

MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2017

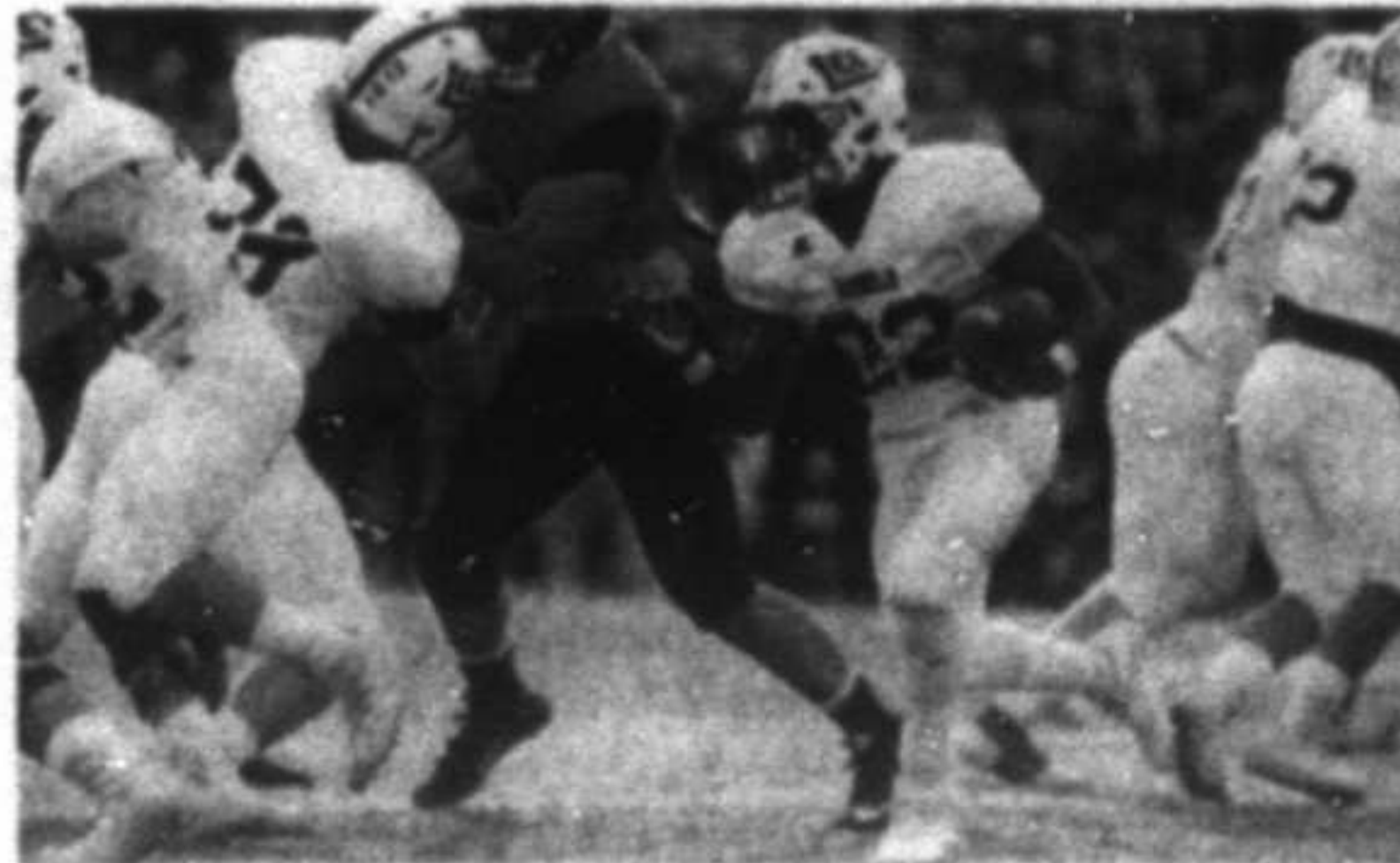
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UIL CUTOFF FIGURES

New conference cutoff numbers and preliminary enrollment figures for 2018-20 were announced.

Page 2C

Mitchell: Rest of state needs West Texas

Rural Texans have more medical issues than in more metropolitan areas

By Trevor Hawes
thawes@mrt.com

West Texas has a perception problem. "When people east of Interstate 35 think of West Texas, they think of tumbleweeds,

terrible weather and ghost towns," Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center President Dr. Tedd Mitchell said Wednesday at the Midland-Odessa Transportation Alliance's annual meeting. Mitchell, a native of Longview, said getting the public to realize how important

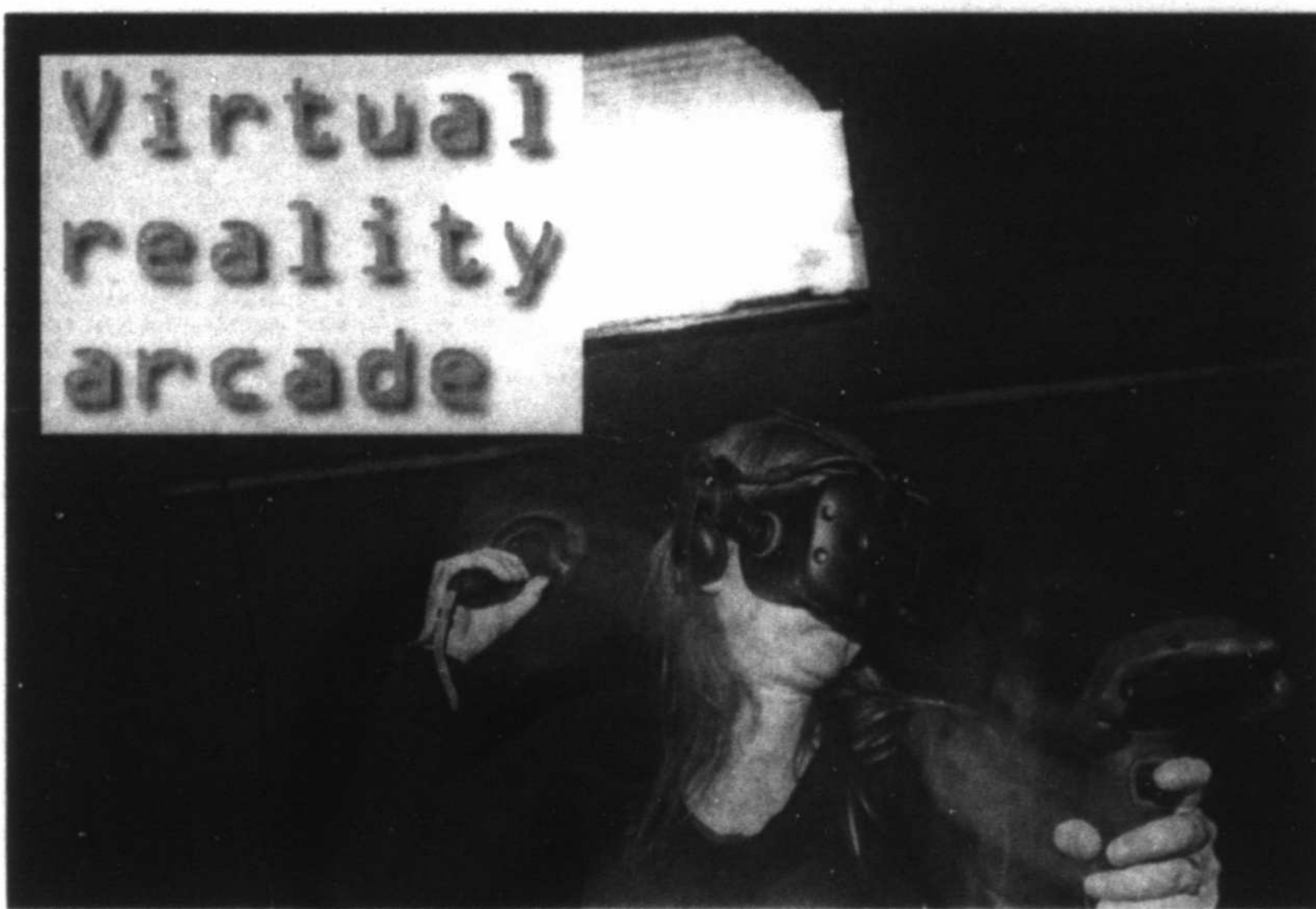
West Texas is to the state's economy is a challenge for several reasons, but a big factor is population.

"The area makes up 12 percent of the population, but we have about 49 percent of the geography that we try to cover," he said in regard to TTUHSC's efforts to

provide health care to West Texas.

West Texas is largely rural, and studies show those who live in the rural areas of Texas have a greater amount of health problems, such as heart attacks and

Please see MOTRAN/4A



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Evelyn Sitz demonstrates a virtual reality game experience Friday at Pandora's Box Virtual Reality Arcade.

Business caters to VR gamers

■ Pandora's Box also can provide rehabilitation services, training services and team building.

By Trevor Hawes
thawes@mrt.com

Virtual reality has arrived in Midland. Pandora's Box Virtual Reality Arcade, 4200 W. Illinois Ave., opened Friday afternoon and is one of a handful of businesses nationwide that cater to the growing VR gaming trend.

"They're really a new beast," spokeswoman Evelyn Sitz told the Reporter-Telegram.

There isn't a set model on how to set up a VR arcade because the variety of hardware on the market offer different features.

Pandora's Box, "is going to have five stations running the HTC Vive headset," Sitz said. "Each station will have its own computer system and will feature at least two games considered a feature title, and each client will have access to our entire game library beyond the feature titles."

Some of those featured titles include "Audioshield," in which the user hits approaching balls to the beat of the music; "Chair in a Room," which is an escape-the-room style horror game; and a first-person shooter called "Bullets and More." Also featured will be "Doom" and "Fallout 4" when they're released.

Gone are the slow, polygonal days of 1990s VR. VR back then featured bulky equipment that cost between \$50,000 and \$200,000, according to a 1991 ABC News report on YouTube. Today's graphics are rich and the movement is smooth. Plus, the price has come down significantly as VR has advanced. A basic HTC Vive setup costs \$599 at BestBuy.com.

Evelyn Sitz's husband, Shea Sitz, co-owns Pandora's Box with his mother, Catherine Sitz. They got the idea of opening an arcade after owning their own system and enjoying the wonderment of friends and family after they tried VR for the first time.

"Every time we've shown it to someone, they're speechless," Evelyn Sitz said. "They can't put into words what it's like because it's so different from

anything they've ever done."

The Sitzes are starting small to test the Midland market but have hopes of someday owning a warehouse-scale VR arcade.

The current facility is kept as dark as possible to facilitate immersion, Sitz said. "Plus, we keep the temperature down a little bit so you don't get overheated while playing."

Pandora's Box targets more than gamers, however.

"We're also trying to get the ball rolling with the medical field and some businesses to provide rehabilitation services, training services and team building," Sitz said. "We have a mobile unit built for companies that want team or training exercises on site at their company."

The company is also in contact with schools for field trips because Pandora's Box offers educational experiences, as well, she said.

To get a spot with at Pandora's Box, it's best to book online, Sitz said. Prices are \$20 for a half hour, \$35 for an hour and \$65 for two hours, plus taxes and fees. Operating hours are: noon-10 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; noon-midnight Friday; 10 a.m.-midnight Saturday; and 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday.

For more information, visit pandorasboxvr.com.

New police chief might have different response to SB 4 than predecessor

By Stewart Doreen
sdoreen@mrt.com

Steve Henry will take over command of the Midland Police Department on Jan. 1, and that is when the community will start the process of getting to know the city's new top law enforcement official.

A few Midland residents might have met Henry when — as a finalist for the position — he took part in a get-to-know-the-candidates forum. Others might have read a Reporter-Telegram question-and-answer with Henry in an ensuing edition. The Q-and-A took place when Henry was just a candidate.

However, Henry's arrival in Midland could create a change in mindset, because it appears his point of view on State Senate Bill 4 might be different than his predecessor, Price Robinson.

Senate Bill 4 was a measure that calls for local police departments to take a greater role in enforcing federal immigration laws. The Texas Legislature passed the bill during the 2017 legislative session. According to the Texas Tribune, "as passed, SB 4 allows local law enforcement officers to question the immigration status of people they detain or arrest and punishes local government department heads and elected officials who don't cooperate with federal immigration 'detainers' — requests by agents to turn over immigrants subject to possible deportation — in the form of jail time and penalties that exceed \$25,000."

U.S. District Judge Orlando Garcia in late August halted several parts of the bill, according to the Tribune.

Robinson was on the record that SB 4 would create a distrust of law enforcement. He was part of the Legislative Committee for the Texas Police Chiefs Association, which signed a letter expressing "united opposition" to the so-called sanctuary cities bill, according to the San Antonio Express-News.

Robinson's opposition to SB 4 was also in direct opposition to Midland's representatives in the Legislature — state Rep. Tom Craddick and state Sen. Kel Seliger, who voted for the legislation.

"Local law enforcement should not be mandated to enforce federal immigration

Please see HENRY/4A

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January 2018

Did you know?

'Silence Breakers'

were named Time magazine's Person of the Year. Page 7A

Word of the Day:

sholar

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

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Obituaries



Eddie Joe James, Sr.

Eddie Joe James, Sr., 74 of Midland, Texas, passed away on December 5, 2017.

Service will be held on December 8, 2017 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home at 11:00 a.m. Eddie was born on August 8, 1943, in Big Spring, Texas to Cecil and Virgie James. He married Panzy Myrick on February 3, 1967. Eddie and Panzy had Eddie Joe James, Jr. on July 26, 1971 and Tammy JoAnna James on February 5, 1975.

Eddie spent his life helping others. He loved working on cars and drag racing. Eddie spent many years in the truck industry. His coworkers and friends valued his loyalty and compassion for everyone.

Eddie is survived by his wife, Yolanda James, son, Eddie Joe James, Jr. of Midland; grandson, Slayd Karson Casey and wife Alexa of Waco, Texas; granddaughters, Tiffany Nicole James, 18, and Macy Elaine James, 16, of Midland; daughter, Tammy JoAnna James Fields, and granddaughter, Nikki Renee Fields, 18, of Midland; brothers, Claude Hendricks and wife Mary of Pueblo, Colorado and David James and wife Janice of Odessa, Texas; and sisters, Robie D Davis and wife Sharon Hutchinson of Seattle, Washington, and Linda Spears and husband Joseph of Ocean Springs, Michigan.

Eddie is also survived by numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Eddie is preceded in death by his wife, Panzy Onela Myrick James, mother, Virgie Davis and stepdad Robert Davis, father, Cecil James, Sr., sister, Sue James, and brother, Cecil James Jr. and wife Lucy James of Prescott, Arizona.

The family would like to express their gratitude toward Hospice of Midland, and to Eddie's coworkers and close friends for all their love and support through this time.

Flowers can be delivered to Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory.

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

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



Ella Denice Scurlock

Ella Denice Scurlock, 60, of Midland, Texas, was the 7th of 15 children; she was born on October 12, 1957 in Stanton, Texas to Eddie B. Scurlock and the late Warren Clyde Scurlock. Ella accepted Christ as her personal Savior with St. James Baptist Church in Stanton. She was a member of New Jerusalem

Baptist Church and attended school in Stanton, graduating from Stanton High School in 1975.

Ella had a beautiful smile and was always very supportive and helpful to her mother, siblings, and her nieces and nephews. She enjoyed planning for family functions and her favorite pastime was decorating and watching HGTV.

Ella was employed with various oil companies throughout the years. She also loved working with the youth and was employed with St. Luke's as a part-time teacher on Sundays and with the Midland YMCA in the daycare center.

Ella passed from this life on December 1, 2017 after a gradual decline in health at Midland Memorial Hospital. She was surrounded and supported by her mother, siblings, nieces and nephews, and other friends during her last days. We will miss your beautiful smile, Ella!

She is preceded in death by her father, Warren C. Scurlock and by her four older brothers, Lawrence Scurlock, Roy Scurlock, Jessie Scurlock, and Willie Scurlock.

Those she leaves to cherish her memories include her mother, Eddie B. Scurlock of Stanton; three brothers, Warren Clyde Scurlock, Jr. of Stanton, Michael Scurlock of Midland, and Steve Scurlock (Naomi) of Big Spring; seven sisters, Clytia Miles (Earl) of Baytown, Texas, Ola Scurlock, Diann Scurlock, Catherine Scurlock, all of Houston, Texas, and Carolyn Scurlock, Melissa Scurlock, and Helen McCoy (Anthony) all of Midland; and by nieces and nephews, cousins, and other relatives.

Viewing will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Friday, December 8, 2017, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, December 9, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. at New Jerusalem Baptist Church, 1800 Carver in Midland, TX. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery in Stanton.

Pallbearers will be Anthony McCoy, Aaron Scurlock, Josh Traylor, Courtney Scurlock, Trevor Scurlock, and Avery Johnson.

Honorary pallbearers will be Telvin Scurlock, Austin Scurlock, Donovan Polk, and Greg Scurlock.

The family would like to express their gratitude to Texas Oncology and Hospice of Midland.

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

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(432) 550-5800



Gary Duncan

Gary Duncan, 66, of Midland, passed away on Monday, December 4, 2017.

The family will be accepting guests at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home of Midland on Friday, December 8, 2017, from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, December 9, 2017 at St. Luke's United Methodist Church at 11:00 a.m.

Gary was born on September 17, 1951 in Kermit, Texas to Charles and Evelyn Duncan. Gary grew up in

Kermit and graduated from Kermit High School in 1970. He later received a Bachelor's of Science degree in Business Management and a Bachelor's of Science degree in Electrical Engineering.

For the last 11 years, Gary resided in Midland. He loved to fish, hunt, and was a great outdoorsman. He always loved a good adventure and loved to visit new places. He loved his wife and children, his grandchildren, and his dogs.

Gary was a master electrician and retired from Chevron after 28 years of dedicated employment. After retiring he started and managed several businesses, including Duncan Operating Electric. He could fix or build anything. Gary was a hard worker and a lover of life. He worked until the job was done and was a giving and honorable man. He was a man of standards and accountability. He spent his life working hard to do for his family. Gary also knew how to have a great time, whether it was a family vacation or a party at the house. He loved people and loved life.

Gary was diagnosed with ALS a year and a half ago. He accepted and handled the hand he was dealt with honor and dignity.

He is preceded in death by his father, Charles Duncan, and his sister, Priscilla Duncan Gilbert.

Gary is survived by his wife, Donna Percy Duncan; mother, Evelyn Duncan; twin brother, Kary Duncan; sister, Pam Flesher; and children, Chris Duncan, Matt and Laura Duncan, Elyse and Chris Stricklen, Elayne and Brenton Dunn, Bryan and Misty Duncan, and Brandon and Kaitlyn Duncan.

He is also survived by 12 grandchildren, Justin Langston of Austin, Texas, Charize, Karley, and Abigail Dunn of Fort Worth, Kimberly Duncan of Indiana, Alyssa Duncan of Midland, Haley and Brody Duncan of Kermit, Emmarie and Ian Duncan of Seabrook, and Logan and Shaylee Stricklen of Midland.

The family would like to express their gratitude toward all of the friends and family who so greatly helped and encouraged during this time. They would also like to thank the nurses in the Intensive Care Unit at Midland Memorial, the doctors and other professional at Texas Neuro-pathy and the ALS clinic, and the PT ladies at West Texas Therapy. Words could never express how thankful they are for their church family at St. Luke's Methodist Church and all the support and love they have shown.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to ALS Association Texas Chapter.

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



John Thomas Blackwell

John Thomas Blackwell passed away on Saturday, December 2, 2017 in Midland. John was 86, born on October 14, 1931, in Brady, Texas, to Thomas Henry Blackwell and Davie (Dial) Blackwell.

John was preceded in death by his parents and brother Don Blackwell.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Mary Ann (Wilson) Blackwell; daughter, Joan Everett and husband Phillip; grandsons, Dustin Everett and wife Melissa, and James Everett and Stephen Everett; daughter, Marcia Mares and husband

peacefully surrounded by her loving family.

Jessie lived a simple but very fulfilling life. Jessie was born and raised in Midland, Texas. She will be remembered most for her loving, kind, pure, innocent, joyful spirit. Jessie loved Jesus Christ and was a prayer warrior.

We wish to give thanks to Midland Memorial Hospital staff, Hospice of Midland, St. Joseph's and Mary Jackson, Cecilia Garcia, Dr. Miller, Dr. Gill, and all those who helped lovingly to care for her.

Jessie is survived by two sons, Gary Salgado of Midland and Bobby Salgado of El Paso, Texas; a daughter, Debbie Marie Kozora of Mars, Pennsylvania; a brother, Augustine "Gus" Reyes of Midland; and by six sisters, Sylvestra Gavia, Dora Ruiz, Margaret Ramirez, Pauline Sanchez, and Josie Blackwell, all of Midland, and Inez Ramirez of San Jose, California.

Jessie is also survived by 10 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren; and several nephews, nieces, and cousins.

Jessie was preceded in death by her husband, Damas Valles Salgado; a daughter, Faye Salgado Holguin; and by one brother, Daniel Reyes.

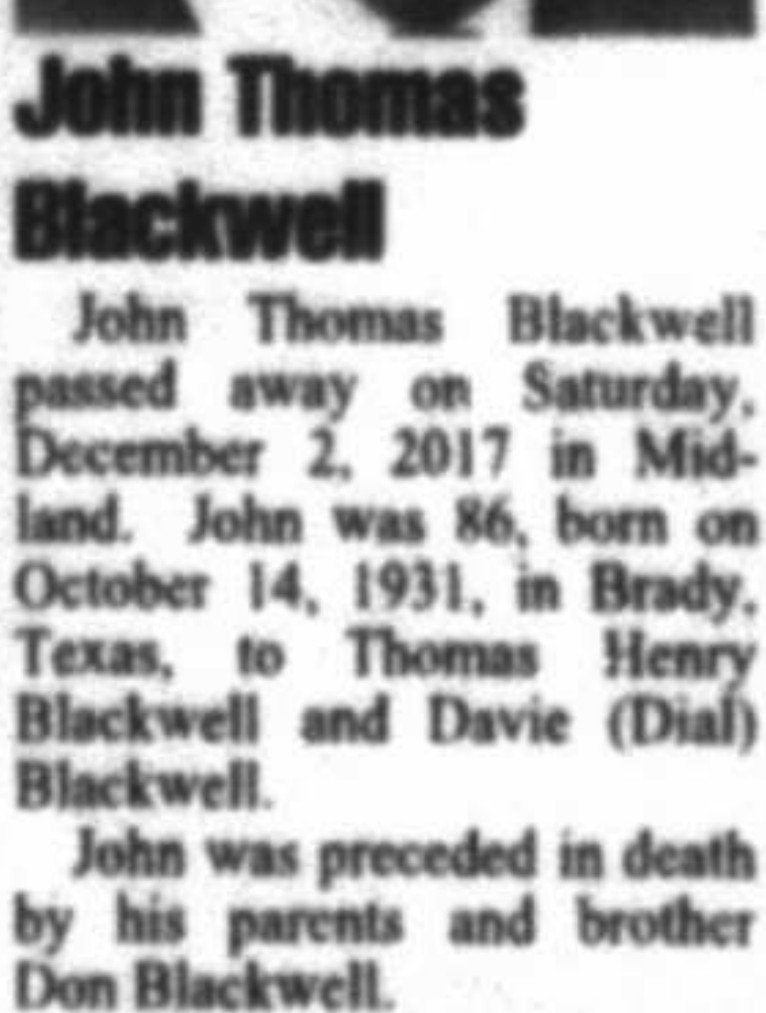
Visitation will be Thursday, December 7, 2017 from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and on Friday, December 8, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home.

Rosary will be Friday, December 8, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home.

Funeral Mass will be on Saturday, December 9, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish and Shrine, with interment at Fairview Cemetery.

Services are entrusted to Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home.

Lewallen Garcia Pipkin Funeral Home
2808 N. Big Spring Midland, TX (432) 692-9700



John, granddaughters, Jennifer Jackson and husband Larry, and Kelly Epps and husband Steve; grandson, David Mares; daughter, Lori Miller and husband Russell; granddaughters, Leslie West and husband Quentin, and Mary Miller; grandsons, Zachary Miller and Clay Miller; son, John Thomas Blackwell, Jr. and wife Kamillah; grandsons, Joshua Blackwell and Andrew Blackwell; and by six great-grandchildren.

John arrived in Midland in 1951. His first job was at Texas Electric in accounting. John then enlisted in the Army, attended officer's training, earned the rank of First Lieutenant and served until 1953. He married Mary Wilson in 1954 and attended the University of Texas at Austin where he earned a B.A. in Business and Finance. John's career led him to the First National Bank of Midland. Later, he joined Rauscher Pierce as an investment broker where he worked for 38 years before retiring.

John was a dedicated family man. His life revolved around his wife and four children. John loved fishing and was a world class hunter with two Big Horn Sheep Grand Slams. He respected the environment and taught his children and grandchildren about responsible hunting. John enjoyed life and it showed. He will be greatly missed by all who were fortunate enough to know him.

