30 million people, sits

atop the world's largest oil reserves, but global crude prices crashed three years ago, sending the economy into free fall and sparking social unrest.

Residents endure shortages of cash, soaring inflation and a lack of medicine.

Earlier this year, protesters upset with President Nicolas Maduro's government clashed daily with riot police for four months in Altamira Plaza and in streets across the country. More than 120 protesters were killed and thousands injured.

Inflation is expected to hit 2,400 percent by the year's end, said Henkel Garcia, director of the Caracas-based consulting firm Econometrica, adding that minimum wage workers today have a fifth of the purchasing power than nearly two decades ago, when the late President Hugo Chavez launched Venezuela's socialist revolution.

"This is the darkest Christmas we've ever had," said Guianfranco Perozo, 23, who holds two jobs just to get by.

Searching an open-air market in Caracas for cooking oil, Perozo shrugs when asked if he's bought any Christmas gifts. Any money left after groceries will go to diapers for his 8-month-old daughter, he said.

"There's nothing to celebrate," he said. "Too many people are hungry. Too many people are eating garbage."

Unrest simmers across

Venezuela in the days before Christmas. Gasoline shortages in two states left long lines at filling stations, and residents in a community on the outskirts of Caracas protested food shortages one night, setting piles of garbage on fire, according to Twitter accounts.

Water rationing is common, and a mid-day blackout lasting five hours struck millions in Caracas and two neighboring states a week before Christmas.

Millions of others desperate for work have fled Venezuela. Antonieta Lopez, 35, will celebrate this Christmas for the first time without her husband, forced to find a job in Chile nearly a year ago when work dried up at home.

Still, money is tight, and Lopez said she could only afford to buy her son, Matias, two items from his wish list — a Captain American action figure and a pair of Star Wars masks.

Sitting next to her on the steps of a quiet plaza, her mother, Evelyn Avellaneda, 70, said she's not able to buy things she'd normally put on the dinner table for Christmas. That includes a bottle of red wine.

Plenty of people are out walking past shops, but few buy things, Avellaneda said, adding that when they do find affordable items, there are long waits.

"There are lines at the banks. There are lines in the stores," she said. "There are lines everywhere."



Fernando Llano/Associated Press

A customer buys about 100 grams of raisins, an ingredient for a Venezuelan typical Christmas fare named "Hallacas," at a market Friday in Caracas, Venezuela. Middle-class residents have cut back on gifts and struggle to afford basic ingredients needed to cook traditional Christmas dishes.

Putin foe clears first step in Russian presidency bid

By Nataliya Vasilyeva
Associated Press

MOSCOW — Hundreds of supporters of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny nominated him for president Sunday, allowing Navalny to file the endorsement papers required for his candidacy and putting pressure on the Kremlin to allow him to run.

Navalny, the most formidable foe President Vladimir Putin has faced during 18 years in power, is prohibited from seeking political office because of a criminal conviction that is largely viewed as retribution. However, he could enter the race, if he gets special dispensation or the conviction is thrown out.

About 800 Navalny supporters assembled in

a giant tent for the formal endorsement meeting held in Moscow's snow-covered Silver Forest. His allies said multiple meeting venues refused to host the gathering.

Ivan Zhdanov, who chaired the meeting, joked that the riverside event ended up being convened at a place where the address is "Silver Forest, Beach Number 3."

"Has everyone got their swimming trunks?" Zhdanov asked the participants.

Election authorities observed the endorsement process. Navalny and his legal advisers submitted the nomination papers with the Russian Election Commission on Sunday evening.

Outdoor endorsement gatherings also took place in 19 other cities, from

Vladivostok to St. Petersburg.

In Moscow, the process was delayed because the printer being used to generate the paperwork stopped working in the cold woods. While Navalny's staff tried to fix the machine, several hundred people gathered on a central Moscow square to demonstrate support for his nomination.

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Attention Readers:

The Midland Reporter-Telegram Circulation department will not take calls on Sunday, December 24th or Sunday, December 31st.

All vacation stops for Christmas weekend will need to be placed by Wednesday, December 20th. Vacation stops for New Year's weekend will need to be placed by Wednesday, December 27th.

Have a Merry Christmas and Safe New Year's

Midland Reporter-Telegram

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Luke 2:13-14

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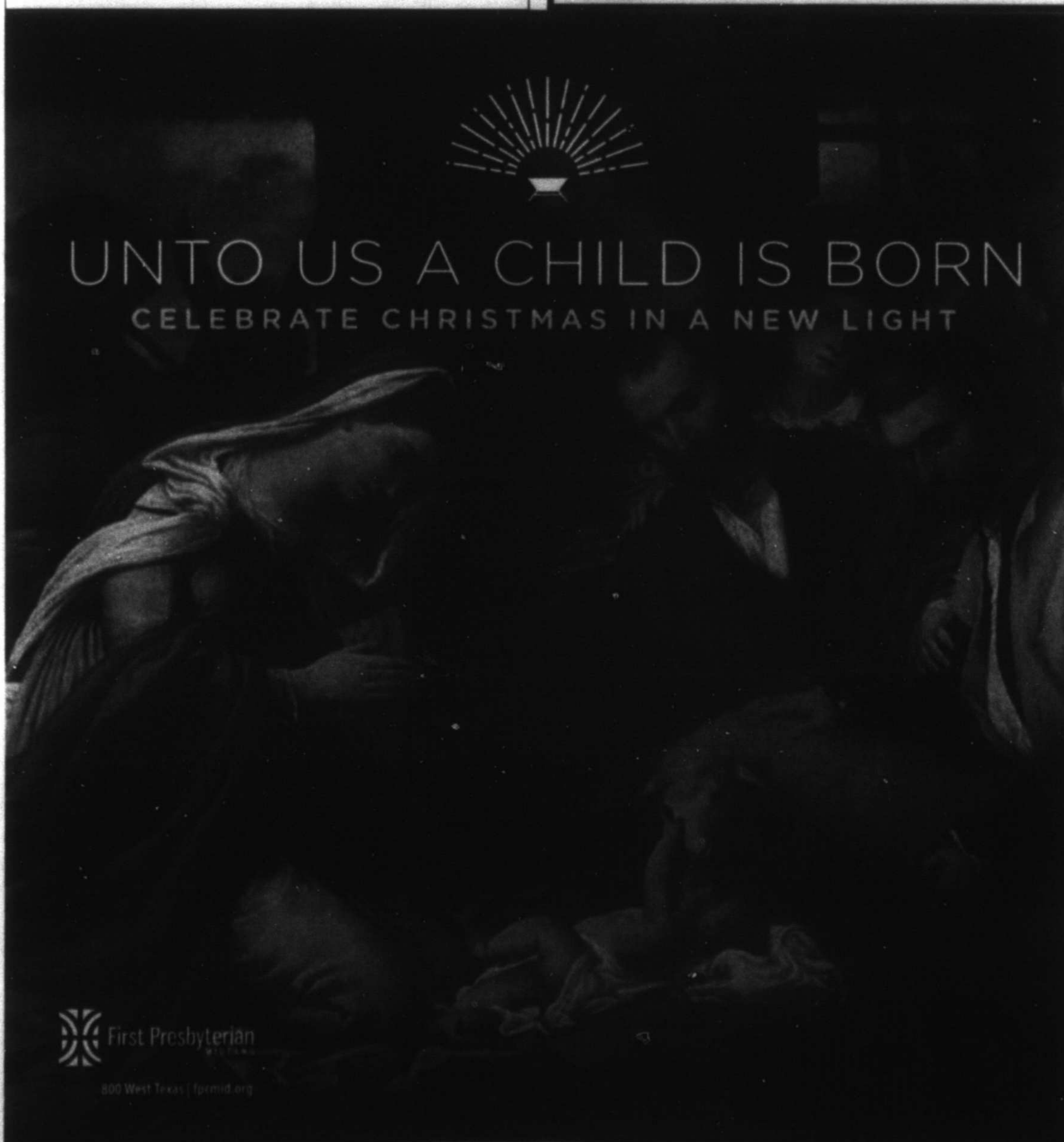


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RECOGNIZING MIDLAND'S UNSUNG HEROES & VOLUNTEERS



PHOTO BY JAMES DURBIN

"ELLEN NOT ONLY IS A GOOD LEADER, BUT SHE IS A WORKER BEE"

There are countless, amazing volunteers who make sure Gingerbread Haven is a wonderful event and a fabulous fundraiser each year for Midland Fair Havens. It is a true team effort, and each person is needed, no matter what their role is.

One of our many critical volunteers is Ellen Ramsey. She has helped in several ways over the years, and this year she served as co-chair to coordinate volunteers, which is a big job. Ellen not only is a good leader, but she is a worker bee. She is a joy to work alongside, has a genuine team spirit and shares the load for whatever needs to be done.

I always appreciate Ellen's initiative and her questions. She is pro-active and willing to do whatever it takes to ensure that all the moving parts of a huge event such as Gingerbread Haven are working together. Not only does Ellen work tirelessly alongside us for months to prepare for Gingerbread Haven, but she assists with other community needs, as well. We are grateful that she includes our event on her annual schedule.

Each of our volunteers has joined a team much larger than a once-a-year event. Our volunteers are now partners with us at Midland Fair Havens, enabling this ministry to help break generational cycles and brighten futures. That is the reason we host this fundraiser: to help provide funds that will equip determined single mothers and their children to become independent and self-sufficient (and in many cases to make a difference in their eternity, praise God alone).

DiAnn Koehl, executive director, Midland Fair Havens

INTRODUCING ... MIDLAND FAIR HAVENS

Midland Fair Havens, an organization that supports single mothers and their children, opened its doors in October 1997 in a home with four bedrooms, an office and one staff member. The program expanded to duplexes and houses scattered around the city. Eventually, support staff was increased, and a secure facility was built.

The nonprofit helps about 600 single-mother families annually, both residentially and non-residentially. The program was designed to meet a need identified by our community: support for single mothers who desire to become independent and self-sufficient but who require more assistance than other local agencies can provide. There are agencies that meet emergency needs, and others that meet long-term housing needs, but there was not a bridge offering transitional assistance.

Midland Fair Havens does this by providing programs and facilities to incorporate life-skills training, accountability, educational and vocational training opportunities, counseling, guidance, referral, case management and a safe environment for women to pursue their dreams and practice life skills. The mothers in the transitional housing program must have identifiable, achievable goals of self-sufficiency that can be accomplished within 24 months.

This requires a team of dedicated staff to help train, mentor, counsel, enrich and hold accountable the mothers and children who participate in the program. Midland Fair Havens is an intense program that offers a brighter future for the current generation and generations to come by helping families change their life patterns and break generational cycles of abuse and homelessness.

ELLEN K. RAMSEY

MIDLAND FAIR HAVENS

Professional and community involvement: I am a partner at Ramsey Petroleum LP and I am a gubernatorial appointee to the Humanities Texas State Board. I serve on the Midland County Public Library Foundation Board, and I am the incoming vice president of the Pink the Basin board. I also am a member of the city of Midland Hotel/Motel Advisory Committee. I serve on fundraising event committees for Midland Fair Havens, Centers and Pink the Basin.

How did you decide to serve the community as a volunteer for Midland Fair Haven and Gingerbread Haven? After I attended the event as a guest, I immediately made the decision to volunteer. Gingerbread Haven is something that is unique in our community, as well as fun. Midland Fair Havens provides an incredible and much-needed service in our community, and I wanted to offer my support.

What talents and skills do you share with the community through your role at Midland Fair Haven? I am the behind-the-scenes person. My wheelhouse includes skills such as organization and logistics. I focus on bringing these strengths to all organizations and events I'm involved in. This year, the event was held at the Midland County Horseshoe to better accommodate the growing size of the fundraiser. A total of 1,440 people of all ages attended two events held on the same day.

What unexpected lesson have you learned while serving as a volunteer and through your nonprofit work? I have had some incredible experiences in my many years of volunteering. What touches me most is the grateful hearts and appreciation of the organizations. My hope is that my contribution goes to improving the lives of others, regardless of the organization.

Why is volunteerism a priority for you? I think it is very important to give back to your community and to be involved. My parents were very active in my hometown, which made them my example from a young age. Yes, I am a civic nerd!

How long has Midland been your home, and why have you stayed? My husband, Midland County Commissioner Scott Ramsey, and I have been in Midland more than 30 years. We raised our family in Midland; this is our home. We have been very blessed to be in a community where our values and beliefs are commonly shared.

What else would you like our readers to know about you? I have had some great mentors throughout my years of volunteering in the Midland community, and my hope is that I can fill that role for the younger generation.

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DIGITAL LIFE

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How to protect your internet-of-things devices

By Sam Wood
Philadelphia Inquirer

Internet-connected devices are nearly ubiquitous, with computer circuitry now found in a variety of common appliances. They can include security cameras, DVRs, printers, cars, baby monitors and refrigerators — even “smart” lightbulbs and clothing. Collectively, those devices are called the internet of things.

The internet of things is a big, juicy target for criminals. Up to a million devices were hijacked to create the Mirai botnet, which was used to extort companies and

bring a university computer system in New Jersey to its knees. The botnet was later exploited to bring down vast swaths of the internet in a sustained attack on Oct. 21, 2016.

Paras Jha, a former Rutgers University student, pleaded guilty Dec. 8 with two other men who admitted they wrote the Mirai code. Named after an obscure anime film character, Mirai scoured the internet for unsecured devices and easily found them.

Once discovered, the internet of things devices were hijacked by the Mirai malware and became part of a botnet that

launched assaults on internet service providers and scores of websites. Jha, 21, allegedly monetized the botnet by demanding ransom to call off the attacks, using it to inflate the number of advertising clicks on websites, and renting it out to other hackers for their own nefarious ends.

The attacks on Rutgers' computer system may have cost the school \$9 million, prosecutors said. Rutgers officials told NJ.com the cost of enhancing security was one of the reasons the school hiked tuition in 2016.

When Jha discovered federal investigators were closing in, he released the Mirai

source code to the world to cover his tracks. The code is still circulating online and causing damage, according to Brian Krebs, of KrebsOnSecurity.com.

Krebs advises taking these precautions to keep your Internet of things devices protected:

Avoid connecting your devices directly to the internet.

Change the default credentials to a complex password that only you will know and can remember.

Check the defaults, and make sure

Please see DEVICES/4B

TRACKING EVERY MOVE



Phil Velasquez/Chicago Tribune/TNS

Gary Hallgren, president of 1-year-old Allstate tech startup Arity, is photographed Dec. 7. Arity monitors drivers via telematics to assess their insurance risk.

Allstate spinoff Arity uses cellphone data to be high-tech backseat driver

By Robert Channick
Chicago Tribune

In the auto insurance world, Gary Hallgren is Big Brother, watching more than a million drivers every day to determine who is likeliest to have an accident.

Hallgren is president of Chicago-based Arity, a year-old Allstate tech startup that uses smartphone apps and add-on devices to track every move drivers make behind the wheel.

The result is a real-world safe driver score — think credit score — that Hallgren says more accurately assesses insurance risk.

Launched in 2010, Arity spun off last year from Northbrook-based Allstate and moved to the Merchandise Mart, where about 400 employees have eyes on drivers across America.

Arity currently provides telematics — transmitted mobile data — for Allstate and co-owned Esurance, monitoring about 1.1 million drivers who've opted into the program in return for an upfront insurance discount and potential lower rates for demonstrated safe driving.

Allstate says on its website that participants in its Drivewise program who fall short will not be penalized with higher premiums.

The plan for Arity is to expand its client base to other auto insurance providers and a range of transportation companies. National General Insurance and three as of yet unnamed shared transportation services already have signed on.

A veteran telematics executive, Hallgren, 49, joined Allstate in 2015 from Telogis.

The following interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Q: What is Arity primarily tracking in drivers?

A: We're monitoring the aggressiveness of their driving.

