

MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2014

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POLICE PROBLEMS

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL

The final playoff list has been released. Alabama, Oregon, Florida State and Ohio State will vie for the top spot in college football, while TCU and Baylor were dropped from the competition.

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Home prices remain high despite drop in oil

Median home prices have continued to rise by an average of 9.5 percent this year

By Rye Druzin
rdruzin@mrt.com

Midland home prices rose at a high rate in October despite the drop in the price of oil, according to figures provided by the Real Estate Center at Texas A&M University.

The 15.3 percent growth in median home prices year-over-year for October marked a rebound from September and August, which showed sluggish growth rates of 1 percent. Midland has averaged a 10.9 percent growth rate in median prices for 2014 through October, according to Real Estate Center data. Average home prices grew by 12.4 percent during the same time period.

These increases have happened despite a 38.6 percent plunge in the price of oil since June 12, when West Texas Intermediate traded at a peak of \$107.95 per barrel. WTI is now trading at \$65 a barrel, according to figures from the federal government's Energy Information Administration and NASDAQ. During the same period of falling oil prices, Midland's median home prices have continued to rise by an average of 9.5 percent from June through October of this year, according to the Real Estate Center.

Local Realtor Warren Ivey, regional vice president of the Texas Association of Realtors, told the Reporter-Telegram that while other areas of Texas have an average of three months real estate inventory, Midland's average is only 1.7 months. An

inventory below six months indicates a seller's market, while above six months indicates a buyer's market. The low inventory exists, despite the many new developments being built to the north and west parts of the city, because people continue to move to the Tall City, he said.

"The hardship is sustained by the buyer, and even not just the buyer, but even the renters, the tenants who are looking for rental property," Ivey said. "They're really getting stumped; they're finding prices that they never would have thought when they come into town to look at rental properties. I say that the sting is still there and it's been here for a few years now."

If the homes that are being built were to come onto the market all at once, the housing crunch may be alleviated some-

what, Ivey said. Professionals such as teachers, firefighters and police officers moving to Midland continue to find it hard to buy a home, but Ivey said he hopes the new construction will help increase the supply and lower the prices for new homebuyers.

When asked about the drop in oil prices, Ivey said that despite the steep drop-off, development does not seem to be letting up. He also said that from a real estate standpoint it would be better to keep the current pace of building rather than increasing it.

"When you look at the price of oil, well maybe you do want to be a little conservative and build at (the current) rate instead of doubling that rate or tripling that rate," Ivey said.

ENJOYING THE WEATHER



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Ryan Branco, 4, rakes leaves with his dog, Cash, outside their home on Neely Avenue on Saturday.

Historic governor's mansion to be tweaked for Abbott

By Christine Ayala
Texas Tribune

The first Texas governor to use a wheelchair will soon move into a mansion built 134 years before laws started requiring that public buildings be accessible to the disabled.

But thanks to an arsonist's Molotov cocktail, the 1856 Greek Revival-style mansion in the heart of downtown Austin needs only minor fixes before the January arrival of Gov.-elect Greg Abbott and his family.

Early on June 8, 2008, an arsonist eluded security and hurled a Molotov cocktail at the mansion, igniting a four-alarm fire. Fortunately, the house was empty. Gov. Rick Perry and his wife had moved out while the building was undergoing repairs, and historic relics and artwork had been removed.

The fire and the water used to douse it caused major damage. Restoring the mansion cost \$25 million, and the Perrys did not move back in until 2012. The mansion retained its historic antebellum look but was upgraded with bathrooms, doors and elevators in line with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

A few details — like the second-floor balcony, which has a seven-inch step — do need to be tweaked. Chris Currens, director of special projects for the State Preservation Board, which oversees the mansion, said a planned ramp would allow the governor to enjoy the eastern view.

"We are working on a transition that fits into the historic aesthetic without too much disruption, but allows the governor

How businesses can avoid holiday party problems

By Joyce M. Rosenberg
Associated Press

NEW YORK — If John Olajide's staffers have one too many at his company's holiday party, he'll have them shuttled home in a taxi or send them to a hotel room for the night.

"If they're at our party, we're responsible for them," said Olajide, the founder and CEO of Dallas software maker, Axxess. "We'll take any steps to ensure their safety."

That's smart policy, according to human resource and legal experts. Small business owners need to be savvy about holiday parties. Festive affairs can turn ugly when people get drunk, especially if they behave inappropriately or are involved in an accident. Employees or guests who overdo it can create legal hassles for a company even if the party is in a restaurant or hotel.

Alcohol-related accidents and deaths rise during holiday periods, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. And in many states a party

host, including a business owner, can be forced to pay damages if someone drinks too much and is in an accident, says Andreas Satterfield, an employment law attorney with Jackson Lewis in Greenville, South Carolina.

Although accidents can be devastating, an owner probably has more of a chance for trouble from staffers or guests who become offensive when alcohol lowers their inhibitions and they get too free with what they say and where

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Michael Zamora/Corpus Christi Caller-Times

Sister Pamela Buganski pulls up coordinates from her phone as she updates a map that plots where migrant remains have been found as she works at the South Texas Human Rights Center in Falfurrias on Oct. 16.

Comforting immigrants is nun's mission

By Nadia Tamez-Robledo
Corpus Christi
Caller-Times

FALFURRIAS — For the past couple mornings, Sister Pamela Buganski has gone to the immigrant detention center in Falfurrias to pray with the women there.

She gets the feeling they're not allowed to congregate otherwise. There's a deep sadness there, Buganski told the Corpus Christi Caller-Times. The women miss their families, but there's also a sense of peacefulness and trust in God. And when they pray, Buganski said she hears the women say they are thankful.

"Really, this is a place where we would be praying prayers of gratitude," she said of her reaction. "You look in the eyes of each woman, and you see the eyes of Jesus. They pray in their own words, they talk about what the scripture means to them. It's just very profound and very deep."

Buganski, part of the Sister of Notre Dame, moved to Falfurrias from Ohio in August to join Eddie Canales, founder of the South Texas Human Rights Center. They work with the Brooks County Sheriff's Office to search for migrants who went missing after crossing the U.S.-Mexico border.

Buganski is filling in a map of the water stations they manage, an effort to keep fewer migrants from dying of dehydration as they cross the county, and she's a volunteer with Catholic Charities immigration services.

During an afternoon this fall, Canales and Buganski loaded up gallon jugs of water into his pickup and headed out to check on water stations near drop-off points near the Border Patrol checkpoint.

As she sat in the passenger seat while Canales drove south on U.S. 281, Buganski said her first couple months went by quickly. She's learning the culture, the places and this history surrounding immigration in the area. And there's never a shortage of things to do.

"If we don't have enough projects, we seemingly invent one every day," she said.

Before moving to Falfurrias, Buganski spent a year and a half in Guatemala integrating computers into a school in a poor town of about 800. She was a teacher and worked in her church's finance department before that.

She said people leaving for the United States weren't discussed, especially with an outsider, but it was evident in the children who were left behind.

When her sisters in Toledo started looking for new charitable endeavors,

she said, they visited the Corpus Christi diocese in January to learn about helping the immigrant community.

Canales was the lone staffer when he opened the center in November 2013. A year later, he said the center is gaining name recognition. He has no plans to slow down even with another set of hands.

"With the capacity of two people, we're doubling the work," he said.

Land owners, law enforcement, organized crime, economic migration — all these coalesce at the border, Buganski said she understands now how complex the issue is.

"There's something valid about everybody's stance," she said. "What we're trying to do is not so much change people's political minds but combine humanitarian work into what's already being done."

Canales turned left and the pair got out near a blue plastic barrel with a flag emblazoned with a cross fluttering above. Migrants used it recently, he said. Half of the gallon jugs inside are gone.

As they replaced the water, Buganski suggested putting a simple map on the barrel's lid to help orient migrants who are dropped off there to circumvent the checkpoint.

During the trek across the hot, sandy terrain of Brooks County, that's when the deaths occur. The recovery of migrant bodies hit an all-time high for the county in 2012 with 129 found.

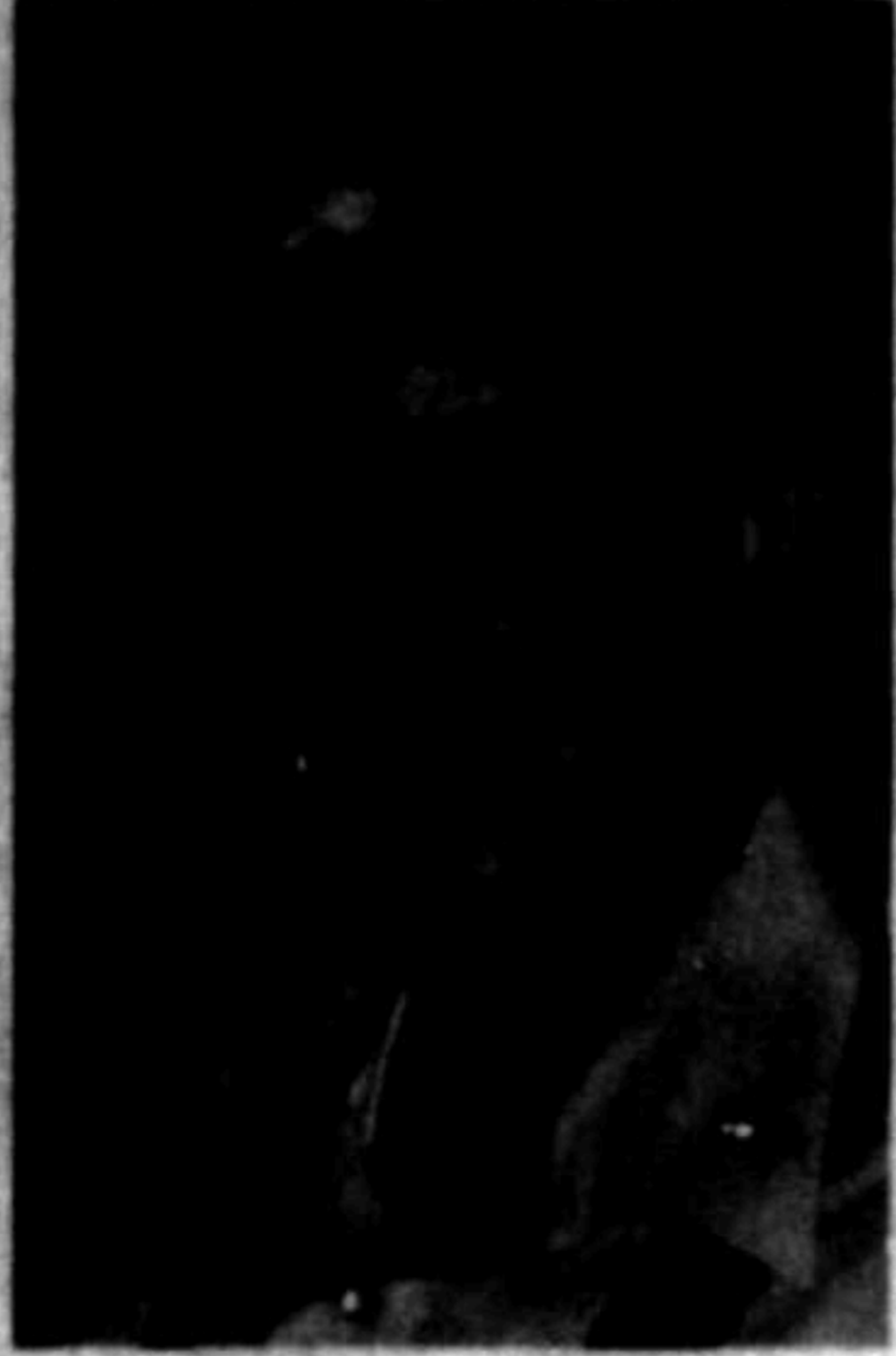
Illegal migration took the national spotlight last week when President Barack Obama announced his intent to expand deferred action to include the parents of citizen children and more people who were brought to the U.S. as children. The Diocese of Corpus Christi released a statement supporting the move.

"We strongly urge and pray that the Congress and the president use this current administrative relief as a first step in enacting comprehensive immigration reform," the statement said, "which implements legal processes and policies that are not only in the best interests of this country, but which also insure and respect the dignity of all God's children, no matter their place of birth."

The issue is highly divisive, but Canales and Buganski said they see it as a humanitarian cause. Canales has spent a year fielding calls from people looking for lost loved ones, people who know at best they will get a body to bury back home.

The process is frustrating, Canales said. Unless he is looking for someone who has been detained, he must rely on the trust he's gained from smugglers to find out where they left people behind.

Obituaries



Bill "Billy Joe" Waller

Bill "Billy Joe" Waller passed away on November 23, 2014 at the age of 87. He was married 61 years to Valerie Stout Waller, until her death in 2009.

A longtime resident of Midland, Bill was the father to Roberta Wilson and Lalah Ash, the Grandfather to Lindsay, Leslie, Morgan, Elliott, Ryan and Emily and the Great-Grandfather to Jackson, Andrew, Macey and Crosby. Bill was born on June 16, 1927, and was raised as a proud West Texan in Crane, Texas. He was the son of Sanders and Lalah Mae Waller and brother to Frank. Bill was a Navy veteran and worked until retirement as a jet mechanic for Continental Airlines.

He was an avid rock hound and an active member of the Midland Gem and Mineral Society for many years. Bill was a creative jewelry designer, an artist, a golfer, a hunter, a bee keeper and a country and classical music lover. He was a man of many talents and interests and a good friend to many. Bill's passing will leave a void, but also many memories for those who knew and loved him.

Funeral services for Bill Waller will be held at Ellis Funeral Home on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 11:00 A.M. Burial will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park. The family will be available to receive friends a half hour prior to the service to meet and share memories of Bill's remarkable life.

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

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Louis C. Selvera

Louis C. Selvera, a loving husband, father, grandfather, and brother, went home to our Lord Savior December 6, 2014 after fighting a courageous battle with cancer.

Louis was born May 9, 1947 in Loraine, Texas to Raynaldo and Herminia Selvera. He married his high school sweetheart, Lydia Del Real. He was a proud father of two daughters, Jennifer and Jill. He was a longtime resident of Mitchell County. He retired from road construction and enjoyed spending time outdoors and caring for his various animals. He was a dedicated Dallas Cowboy fan and a member of St. Ann's Catholic Church.

Louis is survived by his wife of 48 years, Lydia Selvera of Colorado City; two daughters: Jennifer and husband, Phillip Ward and Jill and husband, Paul Molina, all of Midland; four grandchildren: Sicilly

Arocha, Freddy Arocha Jr., Ashley Molina and Paul Molina III, two great grandchildren: Bella and Victor. He is also survived by his siblings: Adelina Paredes of Midland, Texas, Gloria Herrera of Spring, Texas, Sylvia Cruz of Odessa, Texas, Ray Selvera, Jr. of Colorado City, Texas, Pete Selvera of Midland, Texas, Sally Mejia of Odessa, Texas, Jimmy Selvera of Evanston, Wyoming, Sarah Kennington of Buford, Georgia, Yolanda Carnett of Midland, Texas, Minnie Brisenno of Hutto, Texas and a half brother, or Ray Selvera of Colorado City, Texas and many loved nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents, infant siblings, Paul and Cecilia Selvera and maternal grandparents, Enriquez and Adela Castillo.

A family visitation will be held on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 5 pm followed by a rosary at 6 pm at Kiker-Seale Funeral Home. Funeral service will be held at 10 am Wednesday, December 10, 2014, at St. Ann's Catholic Church with Father Michael Udegbunam officiating. Burial will follow at the Mitchell County Cemetery under the care and direction of Kiker-Seale Funeral Home.

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid of terrified because of them. For our LORD your GOD goes with you; he will never leave you or forsake you" Deuteronomy 31:6



Vicki Lynn Broom

Vicki Lynne (Nichols) Broom, age 64, of Monahans, passed from this life on Saturday, December 6, 2014 at Odessa Regional Medical Center. She was born in Crosbyton, TX on December 13, 1949 to Vera Jonell (Smith) Barton and the late Jack Dalton Nichols. She was a homemaker, a loving wife to Danny Joe Broom for 30 years and mother to two children. She was Baptist.

Those left to cherish her love and memory are her husband: Danny Broom of Monahans; mother: Vera Jonell Barton of Mildand; son: Darrell Ray Smith of Monahans; daughter: Jacqin Raylene Little of Monahans; brother: Bart H. Barton of Midland; three sisters: Bellann Towers of Oklahoma, Beverly Joe Moyers of Virginia, and Verma Marie Kilgaman of Houston; three grandchildren: Tanner Joe Smith of Monahans, and Kenneth Ray Little and Charni Sherrylin Little, both of Odessa; and four great-grandchildren: Faith S. Smith, Ridley Dane Denny, Katie Lynn Denny, and Paisley Dawn Denny, all of Odessa.

Memorial services will be 3:00 pm, Wednesday, December 10, 2014 at Acres West Funeral Chapel, officiated by Chaplain Larry

Hood. Arrangements are entrusted to Acres West Funeral Chapel and condolences may be sent to the family online at acreswestfuneral.com.



William Elder III

William Elder III, or Tracy as he was known to many, lost his fight against cancer December 5, 2014. The family will receive friends from 6:00-8:00 PM on Monday, December 8, 2014 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home in Midland. Memorial services will be held at 1:00 PM on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Chapel.

Tracy was born on October 15, 1979 to Janelle Buchanan and William Elder, Jr., in Grand Prairie, TX. He graduated from L.D. Bell High School in Bedford, TX in 1998 and then went on to serve our Country in the United States Army. He married Tessa Lanning on March 20, 2010 in Midland, TX. Tracy was a journeyman electrician at Corey Sly Electric.

Tracy was an unbelievably funny and clever man that had passion for the Longhorns, the Dallas Cowboys, trucks, hunting, his friends, and most importantly, his family. He leaves behind four beautiful children, Hannah, Kyler, Dakota, and Emme, each possessing a bit of Tracy's snarky personality and mischievous spirit. His wife, Tessa, will only have to look as far as her children's eyes to see that a force as big as Tracy is far too big to fit into Heaven; thus, pieces of him will live on with his children's sarcastic remarks and witty quips.

He is survived by his wife, Tessa Lanning Elder of Midland, TX; four children, Hannah Elizabeth Elder of Bedford, TX; Kyler Lee Waganam, Dakota Rea Elder, and Emme June Elder, all of Midland; mother, Janelle and husband, Don Buchanan of Haslet, TX; father, Bill and wife, Honey Elder of Lexington, KY; grandmother, Wynelle Edwards of Grand Prairie, TX; grandparents, Darlene and Ron Buchanan of Houston, TX; and two sisters, Cecilia and Madison Elder of Lexington, KY.

Tracy was loved by many, as has become evident by many friends and family members that have shown infinite love and support during the last year of his life.

The family wants to thank Corey and Dawn Sly for their generous support during Tracy's battle with cancer, M.D. Anderson, Dr. Karen Carr and all of the Oncology Staff at Allison Cancer Center, and also Hospice of Midland for their wonderful care of Tracy.

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

Dallas Ebola patient's ER doctor missed high fever

Associated Press

DALLAS — The Dallas emergency-room doctor who initially treated a Liberian man infected with Ebola said he didn't know the man's home country or that he had a 103-degree fever shortly before he left the hospital.

Thomas Eric Duncan was released in the early hours of Sept. 26, about half an hour after his medical records indicate he had a fever that high — a key potential symptom of Ebola.

Dr. Joseph Howard Meier told The Dallas Morning News he didn't see that temperature reading on Duncan's medical chart. "I was unaware of a 103-degree fever," Meier said in written answers to questions released by his

attorney. "It appears in the chart, but I did not see it."

Duncan returned to Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas two days later in an ambulance and was quickly diagnosed with Ebola. He died Oct. 8.

Duncan's sister and fiancée have said he told medical staff in the emergency room during that first visit that he was from Liberia, though the hospital's medical records only indicate Duncan said he was from Africa.

The hospital has already acknowledged mistakes in its care of Duncan and said its records system previously didn't make a patient's travel history clear.

Duncan's case set off a scramble by authorities to monitor dozens of people who potentially had contact with him, including

in the days after his release from the hospital. None of those people ended up testing positive for Ebola. Two Presbyterian nurses were infected while treating him, but have since recovered.

Meier said that had he known Duncan was from Liberia, "this would have prompted me to contact the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and begin an evaluation for Ebola."

But he was less sure about the 103-degree reading.

"Given what little information I had, a 103 temperature would most likely not have helped with the diagnosis of Ebola," Meier said. "Although, if it did not quickly improve, he could have possibly been admitted to the hospital."



Jordan Overturf/The Eagle

Reporters and members of Texas A&M's sports information department congregate around the command center at the entrance to the Kyle Field press box during a game on Nov. 27. The press box will come down on Dec. 21 when the rest of the west side of the stadium is imploded to make way for the second phase of the Kyle Field redevelopment.

Kyle Field press box coming down

By Jordan Overturf
The (College Station) Eagle

COLLEGE STATION — For 35 years, Alan Cannon has had what others describe as the best seat in Aggie Football — the press box.

While Kyle Field is known for hosting some of the largest and loudest fans, the press box high above the gridiron features a more tranquil atmosphere. There are no whoops. No boos. No claps. There is no room for the Spirit of Aggieland in a working press box.

"I've actually asked the vice president of the university several years ago to relocate because he was cheering," said Cannon, Texas A&M's associate athletic director of media relations.

On Dec. 21, the press box and the rest of the west side of the stadium will come crumbling down when it is imploded to make way for the second phase of the \$450 million stadium redevelopment. The press will be relocated next season to a press box on the east side of the stadium.

Cannon was one of many sharing stories about their first time in the press box.

Cannon was a student intern at Southern Methodist University in 1979 when he was invited to an Aggie football game by Texas A&M's sports information director, Spec Gammon.

The game? Texas vs. Texas A&M. "I was amazed," Cannon said, talking about his first impression of the press box.

The Ags beat the Longhorns that year, and Cannon has spent every home game since in the press box. "I've basically grown up here," Cannon said.

Greg and Marla Gammon remember seeing their father, Spec Gammon, running the press box from a command post in the 1980s, when it was constructed. The siblings spent most of their lives watching Kyle Field change and grow.

Greg said he remembered getting off of the elevator and the first thing he saw was his dad sitting behind the command post.

"It was a new era for him. A new era for A&M," he said, adding, "The thing that comes to mind is everything looked so much bigger back then."

Marla recalled eating many

Thanksgiving dinners in the press box. She and her brother both were glad they got to spend one last Thanksgiving in the press box.

"I thought I'd be sad," Greg said. "It's just nice to see it one last time. I have a lot of memories and they'll go down with the press box."

The one part of the press box that will continue to receive mixed reviews even after it's gone is the swaying that occurs when the Aggies "saw varsity's horns off."

"For the longest time, there was a discussion: Is the press box actually moving or is it just an optical illusion," assistant media relations director Brad Marquardt said. "Eventually, it got worse to where you could see the movement in glasses of water."

Marquardt has attended every Aggie football game — home and away — since 1995. He said it'll be strange to spend his Saturdays on the opposite side of the field.

"I won't miss how high it is. But the new press box is just as high," he said. "It'll be a new look over there, that's for sure."

Distributed by The Associated Press

Big Spring residents among area roadway crash victims

From staff reports

Six people were killed and one person was injured in crashes on area roadways over the past three days, according to the Texas Department of Public Safety. None of those involved were from Midland.

Three people died and one was injured Saturday morning in a three-vehicle crash in Andrews County, one person died Saturday morning in a two-vehicle crash in Ector County and two people died Friday night in a one-vehicle crash in Dawson County, according to press releases from Elena Viramontes with the DPS.

■ Killed in the Andrews crash were Steven M. Bolton, 32, of El Paso; and Douglas P. Irwin, 43, and Marcus Irwin, 15, both of Big Spring, according to the release.

The crash occurred about 8:30 a.m. Saturday on State Highway 176 near the intersection of Farm-to-Market Road 1788, about 6.4 miles east of Andrews.

A Jeep driven by Bolton was traveling south on FM 1788, while a Ford F-150 driven by Douglas Irwin was traveling west on SH 176. A third vehicle — a Peterbilt truck driven by Allan C. Warren, 47, of Andrews — was traveling east on SH 176.

Bolton disregarded a stop sign and was hit by the pickup; the Peterbilt then hit the pickup and Jeep, according to the release.

Warren was transported

to an Andrews hospital, where he was in stable condition as of Saturday night, according to the release. All five people involved in the wreck were wearing their seat belts.

■ Killed in the Ector crash was Patrick W. Barney, 61, of Odessa, according to the release.

The crash occurred about 6:30 a.m. Friday in foggy conditions on FM 3472, about 7 miles west of Odessa.

A Yamaha driven by Barney and a Dodge Ram 3500 driven by Randy D. Chaney, 59, of Odessa were traveling east on FM 3472. The motorcycle tried to pass the pickup in the center turn lane and hit the pickup's left front quarter panel.

Chaney, who was not injured, was wearing a seat belt, and Barney was wearing a helmet, according to the release.

■ Killed in the Dawson County crash were Ruben A. Gonzalez, 31, and Estevan Valencia, 34, both of Big Spring, according to the release.

The crash occurred about 11 p.m. Friday on U.S. Highway 87, about 2.3 miles south of Lamesa.

A Ford F-150 driven by Gonzalez was northbound on U.S. 87, failed to negotiate a turn and rolled over, according to the release. Neither the driver nor passenger were wearing seat belts.

All six victims died at the scenes of the crashes, according to the press release.

STATE BRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

EL PASO

Drone launch, recovery complex set for Texas base

An Oklahoma company has announced it will build a \$33 million drone complex at Fort Bliss.

Oklahoma City-based contractor SGS says it will build the 150-acre unmanned aircraft launch and recovery complex. It will include a 50,000-square-foot unmanned aircraft maintenance hangar and more than a mile of runways, aprons, and taxiways, SGS reported.

The drone complex will be in the restricted airspace on the base.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced SGS's award Friday.

Construction was expected to begin in about a month. SGS plans to use local subcontractors for the project. SGS President Eddie Scott reported in a statement.

SGS, a 15-year-old Native American-owned company, is no stranger to Fort Bliss. It has completed seven projects valued at \$78 million there.

SAN LEON

Sheriff: Shipwrecked family actually on the run

The day after they were rescued from a sailboat sinking in Galveston Bay, Donald and Karlien Winberg disappeared with their seven children.

Authorities say that's because the Winbergs are on the run from wire theft charges brought by the FBI.

The Galveston County Daily News reported volunteer firefighters in San Leon in late October pulled the couple and their seven children out of a boat filling up with cold water.

The infant and her mother were hospitalized that night and released the next morning, but haven't been seen since. Their boat sat in the water for weeks, untouched. An FBI agent in Denver then contacted the Galveston County sheriff.

Authorities accuse the Winbergs of running a fake online business shipping corn and hay.

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Tesla wants auto sales regulations loosened

By Will Weissert
Associated Press

AUSTIN — Tesla passed on Texas as the site of its new \$5 billion battery factory, but the company still hopes to sell its electric cars directly to Texans over the Internet, instead of through dealerships, and it is dangling the carrot of future investment projects as an incentive.

The automaker doesn't use outside salesmen or franchised dealers to sell its cars because it says they have too much invested in promoting traditional, gasoline-powered vehicles. The practice is prohibited in Texas and at least somewhat restricted by many other states' laws on new vehicle sales.

Proposals to allow direct car sales in Texas stalled during the 2013 legislative session, but the Palo Alto, California-based automaker appears poised to rev up efforts to revive the issue as lawmakers head back to work next month.

"We're not asking to blow up the franchise dealer system," said Diarmuid O'Connell, Tesla's vice president for business

development. "We are looking for a narrow and reasonable window to be able to promote this new technology ourselves."

No one has pre-filed a bill promoting direct sales yet, and few in the Legislature have publicly supported the idea. But outgoing Gov. Rick Perry in March called the state's laws "antiquated" and said it was time for "Texas to have an open conversation about this."

Of course, Perry said that when Texas was still one of four states in the running to get Tesla's new battery factory, which eventually went to Nevada. Perry prides himself on being able to woo job creators, and at the height of his Tesla charm offense during a June visit to California, he even drove the company's Model S around Sacramento.

An op-ed signed by four economics and law professors from Texas universities appeared this week in the Austin American Statesman, and a longer letter signed by those four and eight other academics was sent to every member of the Legislature. They urged lawmakers to "mod-

ernize" vehicle distribution rules and scrap existing regulation that hurts competition via "protectionism for auto dealers."

Calls seeking comment from spokesmen for Gov.-elect Greg Abbott and Dan Patrick, who will oversee the Texas Senate when he becomes lieutenant governor in January, were not returned.

Texas Automobile Dealers Association lobbyist Robert Brazie said he believes bills promoting direct car sales will likely be filed before the end of the 2015 legislative session but that he expects them to garner little support. He said an offer of future Tesla investments would carry little weight in the state, because "when they had a chance to come to Texas, they didn't."

Brazie added that Tesla explained its choosing Nevada by pointing to "geography, cost and speed of development," reasons that had "nothing to do" with either state's car sales laws.

O'Connell admits that getting the law changed won't be easy.

"Does the fact that we didn't site the factory there complicate things? Absol-

utely," O'Connell said. "But we're going to be doing a number of big battery factories in the coming years and we're going to need new vehicle factories as well, and there's a certain logic to doing those in Texas."

He didn't elaborate but added that the state may not be so attractive if current sales regulations stand.

"If we're banned in Texas, why are we investing billions of dollars here?" O'Connell asked.

In October, Michigan became the fifth state to effectively ban Tesla's direct-sales model, along with Texas, New Jersey, Arizona and Maryland. But O'Connell said the company has successfully worked with courts and Legislatures in other states to stop more-restrictive sales rules from taking effect elsewhere.

