

MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

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KARL W. SMITH

It's not a Trump boom; numbers show it's an oil and gas boom.

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BACK IN STRIDE

After a crushing loss to the Carolina Panthers last week, the Dallas Cowboys rebounded Sunday to beat division rivals the New York Giants 20-13 at AT&T Stadium.

Page 1B

\$2.5M bond set for lawman charged with murder

Border Patrol supervisor is charged in killings of at least 4 women in Texas

By Juan A. Lozano
Associated Press

HOUSTON — A U.S. Border Patrol supervisor was jailed Sunday on \$2.5 million bond in Texas, accused in the killing of at least four women and of injuring a fifth who managed to escape.

Juan David Ortiz, 35, was being held in Laredo on four counts of murder along with charges of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and unlawful restraint, Webb County jail records showed.

Ortiz was arrested a day earlier, after be-

ing found hiding in a truck in a hotel parking lot in Laredo, at about 2 a.m. Saturday, capping what investigators portrayed as a 10-day string of violence. Isidro Alaniz, Webb County district attorney said Saturday that investigators "consider this to be a serial killer" whose victims were believed to be prostitutes.

Alaniz described how the Customs and Border Patrol intel supervisor continued going to work as usual throughout that time.

"As law enforcement was looking for the killer... he would be reporting to work every day like normal," he said.

It all began with the discovery Sept. 4 of the body of 29-year-old Melissa Ramirez. According to a police affidavit, Ortiz said he killed Ramirez a day earlier. Like the other victims, Ramirez was shot in the head and left in a road in rural northwest Webb

County.

She was a mother of two.

A second victim, 42-year-old Claudine Anne Luera, was found shot and left in the road Thursday morning, badly injured but still alive, according to the affidavit.

The mother of five died at a hospital later that day.

On Friday, according to the affidavit, Ortiz picked up a woman named Erika Pena. She told police she struggled with Ortiz inside his truck, where he pointed a pistol at her, but that she was able to flee. She made it to a gas station where she found a state trooper whom she asked for help.

According to the affidavit, Ortiz told investigators that after Pena ran off, he picked up his last two victims, whose identities have not yet been released by authorities.

Jail records don't list an attorney to speak

for Ortiz, who had worked for Border Patrol for 10 years.

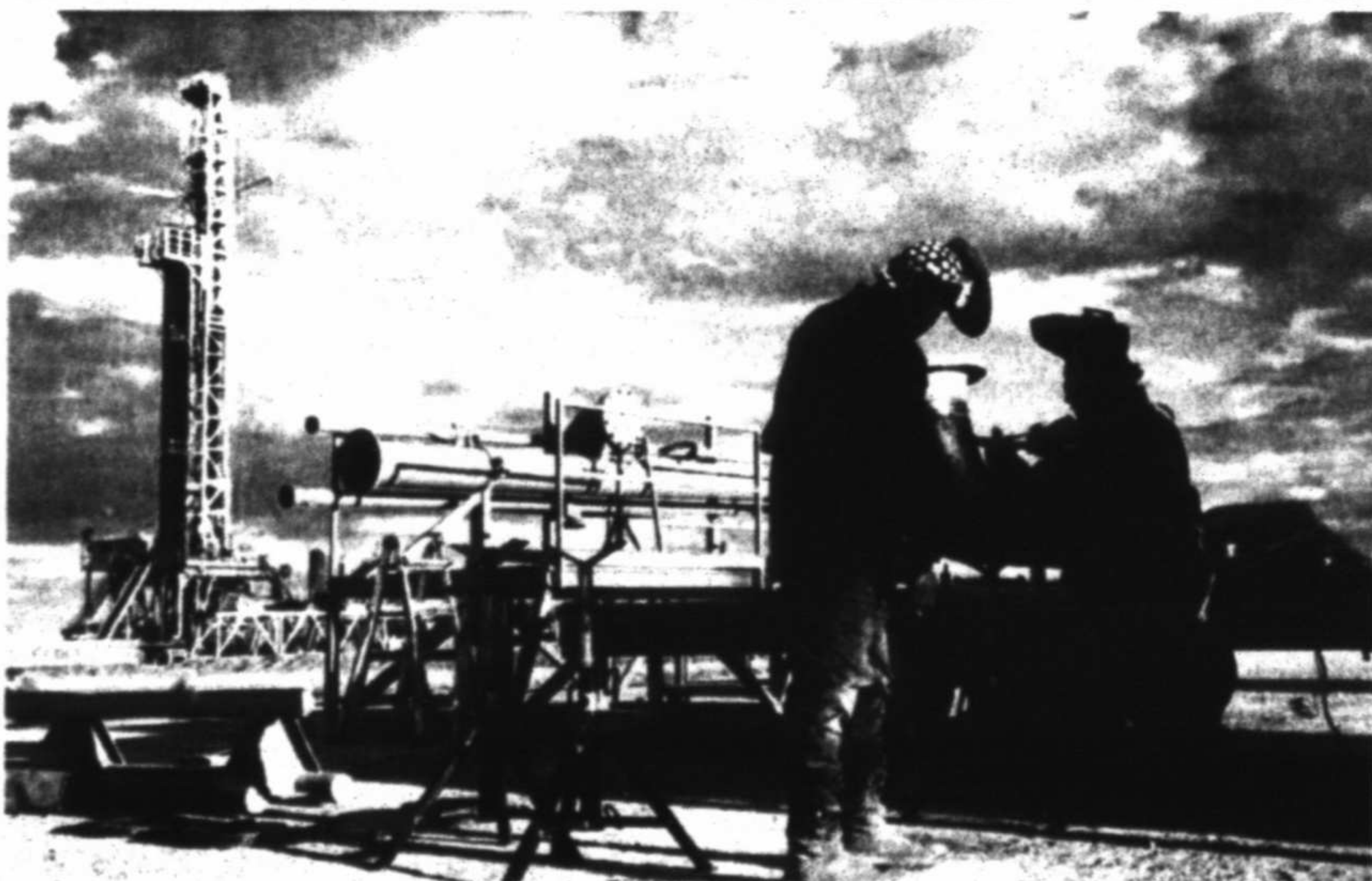
Alaniz said the dead are believed to have been prostitutes and that one of them was a transgender woman. At least two were U.S. citizens; the nationalities of the others were not known, he said. He said investigators are still working to determine a motive.

Ortiz was believed to have acted alone.

The federal agency issued a statement offering its "sincerest condolences" to the victims' families and saying criminal activity by its employees is not tolerated.

The Texas Department of Public Safety, whose Texas Rangers are investigating, referred questions on the case to the Webb County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Martin Cuellar did not return several messages seeking comment.

LIVING WITHIN THEIR MEANS



Collegan O'Hara/Bloomberg

Workers weld a pipe at a Colgate Energy LLC site in Reeves County. After the oil bust, oil and gas companies cut the costs of production, but analysts wonder if those savings have topped out. Spending on water management in the Permian Basin, for example, is likely to nearly double to more than \$22 billion in just five years, according to industry consultant IHS Markit.

Oil companies' spending seem to be changing

By James Osborne
Houston Chronicle

For the past decade, Wall Street has lavished cash on U.S. oil companies, eager to get a piece of the hydraulic fracturing boom that turned what were thought to be undrillable shale fields in West Texas and North Dakota into the hottest oil prospects in the world.

If companies spent billions more than they were taking in to buy up more acreage and their competitors, not a problem — the money was funding a once in a generation opportunity.

But after a decade of U.S. oil and gas companies spending beyond their means, a debate is underway in the energy and investment sectors on whether to keep pumping money into oil fields to keep the boom going full speed. Or with interest rates rising and investors demanding better returns, are fracturing firms going to have to live within their cash flows?

"The history of the industry is companies spend every nickel they have and a bunch they didn't have," said Nick Cacchione, owner of Oil and Gas Financial Analytics, a Florida research firm. "The question is, has the industry changed and

have they become more conservative, or are they going back to their old ways of doing things?"

Signs point to U.S. oil companies changing their habits, shrinking their capital budgets even as oil prices improve. After running a cash flow deficit totaling more than \$40 billion in 2015 — meaning their operating costs and capital expenditures exceeded the money they were paid — the 60 largest U.S. exploration and production companies shrunk that deficit to \$17.7 billion last year.

Please see SPENDING/2A

Carlsbad officials prep for longer drought conditions

Carlsbad Current-Argus

CARLSBAD, N.M. — Nearly every square mile of New Mexico has been mired in drought over the last several months. But Carlsbad officials said the city — fed by numerous underground aquifers and the Pecos River — was largely protected.

That could change in 2019 after months of scarce rainfall this year.

Low rainfall also spells trouble for the Carlsbad Irrigation District's reservoirs and the farmers and ranchers who depend on them.

Last year, hundreds of farmers and ranchers got a full allotment from the district this year after a healthy 2017 rainfall and adequate snow packs that fed reservoirs.

The district expects next year's allotment may be dramatically lower because there was less than an inch of rain between October 2017 and summer 2018.

District Manager Dale Ballard estimates it could be less than an acre foot.

Full reservoirs are depleted in part by evaporation. To save water, the district is keeping most of its water in northern areas where the air is cooler and there is less evaporation.

While the district has been able to issue a full or close-to-full allotment for the past five years, Ballard said he's nervous that those days could be drying up.

"It just doesn't look good right now," he said. "It's hard to say. We've been lucky. We can just pray for rain."

The city of Carlsbad has taken a more proactive approach to the issue

Please see CARLSBAD/2A

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Did you know?

Tonight's broadcast of the Emmy Awards is expected to contain a heavy dose of "SNL." Page 2A

The big number

"The Predator" earned an estimated \$24 million in North American theaters this weekend, topping the box office late. Page 4A

Word of the Day:

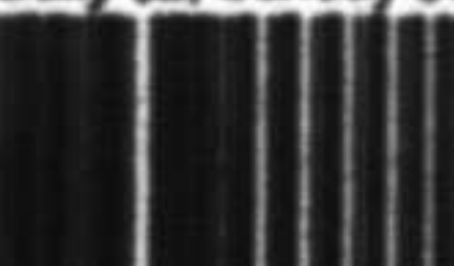
peruse
Do you know what it means? Find out the definition on Page 3A.

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Vol. 98, No. 190

Daily \$2, Sunday \$3



Classified 7B | Comics 6B | Dear Abby 5B | Obituaries 2A | Opinion 6A | Puzzles 7A | Sports 1C | TV 5B | Weather 3A

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Emmy Award statuettes are displayed Thursday inside the Lindt Chocolate Lounge inside the Microsoft Theatre in Los Angeles. The 70th Emmy Awards will be held today.

'SNL,' politics, diversity could rule Emmys

By Lynn Elber
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — There are critical points about the 70th Emmy Awards to keep in mind, starting with this: The ceremony airs today.

Typically held on a Sunday, it was pushed one day so this year's host network, NBC, could accommodate its "Sunday Night Football" franchise.

As for what the 7-10 p.m. awards telecast will offer, the basics are 26 categories with nominees including defending drama champ "The Handmaid's Tale." It's challenged by 2016 winner "Game of Thrones," which aired outside the eligibility window for last year's awards and wants a triumphant (please, not blood-soaked) return.

Comedy series including "Atlanta," "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" and "Insecure" are poised to capitalize on the temporary absence of five-time winner "Veep" and its star Julia Louis-Dreyfus, who nabbed six best-actress trophies.

The late Anthony Bourdain, whose "Parts Unknown" was showered with six awards at the recent creative arts Emmy ceremony that preceded the main event, likely will be remembered.

Here's more on what to expect from television's biggest night:

LIVE FROM L.A., IT'S "SATURDAY NIGHT!"

Don't be surprised if there's occasional confusion about whether you're watching the Emmys or a very long episode of NBC's "Saturday Night Live."

"SNL" creator Lorne Michaels is producing the awards ceremony. It's hosted by Michael Che and Colin Hanks, who anchor

the "Weekend Update" segment of "SNL." Past and present "SNL" players including Kate McKinnon and Tina Fey are presenters, with McKinnon a nominee along with three other cast members and Alec Baldwin, the show's regular Trump impersonator.

The long-running sketch show already claimed seven awards at the creative arts ceremony and is up for three more including best variety sketch series Monday. But don't think "SNL" will hog the stage, according to Jost.

"There will be a lot of people from the 'SNL' family involved. But also a lot of people that are just the stars of television now that have nothing to do with 'SNL,' because people want to see everyone who's on TV," he said.

DID SOMEONE MENTION POLITICS?

Awards ceremonies and politics have become increasingly inseparable, and it's likely that President Donald Trump will be the subject of a few — OK, more than a few — punchlines and speeches. That could be the best opportunity for a drinking game, with mentions of Paul Manafort for bonus points.

Hosts Che and Jost traffic in political satire on "Weekend Update," so it's reasonable to expect they will here, as well. But they played it cool before the awards, with Jost saying "there might be some, and there might not."

"There's gonna be political jokes. And we're gonna come out on the wrong side of history, for sure. We're aiming toward it," a smiling Che said.

A close-to-home issue likely will be addressed: The sexual-misconduct cloud over the entertainment industry, including last week's firings of CBS Corp. CEO Leslie Moonves and top "60

Minutes" executive Jeff Fager. If not, the #MeToo movement may have something to say.

BIG TENT

The Emmy Awards are opening up wider to diversity, with more than a third of the 101 acting nods announced in July going to ethnic minorities compared to a quarter of the field in 2017.

The 2018 awards are already historic: "Saturday Night Live" host Tiffany Haddish and Samira Wiley of "The Handmaid's Tale" were part of the first-ever African-American sweep of guest actor awards at the creative arts awards.

The main event Monday could advance inclusivity on-screen and off. Donald Glover, the star and creator of "Atlanta," won trophies last year for acting and directing and is a multiple nominee again, including for writing.

Tracee Ellis Ross of "black-ish" and Issa Rae of "Insecure" are competing for comedy series acting honors. On the drama side, Brown could repeat as best actor for "This Is Us," with Jeffrey Wright of "Westworld" also competing. Latino actors up for honors include Ricky Martin, Penelope Cruz and Edgar Ramirez, all for "The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story."

OH, YOU GROUNDBREAKERS

Sandra Oh has the chance to become the first performer of Asian descent to win a lead drama actress trophy — a victory that would coincide nicely with the landmark box-office success of "Crazy Rich Asians." The Korean-Canadian is nominated for the spy thriller "Killing Eve" after receiving five supporting actress nods for "Grey's Anatomy."

A streaming service or basic

cable series has yet to win top comedy, something that FX's "Atlanta" or Amazon Prime Video's "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" could change.

Issa Rae of "Insecure" or "black-ish" star Tracee Ellis Ross could become the second African-American to win as best comedy actress, following Isabel Sanford (1981, "The Jeffersons") by 37 years — and making for a 21st-century first.

"The Assassination of Gianni Versace" star Darren Criss, of Filipino descent, could become the second Asian-American actor to claim an acting award after Riz Ahmed's win last year for "The Night After," a notable back-to-back outcome if it happens.

RUNNING UP THE SCORE

"Mom" best comedy actress contender Allison Janney (and previous winner for the sitcom, "Masters of Sex" and "The West Wing") could tie the all-time acting record of eight wins currently held by Julia Louis-Dreyfus ("Veep," "Seinfeld," "The Adventures of Old Christine") and Cloris Leachman.

A supporting drama actor win for Peter Dinklage of "Game of Thrones" would put him at three in the category and tied with Aaron Paul, which he earned for "Breaking Bad."

"Saturday Night Live" holds the record for most awards in Emmy history, 71, and could add as many as three more Monday. With no end for the show born in 1975 in sight and closest competitor "Game of Thrones" (45) ending after its upcoming eighth season, it's likely "SNL" is the king now and forever.

Death Notices

Robert E. (Bob) Blazek

Robert E. (Bob) Blazek, age 91, of Midland, TX, passed away on September 14, 2018 in Midland.

