

MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2018

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BUSH RETREAT

"Poppy" and "Bar" are gone, but Kennebunkport will stay in family.

Page 4A



FIFTH STRAIGHT WIN

The Dallas Cowboys (8-5) have pushed their lead over Philadelphia and Washington in the NFC East to a commanding two games with three games to play, with a wild 29-23 OT win over the Eagles.

Page 1B

Newspaper: Oversight lacking at day cares

By Andrea Ball
and Tony Plohetski

Austin American-Statesman

AUSTIN — Each day, parents send more than 1 million children to Texas day care facilities, assuming they will be safe and secure until it is time to come home.

But more often than publicly posted state numbers indicate, children are victims of molestation, physical abuse or neglect at child care centers, including some with long histories of trouble.

A yearlong Austin American-Statesman

investigation for the first time reveals the dangerous conditions that exist inside many Texas day cares, leaving hundreds of children with serious injuries and nearly 90 dead as a result of abuse or neglect since 2007.

The newspaper found the state of Texas has reduced its surveillance of the deadliest day care facilities — the underground, illegal centers that watch thousands of children. And until recently, the state failed to use its own data in ways that could help identify problems before they lead to dangerous conditions.

The Statesman analyzed nearly 40,000

inspection records in which facilities had received state sanctions and obtained data on injuries and violations that had never previously been released by the state.

The newspaper found:

■ More than 450 children — almost one a week — suffered sexual abuse inside a day care facility during the past 10 years. During that same time, child care facilities were cited more than 3,200 times for abuse and neglect of the children they were watching.

■ Nearly half of the children who died of abuse and neglect in day care facilities, 42 out of 88, were in illegal centers. But

last year the state shut down its unit designed to track down these day care sites, saying in part that they weren't finding enough illegal centers to justify the effort.

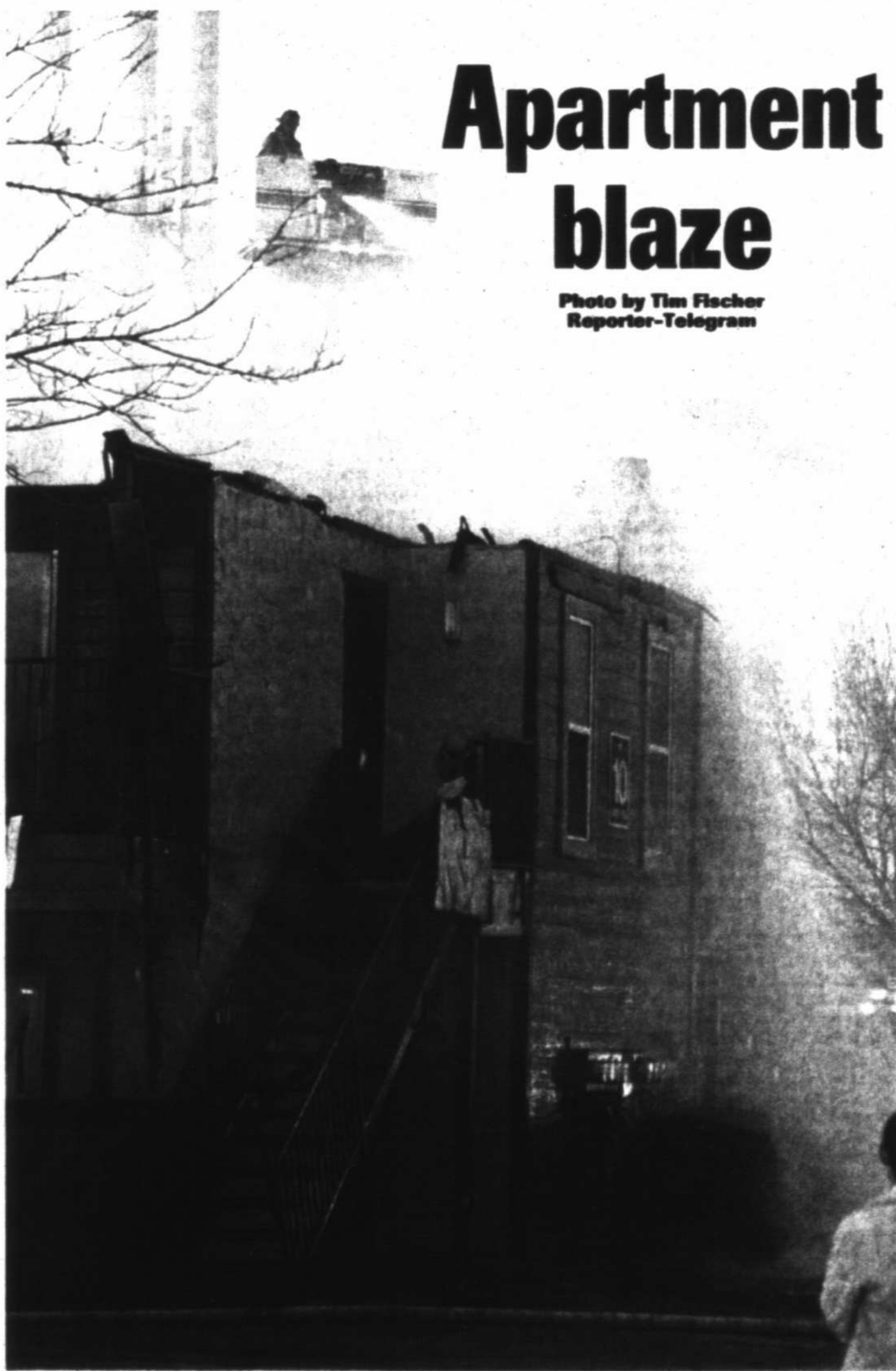
■ Texas' regulations for day care staffing levels — a key predictor of classroom safety and child brain development — are among the worst in the country, and state officials have repeatedly refused to change them. In 2016, they pulled out of a study analyzing the impact of staffing levels on injury rates, effectively shutting it down before researchers could produce specific

Please see OVERSIGHT 2A

Midland Fire Department battles a fire Sunday evening at Andrews Square East.

Twelve units responded to the fire at the apartment complex located in the 1900 block of Midland Drive, according to a city spokesman.

Sixteen apartments were affected, but there weren't any reports of injury, Tony Castaneda said Sunday night via text. "The residents will have to be (relocated) to other apartments due to major structure damage," he said. The investigation is continuing.



Apartment blaze

Photo by Tim Fischer
Reporter-Telegram

Top House Dems raise prospect of impeachment, jail for Trump

By Hope Yen
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Top House Democrats on Sunday raised the prospect of impeachment or almost-certain prison time for President Donald Trump if it's proved that he directed illegal hush-money payments to women, adding to the legal pressure on the president over the Russia investigation and other scandals.

"There's a very real prospect that on the day Donald Trump leaves office, the Justice Department may indict him, that he may be the first president in quite some time to face the real prospect of jail time," said Rep. Adam Schiff, the incoming chairman of the House intelligence committee. "The bigger pardon question may come down the road as the next president has to determine whether to pardon Donald Trump."

Rep. Jerry Nadler, the incoming chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, described the details in prosecutors' filings Friday in the case of Trump's former personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, as evidence that Trump was "at the center of a massive fraud."

"They would be impeachable offenses," Nadler said.

In the filings, prosecutors in New York for the first time link Trump to a federal crime of illegal payments to buy the silence of two women during the 2016 campaign. Special counsel Robert Mueller's office also laid out previously undisclosed contacts between Trump associates and Russian intermediaries and suggested the Kremlin aimed early on to influence Trump and his Republican campaign by playing to both his political and personal business interests.

Trump has denied wrongdoing and has compared the investigations to a "witch hunt."

Nadler, D-N.Y., said it was too early to say whether Congress would pursue impeachment proceedings based on the illegal payments alone because lawmakers would need to weigh the gravity of the offense to justify "overturning" the 2016 election. Nadler and other lawmakers said Sunday they would await additional details from Mueller's investigation into Russian election interference and possible coordination with the Trump campaign to determine the extent of Trump's misconduct.

Regarding the illegal payments, "whether they are important enough to justify an impeachment is a different question, but certainly they'd be impeachable offenses because

Please see TRUMP 2A

Midland makes GoFundMe's List of most generous cities

From staff reports

GoFundMe, the world's largest social fundraising platform, recently released its list of the most generous cities in America, and Midland made the list at No. 5.

Midland earned its place on GoFundMe's list as this year people turned to GoFundMe to take action and support causes they care about. The social fundraising platform also included fastest growing categories such as "family" and highlighted the diversity of fundraisers from 2018.

Midland saw similar trends, with

organizers from the region starting a variety of inspiring fundraisers in 2018, including: banding together to help a neighbor after a devastating house fire, supporting a book drive for Rays of Hope Children's Grief Centre and sending a college student to China to fulfill her dreams to study holistic medicine.

The most generous cities in America, based on donations per capita on GoFundMe, are:

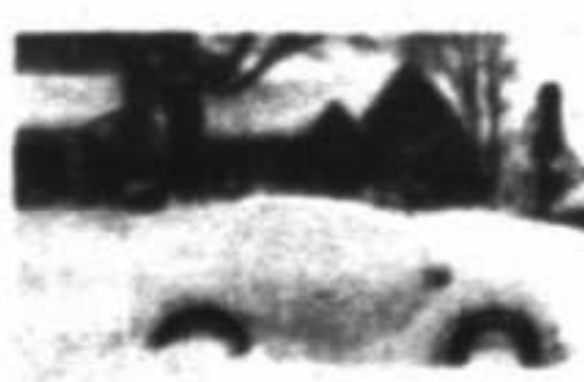
1. Steamboat Springs, Colorado
2. Washington, D.C.
3. Redding, California
4. Tallahassee, Florida

5. Midland

6. Tucson, Arizona
7. Bend, Oregon
8. Gainesville, Florida
9. Las Vegas, Nevada
10. Lincoln, Nebraska

To view the full Year in Giving report, go to: gofundme.com/2018. Launched in 2010, GoFundMe is the world's largest free social fundraising platform, with more than \$5 billion raised so far. With a community of more than 50 million donors, GoFundMe is changing the way the world gives.

Source: GoFundMe



Did you know?

A massive storm brought snow, sleet and freezing rain across a wide swath of the South on Sunday, bringing power losses to thousands. Page 4A

The big number

New York gave Amazon tax breaks worth \$2.8 billion in hope of a \$28 billion return over 25 years, but math isn't so simple. Page 5A

Word of the Day:

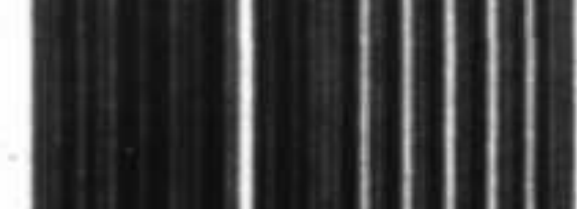
athenaeum
Do you know what it means? Find out the definition on Page 3A.

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Vol. 90 No. 274

Daily \$2, Sunday \$3



NEWSBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

NEW MEXICO 2 trains derail in collision near Belen Rail Runner Station

BELEN Two Burlington Northern Santa Fe locomotives have been involved in a train collision near the Belen Rail Runner Station in New Mexico.

BNSF officials say two trains were derailed in Saturday's incident and it doesn't appear that there were any leaks or spills of any cargo.

Two BNSF staff members were taken to a hospital for treatment, but no life-threatening injuries were reported.

Company officials didn't immediately say how the collision occurred.

BNSF crews still are at the scene evaluating the work needed to remove damaged locomotives and cars.

HOUSTON Lawyer: Mom accused in son's decapitation 'mentally ill'

The attorney for a Houston woman accused of drowning and decapitating her 5-year-old son says she



Liu

is a "very mentally ill individual." Li-hui Liu remained jailed Sunday without bond after being

charged with capital murder. She appeared in court Friday.

The boy's father found his body wrapped in a plastic bag and inside a trash can in the family's garage on Nov. 30.

Defense attorney George Pamham tells the Houston Chronicle Liu, who is from Singapore, is unable to communicate and the "very facts of the situation speak to an action of irrational mind." Pamham represented Andrea Yates, the Texas woman who drowned her five children in her bathtub in 2001.

Liu's husband, Kai Xu, told the newspaper his wife in March began experiencing a downward spiral with depression.

SAN ANTONIO City begins capping catfish farm's well

A San Antonio catfish farm that brought national attention to the region's groundwater politics is having its well capped after a decade of litigation.

Living Waters Artesian Springs Catfish Farm owner Ronnie Pucak fought for years over the Edwards Aquifer, which was deemed the world's largest artesian well and sat on his property. But now the San Antonio Water System is starting to seal the well following a \$30 million buyout of the catfish farm, the San Antonio Express-News reported.

The \$1.4 million project is part of the city water system's plans to return the site to its native brushland. Environmentalists and residents had expressed outrage in the past over the catfish farm being entitled to pump as much water as they wished from the well that could serve nearly a fourth of the city's population.

Pucak didn't respond to the newspaper's request for comment.

"When you see it, it is just a water well," said Kevin Morrison, the water system's project coordinator. "But it all had such far-reaching consequences and was the catalyst for changing Texas water law."

Texas' "rule of capture" doctrine and property rights practices prevented officials from limiting the catfish farm from using some of the aquifer's 45 million gallons of water produced daily.

The legal battle over the well pushed San Antonio toward "more environmentally sound water policy," and secured the city's future water in a more responsible way, said Steve Clouse, the water system's chief operating officer.

"The catfish turmoil was the tripwire that got

us to limit our uses of the Edwards and recognize it is a limited and shared resource," he said.

The water system is now working to permanently cap the well because its existing temporary cap could deteriorate, making the well uncontrollable. Water engineers will "kill" the well by pumping bentonite clay mud, the mineral barite and water into it to neutralize the artesian flow of water pushed to the surface by gravity-induced pressure.

Engineers will then dump limestone gravel into the well, later adding cement.

Clouse said buying the catfish farm and its water rights was "brilliant," because those rights likely would cost more than \$120 million today.