Memorial services will be at 3:00 p.m., Friday, December 8, 2017 at the First Baptist Church Chapel with Reverend David Johnson officiating.

Family visitation will be from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m., Thursday, December 7, 2017 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory.

Honorary pallbearers include Dustin Everett, James Everett, Stephen Everett, Zachary Miller, Clay Miller, David Mares, Joshua Blackwell, Andrew Blackwell, Larry Jackson, and Steve Epps.

John's family would like to express deep gratitude to long time helper Mary Lee and to friend and caregiver Manny Villareal who brightened so many days for John and Mary and to caregivers Lupe Martinez and Hilda Serrata for their kindness and dedication to John. The family extends sincere thanks to Brookdale Senior Living and their wonderful staff.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to your favorite charity in honor of John.

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

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



Larry Warren Brunner "GG"

Larry Warren Brunner "GG", 59, of Midland, Texas, passed away on December 5, 2017 in Odessa, Texas.

Visitation will be from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Friday, December 8, 2017 at Sunset Memorial Funeral Home.

Funeral Services will be at 1:00 p.m., Saturday, December 9, 2017 at Sunset Memorial Funeral Home Chapel

with Reverend Jeff Cleere of Chapel Hill, officiating. Burial will follow at Sunset Memorial Gardens.

Larry was born April 29, 1958 to Paul W. Brunner and Zelda M. Brunner in Hobbs, New Mexico. He graduated from Odessa High School in 1976. Larry married Lisa Gail Burleson on November 9, 1979 in Odessa. He worked various jobs with Phillips Petroleum Company for 32 years.

Larry is preceded in death by his parents, Paul and Zelda Brunner; his son, James Paul Brunner; and father-in-law and mother-in-law, J.C. and Romia Burleson.

Larry is survived by his loving wife of 38 years, Lisa Brunner of Midland; sons, Warren Brunner, Jr. and wife, Ashley Brunner of Hobbs, and Alex Brunner and wife, Allison Brunner of Odessa; four grandchildren, Jaxon, Lily, Brynlee, and Landon Brunner; as well as numerous family and friends.

Arrangements are entrusted to Sunset Memorial Gardens and Funeral Home.

To send family condolences please sign his guestbook at www.sunsetodessa.com

SUNSET MEMORIAL GARDENS & FUNERAL HOME
Death Notices

Patrice Renee McGraw

Patrice McGraw of Midland passed away on December 2, 2017.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 9, 2017 at Avalos-Sanchez & Thomas Funeral Home Chapel.

Viewing will be Friday, December 8, 2017 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Avalos-Sanchez & Thomas Funeral Home Chapel.

Patrice is survived by her sons, Darnarron McGraw and Dazeyron Marshall; parents, David McGraw and Wanda McGraw; and by one sister and one brother.

Midland Reporter-Telegram

mrt.com

Questions about death notices or online Guest Books? Email to obits@mrt.com

Woman charged with aggravated assault

A Midland woman was arrested Monday after she allegedly exhibited a knife during the commission of an assault, according to court documents.

Secquia Trakia Spears



Spears

18, was being held Wednesday on a \$25,000 bond for first-degree felony charge of aggravated assault of a date/family/house member with a weapon.

Midland police were dispatched in reference to a disturbance with weapons at about 8 a.m. on Monday.

Spears and a woman got into a verbal argument after the woman found Spears giving marijuana to a 15-year-old. When the argument began to escalate, the woman told Spears to go outside so they could fight, according to her

LOCAL BRIEFS
FROM STAFF REPORTS

arrest affidavit.
Spears grabbed a knife from the kitchen and chased the woman in an attempt to scare her, according to her affidavit.

While running away from Spears, the woman hurt her toe, causing her to bleed, according to the affidavit.

If convicted of a first-degree felony charge, Spears could face up to life imprisonment.

Man allegedly used vehicle in an assault

A man was arrested Monday after he allegedly used a vehicle in the commission of an assault, according to court documents.

Troy Lynn Keely Jr., 25, was being held Wednesday on a \$25,000 bond for a second-degree

felony charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Texas Department of Public Safety troopers were dispatched in reference to a two-vehicle crash.

Keely told police a pickup came behind him at a high speed and he tapped his brakes.



Keely

The pickup went around him and almost hit him, according to the arrest affidavit.

Keely reached out and hit the truck with his hand. He then chased the pickup and tried to drive around and hit the pickup on the right side between the rear and the passenger door, according to the affidavit.

This caused the pickup to veer into oncoming traffic, according to the affidavit. If convicted of the second-degree felony charge, Keely could face up to 20 years imprisonment.

WORD OF THE DAY
brought to you daily by

Shofar

shoh-fuh r, shoh-fahr]

noun

1. a ram's horn blown as a wind instrument, sounded in Biblical times chiefly to communicate signals in battle and announce certain religious occasions and in modern times chiefly at synagogue services on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

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Today is Pearl
Harbor
Remembrance
Day

National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, which is annually on Dec. 7, commemorates the attack on Pearl Harbor, in Hawaii, during World War II. Many American service men and women lost their lives or were injured on Dec. 7, 1941. National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day is also referred to as Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day or Pearl Harbor Day.

On the direction of the president, the U.S. flag should be displayed on the homes of Americans, the White House and all United States government buildings. The flag should be flown at half-mast and half-staff to honor those who died in the attack on Pearl Harbor.

On Sunday morning, Dec. 7, 1941, the American Army and Navy base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii was attacked by the Imperial Japanese Navy. The attack came as a surprise to the military and led to great losses of life and equipment. More than 2,000 American citizens were killed and more than 1,000 were injured. The Americans also lost a large proportion of their battleships and nearly 200 aircraft that were stationed in the Pacific region. More than 60 Japanese servicemen were killed, injured or captured. The Japanese Navy also lost five midget submarines and 29 aircraft.

Source: timeanddate.com



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Tasha and Rachel, two of the Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders, visit with Allison Gregory on Wednesday at Senior Care, a nursing home and rehabilitation center in north Midland. The cheerleaders were at the facility to meet residents and sign photos.

Lottery

Pick 3 morning: 2-3-8
Pick 3 day: 7-3-6
Pick 3 evening: 6-1-5
Pick 3 night: 7-9-1
Daily 4 morning: 0-6-1-0
Daily 4 day: 7-1-3-1
Daily 4 evening: 3-9-2-5
Daily 4 night: 9-4-1-2
Cash Five: 10-24-32-34-35
Triple Chance: 7-15-23-25-26
31-32-40-43-44

Lotto Texas: 1-25-35-42-48-51
Powerball: 19-20-50-55-62-2
BB: 9 Powerball: 2
All or Nothing morning: 2-4-9-10-11-14-15-16-19-22-23-24
All or Nothing day: 2-3-4-7-11-12-13-14-15-19-22-23
All or Nothing evening: 3-5-7-8-9-10-17-19-20-21-22-23
All or Nothing night: 4-6-9-11-13-14-16-17-21-22-23-24

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Weather

Wednesday's temperatures
High: 44
Low: 37
Normal high: 60
Normal low: 32

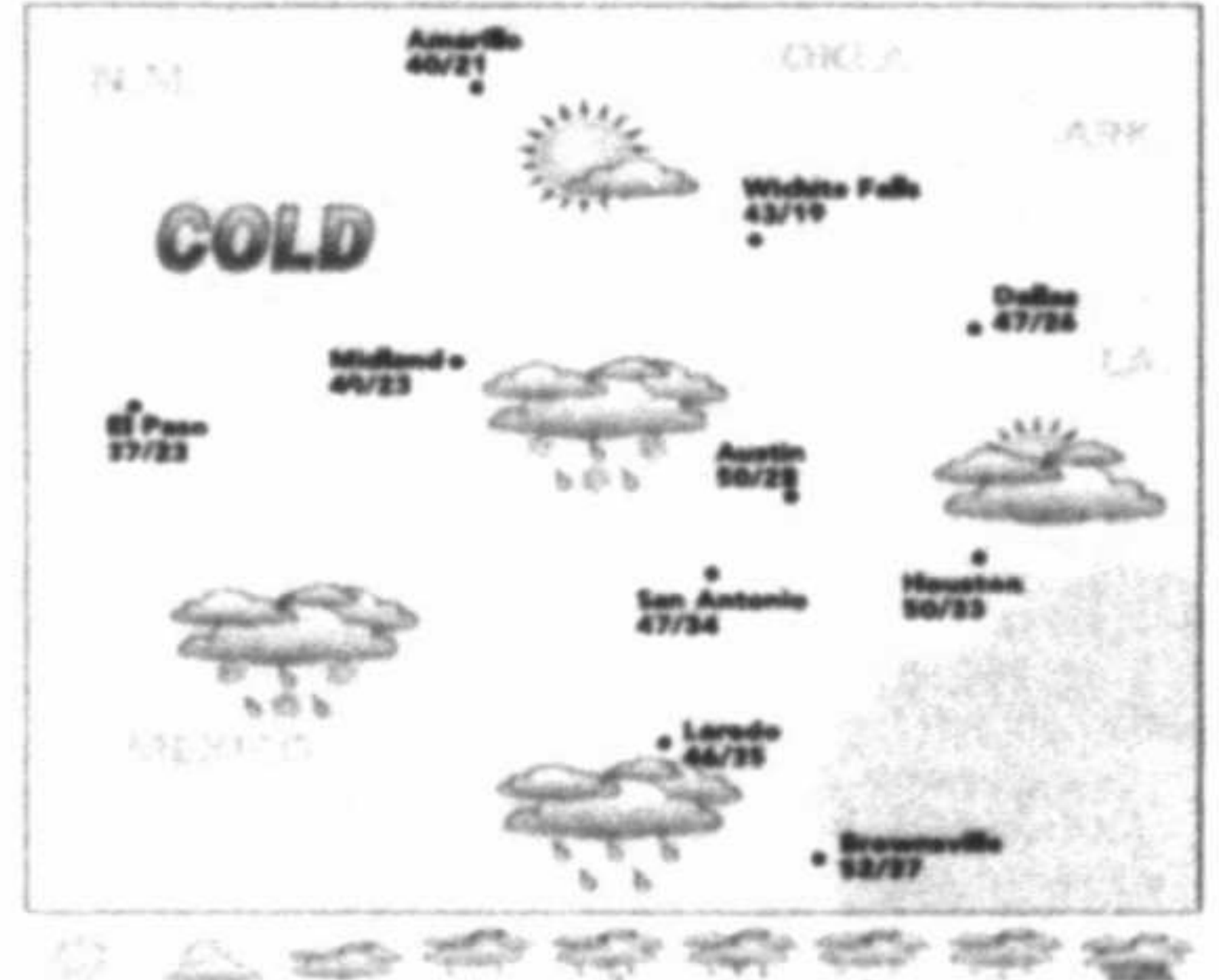
Dec. 6's records
Record high: 81 set in 2012
Record low: 8 set in 1950

Precipitation
Tuesday: Trace
Wednesday: 0.18 in.
Month total: 0.18 in.
Year total: 17.52 in.
Normal total (year to date): 14.12 in.

Winds
Average speed: 7.1 mph
Highest speed: 14 mph
Gust speed: 16 mph

Today's forecast
High: 36

Forecast for Thursday, December 7, 2017



Low: 26
Conditions: Mostly cloudy during the day/partly cloudy at night
Winds: 10-15 mph during the day/5-10 at night

Chance of rain: 30 percent chance of snow during the day
Sunrise: 7:36 a.m.
Sunset: 5:44 p.m.
Source: National Weather Service

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

A baby born today has a Sun in Sagittarius and a Moon in Leo.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Dec. 7, 2017:

This year you experience smooth sailing. Stay upbeat, and try not to fall into a boring routine. Even if you stumble into a troublesome experience, you will land well. Take a hard look at your life, and eliminate whatever doesn't work anymore. If you are single, you might opt to change your status.

Check out a potential sweetie with care, as he or she might not be as authentic as you would like. If you are attached, the two of you benefit from taking a workshop or class together. You also might opt to take a special trip as a couple. LEO almost always makes you laugh.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

***** If you pull back, you will note that others' behavior is excessive and undisciplined. Could the same be said about you? Your creativity merges with a sense of fun, making it easy to go overboard. You will want to think about a choice more carefully. Tonight: Make exciting plans.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

***** You will be somewhat more anchored than usual. You feel good and want to make plans with others. Use good sense when making a decision. A partner seems more upbeat and easygoing. Enjoy the moment, and listen to this person's suggestions. Tonight: Happily at home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

***** You demonstrate the ability to clear out an enormous amount of work and process

quite a few issues. You will do well in situations where you network and share more of yourself. You could be amazed by what happens if you relax. Tonight: Let fun happen whenever you go.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

***** You will be more realistic about your budget. Perhaps the reason you frequently break it is that you are too hard on yourself. Opportunities come in various forms, but they are likely to demand a bit of spending. You know your limits — honor them. Tonight: As you like it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

***** You naturally seem to indulge a close loved one. Do not forget about indulging yourself, too. Your personality helps others forget what ails them. Reward yourself once in a while. Once you get started, stopping could be difficult. Tonight: Whatever knocks your socks off.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

*** Much goes on behind the scenes, and you might not be comfortable with it. You could feel as if certain information is being withheld from you. You know how to ask the right questions to find out more. Your sense of humor comes through at odd times. Tonight: Get some R and R.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

***** Friends surround you, and they're determined to have their way when dealing with you. You might not be as easygoing as they would like. Make yourself a little less available for the time being. Use care with spending and with money decisions. Tonight: Paint the town red.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

***** Others think you make strong choices. As a result, you are in a position of leadership, whether you like it or not. You might not realize how fortunate you are at the moment, but you can talk risks

and land well. Be willing to go for what you desire. Tonight: Make it your treat.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

***** Don't be tempted to take any other path than the one that is clearly right for you. You could get confused by an adviser, especially if he or she thinks in terms of "no pain, no gain." You will land well no matter what. Tonight: Follow the music as you think about the weekend.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

***** One-on-one relating becomes pivotal in a key relationship. Your ability to connect with others has been your strong suit. Listen to what seems like a good offer from a friend. This person could become quite fortunate for you. Tonight: Accept a loved one's suggestion.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

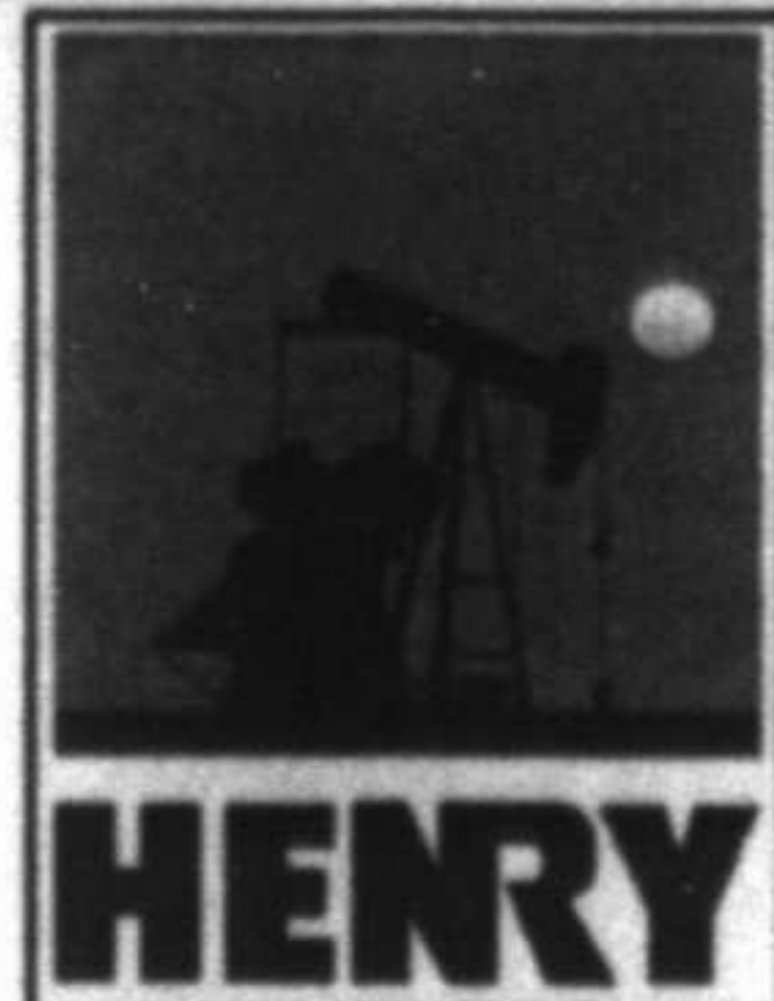
***** You could be in a situation where you need to defer to someone else. Your perspective is appreciated, but the other party is determined to make his or her own choice regardless of what you say. Don't take a loved one for granted. Listen to his or her thoughts. Tonight: Say "yes."

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

***** You might question some of the ideas that head your way. You might not agree with

BORN TODAY

Actor Jack Huston (1982), businessman Richard Warren Sears (1863), baseball player Johnny Bench (1947)

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Hebrews 13:16

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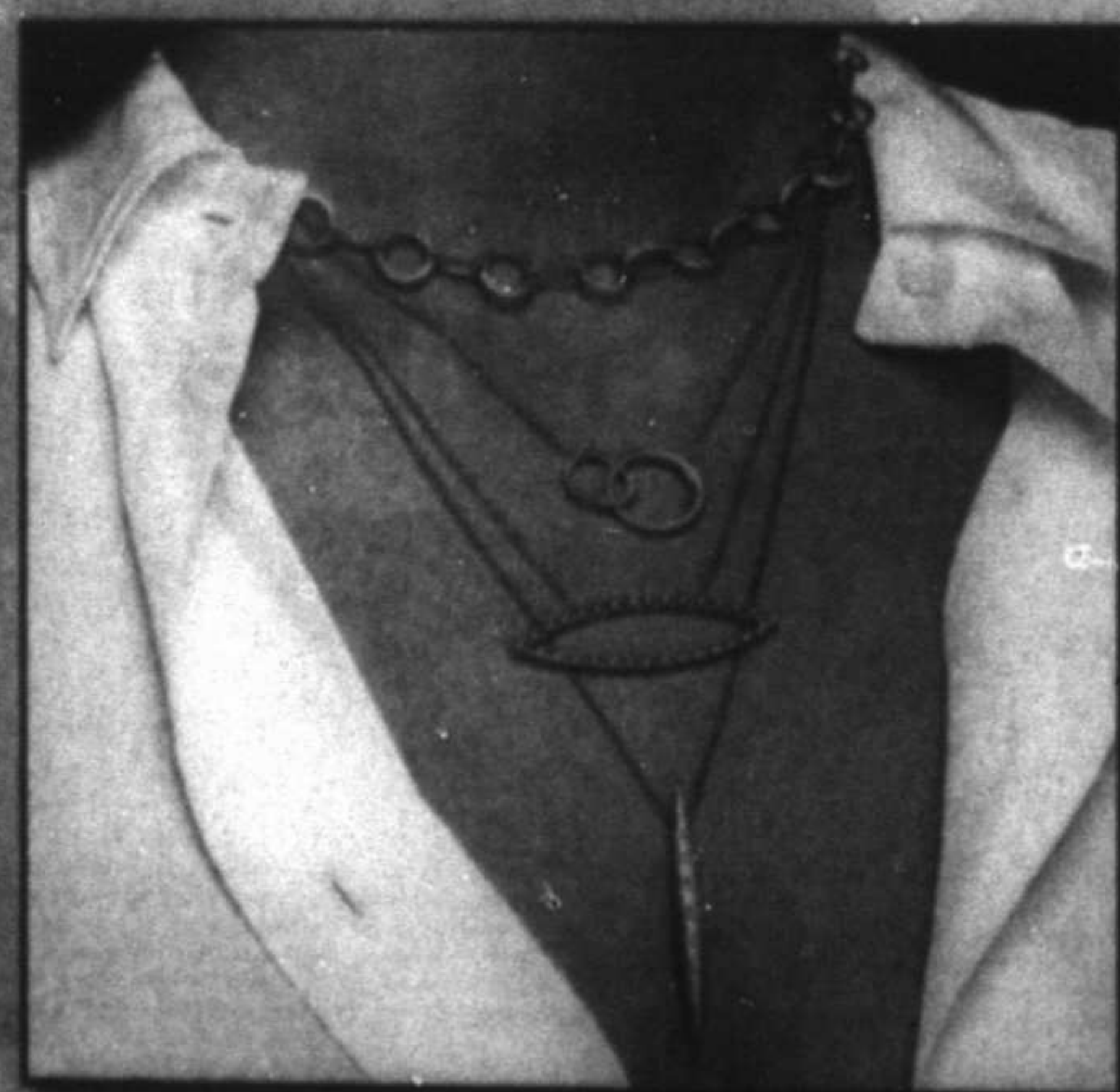
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OPINION

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Thursday, December 7, 2017 | Page 6A

The Republicans' tax wager is worth the gamble

■ In the future, there will be a deficit to worry about, but the here and now calls for a GOP attempt for 3 percent growth

The Republicans' tax legislation is built on economic projections that are as confidently as they are cheerfully made concerning the legislation's shaping effect on the economy over the next 10 years. This claim to prescience must amaze alumni of Bear Stearns and Lehman Brothers, which were 85 and 158 years old, respectively, when they expired less than 10 years ago in the unanticipated Great Recession.

The predictions of GDP and revenue growth assume, among many other things, continuation of the current expansion. It began in June 2009 and has been notable for its anemia relative to other post-1945 expansions: Its average annual growth rate has been 2 percent; theirs, 4.3 percent. But it also has been remarkably durable. It is 102 months old; the average since after World War II is 58 months. Unless the business cycle has been repealed, a recession is almost a certainty during the 10-year window for which the tax bill has been tailored.

What the legislation's drafters anticipate, indeed proclaim, is that Congress

GEORGE WILL

Washington Post Writers Group



will not allow to happen what the legislation says, with a wink, will happen. So, this might mark the historic moment when Washington decided that it no longer will bother to blush. The legislation says the tax reductions for individuals will expire by 2025. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, however, says "we have every expectation that down the road Congress will extend them." Of course, Congress will. The phantom expiration is an \$800 billion fudge, a cooking of the books in order to cram the tax bill into conformity with arcane parliamentary procedures that make the measure immune to filibuster. We have been down this road before: For the same reason, some George W. Bush tax cuts of 2001 were scheduled to expire at the end of 2010; 82 percent of them (measured by revenue) did not.

The Democrats' denunciation of the Republicans' tax cuts because they especially benefit the wealthy is a recyclable

denunciation of any significant tax cut. The top 1 percent of earners supply 39 percent of income tax revenues, the top 10 percent supply 70 percent, the bottom 50 percent supply 3 percent, 60 percent of households pay either no income taxes (45 percent) or less than 5 percent of their income, and 62 percent of Americans pay more in payroll taxes than in income taxes. So, any tax cut significant to macroeconomic policy — any that might change incentives sufficiently to substantially change businesses' and individuals' behaviors — must be primarily a cut for the affluent.

Democrats pretend to worry that Republicans are executing a diabolical double play, using tax cuts to placate donors, then citing the cuts' enlargement of the national debt as an excuse to cut entitlements. Surely, Democrats know that Republicans are not insubordinate to their president, who has vowed to oppose any significant (i.e., touching Social Security or Medicare) entitlement reforms. Besides, whenever Republicans run large budget deficits — the tax legislation probably means that the next decade's will be even larger than they would have been — they serve the Democrats' basic agenda: They legitimize the bipartisan penchant for making big government seem cheap. Republicans, too, give

people \$X worth of government services and charge the recipients \$Y, with Y significantly less than X.

In 2002, when Dick Cheney — a strict constructionist, but not of economic data — said "Reagan proved deficits don't matter," the publicly held national debt was 33 percent the size of GDP; today it is 75 percent. At some point, the debt's size matters, and we seem determined to learn the hard way where that point is.

This tax legislation, an amalgam of earnest hoping and transparent make-believe, is a serious lunge for sustained 3 percent growth. Without this, the economy, and hence the entitlement state, will buckle beneath the strain of 10,000 of the elderly each day becoming eligible for Social Security and Medicare. The Republicans purport to know how changed tax incentives will affect corporations' and individuals' decisions, and how those decisions will radiate through the economy. Republicans do not know — nobody, including the Republicans' equally overconfident critics, does — but they might be right, and their wager is worth trying.

Economics is a science of incentives, and like all sciences it is never "settled." Both sides, with their thumping predictions, have given hostages to the future, which will deal harshly with some. Perhaps most. Possibly all of them.

OPINION EXTRA

Government must make cuts to programs to bring down deficits

This week, Republicans in the Senate finally passed their long-awaited tax reform plan. It lowers individual income tax rates across the board, although it does claw back some government revenue in the form of elimination of state and local tax deductions. It drops corporate tax rates as well. It is, in other words, a significant but not atypical Republican tax cut designed to boost economic growth by allowing Americans to keep more of their own money.

