

MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2017

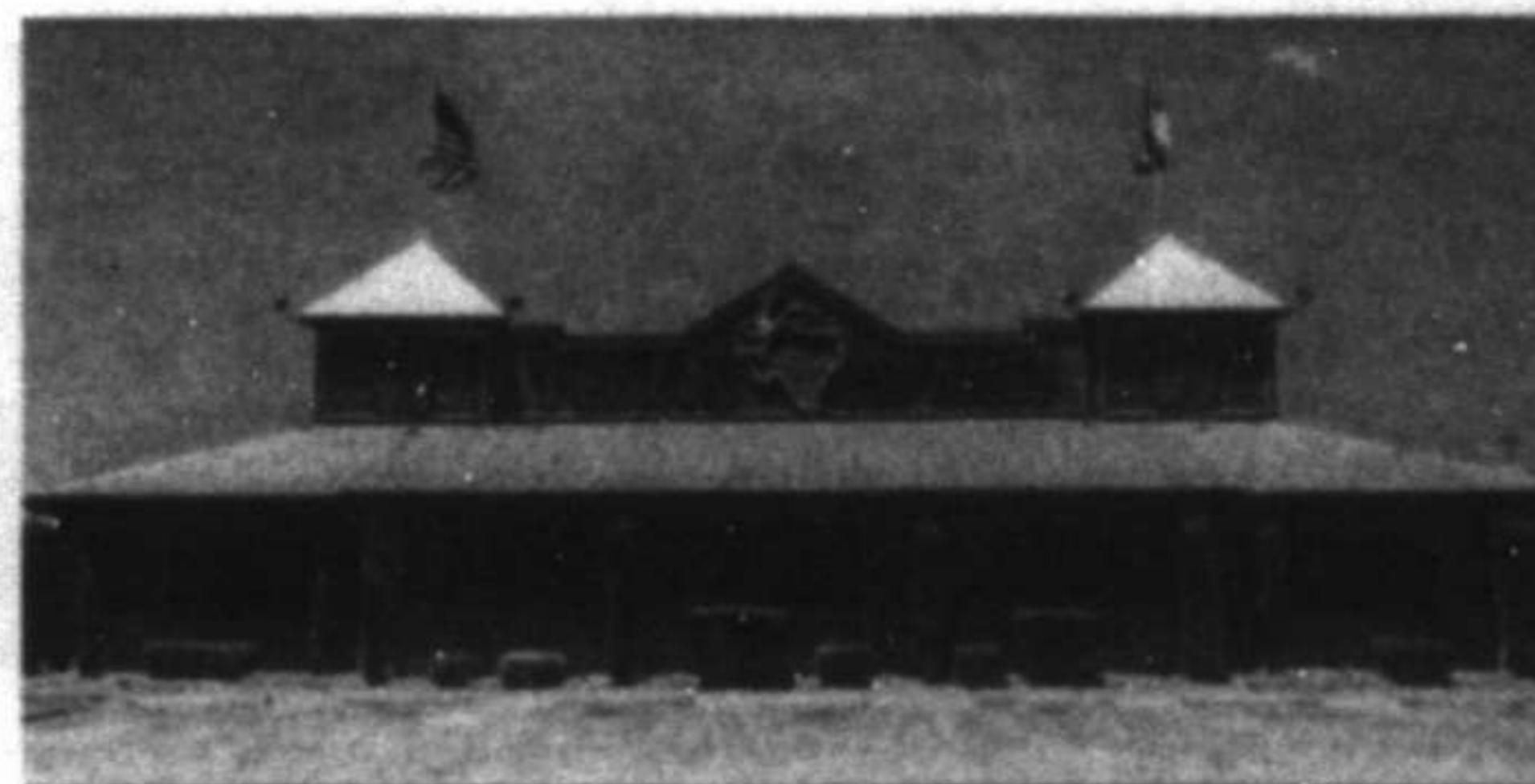
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TEXAN OF THE YEAR

George Strait was recognized for his work toward Hurricane Harvey relief.

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EXPANSION PLANS

The Planning & Zoning Commission approved Texas Roadhouse's requests to increase its footprint.

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Big Shale makes OPEC ally with focus on oil returns

By Serene Cheong, Sharon Cho, Dan Murtaugh
Bloomberg

Don't expect Big Shale to rush and fill the hole left by OPEC in the oil market. Executives from three of the biggest independent U.S. drillers say they won't increase activity just because prices rise after the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies agreed to extend output curbs. The emphasis, instead, will be on maintaining spending

discipline and generating profits to return to investors, according to Pioneer Natural Resources Co., Parsley Energy Inc. and Newfield Exploration Co.

While crude is trading near the highest level in more than two years as OPEC and its partners limit supplies in a bid to drain a global glut, investors have been concerned stronger prices would encourage U.S. drilling and undermine those efforts. The biggest oil crash in a generation began in 2014 as a boom in American shale output spawned a race for market share between global producers.

"Higher oil prices can bring in more cash to the balance sheet, and you can enjoy that cushion, but there's no need to chase additional activity," Matt Gallagher, Parsley's chief operating officer, told Bloomberg on the sidelines of Van Eck Associates Corp.'s U.S. Shale Forum in Singapore. "It's paramount that you've got to be disciplined and give visibility on spending."

That's not to say the companies won't grow. Pioneer, which drills in the Permian Basin and Eagle Ford shale plays, plans to boost output from about 300,000 barrels

of oil equivalent a day this quarter to more than 1 million by 2026, Chief Financial Officer Richard Dealy said. Parsley also drills in the Permian, while Newfield is focused on the SCOOP and STACK plays in Oklahoma.

The difference now is that shale drillers want to grow while generating free cash flow to return to investors via dividends or share buy-backs, said Shawn Reynolds, Van Eck's portfolio manager for hard assets. In years past, companies routinely

Please see SHALE/4A

WARM WEATHER? SNOW WAY.



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

A crowd gathers at Wadley Barron Park on Saturday for the annual city of Midland Christmas tree lighting. After a month of unusually warm weather, snow is forecast this week.

Snow forecasted following warmest November on record

By Stewart Doreen
sdoreen@mrt.com

Mother Nature, it appears, has a sense of humor. Days after the warmest November on record at Midland International, there is a chance of a "wintry mix," according to the National Weather Service.

It is the extreme nature of weather in West Texas that many are accustomed to. One day, we are saying goodbye to one of the warmest falls in NWS history. The next day, we are making preparations for northerly winds gusting as high as 40 mph on Tuesday

and then a Wednesday with a chance of rain, snow and sleet and a high near 36 degrees. The low temperature on Sunday was 48 degrees.

The warmest November on record finished with an average temperature of 59.3 degrees, which was more than 6 degrees above normal and slightly higher than the previous record set last year. 2016 was the first time an average temperature in November reached 59 degrees. The NWS also reports that the three warmest Novembers on record have come in the last six years. The first November to post an average temperature of 58 degrees was in 2012

(58.0 degrees). Before that year, the previous record for November was 57.4 degrees in 1965. That means November's record has jumped nearly 2 degrees since 2011.

The story is the same when talking about the warmest falls on record, which the NWS considers the months of September, October and November. The average temperature from those months in 2017 was 67.7 degrees, according to the NWS. That means 2017 will go down as the sixth warmest fall on record and 3.6 degrees above average (64.1 degrees). The

Please see RECORD/2A

Taxing entities' debt moves closer to \$1 billion

Total debt payments don't include recent road bond

By Stewart Doreen
sdoreen@mrt.com

The total payments related to the bond debt for Midland's five taxing entities are approaching \$1 billion.

The Texas Board Review Board has updated its website to reflect fiscal year 2017 numbers, and it shows Midland's five taxing entities — city, county, school district, junior college and hospital district — with \$496.1 million in principal payments and \$251.6 million in interest payments. The website shows total payments of \$747.8 million. The amount doesn't include bond debt approved by voters in November to upgrade current roads inside the city.

That total debt associated with the road bond has been estimated at \$167.4 million. Add that amount to the existing debt — reported as of Aug. 31 — and the total debt payments would reach \$915.2 million.

Much of that debt is voter-approved. In addition to road bond, the voter-approved debt represented includes referendums passed, including multiple school district bonds, the hospital bond passed in 2009, the Midland College bond approved in 2005 and the county bond passed in 2008. City of Midland debt includes certificates of obligation that were approved by the Midland City Council and not voters.

The taxing entity with the most principal and total payment debt was Midland ISD — \$215.9 million and \$335.2 million, respectively. The city of Midland is second on the list with \$128.2 in principal payments and \$192.6 in total payments. The other entity with more than \$100 million in total payments is the Midland County Hospital District — \$101.3 million in principal payments and \$160.2 million in total payments.

The city's total debt will climb from the

Please see TAXING/2A

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Price of oil

\$57.47 ▼ \$0.89

January 2018

Did you know?

Charles McConnell spoke about environmental sustainability at the Horseshoe on Monday. Read more on Page 6C.

Word of the Day:

clandestine

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

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P&Z approves Texas Roadhouse expansion

Commission alters Keller Williams zoning request for a new office

By Trevor Hawes
thawes@mrt.com

Texas Roadhouse is growing, and the Planning & Zoning Commission gave the restaurant the OK to do so.

The commission, at its meeting Monday, approved a pair of requests from Texas Roadhouse concerning the expansion of its existing facility at 4512 W. Loop 250 N. and a change to the restaurant's specific-use permit for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to match the new footprint.

According to city staff, Texas Roadhouse wants to expand its existing 7,135-square-foot building to 7,600 square feet. The restaurant also wants to add 29 parking spaces near its neighbor Chick-fil-A

for a total of 168 spaces. Alcohol service hours would remain at 4 p.m.-midnight Monday through Friday and 11 a.m.-midnight Saturday and Sunday.

The city didn't receive any objections but is requesting a certificate of occupancy within 120 days of adoption of the ordinance.

The seven-person commission voted unanimously to approve both requests, the first of which involved a zone change from a planned district (PD) to an amended PD. Texas Roadhouse didn't return a request for more information made after the meeting.

The requests now go to City Council, which makes final planning and zoning approvals.

Several neighbors had questions and voiced concerns, namely that O-1 allows for structures as tall as 2.5 stories. They worried that, in the future, a larger building could be built that would create privacy issues.

After more than a half hour, Commissioner Josh Sparks proposed an amendment that ultimately was approved. Instead of a zoning change to O-1, commissioners gave the green light to a planned

in other business.

Residents in the area of Bluebird Lane and Midkiff Road had their concerns addressed over a zone change on property

on the southeast corner of that intersection.

Keller Williams — through Zac Garth, owner of architecture and planning firm WCA Design Studio — requested a zone change from planned district (PDD) to office district (O-1) on property south of Greenbelt Veterinary Hospital & Pet Resort, 5000 N. Midkiff Road.

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Please see P&Z/4A

President: Racist flyers contradict SMU's values

Associated Press

DALLAS — The president of a Methodist university in Dallas says racist banners and flyers posted around campus don't reflect the school's values.

One flyer found at Southern Methodist University reads: "Reclaim America. No more toler-

ance, no more diversity." Another says gays and lesbians have "misplaced pride."

The white supremacist group named on the flyers also posted photos online of masked men giving the Nazi salute while standing in front of one of the banners.

University President R. Gerald Turner on Sunday

sent an email to students and staff saying the school supports the freedom of speech and expression, but that the group promotes "an abhorrent message that is opposite to SMU values."

The local chapter of the group has already posted similar messages this year at SMU and other Texas campuses.

LOCAL CRIME BRIEFS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Man arrested on aggravated assault charge

A Stanton man was arrested Nov. 23 after he allegedly threw a chair at another man, according to court documents.

Timothy Edward Fletcher, 50, was being held Monday on a \$20,000 bond for a second-degree felony charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

A Midland police officer was dispatched on Nov. 23 in reference to a disturbance.

Fletcher was at a medical facility when he lifted a desk and drove it into a man, pinning him between the desk and a wall, according to his arrest affidavit. Fletcher later allegedly lifted a metal chair and threw it at the man. The chair didn't hit the man but was thrown with enough force that it could have caused serious bodily injury, according to the affidavit.

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



Fletcher

imprisonment.

Man charged with sexual assault

A Midland man was arrested Thursday after he allegedly sexually assaulted a female, according to court documents.

Kyle Lee Nettles, 23, was being held Monday on a \$100,000 bond for a second-degree felony charge of sexual assault and a \$25,000 bond for a state jail felony charge of invasive visual recording.

A Midland police officer was dispatched to a residence at about 2:15 p.m. Thursday in reference to a reported sexual assault.

Nettles allegedly sexually assaulted a female. He had previously recorded a video of her while she was showering, according to his arrest affidavit.

If convicted, Nettles could face up to 20 years imprisonment for the second-degree felony charge and up to two years imprisonment for the state jail felony charge.



Nettles

Texas Bond Review Board

(as of Aug. 31, 2017)

| | Principal | Interest | Total Payments |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Midland ISD | \$215,996,000 | \$119,297,954 | \$335,293,954 |
| City of Midland | \$128,220,000 | \$64,456,050 | \$192,676,050 |
| Hospital District | \$101,380,000 | \$59,878,965 | \$161,258,965 |
| Midland College | \$33,985,000 | \$5,526,427 | \$39,511,427 |
| Midland County | \$16,620,000 | \$3,523,478 | \$20,143,478 |
| Totals | \$496,199,000 | \$251,682,874 | \$747,881,874 |
| Water District No. 1 | \$224,816,160 | \$239,768,301 | \$464,584,461 |

TAXING

From 1A

total shown on the TBRB website. City officials have said that the debt will be added incrementally. Still, add the \$167.4 million in anticipated debt, and the city's total approved debt (including interest) grows

to around \$360 million.

The taxing entities' total payment amount has climbed since the end of 2012, when the TBRB reported a total of \$668 million. That number rose to \$714 million at the end of 2013 and \$866 million as of Aug. 31, 2014. In 2016,

that amount had fallen to \$764 million.

The Texas Bond Review Board also shows Midland County Water District No. 1 with nearly a half-billion in total payments. The \$464.3 million in total payments includes \$224.6 million in principal.

RECORD

From 1A

warmest fall came last year (69.57 degrees). The last three falls — 2015-17 — are among the seven warmest falls on record in Midland. This past spring was the fourth warmest on record.

Moving forward, the high temperatures will be off the radar for the next 48 to 72 hours. The high

temperatures Tuesday through Thursday will be at least 10 degrees below normal for this time of year (60 degrees). The high Wednesday will be nearly 25 degrees below normal. There is also a chance of snow on Wednesday and Thursday.

However, the cold spell appears to be short-lived. Temperatures return to normal — or above normal

— by Friday. The Climate Prediction Center calls for normal temperatures and less than average rain in December.

The CPC's three-month outlook (December through February) calls for a 50 percent chance of above-average temperatures and a 40 percent chance of below-average temperatures.

Obituaries



Bruce Patrick McIntosh

Bruce Patrick McIntosh passed away on December 2, 2017. Pat resided in El Paso with his loving wife of 31 years, Phyllis Jean McIntosh. He was born in Mt. Carmel, Illinois on March 17, 1951 to parents Jack and Margaret Malott McIntosh.

Pat attended Mt. Carmel High School, home of the Golden Aces, where he played varsity football, baseball, basketball and golf. He attended Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana and graduated with a BBA in International Finance from Texas Tech University. Pat was a U. S. Custom Broker with Rudolf Miles Custom Brokerage Firm and FW Meyers.

Pat was the "life of the party" and loved using nicknames for anyone who was blessed to know him. He had such a light about him and a way of making you feel special. Pat was passionate about golf, cooking, his four-legged guardian angel dogs, his family and The Lord. He was loved by many and will be fondly remembered and greatly missed.

Pat is survived by his wife, Phyllis Jean, mother, Margaret Malott McIntosh, sister, Karen McIntosh O'Brien and husband, Thom, nieces, Courtney Cole Lunsford and Bonnie O'Brien Strickling, aunts, uncles, cousins and wonderful friends. Waiting to greet him in Heaven were his father, Jack Wayne McIntosh, grandparents, Willis Jeffrey and Imogene McIntosh and Lucien and Bonnie Doane Malott.

"It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body whether by life or by death. For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." - Philippians 1:20-21

The Celebration of Pat's life will be held in a private family ceremony.

All Obituaries must be submitted by 3:30 P.M. prior to next publication day.



Rev. Ardis Dallas Kyle, Jr.

A. D. Kyle, Jr., 83, went to his heavenly home on Sunday, December 3, 2017, after an extended battle with cancer. His belief in God and his devotion to his family sustained him during this trying time.

A. D. was born on August 31, 1934 in Carthage, Texas, to A. D. Sr. and Willie Ethyl Kyle. He accepted Christ as his personal Savior and later felt the call to the ministry. On March 2, 1956, he married the love of his life, Mary Sue Coleman in Carthage, Texas. They have been married for 61 years. He served, with Mary Sue by his side, as a minister in Southern Baptist Churches for over 40 years. Texas towns in which he pastored included Diboll in 1956, followed by churches in Lufkin, Panola, Gorman, Rising Star, Brownfield, Crane, Chico, El Paso, and Odessa. He also preached at churches outside Texas, in Boulder, Colorado and Deming, New Mexico. After retiring in 1996, they lived in Cloudcroft, New Mexico, then moved to Midland (Greenwood), Texas, before finally settling in Sherman, Texas. The last two decades, he continued his work in the ministry by working as a bi-vocational, supply, or interim pastor in over 15 additional churches located in and around Cloudcroft, Greenwood, and Sherman.

During A. D.'s ministry, he conducted 287 weddings and 468 funerals, preached 70 revivals, and performed over 1100 baptisms. He also served on the Southern Baptist Executive Board and was very active in the Rio

Grande river ministry involving many churches in west Texas. While pastoring at First Baptist Church in Crane, he made over 150 trips to Los Fresnos, Mexico, where he helped build a mission church, conducted Vacation Bible Schools, held revivals, and performed many baptisms in the Rio Grande river. In 1965, while preaching at Rising Star, he obtained his Bachelor's degree from Howard Payne College in Brownwood.

A. D. had many interests and hobbies throughout his life, including motorcycles, hunting, reloading, target shooting, photography, and reading western novels, however more than anything, he loved people.

A. D. is survived by his wife, Mary Sue Kyle of Sherman, Texas, son Keith Dallas Kyle and daughter-in-law Candy of Midland (Greenwood), Texas, daughter Elizabeth Lucille Huckabee and son-in-law James of Sherman, Texas, and son Joseph Riley Kyle and daughter-in-law Lori of El Paso, Texas, his grandchildren Cara Fowler and husband Erik, Adrian Kyle, Hilary Marroquin and husband Marcus, James Kyle, Scott Kyle, Dallas Kyle, and Mary Beth Huckabee, and his great-grandchildren Noah and Levi Fowler, and Mila and Brooks Marroquin.

Family visitation will be held from 6:00-8:00 PM Tuesday, December 5 at Waldo Funeral Home. A memorial service will be at 11:00 AM, Wednesday, December 6 at Waldo Funeral Home with Rev. Joseph Riley Kyle officiating. Burial will follow on Thursday at 1:00 PM in the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Carthage.

The register book can be signed online at waldofuneralhome.com.

Baby Riley Rae Florez

Baby Riley Rae Florez, infant daughter of Adriana Florez, went to be a little Angel in Heaven beside our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Thursday, November 30, 2017.

Riley is survived by her mother Adriana Florez, sister Danielle Sanchez, grandparents Velma Florez, Hector Florez, Ludmila Albo and Robert Albo.

Graveside service will be Tuesday, December 5, 2017 at 11:00 am at Serenity Memorial Gardens.

Graveside service is under the direction of Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home and Chapel. Family messages and condolences may be emailed to pipkin@ms-online.net or you can visit our website at www.lewallengarciapipkinfh.com

Supreme Court lets stand Texas ruling on gay spouse benefits

By Will Weissert
Associated Press

AUSTIN — The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday let stand a Texas ruling that gay spouses may not be entitled to government-subsidized workplace benefits — a potential victory for social conservatives hoping to chip away at 2015's legalization of same-sex marriage.

In June, the Texas Supreme Court overturned a lower court's decision favoring spousal benefits for gay city employees in Houston, ordering the issue back to trial. That was a major reversal for the all-Republican state high court, which previously refused to even consider the benefits case after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the landmark Obergefell v. Hodges decision that the Constitution grants gay couples who want to marry "equal dignity in the eyes of the law."

The Texas court changed its mind and heard the case amid intense pressure from Republican Gov. Greg Abbott, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and Attorney General Ken Paxton, as well as dozens of other conservative elected officials, church leaders and grassroots activists. They argued that the case may help Texas limit the scope of the Supreme Court ruling, especially in how it is applied to states.

Monday's U.S. Supreme Court decision to reject Houston's appeal of the Texas court decision came without dissent or comment. The case began with a coalition of religious and socially conservative groups suing America's fourth-largest city in 2013 to block a move to offer same-sex spousal benefits to municipal employees.

Sarah Kate Ellis, President and CEO of the civil rights group GLAAD, said the U.S. Supreme Court "has just let an alarming ruling by the Texas Supreme Court stand which plainly undercuts the rights of married same-sex couples."

"Today's abnegation by the nation's high-

est court opens the door for an onslaught of challenges to the rights of LGBTQ people at every step," Ellis said in a statement.

But other advocates said Monday's action simply shows the Texas case is not fully concluded, rather than indicating how the U.S. Supreme Court will ultimately rule on the larger issue.

"There was high hope that the Texas decision was so wrong that the court wouldn't sit by and let it go," said Kenneth Upton, a Dallas-based attorney for the prominent LGBT-rights group Lambda Legal. "That's not how it works with the Supreme Court."

Houston has been paying same-sex benefits amid the case's developments and will continue to do so while it progresses through lower Texas courts. The city argues that the 2015 legalization of gay marriage meant all marriages are equal, so anything offered to opposite-sex couples must be offered to same-sex ones.

