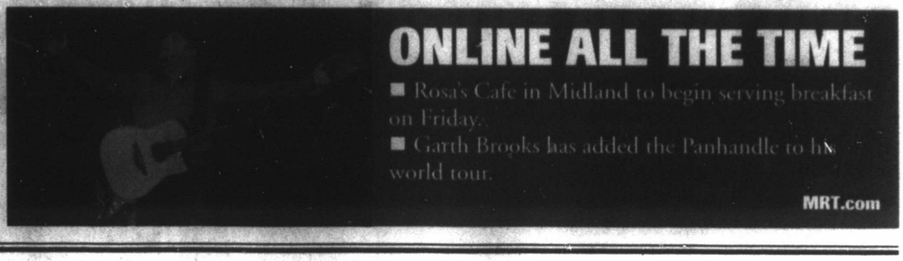
MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2017 mrt★com *235,000 readers in print and online monthly*

STRAUS SPEAKS

Straus hits bathroom bill as threat to Texas economy.

Page 2A



ONLINE ALL THE TIME

- Rosa's Cafe in Midland to begin serving breakfast on Friday.
- Garth Brooks has added the Panhandle to his world tour.

MRT.com

Trump EPA pick pledges to limit agency reach

By Jennifer A. Dlouhy
Bloomberg

President-elect Donald Trump's nominee to lead the Environmental Protection Agency outlined a vision for scaling back the office's reach, while pledging to support clean air and water and hold polluters responsible for violations when necessary.

Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt told the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on Wednesday that environmental protection can be accomplished in collaboration with states and Congress — without undermining the economy.

"We must reject as a nation the false paradigm that if you're pro-energy, you're anti-environment, and if you're pro-environment, you're anti-energy," Pruitt said in his confirmation hearing. "In this nation, we can grow our economy, harvest the resources God has blessed us with, while also being good stewards of the air, land and water."

For roughly seven years as Oklahoma's attorney general, Pruitt has been on the other end of the EPA's authority, chafing at — and challenging — agency regulations governing water, limiting pollution from power plants and slashing greenhouse gas emissions. Pruitt has become one of Trump's most controversial cabinet picks because he has dedicated much of his career to battling the very agency he has been tapped to lead.

If confirmed, Pruitt will be able to rewrite or rescind scores of environmental regulations officially — or simply ease off on their enforcement. Supporters, including panel chairman John Barrasso of Wyoming, say he would rein in overzealous Obama-era rules and restore much-needed balance to environmental regulation, making good on Trump's promise to focus the EPA on its core mission of protecting the air and water.

Opponents take a starkly different view. Sen. Brian Schatz, a Democrat from Hawaii, has termed Pruitt's nomination "a full-fledged environmental emergency." Critics are using targeted advertising, a barrage of phone calls to Senate offices and even a singing sit-in to try and derail the nomination.

Please see PICK/4A

PORTRAIT OF AN AMERICAN FAMILY

James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Members of the Byamukama Zadoki family, Congolese refugees, pose for a photo Jan. 7 in their apartment home.

Refugee organizations get positive reception

By Simone Jasper
sjasper@mrt.com

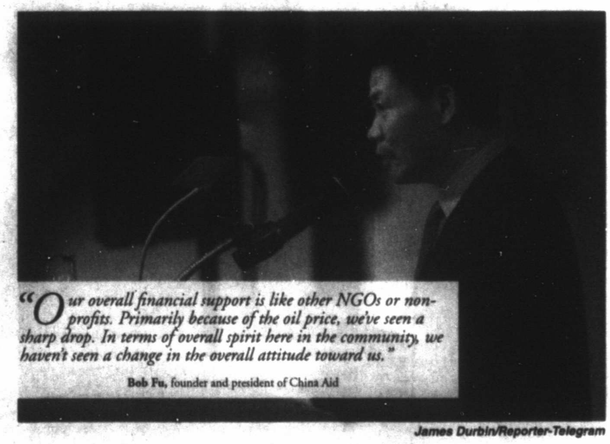
When they think about the future, members of the Byamukama Zadoki family have dreams of working and studying in the United States. Mougisa Jimmy Byamukama Zadoki, 23, said Midlanders have helped his Congolese refugee family transition to the area.

"The people are good," said Mougisa Jimmy, translating for his brother, Isaac Jackson. "Sometimes when we were here, other people (drove) us to the job. They help us at the market."

The Byamukama Zadokis are part of the population of about 1,400 refugees living in the Tall City. Despite contentious national rhetoric about foreigners entering the country, local refugee organizations have noticed steady support for their efforts to resettle refugees.

Susanna Lubanga, resettlement director for the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Abilene and Midland, said many in the region welcome refugees.

"What we've seen is overwhelming support from the West Texas community," Lubanga said. "A lot of people support us. They see benefits of people resettling in the community. They see contributions to the workforce."



"Our overall financial support is like other NGOs or nonprofits. Primarily because of the oil price, we've seen a sharp drop. In terms of overall spirit here in the community, we haven't seen a change in the overall attitude toward us."

Bob Fu, founder and president of China Aid

James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Bob Fu, founder and president of China Aid, speaks during the China Aid fundraiser dinner on April 21, 2016, at Midland Country Club. For Fu, the national focus on refugees is personal. He left China with his family in 1997 and has helped others from the country resettle in Midland.

Bob Fu, founder and president of ChinaAid, also said the national conversation about refugees hasn't affected thoughts about his Christian-based human rights organization. He said the local economy — more than the current political climate — impacts support.

"Our overall financial support is like other NGOs or nonprofits," Fu said. "Primarily because of the oil price, we've seen a sharp drop. In terms of overall spirit here in the community, we haven't seen a change in the overall attitude toward us."

But the resettlement of refugees has been a contentious issue in recent years. In 2015, terrorist attacks in Paris prompted Gov. Greg Abbott and other governors to refuse to accept Syrian refugees in their states. In September, Texas withdrew from the nation's refugee program, an

Please see REFUGEES/4A

Conaway: If Trump is successful, complaints will fall

■ Lawmaker says it's unfair to criticize Republicans for not having health plan at the ready

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

By Trevor Hawes
thawes@mrt.com

President Barack Obama's eight-year tenure in the White House was noted by criticism from Republican lawmakers on myriad issues such as the Affordable Care Act, environmental regulations and extensive use to bypass congress.

The announcements this week by Rep. John Lewis and other Democratic lawmakers that they would not attend incoming President Trump's inauguration ceremonies might strike some as the first signs of four more years of discontent, this time on the other side of the aisle.

U.S. Rep. Mike Conaway of Midland talked about several topics with the Reporter-Telegram on Monday, but when it comes to the kvetching, "It's going to be a different group complaining."

"I don't want a pot calling a kettle black because I did my fair share of complaining about President Obama and things he did," Conaway said. "But we'll see."

The lawmaker said that if Trump is successful, "You may see some diminution in (complaints)." Still, Trump isn't going to face his detractors lying down, as he demonstrated during his campaign and the months since.

"You can see his reaction to Rep. John Lewis and his tweets (last week) to Hillary Clinton that he is who is, and we're probably not going to see much difference (going forward)."

Trump's ability to deliver on his promises will change the nation's psyche dramatically, Conaway said. "They'll feel better about themselves and their prospects and their children's prospects. It will be a different mindset.

"Hopefully, that will translate into less divisiveness and more cooperation with each other moving forward because they'll see the successes and want to be a part of it," he said.

The congressman said he didn't join along with Obama because "it was all failure." However, "If we — and, by extension, Mr. Trump — have successes ... people toward the center left will want to be a part of the movement that's trying to help this country."

As for the hard left, "they're not coming over. They're going to be who they are," he said.

Please see CONAWAY/4A

Weather
Sunny
67/43
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Energy prices

WTI Futures	$51.08	▼ $1.40
WTI Posted	$47.50	▼ $2.00
WTS Posted	$43.00	▼ $2.00
Natural Gas	$3.302	▼ $0.110
Gasoline	$2.148	▲ $0.007

Did you know?
According to two government agencies, **Earth had its hottest year** for the third year in a row. Scientists blame it on global warming. Page 8A

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

Brought to you daily by JuanBurrito Mexican Grill

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Daily $2, Sunday $3

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Obituaries

Cindy Rankin Chilcoat

After a brief battle with cancer, Cindy Rankin Chilcoat passed away on January 16, 2017.

She leaves behind her husband, Steve Chilcoat, and son, James Chilcoat.

Cindy was born on July 7, 1972 in Amarillo, Texas. She was raised by her grandparents, Jean and Walter Rankin. They moved to Midland in 1974. Cindy attended Midland High School and graduated in 1991. She married Steve, her high school sweetheart, on February 19, 1993. Their son James was born in 1994 and son Michael in 1996.

Cindy loved to keep busy with crafts, baking, and gardening. She had a talent for specialty themed cakes which she made for family and friends. She spent time gardening both flowers and vegetables which she would also share with friends and family.

During the week, Cindy would enjoy her son's sporting events. On the weekends, Steve and Cindy would join friends on their motorcycle for long rides. She also enjoyed camping trips with her family and recently spent two weeks in Alaska which was a dream destination for her.

Cindy is survived by her husband, son, mother-in-law, Ann Chilcoat, and sister-in-law, Kathy Hamlin and husband Mark.

She is preceded in death by her parents, grandparents, son, Michael, and father-in-law, Jim Chilcoat.

A visitation was held on Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at Ellis Funeral Home.

There will be a funeral service held at Ellis Funeral Home Chapel on Thursday, January 19, 2017 officiated by Pastor Danny Bisbee. Burial will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park.

Donations may be made at any Community National Bank to the Cindy Chilcoat Benefits Fund.

Online condolences may be offered at *www.ellisfunerals.com*.

Diane Dixon Boling

Diane Dixon Boling, 55, passed away on January 16, 2017 in Midland, Texas.

Diane was born on July 6, 1961 in Odessa, Texas to Jack and Carolyn Dixon. She grew up in Midland and received her degree in Accounting from UTPB. Diane was a long time member of a 12-step fellowship where she held many service positions and made many, many friends.

She loved listening to music and attending live concerts and was passionate about football - especially the Lee High Rebels and Texas Longhorns!

Diane is preceded in death by her father, Jack.

She is survived by her husband, Mark Boling; mother, Carolyn; son, Michael Welch; grandsons, Mason and Colton; sister, Dayna McElreath and her husband Calvin; niece, Paige; brother, David; and by numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

A celebration of life will be held at 2:00 p.m., Friday, January 20, 2017 at The Seed/Hub, 4201 West Illinois in Midland where Diane was an active member serving in the outreach ministry.

Memorial contributions may be made in her name to The Seed Outreach, 4201 W. Illinois Ave., Midland, Texas 79703, or you may give via website: *www.theseedoutreach.com*.

Arrangements are entrusted to American Heritage Cemetery/Funeral Home/ Crematory in Midland.

Online condolences may be expressed at *www.thehealingstartshere.com*.

American Heritage
CEMETERY & FUNERAL HOME
The Healing Starts Here

James Richard Currie

James Richard Currie, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather went to be with our Lord on Monday, January 16, 2017 surrounded by his family.

James was born on February 2, 1928 in San Angelo, Texas to the late Stephen Calverley Currie and Mary Dimple Cox Currie. He came home to the Ranch in Glasscock County where he lived for 88 years.

He attended Texas Tech University and University of Texas. In 1951, he entered the Army and served as a military police instructor at Fort Gordon in Augusta, Georgia. That same year he married the love of his life, Jimmie Ruth Hayes.

James was an avid rancher, hunter, fisherman, and golfer. When he was not at the ranch, he enjoyed spending time with his family and friends and studying the Word of God.

James is survived by his loving wife, Jimmie; two daughters, Cynthia Howard and her husband Bill of Midland and Darla Taylor and her husband Craig of Midland; his five grandsons, Stephen, Chris and Richard Howard, and James and Will Taylor; and five great-grandchildren.

Honorary pallbearers will be Clifford Barnes, Barry Beal, Dr. Richard Byrd, Jose Luis Cardenas, Rick Glasscock, Jim Hall, Richard Johnson, Jax Poteet, Dennis Seidenberger, and Frank Sitterle.

James' memorial will be held on Thursday, January 19, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Midland.

In lieu of flowers, it is requested a donation be made in James' name to Midland Memorial Foundation.

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

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

Mary Nell Haley

Mary Nell Haley, 51, of Loving County, Texas, passed from this life on Sunday, January 15, 2017 in Loving County. She was born in Midland, Texas on December 3, 1965 to John and Stefanie (Fay) Haley.

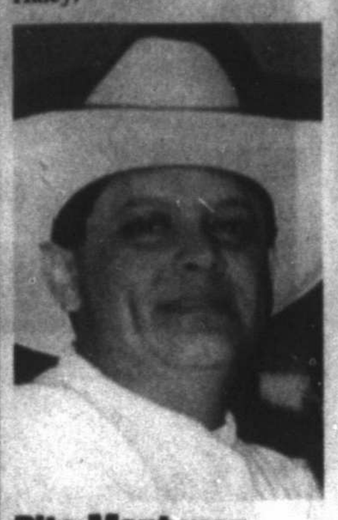
Mary Nell will be greatly missed by everyone who knew her. She was a great friend and wonderful sister, and an untiring supporter of her community. Mary Nell was a life time member of the VFW Post #6284, American Legion #339, Texas State Rifle Association, and the NRA. She was a huge Green Bay and Pittsburg Steelers fan and a diehard supporter of the Wink Wildcats.

She was a member of the local Chamber of Commerce, the Chairman of the Republican Party in Loving County, and a steadfast supporter of the local fire departments, the local 4-H club, and the Relay for Life. Mary Nell was "everyone's angel" and will be missed by all who loved her.

She is survived by her stepson, Marcus Thomas of Kermit, Texas; stepdaughter, Robyn Wood and Robyn's husband Shay of Midland, Texas, and their son Blayze (and one child on the way); three brothers, Alan Haley and wife Barbara of Loving County, Mark Haley of Loving County, and John Haley and wife Amy of Rock Hill, South Carolina; one sister, Michele Haley-Desilets of Odessa, Texas; and by many cousins , nieces, nephews, and an army of great friends.

We will all miss her very much.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Raymond Don Thomas, Jr., and parents, John and Stefanie Haley.



Rito Montanez Estrada

Rito Montanez Estrada was taken from us on December 04, 2016, in Ventura California. He is resting in peace in God's hands. May his family be filled with God's love and peace.

He is survived by His sons; Micheal Anthony Estrada and Erik Allen Estrada of Midland, TX. and daughter Melisa Marie Estrada of Denton, TX. along with three granddaughters Tais Arriola, Ava Karissa Estrada, and Hayley Jade Smith, and one grandson Brendon Noah Estrada. His Father Francisco Estrada Sr. of Midland, TX. Brothers, Francisco M. Estrada Jr, Domingo M. Estrada, Roman M. Estrada of Midland TX, and Martin M. Estrada of Colorado. His Sisters ,Anastacia E. Losoya of Midland TX, Irene Estrada-Rukaj of New York and Sulema Estrada Hancock of Montreal Canada, Carmen E. Bustamante of Midland and Caroline E. Walker of Ft. Worth, TX. Many niece's and nephews that loved him and will miss him.

A printer by Trade, He enjoyed playing golf, outdoor sports, and loved to Barbecue.

He is preceded in death by his Mother Gloria Montanez and his Sister Josie Estrada Frey, Paternal Grandparents Roman B. Estrada and Anastacia M. Estrada, Maternal Grandparents Rito Montanez and Felipa Montanez.

The Family will be receiving Relatives and Friends, Thursday, January 19, from 5-9pm at Lewellen Garcia Pipkin Chapel 2508 N. Big Spring St., with a Rosary starting at 7pm.

Memorial Mass will be, Friday January 20, at St. Stephens Catholic Church 4601 Neely Ave. at 1 pm officiated by Father Bala Anthony. Reception will follow in the Family Room.

Death Notices

James Joseph Smith

James Joseph Smith, 80, of Midland, Texas, passed away on Thursday, January 12, 2017.

He is survived by his son, Daniel Smith.

Services are pending with American Heritage Cemetery/Funeral Home/ Crematory, 4100 N. FM-1788, Midland, Texas, 79707.

Joyce Lane Provancha

Joyce Lane Provancha, 70, of Midland, Texas, passed away on Wednesday, January 18, 2017.

She is survived by her husband, Art Provancha; and by three daughters, Kathleen Atwater, Venetta Givens, and Dylana Provancha.

A viewing will be held on Friday, January 20, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at American Heritage Chapel.

A funeral service will be held on Saturday, January 21, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. at American Heritage Cemetery/Funeral Home/ Crematory, 4100 N. FM-1788, Midland, Texas, 79707.

Nicolas Flores

Nicolas Flores of Stanton, Texas passed away January 16, 2017

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday January 19, 2017 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Stanton, Texas.

Nicolas is survived by his daughters, Guadalupe Flores and Rosie Hamilton; sons, Jose Flores, Freddy Flores, and Nicolas (Nicky) Flores and by two sisters and two brothers.

Sherry L. Reed

Sherry L. Reed, 63, of Midland, Texas, passed away on Monday, January 16, 2017.

She is survived by her son, Jesse Reed; one daughter, Sherilyn Reed; eight brothers; one sister.

Services are pending with American Heritage Cemetery/Funeral Home/ Crematory, 4100 N. FM-1788, Midland, Texas, 79707.

Capitol Almanac

Democrats outnumbered

Democrats will again head just two Texas Senate committees, the same number that the minority party ran last session in 2015.

Republican Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick announced Wednesday that all committee assignments from two years ago will remain the same except one. Brenham Republican Lois Kolkhorst will now run Senate Administration, which had been headed by Sen. Kelly Hancock.

Hancock, a Republican from North Richland Hills, will still run the Business and Commerce Committee, though.

Two years ago, Patrick broke with tradition and tapped just two Democrats for Senate leadership positions, further limiting the outnumbered party's power.

Dukes indicted

Democratic state representative Dawnna Dukes of Austin has been indicted on numerous corruption charges.

A grand jury indicted Dukes on Tuesday on 13 felony counts of tampering with a government record and two misdemeanor counts of abuse of official capacity. If convicted, she faces up to 28 years in jail.

Dukes is accused of misspending campaign funds and doctoring records, as well as directing her legislative staff to work on non-official business.

Dukes previously had announced plans to resign, citing years-long medical concerns. But she reneged last week and was sworn in for her 12th term.

She can remain in the House while the case proceeds.

On Facebook on Wednesday, Dukes said she was disappointed but expected the indictment and planned to plead not guilty. She wrote that the allegations were "raised by disgruntled former employees."

On deck

The Texas Legislature is barred from passing most laws in the early going, so no one was expecting a flurry of early work. Gov. Greg Abbott won't lay out his priorities for the session until his State of the State address on Jan. 31.

But even amid modest expectations, things are crawling along at the Texas Capitol.

The Senate has adjourned until Monday at 11 a.m. and the House doesn't reconvene until 2 p.m. Tuesday. The long break will allow some Texas Republicans — led by Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick — to attend Donald Trump's inauguration on Friday in Washington.

The House also plans to adjourn after meeting only Tuesday and Wednesday of next week. That would be the House's third two-day work week in a row.

Quote of the day

"Our most important priority is public education," House Speaker Joe Straus III at a Texas Association of Business gathering at an Austin hotel on Wednesday.

The San Antonio Republican went on to note that the House's initial budget released Tuesday proposed $2.2 billion extra to educate the average of 165,000 new students joining its public classrooms annually. But that budget also called for an additional $1.5 billion in funding on top of that — as long as the Legislature overhauls its troubled school finance system.

The draft Senate budget covered increased enrollment costs, but didn't propose any additional public education funding beyond that — meaning Straus' top priority may clash with what's driving the Senate agenda.

Straus: Bathroom bill turn-off to skilled workers, threat to Texas economy

By Robert T. Garrett
The Dallas Morning News

AUSTIN — Speaker Joe Straus, before a friendly business audience, blasted the Senate's bathroom bill Wednesday as a potential turn-off to skilled workers the state needs and burden for a Texas economy already slowed by reduced oil drilling.

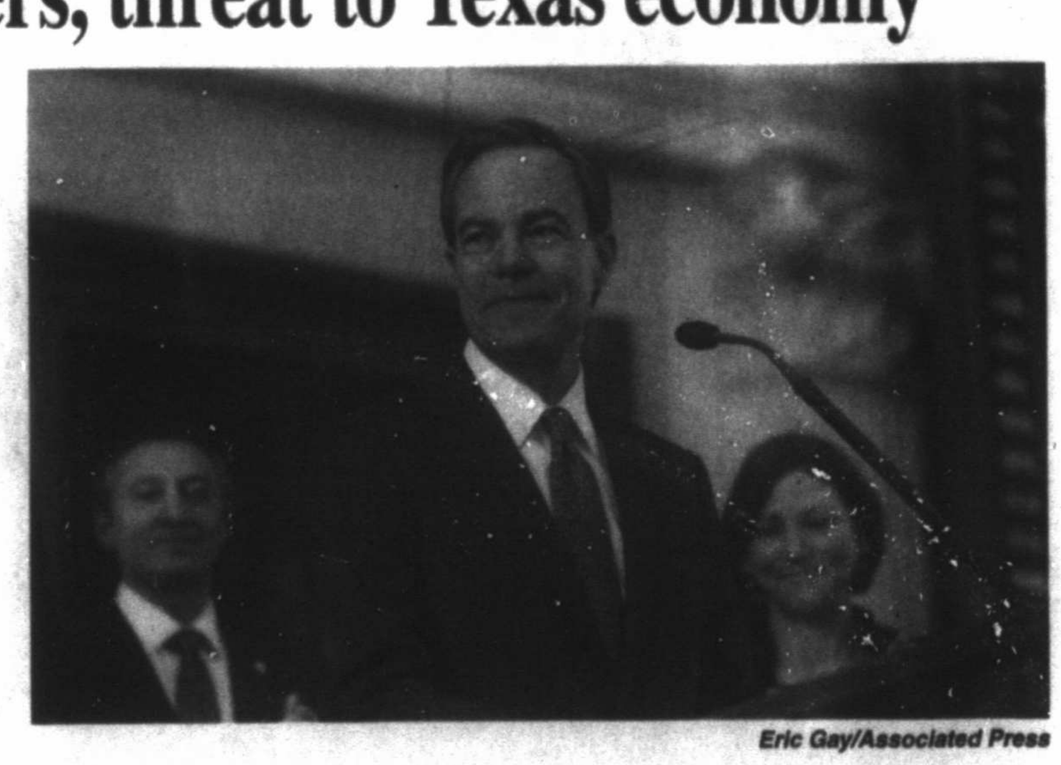
In a direct challenge to Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, Straus said the legislation to restrict transgender Texans to using restrooms that correspond to their gender at birth at schools and government buildings is misguided and could injure Texas' stunning economic success of recent decades.

"People from where I come from get concerned about anything that could slow down our overall job-creating machine," Straus, a San Antonio Republican, said at a legislative conference sponsored by the Texas Association of Business.

While it's been no secret Straus considers a bathroom bill an unneeded distraction, his remarks explained his opposition in detail for the first time — and revealed his possibly precarious political position in taking on a top Senate priority.

Straus cast his opposition as the desire of his constituents in Bexar County.

Although the Senate bill doesn't go as far in some ways as initial laws in Indiana and North Carolina that sparked economic backlash and tourism boycotts, Straus clearly fears it has the potential of bringing down similar push-back for Texas.



Eric Gay/Associated Press

Texas Speaker of the House Joe Straus, R-San Antonio, stands before the opening of the 85th Texas Legislative session in the House chambers Jan. 10 at the Texas State Capitol after he was re-elected for a fifth consecutive term in Austin. Straus has branded as bad for business a Texas proposal barring transgender people from using public restrooms of their choice that's been championed by his state's leading conservatives despite echoing a law that caused upheaval in North Carolina.

"People from where I come from get concerned about anything that could slow down our overall job-creating machine."

Texas Speaker of the House Joe Straus

Next year, the NCAA men's Final Four will be held in San Antonio, he noted. It's expected to generate $234 million in economic activity, he said. Also, local residents have forked over big bucks to improve the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center and the Alamodome, he said. They're banking on a tourism surge, he implied.

Straus said his constituents like what Texas has done to attract business.

"They are also watching what happened in North Carolina and they are not enthusiastic about getting that type of attention," he said.

The bathroom bill, introduced by Brenham GOP Sen. Lois Kolkhorst, would bar cities from passing local ordinances that require private business to have specific rules for bathrooms or changing rooms.

Under Kolkhorst's bill, anyone using a shared locker and bathrooms in public schools or local and state government buildings must use the facility that corresponds to their "biological sex." A school district, state agency or city

Please see BILL/3A

WORD OF THE DAY
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collision
[kuh-lizh-uh n]
noun
1. the act of colliding; a coming violently into contact; crash: the collision of two airplanes.
2. a clash; conflict.

Former President George H.W. Bush, wife hospitalized

By Michael Graczyk
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Former President George H.W. Bush was admitted Wednesday to the intensive care unit of a Houston hospital with pneumonia, and his wife, Barbara, was hospitalized as a precaution after suffering fatigue and coughing, a spokesman said.

The 92-year-old former president, who had been hospitalized since Saturday, underwent a procedure "to protect and clear his airway that required sedation," family spokesman Jim McGrath said in a statement.

Bush was stable and resting comfortably at Houston Methodist Hospital, where he was to stay for observation, the statement said.

The 41st president was placed in the ICU to address "an acute respiratory problem stemming from pneumonia," McGrath said. He later told The Associated Press that doctors were happy with how the procedure went. Bush was first admitted to the hospital for shortness of breath.

"I don't think there's a whole lot of money to be gained betting against George Bush," McGrath said. "We're just kind of in a wait-and-see mode."

McGrath said Barbara Bush, who is 91, had not been feeling well for a couple of weeks, "and it finally just got to the point this morning where she said she wanted to take it out of committee and have the experts check it out." He described the move as precautionary.

Physicians initially believed the former president would be released later this week following several days of treatment, but his stay has been extended, McGrath said. There is no timetable for his release.

Doctors want to see how the former first lady responds to treatment before allowing her to return home, he said.

The Bushes, who were married Jan. 6, 1945, have had the longest marriage of any presidential couple in American history. At the time of their wedding, he was a young naval aviator. She had been a student at Smith College.

After World War II, the pair moved to the Texas oil patch to seek their fortune and raise a family. It was there that George Bush began his political career, representing Houston for two terms in Congress in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Bush, who served as president from 1989 to 1993, has a form of Parkinson's disease and uses a motorized scooter or a wheelchair for mobility. He was hospitalized in 2015 in Maine after falling at his summer home and breaking a bone in his neck. He was also hospitalized in Houston the previous December for about a week for shortness of breath. He spent Christmas 2012 in intensive care for a bronchitis-related cough and other issues.

Despite his loss of mobility, Bush celebrated his 90th birthday by making a tandem parachute jump in Kennebunkport, Maine. Last summer, Bush led a group of 40 wounded warriors on a fishing trip at the helm of his speedboat, three days after his 92nd birthday celebration.

Bush's office announced earlier this month that the couple would not attend Donald Trump's inauguration because of the former president's age and health.

"My doctor says if I sit outside in January, it likely will put me six feet under. Same for Barbara. So I guess we're stuck in Texas," Bush wrote in a letter to Trump.

His son George W. Bush, the 43rd president, still expects to attend the inauguration and does not plan to travel to Houston, spokesman Freddy Ford said.

George Herbert Walker Bush, born June 12, 1924, in Milton, Massachusetts, also served as a congressman, CIA director and Ronald Reagan's vice president.

George W. Bush was elected president in 2000 and served two terms. Another son, Jeb, served as Florida governor and made an unsuccessful bid for the GOP nomination in 2016. Only one other U.S. president, John Adams, had a son who also became president.

AP file photo

Former President George H. W. Bush, right, and his wife, Barbara, are greeted before a Republican presidential primary debate Feb. 25, 2016, at The University of Houston. On Wednesday, the former president was admitted to an intensive care unit, and Barbara was hospitalized as a precaution, according to his spokesman.

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UNM charges student group $3,400 to host far-right speaker

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The University of New Mexico has told its College Republicans organization it must pay a security charge for a scheduled campus appearance by far-right commentator Milo Yiannopoulos.

The school's College Republicans have been ordered to pay $3,400 for the Jan. 27 event, The Albuquerque Journal reported Tuesday.

UNM College Republicans President Marina Herrera called the charge a "free speech fine" and accused to university of attempting to censor the controversial speaker. She said the group was notified of the fee too late to gather the funds.

"To wait this long to inform us is either poor management or a deliberate attempt to silence speech at a public university," Herrera said. "Neither possibility is acceptable and we continue to hope that we can come to a workable solution."

UNM spokeswoman Dianne Anderson said the group was given an estimated cost Jan. 10. She denied claims that this is a censorship issue and said all student groups are responsible for the security costs of their events. She could not immediately provide security charges for other speaking events on campus.

Anderson said additional security could be needed for the Yiannopoulos event because there are planned protests at UNM and were previous protests at other campus speaking events he has attended.

Yiannopoulos writes for right-wing Breitbart News and is permanently banned from Twitter after leading a harassment campaign. He is speaking at colleges nationwide as part of a tour.

BILL

From 2A

found in violation could be fined up to $1,500 for a first and $10,500 for any later offenses.

The issue could dominate this year's legislative session, though it puts many of the Republicans who dominate the Legislature in a tight spot. They don't relish picking sides, possibly alienating their usual business allies who are skeptical or angering social conservatives who play outsized roles in GOP primaries.

Last week, as lawmakers convened, the bill was very much the buzz — even if it will be weeks before committees are organized and begin passing out bills.

Straus implied that Patrick, Kolkhorst and other supporters of the bathroom bill act as though they blithely assume Texas' economy can chug on, unaffected.

It's no accident Texas has prospered, but there's no guarantee that will continue, he said.

"The Texas private sector has built an economy that people want to be part of," the speaker said. "Our economy is modern, diverse and dynamic. We attract the types of highly skilled jobs and workers that every state desires — from engineers to computer programmers to internationally recognized scientists and scholars."

Referring to former Gov. Rick Perry's brag about the "Texas miracle," Straus said the term was misleading.

"There's been a lot of work put into our state's economic success," he said. "Contrary to popular myth, it is not a miracle. We want to continue that success and we want Texas to keep attracting the best and the brightest. One way to maintain our economic edge is to send the right signals about who we are."

Lawmakers should be "very careful" as they ponder the bathroom bill, he warned. It "could make Texas less competitive for investments, jobs and the highly skilled workforce needed to compete."

Interestingly, Straus didn't proclaim bathroom bill dead on arrival in his chamber.

"That's my personal view on this and it's the sentiment back home," he said. "We'll see how the rest of the House feels."

In a subtle prod of Gov. Greg Abbott, who has said little about the subject, Straus said, "And the governor's opinion on this could make a big difference too."

The speaker urged business owners and executives in his audience to fight the bill.

"If you are concerned — I know many of you are — now is the time to speak up," he said.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

STATEBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

DALLAS

Officers fatally shoot female driver of stolen car

Dallas police have shot fatally the female driver of a car that had been reported as stolen.

Deputy Police Chief Thomas Castro says a report of a suspicious vehicle about 5 a.m. Wednesday brought officers to an apartment building just northeast of downtown. As officers approached the vehicle, the vehicle lurched backward into a police vehicle, then forward into a lattice fence, then backward again. At that point, police opened fire, fatally wounding the driver.

No officers were injured in the incident. No identities have been released.

CORPUS CHRISTI

Mayor resigns on Facebook

Dan McQueen's tenure as mayor of Corpus Christi has ended after just 37 days.

McQueen tendered his resignation in an email to the city secretary after announcing his plans to quit Wednesday in a Facebook posting.

McQueen's tenure has been turbulent, as well as brief. He has taken to his Facebook account to criticize city staff, the news media and City Council members.

In Wednesday's posting, McQueen heaped scorn on the council, which he said "is comprised of only High School graduates." Actually, the council is a mix of university and high school graduates.

McQueen's own academic credentials have been questioned, but the Corpus Christi Caller-Times reported it has confirmed that he holds a bachelor's degree in professional aeronautics and a master's degrees in computer information systems.

SAN MARCOS

2-month-old girl dies after mauled by pet dog

Investigators say a 2-month-old Central Texas girl has died after being mauled by the family's pet German shepherd at home while her father slept.

San Marcos police say the girl died Tuesday afternoon after suffering numerous animal bites. Her name wasn't immediately released.

Police say the father told investigators that he fell asleep when the child was napping in an infant bouncer. He says he awoke, about 20 minutes later, to find the baby obviously injured and unresponsive. The girl was pronounced dead at a San Marcos hospital.

A city statement Wednesday says the dog will be impounded for at least 10 days, to determine whether to euthanize the animal. The dog has been the family's pet for more than eight years.

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TODAY IN MIDLAND

January fatalities

The number of January fatalities going back to 2013

2013	5
2014	5
2015	1
2016	2
2017	6 (as of Saturday)

Source: Midland Reporter-Telegram

Things to do

- Storytime at the Library.10:30 a.m. (birth-2 years), 11:30 a.m. (2-6 years). Midland County Public Library downtown branch, 301 W. Missouri Ave. co.midland.tx.us/lib.
- Third Thursday Reading 4:30 p.m. at the George W. Bush Childhood Home, 1412 W. Ohio Ave. bushchildhoodhome.org.
- Bingo Nights. The American Legion Auxiliary, 7 p.m., 501 Veterans Airpark Lane. 432-682-5511.
- Watercolor art classes by Sara Drescher, at Arts Council of Midland, 1506 W. Illinois Ave. To register, email sara@artbysaradb.com.
- MOSC: ClayDesta Brownbag Concert with the West Texas Winds, 11:45 a.m. at ClayDesta Plaza, 6 Desta Drive. Free. MOSC.org.

Meeting schedule

Midland ISD
- 2:30 p.m. Friday
- Administration Building Room 101
- 615 W. Missouri Ave.

Honor those who served

Many organizations operating right here in the Permian Basin are at the task of serving all kinds of needs for present and former members of our military. Some of them are:
- Show of Support (687-2167)
- Honor Our Troops (889-0177), Reel Thanx (528-6633)
- Centers for Children and Families (570-1084)
- Midland College Veterans Affairs Office (685-4511)
- Permian Basin Welcome Home Committee (366-3458)
- Soldiers of Today and Yesterday (631-3429)

Know a member of the military coming home?

Military families can call 352-0785 or email Vickie Gomez (zamogv@cableone.net) when they know their member of the military is flying into Midland International Air & Space Port so the Permian Basin Welcome Home Committee can be there to greet her or him.

Lake levels

Lake	Percent full
Thomas	64.26
Spence	13.45
Ivie	23.67

Source: Colorado River Municipal Water District

Watering schedule

The current outdoor watering schedule allows residents and businesses in the city of Midland to water twice per week.

Even-numbered addresses may water outdoors on Saturdays and Wednesdays.

Odd-numbered addresses may water outdoors on Fridays and Tuesdays.

Any violation may result in a fine up to $500.

MISD parent meetings

MISD junior high campuses will host eighth-grade parent meetings that concern ninth-grade registration for 2017-18 school year. They will take place at:
- Alamo Junior High, 6:30 p.m. Jan. 26
- Abell Junior High, 6:30 p.m. Feb. 13
- San Jacinto Junior High, 6:30 p.m., Feb. 16
- Goodard Junior High, 6:30 p.m., Feb. 21

All eighth-grade parents are invited to attend

Source: Midland ISD

'Tall Cop' to address youth drug use

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

The free event, "Tall Cop in the Tall City," is planned for 6:30-8:30 p.m. Feb. 6 at Stonegate Fellowship.

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

Source: Midland ISD

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Lottery

Pick 3 morning: 5-1-9
Pick 3 day: 6-7-0
Pick 3 evening: 1-7-8
Pick 3 night: 1-1-7
Daily 4 morning: 1-9-9-1
Daily 4 day: 8-4-1-6
Daily 4 evening: 1-6-5-2
Daily 4 night: 1-7-8-4
Cash Five: 3-7-8-9-32
Lotto Texas: 6-11-17-37-40-49
Powerball: 9-40-41-53-58 PB: 12 Power Play: 2
Texas Triple Chance: 1-16-17-21-36-38-39-45-48-55
All or Nothing morning: 1-3-5-6-7-10-11-18-20-21-23-24
All or Nothing day: 1-2-4-5-9-13-14-15-16-17-18-20
All or Nothing evening: 1-2-5-6-8-10-12-19-20-21-23-24
All or Nothing night: 1-3-4-6-8-13-14-15-18-21-22-24

REFUGEES

From 1A

action that doesn't stop the federal government from helping refugees resettle in the state, according to a Texas Tribune article.

Donald Trump's presidential campaign also brought the topic into the spotlight when he pledged to increase immigrant vetting and suspend the acceptance of Syrian refugees.

Locally, the IRC has helped one Syrian family with resettlement, Lubanga said. She said the organization is committed to working with the president-elect in the future.

"The IRC will be partnering with the new administration for refugee services in the country," Lubanga said. "Refugees are a vulnerable population. It remains to be seen what the administration will do."

For Fu, the national focus on refugees is personal. He left China with his family in 1997 and has helped others from the country resettle in Midland.

Fu thinks proposed screening efforts protect not only from people leaving countries where terrorism abounds. He said some Chinese seeking refugee status hold communist ideals that contradict U.S. values.

"From what I have seen from the president-elect's policy, he basically wants to change the procedure and extent of the vetting process to filter criminals and terrorists," Fu said. "I think that's reasonable."

As Trump prepares to take office, Fu is optimistic about his stance regarding refugees. Fu wants the president-elect to use an aggressive tone toward China.

"I hope the Trump administration stands up to communist values," Fu said. "We shouldn't continue the appeasement of the Obama administration."

ChinaAid has helped about 100 Chinese refugees resettle in Midland. Some families choose to move to other regions, but the ones that stay in West Texas have settled comfortably, Fu said.

Though ChinaAid has faltering financial support, Fu said it's a crucial time for resettlement efforts.

"I anticipate religious persecution will dramatically increase next year because a religious law will be implemented," Fu said. "It will be the worst law since the end of our Cultural Revolution."

The majority of refugees in Midland are Chin, an ethnicity facing religious persecution in Burma. Many Burmese coming to the area recently have been reunited with family members already living here, Lubanga said.

Refugees from other parts of the world have also found homes in Midland.

"We're seeing an increase in Congolese arrivals," Lubanga said. "We've seen some Iraqis whose work with the U.S. forces put them at risk."

Despite tense rhetoric about refugees from the Middle East, Lubanga said Midlanders haven't expressed qualms about that group to the IRC. She said local attitudes make Midland inviting for people resettling in the United States.

"West Texas is a welcoming community," Lubanga said. "It's something we want for our refugees. Many refugees have lost everything and want safety and community. The ability to form friendships is what they need."

The Byamukama Zadokis hope to rebuild their lives, according to Mougisa Jimmy. The family fled violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo before arriving at a refugee camp in Uganda more than a decade ago and entering the United States last year.

"They told us it would be better," said Mougisa Jimmy, translating the sentiments of family members. "There are some challenges; however they aren't too much."

IRC opened a Midland office in April to address the needs of refugees already living in the area. The organization has a variety of offerings to ease the transition process, including help with housing and jobs, cultural orientations and short-term financial assistance.

The organization is helping the Byamukama Zadokis become self-sufficient. While some family members await access to employment and educational opportunities, the family turns to the IRC to assist with rent and food, Mougisa Jimmy said.

In the meantime, Mougisa Jimmy and Isaac Jackson work at Domino's to support nearly a dozen family members living in Midland. Mougisa Jimmy eventually hopes to pursue an engineering degree.

"I would like to go to school," he said. "In college here, you pay yourself. I don't know how I can."

Additional refugees may soon make the adjustment to customs in West Texas. About 100 refugees could be resettled in Midland this fiscal year, according to Lubanga. She thinks the community will continue to contribute to the region.

"The resilience refugees bring with them is inspiring," Lubanga said. "They're able to enter jobs and have homes and pay taxes. ... In Texas, we are more conservative, and we want to have strong economies."

CRIMEBRIEFS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Midlanders charged with engaging in organized criminal activity

Three Midlanders were arrested Friday after allegedly engaging in organized criminal activity, according to court documents.

Jefferson

Nelson

Torres

Deandre Allen Jefferson, 19, and Deshon Quil Nelson, 18, were being held Wednesday on $20,000 bonds for the state jail felony charge of engaging in organized criminal activity. Siena Haven Torres, 18, was released Tuesday on a $10,000 bond for the charge.

Midland police investigated a string of burglaries of motor vehicles on Jan. 3. Jefferson, Nelson, Torres and a juvenile allegedly stole items from numerous unlocked cars.

If convicted of the state jail felony charge, Jefferson, Nelson and Torres could face up to two years imprisonment.

Man arrested on burglary charge

A Midland man was arrested Monday after allegedly entering a residence without the consent of the owner, according to court documents.

Martinez

Michael Anthony Martinez, 36, was being held Wednesday on a $75,000 bond for a second-degree felony charge of burglary of a habitation and a $500 bond for a Class B misdemeanor charge of failure to identify.

Midland County sheriff's deputies were dispatched to a residence at about 7:55 a.m. Monday in reference to checking the residence.

Martinez entered the residence and stole property, according to his arrest affidavit.

If convicted of the second-degree felony charge, Martinez could face up to 20 years imprisonment.

Woman charged with aggravated assault

A Midland woman was arrested Tuesday after she allegedly used a handgun in the commission of an assault, according to court documents.

