

MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2018

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PHOTOS OF THE YEAR

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Section C



HS BASKETBALL

The Bulldogs bounce back against Plainview, defeating them 82-55.

Page 1B

Price of gas cheaper in Chicago than Midland

By Stewart Doreen
sdoreen@mrt.com

As the year comes to a close, Midland and Odessa continue to have the most expensive average prices of gas among larger metropolitan areas.

Midland will end 2018 with the highest average price for a gallon of regular unleaded — \$2.49, according to AAA Texas. Odessa is at \$2.48, and the next highest

price among the 25 other areas is \$2.02 in Victoria.

The state average fell this week to \$1.97 a gallon, and the cheapest gas could be found in Sherman-Denison, where drivers are paying an average of \$1.82.

AAA Texas reports there are nine larger metropolitan areas with an average price in the \$1.82 to \$1.89 range.

That compares to the six metropolitan areas in the state at or above \$2 (including Midland and Odessa).

Of the nine areas showing an average of less than \$1.90, six are along Interstate 30 or north.

Another is San Angelo. Drivers in Midland will finish the year paying 52 cents a gallon more than the state average.

They paid 29 cents more to start 2018. Drivers also pay 19 cents more than the national average.

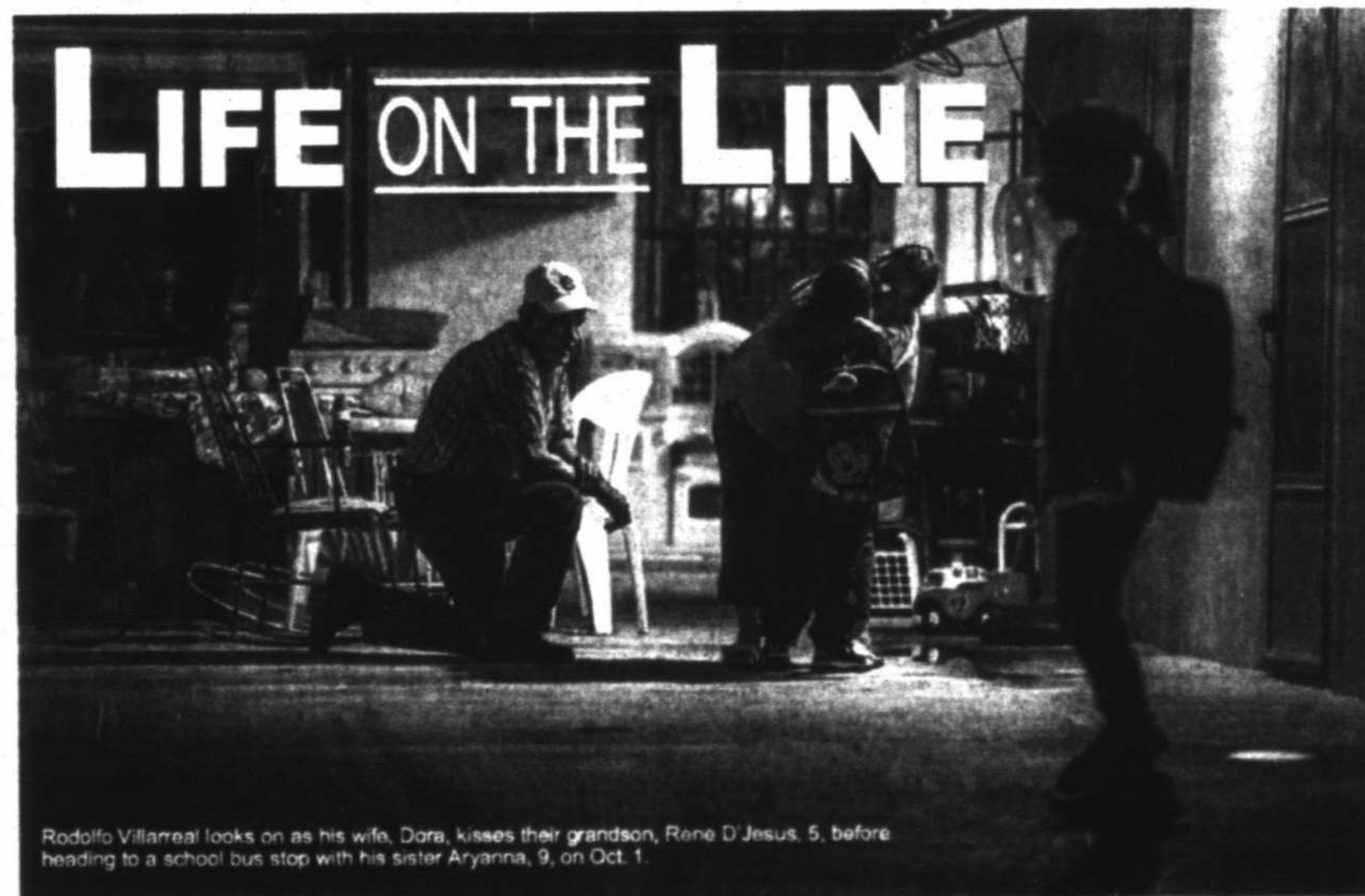
They started the year paying 4 cents higher.

Drivers in Midland are also paying 35.7 percent more for gas than drivers in Sherman-Denison.

Across the region, AAA Texas reported the following average prices: \$1.85 in Lubbock and Amarillo, \$1.87 in San Angelo, \$1.95 in El Paso and \$1.96 in Abilene.

Distributors have told the Reporter-Telegram there are many complexities

Please see GAS/2A



Rodolfo Villarreal looks on as his wife, Dora, kisses their grandson, Rene D'Jesus, 5, before heading to a school bus stop with his sister Anyanna, 9, on Oct. 1.

Photos by Robert Gauthier/Los Angeles Times



A 'moyote' runs along the outskirts of Colonia Delacruz after escorting a group of immigrants across the Rio Grande on Aug. 13.

Fed: Crude prices could hamper state's job growth

Bloomberg

Job growth in the Lone Star State will likely weaken in the first half of 2019 if oil prices remain at current levels, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

Changes in Texas job growth tend to lag big moves in the crude price by about six months, according to a report Wednesday. With the average price of West Texas Intermediate crude falling to about \$57 a barrel in November, the state's job growth will probably show a hit in the second quarter, the Dallas Fed said. Texas' unemployment rate was 3.7 percent in both October and November, the lowest level since the Labor Department data series began in 1976.

The U.S. crude benchmark, which settled at \$44.61 a barrel on Thursday, is heading for its biggest quarterly drop in four years amid fears that the ongoing trade war with China will stifle demand and doubt that the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' recent deal to curb output will do enough to shrink a supply glut.

Already, producers in the Permian Basin of West Texas and New Mexico are making moves to rein in spending heading into the New Year. Diamondback Energy Inc. and Parsley Energy Inc. have both said they're scaling back budgets in response to low oil prices, and Centennial Resource Development Inc. has scrapped a plan to add rigs next year "in light of the current oil macro environment."

Residents with border roots fear displacement

Editor's Note: Part two of a four-part series.

By Molly Hennessy-Fiske
Los Angeles Times

ROMA — The neighborhood's namesake, Maria Albessa De La Cruz, was among the first in the tiny, riverside colonia to receive a letter about the border wall.

Decades earlier, the 79-year-old De La Cruz, her husband and his six siblings had earned enough money picking crops in California's Central Valley to buy land at the edge of the Rio Grande, where their cattle grazed and sipped from the river near the bridge to Mexico.

She got a letter in September from the U.S. government requesting access to her

land so crews could survey the property and assess possible impacts of a wall. "We hope that you and other landowners in the Rio Grande Valley will assist us in our strategic efforts to secure our Nation's borders," the letter said.

Part of the federal government shut down on Dec. 22 when Congress didn't agree to fund President Donald Trump's border wall. In Roma, a town of about 11,400 in South Texas, the border wall debate is deeply personal.

"This is our land," said Maria Guadalupe "Lupita" Rios, 60, De La Cruz's niece. Her family created the colonia De La Cruz, as the neighborhood is known, and named streets after relatives — Sebastian Street, Federico Street, Angela Avenue. It is now home to more than 70 residents, the city says.

A wealthy Tejano family once tried to take ownership of the land, waging a protracted court battle. Rios' father won. Now she and Roma residents with roots stretching back to the days of Spanish rule feel their property is again under threat.

The wall has created deep uncertainty in the neighborhood, even Roma city officials aren't certain where it would go. "Are they going to go through those houses? The (river) banks? Will there be a gate there?" Assistant City Manager Freddy Guerra said. "We haven't received a definitive answer from Border Patrol."

Daniel Trevino, 52, who teaches environmental science at the local middle school, said his students ask whether they will still be able to reach the river to fish after school.

"I don't know what to tell them," Trevino said. He supports more border security — "I stand by my commander in chief" — but wishes the government would "look at these things more closely before they start tearing things down."

Some locals consider the wall a vital safeguard; others dismiss it as a wasteful stunt. Most wish the government would

Please see BORDER/4A

Oil prices close with 72-cent gain

■ Most Permian counties' rig counts unchanged

From staff reports

Oil prices stabilized at the end of a holiday-shortened week, closing with a 72-cent gain at \$45.33 on the New York Mercantile Exchange and a posted price of \$41.75 a barrel on Friday.

Prices sank 6.7 percent, or \$3 a barrel, on Christmas Eve.

Crude prices have lost about 40 percent since reaching a four-year high of more than \$76 a barrel in early October, due in part to a jittery stock market, concerns over

Please see OIL/2A

Price of oil

\$45.33 ▲ \$0.72

Crime of the month

See Midland's top crime online mrt.com

The big number

A thrifty social worker left \$11 million to children's charities benefiting the poor, sick, disabled and abandoned. Page 6A.

Word of the Day:

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

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Nation's oldest World War II vet dies in Texas at age 112

By Paul J. Weber
Associated Press

AUSTIN — Richard Overton, the nation's oldest World War II veteran who was also believed to be the oldest living man in the U.S., died Thursday in Texas, a family member said.

He was 112. The Army veteran had been hospitalized with pneumonia but was released on Christmas Eve, said Shirley Overton, whose husband was Richard's cousin and his longtime caretaker. "They had done all they could," she said.

He died Thursday evening at a rehab facility in Austin, she said.

Richard Overton was in his 30s when he volunteered for the Army and was at Pearl Harbor just after the Japanese attack in 1941.

He once said that one secret to his long life was smoking cigars and drinking whiskey, which he often was found doing on the porch of his Austin home.

His recent birthdays drew national attention and strangers would stop by his house to meet him.

Even well into his 100s, he would drive widows in his neighborhood to church.

"With his quick wit and kind spirit he touched the lives of so many, and I am deeply honored to have known him," Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said in a statement Thursday, calling Overton "an American icon and Texas legend."

"Richard Overton made us proud to be Texans and proud to be Americans," the governor added. "We can never repay Richard Overton for his service to our nation and for his lasting impact on the Lone Star State."

Overton was born in 1906 near Austin and served in the all-black 1887th Engineer Aviation Battalion.

In 2013, former President Barack Obama honored Overton at a Veterans Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery.

"He was there at Pearl Harbor, when the battleships were still smoldering," Obama said of Overton.

"He was there at Okinawa. He was there at Iwo Jima, where he said, 'I only got out of there by the grace of God.'"

Obituaries



Bertine A. Sliger



Lisa Michelle Taylor

Bertine A. Sliger, loving mother and grandmother, went to be with the Lord on December 3, 2018, with her family at her side. She was born on a farm outside Stratford, Oklahoma, on November 8, 1924, to Calvin and Ora Lee Moore. She excelled in school in the midst of the Great Depression, graduating as valedictorian from Stratford High School. She then dedicated herself to aiding the war effort working at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City. At the same time, she entertained airmen on leave as a USO hostess, but only for one dance - she

was waiting for her great love, Brizz Sliger, to return from his service as a Marine in the Pacific. After the war, they married and had three children, living in Oklahoma and New Mexico before settling in Midland in 1963. She had a long career as a civil servant at the Veterans Administration and IRS. When her beloved Brizz died in 1983, her faith sustained her, as it would throughout her life. She devoted herself to being a wonderful mother, grandmother, friend, and dedicated member of Midland's Baptist community. She is survived by her daughter Janice Sliger of Midland, and her son Kris Sliger of Moscow, Russia, and his wife Natalia. She was preceded in death by her son Monte Sliger in 2015. She is also survived by her grandchildren, who will always miss going to their Mimi's house for treats, her thoughtful cards for every occasion, and her loving nicknames: Alexandra Thomas and husband Christian Bursat of South Bend, Indiana; Luke Thomas and wife Joan of Houston, Texas; and the newest addition, arriving when she was 90 years old, "Sugar Baby" Ekaterina Bertine Sliger. Her family and all those who knew her take comfort in the fact that she has achieved what she long desired: to "get my pilot's license", as she often put it, and travel to be with her Savior. After years of limited mobility, how wonderful it is to imagine her say, in the words of her favorite hymn: "This robe of flesh I'll drop, and rise to seize the everlasting prize and shout while passing through the

air/Farewell, farewell, sweet hour of prayer!"

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, December 29, 2018 at 2 pm at Fannin Terrace Baptist Church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to MD Anderson Cancer Center or to the Wounded Warrior Project.

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

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



Lisa Michelle Taylor

Lisa Michelle Taylor "Monkey" born June 27, 1966 in Malvern, Arkansas returned home to our Father in heaven December 24, 2018. Lisa was a fun, charismatic person and loving mother. She is survived by her daughter, Brittany Hoover of Midland, Texas, her Father William Taylor of Benton Arkansas and sister Gina Haislett and husband Don of Odessa, Texas.

A memorial service will be held at Abundant Life Worship Center, 4801 Princeton Avenue, Monday December 31, 2018 at 3 p.m.

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Death Notices

Marisol Gonzalez Bonilla

Marisol Gonzalez Bonilla, 30 of Midland, Texas passed away Tuesday, December 25, 2018.

Viewing will be Wednesday, January 2nd from 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. and Thursday, January 3rd from 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. with a rosary starting at 7:00 p.m. Thursday evening at Heavenly Gate Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral mass is set for Friday, January 4th at 10:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish & Shrine. Burial will follow at Serenity Memorial Gardens.

She is survived by her two sons, Osvaldo Gonzalez and Daniel Gonzalez; her mother, Maria Gonzalez; one sister and one brother.

Nadine Louise Gordon

Nadine Louise Gordon, 79 of Midland, Texas passed away Monday, December 24, 2018. Viewing will be Wednesday, January 2nd from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home.

Graveside service will also be Wednesday, January 2nd at 2:00 p.m. at Serenity Memorial Gardens.

She is survived by three sons, Tony Lynn Huffman, Michael Dale Huffman and Buddy Dale Huffman; three daughters, Tammy Gay Huffman, Kimberly Dawn Woodruff and Stacy Ann Courtney.

Report: Actor Frank Adonis, known for 'Goodfellas,' has died

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Frank Adonis, an actor best known for his roles in Martin Scorsese films including "Goodfellas," "Raging Bull" and "Casino," has died.

He was 83.

His wife, Denise, told TMZ and Fox News that he died Wednesday in Las Vegas after several years of illness, mostly from kidney problems.

She said he'd been on dialysis and was on a

ventilator for nine days but they waited until after Christmas to take him off it.

Adonis, who was born in Brooklyn, also appeared in numerous other movies including "Wall Street," "True Romance" and "Ace Ventura: Pet Detective."

He had some 40 credits to his name, and his most recent role was in 2017 in "Proximity to Power."

He's survived by his wife and their two children, and another daughter from an earlier marriage.

Gas

From 1A

in the fuel business that impact pricing.

They pointed to the high cost of transportation from Gulf Coast refineries and Midland's distance from pipelines.

There are also issues with the high cost of living, at least in Midland and Odessa, where rents are climbing at rates incomparable around the nation.

There's also the supply-and-demand factor. There is a great demand in Midland and Odessa relative to the amount of supply.

A look at prices across the country shows drivers in Midland-Odessa are paying more than drivers in larger major metros across the country.

TexasGasPrices.com reports an average price of \$2.487 a gallon in Midland-Odessa.

Other sites operated by Gas Buddy showed the

following averages on Friday: \$1.976 in Cleveland, Ohio; \$2.085 in Detroit, Michigan; \$2.138 in Santa Fe, New Mexico; \$2.167 in Baltimore; \$2.176 in Nashville; \$2.326 in Chicago and \$2.429 in Boise, Idaho.

Gas Buddy also shows prices of \$3.401 in Los Angeles; \$3.350 in Seattle; \$2.927 in Las Vegas and \$2.561 in Philadelphia.

AAA Texas reports prices across the country are expected to remain lower.

"All eyes will be on whether the OPEC cuts will impact prices in 2019," said Joshua Zuber, AAA Texas/AAA New Mexico spokesman. "Many are waiting to see if they stick to their promise to cut crude production by 1.2-million barrels per day and if the proposed cuts will be enough to restore balance to the market."

Midland's and Reeves' rig counts also are unchanged at 57 and 78, respectively. The rig counts in many Permian counties are up one or unchanged.

Other counties with double-digit totals are:

■ Gale of one: Martin, 47; Howard, 20; and Reagan, 17.

■ Unchanged: Lea, New Mexico, 55; Eddy, New Mexico, 45; Loving, 30; Ward, 24; Upton, 23; Pecos, 17; Culberson, 14; Winkler, 12; and Andrews, 11.

The nation's rig count is 1,063, a gain of three.

Oil

From 1A

rising supplies of crude oil and a potentially weakening global economy that could dampen demand for crude.

Permian rig count holds at 488

In the last week of 2018, Texas gained one rig for a total of 532, while New Mexico's count is unchanged at 106, according to oil field services company Baker Hughes.

The Permian Basin has 486 rigs, unchanged.



Music fans pack around the stage Aug. 16, 1969, at the original Woodstock Music and Arts Festival, lower right, in Bethel, N.Y. The Bethel Woods Center for the Arts, a concert venue built on the original Woodstock site, announced Thursday that it will host the 50th anniversary of the historic event at the original Woodstock site on Aug. 16-18.

WORLD BRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

EL PASO

Fort Bliss soldier arrested in stabbing murder, wounding

A Fort Bliss soldier has been arrested in connection with a stabbing attack that killed a woman and wounded two other soldiers, according to El Paso police.

Army Spc. Torian A. Davis, 22, was arrested Wednesday on charges of murder, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and aggravated assault causing serious bodily injury. The El Paso Times reported. He's being held in the El Paso County Jail on a \$1.1 million bond.

A Fort Bliss spokesman declined to comment on the charges but said Davis was assigned to the 1st Armored Division.

Police haven't released the name of the 25-year-old woman who was killed.

The stabbings occurred Saturday at an apartment where Davis, the woman and Spc. Anthony Velasco, 21, were drinking and doing drugs, according to police.

Davis allegedly attacked the pair "without any provocation," slashing Velasco's throat and stabbing the woman, police said. Davis then left the apartment complex and allegedly "randomly pummeled" 1st Lt. Jared Abes, who had just parked his car outside the building, police said.

The woman, Velasco and Abes were transported to University Medical Center of El Paso. The woman died at the hospital, while Abes, 23, was taken to the intensive care unit.

Velasco was treated and released, according to police.

EL PASO

DHS Secretary Nielsen visits border after child's death

Homeland Security Secretary

Kirsten Nielsen is visiting the Texas border city where an 8-year-old Guatemalan boy was detained with his father before dying in government custody.

DHS spokeswoman Katie Waldman said Nielsen is heading to El Paso on Friday. Waldman says Nielsen will tour multiple stations and substations operated by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Nielsen is also scheduled to meet with emergency medical technicians and medical professionals, as well as local officials. Nielsen will go to Yuma, Arizona, today.

The trip comes four days after the death of 8-year-old Felipe Gomez Alonzo. Felipe was the second Guatemalan child to die in CBP's custody in three weeks.

Nielsen has called the death "deeply concerning and heartbreaking" and requested medical help from other government agencies.

NEW YORK

Original Woodstock site to host 50th anniversary concert

BETHEL — A three-day music festival will be held in August 2019 at the original Woodstock concert site to mark the 50th anniversary of the historic event.

The Bethel Woods Center for the Arts, a concert venue built on the original Woodstock site, announced Thursday that it will host the golden anniversary event Aug. 16-18.

The center says performers will include "prominent and emerging artists spanning multiple genres and decades." The venue says talks by "leading futurists and retro-tech experts" will also be featured.

Both Woods says the names of performers and speakers will be announced soon.

The Woodstock Music and Arts Fair held Aug. 15-17, 1969 drew more than

400,000 people to Max Yasgur's farm in the Sullivan County town of Bethel, 85 miles northwest of New York City.

EGYPT

Bomb strikes tourist bus near Giza pyramids, kills 2

CAIRO — A roadside bomb hit a tourist bus on Friday in an area near the Giza Pyramids, killing two Vietnamese tourists and wounding 12 others, Egypt's Interior Ministry said in a statement.

It said the bus was traveling in the Marioutiyah area near the pyramids when the crude roadside bomb, concealed by a wall, went off. The wounded included 10 Vietnamese tourists. The other two wounded were the Egyptian bus driver and the guide.

The bus was carrying a total of 14 Vietnamese tourists, it added, saying only two of them escaped unharm.

Egypt has battled Islamic militants for years in the Sinai Peninsula in an insurgency that has occasionally spilled over to the mainland, hitting minority Christians or tourists. However, this is the first attack to target foreign tourists in almost two years.

The attack takes place as Egypt's vital tourism industry is showing signs of recovery after years in the doldrums because of the political turmoil and violence that followed a 2011 uprising that toppled former leader Hosni Mubarak.

It will likely prompt authorities to further tighten security around churches and associated facilities ahead of the New Year's Eve celebrations and next month's Christmas celebrations of the Coptic Orthodox Church, the dominant denomination among Egypt's estimated 10 million Christians.

Over the past two years, militant attacks against Christians in Egypt — usually targeting churches or buses carrying pilgrims to remote desert monasteries — have killed over a hundred people.

WORD OF THE DAY

brought to you daily by



miracle

[mir-uh-kuhl]

noun

1. an effect or extraordinary event in the physical world that surpasses all known human or natural powers and is ascribed to a supernatural cause.
2. such an effect or event manifesting or considered as a work of God.
3. a wonder, marvel.



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Things to do

- Free Yoga, 9 a.m., Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland, 3301 N. Hwy. 177, Free. Open class but mats are encouraged to bring.
- Crossfit Community Day, 9-10 a.m., Crossfit MIX, 4519 Garfield St. Free. crossfit-mix.com. The fitness center hosts this introduction class to Crossfit. Sign-up online.
- Bridge lessons, 10 a.m., Allison Bridge Center, 913 W. Wadley Ave. \$3. Permaunbridgeclub.com.
- Bridge game play, 10-30 a.m., 913 W. Wadley Ave. \$6. For more information call 682-8585.
- Steak Night, 6 p.m., Ranchland Hills Golf Club, 1600 E. Wadley Ave. ranchlandhills.com.
- YUGOH tournaments, 6-10 p.m., Entertainment, 3111 W. Culbert Ave. \$5.
- Lightwire Theatre's A Very Electric Christmas, 7-30 p.m., Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$29.50-\$104.50. wagnernoel.com.
- Aaron Watson, 8 p.m., Dos Amigos, 4700 N. Golden Ave. \$25 advance, \$30 door. Dosamigos.com.
- Runnin' Blind, 9 p.m., Your Place, 3704 W. Wall St.
- VIP Night: The Business Party with DJ Q, 9 p.m., Double Tree by Hilton, 117 W. Wall St.
- Karaoke, 9 p.m., Delour Bar, 1708 Rankin Highway.

Open today

- U.S. Postal Service, 3304 W. Wadley Ave., 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday.
- Clay/Desta, 612 Veterans Airport Lane, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.
- GMF Midland, 1000 Loop 408 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.
- Midland County Public Library, Centennial branch, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., 2503 W. Loop 250 N.

Holiday trash

Please note that from now until Jan. 7, the city of Midland trash pickup will be once a week. Keep Midland Beautiful suggests not putting wrapping paper and bows from Christmas presents into trash dumpsters until Jan. 7. Bows and Nos. 1 and 2 plastics can be recycled.

Recycling Container Locations

Large 30-cubic yard open top containers.

Centennial Library 2503 W. Loop

250, (Behind IHOP), plastic and cardboard.

Super Mercado 2208 N. Big Spring St. (Behind Bush's Chicken), cardboard.

Midland College 3600 N. Garfield St. (Chaparral Center), plastic, aluminum and cardboard.

Security Bank Ballpark 5514 Champions Drive (southwest corner of the stadium), cardboard, paper, plastic and aluminum.

There are also 3-cubic yard containers at most of the local elementary schools where you can recycle cardboard and paper.

All recyclables can be taken to Butts Recycling Monday through Saturday. Butts Recycling is located at 26 West Industrial Loop.

For more information call Keep Midland Beautiful at 688-7745 or visit KMB's website at keepmidlandbeautiful.org.

This date in Texas

On Dec. 29, 1845, Texas was admitted as the 28th state.

Today in history

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All recyclables can be taken to Butts Recycling Monday through Saturday. Butts Recycling is located at 26 West Industrial Loop.

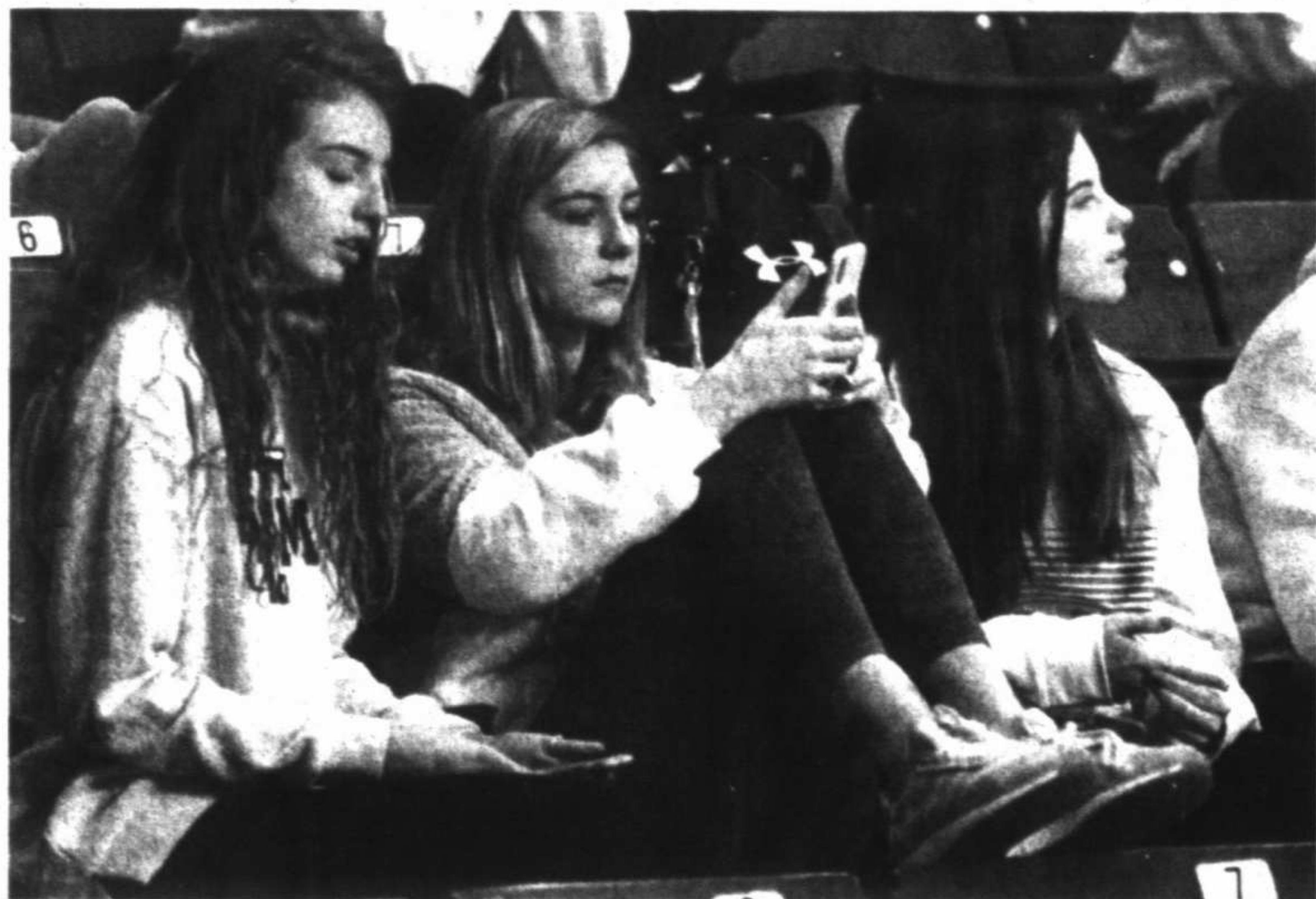
For more information call Keep Midland Beautiful at 688-7745 or visit KMB's website at keepmidlandbeautiful.org.

This date in Texas

On Dec. 29, 1845, Texas was admitted as the 28th state.

TODAY IN MIDLAND

Multitasking with friends



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Basketball fans alternate between cheering on their team and updating their social media at the Byron Johnston Holiday Classic on Friday at Chaparral Center.

250, (Behind IHOP), plastic and cardboard.

Super Mercado 2208 N. Big Spring St. (Behind Bush's Chicken), cardboard.

Midland College 3600 N. Garfield St. (Chaparral Center), plastic, aluminum and cardboard.

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Lottery

All or Nothing morning:

02-04-09-11-12-14-15-16-20-21-22-23

All or Nothing day: 01-02-05-10-12-14-15-17-18-23-24

All or Nothing evening:

04-06-07-08-10-11-13-15-17-18

19-24

Daily 4 morning: 1-7-9-4

Daily 4 day: 3-8-3-8

Daily 4 evening: 9-3-8-8

Pick 3 morning: 0-6-6

Pick 3 day: 0-9-2

Pick 3 evening: 7-2-9

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

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BORDER

From 1A

be more forthcoming about where it will erect barriers spanning 37 miles of the Rio Grande Valley, the primary entry point for illegal immigration into the United States. The Border Patrol has yet to release precise maps. Throughout the valley, residents have grown frustrated and distrustful.

Last month, more than four dozen nonprofit and faith-based groups wrote to congressional leaders demanding that they require the Homeland Security Department to submit border security plans, which were due in September, before approving additional funding for the wall. At a rally on Nov. 11 across the street from the McAllen Border Patrol station, wall opponents toed signs saying "Save Our Homes" and "No wall thru our homeland." Demonstrators dubbed the protest a "town hall" in the absence of public meetings by immigration officials.

"They refuse to listen to our concerns and take us into account," Suzanne El-Haj, 20, an environmental organizer at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, told the crowd of about 100.

Although Trump has made the building of the wall a centerpiece of administration's policy, plans for new border barriers have been in the works for years, and construction of the first \$1.4-billion stretch has quietly proceeded in Texas, Arizona and California. The Department of Homeland Security intends to build more than 330 miles of wall in the Border Patrol's highest priority areas if Congress approves Trump's \$5 billion request. Nearly a third of that would be in the agency's Rio Grande Valley Sector.

The government on Oct. 31 granted the first wall contract in Texas under Trump, a \$145 million agreement with Galveston-based SLS-CONCO, to erect six miles of border fencing near McAllen. A second \$167 million contract was awarded to the company in November for an additional 8 miles. Construction is scheduled to start in February.

Up to a dozen miles of new fencing is scheduled to be built in Roma's Starr County, about half near the city. Barriers will rise 30 feet — steel posts mounted with lights and cameras, with a 150-foot "enforcement zone" cleared of vegetation on the south side, according to the Border Patrol. International treaties are supposed to guide the design, with the blessing of the International Boundary and Water Commission. But the U.S. has already built about 650 miles of border barriers over the objections of Mexican members of the binational commission.

Unlike with other parts of the border where new walls will replace fencing or sit atop levees, the geography

of Roma limits the Border Patrol's options. The river is the only barrier currently separating Roma from Mexico, and it's still unclear where the wall will rise: To the south along the river? Through town, displacing homes? Or to the north, walling off neighborhoods and allowing access only through gates?

In the De La Cruz subdivision, Edgar Vargas worries about what the wall will destroy.

"I don't think they value this place," said Vargas, 30, a police dispatcher.

His grandparents already spoke with lawyers from the Texas Civil Rights Project, which has sued to block other stretches of border wall. The family of his 74-year-old grandmother, Dora Villarreal, sold their cattle in Nuevo Leon, Mexico, to immigrate legally and settle in the colonia about 30 years ago.

"We don't want this wall," she said. "We will lose all of this."

In neighboring Hidalgo County, Border Patrol officials met landowners in August and again last month to gather feedback on the wall. The November meeting was by invitation only and closed to the media.

Marianna Trevino Wright, executive director of the National Butterfly Center, which will be bisected by the wall, attempted to attend but was escorted out by police after arguing with agents over how people were admitted into the meeting. Officials asked landowners for ID and required them to sign in. Texas Civil Rights Project lawyers said they were not allowed in because they were not on the list. Robert Rodriguez, a Border Patrol spokesman, said afterward that the agency "will not tolerate vulgarity and unprofessionalism by any party during these meetings."

At the August meeting, Loren Flossman, who has coordinated the Border Patrol's wall-building for more than a decade, said he had learned from mistakes made after the Secure Fence Act of 2006, the last major wall-building effort in South Texas. Valley residents faulted the agency for paying landowners vastly different sums, compensating the wrong people and failing to pay for some water rights. At the time, Roma residents protested in the central plaza, joined by the mayor and other officials.

"We've done a much better job — some of you may believe that, some may not — of reaching out to landowners," Flossman said at the meeting, according to a recording made by attendees.

When landowners asked to see the designs provided to contractors bidding to build the wall, Flossman declined because "it isn't a full design. It's conceptual."

Jeffrey Glassberg, founder of the North American



Robert Gauthier/Los Angeles Times

Cristina DeLaCruz, 82, stands by her daughter, Lupita Rios, who is preparing dinner for her and husband, Guadalupe, 91, on Aug. 15.

Butterfly Association, a nonprofit that runs the butterfly center nature preserve, pressed for more details. "It's hard for people to respond — to suggest changes — to something they haven't seen," he said. "I'm missing why that whole design thing given to contractors shouldn't be public information right now."

Scott Nicol, co-chairman of the Sierra Club's Borderlands Team, has requested information on wall plans in the Rio Grande Valley, but said it can take years to get a response and in the past the information has been inaccurate. "The map is so bad that if you look at the Rio Grande City wall, it actually crosses into Mexico," he said of the most recent map he received this year.

"People whose houses are going to get knocked over deserve to know what's going to happen to their community. The mayor should be able to post that map outside of City Hall," Nicol said.

Instead, the Border Patrol has released information slowly and selectively. Border Patrol officials and Rep. Henry Cuellar, a Democrat who represents the Roma area, met on Oct. 22 with local leaders in Starr County without notifying landowners. Only one landowner, former Roma City Councilman Noel Benavides, attended, and that was because he owned the riverfront banquet hall where they were meeting.

Benavides said officials didn't bring updated maps or information. "Nothing new," he said. The media were barred from that meeting and from a Border Patrol webinar on Oct. 30 about wall-building in the valley. (A transcript of the webinar was later posted online in English and Spanish.)

Roma City Manager Crisanto Salinas said he had advised federal officials to consult all landowners and to avoid past mistakes with border barriers.

"They're going to have a reckoning," he said.

Flossman said the agency was still "fine-tuning" its maps.

Colonia residents fear the Border Patrol will build the wall on Sebastian Street, where a row of houses faces the river. Flossman said the wall "goes behind the houses, south along

the river." But he stopped short of promising the wall wouldn't uproot homes.

"I would rather not make any predictions at this point," he said. "People have built their houses in the floodplain. We may not be able in every case ... to keep the houses north (of the wall)."

The Border Patrol just completed flood modeling and, in its plan, added openings to the wall at local arroyos, or creeks, so that a rising Rio Grande could drain into U.S. waterways. Authorities don't want to erect a barrier that would deflect floodwaters to the Mexican side.

The agency also sent requests to survey 300 property owners' land in Starr County, according to a Nov. 15 Justice Department presentation obtained by the Los Angeles Times, but officials refused to release those records, citing privacy concerns.

The Times contacted most of the colonia riverfront landowners, including several who live elsewhere in Texas and Mexico. As of last week, only a few had received a request to survey their land. Among those in the neighborhood who had not been notified: the city itself, which owns a lot along on the river.

Among those still awaiting notice was Romana Mireles, 76, a retired home health aide who worries she will have to leave her home of nearly 30 years.

"I can't just find another house — land is expensive," she said.

City Hall also has received requests to survey municipal property outside the colonia, which were granted, said Guerra, the assistant city manager.

At his City Hall office, Guerra flipped through illustrations of an alternative to the wall plan: an import/export terminal with a walkway along the river that would serve as a limited barrier. In that rendering, the Rio Grande looks as picturesque as the Seine, with couples strolling past decorative planters and railings.

"We're not against border security or the wall necessarily," Guerra said. "If they get their structure and we get the import/export facility, it's a win-win."

Guerra wishes Roma could use its proximity to

Mexico to create international business opportunities. The downtown area today has more storefronts shuttered than open. Unemployment dipped into the single digits only recently. The city across the river, Ciudad Miguel Aleman, is more than triple Roma's size.