Q: How do you see that from collected data?

A: It's acceleration and it's braking speed, and there's an element of time with it. There's also location. Someone driving on the interstate in dry weather in the middle of the day is a different level of risk than someone driving in downtown Chicago in the snow at night, headed to a bar.

Q: Why would anyone sign up for this?

A: The initial pushback is that it's Big Brother. But the reality is it's actually based upon your driving. It's a more accurate way to identify risk, and it gives customers control over their driving, which fundamentally I think people are going to embrace and like.

Q: How does this benefit the insurance companies?

A: We're collecting about a billion miles of driving data a month, and we're able to match that exactly with the claims of the losses that people have incurred. It just gives us a very unique insight on understanding driving risk, which is fantastic for insurance companies.

Q: You've already signed up three shared transportation companies. What's in this technology for them?

A: Whether I use Lyft or Uber, I want my shared mobility driver to have four stars because that individual is indeed a good driver and not just that his car didn't smell and he gave me a mint when I got out.

I think the consumer cares, and I think this is a big shift for the shared mobility industry.

Q: Does being monitored change driver behavior?

A: There is a great opportunity to provide coaching so that people understand what they could do to become a better driver. Risk is going to be more quantified, and people are going to start making better decisions based upon that.

Q: Why would an inveterate lead-foot have any incentive to share his or her driving habits with an insurance company?

A: I'm sure a lot of people that have signed up believe they are the best drivers, and there's people that haven't signed up that think they are crappy drivers. I am certain we will find people that think their level of aggressiveness is high that are actually very safe, while there's ones that think they're safe that actually are not. That's why you've got to run the test.

Q: Beyond aggressiveness, what other bad driving habits do you monitor?

A: Distracted driving is a very real phenomenon. I think when people look, driving down the road, and they see people next to them focusing on their cellphone and focusing on texting — you know that that is unsafe. And what is really different now is we were able to quantify just how risky that behavior is relative to not performing those behaviors.

Q: How big can this monitored driving technology get?

A: Ultimately, all people will have their driving monitored based upon these technologies.

I believe that someday, we're going to look back in disbelief that people did not monitor your driving risk based upon your driving. It doesn't make any sense to me as to why on earth it should be odd to monitor driving to understand driving risk.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

Companies you've never heard of are exposing your personal data

ANALYSIS

By Hayley Tsukayama
Washington Post

Here's a fun question to pose to the family dinner table: Have you ever heard of Alteryx?

Whether you have or not, chances are good that it's heard of you. Alteryx is a data analytics company that makes its money by repackaging data that it's collected from different sources. And it became the latest reminder of how much data little-known companies have collected on us — and how little oversight there is over the security of that data.

Last week, an analyst from the security firm UpGuard shared that Alteryx had not properly protected detailed information it had collected on 123 million U.S. households (All told, there are about 126 million American households, according to the Census Bureau.) The information included addresses, information on ethnicity, income and even details about personal interests, which it gathered from U.S. Census Bureau data, the credit bureau Experian as Forbes's Thomas Brewster reported, and other sources. When combined, several security experts said, the firm's data would have made it easy to identify someone — even though no names were attached to those profiles. Alteryx's collection of information was open for almost anyone to access, if they knew where to look, according to Chris Vickery, the UpGuard researcher. Alteryx acknowledged in a statement that it had a security problem and said that it had fixed it. “We take data security very seriously and have taken steps to help ensure that it doesn't happen again.”

This data leak was discovered by a researcher, and not (as far as we know) by a criminal. But the leak affects about as many people as the massive hack Equifax reported in September, which affected 145.5 million Americans, or nearly every adult.

One reason these security issues are affecting so many people at once is that while there's been an increase in the amount of data companies collect, there hasn't been a similar bump in efforts to secure it. So a slip-up at a place such as Alteryx is “capable of exposing the vast majority of American households to compromise with one error,” said UpGuard analyst Dan O'Connor in a blog post.

The Alteryx leak follows another Vickery discovery earlier this year, when he found that a data firm called Deep Root hired

Please see DATA/4B



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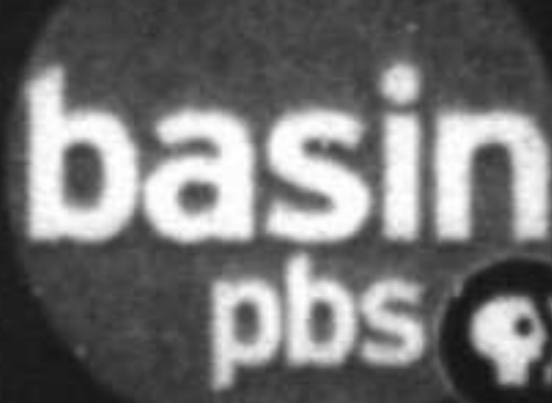
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KMD ABC	3:30	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6
KMD ABC	3:30	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6
KMD ABC	3:30	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6
KMD ABC	3:30	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6
KMD ABC	3:30	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6
KMD ABC	3:30	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6
KMD ABC	3:30	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6
KMD ABC	3:30	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6
KMD ABC	3:30	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6
KMD ABC	3:30	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6
KMD ABC	3:30	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6
KMD ABC	3:30	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6
KMD ABC	3:30	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6
KMD ABC	3:30	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6
KMD ABC	3:30	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6
KMD ABC	3:30	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6
KMD ABC	3:30	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6
KMD ABC	3:30	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6
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Dreamline/TNS

The internet of things is a big, juicy target for criminals.

DEVICES

From 2B

things like UPnP (Universal Plug and Play) — which can easily poke holes in your fire wall without you knowing it) are disabled.

Avoid internet of things devices that advertise built-in Peer-to-Peer (P2P) capabilities. P2P Internet of things devices are notoriously difficult to secure, and research repeatedly has shown that they can be reachable even through a fire wall remotely over the internet. That's because they're configured to continuously find ways to connect to a global, shared network so that people can access them remotely.

When it comes to internet of things devices, cheaper is definitely not better. There is no direct correlation between price and security, but history has shown that less expensive devices tend to have the most vulnerabilities.

The Department of Justice also offers these tips to protect internet-connected devices.

Do your research. Consider the security features of your Internet of things devices before buying. If the device uses a password, make sure it allows you to change it.

Update firmware when available. Internet of things devices can be susceptible if not regularly patched. Only install updates from

known and reputable sites.

Disconnect your insecure Internet of things devices. Outdated security? Can't update passwords? Then unplug it.

Turn off Internet of things devices when not in use, or periodically if otherwise always on. Malware is stored in memory and can often be erased by turning the device off and back on.

Protect routers and Wi-Fi networks. Use your router's built-in fire wall, confirm it's enabled.

Avoid using public Wi-Fi to check Internet of things devices from a smartphone.

Use antivirus and intrusion-detection products. Ask for help, or hire help, if you can't figure out fire walls or how to "segment" your network of Internet of things devices.

Some free online resources can help determine whether your devices are susceptible to being accessed by Mirai or other malware. Be cautious and use only well-known sources.

If you suspect your Internet of things device is infected, turn it off and on again to purge the device's memory. Change the password. File a report with the Internet Crime Complaint Center.

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DATA

From 2B

by Republican candidates failed to secure information it had collected on 198 million people. That left the information such as people's voter registration data and social media posts, open to anyone who went looking for it.

Data collection and analysis is a strong and growing multibillion dollar business, with thousands of firms. Alteryx, which is considered a relatively small data collection company, reported \$34.2 million in revenue in its last quarterly report. Bigger names such as Axciom — which was the victim of a hack in 2005 that exposed 1.6 billion customer records — often report at least \$900 million in revenue per year.

While there has been some fallout from breaches — Equifax's chief executive retired after its

breach, for example — repeated leaks don't seem to have changed industry standards for data security. Data mining companies do have to comply with data breach notification laws, but there have been few legal consequences for breaches. It's difficult to connect the dots from information taken in specific breaches to specific crimes, given that the internet is awash in stolen personal information.

"This is the latest example of organizations not applying stringent security to data in the cloud, and then underestimating the potential damage," said Atiq Raza, chief executive of the cybersecurity company Virsec Systems.

Members of Congress and the Federal Trade Commission have previously questioned whether this sort of data collection is a violation of privacy. In the wake of these

breaches, that concern is being coupled with the worry that these companies are not only amassing huge troves of data, but also not doing enough to protect them or tell people about their security failures.

Yet legislation to address either problem hasn't had much success. Even after the Equifax breach, several lawmakers called for stronger rules that compel companies to meet minimum cybersecurity standards and to be better about letting people know when companies have failed to secure their information. But, as in years past, these efforts have yet to produce any new laws.

In the meantime, the average person can do little except monitor their credit reports and hope that contrite companies — shamed by security researchers — will learn from their mistakes.

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FROM WIRE REPORTS

Movies

iTunes Movies U.S. charts for week ending Dec. 17:

- iTunes Movies US Charts:**
1. Kingsman: The Golden Circle
 2. Dunkirk (2017)
 3. Home Again (2017)
 4. Star Wars: The Force Awakens
 5. Elf (2003)
 6. Home Alone
 7. American Assassin
 8. The LEGO Ninjago Movie
 9. Despicable Me 3
 10. The Lost City of Z

iTunes Movies US Charts - Independent:

1. Home Again (2017)
2. The Lost City of Z
3. Beyond Skyline
4. Wind River (2017)
5. The Ballad of Lefty Brown
6. Stronger
7. The Flat Earth
8. The Hero
9. Apache Warrior
10. Heal

Apps

App Store Official Charts for the week ending Dec. 17

Top Paid iPhone Apps:

1. Heads Up!, Warner Bros.
2. Minecraft, Mojang
3. Kirakira+, Kantaro Yama
4. Plague Inc., Ndemic Creations
5. Life Is Strange, SQUARE ENIX INC.
6. Bloons TD 5, Ninja Kiwi
7. Toca Life: Pets, Toca Boca
8. NBA 2K18, 2K
9. Getting Over It, Bennett Foddy
10. iSchedule, HotSchedules

Top Free iPhone Apps:

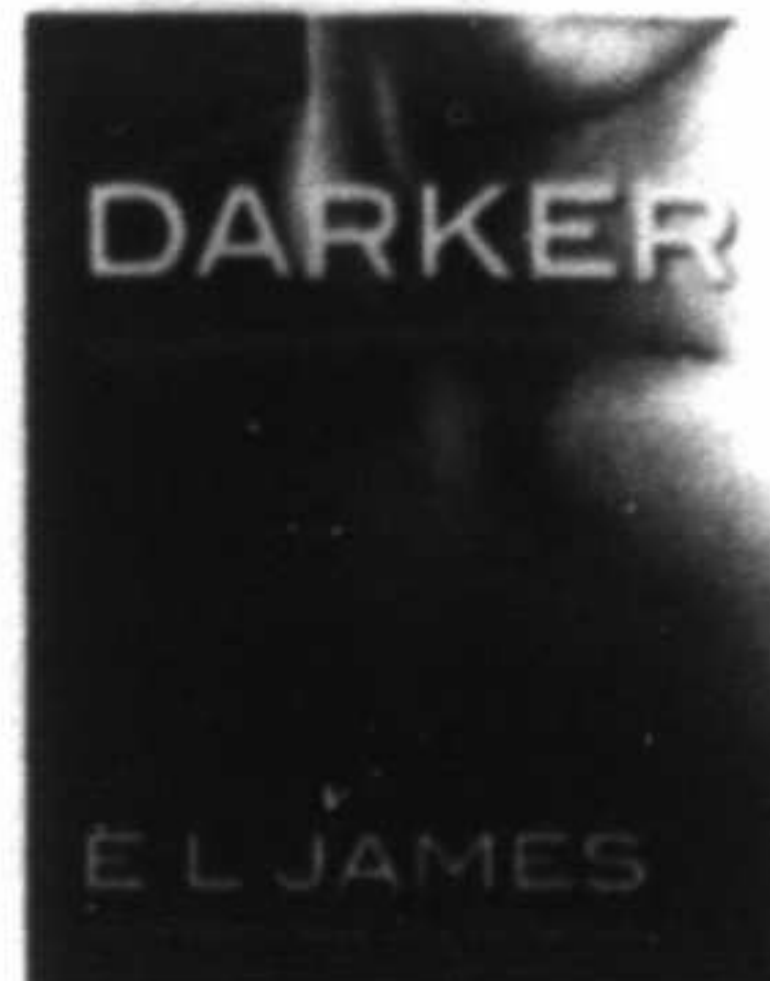
1. Run Sausage Run!, Crazy Labs
2. YouTube, Watch, Listen, Stream, Google, Inc.
3. Instagram, Instagram, Inc.
4. Messenger, Facebook, Inc.
5. Snapchat, Snap, Inc.
6. Facebook, Facebook, Inc.
7. Rush, Ketchapp
8. Go Plane, Voodoo
9. Color by Number, Coloring Book, Fun Games For Free
10. Rules of Survival, NEase Games

Top Paid iPad Apps:

1. Pocket God, Boff Creative
2. Toca Life: Pets, Toca Boca
3. Minecraft, Mojang
4. Procreate, Savage Interactive Pty Ltd
5. Heads Up!, Warner Bros
6. Geometry Dash, RobTop Games AB
7. The Escapists, Team17 Software Ltd
8. Sago Mini Snow Day, Sago Mini
9. Bloons TD 5 HD, Ninja Kiwi
10. Notability, Ginger Labs

Top Free iPad Apps:

1. Netflix, Netflix, Inc.
2. YouTube, Watch, Listen, Stream, Google, Inc.
3. Pixel Art - Color by Number, Easybrain
4. Color by Number, Coloring Book, Fun Games For Free
5. Rules of Survival, NEase Games
6. Kick the Buddy, Chill Fleet
7. Sandbox Coloring, Alexey Grigorkin
8. Facebook, Facebook, Inc.
9. Messenger, Facebook, Inc.
10. Google Chrome, Google, Inc.



Books

iBook charts for week ending December 17, 2017 (Rank, Book Title by Author Name, ISBN, Publisher)

iBooks US Bestseller List - Paid Books

1. Darker by E.L. James - 9780385543989 - (Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group)
2. End Game by David Baldacci - 9781455586639 - (Grand Central Publishing)
3. Origin by Dan Brown - 9780385542692 - (Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group)
4. The Rooster Bar by John Grahame - 9780385541183 - (Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group)
5. The Midnight Line by Lee Child - 9780399593499 - (Random House Publishing Group)
6. The V Card by Lauren Blakely & Lili Valente - No ISBN Available - (Lauren Blakely Books)
7. Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng - 9780735224306 - (Penguin Publishing Group)
8. The People vs. Alex Cross by James Patterson - 9780316508827 - (Little, Brown and Company)
9. Comfort & Joy by Kristin Hannah - 9780345486356 - (Random House Publishing Group)
10. The Ex by Alastair Burke - 9780062390508 - (Harper)

Source: Apple Inc.

Company's technology lets quadriplegics use the phone without physical assistance

By Andrea K. McDaniels
Baltimore Sun

A day after Oded Ben Dov appeared on Israeli television to promote his video game technology, which allowed players to control their games by moving their heads, a viewer called him with another suggestion for the software.

"I can't move my arms or legs," the viewer told him. "Can you make a smartphone that I can use?"

That conversation more than four years ago led to the creation of Open Sesame, an app that allows people to control a touch-screen smartphone or tablet hands-free. Instead of swiping with a finger, the technology lets users control the device with small head movements or voice commands. The technology can help people who are paralyzed or have limited mobility due to neurodegenerative diseases such as MS or ALS.

The technology caught the attention of Maryland government officials during a 2016 trade mission to Israel. As a result of the relationship developed then, Ben Dov moved the headquarters of his technology company, Sesame Enable, from Israel to Bethesda last month.