Conservative groups counter that the U.S. Supreme Court didn't declare spousal benefits a fundamental right of marriage two years ago, and that it should be up to states to decide. They also see a chance for Texas to defend religious liberty under a state gay marriage ban that voters approved in 2005.

Jared Woodfill, a Houston attorney and conservative activist at the center of the case, called Monday's action by the nation's high court, "A nice early Christmas present."

"The U.S. Supreme court could have taken the case and used it to further expand Obergefell. They chose not to," he said. "It's confirmation that the Texas Supreme Court got it right."

Woodfill said that religious liberty groups in two other states had contacted him in years past, seeking information about Texas' legal challenge.

"It obviously has precedential value, not just for Texas but the entire country," Woodfill said. However, the court has said on several occasions that the denial of such petitions "without more has no significance as a ruling."

In wake of Weinstein, men wonder if hugging women still OK

By John Rogers
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Steve Wyard thought he knew what sexual harassment looked like: a put-out-or-lose-your-job overture. Now he's not so sure.

"Have we gotten to the point now where men can't say, 'That's a nice dress' or 'Did you do something with your hair?'" says the veteran sales associate for a Los Angeles company. "The potential problem is you can't even feel safe saying, 'Good morning' anymore."

The sexual misconduct allegations that have brought down powerful men in Hollywood, media, politics and business are sending a shiver through the workplace.

Men are wondering if it's still OK to hug a female colleague or ask about her weekend. And some are asking themselves if they ever, perhaps even inadvertently, crossed the line.

If Garrison Keillor, the gentle-natured former host of public radio's "A Prairie Home Companion," can be fired for accidentally (he said) placing his hand on a woman's bare back, could they get in trouble for something similar?

CEO Tom Turner of Bitsight Technologies, a cybersecurity company in Cambridge, Massachusetts, that held a training session for its 270 employees on sexual harassment last month, worries about the effect the national furor will have on the workplace.

Turner says his business takes pride in being a place where people enjoy being around each other. The company's website features photos of employees taking part in ski trips and parties.

"With what all is going on in the media, there could be a tendency to go so far that you actually lose what is special about your company," he says.

Wyard, who is retiring at the end of the month after 35 years with a company that supplies industrial washers and dryers, says he can't recall anyone bringing a sexual harassment complaint during his

Bag the mistletoe, cut the booze: Office parties sober up

NEW YORK — 'Tis the season to keep that office holiday party from adding to the list of workplace sexual misconduct scandals.

With the names of Weinstein, Spacey and Lauer likely getting more mentions this year than Dancer, Prancer and Blitzen, employers are making sure their year-end staff-mer-making doesn't generate more inappropriate conduct.

There will be less booze at many. An independent business organization has renewed its annual warning not to hang mistletoe. And some will have party monitors, keeping an eye out for inappropriate behavior.

TV and movies often depict office parties as wildly inappropriate bacchanals or excruciatingly awkward fiascos, if not, horrifyingly, both.

But even a regular office party can be complicated because the rules people normally observe at work don't quite apply, which makes it easier for people to accidentally cross a line — or try to get away with serious misbehavior. Especially when too much drinking is involved.

According to a survey by Chicago-based consulting company Challenger, Gray & Christmas, only 49 percent of companies plan to serve alcohol at their holiday events. Last year that number was 62 percent, the highest number in the decade the firm has run its survey. The number had been going up each year as the economy improved.

"As soon as you introduce alcohol at an off-site activity, people's guards are dropped," said Ed Vost, manager of employee relations and development for the Society for Human Resource Management based in Alexandria, Virginia. "It's presumed to be a less formal, more social environment. Some people will drink more than they typically would on a Friday night or a Saturday because it's an open bar or a free cocktail hour."

The Huffington Post reported Friday that Vox Media, which runs sites including Vox and Recode, won't have an open bar this year at its holiday party and will instead give employees two tickets they can redeem for drinks. It will also have more food than in years past. The company recently fired its editorial director, Lockhart Steele, after a former employee made allegations of sexual harassment against him.

A survey by Bloomberg Law said those kinds of safeguards are common: while most companies ask bartenders or security or even some employees to keep an eye on how much partygoers are drinking, others limit the number of free drinks or the time they're available. A small minority have cash bars instead of an open bar.

The National Federation of Independent Businesses recommends all of those steps, and adds another that might seem obvious these days: don't hang mistletoe. It's been giving those suggestions for several years.

Vost said he always gets a lot of requests for advice in planning and managing these events, but he's getting even more of them this year.

He said he'll be spending his corporate holiday party the way he always does: patrolling hallways, checking secluded areas and trying to watch for people who look like they are stuck in an uncomfortable situation — for example, inappropriate touching or a conversation that's taken a bad turn. If they're visibly uncomfortable, he'll intervene and plan a later conversation with the person responsible.

The Challenger, Gray & Christmas survey shows that about 80 percent of companies will have a holiday party, the same as last year. And not everyone is planning changes.

Anthony Vitiello, the marketing director for software company UltraShipTMS, said he planned his company's event and didn't rethink it.

For the last few years the firm's has marked the holiday with drinks and passed hors d'oeuvres in the wine cellar of a local restaurant. Vitiello thinks the formal setting makes the event calmer.

"We haven't had any incidents, not a single one I can recall, where anyone got loud or over-consumed," he said. He added that many of the Fairlawn, New Jersey, company's 25 employees go out for drinks once a month, and he's not aware of any cases of misconduct.

Vost said he's not making changes to his group's event either. He added that companies concerned about sexual misconduct need to look further than the holiday party.

"While there are additional complications that are associated with a holiday event, that's one day a year," he said.

By Marley Jay
Associated Press

time there.
He chalks that up in part to the family atmosphere

Please see
WORKPLACE/5A

P&Z

From 2A

district for an office center (PDOC) with an underlying O-1 zoning, plus the recommendation that any structure not be built at a height greater than 1.5 stories. The vote was unanimous.

■ Absolute Dance, 5109 Sunmore Circle, will have to come before the commission to give additional input about its request for an amended PD zoning change.

The dance school sought a zone change from PD to an amended PD for a 700-square-foot addition that would enclose its patio.

The commission wants more information about Absolute Dance's options after city staff recommended denying the request because the dance school is currently in violation of city code. Absolute Dance doesn't have enough parking spaces to meet its occupancy load. It currently has 19 spaces for 157 people.

According to code, PD for a shopping center requires one space for every four occupants; thus, Absolute Dance needs

SHALE

From 1A

outspent their cash flow by 20 to 30 percent in an attempt to grow production as fast as possible.

"I hope they are more disciplined this time around," Pioneer's Dealy said. "If oil prices are higher, that means our cash flow may turn positive that much sooner, but no real change in activity level."

Last week's decision by OPEC and its partners including Russia could potentially harm shale. Van Eck's Reynolds said. While companies with the most efficient operations and richest acreage can profit at an oil price of \$50 a barrel, rising prices may mean hundreds of other small independent drillers with lower-quality sites could begin to break even on production and start drilling again, increasing

costs for everyone. West Texas Intermediate futures traded at \$57.93 a barrel at 11:56 a.m. Singapore time.

"I don't like \$27 oil, but I don't like \$80 oil either," Gary Packer, chief operating officer for Newfield, said in an interview.

"Inefficiencies get bred into this industry at high commodity prices, and I think we have built efficiencies within the unconventional space to deliver exciting returns for our shareholders in a \$50 environment."

As U.S. output increased, OPEC in late 2014 decided to pump at will to defend market share, exacerbating the price collapse that sent several shale companies into bankruptcy.

U.S. production has rebounded since OPEC reversed course last year and decided to cut output to force the world to burn through a glut of global

inventories. Thursday's extension, which will prolong curbs from March 31 to the end of 2018, will allow American firms to raise supplies even more and steal market share from OPEC in places like China, Barclays analysts Michael Cohen and Warren Russell said in a Nov. 30 report.

That idea is tied to the past, though, Newfield's Packer said. The shale industry of old was able to generate phenomenal growth at the expense of providing sound financial returns. The focus now is on the bottom line.

"What we're hearing today from our investors is they want to see more discipline," he said. "If investor behaviors change and they start rewarding production growth again, it can be a different outcome, but that's not the narrative that we have today."

Facebook's Sandberg warns of backlash against women

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Sheryl Sandberg warned of a potential backlash against women and urged companies to put into place clear policies on how allegations of sexual harassment are handled.

In a lengthy Facebook post over the weekend, the chief operating officer at Facebook wrote that organizations under pressure to beef up policies for handling allegations of sexual misconduct may be tempted to limit their exposure by limiting opportunities for women.

"I have already heard the rumblings of a backlash: 'This is why you shouldn't

hire women,'" Sanders wrote, referring to the rising chorus of women — and some men — alleging sexual misconduct in the workplace. "Actually, this is why you should."

That movement, following the high-profile sexual misconduct scandals of powerful men including Harvey Weinstein, Kevin Spacey and Matt Lauer, is empowering victims to speak up — but Sandberg said it isn't enough.

"Too many workplaces lack clear policies about how to handle accusations of sexual harassment," she wrote. She recommends every workplace start with clear principles and put in place policies to support

them. That includes creating training sessions on proper workplace behavior, taking all claims seriously, establishing an investigation process and taking swift, decisive action against wrongdoing.

"We have to be vigilant to make sure this happens," Sandberg wrote.

Sandberg also said that she has experienced harassment while doing her job, although never from anyone she's worked for. She noted, however, that in each instance the harasser had more power than she did.

"That's not a coincidence," the 48-year-old wrote. "It's why they felt free to cross that line."

Met Opera suspends James Levine after several sex abuse claims dating back to 1960s

By Nicole Hensley and Stephen Rex Brown
New York Daily News

The Metropolitan Opera suspended James Levine Sunday and launched an investigation after two more men stepped forward with molestation allegations against the famed music conductor.

The opera nixed Levine from conducting the New Year's Eve performance of Puccini's "Tosca" and other shows the day after news surfaced of an Illinois police report lodged against the maestro.

"Based on these new reports, the Met has made the decision to act now, while we await the results of the investigation," said Peter Gelb, the Met's general manager. "This is tragedy for anyone whose life has been affected."

The Met has hired Robert Cleary, the former U.S. Attorney who led the Unabomber prosecution, to conduct an investigation at the music house.

The Met said in a statement the allegations date back to the 1960s and continued until the 1980s.

So far, Levine has publicly been accused by three men, including one who told the Daily News that Levine was grooming him for years of sexual abuse.

Ashok Pai, who filed a police report in Illinois last year and accused Levine of sexual misconduct, recalled the conductor's mentorship that took a perverted turn.

"He basically sexually assaulted me hundreds of times," Pai told The News.

He learned of Levine's suspension Sunday night and disclosed few emotions at the outcome of going public.

"It was something I needed to do," Pais said after coming forward. "It's just healing for me."

Pai said he first met Levine after rushing backstage to meet his maestro hero at the Ravinia Festival in Highland Park, Ill., in 1973. He was just 4 and developing a love of classical music.

Levine, now 74, directed the summer music show from 1973 to 1993.

Pai provided The News with a redacted version of the police report he filed last year with the Lake Forest Police Department, an eight-page description of his alleged history with Levine, as well as a college recommendation letter Levine wrote for him on Metropolitan Opera stationery in 1987.

The Boston Symphony Orchestra said it was unaware of any inappropriate behavior by Levine during his tenure there from 2004 to 2011.

The New York Times identified two more men claiming to have been victims of Levine, one recalling alleged abuse that began in 1968.

Reflecting on the abuse left former St. Paul Chamber Orchestra bass player Chris Brown, 66, in tears.

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WORKPLACE

From 4A

he says exists at a business that has employed many of the same people for decades, including fathers and daughters who work together. It's fostered a culture among its 70 employees, he says, "where you just treat everybody the way you'd want them to treat your sister."

But he says his wife, the CEO at a health maintenance organization, got a complaint from a woman just last month who believed a fellow employee was getting too personal.

"It turned out the guy thought he was just saying, 'What did you do over the weekend?'" Wy-

ard recalls his wife telling him.

John Frith, who worked for years as a spokesman for California government agencies and a California congressman before becoming a consultant, says he was always careful to keep even an innocuous inquiry about someone's weekend plans to himself — particularly if he was talking to a woman he supervised.

Looking back, he says, he believes his most egregious transgression was ordering a female intern to fetch him a cup of coffee. He says he wouldn't do it now.

"She glared at me like I was just the worst person in the world," he recalls. "I would like

to apologize to her now, but after these many, many years I can't remember her name."

While some public figures such as Hollywood power broker Harvey Weinstein have been accused of rape, others like Keillor and former President George H.W. Bush are said to have put their hands where they didn't belong.

It's those cases that have everyday guys sweating as they wonder whether they might have leaned in a little too close for that hug.

Or if they should have kept that oral sex joke to themselves, or just between them and their male friends.

"What I see in terms of my

male friends now is an, 'Oh, my gosh, I hope I didn't.' There's a sense of shame," says independent filmmaker Laura Lee Bahr.

She says she has been reassuring male friends that giving her a friendly hug when they greet her isn't harassment.

It's the flat-out propositions and the unwanted grabbing of body parts that need to stop, she says.

"So for me, I wish it was the people who really need to take a look at themselves who would take a look at themselves," she adds.

University of Southern California sociologist Carolann Peterson says men do need to recognize that a sudden arm

around the shoulder or a pat on the butt isn't the innocuous gesture some might have thought it was, and it can make women uncomfortable, even if they don't say so at the time.

"Sometimes we as women have a tendency of playing what I call nice," she says. "We don't want to offend anybody so we don't say anything."

But those days are ending, Peterson adds, noting the recent allegations against so many high-profile men have emboldened students in her USC classes to discuss their own experiences.

"We need to speak up when we're uncomfortable," she says. "And we need men to be a little more sensitive in what they do."

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OPINION

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Tuesday, December 5, 2017 | Page 6A

Ag commish links opponent to banana crepes

■ You realize the planet's 7.5 billion residents are divided into only two major tribes: those who laugh with Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller and those who laugh at him

In this crazy, convoluted, contentious, carved-up world in which we live, there sadly is so much that divides so many of us.

But when you get past factors like religion, ethnicity, international borders and whether you love or hate the Dallas Cowboys, you realize the planet's 7.5 billion residents are divided into only two major tribes: those who laugh with Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller and those who laugh at him.

And today's subcategory in that split is the political meaning of Nutella banana crepes because Miller is trying to link his opponent to that dish.

Everybody's favorite current Texas ag commissioner is up for re-election next year after a first term that's divided us into the laughing-at-him/laughing-with-him camps. It's clear that Trey Blocker is not laughing with Miller. Blocker recently announced he's running against Miller in the GOP primary next March.

Incumbents don't like primary challengers. Miller, characteristically, quickly went

KEN HERMAN

Austin American-Statesman



on the offensive against Blocker, who, to be fair, came out with political guns ablazin' against Miller.

Miller, as is his wont (though many often wish he won't), took to Facebook for an early shot against Blocker, who is a lobbyist and ethics adviser. Miller, famous for never being photographed without his big 'cowboy hat, focused on a photo on the Blocker campaign homepage showing a smiling Blocker shaking hands with somebody at an eatery of some sort.

Miller has an idea of exactly what sort of eatery it is. The writing is on the wall. Actually, the writing is on a blackboard on the wall behind Blocker in the photo, which Miller put on his own Facebook page, adding a big red arrow pointing to something on the blackboard.

Here's all we can read on the board because Blocker is standing in front of some of it: "tella Banana Crepes \$7.45"

"What in the world is a Nutella banana crepe?" Miller asked on Facebook. "More

importantly, where in the heck did my opponent go to stage this photo op? Probably some Yuppie Austin Coffee Bar. Man of the people? I'll stick to biscuits and gravy!"

There's much to dissect here, not the least of which is does anybody say "yuppie" any more?

Predictably, Miller's Facebook comment drew lots of responses, pro and con. Some shared Miller's horror that Texans might elect an ag commissioner who had been seen at a Nutella banana crepe-serving Yuppie Austin Coffee Bar.

"A Nutella what?" said one commenter. "Yeah ok, this is no Texan. Give me a steak and baked potato with a few shots of whiskey. We can tack the crepe to the wall and use it as target practice. ... A Nutella banana crepe sounds like something you would eat at a feelings awareness seminar."

But the pro-Nutella banana crepe crowd also showed up.

"Love Nutella banana crepes — small thin French pancake-like things with yummy things rolled inside. A French burrito, only thinner than a flour tortilla!! Travel more!!"

That input drew return fire from the anti-crepe crowd: "Crepes taste like crap." (A comment begging the question as to whether the commenter has taste-tested both.) "Move to France. I'll take my eggs, bacon and salsa every day over that

nonsense. Or biscuits and gravy with chili sausage."

You get the drift here. And it got better/worse.

"Good afternoon, Mr. Miller. I'm a reporter from Overcompensating Hats Weekly. My question is: why do certain types of food trigger you? We all have different tastes, you know. And my follow up question: who does your botox injections?"

And there was this question to Miller: "How did you know it said Nutella banana crepe when the first half of the word Nutella is covered up by his hat? I thought you didn't know what a Nutella banana crepe is."

Hmm. Miller's disdain for Nutella banana crepes is posted right above his "recipe of the day," which on this day was for cinnamon bun pancakes, for which you'll need a variety of sugars and a dozen tablespoons of unsalted butter (melted). Sounds tasty.

We're left with one question, one to which I got an answer from Blocker. Which Yuppie Austin Coffee Bar is the one at which Blocker is seen in the photo that inextricably links him to Nutella banana crepes?

"Ha!" Blocker replied via email. "This is the Old German Bakery in Fredericksburg, Texas, where I live."

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OPINION EXTRA

State government can learn from how college football operates

Why run government like a business? Friends, there is a better way available. Run it like a major college football team.

Find those underperforming state agencies. The fastest way to find them is to ask the people who watch them all the time. When you find a stinker, fire the management — even if it costs you \$10.4 million, even if some of the people getting canned were innocent bystanders, assistants to the person in charge. Then, and this is the beautiful part, bring in a star from another state — even if the people in that other state are souring on the star you're hiring.

Do with state agencies, in other words, what Texas A&M University just did with its football program and what the University of Texas at Austin did a year ago. Locate a hot prospect — a Jimbo Fisher or a Tom Herman — and pay them a kabillion bucks to revive the program you're not happy with.

Got rats in your buildings? Vermin infesting your programs? Fire someone. Hire someone. Demand results. Repeat every five to 10 years, as needed.

Big-time sports programs at both private and public universities have itchier trigger fingers than the state does. That's the point, really. When the basketball team doesn't make the NCAA tournament in March for too many years in a row, when the football team doesn't get into something more prestigious than the Particle Board Bowl or their other athletes aren't producing trophies and the kind of attention big sports bring to schools, universities jump.

Governments don't jump. The state is rarely fast to act when things go wrong. Unless something has generated a pile of headlines or an angry mob of legislators, the state isn't even quick to notice trouble.

Those headlines are often about problems that have festered for years without notice or without sufficient notice to prompt change. The last few weeks have enough examples to make the point at the state and federal levels:

■ An infestation of rats in the Brown-Healy Building, home to the state's Health and Human Services Commission.

■ Persistent sexual harassment in the Texas Capitol where, until the headlines began appearing, policies for reporting and responding to complaints were informal at best and nonexistent at worst.

■ The U.S. Air Force's failure to report crimes and other behavior that would, if properly handled, prevent people like the Sutherland Springs shooter from obtaining the guns he used in a Sunday attack on a church.

The audience isn't paying attention to government in the way that it does to Texas football. That makes a difference. But a lot of the reactions to bad coaching or to terrible practices in sports programs are quick and even when ill-advised — certain.

UT-Austin got a new coach when the powers there had a bellyful of complaints from boosters and fans and sports talk jocks and the whole sports crowd. Charlie Strong lost his job. Tom Herman, that particular moment's Wonder Coach, was lured by the prestige and bank account of Longhorn football to leave the University of Houston. Strong moved to a job as head coach at the University of South Florida, which, by the way, has nine wins and one loss this season. UT is 6-6.