NEW YORK 'Ralph' tops box office again, 'Aquaman' is a hit in China

In the calm before the Christmas storm at the box office, "Ralph Breaks the Internet" remained No. 1 for the third straight week, while the upcoming DC Comics superhero film "Aquaman" arrived with a cannonball-sized splash in Chinese theaters.

For the second week in a row, no new wide releases opened in North American theaters, allowing Disney's animated sequel to again lead domestic ticket sales with \$16.1 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The top six films at the box office were all unchanged. Universal's "The Grinch," still a major draw in its fifth weekend, trailed in second with \$15.2 million.

But the weekend's biggest new arrival was in China, where Warner Bros.' "Aquaman" debuted with \$93.6 million in ticket sales. That marked a new opening-weekend record for both Warner Bros. and DC in China. Considering the checkered recent history of DC films ("Justice League," "Suicide Squad"), the big launch in China was a promising sign for the spinoff starring Jason Momoa.

"Adding to the success of 'Wonder Woman,' this is a really solid performance and portends big numbers for North America in two weeks when it opens," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore. "This is a movie, along with 'Mary Poppins Returns' and 'Bumblebee' and other movies, that's going to give December that boost that a 'Star Wars' movie would give us."

"Aquaman" will expand to 40 international countries next week and arrive in North American theaters Dec. 21.

"Aquaman" wasn't the only big-budget holiday season release receiving a lift this week. Paramount's "Transformers" prequel "Bumblebee" played a one-night sneak preview in 326 theaters nationwide ahead of its Dec. 21 release.

Paramount declined to share ticket figures but domestic distribution chief Kyle Davies said theaters were mostly sold out. Perhaps more importantly, the film directed by Travis Knight and starring Hailee Steinfeld aided its word of mouth with largely glowing reviews — a rarity for the "Transformers" franchise.

Disney's "Mary Poppins Returns," due out Dec. 19, also helped its cause with four Golden Globe nominations Thursday, including best picture, comedy or musical, and acting nods for Emily Blunt and Lin-Manuel Miranda.

The feel-good interracial road trip period tale "Green Book" fared even better at the Globes (five nominations, including best picture, comedy or musi-

cal, and acting nods for Mahershala Ali and Viggo Mortensen) and had good results at the box office to show for it. In its fourth week of release, "Green Book" held with a rare 0 percent drop, earning \$3.9 million in 1,181 theaters. It has grossed \$20 million in total.

Yorgos Lanthimos' comic period drama "The Favourite" continued to pick up steam. The acclaimed Fox Searchlight release, starring Olivia Colman, Emma Stone and Rachel Weisz, expanded into 91 theaters over the weekend to gross \$1.4 million (\$15,000 per theater).

A more traditional royal drama, "Mary Queen of Scots," also opened strongly in limited release. The Focus Features title, starring Saoirse Ronan as Mary Stuart and Margot Robbie as Elizabeth I, debuted in four theaters with a robust \$50,045 per-theater average. Lis Bunnell, president of distribution for Focus, said the film's modern spin "made it resonate with audiences in a powerful way paralleling so much of what is still going on today for women."

Also opening in limited release were "Ben Is Back," the family addiction drama with Julia Roberts and Lucas Hedges (a \$20,243 per-theater average in four theaters), and the caustic pop music critique "Vox Lux," with Natalie Portman (a \$27,000 per-theater average in six theaters).

Next weekend, the box office is expected to be significantly busier with the release of "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse," "Once Upon a Deadpool" and Clint Eastwood's "The Mule" and "Mortal Engines."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included.

1. "Ralph Breaks the Internet," \$16.1 million.
2. "The Grinch," \$15.2 million (\$25.9 million international).
3. "Creed II," \$10.3 million (\$5.2 million international).
4. "Fantastic Beasts: Crimes of Grindelwald," \$6.8 million (\$22 million international).
5. "Bohemian Rhapsody," \$6 million (\$29.2 million international).
6. "Instant Family," \$5.6 million (\$1.7 million international).
7. "Green Book," \$3.9 million.
8. "Robin Hood," \$3.6 million (\$7.5 million international).
9. "Possession of Hannah Grace," \$3.2 million (\$4.8 million international).
10. "Widows," \$3.1 million (\$4.5 million international).

TENNESSEE Following Perry's lead, Kid Rock pays off \$81K in layaways

NASHVILLE — Singer Kid Rock says he followed the lead of actor Tyler Perry by paying off the layaway items of hundreds of Walmart customers in Tennessee.

Store manager Tom Meyer tells The Tennessean Kid Rock spent \$81,000 to pay the balances of 350 customer accounts at a Walmart in Nashville.

Meyer calls it a "pretty Nashville proud moment." On Twitter, Kid Rock said "great idea!" in a nod to Perry, who had posted a video Thursday saying he had paid off layaway balances at two Georgia Walgreens.

Meyer said Kid Rock called the store Friday. Kid Rock's manager later came into the store to make the payment.

Kid Rock is a partner in a bar in Nashville.

TRUMP

From 1A

even though they were committed before the president became president, they were committed in the service of fraudulently obtaining the office," Nadler said.

Mueller has not said when he will complete a report of any findings, and it isn't clear that any such report would be made available to Congress. That would be up to the attorney general. Trump on Friday said he would nominate former Attorney General William Barr to the post to succeed Jeff Sessions.

Nadler indicated that Democrats, who will control the House in January, will step up their own investigations. He said Congress, the Justice Department and the special counsel need to dig deeper into the allegations, which include questions about whether Trump lied about his business arrangements with Russians and about possible obstruction of justice.

"The new Congress will not try to shield the president," he said. "We will try to get to the bottom of this, in order to serve the American people and to stop this massive conspiracy — this massive fraud on the American people."

Schiff, D-Calif., also stressed a need to wait "until we see the full picture." He has previously indicated his panel would seek to look into the Trump family's business ties with Russia.

"I think we also need to see this as a part of a broader pattern of potential misconduct by the president, and it's that broad pattern, I think, that will lead us to a conclusion about whether it rises to the level to warrant removal from office," Schiff said.

In the legal filings, the Justice Department stopped short of accusing Trump of directly committing a crime. But it said Trump told Cohen to make illegal payments to porn actress Stormy Daniels and former Playboy model Karen McDougal, both of whom claimed to have had affairs with Trump more than a decade ago.

In separate filings, Mueller's team detail how Cohen spoke to a Russian who "claimed to be a 'trusted person' in the Russian Federation who could offer the campaign 'political synergy' and 'synergy on a government level.'" Cohen said he never followed up on that meeting. Mueller's team also said former campaign chairman Paul Manafort lied to them about his contacts with a Russian associate and Trump administration officials, including in 2018.

Republican Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida called the latest filings "relevant" in judging Trump's fitness for office but said lawmakers need more information to render judgment. He also warned the



AP file photo

House Judiciary Committee ranking member Jerry Nadler, D-N.Y., talks to media during a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing Sept. 28 on Capitol Hill in Washington. Nadler says he believes it would be an "impeachable offense" if it's proven that President Donald Trump directed illegal hush-money payments to women during the 2016 campaign. But Nadler, who's expected to chair the panel in January, says it remains to be seen whether that crime alone would justify Congress launching impeachment proceedings.

White House about considering a pardon for Manafort, saying such a step could trigger congressional debate about limiting a president's pardon powers.

Such a move would be "a terrible mistake," Rubio said. "Pardons should be used judiciously. They're used for cases with extraordinary circumstances."

Sen. Angus King, an independent from Maine and a member of the Senate intelligence committee, cautioned against a rush to impeachment, which he said citizens could interpret as "political revenge and a coup against the president."

"The best way to solve a problem like this, to me, is elections," King said. "I'm a conservative when it comes to impeachment. I think it's a last resort and only when the evidence is clear of a really substantial legal violation. We may get there, but we're not there now."

Democratic Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut urged Mueller to "show his cards soon" so that Congress can make a determination early next year on whether to act on impeachment.

"Let's be clear: We have reached a new level in the investigation," Murphy said. "It's important for Congress to get all of the underlying facts and data and evidence that the special counsel has."

Nadler spoke on CNN's "State of the Union." Rubio was on CNN and ABC's "This Week," and Schiff appeared on CBS' "Face the Nation." Murphy spoke on ABC, and King was on NBC's "Meet the Press."

OVERSIGHT

From 1A

recommendations.

In some cases, the state's enforcement strategy has failed to correct dangerous caregiver behavior before injury or death. Usually, there are no financial penalties or extra training ordered when children are abused, neglected or wrongly punished. And the legislatively set fines that are levied are paltry, averaging \$106, even as day care sites with scores of violations are allowed to continue operating.

Provided with a copy of the Statesman's findings, Gov. Greg Abbott promised to take action during the upcoming session of the Texas Legislature.

"Any allegation of child abuse or neglect must be taken seriously, and the governor will not tolerate it in Texas," Abbott spokeswoman Ciara Matthews said. "He will work with the Legislature and key stakeholders to identify strategies and solutions to prevent these tragedies from occurring in the future."

Experts say the most problematic facilities flourish because of the harsh economics of child care in the state. In 2018, the average cost for infant care at licensed child care facility in Texas was \$9,102 per year, according to Child Care Aware of America.

Yet Texas does less than any other state to provide badly needed child care subsidies to low-income parents, the Statesman found.

Consequently, many parents turn to unregulated day care facilities, which flourish by word of mouth, social media or websites such as Craigslist.

And while officials with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission said it had become too dif-

ficult to find increasingly savvy illegal operators, a Statesman search uncovered numerous unregulated facilities in a single afternoon.

Overall, children are less likely to be hurt at a child care facility than they are at their homes, according to a 2005 study. Yet a lack of good data nationally makes it difficult to accurately measure day care safety. Even rudimentary efforts like the federal government's requirement that states report day care injuries are hobbled by unreliable record-keeping.

Obtaining a complete picture of safety in Texas day cares also has been made more difficult by the state's refusal to release documents that could shed light on the deadliest cases.

The Statesman and Gatehouse Media, its parent company, sued the agency for records relating to child care deaths in August.

Meanwhile, the Statesman's investigation already has sparked change.

After the newspaper's questions about the illegal day care unit, HHSC officials changed course and asked the Legislature for money to re-establish the team designed to locate

and shut down illegally operating day care centers.

"Day cares absolutely must deliver on their promises to parents," said Carrie Williams, spokeswoman for the commission. "Caregivers have to be held accountable, and we do everything in our regulatory power to make it as safe as possible. We push for improvements inside day cares every single day."

Several bills aimed at making day cares safer have already been filed in advance of the upcoming Texas Legislative session, including bills that would increase the number of caregivers and require child cares to carry liability insurance and install cameras.

State lawmakers have also expressed interest in crafting rules that would make more day care records public.

"My overriding is thought is that so little value seems to be put on the lives of these children and the value of the parents who want their babies safe as they're working and trying to raise these kids," said state Sen. Kirk Watson, D-Austin.

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HENRY

Isaiah 40:1

"Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God."

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On Jupiter and Saturn it rains diamonds.

For every human on Earth there are 1.5 million ants.

WORD OF THE DAY

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atheneum

[ath-uh-nee-uh-m]

noun

1. an institution for the

promotion of literary or

scientific learning.

2. a library or reading room.

Newtown shooter described 'scorn for humanity'

Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — Documents from the investigation into the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut are shedding light on the gunman's anger, scorn for other people, and deep social isolation in the years leading up to the shooting.



Lanza

The documents that a court ordered Connecticut State Police to release include several writings by Adam Lanza, who gunned down 20 children and six educators on Dec. 14, 2012. He fatally shot his mother before driving to the school and ultimately killed himself.

Lanza wrote in what appears to be an online communication with a fellow gamer: "I incessantly have nothing other than scorn for humanity," the Hartford Courant reported. "I have been desperate to feel anything positive for someone for my entire life," he wrote.

The criminal investigation ended a year after the massacre without determining a motive.

Thousands of pages of documents were released at the time, but in a lawsuit brought by the Courant, the Connecticut Supreme Court ruled in October that personal belongings of the shooter that had been withheld, including journals, also had to be made public because they were not exempt from open record laws.

A report by the Connecticut child advocate said Lanza's severe and deteriorating mental health problems, his preoccupation with violence and access to his mother's weapons "proved a recipe for mass murder."

From the 10th grade, Lanza's mother kept him at home, where he was surrounded by an arsenal of firearms and spent long hours playing violent video games. His medical and school records included references to diagnoses of autism spectrum disorder, anxiety and obsessive compulsive disorder.

The newly released documents were seized by authorities during a search of Lanza's home. They include writings that had been described or summarized by previous investigative reports such as the "Big Book Of Granny," a book describing violence against children that he wrote with



AP file photo

Officials stand outside of Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., on Dec. 14, 2012, where authorities say gunman Adam Lanza opened fire inside the school, killing 20 first-graders and six educators at the school, and killed himself as police arrived. Documents from the investigation into the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School are shedding light on the Lanza's anger, scorn for other people, and deep social isolation in the years leading up to the shooting.

another boy in the fifth grade, and a spreadsheet listing mass killings dating back to 1786.

On one handwritten list titled "Problems," Lanza details a range of grievances including lights that are too bright and his hair touching his brother's towel. "I am unable to distinguish between my problems because I

have too many," Lanza wrote.

In other writings, he rages against "fat people," doctors who touched him during physical examinations as a child and writes about pedophilia as a form of love.

In the document where he described his scorn for other people, he also indicated a desire

for some form of companionship.

"Most of my social contact was through those players," he wrote to the other gamer. "All of them are typical detestable human beings, and it bred an aura of innumerable negative emotions for me. You were a respite from that."



Kathy Kmonicek/AP

A dock and gazebo is covered with a thick layer of snow Sunday on Lake James in Morganton, N.C. Over a foot of snow fell in the area creating a winter wonderland.



Andre Toussaint/The Bristol Herald-Courier via AP

Dion Wiles takes advantage of the deserted streets Sunday to capture photos of the snow. Bristol, Tennessee and Virginia state line. A storm spreading snow, sleet and freezing rain across a wide swath of the South has millions of people in its path, raising the threat of immobilizing snowfalls, icy roads and possible power outages.

