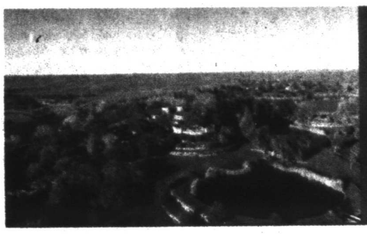
MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2018 mrt★com *320,000 readers in print and online*

SNOWLESS WINTER

Lack of snowfall this year has left ski resorts feeling anxious.

Page 5A



ON THE MARKET

T. Boone Pickens' $250 million Texas ranch ranks as one of the world's most expensive homes for sale.

mrt.com

Big oil finds hurdles in Trump's tax plan

■ Tax plan may give an edge to shale producers

By Alex Nussbaum and Kevin Crowley
Bloomberg

For Big Oil, the U.S. tax overhaul is turning out to be a mixed bag, especially for companies that drill overseas.

Two weeks after President Donald Trump and congressional Republicans passed a sweeping rewrite of the tax code that cuts corporate rates, drillers are finding other changes that are less of a boon. BP and Royal Dutch Shell offered a preview recently, saying they may write off as much as $4 billion in tax assets as a result.

Caps on debt-interest payments and cuts to deductions from previous years' losses may hurt companies building capital-intensive projects with borrowed money. And other provisions, including time limits on expensing exploration, could hem in drillers with long-term projects, including ExxonMobil and Chevron. That may also give an edge to domestic shale production.

"This is an America First-type tax plan so oil and gas companies that have the majority of their business in the United States are going to do better than multinationals generally," said Andrew Silverman, a Bloomberg Intelligence analyst in New York.

Cutting the corporate rate to 21 percent from 35 percent likely makes the legislation positive overall, according to Greg Matlock, America's energy tax leader for EY, a global accounting and consulting firm. "But that's tempered somewhat by several important provisions," he said in an interview.

Those provisions include curveballs that could blunt or even eliminate the benefit for some sectors,

Please see **OIL**/2A

CANDY CONNECTION

Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Susie Hitchcock-Hall, owner and President of Susie's South Forty Confections, gives a tour to U.S. Rep Mike Conaway and other area business leaders October 16, 2017, before a roundtable discussion with area business leaders.

MDC approves funding Susie's South Forty expansion

■ Confectioner will receive $115,000 total to buy new equipment, must add 10 jobs in 2 years

By Trevor Hawes
thawes@mrt.com

Sweet treats maker Susie's South Forty Confections is having trouble meeting demand, and the Midland Development Corp. is offering support.

At its first meeting of 2018, the economic development group's board voted unanimously to enter into an economic development agreement with Susie's so the company can buy more equipment and hire more people to make its ever-popular Texas Trash confection and pecan toffee.

The MDC is offering Susie's a total of $115,000. Per the contract:

■ The MDC will give Susie's a $95,000 forgivable, interest-free loan on or before Feb. 28, 2018, so the company can purchase personal property that includes a continuous bag sealer with date imprint capability, a bag filler, a candy-coating barrel drum machine, a 450-pound chocolate melting/tempering machine, a chocolate enrober and other equipment as necessary.

The money must be invested into equipment by Jan. 31, 2019. Susie's must provide the MDC with paid invoices to show the obligation has been met

■ The MDC will give Susie's an additional $20,000 forgivable, interest-free loan if it meets certain a number of conditions that include employing five new full-time employees, for a total of 10, by Dec. 31, 2018, and having a payroll not less than $883,950 by that time.

■ Susie's also must hire an additional five new full-time employees and total payroll not less than $1,037,900 by Dec. 31, 2019.

■ Susie's must meet employment and minimum payroll requirements, plus maintain the personal property's value. The company also must submit five annual compliance certifications each year through 2023.

■ If the company doesn't comply with any of the terms, it must pay back the loan.

Susie's currently has a payroll of $730,000 per year and contributes more than $49,000 annually to local taxing entities based on property and capital, according to the contract.

Controller Jeanne Nicodemus told the Reporter-Telegram after the meeting that the company averages about 20 employees during the non-holiday seasons and employs as many as 50 during Christmas. Demand is outstripping the confectioner's capacity.

"We have a demand for our product in larger retail environments right now," Nicodemus said.

"We service the local H-E-Bs and local Market Streets. Based on our current equipment and employment levels, we can't meet their demand."

Susie's also struggles filling orders for shipment.

Up to a quarter of Susie's business comes from shipping confections, Nicodemus said, adding that Susie's is FedEx's largest small-package shipper in the state.

City Council must approve the agreement for it to move forward.

The MDC is an economic development organization funded by the city's Type A quarter-cent sales tax.

County awaits report involving Rowland's vehicle

By Simone Jasper
sjasper@mrt.com

County Commissioners also acknowledged that Midland County hasn't received a fleet accident report from Precinct 3 Constable Jeffery Rowland in accordance with county policy.

Rowland surrendered last month and faces a state jail felony charge of criminal mischief.

An investigation revealed that he intentionally and knowingly damaged a patrol vehicle that the county issued to him, according to a previous Reporter-Telegram report.

In other business, commissioners:

■ authorized issuing requests for proposal related to modifications to the adult probation department building.

Plans call for the department to move from North Main Street to a facility near the county jail this year.

Bradford said the North Main Street building will undergo changes to its layout and heating and cooling system in order to

Please see **COUNTY**/2A

MMH discouraging some from visiting

■ Hospital targets those with flu-like symptoms, children under 14

From staff reports

Midland Memorial Hospital is encouraging those with flu-like symptoms and children younger than age 14 to not visit patients at this time, according to a press release. The hospital is posting signage to spread that message and is increasing signage related to flu prevention.

The hospital's emergency department has had an increase of cases involving flu-like symptoms, according to the press release. To prevent the spread of the virus, MMH is more frequently disinfecting emergency department areas and distributing face masks to emergency room patients who have flu-like symptoms.

Those symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, fatigue and vomiting or diarrhea, according to the CDC. People with flu-like symptoms don't need to visit an emergency room unless they experience complications associated with pneumonia, such as shortness of breath, according to the MMH release.

More information about the flu season will be in Wednesday's Health and Wellness section.

Visit us on social media

Price of oil
$53.59 ▼ $0.74
January 2018

The big number
27 allegations of sexual abuse in immigration detention over the last three years. Page 4A

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

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LOCALCRIMEBRIEFS

Report: 58-year-old slings woman around house; threatens to kill woman, her children

A Midland man was arrested Jan. 4 after allegedly assaulting a woman, according to court documents.

Bradley Sr.

Sulton Lee Bradley Sr., 58, was being held Monday on a $100,000 bond for a first-degree felony charge of aggravated assault of a date/family/house member with a weapon and $1,000 in bonds for two misdemeanor charges.

Midland police were dispatched to a residence in reference to a disturbance. Dispatch advised a woman was physically assaulted and severely injured, according to the affidavit.

Officers made contact with the woman and noticed bruising on her left eye and her neck area and several lacerations to her face, according to the affidavit. She told the officers Bradley had fled the scene before their arrival.

Bradley allegedly began arguing with the woman and began to "sling" her around, slamming her into the refrigerator, kitchen table and brick walls, according to the arrest affidavit. Bradley threatened the woman with a glass liquor bottle, according to the affidavit.

Bradley also choked her and threatened to kill her and her children, according to the affidavi .|

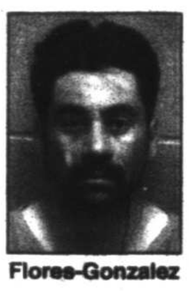
The woman was able to escape and walk to a relative's residence. While walking through the parking lot Bradley pulled behind her in a vehicle and accelerated at a high rate of speed toward the woman's direction. She was able to make it into the residence before Bradley could strike her with the vehicle, according to the affidavit.

Bradley was arrested later that night after an officer recognized the vehicle description and plate number.

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

Man arrested on sexual assault of a child charge

A Midland man was arrested Jan. 1 after he allegedly sexually assaulted a child, according to court documents.


Flores-Gonzalez

Omar Flores-Gonzalez, 41, was being held Monday on a $100,000 bond for a second-degree felony charge of sexual assault of a child.

A Midland police officer responded to Midland Memorial Hospital in reference to a reported sexual assault.

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

Kimmel says hard to tell what the mood will be for Oscars

Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif.— Upcoming Oscars host Jimmy Kimmel says it's hard to tell how the public will react to the subject of sexual misconduct when he delivers his monologue at the event in two months.

To that end, the ABC late-night host said Monday he felt that one of Seth Meyers' jokes at the Golden Globes was written specifically for him — when Meyers said he felt like the first dog being shot into outer space. It was a reference to Meyers being a test case for how Hollywood would talk publicly about the topic.

One event sure to come up is last year's epic envelope mix-up, where actor Warren Beatty announced the wrong best picture winner. Kimmel said if something like that happened again, everyone at ABC should be fired.

COUNTY

From 1A

accommodate the Midland County Historical Society.

■ approved a proclamation declaring January as "Crime Stoppers Month." Angie Valenzuela, executive director of Midland Crime Stoppers, said tips in the past year helped to solve three bank robberies and six Crime of the Week cases. She said cash rewards for those submitting information totaled nearly $15,000.

"People out there may have information that the police (don't) know," Valenzuela said. "So we share that information in hopes to get that one tip that's going to help them solve their case."

Since its inception in 1984, the nonprofit has helped law enforcement to arrest 8,341 suspects and has paid $501,233 in rewards, according to the proclamation.

"Crime Stoppers is a volunteer organization that just quietly goes about its work and has been incredibly successful in our community," Bradford said.

"We think we always need to do an acknowledgement in a public environment to say, 'Thank you.'"

■ presented state Sen. Kel Seliger, an Amarillo Republican, with a "Friend of the County Government Award."

Bradford said representatives from the Texas Association of Counties asked Midland County to acknowledge the lawmaker in his district.

"It was particularly important for me to get this award here in Midland because your county commission, whom I've known for some time, is a good example of why local control is important and why it epitomizes smaller government," Seliger said.

■ tabled a conversation related to easement on the south end of Fairview Cemetery. Bradford said an area outside of fencing is in consideration for development. Discussion about the topic will be on a future agenda pending the county attorney's review of a land survey.

Also on Monday, commissioners:

-acknowledged that Midland County hasn't received a fleet accident report from Precinct 3 Constable Jeffery Rowland in accordance with county policy.

Rowland surrendered last month and faced a state jail felony charge of criminal mischief. An investigation revealed he intentionally and knowingly damaged a patrol vehicle that the county issued to him, according to a previous Reporter-Telegram report.

-authorized issuing requests for proposal related to modifications to the adult probation department building. Plans call for the department to move from North Main Street to a facility near the county jail this year.

Bradford said the North Main Street building will undergo changes to its layout and heating and cooling system in order to accommodate the Midland County Historical Society.

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OIL

From 1A

including refining, BI said in a report Thursday.

That's added a tinge of uncertainty as the industry prepares to unveil fourth-quarter earnings later this month.

"We're going to have to see what companies say in their earnings call to get a sense of how they see this new law," Silverman said. "In some cases it may be surprising."

Here's a look at how the overhaul may affect oil and gas businesses:

One downside to the lower corporate rate: Companies with so-called tax assets — deductions from future earnings due to past losses — will see the value of those deductions reduced. Furthermore, the new rules allow businesses to offset no more than 80 percent of a year's earnings, down from 100 percent previously, according to Steve Marcus, a Dallas-based tax partner at Baker Botts.

As a result, Shell said it may take a charge of as much as $2.5 billion against its fourth-quarter results. BP put the impact at $1.5 billion, although both said they expect the tax bill to be a help in the long term.

"A number of the US E&Ps will experience something similar," Leo Mariani, an Austin-based analyst at NatAlliance Securities, said by email. This "is just a non-cash accounting charge and is a one-time hit to net income."

By contrast, EOG Resources will post a one-time gain of $2.2 billion at its fourth-quarter results because of a net deferred tax liability, the Houston-based company said Jan. 4.

The law's repeal of the alternative minimum tax for businesses will eliminate the ability to amortize exploration costs, according to Bloomberg Intelligence.

Those costs will now expire, for tax purposes, if they're not used to offset income the year they're incurred.

That could favor shale explorers whose wells come online in a matter of months over more conventional drilling operations that may take several years to start producing oil and gas, Silverman said.

Brent crude gained 0.1 percent to $67.72 a barrel at 10:20 a.m. in New York, bringing the gain since July 1 to 41 percent.

Domestic output may gain other incentives as well, as the legislation raises barriers to multinational companies that seek to transfer some income outside the U.S.

The impact will be complicated, though, by the international nature of huge oil companies. Explorers with global reach such as Exxon or Hess Corp. also own some of the largest footprints in U.S. shale fields these days.

Representatives from Exxon and Hess declined to comment. Chevron said it's evaluating the new rules and its plans to invest $8 billion in the U.S. this year are unchanged.

Under the new rules, the amount of interest a company can deduct cannot exceed 30 percent of its adjusted taxable income. Before, companies could deduct all of their net interest expense.

"That's likely to hit a fair number of those highly-leveraged companies," Marcus said. "It's definitely a big negative."

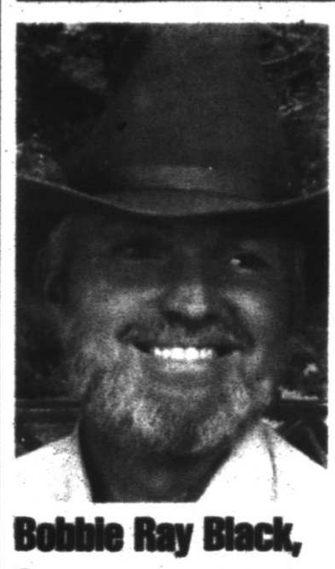
The law ends a production tax credit that allowed refiners to deduct 6 percent of "qualified" activities, including refining, processing, transportation and distribution of oil, gas or petroleum products. The credit was so broad it likely sheltered more taxable income for many companies than the benefit they'll get from more capital expensing, according to BI.

Still, refiners are in a better position to take advantage of tax changes than explorers or oilfield service companies, which have struggled to make money in recent years, Guy Baber, a Piper Jaffray & Co. analyst, said last month.

Refineries have enjoyed healthy profit margins thanks to cratering prices for their main feedstocks, oil and natural-gas.

"The refiners are unique in that they have generated positive pre-tax income," Baber said. "If you're losing money, it doesn't really matter what the tax rate is."

Obituaries



Bobbie Ray Black, Sr.

Bobbie Ray Black, Sr., age 77, passed away at his home in Midland, TX on Wednesday, January 3, 2018.

A Military Funeral Honors graveside service will be held at 10:00 a.m., January 10, 2018 at Fairview Cemetery with Barbara Kirk-Norris officiating.

Bobbie was raised in Bethany, OK. He was the only son of C.S. "Dick" and Fredaleen Black. Bobbie is a Vietnam War veteran. He retired from the United States Air Force in August of 1979, after 22 years of service as a Technical Sergeant. He met the love of his life, his beloved 'mama', Connie in April of 1973 while he was stationed in Big Spring, TX. Bobbie began his career in the oil and gas industry with John L Cox in 1979. He was forced into an early retirement due to a work related injury in 1991. Bobbie was an expert in many things. He was a loving and compassionate husband, father, uncle, and friend. He could bend your ear on subjects ranging from how the Italians made Grappa to the oil drilling process.

Bobbie is preceded in death by his parents C.S. 'Dick' and Fredaleen Black and his three daughters, Elizabeth, Criselda, and Katherine.

He is survived by his wife, Connie; sons, Bobbie Black Jr. of Odessa, TX, Troy Black of Oklahoma City, OK, Lannie Black, and David Black both of Midland, TX. He is also survived by his daughters, Debbie MacDonald of Loretto, ONT, Canada and Clayre Black of Midland, TX. He is survived by nine grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family would like to express their gratitude towards Hospice of Midland.

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

Lewallen Garcia Pipkin Funeral Home
2508 N. Big Spring - Midland, TX - (432) 682-3701

Ollie Steele

Ollie Steele, 91, of Waco, formerly of Midland died Friday, January 5, 2018, in Waco. Services will be at 2:00 PM Tuesday at Mount Olive Memorial Park Chapel. She was born October 17, 1926, in Turkey, Texas to Willie and Edgar Atkinson. She lived most of her life in Howard County followed by several years in San Angelo and Robert Lee, then ten years in Midland before moving to Waco. She was a homemaker but also worked in food service at the Big Spring State Hospital. While in San Angelo she was cafeteria supervisor for San Angelo ISD.

She is survived by her husband: Luther Steele of Dallas (formerly of Midland); two sons: Carl Dorton and his wife Sheila of Waco and John Dorton and he wife Lee Ann of Big Spring; one step-daughter: Debbie Lemon and her husband Richard of Carrolton; nine grandchildren; eleven great grandchildren; and a number of nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents and two husbands: John Louis Dorton and Thomas Bignon; two sons: Harold Jack Dorton and Louis Ray Dorton; and three grandchildren. She was the last of fourteen children.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com.

Tamra Hissom Budd

Tamra Hissom Budd of Houston, Texas passed on to be with her Lord and Savior on Friday, the 5th of January 2018, after a hard fought battle against cancer.

She was a member of Second Baptist Church since 1992. Tami loved her family, extended family, her dogs, and when her health permitted often played tennis five days a week. After being diagnosed with Lung Cancer (as a non-smoker) she became very active with Lung Cancer Alliance, supporting their annual lung walk in Houston and started a Tennis Tournament to raise awareness and funds for LCA. Tami had an infectious smile and was described by many as: amazing woman, full of life, brave, kind heart, beautiful, and a blessing to know.

She was preceded in passing by her father, Ronnie J Hissom and her mother, Gwen D. Sharp. She is survived by her husband, Keith W. Budd; son Cooper Hissom Budd; her step daughter Kimberly Budd Ryan and her husband Mark Ryan. Her grandchildren Kate Ryan and Carson Ryan referred to her as GT. She is also survived by her brother Robert Hissom, and sisters: Caroline Hissom Wallace, Julia Hissom Elkayam , Alexandra Hissom-Buell. She was also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service is to be conducted at eleven o'clock in the morning on Thursday, the 11th of January, in the Jasek Chapel of Geo. H. Lewis & Sons, 1010 Bering Drive in Houston.

In lieu of customary remembrances, memorial contributions may be directed toward the Lung Cancer Alliance, PO Box 418372, Boston, MA, 02241-8372. (www.lungcanceralliance-.org)

Norma Garcia Hembree

Norma Garcia Hembree, 71, of Midland, TX passed away peacefully at home December 23, 2017.

She was born September 18, 1946 in Big Spring, TX.

She is survived by her beloved husband, Joe Hembree of Midland and their 3 children; sister, Pauline Wilde and Frank of Midland, TX; Sister, Emma Mora and Brother, Oscar Garcia, both of San Antonio, TX; Two Grandchildren, Two Great Grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Hospice of Midland, 911 W Texas Ave. Midland TX 79701 or Texas Oncology - Midland Allison Cancer Center 400 Rosalind Redfern Grover Pkwy #100, Midland, TX 79701.

Her husband and family would like to express their gratitude to Hospice of Midland and special thanks to Donna Paul, Cassie Kirkpatrick and Terri Parker with Hospice of Midland also to Dr. Rastogi & Marisol,GNP with Allison Cancer Center. We are truly grateful for all of you and the care and compassion given to Norma.

Arrangements are entrusted to American Heritage Funeral Home.

Death Notices

Bobby Gene Marsh

Bobby Gene Marsh, 88, passed away Saturday, January 6, 2018.

The family will receive guests from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Friday, January 12, 2018 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home in Midland.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 pm, Saturday, January 13, 2018 at Goodwill Missionary Baptist Church in Midland.

Interment will follow at Resthaven North Cemetery.

Julian Earl Wickham

Julian Earl Wickham, 96, of Midland, passed away Sunday, January 7, 2018.

Memorial services will be held at 3:00 pm, Saturday, January 13, 2018 at Westside Church of Christ in Midland.

All floral offerings may be delivered to Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory in Midland.

Elbert Griffin Babb, Jr.

Elbert Griffin Babb, Jr., passed away on Sunday, December 31, 2017 in Midland. Funeral Services will be at 10:00 am, Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at Sunset Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with burial to follow at Sunset Memorial Gardens.

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

TODAYINMIDLAND

James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Former Midland mayor Mike Canon speaks to local political and industry professionals before a 2016 meeting with the national director of the Madison Coalition. Canon will be part of the state Senate candidate forum Wednesday at Midland Country Club.

State senate forum

The Midland County Republican Women will have its monthly luncheon at 11:15 a.m. Wednesday at Midland County Club.

The Republican Women are having a forum for the Texas Senate candidates for District 31 — Mike Canon, Victor Leal and Kel Seliger. Each candidate will have the opportunity to speak followed by a question-and-answer session.

Go to www.mcrw.us for more information.

This day in Midland

On Jan. 9, 2012, a single-day record 10.6 inches of snow fell on Midland.

Daily snowfall records

Jan. 9, 2012	10.6 inches
Dec. 11, 1998	9.8 inches
Nov. 28, 2001	6.0 inches
Jan. 9, 1955	5.9 inches
Dec. 24, 2011	5.8 inches

Source: National Weather Service

Things to do

■ Watercolor art classes by Sara Drescher, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., Arts Council of Midland, 1506 W. Illinois Ave. To register, email sara@artbysaradb.com.

■ Bridge game play, 1 p.m., Allison Bridge Center, 913 W. Wadley Ave. $6. For more information call 682-8595.

■ Bingo, 6 p.m., Tall City VFW Post 7208, 1306 E. Taylor Ave. Children welcome.

■ Live Trivia by Challenge Entertainment. 7 p.m., Basin Burger House, 607 N. Colorado St.

■ Permian Basin Dance Club with live country music, 7:30 p.m., Crown Royal Club, 1110 E. Scharbauer Drive. $6. For more information, call 638-3707 or 250-8215.

■ Two-Dollar Tuesdays with the same price for games, shoes, select beers and arcade card after 8 p.m. Bowlero, 5320 W. Loop 250 N. bowlero.com.

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

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

Meetings

City Council
10 a.m.
Council Chambers City H all
300 N. Loraine Ave.

Midland ISD
District of Innovation public heaning
5:30 p.m.
San Jacinto Junior High
1400 North N St.

Coffee with a cop
The Midland Police Department will have Coffee with a Cop from 7-9 a.m. today at Whataburger, 3206 Midkiff Road.

MISD briefs

■The MISD board-appointed District of Innovation sub-committees will present their ideas on ways the district can gain more autonomy and local flexibility benefiting our students, staff and parents at 5:30 p.m. today at San Jacinto Junior High.

■ Midland ISD is hosting a parent and community feedback meeting regarding Sam Houston Elementary's "Turnaround Plan" at 6 p.m. Thursday at the elementary school located at 2000 W. Louisiana Ave. During the meeting, MISD officials will provide an overview of efforts to use Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) programming as the district turns the campus into a collegiate preparatory elementary. District officials also will hear thoughts and ideas from parents and members of our community.

Dome Shows

■ "Secret of the Cardboard Rocket" dome show, 1 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays in January. Blakemore Planetarium, 1705 W. Missouri Ave. museumsw.org.

■ "Two Small Pieces of Glass" dome show, 4 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays in December. Blakemore Planetarium, 1705 W. Missouri Ave. museumsw.org.

Today in history

In 1916, the World War I Battle of Gallipoli ended after eight months with an Ottoman Empire victory as Allied forces withdrew.

Source Associated Press

Lottery

Pick 3 morning: 6-1-9
Pick 3 day: 1-0-1
Pick 3 evening: 5-6-1
Pick 3 night: 5-0-1
Daily 4 morning: 7-9-1-3
Daily 4 day: 1-2-8-4
Daily 4 evening: 5-9-0-9
Daily 4 night: 1-7-9-8
Cash Five: 2-3-7-18-30
Triple Chance: 6-7-9-11-13-28-32-35-46-48

Texas Two Step: 11-18-23-29 BB: 17
All or Nothing morning: 1-4-6-7-9-11-13-14-17-19-20-21
All or Nothing day: 2-5-7-9-12-14-15-18-19-22-23-24
All or Nothing evening: 1-2-5-8-10-12-15-16-19-20-22-24
All or Nothing night: 4-6-8-11-13-16-17-18-20-21-22-23

Stay connected
facebook.com/TheReporter-Telegram
MRT mrt.com
YouTube http://bit.ly/2oWMrCy
@mwtnews
@midlandreportertelegram

Weather

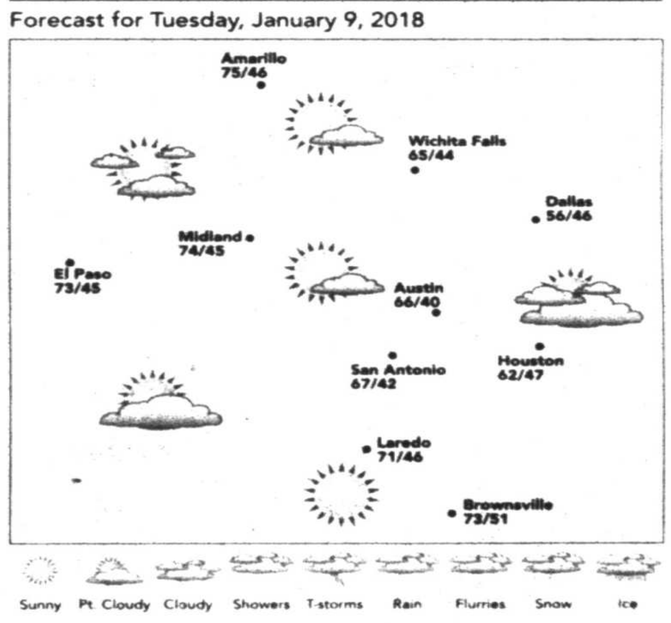
Monday's temperatures
High.....66
Low.....32
Normal high.....57
Normal low.....30

Jan 8's records
Record high: 81 set in 1969
Record low: 10 set in 1967

Precipitation
Sunday.....0.00 in.
Monday.....0.00 in.
Month total.....Trace
Year total.....Trace
Normal total (year to date) 0.11 of an in.