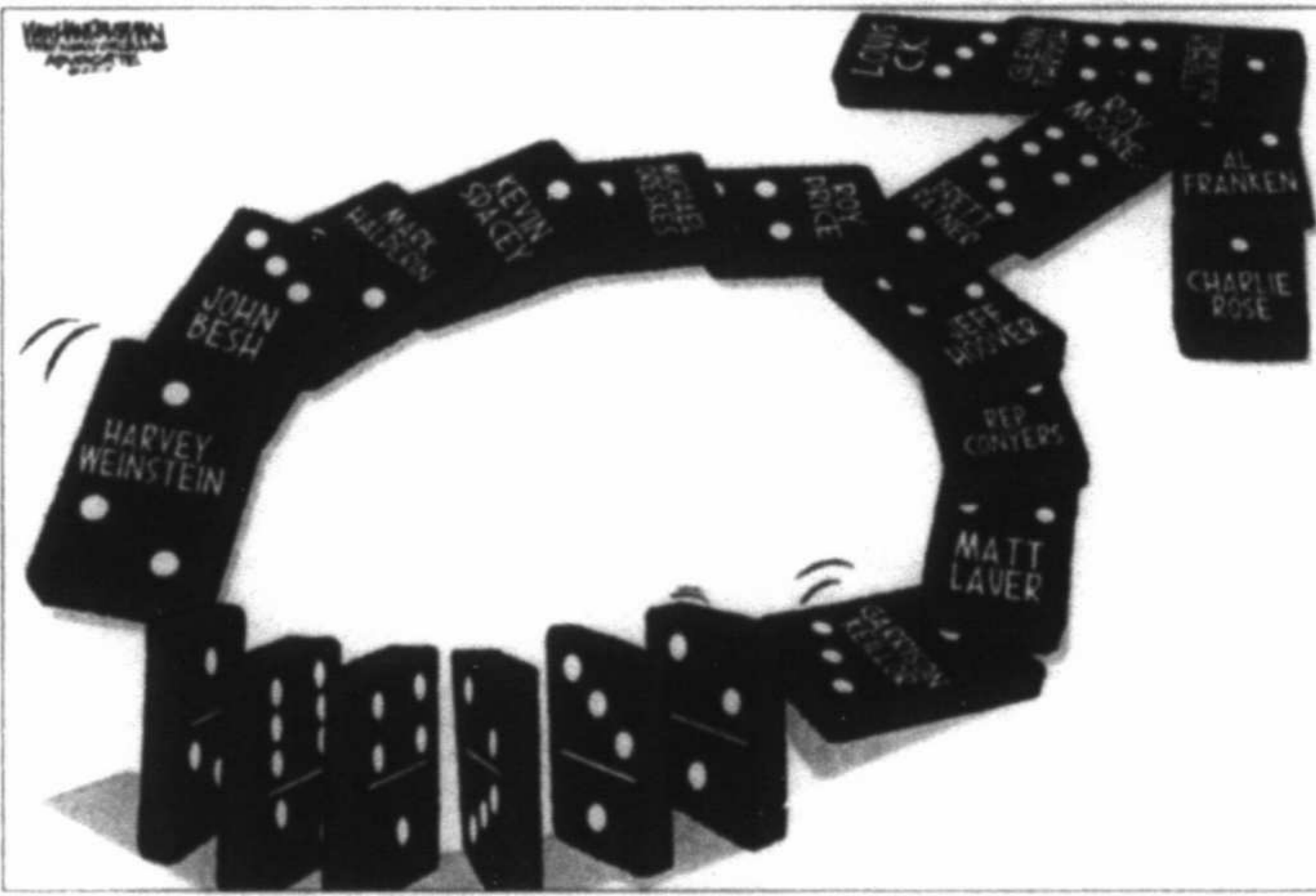
A&M picked Florida State University's pocket to get Fisher, whose team this year has a win-loss record of 5-6 — the kind of record that endangers those all-important postseason bowl invitations. With Kevin Sumlin, the Aggies compiled a 7-5 record this year.

But the brass was unhappy. The institutional trigger fingers were itchy. They wanted results. They wanted them fast. Sumlin got a \$10.4 million going-away settlement. Fisher got a fat contract, the details of which are not precisely public (ESPN and others reported he got a 10-year, \$75 million contract).

Maybe the Aggie football team will get better, maybe not. But they're trying to fix it. The recognition of deficiency, the quick response and the demand for excellence were all there.

Imagine running a whole government like that.

— Ross Ramsey, Texas Tribune



Franken calculates non-denial strategy

■ In an interview, Franken gives a master class in how a politician can try to wriggle out of answering a question

RAMESH PONNURU

Bloomberg



Sen. Al Franken has a strategy for getting out of his current mess. You can see it in action in an interview he gave this week to Esme Murphy, a reporter for CBS affiliate WCCO.

The Minnesota Democrat has been accused of groping several unwilling women and forcibly kissing another. There are two obvious responses to such accusations: Either admit them, apologize and ask for forgiveness, or deny them. Franken is refusing to do either.

You can see why he balks. If he admits it, especially in this moment of righteous anger against male sexual entitlement, pressure to resign will mount. Allies who are standing by him in the presence of doubt about what he did will desert him if that doubt dissolves to his disfavor. So he isn't going to admit anything unless there's photographic evidence.

If he denies the accusations, on the other hand, he will be at least implicitly attacking his accusers. An aggressive posture would go over badly, again especially in this moment of heightened awareness of how many women have struggled to get their accurate testimony about male misbehavior believed. Denials could even draw forth more accusations.

Like Buridan's ass, he cannot choose. In the interview, then, Franken gives a master class in how a politician can try to wriggle out of answering a question. Unfortunately for him, Murphy gives a master class in how a journalist can try to pin down a politician.

Murphy begins by asking Franken whether he indeed groped and forced kisses on women. Franken's response is worth quoting at length:

"Some women, and any is too many, have felt that I have crossed a line and I am terribly sorry about that. They feel that in these interactions I've done something to disrespect them and that's not my intention but what I know is that intention doesn't matter. What matters is we listen to women's experience and so I've been trying to think about — you know, I feel terrible that they have felt this way. And I've been trying to think of how this could have happened and I know very well that I have to be much more careful and much more sensitive and —"

Murphy interrupts. "But, senator, these women

are all using very similar language to describe basically their butt cheek being cupped or grabbed." She quotes Lindsay Menz, who says that Franken put his hand "tightly around my butt cheek." The reporter asks, "When you grab somebody's butt, don't you know it?"

Franken then offers 140 or so words, starting with, "I understand that. And I again I am going to have to do everything I can going forward to be enormously sensitive."

Again Murphy breaks in. "I guess, you know, just going back to the specific allegations though, are they mistaken that their butt was grabbed? Is that what you're saying?"

"I am not saying that," Franken responds, adding that he does not remember these events. Murphy asks whether he thinks "this happened unintentionally." Franken says he never had the intent to make anyone "uncomfortable" and repeats his line that his intent didn't matter.

On and on it goes. He says he respects women's feelings. Murphy says that Menz "feels that you molested her." Franken says he feels very bad about it. Murphy keeps asking Franken specific, factual questions about what took place.

Franken keeps responding by talking about feelings: his feelings, the women's feelings, and his feelings about their feelings. At every turn he redirects attention away from the realm of objective fact to the more nebulous zone of emotion (or, in the case of the kiss, the haze of conflicting memories). He is very sorry, he says, that women felt "disrespected." What the women say they felt was his hand on their butt cheeks: a word Murphy keeps having to use.

This isn't a he-said, she-said story. The women are giving their stories, and he's just emitting vapor. "What matters is we listen to women's experience," he says.

Listen, without believing, or disbelieving. Without, that is, taking their claims seriously. It is a rhetorical strategy as clever as it is shameless. At the moment it appears to be working.

From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



Trump heartily endorses Moore as GOP comes to grips with him

By Jill Colvin and Steve Peoples
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump gave embattled GOP Senate candidate Roy Moore a vigorous formal endorsement Monday, looking past allegations of sexual misconduct with Alabama teenagers as Republican leaders in Washington, once appalled by Moore's candidacy, began to come to grips with the ever-clearer possibility of his victory.

Buoyed by the taste of his own success in Congress as the Republican tax bill inches closer to passage, Trump telephoned Moore to offer encouragement as well as support and also argued in a pair of tweets that Moore's vote was badly needed to push the president's policies forward.

The Republican National Committee quickly followed suit, announcing they were returning the support they had pulled last month.

In addition, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who was initially among several national Republicans to urge Moore to drop out of the race, said Sunday it was up to Alabama voters to decide whether the former state Supreme Court chief justice should be elected.

Weeks ago, when accusations of sexual misconduct with teenagers first surfaced, Trump's spokesman had said the president believed Moore would "do the right thing and step aside" if the allegations were true.

Top Republicans vowed to expel him from the Senate if he won his Dec. 12 special election. And, publicly and privately, GOP leaders described the allegations against Moore as credible and insisted there were no circumstances under which he should serve in the Senate.

Trump's tweets on Monday showed his thinking has evolved as Moore has rejected his party's appeals and doggedly remained in the race.

In the phone call, Moore said, Trump offered "his full support and said he



Bob Gathany/AL.com via AP

Bikers for Trump rally for Alabama Chief Justice and U.S. Senate candidate Roy Moore at Jackson County Courthouse Square on Sunday in Scottsboro, Ala.

needs a fighter to help him in the U.S. Senate." Moore tweeted that the president told him: "Go get 'em, Roy!"

Trump's move was somewhat symbolic: He had already all but endorsed Moore, repeatedly criticizing Democratic rival Doug Jones on Twitter and planning a campaign-style rally in Pensacola, Florida, on Friday, less than 20 miles from the Alabama border and just four days before voters head to the polls.

Still, Trump's decision to do away with any pretense of distance made clear he is increasingly confident in Moore's chances of victory despite the continued unease of some other Republican leaders.

And the RNC quickly followed his lead. An RNC official confirmed late Monday that the committee would once again be supporting Moore, after severing its fundraising ties to his campaign last month. It was not immediately clear what that support would

entail. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to confirm the reversal, which was first reported by Breitbart News.

A Moore victory would set up a potentially explosive clash with fellow Republicans in Congress, some of whom have resoundingly called on him to quit the race.

While some have softened their rhetoric recently, others have said they still will try to expel him if he is elected.

Moore's campaign was wounded by accusations this fall of sexual misconduct, decades ago, made by women who were then teenagers.

One of the women alleges he initiated sexual contact when she was 14.

Moore denies it all, saying "I do not know any of these women. I did not date any of these women I did not engage in any sexual misconduct with anyone."

Trump, who has repeatedly noted Moore's denials, took a more political

stance on Monday.

"Democrats refusal to give even one vote for massive Tax Cuts is why we need Republican Roy Moore to win in Alabama," Trump tweeted. "We need his vote on stopping crime, illegal immigration, Border Wall, Military, Pro Life, V.A., Judges 2nd Amendment and more."

In that same vein, long-time Alabama Sen. Richard Shelby said Trump's endorsement didn't surprise him. He said of the president, "I think he's interested, a lot of us are, in the numbers, being a Republican."

And Sen. Orrin Hatch, who traveled with Trump on Monday to Hatch's home state of Utah, said he realistically didn't have any choice. Hatch said, of Moore, "That's the only Republican you can possibly get down there at this time."

Trump first appeared to back Moore after his first choice, Sen. Luther Strange, lost the GOP primary for the seat once held

by Attorney General Jeff Sessions. But the president went silent after The Washington Post reported on the allegations of sexual misconduct with two teens, ages 14 and 16, and efforts to date several others while Moore was a local prosecutor in his 30s.

By late last month, however, with pressure mounting from his former chief strategist Steve Bannon and other corners of his base, Trump was making clear that he preferred Moore, raising doubts about the candidate's accusers and criticizing Democrat Jones as the "liberal puppet" of Democratic leaders Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi.

Meanwhile, Moore himself was strongly criticized by top Republicans, including Cory Gardner of Colorado, chairman of the Senate GOP campaign apparatus known as the National Republican Senatorial Committee.

"If he refuses to withdraw and wins, the Senate should vote to expel him,

because he does not meet the ethical and moral requirements of the United States Senate," Gardner said three weeks ago.

He said last week he stood by that statement. Jones, the Democrat, sidestepped questions about Trump's endorsement while suggesting the support of national Republicans like McConnell could do more harm than good in Alabama.

"Our campaign is going straight to the people of the Alabama because that's who my voters are. It's not the president, it's not Mitch McConnell," Jones told reporters outside a steel mill in suburban Birmingham. "Obviously Mitch McConnell has very little credibility in this state anyway, so I'm not worried about him at all."

Expelling a senator is no easy task.

The Senate Ethics Committee would have to investigate, and a recommendation of expulsion could take years.

Trump's tweet raises obstruction specter, worries allies

By Jonathan Lemire and Eric Tucker
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The shifting explanations for why President Donald Trump fired national security adviser Michael Flynn have revived questions about whether the president may have obstructed an ongoing investigation of potential contacts between his campaign and Russia.

Pressure on the administration has mounted since Flynn last week pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about his conversations with the Russian ambassador, with prosecutors revealing that he is now cooperating with special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation. And a muddled White House response, including a problematic presidential tweet, has left some Trump confidants worried that the president is not being well-served by his legal team and believing his lawyers have painted a too-rosy picture of the president's potential plight.

The president's aides and legal advisers have scrambled for 48 hours to explain a presidential tweet that raised the specter of obstruction. It read: "I had to fire General Flynn because he lied to the Vice President and the FBI. He has pleaded guilty to those lies. It is a shame because his actions during the transition were lawful. There was nothing

to hide!"

That tweet appeared to indicate a change in the White House explanation for Flynn's firing, suggesting Trump was aware when the White House dismissed Flynn on Feb. 13 that the national security adviser had lied to the FBI, whose agents had interviewed him weeks earlier. Former FBI Director James Comey has said Trump the following day brought up the Flynn investigation in private at the White House and told him he hoped he could "let this go," raising the possibility he knew Flynn had lied and was looking to cover up the offense.

With questions raised by the tweet, Trump associates tried to put distance between the president and the potentially incriminating message.

One of Trump's attorneys, John Dowd, told CNN on Sunday that was responsible for crafting the tweet.

Dowd declined to comment to the AP but replied



Even Vucci/Associated Press

President Donald Trump boards Air Force One for a trip to Salt Lake City on Monday in Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

with a Fox News story Monday quoting prominent lawyer Alan Dershowitz as saying Trump couldn't have committed obstruction of justice by urging Comey to drop the FBI investigation of Flynn.

Kellyanne Conway, counselor to the president, backed up Dowd's claim that he wrote the tweet, saying "the lawyers are the ones that understand how to put those tweets together."

"I was with the president on Saturday all day, frankly, and I know that what he said is correct," Conway continued, referring to Dowd. "What he says is that he put it together and sent it to our director of social media." A White House

spokesman declined to answer whether Dowd dictated the tweet word-for-word to the White House director of social media, Dan Scavino, or whether Scavino, who has access to the @realDonaldTrump account and its 44 million followers, put the sentiment into something resembling Trump's own voice.

The president angrily scolded aides for the tweet over the weekend, according to a person familiar with private conversations but not authorized to discuss them publicly. The White House is considering reviewing how some tweets, particularly related to the Russia probe, get posted.

Lawmakers work to reconcile dueling House, Senate tax bills

By Stephen Ohlemacher and Marcy Gordon
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Significant differences separate the massive tax packages passed by the House and Senate on estate taxes, health care and a prized deduction for home

mortgage interest, though Republican leaders are confident none is insurmountable.

Republicans are trying to pass the biggest rewrite of the tax system in more than 30 years.

"We're looking forward to getting a final bill to the president's desk, soon,"

Please see BILLS/8A

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1 Timothy 6:18

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Jacquelyn Martin/Associated Press

With shirts saying "fight poverty not the poor," people with the "Poor People's Campaign" gesture the group to remain quiet as the group leaves the Capitol Rotunda after praying in an act of civil disobedience in protest of the GOP tax overhaul Monday on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Trump, congressional leaders plan White House budget meeting

By Alan Fram and Andrew Taylor
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump and congressional leaders have scheduled a summit to begin sorting out their budget differences, top lawmakers and the White House said Monday, as a clash that could produce a partial government shutdown by the weekend hung in the balance.

The meeting, set for Thursday at the White House, comes just a day before federal spending expires that's needed to keep agencies functioning beyond midnight Friday night. Complicating the search for a pact are disputes over immigration, health and other issues folded into the year-end mix.

Top Republicans have wanted to push a bill through Congress this week keeping government afloat through Dec. 22, giving bargainers more time to seek a longer-term budget pact. But underscoring the balancing act leaders face, the hard-right House Freedom Caucus flexed their muscle late Monday and demanded that the temporary spending bill run until Dec. 30.

The conservatives said they worry that a vote on the spending measure before Christmas — when lawmakers are desperate to get home — would give Democrats more leverage to boost the package's price tag. In a brief drama, around two dozen of them withheld votes for a procedural mea-

sure advancing the GOP's prized, separate tax bill until House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., agreed to talk to them further about their concerns, said Freedom Caucus chairman Mark Meadows, R-N.C.

The GOP will need Democratic votes to push the spending bills through Congress, another reason the pathway is unclear for averting a closure just weeks before the start of the 2018 election year. Even so, top Republicans expressed confidence that they'd approve the short-term measure this week, with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., saying, "We will pass it before the end of the week."

Hours before Trump and Capitol Hill leaders were to hold a budget meeting last Tuesday, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., abruptly called off the session. The cancellation came after Trump took to Twitter to vilify their stances on taxes, immigration and crime and say he saw no prospects for an agreement, and the standoff has exacerbated bitter feelings on both sides.

"We hope the president will go into this meeting with an open mind, rather than deciding that an agreement can't be reached beforehand," the Democrats said Monday in a written statement.

The two Democrats pointedly said they'd accepted Trump's offer to meet with them. And in what seemed an attempt to isolate the president, they said they hoped he'd be amenable to an agreement "as negotiations with our Republican counterparts continue."

BILLS

From 7A

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said Monday.

Both versions would cut taxes by about \$1.5 trillion over the next decade while adding billions to the deficit. But they take different approaches.

"I don't see anything here that is a deal-killer," said Jon Traub, a former staff director for House Ways and Means Republicans who is now at Deloitte Tax. "Having come this far, I don't know why they wouldn't be able to finish."

The Senate bill passed by a thin 51-49 margin, so any changes in that measure will have to be negotiated with the senators who care about that issue, said Marc Gerson, a former tax counsel for Ways and Means and now chair of the law firm Miller & Chevalier.

"Overall, I think that the Senate bill is kind of the base text," Gerson said.

The differences and how each issue is likely to play out:

PERSONAL INCOME TAX RATES

The House bill condenses current seven brackets to four: 12 percent, 25 percent, 35 percent and 39.6 percent. The Senate measure retains seven brackets but changes them and reduces the top bracket from 39.6 percent to 38.5 percent.

The Senate bill ends the reductions in 2026; they're permanent in the House version.

It has long been a Republican goal to reduce the number of tax brackets, so House Republicans will have a strong argument on this issue.

The Senate bill has been criticized because the tax cuts for individuals are temporary while the tax cuts for corporations are permanent. Senators, however, had to make some of the tax cuts temporary to comply with Senate rules that prevented Democrats from blocking the bill.

On Sunday, Trump's budget director, Mick Mulvany, said he was comfortable with the Senate plan because he doubted that future congresses would let the tax cuts expire.

HOME MORTGAGE INTEREST DEDUCTION

The House version limits the deduction to interest paid on the first \$500,000 of a loan for new home purchases. The Senate retains the current \$1 million ceiling.

The housing industry is lobbying hard for the Senate version.

ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX

The House bill repeals both the individual and the corporate AMT, which is designed to ensure that higher-earning people pay at least some tax. The Senate bill scales back the individual AMT and keeps the corporate AMT.

House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., blasted the Senate plan on Monday, saying it would kill research and development because tax credits wouldn't be worth as much. Expect a strong push to adopt the House version or to make significant changes to the Senate bill.

"They will have to do something different than what the Senate did," said Rohit Kumar, a former aide to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. Kumar is now at accounting firm PwC.

INHERITANCE TAX

Under current law, when someone dies the estate owes taxes on the value of assets transferred to heirs above \$5.5 million for individuals, \$11 million for couples. The House bill initially doubles those limits and then repeals the entire tax after 2023. The Senate bill doubles the limits but does not repeal the tax.

This is an ideological battle. Very few estates pay

the tax, but repealing it has long been a Republican goal. They call it the "death tax."

"That's one where it seems likely that the Senate prevails," Kumar said. "I don't say that lightly because (repealing it is) something Republicans have wanted to do."

PASS-THROUGH BUSINESSES

Millions of U.S. businesses "pass through" their income to individuals, who then pay personal income taxes on those earnings. The House bill taxes many of them at 25 percent, plus creates a 9 percent rate for the first \$75,000 in earnings for some smaller pass-throughs.

The Senate bill lets people deduct 23 percent of their business earnings and then pay at their personal income tax rate on the remainder.

The House plan is more generous but the Senate plan was the result of delicate, last-minute negotiations that secured some of the final votes to pass the bill.

"The pass-through stuff was well-litigated in the Senate," Kumar said. "If they do something different than what was in the Senate bill, they will have to check with the people who care."

HEALTH LAW MANDATE

The Senate bill repeals the mandate that requires the vast majority of Americans to buy health insurance; the House version does not.

The Senate is likely to prevail because many House Republicans support repealing the mandate.

Also, repealing the mandate would raise \$318 billion over the next decade, according to congressional estimates, because fewer people are expected to apply for tax credits to help pay for health insurance.

That's money that can be used to pay for other tax cuts.

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EDUCATION

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Tuesday, December 5, 2017 | Section B

MISD receives mixed news on financial data

Moody's, S&P deem MISD outlook as stable; TEA gives district 'C' for accountability

From staff reports

Midland Independent School District has received its 2017 ratings from Moody's Investor Service and Standard & Poor's Global Ratings in regards to its \$54.3 million Unlimited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2017.

Moody's Investors Service has assigned an underlying rating of AA2 and maintains the AA2 rating on the district's outstanding general obligation debt. In addition to the underlying rating, Moody's has assigned an AAA enhancement rating to the current issue based on a guarantee provided by the Texas Permanent School Fund (PSF). Post-sale, the district's outstanding general obligation debt will total \$216 million.

This debt number lines up with a report from the Texas Bond Review Board, which states the district's principal payments on its debt were \$215.99 million as of Aug. 31. The TBRB also shows interest

payments of \$119.29 million and total payments of \$335.287 million.

Standard & Poor's Global Ratings assigned its "AAA" long-term (program) rating and "AA" underlying rating to the district's unlimited-tax refunding bonds. At the same time, Standard & Poor's Global Ratings affirmed its "AA" underlying rating on the district's existing general obligation (GO) debt.

"The district is very pleased to realize savings to our debt service fund in excess of \$3.4 million as a result of taking action on bond refinancing," said Darla Moss, chief financial officer for Midland ISD. "The credit ratings from Moody's and Standard & Poor were essential to this process."

Both Moody's Investors Service and Standard & Poor's Global Ratings have declared MISD as having a stable outlook despite the effect of Chapter 41 recapture payments to the state and a strong economic concentration in the oil and gas

sector.

TEA gives MISD a 'C' for financial accountability

Midland ISD was the lone school district in the Reporter-Telegram area to receive a rating lower than a "B" or "above standard achievement" for the 2016-17 school year, according to the Texas Education Agency's final financial accountability ratings.