Swath of South faces wintry mess

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — A massive storm brought snow, sleet, and freezing rain across a wide swath of the South on Sunday — causing dangerously icy roads, immobilizing snowfalls and power losses to hundreds of thousands of people.

Accidents on snow-covered interstates caused major delays, hundreds of flights were canceled and drivers in North Carolina and Virginia got stuck in snow or lost control on icy patches. Meanwhile, kids and the young at heart took advantage of the early winter snow with snowball fights, sledding and snowmen.

Police in North Carolina and Virginia said they'd responded to hundreds of snow-related traffic accidents as of Sunday afternoon.

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper strongly urged residents to stay off the roads Sunday, asking drivers not to put lives of first responders needlessly at risk. Cooper said emergency crews, including the National Guard,

worked overnight to clear traffic accidents on major roadways. One tractor trailer ran off a road and into a river, Cooper said.

"Stay put if you can," Cooper said. "Wrap a few presents, decorate the tree, watch some football."

Governors and local officials in several states declared emergencies ahead of the storm crossing several Southern states, which hit portions of North Carolina and Virginia particularly hard.

Officials warned residents to prepare emergency kits and stay off roads in impacted areas. Schools districts in North Carolina and Virginia announced they'll be closed Monday.

"Virginians should take all necessary precautions to ensure they are prepared for winter weather storm impacts," said Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam.

The National Weather Service said a "prolonged period of snow" began late Saturday and would last until Monday in the region, with the heaviest snow expected in northwest

North Carolina and southern Virginia. Some areas of North Carolina and Virginia saw more than a foot of snow by Sunday afternoon.

More than 300,000 power outages were reported across the region with the majority of those — about 240,000 — in North Carolina, according to poweroutage.us. Parts of Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia also saw outages.

Charlotte Douglas International Airport, the sixth busiest airport in the country, said American Airlines reduced its operations, with more than 1,000 flights canceled Sunday.

American Airlines also issued a travel alert for nine airports throughout the Carolinas, Tennessee, and Virginia, meaning passengers may be able to change travel plans without a fee.

Travelers were advised to check their flight status before heading to the airport. Cancellations were reported on flights from as far as the Midwest.



Robert F. Bukaty/AP

The American flag flies at half-staff in honor of President George H. W. Bush on Saturday at Walker's Point, the Bush's summer home in Kennebunkport, Maine.

Elder Bushes are gone but family Maine retreat to stay alive

By David Sharp
Associated Press

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine — "Poppy" and "Bar" are gone, but the passing of George H. W. and Barbara Bush won't mean an end to children's laughter, splashing in the pool, barking dogs or clinking horseshoes at the family's property on the Maine coast.

The former first couple's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren will continue to enjoy stunning views, fishing, golfing and swimming each summer at their oceanfront home, just as previous generations have.

"It will always stay in the family," said Evelyn Paine, a longtime family friend who has been a guest at the nearly 9-acre (3.5-hectare) oceanfront property. "They want everyone in the family to enjoy it as much as they have."

The Walker's Point property became known as the "Summer White House" when Bush was president, elevating the sleepy coastal community's status and making it a household name thanks to high-profile visits by world leaders, political protests and swarming journalists.

The three-story, stone-and-shingle residence overlooking the Atlantic Ocean frequently served as a backdrop for reports on the nightly news.

In addition to that main house, there are eight other buildings, including homes for all five of Bush's children: former President George W. Bush, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Dorothy "Doro" Bush Koch, Neil Bush, and Marvin Bush. There's also a swimming pool, a tennis court and an art studio for George W. Bush. And, of course, there's a horseshoe pit for George H.W. Bush.

The nation's 41st president died last month at 92 in Houston and was laid to rest Thursday in College Station, Texas. His wife died about eight months ago at 92.

Bush spent part of every summer at Walker's Point since childhood with the exception of during World War II when he was a naval aviator. His wish was for the family's future generations to enjoy the property the same way he did, said Freddy Ford, chief of staff to his son, former President George W. Bush.

"Forty-one's wishes were for the family to enjoy his beloved Walker's Point for generations, and that's just what they'll do," Ford said in a statement.

Ken Raynor, another longtime family friend who golfed with the president and his kids, said there will be a void at Walker's Point. But he said Bush taught his family to continue to "live life to the fullest."

"It will be very active, and very alive, as 41 would like it," he said.

Paine, whose husband gave painting lessons to George W. Bush, said there was no telling who you'd encounter when paying a visit to the home.

There might be local residents, a celebrity or a world leader hanging out. And there was always family around. She recalled visiting when the Bush granddaughters, Jenna and Barbara, were scooting around on tricycles.

"There's no way that the family members are going to let it go," she said.

Walker's Point is made up of three different properties, all of them owned by the same limited family partnership. The assessed value is \$13.5 million, town officials say.

For local residents, one of the biggest changes may be a shift in the level of security, said Town Manager Laurie Smith.

Secret Service agents stayed on site during the summer when the Bushes were in Maine, maintained a checkpoint on the property and lived in the community.

States to meet on Colorado River drought plan

By Ken Ritter
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — With drought entering a second decade and reservoirs continuing to shrink, seven Southwestern U.S. states that depend on the overtaxed Colorado River for crop irrigation and drinking water had been expected to ink a crucial share-the-pain contingency plan by the end of 2018.

They're not going to make it at least not in time for upcoming meetings in Las Vegas involving representatives from Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming and the U.S. government, officials say.

Arizona has been the holdout, with farmers, cities, Indian tribes and lawmakers in the state set to be first to feel the pinch still negotiating how to deal with water cutbacks when a shortage is declared, probably in 2020.

"There will be cuts. We all know the clock is ticking. That's what a lot of the difficult negotiations have been around," said Kim Mitchell, Western Resource Advocates water policy adviser and a delegate to ongoing meetings involving the Arizona Department of Water Resources, Central Arizona Project, agricultural, industrial and business interests, the governor, state lawmakers and cities including Tucson and Phoenix.

In Arizona, unlike other states, a final drought contingency plan must pass the state Legislature when it convenes in January.

Federal water managers wanted a deal to sign at the annual Colorado River Water Users Association conference beginning Wednesday in

Las Vegas, and threatened earlier this year to impose unspecified measures from Washington if a voluntary drought contingency plan wasn't reached.

However, Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Brenda Burman is signaling that the agency that controls the levers on the river is willing to wait. She is scheduled to talk to the conference on Thursday.

"Reclamation remains cautiously optimistic that the parties will find a path forward," the bureau said in a statement on Friday, "because finding a consensus deal recognizing the risks of continuing drought and the benefits of a drought contingency plan is in each state's best interest."

Colorado River water supports about 40 million people and millions of acres of farmland in the U.S. and Mexico.

After 19 years of drought and increasing demand, federal water managers project a 52 percent chance that the river's biggest reservoir, Lake Mead behind Hoover Dam, will fall low enough to trigger cutbacks under agreements governing the system.

The seven states saw this coming years ago, and used Colorado River Water Users Association meetings in December 2007 to sign a 20-year "guidelines" plan to share the burden of a shortage.

Contingency agreements would update that pact, running through 2026. They call for voluntarily using less to keep more water in the system's two main reservoirs, lakes Powell and Mead.

Lake Powell upstream from the Grand Canyon is currently at 43 percent capacity; Lake Mead, downstream, is at 38 percent.

Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, the river's Upper Basin states, aim to keep the surface of Lake Powell above a target level to continue water deliveries to irrigation districts and cities and also keep hydroelectric turbines humming at Glen Canyon Dam.

The Lower Basin states of California, Arizona and Nevada aim to keep Lake Mead above a shortage declaration trigger point by using less water than they're legally entitled to.

If Lake Mead falls below that level, Arizona will face a 9 percent reduction in water supply, Nevada a 3 percent cut and California up to 8 percent. Mexico's share of river water would also be reduced.

Water officials in most states from the Southern Nevada Water Authority in Las Vegas to the Colorado River Water Conservation District in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, have signed off on plans in recent weeks.

In Arizona, the board governing the Central Arizona Project irrigation system approved the Lower Basin plan on Thursday.

In California, the sprawling Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which serves some 19 million people, is set to approve it Tuesday.

Board members there were reminded the agreements are only a short-term fix.

According to a board briefing, the Bureau of Reclamation, seven basin states and water contractors will begin negotiating again beginning no later than 2020.

"That process is expected to result in new rules for management and operation of the Colorado River after 2026," the board briefing said.

Amazon touted as big win for NY, but math is more complex

By Jennifer Peltz
Associated Press

NEW YORK — New York officials tout their deal to land a new Amazon headquarters as can't-miss math. The city and state put up \$2.8 billion in tax breaks and grants. In return, they get an economic engine expected to generate \$27 billion in new tax money over a quarter-century.

"This is a big money-maker for us. Costs us nothing," Gov. Andrew Cuomo said when the agreement was announced. Experts say the economic equation isn't that simple.

The state's predicted 9-to-1 return on its investment was based on a widely used economic model that compares the costs of tax incentives with expected tax gains, but it didn't factor in the substantial costs of accommodating Amazon's growth in the city, economic development researchers said after reviewing the documents.

The city and state will have to spend money to educate the children of Amazon workers, improve public transportation to get them to work, collect their garbage, adjust police and fire coverage, and provide all sorts of other services for a growing number of people.

"Claiming 9-to-1 isn't just implausible. It is a dishonest way to present the return on these incentives," says Nathan Jensen, a University of Texas professor of government who has been critical of the way economic development incentives are used.

The reports also don't measure the Amazon "HQ2" project against any other possible development of its intended site in the booming Long Island City neighborhood.

Four academic and think tank researchers who weren't involved in the state's cost-benefit analyses said that while its methods were standard, its scope was limited. "It's a standard cost-benefit approach, but it tends to talk a lot about the benefits and not a lot about the costs," said Megan Randall, a research analyst at the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center. "That's not to say that the costs will automatically override all the benefits... (but) cities should be armed with that knowledge."

New York state's evaluation of the Amazon deal is based on an assumption that the company will ultimately create 40,000 relatively high-paying jobs in the city by 2034. That's the maximum number foreseen in a deal that starts with a promise of 25,000 jobs by 2028.

The state-commissioned analysis by Regional Economic Models Inc. also predicts Amazon's presence in the city will eventually create 67,000 other jobs outside the company, in industries from tech to real estate to restaurants that might serve Amazon workers.

Over 25 years, all those new jobs will generate about \$14 billion in state income and sales taxes and about \$13.5 billion in city taxes, according to that analysis and a city report also involving a REMI model.

Cuomo lauded that as "the highest rate of return for an economic incentive program that the state has ever offered."

REMI's analysis is deep and thorough, the state's economic development agency said.

"Their model is widely considered to be the gold standard for economic and fiscal impact analysis and has been recognized for its analytical depth, sophistication and flexibility," Adam Kilduff, a spokesman for Empire State Development, said in an emailed statement.

GM fights to retain tax credit amid plant closing plans

By Richard Lardner
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — General Motors is fighting to retain a valuable tax credit for electric vehicles as the nation's largest automaker tries to deal with the political fallout triggered by its plans to shutter several U.S. factories and shed thousands of workers.

Preserving the \$7,500 tax incentive for buyers is crucial for GM as the company pivots from internal combustion engines in favor of building cars powered by batteries or hydrogen fuel cells. Yet the layoffs and plant closings could imperil GM's push to keep the incentive. It helps make plug-ins such as the \$36,000 Chevy Bolt more affordable at a time when competition from other electric vehicle makers is heating up.

GM faces opposition from President Donald Trump and other Republicans who consider the credit a waste of taxpayer money and want it eliminated. Trump, who has pledged a manufacturing rebirth in the Midwest, reacted angrily to GM's "transformation" announcement late last month, declaring that his administration was "looking at cutting all GM subsidies, including for electric cars."

The company already is on the verge of being phased out of the tax credit program unless Congress changes a law that caps the break at 200,000 vehicles per manufacturer. Without the incentive, GM may be forced to cut the price of its electric cars to keep prospective customers from taking their business elsewhere, according to automotive industry experts.

As evidence of the credit's importance to GM's future, the automaker has expanded its lobbying footprint in Washington and even joined forces with two rivals, Tesla and Nissan, to call for 200,000-vehicle limit to be scrapped. Standing in the way of that goal is Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wy., the chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. Barrasso introduced legislation in October to abolish the tax credit, a move he said would save about \$20 billion over the next 10 years. He has argued the market for electric vehicles is already established and "no longer needs the crutch of government assistance."

"The idea of the subsidies had to do with trying to make sure that electric vehicles would be a viable technology," Barrasso said. "Well, that's clearly there."

The tax credit came up briefly during a private meeting on Wednesday between Ohio's senators, Re-

publican Rob Portman and Democrat Sherrod Brown, and GM chief executive Mary Barra, according to a congressional aide familiar with the conversation. As part of the restructuring, GM said it will stop making the Chevy Cruze at its Lordstown, Ohio, plant by March and is considering closing the plant for good. Portman told Barra that it's difficult to help with priorities such as the electric vehicle credit when GM is moving production out of Ohio, according to the aide, who was not authorized to publicly discuss the private conversation and spoke on condition of anonymity.

One of the lobbyists working to salvage the credit for GM is Kent Hance, a former chancellor of Texas Tech University who is well connected in GOP circles, according to his online profile. Hance lists his role as a fundraiser for the campaigns of outgoing House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., and others. He has known Rick Perry, the energy secretary and former Texas governor, for nearly 30 years.

GM in early August named a former Trump

White House official, Everett Eissenstat, its senior vice president for global public policy, a post that oversees the company's lobbying operations. Eissenstat, however, is not registered as a lobbyist, according to disclosure records filed with Congress. Before coming to GM, he was Trump's deputy assistant for international economic affairs.

Under federal law, the \$7,500 credit for buyers begins to phase out after a manufacturer has sold 200,000 qualifying electric vehicles. GM has estimated it will hit that threshold by the end of December, just as the Bolt will be facing new and potentially stiff competition.