White

Christy Glynn White, 44, was being held Wednesday on a $75,000 bond for a second-degree felony charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and a $15,000 bond for a third-degree felony charge of deadly conduct by discharging a firearm.

Midland County sheriff's deputies were dispatched at about 4:25 a.m. Tuesday in reference to a disturbance.

White pointed a handgun toward a woman, and fired a round into a wall inside a residence, according to her arrest affidavit.

If convicted, White could face up to 20 years imprisonment for the second-degree felony charge and up to 10 years imprisonment for the third-degree felony charge.

PICK

From 1A

"Pruitt is of special focus because of the complete mismatch between the nominee and the agency he would head," said David Goldston, government affairs director for the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Environmental activists wearing hard hats and air masks lined the halls outside the hearing room Wednesday, with protesters occasionally shouting over proceedings: "Pruitt accepts money from oil companies!" "He's a conflict of interest!" "Let the public in!"

Delaware Sen. Tom Carper, the top Democrat on the environment committee, outlined a clear test for Pruitt: Does he share a belief that humans have a "moral obligation" to serve as stewards of the planet?

"We need to be convinced that you embrace it as well, not just with your words, but with your deeds," Carper told Pruitt. "Much of your record suggests otherwise."

Early on, Pruitt sought to dispel questions about his view of climate change — though his answer may have only provoked more queries about the degree to which he views the phenomenon as a threat.

"Science tells us the climate is changing and human activity in some manner impacts that change," Pruitt told the panel. "The ability to measure the precision, degree and extent of the impact and what to do about that are subject to continued debate and dialogue."

Last year was the hottest on the record, the third consecutive record year, according to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration figures released on Wednesday. Scientists say they aren't debating what's causing the increase. "It is warming because we are not reducing the amounts of greenhouse gases by the amounts we need to," said Gavin Schmidt, director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies.

Pruitt has gone to court to fight more than a dozen EPA actions, including President Barack Obama's Clean Power Plan, a regional haze regulation designed to protect the air around national parks and the agency's conclusion that climate change endangers public health and welfare. That endangerment finding undergirds Obama administration regulations limiting greenhouse gas emissions.

"All of these suits were brought to protect the state and local interests by overzealous and activist agencies" that "advanced a radical environmental agenda," said Sen. James Inhofe, a Republican from Oklahoma.

Inhofe and his Republican colleague in the Senate, James Lankford, portrayed Pruitt as a fighter, willing to take on oil companies as well as overreaching regulations. Lankford recalled a lawsuit Pruitt filed against BP accusing the oil company of "double-dipping" by getting both insurance companies and taxpayers to pay for the costs of cleaning up leaks from underground storage tanks.

Senate Democrats are scrutinizing Pruitt's ties to the oil and gas industry, including donations from the sector to his campaigns and associated political action committees. In 2014, the New York Times reported that after Devon Energy donated to Pruitt, he sent a letter drafted by the oil and gas producer to the EPA, with only limited changes.

Pruitt was also criticized for his decision to close an environmental protection division in his Oklahoma office while establishing a new "federalism unit" with the mission of fighting Washington overreach.

Democrats also plan to press Pruitt to explain how he would approach issues on which he has challenged the EPA's authority in the past. It's not unprecedented for an EPA administrator to have tangled with the same agency prior to leading it. For instance, Gina McCarthy, the current administrator, previously sued the EPA as a Massachusetts state official. However, Pruitt has been far more active, targeting a broader array of EPA rules.

2 men charged in motor vehicle burglary

From staff reports

Two Houston men have been arrested in connection with a motor vehicle burglary that occurred shortly after the victims visited a bank.

Midland police arrested Stoney Bernard Huery Oliver, 33, and Keitatray Rayfield Broussard, 21, on Friday following a vehicle burglary in which the victims were followed from the Chase Bank at 3209 Courtyard Drive to the Wal-Mart located on north Midland Drive, according to a press release from the Midland Police Department.

Oliver and Broussard confessed to the burglary and were arrested on a charge of burglary of a motor vehicle, according to the release. They were booked into the Midland County jail and have been released on bond.

There have been two other reported cases in Midland relating to a recent trend of motor vehicle burglaries, according to a previous Reporter-Telegram article. Midland police are still looking for a man who is considered a suspect in the two other cases. It is believed that he drives a black Kia Sportage.

The victims visited banks located along major roadways in Midland and Odessa. Similar crimes previously have been reported in the Dallas and Houston areas.

Detectives believe that the suspects wait in the parking lots of various banks and follow victims who have just withdrawn money. If they park at another business, the suspects burglarize the vehicle in the parking lot and attempt to steal the money envelope.

Anyone with information on the unidentified suspect, please contact the Midland Crime Stoppers at 432-694-TIPS or Odessa Crime Stoppers at 432-333-TIPS.

CONAWAY

From 1A

A major complaint among Republicans was the Affordable Care Act, often referred to as Obamacare. Republican majorities in the House and Senate combined with a Republican in the White House has already seen work to repeal and replace the health law.

Conaway said it's a complicated matter, however. Republicans have a comfortable majority in the House but don't have a supermajority in the Senate. Rather, there are 52 Republicans and 48 Democrats.

"We can repeal part of Obamacare with 51 votes (in the Senate) on Friday, (when Trump takes office)," he said. "We can't repeal it all without 60 votes in the Senate, so President Trump is going to have to weigh in. The reforms take 60 votes to make happen, as well. What we'll go through next month is the exercise of repealing the things we can get done with 51 votes."

The lawmaker addressed the public's concerns that Republicans have offered no specifics of what a future health plan entails. "Today, you can't do that, and it's frustrating to people. It's frustrating to me. If I were on the listening end, I'd say, 'You had six years.' Yeah, we did, but in those six years we never thought we'd put a piece of legislation on the president's desk."

Conaway said criticisms that Republicans didn't have a replacement plan prepared are unfair. He likened the unraveling of Obamacare and the installment of a new plan as "inside baseball," the stuff only political wonks have the desire to investigate fully.

Plus, he said it's best to take Congress' plan, Trump's plan and the plan of the Health and Human Services secretary and use those as ingredients for formulating a master plan that the president will like and, ultimately, that will be best for Americans.

Communication from all parties involved in lawmaking will be critical, Conaway said, though he doesn't think many of his peers will implement the same rhetorical strategies Trump uses, which have been criticized as tactless, flippant and rude.

"Because he's so unique in his style and what he does, I find it hard to think anyone can replicate what he does," Conaway said, adding that his prolific use of Twitter has "set the standard for how you circumvent current filters, whether it's mainstream media or whatever it is. He goes right at them with his own 140-character thoughts."

Trump has said recently that he wants to open up the media's access to the president, rather than letting an elite few be America's news connection.

"The White House press corps is a pretty insular and small club, and they like that," Conaway said. "They're kind of the gatekeepers (of information). Apparently Trump is going to stick it to them, and they're not going to like that ... loss of exclusivity."

It's a sign that Trump is intent on doing things differently in Washington, Conaway said. "He's going to do what he wants in a way he wants it done. That's how he's lived his life. He's been successful for 50 years as an adult, and I don't think he'll change now."

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

Obama defends decision to commute Chelsea Manning's sentence

By Julie Pace and Josh Lederman
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama firmly defended his decision to cut nearly three decades off convicted leaker Chelsea Manning's prison term Wednesday, arguing in his final White House news conference that the former Army intelligence analyst had served a "tough prison sentence" already.

Taking questions on many topics two days before his presidency ends, Obama also warned that the "moment may be passing" for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, pushing back on criticism over his recent move to put pressure on the Jewish state over settlement-building. Turning his attention to President-elect Donald Trump, Obama said he reserves the right to speak out as ex-president if Trump violates America's "core values."

Obama said he granted clemency to Manning because she had gone to trial, taken responsibility for her crime and received a sentence that was harsher than other leakers had received. He emphasized that he had merely commuted her sentence, not granted a pardon, which would have symbolically forgiven her for the crime.

"I feel very comfortable that justice has been served," Obama said.

Manning was convicted in 2013 of violating the Espionage Act and other crimes for leaking more than 700,000 classified documents while working as an intelligence analyst in Baghdad. Formerly known as Bradley Manning, she declared as transgender after being sentenced to 35 years in prison. She had served more than six years before Obama commuted her sentence Tuesday, with a release date set for May.

"The notion that the average person who was thinking about disclosing vital, classified information would think that it goes unpunished, I don't think would get that impression from the sentence that Chelsea Manning has served," Obama said.

Obama's defense of controversial decisions came as he prepares to exit the presidency after eight years marked by major victories on health care, the economy and climate change, along with disappointments over his inability to achieve his goals on immigration, gun control and closing the Guantanamo Bay prison. He also wound down wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, but wrestled with other security threats posed by the Islamic State group and the Syria civil war he was unable to resolve.

Even many of Obama's proudest achievements, like the "Obamacare" health care overhaul, stand to be rolled back or undermined by President-elect Donald Trump, a shadow that hangs over Obama's legacy as he leaves office. The formal end comes Friday when Obama and Trump will motorcade together to the Capitol for Trump's swearing-in before Obama, then an ex-president, flies with his family to California for a vacation.

Reflecting on his legacy as the first black president, Obama disputed the notion that race relations had worsened. And he dismissed as "fake news" the idea that there is widespread voter fraud in the U.S., a notion that Democrats say is used to justify restrictions that make it harder for African-Americans to vote.

Appearing one last time in front of the White House seal, Obama said he was "significantly worried" that the growth of Jewish settlements in Palestinian territories would "increasingly make a two-state solution impossible." He stood behind his decision to allow a U.N. Security Council resolution to pass criticizing Israel over the settlements, though he conceded Trump might pursue a different approach.

"If you do not have two states, then in some form or fashion you are extending an occupation," Obama said.

He defended his administration's rapprochement with Cuba and his eleventh-hour move to end the "wet foot, dry foot" policy that lets any Cuban who makes it to U.S. soil stay and become a legal resident. Ending the visa-free path was the latest development in a warming of relations that has included the easing of the U.S. economic embargo and the restoration of commercial flights between the U.S. and the small island nation.

"That was a carry-over of an old way of thinking that didn't make sense in this day and age, particularly as we're opening up travel between the two countries," Obama said of the "wet foot, dry foot" policy.

After leaving office, Obama plans to write a book, raise money to develop his presidential library, and work on a Democratic initiative to prepare for the 2020 round of congressional redistricting. Yet he said he plans to assume a low profile in the months after he leaves office, and to avoid commenting on politics on a daily basis.

"I want to be quiet a little bit, and not hear myself talk so darn much," Obama said

Pablo Martinez Monsivais/Associated Press

President Barack Obama waves at the conclusion of his final presidential news conference, Wednesday in the briefing room of the White House in Washington.

Obama's parting message: We're going to be OK

WASHINGTON — "We're going to be OK."

In the final minutes of his final presidential news conference, Barack Obama insisted he's not just tossing out reassuring platitudes about the nation's future.

It's what he really believes.

"This is not just a matter of no-drama Obama," he said. "It is true that behind closed doors I curse more than I do publicly. And sometimes I get mad and frustrated like everybody else does. But at my core, I think we're going to be OK."

It is what he chose as the parting message for what is most likely his last extended remarks as president.

Processing the November election results in an intensely personal frame, Obama spoke at length about how his daughters, Sasha and Malia, felt about Donald Trump's election.

"They don't mope," he said — a noteworthy comment to come from any parent of teenage girls.

He said they were disappointed but also resilient.

"We've tried to teach them hope," Obama said. "The only thing that is the end of the world is the end of the world."

This, then, is not the end of the world.

"You get knocked down, you get up, you brush yourself off and you get back to work," he said. "That tended to be their attitude."

That said, the outgoing president allowed, neither of his daughters is interested in going into politics.

In that, he added with a grin, "I think their mother's influence shows."

He cast his daughters as emblematic of the rising generation, and of the promise of America's future.

Yes, democracy is messy, he said, but there are more good people than bad and things will turn out just fine.

"We just have to fight for it. We have to work for it and we have to not take it for granted."

Obama out.

By Nancy Benac
Associated Press

Chelsea Manning: a potent symbol for trans Americans

By David Crary
Associated Press

NEW YORK — For most Americans, Chelsea Manning has been a hero or villain based on how they view her decision to leak classified material. For transgender people, she has another dimension — serving as a potent symbol of their struggles for acceptance.

With Tuesday's commutation of her prison sentence by President Barack Obama, she's now due for release in May, when she will re-enter a society bitterly divided over many aspects of transgender rights.

Known as Bradley Manning at the time of her 2010 arrest, Manning came out as transgender after being sentenced to 35 years in an all-male military prison. Under Army rules, she was barred from growing her hair long while incarcerated, and only after litigation by her legal team was she approved for hormone therapy.

She spent long stints in solitary confinement, and twice tried to kill herself.

Chase Strangio, the American Civil Liberties Union attorney who filed the medical-care lawsuit, said Manning has viewed herself as a transgender-rights activist even in the isolation of her confinement at Fort Leavenworth.

"She's always been a hero to me," said Strangio, a transgender man. "Her story really does reflect so much of the systemic discrimination that transgender people face — struggles growing up, suppression of her gender that prompted her to join the military ... and facing particularly egregious conditions in prison."

"She's an incredibly thoughtful and devoted person," Strangio added. "She's felt a sense of responsibility to the transgender community and wanted to be someone who contributed to the fight for transgender justice."

Jennifer Finney Boylan, a transgender author who teaches at Barnard College in New York, expressed hope that Manning would remain an activist and share her experiences. In an email, Boylan depicted Manning as "a woman who's been trapped both physically and metaphorically, finding herself smack in the middle of national disagreements about both the meaning of our war in Iraq as well as the ongoing national conversation about gender."

"She is seen as a very public face for the complexity of gender, particularly the injustice facing anyone doing time in a facility for men who is surely, by the measure of her own heart, a woman," Boylan wrote.

Dean Spade, a transgender law professor at Seattle University School of Law, hailed Manning as "an immensely important figure for the trans movement and for the broader LGBT movement." Manning faced conditions in prison that denied her gender, Spade said, and "the world has watched her go through this."

A cautionary note was sounded by Dana Beyer, executive director of Gender Rights Maryland, who said there was no consensus about Manning among transgender Americans.

"The community is divided on her actions, and parading her around as a hero will not only negatively impact her," and exacerbate the split among transgender people, Beyer wrote in an email. "Manning as the face of the trans community would be very dangerous."

Manning was convicted of leaking many thousands of classified government and military documents to WikiLeaks while serving as an intelligence analyst in Iraq. There was testimony at her trial about her erratic behavior and emotional stress during her Army service.

Among those denouncing the commutation of her sentence was Jerry Boykin, a retired Army general who is now executive vice president of the conservative Family Research Council.

"President Obama chose political correctness over our national security," Boykin said in a statement that referred to Manning with male pronouns and decried the legal efforts to compel the Army to pay for gender-transition procedures.

The Pentagon recently adopted a policy of allowing transgender people to serve openly in the military. Some conservatives are suggesting a reversal of the policy after President-elect Donald Trump takes office, although Trump's pick for defense secretary, James Mattis, told the Senate Armed Services Committee he has no such plans.

However, many transgender activists fear that Trump's administration will abandon the Obama administration's efforts to enable transgender students to use the bathrooms of their choice at public schools. And in Texas, Republican legislators are pushing a bill that would limit transgender people's bathroom access.

Among the many problems faced by transgender Americans, their treatment in the criminal justice system is of particular concern to activists. Many juvenile detention centers are ill-equipped to handle transgender teens, and corrections officials in many jurisdictions have sought to avoid paying for sex-reassignment surgeries for adult inmates.

After Manning's release, the Army will be off the hook for the costs of any further gender-transition medical care that she receives. However, Chase Strangio, the ACLU attorney, said the matter of cost was not paramount. "She can finally navigate her medical care on her own terms," he said.

AP file photo

A 19-year-old transgender teen, who declined to be identified because she feared for her life after receiving death threats earlier in the year at a halfway house, poses for a photo Dec. 5, 2016, in Texas. Advocates say the nation's juvenile detention centers are largely ill-equipped to house transgender young people, leaving them vulnerable to bullying, sexual assault, depression and suicide.

Pentagon chief says he opposed cutting Manning's prison term

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Ash Carter said Wednesday he had opposed commuting the prison sentence of convicted leaker Chelsea Manning, who was convicted in 2013 of espionage and other crimes for leaking classified information while deployed in Iraq.

"That was not my recommendation," Carter said in an Associated Press interview. "I recommended against that, but the president has made his decision."

Carter declined to elaborate on his view.

President Barack Obama has drawn intense criticism from members of Congress and others for his decision Tuesday to commute Manning's 35-year prison sentence to about seven years, including the time she spent locked up before she was convicted. Her sentence is now set to expire May 17.

At the time Manning committed the crimes, she was known as Bradley Manning and was serving as an Army private.

A judge convicted Manning of 20 counts, including six Espionage Act violations, theft and computer fraud. She was sentenced to 35 years out of a possible maximum of 90. She was acquitted of the most serious charge of aiding the enemy, which carries a possible life sentence.

The now 29-year-old native of Crescent, Oklahoma, leaked more than 700,000 classified Iraq and Afghanistan war logs and diplomatic cables in 2010 while working as an intelligence analyst in Baghdad. Manning also leaked a 2007 video clip of a U.S. helicopter crew killing at least nine men, including a Reuters news photographer and his driver. The Pentagon later concluded the helicopter crew acted appropriately, having mistaken the camera equipment for weapons.

At a White House news conference Wednesday, Obama firmly defended his Manning decision, arguing she had served a "tough prison sentence" already.

The White House declined to comment on Carter's remarks but pointed to Obama's explanation about why he'd granted the commutation.

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Teacher unions wage war on Betsy DeVos

■ Teachers are not too happy about Trump's nominee for secretary of education

RICH LOWRY
King Features Syndicate

The controversy over the nomination of Betsy DeVos as secretary of education has been, if nothing else, clarifying. We now know that working to give poor kids more educational opportunities is considered a disqualifying offense for the left.

For decades, DeVos has devoted herself to creating alternatives to a public-school establishment that fails its most vulnerable students, and she earned the eternal enmity of defenders of the status quo in doing it.

The assault against her by the teachers unions and their allies speaks to a certain desperation. They have been steadily losing ground in the debate over educational choice at the state and local levels, and now DeVos threatens to occupy the commanding heights of federal policy at the Department of Education.

Through her activism and philanthropy, DeVos has pushed for every form of educational choice, whether charter schools, school vouchers or tuition tax credits. She championed the charter-school law in her home state of Michigan and has been chair of the American Federation for Children, devoted to electing state legislators around the country who favor choice. (By way of full disclosure, her husband, Dick, sits on the board of the National Review Institute.)

Her nomination has elicited a motley collection of charges running the gamut from the silly to the serious, if wholly misleading:

She's wealthy. Well, yes, most philanthropists are.

She once spoke of wanting to "continue to advance God's kingdom." Her critics might find this less threatening if they had more than a passing familiarity with how Christians talk and what they believe (every Christian wants to advance God's kingdom).

She doesn't necessarily care about punishing sexual assault. This is absurd innuendo built on the $10,000 in donations that she and her husband gave to the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education. The group is dedicated to protecting free speech on campus, but also advocates for due-process rights for the accused in sexual-assault cases.

The crux of the case against DeVos is that she is ruining education, as allegedly demonstrated by the experience of the charter schools that she has championed in Michigan. Her detractors argue that charters in Detroit in particular have been a disaster.

If Detroit's charters are hardly world-class, they are demonstrably better than the city's traditional public schools, which is the most relevant metric for Detroit parents. The traditional public schools have failed abysmally for generations (about half of adults in Detroit are functionally illiterate).

Jason Bedrick and Max Eden summarized the data on Detroit's charters for the publication EducationNext. A study by Stanford's Center for Research on Education Outcomes found that roughly 50-60 percent of charter schools outperformed comparable district schools. A report from a nonprofit called Excellent Schools Detroit rated 16 percent of charter schools as excellent or good compared with only 5 percent of district schools, whereas 62 percent of the district schools were weak or failing compared with 35 percent of the charters. Finally, a report from the conservative Michigan-based think tank the Mackinac Center reached similar conclusions.

If it is too much to ask that unions and their allies welcome marginal improvements in educational attainment in Detroit, perhaps they can at least avoid smearing it?

The other charge against DeVos is that she heedlessly opposes standards for Michigan's charter schools, even though she has supported measures to shut down persistent underperformers and to grade charters from A to F so parents can make more informed choices.

Educational choice has been on the march over the past 20 years or so. In 1991, only Minnesota had a charter law. Now, 42 states and the District of Columbia do. Twenty-five states have private school choice programs, an increase from a mere handful 15 years ago.

The ideological war over educational choice won't be settled anytime soon. What's clear is that poor parents value it, and that they have a friend in Betsy DeVos. The unions will never forgive her.

OPINION EXTRA

GOP lawmakers need help decoding Trump's words

Twice in recent days, Donald Trump has made seemingly off-the-cuff remarks about policy that took his Republican allies in Congress by surprise. Over the weekend he told The Washington Post that he was in the final stages of drawing up a health plan that would provide "insurance for everybody" but with "much lower deductibles" than the Affordable Care Act. He also opined to the Wall Street Journal that a key provision of the Republican plan to reform business taxation was "too complicated."

I've got four thoughts about these comments and what they might tell us about how a Trump administration will govern.

One: Trump's remarks were not well-informed. If Trump's people are working on a health-care plan, it is news to congressional Republicans, think-tank experts on health care and even some of Trump's own people. Trump also makes it sound as though his health plan will involve no trade-offs: Everyone will pay less for more benefits. No plan can live up to that promise.

Trump did not appear to understand the business-tax issue he discussed. Congressional Republicans want to change the corporate-income tax and apply it to imports but not to exports, in the same way that many countries apply value-added taxes to imports but not to exports. That's what they mean by "border adjustment." Trump said that he doesn't like hearing those words because "usually it means we're going to get adjusted into a bad deal." He seems to think that this tax policy involves making deals with other countries. It doesn't.

Two: Trump's off-the-cuff remarks sometimes exhibit good political instincts even if they're not very knowledgeable. Making sure that the people now covered by Obamacare continue to have coverage under a replacement is not a high priority for some congressional Republicans. Trump has consistently suggested that it should be. That seems right as a matter of both policy and politics.

Three: The extent to which these remarks should be taken as statements of Trump administration policy is not clear. Would Trump veto Republican health-care legislation that doesn't meet his specifications? If Republicans keep pushing border adjustments on business taxes, will he even keep criticizing the idea?

Some of Trump's fans have popularized the notion that his words should be taken "seriously but not literally." It's not terribly useful guidance for congressional Republicans trying to work with him.

So far, nothing Trump has said on health care seems to have had much effect on congressional Republican plans. Rep. Devin Nunes, R-California, who has led the charge for business-tax reform, said he will keep working on it with the Trump administration — and keep advocating border adjustment. "This would be the most transparent, simple system that you could possibly create," he said.

If Trump continues to speak about policy in a loose, free-wheeling way and does not follow up on what he says, congressional Republicans will decide that they do not have to take his words more seriously than he does.

Four: If Trump does mean what he says, he could cause major problems for congressional Republicans. The border-adjustment plan, for example, is a crucial part of their agenda. It would raise a lot of revenue that they would use to finance the tax cuts they want. If Trump nixes the idea, they will have to start over from scratch. Many Republicans would also draw the lesson that months and even years of policy development can be undone if Trump happens to see or hear something about it he doesn't like.

In a way, Trump's presidency will put Republicans in Congress in the same position as corporate executives. Both groups have a lot to gain, but members of each are also subject to unpredictable and potentially damaging rhetorical blasts from him. On Inauguration Day, figuring out just what "seriously but not literally" means is going to become a much higher-stakes endeavor.

— Ramesh Ponnuru, Bloomberg

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Trump didn't need to pick this fight

■ As Inauguration Day looms, one wishes that Trump's vow "to be so presidential" would start early

KATHLEEN PARKER
Washington Post Writers Group

A recent tweet from @realDonaldTrump: John Lewis is an American hero. I look forward to working with him in the years to come."

That, my friends, is what's known as "fake news." It didn't happen. I made it up.

Here's real news: Just days before his inauguration, President-elect Donald Trump got into a verbal battle with Georgia Rep. John Lewis, one of America's greatest living heroes and an icon of the civil rights movement.

As all surely know by now, Lewis said that Trump isn't a legitimate president, to which Trump retorted that Lewis is: "all talk, talk, talk — no action."

Now, now, gentlemen, isn't one of you about to become president of the United States?

By all means, Irony, take a bow.

How rich that Trump would be so offended by a charge of illegitimacy when he spent years trying to prove the same about Barack Obama's presidency.

But Trump doesn't take an insult lying down, you know; when someone fires at him, he fires right back.

This impulsiveness, once perhaps a quirky habit, can have less amusing consequences in a president whose tweets can upset global relations, or worse.

Domestically, it's no picnic, either.

Lewis explained that his position was based in part on alleged Russian interference with the election.

As for all talk and no action, does Trump even know who John Lewis is? The man was bludgeoned bloody by police and hospitalized for peaceably crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge during 1965's historic civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery. Obviously, Trump was referring to Lewis' more recent record, but this is hardly the time to start a war with a hero — not that this is his first time. Trump also criticized Sen. John McCain in 2015, saying he was only a hero because he was captured.

Nice touch, Mr. Commander in Chief.

More to the point, his takedown of Lewis is such a waste of time and a squandering of human resources that he may need someday. What profit could there possibly be in firing back at someone so admired by so many, especially within the African-American community? By punching back, Trump stoked an opposition movement among congressional Democrats.

Meanwhile, his meeting Monday with Martin Luther King III on the namesake day celebrating his father's life seemed like a one-upman's stunt contrived to show his bona fides among African-Americans. Trump essentially was saying that he didn't need Martin Luther King Jr.'s wingman when he has King's son in his pocket. No offense to King III, but there was only one King who led the civil rights movement — and John Lewis was by his side when it counted.

As Inauguration Day looms, one wishes that Trump's vow "to be so presidential" would start early. Why wait? If a president's role is in part to unify the country, he can't start soon enough. Imagine if Trump had taken the high road in this instance. He could have not remarked at all, which would have been refreshing. Or, as suggested in the fake news item above, he could have commended Lewis' record and expressed hope that he'd soon change his mind.

Trump would have seemed a beacon of wisdom, self-restraint and generosity. And Lewis, who insists he has a moral obligation to stand against Trump's history of racist and misogynistic speech and behavior, would have been seen as querulous (Lewis also boycotted George W. Bush's first inauguration), while being dispatched without dishonor.

Instead, Trump's unnecessary engagement of Lewis has pitted Democrats against Republicans: Do you stand with Trump or Lewis? That's a helluva choice.

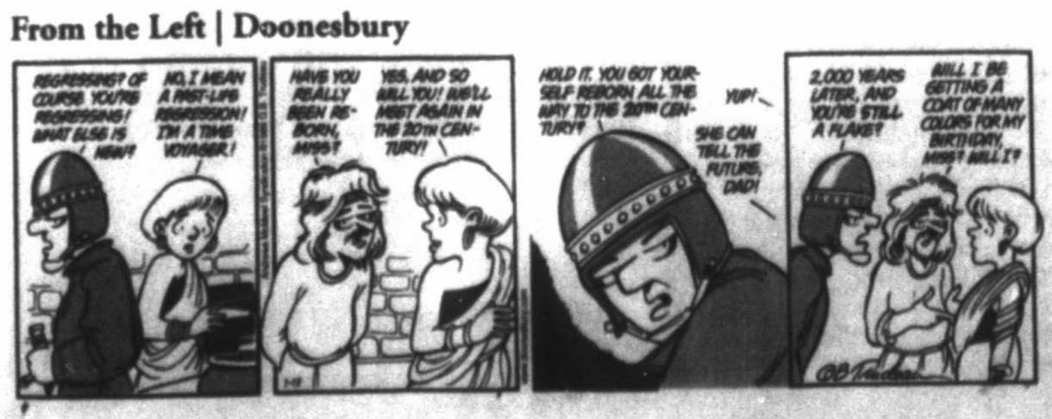
More than 50 Democratic representatives have sided with Lewis and plan to join him in boycotting the swearing-in ceremony and the peaceful transition of power, in effect joining hundreds of thousands of protesters for what promises to be an animated weekend.

This isn't to suggest that Lewis is necessarily right with the course he has chosen. People will have to decide for themselves if his moral objection to Trump is justified or whether boycotting the inauguration is disrespectful of the office of the presidency. ("Both" is a valid option.)

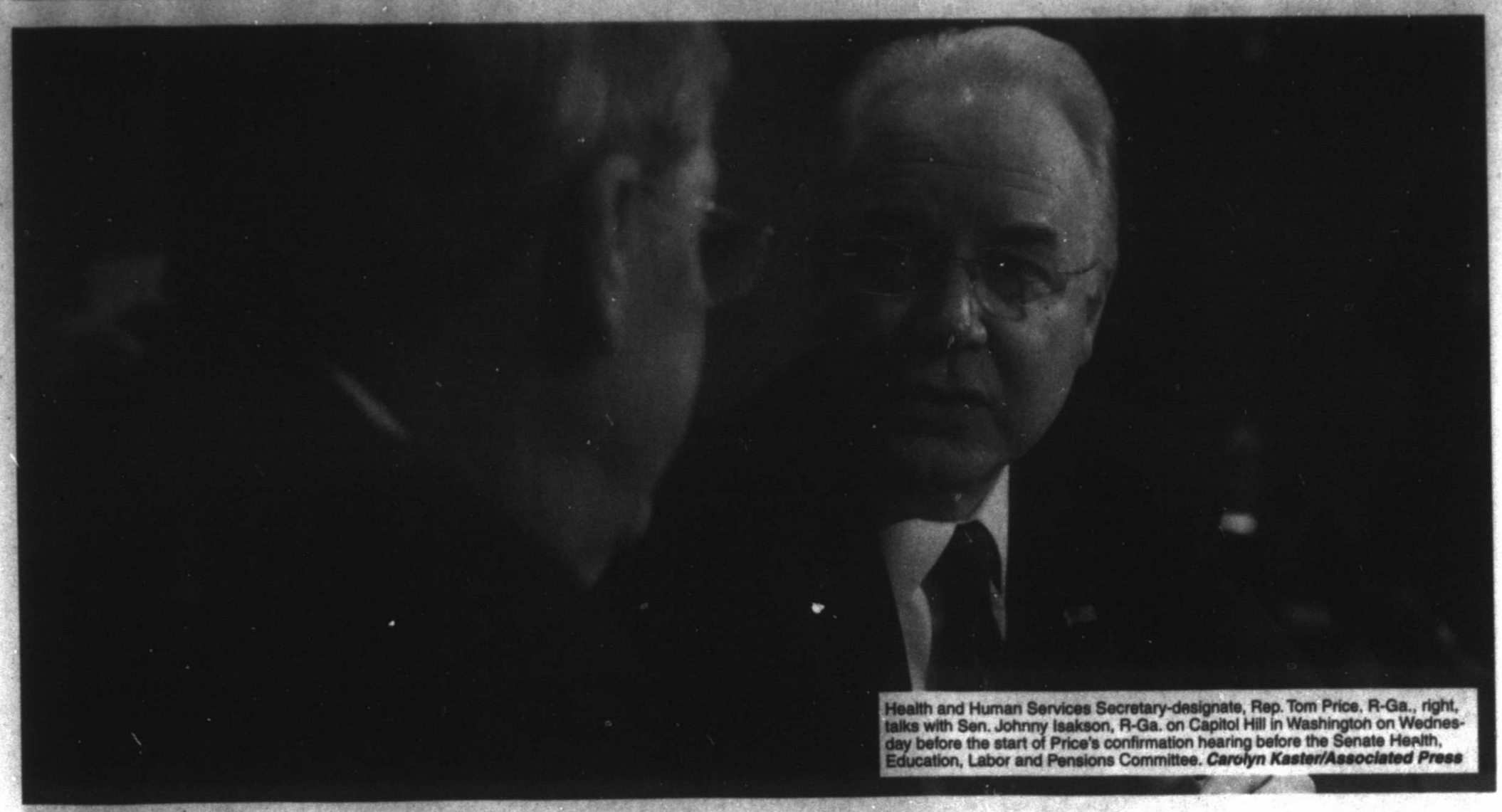
But there's only one person who can bring this episode to a gracious close. In my fantasy, Trump issues a statement — 140 Twitter characters, if he must. It would read as follows: "With this, my last tweet until I leave the presidency, I invite Lewis to the Oval Office to find mutual ground in aiding all Americans."

It's the big-league thing to do.

From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



Health and Human Services Secretary-designate, Rep. Tom Price, R-Ga., right, talks with Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga. on Capitol Hill in Washington on Wednesday before the start of Price's confirmation hearing before the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. *Carolyn Kaster/Associated Press*

Price tries to reassure on health care; Dems not buying it

By Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar and Alan Fram
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Offering reassurances, President-elect Donald Trump's pick for health secretary said Wednesday the new administration won't "pull the rug out" from those covered by "Obamacare." Democrats were unimpressed, noting a lack of specifics.

Rep. Tom Price, R-Ga., also told the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee that Trump is "absolutely not" planning to launch an overhaul of Medicare as he tries to revamp coverage under President Barack Obama's signature health care law. He acknowledged that high prescription drug costs are a problem, but did not endorse the idea of government directly negotiating prices.

Throughout the nearly four-hour hearing, Democrats peppered Price with questions about his stock trades. The sometimes confusing exchanges involved different transactions under distinct circumstances. Price, who has signed a government ethics agreement to sell his stock, was clearly annoyed by the suggestion that he profited from his official position. "I'm offended by that insinuation," he told Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass.

Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., lauded Price's performance, but ranking Democrat Patty Murray of Washington said she remains deeply concerned. No Democrats offered support for the 62-year-old nominee, an orthopedic surgeon-turned-legislator.

Price said he wants to reopen a bipartisan dialogue on health care centered on practical solutions.

"One of my goals in this entire debate is to lower the temperature," said Price, speaking in even, measured tones. "People need to know that no rug is going to be pulled out from under them."

Alexander said he took that to mean that the Trump administration will be careful, and not attempt to repeal the 2010 health care law without a replacement ready to go. The Affordable Care Act is providing coverage to about 20 million people, and government as well as private experts say repealing without a concrete substitute would make millions uninsured and spike premiums.

But Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., Hillary Clinton's running mate, said, "I don't think 'lowering the temperature' is consistent with rushing" to repeal and replace. Trump has promised to unveil his plan when Price is confirmed.

With coverage for millions at stake, Price faced pointed questions about Trump's evolving stance on health care. Trump campaigned on repealing Obama's law, but at times he's sounded more like a liberal. For example, he made recent comments about providing insurance for everyone and taking on the drug companies.

In an interview aired Wednesday on Fox News Channel, Trump said his approach would offer coverage through private insurers for people who cannot afford it.

"Nobody is going to be dying on the streets with a President Trump," he said. He said his plan would "probably" turn Medicaid over to the states in the form of block grants to cover low-income people. Democrats reminded Price that approach could lock in big cuts.

Price represents Atlanta's northern suburbs and until recently led the House Budget Committee. A budget hawk and a social conservative, he drafted his own plan to replace Obama's health law. It would have saved taxpayers money but covered fewer people, according to an outside analysis.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., pressed Price on whether Trump intends to keep promises repeatedly made during the presidential campaign not to cut Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

"I have no reason to believe he's changed his position," Price said. He expressed support for some provisions of the Obama health law, including allowing young adults to remain on parental coverage, protecting people with pre-existing medical conditions, and closing the Medicare prescription drug coverage gap.

Questioned by Sen. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., Price acknowledged there are "certain areas where drug price increases seem to have little basis in rational actions."

But pressed on whether he would support Trump's call for Medicare to negotiate with drug companies, Price tried to sidestep. If confirmed, Trump would be his boss, Price said, but he also suggested the idea of negotiations needs further study. He was supportive of requiring drugmakers to provide more public information about how they set prices.

Democrats also challenged Price on his extensive stock portfolio. His investments have prompted questions about potential conflicts of interest and calls for a Securities and Exchange Commission investigation of possible insider trading.

Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., suggested Price got a special deal in the purchase of stock in an Australian drug company, Innate Immunotherapeutics. But Price insisted other investors also had the same option.

"I think our job is to avoid the appearance of conflict," Franken chastised. "And you have not done that."

Republicans bristled at such questions.

"To question whether you are honest is insulting," Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., told Price.

HELP is one of two Senate committees that will hold hearings on Price. The Finance Committee, which actually votes on reporting the nomination to the Senate floor, will conduct a hearing next week.

Poll: Americans of all stripes say fix health care

By Laurie Kellman and Emily Swanson
Associated Press

"It's a universal thing, nobody likes it. They need to fix it with whatever works, but not make more of a mess like they have now."

Sylvia Douglas, licensed practical nurse in Huntsville, Alabama

WASHINGTON — Sylvia Douglas twice voted for President Barack Obama and last year cast a ballot for Democrat Hillary Clinton. But when it comes to "Obamacare," she now sounds like President-elect Donald Trump. This makes her chuckle amid the serious choices she faces every month between groceries, electricity and paying a health insurance bill that has jumped by nearly $400.

"It's a universal thing, nobody likes it," Douglas, a licensed practical nurse in Huntsville, Alabama, said of Obama's signature law. "They need to fix it with whatever works, but not make more of a mess like they have now."

That Americans agree on much of anything is remarkable after a presidential race that ripped open the nation's economic, political and cultural divisions. But on the brink of the Trump presidency, a new poll finds ample accord across those divisions on the need to do something about health care in the United States.

More than 4-in-10 Republicans, Democrats and independents say health care is a top issue facing the country, The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll showed. That's more than named any other issue in the survey, conducted Dec. 14-19.

But there seems to be little agreement on what to do about it.

Democrats say they want to fix problems in the current program — among them, rising costs and dwindling competition — but not dismantle it. They warn that the GOP is threatening the coverage gained by 20 million people under the 2010 overhaul. repeal

Republicans want to repeal Obama's signature law but fear the political damage of stranding millions of Americans who secured coverage. Congress' nonpartisan budget analyst lent weight to that concern Tuesday, estimating that a bill passed in 2016 to only repeal — not replace — the law would result in 18 million more uninsured people and a spike in premiums.

Trump says he has a plan, but so far he's given no details. He told The Washington Post last weekend that his approach would provide "insurance for everybody."

Congressional Republicans say the revamp will offer "universal access" to coverage, not quite the same thing.

The desire to fix Obamacare stretches across party lines, but some are skeptical it can be done.

"It can't be made to work," said James Gemind, a 55-year-old restaurant worker from Orlando, Florida. "That's why both sides have been unanimous in their agreement that it has to be repealed or replaced. Part of it is funding; it just does not exist to insure everybody."

Health care aside, in the poll there was more modest agreement on other national priorities.

About a third of Republicans and a quarter of Democrats put unemployment among their top issues. About a fifth named the economy in general as a top priority regardless of party, according to the poll. Most Americans said the government should put a substantial amount of effort toward addressing the public's priorities, but few expect much will be accomplished in the next year, the survey said.

Overall, domestic issues including health care, education, the environment and racism were cited by 86 percent of Americans.

But Democrats were more likely to mention the environment, racism and poverty, while Republicans were more likely to cite immigration, terrorism, government spending and taxes.

Immigration was named by 40 percent of GOP respondents, compared to 15 percent of Democrats. Trump during the campaign connected immigration to national security and vowed to build a wall along the southern U.S. border and make Mexico pay for it — an idea Mexican leaders have not accepted. Trump now says Mexico will pay for it "eventually."

In a turn-around from a year ago, most Republicans now say the country is on the right course, while Democrats have become more pessimistic.

But it's health care reform that survives this era of division, in part because it touches on peoples' day-to-day quality of life, and in the most personal ways.

Douglas' husband is disabled and she recently was diagnosed with a condition that required abdominal imaging. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama is now the only provider in her state exchange — a fact she blames for the boost in her monthly premium, from around $600 to nearly $1000. Additionally, she learned, her deductible had zoomed to $4,000. That torpedoed work she'd done to build a future.

"I was going to buy a new home, I was getting my credit straight, but now that is down the drain," Douglas said. "Obamacare helped the less-fortunate, and that's what I liked about it. I had no idea it would tear out the middle class like this."

The AP-NORC poll of 1,017 adults was conducted Dec. 14-19, 2016, using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 3.7 percentage points. Interviews were conducted online and using landlines and cellphones.

Online:
■ AP-NORC:
http://www.apnorc.org

Justices raise doubts over law barring offensive trademarks

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a First Amendment clash over a law barring offensive trademarks, the Supreme Court on Wednesday raised doubts about a government program that favors some forms of speech but rejects others that might disparage certain groups.

The justices heard arguments in a dispute involving an Asian-American band called the Slants that was denied a trademark because the U.S. Patent and Trademark office said the name is offensive to Asians.

Justice Elena Kagan reflected the concerns of several justices when she said government programs are not supposed to make a distinction based on viewpoint.

"The point is that I can say good things about something, but I can't say bad things about something," she said. "And I would have thought that that was a fairly classic case of viewpoint discrimination."

The Oregon-based band says the 70-year-old law violates free-speech rights. A federal appeals court had ruled that the law is unconstitutional, but the government appealed.

A victory for the band would be welcome news for the Washington Redskins, embroiled in their own legal fight over the team's name. The trademark office canceled the football team's lucrative trademarks in 2014 after finding the word "Redskins" is disparaging to Native Americans.