The tax cut will almost certainly increase the deficit, however. Even with dynamic scoring — the assumption that the economy will grow at a faster clip thanks to tax cuts — the tax cuts could lead to \$1 trillion in lower revenue through 2027. This has led some conservatives to sour on tax reform altogether, rightly saying that Republicans were, until a few months ago, complaining incessantly about former President Obama's blowout deficits and the burgeoning national debt, which now stands at a cool \$20.5 trillion. That doesn't include long-term unfunded liabilities, which are slated to bring the debt to some \$70 trillion to \$75 trillion in coming decades.

So, which is more important: cutting deficits or cutting taxes? The answer, in the long run, is obvious: cutting deficits. Deficits impoverish future generations; they undermine the credibility of our financial commitments, they prevent us from fulfilling promises we have already made to our own citizens. There are already millions of Americans who will never receive Social Security in the amount they have been promised; there are already millions of Americans unborn who will spend their lives paying off the commitments made by others for political gain.

At the same time, were we to raise taxes to pay off our debts, we would enervate our population and inure citizens to high taxes. Citizens of European states are used to insanely high tax rates; the impetus for spending cuts based on desire for lower taxes disappears after years of habituation to those tax rates and unsustainable government benefits. Europeans are used to the very social programs that continue to bankrupt them despite high tax rates; they're not clamoring to cut programs based on their distaste for those tax rates.

This puts American politicians in somewhat of a Catch-22. If they stomp for spending cuts, they're cast as uncaring and cruel; if they stomp for tax increases to pay for those spending cuts, they're cast as uncaring and cruel. Thus, the deficit continues to grow.

So, what should Republicans do about it? They ought to cut taxes, and then they ought to acknowledge that cuts are necessary to keep taxes low. Let Americans get used to keeping their own money. Let them understand that services aren't free. Then, be honest about the costs associated with big government programs.

In the end, both Democrats and Republicans will have to face a simple truth: It's either government cuts or bust. There's no reason for Republicans to give away their only leverage — the taste of the public for a dynamic economy based on individuals retaining their earnings — in order to shore up programs Democrats will only work to expand.

— Ben Shapiro, Creators Syndicate

Midland Reporter-Telegram

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When should debt, deficits matter?

■ Both parties have issues when it comes to the national debt, which is \$20 trillion and growing

JONAH GOLDBERG

Tribune News Service



If you're a normal person who pays attention to politics, you'd be forgiven for thinking that Washington can't decide whether deficits are bad or not. Well, I have one easy trick that will help you make sense of it all.

In Washington, when you hear people complain that this or that piece of legislation will "explode" the deficit, what they are really telling you is that they don't like the legislation.

It's really that simple. Good legislation, like good food, movies, novels and pretty much everything else except for dogs (they're all good), is in the eye of the beholder. A politician or partisan who thinks a proposal is worth doing will think it's worth doing even if it increases the deficit. If he thinks a proposal is bad, he might argue that it's bad on the merits. But you can be sure that if it also increases the deficit, he will cite this fact as a major reason why it is bad.

That is the role deficits — and the national debt — play in our politics. Anti-debt talk serves as dye marker for some more fundamental objection.

Almost everyone thinks deficits are bad in the abstract, but that their badness should only be a problem for the other side. In 2008, for example, then-presidential candidate Barack Obama said that the \$4 trillion in debt rung up under George W. Bush was "unpatriotic." But his actual complaint wasn't about the debt but what that money was spent on — the Iraq war and tax cuts.

Under Obama, the national debt soared from \$11 trillion to just under \$20 trillion, but that deficit spending was justifiable, according to Democrats, because it went to combating the financial crisis and paying for various other domestic programs.

The source of the apparent inconsistency isn't simply partisan hypocrisy (though that's a factor as well), but a good-faith ideological disagreement.

As a matter of economic policy, conservatives believe that the people themselves are better at spending their money than the government is. Cutting taxes and regulations drives economic growth. Liberals, meanwhile, believe that the government is the prime, or at least an indispensable, driver of economic growth.

This is why liberals tend to talk about spending on everything from infrastructure to education as

an "investment." The Obama stimulus was sold as an investment that would pay huge dividends, thanks in part to Keynesian "multipliers" — the idea that every dollar of government spending results in more than a dollar in economic growth. Obamacare, we were told, would reduce the deficit by cutting health care spending and improving economic growth.

Conservatives make similar arguments about tax cuts. Over the weekend, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell told Fox News that the tax cuts would yield more than enough economic growth to make up for the deficit the bill creates on paper.

On the philosophical side, there's an even starker conflict of visions. Liberals tend to start from the assumption that the government is entitled to as much revenue as it needs, and so tax cuts amount to giving people money.

Earlier this year, Sen. Bernie Sanders proposed a budget that would add at least \$21 trillion to the debt over a decade. But when the Senate passed the GOP tax bill, he tweeted, "Historians will look back on Dec. 1, 2017 and conclude this was one of the great robberies in US history because Republicans are looting the Treasury." For Sanders, letting people keep more of their own money is theft — because it's really the government's money.

Conservatives, on the other hand, start from the assumption that money belongs to the people and businesses who earn it. Letting people and businesses keep more of their money isn't a handout or giveaway, never mind a robbery: It's fairness.

The ultimate problem is that everyone says they care about the deficit, but few people care about it enough. Democrats think spending is more important than the deficit, and Republicans think cutting taxes is more important. And that's why the national debt is more than \$20 trillion, and growing.

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From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



As Franken's support collapses, Democrats expect resignation

By Andrew Taylor
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — His once-promising political career in shambles, Minnesota Sen. Al Franken appeared on the verge of resigning after fellow Democrats led by female senators abandoned him Wednesday over the mounting allegations of sexual misconduct that are roiling Capitol Hill.

A majority of the Senate's Democrats called on the two-term lawmaker to get out after another woman emerged Wednesday saying he forcibly tried to kiss her in 2006. That brought to at least seven the number of women accusing him of sexual impropriety.

Franken, the former comedian who made his name on "Saturday Night Live," scheduled an announcement for Thursday. No topic was specified, but Democratic senators said they expected



Franken

their liberal colleague to resign. "Enough is enough," said Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York. "We need to draw a line in the sand and say none of it is OK, none of it is acceptable, and we, as elected leaders, should absolutely be held to a higher standard."

Gillibrand was the first to call for Franken's resignation on Wednesday, but a torrent of Democrats quickly followed.

"I'm shocked and appalled by Sen. Franken's behavior," said Sen. Patty Murray of Washington state. "It's clear to me that this has been a deeply harmful, persistent problem and a clear pattern over a long period of time. It's time for him to step aside."

Though the writing appeared to be on the wall, Franken's departure was not certain. A tweet posted Wednesday evening on Franken's Twitter account said: "Senator Franken is talking with his family at this time and plans to make an announcement in D.C. tomorrow. Any reports of a final decision are inaccurate."

Late in the day, Democratic Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York

added his voice.

"I consider Senator Franken a dear friend and greatly respect his accomplishments, but he has a higher obligation to his constituents and the Senate, and he should step down immediately," Schumer said.

Schumer called Franken immediately after the latest allegation — and before the torrent of demands for Franken's resignation from Democrats — and told him he needed to resign, said a Democrat familiar with the events. Schumer met later in his apartment with Franken and Franken's wife, Franni, and repeated that message and did the same in additional talks with the senator throughout the day, said the Democrat, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to describe private conversations.

The resignation demands came in rapid succession even though Franken on Wednesday vehemently denied the new accusation that came from a former Democratic congressional aide, who said he tried to forcibly kiss her after a taping of his radio show in 2006.

'Silence Breakers' named Time magazine's Person of the Year

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The "Silence Breakers" — those who have shared their stories about sexual assault and harassment — have been named Time magazine's Person of the Year.

Numerous women have spoken out publicly since October about sexual misconduct by dozens of high-profile men in entertainment, media, business and sports. Time praised those who have given "voice to open secrets, for moving whisper networks onto social networks, for pushing us all to stop accepting the unacceptable." The magazine's cover features Ashley Judd, Taylor Swift, Susan Fowler and others who say they have been harassed.

Time's announcement was made Wednesday on NBC's "Today" show, where longtime host Matt

Lauer was fired last week amid harassment allegations. "Today" host Savannah Guthrie acknowledged Wednesday that this year's winner hits "close to home" and mentioned Lauer by name.

Women who spoke out, initially against Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein and then others, helped to spawn the #MeToo movement, with millions of people telling stories of sexual misconduct on social media.

The tweets, Instagram and Facebook posts began after actress-activist Alyssa Milano followed on a suggestion from a friend of a friend on Facebook and tweeted: "If you've been sexually harassed or assaulted write 'me too' as a reply to this tweet." The hashtag was tweeted nearly a million times in 48 hours. #MeToo was actually founded by ac-

tivist Tarana Burke a decade ago to raise awareness about sexual violence. Milano has said she wasn't aware of Burke's contributions when she made her initial tweet and has since publicly credited her. Milano and Burke appeared together Wednesday on the "Today" show.

"This is just the start. I've been saying from the beginning it's not just a moment, it's a movement," Burke said. "Now the work really begins."

"As women, we have to support each other and stand together and say, 'That's it. We're done. No more,'" Milano said. "It's vital to me that we really set in some actionable things that we can do to continue this momentum."

movement. Time has made such changes before. The 2014 winner, "The Ebola Fighters," was listed as "Ebola Caregivers" in the shortlist.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Time's 2015 Person of the Year, said through a spokesman that this year's winners should be thanked for "having the courage to break the silence on sexual assaults and for the worldwide discussion that they have launched."

The two runners-up for Person of the Year were Chinese President Xi Jinping and President Donald Trump, himself accused of sexual misconduct by numerous women. He has denied any wrongdoing.

Trump, Person of the Year in 2016, tweeted recently that the magazine had told him he "probably" would be named again if he agreed to an interview and photo shoot. Trump added that he "took a pass." Time has disputed his account.

House votes to kill Democrat's resolution to impeach Trump

By Kevin Freking
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House overwhelmingly voted Wednesday to kill a resolution from a liberal Democratic lawmaker to impeach President Donald Trump as most Democrats joined Republicans in opposing the move.

Rep. Al Green said Trump had associated his presidency with causes rooted in bigotry and racism. To back his claim accusing Trump of high misdemeanors, Green cited incidents such as Trump's blaming both sides for violence at a deadly white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, and his recent sharing of hateful, anti-Muslim videos posted online by a fringe British extremist group.

After his resolution was read aloud, the House voted 364-58 to table the resolution.

All the no votes came from Democrats, and four Democratic lawmakers voted present. In all, 126 Democrats joined Republicans in voting to table Green's effort in the GOP-led House.

Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, D-Md., said in a statement shortly before the vote that while "legitimate questions have been raised about his fitness to lead this nation," they argued "now is not the time to consider articles of impeachment."

Several Democratic lawmakers said they agreed that it's premature to act before special counsel Robert Mueller's team completes its investigation into Russian election meddling.

Rep. Dan Kildee, D-Mich., said Democratic lawmakers cannot allow themselves to be drawn into a process "that's not thoughtful or complete or might not even be the conclusion we ought to draw."

"We ought to let Mr. Mueller complete his full investigation rather than engage in what would essentially be a public relations stunt," Kildee said. "This is a serious thing. It ought not to be done on a whim."

Green said on the House floor that he planned to take the road less traveled in seeking Trump's impeachment. He's convinced it's a road worth traveling, but he said, "I ask that no one take this journey with me."

Afterward, Green said the vote would not deter him from trying again. He said he was already working on additional articles of impeachment.

"I didn't lobby anybody. I didn't ask anybody, but I'm grateful for those who did vote with the Constitution. I assure you, it's a process and this was a step in the process," Green said.

Pelosi has said any impeachment drive should wait until there's evidence of an impeachable offense. Another problem for Democrats is that opposing Green's resolution puts them at risk of angering the party's rabidly anti-Trump voters. Some Democrats tried talking Green out of his plan. They did the same in October, when he proposed a similar resolution but never demanded a vote on it.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Guyton".

Mike Guyton
Chief Customer Officer
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WEEKENDER

YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS IN THE PERMIAN BASIN

BEST BETS

TODAY

OH, MY See some Broadway on the big screen at Regal Tull City Stadium with Fashion Event, showing of George Takei's *Allegiance*, a musical inspired by the star's life during World War II. The screening commemorates the attack on Pearl Harbor. 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

DOUBLEYULE Permian Playhouse offers two-for-one theater with *A Place Called Christmas* and *Twelve Days of Christmas*. The show runs through Dec. 17. 7:30 p.m.



TEXAS TORNADO With 12 studio albums, nine No. 1 singles and a new album out last month, Tracy Lawrence keeps going strong. He brings a stellar catalog of music to his show at Dos Amigos. 7 p.m.

SATURDAY



SHOP AND RUN The Midland Downtown Farmers Market opens up for its Winter Market at the Museum of the Southwest. Shop for food, gifts and more from a variety of local vendors. 8:30 a.m. The museum also hosts its 15th annual Ugly Christmas Sweater Run at 11 a.m.

DREAMSCAPE See the holidays in a whole new light at Conque Dreams Holiday, where snowmen, toy soldiers and ornaments come to life on stage and in the air. Performers of all types make this show at the Wagner Noel into a spectacle. 7:30 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: *Just Getting Started*.

COMING SOON

Country legends and Texas Mavericks Adam and the Whores will headline the MOSE fundraiser concert on Dec. 13 at the Wagner Noel. Read an interview with the band in Sunday's Culture. Tickets available at wagnernoel.com.



Colombian-American brings a new voice to Midland Storytelling Festival

By Rich Lopez
jrlopez@mrt.com

Although storyteller Jasmin Cardenas performed in Midland earlier this year, she's still the new kid on the block. The Chicago artist will make her debut at the Midland Storytelling Festival this weekend. The bonus for her is being able to perform alongside spoken word artists she's admired.

"I'm in shock and excited to come back. I don't know all of the storytellers, but I am so inspired by their works like Antonio Rocha who I know also," she said in a phone interview.

Cardenas, a Colombian-American bilingual storyteller, is based in Chicago, where she also acts and provides workshops and creates podcasts.

She performed at the Hispanic Cultural Center in February for its inaugural storytelling event.

"I was so honored to be a part of that. I had also never been to pumpkin central," she said with a laugh. "I didn't know what to expect but those pumpkins were a good marker of where I was in the country."

THE MIDLAND STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

The event will be held at First Presbyterian Church, 800 W. Texas Ave. Storytellers include Charlotte Blake Alston from Pennsylvania, Laura Pershin Raynor from Michigan, Jasmin Cardenas from Illinois, Donald Davis from North Carolina, Antonio Rocha from Maine, and Willy Claflin from California. Texas storytellers include Annalyn Gilbreath from Lubbock

and Barbara McBride-Smith from Galveston. All events are free.

event will feature stories by Donald Davis. The night also features the three winners from the 2017 Youth Storytelling Contest.

SCHEDULE

Friday
9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. | Education Connection Day with special story programs for MISD fourth-graders at Lee High School.
7 p.m. | Story Unplugged! This

Saturday
10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. | Community performances with two storytellers, a children's program and senior session.
7:30 p.m. | Performances by all storytellers.

Two events in a West Texas city must say something about the art of storytelling. The practice and performance has gained a resurgence influenced by podcasts, TEDTalks, poetry slams and more. Cardenas, though, feels something else may be driving it.

"I think it's because at our core, humans are curious and good-natured. Unfortunately, we live in a divided world that constantly seeks to put us in boxes but every time we lean into each other and listen, I think we're surprised by what we hear, or how similar

instead of different we are. The more we know about someone else, the more insight and empathy we can have to see each other's humanity."

At the same time, the modern age has contributed to as well as taken away from storytelling.

"We are so zoned out into our computers and screens and apps. We text instead of calling, but we still crave human contact. And I think in a digital age, storytelling offers us that," she said.

HEAT INDEX: 'Nutcracker,' Clint Black bring holiday moods to the stage

By Rich Lopez
jrlopez@mrt.com

CLINT BLACK'S HOLIDAY AND HITS AT THE WAGNER NOEL

After teaming up with Don Henley and Lyle Lovett for the recent Hurricane Harvey benefit concert in Fort Worth, Clint Black will bring holiday cheer to West Texas. His tour stops in Midland, and he'll perform some of his own Christmas songs as well as selections of his greatest hits such as "A Better Man" and "Like the Rain." Country music up-and-comer Hudson Moore opens the night.

7 p.m. today at 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$35-\$75. wagnernoel.com.

READ SOUTHBALL BAND AT ROCKIN' RODEO

Stillwater, Oklahoma-based Read Southball Band brings a hipster perspective to its brand of country rock. Driving guitars and drums push the band's country-tinged lyrics into a formidable sound that evokes something between the Gin

Blossoms and Zac Brown. They've begun making their mark with the independent debut "Borrowed Time."

8 p.m. today at 4400 N. Big Spring St. \$10. rockinrodeomidland.com.

YULETIDE AT THE YUCCA

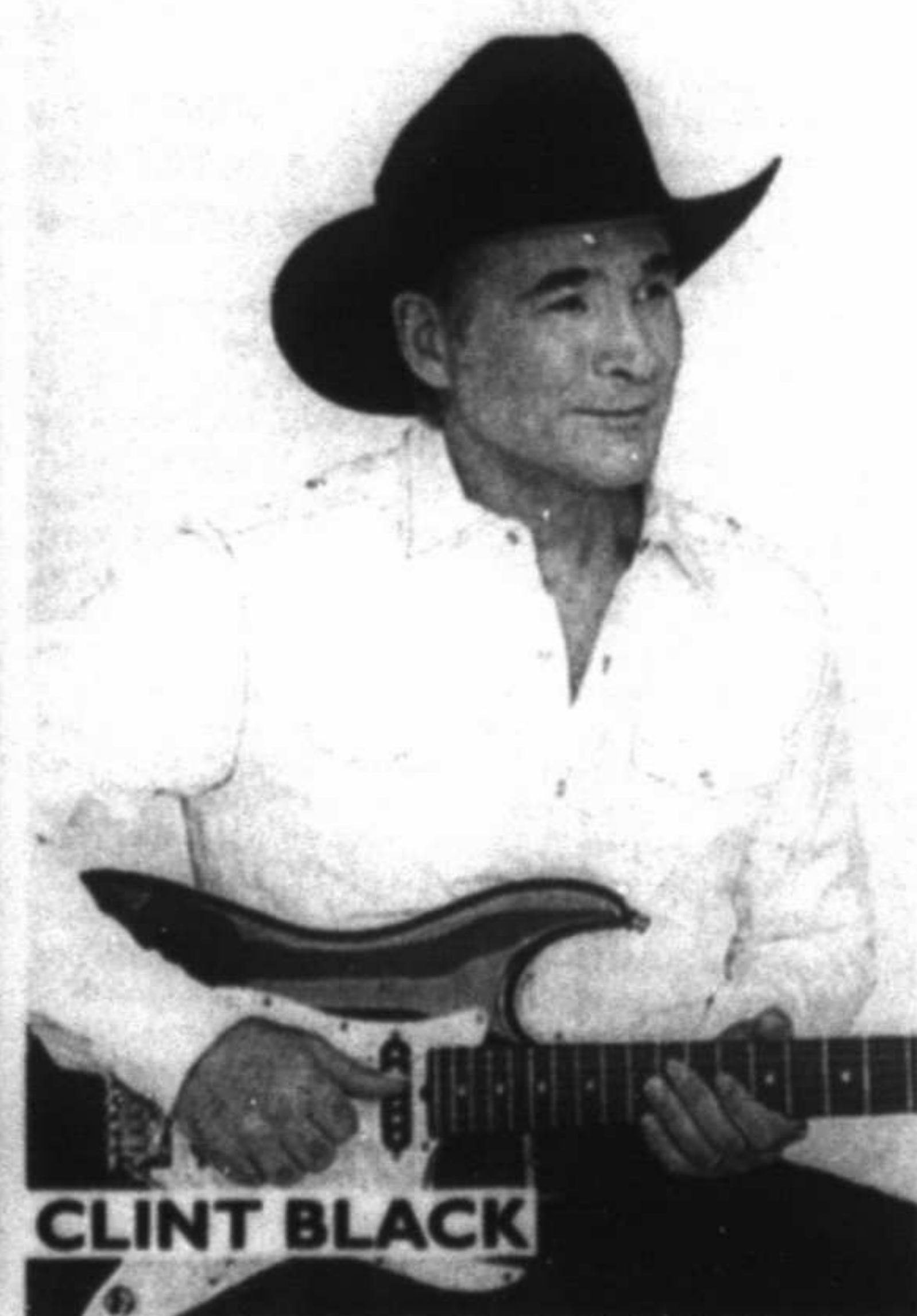
This annual event isn't just a holiday show; it's a showcase of area dancers. This "Dancing in Celebration of the Season" production features performances by Absolute Dance Studio, Aloha O' Hawaii Dance Group, the Hispanic Cultural Center's Ballet Folklorico and Midland Community Theatre's Pickwick Players.

7 p.m. Friday and 1:30 p.m. Saturday at the Yucca Theatre, 208 N. Colorado St. \$8-\$20. mctmidland.org.

TORINO'S SEVENTH ANNUAL TOY DRIVE

Benefiting High Sky Children's Ranch, CASA of West Texas and 311 Ministries, Torino's annual party with a purpose mixes festive with philanthropy. The event

Please see HEAT INDEX/Page 3



CLINT BLACK

TEXAS back to WORK

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CALENDAR

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

EVENTS

Adult Paint and Sip: "Mr. Grinch." 1 p.m. today at Kidd's and Canvas Parties, 3303 N. Midkiff Road. \$35. kidsandcanvasparties.com.

Yappy Hour, a mixer for pet owners, is hosted by the Midland Humane Coalition. Microchip clinic offered for \$20. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Today at Midland Beer Garden.

FAMILY & YOUTH

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.

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

Child Paint for Fun: Handprint Christmas Tree. 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Kidd's and Canvas Parties, 3303 N. Midkiff Road. \$20. kidsandcanvasparties.com.

SciGirls STEM Camp for ages 8-12. 5 p.m. Monday at Midland County Public Library downtown branch, 301 W. Missouri Ave.

Evening Family Storytime offers songs, stories and literacy activities for ages 2 to 6 and their caregivers. 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N.

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.

FINE ART & DANCE

The works of Anabella Charlton and Jesse Trejo on display Fridays throughout December at Kampisoi, 510 S. Big Spring St.

Yuletide at the Yucca featuring performances by Absolute Dance, Aloha O'Hawaii, Ballet Folklórico and more. 7 p.m. Friday and 1:30 p.m. Saturday at the Yucca Theatre, 208 N. Colorado St. mctmidland.org.

"The Nutcracker" by Midland Festival Ballet, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, 2:30 p.m. Sunday at the Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$18-\$59. midlandfestivalballet.org.

"What If," University of Texas of the Permian Basin Senior Art Exhibition on display through Jan. 5 at the Arts Council of Midland, 1506 W. Illinois Ave. acmidland.org.

FOOD & DRINK

Winter Market by the Midland Downtown Farmers Market. 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday at Museum of the Southwest, 1705 W. Missouri Ave.

Breakfast with Santa Cow. 8:30-10:30 a.m. Saturday at Chick-fil-A, 3805 E. 42nd St. Odessa.

Christmas at Fountainville with games, prizes, activities and holiday-flavored treats such as candy cane ice cream and hot chocolate. Toy donations accepted to benefit Safe Place. 4 p.m. Saturday at Fountainville, 1307 N. Loop 250.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Very Merry Midland: Reindeer Games will feature Santa's Workshop, ice skating, giant human

snow globe, live holiday window displays and a new reindeer exhibit. Events run 5-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays and 1-5 p.m. Sundays. Runs through Dec. 23 at 303 W. Wall St. Free admission but \$6 for skating and snow globe photos. Doyourcity.us.

Starbright Village and Community Tree Lighting. View display with more than 300,000 lights. 6-11 p.m. through Jan. 1 at McKinney Park, 625 W. Pool Road, Odessa. Free. odessatxparcs.org.

Christmas at the Mansion: An Illustrated Christmas Holiday Tea Party. 3:45-4:45 p.m. Friday at Museum of the Southwest, 1705 W. Missouri Ave. Free but registration is required by calling 683-2882. museumsw.org.

Torino's seventh annual Toy Drive features live music by J.R. McNutt, Jeremy Calley, Tommy Pool and DJ Daylen Keys with a silent auction, refreshments and more. The toy drive benefits High Sky Children's Ranch, CASA of West Texas and 311 Ministries. Bring a new unwrapped toy or \$10 donation to Torino's for entry. 8 p.m. Friday at the Boardroom, 3303 N. Midkiff Road.

Christmas at the Mansion: An Illustrated Christmas open house. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday at Museum of the Southwest, 1705 W. Missouri Ave. Free. museumsw.org.

Santa, Milk and Cookies. 1-5 p.m. Saturday at Miss Cayce's Christmas, 1012 Andrews Highway.

West Texas North Pole Village will feature Santa and Mrs. Claus, hayrides, Rudolph's Candy Store and more. Noon, Sunday at Rolling 7's Ranch Event Center, 11700 W. County Road 122, Odessa. \$10 adults, \$5 with unwrapped gift.

Pet Photos with Santa. 6-8 p.m. Sunday at Midland Park Mall, 4511 N. Midkiff Road. simon.com/petphoto.