Sam Abuelsamid, a senior analyst at Navigant Research, said Hyundai and Kia each will be selling compact SUVs in the U.S. beginning early next year that can travel 240 miles on a single battery charge, about the same as the Bolt. Ford will be launching a number of new plug-in hybrid models in 2019, including the Lincoln Aviator, Explorer and Escape.

"With the intensifying market shift away from cars to utility vehicles all of these are expected to be more popular than the

Bolt," Abuelsamid said. To remain competitive against the new entries, "GM will likely have to cut the (retail price) of the Bolt as well as any additional EVs they launch next year by the corresponding reduction in the tax credits," he said.

Karl Brauer, executive publisher of Autotrader and Kelley Blue Book, said the credit is "hugely important" to electric vehicle manufacturers. Lowering the up-front cost of the vehicle typically plays a significant role in sales,

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OPINION

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NC congressional race shows voter fraud exists

■ People will exploit vulnerabilities in the election system, and it should be as secure as possible

Maybe ballot security isn't such a bad thing after all. Democrats, who (last week) were insisting that voter fraud didn't exist, now believe that it was used to steal a North Carolina congressional seat from them and they may well be right.

Republican Mark Harris has a 905-vote lead over Democrat Dan McCready in the state's 9th Congressional District, a slender victory that the State Board of Elections has refused to certify given credible allegations of cheating.

A consulting firm working for Harris contracted with an operative named McCrae Dowless based on his get-out-the-vote work, mostly involving his strange prowess with absentee ballots.

Dowless has a shady background that includes criminal convictions and a previous investigation of his election practices. His methods were seamy, at best.

Working from a storefront, he employed a crew to go door to door urging people to request absentee ballots. When they did, his team returned to collect the ballots,

RICH LOWRY

King Features Syndicate



purportedly to deliver them to election officials but apparently to hand them over to Dowless first.

This is itself against the law in North Carolina, and rightly so. It destroys any chain of custody and creates the opportunity for more abuse and corruption. There is evidence that Dowless may have availed himself of it.

Bladen County, the largely rural area where Dowless focused his work, outpaced other counties in absentee-ballot requests — with 7.5 percent of registered voters making a request, higher than the 2 percent or so in most of the rest of the counties.

Weirdly, only 19 percent of absentee ballots in Bladen were submitted by Republicans, yet Harris managed to win 61 percent of the absentee vote there. He

didn't win absentees in any other county.

The implication is that Dowless may have pocketed absentee ballots not to his liking, particularly from black Democrats. If so, this would truly be a damnable and literal instance of "voter suppression."

The Harris margin over McCready in Bladen County (162 votes) is considerably less than his overall margin. Yet there was almost certainly illegality in a very close election, and if Dowless was discarding or destroying ballots, the number of affected votes may go higher.

North Carolina law sets a standard for a revote that doesn't require a finding that cheating changed the outcome. The election board can order a new election if improprieties occurred that "taint the result" and "cast doubt on its fairness." Pending the conclusion of the board's investigation, it's hard to see how that standard won't be met.

Republicans won't like it, but they should probably want to start over, for the sake of the integrity of their own nominating process, if nothing else. In the GOP primary for the seat, Harris won an equally narrow victory over the Republican incumbent and an even more smash-

ing Dowless-engineered victory in Bladen absentee ballots, 437 to 17.

The larger lesson here is that people will exploit vulnerabilities in the election system, and it should be as secure as possible. Absentee voting is a particular soft spot. It occurs outside the watch of election officials, and it's impossible to determine what happens to the ballot in between the time it leaves and returns.

Although usually not as extensive or consequential as what may have transpired in North Carolina's 9th District, vote fraud often involves absentee voting, and exploiting poor and vulnerable voters. In October, four people were indicted in Texas on 30 felony counts of targeting elderly voters in a fraudulent mail-in voter scheme.

Rules should be rigorous, and it's insane that the sort of vote harvesting that Dowless engaged in — i.e., a private party collecting the ballots of voters — is perfectly legal in California.

The North Carolina race demonstrates how even relatively small-scale cheating — no one will ever mistake McCrae Dowless for a major player — can undermine faith in our system. And how, if anyone doubted it, voter fraud is real.

OPINION EXTRA

Absentee ballot fraud mirrors pattern in NC

What appears to be brazen absentee ballot fraud in Bladen County, North Carolina, involving the 9th Congressional District race mirrors a pattern seen repeatedly in past elections in other North Carolina counties, according to two former state elections officials.

Gary Bartlett, who served as executive director of the State Board of Elections from 1993 to 2013, and Marshall Tutor, a former lead investigator of the board from 2003 to March of this year, said they have seen similar manipulations of absentee ballots in other rural counties, but they were unsuccessful in getting local, state and federal law enforcement officials to act on the cases.

"We've reported it. We've had the (State Bureau of Investigation) turn us down," Bartlett said. "There have been referrals (to local prosecutors) and nothing has been done."

Bartlett said he referred "more than half a dozen" cases of apparent fraud involving absentee ballots, but no action was taken by law enforcement. "We don't know what happened on the other end because once we provided the information to state or federal (authorities) we don't do a thing unless they ask," he said.

Tutor said he found abuses of absentee ballots involving a 2014 sheriff's race in Yancey County and could not get the local district attorney, who has since died, to take action.

"It was rotten to the core on absentee ballot and vote buying, people getting drugs for votes and that kind of thing," Tutor said of the county located in the Appalachian Mountains along the Tennessee border. "That campaign was rife with absentee ballot fraud and I couldn't get the D.A. to do anything about it."

Robeson County, a neighbor to Bladen County along the state's southern border, is also under review for voting irregularities involving absentee ballots in this election in the 9th Congressional District race. Those problems are familiar to Tutor.

"Robeson County has never been anything but an absolute nightmare. We were never able to get the prior D.A. to do anything," he said.

Bartlett said he referred alleged absentee fraud cases for investigation in Yancey, Bladen, Robeson, Mitchell, Swain and Columbus counties without action being taken. He said state and federal law enforcement officers have been aggressive in prosecuting violations of elections laws by officials, such as former state Agriculture Commissioner Meg Scott Phipps, House Speaker Jim Black and state Rep. Thomas Wright, "but if it's on a lower level, it may get handled and it may not."

The pattern of passing over absentee ballot problems in Bladen County ended when problems arose in the 2016 election. Bladen County District Attorney Jon David asked Wake County District Attorney Lorrin Freeman, as the prosecutor for the state capital's county, to lead the investigation.

Freeman's office, along with state and federal investigators, has been investigating Bladen County voting fraud for more than a year. She said the investigation was unlikely to expand into counties where similar absentee ballot abuses have been alleged in the past.

Bartlett said the abuse of absentee ballots usually follows this pattern: A team of two targets elderly or low-income voters and has them apply for an absentee ballot. Once the ballot arrives, they may help the voters fill it out. They sign as the two necessary witnesses and offer to mail it. If the voter marks a choice that's not the team's candidate, it's not mailed.

Now the pattern Bartlett and Tutor so often cited in vain has become national news in a congressional election and, for North Carolina, a national embarrassment.

"I'm sad there was not a resolution sooner," Bartlett said. "The best way to keep things like this from happening is to have some type of prosecution. If they are guilty, allow the rules that are on the books to be utilized."

Ned Barnett, The News & Observer (Raleigh, N.C.)

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Voting only muddles the process

■ Remember the Electoral College: Is it unfair?

Look, it has come to our attention that people in this state are not being correctly represented. By "correctly represented" I mean "represented by Republicans." This is why we as a legislature are taking steps to make sure the voice of the people can be resoundingly heard. You would think doing something like voting would make your voice heard, but voting only muddles things. Sometimes, due to some kind of confusion or flaw in the system, voters do not select Republicans. It is this strange tendency of hundreds of thousands, nay, millions! of Democratic ballots to appear in boxes each Election Day that has left us so unshakably convinced that voter fraud is rampant.

But do not worry. We are taking steps to fix that. One way you can tell something has gone wrong with voting is if the Democratic candidate gets enough votes to win. That is a sign that the process has failed.

That is why we have sneaked into the statehouse under cover of darkness. SHHH! No, keep the lights off! We must vote on our plan quickly and disperse before they catch wind of what is happening. Not because we are ashamed or annoyed, but because they would be too excited and proud of us, and we would not want that to go to our heads.

One thing Americans historically have loved about America is how if you live in a Place That Is Very Large on a Map, you get at least a slightly bigger share of votes than in Places That Are Very Full of People. This allows for things Americans love, such as big maps colored red, as well as a sense of vague powerlessness that, when you have lived with it long enough, becomes kind of freeing.

It is time we put some caps on these city voters. We can all agree: If big groups of people get more votes than smaller groups of people, that is bad and unrepresentative. Besides, people in cities are confused and do not know what they want. In their befuddlement, they sometimes vote straight-ticket Democrat or scrawl D's on their ballots. This comes of being packed too tightly together. A D is just an R someone did not have room to add the little legs to because they were cramped in close urban quarters.

There are several solutions to the unrepresenta-

ALEXANDRA PETRI

Washington Post

tive mess that is our state. One is that any district not already shaped like an electrocuted salamander should be quickly redrawn so that it does. People love to live in a district with a festive shape. It makes them feel like they are part of something. The best thing about that festive shape is it brings people into contact with people with whom they disagree. This exposes them to new ideas, such as the idea that their votes are probably not worth casting, because the district is now shaped in such a manner that no candidate of their party can win. This frees up a Tuesday evening in November, which is a great boon. They will appreciate the opportunity to use it for shopping or sending emails.

Second, we are going to make voting more difficult. Now, I hear what you are saying. How does making voting more difficult ensure that the state is more correctly represented? Doesn't that do kind of the opposite?

Well, that depends on what sort of voter you are thinking about. If all the voters who might vote for Democrats are allowed to vote willy-nilly, they may well turn out to elect Democrats, and then the minority who would have picked a Republican will feel as though their votes did not count at all. That hardly seems fair.

This system is much better. Just because fewer people live in some places than in others does not mean that those places should not carry equal sway. Remember the electoral college. It would really be awful if just getting a majority of votes was enough to determine the outcome of an election.

Is this unfair? Only if you think everyone in the state should have a vote that counts the same. Look, if the Founders made one wish clear, it is that we should be governed by a small minority who occupy lots of land.

If this seems kind of sketchy and shameful and is the kind of thing you would like to protest now that we have told you about it, don't worry. We passed it — 10 minutes ago, at 3 a.m.

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Murray beats Tagovailoa for Heisman

By Ralph D. Russo
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Kyler Murray waited three years to fulfill the five-star potential he brought to college football. With one shot to deliver, Murray replaced a Heisman Trophy winner by becoming a Heisman Trophy winner.

The Oklahoma quarterback won college football's most prestigious individual award Saturday night, beating out Alabama's Tua Tagovailoa and setting up a College Football Playoff matchup of Heisman winner versus runner-up.

"This is crazy," Murray said in his acceptance speech. "This is an honor, something that I'll never forget. Something that I'll always cherish for the

rest of my life."

The fourth-ranked Sooners play the top-ranked Crimson Tide in the Orange Bowl semifinal Dec. 29 in the seventh bowl matchup of Heisman winner and runner-up, and first since second-place finisher Vince Young and Texas beat Reggie Bush and Southern California in the 2006 Rose Bowl.

This season, Murray stepped into the starting job at Oklahoma held by last year's Heisman winner and first overall NFL draft pick, Baker Mayfield. Oklahoma is the first school with Heisman-winning quarterbacks in consecutive seasons and the fifth overall with winners in back-to-back years. Mayfield was also a finalist in 2016.

"Luckily, we've been here three

years in a row," Oklahoma coach Lincoln Riley said. "We're going to have to start paying taxes here."

Unlike most seasons, the winner was no foregone conclusion, but Murray (517 first-place votes and 2,167 points) ended up with a fairly comfortable margin of 296 points over Tagovailoa. Ohio State quarterback Dwayne Haskins, the other finalist, was a distant third with 783 points. Three more quarterbacks followed: Will Grier of West Virginia, Gardner Minshew II of Washington State and McKenzie Milton of Central Florida.

Murray appeared on 92 percent of the Heisman ballots, third most all time. Tagovailoa's 1,871 points was the most for a runner-up in the 84-year



Todd J. Van Emst/Heisman Trophy Trust via AP, Pool

Oklahoma quarterback Kyler Murray speaks after winning the Heisman Trophy on Saturday in New York.

Please see HEISMAN/4B

Showdown in overtime



Ron Jenkins/AP

Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Amari Cooper, right, celebrates his overtime touchdown catch over Philadelphia Eagles with teammate Joe Looney (73) Sunday in Arlington. Dallas won 29-23.

Prescott's 3rd TD to Cooper lifts Cowboys over Eagles in OT

By Schuyler Dixon
Associated Press

ARLINGTON — Amari Cooper's impact on Dallas quarterback Dak Prescott has been dramatic.

The new No. 1 receiver for the Cowboys shook up the NFC East race, too.

Prescott threw his third touchdown pass to Cooper on the first possession of overtime, and the Cowboys took a big step toward the division title with a 29-23 victory over

the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday.

On third down, Rasul Douglas tipped the pass into the air, and Cooper grabbed it and had a clear path to the end zone from the Philadelphia 7 for the 15-yard score. The Cowboys used almost all of the 10-minute overtime, scoring with 1:55 remaining.

By winning the third overtime game in the past four seasons at A&T Stadium between these division rivals, the Cowboys (8-5) won their fifth straight game and took a two-

game lead over the defending Super Bowl champion Eagles (6-7) and Washington with three games left.

The Cowboys dominated almost from the start, but let the Eagles stay close to set up a wild fourth quarter. Dallas, which can clinch the NFC East title with a win at Indianapolis next Sunday, finished with 576 yards, the most since gaining 578 against the St. Louis Cardinals in 1973.

Cooper finished with 217 yards receiving on 10 catches in his second game in the past

three with at least 180 yards and two scores. All three of Cooper's touchdowns — the others from 75 and 28 yards — were in the fourth quarter and overtime.

Acquired from Oakland for a 2019 first-round draft pick seven games into the season, Cooper leads the NFL with 642 yards receiving since Week 9, his first game with the Cowboys. He had nine catches for 190 yards after halftime.