"There's more wealth in Miguel Aleman than in Roma," Guerra said one day as he steered his Ford F-150 King Ranch truck across the bridge, past a quiet import/export terminal on the Mexican side, which has seen less traffic as cartel violence increased in recent years. Guerra stopped to survey the riverfront.

"Definitely a missed opportunity, our inability to use the river as a recreation destination," he said as a family lunched on the Mexican bank, dipping their toes in the water.

Later, Guerra spied some "green jays," Border Patrol agents picking their way through carrizo cane. Unlike the birds of the same name, he said, "they're an invasive species."

Efren Olivares, a lawyer with the Texas Civil Rights Project, told about two dozen people at a Sept. 20 meeting at the National Butterfly Center that the government is supposed to pay "just compensation."

"The big question is what happens if you refuse," he said.

Landowners in the audience nodded.

The government can take land through eminent domain, Olivares explained, but when landowners sue — as they did in nearby Los Ebanos in 2008 — construction often halts.

"They don't have a wall on their land. So in my book, they're winning," he said, then paused. "I see a lot of worried faces."

Among those attending was Ramiro Ramirez, 70, who with his wife, Melinda, operates two nearby church cemeteries that could be cut off by the wall.

"What do I tell the parishioners?" he said. "This is something we cannot afford to lose. This is our heritage. ... I'm not going to last forever. I want to be buried there, and I want my grandson to be able to come and see me."

In the Nov. 15 Justice Department presentation, federal officials said that in many South Texas border fence cases, landowners didn't hire lawyers and settled without going to trial.

"Landowner has burden of proof on value," they wrote. Last year, after a town meeting in Roma about the wall, Texas Civil Rights Project lawyers went door to door, warning residents about the environmental impact of a wall and offering to represent them. Some, like Benavides, the former councilman, stayed in contact.

The federal government already had condemned a mile-long, 60-foot-wide

swath of his riverfront property in 2008, but never started construction, as international approvals dragged on and money dried up. Federal officials recently notified him they were taking legal action to ensure they were allowed to survey his land. Benavides had caught a federal surveyor there in October, told the man he didn't have permission and escorted him out.

"I'll make them work for it," said the Army veteran and eighth-generation Roma resident who has maps of the Spanish land grants, or *porciones*, his ancestors received in 1767. "They come to Starr County and think they can do what they want, that we're ignorant, waiting for a handout. We're not. We're American citizens. The river crossed us; we didn't cross."

In the colonia, Rey Rodriguez Jr. readily agreed to a government survey of his family's land. A Roma police officer and school board member, he supports the wall, which he thinks will reduce illegal crossings and drive those immigrants away from the neighborhood toward ranches where they would be easier to catch.

Lupita Rios, of the De La Cruz clan, also agreed to a survey of her riverfront property, but she is worried about rumors suggesting the wall will be built north of the colonia. "They can't leave us on the Mexican side," said Rios, a Democrat who voted for Trump because she opposes illegal immigration. Her daughter has been renovating her nearby home and fears the investment will be wasted.

Border security has cost the De La Cruz family before. The family once operated Nati's, a Tex-Mex diner that served made-from-scratch biscuits and chicken-fried steak near the border bridge. Decades ago, the federal government bought the parcel for a new bridge complex, paying Maria Albana De La Cruz and her husband \$105,000, enough to move east into what became the subdivision.

De La Cruz has had mixed feelings about the wall. She thinks the neighborhood she helped create has changed — and not in a good way. Migrants frequently lurk behind the grapefruit trees in her backyard, then sneak toward a suspected smuggler's trailer.

At night, Border Patrol agents' flashlights dance on her bedroom wall. Neighbors sometimes spend the night at her home because she's scared to be alone.

When De La Cruz fell and broke her hip in September, she returned home in a wheelchair. Now, she's decided that she's tired of fighting.

"If they give me good money," she said, "I'll sell."

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

Husband takes pact to split house expenses to extremes

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for seven years and have two young boys. My husband, "Cliff," and I earn approximately the same amount and contribute equally to our household expenses.

It bothers me that if we're on a family excursion, and he's driving my minivan and we get low on gas, he will fill the tank up only halfway. Additionally, when we met my friend recently for a birthday celebration, when we were leaving the parking garage, Cliff demanded my credit card to pay for the parking. (The fee was \$13.)

Unlike his past girlfriends, I have never used his credit cards to buy fancy clothes at expensive boutiques. I pay for house renovations that I feel are important — porch repair, wallpaper, bedroom furniture for our children, recessed lighting, etc. out of my own pocket.

For our upcoming anniversary, when I asked Cliff where we would be going so I could plan accordingly, he asked me why I wasn't taking him out to celebrate our anniversary. What do you make of all of this? Frankly, it saddens me. — **MONEY'S THE ISSUE IN VIRGINIA**

DEAR ABBY: You are short-changing yourself. If you and your husband agreed to split

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.



expenses equally, you should not be paying out-of-pocket for repairs and decoration. That your husband is so determined not to be taken advantage of financially that he would fill the gas tank only halfway saddens me, too.

However, on the subject of anniversaries, he does have a valid point, so why not alternate anniversaries with him? One year he'll do the planning and take you out to celebrate, and the next year you'll do it for him.

DEAR ABBY: My son moved back home after college two years ago. He had major surgery on his leg two weeks after his graduation and a 14-month recuperation, which I helped him through. He hasn't been able to find work in his field of study. He did work for about three months, then quit.

He bought an expensive rottweiler puppy while he was working, but now he's unable to pay for the shots, food and general care of this puppy. I'm struggling financially and cannot afford to

help with the expenses.

The puppy is destroying my house, pulling my sofa cushions from the sofa, gnawing on my woodwork, etc. My son is accusing me of being "materialistic and selfish." I feel he should have waited until he had his own place before he got a dog. I already have one, "Sissy," that was my son's when he was 10 years old. He no longer wants Sissy because he's old now. I love Sissy as my own, and one dog is enough for me now. Please advise. — **CARELESS IN TEXAS**

DEAR CARELESS: Your son may be chronologically an adult, but he's acting like a spoiled child. Rather than call you names, he should be grateful you have supported him to the degree that you have. Start talking to him like the grown-up he is and tell him if he can't support his rottweiler, he must contact a rescue group that can find it a loving home with a responsible guardian who will ensure it receives the care it deserves. Unfortunately, your son does not qualify.

GOREN BRIDGE

With Bob Jones

Bidding Quiz

Q1 — North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:	Q3 — Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠AQ73 ♥K4 ♠95 ♠AKQJ8	♠K954 ♥A6 ♠A85 ♠A1052
With the opponents passing, you open 1C and partner responds 1S.	SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
What call would you make?	INT Pass 2♠ Pass
Q2 — East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:	What call would you make?
♠Void ♥Q9653 ♦KQ1052	Q4 — North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠Q32	♠Void ♥AKQJ84 ♦AQ973
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH	♠J10
1♠ Pass INT Pass	SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
2♠ Pass Pass ?	1♥ 5♠ Pass Pass
What call would you make?	What call would you make?

GOP and Democrats trade blame for shutdown, no deal in sight

By Zeke Miller
and Lisa Mascaro
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The partial government shutdown will almost certainly be handed off to a divided government to solve in the new year, as both parties traded blame Friday and President Donald Trump sought to raise the stakes in the weeklong impasse.

As agreement eludes Washington in the waning days of the Republican monopoly on power, it sets up the first big confrontation between Trump and newly empowered Democrats. Trump is sticking with his demand for money to build a border wall with Mexico, and Democrats, who take control of the House on Jan. 3, are refusing to give him what he wants.

Trump raised the stakes on Friday, reissuing threats to shut the U.S.-Mexico border to pressure Congress to fund the wall and to shut off aid to three Central American countries from which many migrants have fled.

"We will be forced to close the Southern Border entirely if the Obstructionist Democrats do not give us the money to finish the Wall & also change the ridiculous immigration laws that our Country is saddled with," he wrote in one of a series of tweets.

The president also signaled he was in no rush to seek a resolution, welcoming the fight as he heads toward his own bid for re-election in 2020. He tweeted Thursday evening that Democrats may be able to block him now, "but we have the issue, Border Security, 2020!"

The shutdown is forcing hundreds of thousands of federal workers and contractors to stay home or work without pay, and many are experiencing mounting stress from the impasse. It also is beginning to pinch citizens who count on certain public services. Gates are closed at some national parks, the government won't issue new federal flood insurance policies and in New York, the chief judge of Manhattan federal courts suspended work on civil cases involving U.S. government lawyers, including several civil lawsuits in which Trump himself is a defendant.

With another long holiday weekend coming and nearly all lawmakers away from the Capitol there is little expectation of a quick fix.



Jacquelyn Martin/AP

People skate on the National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden ice rink on Thursday as a partial government shutdown continues in Washington. The museum and the skate rink will be closed to the public after January 2nd as a result of the shutdown if it continues into the new year. Behind the rink is the National Archives, which is closed due to the shutdown. President Donald Trump has vowed to hold the line on his budget demand, telling reporters during his visit to Iraq Wednesday that he'll do "whatever it takes" to get money for border security. The White House and congressional Democrats have been talking but to little effect.

Shutdown to close DC museums and galleries by midweek

WASHINGTON — Museums and galleries popular with visitors and locals in the nation's capital will close starting midweek if the partial shutdown of the federal government drags on. So will the National Zoo and a lively ice rink near the National Mall.

The attractions have stayed open by using unspent funds, but they are about to run out of that money. Museums and galleries under the Smithsonian Institution umbrella will close starting Jan. 2, the Smithsonian said on its website. That includes the zoo, as well as the National Air and Space Museum, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the National Museum of Natural History, and several galleries, including the National Portrait Gallery, with its paintings of former presidents.

"We are far apart," White House press secretary Sarah Sanders told CBS on Friday, claiming of Democrats, "They've left the table all together."

Incoming acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney said Democrats are no longer negotiating with the administration over an earlier offer to accept less than the \$5 billion Trump wants for the wall. Democrats said the White House offered \$2.5 billion for border security, but that Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer told Vice President Mike Pence it wasn't acceptable.

"There's not a single Democrat talking to the president of the United States about this deal," Mulvaney said Friday. Speaking on Fox News, he tried to drive a wedge between Democrats, pinning the blame on Democratic leader

Smithsonian facilities are open on Jan. 1.

The National Gallery of Art will close starting Jan. 3, a spokeswoman said. That includes the iconic West and East buildings as well as an ice rink in the National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden that is a favorite with families. National Gallery of Art facilities are usually closed on New Year's Day.

The shutdown also is affecting national parks, although unevenly. Some remain accessible with barebones staffing levels, some are operating with money from states or charitable groups and others are locked off.

With no resolution in sight, the shutdown is forcing hundreds of thousands of federal workers and contractors to stay home or work without pay.

Associated Press

Nancy Pelosi.

"My gut was that (Schumer) was really interested in doing a deal and coming to some sort of compromise. But the more we're hearing this week is that it's Nancy Pelosi who's preventing that from happening," he said. Mulvaney added of the shutdown: "We do expect this to go on for a while." He said Trump had canceled his plans to travel to Florida for New Year's.

Democrats brushed off the White House's attempt to cast blame.

"For the White House to try and blame anyone but the president for this shutdown doesn't pass the laugh test," said Justin Goodman, a spokesman for Schumer. Pelosi has vowed to pass legislation as soon as she takes the gavel, which is expected when the new Congress convenes, to

reopen the nine shuttered departments and dozens of agencies now hit by the partial shutdown.

"If they can't do it before Jan. 3, then we will do it," said Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass., incoming chairman of the Rules Committee. "We're going to do the responsible thing. We're going to behave like adults and do our job."

Pelosi spokesman Drew Hammill added that Democrats "are united against the President's immoral, ineffective and expensive wall" and said Democrats won't seriously consider any White House offer unless Trump backs it publicly because he "has changed his position so many times."

"While we await the President's public proposal, Democrats have made it clear that, under a House Democratic Majority, we will vote swiftly to re-open government on Day One," Hammill said in a statement.

But even that may be difficult without a compromise because the Senate will remain in Republican hands and Trump's signature will be needed to turn any bill into law.

"I think it's obvious that until the president decides he can sign something — or something is presented to him — that we are where we are," said Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., who opened the Senate on Thursday for a session that only lasted minutes.

"Call it anything," he added, "barrier, fence, I won't say the 'w' word." Trump long promised that Mexico would pay for the wall, but Mexico refuses to do so. It was unclear how Trump's threat to close the border would affect his efforts to ratify an amended North American free trade pact.

He has also repeatedly threatened to cut off U.S. aid to countries he deems insufficient partners in combating illegal immigration, but has thus far failed to follow through with those threats. Experts have warned that cutting off aid money to El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras could actually exacerbate the problem by worsening the poverty and violence that push many migrants to leave those countries.

And it is Congress, not the president, which appropriates aid money. The White House would have to notify Congress if it wanted to cut or reallocate aid, which could delay or complicate the process.

Shutdown could block aid to farmers hit by trade war

By Juliet Linderman
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The end-of-2018 seemed to signal good things to come for America's farmers. Fresh off the passage of the farm bill, which reauthorized agriculture, conservation and safety net programs, the USDA last week announced a second round of direct payments to growers hardest hit by President Donald Trump's trade war with China.

Then the government shut down. The USDA in a statement issued last week assured farmers that checks would continue to go out during the first week of the shutdown. But direct payments for farmers who haven't certified production, as well as farm loans and disaster assistance programs, will be put on hold beginning next week, and won't start up again until the government reopens.

There is little chance of the government shutdown ending soon. Trump and Congress are no closer to reaching a deal over his demand for border wall funding, and both sides say the impasse could drag well into January.

Although certain vital USDA programs will remain operational in the short term, that could change if the shutdown lasts for more than a few weeks.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or food stamps, helps feed

roughly 40 million Americans. According to the USDA, eligible recipients are guaranteed benefits through January. Other feeding programs, including WIC, which provides food aid and nutrition counseling for pregnant women, new mothers and children, and food distribution programs on Indian reservations, will continue on a local level, but additional federal funding won't be provided. School lunch programs will continue through February.

USDA has earmarked about \$9.5 billion in direct payments for growers of soybeans, corn, wheat, sorghum and other commodities

most affected by tariffs. The first round of payments went out in September. The deadline to sign up for the second round of payments is January 15.

The impact of the shutdown, which began shortly before most federal workers were scheduled for a holiday break, started coming into focus by midweek.

About 420,000 employees are working without pay, while another 380,000 are being forced to stay home. In the past, federal employees have been paid retroactively. But government contractors won't get paid for hours they'll lose staying home, causing problems for

those who rely on hourly wages.

In anticipation of the financial bind many federal workers and contractors may soon find themselves in, the Office of Personnel Management offered some advice: haggle with landlords, creditors and mortgage companies for lower payments until the shutdown is over.

The shutdown also is affecting national parks, although unevenly. Some remain accessible with barebones staffing levels, some are operating with money from states or charitable groups, while others are locked off.

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Old favorites, outdated attitudes: Entertainment raises questions

By Ted Anthony
Associated Press

NEW YORK — They are fighting, yes, but the fight crackles with the enticing electricity that only Cary Grant and Katharine Hepburn could deliver. He is storming out the door. She is throwing his golf clubs after him. The music is jaunty. He is charmingly irritated.

Then he strides up to her, throws a fake punch in the air at her, opens his fist and shoves his palm into her face, slamming her onto the ground. She looks up at him with what appears to be mild exasperation. She rubs her injured neck. The romantic musical score plays on.

So begins 1940's "The Philadelphia Story," with a case of domestic assault played for laughs. Eight decades later, the movie is clearly two things: uneasy fare for a post-#metoo culture — and an enduring American classic.

They exist throughout society's pop-culture canon, from movies to TV to music and beyond: pieces of work that have withstood time's passage but that contain actions, words and depictions about race, gender and sexual orientation that we now find questionable at best.

Whether it's blackface minstrel routines from Bing Crosby's "Holiday Inn," Apu's accent in "The Simpsons," bullying scenes in "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer," the arguably rapey coercion of "Baby, It's Cold Outside" and "Sixteen Candles" or the simplistically clunky gender interactions of "Mr. Mom," Americans have amassed a catalog of entertainment across the decades that now raises a series of contentious but never-more-relevant questions.

What, exactly, do we do with this stuff today? Do we simply discard it? Do we give it a free pass as the product of a less-enlightened age? Or is there some way to both acknowledge its value yet still view it with a more critical eye?

Does American entertainment ever have an expiration date?

"Jake, she's a child!"
"So?"

Two male high-school seniors discussing an attractive female sophomore in John Hughes' "Sixteen Candles" (1984).

"How are we meant to feel about art that we both love and oppose?" Molly Ringwald, who played the "child" referenced above, wrote this past April in *The New Yorker*, 34 years later. As the decades passed, she grew more uncomfortable with some of the material that made her one of the 1980s' biggest young stars.

This can be a fraught debate, and understandably so. Some Americans, often those who wield society's power, cast popular culture as froth that's unworthy of serious scrutiny. Hey, it's just entertainment. Don't overthink things.

But entertainment is a by-product of its era — of how we view ourselves, of who gets to call who what and who wields the paintbrushes of representation in society. And if you're never the one holding the paintbrush, how entertaining can it be?

This delicate question pervades some of our culture's most beloved work, from Mark Twain's "Huckleberry Finn" on down. It is the wonderful and the problematic, often presented side by side.

So if we're watching "I Love Lucy," do we consider how belittling Ricky (and most everyone else) is to her? Or do we take away the fact that no matter what, she never stops trying and is never contained? In "The Honeymooners," do we

key in on the obvious love between Ralph and Alice or on his fist-shaking threats to send her "to the moon"?

If we're listening to the Beatles, and we adore John



Photo from "Cary Grant: A Celebration of Style," by Richard Torregrossa, Bullfinch Press

Cary Grant and Katharine Hepburn share a glance in "The Philadelphia Story," released in 1941.

Lennon for his vision of a more peaceable world, what do we make today of his 1965 song that began with the lyrics, "I'd rather see you dead, little girl, than to be with another man?"

If we're showing our kids Hollywood classics, and we put "Gone with the Wind" in front of them, what do we say when Mammy (Hattie McDaniel) acts like a happy slave who adores her masters? What about the frequent racial and ethnic stereotypes — from Mexican to African-American to Irish to Italian — in Warner Bros.' beloved collection of cartoon shorts from the 1940s and 1950s?

For the Gen-Xers among us: Through what prism should we view such hormone-drenched 1980s fare as "Fast Times at Ridgemont High," "Porky's" and — heaven help us — "Zapped," an entire movie about a teenage boy who can pop open girls' blouses with his mind?

And what of Hughes, who captured teenage life's authenticity as never before but also handed us material that sent some fundamentally confusing and problematic sexual messages to adolescents?

"If you could erase all the scenes that are offensive to us today, even if you could, would that be a good idea?" I don't really think so," says M. Alison Kibler, who teaches American studies at Franklin & Marshall College and researches how groups struggle for fair representation in entertainment.

She adds, "I would step back from any kind of one-dimensional read of movies and performances from the past."

"Woman not made for heavy thinking but should always decorate scene like blossom of plum."

Charlie Chan (is decidedly un-Asian Roland Winters), "Charlie Chan in the Chinese Ring" (1947)

The "Charlie Chan" movies of the 1930s and 1940s, shown repeatedly on TV in the 1970s and 1980s, seem today to brim with racial problems: non-Asians portraying Asians, fortune-cookie sayings spouted in precious accents and, for good measure, some broadly played African-American representations too.

Yet according to Yunte Huang, who traced the character's history, many Asians welcomed the films at the time because, in an era

of Fu Manchu stereotypes, they represented something coveted: a respected Asian protagonist who outwitted every white person on the screen.

"There's a history to everything. And we need to know history — including those ugly representations and everything," says Huang, author of "Charlie Chan: The Untold Story of the Honorable Detective and His Rendezvous with American History."

"On the one hand, we need to be critical and continue to protest," he says. "On the other hand, it is important for us to get people to talk about this. Let them come out, but talk about them and analyze them so we know how far we have traveled."

Until the last couple decades, older fare resurfaced only sporadically, when studios or networks put it back out there on air or VHS tape.

But the dawn of the digital era and the rapid rise of streaming culture means that now, anything can be accessed by pretty much anyone on any screen. That in turn means that a dizzying library of our cultural past, warts and all, is available at the press of a button.

This is also a different question than what's being grappled with around entertainers like Bill Cosby, Louis C.K. and Woody Allen, whose work many now reject because of the artists' behavior rather than the content itself (though many have identified problems in Allen's and C.K.'s work).

Consider Apu, the South Asian convenience-store owner long voiced by Hank Azaria in "The Simpsons" — an unusual case because the show has spanned more than two generations of evolving attitudes.

Last year, comedian Hari Kondabolu released a film, "The Problem With Apu," documenting stereotypes he saw with the character and its effect on entertainers of South Asian descent. The response included hints that Apu might fade from the cast of thousands that populate the Simpsons' hometown of Springfield.

That doesn't sit right with Shilpa Davé, author of "Indian Accents: Brown Voice and Racial Performance in American Television and Film." Apu, after all, is also a beloved character and community member. Isn't there another solution?

"The easy thing is to point a finger and say, 'Oh, that's terrible.' But I think we have to say, what are the alternatives? How do we want to

progress now that we have more information and a higher consciousness?" Davé says. "Does entertainment mean that we leave our brains behind?"

When Tim Cogshell was a child, he loved John Wayne. He'd watch Westerns and root for the cowboys — the "good guys."

"Then my uncle told me, 'Stop rooting for the cowboys,'" Cogshell says, allowing that his uncle also used a word between "the" and "cowboys" that began with an "f."

Today Cogshell, a film critic for FilmWeek on KPCC-FM, an NPR affiliate in Pasadena, California, thinks a lot about how yesterday's attitudes should be considered in today's environment.

Part of his answer comes down to intent.

"I gotta know the details. What's going on here? What's the intention here?" Cogshell says. "Sometimes you have to peel the onion. And then one decides how to think about it, how to feel about it, where to put it in the canon."

So while "Birth of a Nation," the groundbreaking 1915 film widely regarded as one of the most corrosively racist ever made, is viewed ever more harshly as the years pass, a misogynist bigot like Archie Bunker from "All in the Family" presents a different story: Whether a successful portrayal or not, Cogshell says, it was intended to highlight a problem and get it discussed.

Some of this is discussion is perhaps moot. YouTube-savvy teenagers are probably not watching "Birth of a Nation," "The Mask of Fu Manchu" or even "Porky's" on their mobile devices.

The solutions, though, suggest a general direction: Don't simply ban or eliminate or delete.

Talk about stuff whether formally, when it's presented to the public, or informally at home.

And don't assume we're smarter today, as you read this, entertainment is being made that'll be just as problematic to our great-grandchildren.

And involving more voices in the production of today's popular culture — and the selection, curation and characterization of yesterday's — can make sense of this more than dismissing the issue as overreaction or scrubbing the leavings of less-enlightened eras.

That doesn't mean that newly offensive classics can't be entertaining. Many of these things are American favorites for a reason. They resonated with us over many years, and have things to say that remain relevant — and, at times, fun and escapist.

But wherever you come down, to suggest that entertainment — music, movies, TV, a multibillion-dollar industry designed to sell our culture's stories back to us in infinite configurations — is not something to examine sometimes under a more close-up lens seems a bit self-defeating.

This, after all, is us — maybe not an inclusive enough "us," maybe not the "us" that many want us to be, but something that demands to be understood.

Let Molly Ringwald have the last word: "Erasing history is a dangerous road when it comes to art — change is essential, but so, too, is remembering the past, in all of its transgression and barbarism, so that we may properly gauge how far we have come, and also how far we still need to go."



Paula Merritt/The Meridian Star via AP

A car fell into this collapsed culvert because of heavy rains Friday on Tommy Butler Road in the Causeyville Whynot area of Lauderdale County, Miss. No one was hurt in the accident. The National Weather Service posted flash flood watches and warnings for much of the South from Louisiana into southwest Virginia.

Wild weather: Water rescues in South, heavy snow in Midwest

By John Seewer
Associated Press

A powerful winter storm that brought blizzard warnings Friday across the Upper Midwest was blamed for at least three fatal crashes while flash flooding from rains in the South swept away cars and forced dozens of water rescues.

In northern New England, a mix of snow, sleet, freezing rain and rain added up to make for dangerous driving Friday for post-holiday travelers. Up to 4 inches of snow was possible in the western mountains of Maine.

Much of the Dakotas and part of Minnesota were under a blizzard warning after many areas got a foot of snow or more Thursday.

A collision between a small bus and an SUV in Minnesota killed a 47-year-old woman on the bus and injured nine others Thursday. A second person died in central Minnesota after being struck on a road by a pickup with a plow blade.

In North Dakota, a pickup truck driver was killed Thursday on a snow-covered highway when visibility was reduced by blowing snow from a plow, according to the state highway patrol.

Another storm dumped up to 12 inches of rain in Louisiana and Mississippi, sweeping away cars and forcing some residents to be rescued from their homes before the rains moved into Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, and western North Carolina on Friday.

The National Weather Service posted flash flood watches and warnings for much of the South from Louisiana into southwest Virginia.

"We had an extreme flash flooding event," said Glen Moore, the emergency management director in Forrest County.

in southwestern Mississippi, which saw 9 inches fall over 12 hours through early Friday.

Authorities had to rescue residents from about 25 area homes in Forrest County, Moore said.

They rescued one man whose car was swept away after he went onto a barricade on a flooded road, Moore said.

"He was able to make it outside of the car and latch onto a tree until we could get a boat to him," Moore said.

There was one death in Tennessee where a woman fell into a rain-swollen creek near Chattanooga. Authorities who recovered the woman's body Friday morning after three hours after she lost her footing said she had been camping in a cave with friends and they were trying to leave the area when she fell into the water.

The storm system was blamed for a death in Louisiana earlier this week when a tree fell on a camper.

Forecasters said up to 5 inches of rain were possible in northern Alabama and central and north Georgia. A flood warning was also issued for Asheville, North Carolina.

Water also flooded more than a dozen homes in St. Charles Parish, Louisiana, and a Trader Joe's store near New Orleans lost power during the storm, prompting it to donate perishable grocery items to a food bank.

Some areas of the Midwest were seeing spring-like conditions. Shorts and t-shirts replaced winter running gear Friday for several joggers in downtown Columbus, Ohio, where temperatures were in the 50s.

"It's weird that there's no snow," said Evan Miller, who was about four miles into his run while wearing gray shorts and a short sleeve shirt.

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NYC utility probes electric flash that lit sky in eerie blue

By Jennifer Peltz
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Electric utility Con Edison was working Friday to figure out what caused a high-voltage equipment failure that unleashed an otherworldly flash of bright blue light in the night sky over New York City.

The event Thursday caused power outages, briefly grounded flights at LaGuardia airport and filled social media feeds with eerie photos, questions and jokes, to the point that even the New York Police Department tweeted there was "no evidence of extraterrestrial activity."

While Con Ed initially described a "brief electrical

fire" at a power substation in the Astoria section of Queens, spokesman Bob McGee said Friday that what happened was an electrical flash after a malfunction involving 20-foot-high equipment with cables carrying 138,000 volts. By comparison, a standard U.S. household gets 120-volt service.

"It was like a lightning bolt, essentially," said McGee.

Substations transform electricity that comes in from power plants at high voltage down to lower voltage levels, and send it on for use.

Thursday's malfunction involved voltage-monitoring equipment, Con Ed said in a release.

Normally, a circuit-break-

er-like device intervenes and quickly cuts off power to the affected equipment if there's an electrical fault, but that apparently didn't happen Thursday, McGee said. Instead, the electricity kept cycling through, causing the flash.

Across much of the nation's most populous city, people looked up around 9:12 p.m. to see a pulsing orb of blue light that lasted a minute or more in the sky over Queens, casting the skyline into a strange silhouette.

"It was pitch black outside, and then suddenly the whole side of the eastern sky was lighting up and changing colors," said Madeleine Frank Reeves, who saw the lights from her Upper West Side apartment.

As for why the cyan sky: When electric charges move through air, the air gets superheated and glows blue, explains Eric O'Dea, of Boston's Museum of Science, which is known for generating indoor lighting bolts in its Theater of Electricity. He said its sparks are similar to the arcs over Queens, but they lasted considerably longer, painting the sky.

Onlookers invoked supernatural and sci-fi screen classics — "Ghostbusters," "Independence Day," "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" and more. There were, of course, hashtags — including #alieninvasion — and a tongue-in-cheek take on a real scientific phenomenon: the "Astoria Borealis." Witnesses' video showed

plumes of smoke pouring from a piece of equipment at the substation, and nearby residents reported hearing banging or roaring sounds. Those likely were caused by the electrical arc going to the ground, McGee said.

The arc subsided on its own, he said. No one was seriously injured, though an employee at the substation reported eye irritation, Con Ed said.

Meanwhile, power flickered or went out at least briefly around northern Queens. Lights flickered in parts of the massive Rikers Island jail complex before back-up generators kicked in, according to the city Correction Department.

Although LaGuardia also has backup power, outages closed parts of the airport

for a time. Some subway service was disrupted for about a half-hour, according to Con Ed.

McGee didn't immediately have information on whether there had been any recent problems with or repairs to the equipment that failed.

The utility will examine instrument readings to try to pinpoint the cause of the malfunction, he said.

Thursday wasn't the first time a substation power problem has illuminated the city's skies with a strange glow. Superstorm Sandy flooded a Con Ed substation in 2012, a producing a great, greenish flash and plunging a swath of Manhattan into darkness.

Kansas teen to get high school, Harvard diplomas in 1 month

Associated Press

ULYSSES, Kan. — A 16-year-old Kansas boy will soon earn his high school diploma — and a few days later he'll travel to Harvard to collect his bachelor's degree.

Ulysses High School senior Braxton Moral will attend both commencement ceremonies in May, becoming the only student to successfully pursue a four-year high school degree and a bachelor's degree from Harvard at the same time, The Hutchinson News reported.

Harvard has changed the rules, Braxton's father Carlos Moral said, so his son will "the one and only" reaching that milestone. Braxton Moral will be 17 when he gets his diplomas.

Carlos Moral said they began to realize their son was special when he was in the third grade.

"They told us: 'You need to do something. He's not just gifted. He's really, really gifted,'" he said.

Braxton Moral skipped the fourth grade.

The Ulysses school district allowed him to take some high school classes while he was still in middle school. Before high school he took a class offered at Fort Hays State University. Then he was admitted into Harvard.

Braxton Moral simultaneously studied at the high school and the Harvard Extension School. The program typically serves adults who work and can't attend classes on campus full time.

Ulysses High School math teacher Patsy Love served as the proctor for the Harvard program, administering Moral's tests in Kansas. Moral spent the summer before his junior year at Harvard's campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts.



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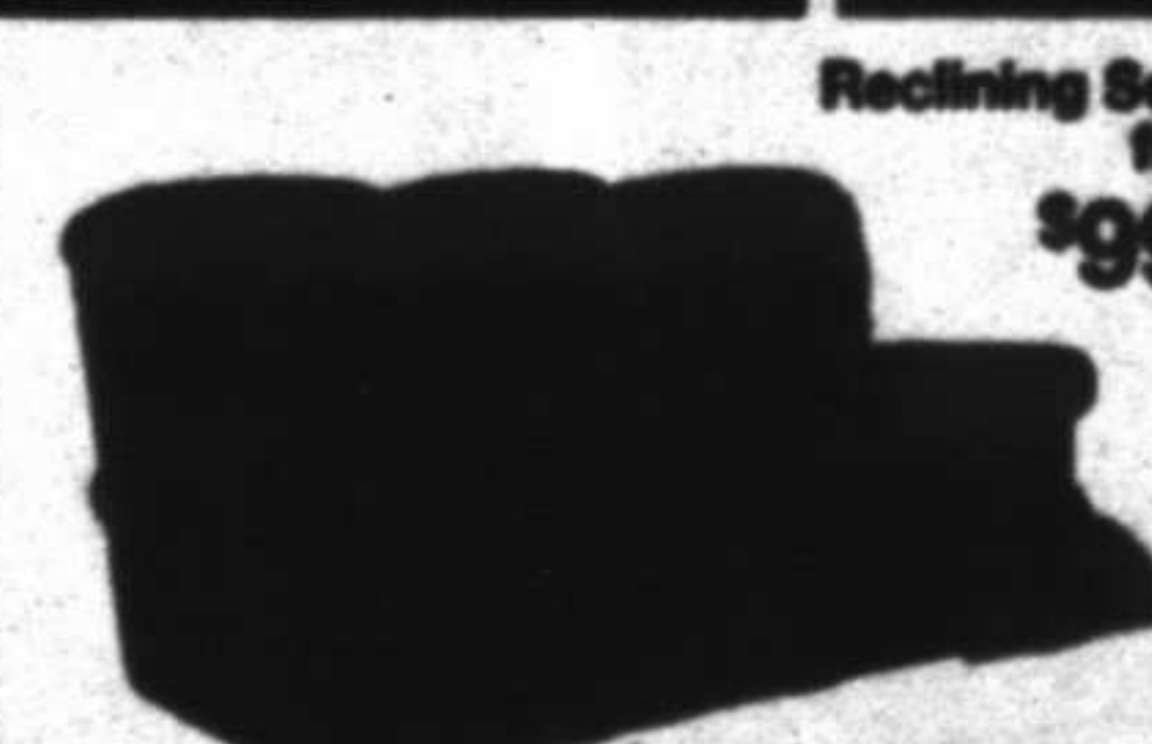
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Vatican hears testimony from alleged McCarrick abuse victim

By Nicole Winfield
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican has taken testimony from a man who says ex-Cardinal Theodore McCarrick sexually abused him for years starting when he was 11, evidence that the initial case against the retired archbishop has expanded to include serious allegations of sexual misconduct, including in the confessional.

James Grein testified Thursday in New York before the judicial vicar for the New York City archdiocese, who was asked by the Holy See to take his statement, said Grein's civil attorney Patrick Noaker.

The testimony, which lasted about an hour, was difficult and stressful but Grein was proud to have done it, Noaker said.

"He wants his church back. He felt that in order to accomplish that end, he had to go in and testify here and tell them what happened, and give the church itself the chance to do the right thing," Noaker said in a telephone interview Friday.

Grein initially came forward in July after the New York archdiocese announced that a church investigation determined that an allegation that McCarrick had groped another teenage altar boy in the 1970s was credible.

Grein's claims, first reported by The New York Times, are more serious. He has alleged that McCarrick, a family friend, first exposed himself to Grein when he was 11 and then sexually molested him for years thereafter.

Noaker said in his testimony Thursday, Grein also gave "chilling" details about alleged repeated incidents of groping during confession — a serious canonical crime on top of the original offense of sexually abusing a minor.

Noaker said combining sexual abuse with confession haunts Grein today.

"People are vulnerable in the confessional. Very vulnerable," he said. "If you



AP file photo

Cardinal Theodore McCarrick speaks March 4, 2015, during a memorial service in South Bend, Ind.

manipulate that, and try to sexualize that, it's extremely emotionally damaging."

McCarrick denied the initial groping allegation of the altar boy and has said through his lawyer he looks forward to his right to due process. It wasn't clear when his testimony would be given.

The McCarrick scandal has sparked a crisis in credibility in the U.S. and Vatican hierarchies, since it was apparently an open secret in some church circles that "Uncle Ted" slept with adult seminarians. Yet McCarrick still rose to the heights of church power, and even acted as the spokesman for U.S. bishops when they enacted a "zero tolerance" policy against sexually abusive priests in 2002.

Pope Francis initially ordered McCarrick removed from public ministry in June after he was accused of groping the teenage altar boy — the first known allegation against him involving a teen. A month later, after former seminarians and Grein came forward, Francis removed McCarrick as a cardinal and ordered him to live a lifetime of penance and prayer while the canonical process ran its course.

Now 88, the former archbishop of Washington is living at a Kansas religious residence.

The Vatican is under pressure to finalize its case against McCarrick before Francis hosts church leaders

at a February sex abuse prevention summit, since Francis himself has been implicated in the yearslong cover-up of McCarrick's misconduct with adults.

While victims have long complained about the way they have been treated during canonical proceedings, Noaker praised the judicial vicar, the Rev. Richard Welch, saying he was compassionate, respectful and patient during Grein's testimony.

Noaker said Welch gave Grein time to compose himself when he testified about an incident in which McCarrick allegedly masturbated Grein in a car. When McCarrick dropped Grein back at home, he allegedly told Grein's parents that the mess was caused by a spilled soda, so Grein's mother went to clean up the car seat.

"That was a really psychologically damaging moment," Noaker said, adding that Grein had to relive it during his testimony. "He closed his eyes. He was sitting in that car with McCarrick, and you could see it. It was moving and terrifying."

The Associated Press does not identify people who say they have been victims of sexual assault unless they grant permission. Grein has gone public with his full name.

In addition to the canonical case against McCarrick, Noaker filed a police report against McCarrick in July.



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Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Saturday, December 29, 2018 | Section B

Alabama set for Oklahoma, title-game berth at stake

By Tim Reynolds
Associated Press

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — Nick Saban knows Alabama cannot win every game. The Crimson Tide merely come close.

This is the fifth year of the College Football Playoff, and the fifth Alabama appearance in the four-team tournament to decide the national champion. The latest quest toward another title, which would be the school's third in the last four years, resumes today when the top-ranked Crimson Tide (13-0) take on fourth-ranked Oklahoma (12-1) in the semifinals at the Orange Bowl.

"It's a good problem to have," said Oklahoma quarterback Kyler Murray, the Heisman Trophy winner. "They win a lot. We win a lot. ... I've heard a lot of people say 'beat Alabama' just because they don't like Alabama or whatever. But I'm not really too much into that."