But the justices also seemed concerned that imposing absolutely no limits on trademark names might go too far.

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Daniel 7:22 (ESV)
Until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom.

AP file photo

Earth sets hottest year record for third-straight time

By Seth Borenstein
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Earth sizzled to a third-straight record hot year in 2016, with scientists mostly blaming man-made global warming with help from a natural El Nino that's now gone.

Two U.S. agencies and international weather groups reported Wednesday that last year was the warmest on record. They measure global temperatures in slightly different ways, and came up with a range of increases, from minuscule to what top American climate scientists described as substantial.

They're "all singing the same song even if they are hitting different notes along the way. The pattern is very clear," said Deke Arndt of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

NOAA calculated that the average global temperature for 2016 was 58.69 degrees (14.84 degrees Celsius) — beating the previous year by 0.07 degrees (0.04 Celsius).

NASA's figures , which include more of the Arctic, are higher at 0.22 degrees (0.12 Celsius) warmer than 2015. The Arctic "was enormously warm, like totally off the charts compared to everything else," said Gavin Schmidt, director of NASA's Goddard Institute of Space Studies in New York, where the space agency monitors global temperatures.

The British meteorological office determined that 2016 barely beat 2015 by 0.018 degrees (0.01 Celsius). The World Meteorological Organization and other monitoring groups agreed that 2016 was a record, with the international weather agency chief Petteri Taalas saying "temperatures only tell part of the story" of extreme warming.

The figures are based on ground-level temperatures. Satellite calculations also showed that it was the warmest year, Schmidt said.

"This is clearly a record," he said. "We are now no longer only looking at something that only scientists can see, but is apparent to people in our daily lives."

Temperature records go back to 1880. This is the fifth time in a dozen years that the globe has set a new annual heat record. Records have been set in 2016, 2015, 2014, 2010 and 2005.

Arndt said the 0.07 difference for 2016 is actually one of the largest NOAA has seen between record years. What's more important than any single record is the multi-decade "clear warming trend since the late 20th Century," said Arndt, NOAA's climate monitoring chief.

Schmidt said his calculations show most of the record heat was from heat-trapping gases from the burning of oil, coal and gas. Only about 12 percent was due to El Nino, which is a periodic warming of parts of the Pacific that change weather globally, he said. Arndt put the El Nino factor closer to a quarter or a third.

El Nino disappeared last June. Even without it, Schmidt said this year probably won't break any records although it should be in the top five warmest.

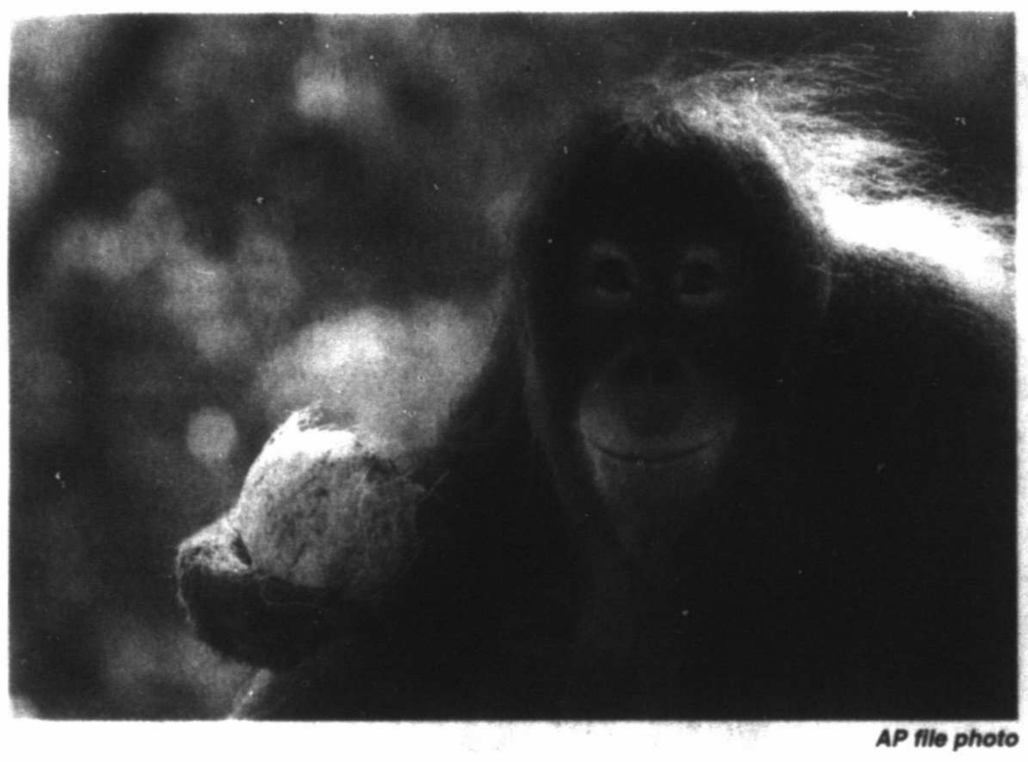
NOAA calculated that last year was the warmest year on record in the oceans, the Arctic and North America. The average amount of ice in the Arctic Ocean reached a record low for 2016, Arndt said.

According to NOAA, 2016 was 1.69 degrees (0.94 degrees Celsius) warmer than the 20th Century average. The first eight months of 2016 all broke heat records. NASA has last year at 1.78 degrees (0.99 degrees Celsius) warmer than their mid-20th Century average and about 2 degrees warmer than the start of the industrial age in the late 19th Century.

"Of course this is climate change, it's overwhelmingly climate change," said Corinne Le Quere, director of England's Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, who wasn't part of the NOAA or NASA teams. "Warming (is) nearly everywhere. The Arctic sea ice is collapsing. Spikes in fires from the heat. Heavy rainfall from more water vapor in the air."

The effects are more than just records, but actually hurt people and the environment, said Oklahoma University meteorology professor Jason Furtado. They're "harmful on several levels, including human welfare, ecology, economics, and even geopolitics," he said.

Online:
- NOAA: http://www.noaa.gov
- NASA: http://www.nasa.gov



AP file photo

Tsunami, an eleven-year-old female Sumatran Orangutan eats fruit Dec. 31, 2015, during her birthday celebration at the National Zoo Ape Center in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Primates are heading toward an extinction crisis, a new international study warns. And it's our fault that our closest biological relatives are in trouble, scientists said. About 60 percent of the more than 500 primate species, such as gorillas, monkeys and lemurs, are "now threatened with extinction" and three out of four primate species have shrinking populations, according to a study by 31 primate experts published Wednesday journal Science Advances.

World's primates facing extinction crisis, new report says

By Seth Borenstein
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Gorillas, monkeys, lemurs and other primates are in danger of becoming extinct, and scientists say it's our fault that our closest living relatives are in trouble, a new international study warns.

About 60 percent of the more than 500 primate species are "now threatened with extinction" and 3 out of 4 primate species have shrinking populations, according to a study published in Wednesday's journal Science Advances.

While scientists had tracked dwindling numbers of individuals and groups of primates in forests around the world, this is the first big-picture look. The result was "a bigger wake-up call" than previously thought, said researcher Paul Garber of the University of Illinois.

"The outlook is not very good," said Garber, who recently returned from the jungles of Brazil studying marmosets.

The decline has been blamed on human activities including hunting, mining and oil drilling. Logging, ranching and farming have also destroyed precious habitat in Africa, Asia and South America.

Primates, which include apes, monkeys and humans, have forward-facing eyes and grasping ability that set them apart from other mammals. Scientists study them to learn about human behavior and evolution.

Much of the problems faced by primates are recent. For example, the Grauer's gorilla dropped from a population of 17,000 in 1995 to just about 3,800 now, mostly from bushmeat hunting and mineral mining, the study found.

There are only about 14,000 Sumatran orangutans left in the world. The Hainan gibbon in China is down to just 25 individuals, while 22 out of the 26 primate species in China are endangered, Garber said.

About 94 percent of the lemur species in the world are endangered, especially in Madagascar, which is one of hardest-hit places for primate population loss.

"We need to look at (population losses) almost as signals. They're telling us something about our future," Garber said, "This is a critical world problem."

While there's hope that some species can be protected, many will disappear in the coming decades, said co-author Eduardo Fernandez-Duque of Yale University.

Emory University primate expert Frans de Waal called the work "very detailed and timely and unfortunately correct."

"Primate populations are clearly moving in the wrong direction," said de Waal, who wasn't part of the study.

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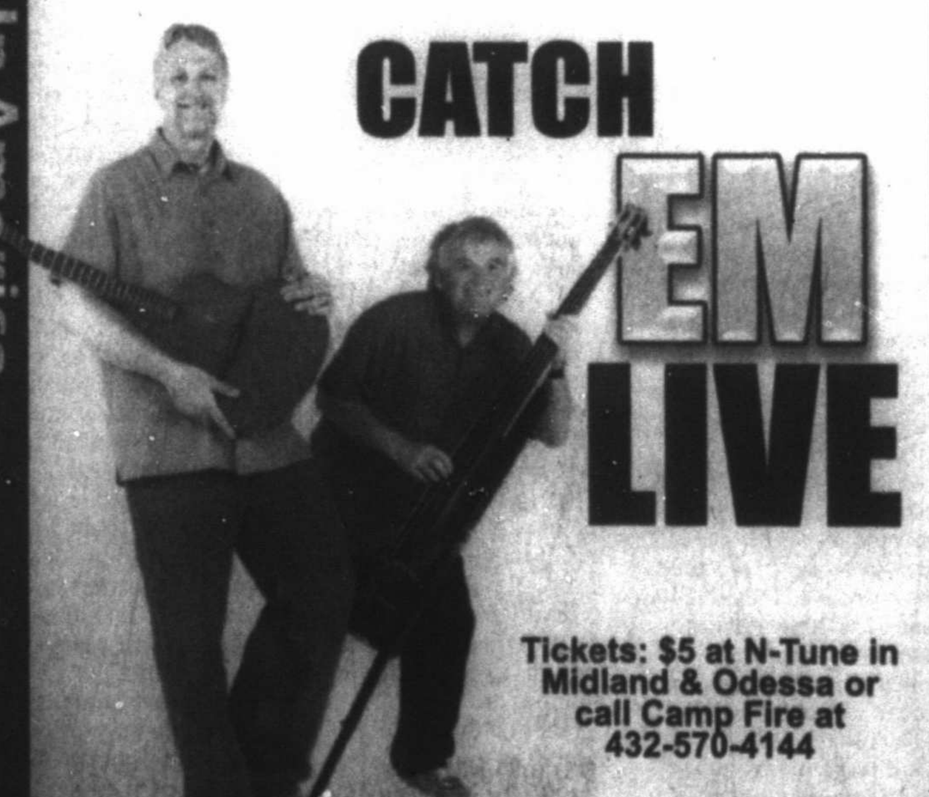

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WEEKENDER

YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS IN THE PERMIAN BASIN

BEST BETS

FRIDAY

BOWL NIGHT The West Texas Food Bank's annual Empty Bowls benefit is both a way to help battle hunger and score dinner and a uniquely handcrafted bowl by area artisans. The event takes place at the WTFB with $15 admission. 7 p.m.

SATURDAY

BOILING HOT Check out Rue 432's Shrimp Boil with a side of live music. Justin Langston performs at the dining event. 5 p.m.

TUESDAY

ODDLY ENOUGH... The Wagner Noel hosts "OddSquad Live!" based on the Emmy-winning children's show. Audience will help the team find clues in this stage adventure. 6:30 p.m.

See complete schedule of weekend events on Page 2.

MOVIES

Films opening and closing this week at Midland theaters:

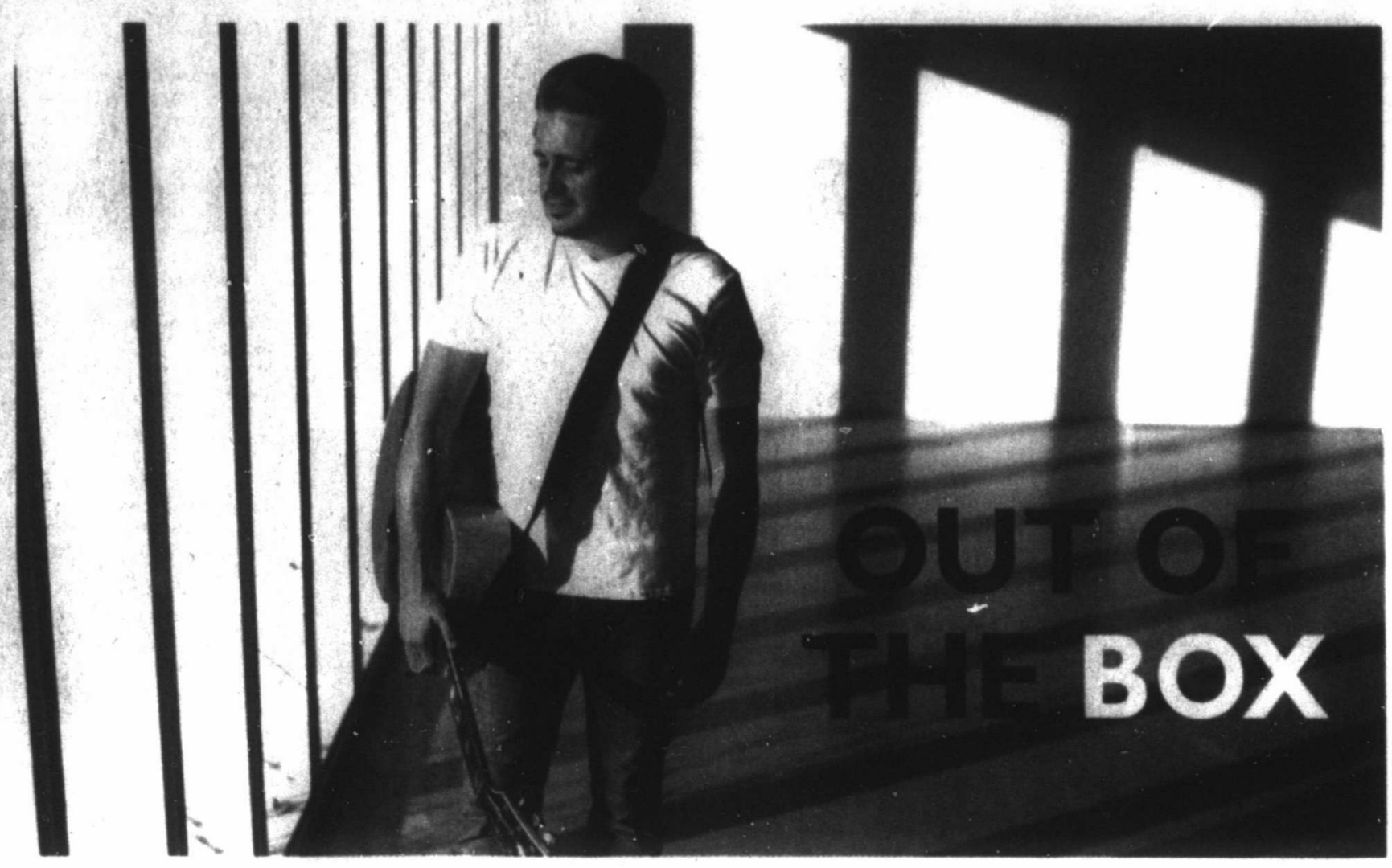
TALL CITY 14
Opening: "The Resurrection of Gavin Stone," "Silence," "Split," "xXx: The Return of Xander Cage."
Closing: "Fences," "Passengers," "Underworld: Blood Wars," "Why Him?"

CINERGY CINEMAS
Opening: "Split," "xXx: The Return of Xander Cage."

STAYING IN? Find out which movies are worth watching from the comfort of your couch. Page 4

COMING SOON

Emmy-winner and "Wicked" diva Kristin Chenoweth presents her Art of Elegance show at the Wagner Noel on Jan. 26. Read her interview with the MRT in Sunday's Culture section.



Mark McKinney kicks off year with album release party at Lone Star Bar

By Rich Lopez
jrlopez@mrt.com

Country singer Mark McKinney heads back home Friday night — sort of. The Big Spring native returns to West Texas to celebrate his newest album, "The World In Between," which drops the same day he will perform at the Lone Star Bar.

"Everytime I go back, it reminds me of those old days when me and my brother had a band playing in Midland and Odessa," he said in a phone interview.

Fans will hear new songs by McKinney, who sees this as his best album to date.

"Yeah, I think I went deeper on this album. I feel like my songwriting has matured. I've been exploring new things with it," he said. "Songwriters sometimes (have) a tendency to write in the same box."

IF YOU GO

Mark McKinney, 8 p.m. Jan. 20 at The Lone Star Bar, 621 W Wall St. $10. 21 and up. markmckinney.com.

He described getting out of that box as a fun thing to do. Part of that was working with his wife, Cassie Turano. McKinney and she co-wrote three of the album's songs. This was their first musical collaboration, and as it turned out, the process was an easy one.

"It went very smoothly. It was a cool feeling to be around her and have this to collaborate on that will be around forever," he said.

The album turned out to be a family affair. McKinney's brother, Eric, returned as co-producer, and their father sat in on the recording sessions and was dubbed the album's "couch producer." His 13-year-old son Jagger contributed piano work on the album, most notably the intro and outro to the album's final song, "Revolution."

With the album release the same day as the presidential inauguration, the song almost takes on a bigger meaning. Ironically, McKinney wrote the song 20 years ago.

"You know, I just saw it on the backburner and thought to bring it back," McKinney said. "We get lost in the world of politics and social media."

The singer acknowledges how feelings are mixed. He sees people are sad about the new administration, he sees people are happy about it. Either way, he thought the song could bring something to both.

"This is a song of hope for everyone, and I liked ending the album with that optimistic vibe."

HEAT INDEX: Beethoven, Intocable and Oak Ridge Boys highlight weekend

By Rich Lopez
jrlopez@mrt.com

MOSC "BEETHOVEN" CONCERT AND WEEKEND EVENTS

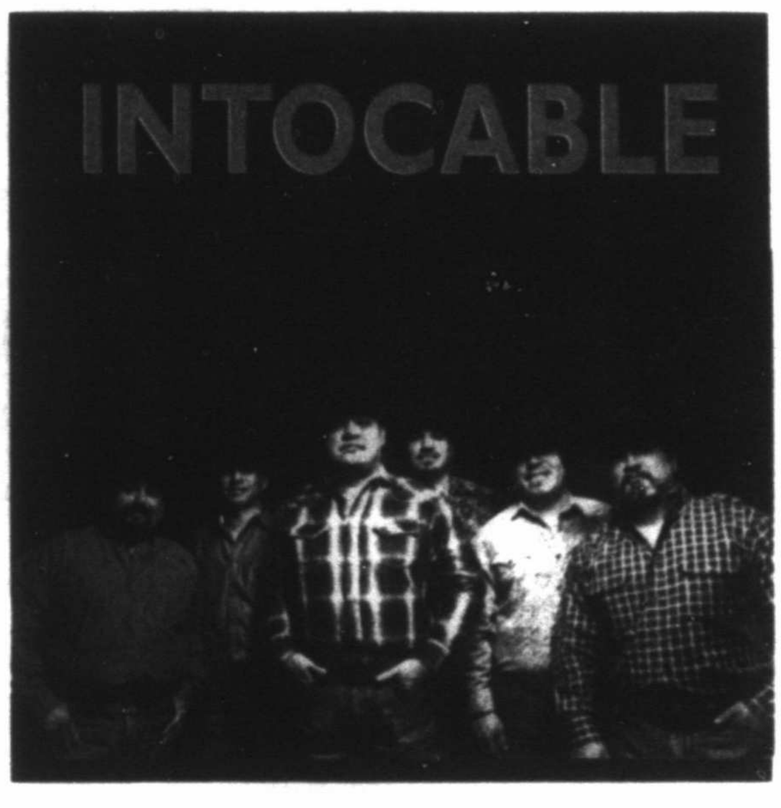
You could feasibly thank the Midland Odessa Symphony and Chorale for your entire weekend. With four events, you could be set as soon as lunchtime today.

The West Texas Winds will perform a free concert at 11:45 a.m. at ClayDesta Plaza. Grab some lunch, take a seat and enjoy the MOSC ensemble mini-concert under the plaza skylights.

Symphony Young Professionals host Backstage Brews and Beethoven, a sneak-peek mixer where guests can partake in a beer tasting and watch as the orchestra rehearse for the concert. It's set for 6 p.m. Friday.

For those with reservations, Symphony Soundbites kicks off 6 p.m. Saturday with dinner and a guest talk by maestro Gary Lewis and guest musician John Gunther at 6 p.m.

Please see **HEAT INDEX**/Page 3



Martin Scorsese shows his passion for the Christianity story in 'Silence'

RICK BENTLEY
Fresno Bee

Martin Scorsese's career is built on stacks of films that have looked at the good and bad sides of humanity. The battle between these areas has been the fodder for works from "The Last Temptation of Christ" to "The Wolf of Wall Street."

The spiritual elements of such conflicts have been masked by the director, who has been more intent to look at how people react to clashing morality questions rather than pondering the questions themselves.

That changes with "Silence," Scorsese's adaptation of Shusaku Endo's 1966 novel about the story of two Jesuit missionaries — Father Rodrigues (Andrew Garfield) and Father Garrpe (Adam Driver) — go to 17th century Japan in search of their mentor, Father Ferreira (Liam Neeson). What they find is a persecution against their Christian thinking that tests their faith.

Before the missionaries can start their search, they find the horrible torments that are being done to any Japanese who have changed to a Christian belief. Despite an ever present reality their thinking could result in their death, the believers continue to practice their faith. The arrival of the missionaries is seen as a sign.

Chief among those looking to drive any Christian thinking out of the country are inquisitor Inoue (Issei Ogata) and his translator

Please see **'SILENCE**/Page 3

CALENDAR

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

THE OAK RIDGE BOYS

ART & DANCE

"Robin Germany: Current Literature" in the Mary Blanton Kennedy Gallery. The show is part of the 2017 Contemporary Series: Science in the Southwest. Opens Friday and runs through March 5. Museum of the Southwest, 1705 W. Missouri Ave. museumsw.org.

Works by Katie Pack, 6 p.m. Fridays at Kamiposi, 510 S. Big Spring St. facebook.com/kamiposi.

"Spirit Lines: Helen Hardin Etchings" features 23 first editions of the artists copper-plate etchings. Through March 26 at Ellen Noel Art Museum, 4909 E University Blvd, Odessa. noelartmuseum.org.

EVENTS

MOSC: Backstage Brews and Beethoven. Symphony Young Professionals host a backstage party and sneak peek of the upcoming Beethoven concert. 6 p.m. Friday at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. MOSC.org.

Empty Bowls 2017 benefiting the West Texas Food Bank. 7 p.m. Friday at West Texas Food Bank, 411 S. Pagewood Ave., Odessa.

FAMILY FUN

Third Thursday Reading will featured the book "Is There Really a Human Race?" with copies given to each child. The monthly event is part of the Laura Bush Literacy Program. Free but space is limited so reservations are encouraged. Refreshments provided. 4:30 p.m. today at the George W. Bush Childhood Home, 1412 W. Ohio Ave. bushchildhoodhome.org.

Pajama Storytime and Movie: "The Secret life of Pets." Popcorn will be provided. All minors must be accompanied by an adult. 4:30 p.m. Friday at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 Loop 250 N. Free.

Toddler Block Party is an hour of playtime with wooden blocks. 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 Loop 250.

Pretend and Play provides a structured environment for caregivers and their children. For ages 2-6. 10:30 a.m. 's at Midland County Public Library downtown branch, 301 W. Missouri Ave. Fridays at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N. co.midland.tx.us/lib.

Storytime at the Library. 10:30 a.m. (birth-2 years), 11:30 a.m. (2-6 years). Wednesdays. Tickets required for later sessions due to limited space. Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N. co.midland.tx.us/lib.

Storytime at the Library. 10:30 a.m. (birth-2 years), 11:30 a.m. (2-6 years). Thursdays. Midland County Public Library downtown branch, 301 W. Missouri Ave. co.midland.tx.us/lib.

Evening Storytime at the Library. 4:30 p.m. (2-6 years) Fridays at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N. co.midland.tx.us/lib.

Pretend and Play for ages 3-6. 10 a.m. Friday at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N. Every other Friday. co.midland.tx.us/lib.

Old Miner's Maze interactive adventure features a maze, rock walls, mechanical bull and more. Fridays 6-10 p.m., Saturdays noon-8 p.m., Sunday noon to 6 p.m. 4305 N. County Rd. 1140. oldminersmaze.com.

FOOD & DRINK

Shrimp Boil with music by Justin Langston. 5 p.m. Saturday at Rue 432, 106 S. A St.

Symphony Sound-Bites "Beethoven" is a pre-concert dinner with maestro Gary Lewis and guest artist John Gunther speaking. The menu will feature an Italian pasta trio. Tickets must have be pre-purchased. 6 p.m. Saturday at Rea-Greathouse Hall, 1310 N. FM 1788. $25. MOSC.org.

Robert Burns Dinner hosted by the Celtic Heritage Society of the Permian Basin. The event honors the Scottish poet and will feature social hour, a toast, buffet dinner, cash bar and entertainment. 6 p.m. Saturday at Midland Country Club, 6101 N. SH 349. $40 late registration by today. facebook.com/celticheritagesocietypermianbasin.

GAMES

Bingo Nights. The American Legion Auxiliary hosts weekly play throughout the week. 7 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, 4 p.m. Sundays. 501 Veterans Airpark Lane. 682-5511.

Zia Park Casino Hotel and Racetrack bus trips by Midland Shuttle Services. Departs at 5 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays to Hobbs, New Mexico. $55 adults, $45 65 and older. RSVP by calling 432-260-5428. midlandshuttleservices.com.

Hold 'em poker tournaments, 7 p.m. Fridays at The Detour.

Bridge lessons, 10 a.m. Saturdays at Allison Bridge Center, 913 W. Wadley Ave. $3. permianbridgeclub.com.

Bingo, 6 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays at the Tall City VFW Post 7208, 1306 E. Taylor Ave. Children welcome.

Bridge game play, 6:45 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 1 p.m. Tuesdays; 10:30 a.m. Saturdays; 1:30 p.m. Sundays. Allison Bridge Center, 913 W. Wadley Ave. $6. permianbridgeclub.com.

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

Live Trivia by Challenge Entertainment. 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Basin Burger House.

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

Trivia Game Night, 7 p.m. Wednesdays at True Texas BBQ, 5407 Andrews Hwy. Free.

Live Trivia by Challenge Entertainment. 8 p.m. Wednesdays at Torino's. challengeentertainment.com.

LECTURES, MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS

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

MUSIC

CHRISTIAN

Godswayonline Christian Music Revue with Big Perk, 4 p.m. Sunday at Music City Mall, 4101 E. 42nd St., Odessa. Free.

CLASSICAL/VOCAL

MOSC: Claydesta Brownbag Concert with the West Texas Winds. Enjoy a free concert with the MOSC ensemble while enjoying lunch in the plaza. 11:45 a.m. today at Claydesta Plaza, 6 Desta Drive. Free. MOSC.org.

MOSC Masterworks: Beethoven, 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $9-$30. MOSC.org.

COUNTRY

Mark McKinney, 8 p.m. Friday at The Lone Star Bar, 621 W. Wall St.

Barry Waller and Dixie River, 9 p.m. Saturday at Escape Lounge, 3001 E. Business Loop 20, Odessa.

The Oak Ridge Boys, The Gatlin Brothers, 7:30 p.m. Monday at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $38-$63. wagnernoel.com.

COVER/TRIBUTE

Dirty Glass, 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday at The Bar, 606 W. Missouri Ave.

Weatherstone, 6:30 p.m. Friday at The Wine Rack, 4610 N. Garfield St.

DJ/DANCE

#Hangovertodays, 7 p.m. today at Atrium Lounge, 3904 W. Wall St.

DJ Wildman, 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday at The Lift on 7th, 1401 E. 7th St. Odessa.

KARAOKE

Karaoke, 9 p.m. today at The Detour Bar, 1708 Rankin Highway. thedetourbar.com.

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

LATIN

Intocable, La Reunion Nortena, Los Bravos de Ojinaga, 8 p.m. Saturday at La Hacienda Event Center, 12610 SH 191. $35. Haciendamidland.com.

OUTDOORS, SPORTS & FITNESS

Adult Kickball, 2 p.m. Saturdays. Visit facebook.com/groups/Midlandkickball for more information.

Free skateboarding lessons, noon-1:30 p.m. Saturdays at RTD Skatepark. rtdskatepark.com.

Family Nite roller skating, Sundays from 2-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. at K.C's Nutty Roller, 1004 A Andrews Highway. kcsnuttyroller.com.

Yoga at the Museum for museum members. 8 a.m. Wednesdays at Ellen Noel Art Museum, 4909 E University Blvd, Odessa. Free. noelartmuseum.org.

THEATER, COMEDY & FILM

"Lost in London Live" follows Academy Award nominated actor Woody Harrelson, playing himself, as he struggles to get home to his family. Run-ins with royalty, old friends and the law all seem to conspire to keep Harrelson from succeeding. 8 p.m. today at Tall City Stadium 14, 4915 SW Loop 250 N. $20.84. fathomevents.com.

"Unplugged" by Permian Playhouse's Kaleidoscope Company. Laurie Bryant's play poses the question of life without technology for 30 days. Opens Friday and runs through Jan. 28 at Permian Playhouse, 310 W. 42nd St., Odessa. $10. permianplayhouse.com.

"Romeo et Juliette" by The Met: Live in HD, 11:55 a.m., Saturday at Tall City Stadium 14, 4915 SW Loop 250 N. $25.17. fathomevents.com.

Indie Lens: "The Bad Kids" screening about at-risk students by Basin PBS. 6 p.m. Tuesday at Ector County Library, 321 W. 5th St., Odessa. basinpbs.org.

The Odd Squad Live, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $18-$68. Wagnernoel.com.

COMING SOON

JANUARY

Family Science Night: Space Wars with special guests from the McDonald Observatory, Midland College, Bricks 4 Kidz. 6:30 p.m. Jan. 26 at The Petroleum Museum, 1500 Interstate 20 West. Free. pbpetro.org.

An Evening with Kristin Chenoweth: Celebrating the Art of Elegance, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 26 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. FM Road 1788. $59-$125. wagnernoel.com.

Urban Pioneers, Texicano Folk Rock Punk, 9 p.m. Jan. 26 at Some Place Else Club, 7409 W. Industrial Ave. 21 and older. Free.

"James Gill: American Pop" in the Concho Resources Inc. and Wagner galleries. The show opens with a members' reception Jan. 27 and will be on display through April 2. Museum of the Southwest, 1705 W. Missouri Ave. museumsw.org.

Third annual Midland on Tap Craft Beer Fest will feature more than 100 brews from American breweries. Jan. 27 and 28 at High Sky Wing CAF, 9600 Wright Drive. 21 and older only. $20. Americaontap.com.

Songs of Childhood, Love, and Nostalgia with music by Quinn Patrick Ankrum and Joe Dan Harper. The recital is presented by Permian Basin Opera. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 27 in Wagner Brown Auditorium at Midland College. $10. Students free with ID.

Ron White, 8 p.m. Jan 27 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $49-$239. Wagnernoel.com.

Hill Country Revival, 9 p.m. Jan. 27 and 28 at The Bar, 606 W. Missouri Ave.

Beginner 3D Print Class, 11 a.m. Jan. 28 at Midland County Public Library downtown, 301 W. Missouri Ave.

Annual Dances from the Islands, 7 p.m. Jan. 28 at the Yucca Theatre, 208 N. Colorado St. alohahulahalau.com.

Naughty by Nature, Coolio, Tone Loc, 8 p.m. Jan. 28 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $43-$63. wagnernoel.com.

Trout Fishing in America, Jan. 29 and 30 at The Yucca, 208 N. Colorado St.

"Dirty Dancing: 30th Anniversary Event" 2 and 7 p.m., Jan. 29 and Feb. 1 at Tall City Stadium 14, 4915 SW Loop 250 N. $14.88. fathomevents.com.

National Puzzle Day will feature logic and jigsaw puzzles and sudoku challenges. The event will also feature "The Art of Puzzles" TED Talk by Scott Kim. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Jan. 30 at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 Loop 250.

Drumline Live, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 30 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $35-$55. wagnernoel.com.

FEBRUARY

"The Hunchback of Notre Dame," Feb. 3-25 at Midland Community Theatre, 2000 W. Wadley Ave. mctmidland.org.

First Friday with works by Cipriano Bueno, 6 p.m. Feb. 3 at Kamiposi, 510 S. Big Spring St. facebook.com/kamiposi.

Los Tigres del Norte, La Maquinaria Nortena, 8 p.m. Feb. 3 at La Hacienda Event Center, 12610 SH 191. $55. Haciendamidland.com.

A.J. Gaither, 9 p.m. Feb. 3 at Riley's Bar and Grill, 3421 W. Wall St.

IF: Gathering 2017 is a day-long spiritual workshop for women. 9 a.m. Feb. 4 at Golf Course Road Church of Christ, 3500 W. Golf Course Road. ifgathering.com.

Little Sweethearts Dance for daddy/daughter, mother/son, guardian/child. The event will feature refreshments, dances, photos and games. 6 p.m. Feb. 4 at Midland YMCA, 800 N. Big Spring St. $20 per couple, $5 additional child. Tickets sold at member service desk from Jan. 30-Feb. 3. Midlandymca.org.

Midland Army Air Field Museum Gala: A Salute to Veterans with entertainment by the Victory Belles and hosted by Tumbleweed Smith. Tickets include appetizers, entertainment, beverages and live and silent auctions. 6 p.m. Feb. 4 at CAF High Sky Wing Main Hangar. $50. 432-703-3142. highskywing.org.

Foreigner, 8 p.m. Feb. 4 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $55-$75. wagnernoel.com.

Super Bowl Party with 15 big screen tvs and full menu available. 4 p.m. Feb. 5 at The Bar, 606 W. Missouri Ave. Table reservations available by calling 432-685-1757.

Rockabilly Riot featuring The Legendary Shack Shakers, The Brains and The Delta Bombers. 9 p.m. Feb. 5 at Some Place Else Club, 7409 W. Industrial Blvd.

Building Bots: Robotics and Engineering Funlab enables children to engage in engineering and robotic creative design through different themes. 5:30 p.m. Feb. 7 at The Petroleum Museum, 1500 Interstate 20 West. $20 members, $25 non. Pbpetro.org.

Gabriel Iglesias: Fluffymania Tour, 8 p.m. Feb. 9 and 10 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $33-$148. Wagnernoel.com.

Love Rekindled is a marriage retreat focused on strengthening relationships. The weekend retreat is open to all married couples. Feb. 10-12 at Hilton Garden Inn, 1301 N. Loop 250 W. $250. eventbrite.com.

Camila, 7 p.m. Feb. 10 at La Hacienda Event Center, 12610 SH 191. $50-$75. Haciendamidland.com.

Daddy and Daughter Valentine's Barn Dance, 7 p.m. Feb. 10 at Golf Course Road Church of Christ, 3500 W. Golf Course Road.

Date Night with dinner, drinks and dessert, 7 p.m. Feb. 10 at The Pottery, 3001 W. Loop 250 N. $40. potttermidland.com.

Sweetheart Family Pancake Breakfast benefiting the Midland Children's Rehabilitation Center. 8 a.m.-10 a.m. Feb. 11 at On the Border Mexican Grill and Cantina, 4306 W. Loop 250 N. $8 for ages 11 to adult, $4 for ages 3-10.

Heart and Sole 5/10 K kicks off American heart Month with proceeds benefiting the YMCA's annual campaign. 11 a.m. Feb. 11 at Midland YMCA, 800 N. Big Spring St. webscorer.com.

Valentine's Dinner will feature four courses and two seating options. 6 and 8 p.m., Feb. 11 at Ranchland Hills Golf Club, 1600 E. Wadley Ave. Reservations can be made by calling 432-682-3729. ranchlandhills.com.

Country Music Night with Justin Dominguez and Mary Martin. 7 p.m. Feb. 11 at Lincoln Tower, 311 W. 4th St., Odessa. westtexastalent.com.

Styx, 8 p.m. Feb. 11 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $45-$246. Wagnernoel.com.

ON SCREEN & MORE

'SPLIT'

McAvoy shines in M. Night Shyamalan's 'Split'

KATIE WALSH
Tribune News Service

Through the ups and downs of his career, the name M. Night Shyamalan has always been synonymous with one thing: twist. While watching his films, it's easy to spend more time wondering if he will, won't, and how he'll twist, and it can take away the power of what's actually on screen. Which is a shame when the filmmaking and performances are particularly exceptional. In the multiple-personality psycho-thriller "Split," Anya Taylor-Joy and James McAvoy shine as predator and prey who understand each other far more than they know.

As Kevin/Barry/Dennis/Patricia/Hedwig/Orwell/Jade, McAvoy ferociously sinks his teeth into the role of a troubled young man who developed dissociative identity disorder as a coping mechanism to deal with a turbulent, abusive childhood. He kept his 23 personalities in control with the help of an understanding therapist, Dr. Fletcher (Betty Buckley), but the darker proclivities have taken over, and he kidnaps three young girls to satisfy those urges.

While McAvoy is known for his dramatic roles, and as the young Charles Xavier in the "X-Men" franchise, he's delightful when let off the leash and allowed to show off his loud, campy, unhinged side. While this performance could have descended into a "James McAvoy Does Accents" YouTube video of sorts, he's far too skilled as an actor for that. Each of his characters has unique gestures and facial physicality, and McAvoy slides seamlessly from one to another in single takes.

Dr. Fletcher has gained her patient's trust by believing in the autonomy of each persona, and suggesting that his condition could reveal a higher evolution of humanity, positioning his mental disorder as almost supernatural powers. Buckley is wonderful, and casting her is genius — a nod to "Carrie," another psychological horror thriller about a victim who found a way to turn plight into power, in which Buckley had a similar role.

Kevin (or is it Dennis?) meets his match in Casey (Anya Taylor-Joy), a teen who accidentally happens to be with intended victims Claire (Haley Lu Richardson) and Marcia (Jessica Sula) at the time of the kidnapping. She's thoughtful, quiet and composed, thinking rather than acting impulsively out of their predicament, drawing on lessons learned from hunting trips with her father and uncle.

While Kevin's disorder could indicate a higher evolution, he has the basest of instincts — an appetite for nubile young women isn't exactly original. He's a fascinating character, but Shyamalan retreats to the tried-and-true formulas for this genre. It's tiresome to see yet another movie where yet more young women are stripped and locked in a basement.

Despite this, Shyamalan demonstrates a mastery over the form of the mean and lean psycho-thriller, aided in no small party by the performances of McAvoy, Taylor-Joy and Buckley, and smooth-yet-unsettling camera work by cinematographer Michael Gioulakis. The camera swaps character point-of-view rapidly, inhabiting both victim and kidnapper, watcher and watched. As the tension ratchets up, odd and off-putting camera angles and extreme close-ups emulate the cracks in reality.

Shyamalan brings victim and victimizer together to make a powerful (if a bit facile) statement about drawing power from pain, turning trauma into strength. That concept is the subtext of the horror genre, and Shyamalan smartly makes it manifest as the driving message of "Split."

'Split'

3 out of 4 stars

Cast: James McAvoy, Anya Taylor-Joy, Betty Buckley, Haley Lu Richardson, Jessica Sula

Directed by M. Night Shyamalan

Running time: 1 hour, 57 minutes

Rated PG-13 for disturbing thematic content and behavior, violence and some language

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

HEAT INDEX

From Page 1

This all culminates with a night of Beethoven with the MOSC performing his Symphony No. 4. They've also thrown in some Mozart and Sauter for good measure. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Wagner Noel, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market 1788. Tickets are $9-$30 and available at MOSC.org.

PAJAMA STORYTIME AND MOVIE AT CENTENNIAL BRANCH

Children can wear their pajamas for a party at the Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, which will host this special storytime event. Guests can dress comfortable in their jammies and take their favorite blanket and or stuffed animal. The library will screen the film "The Secret Life of Pets" and serve free popcorn. All minors must be accompanied by an adult, but that just means the more the merrier.

4:30 p.m. Friday at 2503 Loop 250 N. Free.

"UNPLUGGED" OPENS AT PERMIAN PLAYHOUSE

The Permian Playhouse kicks off its theater season with this show by its junior Kaleidoscope Company. In Laurie Bryant's play, one small town goes without technology for a month to win a large prize. The residents learn just how easy or not that can be.

7:30 p.m. Friday at Permian Playhouse, 310 W. 42nd St., Odessa. The play runs through Jan. 28. $10. Permianplayhouse.com.

INTOCABLE AT LA HACIENDA EVENT CENTER

The energy will be high for this Tejano/Norteno band. The band is coming off a big year. Its album "Highway" debuted at No. 1 on the Regional Mexican Albums chart last summer and as the Top Latin Albums charts. In 2016, the band became the third-highest group with No. 1's on the regional chart behind Vicente Fernandez and Los Tigres del Norte.

With the single "Quierema (Amame)," the band has the most top-20 singles as well. With that kind of momentum, they are likely to bring an extra bounce in their musical step this weekend. Los Bravos de Ojinaga and La Reunion Nortena open.

8 p.m. Saturday at La Hacienda Event Center, 12610 State Highway 191. $45. Haciendamidland.com.