"He's made a huge impact

Please see COWBOYS/3B



Eric Christian Smith/AP

Indianapolis Colts quarterback Andrew Luck (12) looks to throw a pass against the Houston Texans during the second half Sunday in Houston.

Colts snap Texans' 9-game winning streak with a 24-21 victory

By Jordan Godwin
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Andrew Luck threw for 399 yards and two touchdowns and T.Y. Hilton had 199 receiving yards to lead the Indianapolis Colts to a 24-21 road win over the Houston Texans on Sunday afternoon.

The Colts (7-6) snapped a nine-game winning streak by the Texans (9-4), trimming Houston's lead over the AFC South to two games with three remaining.

Hilton entered the game as the all-time leader in receiving yards per game at NRG Stadium with 122.3 yards and finished Sunday just shy of 200 yards on nine catches on 12 targets.

Houston cut Indianapolis' lead to 24-21 with a 7-yard touchdown pass from Deshaun Watson to DeAndre Hopkins with less than three minutes remaining. With the Colts facing a critical third-and-1 at mid-field, Luck drew Jadeveon Clowney offside to secure a first down and the win.

The Colts entered Sunday having allowed just 14 sacks, second only to New Orleans. Houston's usually menacing pass rush was largely neutralized with just two sacks from J.J. Watt and Christian Covington after being held without a sack against Cleveland last week.

Indianapolis' defense, on the other hand, gave Houston fits both in the passing and running game. The Colts sacked Watson five times for a loss of 41 yards and held Houston's rushing offense to just 89 yards on 25 carries.

Watson had 267 yards passing and 35 yards rushing. Tight end Ryan Griffin led Houston receivers with 80 yards on five catches, while Hopkins was held to 36 yards on four catches.

Houston took an early lead after a lengthy 12-play drive set up a 3-yard touchdown run by running back Alfred Blue.

The Colts didn't have a first down until early in the second quarter. They found momentum on that drive before a pass from Luck was tipped by Kareem Jackson and intercepted by Andre Hal.

Indianapolis finally ended a lengthy scoring drought with Marlon Mack's 4-yard run. That play followed a 60-yard completion from Luck to Hilton.

The Colts took a 14-7 lead late in the first half on a 14-yard pass from Luck to Eric Ebron. It was Luck's fourth straight touchdown pass to a tight end, three of which went to Ebron.

Luck had not thrown a touchdown pass to a non-tight end since the Nov. 18 win over Tennessee until the third quarter, when he found receiver Zach Pascal for a 12-yarder to put the Colts up 24-14.

Indianapolis had a 54-yard field goal by Adam Vinatieri as time expired in the second quarter to take a 17-7 halftime lead. During Houston's winning streak, the team never trailed at halftime.

Please see COLTS/3B

A look at the top MLB free agents

By Noah Trister
Associated Press

Paul Goldschmidt and Robinson Cano have already switched teams this offseason, going to the Cardinals and Mets in major trades.

As for Manny Machado and Bryce Harper — the jewels of the free agent market — they're still waiting.

Patrick Corbin and Josh Donaldson are already signed, but there are plenty of significant free agents still available heading into the winter meetings this week.

The market appears less sluggish than a year ago, and Machado and Harper will remain focal points.

Here's a look at the top free agents — broken down by position — who are still available.

Players are listed with their most recent teams, with their ages in parentheses:

Left-handed starter

Dallas Keuchel, Astros (30)

With Corbin off the board, Keuchel may be the top remaining starter on the market. He slipped a bit after his Cy Young-winning performance of 2015, but this past season was encouraging from a health standpoint. He made a career-high 34 starts and posted a 3.74 ERA.

Other options: J.A. Happ hasn't had an ERA over 3.65 in any of the past four seasons. At 36, he's a risky bet for a long-term deal, but he could be a helpful addition for a contender if the price is right. Drew Pomeranz had a rough 2018, but he's still only 30 and went 17-6 two seasons ago.

Left-handed reliever

Zach Britton, Yankees (30)

The question here is: Who do you

trust more, Britton or Andrew Miller? Both lefties have dealt with recent injury troubles. Britton is the younger of the two, but he has a long way to go if he's going to return to his 2014-16 peak.

Other options: The 33-year-old Miller had a 4.24 ERA in 37 appearances this year and spent time on the disabled list. His track record remains impressive, but 2018 was not a great note to enter free agency. Oliver Perez posted a 1.39 ERA in 32 1/3 innings for Cleveland this season, but that was easily his best showing in years.

Right-handed starter

Charlie Morton, Astros (35)

Morton has a chance to cash in on two impressive years in Houston, in which he made 55 starts and went 29-10 with a 3.36 ERA. At his age, he's not an

Please see AGENTS/4B

NFL ROUNDOUP

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DOLPHINS 34 PATRIOTS 33

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — Kenyan Drake ran the last 52 yards as the Miami Dolphins scored on a pass and double lateral on the wild 69-yard final play Sunday to beat the New England Patriots 34-33.

It was the longest touchdown to win a game with no time remaining since the 1970 merger.

The Patriots were 16 seconds from clinching their 10th consecutive AFC East title when the Dolphins pulled off their stunner. Ryan Tannehill threw a 14-yard pass to Kenny Stills, who lateraled to DeVante Parker, who quickly lateraled to Drake. He found a seam and beat two Patriots to the corner of the end zone — defensive back J.C. Jackson and tight end Rob Gronkowski, who was on the field as part of New England's prevent defense.

CHIEFS 27 RAVENS 20

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Harrison Butker atoned for a 43-yard miss as time expired with a 36-yard field goal in overtime, and the Chiefs stopped the Ravens on fourth down to clinch a playoff spot. The Chiefs (10-2) twice converted on fourth down before Patrick Mahomes threw a four-yard touchdown pass to Damien Williams with 53 seconds left. Moments later, Justin Houston strip-sacked Lamar Jackson to give Butker a chance to win the game for Kansas City in regulation.

SAINTS 28 BUCCANEERS 14

TAMPA, Fla. — Drew Brees threw for one touchdown and ran another to help the Saints rally from an 11-point halftime deficit to clinch their second straight NFC South title. Brees struggled off a pair of turnovers to throw a 1-yard TD pass to Zach Line, then scored on a 1-yard sneak as the Saints (11-2) avenged a season-opening loss to the Bucs (5-8) and also rebounded from a defeat last week at Dallas.

BROWNS 26 PANTHERS 20

CLEVELAND — Baker



David Santiago/Miami Herald

Miami Dolphins running back Kenyan Drake (32) scores the winning touchdown during the fourth quarter against the New England Patriots on Sunday at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Fla.

Mayfield outplayed Cam Newton, Jarvis Landry caught a touchdown pass and ran for another score and the Browns damaged Carolina's playoff hopes. The Panthers dropped their fifth straight.

Mayfield bravely threw a 51-yard TD pass into traffic to Landry, who had a 3-yard scoring run and added a long run — on a similar call — early in the fourth quarter to set up a go-ahead touchdown.

PACKERS 34 FALCONS 20

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Aaron Rodgers threw two touchdown passes and set an NFL record for interception-free football, and the Packers won their first game under interim head coach Joe Philbin.

Aaron Jones ran for a 29-yard score in the third quarter. The defense limited quarterback Matt Ryan after a game-opening touchdown drive to end Atlanta's fifth straight loss and guarantee the Falcons a losing record for the first time since 2014.

The Packers (5-7-1) regained some swagger with Philbin taking over for the fired Mike McCarthy. They've still got work to do to avoid a losing record, but at least Green Bay snapped a three-game losing streak.

GIANTS 40 REDSKINS 16

LANDOVER, Md. — Saquon Barkley rushed for 170 yards, including a 78-yard touch-

down to surpass 1,000 for the season, and Eli Manning threw for three scores to effectively end Washington's already-slim playoff hopes.

Barkley gashed the Redskins' defense for 12.1 yards a carry to become the first Giants rookie to break 1,000, and set a single-season franchise rookie record with his 13th touchdown. The second overall pick also had four catches for 27 yards against a Washington defense that's a shell of the unit that led the league early in the season.

JETS 27 BILLS 23

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Sam Darnold one-upped fellow rookie Josh Allen, rallying the Jets.

Elijah McGuire scored on a fourth-and-goal run from the 1 with 1:17 remaining to cap a drive during which Darnold completed three of five passes for 52 yards. The rookie quarterback particularly showed off his deft touch on a 37-yard pass to Robby Anderson, who made an over-the-shoulder catch up the right sideline.

It was Darnold's first career fourth-quarter comeback and after missing three with a strained right foot.

RAIDERS 23 STEELERS 21

OAKLAND, Calif. — Derek Carr threw a 6-yard touchdown pass to Derek Carrier with 21 seconds left before Chris

Boswell slipped on a potential game-tying 40-yard field goal attempt on the final play.

Ben Roethlisberger returned from a leg injury to lead a go-ahead touchdown drive that Carr answered for the Raiders (3-10). Big Ben then connected on a 48-yard hook-and-lateral pass play that put Boswell in position for the tying kick. But he lost his footing and sent the Steelers (7-5-1) to their third straight loss.

CHARGERS 26 BENIGALS 21

CARSON, Calif. — Philip Rivers threw for 220 yards and Michael Badgley kicked four field goals, including a team-record 59-yarder. Rivers completed 19 of 29 and threw a touchdown in what was not one of the team's best games. The Chargers (10-3) had 160 yards of offense on their first two drives but had 121 the remainder of the game.

Austin Ekeler rushed for 66 yards on 15 carries with Melvin Gordon missing his second straight game due to a knee injury. Keenan Allen had five receptions for 78 yards.

49ERS 20 BRONCOS 14

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — George Kittle caught an 85-yard touchdown pass on the way to 210 yards receiving and became the 49ers' first tight end to reach the 1,000-yard milestone.

Kittle finished just shy of Shannon Sharpe's NFL record by a tight end of 214 yards receiving, not having a catch nor as many chances in the second half. Kittle had seven receptions in all on nine targets.

LIONS 17 CARDINALS 3

GLENDAL, Ariz. — Darius Slay returned an interception 67 yards for a touchdown and Detroit got its first win in Arizona since 1993.

Slay stepped in front of injured receiver Trent Sherfield, picked off Josh Rosen's pass and raced down the left sideline for the third-quarter score as the Lions (5-8) ended an eight-game losing streak in the desert.

COLTS

From 1B

Houston opened the third quarter with a long drive to a 1-yard touchdown run on a direct snap to Lamar Miller to cut the Colts' lead to 17-14.

COLTS 24 TEAKNS 21

Indianapolis 0 17 7 0-24
Houston 7 0 7 7-21

First Quarter
Houston—Blue 3 run (Farham kick) 2:26

Second Quarter
Ind—Mack 4 run (Vivian kick) 6:33
Ind—Eden 14 pass from Luck (Vivian kick) 2:57

Third Quarter
Houston—Miller 1 run (Farham kick) 7:38
Ind—Pascall 12 pass from Luck (Vivian kick) 3:51

Fourth Quarter
Houston—Hopkins 7 pass from Watson (Farham kick) 1:00

Individual Statistics
Rushing—Indianapolis: Mack 14-33; Luck 6-16; Hines 3-1; Houston: Watson 5-35; Miller 14-23; Blue 5-21
Passing—Indianapolis: Luck 27-41-1-399
Houston: Watson 27-38-0-267
Receiving—Indianapolis: Miller 9-199; Pas-
calle 5-68; Rogers 5-36; Eden 4-65; Hines 3-16
Great 1-15; Houston: Griffin 5-80; Miller 5-19
O'Thomas 4-48; Hopkins 3-36; Thomas 4-31
Akins 2-40; Webb 2-13; Carter 1-0
MISSED FIELD GOALS—None

COWBOYS

From 1B

on our team since we've gotten him," coach Jason Garrett said. "I thought he did a good job staying patient early on in the ball game and just continuing to work to get open. I thought Dak did a really good job getting him the ball in critical moments."

Carson Wentz threw for three touchdowns, including a pair of tying scores in the fourth quarter. But he never got a chance in overtime because of the 13-play, 75-yard drive engineered by Prescott.

The third-year quarterback overcame two interceptions and a lost fumble to set career highs in completions (42), attempts (54) and yards passing (455).

The Cowboys converted a fourth-and-1 from the Eagles 19 with a 1-yard plunge from Ezek

Oklahoma QB Murray apologizes for anti-gay tweets

Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — Newly minted Heisman Trophy winner Kyler Murray is apologizing for anti-gay tweets posted to his Twitter account several years ago, when he was 14 and 15.

The Oklahoma quarterback back-tweeted: "I apologize for the tweets that have come to light tonight from when I was 14 and 15. I used a poor choice of word that doesn't reflect who I am or what I believe. I did not intend to single out any individual or group."

The tweets have since been deleted from the account of the 21-year-old Murray, who won college football's most prestigious individual award Saturday night over Alabama's Tua Tagovailoa and Ohio State's Dwayne Haskins.

Murray, a junior from the Dallas suburb, has signed a \$4.66 million contract with the Oakland Athletics after he was selected in the first round of the Major League Baseball draft in June and this season may be his last in college football.