West Texas Astronomers Christmas party and meeting. Guests are asked to bring a potluck dish and items for WTA's toy drive. 7 p.m. Monday at UTPB's CEED, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market 1788. Wtastro.org.

Holiday Open House. 4-6 p.m. Tuesday at Midland County Public Library downtown, 301 W. Missouri Ave.

Q4 Modern Marketing Workshop will show how to approach marketing and branding using social media and other modern avenues. 5-7 p.m. today at Beyond Elite Marketing, 112 S. Loraine St. Suite 414A. \$20. beyondelitemarketing.com.

Open Shop Nights hosted by the Midland Gem and Mineral Visitors can watch members cut rock and work on lapidary projects. 6:30-9 p.m. Mondays at 602 S. Main St. midlandgemandmineral.org.

Palette Club Painting. 9 a.m. to noon, Tuesdays at the Palette Club, 907 W. Wadley Ave. paletteclubmidland.com.

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@artsbysarad.com.

MUSIC

CLASSICAL

Second Tuesday Salon is a free lunchtime concert series. Brown bag lunches or purchase from the local food truck onsite beginning at 11:30 a.m. This month's event features the Permian Basin String Trio. Open to the public. Noon Tuesday at the Rose Building, 415 N. Grant Ave. Odessa. Free. odessaarts.org.

COUNTRY

Read Southall Band, 8 p.m. today at Rockin' Rodeo, 4400 N. Big Spring St. \$10. rockinrodeomidland.com.

Tracy Lawrence, 7 p.m. Friday at Dos Amigos, 4700 Golder Ave., Odessa. Dosamigos.com.

Jerry Hart, 9 p.m. Sunday at the Lone Star Bar, 621 W. Wall St.

DJ/DANCE

#HangoverSundays, 7 p.m. Sunday at Atrium Lounge, 3904 W. Wall St.

DJ Wildman, 9 p.m. Friday and Sunday at the Lift on 7th, 1401 E. Seventh St. Odessa.

HOLIDAY

Clint Black's Holiday and Hits. Hudson Moore opens the show. 7 p.m. today at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$35-\$75. wagner-noel.com.

"Holiday Magic" by FirstCapital Bank of Texas and KWEL Radio. Celebrate the holiday season with a free musical performance by Lone Star Brass. Noon Friday at FirstCapital Bank of Texas, 310 W. Wall St.

Midland Community Band Christmas Concert. 7 p.m. Saturday at Midland College Allison Fine Arts Center, 3600 N. Garfield St. Free.

KARAOKE

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

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

Karaoke and pool tournament, Tuesdays at The Lone Star Bar, 621 W. Wall St.

ROCK

Pullman Standard, 6 p.m. Sunday at Riley's Bar and Grill, 3421 W. Wall St. Free. 21 and older.

VOCAL/CHORAL

Allegro Choral Concert. 7 p.m. Friday at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$12. wagner-noel.com.

OUTDOORS, SPORTS & FITNESS

Nature Club: Christmas Bird Count. Nature Club is a drop-off program for children grades K-3. 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday at Sibley Nature Center, 1307 E. Wadley Ave. \$5 members, \$8 nonmembers. sibleynaturecenter.org.

Christmas at the Mansion: Fifth Annual Ugly Christmas Sweater Run. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday at Museum of the Southwest, 1705 W. Missouri Ave. \$35 members, \$40 nonmembers; \$40 members, \$45 nonmembers day of event. museumsw.org.

Community Horse Ride at the Barn. Noon Saturday at Restoration Farm, 7401 Briarwood Ave. Facebook: @restorationfarmmidland.

Zumba Donation Class benefiting Midland Children's Rehabilitation Center. 4 p.m. Sunday at Project 30 Pilates and Fitness Studio, 3211 W. Wadley Ave. Facebook: @project30pilates.

Family Nitte roller skating, Sundays from 2-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. at KC's Nutty Roller, 1004 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.

Kundalini Yoga with Kaste Lunson. All levels are welcome. Bring a mat and dress in comfortable clothing. 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays at Kampisoi, 510 S. Big Spring St. \$5. Adult Kickball, 2 p.m. Thursdays. Visit facebook.com/groups/midlandkickball for more information.

ROAD TRIP

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

STAGE, COMEDY & FILM

Davis Mountains Open Preserve Weekend, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday-10 at Davis Mountains Preserve in Fort Davis. Nature.org.

DECEMBER

"George Takei's Allegiance" on Broadway 2017. 7:30 p.m. today at Tall City Stadium 14, 4915 SW Loop 250 N. \$19.45. fathomevents.com.

"Astronaut" dome show in 3D. 4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays in December at Blakemore Planetarium, 1705 W. Missouri Ave. museumsw.org.

OPENING: "A Place Called Christmas" and **"Twelve Daze of Christmas"** run through Dec. 17. 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2:30 p.m. Sundays at Permian Playhouse, 310 W. 42nd St. Odessa. \$10. permianplayhouse.com.

"Miracle on 34th Street: The Musical" runs through Dec. 16. 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2:30 Sunday at Midland Community Theatre, 2000 W. Wadley Ave. \$28. mctmidland.org.

Saturday Movie: "The Nightmare before Christmas," 2 p.m. Saturday at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N.

Saturday Movie: "Rise of the Guardians," 2 p.m. Saturday at Midland County Public Library downtown, 301 W. Missouri Ave.

TCM Big Screen Classics: "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" 50th Anniversary Event. 2 and 7 p.m. Sunday and Dec. 13 at Tall City Stadium 14, 4915 SW Loop 250 N. \$13.53. fathomevents.com.

"In My Backyard" dome show, noon, Tuesdays-Saturdays in December. Blakemore Planetarium, 1705 W. Missouri Ave. museumsw.org.

"Star of Bethlehem" dome show, 2 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays in December. Blakemore Planetarium, 1705 W. Missouri Ave. museumsw.org.

Cirque Dreams Holidayze, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. broadwayinthebasin.com.

"The Forgotten Carolis," 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$22-\$38. wagner-noel.com.

COMING SOON

Christmas at the Mansion: An Illustrated Christmas luncheon. Noon-1 p.m. Dec. 14 at Museum of the Southwest, 1705 W. Missouri Ave. \$50 per seat, \$375 per table. museumsw.org.

Holiday Open House. 4-6 p.m. Dec. 14 at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N.

Winter Art Exhibit featuring works by area art associations. Live music by MOSC principal cellist Amy Huzjak. Opening reception begins at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 14 at The Gallery at Midland Shared Spaces, 3500 N. "A" St.

Ugly Sweater Christmas Mixer by Young Professionals of Midland. 6-8 p.m. Dec. 14 at the Blue Door, 4610 N. Garfield St.

MOSC: "Merry Texas Christmas Y'all" with **Asleep at the Wheel** benefiting the Midland Odessa Symphony and Choral. 7:30 p.m. Dec. 14 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$25-\$75. wagner-noel.com.

Jon Wolfe, 9:30 p.m. Dec. 14 at Rockin' Rodeo, 4400 N. Big Spring St. \$12. rockinrodeomidland.com.

"Holiday Magic" by FirstCapital Bank of Texas and KWEL Radio. Celebrate the holiday season with a free musical performance by StrickLEE Orchestra from Lee High School. Noon Dec. 15 at FirstCapital Bank of Texas, 310 W. Wall St.

Odessa Jackalopes play Corpus Christi IceRays, 7:11 p.m. Dec. 15 and 16 at Ector County Coliseum, 4201 Andrews Highway, Odessa. Jackalopes.org.

Family Fitmas is a healthy holiday celebration with obstacle courses, a trail mix bar and photos with Santa. Open to the community. 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Dec. 16 at Midland YMCA, 800 N. Big Spring St. midlandymca.org.

Winter Market by the Midland Downtown Farmers Market. 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Dec. 16 at Museum of the Southwest, 1705 W. Missouri Ave.

Saturday Movie: "The Polar Express," 2 p.m. Dec. 16 at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N.

Pancakes with Santa by the Knights of Columbus. Guests can listen to the story of St. Lucy, make an ornament for the church and have a picture taken with Santa. 6-8 p.m. Dec. 16 at St. Ann's Catholic Church, 1906 W. Texas Ave.

Caymus Wine Dinner will feature a four-course meal paired with various Caymus Vineyard labels. 7 p.m. Dec. 16 at Opal's Table, 223 W. Wall St. \$85. opalstable.com.

Field Office Christmas Party. Guests are encouraged to take a wrapped white elephant gift and snacks. 7 p.m.-1 a.m. Dec. 16 at the Field Office, 3205 W. Industrial Ave.

Truck Stop Gamblers, 9 p.m. Dec. 16 at the Lone Star Bar.

December Brunch Market with vendors and outdoor brunch. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Dec. 17 at So Fly Boutique, 312 W. Colorado St.

West Texas North Pole Village will feature Santa and Mrs. Claus, hayrides, Rudolph's Candy Store and more. Noon Dec. 17 at Rolling 7's Ranch Event Center, 11700 W. County Road 122, Odessa. \$10 adults, \$5 with unwrapped gift.

Santa, Milk and Cookies, 2-5 p.m. Dec. 17 at Miss Cayce's Christmas Store, 1012 Andrews Highway.

MOSC: "Jingle Brass" with Lone Star Brass, 3 p.m. Dec. 17 at Res-Greathouse Recital Hall, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. MOSC.org.

Yoga: Lower Body Burn, 4 p.m. Dec. 17 at Project30 Pilates and Fitness Studio, 3211 W. Wadley Ave. \$5. Facebook: @project30midland.

SciGirls STEM Camp for ages 8-12. 5 p.m. Dec. 18 at Midland County Public Library downtown branch, 301 W. Missouri Ave.

Downtown Family Game Night with a variety of classic and new board games. 4:30 p.m. Dec. 19 at Midland County Public Library downtown branch, 301 W. Missouri Ave.

"The MeshugaNutzcracker! The Chanukah Musical" mixes Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite" with dancing dreidels. 7 p.m. Dec. 19 at Tall City Stadium 14, 4915 SW Loop 250 N. \$17.28. fathomevents.com.

"Merry-achi Christmas" with Mariachi Sol de Mexico de Jose Hernandez, 8 p.m. Dec. 19 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$29.50-\$45.50. MOSC.org.

Hogwarts Holiday. This "Harry Potter"-themed event will sort Hogwarts students and Muggles into various houses and attend magical classes. Teens can partake in the Harry Potter Escape Room. Costumes encouraged. 2:30-5:30 p.m. Dec. 21 at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N.

Third Thursday Reading will have a featured book 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. Dec. 21 at the George W. Bush Childhood Home, 1412 W. Ohio Ave. bushchildhoodhome.org.

FUNDRAISER FOR THE MIDLAND-ODESSA SYMPHONY & CHORALE

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DEC 14 7:30PM

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Expect a wonderful evening that combines Asleep at the Wheel's most popular songs, new material, and holiday favorites such as "Christmas in Jail" and "Merry Texas Christmas Y'all." Don't miss a fun filled evening with these Texas legends performing holiday music inspired by the Lone Star State!

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

Asleep At The Wheel is delighted to perform for the community as the annual fundraising event for the Midland-Odessa Symphony & Choral, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Sponsorship opportunities are available & include tickets. Call (432)543-0921

EVENTS & MORE



'MARVEL'S THE PUNISHER'

Comic-book heroes flock to TV, but why are they so popular?

By Frazier Moore
Associated Press

NEW YORK — When "Marvel's The Punisher" debuted on Netflix last month, it was greeted with great interest and high anticipation.

But it arrived as just one of many comic-book adaptations. "The Punisher" is only the latest in a flood now comprising some 28 shows across nine broadcast, cable and streaming platforms, with no end in sight.

Granted, all comic-book shows aren't created equal.

AMC's "The Walking Dead," beset by zombies, differs markedly from the teen adventures of Archie Andrews on the CW's "Riverdale" and from Amazon's superhero spoof "The Tick."

But the majority exists within either of two expansive brands, not dissimilar to Pepsi and Coke.

One is DC, which (with the midseason arrival of "Black Lightning" on the CW) will be represented by nine shows on three networks. The other is Marvel with 13 shows arrayed on six outlets, chiefly Netflix, which currently hosts a half-dozen of its own.

That all adds up to more spandex get-ups than you'd find in an aerobics class. But before concluding that superheroes have taken over the small screen, it's worth noting a few things.

First, TV has always chased trends. Think: cop shows, doctor shows, lawyer shows. Way back in Fall 1959, more than two dozen Westerns were airing on just three broadcast networks. That would dwarf the current slate of comic book shows as a percentage of the 500-odd scripted original prime-time series airing in 2017.

"Comics-related television series have always been a mainstay of television," says Paul Levinson, professor of communications and media studies at Fordham University. "Now it may seem like they're all over the place. But that's because there's television all over the place."

Even so, an upsurge of comic-based shows the past few years is unmistakable. Consider the CW, where, without "Smallville" after a decade's run, no such shows were in its lineup in Fall 2011. But after a subsequent year-by-year buildup, it will boast seven this season.

Along the way, comics-related movies proliferated, while in October 2010, "The Walking Dead" made clear from its explosive arrival that a comic-book property could be a TV smash.

By then, the CGI (computer graphics imagery) that any superhero show requires had become more sophisticated yet sufficiently affordable for weekly TV productions. Conversely, superhero series were a perfect TV showcase for those ever-more-eye-popping special effects in a way that more realistic cop dramas or sitcoms could never be.

Meanwhile, the launch of more and more channels, especially streaming platforms with their limitless capacity, signaled an ever-escalating need to create content.

"With this extraordinary appetite for source material, decades of comic books offered material just waiting to be plucked," says Robert Thompson, director of Syracuse University's Bleier Center for Television & Popular Culture.

Even better, they're perfectly formatted for turning into TV.

"A comic book is like a TV storyboard: visual dialogue in frames," Thompson says. "It's so perfectly transferable! Comic books make the life of a network development executive really, really easy."

But none of this accounts for the apparently insatiable hunger for these shows with which the audience receives them.

"All of it, one some level, is escapism," explains Brett Rogers, classics professor at the University of Puget Sound. "If I'm watching 'Jessica Jones' for an hour, I'm not dealing with some real thing in my life. But the flip side is that comic-book-inspired shows can be spaces for thinking through some serious questions: 'Jessica Jones' is an opportunity to explore sexual violence and post-traumatic stress disorder."

"The comic book industry famously has had to fight the stigma of being for just for children and idiots," he says. But as gifted "kids and idiots" like Joss Whedon and Kevin Smith came of age and made waves by nurturing a comics ethos across multiple media including TV, comics gained new gravitas, respect and urgency.

"It's now being normalized as shared myth of mainstream culture," Rogers said. "It's a common myth shared between readers and viewers, adolescents and adults, comics and film buffs alike — NOT just kids' culture."

Such shows, like the comics that spawned them, can offer welcome moral clarity in an ever-more-confounding world.

"It's much easier to identify the heroes and villains, the good guys vs. the bad guys, than it is on other television shows," says Levinson. "And, by and large, the good characters and heroes endure and triumph over adversity."

"These characters were created as morality tales. They have a primal appeal, a simple appeal," says Glen Weldon, a panelist on NPR's "Pop Culture Happy Hour" podcast and author of "Superman: The Unauthorized Biography."

"They represent our best selves. We are meant to look at them and strive to be more like them."

And thanks to the internet, the appreciation of these comic-book heroes, whether they exist on the page or the screen, can now be enjoyed as a communal experience.

"In the past, if you grew up a nerd, you thought you were alone," says Weldon. "Now you can go online and find people just like you who share your passion."

How long will this craze last? For more than a half-century, TV's trends have burst on the scene, then flared out and been given up for dead. (How many current TV Westerns can you count?)

But comics-inspired TV may not follow that cycle.

"It may ebb as well as flow," says Thompson, "but I don't think there's any reason to believe that this genre will exhaust itself as others have done, or that viewers will get tired of it. It's such a versatile genre."

Versatile, and with room to grow, he adds, unlike other genres that may have reached their peak. While the police procedural may well have plateaued creatively, "the comic-book genre is still maturing," he says. "We're still seeing it evolve."

'The Last Jedi' aims to capture that old Star Wars feeling

By Lindsey Bahr
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Han Solo is dead. Luke Skywalker is back, but changed. And Leia Organa's story will soon be coming to an end.

The Star Wars that inspired four decades of passionate fandom appears to be slowly but surely fading as "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" prepares to descend on Dec. 15, giving way to a newer generation of intergalactic rebels and their foes, like Rey and Kylo Ren, and a fresh voice behind the endeavor in writer-director Rian Johnson ("Looper").

J.J. Abrams' "The Force Awakens" set the stage for this new era of the franchise, but "The Last Jedi" has to move it forward and keep audiences interested for the next one too.

After all these years and billions of dollars, Star Wars isn't exactly a scrappy underdog anymore, but the franchise is in somewhat uncharted territory. The prequels did their own damage, but at least no one had to say goodbye to their original heroes.

And then there's the seemingly impossible standard set by that other Star Wars sequel, "The Empire Strikes Back."

Besides the main cast, filmmakers and some Lucasfilm and Walt Disney Co. brass, no one will see "The Last Jedi" until the

Los Angeles premiere on Dec. 9. And determining what exactly audiences should expect is a bit like trying to assemble a puzzle with no picture and most of the pieces missing. The cast has left some adjective breadcrumbs ("intense," "emotional," "intimate," "cinematic") but for the most part, it's a mystery.

For me, "The Last Jedi" is not a particularly happy story to tell, but it's just my part," Mark Hamill says cryptically. Hamill, 66, returns to play Luke Skywalker after being seen in only a few frames of "The Force Awakens," which ends on a wind-swept cliff as the young protégé Rey (Daisy Ridley) approaches him looking for training from the missing Jedi. Luke and Rey are just one of the new pairings promised for the film, which finds every character out of their comfort zone and facing new challenges as the Resistance organizes to go up against the First Order.

"It's got so much going on," Hamill adds. "You can cut from the more somber scenes I have to the action/adventure, the suspense, the humor ... I've only seen it once but I thought, 'This is too much information to process.'"

The marketing campaign, no doubt playing into the tone set by "Empire," has focused on the darkness and intensity of "The Last Jedi," but Johnson says that's only one

element. He stresses that it is, first and foremost, a Star Wars movie. To him, that means capturing that thing that makes you want to "run out of the theater and into your backyard" to play with your spaceship toys — even without the curmudgeonly wit of Harrison Ford's Han Solo.

"That's what everyone was concerned about going in: How do you do it without him?" Johnson, 43, says. "I saw so much potential for humor in it. I was looking at every single character and trying to find opportunities to break the tension. I think people are going to be surprised by how fun and light on its feet it is."

In addition to Luke and Rey, the film brings back Carrie Fisher as Leia in her last film role (Fisher died after filming had wrapped), Adam Driver's Kylo Ren, fresh off murdering his father Han Solo, the mysterious Supreme Leader Snoke (Andy Serkis), Domhnall Gleeson's General Hux, the ace pilot Poe (Oscar Isaac), the ex-Stormtrooper Finn (John Boyega) and his old boss Captain Phasma (Gwendoline Christie), Chewbacca, the droids and a host of newcomers, like Laura Dern's purple-haired Vice Admiral Holdo, a maintenance tech, Rose (Kelly Marie Tran), a hacker (Benicio Del Toro) and some cute little creatures

Please see JEDI/Page 4



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Please note the date change!

Reading events are usually on the 3rd Thursday each month, but due to the proximity to Christmas, this event has been moved up by one week.

HEAT INDEX

From Page 1

will feature catered food, a silent auction and heavy lineup of local music by J.R. McNutt, Jeremy Calley, Tommy Pool and DJ Daylen Keys. Guests can either take a new unwrapped toy or \$10 donation to the venue as admission.

8 p.m., Friday at The Boardroom, 3303 N. Midkiff Road.

MIDLAND FESTIVAL BALLET'S "THE NUTCRACKER" AT THE

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MFB's annual performance of "The Nutcracker" is never short on grandiose sets. This year's show will have a new addition to the colorful atmosphere with a Christmas tree that grows up to 30 feet tall onstage. Pair that with exquisite dancing and live music, and you might see proof that holiday magic is real.

7:30 p.m. Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday at 1310 N. FM Road 1788. \$18-\$59. midlandfestivalballet.org.

ON SCREEN



'COCO'

'Coco' maintains its reign at the box office

By Sonaiya Kelley
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — As moviegoers gear up for "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" on Dec. 15, "Coco" is maintaining its box-office hold for the second consecutive week.

The latest picture from Disney's Pixar Animation Studios took in an estimated \$26.1 million over the weekend, for a total of \$108.7 million, according to measurement firm ComScore.

The Dia de los Muertos-themed computer-animated film, about a young boy who meets his ancestors in the Land of the Dead, was a hit both with audiences and critics. "Coco" earned a stellar A-plus rating on CinemaScore and a 97 percent "fresh" rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

In second place, Warner Bros.' "Justice League" took in \$16.7 million in its third week, a 60 percent decline, for a total of \$197.3 million.

The latest effort from DC Comics earned mixed reviews, with a B-plus on CinemaScore and a 41 percent "rotten" rating on Rotten Tomatoes. The picture stars Gal Gadot as Wonder Woman, Ben Affleck as Batman, Henry Cavill as Superman, Ray Fisher as Cyborg, Jason Momoa as Aquaman and Ezra Miller as the Flash. After "Justice League," the next live-action DC film on the Warner Bros. schedule is "Aquaman," set for a December 2018 release.

Coming in third, Lionsgate's emotional drama "Wonder" took in \$12.5 million in its third week, a 45 percent decline, for a cumulative total of \$88 million.

The film, about a fifth-grade boy trying to cope with bullying because of a facial disfigurement, earned an A-plus rating on CinemaScore and an 84 percent "fresh" rating on Rotten Tomatoes. Produced by Lionsgate, Participant Media, Walden Media and Mandeville Films for \$20 million, the movie stars Jacob Tremblay ("Room") and Julia Roberts.

Now in its fifth weekend, Disney's

"Thor: Ragnarok" made \$9.7 million, for a gross of \$291.4 million.

The third installment in the standalone "Thor" franchise stars Chris Hemsworth as the Norse god of thunder, tasked with saving his home planet from a formidable new invader. The picture, which cost \$180 million to make, also stars Cate Blanchett, Jeff Goldblum and Tessa Thompson.

Rounding out the top five, Paramount's "Daddy's Home 2" earned \$7.5 million, a 43 percent drop, for a cumulative \$82.8 million in earnings.

Mark Wahlberg and Will Ferrell again join forces as co-parenting dads trying to make a memorable Christmas for the kids. The film got mixed reviews from audiences and critics. It also stars Mel Gibson and John Lithgow.

New over the weekend, Fox Searchlight's fantasy drama "The Shape of Water" opened in New York in two theaters with \$166,800, for a per-screen average of \$83,400. Directed by Guillermo del Toro, the movie stars Sally Hawkins as a mute cleaning lady working in a high-security government lab. The picture, which earned a 95 percent "fresh" rating on Rotten Tomatoes, opens Friday in Los Angeles.

A24's "The Disaster Artist" opened in 19 theaters to \$1.2 million, for a per-screen average of \$64,254. Directed by and starring James Franco, the film chronicles the making of Tommy Wiseau's cult classic "The Room" and earned a 95 percent "fresh" rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

AMA debuted Woody Allen's "Wonder Wheel" in five locations with \$140,555, for a per-theater average of \$28,111. The movie earned a 41 percent "rotten" rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

This week, Broad Green Pictures opens "Just Getting Started," starring Morgan Freeman and Tommy Lee Jones. Neon debuts the Margot Robbie-led comedy "I, Tonya" in limited release.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency



'THE LAST JEDI'

JEDI

From Page 3

called Porgs.

His script, which he was able to write while "The Force Awakens" was being made, took some of the cast back at first.

"I was going, 'Uh, I'm not sure about this,'" Ridley says. "It just took us all a second to be like, 'Ok this is where the story is heading.'"

Johnson jokes that he's like the new boyfriend at Thanksgiving dinner who everyone has to get used to.

"(Rian) had a different challenge which was to expand the Star Wars universe further with more inventive ideas, taking more risks," Boyega says. "He was a real fan. I feel like he ticked off his Star Wars fanboy theories just

one by one with this film."

That fandom has also helped Johnson, who Hamill refers to as his Obi-Wan, reach a sort of zen-like state with the film. It also doesn't hurt that Lucasfilm president Kathleen Kennedy, who has not been afraid to make tough decisions and fire or bench directors if something isn't working, was so pleased with their collaboration and the resulting film that she has already enlisted Johnson to develop a new Star Wars trilogy separate from the Skywalker saga (he'll write and direct the first).

Now it's just a matter of putting "The Last Jedi" out in the world. Financially, there's not much to worry about — it's tracking to open somewhere in the \$200 million range (far

below "The Force Awakens'" \$248 million debut, but stunning nonetheless). Also box office and the expectations and hopes of a loyal fanbase, who have been burned before, are two very different things.