THE OAK RIDGE BOYS AND THE GATLIN BROTHERS AT WAGNER NOEL

Classic country headlines the night as the Oak Ridge Boys return for their annual stop in Midland. This time, they are bringing along Rudy and Steve Gatlin as their special guests. The group has been part of the Wagner Noel family since the venue's opening in 2013 and this makes their fifth consecutive show there.

7:30 p.m. Monday at 1310 N. FM 1788. $40-$65. wagnernoel.com.2

'SILENCE'

From Page 1

(Tadanobu Asano). Inoue uses his time with Father Rodrigues as a way to not only eliminate one more spark of Christianity but also to send a major message that anyone who continues to practice their faith will be tortured or killed.

There is no denying that the director embraces the chance to present arguments about faith, will power, bigotry, hatred and the use of religion as a tool to generate fear and self doubt. He presents all of these views with deep passion, particularly in scenes where Father Rodrigues goes from a intense defense of his belief to a soul-searching reality that he has some doubts.

All of this is presented against a massive backdrop that harkens back to the days when director David Lean was making epics like "A Passage to India." The beautiful setting creates a harsh contrast to the spiritual ugliness.

And Scorsese doesn't muddle the story with a melodramatic soundtrack. His background is more the natural sounds of the world, which come across like whispers by God. A heavy musical score would have been counterproductive to the sparseness of the construction.

Scorsese's passion for the project blinded him on occasion. Maybe it's the fact that Garfield's latest work had him playing another character of divine faith with "Hacksaw Ridge." Whatever the case, there are moments when he goes from playing a character to sounding more like a carnival barker.

For some very odd reason, the characters of Inoue and his translator come across more like escapees from a junior high production of "The Mikado" than as the serious pillars of this battle of faiths. This is a very serious story of what happens when two people who are equally passionate about their religion come together. A more somber approach to the performance would have been better.

When a film has established its credential so deeply, small moments can be distractions but not diversions. The majority of "Silence" is a deeply moving story of faith, where unlike most movies in the genre, there are no clear answers.

Scorsese merely offers up two powerful perspectives and drives them into each other. That kind of collision often generates a whole new set of questions by those looking in from the outside.

'SILENCE'

3 out of 4 stars

Cast: Andrew Garfield, Adam Driver, Liam Neeson, Issei Ogata

Directors: Martin Scorsese

161 minutes

Rating: R (violence)

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

PERMIAN BASIN Gun Show - Ector County Coliseum, Odessa TX, Building G.
Saturday & Sunday, January 21st & 22nd
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ON SCREEN

HBO via AP

This image released by HBO shows Carrie Fisher, left, and her mother Debbie Reynolds from the HBO documentary, "Bright Lights: Starring Carrie Fisher and Debbie Reynolds."

Touching documentary reveals bond between Fisher, Reynolds

PICK O' THE WEEK

"Bright Lights: Starring Carrie Fisher and Debbie Reynolds" (TV-14) HBO gave an early release to this tender documentary because of the untimely deaths of its two stars, making it all the more poignant. It still would have packed a punch had the unthinkable not happened. Fisher reveals a side many have never seen: The loving daughter whose past clashes with her mother is (mostly) long forgotten. She now dotes over Reynolds, constantly fretting over her health. But she also never misses a chance to unleash her acerbic wit, either, referring to Reynolds as her "tsu-mommy" over the dangerous, whirlwind ways in which she was dominated by her at one time. Fisher also reveals a foreboding glimpse of her own future with her endless consumption of sugar-laden soft drinks and smoking habits. Overall, though, the good — including a fabulous scene with Todd Fisher's wife and her "emotional wellness chicken" — outweighs the depressing, and this documentary should not be missed by fans of the two women. **A**

ICK! O' THE WEEK

"Windstorm" (not rated) This girl and her horse film from Germany — originally titled "Ostwind" — actually isn't that bad, but hey, this space has to be filled. What it does fail at is originality, and even the most naive viewer can see the end coming a futlong away. **C+**

MORE REVIEWS

"The Accountant" (R) Superb action thriller with a real plot and substance, gives its audience a believable hero with genuine problems that he doesn't have any control over. **A-**

"The Birth of a Nation" (R) The title has so many layers of meaning in vastly different ways than another seminal film with that same title. The 1915 "Birth of a Nation" is one that any film buff has at least heard of, if not seen. But this new, powerful drama truly takes a different path, introducing the world to Nat Turner, a real man and slave whose faith led him to an event that sparked a movement. So take that, D.W. Griffith. **B+**

"The Congressman" (R) Warm but totally misleading film that implies those who serve in Congress actually do things other than spend most of their time fundraising. **C**

"Deepwater Horizon" (PG-13) Eleven souls perished in the world's largest- ever oil spill and that is tragic. But did there need to be made a two-hour drama loaded with unfathomable technical jargon? Probably not, yet Peter Berg crafted a good film loaded with anxious moments that keep viewers' interest flowing. **B-**

"Jack Goes Home" (R) Weird but ultimately disappointing horror fare featuring a oddly detached performance by Rory Culkin. **C+**

"Kevin Hart: What Now? (R) In his first concert film, "Kevin Hart: Let Me Explain," Hart prefaced the stand-up with a short film talking about his career and how rich and famous he was. It was an egotistical mess but he followed it with his hilarious comedy. This time around, the concert is also delayed by a short film, but it's the star of the show. With the help of Halle Berry and Don Cheadle, Hart poses as a James Bond-type figure playing in a high-stakes poker game. The stand-up that follows is funny but the short is the reason to watch. **B**

"Robot World" (not rated) Story of an astronaut shipwrecked on a planet where machines rule is not as terrible as the plot and title imply, but it's not all that good, either. **C+**

"Thirst" (not rated) Sci-fi, horror mash-up is generic and predictable, but manages a few gruesome moments — meaning the filmmakers blew their budget on effects and hoped the story would kind of write itself. It didn't. **C**

Reeled & Stream

By Nancy Adamson | nadamson@mrt.com

BEST RENTALS

The Top 10 DVD rentals at Redbox kiosks for the week of Jan. 9:

1. Deepwater Horizon — Lionsgate
2. Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children — Fox
3. The Secret Life of Pets — Universal
4. Jason Bourne — Universal
5. Storks — Warner
6. Sully — Warner
7. The Magnificent Seven (2016) — Sony
8. War Dogs — Warner
9. Bridget Jones's Baby — Universal
10. Suicide Squad — Warner

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

FILM CAPS

"The Bye Bye Man" (PG-13) Three college students unwittingly unleash a supernatural entity. With Carrie-Anne Moss, Faye Dunaway, Douglas Smith. Written by Jonathan Penner, based on a short story by Robert Damon Schneck. Directed by Stacy Title.

"Fences" (PG-13) Denzel Washington directs and reprises his 2010 Broadway role opposite Viola Davis in this adaptation of playwright August Wilson's drama about a former Negro League baseball player struggling to provide for his family in 1950s Pittsburgh. With Stephen Henderson, Jovan Adepo, Russell Hornsby, Mykelti Williamson, Saniyya Sidney.

"Hidden Figures." (PG) Taraji P. Henson, Octavio Spencer and Janelle Monáe are terrific in this feel-good family movie about a group of black female mathematicians who worked at NASA during the 1960s. The true story is about overqualified scientists who could only get jobs crunching numbers for their white male bosses, but who overcame prejudice to make their own mark on the space program. Where it lacks as serious history, the film makes up for with an empowering social message. The ensemble casts includes Kevin Costner, Glen Powell, Mahershala Ali and Aldis Hodge.

"La La Land" (PG-13) Starring a well-paired Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone, writer-director Damien Chazelle's tuneful tribute to classic movie musicals is often stronger in concept than execution, but it's lovely and transporting all the same.

"Manchester by the Sea" (R) Powerful, emotional filmmaking that leaves a scar, Kenneth Lonergan's drama starring Casey Affleck and Michelle Williams is both heartbreaking and heartening, a film that just wallops you with its honesty, its authenticity, and its access to despair. Now showing at Regal Cinemas Permian Place 11 in Odessa.

"Moana." (PG) A Polynesian princess (well, a chief's daughter, anyway) joins forces with a shape-shifting demigod (no, not a shape-shifting demagogue) to bring peace to a troubled South Pacific isle. Songs are sung, cutesy sidekicks are introduced, oceanic canoe trips are taken, in Disney's 56th animated feature. With the voice talents of 2016's sexiest man alive, Dwayne Johnson, and Auli'i Cravalho in the title role.

"Monster Trucks" (PG) Determined to escape the town where he grew up, a high school senior builds a vehicle from salvaged parts and encounters an unusual subterranean creature, who quickly becomes an ally. With Lucas Till, Jane Levy, Barry Pepper. Written by Derek Connolly. Story by Matthew Robinson and Jonathan Aibel & Glenn Berger. Directed by Chris Wedge.

"The Resurrection of Gavin Stone" (PG) Like the Christian characters, the film isn't pushy with its message. The characters espouse an ethos of leading by example, offering the space and their own grace, letting Gavin discover his faith himself. With Brett Dalton, Anjelah Johnson-Reyes, Shawn Michaels, Neil Flynn. Directed by Dallas Jenkins

"Rogue One: A Star Wars Story" (PG-13) Before "A New Hope," a ragtag group of rebels set out to steal the plans to the Death Star. With Felicity Jones, Diego Luna, Ben Mendelsohn, Donnie Yen, Mads Mikkelsen, Alan Tudyk, Riz Ahmed, Jiang Wen and Forest Whitaker. Directed by Gareth Edwards.

"Silence" (R) Martin Scorsese's wrenching adaptation of Shusaku Endo's 1966 novel, about 17th century Portuguese priests experiencing a crisis of faith in feudal Japan, ponders the dogmas and mysteries of Christian faith with astonishing rigor and seriousness.

"Sing" (PG) Animated musical about a theatrical mogul koala who stages a singing competition to save his stage. Voices by Matthew McConaughey, Seth MacFarlane, Tori Kelly, Reese Witherspoon, Taron Egerton, Scarlett Johansson. Written and directed by Garth Jennings.

"Sleepless" (R) Jamie Foxx plays a Las Vegas undercover police officer caught between crooked cops and a gangster-controlled casino underground. With Michelle Monaghan, Dermot Mulroney, Gabrielle Union. Written by Andrea Berloff. Directed by Baran "Bo" Odar.

"Split" (PG-13) A man with 23 distinct personalities struggles with an emerging 24th that threatens to dominate the others in a chilling way. With James McAvoy, Anya Taylor-Joy, Betty Buckley, Jessica Sula, Haley Lu Richardson. Written and directed by M. Night Shyamalan.

"Underworld: Blood Wars" (R) Kate Beckinsale returns as a Vampire death dealer, simultaneously battling the Lycan clan and the Vampire faction that betrayed her. With Theo James, Lara Pulver, Charles Dance. Written by Cory Goodman, story by Kyle Ward and Cory Goodman, based on characters created by Kevin Grevioux and Len Wiseman & Danny McBride. Directed by Anna Foerster.

"xXx: The Return of Xander Cage" (PG-13) Vin Diesel returns for his third outing as a former extreme sports star turned government agent this time embroiled in a global conspiracy. With Donnie Yen, Deepika Padukone, Kris Wu, Ruby Rose, Tony Jaa, Nina Dobrev, Rory McCann, Toni Collette, Samuel L. Jackson. Written by F. Scott Frazier, based on characters created by Rich Wilkes. Directed by D.J. Caruso.

'Bright Lights' directors Fisher Stevens and Alexis Bloom on Fisher and Reynolds

By Yvonne Villarreal
Los Angeles Times

When they pulled into the driveway of the Beverly Hills compound that day in February 2014, filmmakers Alexis Bloom and Fisher Stevens could only communicate their dumbstruck awe through raised eyebrows.

There were twinkly lights on trees. Pink-painted coffee pots hung from branches. Ice skates lay by the pool. A nativity scene and gnomes dotted the landscape. There were even parking meters.

There lived Carrie Fisher and, just down the hill a few yards away, Debbie Reynolds.

"We just looked at each other like, 'What is this place?'" Bloom recalled in a recent telephone interview with partner Stevens. "I think we never left that sense of marvel. They lived in a wonderland. They were a wonderland."

Bloom and Stevens attempt to capture that wonderland in the documentary "Bright Lights: Starring Carrie Fisher and Debbie Reynolds" airing on HBO.

Fisher had been looking for filmmakers to chronicle her mother's unwavering drive to perform her nightclub act as an octogenarian — "She wanted the world to see how incredible her mother was," Bloom said. What took shape, instead, over the course of about 10 months, is a tender portrait of a mother and daughter with a complicated but loving relationship. The final portrait, as it turned out.

Reynolds was a product of the studio system, charming audiences in such films as "Singin' in the Rain" and "Tammy and the Bachelor," while Fisher was a student of Hollywood's uninhibited era in the '70s with her breakout role in "Star Wars." Two Hollywood icons to the world. But to each other, as the film highlights, they were mother and daughter; to each other, they were caregivers.

After showings at several film festivals, including Cannes and Telluride, "Bright Lights" was slated to make its debut on HBO this summer. But in the wake of the tragically poetic deaths of the dynamic duo over the holidays — Fisher at 60 from a heart attack, Reynolds at 84 from a stroke — the premium cable network moved up the premiere date.

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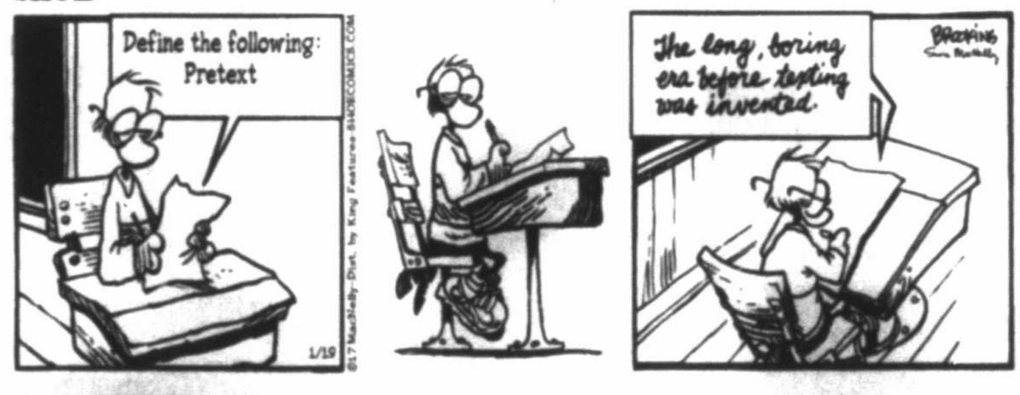

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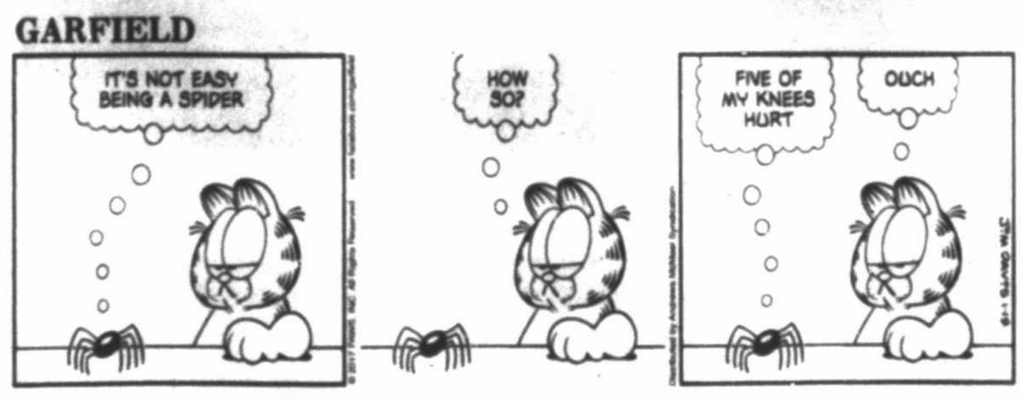
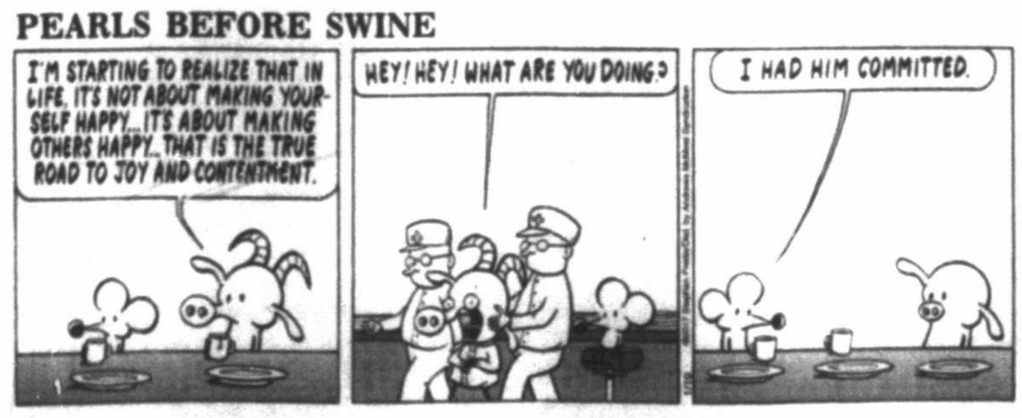


PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



WIZARD OF ID

DILBERT

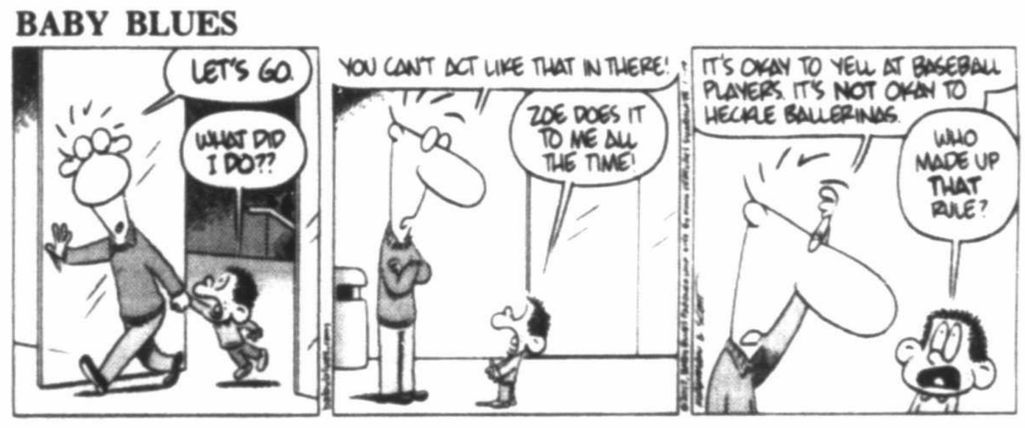
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

LUANN

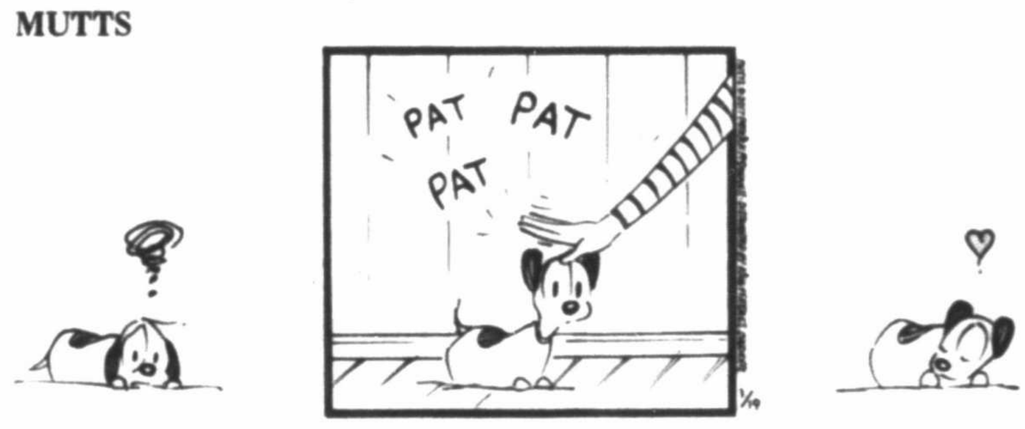
MARY WORTH

ZITS

BABY BLUES



MUTTS



CLOSE TO HOME

Tired of the middle school boys never having the courage to ask girls to dance, the haperones found a way to spur them on a bit.

DENNIS THE MENACE

"I THINK HIS 'SANDMAN' DRIVES A GRAVEL TRUCK."

FAMILY CIRCUS

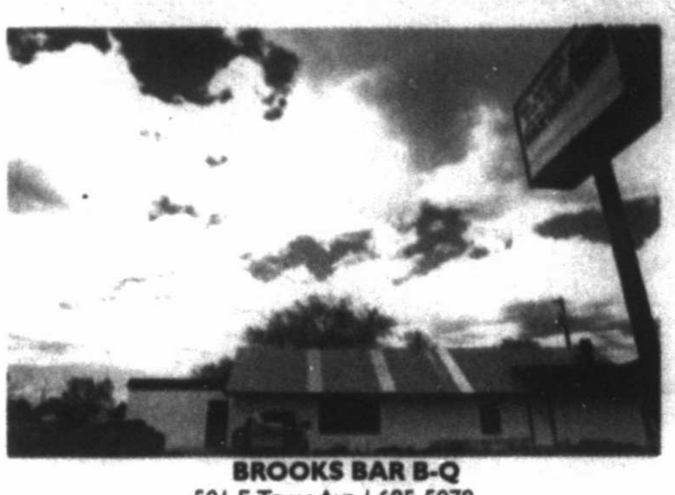
"Daddy calls Dolly 'Princess.' How 'bout you call me 'Prince' from now on?"

LOCKHORNS

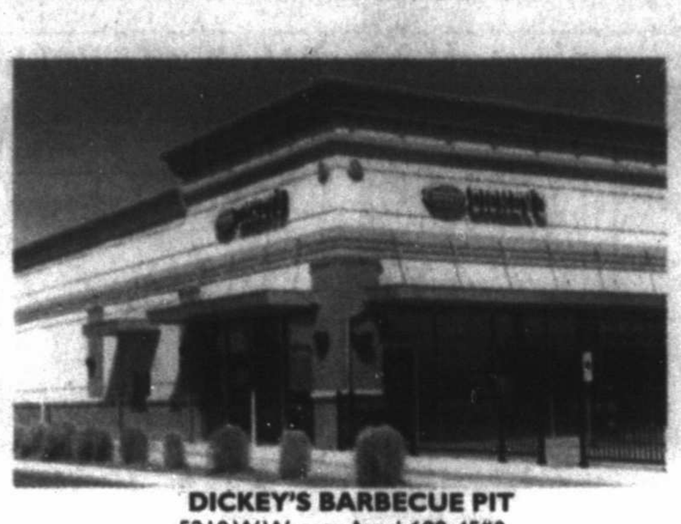
"LORETTA AND I HAVE THE PERFECT MARRIAGE... EVERYTHING IS MY FAULT."

DINING

WEEKENDER PUBLISHES A PORTION OF THE RESTAURANT GUIDE EACH WEEK. ENTREE PRICE RANGE IS BASED ON THE AVERAGE ENTREE PRICE ON THE MENU: $ = $1-10, $$ = $10-20 AND $$$ = $20 OR MORE. RESTAURANTS ARE GIVEN A GENERAL RATING BASED ON QUALITY OF FOOD, SERVICE, CLEANLINESS, ATMOSPHERE AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE. 1 SPOON = POOR, 2 SPOONS = AVERAGE, 3 SPOONS = ABOVE AVERAGE, 4 SPOONS = GOOD AND 5 SPOONS = EXCELLENT.

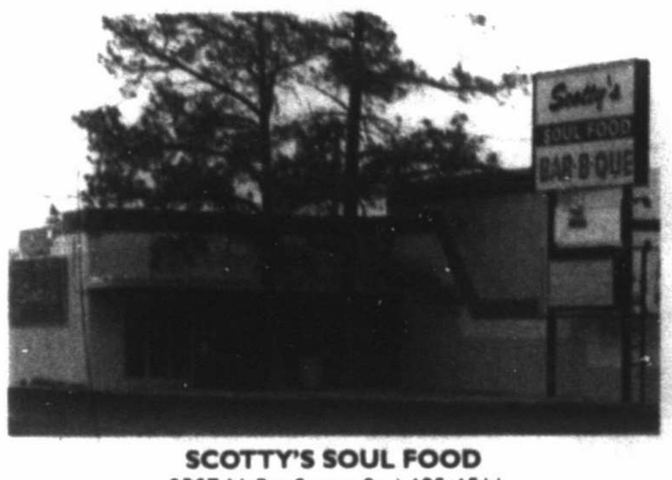


BROOKS BAR B-Q
501 E. TEXAS AVE. | 685-5079

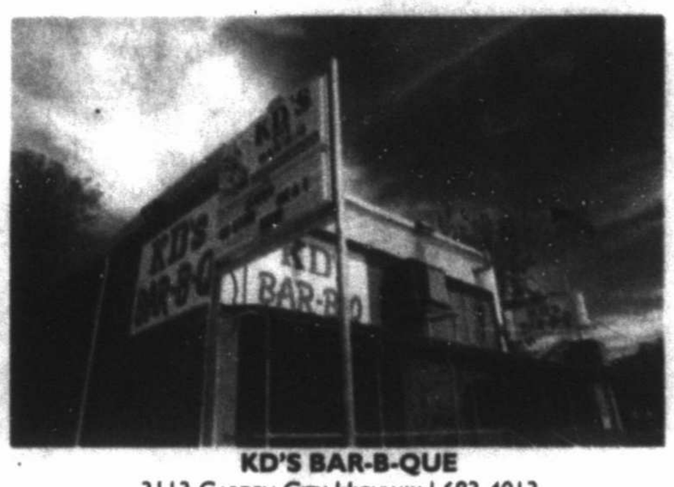


DICKEY'S BARBECUE PIT
5210 W. WADLEY AVE. | 689-4500

HOG PIT PUB & GRUB
7400 WEST COUNTY ROAD 116 | 561-9301



SCOTTY'S SOUL FOOD
2907 N. BIG SPRING ST. | 695-6511



KD'S BAR-B-QUE
3113 GARDEN CITY HIGHWAY | 683-4013

MICHAEL'S CHARCOAL GRILL
723 W. WADLEY AVE. | 686-9030

BURGERS & BARBECUE

BASIN BURGER HOUSE With buns made in-house and creative combinations this isn't your typical burger joint. Try the black & blue burger and follow it with the Nutella & banana milkshake. Opens at 6 a.m. for breakfast. 607 N. Colorado St. 687-5696 www.basinburgerhouse.com | $$ | 4 spoons

BOB'S BETTER BURGER Step back in time as you stand outside the screen window to order some of the best burgers, fries and onion rings in town. 3417 Thomason Drive 694-1561 | $ | 4 spoons

BROOKS BAR B-Q The barbecue is great but it's hard not to order the fat burger. Whatever you decide, be sure to save room for pie. Order it first — the kitchen tends to run out during the lunch rush. 501 E. Texas Ave. 685-5079 | $ | 4 spoons

DICKEY'S BARBECUE PIT Texas-based barbecue marketed as fast food. Try the pulled pork sandwich and the baked potato casserole. 5210 W. Wadley Ave. 689-4500 www.dickeys.com | $ | 4 spoons

FIVE GUYS BURGERS & FRIES The menu is fairly small, keeping things limited to burgers — with or without the bun — hot dogs and a few more sandwich options. Order a shake with your burger and try some of the numerous flavor options. 2816 W. Loop 250 N. Unit 300 699-2036 | $ | 4 spoons

FUDDRUCKERS Choose your burger size and add whatever toppings you want. If you're feeling adventurous, try the ostrich or bison. Located inside the mall. 4511 N. Midkiff Road 689-0448 | $ | 3 spoons

GRUB BURGER BAR The fast-casual College Station-based restaurant offers gourmet burger selections, milkshakes and a full bar. 4400 N. Midland Drive, Suite 500 789-1855 www.grubburgerbar.com | $ | 4 spoons

HOG PIT PUB & GRUB This out-of-the-way bar and barbecue joint offers all the traditional favorites plus unexpected menu items like fried sausage. Go hungry and relish the oversized portions of Texas goodness. 7400 West County Road 116 | 561-9301 | 3 spoons

JOHNNY'S BAR B-Q & DINER Downtown barbecue joint. Try the chopped beef sandwich for lunch. Look for the pig on the roof. 316 N. Big Spring St. 683-4581 | $ | 3 spoons

K-D'S BAR B-Q Pick your meat from the grill then add sides like potato salad, beans and peach cobbler. Try the sausage. Or the brisket. Or the chicken. It's all good. 3113 Garden City Highway 683-4013 | $ | 5 spoons

MAC'S B-B-Q AND CATERING Generous servings and hearty flavors are the hallmark of this local restaurant that now features live music on the weekends. Opens at 7 a.m. for breakfast. 2400 W/ Indiana Ave 247-5654 | $ | 4 spoons

MICHAEL'S CHARCOAL GRILL Great barbecue and great burgers, including the King Kong burger. Michael's also has a great salad bar. Something for everyone. 723 W. Wadley Ave. 686-9030 | $$ | 4 spoons

SAM'S BAR-B-QUE You can smell the smoke before you get into the parking lot at this longtime Midland establishment. Whether you go for ribs, brisket or sausage be sure to save room for the peach cobbler. 1113 E. Scharbauer Drive | 570-1082 | 3 spoons

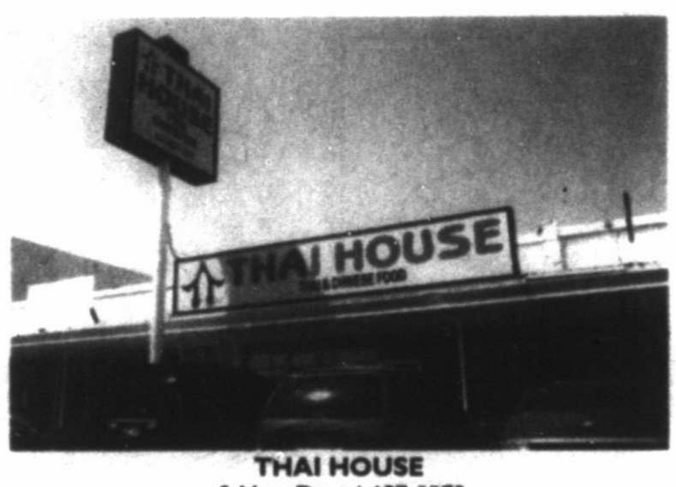
SCOTTY'S SOUL FOOD Tucked in a hole-in-the-wall location on North Big Spring Street, Scotty's offers everything comfort food. Try the ribs or the chicken fried steak. Don't leave without a helping of cornbread. 2907 N. Big Spring St. | 695-6511 | $ | 4 spoons

TANK'S BAR-B-QUE AND CATERING Stop by Tank's for lunch and get a full plate of barbecue with all the sides to take back to the office or enjoy at a nearby picnic table. Don't skip the potato salad. 401 East Scharbauer Drive 684-0006 | $ | 4 spoons

TEXAS BURGER Fast-food burgers with more of a local — or regional feel — than the national chains. Try the jalapeno burger and spicy fries. Don't forget the ice cream. 3306 W. Loop 250 West, 522-2177 and 500 W. Wadley Ave. 620-9838 | $ | 3 spoons

FUJIYAMA SUSHI & MORE
4410 N. MIDKIFF ROAD, SUITE A-1 | 727-469-7693

OSAKA
1207 TRADEWINDS BLVD. | 617-7252



THAI HOUSE
9 META DRIVE | 687-3373

ASIAN

CHINESE KITCHEN Eat-in or take-out Chinese food. Choose combination meals with one, two or three choices. 4200 W. Illinois Ave. 694-3922 | $ | 3 spoons

FUJIYAMA SUSHI & MORE Offerring an array of fresh seafood many West Texans don't normally have access to, this Japanese restaurant offers exotic fare such as tempura soft shell crab for an appetizer and traditional dishes including fried rice and teppanyaki. Desserts include fried ice cream. A variety of Japanese beers, wines and, of course, sake are also on the menu. 4410 N. Midkiff Road, Suite A-1 727-469-7693 www.fujiyamasushi.net | $ | 4 spoons

GENGHIS GRILL With a buffet that consists of countless raw ingredients to pile into a bowl and hand over for a chef to cook, the food at Genghis Grill is as good as you can make it. If you're knowledgeable in what spices complement what meats, veggies and sauces — or if you're just lucky — count on a great meal. For the not-so-confident, the restaurant offers recipe cards to guide your selections. 4517 Midkiff Road 520-5426 www.genghisgrill.com | $$ | 3 spoons

GRAND BUFFET Extensive "all-you-can-eat" Asian buffet includes hodgepodge of options including Chinese dishes, salads, seafood, Jell-o, fried okra, sushi and a Mongolian grill station. 2510 W. Louisiana Ave. 686-8881 | $ | 2 spoons

THE GREAT WALL Chinese takeout restaurant offers large portions from extensive menu. Try the General Tso's chicken with sesame shrimp and add an order of egg rolls or spring rolls. 2215 N. Midland Drive 694-5555 | $ | 3 spoons

KING & I Authentic Thai food served in the heart of Midland. Try the basil fried rice or Popcorn's special with angel hair pasta, green onions, white onions, tomatoes, broccoli, garlic and jalapenos. There's a reason the lunch crowd is often standing-room-only at the original location near downtown. It's worth the wait. 801 N. Big Spring St. | $ | 4 spoons

KUO'S CHINESE RESTAURANT Friendly service and a relaxed atmosphere. Try the cashew chicken or Mongolian steak with a fried cream cheese wonton. 3303 N. Midkiff Rd., Suite 152 697-8888 | $ | 4 spoons

MOON GARDEN Try one of the lunch specials like broccoli with garlic sauce or kung pao shrimp. The Chinese restaurant is housed in what used to be a Red Lobster — just in case you were wondering about the nautical decor. 2319 W. Loop 250 N. 570-1165 or 685-3012 | $ | 2 spoons

OSAKA JAPANESE STEAKHOUSE AND SEAFOOD Try steak, chicken or seafood grilled at Teppan Yaki tables or sushi with fresh seafood. Locations in Midland and Odessa. 1207 Tradewinds Blvd. 617-7252 www.my-osaka.com | $$ | 4 spoons.

SHOGUN RESTAURANT Japanese steak house that's been serving Midlanders for more than 20 years. Watch your food being cooked on the Teppan Yaki tables after you enjoy cucumber and shrimp salad and soup. Lunch prices are very reasonable; be prepared to splurge for dinner. 4610 N. Garfield St. 570-8888 | $$ | 4 spoons

TASTE OF CHINA SUPER BUFFET All-you-can-eat buffet or order from menu. Senior citizen discount and children 3 and younger eat free. 4400 N. Big Spring St., #53. 684-5288 | $ | 2 spoons

THAI HOUSE Strip-center kitchen offering classic Thai and Chinese dishes in a modest, straightforward setting. 9 Meta Dr. 687-3373 | $ | 2 spoons

DESSERT, BAKERY & SPECIALTIES

BASKIN ROBBINS The national chain has two locations in Midland with its patented 32 flavors and a whole lot more, including some of the best ice cream cakes ever, whuch you can order online. 2101 W. Wadley Ave. 682-7131 and 5400 Briarwood Ave. 679-0789 www.baskinrobbins.com | $ | 4 spoons

BREW STREET BAKERY Customer service is lagging, according to one online review but the baked goods at the end of the line are worth the wait. Menu also boasts premium coffee, craft beer and wine. 4610 N Garfield St. 218-7334 | $ | 4 spoons

CABIN CREEK COFFEE & TEA The former Tea2Go has changed its name but is still under the same ownership, offering most of the same loose leaf tea drinks and adding specialty coffee drinks using beans from the Big Bend Roasting Company and a variety of fruit smoothies. 2900 W. Loop 250 N., Ste 60 | 689-5451 | $ | 4 spoons

MARTINEZ BAKERY Walls lined with self-serve bakery cases filled with cookies. Also serves "super tortas" (Mexican sandwiches) with chicken, brisket or ham. 206 E. Florida Ave. 683-3100; 683-2278 | $ | 4 spoons

NOTHING BUNDT CAKES Choose from 10 flavors and 40 unique cake designs while you browse thier unique gifts, charming cards and inspired decorator items. 3211 W. Wadley Ave., #22 A. 689-0060. | $$$ | 5 spoons

SWENSEN'S One menu for sandwiches, burgers, patty melts and salads and an entirely separate full menu for ice cream. Try the sourdough cheeseburger for a meal and an outrageous sundae such as the hot fudge banana split for dessert. If you're too full for dessert, get a pint to go. Friendly service and a clean atmosphere. 900 W. Loop 250 N. 570-7271 www.swensons.com | $ | 4 spoons

TCBY One of the nation's biggest frozen yogurt chains has long been a Midland favorite. Everything's good, but we recommend the peanut butter cup and bananas foster flavors. 5115 W. Wadley Ave. 520-8597 www.tcby.com/ | $ | 4 spoons

TONY'S BAKERY Order petit fours or a cake for your next party or stop to browse the bakery items for a quick snack. Also try the sandwiches for breakfast or lunch. 1108 N. Big Spring St. 570-4166 | $ | 4 spoons

MHS batterymates Allen, Gamboa sign with MC

Allen

Gamboa

By Christopher Hadorn
chadorn@mrt.com

The Midland College softball program not only signed two standout Midland High seniors Wednesday, but it also recruited a level of chemistry between two players that is hard to find.

Lady Bulldogs pitcher Deandra Allen and catcher Natalie Gamboa inked to the Lady Chaparral program during a signing ceremony held at Midland High School.

Both Gamboa and Allen were All-District 3-6A first-team performers for a MHS team that won the 2016 district championship and finished the regular season with a No. 10 state ranking.

As a battery, the players bring more than just their softball skills, as they have a close-knit relationship that is necessary for their on-field success.

Communication and rapport is vital for a pitcher and a catcher to prosper.

"It was a great opportunity," Allen said. "Why not play with your best friend for two more years after high school? So that was awesome that we were both thinking about going to the same school. I have known Natalie for about eight or nine years, it's been awhile. We tried out for the same competitive team when we were 8 or 9 and we have just grown from there."

That mutual trust and bond has helped the battery work its way through jams on the diamond.

"Sometimes me and Deandra get into pretty tough situations where neither have us what no idea of what to do so we have to work hard together and we try to help each other as much as we can," Gamboa said. "I try to know what situations she's in and she tries to know what situations I am in. That makes it great for us that we love helping each out mostly."

Midland College head coach Tommy Ramos said Allen is a versatile player that can pitch, play outfield and infield. Ramos liked Allen's ability to put the ball in play from the left-side and run.

Gamboa is slated to catch for the Lady Chaps. Ramos was impressed with Gamboa's right-handed home run power and her capability to put the ball into play. The bond between the two was also a plus for Ramos.

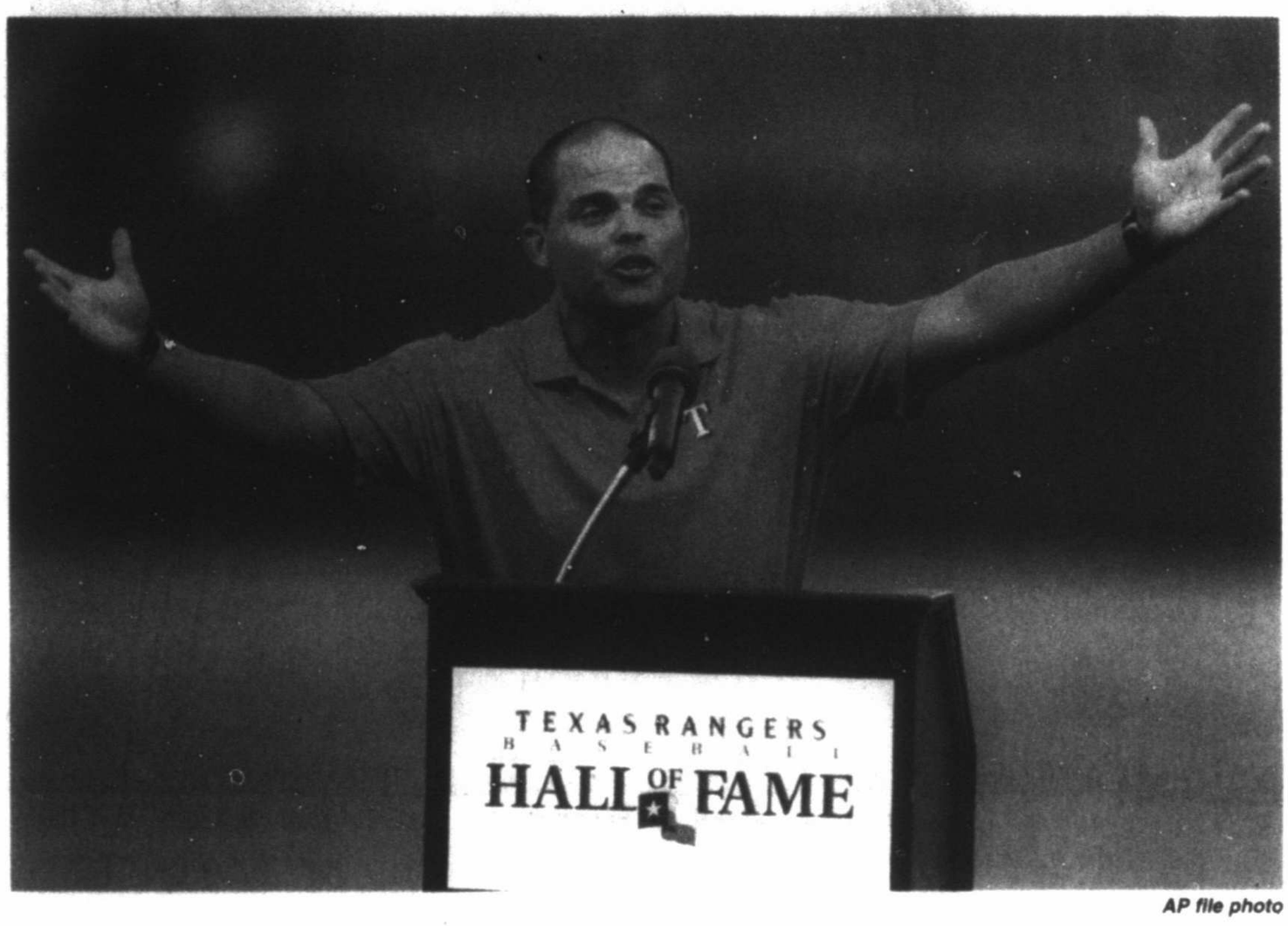
"Obviously Nat is going to have a true feel for her when things are going well for her and when things are going bad," Ramos said. "That chemistry will allow Natalie to be able to talk to her, maybe help through some tough spots. The chemistry is something that takes time, and obviously they are bringing it."