Winds
Average wind speed: 6.6 mph
Highest sustained wind speed: 14 mph
Highest gust speed: 17 mph

Forecast for Tuesday, January 9, 2018



Today's forecast
High: 77
Low: 44
Conditions: Sunny during the day/mostly clear at night
Winds: 10-15 mph during the day and night
Chance of rain: none
Sunrise.....7:50 a.m.
Sunset.....6:02 p.m.

Source: National Weather Service

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

A baby born today has a Sun in Capricorn and a Moon in Libra if born before 2:08 p.m. Afterward, the Moon will be in Scorpio.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for **Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2018:**

This year you could be quite concerned with your public image. You often worry about your ability to project yourself appropriately, but never to this extent. You will make waves as you take the lead in important ventures. Others will follow your lead. If you are single, you will need to decide how important it is to you to keep work and pleasure separate, as you will have many opportunities to mix them. If you are attached, the two of you become even more visible within your community. This year could bring you and your sweetie even more financial stability and romantic attachment. SCORPIO delights in your company.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ One-on-one relating requires your time and attention. You have a way of charming the socks off of nearly anyone. Your actions, conversation and/or thoughts could elicit a tremendous reaction. You need to be ready for a possible backfire. **Tonight:** A force to be dealt with.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Do not dismiss someone else's wild ideas, as he or she can manifest them with ease. You might gain a revelation because of your creativity. A new beginning becomes possible as long as you don't hit any snafus. **Tonight:** Choose an activity that takes you far away from your routine.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Your friendly style continues to mesmerize an important friend. This person needs a lot of attention, and might not always make the correct choices. Communication excels because of a need for action. Refuse to sit on any anger or frustration. **Tonight:** Be ready for a fast change.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Defer to a partner or loved one. You will want this person to be more expressive and direct. Understand that this person might have a hard time communicating his or her feelings. An unexpected situation grabs your attention. Know what you want. **Tonight:** Visit with a loved one.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Stay on top of what is happening with a loved one. Your imagination excels when dealing with a difficult situation. You will notice that an element of surprise heads in your direction. This unexpected event is likely to push you down a new path. **Tonight:** Let it all hang out.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You could get an earful from someone if you are not careful. Be aware of your feelings. When you get upset, you tend to change your spending patterns. Keep your budget in mind, or you are likely to go overboard. Your charm melts others' boundaries. **Tonight:** Happy at home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You might feel slightly restricted by someone else's expectations. This person has a certain role in mind that might not line up with who you really are. Be honest, and express what you need in order to do what he or she desires. **Tonight:** Know your financial limits.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Be as forthright as possible. You have some strong ideas about your expectations and what could work well for you. Do not underestimate your need to have certain situations play out according to your vision. Ask for what you need. **Tonight:** A smile makes a dream possible.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Emphasize what you can do as opposed to what you would like to do. Maintaining a positive attitude seems to be contagious. Follow your instincts, and you'll know how to proceed. A loved one could be full of energy; don't try to tame him or her. **Tonight:** Your drive counts.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ You might not intend to set off a conflict, but that's what seems to happen. You don't want to push someone into a power play. Your best bet is to back off and distance yourself. Friends surround you in either case. Your ability to grow is enhanced. **Tonight:** Just hang in there.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Stay on top of your work. You might need to handle what is happening in your immediate surroundings before you can look at the big picture. Too many responsibilities fall on you later in the day. You might need to say "no" a little more often; start practicing now. **Tonight:** Out late.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Work quietly with a partner or respected associate. How you handle a problem might determine the results of a negotiation. Do not feel as if you must handle an unexpected snafu. Stay calm, and you will see everything work out just fine. **Tonight:** Watch a favorite show.

BORN TODAY
Singer/songwriter Dave Matthews (1967), actor J.K. Simmons (1955), actress Imelda Staunton (1956)

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[ak-see-uh m]
noun
1. a self-evident truth that requires no proof.

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Justices seem to favor Florida in water fight

By Mark Sherman
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Monday appeared to be looking for a way to side with Florida in its complaint that Georgia uses too much water and leaves too little for its southern neighbor.

The justices heard argument in the long-running dispute between the two states. The fight is over Georgia's use of water from the Chattahoochee and Flint rivers that serve booming metro Atlanta and Georgia's powerful agricultural industry.

Florida says too little is left by the time those rivers form the Apalachicola river that flows into Apalachicola Bay and the nearby Gulf of Mexico.

A special master appointed by the justices recommended that they side with Georgia and reject Florida's call for limiting water consumption from the Flint river.

But during the hour-long argument, several justices suggested that special master Ralph Lancaster might have been unfair to Florida. Low river flows on the Apalachicola have harmed the environment and fisheries dependent on fresh water entering the area, including a huge drop in the oyster harvest in the bay.

"Can we agree that a cap at the very least would prevent the situation in Florida from getting worse?" Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said.

Craig Primis, Georgia's lawyer at the high court, said Ginsburg was wrong and that Florida had presented no evidence that forcing Georgia to cut its water use would benefit Florida.

Primis' answer gave rise to questions about physics and common sense, both of which Justice Elena Kagan said seemed to indicate that more water would flow into Florida if Georgia used less.

"It seems as though it should be true," Kagan said.

But Primis told the justices that there is "nothing common sense" about the operation of the complex river system, with its five dams run by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Corps controls the water flow on the Chattahoochee to serve several purposes, including hydropower, flood control, protecting endangered species and storing water for release during droughts, Justice Department lawyer Edwin Kneedler said.

The federal government took part in Monday's argument, but the Corps is not part of the lawsuit that Florida filed against Georgia at the court in 2013 after the justices refused to intervene in an earlier round of litigation that sought to limit water use in the booming metro Atlanta area.

The states' battle over water use dates back to 1990, and includes drawn-out negotiations and several lawsuits. Alabama, which has the Chattahoochee on its eastern border, is not part of the current lawsuit.

The agency has enough control over the flow of water that there might not be any increase in the water that reaches Florida even if the court were to cap Georgia's use of water from the Flint River, Lancaster found. The Corps could decide to store more water in its Chattahoochee reservoirs and cancel out any increases from the Flint River, Lancaster found.

The Corps' absence seemed to frustrate the justices.

"You have said you don't have any stake in the argument about whether more water would help Florida...You say, well, whatever you decide, we'll use our expertise to follow it, but then you don't tell us what to decide and you're the experts," Justice Anthony Kennedy said.

One problem Kneedler described is that the bay is not under the Corps' control, even though the river flows into it. It's not clear the Corps has the authority to send more water to Florida to benefit the bay and the oyster harvest, he said.

Phil Sears/Associated Press

Rep. Steve Southerland, R-Fla. and Sen. Marco Rubio listen to Florida Gov. Rick Scott announce a lawsuit against the state of Georgia on Aug. 13, 2013 while touring Apalachicola, Fla. Florida is hoping the Supreme Court will come to the rescue of this slice of northwestern Florida, which the state says has been devastated by greedy water users in Georgia. The high court heard arguments yesterday in the long-running water war between the neighboring states.

Advocates want #MeToo debate to include immigrant detention

By Nomaan Merchant
Associated Press

HOUSTON— While she waits at a detention center in Texas to find out if she can stay in the United States, Laura Monterrosa fears that she put herself in danger by coming forward about sexual abuse.

Months after accusing a female guard at the facility of groping her and suggesting they have sex, Monterrosa says she still sees the guard in the dining hall and other parts of the facility. She recalled in a recent interview what the guard had said to her.

"I told her that I was going to tell the supervisor what was happening," Monterrosa said in a recent phone interview from the facility. "She sarcastically said, 'Do you think they'll believe you or me?'"

As the national discussion of sexual misconduct grows, advocates for immigrants say they hope the conversation will include immigrant detention facilities. They point to the FBI announcing in December that it had opened a civil rights investigation into Monterrosa's case as a positive sign.

"Our immigrant prison system thrives on secrecy," said Christina Fialho, co-executive director of Community Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants in Confinement, or CIVIC. "If more people knew what was truly happening behind locked doors, I think there would be an outcry against the immigrant detention system."

Fialho's organization sent a complaint to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in April that listed 27 allegations of sexual abuse in immigration detention over the last three years. The complaint also says that another 1,016 people reported sexual abuse in detention to the Department of Homeland Security between May 2014 and July 2016.

Fialho said many more cases go uncounted because victims are afraid to come forward or, when they do, their cases aren't fully investigated.

Based on CIVIC's analysis of federal data released through a Freedom of Information Act request, DHS investigated less than 3 percent of the sexual abuse complaints it received during that same time period.

Like many of the roughly 35,000 adults in immigration detention, Monterrosa, 23, has requested asylum. She arrived at the southern U.S. border in May after fleeing El Salvador, where she says she was forced into prostitution by her family and that an uncle raped her. The uncle was a policeman, she said.

If her asylum claim is denied, she could be deported. She is currently appealing a denial of her claim in October.

The Associated Press typically does not name victims in sexual assault investigations, but Monterrosa has come forward to encourage other women to report their stories.

The advocacy group Grassroots Leadership, which publicized Monterrosa's case, says two other women in the same facility have since written letters describing sexual harassment.

"Women are forced to do what they say or stay silent out of fear," Monterrosa said.

Bethany Carson, an immigration researcher at Grassroots Leadership, called on authorities to release Monterrosa so "she can live in peace and recover from this new trauma she experienced at the hands of those responsible for ensuring her safety."

Monterrosa is being held at the T. Don Hutto Residential Center in Taylor, Texas, a rural town outside of Austin. Hutto has been the target of lawsuits and criminal investigations since shortly after it opened in 2006, having been converted from a medium-security prison.

Hutto was a facility for women and children until 2009, when the U.S. government transferred families elsewhere and settled a lawsuit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union over how children were being confined. It's now a 512-bed facility holding only women.

In 2011, a guard was accused of groping multiple women while he was supposed to be taking them to the airport or bus station. He pleaded guilty to federal civil rights charges and received 10 months in prison.

Advocates say problems inside immigrant detention have persisted despite years of calling attention to the topic, in part because the facilities themselves can be impenetrable to the public.

Hutto is operated by the private prison company CoreCivic, formerly known as the Corrections Corporation of America, which runs detention centers across the country under contracts with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. ICE said it received four reports of sexual abuse at Hutto during the past government fiscal year, which ended in September.

Under policies posted on CoreCivic's website, any detainee who reports sexual violence should have "no contact with the alleged perpetrator." Both ICE and CoreCivic prohibit retaliation against a detainee who files a report.

But CoreCivic declined to answer questions about Monterrosa's report that she had seen the guard in the dining hall and referred comment to ICE, as it's required to do under its federal contract, which stipulates that private prison operators must consult with ICE before speaking to the media.

ICE previously issued a statement saying that it concluded Monterrosa's allegations "could not be corroborated and the case lacked evidence to pursue any further action." The agency says it is now referring to the FBI's statement that it had opened an investigation.

In a statement, ICE said it has implemented "strong protections" against sexual assault in its detention facilities.

"It is ICE policy to provide effective safeguards against sexual abuse and assault of all individuals in ICE custody, including with respect to screening, staff training, detainee education, response and intervention, medical and mental health care, reporting, investigation, and monitoring and oversight," the statement said.

Houston police: Medication caused confusion for journalist

Associated Press

HOUSTON — A sports journalist who was found after she went missing over the weekend told police officers that she had a severe reaction to medication that led her to become confused and disoriented, police said Monday.

The disappearance of Courtney Roland, 29, caused alarm after she sent nonsensical texts to her mother and her roommate called police Sunday saying Roland had expressed concern that a suspicious man was following her.

Roland suffered memory loss as a result of her reaction to the medication and she was continuing to be evaluated at a hospital, police said at a news conference.

"When our people were talking with her she seemed pretty confused about everything," police Lt. Manuel Cruz Jr. said.

She had bumps and bruises but was otherwise unharmed when she was spotted Monday morning walking under an Interstate 610 overpass in west Houston by a passer-by who had seen media reports that she was missing. She was found near the Galleria shopping mall where she was last seen Sunday. Her Jeep was found later that evening and her purse was found at a nearby business.

Cruz said she appeared to have spent much of her time searching for her phone, which was found in the Jeep along with other personal items. At one point she was using an iPad app in an effort to find the phone.

She wasn't aware that she had been reported as missing and her state of confusion caused her to lose track of time, police said.

"We do not suspect any foul play or any kind of suspicious activity attached to this incident," Cruz said.

Her disappearance Saturday after covering a football camp for top athletes prompted family and friends to use social media as a platform to find her, and Gov. Greg Abbott on Sunday retweeted a plea to help search for her with the hashtag #HelpFindCourtney.

Roland covers Texas A&M athletics for Rivals, a Yahoo!-owned online publication focusing on college sports. Her website features videos of her work covering Aggies football and other teams. She has also worked as a model in the Houston area.

Messages left on phones listed for Roland and for her family members were not returned.

STATEBRIEFS

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON

Death row inmates from San Antonio, Houston, lose appeals

The U.S. Supreme Court has refused to review appeals from two Texas death row inmates, including a San Antonio man convicted of killing a convenience store owner during a robbery and man condemned for his involvement in the slaying of a former suburban Houston police officer's wife.

The high court, without comment Monday, refused the cases of 34-year-old Christopher Young and 60-year-old Joseph Prystash. Neither has an execution date.

Young's lawyers argued his Bexar County jurors may have received incomplete instructions at his 2006 trial for fatally shooting 55-year-old store owner Hasmukh Patel. Prystash's attorneys raised questions about jury selection and instructions and evidence at his trial for being the middleman in a plot orchestrated by former Missouri City police officer Robert Fratta to murder 34-year-old Farah Fratta in 1994.

AUSTIN

White officer's immunity stands in black man's death

The U.S. Supreme Court has let stand a lower court ruling that a white Texas police officer was immune from prosecution for the fatal shooting of a black man near a bank in 2013.

In a statement, the Travis County District Attorney's Office said justices declined Monday to take up the county's appeal in the case involving former Austin officer Charles Kleinert.

Kleinert was working with an FBI task force investigating bank robberies when he became suspicious of Larry Jackson Jr. and a chase ensued. Jackson was shot in the neck following a struggle.

Kleinert was indicted in 2014 on a manslaughter count, but a federal judge dismissed the charge under a more-than-100-year-old court ruling protecting federal officers from state prosecution.

DALLAS

Ex-North Texas deputy sentenced to 15 months over gun sales

A former North Texas sheriff's deputy must serve more than a year in federal prison for stealing confiscated guns and pawning the weapons or selling them online.

Ex-Ellis County sheriff's Lt. Philip Gary Slaughter, who supervised an evidence room, was sentenced to 15 months for possession or sale of stolen firearms. Prosecutors in Dallas on Monday announced the penalty for a the 42-year-old Slaughter, who's from Mesquite.

Authorities say the case involves about 40 guns stolen from an evidence room — instead of being destroyed, as required. The weapons were sold or pawned in late 2015.

Slaughter resigned in March 2016 before being arrested.

Another sheriff's deputy who also pleaded guilty last year in the case awaits sentencing.

West ski resorts struggling with snowless winter

Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M.— A snowless winter has pushed much of New Mexico into drought conditions and has left many ski resort workers unemployed or underworked.

The lack of snow has raised concerns about the volume of water it will take to keep slopes covered throughout the season if storm systems don't arrive.

Ski Santa Fe, which has a seasonal average of 225 inches of natural snowfall, has had only 7 inches so far this winter.

It has a calendar-year allotment of 22.7 million gallons of water for snowmaking, Ski Santa Fe spokesman Steven Trafk said.

Temperatures often have been too high for snowmaking, even on mountain peaks.

Outside of the man-made snow officials have been dumping on ski areas since November, most slopes in the West remain dry.

A manager at the Pajarito Mountain Ski Area in Los Alamos said the workforce has been cut in half, with just two of six lifts running.

It's not too late for an arctic blast to swoop in and salvage the current season.

But the outlook for such a turnaround doesn't appear likely, The Santa Fe New Mexican reported .

Andrew Church, a meteorologist with National Weather Service in Albuquerque, said he expects the next couple of months to be "closer to climatological averages" than the region has seen so far this winter. But the average snowfall for January in the Santa Fe area is a mere 4 inches.

"Unless the storm systems continue," Church said, "we are going to be looking at a snowpack that's far below average."

The latest report from the U.S. Drought Monitor shows 5 percent of New Mexico has plunged into severe drought.

Neighboring states are suffering similar conditions.

Snow conditions have been so bad in parts of Colorado, the Aspen Skiing Co. set up a soup kitchen last month to provide free meals to underworked employees.

"As long as we can't get those guys fully employed, we'll keep feeding them," a company spokesperson told The Aspen Times.

Even if storms don't bring powder, Angel Fire Resort spokeswoman Krysty Ronchetti said the New Mexico resort has no plans of shutting down.

"We're fully prepared to make snow the whole season if we need to," she said.

US ends protections for Salvadoran immigrants

By Luis Alonso Lugo and Elliot Spagat
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration's decision to end special protections for about 200,0000 Salvadoran immigrants filled many Salvadoran families with dread Monday, raising the possibility that they will be forced to abandon their roots in the U.S. and return to a violent homeland they have not known for years, even decades.

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen gave Salvadorans with temporary protected status until Sept. 9, 2019, to leave the United States or face deportation.

El Salvador becomes the fourth country since President Donald Trump took office to lose protection under the program, which provides humanitarian relief for people whose countries are hit with natural disasters or other strife.

The decision, while not surprising, was a severe blow to Salvadorans in New York, Houston, San Francisco and other major cities that have welcomed them since at least the 1980s.

Guillermo Mendoza, who came to the United States in 2000 when he was 19 years old, was anguished about what to do with his wife and two children who are U.S. citizens.

"What do I do? Do I leave the country and leave them here? That is a tough decision," said Mendoza, a safety manager at Shapiro & Duncan, a mechanical contractor company in Rockville, Maryland, near Washington.

Orlando Zepeda, who came to the U.S. in 1984 fleeing civil war in El Salvador, said the lack of surprise does not ease the sting for the 51-year-old Los Angeles-area man who works in building maintenance and has two American-born children.

"It's sad, because it's the same story of family separation from that time, and now history repeats itself with my children," Zepeda said in Spanish.

Many immigrants hope Congress can deliver a long-term reprieve by September 2019. If that fails, they face a grim choice: return to El Salvador voluntarily or live in the U.S. illegally under an administration that has dramatically increased deportation arrests.

Cristian Chavez Guevara, a 37-year-old Salvadoran immigrant in Houston who is raising two American stepchildren and a young cousin, said the decision would tear apart his family.

Pablo Martinez Monsivais/Associated Press

CASA de Maryland, an immigration advocacy and assistance organization, holds a rally Monday in Lafayette Park, across from the White House in Washington in reaction to the announcement regarding Temporary Protective Status for people from El Salvador.

He was unsure what to do.

"I have been building dreams for the future and raising hope for a better future not just for me but for my family," he said. "All of that came to a halt."

The action presents a serious challenge for El Salvador, a country of 6.2 million people whose economy counts on money sent by wage earners in the U.S. Over the past decade, growing numbers of Salvadorans — many coming as families or unaccompanied children — have entered the United States illegally through Mexico, fleeing violence and poverty.

In September 2016, the Obama administration extended protections for 18 months, saying El Salvador was still suffering the lingering effects of earthquakes in 2001 that killed more than 1,000 people.

The administration said the country was temporarily unable to absorb such a large number of returning people.

Nielsen, who faced a Monday deadline on another extension, concluded that El Salvador has received significant international aid to recover from the earthquake, and homes, schools and hospitals there have been rebuilt.

"The substantial disruption of living conditions caused by the earthquake" no longer exists, the department said in a statement.

El Salvador President Salvador Sanchez Ceren spoke by phone Friday with Nielsen to renew his plea to extend status for 190,000 Salvadorans and allow more time for Congress to deliver a long-term fix for them to stay in the U.S.

JFK airport tries to catch up, vows to probe weekend of woes

By Deepti Hajela and Jennifer Peltz
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Frazzled travelers snoozed on floors, and dozens of suitcases sat unclaimed as a welter of wintry problems — from a snowstorm to a burst water pipe — extended flight delays at Kennedy Airport into a fourth day Monday. The agency running the airport vowed to investigate the fiasco.

Andrea Collavo and his girlfriend were supposed to fly home to Italy on Friday after a vacation in the U.S. but still were trying to get into the air Monday.

They had spent days shuttling back and forth to hotels, waiting in a terminal, calling airlines and finally boarding a plane Sunday only to have it spend two hours on the tarmac and then turn back because of an equipment problem, a frustrated Collavo said.

"I can understand: Yeah, it's a mess because of the weather. But it seems that they're not very well organized," he said. "There's a big lack of information."

More than 115 flights of the day's roughly 600 were canceled, and about 100 were delayed at one of the nation's busiest airports.

And the weather brought a bit more freezing rain, sleet and snow Monday night.

"What happened over the weekend was a completely unacceptable performance," said Rick Cotton, executive director of Kennedy Airport's owner, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

He pledged to bring in outside experts and investigators to dissect the breakdowns and improve communication and contingency plans.

"We intend to identify what went wrong, why it went wrong ... and we intend to fix it," Cotton said.

As officials hoped to get the airport back in order, Mariani Silva hoped to get out of it. She'd spent the night at Kennedy after arriving around 7 p.m. Sunday for her flight home to Brazil.

"I'm trying to go back to Sao Paulo since yesterday, and I'm still in the airport, sitting on the ground," she said, hoping to get on a plane Monday evening.

Other passengers tried to get hold of their luggage.

At points, scores of suitcases were lined up in cordoned-off areas without their owners.

Cotton said the Port Authority had told airlines and the companies that run terminals to get bags and passengers back together fast.

The trouble began when a winter storm blasted New York and snarled air travel Thursday.

As the skies cleared, unusually cold weather shot in, creating what the airport operating agency called a cascade of problems over the weekend.

Temperatures around the airport were in the teens and single digits Saturday and Sunday, hitting just 4 degrees around 8 a.m. Sunday, according to the National Weather Service.

Frozen equipment, luggage-handling problems and staff shortages slowed down operations on the ground.

As flights got backlogged, gates clogged up and some arriving passengers waited on the tarmac for hours and ended up being bused to terminals. Other flights were diverted. One plane even clipped another outside a terminal amid the difficult conditions early Saturday.

It wasn't immediately clear how many passenger-filled planes at JFK sat on the ground long enough to risk a possible U.S. Department of Transportation fine.

The threshold is more than three hours for a domestic flight and four for an international one.

Then, around 2 p.m. Sunday, a water pipe broke.

About 3 inches of water gushed onto the floor of Terminal 4, suspending its international flight arrivals for a few hours.

The terminal was completely up and running again four hours later, and flights resumed normal operations by 9:45 p.m., according to JFK International Air Terminal LLC, the company that runs the terminal.

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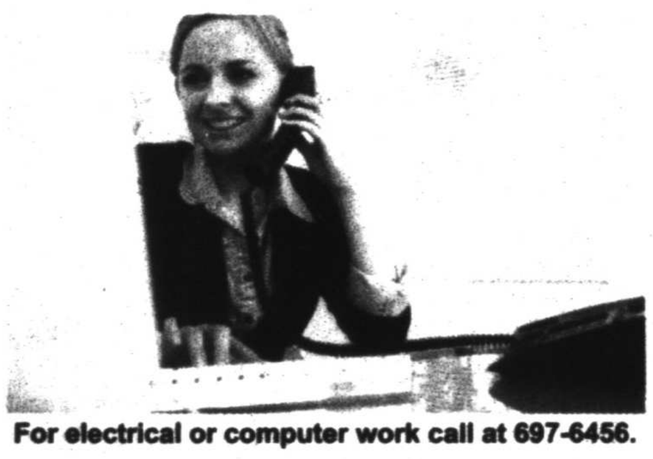

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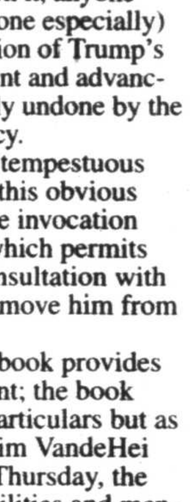
OPINION

System has, so far, survived Trump's incapacities

■ Can the people who surround Donald Trump work around his incapacity successfully enough to keep his unfitness from producing a historic calamity

ROSS DOUTHAT
New York Times News Service



Incapacity in the chief executive is not a new thing in American history. James Garfield spent half of his short presidency dying slowly from a gunshot wound. Richard Nixon's condition in his final days was dire enough that his secretary of defense effectively cut him out of the nuclear chain of command. Woodrow Wilson's stroke and his wife's influence thereafter produced the immortal — if, of course, highly #problematic — complaint from one of Wilson's senatorial critics that "we have a petticoat government! … Mrs. Wilson is president!"

What's different about Donald Trump is that his inability to handle the weight and responsibility of his office is not something that crept up gradually, not something imposed by an assassin's bullet or a stroke or a late-in-the-presidency crisis. Instead it's been a defining feature of his administration from Day 1 — and indeed was obvious during the campaign that elected him.