The state is now covering the cost of tablets with the Open Sesame technology installed for low-income people with certain disabilities, much like it does for text and braille telephones for the deaf and blind through its Maryland Accessible Telecommunications program.

"Adding Open Sesame to the growing number of assistive technology resources Maryland Relay provides allows us to serve even more Marylanders, connecting them with the technology they need to lead fulfilling and productive lives," said Lance Schine, deputy secretary of the Maryland Department of Information Technology. Ben Dov said he liked the idea of using his technology to help people. People can use the app using their own devices, or they can buy a bundle from Sesame Enable that includes both the hardware and software.

"The phone call shifted something in my mind and took me on another route in my life," he said. "No more video games."

About 5.4 million people, or 1.7 percent of the U.S. population, lives with some form of paralysis, according to the Reeves Foundation.

The Open Sesame app is one of the latest products in the growing field of technology targeting those living with paralysis and other disabled people. Smart phones and tablets have helped spur development of some of the latest technologies. There are devices, for example, that translate sign language into text messages and alert people in wheelchairs that they need to move to avoid pressure sores.

"We know our smartphones are now basically

small computers that can not only help with communication, but allow people to do all sorts of other activities," said Dr. Marlis Gonzalez Fernandez, vice chair of clinical affairs in the department of physical medicine and rehabilitation at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. "It is opening up a whole new set of opportunities for people with disabilities who can't use their hands."

The devices are enabling many with disabilities to live more independently and perform basic activities they couldn't do on their own. For some, it has provided a sense of normalcy, independence and, perhaps most importantly, connectedness.

Severely disabled people sometimes find themselves alone and isolated from others. Ben Dov said some of the disabled people he has spoken with just want to be able to take a selfie or browse Facebook, something his technology allows them to do.

"Making social connections is such a big problem for people with disabilities," said Dr. Henry S. York, director of the spinal cord injury unit at the University of

Maryland Rehabilitation and Orthopaedic Institute. "This allows them to interact with others and not be isolated at home."

Rick Frame, a 54-year-old from Texas, first learned about Open Sesame from a news story a friend forwarded him. Frame became a quadriplegic 15 years ago after he was rear-ended and thrown over a bridge while on his motorcycle. Until he began using the app, Frame said he always needed someone to dial the phone for him and pick it up when it rang.

Now he can use the phone by himself. Frame spends most of his time in bed and now keeps his smart phone on a table that sits on his lap.

"When I am home alone or no one else is around, this makes me feel more secure because I can call someone if I need help," Frame said.

Those who work in rehabilitation said that Open Sesame is one of the more advanced systems they have seen to help the disabled use the phone. Other devices are more limited in what they can do, York said. For instance, some require using a proprietary computer or wearing a sticker

on one's forehead for the device to detect.

"We have plenty of devices in our gyms that are costly and not available to many people," York said. "Open Sesame is one of the first I have seen in a while that I think has the potential to impact the masses."

By paying for the costs of tablets the state will help more people access products like Open Sesame, Gonzalez Fernandez said. She said insurance companies or government health programs typically only subsidize products that are solely for a medical purpose. A tablet has many uses.

Eight states, including Kansas, Missouri, Texas and Wisconsin, are subsidizing devices to various degrees, according to Sesame Enable. For instance, Kansas fully funds a tablet or phone with the software installed and Texas offers a \$550 coupon to cover the cost of a tablet or phone.

With its headquarters now in the United States, Ben Dov hopes to bring more states onboard.

Ben Dov said he chose Maryland for his company's headquarters because of the state subsidy program and Bethesda for its proximity to health

institutions, including those focused on veterans such as the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and the VA Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

Being close to Washington has other advantages.

"We know we'll have opportunity to influence change needed to make our technology readily available to all Americans who can benefit from it," he said.

The company currently has five U.S. employees and plans to hire up to five additional Maryland residents who are veterans or have limited mobility disabilities.

Giora Livne, the man who called Ben Dov more than four years ago and helped co-found the company, was involved in the testing of the technology and is now Sesame Enable's vice president of accessibility.

Ben Dov said Livne is most happy that he can now order flowers for his wife on his own.

"We are making basic things in life accessible to so many people that need it," Ben Dov said. "I am grateful for that."

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healthy living

To appear here call Paul Wiseman at 697-7468 or your Midland Reporter-Telegram account executive at 682-5311.

Communication with patients & caregivers warms heart of St. Joseph's Socorro Carrasco

Making sure every Medicare patient and every CNA or RN are on the same page, schedule-wise, sounds like a major job. Especially considering that St. Joseph's Home Health covers 17 large counties in west Texas.

It is indeed, but St. Joseph's Socorro Carrasco thrives on the challenge.

She's successful with a combination of love for patients, dedication to making the schedule work even when changes happen and—prayer.

"I pray every morning in the car on the way to work, and every evening on the way home," Socorro says. "It helps me stay grounded."

That's the first level of communication.

Hearing from caregivers and patients comes next.

Sometimes a caregiver arrives and finds no one at home, so the caregiver alerts Socorro. Socorro then calls family members to see if the patient forgot to tell her about a doctor's appointment or a trip out of town.

On occasion, the patient is actually at home, unable to respond due to a fall. In a case like that,



St. Joseph's Home Health Scheduler Socorro Carrasco enjoys making sure that every patient gets the home health care they need in order to stay happy and healthy at home. Call St. Joseph's at 684-5858 to learn how they can help your loved one.

this communication can save a life.

And if a regularly scheduled provider can't make it for an appointment, Socorro springs into action to make sure she finds someone else to do the visit. "Our patients are counting on our help, so I want to make sure we always have someone there," she says.

Socorro has worked at St. Joseph's since day one, 12 years ago, when she was an in-home caregiver. Although she loves the office work now, she left home care reluctantly—partly because she loved the one-on-one interaction with patients, and partly because she was concerned about the complexity of learning the scheduling

software on the computer. After encouragement from a family member, she stepped up, learned what to do, and now is, in effect, the nerve center of the company.

"I love it now because I get to help even more people—and there's never a dull moment," she says.

Basically, if this job was easy, anybody could do it. Solving the challenges of meshing patient schedules with caregivers' schedules gives her a good feeling.

Socorro and everyone else at St. Joseph's takes to heart that their patients rely on them in order to stay as healthy and comfortable as possible at home. That caregiver visit is often the highlight of the day. That's why Socorro does everything possible to make sure the schedule works.

It's also why you can trust your loved one's care to St. Joseph's Home Health. Communicate with them today!

St. Joseph's Home Health provides a long list of in-home health and other services. Insurance and private-pay services are available. Call them at 432-684-5858. Their website is www.stjosephshh.com. They serve Midland, El Paso and the surrounding counties.

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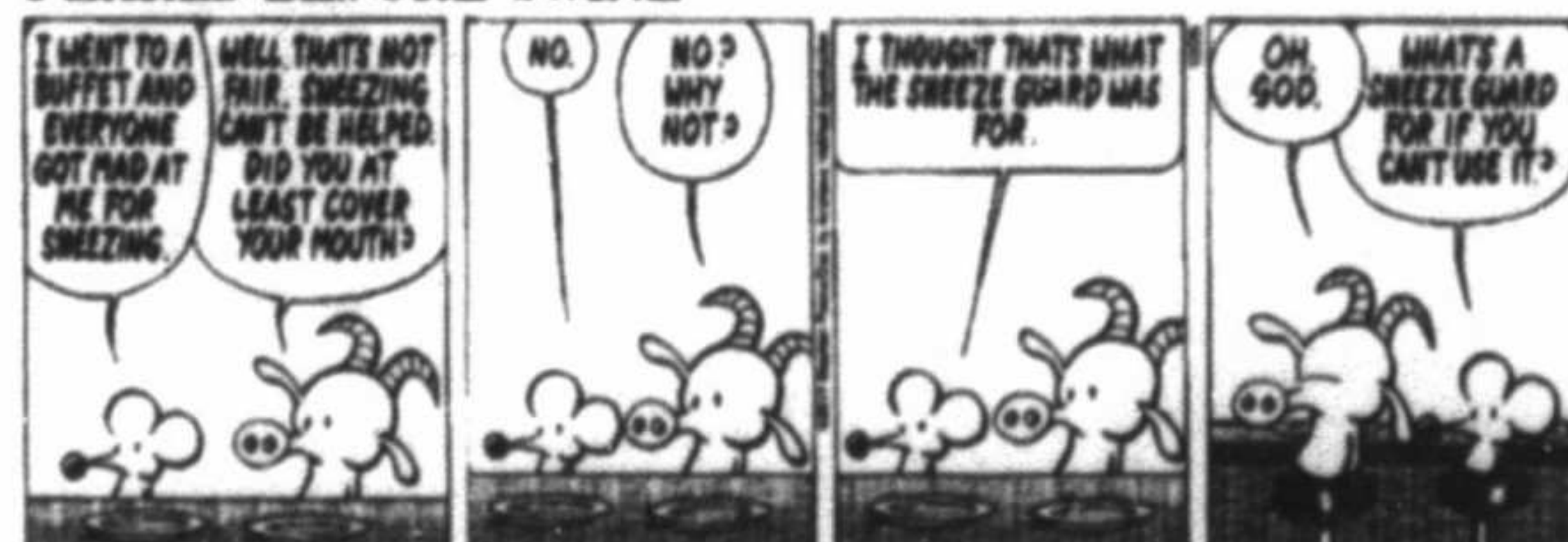
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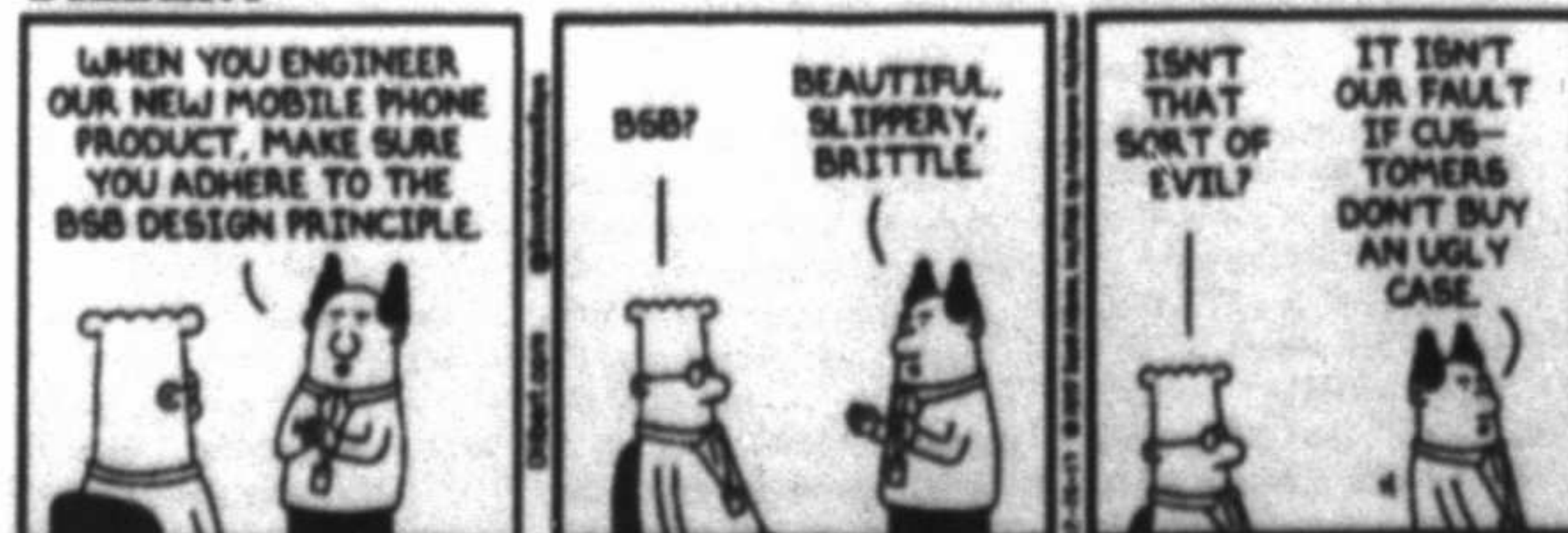
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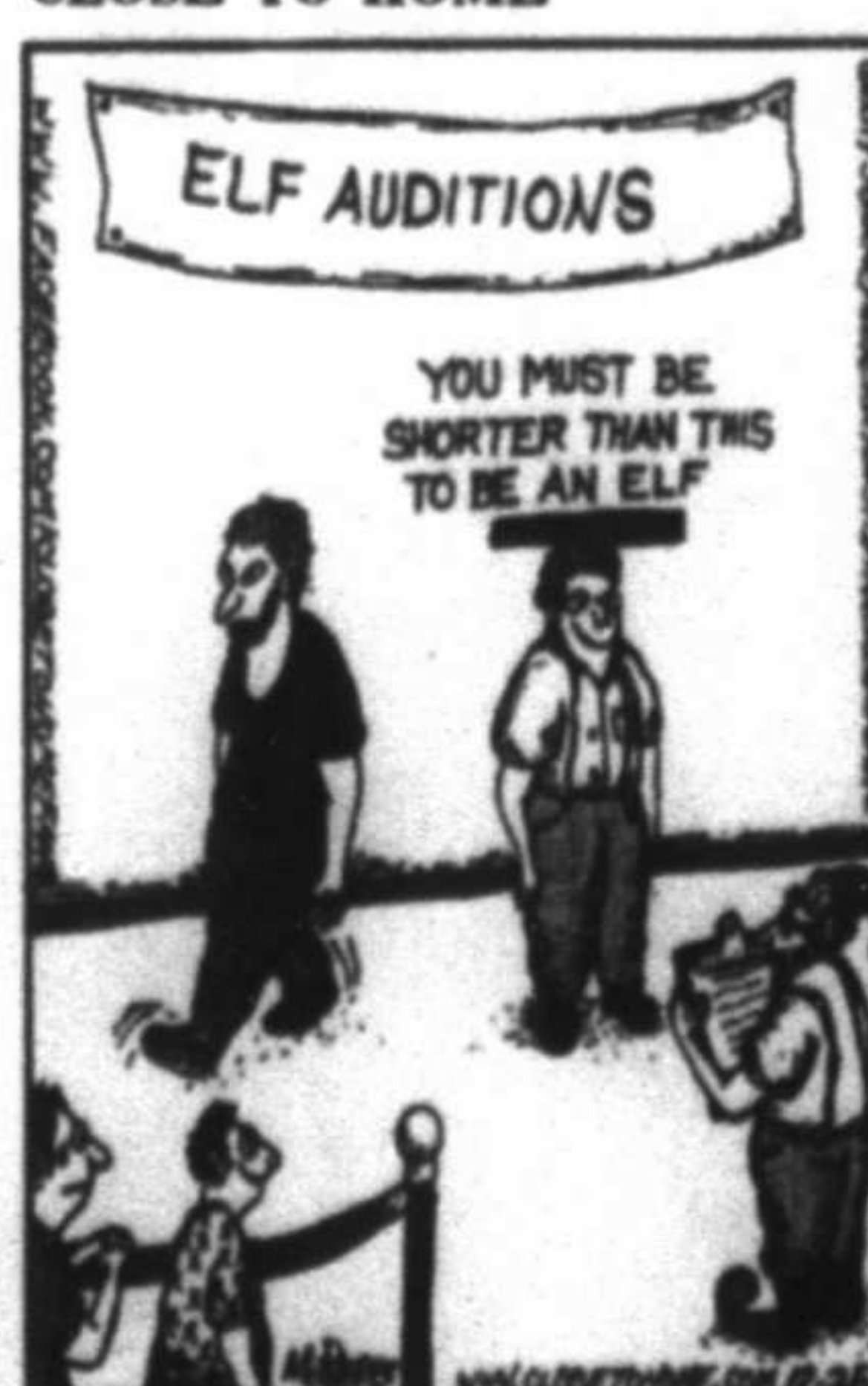
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Melinda Sue Gordon/Warner Bros. Pictures.