Allen's long-term goal is to attend the University of Houston and study forensic science. Allen chose MC over Jarvis Christian in east Texas, McMurry University and Sul Ross State.

Meanwhile, Gamboa is undecided about her major, but has interest in

Please see **BATTERYMATES**/2C

Cooperstown gets 3



AP file photo

In this July 20, 2013, file photo, former Texas Rangers and 14-time All-Star catcher Ivan Rodriguez speaks after he was inducted into the Texas Rangers Baseball Hall of Fame before the Baltimore Orioles and the Rangers played in Arlington.

Bagwell, Raines, Rodriguez elected to HOF

By Ronald Blum
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jeff Bagwell, Tim Raines and Ivan Rodriguez were elected to baseball's Hall of Fame on Wednesday, earning the honor as Trevor Hoffman and Vladimir Guerrero fell just short.

Steroids-tainted stars Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens were passed over for the fifth straight year by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. But they received a majority of votes for the first time and could be in position to gain election in coming years.

Bagwell , on the ballot for the seventh time after falling 15 votes short last year, received 381 of 442 votes for 86.2 percent. Players needed 75 percent, which came to 332 votes this year.

"Anxiety was very, very high," Bagwell said. "I wrote it on a ball tonight. It was kind of cool."

In his 10th and final year of eligibility, Raines was on 380 ballots (86 percent). He started at 24.3 percent in 2008 and jumped from 55 percent in 2015 to 69.8 percent last year.

"Last night probably the worst night I've had out of the 10 years," he said. "I knew I was close, but I wasn't sure."

Rodriguez , at 45 the youngest current Hall member, received 336 votes (76 percent) to join Johnny Bench in 1989 as the only catchers elected on the first ballot.

""I've been having trouble sleeping for three days," the popular Pudge said. "Johnny Bench was my favorite player growing up."

Hoffman was five votes shy and Guerrero 15 short.

"Falling short of this class is disappointing," Hoffman said in a statement. "I am truly humbled to have come so close. I hope to one day soon share a Hall of Fame celebration with my family, friends, teammates and all of San Diego."

Edgar Martinez was next at 58.6 percent, followed by Clemens at 54.1 percent, Bonds at 53.8 percent, Mike Mussina at 51.8 percent, Curt Schilling at 45 percent, Lee Smith at 34.2 percent and Manny Ramirez at 23.8 percent.

Players will be inducted July 30 during ceremonies at Cooperstown along with former Commissioner Bud Selig and retired Kansas City and Atlanta executive John Schuerholz, both elected last month by a veterans committee.

Bagwell was a four-time All-Star for Houston, finishing with a .297 batting average, 401 homers and 1,401 RBIs. Among 220 Hall of Fame players, he is the 50th who spent his entire career with one big league team.

Raines, fifth in career stolen bases, is just the fifth player elected in his final year of eligibility after Red Ruffing (1967), Joe Medwick (1968), Ralph Kiner (1975) and Jim Rice (2009). Raines was a seven-time All-Star and the 1986 NL batting champion.

Raines hit .294 with a .385 on-base percentage, playing during a time when Rickey Henderson was the sport's dominant speedster. He spent 13 of 23 big league seasons with the Montreal Expos, who left Canada to become the Washington Nationals for the 2005 season, and joins Andre Dawson and Gary Carter as the only players to enter the Hall representing the Expos.

Rodriguez, a 14-time All-Star who hit .296 with 311 homers and 1,332 RBIs,

Please see **HALL**/2C

Evans scores 20 points, key free throws in Texas Tech's win

By Phil Terrigno
Associated Press

LUBBOCK — Keenan Evans scored 20 points, including two free throws with 15 seconds left, in Texas Tech's 75-69 win over Texas Christian on Wednesday night.

Zach Smith had 19 points and seven rebounds and Justin Gray 18 points and six rebounds for the Red Raiders (14-4, 3-3 Big 12).

Texas Christian (14-4, 3-3) was led by 22 points and six rebounds from Vlad Brodziansky and 16 points from Kenrich Williams. Alex Robinson had 11 points.

With 20.1 seconds left, Williams converted a 3-point play for the Horned Frogs, bringing them to within three, 72-69.

Smith then made one free throw before Evans connected on both attempts to put the game away.

Texas Christian won the rebounding margin 31-27 and each team committed nine turnovers. The Horned Frogs made just two of their last 11 shots from the floor.

Despite trailing by as many as 14 points early in the first half, the Horned Frogs cut the deficit to eight by halftime, 41-33.

Although the lead did not change in the first half, it changed four times in a tight second period.

Big picture

Texas Christian: In its first season under longtime Pittsburgh coach Jamie Dixon, the Horned Frogs have already exceeded last year's 12-win total. The Horned Frogs entered Wednesday winning three consecutive conference games for the first time since 2008, when it was a Mountain West member.

Texas Tech: Earlier this week, Texas Tech coach Chris Beard said that a redshirt year is being considered for standout forward Norense Odiase. The junior has appeared in three games while dealing with a foot injury.

Up next

Texas Christian: Hosts No. 6 Baylor on Saturday.

Texas Tech: Hosts Oklahoma State Saturday and the Cowboys' Jeffrey Carrol, the only Big 12 player ranked in the top seven in the league in scoring and rebounding.

Hall of Fame selections well deserving, but issues still exist

Another year, another voting cycle and another mention of the glaring issues involved in the current Baseball Hall of Fame election process.

On Wednesday, the 2017 class was announced by the Baseball Writers Association of America. A legendary trio of Jeff Bagwell, Tim Raines and first-ballot inductee Ivan "Pudge" Rodriguez are set to enter Cooperstown in July.

Not bad, voters, not bad. After all, each of those three players are more than deserving in their own rights and set standards of excellence at their positions.

To sugarcoat things a bit more: This year's class was just the seventh since 1955 to include three or more players. Three or more players have now been elected in three of the last four years, and that number could be growing.

Many believe that the 2018 ballot includes as many as five players — that would be a Cooperstown record — with legitimate or even shoe-in bids to be inducted: Chipper Jones, Jim Thome, Omar Vizquel, Trevor Hoffman and Vladimir Guerrero. If I had an official vote, those are likely five of my 10 votes.

So the voters have indeed been making progress. But they fell well short of full marks with this year's class.

One of the most pressing issues, in my opinion, has been and continues to be the dreaded "Rule of 10." Some argue — and I agree — that baseball's is the most difficult Hall of Fame of any sport to be inducted into and limiting voters to 10 names certainly makes things even tougher on the candidates.

Trevor Hoffman was a major whiff, but I can live with that this year. He missed induction by five votes and is a near lock in 2018. The same goes with first-timer Vlad Guerrero. Though it is embarrassing that a guy who

Please see **KORN**/2C

Karren Warren/Houston Chronicle

Former Houston Astros first baseman Jeff Bagwell speaks to reporters Wednesday in Houston, after his election to baseball's Hall of Fame was announced.

DAILYRUNDOWN

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

ON TV

CURLING

Men's: USA vs. China, 6:30 p.m., NBCSN

FIGURE SKATING

US Championships: Pairs, Short Program, 4:30 p.m., NBCSN

US Championships: Ladies, Short Program, 8:30 p.m., NBCSN

GOLF

PGA: Career Builder Challenge, 1st Round, 2 p.m., GOLF

Champions: Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualali, 1st Round, 6 p.m., GOLF

Asian Tour: SMBC Singapore Open, 2nd Round, 9 p.m., GOLF

EPGA: Abu Dhabi HSBC Golf Championship, 2nd Round, 2:30 a.m., GOLF

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Maryland at Iowa, 6 p.m., ESPN

UConn at SMU, 6 p.m., ESPN2

Richmond at Dayton, 6 p.m., ESPNU

Davidson at La Salle, 6 p.m., CBSSN

Lamar at Sam Houston State, 6:30 p.m., ESPN3

UAB at FAU, 7 p.m., beIN

Stephen F. Austin at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, 7 p.m., ROOT

Weber State at North Dakota, 7 p.m., FCSP

Clemson at Louisville, 8 p.m., ESPN

Cal at Oregon, 8 p.m., ESPN2

UNC Asheville at Winthrop, 8 p.m., ESPNU

Memphis at Houston, 8 p.m., CBSSN

UC Santa Barbara at Long Beach State, 9:30 p.m., FCSP

Gonzaga at Santa Clara, 10 p.m., ESPNU

Arizona State at USC, 10 p.m., FS1

MEN'S SOCCER

Africa Cup of Nations: Algeria vs. Tunisia, 9:55 a.m., beIN

Copa del Rey, Quarterfinal: Atletico Madrid vs. Eibar, 12:10 p.m., beIN, beIN2

Copa Italia, Rd of 16: AS Roma vs. Sampdoria, 2 p.m., GolTV

Copa del Rey, Quarterfinal: Real Sociedade vs. FC Barcelona, 2:10 p.m., beIN, beIN2

NBA

Dallas at Miami, 6 p.m., FSSW

Washington at New York, 7 p.m., TNT

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

Minnesota at LA Clippers, 9:30 p.m., TNT

NBA D-LEAGUE

Fort Wayne vs. Windy City, 10:30 a.m., ESPNU

Sioux Falls vs. Reno, 2 p.m., ESPNU

Oklahoma City vs. Santa Cruz, 7:30 p.m., NBAtv

Fort Wayne vs. Canton, 10 p.m., NBAtv

NHL

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

TENNIS

Australian Open, 6 p.m., TENNIS

Australian Open, 10 p.m., ESPN2

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Michigan at Maryland, 5 p.m., BTN

Ole Miss at South Carolina, 6 p.m., SEC

Purdue at Indiana, 7 p.m., BTN

Texas A&M at Missouri, 8 p.m., SEC

Southern Miss at North Texas, 9 p.m., beIN

ON RADIO

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Howard at South Plains, 7:30 p.m., KBEST 95.7 FM; KBYG 106.1 FM/1400 AM (Big Spring)

NBA

Dallas at Miami, 6 p.m., KBST 1490 AM (Big Spring)

Denver at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m., KXCS 105.5 FM (Big Spring)

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Howard at South Plains, 5:30 p.m., KBEST 95.7 FM; KBYG 106.1 FM/1400 AM (Big Spring)

WHAT'S ON DECK

High school

BOYS SOCCER

Lee at Richardson Tournament.

Junior college

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Midland College at Frank Phillips College, 5:45 p.m.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Midland College at Frank Phillips College, 7:45 p.m.

NJCAA POLLS

NJCAA Division I Men's Basketball Poll
First place votes in parentheses

Rank	College	Record	Pts.	Pvs.
1	South Plains College (14)	17-0	349	1
2	Hutchinson CC	17-0	334	2
3	Georgia Highlands (1)	17-0	315	3
4	Moberly Area	18-0	305	4
5	San Jacinto-Central (1)	17-0	301	5
6	Mineral Area	19-0	284	6
7	Tallahassee CC	20-1	263	9
8	McLennan CC	19-0	252	10
9	Jones County	11-0	216	14
10	Eastern Florida State	17-2	205	7
11	Northwest Florida State	16-2	183	18
12	Lamar College	17-2	178	11
13	Walters State	16-1	163	8
14	Tyler College	14-1	160	13
15	Vincennes	16-1	156	19
16	North Dakota SCS	18-1	153	17
17	Gillette	16-2	145	12
18	Marion Military	12-1	97	20
19	Odessa College	14-3	95	16
20	Southern Idaho	15-3	90	15
21	Snow	16-2	59	25
22	Salt Lake	15-3	58	21
23	Shelton State	14-2	48	23
24	Indian Hills	16-3	46	24
25	Daytona State	17-4	24	RV

NJCAA Division I Women's Basketball Poll

Rank	College	Record	Pvs.
1	Odessa College	15-0	2
2	Gulf Coast State	19-1	1
3	Chipola College	17-1	3
4	Seward County KS	17-0	4
5	Hutchinson CC	16-1	6
6	New Mexico JC	14-4	7
7	Salt Lake CC	16-2	8
8	South Plains College	17-3	5
9	Trinity Valley CC	15-2	NR
10	Northeastern Oklahoma A&M	15-1	9
11	Tallahassee CC	16-3	11
12	Pensacola State	16-2	10
13	Shelton State	16-2	13
14	Palm Beach State	13-2	14
15	Northwest Florida State	14-3	12
16	Motlow State	15-2	15
17	Harford	16-2	16
18	Cowley County	13-3	18
19	Cochise	15-1	19
20	Wabash Valley	15-1	20
21	Tyler College	15-2	21
22	Midland College	11-5	17
23	Arizona Western	13-4	23
24	Vincennes	14-3	RV
25	Jones County	10-1	RV

LATE HS BASKETBALL

Friday's late box

Boys

NO. 15 GRADY 68, KLONDIKE 45

Grady (12-4, 3-0 in District 11-1A Reg. II) —Devynn Smith 9, Jaylen Short 37, T.J. Shands 2, Marshall Cox 2, Edrei Trejo 7, Jordan Rodriguez 9, Luke Slover 4

Klondike (1-2 in District 11-1A Reg. II) — Coleman 22, Wiebe 14, Coleman 6, Barker 2

Grady	14	16	24	14	—68
Klondike	15	7	11	12	—45

Free throws — Grady 3-6; Klondike 3-11. 3-point goals — Grady 9 (Short 5, Smith 3, Trejo); Klondike 3 (Coleman 3). Total fouls — Grady 16; Klondike 11. Fouled out — Barker.

Next: Sands at Grady, 8 p.m. Friday

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

American League

BOSTON RED SOX — Agreed to terms with OF Brian Bogusevic and RHPs Kyle Kendrick on minor league contracts.

CLEVELAND INDIANS — Agreed to terms with OF Brandon Guyer on a two-year contract.

DETROIT TIGERS — Acquired OF Mikie Mahtook from Tampa Bay for a player to be named or cash considerations.

LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Agreed to terms with OF Kole Calhoun on a three-year contract.

OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Designated RHP Zach Neal for assignment. Agreed to terms with INF Trevor Plouffe on a one-year contract.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Agreed to terms with OF Jose Bautista on a one-year contract.

National League

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Agreed to terms with 1B/OF Joey Terdoslavich on a minor league contract.

American Association

GARY SOUTHSHORE RAILCATS — Signed INF John Holland.

KANSAS CITY T-BONES — Signed OF Daniel Rockett.

Can-Am League

QUEBEC CAPITALES — Sold the contract of LHP Jordan Mills to the Washington Nationals.

SUSSEX COUNTY MINERS — Signed C Nate Irving and RHP Michael Tamburino.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

BUFFALO BILLS — Named Kelly Skipper running backs coach.

NEW YORK JETS — Named Dennard Wilson defensive backs coach.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — Signed LB Jeff Knox to a reserve/future contract.

Canadian Football

WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS — Agreed to terms with QB Matt Nichols on a multiyear contract.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

NHL — Fined N.Y. Rangers F Chris Kreider $5,000 for hitting Dallas F Cody Eakin with his helmet.

COLORADO AVALANCHE — Recalled G Spencer Martin from San Antonio (AHL). In addition, the San Antonio Rampage have recalled goaltender Kent Simpson from the Colorado Eagles (ECHL).

American Hockey League

HARTFORD WOLF PACK — Returned F Michael Joly and Ahti Oksanen to Greenville (ECHL).

SPRINGFIELD THUNDERBIRDS — Recalled D Thomas Schomitsch from Manchester (ECHL).

SOCCER

Major League Soccer

ATLANTA UNITED — Renewed its partnership with Charleston (USL) for the 2017 season.

DC UNITED — Re-signed M Jared Jeffrey.

LA GALAXY — Signed M Jermaine Jones.

MINNESOTA UNITED — Named Ian Fuller and Mark Watson assistant coaches and Marius Rovde goalkeeping coach.

SEATTLE SOUNDERS — Signed F Seyi Adekoya and M Henry Wingo.

North American Soccer League

JACKSONVILLE ARMADA — Signed M Jack Blake.

COLLEGE

DELAWARE — Named Mike Barroqueiro women's soccer coach.

FURMAN — Named Rod Wilson linebackers coach.

IOWA — Announced RB Derrick Mitchell Jr. will transfer.

MEMPHIS — Signed women's basketball coach Melissa McFerrin to a two-year contract extension through the 2018-19 season.

OREGON — Suspended football strength and conditioning coach Irele Oderinde one month.

POST (CONN.) — Named Matt Burns assistant baseball coach.

VIRGINIA —Announced athletic director Craig Littlepage has extended his time away from the school while tending to a family matter and that executive associate athletic director Jon Oliver would continue to serve as acting athletic director.

NFL PLAYOFF GLANCE

Wild-card Playoffs

Saturday, Jan. 7

Houston 27, Oakland 14

Seattle 26, Detroit 6

Sunday, Jan. 8

Pittsburgh 30, Miami 12

Green Bay 38, N.Y. Giants 13

Divisional Playoffs

Saturday, Jan. 14

Atlanta 36, Seattle 20

New England 34, Houston 16

Sunday, Jan. 15

Green Bay 34, Dallas 31

Pittsburgh 18, Kansas City 16

Conference Championships

Sunday, Jan. 22

NFC

Green Bay at Atlanta, 2:05 p.m.

AFC

Pittsburgh at New England, 5:40 p.m.

Pro Bowl

Sunday, Jan. 29

At Orlando, Fla.

AFC vs. NFC, 7 p.m. (ESPN)

Super Bowl

Sunday, Feb. 5

At Houston

TBD, 5:30 p.m. (FOX)

KORN

From 1C

hit .300 or better and 25 or more home runs in 12 straight years (1997-2008) could somehow fall 15 votes short; he's got nine more years on the ballot and should be in next year without a sweat.

But the Rule of 10, in part, is what nearly cost Raines a spot in Cooperstown. Sure, he cleared the 75 percent hurdle by a comfortable 48 votes (86 percent), but the fact that he had to face his final year on the ballot is upsetting and frightening for other players of his caliber.

Lacking a flashy or polarizing name, Raines — often considered the greatest leadoff hitter in baseball history not named Rickey Henderson — was overlooked for far too long.

I congratulate the BBWAA for finally giving Raines the respect he deserved. I never saw him play personally and so all I have to go by are his numbers. But they speak for themselves.

For Bagwell, it was about time after six years of missing the cut. One of the most feared hitters ever even while playing in the power-killing Astrodome, his athleticism was also often underrated. Like Raines, he waited too long. But give the writers credit: He got in comfortably and with the highest percentage of votes (86.2 percent) of any candidate this year.

Still, the need for a binary "Yes or No" ballot is, in my belief, serious. Other players such as Larry Walker, Mike Mussina and Edgar Martinez suffered once again from a 10-name restriction.

Here's another glaring problem with the voting: Individual voter personalities and (for some) desire for public attention. The debate between the value of morality versus transcendent stats has always been heated but seems to be in a full rage now.

Then there's also a growing school of thought that prioritizes the importance of the player to historical tale of the game, maybe more so than his stats or his image.

It's a question, a philosophy that I've found myself beginning to subscribe to. It's about asking one's self "Can the story of baseball be told without the mention of this particular player?"

Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens, the annual "black sheep" on the ballot, as well as new candidate Manny Ramirez, are prime examples of this theory. They are continuing to gain ground with voters. Bonds received 53.8 percent of the electorate (238 votes) while Clemens garnered 54.1 percent (239 votes). Each player's percentage rose nearly 10 percent from the 2016 ballot. Ramirez, arguably one of the top 10 pure hitters ever, received 23.8 percent this year, despite an egregious PED history.

I'm not thrilled with the idea of electing any of the three because they blatantly cheated the game even after the beginning of league-wide testing. But again, can you tell baseball's story without their mention? No way.

Many voters will dismiss Bonds and Clemens on the grounds of their proven PED violations, while some will certainly lean in favor of the historic numbers.

But here's the thing: If voters are going to take the moral high ground and cast aside PED users or those even suspected of using, wouldn't they have to vote for upstanding citizens like Fred McGriff?

"The Crime Dog's" numbers (493 home runs, 1,550 RBI, .284 career average) are Hall worthy and by all accounts, he was one of the friendliest, most beloved players in the game during his time (1986-2004).

He didn't have a speck of drug accusations, let alone a failed test or mentions in any reports or a book. McGriff was considered an all-around good guy who did it the right way. So why did he only receive 96 votes? He's got one more year before he's kicked off the ballot. C'mon voters.

There are many things here to consider and with the beginning of public balloting next year, perhaps some of these issues are ironed out.

But as I said in this space a year ago, it's time to fix this mess.

Follow Will on Twitter: @Will_MRT

BATTERYMATES

From 1C

studying nutrition. Gamboa was so intent on going to Midland College that she couldn't even recall which other colleges showed interest in her.

Ramos said both players were good citizens, which he believes directly correlates into on-field success.

The opportunity to be coached by Ramos was also a draw to both MHS seniors.

"I like their program because (Ramos) tries his hardest to get you where you want to be and he'll help you and work with you, so that's always good in the college level," Allen said.

Gamboa and Allen each cemented their relationship with Ramos while he scouted them during high school ball, summer leagues and travel ball.

"He liked how I played as a catcher," Gamboa said. "I will play anywhere where he needs me to be. I am really hoping I can be the player he is expecting me to be and really grow with him as a person."

Follow Christopher on Twitter: @chris_MRTsports

HALL

From 1C

was never disciplined for PEDs but former Texas teammate Jose Canseco alleged in a 2005 book that he injected the catcher with steroids. Asked whether he was on the list of players who allegedly tested positive for steroids during baseball's 2003 survey, Rodriguez said in 2009: "Only God knows."

Rodriguez displaced Pedro Martinez as the youngest of the record 74 living Hall members.

Bonds, a seven-time MVP who holds the season and career home run records, received 36.2 percent in his initial appearance, in 2013 and jumped from 44.3 percent last year. Clemens, a seven-time Cy Young Award winner, rose from 45.2 percent last year.

Bonds was indicted on charges he lied to a grand jury in 2003 when he denied using PEDs, but a jury failed to reach a verdict on three counts he made false statements and convicted him on one obstruction of justice count, finding he gave an evasive answer. The conviction was overturned appeal in 2015.

Clemens was acquitted on one count of obstruction of Congress, three counts of making false statements to Congress and two counts of perjury, all stemming from his denials of drug use.

A 12-time All-Star on the ballot for the first time, Ramirez was twice suspended for violating baseball's drug agreement. He helped the Boston Red Sox win World Series titles in 2004 and '07, the first for the franchise since 1918, and hit .312 with 555 home runs and 1,831 RBIs in 19 big league seasons.

TEXAS FISHING REPORT

WEST

ALAN HENRY: Water fairly clear, stained toward the river; 50 degrees; 1.54 feet low. Black bass are fair on jigs, medium and deep diving crankbaits, swimbaits and jerkbaits. Crappie and bass are fair on minnows. Catfish are excellent on rod and reel with punchbait on a #6 treble hook up the river and at the mouths of the creeks.

ARROWHEAD: Water fairly clear; 49-56 degrees; 0.87 feet low. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs, drop shot rigs and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are fair on live minnows. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers.

COLORADO CITY: 12.79 feet low. No report available.

FORT PHANTOM HILL: Water murky; 50-56 degrees; 0.3 feet low. Black bass are fair on shakyheads, chatterbaits and Texas rigs. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water off color; 51-55 degrees; 0.5 feet low. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs, jigs and spinnerbaits. Crappie are fair to good on jigs and minnows. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers and cut bait.

NASWORTHY: 49-55 degrees; 1.35 feet low. Black bass are fair to good on Texas rigs and chatterbaits. No reports on crappie. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers and cut bait.

OAK CREEK: Water stained; 48-56 degrees; 9.09 feet low. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs, crankbaits and shakyheads. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on chartreuse (use Worm-Glo) nightcrawlers.

O.H. IVIE: Water stained; 49-56 degrees; 33.79 feet low. Black bass are fair on pearl crankbaits, Texas rigs and swimjigs. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair to good on cut bait and nightcrawlers.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water off color; 48-55 degrees; 0.2 feet high. Black bass are fair to good on swimjigs, Texas rigs and medium running crankbaits. Crappie are fair on live minnows. White bass are fair to good on slabs. Striped bass are fair on live shad. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers.

SPENCE: 49.97 feet low. No report available.

STAMFORD: 0.31 feet low. Black bass and crappie are fair to good, but mostly undersized. White bass are fair to good on minnows and Rooster Tails. Blue catfish are fair to good on cut and live bait.

SWEETWATER: Water off color; 47-53 degrees; 23.78 feet low. No report available.

WHITE RIVER: Water stained; 45-52 degrees; 19.48 feet low. Black bass are very slow (the bass population was greatly reduced during the drought). No reports on crappie. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers and cut bait.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water murky; 65-69 degrees; 17.10 feet low. Black bass are fair on watermelon spinnerbaits, crankbaits, and soft plastic worms. Striped bass are fair on slabs and grubs. White bass are fair on slabs and crankbaits. Catfish are fair on shrimp, nightcrawlers, and cheesebait. Yellow catfish are good on trotlines and droplines baited with live perch. Everyone in a boat must have a Mexico fishing license (if fishing the Mexico side) whether fishing or not.

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water stained; 61-65 degrees. Black bass are good on Rat-L-Traps and chartreuse jigs. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are fair on stinkbait and liver. Yellow catfish are slow.

BELTON: Water stained; 60-64 degrees; 1.14 feet high. Black bass are slow. Hybrid striper are slow. White bass are fair on slabs. Crappie are fair on minnows at night. Channel and blue catfish are fair on trotlines baited with frozen shad. Yellow catfish are slow.

BROWNWOOD: Water stained; 62-66 degrees; 0.23 feet high. Black bass are fair on watermelon spinnerbaits, crankbaits, and Rat-L-Traps over brush piles. Hybrid striper are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows over brush piles. Channel catfish are slow. Yellow catfish are slow.

BUCHANAN: Water stained; 61-65 degrees; 2.04 feet low. Black bass are good on black Curb's hair jigs, tequila sunrise JDC curl tail grubs on jigheads, and suspending crankbaits over rock piles in 8-18 feet. Striped bass are good on white striper jigs, and jigging Spoiler Shad swim baits and Pink Minnows near Garrett Island in 20-30 feet. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on live minnows over brush piles. Channel catfish are slow. Yellow and blue catfish are slow.

CANYON LAKE: Water stained; 62-65 degrees; 0.34 feet high. Black bass are good on watermelon red crankbaits, pumpkinseed worms, and watermelon tubes on jigheads along bluffs. Striped bass are fair trolling Gizz 4's on down riggers over humps in the lower end of the lake in 40-60 feet. White bass are fair but small on white spinnerbaits and crankbaits. Smallmouth bass are very good on Tomato Red JDC grubs and smoke/red flake tubes on jigheads. Crappie are slow. Channel catfish are slow. Yellow and blue catfish are slow.

COLEMAN: Water stained; 62-66 degrees; 1.28 feet low. Black bass are fair on chartreuse spinnerbaits and crankbaits. Crappie are good on minnows. Channel catfish are fair on shrimp and liver. Yellow catfish are slow.

COLORADO RIVER: (At Colorado Bend State Park) No report available.

FAYETTE: Water murky. Black bass are fair on Carolina rigged soft plastics and Rat-L-Traps. Channel and blue catfish are slow.

GRANBURY: Water stained; 61-65 degrees; 0.06 feet low. Black bass are fair on watermelon soft plastics, spinnerbaits, crankbaits, and Rat-L-Traps. Striped bass are fair on chartreuse striper jigs. White bass are slow. Crappie are good on minnows. Catfish are fair on shrimp and stinkbait.

GRANGER: Water stained; 60-64 degrees; 0.30 feet high. Black bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Blue catfish are fair on shrimp and prepared baits in 6-15 feet. Yellow catfish are slow.

LBJ: Water stained; 60-64 degrees; 4.85 feet low. Black bass are good on black/blue Curb's jigs and PBJ colored Snag Proof jigs. Striped bass are slow. White bass are fair to good on Pink Minnows and Li'l Fishies in the channel near the power plant. Crappie are fair on minnows in brush piles and under heated docks. Channel catfish are fair on shrimp and nightcrawlers. Yellow and blue catfish are slow.

NAVARRO MILLS: Water stained; 61-65 degrees; 0.11 feet low. Black bass are fair on watermelon Rat-L-Traps. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on chartreuse tube jigs at the marina. Channel and blue catfish are fair on liver and stinkbait. Yellow catfish are slow.

NHL GLANCE

Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Montreal	46	27	13	6	60	139	117
Boston	47	23	19	5	51	117	117
Ottawa	42	23	15	4	50	111	111
Toronto	42	21	13	8	50	132	123
Florida	46	20	18	8	48	108	127
Tampa Bay	46	21	20	5	47	126	135
Detroit	44	19	19	6	44	112	127
Buffalo	44	17	18	9	43	104	124

Metropolitan Division

Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Columbus	43	30	9	4	64	145	96
Washington	44	29	9	6	64	138	94
Pittsburgh	44	28	11	5	61	157	132
N.Y. Rangers	45	28	16	1	57	158	123
Philadelphia	46	22	18	6	50	132	148
Carolina	44	21	16	7	49	122	121
New Jersey	46	19	18	9	47	105	132
N.Y. Islanders	42	17	17	8	42	120	128

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Minnesota	43	28	10	5	61	141	96
Chicago	47	28	14	5	61	132	120
St. Louis	45	23	17	5	51	128	135
Nashville	44	20	17	7	47	119	115
Dallas	46	19	19	8	46	126	144
Winnipeg	48	21	23	4	46	135	146
Colorado	42	13	28	1	27	86	143

Pacific Division

Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Anaheim	47	25	13	9	59	125	117
Edmonton	46	24	15	7	55	131	122
San Jose	44	26	16	2	54	117	102
Calgary	47	24	20	3	51	124	127
Los Angeles	44	22	18	4	48	111	110
Vancouver	46	21	19	6	48	112	130
Arizona	44	13	25	6	32	94	143

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Scores and schedules

Wednesday's Scores

Pittsburgh 4, Montreal 1

Winnipeg 6, Arizona 3

Boston at Detroit, late

Florida at Edmonton, late

San Jose at Los Angeles, late

Today's Games

Ottawa at Columbus, 6 p.m.

Dallas at N.Y. Islanders, 6 p.m.

N.Y. Rangers at Toronto, 6:30 p.m.

Washington at St. Louis, 7 p.m.

Arizona at Minnesota, 7 p.m.

Nashville at Calgary, 8 p.m.

Colorado at Anaheim, 9 p.m.

Tampa Bay at San Jose, 9:30 p.m.

Friday's Games

Chicago at Boston, 6 p.m.

Pittsburgh at Carolina, 6 p.m.

Detroit at Buffalo, 6 p.m.

Montreal at New Jersey, 6:30 p.m.

Nashville at Edmonton, 8 p.m.

Florida at Vancouver, 9 p.m.

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MCBASKETBALLCAPSULES

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Women

NO. 22 MIDLAND COLLEGE AT FRANK PHILLIPS COLLEGE

When/where: 5:45 p.m. today, Borger Community Activity Center, Borger

Records: Midland College 11-5, 2-2 in Western Junior College Athletic Conference; Frank Phillips College 63, Howard College 59

Last WJCAC game: Midland College 73, Western Texas College 56; Frank Phillips College 63, Howard College 59

Notes: Midland College is coming off a much-needed win on Monday as the Lady Chaparrals used energy and defense to snap a two-game slide. MC also overcame 20 turnovers in the win and ended up pulling away after letting a 22-point lead in the second half dwindle to just eight. The Lady Chaps were led by Janea Bunn with 18 points, Lisa Kaempf had 10 points and 14 rebounds, and Tichina Coleman added 10 points. ... MC looks to keep the momentum going tonight against an always tough Frank Phillips College in Borger. ... The Lady Plainsmen are enjoy their best start in years and are on a five-game winning streak. ... FPC is also coming off a a road win at Howard College on Monday. Freshman G/F Kiara Shoals led FPC with 23 points, freshman G Perrine Manoury had 13, sophomore F Sarah Samarron had 11 and sophomore G Mandy Costa had 10. ... The Lady Plainsmen will be undersized compared to the Lady Chaps, so look for MC to try to utilize its height to dominate the boards and inside game.

Next: New Mexico JC at Midland College, 5:45 p.m. Monday; Frank Phillips College at Western Texas College, 5:45 p.m. Monday

Women's WJCAC standings

Team	Conference W	Conference L	Overall W	Overall L
Odessa College	3	0	17	0
New Mexico JC	3	1	14	4
Howard College	3	1	7	11
Frank Phillips	2	1	12	2
South Plains	2	2	17	3
Midland College	2	2	11	5
Western Texas	0	3	7	7
Clarendon College	0	5	11	10

Monday's Scores

Midland College 73, Western Texas College 56; Frank Phillips College 63, Howard College 59; New Mexico Junior College 75, Clarendon College 42; South Plains College and Odessa College are open

Thursday's Games

Midland College at Frank Phillips College; Odessa College at Western Texas College; Howard College at South Plains College; Clarendon College and New Mexico JC are open

Men's WJCAC standings

Team	Conference W	Conference L	Overall W	Overall L
South Plains	5	0	17	0
Odessa College	3	1	14	3
Western Texas	3	1	11	6
Howard College	2	2	13	5
Midland College	2	2	11	7
New Mexico JC	2	3	14	5
Clarendon College	2	3	11	8
New Mexico Military	1	4	5	13
Frank Phillips	0	4	11	7

Monday's Scores

Western Texas College 86, Midland College 74; Howard College 58, Frank Phillips College 53; New Mexico Junior College 80, Clarendon College 75; South Plains College 67, New Mexico Military Institute 48; Odessa College is open

Thursday's Games

Midland College at Frank Phillips College; Odessa College at Western Texas College; Howard College at South Plains College; Clarendon College at New Mexico Military Institute; New Mexico JC is open

Men

MIDLAND COLLEGE AT FRANK PHILLIPS COLLEGE

When/where: 7:30 p.m. today, Borger Community Activity Center, Borger

Records: Midland College 11-7, 2-2 in Western Junior College Athletic Conference; Frank Phillips 11-7, 0-4

Last WJCAC game: Western Texas College 86, Midland College 74; Howard College 58, Frank Phillips College 53

Notes & quotes: Tonight's game has become a must-win for Midland College after the Chaparrals dropped a home game to Western Texas College on Monday. ... WTC's Jordan Evans scored a game-high 33 points and the Westerners out-rebounded the Chaps 36-33 and shot 49 percent for the game. MC had five players score in double figures but was only 4 of 15 from 3-point range and just 12 of 23 from the free-throw line. Devin Campbell led MC with 14 points and eight rebounds, Juan Cardenas and Daven Joseph each had 12 points, and Jachai Simmons and Jordan Jackson each had 11. ... MC coach Jordan Dreiling said his team has responded well in practice. "This is not a giggly group. This is not a group that's OK with laying an egg like we did," Dreiling said. "They're upset with what happened and they want to fix it." ... Frank Phillips has struggled in WJCAC play but Dreiling said it's still capable of beating his team thanks in part to good guard play. He added that it's going to be important his team key on 6-foot-5 sophomore G Isaiah Palmer (16.5 ppg). "We have to defend better and have to rebound better," Dreiling said. "We have to step up to the challenge of playing on the road in conference." ...On Thursday, Simmons was named WJCAC Player of the Week for Jan. 8-14. Simmons, a sophomore forward, scored 62 points in three games that week to go with 13 rebounds and six steals. He was also 10 of 19 on 3-point attempts and 24 of 47 from the floor.

Next: New Mexico JC at Midland College, 7:45 p.m. Monday; Frank Phillips College at Western Texas College, 7:45 p.m. Monday

NBAROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

ROCKETS 111
BUCKS 92

HOUSTON — James Harden had 38 points, eight assists and six rebounds, and the Houston Rockets beat the Milwaukee Bucks 111-92 on Wednesday night.

Harden drilled a straight-away 3-pointer with six minutes left to give Houston a 13-point lead and shimmied his shoulders down the court in a celebratory dance as the Bucks called timeout.

After losing three of four, the Rockets regained their form while improving to 17-4 at home this season.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 32 points, 11 rebounds, six assists and three blocks for Milwaukee, which struggled to score in the first half. Jabari Parker scored 15 points on 5-for-15 shooting, and reserve Michael Beasley had 14 points and eight boards.

Antetokounmpo was visibly frustrated after he was called for goaltending on a chase-down block of Harden as the game slipped out of hand late in the fourth quarter.

Houston shooting guard Eric Gordon recaptured his touch after struggling from the field while playing on a tweaked ankle in the Rockets' 109-103 loss in Miami on Tuesday night. Gordon went 7 for 17 from the 3-point range and finished with 25 points.

PELICANS 118
MAGIC 98

NEW ORLEANS — Anthony Davis had 21 points and 15 rebounds and the New Orleans Pelicans cruised past the road-weary, short-handed Orlando Magic 118-98 on Wednesday night.

Tyreke Evans and Langston Galloway added 18 points each for the Pelicans, who never trailed after the first quarter and extended their lead to as many as 28 points

Aaron Gordon and Elfrid Payton had 14 points each to lead Orlando, which finished 1-5 on a season-long six-game trip that featured five games in the last eight days. The Magic played their third straight game without leading scorer Evan Fournier, who is out with a bruised right heel.

The Pelicans, back from their own season-long five-game trip, beat the Magic down the court all night to start a season-long six-game home stretch. New Orleans passed its season-high of 30 fast-break points midway through the third quarter and finished with 38.

HORNETS 107
TRAIL BLAZERS 85

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Kemba Walker is focused on Charlotte's record. He isn't very interested in the All-Star game right now.

Walker scored 23 points, and the Hornets stopped a five-game slide with a 107-85 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers on Wednesday night.

"We haven't been doing a great job of winning consistently (so) the All-Star game is the last thing I'm going to think about right now," Walker said.

While Walker is brushing off talk about next month's game in New Orleans, he is making a strong case for a spot on the Eastern Conference team. He is averaging 23 points and shooting 41.3 percent from 3-point range this season.

Walker went 4 for 8 from behind the arc against Portland and 8 for 14 from the field overall. But he said he doesn't think he has done enough this year to make the All-Star game for the first time, citing the team's 21-21 record.

KNICKS 117
CELTICS 106

BOSTON — Derrick Rose matched his season high with 30 points, and the slumping New York Knicks beat the Boston Celtics 117-106 on Wednesday night.

New York played without injured starters Kristaps Porzingis and Joakim Noah, but Mindaugas Kuzminskas and Willy Hernangomez each scored 17 points to help make up for their absence. It was just the third win in 14 games for the Knicks.

Isaiah Thomas led Boston with 39 points, his 13th time this season with 30 or more points. Jae Crowder added 21 for the Celtics, who lost for only the fourth time in 17 games.

Al Horford, Boston's big free-agent acquisition during the summer, had five points on 2-of-14 shooting. He was 1 for 8 on 3-point attempts.

76ERS 94
RAPTORS 89

PHILADELPHIA — Joel Embiid scored 26 points, Ersan Ilyasova added 18 and the resurgent Philadelphia 76ers beat the Toronto Raptors 94-89 on Wednesday night for their seventh win in nine games.

Embiid, who was questionable because of the flu, surpassed 20 points in fewer than 30 minutes in his 10th straight game.

With Embiid leading the way, the Sixers are no longer the NBA's laughingstock. They're only 14-26 but have rejuvenated a city that has patiently waited for a winner through three miserable seasons.

DeMar DeRozan scored 25 for the Atlantic Division-leading Raptors, and Kyle Lowry had 24 points.

After DeRozan gave Toronto an 86-85 lead, Embiid made a tying free throw. Embiid then grabbed a rebound after DeRozan missed a jumper and T.J. McConnell's layup put Philadelphia ahead 88-86 with 1:09 left. Cory Joseph missed a 3-pointer on Toronto's ensuing possession and McConnell sank a pair of free throws.