A celebration of Bob's life will be held at 2:00 PM, Wednesday, September 19, 2018 at One Hope Church of Christ, 2503 W. Ohio Ave. in Midland, TX.

Arrangements are entrusted to Sunset Memorial Gardens and Funeral Home in Odessa.

Texas residents mourn fatal shooting of Fort Worth officer

Associated Press

FORT WORTH — A public memorial has been created outside a North Texas public safety complex as residents mourn the death of an undercover police officer who was killed in the line of duty.

Officer Garrett Hull was mortally wounded while a team of undercover and uniformed officers confronted three men who had robbed a Fort Worth bar early Friday morning.

The 40-year-old officer was shot during a foot chase and was taken to a hospital where he died late Friday night. Hull, who is survived by a wife and two daughters, had served 17 years with the department.

Fellow officers and their families participated in a prayer service in Hull's memory on Saturday and a memorial was created outside Fort Worth police headquarters for residents to express their grief and gratitude.

CARLSBAD

From 1A

and has a plan to reduce the wasting of water and increase availability to thousands of residential water users.

The plan is not only meant to mitigate recent drought problems, but also secure water for the future, City Administrator Mike Hernandez said.

To ensure that levels in the Capitan Reef Aquifer, which provides most of the city's freshwater, stay adequate, the city has imposed water restrictions during warmer months.

If the levels drop too low, the city would go into rationing mode, where stricter restrictions would be enforced, said Ron Myers, director of utilities for the City of Carlsbad.

The city is also considering using effluent water, or waste water, throughout city parks, Hernandez said.

Distributed by
Associated Press

SPENDING

From 1A

That followed intense pressure from hedge fund managers who questioned the fundamental economics of the fracturing boom. After the first 12 months, the output of shale wells starts declining at a fast clip, requiring companies to drill more and more wells if they are going to keep up production. At an investment conference in 2015, billionaire investor David Einhorn dubbed the oil executives in Houston and Oklahoma City "frack addicts," proclaiming "a business that burns cash and doesn't grow isn't worth anything."

The tipping point came around 2017 when oil prices were rising, but the share prices of many U.S. hydraulic fracturing companies were flat or falling, as investors lost confidence that companies could live within their means.

"This was the first time there was that disconnect," said Bill Herbert, a Houston-based managing director at the investment bank Piper Jaffray. "Public equity investors, they've become much more demanding of these management teams to live within cash flow and manage their balance sheets more responsibly than five years ago."

When oil companies first discovered they could use the same hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling techniques on oil shale fields that they use to drill natural gas, they borrowed hundreds of

billions of dollars developing oil fields in Texas and North Dakota. But when that surge in production caused global crude markets to plummet in late 2014, many companies couldn't afford to pay their creditors and were forced to declare bankruptcy, stifling lenders and investors on more than \$70 billion in outstanding loans.

Oil executives appear to have learned the lessons from the oil bust, paying much more attention to financial discipline and focusing on providing investors with higher profits, dividends and stock prices. But will they keep it up?

With oil prices hovering around \$70 since May — compared with less than \$30 in early 2016 — the temptation is there to increase drilling again. Companies have reduced the extravagant debt loads of a few years ago, but with the Federal Reserve signaling it will raise interest rates two more times in 2018, raising yields on loans and bonds, plenty of investors will be ready to give oil and

gas drillers more money, said Katherine Spector, a research scholar at Columbia University's Center on Global Energy Policy.

"Banks are going to make more money (through higher interest rates), so they're going to want to get more money out the door," she said.

While rising oil prices have fixed much of what ailed the industry, companies must now contend with challenges that weren't much of a factor five years ago.

To start, the historically low unemployment rate is beginning to drive up wages, particularly in West Texas oil towns near the Permian Basin, where unemployment rates are far lower than the national average. The unemployment rate in Midland, for example, is just over 2 percent, compared to 3.9 percent nationally.

The rise in interest rates also means oil companies have to pay more to borrow, putting the days of expanding with cheap money behind them. In addition, the savings oil companies squeezed from new technologies, more

efficient production and discounts from contractors may have topped out. U.S. oil executives claim they can drill new shale wells with oil prices as low as \$52 a barrel. But, analysts said, it's unclear if they can keep their costs that low for long.

"The companies have probably reached the depths they can get their operating costs," Cacchi-one said. "Cost inflation is starting to creep into the oil patch."

How it will all turn out is anyone's guess, but there is little doubt that some oil executives will be tempted to expand their holdings, eager to take advantage of the relatively high oil prices.

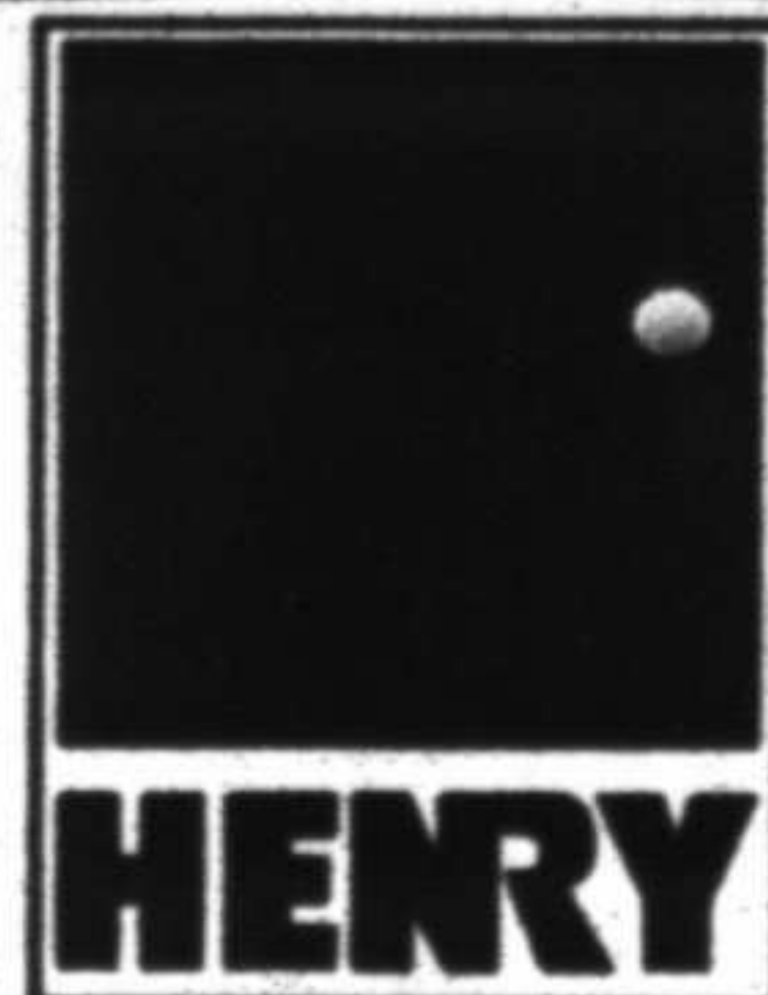
After all, even as a subset of oil companies have focused on raising returns for investors, "growth remains core to the sector's business model and strategy," Eric Otto, managing director at Rapidan Energy Group, a Maryland consulting firm, said.

In the months ahead, oil companies will begin releasing capital spending plans for 2019, revealing to investors whether

they're staying conservative or getting back to the high drilling activity of 2015. Cacchi-one, who has spent three decades tracking the industry, said that with companies still recovering from the oil price crash of late 2014, he is not expecting dramatic increases in spending — at least not yet.

"The blood bath is still pretty fresh in people's minds," he said. "At least for another year they'll be responsible with the money and not go crazy."

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Proverbs 20:7

The righteous lead blameless lives; blessed are their children after them.

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The cigarette lighter was invented before the match.

The youngest pope was 11 years old.

WORD OF THE DAY

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perfuse

[per-fyooz]

verb (used with object)

1. to overspread with moisture, color, etc.; suffuse.
2. to diffuse (a liquid, color, etc.) through or over something.



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MAIN SWITCHBOARD

432-682-5311

PUBLISHER

Jeffrey Shabram 687-8880
jshabram@mrt.com

NEWSROOM

EDITOR
Stewart Deeren 687-8856
sdeeren@mrt.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Mary Deeren 687-8852
mdereen@mrt.com

SPORTS EDITOR
Oscar LeRoy 687-8809
oleroy@mrt.com

OIL EDITOR
Mella McEwen 687-8860
mmcewen@mrt.com

PHOTO EDITOR
Tim Fischer 687-8833
tfischer@mrt.com

FEATURES EDITOR
Rich Lopez 687-8859
rlopez@mrt.com

ONLINE EDITOR
Mercedes Cordero 687-8850
mcordero@mrt.com

CIRCULATION
CUSTOMER SERVICE
688-2700

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sheckler@mrt.com

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david.robbs@hearstnp.com

SALES MANAGER
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randerson@mrt.com

RETAIL ADS
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CLASSIFIED ADS
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mrtclassified@mrt.com

PRODUCTION
DIRECTOR
John Maddox 687-8844
jmaddox@mrt.com

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Things to do

■ Music and Movement Baby Storytime features songs and stories for ages birth to 2, 10:30 a.m., Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N.

■ Gentle Healing Yoga, 5:30 p.m., Yoga Sanctuary, 4202 Dawn Circle. Free. 575-937-3609. This weekly yoga camp is open to all survivors of cancer. Led by Anne Lucero.

■ Bingo, 5 p.m., Tall City VFW Post 7208, 1306 E. Taylor Ave. Children welcome.

■ Open Shop Nights are hosted by the Midland Gem and Mineral Society and open to the public, 6:30-9 p.m., 602 S. Main St. midlandgemandmineral.org. Visitors can watch members cut rock and work on lapidary projects.

■ Bridge game play, 6:45 p.m., Allison Bridge Center, 913 W. Wadley Ave. \$6. For more information call 682-8595.

■ Monday Mayhem features unlimited bowling for \$14.09 with free shoe rentals after 8 p.m. Bowlero, 5320 W. Loop 250 N. bowlero.com.

Meetings today

Planning and Zoning Commission
3:30 p.m. City Council Chambers, City Hall 300 N. Lorraine Ave.

Premian Basin MPO
5 p.m. Wright Office Complex, Suite 1, 9601 Wright Drive

Chamber's annual meeting

Midland Chamber of Commerce's Annual Meeting, 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Horseshoes, 2514 Arena Trail. Individual member tickets, \$55; individual non-member tickets, \$75. For more information please contact the Midland Chamber of Commerce at 683-3381.

When it's open

■ Midland County Tax Assessor/Collector, 2110 N. "A" St. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday 688-4810

■ Midland Central Appraisal District, 4631 Andrews Highway, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday 699-4991

■ Department of Public Safety, Oscar LeRoy Office, 2800 Wright Drive 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday and Wednesday through Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesdays 686-1120

TODAY IN MIDLAND

FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

The Midland Christian marching band performs Friday to kick off the game against Wall at Gordon Awtry Field.

How sick are you?

Midland Memorial Hospital offers a nurse triage program "88-NURSE." The program is designed to help people determine whether their health situation warrants a trip to the emergency room. Midland residents can call the line by dialing 686-8773. The program is free and available 24 hours a day-365 days a year. Local nurses are available to help you determine the best place to receive care for your situation. 88-NURSE can help you save time and money by directing you to the most appropriate healthcare option, whether it's a neighborhood clinic, urgent care center, emergency room... or just staying home.

On this date:
In 1978, after meeting at Camp David, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat signed a framework for a peace treaty.

In 1987, the city of Philadelphia, birthplace of the U.S. Constitution, threw a big party to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the historic document. In a speech at Independence Hall, President Ronald Reagan acclaimed the framing of the Constitution as a milestone "that would profoundly and forever alter not just these United States but the world."

In 1999, President Bill Clinton lifted restrictions on trade, travel and banking imposed on North Korea a half-century earlier, rewarding it for agreeing to curb missile tests.

In 2001, Six days after 9/11, stock prices nosedived but stopped short of collapse in an emotional, flag-waving reopening of Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average ended the day down 684.81 at 8,920.70.

In 2011, a demonstration calling itself Occupy Wall Street began in New York, prompting similar protests around the U.S. and the world.
Source: Associated Press

Today in history

Today is Monday, Sept. 17, the 260th day of 2018. There are 105 days left in the year.

Today's highlight:
On Sept. 17, 1787, the Constitution of the United States was completed and signed by a majority of delegates attending the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia.

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Weather

Sunday's temperatures

High.....81
Low.....68
Normal high.....87
Normal low.....62

Sept. 16 records

High: 99, set in 1965, repeated in 1997
Low: 49, set in 1993

Precipitation

Sunday.....0.09 inch
Saturday.....0.02 inch
Month total.....2.35 inches
Year total.....10.85 inches
Normal total (year to date).....10.78 inches

Winds

Wind speed: 21 mph
Gust speed: 26 mph

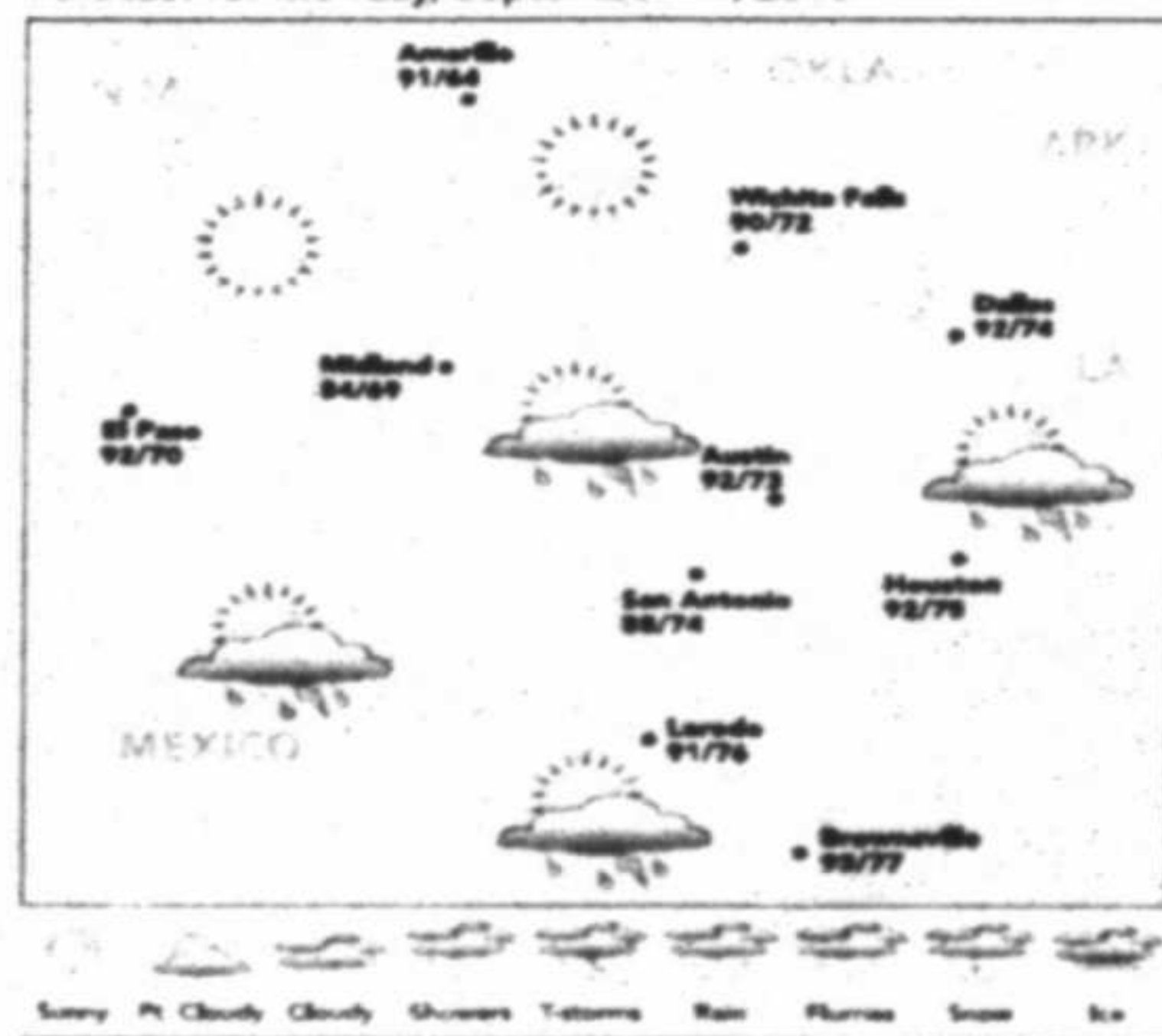
Today's forecast

High: 86
Low: 69
Conditions: Partly sunny today/partly cloudy tonight
Winds: Southeast 5-10 mph today and tonight
Chance of rain: 20 percent today

Sunrise: 7:34 a.m.
Sunset: 7:52 p.m.