Texas, though, is a game changer. Brazie said the state should notch more than 1.5 million new car deliveries this year — accounting for nearly 10 percent of all sales nationwide. The only larger market in America is Tesla's home state of California.

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TODAY IN MIDLAND

Meetings

Commissioners Court
9 a.m.
501 N. Loraine St.
Midland County Courthouse
Auxiliary Courtroom

MISD board of trustees
5:30 p.m.
First floor boardroom
615 W. Missouri Ave.

Club meetings, support groups today

■ PFLAG Odessa (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians & Gays), 7 p.m., Alternative Life Solutions Counseling, 2458 E. 11th St., Odessa: 432-279-0749, pflagodessa@yahoo.com or www.pflagodessa.weebly.com.
■ Midland Amateur Radio Club, 7:30 p.m., clubhouse, Loop 250 and Lamesa Road; 561-9729.
■ Tall City VFW Post 7208, 1303 E. Taylor, bingo games 7 p.m.

Breast Cancer Awareness Workshop

Midland ISD Head Start program is partnering with Midland Memorial Hospital for a Breast Cancer Awareness Workshop from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. today at Central Office, 615 W. Missouri Ave., room 420.

Registered nurse Jennifer Dumire will give the presentation to family members of Head Start students. Daycare will be provided and refreshments will be served.

Library activities this week

■ Spanish Storytime and Tesoro Playgroup, 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, www.co.midland.tx.us.
■ Storytime, 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, www.co.midland.tx.us. Holiday Cheer at the Library, 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, Midland County Public Library downtown location, www.co.midland.tx.us.
■ Library holiday open house, 4:30 p.m., Thursday, Midland County Public Library downtown location, www.co.midland.tx.us.
■ Unabashedly Bookish Club, 2-4 p.m., Saturday, Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 698-0158.

Job fair

Experience Works hosts a job fair for workers 55 and older 9 a.m.-noon Mondays at Midland Workforce Solutions, 3600 N. Garfield St., Technology Center Room 138. The agency focuses on people who desire to learn new skills.
For more information, call toll free 855-307-1171, or email liz_cox@experienceworks.org.

When it's open

Midland County Public Library
301 W. Missouri Ave.
9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday
Return bins available 24 hours a day
688-4320

Centennial Branch Library
2503 W. Loop 250 N.
9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday
9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday
Return bins available 24 hours a day
742-7400

What's on the radio

News talk
KCRS (AM 550)
6-9 a.m. The Morning Drive with Robert Hallmark and Kurt Verler
9-11 a.m. Lynn Woolley
11 a.m.-2 p.m. Rush Limbaugh
2-5 p.m. Dave Ramsey
5-6 p.m. Local news reports
6-9 p.m. Roger Hedgecock
9-midnight Hugh Hewitt
Midnight-6 a.m. Coast to Coast with George Noory
Web: <http://www.newstalkkcrs.com>

KWEL (AM 1070, FM 107.1)
6-10 a.m. Morning Show with Craig Anderson
10 a.m.-noon, Herman Cain
Noon-2 p.m. Glenn Beck
2-5 p.m. Sean Hannity
Web: <http://www.kwel.com>

Other options
Contemporary Christian, KFRI (FM 88.7), KLVW (FM 90.5)
NPR KOCV (FM 91.3)

How to submit

■ Births: Have information and a picture about a newborn son, daughter, grandson or granddaughter you want in the paper? Call Managing Editor Mary Dearen at 687-8852.
■ Engagement, wedding anniversary or quinceañera announcements: email write-up and photo to weddings@mrt.com. For more information, call 682-6222.
■ Business and oil industry news: contact Oil Editor Mella McEwen at 687-8860 or mmcwen@mrt.com.
■ Items of local interest: contact Editor Stewart Doreen at 687-8856 or sdoreen@mrt.com.
■ Letters to the editor: email to letters@mrt.com or mail to 201 E. Illinois Ave., 79701. For more information call 687-8852.

Today in history

Today is Monday, Dec. 8, the 342nd day of 2014. There are 23 days left in the year.
Today's highlight:
On Dec. 8, 1941, the United States entered World War II as Congress declared war against Imperial Japan, a day after the attack on Pearl Harbor.
On this date:
In 1776, during the Revolutionary War, Gen. George Washington's retreating army crossed the Delaware River from New Jersey into Pennsylvania.

Associated Press



Associated Press

US military forces listen as U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel speaks at Tactical Base Gamberi in eastern Afghanistan on Sunday. Hagel was winding up a two-day visit, his last to Afghanistan as secretary of defense.

Hagel: Afghan training is key in war's final act

By Robert Burns
Associated Press

TACTICAL BASE GAMBERI, Afghanistan — It's only a slight stretch to say America's longest war stops here.

The several hundred American soldiers on this remote base in Afghanistan's wild east are the vanguard of a transformed U.S. military mission meant to avoid the kind of unraveling of security that happened this year in Iraq and ensure that the reason for invading Afghanistan in the first place — al-Qaida's haven for plotting the Sept. 11 attacks — never recurs. These soldiers, including elements of the 3rd Infantry Division and the 3rd Cavalry Regiment, are not fighting the Taliban. They are trying to script the final chapter of the U.S. part in a conflict that seems certain to continue after the Americans leave.

Gamberi, a dusty outpost in Laghman province near the fabled city of Jalalabad, will be one of four "Train, Advise, Assist Commands" across the country, in addition to several training establishments in Kabul, the capital.

Gone are the days of large U.S. combat forces here or in any other part of Afghanistan, although U.S. special operations forces will continue, mostly in conjunction with Afghan forces, to hunt down al-Qaida remnants or other terrorists.

U.S. troops also will take on the Taliban in situations where they are deemed to pose a threat to American troop security.

The largest mission, however, is going to be training the Afghans — not

on the front lines but at bases such as Gamberi. U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel dropped in Sunday to get briefed on their work and to deliver a holiday-season pep talk.

Before a few hundred soldiers, Hagel said the idea is to "work our way, essentially, out of a job as we transition from the combat role we've had over the last 13 years" to a mission that puts the onus on Afghan combat prowess.

He said the Afghan army and police forces have made a lot of progress, at the cost of much U.S. blood and treasure since 2001.

"We don't want to see that roll back downhill," Hagel said.

Gamberi exemplifies what President Barack Obama calls the new non-combat mission.

The soldiers here are focused on training and advising Afghan security forces; it's a mission with NATO allies that will assume a new name on Jan. 1, "Resolute Support." The long combat mission known as Operation Enduring Freedom will conclude at the end of December.

This new phase will not last long, however, if current plans hold.

Virtually all U.S. troops will be gone two years from now as Obama completes his final term in office. The hope is that the Afghans can hold off Taliban militants who, it is feared, could allow a return of al-Qaida or other extremist groups if they were to regain power in Kabul.

Gen. John Campbell, the top American commander in Afghanistan, said Saturday that he has Obama's

permission to keep up to 10,800 U.S. troops in the country for the first few months of 2015; that's about 1,000 more than previously planned.

As a result, there will be little, if any, net drop in U.S. troop numbers between now and Dec. 31. By the end of 2015, however, the U.S. troop total is to shrink to 5,500, and to near zero by the end of 2016.

In an interview, Campbell said the Afghans are not only capable of providing their own security but are eager to do so.

"They totally have the security. They want to own it. They are proud that they have that back" as a sovereign nation, he said.

Campbell said part of his challenge is to build confidence among Afghan troops, partly by reminding them that their firepower is superior to that of the Taliban. He also is pushing them to be more aggressive and take the fight to the Taliban.

"They have this checkpoint mentality" that makes them prefer to wait at fixed positions for the Taliban to come to them. "I'm trying to get them off that" approach, he said. "They've got to become more maneuverable to get out there and go after the enemy."

Hagel, on what aides said was surely his last visit to Afghanistan as defense secretary, told U.S. troops that there is no room for complacency and no reason to think that their training and advising work will not present its own risks.

"The job's not done," he said. "This is still a dangerous country in many ways."

Survivors gather to remember infamous Pearl Harbor attack

By Jennifer Sinco Kelleher
Associated Press

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii — Veterans who survived the Pearl Harbor attack that launched the United States into World War II attended Sunday's 73rd anniversary ceremony with the help of canes, wheelchairs and motorized scooters.

Wearing purple orchid lei, about 100 Pearl Harbor and World War II survivors attended the ceremony overlooking a memorial that sits atop sunken battleship USS Arizona. Many of them arrived well before the sun came up.

This year's anniversary of the Japanese attack is the 10th consecutive one that USS Utah survivor Gilbert Meyer attended. But it's getting harder for Meyer, 91, to travel to Hawaii from San Antonio.

Asked if he planned to attend next year's anniversary, he responded with a chuckle. "That's like asking me if I'll still be alive."

Harold Johnson, 90, is making it a goal to attend the 75th anniversary, even though traveling from Oak Harbor, Washington, isn't always easy. "I've got a little scooter that's a real life saver," the USS Oklahama survivor said.

Johnson had been aboard the Oklahama for just six months on Dec. 7, 1941, looking forward to a day off and a "date with a little Hawaiian girl." He was shining his shoes when the first alarm went off, he recalled.

"Three months later I ran into her in town in Honolulu," he said of his date. "She was mad at me because I stood her up."

For many of the roughly 2,000 survivors who remain, there are also more painful memories.

Keynote speaker Gen. Lori Robinson, commander of Pacific Air Forces, told the

crowd of several thousand about four of the nine remaining survivors of the USS Arizona. Don Stratton, 92, of Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Lauren Bruner, 94, of La Mirada, California, were two of six men who escaped the inferno that engulfed the forward half of the ship by negotiating a line, hand over hand, about 45 feet in the air, despite burns to more than 60 percent of their bodies. John Anderson, 97, of Roswell, New Mexico, was ordered off the ship, but he didn't want to leave behind his twin brother, Delbert. Even though he was forced into a small boat that took him to Ford Island, he commandeered an empty boat and returned to the Arizona to rescue three shipmates. But he never found his brother.

Robinson also highlighted the sacrifices of the Honolulu Fire Department, which was dispatched to respond after receiving the alarm at 8:05 a.m. "Without knowing it, the Honolulu Fire Department was going to war," she said. "Three firefighters would never return, and six others would be seriously injured."

The ceremony also featured a Japanese peace prayer, a Hawaiian blessing and a moment of silence at 7:55 a.m., the minute the bombing began. F-22s from the Hawaii Air National Guard 199th Fighter Squadron and Air Force 19th Fighter Squadron conducted a flyover.

Later in the afternoon, the four USS Arizona survivors planned to visit the memorial for a toast to their fallen shipmates with a glass of sparkling wine given to their survivors association by President Gerald Ford, using glasses that are replicas of the ones on the ship. After the toast, divers would place one of the glasses at the base of the Arizona's gun turret four. It's where ashes of 38 Arizona survivors are interred.

NATION BRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

NEW YORK Madoff workers in epic fraud face NY sentencing

Imprisoned financier Bernard Madoff's former director of operations for investments faces sentencing Monday, the first of five Madoff ex-employees to learn their fate in coming days after a jury convicted them earlier this year of charges related to the multi-decade, multi-billion dollar fraud.

Federal sentencing guidelines for several Madoff defendants call for prison terms even longer than the 150 years Madoff received, but even prosecutors acknowledged that was not necessary while still urging "a severe sanction, proportionate to their roles in this historic fraud." The government seeks prison terms of more than a decade for each, saying they are most culpable besides Madoff himself for a fraud that cost thousands of investors nearly \$20 billion when it was revealed with Madoff's December 2008 arrest.

Their crimes involved ongoing and systematic deception; for years, they repeatedly lied to investors, regulators, auditors, and banks, the government said in court papers. "The defendants — all of them — falsified literally millions of pages of documents and engaged in a series of almost comic efforts to further the fraud."

"Ordinary people and sophisticated investors alike relied on documents created by the defendants — all of them — in making important life decisions. Some people retired because they thought

their money was safe. Others bought a home. All of them lost everything. Charities collapsed. University endowments shrank overnight. Pension plans ... lost millions upon millions. Any one of these five defendants could have stopped it decades ago. Instead, they chose to personally profit," it said. Defense attorneys are requesting leniency, with some saying incarceration is unnecessary.

WASHINGTON House Intelligence chief: Report will spur attacks

Foreign governments and U.S. intelligence agencies are predicting that the release of a Senate report examining the use of torture by the CIA will cause "violence and deaths" abroad, the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee said Sunday.

Rep. Mike Rogers, a Michigan Republican, is regularly briefed on intelligence assessments. He told CNN's "State of the Union" that U.S. intelligence agencies and foreign governments have said privately that the release of the report on CIA interrogations a decade ago will be used by extremists to incite violence that is likely to cost lives. The 480-page report, a summary of a still-classified 6,000 page study, is expected to be made public next week.

A U.S. intelligence official, who was not authorized to be quoted discussing classified intelligence assessments, said Congress had been warned "of the heightened potential that the release could stimulate a violent response."

MANSION

From 1A

to use the balcony as he would want to," Currens said.

The governor's office, across the street at the Capitol, is also getting a look. The Capitol building was brought up to code during a 1990 renovation, right after the federal disability act passed.

But there are still accessibility problems, as state Rep. Susan King, R-Abilene, found after she broke her leg during the 2013 legislative session and struggled to get around using crutches and a wheelchair.

In response to King's concerns, the preservation board asked the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities to study the building's ease of access.

"It was a real eye opener, to be sure," King said. "People were irritated with those of us that could not move as fast. All around it was very difficult, especially in a crowded building during session."

The biggest problem, says Chase Bearden, the coalition's director of advocacy, is that only the Capitol's north entrance has a ramp. The building's south entrance is really its front door, where most events, including govern-

nors' inaugurations, are held.

"We basically have to go through the back door of the Capitol to get in," Bearden said. "When you look at participating in advocacy, the south side is where most rallies are held, most press conferences are held."

As attorney general, Abbott has visited the Capitol often, and his staff has set up temporary ramps to the south entrance. The preservation board is planning to do the same whenever Abbott uses the House and Senate chamber podiums to address legislators.

As for the Jan. 20 inauguration, Currens said little would change, because a ramp connecting the Capitol's front door to the stage was typically built for the ceremonies.

If Abbott should someday cast an eye on higher office, as Texas governors are wont to do, another prominent executive mansion also has been updated for wheelchair mobility.

In the 1930s, the White House's West Wing, housing the cabinet room and the Oval Office, was expanded and ramps were added. In the 1950s, the east rooms requiring stairs were leveled to meet up within a foot of the connecting building.

PROBLEMS

From 1A

they put their hands. If someone makes unwanted sexual advances or racist, sexist or other discriminatory comments, an owner can be sued for harassment by other staffers, Satterfield said.

Planning for a safe party needs to start well before the first martini is poured. Employees should be reminded to act professionally in advance, and managers need to know they're responsible for how staffers behave, Satterfield says. Owners can limit alcohol intake by charging for drinks or hiring professional bartenders who will cut someone off when they've had too many.

Inviting spouses and partners can help keep a lid on drinking, says Harley Storrings, an employment attorney with Arnstein & Lehr in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. If employees are younger and generally single, he suggests serving only beer and wine,

removing the possibility of people getting drunk quickly on shots of hard liquor.

Even if there aren't any legal problems, the fallout from bad behavior can linger. If a tipsy person insults a colleague the resulting hard feelings may hurt relationships when everyone returns to the office.

Some more tips to avoid holiday party hassles:

- Don't serve alcohol.
- Make staffers and guests pay for their drinks. People are likely to drink less when they have to pay.
- Shut the bar down after a specific time, like one or two hours.
- Give everyone a limited number of tickets for drinks to be presented to a bartender. Be sure their names are on the tickets, and require them to present an ID card to the bartender along with a ticket. That way, people won't be able to give tickets to one another.

Asking a key question



AP file photo

The casket containing the body of Michael Brown is surrounded by people gathered to say goodbye as it leaves Friendly Temple Missionary Baptist Church in St. Louis on Aug. 25. Brown, 18, was fatally shot in a confrontation with police in the St. Louis suburb of Ferguson, Mo., on Aug. 9. A grand jury decided not to indict the police officer involved in the death of Brown. No firm statistics can say whether a spate of officer-involved deaths is a growing trend or simply a series of coincidences generating a deafening buzz in news reports and social media.

Statistics lacking in debate over police behavior

By Allen G. Breed
Associated Press

Ferguson, Missouri. Cleveland, Ohio. Staten Island, New York. Eutawville, South Carolina. In each place, individuals — all unarmed except for a child carrying a pellet gun — died at the hands of police officers. All of the dead were black. The officers involved, white.

To many Americans, it feels like a national tidal wave. And yet, no firm statistics can say whether this spate of officer-involved deaths is a growing trend or simply a series of coincidences generating a deafening buzz in news reports and social media.

"We have a huge scandal in that we don't have an accurate count of the number of people who die in police custody," said Samuel Walker, emeritus professor of criminal justice at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and a leading scholar on policing and civil liberties. "That's outrageous."

There are some raw numbers, but they're of limited value.

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, for instance, track justifiable police homicides — there were 1,688 between 2010 and 2013 — but the statistics rely on voluntary reporting by local law enforcement agencies and are incomplete. Circumstances of the deaths, and other information such as age and race, also aren't required.

The Wall Street Journal, detailing its own examination of officer-involved deaths at 105 of the nation's 110 largest police departments, reported last week that federal data failed to include or mislabeled hundreds of fatal police encounters.

Put simply: It's hard to know for certain what is happening on the ground.

"We want a comprehensive picture ... so people can be aware of what really goes on, and not the claptrap put out by people with agendas," said David Klinger, a professor of criminology at the University of Missouri-St. Louis who has studied use of deadly force and hopes to get funding for a pilot project that could provide better national statistics.

To those who have taken to the streets to protest in recent weeks, that lack of context is almost beside the point.

"These are communities that have been living for generations under the yoke of what has felt like an occupying force," said Phillip Atiba Goff, co-founder of UCLA's Center for Policing Equity. "And regardless of what any of the stats are ever going to say, if we don't address the reality of that experience, then we're shooting ourselves in the foot in our attempts to make good on our promise of democratic principles."

The high-profile cases have erupted one after the other. On July 17, 43-year-old Eric Garner died after officers tried to arrest him on suspicion of selling untaxed cigarettes on a New York City street. Cellphone video captured the scene as one officer wrapped his arm around Garner's neck, and the black man repeatedly pleaded, "I can't breathe."

Tensions escalated on Aug. 9, when Officer Darren Wilson fatally shot unarmed, 18-year-old Michael Brown in the St. Louis suburb of Ferguson.

On Nov. 22, a Cleveland officer shot and killed 12-year-old Tamir Rice after responding to reports of an armed man at a city park. Rice had been holding a pellet gun.

Two days later, officials announced that a grand jury had declined to return an indictment in the Brown case. Fires from the resulting protests in Ferguson had barely stopped smoldering when word came there would be no charges against the officer in New York City. Again, angry protesters marched.

Then a grand jury in Orangeburg County, South Carolina, returned a murder indictment Wednesday against a former small-town police chief in the May 2011 shooting death of an unarmed black man.

Richard Combs, who was the sole officer for the town of Eutawville, had been charged with official misconduct for shooting

Bernard Bailey, who had come to the town hall to argue about a ticket his daughter had received. Combs' attorney questioned prosecutor David Pascoe's motives in seeking the murder charge.

"He's trying to make it racial, because his timing is perfect," John O'Leary said. "He's got all the national issues going on, so they want to drag him (Combs) in and say, 'Look what a great community we are here, because we're going to put a police officer who was doing his job in jail for 30 years.' That's wrong."

Walker, co-author of the book "The Color of Justice: Race, Ethnicity, and Crime in America," said much of the anger out there comes from years of conflict between the black community and law enforcement.

"Within the African-American community, there has been an experience of disrespect, offensive language, mistreatment in terms of stops and so on," he said. "And there's a sense that the police are out to get them."

It's not just the killings that have minority communities "fed up," said Inimai Chettiar of the New York University law school's Brennan Center for Justice.

"African-American communities are tired of being over-policed, over-prosecuted, sent to prison, having men taken away from their communities, having families broken," said Chettiar, director of the center's Justice Program. "I think there's much more than just an instinctual sense that there is something amiss in these communities. I think people are tired of 'tough on crime.'"

Whether such incidents are on the rise, said Walker, "we're certainly more aware. And, certainly, the digital revolution has had a huge impact."

Goff compares it to the ice bucket challenge phe-

nomenon of this past summer — in which a series of viral videos raised millions of dollars for research into amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's Disease.

"Once something is trending, so that it's in the American consciousness, people become aware of it," he said. "The reason we're hearing about this is because we're hearing about it. It has its own momentum."

Goff has begun work on creating a policing database, with funding from the Department of Justice, the National Science Foundation and private groups. He said it would include not just deaths but all police stops and uses of force.

"Is it getting better? Is it getting worse? What are the actual numbers?" Goff asks. "You know, when a plane crashes, it feels all of a sudden like it's not safe to fly. But if you look at the statistics, it's way safer to fly — and always has been — than to drive a car."

The Department of Justice is investigating possible federal civil rights violations in the Ferguson case and has opened an investigation into Garner's death in New York. On Thursday, the agency reached an agreement to reform the Cleveland Police Department after concluding that officers there use excessive and unnecessary force far too often — an investigation prompted in part by the deaths of the two black occupants of a car involved in a high-speed chase. In that case, 13 officers fired 137 shots at the unarmed suspects.

Chettiar is hopeful that recent events will create the "political and public will" to begin gathering and analyzing the facts.

"In addition to personal stories," she said, "statistics help people change their minds."

Ohio deaths renew calls for lookalike guns action

By Dan Sewell and Mark Gillispie
Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Twice in less than four months, police in Ohio have opened fire with real bullets on young people carrying lookalike guns, raising anguished questions about what could have prevented the deadly encounters.

The questions have been raised before: after the death last year of a 13-year-old California boy carrying what a sheriff's deputy thought was an AK-47 assault rifle, after the 2012 shooting in a Texas middle school hallway of a 15-year-old student holding an air gun that resembled a Glock, and after the 2006 shooting of a 15-year-old Florida student with a pellet gun that looked to police like a 9mm handgun.

Such deadly cases, while rare, have led to laws and legislation in states and cities across the country. But some gun and law enforcement experts are skeptical about how effective they are.

Criminals, they say, could disguise real guns. And realistic lookalikes remain widely popular among youths who use them for both play and competitions, they say. Pellet and air guns are also popular among people who use them for target practice or hunting small game.

"Anything we can do to make police and the public safer is positive, but let's not pass laws that provide a false sense of security or are unenforceable," said Sgt. Ed Buns, a veteran weapons trainer for the city of Hamilton's police department near Cincinnati.

State Rep. Alicia Reece, D-Cincinnati, said the Aug. 5 police shooting of 22-year-old John Crawford III in a suburban Wal-Mart store and the Nov. 22 police shooting of 12-year-old Tamir Rice in Cleveland make it clear that action is needed. Her bill would require lookalike guns to be brightly colored.

"This bill is but one

small step in addressing this tragedy and helping to prevent future deadly confrontations with someone who clearly presents little to no immediate threat or danger," said Reece, who leads the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus. Both Crawford and Rice were black.

Associated Press research found at least 20 deaths involving lookalike guns mistaken by police for actual firearms across the country in the last two decades, dating to the 1994 slaying by a housing police officer of a 13-year-old New York City boy. The most comprehensive national study on the topic of their involvement in police encounters was a 1990 federal report that found more than 100 cases in the previous five years in which police responded with force.

National Conference of State Legislatures records show that at least 12 states, along with Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico, have laws restricting sales or uses of imitation firearms. New York City and many other municipalities have their own ordinances on lookalike guns. Minnesota passed a state law in 1988 after a series of toy gun cases including a fatal police shooting, but an AP check with state court officials found no record of any prosecutions under the statute.

The laws' approaches vary: some require the lookalikes to be brightly colored, others set up stiff penalties for those who use lookalikes in alarming or criminal behavior.

"The two recent tragedies in Ohio are unfortunate examples of a trend we will continue to see unless we change our laws to make imitation guns distinguishable from real firearms," said California Sen. Kevin de Leon, D-Los Angeles, who sponsored state law signed this year requiring bright colors and fluorescent strips for lookalikes. He first introduced legislation in 2011 after a 13-year-old boy playing with pellet guns with friends in Los Angeles was left paralyzed by police.

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Obama has already won the immigration fight

■ Symbolism is really the only thing Republicans have left

Among the many ways Republican members of Congress are contemplating to punish President Obama for his executive actions on immigration is a proposal of elegant simplicity: They would refuse to invite him to the Capitol to give his State of the Union address.

Yes, that should do the job. And if this doesn't force Obama to back down from his executive orders, Republican lawmakers can escalate by unfriending him on Facebook and unfollowing him on Twitter. If even this fails, they can take the extreme step of having their Christmas cards from the Obamas returned to sender. Surely, the president then would have no choice but to relent.

The State of the Union dis-invitation, in other words, would be precisely as effective as all the other ideas Republicans are contemplating, which is to say entirely ineffective. There will be more spluttering and stomping and shouting about Obama's illegal and unconstitutional activities but pay no attention. In the immigration stare-down, Republicans have already blinked. Unwilling to squander their new majority and public support by risking a government shutdown, they are quickly falling in line behind symbolic protests.

DANA MILBANK

Washington Post
Writers Group



My Washington Post colleague Robert Costa has heard Republican lawmakers floating no fewer than nine possible responses, from the frivolous (the State of the Union snub) to the outrageous (impeachment). But all signs indicate Republicans have abandoned attempts to defund Obama's executive actions under the threat of a shutdown, at least for now. Instead, they plan to keep the government running through Sept. 30, probably allowing immigration-related spending to lapse earlier next year. This would be paired with a symbolic vote blocking Obama's executive actions.

Even the author of that token bill, Rep. Ted Yoho, R-Fla., admits it would be useless unless the still-Democratic Senate passes it and Obama signs it. Why would either do that?

"Well, you brought up a great point," Yoho acknowledged as he emerged from a meeting with Republican colleagues in the Capitol basement Tuesday. "It can be a symbolic message ... I'm relying on

you to get this message out to the American people so that it is not a lame-duck message."

Message delivered, congressman. But it won't help.

Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa, perhaps the most outspoken immigration hard-liner in the House, left the meeting criticizing his colleagues for going soft. "We need to shut off the funding to this president's lawless act, nothing else, but I don't know if there's enough will in that room to defend the Constitution yet," he said.

And how many share this view? "I think that there's a majority that agree with me but there's not yet a majority that are ready to fight."

If the will to fight is not there now, when Republicans' anger about immigration is fresh, it's not clear why they think they'd have better luck threatening a shutdown next year. This may be why Heritage Action, a powerful conservative group, issued a statement while House Republicans met Tuesday declaring: "The fight is now, not next year. Americans expect real action, not a show vote."

John Boehner was unpersuaded. After his caucus meeting, which ran a half-hour over schedule, the House speaker acknowledged to reporters that his members "understand that it's going to be difficult to take meaningful action as long as we've got Democratic control of the Senate."

ABC News' Jeff Zeleny asked him if he

was, as Heritage claimed, holding a "show vote."

"Frankly, we have limited options and limited abilities to deal with it directly," Boehner conceded.

"Is a shutdown off the table?" NBC's Luke Russert called after Boehner as he left. The speaker didn't reply, but the answer was obvious, as rank-and-file Republicans, even faithful conservatives, left the meeting almost uniformly disavowing interest in a shutdown.

That leaves symbolic protest. Michael McCaul, R-Texas, chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, hauled in Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson Tuesday for a tongue-lashing about the executive orders. "Unprecedented executive power-grab," McCaul fumed. "The president has deliberately and willfully broken the trust that is needed between our branches of government." The chairman demanded that Johnson reconcile the actions with Obama's previous statements indicating such orders would be illegal.

Johnson was calm and mild in his response. "I do not believe that what we have done is inconsistent," he said. "We spent a lot of time with lawyers."

Republican members of the panel continued to rail against the policy but Johnson declined to be drawn into an argument. He didn't have to: Obama had already won.

GUEST VIEW

US has opportunities to help our neighbor to the south, as well as ourselves

Houston Chronicle

These are dark days in Mexico. While Americans recently have been captivated by events in Ferguson, Missouri, Mexicans in huge numbers were marching, protesting and demanding answers regarding 43 students who are missing and presumed dead in the state of Guerrero in southwestern Mexico.

Their mass disappearance nine weeks ago may not represent a "breaking point," as some have suggested, for a country that has endured more than its share of brutal drug violence. But it could be a breaking point for the government of President Enrique Peña Nieto, and that could have major implications for the United States.

Since his election in 2012 with 38 percent of the vote, the president has tried to shift the focus from pervasive drug violence to ambitious economic reform, and he's had some success. Until now. His government's sluggish response to the students' disappearance, along with a scandal involving a \$7 million mansion for his wife, has refocused the harsh spotlight on the country's endemic corruption and security problems.

As Brookings Institution fellow Diana Villiers Negroponte has pointed out, the distinction between the six years of violence against drug cartels under President Felipe Calderón and the current wave of violence is that Mexico's armed forces and its municipal and state police are implicated. The Mexican people, she notes, don't know who to fear the most: the cartels or state officials.

The students in Guerrero were traveling to the rural town of Iguala on Sept. 26 to protest education reforms when they were stopped by police and gunmen thought to belong to a local cartel. Authorities believe the police turned the students over to the cartel, Guerreros Unidos.

The mayor of the town and his wife have been arrested and charged with ordering the police to capture the students out of fear they would disrupt a speech the wife was going to make. Three of the gang members confessed to murdering the students, burning them and throwing them in a river and garbage dump.

This horrific incident could not have come at a worse time for the Peña Nieto government. The president and his supporters have been anxious to assure foreign investors that a new PRI government has transformed Mexico into a safe, reliable and increasingly prosperous business partner. But the incidents of lawlessness and corruption suggest that little if anything has changed.