This means that the president's unfitness is not really a Harvey Weinstein-style "open secret," an awful reality known to insiders but kept from hoi polloi, as The Atlantic's James Fallows suggested this week amid the mania over Michael Wolff's gonzo inside-the-White-House book. Indeed, it's not any kind of secret: Even if it's considered politically unwise for prominent Republicans to mention it, anyone who reads the papers (this one especially) knows that some combination of Trump's personality and temperament and advancing age leave him constantly undone by the obligations of the presidency.

In a column early in his tempestuous first year, I suggested that this obvious fact potentially justified the invocation of the 25th Amendment, which permits a president's cabinet in consultation with the legislative branch to remove him from the White House.

The material in Wolff's book provides more grist for that argument; the book may be dubious in some particulars but as the consummate insiders Jim VandeHei and Mike Allen wrote on Thursday, the parts about Trump's capabilities and mental state "ring unambiguously true." (And again, one does not need to be a well-sourced insider to recognize this fact; one need only have access to the president's own Twitter feed.)

But op-ed provocations notwithstanding, the 25th Amendment option isn't happening — not without some major presidential deterioration in the midst of a major crisis, and probably not even then. And while I blame Republicans for a thousand things that brought us to this pass, it's too extreme to blame them for not pursuing an option that's never been tried before, against a president who was recently and (yes) legitimately elected, especially when that option requires extraordinary coordination across the legislative and executive branches and could easily fail … with God-only-knows what kind of consequences.

So unless Robert Mueller has more goods than I expect, we are going to live for the next few years in the way that America lived during the waning days of Nixon, the end of the Wilson administration, and perhaps at other moments known only to presidential inner circles — with our own equivalent of the petticoat government, which in this case includes military uniforms, dress suits and whatever outfits Ivanka and Kellyanne Conway favor (but not, any longer, the layering of collared shirts perfected by Steve Bannon).

Which means the central question of these years is not a normal policy question, or even the abnormal sort that the Resistance and other fascism-fearers expect to face. The idea of a right-populist agenda died with Bannon's exit from the White House, the standard-issue G.O.P. agenda has little left after the tax cuts, and Trump's authoritarian impulses, while genuine, seem unlikely to produce even aggrandizement on the scale of past presidents from F.D.R. to Nixon, because he has no competence to execute on them.

Rather, the big question is organizational, managerial, and psychological: Can the people who surround Donald Trump work around his incapacity successfully enough to keep his unfitness from producing a historic calamity?

They have done so for a year, with some debacles (Puerto Rico) but also some genuine successes (the defeat of the Islamic State). People may laugh at Wolff's assertion that "the men and women of the West Wing, for all that the media was ridiculing them, actually felt they had a responsibility to the country," and for some figures (perhaps especially in the press office) the laughter will be justified. But for others the work has been necessary and important, and the achievement of relative stability a genuine service to the United States.

Can it continue in the face of some greater crisis than Trump has yet confronted? Can it continue if the Democrats take a share of power or if the president's own family faces legal jeopardy? Is the American system more able to correct for presidential incapacity than some of us have feared?

The last year has given us some reason to think the answer to the last question might be "yes." May the new year give us more, because our president's chaotic mind isn't going anywhere.

OPINION EXTRA

'Chaos' puts president just where Republican Party wants him

"Fire and Fury," Michael Wolff's book about the Trump White House, elicited from its subject exactly what its title promises.

The scorched-earth attack on Wolff was probably a strategic error. Trump's initial statement on the book did not treat it as a collection of lies. Instead, the president took the book seriously, lashing out at former adviser Steve Bannon's remarks in it.

His attack on Bannon as an incompetent lunatic raised the question of why Trump had appointed him to high positions in his campaign and administration in the first place — just as his later attacks on Wolff as a malicious fabulist raised the question of why he had allowed him nearly free rein in the White House. Trump's reaction has tended to confirm Wolff's overall portrait of a petty, ill-tempered and self-pitying president.

But even if Trump gave the book credibility, the harm it can do to him is limited. We didn't need the book to spot these character traits in Trump, which have been as visible in the last two years' news as his name is on his buildings. And the long-running debate over Trump's fitness for office would probably be a little more productive without the book, which cuts enough corners to leave unclear which stories to believe.

Both sides are thus confirmed in their prior assumptions: It reinforces Trump's opponents in their negative opinion of the president, and Trump's supporters in their negative opinions of the media.

Because the main effect of the book is to freeze existing divisions, you could argue that on balance it is good for him. In an ordinary presidency, of course, saturation coverage of a book describing a White House mired in "chaos and dysfunction" would be a P.R. disaster. In this presidency, there's a silver lining: It is binding the president closer to the Republican party.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., is delighted to see Trump sever his ties with Bannon. Bannon had sought to oust McConnell and to run primary campaigns against as many Senate Republican incumbents as he could, since the destruction of the existing party has been his goal. Republican establishment types would oppose Bannon bitterly, even if they agreed with his version of populist nationalism, which they don't. If Trump is training his fire on Bannon, they will salute Trump as a font of wisdom.

One nagging problem remains: The Republican establishment's agenda is unpopular, which is part of the reason Trump was able to defeat it during the 2016 presidential primaries. Bannon's agenda of an infrastructure boom, protectionism and an immigration crackdown may be ill-considered in many respects, but it is more popular than the ideas of the congressional Republican Party and more coherent than anything Trump himself has to offer.

Bannon may have wanted to steer the White House in the wrong direction. He does, at least, have a sense that a direction is needed. Without it, all the administration has to give its supporters is more fire and fury.

— Ramesh Ponnuru, Bloomberg

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Time to make sales tax fair again

■ The digital world has changed drastically over the past quarter-century; it is long past time for our laws to catch up

LARRY DAVIDSON
King Features Syndicate

Before modern e-commerce even existed, the Supreme Court issued a ruling that shaped our digital economy. In 1992, the court created a loophole that has allowed online-only retailers to avoid collecting sales taxes while still requiring local businesses to do so. Through this, the court essentially created a corporate welfare program for online-only retailers — some of which are now digital giants — that has stood for a quarter-century.

This precedent has had profoundly negative consequences on American businesses, acutely felt by local merchants during the holiday shopping season. For years, retailers such as myself have urged Congress to close the online loophole, and every year we've received lip service but seen no action. This year was more of the same, if not worse, as Congress overhauled the entire federal tax code yet did nothing to address the concerns of local retailers who have been treated unfairly as the result of this special treatment in the law.

But retailers now have another avenue for reform: asking the Supreme Court to yet again intervene after years of congressional neglect. The state of South Dakota has petitioned the court to take up a case that would give the court a chance to overturn the 1992 precedent. I'm hopeful the justices will do just that and bring our tax system into the 21st century.

In 1992, the Supreme Court ruled that North Dakota had no right to collect sales taxes from an office supply company that had no physical presence in the state, even though the company was selling its products to customers in the state through a computer program. Ever since, companies that do not have a physical presence in states — such as a retail outlet or distribution facility - have essentially been able to sell their products to people in those states without paying taxes.

The justices understood their ruling might carry damaging and unintended consequences, which is why they asked Congress to update federal law to better regulate interstate commerce and restore a sense of basic fairness. Sadly, the court overestimated the will of Congress to act.

In the meantime, this loophole has done significant harm to Main Street retailers, as well as state and local budgets. In the decades since that decision, thousands of retail storefronts have disappeared while states and municipalities have lost billions in uncollected salestax revenue — at least $23 billion annually.

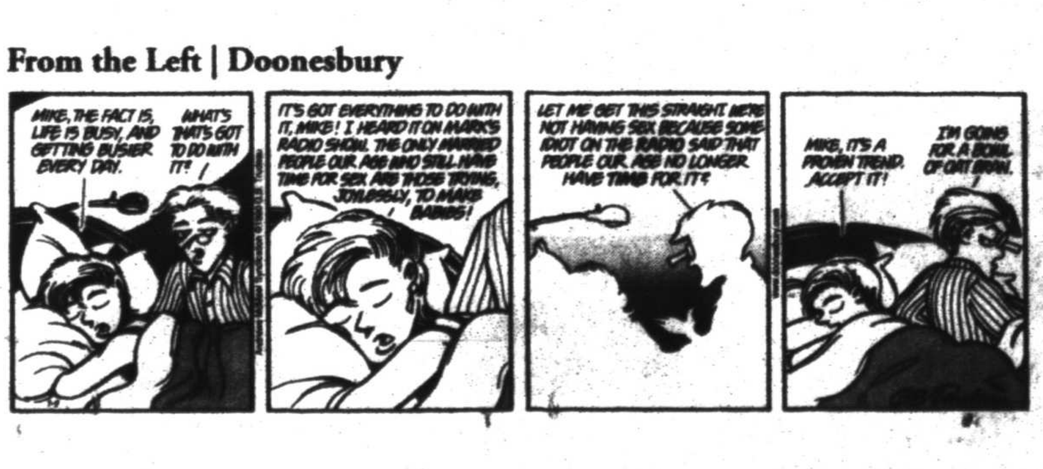
Justice Anthony Kennedy, in the 2015 case Direct Marketing Association v. Brohl, essentially suggested states should force the issue by filing a case that would allow the Supreme Court to reconsider its stance on our tax system. That's why South Dakota has quickly pushed their case up to the highest court.

By revisiting its original decision and striking down its 1992 ruling, the court could allow states to pass common-sense laws mirroring the statute passed in South Dakota that require large online sellers to comply with the same sales tax laws as local businesses. If it chooses, Congress could also decide to pass legislation in the wake of a court decision creating a national framework. But waiting for Congress to act proactively is a fool's errand.

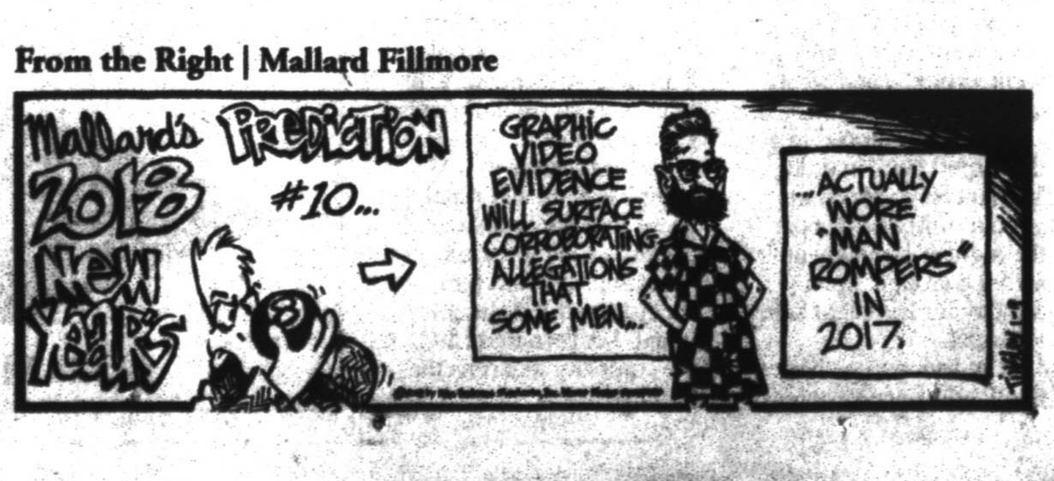
The digital world has changed drastically over the past quarter-century. It is long past time for our laws to catch up. Brick-and-mortar businesses continue to be the heart of America's economy, creating 64 percent of net private-sector jobs. These businesses aren't asking for special treatment, just equal treatment, and our only realistic shot is for the court to revisit and strike down Quill. Small retailers across the country are desperate for the court to rectify what Congress has left to fester.

Davidson is president of Davidsons, a clothing store for men in Roanoke, Virginia. He has served as president and board member of Downtown Roanoke Inc. and the local Merchants Association.

From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



Retail workers feel disruption from shifting shopper habits

By Anne D'innocenzio
Associated Press

NEW YORK — With new options and conveniences, there's never been a better time for shoppers. As for workers ... well, not always.

The retail industry is being radically reshaped by technology, and nobody feels that disruption more starkly than 16 million American shelf stockers, salespeople, cashiers and others. The shifts are driven, like much in retail, by the Amazon effect — the explosion of online shopping and the related changes in consumer behavior and preferences.

As mundane tasks like checkout and inventory are automated, employees are trying to deliver the kind of customer service the internet can't match.

So a Best Buy employee who used to sell electronics in the store is dispatched to customers' homes to help them choose just the right products. A Walmart worker dashes in and out of the grocery aisles, hand-picks products for online shoppers and brings them to people's cars.

Yet even as responsibilities change — and in many cases, expand — the average growth in pay for retail workers isn't keeping pace with the rest of the economy. Some companies say that in the long run the transformation could mean fewer retail workers, though they may be better paid. But while some workers feel more satisfied, others find their jobs are just a lot less fun.

Bloomingdale's saleswoman Brenda Moses remembers the pre-internet era, when the upscale store was regularly filled with customers ready to buy. These days, department stores are less crowded and the customers who do come in can make price comparisons on their phones at the same time as they pepper staff with questions.

"You tell them everything, and then they look at you and say, 'You know what? I think I will get it online,'" she said.

Moses has seen her commission rate rise to 6 percent from a half a percent, but her hourly wage dropped from $19 as low as $10 before it came back up to $14. Depending more on commissions means her income fluctuates, and she's competing with her colleagues for each sale.

"Now," Moses said, "you have to fight to make your money."

The same could be said for the retailing industry, overall. In 2017, 66,500 U.S. retail jobs disappeared (not taking into account jobs added in areas like distribution and call centers). In the past decade, about one out of every seven jobs have vanished in the hardest-hit sectors like clothing and consumer electronics, says Frank Badillo, director of research at MacroSavvy LLC. Though department stores have suffered the most, smaller businesses also have struggled to compete with online sellers.

Many of the survivors are rushing to adapt. Of the retail jobs that remain, over the next decade as many as 60 percent will either be new kinds of roles or will involve revised duties, says Craig Rowley, senior client partner at Korn Ferry Hay Group, a human resources advisory firm. He estimates the number is about 10 percent now.

How fast retail jobs will change and what they'll look like depends on three factors, Rowley said: the pace at which online shopping advances; the speed at which robotics and other technology progress; and shifts in the minimum hourly pay.

"Jobs for workers will get more interesting and be more impactful on the company's business," Rowley said. "But the negative side is that there will be fewer entry-level jobs and there will be more pressure to perform."

Some retail workers at the vanguard of the changes — like Laila Ummelaila, a personal grocery shopper at a Walmart in Old Bridge, New Jersey — speak glowingly of their new responsibilities.

Walmart, the nation's largest private employer, has scrutinized every job in its stores as it looks to leverage its more than 4,000 U.S. locations against Amazon's internet dominance.

The company now has 18,000 personal shoppers who fill online orders from store shelves, and 17,000 checkout hosts whose responsibilities are more extensive than the greeters of old, including keeping the area clean and making sure registers move efficiently. The company has also shifted workers from back-room clerical jobs and eliminated some overnight stocker positions in favor of more daytime sales help. The customers like the changes, company officials say, pointing to more than three years of sales growth at its established U.S. stores — a contrast with other, suffering retailers.

Ummelaila became a personal shopper after joining the company three years ago. To meet her store's goals, she must pick one item per 30 seconds. If she can't find something, she has to quickly get a substitute that's as good or better.

"You start to get to know the customers, you know what they like," she said, "how they like their meat ... and how long they keep milk in the fridge."

Best Buy, meanwhile, has begun a free service in key markets where salespeople will sit with customers in their own homes and make recommendations on setting up a home office to designing a home theater system. Best Buy said shoppers spend more with a home visit than they do at the stores. The project follows Amazon, which reportedly has been testing a program that sends employees to shoppers' houses for free "smart home" recommendations.

At Steve Frederick's townhouse in Chicago, Billy Schuler offered advice about speakers that can be adjusted from a smartphone. Schuler, who had previously worked at Best Buy for 14 years, returned to the company to take on the new role.

"Customers are more relaxed when they are in their home," he said. "We can do a walkthrough of the house and see their needs." He likes to "break the ice" by calling the person and chatting a day or two before the visit.

Frederick, who's spending close to $20,000 on the equipment, describes himself as "old-school" and says he needed a lot of help. He thinks it was worthwhile.

"When you are spending that kind of money, you want to have someone come in and explain it," he said.

Schuler declined to give specifics but says he is well compensated. Ummelaila says her pay went up to nearly $12 per hour from $10 when she became a personal shopper.

Target credits its strategy of assigning dedicated sales staff in areas such as clothing, consumer electronics, and beauty for helping increase sales, and says having visual merchandisers create vignettes like shoppers would see in specialty stores inspires people to buy. "You are making an outfit and telling a story on each rack," says Crystal Lawrence, who works at a Target store in Brooklyn, New York. She likes the variety in her new job, and Target says it plans to keep paying higher wages for those specialized roles.

But a survey of nearly 300 retail workers — conducted by the Center for Frontline Retail and Community Development Project at the Urban Justice Center — found that of those workers whose job responsibilities have changed, more than 40 percent said they hadn't received pay increases to reflect that.

Wages for hourly retail workers have risen less than 9 percent since 1990, compared with 18 percent for overall workers in the private sector. There has been some progress recently; some of the biggest retailers, like Walmart and Target, have made moves to increase pay in the face of low unemployment and competition for workers.

"For a long period, these retail jobs were just terrible on average," said Michael Mandel, chief economic strategist at the Progressive Policy Institute. "Retail stores have been following one strategy: high turnover, low wages. That strategy is no longer viable."

Mandel sees hope in technology, which he says has historically created more and better-paying jobs than it has eliminated.

The National Retail Federation trade group points to government data showing that even in large supermarket chains where self-checkout has become standard, the number of employees per store has held steady over the 15 years through 2014. And the demand for grocery cashiers increased in the past few years, says Burning Glass Technologies, a company that analyzes labor market data.

McDonald's says the self-serve kiosks it has been rolling out won't result in mass layoffs, but will mean that some cashiers shift roles to accommodate changes like offering table service.

But a report prepared by Cornerstone Capital Group for the Investor Responsibility Research Center Institute predicts that more than 7.5 million retail jobs are at risk of being eliminated by automation over the next several years.

Fear not the alphabet soup of TV features unveiled

By Ryan Nakashima
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — New TVs are coming with an alphabet soup of features designed to get you to spend more.

There's OLED and 4K, with a dash of HDR. How about QLED and QDEF? Samsung, LG and other TV manufacturers are showcasing new models at the CES gadget show in Las Vegas this week — all with acronyms to set their sets apart.

Fear not. Here's how to translate the tangle of great-sounding upgrades into plain English.

HD, 4K, 8K

Translation: High definition has 1,920 pixels across and 1,080 vertically. UltraHD, or 4K, has twice as many in both directions — 3,840 across and 2,160 vertically, which gives you four times as many pixels. 8K, primarily promoted by Sharp, offers 7,680 pixels across and 4,320 down.

8K sets are mostly for show for now — with video limited to the occasional experimental broadcast.

The choice between 4K and HD is still a real debate. It all depends on how far away you'll sit from your TV and how big it is, which we explain with this handy tool at http://interactives.ap.org/2015/tv-buying-guide .

OLED

Unpacking the acronym: Organic light-emitting diodes.

Translation: Diodes are circuit elements that can emit light under certain conditions; OLEDs do so using a layer of material based on carbon, which in a technical sense makes them organic. Sets using OLEDs, primarily made by LG, tend to be pricey because these screens are difficult to produce.

Pixels, the individual points that form an image, are self-illuminating and can thus be shut off individually. That means images can have truly black areas — rather than just very dark. Sets also cut down on light spillage in scenes where bright and dark colors are side by side; you see sharper contrast. OLED sets also have a wider viewing angle than regular sets.

But OLEDs aren't as bright as other displays and can suffer "burn-in" if a static image is left on screen for too long.

MicroLED

Unpacking the acronym: Micro light-emitting diodes.

Translation: Just as with OLEDs, sets with MicroLEDs have self-illuminating pixels, but the material used is slightly different and isn't organic. Samsung says MicroLEDs are brighter than OLEDs and offer the same benefits of high contrast and deep blacks, without burn-in.

Samsung is unveiling a 146-inch MicroLED set this year. Questions surround their ease of manufacturing and ultimately, their price. Don't expect to see mass-market availability of this kind of set any time soon.

LCD

Unpacking the acronym: Liquid crystal displays.

Translation: In an LCD screen, the most common form of display, a thin panel of electrically controlled liquid crystals selectively blocks light or lets it through. The light that makes it through passes through red, blue or green filters to form a full spectrum of colors.

The knock on LCDs is that they must be "backlit" by a light source. Don't be fooled by what are labeled "LED" TVs. These are still LCDs, backlit by LEDs. Because there aren't as many LED sources behind the pixels as there are pixels, there is still some wash of brightness where bright and dark meet and less than complete darkness in dark shots. Still, many manufacturers tout "local dimming" or special control of the backlights to reduce light spillage.

HDR and HDR10

Unpacking the acronym: High dynamic range using 10 digital "bits" to represent color gradations

Translation: Everyone who's ever used a camera has seen what happens when you under- or over-expose a photo. Either the bright parts wash out the dark parts or everything is too dark. HDR aims to include both the brightest bright parts and the darkest dark parts without letting either dominate the image.

An industry group calls for HDR TVs to display about 1 billion variations of color and brightest brights that are 20,000 times brighter than the darkest parts of the screen image.

Video needs to be streamed in HDR format for you to see the improvements. Some online services are offering new Hollywood hits and their own TV series in HDR, but a lot of video hasn't been adapted yet.

Dolby Vision, HDR10+, HDR 10 Pro

Unpacking the acronym: Advanced versions of "high dynamic range"

Translation: Dolby pushes the color envelope further using 12 bits of color depth to offer 69 billion color variations. Video also comes with hidden instructions for compatible TV sets to calibrate HDR frame by frame. By contrast, standard HDR and HDR10 offer one setting for the entire video, which may not reflect what's best for each scene.

No TV sets can yet handle the 12-bit range, although some use a 10-bit version of Dolby Vision. Sets that incorporate Dolby Vision pay a royalty to Dolby for the technology.

Not wanting to go there, Samsung developed something called HDR10+ that offers frame-by-frame HDR but sticks to 10 bits. It's an open standard, one supported by such major brands as Amazon, Panasonic and 20th Century Fox.

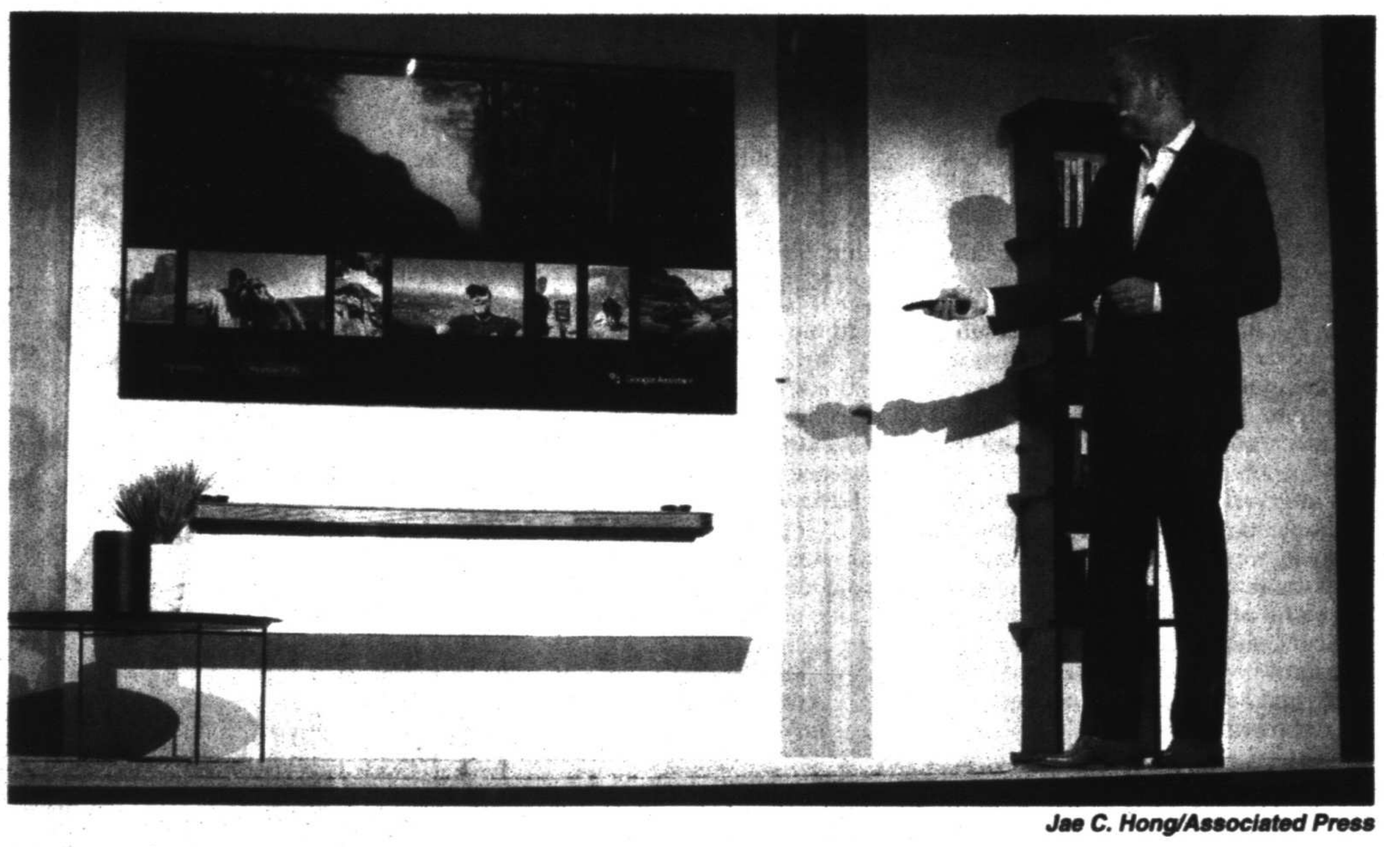
Meanwhile, LG announced Monday it is doing something similar — and calling it HDR 10 Pro.