Source: National Weather Service

Forecast for Monday, September 17, 2018



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

A baby born today has a Sun in Virgo and a Moon in Sagittarius if born before 7:07 a.m. (ET). Afterward, the Moon will be in Capricorn.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, Sept. 17, 2018: This year, your horoscope reveals unexpected changes. Make it OK to be a little reticent or cautious about your choices. Know that you will make strong selections if you open up your imagination. If you are single, you could become overly serious in a relationship, which likely will put a damper on the other party's feelings. If you are attached, the two of you want to add a stronger foundation to your bond. You also desire a concrete expression of your love. CAPRICORN might be full of ideas for how to achieve your goals.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Tension mounts. With your strengths and capabilities, you will walk right through any problems. Your finances might be prone to more ups and downs. Take precautions, and don't worry unnecessarily. Push yourself to take the lead on a project. **Tonight:** A reason to smile.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You might need to

get some feedback from a loved one about a personal decision. Remember to thank this person, but also let him or her know that you have not made a decision yet. One-on-one relating could seem like a hefty task today! **Tonight:** Give high fives to those around you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Close relating with an associate produces a strong sense of togetherness. Your willingness to reveal more of what is going on within yourself adds to this person's comfort. As a result, he or she will start revealing more with you. **Tonight:** Make time for a special person.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You could be more open to change than you realize. You recognize your moodiness, but you know that it doesn't indicate a long-term change. When greeted with a serious proposal that could evoke a change in the status quo, you likely will say "yes." **Tonight:** Accept an invitation.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You might be more mellow than you think. The unexpected occurs within a partnership. You might want to make a change, but how, and

in what direction? Look at your daily schedule and decide how to renew your interest in various areas. **Tonight:** Visit the gym and feel great.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Your creativity helps you deal with a very difficult person who might be viewed as being closed down. If you don't approach this person with seriousness, he or she will not open up. Your sensitivity counts; try not to be defensive. **Tonight:** Make the most of the moment.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Tension mounts, as does your ability to get past a problem, probably on the domestic front. You might want to schedule some downtime for reflection and re-evaluation. Your efforts will be appreciated beyond your expectations. **Tonight:** Buy a favorite dessert on the way home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ A conversation of depth between you and a loved

one can't be escaped, and could be worthwhile. You might want to set the stage for this talk. Relax more, and ultimately you will be happy with the results. **Tonight:** Create the mood you want at a place you love.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You might be dealing with recent extravagances. On the other hand, you also might be creating a valid and workable budget. Your serious attitude carries you far. Remain sensitive to those around you, especially a loved one. **Tonight:** Prove that fun doesn't have to break the bank.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You could breeze through the day with considerable ease, though you might be overly serious at some point. Someone close to you attempts to lift your spirits. The unexpected occurs with a new friend. Your openness could make or break this bond. **Tonight:** Do

what you want.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ If you play it low-key, you won't be unhappy. You have the ability to change your mind and head in a different direction. Your flexibility surprises people who look to you as an authority figure. Be more direct in how you deal with a problem. **Tonight:** Go for a good night's sleep.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You could be surprised by what you hear. Your choices might feel limited. If you apply your imagination, however, workable solutions appear. Your discussions could be quite animated. Demonstrate your caring toward a loved one. **Tonight:** Dinner at a favorite place.

BORN TODAY
Actress Ella Purnell (1996), actress Danielle Brooks (1989), actor John Ritter (1948)

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'The Predator' gobbles up competition at box office

By Lindsey Bahr
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — "The Predator" is at the top of the food chain in its first weekend in theaters.

20th Century Fox said Sunday that the film earned an estimated \$24 million from more than 4,000 North American theaters.

But with an \$88 million production price tag, the Shane Black-directed installment in the 30-year-old franchise will be looking to international receipts to offset the cost. This weekend, it earned \$30.7 million from 72 foreign markets, bringing the global total to \$54.7 million.

Domestic audiences were largely male (62 percent) and white (45 percent), and underwhelmed, giving the movie a C+ CinemaScore that echoed the tepid critical response.

Starring Olivia Munn, Sterling K. Brown and Boyd Holbrook, "The Predator" made headlines just weeks before opening when the studio cut a scene that featured an actor who was a registered sex offender. It did not appear to have affected the film's box office performance.

"Any conversation raises awareness," said comScore senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "If people are talking about it then they're aware of the movie."

Second place went to the "Conjuring" spinoff "The Nun," which added \$18.2 million in its second weekend. The horror pic has now grossed more than \$85 million.

Lionsgate's "A Simple Favor" opened close behind in third place with \$16.1 million. The film from director Paul Feig stars Anna Kendrick as a mommy blogger investigating the disappearance of her friend played by Blake Lively. Feig has referred to it as a "thriller," a fun thriller. Female moviegoers drove the solid opening, making up 67 percent of the audience.

"It stood out in the marketplace," said David Spitz, Lionsgate's distribution president. "It kind of became an event film. That's why we exceeded expectations."

With a B+ CinemaScore, an older audience that doesn't rush out to theaters opening weekend and positive reviews, the studio expects the film will continue to play well over the coming weeks.

Fourth and fifth places were neck and neck. According to Sunday estimates, "White Boy Rick," with \$8.8 million, had a slight advantage over "Crazy Rich Asians," which added \$8.7 million and is just shy of hitting \$150 million.

"White Boy Rick," based on a true story and starring Matthew McConaughey as the father of a teenage FBI informant, opened in 2,504 theaters.

The Christian film "Unbroken: Path to Redemption" debuted in the No. 9 spot with \$2.4 million. It's based on Laura Hillenbrand's novel about Olympian and World War II veteran Louis Zamperini and picks up where "Unbroken" left off.

September is often a slow time at the box office, making a \$24 million launch somewhat notable, according to Dergarabedian. But while the year to date is still up nearly 9 percent, the weekend itself is down 5.8 percent from last year when "It" was still terrifying audiences and breaking records.

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. Final domestic figures will be released today.

1. "The Predator," \$24 million (\$30.7 million international).
2. "The Nun," \$18.2 million (\$33.1 million international).

Kavanaugh's accuser comes forward

By Darlene Superville
and Lisa Mascaro
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court was thrust into turmoil Sunday after the woman accusing him of high school-era sexual misconduct told her story publicly for the first time. Democrats immediately called for a delay in a key committee vote set for later this week and a Republican on the closely divided panel said he's "not comfortable" voting on the nomination without first hearing from the accuser.

The woman, Christine Blasey Ford, told The Washington Post in her first interview that Kavanaugh pinned her to a bed at a Maryland party they attended in the early 1980s, clumsily tried to remove her clothing and put his hand over her mouth when she tried to scream.

"I thought he might inadvertently kill me," Ford said. "He was trying to attack me and remove my clothing."

Ford, 51 and a clinical psychology professor at Palo Alto University in California, says she was able to get away after a friend of Kavanaugh's who was in the room jumped on top of them and everyone tumbled.

Kavanaugh, 53 and a federal appeals judge in Washington, on Sunday repeated an earlier denial of Ford's allegation.

"I categorically and unequivocally deny this allegation. I did not do this back in high school or at any time," Kavanaugh said through the White House.

The allegation first came to light late last week in the form of a letter that has been in the possession of Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California, the top Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, for some time.

The committee recently concluded four days of public hearings on the nomination and the panel's Republican chairman, Chuck Grassley of Iowa, scheduled a Thursday vote on whether to recommend that the full Senate confirm Kavanaugh for a lifetime appointment to the nation's highest court.

Democrats, led by New York Sen. Chuck Schumer, immediately called for it to be postponed, though Republicans gave no indication Sunday that they would accede to the calls by Democrats, most of whom already publicly oppose Kavanaugh.

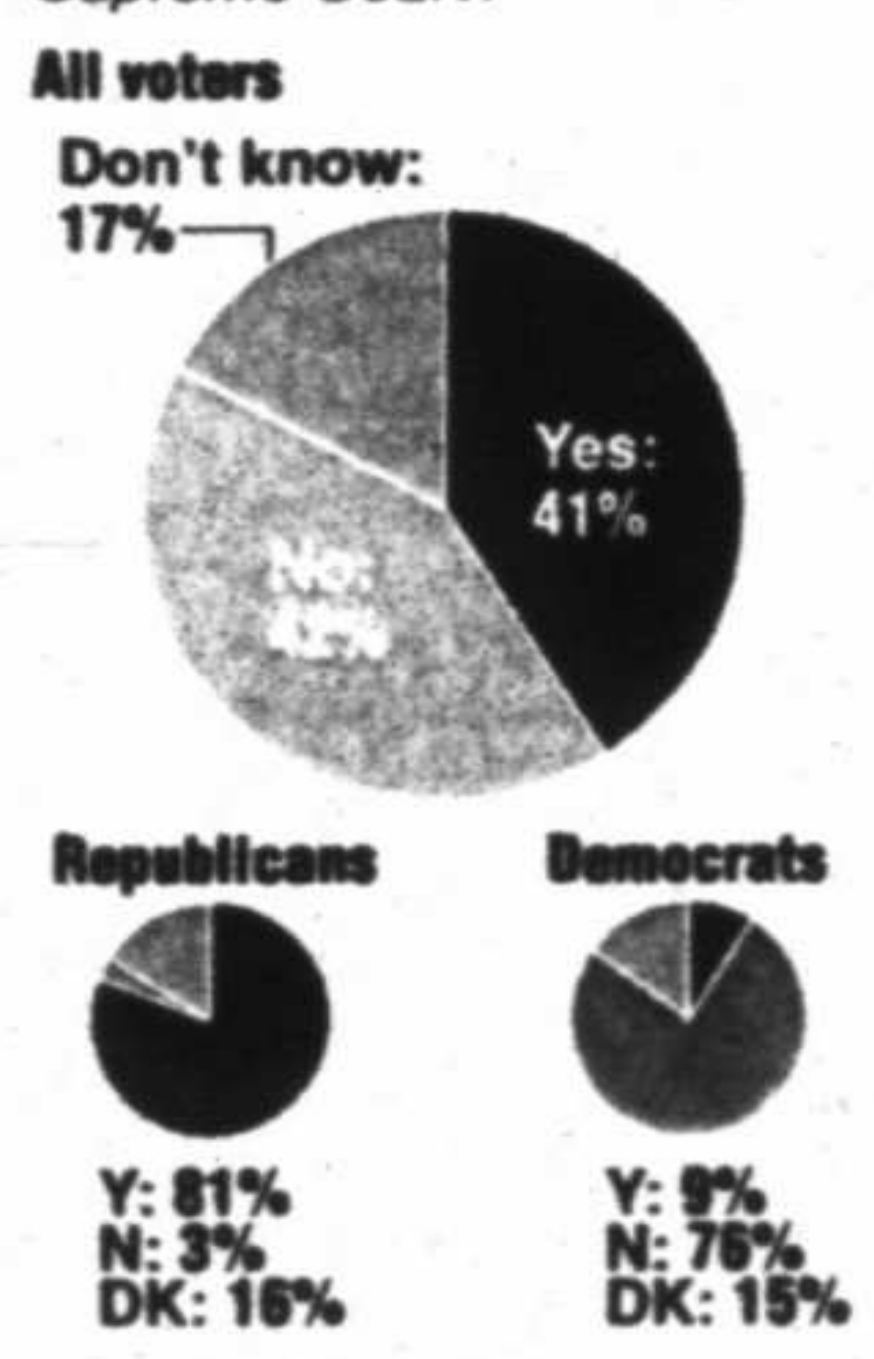
A spokesman for the Senate Judiciary Committee said late Sunday that Grassley is trying to arrange separate, follow-up calls with Kavanaugh and Ford, but just for aides to Grassley and Feinstein, before Thursday's scheduled vote.

But Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., a committee member, told The Washington Post and Politico in interviews Sunday that he's "not comfortable" voting for Kavanaugh until he learns more about the allegation. Flake is one of 11 Republicans on the committee, whose 10 Democrats all oppose Kavanaugh. A potential "no" vote from Flake would complicate Kavanaugh's prospects.

Another Republican member, Sen. Lindsey Graham of South

Opinion poll

Should Brett Kavanaugh be confirmed to the Supreme Court?



Carolina, said he's willing to hear from Ford provided that it's "done immediately" to keep the confirmation process on track. Critics have accused the GOP of fast-tracking the process to get Kavanaugh on the court by Oct. 1, the first day of the fall term.

Senate Republicans, along with the White House, see no need to postpone voting over what they consider uncorroborated and unverifiable accusations, according to a person familiar with the situation but not authorized to speak publicly.

In considering their options Sunday, Republicans largely settled on the view that Ford's story alone was not enough to delay Kavanaugh's confirmation.

Grassley could invite Ford to testify, likely in closed session before Thursday. Kavanaugh would also probably be asked to appear before senators. The panel would also likely seek testimony from Mark Judge, Kavanaugh's friend and classmate who Ford says jumped on top of her and Kavanaugh. Judge has denied that the incident happened.

Republicans have not settled on the strategy, the person familiar with the situation said, but were weighing options, including doing nothing.

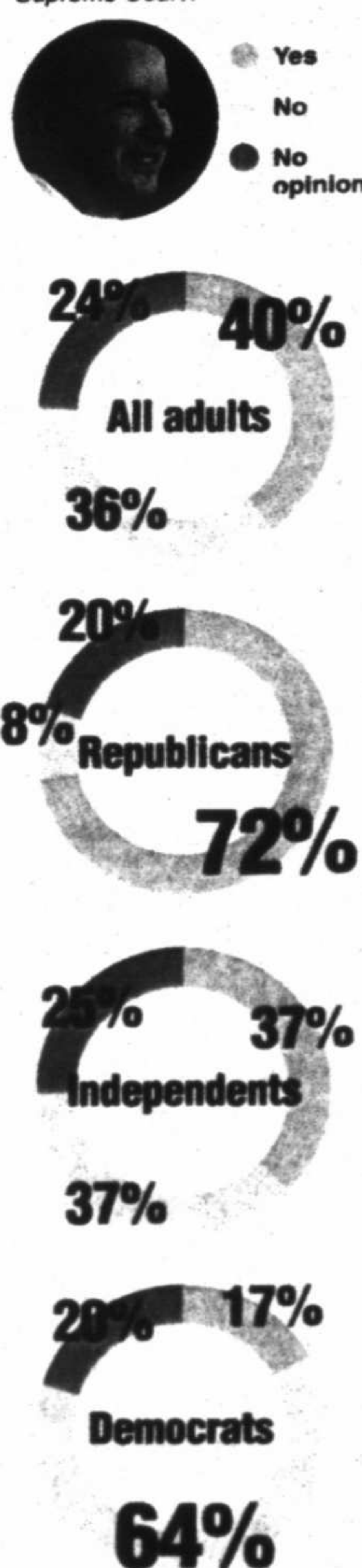
Republicans say the allegations have already cast a shadow over Kavanaugh but that it does not appear to be enough to change the votes in the narrowly divided 51-49 Senate. Key will be the views of Sens. Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, who did not immediately comment publicly Sunday.