"Having been a Star Wars fan myself for the past 40 years, I know intimately how passionate they are about it and how everyone has stuff they love and hate in every single movie. That takes the pressure off a little bit just thinking, 'Ok, there's going to be stuff that everyone likes, there's going to be stuff that people don't like and it's going to be a mixture,'" Johnson says.

And with a smile and a shrug, he adds: "That's what being a Star Wars fan is."

FILM CAPS

"A Bad Moms Christmas" (R) Three mothers face the most daunting holiday — coupled with visits from their own moms — in this sequel to the 2016 comedy. With Milla Kunis, Kristen Bell, Kathryn Hahn, Jay Hernandez, Cheryl Hines, Peter Gallagher, Christine Baranski, Susan Sarandon. Written and directed by Jon Lucas & Scott Moore.

"Coco" (G) A young boy with musical aspirations visits the Land of the Dead. Voices of Gael Garcia Bernal, Anthony Gonzalez, Benjamin Bratt, Renee Victor. Directed by Lee Unkrich. Co-directed by Adrian Molina.

"Daddy's Home 2" (PG-13) Sensitive stepdad Will Ferrell and macho dad Mark Wahlberg return in this sequel to the 2015 comedy, this time dealing with the arrival of their own fathers just in time for Christmas. With Linda Cardellini, John Cena, John Lithgow, Mel Gibson. Written by Sean Anders & John Morris, based on characters created by Brian Burns. Directed by Anders.

"Just Getting Started" (PG-13) Rivals at a Palm Springs seniors resort compete for the attention of an attractive newcomer. With Morgan Freeman, Tommy Lee Jones, Rene Russo. Written and directed by Ron Shelton.

"Justice League" (PG-13) Batman and Wonder Woman recruit a team of superheroes to defend the planet against a new threat. With Ben Affleck, Henry Cavill, Gal Gadot, Raymont Fisher, Jason Momoa, Ezra Miller. Written by Chris Terrio and Joss Whedon; story by Terrio & Zack Snyder.

based on characters from DC Entertainment. Superman created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster. Directed by Snyder.

"Lady Bird" (R) As warm as it is smart, and it is very smart, this portrait of a high school senior year marks actor-screenwriter Greta Gerwig's superb debut as a solo director and yet another astonishing performance by star Saoirse Ronan.

"The Meyerowitz Stories (New and Selected)" (NR) Three adult siblings grapple with the impact their domineering father has on them. With Adam Sandler, Ben Stiller, Dustin Hoffman, Emma Thompson, Elizabeth Marvel, Grace Van Patten. Written and directed by Noah Baumbach. Streaming on Netflix.

"Mudbound" (R) Two families — one black, one white — struggle to farm the Mississippi Delta under Jim Crow laws during World War II. With Carey Mulligan, Garrett Hedlund, Jason Mitchell, Mary J. Blige, Jonathan Banks, Jason Clarke, Rob Morgan. Written by Virgil Williams and Dee Rees, based on a novel by Hillary Jordan. Directed by Rees. Streaming on Netflix.

"Murder on the Orient Express" (PG-13) Kenneth Branagh directs and stars in a mystery that plays out on a train across Europe. With Penelope Cruz, Willem Dafoe, Judi Dench, Johnny Depp, Josh Gad, Derek Jacobi, Leslie Odom Jr., Michelle Pfeiffer, Daisy Ridley. Written by Michael Green, based on the novel by Agatha Christie.

"The Star" (NR) A

tenacious little donkey and his newfound friends follow a bright light in the sky and become part of the first Christmas in this animated fable. Voices of Steven Yeun, Gina Rodriguez, Zachary Levi, Keegan-Michael Key, Tracy Morgan, Tyler Perry, Oprah Winfrey. Written by Carlos Kotkin; story by Simon Moore and Kotkin. Directed by Timothy Reckart.

"Thor: Ragnarok" (PG-13) Chris Hemsworth stars in the third installment as the thunder god is held prisoner without his mighty hammer. With Tom Hiddleston, Cate Blanchett, Idris Elba, Jeff Goldblum, Tessa Thompson, Karl Urban, Mark Ruffalo, Anthony Hopkins. Written by Eric Pearson; story by Craig Kyle & Christopher Yost and Pearson, based on the Marvel Comic. Directed by Taika Waititi.

"Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri" (R) Uncommon writer-director Martin McDonagh and a splendid cast top-lined by Frances McDormand, Woody Harrelson and Sam Rockwell present a savage film, even a dangerous one, the blackest take-no-prisoners farce in quite some time.

"Wonder" (PG) The facial differences that a fifth-grader was born with present challenges during entry into a mainstream school. With Julia Roberts, Owen Wilson, Jacob Tremblay, Mandy Patinkin, Daved Diggs. Written by Jack Thorne and Steven Conrad and Stephen Chbosky; based on the novel by R.J. Palacio. Directed by Chbosky.

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SPORTS

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Thursday, December 7, 2017 | Section C

The UIL has released its conference cutoff numbers. Find out which schools will be realigned on Page 2C.

MISD teams to play in Tall City Oilman's Invite

By Will Korn and Christopher Hadorn
Reporter-Telegram

After a one-year hiatus, the Tall City Oilman's Invitational basketball tournament is back.

The longtime Lee-hosted tournament returns today and will be held at Chaparral Center, Lee High School and Midland High through Saturday.

Twelve boys teams — including three Metroplex teams and an Austin area team — will assemble in the Tall City, while the 10-team girls' field has one Metroplex program and two El Paso squads.

Lee girls basketball coach Alfred

Acosta said the tournament had insufficient funds to operate in 2016.

Acosta said the tournament is typically financed by both the Rebels basketball booster clubs and the city of Midland.

In 2016, both the Lee boys and girls programs were led by first-year coaches with Justin Boswell and Acosta, so that complicated matters, as well.

"Last year it came down to funding," Acosta said. "By the time it was time to start getting it together, there was just no way funding wise we would have been able to do it. Again, it was something that was added to (Boswell and me) in our transition to being there. And the idea was that

this year, we wanted to bring not only the Tall City Oilman's back, but bring another tournament to the city of Midland with quality teams just like the Byron Johnston (Tournament) has."

"(The city are) big fans of it," Acosta added. "That's the whole idea is trying to bring people to city of Midland and experience the beautiful scenery and the hospitality, that's for sure."

In the girls tournament, the Tall City will be represented by Lee (4-7), Midland High (8-6) and No. 2-ranked Midland Classical (4-1). The larger classification girls

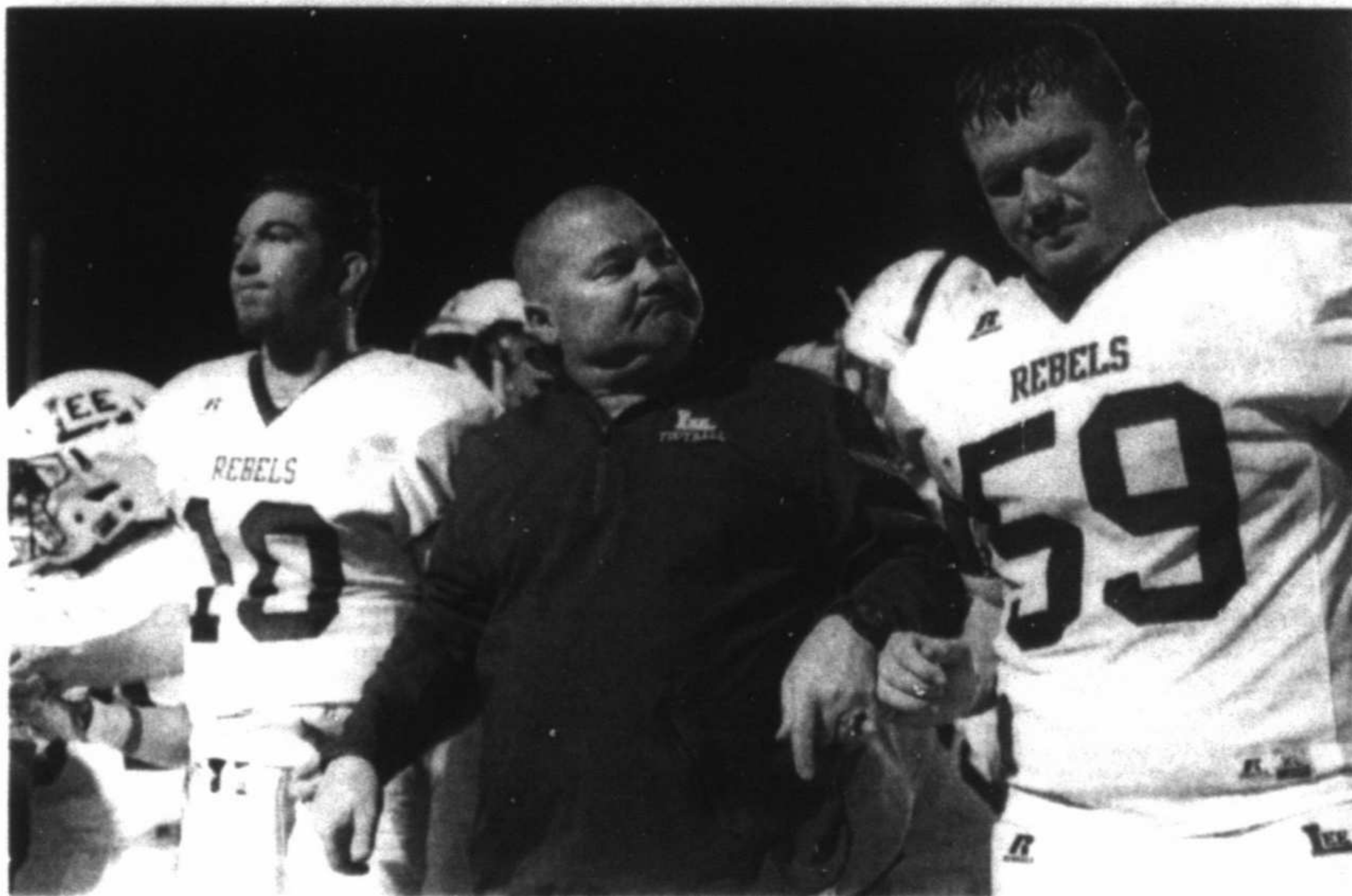
Please see INVITE/3C



MRT file photo

Lee's Quincy Strambler (14) goes after the ball against Wall's Sawyer Lloyd (10) on Nov. 14 at Lee High School.

TRUSTING THE PROCESS



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Lee head football coach Clint Hartman reacts to an emotional loss against Euless Trinity in the 6A Division I regional playoff game Saturday at Shottwell Stadium in Abilene.

Rebels enjoy return to prominence in 2017

By Will Korn
wkorn@mrt.com

Two years ago, it was the goal of the Lee football program's Team 55 to "Get back on the map" — to re-assert itself as one of the most respected gridiron legacies in a state rich with them.

As it turned out, it was the players and coaches of Team 57 that made major headway on that mission. Riding the strength of a molding offseason, a feared rushing attack, a magical chemistry between coaches and players and old fashioned west Texas grit, the Rebels defied with gusto the preseason expectations of many.

Lee, picked by Dave Campbell's Texas Football to finish sixth in District 2-6A, ended up being the last district team standing by the regional round of the playoffs. The Rebels then led traditional state power Euless Trinity, 17-13 at halftime, before falling short in a 34-23 loss that ended an exciting postseason run.

In perhaps Lee's greatest season since 2000, it was all about the process for Team 57. Countless moving parts came together, clicked into place and collectively drove this program forward in 2017.

"The process is a lot, and that's what people don't understand," Hartman

said. "We have the best principal in the world — Stan Van Hoozer — he's at every game. He allowed us to hire coaches. My number one criteria for hiring coaches was I'd ask them 'Can you love these kids as if they are your own?' When I took his job, I knew these kids could be pushed because they're tough west Texas kids."

This year's team put together one of the best starts to a season in program history. The Rebels raced to a 6-0 mark and throttled opponents by an average of nearly 25 points per game. The streak included a 49-14 win over Midland High, the most convincing victory against the Bulldogs since 2004.

It was a group that also prided itself just as much on resiliency as explosiveness. Following a 52-28 road loss at San Angelo Central, the Rebels responded with a gritty 28-21 home triumph over Odessa High a week later to keep themselves in healthy playoff positioning.

And after a regular season-ending, 42-7 home loss to rival Odessa Permian, Lee discovered new life with a 63-0 rout of El Paso El Dorado in the Division I bi-district round — the third playoff shutout in program history.

En route to the Rebels' deepest playoff run in 16 seasons, a number of offensive records were shattered. Chief among them: Senior quarterback Colby Standard set a school record for number

of total yards (3,786) in a single season.

This year was the first time Lee has ever had three 1,000-yard rushers in a single year. Standard led the way with 1,450 yards and 15 touchdowns. Junior running back Josh Traylor (1,442, 18 TDs) was just behind him, followed by senior back Avery Akbar with 1,249 yards and 16 TDs.

Receivers Grant Brown and junior Sheldon Bass Jr. both vaulted to a spot among the program's historical best. Brown (40 receptions, 693 yards, 7 TDs) tied for the fifth-most receptions and sixth-most yards ever by a Rebel receiver, while Bass Jr. (39-621, 6 TDs) finished sixth and ninth, respectively, in those categories.

In their 13 games this season, the Rebels amassed 7,005 yards of offense — numbers Hartman has never known as a head coach. He credited the entirety of his coaching staff, as well as the maturity and accountability of his players.

"To get those numbers, the kids have to trust you and they've got to have talent. They all bought in. I've said it a hundred times: Our offensive line is where it started and ended. For us to break all those records, it's a pretty neat deal."

Defensively, through an emotional roller coaster of a senior year, captain

Please see LEE/3C

Arkansas hires SMU's Chad Morris as football coach

By Kurt Voigt
Associated Press

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Arkansas had its best back-to-back seasons in the Southeastern Conference when Bobby Petrino was leading a high-powered offensive attack during the 2010-11 seasons.

The Razorbacks have turned to an up-tempo, offensive-minded coach — albeit one without the Petrino's scandalous baggage — to try and rekindle that level of success.

Arkansas hired SMU's Chad Morris on Wednesday, ending nearly two weeks of uncertainty following Bret Bielema's firing moments after the season ended. The 49-year-old Morris inherits a program in disarray, though his arrival — along with the hiring earlier in the week of new athletic director Hunter Yurachek — represents a fresh start for a program desperately in need of it.

"The future is tremendously bright at the University of Arkansas with the addition of Chad Morris," Yurachek said. "I am confident that Chad will bring an exciting brand of football, phenomenal student-athletes and championships to Fayetteville, and do it all with high integrity."

Morris agreed to a six-year contract worth \$3.5 million annually. He leaves the Mustangs after agreeing to an extension through the 2023 season last year.

His contract also calls for incentives to be established that could net Morris up to an additional \$1.2 million annually. He'll also receive retention bonuses of \$500,000 in 2019, '21 and '23 if he's still employed at Arkansas — and there have been no major NCAA rules violations.

Should Arkansas fire Morris, his buyout begins at \$14.7 million in 2018 and drops to \$12.25 million in 2019. That's followed by \$9.8 million in 2020, \$7.35 million in 2021, \$4.9 million in 2022 and \$3.5 million in the last year in 2023. He would owe the school \$3 million if he leaves for another job in 2018-19, \$2.5 million in 2020, \$2 million in 2021, \$1.5 million in 2022 and nothing in 2023.

Yurachek was familiar with Morris from when Houston nearly hired him in 2014 before going with Tom Herman. The former Cougars athletic director thanked Arkansas interim athletic director Julie Cromer Peoples for her help with identifying Morris before his hiring



Morris

Please see MORRIS/4C

Prescott embraces 'playoffs start now' mentality for Cowboys

By Schuyler Dixon
Associated Press

FRISCO — After 12 games a year ago, Dak Prescott had the Dallas Cowboys on a franchise-record winning streak, cruising toward the playoffs.

In the star quarterback's second season, the postseason essentially started with five games to go, thanks to some early-season struggles and the three-game skid when star running back Ezekiel Elliott finally started serving his six-game suspension over alleged domestic violence.

Prescott, the reigning NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year, embraces the "playoffs start now" mentality as the Cowboys (6-6) prepare to visit

the last-place New York Giants on Sunday a year after they were 11-1 with 11 straight wins on their way to an NFC-best 13-3.

"The whole point of us winning out, it motivates me," Prescott said. "I feel like it should motivate anybody in this locker room. We're not looking at letdowns. We're not looking at anything. It's one thing in our head and it's to win."

The Cowboys beat Washington in what amounted to an elimination game between the NFC East rivals. They had their best game running with Alfred Morris since the start of Elliott's suspension, and rolled to a 38-14 win despite just 102 yards passing from Prescott, who threw for two scores.

Prescott bruised his right hand

against the Redskins and would have missed at least part of a series if not for a timely punt return for a touchdown from rookie Ryan Switzer.

The throwing hand was wrapped during the portion of practice open the reporters Wednesday, but Prescott said the wrap came off later in the workout. He did acknowledge, though, that he threw for the first time since the Redskins game six days earlier.

"There weren't any restrictions," Prescott said. "It didn't feel like my hand was bothering me or any limitations on throwing the ball or anything."

Dallas' last two games without Elliott are on the road against underperforming teams that started the season with Super Bowl aspirations.



Associated Press

Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott (4) breaks a huddle in the second half against the Washington Redskins in Arlington on Nov. 4. Prescott finally has a win without backup field mate Ezekiel Elliott. The Dallas quarterback still has two games without the suspended star, and no margin for error if he wants to get the Cowboys back to the playoffs.

DAILY RUNDOWN

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

College Wrestling
Maryland at Wisconsin, 8 p.m., BTN

Golf
Australian Masters, 2nd Round, 8 p.m., GOLF
Ladies Omega Dubai Masters, 3rd Round, 3:30 a.m., GOLF

Men's College Basketball
Valparaiso at Purdue, 5:30 p.m., FS1
Ohio at Maryland, 6 p.m., BTN
Iowa at Iowa State, 7 p.m., ESPN2
Howard at Georgetown, 7:30 p.m., FS1

Men's Soccer
UEFA Europa: Atlanta BC vs. Olympique Lyonnais, Noon, FS2

UEFA Europa: HNK Rijeka vs. AC Milan, Noon, FSN (FSW)

UEFA Europa: Arsenal FC vs. FC BATE Borisov, 2 p.m., FS1, ESPNDEP

UEFA Europa: FK Crvena Zvezda vs. 1. FC Köln, 2 p.m., FS2

National Basketball Association
LA Lakers at Philadelphia, 7 p.m., TNT
Houston at Utah, 9:30 p.m., TNT

National Football League
New Orleans at Atlanta, 7:25 p.m., NBC, NBCU, NFL, Amazon Prime

National Hockey League
Dallas at St. Louis, 7 p.m., FSNW

WHAT'S ON DECK

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL
MHS, Lee, Big Spring at Tall City Oilman's Tournament, Chaparral Center, Lee, MHS
Greenwood at Glen Rose Lions Club Tournament
MCA at Crane Tournament
Andrews at Gym Bice Tournament, Andrews
Stanton, Coahoma at Hootown Classic, Stanton
Garden City, Grady at Garden City Tournament

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL
MHS, Lee, MCA at Tall City Oilman's Tournament, Chaparral Center, Lee, MHS
Andrews, Big Spring at Kristin Corbin Classic, Andrews
Stanton, Coahoma at Hootown Classic, Stanton
Garden City, Grady at Garden City Tournament

TRANSACTIONS

WEDNESDAY
BASEBALL
American League
TEXAS RANGERS — Signed LHP Mike Minor to a three-year contract.
Pittsburgh Pirates — Signed RHP Josh Liddle to a one-year contract.
FLORENCE FREEDOM — Signed OF Andrew Golds and OF Andre Mearns to contract extensions.

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
MIA — First Memphis C. Marc Gasol \$15,000 for using a publicly during a live television interview after a Dec. 4 game. Fred Simon G.F. Allen Cade \$15,000 for violating the rule prohibiting players from throwing any item, including the game ball, at the basket stanchion.

FOOTBALL
NFL — Signed commissioner Roger Goodell to a two-year contract extension through 2024.
Cincinnati Bengals — Signed WR John Ross to a one-year contract extension.
GREEN BAY PACKERS — Activated CB Davante Adams from the PUP list. Placed CB Marcus Peters on injured reserve.
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — Suspended CB Marcus Peters for his actions during a Dec. 3 game against Oakland.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Re-signed LB Jonathan Freese.
WASHINGTON REDSKINS — OL Cameron Johnston to the practice squad.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League
COLORADO AVALANCHE — Signed F Trevor Lewis to a one-year contract.
DETROIT RED WINGS — Reassigned D. 1st Round pick to Detroit Red Wings (AHL) from Toledo (ECHL).

NEW YORK RANGERS — Signed G Mike McLeod and assigned him to Hartford (AHL). Assigned G Alexander Georgiev to Hartford (AHL).

AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE
GRAND RAPIDS GRIFTERS — Reassigned F Mike Borwick from Toledo (ECHL).

SAN ANTONIO RAMPAGE — Reassigned G Joe Corcoran to Colorado (ECHL).

ECHL
READING HORNETS — Signed G Brian Macrone and assigned him to Hartford (AHL). Assigned G John Mearns to Hartford (AHL).

MOTORSPORTS
NASCAR
NASCAR announced that the 2018 season will be the last for the Sprint Cup Series. The Sprint Cup Series will be replaced by the NASCAR Cup Series. The NASCAR Cup Series will be the premier series of the NASCAR organization. The NASCAR Cup Series will be the premier series of the NASCAR organization. The NASCAR Cup Series will be the premier series of the NASCAR organization.

NHL GLANCE

Standings	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
EASTERN CONFERENCE							
Atlantic Division							
Buffalo	27	18	8	1	37	101	89
Toronto	28	10	17	1	21	85	101
Montreal	29	13	13	3	29	81	90
Boston	25	12	9	4	28	87	73
Detroit	28	11	12	5	27	79	81
Ottawa	25	9	10	6	24	74	86
Pittsburgh	27	10	13	4	24	76	93
Buffalo	28	7	17	4	18	68	98
Metropolitan Division							
New Jersey	27	18	7	2	38	94	81
Columbus	28	17	10	1	35	80	70
Washington	29	17	11	1	35	86	88
N.Y. Islanders	27	16	9	2	34	101	82
Pittsburgh	29	15	11	3	33	88	95
N.Y. Rangers	27	15	10	2	32	81	81
Carolina	26	11	10	5	27	72	80
Philadelphia	27	9	11	7	25	75	83
WESTERN CONFERENCE							
Central Division							
Nashville	28	18	7	3	39	90	60
St. Louis	28	18	8	2	38	82	75
Winnipeg	28	17	7	4	38	96	76
Calgary	28	16	11	1	33	88	81
Minnesota	27	15	11	1	31	80	82
Chicago	28	12	11	5	29	84	79
Pacific Division							
Los Angeles	29	18	8	3	39	90	63
San Jose	27	17	9	1	35	94	80
Vancouver	28	14	10	4	32	78	77
San Jose	28	14	10	4	32	80	81
Calgary	28	11	11	6	28	75	88
Edmonton	27	11	14	2	24	78	91
Anaheim	30	7	19	3	19	73	104

NFL GLANCE

Standings	GP	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA
AMERICAN CONFERENCE							
AFC East							
New England	10	7	0	3	243	223	100
Buffalo	6	0	6	0	227	283	100
N.Y. Jets	5	1	4	0	117	288	100
Miami	5	7	0	4	209	298	100
AFC South							
Tennessee	8	4	0	4	267	282	100
Jacksonville	8	4	0	4	267	282	100
Houston	4	0	4	0	233	298	100
Indianapolis	3	0	3	0	250	330	100
AFC North							
Pittsburgh	10	2	0	8	231	213	100
Baltimore	7	5	0	2	283	207	100
Cincinnati	5	7	0	4	219	238	100
Cleveland	0	12	0	0	19	308	100
AFC West							
Kansas City	6	0	6	0	200	274	100
L.A. Chargers	6	0	6	0	200	274	100
Oakland	6	0	6	0	200	274	100
Denver	3	0	3	0	250	315	100
NATIONAL CONFERENCE							
NFC East							
Philadelphia	10	2	0	8	231	213	100
Dallas	6	0	6	0	200	274	100
Washington	1	7	1	4	212	214	100
N.Y. Giants	2	1	0	1	189	291	100
NFC South							
New Orleans	9	3	0	6	250	243	100

PREGAME.COM ODDS

COLLEGE FOOTBALL SATURDAY	OPEN	TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
NAVY	30	3	1	1
NFL SATURDAY				
at TAMPA BAY	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
at CINCINNATI	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
at BUFFALO	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
at JACKSONVILLE	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
at KANSAS CITY	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
at MINNESOTA	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
at GREEN BAY	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
at LA CHARGERS	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
at NY JETS	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
at TENNESSEE	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
at LA RAMBLERS	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
at DALLAS	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
at PITTSBURGH	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
at NEW ENGLAND	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF

UIL reclassification, realignment numbers released

From staff reports

The University Interscholastic League announced its conference cutoff numbers and preliminary enrollment figures for the 2018-20 reclassification and realignment, and as expected Grady will be moving up to Class 1A Division I for football.