Quantum dots, QLED, QDEF and Q-whatever

Unpacking the acronym: It's complicated

Translation: Quantum dots are tiny particles that emit sharp colors based on their particular size. Because the size can be finely tuned, the colors can be very accurate. Also, because they give off color, there's no more need for filters — at least that's the promise. Today's quantum dot sets still do use filters, though because of fine-tuning, they represent reds and greens better than other sets and reduce the amount of power wasted when light gets filtered out.

Beware of the stuff that comes after the Q. While Samsung calls its version QLED, it doesn't mean it uses OLED screens. Rather, Samsung's QLED sets are backlit by standard LEDs and have the same problems with light spillage that other LEDs have. QDEF is Hisense's version, also with light spillage. Quantum dots that actually function like OLEDs, eliminating the need for backlighting, is still a ways off. We'll get filter-less quantum dot technology before then.



Jae C. Hong/Associated Press

LG's David Vander Waal demonstrates the AI Signature OLED TV during a news conference Monday at CES International in Las Vegas.

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Genesis 1:23
God saw that it was good. God blessed them: "Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Ocean! Birds reproduce on Earth!" It was evening, it was morning
– Day Five.

Oprah speech has Democrats buzzing about possible 2020 run

By Thomas Beaumont and Steve Peoples
Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — Oprah Winfrey's impassioned call for "a brighter morning even in our darkest nights" at the Golden Globes has Democratic Party activists buzzing about the media superstar and the 2020 presidential race — even if it's only a fantasy.

Even so, for Democrats in early voting states, and perhaps for a public that largely disapproves of President Donald Trump's job performance, the notion of a popular media figure as a presidential candidate is not as strange as it once seemed, given the New York real estate mogul and reality TV star now in the White House.

"Look, it's ridiculous — and I get that," said Brad Anderson, Barack Obama's 2012 Iowa campaign director. While he supports the idea of Winfrey running, it would also punctuate how Trump's candidacy has altered political norms. "At the same time, politics is ridiculous right now."

Winfrey's speech as she accepted the Cecil B. DeMille lifetime achievement award on Sunday touched on her humble upbringing and childhood wonder in civil rights heroes.

But it was her exhortation of the legions of women who have called out sexual harassers — and her dream of a day "when nobody has to say 'me too' again" — that got some political operatives, in early voting states such as Iowa and New Hampshire, thinking Winfrey might be just what the Democrats need.

"I think we need more role models like her that are speaking to young women and trying to restore some hope. The election of Donald Trump was a devastating setback for little girls," said Liz Purdy, who led Democrat Hillary Clinton's 2008 New Hampshire presidential primary campaign.

Trump's job approval rating sat at just 32 percent in December, according to an Associated Press-NORC poll.

And though polls show his approval up slightly since, Trump is the least popular first-year president on record. He has also been accused by multiple women of sexual misconduct, though he has vehemently denied the allegations.

Winfrey, in September and October, publicly dismissed the notion of seeking the nation's highest office, though she noted that Trump's victory made her rethink the requirements of the office.

A representative for Winfrey did not reply to a request Monday for comment from The Associated Press.

Winfrey's longtime partner, Stedman Graham, told the Los Angeles Times that "it's up to the people" whether she will be president, adding, "She would absolutely do it."

Winfrey, 64, has become a cultural phenomenon over the past 30-plus years, born into a poor home in Mississippi but breaking through as a television news and talk show personality in the 1980s. Over 30 years, she became the face of television talk shows, starred and produced feature films, and began her own network.

Trump himself has lavished praise on Winfrey over the years, including in 2015, when he said that he would consider her as a running mate on his Republican ticket. "I like Oprah," Trump told ABC News in June 2015. "I think Oprah would be great. I'd love to have Oprah. I think we'd win easily, actually."

It echoed comments Trump made in 1999, when he was weighing a presidential candidacy in the Reform Party. "If she'd do it, she'd be fantastic. I mean, she's popular, she's brilliant, she's a wonderful woman," Trump told CNN's Larry King.

NBC tweeted a picture of a smiling Winfrey under the message, "Nothing but respect for our future president. #goldenglobes." It quickly attracted attention, including Donald Trump Jr.'s.

The president's son retweeted it, calling it "strange." The network later deleted the tweet and explained that it was done by a "third party agency" and was a reference to a joke by Golden Globes host Seth Meyers.

Late-night show host Jimmy Kimmel said at a press conference Monday that he thought Winfrey's speech was "preaching to the choir" with her Hollywood audience.

"That said, given the choice between Oprah and our current president, I'm on the bus with Oprah traveling the country encouraging people to sign up and vote," he said.

Some operatives think she has what it takes to be a viable presidential candidate.

"She would be a serious candidate," said Jennifer Palmieri, former White House communications director under President Barack Obama and the communications director for Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign.

Beyond her rise from poverty, Winfrey's success as a multidimensional media figure has come from promoting ways for women to assert themselves, typically outside the political arena.

That could soften what Palmieri describes as an enduring resistance among some voters to women with political ambition.

"I think lessons we all learned from watching Hillary's run, and how her ambition was unfavorably and unfairly viewed, coupled with Oprah's existing popularity, could give Oprah a strong start," Palmieri said.

That's not to say Winfrey can't claim any significant political influence. She notably headlined an Iowa rally for then-Sen. Barack Obama in the weeks leading up to his surprise victory in the state's 2008 leadoff nominating caucuses, which helped propel him to the presidential nomination.

Still, while some Democrats would embrace Winfrey's outsider-celebrity status as the party's answer to Trump, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., noted that Winfrey, like Trump, lacks any kind of experience in government.

"I think one of the arguments for Oprah is 45," Pelosi said, referring to Trump in shorthand for the 45th president. "I think one of the arguments against Oprah is 45."

Steve Peoples reported from New York. Associated Press writers Andrew Taylor in Washington and Dave Bauder in New York contributed to this report.

Paul Drinkwater/NBC via Associated Press

This image released by NBC shows presenters Roseanne Barr, left, and John Goodman on Sunday at the 75th Annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, California.

Roseanne Barr: Her TV character is a Trump fan, as should be

By Lynn Elber
Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif.— Roseanne Barr said her character's support for President Donald Trump in the revived sitcom "Roseanne" is a reflection of her own views and also true to the show's roots.

The sitcom brings the Conner family and the life of the country up to date when it debuts March 27 on ABC.

"I've always attempted to portray a realistic portrait of the American people and of working class people. And in fact it was working class people who elected Trump," Barr said Monday.

The show also seeks to address the polarization that has split families, she said, calling such divisiveness "not American."

The show's extended family represents a "full cross-section of ideas and beliefs," said Bruce Helford, among the executive producers and actors taking part in a Q&A with TV critics. "There's no agenda on anybody's part but to get honest feelings out there, and within a family that's relatable," Helford said.

Sara Gilbert, who's among the original returning cast members, echoed him.

"People feel like they can't disagree and still love each other and talk to each other. It's a great thing to have a family divided by politics but still filled with love," Gilbert said.

Barr was pushed to defend her character's support for Trump in light of what a reporter called his racism and xenophobia. The question followed a clip from the original show in which her character vehemently decries her son's apparent racism.

"Well, that's your opinion," Barr replied to the reporter, adding that Trump says "a lot of crazy (expletive)."

"I'm not a Trump apologist," she continued. "There are a lot of things he's said and done I don't agree with, like there's probably a lot of things Hillary Clinton has done and said that you don't agree with. No one's brainwashed into agreeing with 100 percent of what anybody says, let alone a politician or a candidate."

Asked if she'd support Oprah Winfrey or, say, activist-actress Susan Sarandon for president, Barr replied that she herself would be a better president than either of them or, possibly, even Trump.

The new "Roseanne" reunites Barr with John Goodman, Laurie Metcalf and other original cast members, somehow getting past that Goodman's character, Dan Conner, was said to have died when the series ended its 1988-97 run.

In a clip from the new show, Conner is shown being awakened in bed by Barr because she fears he's dead.

"I thought it was a clever way to do it, handle it and get it out of the way," Goodman told critics.

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Tavis Smiley announces deal for new show

By David Bauder
Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. — Less than a month after PBS dropped Tavis Smiley's talk show after reported inappropriate relationships with subordinates, Smiley announced a deal Monday to go back to work with a new series about inspirational stories.

His series, "The Upside with Tavis Smiley," will be streamed online and shown on The Word Network, a religious-oriented cable and satellite channel directed at black viewers. He also announced a five-city "town hall" tour to talk about relationships in the workplace.

Among the men caught up in sexual misconduct cases the past few months, Smiley has been most aggressive in fighting back and the first to publicly announce plans to resume his career. His new show is expected to start in the spring.

Smiley compared the experience to when he was fired by BET in 2001 for offering an interview that he had conducted with a newsmaker to ABC News, a corporate competitor. He wrote books about rebounding from setbacks, and launched the late-night talk show with PBS that aired for 14 years.

"I would not wish this experience on my worst enemy," Smiley said. "Having said that, the last time this happened, great things came out of it."

Although conceding that what was once considered acceptable in the workplace may no longer be, Smiley has been defiant, suggesting that romances between professional colleagues is hardly unusual. However, PBS investigators reportedly found women who felt their advancement at work was tied to the sexual relationships, an assertion Smiley has denied.

He'll be a test case for whether fans will be willing to overlook behavior that an employer considered out of bounds.

By fashioning a new program focusing on inspirational stories instead of more general interest news and entertainment, Smiley will sidestep the issue of whether his downfall would make celebrities reluctant to be interviewed by him. By striking a digital distribution deal with the media company AerNow and a little-watched cable network, he will also be much less visible.

But Smiley said he believed that going digital positions him well for the future. He also said he'll attract a younger audience than he was getting at PBS, and that he has also struck a deal for international distribution for "The Upside" and his production company's inventory of interviews that he conducted in the past.

He announced plans for a book and online course in "Leading by Listening."

His "town hall" appearances in Chicago, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Washington, D.C. and San Francisco will have him moderating discussions about acceptable workplace protocols.

"Everyone is saying, 'We need to talk about this,' but nobody is doing that," he said. "Nobody is creating a space for it. Now here I am doing it."

Smiley said he was motivated to get back to work quickly because of concern for employees of his production company who learned that the PBS show was ending at the beginning of the holiday season.

He said he wasn't concerned that by moving so quickly, he might be missing out on better opportunities if he waited for the story of his firing to fade.

"You can only make decisions based on what's in front of you," he said. "You can't make decisions based on what might happen, on what may come."

He said that as "a black man in America," he knows that better offers may never come.

EDUCATION

Mental health means so much for our children

PATRICIA A. MAURER
Trinity School

A child most certainly benefits from having physical needs met, and physical needs are fairly easy to define, if, sadly, not always satisfied. A child can, however, have adequate food, clothing, shelter and still not thrive. For a child to truly flourish, emotional growth must also be fostered.

In fact, my experience tells me that the most important factor related both to social and cognitive development in any child; the single thing that makes the greatest difference in whether any child reaches his/her full potential is mental health. Unfortunately, the mental health of children represents a growing concern on the part of parents, teachers and counselors.

The National Institute of Mental Health reports that 13 percent of America's children, ages 8-15, have a diagnosed mental health disorder. That means far too many children who are stressed, anxious, distracted and consequently unable to do the best that they can do in any number of circumstances. The potential for loss and heartache is staggering.

When children are mentally healthy, they are more likely to demonstrate the capacity to learn new skills, both academic and social. They are ready to think, to make new friends and to step up to new challenges with confidence. They are able to struggle through difficult situations and take part in determining their own progress.

If this is the reality, what can we do about it? I believe unconditional love is basic to a child's good mental health. In order for love to be unconditional, a child must first know that love is not attached to accomplishments. Unconditional love is not connected to the last goal on the field, the last A on a report card, or any of the other myriad of things for which adults, parents, teachers and coaches, claim "bragging" rights.

If a child is to be mentally healthy, we have to recognize that mistakes and defeats are to be expected. In the end, it isn't the losses that determine the winners; it is the ability to handle those losses that make a difference. Sounds like a platitude for sure, but when the adults in a child's life do what is necessary to build stamina for the long game, not the event, they can make a real difference.

While praise is sometimes criticized, I think praise has its place. When we encourage a child's first efforts to learn something new, we fuel their desire to explore and to learn more. I do acknowledge that the random "good job" is not the most effective method of delivery. Praise is most effective when it points to the behavior that

Please see MAURER/2B

MIDLAND COLLEGE PROFILES

By Rebecca Bell

Pre-med student benefits from dual credit courses

Editor's note: This is one in a series on Midland College students and alumni. Amanda Bell is Rebecca Bell's niece.

"Once I got past the stage that every little kid goes through of wanting to be an astronaut, professional basketball player or a music star, I knew that I wanted to be a doctor," said 21-year-old Amanda Bell.

The 2015 Greenwood High School valedictorian is one step closer to realizing her dream of becoming a physician. This past fall, she received invitations to interview at eight of the 10 medical schools in Texas. She received early acceptance offers from Texas Tech and University of Texas at Houston McGovern. Later this month, Bell, like many other young women and men pursuing a medical career, will be "matched" with medical schools as part of the state medical school enrollment process known as "The Texas Medical School Match."

Bell is entering her last semester at West Texas A&M in Canyon. She has a 4.0 grade-point-average and will graduate in May — one year earlier than the traditional four-year baccalaureate degree-seeking student. She tied for the highest Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) score ever received by a West Texas A&M student on the new MCAT and is the first traditional WT student in history to have received an interview from Baylor College of Medicine, the only private medical school in Texas.

"Thanks to courses I took at Midland College while I was still in high school, I entered WT as a second semester sophomore," Bell said. "When I graduated from high school, I had 54 college credit hours, 39 of those hours were from Midland College through dual enrollment and early admissions. I received the other 15 hours through Advanced Placement and college entrance exam scores. This allowed me to have more time in my schedule at WT for honors courses, medical healthcare internships and research. In addition, the extra time has allowed me to pursue double majors of Biochemistry and Biology. When I graduate on May 12, I'll receive a Bachelor of Science degree with a specialization in pre-med."

During the past 2 ½ years at WT, Bell has performed two health care internships — one in infectious diseases and one in cardiology. As part of these experiences, she "shadowed" physicians and medical residents in both of those areas.

"I'm not sure right now what my specialty will be," Bell said. "I enjoyed both the infectious disease and the cardiology experiences. During the cardiology health care internship with Dr. Michael Miller, I got to 'scrub in' with the doctors and be in the operating room during bypass surgery. That was an awesome experience that most students don't get, even in medical school."

During the past 2 1/2 years at West Texas A&M, Bell participated in chemistry research with Dr. Jason Yarbrough. In November 2017, Bell presented her research project Copolymerization of CO2 and Epoxides Catalyzed by Chromium(III) Schiff-base Complexes at the regional American Chemical Society (ACS) meeting in Lubbock. Bell explained that the premise of the project is to use carbon dioxide to make plastics.

"I've always enjoyed science and math," Bell said. "I actually hated courses like English until I took my dual-credit English courses at Midland College. Thanks to great teachers like Lily Koesjan and Rebecca Randolph, I gained an entirely new perspective on and appreciation for literature, and these classes are some of my most memorable. My Midland College courses introduced me to authors like F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemmingway, T. S. Eliot and Alfred, Lord Tennyson. I have found an escape through literature."

"It was also during my Midland College courses that I really learned to enjoy classical music," Bell added. "As part of an

Please see PROFILE/2B

'FOCUS ON EQUITY'

Houston Chronicle file art

Texas Southern University, Granville Sawyer Auditorium. El Dia Del Tigre is specifically designed to recruit area Hispanic and Latino kids to Houston-area colleges. Busloads of kids arrive for the three-hour event. More Latinos are going to college than ever, but only about half of them earn a bachelor's degree.

Only half of Latino college students graduate. What are Texas schools doing to help?

By Eva-Marie Ayala
Dallas Morning News

More Latinos are going to college than ever, but only about half of them earn a bachelor's degree.

Angelica Sanjuan Bermudez, a junior at the University of Texas at Dallas, says she understands why it's a challenge for many students. She struggled at first.

The mountain of schoolwork was overwhelming. So, on some days, she gave in to her newfound freedom to have lunch with friends or catch an event on campus rather than facing assignments that were stressing her out. Of course, that meant the biomedical engineering major soon fell behind and need to scramble to catch up.

"I had these new responsibilities and freedom and college pressure," Bermudez said. "It was difficult to navigate it all at once."

A new report by The Education Trust found that despite a dramatic increase in enrollment, schools need to redouble efforts to get more students like Bermudez through graduation. In 2015, the graduation rate for Latino students was 53.6 percent, which was 10 percentage points behind white students at four-year colleges and universities, according to the national nonprofit group.

Enrollment for Latino students in public and private colleges nearly tripled from 1.3 million in 1999 to 3.6 million last year, according to the Pew Research Center.

Andrew Nichols, author of the Education Trust report, said he is encouraged by the boost in enrollment but said his research found that Latino students still aren't getting equal access needed to earn bachelor's degrees, which can significantly affect income levels and future generations.

"Few Latino students are enrolled in more selective institutions," he said. "They are underrepresented. So, we need to fix this and the larger gaps we see in graduation rates. If we focus on equity and believe all students can learn, that helps schools tweak their programming until they find the right formula that works for your campus."

Nichols' report pointed to UTD and the University of Texas at San Antonio for lagging behind similar-size schools with similar student makeups. UTD's graduation rate for Latino students earning bachelor's was slightly above the national average at 54 percent. Latinos make up about 14 percent of enrollment at UTD.

Education Trust compared UTD to the University of North Carolina-Wilmington, which had a 72 percent graduation rate for Latino students. But that campus' Hispanic student population accounted for just under 5 percent of the total student body.

UTSA was compared to California State University's Fullerton campus. Both are considered Hispanic Serving Institutions, which federal authorities define as higher-education schools whose student population is at least 25 percent Latino.

But Cal State-Fullerton's graduation rate for Latino students was 57.7 percent, compared to about 33 percent at UTSA.

Overall, Ed Trust found that Texas schools with the highest Latino graduation rates tended to be more selective private schools where such students account for a much smaller portion of the overall enrollment. Rice University had the highest Latino graduation rate at 91.5 percent while Southern Methodist University had the second-highest at 83.8 percent.

Texas A&M University and the University of Texas at Austin had graduation rates above 70 percent for Latino students.

Meanwhile, smaller private schools had the biggest gaps in graduation rates. For example, Lubbock Christian University had 26 percent of Latino students graduating, compared with 48.6 percent of white students.

The report comes just months after a report from the Pew Research Center found that the high school dropout rate for Latino students is at a record low. In 1996, about 1 in 3 such students dropped out of school. But in 2016, 10 percent of 18- to 24-year-old Hispanics had dropped out.

Students can get tripped up on their way to earning degrees for many reasons: Money for classes runs out. A required math course is too hard. A car breaks down. Or immigration issues make it harder to access financial aid.

Please see LATINO/2B

GUEST VIEW

TEA's actions leave unanswered questions

San Antonio Express-News

The Texas Education Agency has some explaining to do.

The firing of the state's special education director after only a few months on the job, her filing of a federal complaint about the agency's failure to follow proper protocols the day before she was let go, the awarding of a no-bid multimillion-dollar special education contract, and the sudden cancellation of that contract do not evoke public confidence in the agency.

Taxpayers have a right to be leery.

TEA's special education policies came under scrutiny of the U.S. Department of Education in 2016 when a Houston Chronicle investigation revealed the state had quietly set an arbitrary cap on the number of students eligible for special education services.

The policy denied access to public special education to ten of thousands of students and forced many parents to homeschool their children.

At the urging of the state's leadership, the 8.5 percent cap was immediately eliminated and efforts were launched to improve the state's delivery of special education.

Regrettably, there has been a lack of transparency in the state's process to bring change to Texas special education services.

Last month, as school districts were preparing for their winter break, TEA bailed out of a $4.4 million contract with a company hired in May to develop a long-term special education plan for the state.

Education Commissioner Mike Morath's cancellation of the contract came after he had spent weeks defending it to those who questioned the lack of bids for

Please see TEA/2B

PROFILE

From 1B

assignment for Music Appreciation, I attended a symphony concert. I wasn't exactly looking forward to it, but as it turned out, I really had a great time. The very first song during the concert was the 'William Tell Overture,' and I remember thinking, 'This isn't going to be so bad—they're playing the theme from The Lone Ranger!'"

Bell also fondly recalled her Midland College Government class with adjunct professor Nancy Hart and said that it introduced her to different political perspectives.

"My Midland College professors were some of the best I've had," Bell stated. "Most of the dual-credit courses were online or taught through interactive television, as was economics with professor Doug Avery. Even though the professors weren't in the same room with us, they always tried to include us in class discussions and activities. I especially remember Paula Marshall-Gray who taught History. She invited us to attend her class at the main campus, and she was always willing to work with me when I had to miss class because of my basketball games.

"I think that taking dual-credit and early-admissions courses while I was still in high school helped me develop good study habits before entering WT. I took several online courses through Midland College like Pre-Calculus with Sonia Ford, and I learned how important it was to be proactive and organized — a lesson that has proven helpful at WT, especially during the years that I played collegiate basketball."

Having received a partial athletic scholarship, Bell was a member of West Texas A&M's Lady Buffs basketball team for two years. After the 2016-2017 season, Bell decided to resign from the team so that she could concentrate on her studies, research activities and medical healthcare internships.

In summer 2017, Bell was offered employment as a part-time Chemistry teaching assistant at WT, teaching four General Chemistry labs during the summer and fall. She also volunteers with Habitat for Humanity and the American Cancer Society. During high school, she clocked over 100 hours as a volunteer at Midland Memorial Hospital.

Bell is a member of the Mortar Board Honor Society, Alpha Chi Honor Society (top 10 percent of college juniors and seniors nationwide), the Golden Key International Honour Society, National Society for Leadership & Success, Beta Beta Beta National Biological Honor Society and Gamma Beta Phi National Honor Society. While at Midland College, she was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. She has been named to the President's List at West Texas A&M each semester, and was twice named as a West Texas A&M scholar-athlete. She is also a member of the Pre-Healthcare Professionals Club at WT.

Although she no longer plays competitive sports, Bell still enjoys working out at the gym in order to balance the long hours of studying. When she is in Midland, she spends time with her family — parents Diana and Allen Bell and younger brother Christian.

"I haven't made up my mind yet where I want to go to medical school," Bell said. "I'm honored to already have two offers and really like both Texas Tech and McGovern. McGovern is located at the Medical Center in Houston, and it would be exciting to be at the largest medical center in the world. On the other hand, Texas Tech is close to home, and I love West Texas. It's a big decision. I'm looking forward to a career of helping people when they need it most. I am definitely glad I left the music star career to Carrie Underwood and Miranda Lambert!"

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

LATINO

From 1B

Both UTSA and UTD are part of University of Texas System initiatives to help students through those kinds of issues. For example, the schools have "Graduation Help Desks" where students can seek advice. The two schools have targeted millions in grants toward boosting student success, amped up advising methods to be more personal and even redesigned courses — such as math — so they are more engaging to students with more support available.

UT officials say it's difficult to compare school graduation rates because each campus faces its own challenges, which means they need approaches specific to their campuses' needs.

Most students at UTSA are first-generation college students, said Rhonda Gonzales, associate vice provost of strategic initiatives. And the majority are also Hispanic.

So in 2016 the university created "familias," which officials call a first-in-the-nation approach to building small family-like communities on campus. Each familia is made up of about 20 to 30 first-generation college students and a faculty coach who was also the first in his or her family to attend college.

The groups meet regularly to discuss experiences and share advice on how to navigate college life. The faculty coaches also meet individually with students for small talk over coffee. Next year, familias will be set up in other residence halls, too.

"We intentionally talk about familia and the cultura it brings to our students on campus," she said. "We're very conscientious about that because, historically, campuses don't always acknowledge Latino culture. This has been successful as it's helped not only our students feel welcome here but also our first-generation faculty."

Research routinely shows that the more engaged students are on campus, the more successful they are.

That's why UTD is focused on helping more first-generation college students live on campus sooner, said Raul Hinojosa Jr., director of community engagement. Only about 25 percent of students live on campus.

"We have students who spend a couple of hours a day on DART or other mass transit to get to campus," he said. "When they also need to work to support themselves, that's the kind of thing that becomes a real challenge over time."

In 2000, the university started the Academic Bridge program for about 160 students annually — mostly from Dallas Independent School District, which is a majority-Latino. Those students live on campus starting the summer after they graduate from high school and get required tutoring.

Other efforts at UTD include the Undergraduate Success Scholars program, which connects underrepresented minority students with advisers, mentors and even internships.

Bermudez, 20, credits her adviser at UTD for getting her on track by teaching her how to better manage her time, prioritize and even take better notes.

Bermudez received a diversity scholarship from UTD that required her to meet with her campus adviser each month. Now she's part of a Hispanic outreach program where she gives tours to visiting students ranging from elementary to high school. Through the program, Bermudez also helps families fill out the complicated federal financial aid forms and gives advice to those preparing for college.