A spokesman for Grassley said Kavanaugh already went through several days of hearings and has been investigated by the FBI.

The White House has accused Feinstein, who revealed the letter's existence late last week, of mounting an "11th hour attempt to delay his confirmation." The White House has also sought to cast doubt about Ford's allegation by noting that the FBI has repeatedly investigated Kavanaugh since the 1990s for highly sensitive positions he has held, including in the office of independent counsel Ken Starr, at the White House and his current post on the federal appeals

Kavanaugh opinions

Would you like to see the Senate vote in favor of Brett Kavanaugh serving on the Supreme Court?



court in Washington.

Both Democratic and Republican senators questioned Feinstein's handling of the allegation. Feinstein on Sunday called on the FBI to investigate Ford's story "before the Senate moves forward on this nominee."

Kavanaugh's nomination has sharply divided an already closely divided Senate, with most Democrats opposing him and most Republicans supporting him.

But the allegations of sexual misconduct, particularly coming amid the #MeToo movement against sexual harassment, coupled with Ford's emergence could complicate matters, especially as key Republican senators, including Collins and Murkowski, are under enormous pressure from outside groups who want them to oppose Kavanaugh on grounds that as a

justice he could vote to undercut the Roe v. Wade ruling legalizing abortion in the U.S.

Ford told the Post that Kavanaugh and a friend — both "stumbling drunk," she says — corralled her into a bedroom during a house party in Maryland in the early 1980s when she was around 15 and Kavanaugh was around 17. She says Kavanaugh groped her over her clothes, grinded his body against hers and tried to take off her one-piece swimsuit and the outfit she wore over it.

Kavanaugh covered her mouth with his hand when she tried to scream, she says, and escaped when Judge jumped on them.

In the interview, Ford says she never revealed what had happened to her until 2012, when she and her husband sought couples therapy.

Portions of her therapist's notes, which Ford provided to the Post, do not mention Kavanaugh by name but say Ford reported being attacked by students "from an elitist boys' school" who went on to become "highly respected and high-ranking members of society in Washington."

Kavanaugh attended a private school for boys in Maryland while Ford attended a nearby school.

Ford's husband, Russell Ford, also told the newspaper that his wife described during therapy being trapped in a room with two drunken boys and that one of them had pinned her to a bed, molested her and tried to prevent from screaming. He said he recalled his wife using Kavanaugh's last name and expressing concern that Kavanaugh — then a federal judge — might someday be nominated to the Supreme Court.

The therapist's notes say four boys were involved, but Ford says that was an error by the therapist. Ford says four boys were at the party, but only two boys were in the room at the time.

Ford had contacted the Post through a tip line in early July after it had become clear that Kavanaugh was on Trump's short list to fill a vacancy but before the Republican president nominated him, the newspaper said.

A registered Democrat, Ford contacted her representative in Congress, Democrat Anna Eshoo, around the same time. In late July, Ford sent a letter through Eshoo's office to Feinstein. Feinstein said she notified federal investigators about the letter, and the FBI confirmed it has included the information in Kavanaugh's background file, which all senators can read.

Sixty-five women who knew Kavanaugh in high school defended him in a separate letter, circulated by Senate Judiciary Committee Republicans, as someone who "always treated women with decency and respect." The effort around the pro-Kavanaugh letter began to take shape after his confirmation hearings earlier this month when rumors began to circulate, according to a person familiar with the situation who was not authorized to comment publicly. The signatures on the letter came together in about 24 hours, the person said.

Ford told the Post she changed her mind about coming forward after watching portions of her story come out without her permission. She said if anyone was going to tell her story, she wanted to be the one to tell it.

Grim warnings befall GOP ahead of election

By Julie Pace,
Catherine Lucey and
Zeke Miller
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The prognosis for President Donald Trump and his party was grim.

In a post-Labor Day briefing at the White House, a top Republican pollster told senior staff that the determining factor in the election wouldn't be the improving economy or the steady increase in job creation.

It would be how voters feel about Trump. And the majority of the electorate, including a sizable percentage of Republican-leaning voters, doesn't feel good about the president, according to a presentation from pollster Neil Newhouse that spanned dozens of pages.

Newhouse's briefing came amid a darkening mood among Republican officials as the November election nears. Party leaders were already worried that a surge in enthusiasm among Democrats and disdain for Trump by moderate Republicans would put the House out of reach. But some Republicans now fear their Senate majority is also in peril — a scenario that was unthinkable a few months ago given the favorable Sen-

ate map for the GOP.

"For Republican candidates to win in swing states, they need all of the voters who support President Trump, plus a chunk of those who do not," said Whit Ayres, a GOP pollster. "That is threatening a very narrow strategic needle."

Operatives in both parties say Republicans still have the edge in the fight for control of the Senate. But GOP officials are increasingly worried that nominees in conservative-leaning states like Missouri and Indiana are underperforming, while races in Tennessee and Texas that should be slam-dunks for Republicans are close.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell raised an alarm last week, warning that each of the competitive Senate races would be "like a knife fight in an alley."

Some of the public fretting among Republicans appears to be strategic, as party officials try to motivate both voters and donors. Many moderate Republican voters "don't believe there is anything at stake in this election," according to the documents Newhouse presented to White House officials. He attributed that belief in part to a disregard for public polling, given

that most surveys showed Democrat Hillary Clinton defeating Trump in the 2016 presidential election.

Newhouse and the White House would not comment on the early September meeting. The Associated Press obtained a copy of Newhouse's presentation, and two Republicans with knowledge of the briefing discussed the details on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak about the matter publicly.

At the White House, anxiety over the midterms has been on the rise for months as polls increasingly show a challenging environment for the GOP and heightened Democratic enthusiasm. The sheer number of competitive races in both the House and Senate is stretching cash reserves and forcing tough calculations about where to deploy resources and surrogates. And there are growing fears that the coalition of voters that delivered Trump to the White House will not come out for midterms.

Even if those voters do show up in large numbers, Republicans could still come up short. The polling presented to White House officials, which was commissioned by the Republican National Committee,

showed that Trump's loyal supporters make up about one-quarter of the electorate. Another quarter is comprised of Republicans who like Trump's policies but do not appear motivated to back GOP candidates. And roughly half of expected midterm voters are Democrats who are energized by their opposition to the president.

White House aides say Trump is getting regular briefings on the political landscape and is aware of the increasingly grim polling, even though he's predicted a "red wave" for Republicans on Twitter and at campaign rallies. Aides say Trump's sober briefings from GOP officials are sometimes offset by the frequent conversations he has with a cadre of outside advisers who paint a sunnier picture of the electoral landscape and remind the president of his upset victory in 2016.

The paradox for Republicans is that most Americans are largely satisfied with the economy, according to numerous surveys. But the party has struggled to keep the economy centered at the center of the election debate. Trump keeps thrusting other issues to the forefront,

including his frustration with special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation and his intense anger with unfattering portrayals of his presidency in a book by journalist Bob Woodward and an anonymous editorial from a senior administration official that was published in the New York Times. He stunned some backers Thursday when he disputed the death toll in Puerto Rico from last year's Hurricane Maria, just as another storm was barreling toward the East Coast.

Newhouse told White House officials that Trump could appeal to moderates and independents by emphasizing that a Democratic majority would be outside the mainstream on issues like abolishing U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and government-funded health care. Other Republican strategists have offered candidates similar advice.

Karl Rove, who served as chief political strategist to President George W. Bush, said that if Republicans cast their Democratic rivals as soft on immigration or in favor of high-dollar government spending on health care, "that's a toxic mix to the soft Republicans and Republican-leaning independents."



Steve Helber/AP

Rescue personnel use a small boat as they go house to house Saturday checking for flood victims from tropical storm Florence in New Bern, N.C.

Florence likely to expose gaps in flood insurance

By Ken Sweet and Meghan Hoyer
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The number of Americans with flood insurance is on the rise, yet Hurricane Florence is likely to make it painfully clear that too many homeowners in the Carolinas and other vulnerable regions remain unprotected.

An analysis of federal flood insurance records by The Associated Press found there were roughly 5.1 million active flood insurance policies in the U.S. as of July 31, up from 4.94 million a year earlier.

The Carolinas had modest gains — a 2.5 percent increase in South Carolina and a 3.5 percent increase in North Carolina.

But large gaps in coverage remain. South Carolina is the second-highest insured state for flooding, with roughly 65 percent of properties in flood hazard areas insured. But in North Carolina, where forecasters say the storm might bring the most destructive round of flooding in state history, flood coverage is less common, with only 35 percent of at-risk properties insured.

After blowing ashore as a hurricane with 90 mph winds, Florence virtually parked itself much of the weekend atop the Carolinas as it pulled warm water from the ocean and hurled it onshore. Storm surges, flash floods and winds scattered destruction widely.

Most of the gains observed in the federal flood insurance data over the past 12 months occurred in Texas, with about 145,000 new policies. Insurance experts say that Hurricane Harvey, which brought tremendous flood damage to Texas and Louisiana late last summer, helped increase public awareness that homeowners need flood insurance.

"That's terrific. Nothing sells flood insurance like a storm," said Robert Hunter, who ran the National Flood Insurance Program in the 1970s.

Still, federal officials say there are too many Americans in vulnerable areas who lack flood insurance — even after storms such as Sandy, Matthew and Harvey caused widespread property damage and financial losses with storm surge and rainfall. A look at the five-year and 10-year trends shows a decline in the number of flood insurance policies nationwide.

Property insurance typically doesn't cover flooding, and flood insurance remains by and large a federal government program run by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA.

FEMA requires most homeowners with mortgages living in certain designated areas to buy flood insurance. But there are numerous neighborhoods across the U.S. that are vulnerable to flooding but where insurance isn't mandatory and many residents choose not to enroll — sometimes with dire consequences.

In the five years before Hurricane Harvey walloped Houston last year, for instance, the number of homes covered in the city dropped 11 percent. The monster storm ended up flooding more than 150,000 homes in the area, leaving many people digging into their savings to repair their houses.

Data show that even with the increase in flood insurance coverage over the past year, the number of homes covered is down 3 percent in North Carolina and 6 percent South Carolina compared with five years ago.

Researchers and insurance experts say many Americans choose not to get flood insurance because of a belief that flooding will not happen to them, or if it does, federal disaster assistance cover their losses.

But federal disaster relief typically consists of low-interest loans — money that must be repaid. The maximum amount of disaster assistance available to an individual or household is \$34,000, which is typically not enough to cover repairs caused by flooding. The average damage caused by flooding during Harvey was around \$80,000, according to the Texas Department of Insurance.

"We have been working for the last couple years to close the insurance gap, but still not near enough people have necessary coverage. We still have a lot of work to do," said David Maursted, the current director of the government's flood insurance program, in a conference call with reporters on Thursday.

Because Hurricane Florence hit the Carolina coast as a less powerful Category 1 storm, damages are expected to be less severe than originally estimated. Property data company CoreLogic estimates the storm surge and wind from Florence will cause roughly \$3 billion to \$5 billion in damages.

But the potential property damage in the Carolinas could once again strain the financial health of the nation's flood insurance program.

Starting with Katrina in 2005, a series of catastrophic storms have forced the program to pay out billions of dollars more in claims than it receives in premiums. Last year, the damages from Hurricanes Harvey and Irma caused the program to reach its \$30.5 billion statutory limit on borrowing.

In renewing the flood insurance program's mandate last year, Congress forgave roughly \$16 billion in the program's debt. But the program is still roughly \$20.5 billion in the red, according to FEMA.

Maursted said NFIP insurance companies are already deploying claims agents and adjusters to the area and they do not expect any delays in processing claims. Policyholders who have flood insurance should file a claim with their insurance company as soon as they feel it's safe enough to do so.

Flooding fears surge as rivers rise

By Chuck Burton
Associated Press

WILMINGTON, N.C. — Catastrophic flooding from Florence spread across the Carolinas on Sunday, with roads to Wilmington cut off by the epic deluge and muddy river water swamping entire neighborhoods miles inland. "The risk to life is rising with the angry waters," Gov. Roy Cooper declared as the storm's death toll climbed to 17.

The storm continued to crawl westward, dumping more than 30 inches of rain in spots since Friday, and fears of historic flooding grew. Tens of thousands were ordered evacuated from communities along the state's steadily rising rivers — with the Cape Fear, Little River, Lumber, Waccamaw and Pee Dee rivers all projected to burst their banks.

In Wilmington, with roads leading in and out of the city underwater and streams still swelling upward, residents waited for hours outside stores and restaurants for basic necessities like water. Police guarded the door of one store, and only 10 people were allowed inside at a time.

Woody White, chairman of the board of commissioners of New Hanover County, said officials were planning for food and water to be flown into the coastal city of nearly 120,000 people.

"Our roads are flooded," he said. "There is no access to Wilmington."

About 70 miles away from the coast, residents near the Lumber River stepped from their homes directly into boats floating in their front yards; river forecasts showed the scene could be repeated in towns as far as 250 miles inland as waters rise for days.

Downgraded overnight to a tropical depression, Florence was still massive. But with radar showing parts of the storm over six Southeastern states and flood worries spread-

ing into southern Virginia and West Virginia, North and South Carolina were still in the bull's-eye.

Half way around the world, meanwhile, Typhoon Mangkhut barreled into southern China on Sunday after lashing the Philippines with strong winds and heavy rain that left dozens dead. More than 2.4 million people were evacuated from China's southern Guangdong province ahead of the massive typhoon, the strongest to hit the region in nearly two decades.

In North Carolina, fears of what could be the worst flooding in the state's history led officials to order tens of thousands to evacuate, though it wasn't clear how many had fled or even could. The head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Brock Long, said officials were focused on finding people and rescuing them.

"We'll get through this. It'll be ugly, but we'll get through it," Long told NBC's "Meet The Press."

President Donald Trump said federal emergency workers, first responders and law enforcement officials were "working really hard." As the storm "begins to finally recede, they will kick into an even higher gear. Very Professional!" he declared in a tweet.

The storm's death toll climbed to at least 17 when a 3-month-old child was killed when a tree fell across a mobile home in North Carolina. Earlier, officials said three people died in separate, weather-related traffic accidents in South Carolina.

Victor Merlos was overjoyed to find a store open for business in Wilmington since he had about 20 relatives staying at his apartment, which still had power. He spent more than \$500 on cereal, eggs, soft drinks and other necessities, plus beer.

"I have everything I need for my whole family," said Merlos. Nearby, a Waffle House restaurant limited breakfast customers to one biscuit

and one drink, all take-out, with the price of \$2 per item.

Kenneth Campbell had donned waterproof waders intending to check out his home in Lumberton, but he didn't bother when he saw the Coast Guard and murky waters in his neighborhood.

"I'm not going to waste my time. I already know," he said.

As rivers swelled, state regulators and environmental groups were monitoring the threat from gigantic hog and poultry farms located in low-lying, flood-prone areas.

The industrial-scale farms contain vast pits of animal feces and urine that can pose a significant pollution threat if they are breached or inundated by floodwaters. In past hurricanes, flooding at dozens of farms also left hundreds of thousands of dead hogs, chickens and other decomposing livestock bobbing in floodwaters.

Stream gauges across the region showed water levels rising steadily, with forecasts calling for rivers to crest Sunday and today at or near record levels. The Defense Department said about 13,500 military personnel had been assigned to help relief efforts.

Authorities ordered the immediate evacuation of up to 7,500 people living within a mile of a stretch of the Cape Fear River and the Little River, about 100 miles from the North Carolina coast. The evacuation zone included part of the city of Fayetteville, population 200,000.