The game is a matchup between the two highest-scoring offenses in the country,

with Oklahoma slightly outpacing Alabama there. It's also a matchup of arguably the two best players in the country; Murray and Alabama quarterback Tua Tagovailoa were first and second, respectively, in the Heisman voting.

At stake is a berth in the CFP title game on Jan. 7 against either Clemson or Notre Dame. And Alabama has four players who will be appearing in their seventh CFP game — which is absurd, especially when considering that there have been only 12 games total in the event since it was put into place starting with the 2014 season.

"We know we can't be perfect," Saban said. "But we're certainly trying to work every day to close the gap on how good can we be, and are we reaching our full potential in how we improve and work every day." The edge for the Crimson Tide, on paper anyway, is on defense. Alabama comes into this game ranked fourth nationally in points allowed per game, while

Please see STAKE/4B



Alabama quarterback Tua Tagovailoa, left, stretches along with others at practice Thursday in Miami Shores, Fla., for the Orange Bowl against Oklahoma today.

Carl Juste/Miami Herald via AP

Taking control



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Midland High's Nathaniel Rodriguez lays in a basket as Plainview's Austin Hawk is late defending Friday during a game at Chaparral Center in the Byron Johnston Holiday Classic.

MHS bounces back with big win over Plainview

By Christopher Hadorn
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The Midland High boys basketball team got a wide range of contributions when it hit the hardwood against Plainview Friday.

Four players scored in double figures and Xadrian Van Buren came off the bench to record 11 rebounds to push MHS to an 82-55 victory over Plainview in Pool A play at Chaparral Center. Rahkheim Petterson led the way with 23 points, Brett Canis provided 17 points, Nathaniel Rodriguez added 13 points and Adrian Lozano had 12 points as Midland High (9-9) bounced back from a 75-73 loss to Burleson Centennial late Thursday night.

"I think when everybody else is playing their own game and not trying to play as a team, then we play a lot worse

than what we are capable of," Rodriguez said. "When we keep playing as a team, we play a lot better."

MHS took control of the game against Plainview in the second quarter as the Tall City Bulldogs went on a 10-2 run in the first two minutes of the stanza to take a 28-16 lead.

Midland High struck fast, turning defensive stops and turnovers into quick points in transition. Petterson scored eight fast-break points during the run.

"We are really good when we push the ball and get out on the break and make good decisions and finish," MHS head coach Shan Hooker said. "We really are. We've got guys who are fast, quick, athletic. When we do that, we are at our best. We saw an opportunity to get out and run on Plainview and we went out there and executed that game plan."

The 6-foot-1 Rodriguez played a

prominent role in Midland High's transition attack, as he got it started with three steals and seven rebounds.

"In order to play fast, we've got to start on the defensive end first to get defensive stops, so we get the ball on the ground and get it out and play faster than most teams can," Rodriguez said. "It starts on the defensive side, so that's what we try to focus on."

MHS had an impressive effort securing the ball off the glass, as Canis just missed a double-double with nine rebounds. However, Hooker wasn't satisfied with his players' rebounding efforts in the first half.

"We were down at halftime in the rebound count, two or three to Plainview," Hooker said. "That was one of our points of emphasis at halftime was

Please see BOYS/3B

Big second quarter lifts MHS past Greenwood

By Christopher Hadorn
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The Midland High girls basketball team found out Friday that Greenwood can bring it.

The Rangerettes don't have much size or height, but they play with relentless intensity and hustle. Greenwood came out swinging by taking control of the first quarter against MHS in the teams' Pool A finale at the Byron Johnston Holiday Classic at Chaparral Center.

But the Lady Bulldogs got into a groove in the second quarter with a game-defining 19-2 run and ran away with a 48-33 win at Chaparral Center.

MHS (13-9) finished Pool A play in second place with a 2-1 record and advanced to face Midland Classical in today's 11:30 a.m. third-place game at Chaparral Center. Meanwhile, the Rangerettes (5-15) ended Pool A play with a 0-3 mark and meet El Paso Eastlake in today's 9 a.m. seventh-place game at Midland High.

The Rangerettes flustered the Lady Bulldogs in the first quarter with their unyielding energy and pressure defense to take a 12-5 advantage. Undersized Greenwood even won the early rebounding battle, spearheaded by the efforts of Teresa Rodriguez, who pulled down 13 rebounds.

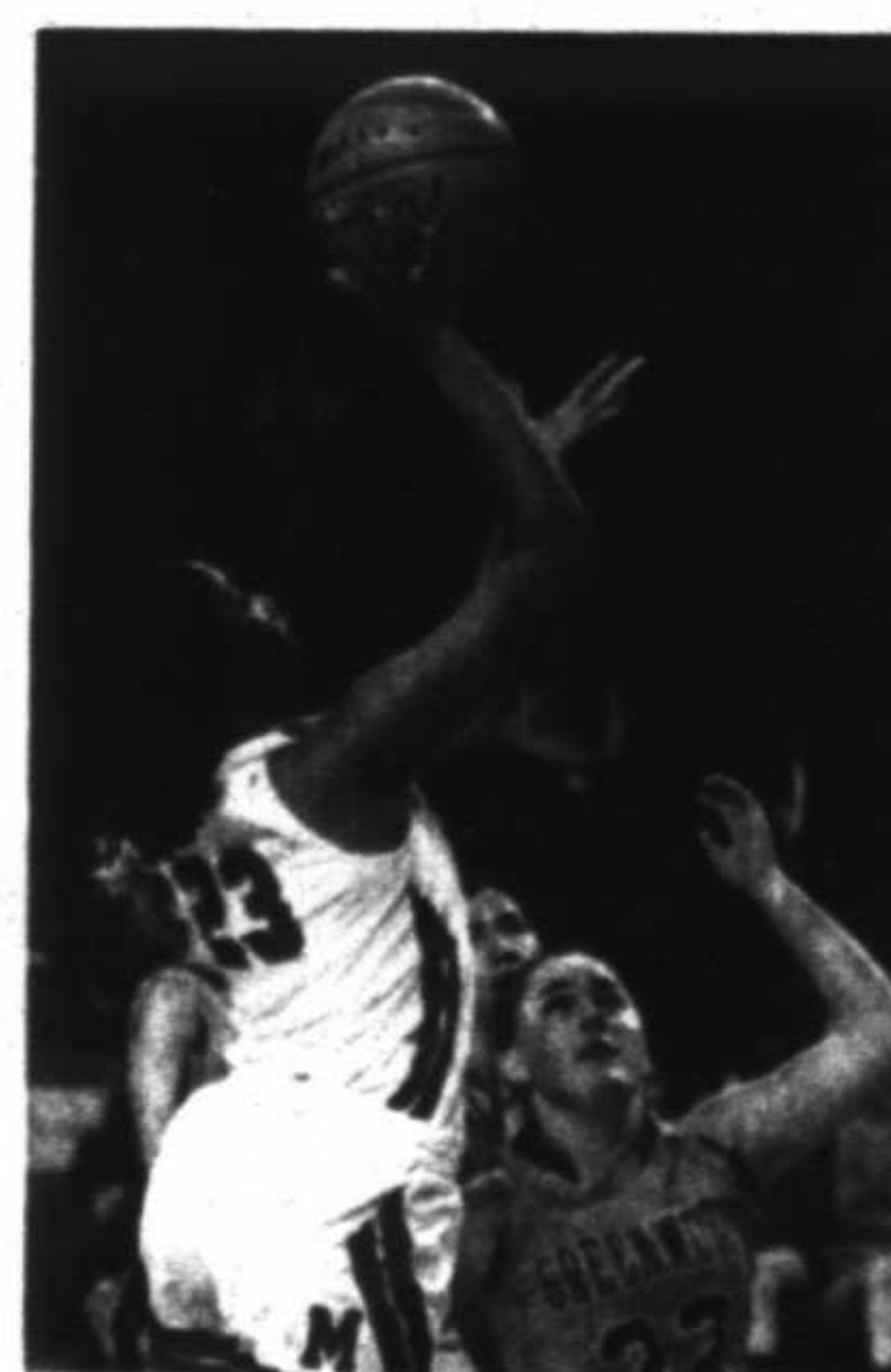
However, MHS turned it around in the second quarter by holding the Rangerettes to no points until Madison Hartman scored on a putback with 1:20 left.

"That's their trademark," Lady Bulldogs head coach Wes Torres said of Greenwood's dogged style. "Every game that I have watched them play in person or on film, they come out and punch the team in the mouth. We just didn't respond very well in the first quarter."

"But we settled down and played much better defense in the second quarter. They had a much harder time scoring from that point forward. Our girls executed how we wanted to defend them. (In the) first quarter we didn't. We kind of did our own thing out there and then they defended the way they're suppose to defend and take away their strengths, and it helped us get some run outs and transition baskets."

Torres said his MHS players adjusted by forcing the Rangerettes to pass it toward the side of the court they aren't as comfortable running their offense in, which in turn created turnovers. Lady

Please see GIRLS/3B



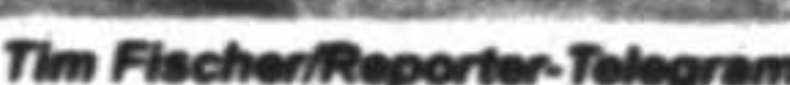
Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Midland High's Kobe Powell puts a shot up over Greenwood's Kenleigh Ellis on Friday in a matchup at the Byron Johnston Holiday Classic at Chaparral Center.



From 1B

From 1B



From staff reports

McCahey 54, Porsan 49
Foster - Freeman 21, Galtner 2, Richard-
son 17, Rife 2
McCahey - Galtner 6, G. Freeman 13, Kennedy
C. Freeman 16, Rife 16
Foster _____ 5 14 14 10 -49
McCahey _____ 12 16 12 16 -54

Spring Woods too much for Lee boys

Nico Hardin had a dou-

CH

Boys
HOUSTON SPRING WOODS 5L LEE 27
 Lee 14-14 - Brian Lyles 5, Zhurc Page 8,
 Jaythan Jones 4, James Chambers 5, Shemar
 Davis 3, Larc Fourny 5, Noah Valdez 3, Myler
 Peltus 4
 Spring Woods 10-41 - Juan Berrera 8, Daniel
 Gibson 16, Jason Crawford 6, Jesse Zarazuela 12,
 Marly Abunda 2, Thomas Hiland 2, Nico Hardin 10
 10 10 10 6 7 10 14 -27
Spring Woods 8 15 17 17 -26
 3-point goals - Lee 1 (Davis), Spring Woods
 5 (Gibson 4, Berrera) Free Throws - Lee 6-14,
 Spring Woods 10-16, Total fouls - Lee 18, Spring

Boys

HOUSTON SPRING WOODS 98, LEE 37
Lee 14-14 - Brian Lays 5, Zhanic Phelps 8,
Jaythan Jones 4, Joseph Chambers 5, Shemar
Davis 3, Loe Foung 5, Noah Valdez 3, Myler
Peltus 4
Spring Woods (14-4) - Juan Bargas 8, Darlen
Gibson 16, Jalen Crawford 6, Jesse Zarzueta 12,
Mehlye Abunde 2, Thomas Hillard 2, Nico Hardin 10
Lee _____ 6 7 10 14 -37
Spring Woods _____ 8 16 17 17 -87
3-point goals - Lee 1 (Davis), Spring Woods
5 (Gibson 4, Bargas, Foung, Phelps) - Lee 6-14,
Spring Woods 10-16. Total fouls - Lee 18, Spring
Woods 22.

Thursday's late box

SUNSHINE CENTRAL 75
MIDLAND HIGH 73
Centennial - Anthony Hunter 13, Taylor
Conaway 17, Zach Bell 7, Nathan Adcox 7,
Jacob Stuckey 17, Monty Johnson 2, Jeb Toben 5,
Caleb Warner 7
Midland - Damon Williams 8, Adrian Lozano
7, Gage Warren 6, Nathaniel Petterson 18, Nathan-
iel Postridge 10, Kameron Van Buren 8, Nicholas
Cassidy 6, Brett Cane 5
Central - 10 25 14 20 24 - 79
Midland - 16 17 30 17 - 79
3-point goals - Centennial 8 (Conaway 4,
Stuckey 3), Midland 4 (Williams 2, Lozano,
Petterson), Free throws - Centennial 19-27, Mid-
land 7-14. Total fouls - Centennial 19, Midland 22.
Fouled out - Conaway, Bell, Petterson, Technical

Byron Johnston Holiday Classic Basketball Tournament

Bugs
Post A Midland High, Plainsview, Burleson
Centralwest, San Angelo Central
Post B Low, El Paso Petrole Hills, Houston
Spring Woods, Canyon Ranchall
Therapy
At Chagresal Center
Houston Spring Woods 82, Canyon Ranchall
31
San Angelo Central 78, Plainsview 53
El Paso Petrole Hills 66, Low 85, OT
Burleson Central 74, Midland High 73
Friday
At Chagresal Center
Houston Spring Woods 81, Low 27
Midland High 82, Plainsview 59
Houston Spring Woods 43, El Paso Petrole
Hills 39
San Angelo Central 66, Midland High 65
At Midland High
El Paso Petrole Hills 58, Canyon Ranchall, 39
Burleson Central 71, San Angelo Central 71
41
Burleson Central 74, Plainsview 37

At Large
Canyon Randall 50, Lee 47

Saturday

At Chagall Center
Championship: Bufton Centennial vs.
Houston Spring Woods, 4 p.m.
Third-place: San Angelo Central vs. El Paso
Pebble Hills, 1 p.m.
Fifth-place: Midland High vs. Canyon Randall,

10 a.m.
At Midland High
Seventh-place Plaines vs. Lee, 10:30 a.m.
Girls
Pool A: Midland High, Greenwood, Buffalo,
El Paso Public Hls
Pool B: Lee, Midland Classical, Plaines, El
Paso Eastside
Thursday
At Chaperal Center

Midland 48, Greenwood 36
Plainview 71, Midland Classical 48
Lee 45, El Paso Eastside 41
Midland High 50, El Paso Pueblo Hills 48
Friday
At Chapel Center
Midland Classical 51, Lee 48

Bushard 47, Midland High 38
 Midland Classical 50, El Paso Eastlake 41
 Midland High 48, Greenwood 33
 At Midland High
 Patovar 46, El Paso Eastlake 39
 El Paso Public Hills 44, Greenwood 39

Richard 50, El Paso Public Hls 44
At Lab
Lee 45, Patricia 41
Today
At Chaparral Center

Championship: Sutherland vs. Plainville
2:30 p.m.
Third-place: Midland High vs. Midland Class-
ical, 11:50 a.m.
Fifth-place: El Paso Public Hills vs. Lee,
9:30 a.m.
At Midland High
Fourth-place: Garwood vs. El Paso

Brewer helps Baylor beat Vanderbilt 45-38 in Texas Bowl

By Kristie Rieken
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Before Baylor faced Vanderbilt in the Texas Bowl on Thursday night, coach Matt Rhule asked his players to think about where they were a year ago after the team finished 1-11.

After taking a moment to reflect on that, the Bears returned their focus to 2018 and finished an impressive turnaround with a huge performance from quarterback Charlie Brewer in a 45-38 win. Brewer threw for 384 yards and two touchdowns, the second a tiebreaking 52-yarder in the fourth quarter, and ran for 109 yards and another score.

Brewer, who was selected MVP, connected with Marques Jones for the 52-yard strike that made it 45-38 with less than two minutes left. The Bears then stopped Vanderbilt on fourth-and-5 to secure the win.

Brewer's other touchdown pass was a 75-yarder earlier in the fourth quarter, and he scored on a 1-yard run in the third.

The Bears finished 7-6 a year after losing all but one game in Rhule's first season.

"They've just continued to evolve every week into a good team and battled through adversity," he said. "They did it by working hard and working together."

Brewer compared his first two seasons at Baylor.

"It feels a lot better to be in this position than in the position we were in last year," he said.

Vanderbilt (6-7) was led by Kyle Shurmur, who threw for 286 yards and a touchdown, and Ke'Shawn Vaughn, who ran for two touchdowns and set a Texas Bowl record with 243 yards rushing — which ranks second in school history. Shurmur moved past Jay Cutler (8,697) for most career yards passing in school history with 8,865.

Vanderbilt coach Derek Mason raved about Brewer and was disappointed his team couldn't contain him.

"The dual threat at the



Michael Wyke/AP

Baylor running back John Lovett (7) slips through the tackle attempt by Vanderbilt linebacker Josh Smith (25) to score during the first half of the Texas Bowl on Thursday in Houston.

quarterback position was huge tonight," Mason said. "He ran as well as their running backs did. The reality was, he was the difference in this ballgame. He was able to keep drives alive with his legs and that was tough for us."

Baylor led by three with about 10 1/2 minutes left when a pass intended for Denzel Mims bounced off him as he fell in the end zone and was intercepted by Randall Haynie, who grabbed the ball and stood on tiptoes before falling backward out of the end zone.

Two plays later, Vaughn ran 66 yards to get Vanderbilt to the 1, and Khari Blasingame ran it in on the next play to put the Commodores up 35-31. The Bears regained the lead when Trestant Ebner scored on a 75-yard catch and run on the first play of the next drive.

Vanderbilt tied it on a 33-yard field goal with 3 1/2 minutes remaining.

Ebner's 34-yard touchdown run gave Baylor a 24-21 lead early in the third quarter. The Bears padded the lead when Brewer scrambled for a 1-yard score with about five minutes left in the third.

Vanderbilt had a chance to cut the lead to three after that, but Jared Pinkney fumbled after a 32-yard reception and the Bears recovered

it at their own 2. But Baylor couldn't move the ball and had to punt.

Shurmur threw a 52-yard pass to Amir Abdur-Rahman to get the Commodores to the 2-yard line, and Blasingame scored on the next play to get to 31-28 near the end of the third quarter.

The Commodores took a 7-0 lead when Shurmur connected with Blasingame on a short pass and dashed down the field for a career-long 65-yard touchdown reception on the third play of the game.

The Bears settled for a 23-yard field goal on their first drive before taking a 10-7 lead when John Lovett ran 12 yards for a touchdown with about two minutes left in the first quarter.

Vanderbilt went back on top 14-10 when Vaughn ran 68 yards for a touchdown late in the first.

JaMycah Hasty gave Baylor a 17-14 lead when he scored on an 18-yard run early in the second quarter.

But Vaughn's second long run came not long after that to make it 21-17. Vaughn broke a couple of tackles and then outran the rest of the defense for a 69-yard score. Jameson Houston dove at his feet near the 20-yard line, but barely clipped one of his legs and Vaughn didn't break his stride on the way to the end zone.

Cotton Bowl: Can Notre Dame measure up to No. 2 Clemson?

By Ralph D. Russo
Associated Press

DALLAS — The question was about sustaining high-level success in college football and Dabo Swinney's answer lasted 3 minutes, 40 seconds. Brevity is not the Clemson coach's strong suit.

Swinney talked about how people make the program, continuity leads to consistency, and how it can't just be about the results on the scoreboard.

"It's a holistic approach. It's social. It's spiritual. It's life skills. It's career development. It's every area," Swinney said Friday during the final Cotton Bowl news conference. "And I think our commitment to that has been a big reason that we've been able to sustain our success because I think certain types of young people have bought into that."

As Swinney talked, Notre Dame coach Brian Kelly listened — a joint news conference with Swinney involves a lot of listening — occasionally nodding his head in agreement. Swinney has built the Tigers into what Notre Dame used to be and what Kelly is trying to recreate in South Bend, Indiana.

The second-ranked Tigers (13-0) face the third-ranked Fighting Irish (12-0) on Saturday in Notre Dame's first College Football Playoff appearance. It is Clemson's fourth straight. The winner will play for the national championship on Jan. 7 in Santa Clara, California. Clemson has played for

the title twice in the past three seasons. Kelly marveled at Clemson's consistency under Swinney.

"It's easy to get distracted," Kelly said. "And to keep that within your culture in your program requires just to have an eye on it every single day. So his ability to continue to keep his program year in and year out at the top of college football requires more than just recruiting good players."

Kelly has been at Notre Dame for nine years and had the most successful run for a Fighting Irish coach since Lou Holtz, who won the school's last national title in 1988. The only coaches who have won more games at Notre Dame than Kelly (81-34) are Hall of Famers Knute Rockne (105), Holtz (100), Ara Parseghian (95) and Frank Leahy (87).

Kelly has only once been this close to a national championship and after Alabama beat the Irish 42-14 in the 2012 BCS championship game, Notre Dame really didn't seem all that close in retrospect. Just two seasons ago, the Irish went 4-8 and Kelly overhauled his staff and his approach to leading a team. The result was a huge turnaround to 10-3 last year. The foundation appears to be in place for the Irish to regularly contend for the playoff.

Still, Kelly and his team have downplayed any talk of the Cotton Bowl being a barometer for the program. Sure, the Irish are here again on the big stage, but do they really belong?

COLLEGE BOWL ROUNDUP

Associated Press

Stidham, Auburn throttle Purdue 63-14 at Music City Bowl

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Auburn finished its up-and-down season with a spectacular performance.

A record-setting encore in the Music City Bowl, Jarrett Stidham threw for a career-high 373 yards and five touchdowns in his final college game, and Auburn pounded Purdue 63-14 on Friday.

The Tigers (8-5) opened the season with a top-10 ranking before stumbling in Southeastern Conference play against unranked and ranked teams alike. The Tigers finished with their first postseason victory since the 2015 Birmingham Bowl against Memphis and a whole bunch of records.

Auburn scored the most points by an SEC team in a bowl, topping Alabama's 61-6 win over Syracuse in the Orange Bowl on Jan. 1, 1953. The Tigers had a chance to match the most points ever in a bowl at 70, most recently by Army in the Armed Forces Bowl last week, but took a knee at the Purdue 1 after a replay review overturned a very late TD run by Joey Gatewood.

"We've had some ups and downs this year," Auburn coach Gus Malzahn said, crediting his seniors for keeping the Tigers together. "This was a big win for us."

Stidham, a junior who already has declared his intention to leave early for the NFL draft, got the Tigers off to a fast start, and they just poured it on from there.

"We just tried to make those explosive plays that we've needed all year," Stidham said. Auburn scored TDs on its first eight possessions. It tied the Music City Bowl records for most points and TDs set by West Virginia in 2000 — with 536 left in the first half. By halftime, Auburn led 56-7 with the most points scored in any half in program history after holding the ball for only 11 minutes. It was the most points by one team in a half in any bowl.

"I mean it was a thing of beauty to watch from the sideline to watch the guys make plays," Malzahn said. "When we make explosive plays and we play fast, we're a pretty good offense, and today it all came together. I really believe that will carry over to next season."

Purdue (6-7) dropped three of its last four games in its second season under coach Jeff Brohm. "That one snowballed faster than most," Brohm said. "I've been part of games that were a bad outcome, but that one happened fast. Credit to them, they made their breaks. Every little thing that went wrong seemed like it could. We got behind the eight-ball early."

Auburn started the game with the ball and needed only 63 seconds to set the tone, with Stidham finding Jarvious Whitlow for a 66-yard TD pass. Whitlow also added a pair of short TD runs as Auburn led 28-7 at the end of the first quarter.

The Tigers outgained Purdue 586-263 in total offense and had only one three-and-out late in the third quarter. Purdue was intercepted twice and turned it over on downs twice. Auburn punted once all game.

Darius Slayton set a bowl record with TD catches of 74, 52 and 34 yards and finished with 160 yards receiving. Javarris Davis had a sack and an interception in the first quarter for Auburn, and Big Kat Bryant returned an interception 20 yards for a 45-7 lead with 12:29 left in the first half.

THE TAKEAWAY

Purdue: With defensive tackle Lorenzo Neal out after tearing an ACL in the regular-season finale against Indiana, the Boilermakers had little answer for anything Auburn tried on offense.

Auburn: It sure looks as if Malzahn made the right decision when he took back the play-calling duties he handled his first three seasons at Auburn. Only five other teams have scored more in a bowl game, and the Tigers set a school record for total yards in a bowl.

PLAYING THE BOWL

Stidham bucked the new trend of not playing in bowl games, and he very likely helped his draft stock with his performance. He was 13 of 18 for 335 yards and four TDs at halftime and nearly had a TD run only to be ruled just short. Stidham said he had to play as a competitor.

"In my two short years here, I've grown so close to these guys I could never imagine not finishing the season with them," Stidham said.

UP NEXT

STAKE

From 1B

Oklahoma is ranked 96th.

"We've prepared well," said Oklahoma coach Lincoln Riley, the 35-year-old offensive mastermind who will be coaching in his 15th bowl game already. "Confident in the way our team has approached this entire month. We've had a great week here so far. Can't wait for Saturday night."

Here's some other things to know going into the Orange Bowl:

Record seekers

Alabama and Clemson (which plays Notre Dame in the Cotton Bowl on Saturday) both enter the CFP with a chance to go 15-0 — should either claim the national championship. And that would be truly rare air. The NCAA defines the "modern era" as starting

in 1937, and no team has won more than 14 games in a season during that span. The last team to go 15-0 at the top level of college football was Penn, back in 1897.

Rare meeting

For a couple of storied programs, Alabama and Oklahoma haven't faced off very often. The Sooners lead the all-time series 3-1-1, and three of those matchups have been in bowl games — starting with the Orange Bowl on Jan. 1, 1963, a 17-0 Alabama victory. Their most recent matchup was on Jan. 2, 2014 in the Sugar Bowl, when the Sooners prevailed 45-31. Alabama is 66-5 since.

Saban milestones

The NCAA record books

Purdue: Brohm has a lot to replace with a senior class of 29 counting walk-ons. The departing Boilermakers include quarterback David Blough and top running backs in D.J. Knox and Markell Jones.

Auburn: The search for Stidham's replacement began with sophomore Malik Willis getting the first look once Malzahn finally pulled his starting quarterback with 1:33 left. Gatewood also played late.

Syracuse tops West Virginia in Camping World Bowl, 34-18

ORLANDO, Fla. — Abdul Adams and Trishon Jackson made their Syracuse debuts memorable, combining to score three touchdowns and helping the 17th-ranked Orange secure their first 10-win season since 2001 by topping No. 15 West Virginia 34-18 in the Camping World Bowl on Friday.

Adams rushed for two first-half scores, and Jackson hauled in a TD pass from Eric Dungey on the first play of the fourth quarter for Syracuse (10-3), which survived a game that featured eight lead changes. Adams and Jackson were both transfers who had to sit out a year, which by NCAA rule was satisfied at the end of the first semester.

Dungey completed 21 of 30 passes for 303 yards for the Orange, who trailed 18-17 going into the final quarter.

Barely five minutes later, it was 34-18. Syracuse Dungey connected with Jackson, the Orange got an interception one play later and turned that possession into a field goal by Andre Szmyt, and Jarveon Howard barreled in from 4 yards out with 9:59 left to cap the SU flurry.

Syracuse got a fourth-and-goal stop on the next possession, and from there the orange-clad faithful who came south from Central New York could start to celebrate.

Jack Allison, making his first collegiate start because West Virginia star quarterback Will Grier elected to skip the bowl game and focus on preparing for the NFL, completed 17 of 35 passes for 277 yards for the Mountaineers (8-4).

Kennedy McCoy had a 3-yard touchdown run for West Virginia on a direct snap, and Evan Staley made four field goals for the Mountaineers. Szmyt made a pair of field goals for Syracuse, ending his freshman season with 30 — one shy of the Football Bowl Subdivision record set in 2003 by Georgia's Billy Bennett.

THE TAKEAWAY

Syracuse: Dungey came into the game holding or sharing 18 Syracuse records, and got another one in his collegiate finale. He passed Ryan Nassib (9,190) for most passing yards in Syracuse history, finishing his career with 9,340 — the record-breaker coming on a 6-yard toss to Chris Emdore in the third quarter.

West Virginia: The Mountaineers fell in a bowl game for the third consecutive season, but probably have a good idea about their starting quarterback in 2019. Allison had nine completions go for more than 15 yards.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

Syracuse will end the season in the AP Top 25 for the first time since 2001, when it finished No. 14. The last time the Orange finished a season higher than that was 1992, when they were No. 6.

TRICKERATION

Season over — may as well empty the playbook. Both sides tried first-half trickery, albeit in vain. Syracuse called for a throwback pass on a kickoff return and didn't even get to its own 10-yard line (though wound up getting Adams' first TD on that drive). West Virginia tried a double reverse and pass attempt to backup quarterback Trey Lowe III, who hauled in Trevon Wesco's throw but was out of bounds.

RARE MISS

Staley came in as one of 13 major college kickers to be 75-for-75 or better on extra-point tries over the last two seasons. He missed his first PAT attempt Friday, the ball bouncing off the right upright. Going back to his senior high school season, Staley — who was only 7 years old when he told late coach Bill Stewart that he was going to West Virginia — had made 101 consecutive PAT tries.

UP NEXT

Syracuse: Visit Liberty — and new coach Hugh Freeze — on Aug. 31, 2019.
West Virginia: Host James Madison on Aug. 31, 2019.

COLLEGE BOWL GLANCE

Associated Press

Saturday, Dec. 16 Celebration Bowl At Atlanta	Waco Forest 37, Memphis 34 Armed Forces Bowl Fort Worth	Syracuse 34, West Virginia 18 Alamo Bowl San Antonio	Gator Bowl Jacksonville, Fla.
N.C. A&T 24, Akron State 22 At Atlanta	Army 70, Houston 14 Dellor General Bowl Dallas, Ala.	Utah State 8-4 vs. Washington State 10-2, live at Las Vegas	NC State 9-5 vs. Texas A&M 9-6, 5:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Texas 41, Louisiana-Lafayette 24 New Mexico Bowl Albuquerque	Troy 42, Buffalo 32 Herald Bowl Riverside	Florida 9-5 vs. Michigan 10-2, 11 a.m. (ESPN)	Tuesday, Jan. 1 Outback Bowl Tampa, Fla.
Utah State 52, North Texas 13 Las Vegas Bowl Las Vegas	Louisiana Tech 31, Fresno 14 SEC/ESPN First Responder Bowl Dallas	South Carolina 7-6 vs. Virginia 7-6, 11 a.m. (ABC)	Mississippi State 8-4 vs. Iowa 8-4, 11 a.m. (ESPN2)
Fresno State 31, Arizona State 20 Camelback Bowl Flagstaff, Ariz.	Boston College vs. Boise State, col. weather Golden Lane Bowl Durham	Arkansas State 8-4 vs. Nevada 7-6, 12:15 p.m. (CBSN)	Kentucky 9-5 vs. Penn State 9-5, noon (ABC)
Georgia Southern 23, Eastern Michigan 21 New Orleans Bowl New Orleans	Minnesota 34, Georgia Tech 10 Chick-fil-A Bowl Atlanta	CFP semifinal, Notre Dame (13-0) vs. Clemson (13-0), 3 p.m. (ESPN)	Florida Bowl Orlando, Fla.
Appalachian State 45, Middle Tennessee 13 Tombigbee Bowl Tombigbee	TCU 10, California 7, OT Thursday, Dec. 27 Independence Bowl Shreveport, La.	CFP semifinal, Oklahoma (10-1) vs. Alabama (13-0), 7 p.m. (ESPN)	LSU 9-5 vs. UCF 12-0, noon (ESPN)
UAB 37, Northern Illinois 13 Pitino Bowl Pittsburgh	Duke 35, Temple 27 Pinstripe Bowl New York	Cincinnati 10-2 vs. Virginia Tech 9-4, 11 a.m. (ESPN)	Super Bowl New Orleans
Ohio State 27, San Diego State 0 Thursday, Dec. 28 Goodyear Bowl At St. Petersburg, Fla.	Wisconsin 35, Miami 3 Texas Bowl Houston	Stanford 9-4 vs. Pittsburgh 7-6, 1 p.m. (CBS)	Washington 10-3 vs. Ohio State 12-1, 4 p.m. (ESPN)
Marshall 38, South Florida 20 Friday, Dec. 21 Birmingham Bowl Birmingham	Baylor 45, Vanderbilt 38 Friday, Dec. 28 South City Bowl Houston, Texas	Michigan State 7-5 vs. Oregon 9-4, 2 p.m. (FOX)	College Football Championship Santa Clara, Calif.
FIU 35, Toledo 32 Famous Mike Pataki Bowl Bates	Auburn 63, Purdue 14 Camping World Bowl Orlando, Fla.	Massachusetts 9-4 vs. Oklahoma State 8-4, 2:45 p.m. (ESPN)	Collier Bowl winner vs. Orange Bowl winner, 7 p.m. (ESPN)
BYU 45, Western Michigan 16 Saturday, Dec. 22 Birmingham (Ala.) Bowl		Northwestern 8-4 vs. Utah 9-4, 6 p.m. (FS1)	Saturday, Jan. 7 College Football Championship Santa Clara, Calif.
			East-West Shrine Classic At St. Petersburg, Fla.
			East vs. West, 2 p.m. (NFLN)
			WFLA College Bowl At Pasadena, Calif.
			American vs. National, TBA (NFLN)
			Saturday, Jan. 28 Senior Bowl At Hattiesburg, Miss.
			North vs. South, 1:30 p.m. (NFLN)

Florida aims for statement win over Michigan in Peach Bowl

By Charles Odum
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Dan Mullen knows he was hired to do more than just lead Florida to any bowl game.

Mullen's mandate is to bring championships to the Gators. His first-year results show he's on the right path.

There may be no better way for Florida to cap its dramatic 2018 rebound under Mullen than to finally beat Michigan for the first time in Saturday's Peach Bowl. Michigan is 4-0 in the series, including a runaway win in the 2017 season-opening game.

Mullen has led Florida (9-3) to a dramatic turnaround from a 4-7 finish in 2017.

"I think you're at the University of Florida, you expect to be playing not just in bowl games, you expect to be playing in New Year's Six bowls and championship bowls," Mullen said Friday.

Michigan (10-2) is a perfect measuring stick for Florida.

The Wolverines will play Florida for the third time in Jim Harbaugh's four seasons as coach. Michigan opened the 2017 season with a 33-17 win over the Gators and beat them 41-7 in the 2016 Citrus Bowl.

Overall, Michigan is 4-0 against the Gators. The more important record to Michigan fans is Harbaugh's 0-4 record against rival Ohio State, including a crushing 62-39 loss on Nov. 24.

Michigan wanted to win the Big Ten title for the first time since 2004 and the national championship for the first time since 1997. The ugly loss to Ohio State dashed those hopes.

"Right now, to be frank, we have a bad taste in our mouths," said Michigan offensive coordinator Pep Hamilton.

The Wolverines will play without four key starters, including top rusher Karan Higdon, who is skipping the game to focus on the NFL draft.

Florida has all its players and ample motivation to make a statement.

Florida fullback R.J. Raymond said beating Michigan would show the Gators are on the move.

"That'd be huge for coach Mullen and huge for this program, especially if we can come out with a win against a team like Michigan," Raymond said.

"They've got just a big of a brand as we do, so being able to beat them would be huge and would really send this program in the right direction. It would kind of show the Gators are back and we're not playing around anymore and we'll be back for good, especially under coach Mullen."

Here are some more things to know about the Florida-Michigan Peach Bowl matchup:

Motivated Michigan

Harbaugh has tried to sell his players on the goal of an 11th win for only the 10th time in school history.

"We're ready to go and ready to compete," Harbaugh said Friday.

Wide receiver Donovan Peoples-Jones said players "have to play for ourselves and for Michigan. There's seniors that are going to be playing their last game, so for me it's not going to be hard to be motivated."

"It's on a big stage so I'm happy."

Return ticket

Mullen said he hopes to return to Atlanta in 2019, when the Peach Bowl will be the site of a College Football Playoff semifinal. Mercedes-Benz Stadium also is home to the Southeastern Conference championship game.

Florida's best path to the playoff.

Gone but not forgotten

Harbaugh said he respected the four draft-eligible players who are skipping the game. He also seemed to indicate he didn't agree with the decisions made by Higdon and right tackle Juwan Bushell-Beatty, who are seniors, and two juniors, defensive end Rashan Gary and linebacker Devin Bush.

"I mean, we respect it," Harbaugh said. "It's someone's right, we respect that it's their decision to make. We don't push anybody in the back to go play football. I will say even further, I think I've grown in terms of even respecting people when I don't agree with what their decision is."

Higdon led the Wolverines with 1,178 yards rushing and 10 touchdowns. Bush led the team with 80 tackles. Gary had 44 tackles and 3 1/2 sacks. Higdon started the first 11 games.