Fionn Whitehead in a scene from 'Dunkirk.'

'Dunkirk,' 'Call Me By Your Name' top AP's best 2017 films

Associated Press Film Writers Lindsey Bahr and Jake Coyle name their choices for the best films of 2017.

LINDSEY BAHR:

1. "Dunkirk": I'm not sure I've ever been so wholly transported by and viscerally engaged in a theatergoing experience as I was watching Christopher Nolan's masterpiece "Dunkirk," but the filmmaker continues to innovatively use the generous budgets his success has afforded him to push the envelope of immersive cinema and storytelling.

2. "Lady Bird": Thank you, Greta Gerwig, for introducing us to Lady Bird, her mother Marion, her friend Julie, her boyfriend Kyle and Danny, her brother Miguel and his girlfriend Shelly, her father Larry and all the other wonderfully complex humans who populate the world around a selfish, but also evolving, Sacramento teenager's life. "Lady Bird" is one of those instant classics, one you want to start again as soon as it's over.

3. "mother!": What controversy? Darren Aronofsky's "mother!" is a thrilling and provocative riot. Don't be scared off by THAT scene because Jennifer Lawrence is excellent in the straightforward but riveting biblical allegory (that can also be about whatever you want — narcissistic artists, the subjugation of women, the environment).

4. "Call Me By Your Name": There aren't a lot of truly sexy movies nowadays, which is just one of the many reasons Italian filmmaker Luca Guadagnino's "Call Me By Your Name" stands out among the rest. Deliciously indulgent in every possible way, it is a lovely, decadent time falling in love with Elio (Timothée Chalamet) and Oliver (Armie Hammer) over the course of one pretty, wistful summer.

5. "The Florida Project": Director Sean Baker is so good at showing us pockets of our world that most of us either don't see or don't want to see, and painting portraits of its inhabitants that manage to be both empathetic and unflinching. This time his subjects are the so-called "hidden homeless" living on the outskirts of Orlando in a low rent motel, featuring an all-timer nice guy performance from Willem Dafoe, and some truly exciting acting discoveries in the young Brooklynn Prince and Brianna Vanite.

6. "Get Out": This film isn't your standard horror and that's what makes it great. Writer-director Jordan Peele brilliantly weaved poignant social commentary into a top-notch genre pic — a tricky thing to do, especially when it's your directorial debut. With it, the man who had previously been known as a comedian and actor made himself a must-follow filmmaker too.

7. "Phantom Thread": Paul Thomas Anderson went relatively small for his latest effort, a funny and wry chamber drama dressed up in couture. Vicky Krieps is a true find and holds her own and then some opposite Daniel Day-Lewis, as his muse and source of occasional annoyance. It's also possibly Day-Lewis's last performance. Thankfully it's a very good one.

8. "Wonder Woman": Patty Jenkins deserves all the credit in the world for doing right by "Wonder Woman," which she molded into a highly enjoyable, warm-hearted and action-



packed origin story about the Amazonian princess, who is perfectly embodied by Gal Gadot. This one, I imagine, will impact generations to come.

9. "Jane": Director Brett Morgen uses never-before-seen National Geographic footage to craft a loving tribute to the extraordinary life of Jane Goodall, given extra grandeur from a stimulating Philip Glass score.

10. "Star Wars: The Last Jedi": Rian Johnson made Star Wars fun and funny again, while still delivering a truly exciting story (and fresh step forward) for the aging franchise. Our old heroes might be fading away, but the future suddenly looks promising again.

Honorable Mentions: "Good Time," "The Disaster Artist," "L. Tonya," "Their Finest," "Song to Song"

JAKE COYLE:

1. "Call Me By Your Name": It's a funny year for a love story as blissful as this. Much has already been said about the sensory wonders of Luca Guadagnino's wellspring of a movie. But nothing in 2017 bore such splendor and such genuine wisdom as "Call Me By Your Name." There are the performances, the doozy of a last shot and the unforgettable monologue delivered by Michael Stuhlbarg. Most of all, "Call Me By Your Name" is an exquisitely alive movie, calling you to lean into life. Also: Italian summers look nice. I could go for one of those.

2. "The Florida Project": Speaking of vibrant movies, Sean Baker's latest and best is somehow both an affecting, thoughtful social drama and the most spirited movie of the year. Much of that is owed to its young star, Brooklynn Prince, whose performance is the equal of any in 2017, and her fictional mom, played by Brianna Vanite. More than most, Baker's films are fully engaged with the real world.

3. "Dunkirk": An awe-somely colossal, purely cinematic experience of sea, sand and sky — and, no, I'm not talking about "Baywatch." For maximalist cinema, nobody today is in the same league as Christopher Nolan. It's not one for character development, but in the film's sensory onslaught there's something mythical — about surviving to fight another day. (See also another fine Dunkirk-related movie from 2017: Lose Sherif's under-seen "Their Finest Hour.")

4. "Faces Places": Hands down, the odd couple of the year was Agnès Varda and JR. One an 89-year-old trailblazing filmmaker of the French New Wave, the other a 33-year-old internationally renowned street artist, they're an almost too-cute pair. In this radiant documentary, they traverse a working-class French countryside in a van painted like a giant camera, pasting giant photos of the people they meet on any large surface they find. Seeking random encounters, they meet people, and through their art, ennoble them. It's that simple. In a cold year, "Faces Places" is a warm, inviting fire.

5. "Lady Bird": Whereas most coming-of-age tales telescope into the lives of

their adolescent protagonists, Greta Gerwig's solo directing debut is more wistful. While still acutely feeling every hope and pain of 17-year-old Christine (Saoirse Ronan), Gerwig sees around her, too, particularly her parents (Laurie Metcalf, Tracy Letts). It will make a great double feature with 2012's "Frances Ha," which Gerwig co-wrote before we found out what a tremendous filmmaker she is, too.

6. "Dawson City: Frozen Time": Oh, what you can find in an old swimming pool. Bill Morrison's documentary recounts the unbelievable story of how several hundred reels of silent film were discovered in the foundation of an old athletic club in the far-north Canadian town of Dawson City, once the capital of the Yukon gold rush. The highly combustible nitrate film, dating from the 1910s and 1920s, survived, thanks partly to the region's cold. With the degraded treasure, Morrison splices together two mirroring stories: of Dawson, a city built overnight and virtually deserted once the gold ran out; and of a lost Hollywood that blossomed before sound set in. In "Frozen Time," two lost civilizations dance again.

7. "Get Out": In a time where the future of the movies is so much questioned, nothing pointed the way forward like Jordan Peele's directorial debut. It's unquestionably a landmark movie in representing an African-American perspective in a way that has seldom, if ever, been seen before. But by seamlessly fusing genre with message — and finding doves eager to see it — "Get Out" was a reminder of a forgotten truism: Nothing makes a zeitgeist like a must-see movie.

8. "Phantom Thread": For such a finely attired film, Paul Thomas Anderson's latest is funny. Its craft is mesmerizing and its couture is high, but don't let that fool you. This is a very down-to-earth movie about finding your own idiosyncratic love, and getting outside your own head enough to appreciate it.

9. "Logan Lucky": Efforts to faithfully capture heartland America in 2017 were admittedly imperfect. Martin McDonagh's "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri" was thrillingly performed and raged gloriously but had glaring blind spots. Steven Soderbergh's heist movie "Logan Lucky" delights in both dignifying and laughing at its slow-witted, folksy characters. But, man, is it fun. Movies this light on their feet don't come along much anymore.

10. "The Lost City of Z": James Grey's drifting drama about the early 20th century explorer Percy Fawcett, who sought a fabled civilization in South America, initially has the foreboding feel of "Apocalypse Now!" or "Fitzcarraldo." But instead of finding horror in the jungle, Fawcett finds transcendence in otherness.

Also excellent: "The Big Sick," "Lady Macbeth," "BPM (Beats Per Minute)," "Okja," "Abacus: Small Enough to Jail," "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2" and "mother!"



This combination photo shows actresses listed in alphabetical order, top row from left, Asia Argento, Rosanna Arquette, Jessica Barth, Cara Delevingne, Romola Garai, Judith Godreche, Heather Graham, Angelina Jolie, Ashley Judd, Rose McGowan, Lea Seydoux and Mira Sorvino, who have made allegations against producer Harvey Weinstein. The women who initially spoke out against sexual misconduct in Hollywood this fall have been named The Associated Press Entertainers of the Year.

AP file photo

Hollywood accusers named AP Entertainers of the Year

By Mark Kennedy
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Arguably the biggest thing that came from Hollywood this year wasn't a movie or a TV show. It had heroines and villains, but no script. And it went viral despite having no big publicity machinery behind it.

The women who initially spoke out against sexual misconduct in Hollywood this fall — inspiring millions to tell their own stories of harassment and illegality on social media — have been named The Associated Press Entertainers of the Year, voted by members of the news cooperative and AP entertainment reporters.

The wave of sexual misconduct allegations that have stretched across the country to fell prominent TV figures, chefs, journalists, entertainers, politicians and publishers was also named the top news story of 2017 in an AP poll.

The reckoning began in early October when a bombshell New York Times article revealed decades of sexual harassment against women — employees and actresses, including actress Ashley Judd — by movie mogul Harvey Weinstein. The New Yorker also revealed other allegations

against Weinstein.

Within days, a #MeToo movement was born and the allegations have been felt at the venerable "Today" show with the ouster of Matt Lauer to the film "All the Money in the World" from which Kevin Spacey was erased. Louis C.K. was abandoned by Netflix, FX, HBO and his new movie was abandoned just days before its premiere.

The accusations have reverberated into the kitchens of chef Mario Batali, at PBS, where Tavis Smiley and Charlie Rose were dropped. It reached into the venerable New York's Metropolitan Opera, where longtime conductor James Levine was suspended, and the Def Jam empire, where Russell Simmons stepped down. The allegations also knocked a senator from Congress, with Al Franken resigning.

Others who received votes this year for Entertainer of the Year were Jimmy Kimmel, Gal Gadot, Kendrick Lamar and Luis Fonsi and Daddy Yankee, among others.

Previous AP Entertainer of the Year winners have included Lin-Manuel Miranda, Adele, Taylor Swift, Jennifer Lawrence, Lady Gaga, Tina Fey and Betty White.

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SPORTS

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Monday, December 25, 2017 | Section C

The 2017 MRT football postseason all-stars are here! Page 3C

On Christmas, NBA shows off its best — and who's got next

By Brian Mahoney
Associated Press

NEW YORK — There's LeBron James, Kevin Durant and Golden State against Cleveland, for fans wanting more of the NBA's reigning rivalry.

For those preferring something new, the league's Christmas Day schedule has that, too.

It's a star-studded slate, with the NBA Finals rematch standing out among the top teams and power players.

The league is driven by star power, and the NBA is going all-in this year. The schedule is about the best players, not all the best teams.

And with Joel Embiid, Ben Simmons and Kristaps Porzingis starting the day, and Lonzo Ball, Kyle Kuzma and Karl-Anthony Towns finishing it, this year's showcase is as much about the

guys who got next on the marquee as the ones on top already.

"They're doing it for talent. You have the talent and the marketable players, so I understand why they're picking those teams," said Sacramento veteran Vince Carter.

The schedule:
■ New York hosts Philadelphia, getting its first Christmas game since 2001.

■ The Warriors welcome the Cavaliers back to the place where they finished them off in Game 5 in June for their second championship in three years.

■ Washington at Boston in the Celtics' first home game on Christmas.

■ Oklahoma City against Houston, a matchup of MVP Russell Westbrook and runner-up James Harden.

■ Minnesota visiting the Lakers, two non-playoff teams

who have acquired some of the best young talent in the league in recent drafts.

Christmas was once a kickoff of sorts for the NBA, the first time a national audience paid attention to basketball with the football season winding down. ABC analyst Jeff Van Gundy, who will work the Cavs-Warriors game, was among those who had said the NBA should consider starting its season at Christmas to get out from under the NFL's shadow.

Now it's a celebration of the success the league is already enjoying. Combined viewership on ESPN and TNT is up 21 percent this season, with games averaging 1.9 million viewers, even before what figures to be the biggest numbers of the season.

ESPN said its audience is the

Please see NBA/5C



Tony Dejak/AP File Photo

Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James (23) drives on Golden State Warriors forward Kevin Durant (35) during the second half of Game 4 of the NBA Finals on June 9 in Cleveland. The NBA is driven by star power and its Christmas Day lineup is about the league's best players, not all the best teams.

Can't hold him down



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Lee's Colby Standard (10) is tackled by Amarillo Tascosa's Max Murray (44) on Oct. 6 at Grande Communications Stadium.

MRT OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Hard work pays off for Lee's Standard in record-setting 2017

By Will Korn
wkorn@mrt.com

Colby Standard never doubted his capabilities nor the competitive spirit in his heart.

He just needed an old fashioned man-to-man session with his father, Shaun, one day during winter 2017 baseball workouts. After facing the reality that he would be splitting starting time with fellow senior Chase Pederson as Lee's varsity catcher, Colby heard loud and clear a priceless message.

With his life's dream of being a starting Rebel quarterback also uncertain early in the 2017 offseason, it was a message he said he needed.

"I thought I was going to get the

Christmas notice

In order for our employees to enjoy the Christmas holiday, deadlines were pushed up and several of Sunday's events did not get in today's paper.

starting spot (at catcher) and I kind of expected to start and didn't work as hard as I could have in baseball (as a junior)," Standard said. "My dad sat me down and basically got on my butt a little bit. He told me you never take anything for granted. He told me (Rebels junior) Felix Hinojosa was going to challenge me (at quarterback) this year and if I didn't put in the work, I probably wouldn't be the full-time starter."

Shaun's words more than struck a

chord. Months later, Colby had turned in perhaps the greatest statistical season ever by Lee quarterback. With an unbridled toughness and an endearing humility, he totaled 3,816 yards and 34 touchdowns (2,366 yards and 19 TDs passing) and helped carry the Rebels to a 10-3 mark and to the third round of the playoffs — the program's deepest run since 2001.

Standard's total yardage mark shattered the program's previous record for a quarterback, set by Jamie McCoy (2,583 total) in 2004. Only Caden Coots' 2013 season (3,398 yards) was a more prolific passing campaign than Standard this season.

In his senior season, Standard brought his dream to reality and helped revive a Lee program hungry for a return to state

Please see STANDARD/5C

Steelers prepare for tonight's game at Texans without Brown

By Kristie Rieken
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Already in the playoffs after winning the AFC North, the Pittsburgh Steelers still have plenty to play for in their last two games, starting with Monday's matchup with the Houston Texans.

A win over the struggling Texans combined with a loss or tie by the Jacksonville Jaguars would assure the Steelers a first-round bye. They could also clinch the bye with a tie against Houston and a loss by Jacksonville.

Pittsburgh also has a chance to secure home-field advantage throughout the postseason if the team wins out and the Patriots lose at least one of their last two games.

The Steelers will have to try and do it without star receiver Antonio Brown, who leads the NFL with 1,533 yards receiving and is out indefinitely after injuring his left calf last week.

"A.B., you can't replace him with one man," Pittsburgh quarterback Ben Roethlisberger said. "A.B. is not human, so we will have multiple guys trying to fill that spot, but I know that we have guys that are excited, willing to try and fill those shoes."

Rookie JuJu Smith-Schuster, Eli Rogers, Darrius Heyward-Bey and Justin Hunter are among those who will try to pick up the slack with Brown out. Smith-Schuster has had a solid season, and ranks third among NFL rookies with 699 yards receiving. Heyward-Bey, Hunter and Rogers have been used sparingly this year, with Heyward-Bey grabbing just two receptions for 47 yards, Hunter with three catches for 17 yards, and Rogers with 16 receptions for 142 yards.