John Rose owns a furniture business with stores less than a mile from the river. Rain-soaked furniture workers helped him quickly empty more than 1,000 mattresses from a warehouse in a low-lying strip mall.

"It's the first time we've ever had to move anything like this," Rose said. "If the river rises to the level they say it's going to, then this warehouse is going to be under water."

healthy living

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AUDIO ACOUSTICS

Why you don't wear your hearing aids (and why you should)

By Orland Purcell AuD, CCC-A

According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), only 20 percent of people who could benefit from hearing aids actually wear them. If you've taken the plunge

and purchased hearing aids, congratulations! Do you wear them every day? Do you wear them only on "special occasions" or do they spend more time in your nightstand than they do in your ears?

There are many people who've invested in hearing devices and yet, for a variety of reasons, aren't using them as advised. Much like purchasing a gym membership, hearing aids only work if you use them. So why don't you wear yours?

Poor fit

For any hearing aid to work properly, it must fit well. Otherwise it can be uncomfortable and ineffective. If you have a model that fits behind your ear (BTE) the problem might be the tube is hard and needs to be changed or a new earmold might be the answer. If it is a BTE that uses a wire to connect the speaker in your ear (RIC) it could be a variety of issues.

It may be that the wire is no longer the correct length, the tip and filter needs to be changed or the retention device needs adjusting or replacing. Poor fitting leads to a reduction in efficiency which leads to other problems that reduce effectiveness and can lead to a variety of annoying difficulties. Custom hearing aids can also suffer from some of these problems.

If your device doesn't fit, talk to your audiologist. They can make the adjustments necessary for your hearing devices to fit properly and comfortably. When they do, you'll be a lot more likely to wear them.

Lack of confidence

Today's hearing aid technology is wonderful as long as you know how to use it. If you've forgotten how to change the batteries or how to use the app on your smartphone to adjust the settings, give us a call. We work with these devices on a daily basis and are happy to provide the instruction you need to get the most from your devices — no matter how many times you ask.

Lack of commitment

If you save your hearing aids for "special occasions," such as church or group functions with friends and family, chances are good you won't hear as well as you want to. That's because hearing is a brain activity. Depending upon the severity of your hearing loss and the amount of time you waited to get treatment, your brain needs time to make sense of the signals it's receiving from your inner ear.



ORLAND PURCELL, AU D

By wearing your hearing aids daily, you provide the consistency your brain needs to be reintroduced to sounds it hasn't heard in a while and acclimate to different listening environments. This daily habit also gives you the opportunity to get to know your hearing devices, which in turn builds the confidence you need to maximize their benefits.

No longer effective

If your hearing aids worked well in the beginning but no longer seem to help you hear well, it's important to share that information with your audiologist. Your hearing loss may have changed or your hearing aids may need routine maintenance. Whatever the reason, trust your hearing center staff to diagnose the source of the problem and correct it. The path to better hearing begins with open and honest dialogue with your hearing healthcare professional.

Why you should wear your hearing aids

Most likely, your hearing healthcare professional has already emphasized the importance wearing your hearing aids has on your overall health and quality of life. A recent worldwide study on hearing loss and hearing aids involving more than 120,000 individuals in Germany, France, UK, Italy, Switzerland and the United States confirms their claims. The study found eight out of ten users believe hearing aids have had a positive impact on their quality of life, including improved relationships at home and work and a better sense of safety and independence.

Your hearing aids can have the same impact on your life. It all begins when you take them out of storage and begin wearing them regularly.

Practice makes perfect

Wearing your hearing aids every day helps you become more familiar with how they work and, more importantly, reacquaint your brain to all of the sounds it hasn't been hearing. The result is a winning situation — for you, your brain and your overall quality of life.

You've already made the investment

Maximize your investment by wearing your aids daily with pride. With today's technology you can enjoy life in almost every listening situation — from taking a quiet hike on your favorite trail to celebrating life's achievements with your friends and family.

It's not all about you

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OPINION

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Monday, September 17, 2018 | Page 6A

Trump should protect Americans from UN court

Should an unaccountable United Nations court, created by a treaty to which the United States is not a signatory, and that the Senate has not ratified, be allowed to investigate, try and imprison American citizens?

Unfortunately, this is no longer a theoretical question. In November, the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) at The Hague, Fatou Bensouda, announced she was seeking a formal investigation into alleged war crimes committed by U.S. military forces and CIA officers in Afghanistan. Bensouda — a Gambian lawyer who is answerable to no government or institution — claims unbridled power to investigate, charge and prosecute American citizens, no matter what the U.S. government says. A pretrial chamber of the court, made up of judges from Hungary, France and Benin, reportedly will approve her request in the coming days.

Who gave these foreign magistrates the right to try U.S. citizens, whose government never assented to the court's jurisdiction through our own democratic institutions? No one. And, yet, they are preparing to exercise this supranational power for the first time.

That will not happen if the Trump administration has anything to say about it. In a speech this week to the Federalist

MARC THIESSEN

Washington Post Writers Group



Society, national security adviser John Bolton delivered a stark warning to the ICC: "If the court comes after us ... this administration will fight back to protect American constitutionalism, our sovereignty, and our citizens. No committee of foreign nations will tell us how to govern ourselves and defend our freedom." Should the court act against U.S. citizens, Bolton said, the United States will bar ICC judges and prosecutors from entering the country, sanction their funds in the U.S. financial system and prosecute them in the American criminal-justice system.

I know something about the ICC, because I was present at its creation. In 1998, as a staff member for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I attended the Rome conference where the treaty was negotiated. The committee's chairman, Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) warned that, unless checks were placed on the ICC

prosecutor's unfettered discretion to prosecute U.S. citizens — including a U.N. Security Council "screen" that would permit the United States to veto cases going forward — the Rome treaty would be "dead on arrival" in the Senate. When those protections were rejected, Helms introduced the "American Servicemembers' Protection Act" to bar U.S. cooperation with the ICC and to punish the court for any efforts to prosecute Americans. The measure was approved in 2002 by a bipartisan 75-to-19 vote. So not only has the Senate not ratified the ICC treaty, it has explicitly authorized the president to use "all means necessary" — including military force — to shield American citizens from ICC prosecution.

We were told back then that all of this was unnecessary, and that the idea a rogue ICC prosecutor would ever go after Americans was ridiculous. The court would focus on grievous human-rights abuses by the world's tyrants, not on democracies with robust and transparent legal systems capable of policing their own citizens. That was a lie.

Not only is the ICC threatening Americans, it has our democratic ally, Israel, in its crosshairs. In 2015, Bensouda opened a preliminary investigation of Israel for actions defending itself against Palestinian terrorist attacks in the West Bank and

Gaza — despite the fact that the court has no jurisdiction because Israel is not a party to the treaty, and because Palestinian territories cannot be a "state party" to the treaty considering they are not a "state." In May, the Palestinian Authority's foreign minister, Riyad al-Maliki, traveled to The Hague to hand over a criminal referral against Israel and to urge the court to indict and prosecute Israeli officials.

The ICC is not just a threat to U.S. citizens and our democratic allies — it is a hindrance to democratic change. Since the end of the Cold War, almost every peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy has involved some form of amnesty. The existence of the ICC makes it more difficult to convince dictators to step down, because the option of safety in exile has effectively been eliminated. Without a credible guarantee that they will remain unmolested abroad, dictators may well decide they are better off holed up in their palaces. The lesson to tyrants such as Venezuela's Nicol s Maduro, Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega, or Iran's ayatollahs is clear: If the people rise up, it is safer to fire on the crowds than to flee.

By taking on the ICC, the Trump administration is not just protecting U.S. citizens and American sovereignty — it is striking a blow for democracy across the world.

OPINION EXTRA

It's not a Trump boom; the numbers show it's an oil and gas boom

President Donald Trump has gone so far as to suggest that he possesses "a magic wand" capable of producing unexpectedly robust economic growth. I don't know about a magic wand. But Trump is right about the strong economy. This is a genuine boom. And the greatest threat to it is the president's policy agenda.

First, give credit where it is due. The strong economy is not merely a continuation of long-term trends, as the president's critics contend. Before the election, nonpartisan experts were predicting lackluster growth at best, with one estimate suggesting GDP growth of about 1.75 percent until 2025.

Such predictions made sense. The economy was bound to slow down as the recovery from the Great Recession took hold. Yet the economy has shown no signs of slowing down. Indeed, it is on track to match the president's promises, contained in the administration's first budget, of GDP growth of 3 percent and job growth of 10 million over eight years. (Former Treasury Secretary Larry Summers wrote that the budget was about as believable as "tooth fairies and ludicrous supply-side economics.")

Year-over-year GDP growth has marched upward from 1.3 percent in the second quarter of 2016 to 2.9 percent in the second quarter of 2018, and will almost certainly break 3 percent in the next quarter. Meanwhile, the economy has added more than 3.8 million jobs since Trump took office, a rate which would add up to 18.4 million new jobs over eight years.

When it comes to investment, however, the numbers tell a different story. Dig into the specifics of the boom, and the dangers of Trump's policies become more clear.

A chart of the government's most timely indicator of business investment mimics one for the price of oil, which peaked in July 2014, fell sharply throughout 2015, and bottomed out in January 2016.

At first glance, this too might seem to be good news for the White House. Trump ran on the promise of energy dominance and strong support for the oil and gas industry. Since he has become president, the industry is doing quite well.

The explosion of oil and gas production in the Permian Basin has been nothing short of phenomenal, and it has the potential to reshape markets. Increasingly, however, producers have faced difficulty getting their product to market. The source of the bottlenecks is twofold: a shortage of infrastructure — largely oil pipelines — and a shortage of labor.

The cost of steel in a single pipeline can run to the hundreds of millions, and the president's tariffs have increased that cost. Any further trade restrictions, including quotas or "buy American" provisions, could increase costs significantly, as the some of the high-quality steel needed in construction is not made in America.

Pipelines are billion-dollar projects whose feasibility is sensitive to their 30-year return. Uncertainty in the cost of the construction makes present investment less likely and future shortages more likely.

There is also uncertainty about workers. The oil and gas industry requires laborers who are willing to migrate to remote locations to do physically demanding work. As the labor market tightens, domestic workers are harder to find. This doubly true for the older workers, many with health problems, that are still struggling to come back into the labor force.

These shortages could be alleviated through increased immigration. But the administration shows little interest in allowing more legal immigration even as it cracks down on illegal immigration. This exacerbates labor shortages, especially in border states like Texas.

Taken together, the president's trade and immigration policies threaten to slow or choke off the investment boom driven by oil and gas exploration. If he's not careful, his actions could reverse the trends he is so eager to tout.

— Karl W. Smith, Bloomberg

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MIDTERM STORM CENTER



Midterms are all about Trump

President Trump is getting his wish: It's all about him.

The election, that is. New evidence indicates that the midterm elections in seven weeks will be the clearest referendum on a president in at least 80 years.

But while it may delight the narcissistic president that the 2018 midterms are entirely about him, this is precisely what his fellow Republicans were hoping to avoid. With Trump's support at historic lows — 60 percent overall disapprove of his performance, including 59 percent of independents — Republicans scrambling to hold the House and Senate have been struggling in vain to make the election about other issues: tax cuts, Democrats' personal foibles — anything to avoid the election being about Trump.

This has failed, bigly. Midterm elections have generally come to be seen as the electorate's reaction to a presidency. But this one is on a whole different level. "In no previous election," Gary Jacobson, a University of California political scientist who crunched the numbers, tells me, "has the linkage between opinions of the president and how people are likely to vote been as strong as this time." Jacobson's research goes back to the 1930s, before which there was no polling and therefore no ability to compare.

Jacobson, who presented his findings to the American Political Science Association recently and provided me with updated data, found in 93.1 percent of cases this year, voters' approval or disapproval of the president is correlated with their planned votes for or against the president's party in House races. That's an all-time high. It averaged 86 percent in recent elections, 74 percent in the 1980s and 1990s.

And it isn't just correlation — it's causation. Using regression analysis, Jacobson determined that for every percentage point movement in Trump's job approval rating, votes for Republican House candidates in the midterm elections move by 0.75 percentage points — the highest effect ever seen. For Barack Obama, it was 0.50 percentage points. For George W. Bush and Bill Clinton, closer to 0.25 percentage points. There isn't as much data about Senate voting, but the relationship has been virtually identical.

This has been caused by a combination of historical trends and Trump's uniquely polarizing status. Jacobson, working with data from Gallup, the American National Election Studies and others, writes that as recently as 1990, there was only a 31-point difference between how Republicans and Democrats rated the president's performance in midterm election years. That jumped to a roughly 70-point gap during the midterms of 2006, 2010 and 2014. This year? Seventy-eight percent. At the same time, party loyalty — the tendency

DANA MILBANK

Washington Post Writers Group



of Democrats and Republicans to vote for their own party's congressional candidate — has grown from the mid-70s in the 1980s to 90 percent in the past decade. This year? Ninety-six percent.

This does not necessarily mean a Democratic wave, or even a victory. Democrats now lead by about 9 points in the generic House ballot — which asks respondents which party they would vote for in a congressional election. But because of gerrymandering and the distorting effects of urban districts with Democratic supermajorities, Democrats would need to win between 53 percent and 55 percent of the popular vote, Jacobson calculates, to pick up the necessary two dozen House seats. And this year's Senate map is even more daunting.

But Trump's unpopularity seems to offset the benefit Republicans should get from the strong economy. Using results from previous midterms and factoring in the president's approval and the growth in real disposable income, Jacobson reports that in conditions close to the current situation — 2 percent income growth and Trump's approval at 40 percent — Republicans would, by historic models, lose 33 House seats.

Republicans in competitive races are in a bind. Among independent voters they need to win, Trump is a pariah. But among the Republican voters they need to turn out in high numbers, Trump has 78 percent approval.

Their dilemma was evident on Thursday when Trump made the outrageous and false claim that the official death toll of 2,975 from last year's storms in Puerto Rico was inflated by Democrats "to make me look as bad as possible." (Even storm deaths are all about him.) Delicately, Republican candidates in Florida, who had been trying to win over Puerto Rican voters, tried to step away from Trump. Gov. Rick Scott, running for Senate, tweeted: "I disagree." Rep. Ron DeSantis, running for governor, issued a similar statement.

Good luck with that, Trump, later in the day, repeated his insulting and bogus claims.

As Trump continues to repel, opinions of him drop and support for a Democratic Congress rises. It has the makings of a wave, but one that could recede before the election. We are destined for one of two outcomes: a massive repudiation of Trump, or an unthinkable affirmation of him.

The stakes could hardly be higher.