"My adviser really helped me visualize what I needed to focus on in academics, but also really cared about me and what I was going through. How was my health? How was I handling my stress?" Bermudez said. "There was a lot of trial and error but, eventually, I got to where I needed to be so that now I'm looking to graduate in the fall of 2018."

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MAURER

From 1B

we want to encourage.

Additionally, taking the time to be an active participant in a child's activities can make a big difference. Read together. Write together. Have meaningful conversations. Play games together. In too many instances, children seem to have become a spectator sport.

When we set aside the excuse of busy lives and the distraction of technology, when we get eye-to-eye and knee-to-knee with a child, they are more likely to be confident and engaged, even when something is difficult. Granted, this requires a greater investment of time and personal energy on our parts.

Next, I think it is important for us to help each child to develop realistic goals, goals that are a healthy match between their ambitions and their abilities. For young children, attainable goals are sometimes easier to identify. Whether it is riding a bike without training wheels, or tying your shoe laces, there are simple milestones that once accomplished build a young child's sense of empowerment and control.

For older children, realistic goals are not as easy to identify, but to the degree that we can allow a child some choice, we ensure greater enthusiasm and commitment for an activity over time. Parents and even teachers should not be the ones picking the elective, co-curricular or extra-curricular activities that an older child pursues. We should not be concerned with building a resume for a child; rather we should be concerned about helping a child build a life.

Passions are personal, and while a child's passion for a particular subject, musical instrument or sport can be fueled, you simply cannot put what's not there. Long-term investment and hard work lead to success, and success, in turn, leads to confidence and better self-esteem. By force of will, a child can become better at something, even without natural talent or raw ability, but a child has to like something well enough to make that commitment.

Avoid sarcasm and negative labels at any cost. A child never forgets a negative label, and the term "loser" once implied or spoken aloud can have life altering effects. Avoid comparing a child's accomplishment with classmates, teammates or siblings. A pep talk is one thing, and we all benefit from encouraging words, but a child's feelings must first be acknowledged to create fertile ground for a reasoned conversation.

I am not saying that all mental health issues in children relate directly to what adults do or fail to do. Many children survive and go on to succeed having endured both physical and emotional neglect. There are children who have a biological or psychological predisposition to be more anxious, less focused and susceptible to depression than others. These children need and deserve professional support and care.

However, in many cases, I have found that a caring, compassionate and committed adult can do much to forestall a child's mental health issues from becoming an impediment to success in school in the short term, or an impediment to success in life in the long term. At the very least a parent or an adult mentor can be there to model healthy habits related to good mental health.

Not all children know how to express their emotions. They may have a tendency to be reactive when faced with a frustrating situation. They may appear angry, act impulsively and shut down at just the time they need to be "gearing up" to find ways to solve the problem. They need strategies to manage their fears, to deal with their worries, and to control their emotions.

At the precise moment, somewhere between the ages of 8 and 15, when a child is doing his best or her best to be completely independent and to escape adult supervision or interference of any kind, you find what I call the "sweet spot" for jump starting real social and emotional growth. It's the moment when all the adults in a child's life need to lean in, to listen more closely and to love more fiercely.

I think this moment is different for every child, and if we're not watching, we'll miss it. For this reason, I hope every child in this community is rarely more than seven steps from a caring adult, an adult who knows their name. In fact, I hope that every child has an army of adults in their lives ready to listen carefully, to love unconditionally, to praise specifically and to encourage positively.

My hat is off to parents who work hard to step up to this task. In the complexities of the world as we find it, this is a big job. Consequently, I also salute and encourage all other adults who stand ready to mentor children through their work as teachers, coaches, counselors, pastors, or club sponsors. They need all of us. It's a new year and there is lots to do.

TEA

From 1B

the lucrative contact and raised concerns that a for-profit company was going to have access to confidential student information.

Special education advocacy groups had called on the state to cancel the contract, and at least one district that had signed up to do the analysis pulled out of the project.

In a press release announcing the state was ending the contract, Morath said he had begun a review of contracting processes within the agency that have come under fire.

Before that, TEA officials repeatedly said the department followed all the proper procurement procedures, and that the project was necessary to improve education outcomes for special education students in Texas. But that changed with Morath's statement.

Undertaking a review of contract procedures is a good start, but there are still many questions that need to be addressed.

The timing of the firing of Laurie Kash as special education director is troubling and raises serious concerns about management within the agency.

Kash was hired in August and fired in November — a few days after she filed a federal complaint about the agency.

TEA officials claim she was let go because she had not advised them about allegations she had covered up sexual abuse of a 6-year-old in a former job. But that is information that should have surfaced during the applicant vetting process and not through the filing of a civil suit in Oregon.

Texas public education is taking a lot of hard hits on different fronts from those with agendas that give short shrift to traditional public schools.

Lack of transparency by the agency responsible for overseeing the state's more than 1,000 school districts only serves to fuel those fires.

There is nothing to be gained by it.

Why free college tuition is spreading from cities to states

By Marsha Mercer
Stateline.org

WASHINGTON — To churn out more workers with marketable skills, an increasing number of states are offering residents free tuition to community colleges and technical schools.

The move also is a reaction to fast-rising tuition costs — increases that stem, in part, from states reducing their financial support of public colleges and universities.

Morley Winograd, president of the Campaign for Free College Tuition, a Seattle-based nonprofit, described the movement as "the fastest-growing policy idea in the country" — one with bipartisan support.

"Everybody's got cheap dirt — but do you have skilled workers?" Winograd said. "That's the question states face as they recruit new industry."

But the free tuition push hasn't produced an economic bonanza for any of the pioneering cities — at least not yet — and some states have struggled to come up with the money to keep their end of the bargain.

The free tuition trend began in 2005 in Kalamazoo, Mich., which launched a privately funded effort to combat its economic decline. The movement has quickly spread: Today roughly 200 localities offer young residents free tuition to local community colleges and technical schools.

In the past two years, 12 states have enacted legislation to join them. The state rush to offer free tuition began with Tennessee in 2015, but other states quickly followed. Arkansas, Hawaii, Indiana, Kentucky, Minnesota, New York, Oregon and Rhode Island have started programs, and Nevada plans to launch one this year. California and Montana last year enacted legislation to create programs but have yet to appropriate funds.

Delaware and Louisiana also offer somewhat more restrictive free college scholarships with additional requirements, such as a minimum college aptitude test score or a clean record.

Free tuition plans typically promise students a free ride if they meet certain requirements, such as maintaining a certain GPA. Most plans only pay for tuition, so students must cover fees, books and other costs.

Most of the programs are "last dollar," which means a student must obtain and use federal aid, such as Pell Grants or other scholarships, before the program kicks in to cover the rest.

Some states, such as Arkansas and Kentucky, limit their programs to students in selected fields. Arkansas only awards grants to students focusing on science, technology, engineering, math and other subjects employers most value. This year, Work Ready Kentucky is limiting aid to students studying health care, transportation and logistics, advanced manufacturing, construction, and business services and information technology.

"Clearly we're seeing a lot of momentum right now," said Dustin Weeden, senior policy analyst with the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association, an advocacy group based in Boulder, Colorado.

Tennessee's stated goal is to make sure that 55 percent of Tennesseans have a college degree or certificate by 2025. The state started by offering free tuition for two years of community college or technical school to every recent high school graduate in the state. The state in 2016 revised the program to allow a greater number of older adults to attend any of the 27 Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology for free, starting in this coming fall.

The state pays for the programs through an endowment started with $300 million in excess lottery revenue. The program operates on interest from the endowment.

Tuition at four-year public colleges has risen 35 percent since the 2008 school year, according to an analysis by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a left-leaning think tank based in Washington. In Tennessee, per-student state funding at public colleges and universities declined 18 percent from 2008 to 2016, and the average annual tuition at public colleges and universities rose by more than $3,000 during that period.

Since Tennessee launched its free tuition program, applications and enrollment at the state's community colleges have soared. More than 33,000 Tennesseans have attended college free. Higher education is now a part of Tennessee's sales pitch to potential employers, said Mike Krause, executive director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

"I can absolutely tell you it figures in our conversations," he said. Although he could not point to a specific employer won by free college, Krause said: "There's a buzz now about education that wasn't there before."

But in Kalamazoo, a dozen years of free tuition have yielded mixed results.

Kalamazoo Promise, which is funded by anonymous donors, covers four years of tuition at any public college or university in Michigan or at 15 private colleges in the state. Students who attend Kalamazoo schools every year from kindergarten through 12th grade receive all tuition and fees paid; those who attend grades nine through 12 receive 65 percent of their costs paid.

Tim Ready, a sociology professor and director of the Walker Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnic Relations at Western Michigan University, said the first nine years of free tuition, which cost donors $54 million, was "marginally beneficial but not a slam dunk" for Kalamazoo's economy.

"We had the Great Recession, which makes it hard to determine what the effect of Kalamazoo Promise on the economy has been," Ready said. Other factors, such as a new university medical school, have played a role in the slowly recovering economy, he said.

Ready believes that free tuition is "necessary but not sufficient" to create economic impact. Between 2005 and 2014, the city's public school enrollment grew by almost 25 percent (though the number of low-income kids receiving free lunches also increased). Kalamazoo now has more college graduates, and the erosion in its population has stopped.

"Kalamazoo Promise probably did help mitigate the decline in the central city area," Ready said.

But he cautioned that the progress "is not reaching everybody. There's a lot of income inequality here."

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TUESDAY PRIME TIME — JANUARY 9, 2018

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

		G	S	R	C	W	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
BROADCAST	KMID ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel of Fortune (N)	Middle (N)	Fresh Off-Boat (N)	Black-ish (N)	The Mayor (N)	Saves the World "Solo" (N)		News (N)	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live		(:35) News Nightline
	KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	CBS 7 News (N)	Ent. Tonight	NCIS "Dark Secrets" (N)		Bull "Grey Areas" (N)		NCIS: New Orleans "Identity Crisis" (N)		CBS 7 News (N)	(:35) The Late Show		(:35) J.Corden
	KWWT CW	5	14		5	14	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	A. Griffith	A. Griffith	Gomer Pyle	Mama's Family	Hogan's Heroes	Hogan's Heroes	Carol Burnett	P. Mason "The Case of the Torrid Tapestry"		Twilight Zone
	KPEJ FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Lethal Weapon "Diggin' Up Dirt" (N)		LA to Vegas (N)	The Mick (N)	Fox 24 News (N)	TMZ	Mom	Modern "Pilot"	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
	KMLM IND	11	12	12	11	11	Our Messiah	Housecall	Update News	Walls of Jerusalem	Light of the Southwest		Light of the Southwest		Creation Magazine	Mission: M25	Restore Zion	HaYesod
	KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	NewsWest 9 (N)	NewsWest 9 Now	GameGames "Hasta La Vista, Honey!" (N)		This Is Us "The Fifth Wheel" (N)		Chicago Med "Ties That Bind" (N)		NewsWest 9 (N)	(:35) The Tonight Show		(:35) Seth Meyers
	KPBT PBS	13	13		13	8	PBS NewsHour (N)		Your Roots "Puritans and Pioneers"		American Experience "Into the Amazon" (N)				Amanpour (N)	Beyond 100 Days	News (N)	TBA
	KUPB UNI	4	4		4	16	Enamorandome de Ramon		Rey David		Mi marido tiene familia		Caer en Tentacion		Noticias Tejas	Noticiero noctu.	Contacto Deportivo	
	KOSA MNT	16	16		16		Last Man	Last Man	The X-Files "Syzygy"		The X-Files "Pusher"		Mike&M.	Mike&M.	Anger M.	Anger M.	Game	Game
PREMIUM	FLIX	340	575		165		(5:00) De-Lovely		(:05) ★ Sidewalks of New York				★★ The Nanny Diaries			(:45) ★★ The Cookout		
	HBO	300	550	14	14		Movie	News (N)	Everything, Everything			(:40) ★★★ Deepwater Horizon				Assassin's Creed		
	HBO2	302	551	15	101	23	Movie	(:50) King Arthur: Legend of the Sword					David Bowie: The Last Five...			(:35) ★ Love and a Bullet		
	HBO5	304	552	16	102		(:10) ★★ The Time Traveler's Wife				★★ 500 Days of Summer			(:45) ★★★ Sex and the City Sarah Jessica Parker.				
	MAX	380	557	17	120	24	(5:00) The Nice Gu...		★★★ Reno 911!: Miami		(:25) ★★★ Super Troopers				(:05) ★★★ Fargo			Movie
	MAX2	382	558	18	122		(:05) ★★ War Dogs (16, Com) Jonah Hill.				★★ Strange Days ('95, Sci-Fi) Ralph Fiennes.					Rendition		
	PLEX			96			(5:35) The Naked ...		The Beautician & the Beast		(:50) ★ Blonde Ambition Jessica Simpson.					(:25) Bebe's Kids	Movie	
	SHOW	320	565	19	140	25	(5:15) Alone in Be...		Shame. "The Fugees"		Inside the NFL (N)		The Chi "Pilot"		Inside the NFL		The Chi "Pilot"	
	TMC	336	573	22	155	26	★★★ Splash ('84, Fant) Tom Hanks.				Some Kind of Wonderful			(:35) ★★ My Best Friend's Girl				Movie
CABLE	A&E	27	58	28	35	47	Interve. "The Heroin Triangle: Chapter #1"		Interve. "The Heroin Triangle: Chapter #2"		Intervention (N)		Undercover "Would You Go Back?"		Undercover High "After School" (N)		Interve. "The Heroin Triangle: Chapter #2"	
	AMC	40	74	23	42	51	(6:00) Pirates of t...		★★ Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines					★★★ Terminator 2: Judgment Day				
	BET	58	-		40		Movie	(:25) To Be Announced					The Mane Event		The Mane Event		Martin	Martin
	BRAVO	65	76		41		Beverly Hills		Beverly "Bad Guys"		Beverly Hills (N)		Stripped "Sisters" (N)		Watch (N)	Beverly Hills		VanderR
	CNBC	46	52		39	72	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Profit "Rayjus" (N)		Shark Tank		Shark Tank	
	CNN	43	50	51	30	56	OutFront		A. Cooper 360		Cuomo (L)		CNN Tonight		CNN Tonight		A. Cooper 360	
	DISC	50	60	31	24	42	Moonshiners: Cuts (N)		Moonshiners (N)		Moonshiners		Tesla's Death Ray		Moonshiners		Tesla's Death Ray	
	DISNEY	56	64	36	25	36	Bunk'd	Raven's.	Andi M.	StuckMid.	Bizaard.	Bizaard.	Bunk'd	Jessie	Andi M.	StuckMid.	Underc.	GoodLuck
	ESPN	32	35	48	31	30	NCAA Basketball (L)				NCAA Basketball (L)				SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)	
	ESPN2	34	36	49	32	31	NCAA Basketball (L)				NCAA Basketball (L)				Basketb.	NFL Live		
	FNC	45	48	53	23	55	The Story		Tucker Carlson		Hannity		The Ingraham Angle		Fox News Ⓓ Night		Tucker Carlson	
	FOOD	64	70	27	68	94	Chopped		Chopped		Chopped		Chopped (N)		Chopped		Chopped	
	FREEFORM	53	63	34	42	33	(6:30) The DUFF		The Fosters (N)		★★ A Walk to Remember Mandy Moore.				The 700 Club		The Waterboy	
	FSSW	37	38	50	45	29	Inside Big East (N)	Stars Insider (N)	Mavs Pre (L)	NBA Basketball Orlando Magic at Dallas Mavericks Site: American Airlines Center -- Dallas, Texas (L)					Mavs Post (L)	Mavericks Insider	Champio. "Football: 1A, 2A and 3A"	
	FX	31	56	59	64	69	(5:00) ★★ Lucy		★★★ Jack Reacher ('12, Act) Rosamund Pike, Tom Cruise.						★★★ Jack Reacher ('12, Act) Tom Cruise.			
	HALLMARK	54	71	58		34	F.House	Full House	F.House	F.House	Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls
	HGTV	63	69	26	48	44	Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper (N)		Fixer Upper (N)		Restor (N)	H.Hunt	Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper	
	HISTORY	71	59	29	50	43	Forged in Fire		(:05) Forged in Fire Enhanced episodes of 'Forged in Fire.'						(:05) Forged in Fire		(:10) Forged in Fire	
	LIFETIME	28	30	25	28	48	Married at First Sight "Matchmaking Special"		Marrie-d1stSight	Married at Fir	Married at First Sight "Weddings" (N)		Jamlean-dDoug (N)	Jamlean-dDoug (N)	(:05) Jamie	(:35) Jamie	Marrie-d1stSight	Married at First
	MSNBC	47	53		49	73	Hardball (N)		All In (N)		Rachel Maddow (N)		The Last Word (N)		The 11th Hour (N)		Rachel Maddow	
	NBCSN	38	43				NHL Live! (L)		NHL Hockey Edmonton Oilers at Nashville Predators (L)					(:45) NHL Overtime (L)			Fanatics	Fanatics
	NICK	55	-	39	34	37	Paradise	Thunder	F.House	F.House	F.House	F.House	Fresh P.	Fresh P.	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
	SPIKE	30	-	55	53	58	Ink Master		Ink Master		Ink Master				Ink Master (N)		★★★ The Book of Eli	
	SYFY	66	82	41	57	67	(5:30) ★★ Pan ('15, Fant) Levi Miller.				★★★ The Avengers ('12, Act) Chris Evans, Robert Downey Jr...						★★ Paul	
	TBS	25	33	44	66	41	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Drop the Mic (N)	Conan Mila Kunis, Maria Bamford		Drop the Mic	Conan
	TCM	41	75	24	63	66	(6:30) The Lion in ...		★★ Brewster's Millions				Once a Thief Cesar Romero.		(:15) Sing Your Worries Away			Movie
	TELE	20	-	10	20		Caso cerrado (N)		Hasta Que Te Conoci		Sangre de mi Tie (N)		Señora acero (N)		Al rojo	Titulares	Sangre de mi Tierra	
	TLC	51	61	32	38	52	My Big Life "Rescue Me" (N)		My Big Fat Fabulous Life "Ghosted" Whitney uncovers a dark truth about her man. (N)					(:05) I Am Jazz "Weighty Issues" (N)	(:05) My Big Fat Fabulous Life "Ghosted" Whitney uncovers a dark truth about her man.			
	TNT	24	34	40	26	50	Bones "The Next in the Last"		Major Crimes "By Any Means: Part 3" 3/4		M.Crimes "By Any Means: Part 4" (F) (N)		Major Crimes "By Any Means: Part 4" 4/4		Law & Order "Fixed"		Law & Order "Mammon"	
	TVLAND	49	-	35	54	35	MASH	M*A*S*H	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Teachers	Mom	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens
	USA	26	55	42	27	49	Law & Order: S.V.U. "Betrayal's Climax"		WWE Super Smackdown				Chrisley Knows	Chrisley Knows	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family
	WGN	19	85				★ The Drop (2014, Crime Story) Noomi Rapace, James Gandolfini, Tom Hardy.				★ The Drop (2014, Crime Story) Noomi Rapace, James Gandolfini, Tom Hardy.				Rules of Engage.	Rules of Engage.	Rules of Engage.	Rules of Engage.

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Mother laments that her kids lack accomplishment and drive

Dear Abby

Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Her column is distributed by Universal Press Syndicate.

DEAR ABBY: I have grown children. All of them are underachievers. When contemporaries talk about their children getting jobs, getting married, having kids, going on vacation, buying a house/car, adopting a pet, I have nothing to contribute.

My children do not have lives; they work low-paying jobs and scrape by. Worse, they have no ambition to do better. They no longer live with me, but often gather at each other's places to play video games when they are not working. They are not enjoyable to be around.

My life is otherwise good, and I don't want them bringing me down. My marriage is solid, I work hard, we travel a few times a year and enjoy dining out and meeting with friends. We go to sporting events, live plays, concerts, movies, etc. What is a mother to do? — LET DOWN IN MISSOURI

DEAR LET DOWN: Your children are adults. If they were motivated, they would be doing more with their lives than playing video games and scraping by. Be glad they are independent and have good relationships with each other — it's a plus — and continue living your life. You can't live theirs for them. And please stop comparing them to the offspring of your friends and acquaintances. If you do, you will be happier.

DEAR ABBY: I have dear friends and neighbors I really enjoy who have asked me to water their plants and feed the cat when they're away, which is not very often. I enjoy doing these things, and so I always feel awkward when they bring home gifts of jewelry or give me money. I would prefer that they let me do these things for love and friendship, but I don't know how to make them stop giving me things.

Is there something polite I can say to let them know that they should just let me be their friend? I would prefer that to feeling as though I'm being paid for my services. — FOR LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP

DEAR FOR LOVE: Has it occurred to you that your neighbors bring things back for you because they enjoy giving as much as you enjoy doing things for them? If it hasn't, please consider it.

And afterward, if you still feel that their gifts are too much of a quid pro quo, explain that you like them very much and value their friendship, and they don't need to give you anything in return for the affection you feel for them. I don't think couching the message in those terms would be rude at all.

DEAR ABBY: Why do people stay in bad marriages? It causes emotional harm to the children (if they have kids), hearing their parents argue and name-call all the time. Wouldn't it be better to separate? — UNHEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

DEAR UNHEALTHY: Some couples remain in bad marriages because they can't afford to live apart or fear being alone if they divorce. Others have dysfunctional love-hate relationships that, I agree, are unhealthy for everyone, including the children who grow up thinking it is normal. In my opinion, if couples can't live in peace and harmony, they should separate. However, not everyone agrees.

Goren Bridge

With Bob Jones

Brilliant lead, bad luck

Neither vulnerable, North deals

NORTH
♠ 10 6 3 2
♡ A 6 5 2
◊ 2
♣ A Q J 5

WEST
♠ Q 8
♡ Q 10 9 4 3
◊ 5 4 3
♣ K 8 6

EAST
♠ J 9 7 5 4
♡ J 8
◊ J 7
♣ 9 4 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A K
♡ K 7
◊ A K Q 10 9 8 6
♣ 10 7

The bidding:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♠	Pass	1◊	Pass
1♡	Pass	4NT	Pass
5◊	Pass	7NT	All pass

Opening lead: Eight of ♠

North opened the bidding on a bare minimum and nervously put down the dummy after his partner drove to a grand slam. The problem for South wasn't that North had a minimum, but that he had the wrong minimum. Had North held the queen of spades or the queen of hearts, instead of the queen of clubs, or even the king of clubs instead of the queen-jack, there would have been 13 top tricks.

North had opened one club and West felt that the king of clubs was located poorly for the defense. Should the contract depend on a club finesse, it was probably going to work. West decided that he would do his best to talk declarer out of that finesse and brilliantly led the deceptive eight of clubs!

South was convinced that the king of clubs had to be offside. He rose with dummy's ace of clubs and then cashed his ace and king of spades, hoping for queen-jack doubleton. When that didn't materialize, South cashed the king of hearts and then ran all of his diamonds, coming down to the seven of hearts and the 10 of clubs in his hand and the ace-six of hearts in dummy. Poor West, who had made such a terrific lead, could not keep two hearts and the king of clubs. West did his best by discarding the king of clubs, hoping his partner held the 10, but that gave South the last two tricks with the 10 of clubs and the ace of hearts. West had bragging rights for his lead, but South had his grand slam.

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SPORTS

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Alabama beats Georgia in OT for national title

By Ralph D. Russo
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Tua Tagovailoa threw a 41-yard touchdown to DeVonta Smith to give No. 4 Alabama a 26-23 overtime victory against No. 3 Georgia to win the College Football Playoff national championship Monday night.

Tagovailoa entered the game at halftime, replacing a struggling Jalen Hurts, and threw three touchdown passes, including the game-ender to give the Crimson Tide its fifth national championship since 2009 under coach Nick Saban.

After Alabama kicker Andy Pappanastos missed a 37-yard field goal that would have won it for the Tide (13-1) in the final seconds of regulation, Georgia (13-2) took the lead with a 51-yard field goal from Rodrigo Blankenship in overtime.

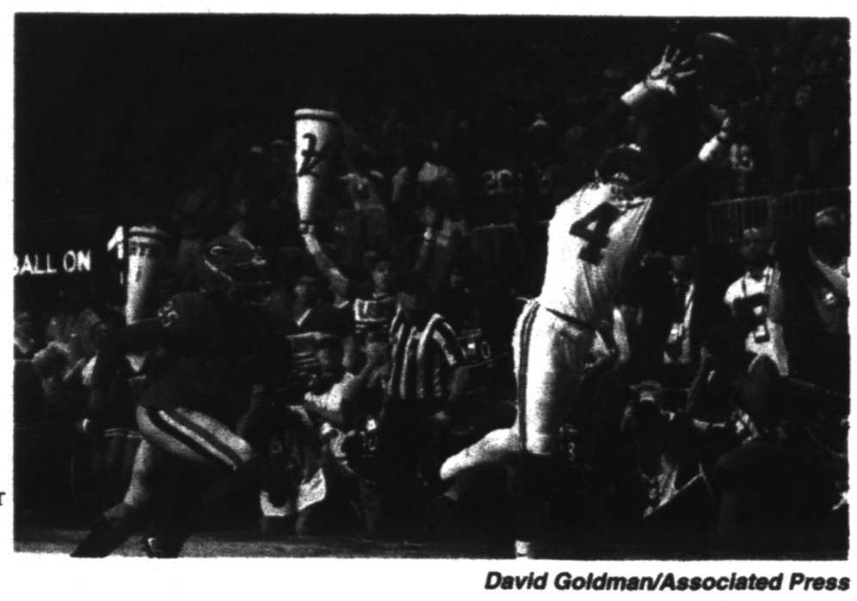
Tagovailoa took a terrible sack on Alabama's first play of overtime, losing 16 yards. On the next play he found Smith, another freshman, streaking down the sideline and hit him in stride for the national championship.