An increasingly skeptical nation seems fed up with blanket government assurances, and investors, in this country and elsewhere, must surely be apprehensive about the long-term success of the structural and institutional reforms the president has been advocating.

Revelations of shady dealings surrounding the mansion Peña Nieto's wife was building, while not as significant as the students' disappearance, also have tarnished the president's well-crafted image. The house scandal may have led to the cancellation of a \$4 billion bullet-train project awarded to a Chinese-led consortium that included a Peña Nieto crony and other firms with ties to Peña Nieto's political party. Mexican officials and business executives insist that the cancellation proves that Mexican bidding processes are clean and fair, but it's not hard to imagine international investors — Houston energy companies, for example — reconsidering their involvement in Mexico.

Peña Nieto must somehow convince the Mexican people that he will do whatever is within his power to assure a complete and transparent investigation into the disappearance of the students. He also needs to pay as much attention to reforming criminal justice procedures as he has to his bold economic reforms. The endemic corruption in many of Mexico's 2,400 municipalities means that extortion, kidnappings and retail drug trade continue to flourish unimpeded.

Peña Nieto seems to understand that his nation stands at a crossroads. Either Mexico can continue its efforts to become a stronger democracy with a burgeoning middle class and a commitment to the rule of law, or it can allow its immense challenges — violence, illegality, corruption — to overwhelm the advances it has made in recent years.

Mexico's success matters a great deal to its northern neighbor. It's Mexico's task, of course, but given our ties of commerce, culture and community, the U.S. has opportunities to help.

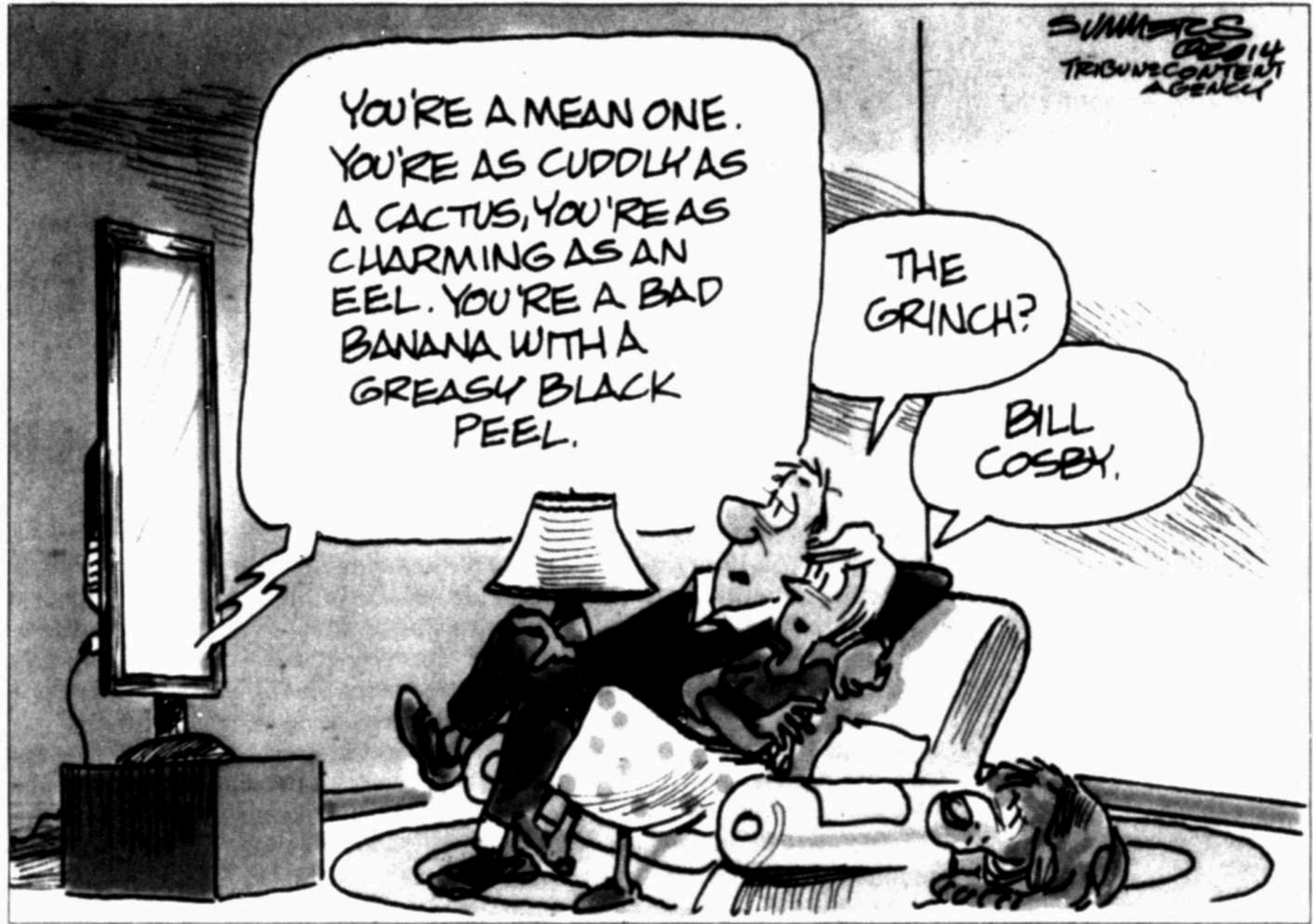
Whether it's countering the drug trade in this country, working cooperatively with Mexico on immigration or working together to upgrade border infrastructure, we can assist our neighbor on its long march toward a secure, peaceful and prosperous future and help ourselves in the process.

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Did gang rape at UVA really happen?

■ There are holes in the Rolling Stone article and the idea campus hearings should replace the criminal justice system

A Rolling Stone story about a gang rape at the University of Virginia has, in the eyes of many in the media, gone from bombshell reporting to journalistic malpractice in the bat of an eye.

The piece achieves its power with a difficult-to-read opening about the protagonist of the story, Jackie, arriving with a date at a fraternity party where a trap has been set by frat brothers to take turns brutally raping her for hours.

The details of this crime are practically unspeakable. The shock of it led many people to recoil in horror and ask, "How could this have happened at such a respectable school?" Upon further reflection, people began to ask, "Could this really have happened?"

First, there's the scale of the crime. No one doubts the existence of sociopaths on campus, but nine of them conspiring together at one fraternity in an act so depraved it could be something out of a West African civil war?

Then there are the details. If the gang rape was premeditated, why did the fraternity brothers leave a glass table in the room, which Jackie was smashed through in the initial attack, with the subsequent assaults taking place on the shards?

Would Jackie's friends, seeing her bruised, cut and traumatized, really have stood around debating how it would affect their social status if she dared report the crime?

Perhaps all of this happened (life is full of evil and improbabilities), but it is impossible to know one way or another from reading the story, which marshals little evidence beyond Jackie's own testimony. Rolling Stone writer Sabrina Rubin Erdely didn't talk to the accused students, and she wouldn't tell The Washington Post whether she even knew their names.

Almost as shocking as the original incident is the fact that Jackie never reported it to the police. If Rolling Stone is to be believed, the UVA administration didn't really encourage her to do so, and even as she was talking to the magazine for a report that would make national waves, she still hadn't reported her tormentors to law enforcement.

Even considering her trauma and fragile psycho-

logical state, this is an extraordinary lapse. By her account, Phi Kappa Psi isn't a fraternity so much as a criminal gang committed to sexual violence. If this is true, Phi Kappa Psi doesn't merely deserve to have its operations suspended; it should be razed, and its brothers should rot in jail.

Bizarrely, prosecution of rapists isn't particularly high on the list of priorities of many of the same feminists who reflexively credit the UVA story. The feminist agenda on campus aims to define ambiguous sexual encounters as rape at the same time it seeks to empower college administrations, instead of the criminal-justice system, to handle sexual-assault allegations.

Jed Rubinfeld of Yale Law School has explained why both ends of this equation are wrong. The new standard for sexual consent — spelled out in elaborate campus rules governing every step of a sexual encounter — "encourages people to think of themselves as sexual assault victims when there was no assault." Meanwhile, campus trials lack the rigor (and procedural protections for defendants) of the criminal-justice system, and result in relatively minor punishments like counseling and suspensions.

Schools should be encouraging victims to go to the police, as befits any other crime. No one would ever think to handle an armed robbery with a campus hearing and a disciplinary slap on the wrist. The other campus imperative should be better controlling the alcohol-fueled party scene that has become an entitlement of young adulthood in America. Much of what feminists call rape culture is what Heather Mac Donald, in a characteristically brilliant essay for The Weekly Standard, deems "a squalid hook-up scene, the result of jettisoning all normative checks on promiscuous behavior."

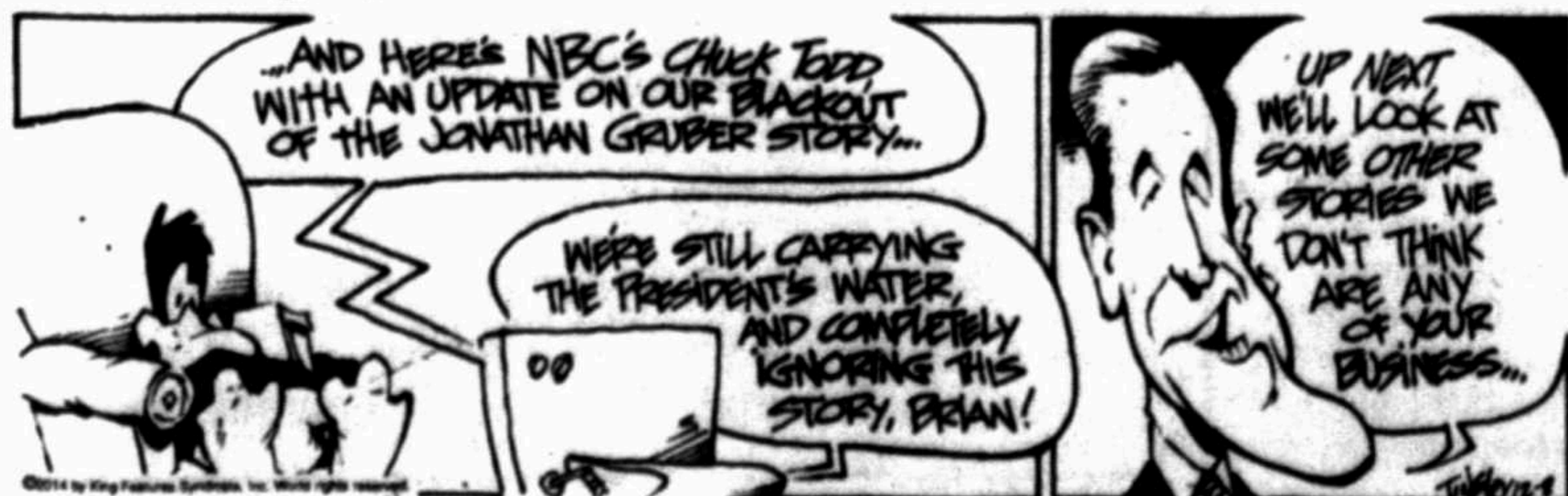
At UVA, the priority should be getting to the truth of Jackie's story, and either holding accountable the guilty parties or debunking a calumny.

RICH LOWRY

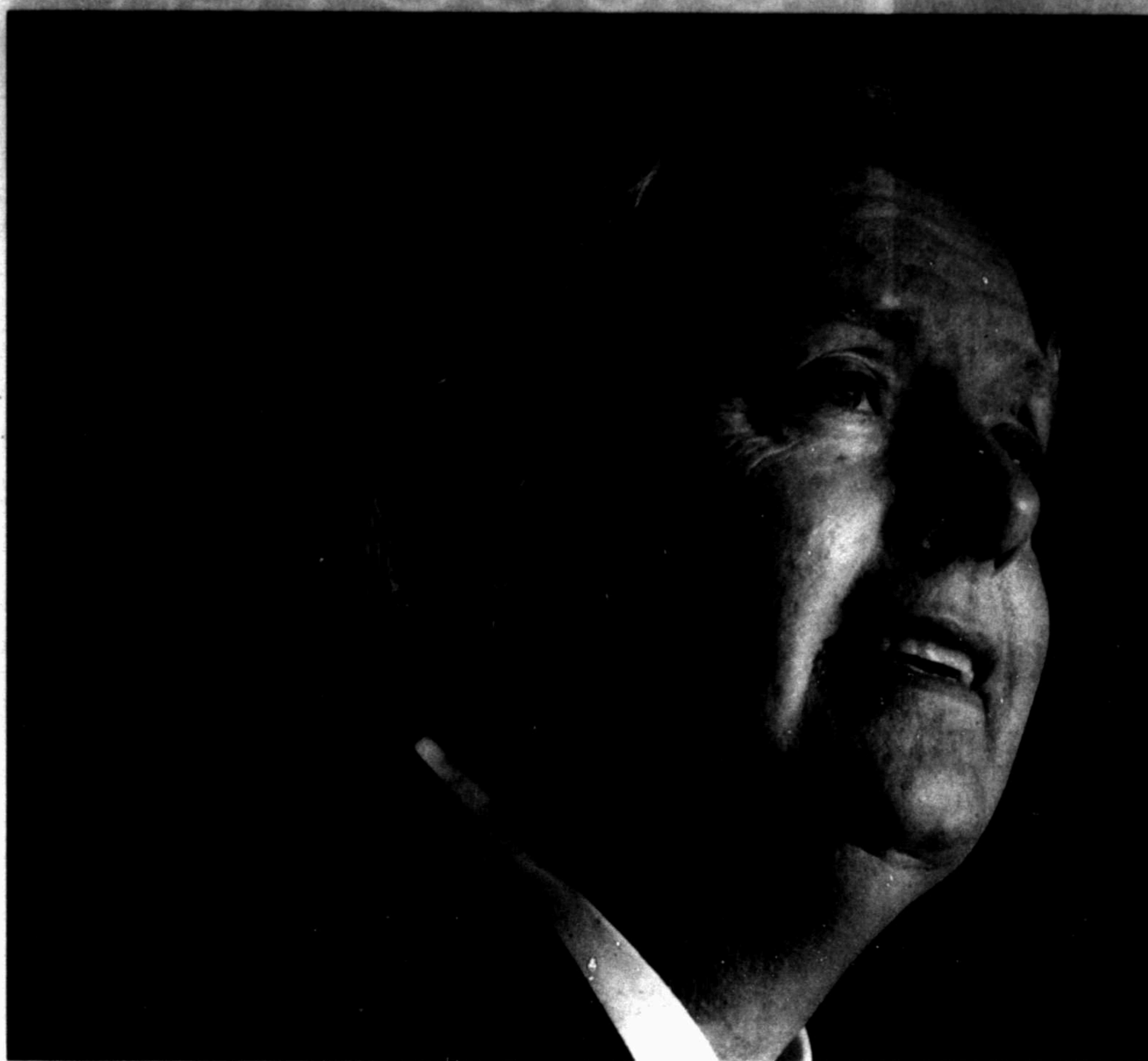
King Features Syndicate



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



Preparing for a fight



AP file photo

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., speaks in Columbia, S.C., on Nov. 4. Veto brinkmanship between congressional Republicans and President Barack Obama — virtually absent in his first six years in office — is about to unleash itself on Washington. Until now, controversial Republican-backed legislation rarely reached the president's desk, because Senate Democrats blocked it. Starting in January, however, Republicans will control both the House and Senate, and Obama may often have to decide whether to sign or veto GOP-crafted bills.

Obama, Congress prepare for veto showdowns

By Charles Babington and Jim Kuhnhenn
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Veto brinkmanship between congressional Republicans and President Barack Obama was virtually absent in his first six years in office, but it's about to unleash itself on Washington.

Until now, controversial Republican-backed legislation rarely reached the president's desk because Senate Democrats blocked it. Starting in January, however, Republicans will control both the House and Senate, and Obama may have to decide more often whether to sign or veto GOP-crafted bills.

Obama gave lawmakers an early taste of veto politics recently when he forced congressional leaders to drop a proposed package of tax breaks that were popular with many Republican constituents. Some Democrats did support the plan, but liberals and the White House said it tilted too heavily toward corporations, not lower-income workers.

The White House also has promised to veto any bills restricting the president's major changes to immigration policies, setting up likely showdowns early next year.

Obama's threats present the type of bind that Republicans may face repeatedly in the next two years. They can agree to many or all of the changes he demands in legislation, or they can let him use his veto and hope Americans will blame him more than them.

It's a gamble, especially

with critical spending bills Congress soon must address. Some Republicans want to amend these must-pass bills to thwart Obama's bid to protect millions of immigrants, now in the country illegally, from deportation.

Assuming Obama keeps his veto promise, Republican lawmakers would have to decide whether to drop their demands or let parts of the federal government close for lack of money. GOP leaders say there will be no shutdowns, but they have yet to explain how they can force Obama to back off on immigration.

The 2013 partial government shutdown occurred under similar partisan circumstances. Polls show the public blamed congressional Republicans more than the Democratic president.

It's unclear how often Obama will face a veto decision. Even in the minority, Democratic senators can use the filibuster, the name for unlimited debate, to block many measures that break strictly along party lines.

But some proposals, such as building the Keystone XL pipeline, enjoy significant bipartisan support. They might attract enough Democratic backing to reach 60 Senate votes, overcoming a filibuster and sending the measure to Obama.

White House senior adviser Dan Pfeiffer said if Congress assembles legislation that Obama opposes, the White House will threaten vetoes and "if

Congress decides to pass them anyway, then we'll veto them."

"We're not going to go out looking for them, but we're not going to run from them either," he said.

Should Obama veto a proposal such as the Keystone project, the question would be whether two-thirds of the Senate and two-thirds of the House would vote to defy him. That's the constitutional threshold for overriding a veto.

It will be critical for Republicans to put together veto-proof majorities in the House and Senate. Because any bill would require 60 Senate votes to overcome filibusters, the Senate vote would always be bipartisan and closer to the two-thirds majority needed to override a veto.

But the House would be harder, giving House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California greater sway in the end over the outcome of legislation.

Vetoes have existed since George Washington's day, but Obama issued only two fairly minor ones in his first six years as president. His two predecessors also went light on vetoes in their early years.

Democrat Bill Clinton vetoed 37 bills, all during his last six years in office, when Republicans controlled the House and Senate. Republican George W. Bush issued no vetoes during his first four-year term. After that he vetoed eight bills when Republicans controlled both con-

Bachmann ready to leave Congress, but not politics

By Henry C. Jackson
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An audacious conservative, Rep. Michele Bachmann stood out from the moment she was first elected to Congress in 2006. Democrats were ascendant and Bachmann was a stridently Republican new arrival with a homespun Minnesota twang.

Four terms later, Bachmann is leaving just as Republicans take control of Congress for the first time since she was first elected. After a turbulent career dotted by fights with the left and her own party, and a fast-rising and fast-fading presidential campaign, Bachmann said she is ready to leave, her work in Congress complete.

"I didn't get sucked into the system of Washington," she said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I didn't become a politician. I was a constitutional conservative."

That role Bachmann carved for herself often placed her in the spotlight during her eight years in office. She provided a consistently conservative voice on television on issues ranging from health care to immigration, and even delivered a "tea party response" to President Barack Obama's State of the Union address in 2011 that overlapped with her party's official rebuttal.

Speaking on MSNBC in 2008, she said that Obama "may have anti-American views." The comment led to a flood of donations to her opponent and a narrow, three-point victory in one of Minnesota's most conservative congressional districts. In recent years, she has said Obama's policies put America on a path to "Marxism."

Bachmann has rarely walked anything back. "I don't have a lot of regrets from my time here," she said.

Democrats alternated between derision and anger at her outlandish comments, which even some former members of her staff say stretched the truth or were outright false. "Who cares?" Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi once responded, when asked about Bachmann's response to a Supreme Court ruling that allowed gay marriages to go forward in many states.

Bachmann began her career as a tax attorney. She lost her first election, a bid for a school board seat, in 1999, but the next year her devout following of cultural conservatives first lifted her to victory in a competitive state Senate primary and again, when the 6th Congressional

District seat opened, put her ahead of three other candidates at a nominating convention in 2006. No one challenged her in the primary that year. She successfully campaigned on conservative values and talked proudly of raising five children and 23 foster children.

"I think her major innovation was in politics," said Larry Jacobs, a professor at the University of Minnesota. "I don't think she leaves behind a traditional legacy in terms of monuments and buildings — I think she showed again and again her ability to mobilize new forces in politics."

Jacobs said Bachmann talked about issues that ardent conservatives wanted addressed.

Listing her own career highlights, Bachmann offers a mix of local projects and conservative flashpoints. Among her proudest moments, she said, were opposing her own party during the 2008 financial bailout and leading the House opposition to Obama's health care overhaul. One of her most vivid memories, she said, is thousands of opponents of the health care law coming to Washington and marching near the Capitol waving signs and flags.

But she's equally quick to draw attention to her district in the Twin Cities suburbs. Bachmann said she would have run again if Congress had not approved a \$700 million bridge over the St. Croix River linking Stillwater, Minnesota with Houlton, Wisconsin. She is also proud of her work on adoption and foster care issues. One of her last official trips as a member of Congress, over the Thanksgiving holiday, was to an orphanage in Haiti.

As she wrapped up her congressional business this past week, Bachmann said she is determined to play a role in the next presidential election. The possibility of Democrats nominating Hillary Rodham Clinton will make the voices of Republican women more important than ever, she said.

"I occupy a very unique space," she said. "I am the only woman who has been in presidential debates on the Republican ticket."

Her own presidential bid began in June 2011 and peaked with a win in a key Iowa straw poll, but she never found traction with voters as real ballots were cast. While she has "no intention right now of running for president," she also won't rule it out.

"I think it will develop as we go what my level of involvement will be," she said.

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AP file photo

Comedian Bill Cosby performs at the Stand Up for Heroes event at Madison Square Garden in New York in 2013. Legal experts say any case centering on decades-old sexual assault allegations against Cosby will face hurdles.

Passage of time makes proving Cosby claims tough

By Anthony McCartney
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Any case against Bill Cosby — who in recent weeks has seen a flurry of decades-old sexual assault allegations, a lawsuit and a police investigation into a molestation claim — would rely on conflicting testimony, and possibly jurors' emotions, legal experts say.

In a civil trial, Cosby might have to face testimony from any of the more than 15 women who have accused him of various forms of sexual misconduct dating back at least 40 years, said Cynthia Bowman, a Cornell Law School professor who has specialized in how the law treats women. While any case dating back decades would hinge on memories that have faded with time, Bowman said she's listened to some of Cosby's accusers speak out — and they could be credible witnesses.

"A lot of these cases hinge on he-said, she-said, anyway," Bowman said.

"It strikes me that memory for a traumatic event like this seems to be pretty stark," Bowman said. Most of these allegations involved "relatively young and impressionable girls," she said. "There's an element of shock and betrayal of trust."

Since the allegations of sexual assault by the comedian and actor bubbled to the surface again in early November, only one woman, Judy Huth, has sued, claiming Cosby molested her 40 years ago when she was 15. Huth also gave a statement to Los Angeles police, who opened an investigation Friday. Los Angeles Police Chief Charlie Beck also said his department would investigate any allegations against Cosby, regardless of whether a prosecution would be barred by the statute of limitations.

Cosby, 77, has never been charged with a crime and settled the only other sexual assault case filed against him. In that case filed by former Temple University worker Andrea Constand in 2005, numerous women were prepared to testify against Cosby with their own stories of alleged abuse. The most recent round of accusations range from claims of being groped to being drugged and raped.

Cosby is the latest entertainment figure to contend with high-profile litigation accusing him of sexual abuse. Oscar-nominated actor John Travolta and "X-Men" franchise director Bryan Singer have been sued by men accusing them of sexual misconduct, although the cases were dismissed before ever reaching trial. The wife of "7th Heaven" actor Stephen Collins has accused him in divorce proceedings of abusing underage girls, although the actor has never been charged.

Some of the cases were dismissed after attorney Marty Singer — who also represents Cosby — demonstrated the accusers made inconsistent or inaccurate statements in their complaints. Singer has released statements on a handful of the accusations against Cosby denying the claims; in a legal filing in response to Huth's lawsuit, he accused Huth of attempting to extort \$250,000 from Cosby in return for her silence and unsuccessfully trying to sell her story about the allegations to a tabloid a decade ago.

Huth's sexual battery lawsuit accuses Cosby of forcing her to perform a sex act on him in a bedroom of the Playboy Mansion around 1974. It remains uncertain whether her case will survive, and attorney Gloria Allred, who represents Huth, declined to answer questions about it on Friday.

Huth or any accuser whose case reached the trial stage could be seen favorably by a jury, said Jerry Reisman, a civil litigation attorney in Garden City, New York, who has handled sex abuse cases.

"A juror is going to be sympathetic to any victim here," Reisman said.

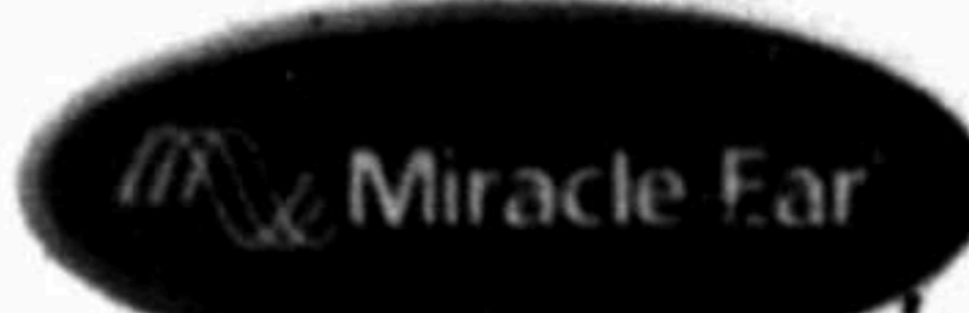
Jurors might also take into account Cosby's wealth and prominence, Reisman said, even if those are factors jurors shouldn't necessarily consider during deliberations.

Reisman said any case centering on decades-old allegations against Cosby would face hurdles, including witnesses whose memories may have faded, or witnesses who have died, and a lack of physical corroborating evidence.

"There's no smoking gun that we know of here," Reisman said.

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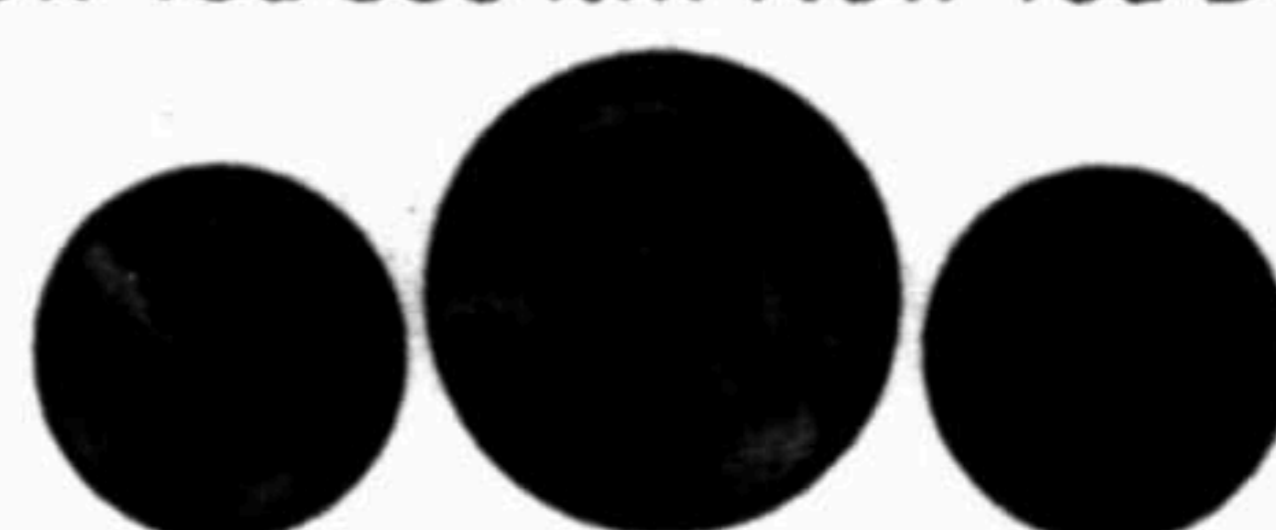
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PLUGGED IN

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrtx.com | Monday, December 8, 2014 | Section B

The top iPhone and iPad apps

App Store official charts for the week ending December 1:

Top paid iPhone apps

1. Five Nights at Freddy's 2, Scott Cawthon
2. Minecraft - Pocket Edition, Mojang
3. Five Nights at Freddy's, Scott Cawthon
4. Afterlight, Afterlight Collective, Inc
5. MEGA MAN X, CAPCOM
6. Geometry Dash, RobTop Games AB
7. Swype, Nuance Communications
8. Kingdom Rush Origins, Ironhide Game Studio
9. Monument Valley, ustwo
10. MONOPOLY Game, Electronic Arts

Top free iPhone apps

1. Facebook Messenger, Facebook, Inc.
2. Facebook, Facebook, Inc.
3. Instagram, Instagram, Inc.
4. Candy Crush Soda Saga, King.com Limited
5. Dumb Ways to Die 2: The Games, Metro Trains Melbourne Pty Ltd
6. YouTube, Google, Inc.
7. Snapchat, Snapchat, Inc.
8. Pandora Radio, Pandora Media, Inc.
9. Trivia Crack, Etermax
10. Heads Up!, Warner Bros.