From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephem Group

9	1							5
	6			5				1
			2	1	9			
5	4					3		
			3	7	8			
		2					1	6
			7	8	3			
	8			6			2	
6						9		3

Level
1 2
3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, please visit sudoku.org.uk

SOLUTION TO SATURDAY'S PUZZLE

6	2	9	8	3	4	7	1	5
7	8	4	1	9	5	2	3	6
5	1	3	7	6	2	4	9	8
1	6	8	2	5	3	9	7	4
9	4	2	6	8	7	1	5	3
3	5	7	4	1	9	8	6	2
8	3	6	9	2	1	5	4	7
4	9	5	3	7	8	6	2	1
2	7	1	5	4	6	3	8	9

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JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

FNTEO

DALMY

LOVINI

PRIZEP

Print the answer here:

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



WHEN TAKING PHOTOS OF CHUCK YEAGER BREAKING THE SOUND BARRIER, IT WAS TOUGH TO ---

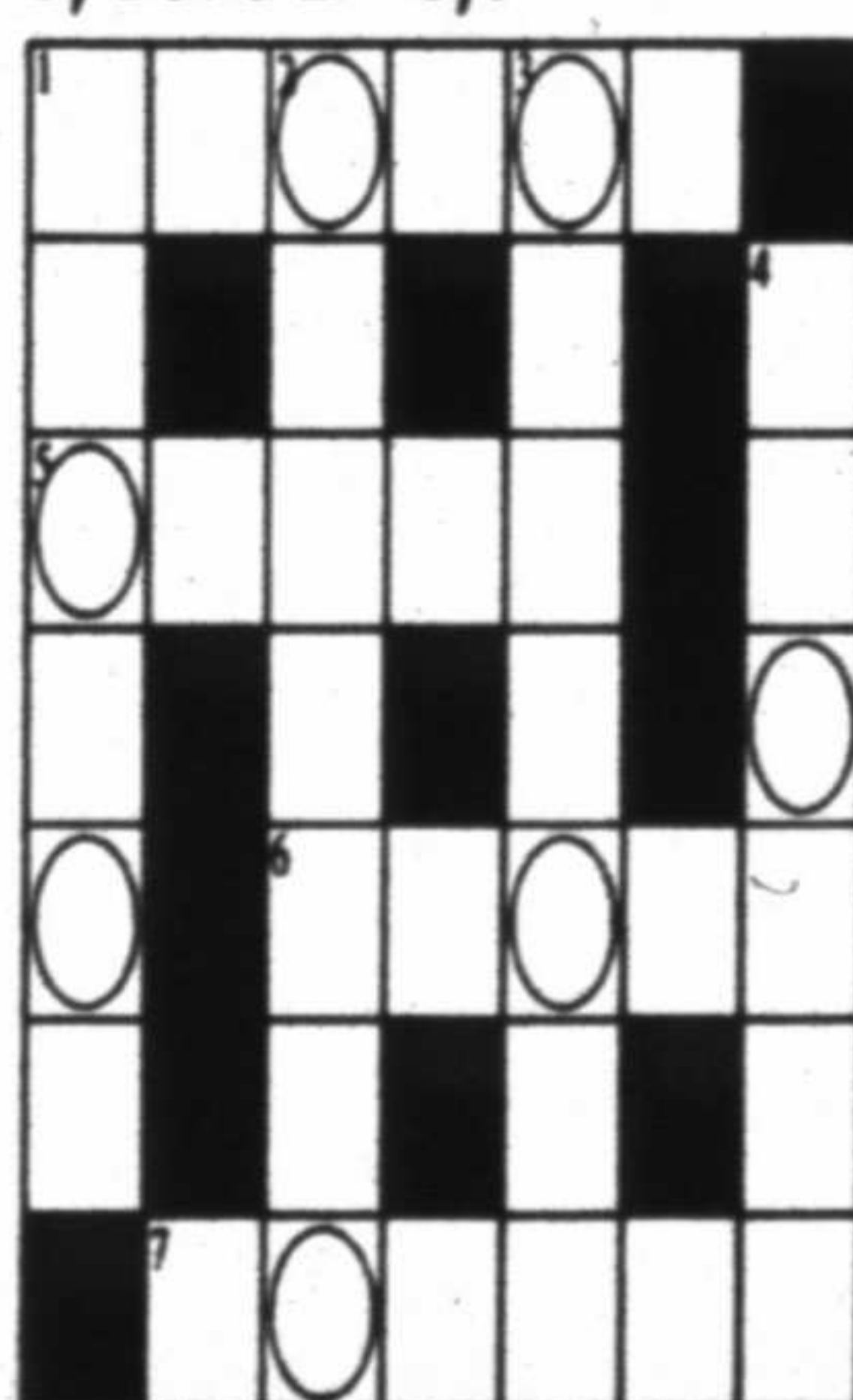
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above car-

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: PRONE SILKY STRAND DIVIDE
Answer: The ghosts got along so well because they were — KINDRED SPIRITS

JUMBLE CROSSWORDS

by David L. Hoyt



CLUE ACROSS

1. Party _____ LAAINM
5. "Runaway _____" DBIER
6. Not right SMSAI
7. Act properly HEVBAE

CLUE DOWN

1. Reddish brown UUANRB
2. Copy TTAIEMI
3. North _____ AACEIMR
4. Movie dog ISEASL

How to play - Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

9-17-18

CLUE: This makes up about 77 percent of Russia.

BONUS



Send comments to TCA - 180 N. Station, Chicago, Illinois 60601 or DLHoyt@tca.com.
ANSWERS: 1A-Midwest 5A-Bride 6A-Hunter 7A-Bonus 8A-Hunter 9A-Hunter 10A-Hunter 11A-Hunter 12A-Hunter
Send comments to TCA - 180 N. Station, Chicago, Illinois 60601 or DLHoyt@tca.com.

DAILY CROSSWORD

Edited By Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Potato chips source
- 5 bean
- 9 Rick's "Casablanca" love
- 13 "Aww!"
- 14 Spring bloom
- 15 Les ____-Unis
- 16 Neighbor of Yemen
- 17 Large-scale departure
- 19 Island setting for Melville's "Omoo"
- 21 Court order to testify
- 22 Mindless memorization
- 24 Farm sound
- 25 Blue expanse, on a clear day
- 26 Cost of a car, in most family budgets
- 31 1860s White House nickname
- 32 Thought
- 33 Traffic light color
- 37 Gardener's bane
- 39 Quick taste
- 41 Produced
- 42 American flag feature
- 45 At hand
- 48 Buddhist school
- 49 Edmund Hillary's conquest
- 52 Fermented quaff
- 55 Slugger's stat
- 56 Get up
- 57 Removing from the text
- 60 1971 New York prison riot site
- 64 Region including Egypt, Israel, etc.
- 66 "___ be fine": "No prob"
- 67 Sad verse
- 68 Spell-checker discovery
- 69 Not virtual
- 70 ___ a one
- 71 The "Y" in "YTD"
- 72 TV award, and a homophonic hint to the four longest puzzle answers

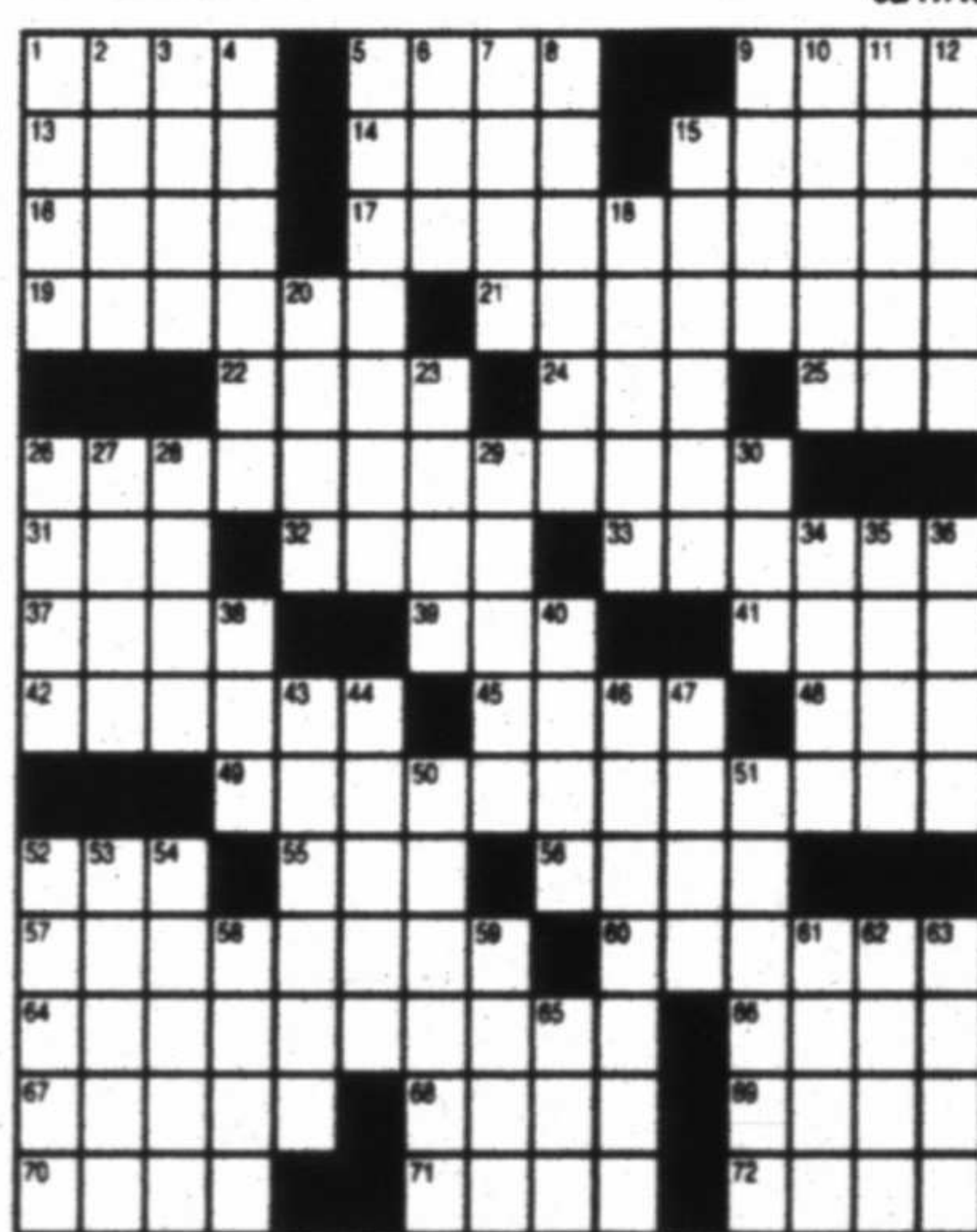
- 3 Home of the NBA's Jazz
- 4 Robert of "Dirty Grandpa"
- 5 Restricted in number, as an edition
- 6 Nest egg acronym
- 7 Hit's opposite
- 8 Take for granted
- 9 "Was ___ hard on you?"
- 10 Slows cargo
- 11 Caused some nose-pinch
- 12 Evaluate, as metal
- 15 Bring to light
- 18 Traditional black piano key wood
- 20 Singer Amos
- 23 Old flames
- 26 Big mouths
- 27 Help rob the bank
- 28 Taunt from the bleachers
- 29 Emulate Degas
- 30 "Slippery" tree
- 34 Do nothing
- 35 Wordsworth works
- 36 Attended, with "to"

- 38 Reduce in brightness
- 40 ___ pressure
- 43 Rotund
- 44 Jazzman Blake
- 46 Pilot
- 47 Take ten
- 50 Distance between bases, in feet
- 51 Go to bed
- 52 Commercial writers
- 53 Bizet opera
- 54 Tribal leader
- 58 Avant-garde
- 59 Motown's Marvin
- 61 Receipt detail
- 62 Linguine
- 63 One on your side
- 65 Daycation destination

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

SKI JUMPERS LUSH
INNER SOLES UNTO
TOPTENLIST XMAN
HBO EST SEINE
PIAF ULT TDS
MUSSED PETRI
HOLISTIC THE GAP
QUANTUM OF SOLACE
SERTAS GASMETER
DOTES MEANER
ZOE ESO ESTD
AIMED URB GIS
PLAN SAILED PAST
PEND ESPADRILLE
ADDS THE HUSTLER

09/17/18



DOWN

- 1 Loch Ness local
- 2 Adidas rival

By Craig Steere
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09/17/18

WUZZLES

WORD PUZZLES BY WOOD TOM

Each Wuzzle is a word riddle which creates a disguised word, phrase, name, place, saying, etc. For example, NOON GOOD = GOOD AFTERNOON

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Print Your Answers Here:

1. _____

2. _____

Created by Tom Underwood
www.wuzzlesking.com

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9-17

2. Put it in writing

1. Twin sisters

WUZZLES

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Asado
Rice, beans, & large homemade flour tortilla.

Grande Nachos
Includes beans, cheese, beef or chicken, lettuce, tomato, guacamole, sour cream, & jalapeños.

Shredded Brisket
Rice, beans, & large homemade flour tortilla.

Combo Tex Mex
Two cheese or beef enchiladas, one tamale, & one taco. Served with rice & beans.

Enchiladas
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Flautas
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SPORTS

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Monday, September 17, 2018 | Section B

Close win means Alvarez, Golovkin could do it again

By Tim Dahlberg
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — The fight was so close at the final bell that no one in the arena — including Gennady Golovkin and Canelo Alvarez — knew who would leave the ring with the middleweight title belts.

It was Alvarez, though by the slimmest of margins. He won the last round on two scorecards Saturday night on the Las Vegas Strip to hand Golovkin the first loss of his career in a fight that more than lived up to its advance billing.

To settle who is really the best, though, they may just have to do it a third time. And that's fine with both fighters, who have now gone 24 rounds together with little but a few points on the scorecards to separate

them.

"If the people want us to do it again, let's do it again," Alvarez said. "It would be great to have a third fight," Golovkin said.

A third fight will almost certainly happen, and for that fight fans have to be grateful. Alvarez and Golovkin showcased their skills — and their sport — at the highest level in a fight that one judge scored a draw and two others had Alvarez by a narrow 115-113 score.

Both fighters thought they had won. Both fighters probably deserved a win.

But it was Alvarez, the Mexican hero, who proudly carried the belts out of the ring after a bruising 12 rounds that ended with both fighters bloodied and bruised before a roaring crowd of 21,965.

"It's one of the happiest days of

my life," said Alvarez, who fought Golovkin to a draw a year earlier and had to deal with a positive test for a performance enhancing drug while preparing for the rematch.

It wasn't so happy for Golovkin, the slugger from Kazakhstan who for years walked through whoever was put in front of him. Golovkin rallied in the final rounds to make the fight close, only to listen in disbelief once again as he wasn't declared the winner.

"I feel like I'm a champion but he's also a champion," Golovkin said. "It was a fight of two champions tonight."

Indeed it was, as Alvarez abandoned his strategy from the first fight to box moving forward against Golovkin. It was a risky strategy

Please see ALVAREZ/4B



Steve Marcus/Las Vegas Sun via AP

Canelo Alvarez, right, of Mexico, lands a punch on WBC/WBA middleweight champion Gennady Golovkin, of Kazakhstan, during their title fight at T-Mobile Arena on Saturday in Las Vegas. Alvarez took Golovkin's WBC/WBA titles by majority decision.

Return of Doomsday?



Ron Jenkins/Associated Press

New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning (10) is sacked for a loss by Dallas Cowboys defensive back Kavon Frazier (35) during the first half of an NFL game Sunday in Arlington.

Dallas D leads Cowboys to 20-13 win over Giants

By Schuyler Dixon
Associated Press

ARLINGTON — Dak Prescott threw a 64-yard touchdown pass to Tavon Austin on the third play of the game and the Dallas Cowboys sacked Eli Manning six times in a 20-13 victory over the New York Giants on Sunday night.

The Dallas defense was strong again, just as in an opening loss at Carolina, as the Cowboys (1-1) avoided the first 0-2 start in seven seasons under coach Jason Garrett.

Manning and the Giants have started 0-2 for the fifth time in the past six seasons.

Dallas running back Ezekiel Elliott outgained Saquon Barkley in the first meeting in the pros between the former college rivals and high NFL draft picks. Elliott, who starred at Ohio State, rushed for 78 yards with a touchdown. Barkley, from Penn State, had just 28.

Even Prescott outrushed Barkley, finishing with a career-high 45 yards on the ground while throwing for 160.

After saying "challenge accepted"

during the week to Giants safety Landon Collins' suggestion that New York had a better chance by forcing Prescott to throw, the 2016 NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year hit Austin in stride behind cornerback Janoris Jenkins. The speedy receiver cut back to his right before trotting across the goal line at an angle.

Brett Maher had the first two field goals of his NFL career, including a 29-yarder after Damien Wilson forced a fumble on a sack of Manning and Taco Charlton recovered.