HS FOOTBALL PAIRINGS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

CLASS 6A	
Division 1	
State semifinals	
Duncanville (13-0) vs. Allen (14-0), 4 p.m.	
Saturday, AT&T Stadium, Arlington	
Lakeview (13-1) vs. Garinger Park North Shore (14-0), 2 p.m. Saturday, NRG Stadium, Houston	
Division 2	
State semifinals	
Tascios (11-3) vs. Longview (14-0), 8 p.m.	
Saturday, AT&T Stadium, Arlington	
Westbrook (12-2) vs. Austin Westlake (13-1), 4 p.m. Saturday, Legacy Stadium, Katy	
CLASS 5A	
Division 1	
State semifinals	
Denton Ryan (14-0) vs. Highland Park (14-0), noon Saturday, AT&T Stadium, Arlington	
Shadow Creek (14-0) vs. Wagner (13-1), 6 p.m. Saturday, NRG Stadium, Houston	
Division 2	
State semifinals	
Wichita Falls West (9-5) vs. Aledo (14-0), 8 p.m. Friday, AT&T Stadium, Arlington	
Fort Bend Marshall (14-0) vs. Cassin (13-1), 7:30 p.m. Duane Park Stadium, San Antonio	
CLASS 4A	
Division 1	
State semifinals	
Decatur (8-6) vs. Wilcox La Vega (12-2), 4 p.m. Friday, AT&T Stadium, Arlington	
Carrollton (14-0) vs. Liberty Hill (12-1), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Cy-Fair Stadium, Cypress	
Division 2	
State semifinals	
Irving Park (9-5) vs. Pleasant Grove (12-2), 7:30 p.m. Friday, The Star, Frisco	
Snyder (10-4) vs. Canyon (13-1), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Legacy Stadium, Katy	
CLASS 3A	
Division 1	
State semifinals	
Brack (13-1) vs. Mansfield (11-2), 4 p.m. Saturday, The Star, Frisco	
Wichita Falls (13-0) vs. Garfield (12-2), 7 p.m. Friday, Pflugerville, Pflugerville	
Division 2	
State semifinals	
Carrollton (13-1) vs. Quince (14-0), 7 p.m. Friday, Memorial Stadium, Wichita Falls	
Newton (13-0) vs. East Bernard (13-1), 7 p.m. Friday, Texas One Stadium, Porter	
CLASS 2A	
Division 1	
State semifinals	
New Deal (14-0) vs. San Sabá (14-0), 7 p.m. Friday, Shovel Stadium, Abilene	
Maum (14-0) vs. San Angelo (12-2), 7:30 p.m. Thursday, West 102 Stadium, Abilene	
Division 2	
State semifinals	
Greene (13-1) vs. Albany (9-5), 8 p.m. Thursday, Greg Sherrill Memorial Stadium, Pampa	
Mart (13-1) vs. Falls City (14-1), 7 p.m. Thursday, Georgetown College, Georgetown	
CLASS 1A	
Division 1	
State semifinals	
Midland 71, Leakey 28	
McLean (13-0) vs. Garden City (13-0), 6 p.m. Monday, Lobo Stadium, Loveland	
State championship	
McLean-Garden City senior vs. Midland (12-1), 2 p.m. Dec. 15, AT&T Stadium, Arlington	
Division 2	
State semifinals	
Fossil 52, Jayton 32	
Steen 51, Comstock 8	
State championship	
Fossil (10-3) vs. Steen (13-1), 11 a.m. Dec. 15, AT&T Stadium, Arlington	

HEISMAN

From 1B

history of the Heisman.

Murray, a pinpoint passer and explosive runner, surpassed the production of Mayfield. Murray has averaged 380 yards of offense per game and accounted for 51 touchdowns in leading the Sooners to the Big 12 title and the playoff. Mayfield averaged 353 yards of offense and accounted for 49 touchdowns as Oklahoma won the conference and lost a playoff semifinal to Georgia.

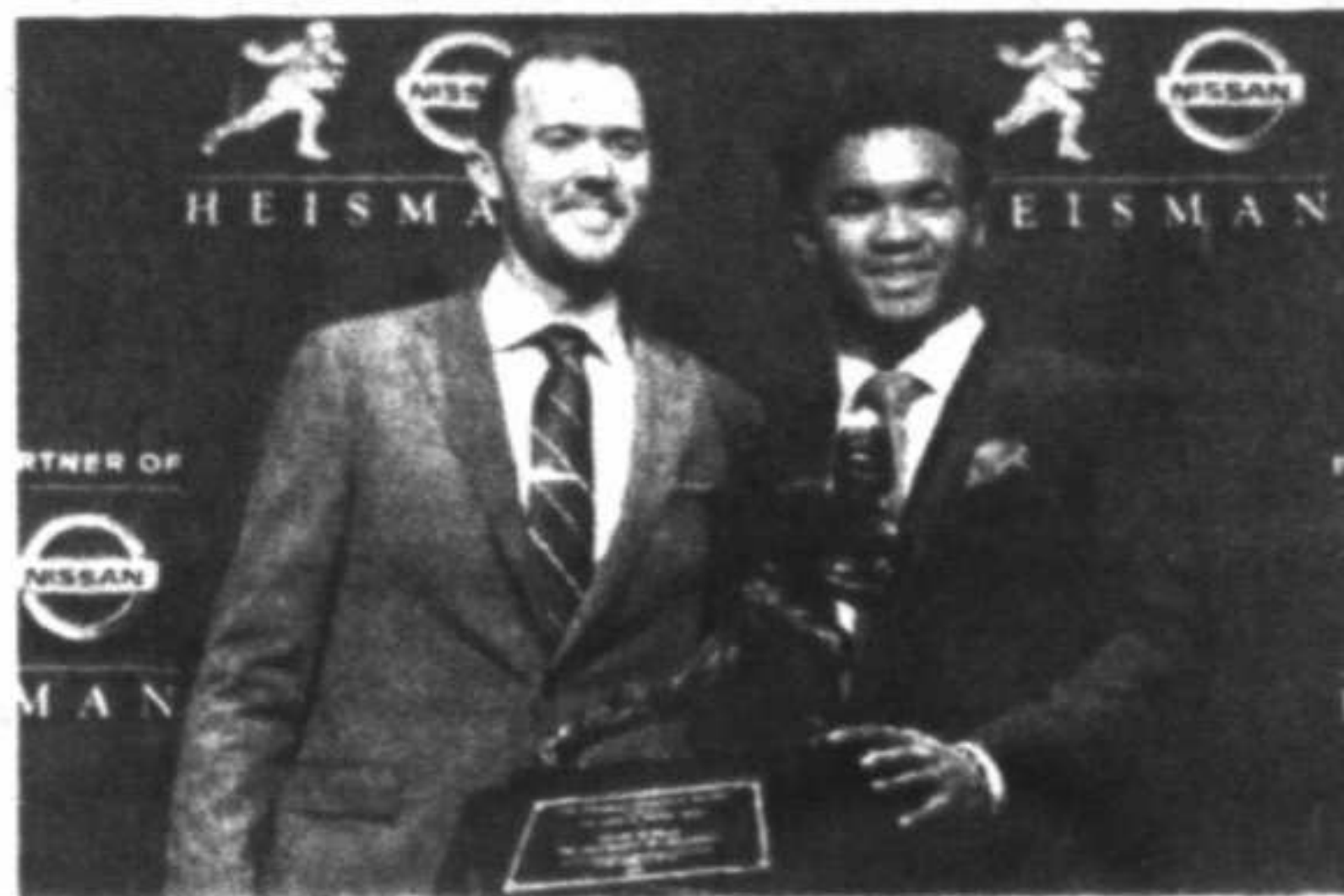
"This didn't just happen," Murray said later during a news conference. "I've put so much time and effort into this game."

Murray said he was in constant contact with Mayfield this week.

"It was just casual, bro to bro. He just told me to enjoy it. Have fun with it. It's a once-in-a-lifetime deal," Murray said.

Tagovailoa was the Heisman front-runner for most of the season, but Murray surged late as the Sooners turned to him and the rest of their offense to bail out a leaky defense down the stretch. Meanwhile, Tagovailoa picked a bad time to have his worst game of the season, throwing two interceptions in the Southeastern Conference championship game against Georgia and leaving early with a sprained ankle.

Murray's first season as a starting quarterback in college is set up to also be his last. The junior already signed a \$4.66 million contract with the Oakland Athletics after he was selected in the first round of the Major League Baseball draft in June. Listed at 5-foot-10 and 195 pounds, Murray is small for an NFL quarterback but talented



Craig Ruttle/AP

Oklahoma football coach Lincoln Riley, left, poses with Oklahoma quarterback Kyler Murray, winner of the Heisman Trophy, Saturday in New York.

enough to be an intriguing prospect if he ever decided to give it a try.

For the next month, though, Murray is focused on capping his college career with a national championship. He took a circuitous route to get to a place most always expected him to be.

Playing for Texas powerhouse Allen High School, just outside of Dallas, Murray won three straight state championships at the state's highest level and his team went 42-0 with him starting.

"Kyler's journey, in particular, it's kind of the stuff of legends," Riley said. "But with all the high points there's been a lot of tough moments."

Murray signed with Texas A&M in 2015 but transferred after one tumultuous season.

At Oklahoma, the plan was to sit out the 2016 season to fulfill NCAA transfer rules and then step in for Mayfield in 2017. But Mayfield was granted an extra year of eligibility and returned for 2017, relegating Murray to backing up the best quarterback in the country.

This season, as the focal point of Riley's creative offense, Murray developed into the dominant player he had seemed destined to become while at Allen.

"I trusted the process," Murray said. He fought back tears while thanking Riley during his speech.

"You pushed me harder than any coach ever has and I just want to say thank you for believing in me and allowing me to be the quarterback of this team. The leader of this team," Murray said.

Murray is the fourth Oklahoma quarterback since 2003 to win the Heisman, joining Jason White, Sam Bradford and Mayfield, and the 16th quarterback overall to win the award in the last 19 years.

Oklahoma's seventh Heisman matches Ohio State, Southern California and Notre Dame for the most by any school. That means another statue in Heisman Park in Norman, next to Memorial Stadium.

"I just hope they put the bandana on me," Murray said. "I hope they get the swag right."

2018-19 BOWL GLANCE

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Saturday, Dec. 15			
Cotton Bowl			
NC A&T (9-2) vs. Auburn State (9-3), Noon (ABC)			
Cure Bowl			
Orlando, Fla.			
Texas (8-6) vs. Louisiana-Lafayette (7-6), 1:30 p.m. (CBSN)			
New Mexico Bowl			
Albuquerque			
North Texas (9-3) vs. Utah State (10-2), 2 p.m. (ESPN)			
Las Vegas Bowl			
Frederic State (11-2) vs. Arizona State (7-5), 3:30 p.m. (ABC)			
Carmelli Bowl			
Montgomery, Ala.			
Georgia Southern (9-3) vs. Eastern Michigan (7-5), 5:30 p.m. (ESPN)			
New Orleans Bowl			
Mobile Tennessee (8-5) vs. Appalachian State (10-2),			

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

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	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
KMD ABC	3	3	4	3	2							
KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7							
KHWT CW	5	14	5	14	5							
KPEI FOX	8	5	5	8	3							
KMLM IND	11	12	12	11	11							
KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9							
KPBT PBS	13	13	13	13	13							
KUPB UNI	4	4	4	4	4							
KOSA MNT	16	16	16	16	16							
FLIX	340	575	185									
HBO	300	300	14	14								
HBO2	302	301	15	101	23							
HBO3	304	302	16	102								
MAX	380	357	17	120	24							
MAX2	382	359	18	122								
PLEX	396	373	22	195	26							
SHOW	320	305	19	140	25							
TMC	336	323	22	195	26							
A&E	27	58	28	35	47							
AMC	40	74	23	42	51							
BET	58	-	-	40								
BRAVO	65	76	41									
CHBC	46	52	39	72								
CHN	43	50	51	30	56							
DISC	50	60	31	24	42							
DISNEY	56	64	36	25	36							
ESPN	32	35	40	31	30							
ESPN2	34	36	40	32	31							
FNC	45	48	53	23	55							
FOOD	64	70	27	68	54							
FREEFORM	53	63	34	42	33							
PSW	37	38	50	45	29							
FX	31	56	59	64	69							
HALLMARK	54	71	58	34								
HGTV	63	69	26	48	44							
HISTORY	71	59	29	50	43							
LIFETIME	28	30	25	28	48							
MSNBC	47	53	49	73								
NBCSN	38	43										
NICK	55	-	39	34	37							
SPICE	30	-	55	53	58							
SYFY	66	82	41	57	67							
TBS	25	33	44	66	41							
TCM	41	75	24	63	66							
TELE	20	-	10	20								
TLC	51	61	32	38	52							
TNT	24	34	40	26	50							
TYLAND	49	-	35	54	35							
USA	26	55	42	27	49							
WGN	19	85										

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Wife resists giving support to man's new career plan

DEAR ABBY: I am an older IT professional (58) who had a very successful career until a year ago. I was part of a major layoff; at the company I worked at for many years. I have not been able to find a job in the IT field since.

Besides my skills and knowledge in IT, I'm an accomplished handyman with skills in most of the trades. The issue is, my wife is insistent that I get another job in IT — mostly for the benefits.

Older IT workers have a very hard time finding work in the field. I'd like to start a handyman company because I enjoy this kind of work. If I start a handyman business, my wife, for the first time, would have to go from being a part-time worker at her job to full time to provide us with benefits. This will cause a lot of strain on our marriage because she has made it clear she does not want to work full time.

I think she's being selfish. I have provided her with a very nice lifestyle for many years and feel it's time she step up and do her part. I'm not sure how to broach the subject without an argument ensuing. Help!

— SWITCHING GEARS IN NEW YORK

DEAR SWITCHING:

DEAR ABBY

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



Expect an argument and be prepared for it. You are not responsible for having been laid off. It seems there is plenty of ageism in your field, and it isn't surprising you can't find a comparable job in IT when the preference appears to be for hiring younger, cheaper workers.

Frankly, you are fortunate to have both an alternative and the initiative to start a handyman business. Good handy-men are hard to find, and your wife should make the effort to support you in what could be a successful endeavor once it gets on its feet. That's what partners in life are supposed to do, isn't it?

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I have been together for a couple of years. He has three siblings, all in their 20s, none married.

Today I received a group email from his mom addressed to him, his father, his grandmother, all three siblings and

their boyfriends/girlfriends (including me) asking for Christmas wish lists. She wants to know what we would like for Christmas and would like all of us to "reply all" on the email so everyone else will have ideas for Christmas presents.

I don't know how to respond! I don't want to appear greedy, but I do like the idea that she wants to get us all presents that we will like. Can you give me any suggestions on the best way to respond? — PER-PLEXED IN ALABAMA

DEAR PERPLEXED: Your boyfriend's mother is a generous — and sensible — woman. She is soliciting ideas because she doesn't want to waste her time or money buying something the recipient won't like. Answer her question. Tell her what you would like, as long as it isn't something that will break the bank. Your boyfriend can probably give you some hints about her budget. I suggest you talk to him about it.