Top paid iPad apps

1. Minecraft - Pocket Edition, Mojang
2. Five Nights at Freddy's 2, Scott Cawthon
3. Five Nights at Freddy's, Scott Cawthon
4. Toca Town, Toca Boca AB
5. Kingdom Rush Origins HD, Ironhide Game Studio
6. Geometry Dash, RobTop Games AB
7. Monument Valley, ustwo
8. Storage: Auction Legends HD, Everthril
9. PAW Patrol Rescue Run HD, Nickelodeon
10. Angry Birds HD, Rovio Entertainment Ltd

Top free iPad apps

1. Candy Crush Soda Saga, King.com Limited
2. YouTube, Google, Inc.
3. Facebook, Facebook, Inc.
4. Facebook Messenger, Facebook, Inc.
5. Dumb Ways to Die 2: The Games, Metro Trains Melbourne Pty Ltd
6. Netflix, Netflix, Inc.
7. Skype for iPad, Skype Communications S.a.r.l
8. Heads Up!, Warner Bros.
9. Crossy Road - Endless Arcade H..., HIPSTER WHALE
10. Pinterest, Pinterest, Inc Source: 2014 Apple Inc.

Top paid books

1. Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn - 9780307588388 - (Crown Publishing Group)
2. Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand - 9780679603757 - (Random House Publishing Group)
3. The Burning Room by Michael Connelly - 9780316225922 - (Little, Brown and Company)
4. Captivated By You by Sylvia Day - 9780698153462 - (Penguin Group US)
5. The Escape by David Baldacci - 9781455521272 - (Grand Central Publishing)
6. Wild by Cheryl Strayed - 9780307957658 - (Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group)
7. Hope to Die by James Patterson - 9780316210942 - (Little, Brown and Company)
8. Dark Places by Gillian Flynn - 9780307459923 - (Crown Publishing Group)
9. Personal by Lee Child - 9780804178761 - (Random House Publishing Group)
10. Big Little Lies by Liane Moriarty - 9780698138636 - (Penguin Group US)

Top songs

1. Blank Space, Taylor Swift
2. The Hanging Tree, James Newton Howard
3. Uptown Funk (feat. Bruno Mars), Mark Ronson
4. Take Me to Church, Hozier
5. The Heart Wants What It Wants, Selena Gomez
6. All About That Bass, Meghan Trainor
7. I'm Not the Only One, Sam Smith
8. Lips Are Movin, Meghan Trainor
9. Jealous, Nick Jonas
10. Shake It Off, Taylor Swift

Source: Apple Inc.

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



AP file photo

This file product image provided by TiVo Inc. shows the Roamio Plus and remote, which has functions beyond a typical DVR.

Here are some gadgets for avid TV viewers

By Anick Jesdanun
Associated Press

EDISON, N.J. — For avid television viewers out there, the standard digital-video recorder that comes with your cable TV box just isn't enough.

TiVo and SlingTV can add to the TV watching experience. Here's a look at what each does — and why you might want both.

TiVo Roamio Plus (\$400)

TiVo gave us DVRs long before cable companies did. But as cable DVR offerings got better, TiVo started to feel redundant.

What TiVo does better is search. TiVo can automatically record all movies and TV shows based on wish lists of favorite actors or keywords, for instance. With standard DVRs, you're typically limited to choosing a spe-

cific TV series or episode. But if that series is featured on a talk show, not only do you have to know about it, you also have to find and record that separately. Not so with TiVo.

TiVo also lets you watch online video services such as Netflix and Major League Baseball on your big-screen TV, as long as you have a subscription with the service. Stand-alone streaming devices such as Apple TV and Roku can do more, but TiVo offers the basics if you don't want another separate device.

TiVo also has free phone and tablet apps for viewing live or recorded shows while traveling. The app sometimes gets cranky and won't let me sign in, but playback is smooth when it does work. Video quality is better when you download shows ahead of time, but that takes up space on your phone or tablet.

The downside with TiVo is that you must pay twice. On top of the device (TiVo's mid-range Roamio Plus model costs \$400), you will pay a monthly service fee of \$15.

Although the monthly fee is comparable to what you'd pay for cable DVR, you generally aren't charged for that device. TiVo offers cheaper models, but if you want to watch on your phone or tablet you'll need a separate \$130 TiVo Stream box.

SlingTV (\$300)

The Slingbox offered out-of-home viewing long before TiVo did. The device mirrors what's on the TV at home so you can watch through an app or Web browser while traveling. It's particularly useful for sports fans who might not get their favorite teams on out-of-town channels.

You can't record or stream Netflix or Hulu. But the latest model, SlingTV, tries to be more useful in the living room by helping you decide what to watch.

Please see GADGETS/2B

A few helpful tips on how to choose a new cellphone

By Anick Jesdanun
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Now is a good time to get a smartphone. The latest devices hit shelves in time for the holiday shopping season, and there's likely to be a lull in new releases until next spring. So why wait?

Here are some things to consider before hitting stores. If you're upgrading from an older model, you can skip the first part aimed at first-time smartphone buyers.

Do you need a smartphone?

Maybe you've been doing fine with just a basic cellphone, but many people who get smartphones discover things they never thought they could do. You can install a museum's app to get a map or learn about the current exhibits, or you can catch up on e-books with a reading app. You can also check

email and Facebook more easily and take great pictures and quickly share them.

But you'll pay more — not just for the device. Monthly fees for voice, text and data tend to be higher compared with basic phone plans.

Which system should you pick?

This is the most important decision because it will influence your future smartphones. It's not easy to switch once you have all your apps, contacts and favorites on one system.

With Apple's iOS, you can choose between a variety of iPhone models — ranging from the giant iPhone 6 Plus to the older and smaller iPhone 5s and 5c. The iPhone 6 is a good choice in between and comes with all the bells and whistles, including a chip to make payments in stores that accept Apple Pay. Phones running Google's Android operating system include even more choices from several manufacturers, including Samsung, LG,

Motorola, ZTE and Sony.

Android is more flexible in the sense that phone makers can customize it to their liking, and app developers have more say in what they write for Android phones. That flexibility has led to a free-for-all environment, though Settings and features vary so much from phone to phone that it's tough to ask a friend or look online for help. And some Android apps won't work with all phones.

Because Android gets too fragmented many app developers work with iOS first. Apple is the only company that makes iOS phones, and it must approve what goes into its app store. That helps ensure quality, but it means trusting Apple to make those choices for you. One advantage of iOS is that iPhones work well with other Apple devices, including iPads and Mac computers. Android can't pull that off because the hardware and the software aren't as tightly integrated.

Please see CELLPHONE/2B

Stylish tech for the fashionable gadget lover

Remember how ugly our technology used to be?

There were always exceptions, but for a long time, giving someone the gift of a plastic Bluetooth earpiece or a leather protective case for their cellphone (let's hear it for belt-clip holsters!) meant saddling them with a clunky thing better used away from public eyes. Preferably in the dark.

We've come a long way, design-wise. In fact, lots of tech products now put style far ahead of substance, promising sleek, thin looks at the expense of speed, power or durability.

But there's a happy medium. Here are some tech products that would make great holiday gifts for the gadget lover in your life who also cares about looks and style.

Kate Spade New York smartphone and tablet cases: You can find much cheaper ways to protect your iPad or Samsung Galaxy phone, but you probably won't find as many gorgeously styled options under any other brand. The prices range from about \$40 for standard phone cases to \$100 for ones that also include a built-in battery to charge a device. (katespade.com)

Moto 360: Will 2015 be the year of the



smartwatch? Apple is readying its Apple Watch for the masses for early next year, and lots of other companies are trying to compete with their own fitness wristbands or watches that communicate with your phone.

Apart from what we've seen of the Apple Watch so far, the smartwatch that perhaps looks the best and that you can purchase today is Motorola's elegant round-faced 360, which can communicate with Android smartphones via voice commands and can track heart rate and steps. It's available in several different leather band choices, and the face itself can be customized to one's liking (after all, it's a screen). \$250, moto360.motorola.com.

DUBS Acoustic Filters: Giving a gift to a frequent concert-goer? Worried about their hearing? DUBS are a huge step beyond cheap

foam earplugs and are available in teal, blue, pink and white. They preserve sound fidelity from the outside world while reducing audio levels by about 12 decibels on average. They're sized for ages 16 and up and cost \$25 per reusable set. getdubs.com.

ShaveTech: Electric razors are not exactly fashion runway material, but this thin, lightweight, USB-powered shaver for travelers doesn't really look like a shaver. It could pass for a silver or black lighter or even a small battery pack. But can a battery pack give you a clean shave when you've left your Mach3 and shaving cream at home? Probably not without some skin injury. \$30, shavetech.com.

Me-Shot Pholder 2.0: Sometimes style isn't about the tool you're using, but the end product. For the selfie-obsessed, the Me-Shot is an extendable rod that can clamp onto most smartphones, providing three more feet of range, perfect for group shots. The \$40 version is just a holder, but a \$60 deluxe version includes a Bluetooth remote (yes, a remote for selfies).

Sure, using it will look incredibly dorky, but lots of Instagram selfie stars suffer for their

Please see GALLAGA/3B

TECH BRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

NEW YORK Barnes & Noble, Microsoft end Nook deal

Bookseller Barnes & Noble said Thursday it is ending its commercial agreement with Microsoft for its Nook e-book reader ahead of its planned Nook spinoff.

The news came as the largest U.S. traditional bookseller reported second-quarter net income that missed expectations.

Barnes & Noble, beset by tough competition from online retailers like Amazon and discount stores like Wal-Mart, said in June that it plans to split off its money-losing Nook e-reader division as it looks to boost shareholder value.

In 2012 Microsoft paid \$300 million for a 17.6 percent stake in Barnes & Noble's college bookstores and Nook business. The investment helped support the Nook business and Barnes & Noble supplied Nook content and apps for Microsoft's Windows products. On Thursday Barnes & Noble said it will buy out Microsoft's stake in the business for \$125 million.

The company also said the spinoff could occur by the end of August 2015.

Shares of Barnes & Noble fell \$1.15, or 5.2 percent, to \$21.09 in late afternoon trading. The stock had been up about 30 percent in 2014.

NEW YORK Sirius XM to pay \$3.8 million to settle complaints

Some Sirius XM customers, who were charged for satellite radio service they didn't want, can now apply for a refund.

Sirius XM has agreed to pay \$3.8 million to settle complaints that it misled customers with its advertising and billing practices. The money will be split among 46 states and the District of Columbia. Those in four states, California, Hawaii, Wyoming and New York, can't apply for a refund, according to Sirius.

State attorneys general said customers complained that it was difficult to cancel their Sirius XM contracts, and some said that Sirius XM automatically renewed contracts without asking.

As part of the settlement, Sirius XM agreed to make several changes to its business, including improving its cancellation process and sending notices before automatic renewals. Sirius XM said Friday in a statement that the changes have already been made.

Customers who may have been unfairly charged between July 28, 2008, and Dec. 4, 2014, can apply for a refund from their state's attorney general office or from Sirius XM.

Sirius XM Holdings Inc., based in New York, has about 26.7 million subscribers. The company said the settlement will have no material financial effect on its business.

SAN FRANCISCO Apple says plaintiffs' iPods not covered by suit

For want of an iPod, a billion-dollar lawsuit may be in jeopardy.

Apple attorneys have raised an eleventh-hour challenge that could derail a long-running, class-action lawsuit. The lawsuit is over Apple's use of restrictive software that kept iPods from playing digital music sold by competitors to its iTunes store.

The case went to trial this week, but Apple said new evidence shows the two women named as plaintiffs may not have purchased iPod models covered by the lawsuit.

Opposing lawyers are not ready to give up the case. But U.S. District Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers told both sides to file written arguments on whether the trial should proceed, because she wants to begin considering the issue.

Gift guide: Get better at sports with smart gear

By Ron Harris
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Advances in technology present sports enthusiasts with plenty of options to train better and smarter.

High-level gear and biometric-analysis software are no longer limited to elite professional athletes. The weekender can now use some tech-savvy approaches to get better, perhaps, at a multitude of sports. Practice makes perfect, but technology can make practice better:

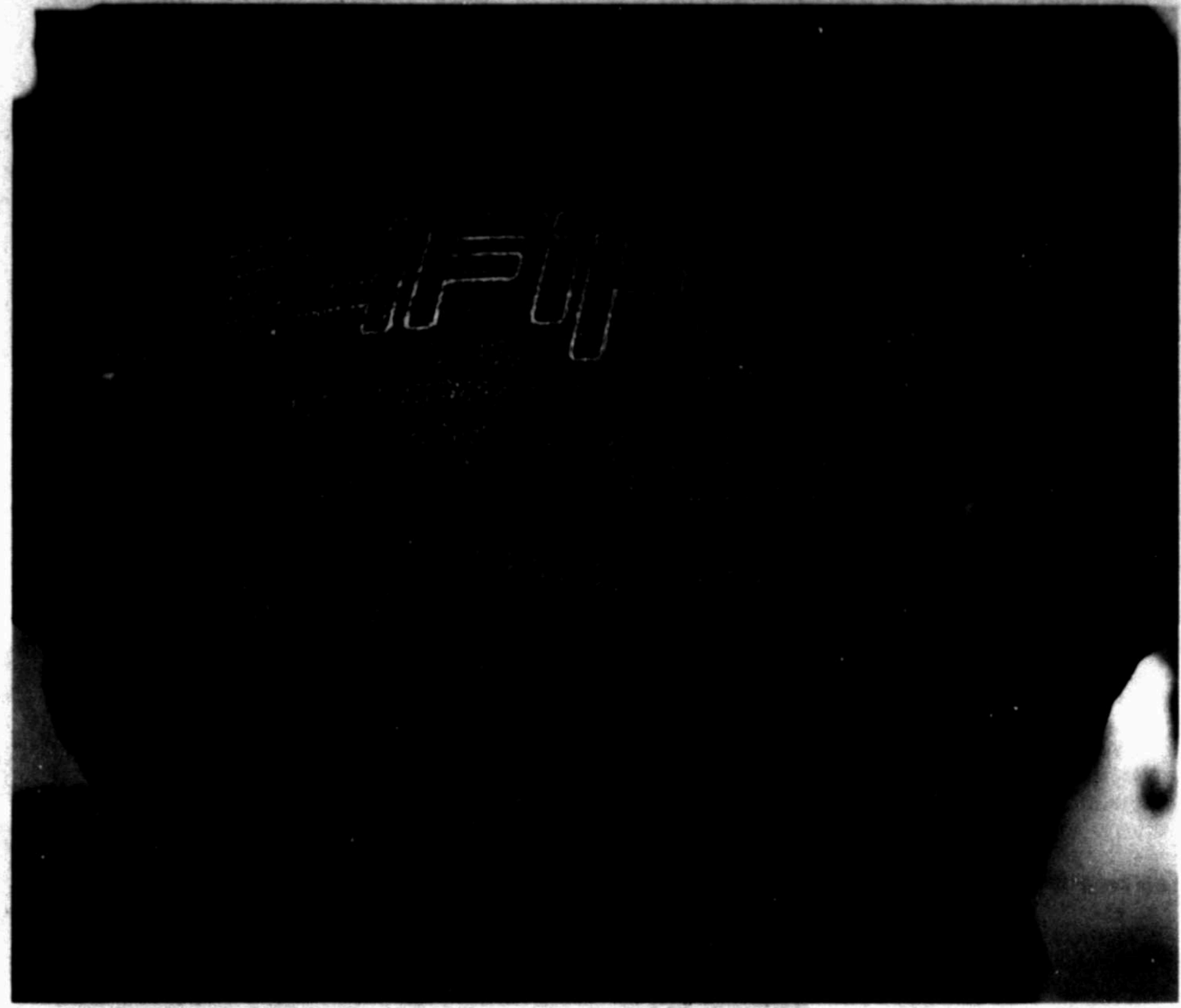
■ **Hexoskin shirt (\$400):** I felt like Batman in his form-fitting bat suit. It's a snug, black sleeveless shirt with a brain. Two bandage-width strips containing sewn-in sensors run across the chest and abdomen areas. They were held tight against my body by adjustable straps. A rechargeable pack about the size of a mint tin fits nicely near my waist. Once I started working out, the weirdness subsided and the hard work and perspiration took over.

The shirt communicated wirelessly with a phone app to give me real-time feedback about my breathing, heart rate, running cadence and calories burned.

What did I learn? Well, I need to run more to get in better shape, lower my heart rate and smooth out my breathing. All of these things are connected in exercise. Hexoskin did an excellent job illustrating that with smart on-screen graphics. Once I remembered to record my sessions, it stored all that data so I could measure improvements.

■ **Babolat Play Pure Drive tennis racket (\$400):** This tennis racket logged every shot I hit, in or out, over multiple practice and competitive sessions. Sensors are integrated into the frame.

Through a companion phone app, the racket told me a lot, including things I'll need to build on if I hope to get better. After nearly a half-hour against a ball machine, I hit 191 shots: 106 backhands, 67 forehands, 15 serves and three overheads that were probably out of bounds. But those numbers mean nothing without the underlying metrics the racket also



AP file photo

This Nov. 30 photo shows the 94Fifty basketball, in Atlanta. The regulation-size ball contains built-in sensors that measure the speed, arc and rotation of the ball and transmits that information wirelessly to a companion app installed on a smartphone or tablet computer.

measured.

Hitting a tennis ball with topspin allows you to swing harder, but keep the ball in the court. Even though I thought I hit nearly everything with a fair amount of topspin, the racket stats told me otherwise. Of those 106 backhands, only 18 registered as being hit with topspin. Thirty weighed in as slice backhands, and 58 were flat strikes.

The on-screen statistics were primarily displayed with numbers and percentages, though the "impact locator" gave a graphical representation of a racket and showed the location of my off-center hits. This was helpful and gave me valuable information for future hitting sessions.

The data from the Babolat Play

Pure Drive could be useful for mid-level to advanced players. The best part is that Babolat put the smarts into one of the best-selling rackets available, and not some odd outlier model that nobody uses.

■ **94Fifty basketball (\$250):** This smart basketball is primarily designed to help you develop better mechanics and fundamental hoops skills. It won't tell you, though, whether you made the shot. Arc and rotation are the primary metrics the ball calculates.

After stretching and dribbling around, I began a pretty lengthy shoot-around session at a local court. When I launched the companion app, I took the option of setting my desired shooting range

at 15 feet. That's how far away the free-throw line is, and anything beyond that was going to nibble away at my confidence and cause me to miss more.

During one session, I took 26 shots from that range. The ball and app told me that the arc was too low on 14 of those shots and too high on another four. I made a few adjustments to my style and got more shots in during the next session later that day.

But it's hard to tell whether the advice from the app helped me make more shots or whether I was just getting warmed up.

Still, the technological heft of the ball is for real, and it can measure dribble power, the number of consecutive dribbles and the amount of backspin on my shots.

CELLPHONE

From 1B

There are several other systems vying for third place. Microsoft's Windows is the most promising, after BlackBerry tumbled from pioneer to also-ran. Windows is a good system, but it has fewer apps.

How should you pay for it?

You used to simply pay \$200 for the best phone, and the phone company covered the remaining

\$450 or so, making up for it in higher service fees over the life of your two-year contract. Lately, phone companies have been trying to wean customers off subsidies by having customers bring used phones or pay full prices in installments. With T-Mobile, that's the only option. In return, you pay less in monthly service fees.

If you forgo subsidies, you generally come out ahead if you sign up for a larger data plan — 10 gigabytes or more with AT&T

and Verizon and 20 gigabytes or more with Sprint. The monthly discounts aren't as big with smaller data plans, so you're giving up more in subsidies than you get in discounts. But the installment plans have other advantages, including the ability to trade your phone in for a newer model before the typical two-year contract is up.

You can buy phones through your wireless carrier or go to a retailer such as Best Buy or Wal-Mart. You can also find phones on eBay and Amazon.

Check with your carrier first to make sure it'll work, as networks in the U.S. vary.

How much should you pay?

It might be tempting to spend a lot for the latest iPhone or Samsung Galaxy phone, but you should ask yourself whether you need all that power. This is especially so if you are paying full price. (If you're getting a subsidized phone with a contract, then why not make the phone company

pay for the best?)

There are several phones available for \$200 or less, at contract-free prices, compared with \$600 to \$700 for the typical high-end phone. You're typically giving up a better camera, a better screen and a faster processor. But what you get in a budget phone is often good enough for such basics as email, Facebook and even video. First-time smartphone owners will notice a huge difference over their basic phones.

GADGETS

From 1B

The new Gallery feature lets you see what's on or coming up. You can filter recommendations based on channels you've marked as favorites. SlingTV will suggest TV shows based on what's trending on Twitter. Movies are featured based on Rotten Tomatoes ratings, while sports are recommended based on data from sports-monitoring service Thuuz.

With sports, you also get scores at a glance and stats for individual games. You can see which games are more exciting; close games and comebacks have higher Thuuz ratings.

The program guide is limited to 24 hours — not the two weeks you get with TiVo. You can't filter by genre, such as documentaries or horror. With the exception of sports, you'll get only a general description of the show, not the

episode details you get on TiVo.

Like TiVo, you end up paying at least twice for SlingTV. The box itself costs \$300. That entitles you to viewing on Mac and Windows computers while traveling or from another room. For phones and tablets, you have to pay \$15 per app. If you have both an iPhone and an iPad, for instance, that's \$30. Fortunately, these aren't monthly subscrip-

tion charges.

Sling Media has a cheaper, \$150 model called Slingbox M1, but that doesn't have the Gallery features. Again, apps are sold separately.

For avid TV viewers only

TiVo and SlingTV are expensive if you don't watch a lot of TV or travel frequently.

Although TiVo is starting

to offer out-of-home viewing, I've found SlingTV to be more reliable. With TiVo, I've sometimes had to try back in an hour or two when signing in fails. On the flip side, because SlingTV has no recording function, you still need a DVR. Of the two, TiVo is richer in features.

If price is no object, you might actually want to set them up side by side.

The Midland Reporter-Telegram
will be closing at 3 pm
on Thursday, Dec. 11, 2014
for our Annual
Christmas Party.

DAILY PROMISE
BROUGHT TO YOU BY

Psalm 27:7
Hear my voice when I call, O LORD;
be merciful to me and answer me.

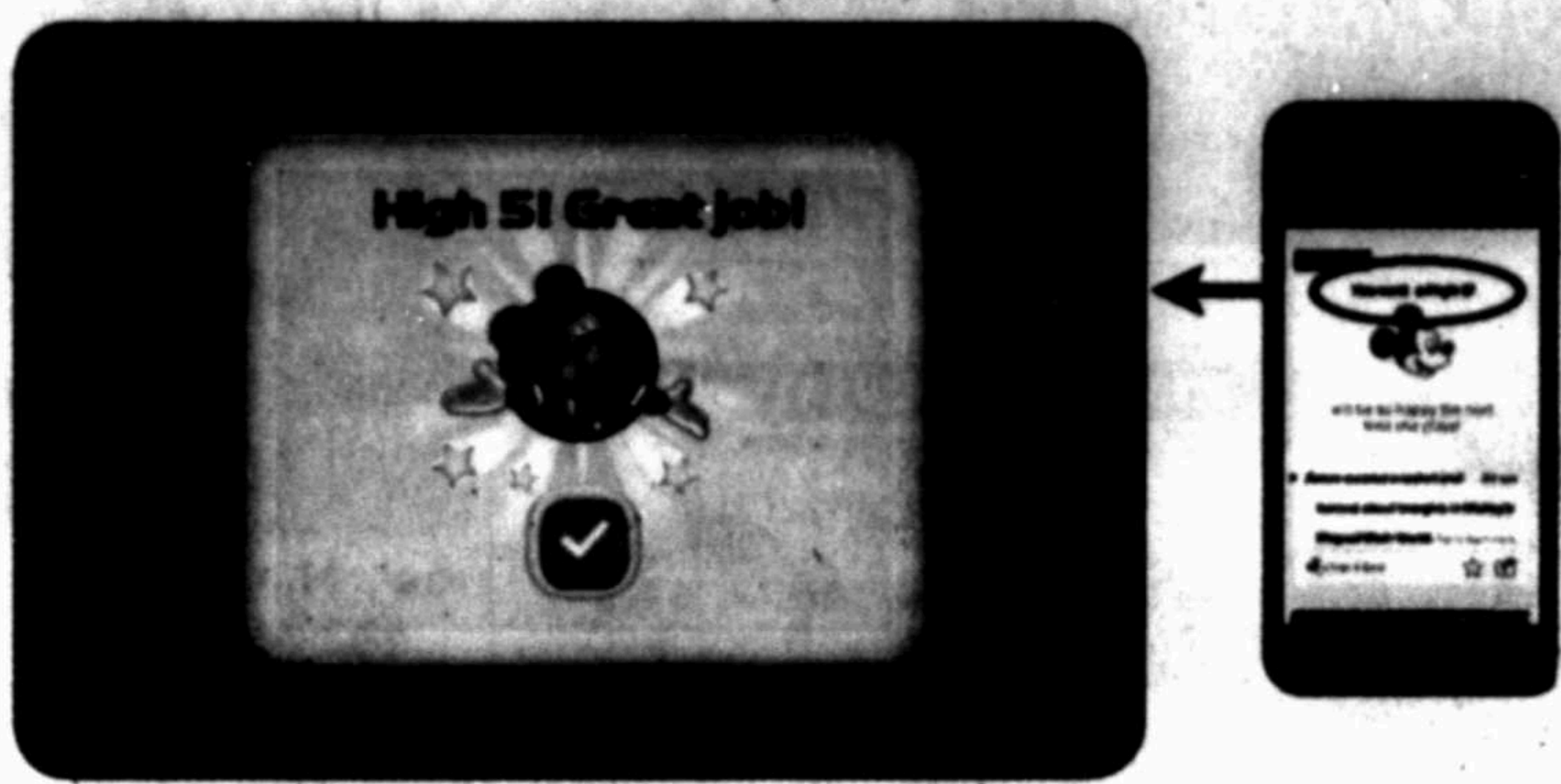
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www.westtexaswellness.com

432.682.1634
800.451.2496
Flowerland
413 Andrews Hwy
Midland, Texas 79701

Midland **Habitat for Humanity** ReSTORE
Tues.-Sat. 8:30-4:30.
Phone: 432-682-9606 or 432-686-8877.