The Cowboys shared the wealth on the sacks, with six different players recording a sack apiece: the linebacker Wilson, safety Kavon Frazier and defensive linemen Charlton, DeMarcus Lawrence, Antwaun Woods and Tyrone Crawford.

The Giants had questions with the offensive front, and they'll only grow after Manning finished two sacks shy of the most in his career. New York also lost center Jon Halapio, who was carted off with an air cast on his right leg in the third quarter.

Manning converted a pair of fourth downs on sneaks, but the sacks helped

keep the Giants from converting those into points. He was even hammered when he wasn't behind the line of scrimmage — on a hit by linebacker Jaylon Smith on a 1-yard gain before New York's first points on Aldrick Rosas' field goal late in the third quarter.

Prescott fooled the New York defense several times with fake handoffs to Eliott on keepers around end. The longest was a 15-yarder on Dallas' second possession, leading to Maher's first NFL field goal from 37 yards.

For the second straight week, the Giants didn't get a touchdown until the fourth quarter. The Giants made it interesting when Michael Thomas recovered an onside kick after Manning's 18-yard scoring pass to Evan Engram with 1:27 remaining.

The Giants settled for Rosas' 38-yard field goal to get within a touchdown with 11 seconds remaining, but the next onside kick went out of bounds.

Manning finished 33 of 44 for 279 yards. Austin had two catches and led

Please see COWBOYS/3B

Titans edge Texans 20-17

By Teresa M. Walker
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee played without its starting quarterback and top three offensive tackles against J.J. Watt, Whitney Mercilus and the rest of Houston's challenging defense.

Mike Vrabel and his assistants responded with a few timely tricks for the Titans.

Ryan Succop kicked a 31-yard field goal with 1:00 left, and the battered Titans held off the Texans 20-17 on Sunday for Vrabel's first victory as an NFL head coach against the team he worked for the past four seasons.

Succop also kicked a tying 42-yarder in the fourth quarter as Tennessee (1-1) delivered with quarterback Marcus Mariota watching from the sideline.

"It's a huge win," Titans quarterback Blaine Gabbert said. "Getting Vrabel's first win as a head coach was awesome. And this team had a lot of adversity throughout the week. The guys fought their way to this win. I'm just extremely proud of those guys."

Deshaun Watson and Houston had the ball last. With 17 seconds left, Watson ran around the field looking for a receiver. He found DeAndre Hopkins for a 31-yard completion to the Tennessee 21, but time expired before the Texans could run another play.

"We tried to take a shot," Watson said. "We didn't have any timeouts, and they guarded the sideline very well. My instincts took over and tried to get the ball and time ran out."

Houston coach Bill O'Brien said they were trying to get in field goal range to force overtime.

"We've got to do a better job of coaching that play up," O'Brien said.

Gabbert, starting for his fourth different NFL team, threw for 117 yards and a touchdown.

With Mariota sidelined by an elbow injury that created numbness in his throwing hand, Vrabel and the Titans (1-1) got creative. They dipped into the playbook and used some wildcat with Derrick Henry on offense, and All-Pro safety Kevin Byard set an NFL record when he tossed a 66-yard touchdown pass on a fake punt.

Tennessee allowed only one sack to Houston (0-2), which was missing a couple defensive starters in linebacker Jadeveon Clowney and end Christian Covington. The Titans came up with four sacks and an interception.

Watson threw for 310 yards and two TDs as Houston outgained Tennessee 437-283 in total offense.

On Tennessee's opening drive, Byard hit a wide-open Dane Cruikshank down the right sideline. Byard's TD pass was the longest by a defensive player in the Super Bowl era, easily topping the mark set by Rams defensive back Ed Meador on Nov. 19, 1967.

On the next drive, the Titans went with the wildcat with Henry before Gabbert finished the drive with a screen pass to Taywan Taylor, who went 18 yards for the TD and a 14-0 lead before the end of the first quarter.

Titans cornerback Adoree Jackson got his first interception in the NFL, beating Hopkins for the ball in the end zone.

Missed pass rush

The Titans threw only 20 passes. Texans star J.J. Watt went against right tackle Tyler Marz, signed from the Titans practice squad Saturday and making his NFL debut. Watt had two tackles for loss but no quarterback hits. The Texans finished with one sack on defense with two quarterback hits.

Please see TEXANS/3B

NFL SCOREBOARD WEEK 2

Cowboys.....	20	Buccaneers.....	27
Giants.....	13	Eagles.....	21
Titans.....	20	Chiefs.....	42
Texans.....	17	Steelers.....	37
Colts.....	21	Packers.....	29
Redskins.....	9	Vikings.....	29, OT
Saints.....	21	Rams.....	34
Browns.....	18	Cardinals.....	0
Dolphins.....	20	San Francisco.....	30
Jets.....	12	Detroit.....	27
Chargers.....	31	Jacksonville.....	31
Bills.....	20	New England.....	20
Falcons.....	31	Denver.....	20
Panthers.....	24	Oakland.....	19

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NFL ROUNDUP

Associated Press



John Slezor/Kansas City Star/TNS

Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes throws a touchdown pass to tight end Travis Kelce in the first quarter over Pittsburgh Steelers defensive end Stephon Tuitt on Sunday at Heinz Field in Pittsburgh, Pa.

SAINTS 21, BROWNS 18

NEW ORLEANS — Will Lutz kicked a 44-yard field goal for New Orleans with 21 seconds left, Cleveland kicker Zane Gonzalez pushed the second of his two missed field goals wide right in the final seconds, and the Saints held on for a 21-18 victory that extended the Browns' winless streak to 19 games.

Gonzalez also missed two extra points, one week after his potential winning field goal was blocked in a season-opening tie with Pittsburgh.

Cleveland (0-1-1) carried a two-score lead into the final nine minutes before its latest collapse.

VIKINGS 29, PACKERS 28

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Daniel Carlson missed two field goals in overtime, including one from 35 yards as time expired, and the Vikings had to settle for a 29-28 tie after rallying from a late 13-point deficit.

The rookie pushed his final kick wide right, just like his attempt from 49 earlier in overtime.

Packers kicker Mason Crosby matched a career high with five field goals, but his potential game winner from 52 went wide left as time expired in regulation.

Both teams are 1-0-1.

CHIEFS 42, STEELERS 37

PITTSBURGH — Patrick Mahomes tied a franchise record with six touchdown passes. The 22-year-old Mahomes finished 23 of 28 for 326 yards in his third career start as the Chiefs (2-0) won in Pittsburgh for the first time since 1986. Mahomes has 10 touchdown passes through two weeks, the most ever by a quarterback through two games.

Trevor Kelce caught seven passes for 109 yards and two scores. Tyreek Hill, Chris Conley, Kareem Hunt and Demarcus Robinson also hauled in touchdown passes as the Chiefs recovered in the second half after blowing an early 21-point lead.

BUCCANEERS 27, EAGLES 21

TAMPA, Fla. — Ryan Fitzpatrick threw for more than 400 yards and four touchdowns for the second straight week.

Filling in for suspended quarterback Jameis Winston, the 35-year-old Fitzpatrick completed 27 of 32 passes for 402 yards and has the suddenly explosive Bucs off to a 2-0 start for the first time since 2010.

DeSean Jackson scored on a 75-yard reception on the first play of the game. O.J. Howard also had a 75-yard TD catch in the first half for Tampa Bay, which stunned New Orleans 48-40 on the road in its season opener.

Nick Foles threw for 338 yards for the Eagles (1-1), who rallied from a 20-point, third-quarter deficit.

The Super Bowl MVP's 2-yard TD pass to Nelson Agholor on fourth down trimmed Tampa Bay's lead to 27-21 with 2:46 remaining. The Bucs didn't give the Eagles' injury-decimated offense a chance to finish the comeback.

JAGUARS 31, PATRIOTS 20

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Blake Bortles threw four touchdown passes, three in the first half, and the Jaguars (2-0) beat Tom Brady and the Patriots in a rematch of last season's AFC championship game.

Bortles connected with Donté Moncrief, Keelan Cole and Austin Seferian-Jenkins for scores in the first 30 minutes, the second time he's done that in his NFL career. Bortles completed 29 of 45 passes for 377 yards, with the four TDs and an interception. It was the best game of his five-year career.

BRONCOS 29, RAIDERS 19

DENVER — Brandon McManus kicked a 36-yard field goal just inside the red light with 6 seconds left, denying Jon Gruden his first win as a head coach since 2008.

With no timeouts and 18 seconds left, Case Keenum

hit Tim Patrick for a 26-yard gain to the Oakland 18. Cornerbacks Gareon Conley and Leon Hall couldn't tackle him inbounds and McManus came on to give the Broncos (2-0) their first lead.

The Raiders (0-2) lost despite a stellar outing by Derek Carr, who completed 29 of 32 passes for 288 yards and a score four days after Gruden called him out for passing up throws to Amari Cooper in Oakland's opener.

Cooper caught 10 passes for 116 yards Sunday.

RAMS 34, CARDINALS 9

LOS ANGELES — Todd Gurley ran for three touchdowns. Jared Goff threw for 354 yards and a touchdown.

The Rams have won their first two games for the first time since 2001, when they started 6-0 en route to the third Super Bowl appearance in team history.

It was the second time in Gurley's four-year NFL career that he had three rushing scores in a game. The other time was Week 15 at Seattle last season. Gurley finished with 42 yards on 19 carries as he played only three quarters due to cramps.

Goff, who has six 300-yard games, completed 24 of 32, marking the third time in 24 starts he has completed more than 70 percent of his passes when making 25 or more attempts. The 354 yards were only a yard off of his career high, set last season against Houston.

49ERS 30, LIONS 27

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Jimmy Garoppolo threw two touchdowns, Matt Breida ran for 138 yards and San Francisco's longest TD run in four seasons, and the 49ers bounced back from a season-opening loss.

Garoppolo nearly made a costly mistake when he threw a late interception to Tracy Walker that was returned to the San Francisco 7. But Quandre Diggs was called for a defensive holding away from the play to give the 49ers (1-1) a first down.

FALCONS 31, PANTHERS 24

ATLANTA — Matt Ryan ran for a pair of scores for the first time in his career and threw a pair of TD passes.

After scoring on a 1-yard sneak that pushed Atlanta (1-1) to a 24-10 lead early in the third quarter, Ryan delivered the biggest blow with a brilliant scamper midway through the fourth quarter. On third-and-5

from the Carolina 8, he looked around futilely for an open receiver, spotted a running lane to the left and took off for the end zone.

DOLPHINS 20, JETS 12

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Ryan Tannehill threw two touchdown passes, Kyrion Drake ran for a score and the Dolphins look advantage of several mistakes by Sam Darnold and the Jets.

T.J. McDonald and Xavier Howard each intercepted the Jets' rookie quarterback, helping the Dolphins to their first 2-0 start to a season since 2013.

Tannehill finished 17 of 23 for 168 yards and also ran for 44 yards on eight carries for the Dolphins, coming off a win in the longest NFL game since 1970 merger by outlasting Tennessee in 7 hours, 8 minutes last Sunday.

CHARGERS 31, BILLS 20

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Melvin Gordon matched a career high by scoring three touchdowns, and the Chargers manhandled the anemic Bills during rookie quarterback Josh Allen's debut as a starter.

Gordon scored on a 20-yard run and added two touchdowns receiving before limping off the field after appearing to hurt his left leg early in the fourth quarter.

Gordon finished with just 28 yards rushing and six catches for 38 yards in his second three-TD game. He had two touchdowns rushing and one receiving in a 33-30 win at Atlanta on Oct. 23, 2016.

COLTS 21, REDSKINS 9

LANDOVER, Md. — Andrew Luck threw for two touchdowns passes, shook off two interceptions and engineered a game-sealing drive.

Luck was 21 of 31 for 179 yards and had a TD pass in a 25th consecutive game, the longest active streak in the NFL. He was 7 of 8 for 62 yards on a methodical 13-play, 75-yard drive that culminated in a Luck-to-T.Y. Hilton score that put Indianapolis (1-1) up 21-9 early in the fourth quarter.

Executing first-year coach Frank Reich's creative play-calling scheme, Luck also found Eric Ebron for a touchdown on the game's opening drive. The balanced attack with 27 rushing and 31 passing attempts kept the Redskins' defense off-balance and allowed Luck to pick apart a secondary that struggled in coverage and tackling.

NFL GLANCE

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Miami	2	0	0	1.000	47	52
New England	1	1	0	.500	47	51
N.Y. Jets	1	1	0	.500	80	37
Buffalo	2	0	0	.000	23	78

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Cincinnati	2	0	0	1.000	51	35
Tennessee	1	1	0	.500	40	44
Indianapolis	1	1	0	.500	40	43
Houston	0	2	0	.000	37	47

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Cincinnati	2	0	0	1.000	58	46
Baltimore	1	1	0	.500	70	37
Cleveland	0	1	1	.250	39	42
Pittsburgh	0	1	1	.250	58	63

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	2	0	0	1.000	80	85
Denver	2	0	0	1.000	47	43
L.A. Chargers	1	1	0	.500	59	58
Oakland	0	2	0	.000	32	53

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Washington	1	0	0	1.000	24	6
Philadelphia	1	0	0	1.000	18	12
N.Y. Giants	0	1	0	.000	15	20
Dallas	0	0	0	.000	8	16

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tampa Bay	2	0	0	1.000	75	61
Atlanta	1	1	0	.500	43	42
Carolina	1	1	0	.500	40	39
New Orleans	1	0	0	.500	61	66

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	1	0	1	.500	53	45
Minnesota	2	0	0	1.000	23	24
Chicago	0	1	0	.000	44	78
Detroit	0	2	0	.000	44	78

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
L.A. Rams	2	0	0	1.000	67	13
San Francisco	1	0	0	.500	46	51
Seattle	0	1	0	.000	24	27
Arizona	0	2	0	.000	6	58

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Indianapolis	2	0	0	1.000	59	52
New Orleans	2	0	0	1.000	51	35
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Arizona	0	2	0	.000	6	58