This game will be remembered for Saban's decision to change quarterbacks trailing 13-0.

"I just thought we had to throw the ball, and I felt he could do it better, and he did," Saban said. "He did a good job, made some plays in the passing game. Just a great win. I'm so happy for Alabama fans. Great for our players. Unbelievable."

Saban now has six major poll national championships, including one at LSU, matching the record set by the man who led Alabama's last dynasty, coach Paul Bear Bryant.

This one was nothing like the others.



Alabama's Jerry Jeudy can't catch a pass in the end zone during the second half of the NCAA football playoff championship game against Georgia on Monday in Atlanta.

David Goldman/Associated Press

Inconsistent defense

Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Midland College's Paige Robinson tries to put up a shot as Frank Phillips' Sable Darnell tries to grab the ball Monday at Chaparral Center.

Frank Phillips rallies past MC behind hot shooting

By Oscar LeRoy
oleroy@mrt.com

All Frank Phillips College had to do was put the right pieces in place and hit some shots for the No. 13-ranked Lady Plainsmen to take control of the game against Midland College on Monday night.

Frank Phillips hit seven 3-pointers in a 24-point third quarter and then played solid defense the rest of the way to post a 59-48 come-from-behind victory over the Lady Chaparrals and remain undefeated in Western Junior College Athletic Conference play.

Midland College (9-7, 2-1 in WJCAC) led 23-18 at the half and were playing solid defense, but 10 turnovers helped to keep the Lady Plainsmen (13-1, 3-0) in the game.

But then FPC started to heat up from the outside as the Lady Plainsmen started nailing shots from the outside, led by Kelsey Choate who hit four of the team's seven 3s in the quarter.

"We talked about that we needed to have energy. We didn't have any energy in the first half," Frank Phillips coach Eric Rodewald said. "We had to come out and really go at it because we knew Midland was going to make some adjustments. We were just dead coming off the bus. The first half was a carry-over from Saturday where we were just coming back from the break. But when we got in a rhythm, we were able to get some separation and some confidence."

MC coach Ron Jones said the game fell apart for his team when the Lady Chaps went away from the game plan on the defensive end.

"I thought we did (follow the game-plan) for about a quarter and a half to two quarters," he said. "When you give up 41 points (in the half) and 24 points in the third quarter, it's disappointing. I'm embarrassed with the way we played tonight.

"(The Lady Plainsmen) run a spread offense, and we have to defend in a

Please see **LADY CHAPS**/3C

Chaps amp up their effort, notch 1st WJCAC win

By Oscar LeRoy
oleroy@mrt.com

Midland College men's basketball coach Pat Rafferty knows that if his team plays hard and with maximum effort for the full 40 minutes, good things will happen.

The Chaparrals not only jumped out to a nice lead early against Frank Phillips College on Monday but played hard for the full 40 minutes in a 76-43 blowout of the Plainsmen at Chaparral Center.

MC (5-12 overall) shot 60 percent for the game and got a got a game-high 24 points from Kayo Goncalves to get its first win in Western Junior College Athletic Conference play and improve to 1-2 in the league.

It was a much-needed win for the Chaps, who snapped a three-game slide and will next head to Odessa on Thursday to play rival No. 13 Odessa College.

Only a few days ago after a loss to Weatherford College, Rafferty was concerned about his team's effort. What he saw on Monday night, was a change in attitude and hopefully a move in the right direction.

"It goes to show that we're our biggest opponent," Rafferty said. "When our focus is on the process and doing the best we can, having effort with execution, whether it's on the floor or off the floor, then the process can produce some success.

"They made a choice. I always felt that playing hard, accepting coaching and all that is a choice. Give them a lot of credit because they made that choice tonight. Hopefully they like how that felt. Not that the outcome is always going to be like that but just to focus on that effort, on that process and on the purposefulness of playing is all I ever wanted them to do."

MC sophomore Marquell Fraser, who added 14 points, said it was good to get off the slide and get the first WJCAC win out of the way.

"We all played like a team and unselfish the whole time," he said. "As long as we play unselfish and share the ball, we could be a great team.

"Normally we play hard except that

Please see **CHAPS**/3C

Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Midland College's Erkam Kiris puts a shot in as Frank Phillips' Demetrius Clark defends Monday at Chaparral Center.

HS GIRLS BASKETBALL REPORT

MCS ready to defend district title with younger group

By Christopher Hadorn
chadorn@mrt.com

For the first time in 25 years, a Midland Christian girls basketball team will try to defend its district championship from the previous year.

The Lady Mustangs (15-7) begin their TAPPS 1-5A district title defense at 5:30 p.m. when the team hosts Fort Worth Southwest Christian (10-6) at McGraw Event Center.

MCS claimed the TAPPS 1-5A district championship in 2017, its first since 1992.

Interestingly enough, this year's Lady Mustangs have only two returners from last year's district title team, seniors Blaire Neatherlin and Lexi Davila.

Although MCS has six players that are either freshmen or sophomores, head coach Amy Daniels believes that opponents' unfamiliarity with the Lady Mustangs can work in her team's favor.

"We are young," Daniels said. "Right now, probably a lot of teams are not really sure about us. They've probably seen film on us, but none of them have really seen us in person because it's pretty much a whole new crew. I think that gives us a little bit of an advantage right off the bat. I think our girls are ready. I think they believe in themselves, so I think it's going to be a good start for us, especially being able to open at home."

Despite the drastic roster turnover, MCS is still highly regarded in the TAPPS 5A classification, as it's ranked No. 8 in the TABC state poll.

The Lady Mustangs took third in the Wellman Union Tournament before New Year's Day, with Neatherlin earning all-tournament honors.

Freshman Brooklyn Johnson and sophomore Bre'Anna Culbertson have brought length to the MCS' paint, something the team lacked in recent years.

"Everybody is going to be coming after us," Daniels said. "They should. If I wasn't coaching here, if I was coaching somewhere else, I would be after us too. I think our girls are aware of that. They know that's one of our goals is to get back-to-back district championships. I'm excited for them to see how they are going to handle that challenge."

GARDEN CITY CONTINUES TO ROLL

Garden City is the hottest team in the area, carrying a 17-game winning streak.

The Lady Kats (22-1, 4-0 District 14-1A), who made it to the state tournament last year, are ranked No. 2 in the TABC Class 1A poll.

Top three state rankings are nothing new for Garden City, which has made a yearly tradition of it.

"Truly, those rankings don't mean a thing," Lady Kats head coach Joe Crabb said. "We've seen it. We know it. There are teams that aren't ranked that can absolutely play, and there are teams up there in the rankings that aren't as good. On a given night, anybody can be beaten."

Garden City's success is predicated on a defense that is holding its foes to 28.0 points per contest.

"For us, it always starts with the defense," Crabb said. "We generate our offense off our defense. We try to be pretty stingy with giving up points and make people really work to score against us. I think that's the bottom line. I think that's

Please see **MCS**/4C

DAILY RUNDOWN

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

Alpine Skiing
Women's Slalom, 4:30 p.m., NBCSN

Men's College Basketball
Georgetown at St. John's, 5:30 p.m., FS1
Penn State at Indiana, 5:30 p.m., BTN
Texas A&M at Kentucky, 6 p.m., ESPN
Baylor at West Virginia, 6 p.m., ESPN2
Texas Tech at Oklahoma, 6 p.m., ESPNU
Tulane at Memphis, 6 p.m., ESPNews
South Carolina at Alabama, 6 p.m., SEC
Rhode Island at St. Louis, 6 p.m., CBSSN
Butler at Creighton, 7:30 p.m., FS1
Wisconsin at Nebraska, 7:30 p.m., BTN
Purdue at Michigan, 8 p.m., ESPN
Iowa State at Kansas, 8 p.m., ESPN2
Ole Miss at Auburn, 8 p.m., ESPNU
Tennessee at Vanderbilt, 8 p.m., SEC
Seton Hall at Marquette, 8 p.m., CBSSN
Boise State at Fresno State, 10 p.m., ESPNU
San Jose State at San Diego State, 10 p.m., CBSSN

National Basketball Association
Portland at Oklahoma City, 7 p.m., NBAtv
Orlando at Dallas, 7:30 p.m., FSSW
Sacramento at LA Lakers, 9:30 p.m., NBAtv

National Hockey League
Edmonton at Nashville, 7 p.m., NBCSN

Tennis
ATP: Auckland, 5:30 p.m., TENNIS

RADIO

Men's College Basketball
Oklahoma at Texas Tech, 6 p.m., KPET 105.1 FM/690 AM (Lamesa)

National Basketball Association
Orlando at Dallas, 7:30 p.m., KBST 1490 AM (Big Spring)

WHAT'S ON DECK

High School

Boys Basketball
Big Spring at Midland High, 6:30 p.m.
San Angelo Lake View vs. Lee, 7:30 p.m. Chaparral Center
Coahoma at Ballinger, 6:30 p.m.
MCA at Imperial Buena Vista, 7:30 p.m.
Abilene Christian at Trinity, 7:30 p.m.
Fort Worth Southwest at Midland Christian, 7 p.m.
Seminole at Andrews, 7:30 p.m.
Denver City at Greenwood, 8 p.m.
Stanton at San Angelo Grape Creek, 8 p.m.
Garden City at Sterling City, 8 p.m.
O'Donnell at Grady, 8 p.m.

Girls Basketball
Fort Worth Southwest Christian at Midland Christian, 5:30 p.m.
Amarillo Tascosa vs. Lee, 6 p.m. Chaparral Center
Midland High at Odessa Permian, 6 p.m.
Greenwood at Monahans, 6 p.m.
Abilene Christian at Trinity, 6 p.m.
Abilene Wylie at Big Spring, 6:15 p.m.
Stanton at Merkel, 6:30 p.m.
Colorado City at Coahoma, 6:30 p.m.
Garden City at Sterling City, 6:30 p.m.
O'Donnell at Grady, 6:30 p.m.
Pecos at Andrews, 7:30 p.m.

Girls Soccer
Del Rio vs. Lee, 5:30 p.m. Grande Communications Stadium
Lubbock High vs. Midland High, 5:30 p.m. Memorial Stadium

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

UTPB'S FRANCIS NAMED LSC PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Daeshon Francis, UT Permian Basin senior and former Midland College star, has been named the Lone Star Conference Offensive Player of the Week, the league announced Monday.

Francis led the Falcons to three wins, averaging 21.7 points in victories against Jarvis Christian, Cameron and Midwestern State. He led UTPB with 24 points, four blocks and three steals in a 95-88 win over Cameron. Francis came back two days later with 28 points on 12-17 shooting (70.6 percent) from the field and five assists in an 88-71 win over MSU.

He now leads the Lone Star Conference in scoring, averaging 21.5 points on the season.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL
American League
BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Named Brian Ebel trainer and Mark Shires and Pat Wesley assistant trainers; Chris Poole trainer of Norfolk (IL), Brian Guzman trainer of Bowie (EL), Marty Brinker trainer of Frederick (Carolina), Adrian Gonzalez trainer of Delmarva (SAL) and Gary Smith trainer of Aberdeen (NYP).
BOSTON RED SOX — Agreed to terms with RHPs Carson Smith and Steven Wright on one-year contracts.
National League
CHICAGO CUBS — Named Lauren Fritts vice president of marketing.
MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Agreed to terms with C Christian Bethancourt on a minor league contract.
NEW YORK METS — Agreed to terms with RHP Jenrry Mejia on a one-year contract.
SAN DIEGO PADRES — Agreed to terms with RHP Carter Capps on a one-year contract.

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
NBA — Fined Golden State F Draymond Green $25,000 for public criticism of officiating.
WASHINGTON WIZARDS — Recalled F Devin Robinson from Delaware (NBAGL).
Women's NBA
LOS ANGELES SPARKS — Named Natalie White senior vice president.

FOOTBALL
National Football League
BUFFALO BILLS — Signed WR Quan Bray, P Cory Carter, TE Jason Croom, RB Aaron Green, DT Marquavius Lewis, DB Dean Marlowe, C Adam Redmond and OTs Josh James and De'Ondre Wesley to reserve/future contracts.
CHICAGO BEARS — Named Matt Nagy coach.
GREEN BAY PACKERS — Named Brian Gutekunst general manager and Russ Ball executive vice president/director of football operations.
Canadian Football League
WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS — Re-signed LB Ian Wild to a one-year contract.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League
NHL — Fined Columbus D David Savard $5,000 for slashing.
BUFFALO SABRES — Recalled D Brendan Guhle and G Linus Ullmark from Rochester (AHL).
CAROLINA HURRICANES — Reassigned C Lucas Wallmark to Charlotte (AHL). Activated F Lee Stempniak from injured reserve.
CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS — Assigned F John Hayden to Rockford (AHL). Recalled F Tomas Jurco from Rockford.
DETROIT RED WINGS — Assigned G Jared Coreau to Grand Rapids (AHL).
NEW YORK RANGERS — Returned F Vinni Lettieri to Hartford (AHL).
American Hockey League
HARTFORD WOLF PACK — Released Fs Caleb Herbert and Chris Langkow from professional tryout agreements.

SOCCER
Major League Soccer
NEW YORK RED BULLS — Signed M Ben Mines.
PORTLAND TIMBERS — Named Carlos Llamosa and Sean McAuley assistant coaches, Guillermo Valencia goalkeeper coach, Nick Milonas director of sports science, Shannon Murray video/data analyst and Jon MacGregor trainer.

COLLEGE
ALMA — Named Jason Couch football coach.
INDIANA — Named Kane Wommack linebackers coach.
NYIT — Named Danny Hagenlocher deputy director of athletics.

NFL PLAYOFFS GLANCE

Wild-card Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 6
Tennessee 22, Kansas City 21
Atlanta 26, Los Angeles Rams 13
Sunday, Jan. 7
Jacksonville 10, Buffalo 3
New Orleans 31, Carolina 26

Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 13
Atlanta at Philadelphia, 3:35 p.m. (NBC)
Tennessee at New England, 7:15 p.m. (CBS)
Sunday, Jan. 14
Jacksonville at Pittsburgh, 12:05 p.m. (CBS)
New Orleans at Minnesota, 3:40 p.m. (FOX)

Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 21
AFC
TBD, 2:05 p.m. (CBS)
NFC
TBD, 5:40 p.m. (FOX)

Pro Bowl
Sunday, Jan. 28
At Orlando, Fla.
AFC vs. NFC, 2 p.m. (ESPN/ABC)

Super Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 4
At Minneapolis, Minn.
AFC champion vs. NFC champion, 5:30 p.m. (NBC)

NHL GLANCE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	42	30	9	3	63	155	103
Boston	40	23	10	7	53	131	102
Toronto	44	25	16	3	53	143	127
Detroit	41	17	17	7	41	112	127
Florida	41	17	18	6	40	113	133
Montreal	42	18	20	4	40	108	129
Ottawa	40	14	17	9	37	111	138
Buffalo	42	10	23	9	29	92	143

Metropolitan Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	42	26	13	3	55	132	120
Columbus	44	25	16	3	53	121	121
New Jersey	41	22	11	8	52	130	125
N.Y. Rangers	42	22	15	5	49	128	117
Pittsburgh	44	22	19	3	47	126	138
Carolina	41	19	14	8	46	115	126
Philadelphia	42	19	15	8	46	123	122
N.Y. Islanders	43	21	18	4	46	146	158

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Winnipeg	43	25	11	7	57	144	117
St. Louis	45	26	16	3	55	130	115
Nashville	41	24	11	6	54	129	113
Dallas	43	24	16	3	51	132	118
Colorado	41	22	16	3	47	135	124
Minnesota	42	22	17	3	47	123	123
Chicago	41	20	15	6	46	125	114

Pacific Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	41	29	10	2	60	143	113
Los Angeles	42	24	13	5	53	126	99
San Jose	40	21	13	6	48	110	108
Anaheim	43	19	15	9	47	117	120
Calgary	41	21	16	4	46	115	119
Edmonton	43	18	22	3	39	118	141
Vancouver	42	16	20	6	38	110	140
Arizona	43	10	27	6	26	88	150

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Monday's Scores
Columbus 3, Toronto 2, OT
Today's Games
Winnipeg at Buffalo, 6 p.m.
Vancouver at Washington, 6 p.m.
Chicago at Ottawa, 6:30 p.m.
Carolina at Tampa Bay, 6:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Nashville, 7 p.m.
Calgary at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Florida at St. Louis, 7 p.m.

MHS grad Mannix named Freshman All-American

From staff reports

McLane Mannix, Nevada freshman wide receiver and Midland High grad, was named to the Football Writers Association of American Freshman All-America Team on Monday.

Mannix had 57 receptions for 778 yards and six touchdowns for the Wolf Pack in 2017. His 57 catches was tied for second among freshman wide receivers, while he ranked fifth in his class in receiving yards and fourth in receiving TDs.

Mannix

Mannix is the first Nevada player to receive freshman All-American honors from the FWAA and joins running back Chance Krestchmer, recognized by the Sporting News in 2001, as one of two Wolf Pack players ever to receive freshman All-American accolades.

"We could not be more proud of McLane," Nevada head coach Jay Norvell said in a press release. "He was a huge part of our Air Raid offense this year, and we look forward to seeing what he can do in 2018."

COLLEGE FOOTBALL BRIEFS

BRILES SPEAKING APPEARANCE AT COACHES' CONVENTION CANCELED

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The American Football Coaches Association has canceled former Baylor coach Art Briles' speaking appearance at its convention this week.

Briles was scheduled to appear Tuesday in Charlotte in a breakout session called "Standing Strong / Game Management."

Briles was fired in 2016 after an external investigation by Baylor found that the school mishandled numerous sexual assault allegations by students, including some against football players. Briles has acknowledged he made mistakes at Baylor, but he has also pushed back against some of the claims against him while trying to re-enter the coaching profession.

Word of Briles' planned appearance at the convention prompted criticism on social media.

AFCA executive director Todd Berry released a statement Monday saying "due to concerns, we have decided to cancel his session."

BEAMER, BROWN HEAD COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME CLASS

ATLANTA — Coaches Frank Beamer and Mack Brown were selected Monday for the College Football Hall of Fame, part of a class of 13 that includes former players Ed Reed and Calvin Johnson.

Brown won 244 games in a 30-year head coaching career at four schools that featured 16 seasons and a national championship at Texas.

"To have been blessed to play the game for many years, then continue as a coach for 40 years, I was so fortunate to work with thousands of unbelievable student-athletes and amazing staff members," Brown said in a statement. "It was absolutely a labor of love. Now to be able to represent so many tremendous people as a member of the College Football Hall of Fame is a tribute to a lot of great teamwork."

Beamer built Virginia Tech football into a national power, taking over the program in 1987 and leading the Hokies to a BCS championship game in 1999. His 280 victories rank sixth in FBS history.

"I'd like to thank our administration and former Virginia Tech players, coaches and support staff," Beamer said. "Without them, we wouldn't have enjoyed the success we did as a football program."

Beamer's son, Shane, is an assistant coach with Georgia, which is playing Alabama in the College Football Playoff championship game on Monday night in Atlanta.

The rest of the class includes Trevor Cobb of Rice; Kerry Collins of Penn State; Dave Dickenson of Montana; Dana Howard of Illinois; Paul Palmer of Temple; Matt Stinchcomb of Georgia; Aaron Taylor of Nebraska; Matt Tjeerdsma, who coached Austin College and Northwest Missouri State; and Michigan's Charles Woodson, whose selection was announced Sunday.

Reed played safety for Miami and was an integral part of the school's last great teams, including a national title in 2001. He became an all-time great NFL player and Super Bowl winner with the Baltimore Ravens.

Johnson was a star receiver for Georgia Tech, winning the Biletnikoff Award as top receiver in 2006 before going on to a brilliant NFL career with the Detroit Lions.

Cobb won the Doak Walker as the country's best running back and holds most of Rice's school rushing records.

Collins finished fourth in the Heisman voting in 1994, leading Penn State to an unbeaten season.

Dickenson passed for 11,080 yards in his career and was named the 1994 Division I-AA player of the year.

Howard was the Butkus Award win 1994 as best linebacker.

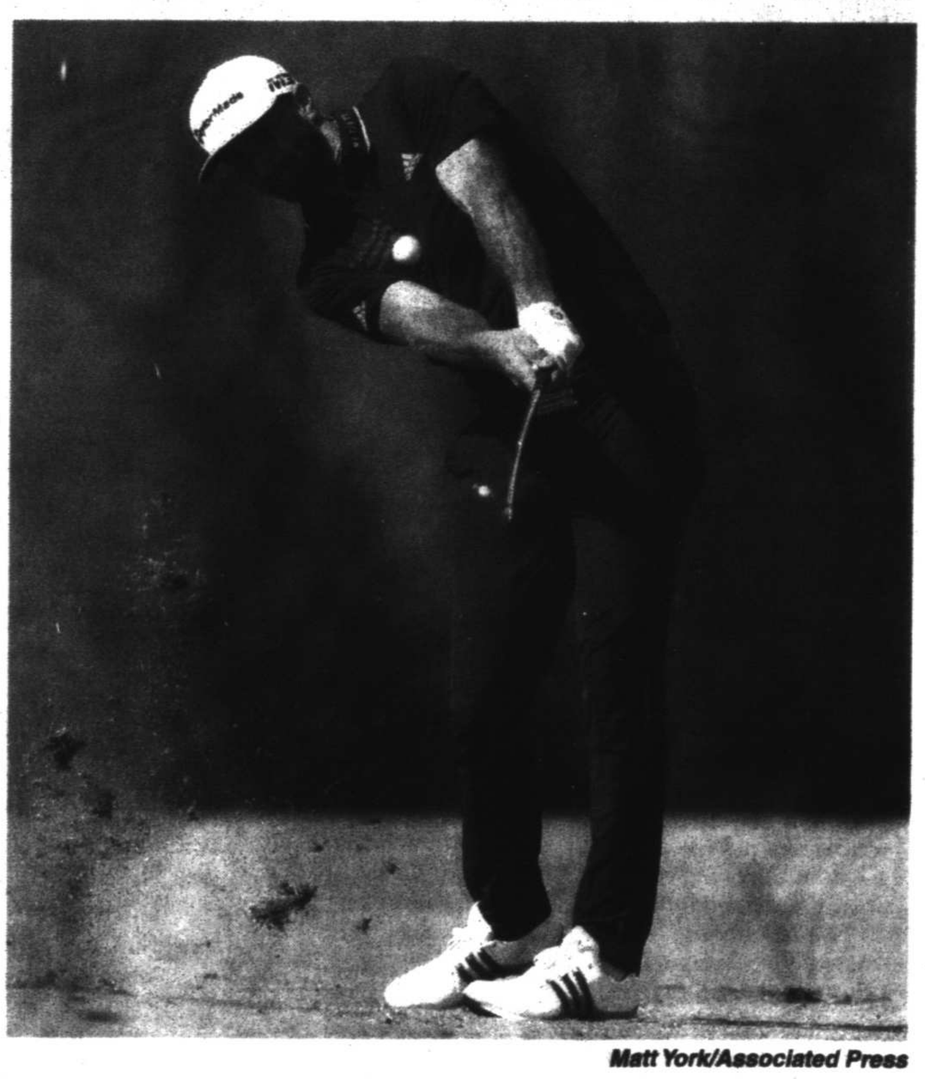
Palmer is considered maybe the greatest player in Temple history and finished second in the Heisman voting in 1986. He ran for 4,985 yards in his career.

Stinchcomb was one of the best offensive linemen to play for Georgia, named the SEC's most outstanding blocker in 1996.

Taylor was an offensive lineman on three Nebraska national championship teams, playing center and guard.

By Ralph D. Russo, Associated Press

Johnson looking back to measure his progress forward


Matt York/Associated Press

Dustin Johnson hits on the fourth fairway during the final round of the Tournament of Champions golf event Sunday at Kapalua Plantation Course in Kapalua, Hawaii.

DOUG FERGUSON

Associated Press

KAPALUA, Hawaii — Dustin Johnson won't be staying in the same house at the Masters.

One with no stairs?

"I don't care if it's two floors," he said. "But we aren't staying in that house."

Johnson can smile about it now, even though his short stay at Augusta National remains one of the few memories that linger. He still recalls the spill he took down the stairs on the eve of the Masters last year, at first fearing that he had broken his back in two.

"I knew it wasn't good. You could tell," he said. "It wasn't like, 'Oh, I might be hurt.' I knew it was hurt."

The topic was timely Sunday evening at Kapalua because of his eight-shot victory in the Sentry Tournament of Champions, and the feeling that Johnson was closer than ever to the form from last spring that had some players talking about him in a tone usually reserved for Tiger Woods.

He won three straight tournaments, all of them against the strongest fields of the year to that point. He was an overwhelming favorite going into the Masters. And after his fall, he was never really the same for the rest of the summer.

It's hard to declare Johnson is back for two reasons: It's only one tournament into the new year, and he already is No. 1 in the world.

Even so, his performance at Kapalua was enough to serve notice that he could be headed in that direction again.

Johnson shot 66-65 on the weekend in 35 mph gusts, the best closing 36-hole score by four shots. His 65 in the final round was the best score of the tournament, even more impressive considering he was in the final group.

He drove two par 4s on the back nine, and came within 6 inches of a hole-in-one on the 434-yard 12th hole. He went from a two-shot lead to a six-shot lead on the front nine. He never let anyone closer to him than five shots over the last 11 holes.

"The game is as close as it's been to the level it was for that stretch," he said. "I've got a lot of confidence in the game. I'm hitting the shots I want to hit. It's really windy, and for the most part, all the shots I hit were the shots I wanted to hit."