MISD received a "C" or "met the standard achievement" set by the state. The district was one of 35 across the state to receive a "C," and one of 40 across the state to receive a rating worse than a B. There are 1,022 districts rated across the state, according to the TEA. The 2016-17 ratings are based on annual financial reports provided to TEA by districts and charters from the 2016 fiscal year.

Please see MISD/2B

Area school districts' FIRST ratings

Andrews ISD, A (Superior)
Big Spring ISD, B (Above standard)
Cochise County ISD, A (Superior)
Ector County ISD, A (Superior)
Forsan ISD, A (Superior)
Glasscock County ISD, A (Superior)
Grady ISD, A (Superior)
Greenwood ISD, A (Superior)
Midland Academy Charter School, A (Superior)
Midland ISD, C (Met standard)

| State of Texas statistics | Number of districts | Percentage |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| A (Superior) | 667 | 84.83 |
| B (Above Standard) | 115 | 11.25 |
| C (Meets Standard) | 35 | 3.42 |
| F (Substandard Achievement) | 5 | 0.49 |

SEEING SITES AROUND DC



Courtesy photo

The U.S. Supreme Court was among sights that Midland ISD high school students saw recently during a visit to the nation's capital for the 36th Model Organization of American States General Assembly. The students also visited the White House, Library of Congress, Capitol and National Mall of Monuments. A team from Trinity School also participated. About 300 high school students from 29 states and Central and South America gathered at the OAS headquarters, House of the Americas, Sunday-Monday to "reach consensus on key issues affecting the region," according to MOAS' website. These issues included gender equality and women's rights; human rights protection; drug problems in the Americas; and education and migration.

Community college teachers have more time to devote to students

When I visit with teachers employed in public schools, I often hear, "You are already where I want to be. College. That's where we all want to be."

Many public school teachers consider pursuing master's degrees with the goal of someday teaching college. Unfortunately, many of them are under misconceptions. More than once, someone has applied for a position at Howard College who was not aware of certain realities. For those who have considered teaching at a community college, here are a few things of which to be aware.

In most areas, you must have a master's degree with at least 18 graduate hours in the field in which you want to teach. I get many applications from people who have a master's in education and want to teach art, English, biology or whatever job we have posted. Unlike public schools, where you can get additional certification in various fields, teaching at a college or university requires you have at least 18 graduate hours in that field. Education hours are extremely limiting, especially at a community college. There are only a handful of education courses taught at community colleges, so there is generally no need for an instructor with a master's in education. If you want to teach college, make sure you have those 18 hours in a specific field.

Another thing that surprises many people is community college pay. Public school teachers make more money than we do. I quoted a salary to an applicant last year who responded, "Is that per semester?" This is probably the most heartbreaking thing for many public school teachers. They work so hard to get those master's degrees, thinking the

AMBER KELLY
Howard College



pay is comparable or better to what they are already making. Even at higher-paying community colleges, the salary usually is not better. My mom took a pay cut to move from public school to community college. It was worth it to her because she did not have responsibilities such as bus duty, but it was still a significant financial change.

Applicants have asked me about research funding. Some community colleges do have research opportunities, particularly in the STEM fields. However, most colleges do not have funding for research and do not expect their instructors to do research work. That type of "publish or perish" position is usually found at universities. Tenure is another thing that is usually found only at universities. Only a handful of community colleges still offer tenure.

A few years ago, a new faculty member leaned in the door of my office and said, "I have been living in a dream world." This was her first semester teaching anything other than as a graduate assistant at a major university. She had the idea coming in that college students would have a strong knowledge base, discipline and study skills. She, like most of our new faculty, was surprised at students' limited knowledge and skills. I often joke that college students are not that different from

K-12. They are just bigger and know more swear words. While that is not entirely true, the perception that a community college student is actually more advanced than a high school or even middle school student is inaccurate. Our students represent a variety of experiences and skills. Many are essentially university students, but it is unrealistic to expect all of them to perform at the university level.

So lower pay, more education and same students — you might be wondering why people would want to work at a community college. For me, and many of my colleagues, it is about the students. Our students come to us for a number of reasons. Some are returning to college after years in the workforce. Others are just not ready academically, financially, or even emotionally for a university. Without distractions such as research and tenure, we can focus on these students and help them find their way. Many of them are looking for mentoring and guidance; we have the time and the passion to provide that for them. We are the bridge between their past and future. With small class sizes, we can work with them and connect with them in ways that might not happen at a university, particularly in freshman-level courses that are taught by teaching assistants and have hundreds enrolled.

Teaching for anyone is a calling. No one does it for the money or the fame. Community college is no exception. We have more academic freedom than the K-12 teachers do, but we have our own unique challenges. I often joke that we have to "MacGyver" things because our funding is limited. It is sometimes

Please see KELLY/2B

MIDLAND COLLEGE PROFILES

By Rebecca Bell

Counseling program sets graduate on different career path

After working in the fast food industry for more than 10 years and then in a pediatric office for almost two years, Stephen Ellison, 33, has finally found his true calling. He began taking classes in Midland College's Alcohol & Drug Abuse Counseling (ADAC) program in January 2016 and is now a counselor intern at The Springboard Center.



Ellison

"I guess you might say it was coincidence that caused me to get interested in becoming a counselor," said Ellison. "I was working in a pediatric office handling billing, coding and referrals when I met a mental health deputy because we were referring a child for counseling. I was really interested in helping the child and knowing more about counseling services. The deputy suggested I contact Midland College about their ADAC program. So I did, and then I enrolled in classes in January of 2016. That was one of the best decisions of my life."

Ellison grew up in Corsicana and graduated from Corsicana High School in 2002. Like many teens, he had part-time jobs in fast food restaurants and continued to work while attending Navarro College and later the University of North Texas. He eventually was promoted to management positions, and in November 2012, Dairy Queen transferred him to manage their restaurant in Seminole.

"West Texas was definitely different from Corsicana," he said. "Fortunately, my older sister, Monique, and her husband had also moved to West Texas, so I had family in the area."

Ellison said he grew tired of working in the fast food industry, and that's when he landed a job working for a pediatric group in Midland.

"I enjoyed working in the pediatric office and probably would still be there had it not been for meeting the mental health deputy and learning about Midland College's ADAC program," said Ellison.

Because of Ellison's previous college credits at Navarro and the University of North Texas, he had already completed many of his core classes, and he was able to complete his associate of applied science degree in three semesters.

One of the requirements for his degree was to successfully complete a counseling internship. So from August until December 2016, Ellison interned at The Springboard Center, which offers programs and services for alcohol and drug addiction. Members of the management staff at Springboard were so impressed with Ellison that immediately after his internship ended, they hired him on a full-time basis. He is now a counselor/intern working toward the 4,000-hour requirement to take the licensed chemical dependency counselor (LCDC) exam and become a licensed counselor.

Ellison credits his education at MC in helping him succeed at Springboard because of the intimate environment and real-world training that the college's program provided. He is now taking online courses through the University of Texas

Please see PROFILE/2B

Graduate students argue against taxing tuition waivers

By Maria Danilova
and Collin Binkley
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Graduate students around the U.S. are staging campus walk-outs and lobbying Congress in an effort to keep their tuition waivers tax-free.

They have the support of their schools in arguing that a provision in the House Republican tax bill could, as graduate student Shawn Rhoads says, "upend the American Ph.D. system."

Rhoads is pursuing a doctorate in neuroscience at Georgetown University. He worries that if the House tax bill becomes law, his annual tax bill would balloon so high that he'd be unable to make ends meet.

"It's an outrageous financial burden for graduate students," said Rhoads, 24, who works as a research and teaching assistant at the university in the nation's capital.

Many schools waive tuition for graduate students as a benefit for pursuing advanced degrees and working as a teaching assistant as well as to attract students. It's not taxed as income.

But the House tax bill approved in November would make the amount of the tuition waiver taxable. The Senate's version would keep the tuition waiver intact.

Speaking at the American Enterprise Institute last week, Republican Rep. Kevin Brady of Texas, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said lawmakers were listening to supporters of the waiver provision and that it would be addressed when the House and Senate try to reconcile their bills.

At the same time, Brady questioned whether the waivers were fair to students who work off campus and don't receive the same tax breaks.

"Outside of the university world, there is some controversy to the current tax provisions," he said in response to a question from a medical student.

The American Council on Education, an umbrella group representing more than 1,800 colleges and universities, estimated that higher education provisions in the House bill, including making tuition waivers taxable, would increase the cost to students attending college by more than \$65 billion between

2018 and 2027. "It would be devastating to graduate education, undermining severely our pipeline of bright new graduate students who are going to contribute to our economy in a whole range of fields, but especially in the field of STEM," said Steven M. Bloom, director of government relations for the council, referring to science, technology, engineering and math fields.

"If you were to design a set of public policy ideas meant to undermine access to higher education," he added, "you would do what the House decided to do."

Graduate students have staged walk-outs and teach-ins at schools around the country, including the University of Southern California, Harvard, the University of Minnesota, Ohio State and the University of Kansas.

More than 2,000 graduate students across the U.S. have signed a petition started at Harvard asking Congress to keep the tuition waiver.

"We bring tangible advances to our communities," said Alana Van Dervort, a Harvard graduate student and one of the letter's authors. "For instance, a new, po-

tentially promising approach to treating cancers and genetic diseases was pioneered by students during their graduate training at Harvard and Berkeley."

Most graduate students work for their universities at some point of their education, and a report by the Council of Graduate Schools found that nearly a quarter of doctoral students received institutional tuition and fee waivers in 2012.

For universities, offering waivers can help attract top students who also work as teaching or research assistants. For students, waivers help them cover the cost of living while pursuing an advanced degree.

"We would basically be priced out of being able to afford higher education," said Steven Manicaster, a Ph.D. student and teaching assistant at the University of Connecticut. "A lot of graduate employees, they're living check to check, and you don't have a lot of time to find additional work."

Manicaster, 28, said his taxable income would more than double under the House bill. He would be hit especially hard because, as a New Jersey native, his tuition waiver covers the university's

higher out-of-state tuition price, roughly \$32,000 a year. He estimates the tax would cost him an extra \$3,000 to \$5,000 a year. "Our incomes are so low we usually don't end up paying taxes on our income," he said.

Indiana University President Michael McRobbie said eliminating the tax waiver would disproportionately harm students in STEM fields at the nation's research universities.

"We simply cannot afford to lose ground in attracting those students who we know will drive innovation, guide the development of new technologies, and perform the type of path-breaking research that will improve our economy and quality of life," he said.

Kim Rueben, a tax policy expert with Urban Institute, a left-leaning think tank, said that while a tax reform could indeed boost the economy, this bill would do the opposite.

"In terms of a tax bill that wants to encourage growth and economic well-being for people, it's going in the wrong direction," Rueben said. "It's just not good tax policy or tax reform."

Civics computer game translated into Spanish

■ Company created by former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor

By Jessica Gresko
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court's first female justice, Sandra Day O'Connor, has helped teach millions of students civics through computer games created by an organization she founded. Now, with a push from the Supreme Court's first Hispanic justice, Sonia Sotomayor, the group has translated one of its games into Spanish.

The group iCivics, which O'Connor founded in 2009 after her retirement from the Supreme Court, now has 19 computer games that were played by 5 million students last year. Sotomayor, who grew up speaking Spanish at home, joined the organization's board in 2015. One of her first initiatives has been to try to make iCivics games more accessible to students learning English and others struggling with reading, she has said.

O'Connor and Sotomayor never served together on the high court, but they have found a common calling in advocating for civics education in schools.

"For me, civic education is the key to inspiring kids to want to become and stay

involved in making a difference," Sotomayor said at an event in September at Washington's Newseum.

Games created by iCivics teach students concepts from how the nation's court system works and how laws are made to how presidential campaigns work and what it's like to be on a jury. Sotomayor has predicted iCivics "will change America" and may be O'Connor's "longest-lasting legacy."

The game iCivics has updated in Spanish and is called "Do I Have a Right?" In it, players run a law firm. They listen to potential clients' stories, decide if their constitutional rights have been violated and, if so, match the clients with lawyers who can help. The game was first released in 2011 and iCivics says it has been played nearly 9 million times. The Spanish-language update is aimed at the almost 10 percent of public school students, about 4.6 million students, who are classified as English-language learners. The majority of them come from homes where Spanish is spoken.

On a recent Thursday morning, students in Phoebe Sherman's 11th grade U.S. history class at Theodore Roosevelt High School in Washington were some of the first to play the updated game. The students, almost all of them immigrants from Central

America who are in a class of English-language learners, spent time answering the question "What is a right?" and coming up with examples before playing the game in pairs.

Some pairs chose to play in English while others chose Spanish. Some groups switched back and forth while playing. Aside from the Spanish translation, the game's new version also includes other updates for students struggling with English: a glossary that explains legal and other terms and an optional voiceover in the English game.

Zayra Granados, 17, who moved to the United States from El Salvador four years ago, was playing the game in Spanish. She read a question about whether a newspaper could be required by law to publish only happy news or if it had a right to publish a story about homelessness. The newspaper could publish the story about homelessness, she said.

"People have to know what is happening in their country," she said.

By the end of the period, she and her partner had just eked out a winning record, with their law firm winning eight cases and losing seven. She was happy about the wins.

"I want to learn about laws and stuff so I can know my rights," she said.

LeBron James-inspired school to be subject of docu-series

By Craig Webb
Akron Beacon Journal

AKRON, Ohio — A nationwide audience will be able to watch as LeBron James takes a bold off-the-court move to change the lives of some Akron school kids one student at a time.

On the heels of the recent vote by the Akron school board to clear the way for the creation of the I Promise School to support at-risk students, James and fellow Akronite and business partner Maverick Carter have announced that documentary filmmakers will chronicle the innovative school's start.

James and Carter's Spring Hill Entertainment has

partnered with filmmaker and producer Morgan Spurlock's Warrior Poets to film the docu-series in Akron.

When and where it will air has not yet been disclosed; the series promises to follow the "first year trials of working within the local public school system to build a unique educational environment for children who are falling behind and fighting uphill battles every day."

It will highlight the work of local educators, mentors and community partners as they work to create an "innovative curriculum" for the students and their families.

The effort is part of the LeBron James Family Foundation's "We Are

Family" effort to keep select Akron kids in the classroom and on the path to a college education.

The new school will have an extended day and also a longer school year than others in the district.

"Being able to create this school to specifically meet the needs of these kids and their families means everything to me. There are so many kids and families struggling, and we want this school to be a safe, positive place that helps them stay on the right track to earning their educations," said James in a statement.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

MISD

From 1B

according to the TEA.

When the initial scores came out in August, Midland ISD Superintendent Orlando Riddick said a driver of the rating was the district's low reserve fund.

The FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas) reports for MISD corroborated that, as MISD scored poorly in the following areas:

■ Was the number of days of cash on hand and current investments in the general fund for the school district sufficient

to cover operating expenditures (excluding facilities acquisition and construction)? Midland ISD scored a 4 out of 10;

■ Did the school district's general fund revenues equal or exceed expenditures (excluding facilities acquisition and construction)? If not, was the school district's number of days of cash on hand greater than or equal to 60 days? Midland ISD scored a 0 out of 10;

■ Was the debt service coverage ratio sufficient to meet the required debt service? Midland ISD again scored a 0 out of 10.

PROFILE

From 1B

at Arlington toward a baccalaureate degree in social work.

In addition to his sister — who is an occupational therapy assistant at Health South — other members of Ellison's family also moved to West Texas. His older brother, Adrian, works in the oil industry, and his younger brother, Carlton, is employed in the engineering department at Texas Tech University. The only member of his

immediate family still in East Texas is his mother, Sherretta, who is a school counselor in DeSoto.

"We keep telling my mom that she needs to move to Midland," he said.

Ellison's responsibilities at Springboard include performing clinical assessments, developing individualized patient treatment plans and working as a residential counselor. He has also begun to carry a caseload and facilitate groups. "My career goal is to

grow with Springboard," said Ellison. "I've always been a 'people person.' Now instead of serving people burgers, I'm actually providing guidance and emotional support to people who are recovering from addictions. I wake up in the morning excited, knowing that I am going to meet new people and set them on a better path."

Rebecca C. Bell is dean of Community Relations at Midland College.

KELLY

From 1B

frustrating, but if you love knowledge and working with students who need a little something extra, community college is an

exciting, rewarding place to call home.

Amber Kelly teaches English and history at Howard College and is dean of General Studies.



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| TUESDAY PRIME TIME | | DECEMBER 5, 2017 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|------|------------------|------|------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Channel | Time | 6 PM | 6:30 | 7 PM | 7:30 | 8 PM | 8:30 | 9 PM | 9:30 | 10 PM | 10:30 | 11 PM | 11:30 | |
| KMD ABC | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 2 | Jeopardy! | Wheel of Fortune (R) | Middle (R) | Fresh Off the Beat (R) | Black-ish (R) | The Mayor (R) | Saves the World: Chrysalis (R) | Local 2 News (R) | 10:30 Jimmy Kimmel Live! |
| KOSA CBS | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | CBS 7 News (R) | CBS 7 News (R) | NCIS: The New York Office | SEAL Team 6: The Men of Christmas Future | Ball 'n' Chain for Scandal | Ball 'n' Chain for Scandal | Hogan's Heroes | Hogan's Heroes | Carol Burnett |
| KWWT CW | 5 | 14 | 5 | 14 | M*A*S*H: A New Year's Eve Special | M*A*S*H: A New Year's Eve Special | M*A*S*H: A New Year's Eve Special | M*A*S*H: A New Year's Eve Special | M*A*S*H: A New Year's Eve Special | M*A*S*H: A New Year's Eve Special | M*A*S*H: A New Year's Eve Special | M*A*S*H: A New Year's Eve Special | M*A*S*H: A New Year's Eve Special | |
| KPEI FOX | 8 | 5 | 5 | 8 | 3 | Big Bang Theory | Big Bang Theory | Big Bang Theory | Big Bang Theory | Big Bang Theory | Big Bang Theory | Big Bang Theory | Big Bang Theory | |
| KMLM HD | 11 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 11 | Our Menzies | Our Menzies | Our Menzies | Our Menzies | Our Menzies | Our Menzies | Our Menzies | Our Menzies | |
| KWIS NBC | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | News at 9 (R) | News at 9 (R) | News at 9 (R) | News at 9 (R) | News at 9 (R) | News at 9 (R) | News at 9 (R) | News at 9 (R) | |
| KPRT PBS | 13 | 13 | 13 | 8 | PBS NewsHour | PBS NewsHour | PBS NewsHour | PBS NewsHour | PBS NewsHour | PBS NewsHour | PBS NewsHour | PBS NewsHour | PBS NewsHour | |
| KUPD UNI | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 16 | Comaromando de Texas | Comaromando de Texas | Comaromando de Texas | Comaromando de Texas | Comaromando de Texas | Comaromando de Texas | Comaromando de Texas | Comaromando de Texas | |
| KOSA NBT | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | Last Man Standing | Last Man Standing | Last Man Standing | Last Man Standing | Last Man Standing | Last Man Standing | Last Man Standing | Last Man Standing | |

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Woman is ready to hang up on constantly calling husband

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I argue more than I'd like. I am pretty easygoing and passive; he likes his feelings to be known. Over time, I have become worn down, and my patience has worn thin.

We are starting to rebound from what I call "the year from hell." His drinking and poor choices nearly put us on the street, and I was ready to walk. Things are starting to get better, but what we can't seem to agree on is communication during the day.

Abby, I am on the phone for a living. I cannot stand being on it more than I must be. He calls and/or texts me up to 12 times a day. I can't stand it. Even when I'm busy or give him a time when I will call him back, he beeps in before I have the chance.

I am now at the end of my rope. With all that I have dealt with, worked through and put up with, this is something I will not compromise on.

I feel it's more than sufficient to talk on my way in to work, maybe check in around lunch, then on the way home. He feels that because I don't feel the need to call or talk that much that I don't love him. I can't stand listening to the dead air or breathing because there is nothing to talk about. Am I being petty for letting this be the thing that will break us? — TALKS TOO MUCH IN TEXAS

DEAR TALKS TOO MUCH: If you want to save your marriage after everything you have been through, make the time for marriage counseling. What may destroy your marriage isn't your husband's talking; it's his neediness, insecurity and insensitivity.

Frankly, what you have described strikes me as controlling rather than loving behavior. After the struggles you have described, you have already proven your love for him. Being at his beck and call during the workday should not be an additional requirement.

DEAR ABBY: My sister-in-law is extremely allergic to cats. We have six cats, but live 1,000 miles away from her. When her 8-year-old son comes to visit, he has a Ziploc bag full of clean clothes that he puts on before he goes home. The clothes he wore here are sealed up at the end of his trip to be washed.

I'm OK with this. But I need some advice for an upcoming big family holiday gathering. We have all been courteously asked to wash our clothes before coming, to vacuum our vehicles and to limit our contact with cats before arriving. Am I wrong to feel like it's her problem, not ours? — WHOSE PROBLEM IS IT

DEAR WHOSE PROBLEM: Yes, you are wrong. When a family member has a health problem that can be triggered by the others, it becomes everyone's problem. If the steps needed to keep her safe are too much for you, you should stay home.

DEAR ABBY: Is it cheating to proofread your college-aged child's final before he/she turns it in? — WONDERING IN ORANGE, CALIF.

DEAR WONDERING: To read it? No. To correct it, yes.