History lesson

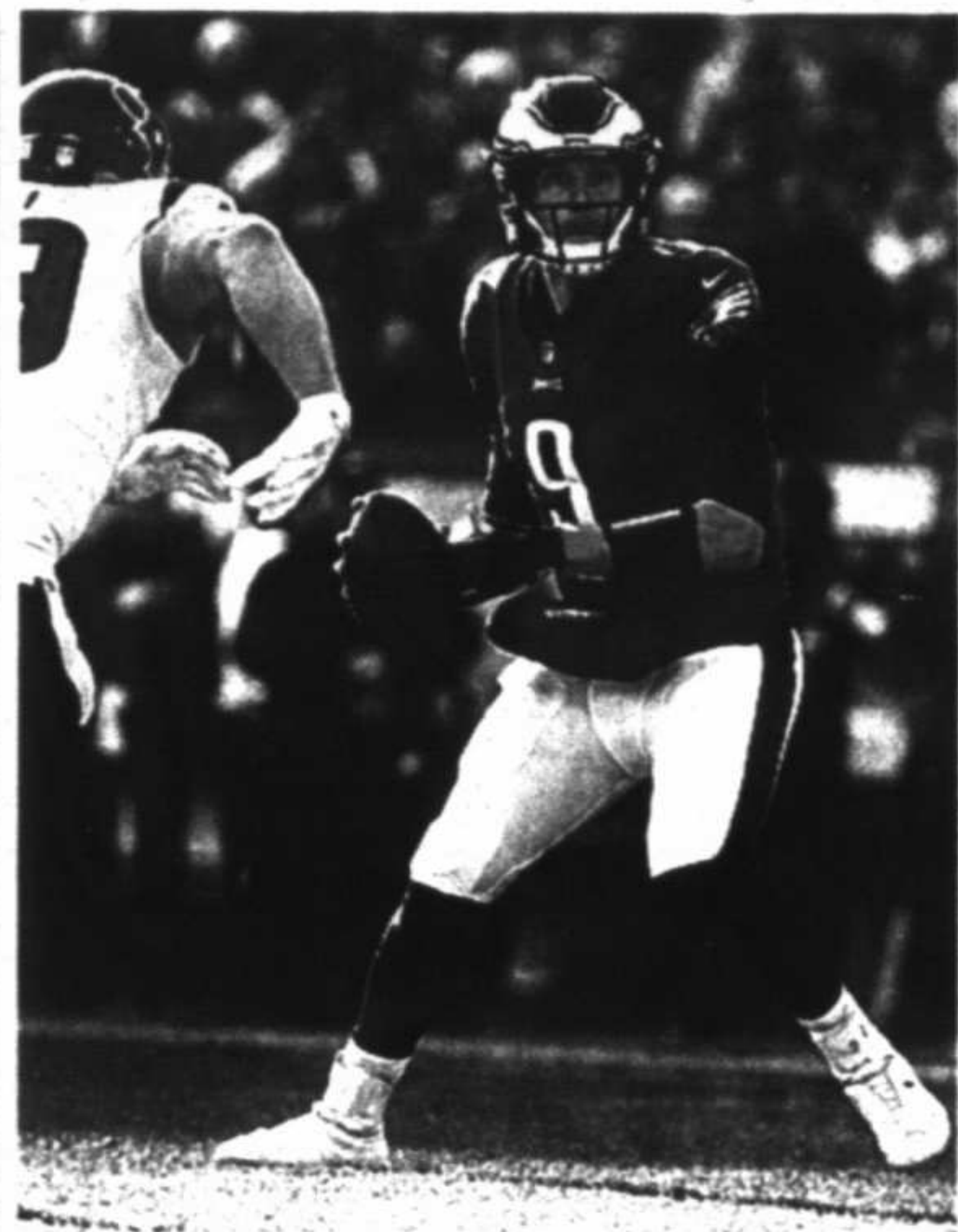
This is Michigan's first Peach Bowl appearance. Florida is 0-2 in the game with losses to West Virginia in 1981 and Miami in 2004.

Non-denial denial

Harbaugh replied to speculation about his possible interest in the NFL earlier this month when he said firmly he is staying at Michigan. Even so, he was asked again Friday if he or his representatives had been contacted by any NFL team.

This time, Harbaugh was more evasive.

"I really don't have any representatives," he said. "No agent or anything."



Matt Rourke/AP

Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Nick Foles looks for a receiver as Houston Texans' J.J. Watt rushes Sunday during the first half in Philadelphia. The Eagles would earn the NFC's final wild-card berth if they win Sunday and the Vikings (8-6-1) lose at home against the Bears (11-4). Foles has performed well in high-pressure situations the past two seasons while filling in for Carson Wentz. He's 5-0 in must-win games and earned Super Bowl MVP honors in a win over New England last February.

Strong sense of inner peace helps Nick Foles perform well

By Rob Maaddi
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Nick Foles plays with a strong sense of inner peace because he doesn't allow success or failure to define him.

Win or lose, he's the same guy.

"My identity is rooted in Christ, not in my accomplishments," Foles said a few days before he leads the Philadelphia Eagles (8-7) against the Washington Redskins (7-8) in another big game.

The Eagles would earn the NFC's final wild-card berth if they win Sunday and the Vikings (8-6-1) lose at home against the Bears (11-4).

Foles has performed well at quarterback in high-pressure situations the past two seasons while filling in for Carson Wentz. He's 5-0 in must-win games and earned Super Bowl MVP honors in a win over New England last February.

"Playing in the Super Bowl is really a big stage but I remember staying in the moment, not worrying about the clock, not worrying about the score," Foles said. "It was peaceful, which it shouldn't be, but it was."

He said he hasn't mastered his "stay-in-the-moment" philosophy but he's working on it daily.

"I still have to remind myself," Foles said. "There are times you get overwhelmed, you get excited thinking about all the things you want to accomplish. ... I'm still learning. I don't have it conquered."

The Eagles were on the verge of playoff elimination when a back injury forced Wentz out of the lineup earlier this month, but Foles came to the rescue again.

He helped the 13 1/2-point underdog Eagles beat the Los Angeles Rams 30-23 on the road, and set a franchise-record with 471 yards passing in a 32-30 comeback win over Houston last week.

Teammates have raved about Foles' leadership

skills and confidence.

"He's extremely calm. He's always exuding positivity," tight end Zach Ertz said. "He's playing at an extremely high level. We love playing for him."

Foles doesn't get flustered when things go wrong. He doesn't call out guys on the sideline or argue with coaches.

"There will be mistakes. I might throw a pick. I might fumble," he said. "But what are we gonna do? That's where we need to react and be confident and be positive."

Staying consistent on and off the field is important to Foles.

"When I step in the huddle, I'm not going to change, when we're at a restaurant or out in public (I'm not going to change)," he said. "I want to be who I am. I want to be genuine, and I think that's a powerful thing."

Foles is 22-7 as a starter for the Eagles over two stints since his rookie season in 2012. He has experienced plenty of highs and lows — he was traded by the Eagles in 2015 and released by the Rams in 2016 — during his seven seasons in the NFL and now faces an uncertain future.

The Eagles are committed to Wentz as their franchise quarterback so they're expected to decline an option to pay Foles \$20 million in 2019, allowing him to become a free agent. Foles became emotional talking about the possibility he has played his last game in Philadelphia.

"This city means a lot to me, this team means a lot to me, wearing that jersey means a lot to me," he said. "I'm very grateful for every opportunity to play here, to play in front of our fans, to wear that jersey no matter what. No one can ever take that away from me."

Wherever Foles goes, fans in Philadelphia will always consider him a hero for winning the franchise's first Vince Lombardi Trophy.

College Football Playoff teams go national to stock rosters

By Ralph D. Russo
Associated Press

ARLINGTON — Notre Dame has always cast a wide net to find football players.

The Fighting Irish recruit coast-to-coast, befitting of their independent status and necessary for a small Catholic school, with high academic standards, located in a state that does not produce a lot of major-college talent.

The first Notre Dame team to reach the College Football Playoff has players who were signed to scholarships out of high school by the Irish from 24 states, plus Washington D.C. and Canada, the most far-flung roster of four semifinalists. These days, though, Notre Dame's approach is not uncommon — especially among the top programs.

No. 1 Alabama's roster includes recruits signed from 22 states, from Connecticut to California, with pickups from Pennsylvania, Indiana, Utah and Hawaii to go along with all that Deep South talent. The Crimson Tide faces No. 4 Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl semifinal on Saturday. The Sooners have developed productive pipelines into California and Florida to complement a stronghold across the border in Texas.

No. 2 Clemson, Notre Dame's Cotton Bowl opponent Saturday, has lately been taking advantage of a raised profile to stretch outside its Carolinas/Georgia home base.

"It comes with winning," said Mike Farrell, national recruiting director from Rivals. "You don't recruit nationally first. You win first and then you recruit nationally if you're in one of those areas that have a lot of talent."

Over the last decade under coach Nick Saban, Alabama has won more than any program. The Tide is in its fifth straight playoff, looking for a sixth national title since 2009. Alabama's foundation is built in state. The Tide have 20 players signed from Alabama on their roster, nearly double the second-most from a state (Florida, 11). But Alabama also has as many signees from California, including All-America tackle Jonah Williams, on its roster (five) as it has from neighboring Mississippi.



Brynn Anderson/AP

Alabama head coach Nick Saban coaches Alabama defensive back Josh Jobe during an NCAA football practice Wednesday in Miami Shores, Fla. Alabama plays Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl today.

"We have a system of evaluation that we use on players, it doesn't matter where they are," Saban said. "If they meet the criteria we're looking for at a position and we have defined criteria that we're looking for at each position, critical factors that we look for, and when guys have them we start recruiting them."

And because Alabama churns out NFL players much the way it racks up championships, Saban's staff can get into the conversation with any recruit anywhere — like quarterback Tua Tagovailoa, whose family moved with him from Hawaii to Tuscaloosa. His brother, Taulia Tagovailoa, is part of Alabama's latest signing class.

Even though Alabama is in the Southeastern Conference and Oklahoma is in the Big 12, the Tide and Sooners regularly cross paths on the recruiting trail, especially in Texas.

"Oh yeah, (Oklahoma) recruited me," Alabama All-America safety Deionte Thompson said. "But you know, my mom just fell in love with this place, so once mom said 'This is where you're coming,' I didn't have no other choice."

Oklahoma has 23 players on its roster signed from Texas, more than any other state. But under former coach Bob Stoops, the Sooners took advantage of staff connections in California to make it a reliable source of talent. The 2010 class with four-star

California recruits Tony Jefferson and Kenny Stills is credited with establishing Oklahoma's western front. The Sooners' nine current California signees are third-most behind Texas and Oklahoma (16).

Now, under coach Lincoln Riley, who came to Oklahoma after a stint as offensive coordinator at East Carolina, the Sooners have some pull in the southeast. Oklahoma has four players signed from North Carolina and four from Florida, including star receiver Marquise Brown.

"I think they've set a national identity particularly with this offense and particularly with a coach in Lincoln Riley that has the energy and the willingness to really be aggressive on the recruiting trail to go and take on some battles nationally," said Barton Simmons, director of scouting for 247 Sports.

Among the playoff teams, none has a roster more loaded with players signed from its backyard than Clemson. The Tigers have 48 players signed out of North Carolina (10), Georgia (18) and home-state South Carolina (20). Throw in another five from Florida and four from Virginia.

"We love that footprint, for sure," recruiting coordinator and quarterbacks coach Brandon Streeter said.

But as Clemson has become a national powerhouse under coach Dabo Swinney, making the playoff four straight seasons and winning a national title in 2016,

recruits from all over have been seeking out the Tigers, similar to the way they do the Tide.

"How do they do they do that? They either contact us or they come see us unofficially," Streeter said.

Linebacker Isaiah Simmons from Olathe, Kansas, said he didn't know anything about Clemson until a year before he enrolled. The school's social media accounts drew his interest and once he took a visit he was hooked on the Southern hospitality.

"Literally everyone there was just ... brought you in like you were their cousin," Simmons said.

Notre Dame treats the big cities not far from South Bend, Indiana, — Chicago, Indianapolis and Detroit — as recruiting focal points, but the Irish currently have as many Illinois signees (10) as Florida (10).

Coeach Brian Kelly says his recruiting department has two evaluation units: one for talent and the other for academic and cultural fit. That second part helps narrow the scope.

"Certainly you're going to start with the schools that closely identify with Notre Dame," Kelly said. "That's going to be Catholic schools. Private schools that have a tradition of sending kids to Notre Dame, so we're going to hit those geographical areas concentrated with good football programs that meet that criteria."

NFL GLANCE

Associated Press

AMERICAN CONFERENCE									
Team	W	L	T	Pct	PP	PP	PP	PP	PP
Buffalo Bills	10	4	0	.714	20	20	20	20	20
Denver Broncos	9	5	0	.643	20	20	20	20	20
Indianapolis Colts	8	6	0	.571	20	20	20	20	20
Los Angeles Chargers	7	7	0	.500	20	20	20	20	20
Minnesota Vikings	6	8	0	.429	20	20	20	20	20
New England Patriots	5	9	0	.357	20	20	20	20	20
New York Jets	4	10	0	.286	20	20	20	20	20
Oakland Raiders	3	11	0	.214	20	20	20	20	20
Pittsburgh Steelers	2	12	0	.143	20	20	20	20	20
San Francisco 49ers	1	13	0	.071	20	20	20	20	20
Seattle Seahawks	0	14	0	.000	20	20	20	20	20
NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE									
Team	W	L	T	Pct	PP	PP	PP	PP	PP
Atlanta Falcons	11	3	0	.786	20	20	20	20	20
Baltimore Ravens	10	4	0	.714	20	20	20	20	20
Cincinnati Bengals	9	5	0	.643	20	20	20	20	20
Cleveland Browns	8	6	0	.571	20	20	20	20	20
Dallas Cowboys	7	7	0	.500	20	20	20	20	20
Denver Broncos	6	8	0	.429	20	20	20	20	20
Green Bay Packers	5	9	0	.357	20	20	20	20	20
Houston Texans	4	10	0	.286	20	20	20	20	20
Los Angeles Rams	3	11	0	.214	20	20	20	20	20
San Francisco 49ers	2	12	0	.143	20	20	20	20	20
Seattle Seahawks	1	13	0	.071	20	20	20	20	20
Washington Redskins	0	14	0	.000	20	20	20	20	20

Most memorable games of 2018 required working overtime

By Paul Newberry
Associated Press

This was a year when many of the most memorable games required working overtime.

There was Alabama's sudden victory in the college football championship, not to mention the U.S. women capturing Olympic gold in a thrilling hockey shootout.

Of course, we'll long remember that 18-inning marathon at the World Series. And don't forget Notre Dame's shocking victory over UConn at the women's Final Four with a last-second shot in extra time.

A look back at the compelling contests of 2018:

Hawaiian punch

Facing conference rival Georgia in the national championship game, Alabama trailed 13-0 at halftime and wasn't doing much of anything offensively. In one of the gutsiest decisions of his brilliant coaching career, Nick Saban benched quarterback Jalen Hurts and brought in freshman Tua Tagovailoa. The Hawaiian-born Tagovailoa threw for 166 yards and three touchdowns, including the winning 41-yard pass to DeVonta Smith in overtime for a 26-23 victory. It was the fifth national title of Saban's 11-year tenure in Tuscaloosa, and perhaps the most satisfying. "Just a great win," Saban said. "Unbelievable."

Golden girls

The two powerhouses of women's hockey faced off in the gold medal game at the Pyeongchang Winter Games. It lived up to the hype in every way. The United States broke its 20-year gold medal drought and denied Canada its fifth straight title with a 3-2 shootout victory. Jocelyne Lamoureux-Davidson scored for the Americans in the sixth round of the shootout with a dazzling, triple-deke move, sliding the puck past the outstretched glove of Canadian goalie Shannon Szabados. U.S. goalie Maddie Rooney stuffed the last two Canadian shooters to clinch the thrilling triumph. "Joy's the only word that comes to mind," said Gigi Marvin, a three-time Olympian and oldest member of the U.S. team.

Up all night

A fall classic, indeed. The longest game in World Series history finally ended with Max Muncy's leadoff homer in the bottom of the 18th inning, giving the Los Angeles Dodgers a 3-2 victory over the Boston Red Sox. The seven-hour, 20-minute marathon lasted until 12:30 a.m. on the U.S. West Coast — and 3:30 a.m. for those still awake back East. Game 3 had a bit of everything: 46 players, including 18 pitchers, and 561 pitches. Never before had a World Series game gone more than 14 innings. In the end, it was the Dodgers' only highlight of the series. Boston won the title in five games.

Buzzer beater (x2)

UConn was undefeated on the season, with just one loss in its previous 147 games, when the Huskies faced Notre Dame in the Final Four semifinals. In

overtime, with the score tied and one second left on the clock, Arike Ogunbowale hit a jumper from the corner that gave the Fighting Irish a stunning 91-89 victory. Ogunbowale wasn't done, either. Two nights later, she swished a buzzer-beating 3-pointer to lift the Irish to a 61-58 win over Mississippi State in the NCAA championship game.

Minnesota miracle

Case Keenum was down to his final play in an NFL playoff game. His only option was to throw the ball up like he used to do his Texas backyard and hope for the best. Keenum heaved a pass along the sideline to Stefon Diggs, who somehow slithered away from the defense for a 61-yard touchdown that gave the Minnesota Vikings a 29-24 victory over the New Orleans Saints. "It never ends that way," Diggs said. "Usually, it's reality." The remarkable play shall forever be known as the Minnesota Miracle.

Red Devils rally

Belgium, one of the world's top-ranked teams, was expected to brush aside Japan in the Round of 16 at the World Cup in Russia. Then, early in the second half, the Asian squad scored two quick goals to grab the lead. The European powerhouse was down but not out. Jan Vertonghen started the comeback with a wild, looping header in the 69th minute. Five minutes later, substitute Marouane Fellaini headed in the tying goal. Finally, in waning seconds of stoppage time, Nacer Chadli capped a remarkable 3-2 victory with an end-to-end attack. The Red Devils became the first team to overcome a two-goal deficit in a World Cup knockout match since West Germany in 1970.

Down goes Virginia! Down goes Virginia!

A No. 16 seed had never beaten a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament. Until the University of Maryland-Baltimore County came along. The Retrievers, representing a school better known for chess, etched their name alongside memorable underdogs such as Buster Douglas and the 1980 U.S. men's hockey team with a dominating 74-54 rout of Virginia. The Cavaliers entered the NCAA Tournament as the No. 1 overall seed after going 31-2 in the regular season. They never had a chance against UMBC. "These are the moments that you dream of," said Jarius Lyles, who scored 28 points. "It's always exciting to make history."

Philly special

For the first time since 1960, the Philadelphia Eagles could call themselves champion of the NFL. They did it with a thrilling Super Bowl victory over Tom Brady and the New England Patriots that rewrote the offensive record book. Nick Foles guided the drive of a lifetime, capped off by Zach Ertz's bobbling touchdown catch that had to survive replay review. Then, an exhausted defense came up with two stands in the final moments to preserve the 41-33 victory. "We've played this game since we were little kids," said Foles, the game's MVP. "We dreamed about this moment."

Sports mourns 1960s touchstones: Mikita, Taylor, McCovey

By Fred Lief
Associated Press

They were touchstones of sports in the 1960s, and sports lost three of the best in 2018: Stan Mikita, the embodiment of powerful Chicago Blackhawks teams; Jim Taylor, the punishing Green Bay Packers fullback; and big-hitting Willie McCovey of the San Francisco Giants.

Each arrived as the 1950s was going through its last paces and sports had yet to become a round-the-clock corporate behemoth.

They were inextricably tied to city and team, their legacies burnished through the decades.

Stan Mikita

He gave hockey the curved stick blade and Chicago a hockey team that would become a perennial force.

Mikita, 78, combined with Bobby Hull and goalie Glenn Hall to send the Blackhawks to the 1961 Stanley Cup title. He was a nine-time All-Star who led the league in points four times. He was the first to play in the NHL from what was then Czechoslovakia and spent all of his 22 seasons with Chicago.

The 5-foot-9 Hall of Famer was the only winner of the Hart (MVP), Art Ross (scoring) and Lady Byng (sportsmanship) trophies in the same season. He was among the first to wear a helmet.

"He embodied the Chicago Blackhawks," team president John McDonough said.

Jim Taylor

Taylor owned the role of the punishing, unrelenting fullback, all blood and grit and guts. Vince Lombardi came to the Packers a year after Taylor, and the coach had his man to lead his ground forces.

Taylor, 83, was a Hall of Famer who helped the Packers to four championships, including the first Super Bowl in which he scored the first touchdown. In 1962, he was the MVP.

Taylor was often compared to Jim Brown, but Lombardi saw a difference. "Jim Brown will give you that leg (to tackle) and then take it away from you," the coach said. "Jim Taylor will give it to you and then ram it through your chest."



Brett Coomer/Houston Chronicle

Guests file out of their seats Dec. 7 at the conclusion of the public celebration of life for Houston Texans founder Robert C. McNair at NRG Stadium in Houston. McNair, who brought the NFL back to Houston after the Oilers left for Tennessee, died on Nov. 23 at the age of 81.

Willie McCovey

What if he pulled the ball a few feet more? What if it had been a bit higher?

It was Game 7 of the 1962 World Series. The Giants trailed the Yankees 1-0 in the ninth inning but had runners on second and third with two out. McCovey then scorched the ball, but right at second baseman Bobby Richardson. That was as close as McCovey came to a championship.

"I still think about it all the time," he said.

McCovey, 80, hit 521 home runs and batted .270 over 22 seasons, all but three with the Giants. The 6-foot-4 slugger known as "Stretch" was the NL's Rookie of the Year in 1959 and MVP in 1969. He was slowed by bad knees but glided into the Hall of Fame.

Sports this year lost others who blazed paths. ■ Anne Donovan, a 6-foot-8 pioneer of women's basketball, was 56 was a winner wherever she went.

■ Broadcaster Keith Jackson, he of the "Whoa, Nelly!" call and amiable company for many years across all sports, was 89.

■ Roger Bannister, 88, smashed four-minute mile, but the British track great insisted his real achievement was as a neurologist. Baseball also said goodbye to Tony Cloninger, the Braves pitcher who hit two grand slams in a game. Rusty Staub, the "Le Grand Orange" with more than 2,700 hits; Red Schoendienst, the Cardinal patriarch who at 95 had been the oldest living Hall of Famer; Oscar Gamble, owner of 200 home runs and a resplendent afro; and Wayne Huizenga, whose Florida business empire included the Marlins, NFL's Dolphins

and NHL's Panthers.

Basketball is now without champion guards Jo Jo White (Celtics) and Hal Greer (76ers); Frank Ramsey, sixth man for the mighty Celtics teams of the 1960s; Willie Naulls, among the early black stars; Jack McKinney, coach of the "Showtime" Lakers whose career was undercut by a bicycle accident; Paul Allen, owner of the Portland Trail Blazers and NFL's Seattle Seahawks; and Tex Winter, 96, guru of the triangle offense.

Football mourned Dwight Clark of the 49ers, who bestowed on the NFL a peerless image of "The Catch"; Billy Cannon, who won the 1959 LSU Heisman Trophy and later spent time in prison for counterfeiting; Tommy McDonald, the fleet receiver on the Eagles' 1960 title team; Chuck Knox, who coached the Los Angeles Rams to three straight NFC title games; Earle Bruce, an Ohio State patriarch who succeeded Woody Hayes; and Bob McNair, the owner who returned the NFL to Houston.

Gone from hockey are John Ziegler, the NHL president who presided over a 1992 players strike, and Bill Torrey, general manager of the 1980s New York Islanders dynasty. In a bus crash on the Saskatchewan prairie, 16 from a junior team were left dead.

Boxing's deaths included Karl Mildenberger, the German who went 12 rounds with Muhammad Ali. In auto racing, it was Dan Gurney, who won in NASCAR, Formula One and IndyCar. In horse racing, it was jockeys Manny Ycaza and Ronnie Franklin. In golf, it was two-time major winner Hubert Green and Bruce Lietzke.

Nothing official, just some offbeat NFL awards for 2018

The Associated Press will hand out its individual NFL awards on the night before the Super Bowl in Atlanta. Until then, here are some off-the-beaten track honors to consider:

Best game: Eagles 32, Texans 30. Aside from the meaning for both teams — the defending champs desperately trying to find a way into the postseason, the visitors seeking an AFC South title and to hold onto a wild-card bye — it was a tremendously dramatic, well-played Week 16 contest with twists and turns galore.

And it ended on a last-second winning field goal by one of Philly's heroes from last season, Jake Elliott.

Runners-up: Chargers 29, Chiefs 28 in Week 15 — too many flying flags to make it a classic; Rams 54, Chiefs 51 in Week 11 for anyone who likes video-game shootouts; Cowboys 13, Saints 10 in Week 13, if your tastes tend toward defense.

Worst game: Go all the way back to the season opener for Miami's 27-20 victory over Tennessee in, yawn, the longest game ever played. Two weather delays not only stretched out the day, it also led to CBS going in and out of the telecast. At least it featured a tiebreaking 102-yard kickoff return by Jakeem Grant. The game took 7 hours, 8 minutes to play.

Runners-up: Lots of Cardinals games, maybe their 17-3 loss to Detroit the worst; a Thursday night 6-0 win for Jacksonville over Indianapolis in Week 14 marked not so much by stingy defense as inept offense.

Best game scene: When Drew Brees became the NFL's all-time leader in yards passing — with a 62-yard TD throw to rookie Tre'Quan Smith in Week 5 — officials stopped the game at the Superdome and the game ball was handed to Pro Football Hall of Fame officials on the sideline

ON FOOTBALL

Barry Wilner



while the crowd offered a loud and loving ovation. Brees removed his helmet, held out his arm to salute the crowd and hugged his wife, Brittany, and children on the sideline.

"I love you guys so much," Brees said while hugging his three boys as Brittany held their daughter nearby. "You can accomplish anything in life if you're willing to work for it."

Best play of the year: No surprise here, except perhaps to the Patriots trying to defend Miami's final-second play in Week 14. Ryan Tannehill threw a 14-yard pass to Kenny Stills, who lateraled to DeVante Parker, who quickly lateraled to Kenyan Drake along the sideline. He cut toward the middle and found a seam, helped by a block from guard Ted Larsen at the 30. Drake beat two Patriots to the corner of the end zone — defensive back J.C. Jackson and tight end Rob Gronkowski, who was on the field as part of New England's prevent defense. Touchdown, and a 34-33 victory.

"I mean, honestly, I'm sitting before you all and I still don't believe it," Drake said during interviews after the improbable conclusion sent New England to its fifth loss in the past six visits to South Florida. "I just saw it was Gronk in front of me and I was just like, 'Look, I've got somewhere to be.' So I had to get in the end zone."

Runners-up: Hard to find anything close to that. Try Derrick Henry's 99-yard TD run for Tennessee against Jacksonville, also in Week 14, to tie the NFL record set

by Tony Dorsett in 1983. Or Donte Jackson's pick-2 in which he intercepted Brees' 2-point conversion pass and sped 100 yards the other way to give Carolina the deuce in Week 15. Or Dwayne Harris' 99-yard punt return in Oakland's Week 16 win over Denver.

Worst play of the year: The Lions let Seattle rookie punter Michael Dickson run for a first down when he actually was trying to take an intentional safety in the Seahawks' 28-14 victory in Week 8. Dickson took the snap in his end zone and was supposed to give up the safety, but Detroit reacted so poorly that after drifting across the back of the end zone, Dickson figured he had a chance for a first down and took off running, gaining 9 yards. Mission accomplished.

Runners-up: Roughing-the-passer call on Green Bay linebacker Clay Matthews when he made a textbook sack of Alex Smith in Week 3. Officials soon backed off on the overemphasis on such mistaken flags.

As part of an outstanding play, when San Francisco's Richie James Jr. returned a kickoff 97 yards for a touchdown in Week 15, Seattle kicker Sebastian Janikowski's feeble (to be kind) attempt to make a play.

Best celebration: Just allowing more intricate and creative celebrations was a positive. And positively the best of a strong group, individually, was Chiefs receiver Tyreek Hill catching a TD pass against Arizona in Week 10, then jumping into the stands to operate

the CBS TV camera.

The group trophy goes to the Vikings for their limbo dance, using Adam Thielen as the bar, in a Week 12 victory against Green Bay.

Best coaching move: The gutsiest calls usually wind up as the best — or worst — coaching moves. What Anthony Lynn did at the end of the Chargers' visit to Kansas City in a pivotal Week 15 game stamped LA as a championship-caliber squad. Trailing 28-27, he ordered a 2-point conversion try with 4 seconds remaining. In other words, do or die. And the play worked so stunningly well that Mike Williams was absolutely uncovered in the end zone.

Runners-up: Any team that eschews the prevent defense late in a game; Pete Carroll emphasizing old-time football, defense and the run game, to complement Russell Wilson's brilliant quarterbacking.

Worst coaching move: Some critics will say anything Jon Gruden tried in his return to the NFL with Oakland. We'll stick with trading away Khalil Mack and then Amari Cooper, sending the Raiders spiraling down the Black Hole.

Runners-up: Bill Belichick using Gronkowski at safety to defend a Hail Mary pass that never figured to happen; Hue Jackson keeping Baker Mayfield on the bench to begin the Browns season.

Most improved player (offense): We're looking for guys who played enough in 2017 to be able to judge their improvement in 2018. So a Patrick Mahomes doesn't quite fit after one game last season. But Steelers RB James Conner, placed in such a difficult situation replacing holdout Le'Veon Bell, is the right choice.

Runners-up: Bengals RB Joe Mixon and WR Tyler Boyd; Seahawks RB Chris Carson; 49ers TE George Kittle; Giants K Aldrick Rosas; Lions WR Kenny

Golladay; Colts RB Marlon Mack; Rams G Austin Blythe.

Most Improved Player (Defense): Kansas City DT Chris Jones has become a sacks machine, force against the run, and one of the few Chiefs earning his keep all season on defense. He's not quite at the Aaron Donald level, but he's getting closer.

Runners-up: Jets S Jamal Adams; Seahawks DT Jarran Reed; Saints DT Sheldon Rankins; Rams LB Cory Littleton; Cowboys LB Jaylon Smith; Bills LB Matt Milano; Falcons S Domantae Kazee.

Best play-by-play announcer: Close your eyes and listen to a game being done by Kevin Harlan of CBS on television, Westwood One on radio. You get a description like none other on the airwaves, so much so that you needn't be watching to have a clear vision of the action. Explanatory, passionate and humorous, Harlan is simply the best.

Runners-up: Mike Tirico — sure he does limited games for NBC, but he's elite and deserves more; Ian Eagle (CBS); Kenny Albert (Fox); Kevin Kugler (Westwood One).

Best analyst: We recognize that 2002 NFL Most Valuable Player Rich Gannon partners with Harlan on Sunday afternoons, which no doubt raises his level of performance. Not that Gannon needs the help. No one gives a better breakdown of what's happening and why, who is deserving credit and who gets blame, and what game situations call for. Another MVP showing for the former quarterback.

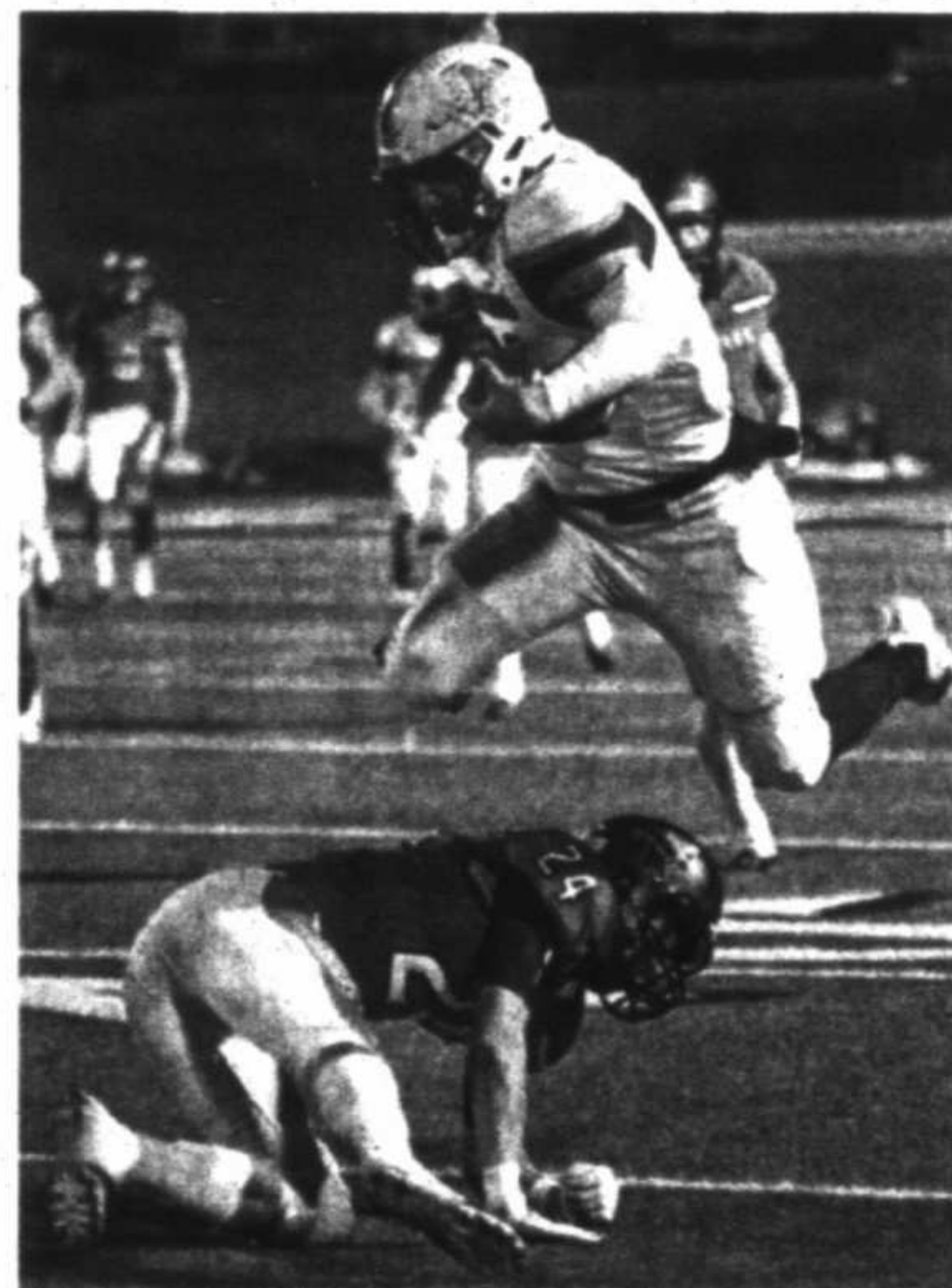
Runners-up: Troy Aikman has had a very strong season on Fox with his frank and fair appraisals and criticisms; James Lofton, Dan Fouts and newcomer Bruce Arians (all CBS); Kurt Warner (Westwood One).

TOP PHOTOS OF 2018

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Saturday, December 29, 2018 | Section C



Members of the UTPB Ballet Folklorico perform Nov. 5 during the Investiture Ceremony for UTPB President Sandra Woodley.



Greenwood's Ryan Snodgrass leaps over Iowa Park's Kaden Ashlock Nov. 30 in the Class 4A Division II regional playoff game at Lowrey Field in Lubbock.



Gizzel Castillo works at scooping out the inside of a pumpkin as she and her mother carve a jack-o-lantern Oct. 20 at the Halloween festivities at Sibley Nature Center.

Photos by
Tim Fischer



Midland fire fighters find some shade to rest and get some water as they trade out fighting a house fire the late morning of Aug. 15 in the 1300 block of W. Missouri.



As part of a team building project, Anadarko employees assemble new bikes, with one team member blindfolded, Oct. 25. Here Derrick Adams works on the pedals as he and other Anadarko employees build the bikes to give to area students.



Patrick and Cindy Payton as well as the crowd gathered sing along as members of Stonewall Fellowship worship band perform Oct. 20 evening at the community celebration at the Midland Horseshoe. The band played some favorite songs for the Payton family, from Boston to the Eagles and Journey's Don't Stop Believin'.



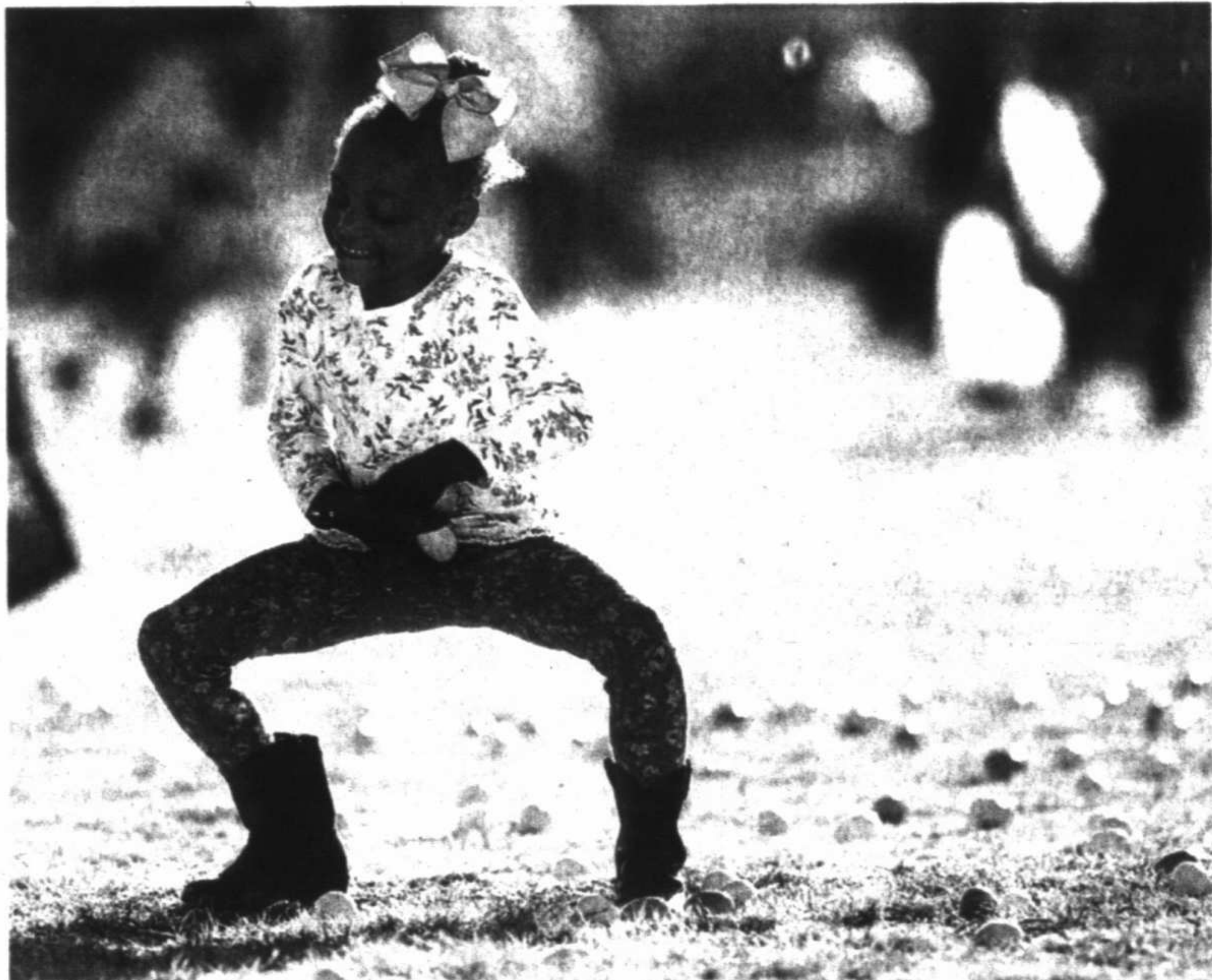
Sergio Ramirez grabs a copy off the press to check color, ink coverage and registration the evening of Oct. 24 during the last printing of the Midland Reporter-Telegram on our press.