Roethlisberger could also rely more heavily on tight end Jesse James, who has 363 yards receiving, highlighted by a 97-yard performance in a win over Baltimore two weeks ago. Pittsburgh's powerful offense also has Le'Veon Bell, who leads the NFL with 1,222 yards rushing and has 80 receptions for 627 yards.

Houston cornerback Johnathan Joseph expects Pittsburgh's offense to be a little different without Brown, but knows slowing it down will still be a tall task.

"There's no shortage of weapons," Joseph said.

Some things to know about the first meeting between the Steelers and

Please see STEELERS/5C



Winslow Townson/AP Images for Panini

Pittsburgh Steelers running back Le'Veon Bell runs against the New England Patriots at Heinz Field in Pittsburgh on Dec. 17.

Sunday's Week 16 NFL Scoreboard

Rams.....	27	Chargers.....	14
Titans.....	23	Jets.....	7
Chiefs.....	29	Redskins.....	27
Dolphins.....	13	Broncos.....	11
Bengals.....	26	Saints.....	23
Lions.....	17	Falcons.....	13
Panthers.....	22	Patriots.....	37
Buccaneers.....	19	Bills.....	16

Men's College Basketball	Washington at Boston, 4:30
Diamond Head Classic	p.m., ABC, ESPNDEP
7th Place Game, 11:30 a.m.,	Houston at Oklahoma City,
ESPN	7 p.m., ABC
Diamond Head Classic	Minnesota at LA Lakers,
5th Place Game, 1:30 p.m.,	9:30 p.m., TNT
ESPN	National Football League
Diamond Head Classic	Pittsburgh at Houston, 3:30
Championship, 5 p.m., ESPN2	p.m., NBC, NFL, Amazon
Diamond Head Classic	Oakland at Philadelphia,
3rd Place Game, 7:30 p.m.,	7:30 p.m., ESPN, ESPNDEP
ESPN	RADIO
National Basketball	National Football League
Association	Pittsburgh at Houston, 3:30
Philadelphia at New York, 11	p.m., KCRS 95.5 FM/97.5
a.m., ESPN, ESPNDEP	FM/550 AM, KBVG 106.1
Cleveland at Golden State,	FM/1400 AM (Big Spring)
2 p.m., ABC, ESPNDEP	

HOCKEY	COLLEGE
National Hockey League	ARIZONA STATE — Named Danny Gonzalez
LOS ANGELES KINGS — Assigned O Kean Gravel and G Jack Campbell to Ontario (AHL)	della-mare coordinator

Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	27	9	750	—
Toronto	23	8	742	1 1/2
Montreal	19	18	521	8
Philadelphia	14	18	438	11
Pittsburgh	12	20	375	13

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	18	15	545	—
Miami	16	16	500	2 1/2
Charlotte	12	21	364	6 1/2
Orlando	11	23	324	7 1/2
Atlanta	8	25	242	10

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	24	9	727	—
Indianapolis	19	14	576	5 1/2
Detroit	18	14	563	5 1/2
Chicago	17	14	548	6
Minneapolis	17	13	563	1 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	25	6	806	—

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	22	11	667	—
New Orleans	17	16	515	5 1/2
Memphis	10	23	303	16 1/2
Dallas	9	26	256	17 1/2

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	20	13	606	—
Minnesota	18	15	545	2 1/2
Oklahoma City	18	15	545	2 1/2
Denver	18	15	545	2 1/2
Portland	16	16	500	2 1/2
Utah	15	18	447	5 1/2

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	20	13	606	—
L.A. Clippers	13	19	406	12 1/2
L.A. Lakers	11	19	367	13 1/2
Sacramento	10	20	335	14 1/2
Phoenix	12	23	343	15 1/2

Scores & Schedule

Today's Games

Philadelphia at New York 7 p.m.
 Cleveland at Golden State 7 p.m.
 Washington at Boston 4:30 p.m.
 Houston at Oklahoma City 7 p.m.
 Minneapolis at L.A. Lakers 9:30 p.m.

Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE					WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division					Pacific Division				
Team	GP	W	L	OT	GP	W	L	OT	
Tempe Bay	35	22	14	2	LA Kings	37	20	11	6
Toronto	37	22	14	1	VGK	34	23	9	2
Florida	36	21	15	0	San Jose	35	22	10	3
Montreal	36	18	18	4	Los Angeles	33	18	11	4
Minnesota	35	18	15	5	San Jose	33	18	10	4
Calgary	36	17	16	3	Anaheim	32	16	14	2
Edmonton	36	17	15	4	Calgary	30	17	15	3
St. Louis	34	17	15	2	Edmonton	30	18	13	2
Buffalo	36	15	20	1	San Jose	30	15	15	5
Metropolitan Division					Central Division				
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Team	GP	W	L	OT
New Jersey	37	21	9	5	CHI	37	25	9	4
Washington	37	22	13	2	Winnipeg	37	22	13	2
NY Islanders	36	22	12	2	St. Louis	37	22	12	3
N.Y. Rangers	36	19	13	4	NY Rangers	37	21	13	3
N.Y. Islanders	36	19	13	4	St. Louis	37	21	13	3
Pittsburgh	37	18	16	3	Pittsburgh	37	18	16	3
Philadelphia	36	15	13	8	Philadelphia	36	15	13	8

Scoring Leaders

Player	Team	GP	PTS
Winnipeg	37	20	41
Dallas	37	20	41
Chicago	35	17	39
St. Louis	37	16	39
Colorado	35	17	37

Goalkeeping Leaders

Player	Team	GP	GA	SV%
LA Kings	37	24	133	87
VGK	34	23	104	89
San Jose	35	22	103	89
Los Angeles	33	22	104	89
Anaheim	32	16	101	90
Calgary	30	17	101	90
Edmonton	30	18	106	88
San Jose	30	15	97	91
Anaheim	30	15	97	91

Notable News

NOTE: Ten points for a win, one point for an overtime loss. The three leaders in each division and the wild card per conference advance to playoffs.

Scores & Schedule

Sunday's Scores		Today's Games	
Home	Visitor	Home	Visitor
LA Kings	VGK	LA Kings	VGK
San Jose	LA Kings	San Jose	LA Kings
LA Kings	San Jose	LA Kings	San Jose
San Jose	LA Kings	San Jose	LA Kings
LA Kings	San Jose	LA Kings	San Jose
San Jose	LA Kings	San Jose	LA Kings
LA Kings	San Jose	LA Kings	San Jose
San Jose	LA Kings	San Jose	LA Kings
LA Kings	San Jose	LA Kings	San Jose
San Jose	LA Kings	San Jose	LA Kings

Standings

AMERICAN CONFERENCE														
East														
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA		W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
• New England	12	3	0	80.0	432	290		• Minnesota	12	2	0	85.7	500	242
• Buffalo	9	6	1	60.7	320	343		• Detroit	8	7	0	53.3	379	361
• Miami	8	6	0	56.9	351	371		• Green Bay	7	8	0	46.7	303	349
• N. Jets	1	10	0	33.3	292	456		• Chicago	6	9	0	40.0	333	354
West														
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA		W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
• Jacksonville	10	4	0	71.4	374	309		• 1. Rams	8	7	1	53.3	448	295
• Cincinnati	9	5	0	64.3	349	343		• Seattle	8	6	0	57.1	321	294
• Houston	8	6	0	56.9	339	343		• Arizona	6	8	0	42.9	248	335
• Indianapolis	3	12	0	20.0	241	391		• San Francisco	4	10	0	28.6	253	355
North														
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA		• clinched playoff spot						
• Pittsburgh	11	3	0	78.6	344	278		• clinched division						
• Baltimore	9	6	0	60.0	367	342								
• Cincinnati	8	7	0	53.3	326	327								
• Cleveland	0	15	0	0.0	210	382								
West														
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA								
• Kansas City	9	6	0	60.0	368	315								
• L. A. Chargers	8	7	0	53.3	325	305								
• Oakland	6	8	0	42.9	281	324								
• Denver	5	10	0	33.3	265	301								

NATIONAL CONFERENCE														
East														
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA		W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
• Dallas	12	0	0	100.0	438	239		• Tampa Bay	9	6	0	60.0	367	342
• Philadelphia	8	6	0	57.1	336	311		• New York Jets	7	7	0	50.0	336	342
• Washington	7	8	0	46.7	332	370		• New England	6	9	0	40.0	303	349
• N. Y. Giants	2	12	0	14.3	238	372		• Cincinnati	5	9	0	35.7	286	349
West														
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA								
• New Orleans	11	4	0	73.9	353	305		• Kansas City	9	6	0	60.0	368	315
• Carolina	11	4	0	73.9	353	305		• L. A. Raiders	5	7	0	41.7	287	349
• Atlanta	10	5	0	66.7	348	315		• New Orleans	2	13	0	13.3	243	343
• Tampa Bay	9	6	0	60.0	367	342		• Jacksonville	1	14	0	6.7	206	349
• New York Jets	7	7	0	50.0	336	342		• Seattle	0	15	0	0.0	187	349
• Cincinnati	5	9	0	35.7	286	349		• Oakland	0	15	0	0.0	187	349
• Kansas City	4	10	0	28.6	253	355								

Scores & Schedule

Saturday's Games									
10:00 a.m.									
Baltimore	20	Indianapolis	16						
1:00 p.m.									
Chicago	20	Cleveland	3						
New England	17	Buffalo	16						
L. A. Chargers	14	N. Y. Jets	7						
Cincinnati	27	Denver	11						
Cleveland	22	Tampa Bay	16						
Washington	28	Detroit	17						
7:30 p.m.									
Kansas City	29	Alma	13						
L. A. Raiders	27	San Francisco	23						
New Orleans	23	Atlanta	13						
San Francisco	24	San Francisco	24						
Sunday's Games									
12:00 p.m.									
Atlanta	24	Atlanta</							

[illegible][illegible]

While the loss eliminated the Falcons (9-6) from the NFC South race, Atlanta can clinch a wild-card berth by beating Carolina in the final regular season game on New Year's Eve.

The Falcons entered the game with a second straight division crown in their grasp, but they needed to beat the Saints. They squandered chances spectacularly, much to the delight of a deafening Superdome crowd — and certainly to the chagrin of scattered fans wearing Falcons red. The Falcons were taunted on their way to the game by a plane towing a banner that read "26-3 Merry Xmas," a reference to Atlanta's Super Bowl collapse.

Goff threw a 14-yard touchdown pass to Cooper Kupp with 11:51 left, and the Los Angeles Rams held off the Tennessee Titans 27-23 on Sunday to clinch the first NFC West title since 2003.

The Rams (11-4) came in needing a win or a loss by Seattle to secure the division. They took care of business themselves, with Todd Gurley II and Goff leading the way again.

Gurley had a career-best 144 yards on 28 carries, earning him a nomination for NFL MVP with 118 yards rushing and 158 yards receiving with two TDs. Goff finished with four touchdowns and 301 yards passing.

The Titans (8-7) lost their third straight game, damaging their chances of ending their own playoff drought stretching to 2008.

44. Marcus Mariota rolled right and chucked the ball incomplete under pressure from Connor Barwin.

CHIEFS 29, DOLPHINS 13
KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Alex Smith threw for 304 yards and a touchdown, Kareem Hunt ran for 91 yards and a score and the Kansas City Chiefs beat the Miami Dolphins 29-13 on Sunday to clinch back-to-back AFC West titles for the first time in franchise history.

Tyreek Hill had six catches for 109 yards, and Harrison Butler converted the field goals, as the Chiefs (9-6) dashed what faint postseason hope the Dolphins (6-9) still harbored.

Jay Cutler threw for 286 yards and a touchdown, but a chunk of that came on a 65-yard loss

[illegible][illegible]

Butch Dill/Associated Press

New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees (9) passes in the second half against the Atlanta Falcons in New Orleans, Sunday.

to Jaquan Grant in the first half. Otherwise, Miami struggled against a Chiefs defense that has been stingy and opportunistic the past two weeks.

That's coincided with the return of Marcus Peters from his disciplinary suspension.

The Chiefs' star cornerback had two interceptions and forced a fumble against the Chargers last week, a win that pushed them to the brink of the playoffs. He recovered a fumble and forced another on Sunday, giving Peters a hand in five turn-overs the past two weeks.

The up-mixed Tampa Bay Buccaneers and clinch a spot in the NFC playoffs.

The Panthers (11-4) trailed most of the second half, but Newton drove the Panthers 59 yards completing 4 of 7 passes for 52 yards in the final 3 minutes before scoring on a what could have been a disastrous play. Newton fumbled the snap from the shotgun, alertly picked it up and then raced across the goal line for the go-ahead score.

Newton celebrated the score by using the football as a prop, pretending to light a candle on

BENGALS 26, LIONS 17
CINCINNATI — Giovanni Bernard ran for 116 yards and a clinching touchdown in the closing minutes, sending Cincinnati to a 26-17 victory Sunday that eliminated the Detroit Lions from playoff contention and gave Marvin Lewis a good moment in what was possibly his final home game as Bengals coach.

Matthew Stafford and the Lions (8-7) couldn't take advantage of an injury-depleted team that gave indifferent performance the last two games. It was a losing effort in Week 13 which opened the season 3-4 and repeatedly wasted chances to move to the forefront of the playoff chase.

In a case in celebration of his son Chosen's second birthday, Cincinnati can clinch the AFC South championship with a win over Atlanta and a New Orleans loss to Tampa Bay.

PATRIOTS 37, BILLS 16
FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Tom Brady passed for a pair of touchdowns and the New England Patriots stayed on track to claim home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs with a 37-16 win over the Buffalo Bills on Sunday.

Drew Brees caught a touchdown pass and rushed for a 4-yard score. He carried 24 times for career-high 129 yards. It was just his second career 100-yard game. Mike Gillislee

Tion Green's 5-yard touchdown drive put the Lions ahead 17-16 early in the fourth quarter, but defensive penalties extended Cincinnati's drive that led to Randy Bullock's go-ahead kick with 42 left.

Game one last chance.

Detroit self-destructed with a holding penalty, a false start and a short punt, allowing the Bengals (6-9) to finish it off in front of a half-empty stadium. Bernard broke free for a 12-yard touchdown run with 1:54 to go, sending fans to the exits.

There wasn't much reaction from the crowd when the name Lewis was announced as part of the pregame team introductions. He is finishing his contract and has been cryptic about whether he thinks he'll return for a 10th season.

active for the first time in six games, added a 1-yard rushing touchdown.

New England (12-3) can lock up first-round bye with either a Pittsburgh or Jacksonville loss. If both of those teams lose, the Patriots will secure home-field advantage throughout the postseason. The Jaguars play at San Francisco Sunday. The Steelers play at Houston Monday.

Even with the loss, the Bills (8-7) remain in contention to break their 17-year playoff drought. It is to largest active streamer in North America's four major professional sports. It is the longest postseason absence since NFL merger in 1970.

CHARGERS 14, JETS 7
EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.

**PANTHERS 22,
BUCCANEERS 19**
CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Cam Newton scored on a 2-yard touchdown run with 35 seconds remaining to lift the Carolina Panthers to a 22-19 win over

[illegible]

the weekend needing to win both of their remaining games — including next Sunday at home against Oakland — and get lots of help elsewhere to remain in the mix. Rivers & Co. held up their end of things, but barely.

Los Angeles, which started the season 0-4, had a tough time getting much going against a spirited effort by the defense of the Jets (5-10). Rivers finished 22 of 40 for 290 yards. Gordon had 81 yards on 19 carries, but left late in the game with an ankle injury. He remained standing on the sideline as the Chargers tried to run out the clock.

Bryce Petty, making his second start this season in place of the injured Josh McCown, struggled all game. He missed open receivers and repeatedly flexed his right hand, which he banged up early in the game. But he remained in, going 15 of 28 for 119 yards and an interception.