GOREN BRIDGE

With Bob Jones

Suit preference

Both vulnerable, East deals

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>NORTH ♠ Q 8 6 ♥ Q J 7 4 3 ♦ 6 4 ♣ 8 5 2</p> <p>WEST ♠ 10 2 ♥ A 10 9 2 ♦ J 7 2 ♣ J 6 4 3</p> | <p>EAST ♠ 9 4 3 ♥ 5 ♦ A K 9 5 3 ♣ A K Q 9</p> <p>SOUTH ♠ A K J 7 5 ♥ Q 8 6 ♦ Q 10 8 ♣ 10 7</p> |
|--|--|

The bidding:
EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH
1♠ 1♠ 1♠ 1♠
All pass

Opening lead: Two of ♠

We have often featured deals with "suit-preference" signals. They are traditionally considered the third most important defensive signal, behind "attitude" signals and "count" signals. There are a growing number of experts, however, who think that suit-preference signals might be the most important of all. You might think that East-West were too timid in not competing to at least three clubs. They would have had an easy time in that contract. However, when you can defend as well as this East-West pair, such timid bidding is quickly forgotten. This deal took place in a duplicate pair game, where a score of plus 200 is called the "magic number". That score will best any other score on a part-score deal.

The opening diamond lead went to East's king, and East continued with the ace of diamonds. West played the jack of diamonds under the ace as a suit-preference signal for hearts. Hearts was the higher-ranking of the two remaining suits, excluding diamonds and the trump suit. Before switching to his heart, East made the excellent play of the queen of clubs, showing off his strong holding in that suit.

East led the five of hearts to West's ace, and West carefully returned the two of hearts as a suit preference signal for clubs. East got the signal loud and clear. East ruffed the heart and under-led his ace-king of clubs to West's jack. Another heart ruff meant down two and the magic number for East-West!

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SPORTS

The All-District 2-6A Football Team has been released. Page 3C

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Tuesday, December 5, 2017 | Section C

Cowboys visit Giants as interim coach debuts

By Schuyler Dixon
Associated Press

FRISCO — Jason Garrett dislikes comparisons, so the Dallas coach had no interest in recalling the motivation for his Cowboys when he debuted with a win at the New York Giants six days after the firing of Wade Phillips in 2010.

Why would Garrett get asked such a thing in the first place? Well, the Cowboys visit the Giants on Sunday. And New York will be led by interim coach Steve Spagnuolo after the firing of Ben McAdoo on Monday.

"I'm sure every situation is different," Garrett said Monday, a few hours after the spiraling Giants cleaned house.

"I think the biggest thing you

try to do is lock in on what the opportunity is in front of you. That's what we're trying to do this week."

Garrett's right about one thing. The Giants also dumped general manager Jerry Reese. Cowboys owner Jerry Jones would have to fire himself for the same thing to happen in Dallas, and Jones has always said he'll never do that.

So the other comparison will have to do, and begs the question of whether the Giants (2-10) can find a spark and spoil what remains of the playoff hopes for the Cowboys (6-6) a year after beating them twice when Dallas finished atop the NFC at 13-3.

Seven years ago, the Cowboys bounced back from a humiliating prime-time blowout in Green Bay with a 33-20 win over the

Giants that ended New York's five-game winning streak and sparked a 5-3 finish under Garrett after a 1-7 start.

Nope. Still nothing from Garrett.

"That was a particular situation that we had a few years ago, and we tried to handle it the best," Garrett said. "The biggest thing we tried to preach to our guys is just to prepare for the opportunity that we have on Sunday. It's the same thing we're preaching right now to our team."

The Cowboys aren't nearly on the roll New York was for Garrett's debut. But quarterback Dak Prescott said his bruised throwing hand (right) is fine after taking a hit on it in last week's

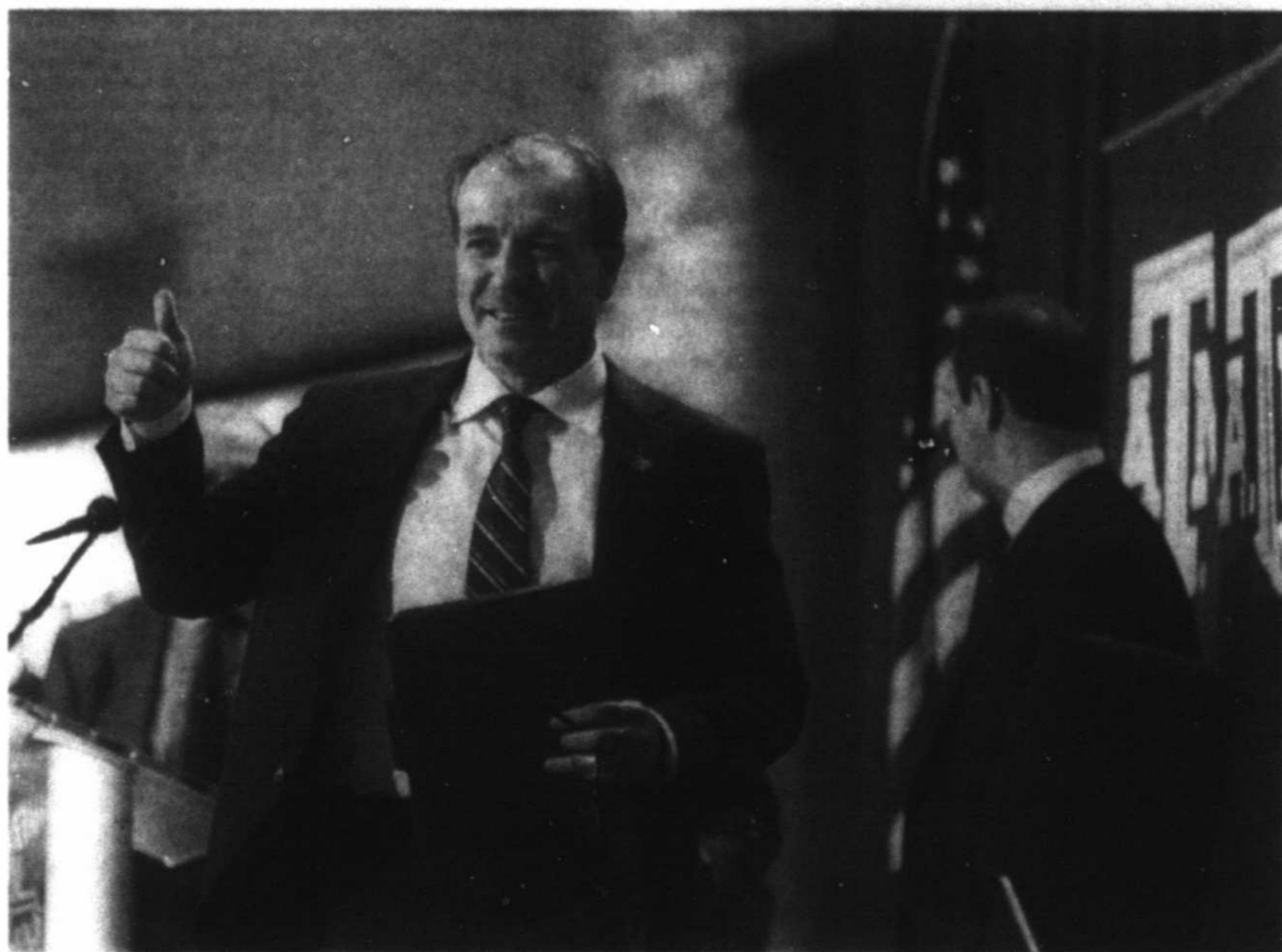
Please see COWBOYS/2C



Ron Jenkins/Associated Press

Dallas Cowboys head coach Jason Garrett responds to a reporter's question during a news conference after a game against the Washington Redskins on Thursday in Arlington.

Taking over the reins



Mark Mulligan / Houston Chronicle

New Texas A&M University head football coach Jimbo Fisher walks into a press conference at the school's Hall of Champions at Kyle Field on Monday in College Station.

Fisher gets \$75 Million deal at Texas A&M

By Kristie Rieken
Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION — Jimbo Fisher wasn't wearing a white hat when he arrived at Texas A&M on Monday, no signs of a swashbuckling, down-home savior for program desperate to compete with the best in the Southeastern Conference.

But the West Virginia native made sure to profess his love of all things country when he was introduced as the new coach at an event that started with the school's signature greeting of "howdy," and ended with him being given a pair of custom, A&M-embroidered Lucchese cowboy boots.

"I'm a tobacco chewer and I wear my boots and I shoot my guns and I throw my

fishing rod," he said before lamenting that he probably shouldn't admit all that. "And I grew up on horses."

That spiel is sure to ingratiate him with Aggies fans for now. But in order to stay in their good graces he'll be expected to bring this school its first national title since 1939.

"Gone are the days when we settle for a good football team," said John Sharp, the chancellor of the Texas A&M system. "We expect to compete soon for championships."

The Aggies signed Fisher to a 10-year, \$75 million contract to lure him away from Florida State, a place where he captured the 2013 national title and won three Atlantic Coast Conference championships in eight seasons.

He was asked if he believe the Aggies, who haven't reached double-digit wins since 2012, could compete for a national title in the near future.

"I definitely do or I wouldn't be here," he said. "We have to get there. And we have to prepare the players for that situation so when it's there they can take advantage of that situation."

Fisher takes over for Kevin Sumlin, who was fired Nov. 26 after the Aggies finished the regular season 7-5 and 4-4 in the SEC. The 53-year-old Sumlin, who went 51-26 and led the Aggies to a bowl game in each of his six seasons, is still owed \$10 million for the remaining two years on his contract.

Please see FISHER/3C

Mayfield, Jackson, Love are Heisman Trophy finalists

By Ralph D. Russo
Associated Press

Oklahoma quarterback Baker Mayfield and reigning Heisman Trophy winner Lamar Jackson of Louisville are Heisman finalists for the second straight year and will be joined in New York for the presentation ceremony by Stanford running back Bryce Love.

The three finalists were announced Monday night. The award for most outstanding college football player will be given out Saturday night.

Jackson is trying to become the second player to win two Heismans, joining former Ohio State star Archie Griffin, but Mayfield will come to Manhattan as the clear front-runner. He finished fourth in the Heisman voting in 2015 but was not invited to New

York. Last year, he was one of five finalists and finished third behind Jackson and Clemson's Deshaun Watson.

This season, Mayfield has led the No. 2 Sooners (12-1) to the Big 12 championship and the College Football Playoff. Oklahoma plays Georgia in the Rose Bowl semifinal on Jan. 1. Mayfield leads the nation in efficiency rating at 203.76 and has thrown for 4,340 yards and 41 touchdowns.

Jackson's numbers have been better than last season in some categories, but Louisville (8-4) has not had the big wins to go with it. With little fanfare, the quarterback is averaging 411 total yards — up from 393 last season — and accounted for 42 touchdowns.

Griffin won back-to-back Heismans for Ohio State in 1974 and '75.

Love is second in the nation



Tony Gutierrez/Associated Press

Oklahoma quarterback Baker Mayfield (6) celebrates throwing a long pass for a touchdown in the second half of the Big 12 Conference championship game against TCU on Saturday in Arlington.

in rushing at 164.42 yards per game and is averaging 8.32 yards per carry for the 15th-ranked Cardinal. An ankle injury slowed Love the last

month of the season, but he still led the nation in rushes of at least 50 yards with 12.

Please see HEISMAN/3C

Texans look to regroup after mistake and injury-filled game

By Kristie Rieken
Associated Press

HOUSTON — After yet another loss, the Houston Texans are trying to figure out how to correct their mistakes and deal with several more injuries after already losing stars J.J. Watt and Deshaun Watson for the season.

Houston's 24-13 defeat at Tennessee on Sunday was its fifth loss in six games to drop the team to 4-8.

Already decimated by injuries, the Texans sustained several more against the Titans, leaving them thin at several positions heading into Sunday's game against the 49ers.

Tight end C.J. Fiedorowicz, receiver Braxton Miller and running back Alfred Blue all suffered concussions against the Titans. Also injured were Bruce Ellington (hamstring) and cornerback Johnathan Joseph (shoulder).

"For me, calling plays and being a head coach, that game was a first for me where we lost that many players to injury during the game," coach Bill O'Brien said.

O'Brien didn't have an update on the status of any of those injured players on Monday, but Houston lost another player for the season when linebacker Brennan Scarlett was placed on injured reserve with a foot injury he sustained last week against the Ravens.

Scarlett had been playing in place of Whitney Mercilus, who tore his pectoral muscle on Oct. 8 in the same game where Watt broke his leg.

Now the Texans will likely have to start Gimel President at the position. President was signed as an undrafted free agent and has spent most of this season on the practice squad.

Despite the mounting injuries and the team's poor record, O'Brien isn't planning to use the remaining games to look to the future or evaluate younger players.

"The big thing is winning," he said. "I think within winning you may, within the goal of winning, you may be able to do certain things, but at the end of the day, if it doesn't point toward winning, you're not doing it."

On top of the injuries on Sunday, the Texans struggled with several uncharacteristic miscues. Jeff Allen, who had been the team's right guard for most of the season, moved to left tackle against the Titans, and committed three straight false start

Please see TEXANS/2C



James Kenney/Associated Press

Houston Texans wide receiver Braxton Miller (13) leaps over the leg of Tennessee Titans linebacker Erik Walden (93) in the first half Sunday in Nashville.

DAILY RUNDOWN

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

- Men's College Basketball: Villanova vs. Gonzaga, 6 p.m., ESPN. Texas at VCU, 6 p.m., ESPN2. Virginia at West Virginia, 6 p.m., ESPN. Vermont at Marquette, 6 p.m., FS1.

WHAT'S ON DECK

- HS Boys Basketball: Abilene Cooper at Lee, 7:30 p.m., Chaparral Center. Midland High at Lubbock Estacado, 7:30 p.m.

- HS Girls Basketball: San Angelo Central at Midland High, 6:15 p.m. Lubbock High at Lee, 6 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

- BASEBALL: American League. Boston Red Sox - Agreed in terms with RHP Tim Lincecum on a one-year contract.

PREGAME.COM ODDS

Table with columns: FAVORITE, OPEN, COLLEGE FOOTBALL, QU, UNDERDOG. Lists various college football matchups and odds.

NHL GLANCE

Table with columns: EASTERN CONFERENCE, WESTERN CONFERENCE. Lists NHL team records and game times.

PRO RODEO LEADERS

- Final 2017 Standings: Trevor Brazner, Dumas, Texas \$243,760. 2. Ted Cronin, Washburn, Texas \$202,027.

YOUTH SPORTS

Wtx Allstarz come in second at national tournament

From staff reports

The U9 Wtx Allstarz girls youth soccer team of Midland recently competed in the 3v3 Live National Championship in Nashville, Tennessee, and came in second in the 2009 division.

to the national tournament, where some of the best teams compete in each age division.

The Wtx Allstarz consist of Emily Jones, Bluc Torres, Kayli Olivias and Kaylie Terrazas and are coached by Ruben Terrazas and Ever Olivias.

Note: To submit an item to Youth Sports, which runs on Tuesdays, please submit information to sports@mrt.com by 5 p.m. Monday.



Courtesy Photo

The Wtx Allstarz, of Midland, are from left to right, Emily Jones, Kayli Olivias and Kaylie Terrazas. The team came in second in the 2009 division at the 3v3 Live National Championship recently held in Nashville, Tennessee.

Reeling Giants fire coach McAdoo, GM Reese after 10th loss

By Tom Canavan Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Believing the team was spiraling out of control, the New York Giants went out of character by making two major in-season moves, firing coach Ben McAdoo and general manager Jerry Reese.

With the team reeling at 2-10 in a season where most felt it was capable of challenging for a Super Bowl, co-owners John Mara and Steve Tisch reached the decision Monday morning. It came less than a day after the

Giants lost in Oakland, with quarterback Eli Manning benched and the offensively inept team performing poorly again.

"We agreed that wholesale changes to this organization needed to be made to get us back to the team we expect it to be," Mara said at a hastily called news conference.

Defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo will take over as interim coach for the final four games. He coached the St. Louis Rams from 2009-11.

Mara did not know whether Manning will return as the starter this

weekend against Dallas, saying the decision will be made by Spagnuolo. Mara said neither McAdoo nor Reese was surprised by the decision, saying they were both professionals. He said his meeting with Reese was more emotional because the two had worked together since 1994.

"I don't think there was any one final straw," Mara said. "I just think that where we are as a franchise right now, you know, we're 2-10. We've kind of been spiraling out of control. I just felt like we needed a complete overhaul. I don't think there was any one event or one final act to precipitate that."

Brown, Boswell lead Steelers to 23-20 win over Bengals

By Joe Kay Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Chris Boswell kicked a field goal on the final play shortly after Antonio Brown caught a 6-yard touchdown pass taking a hit to the head while landing in the end zone and the Pittsburgh Steelers pulled off another improbable comeback against the Cincinnati Bengals, rallying for a 23-20 victory Monday night.

Down 17-0 early, the Steelers (10-2) extended their best start since 2004 in a physical game with a couple frightening injuries. Brown's touchdown tied it at 20 with 3:51 to go, setting up Boswell's 38-yard field goal, his second straight winner in the closing seconds.

The Bengals (5-7) simply can't find a way to beat their Ohio River rival, not even after getting off to the big early lead. They've dropped six straight against

Pittsburgh, including the Steelers' 18-16 playoff win at Paul Brown Stadium that included another Bengals meltdown. Pittsburgh lost leading tackler Ryan Shazier to a back injury in the first quarter. The linebacker was taken off the field on a cart and taken to a hospital for evaluation. Bengals linebacker Vontaze Burfict was carted off in the fourth quarter after JuJu Smith-Schuster leveled him with a high hit, then taunted him by walking over him.

Table with columns: Pittsburgh, Cincinnati. Shows game statistics like First Downs, Total Yards, etc.

Table with columns: NATIONAL CONFERENCE, AFC EAST, AFC NORTH, AFC SOUTH, AFC WEST. Shows team records.

Table with columns: NATIONAL CONFERENCE, AFC EAST, AFC NORTH, AFC SOUTH, AFC WEST. Shows team records.

Standings

Table with columns: AMERICAN CONFERENCE, AFC EAST, AFC NORTH, AFC SOUTH, AFC WEST. Shows team records.

TEXANS

From 1C

penalties in the fourth quarter.

He's the fourth player the Texans have used at the position this season after Duane Brown held out for several games before being traded to the Seahawks after just one game back.

Kendall Lamm started the season at the position

but was benched for Chris Clark, but Clark was placed on injured reserve last week forcing the Texans to move Allen.

O'Brien doesn't envision making another change this week despite Allen's tough outing on Sunday.

"I think that we'll see where we are relative to injuries and all those things, but yeah. I could see him

being our left tackle again," he said.

Another problem the Texans had on Sunday was on special teams where kicker Ka'imi Fairbairn missed two field goals after missing just two all season entering the game. He missed from 48 and 23 yards in the loss, raising questions about what went wrong.

O'Brien didn't seem that worried about his difficult day and expressed confidence in his kicker.

"A lot of times it's the plant foot, it's maybe a little concern about the rush, the short-side rush, whatever it is," O'Brien said. "He's a good kicker. I have a lot of faith in him. He had a bad day, but he'll be all right."

COWBOYS

From 1C

38-14 win over Washington that snapped a three-game losing streak.

And 2016 All-Pro linebacker Sean Lee said he's ready to return after missing three straight games with a hamstring injury.

The Dallas defense had its best showing in five games overall without Lee this season, forcing four Redskins turnovers and sacking Kirk Cousins

four times. The 280 yards allowed were the fewest since beating the Giants 19-3 in the opener.

"I thought we were more physical in how we tackled and in forcing the opposing offense to earn it," Garrett said. "That's really when we play our best defense. So I did think we grew over the course of time — the best game being the one against the Redskins."

The Dallas offense is also coming off its best

game without suspended star running back Ezekiel Elliott, who has two games left in his six-game suspension over alleged domestic violence.

Alfred Morris had 127 yards rushing on 27 carries with a clinching touchdown against the Redskins, and the Cowboys rushed for 115 yards in the second half. The Giants have the worst rushing defense in the NFL.

"It's hard to think, hey,

one minute you may have (Elliott) and the next minute you don't, to have the same type of confidence," executive vice president of personnel Stephen Jones said on his radio show Monday. "But I think seeing that happen, have him go through a game like that and really, at the end of the day, play the type of football game we want to play as a football team certainly helped everybody in the building."

MIDLAND HUMANE COALITION UPCOMING EVENTS. 12/07 6:30-8:30 Microchip Clinic at Beer Garden's Yappy Hour. 12/09 12-10 Hang 'Em High Art Co. Tattoo Fundraiser, Odessa. 12/31 Toasting for Tails New Year's Eve Party at DoubleTree. PLEASE VISIT THE EVENTS SECTION OF OUR WEBSITE WWW.MIDLANDHUMANE.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION. ENHANCED ADOPTION CENTER Open for adoptions Mon. - Sat. 12-7 & Sun. 12-6. Adoption Fees (fully vetted & chipped): Cats \$110, Dogs \$150. 432.520.3134 ext. 7. Located within Midland's PetSmart Store. AD SPONSORED BY BROWN'S PERMIAN ELECTRIC CO.

Boone hiring finalized by New York Yankees

By Ronald Blum
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Aaron Boone's hiring was finalized Monday by the New York Yankees, who gave the ESPN broadcaster a three-year contract to succeed Joe Girardi as manager.

New York, which picked Boone over five other candidates last week, scheduled a news conference for Wednesday at Yankee Stadium.

"I firmly believe that Aaron possesses the attributes needed to follow in the tradition of great Yankees managers," owner Hal Steinbrenner said in a statement. "From all accounts, he is a polished communicator who possesses the ability to cultivate and grow relationships. Aaron has also spent a lifetime immersed in baseball, affording him a unique and intimate understanding of what fosters team success."

Now 44, Boone has never been a manager or even a coach at any level since retiring as a player after the 2009 season. His 11th-inning home run off Boston's Tim Wakefield won Game 7 of the 2003 AL Championship Series for the Yankees against Boston.