WIZARDS 104
GRIZZLIES 101

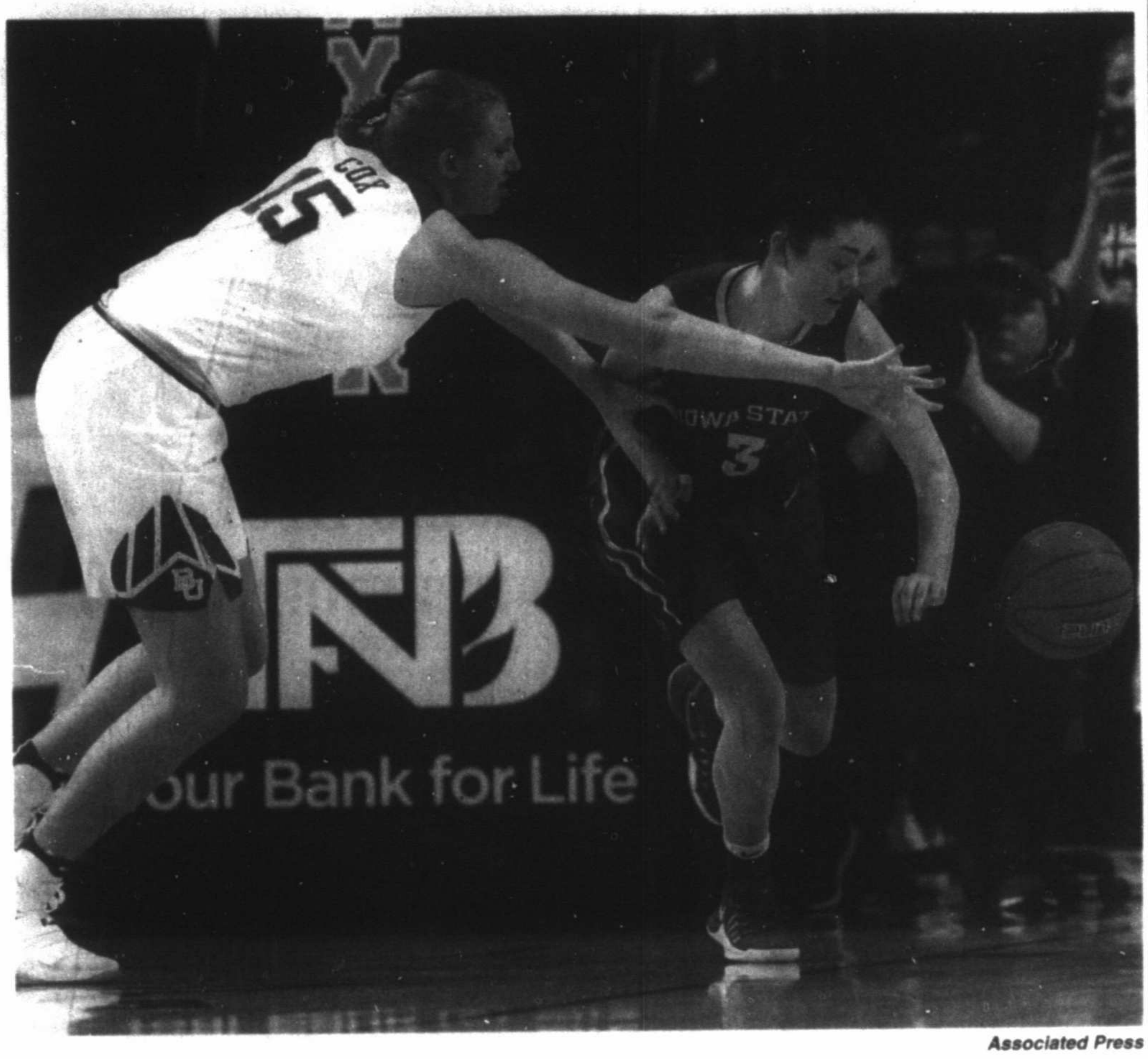
WASHINGTON — A vastly different team at home, the Wizards won their 13th consecutive game in Washington by edging the Memphis Grizzlies 104-101 Wednesday night behind two late layups from John Wall, who finished with 25 points and 13 assists.

James Ennis III missed a potential tying 3-pointer at the buzzer for Memphis.

The Wizards are just 4-13 on the road but now 18-6 at home, where they've compiled their longest winning streak since a 15-game run in the 1988-89 season.

Washington never trailed and led by as many as 19 points in the first half, then held on after a 10-0 run by Memphis made it a two-point game with 2 1/2 minutes left. That's when Wall took over, scoring on consecutive drives.

Otto Porter Jr. scored 25 points on a career-high six 3s for the Wizards, who are 11-2 when he makes at least three in a game from behind the arc.



Associated Press

Baylor forward Lauren Cox (15) and Iowa State guard Emily Durr (3) compete for control of a loose ball in the second half of a game Wednesday in Waco.

BIG12COLLEGEROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Women

NO. 2 BAYLOR 68
IOWA STATE 42

WACO — Iowa State coach Bill Fennelly was ready to go ahead and play his team's second scheduled game against second-ranked Baylor. The outcome certainly seems inevitable.

"I think they're bigger than our men's team. That's by far the best team we've played. It's not even close," Fennelly said after the Cyclones' 68-42 loss Wednesday night. "I wish we could just take a shower and go play again and get it over with. ... Maybe they can just come on the charter with us. Let's play tomorrow and be done with it."

Nina Davis scored 17 points, Kalani Brown had 16 and the Lady Bears won their 16th consecutive game in a surprisingly-low scoring contest.

In a game matching the Big 12's two highest-scoring teams, Baylor (18-1, 7-0 Big 12) was held nearly 25 points below its national-best 92.6 per-game average.

"They want you to play their tempo and I think we did for the most part and that's because they made us," Baylor coach Kim Mulkey said. "We were just never in the flow or had continuity, so give those guys credit."

NO. 22 KANSAS STATE 74
TCU 63

MANHATTAN, Kan. — Breanna Lewis scored 21 points and had four blocks, Kindred Wesemann hit five 3-pointers to become ranked fifth in school history with 232 career 3s, and No. 22 Kansas State used a big third quarter on Wednesday night win its fourth straight, beating TCU 74-63.

Tied at 27 at halftime after making only 1 of 6 from behind the arc, Wesemann made three 3s, Kaylee Page added another, and Kansas State opened the third quarter with a 14-3 run. Wesemann hit her fourth 3 — surpassing the 230 career 3s by Kimberly Dietz (2004-08) — and the Wildcats led 52-40 at the end of the third.

TCU closed to 62-56 on Jada Butts' two free throws, but Shaelyn Martin made a 3-point play and the Wildcats led by 10 with 1:23 to go.

Wesemann finished with 18 points and three steals and the Wildcats (15-4, 5-2 Big 12) outscored the Horned Frogs 38-26 in the paint.

TCU led 12-6 on a 3 by Amber Ramirez, but Page hit a 3, Lewis made a jumper amid a 7-4 run and the Wildcats trailed 16-13 at the end of the first quarter Kansas State was up 27-22 after Lewis' layup, but TCU's Ramirez hit her third 3 to tie it at 27 at halftime.

Amy Okonkwo scored 13 points for TCU (9-9, 1-6), which had 13 steals.

NO. 24 WEST VIRGINIA 62
KANSAS 51

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Tynice Martin scored 21 points and No. 24 West Virginia beat Kansas 62-51 on Wednesday night.

Martin was only 5-of-20 shooting, though made 9 of 12 free throws. Lanay Montgomery added 15 points and 13 rebounds for her eighth double-double this season and Teana Muldrow had 12 points and a career-high 15 rebounds, her fourth double-double.

The Mountaineers (15-4, 3-4 Big 12) snapped a two-game losing streak despite scoring 16 points below their average and committing 25 turnovers.

Jessica Washington scored 24 points on 7-of-22 shooting for the Jayhawks (6-12, 0-7). McKenzie Calvert added 12 points.

NBA GLANCE

Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	28	14	.667	—
Boston	26	16	.619	2
New York	19	24	.442	9½
Philadelphia	14	26	.350	13
Brooklyn	8	33	.195	19½

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	24	18	.571	—
Washington	22	19	.537	1½
Charlotte	21	21	.500	3
Orlando	17	27	.386	8
Miami	12	30	.286	12

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	29	11	.725	—
Indiana	21	19	.525	8
Milwaukee	20	21	.488	9½
Chicago	21	22	.488	9½
Detroit	20	24	.455	11

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	32	9	.780	—
Houston	33	12	.733	1
Memphis	25	19	.568	8½
New Orleans	17	26	.395	16
Dallas	14	27	.341	18

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	27	16	.628	—
Oklahoma City	25	18	.581	2
Denver	[illegible]	23	.425	8½
Portland	18	26	.409	9½
Minnesota	14	28	.333	12½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	35	6	.854	—
L.A. Clippers	29	14	.674	[illegible]
Sacramento	16	24	.400	18½
Phoenix	13	28	.317	22
L.A. Lakers	15	31	.326	22½

Scores and schedules

Wednesday's Scores

Charlotte 107, Portland 85
Philadelphia 94, Toronto 89
Washington 104, Memphis 101
New York 117, Boston 106
Detroit 118, Atlanta 95
Houston 111, Milwaukee 92
New Orleans 118, Orlando 98
Indiana at Sacramento, late
Oklahoma City at Golden State, late

Today's Games

Phoenix at Cleveland, 6 p.m.
Dallas at Miami, 6:30 p.m.
Washington at New York, 7 p.m.
Denver at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL SCORES AND TOP 25 FARED

Men

SOUTHWEST

Oral Roberts 90, South Dakota 80
Texas Tech 75, TCU 69
Tulsa 89, Tulane 82

SOUTH

Alabama 68, Missouri 56
Auburn 78, LSU 74
Augusta 84, Flagler 49
Clayton St. 80, North Georgia 71
Florida St. 83, Notre Dame 80
Guilford 76, Emory & Henry 59
Johnson C. Smith 63, St. Augustine's 56
Lynchburg 94, Hampden-Sydney 76
McNeese St. 82, Cent. Arkansas 72
Randolph-Macon 74, Shenandoah 47
South Carolina 57, Florida 53
Va. Wesleyan 94, Bridgewater (Va.) 62
Virginia St. 80, Chowan 54
Virginia Union 70, Bowie St. 69, OT
Wake Forest 96, Miami 7

MIDWEST

Albion 79, Olivet 71
Alma 85, Trine 74
Augsburg 89, Macalester 86
Carleton 75, St. Olaf 61
Carroll (Wis.) 81, Carthage 76
Chicago St. 77, Roosevelt 57
Cincinnati 81, Temple 74
Concordia (Moor.) 72, Bethel (Minn.) 70
Drake 88, S. Illinois 84, OT
Grand View 98, Clarke 75
Hope 75, Adrian 65
IUPUI 85, S. Dakota St. 83
Kalamazoo 79, Calvin 70
Lake Forest 66, Lawrence 53
Lakeland 73, Marian (Wis.) 86
MidAm Nazarene 84, Culver-Stockton 70
Missouri St. 73, Indiana St. 68
N. Iowa 72, Loyola of Chicago 69, 2OT
Omaha 97, Denver 88
Ripon 81, St. Norbert 55
St. John's (Minn.) 86, Hamline 84, OT
St. Thomas (Minn.) 100, St. Mary's (Minn.) 65
Wis.-Eau Claire 80, Wis.-Stout 62
Wis.-Platteville 76, Wis.-Stevens Pt. 71
Wis.-River Falls 91, Wis.-La Crosse 76
Wis.-Whitewater 73, Wis.-Oshkosh 67

EAST

American U. 71, Lafayette 57
Baruch 68, York (NY) 56
Bucknell 76, Loyola (Md.) 63
Colgate 67, Boston U. 58
Fordham 70, VCU 67, OT
George Washington 65, Duquesne 63
Holy Cross 85, Army 76
Indiana 78, Penn St. 75
Johns Hopkins 75, Washington (Md.) 71
Moravian 78, Scranton 64
Navy 75, Lehigh 72
Oklahoma 89, West Virginia 87, OT
Rowan 106, Stockton 90
St. Rose 86, Merrimack 82
UMass 62, Saint Joseph's 57
Virginia 71, Boston College 54

Top 25 fared
Wednesday

1. Villanova (18-1) did not play. Next: vs. Providence, Saturday.
2. Kansas (17-1) did not play. Next: vs. Texas, Saturday.
3. UCLA (18-1) did not play. Next: vs. Arizona State, Thursday.
4. Gonzaga (17-0) did not play. Next: at Santa Clara, Thursday.
5. Kentucky (16-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 24 South Carolina, Saturday.
6. Baylor (17-1) did not play. Next: at TCU, Saturday.
7. Creighton (18-1) did not play. Next: vs. Marquette, Saturday.
7. West Virginia (15-3) lost to Oklahoma 89-87, OT. Next: vs. Kansas State, Saturday.
9. North Carolina (17-3) did not play. Next: at Boston College, Saturday.
10. Florida State (17-2) beat No. 15 Notre Dame 83-80. Next: vs. No. 12 Louisville, Saturday.
11. Oregon (16-2) did not play. Next: vs. California, Thursday.
12. Louisville (15-3) did not play. Next: vs. Clemson, Thursday.
13. Butler (16-3) did not play. Next: at DePaul, Saturday.
14. Arizona (16-2) did not play. Next: at Southern Cal, Thursday.
15. Notre Dame (16-3) lost to No. 10 Florida State 83-80. Next: vs. Syracuse, Saturday.
16. Virginia (14-3) beat Boston College 71-54. Next: vs. Georgia Tech, Saturday.
17. Wisconsin (15-3) did not play. Next: at Minnesota, Saturday.
18. Duke (14-4) did not play. Next: vs. Miami, Saturday.
19. Florida (14-4) lost to No. 24 South Carolina 57-53. Next: vs. Vanderbilt, Saturday.
20. Cincinnati (16-2) beat Temple 81-74. Next: at Tulane, Saturday.
21. Purdue (15-4) did not play. Next: vs. Penn State, Saturday.
22. Xavier (13-5) did not play. Next: vs. Georgetown, Sunday.
23. Saint Mary's (15-2) did not play. Next: vs. Pacific, Thursday.
24. South Carolina (15-3) beat No. 19 Florida 57-53. Next: at No. 5 Kentucky, Saturday.
25. Maryland (16-2) did not play. Next: at Iowa, Thursday.

Women

SOUTHWEST

Texas 86, Oklahoma 68
UConn 98, Tulsa 58

SOUTH

Abilene Christian 89, Nicholls 73
Augusta 78, Flagler 71
Belmont 54, Jacksonville St. 53
Bryan 87, Union (Ky.) 80
Carson-Newman 83, Anderson (SC) 66
Chowan 64, Virginia St. 55
Clayton St. 63, North Georgia 62
Davidson 58, George Mason 54
Johnson C. Smith 67, St. Augustine's 44
La Salle 63, Richmond 58
Lincoln Memorial 83, Tusculum 71
Livingstone 71, Fayetteville St. 60
Louisville 91, Georgia Tech 51
Lynchburg 67, Emory & Henry 65
Milligan 62, Tenn. Wesleyan 43
Pikeville 101, Warren Wilson 51
Tennessee Tech 64, Tennessee St. 59
UCF 54, East Carolina 42
Virginia Union 77, Bowie St. 70

MIDWEST

Akron 84, N. Illinois 55
Albion 85, Kalamazoo 61
Avila 79, Evangel 65
Ball St. 78, E. Michigan 49
Bethel (Minn.) 75, Concordia (Moor.) 58
Buffalo 61, Bowling Green 50
Cardinal Stritch 69, St. Xavier 68
Carleton 67, St. Olaf 58
Cent. Michigan 80, Miami (Ohio) 61
Clarke 66, Grand View 55
Cornerstone 66, Marygrove 57
Davenport 80, Michigan-Dearborn 48
E. Illinois 80, UT Martin 70
Kansas St. 74, TCU 63
Kent St. 71, W. Michigan 67
Lake Forest 61, Lawrence 39
Mid-Am Nazarene 67, Culver-Stockton 52
Minnesota 78, Illinois 50
Ohio 64, Toledo 55
Omaha 80, N. Dakota St. 60
SIU-Edwardsville 70, SE Missouri 69
Siena Heights 60, Concordia (Mich.) 55
South Dakota 87, Fort Wayne 59
Spring Arbor 58, St. Francis (Ind.) 56
St. Norbert 62, Ripon 39
West Virginia 62, Kansas 51

EAST

Chestnut Hill 85, Holy Family 78
Iowa 71, Rutgers 59
Mount St. Vincent 83, Farmingdale 82
Old Westbury 73, Medgar Evers 39
Wilmington (Del.) 75, Sciences (Pa.) 67

Top 25 fared
Wednesday

1. UConn (17-0) did not play. Next: vs. Tulane, Sunday.
2. Baylor (18-1) beat Iowa State 68-42. Next: vs. No. 24 West Virginia, Saturday.
3. Maryland (17-1) did not play. Next: vs. Michigan, Thursday.
4. Mississippi State (19-0) did not play. Next: at Alabama, Thursday.
5. South Carolina (15-1) did not play. Next: vs. Mississippi, Thursday.
6. Notre Dame (16-3) did not play. Next: at Boston College, Thursday.
7. Florida State (17-2) did not play. Next: vs. Syracuse, Thursday.
8. Washington (18-2) did not play. Next: at Washington State, Sunday.
9. Louisville (17-4) beat Georgia Tech 91-51. Next: at No. 23 South Florida, Sunday.
10. Stanford (15-3) did not play. Next: vs. Arizona, Friday.
11. Oregon State (16-2) did not play. Next: vs. Utah, Friday.
12. Texas (13-4) did not play. Next: at Texas Tech, Saturday.
13. UCLA (13-4) at Southern Cal. Next: vs. Southern Cal, Sunday.
14. Miami (14-4) did not play. Next: at Syracuse, Sunday.
15. Duke (15-3) did not play. Next: vs. No. 17 Virginia Tech, Thursday.
16. Ohio State (15-5) did not play. Next: vs. Wisconsin, Thursday.
17. Virginia Tech (16-1) did not play. Next: at No. 15 Duke, Thursday.
18. Arizona State (13-4) did not play. Next: at California, Friday.
19. DePaul (16-4) did not play. Next: vs. Marquette, Saturday.
20. Oklahoma (14-5) did not play. Next: vs. Oklahoma State, Sunday.
21. N.C. State (14-5) did not play. Next: vs. Clemson, Sunday.
22. Kansas State (15-4) beat TCU 74-63. Next: at Iowa State, Saturday.
23. South Florida (15-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 9 Louisville, Sunday.
24. West Virginia (15-4) beat Kansas 62-51. Next: at No. 2 Baylor, Saturday.
25. Texas A&M (14-4) did not play. Next: at Missouri, Thursday.

A look at everything surrounding Super Bowl LI

By Kristie Rieken
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Houston is the nation's fourth largest city, a sprawling metropolis larger than some small states. But the good news for those visiting for Super Bowl LI is that most of the events surrounding the game will be concentrated downtown, making it easy to visit a number of attractions.

There are thousands of hotel rooms downtown where fans can stay, and from there it's about 11 miles to NRG Stadium , home of the Houston Texans, where the Feb. 5 game will be played.

Associated Press

This Jan. 14 photo shows The George R. Brown Convention Center, which will host the NFL Experience in Houston. Super Bowl LI will be played Feb. 5 at NRG Stadium in Houston.

Super events

Super Bowl LIVE is a free fan festival that stretches from Discovery Green across from the George R. Brown Convention Center to Root Park near the Toyota Center, where the Houston Rockets play. The festival, which runs from Jan. 28-Feb. 5, will include artists, exhibits and games. An area called Houston Live will showcase the city and its history. Super Bowl LIVE will also include a virtual reality experience, Future Flight, created with help from NASA, which will take fans on a 90-foot-drop tower ride mimicking a spaceflight to Mars.

Texas artists headline three days of concerts, Feb. 2-4. Day one features Solange, Leon Bridges is one of three performers Friday, and Saturday's headliner will be ZZ Top.

The convention center hosts the NFL Experience Jan. 28-29 and Feb. 1-5. Billed as an interactive theme park, it will have games, youth football clinics, autograph sessions, a display of Super Bowl rings and a chance to take a picture with the Lombardi Trophy, given each year to the Super Bowl champions. Open daily 10 a.m.-10 p.m. except Sundays. It closes at 8 p.m. Jan. 29, and shuts down for good at 3 p.m. on game day. Tickets start at $25 for children 2-12, $35 for those 13 and over and are on sale here.

Super Bowl Opening Night

Fans can get a peek at the teams in the Super Bowl on Jan. 30 at Super Bowl Opening Night downtown at Minute Maid Park, home of the Houston Astros. The event is the first time during Super Bowl week that players in the big game meet with media as fans watch from the bleachers. It features a performance by rock band X Ambassadors and an appearance by Hall of Fame quarterback Warren Moon.

"I will always be grateful to the city of Houston and its fans for giving me a chance to play professional football," said Moon, who starred for the Houston Oilers. "On Super Bowl Opening Night, I am excited to return to my second home and to help fans experience the energy of the big game before kickoff on Sunday."

Those attending the event will get gift bags with a radio which they can turn to NFL Network coverage to listen in on player interviews. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., interviews are from 7:15-8:15 p.m. and 9 p.m.-10 p.m. Tickets start at $20 and can be purchased here .

Get the app

To get all the information about Super Bowl week at your fingertips, download the official Super Bowl app . The app includes details on events, transportation, tips on navigating different areas of the city and even a trivia game.

Traveling around downtown

Free circulator shuttles will run downtown during Super Bowl week. Called Greenlink, three routes will take guests from parking lots on the west side of downtown to the entrance to Super Bowl LIVE and in and around Discovery Green. There's also a prepaid parking app fans can download to reserve spots at guaranteed rates. The app, called Fan Mobile Pass app, also provides directions to the lots.

A traveling nightclub

Club Nomadic, dubbed a "traveling nightclub experience," will be open during the weekend of the Super Bowl. The 62,500-square foot, three-story nightclub holds 9,000 people with special areas for celebrities and VIP ticket holders. The venue, 2121 Edwards St., hosts the EA Sports Bowl with a performance by Sam Hunt and the Chainsmokers on Feb. 2, welcomes Bruno Mars on Feb. 3 and ends with a performance by Taylor Swift on Feb. 4. Tickets are pricey, but can be purchased here.

Not just football

Looking for a break from football? Catch a basketball game! James Harden and the Houston Rockets host the Atlanta Hawks and former teammate Dwight Howard on Feb. 2. A Feb. 3 game against Chicago features a halftime ceremony where Hall of Fame center Yao Ming's jersey will be retired. Games start at 7 p.m. and tickets may be purchased here.

Hang with a Heisman winner

Though Johnny Manziel flamed out of the NFL after just two lackluster seasons that were notable more for his off-the-field problems that his football skills, he still has a huge fan following and will be looking to cash in on that during Super Bowl week. Manziel, who starred at nearby Texas A&M before being drafted by the Cleveland Browns, will host two autograph signings leading up to the Super Bowl. The events will be held at two local malls on Feb. 2-3 and $99 will get an autograph by the man known as Johnny Football, with an extra $29 charge for an inscription of up to four words. A photo opportunity with the quarterback is $99, but fans can take a selfie for just $50.

High-octane offenses in title games: This should be fun

By Barry Wilner
Associated Press

■ ANALYSIS

This should be fun.

The conference championship teams feature big-time offenses — yes, we know, the Steelers didn't look like one in the red zone last weekend — that could turn the scoreboards into tote machines.

And while Pro Picks has always preferred the bruising defensive battles, there's no denying how entertaining Tom Brady, Aaron Rodgers, Ben Roethlisberger and Matt Ryan can be when flinging the ball around the field.

Add in some terrific runners, led by Pittsburgh's Le'Veon Bell and New England's LeGarrette Blount, and such All-Pro targets as Antonio Brown and Julio Jones, and bettors will be in love with the over (60 for the NFC, 50 1/2 for the AFC) this week.

Indeed, it's difficult to make an argument that any of the defenses will be the deciding factor in Foxborough or Atlanta.

Yes, the Patriots yielded the fewest points in the NFL this season, but the three best offenses they played were Arizona, Buffalo and Pittsburgh.

The Cardinals matchup was in the season opener, when Arizona's offense was not tuned-up. New England beat the Steelers without Roethlisberger, who was injured, and no one would mistake the Bills for a juggernaut with the ball.

Then again, the Patriots are a juggernaut with the ball. Look at how they beat Houston, the top-ranked defense in the league, in the divisional round even though Brady was not at his best. And think about what they are capable of.

"I think we've just got to learn from it," he said. "It was a lot of things, and then when you add our poor execution on top of that, then you add our turnovers on top of that, it doesn't feel great because we worked pretty hard to play a lot better than we played."

One thing the Steelers won't be on Sunday is intimidated by Brady and New England's resume. The only way to win at Gillette Stadium is to be aggressive from the opening kickoff, and Mike Tomlin's team will be that.

Oddly, Roethlisberger has never faced the Patriots in a postseason game at New England. He's 0-1, that defeat coming in Pittsburgh during his 2004 Offensive Rookie of the Year season.

New England is a 5-point favorite to make its seventh Super Bowl with Brady at the helm; the Patriots are 4-2 in their previous trips.

Pittsburgh, which has been to three Super Bowls with Roethlisberger, going 2-1, is the one AFC team capable of pulling off the upset. But it won't.

PATRIOTS, 34-26

Green Bay (plus 5) at Atlanta

As we marvel at the talents of Rodgers, not to mention his prognosticating, and enjoy how much excitement he brings to the field, there's one thing we can't ignore. The Packers are too undermanned in the secondary.

Dak Prescott tore up Green Bay's struggling and tiring D in the second half last Sunday. Cowboys receivers were so open that Jerry Jones probably could have completed some passes.

That's a recipe for failure against Ryan and all the weapons he has. Julio Jones could be a bit hobbled, which would even things up a bit. And if Rodgers gets back a somewhat effective Jordy Nelson from his rib injury ...

Sorry, Cheeseheads, can't persuade ourselves to believe. Pro Picks thinks this comes down to one unit being too banged-up and deficient.

FALCONS, 35-31

Last Week: Against spread (3-1). Straight up: (4-0)

Season Totals: Against spread (128-125-8). Straight up: (163-99-2)

Best Bet: 12-7 against spread, 14-5 straight up.

Upset special: 7-11-1 against spread, 7-12 straight up

Steelers WR Antonio Brown apologizes for livestreaming video

By Will Graves
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Antonio Brown insists he didn't mean to disrespect his coach or create a distraction when the All-Pro wide receiver livestreamed the raucous aftermath of the Pittsburgh Steelers' playoff win over the Kansas City Chiefs last week.

Brown

The event social media savvy Brown also didn't rule out doing it again.

Even as Brown apologized for his decision to let his over 650,000 Facebook fans in on a usually private moment — one that caught head coach Mike Tomlin using a profanity to describe the New England Patriots — he played coy Wednesday when asked if he's going to leave his camera off the next time the postgame locker room door is closed.

"I guess you've got to wait and see," Brown said.

In a way it was "AB being AB," a phrase often repeated by Brown's teammates whenever the talented if occasionally overly exuberant star's antics cross the line from harmless fun into something they find themselves having to explain.

The past three days fell into the latter, with Pittsburgh's preparations for its AFC championship meeting with New England taking a back seat to Brown's 17-minute post that forced Tomlin to opening chastise one of the league's best players for something Brown considered innocuous.

"I wanted to give the fans an intimate experience," Brown said.

Too intimate it turns out. The livestream violated the league's social media policy — a policy Brown said he wasn't aware of — and opened him to discipline from his head coach, who called Brown's decision to hit the "live" button on his Facebook app "foolish" and "selfish."

Not exactly how the Steelers (13-5) expected their run up to the most important game of the season to go.

Quarterback Ben Roethlisberger admitted he was disappointed in Brown, who will be punished internally and could face further discipline from the league, but called it "water under the bridge."

It might be by Sunday night in Foxborough, but not yet. Brown posted an apology on his Facebook page late Tuesday night and spent 10 minutes on Wednesday explaining his actions rather than talking about ways for the Steelers to beat Tom Brady on the road for the first time.

One of only two wide receivers in league history to have four straight seasons of at least 100 receptions got caught up in the moment a year after sitting out Pittsburgh's divisional round playoff loss to Denver due to a concussion.

"You guys don't know what it's like being ruled out of the game, having to wait 365 days," Brown said. "After an emotional win, I got a little (over excited)."

Brown added he at no point "intended to put our organization on blast" and appeared chastened by Tomlin's admonishment that Brown's occasional forays into the "look at me" territory are symptomatic of players who find themselves moved from team to team when their act wears thin.

While Brown's roster spot is hardly in danger, hearing the usually buttoned down Tomlin's forceful rebuke gave Brown pause, at least to a point.

"Those words that he spoke, I didn't take lightly," said Brown, who called Tomlin a father figure.

"That's a big statement coming from my head coach. I've got to relish in those words. Looking forward to just doing my job."

Maybe, but Brown also considers his brand part of his job. When pressed on if he had any sort of deal with Facebook, Brown smiled and responded "top secret."

The truth is, last week wasn't the first time Brown has turned his phone on and turned his camera around to get a look around the locker room. He did it following a win over Miami in the wild-card round, with zero fallout.

Of course, that video didn't catch Tomlin using an expletive to describe the Patriots and create a mini-firestorm in the process.

Brown doesn't expect it to have any effect on his performance on Sunday, figuring the chance to get to the Super Bowl is incentive enough. Either way, he's ready to move on.

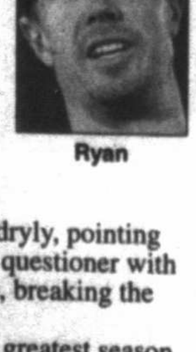
"It's been a tough week but nothing I can't handle," Brown said, later adding "It's part of the journey ... I've still got a lot to learn."

Ryan's resume still has 1 glaring hole: a Super Bowl title

By Paul Newberry
Associated Press

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. — Matt Ryan knew the question was coming.

There are four quarterbacks still standing in the NFL playoffs. Only one has failed to win a Super Bowl title.



Ryan

Any guesses who that might be?

"Yeah," Ryan said dryly, pointing toward the questioner with a big smile, breaking the room up.

With his greatest season, Ryan has guided the Atlanta Falcons within two wins of their first Super Bowl title.

It's a tantalizing chance to fill the most glaring hole on his resume, to take care of the one thing that separates him from New England's Tom Brady, Pittsburgh's Ben Roethlisberger and Green Bay's Aaron Rodgers.

Ryan might be the favorite to capture the MVP award, too. But chances are he won't be considered a truly elite quarterback, the kind they start clearing a spot for in Canton, until he brings home a championship.

"He craves a Super Bowl," said former Falcons teammate Tony Gonzalez, now an analyst for CBS.

"Absolutely it would change the national perception of him. It would change the perception he has of himself. ... It would change everything for him."

Ryan has certainly had a stellar career up to now, and even his performance a year ago — generally viewed as the worst of his career — really wasn't all that poor statistically.

But it certainly wasn't up to his standards, largely because of some high-profile miscues that played a big part in the Falcons finishing 8-8 after winning their first five games.

Gonzalez compares it to his second season in the NFL, when he followed up a brilliant rookie year by leading the league in dropped passes.

"Sometimes, that's the best thing that can happen to you," said Gonzalez, who went on to play 17 seasons — the last five with Ryan and the Falcons — in a career that will certainly lead to the Hall of Fame.

"It forces you to turn over every stone. That's what Matt did. When he's in the huddle, he's in complete command. I've never seen him like that before."

Like any top player, Ryan is fastidious about his preparation. But something really clicked this year in the way he gets ready for a game. Nothing seems to faze him. No situation appears to catch him off-guard.

A more comfortable relationship in his second year with offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan is usually offered up as the most logical reason for Ryan's transformation. But it runs deeper than that.

No argument there.

Ryan completed just under 70 percent of his throws during the regular season, and he's probably the most accurate deep passer in the league. He finished with a career-best 38 touchdowns and 4,944 yards — and a career-low seven interceptions — while leading the Falcons (12-5) to the NFC South title.

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THURSDAY PRIME TIME — JANUARY 19, 2017

FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION PLEASE CHECK MOVIE LISTINGS

	G	S	R	C	W	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
KMID ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Grey's Anatomy (N)		Scandal "Survival of the Fittest" (SP) (N)		With Murder "We're Bad People" (N)		Local 2 News/ 10	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live		(:35) News Nightline
KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	CBS 7 News	Ent. Tonight	The Big Bang (N)	Great Indoor (N)	Mom (N)	Life in Pieces (N)	Pure Genius "I Got This" (N)		CBS 7 News	(:35) Stephen Colbert		(:35) J.Corden
KWWT CW	5	14		5	14	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	A. Griffith	A. Griffith	MacGyver "Ghost Ship"		Hogan's Heroes	Hogan's Heroes	Carol Burnett	P. Mason "The Case of the Captain's Coins"		Twilight Zone
KPEJ FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Kitchen "Playing Your Cards Right" (N)		My Kitchen Rules (N)		Fox 24 News	TMZ	Modern Family	Two and a Half	Hot in Cleveland	Met Your Mother
KMLM IND	11	12	12	11	11	All About Us	Mission: M25	Update News	Wings of Truth	Light of the Southwest		Light of the Southwest		Faith for Families	Dollars & Sense	Hidden in Sight	Biblical Israel
KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	News-West 9	NewsWest 9 Now	The Good Place (N)	The Good Place (N)	Chicago Med "Graveyard Shift" (N)		The Blacklist "The Harem" (N)		NewsWest 9 at 10	(:35) The Tonight Show		(:35) Seth Meyers
KPBT PBS	13	13		13	8	PBS NewsHour		Two for the Road	Daytripper	American Experience		Globe Trekker		Charlie Rose (N)		Newsline	Tavis Smiley
KUPB UNI	4	4		4	16	La rosa de Guadalupe		Despertar contigo		Vino el amor		El color de la pasion		Noticias Tejas	Noticiero noctu.	Contacto Deportivo	
KOSA MNT	16	16		16		Last Man	Last Man	Bones		Bones		Mike&M.	Mike&M.	Anger M.	Anger M.	Tosh.0	Access H.
FLIX	340	575		165		(4:05) Hoop Dreams		Fast Times at Ridgemont ...			River's Edge ★★			(:10) ★ Alone in the Dark Christian Slater.			
HBO	300	550	14	14		(5:30) Pope	Vice News	Steve Jobs ('15, Bio) Michael Fassbender.				(:05) ★★ Fool's Gold				Demolition	
HBO2	302	551	15	101	23	(4:35) The Martian		Now You See Me 2 Jesse Eisenberg.				(:10) Cop Car Hays Wellford.			(:40) Real Sports		Movie
HBOS	304	552	16	102		(5:30) ★★★ Minority Report Tom Cruise.				★★★★ The Big Lebowski Jeff Bridges.				★★★ I Love You, Man			Movie
MAX	380	557	17	120	24	(5:45) ★★ Get Hard Will Ferrell.			★★ Mr. Woodcock			★★★ Monster's Ball Billy Bob Thornton.				(:55) Bad Santa	
MAX2	382	558	18	122		(:05) San Andreas Dwayne Johnson.				Entourage Adrian Grenier.			(:50) ★★★★ The Man From U.N.C.L.E.				Movie
PLEX			96			(5:30) Daddy Day ...		★★★★ Babe			(:35) Babe: Pig in the City			(:10) ★★★ Big Fish Ewan McGregor.			
SHOW	320	565	19	140	25	Movie	(:25) The Affair		(:25) M. Jackson's Journey			Homeland		SEX With	SEX With	Homeland	
TMC	336	573	22	155	26	(5:30) Boulevard		★★ Big Eyes ('14, Bio) Amy Adams.				Sister (2016, Drama)				Tale of Tales	
A&E	27	58	28	35	47	The First 48 "Blood Lust"		The First 48 "A Fighting Chance"		The First 48 "Deadly Favor/ Just Kids" (N)		Nightwatch "Stranger Things" (N)		(:05) The First 48 "Murder in Treme"		(:05) The First 48 "A Fighting Chance"	
AMC	40	74	23	42	51	(4:30) The Italian J...		★★★ The Departed ('06, Thril) Matt Damon, Leonardo DiCaprio.							★★ Inside Man		
BET	58	-		40		Presidential News Conference				Presidential News Conference				An Obama Celebration			
BRAVO	65	76		41		Housewives Atlanta		Housewives Atlanta		Top Chef (N)		(:15) Beverly Hills		(:15) Watch	(:45) Vanderpump R.		(:45) Chef
CNBC	46	52		39	72	Blue	Blue Collar	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Rich (N)	TrumpPre	Rich	Rich	Rich	Rich
CNN	43	50	51	30	56	OutFront		A. Cooper 360		A. Cooper 360		CNN Tonight		CNN Tonight		CNN Tonight	
DISC	50	60	31	24	42	Fast N' Loud		Fast N' Loud: Revved Up (N)				Diesel Brothers		Diesel Brothers		Diesel Brothers	
DISNEY	56	64	36	25	36	Underc.	Good Luck	StuckMid	GoodLuck	Liv/Mad	Liv/Mad	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Jessie	Jessie	Girl M.	Friends
ESPN	32	35	48	31	30	NCAA Basketball (L)				NCAA Basketball (L)				SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
ESPN2	34	36	49	32	31	NCAA Basketball (L)				NCAA Basketball (L)				ITF Tennis Australian Open (L)			
FNC	45	48	53	23	55	On the Record		The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File		Hannity		The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File	
FOOD	64	70	27	68	54	Chopped "Taco Time!"		Chopped		Chopped		BeatFlay	Beat Flay	Beat Flay	Beat Flay	Chopped	
FREEFORM	53	63	34	42	33	(5:30) ★★ Tooth Fairy			★★★ Home Alone 2: Lost in New York					The 700 Club		Gilmore Girls	
FSSW	37	38	50	45	29	Mavs Pre (L)	NBA Basketball Dallas Mavericks at Miami Heat Site: American Airlines Arena -- Miami, Fla. (L)					Maverick-ks Live (L)	Cowboys Insider	Cowboys Legends	ACC (N)	Champio. "Football: 4A, 5A and 6A"	
FX	31	56	59	64	69	(4:30) Identity Thief		★★★★ Let's Be Cops Jake Johnson.				Baskets	Baskets	Baskets	★★★★ Let's Be Cops		
HALLMARK	54	71	58		34	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls
HGTV	63	69	26	48	44	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	H.Hunt	House (N)	H.Hunt	House	FlipFlop	FlipFlop
HISTORY	71	59	29	50	43	Pawn S.	Pawn Star	Alone		Alone (N)		(:05) The Selection (N)		(:05) Six "Pilot"		(:05) Alone	
LIFETIME	28	30	25	28	48	Project Runway "En Garde Avante Garde"		Project "Step It Up from Day to Night" (N)		Runway "Light Up the Runway" (N)		Tiny House Nation: Family Edition (N)		Project Runway "Light Up the Runway"		Project Rway "Step It Up from Day to Night"	
MSNBC	47	53		49	73	Hardball		All in With C. Hayes		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word		11thHour	Hardball	Rachel Maddow	
NBCSN	38	43				FigSkate	Curling Night in America (N)				Figure Skating U.S. Championship (L)						Curling
NICK	55	-	39	34	37	Paradise	Thunder	★★ Surf's Up Shia LaBeouf.			F.House	Friends	Friends	Nashville (N)		Friends	Friends
SPIKE	30	-	55	53	58	(5:00) ★★★ Fast Five ('11, Act) Vin Diesel.				Lip Sync	Lip Sync	Lip Sync	Caraoke	Awkward	Lip Sync	Lip Sync	Lip Sync
SYFY	66	82	41	57	67	(5:35) ★★ Quantum of Solace Daniel Craig.				★★★ Shutter Island ('09, Myst) Mark Ruffalo, Leonardo DiCaprio.						Incorporated	
TBS	25	33	44	66	41	Seinfeld "The Pie"	Seinf. "The Stand-In"	2 Broke Girls	2 Broke Girls	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Conan Cristela Alonzo (N)		Billy on the Street	Conan
TCM	41	75	24	63	66	(4:30) The Razor's ...		★★★ Here Comes the Groom				★★★ Magic Town Jane Wyman.				★★ Larceny, Inc.	
TELE	20	-	10	20		Caso cerrado		La fan		La Doña		El Chema		Al rojo	(:35) Titular.	La Doña	
TLC	51	61	32	38	52	My 600-lb Life "Nikki's Story"		My 600-lb Life "Cynthia's Story" Cynthia is a 610-pound single mother raising five kids. (N)				Extreme Weight Loss "Jeff and Juliana"		(:05) My 600-lb Life "Cynthia's Story" Cynthia is a 610-pound single mother raising five kids.			
TNT	24	34	40	26	50	NBA Tip-Off		NBA Basketball Washington Wizards at New York Knicks Site: Madison Square Garden -- New York City, N.Y. (L)					NBA Basketball Minnesota Timberwolves at Los Angeles Clippers Site: Staples Center -- Los Angeles, Calif. (L)				
TVLAND	49	-	35	54	35	Griffith	A. Griffith	Griffith	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens
USA	26	55	42	27	49	Law & Order: S.V.U. "Transitions"		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Pattern Seventeen"		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Colony "Somewhere Out There" (N)		Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family
WGN	19	85				Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops

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IndyCar drivers eager to keep momentum as season nears

By Michael Marot
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Last fall, James Hinchcliffe kept dance fans on their toes.

Now he's hoping those memorable moves help the IndyCar Series take an even bigger step — expanding its audience.

Less than two months after surprisingly toe-tapping his way to a runner-up finish on the hit show "Dancing With The Stars," the popular Canadian driver returned to Indianapolis to explain how his performances could drive ratings.

Hinchcliffe has already detected differences.