REDSKINS 27, BRONCOS 11
LANDOVER, Md. — Kirk Cousins threw for 299 yards and three touchdowns in what could be his final home game for the Washington Redskins as they beat the Denver Broncos and their top-ranked defense 27-11 Sunday.

Cousins was 19 of 37 with TD passes to Jamison Crowder, Josh Doctson and Vernon Davis and an interception. He became the first quarterback in Washington history with three seasons of 25 or more TD passes, and needs 65 yards for his third in a row with 4,000-plus yards.

Washington's 386 offensive yards are third most by a Denver opponent this season, behind only Philadelphia and New England. The Broncos came in giving up an average of 276.8 yards a game.

The Redskins (7-8) came 78 seconds from not allowing a touchdown for a second consecutive game for the first time since the 1970 AFL-NFL merger.

BEARS 20, BROWNS 3
CHICAGO — The Browns got pushed to the brink of a winless season, hurt by two more interceptions by DeShone Kizer and two turnovers in the red zone against Chicago.

One more loss and the Browns will join the 2008 Detroit Lions as the only teams to go 0-16. Last year, Cleveland was 0-14 before getting its only victory on Dec. 24.

And the Browns will wrap up the season at AFC North leader Pittsburgh next week. Then again, the Browns (0-15) keep racking up losses no matter whom they're playing.

They're 1-30 in two seasons under coach Hue Jackson.

Rookie QB Kizer threw for 182 yards and ran his league leading interception total to 21. One of those was to a wide-open Kyle Fuller in the end zone in the second quarter.

Defensive end Myles Garrett had what looked like a 42-yard interception return for a touchdown early in the third quarter wiped out because Carl Nassib was offside.

Time of Possession 29:30 30:30

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

PUSHING—Tampa Bay: Butler 13-51, Martin 6-7, Winston 3-6, Rodgers 1-2, Sims 1-0, Camina, Houston 14-52, McGaffey 9-39, Stewart 7-19.

PASSING—Tempe Bay, Winston 21-27 0-367
Carline, Newton 16-25 1-180, Anderson 0-14-0
RECEIVING—Tempe Bay, Evans 6-107
Godwin 3-98, Humphreys 5-61, State 3-13, Martino
2-67, Butler 2-4, Sims 1-18, Wilson 1-18, Carline,
Berein 3-45, Olsen 3-27, Funchess 3-11, City 2-24,
McCalley 2-19, O.Bryet 1-31, Whitaker 1-4, Stewer
1-minus 1

MISSED FIELD GOALS—Tempe Bay, Murray

51

BENGALS IN LEADS 17

Detroit	7	0	0	7-17
Cincinnati	0	0	7	13-28

First Quarter

Dan-Ebner 33 pass from Stafford (Prose)

Second Quarter
 Cin—FG Bullock 29, 7:35
 Cin—FG Bullock 27, 10:
Third Quarter
 Det—FG Paster 23, 9:28
 Cin—Lynch 1 pass from Dalton (Bullock)

Fourth Quarter
 Cin-FG Bullock 35, 14:13
 Det-T Green 5 run (Foster kick), 9:49
 Cin-FG Bullock 51, 4:42
 Cin-Bernard 12 run (Bullock kick), 1:54
 Cin 43-39-3

	Oct	On
First downs	15	28
Total Net Yards	279	364
Rushes-yards	22-87	34-142
Passing	189	222
Comp-Att-Int	19-35-1	27-41-1

Gained North Lost	2-14	3-16
Punts	5-40.4	4-38.0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties-Yards	9-74	5-60
Time of Possession	27:31	32:29

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

(R) 20-200; (C) 20-0; (D) 20-0; (E) 20-0; (F) 20-0; (G) 20-0; (H) 20-0; (I) 20-0; (J) 20-0; (K) 20-0; (L) 20-0; (M) 20-0; (N) 20-0; (O) 20-0; (P) 20-0; (Q) 20-0; (R) 20-0; (S) 20-0; (T) 20-0; (U) 20-0; (V) 20-0; (W) 20-0; (X) 20-0; (Y) 20-0; (Z) 20-0;

6-21, Riddels 6-16, Stafford 1-7, Cincinnati, Barnhart 29-116, Hill 4-17, Mason 3-12, Dalton 3-(minus 1), Malone 1-(minus 2).
 PASSING—Detroit, Stafford 19-35-1-203, Cincinnati, Dalton 27-41-1-236.
 RECEIVING—Detroit, Elmer 5-43, Gotsdiner

4-28, M-Jones 3-50, Redick 3-25, Tate 3-14, Ables 1-5, O'Connell, Bernard 7-52, A. Green 6-81, Boyd 5-50, LaFell 4-8, Mason 3-30, Hill 1-34, Kist 1-8, Uzomah 1-1.

MISSSED FIELD GOALS: Deloit, Foster 50.

REARS ON BENCHES:

Cleveland	0	0	0	0-0
Chicago	0	0	14	0-20

First Quarter
 Ch—Howard 2 run (Jack Black), 1:20
 Second Quarter
 Ch—FG Gonzalez 48, 0:01

On—Hunted 16 sun (Hugert lock), 12.23		
On—Subsided 4 sun (Hugert lock), 3.27		
A—58,795		
	On	On
First share	12	16
Test New York	253	259

Rentals-yards	20-75	\$1-67
Plumbing	178	161
Comp-App Int	16-26-2	14-23-0
Sched-Work Load	1-4	5-32
Pumps	7-47-7	8-45-1
Furniture Load	2-1	5-0

Parishes North	9-40	4-25
Time of Processing	20:40	22:14

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

PL(2)104—Cleveland, Cowed 12-44, Johnson 4-25, Kiser 2-5, Dwyer 1-5, Chicago, Nobles 7-44, Houser 22-44, Cohen 2-5

PL(2)105—Cleveland, Kiser 19-26, 2-100

Chicago Tribune 14-25-0-193
RECEIVED—Cleveland, Johnson 7-81,
Delaware 3-12, Higgins 2-20, Gordon 2-18, Louis
1-30, Ames 1-13, C. Coleman 1-5, Conrad 1-10
11 Chicago, Wright 4-27, Bailey 3-46, Cunningham
2-62, Miller 2-18, Cohen 2-12, Sims 1-28.
NOTED FIELD GOAL S. Jones

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FIRST GAMES – Thursday, Dec. 28th

Thursday December 28 - GIRLS Schedule

9:00 AM Chap Center	Bushland vs El Paso Jefferson
12:00 PM Chap Center	Plainview vs Midland Classical
3:00 PM Chap Center	El Paso Pebble Hills vs Midland Lee
6:00 PM Chap Center	Lake Travis vs Midland High

Thursday December 28 - BOYS Schedule

10:30 AM Chap Center	Houston Spring Woods vs Odessa High
1:30 PM Chap Center	El Paso Pebble Hills vs San Angelo
4:30 PM Chap Center	Plainview vs Midland Lee
7:30 PM Chap Center	Belton High vs Midland High

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2017-18 BOWL GLANCE

Tuesday Heart of Dallas Bowl West Virginia (7-6) vs. Utah (6-6), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN) Quick Lane Bowl Detroit (9-4) vs. Duke (6-6), 5:15 p.m. (ESPN) Cactus Bowl Kansas State (7-5) vs. UCLA (6-6), 9 p.m. (ESPN) Wednesday Independence Bowl Shreveport, La. Southern Mississippi (8-4) vs. Florida State (6-6), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN) Florida State Boston College (7-5) vs. Iowa (7-5), 5:15 p.m. (ESPN) Foster Farms Bowl Santa Clara, Calif. Arizona (7-5) vs. Purdue (6-6), 8:30 p.m. (FOX) Texas Bowl Houston (6-6) vs. Missouri (7-5), 9 p.m. (ESPN) Thursday, Dec. 28	Military Bowl Annapolis, Md. Virginia (6-6) vs. Navy (6-6), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN) Camping World Bowl Orlando, Fla. Oklahoma State (9-3) vs. Virginia Tech (9-3), 5:15 p.m. (ESPN) Alamo Bowl San Antonio Stanford (9-4) vs. TCU (10-3), 9 p.m. (ESPN) Holiday Bowl San Diego Washington State (9-3) vs. Michigan State (9-3), 9 p.m. (FOX) Friday, Dec. 29 Bell Bowl Charlotte, N.C. Wake Forest (7-5) vs. Texas A&M (7-5), 1 p.m. (ESPN) San Bowl El Paso, Texas NC State (8-4) vs. Arizona State (7-5), 3 p.m. (CBS) Music City Bowl Nashville, Tenn. Kentucky (7-5) vs. Northwestern (9-3), 4:30 p.m. (ESPN) Arizona Bowl	Tucson, Ariz. New Mexico State (5-6) vs. Utah State (6-6), 5:30 p.m. (CBS) Cotton Bowl Classic Arlington Southern Cal (11-2) vs. Ohio State (11-2), 8:30 p.m. (ESPN) Saturday, Dec. 30 Tad Snyder Bowl Jacksonville, Fla. Louisville (8-4) vs. Mississippi State (8-4), Noon (ESPN) Liberty Bowl Memphis, Tenn. Iowa State (7-5) vs. Memphis (10-2), 12:30 p.m. (ABC) Florida Bowl Orlando, Fla. Washington (10-2) vs. Penn State (10-2), 4 p.m. (ESPN) Orange Bowl Miami Gardens, Fla. Wisconsin (12-1) vs. Miami (10-2), 8 p.m. (ESPN) Monday, Jan. 1 Outback Bowl Tampa, Fla. Michigan (8-4) vs. South Carolina (8-4), Noon (ESPN) Peach Bowl	Atlanta UCF (12-0) vs. Auburn (10-3), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN) Citrus Bowl Orlando, Fla. Notre Dame (9-3) vs. LSU (9-3), 1 p.m. (ABC) Rose Bowl (CFP Semifinal) Pasadena, Calif. Oklahoma (12-1) vs. Georgia (12-1), 5:10 p.m. (ESPN) Sugar Bowl (CFP Semifinal) New Orleans Clemson (12-1) vs. Alabama (11-1), 8:45 p.m. (ESPN) Monday, Jan. 8 College Football Championship Atlanta Rose Bowl winner vs. Sugar Bowl winner, 8 p.m. (ESPN) Saturday, Jan. 20 East-West Shrine Classic At St. Petersburg, Fla. East vs. West, 3 p.m. (NFLN) NFLN College Bowl At Carson, Calif. American vs. National, 4 p.m. (FS1)
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Photo credit James Durbic/Reporter-Telegram

Lee's Colby Standard (10) talks with teammates as the Rebels trailed Eufaula Trinity in the Class 6A Division I regional playoff game Dec. 2, at Shotwell Stadium in Abilene.

STANDARD

From 1C

prominence under second-year head coach Clint Hartman. For his record-setting efforts, Standard earned the MRT's 2017 Offensive Player of the Year honor.

The journey to becoming Lee's starting signal caller was a true investment for Standard and involved sacrifice at every turn.

As a junior on Lee's varsity football team, Standard was the team's second-string quarterback behind Sema J. Davis, now a freshman at Abilene Christian. Opportunities under center were few and far between. Standard ended up seeing more productive time as a receiver, at safety and even at running back in a 2016 Rebels campaign wrought with injuries.

Standard did everything he could to try to earn a starting quarterback nod as a junior, but watched as his team limped to a 3-7 mark without a postseason berth.

"I really wanted to start last year and I worked my butt off," Standard said. "I didn't play summer baseball, just so I could try to get stronger and stuff."

Through a grueling senior offseason under Hartman and his staff surrounded by expectations of underachievement — Standard kept his father's message close, earning the widespread trust of his teammates and coaches with his dedication in workouts, the program's character development training and grasp of the Rebels' offense.

This season, he rushed for 100 yards or more in seven of the team's 13 games and totaled 300 or more yards in five games. He spearheaded the Rebels to a 6-0 start and their first win against archrival Midland High since 2013, ran for 273 yards against Amarillo Tascosa and finished the year as the team's leading rusher (1,450 yards, 15 TDs on 186 carries).

But all the credit was heaped on his teammates and his coaches. As he said throughout the year, he believes he had the easiest job on the team.

"I've got to give credit to everybody around me and that's what I hope everybody realizes," Standard said. "Our wide receivers made plays all year, our O-

line — they were big, mean and nasty and they always protected me. It was just awesome looking back on it and it is pretty special.

"I've said it before but this wouldn't have happened if coach Hartman wouldn't have come here. I can say this for every guy who was a senior on this team. We're just so thankful that he put us through these off-seasons and demanded us to compete and win and really changed the culture. A lot of really good players have come through here and it's just an honor that my name will be in the history books."

Standard, who recently committed to play baseball at Butler Community College (El Dorado, Kansas) said the lessons he learned playing quarterback this season will prepare him for the rest of his life.

"In life, a lot of things are going to be thrown at you," Standard said. "If you prepare for any situation and never be satisfied (you'll be successful). Not everybody can be leaders in life. But if you're ever in position to lead like I was this year, you've got to step up and just be a great teammate in life. The game of life, I think it's a team sport no matter what you do. You're always competing. In my senior year I got to have a pretty special season I'll never forget the rest of my life."

He offered his own message to those returning for Team 58 and beyond.

"Never give up, keep working hard and if you have the goal of being the quarterback, stay after it," Standard said. "Have fun and be a hard-nosed west Texas kid."

Other players considered for the award: Lee junior running back Josh Traylor, Lee senior running back Avery Akbar, Andrews senior quarterback Jace Keese, Andrews senior wide receiver Noah Lujan, Greenwood sophomore running back Ryan Snodgrass, Forsan senior quarterback Bryce Hergert, Garden City junior running back Josue Gutierrez, Midland Christian junior quarterback Peyton Powell

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NBA

From 1C

second-highest it's ever had at this point behind 2010-11. James' first season in Miami, and Van Gundy said he's even a little surprised.

"I don't know what it speaks to, but we do have a bunch of really good, young players," Van Gundy said. "We have a dynasty in the making in Golden State, we have a team trying to challenge them in their own conference, or a couple teams in San Antonio and Houston, and LeBron is still rolling."

All of them but the Spurs are in action Monday.

As it often is with the NBA, Christmas is about the players more than the teams.

Carter was that kind of player who NBA fans couldn't get enough of early in his career, before every game was on League Pass and highlights all over the internet. He'd have been the perfect player to get on Christmas but the league only played two or three games back then, and his Toronto Raptors were only shown once.

"We were fun to watch," Carter said. "We wanted that opportunity."

Now this is the 10th straight year of five games on Christmas, and with a third of the league playing, room is there for just about everybody fans want to pile in front of their TVs to watch.

Well, almost everybody.

Van Gundy was hoping for the Milwaukee Bucks and their gravity-ignoring Greek Freak, Giannis Antetokounmpo.

"They should just film a scrimmage of theirs then, because Giannis is so good that he deserves to have publicity on Christmas Day," Van Gundy said.

Maybe next year.

As for this year, the holiday hoops smorgasbord includes something old, something new and a little something blue:

■ A tantalizing twosome that could've been a Big Three. Embiid and Simmons have the Sixers on the rise in their first year together, but imagine if Porzingis was there with them. The Knicks took the 7-foot-3 forward with the No. 4 pick in 2015, immediately after Philadelphia passed for the since-traded Jahlil Okafor.

■ LeBron & KD — Enough said. ■ Peace on Christmas? Maybe not in Boston, where the Celtics and Wizards renew a heated rivalry that only grew hotter after they went seven games in the Eastern Conference semifinals. Toss in Kyrie Irving going against John Wall, and the plot thickens.

■ Westbrook vs. Harden alone would have been a good gift, but it's even better after Chris Paul joined Harden in Houston, and Paul George and Carmelo Anthony surrounded

Westbrook in Oklahoma City.