MONDAY PRIME TIME				DECEMBER 8, 2014				FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION PLEASE CHECK MOVIE LISTINGS							
	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30			
KMID ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	C'mas Light Flight American families decorate their home for Christmas. (SP) (N)	Castle "Bad Santa" (N)	CNN News	(59) Jimmy Kimmel Live	(35) News Nightline			
KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	7 News	Ent. Tonight	2 Broke Girls (N)	Mike & Molly (N)	Scorpion "Revenge"	NCIS: Los Angeles "Reign Fall" (N)	CBS 7 News	(39) David Letterman	(35) Late Late (N)	
KWWT CW	5	14	5	14	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	A. Griffith	A. Griffith	Hogan's Heroes	Gilligan's Island	Mary Tyler Mead	Rhoda	Cheers	Mason "The Case of the Malicious Mariner"	Dragnet
KPEJ FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Gotham "Selina Kyle"	Sleepy Hollow "This Is War"	Modern Family	Modern Family	Hot in Cleveland	Hot in Cleveland	Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother
KMLM IND	11	11	12	11	11	Dr. William	Dr. William	Update News	Day of Discovery	Light of the Southwest	House Call	Mani Erfan	Rocks/Music	Y.Salamanca	
KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	NewsWest 9 at 6 p.m.	The Voice "Live Semi-Final Performances" (N)	Antiques Roadshow "Junk in the Trunk 3"	Antiques Roadshow "Denver (Hour Two)"	Independent Lens	Charlie Rose (N)	Tavis Smiley (N)	Tavis Smiley (N)	Tavis Smiley (N)	
KPBT PBS	13	13	13	8	8	PBS NewsHour	La Gata	Mi crazon es Tuyo	Hasta el fin del mundo	La Malquerida	Noticias Tejas	Noticiero noct.	La Que No Podia Amar	Tavis Smiley (N)	
KUPB UNI	4	4	4	16	16	Fam. Feud	Fam. Feud	Law&O: SVU "Fat"	Law&O: SVU "Web"	Studio 7	Anger M.	M&M	Access H.	Insider	
KOSA MNT	16	16	16	16	16	Fam. Feud	Fam. Feud	Law&O: SVU "Fat"	Law&O: SVU "Web"	Studio 7	Anger M.	M&M	Access H.	Insider	
FLIX	340	65	185	(6:10) Mindhunters	(7:10) Lionheart Jean-Claude Van Damme	(8:10) Yerminal Velocity Charlie Sheen	(9:10) Sahara	(10:10) First Look (15) The First Wives Club	(11:10) Regarding Susan Sontag (N)	(12:10) Foo Fighters	(13:10) Get On	(14:10) Comeback	(15:10) Boxing		
HBO	300	68	14	14	(6:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(7:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(8:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(9:30) Escape Plan Sylvester Stallone	(10:30) The Newsroom	(11:30) Get On	(12:30) The Incredible Burt Wonderstone	(13:30) Fantastic Fo...	(14:30) Fantastic Fo...		
HBO2	302	69	15	101	23	(6:30) Mamma (13, Hor) Jessica Chastain	(7:30) The Best Man Holiday Monica Calhoun	(8:30) Prisoners	(9:30) Hannibal (01)	(10:30) Big Momma's House	(11:30) Femme F. Movie	(12:30) Wedding Crashers Owen Wilson	(13:30) Broken City Mark Wahlberg		
HBO5	304	70	16	102	24	(6:30) Getting Even	(7:30) Zoom Tim Allen	(8:30) The Patsy Jerry Lewis	(9:30) Dracula: Dead and Loving It	(10:30) The Hunter Willem Dafoe	(11:30) The Hunter Willem Dafoe	(12:30) The Hunter Willem Dafoe	(13:30) The Hunter Willem Dafoe		
MAX	380	71	17	120	24	(6:30) Mr. and Mrs. Smith (05, Act) Brad Pitt	(7:30) Angels Sing (13, Fam) Harry Connick Jr.	(8:30) Annie Claus is ...	(9:30) Love It or List It (N)	(10:30) Love It or List It	(11:30) Love It or List It	(12:30) Love It or List It	(13:30) Love It or List It		
MAX2	382	72	18	122	24	(6:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(7:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(8:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(9:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(10:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(11:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(12:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(13:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen		
PLEX	382	72	18	122	24	(6:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(7:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(8:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(9:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(10:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(11:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(12:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(13:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen		
SHOW	320	66	19	140	25	(6:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(7:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(8:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(9:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(10:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(11:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(12:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(13:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen		
TMC	336	67	22	156	26	(6:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(7:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(8:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(9:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(10:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(11:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(12:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(13:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen		
A&E	27	32	28	35	47	(6:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(7:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(8:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(9:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(10:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(11:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(12:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(13:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen		
AMC	40	21	23	42	51	(6:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(7:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(8:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(9:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(10:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(11:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(12:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(13:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen		
BET	58	26	40	40	40	(6:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(7:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(8:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(9:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(10:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(11:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(12:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(13:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen		
BRAVO	65	63	41	41	41	(6:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(7:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(8:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(9:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(10:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(11:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(12:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(13:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen		
CNN	43	24	51	30	56	(6:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(7:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(8:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(9:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(10:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(11:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(12:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(13:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen		
CNNC	46	45	39	72	72	(6:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(7:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(8:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(9:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(10:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(11:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(12:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(13:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen		
CNN	43	24	51	30	56	(6:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(7:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(8:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(9:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(10:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(11:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(12:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(13:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen		
DISC	50	20	31	24	42	(6:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(7:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(8:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(9:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(10:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(11:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(12:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(13:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen		
DISNEY	56	27	36	25	36	(6:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(7:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(8:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(9:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(10:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(11:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(12:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(13:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen		
ESPN	32	29	48	31	30	(6:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(7:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(8:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(9:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(10:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(11:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(12:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(13:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen		
ESPN2	34	28	49	32	31	(6:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(7:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(8:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(9:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(10:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(11:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(12:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(13:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen		
FAMILY	53	54	34	42	33	(6:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(7:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(8:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(9:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(10:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(11:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(12:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(13:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen		
FNC	45	58	53	23	55	(6:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(7:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(8:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(9:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(10:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(11:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(12:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(13:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen		
FOOD	64	59	27	68	54	(6:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(7:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(8:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(9:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(10:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(11:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(12:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(13:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen		
FSSW	37	43	50	45	29	(6:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(7:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(8:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(9:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(10:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(11:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(12:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(13:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen		
FX	31	31	59	64	69	(6:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(7:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(8:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(9:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(10:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(11:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(12:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(13:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen		
HALLMARK	54	49	58	34	34	(6:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(7:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(8:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(9:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(10:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(11:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(12:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(13:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen		
HGTV	63	50	26	48	44	(6:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(7:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(8:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(9:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(10:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(11:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(12:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(13:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen		
HISTORY	71	62	29	50	43	(6:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(7:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(8:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(9:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(10:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(11:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(12:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(13:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen		
LIFETIME	28	25	25	28	48	(6:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(7:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(8:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(9:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(10:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(11:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(12:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(13:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen		
MSNBC	47	51	49	73	73	(6:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(7:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(8:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(9:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(10:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(11:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(12:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(13:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen		
NBCSN	38	39	39	39	34	(6:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(7:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(8:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(9:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(10:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(11:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(12:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(13:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen		
NICK	55	34	39	34	37	(6:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(7:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(8:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(9:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(10:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(11:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(12:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(13:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen		
SPIKE	30	22	55	53	58	(6:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(7:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(8:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(9:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(10:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(11:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(12:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(13:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen		
SYFY	66	64	41	57	67	(6:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(7:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(8:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(9:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(10:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(11:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(12:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(13:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen		
TBS	25	11	44	66	41	(6:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(7:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(8:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(9:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(10:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(11:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(12:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(13:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen		
TCM	41	61	24	63	66	(6:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(7:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(8:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(9:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(10:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(11:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(12:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(13:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen		
TELE	20	8	10	20	20	(6:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(7:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(8:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(9:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(10:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(11:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(12:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(13:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen		
TLC	51	33	32	38	52	(6:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(7:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(8:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(9:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(10:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(11:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(12:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(13:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen		
TNT	24	23	40	26	50	(6:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(7:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(8:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(9:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(10:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(11:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(12:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(13:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen		
TVLAND	49	48	35	54	35	(6:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(7:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(8:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(9:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(10:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(11:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(12:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(13:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen		
USA	26	30	42	27	49	(6:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(7:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(8:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(9:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(10:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(11:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(12:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(13:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen		
WGN	19	18				(6:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(7:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(8:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(9:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(10:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(11:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(12:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen	(13:30) The Santa Clause 2 (02, Fam) Tim Allen		



Associated Press

This product image provided by The Walt Disney Co. shows a Disney Imagicademy iPad app called "Mickey's Magical Math World," left, and a companion iPhone app for parents. The app, which will be released on Dec. 11, focuses on math-based activities such as counting, shapes, logic and sorting. The companion app lets grown-ups follow along with what their kids are doing even if they are using a separate mobile device.

Mickey and math? Disney launches education apps

By Barbara Ortutay
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mickey is getting into math — and science, art, reading and even teaching social skills.

The Walt Disney Co. is launching a new line of learning tools designed to help parents encourage kids 3 to 8 to learn outside of school. Disney Imagicademy begins with a series of mobile apps but will later expand into other products such as books and interactive toys. Over time, the target age will also grow to include older kids.

To start, Disney is launching an iPad app called "Mickey's Magical Math World" on Dec. 11, focused on math-based activities such as counting, shapes, logic and sorting. Within the app, there are five add-on activities such as "Minnie's Robot Count-Along" and "Goofy's Silly Sorting." The basic app is free to use, but the enhanced activities cost \$4.99 each or \$19.99 for all five. Future apps, on subjects ranging from life science using characters from Disney's "Frozen" to creative arts, will be

similarly priced. The apps are ad free, keeping with laws that prevent targeting online advertising at kids under 13.

A companion app for parents lets grown-ups follow along with what their kids are doing even if they are using a separate mobile device. It also suggests a bevy of offline activities, such as creating "rocket racers" using toilet paper tubes, duct tape and balloons, or making a colorful "quilt" out of tissue paper to learn shapes.

Disney's entry into the learning app market comes at a popular time for educational apps, thanks to the proliferation of mobile devices and as more parents grow comfortable letting their kids use them, at least with limits in place. The American Association of Pediatrics estimates that children spend an average of seven hours a day on "entertainment media" that includes TVs, computers, phones and other electronic devices. It recommends no more than two hours a day spent consuming and engaging with "high-quality content."

Disney Publishing Worldwide, the creator of

Imagicademy and also the world's largest publisher of children's books, hopes that its content will meet the high-quality barrier that is entertaining as well as educational. Disney is betting that its brand recognition and the quality of its apps will help them stand out from a crowd of more than 100,000 learning apps aimed at kids. That said, there are other big name brands in the learning app space, including Sesame Street.

Bob Chapek, president of Disney Consumer Product, says what the company heard from parents is that it was difficult to find high-quality apps among the thousands out there. And once parents did find an app they liked, "there was no logical progression" to other levels and subjects.

"What really makes (Imagicademy) different is that it's done with a very compelling curriculum-based approach," he said. "And the fact that it's based on characters and mythology that kids love."

Shortly after the math app, Chapek says Disney will launch a creative arts portfolio, then science, reading and social skills.

BAND

From JB

sleep patterns, GPS-enabled running, even how much UV energy you're getting out in the sun.

It seems to deftly straddle the line between a Bluetooth fitness tracker — basically a pedometer with lots of body-tracking data features you can access on a smartphone — and a smartwatch, for stuff like email notifications, Facebook and using your voice to access the Web.

So far, so good, right? And then I put the Band, which comes in three sizes and one color, institutional black, on my wrist. And that's the moment the relationship began to sour. My first impression, one that didn't go away for days, was that the Band felt awful. Uncomfortable and clunky and heavy and not designed for human wrists.

Then I read online that the Band should be worn with the screen on the inside of the wrist. That means nobody will see the Band's face; instead, anyone looking at my hand sees an ugly clasp with the Microsoft Windows logo on it instead. And it also means the plastic bezel around the screen is more likely to get banged up and collect scratches. And that it does.

Even turned around, the Band is still no ergonomic wonder. The beautiful screen is not curved. It sits like a flat slab on the wrist, unyielding and balky, and only small portions of the wristband are flexible. It juts and prods, begging attention. Wearables should be a joy to wear, comfortable and built to our human form. This thing felt like a handcuff. It took nearly a week for me to stop noticing I was wearing it.

A Microsoft rep offered to trade me for a larger size, but I don't think it's the size of the device that's the issue, it's the shape and unyielding materials.

After two nights of trying to wear it to track my sleep patterns, I decided the Band itself was adversely affecting my

sleep, skewing the data. And as a final insult, I also developed what felt like an itchy rash the size of a quarter the first few days. It turns out it was from wearing the Band too tightly; it was pinching my skin. I stopped wearing the Band and then committed to wearing it more loosely a few days later. The skin irritation went away and didn't return.

So why would I stick with the Band after all that? Two reasons. The first is that the software is pretty great. Maybe I'm just a sucker for Microsoft's neat Windows Phone-style tiles and its clean fonts. I tested it on an Apple iPhone (it's also compatible with Android phones and, of course, Microsoft Phone) and I found the accompanying app, Microsoft Health, to be easy to use, if a little lacking in complexity.

I loved the "guided workouts" feature, which allows you to pick fitness routines from Gold's Gym and Men's Fitness among others and sync that workout to the Band. Only one workout can be on the Band at a time, but it's a start.

The voice command option, dubbed "Cortana," seems neat, but it only works when paired with a Microsoft Phone, which, let's face it, only the geekiest of the Microsoft faithful are toting around these days as their primary mobile device.

The second reason I stuck with Band for a few more weeks is that Microsoft has a rich history of introducing clunky products (see the original Zune, the original Xbox, the original Surface tablet) and quickly improving them until they become competitive. Well, at least it happened with the Xbox and the Surface. The Zune never really had a chance.

Band feels like a fairly solid 1.0 version of a much better product we may see in a year or two, one that fits better and gets me more motivated to exercise instead of running out of battery in under two days.

Once when that happened, I lost a large chunk of a day's fitness data because it couldn't reconnect to my phone and had to be factory reset.

I could see a future with a better version of Band, but as for the 1.0 edition, sorry, but we are never, ever getting back together.

New game from Rooster Teeth

Lost in the news a few weeks ago that Austin-based online video empire Rooster Teeth Productions had been sold to Los Angeles-based Fullscreen was that the company the same week released its first full-blown video game.

Built by Austin's Team Chaos, "Rooster Teeth vs. Zombiens" is an action and strategy mobile game for iOS and Android about surviving a zombie-alien outbreak (the "Zombiens" of the title), starting at the offices of Rooster Teeth. It features cartoon versions of the Rooster Teeth ensemble, lots of jokes and sound bites referencing their videos and a steep challenge curve.

It has some frustrating game-ending bugs I encountered, but here's hoping the \$4 game gets updated with fixes by the time you read this and that it's just the start of Rooster Teeth's work in games of its own.

Coffee talk

One more quick thing you might have missed. A few weeks back, I posted a video review on my blog of a Keurig 2.0 500 coffee maker (you can find it at bit.ly/keurig500). If you're considering buying one as a Christmas gift, here's the quick-hit version: It makes great coffee quickly and easily, including a new option to make a whole carafe of coffee at a time. It's got a pretty touch screen and a welcome option to make a stronger brew.

On the other hand? Those plastic K-Cups create a lot of waste.



Babies of 2014

The Midland Reporter-Telegram will publish a special baby section dedicated to all the special people born in 2014. Our "Cover Baby" will be chosen in an online contest on mrt.com. All babies appearing in the Babies of 2014 section will be eligible to be our "Cover baby".

Now is your chance to show everyone how cute your baby is! If a baby was born in your family in 2014, complete this form and return it with a photo and payment to our office by Sunday, January 11, 2015 to get your baby published in a 2.46" x 5" profile in our Babies of 2014 special section! *Please note that this special section will be printed in black & white with the exception of the cover and back page



Christopher Zay Buck

Birthdate: August 22
Parents: Megan Lea Buck and Christopher L. Buck
Grandparents: Luke and Kathy Lea, Natalie Rice, Mark and Mary Buck
Favorite Food: Milk
Likes: His big sister, Kaitlyn
Dislikes: His car seat

Actual Size

Printed Photo Requirements

- Color print*
- Minimum size: 2"x3"
- Vertical pose preferred
- One baby per photo
- Twins require double spot
- Include baby's name on back of photo

Digital Photo Requirements

- Color Image*
- Minimum 3.5"x5" @ 200 dots per inch resolution
- .jpg format preferred

Please complete this form and return with photo and a \$25.00 payment by Friday, January 9, 2015. Pictures will not be returned.

Please send your digital photo and the submission form to rellis@mrt.com. You will be contacted for credit card payment.

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SPORTS

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Monday, December 8, 2014 | Section C



Stephen B. Morton/AP

Houston quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick (14) celebrates his 4-yard touchdown run with teammate wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins (10) during Sunday's game against the Jacksonville Jaguars in Jacksonville, Fla.

Texans stay in AFC hunt with win at Jaguars

Texans 27
Jaguars 13

By Mark Long
Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Arian Foster started right, found nothing but defenders between him and the goal line, then headed the other way.

It was his best decision of the day. Foster ran for 127 yards and a touchdown, which came on a nifty cut-back move, and the Houston Texans beat the Jacksonville Jaguars 27-13 on Sunday to stay in the muddled AFC playoff picture.

It gave the Texans (7-6) consecutive wins for the first time in nearly three months.

Foster's 1-yard scamper early in the fourth quarter was the play of the game. After quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick got stuffed on third down, the Texans lined up for a field goal before calling time out and opting to go for it. Foster emphatically told coach Bill O'Brien he wanted the ball.

Foster initially looked he would be stopped for a loss, but he eluded a tackle, headed in the other turned the other way and high-stepped into the end zone.

"I was just screaming for him to give me the ball," Foster said. "We took a step in the right direction."

The Texans didn't gain any ground on AFC South-leading Indianapolis, which edged Cleveland, but they kept pace in the crowded wild-card race.

"We are in a must-win situation now," star defensive end J.J. Watt said. "We have strung two together, and we need to continue to do it. We need to go on the road (at Indy) and try to do it again this week."

The Jaguars (2-11) led 13-10 at half-time, but did little after the break.

Jacksonville managed just 4 yards in the third quarter, and Blake Bortles threw his NFL-leading 16th interception of the season. The turnover gave Houston its best field position of the day and led to Foster's TD run.

"If you watch Foster, he's a hard guy to bring down," Jaguars defensive tackle Sen'Derrick Marks said. "That was a big emphasis, and we didn't do it."

With a chilly, misty rain falling and Jacksonville trailing, fans didn't bother returning to the stands. EverBank Field was mostly empty during the second half, an embarrassing sight for a franchise fighting to overcome attendance problems.

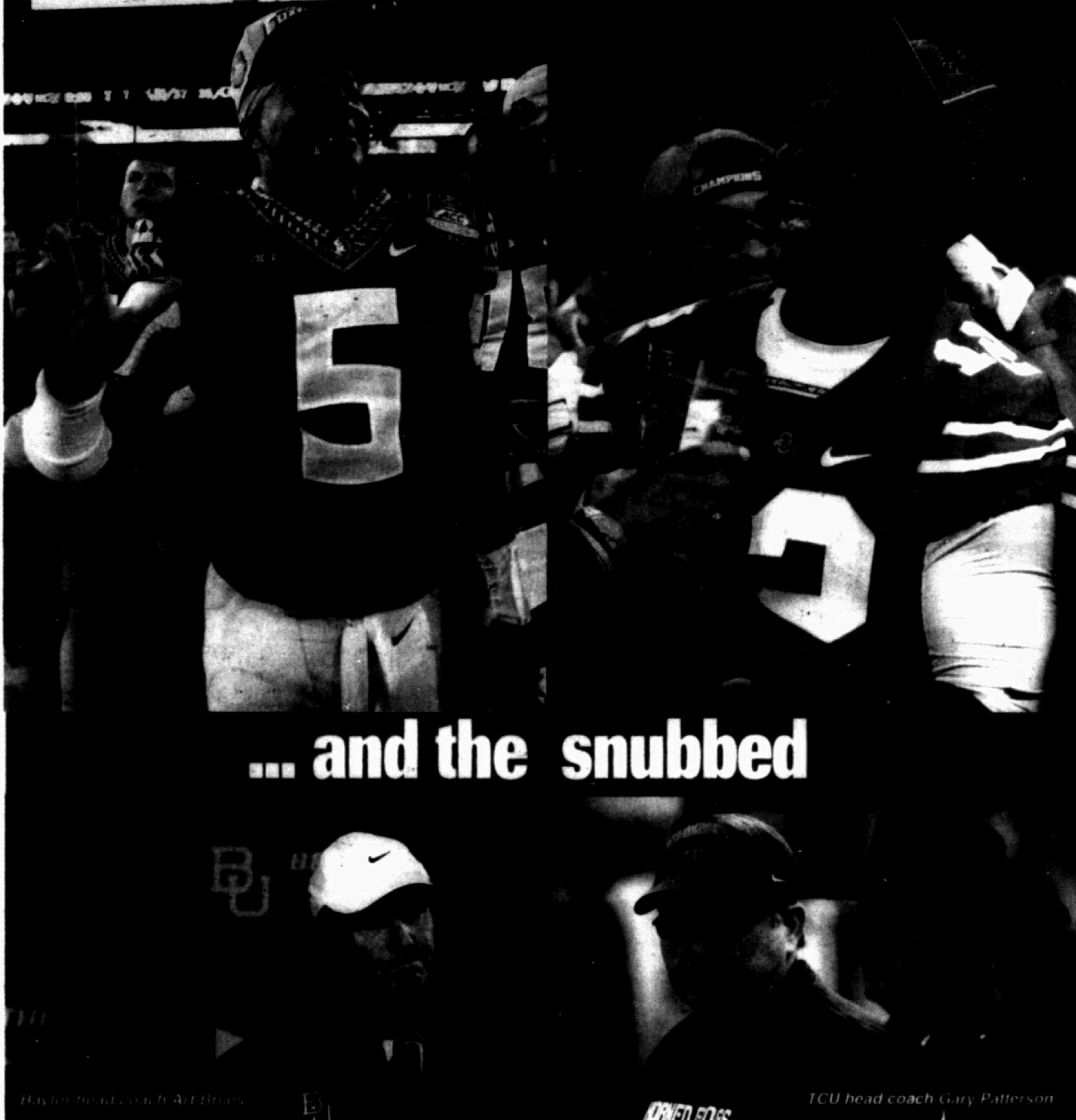
Jacksonville managed 73 yards in the second half, holding the ball for just nine-plus minutes, and Bortles nearly threw three more picks.

"There were probably some drops and mishandling of the ball that were definitely caused by the rain," Bortles said. "But that's part of it. You have to be able to play in all weathers because they're not going to cancel the game."

J.J. Watt created major problems, finishing with three sacks and five quarterback hits. The Jaguars lost starting right tackle Austin Pasztor last week and went with unproven veteran Sam Young. Not surprisingly, Watt

Please see TEXANS/3C

Presenting the playoff 4



... and the snubbed

Alabama, Oregon, FSU, Ohio State make CFP

By Ralph D. Russo
Associated Press

GRAPEVINE — The playoff picks are in: Top-ranked Alabama will play No. 4 Ohio State at the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans, and No. 2 Oregon will play No. 3 Florida State at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California.

And after all the discussion about whether Baylor or TCU was better, neither Big 12 team will get a chance to play for the national title.

The College Football Playoff Committee's selections for the first playoff were

Inside

The Committee left out Baylor and TCU.

Page 4C

released Sunday after weeks of debate, setting off plenty of questions about whether the new process was fair and if it needed some tweaks.

"We're smarting today," Big 12 Commissioner Bob Bowlsby said.

The winners of the New Year's Day semifinals will advance to the national championship game to be played Jan. 12

at the home of the Dallas Cowboys in Arlington.

The playoff contenders did not make it easy on the committee by all winning on Saturday.

Committee chairman Jeff Long said the top three teams were clear and the final spot came down to a "spirited debate" between the Buckeyes and Big 12 co-champs Baylor and TCU.

Among those three, Long said: "It was decisive for Ohio State."

Baylor and TCU finished fifth and sixth, respectively. The Big 12 is the only

Please see PLAYOFF/4C

Mavericks start fast, rout Bucks

Associated Press

DALLAS — Chandler Parsons did some extra work on his shooting in the morning, then made 11 of 14 shots on Sunday night.

Parsons' 28 points helped the Dallas Mavericks roll to a 125-102 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks.

"He is just really working at it," Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle said. "We canceled shootaround, but he came in and wanted to shoot, so we shot for 20-30 minutes."

The Mavericks built a 13-point lead with a 12-0 run in the first quarter and didn't trail again in their second victory in five days over the

Mavericks 125
Bucks 102

Bucks

Parsons had seven points in that run and nine in the opening period.

"I wanted to work with (Carlisle). I wasn't the only one here, but I just wanted to come in not asleep and be groggy," he said.

"I don't think one extra shooting session's going to help or hurt you, but it's always good to get extra work in."

Dallas made 49 of 84 field goal attempts (58 percent).

"When you don't put any energy and effort into it, guys are going to

get wide-open shots and knock them down," Bucks coach Jason Kidd said.

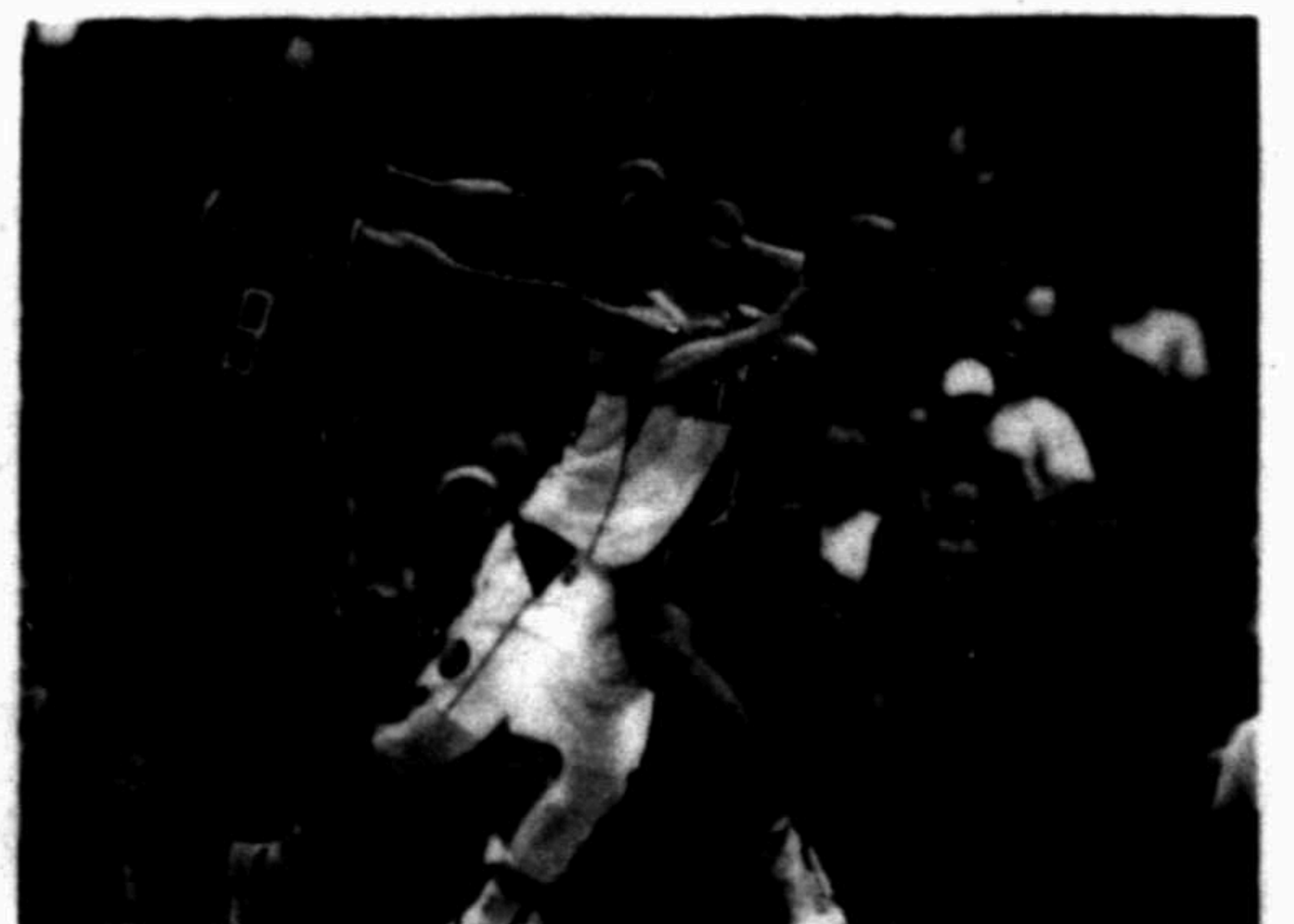
"They did that."

Dirk Nowitzki, who was rested for the game at Milwaukee on Wednesday and scored a season-low 10 points Friday, bounced back with 21 and Monta Ellis added 19. Ellis has averaged 26.8 points in his last six, including three of 30-plus.

"I thought we shared the ball and we made some shots and attacked the basket," Nowitzki said.

Parsons' 28 points were one off his season high, and he didn't play in the fourth quarter.

Please see MAVERICKS/2C



LM Otero/AP

Dallas Mavericks guard J.J. Barea fights to get past Milwaukee Bucks guard Jared Dudley (9) and center Zaza Pachulia (27) during the first quarter Sunday in Dallas.

DAILY RUNDOWN

ON THE AIR

TODAY WHAT'S ON TV HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL UIL, Lancaster vs. Plano West, 6:30 p.m., ESPN2 MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Kenesaw State at Butler, 6 p.m., FS1 Fort Wayne at Purdue, 6 p.m., ESPN Yale at Florida, 6 p.m., SEC UC Santa Barbara at SMU, 7 p.m., CBSN Brown at Providence, 8 p.m., FS1 North Dakota at Minnesota, 8 p.m., ESPN

MEN'S SOCCER La Liga, Getafe CF at Levante, 11:55 a.m., beIN2 Italian Serie A, Sampdoria at Verona, 1:40 p.m., beIN English Premier, Manchester United at Southampton, 2 p.m., NBCSN NFL Atlanta at Green Bay, 7:30 p.m., ESPN/ESPN2 NBA Denver at Toronto, 6:30 p.m., NBA Women's COLLEGE BASKETBALL Southern at Texas, 11 a.m., LHN

LOCAL SPORTS

FISHER ACES AT GREENTREE

Michael Fisher recorded a hole-in-one on No. 7 East at

Green Tree Country Club on Sunday. Fisher used a 7-iron from 147 yards. The Witness was Mile Fisher.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Table with columns: Record, Pts, Pvs. Lists college football records for various teams like Alabama, Florida, Baylor, etc.

Table with columns: Record, Pts, Pvs. Lists college football records for various teams like Chattanooga, Coastal Carolina, Sam Houston State, etc.

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Table with columns: Record, Pts, Pvs. Lists college football records for various teams like Chattanooga, Coastal Carolina, Sam Houston State, etc.

TRANSACTIONS

National Hockey League ARIZONA COYOTES - Assigned D Andrew Anderson to Portland (AHL) CAROLINA HURRICANES - Recalled F Travis Terry from Charlotte (AHL) MONTREAL CANADIENS - Assigned F Jovany Bowden to Hamilton (AHL) NEW JERSEY DEVILS - Assigned F

GLANTZ-CULVER LINE

Table showing NHL standings for Eastern Conference, Metropolitan Division, and Western Conference with columns for GP, W, L, OT, Pts, GF, GA.

NHL STANDINGS

Table showing NHL standings for Eastern Conference, Metropolitan Division, and Western Conference with columns for GP, W, L, OT, Pts, GF, GA.

MLS PLAYOFFS

KNOCKOUT ROUND EASTERN CONFERENCE Thursday, Oct. 30: New York 2, Sporting Kansas City 1 Western Conference Wednesday, Oct. 29: FC Dallas 2, Vancouver 1 CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS Eastern Conference Leg 1 - Saturday, Nov. 1: New England 4, Columbus 2 Leg 2 - Sunday, Nov. 9: New England 3, Columbus 1 New York 3, D.C. United 2 Leg 1 - Saturday, Nov. 2: D.C. United 0, New York 1 Leg 2 - Saturday, Nov. 8: D.C. United 2, New York 1 Western Conference LA Galaxy 5, Real Salt Lake 0 Leg 1 - Saturday, Nov. 1: LA Galaxy 0, Real Salt Lake 0 Leg 2 - Sunday, Nov. 9: LA Galaxy 5, Real Salt Lake 0

Permian beats Lee, MHS in double dual meet

From staff reports The Lee and Midland High swim teams faced off against Odessa Permian in a double dual meet on Saturday at the Mabee Aquatic Complex. On the boys side, Permian beat Lee and Midland High, and Lee beat Midland High. On the girls side, Permian defeated Lee and

Midland High, and MHS defeated Lee. Lee junior Zack Gray won the 200-yard freestyle and 100 breaststroke, and had personal best times in both events. Gray had a time of 2 minutes, 5.64 seconds in the 200 freestyle, and Gray timed in at 1:18.05 in the 100 breaststroke. Lee sophomore Nicholas De La Rosa won the boys 500 freestyle with a personal best time of 5:49.30. De La Rosa was also second in the 200 freestyle. The Lee boys 400 freestyle relay team of River Atwood, Gray, Austin Gibson and Shelby Hawkins won with a time of 3:54.16. Lee junior Jennifer Sites also won a pair of golds, winning the 200 individual medley (2:29.05) and 100 backstroke (1:05.83). Midland High's Julia Delgado took the win in the 500 freestyle, clocking in at 6:32.04. In diving, Midland High senior and Clemson signee Sarah Blank won the girls 1-meter with a score of 222.10 and MHS sophomore Garrett Martin won the boys 1-meter with 25.750 points.