What gets the most attention is his tee shot on No. 12 that sailed over the hill, bounced onto the green and was headed for the cup when it slowed to a stop just inches away. There also was the bullet of a drive into the wind on the 14th that ran onto the green about 25 feet away.

It was like that all day, and no one had a chance.

Kapalua was only the start, of course. Still to come are a pair of World Golf Championships and top-heavy fields that he will face at Pebble Beach in Riviera, all part of the three months that lead to the Masters.

And it's not like anyone is ready to concede.

"In all seriousness, I think if I had my 'A' game, I think I could take him on," Jordan Spieth said. "The most difficult part is, I guess, trying to stay within your own game, not play off his. When I'm playing well, if I'm focusing on my things and me versus the golf course, that's the best opportunity to capitalize."

Still to be determined is how Rory McIlroy returns this year, and Justin Thomas certainly has the power and game. Jon Rahm at age 23 became the fourth-youngest player to reach No. 3 in the world with his runner-up finish at Kapalua. Even in a lost cause, Rahm doesn't shy away from a fight.

The next test for Johnson is in two weeks in Abu Dhabi, where he faces another strong field that includes McIlroy, Henrik Stenson and Justin Rose, who ended last year with three victories among 10 straight top-10 finishes.

He has a two-week break before heading to Pebble Beach and an All-Star cast that includes Spieth (who plays with Johnson), McIlroy, Rahm and Jason Day.

Most startling about Sunday at Kapalua was a rare occasion when Johnson looked back.

MIDLAND HUMANE COALITION
UPCOMING EVENTS
1/08 6:00 pm Adoption Center Volunteer Orientation
1/20 1:00 pm No-Sew Adoption Blanket Demo, Brew St.

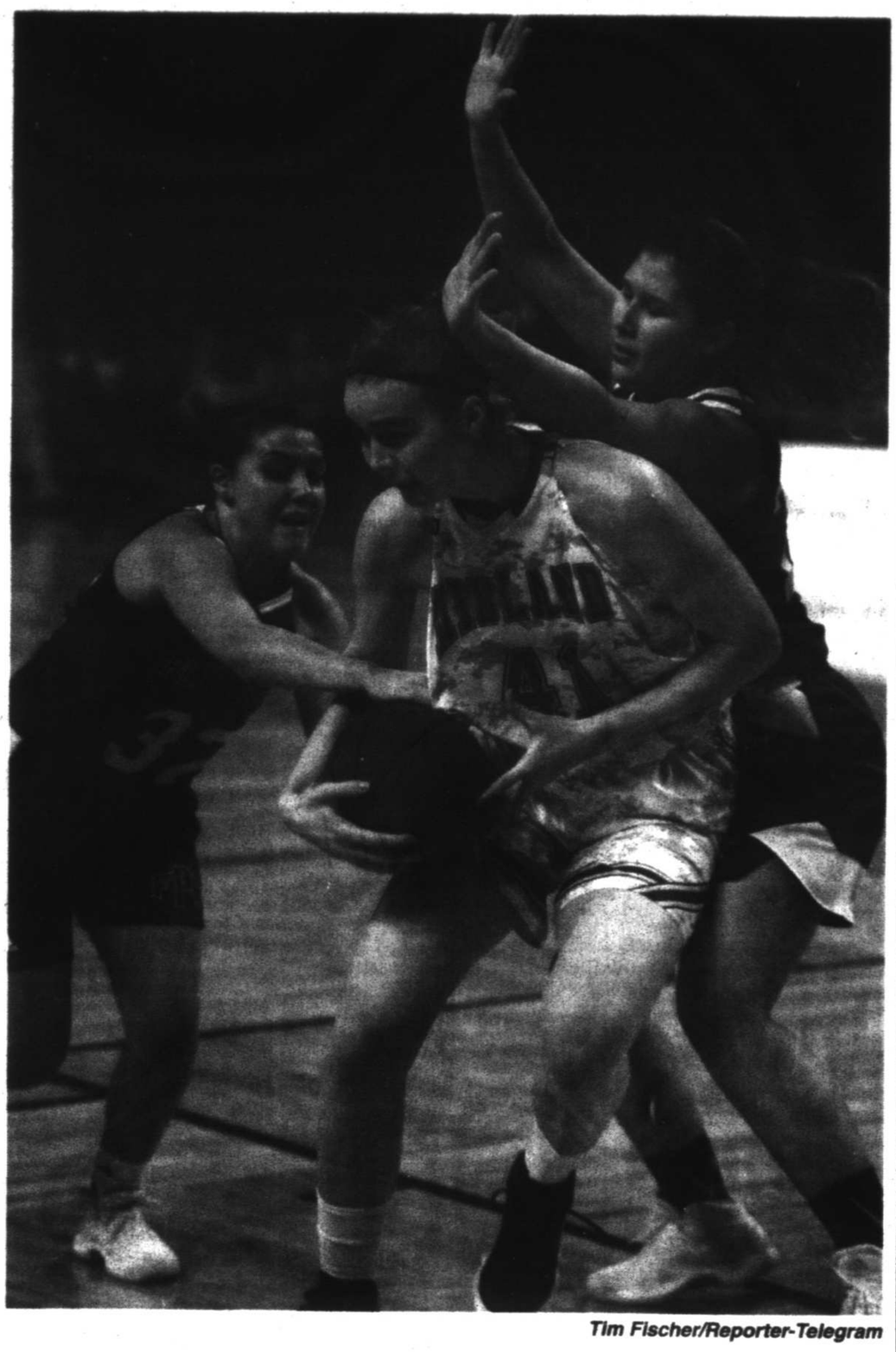
PLEASE HELP US CONTROL OVERPOPULATION & PROTECT YOUR PET FROM STRESS & ACCIDENTAL PREGNANCIES.
$70 SPAY/NEUTER VOUCHERS AVAILABLE TO MIDLAND CITY & COUNTY RESIDENTS.
MIDLANDHUMANE.ORG/SPAYNEUTER-VOUCHERS

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

MIDLAND HUMANE COALITION
P.O. Box 63213
Midland, TX 79710
midlandhumane.org

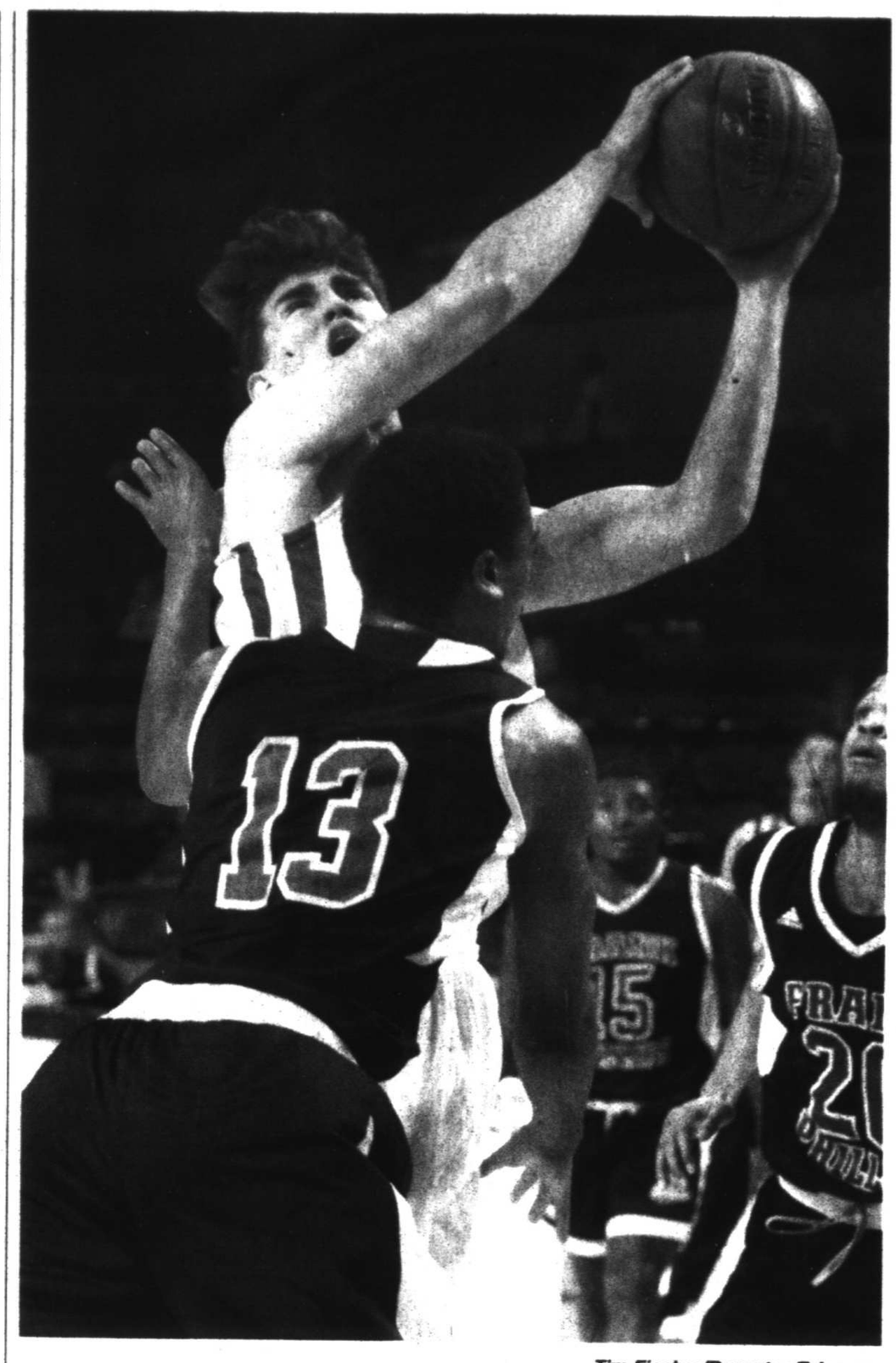
AD SPONSORED BY BROWN'S PERMIAN ELECTRIC CO.

Curly is a 6 mo male medium hair with white & orange tabby markings from Midland Animal Services. Curly is very shy in his new surroundings, & will require a little time to adapt. His longer coat requires daily care.



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Midland College's Wiebke Schwartau gets fouled as she drives into the lane by Frank Phillips' Sable Darnell and Amanda Dixson on Monday at Chaparral Center.



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Midland College's Erkam Kiris tries to get a shot off as he is fouled by Frank Phillips' Kent Thomas Monday at Chaparral Center.

LADY CHAPS

From 1C

certain way. When we did that, they had trouble scoring. When we didn't do that, they have good shooters and they were able to score. It's not real complex."

Jones added that his team was in such a bad place mentally, that it probably didn't help on the offensive end and didn't want to talk about anything else.

MC shot 32 percent from the game, including 2 of 18 from beyond the arc.

The Lady Chaps were held to just nine points in the final quarter. Meanwhile, FPC's Marlene Aniambossou scored all 11 of her points in the final period to help the Lady Plainsmen put the game away as they continued their offensive rhythm.

"We talk about playing chess. When we get our pieces in the right place, we can be successful," Rodewald said. "But when we get out of place, it doesn't work out so well."

It certainly worked on Monday night for the Lady Plainsmen.

Kiara Shoals and Choate each finished with 15 points, and Perinne Manoury added 10 for Frank Phillips.

Alexandrea Washington had 13 points and Lowendie Laporal added 10 for the Lady Chaps, who must regroup and get ready to play at rival Odessa College on Thursday.

Follow Oscar on Twitter: @OLeRoy_MRT

2017-18 WJCAC women's basketball standings

	Conference		Overall	
Team	W	L	W	L
Frank Phillips	3	0	13	1
Western Texas	2	0	10	5
Midland College	**2**	**1**	**9**	**7**
New Mexico JC	1	0	17	0
Odessa College	0	1	12	4
Howard College	1	2	11	8
Clarendon College	0	2	16	2
South Plains	0	3	13	6

Monday's Scores

Frank Phillips College 59, Midland College 48; Howard College 54, South Plains College 46; Western Texas College 95, Clarendon College 66; Odessa College and New Mexico JC were open

Thursday's Games

Midland College at Odessa College; Howard College at Clarendon College; New Mexico Military Institute at South Plains College; Western Texas College at New Mexico Junior College; Frank Phillips College is open

NO. 13 FRANK PHILLIPS COLLEGE 59, MIDLAND COLLEGE 48

Frank Phillips (13-1, 3-0) – Marlene Aniambossou 5-9 1-1 11, Kiara Shoals 3-17 8-12 15, Kinsley Choate 5-11 0-0 15, Sable Darnell 1-4 0-0 3, Perinne Manoury 2-8 4-4 10, Talitha Arrington 1-1 0-0 3, Taje Arrington 0-1 1-1 1, Amanda Dixson 0-0 0-0 0, Hannah Leavitt 0-0 1-2 1, Emiesha Fields 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 17-53 15-20 59

Midland College (9-7, 2-1) – Ella Tafaoono 0-1 3-6 3, Bethany Theodore 0-4 0-2 0, Alexandrea Washington 4-11 3-4 13, Paige Robinson 4-7 0-1 8, Matangiroa Flavell 1-9 0-1 2, Bianca Thacker 3-10 2-2 8, Ogechi Nwodo 1-3 0-0 2, Alyssa Hayes 0-3 0-0 0, Wiebke Schwartau 1-1 0-0 2, Lowendie Laporal 4-7 2-2 10. Totals 18-56 10-18 48

Frank Phillips	7	11	24	17	–59
Midland College	12	11	16	9	–48

3-point goals – FPC 10-27 (Choate 5-9, Manoury 2-7, Shoals 1-5, Darnell 1-3, Taj Arrington 1-1, Fields 0-2), MC 2-18 (Washington 2-5, Theodore 0-3, Flavell 0-5, Thacker 0-5). Total fouls – FPC 19, MC 21. Fouled out – None. Rebounds – FPC 22 (Anambossou 5), MC 45 (Thacker 9). Assists – FPC 13 (Shoals 5), MC 13 (Theodore 4, Flavell 4). Turnovers – FPC 6, MC 16.

Next: Midland College at Odessa College, 5:45 p.m. Thursday

CHAPS

From 1C

sometimes we get sloppy in the second half and just give up. This game we played the full 40 minutes."

Rafferty said he had a feeling that it would be a good night for his team with the way it practiced on Sunday night and the way they performed during Monday afternoon's shootaround.

The Chaps definitely came out strong as they took a 35-14 lead at the half.

Frank Phillips (8-9, 0-3) made a run early in the second half, but the Chaps were able to regroup and extend the lead.

MC held FPC to 31 percent shooting and forced 17 turnovers for the game. Also, no Frank Phillips player scored in double figures.

"It was better," said Rafferty about his defense. "We don't have the depth to extend the floor defensively and all that, but what we did tonight we did a good job in terms of our game plan in what we wanted to do."

In addition to Goncalves and Fraser scoring in double figures, the Chaps got nine points each from Amari Hale and Erkam Kiris.

Follow Oscar on Twitter: @OLeRoy_MRT

2017-18 WJCAC men's basketball standings

	Conference		Overall	
Team	W	L	W	L
South Plains	3	0	11	4
Odessa College	2	0	13	2
Western Texas	2	0	13	2
Clarendon College	2	1	12	5
New Mexico JC	1	1	12	4
Howard College	1	2	13	4
Midland College	**1**	**2**	**5**	**12**
New Mexico Military	0	3	9	7
Frank Phillips	0	3	8	9

Monday's Scores

Midland College 76, Frank Phillips College 43; South Plains College 80, Howard College 72; Odessa College 94, New Mexico Military Institute 84; Western Texas College 83, Clarendon College 76; New Mexico JC 91, Eastfield College 79 (non-conference)

Thursday's Games

Midland College at Odessa College; Howard College at Clarendon College; Western Texas College at New Mexico Junior College; South Plains College and Frank Phillips College are open

MIDLAND COLLEGE 76, FRANK PHILLIPS COLLEGE 43

Frank Phillips (8-9, 0-3) – Jaquez Lyons 3-8 1-4 7, Marquise Kindel 2-8 4-6 8, Justin Milstead 3-7 2-4 8, Knowledge Darby 2-4 0-0 5, Jeremy Betjoi 0-1 0-0 0, Demetrius Clark 2-4 0-0 5, Markus Stevenson 0-1 0-0 0, Kent Thomas 2-8 0-0 6, Armani Allen 1-5 0-0 2, Kwame McBean 0-2 2-2 2, Joe Nobes 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 15-48 9-16 43

Midland College (5-12, 1-2) – Marquel Fraser 5-8 2-3 14, Amari Hale 2-5 5-6 9, Kevin Kangu 2-7 0-0 5, Jordin van der Korput 3-6 2-3 8, Kayo Goncalves 9-10 3-4 24, Iseri Palacio 1-1 4-4 7, Erkam Kiris 3-6 2-2 9, Michael Hillebrand 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 26-43 18-22 76

Halftime: MC 35, FPC 14. 3-point goals – FPC 4-19 (Thomas 2-6, Clark 1-2, Darby 1-3, Lyons 0-1, Kindel 0-3, Milstead 0-2, Stevenson 0-1, Allen 0-1), MC 6-12 (Goncalves 3-4, Kangu 1-4, Palacio 1-1, Kiris 1-1, Hale 0-2). Total fouls – FPC 17, MC 14. Fouled out – Thomas. Rebounds – FPC 18 (Kindel 4), MC 27 (van der Korput 8). Assists – FPC 5 (Milstead 2), MC 17 (Hale 5). Turnovers – FPC 17, MC 22

Next: Midland College at Odessa College, 7:45 p.m. Thursday

NBA ROUNDUP

ROCKETS 116, BULLS 107

CHICAGO — Eric Gordon and Chris Paul each had 24 points and nine assists, Gerald Green scored 22 and the Houston Rockets beat the Chicago Bulls 116-107 on Monday night.

Trevor Ariza hit six 3-pointers and scored 18 to go with nine rebounds. Clint Capela added 15 points and 16 rebounds, and the Rockets won for the third time in 10 games despite blowing a 21-point lead.

Bobby Portis led the Bulls with 22 points. Denzel Valentine and Kris Dunn each scored 19, but Chicago lost for the fifth time in six games.

With NBA scoring leader James Harden missing his fourth consecutive game because of a strained hamstring, the Rockets regained control after falling behind early in the third.

They scored eight straight to stretch a two-point edge to 10 late in the quarter and took an 87-76 lead into the fourth after Green and Paul nailed back-to-back 3s. Houston was in charge the rest of the game.

Houston nearly put this one away early, going up by 21 late in the first quarter after Paul's four-point play. But the Bulls got more physical in the second and cut it to 60-55 at halftime.

The Bulls tied it on a 3 by Valentine to start the third and two free throws by Robin Lopez. Dunn gave Chicago its first lead since the early going, 64-62, just under three minutes into the quarter.

PELICANS 112, PISTONS 109

NEW ORLEANS — DeMarcus Cousins scored 16 of his 20 points after Anthony Davis left with an ankle injury in the third quarter, and the New Orleans Pelicans held off the Detroit Pistons 112-109 on Monday night.

Rajon Rondo capped a 12-point, 15-assist performance with two transition layups in the last 1:21 to help secure a victory the Pelicans needed to restore morale after a listless blowout loss in Minnesota over the weekend.

Davis dominated before he left with 4:41 remaining in the third, scoring 30 points and grabbing 10 rebounds in 27 minutes. He walked to the locker room, favoring his right ankle, and never returned.

Cousins, who also had 10 rebounds, picked up the slack, and E'Twaun Moore finished with 23 points.

Tobias Harris scored 25 points and Avery Bradley had 24 for the Pistons, who've lost three of four. Andre Drummond, who missed two of Detroit's previous three games, had 16 points and 14 rebounds.

Drummond converted alley-oop and driving dunks in the last 1:04, pulling the Pistons within 111-109 with 39 seconds left. But Bradley missed a 21-footer with 11 seconds remaining and also was off the mark with a 3 that could have tied it after Holiday missed one of two free throws with 5 seconds left.

New Orleans led by 14 halfway through the third quarter, when Cousins found Davis for a fast-break dunk.

TIMBERWOLVES 127, CAVALIERS 99

MINNEAPOLIS — Andrew Wiggins had 25 points in three quarters, Jimmy Butler pitched in 21 points and tight defense on LeBron James, and the Minnesota Timberwolves cruised to a 127-99 victory over Cleveland on Monday night that stopped a 12-game home losing streak to the Cavaliers.

Karl-Anthony Towns (19 points, 12 rebounds) and Taj Gibson (16 points, 13 rebounds) were tenacious around the basket for the Timberwolves, who outrebounded the Cavs 56-37 and had a 60-42 advantage in points in the paint.

James had just 10 points on 4-for-8 shooting, taking his first loss at Minnesota since Feb. 17, 2005. Cleveland fell behind by as much as 41 points in the third quarter after a dunk by Wiggins set up by a driving pass by Tyus Jones, who had grabbed his own miss from 3-point range. That matched the largest deficit James has ever faced in the regular season, since a game at Orlando on April 3, 2009.

RAPTORS 114, NETS 113

NEW YORK — DeMar DeRozan scored 35 points, including a go-ahead three-point play with 26.1 seconds left in overtime, and the Toronto Raptors shook off a late injury to Kyle Lowry to beat the Brooklyn Nets 114-113 on Monday night.

The Raptors lost a 10-point lead in the final 4 1/2 minutes of regulation and then lost Lowry after a hard fall in OT, but at least won the game, just as they always do against the Nets.

Toronto beat Brooklyn for the 10th straight time and won its fifth in a row overall.

Jonas Valanciunas had 21 points and 13 rebounds for the Raptors. Lowry finished with 18 points and 11 assists, but had to be carried off the court after landing on his lower back while going for a rebound.

Spencer Dinwiddie scored a career-high 31 points for the Nets, but his wild shot on a last drive went over the backboard.

PACERS 109, BUCKS 96

INDIANAPOLIS — Domantas Sabonis had 17 points and 10 rebounds Monday night and three of his teammates each scored 15 to lead the Indiana Pacers to a 109-96 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks.

Indiana has won two straight since a five-game losing streak. Victor Oladipo, Thaddeus Young and Myles Turner all scored 15 points.

The Bucks were led by Khris Middleton with 19 points and Giannis Antetokounmpo with 17.

This time, the Pacers dominated most of the final 42 minutes by creating turnovers and forcing Milwaukee into bad shots after hitting 16 of their first 25 attempts.

NBA GLANCE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	33	10	.767	—
Toronto	26	10	.737	2½
Philadelphia	19	19	.500	11½
New York	19	21	.475	12½
Brooklyn	15	25	.375	16½

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	23	17	.575	—
Miami	22	17	.564	½
Charlotte	15	23	.395	7
Orlando	12	28	.300	11
Atlanta	10	29	.256	12½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	26	14	.650	—
Detroit	21	18	.538	4½
Milwaukee	21	18	.538	4½
Indiana	21	19	.525	5
Chicago	14	27	.341	12½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	28	11	.718	—
San Antonio	27	14	.659	2
New Orleans	20	19	.513	8
Dallas	13	28	.317	16
Memphis	12	27	.308	16

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	26	16	.619	—
Oklahoma City	22	18	.550	3
Portland	21	18	.538	3½
Denver	21	18	.538	3½
Utah	16	24	.400	9

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	32	8	.800	—
L.A. Clippers	17	21	.447	14
Phoenix	16	26	.381	17
Sacramento	13	25	.342	18
L.A. Lakers	12	27	.308	19½

Monday's Scores

Indiana 109, Milwaukee 96
Toronto 114, Brooklyn 113, OT
Houston 116, Chicago 107
Minnesota 127, Cleveland 99
New Orleans 112, Detroit 109
San Antonio at Sacramento, late
Atlanta at L.A. Clippers, late
Denver at Golden State, late

Today's Games

Miami at Toronto, 6:30 p.m.
Portland at Oklahoma City, 7 p.m.
Orlando at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Sacramento at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Men

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Jan. 7, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Villanova (52)	14-1	1611	3
2. West Virginia (12)	14-1	1559	6
3. Virginia (1)	14-1	1438	8
4. Michigan St.	15-2	1390	1
5. Purdue	15-2	1225	13
5. Wichita St.	13-2	1225	9
7. Duke	13-2	1222	2
8. Texas Tech	14-1	1174	18
9. Oklahoma	12-2	1152	7
10. Xavier	15-2	1050	5
11. Arizona St.	13-2	1036	4
12. Kansas	12-3	888	10
13. Seton Hall	14-2	759	21
14. Cincinnati	14-2	739	19
15. Gonzaga	14-3	676	19
16. TCU	13-2	621	16
17. Arizona	12-4	537	14
18. Miami	13-2	502	15
19. Clemson	14-1	465	25
20. North Carolina	12-4	423	12
21. Kentucky	12-3	314	17
22. Auburn	14-1	243	—
23. Florida St.	12-3	202	24
24. Tennessee	10-4	198	23
25. Creighton	13-3	160	—

Others receiving votes: Notre Dame 121, Florida 85, Texas A&M 62, Ohio St. 29, Rhode Island 7, Michigan 5, Nevada 2, Baylor 2, New Mexico St. 1, Georgia 1, Arkansas 1.

Today's Games

SOUTHWEST

Texas Tech at Oklahoma, 6 p.m.