The UIL set the cutoff numbers for UIL Division I at 55.5 to 104.9. Along with Grady, district rival Ackery Sands and Balmorhea, a power in Division II, will also be moving up to Division I.

Two other major moves in the area will be Seminole moving up to Class 4A Division I and Crane moving down to Class 3A Division II.

The snapshots for each school were submitted by each school district based on enrollment on Oct. 27.

The class cutoffs are as follows:

- 6A — 2,190 and above.
- 5A — 1,150 to 2,189.
- 4A — 505 to 1,149.
- 3A — 225 to 504.
- 2A — 105 to 224.

■ 1A — 104.9 and below.

The following are the numbers for 1A through 5A Division I and II used for football:

- 5A Division I — 1,840 to 2,189.
- 5A Division II — 1,150 to 1,839.
- 4A Division I — 790 to 1,149.
- 4A Division II — 505 to 789.
- 3A Division I — 335 to 504.
- 3A Division II — 225 to 334.
- 2A Division I — 161.5 to 224.
- 2A Division II — 105 to 161.4.
- 1A Division I — 55.5 to 104.9.
- 1A Division II — 55 and below.

The 2018 district alignments for football and basketball will be released Feb. 1. District alignments for other sports will be released in the order of their seasons.

Here are the enrollment numbers turned into the UIL for schools in the Reporter-Telegram coverage area, as well as other schools of interest.

- Midland High 3,417
- Lee 3,221
- Odessa High 3,992
- Odessa Permian 3,915.5
- Andrews 1,099

- Big Spring 1,093
- Greenwood 720
- Seminole 793 (up to 4A Division I)
- Monahans 625
- Lamesa 536
- Crane 324
- Coahoma 251
- Stanton 272
- Forsan 193
- Garden City 92
- Grady 68 (up to 1A Division I)
- Rankin 86
- Ackerly Sardis 56 (up to 1A Division I)

Other schools of interest:

- San Angelo Central 3,044
- Amarillo Tascosa 2,281
- Wolforth Frenship 2,507
- Abilene Wylie 2,004 (up to 5A Division II)
- Snyder 726 (down to 4A Division II)
- Denver City 487 (down to 3A Division I)
- Iraan 117
- Balmorhea (up to 1A Division I)

Threadgill headlines MCS' all-district selections

From staff reports

Midland Christian senior linebacker David Threadgill has been named the co-Defensive Player of the Year on the 2017 TAPPS Division II, District 1 All-District Football Team just released.

It was the second straight year Threadgill shared the district's top defensive player honor.

Senior offensive back Luke Sheppard, senior offensive back Coy Stewart, junior wide receiver Randall Blansett, senior tight end Silas Crews, senior offensive tackle Luke Fisher and junior center John Graniczny represented the Mustangs on the first team offense.

MCS landed senior defensive lineman Nifemi



Threadgill

Esan, sophomore defensive lineman Kage Gilbreath, Threadgill and sophomore defensive

back Garrison Breeding on the first team defense.

2017 TAPPS DIVISION II, DISTRICT 1 ALL-DISTRICT FOOTBALL TEAM
Seniors
District MVP: Jay Marshall, Fort Worth Christian, Jr.
Co-Offensive Players of the Year: Lincoln Welton, Grapevine, Sr.; Tyler Knox, Fort Worth Christian, Jr.
Co-Defensive Players of the Year: David Threadgill, Midland Christian, Sr.; Devin Baur, Fort Worth Christian, Sr.
Special Teams Player of the Year: Cade Cross, Grapevine, Sr.
Newcomer of the Year: Ethan Thomas, Fort Worth Christian, Jr.
Coaching Staff of the Year: Fort Worth Christian

MCBASKETBALL ROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

LADY CHAPS FALL IN WEATHERFORD — Masha Vasilevko scored a game-high 27 points to lead the Weatherford College women's basketball team to a 73-64 victory over Midland College in non-conference play Wednesday.

Midland High alum Alexandra Washington led the Lady Chaps (7-6) with 20 points, followed by 18 from

Bianca Thacker.

The Lady Coyotes led MC 40-28 at halftime and extended its advantage to 61-44 through three quarters.

WEATHERFORD COLLEGE 73, MIDLAND COLLEGE 64
Midland College (7-6) — (By Telestat) 5-24 12; Bethany Thacker 2-27; Bianca Thacker 7-10-18; Alexandra Washington 9-10-20; Paige Robinson 2-0-2; Masha Vasilevko 1-0-3; Total 28-44-64.
Weatherford College — (By Telestat) 10-4-27; Kayla Hunter 2-0-4; Devin Blansett 1-2-4-4; Reyna Andrews

1-1-3; Grace Daniels 4-4-12; Tanya McDowell 5-9-17; Total 25-18-25.
Midland — 10 9 18 28 — 64
Weatherford — 25 18 31 52 — 73
3-point goals — Midland 3; Thacker 4; Washington 2; Thacker 1; Vasilevko 1; Thacker 2; Total 10-18-25.
Reyna Andrews 16; Foster 10; Total 28-44-64.
Next: Commerce State College at MC, 7 p.m. Jan. 4.

WEATHERFORD SQUEAKS PAST MC MEN
WEATHERFORD — The Weatherford College men's basketball team edged Midland College with a 79-78 win in a non-conference game Wednesday.

The Chaparrals suffered their sixth-straight loss, dropping their overall record to 3-9. MC returns to action when it plays in the Phoenix College Classic Dec. 28-30.

No other information about the game was available at press time.

Putin will allow Russians to compete in Pyeongchang

By James Ellingsworth
Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin won't boycott the Pyeongchang Olympics.

Putin said Wednesday his government will allow Russians to compete as neutral athletes at the upcoming games in South Korea.

The International Olympic Committee has banned the Russian team from games as punishment for doping violations at the 2014 Sochi Olympics. The IOC, however, plans to invite individual Russians to compete under the Olympic flag.

"Without any doubt we will not declare any kind of blockade," Putin said in televised remarks after launching his re-election campaign at an automobile factory. "We will not block our Olympians from taking part, if any of them wish to take part as individuals."

"They have been preparing for these competitions for their whole careers, and for them it's very important."

A Russian boycott would have been the biggest at any Olympics since the Soviet Union and its allies missed the 1984 Los Angeles Games.

That itself was in response to the U.S.-led boycott of the Moscow Olympics four years earlier.

Putin also said Russia still did not accept accusations that it ran a state-backed doping system around the Sochi Olympics. He called the IOC ruling "politically motivated" and unfair "collective punishment."

An IOC commission chaired by former Swiss president Samuel Schmid ruled Tuesday that there was a doping system but said it found no evidence that "the highest state authority" knew. However, it said of Yuri Nagornyykh, the deputy sports minister at the time of the Sochi Games, "it is impossible to conclude that he was not aware" of doping cover-ups.

Russian athletes, coaches and politicians have lined up to condemn the IOC ruling, but most say it's better to accept it and compete.

Russian IOC member Yelena Isinbayeva, a two-time Olympic gold medalist in the pole vault, came out against a boycott.

"I'd like to tell all Russian athletes preparing for the Olympics in Pyeongchang not to get disappointed in any case and definitely not to do anything stupid like a boycott," Isinbayeva told state TV. "It's clearly

not worth it."

She said the IOC choice of "Olympic Athletes from Russia" as the official designation, instead of a more neutral tag, decided the issue for her.

IOC President Thomas Bach said later Wednesday that allowing the country name to remain "was not a compromise, it was just reflecting reality" that it would be Russian athletes taking part.

Bach said he had not spoken with Putin since the sanctions were announced, and suggested Russian athletes and sports leaders would meet Tuesday to discuss competing in Pyeongchang.

They could "represent a new generation of clean Russian athletes in the games and build a bridge into a clean future of Russian sport for which they can then become ambassadors," the IOC president said.

Some Russian sports officials have been criticized for not doing enough to prevent the ban, with senior lawmakers and sports figures calling for them to be fired.

Dmitry Peskov, Putin's spokesman, said blaming officials was not a priority and that "protecting the interests of our athletes" was more important.

MIDLAND HUMANE COALITION

UPCOMING EVENTS

12/07 6:30-8:30 Microchip Clinic at Beer Garden's Yappy Hour
12/09 12-10 Hang 'Em High Art Co. Tattoo Fundraiser, Odessa
12/31. Toasting for Tails New Year's Eve Party at DoubleTree

PLEASE VISIT THE EVENTS SECTION OF OUR WEBSITE
WWW.MIDLANDHUMANE.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION

ENHANCED ADOPTION CENTER

Open for adoptions Mon. - Sat. 12-7 & Sun. 12-6
Adoption Fees (fully vetted & chipped):
Cats \$110, Dogs \$150
432.520.3134 ext. 7
Located within Midland's PetSmart Store



AD SPONSORED BY
BROWN'S PERMIAN ELECTRIC CO.



Dolly is a 1.5 year old, 45 lb, female Red Heeler Mix from Midland Animal Services. Dolly has a good nature, but we are unsure how she will do with small children and cats

INVITE

From IC

teams include Class 5A No. 8 North Richland Hills Birdville (7-3), 2016-17 New Mexico Class 6A state semi-finalist Hobbs (4-0), and El Dorado (5-5) and Montwood (8-6) from El Paso's District 1-6A.

The rest of the field includes all TABC ranked teams with Class 4A No. 5 Denver City (8-3), Class 3A No. 6 Wall (5-2) and Class 3A No. 11 Jim Ned (5-3).

"It's a tournament where you can 2-2 and play really well," MHS girls coach Wes Torres said. "You could play well and go .500 for the tournament. I'm thankful for it and we get to stay home. We sleep in our own beds and we don't have to worry about travel. There's not a weak team in either pool. That's a credit to Alfred, he did a good job of setting this up."

Meanwhile, the Bulldogs (1-6) and Rebels (2-7) have been searching for consistency and confidence with youthful rosters and promising talent.

But following their demanding tournament schedule thus far, both teams are thrilled to co-host the Oilman's Invitational, compete on their home floors and enjoy the comfort of their own homes for a weekend.

Lee and MHS will be a part of a field that also includes Eulest Trinity (1-9) and Kyle (Texas) Lehman (3-7) in Class 6A; Fort Worth Boswell, No. 9 North Richland Hills Birdville (6-1), Amarillo Caprock (8-1) and

"We're still trying to find that consistency, but I'm pleased with the boys that they've been able to keep coming back and getting after it. We're seeing improvements in lots of different facets of the game. We need to be consistent and put those improvements together for four quarters."

Justin Boswell, Lee boys basketball coach

El Paso Eastlake (7-0) in Class 5A; Class 4A foes Fort Stockton (0-6), Big Spring (1-6) and Denver City, with Lee's JV squad also competing.

Hooker said the progress his players have made during the first month of the season has been more than encouraging.

"It's a great opportunity to play some home games, to let some people who haven't seen these young men get out and compete, come see," said Hooker, whose Bulldogs begin tournament play by taking on Class 4A Denver City at 10:30 a.m. today at Chaparral Center. "The kids are hustling and giving every ounce they have. They're very coachable, they're listening to what we're telling them and they're applying it."

Lee head coach Justin Boswell, now in his second year with the Rebels, said his team has shown a great

deal of resiliency through its first nine games. He's hoping a strong showing this weekend and valuable exposure to a variety of offensive and defensive styles will provide a boost as Lee barrels toward 2018.

The Rebels open their tournament slate by hosting Big Spring at 7:30 p.m. today at the Lee High School gym.

"We're still trying to find that consistency, but I'm pleased with the boys that they've been able to keep coming back and getting after it," Boswell said. "We're seeing improvements in lots of different facets of the game. We need to be consistent and put those improvements together for four quarters."

Follow Will on Twitter @Will_MRT and Christopher on Twitter @chris_MRTsports

HS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS GLANCE

TALL CITY OLIMPIA'S TOURNAMENT

THURSDAY-SATURDAY

Boys

Pool Play

Pool 1

Big Spring vs. Lee 1:30 p.m.

Chaparral Center

Lee vs. Big Spring 7:30 p.m. Lee High School

Pool 2

Fort Stockton vs. Lee JV 3 p.m. Lee High School

Amario Caprock vs. Fort Stockton 7:30 p.m. Chaparral Center

Pool 3

Fort Worth Boswell vs. Eulest Trinity 1:30 p.m. Lee High School

Eulest Trinity vs. El Paso Eastlake 7:30 p.m. Midland High gym

Pool 4

Midland High vs. Denver City 10:30 a.m. Chaparral Center

Denver City vs. Fort Worth Boswell 4:30 p.m. Chaparral Center

Friday

Pool Play

Pool 1

Kyle Lehman vs. Lee 11 a.m. Lee High School

Pool 2

Lee JV vs. Amario Caprock 11 a.m. Chaparral Center

Pool 3

El Paso Eastlake vs. Fort Worth Boswell 8 a.m. Chaparral Center

Pool 4

Fort Worth Boswell vs. MHS 8 p.m. Lee High School

Saturday

Bracket Play

Bronze semifinal 1: Pool 1 No. 3 vs. Pool 3 No. 2 p.m. Chaparral Center

Bronze semifinal 2: Pool 2 No. 1 vs. Pool 4 No. 2 p.m. Lee High School

Silver semifinal 1: Pool 1 No. 2 vs. Pool 3 No. 1 p.m. Chaparral Center

Silver semifinal 2: Pool 2 No. 2 vs. Pool 4 No. 1 p.m. Lee High School

Gold semifinal 1: Pool 1 No. 1 vs. Pool 3 No. 1 p.m. Chaparral Center

Gold semifinal 2: Pool 2 No. 1 vs. Pool 4 No. 1 p.m. Lee High School

Sunday

Bracket Play

Bronze championship: Winner bronze semifinal 1 vs. winner bronze semifinal 2 8 a.m. Chaparral Center

Silver championship: Lower bronze semifinal 1 vs. lower bronze semifinal 2 8 a.m. MHS gym

Silver championship: Winner silver semifinal 1 vs. winner silver semifinal 2 11 a.m. Chaparral Center

Gold championship: Lower gold semifinal 1 vs. lower gold semifinal 2 2 p.m. Lee High School

Gold championship: Winner gold semifinal 1 vs. winner gold semifinal 2 2 p.m. Lee High School

Thursday

Pool Play

Pool 1

Lee vs. Midland Classic 8 p.m. at Chaparral Center

Pool 2

El Paso Montwood vs. Denver City 4:30 p.m. at Lee

Pool 3

Jim Ned vs. Lee 6 p.m. at Lee

Pool 4

El Paso El Dorado vs. Lee 10:30 p.m. at Lee

Denver City vs. Jim Ned, noon at Chaparral Center

North Richland Hills Birdville vs. El Paso El Dorado 3 p.m. at Chaparral Center

Midland High vs. Wall 6 p.m. at Chaparral Center

Friday

Pool 1

Midland Classic vs. El Paso Montwood 9:30 a.m. at Lee

Lee vs. Denver City 12:30 p.m. at Lee

Jim Ned vs. Midland Classic 3:30 p.m. at Chaparral Center

El Paso Montwood vs. Lee 6:30 p.m. at Chaparral Center

Pool 2

Midland High vs. Hobbs N.M. 9:30 a.m. at Chaparral Center

El Paso El Dorado vs. Midland High 3:30 p.m. at Lee

Hobbs N.M. vs. North Richland Hills Birdville 6:30 p.m. at Lee

Saturday

Championship Game

Pool 1 No. 1 vs. Pool 2 No. 1 12:30 p.m. at Chaparral Center

Third-place

Pool 1 No. 2 vs. Pool 2 No. 2 9:30 a.m. at Chaparral Center

Friday

Pool 1

Pool 1 No. 3 vs. Pool 2 No. 3 12:30 p.m. at Lee

Saturday

Pool 1

Pool 1 No. 4 vs. Hobbs 9:30 a.m. at Lee

Pool 2

Pool 2 No. 4 vs. Hobbs 9:30 a.m. at Midland High

Sunday

Pool 1

Pool 1 No. 4 vs. Hobbs 9:30 a.m. at Lee

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Pool 2 No. 4 vs. Hobbs 9:30 a.m. at Midland High

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Pool 2 No. 4 vs. Hobbs 9:30 a.m. at Midland High

Sunday

Pool 1

Pool 1 No. 4 vs. Hobbs 9:30 a.m. at Lee

Pool 2

Pool 2 No

Rangers complete \$28M deal with Minor, meet with Ohtani

By Stephen Hawkins
Associated Press

ARLINGTON — The Texas Rangers completed a Minor deal Wednesday while waiting for Shohei Ohtani to decide where he wants to play.

A day after meeting in Los Angeles with the Japanese pitcher and outfielder, Rangers officials were back home in Texas to introduce left-hander Mike Minor after finalizing a \$28 million, three-year contract.

General manager Jon Daniels described Minor as a primary target in the team's offseason pursuit to replenish and bolster its pitching staff.

"He's somebody that we've liked back in his amateur days. ... Gets to the big leagues, promising starter, had a hiccup and then dominant last year again," Daniels said of Minor, a standout reliever for Kansas City last season.

While the Rangers' interest in

Ohtani has been well-known, Daniels and other team officials didn't want to talk Wednesday about the pitcher-outfielder or their visit with him.

Ohtani was put up for bid last week by the Pacific League's Nippon Ham Fighters for the maximum \$20 million posting fee. The 23-year-old has until 11:59 p.m. EST on Dec. 22 to agree to a contract with an MLB team. The Rangers are among seven teams he is considering.

Meanwhile, Minor is the second pitcher the Rangers have signed in a week. He gets a \$1 million signing bonus and salaries of \$8 million next season and \$9.5 million each in 2019 and 2020. He has a limited no-trade provision that allows him to list 10 teams each year he can't be traded to without his consent.

When the offseason began, the Rangers had only left-handers Cole Hamels and Martin Perez signed for their 2018 rotation. Right-hander

Doug Fister last week agreed to a \$4 million, one-year deal that could be worth up to \$11.5 million over two seasons.

Minor was 6-6 with a 2.55 ERA in 77 2/3 innings over 65 relief appearances last season with Kansas City. He previously was a starter for Atlanta before missing the 2015 and 2016 seasons with shoulder issues. The Braves picked him seventh overall in the 2009 amateur draft.

"Our plans are for Mike to start for us," Daniels said. "He's done both with success in the big leagues. There is some flexibility that his past provides us."

Minor, who turns 30 the day after Christmas, became a free agent last month when he declined his \$10 million player option to stay with the Royals. He was 38-36 while starting 110 of 111 games in Atlanta from 2010-14, and said he wanted to be a starter again.



Dallas Morning News via AP

Newly signed Texas Rangers pitcher Mike Minor shakes hands with Texas Rangers General Manager Jon Daniels during a press conference at Globe Life Park in Arlington on Wednesday. A day after meeting in Los Angeles with Japanese pitcher and outfielder Shohei Ohtani, Rangers officials were back home in Texas and introduced left-hander Mike Minor. The likely starter signed a \$28 million, three-year contract.

Former SMU, NFL coach Ron Meyer dies

By Jim Vertuno
Associated Press

AUSTIN — Ron Meyer, the football coach behind SMU's powerhouse "Pony Express" teams who later called for a snowplow to clear a spot so the New England Patriots could kick the winning field goal against Miami in one of the NFL's most memorable moments, has died. He was 76.

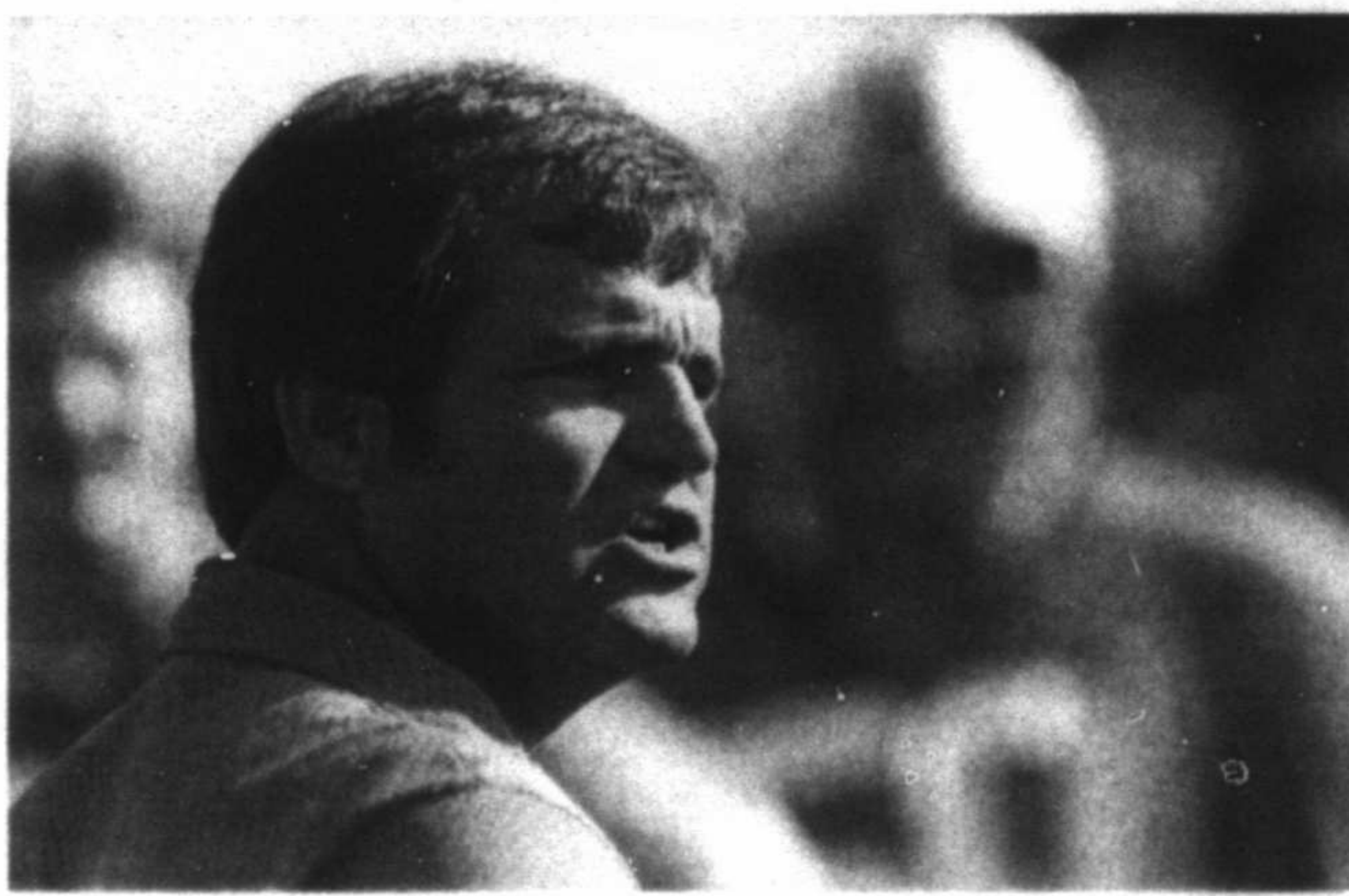
Meyer died Tuesday after collapsing with an aortic aneurysm while playing golf in the Austin suburb of Lakeway, his family said in a statement.

"It's no accident that at every stop he coached down-trodden teams to great heights. He gave them hope. They believed in him. And he showed them the way," the Meyer family said.

"Devastated to hear the passing of my coach and great friend Ron Meyer. My mom and I loved Coach Meyer. He was a great man," tweeted former NFL star Eric Dickerson, who played for Meyer at SMU from 1979-1981.

That was SMU's heyday, when the Mustangs, led by running backs Dickerson and Craig James, turned a middling program into a Southwest Conference champion before it skidded toward the NCAA's "death penalty" ruling for jaw-dropping rules violations.

Meyer won 27 games in three seasons at UNLV before taking the job at SMU in 1976. After early struggles, the program — which had already been sanctioned by the NCAA for infractions before Meyer arrived — took off as wealthy boosters, fueled by the region's economic boom of the late 1970s and early 1980s, got caught up in a payment scheme designed to bring in top players. The cheating survived long after Meyer left for the NFL and eventually led the NCAA to first put the program on probation in 1985 then shut it



AP file photo

Ron Meyer, head football coach at Southern Methodist University, shouts instructions to his team as they practice for their game with Brigham Young University in the Holiday Bowl in San Diego on Dec. 17, 1980. From SMU's "Pony Express" to the NFL's infamous "Snowplow Game," former college and professional football coach Ron Meyer was in the middle of some of the game's most controversial and colorful teams and moments in the 1980s. Meyer died Tuesday in Austin at age 76.

down in 1987.

Meyer left SMU before the harshest sanctions hit, taking over the Patriot in 1982. He would spend parts of nine seasons in the NFL and his first one produced perhaps his most memorable moment.