STATEWIDE FOOTBALL PAIRINGS

Table listing football pairings for Class 6A, 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, 1A divisions across various districts and dates.

NBAROUNDUP

CELTICS 101 WIZARDS 93 BOSTON - Jeff Green scored 25 points, reserve Marcus Thornton had 21 and the Boston Celtics nearly blew a 25-point third-quarter lead before beating the Washington Wizards 101-93 Sunday in Paul Pierce's return. Rajon Rondo had a triple-double with 13 points, 13 rebounds and 11 assists for the Celtics, who won their third straight after a season-high five-game losing streak. Rasual Butler scored 14 of his 22 points in the final quarter for the Wizards, who failed to match the franchise's best start since 1968-69. Pierce, who played for the Celtics for 15 seasons and was a member of their 2008 championship team before being traded to Brooklyn before last season, scored 16 points. He signed with Washington as a free agent during the offseason. HAWKS 96 NUGGETS 84 ATLANTA - Paul Millsap scored 23 points, Kyle Korver added 15 points and the Atlanta Hawks won their sixth straight game with a 96-84 victory over the Denver Nuggets on Sunday. Wilson Chandler finished with a season-high 29 points and Timofey Mozgov had 14 points for the Nuggets. Chandler and Mozgov combined for 21 rebounds. GRIZZLIES 103 HEAT 87 MEMPHIS, Tenn. - Jon Leuer scored a season-high 20 points and matched his career best with 12 rebounds to lead the Memphis Grizzlies to a 103-87 victory over the Miami Heat on Sunday. Mike Conley added 18 points for Memphis, connecting on all eight of his shots, while Zach Randolph and Courtney Lee finished with 17 points apiece. Tony Allen had 14 points, shooting 6 of 8, as Memphis made 59 percent and snapped a two-game losing streak. THUNDER 96 PISTONS 94 AUBURN HILLS, Mich. - Kevin Durant scored 28 points, Russell Westbrook added 22 points and 11 rebounds, and the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Detroit Pistons 96-94 on Sunday night. The Pistons have lost 12 straight, two short of the franchise record. Detroit's last win came on Nov. 14 in overtime at Oklahoma City, a game that both Durant and Westbrook missed due to injury. TRAIL BLAZERS 103 KNICKS 99 NEW YORK - LaMarcus Aldridge scored 24 points and the Portland Trail Blazers overcame blowing a 10-point lead in the fourth quarter to beat the New York Knicks 103-99 on Sunday night for their fourth straight victory. Carmelo Anthony had 23 points with LeBron James sitting courtside, but the Knicks lost their eighth straight and 12th in their last 13. J.R. Smith scored 20 points off the bench and Amare Stoudemire added 16 for New York, whose 4-18 start is a franchise worst. PELICANS 104 LAKERS 87 LOS ANGELES - Anthony Davis scored 23 points to overtake Kobe Bryant for the NBA scoring lead, Jrue Holiday had 22 points and eight assists, and the New Orleans Pelicans beat the Los Angeles Lakers 104-87 on Sunday night. Ryan Anderson had 11 points and 10 rebounds off the bench, helping the Pelicans end a four-game road losing streak that included a 27-point drubbing.

MAVERICKS

From 1C "When you make your first couple, it changes the whole game, makes everything a little easier," Parsons said.

NBA STANDINGS AND BOXES

All five Bucks starters and backup center Zaza Pachulia scored in double figures, led by Giannis Antetokounmpo's 18 points. "They came out tonight on fire. They were ready to roll," said Milwaukee's O.J. Mayo, who scored 12 points. The Bucks pulled within six four times in the second quarter, but Dallas scored the last four

points of the first half to build a 59-46 lead. The Mavericks outscored Milwaukee 17-4 over the last 5 1/2 minutes of the quarter to lead 90-71 after three.

GOLFScores

Table listing golf scores for PGA and PGA European tours, including names like Rickie Fowler, Justin Rose, Zach Johnson, etc.

Committee snubs TCU, Baylor

By Stephen Hawkins
Associated Press

FORT WORTH — Now the Big 12 Conference has a real debate to settle after both of its co-champions were left out of the four-team playoff.

After weeks of talk about whether Baylor or TCU deserved to be in the playoff, neither made it Sunday, and the Big 12 may be reconsidering how to declare its champion.

"That will cause us to go back to the drawing board a little bit and talk about whether or not we need to think about a different model," Big 12 Commissioner Bob Bowlsby told ESPN after the final playoff ranking.

The Big 12 is the only of the big-five leagues without a championship game, but it also the only one where every team plays each other in a round-robin schedule. Baylor and TCU (both 11-1, 8-1 Big 12) were declared co-champions, even though the Bears beat the Horned Frogs 61-58 on Oct. 11.

The Big 12 can't hold a championship game because it only has 10 teams; current NCAA rules require conferences with 12 teams split into two divisions to play a title game.

"We're in a room that feels like we just lost a football game. That to me is a travesty," Baylor coach Art Briles said Sunday. "That's what I hate. We won a big game (Saturday) night. We are Big 12 champions. We won a Big 12 championship for two years in a row."

Baylor was fifth in the final playoff ranking, with TCU sixth. The Bears had been behind TCU in the first six weekly rankings, which began 2 1/2 weeks after they played each other.

The top four were Alabama, Oregon, Florida State and Ohio State, all who won conference championship games.

Bowlsby said that is a clear indication that the Big 12 got penalized for not having a championship game on the first weekend in December, when the league was instead wrapping up its regular season with two games that had title implications.

"I thought you had a championship game because you had so many teams, and that they split their divisions, and you played so that

the best played from both sides," TCU coach Gary Patterson said. "For me, if we have to have championship games so it gives us the better opportunity, then we'll have to go do that."

Patterson pointed out that Big 12 coaches voted on and approved co-champions and that he is OK with that declaration. But he added that he would have no problem in the future to "just play the game off" in such situations to determine "one true champion, if that's what people want."

TCU was third in the playoff ranking before its 55-3 win over last-place Iowa State on Saturday to claim a share of the Big 12 title in only the Frogs' third year in the league. Baylor was sixth before a 38-27 win over Kansas State (9-3, 7-2), before Ohio State finished off its 59-0 win over Wisconsin in the Big Ten title game.

Kansas State athletic director John Currie called Bowlsby's comments appropriate and figures they will come up rather quickly.

"We do have Big 12 meetings (Monday) in New York City. I'm sure we'll have something to talk about," Currie said.

Bowlsby presented championship trophies to both Baylor and TCU after their respective games about 90 miles apart.

Briles made it clear that he believes the Bears should be considered the "One True Champion," living up to the league's much-repeated slogan. He had a rather brisk conversation about that with Bowlsby on the podium in the middle of the field during the celebration.

When asked what changes he would like to see the Big 12 make, Briles instead talked about what his team could have done.

"If we were sitting here 12-0, we're in the final four. That's the bottom line," he said. "I guess that's what we need to do to be able to be in there, I guess winning 11 games and winning our conference two times in a row, which is considered the second-best conference in America by most people's standards, and having the tiebreaker in this conference apparently wasn't enough."

PLAYOFF

From 1C

conference among the Big Five that does not play a championship game. With only 10 members, NCAA rules prohibit it, though the Big 12 and Atlantic Coast Conference are in the process of trying to change those rules.

Long said Ohio State's playing a quality opponent in a 13th game, the Big Ten championship Saturday against Wisconsin, and winning decisively added to the Buckeyes' case against the Big 12 teams.

"It had an effect," Long said. "It was an additional game that we could see Ohio State's strength."

The College Football Playoff is replacing the Bowl Championship Series this season. The BCS matched the top two teams in the country in a national championship game.

The committee has been ranking the top 25 weekly since late October's rankings and last week had Alabama and Oregon at the top, followed by TCU and Florida State.

The committee has said it would start each week with a blank slate and that as the bodies of work changed the ranking could change dramatically. That's different from the way polls traditionally work and led to some of

the surprise when the Frogs dropped after a 52-point victory on Saturday against lowly Iowa State. The Big 12 further muddled the issue by not designating a champion by a tiebreaker.

The commissioners who put together the playoff thought long and hard about whether the committee should do weekly rankings, at first leaning against it. They make for good television, though, and ultimately it was decided that fans were used to having a way to track the progress of the playoff race from week-to-week.

Whether they stick with weekly rankings will be addressed.

"I think that the committee will look at this year, look at this season, look how the entire process went," Long said.

Ohio State has had the longest climb to reach the playoff, overcoming an early loss to Virginia Tech to make a strong run. The Buckeyes were 16th in the first rankings, but their final statement was a doozy: 59-0 against the Badgers.

Florida State's unbeaten record hasn't gotten the respect the Seminoles believe it deserves from the committee. The defending national champions are the only undefeated team in FBS.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF RANKINGS

Team	Final	Record
1. Alabama	12-1	9-3
2. Oregon	12-1	9-3
3. Florida St.	13-0	9-3
4. Ohio St.	12-1	9-3
5. Baylor	11-1	8-4
6. TCU	11-1	8-4
7. Mississippi St.	10-2	7-5
8. Michigan St.	10-2	7-5
9. Mississippi	9-3	6-6
10. Arizona	10-3	6-6
11. Kansas St.	9-3	6-6
12. Georgia Tech	10-3	6-6
13. UCLA	9-3	6-6
14. Georgia	9-3	6-6
15. Missouri	10-3	6-6
16. Arizona St.	10-3	6-6
17. Wisconsin	10-3	6-6
18. Auburn	8-4	6-6
19. Boise St.	11-2	6-6
20. Louisville	9-3	6-6
21. Utah	8-4	6-6
22. LSU	8-4	6-6
23. LSU	8-4	6-6
24. Southern Cal	8-4	6-6
25. Minnesota	8-4	6-6

TEXASBOWLROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

BAYLOR IN COTTON VS. MICHIGAN STATE

Left out of the four-team playoff, Big 12 co-champion Baylor gets to stay close to home to play in the Cotton Bowl on New Year's Day to play Big Ten team Michigan State.

The Bears (11-1) are going to the Cotton Bowl for the first time since the 1980 season when Mike Singletary was a team captain.

Michigan State (10-2) will be only the second Big Ten team to play in the Cotton Bowl, which before the new playoff era matched Big 12 and SEC teams.

While disappointed about not being in the playoff, Baylor coach Art Briles is excited for his team to be in the Cotton Bowl. He played in the game for Houston on New Year's Day 1977, in a win over Maryland.

TCU TO PLAY OLE MISS IN PEACH BOWL

ATLANTA — After being passed over for a spot in college football's first playoff, TCU got its consolation prize Sunday: Mississippi in the Peach Bowl.

The Horned Frogs (11-1) dropped from third to sixth in the final rankings issued by the selection committee, despite a 55-3 win over Iowa State to earn a share of the Big 12 championship.

Bitterly disappointed, it will be interesting to see TCU's reaction when it faces the Rebels (9-3) in the Dec. 31 game at the Georgia Dome. A letdown is certainly possible, but the Horned Frogs could also be highly motivated to put on a performance that shows they were worthy of being in the playoff.

Ole Miss' handed No. 1 Alabama its only loss and knocked off Mississippi State in the regular-season finale.

TEXAS A&M PLAYS WEST VIRGINIA IN LIBERTY BOWL
MEMPHIS, Tenn. — West Virginia will make its first Liberty Bowl appearance in half a century when it meets Texas A&M on Dec. 29.

The Mountaineers (7-5) lost 32-6 to Utah in the 1964 Liberty Bowl at Atlantic City, New Jersey, rather than the game's current home of Memphis, Tennessee.

Texas A&M's only previous Liberty Bowl appearance came when it lost 20-0 to Southern California in 1975.

The Aggies (7-5) have lost five of their last seven games. West Virginia ended a three-game skid Nov. 29 by beating Iowa State 37-24.

West Virginia's appearance marks the first year of the Liberty Bowl's partnership agreement with the Big 12. In previous seasons, the bowl

typically matched a Southeastern Conference team with the Conference USA champion.

ARKANSAS TO MEET IN TEXAS BOWL
Arkansas will face a familiar opponent in its first bowl game in three seasons, taking on former Southwest Conference rival Texas in the Texas Bowl on Dec. 29.

Led by second-year coach Bret Bielema, the Razorbacks rebounded from back-to-back losing seasons this year and finished 6-6 while snapping a 17-game Southeastern Conference losing streak.

They'll face the Longhorns and first-year coach Charlie Strong, an Arkansas native. Texas (6-6) struggled early before using a late-season three-game winning streak to finish 5-4 in the Big 12 and secure its bowl eligibility.

The former rivals last played in 2008, with Texas winning 52-10, and they last met in a bowl game in the 2000 Cotton Bowl.

UTAH STATE, UTEP PLAY IN NEW MEXICO BOWL
ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Utah State will face UTEP in the New Mexico Bowl on Dec. 20.

It's the second selection to the bowl for the Conference USA Miners (7-5), who lost to BYU in 2010, and also their

first since postseason berth since then.

UTEP secured its first winning season since 2005 with a 24-21 win over Middle Tennessee.

The Aggies (9-4) are making their fourth straight bowl game appearance, including wins back-to-back wins in the Potato Bowl in 2012 and Poinsettia Bowl last season.

HOUSTON, PITTSBURGH IN ARMED FORCES BOWL

FORT WORTH — Houston will make its fourth appearance in the Armed Forces Bowl when the Cougars take on Pittsburgh.

The Cougars (7-5) will represent the American Athletic Conference when the game is played in January for the first time. The 12th Armed Forces Bowl is Jan. 2 on the TCU campus.

RICE TO FACE FRESNO STATE IN HAWAII BOWL

HONOLULU — Rice will play Fresno State in the Hawaii Bowl on Christmas Eve at Aloha Stadium.

The bowl game is the third straight postseason berth for the Conference USA-member Owls (7-5), who rebounded from three straight losses to open the season. They won six straight at one point before losing two of their final three games.

BOWL SCHEDULE

Date	Game	Time	Network	
Saturday, Dec. 20	New Orleans Bowl	8 a.m.	ESPN	
Las Vegas Bowl	2:30 p.m.	ABC		
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl	4:45 p.m.	ESPN		
Camella Bowl	8:15 p.m.	ESPN		
Monday, Dec. 22	Miami Beach Bowl	1 p.m.	ESPN	
Tuesday, Dec. 23	Boca Raton (Fla.) Bowl	5 p.m.	ESPN	
Poinsettia Bowl	8:30 p.m.	ESPN		
Wednesday, Dec. 24	Bahamas Bowl	11 a.m.	ESPN	
Hawaii Bowl	7 p.m.	ESPN		
Friday, Dec. 26	Heart of Dallas Bowl	Noon	ESPN	
Quick Lane Bowl	Noon	ESPN		
At Detroit	Rutgers (7-5) vs. North Carolina (6-6)	3:30 p.m.	ESPN	
St. Petersburg (Fla.) Bowl	UCF (9-3) vs. N.C. State (7-5)	7 p.m.	ESPN	
Military Bowl	Virginia Tech (8-6) vs. Cincinnati (9-3)	Noon	ESPN	
Sun Bowl	Duke (9-3) vs. Arizona State (9-3)	1 p.m.	CBS	
Independence Bowl	Miami (6-6) vs. South Carolina (6-6)	3 p.m.	ESPN2	
Pinstripe Bowl	At Bronx, N.Y.	3:30 p.m.	ESPN	
Holiday Bowl	At San Diego	7 p.m.	ESPN	
Monday, Dec. 29	Liberty Bowl	At Memphis, Tenn.	7:55 p.m.	ESPN
Russell Athletic Bowl	Clemson (9-3) vs. Oklahoma (8-4)	4:30 p.m.	ESPN	
Texas Bowl	At Houston	8 p.m.	ESPN	
Tuesday, Dec. 30	Music City Bowl	At Nashville, Tenn.	2 p.m.	ESPN
Belk Bowl	At Charlotte, N.C.	5:30 p.m.	ESPN	
Wednesday, Dec. 31	Peach Bowl	At Atlanta	11:30 a.m.	ESPN
Fiesta Bowl	At Glendale, Ariz.	3 p.m.	ESPN	
Orange Bowl	At Miami	7 p.m.	ESPN	
Thursday, Jan. 1	Outback Bowl	At Tampa, Fla.	11 a.m.	ESPN2
Cotton Bowl Classic	At Arlington	11:30 a.m.	ESPN	
Capital One Bowl	At Orlando, Fla.	Noon	ABC	
Rose Bowl	At Pasadena, Calif.	4 p.m.	ESPN	
Sugar Bowl	At New Orleans	7:30 p.m.	ESPN	
Friday, Jan. 2	Armed Forces Bowl	At Fort Worth	Noon	ESPN
Pittsburgh (6-6) vs. Houston (7-5)	11 a.m.	ESPN		
TaxSlayer Bowl	At Jacksonville, Fla.	2:20 p.m.	ESPN	
Alamo Bowl	At San Antonio	5:45 p.m.	ESPN	
Cactus Bowl	At Tempe, Ariz.	9:15 p.m.	ESPN	
Saturday, Jan. 3	Birmingham (Ala.) Bowl	Noon	ESPN2	
GoDaddy Bowl	At Mobile, Ala.	8 p.m.	ESPN	
Saturday, Jan. 10	Medal of Honor Bowl	1:30 p.m.	ESPN	
College Football Championship	At Arlington	7:30 p.m.	ESPN	
Saturday, Jan. 17	East-West Shrine Classic	3 p.m.	NFL/NFLPA	
College Bowl	At Carson, Calif.	3 p.m.	ESPN2	
Senior Bowl	At Mobile, Ala.	3 p.m.	NFL/NFLPA	

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WIN \$1,000 WEEKLY

Please cut along dotted line

Week 15
Games of Dec. 11-14

16
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136 TOTAL POINTS

Name _____
Address _____
City, State (zip) _____
Day Phone () _____
Night Phone () _____

HOW TO PLAY
Select a winner from each of the week's games, listed below. Select in descending order of your CONFIDENCE in your choices. Win points at left for each correct selection toward possible total of 136 points. See complete rules below. You must be at least 8 (eight) years old to enter. To enter, clip along dotted line, then place game entry in POWER POINTS container at Midland-Reporter-Telegram, 201 E. Illinois Midland, Tx 79701. Entrants must list name, address and phone number below.

LIMIT: You may enter the contest only once per week.

DEADLINE: 2 P.M. THURSDAY

TIEBREAKER 1 Total points scored (both teams) in GIANTS game.
TIEBREAKER 2 Total offensive yards (both teams) in this game.

THIS WEEK'S GAMES

Arizona at St. Louis	Oakland at Kansas City
Pittsburgh at Atlanta	Miami at New England
Jacksonville at Baltimore	Washington at NY Giants
Green Bay at Buffalo	Denver at San Diego
Tampa Bay at Carolina	NY Jets at Tennessee
Cincinnati at Cleveland	San Francisco at Seattle
Minnesota at Detroit	Dallas at Philadelphia
Houston at Indianapolis	Army-Navy

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POWER POINTS OFFICIAL RULES

1. Copies of the game to be played on each of the 136 weekly points are available only to the media and are not for sale.
2. The game is to be played on each of the 136 weekly points and is not to be played on any other day.
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COLLEGE BASKETBALL SCORES & SCHEDULES

Men

TOP 25 FARED THIS WEEK

1. Kentucky (9-0) beat No. 6 Texas 63-61; beat Eastern Kentucky 82-49.
2. Wisconsin (8-1) lost to No. 4 Duke 80-70; beat Marquette 69-58.
3. Arizona (8-0) beat Gardner-Webb 91-65; beat No. 9 Gonzaga 96-63, OT.
4. Duke (8-0) beat No. 2 Wisconsin 80-70.
5. Louisville (7-0) beat No. 14 Ohio State 64-50; beat FIU 82-57.
6. Texas (7-1) beat Texas-Arlington 63-53; lost to No. 1 Kentucky 63-61.
7. Virginia (9-0) beat No. 21 Maryland 78-65; beat VCU 74-57.
8. Wichita State (5-1) lost to No. 25 Utah 69-68, OT; beat Saint Louis 81-52.
9. Gonzaga (7-1) beat Southeastern Louisiana 78-57; lost to No. 3 Arizona 96-63, OT.
10. Villanova (9-0) beat La Salle 84-70; beat Saint Joseph's 74-46.
11. Oklahoma (5-2) beat Florida 71-65.
12. North Carolina (5-2) lost to Iowa 60-55; beat East Carolina 108-64.
13. San Diego State (6-2) beat San Diego 57-46; lost to Washington 49-36.
14. Ohio State (6-1) lost to No. 5 Louisville 64-55; beat Colgate 70-50.
15. Miami (8-1) beat No. 24 Illinois 70-61; lost to Green Bay 68-55.
16. West Virginia (8-1) lost to LSU 74-73; beat Northern Kentucky 67-42.
17. Michigan (6-2) beat Syracuse 68-65; lost to NJIT 72-70.
18. Arkansas (6-2) lost to No. 20 Iowa State 95-77; lost to Clemson 68-65, OT.
19. Michigan State (6-3) lost to Notre Dame 79-78, OT; beat Arkansas-Pine Bluff 85-52.
20. Iowa State (5-1) beat Lamar 96-59; beat No. 18 Arkansas 95-77.
21. Maryland (8-1) lost to No. 7 Virginia 76-65; beat Winthrop 82-62.
22. Oklahoma (5-2) beat Missouri 62-63.
23. Butler (7-1) beat Indiana State 77-54; beat Northwestern 65-56.
24. Illinois (7-1) lost to No. 15 Miami 70-61; beat American 70-55.
25. Utah (6-1) beat No. 8 Wichita State 69-68, OT.

SUNDAY'S SCORES

SOUTHWEST
Missouri St. at Oral Roberts, p.p.d.
Stephen F. Austin 84, Ouachita 80
Tulsa 78, UALR 73

SOUTH
Clemson 88, Arkansas 65, OT
Elon 117, Cent. Pennsylvania 73
Georgia 64, Colorado 57
Hofstra 66, Appalachian St. 51
Illinois St. 78, UAB 74
James Madison 51, Richmond 46
Kentucky 82, E. Kentucky 47
NC Central 61, Howard 39
North Carolina 108, East Carolina 64
Radford 68, Virginia Tech 66
Tennessee Tech 87, Hiwassee 46
UNC Asheville 91, Limestone 68
West Virginia 67, N. Kentucky 42

MIDWEST
Cleveland St. 76, W. Illinois 54
Creighton 65, Nebraska 55
DePaul 83, Milwaukee 61
Wright St. 81, Urbana 56
Youngstown St. 70, Thai 45

FAR WEST
California 63, Nevada 55
Colorado St. 66, N. Colorado 59
Mississippi 79, Oregon 73
Montana 69, N. Dakota St. 57
San Francisco 85, Houston Baptist 54
Southern Cal 89, Utah St. 84
UCLA 75, San Diego 68
Wyoming 70, Regis 35
Washington 49, San Diego St. 36

EAST
Buffalo 74, Robert Morris 59
Delaware St. 66, Delaware 53
Fairfield 56, Quinnipiac 52, OT
Florida Gulf Coast 84, UMass 75
George Washington 78, Charlotte 70
Georgetown 78, Towson 46
Manhattan 60, Marist 38
Monmouth (NJ) 92, Iona 89
Rider 80, Siena 6

TODAY'S GAMES

SOUTHWEST
UC Santa Barbara at SMU, 7 p.m.
Incarnate Word at UTEP, 8 p.m.

SOUTH
Johnston & Wales (NC) at Campbell, 6 p.m.
Montreat at Chattanooga, 6 p.m.
Yale at Florida, 6 p.m.
Savannah St. at Miami, 6 p.m.
Coppin St. at Norfolk St., 6 p.m.
NC A&T at Md.-Eastern Shore, 6:30 p.m.
Bethune-Cookman at SC State, 6:30 p.m.

MIDWEST
Kansas St. at Butler, 6 p.m.
IPFW at Purdue, 6 p.m.
North Dakota at Minnesota, 8 p.m.

FAR WEST
Nebraska-Omaha at Air Force, 8 p.m.

EAST
Caldwell at Binghamton, 6 p.m.
Albany (NY) at Bucknell, 6 p.m.
Boston U. at Harvard, 6 p.m.
Sacred Heart at Lafayette, 6 p.m.
Brown at Providence, 8 p.m.

Women

TOP 25 FARED THIS WEEK

1. South Carolina (8-0) beat North Carolina Central 90-26; beat Charlotte 82-61; beat No. 9 Duke 51-50.
2. Notre Dame (8-1) beat No. 15 Maryland



TCU guard Veja Hamilton (3) battles Texas A&M guard Tori Scott (15) during the first half Sunday in Fort Worth.

No. 5 Texas A&M women beat TCU

No. 5 Aggies 82
Horned Frogs 71

Associated Press

FORT WORTH — Courtney Walker and No. 5 Texas A&M used their defense to overcome a sloppy game on the offensive side for the Aggies.

Walker scored 21 points, and Texas A&M held TCU to 33 percent shooting in an 82-71 victory on Sunday.

Courtney Williams had 12 points and 12 rebounds for the Aggies (9-0), who led 31-21 at the break. Jordan Jones added 13 points and six assists.

"We knew this was a trap game," Texas A&M coach Gary Blair said. "I have always had trouble playing anywhere at TCU because they always come to play and do a great job. They never give up, and they hung in there."

The Aggies had a 70-53 lead after Walker made a jumper with 3:47 to go. But TCU (4-3) responded with a 10-2 run to get within nine.

Curtcy Knox then hit two free throws with 1:46 remaining to get Texas A&M back on track.

Zahna Medley scored 19 points for the Horned Frogs, and Donielle Breaux had 12 points and seven rebounds. Chelsea Prince added 10 points, seven boards and six steals.

TCU was 6 for 32 from the field in the first half. It was 24 for 72 for the game, and was out-rebounded 50-42 by the Aggies.

"Shooting 18 percent in the first half and being down 10 at the half is a testament of how great this team can be," TCU coach Raegan Pebley said. "Texas A&M is an excellent team, and I want to



Texas A&M center Rachel Mitchell (23) attempts a layup as TCU guard Veja Hamilton (3) defends during the first half Sunday in Fort Worth.

keep imploring upon our team that we can and will compete at this level."

Texas A&M scored the first 10 points of the game. It started the second half with a 7-0 run to open a 38-21 lead.

The Aggies were hurt by 23 turnovers.

"A lot of our turnovers were from being inefficient in the fast break," Walker said. "We were running a whole lot and playing a lot of rec ball in the first half. We slowed it down and our point guards handled it better in the second half."

QUOTABLE

Blair, whose wife graduated from TCU, expressed his condolences to the TCU community for its

TEXAS ROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Men

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN 84 OUACHITA 60
NACOGDOCHES — Jacob Parker had 23 points, eight rebounds and four steals in Stephen F. Austin's 84-60 win over Division II Ouachita Baptist on Sunday.

The Lumberjacks (6-3) went on a 14-0 run midway through the second half for a 64-40 lead and they maintained a comfortable advantage from there.

SFA scored 30 of its points on 37 free-throw attempts and another 30 from the 3-point line on 10-of-20 shooting. Parker was 14 of 16 on free throws and Trey Pinkney was 9 of 10. Pinkney and Jared Johnson had 11 points each, and Clide Geffrard scored 10.

Johnson's 3-pointer with 11:46 left in the first half put the Jacks ahead for good and sparked an 18-5 run that extended the lead to 30-19. Colt Fason had 14 points and David Berete had 10 to lead Ouachita.

Women

SAN FRANCISCO 85 HOUSTON BAPTIST 54
SAN FRANCISCO — Tim Derksen and Mark Tollesen each scored 12 points and San Francisco shot past Houston Baptist, 85-54 on Sunday night.

The Dons remained unbeaten at home and won for the fifth time in eight games, bouncing back from a 72-55 loss at Colorado Wednesday.

The Huskies (3-3) tied the game at 21 with under three minutes to play in the first half, but San Francisco closed with a 12-2 run for a 33-23 halftime advantage, then opened the second with the first seven points to push the lead to 17.

Kruize Perkins, who leads the Dons in scoring at 15.9 points per game, contributed 11 points. San Francisco shot 55.6 percent from the field (25 of 45) and 8 of 14 from distance.

Reveal Chukwujekwu and Marcel Smith each scored 10 points to lead Houston Baptist. The Huskies struggled from the field, connecting on just 16 of 51 attempts (31.4 percent).

Women

NO. 11 BAYLOR 96 MISSISSIPPI 54

OXFORD, Miss. — Nina Davis scored a career-high 43 points and grabbed nine rebounds to lead No. 11 Baylor to a 96-54 rout of Mississippi on Sunday.

Tied at 15 with 11:55 to play in the first half, Baylor closed on 29-4 run to take a 44-19 lead at the break. Davis scored 20 points in the first half, including the last seven points of the half.

Davis was 14 of 17 from the floor and made 15 of 19 free throws. She surpassed her previous career-best of 32 points against Western Kentucky in the first round of the NCAA Tournament last season.

Niya Johnson had 11 assists and Kristina Higgins grabbed 10 boards for Baylor (6-1), which shot 34 of 61 from the floor for 55.7 percent.

Tia Falero had nine points, 12 rebounds and five blocks to lead Mississippi (6-3), which has lost its last two games by double digits.