HUD Secretary Ben Carson listens as veteran Edward Cano speaks Oct. 12 about his experience utilizing housing vouchers and veteran services during a roundtable discussion with Carson, other area veterans and members of the Midland Housing Authority.

View all of Tim's top photos online at mrt.com.

Photos by
James Durbin



Serenity Hearst, age 5, gathers easter eggs during the City of Midland's "Easter Eggstravaganza" on March 29 at MLK Park.



Midland High's Tyler Wade (2) collides with Lee shortstop Ty Coleman (3) and loses his helmet while sliding into second base April 14 at Ernie Johnson Field.



Kimbire Lambert reacts as her steer "Big Dewg" is announced reserve champion during the Midland County Livestock Association annual show Jan. 12.



Midland Police Department officer Aaron Trevino talks with Harrison Allen, age 5, during a "Cookies with a Cop" event March 7 at Midland Community Theater.



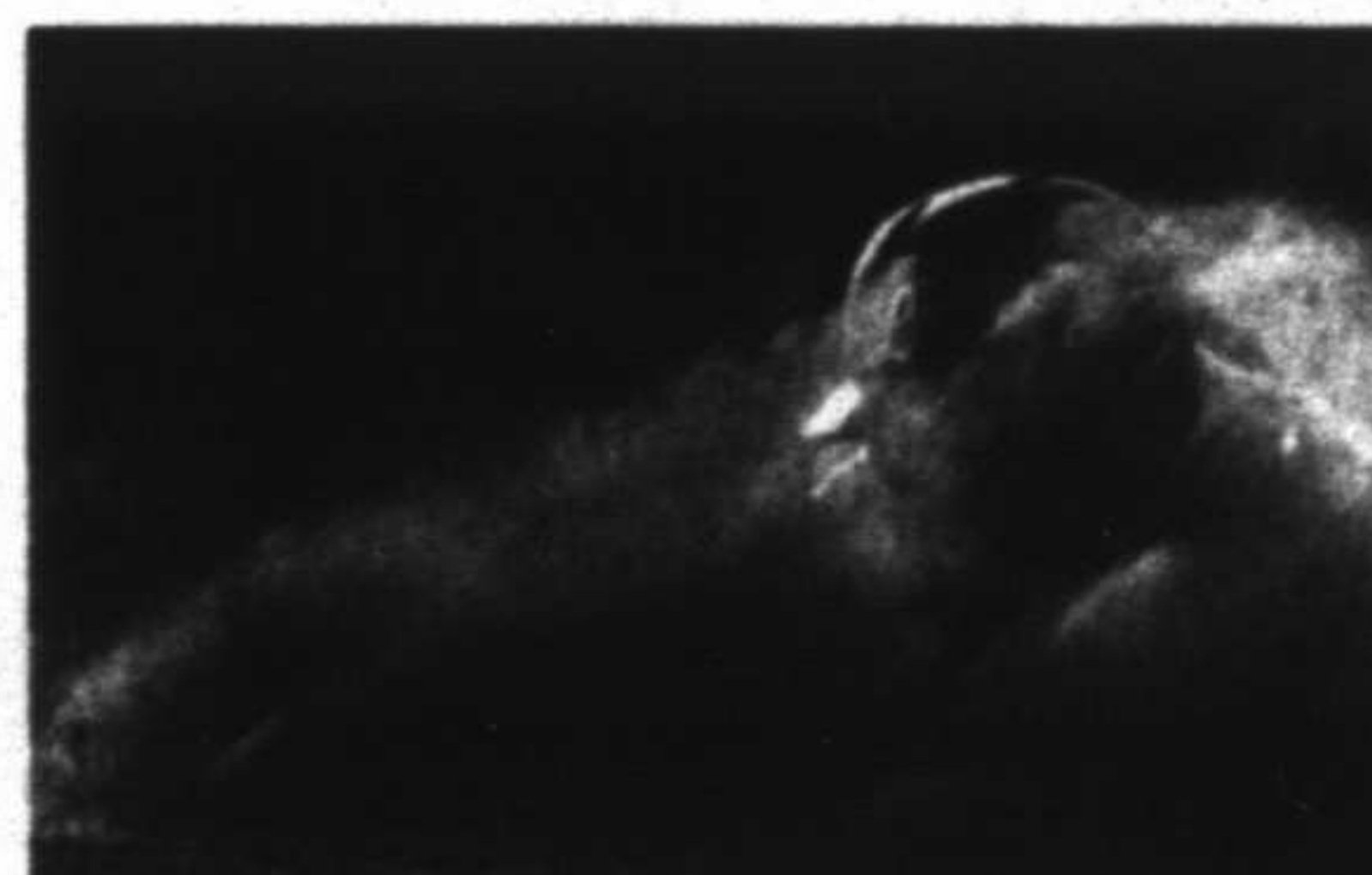
Gale McCray shares a laugh with Midland Police Department officers while protesting with a sign Feb. 28 at the corner of Andrews Highway and Midland Drive. McCray is a retiree who lives in Ft. Worth and has become a small internet sensation for making appearances across the country holding a sign that states "TRUMP THAT BOY DONT ACT RIGHT." McCray passed through Midland with his sign and spent about 2 hours standing at the corner of Andrews Highway and Midland Drive.



A living history reenactor holds a functional replica muzzleloader during the Texas Independence Day celebration featuring a student essay contest, volley of fire, and a Toast to Texas, March 2, 2018, at the Haley Library.



Ada Cate Davis, left, and Piper Thompson, right, discuss current events during Vacation Bible School June 20 at First Christian Church.



Lee's Austin Day (15) slides in to score against Amarillo Tascosa March 15 at Ernie Johnson Field.



A black-crowned night heron holds a catfish June 27 after plucking it from the Wadley Barron Park duck pond at sunrise.

View all of James' top photos online at mrt.com.

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

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

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 Friday's puzzle

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

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JUMBLE

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

LECRI
 □ □ □ □ □

VERNA
 □ □ □ □ □

TTETAS
 □ □ □ □ □

LODDEO
 □ □ □ □ □

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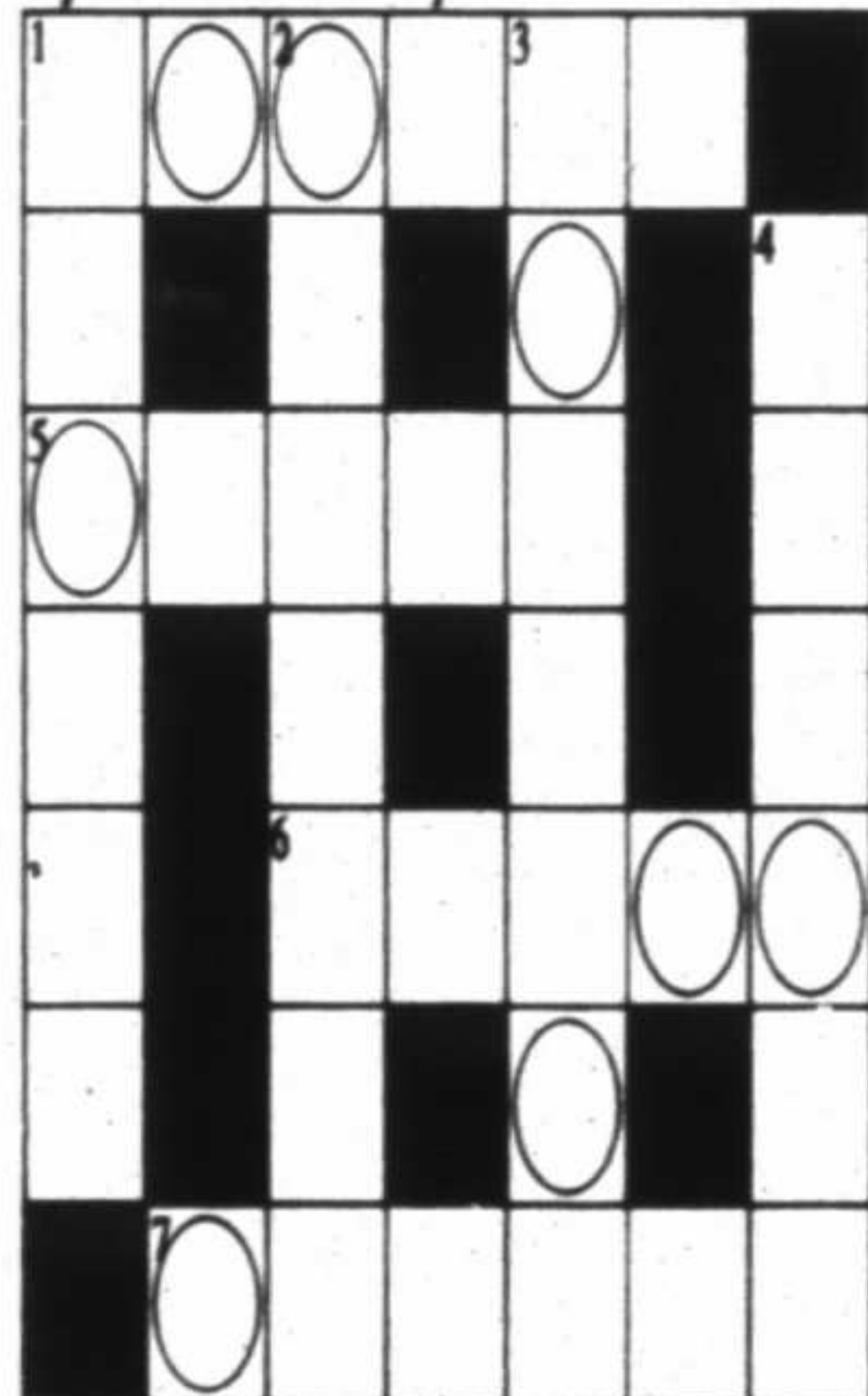
Print your answer here: □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: VIXEN DIMLY FERVOR GYRATE
Answer: When they installed windmills on the farm, they created an — ENERGY FIELD

JUMBLE CROSSWORDS

by David L. Hoyt



12-29-18

DOUBLE BONUS

The circled letters can be unscrambled to form two different BONUS answers.

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ACROSS

- CLUE ANSWER
1. Overpowered, destroyed TERUDO
5. East STACO
6. Sharp CUEAT
7. ___ unit ANLRTE

DOWN

- CLUE ANSWER
1. Bottle KCTORE
2. Oblivious AWRENUA
3. Confide, authorize UTTSNRE
4. Make known VLAREE

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.

CLUE: Read between the lines

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

CLUE: Kitchen

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

I would love to hear from you...
You can e-mail me at: DLHoyt@aol.com

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DAILY CROSSWORD

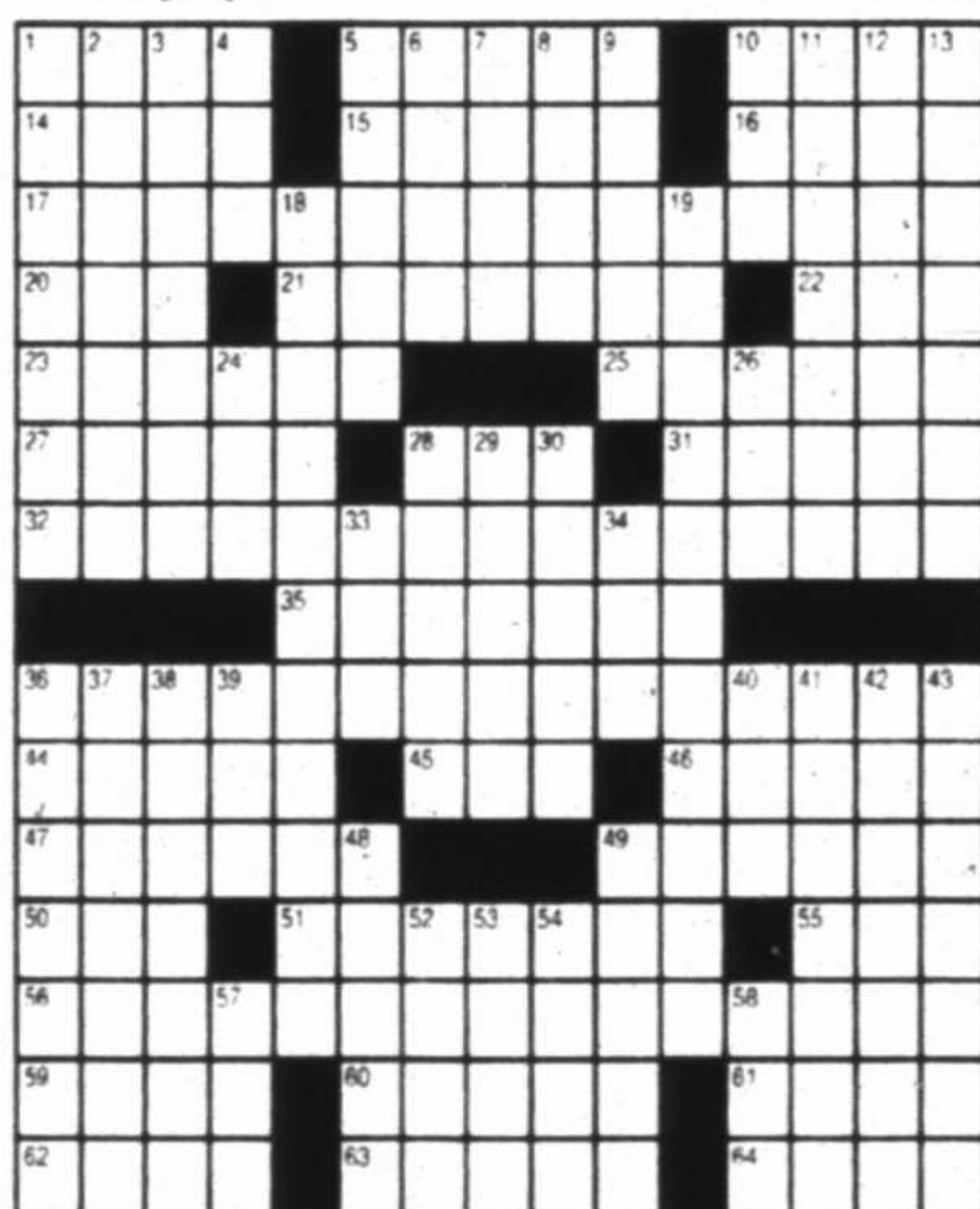
Edited By Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Actor Omar with three NAACP Image Awards
- 5 007's watch, in the later films
- 10 Sent to, too
- 14 Independent African country since 1960
- 15 Santa-tracking acronym
- 16 Jennifer of "Pride and Prejudice" (1995)
- 17 Line erasers?
- 20 It came a charge
- 21 Stable attendant
- 22 Half an ounce?
- 23 Despicable
- 25 Genre with ad images
- 27 Stores with a blue-and-yellow logo
- 28 NYC subway line
- 31 "The Divine Comedy" division
- 32 Necklines?
- 35 Tablet since 2013
- 36 Title line after "Gray skies are gonna clear up"
- 44 Actress Aimee
- 45 Sites with masked workers, briefly
- 46 Timeworn
- 47 Delivered a screed
- 49 "Man is condemned to be free" philosopher
- 50 Thou follower, often
- 51 Butler's classic line
- 55 Its first letter often means "more than one"
- 56 Echoic phrase from a WWI marching song
- 59 Smallville name
- 60 Gay opening?
- 61 Chrysler Building architect William Van
- 62 Pointed at, perhaps
- 63 "That's unfortunate"
- 64 Ford contemporary
- DOWN**
- 1 Based on observation
- 2 Two-bit boxer
- 3 One with a rooting interest
- 4 Short sibling?
- 5 Kitchen bulb
- 6 Soft shoes
- 7 "___" which was irksome to me
- 8 Three-part region, per Caesar
- 9 Media industry worker
- 10 Left of center?
- 11 Greek-style yogurt brand
- 12 America, in Acapulco
- 13 Autos advertised on "You Bet Your Life"
- 18 It's a dirty look
- 19 Holders of staples
- 24 Confucian path
- 26 Expected
- 28 Site of an 11-Down yogurt plant, the world's largest
- 29 "M*A*S*H" role
- 30 Doesn't allow out
- 33 Draft choice
- 34 Pointer or point
- 36 Hybrid jumping sport with a landing target
- 37 Lacking heat?
- 38 Survivor-take-all investment scheme
- 39 See 40-Down
- 40 With 39-Down, unconventional
- 41 End of a line in the sand, maybe
- 42 Sang for an audience of one, sometimes
- 43 Gndiron numbers
- 48 Dispensed amounts
- 49 Winner of 82 PGA Tour tournaments
- 52 "Don't think so"
- 53 Spanish waterways
- 54 Italian recipe word
- 57 Ford's Crown Vic, originally
- 58 Foe of Chiang

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

CULPA BOFF PGUP
UHAUL RARE SODA
BULLMARKET ADDS
SHALOM TRAWLNET
ASPIRE EMORY
SLEPT MESAS
NOTAHOPE LTSULU
ACTRESS PAVANES
PIETAS FINITUDE
VAULT RIMES
HESHE RESIGN
ITCANTBE RIDGES
LAIR FAIRENOUGH
LIFE ANNE ILLGO
SLIM LEGO ALLOW

12/29/18



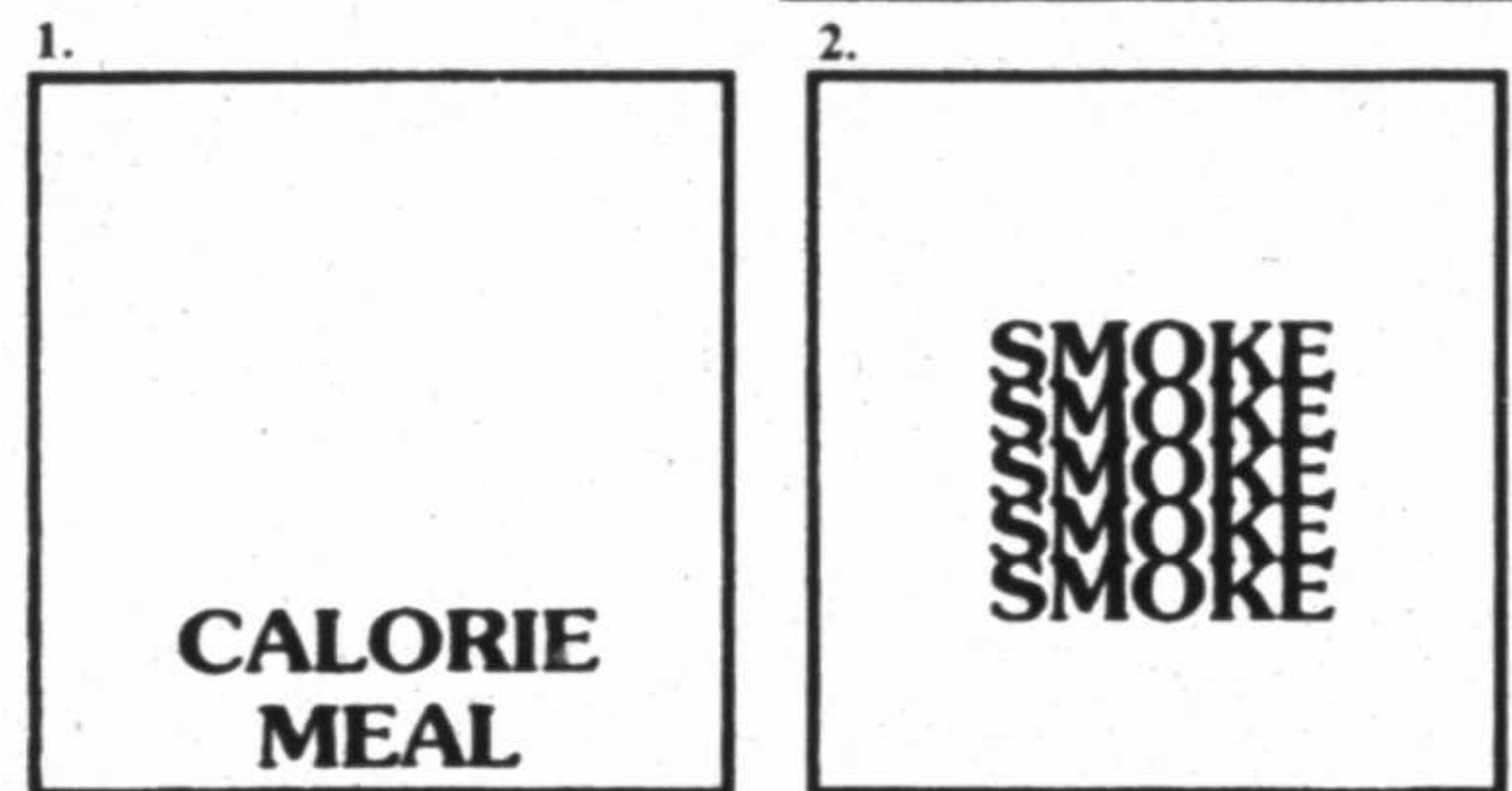
12/29/18

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

3 WUZZLES BOOKLETS
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Print Your Answers Here:

1. □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

2. □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Created by Tom Underwood
www.wuzzlesking.com

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12-29

Answers
1. A low calorie meal
2. Smokestack

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

**Read Basin Business and the Oil Report every Sunday
to catch up with business news topics in the region.**

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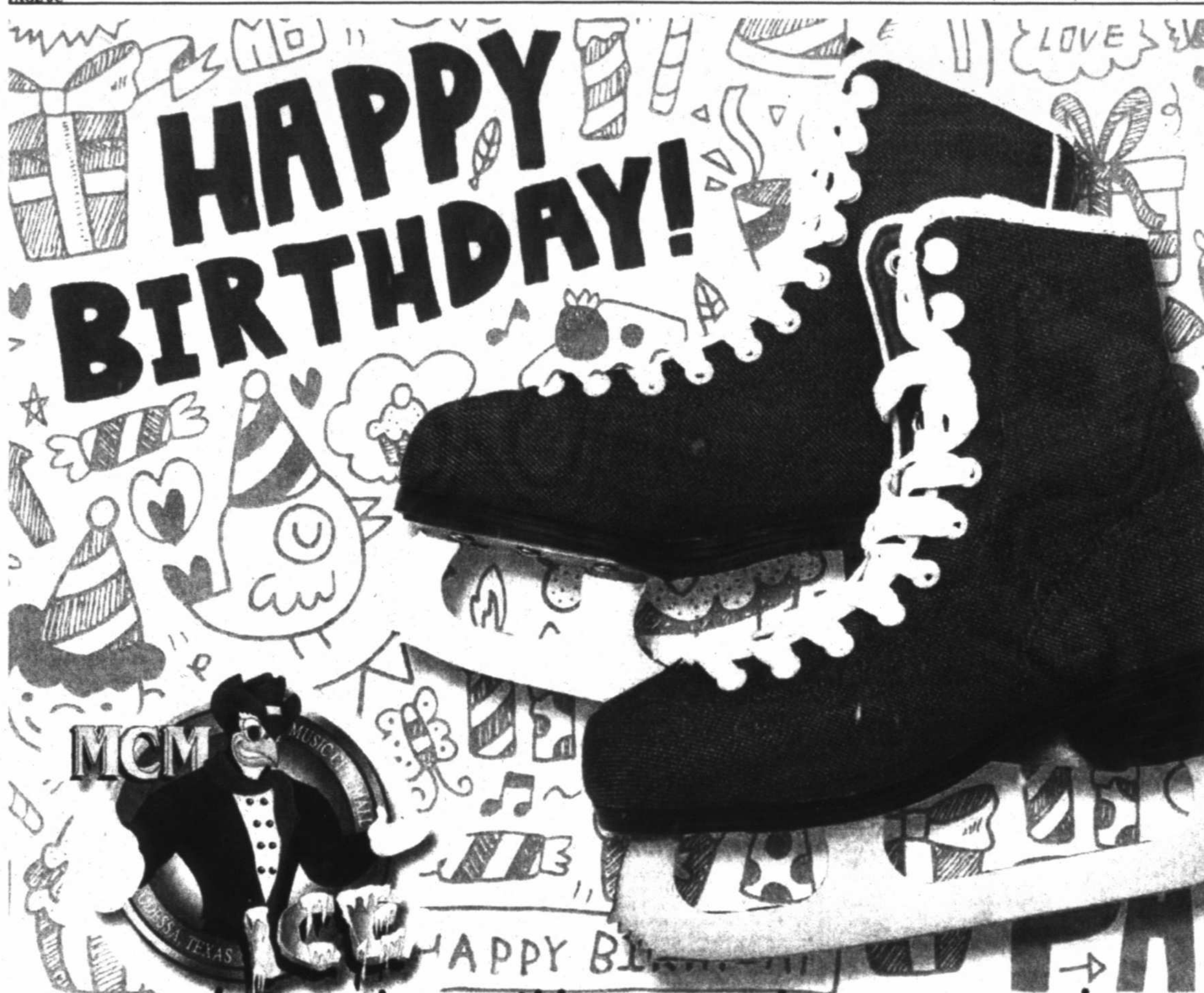
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ENERGY AND UTILITIES



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Maintain reports for Circulation including tracking of start pressure, volumes, service and collection statistics, and retention for all properties in West Texas primarily the Plainview Herald and Midland Reporter Telegram. Report return information to the Accounting department on a timely basis for Plainview Herald and the MRT.

Process customer and DSM written and email correspondence, and respond to their phone inquiries. Work with the call center to resolve customer complaints as well as helping walk in customer's in reference to their account.

Work with customers and delivery staff to resolve delivery questions and service issues for our West Texas properties.

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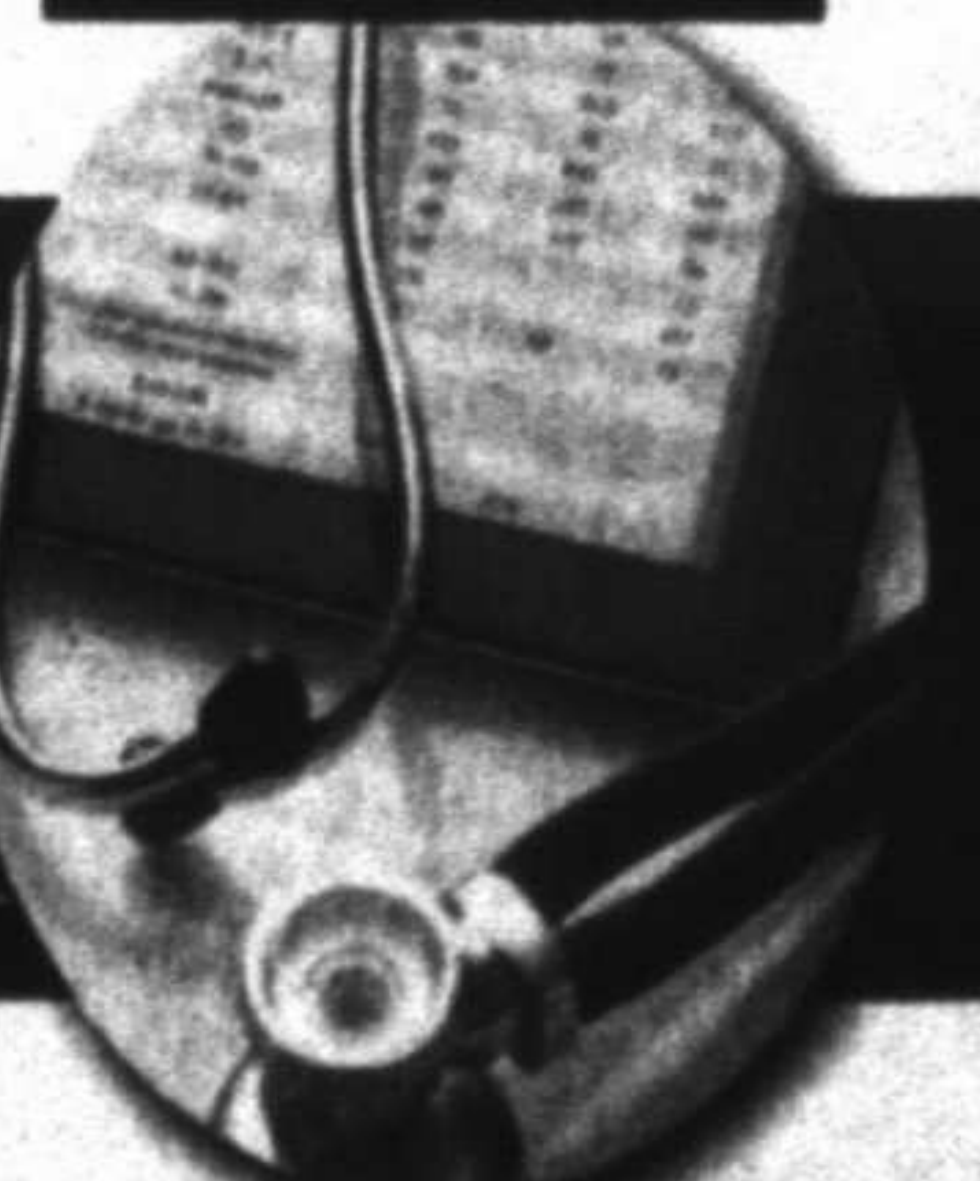
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Events and Notices 31 Public Auction of Items Left by Tenant Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 2:00pm 4610 N Garfield St #A-1, Midland, TX 79705	Passenger Cars 2011 LINCOLN Towncar Limo, 47 K original miles, looks good run good. Asking \$24,000. 830-777-0120	Lots and Land 700 SCENIC acres in SW Runnels County. Upland elevations to Large Creek Bottom. Large Ponds (Stocked) & Rural Water. Water on Property. Electric close to Property. Whitetail Deer, Quail, Turkey, Dove. Provides Excellent Hunting. All Minerals & Water Rights will Convey. \$1800.00 Per Acre. Contact: Rick. 888-828-8881
Lost and Found REWARD: Lost 2019 Toyota X8, 2019, 7K miles, good condition - everything works. For more information 432-934-1499	Pickup Trucks 1997 CHEVROLET Z71 extended cab, tool box, dependable good truck, high mileage, premium sound system. \$1,750. See at 201 E. Pecan Call Richard 432-349-8516	Lots and Land BIG DEER - EXOTICS NW TX, 2363 Ac high fence ranch for sale in Knox Co. Fully furnished new bar/miniature. Joe 214-784-3725. jowilsonranches.com/indiansprings
Legal and Public Notices NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE of property to satisfy landlord's lien. Sale is Friday January 11, 2019 at 10 AM at storage4treasures.com. Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash. Immediate removal is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw property from sale. Property includes the contents of the following delinquent tenants: Amber Brooks - Household Misc., Genaro Hernandez - Household Misc., Anselmo Lucero - Household Misc. Property from the above listed delinquent tenants will be sold as individual units. For further information contact Midland Lock Storage at 432-684-7711	Recreational Vehicles 2014 JAYCO GREYHAWK 31FS 32' Motor Home on E450 Ford Chassis 6.8l Gas. 14300 miles-Fully Self Contained. 2 Slides (Living area and Bedroom) 2 TVs-Automatic leveling system-2 Large electric awnings. Roof A/C, Bath w/ shower. This is as nice of a motor home as you will find. Must see to appreciate-Sleeps 8 New \$115,000 Sale Price \$34,500. Call Brian @ 806-201-0497 or Bill @ 214-675-6474 for more details.	Lots and Land 10,436 ac. Motley Co. 100 ac. lake, Big Whitetail, Big Muledeer, exceptional quail, hunters, house, electricity & water. Joe Wilson 214-784-3725. jowilsonranches.com/walkercanyon
Commercial READY-RANCH WWW.READY-RANCH.COM • East County 11,155 ac. +/- of Single 4 houses, panoramic views, 800 ft. view, creek, lake, Whitetail deer, mule deer and wild turkey. \$1,750/acre. 4,312 ac. Maverick Creek, canyon, whitetail and mule deer and wild turkey. \$825/acre. 1,771 ac. whitetail, creek, lake and fishing. great soil and mule deer, turkey, quail, etc. \$1,150/acre. • South County 1,448 ac. over 1 mile SOLD creek, bluffs, leaders, panoramic views, etc. \$3,500/acre. 568 ac. Pecan Creek, New Livingstone. 200 acres cleared for cattle, bluffs/leaders, whitetail. \$4,425/acre. • West County 1,842 ac. canyon, bluffs/leaders, great deer, catfish/crappie, whitetail, etc. \$1,750/acre. 1,190 ac. big canyon. SOLD creek, catfish/crappie, great deer, turkey, etc. \$895/acre. • Middle County 128 ac. Superior Springs SOLD deer and whitetail, hogs, varmints, mule deer. \$1,150/acre. (432) 684-7784 or (432) 934-7777 Be Realistic - Buy Direct!!! Deal with Landowners that know the Country!!! Owner Financing Available	Residential Real Estate 1011 DENTON St Midland, TX 79703 3bed 2bath. \$2,500. Neg. Monthly includes WD 432-557-4788	Residential Real Estate HOUSE NEEDING a home 3 bedroom 2 bath, location, move your choice of areas \$19,500. Like to discuss details. 469-363-2480
Lot for Sale LOT FOR SALE 204 S. Mineola is fenced in with driveway. Owner finance \$50,000K down payment \$5,000. payments \$800 per month 432-631-2905	Lot for Sale LAND FOR SALE Lots 2 acres plus SE Midland County. \$9K down, \$895/mo. Call 432-631-3650	Lot for Sale BEER STORE FOR RENT 10' x 16' cool or 5 doors and 1 wash door. \$2,000 month. \$1,000 deposit. 432-625-1609



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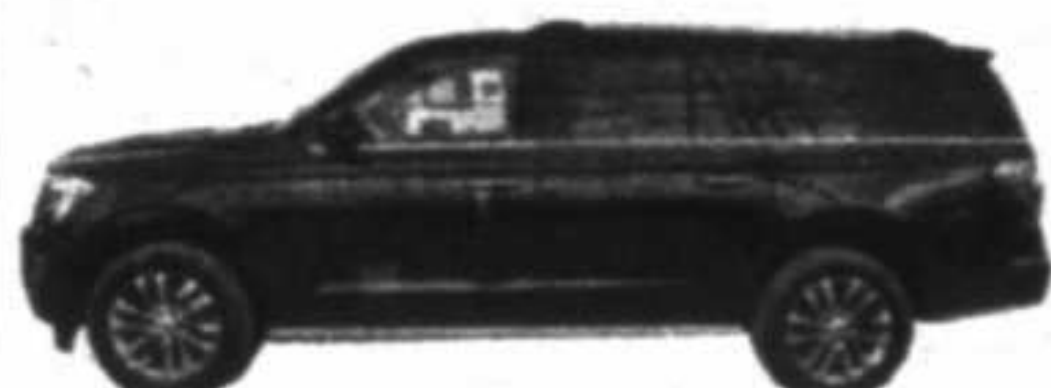
ROGERS