At airports, the top driver for Schmidt Peterson Motorsports said he's being stopped more frequently to talk about dancing instead of his pole-winning run at the 100th Indianapolis 500 or being the self-proclaimed Mayor of Hinchtown.

The extra publicity comes as IndyCar appears to be making progress in generating a larger fan base. According to Nielsen Media Research, the series averaged 1.28 million viewers for the 16 races in 2016. That's a 12 percent increase over 2015 and its highest average since 2011.

The same research also showed the 11 races televised on NBC Sports Network and CNBC decreased by almost 30,000 people per race. And after selling out the series' biggest event, the 500, few expect that to happen again in 2017 for the 101st running of the iconic race.

So after a crucial season, many are hoping Hinchcliffe's appearance will keep fans revved up.

Last week, president of competition and operations Jay Frye presided over the release of sketches of what the next generation of IndyCars might look like. Frye said Wednesday the actual design could be released by March 1 and a prototype could be on display in May.

A sleeker look could help.

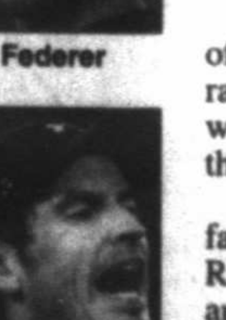
"It reminds me of my car when I joined in 2000," said veteran Oriol Servia, who will compete in at least two races for Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing this season. "I thought those cars were maybe better looking than those today. I don't think it's going to revolutionize the world, but it's definitely better to have better looking cars when you're trying to attract fans."

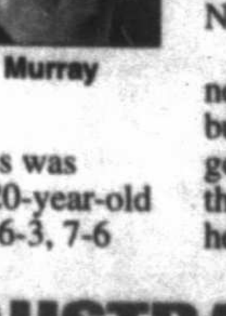
Earlier this week, Frye also announced a new contract with longtime partner Firestone, a deal that will give teams more tires to use in practice sessions. The hope is more on-track activity will translate into better ticket sales leading up to the races.

Murray, Federer advance to 3rd round at Australian Open

By John Pye
Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — An hour after his win, Andy Murray still hadn't been able to get any video to see how he twisted his ankle and tumbled to the ground.


Federer


Murray

There's a good chance the most-viewed clip by that stage at the Australian Open was of the between-the-legs shot by enigmatic local hope Nick Kyrgios late Wednesday in his surprising loss to Andreas Seppi in the second round.

The third day of the season-opening Grand Slam had gone generally to script until the evening.

Roger Federer's progress was straight-forward, beating 20-year-old qualifier Noah Rubin 7-5, 6-3, 7-6 (3) to maintain his record of never failing to reach the third round at the 18 Australian Opens he's contested.

After back-to-back wins over qualifiers, the 17-time Grand Slam champion's comeback from a six-month injury layoff will increase in the degree of difficulty. Next up, Federer faces 2010 Wimbledon finalist Tomas Berdych, who had a 6-3, 7-6 (6), 6-2 win over Ryan Harrison.

Also looming, potentially, is No. 5 Kei Nishikori, the 2014 U.S. Open finalist.

They're all in the top-heavy quarter of the draw with the top-ranked Murray, who for a few moments at least was wondering if he'd make it to the third round.

Murray's shoe caught on the surface and he tumbled to the court at Rod Laver Arena, clutching his right ankle and cringing in pain during the third game of the third set against No. 156-ranked Andrey Rublev.

The five-time Australian Open runner-up continued and won that game, but told himself, loudly, "It's not good news." He saw a trainer during the next change of ends, but decided he didn't need any extra treatment on his already heavily braced joint.

He limped and stretched for a while, but went on to win 6-3, 6-0, 6-2.

"I was moving OK toward the end," he said, "so that's positive."

Speaking at a midnight news conference, Murray mentioned that his ankle had throbbed during the match and he hadn't been able to see the replay to determine the cause.

It was Murray's 178th win in a Grand Slam match, joining Stefan Edberg in a tie for eighth on the list of match winners in the Open era.

Murray next faces No. 31 Sam Querrey, who had 7-6 (5), 6-0, 6-1 win over 17-year-old wild-card entry Alex De Minaur.

U.S. Open champion Stan Wawrinka, who won his first major title in Melbourne in 2014, advanced 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 over Steve Johnson and will next play No. 29 Viktor Troicki in the lower quarter of the draw's top half.

That part of the draw is now missing No. 7 Marin Cilic and the 14th-seeded Kyrgios, who were beaten in night matches.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN RESULTS

Wednesday
At Melbourne Park
Melbourne, Australia
Purse: $37.4 million (Grand Slam)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles
Men
Second Round

Malek Jaziri, Tunisia, def. Alexander Bublik, Kazakhstan, 6-2, 6-3, 7-5.

Kei Nishikori (5), Japan, def. Jeremy Chardy, France, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.

Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (12), France, def. Dusan Lajovic, Serbia, 6-2, 6-2, 6-3.

Lukas Lacko, Slovakia, def. Dudi Sela, Israel, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4.

Tomas Berdych (10), Czech Republic, def. Ryan Harrison, United States, 6-3, 7-6 (6), 6-2.

Stan Wawrinka (4), Switzerland, def. Steve Johnson, United States, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

Mischa Zverev, Germany, def. John Isner (19), United States, 6-7 (4), 6-7 (4), 6-4, 7-6 (7), 9-7.

Roger Federer (17), Switzerland, def. Noah Rubin, United States, 7-5, 6-3, 7-6 (3).

Sam Querrey (31), United States, def. Alex de Minaur, Australia, 7-6 (5), 6-0, 6-1.

Viktor Troicki (29), Serbia, def. Paolo Lorenzi, Italy, 6-3, 1-6, 7-6 (3), 3-6, 6-3.

Jack Sock (23), United States, def. Karen Khachanov, Russia, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

Andreas Seppi, Italy, def. Nick Kyrgios (14), Australia, 1-6, 6-7 (1), 6-4, 6-2, 10-8.

Dan Evans, Britain, def. Marin Cilic (7), Croatia, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-3.

Steve Darcis, Belgium, def. Diego Schwartzman, Argentina, 6-3, 6-3, 2-6, 6-4.

Andy Murray (1), Britain, def. Andrey Rublev, Russia, 6-3, 6-0, 6-2.

Bernard Tomic (27), Australia, def. Victor Estrella Burgos, Dominican Republic, 7-5, 7-6 (4), 4-6, 7-6 (5).

Women
Second Round

Venus Williams (13), United States, def. Stefanie Voegele, Switzerland, 6-3, 6-2.

Elina Svitolina (11), Ukraine, def. Julia Boserup, United States, 6-4, 6-1.

Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (24), Russia, def. Natalia Vikhlyantseva, Russia, 6-2, 6-2.

Duan Ying-Ying, China, def. Varvara Lepchenko, United States, 6-1, 3-6, 10-8.

Alison Riske, United States, def. Zhang Shuai (20), China, 7-6 (7), 4-6, 6-1.

Svetlana Kuznetsova (8), Russia, def. Jaimee Fourlis, Australia, 6-2, 8-1.

Angelique Kerber (1), Germany, def. Carina Witthoeft, Germany, 6-2, 6-7 (3), 6-2.

Jelena Jankovic, Serbia, def. Julia Goerges, Germany, 6-3, 6-4.

Kristyna Pliskova, Czech Republic, def. Irina-Camelia Begu (27), Romania, 6-4, 7-6 (8).

Eugenie Bouchard, Canada, def. Peng Shuai, China, 7-6 (5), 6-2.

Sorana Cirstea, Romania, def. Carla Suarez Navarro (10), Spain, 7-6 (1), 6-3.

Anastasija Sevastova (32), Latvia, def. Kristina Kucova, Slovakia, 6-3, 6-4.

Mona Barthel, Germany, def. Monica Puig (29), Puerto Rico, 6-4, 6-4.

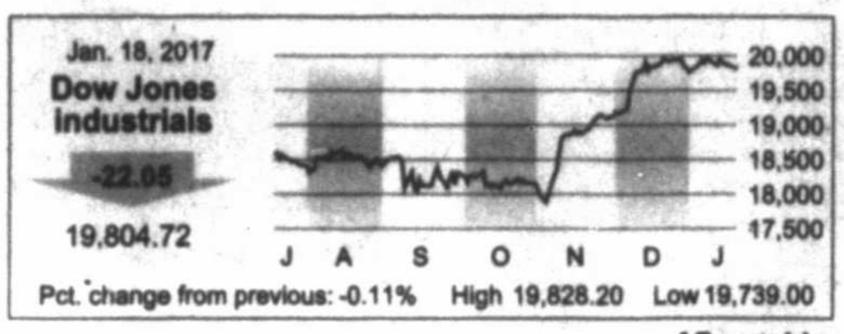
CoCo Vandeweghe, United States, def. Pauline Parmentier, France, 6-4, 7-6 (5).

Garbine Muguruza (7), Spain, def. Samantha Crawford, United States, 7-5, 6-4.

Ashleigh Barty, Australia, def. Shelby Rogers, United States, 7-5, 6-1.

BUSINESS & OIL

A DAY ON WALL STREET



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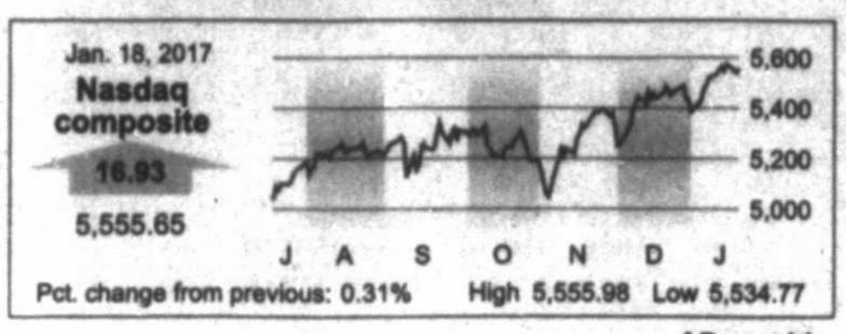

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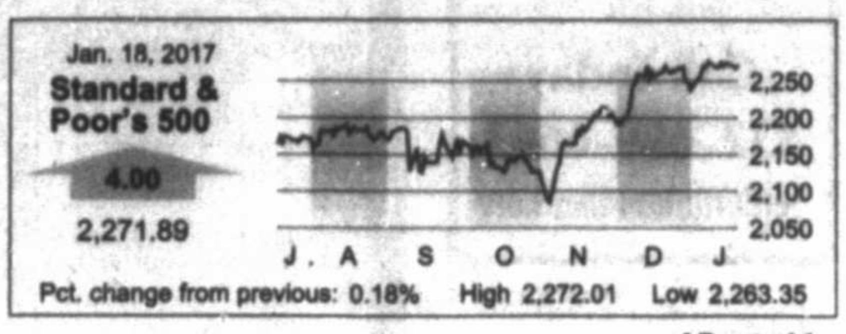

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OIL PRICES

FUTURES

Wednesday:	$51.08
Previous:	$52.48

POSTED

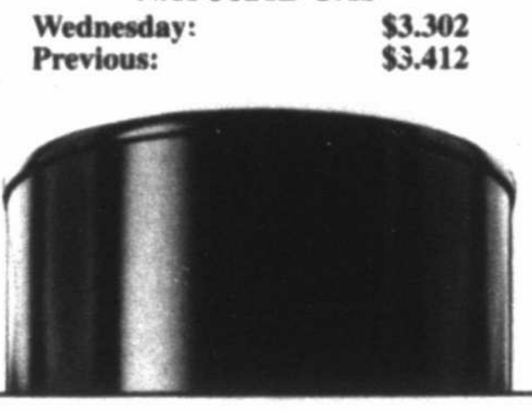
Wednesday:	$47.50
Previous:	$49.50

WEST TEXAS SOUR

Wednesday:	$43.05
Previous:	$45.05

NATURAL GAS

Wednesday:	$3.302
Previous:	$3.412



NYSE

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
BkofAm	1215064	22.63	+.58
VanEGold	680378	23.01	-.35
SPDR Fncl	673984	23.14	+.19
DxGBull s	513923	10.01	-.46
DrGMBll s	503242	8.35	-.85

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
BridgptEd	11.46	+1.21	+11.8
ScorpBlk rs	6.70	+.70	+11.7
DorianLPG	10.50	+1.00	+10.5
OneBeacon	16.54	+1.38	+9.1
USSteel	34.93	+2.69	+8.3

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Gigamon	31.40	-12.65	-28.7
Pearson	7.13	-2.86	-28.6
Camaco g	10.85	-2.42	-18.2
BonanzaCE	2.50	-.50	-16.7
DrGMBll s	8.35	-.85	-9.2

DIARY

Advanced	1,599
Declined	1,364
Unchanged	110
Total issues	3,073
New Highs	81
New Lows	17
Volume	3,204,797,300

AMEX

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
NDynMn g	75470	2.53	+.03
BritATob	61329	114.15	+1.05
Globalstar	54785	1.41	-.04
B2gold g	51215	2.79	-.08
UraniumEn	47603	1.49	-.08

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Plenex	8.39	+.77	+10.1
ErinEn rs	3.35	+.25	+8.1
Majesco n	5.88	+.28	+5.0
PowrREIT	7.19	+.34	+4.9
Earthstone	14.01	+.61	+4.6

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
OncoCyte n	6.00	-.65	-9.8
AmShrd	3.90	-.35	-8.2
EnFuel grs	2.12	-.18	-7.8
ImunoCll rs	2.40	-.19	-7.3
WTBrzReal	16.67	-1.29	-7.2

DIARY

Advanced	152
Declined	191
Unchanged	19
Total issues	362
New Highs	5
New Lows	...
Volume	120,809,916

NASDAQ

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Apple Inc	225661	119.99	-.01
SiriusXM	196343	4.60	+.03
CSX	192553	36.88	-1.21
MicronT	192192	22.32	+.58
Microsoft	179669	62.50	-.03

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
ApricusB rs	2.86	+1.35	+89.4
aTyrPhm n	3.25	+.80	+32.7
CoLucidP n	46.25	+11.35	+32.5
CmstkH rs	2.42	+.55	+29.3
GlobusM rs	6.17	+1.32	+27.2

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
EnteroM rs	5.62	-3.28	-36.9
BenitecB n	2.36	-.65	-21.5
OasmiaPh n	3.01	-.70	-18.8
MagellP rsh	13.15	-2.78	-17.5
SpanBrdc	2.40	-.50	-17.2

DIARY

Advanced	1,587
Declined	1,227
Unchanged	222
Total issues	3,036
New Highs	81
New Lows	30
Volume	1,590,700,471

American Airlines to sell restricted 'basic economy' ticket

Associated Press

DALLAS — The evolution of a caste system in the economy cabin of jetliners is deepening, with passengers divided and treated differently based on how much they are willing to pay the airline.

American Airlines announced Wednesday that passengers will be able to buy "basic economy" tickets starting next month that will be similar to bare-bones fares already offered by Delta Air Lines and soon to be matched by United Airlines.

If you want to get the cheapest fare on American or United, you will have to leave that rolling carry-on bag at home. Passengers who pay basic-economy rates on those carriers will be limited to one item that fits under their seat — no wheeled bags that take up space in the overhead bins.

American didn't describe prices for its version of basic economy, which will begin at 10 U.S. airports and later be expanded nationwide and to close international destinations such as the Caribbean.

On randomly chosen flights next month on Delta, the basic-economy price ranged from $7 to $25 cheaper than a regular economy ticket. Rick Seaney, CEO of FareCompare.com, said savings can be even higher because Delta tends to try to match prices for Spirit Airlines and Frontier Airlines. But, he said, Delta limits the number of basic-economy seats much the same way that it limits seats available for customers paying with frequent-flier miles.

The idea behind the stripped-down ticket is to better compete with discount airlines for travelers on a tight budget. Spirit and Frontier go after those customers with cheap fares, then tack on fees for extras including use of the overhead bins.

Delta offers basic economy on about 40 percent of its U.S. routes and plans to cover them all by year-end and expand it to international flights. United officials said Wednesday that they will begin selling a similar ticket by the end of March at one airport, Minneapolis, for travel starting in late spring or early summer, then expand to the rest of the U.S.

If you buy a basic-economy fare on American, you can expect this:

■ No wheeled carry-on bags; you'll be allowed just a single item that fits under the seat.

■ You will be in the last group to board the plane unless you're already a high-level member of American's loyalty program or hold an American-branded credit card.

■ Tickets are nonrefundable and can't be changed.

■ No upgrades allowed.

Yellen: Expect Fed to gradually hike rates over next 3 years

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen says she expects the Fed to raise its benchmark interest rate several times a year through 2019, as it moves closer toward to its economic goals of maximum employment and stable inflation.

But in a speech in San Francisco Wednesday, she said she can't say when the next interest rate will occur or how high rates will rise. She says that will depend on how the economy performs in the coming months.

She says Fed officials, who boosted rates for a second time last month, expect to raise rates "a few times a year" until they have pushed the Fed's benchmark rate close to 3 percent by the end of 2019. The rate now stands in a range of 0.5 percent to 0.75 percent.

The 3-percent level for the Fed's target for the federal funds rate, the interest that banks charge each other, is the point that the Fed currently believes is the so-called neutral rate — the level where the Fed's interest rate policies are not spurring growth or holding it back.

"Right now, our foot is still pressing on the gas pedal, though, as I noted, we have eased back a bit," Yellen said.

Currently, Yellen said inflation is still running below the Fed's 2 percent objective, by its preferred measure of prices, and that some measures show that even though unemployment is below 5 percent, there could still be room to make further progress on jobs.

She said that, as the economy gets closer to the Fed's goals on employment and inflation, it will make sense to "gradually reduce" the level of support the Fed is providing by raising interest rates.

"Waiting too long to begin moving toward the neutral rate could risk a nasty surprise down the road — either too much inflation, financial instability, or both," Yellen said in her speech to the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco.

During her appearance, Yellen made no mention of the incoming Trump administration. President-election Donald Trump was critical of Yellen during the campaign, accusing the Fed of being political and keeping interest rates low to help Democrats.

Yellen has denied this charge. She has said she intends to remain as Fed chair until her term ends in February 2018.

Stock indexes stay stuck

The stock market hasn't been this boring in years.

The Standard & Poor's 500 remained at a near standstill Wednesday, the ninth day in a row that it has moved by less than 0.4 percent, up or down. That's its longest streak of listlessness since the summer of 2013. Other indexes were mixed.

The S&P 500 rose 4 points, or 0.2 percent, to 2,271.89. The Dow Jones industrial average slipped 22.05 points, or 0.1 percent, to 19,804.72. The Nasdaq composite index added 16.93, or 0.3 percent, to 5,555.65.

Stocks have been in a wait-and-see period in recent weeks following their torrid run since Election Day. The S&P 500 is up 6.2 percent since Donald Trump's surprise victory of the White House, driven higher by expectations for lower corporate taxes and less regulation. Trump will take the oath of office Friday.

"It's natural after such a remarkable run postelection to have a bit of a flat, quiet period as investors wait for some more tangibles," said Katie Nixon, chief investment officer at Northern Trust Wealth Management.

Metal prices end mixed

Gold slipped 80 cents to $1,212.10 per ounce, silver rose 13 cents to $17.27 per ounce and copper fell 9 cents to $2.62 a pound.

MIDLAND STOCKS

Midland-Headquartered Publicly Traded Companies

Clayton Williams Energy (CWEI)
Closing Price $146.55 Up 1.30

Concho Resources (CXO)
Closing Price $135.68 Up 0.26

Dawson Geophysical (DWSN)
Closing Price $7.95 Up 0.03

Diamondback Energy (FANG)
Closing Price $100.52 Up 0.08

Legacy Reserves (LGCY)
Closing Price $2.44 Down 0.05

Mexco Energy (MXC)
Closing Price $4.73 Up 0.06

Natural Gas Services Group (NGS)
Closing Price $30.10 Down 0.20

RSP Permian (RSPP)
Closing Price $42.22 Down 0.64

Ring Energy (REI)
Closing Price $13.31 Down 0.07

Viper Energy Partners (VNOM)
Closing Price $16.71 Down 0.07

HOW STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST FARED

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
AK Steel	...	30	10.07	+.62	-1.4
AT&T Inc	1.96	16	40.80	-.31	-4.1
Abraxas	...	...	2.71	-.04	+5.4
AdaDvsEq	.92e	...	12.99	+.05	+2.2
AMD	...	...	9.88	+.06	-12.9
AlonUSA	.60	...	11.85	+.04	+4.1
Ambev	.06e	...	5.31	-.03	+8.1
Amgen	4.60f	14	155.77	+.97	+6.5
Anadarko	.20	...	69.89	-.83	+.2
Apache	1.00	...	62.91	+.06	-.9
Apple Inc	2.28	15	119.99	-.01	+3.6
ApldMatl	.40	20	33.69	+.39	+4.4
ApricusB rs	...	...	2.86	+1.35	+120.0
ArcelorMit	...	29	8.23	+.10	+12.7
Archrock	.48f	...	15.05	-.10	+14.0
AriadP	...	...	23.70	+.06	+90.5
ATMOS	1.68	22	75.24	+.50	+1.5
AutoData	2.28	29	102.91	-.16	+.1
BP PLC	2.40e	...	37.10	-.34	-.7
BakrHu	.68	...	61.74	-.16	-5.0
BkofAm	.30f	18	22.63	+.58	+2.4
B iPVxST rs	...	...	21.31	-.08	-16.5
BaringsCp s	1.20	...	15.63	+.14	+1.0
BarrickG	.08	38	16.82	-.42	+5.3
BasicEnS	...	...	.45	...	...
BerkHa A	...	16240700.00+1534.00			-1.4
BlkHillsCp	1.68	22	62.21	+.48	+1.4
BrMySq	1.56f	39	56.07	-.21	-4.1
BrownFA s	...	29	46.04	+.10	-.5
BrownFB s	...	...	44.77	+.31	-.3
CSX	.72	20	36.88	-1.21	+2.6
CVS Health	1.70f	15	83.54	-.38	+5.9
Cameco g	.30	...	10.85	-2.42	+3.6
Caterpillar	3.08	25	93.33	+.53	+.6
Celestic g	...	10	12.23	+.06	+3.2
Cemex	.29t	...	8.31	+.02	+3.5
CntryLink	2.16	10	25.47	...	+7.1
ChesEng	...	...	6.98	-.03	-.6
Chevron	4.28	...	115.94	-.34	-1.5
Chicos	.32	29	13.45	-.05	-6.5
Cimarex	.32	...	138.34	-.60	+1.8
Cisco	1.04	14	30.03	+.04	-.6
Citigroup	.64	16	57.39	-.99	-3.4
ClayEng	...	...	146.55	+1.30	+22.9

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
CliffsNRs	...	21	9.43	+.27	+12.1
CocaCola	1.40	25	41.29	+.07	-.4
ColgPalm	1.56	24	67.86	+.76	+3.7
ConAgra	.80	20	38.72	+.11	-2.1
ConchoRes	...	...	135.68	+.26	+2.3
ConocoPhil	1.00	...	50.27	+.12	+.3
CrackerB	4.60	21	158.75	+2.34	-4.9
CSVInvNG	...	...	3.84	+.20	+26.7
CSVelIVST	...	...	55.55	+.14	+18.8
CSVixSh rs	...	...	6.57	-.07	-31.0
CredSuiss	1.21e	...	15.30	-.19	+6.9
CrosTim	1.06e	14	18.72	-.02	+4.2
DCP Mid	3.12	17	37.50	-.93	-2.3
DTE	2.92	22	98.89	-.31	+.4
Dataram rs	...	...	1.57	+.12	-28.6
Delcath rs	...	...	.40	-.07	-56.3
DevonE	.24	...	46.36	-.12	+1.5
DxGIMBr rs	...	...	20.14	+1.58	-42.6
DrGMBll s	...	...	8.35	-.85	+49.6
DxGBull s	...	...	10.01	-.46	+31.0
Disney	1.56f	19	108.16	+.19	+3.8
DowChm	1.84	19	57.71	+.38	+.9
DryShp rs	...	1	1.59	-.03	-56.9
EOG Rescs	.67	...	105.40	-.08	+4.3
EmpDist	1.04	23	34.09	...	...
Energen	.08	...	56.16	+.10	-2.6
EngyTsfr	4.22	...	35.55	-1.10	-.7
EnPro	.84	50	66.30	-.29	-1.6
EntProdPt	1.64	21	27.68	-.01	+2.4
Ericsson	.46e	...	5.91	-.10	+1.4
ExxonMbl	3.00	34	86.28	-1.08	-4.4
Facebook	...	35	127.92	+.05	+11.2
FordM	.60a	6	12.41	...	+2.3
FrptMcM	...	...	15.24	+.18	+15.5
GATX	1.60	8	57.21	+.54	-7.1
GabMultT	.94e	...	7.51	-.02	+3.7
GAInv	1.15e	...	31.98	+.09	+2.6
GenElec	.96f	28	31.23	-.04	-1.2
Gerdau	.02e	...	3.86	-.17	+22.9
Gigamon	...	43	31.40	-12.65	-31.1
Goldcrp g	.24	...	15.31	+.16	+12.6
GtPlainEn	1.10f	16	27.43	-.06	+.3
HP Inc	.50	9	14.58	...	-1.8
Hallibrtn	.72	...	55.13	+.12	+1.9

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
iShBrazil	1.03e	...	35.66	-.53	+7.0
iShChinaLC	.76e	...	36.58	+.18	+5.4
iShEMkts	.84e	...	36.46	-.20	+4.1
iS Eafe	1.70e	...	59.20	-.17	+2.5
iShiBxHYB	5.09	...	87.31	+.06	+.9
iShR2K	1.77e	...	134.85	+.44	...
Intel	1.04	16	36.76	-.04	+1.4
InterDig	1.20	15	89.30	+1.10	-2.2
JPMorgCh	1.92	14	83.94	+.39	-2.7
JohnJn	3.20	18	114.70	-.17	-.4
Keycorp	.34	17	18.13	+.42	-.8
KimbClk	3.68	19	116.40	+.37	+2.0
KindMorg	.50	51	22.44	-.11	+8.4
Kinross g	...	...	3.56	-.07	+14.5
LegacyRes	.60m	...	2.44	-.05	+15.1
Lubys	...	...	4.03	+.07	-5.8
Macys	1.51	12	29.44	-.46	-17.8
Mallinckdt	...	...	46.53	-2.89	-6.6
McDnlds	3.76f	23	122.71	-.04	+.8
Merck	1.88f	16	61.17	-.31	+3.9
MeritMed	...	35	26.35	-.05	-.6
MexcoEn	...	...	4.73	+.06	-5.4
MicronT	...	...	22.32	+.58	+1.8
Microsoft	1.56f	26	62.50	-.03	+.6
MorgStan	.80	15	42.86	+.71	+1.4
Nabors	.24	...	17.38	-.06	+6.0
NatGrid	3.35e	...	58.30	-1.09	-.1
NOilVarco	.20	20	37.42	-.25	-.1
Netflix s	...	...	133.26	+.37	+7.6
NobleCorp	.08	...	7.14	-.07	+20.6
NSTFI3	.55e	...	14.36	-.03	+1.3
NTXQI	.65	...	13.90	-.06	+1.3
Nvidia	.56f	62	102.95	+1.84	-3.6
OcciPet	3.04f	...	69.32	-.41	-2.7
ParTech	...	18	5.95	-.10	+6.6
ParkDrl	...	...	2.70	...	+3.8
PattUTI	.08	8	27.51	-.41	+2.2
Penney	...	...	6.81	-.13	-18.1
PennaRE	.84	76	18.22	-.16	-3.9
Prmian	.41e	23	8.34	+.13	+8.2
Petrobras	...	...	11.17	-.10	+10.5
Pfizer	1.28f	13	32.03	-.03	-1.4
PioNtrl	.08	...	183.01	+1.99	+1.6
PlainsAAP	2.20	28	31.01	-.31	-4.0
PwShs QQQ	1.52e	...	123.04	+.25	+3.8

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
Praxair	3.00	22	116.60	-.32	-.5
PrmEgy	...	...	59.00	...	+9.3
PUVixST rs	...	...	30.19	-.21	...
ProctGam	2.68	23	84.93	+.39	+1.0
Qualcom	2.12	18	65.13	+.94	-.1
RangeRs	.08	...	34.35	+.59	...
RegionsFn	.26f	18	14.03	+.25	-2.3
RennovaH	...	...	.09	-.01	+8.4
RexEngy	...	...	.88	+.14	+86.8
ReynAm s	1.84f	27	58.00	+.32	+3.5
Rowan	.40	6	19.16	-.21	+1.4
RoyDShllA	3.76	83	54.84	-.70	+.8
SpdrDJIA	3.98e	...	197.95	-.14	+.2
S&P500ETF	4.13e	...	226.75	+.50	+1.4
SabnR	1.86e	17	36.20	-.25	+3.0
SanderFm	.96f	11	93.27	-.13	-1.0
Schlmbrg	2.00	57	87.48	+1.05	+4.2
Schwab	.28	34	41.10	+.77	+4.1
SiriusXM	.01p	38	4.60	+.03	+3.4
Smucker	3.00f	17	133.00	+.74	+3.9
SwstnEngy	...	...	9.69	+.01	-10.4
SPDR Fncl	.46e	...	23.14	+.19	-.5
SunocoLog	2.04f	51	23.94	-.70	-.3
Target	2.40	12	66.85	-4.09	-7.4
TelefEsp	1.03e	...	9.65	-.07	+4.9
Tesoro	2.20	10	81.63	+.80	-6.7

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
3M Co	4.44	22	178.49	+1.23	...
Torchmark	.56	17	73.81	+.81	+.1
TriContl	.82e	...	22.33	-.04	+1.3
Twitter	...	...	17.11	+.15	+5.0
TylerTech	...	54	150.98	-.23	+5.8
UBSI	1.32	23	44.15	+.50	-4.5
US OilFd	...	...	11.16	-.27	-4.8
USSteel	.20	...	34.93	+2.69	+5.8
Vale SA	.29e	...	9.94	+.43	+30.4
ValeantPh	...	17	15.11	-.13	+4.1
ValeroE	2.40	14	66.75	+.56	-2.3
VanEGold	.12e	...	23.01	-.35	+10.0
VanE JrGld	...	...	36.89	-1.22	+13.3
VangEmg	1.10e	...	37.06	-.14	+3.6
VerizonCm	2.31f	15	52.25	-.49	-2.1
VulcanM	.80	44	127.30	+3.64	+1.7
WEC Engy	2.08f	20	59.38	+.03	+1.2
WalgBoots	1.50	18	84.12	-.10	+1.6
Weathfintl	...	...	5.33	-.09	+6.8
WellsFargo	1.52	13	54.27	+.49	-1.5
WstnRefin	1.52	24	35.24	+.35	-6.9
WhitingPet	...	...	12.04	-.13	+.2
WmsCos	.80	66	28.34	-.10	-9.0
XcelEngy	1.36	20	41.33	+.13	+1.5
Xerox	.31	9	7.02	+.09	+22.1

Can't find your favorite stocks or mutual funds listed?
Send your favorite to sdoreen@mrt.com or mmcewen@mrt.com.
We will regularly update the Permian Basin stocks list.

INDEXES

52-Week High	52-Week Low	Name	Last	Chg	Net %Chg	YTD % Chg	52-wk % Chg
19,999.63	15,450.56	Dow Jones Industrials	19,804.72	-22.05	-.11	+.21	+25.61
9,490.29	6,403.31	Dow Jones Transportation	9,140.87	+41.29	+.45	+1.07	+37.96
723.83	570.73	Dow Jones Utilities	663.56	-.93	-.14	+.60	+14.60
11,688.45	8,937.99	NYSE Composite	11,196.11	-.18	...	+1.26	+22.27
5,584.26	4,209.76	Nasdaq Composite	5,555.65	+16.93	+.31	+3.21	+24.24
2,282.10	1,810.10	S&P 500	2,271.89	+4.00	+.18	+1.48	+22.19
1,698.70	1,215.14	S&P Midcap	1,679.97	+7.24	+.43	+1.17	+33.87
23,875.45	18,462.43	Wilshire 5000	23,753.65	+42.31	+.18	+1.40	+24.51
1,392.71	943.09	Russell 2000	1,358.56	+6.24	+.46	+.10	+35.95

TODAY: Sunny	FRIDAY: Mostly sunny	SATURDAY: Partly sunny	SUNDAY: Sunny	MONDAY: Sunny	TUESDAY: Sunny
High: 67 Low: 43	High: 60 Low: 42	High: 60 Low: 40	High: 60 Low: 36	High: 68 Low: 43	High: 60 Low: 34

Local forecast

The winds are expected to gust as high as 40 mph today and 35 mph Friday, according to the National Weather Service. There is also a 20 percent chance of showers Saturday.

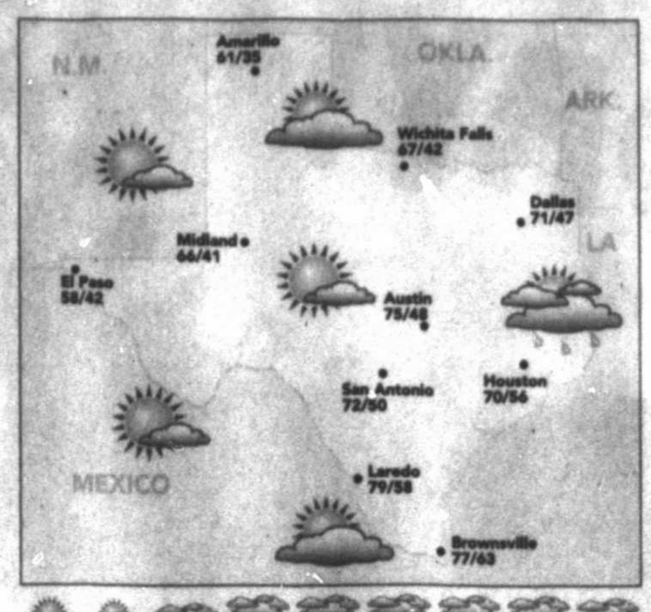
The record high for Jan. 18 is 83 set in 2000. The record low is 7, set in 1949. On Jan. 16 of last year, the high was 51 and the low was 29.

Weather brief

Ice storm paralyzes parts of Pacific North

TROUTDALE, Ore. — An ice storm shut down major highways Wednesday in Oregon and Washington state and paralyzed towns in the Columbia River Gorge with up to 2 inches of ice at the same time rising temperatures in Portland raised the prospect of flooding after the largest snowstorm in years.

As temperatures hovered around freezing, Interstate 84 was shut down for about 45 miles in an area northeast of Portland and again farther east due to blizzard conditions. Transportation officials had no immediate plans to reopen the highway connecting Oregon and Idaho.



Precipitation

Tuesday	0.16 in.
Wednesday	0.00 in.
Month total	1.12 in.
Year total	1.12 in.
Normal total (year to date)	0.28 in.

Wednesday's temperatures

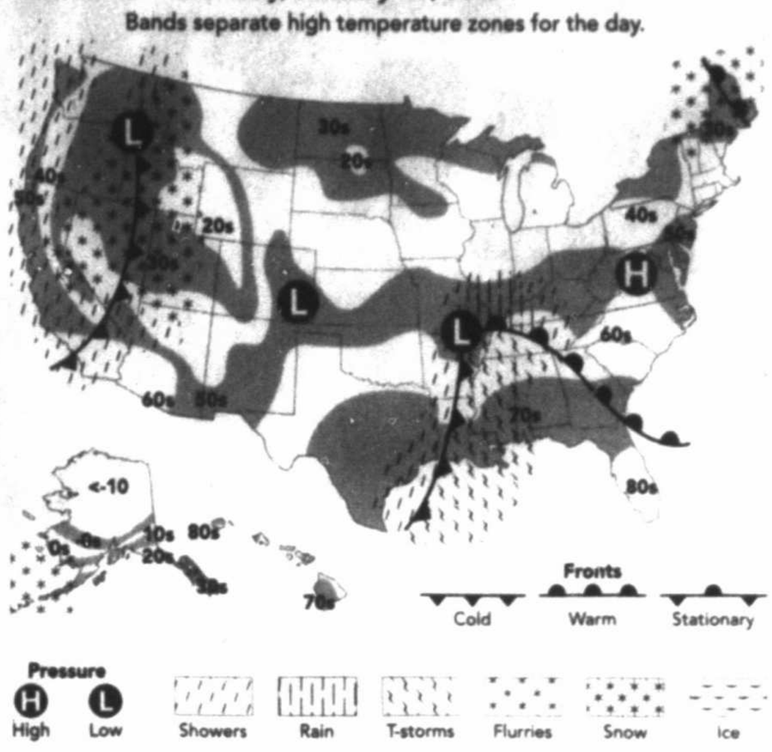
High	59
Low	44
Normal high	57
Normal low	30
Sunrise	7:48 a.m.
Sunset	6:11 p.m.

National weather

AccuWeather.com

Forecast for Thursday, January 19, 2017

Bands separate high temperature zones for the day.



Mom gives blessing to kids attending church with grandma

DEAR ABBY

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

DEAR ABBY: I am an atheist. My parents, although raised Presbyterian, never to my knowledge participated in organized religion, so it was not part of my upbringing.

Last year, my mom started going to church again, and my kids have been going with her. I've always said they can make their own choices and I'd support them.

Mom is about to go south for the rest of the winter and there's no obvious church member the kids can go with, but they'd like to keep attending. Would it be wrong for me to go with them on Sundays, even though I don't believe in the church doctrine and won't be otherwise involved in the organization?

I'm sure I could be unobtrusive, but I'm not sure what to say if someone asks why I'm there — especially since I'll stop going once my mother returns to town. The kids are tweens and not old enough to go alone. What do you think? — WHAT'S APPROPRIATE?

DEAR WHAT'S: When people see one another in a house of worship, they usually assume that they are equally religious and that's why they're there. However, if you are asked why you're there, all you have to say is that your children enjoy being there and your mother is away, so you brought them. I don't think it's necessary to announce to anyone that you're an atheist.

DEAR ABBY: My husband is constantly complaining about the cost of groceries. He recently graduated from college and now works in the corporate world making substantially more than he did before. I'm 16 weeks pregnant, but before I quit my job I was working full time and would buy all the groceries. Now that my husband shares an account with me, he constantly makes me feel bad for buying food.

Abby, I'm not talking about $300 a week; it's more like $70 a week for food. Yet he spends twice that amount on beer, video games and lunches for himself. I have told him numerous times how horrible he makes me feel, and have even cried about it, but today he brought up the topic again. He is making me depressed and afraid of buying food for fear of being mocked and "guilted." What am I to do? — THE COST OF GROCERIES

DEAR COST: Your husband should be ashamed of himself. The next time he complains, stand your ground and tell him in no uncertain terms it's time to grow up and cut it out. He's no longer a kid; he's a married man with responsibilities. Those groceries are feeding his wife and child, and you both need all the nourishment you can get right now.

Also, stress for a woman in your expectant condition isn't good for you or the baby. I think it's time the guilt trip worked both ways, don't you?

DEAR ABBY: Is it appropriate to stay in contact with my former mother-in-law? Her son and I divorced after three years. She was the best thing to come out of the whole fiasco. I don't want to cause friction, but I would like to continue to send birthday and holiday cards. — DIVORCED WITH NO REGRETS

DEAR DIVORCED WITH NO REGRETS: I can't see how a holiday card relationship with your former mother-in-law would cause friction. However, because you are concerned, the person to ask would be the lady herself. If she would welcome the attention from you, then send them.

GOREN BRIDGE

With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Thoughtful shift

Both vulnerable, West deals

	NORTH ♠ A K J 7 ♡ K 10 ♢ K 3 2 ♣ A K 10 4	
WEST ♠ 6 5 ♡ A 8 7 4 3 ♢ A 8 ♣ Q J 7 5		EAST ♠ Q 10 8 4 2 ♡ Q J 6 2 ♢ 7 6 ♣ 9 3
	SOUTH ♠ 9 3 ♡ 9 5 ♢ Q J 10 9 5 4 ♣ 8 6 2	

The bidding

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1	Dbl	3 *	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	5
All pass			

*Pre-emptive

Opening lead: Ace of ♢

North's second double showed a very good hand, and South might have passed. The defense can extract a painful two-trick penalty as long as they get after their diamond trick soon enough.

Instead, South chose an aggressive jump to game over the timid four-diamond alternative. South's decision is not clear-cut. What would you have done?

West shifted to a spade at trick two. South won with dummy's ace and led a low trump to his queen and West's ace. West continued with another spade. Declarer won with dummy's king, cashed the king of diamonds, drawing trumps, and ruffed a spade, hoping to ruff out the queen. No luck there, so the only remaining chance was to find West with both missing club honors. South lead a club, said a silent prayer, and inserted dummy's 10 when West played low. Success! South's aggressive bidding had paid off and he scored up his vulnerable game.

West could have made a better effort on defense. Should partner have a spade trick, there was no rush to get after it. There was a clear danger, however, with the ace-king-10 of clubs sitting over him in the dummy. West should have shifted to a low club at trick two. What declarer would stake his contract on the double club finesse before making some play in spades. It's quite likely that a club shift would have seen the defense prevail.