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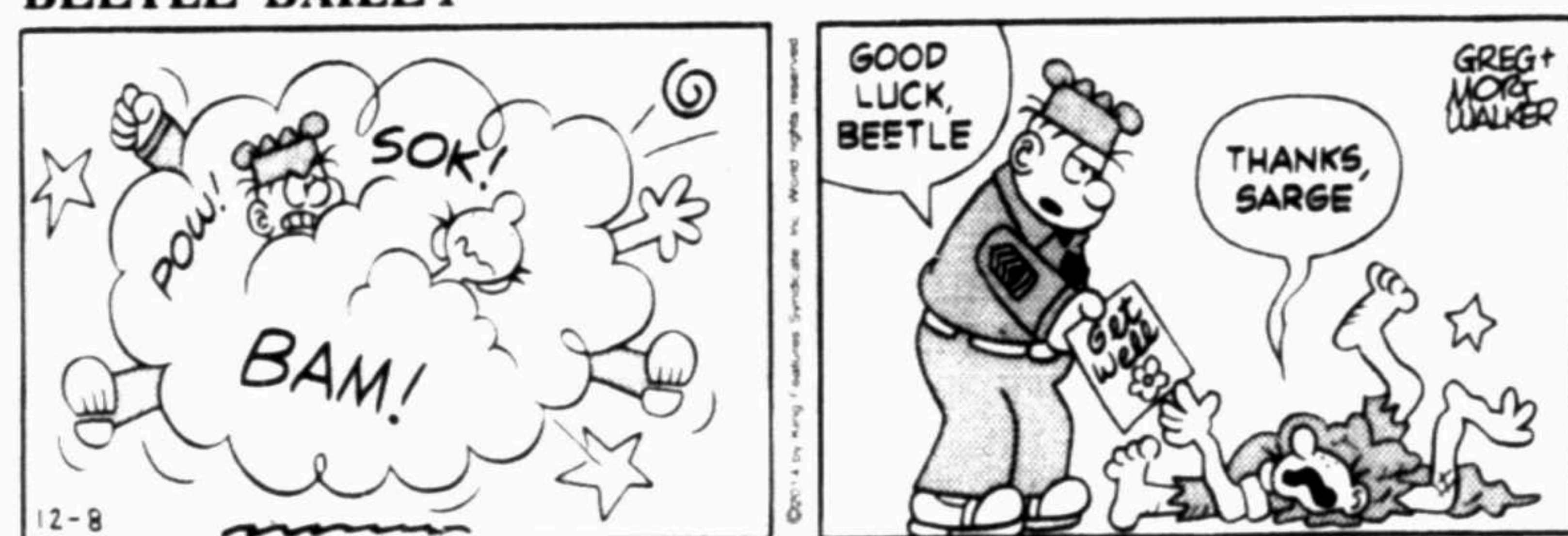
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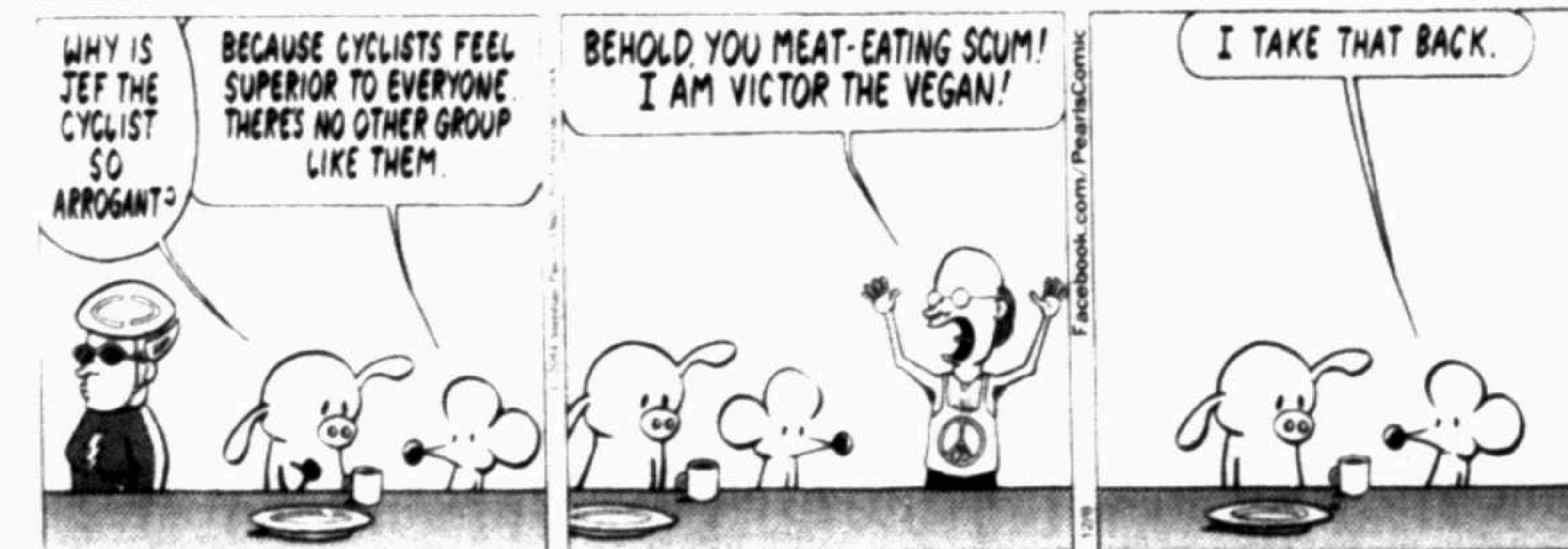
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PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



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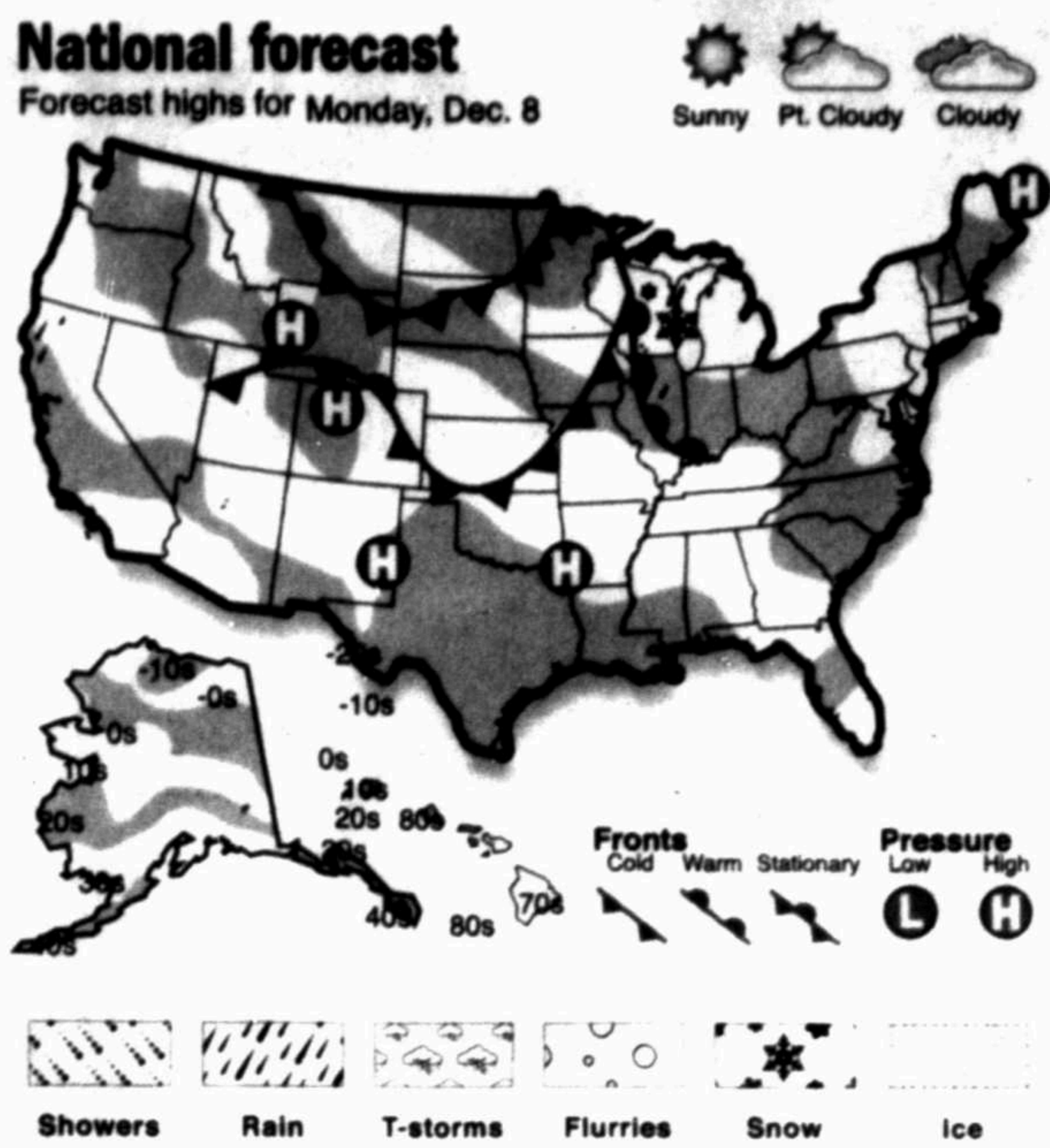
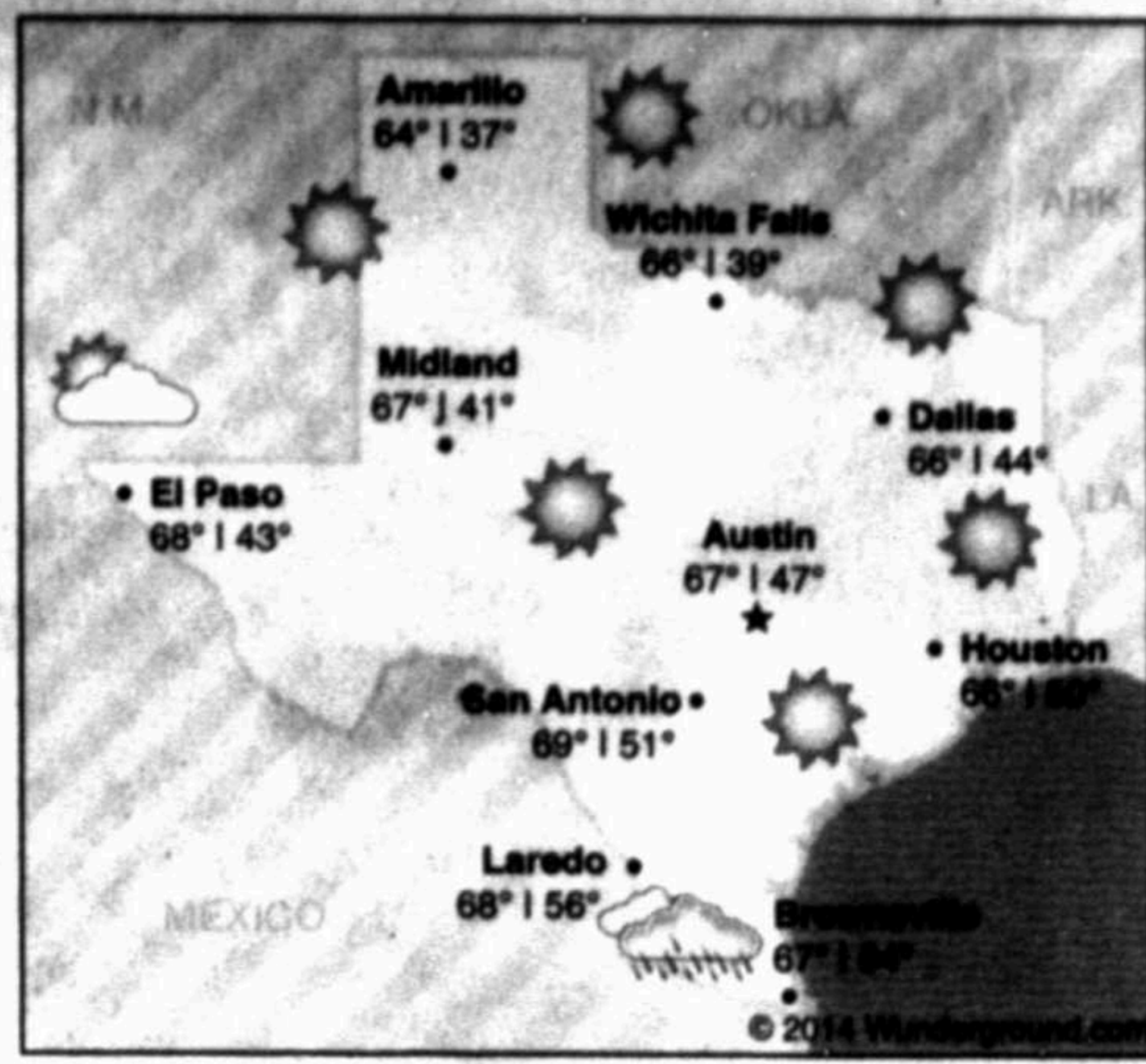
TODAY: Sunny High: 63 Low: 42	TUESDAY: Partly sunny High: 60 Low: 46	WEDNESDAY: Mostly cloudy High: 60 Low: 47	THURSDAY: Mostly sunny High: 62 Low: 48	FRIDAY: Sunny High: 66 Low: 48	SATURDAY: Mostly sunny High: 68 Low: 48
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Local forecast

Areas of fog before noon today. Otherwise, sunny, with a high near 63. Calm winds becoming southeast around 5 mph in the afternoon. Partly cloudy tonight, with a low around 42. Southeast wind around 5 mph.

Partly sunny Tuesday, with a high near 60 and south winds 5 to 10 mph.

The high on Sunday reached 55, while the low dropped to 46. The record high for Dec. 7 is 83, set in 1977. The record low is 6, set in 2005.



National forecast

A chilly dome of high pressure will encompass the East Coast today.

While most areas will begin the week with dry weather, moisture streaming in off of the Atlantic will lead to a couple of rain showers along most shorelines. There will be a brisk wind.

The showers are the seeds of what will become a major winter storm across the Northeast from Tuesday through Thursday. This storm will bring substantial snowfall to the interior with heavy rain near and along the coast. In the transition zone from snow to rain, a wintry mix is likely to occur.

Precipitation		Sunday's temperatures	
Saturday	0.00 in.	High	55
Sunday	0.01 in.	Low	46
Month total	0.01 in.	Normal high	59
Year total	7.45 in.	Normal low	32
Normal total (year to date)	14.12 in.	Sunrise	7:36 a.m.
		Sunset	5:44 p.m.

Wife of deaf husband seeks to cope in new surroundings

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Norm," has become profoundly deaf. He has a cochlear implant in one ear and a hearing aid in the other; neither has helped much. He has extreme difficulty with speech recognition. We can talk together in the quiet of our home as long as I sit right next to him and speak slowly. We use assisted-listening devices to communicate with each other in the car or at a restaurant.

Norm's hearing loss has affected us as a couple. We no longer have a social life. When Norm and I are out together, we become "invisible" to other couples. It's just too much work for anyone to communicate with us.

We are about to move to a retirement community where one meal a day is included in the dining room. I'm worried about how we will navigate the social aspects of eating with others, who will rapidly decide they don't want to eat with us again because of the difficulty of trying to chat with Norm.

Norm is well aware of this problem. He has proposed that he eat alone in our apartment while I go to the dining room and meet people, unencumbered by his impairment. Can you advise? — TRAPPED IN A SITUATION

DEAR TRAPPED: Before moving into the retirement

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.

community, make a point of discussing your husband's severe hearing impairment with the director, the nurse and/or their medical adviser because they need to be made aware of your husband's special needs in order to be able to accommodate him, if it's possible.

According to the House Clinic in Los Angeles (www.houseclinic.com), he will probably be advised to check in with his otologist (a doctor who specializes in the anatomy and physiology of the ear) to see if anything further can be done to improve his hearing. I hope you will follow through with that suggestion, because advances are being made in this field every year, and it may help your husband be less isolated.

DEAR ABBY: My son took his own life last year. I am raising his small children because their mother is out of the picture. How do I tell them how their daddy died? — GRANDMA IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR GRANDMA: Tell them gradually when they start asking questions. If they ask why Daddy died, say he was very ill. When they want to know what the illness was, tell them he suffered from depression. When they want more details, reveal them in an age-appropriate manner.

GOREN BRIDGE
With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Bidding Quiz

Q 1 — Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠ A Q 10 9 8 3 2 ♠ A ♠ K 9 ♠ 10 3 2
Right-hand opponent opens two hearts, weak. What call would you make?
A — "When their jumps are weak, your jumps are strong." This hand is not quite good enough to bid four spades. Bid three spades, showing 14-16 and a good six-card or longer suit.

Q 2 — Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠ J 7 5 ♠ K ♠ 10 6 5 3 ♠ A K Q 7 5
The bidding:
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
2♥ 3♣ Pass ?
*Weak, six hearts with 5-10 points. What call would you make?
A — Partner's strong jump has essentially set the trump suit. A side-suit bid from you is not an effort to play in your own suit, but a control bid in support of partner. Bid four clubs.

Q 3 — North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠ K 8 7 4 ♠ A J 10 7 2 ♠ K Q 5 ♠ 8
The bidding:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1♣ Pass 1♥ Pass
1♠ Pass ?
What call would you make?
A — Should you and your partner use splinter bids, this is a perfect hand for it. Jump to four clubs, showing a game-forcing spade raise with shortness in clubs. This applies even if partner has bid four spades, as here. Without splinters, bid five spades.

Q 4 — East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠ 9 ♠ Q J 10 9 8 7 6 2 ♠ 7 2 ♠ 8 3
As dealer, what call would you make?
A — There is not much to be proud of here, but favorable vulnerability is no time to be timid. Open four hearts, proudly.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS	3 "Lisa"	38 Encouragement	48 Leader of the Huns
1 "Mia" ABBA musical	4 Saturated hillside hazards	for a flamenco dancer	50 Strong points
6 Bit of baby talk	5 Kerfuffle	39 Part of mph	52 Cuts into cubes
10 Defensive trench	6 Fuel for semis	40 '60s radical gp.	55 Exam for high school jrs.
14 So all can hear	7 "Dawn of the Planet of the ..."	42 Mouse sound	56 Suffix with million
15 Apple MP3 player	8 Sleep lightly	43 "Far out, man!"	58 Knee-showing skirt
16 Makes mistakes	9 Wood-shaping tool	44 Bhagavad-Gita student, likely	59 Lion's share
17 Secretary of state before Hillary Clinton	10 Travis or Haggard of country music	45 "I'll take that as ..."	60 Vending machine bills
20 Approx. landing hours	11 Point in the proper direction	46 Blows one's own horn	62 QB's gains
21 To be, to Caesar	12 Pinball player's place	47 Em, to Dorothy	63 Had a bite
22 Golf shoe feature	13 Dangerous fly		
23 Theater level	18 Not prohibited		
25 Changes for the better	19 High points		
26 Score symbol that usually has a stem	24 South American tuber		
31 Shirt with a band's logo, maybe	25 "One thing ... time"		
32 shower: pre-wedding event	26 Management deg.		
33 Correct a pencil mistake	27 Coffee vessel		
35 Throw in the first chips	28 Obedience school command		
36 Dude	29 Far from cool		
37 Swabbing tools	30 Gold, in Granada		
41 New England fish	34 Moved to a new country		
44 Flagged down	36 Hunk's physique		
46 Word repeated before "black sheep"			
49 Digit-shaped sponge cakes			
51 Performed better than			
53 close to schedule			
54 Shenanigan			
55 Cowpoke's pal			
57 Target practice supply			
61 Spot between a rock and a hard place ... or a hint to the ends of 17-, 26- and 49-			

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, Dec. 8, 2014:

This year others often have to step back and regroup when they have conversations with you, as you will be revealing more of your thought processes. You will like brainstorming with one person specifically. If you are single, the desire for a relationship becomes more prominent in your thoughts. You will have the opportunity to meet two potentially great matches. Choosing might be fun or problematic, depending on your point of view. If you are attached, the two of you will learn to respect each other's perspectives. The romance between you will improve as a result. **CANCER** draws out your vulnerabilities.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★★ Information that heads your way will be clear and precise. Your mind might take the facts down a new path to create different scenarios. At times, you could feel confused by everything that is happening around you. Allow space for changes. Tonight: Happily relax at home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ A partnership could carry you past a problem. New information seems to muddy up the waters. Seek out more facts, but don't discount some of the vague details you've already heard. Detach, and you'll gain an unexpected insight. Tonight: Catch up on emails.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ You could be very forthright, but attaining clarity with a money matter might be tough. An unexpected revelation might help to open up the topic. Pace yourself, and approach a key person in a levelheaded way. The unexpected will play a role in decision-making. Tonight: Stay calm.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★ You could feel awkward when dealing with someone at a distance. This person will be more significant than you might realize. You'll want to rethink a difficult problem involving someone who reflects and responds very differently from you. Tonight: As you like it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★ Put the finishing touches on a project. A conversation with a loved one could be more significant than you realize. This person serves as a muse for you more often than not. Detaching from the here and now only adds to your creative energy. Tonight: Live in the moment.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ You might want to rethink a decision more carefully. Your

ability to understand others' motives and what is going on with them seems to mark your decisions. You could be feeling a bit awkward with everything that is happening around you. Tonight: In the middle of the action.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★★ You might be blunt, but that is not your usual style. Know what you want, and you will know the path on which to proceed. Others seem very excitable. Listen carefully, but don't commit to anything that makes you uncomfortable. Tonight: Where the action is.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ Take a moment to see the whole situation rather than react to what someone else is saying. You know and understand much more than what you are sharing. Stay centered, and focus on what is possible. A conversation could prove to be important. Tonight: Play out a fantasy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★ You could have more clout than you realize. Start a conversation with a loved one, and you will see that this is true. Listen to your inner voice when dealing with a key person in your life, and trust in your natural appeal. Tonight: A quiet dinner with a friend.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★★ You would be wise not to push others or display your dominant side. Many people around you seem to be showing their muscles. The best approach is to avoid conflict. You could feel uncomfortable in an animated discussion. Expect the unexpected. Tonight: Go along for the ride.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★ Your focus continues to be work and on the end results. A new interest or hobby could be taking up more time than you realize. A friend or partner might not be thrilled about seeing you less. Consider ways to free up your schedule more. Tonight: Where your friends are.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★ Your sense of direction is strong. You know how to prioritize and get a lot done. Be prepared for a spontaneous interruption from a friend. Use caution with your money. Risks need to be weighed carefully before you launch into action. Tonight: A must appearance.

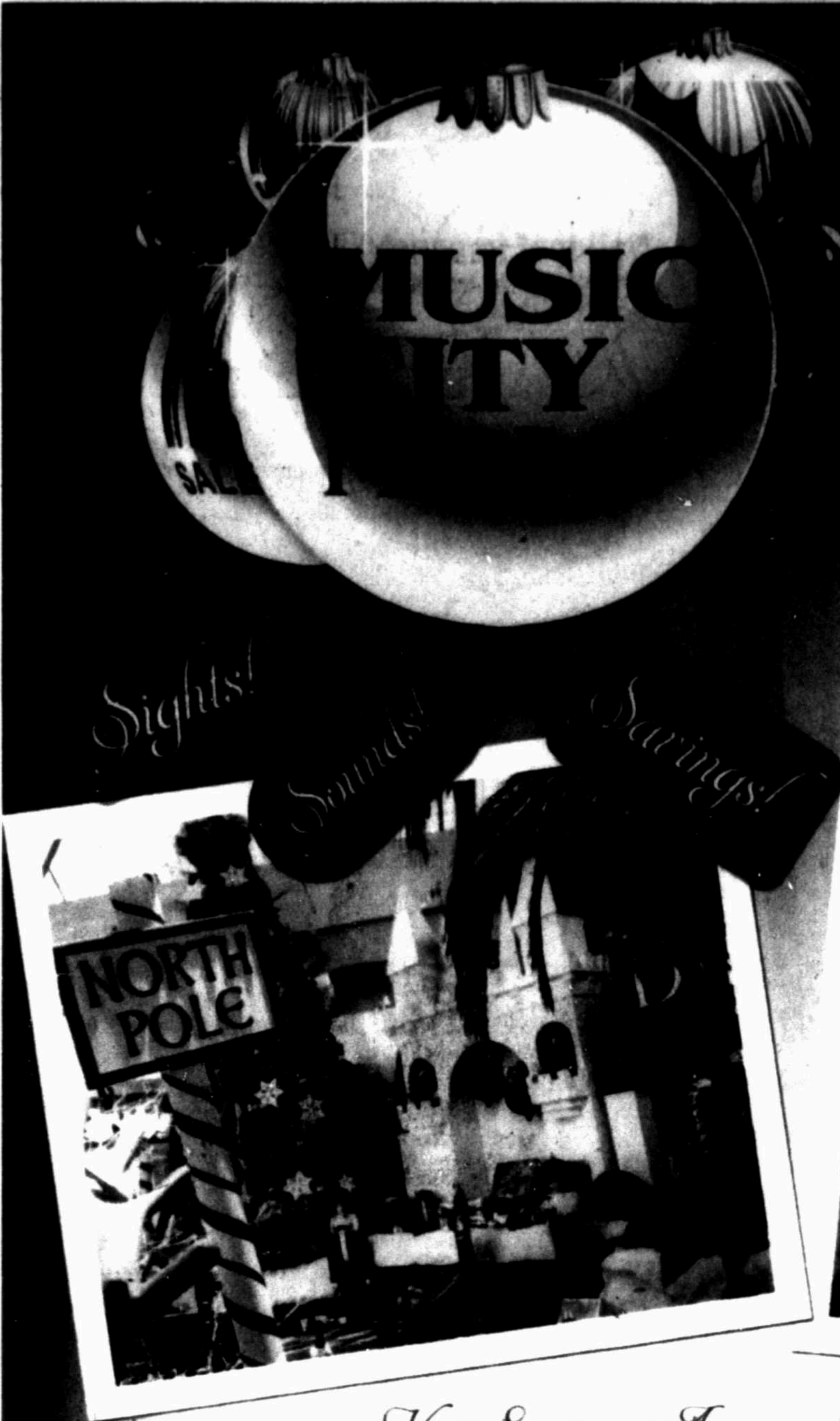
BORN TODAY
Singer/songwriter Jim Morrison (1943), football player Philip Rivers (1981), actress Teri Hatcher (1964)

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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xwordeditor@aol.com 12/08/14

By C.W. Stewart
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Visit Santa • Amazing Decorations • Online Games

Come visit Santa Claus at the Dillard's Courtyard! Every child receives a free gift. Plus with over 100 merchants to choose from, you'll find the perfect gift for all on your list! And check out our website musiccitymall.net for fun new interactive children's games!

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OUR HAPPY KIDS.
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That's because the MCM Grande FUNDome has a brand new expanded indoor PLAYground with a larger slide, ball pool and climbing wall. Reserve your PLAYcation today. FREE breakfast with eggs cooked-to-order, FREE happy hour, indoor outdoor pool, miniature golf, ping pong, comfy beds and our awesome new PLAYground.

Enjoy Christmas With Us

Roast Prime Rib of Beef
Carved by the Chef

Baked Virginia Ham
Carved by the Chef

Herb Roasted Tom Turkey
with Cornbread Dressing and Giblet Gravy

Homemade Mashed Potatoes, Southwest Green Beans, Corn, Hot Rolls with Butter

Waffles and Eggs Cooked to Order
Along with a Full Breakfast Buffet

Mexican Buffet with Menudo, Fajitas, Enchiladas Tamales, Rice, Refried Beans, Asado, Caldo and Flour Tortillas

Assortment of Garden Fresh Salads

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December 25th
10am 2pm
Plenty of Seating Available for Large Parties

Adults \$24.95
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Children 6-11 \$9.99
5 & Under Free

(Price does not include drinks, tax and gratuity)

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PLACING AN AD: Call 682-6222 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. A friendly Advertising Consultant will help you want and schedule your ad for best results.

Midland Reporter-Telegram Classifieds 682-6222

GENERAL INFO

To ensure the integrity of our newspaper, for the benefit of our readers and advertisers, the Midland Reporter-Telegram reserves the right to revise, reclassify, edit or refuse any advertising. We also reserve the right to convert all advertising into digital and/or print formats within our other products and services.

Please check your ad the first day it appears, and, if you find a mistake, please call our office at 682-6222 so we can correct the error immediately. This will ensure that your ad is exactly what you want readers to see.

Rate charges are determined at the time of placement. All ads accepted are subject to credit approval. Some classifications require payment in advance. Credit applications are required for business accounts.

We welcome suggestions or comments. Please call: Jeri Houston, Advertising Sales Manager, 687-8894.



Surprise your child, parent, or special friend with a Happy Ad! Happy Birthday! Congratulations! Welcome Home! Graduation Day!

We'll help you design something unique and publish it in the Midland Reporter-Telegram Classifieds...whatever the occasion!

Publish a special memorial to mark the passing of a loved one with an "In Memory Of" ad. Include a poem, prayer, and/or the names of all who care. Also, express your appreciation to

everyone who brought food, sent flowers, or was there for you when you needed them most with a "Card of Thanks." We'll help you design a respectful, thoughtful ad.

Ads containing art or photos need to be in our office 2 working days before the ad is to be published and we ask that you pay in advance.

Table with columns: WORD ADS, PUBLISHES ON, DEADLINE IS. Includes days like Sun, Wed, Thu, Fri and corresponding deadlines.

Table with columns: DISPLAY ADS, PUBLISHES ON, DEADLINE IS. Includes days like Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and corresponding deadlines.

Midland Reporter-Telegram • The People To People Marketplace • 201 E. Illinois

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY Proposed Flood Hazard Determinations for the City of Odessa and the Unincorporated Areas of Midland County, Texas, Case No. 14-06-2140P.

General Announcements: BETTER READ Mark Berryhill.com. Lost & Found: FOUND KEYS in Lee High School vicinity. LOST FEMALE miniature Shi Tzu.