BRONCOS 20, RAIDERS 19				
Ind	3	9	7	0
Y	0	0	10	10
First Quarter				

Barry Lyle, \$1,200	73-75-76-224
Robert Garman, \$1,100	76-77-71-227

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

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MONDAY PRIME TIME

SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
KIMD ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune (R)	Catwings "Hindsight" (R)	Catwings "The Search" (R)	The Good Doctor "More"	Big 2 News (R)	Jimmy Kimmel Live!
KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	CBS 7 News (R)	Ent. Tonight (R)	Young Sheldon	Salvation "Get Ready" (R)	Elementary (R)	News (R)	The Late Show
KWWT CW	5	14	5	14	5	M*A*S*H "M*A*S*H"	M*A*S*H "M*A*S*H"	A. Griffith	Gomer Pyle	WKRP	Hogan's Heroes	Hogan's Heroes
KPEI FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	The Man on the Moon	Light of the South	Light of the South	Update News	Modern Family
KMLM IND	11	12	12	11	11	Faith for Families	Faith for Families	Hope Today	Being Your Best	Being Your Best	Update News	Modern Family
KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	News at 9 (R)	News at 9 (R)	News at 9 (R)	News at 9 (R)	News at 9 (R)	News at 9 (R)	News at 9 (R)
KPBT PBS	13	13	13	13	13	PBS NewsHour	PBS NewsHour	PBS NewsHour	PBS NewsHour	PBS NewsHour	PBS NewsHour	PBS NewsHour
KUPD UNI	4	4	4	4	16	La rosa de Guadalupe	La rosa de Guadalupe	La rosa de Guadalupe	La rosa de Guadalupe	La rosa de Guadalupe	La rosa de Guadalupe	La rosa de Guadalupe
KOSA MNT	16	16	16	16	16	Last Man	Last Man	SVU "Counterfeit"	SVU "Counterfeit"	SVU "Counterfeit"	SVU "Counterfeit"	SVU "Counterfeit"
FLIX	240	275	105	240	275	105	240	275	105	240	275	105
WHD	200	280	14	200	280	14	200	280	14	200	280	14
WHD2	202	281	15	202	281	15	202	281	15	202	281	15
WHD3	204	283	16	204	283	16	204	283	16	204	283	16
MAX	200	282	17	200	282	17	200	282	17	200	282	17
MAX2	202	284	18	202	284	18	202	284	18	202	284	18
PLEX	200	282	17	200	282	17	200	282	17	200	282	17
SHOW	220	280	19	220	280	19	220	280	19	220	280	19
TMC	236	279	22	236	279	22	236	279	22	236	279	22
AIE	27	58	28	35	47	Biography "Sam Kinison"	Biography "Sam Kinison"	Biography "Sam Kinison"	Biography "Sam Kinison"	Biography "Sam Kinison"	Biography "Sam Kinison"	Biography "Sam Kinison"
AMC	40	74	23	42	51	Biography "Sam Kinison"	Biography "Sam Kinison"	Biography "Sam Kinison"	Biography "Sam Kinison"	Biography "Sam Kinison"	Biography "Sam Kinison"	Biography "Sam Kinison"
BET	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BRAVO	65	76	41	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CHBC	46	52	39	72	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CHN	43	50	51	30	56	Outfront	Outfront	Outfront	Outfront	Outfront	Outfront	Outfront
DISC	50	60	31	24	42	Diesel Brothers	Diesel Brothers	Diesel Brothers	Diesel Brothers	Diesel Brothers	Diesel Brothers	Diesel Brothers
DISNEY	56	64	36	25	36	Punk'd	Punk'd	Punk'd	Punk'd	Punk'd	Punk'd	Punk'd
ESPN	32	35	40	31	30	ESPN Countdown	ESPN Countdown	ESPN Countdown	ESPN Countdown	ESPN Countdown	ESPN Countdown	ESPN Countdown
ESPN2	34	36	40	31	31	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter
FOOD	64	70	27	68	54	Kids Baking	Kids Baking	Kids Baking	Kids Baking	Kids Baking	Kids Baking	Kids Baking
FREEFORM	53	63	34	42	33	Freeform	Freeform	Freeform	Freeform	Freeform	Freeform	Freeform
PSW	37	38	50	45	29	PSW	PSW	PSW	PSW	PSW	PSW	PSW
FX	31	56	59	64	69	FX	FX	FX	FX	FX	FX	FX
HALLMARK	54	71	58	34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NETV	63	69	26	48	44	Love It or List It	Love It or List It	Love It or List It	Love It or List It	Love It or List It	Love It or List It	Love It or List It
HISTORY	71	59	29	50	43	American Pickers	American Pickers	American Pickers	American Pickers	American Pickers	American Pickers	American Pickers
LIFETIME	28	30	25	28	48	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced
MSNBC	47	53	49	73	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NBCSN	38	43	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NICK	55	-	39	34	37	Loal H.	Loal H.	Loal H.	Loal H.	Loal H.	Loal H.	Loal H.
SPOKE	30	-	55	53	58	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
SYTY	66	82	41	57	67	SYTY	SYTY	SYTY	SYTY	SYTY	SYTY	SYTY
TBS	25	33	44	64	41	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy
TEN	41	75	24	63	66	24/7	24/7	24/7	24/7	24/7	24/7	24/7
TELE	20	-	10	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TLC	51	61	32	38	52	Counting On	Counting On	Counting On	Counting On	Counting On	Counting On	Counting On
TNT	24	34	40	28	50	24/7	24/7	24/7	24/7	24/7	24/7	24/7
TVLAND	49	-	35	54	35	MASH	MASH	MASH	MASH	MASH	MASH	MASH
USA	26	55	42	27	49	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family
WGN	19	85	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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Wife is blindsided by news of husband's past romance

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Bill," and I have been happily married for 22 years and have two very active, beautiful children. Our oldest daughter has been playing on a traveling soccer team for the last five years. Bill and I go all over the country to watch her play and have become very close to the head coach, "Maria," and her family.

I recently learned through another parent that Bill dated Maria for three years before we got married. This parent informed me the relationship between Bill and Maria was so serious they had discussed marriage.

When I heard it, I was very upset. I couldn't understand why my husband would keep that information from me all this time. When I asked him, he said it was true, but he hadn't felt it had been necessary to tell me.

Bill hasn't always been the greatest communicator, but I think this has crossed the line. I feel I have been misled and lied to. He acted as if he had never even met her. It makes me wonder how many other secrets he's hiding from me.

I'm having a hard time trusting him now, and I feel there's something seriously wrong with our relationship. I'm also uncomfortable around Maria and her family. I wonder if her

husband knows about their relationship. Do I have the right to be upset about this situation?

—KEPT IN THE DARK

DEAR KEPT: You have the right to be upset — and angry — about the deception. If you want to know if Maria's husband knows what went on between her and your husband, ask her. Perhaps she can fill you in on what else your husband "forgot" to mention.

Bill appears to have a large character flaw, and the two of you appear to have a serious communication problem. Before this damages your marriage further, you and Bill should schedule some sessions with a licensed marriage and family therapist. If he stonewalls or refuses to go with you, go without him.

DEAR ABBY: My aunt and uncle from another state still send me a birthday check every year for my birthday, which is generous and thoughtful of them. While the sum is not

large, I feel it is not necessary, and it makes me uncomfortable. I'm in my late 20s now and have a good job with a good income.

How do I politely tell them that while I appreciate their kindness, it is not necessary to send their adult niece a check every year? I'm not particularly close with them and am afraid of offending. —UNCOMFORTABLE IN MICHIGAN

DEAR UNCOMFORTABLE: From your description of your aunt and uncle, they are thoughtful, caring people, so when you talk to them, express your gratitude for their generosity. Then suggest that because you are now an adult, with a good job and a good income, you think it might be time to consider exchanging only greeting cards on special occasions. Of course, this means you will be sending them cards for their birthdays, anniversary and Christmas, if you don't already do it.



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.

GOREN BRIDGE

With Bob Jones

Bidding Quiz

Q1 — Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ 10 6 ♣ K 9 8 ♦ A 4 ♠ A K Q J 8 2

Partner opens 1NT, 15-17. What call would you make?

A — Too good for 4NT and not

enough for 6NT. Bid 2C and then 3C

next. This shows a slam try with long

clubs and possibly a side four-card

major.

Q2 — North-South vulnerable, as

South, you hold:

♠ 9 2 ♣ A J 8 6 7 8 7 ♠ A J 10 8 4

As dealer, what call would you make?

A — Should you open 1C and partner

responds 1S, you will have rebid prob-

lems. Why take that risk with such a

Q3 — North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ A K 10 5 ♣ 9 2 ♦ K J 9 8 6 ♣ Q 7

Partner opens 1C and right-hand opponent bids 2D. What call would you

make?

A — Don't bother looking for penalties

at a low level when you should be cold

for a vulnerable game. Double, nega-

tive, and then bid 3NT unless you find

a spade fit.

Q4 — East-West vulnerable, as South,

you hold:

♠ A Q 8 5 ♣ A Q ♦ A Q 4 ♠ 10 6 5 4

As dealer, what call would you make?

A — It looks like a 1NT opening, but

it's a little too good. Open 1C, planning

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CLERICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE

Receptionist/Administrative Assistant

Immediate opening with a Midland architectural firm. Permanent full-time position. Minimum of five years' experience working in administrative support positions. Good communicator with excellent computer and proofing skills a must. Responsibilities include generating Microsoft Word documents, PowerPoint presentations, Photoshop (simple graphics), scheduling, and web searches. Must be able to multi-task, manage priorities and meet deadlines. Send resume to vga@vandergriif-group.com.

ENERGY AND UTILITIES

Lamesa Texas, Solar Operations Manager

RES is currently searching for a Solar Operations Manager for large utility scale solar facility in Lamesa Texas. If you have Solar, Electrical, Industrial, Wind, or Refinery Experience, are a competent leader and have ever considered a career in renewable energy, this may be an excellent opportunity.

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Manage day to day operations of the solar facility, to achieve planned business objective
- Provide professional guidance for maintenance and repair of the entire facility
- Manage and maintain spare parts inventory
- Manage and monitor SCADA for the solar farm and substation, to ensure proper plant production
- Ensure timely facility repairs and restarts after plant outages or equipment faults
- Occasionally conduct relief site management for other RES operational sites
- Be available on a 24/7 basis to occasionally respond to urgent operational issues
- Use and understand electrical testing and diagnostic equipment for both AC and DC

Full job description and application process can be found at RES-Group.com/Careers/America/Vacancies, or resumes can be sent to Kendall.hawker@res-group.com

Surface Land Representative - Midland, Texas

West Texas Gas (WTG) is looking for a new Surface Land Representative for its Midland, TX office. Duties include land record searches, ROW acquisition, landowner negotiations and land record maintenance. College degree preferred. Competitive health, vacation and 401K benefits. Candidates should send resume and cover letter to employment@westtexasgas.com.

MANAGEMENT EXECUTIVE

Assistant Apartment Manager

Silver Creek Apartments now taking applications for Assistant Apartment Manager, experience preferred. Call 432-687-0953 to set up an appointment.

OTHER JOBS

Appliance Repair Technicians

WestTech Appliance now hiring experienced Appliance Repair Technicians. Pay depending on experience. Please call Joe Ramos at 432-653-6224

OTHER JOBS

FT Floral Designer

Flowerland FT Designer needed. Must have good customer relations and phone etiquette. Floral design & computer experience preferred. Fax resume to 432-682-6949. Apply in person at 413 Andrews Hwy Midland, TX, or Email resume to chris@flowerlandmidland.com. No phone calls.

Lawn Mowing & Landscape Maintenance

\$12 to \$18 per hour. Must have experience and current ID. Also partnership opportunity for professional with drivers license. Send resume to P. G. Box 4821, Midland, TX. 79704 or call 432-634-3177.

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

Night time associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE

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

\$13.00 PER HOUR

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

Apply in person at: 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk
• Monday - Friday 8-5 or email: jmaddox@hearstnp.com

NO PHONE CALLS
PLEASE

Sales

Flowerland - Sales associate needed, must have good customer service relations and phone etiquette. Computer experience preferred. Saturdays & Holidays required. Fax resume to 432-682-6949. Email resume to chris@flowerlandmidland.com, no phone calls please.

OTHER JOBS



NOW HIRING 100 DELIVERY DRIVERS

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- Great first job for student over 16 years old
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- Full time & Part-time positions available

APPLY ONLINE AT JOBS.DOMINOS.COM

or any of the 19 Midland & Odessa locations

1307 N Loop 250 - Midland
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4519 N Garfield - Midland
604 N Big Spring St - Midland
503 I-20 - Midland
3111 Faudree Rd - Odessa
960 E 67th St - Odessa
1106 E 42nd St - Odessa
2251 Linda Ave - Odessa
9001 W University Blvd - Odessa

SALES JOBS

DIGITAL SALES SPECIALIST

Reports to VP of Advertising

Summary

The primary responsibility of the Digital Sales Specialist is to increase digital advertising revenues by actively engaging with clients and Multi-Media Sales Executives (MMSEs) in field calls, client visits, and overall revenue-driving activities. This position directly affects and is responsible for achieving or exceeding individual and team digital revenue targets in the market.

Key Responsibilities

- Super User for all digital services and platforms. Key contact with vendors of each digital asset
- Consistently meets/exceeds individual and the market's overall digital revenue targets
- Demonstrates expert knowledge and understanding of all MRT Media sales and marketing assets, including all digital products and digital marketing services and able to transfer the knowledge to clients and the MMSE's they support
- Follows MRT Media's prescribed best practices on Pipeline Management and Gap Analysis and completes all required sales process activities
- Builds monthly reports to show digital activity on MRT.com and eEditions of the newspaper
- Drives customer retention through excellent customer service
- Develops new business by understanding customer needs and selling products and services that provide value to the customer individually and in team support
- Effectively communicates with management to provide accurate revenue forecasts
- Spends significant time with MMSE's visiting customers in the field with the purpose of deepening account relationships, uncovering revenue opportunities and driving revenue
- Works in tandem with the Management team to identify revenue opportunities and in market support
- Help drive consultative, customer-centric selling behaviors
- Develops a strong sales plan with team and assists in the achievement of KPIs and digital revenue goals
- Assist the sales team in achieving their goals in both digital, print and specialty publications
- Train new sales reps on ordering system and report generation
- Other responsibilities as assigned

Position Requirements

- Digital Sales Experience preferred; or equivalent work experience in media-related business
- Must have prior experience with digital marketing platforms
- Minimum of one-year sales support experience
- Professional presentation skills

Manager & Cashiers

Senior's Outlet has **SHIPPING 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

Plumbers & Journeymen Electricians & Helpers

R.S. Contractors now hiring experienced Plumbers, Journeymen Electricians & Helpers. Pay by experience, must be able to work some weekends. Experienced needed. To apply call 432-616-1716 for appointment.

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

Part Time Day Associate - **MUST BE DEPENDABLE**
Must be able to work Monday thru Saturday from 8am-6pm. Tuesday will be here later till about 8 or 9 pm. Need to be able to work on your feet thru 6-8 hour shift. Will work at night occasionally. We will train the right person.

\$13.00 PER HOUR

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

Apply in person at: 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk
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PUBLIC AUCTION SEALED BID - (5) VEHICLES Bid Opening - 10:00 AM on Friday, September 21, 2018 Location: University Lands 704 W Dengar Ave Midland, Texas 79705 BID #1 (QTY 1) 2010 Chevrolet Silverado BID #2 (QTY 1) 2013 Ford F-150 BID #3 (QTY 1) 2013 Chevrolet Silverado BID #4 (QTY 1) 2013 Ford F-150 BID #5 (QTY 1) 2013 Ford F-150 Vehicles above will be available for inspection Monday-Thursday only at the above address: September 17-20, 2018 from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM only Bid sheets available at: 704 West Dengar Ave, Midland, TX, 79705 or EMAIL: lee@utsystem.edu or call Joe Petersen at 432-686-5475 Bids received after 10:00 AM on Friday, September 21, 2018 will be rejected University Lands reserves the right to accept or reject all or any part of a bid, waive minor technicalities and make an award in the best interest of the University. Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Postal Money Orders Only. All Sales are Final.	Merchandise Food Fruit Produce Boudin Sausage Authentic Cajun made in Midland. Call 225-324-5390	Real Estate Residential 2008 OAK Creek Mob Home 16.0 X 78.0, 1178 sq. ft. 3 Bed- room, 2 Bath, Central Heat/Air, all electric except stove. New Metal Roof in stalled April 2018, painting now in good condi- tion. Price \$3,000. Call 432-589-8885	REALESTATE Residential 2017 MALLARD 29 UltraLite RV trailer, sleeps 5, excellent condition only used 5 times. Loaded, TV & dish, best away-low tech, water soft-cond & more. Health must sell \$29K. Was \$37K. 210-363-5063. HARLEY 2012 Switch- back 103.6 speed, rat Surgle, 7800 mile de- tachible windshield, hard boxes, backrest, extra seat and extras. Screaming Eagle En- gine \$9,950. 432-559- 2024	Commercial 20 AC. WEST OF MEHARD. GENTLY ROLLING WITH BEAUTIFUL OAK TREE COVER. WHITE- TAIL, BLACKBUCK, AXIS, HOGS & TURKEY. 33.662 DOWN. SEVERAL TRACTS TO CHOOSE FROM. SOME WITH WA- TER AND ELECTRIC. CALL VISIT OUR WEBS- ITE FOR MORE INFO. 800-876-8720 rancherentersrealty.com	Mobile-Modular Homes Mobile Homes Rent 3 bed 2 ba Greenwood Schools No Pets \$1,225 monthly \$1000 deposit. 432-528-1808
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