Meyer was named AFC coach of the year in the strike-shortened 1982 season when he led the Patriots to a 5-4 record and the playoffs with a key victory over the Dolphins in a December snowstorm in New England. Before the game, the Patriots offered \$10 and a free ticket to anyone who would help shovel snow out of the seats. The conditions didn't let up, making it difficult for field crews just to clear the yard markers.

The game was 0-0 and both teams had already missed field goals when Meyer called time

out late in the fourth quarter and sent a stadium worker named Mark Henderson out to clear the Miami 23-yard line for John Smith's 33-yard attempt.

"(Meyer) said, 'Get out there and do something.' I knew exactly what he meant, so I jumped on the tractor," Henderson told the Boston Globe in 2010.

With clear turf, Smith easily made the kick as Dolphins coach Don Shula furiously looked on from the opposite sideline. The final score was 3-0.

"I wanted to go out there and punch him out," Shula said years later. "In retrospect, I should have laid down in front of the snowplow."

The snowplow wasn't really a snowplow. The green John Deere tractor with a brush

rigged onto the front is still on display in the Patriots' hall of fame.

Meyer spent two and a half seasons with the Patriots, then coached the Colts from 1986 to 1991 and led the team to a division title in 1987. Meyer's career coaching record in college was 61-40-1. He was 54-50 in the NFL.

"I am sad to hear of Ron Meyer's passing," said Patriots Chairman and CEO Robert Kraft. "He was a colorful head coach who was very entertaining for fans during his tenure."

Meyer was born in Westerville, Ohio, on Feb. 17, 1941, and he was a walk-on football player at Purdue. Jones said memorial service is planned for Saturday at Tarrytown United Methodist Church. He is survived by wife Cindy, four children and grandchildren.

MORRIS

From 1C

on Monday.

Morris went 14-22 in three seasons at SMU. He took over a team that finished 1-11 in 2014, won two games his first season and improved to 5-7 in 2016 and 7-5 this year.

He replaces Bielema, who was fired after compiling a 29-34 record in five seasons, including 11-29 in the Southeastern Conference.

The Texas native was a longtime high school coach before beginning his collegiate career as the offensive coordinator at Tulsa in 2010.

He then spent four years as the offensive coordinator at Clemson, helping lay the foundation for the Tigers' national championship last season.

Throughout his rise, Morris remembered his Texas roots — considered a key component for an Arkansas program which hopes to mine some of the state's top prep talent with his hiring.

"I'm a Texas high school football coach.

That's who I am," said Morris, a Dallas native, when he was hired at SMU in 2014. "I think that Texas high school football coaches do it the right way."

The Razorbacks went 21-5 over the 2010-11 seasons and had one of the best offenses in the country led by quarterbacks Ryan Mallett and Tyler Wilson. They went 4-8 in their first post-Petrino season in 2012 under interim coach John L. Smith, and they followed that with an up-and-down five seasons under Bielema. Arkansas is 33-42 overall following Petrino's firing, the school's worst six-year stretch since it went 22-38 from 1948-52.

Bielema was expected to repeat Petrino's success when he was hired away from Wisconsin. However, after a steady rebuild of the program, Arkansas collapsed to end the Bielema era — losing 10 of the last 14 games. Athletic director Jeff Long wasn't around at the end; he was fired Nov. 15, leaving the coaching search to Cromer Peoples, among others.

"Coach Morris aligns with the priorities we sought to find in our next head football

coach, including relentless work ethic and the ability to maintain good relationships within our state and beyond to attract the nation's top talent," Cromer Peoples said.

The Razorbacks were believed to have interest in Auburn coach Gus Malzahn, a former high school coach in Arkansas, but he agreed to a seven-year extension with the Tigers on Sunday.

Now, they get another former high school coach known for his offensive prowess — with Morris having spent 16 years as a high school coach in Texas and going 32-0 and winning a pair of state titles in his only two seasons at Lake Travis in the Austin area.

Several current Arkansas players voiced their approval of the hire on Twitter. One comment from a former Razorback now at SMU resonated with Arkansas fans desperate for the program to find its footing once again in the SEC.

"Arkansas, y'all are getting a good one," tweeted quarterback Rafe Peavey, who began his career with the Razorbacks before transferring.

SPORTS BRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

HOUSTON

Rice hires Stanford assistant Bloomgren as head coach

Mike Bloomgren has been hired as the coach at Rice.

Rice announced Wednesday that Bloomgren agreed to a five-year contract with the Owls after spending last season as the associate head coach and offensive coordinator at Stanford. He takes over for David Bailiff, who was fired on Nov. 27 after Rice finished 1-11 in his 11th season.

Bloomgren worked at Stanford for the last seven seasons. He was the offensive line coach from 2011-12 before taking over as offensive coordinator in 2013.

Bloomgren says: "In my seven years at Stanford, I have seen firsthand how elite college athletics and academics can not only coexist, but thrive together. I want to create an environment at Rice where every player's dreams are realized on and off the field."

EL PASO

Dana Dimel named coach at UTEP, coming off winless season

Kansas State offensive coordinator Dana Dimel has been named head coach at UTEP, where he will take over the only Division I team that didn't win a game this season.

Dimel was named the Miners coach Wednesday. Sean Kugler resigned Oct. 1 after the team's 0-5 start in his fifth season at his alma mater. Former coach Mike Price served as interim head coach the remaining seven games.

UTEP said in a release that the school and the 55-year-old Dimel are working on a mutually agreeable start date following completion of his coaching responsibilities with Kansas State, his alma mater where he has been back since 2009. The Wildcats play in the Cactus Bowl on Dec. 26.

This will be Dimel's third stint as a head coach. He had a 30-39 record at Wyoming (1997-99) and Houston (2000-02).

Dimel had three consecutive winning seasons for a 22-13 record at Wyoming, when at the time of his hiring he was 34 and the nation's youngest Division I-A coach. At Houston, the Cougars went 0-11 in 2001 before winning five games in 2002.

"I'm greatly looking forward to the opportunity at UTEP to build a program utilizing a '1-0' concept," Dimel said. "We will work diligently to elevate UTEP football to the highest level in Conference USA. Having been a part of a major turnaround at Kansas State and having the success we did at Wyoming, I'm just really excited about the leadership challenge that's ahead."

Before his two head coaching stints, Dimel had been at Kansas State since first serving as a graduate assistant in 1987. He was offensive line coach (1989-94) and offensive coordinator for the Wildcats (1995-96). He returned to K-State for one season in 2005 while working on his graduate degree.

"We look forward to an exciting new era of UTEP Football under his leadership," said Diana Natalicio, UTEP's new president who also described Dimel as a "great fit" for UTEP and the El Paso community.

TEXAS FISHING REPORT

WEST

ALAN HENRY: Water clear near lake, started to muddy again. 68 degrees. 4.85 foot low. Black bass are fair on crickets and spools. Crappie and bass are fair on minnows. Catfish are good on punch bait and live worms.

ARROWHEAD: Water early clear. 57-60 degrees. 2.17 foot low. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs, Rap-L-Taps and jigs. Crappie are fair on live minnows. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers.

COLORADO CITY: 15.17 foot low. After a period of drought, this lake caught water and loading is now allowed. However, it is not currently recommended for fishing due to some golden age blooms.

FORT PHANTOM HILL: Water off color. 55-64 degrees. 1.43 foot low. Black bass are fair on minnows, Texas rigs and drop shot jigs. Crappie are fair on live minnows. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water off color. 58-64 degrees. 2.5 foot low. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs. Crappie are fair on Texas rigs and nightcrawlers. Catfish are fair to good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair to good on minnows and jigs.

MACINTOSH: 55-65 degrees. 1.88 foot low. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs and spools. No reports on crappie. Catfish are fair on nightcrawlers.

ONE CREEK: Water stained. 58-65 degrees. 18.54 foot low. Black bass are fair on drop shot jigs. Texas rigs and crumpled Rap-L-Taps. Crappie are fair to good on live minnows. Catfish are fair to good on live minnows.

RAVINE: Water stained. 57-65 degrees. 5.81 foot low. Black bass are fair to good on Texas rigs. Rap-L-Taps and Texas rigs. Bass are fair to good on cut nightcrawlers. Catfish are fair to good on cut bait and nightcrawlers.

SACRED: Water stained. 57-75 degrees. 21.24 foot low. Black bass are fair to good on crappie. Catfish are fair on cheese bait.

are fair on nightcrawlers.

CH. FIVE: Water stained. 57-65 degrees. 37.44 foot low. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs. Crappie are fair on Texas rigs and Texas rigs. White bass are fair on Texas rigs and Texas rigs. Catfish are fair on Texas rigs and Texas rigs.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water off color. 58-65 degrees. 1.09 foot low. Black bass are fair to good on Texas rigs, Texas rigs and Texas rigs. Catfish are fair to good on Texas rigs and Texas rigs.

SPICE: 55-75 degrees. 16.78 foot low. Catfish are fair to good on cut bait and nightcrawlers.

STAMFORD: Water stained. 48-57 degrees. 0.37 foot low. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs. Crappie are fair on Texas rigs and Texas rigs. White bass are fair on Texas rigs and Texas rigs. Catfish are fair on Texas rigs and Texas rigs.

SWEE: 55-65 degrees. 24.23 foot low. Black bass are fair to good on Texas rigs. Crappie are fair on Texas rigs and Texas rigs. Catfish are fair to good on Texas rigs and Texas rigs.

TECOTE: 55-65 degrees. 53-63 degrees. 21.24 foot low. Black bass are fair to good on crappie. Catfish are fair on cheese bait.

CENTRAL

AUSTIN: Water stained. 57-65 degrees. 0.81 foot low. Black bass are fair to good on Texas rigs. Rap-L-Taps and Texas rigs. Bass are fair to good on cut nightcrawlers. Catfish are fair to good on cut bait and nightcrawlers.

BAYCOTT: Water stained. 57-75 degrees. 21.24 foot low. Black bass are fair to good on crappie. Catfish are fair on cheese bait.

Black bass are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

CRAPPIE are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

WHITE BASS are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

CRAPPIE are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

WHITE BASS are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

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WHITE BASS are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

CRAPPIE are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

degrees. 5.43 foot low. Black bass are good on Rap-L-Taps and Rap-L-Taps.

CRAPPIE are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

WHITE BASS are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

CRAPPIE are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

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WHITE BASS are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

CRAPPIE are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

WHITE BASS are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

CRAPPIE are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

18.1 Water stained. 70-74 degrees. 0.73 foot low. Black bass are very good on Cutty's hushers and Shredded Rap-L-Taps.

CRAPPIE are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

WHITE BASS are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

CRAPPIE are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

WHITE BASS are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

CRAPPIE are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

WHITE BASS are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

CRAPPIE are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

WHITE BASS are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

CRAPPIE are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

on minnows, hot dogs, and nightcrawlers. Yellow catfish are fair.

11.58 foot low. Black bass are good on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

CRAPPIE are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

WHITE BASS are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

CRAPPIE are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

WHITE BASS are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

CRAPPIE are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

WHITE BASS are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

CRAPPIE are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

WHITE BASS are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

WATER: 71-75 degrees. 4.83 foot low. Black bass are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

CRAPPIE are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

WHITE BASS are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

CRAPPIE are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

WHITE BASS are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

CRAPPIE are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

WHITE BASS are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

CRAPPIE are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

WHITE BASS are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.

CRAPPIE are fair on crumpled white soft plastics, spinners, and crumpled white soft plastics.



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THURSDAY PRIME TIME					DECEMBER 7, 2017					Fox Complete Information							
	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
KABZ ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune (H)	Shark the Hunt	Toy Story	Jeopardy!	Shark the Hunt	Jeopardy!	Shark the Hunt	Jeopardy!	Shark the Hunt	Jeopardy!	Shark the Hunt
KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	CBS 7 News (H)	Ent. Tonight	The Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Men (H)	Life in Pieces (H)	S.W.A.T.: 'Octane'	CBS 7 News (H)	CBS 7 News (H)	The Late Show	120 J.Crowley	120 The Nightline
KWWT CW	5	14	5	14	5	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Mama's Family	Hogan's Heroes	Hogan's Heroes	P. Mason	The Case of the Fugitive Hero	120 The Tonight Show	120 J.Crowley	120 The Tonight Show
KPEI FOX	8	5	5	5	8	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Gotham	Queen Takes Knight	The Orville	Mad Labors (H)	Fox 24	TMZ	Modern Family	Modern Family	Meet Your Mother	120 The Tonight Show
KMLM IND	11	12	12	11	11	All About Mission: IMZ	Mission: IMZ	Wings of Trust	Wings of Trust	Light of the Future	Light of the Future	Light of the Future	Faith for Families	Faith for Families	Faith for Families	120 The Tonight Show	120 The Tonight Show
KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	Football Night (L)	Football Night (L)	Football Night (L)	Football Night (L)	Football Night (L)	Football Night (L)	Football Night (L)	Football Night (L)	Football Night (L)	Football Night (L)	Football Night (L)	Football Night (L)
KPBT PBS	13	13	13	13	13	PBS NewsHour (H)	PBS NewsHour (H)	PBS NewsHour (H)	PBS NewsHour (H)	PBS NewsHour (H)	PBS NewsHour (H)	PBS NewsHour (H)	PBS NewsHour (H)	PBS NewsHour (H)	PBS NewsHour (H)	PBS NewsHour (H)	PBS NewsHour (H)
KUPB UNI	4	4	4	4	4	Enamorado de Ramon	Enamorado de Ramon	Enamorado de Ramon	Enamorado de Ramon	Enamorado de Ramon	Enamorado de Ramon	Enamorado de Ramon	Enamorado de Ramon	Enamorado de Ramon	Enamorado de Ramon	Enamorado de Ramon	Enamorado de Ramon
KOSA MNT	16	16	16	16	16	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing
FLIX	340	370	140	370	140	370	140	370	140	370	140	370	140	370	140	370	140
HBO	300	300	14	14	14	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio
HBO2	302	302	13	13	13	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio
HBO3	304	304	16	16	16	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio
MAX	300	300	17	17	17	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio
MAX2	302	302	18	18	18	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio
PLEX	300	300	18	18	18	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio
SHOW	320	320	19	19	19	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio
TMC	330	330	22	22	22	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio	Movio
A&E	27	58	28	35	47	The First 48: Knock	The First 48: Knock	The First 48: Knock	The First 48: Knock	The First 48: Knock	The First 48: Knock	The First 48: Knock	The First 48: Knock	The First 48: Knock	The First 48: Knock	The First 48: Knock	The First 48: Knock
AMC	40	74	23	42	51	23	42	51	23	42	51	23	42	51	23	42	51
BET	58	40	74	23	42	51	23	42	51	23	42	51	23	42	51	23	42
BRAVO	63	76	41	20	39	76	41	20	39	76	41	20	39	76	41	20	39
CHNK	46	52	39	76	41	20	39	76	41	20	39	76	41	20	39	76	41
CHN	43	50	51	30	54	50	51	30	54	50	51	30	54	50	51	30	54
DISC	50	60	31	24	42	31	24	42	31	24	42	31	24	42	31	24	42
DISNEY	56	64	36	23	36	23	36	23	36	23	36	23	36	23	36	23	36
ESPN	32	35	48	31	30	48	31	30	48	31	30	48	31	30	48	31	30
ESPN2	34	36	49	32	31	49	32	31	49	32	31	49	32	31	49	32	31
FX	45	46	53	23	55	23	55	23	55	23	55	23	55	23	55	23	55
FOOD	64	70	27	68	54	27	68	54	27	68	54	27	68	54	27	68	54
FREEFORM	53	63	34	42	33	34	42	33	34	42	33	34	42	33	34	42	33
FSW	37	50	58	45	29	58	45	29	58	45	29	58	45	29	58	45	29
FX	31	56	59	64	69	59	64	69	59	64	69	59	64	69	59	64	69
HALLMARK	54	71	58	34	34	71	58	34	34	71	58	34	34	71	58	34	34
HISTORY	71	59	29	50	43	29	50	43	29	50	43	29	50	43	29	50	43
LIFETIME	28	30	25	28	48	25	28	48	25	28	48	25	28	48	25	28	48
MSNBC	47	53	49	73	49	73	49	73	49	73	49	73	49	73	49	73	49
NBCSN	38	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43
NICK	55	39	34	37	37	34	37	37	34	37	37	34	37	37	34	37	37
SPKE	30	55	53	58	58	53	58	58	53	58	58	53	58	58	53	58	58
SYFY	66	62	41	57	67	41	57	67	41	57	67	41	57	67	41	57	67
TBS	25	33	44	46	41	44	46	41	44	46	41	44	46	41	44	46	41
TCM	41	75	24	63	66	24	63	66	24	63	66	24	63	66	24	63	66
TELE	20	10	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
TLC	51	61	32	30	52	32	30	52	32	30	52	32	30	52	32	30	52
TNT	24	34	40	26	50	40	26	50	40	26	50	40	26	50	40	26	50
TVLAND	49	35	54	35	35	54	35	35	54	35	35	54	35	35	54	35	35
USA	26	55	42	27	49	42	27	49	42	27	49	42	27	49	42	27	49
WGN	19	85															



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Non-hugger looks for way a to keep others at arm's length

DEAR ABBY: I am not a hugger. In fact, I pretty much always hate it. But people think I'm rude when I don't open my arms to hug after they've opened theirs. And they also think I'm rude when I tell them I'm not really a hugger. It happens with friends, fellow church congregants and audience members (I'm an entertainer) all the time. Although I let the hugs happen, I'm usually holding my breath the whole time.

Once I've "Hey girl'd" someone and offered my warmest smile, what more can I do? I don't want people I like to think I don't like them, or I'm not happy to see them. But I'm fed up with faking it and participating in this ritual that makes me so uncomfortable. If there's a polite, clear way to convey this to people without seeming cold or unappreciative, please let me know what it is. — BRACING FOR THE EMBRACE

DEAR BRACING: You are not alone in feeling the way you do. Not everyone is comfortable with being hugged. I think you should simply be honest about your feelings and tell the huggers that you become claustrophobic when people hug you, and to please understand that your reluctance isn't personal. If you make it about you rather than them, it shouldn't come across as rejection.

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: My son and daughter-in-law are spitting up. I'm devastated for them and my two young grandchildren, with whom I'm very close.

They live in another state, so I stay with them when I go visit. Although we've always had a great relationship, I'm terrified that my daughter-in-law will not want me to visit her after the divorce. I'm heartsick and don't know how to proceed.

What can I do to maintain a good relationship with her, while staying on good terms with my son? My grandchildren mean the world to me. — HEARTSICK IN THE WEST

DEAR HEARTSICK: The last thing you want or need is to get caught in the middle of the divorce. Try your level best not to take sides and be sure to give your almost-ex-daughter-in-law her space.

Assure her that you care about her and that you deeply regret that the marriage with

your son didn't work out. (It's true.) Tell her you have grown to love her as a daughter and hope that, in spite of the divorce, you will always be close.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I will soon attend a weekend wedding. We will be meeting a large number of people for the first time.

My problem is I have a hard time remembering people's names. I suggested to my wife that I carry a pocket-size notebook and write down names followed by a brief description. She thinks it's a great idea as long as no one catches me doing it. I think, in addition to being practical, it will provide a bit of humor to the occasion. What say you? — SENSIBLE IN SEATTLE

DEAR SENSIBLE: I agree with your wife. Be discreet, if you can. Rather than carry a notebook, it might be less obvious if you enter or dictate the information in the notes section of your phone.

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MANAGEMENT EXECUTIVE

District Manager

The Midland Reporter-Telegram
The MRT has an opening for a Circulation District Manager. This individual would be responsible for overseeing a delivery force of independent contractors/carriers, as well as performing other duties involved with the delivery and distribution of our newspaper, other contracted products, and niche publications.

This position requires excellent communication skills, must be able to work flexible hours (largely in the early morning hours including weekends), have reliable transportation. Candidates with previous newspaper delivery experience preferred but not required.

This is a full time salaried position, eligible for full benefits including health, vision, dental and paid time off with excellent starting salary.

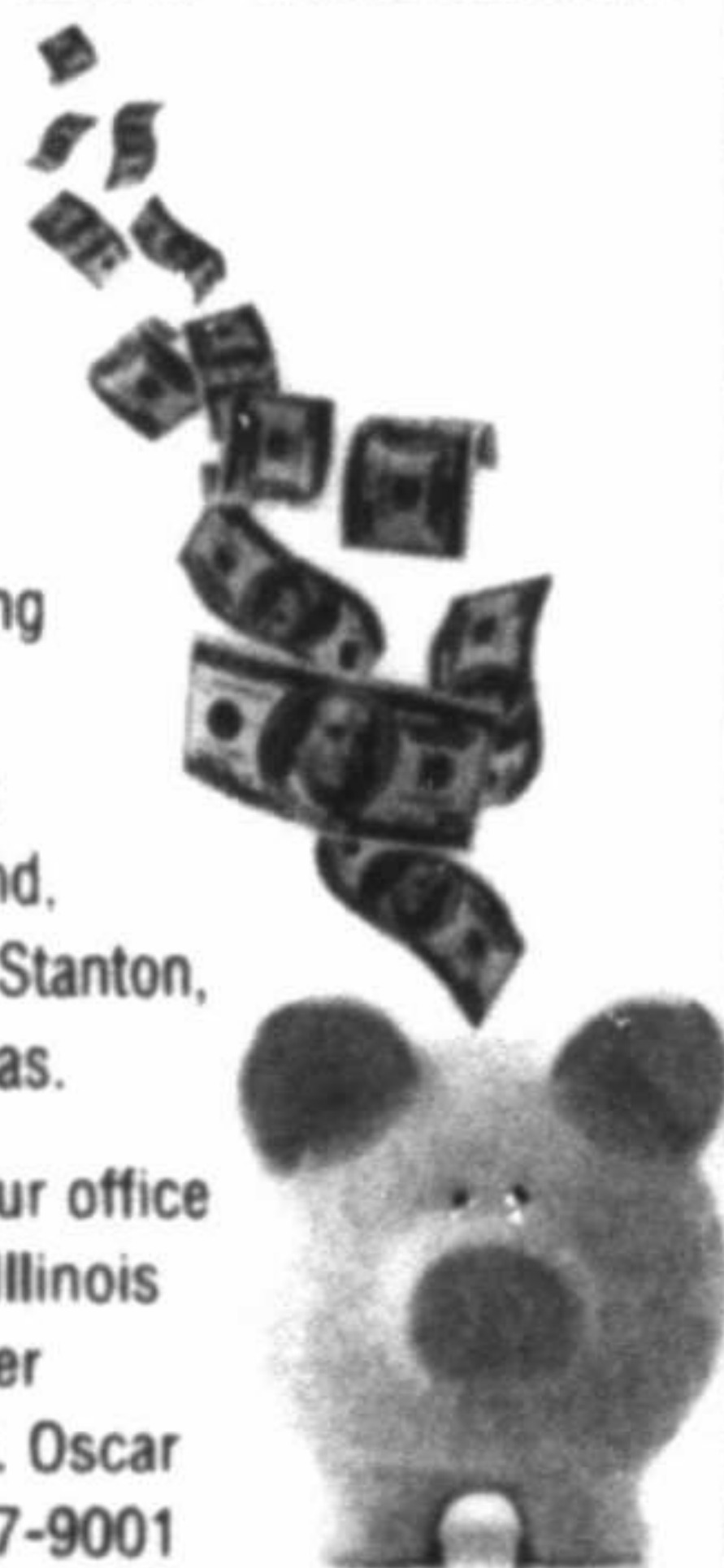
To apply, please email your resume and cover letter to: scheckler@mrt.com
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Do you have
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Become an
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Reporter-Telegram
in the in the Midland,
Odessa, Andrews, Stanton,
and Big Spring areas.

Please come by our office
located at 201 E. Illinois
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Ronquillo 432-687-9001

**Factory Position**

Factory now hiring for full time position. Duties include warehouse, production & packaging. Must be dependable, flexible and a hard worker. Benefits available. Send information to factorymgr@att.net.

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BUFFALO WILD WINGS

Now hiring all positions. Apply in person from 2-5pm. Buffalo Wild Wings
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Ozaka Japanese Steakhouse FT
Would you like to make \$15 to \$20 an hour, depending on position?
Now hiring Hibachi Chefs, Waitresses, Hostesses, Cashiers, Bartenders,
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1207 Tradewinds Blvd. 79706 or online at: www.ozaka.com

SKILLED LABOR

Commercial Construction Project Superintendents

Mid-Tex of Midland, Inc. Now hiring commercial construction project superintendents. Competitive pay plus excellent benefits. Experience in commercial construction a must. Please send resumes to 5206 W. Wadley Ave. Midland, Texas 79707 or email them to Billy Mays at billy@midtexofmidland.com. You may also fax your resume to (432) 694-9627.

Plumbers & Helpers

Cary Earp Plumbing now hiring licensed plumbers and helpers.
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3 Years Experience & 60 Pipe Test Required
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TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

DRIVER NEEDED

Hazmat, Tankers & Class A CDL
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Fernando Uribe 432-556-0966
Send Resume to: Lydia.Garcia@CatalystOffsets.com

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Class A CDL Drivers & Leasing Owner/ Operator

Total Logistics Corp. is hiring Class A CDL drivers. Multiple positions are available. Must have a clean driving record and be able to pass a DOT drug/alcohol test and physical. Also leasing owner/operators. Please apply at 2701 Earhart Drive, Midland, TX or call 432-561-8650 between 8-5 M-F for more info.