■ Christmas is for kids, and the Lakers have Ball and Brandon Ingram, the last two No. 2 picks, and the lesser-known Kuzma who might become the best of the bunch. The Wolves have their own youngsters in Towns and Andrew Wiggins, but it's the acquisition of Jimmy Butler that could finally end the postseason drought that dates to 2004.

Teams win titles but stars are the stories on Christmas, as the Celtics know.

Kevin Garnett, Paul Pierce and Ray Allen had just departed when Brad Stevens arrived, and the NBA didn't want the league's most storied franchise without its superstars. So Boston was ignored for three years before finally getting back on the schedule last year, and now Irving, Jayson Tatum and these Celtics make history as the first to be home for the holiday.

"I understand that it's probably not everybody's favorite event, people that bust their tail and work in the arenas and are there all the time, and maybe media and everybody else," Stevens said. "But to be a player or coach on Christmas Day, it's pretty special and I think it's something that having not been there, our first couple of years, I don't take for granted that we're on that schedule, for sure."

STEELERS

From 1C

Texans since 2014.

ENDING THE SKID?

The Texans need a win Monday to avoid their first five-game skid since dropping the last 14 games of their 2-14 season in 2013. Houston has lost seven of its last eight games, including going 1-6 since rookie quarterback Deshaun Watson sustained a season-ending knee injury. The Texans (4-10), who won the AFC South in each of the last two seasons, will finish with a losing record for the first time since 2013 after going 9-7 in each of the first three seasons under coach Bill O'Brien.

NO BREAK FOR

BELL: With the Steelers still needing wins, Bell is unlikely to get much rest before the playoffs. Bell leads the NFL in touches

with 387 and is within striking distance of finishing in the top five for most touches in a single season.

The Steelers are dealing with depth issues behind Bell after rookie James Conner was lost for the season with a right knee injury. Pittsburgh signed Stevan Ridley in case of emergency, but fans should expect to see a lot of Bell, the NFL's highest-paid running back.

"Whatever my team asks me to do, I'm going to go out there and do," Bell said. "That's the biggest thing about me. I want to win a Super Bowl. We win these next two games, we'll get a one or a two seed."

WATT'S UP: The first NFL meeting of Texans star defensive end J.J. Watt and his youngest brother, Steelers rookie linebacker T.J. Watt, never material-

ized thanks to a broken left leg in October that ended J.J.'s season.

T.J. has done a pretty decent impersonation of his big brother. Watt's six sacks are tied for third on the team and are the second most by a Steelers rookie. He's also played 13 of 14 games, and despite the long slog from training camp doesn't, he doesn't like he's run into the "rookie wall."

"There's no rookie wall at all," T.J. Watt said. "I think if I hit anything, I feel like I'm refreshed the back half of season. I'm great. I'm hungry."

MUTUAL ADMIRATION: When Roethlisberger was asked about Houston's defense this week, his entire answer was dedicated to his admiration for defensive end Jadeveon Clowney. "When you got Clowney

running all over the field, you're going to have to have eyes and understand where he is all the time because he is a very, very special football player," Roethlisberger said.

When Clowney was told of Roethlisberger's comments he called him a "special player," too. The top overall pick in the 2014 draft, has a career-high nine sacks, but hasn't had one in the last three games. He's hoping to get to Roethlisberger, but knows he'll still have work to do if he does.

"It's not really (about) chasing him, it's just getting him down," Clowney said. "It's like wrestling with a bear. It's more of a wrestle than a chase. When you get to him you have to hold onto him, because he's one of the biggest quarterbacks in the league."

THE SPOTLIGHT ON EMPLOYMENT

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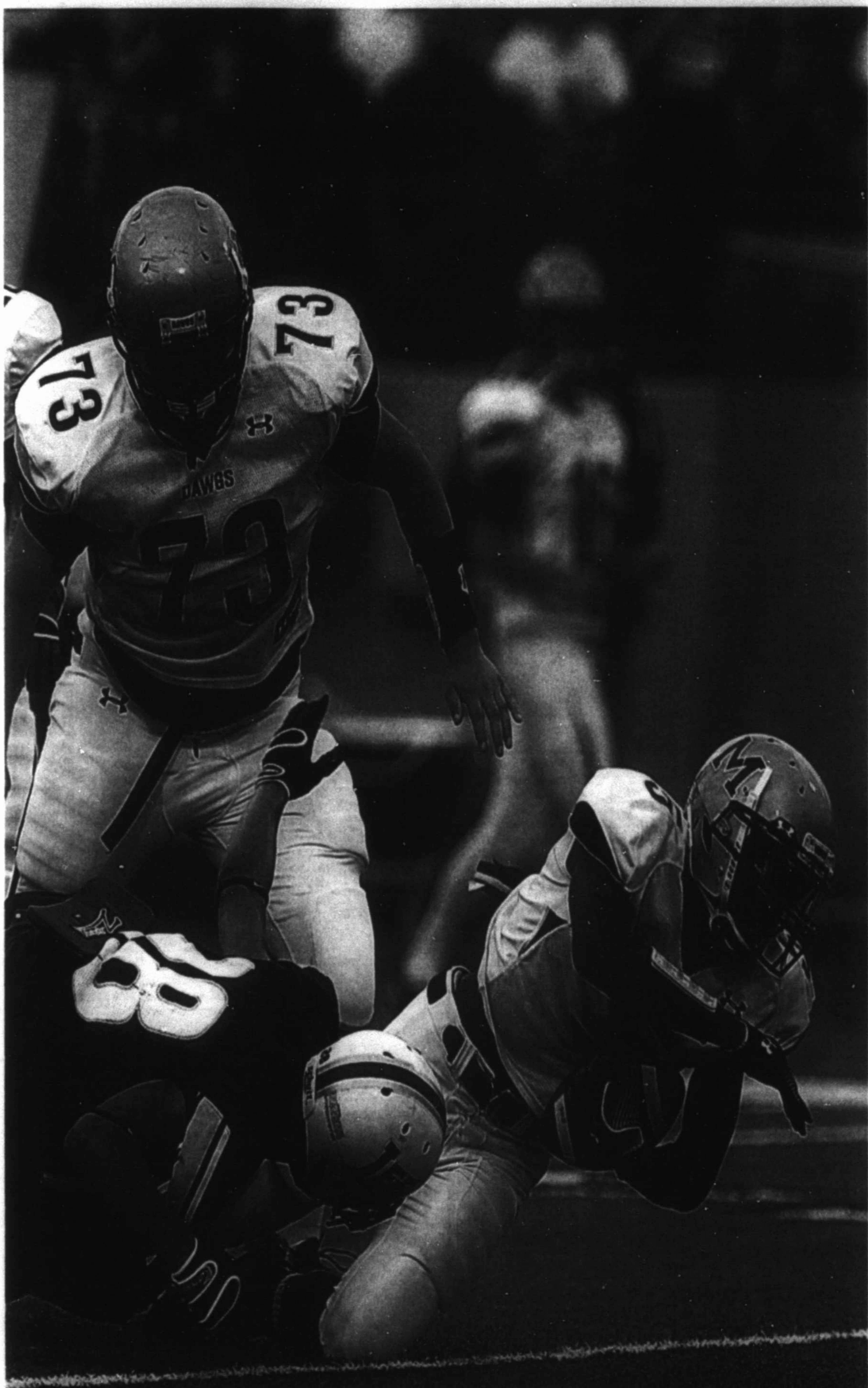
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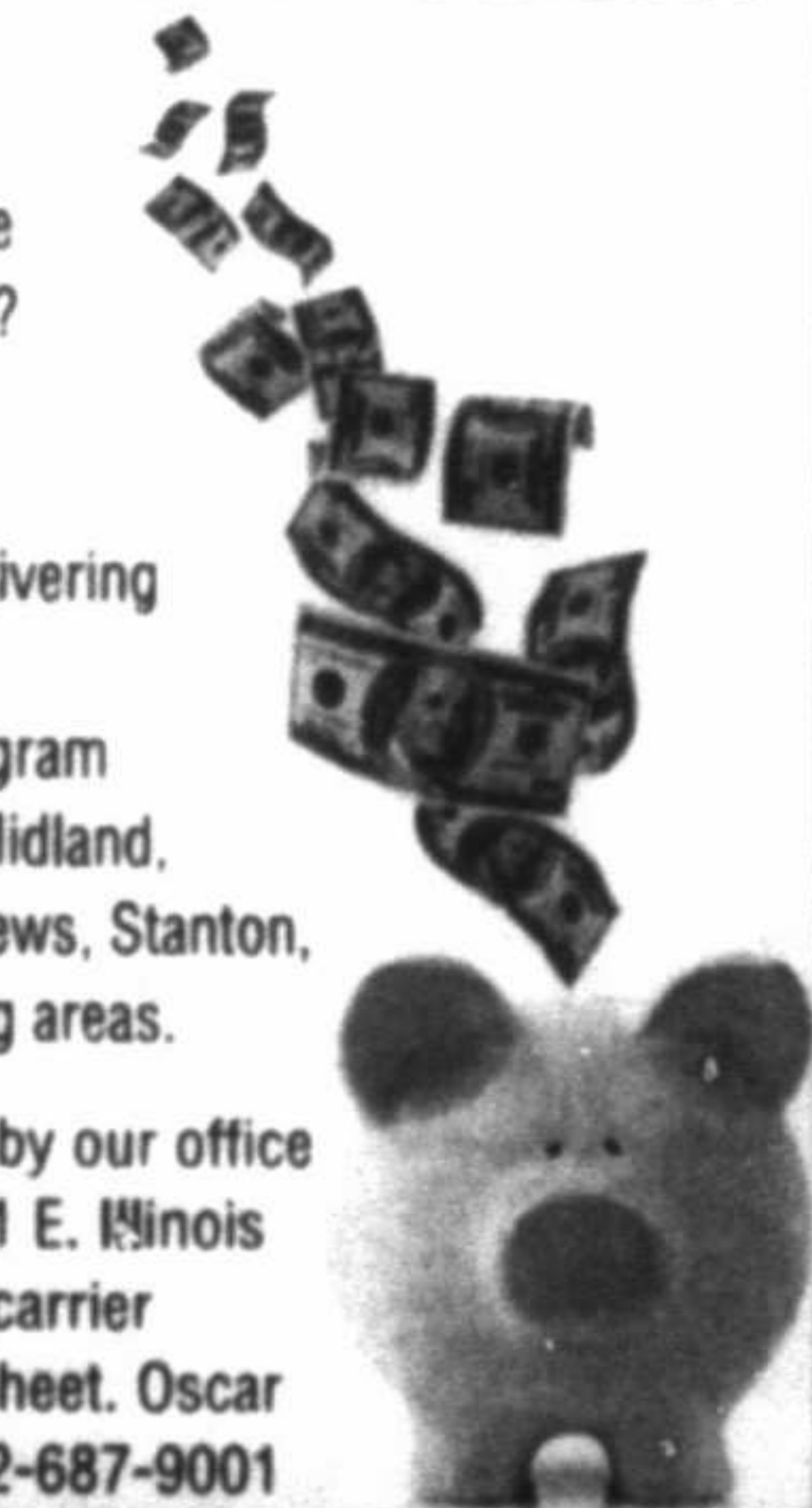
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Please come by our office located at 201 E. Illinois and fill out a carrier information sheet. Oscar Ronquillo 432-687-9001



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OTHER JOBS

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN ITS DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR NIGHT TIME ASSOCIATE

Night time associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE
Must be able to count at a fast pace. Be able to work between the hours of 12-6 am Sunday night thru Friday night and be able to work Saturday night 8pm-4am. Will be working inside and outside depending on the job you are doing that night. Will be 5-6 nights per week. We will train the right person. \$11.00 per hour

These positions require some physical lifting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr. shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspaper bundles. Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.

Apply in person at: 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk - Monday - Friday 8-5 or email: jmaddox@hearstnp.com
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE



RESTAURANT FOOD SERVICES

BUFFALO WILD WINGS

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

SKILLED LABOR

Welders

CONTRACT WELDERS & SINGLE HAND WELDERS NEEDED
3 Years Experience & 6G Pipe Test Required
Apply in person only - no phone calls
Fab Tech Drilling Equipment
2228 Steven Road, Odessa TX 79764

TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

LOCAL TRUCK DRIVER CDL A OR B / SHOT CREW MEMBER

Austin Powder Company is hiring at our Midland, TX location.

Duties:
• Operate company vehicles to transport products to and from job sites.
• Loading/unloading product for delivery. Frequent lifting of 40-50 pound product bags or boxes.
• Perform labor support at job sites and location.

Qualifications:
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Apply at www.austinpowder.com
Click on Careers
Or forward resume to Austin Powder Company.
Email: humanresources@austinpowder.com or Fax: (214) 591-1555

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Legal and Public Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

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

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

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

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AJAX RESOURCES, LLC, OPR 000597, HAS FILED WITH THE TEXAS RAILROAD COMMISSION THE FOLLOWING:

P-17 AMENDED APPLICATION FOR EXCEPTION TO SWR 28 AND/OR 27 TO SURFACE COMMINGLED PRODUCTION, ALLOCATE PRODUCTION, AND FOR OFF-LEASE SEPARATION, METERING AND STORAGE.

BOTH OIL AND CASINGHEAD GAS.

FROM AN OIL AND GAS LEASE OF LABORS 8.7.12, 13.14.15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 24, 25 ALL IN LEAGUE 26A KENT COUNTY SCHOOL LANDS, MARTIN COUNTY TEXAS.

WITH PRODUCTION FROM AN OIL AND GAS LEASE ON THE SOUTH 538 1/2 ACRES OF SECTION 10, BLOCK H.A. S.R. LANIER ORIGINAL GRANTEE, MARTIN COUNTY TEXAS.

WITH PRODUCTION FROM AN OIL AND GAS LEASE ON ALL OF SECTION 8, BLOCK H.A. J.H. O'BRIEN, ORIGINAL GRANTEE, AND THE N/2 OF SECTION 9, BLOCK H.A. S.R. LANIER, ORIGINAL GRANTEE, MARTIN COUNTY TEXAS.

ANY AFFECTED MINERAL INTEREST OWNERS WHO HAVE NOT RECEIVED WRITTEN NOTIFICATION ARE ADVISED TO CONTACT ALEX BOLANOS OF AJAX RESOURCES, LLC, AT 713-400-3944 BY JANUARY 15, 2018, 24 GREENWAY PLAZA, STE. 650, HOUSTON, TX 77046.

Lost and Found



LOST CAT, West Kansas Area in Midland. Female, mostly white with black on the ears, feet and rings on half the tail. Blue eyes. Has microchip. \$100 reward for safe return. Call 432-425-5008 or 432-978-7130



Autos For Sale/Lease

2001 TOYOTA Avalon. White. Has engine replacement, new tune up, new car stereo, new tires and rims. Must see! \$4,500. 432-349-0041

CADILLAC 2006 DTS. One owner, 80K actual miles. Garage kept. Have records of all service & oil changes. \$9950. 432-212-1830

VOLKSWAGEN 2007 Beetle, 79K miles. Good tires, new battery, new fuel pump. Runs well. \$4500. Call Edward 432-352-8838

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Antique and Vintage

1985 SHELBY Cobra Replica, 1500 miles, custom built, small block 427, 528 HP, 6 speed Tremec transmission. \$45,000.00 (432) 681-0233.

4WD and SUV

ORIGINAL PRICE \$69,900, now priced \$6,995! 1999 Lexus LX470 SUV, black, garage kept, regularly serviced. Call after 5pm 432-682-6139

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Community Events

Attention Readers:

The Midland Reporter-Telegram Circulation department will not take calls on Sunday, December 24th or Sunday, December 31st.

All vacation stops for Christmas weekend will need to be placed by Wednesday, December 20th. Vacation stops for New Year's weekend will need to be placed by Wednesday, December 27th.