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Jan. 19, 2017:

This year you alternate between feeling very fortunate professionally or popular within your community and feeling discouraged by everything you have to do. You also have an unusually high energy level. If you are single, meeting someone exciting who can provide you with a meaningful relationship becomes most likely after summer. If you are attached, the two of you might decide to become more active within your immediate circle or take up a hobby together. SCORPIO can be difficult at times.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★ You might go from feeling optimistic to wanting to withdraw. Understand that your emotions go up and down; they never will be the same for long. Don't judge yourself so harshly. You know what to do — you just don't want to do it. Tonight: Hook up with a loved one.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★ You have given enough thought to a project, and you finally are at the point of acting on it. Check out any last-minute details before you launch into action — and the sooner, the better. Someone you consider a dear friend wants to get together. Tonight: Live in the moment.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★ Pace yourself and understand your limitations. If you want to try a different approach or do something differently, test it out. Timing is working for you in the next few days. You might not like the results of your experiment, but you can always try again. Tonight: Be both naughty and nice.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★ You have been reserved about a personal matter and might wonder which way to go. You see life from a different perspective from many others, so experimenting seems right. What do you have to lose? Tonight: A dear friend moves in closer, as he or she cares a lot about you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★ Remain anchored, despite how someone else expresses his or her feelings. This person's hostility might not be directed at you, even though it could feel like it. Regardless, you'll need to make him or her aware of this. Tonight: Decide to go with the flow.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★ Make solid decisions for yourself, both financially and emotionally. How you handle a friend's temper is your call. You finally might decide to let this person have it, as you have absorbed a lot of his or her problems. Be more upbeat about your choices. Tonight: Live it up!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★★ Willingly let go of what you cannot change. When you're relaxed, you might come up with the perfect solution. Be aware of the possibilities that surround a specific idea. Someone you care for is about to become more visible in your life. Tonight: Dance the night away.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★ Take your time making a decision. Your follow-through counts on a deeper level with a roommate or family member. You will enjoy the company of a loved one or several friends. Kick back and make plans to visit others this weekend. Tonight: Smile wherever you are.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★ Do not embrace negativity; instead, kiss it goodbye! By being more upbeat, you will create more positive situations. A quarrelsome roommate, associate or family member can't seem to let go of a recurring issue. Distance yourself, if need be. Tonight: With friends at a favorite spot.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★ You might be prepared to deal with a money matter, but you can hold out a little longer if that makes you more comfortable. Open up to better days and a more positive outlook. The particulars regarding a loved one will emerge, to your surprise. Tonight: Let your hair down.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ You feel a distinct change as the Sun enters your sign today. You could be happier and less reflective. Set aside time to connect and chat with someone who reaches out to you. Use caution with your spending. Tonight: Be with a friend, but make yourself your top priority.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★ Use the daylight hours to the max. Try to restrain an outburst of anger or sarcasm, as it will get you nowhere quickly and could push away someone you need in your life. Try to channel your frustration and irritation into some exercise. Tonight: Have a quiet chat over dinner.

BORN TODAY

Writer Edgar Allan Poe (1809), singer Janis Joplin (1943), actress Jean Stapleton (1923)

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Naproxen brand
6 Yap
10 Documentary divisions
14 Ricoh competitor
15 Green-skinned "Return of the Jedi" girl
16 Approaching
17 Not shady
18 Action figure?
19 Site of Shah Jahan's tomb
20 Protective charm often adorned with feathers
23 Decorative globe
26 Ice cream maker Joseph
27 Holed a five-footer, say
28 Start of a hands-off declaration?
30 Fivers
32 Pigs out (on), briefly
33 Stamina-testing ballroom event
36 Longtime Labor Day telethon org.
37 Wild bunch
38 Gold units: Abbr.
40 Forensic analyst's discovery
46 Swiss river
48 "Peter Pan" pooch
49 Travel org. freebie
50 Lamentation
52 Miss an easy grounder, say
53 It can follow directions
54 Device found in this puzzle's three other longest answers
58 Cold drink brand
59 Come & Get It! pet food maker
60 Annoyed
64 Like some warnings
65 Jetty
66 "Keen!"
67 Fresh answers
68 Quick on one's feet
69 "Business @ the Speed of Thought" co-author

DOWN

1 Guns N' Roses' Rose
2 Sheltered side
3 Bit of work
4 Cancel
5 More than just edgy
6 Morning fare since 1952
7 Study, e.g.
8 Actor Baldwin
9 Rampart topper
10 Legislate
11 Punctual
12 Concurred
13 Result of a messy breakup?
21 Wax-coated cheese
22 Rear
23 Ancient
24 Gad about
25 Wall Street figures
29 1980 Chrysler debut
30 Something in the air
31 Cake with a kick
34 "Too true!"
35 Creole vegetable
39 German industrial region
41 Youngest Brontë
42 Short rests
43 Weight allowance
44 Stud, e.g.
45 ICU worker
46 Rose garden pests
47 "The Good Wife" wife
51 Nice thoughts?
52 Bishop John for whom a Georgia university was named
55 Movie trailer unit
56 Imitator
57 One-half base times height, for a triangle
61 Dennings of "2 Broke Girls"
62 Juillet's season
63 Big affairs

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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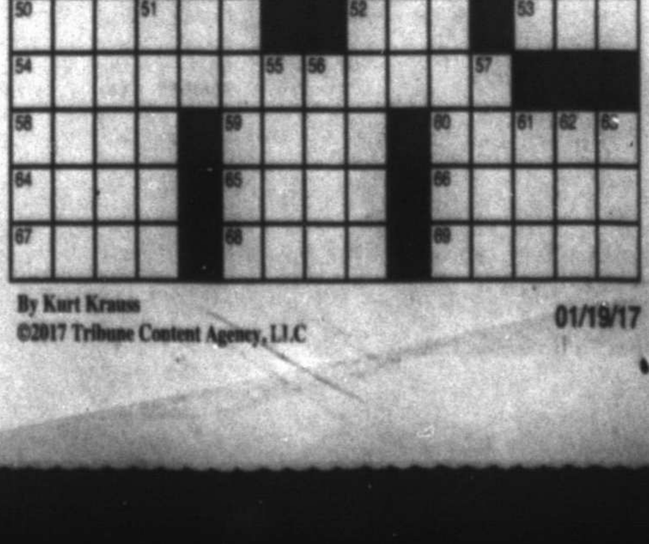
xwordeditor@aol.com 01/19/17



By Kurt Krauss
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ACCOUNTING-FINANCE

Assistant Office Manager

Candidate must be proficient in all aspects of AP/AR, processes payroll, and assist other managers as needed. Must have detailed knowledge of office administration. Ability to work in a fast paced environment. Must have excellent written and oral communication skills with attention to details and maintain a high level of accuracy. Proficient in word, excel and outlook. Must be a self-starter with strong work ethic, and have the ability to make decisions without direct supervision. Minimum five to ten years' experience. Salary is based on experience. Mail Resumes and Applications to: Box M-4 c/o of Midland Reporter Telegram, 201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX. 79701

EDUCATION-TRAINING

Special Needs Teacher

Large Church seeking staff to teach one to two times a month in Sunday morning special needs program. Hours are 9 a.m. -12 p.m. with opportunity for additional hours through the week in other children's programs. Please contact Donna Fields at donnafields@firstmethodistmidland.com for more information or to apply.

ENERGY AND UTILITIES

A/P Specialist

Natural Gas Services Group has an opening for an A/P Specialist. Responsible for entering & closing invoices, entering new vendor information, filing checks and backup, reconciling statements and at times a back-up receptionist. This person must have 2 years' experience of A/P at a large company and working knowledge of general accounting practices. Familiarity with SYSPRO program a plus. NSGSI offers a competitive salary and benefits. Send your resume to **employment@ngsgi.com or call 432-262-2700.**

Automation Technician

Tanklogix is hiring for the position of Senior Level Automation Technician. We are seeking qualified, committed professionals to join our team in the fast-growing automation industry. This position requires a minimum of 3 years oilfield experience and 2 years electrical experience. Journeyman electricians preferred. Competitive pay based upon qualifications. Great benefits and working environment. Applicants must pass a background check, drug screen, and electrical aptitude test. Applications must be picked up at 12200 W. Hwy 80 E., Odessa, TX. Applicants must provide a resume in person. Applications must be received by January 23rd, 2017 at 4:00 P.M.

General Labor, Pit Lining, Foreman

Bugle Energy Services, LLC is hiring for general labor, pit lining and a foreman with minimum of 2 years experience , spray crew with experience in spraying polyurea, (experience in bed lining spraying or auto painting acceptable) Apply in person at 5205 FM 715. Monday, Wednesday or Friday between 7 am - 5 pm or call to set up appointment at (432) 218-7839. Must be able to pass a drug test.

Warehouse Person

Natural Gas Services Group is seeking a Warehouse person. Must have experience with inventory, cycle counts, shipping and receiving. Must be able to lift 60 pounds, pass physical, drug and background check. NSGSI offers a competitive salary and benefits. Send your resume to employment@ngsgi.com or call 432-262-2700.

West Texas Mud Loggers Needed

Co. in business since 1953. Good benefits. Exp. Req. Send resume w/contact info. & exp. to: OFFICE@PWL-INC.COM

HEALTHCARE

LVN

LVN -Full Time needed for Addiction medical clinic. Early morning hours. Medication Management, TB tests, blood draws, medical orders. Paid vacations, holidays, personal days. Routine travel between Midland and Odessa. Periodic travel to Abilene/San Angelo area required. No health insurance available. Please fax resume to 800-671-6364.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Resources Manager

Local manufacturing company seeking professional Human Resource Manager experienced in all areas of HR management & administration including hiring, terminations, benefits, workers compensation, & related functions. Other experience including HS&E, payroll, and bilingual are a plus. Contact Palmer of Texas at 432-523-5904 P.O. Box 1069 Andrews, TX. 79714

Vessel & Tank Welders

Now hiring vessel and tank welders. Must pass drug and weld test. Apply in person at Palmer of Texas 1701 N Hwy 385 Andrews, TX 79714.

MANAGEMENT-EXECUTIVE

Assistant Managers

Panera Bread is coming to Midland, Texas and we have immediate positions open for Assistant Managers. If you have restaurant management experience, excellent communication skills and experience managing and motivating a team, Panera Bread wants to talk to you! As an employee of Panera Bread, you'll receive competitive pay, bonus program, meal discount, medical, dental and vision benefits, paid vacation, and an opportunity for growth. Send resumes to Careers@tcgbc.com. The Cain Holding Group, LLC, a Franchisee of Panera Bread is an equal opportunity employer.

OTHER JOBS

Field/Shop Welder

Field/ Shop Welder, single hand contract. Must have clean driving record. Please call 432-520-3853 or 432-638-8266

Gate Attendants needed

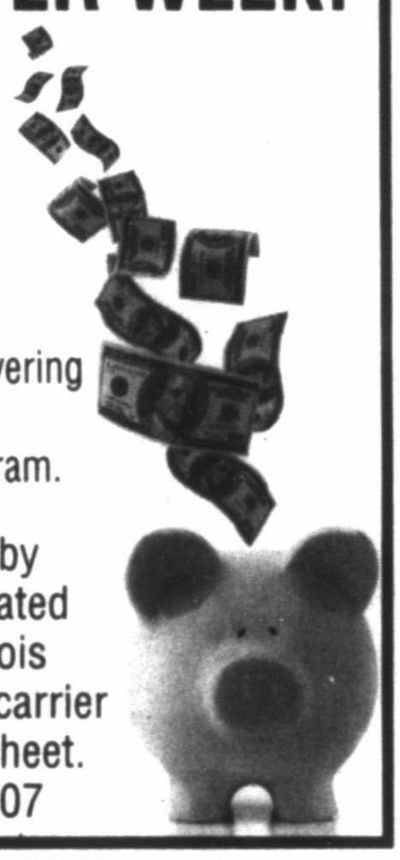
Gate Guard Services is looking for Gate Attendants in West Texas area, must have RV or Traveling trailer and must pass background. Requirements needed: Non-Commissioned license. Please call Patty for more information @ 361-949-6992.

GATE GUARD SERVICES, L.P.

EARN UP TO $500 PER WEEK!

Do you have a reliable car with insurance and a phone?? Become an independent contractor delivering the Midland Reporter-Telegram.

Please come by our office located at 201 E. Illinois and fill out a carrier information sheet. Linda 687-8807



NOW HIRING EQUIPMENT OPERATORS

Entry Level & Experienced Equipment Operators. Must have a Class A CDL License. Apply at TITAN PETROSERVICES 6100 E I-20, MIDLAND TX or submit resume online at www.titanpetroservices.com

Veterinary Technician & a Kennel Technician

Full time Veterinary Technician & a Kennel Technician. Call 432-687-4118 for for more information and an interview.

WANTED LOCKSMITH

Starting at $12 an hour. Looking for someone who wants to make a career by becoming a locksmith. Pay will increase as you show potential. Looking for Shop and Van hands. Need a clean driving record and able to pass a drug screen. No Felonies, or class A or B misdemeanors. **APPLY IN PERSON @ 2507 W. Illinois.**

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Licensed Journeyman Plumber

We are accepting application for an experience, Licensed Journeyman Plumber. We offer top pay and benefits. Come by 3106 W. Kentucky, Midland, Texas to submit a resume or fill out an application. Resumes may be faxed to 432-699-7332.

RETAIL JOBS

SALES ASSOCIATE

Wood's Boots is currently hiring part time sales associates. No phone calls! If you are interested in wearing boots and jeans to work, and working with great customers, come see us at 4803 Andrews Highway & 812 West I-20.

SALES JOBS

Outside Sales Rep

Midland Reporter-Telegram

The Midland Reporter-Telegram is looking for someone with excellent communication skills to provide outstanding customer service to our Retail Advertising customers. Responsibilities include prospecting new clients, working closely with new and existing clients to develop multi-media advertising campaigns that provide outstanding results, tracking sales activity, and meeting/exceeding established monthly sales goals.

Qualified candidates must be a self-starter and possess excellent communication and organizational skills, be detail oriented and assertive, excel in spelling/grammar/punctuation, excel in time management and possess a positive attitude.

We are willing to train and offer a competitive compensation and benefits package, guaranteed commission for three months, a cell phone allowance and the opportunity to advance your career in an exciting, progressive and innovative organization in one of the fastest growing markets in Texas.

If you want to join a **GREAT TEAM** and are ready to **SUCCEED**, please send a resume to:

Chad Anderson, Advertising Sales Manager, 201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX 79701 or **cranderson@mrt.com**. No phone calls please.

Salesperson

Experienced pump salesperson needed. Excellent compensation and benefit plans provided. Please submit resume by fax to 432-570-1115 or email to bobby@basinengine.com. Applications can be filled out at 1914 S. County Rd. 1083, Midland, TX 79706

SKILLED LABOR

Field Mechanics

Basin Engine & Pump

Mechanics needed for Industrial Oilfield Shop. Must be experienced working on centrifugal & positive displacement pumps. Furnish your own tools. Uniforms provided. Benefits package includes vacation, health insurance and retirement match savings. Salary depends on experience. Please submit resume by fax to 432-570-1115 or email to bobby@basinengine.com. Applications can be filled out at 1914 S. County Rd. 1083, Midland, TX 79706.

Industrial Skilled Positions

Floore Industrial Contractors, Inc. are taking applications for the following crafts for West Texas: Journeyman Electrician, Electrician Helpers, Civil Carpenters, Civil Helpers, Pipefitters, Pipe Helpers, Pipe Welders, Rig Welders and Roustabouts. You can a submit an application online at www.flooreindustrialcontractors.com

TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

Class A CDL Drivers

Purity Oilfield Services, LLC (EOE) is now hiring Class A CDL drivers with winch and/or vac truck experience. Competitive pay and excellent benefits. Please contact 432-699-8600 for more information, submit a resume at mkiker@purityoilfieldservices.com, or stop by in person to apply at 11109 West CR 46, Midland, TX 79707.

Class A CDL Driver with Hazmat & Tanker endorsement

Service Seal LLC has an immediate opening for a Class A CDL Driver with Hazmat & Tanker endorsement. We are a stable company that offers a **sign-on bonus**, competitive hourly pay and excellent benefits. More information regarding our benefits will be given during the interview process. This position requires at least 3 years of verifiable professional driving experience, strong computer skills along with passing the pre-employment background screening. Our Drivers have most weekends off and will not have many overnight deliveries. Please submit your resume to tammy@oilcenter.com for review and consideration or contact Rodolfo Sanchez at 432-889-6985 to complete an application in person.

Truck Pusher/Salesman

Truck Pusher/Salesman for a local trucking company. Must have experience, good references and ability to follow D.O.T. regulations. Please send resume' to P. O. Box 53, Midland, Texas. 79702.

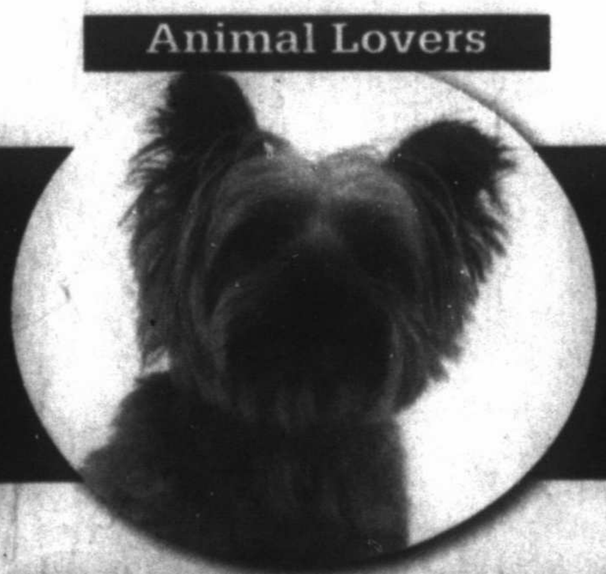
Vacuum Truck Driver

Vacuum Truck Drivers needed. Midkiff Transports, Class A CDL required. Apply at 6601 FM 715, Midland, Texas.

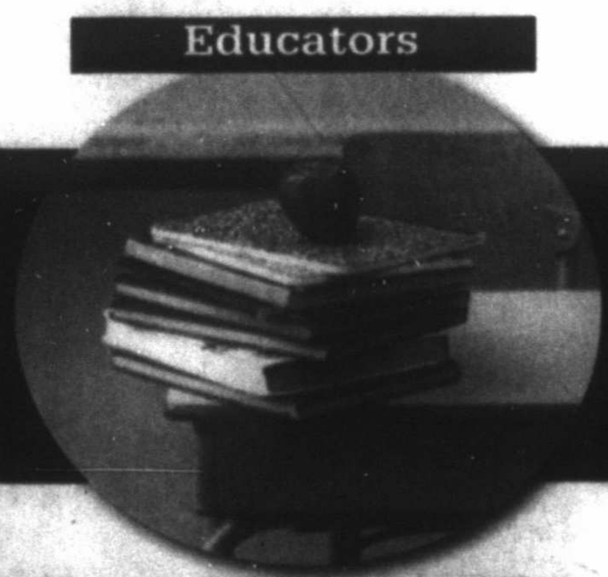
Answer Your Calling

Browse Dozens of **Rewarding Career Opportunities** for

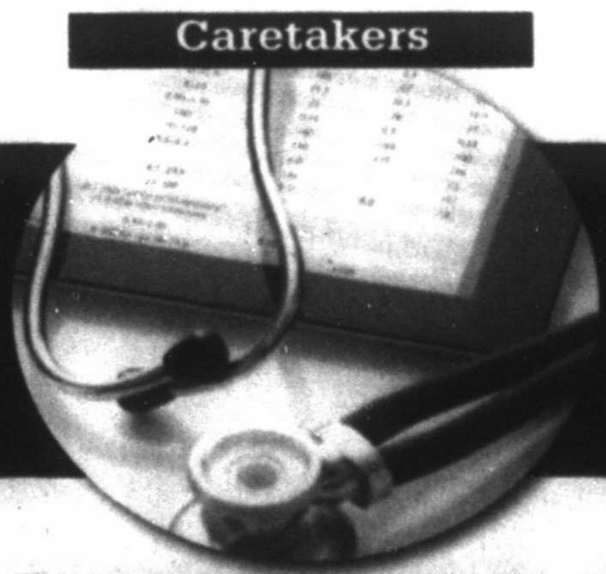
Animal Lovers



Educators



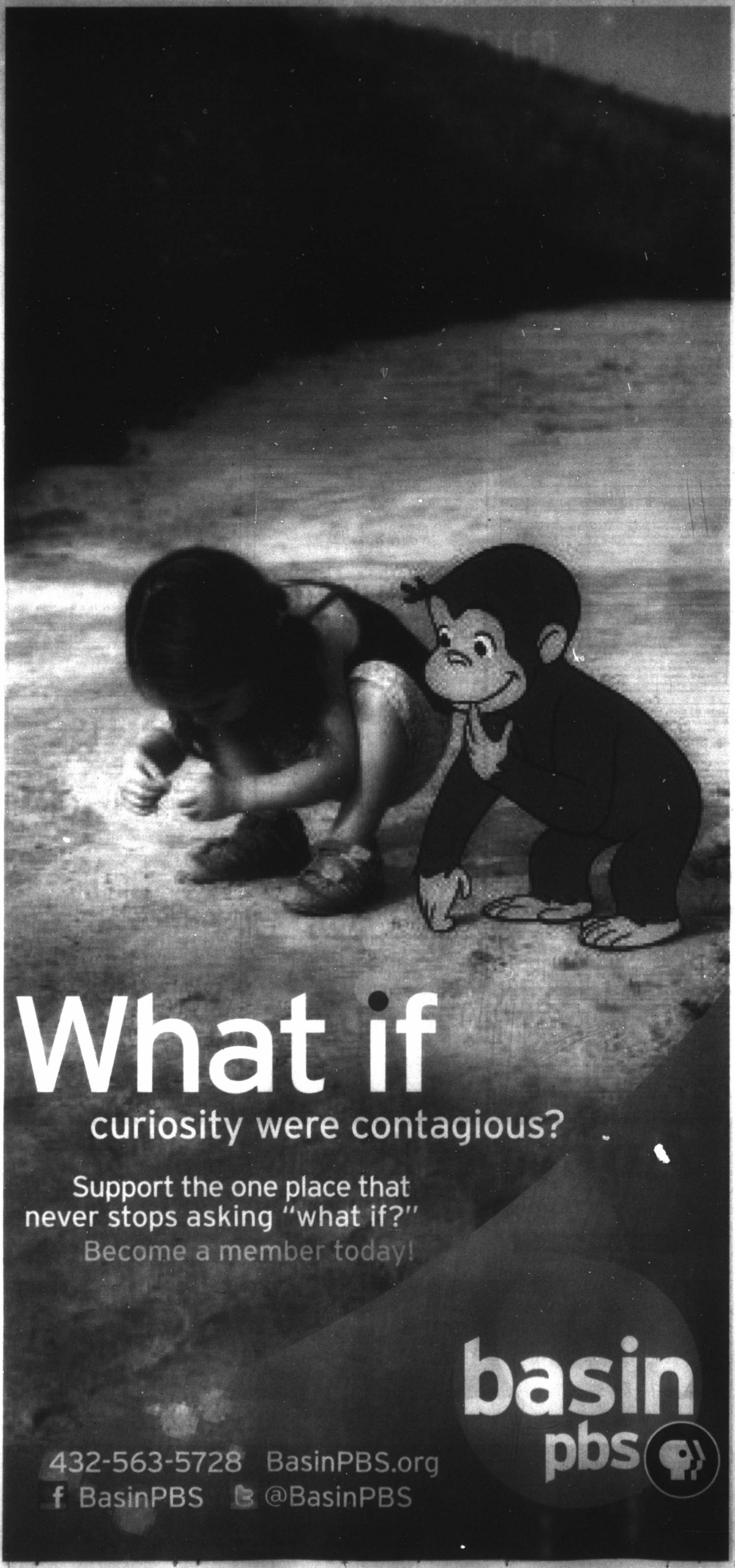
Caretakers



Online Today at mrt★com

Midland Reporter-Telegram **JOBS SECTION**

In Print & Online **432.682.6222**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Legal and Public Notices

Notice to Bidder

The Midland Independent School District (MISD) invites qualified bidders to submit a sealed bid for Bid#17-003 "Paper Products" through the MISD electronic bid system at www.midlandisd.com/domain/44. Bids will be publicly opened and read in the MISD Procurement Services Office at 615 W. Missouri Avenue, Suite 707, Midland, Texas at 2:00 PM CST on Tuesday, January 31, 2017. Bid forms and specifications may be obtained by registering as a vendor at www.midlandisd.com/EBID.

Legal and Public Notices

Notice to Bidder

The Midland Independent School District (MISD) invites qualified bidders to submit a sealed bid for Bid#17-004 "Charter Bus Service" through the MISD electronic bid system at www.midlandisd.com/domain/44. Bids will be publicly opened and read in the MISD Procurement Services Office at 615 W. Missouri Avenue, Suite 707, Midland, Texas at 2:00PMCST on Wednesday, February 1, 2017. Bid forms and specifications may be obtained by registering as a vendor at www.midlandisd.com/EBID.

Legal and Public Notices

Permian Basin MPO Policy Board Meeting

Date: January 23, 2017 5:00 p.m.
Place: Permian Basin MPO
9601 Wright Dr., Suite 1
Midland, TX 79706

The Policy Board of the Permian Basin MPO will hold a regularly scheduled meeting to approve a resolution for the I-20 Corridor Study; to approve an application for continued regional public transportation funding; and to receive updates on planning projects. The Board may conduct an Executive Session as permitted under Chapter 551 of the Texas Administrative Code.

Para ayuda en español por favor envíe un correo electrónico a intor@permianbasinmpo.com.

Legal and Public Notices

Notice Of Application For Fluid Injection Well Permit

XTO Energy, Inc., Opr. No. 945936, 500 W. Illinois, Suite 100, Midland, Texas 79701 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas to amend an existing injection permit to inject fluid, and gas into a formation which is productive of oil and gas. XTO Energy Inc. will modify the injection interval.

The applicant proposes to dispose of these fluids into the Grayburg, San Andres Formation in the Means/ San Andres/ Unit Lease, well number: 1214Z. It is located in Blk A35, Section 2, which is approximately 9.4 miles northeast from the city of Andrews and is in the Means Field in Andrews, TX. Fluid will be injected into the strata in the subsurface depth interval from 4300 to 5000 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Request for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing within fifteen days of publication to the Environmental Services Section Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P. O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512-463-6792)

General Announcement

Mark Berryhill.com Ministering for Christ Teach the Lord's Word 1-4

Mark Berryhill.com Ministering for Christ Teach the Lord's Word 1-4

Lost and Found

FOUND: LAB mix dog around Andrews Hwy. in Midland. Call to identify 432-413-5222.

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

Autos For Sale-Lease

Passenger Cars

2003 PORSCHE 911. CONVERTIBLE Hardtop / Soft top. Lifetime garage. 6,800 miles. $35,000. Saddle Club. Charlie 432-570-1822.

2008 BMW 750I Series. Perfect condition. Beautiful black color. Asking $13,500. 432-770-7982.

Legal and Public Notices

Notice to Bidder

The Midland Independent School District (MISD) invites qualified bidders to submit a sealed bid for Bid#17-002 "Copy Paper" through the MISD electronic bid system at www.midlandisd.com/domain/44. Bids will be publicly opened and read in the MISD Procurement Services Office at 615 W. Missouri Avenue, Suite 707, Midland, Texas at 10AM CST on Tuesday, January 31, 2017. Bid forms and specifications may be obtained by registering as a vendor at www.midlandisd.com/EBID.

Legal and Public Notices

Midland Independent School District

Midland, Texas

Land for Sale

The Midland Independent School District invites qualified bidders to submit a sealed bid to purchase **10.0 Acres of Vacant Land located in S/2 of N/2 of Section 1, Block X, H.P. Hilliard Survey, Midland, Midland County, Texas.**

Bid #17-001 - Sale of 10 Acres located in North Midland County, Texas

may be obtained by registering as a supplier at www.midlandisd.com/domain/44. Bids must be submitted through the MISD electronic bid system. Bids will be publicly opened and read in accordance with the bid documents in the office of Rebecca Mull, Director of Procurement Services, at 615 W. Missouri Avenue, Suite 707, Midland, Texas at **2:00 PM C.S.T. on February 7, 2017.** For questions, contact MISD Procurement Services department at (432) 240-1961.

Legal and Public Notices

Notice of PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given that Metro Self Storage Midland at 315 N. Midland Dr. Midland, Texas 79703 will sell the contents of the storage units listed below at a public auction to satisfy a landlord's lien (pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Statutes-Property Code) The sale will take place at the website StorageStuff.Bid on February 8, 2017 at 1:00 pm. The sale will be conducted under the guidance of Christopher Rosa (#16850) on behalf of the facility's management. Units will be available for viewing prior to the sale at StorageStuff.Bid. Contents will be sold for cash only to the highest bidder. A 10% buyer's premium will be charged. All sales are final. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale or to refuse any bids. The property to be sold is as described as "general household items" unless otherwise noted. Property includes the storage unit contents belonging to the following tenants:

D016-Earl W. Croker Jr.(Couch, Stove & Misc.)
H014-Charles Walters LP. (Couch, Bar Stools & Love Seat)
H014-Garrett Adler (Couch, Bar Stools & Love Seat)
I014-Martha Gonzales (Blowers, Bikes & Refrigerator)
P011-Kathy Bradshaw (Books & Totes)
S022-Kathryn Newbill (Totes & Misc)
S023- Shanequa Hawkins (Kids Bike, Fan & Misc.)

Passenger Cars

NEW 2016 Red Mercedes-Benz SLK 350 convertible. 950 mi. Paid $71,500 ask. $59,000. 325-473-2609, San Angelo, TX.

Pickup Trucks

FOR SALE CHEVROLET 2004 1/2 ton pickup. $5,950. See at 1501 W. Illinois. Call 432-557-3366. Bill Jackson.

Vans and Mini Vans

2013 Town & Country minivan, 72k miles, leather seats, free lifetime oil change, all upgrades, text 432-528-0395. se habla espanol.

4WD and SUV

2008 CHEVY Tahoe. 5.3L V-8. 79,000 miles, 4x4, 3rd row, factory tow package, new Michelin tires, new factory radio/cd, "Blue Granite" with gray cloth interior. 1 owner well maintained. Very clean. $13,500. 432-312-7099

Recreation Vehicles

2016 PREMIER Travel Trailer, 42 foot. 2 bedroom, 3 slides, fiberglass, front kitchen, 3 A/C's, washer/dryer, electric awning, all options. No smokers. No pets. In Odessa. $30,000. Must sell! 432-438-8172

REDUCED
HARLEY DAVIDSON 2005 Road King. 13K miles. $7,500 OBO. MUST SEE! 432-697-9787 leave message

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

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

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

1/19/17

SOLUTION TO WEDNESDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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Garage-Estate-Yard Sale

Yard - Garage Sales

79701

OLD MIDLAND 1400 Princeton Fri. 9-1. Top quality decor & furniture.

Merchandise

Miscellaneous 4-Sale

Brand New Startrac stationary excercise bicycle. All the bells and whistles. Asking $1000 or best offer. Please call Kelly 432-556-1045.

Musical Instruments

OLD PLAYER Piano with a LARGE number of rolls, can also be played as a regular paino. 432-682-9146, 432-212-2590.

Pets-Animals

Dogs

YELLOW LABRADOR Retrievers, AKC, 6 wk shots. 2 females. $500. In Alpine TX. 361-649-6764

Sporting Goods

Permian Basin Gun Show - Ector County Coliseum, Odessa TX, Building G
Saturday & Sunday,
Jan. 21st, 9am-5pm
Jan. 22nd, 9am-5pm
Bought, Sold or Traded
Sponsored by:
John and Shirley Pokorny

Estate Sales

ESTATE SALE
BY JOSEPH & TEAM
#42 Preston Oaks (Odessa)
Wednesday - 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Thursday - 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Friday 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Saturday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

For pictures go to:

http://www.estate sales.net/TX/Odessa/79761/1409781

Real Estate Rental-Sale

Residential Rentals

Apartment Rent Unfurn

4407 CROCKETT Apt A, 2bed/1bath. $825 mo, $825 dep. 432-978-2074.

4407 CROCKETT Apt D, 2bed/1bath. $825 mo, $825 dep. 432-978-2074.

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  - *1,771 ac. windmill, creek, blinds and feeders, great whitetail and mule deer, turkey, hogs, quail $850
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  - *565 ac. Pecan Creek, New Living/Shop, 200 acres cleared for cattle, blinds/feeders, windmill $4,425/ac
- **Howard County**
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76 percent of adults have read a daily newspaper in the past five days.

Source: Scarborough Research, 2005

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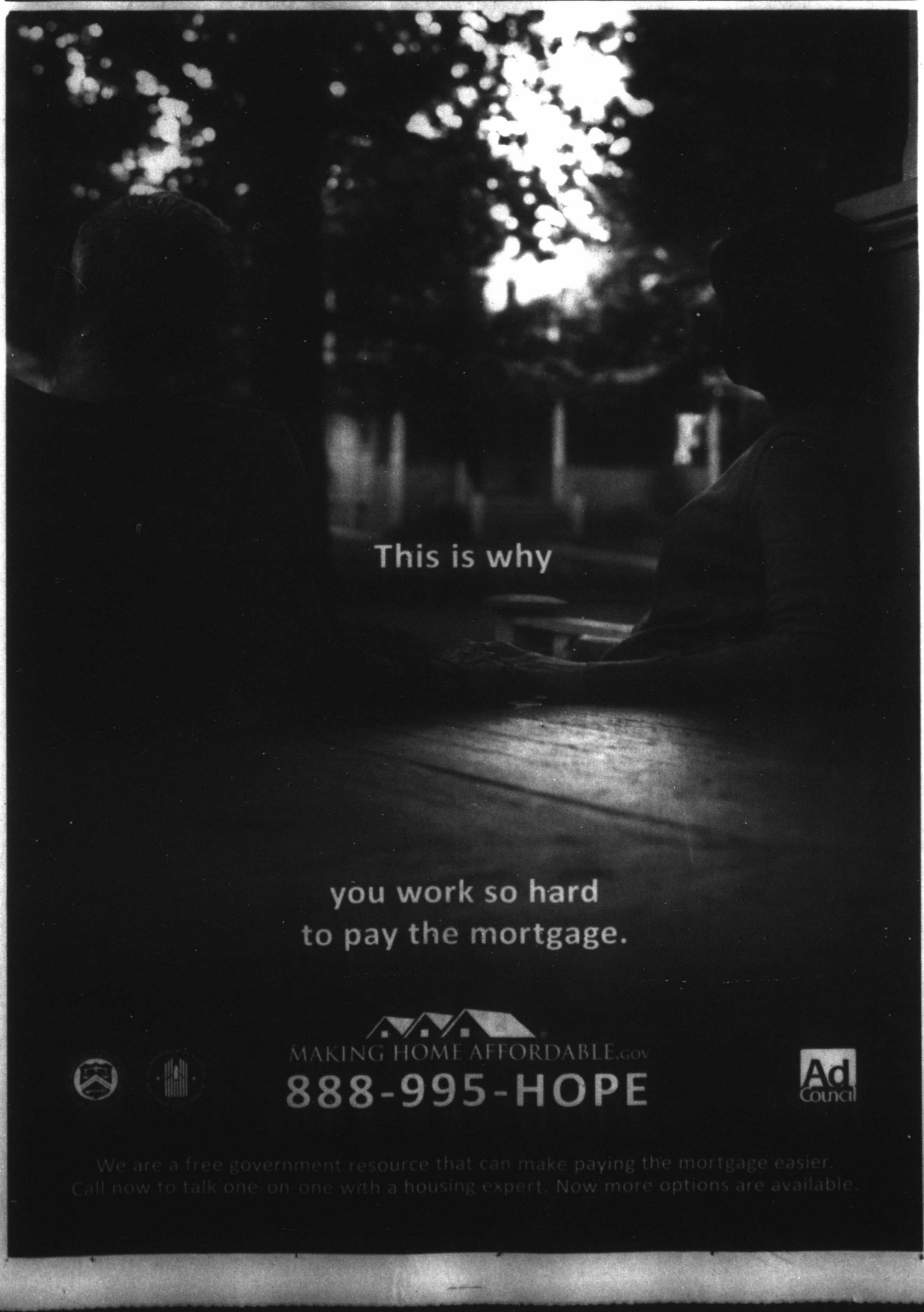

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PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

The **inauguration** is the ceremony in which the new or reelected president is inducted into office. This year it will be held at noon on January 20. It takes place outside the U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C.

The President's Oath of Office

At the inauguration ceremony, the president takes an **oath of office**. With right hand raised and left hand on an open Bible, the new president says the following statement:

the United States."
"I do solemnly swear that I will
ability, preserve, protect and
and will to the best of my
defend the Constitution of
President of the United States,
faithfully execute the office of

Whoops! Cut out the Presidential Oath and paste it on a sheet of paper in the correct order.

Hottest and Coldest Inaugurations

Some presidents have had two inaugurations. That's because they served two terms. One of these two-term presidents had the hottest (55°F/12°C) and coldest (7°F/-13°C) inaugurations. Use the code to discover the name of that president.

1 = A	5 = L						
2 = D	6 = N	8	7	6	1	5	2
3 = E	7 = O						
4 = G	8 = R	8	3	1	4	1	6

Inauguration Day 2017

Photo: Timeshown/Shutterstock

Donald J. Trump will be sworn into office as the 45th president of the United States during his inauguration celebration on January 20th. He will take the oath to "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

President-elect Trump was born on June 14, 1946. Do the math to discover how old he will be on his birthday this year.

2017
– 1946

Standards Link: Civics: Understand the primary responsibilities of each branch of government in a system of shared powers.

How many members of the armed services will take part in Inauguration Day activities? Circle every other letter:

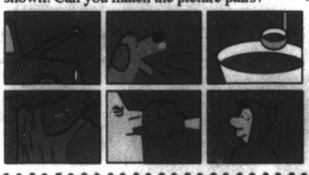
QFTIAVBECTYHSOLURSDAPNMD

F _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

The Inaugural Ball

America's fourth president, James Madison, and his wife, Dolley, were the guests of honor at the first official Inaugural Ball. An Inaugural Ball does not bounce. It is actually a big party.

Like the word **ball**, many words mean more than one thing. Each object shown here has the same name as another object shown. Can you match the picture pairs?



bark
punch
hood

Standards Link: Reading: Identify words with multiple meanings.

Presidential Seal

The Seal of the President of the United States contains a circle of white stars representing America's 50 states. The banner that reads **E PLURIBUS UNUM** is Latin for "out of many, one" meaning out of many states, one country and also, out of many peoples, one nation. There are 13 stars, clouds, leaves and arrows that represent the original 13 states.

Starting with the first letter in each line below, circle every other letter to discover what the olive branch represents and what the arrows the eagle is holding represent.

PTEYANCKEL
DWEBFPEDNASJEV

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Extra! Extra! Word Order

Look through the newspaper to find five or more words that begin with the letter **I**. Cut out the words and glue them onto a piece of paper in alphabetical order. Challenge: Can you do this with more than five words?

Standards Link: Spelling: Alphabetize words to a second or third letter.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

The words in the scrambled sentence below make up a very American sentence. Can you put the words in the right order to reveal the sentence?

THE UNITED PLEDGE OF STATES AMERICA
OF ALLEGIANCE FLAG I TO THE.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

CEREMONY
PRESIDENT
SWEAR
PROTECT
PRESERVE
DEFEND
OATH
FIRST
PARTY
SWORN
HAND
HONOR
WHITE
NOON

H	F	H	U	N	S	T	Y	O	P
O	I	R	P	W	O	N	I	R	R
N	R	S	H	A	O	O	E	A	E
O	S	I	T	M	R	S	N	E	S
R	T	H	E	O	I	T	C	W	E
E	M	R	O	D	R	D	Y	S	R
D	E	F	E	N	D	I	N	M	V
C	E	N	R	O	W	S	C	A	E
N	T	C	E	T	O	R	P	T	H

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Weekly Writing Corner

Dear Mr. President

Students describe what the president should do for kids.

Can you help some of the kids in the world that do not have a house or their family any more so they don't live on the streets and be homeless? They can't go to school and get an education so they can get a good job. Something that I want the president to do is to make some games for kids that are less fortunate because they can't do things that other people can usually do.

Kylie, 3rd grade

This is what I think the new president should do for kids: give us some dollars, give us some chocolate, give us some credit cards.

Anna, 2nd grade

Dear Mr. President: I know you're nice but you need to be nicer to the kids. The kids need your help. You can do it. Saint Jude's needs your help. People are sick in Saint Jude's. The people have cancer in the hospital.

Jackson, 1st grade

I think you should give kids money because some people don't have much money. I also think you should give school supplies and you should give them food because some people maybe only eat three meals and no snacks.

Ashley, 5th grade

I think the president should help out children of the United States. I think he should give more money to go toward schools and education. Instead of cutting programs like sports and music, keep programs like these so kids have more opportunities to find their strengths. If teachers could get more money, schools could hire more teachers. Then, there wouldn't be as many children in the classrooms and kids could get more individual attention. Children are the future of this country. If you want a strong country, you'll need well-educated kids.

Madison, 5th grade

Dear Mr. President: I think you should make more theme parks.

Luke, 2nd grade

The president should give kids medicine who are in the hospital. And also should give food to kids that don't have food. I want the president to make games not that expensive.

Owen, 1st grade

Write On!

What if ...

pigs could fly?
Finish this story.

Deadline: February 12
Published: Week of Mar. 12
Send your story to:

Newspaper In Education
201 E. Illinois
Midland, TX 79701
ljdiaz@mrt.com

Please include your school and grade.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

For the Children Imagine that you have been selected to advise the president on the concerns of children. Look through the newspaper for articles addressing topics that affect children. Make a list of ways you think the president could help children.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Why did George Washington have trouble sleeping?

ANSWER: Because George Washington could not lie.

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