LINCOLN



4206 W. WALL - MIDLAND, TX • 432-694-8801



~~Was \$58,995~~
NOW \$56,995

2018 Ford Expedition

30,866 miles
Stk#1840092



~~Was \$25,995~~
NOW \$23,995

2015 Lincoln MKZ

17,172 Miles
Stk# 1850073



~~Was \$24,995~~
NOW \$21,995

2018 Dodge Charger

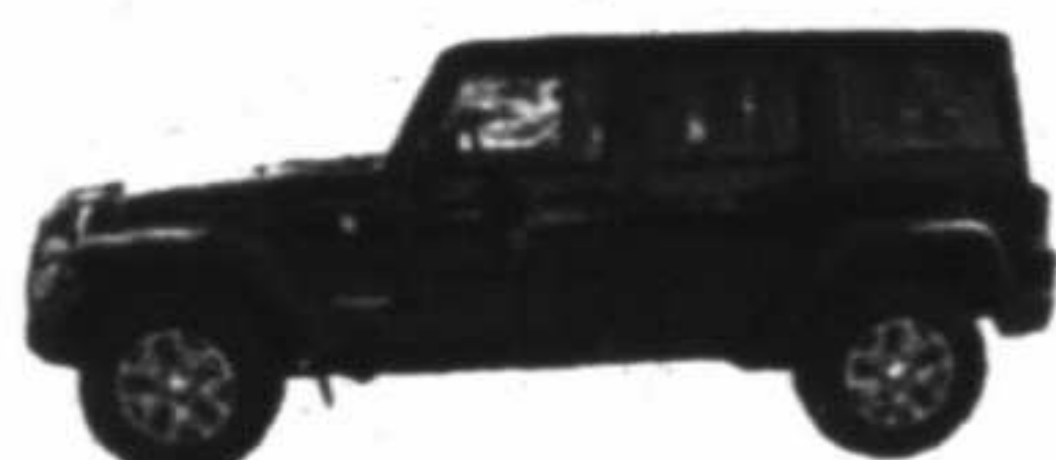
21,342 Miles
Stk#1840088



~~Was \$25,995~~
NOW \$23,995

2016 Chevrolet Traverse

24,407 miles
Stk#1840100



~~Was \$36,995~~
NOW \$34,995

2016 Jeep Wrangler

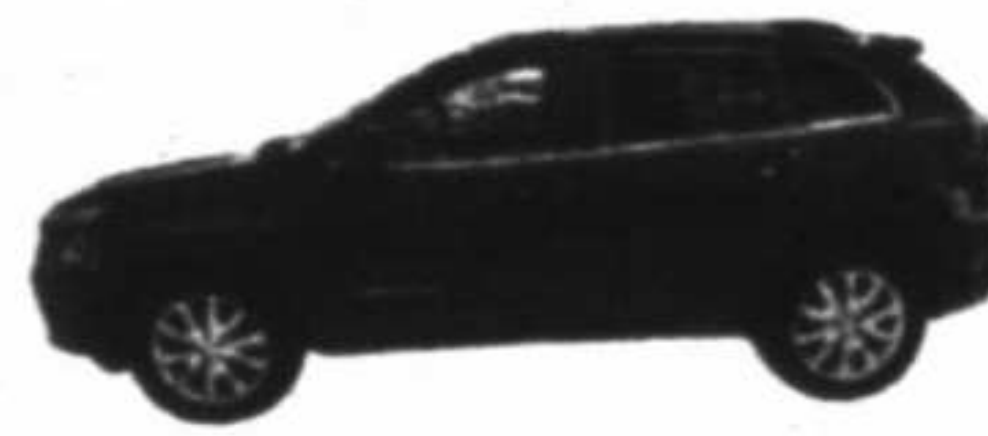
33,157 miles
Stk#1880177C



~~Was \$17,995~~
NOW \$15,995

2017 Ford Focus

23,751 Miles
Stk#1850074



~~Was \$23,995~~
NOW \$21,995

2016 Jeep Cherokee

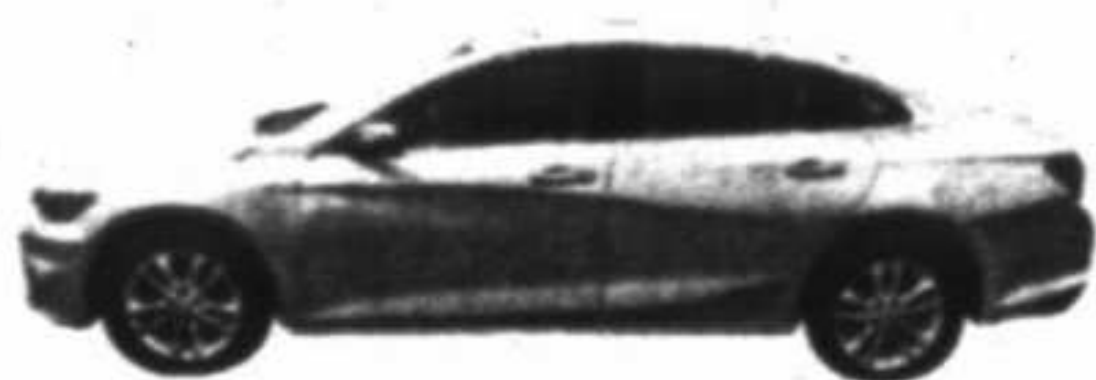
23,445 Miles
Stk# 1850064



~~Was \$17,995~~
NOW \$14,995

2016 Ford Fusion

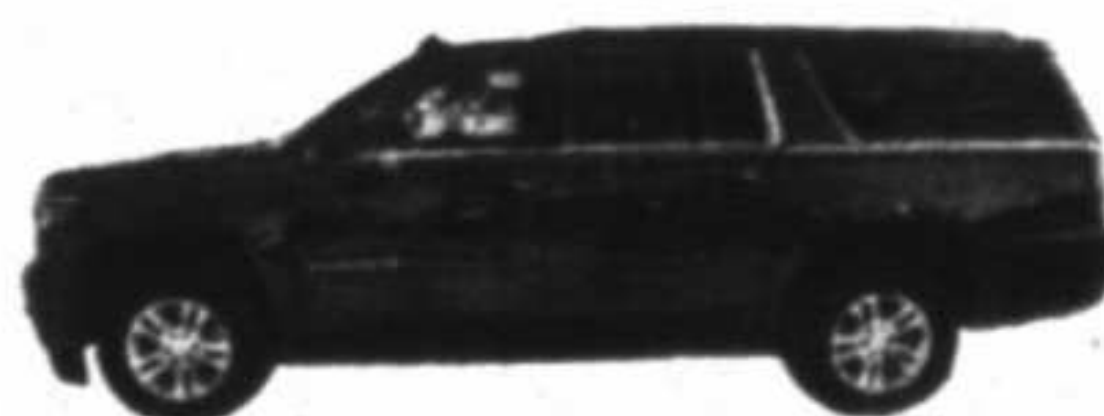
34,803 Miles
Stk# 1831679B



~~Was \$19,995~~
NOW \$17,995

2018 Chevrolet Malibu

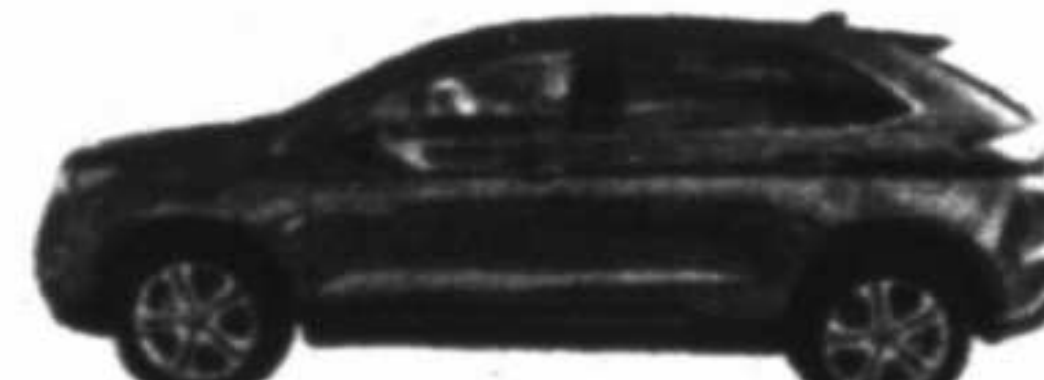
37,465 Miles
Stk# 1840096



~~Was \$47,995~~
NOW \$43,995

2018 Chevrolet Suburban

21,759 Miles
Stk# 1840079



~~Was \$28,995~~
NOW \$26,995

2018 Ford Edge

18,055 Miles
Stk#1840080



~~Was \$29,995~~
NOW \$27,995

2015 Ford F-150

61,761 miles
Stk#1832124A



~~Was \$30,995~~
NOW \$26,995

2015 Lincoln MKC

24,835 Miles
Stk#1840085



~~Was \$32,995~~
NOW \$29,995

2016 Toyota 4Runner

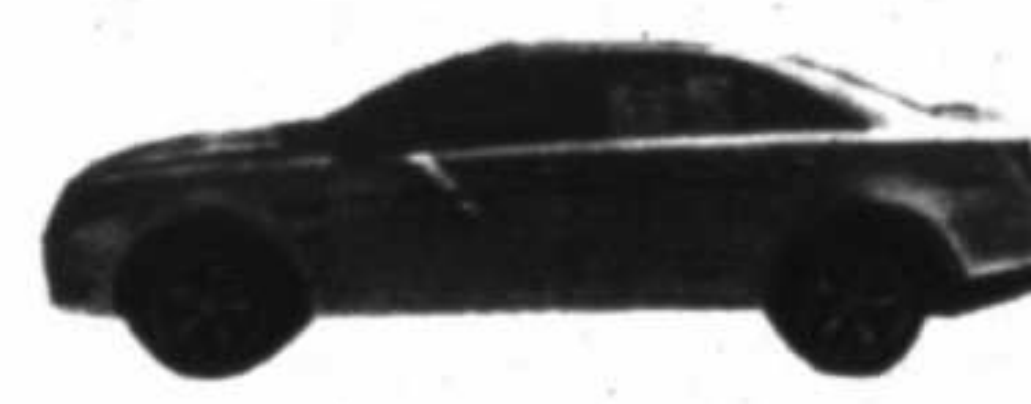
39,956 Miles
Stk#1831386C



~~Was \$42,995~~
NOW \$39,995

2017 Nissan Armada

41,001 Miles
Stk#1880175A



~~Was \$22,995~~
NOW \$19,995

2017 Ford Taurus

29,420 Miles
Stk# 1850068

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and inspires your customers

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BEST OF 2018

Look back on the best images of 2018. **Page 9**

CLOTH WORLD SIGN

Odessa Arts has big plans for the new year.

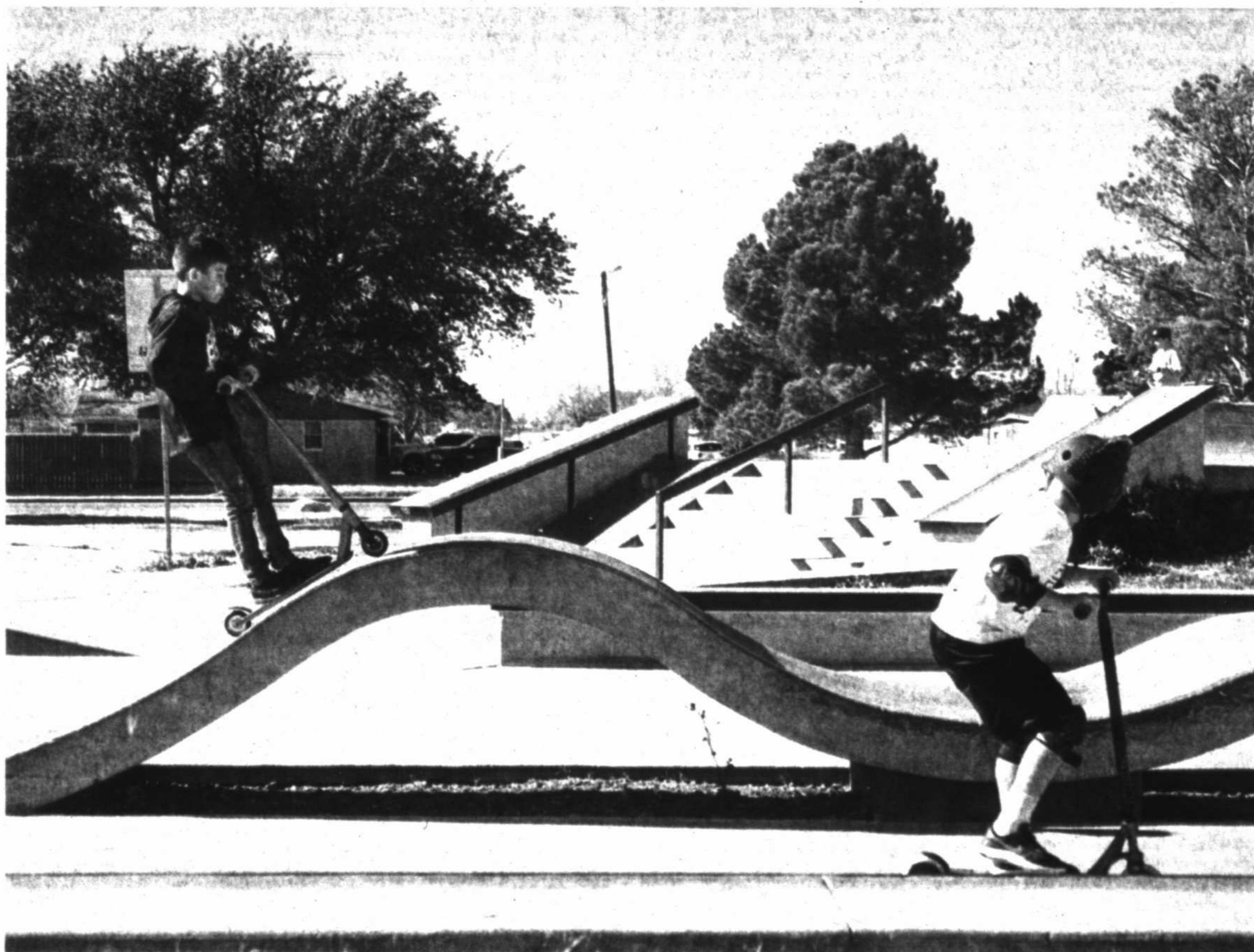
Page 10

PERMIAN GAS

Rising production could turn area into 'Marcellus West'

Page 6

SCOOTING INTO THE NEW YEAR



Children enjoy winter break at the Sherwood Park skate park on Thursday. 191 News' best photos of the year can be found on **Page 9**.

Jacy Lewis/191 News

GAS PRICES

Average price of gas is cheaper in Chicago, Detroit than Odessa

By Stewart Doreen
sdoreen@hearsnnp.com

As the year comes to a close, Midland and Odessa continue to have the most expensive average prices of gas among larger metropolitan areas.

Midland will end 2018 with the highest average price for a gallon of regular unleaded — \$2.49, according to AAA Texas. Odessa is second at \$2.48, and the next highest price among the 25 other areas is \$2.02 in Victoria. The state average fell this week to \$1.97 a gallon, and the cheapest gas could be found in Sherman-Denison, where drivers are paying an average of \$1.82.

And drivers paying less than \$1.90 for

a gallon isn't the outlier in Texas. AAA Texas reports there are nine larger metropolitan areas with an average price in the \$1.82 to \$1.89 range. That compares to the six metropolitan areas in the state at or above \$2 (including Midland and Odessa). Of the nine areas with an average less than \$1.90, six are along Interstate 30 or north. Another is San Angelo.

Drivers in Odessa will finish the year paying 51 cents a gallon more than the state average. They paid 25 cents more to start 2018. Drivers also pay 18 cents more than the national average. They started the year paying a price equal to the national average.

Drivers in Odessa are also paying

PRICES Page 4

OIL

Pipeline plans suggest coming 'tsunami' of crude exports

■ Potential four-fold increase in export volumes will strain dock facilities

By Mella McEwen
mmcewen@hearsnnp.com

Permian Basin oil and natural gas producers are awaiting the arrival of more takeaway capacity as pipeline projects begin to come online late in 2019.

If all of the 15 new pipeline projects announced this year come to completion, that's an estimated 7.7 million barrels of new crude headed to the Gulf Coast, according to Sandy Fielden, director, oil and products research at Morningstar. The majority of that would be light shale crude

destined for the export market.

"The midstream plans imply a more than fourfold increase in export volumes from 1.7 million barrels a day today to a tsunami somewhere north of 8 million barrels a day in the years beyond 2021," Fielden writes in his recent report, "Pipeline Plans Suggest Tsunami of Crude Exports."

Fielden told the Reporter-Telegram by email that the exports would head to India and China to start with, and also Europe. "Brent is still \$9 over West Texas Intermediate, making WTI a bargain," he said.

That surge in production seeking a home in the export market raises the threat of dock congestion, Fielden said.

PIPELINE Page 6



"I'm so excited to bring Sheila and Sunny to Village South!"

—Pat Henderson

"I was rescued by Manor Park! My home and yard have become a burden. Village South was the answer for me; I chose my lot, floorplan and finishes. And at Village South, I won't have to worry about yardwork or maintenance and I will feel safe and cared for. They even change lightbulbs!"


**Village South at
Manor Park**

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



GROWTH

191 NEWS | THE191NEWS.COM | SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2018 | PAGE 2

TRANSPORTATION

2018 serves as example of MOTRAN's commitment to transportation in region

Midland-Odessa Transportation Alliance

In 2017, MOTRAN celebrated 15 years of service to Midland-Odessa and the Permian Basin, with over \$1.5 billion in additional funding for the region during that time. Our volunteer board made a decision that we would double our efforts in 2018, and it has been a remarkable year. This year alone has seen nearly \$100 million in additional funding applied toward projects in our area.

We started the year off trying to address the lack of freight traffic attributed to the area in state funding formulas. The more truck miles you have, the more funding the area receives, so getting accurate truck traffic and daily truck miles means much needed improvements and additional infrastructure funding for our region. We began a survey with energy companies and trucking surveys to collect better data. We believe that ultimately this effort could improve funding for our region by as much as 40 percent.

We have continued our work with the Midland and Odessa Development Corps. to leverage local funds to complete projects like east Loop 250 in Midland and improvements to Loop 338 in Odessa to accommodate truck traffic. That effort has already led to a 75 percent increase in area funding over the current 10 year (2017-2026) transportation plan, and in the coming year, we expect those efforts to grow.

We also realize that

activity levels are increasing exponentially and that traffic can drive the need for improvements. That's why we also undertook our own in-house traffic study for the region to identify and map increases in traffic, significant traffic levels, crashes, fatalities and commercial vehicle-related crashes and fatalities, as well as, researching the underlying causes and commonalities of those incidents. From that work, we have identified efficiencies that can be implemented by companies, operational improvements to roads and highways to reduce waits and improve safety, and finally, corridors that have long term capacity needs for current and future growth.

In addition to our past efforts to expand SH 349 and SH 158, work is currently underway on the expansion of US 385 south of Odessa to four-lane divided between Crane and McCamey. We are also working on the expansion of SH 302 between Odessa and US 285, as well as, expanding our efforts to see a higher level of improvement on SH 349, south of Midland, as four lanes to Rankin. We are also working with the Texas Department of Transportation to raise awareness of the issues we see throughout the Permian Basin from Pecos to Big Spring on Interstate 20.

Part of how we have made the case to state officials for the need of additional infrastructure investment in the Permian Basin was by creating our own analysis of the economic impact of the Permian Basin on our state and nation. That case was provided to

nearly 150 officials from throughout the region and is being used by many organizations to make that same case in a number of areas. Our commitment through our Permian Basin Coalition has been to provide the data and information to help communities throughout our region better advocate for themselves and for the region. In 2019, we are expanding that partnership to other communities in eastern New Mexico. That data can be found on our website: www.energybasin.com.

We have used that venue to talk about the need to support pipelines, transmission lines and other infrastructure necessary to support our economy and transport goods without additional trucks.

Finally, we often hear from many in the Midland-Odessa area and throughout the region who want to let officials know about a pothole, or other roadway issues, but it can be frustrating if you don't know if the roadway is by the city, county or TxDOT. We have recently added a page to our website (www.motr.org) to allow individuals to report these issues and will direct their reports to the appropriate entities. We want the Permian Basin to be known for our opportunities and not unfilled potholes.

While we are not a taxing entity, we work with many of them. Our staff and board are comprised entirely of local residents, who call our area home and are committed to making the Permian Basin an even better place to live.

ROADS

Permian Basin MPO's commitment to transportation results in needed funding

Permian Basin Metropolitan Planning Organization

The Permian Basin MPO is a public agency; it is the Midland-Odessa region's transportation planning leader. The agency has existed since 1965. The MPO is a federally mandated agency that sets the priorities for planning and funding for transportation infrastructure in a defined geographic area that includes the cities of Odessa and Midland, major portions of Ector and Midland Counties and a portion of Martin County.

The MPO has historically received its funding from federal and state sources and since 2017, other funding assistance has come from the Midland and Odessa Economic Development Corps. Major projects completed, or under construction in the region, include the ramp reconstruction on I-20 at W. Loop 250 and at Farm-to-Market Road 1788; road widening of North Fairgrounds Road; an overpass to improve safety and mobility conditions at Loop 250/Fairgrounds Road; a section of North Big Spring Street from Loop 250 extending northward to the Martin County line to add medians, a center left-turn lane and improve drainage conditions; widening and adding a center left-turn lane on FM 1788 (State Highway 349) from SH 191 to 1 mile north of SH 158.

Beginning in 2019 through 2022, the MPO has committed its funds for the following priority projects:

- \$21.5 million, which includes \$2 million of Midland Development Corp. (MDC) funds for an interchange at County Road 1150/Elkins Road at Loop 250 (beginning 2019);

- Complete reconstruction of Midkiff Road at I-20 for \$28.16 million, which includes \$2 million of MDC funds (beginning 2020);

- A new interchange at CR 1250 at I-20 for \$19.84 million (2020);

- A new interchange at CR 1140 at Loop 250 for \$20.015 million (2020) which includes \$3 million of MDC funds;

- I-20 improvements from the John Ben Sheppard interchange to West Loop 250 in the amount of \$104.9 million, including a new interchange at Faudree Road in western Midland County (2022);

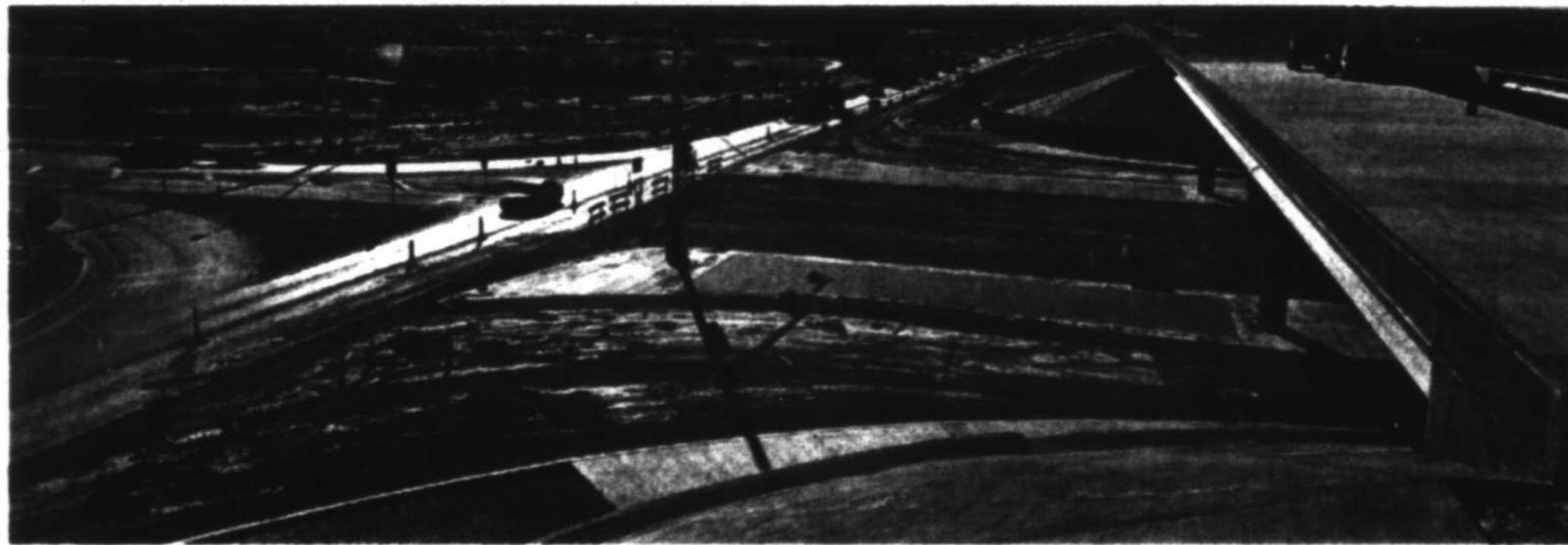
- A total of \$627,038 of Federal and city of Midland funds for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements downtown (2019);

- Ramp reconfigurations for \$26.26 million including \$3 million of MDC funds to improve congestion and safety at Loop 250 at SH 191 (2021).

In addition to these important transportation projects in the city of Midland and Midland County, several critically needed projects are also programmed in Odessa and Ector County. The MPO is taking a lead role with TxDOT and consultants to modernize the I-20 corridor along the entire 42-mile portion lying in the MPO boundary. This important project will be completed in phases and will likely include existing bridge reconstruction, frontage road conversion to one-way, U-turns, and new bridge locations. This work is in a planning stage with initial construction occurring on a 12-mile portion as shown above.

The MPO is responsible for leading planning efforts across multiple modes of transportation. The general manager of EZ Rider assists with the development of priority projects which have a direct impact on transit operations. In addition to this coordination effort, the MPO has also established a bicycle and pedestrian advisory committee to help staff and the public to be informed of the needs of non-motorized users of the transportation system. The MPO has funded a study to determine where potential inter-city bicycle/pedestrian corridor alignments designed to connect the cities of Odessa and Midland may be constructed. The study will be completed by March 2019; funds are not identified for construction at this time.

As the region grows and needs are identified, the MPO will continue to work with its decision-making partners which include the city of Midland, the City of Odessa, Midland, Ector and Martin Counties, TxDOT and EZ Rider to prioritize funding for projects and improve the transportation system and quality of life for residents and visitors. It is important to note that the commitment of additional funds from the development corporations indicates to the MPO's Policy Board and the Texas Transportation Commission just how important projects are at the local level. Many of the MPO's long range projects have been expedited by the funding commitments coming from the development corporations.



Road closures and construction underway at the overpass for Fairgrounds Road and North Loop 250, photographed Nov. 13.

James Durbin/MRT Media Group

BUILDING PERMITS

301 Geneva Ave./..... Mobile home location
7318 West Pile Ranch Road/..... Residential, additions, alt., conversions
7320 West Pile Ranch Road/..... Residential, additions, alt., conversions
7333 West Pile Ranch Road/..... Residential, additions, alt., conversions
2317 Bainbridge/..... Residential, additions, alt., conversions
2120 E. 10th St./..... Residential, additions, alt., conversions
1012 Alameda/..... Residential, additions, alt., conversions
4325 Clover Ave. /..... Residential, additions, alt., conversions
6930 Kate Reed/..... Residential, new single family
2900 San Saba/..... Residential, new single family
40 Balmoral/..... Residential, new single family
125 Blue Drive/..... Residential, new single family
7324 Deer Creek Ranch Road/..... Residential, new single family
7336 Fossell Ranch Road/..... Residential, new single family
7332 Fossell Ranch Road/..... Residential, new single family
7337 Fossell Ranch Road/..... Residential, new single family
7317 Fossell Ranch Road/..... Residential, new single family
7314 West Pile Ranch Road/..... Residential, new single family
7315 West Pile Ranch Road/..... Residential, new single family
7316 West Pile Ranch Road/..... Residential, new single family
7317 West Pile Ranch Road/..... Residential, new single family
7324 West Pile Ranch Road/..... Residential, new single family
7331 West Pile Ranch Road/..... Residential, new single family

7344 West Pile Ranch Road/..... Residential, new single family
7328 West Pile Ranch Road/..... Residential, new single family
7348 West Pile Ranch Road/..... Residential, new single family
7327 West Pile Ranch Road/..... Residential, new single family
7340 West Pile Ranch Road/..... Residential, new single family
7321 West Pile Ranch Road/..... Residential, new single family
7322 West Pile Ranch Road/..... Residential, new single family
7325 West Pile Ranch Road/..... Residential, new single family
7329 West Pile Ranch Road/..... Residential, new single family
7330 West Pile Ranch Road/..... Residential, new single family
7332 West Pile Ranch Road/..... Residential, new single family
7336 West Pile Ranch Road/..... Residential, new single family
7338 West Pile Ranch Road/..... Residential, new single family
7342 West Pile Ranch Road/..... Residential, new single family
7346 West Pile Ranch Road/..... Residential, new single family
7326 West Pile Ranch Road/..... Residential, new single family
2206 San Fernando Drive/..... Swimming Pool
8250 E. Highway 191/..... Non-residential, amusement, recreational
1001 Electric St./..... Non-residential, restaurant
3173 E. University Blvd./..... Non-residential, store, customer service
201 S. JBS Parkway/..... Swimming pool

Source: City of Odessa

This Week in Odessa

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WEATHER THIS WEEK

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
						
MOSTLY CLOUDY High: 37 Low: 29 Chance of rain/snow: 20 percent	MOSTLY CLOUDY High: 46 Low: 33	SUNNY High: 57 Low: 23	SUNNY High: 36 Low: 24	MOSTLY SUNNY High: 41 Low: 23	SUNNY High: 53 Low: 29	SUNNY High: 60 Low: 32

WHAT'S HAPPENING

From staff reports

Landgraf helps display Christmas ornament that honors Odessa

AUSTIN — This Christmas Eve, an ornament that highlights the Permian Basin and honors the life of a humble yet remarkable West Texan hangs on the Christmas tree in the State Capitol. Ben Powell of Odessa designed and created the ornament. While depictions of a pump jack, swaying mesquite bushes, and drill sites adorn the ornament, at the heart of it is a tribute to Sally Powell, Ben's late mother.

"I am proud of the personal touch on this year's ornament as it showcases our vibrant economy, but moreover, pays tribute to Sally Powell, a West Texan who made our area a more beautiful and gentler place," State Representative Brooks Landgraf said.

Mrs. Powell dedicated her life to art education, teaching the importance of looking for the beauty in all things and self-expression through art, while being a fierce advocate for the forgotten and less fortunate.

"A white cat sits at the base of the pump jack as a nod to the comfortable presence mom brought to an area where comfort is not a luxury everyone can afford, and one she never charged for," Ben Powell explained. "This ornament is a testament to folks like my mom, whose initials grace the head of the pumpjack, and the countless others who invisibly grace our landscape with their constant pursuit of good will for all, their fight for the underdog, and their commitment to beauty wherever it can be found or made."

Sally Powell taught fine art for many years at Permian High School and Bowie Middle School. She passed away in April after a valiant fight against cancer. Her legacy lives on in the countless lives she brightened with the love of art and her care for the disadvantaged.

The ornament in her memory will hang proudly on the 30-foot native Texas tree in the Texas House Chamber through the end of December.

From the office of State



Courtesy photo

Odessan ornament

Top: Brooks Landgraf and Ben Powell place an ornament on the Christmas tree at the State Capitol. Bottom: A close up of the ornament.

Representative Brooks Landgraf

New Year Eve events in Odessa

■ The Knights of Columbus — Council 8773 will be hosting a New Year's Eve Dance at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Family Center, 7601 N. Grandview Ave., starting at 8 p.m. Monday. The event is bring your own beverage. To reserve tables, call 269-9100. Tamales and menudo will be served after midnight.

■ Club 305, 620 Grandview Ave., will have a New Year's 2019 Celebration starting at 5 p.m. Monday

until 2 a.m. Tuesday. Call 258-7351 to reserve a table and bottle of champagne.

■ Neon Moon Karaoke Bar, 2880 Kermit Highway, will be hosting a New Year's Eve Masquerade Ball from 9 p.m. Monday to 2 a.m. Tuesday. Advance tickets are \$10 a person or \$15 for a couple. Cover charge at the door will be \$15 per person.

■ The Gabby-Doo Saloon, 6009 N. Golder Ave., is hosting a 2018 Blow-Out! NYE Celebration from 9 p.m. Monday to 2 a.m. Tuesday. The Ne'erdo-wells will be performing.

■ Cinergy will be having two New Year's Eve parties. The first one is 4 p.m. until

7:30 p.m. Adult tickets are \$20, plus tax; tickets for kids 12 and under are \$15, plus tax; and children 2 and under are free. The tickets include unlimited bowling, attractions, buffet, soft drinks and time card for games. The second party is 8 p.m. until 12:30 a.m.; children under 6 are not allowed. Tickets are \$25, plus tax. There will be a buffet from 8:15 to 9:30 p.m. The tickets include unlimited bowling, attractions, buffet, soft drinks and time card for games.

■ Proof Lounge, 7270 E Highway 191 Suite 101, is hosting a white out bash with \$2 shot specials starting after 10 p.m. A \$10 cover charge will start at 9 p.m.

■ The MCM Elegante Hotel, 5200 E. University Blvd., will be hosting a New Year's Eve Buffet at The Shrimp Boat 5 p.m. until 10 p.m. Cost is \$24.99 for adults, \$19.99 for seniors, \$9.99 for children 16 and up and free for children 15 and under. Oasis Bar and Grill is hosting a New Year's Eve party from 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. There will be music and a complimentary champagne toast at midnight. Spin the wheel for shot specials all night. Cover charge at the door is \$10.

Dining guide

Cork & Pig Tavern
7260 E. TX-191 #204
Reservations:
opentable.com
272-4569

Boasting an extensive wine list for dining, Cork and Pig has become a staple at Park Legends. The tavern serves wood-fired pizzas.

Red Oak Kitchen
7260 TX-191 Frontage
#200



Reservations:
opentable.com
275-0463
Red Oak Kitchen covers brunch (Saturday & Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.), lunch and dinner. Red Oak Kitchen serves up a casual American menu perfect for anyone wanting comfort food or to branch out.

Trak & Charlie's Jersey Girl Pizza
4007 John Ben Shepperd Pkwy
Menu: places.singleplatform.com
366-2000

Fresh ingredients and fresh pizza all at a good price. Garlic knots and a caprese salad sets up the dinner for a great time at this local pizzeria.

Curb Side Bistro
3816 Andrews Highway
272-0959
From food truck to sit down venue, Curb Side Bistro serves up barbecue for everyone. Sliders and specialty fries are the jewels on the menu.

Press Cafe
4400 Parks Legado Road
498-0235
Menu: presscafe.com/

menu
Located in the Sewell Ford dealership Press Cafe offers a variety of dishes but the chef and manager highlight the pizzas cooked in the wood burning stove. Stop at Press Cafe for breakfast and lunch.

Taste of India
3001 E Business Loop 20
332-4983
Menu: tasteofindiaexpress.com
Lamb, garlic naan, chicken tikka masala or many vegetarian specialties are featured at Taste of India.

New year hike

The Davis Mountains State Park is having a First Day Hike 2019 at 11 a.m. on Jan. 1. The Facebook event instructs to meet at the Interpretive Center porch for a hike up Skyline Drive Trail to the scenic overlook. The event is dog friendly. For those who do not wish to hike a drive up option will start at noon. The trail is two hours, trail rated moderate with 500 feet of elevation gain over 1.4 miles one way.

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CHAMBER

Odessa Chamber continues to work hard for a thriving community

By Renee Earls
President/CEO Odessa
Chamber of Commerce

Odessa is "Booming With Pride"! It's been a year of significant challenges and opportunities, as we've experienced tremendous growth from a robust economy. Through it all, the Odessa Chamber of Commerce has proudly stood behind our mission: To further develop and market the city of Odessa, Ector County, and the Permian Basin. We've made great strides to position Odessa as a more attractive location for capital investment, thus growth has followed. The Chamber has convened integral groups to address key community issues, including housing, education and transportation, among others.

With this major growth spurt, our community faces some struggles. The high price and lack of housing have certainly impeded our community's ability to attract more workforce, making this our number one community priority. We are currently working on a housing study, which will provide short and long-term solutions for additional reasonably-priced workforce housing for teachers, public servants and service industry employees, as well as those in other professions.

Education is a priority in Odessa, as the Chamber is working with Ector County ISD to get more businesses directly involved in the classroom. It is imperative that our community works together and shows support of our students, encouraging them to obtain a certification or degree beyond a high school diploma. These students are our future workforce that will carry

our community into the next generation and beyond.

With more vehicles on the road than ever before, the Odessa Chamber of Commerce is proud to work with MOTRAN officials in studying the safety of our local roads. Our Transportation Committee regularly convenes local leaders to prioritize road development, improvement and expansion, allowing infrastructure to be in place for future growth.

With a major upswing in our economy, it's an exceptional time for new businesses. The Chamber's Economic Development Department welcomed several new businesses to the area, as well as some local expansions. Glazer's recently moved their distribution warehouse to Odessa, employing more than 100 people in a modern, high-tech facility.

Our city continues to see an increase of new hotels and attractions, and our Convention and Visitor's Bureau staff works hard to spread the news about our community and the unique opportunities we can offer visitors. Our downtown landscape will soon be changing, as the new Downtown Marriott Hotel and Conference Center opens in Summer 2019, allowing Odessa to offer more meeting space and hotel rooms.

Our Chamber represents almost 800 businesses and organizations, which includes more than 27,500 employees. As part of providing added value to our members, we now offer an e-blast advertising program for the membership, opening up a new marketing avenue to promote business and services. We also created a new, user-friendly website to allow users to easily find content related to

membership, programs and events. The Odessa Chamber spearheaded the launch of the "Our Odessa" mobile app, to serve as a mobile guide for visitors and residents. For the benefit of our members, the Chamber also hosted numerous networking events, seminars and recognition luncheons, all focused on business relations and positive corporate citizenry.

Our Leadership Odessa class graduated 47 professionals from the nine-month program focusing on various community aspects. Additionally, the Chamber worked with high school juniors through our Junior Leadership program, in which 41 students completed the six-week program.

Looking to 2019, The Odessa Chamber of Commerce is proud to partner with the Midland Chamber of Commerce as we travel to our State Capitol in February for Midland-Odessa Legislative Days in Austin. The Chamber is rounding up elected officials and community leaders to make the trip in support of Odessa's legislative priorities and discuss matters that impact our members and overall community. Odessa and the Permian Basin is the hotbed of energy activity, and it's paramount that our state officials realize and understand just what a major impact our area has not only on Texas and our Country, but on the World.