Have a Merry Christmas and Safe New Year's

Midland Reporter-Telegram

RV Vehicles



SPARTAN 1949 Mansion RV. 36' Beautifully restored motor home. This home will never decrease in value. They're being in wheels. Must see to believe. \$20,000. 623-606-5888



Garage-Estate-Yard Sale

Estate Sales

THE CAT'S MEOW
408 Andrews Hwy - Midland 687-2004
Dec. 28th - Jan. 6th
10 AM-6 PM - Closed Sunday
ONCE A YEAR SALE!
Everything Storewide 20% to 50% Savings



Merchandise

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You pick \$2.00 lb. or I pick \$4.50 lb. 432-625-2189

Miscellaneous 4 Sale

FREON R12 WANTED
Certified buyer pays CASH for cylinders & cans.
(312) 291-9169, ref@garmentfinders.com

OAK, PECAN, Hickory, mesquite, pine, 432-209-0418 or 325-782-4282



Pets-Animals

Dogs



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

REGISTERED YELLOW Lab male, 3 months old \$400 OBO. 432-556-7253

Lovely 3 bedroom 2 bath, brick home with fireplace, attached garage & large backyard in great neighborhood. \$1,200 deposit. \$1,500 month for a year's lease. 1908 Woodlawn near downtown. 903-385-2017 for showing appointment after January 1.



Residential Sales

Single Family Homes

\$585,000.00 1908 SCR 1133 in Greenwood's Stoneridge Subdivision. Gorgeous 4 bedroom, 3 bath with two living areas, office, game room/cave, 3,335 sq. ft. Outside features include large covered patio, sprinkler system, fenced yard, three car garage, barn, and a wonderful pool! Large parking pad leads to 24x30 shop with overhead door. All of this sits on 3 acres in one of Greenwood's finest subdivisions. 432-684-7272.

TWO FEMALE Bichon Frise, 12 weeks old. Born on Sept. 6th. \$600 each. Top photo of parents. Ideal adult weight 18 pounds. Call 432-684-9993 or 432-588-9994

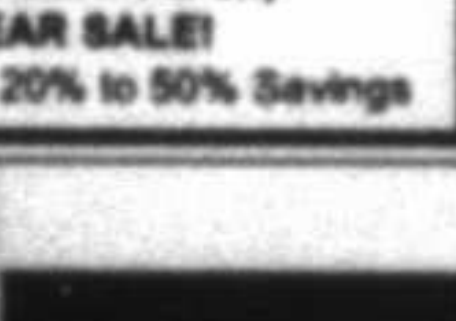
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Residential Sales

Single Family Homes

F880 4 bedroom, 2 full baths, 1 1/2 car garage and 1/2 bath by heated pool and hot tub. 2507 Bellechasse Ct. Midland. See pictures at Zillow.com. Call 432-653-9080 for an appointment to see.

LIQUIDATION OF 2 divorced homes in Midland, TX. 1608 W. Kansas & 2612 N. Garfield. Call for prices. 214-356-5244 Realtor

Vacation-Resort



Lake Alan Henry - North Ridge Development. Two 1 acre lots # 134 & 135 \$75,000 for both. Built-in view of lake, paved roads, private water plant, private boat ramp. site map rish.com. 3111 Properties, LLC. 806.441.7005

Acres

LAND FOR sale! Midland area, 0.161 acres. 604 N. Lee Street, Midland, TX. 79701. Please call Raul at 505-450-8290

Hunting Leases

HUNTING, RETIREMENT, INVESTMENT PROPERTY. 20-60 ACRES IN THE FOLLOWING COUNTIES: EDWARDS, KIRBY, CONCHO, COKE AND MENARD. SCENIC VIEWS, NATIVE GAME WITH FREE RANGING EXOTICS IN SOME COUNTIES. STARRING AT \$2,915 DOWN, \$485/MO. CALL/VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO. 800-876-8720 ranchertexas@aol.com

Ranches

GREAT 150 Acre Ranch near Chiswick, paved road. \$1,595 / Acre. Call agent: 813-656-3789. A&G Land Mgt.

RANCH FOR SALE 4,212 Acres near Snyder, Tx. Water, 3 houses, great hunting. Owner Financing \$795/ Acre (432) 664-7764

WEST TEXAS TRANS PECOS AREA, NEAR LAKE AMSTAD. 40-65 ACRES. MESQUITE, CEDAR, BRUSH COVER, WHITE TAIL, JAVELINA, BLUE QUAIL, TURKEY, DOVE. STARRING AT \$2,200 DOWN, \$349/MO. CALL/VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO. 800-236-6189 ranchertexas@aol.com

COMMERCIAL YARD BUILD TO SUIT FOR LEASE 5 ACRES, FENCED 2 AC CALCHED. \$2500/MONTH JUST EAST OF HIGHWAY 432-664-7764

OFFICE SPACE FOR LEASE 1600 square feet. Utilities and general maintenance included. Midland International Airport area. Contact Cheryl Keith, 432-262-4908, or chkeith@jrcpc.org

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Our goal is to be the premier media provider in the community. Let our team of experts work with you to develop a results-driven, first rate digital and print marketing strategy for your business.



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

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"On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, a partridge in a pear tree."

A partridge in a pear tree symbolizes Jesus Christ, the personification of God.



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"On the third day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, three French hens..."

The three French hens represent the three forms of God... Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



"On the fourth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, four calling birds..."

The four calling birds represent the four Gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke & John.



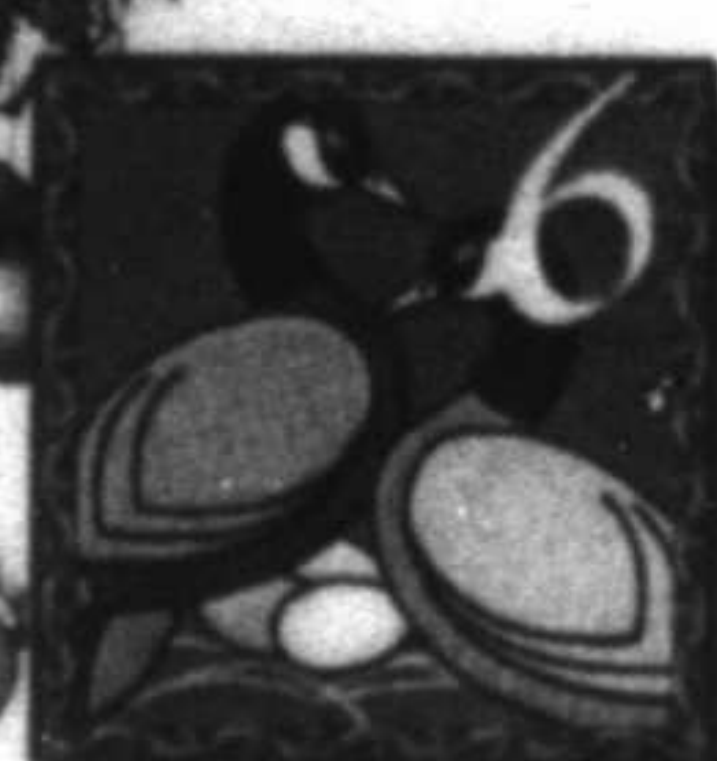
"On the fifth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, five golden rings..."

The five golden rings represent the Pentateuch - the first five books of the Bible.

St. Michael The Archangel

Traditional Catholic Church

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"On the sixth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, six geese-a-laying..."

The six geese-a-laying represent the six days of Creation.

Flowerland

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

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



"On the eighth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, eight maids-a-milking..."

The eight maids-a-milking are the eight Beatitudes in Matt. 5, part of the Sermon on the Mount.



"On the ninth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, nine ladies dancing..."

The nine ladies dancing represent the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit.



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"On the tenth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, ten lords-a-leaping..."

The ten lords-a-leaping represent the Ten Commandments.

John's Automotive & Service Center



Johnny or Jon

682-1335



"On the eleventh day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, eleven pipers piping..."

The eleven pipers piping are the eleven faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.



"On the twelfth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, twelve drummers drumming..."

The twelve drummers drumming represent the twelve points of doctrine of the Apostles' Creed.

Merry Christmas Joe & Martin Russell



697-5456

city_wide@att.net

www.citywideelectrictx.com

The Twelve Days of Christmas

On the first day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
A Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the second day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
2 Turtle Doves
and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the third day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
3 French Hens
2 Turtle Doves
and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the fourth day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
4 Calling Birds
3 French Hens
2 Turtle Doves
and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the fifth day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
5 Golden Rings
4 Calling Birds
3 French Hens
2 Turtle Doves
and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the sixth day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
6 Geese a Laying
5 Golden Rings
4 Calling Birds
3 French Hens
2 Turtle Doves
and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the seventh day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
7 Swans a Swimming
6 Geese a Laying
5 Golden Rings
4 Calling Birds
3 French Hens
2 Turtle Doves
and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the eighth day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
8 Maids a Milking
7 Swans a Swimming
6 Geese a Laying
5 Golden Rings
4 Calling Birds
3 French Hens
2 Turtle Doves
and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the ninth day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
9 Ladies Dancing
8 Maids a Milking
7 Swans a Swimming
6 Geese a Laying
5 Golden Rings
4 Calling Birds
3 French Hens
2 Turtle Doves
and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the tenth day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
10 Lords a Leaping
9 Ladies Dancing
8 Maids a Milking

7 Swans a Swimming
6 Geese a Laying
5 Golden Rings
4 Calling Birds
3 French Hens
2 Turtle Doves
and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the eleventh day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
11 Pipers Piping
10 Lords a Leaping
9 Ladies Dancing
8 Maids a Milking
7 Swans a Swimming
6 Geese a Laying
5 Golden Rings
4 Calling Birds
3 French Hens
2 Turtle Doves
and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the first day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
12 Drummers Drumming
11 Pipers Piping
10 Lords a Leaping
9 Ladies Dancing
8 Maids a Milking
7 Swans a Swimming
6 Geese a Laying
5 Golden Rings
4 Calling Birds
3 French Hens
2 Turtle Doves
and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

MERRY Christmas



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ROBIN ALVARADO, FNP

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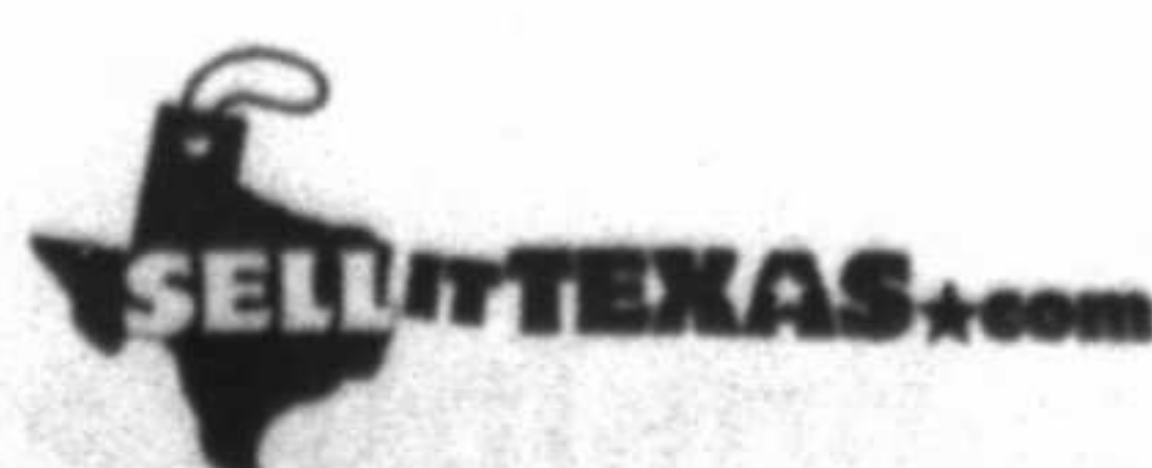
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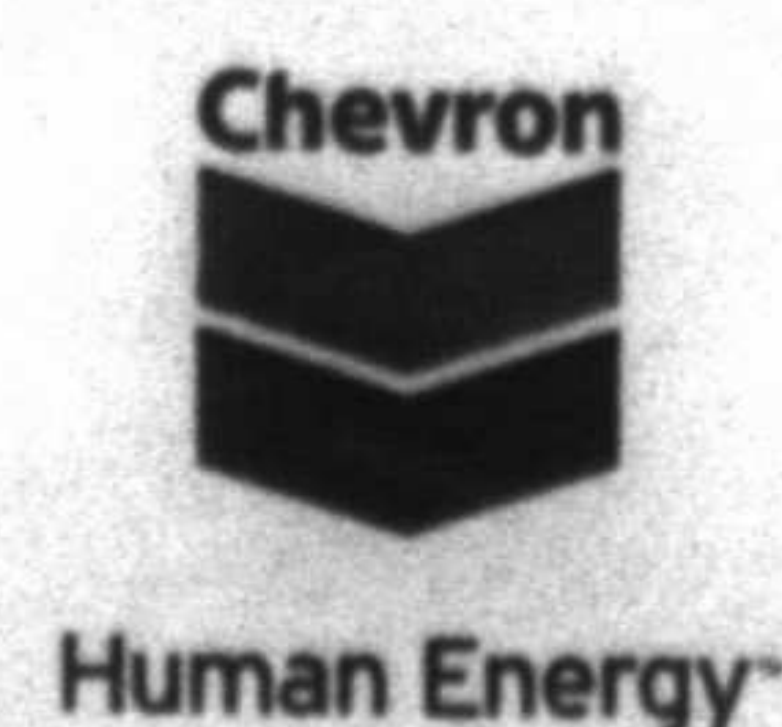
These Midlanders each play a
different role in making the Tall City
a better place to live.

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Fuels Our Community
Chevron supports Midland.





Christmas Prayer



Another year draws near its close
I ask, Dear Lord, please think of those
who touch our lives by being there
The friends with so much love to share
Please wrap their spirits in Your grace
So only smiles beam 'cross each face
Let each one know they are held dear
Then, fill their hearts with Christmas cheer

Those with new babes, new jobs, or lives
Please Lord, keep hope within their eyes
So they shall always know they're blessed
By a faithful God who grants the best
Should hardship fall on others' hearts
Lord, lead them to a brand new start
Lift their feet through the uphill climb
Then, guide them to a better time

Lord, summon angels - day and night
to bring miracles and sheer delight
Towards all my friends, near and abroad
Bless them with all that You can laud
Grant them good tidings, dreams, and health
And moments of kind-natured wealth
So their New Years' will surely be
As hallowed as You are to thee
Amen



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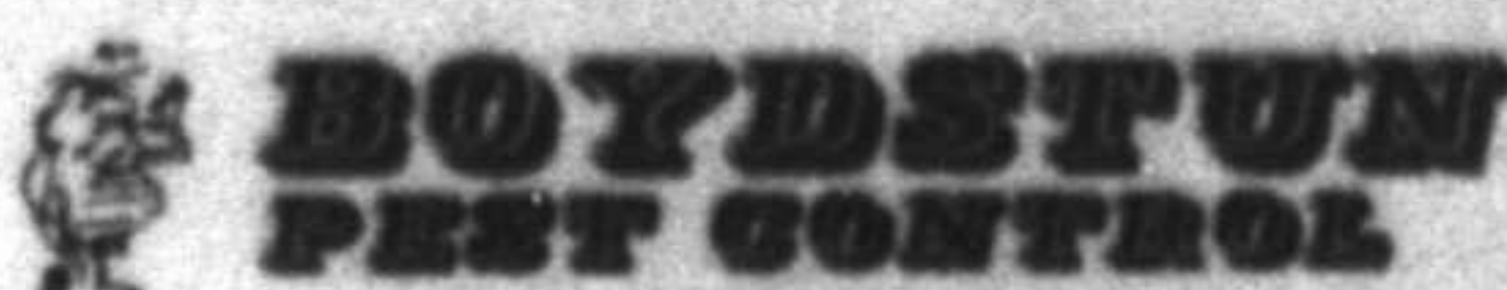
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