"Aaron's name is already etched into Yankees history," Steinbrenner said. This opportunity will allow him to continue to make a positive impact on this organization in distinctly new and meaningful ways." Boone was a big league third baseman from 1997-2009 and an All-Star in 2003, when New York acquired him from the Red Sox at the trade deadline. Boone tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee during a pickup basketball game in January 2004 and was released by the Yankees, who claimed he violated a prohibition against basketball in the guarantee language of his contract.

He is part of the first family that produced three generations of major leaguers. His grandfather, Ray,

was a two-time All-Star infielder from 1948-60. His father, Bob, was a four-time All-Star catcher from 1972-90, then managed Kansas City from 1995-97 and Cincinnati from 2001-03. His brother, Bret, was a three-time All-Star second baseman in a big league career from 1992-05.

He will be part of only the third father-and-son pairing to manage in the major leagues, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. George and Dick Sisler, and Bob and Joel Skinner are the others. Five days after New York lost to Houston in Game 7 of the AL Championship Series, Yankees general manager Brian Cashman announced Oct. 26 that Girardi was not being offered a new contract after 10 seasons, the team's 27th World Series title in 2009 and a 910-710 regular-season record. Cashman later said he was concerned over "ability to fully engage, communicate, connect with the playing personnel."

New York also interviewed Yankees bench coach Rob Thomson, former Cleveland and Seattle manager Eric Wedge, San Francisco bench coach Hensley Meulens, Los Angeles Dodgers third base coach Chris Woodward and former Yankees outfielder Carlos Beltran, who retired as a player after winning his first World Series this year with Houston.

"When we had the opportunity to speak with Aaron and share concepts and ideas, he was able to showcase a variety of traits that we believe will strongly benefit this franchise as we move forward, including an astute mind for the game and a progressive approach to evolving strategies," Cashman said in a statement. We also believe Aaron's interpersonal skills and baseball pedigree will allow him to blend well with the systems we have in place, our baseball operations staff and the 25-man roster."

COLLEGE BASKETBALL SCORES AND POLLS

| Men | Women |
|---|--|
| SOUTHWEST Baylor 84, Sam Houston 56 Oklahoma 97, UTSA 81 | SOUTHWEST Cant. Arizona 77, Wichita State 71 Lamar 116, Oklahoma 81 |
| SOUTH Col. of Charleston 70, High Point 58 East Carolina 88, Campbell 66 Georgetown 93, 111, Rutgers 87 Liberty 77, Georgia 51, 74, 07 Louisiana 88, Belmont 54 Pace 81, Howard 68 W. Carolina 72, Appalachian 51, 71 | SOUTH Lamar 116, Oklahoma 81 South Dakota 87, Indiana West 51 Texas Southern 74, Wiley 36 UNL-R 63, Missouri 51, 51 |
| FAR WEST Air Force 78, Western State 67 | SOUTH Belmont 91, Lipscomb 59 Campbell 88, W. Carolina 51 Clemson 88, Louisiana Tech 47 Crested 67, Fort Wayne 58 East Carolina 88, Tennessee 51, 36 Michigan 51, 62, 51, 51 UNC-Ashville 100, Western Illinois 53 |
| MIDWEST Indiana 77, Iowa 64 Iowa 51, 14, 16, 80 Missouri 71, N. Dakota 51 Ohio 51, 71, Michigan 62 | FAR WEST Ohio 85, Cal. Fullerton 60 |
| EAST Duke 85, Mt. Eastern 50, 51 L.I. Brooklyn 75, Stony Brook 71 Quinnipiac 68, Columbia 67 Wake Forest 64, Penn 51, 63 | MIDWEST Ball 51, 46, Purdue 51 DePaul 88, Loyola of Chicago 47 Marquette 88, Wisconsin 65 Michigan 88, Detroit 51 Wake Forest 62, Kansas 51 |
| Top 25 poll | Top 25 poll |

| Record | Pts | Pct |
|-----------------------|------|------|
| 1 Duke 85-1 | 10-0 | .923 |
| 2 Kansas 7-0 | 7-0 | .875 |
| 3 Michigan 11-1 | 11-0 | .833 |
| 4 Villanova 8-0 | 8-0 | .833 |
| 5 Florida 5-1 | 5-1 | .833 |
| 6 Wichita 7-1 | 7-1 | .875 |
| 7 Texas A&M 7-0 | 7-0 | .875 |
| 8 Kentucky 7-1 | 7-1 | .875 |
| 9 Wake Forest 7-1 | 7-1 | .875 |
| 10 Miami 7-0 | 7-0 | .875 |
| 11 North Carolina 6-1 | 6-1 | .857 |
| 12 Gonzaga 7-1 | 7-1 | .875 |
| 13 Xavier 7-1 | 7-1 | .875 |
| 14 Minnesota 6-1 | 6-1 | .857 |
| 15 Virginia 6-0 | 6-0 | .857 |
| 16 Arizona 5-1 | 5-1 | .833 |
| 17 Connecticut 7-1 | 7-1 | .875 |
| 18 West Virginia 7-1 | 7-1 | .875 |
| 19 Seton Hall 6-1 | 6-1 | .857 |
| 20 TCU 6-0 | 6-0 | .857 |
| 21 Purdue 6-2 | 6-2 | .857 |
| 22 Nevada 6-1 | 6-1 | .857 |
| 23 Baylor 5-2 | 5-2 | .833 |
| 24 Tennessee 6-1 | 6-1 | .857 |
| 25 Southern Cal 6-1 | 6-1 | .857 |

NBA GLANCE

| EASTERN CONFERENCE | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|------|
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| Boston | 21 | 4 | .840 |
| Toronto | 14 | 7 | .667 |
| Philadelphia | 13 | 10 | .565 |
| New York | 11 | 12 | .479 |
| Brooklyn | 9 | 14 | .391 |

No. 23 Baylor ends 2-game skid, 84-56 over Sam Houston State

Associated Press

WACO — Jo Lual-Acuil and the No. 23 Baylor Bears were glad to be back on the court so quickly after a tough week.

Only two days after their second consecutive loss to a Top 25 team, and after falling seven spots in the poll earlier in the day, Lual-Acuil had 15 points and 11 rebounds to lead six players who scored in double figures for the Bears in an 84-56 victory over Sam Houston State on Monday.

"It was great to come back and have a quick turnaround to get a good feeling back," Lual-Acuil said. "We knew they were a really good team. Coming off two losses in a row, we knew we needed to bounce back, and I think the team did a good job playing with energy."

Baylor, coming off a 69-62 home loss to No. 6 Wichita State on Saturday, broke away early from Sam Houston State with a 12-0 run that made it 24-11.

Another 12-0 spurt early in the second half stretched the Bears' lead to 52-27.

Nuni Omot added 15 points and Tristan Clark had 14 on 6-of-7 shooting. Manu Lecomte scored 12 points while Jake Lindsey and Mark Vital had 11 each.

"It was great to see six guys in double figures, great to see 18 assists," Baylor coach Scott Drew said. "I thought the upperclassmen really did a good job making sure we came out intense, focused and set the tone early. That's what you need out of your veterans."

Chris Galbreath led the Bearkats (5-4) with 24 points and 10 rebounds. The senior had Sam Houston



Baylor guard Manu Lecomte (20) drives during the second half against Sam Houston State in Waco Monday.

State's first eight points, but didn't have another field goal in the first half. He was the only player in double figures for the Bearkats as they fell to 1-4 against Division I competition.

While the smaller Sam Houston State team had a 41-37 rebounding edge, the Bearkats shot only 35 percent (22 of 63) overall and just 19 percent (5 of 26) on 3-pointers.

"When you play a team that's very talented, and long and athletic and bigger than you are and you come into their place, you've got to make 3-pointers if you want to pull the upset," Sam Houston State coach Jason Hooten said. "We just didn't make them. ... If we shoot 10 of 26, it's a totally different game, especially in the first half."

Big picture
Sam Houston State: The Bearkats worked the ball around well at times and got quality looks against Baylor's zone, but shots weren't falling. That was especially true early in the game, and the Bearkats made only nine field goals in the first half. Sam Houston State was also hurt by allowing 23 points off 14 turnovers.

Eight for Baylor
Baylor is still trying to figure out its rotation while Terry Maston recovers from breaking his hand against Xavier last Tuesday, but the Bears have added Tyson Jolly to get back up to eight scholarship players available.

The redshirt freshman guard played three minutes in his Baylor debut Saturday, and said he was "kind of shocked" to be on the court for 17 minutes two days later.

"The biggest thing is having eight players in that rotation allows you to really be more active defensively," Drew said. "We had 36 deflections, our previous high was 24. So, just guys being fresher and being able to play out there definitely helps you with that."

NBA ROUNDUP

MAVERICKS 122 NUGGETS 105
DALLAS — Harrison Barnes scored 22 points, Dennis Smith Jr. added 20 and Dallas beat short-handed Denver.

Six Dallas players scored in double figures as the Mavericks earned their second straight wire-to-wire win after beating the Clippers by 26 on Saturday. Dallas had its highest scoring game of the season and has won five of eight since starting 2-14.

Will Barton led Denver with 23 points, Jamal Murray added 22 and Gary Harris had 21.

Denver played without two-thirds of its starting frontcourt as Paul Millsap (left wrist injury) and Nikola Jokic (sprained left ankle) remained out.

SPURS 96 PISTONS 93
SAN ANTONIO — LaMarcus Aldridge had 17 points and 10 rebounds and San Antonio rallied to beat Detroit.

Reggie Jackson had 27 points for Detroit, which led by as many as nine points before dropping its third straight.

The Spurs were without Kawhi Leonard and Kyle Anderson, who has started in place of Leonard all season.

Rudy Gay, making his first start in place of Anderson, had 12 points, 10 rebounds and four assists. His final points came on a three-point play that gave San Antonio an 88-86 lead with 3:39 remaining.

CAVALIERS 113 BULLS 91
CHICAGO — Dwyane Wade and Kevin Love each scored 24 points, LeBron James had 23 and the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Chicago Bulls 113-91 Monday night for their 12th straight win.

Backed by a trio of stars, the Cavaliers matched their longest winning streak since the 2014-15 season.

Wade made 9 of 13 shots in his first game in Chicago since agreeing to a buyout with his hometown team in late September. Love grabbed 13 rebounds and made 8 of 13 from the field. James finished 9 of 15 with seven rebounds and six assists. The Cavaliers shot just under 52 percent.

WARRIORS 125 PELICANS 115
NEW ORLEANS — Stephen Curry had 31 points and 11 assists but sprained his ankle late in the game, and Golden State came back from 21 points down

PACERS 115 KNICKS 97
INDIANAPOLIS — Thaddeus Young scored 20 points to lead seven Indiana players in double figures as the Pacers routed short-handed New York.

Bogdan Bogdanovic scored 19 points and Victor Oladipo added 16 for the Pacers, who led by 26 at half and 95-65 after three quarters.

The Knicks were without leading scorers Kristaps Porzingis (25.8 ppg) and Tim Hardaway Jr. (17.8 ppg) for a second consecutive loss. Porzingis is dealing with a sprained right



Denver Nuggets forward Kenneth Faried (35), Jamal Murray, left rear, and Gary Harris (14) defend as Dallas Mavericks' Harrison Barnes (40) goes up to shoot in the second half on Monday in Dallas.

ankle and illness and Hardaway has a lower left leg injury. Michael Beasley led the Knicks with 13 points.

SUNS 115 76ERS 101
PHILADELPHIA — Devin Booker scored 46 points and T.J. Warren added 25 to lead Phoenix over Philadelphia.

Booker made 17 of 32 shots and hit four 3-pointers, including three in the fourth quarter that helped the Suns put away a Sixers team that played one of their worst games of the season. Booker scored 32 points on 11 of 17 shooting in the second half.

Joel Embiid had 22 points and 12 rebounds and Ben Simmons, battling an illness, scored 20 points. JJ Redick led the Sixers with 25 points.

GRIZZLIES 95 TIMBERWOLVES 92
MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Marc Gasol scored 21 points, Tyreke Evans added 16 — including two key free throws with 12.7 seconds left — and Memphis

snapped an 11-game skid with a victory over Minnesota.

Memphis, which hadn't won since Nov. 7, had to wait a bit longer after Evans' free throws. On the ensuing possession, Jimmy Butler's off-balance, 26-footer over Andrew Harrison bounced off the backboard and grazed the rim, snapping the Grizzlies skid.

NETS 110 HAWKS 90
ATLANTA — Caris LeVert scored a season-high 17 points, Rondae Hollis-Jefferson had 16 points and Brooklyn used a strong third quarter to grab momentum and beat Atlanta.

Brooklyn, avenging Saturday's home loss to Atlanta, had everything working in its favor in the second half. It began the third trailing by one but went on a 17-0 run to go ahead 70-54 on DeLana Carroll's 3-pointer. The lead swelled to 29 in the fourth as the Nets earned their largest win of the season.

Ohtani cuts to 5 West Coast teams, Cubs, Rangers

By Jake Selner
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Japanese pitcher and outfielder Shohei Ohtani has cut the field of major league teams he is considering to five clubs on the West Coast plus the Chicago Cubs and Texas Rangers.

The Los Angeles Dodgers and Angels, San Francisco, San Diego and Seattle all remain in contention.

Several teams said Sunday they were told they had been eliminated, and the seven remaining were confirmed Monday to The Associated Press by a pair of people familiar

with the choices. They spoke on condition of anonymity because not all teams had announced whether they were in or out.

Ohtani is limited to a minor league contract because of restrictions imposed by the MLB collective bargaining agreement. The Rangers have the largest signing bonus amount remaining among the teams he is considering at \$3,535,000, followed by the Mariners (\$1,557,500) and Angels (\$1,315,000). The Cubs, Dodgers and Giants are restricted to \$300,000 maximums in the signing period through June 15 as penalties for exceeding their bonus pools in 2015-16 and the Padres are limited to \$300,000 for going over in 2016-17.

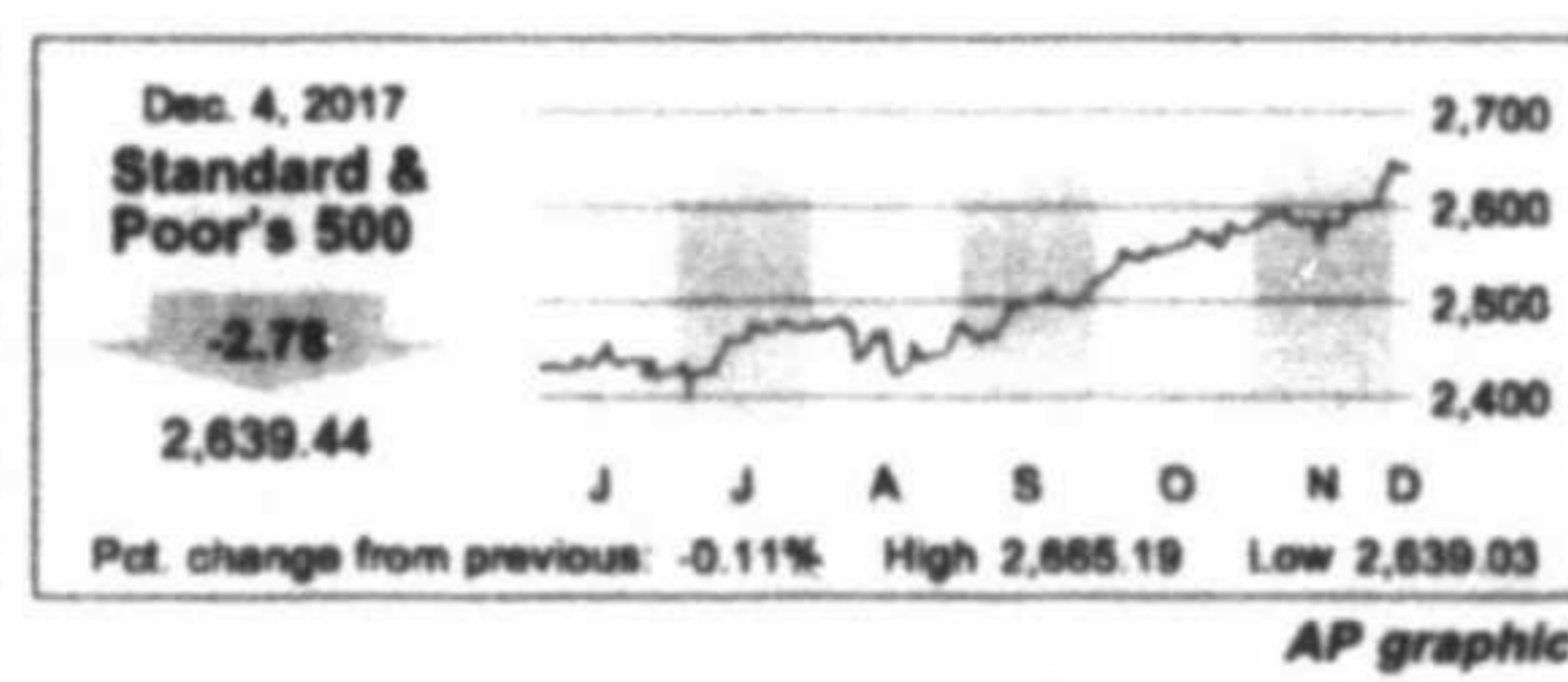
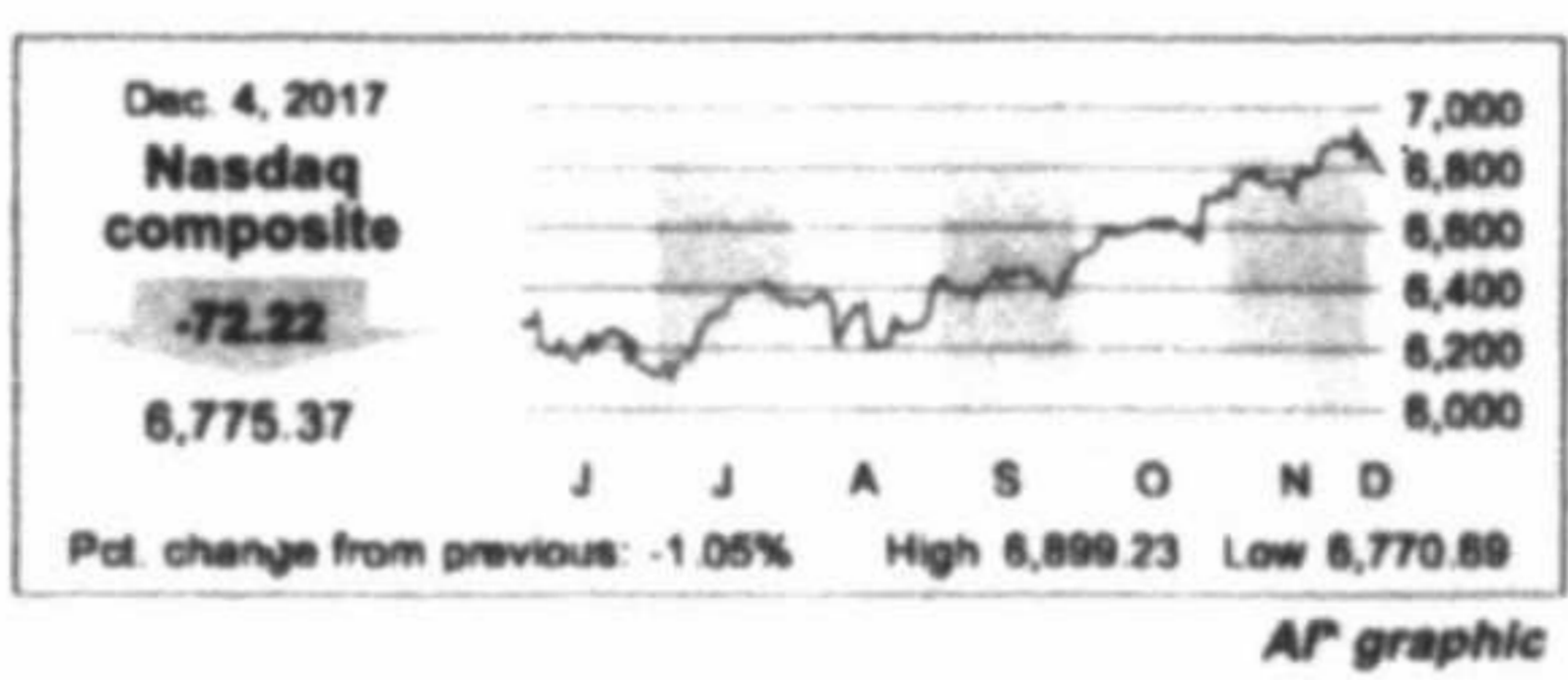
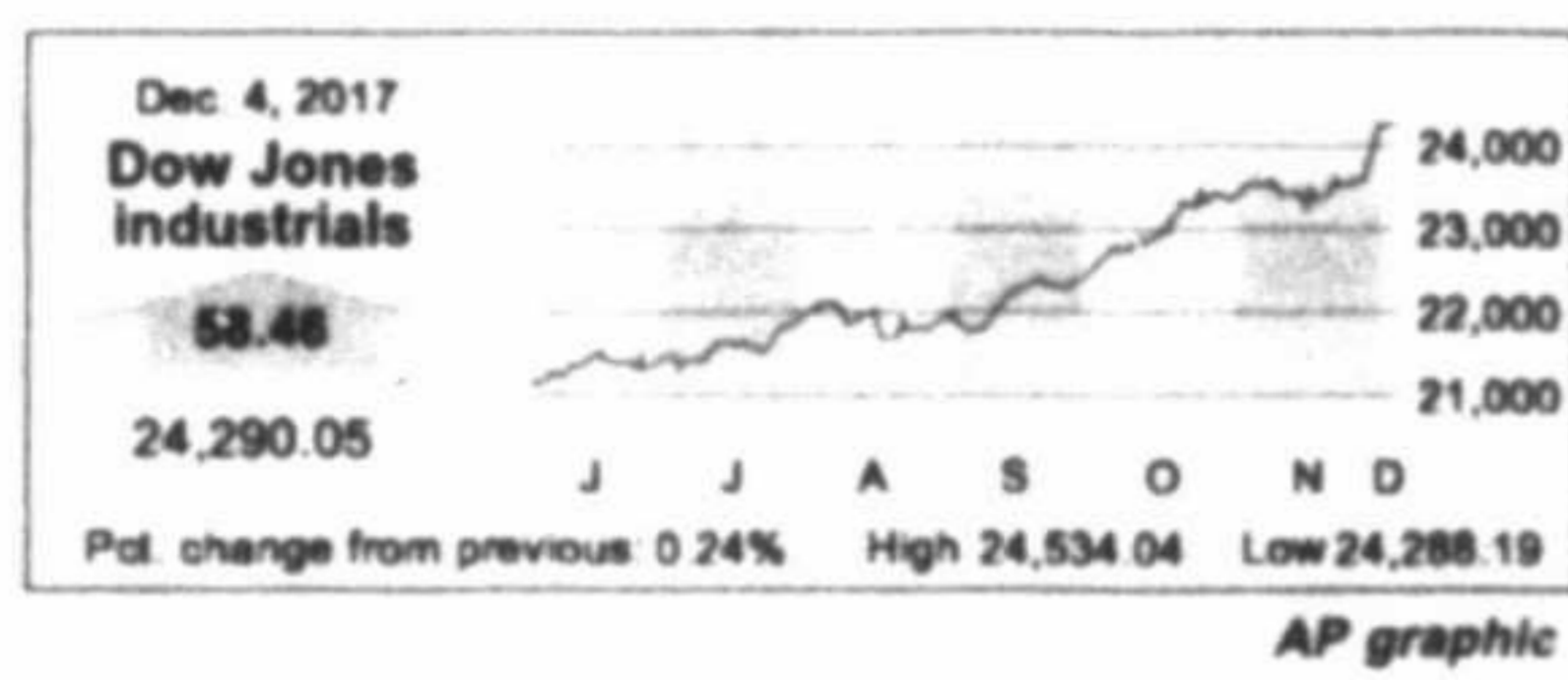
"I started getting a feel that wasn't good a few days ago," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman told reporters at a holiday event Sunday night in Stamford, Connecticut. "I can't change that that we're a big market and I can't change we're in the East."