There is no better time to be in Odessa and the Permian Basin. Surrounded by opportunities abound, the Odessa Chamber and our hundreds of committed volunteers continue to work hard to ensure a strong, thriving community for generations to come. Come be part of this exciting journey.

LIVING

Odessa, Midland finish 1, 2 for nation's top rent increases

From staff reports

No two cities in America reported larger percentage increases in apartment rents than Odessa and Midland.

RentCafe stated in its end-of-the-year reported that Odessa just topped Midland for the No. 1 spot. The website reported year-over-year increases of 21.8 percent in Odessa and 21.4 percent in Midland. The next closest community in the nation was Reno, Nevada at 10.2 percent.

RentCafe's report also indicated that in Texas, Midland and Odessa ranked first and second in terms of dollar amounts. The rent for an average apartment in Midland was \$1,561. In Odessa, the average was \$1,363. Other Texas cities with high rents were Austin, \$1,361; Frisco, \$1,343; and Plano, \$1,279.

RentCafe also reports: ■ the national average rent increased 3.1 percent to \$1,419;

■ among the cities with the lowest rents in 2018 were the Texas cities of Brownsville, \$685; Killeen, \$713; and Amarillo (\$735); ■ four communities

in Texas showed negative growth when it came to percentage changes in rent in 2018 — College Station, minus 1.1 percent; Waco, minus 0.6 percent; Brownsville, minus 0.6 percent; and Pearland, minus 0.2 percent;

■ the highest rent in the nation can be found in Manhattan, New York: \$4,200.

Across the nation

City	Percent change
Odessa	21.8
Midland	21.4
Reno, Nevada	10.2
Peoria, Arizona	9.7
Manchester, New Hampshire	9.7

Across the state

City	Rent
Midland	\$1,561
Odessa	\$1,363
Austin	\$1,361
Frisco	\$1,343
Plano	\$1,279
McKinney	\$1,263
Dallas	\$1,182
Houston	\$1,093
Fort Worth	\$1,083
San Antonio	\$1,016
Lubbock	\$924
Amarillo	\$735

Source: www.rentcafe.com

RIBBON CUTTINGS



Photos by Jacy Lewis/191 News

Top: Roving Yoga had a ribbon cutting ceremony with the Odessa Chamber of Commerce on Nov. 29.

Bottom: Permian Basin Dress for Success had its grand opening with the Odessa Chamber of Commerce on Nov. 9.



PRICES

From Page 1

around 35 percent more for gas than drivers in Sherman-Denison.

Across the region, AAA Texas reported the following average prices: \$1.85 in Lubbock and Amarillo, \$1.87 in San Angelo, \$1.95 in El Paso and \$1.96 in Abilene.

Distributors have told the Reporter-Telegram there are many complexities in the fuel business that impact pricing. They pointed to the high cost of transportation from Gulf Coast refineries and Midland's distance from pipelines. There are also issues with the high cost of living, at least in Midland and Odessa, where rents are climbing at rates incomparable around the nation. There's also the supply-and-demand factor. There is a great demand in Midland and Odessa relative to the amount of supply.

A look at prices across the country shows drivers in Midland-Odessa are paying

more than drivers in larger major metros across the country. TexasGasPrices.com reports an average price of \$2.487 a gallon in Midland-Odessa. Others sites operated by Gas Buddy showed the following averages on Friday: \$1.976 in Cleveland, Ohio; \$2.085 in Detroit, Michigan; \$2.138 in Santa Fe, New Mexico; \$2.167 in Baltimore; \$2.176 in Nashville; \$2.326 in Chicago and \$2.429 in Boise, Idaho.

Gas Buddy also shows prices of \$3.401 in Los Angeles; \$3.350 in Seattle; \$2.927 in Las Vegas and \$2.561 in Philadelphia.

AAA Texas reports prices across the country are expected to remain lower.

"All eyes will be on whether the OPEC cuts will impact prices in 2019," said Joshua Zuber, AAA Texas/AAA New Mexico spokesman. "Many are waiting to see if they stick to their promise to cut crude production by 1.2 million barrels per day and if the proposed cuts will be enough to restore balance to the market."

Midland Reporter-Telegram

CIRCULATION CLERK

The purpose of this position is to assist Circulation department in reaching goals for start pressure, volume, retention, single copy, and customer service. The primary function of the Circulation Clerk is to handle administrative functions of the department including tracking and analysis.

Maintain reports for Circulation including tracking of start pressure, volume, service and collection statistics, and retention for all properties in West Texas primarily the Permian Herald and Midland Reporter-Telegram. Report return information to the Accounting department on a timely basis for Permian Herald and the MRT.

Process customer and O&M written and email correspondence, and respond to their phone inquiries. Work with the call center to resolve customer complaints as well as helping with in customer's in reference to their account.

Work with customers and delivery staff to resolve delivery questions and service issues for our West Texas properties.

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CARTERS

YEAR IN REVIEW

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North Korea, Kavanaugh, all those Trump tweets and more in 2018

By Calvin Woodward
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The stranger-than-sitcom American presidency opened 2018 with a big tease about mutual nuclear destruction from two leaders who then found "love" not war. It seems President Donald Trump and North Korea's Kim Jong Un were just playing hard to get.

The presidency ends the year saturated in tumult, with the government in partial shutdown and Trump tweeting a video of himself warbling a parody of the theme song from "Green Acres," a television sitcom from the 1960s, to mark his signing of a farm bill.

Throw in a beer-loving and very angry Supreme Court nominee, an unhappy departing defense secretary, Trump's parallel universe of facts and his zillion tweets, and you can see that the president's world this year was touched by the weird, the traumatic and the fantastical — also known as WTF.

There was no holding back the self-described "very stable genius" with the "very, very large brain."

Some serious and relatively conventional things got done in 2018.

There was a midterm election. Many more Democrats are coming to Congress and not quite all of them plan to run for president. Divided government dawned in January when Democrats take control of the House; Republicans retain their grip on the Senate.

An overhaul of the criminal justice system was accomplished, and in an unusually bipartisan way, though it took a dash of reality TV's Kim Kardashian West to move it along. Gun control actually was tightened a bit, with Trump's unilateral banning of bump stocks.

Trump shocked allies and lost Defense Secretary Jim Mattis over a presidential decision to pull U.S. troops out of Syria, quickly following up with indications that up to half the troops in Afghanistan might be withdrawn, too.

Self-described "Tariff Man" started one trade war, with China, and headed off a second by tweaking the North American Free Trade Agreement and giving it an unpronounceable acronym, USMCA. He withdrew the U.S. from the Iran nuclear deal, putting action behind his Twitter shout: "WE ARE NO LONGER A COUNTRY THAT WILL STAND FOR YOUR DEMENTED WORDS OF VIOLENCE & DEATH."

Trump placed his second justice on the Supreme Court in two years after Brett Kavanaugh, accused of alcohol-fueled sexual assault in his youth, raged against the allegations at a congressional hearing and acknowledged only: "I liked beer, I still like beer," but "I never sexually assaulted anyone."

There were frustrations and fulminations aplenty for the president, particularly about the steaming-ahead Russia-Trump campaign investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller ("special counsel" in some Trump tweets).

Nor did he make much progress on his promised border wall ("border wall"), which he renamed "artistically designed steel slats" in December in what he regarded as a concession to wall-despising, concrete-cursing Democrats. The concession did not work: large parts of the government closed Saturday over the wall-induced budget impasse.

He took heat for a zero-tolerance policy that forced migrant children from their parents until he backed off, inaccurately blaming Democrats for "Child Separation." It was a very good year

for jobs. It was a check-your-smartphone-right-now, pass-the-smelling-salts year for the stock market. Trump, who assailed the unemployment rate as a phony measure when he was a candidate, couldn't speak of it enough as Obama-era job growth continued on his watch. He went mum about the market, a prime subject for his boasting before it took a sustained dive.

Trump's approval rating in polls was one of the few constants on this swiftly tilting planet: 42 percent approval and 56 percent disapproval in The Associated Press-NORC's latest and 38 percent-57 percent via Gallup, neither much different than in January.

Through it all, the mainstreaming of the bizarre proceeded apace and North Korea's Kim set that tone right on Jan. 1 with his New Year cheer to Americans across the ocean: "It's not a mere threat but a reality that I have a nuclear button on the desk in my office. All of the mainland United States is within the range of our nuclear strike."

Trump responded the next day with a tweet about size and performance. "I too have a Nuclear Button, but it is a much bigger & more powerful one than his, and my Button works!"

Once they got that out of their system, things quickly improved, helped along by Kim's letters to Trump, which the U.S. president called "beautiful." There was no more talk about Trump being a "mentally deranged dotard" or Kim being a "maniac," the musty insults of an earlier time. In June, they held history's first meeting between a North Korean leader and a current U.S. president. "We fell in love," Trump later said at a West Virginia rally.

Kim had previously vowed to visit "fire and fury" on the U.S. but the "Fire and Fury" that made Trump livid early this year was the book of the same name, Michael Wolff's insider account of the Trump White House. That was a different sort of missile. The president took particular exception to observations in the book by his former chief strategist, tweeting about "Sloppy Steve Bannon, who cried when he got fired and begged for his job. Now Sloppy Steve has been dumped like a dog by almost everyone. Too bad!"

They are said to be on better terms now. Over the course of the year, Trump spoke at more than 40 campaign rallies, kept up his Twitter barrage (40,000 tweets since 2009 on his @realDonaldTrump account) and answered plenty of questions in infrequent but lengthy news conferences and sit-down interviews.

So what stands out in this blizzard of whiteout of unconventional reality?

How about this farewell to his secretary of state, Rex Tillerson? "He was dumb as a rock and I couldn't get rid of him fast enough. He was lazy as hell." (The president usually reserves "dumb as a rock" for journalists.)

Or his description of Stormy Daniels, paid to stay quiet about their alleged affair, as "horseface?"

Or this description of his attorney general, Jeff Sessions, as "scared stiff and Missing in Action," before Sessions was finally out in November?

Will history long remember that in 2018 the president called Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff "little Adam Schiff" on Twitter and nations in Africa "shithole countries" in a private meeting?

Or that he (correctly) predicted Hurricane Florence would be "tremendously wet" or told the AP: "I have a natural instinct for science!"

Amid 2018's tragedies were moments of compassion and duty

The Associated Press

Deadliest shooting at an American high school: Parkland, Florida.

Deadliest U.S. wildfire in a century: Paradise, California.

Deadliest attack on Jews in American history: Pittsburgh.

The cities of Parkland, Paradise and Pittsburgh became synonymous with tragedy in 2018, a year when the nation seemed to careen from one deadly horror to another. Yet in every calamity, there were people who showed their humanity, their selfless strength and their sense of duty amid the suffering.

As the year draws to a close, Associated Press reporters on the front lines of some of the year's heartbreaking stories offer up accounts of compassion and decency.

'I CHOSE TO ACT'

Rabbi Jeffrey Myers said no class in any seminary could have prepared anyone for the role he was thrust into.

Myers was leading Shabbat services when gunfire erupted inside his Pittsburgh synagogue on Oct. 27. After helping others to safety, Myers turned back and raced up the stairs to a choir loft, where he called 911. Seven members of his Tree of Life congregation and four others in the building were killed.

As the Jewish community grieved, Myers took a leading role during public memorials and presided over seven funerals in the space of less than a week.

"I really had two choices when it came down to how to respond," Myers said. "One of them was ... curl up with a bottle of scotch. The second choice was to act upon it. I chose to act upon it."

His response inspired Tree of Life congregants, including retired psychiatrist Joe Charny, 90.

"There's no question that he's been super, and it's hard to imagine that anybody could have done a better job," Charny said. "He has the right touch. He has maintained through all this a sense of humor. I don't know how he's done that."

Myers has vowed to no longer use the word "hate."

"To me, that's the mission that has come out of this, that for 11 beautiful people to have not died in vain," the rabbi said. "The conversation about hate speech in America must be elevated and it must gain attention, because that type of speech leads to action such as what happened at my synagogue."

AP writer Mark Scalfaro in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

A MORBID BUT CRITICAL TASK

Final goodbye: Roll call of some who died in 2018

By Bernard McGhee
Associated Press

In a year filled with heightened political vitriol, two deaths brought the nation together to remember men who represented a seemingly bygone era of U.S. politics.

George H.W. Bush was a president, vice president, congressman, CIA director and Navy pilot during World War II, where he flew 58 missions and was shot down over the Pacific. As a politician, he had his fair share of critics and was voted out of office after one term as president. But the Republican reinvented himself in the years after his time in the White House, becoming a fundraiser for disaster relief and forming an unlikely friendship with the man who ousted him from office, former President Bill Clinton.

John McCain was a political giant in his own right. He served as a senator for more than 30 years, ran for president twice and spent five years as a prisoner of war after being shot down during the Vietnam War. In captivity, McCain endured torture and even turned down a chance to be released early, denying the North Vietnamese military a propaganda victory.

Bush died in November at age 94, just months after the death of his wife, former first lady Barbara Bush, who died in April. McCain died in August at the age of 81 after a battle

with brain cancer. It was the week before Thanksgiving when Craig Covey got the call for what would be his most difficult mission as a search-and-rescue team leader: picking through the ashes of Paradise for human remains.

It was a morbid but critical task.

A wildfire that swept through on Nov. 8 all but obliterated Paradise, once home to 27,000 people. To find and identify the 86 dead, authorities had to call on searchers like Covey to gather up what amounted in some cases to little more than teeth, bone fragments or artificial hips. Then they had to rely on the expertise of rapid-testing DNA labs, forensic anthropologists and other specialists.

"It was apocalyptic up there," Covey said several weeks after returning home to Costa Mesa, California.

Covey's team is deployed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to disasters across the country and beyond. Earlier this year, his team helped rescue an exhausted 82-year-old man who had been flushed out of his car by floodwaters and pinned in some trees amid Hurricane Florence in North Carolina.

Paradise was different, but brought rewards of its own.

"We weren't shaking hands with people," Covey said. "But we were making a difference for folks, for closure, who are missing their families."

AP writer Kathleen Ronayne in Sacramento, California

DOGS IN TUNE WITH HUMANS

When classes resumed in late February following the massacre of 17 students and staff at Parkland's Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School, a therapy dog by the name of Fergie was brought in.

Fergie, an 8-year-old cross between a golden retriever and a poodle, zeroed in on one young man and sat on his feet the entire class, barely moving, said Aneysi Fernandez, volunteer coordinator of the nonprofit group Canine Assisted Therapy.

"It turned out that was one of the students who lost most of his friends in the shooting," said Fernandez. "Some of our dogs like Fergie are very in tune with human emotions."

Several therapy animal groups helped out in those dark days after the Feb. 14 mass shooting. The dogs — and in some cases, donkeys and horses — went into the cafeteria and classrooms. They were also at vigils and marches.

Fernandez's

organization sent 35 therapy dogs and their handlers into the school. All of the animals were trained and selected for their calm, happy demeanor.

Some Parkland students specifically asked for a dog to shadow them during classes, saying that the animals' presence eased the stress of returning to a place where such a horrible thing happened.

"It's nice not to be asked any questions, to not have to relive the event," Fernandez said. "Everyone grieves differently. Students who didn't want to talk could pet a dog."

Ten months after the tragedy, a dozen dogs still show up at the school every day, mostly to sit by the side of those teens who need a calming presence.

AP writer Tamara Lush in St. Petersburg, Florida

'IT'S IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD'

It was known as the Wall of Forgotten Natives, a sprawling homeless encampment that sprouted along a Minneapolis freeway sound barrier over the summer.

Most of those living there were American Indians, who make up an outsized portion of the homeless population in the city, and the tents stood on what was once Dakota land.

University of Minnesota medical and law student Kristina Tester grew up nearby and began helping at the camp as part of an elective rotation for her degree. She began doing clean-needle exchanges and continued on as a volunteer for months after her assignment ended.

"There's really not much of a difference between myself and any of the residents who are here at the homeless camp, other than sort of luck of the draw and geographic-political lottery," she said.

The 26-year-old Tester said she organized groups of university students to do laundry for camp residents. She also served meals about once a week with neighbors. Recently she delivered cookies and blankets made by high school students.

Tester, who is non-Indian, said she did it because "it's in my neighborhood."

At its peak, the encampment had 300 people, but they began moving into a temporary shelter across the highway as winter approached.

Maggie Thunder Hawk, 56, an Oglala Lakota from Wamblee, South Dakota, picked up two blankets that Tester delivered.

"If it wasn't for her, we'd be cold, because she brings us warm blankets," Thunder Hawk said. "I love her."

AP names "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" its top TV show of 2018

By Alicia Rancilio
Associated Press

1. **"The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel,"** on Amazon Prime. From its costumes to the dialogue to the music to the quirky characters, this show is a delight. Watch it to feel good.

2. **"This Is Us,"** on NBC. Some suggest the third season has lagged but this show is still solid, and we can't discount how invested the public was in just how Milo Ventimiglia's character, Jack, died. The lead-up and reveal earlier this year launched so many theories, memes, hashtags and jokes about crotch-pots. Also, those occasional flash-forwards to show characters in the future keeps us guessing and trying to fill in the blanks between now and then.

3. **"Killing Eve,"** on BBC America. This cat-and-mouse chase between Sandra Oh as an MI5 investigator and Jodie Comer's assassin is great fun to watch. Oh has received many accolades for her work on the show, which are deserved, but Comer is also a standout and should be recognized.

4. **"Succession,"** on HBO. This show about a powerful family that owns a major media conglomerate is disturbing, funny, and sad all at once. The characters aren't likable and don't even seem to like each other, but to be a voyeur and watch them interact is worth tuning in for.

5. **"Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan,"** on Amazon Prime. John Krasinski joins Ben Affleck, Alec Baldwin, Harrison Ford and Chris Pine as actors who've portrayed the CIA analyst created by Clancy. In Krasinski's version, he's got brawn and brains and he quickly proves he's a leading man worthy of the role. It's fast-paced, suspenseful, entertaining and season two can't come soon enough.

6. **"You,"** on Lifetime. This show hasn't gotten enough attention. Penn Badgley is masterful as a psychopathic stalker named Joe who charms his way into the heart of a young woman living in Manhattan. There's a scene in the first episode where his character stares at his obsession as she drunkenly teeters on the edge of a subway platform like he's studying an animal in the wild. It's chilling. Catch up because the series is moving to Netflix for its second season.

7. **"Escape at Dannemora,"** on Showtime. The real prison escape that this series portrays was in 2015 and caught the world's attention because of the revelation that the two escapees were helped by a female prison employee. The series, directed by Ben Stiller, is just as interesting. Patricia Arquette, Benicio Del Toro, Paul Dano and Eric Lange dissolve into their characters.

8. **"The Clinton Affair,"** on A&E. This six-part documentary series is an extremely compelling, deep-dive into the events that led up to President Clinton's impeachment. You may remember the news coverage, but there's likely information in this series that will be new.

9. **"grown-ish,"** on Freeform. Zoey, the eldest child on "black-ish" (played by Yara Shahidi) went off to college and it's worth keeping up with this new phase of her life. "grown-ish" doesn't hold back. The show deals with issues that some college kids are faced with, including abusing pills like Adderall and the hook-up culture. Also, Shahidi has major star quality.

10. **"Queer Eye for the Straight Guy,"** Netflix. No offense to the original "Queer Eye," which was fun, but the reboot kicks things up in a major way. For one, times are required for viewing because it gets very emotional. The show doesn't just find men who need a new look, but the five experts go deep into why these guys are stuck in a rut.

OIL & GAS

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OIL EXPORTS

Landgraf among West Texas lawmakers to offer support for oil export platform

By Rye Druzin
San Antonio Express-News

West Texas lawmakers are cheering on controversial plans for a floating oil terminal that would be anchored less than 15 miles off Padre Island.

That's home to the Padre Island National Seashore.

The planned Texas Gulf Terminals by Swiss commodity trader Trafigura would allow U.S. crude oil to be loaded onto huge tankers — known simply as Very Large Crude Carriers, or VLCCs — for international export. Only one port in the United States — the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port, or LOOP, which also acts as an import terminal — can fully load a VLCC.

The Port of Corpus Christi, Coastal Bend business organizations and local governments have weighed in against the project, raising the possibility of the offshore facility leaking oil and polluting Texas' shoreline. Port officials are looking to build their own large-tanker terminal onshore at Harbor Island.

Multiple companies are racing to build the first large-tanker oil export terminal along the Texas Gulf Coast. Their aim is to break up delivery bottlenecks as record amounts of U.S. crude oil production flow into the global market. In the last week of November, U.S. crude oil exports hit a record 3.2 million barrels a day.

An recent letter signed by three state legislators — Sen. Kel Seliger of Amarillo, Rep. Tom Craddick of Midland and Rep. Brooks Landgraf of Odessa — voiced their support for the Trafigura terminal. The lawmakers represent districts in West Texas' Permian Basin, the most productive oil field in the nation.

"Given the mismatch between existing infrastructure and future crude oil



Tim Fischer/MRT Media Group

Representative Brooks Landgraf speaks Jan. 29 during the "topping out" ceremony for the new engineering building.

projections, we are encouraged to see privately funded investment projects ... that will help de-bottleneck the Gulf Coast and move Texas oil to markets where it is in high demand," the legislators wrote.

A Dec. 19 letter from the head of Midland's Chamber of Commerce also argued for the Trafigura terminal.

The Port of Corpus Christi is leading the opposition to the project, its concerns echoed in multiple letters to Gov. Greg Abbott from Gulf Coast legislators. Corpus Christi-area economic-development groups and local governments have also passed resolutions opposing Trafigura's project.

The port is pursuing its own VLCC-capable crude oil export terminal on land it owns on Harbor Island within the city limits of Port Aransas. The terminal, if completed, would cost \$1 billion and be just two miles from the entrance to the Gulf of Mexico. The Port of Corpus Christi has teamed up with investment firm the Carlyle Group to fund the project.

Port CEO Sean Strawbridge said while he's sympathetic to West Texas

oil producers' needs to move their product onto the international market, "we don't want to cut corners."

"I think that will show poorly on the industry if there's an embracing of high-risk solutions when there are alternative solutions that are much more responsible, sustainable, proven," Strawbridge said.

But, activists in Port Aransas, concerned about potential damage to the environment and the city's tourism industry, are fighting the port's plans. They support the construction of an offshore oil loading platform.

The Port Aransas Conservancy objects to the Harbor Island project, but said it would support the Port of Corpus Christi if it builds an offshore terminal similar to Trafigura's.

Meanwhile, Brazilian prosecutors have accused Trafigura in recent weeks of paying bribes to Brazil's state-owned oil company Petróleo Brasileiro S.A. or Petrobras. The accusations led Petrobras to suspend oil and fuel trading with Trafigura and Glencore, another Swiss commodities trader, Reuters reported.

TRENDS

Energy law firm details three 3 that could upend energy companies in 2019

By Mella McEwen
mmcewen@hearsntp.com

Hydraulic fracturing evolution

A new year is on the horizon, and with it will come new challenges.

There are three main trends oil and gas companies should be on the lookout for in 2019, according to the energy law firm Baker Botts.

These trends could not only expose companies to litigation and the resulting financial exposure, but could put corporate assets at risk, said Jason Newman, partner with the company.

Allocation disputes

That is especially true of oil and gas allocation disputes, and the unprecedented growth of shale plays has made dividing up those royalties more complex than ever, Newman said.

"It used to be that if you didn't pay royalties properly, you could face damages, but the lease would not be terminated," he said in a phone interview from his Houston office. "Leases today make not paying royalties properly a cause for termination. That's changed. Operators could budget for minimizing the risk of royalty disputes, but this puts their assets at risk."

Newman attributed the complexity of dividing up royalties to technological advances. Operators are drilling horizontal wells with longer laterals across multiple leased tracts or multiple pooled units, he said. Those long laterals bring up questions about how the wells should be permitted, whether the underlying leases allow "allocation" wells and how royalties should be calculated across the various leases when production is aggregated at surface processing and storage facilities. The leases that operators are using to drill wells, especially in the Permian Basin, don't express how production should be allocated, he said.

In addition, he said the Permian Basin has been producing oil and gas for almost a century, and royalty interests in the region are highly fractionated.

"The problem of allocating royalties from horizontal wells is a legal issue without clear answers from the courts. That puts operators in a tough spot," said Newman, noting that the courts have not kept up with technological advances.

"The theory a lot of plaintiffs are using (in shale plays) is that if the oil and gas company can't tell with certainty where the oil and gas comes into the wellbore, maybe it's not a question of 'You didn't pay me enough, someone else got too much.' This is not reallocating the pieces within the pie; this is trying to make the pie bigger."

Decisions are often made "on 50 years of jurisprudence based on vertical wells. Technology has changed so rapidly the courts can't keep up," he said.

Regulators are trying to help address the issue, he said, noting the Railroad Commission now issues permits for wells with production sharing agreements if 65 percent of acreage owners agree on a royalty formula.

The commission will also issue permits for true allocation wells, in which less than 65 percent of owners agree to a royalty formula. "That's the riskiest approach," Newman said.

Savvy operators are being proactive by updating leases and looking at how production will be allocated beforehand, he said.

Technological advances in hydraulic fracturing could also expose producers to civil litigation, Newman said.

Operators today are designing higher-pressure completions using more proppants, but this modern technology also raises the potential for frac hits where a new well interferes with a nearby well or historical vertical wells. This also raises the potential for large claims for lost production, equipment damage and environmental contamination.

The issue is particularly acute in the Permian Basin, where operators have inventories of thousands of drilling locations in areas where historic wells already exist, he said. These older wells, drilled as far back as the 1940s, don't have the mechanical integrity to withstand a frac hit as do newer wells, Newman said.

"Frac hits do end up in court," said Newman. "They're tough cases."

The cases may not give rise to the standard of trespassing but could meet the standard for a negligence claim.

Courts are struggling to answer questions, such as what is the state-of-the-art standard of care in avoiding frac hits and legal issues involving predecessor interests, contractual indemnities and regulations on plugging wells.

"Technology is evolving so rapidly you can't find an expert engineer to discuss the specifics," Newman said. "It's an issue of trying to talk in reasonable terms about what's happening underground."

Price volatility

Unlike royalty allocations and frac hits, which have been impacted by technology, price volatility has been with the industry since the first barrels of oil were produced, said Newman.

Price volatility has surged significantly in recent months. After reaching a four-year high in October, prices have plunged 40 percent to levels seen in the price collapse of 2015-2016. Newman said 2019 could be a test for producers who boasted of breakeven price ranges between \$30 and \$40 a barrel in the shale plays.

"In the latest downturn, a lot of companies have advanced technology where they can drill either longer laterals or, in the Permian Basin, tap multiple reserves from a single well. I think for the same capital, drilling companies can end up with a well producing more. (But) those wells are based on a price range," he said.

If prices fall further or remain low, he predicted a chilling of activity or a spike in bankruptcies, which could lead to insolvency disputes, joint venture disputes or borrower-lender liability claims.

As an attorney focused on energy issues, Newman said he finds the issues very interesting. He also draws from personal experience. He said his family is from West Texas and "my personal family has gotten royalty checks for 2 cents, with a 35 cent postage stamp."

Pondering the three trends to watch for, he said it will be interesting to see where courts will go on the issues.

"The trial courts have a tough job. They don't have a lot of appellate findings to go by," he said.

He said that rulings won't be "the sky is falling but could be a disincentive to development."

GAS PRODUCTION

Permian natural gas offers tremendous potential

By Mella McEwen
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Already among the world's dominant oil-producing regions, the Permian Basin has the potential to add natural gas production dominance to its resume.

As Industrial Info Resources put it, the Permian Basin could turn into "Marcellus West" as natural gas production has doubled over the last three years to just shy of 13 million cubic feet per day, a trend the company expects to continue.

There are, however, some barriers to achieving that distinction, according to Jesus Davis, vice president, research for the oil and gas industry at Industrial Info and IIR Energy.

"The monkey wrench is the decline in oil prices," Davis said in a phone interview from his Sugar Land office. "I think the biggest concern I have for gas production in the Permian Basin is oil prices," he said.

If prices fall further or remain low for an extended period, that would not only affect crude production but natural gas production and

natural gas liquids production, Davis said.

"We'd see a significant slowdown," he said.

Operators in the coming months could decide their capital is better spent on mergers and acquisitions than drilling, he said.

Infrastructure is another concern, as Permian natural gas production threatens to overwhelm takeaway capacity just as crude oil production has done, Davis said. But that is an issue that will solve itself, he said.

Davis estimates there are four huge pipeline projects proposed with 60 billion cubic feet of natural gas takeaway capacity, compared a potential of 10 to 15 million cubic feet of daily production, he said.

"It's definitely adequate — maybe too much for natural gas and for oil," he said. "If it all gets built, it's too much. But that's how it works — you go from none to too much."

What stymied development in the Marcellus is similar to what's happening now in the Permian, Davis said: Production grew so fast, takeaway capacity couldn't

keep up. And efforts to build new pipelines met opposition from residents and environmentalists, he said.

"Projects proposed four years ago are still waiting for permits," he said.

In Texas, the environment is friendlier and, because the proposed pipelines are intrastate, "It's a Texas issue. With the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and Railroad Commission, permitting is more straightforward."

That additional capacity doesn't take into consideration the pipelines moving natural gas south to Mexico, Davis said.

"We have capacity just waiting on Mexico to build on the other side, whether it's to power plants or industrial demand," he said.

He said he's not concerned about the efforts of Mexico's new president, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, to build up Mexico's energy industry and reduce reliance on imported energy sources. "(He) doesn't realize what it takes to turn an industry around," Davis said. Though the same shale formations Texas is busily developing

are found in Mexico as well, he said the country hasn't invested in its infrastructure.

"Mexico doesn't have the capital or the technology to develop those shales," he said. "Their problem is they're expanding into new areas and they need money just to stem the slowdown in the industry. I think they'll still be dependent on outside energy resources."

Beyond supplying natural gas in its gaseous or liquefied form, America is preparing to turn its newfound natural gas riches into other resources like ethane and ethylene, much for export.

"The U.S. has always been an importer, we've never been a supplier; now we are," Davis commented.

That has translated into investment in export infrastructure for crude, natural gas, natural gas liquids, refined products, liquid propane gases, liquefied natural gas, ethanes and ethylenes, he said.

"We need to open our eyes and look at the world, not just here," he said.

there will be consolidation among many of the projects before they're built.

"It makes sense to build long-term, but it creates its own problems if the pipes are empty," he said.

Asked about the recent drop in oil prices amid concerns about oversupply and a weakening global economy, Fielden said the lower prices eventually will slow output. "Back to the 2015 situation — not good," he said.

Still, he concluded in his report, "The history of shale expansion has taught us that the most optimistic forecasts frequently appear in the rearview mirror."

PIPELINE

From Page 1

The expected surge in exports has set off a scramble to expand dock capacity, with five offshore facilities to accommodate the Very Large Crude Carriers capable of carrying up to 2 million barrels of crude, announced along the Texas Gulf Coast. While those projects have been praised for their economic contributions and job creation, they also have been met with opposition, including from nearby residents. The Port of Corpus Christi

is opposing Trafigura's Texas Gulf Terminal project.

"These controversies 'slow export dock development, but they won't stop exports," Fielden said. "We're doing 3 million barrels a day of exports a day already with no problems."

But, as he said in his report, "the threat of dock congestion only arises if all the proposed pipelines are built and if they run full. That probability is low, at least in the next three years."

He pointed to a forecast from the U.S. Energy Information Administration that U.S. production will average 10.9 million barrels a day this

year and 12.1 million barrels a day next year, implying a slowdown from this year's surge of 1.5 million barrels a day over 2017 levels to 1.2 million barrels growth in 2019. Even if domestic production grows by that same 1.2 million barrels a day in 2020 and 2021, the net increase between 2018 and 2021 would be 3.6 million barrels, well within that 7.7 million barrel planned pipeline capacity.

He said the mismatch between the volume of planned pipeline projects and crude growth over the next three years suggests a short-term infrastructure overbuild, and

EDUCATION

ECISD

Community shows support for ECISD with TRE passage

Ector County ISD

For Ector County Independent School District, 2018 can be summed up in three letters — TRE. On Nov. 6, voters approved a tax ratification election increasing the school district's maintenance and operations tax rate by 13 cents to the state maximum of \$1.17. The measure passed with nearly 62 percent voting for it. The successful campaign came one year after voters defeated a similar proposition and a school bond package. In the immediate, the TRE means an additional \$18 million in local and state revenue for ECISD this year. In the long-term it lays the foundation to prepare for the growth that is projected for the district. The first priority for the TRE funds is across-the-board raises. The starting salary for teachers will jump to \$50,000, a move school district officials hope will help address the need to fill more than 200 teacher vacancies.

The success of the TRE campaign really hinged on the hard work of the community members who supported it and spent months learning about school finance, ECISD's circumstances and then promoting the issue through meetings and door-to-door canvassing.

That wave of community support for its schools shone through as new partnerships grew and impacted students in a positive way in 2018. The ACCESS partnership aligned local medical institutions with middle schools to provide speakers, mentors, career exploration, and eventually internships for students. A drop in the teen pregnancy rate led to The Texas Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy bestowing its Community Partnership Award to ECISD, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, and The Life Center. The district joined with the Boys & Girls Club of Odessa to begin building a new Club facility on the campus of E.K. Downing Elementary. A Chevron grant for \$150,000 supported engineering courses and PICK Education, Southwest Bank gave \$78,000 to buy 300 Chromebook laptops for Crockett Middle School. December brought an incredible gift of \$300,000 from Medical Center Health System and the MCHS Foundation to buy 1,170 Chromebooks for four other middle schools.

As 2019 approaches, the ECISD board of trustees is beginning the search for a new superintendent of



Jacy Lewis/191 News

ECISD Agriculture Department received a new truck from Sewell Ford on Nov. 30 this year. In May, then Superintendent Tom Crowe announced his retirement. The school board hired Jim Nelson to lead the district through the 2019-2020 school year, and help transition to the new superintendent. The search for that new superintendent officially began in late November. Nelson served on the ECISD board of trustees from 1984-1995, was appointed as the commissioner of Education of the Texas Education Agency, worked as the superintendent of Richardson Independent School District for two years, and from there became the executive director-chief executive officer for AVID Center. He has served on numerous state and national education advisory boards.

A few other highlights from 2018: ■ ECISD reached an all-time high in August when student enrollment topped 33,000.

■ The school district's two early college high schools welcomed their first senior classes this year and look forward to those first graduation ceremonies in May.

■ In an effort to address low-performing schools, the school district began an in-district charter school at Ector Middle School through an arrangement with a newly formed non-profit organization, Ector Middle School College Prep Success Academy. In addition, Travis Zavala and Noel Pease elementary schools became sets of partner schools with reconfigured with grade levels focused on meeting early education needs of the community.

■ District officials altered the boundary zones for a dozen elementary and middle schools in order to address overcrowding due to population growth and shifting.

■ The ECISD Innovation Department took students to new heights

literally — by arranging an invitation to take part in the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program (SSEP). A team of students from Falcon Early College High School designed "The Efficacy of Ideonella Sakaensis in a Microgravity Environment" which looked at how that bacteria will decompose poly(ethylene terephthalate) in microgravity and compare it to Earth. In July, their experiment was flown to the International Space Station where it was conducted by astronauts. ECISD has been accepted into the program again for 2019.

■ The Innovation Department also expanded its PICK Education initiative by connecting teachers and students with real world research projects, arranging presentations by world-renowned researchers, and creating new partnerships with Tulane University School of Medicine, San Francisco State University, Southern Methodist University and The University of Texas. The Innovation Department also planned and executed the first TEDx event for Odessa, Moonshot Madness, featuring seven speakers.

■ For the fourth year in a row, ECISD received distinction as one of the nation's Best Communities for Music Education. This prestigious designation comes from the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation.

■ Odessa High School earned revalidation as an AVID National Demonstration School, an honor that goes to only about 1 percent of AVID schools nationwide.

■ OHS student Mayely Carrasco won a Student Hero award from the State Board of Education for starting a suicide prevention program at the school.

UTPB

UT Permian Basin moves forward to better serve region

UTPB

2018 for The University of Texas Permian Basin can be summed up in two words: moving forward. The university is moving into its next chapter with big plans.

The year began with a "topping out" ceremony for the Engineering Building — a tradition celebrating a major structural milestone in the construction of significant buildings.

The \$55 million three-story facility will house the College of Engineering. The building will include space for classrooms, instructional labs, research, administrative offices and student support services.

UT Permian Basin President Sandra Woodley says the space will be state-of-the-art.

"There is so much happening around the energy industry. This gives the University an opportunity to provide a workforce and innovation that's needed," Woodley said.

A key player to take innovation to the next level is the new College of Engineering Dean George Nnanna.

Before coming to UTPB, Nnanna led the mechanical and civil engineering departments at Purdue

University Northwest in Indiana.

"My experience as founding director of Purdue Water Institute will help me in developing strategic initiatives necessary for the growth of the College," Nnanna said. "UT Permian Basin Engineering is well-positioned to be an academic leader in the energy industry."

Another area of growth — the College of Business. Steve Beach came on board as the new dean of the College of Business. Beach comes to UT Permian Basin after serving as associate dean and professor of Finance in the College of Business and Economics at Radford University.

"We are assembling a team of talented and innovative people to lead this University into the future. Steve Beach and George Nnanna are the kind of leaders we need to ensure that graduates from UT Permian are highly recruited and well prepared for the workforce," Woodley said. The university also broke ground on the D. Kirk Edwards Human Performance Center in September.

"We believe upgraded facilities will instill a sense of pride in our athletic programs while inspiring research and advanced learning for our students,"

she said. "Our students and athletes deserve a facility like this. We expect the best from them in the classroom, at practice and at game-time. They should expect the same from us."