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

MAGAZINE MARKETING SERVICES

MRT Media Group has an extensive line of Magazine publications offering a variety of local content and specialized categories to fit all your needs. We offer MRT Business Insider, Midland Magazine, Discover Midland, MRT All American and MRT Oil Report.

PRINT MARKETING SERVICES

MRT Media Group is a seven day a week paper offering a variety of local content and specialized categories to fit all your needs. We offer Education, Health, The Weekender, Faith & Philanthropy, Oil and Gas and Cultural sections.

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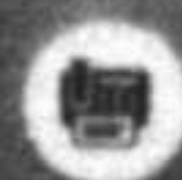
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Legal and Public Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

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

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

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

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

Legal and Public Notices

Notice of Application for Oil & Gas Waste Disposal Well Permit

Pioneer Natural Resources, 5205 N. O'Connor Blvd., Suite 200, Irving, Texas 75039 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to dispose of produced salt water or other oil and gas waste by well injection into a porous formation not productive of oil or gas.

The applicant proposes to dispose of oil and gas waste into the Devonian, Fusselman, Montoya, Ellenburger Brook N-4, Well Number 100. The proposed disposal well is located 8.9 miles SW of Midkiff, in the Spraberry (Tread Area) R40 EXC Field, in Upton County.

The waste water will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 11,685 to 13,979 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.

Requests 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.

Estate Sales

Christmas Open House The Cats Meow 408 Andrews Hwy. Midland, TX. 79701

Fri. Dec. 8th - Sat. Dec. 9th 10am-6pm

Come celebrate Christmas at The Cats Meow for our 31st annual Christmas celebration. Bring a friend and visit our Christmas room which has more than 3000 items to choose from. Search for that special gift whether it is Fine China or glass, American primitives or pottery, antique toys and books, vintage kitchenware, Retro accessories, old tins and jars, Orientalia, Religious memorabilia or Western themes. Think of us this season for holiday wear, great jewelry & vintage purses. Just acquired Vintage Louis Vuitton luggage, an Emerald bracelet & a Sable coat. Come share some spiced cider & register for door prizes.

AMEX, Discover, MC & Visa accepted.
432-687-2064

Estate Sales

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3583 Wedgewood - Midland

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Saturday 9-5 AM - 12-5 PM

For pictures go to
<https://www.estate-sale.net/TX/Midland/79707/1744743>

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WWW.READY-RANCH.COM

• East County
*11,155 ac. N. of Snyder, 4 houses, panoramic views, 800 ft. elev., creek, lake, whitetail deer, mule deer and more... \$750,000
*4,212 ac. Maverick Creek, canyons, whitetail and mule deer and more... \$650,000
*1,771 ac. windmill, creek, blinds and feeders, great soil and mule deer, turkey, hogs, quail... \$850,000
*1,440 ac. over 1 mile **SOLD** creek, blinds, feeders, elevation changes, oak... \$3,500,000
*568 ac. Pecos Creek, New Livingstone, 100 acres cleared for cattle, blinds/feeders, windmill... \$4,425,000
• West County
*842 ac. canyons, blinds/feeders, great deer, cedar-trawls, surface water, some oilfield strata... \$750,000
*150 ac. big canyon, **SOLD** blinds, cedar-trawls, great deer, turkey, etc... \$650,000
• Martin County
*135 ac. Boulder Springs **SOLD** deer and whitetail, hogs, quail, mule deer... \$1,150,000
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Legal and Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Distillers and Rectifiers Permit by Blue Topaz Distilling, LLC dba Blue Topaz Distilling, LLC to be located at 9613 West County Road 152, Midland, Midland County, Texas. Officers of said corporation are Allie Lansford President and Luke Alejandro Vice-President.

Notice of Application for Oil & Gas Waste Disposal Well Permit

Pioneer Natural Resources, 5205 N. O'Connor Blvd., Suite 200, Irving, Texas 75039 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to dispose of produced salt water or other oil and gas waste by well injection into a porous formation not productive of oil or gas.

The applicant proposes to dispose of oil and gas waste into the San Andres, Brook A-10 Lease, Well Number 6D. The proposed disposal well is located 12.0 miles SW of Midkiff, in the Spraberry (Tread Area) R40 EXC Field, in Upton County.

The waste water will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 3,800 to 5,450 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.

Requests 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.

Autos For Sale-Lease

Passenger Cars

2009 HONDA Accord

EXL, gray / leather / brand new tires / great condition 109K miles, new great \$7,950.00. Call (432) 689-2259

Passenger Cars

2001 TOYOTA Avalon

White. Has engine replacement, new tune up, new car stereo, new tires and rims. Must call \$4,500. 432-349-0041

Passenger Cars

2009 LINCOLN Towncar

Signature Limited LTD, 76K miles, excellent condition, one at 4354 Larkin Street. Call 575-937-4242

Lost and Found

FOUND AT Schottelauer Draw & "A" Street area, Midland. Looks like Shih Tzu or Lhasa mix. Must identify. Call 432-694-3140

LOST BORDER Collie

Aussie mix, reddish brown & white lost on Tuesday 3/7/18. Viscosity Humble & Sealwood. Micro clipped, no tag. 262-2117 or 425-1976

Passenger Cars

VOLKSWAGEN 2007

Beats, 79K miles. Good tires, new battery, new fuel pump. Home with \$4500. Call Edward 432-352-8939

Antique and Vintage

1965 SHELBY Cobra

Replica, 1500 miles, custom built small block 427, 528 HP, 5 speed Tremec transmission, \$45,000.00 (432) 661-0233.

Pickup Trucks

GMC 1999 Sierra

1500, 4wd, extended cab, 154K miles, black exterior, beige interior, gtl guard, off road tires, toolboxes. \$4,500. 432-697-3767 or 432-853-9562

FWD and SUV

2011 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE OVERLAND

57 HEMI V8 4WD, LOADED. 30,000 miles, \$24,300. 575-385-4600.

2015 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED

SPORT 4x4, mint condition, clean carfax, white w/ black appearance group by Mopar w/ black 3 piece hard top, 41,000 mi., \$29,900. 432-689-6337

FWD and SUV

JEEP 2001 Grand Cherokee

white, engine replaced, must see. AC & heater works. Asking \$5,000. 432-349-0041

FWD and SUV

ORIGINAL PRICE \$69,900, now priced \$8,995!

1999 Lexus LX470 SUV, black, garage kept, regularly serviced. Call after 5pm 432-662-6139

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Imagicon with engine that vehicle came out of. Runs good. 30 gal. ton beer keg gas tank. 432-816-7236

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2008 SUN Tracker

Bass Suggy 18 with 50 HP motor for sale. Includes boat cover and trolling motor. We are asking \$11,500. Call or text to 432-934-1106.

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ANTIQUE S curved roll top desk & Lawyer's

bookcase, original finish \$2,500 or sold separately. Call 432-813-4589

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WHIRLPOOL DISHWASHER

\$150, Whirlpool over the stove microwave \$125, Whirlpool electric stove \$200, GE side by side refrigerator \$450 and Hoover steam cleaner \$50. Call 432-413-2751

Recreation Vehicles

2007 SILVERBACK BY CEDARCREEK

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2015 WINDJAMMER

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



DIGITAL MARKETING SERVICES

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

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Featuring a Star-Studded Cast of Master Storytellers

Preview Storytelling Performance, Friday, December 8th

7:00 p.m. - Featuring Donald Davis

Also see and hear the winners of
the 2017 Youth Storytelling Contest

Storytelling Festival, Saturday, December 9th

10:00 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

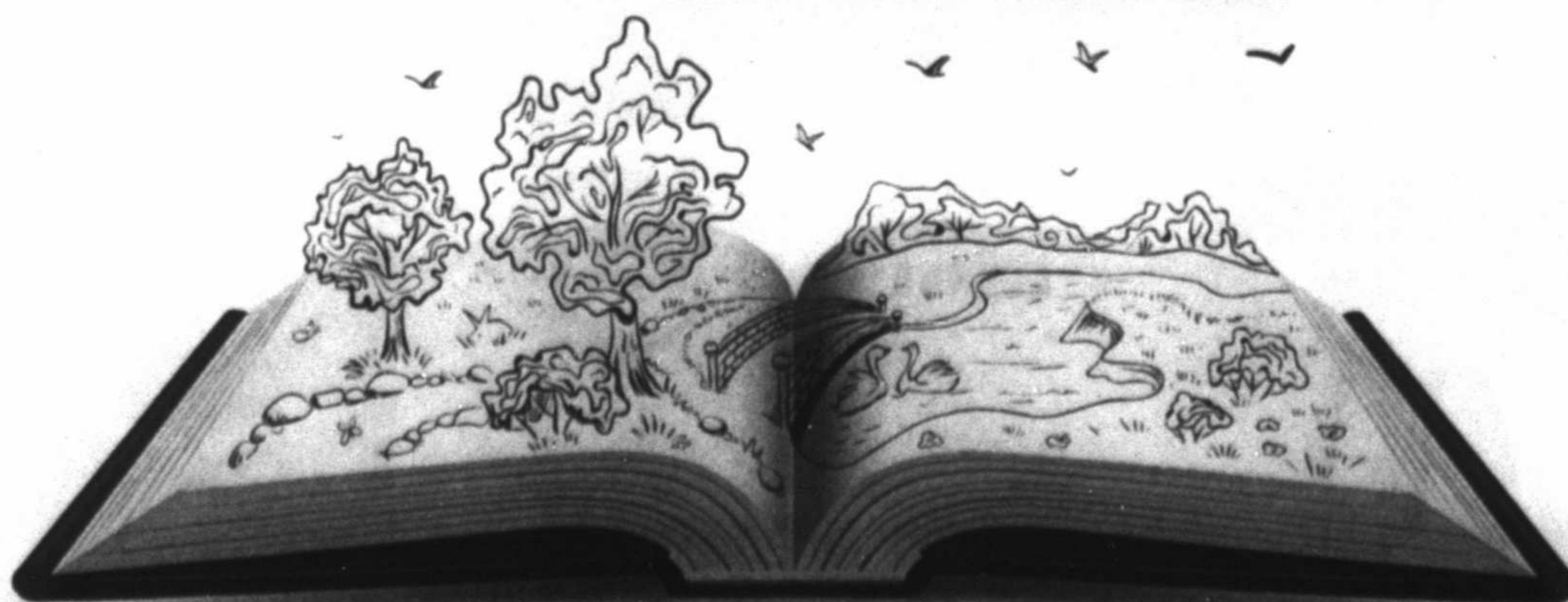
Three sets of performances with something for all ages

First Presbyterian Church of Midland
800 West Texas Avenue

All performances are FREE!

For more information, call 432-685-3876
or visit www.midlandstorytellingfestival.org.

This event is sponsored in part by FMH Foundation,
City of Midland and Friends of Libraries and Literacy.



Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

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OPEN SPACE

Some people look at land as a place to build roads, houses, factories, businesses and even amusement parks.

Many communities set aside land where nothing can be built. This is called open space.

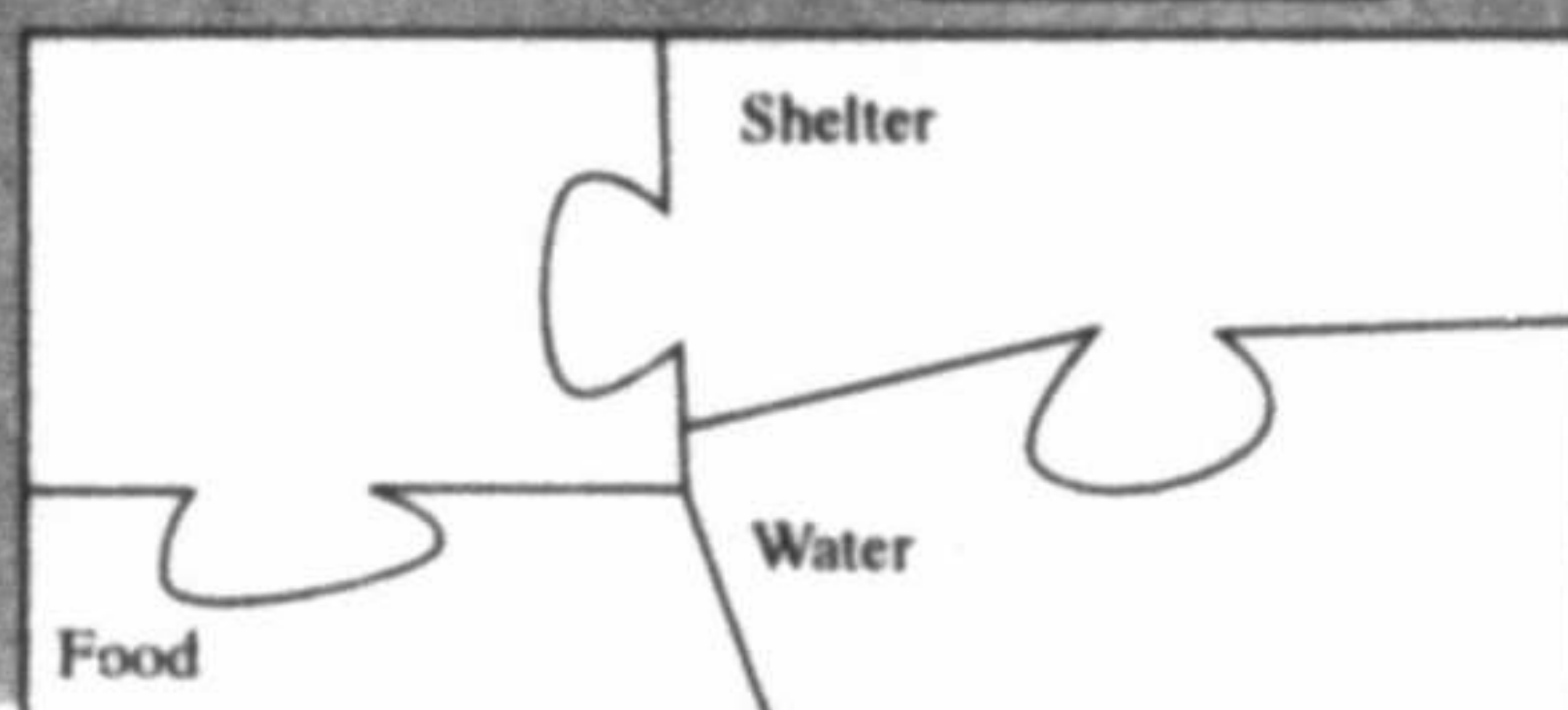
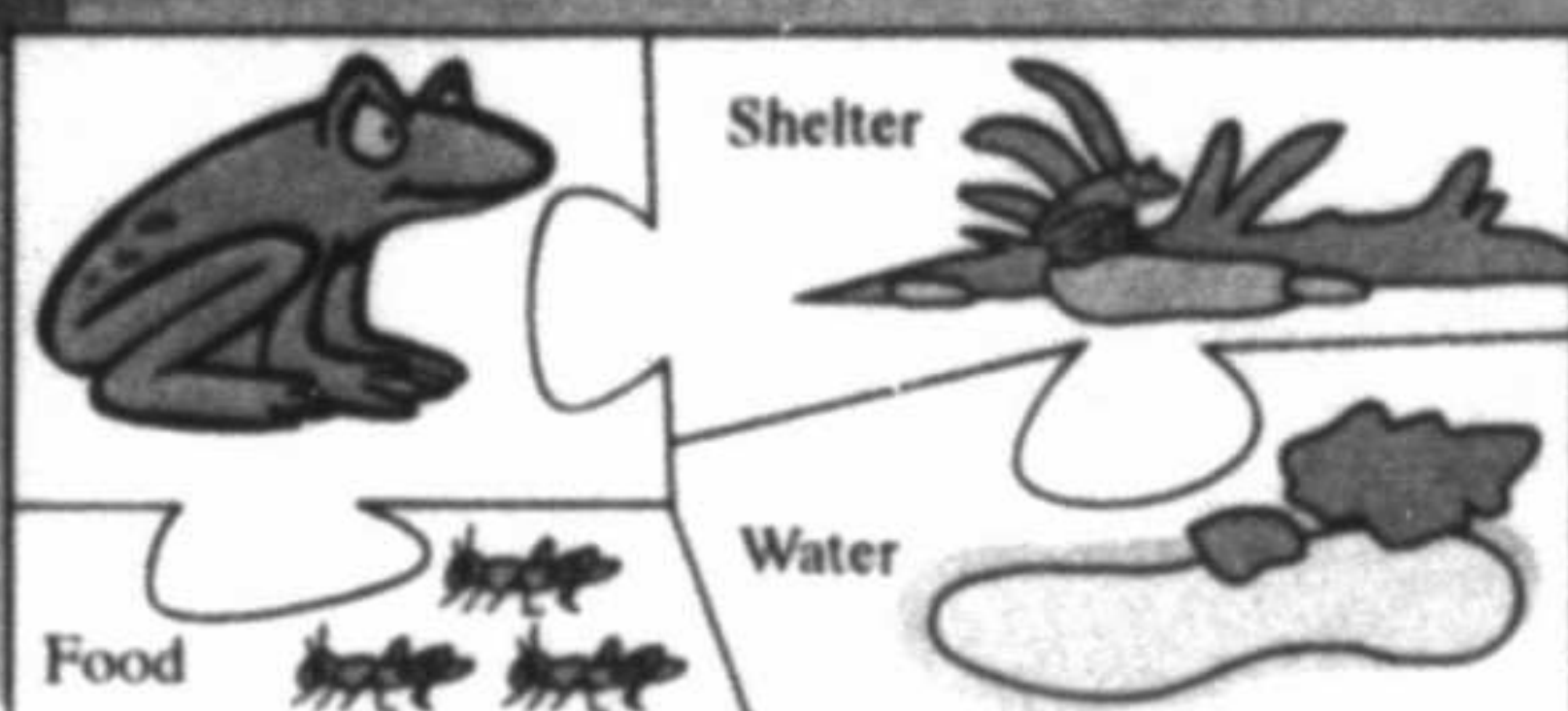
There are many reasons for leaving land open and free from human development.

Wildlife needs open space to make homes, raise their babies and find food.

Living close to open space makes it possible for people to easily hike through nature and relax.

Here are some animals that need open space to thrive. Can you draw a few more?

Make a survival puzzle for an animal you like. Use the frog survival puzzle as an example.



Wetlands are Open Space

Wetlands are areas of land that are, well, wet. A wetland is covered by water at least part of the year. You can find these along the ocean or a bay; near lakes, creeks and rivers.

Wetlands are very important. They contain little bacteria that actually clean water!

Unfortunately, when people build on wetlands, buildings can sink in deep mud or flood!

Wetlands have several names. Circle every other letter to discover some of them.



Extra! Extra! Love Nature

Cut out words and letters that spell words that describe what you love about nature. Glue these on the heart.



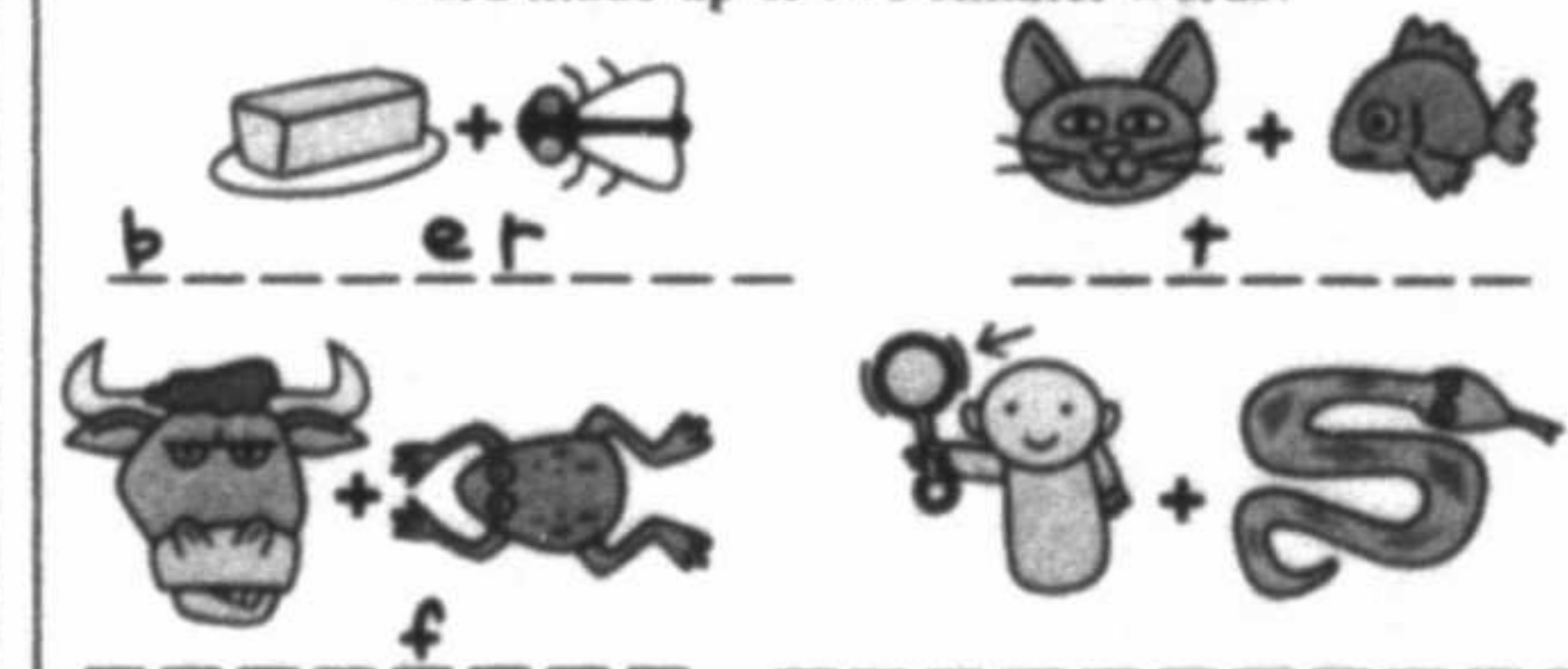
These are the largest reptiles in North America. They are believed to be over 200 million years old. Once nearly extinct, they can live between 35 to 50 years in the wild.



Kid Scoop Puzzler

Nature's Compound Words

Use the pictures to decode each compound word. Remember, a compound word is a longer, new word made up of two smaller words.



Draw lines to connect two words to make a compound word.

lady dragon grass rain bow fly bug hopper

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Kid Scoop Word Search

BUILDINGS
DESCRIBE
BACTERIA
PINECONE
WETLANDS
NATURE
SPACE
HUMAN
WATER
AREAS
HOUSE
OPEN
HIKE
LAND
LEAF

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

W B U I L D I N G S
H P I N E C O N E B
S Y W H F L N C A A
V A E A E O A O P C
H E E K T P T N N T
O L I R S E U S D E
U H U M A N R P A R
S D N A L T E W C I
E B I R C S E D E A

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Pencil spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Nature made or man made?

Look through the newspaper and find three pictures or words that show things that are made by nature. Next find three things that are made by man. Which were easier to find?

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.



How far can you go into a forest?

Weekly Writing Corner

Science in Your Life

Students describe how science has made their lives better.

Science has made my life better by scientists studying astronomy. Astronomy is one of my favorite types of science. I love to look at planets and stars in my telescope. I also like to learn about colonization on Mars, satellites being launched and other space news. I love seeing solar and lunar eclipses. Astronomy has become one of my favorite activities to do at night.

Angie,
5th grade

One thing science has made life easier is through transportation. Back then, it was hard to get around so they invented planes, cars, trains and boats, which are stronger and faster than wooden ships and being pulled by a horse. With science, it made it easier to go where you wanted.

Alan,
5th grade

My life has been so much better with science because I know about germs. Germs are nasty bacteria, or they can be good bacteria for your body. Now I know not to get too close to someone who is sick.

Brian,
5th grade

Science has made my life better, because if science was a myth we would not know the weather, or when something comes like a tornado, but we have science.

Nathan,
2nd grade

My life is better with the invention by Thomas Edison. First, Ben Franklin flew a kite with a key attached to the kite string in a lightning storm. It was a very good experiment because without that research, we would not have light or lamps or anything that involves a light bulb. Thank you, Ben Franklin and Thomas Edison.

Ella,
3rd grade

Science has made my life better because it makes up most of the things that I use. Science is used in pencils because scientists once had to find the right formula. The computer is part of science because they had to create the right technology. Did you know everything that we use once had something to do with science? Even medicine now and always is being made using science.

Alivia,
4th grade

Science helps me get to school because I can ride in a car. We have electricity, which lets me turn on the lights.

Naziah,
3rd grade

Write On!

Winter Poem

Write a poem about winter or winter weather.

Deadline: December 31

Published: Week of Jan. 28

Send your story to:

Newspaper In Education
201 E. Illinois
Midland, TX 79701
ljdz@mr.com

Please include your school and grade.



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