Business Center: LUCRATIVE CONSTRUCTION company for sale. Health issues force sale Equipment, trailers, tools.

Passenger Cars: PONTIAC 2000 Trans Am W56, black, black leather interior. SPECIAL OFFER! Chevy 1974 Impala.

Pickup Trucks: DODGE 2000 Ram 2500HD quad cab. CHEVROLET 2005 Suburban Z71 4x4.

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY Notice of Draft Federal Operating Permit Draft Permit No. O3111 Application and Draft Permit: Atlas Pipeline Mid-Continent WestTex, LLC.

Exotic Cars: 2012 FORD Mustang Boss 302 14K miles. NISSAN 2008 Titan 5.6L white approx 28k miles.

Vans & Minivans: CHRYSLER 2003 Wheelchair Ramp Van, cold air, no dents. DODGE 2006 Caravan.

RVs: 1999 JAYCO Eagle 5th wheel travel trailer. 2005 DUTCHMAN 26 Travel Trailer.

Public Comment/Notice and Comment Hearing: Any person may submit written comments on the draft permit. Comments relating to the accuracy, completeness, and appropriateness of the permit conditions may result in changes to the draft permit.

SUDOKU THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group. Includes a 9x9 grid and a solution table.

mrt.com/jobs

ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE

ENTRY LEVEL ACCOUNTANTS
Endeavor Energy Resources, LP is looking for entry level accountants with an Accounting Degree. We will train! Excellent benefits include free medical insurance, access to the Endeavor Energy Family Clinic, 401(K) plan and more! Apply online through our careers page at www.endeavorenergy.com.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT & PUBLISHING

Editorial
The Midland Reporter-Telegram is looking for help with coverage of events happening in Midland. If you are interested in coming in on a daily or regular basis, taking care of local reports and learning the business, please contact Editor Stewart Doreen at 687-8856 or sdoreen@mrt.com. Writing samples are required. Interested candidates should have their own transportation and could work as many as 25 hours a week.

CLERICAL & ADMINISTRATIVE

Clerical Position
Full time professional clerical position available including reception duties, email, filing, etc., with local oil related company. Computer skills, basic math skills, Microsoft Office (Word, Excel), mannerly phone etiquette and dress are essential. Monday - Friday 8 to 5. Salary with benefit package available. Interested candidates should forward resume to angelalong@gmail.com.

Office Assistant / Receptionist
Part time. Four days per week. Computer savvy, good communication skills. Send resume to Dee Carter, 1030 Andrews Hwy., Ste. 105, 79701 or call 685-1372 for confidential interview.

Receptionist
Receptionist needed for busy Land Surveying office. Duties include answering phones, filing, upkeep of storage area, and other duties as assigned. Also, job entails running errands using personal vehicle. Mileage reimbursement based on IRS's standard mileage rate. Salary based on experience and is negotiable. Email jwornack@windearthwater.com.

ENERGY & UTILITIES

Experienced Air Valve & Cylinder Repairman
Will drug test. Apply at 2423 W Hillmont Odessa, TX 79764. 432-366-0228.

Oilfield Positions
Oilfield Construction Company looking to hire experienced Heavy Equipment Operators, Vacuum Truck Drivers, and Salt-Water Disposal Facility Operators. Please call 325-933-0486 for more information.

O&M Manager and Wind Technician
Invenergy LLC Garden City, TX
Primary responsibilities include performing maintenance and technical support for the Rattlesnake Energy Center, a 207.2 MW wind power generation facility. Qualifications: 1 year of technical experience (mechanical, electrical, I&C, etc.) and/or education in a related discipline; ability to work outdoors in inclement weather; climb ladders without assistance; work at heights greater than 250 ft and manipulate up to 100 lbs. For a complete position description please visit the Career Opportunities section of our website at www.invenergyllc.com and click on "Career Opportunities"

HEALTHCARE

Medical Secretary
Medical secretary for quiet small practice. Must have excellent computer skills. No telephone calls please. Email resume to jmathew@SBGLOBAL.NET

HOSPITALITY & TRAVEL

Maintenance & Front Desk
Holiday Inn Express
5309 W. Loop 250 North
Midland, TX 79707
Now hiring Full Time Maintenance & Front Desk. Professional appearance required. Will train the right person. Serious inquiries only. Apply in person only. No phone calls. Competitive pay.

INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE

MAINTENANCE
Villa Chateau Apartments Full time Maintenance needed. Must have own tools. Drug screen/Background check done. Apply in person at Villa Chateau Apts. 1603 N. Midkiff Rd. Midland, TX 79701. No phone calls please.

MANAGEMENT & EXECUTIVE

Environmental Crew Foreman
Must have: Class A CDL (required with good record), 1 year leadership Exp. and Be able to work in adverse weather conditions. Applicants can fax a resume to 432-682-4182 or come by 2400 S. Loop 250W Midland, TX 79703

OTHER JOBS

CARETAKER
Caretaker for small ranch and animals/dogs, horses. Salary and Housing provided. Non-smokers and no drinking. References required. Call 432-413-2881

Employment Specialist, Resident Guard & Cooks
Looking for a second retirement? Company funded, 100% vested in as little as 6 years. Please apply online at www.dimas.com or in person at 24 W Industrial Loop, Midland, TX. Residential re-entry center wants Cooks, Guard 1, and Employment Specialist.

Event Coverage
The Midland Reporter-Telegram is looking for help with coverage of events happening in Midland. If you are interested in coming in on a daily or regular basis, taking care of local reports and learning the business, please contact Editor Stewart Doreen at 687-8856 or sdoreen@mrt.com. Writing samples are required. Interested candidates should have their own transportation and could work as many as 25 hours a week.

House Cleaner/Helper
House cleaner/helper needed! Will be responsible for house work, laundry, windows, and possible errands, three days a week. Start ASAP! Pay DOE! Please call 432-520-3853 or 638-8267.

Immediate Openings
Available in Midland & Odessa area grocery and retail stores.

Now hiring qualified applicants for newspaper subscription sales in our growing company. We offer flexible schedule. Paid Training, excellent work environment, and stable work all year round to our Sales Representatives. Applicants must be Friendly, Professional, Organized and Reliable. Must be 18 years old with a valid drivers license and cell phone. Previous sales or marketing experience is preferred, but not required. Position starts at \$10/Hr with Bonuses and Commissions that can surpass \$50/Hr for above average Sales Reps working part time. Paid Training provided to new new reps. Professionally sell promotional subscriptions at one of our several Kiosk locations in the Midland area. www.FrontlinePromotion.com
For an immediate opportunity, email your resume to Dustin@FrontlinePromotion.com or call 810-875-6301 to join our team.

RESTAURANT & FOOD SERVICE

All Positions
Schlotzsky's Deli hiring for all positions. Full and part time, day and evening shifts. Fun, grease free environment and opportunity for advancement. Apply at 5211 W. Wadley or 1109 Andrews Hwy.

CRACKER BARREL NOW HIRING!
Looking for more pay? Look no more. We provide you with an exceptional training program that rewards you with a raise at the completion of each level. That's up to 3 raises in your first year! We also offer great promotion opportunities, flexible scheduling, paid vacation, benefits and a 401K savings plan.
• SERVERS - No tip outs/ tip share
• GRILL COOKS - Starting at \$15.00
• HOSTS- Starting at \$10.50
Stop by 3108 North Loop 250 West Midland, TX 79707 or call 432-689-3137 www.crackerbarrel.com Cracker Barrel EOE

Host Staff, Cooks and Dishwashers
The Garlic Press is hiring Host Staff, Cooks and Dishwashers. Flexible hours Great work environment and benefits. Apply in person at The Garlic Press in Oak Ridge Square at Wadley and Garfield. 11am-2pm only.

Line Cooks & Dishwashers
Ranchland Hills Golf Club now hiring experienced Line Cooks & Dishwashers & Line Cooks. Apply at 1600 E. Wadley Midland, TX. 79705. No phone calls, please.

Restaurant Positions
Osaka Japanese Steakhouse FT
Pay range from \$18-\$20 an hour, depending on position. Now hiring Hibachi Chefs, Managers, Assistant manager w/ experience, Waitresses, Hostesses, Cashiers, Bartenders, Bus Help, Dishwashers & Kitchen Help. Please apply in person: 1207 Tradewinds Blvd. 79708.

RETAIL JOBS

Cashiers
Smoker's Outlet is looking for Cashiers in the Midland area. We offer competitive wages and a good work environment. Paid weekly. Go by your nearest Smoker's Outlet to apply.

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN IT'S DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR PART TIME DAY ASSOCIATE
Part Time Day Associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE
Must be able to work Monday thru Saturday from 8am-6pm. Tuesday call be here later till about 8 or 9 pm. Need to be able to work on your feet thru 6-8 hour shift. Will work at night occasionally. We will train the right person. Starting pay \$10.00 per hour/after 60 days pay will be \$11.00 per hour.
These positions require some physical lifting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr. shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspaper bundles. Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.
Apply in person at 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk • Monday - Friday 9 am - 5 pm • 432-687-9001

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN IT'S DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR NIGHT TIME ASSOCIATE
Night time associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE
Must be able to count at a fast pace. Be able to work between the hours of 12-6 am Sunday night thru Friday night and be able to work Saturday night 8pm -4am Will be working inside and outside depending on the job you are doing that night Will be 5-6 nights per week. We will train the right person. Starting pay \$10.00 per hour/after 60 days pay will be \$11.00 per hour.
These positions require some physical lifting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr. shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspaper bundles. Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.
Apply in person at 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk • Monday - Friday 9 am - 5 pm • 432-687-9001

Supplement your income by delivering newspapers for a few hours between 12:00am - 6:00am. The Midland Reporter-Telegram is looking for individuals who are interested in delivering newspapers in and around the City of Midland. If interested, MUST have automobile insurance in your name, a valid driver's license, and this is a 7 day a week delivery commitment as an independent Contractor.
If interested in starting a new career, please call Roger Wallace at 432-687-9001 or stop by The Midland Reporter-Telegram 201 E. Illinois Ave., Midland, TX 79701

THE PROFIT FOR THESE ROUTES IS ABOUT \$650-\$1,000 a month, depending on the size of the route. This is a perfect way to generate the extra money you need.

Sales Associates
DuraSeal Coatings Company LLC is looking for sales associates in the protective coatings industry for the downhole oil and gas market. DuraSeal is technology driven and expanding rapidly.
• Must have a minimum of 5 yrs prior sales experience in the O&G industry.
• Demonstrated ability of closing & growing sales
• Must have excellent oral and verbal communication skills
• Must be computer and internet literate
• Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering, Industrial Distribution, Petroleum Engineering or a related field is preferred
• Coatings knowledge is a plus, but not required.
Please send your resume to jobs@durasealcoatings.com

Chemist
CHEMIST Environmental Laboratory BS or Better. Fax 806-794-1298 Email: bltewich@traceanalysis.com

Backhoe Operator
Looking For an experienced Backhoe Operator, with a CDL is a must. Please feel free to contact Moses @ 432-254-5948 or 432-528-6360

Electrician
TTG Company Inc. is looking for an Electrician. Please call Felix Montoya at 254-535-3143

Field Mechanic
Basin Engine and Pump
Field Mechanics needed for Industrial Oilfield Shop. Uniforms provided. Experience is required. Furnish your own tools. Benefits package includes vacation, health insurance and retirement match savings. Salary depends on experience. Please submit resume by fax to 432-570-1115 or email to shawn@basinengine.com. Applications may be filled out at 1914 S. County Rd. 1083, Midland, TX.

Field Techs
Torcsill Foundations, LLC is hiring Field Techs. Must have CDL and pass pre-employment screenings. Email resumes to asmith@torcsill.com or apply in person at 1300 Dayton Rd, Midland.

FINISH BLADE OPERATORS NEEDED
For West Texas area. Experience, references & TDL required. Call Brent @ 830-221-8666 or 830-837-0902, Monday through Friday 8am-5pm only. Acme Bridge Co. is EOE

Flow Back/Well Test
Experienced flow back/well test supervisors and operators. Send resume to Flowback Division, PO Box 791, Hobbs, NM 88241 or call Beth at 575-397-3590.

Maintenance/Construction
The Hilliard Companies has an opening for maintenance/construction personnel. Person should be knowledgeable in all areas of general commercial building, residential, automobile and other common maintenance/construction duties. Please send resume to: careers@mmbco.com or call 432-683-9100 for more information. Office at 3001 W. Loop 250 N. Ste. E-127, Midland, TX.

Mechanic
Midland based service company looking for mechanic to maintain light fleet. Must have own tools salary based on experience. send resume to baum40@gmail.com or call for appt. 432-664-6982

PRESSMAN
The Midland Reporter-Telegram has an immediate opening in its Production Department for the position of: PRESSMAN for our Harris N 1650 Printing presses. This 5-6 day per week, fast paced, deadline oriented position, requires: night shift/weekend work, with a strong emphasis on safety. The Midland Reporter-Telegram offers a full package of company benefits including 401K program. Salary DOE. Send resume and salary requirements to: John Maddox, Director of Production/Facilities c/o Midland Reporter-Telegram 201 E. Illinois St., Midland, TX 79701. E-mail: jmaddox@hearstnp.com. Midland Reporter-Telegram is part of Hearst Corporation. NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE

EARN UP TO \$500 PER WEEK!
Do you have a reliable car with insurance and a phone??
Become an independent contractor delivering the Midland Reporter-Telegram.
Contact: Linda 687-8807

Veterinary Technician
Now hiring for a full time Veterinary Technician. Must have experience with IDEXX machines, Radiology, blood draw and specimen collection. Benefits after 90 days. Apply in person at Town & Country Veterinary Hospital, 3408 W. Loop 250 N., Midland, TX

Water Treatment Plant Operator
Seminole, Texas - BW Primoris "BWP", a wholly-owned subsidiary of Primoris Services Corporation, Inc., is seeking a certified groundwater operator to operate and maintain newly constructed reverse osmosis facilities located in Seminole, Texas (located between Lubbock and Midland/Odessa). BWP will own and operate the treatment facilities. The facilities are specifically designed to remove arsenic, fluoride and lower TDS. BWP has executed a 40 year agreement with the city to provide this service. This position will be responsible for the operation and maintenance for the newly constructed reverse osmosis facilities in Seminole. The successful candidate must have, at a minimum, a valid TCEQ groundwater "C" license. Previous experience operating RO plants or surface water treatment plant experience is required. BW Primoris provides excellent pay and an outstanding array of employee benefits, designed with our employees and their families in mind. We are a Drug-Free Workplace and an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or protected veteran status. Interested, qualified candidates should email their current resume, cover letter and salary expectations to: Stuart Purvis, Operations Manager, at spurvis@bwprimoris.com. Please visit www.bwprimoris.com.

Owner / Operators Drivers
Ricky Shuler Trucking is looking for Drivers who are wanting to become Owner/ Operators. Equipment: single cab tractor leased to own purchase, trailer furnished but will remain property of Ricky Shuler Trucking. Must have CDL - A with Tanker/ Hazmat endorsements, strong work history, crude oil hauling experience & must pass DOT, drug/ alcohol requirements. Owner/ Operators willing to relocate or currently residing in the following areas, Big Spring, TX, Andrews, TX, Pecos, TX., Artesia, N.M. & Carlsbad, N.M. Contact Phyllis @ 432-623-1084 between 9am & 4pm for additional information & application.

Marty's Marketplace

Leading you to the best bargains in the Permian Basin

Merchandise

Antiques

NEW TODAY!

HIGH-END (Estate) specialty fox and mink furs for sale. Have appraisals. Please email Kelly at liquidgoldpetro@gmail.com

Appliances

We buy broken appliances w/ free removal. Also we repair appliances. 432-670-8278

Furniture

COUCH \$300, living room chair \$100, brown round dining table w/ 4 chairs \$300, coffee table w/ 2 end tables \$100, coffee table \$40, gazelle \$75. Call 785-661-4112 or 785-667-3457.

HARDWOOD FURNITURE for sale. 6 bookcases, hutch, desk, dining room set for 6, dresser, end tables. \$50 - \$250 OBO. Must be able to pick-up. 940-300-3708

Industrial Products & Supplies

Heavy Equipment

1981 JOY-ROBBINS Water Well Drilling Rig. Located in Big Spring, TX. Please call Raul at 432-813-7376 for details.

Home Items

DELL L.T. computer, antique curio, Total Gym, Ab Builder, antique hall tree, 10 tray dehydrator, antique ironing board, lift chair, twin headboard. (432) 699-6866

FIREWOOD FOR sale \$85 half cord MIXED. Call 432-296-9040

OAK, PECAN, mesquite, pinon. 432-209-0416, 325-782-4262.

Animals & Pets

AKC WESTIES puppies. 2 males, 4 months old, shots, trained, championship pedigree. \$550. 432-694-0258.

Pets

CHRISTMAS PUPPIES! AKC, Toy, Black and White Parti Schnauzers will be ready 12/23. \$700. One boy and one girl left. For pics go to: snazzyschnauzers.com. 432-296-2316

FREE KITTENS!! spoiled kittens to good home only. 1 solid gray, 3 gray/orange mix. 432-934-3625

LAB PUPPIES AKC & started dogs. Hips/eye guaranteed. Training available. Pooles Labs. www.pooleslabs.com. Call (806) 633-4364.

TINY PRECIOUS kitten black with white face & feet potty trained and playful. Free to good loving home. 432-694-0498.

LABRADOODLES CHRISTMAS special. All designer colors reduced to \$1,000 all solids reduced to \$600.00 CKC. Health guarantee. Current shots, hypoallergenic, shed free. M F many exciting colors to choose from. www.luvdoodles.com 575-638-8370, 575-418-7721

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682-6222

Appliances

AAA Appliance 15 min pickup. 432-556-0104 / 432-528-3046

Free Stuff

4 CUTE abandoned puppies, lab mix. Need good homes. Call 432-238-9533

FREE WOODEN PALLETS!

Midland Reporter-Telegram (on dock side)

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

RVs

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NEW LISTINGS!

VISTA DEL SOL-A new subdivision in Greenwood, six new homes currently under construction by Permian Basin Covenant Homes. Both 3 and 4 bedroom homes situated on 1+ acre lots. Prices range from \$296,950 to \$349,900.

2814 S Co Rd 1089-New home under construction in Cleo Vista. One of the last lots in the subdivision. 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, formal dining room, granite countertops, tile flooring, fenced yard, 4.874 acres. \$387,900.00

2403 METZ PLACE-Large 5 bedroom home on a cul-de-sac, this home has-2 living areas, formal dining, sequoia master bedroom, kitchen/breakfast room, tile flooring, two car rear entry garage, only. \$348,000.00

701 & 703 S BIG SPRING STREET-2 lots zoned LR--2, opportunity to have a business in a high traffic area. \$120,000.00

708 S BIG SPRING STREET-Operating auto repair shop. Lots of possibilities if purchased with 701 and 703 S Big Spring. \$162,000.00

3368 S CO RD 1189-Ready for a new subdivision or commercial location, no deed restrictions. 99.61 acres with proven water. Great location on County Rd 1050 and Co Rd 120. Call for details. \$1,543,998.00

VISTA DEL SOL-Lots are still available in this new subdivision. Prices range from \$21,000 to \$58,000 per acre. While rail fence is around each lot. Located North of FM 307 on County Road 1120.

North COUNTY RD. 1130-29.1 Acres zoned residential, great location to build your dream home. Easy access to loop 250. \$275,494.00

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Residential Sales

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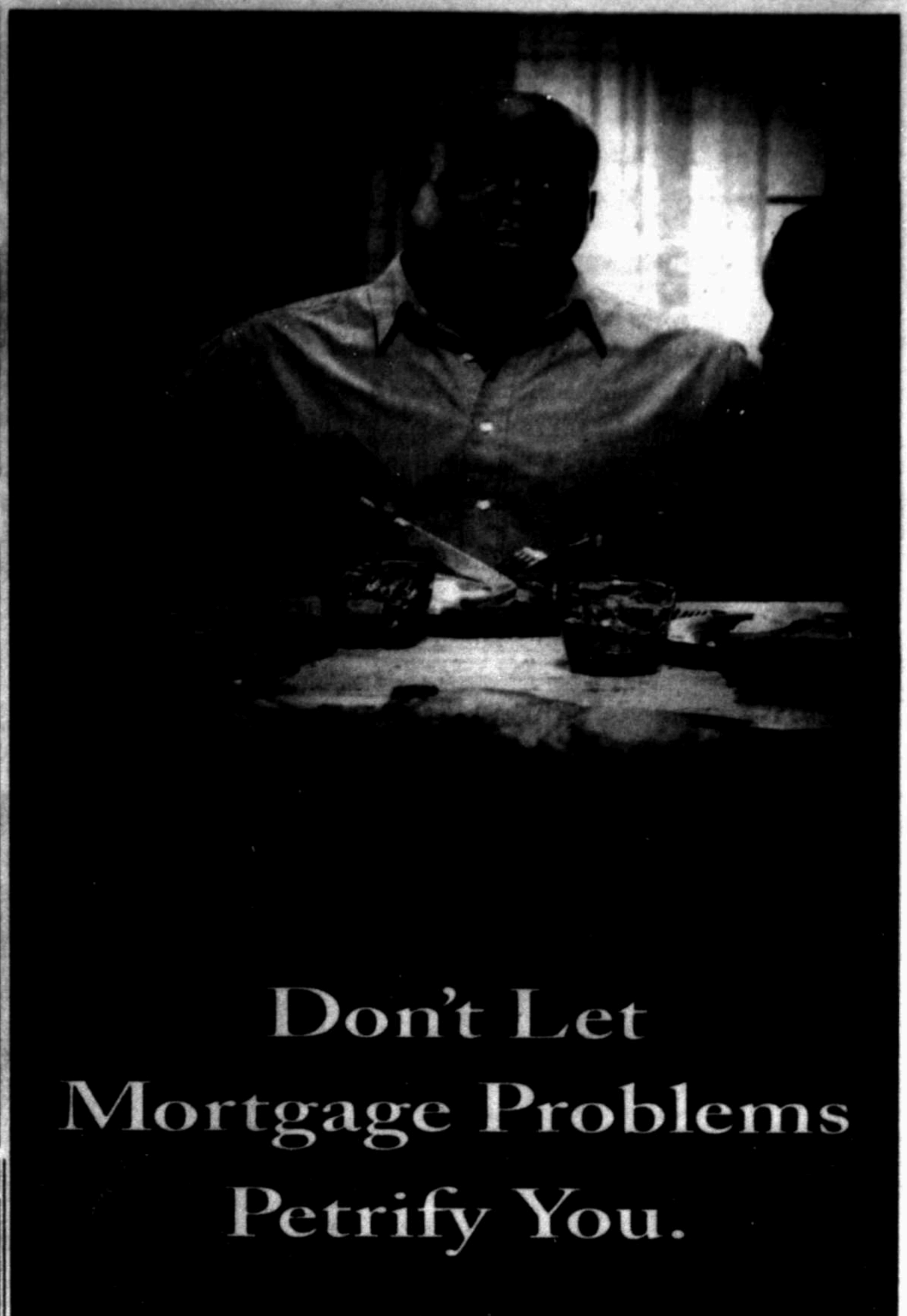
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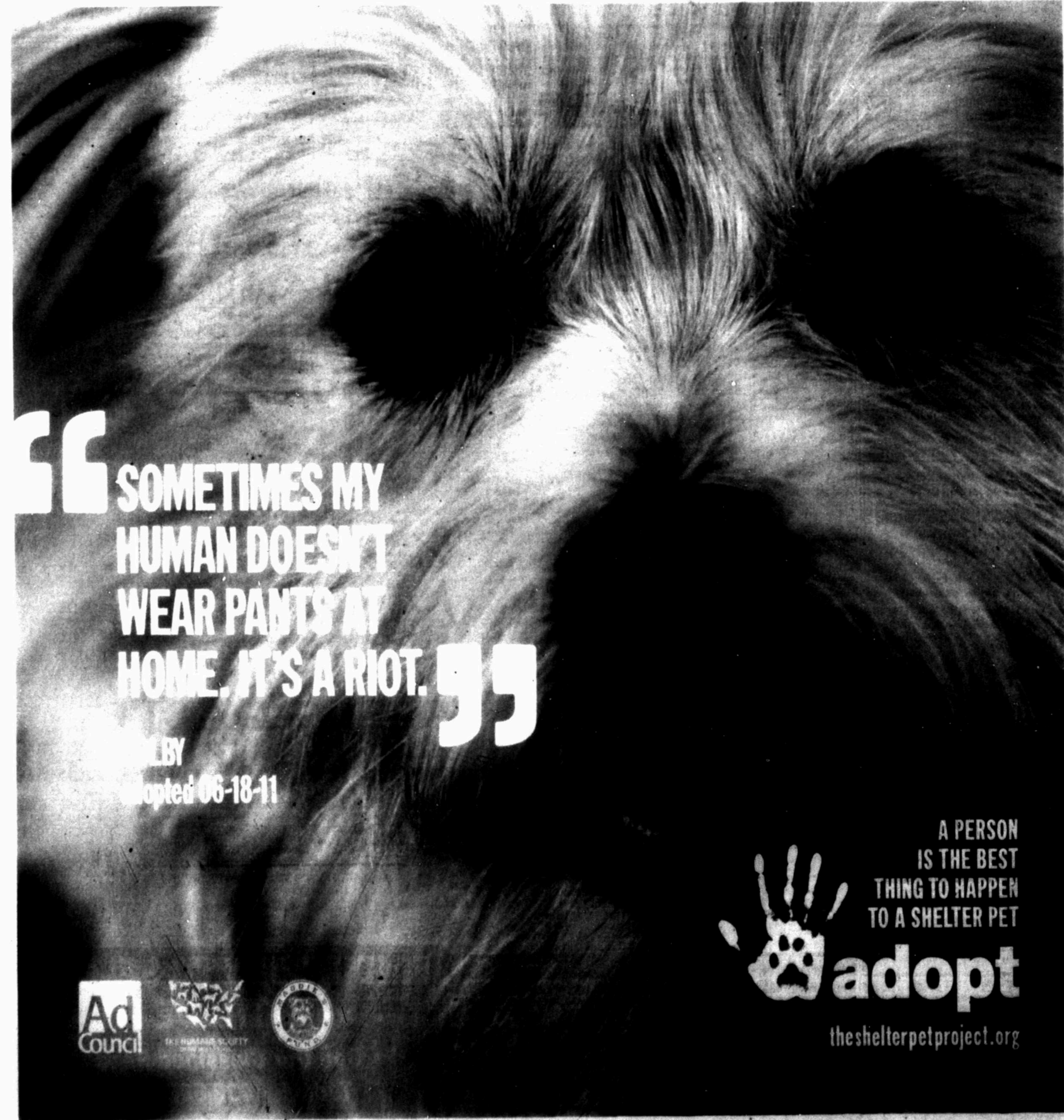
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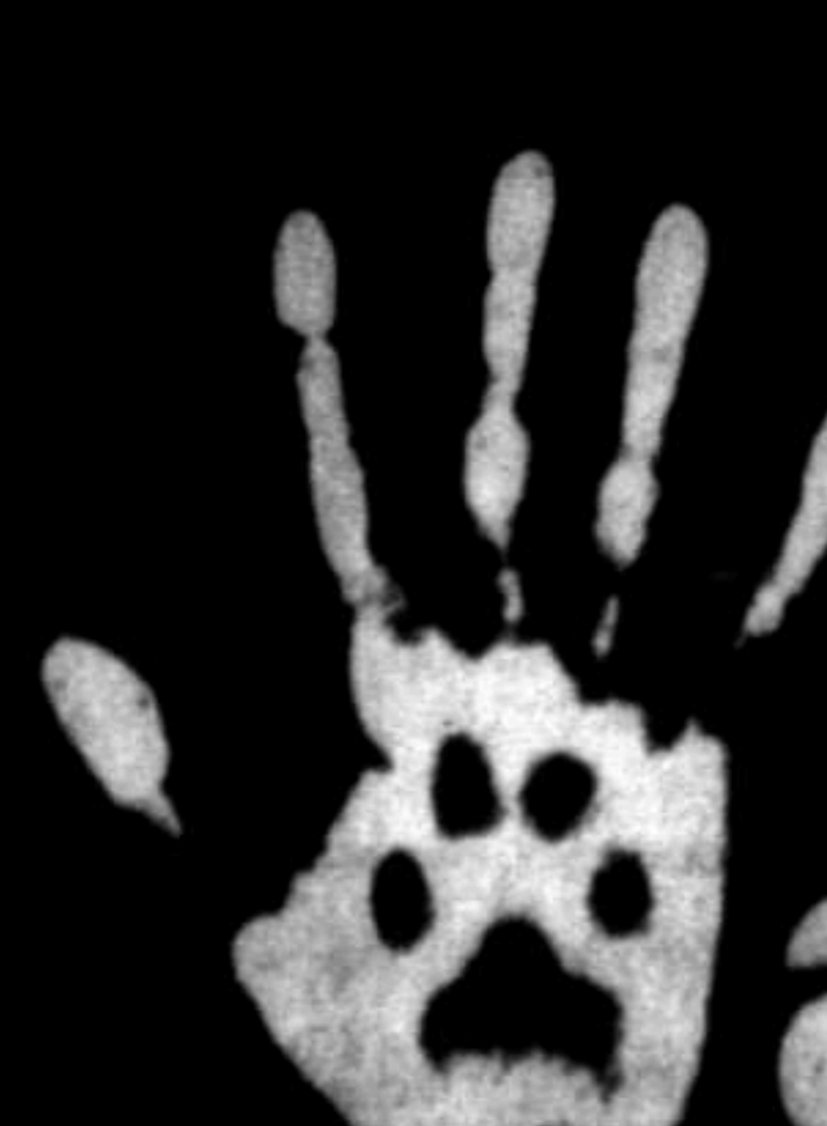
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