The 63,000-square-foot facility will house the Kinesiology Department including classrooms and labs. It will also give all student athletes a new space to train and coaches a place to recruit.

The year ended with a historic Investiture Ceremony — an official conferring of President Woodley. At the ceremony, Woodley laid out her plan for the future of the University.

"Our strategic plan is outward focused. It is truly focused on the value we can bring to the community," Woodley said. "That's how we win. That is how we achieve success — we focus on our value and we focus on doing the work every day that will make a difference in the community."

Those goals include doubling the number of people who earn a degree, doubling research, a campus transformation plan and growing our own workforce — including K-12 teachers.

"These professionals are so badly needed in the Permian Basin," she said. "We have a responsibility to do everything we can to en-

sure that our public school students receive the quality education they deserve."

The university also plans to create an internship program to give students in every field of study "real-world" experience and more hands-on learning.

"This is a win-win for our students and our industry partners. Internships and co-ops, along with capstone projects that connect our students to their careers long before they graduate, will be a differentiator for UT Permian Basin," Woodley said. "This program will provide us an opportunity to gain a deep understanding of what our industry leaders need from our graduates and we will deliver on that service."

The Permian Basin is one of the most important places on Earth — and this is no overstatement. The Texas Tribune reports that the U.S. just surpassed Russia as the world's top oil producer. The paper states that oil from our area will account for 80 percent of the growth in global supply over the next seven years.

"The University of Texas Permian Basin has a major role to play in the future success of West Texas and beyond — and we are up for the challenge," Woodley said. "This is your university and we are here to serve."

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BEST PHOTOS OF 2018

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Photos by Jacy Lewis/191 News

The Texas Supreme Court hears cases at the Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center on Sept. 19.



The Odessa Fire Department helped wash the Carson and Barnes Circus elephants, Libby and Bonnie, Sept. 21 before the circus started.



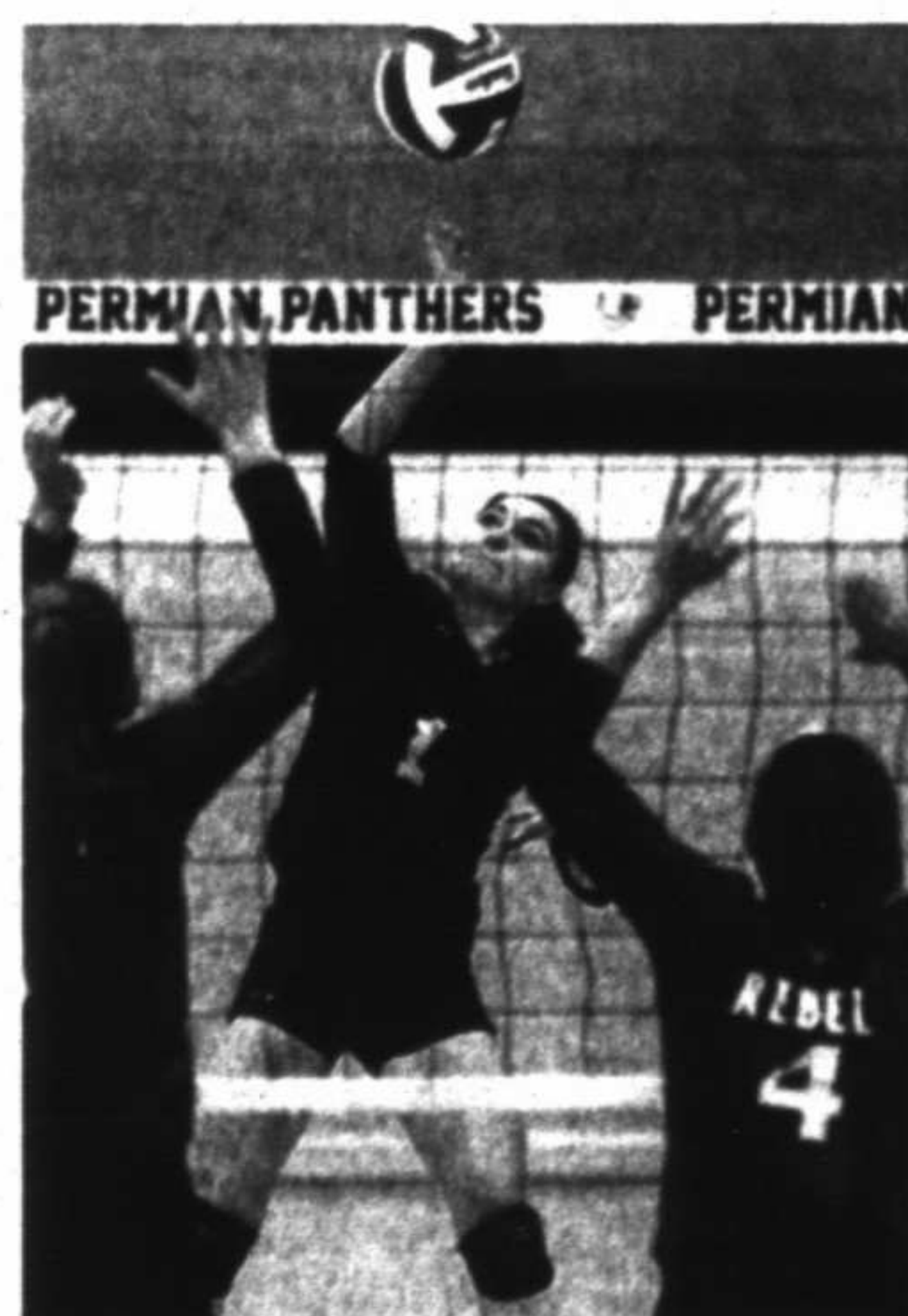
Craig Goodson works on a custom guitar on Nov. 16.



Emily St. John Mandel is interviewed by Odessa Arts Executive Director Randy Ham about her novel "Station Eleven" on Oct. 11 at the Globe of the Great Southwest.



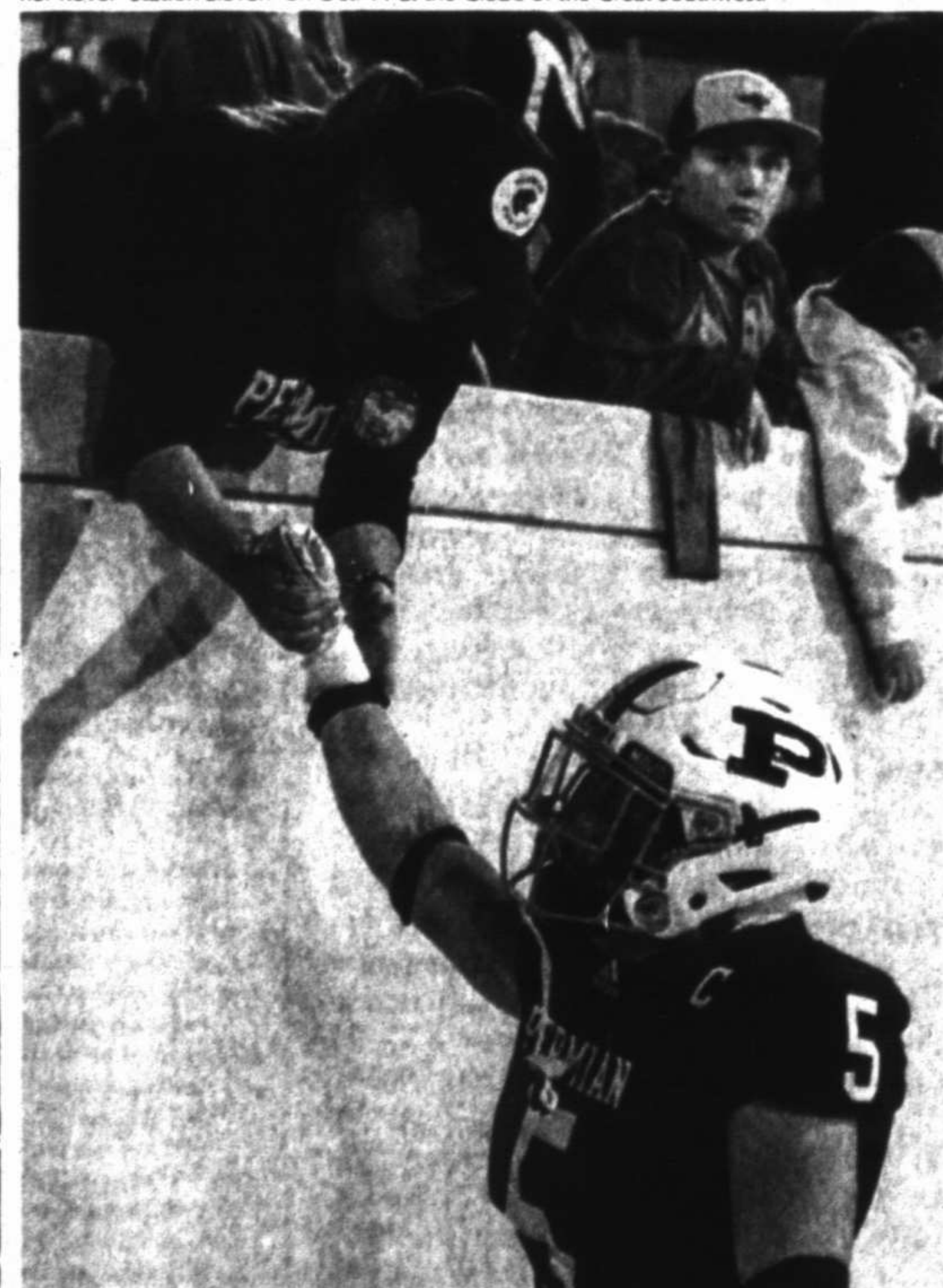
The cast of "Annie" goes through a dress rehearsal Aug. 1. Lily Windham plays with Sandy, Addie the dog. Windham tied for the MRT's Performance of the Year.



Lauren Lucas hits the ball on Sept. 28 at Permian Field House against Midland Lee.



Ed Williams (27) carries the ball Sept. 28 at Ratliff Stadium.



Christian Tschauner (5) holds a Permian fan's hand after Permian's loss to Arlington Lamar on Nov. 23 at Wildcat Stadium in Abilene.



Permian High School band practices early morning on Sept. 13.



The Odessa Chamber of Commerce hosted the Basin BBQ Blowout on Oct. 4.



The Permian football team of 1988 celebrates 30 years after taking the field before the coin toss Oct. 26.

Tori Aldana/191 News

CULTURE

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PUBLIC ART

Odessa Arts had a busy year

By Jacy Lewis
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Randy Ham has had a busy year coordinating ArtPocalypse for Odessa Arts. He is looking for more long-term projects after the success of ArtPocalypse and a short break.

ArtPocalypse

The art collaborative was based around the NEA Big Read book "Station Eleven" by Emily St. John Mandel. In all, ArtPocalypse had 28 events over 12 weeks, Ham said. Odessa Arts also handed out all 500 copies of "Station Eleven" that were bought with the grant from NEA Big Read.

"I was able to see what we could do in terms of doing arts collaboratives," Ham said. "It went above and beyond just being a citywide reading program."

"This was our third year to do Shakespeare with the Texas Shakespeare Festival from Killgore," Ham said.

The Shakespeare Festival has grown significantly since its beginning. Students from all over the Permian Basin attended to watch the best of Shakespeare and talk with the actors. The first year there were about 900 students, the second year there were about 1,200 students, and this year about 2,000 students came to the Globe for the Shakespeare Festival, Ham said.

"Every fourth- and fifth-grader from Andrews, Texas came through the doors of the Globe," Ham said.

For the last performance of "MacBeth," so many people attended that they had to open up the balconies, which they had never had to do during a public performance, he said.

"I loved to see the community response to it," Ham said. "I come up with these ideas and I talk to the other art agencies and we all get excited. But we don't know how it is going to play with the community until it happens. To see the community come out and



Jacy Lewis/191 News

The Cloth World Sign as seen on Dec. 20.

support this. ... That really made me happy."

The gateway to downtown

Ham is now focusing his attention on the Cloth World Sign after Odessa Arts received a donation of \$100,000 from Toby and Sondra Eoff.

"The Cloth World Sign is this big steel mid-century structure from the 1950s on Maple and 10th from when

that shopping center was called the

Rockhill Shopping Center. Then Cloth World, the fabric store, moved in there and they changed the sign to look like Cloth World," Ham said.

"The Cloth World Sign came to his attention when creating the Public Art Master plan that Ham and Odessa Arts conceived when they got feedback about what people in the community cared about.

"The public was really pushing for this they want to see part of Odessa history preserved for the future," Ham

said.

Ham said that Odessa Arts is already halfway to their fundraising goal to begin the project.

"That was one of our first projects we announced. We did a nationwide search. We got over 90 applicants of artists from all over the country," Ham said.

Ray King, an artist based in Philadelphia, was selected for his design of a spire with LED lights. The money for the art installation has already been secured, but funds are needed to refurbish the Cloth World Sign to be structurally sound, Ham said.

"It's a really cool piece of Odessa history," Ham said. "I like the fact that instead of just commissioning new work we're looking at the landmarks in Odessa and we are trying to salvage them or repurpose them. So that it's not just about tearing down the old and building the new, it's about marrying the two."

Odessa Arts needs \$200,000 to refurbish the structure before the work can be installed. Ham hopes that Odessa Arts can begin work on the Cloth World Sign in the new year.

GIVING

Donations for the Cloth World Sign can be made at odessaarts.org.

MOSC

Midland-Odessa Symphony & Chorale continues enriching community through music

Midland-Odessa Symphony & Chorale

Serving the community with another year of enriching lives through music, MOSC reflects on a year of providing symphonic orchestral music performed by professional musicians that touched the lives of children and adults of all ages. Five-Thousand elementary school students from MISD and ECISD experienced a live symphonic concert, "Marvelous Melodies" at the Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center along with special performances in their schools. The students enjoyed conducting the orchestra from their seats and swaying along to the music. Their favorite moment was guessing the musical piece that was about to be performed while only hearing the first seven notes of the "Harry Potter" theme.

Continuing to present the great symphonies by such composers as Tchaikovsky, Beethoven and Debussy, these Masterworks concerts also featured stellar guest artists such as internationally renowned timpanist Michael Tetreault and opera singer Amy Burton. The MOSC took advantage of some of the Basin's amazing local music talent in the global celebration of "Bernstein at 100," featuring opera singer David Corman and singers from the UPTB choir. This special celebration of the 100th birthday of America's most esteemed conductor,

composer and humanitarian Leonard Bernstein proved an excellent opening of MOSC's 56th season.

Permian Basin audiences also enjoyed pops concerts designed to appeal to a variety of musical tastes featuring the music of Chicago performed by Brass Transit, the Grammy Award-winning Indigo Girls and a patriotic salute to our local heroes entitled "Celebrating Our Heroes."

The winter and spring lineup includes a Basin favorite, Rachmaninoff's piano concerto #3 performed by David Korevaar in January along with Shostakovich's Symphony #9. April's symphonic concert will feature saxophonist Timothy McAllister performing recently recorded "Rush" along with the ever popular "Pines of Rome" by Respighi. "Dancing and Romancing" in March will feature Broadway stars Joan Hess and Kirby Ward performing an evening of song and dance inspired by the likes of Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers and Gene Kelly. MOSC will conclude the 56th season with the symphony chorale joining the orchestra for a memorable concert featuring "Jeans in Classics Music of Elton John & Billy Joel."

MOSC kept the Lone Star Brass, West Texas Winds and Permian Basin String Quartet busy with a total of six chamber concerts, performed in the Reg-Greathouse Concert Hall. Concertmaster John Madura



Jacy Lewis/191 News

Midland-Odessa Symphony and Chorale received a grant from Odessa Arts during a lunch Sept. 26 at the Nancy Fyfe Cardozer Gallery and Sculpture Garden.

and his wife principal viola Melissa Madura moved to Wisconsin in June. MOSC is fortunate to have them continue to play during the 56th season, with auditions for these coveted positions to be held in March.

In addition to performing two concerts in the First Presbyterian Church of Midland, the 70-plus member Symphony Chorale under the direction of Gregory M. Pysh traveled to the British Isles this past summer performing in some of the great cathedrals of that part of the world. The 80-plus Voices of the Permian Basin under the direction of Emily Baker enjoyed performing a variety of music in their spring concert "We Sing!" Both choirs always look forward to singing in the traditional holiday concert "Sounds of the Season."

With the retirement of long standing co-principal trumpet, Michael Santorelli and principal piano, Shari Santorelli, MOSC is proud

to announce the endowed chairs in their honor supported by Karen and Spencer Beal. MOSC also celebrated the newly endowed principal viola chair supported by Mary de Compiegne and Rosalind Redfern Grover.

MOSC looks forward to next season. With the continued support of the board of directors, the Midland Symphony Guild, Odessa Symphony Guild, sponsors, foundations and audience members, MOSC will continue to develop the fine artistry of this wonderful orchestra under the baton of Music Director and Conductor Gary Lewis. The 57th Season is underway and will be announced in April. Without giving too much away until the official announcement, MOSC will continue to feature world-class guest artists performing some of the world's greatest symphonic music along with more family concert events that are designed to delight film-goers of all ages.

THINGS TO DO

(due to the holidays, some recurring events may be affected)

Through Tuesday
Starbright Village and Community Tree Lighting. View one of the largest displays in the area with more than 300,000 lights and holiday displays, 6-11 p.m., McKinney Park, 625 W. Pool Road. Free. odessatx-parks.org.

Through Jan. 16
"A Legacy of Leadership: Winston Churchill," 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N.

Through March 10
"Golden Age of Hollywood: Costumes from the Gene London Cinema Collection." This exhibition features more than 50 costumes and personal effects of vintage movie stars such as Bette Davis, Joan Crawford, Doris Day, Tallulah Bankhead, Greta Garbo, Judy Garland, Katharine Hepburn, Grace Kelly, John Wayne, Tyrone Power, Elizabeth Taylor and Marilyn Monroe. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays (open to 8 p.m. Thursdays), 2-5 p.m. Sundays at the Ellen Noel Art Museum, 4909 E. University Blvd. noelartmuseum.org.

Today

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

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

New Year's Eve (Monday)

■ New Year's Eve Party with party favors, games and blackout skates, 7 p.m., KC's Nutty Roller, 1004 Andrews Highway. \$16 admission, \$1 skate rental, \$5 blades. Cash only. kcsnuttyroller.com.

■ New Year's Bash will feature all-you-can-play attractions, bowling, games and a chef-prepared buffet. For ages 10 and older, 7:30 p.m., Cinergy Odessa, 8250 State Highway 191. \$24.99. cinergy.com.

Wednesday through Jan. 12
Sandhills Stock Show and Rodeo at

Ector County Coliseum, 4201 Andrews Highway. \$16-\$20. sandhillssr.com. The full schedule of shows and performances can be found online.

Coming soon

■ "Sesame Street Live! Let's Party," 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Jan. 5 and 6, Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$23-\$53. wagner-noel.com.

■ Jake "The Snake" Roberts — Comedy and Stories from the Road, 8 p.m. Jan. 13, Dos Amigos, 4700 N. Golder Ave. \$20-\$50.

■ Vocal Trash, 7 p.m. Jan. 16, Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$35. liveonstage-pb.com.

■ The Oak Ridge Boys, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 17, Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$42-\$67. wagner-noel.com.

■ "The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show featuring Brown Bear, Brown Bear," 2 p.m. Jan. 21, Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$27-\$67. wagnernoel.com. This stage show is based on four books by Eric Carle.

■ "Legally Blonde the Musical," 7:30 p.m. Jan. 23, Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$47-\$90. broadwayinthebasin.com.

■ Family Science Night: Powered by Science, 6:30-8 p.m. Jan. 24, Petroleum Museum, 1500 N. Interstate 20 W., Midland. Free. pb-petro.org.

■ Odessa Jackalopes play the Lone Star Brahmas, 7 p.m. Jan. 25 and 26, Ector County Coliseum, 4201 Andrews Highway.

■ MOSC Masterworks: "The Russians," 7:30 p.m. Jan. 26, Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. MOSC.org.

■ Brian Regan, 7 p.m. Jan. 27, Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$44.50. wagnernoel.com.

■ ECISD Music for Kids featuring music education and performances with a final concert by West Texas Jazz Society, Jan. 28-Feb. 1. wtjs.org.

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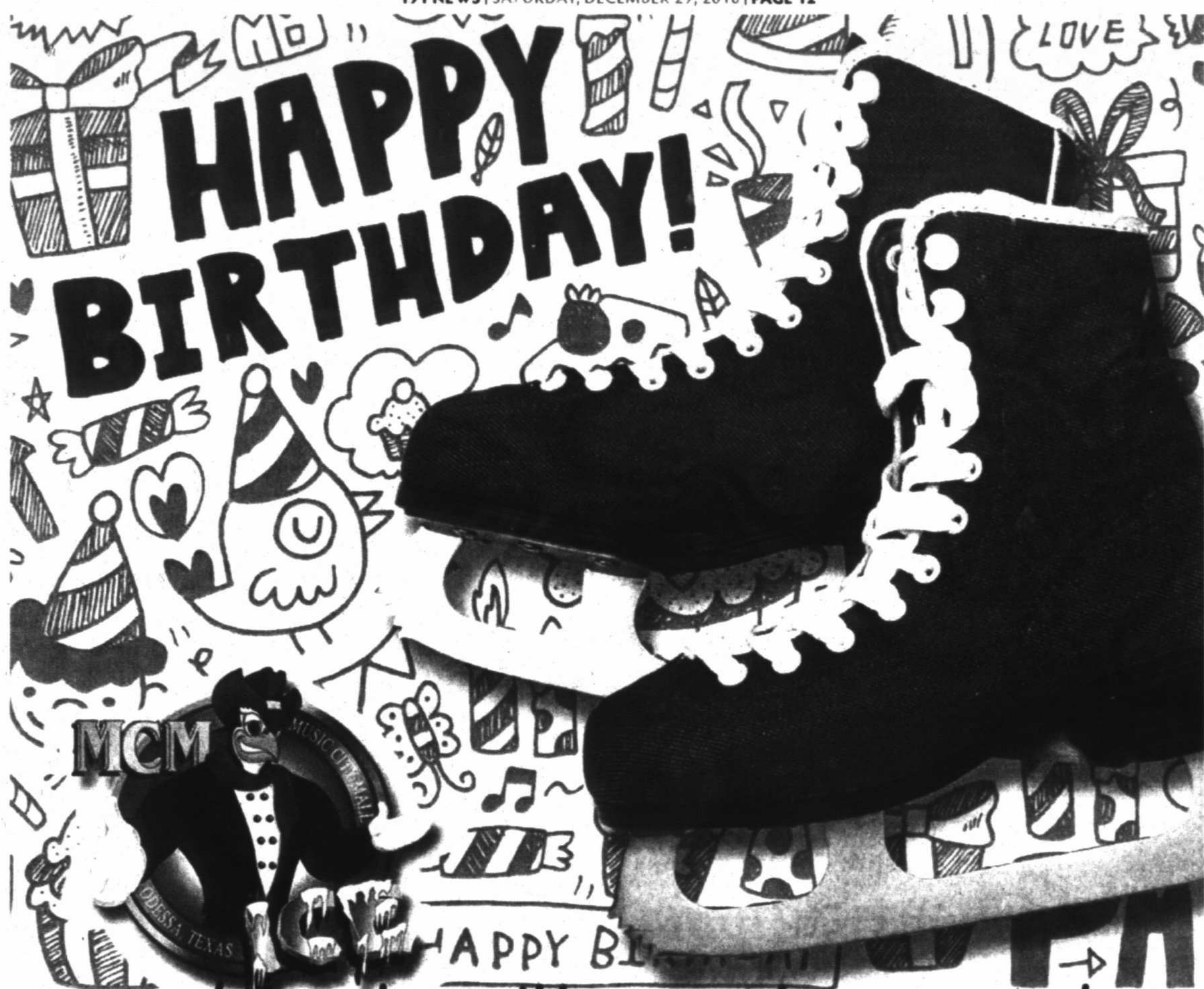
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INSURANCE

Report: Texas has the highest number of uninsured kids in America

By Marissa Evans
Texas Tribune

A Georgetown University Center for Children and Families report released Thursday found that Texas had about 835,000 uninsured children in 2017, an increase of 83,000 kids from the previous year.

For the first time in a decade, the number of children without health insurance in the United States has risen — and Texas again has the largest share.

A recent report from Georgetown University Center for Children and Families found that more than one in five uninsured children in the U.S. live in Texas — about 835,000 as of 2017. The state saw an increase of about 83,000 uninsured children from 2016 to 2017.

Researchers are most vexed that the report marks the first time since the data was collected in 2008 that the nationwide number — as well as the rate — of uninsured children increased, after a decade of decline. The national rate increased from a historic low of 4.7 percent in 2016 to 5 percent in 2017. Texas' rate of uninsured children in 2017 was at 10.7 percent, up slightly from the previous year and still more than double the national average.

"The absence of significant progress across the country suggests that even states with the best intentions were unable to withstand strong national currents to protect children from losing health coverage," researchers wrote.

Texas has had the highest number of uninsured kids two years in a row. Estimates for comparable numbers of uninsured children by state before 2016 were not immediately available from researchers or the U.S. Census. That's because the Census in 2017 changed the definition for children in its American Community Survey data. Previously, children were defined as 17 and under, but now the federal agency counts them as 18 and under.

The new rates are "a big red flag," said Joan Alker, the center's executive director. She said she wasn't expecting an improvement — "the best outcome would be stagnation" — but she was

surprised at the results.

The increase in the number of uninsured children comes from a combination of factors, according to Alker. She pointed out that Texas has the highest uninsured rate among adults in the country, meaning children are less likely to have coverage if their parents don't. It's also a challenge for Texas families to receive Medicaid, the joint federal-state health insurance program for the poor and disabled, since some low-income families make too much money to qualify. Alker also said jobs in common Texas industries including the agriculture and service sectors are less likely to offer insurance coverage.

In addition, Texas has a high proportion of Hispanic children, who are also less likely to be insured. The report found a pattern of states doing poorly with child uninsured rates often have larger populations of Hispanic children or Native American/Alaska Native children.

"[The report] will raise alarm bells and it should," Alker said. "We know kids who are uninsured don't do as well in school, don't have as good outcomes educationally or economically, so this is an issue that policymakers really need to pay attention to."

There are national factors that affect the rate of uninsured children.

There's the anti-Affordable Care Act talk from the Trump administration, Congress and Texas lawmakers. Texas is leading the charge in a federal lawsuit that will determine whether the law is constitutional after Congress ended the mandate for individuals to have health insurance. In addition, expanding Medicaid through the 2010 health law has been a nonstarter in the GOP-dominated Texas Legislature. An estimated 1.1 million low-income Texans would be eligible for coverage under a Medicaid expansion, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. Experts have said adding more adults to Medicaid would decrease the uninsured rate but Republican legislators have said the future costs to Texas are not worth it. The center's report found that nationwide, three-quarters of the children who lost coverage between 2016 and 2017 live in states that have not expanded Medicaid coverage to parents and other low-income adults.

There's also the rhetoric around immigration, which may have discouraged some families from seeking coverage for themselves and their children, known as the "unwelcome mat" effect, according to experts. In addition, there was mass confusion last year when families feared their kids would lose coverage under the Children's Health Insurance Program after Congress failed to renew funding in time. While the funding was ultimately renewed, public health experts fear parents may have allowed the CHIP coverage to expire and haven't renewed.

Thousands of uninsured children are often eligible for health insurance under Medicaid, CHIP or Healthcare.gov, the federal website where people can buy coverage, but families may be unaware of their options.

The steady decrease of federal funding available for navigators, who help people sign up for health insurance, hasn't helped either. In Texas, that funding went down by 85 percent over two years to just \$1.4 million in 2018. Only two community organizations statewide — Change Happens, a clinic based in Houston and MHP Salud, a community health group in the Rio Grande Valley, Laredo and El Paso — received funding for the navigator program. Public health advocates have expressed fear that underrepresented communities are not being reached.

Adriana Kohler, a senior health policy analyst with Texans Care for Children, an advocacy group, said state lawmakers "have to recognize we have a problem and start working on it." Some solutions, she said, include expanding Medicaid and allowing children to stay on Medicaid for a full year without filing income verification paperwork every six months, a policy that often has children losing coverage.

"Texas was already doing a bad job in making sure children have health insurance and now it's even worse," Kohler said. "It's not just about the number or percentage increase — this is disturbing for Texas families and communities who want children to get well child check-ups and everything else that health insurance means for a child."

MENTAL HEALTH

CHRISTINE HALL

Centers



Family should support individual seeking mental health therapy

Mental health is one of the most important aspects of an individual's life; however, it often takes a back seat to overall health. Stigma continues to surround mental health disorders and mental health therapy, which causes many people to avoid getting the help they need.

The mental health field has grown, yet social acceptance is still limited. People are encouraged by family and friends to seek treatment from medical doctors to ensure the best physical health possible, but they don't always do so for mental health therapy.

Adults and children who struggle with emotional issues often are told to "get over it" or "don't let it get to you." In theory, this is an easy concept but it is not practical. So why is there a negative attitude toward mental health therapy? Why is it not so socially acceptable to receive treatment for emotional, behavioral and mental

health issues? One reason is a fear of the unknown. Mental health issues and therapy is not black or white. They are much more complex. Many people do not have accurate information about the diagnosis or treatments of mental illness, thereby creating resistance to therapy.

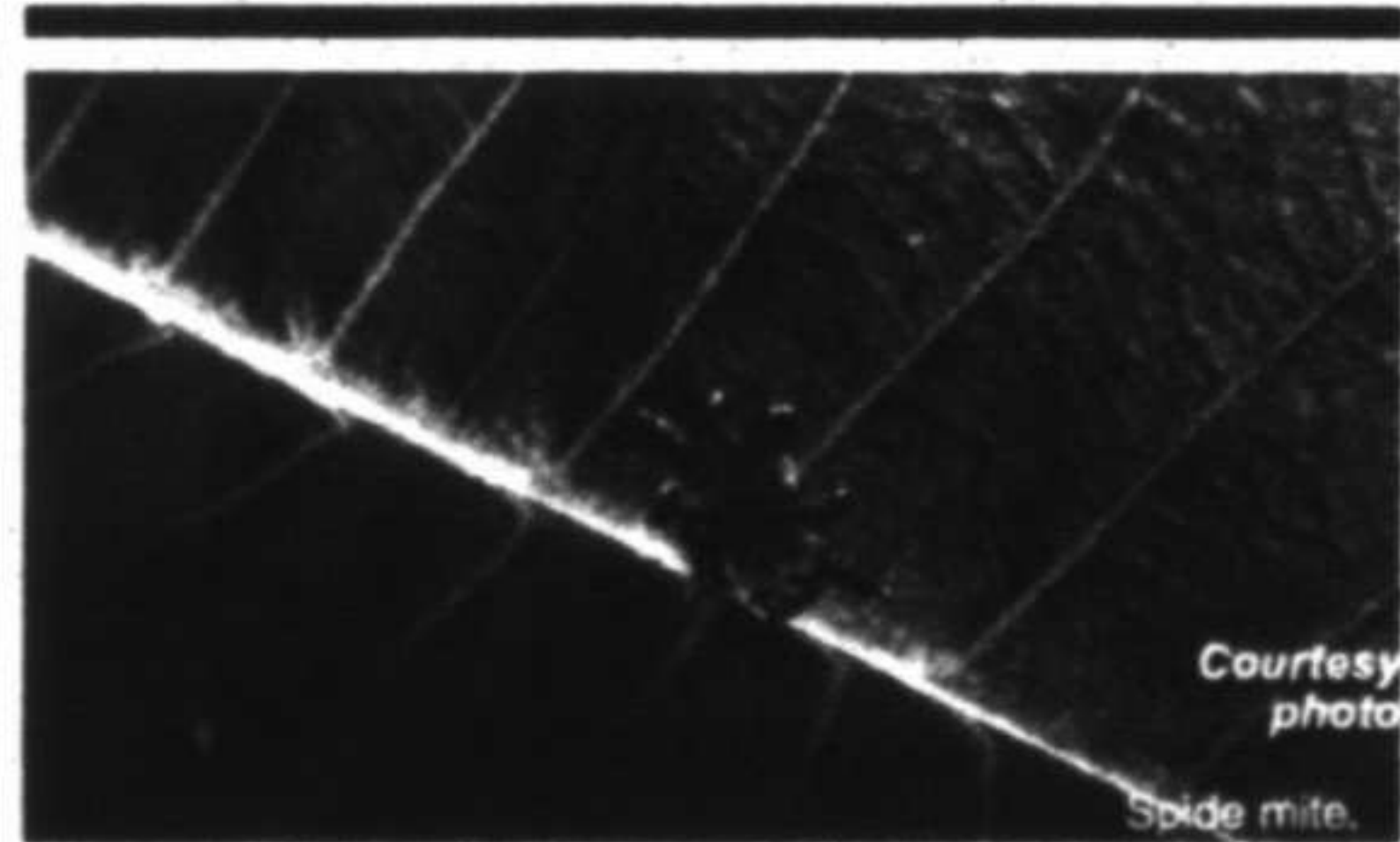
It's important to support someone who decides to seek help for mental health issues. Even if you don't agree with mental health therapy, you should not attempt to influence their decision. Criticizing an individual's well-being and the form of treatment they choose could cause that person to perceive that those who care about them will judge them or view them differently. This may lead to a negative self-identity.

It should not matter the source of help an individual chooses. What matters is that the individual finds health, self-worth and happiness.

GARDEN

KAREN MILLER

Permian Basin Master Gardener



Spider mites come out with higher temperatures

There are bad bugs, and there are terrible bugs. Spider mites fall in the latter.

Spider mites are less than 0.04 of an inch in size, and thus, are difficult to see with the naked eye. They range in color from red and brown to yellow and green. Spider mites love hot, dry weather. They won't be a problem now but it's good to be aware that they'll be seen before too long. Temperatures around 80 degrees are considered optimal for the two-spotted spider mite — which is common in our area — to hatch in as little as three days.

Spider mites are considered a serious pest on both indoor and outdoor plants. They congregate on the underside of the leaves where they feed off the plant fluids while stealing the plant's chlorophyll in the process. Visible signs of spider mite damage include webbing and white or yellow speckles on plant leaves.

A severe infestation can cause leaves to become discolored, giving a gray or bronze look to the plant. Leaves and needles can become scorched and drop

prematurely. Spider mites frequently kill plants or cause serious stress to them.

One reason the spider mite has become such a problem in our yards and gardens is the use of insecticides that destroy their natural enemies. Because of their rapid reproduction rate, the spider mite can adapt quickly to resist certain pesticides, especially when used over a long period. Miticides or acaricides are a good chemical control of spider mites. These are pesticides developed specifically for spider mite control. Be aware though, miticides do not affect the eggs, so repeat the application again in approximately 10 to 14 days for complete control.

Stressed or weak plants are the likely target of the spider mite. Plants stressed by drought can produce changes in their chemistry that make them more appealing to spider mites. Adequate watering during dry conditions can limit a plant's drought stress. Just a periodic hosing of your plants with a forceful jet of water can physically remove and kill many mites.

MAMMALS

Secretive gray fox is equally at home in desert, grasslands

MICHAEL PRICE

Wild About Texas



When mentioning wild canine species, most people think of wolves, coyotes and feral house pets. But very few think of one delightful and stunning canid that is not much larger than a house cat and roams the countryside with adept secrecy.

The gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) is a small canine that can be observed throughout myriad habitats in most the United States, including the entire state of Texas. It prefers to live in grasslands and open desert, although it apparently also thrives in heavily vegetated areas and even within the confines of human metropolitan areas.

The gray fox is the second smallest of all North American foxes and is only slightly larger than the kit (swift) fox. Adult male grays, the larger of the two sexes, can achieve a total length of almost 4 feet; more than one-third is the tail. The maximum weight is just shy of 20 pounds, although the average weight is about 13 pounds.

The fur on the upper parts is sandy in coloration, highlighted with white and black, giving it the appearance of being grayish.

The back of the ears is a distinctive yellowish brown. The sides of the muzzle are highlighted with black, as is the angle from the eye to the base of the ear, although these are not necessarily always distinctive. The tail is gray on top, white underneath and ends in a black tip. The legs are usually reddish.

The gray fox is a dietary generalist; small mammals make up the majority of the animal's diet. It has been known to feed on kangaroo rats, rabbits, mice, lizards, amphibians, fish, small birds and insects. Unlike their closely related competitor, the red fox, fruits and even vegetables comprise a large portion of the gray fox's diet.

The reproductive habits of this species consist of males and females pairing up for a season of monogamous breeding in October and November, although the pairs generally only stay together for one season. Breeding takes place during the late winter months, and most litters are born in late April or early May. The number of young depends greatly on the condition of the female. Large rotund females can give birth to as



Courtesy photo

Gray fox.

many as seven, while less hefty females give birth to three or fewer.

The birthing place is typically a small den. Here, the young, known as kits, will be reared while the female leaves to gather food, usually only at night or early mornings.

Kits often will begin to hunt alongside their parents as young as 3 months, and are capable to hunt and forage on their own during their fourth month of life. The kits will remain in the

presence of the adults as a family unit until the fall, when they will begin to disperse into a life of solitude until the following breeding season.

Gray fox pelts play a significant role in the fur trade, and although demand varies from year to year, the population densities of this charming little canine have remained stable because of their ability to adapt to altered habitats and even to live in metropolitan areas.



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happy New Year!**