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

BUSINESS & OIL

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A DAY ON WALL STREET



OIL PRICES

FUTURES

Monday: \$57.47
Previous: \$58.36

POSTED

Monday: \$54.25
Previous: \$54.75

WEST TEXAS SOUR

Monday: \$51.50
Previous: \$52.00

NATURAL GAS

Monday: \$2.985
Previous: \$3.061

NYSE

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 on week)

| Name | Vol | Chg | %Chg |
|-----------|---------|-------|------|
| BojiIn | 1397011 | 29.06 | +36 |
| SPDR Fin | 867480 | 28.00 | +42 |
| S&P500ETF | 1018084 | 14 | -32 |
| GenElec | 656480 | 17.95 | +7 |
| GenElec | 646447 | 45.93 | +9 |

LOSERS (\$2 on week)

| Name | Last | Chg | %Chg |
|----------|-------|-------|-------|
| DaqinEn | 47.04 | -9.91 | -17.4 |
| Enns Int | 11.00 | -1.75 | -13.7 |
| ChmRsp | 5.20 | -0.32 | -5.8 |
| Hortech | 3.32 | -0.38 | -10.5 |
| Quilan | 12.45 | -1.33 | -10.7 |

AMEX

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 on week)

| Name | Vol | Chg | %Chg |
|----------|--------|------|-------|
| DigitalP | 252743 | 3.49 | +1.66 |
| Uranium | 48815 | 1.49 | +16 |
| GoldStar | 39668 | 1.55 | +3 |
| TransEnr | 38397 | 2.13 | +21 |
| SRC Eng | 32584 | 8.86 | +25 |

LOSERS (\$2 on week)

| Name | Last | Chg | %Chg |
|----------|-------|--------|-------|
| Ashfor | 80.01 | -10.58 | -11.7 |
| TransEnr | 2.13 | -0.21 | -9.0 |
| StacEnr | 3.24 | -0.26 | -7.4 |
| Taking | 2.80 | -0.20 | -6.7 |
| Levelis | 4.90 | -0.33 | -6.3 |

NASDAQ

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 on week)

| Name | Vol | Chg | %Chg |
|-----------|--------|--------|-------|
| MicroT | 720590 | 39.90 | +2.00 |
| Concast | 508372 | 40.32 | +1.89 |
| PerfCo | 400478 | 152.71 | +1.78 |
| Microsoft | 370811 | 81.08 | +3.18 |
| Apple Inc | 302961 | 169.80 | +1.25 |

LOSERS (\$2 on week)

| Name | Last | Chg | %Chg |
|---------|-------|---------|-------|
| Winef | 84.98 | -120.00 | -58.5 |
| RafPhm | 8.92 | -5.31 | -59.3 |
| Widmst | 2.26 | -0.40 | -15.0 |
| Invent | 9.00 | -1.48 | -16.4 |
| Corbama | 2.86 | -0.37 | -12.1 |

McConnell: Environmental sustainability requires strong case

By Mella McEwen
mmcewen@mrt.com

The debate between environmental concerns and energy development continues across the nation. But Charles McConnell, executive director of the Energy and Environment Initiative at Rice University and former deputy assistant secretary for fossil fuels at the U.S. Department of Energy, said there is no debate.

"(Energy) technology for the future should be very much tied to the marketplace and the needs of the industry," he said on the sidelines of Monday's Carbon Management Workshop at the Horseshoe. He was luncheon speaker at the event that is a prelude to the annual CO2 Conference.

"Scientific development must focus on the impact on the marketplace. You have to do both to be sustainable. You can't pick one or the other," he said. "You must have, for anything to be sustainable, a strong business case. A business case can't be sustainable if it doesn't include environmental sustainability."

The younger generation entering the workforce wants to work at companies that are responsible and to live in a world with a better environmental footprint, he said.

"We all should. But you cannot choose a pathway of environmental activism that does not have a sustainable business case. More affordable, more reliable energy that is also environmentally sustainable may seem impossible, but transformative technology is what makes that possible," McConnell said. "Much of what's going on in oil and gas is in that direction."

What those in his audience are doing in developing carbon capture, storage and

use technology, and its use in enhanced oil recovery, is not a niche market. It's a huge opportunity to be realized around the world, he said.

That's why nations the world over are coming to the Permian Basin, and attending conferences such as the CO2 Conference. To learn what Permian Basin operators know, McConnell said.

He urged those in his audience to say that their carbon capture and storage technology works and, no, it doesn't leak.

"You have an obligation to make people get corrected when they're wrong," he said. "The world's population has doubled since we were born," he said. "And the population will grow by that many more people again before we die. The world's population is exploding and the need for energy will double over the next 30 to 40 years. We cannot meet those additional needs by subtracting energy sources. We need to make additions. When people talk about eliminating sources of energy because of environmental concerns, I would argue that you can't eliminate. Invest instead in technology that will enable those sources to be sustainable."

McConnell said the change in administration is creating an environment that encourages those investments.

"The operative word, or words, is energy dominance," he said. "This administration has transferred and transitioned from an administration that was all about renewables. This administration has embraced fossil fuel, oil and gas, coal, and embraced the need for a resilient and highly efficient and effective energy strategy that's more than just environmental regulations. That should be encouraging to us all."

McDonald's revives Dollar Menu name with \$1, \$2 and \$3 items

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Dollar Menu is making a McComeback.

McDonald's said Monday that it is reviving the name of the once-popular value menu next month after a two-year absence, but this time the items will cost \$1, \$2 or \$3.

Offering cheap eats has become a winning strategy for the world's largest hamburger chain, and a way to fight off other low-priced chains. In October, it attributed a rise in a key sales figure during the third quarter to its \$1 sodas and a two-for-\$5 promotion called McPick 2.

And as more people visited its restaurants for deals, McDonald's said some also bought pricier burgers stuffed with crispy onions or guacamole, which helped sales.

McDonald's dumped the original Dollar Menu, with items costing \$1, about four years ago as franchisees complained that their profits were squeezed by a rise in ingredient costs. But the move hurt sales as customers went elsewhere for low-priced fast food. In 2013, it launched the Dollar Menu & More, with items costing as much as \$5, but discontinued it about two years ago and replaced it with the McPick 2.

The "\$1 \$2 \$3 Dollar Menu" will become a permanent part of the McDonald's nationwide menu starting Jan. 4, the Oak Brook, Illinois-based company said. It tested other names, but customers liked the Dollar Menu one best, said Chris Kempczinski, who oversees McDonald's Corp.'s U.S. business.

"It's something that still resonates," he said.

Slump for tech stocks overshadows gains by telecoms, banks

NEW YORK — Stock indexes didn't do much at first glance on Monday, but the modest move for the Standard & Poor's 500 masked some dramatic changes rolling underneath the surface.

Telecom stocks, banks and other areas of the market that stand to benefit the most from Washington's drive to cut corporate tax rates jumped. At the same time, technology stocks slumped and gave up a chunk of the gains that have made them the best-performing part of the market by far this year.

The New York Stock Exchange was nearly evenly split between stocks that rose and fell, and the split in performance left the S&P 500 close to where it began the day. It dipped 2.78 points, or 0.1 percent, to 2,639.44.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 58.46, or 0.2 percent, to 24,290.05, and the Nasdaq composite fell 72.22, or 1.1 percent, to 6,775.37.

Metal prices drop

Gold dipped \$4.60 to settle at \$1,277.70 per ounce, silver lost 2 cents to \$16.37 and copper was close to flat at \$3.09 per pound.

MIDLAND STOCKS

Midland-Headquartered Publicly Traded Companies

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Concho Resources (CXO) | Closing Price \$139.19 Down 2.27 |
| Dawson Geophysical (DWSN) | Closing Price \$5.13 Down 0.06 |
| Diamondback Energy (FANG) | Closing Price \$109.02 Down 1.89 |
| Legacy Reserves (LGCY) | Closing Price \$1.53 Down 0.03 |
| Mexco Energy (MXC) | Closing Price \$4.45 Down 0.16 |
| Natural Gas Services Group (NGS) | Closing Price \$26.75 Up 0.55 |
| ProPetro Holdings (PUMP) | Closing Price \$18.91 Down 0.24 |
| RSP Permian (RSPP) | Closing Price \$36.68 Down 1.07 |
| Ring Energy (REI) | Closing Price \$14.80 Up 0.31 |
| Viper Energy Partners (VNOM) | Closing Price \$21.49 Up 0.01 |

HOW STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST FARED

| Name | Div | PE | Last | Chg | %Chg | YTD | Name | Div | PE | Last | Chg | %Chg | YTD | Name | Div | PE | Last | Chg | %Chg | YTD |
|-------------|-------|--------|--------|-------|--------|----------|-------------|------|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------|----------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| AK Steel | 14 | 4.98 | -0.07 | -0.14 | -1.4 | 1.4 | ConAgra | 85 | 21 | 37.83 | +4.48 | +11.3 | 11.3 | RegionsF | 36 | 18 | 16.95 | +3.30 | +19.0 | 19.0 |
| AT&T Inc | 1.96 | 14 | 37.27 | +7.71 | +20.4 | 20.4 | Comcast | 1.08 | 41 | 91.29 | +5.23 | +5.7 | 5.7 | Rockwell | 94 | 1.88 | 94 | -77.2 | -77.2 | 77.2 |
| Abraxas | 85 | 2.21 | -0.06 | -2.6 | -14.8 | 14.8 | ConocoPhill | 1.08 | 41 | 91.29 | +5.23 | +5.7 | 5.7 | Ryan | 9 | 14.78 | -38 | -21.9 | -21.9 | 21.9 |
| AdiaDrillEq | 1.32e | - | 14.84 | -91 | -168.8 | 168.8 | Crescent | 4.80 | 28 | 162.88 | +9.98 | +2.5 | 2.5 | RayOHA | 3.78 | 97 | 64.15 | -0.02 | -0.0 | 0.0 |
| AMD | 10 | 0.03 | -0.70 | -11.6 | -11.6 | 11.6 | Crescent | 4.80 | 28 | 162.88 | +9.98 | +2.5 | 2.5 | RayOHA | 3.78 | 97 | 64.15 | -0.02 | -0.0 | 0.0 |
| Arista | 2.00 | 16 | 178.70 | -2.61 | -1.4 | 1.4 | Crescent | 4.80 | 28 | 162.88 | +9.98 | +2.5 | 2.5 | RayOHA | 3.78 | 97 | 64.15 | -0.02 | -0.0 | 0.0 |
| Alibaba | 48 | 169.56 | -5.08 | -3.0 | -19.1 | 19.1 | Crescent | 4.80 | 28 | 162.88 | +9.98 | +2.5 | 2.5 | RayOHA | 3.78 | 97 | 64.15 | -0.02 | -0.0 | 0.0 |
| Alcoa | 1.35e | - | 10.47 | -0.05 | -0.5 | 0.5 | Crescent | 4.80 | 28 | 162.88 | +9.98 | +2.5 | 2.5 | RayOHA | 3.78 | 97 | 64.15 | -0.02 | -0.0 | 0.0 |
| Alcoa | 1.35e | - | 10.47 | -0.05 | -0.5 | 0.5 | Crescent | 4.80 | 28 | 162.88 | +9.98 | +2.5 | 2.5 | RayOHA | 3.78 | 97 | 64.15 | -0.02 | -0.0 | 0.0 |
| Amgen | 4.80 | 16 | 178.89 | +1.49 | +0.8 | 0.8 | Crescent | 4.80 | 28 | 162.88 | +9.98 | +2.5 | 2.5 | RayOHA | 3.78 | 97 | 64.15 | -0.02 | -0.0 | 0.0 |
| Anadarko | 2.00 | - | 48.99 | -1.3 | -2.6 | 2.6 | Crescent | 4.80 | 28 | 162.88 | +9.98 | +2.5 | 2.5 | RayOHA | 3.78 | 97 | 64.15 | -0.02 | -0.0 | 0.0 |
| Applied | 1.80 | - | 43.21 | -1.81 | -4.1 | 4.1 | Crescent | 4.80 | 28 | 162.88 | +9.98 | +2.5 | 2.5 | RayOHA | 3.78 | 97 | 64.15 | -0.02 | -0.0 | 0.0 |
| Apple Inc | 2.52 | 20 | 169.80 | -1.25 | -0.7 | 0.7 | Crescent | 4.80 | 28 | 162.88 | +9.98 | +2.5 | 2.5 | RayOHA | 3.78 | 97 | 64.15 | -0.02 | -0.0 | 0.0 |
| Applied | 1.80 | - | 43.21 | -1.81 | -4.1 | 4.1 | Crescent | 4.80 | 28 | 162.88 | +9.98 | +2.5 | 2.5 | RayOHA | 3.78 | 97 | 64.15 | -0.02 | -0.0 | 0.0 |
| Archer | 48 | 10.20 | +3.0 | +27.7 | 27.7 | Crescent | 4.80 | 28 | 162.88 | +9.98 | +2.5 | 2.5 | RayOHA | 3.78 | 97 | 64.15 | -0.02 | -0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Archer | 48 | 10.20 | +3.0 | +27.7 | 27.7 | Crescent | 4.80 | 28 | 162.88 | +9.98 | +2.5 | 2.5 | RayOHA | 3.78 | 97 | 64.15 | -0.02 | -0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Archer | 48 | 10.20 | +3.0 | +27.7 | 27.7 | Crescent | 4.80 | 28 | 162.88 | +9.98 | +2.5 | 2.5 | RayOHA | 3.78 | 97 | 64.15 | -0.02 | -0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Archer | 48 | 10.20 | +3.0 | +27.7 | 27.7 | Crescent | 4.80 | 28 | 162.88 | +9.98 | +2.5 | 2.5 | RayOHA | 3.78 | 97 | 64.15 | -0.02 | -0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Archer | 48 | 10.20 | +3.0 | +27.7 | 27.7 | Crescent | 4.80 | 28 | 162.88 | +9.98 | +2.5 | 2.5 | RayOHA | 3.78 | 97 | 64.15 | -0.02 | -0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Archer | 48 | 10.20 | +3.0 | +27.7 | 27.7 | Crescent | 4.80 | 28 | 162.88 | +9.98 | +2.5 | 2.5 | RayOHA | 3.78 | 97 | 64.15 | -0.02 | -0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Archer | 48 | 10.20 | +3.0 | +27.7 | 27.7 | Crescent | 4.80 | 28 | 162.88 | +9.98 | +2.5 | 2.5 | RayOHA | 3.78 | 97 | 64.15 | -0.02 | -0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Archer | 48 | 10.20 | +3.0 | +27.7 | 27.7 | Crescent | 4.80 | 28 | 162.88 | +9.98 | +2.5 | 2.5 | RayOHA | 3.78 | 97 | 64.15 | -0.02 | -0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Archer | 48 | 10.20 | +3.0 | +27.7 | 27.7 | Crescent | 4.80 | 28 | 162.88 | +9.98 | +2.5 | 2.5 | RayOHA | 3.78 | 97 | 64.15 | -0.02 | -0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Archer | 48 | 10.20 | +3.0 | +27.7 | 27.7 | Crescent | 4.80 | 28 | 162.88 | +9.98 | +2.5 | 2.5 | RayOHA | 3.78 | 97 | 64.15 | -0.02 | -0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Archer | 48 | 10.20 | +3.0 | +27.7 | 27.7 | Crescent | 4.80 | 28 | 162.88 | +9.98 | +2.5 | 2.5 | RayOHA | 3.78 | 97 | 64.15 | -0.02 | -0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Archer | 48 | 10.20 | +3.0 | +27.7 | 27.7 | Crescent | 4.80 | 28 | 162.88 | +9.98 | +2.5 | 2.5 | RayOHA | 3.78 | 97 | 64.15 | -0.02 | -0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Archer | 48 | 10.20 | +3.0 | +27.7 | 27.7 | Crescent | 4.80 | 28 | 162.88 | +9.98 | +2.5 | 2.5 | RayOHA | 3.78 | 97 | 64.15 | -0.02 | -0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Archer | 48 | 10.20 | +3.0 | +27.7 | 27.7 | Crescent | 4.80 | 28 | 162.88 | +9.98 | +2.5 | 2.5 | RayOHA | 3.78 | 97 | 64.15 | -0.02 | -0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Archer | 48 | 10.20 | +3.0 | +27.7 | 27.7 | Crescent | 4.80 | 28 | 162.88 | +9.98 | +2.5 | 2.5 | RayOHA | 3.78 | 97 | 64.15 | -0.02 | -0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Archer | 48 | 10.20 | +3.0 | +27.7 | 27.7 | Crescent | 4.80 | 28 | 162.88 | +9.98 | +2.5 | 2.5 | RayOHA | 3.78 | 97 | 64.15 | -0.02 | -0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Archer | 48 | 10.20 | +3.0 | +27.7 | 27.7 | Crescent | 4.80 | 28 | 162.88 | +9.98 | +2.5 | 2.5 | RayOHA | 3.78 | 97 | 64.15 | -0.02 | -0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Archer | 48 | 10.20 | +3.0 | +27.7 | 27.7 | Crescent | 4.80 | 28 | 162.88 | +9.98 | +2.5 | 2.5 | RayOHA | 3.78 | 97 | 64.15 | -0.02 | -0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Archer | 48 | 10.20 | +3.0 | +27.7 | 27.7 | Crescent | 4.80 | 28 | 162.88 | +9.98 | +2.5 | 2.5 | RayOHA | 3.78 | 97 | 64.15 | -0.02 | -0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Archer | 48 | 10.20 | +3.0 | +27.7 | 27.7 | Crescent | 4.80 | 28 | 162.88 | +9.98 | +2.5 | 2.5 | RayOHA | 3.78 | 97 | 64.15 | -0.02 | -0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Archer | 48 | 10.20 | +3.0 | +27.7 | 27.7 | Crescent | 4.80 | 28 | 162.88 | +9.98 | +2.5 | 2.5 | RayOHA | 3.78 | 97 | 64.15 | -0.02 | -0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Archer | 48 | 10.20 | +3.0 | +27.7 | 27.7 | Crescent | 4.80 | 28 | 162.88 | +9.98 | +2.5 | 2.5 | RayOHA | 3.78 | 97 | 64.15 | -0.02 | -0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Archer | 48 | 10.20 | +3.0 | +27.7 | 27.7 | Crescent | 4.80 | 28 | 162.88 | +9.98 | +2.5 | 2.5 | RayOHA | 3.78 | 97 | 64.15 | -0.02 | -0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Archer | 48 | 10.20 | +3.0 | +27.7 | 27.7 | Crescent | 4.80 | 28 | 162.88 | +9.98 | +2.5 | 2.5 | RayOHA | 3.78 | 97 | 64.15 | -0.02 | -0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Archer | 48 | 10.20 | +3.0 | +27.7 | 27.7 | Crescent | 4.80 | 28 | 162.88 | +9.98 | +2.5 | 2.5 | RayOHA | 3.78 | 97 | 64.15 | -0.02 | -0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Archer | 48 | 10.20 | +3.0 | +27.7 | 27.7 | Crescent | 4.80 | 28 | 162.88 | +9.98 | +2.5 | 2.5 | RayOHA | 3.78 | 97 | 64.15 | -0.02 | -0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Archer | 48 | 10. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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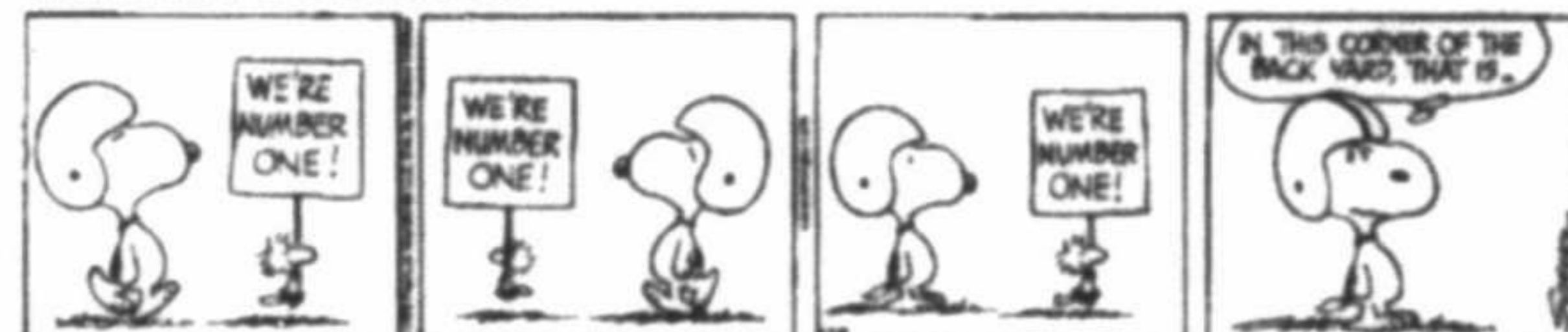
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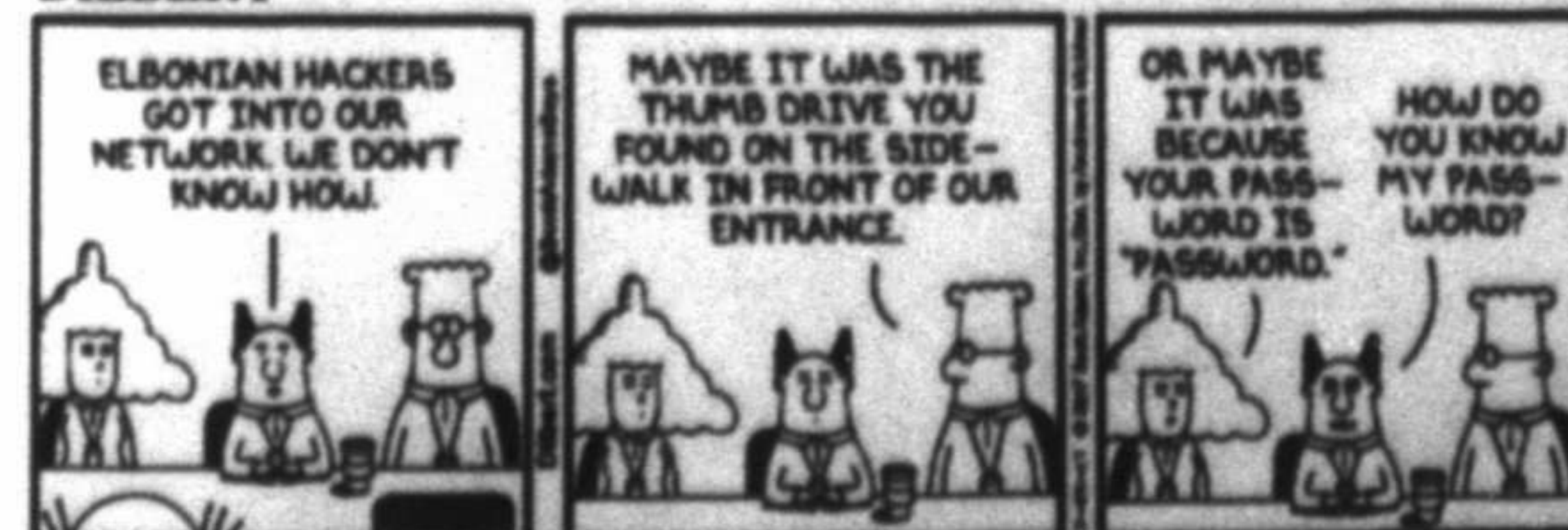
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MANAGEMENT EXECUTIVE