GOREN BRIDGE

With Bob Jones

Bidding Quiz

Q 1 — Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:	♠ 10 9 7 5 ♥ A 9 ♦ Q 6 4 ♣ K J 6 2
♠ K 9 8 7 ♥ 5 ♦ K Q 9 ♣ Q J 5 4 2	
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH	
I ♥ Pass INT ?	1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What call would you make?	2 ♠ Pass ?
A — The double of a INT response shows a take out double of the suit opened on your left. Double.	What call would you make?
Q 2 — North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:	A — After a reverse, an immediate raise in either of partner's suits should be played as game forcing.
♠ J 10 9 7 4 2 ♥ K ♦ Q 4 3 ♣ Q 7 3	Bid 3C.
As dealer, what call would you make?	Q 4 — Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:
A — The opponents wouldn't mind a bit if you passed with this hand, but you're not here to please them.	♠ 7 4 ♥ A 9 7 ♦ K 10
Open 2S.	♣ A Q 10 9 5 3
Q 3 — East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:	WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
	I ♥ Pass Pass ?
	What call would you make?
	A — In the pass out seat, as here, a jump shift shows an intermediate hand, roughly 14-16, with a decent six-card suit. Bid 3C.

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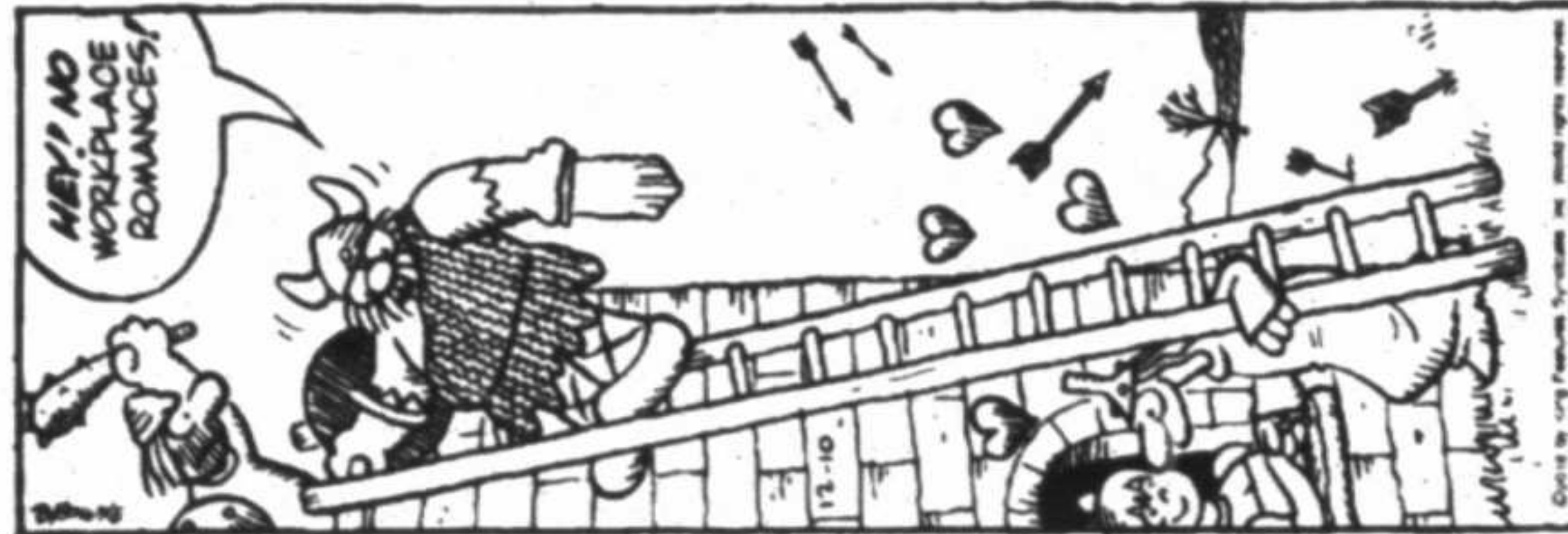
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CLOSE TO HOME



DENNIS THE MENACE



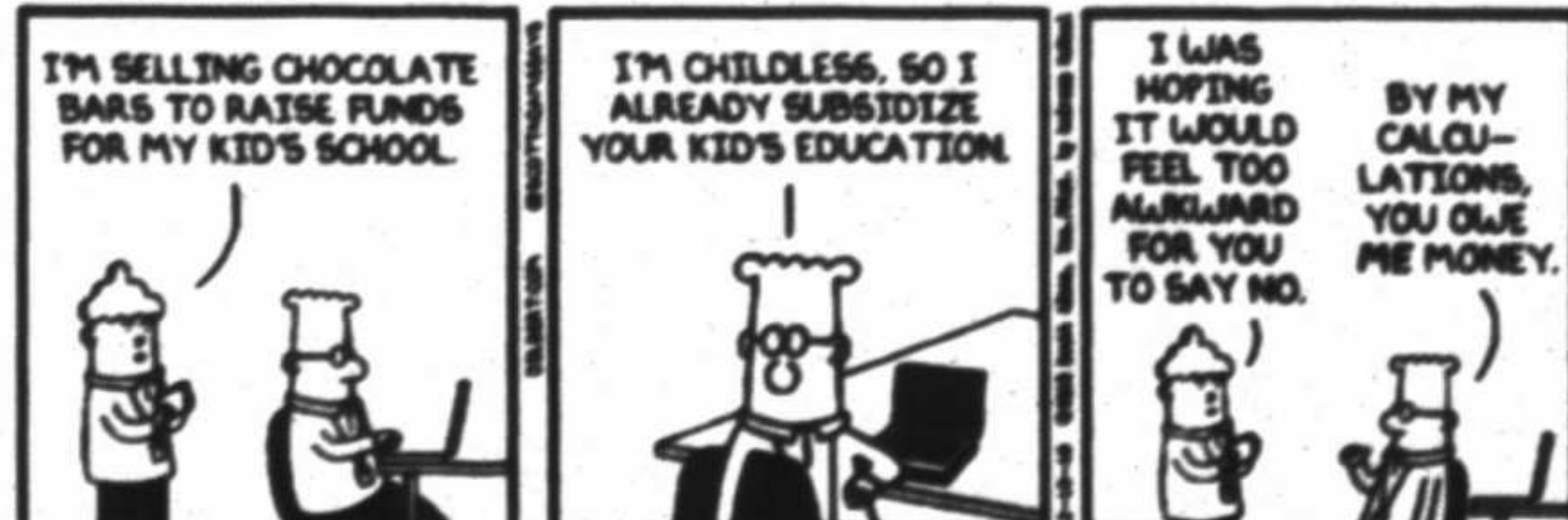
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HEALTHCARE

LVN/ Medical Assistant

- Hiring a full-time LVN/ Medical Assistant located in Midland. Excellent customer service skills and experience needed in computers. One to three years experience in medical office environment is preferred. Pain management background is a plus. Please send your resume with references to michiganprofessionals@aol.com

MANAGEMENT-EXECUTIVE

- Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest is looking for a Fundraising Manager. The position is responsible for increasing philanthropic support for the organization's programs and services, and cultivating positive relations with donors of the Midland and Odessa, Texas area.

Please email resumes to the attention of Patti Gonzalez at pgonzalez@gsdsw.org



OTHER JOBS

Facilities Assistant

- Facilities assistant position available. Manages 60,000 sq. ft. facility. Must possess knowledge of HVAC, security and fire systems. Electrical and computer skills needed. Responsible for program and rental set-up. Rotates weekend duty. Assists with evening/nighttime functions as required. Benefits included. Send resume to the Petroleum Museum, 1500 Interstate 20 West, Midland, Texas 79701 or email to white@petroleummuseum.org

SALES JOBS

Manager & Cashiers

- Smoker's Outlet has SIGNING BONUS for MANAGER TRAINEE & CASHIERS Full-time & Part-time position must have own transportation. Apply in person Mon-Fri 8-5 at either store. 5000 E University, Ste 11, Odessa, Tx & 312 N Midland Dr, Midland, TX

OTHER JOBS



NOW HIRING 100 DELIVERY DRIVERS

- Great attitude and desire to be part of the Domino's team a must!
- Must be 18 years of age or older with a good driving record
- Valid Driver's License
- Your own vehicle with insurance
- Earn hourly wage plus, tips and mileage. Great drivers can earn \$18-\$25 per hour with a great attitude and hustle
- Full time & Part-time positions available with flexible hours

CASHIERS, PREP COOKS, LINE COOKS AND DISHWASHERS

- Great first job for student over 16 years old
- Earn a \$12 hourly wage with quick raise opportunities
- Full time & Part-time positions available

APPLY ONLINE at JOBS.DOMINOS.COM

or any of the 10 Midland & Odessa locations

- 1307 N Loop 250 - Midland
- 3300 W Illinois - Midland
- 4519 N Garland - Midland
- 604 N Big Spring St - Midland
- 503 I-20 - Midland
- 3111 Faudree Rd - Odessa
- 960 E 87th St - Odessa
- 106 E 42nd St - Odessa
- 2251 Linda Ave - Odessa
- 9001 W University Blvd - Odessa

RESTAURANT FOOD SERVICES

Experience Cooks

- Looking for two experienced cooks to make fried chicken and Mexican food in kitchen. Call 413-219-1095 or email venkybvk17@gmail.com

SKILLED LABOR

Diesel Mechanics

- Job Opportunity: Presto Oilfield Services are seeking to hire Diesel Mechanics with CDI to work on heavy equipment. Must have 2 years experience in a similar position. Interested candidates may send their resume to operations@prestoilfieldservices.com

Heavy Equipment Operators

- Hiring experienced heavy equipment operators for oilfield dirt work. 2+ years O&G experience required. Dozer, trackhoe, loader positions available. Pay DOE. Health, vision, and dental insurance 100% paid! Apply in person 9400 S. Service Rd, Coahoma, TX, or call 432-394-4604 for more information

OTHER JOBS



Dickson Process Systems LLC, an engineering, design and fabrication company in business since 1981 is currently seeking a Vessel Designer

Job Description-Vessel Designer - Location-Midland, TX

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Vessel Designers work under the direction of the Design Supervisor and Project Engineer also utilize independent judgment to perform the day-to-day project duties of designing, developing and releasing deliverables (including detail & assembly drawing and related bills-of-material) used in the fabrication of pressure vessels for commercial scale oil and gas industry. This position requires a high level of attention to detail along with the ability to develop a strong understanding of the ASME Section VIII, Div 1 design standards.

- Responsible for developing vessel drawings per customer specs
- Responsible for preparing pressure vessel calculations with pressure vessel software COMPRESS
- Generating design plans utilizing Autodesk Inventor and AutoCAD software
- 3-D CAD model design

- Develop bill of materials on drawings for all fabricated items
- Develop complete vessel drawings with associated ladder and platform details using AutoCAD software
- Develop "as-built" drawings, including inspection and measurement of completed units in shop and yard

Essential Skills:

- Experience with COMPRESS
- Experience with AutoCAD
- Experience with Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- Must be proficient with drafting standards (dimensions, tolerances, etc.)
- Knowledge of good engineering drawings practices and be familiar with common standards
- Working knowledge of ASME Codes
- Must be well organized with excellent attention to detail and able to work with minimum supervision. Must be able to work overtime as required

Experience:

- High School diploma with 1 to 2 years related experience and/or training

Dickson Process Systems, LLC. Offers an excellent wage and benefit package

Interested applicants can go to www.dicksonprocess.com to download the employment application. Applications and resumes may be submitted to:

Anna Dickson by Fax 432 561 8990 or Email

adickson@dicksonprocess.com

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

SKILLED LABOR

M & D Welding

- Now Hiring Single Hand Contract Welder
Good driving record required. Will be welding in yard and field. Please contact us at 432-638-8266

Technical Service & Field Sales

- J&W Services and Equipment Co. is seeking a Technical Service and Field Sales rep for our Rader Electric Feed Thru division (a BW Distributor). 2+ yrs experience preferred but willing to train. Benefits include health, dental & life ins. Vacation & Sick pay. Opportunities to earn commissions and quality bonuses. Participation in 401k after one year. Stop at 3510 E Hwy 158 in Midland/online www.jandwservices.com for app & submit to jobs@jwellheads.com

You Can Email your Classified Ad to: mrtclassified@mrt.com

mrt classifieds

432.682.6999

432.682.6222

mrtclassifieds@mrt.com

Antique and Vintage

1959 CHEVROLET Apache 1/2 ton, shortbed, project excellent body, partially restored \$9,000 432-230-3372

1965 CHEVELLE SS Pro-street, 502, turbo 400, 9" rear \$21,000 432-230-3372

1912 Model T Touring Sedan, all brass, complete nut and bolt restoration, new upholstery and top, powder coated suspension and parts, distributor ignition \$35,000 Neg. 432-684-4879

Autos For Sale-Lease

Passenger Cars

TOYOTA Scion XB, 2010, 7K miles, good condition everything works. For more information call 432-934-1499

General Announcement

MarkABerryhill.com
MarkBerryhill.com
Ministering for Christ

Miscellaneous & Sale

CHRISTMAS GIFT

Original, signed & numbered western art prints are a very unique and lasting gift. Doolittle - McCarthy - Terpin - Lovell "and other artist" will sell wholesale or better in multiples. For more information: 432-889-8921

Legal and Public Notices

Notice to Bidder

The Midland Independent School District (MISD) invites qualified bidders to submit a proposal for **#18-90 School Quality Review (Re-bid)** through the MISD electronic bid system at <https://midlandisd.lanwave.net/Login.aspx>.

Bids will be publicly opened and read in the MISD Procurement Services Office at 615 W. Missouri Avenue, Suite 707, Midland, Texas at 2:00 P.M. C.S.T. on January 8, 2019. Bid forms and specifications may be obtained by registering as a vendor at www.midlandisd.com/EBID.

LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed Bid(s) will be received until 2:00 P.M., December, 19 2018 to be opened at 2:00 P.M., in the City Secretary's Office, City Hall, 300 N. Loraine, Midland, Texas for the following Bid(s):

Bid No. 19000775

For: Truck and Utility Service Vehicle Bodies

If the Contract is awarded, it will be awarded to either the lowest responsible bidder, or to the bidder who provides goods or services at the best value for the City of Midland. In determining the best value for the City of Midland, the City of Midland may consider the criteria enumerated in Section 252.043 of the Texas Local Government Code. Information for Bidders, Proposal Forms, Specifications and General conditions for bidding may be

Purchasing Division
City of Midland, Texas

Recreation Vehicles

McKenzie 2007 Starwood 26 RKS, tandem axle, leveling jacks, 1 slide, refrigerator, oven with stove top, A/C, large bathroom & shower, sleeps 6, seating, lots of storage, TV with DVD, CD player. Excellent condition. Priced under \$10,000 OBO. Call or text 432-889-8990

Pets-Animals

Cats

Sweet, older neutered male cat needs a loving home, please leave a message 432-697-9787

Dogs

LABRADOR RETRIEVER PUPPIES Grand Hunting Retriever Champ bloodlines Xmas day delivery in Midland! \$1,200 English Labs OFA Cert. Hips & elbows Brooke 432-978-6300

Merchandise

2 SOLID oak executive desks, matching credenzas and bookcases and conference table and 8 chairs, 1 dark mahogany executive desk, wood filing cabinets, credenza, and 2 book cases. Pictures by request via email. Price Negotiable. We are moving our offices. Call 432-682-4312

Miscellaneous & Sale

1000 VHS Tapes w/ VCR & remote \$250 @ 432-214-4143

800 record albums Rock/County \$600.00 432-214-4143

Firewood for sale mix \$125 a truck load or \$80 a truck load of stumps Call Norman 432-296-1424

Firewood For Sale Oak, Pecan, Hickory, Mesquite, Pinon. 325-762-4262

Who's Who For Service
You can advertise your business for as little as \$47.00 monthly. Call 682-6222 for details.

Accounting/Financial

APPLIANCE REPAIR
REPAIR SERVICES and Parts for Refrigerators, Freezers, Stoves, Washers & Dryers. Free Service Call with Repair. Free Removal. Full Warranty. Very Affordable Prices. M&M Appliances 1007 N Midkiff, Midland Call 432-570-8278

Computer Services

COMPUTER PROBLEMS? WE CAN HELP.
If you have, in plain English: Virus Removal, Repairs, Data Recovery, Networking, Custom Designs, Fast, Affordable, Professional. Emergency Service Available. Call (432) 631-7202

WE HAVIL IT - We haul junk, trash, treasures. We clean garages, yards & storage buildings. Flexible, competitive rates. Call Earl @ 432-288-0640

ABC FENCE
Native Midlander building and repairing fences since 1979. Call Lonnie 432-528-5262

ALPHA WELDING
Corporation, iron works & fencing. Small jobs welcome. Call 432-813-8552

ADVANCED BRICK DOCTOR
brick & mortar repair. All types of new construction specializing in brick and brick fences. Steve Hickley 432-853-2859

STABILITY FENCING & WELDING
Repair or rebuild. Any size job big or small. Wood, sheet metal, brick & iron. Call 432-978-5999

ALL YOUR electrical needs met. Call G&S Electric. 32 Years experience. 432-685-0859. TECL # 22541

LARG ELECTRIC
Licensed and insured. TECL 18544. Always appreciated! 432-682-6222

FLAWLESS PAINT & HANDYMAN SERVICE
Specializing in painting, drywall, drywall repair and textures, epoxy floor finish, tile and popcorn acoustic removal, power washing. Workmanship satisfaction guarantee. 10% law enforcement & veterans discount. Call for your free estimate 432-528-2865

PRECISE PAINTING
FEMALE PAINTER. Interior/exterior, residential. Very professional, takes pride in her work, very dependable & affordable. FREE Estimates. 432-250-4843

24 HR Handyman
For any type of job, big or small. Repair or rebuild. 432-978-9999

DEK PAINTING
Interior exterior painting repairs, wood work, all kinds of textures. Free estimates. Call Karla at 432-235-3628

DOUBLE TT PAINTING
Interior and Exterior Textures, tape & bed. Christmas & New Years Specials. Low Prices. Work guaranteed. References Available. 432-288-7849 or 352-4833

FLAWLESS PAINT & HANDYMAN SERVICE
Specializing in painting, drywall, drywall repair and textures, epoxy floor finish, tile and popcorn acoustic removal, power washing. Workmanship satisfaction guarantee. 10% law enforcement & veterans discount. Call for your free estimate 432-528-2865

PRECISE PAINTING
FEMALE PAINTER. Interior/exterior, residential. Very professional, takes pride in her work, very dependable & affordable. FREE Estimates. 432-250-4843

ALPHA GENERAL
Construction, residential or commercial. New constructions, remodeling & additions. Small jobs welcome. Call 432-813-8552

CRC INTERIOR and Exterior Painting
Remodeling, fencing & fabrication. Clayton R. Cross 432-770-8895. 1st ESTIMATE FREE.

J&J ROOFING
All Types of Roofing & Repairs. Fence Repairs, Metal roofs. 25 years experience. Free Estimates Call Justin, 432-631-8861

LEYVA LAWN CARE
Trees & Lawns. Professional & Efficient. 432-250-9470. Free Estimates.

LOVE STAR
Lawn care service and flower bed clean up, trim hedges, retiling lawns, wood fence & gates repairs. Call (432)-889-9233

M & M Landscape
22 years experience. Grass sodding, Xeriscaping, tree & shrub removal. Native Midlander. 432-230-3372

MURPHY'S LAWN CARE
Mowing, edging, trimming, Hedge shrub trimming, clean up. Bill or Maryann (432)998-0195

TREE SERVICE and Hauling
Call Norman 432-296-1424

WILL TRIM
prune or uproot just about any tree, very reasonable prices. Call Norman 432-296-1424

IRMA'S UPHOLSTERY & DRAPERY
20 yrs exp. 432-262-4633

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

Find it fast in the Midland Reporter-Telegram

Legal and Public Notices

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION FOR TPDES PERMIT FOR MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER NEW

PERMIT NO. WQ0015661001

APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION. Park Sewer Company, 7144 East Stetson Drive, Suite C-200, Scottsdale, Arizona 85251, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for new Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0015661001, to authorize the discharge of treated domestic wastewater at a daily average flow not to exceed 360,000 gallons per day. TCEQ received this application on March 13, 2018.

The facility will be located approximately 1.0 mile northeast of the intersection of East County Road 120 and South County Road 1110, in Midland County, Texas 79706. The treated effluent will be discharged to Midland Draw; thence to an unnamed tributary of North Concho River; thence to North Concho River; thence to O.C. Fisher Lake; thence to Colorado River Below Lake J. B. Thomas in Segment No. 1412 of the Colorado River Basin. The unclassified receiving water use is minimal aquatic life use for Midland Draw. The designated uses for Segment No. 1412 are high aquatic life use and primary contact recreation. In accordance with 30 Texas Administrative Code Section 307.5 and the TCEQ's Procedures to Implement the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards (June 2010), an antidegradation review of the receiving waters was performed. A Tier 1 antidegradation review has preliminarily determined that existing water quality uses will not be impaired by this permit action. Numerical and narrative criteria to protect existing uses will be maintained. This review has preliminarily determined that no water bodies with exceptional, high, or intermediate aquatic life uses are present within the stream reach assessed; therefore, no Tier 2 degradation determination is required. No significant degradation of water quality is expected in water bodies with exceptional, high, or intermediate aquatic life uses downstream, and existing uses will be maintained and protected. The preliminary determination can be reexamined and may be modified if new information is received.

This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and is not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application.
<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hb610/index.html?lat=32.00055&lng=-101.92388&zoom=13&type=r>

The TCEQ Executive Director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit. The draft permit, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The Executive Director has made a preliminary decision that this permit, if issued, meets all statutory and regulatory requirements. The permit application, Executive Director's preliminary decision, and draft permit are available for viewing and copying at the Midland County Courthouse, 500 North Lorraine Street, Midland, Texas.

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting about this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ holds a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material or significant public comments. Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting a contested case hearing or reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in a state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name and address, phone number, email address, the name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period; and the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their initial comments or not subsequently withdrawn. If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTION. The Executive Director may issue final approval of the application unless a timely contested case hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed. If a timely hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed, the Executive Director will not issue final approval of the permit and will forward the application and request to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

All written public comments and public meeting requests must be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 or electronically at www.tceq.texas.gov/about/comments.html within 30 days from the date of newspaper publication of this notice.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/gis/cid. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www.tceq.texas.gov/about/comments.html, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Any personal information you submit to the TCEQ will become part of the agency's record; this includes email addresses. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/gis/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Park Sewer Company at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Michael Zipprich at 602-882-7451.

Issuance Date November 1, 2018

Legal and Public Notices

COMISIÓN DE Calidad Ambiental Del Estado De Texas



AVISO DE LA SOLICITUD Y DECISIÓN PRELIMINAR PARA EL PERMISO DEL SISTEMA DE ELIMINACIÓN DE DESCARGAS DE CONTAMINANTES DE TEXAS (TPDES) PARA AGUAS RESIDUALES MUNICIPALES NUEVO

PERMISO NO. WQ0015661001

SOLICITUD Y DECISIÓN PRELIMINAR. Park Sewer Company, 7144 East Stetson Drive, Suite C-200 Scottsdale, Arizona 85251 ha solicitado a la Comisión de Calidad Ambiental del Estado de Texas (TCEQ) por un nuevo para autorizar la descarga de aguas residuales tratadas en un volumen que no sobrepase un flujo promedio diario de 360,000 galones por día. La TCEQ recibió esta solicitud el March 13, 2018.

La planta está ubicada en aproximadamente 1.0 milla Noreste del Intersección de Carretera del este del condado 120 y Carretera del condado del sur 1110, en el Condado de Midland, Texas. Este enlace a un mapa electrónico de la ubicación general del sitio o de la instalación es proporcionado como una cortesía y no es parte de la solicitud o del aviso. Para la ubicación exacta, consulte la solicitud.
<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hb610/index.html?lat=32.00055&lng=-101.92388&zoom=13&type=r>

El efluente tratado es descargado al Midland Draw via tubería de la planta; de allí a un tributario sin nombre del río North Concho; de allí a del río North Concho; de allí a O.C. Fisher Lake; de allí a del río Colorado River debajo de Lake J.B. Thomas en el en el Segmento No. 1412 de la Cuenca del Río Colorado River Basin. Los usos no clasificados de las aguas receptoras son no significativos usos de la vida acuática para Midland Draw. Los usos designados para el Segmento No. 1412 son elevados, uso de vida acuática y recreación sin contacto.

De acuerdo con el 30 TAC §307.5 y los procedimientos de implementación de la TCEQ (Enero 2010) para las Normas de Calidad de Aguas Superficiales, en Texas, fue realizada una revisión de la antidegradación de las aguas receptoras. Una revisión de antidegradación del Nivel 1 ha determinado preliminarmente que los usos de la calidad del agua existente no serán perjudicados por la acción de este permiso. Se mantendrá un criterio narrativo y numérico para proteger los usos existentes. Esta revisión ha determinado preliminarmente que ninguno de los cuerpos de agua con usos intermedio, alto o excepcional de vida acuática están presentes dentro del acceso para llegar a la corriente; por lo tanto, no se requiere ninguna determinación de degradación del Nivel 2. No se espera ninguna degradación significativa de la calidad del agua en los cuerpos de agua con usos intermedios, elevados o excepcionales de la vida acuática ni abajo y que los usos existentes serán mantenidos y protegidos. La determinación preliminar puede ser reexaminada y puede ser modificada, si se recibe alguna información nueva.

El Director Ejecutivo de la TCEQ ha completado la revisión técnica de la solicitud y ha preparado un borrador del permiso. El borrador del permiso, si es aprobado, establecerá las condiciones bajo las cuales la instalación debe operar. El Director Ejecutivo ha tomado una decisión preliminar sobre este permiso en emisión; cumple con todos los requisitos normativos y legales. La solicitud del permiso, la decisión preliminar del Director Ejecutivo y el borrador del permiso están disponibles para leer y copiar en 500 North Lorraine Street, Midland, Texas.

COMENTARIO PÚBLICO / REUNIÓN PÚBLICA. Usted puede presentar comentarios públicos o pedir una reunión pública sobre esta solicitud. El propósito de una reunión pública es dar la oportunidad de presentar comentarios o hacer preguntas acerca de la solicitud. La TCEQ realiza una reunión pública si el Director Ejecutivo determina que hay un grado de interés público suficiente en la solicitud o si un legislador local lo pide. Una reunión pública no es una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso.

OPORTUNIDAD DE UNA AUDIENCIA ADMINISTRATIVA DE LO CONTENCIOSO. Después del plazo para presentar comentarios públicos, el Director Ejecutivo considerará todos los comentarios apropiados y preparará una respuesta a todos los comentarios públicos esenciales, pertinentes, o significativos. A menos que la solicitud haya sido referida directamente a una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso, la respuesta a los comentarios y la decisión del Director Ejecutivo sobre la solicitud serán enviados por correo a todos los que presentaron un comentario público y a las personas que están en la lista para recibir avisos sobre esta solicitud. Si se reciben comentarios, el aviso también proveerá instrucciones para pedir una reconsideración de la decisión del Director Ejecutivo y para pedir una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso. Una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso es un procedimiento legal similar a un procedimiento legal civil en un tribunal de distrito del estado.

PARA SOLICITAR UNA AUDIENCIA DE CASO IMPUGNADO, USTED DEBE INCLUIR EN SU SOLICITUD LOS SIGUIENTES DATOS: su nombre, dirección, y número de teléfono; el nombre del solicitante y número del permiso; la ubicación y distancia de su propiedad/actividad con respecto a la instalación; una descripción específica de la forma cómo usted sería afectado adversamente por el sitio de una manera no común al público en general; una lista de todas las cuestiones