District Manager
 The Midland Reporter-Telegram
 The MRT has an opening for a Circulation District Manager. This individual would be responsible for overseeing a delivery force of independent contractors/carriers, as well as performing other duties involved with the delivery and distribution of our newspaper, other contracted products, and niche publications.
 This position requires excellent communication skills, must be able to work flexible hours (largely in the early morning hours including weekends), have reliable transportation. Candidates with previous newspaper delivery experience preferred but not required.
 This is a full time salaried position, eligible for full benefits including health, vision, dental and paid time off with excellent starting salary.
 To apply, please email your resume and cover letter to shackler@hearst.com. No phone calls please.

OTHER JOBS

NOW HIRING

Open Interviews - Heavy Equipment Operators
 Thursday, December 7th
 12pm- 5pm - Courtyard By Marriott -
 1505 Tradewind Boulevard, Midland, TX.
www.arrowsupllc.com - Logan Wurtz 303-398-0319

SKILLED LABOR

Structural Welding
 Diabto Fabrication Midland, TX
 Diabto Fabrication is seeking to expand our welding team. Single-hand welders need only apply. We are not hiring contract or rig welders.
 New Team Members should be able to:
 - Weld single-hand* with MIG and flux wire
 - Stick weld with 6010 and 7018 rod is a plus
 - Know how to read and understand build prints
 Will be required to pass:
 - Bend test 1G, 2G, 4G- 3/8 plate
 - Background check
 - Drug Test
 The company offers/provides:
 - Pay will depend on experience and proficiency
 - Consistent work schedule 45+ hrs/week
 - Paid holidays
 - Paid vacation
 - Uniforms
 - Tools provided
 Job Type: Full-time
 Required experience:
 - Pipe Welding: 1 year
 In-person applicants preferred. Apply at 4915 West Industrial Ave Ste. D, Midland, TX 79703
 Office 432-687-7400

OTHER JOBS

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 in the in the Midland, Odessa, Andrews, Stanton, and Big Spring areas.
 Please come by our office located at 201 E. Illinois and fill out a carrier information sheet. Oscar Ronquillo 432-687-9001



RESTAURANT FOOD SERVICES

BUFFALO WILD WINGS
 Now hiring all positions. Apply in person from 2-5pm. Buffalo Wild Wings 8107 W. Wadley Ave.

Restaurant Positions
 Osaka Japanese Steakhouse FT
 Would you like to make \$15 to \$20 an hour, depending on position?
 Now hiring: Waiters, Waitresses, Hostesses, Cashiers, Bartenders, Bus Help, Dishwashers & Kitchen Help. Come apply in person, 11am-2pm at 1287 Tradewinds Blvd. 79706 or online at: www.my-osaka.com

SKILLED LABOR

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

Plumbers & Helpers
 Cary Earp Plumbing now hiring licensed plumbers and helpers. Apply in person at 1388 W. Dakota

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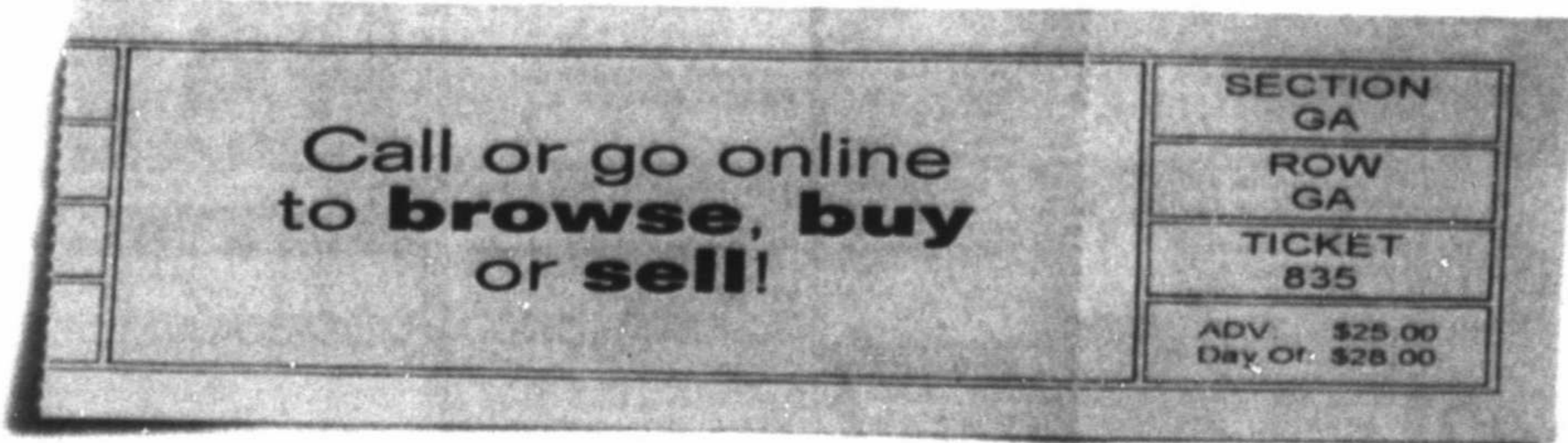
TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

DRIVER NEEDED
 Hazmat, Tankers & Class A CDL
 Contact Roman Hernandez 432- 894-1416
 Fernando Uribe 432-556-0966
 Send Resume to: Lydia.Garcia@CatastOfField.com

Frac Sand CDL Drivers & Owner Operators
 Local trucking company Now hiring Frac Sand Class A CDL Drivers & Owner Operators, clean driving record is required. Must pass a criminal background check and DOT drug test. Apply in person at 3913 FM 715, Midland, Texas 79706

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Legal and Public Notices

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 08
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Dec 1, 2017
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Jan 5, 2018
Address: Railroad Commission of Texas
ATTN: Drilling Permit Unit
P. O. Box 12967
Austin, Texas 78711-2967
Fax: (512) 463-6780
Email: SWR37@RRCC.TEXAS.GOV

Rule 37 Case No. 0308023
Status/Permit No. 633125

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the LARIO OIL & GAS COMPANY, [RRCC Operator No. 486710] has made application for a spacing exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 37 (16 Tex. Admin. Code section 3.37). Applicant seeks exception to the LEASE LINE requirement for the NEW DRILL permit in Sec. 23, Bk. 38 T4S, T&P RR CO Survey, A-109, SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) R 40 EXC Field, MIDLAND County, being 21.7 miles SE direction from MIDLAND, Texas. PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted WITHOUT A HEARING if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at (512)463-6648. If you have questions which are specific to the Application or the information set forth in this Notice, please contact the Commission's Drilling Permit Unit at rule 37 (512)463-6791.

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER, OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY Jan 5, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO PROTEST AND THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.

THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION REQUIRES PUBLICATION

The location and identity of the well is as shown below:

FIELD: SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) R 40 EXC

| | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Lease/Unit Name | CLARK 4 |
| Lease/Unit Well No | 402WD |
| Lease/Unit Acres | 660.45 |
| Nearest Lease Line (ft) | 1.0 |
| Nearest Well on Lease (ft) | 1.0 |

| | | |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Lease Lines | 320 0 F S L | 726 0 F W L |
| Survey Lines | 320 0 F S L | 726 0 F W L |

Wellbore Profile(s): Horizontal

Lateral: TH1

Penetration Point Location

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Lease Lines | 50 0 F S L | 330 0 F W L |
| Terminus Location | BH County MIDLAND | |
| Section | 14 | Block 38 T4S Abstract 1041 |
| T&P RR CO / MOORE | H H | |
| Lease Lines | 50 0 F N L | 330 0 F W L |
| Survey Lines | 50 0 F N L | 330 0 F W L |

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:

SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) R 40 EXC Special Rules 3300, 80.0 acres

This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 10500 feet

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, Ryan Bergeron, at (512)4783456

Legal and Public Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

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

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

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

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

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

General Announcement

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Legal and Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed Bids will be received until 2:00 P.M., December 20, 2017 to be opened at 2:00 P.M. in the Office of the City Secretary City Hall, 300 N. Lorraine, Midland, Texas for the following Bid(s):

Bid No. 18000753

For Site Wheel Loader

If the Contract is awarded, it will be awarded to either the lowest responsible bidder, or to the bidder who provides goods or services at the best value for the City of Midland. In determining the best value for the City of Midland, the City of Midland may consider the criteria enumerated in Section 252.043 of the Texas Local Government Code. Information for Bidders, Proposal Forms, Specifications and General conditions for bidding may be obtained from the office of the Purchasing Agent, City Hall, 300 N. Lorraine, Midland, Texas.

Purchasing Division
City of Midland, Texas

Legal and Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Lillian Ivy, Deceased, were issued on October 10, 2017, Under Docket No. P19196, pending in the County Court of Midland County, Texas, to Floyd Ivy and Ron Ivy, Co-Executors.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows:

Co-Executors,
Floyd Ivy and Ron Ivy
c/o Long-Weaver, Manning, Artus & Artus, LLP
First Capital Bank Building
310 West Wall Street, Suite 705
Midland, Texas 79701

All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated: 2017

By: */s/ Pat Long-Weaver*
Pat Long-Weaver
Texas State Bar No. 12521975
Attorney for Applicants
Tel: (432) 342-0474
Fax: (344) 287-8884
plw@lwa.com

The City Council of the City of Midland, Texas will hold a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 12, 2017 in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 300 North Lorraine, on a request by Bill Musar for a Zone Change from PD, Planned District for a Housing Development to PD, Planned District for a Shopping Center on the following described property: Lot 1 and the south 154.35-feet of Lot 2, Block 162, Wilshire Park Addition, Section 9, City and County of Midland, Texas.

Generally located northwest of the intersection of Beal Parkway and Leisure Drive (Council District 4)

The meeting facility is accessible to disabled persons. A wheelchair entry ramp is located at the southeast entrance to City Hall. A parking space designated for use by disabled persons is available near the southeast entrance doors. Any disabled person needing special accommodations or hearing impaired persons wishing to have an interpreter should request services through the Administrative Services Department at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting by contacting Compliance Coordinator for the City of Midland, at (432) 685-7251. If communication via TDD is required, please call 1-800-735-2989.

CITY OF MIDLAND
Amy M. Turner, MMC
City Secretary

Legal and Public Notices

LOST BORDER COLLIE

Asside mtz, reddish brown & white lost on Tuesday 27th. Vicinity Humbolt & Seaboard. Micro chipped, no tag. 262-2117 or 425-1978

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Legal and Public Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

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

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

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

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

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FRONTIERS

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LANDLEGALBATTLE?



AP file photo

In this undated file photo, the Upper Gulch section of the Escalante Canyons within Utah's Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument features sheer sandstone walls, broken occasionally by tributary canyons. Utah has long stood out for going far beyond other Western states in trying to get back control of its federally protected lands. When President Donald Trump on Monday announces he's going to shrink two national monuments in the state, his warm welcome will stand out in a region that is normally protective of its parks and monuments.

AP explains: National monuments and why they are so divisive

By John Flesher
Associated Press

President Donald Trump signed proclamations Monday to significantly shrink two large national monuments in Utah after his administration reviewed sites nationwide.

U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke made recommendations earlier this year about 27 monuments, including some boundary and rule revisions but no eliminations. Trump has yet to announce decisions on the other protected lands besides the two monuments in Utah: Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears.

The reduction in Utah is expected to trigger a legal battle.

A closer look at the issues that led to the review:

WHAT IS A NATIONAL MONUMENT?

The 1906 Antiquities Act, enacted under President Theodore Roosevelt, empowers the president to declare as national monuments any landmarks, structures and other "objects of historic or scientific interest" on land owned or controlled by the federal government.

Roosevelt established 18 monuments, including the Grand Canyon in Arizona and Devil's Tower in Wyoming. Most presidents since then have designated additional monuments. Congress has created others.

Most monuments are overseen by the National Park Service, although rules for their protection are less strict than for national parks.

Some are cared for by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, the Fish and Wildlife Service or the Forest Service. Each agency has policies for safeguarding the land while also allowing some public use. For instance, policies can include limits on mining, timber cutting and recreational activities such as riding off-road vehicles.

A CONTENTIOUS HISTORY

Many national monument proclamations have enjoyed broad support. Others have been fiercely contested in Congress and the courts, including designations by Franklin D. Roosevelt (Jackson Hole National Monument, now Grand Teton

National Park); Jimmy Carter (vast lands in Alaska); and George W. Bush (Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument northwest of Hawaii).

Trump's choice of Jan. 1, 1996, as the starting date for his review was prompted by lingering resentment among Utah conservatives of Bill Clinton's designation of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument that year.

Critics say presidents increasingly are protecting areas that are too large and do not fit the law's original purpose of shielding particular historical or archaeological sites. Designating millions of acres for scientific observation or sheltering rare species, they contend, is a "federal land grab" that ignores the wishes of local residents, although the lands already belonged to the government or were under federal control.

Zinke says the pendulum has swung too far toward protecting public lands and away from the "multiple use" concept advanced by Gifford Pinchot, the first chief of the Forest Service and an early leader in the conservation movement.

Monument supporters say the designations are essential to protect sensitive areas from looting and damage. Complaints about people getting kicked off the land are exaggerated, they say, and opposition fades as nearby communities benefit from tourism the monuments attract.

A recent study by the nonprofit research group Headwaters Economics found that indicators such as employment, population and per capita income held steady or improved in sections of the U.S. West where monuments larger than 10,000 acres had been established since 1981.

LEGAL PRINCIPLES

Some monuments have been downsized over the years, either by presidential order or by Congress, while others have been enlarged. No such actions have been contested in court. No president has tried to revoke a predecessor's designation of a monument.

The Antiquities Act does not explicitly say whether a president can nullify a monument proclamation or reduce a monument's area. A legal analysis commissioned by the National Parks Conservation Association cites a 1938 opinion by then-Attorney General Homer Cummings, who wrote that a monument designation

has the force of law and can be reversed only by Congress.

A House report accompanying the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 agreed, as do some environmental attorneys.

But a study for the conservative American Enterprise Institute released in March argues that when Congress authorizes the executive branch to write regulations, the power to repeal them generally can be assumed. That's especially so, it says, when a president is correcting a predecessor's act that exceeded what a law intended — such as creating vast monuments when the Antiquities Act says they should consist of "the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected."

WHAT'S NEXT?

Environmental and Native American tribes plan to sue to stop the reductions at the Utah monuments, which will likely trigger a lengthy court battle. They have vowed to challenge any other downsizing, too.

The fate of other monuments under review awaits Trump's action. It's not known when he will make those announcements.

Congressional Republicans have measures pending that would deny the president unilateral authority to designate future monuments, requiring approval of Congress or the governors and legislatures in affected states. Some would add further conditions.

The House Committee on Natural Resources approved legislation in October that would prohibit new monuments larger than 85,000 acres or within 50 miles of an existing one. Designations of areas larger than 10,000 acres would need backing from affected counties and states. Presidents could reduce the size of existing monuments, in some cases unilaterally and in others with approval of state and local officials.

The bill, which was introduced by Utah Republican Rep. Rob Porter and is awaiting a floor vote, also would limit what is eligible for protection under the Antiquities Act to "objects of antiquity" such as relics, artifacts and fossils. Designations no longer could be made on the basis of historical or scientific interest.



NASA via AP

American Mark Vande Hei, from left, Russian Sergei Ryazanov, Italian Paolo Nespoli, American Joe Acaba and American Randy Bresnik display the results of their made-from-scratch pizza pies Nov. 18 at the International Space Station. The fixings flew up in November on a commercial supply ship.

Astronauts make, fling, float, eat pizzas on space station

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — The first-ever pizza party in space is getting sky-high reviews.

Astronauts at the International Space Station posted pictures and a video over the weekend of their small, made-from-scratch pizza pies. The fixings flew up last month on a commercial supply ship, and the crew wasted little time pulling out the flatbread, tomato sauce, cheese, pepperoni, olives, olive oil, anchovy paste and pesto.

After making their own individual-size pizzas, the six astronauts tossed and twirled them like floating Frisbees, before heating and devouring them.

Commander Randy Bresnik called the pizzas "flying saucers of the edible kind." The crew, he said in a tweet, "had a blast channeling our inner chef by building tasty pizzas for movie night."

"The IPDS (Intergalactic Pizza Devouring Squad) says 12 thumbs up!" Bresnik added.

NASA's space station manager, Kirk Shireman, took pity on Italian astronaut Paolo Nespoli's pizza craving and, in mid-November, shipped up all the ingredients on an Orbital ATK capsule. Nespoli, in orbit since July, declared the pizza "unexpectedly delicious."

Facebook launches parent-controlled Messenger app for kids

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Facebook is coming for your kids.

The social media giant is launching a messaging app for children to chat with their parents and with friends approved by their parents.

The free app is aimed at kids under 13, who can't yet have their own accounts under Facebook's rules, though they often do.

Messenger Kids comes with a slew of controls for parents. The service won't let children add their own friends or delete messages — only parents can do that. Kids don't get a separate Facebook or Messenger account; rather, it's an extension of a parent's account. Messenger Kids came out Monday in the U.S. as an app for Apple devices — the iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch. Versions for Android and Amazon's tablets are coming later.

Although children do use messaging and social media apps designed for teenagers and adults, those services aren't built for them, said Kristelle Lavallee, a children's psychology expert who advised Facebook on designing the service. "The risk of exposure to things they were not developmentally prepared for is huge," she said.

Messenger Kids, meanwhile, "is a result of seeing what kids like," which is images, emoji and the like. Face filters and playful masks can be distracting for adults, Lavallee said, but for kids who are just learning how to form relationships and stay in touch with parents digitally, they are ways to express themselves. Lavallee, who is content strategist at the Center on Media and Child Health at Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard University, called Messenger Kids a "useful tool" that "makes parents the gatekeepers." But she said that while Facebook made the app "with the best of intentions," it's not yet known how people will actually use it.

As with other tools Facebook has released in the past, intentions and real-world use do not always match up. Facebook's live video streaming feature, for example, has been used for plenty of innocuous and useful things, but also to stream crimes and suicides.



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