SOUTH

High Point at Gardner-Webb, 6 p.m.
Tulane at Memphis, 6 p.m.
Texas A&M at Kentucky, 6 p.m.
Campbell at Presbyterian, 6 p.m.
Dayton at Richmond, 6 p.m.
Longwood at UNC-Asheville, 6 p.m.
South Carolina at Alabama, 6 p.m.
Liberty at Winthrop, 6 p.m.
Trinity Baptist at South Alabama, 6:05 p.m.
Hampton at Howard, 6:30 p.m.
Radford at Charleston Southern, 6:30 p.m.
Duquesne at VCU, 7 p.m.
Boston College at North Carolina, 7 p.m.
Syracuse at Virginia, 7 p.m.
Tennessee at Vanderbilt, 8 p.m.
Mississippi at Auburn, 8 p.m.

MIDWEST

Penn St. at Indiana, 5:30 p.m.
W. Michigan at Toledo, 6 p.m.
Rhode Island at Saint Louis, 8 p.m.
Cent. Michigan at E. Michigan, 6 p.m.
Buffalo at Akron, 6 p.m.
N. Illinois at Bowling Green, 6 p.m.
Kent St. at Miami (Ohio), 6 p.m.
Ball St. at Ohio, 6 p.m.
S. Illinois at Bradley, 7 p.m.
Butler at Creighton, 7:30 p.m.
Wisconsin at Nebraska, 7:30 p.m.
Seton Hall at Marquette, 8 p.m.
Purdue at Michigan, 8 p.m.
Iowa St. at Kansas, 8 p.m.

EAST

Georgetown at St. John's, 5:30 p.m.
Baylor at West Virginia, 6 p.m.

FAR WEST

San Jose St. at San Diego St., 10 p.m.
Boise St. at Fresno St., 10 p.m.

Women

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Jan. 7, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and last week's ranking:

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. UConn (32)	13-0	800	1
2. Notre Dame	15-1	747	2
3. Louisville	18-0	741	3
4. Mississippi St.	17-0	702	5
5. Baylor	14-1	661	6
6. Tennessee	15-0	641	7
7. Texas	13-1	617	8
8. Oregon	15-2	559	9
9. South Carolina	13-2	557	4
10. Ohio St.	15-2	520	10
11. Maryland	15-2	476	13
12. Missouri	14-2	426	15
13. Florida St.	14-2	373	11
14. UCLA	11-4	367	14
15. West Virginia	14-2	320	12
16. Duke	12-4	280	17
17. Texas A&M	13-4	275	19
18. Arizona St.	13-3	227	25
18. Iowa	15-2	227	18
20. Oklahoma St.	12-3	224	20
21. Rutgers	16-2	139	—
22. Oregon St.	11-4	136	16
23. Michigan	13-4	115	22
24. California	11-4	67	23
25. Green Bay	12-2	51	—

Others receiving votes: Villanova 49, Stanford 30, South Florida 24, Syracuse 22, Georgia 10, Marquette 5, LSU 4, Utah 3, Brown 2, Ball St. 1, Belmont 1, Mercer 1.

Today's Games

SOUTH

Gardner-Webb at Longwood, 10:30 a.m.
Hampton at Howard, 4:30 p.m.
Drexel at William & Mary, 5 p.m.
Presbyterian at High Point, 6 p.m.
Winthrop at Liberty, 6 p.m.
Charleston Southern at Campbell, 6 p.m.
UNC-Asheville at Radford, 6 p.m.

MIDWEST

Nebraska-Omaha at Fort Wayne, 5 p.m.

EAST

UCF at UConn, 6 p.m.

AP file photo

Kansas City Chiefs head coach Andy Reid, left, and co-offensive coordinator Matt Nagy talk during the first half of an NFL preseason football game against the Seattle Seahawks on Aug. 13, 2016 in Kansas City, Mo. Chicago Bears general manager Ryan Pace announced the hiring of Matt Nagy as the NFL football team's 16th head coach Monday.

Chicago Bears hire Chiefs assistant Matt Nagy as coach

By Andrew Seligman
Associated Press

LAKE FOREST, Ill. — The Chicago Bears were looking for a coach to get the most out of quarterback Mitchell Trubisky and help a founding NFL franchise emerge from one of its worst runs.

They believe Matt Nagy is the right man.

The Bears hired Kansas City's offensive coordinator as their 16th head coach Monday, hoping he can develop their promising quarterback and turn around a struggling team.

The Bears announced the move a week after firing coach John Fox, who went 14-34 in three seasons for a .292 winning percentage that is the second-lowest in team history. Chicago was 5-11 this season and hasn't finished above .500 since letting Lovie Smith go following a 10-6 finish in 2012, two years after its most recent visit to the playoffs.

The 39-year-old Nagy spent the past 10 seasons working under Andy Reid in Philadelphia and Kansas City. He did not call plays until late this season, but drew praise for his work with Chiefs quarterback Alex Smith.

In Chicago, the former quarterback at Delaware and then the Arena Football League will be trying to develop Trubisky, last year's No. 2 overall draft pick.

"He's a good football coach, first of all," Reid said. "I appreciate the way he comes to work and the attitude he brings. He puts his own flare on things. I think that's important to know. Everybody does it their way."

Nagy coached in high school and was still working in real estate when he served as a coaching intern with the Eagles during training camp in 2008 and 2009. He got a big break, though it came with a pay cut, when he took the job as a coaching assistant during the 2010 season.

Bears general manager Ryan Pace has plenty riding on him.

Pace put his reputation on the line when he traded up a spot with San Francisco to draft Trubisky even though he made just 13 college starts at North Carolina. It's up to Nagy to help polish a quarterback who showed some promise with his strong arm and quickness after he took over for Mike Glennon.

If Trubisky succeeds, there's a good chance the Bears start winning. That would likely mean a long future in Chicago for Pace, who recently got a contract extension through the 2021 season.

The Chiefs won the AFC West, only to blow an 18-point halftime lead in a playoff loss to Tennessee on Saturday. That didn't stop the Bears from moving quickly on Nagy, interviewing him Sunday and hiring him a day later.

Chicago also met with Philadelphia quarterbacks coach John DeFilippo, offensive coordinators Pat Shurmur (Minnesota) and Josh McDaniels (New England), Vikings defensive coordinator George Edwards and Chicago defensive coordinator Vic Fangio. There were no known second interviews.

Though the defense performed well under Fangio, Nagy inherits a roster with holes. The Bears had no playmaking receivers, and their offensive line got banged up this season.

Pace has had some big hits in the draft such as running back Jordan Howard (2016, fifth round) and notable misses such as oft-injured receiver Kevin White (2015, first round). Injuries have consistently exposed a lack of depth, and Pace's record in free agency has'so far been shaky; he has struggled to find replacements for talented players no longer with the team such as receivers Brandon Marshall and Alshon Jeffery, tight end Martellus Bennett and kicker Robbie Gould.

Fox at least helped restore some of the professionalism that was missing under former GM Phil Emery and coach Marc Trestman. But Fox's conservative approach and some questionable decisions during games were sore spots.

The Bears were 3-15 against the NFC North under Fox and dropped all six division games this past season. That will be one of the many things Nagy will need to help solve.

"Up-and-coming, smart guy," Chiefs assistant head coach Brad Childress said of Nagy. "He's played the quarterback position, so he gets it. He knows how to teach. He's got a great demeanor about him. He's got a creative mind. I think he's got everything going for him."

Belichick intends to return as Patriots coach

By Kyle Hightower
Associated Pressv

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Under Bill Belichick, the New England Patriots have often thrived when inundated with scrutiny from outside of their locker room.

They'll have to do it again this week as they prepare for their divisional round matchup with the Tennessee Titans.

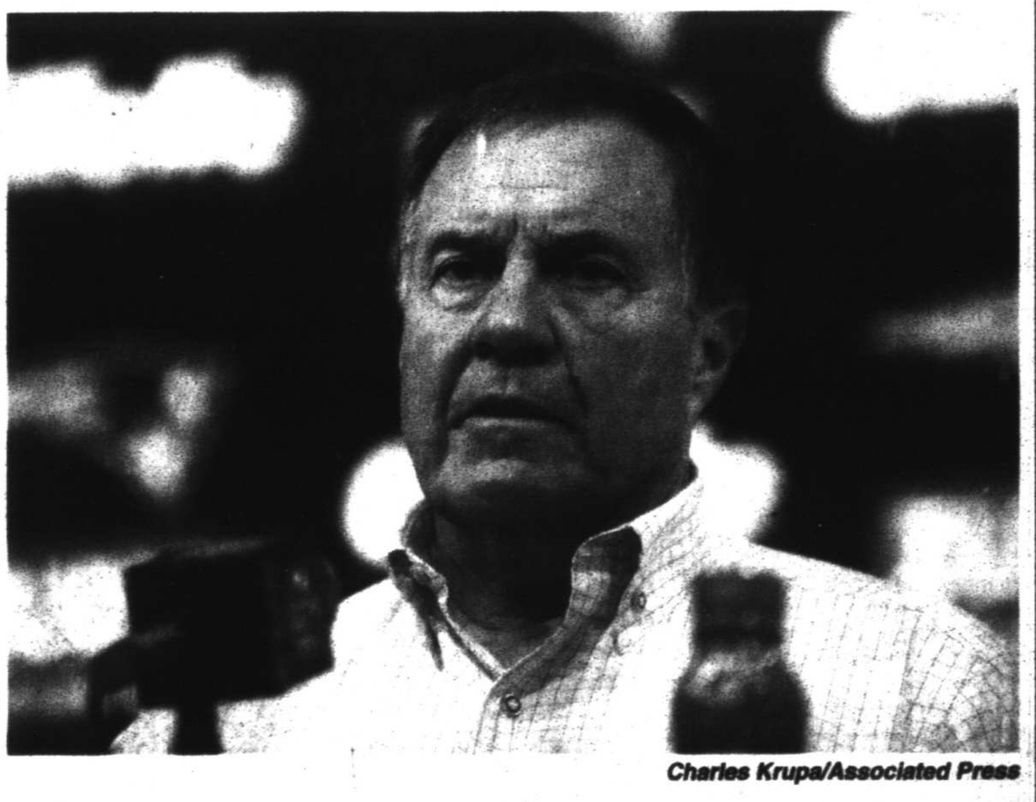
Belichick said Monday that it is "absolutely" his intention to return as coach of the Patriots next season, despite reports of turmoil in the franchise involving himself, quarterback Tom Brady and team owner Robert Kraft.

Belichick said he didn't have anything to add to a joint statement the three men released last week in response to an ESPN report, citing undisclosed sources, that detailed an array of tension.

"I haven't read the article. I've already commented at length about that situation," Belichick said. "Nothing has happened since then, so I don't have anything to add to it."

The ESPN story highlighted purported disputes concerning Brady's personal body coach, Alex Guerrero, in player-medical affairs.

Also mentioned was a supposed difference between Kraft and Belichick over the decision to trade former backup quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo. The story implied Brady has taken issue with a lack of praise from Belichick this season.



Charles Krupa/Associated Press

New England Patriots head coach Bill Belichick speaks to the media following an NFL game against the New York Jets on Dec. 31 in Foxborough, Mass.

When asked about another report about his supposed interest in coaching the New York Giants where he was a defensive coordinator, the Patriots coach said he is concerned only on New England's game with the Titans on Saturday night.

"That's where my total focus is," he said.

Last season the Patriots played under a similar spotlight after Brady was suspended for the first four games as punishment for his role in the "Deflategate" scandal.

New England thrived when he returned, and went on to earn its fifth Lombardi Trophy with a record comeback during its Super Bowl win over Atlanta.

The Patriots haven't lost in the divisional round of the playoffs since falling 28-21 to the New York Jets after the 2010 regular season. New England has made it to at least the conference title game in each of the past six seasons.

Special teams captain Matt Slater, now in his 10th season with the Patriots, said Belichick's leadership sets the tone when possible distractions creep up.

"Coach Belichick has always led us in a way that's been very direct, to the point, very focused on the task at hand," Slater said. "Being able to live in the moment, and just take things day by day."

Slater said it's why he won't even give a thought to things such as the Giants coaching rumors.

"I'm just focused on preparing for the Tennessee Titans with coach Bill Belichick as my head coach for the 2017 season," he said.

"I think everyone in that locker room feels the same way. The nature of professional football is tomorrow's not guaranteed to anyone; players, coaches. That's life."

Told of Belichick's comment that he plans to return as coach in New England next season, safety Patrick Chung chuckled.

"I'm juiced. Keep coming back," he said. "When he's done, I'll be done, too."

TABC HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL POLLS

SUGAR LAND — High school basketball rankings as compiled by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches for the week of Jan. 8:

BOYS PUBLIC

Class 6A

1. Denton Guyer, 23-1; 2. Austin Westlake, 22-3; 3. Cypress Falls, 18-3; 4. Spring Dekaney, 20-3; 5. DeSoto, 16-5; 6. South Garland, 22-3; 7. Klein Forest, 16-3; 8. SA Wagner, 16-5; 9. South Grand Prairie, 17-6; 10. Allen, 17-4; 11. Houston Sam Houston, 16-3; 12. Killeen Ellison, 21-2; 13. Lake Travis, 18-5; 14. Cibolo Steele, 20-1; 15. Katy Tompkins, 17-6; 16. Houston Westside, 18-3; 17. Aldine Eisenhower, 17-5; 18. Fort Bend Bush, 17-4; **19. Odessa Permian, 17-3**; 20. Duncanville, 18-4; 21. Schertz Clemens, 17-4; 22. Rowlett, 13-8; 23. Houston Clear Lake, 19-4; 24. Dallas Jesuit, 16-3; 25. Los Fresnos, 15-5.

Class 5A

1. Mansfield Timberview, 19-3; 2. Waxahachie, 16-4; 3. Justin Northwest, 17-5; 4. Port Arthur Memorial, 16-5; 5. N. Richland Hills Birdville, 17-3; 6. Prosper, 19-2; 7. Little Elm, 16-6; 8. Sulphur Springs, 20-3; 9. EP Burges, 19-2; 10. Dallas Wilson, 8-4; 11. Midlothian, 15-7; 12. Alvin Shadow Creek, 13-5; 13. Fort Bend Elkins, 16-10; 14. Austin LBJ, 15-5; 15. Lancaster, 13-8; 16. CC Veterans Memorial, 21-4; 17. FW Trimble Tech, 16-5; 18. Dallas South Oak Cliff, 13-7; 19. Laredo Nixon, 20-5; 20. WF Rider, 18-4; 21. Dallas Kimball, 13-7; 22. Rosenburg Terry, 19-3; 23. Boerne Champion, 18-3; 24. SA Houston, 14-7; 25. Fort Bend Marshall, 16-7.

Class 4A

1. Center, 21-1; 2. Dallas Carter, 18-2; 3. Silsbee, 11-8; 4. Houston Yates, 12-2; 5. Freeport Brazosport, 16-5; 6. WF Hirschi, 13-6; 7. Lubbock Estacado, 12-5; 8. Abilene Wylie, 19-3; 9. Dallas Lincoln, 11-8; 10. Wilmer Hutchins, 12-7; 11. Seminole, 13-6; 12. Midlothian Heritage, 19-6; 13. Dallas Roosevelt, 16-7; 14. Argyle, 16-6; 15. Waxahachie Life, 23-6; 16. Boerne, 21-4; 17. CC West Oso, 16-7; 18. Houston North Forest, 8-7; 19. Waco Connally, 14-7; 20. Sour Lake Hardin Jefferson, 22-6; 21. Athens, 17-2; 22. Krum, 18-5; 23. Huffman Hargrave, 19-6; 24. Mexia, 18-2; 25. Somerset, 12-9.

Class 3A

1. Jarrell, 15-4; 2. Brock, 23-2; 3. SA Cole, 23-1; 4. Nacogdoches Central Heights, 19-6; 5. Palestine Westwood, 22-2; 6. Ponder, 10-5; 7. East Chambers, 20-1; 8. Pleaster, 15-8; 9. Edgewood, 17-2; 10. Bowie, 14-6; 11. Nocona, 17-4; 12. Wall, 18-1; 13. Hitchcock, 11-10; 14. Van Vleck, 8-4; 15. Mount Vernon, 20-1; 16. Kountze, 14-7; 17. Van Alstyne, 15-8; 18. Holliday, 15-4; 19. Dallas Madison, 3-16; 20. La Marque, 9-11; 21. Pollok Central, 17-6; 22. Teague, 6-3; 23. Commerce, 10-8; 24. Canadian, 6-2; 25. Santa Rosa, 7-9.

Class 2A

1. Thorndale, 17-3; 2. Tenaha, 4-1; 3. Martins Mill, 16-3; 4. Big Sandy, 12-5; 5. Sternett West Texas, 19-1; 6. Lufkin Pineywoods, 15-5; 7. Shelbyville, 18-3; 8. Muenster, 2-4; 9. San Augustine, 4-2; 10. Cushing, 16-4; 11. Grapeland, 13-7; 12. Dallardsville Big Sandy, 16-7; 13. Neches, 13-9; 14. Port Aransas, 15-10; 15. Snook, 13-5; 16. Clarksville, 10-6; 17. Albany, 12-0; 18. Broaddus, 13-6; 19. Mumford, 15-5; 20. Celeste, 16-3; 21. Memphis, 17-2; 22. SA Lee Academy, 15-0; 23. Ivanhoe Rayburn, 12-6; 24. Clarendon, 5-3; 25. Stratford, 3-0.

Class 1A

1. Lipan, 19-1; 2. Nazareth, 14-5; 3. Laneville, 15-6; 4. Gail Borden County, 5-2; 5. Moulton, 20-3; 6. Milford, 3-1; 7. New Home, 16-3; 8. Slidell, 16-5; 9. Graford, 12-7; 10. Leggett, 23-4; 11. Slocum, 14-8; 12. Happy, 6-7; 13. Textine, 11-7; 14. Meadow, 11-4; 15. Turkey Valley, 6-1; 16. Dime Box, 12-7; 17. Shamrock, 14-4; **18. Grady, 12-4**; 19. Yantis, 16-2; 20. Imperial Buena Vista, 8-5; 21. Eula, 16-5; 22. Coolidge, 11-2; 23. May, 6-4; 24. Ropesville, 13-3; 25. Westder, 11-3.

BOYS PRIVATE

TAPPS 6A/SPC

1. Dallas Bishop Lynch, 25-4; 2. Tomball Concordia Lutheran, 29-1; 3. Houston Christian, 20-4; 4. Houston Bellaire Episcopal, 18-3; 5. Plano Prestonwood Christian, 14-7; 6. SA Antonian, 26-6; 7. FW Nolan Catholic, 12-6; 8. Addison Trinity Christian, 13-10; 9. Dallas St. Mark's, 7-3; 10. SA Central Catholic, 16-7.

TAPPS 5A

1. Cedar Hill Trinity Christian, 19-4; 2. Houston 2nd Baptist, 18-6; 3. Tyler All Saints Episcopal, 18-3; 4. Houston Westbury Christian, 8-18; 5. SA St. Mary's Hall, 16-7; 6. CC St. John Paul II, 22-5; 7. FW Southwest Christian, 16-9; 8. Bullard Brook Hill, 14-6; 9. SA Cornerstone Christian, 9-7; 10. Frisco Legacy Christian, 12-9.

TAPPS 4A

1. Arlington Grace Prep, 20-5; 2. Colleyville Covenant, 11-10; 3. The Woodlands Christian, 15-12; 4. Lubbock Trinity Christian, 11-16; 5. Waco Reicher, 17-11; 6. Kennedale Fellowship, 12-10; 7. Austin Texas School for Deaf, 13-3; 8. Waco Vanguard, 5-9; 9. Flower Mound Coram Deo, 10-10; 10. Dallas Shelton, 6-9.

Class 3A

1. Dallas Yavneh, 19-0; 2. Kerrville Our Lady of the Hills, 17-3; 3. Willow Park Trinity, 14-4; 4. SA St. Gerard, 15-2; 5. Spring Frassati Catholic, 13-6; 6. Dallas Covenant, 12-4; 7. Abilene Christian, 15-7; 8. Irving The Highlands, 10-5; 9. SA Castle Hills, 3-1; 10. EP Faith Christian, 6-2.

Class 2A

1. Huntsville Alpha Omega, 22-1; 2. Sherman Texoma Christian, 14-4; 3. Conroe Covenant, 15-5; 4. Lubbock All-Saints Episcopal, 12-3; 5. Spring Providence Classical, 18-6; 6. Houston Beren, 11-3; 7. New Braunfels Christian, 16-8; 8. FW Bethesda, 15-3; 9. Dallas Cambridge, 11-7; 10. Shiner St. Paul, 10-5.

Class 1A

1. Granbury North Central Texas, 16-2; 2. SA Legacy, 17-1; 3. SA Gateway, 17-8; 4. Lubbock Kingdom, 10-7; 5. Longview Trinity, 9-3; 6. Spring Founders Christian, 13-9; 7. Irving Faustina, 5-0; 8. Athens Christian, 8-4; 9. Fredericksburg Heritage, 9-3; 10. Alamo Macedonian, 8-6.

GIRLS PUBLIC

Class 6A

1. Duncanville, 26-1; 2. Cibolo Steele, 29-3; 3. Houston Jersey Village, 21-2; 4. Richardson, 21-3; 5. Converse Judson, 19-4; 6. Plano, 20-5; 7. DeSoto, 17-2; 8. Killeen Ellison, 15-7; 9. Cypress Creek, 20-4; 10. SA East Central, 21-3; 11. Dallas Skyline, 18-7; 12. McKinney, 19-8; 13. Allen, 20-6; 14. Cypress Ranch, 20-5; 15. Austin Westlake, 19-7; 16. Arlington Bowie, 19-6; 17. Pflugerville, 24-4; 18. Rockwall, 18-6; 19. Waco Midway, 22-4; 20. Keller Timber Creek, 20-4; 21. Copperas Cove, 20-5; 22. Humble Atascocita, 17-8; 23. Fort Bend Hightower, 18-8; 24. Fort Bend Travis, 18-3; 25. Laredo United, 24-2.

Class 5A

1. Mansfield Timberview, 25-2; 2. Canyon, 18-2; 3. Barbers Hill, 26-2; 4. Frisco Lone Star, 22-4; 5. Amarillo, 24-2; 6. Prosper, 20-3; 7. Houston Madison, 11-2; 8. Temple, 18-5; 9. Sulphur Springs, 19-3; 10. Denison, 21-4; 11. Lucas Lovejoy, 19-5; 12. Aledo, 16-1; 13. Grapevine, 22-4; 14. CC Flour Bluff, 18-3; 15. Wylie East, 19-4; 16. Leander Rouse, 21-6; 17. Cedar Park, 19-7; 18. FW Boswell, 23-4; 19. Lubbock Cooper, 22-2; 20. CC Veterans Memorial, 23-4; 21. Austin High, 20-6; 22. Georgetown, 16-8; 23. Crosby, 20-6; 24. EP Andress, 16-3; 25. SA Southside, 20-3.

Class 4A

1. Liberty Hill, 21-3; 2. Glen Rose, 23-1; 3. Argyle, 19-6; 4. Denver City, 17-5; 5. Leveland, 21-2; 6. Navasota, 26-2; 7. Dallas Lincoln, 19-3; 8. Houston Wheatley, 19-3; 9. Gilmore, 21-4; 10. Canton, 20-6; 11. Tatum, 19-4; 12. Abilene Wylie, 17-6; 13. Brownwood, 22-4; 14. Melissa, 20-3; 15. Bushland, 14-8; 16. Bridgeport, 14-4; 17. Bullard, 21-7; 18. Sanger, 21-5; 19. Stephenville, 12-10; 20. Midlothian Heritage, 21-4; 21. Sour Lake Hardin-Jefferson, 20-5; 22. Geronimo Navarro, 20-6; 23. SA Veterans Memorial, 18-9; 24. CC West Oso, 17-5; 25. Comal Canyon Lake, 20-5.

Class 3A

1. Canadian, 17-4; 2. Tuscola Jim Ned, 17-6; 3. Pottsboro, 21-4; 4. Mount Pleasant Chapel Hill, 22-2; 5. Wall, 16-4; 6. Little River Academy, 16-3; 7. Idalou, 19-5; 8. Brock, 19-6; 9. Winnsboro, 14-10; 10. Leonard, 19-3; 11. Teague, 20-2; 12. Sunnyvale, 19-3; 13. Mount Vernon, 14-8; 14. Shallowater, 18-3; 15. Cisco, 19-3; 16. Poth, 16-5; 17. Odem, 20-6; 18. Woodville, 24-5; 19. Vanderbilt Industrial, 20-5; 20. Hitchcock, 19-6; 21. Grandview, 16-8; 22. Karnes City, 21-3; 23. Franklin, 20-3; 24. Schulenburg, 22-5; 25. Yoakum, 16-6.

Class 2A

1. Martins Mill, 24-1; 2. Woden, 22-2; 3. La Rue La Poynor, 21-2; 4. Panhandle, 19-3; 5. Windthorst, 19-1; 6. Stratford, 17-4; 7. Hico, 23-1; 8. Claude, 19-3; 9. Era, 20-3; 10. Grapeland, 17-7; 11. Tenaha, 18-4; 12. Wellington, 17-5; 13. Archer City, 19-5; 14. Haskell, 23-1; 15. Vega, 20-2; 16. Lovelady, 20-6; 17. Campbell, 20-5; 18. Seymour, 17-5; 19. San Saba, 20-6; 20. Douglass, 18-3; 21. Snook, 19-2; 22. Mason, 21-7; 23. Centerville, 21-4; 24. Thorndale, 16-5; 25. Timpson, 18-6.

Class 1A

1. Nazareth, 20-3; 2. Garden City, 22-1; 3. Dodd City, 23-1; 4. Moulton, 21-3; 5. Huckabay, 14-4; 6. Ropesville, 21-0; 7. Eula, 17-6; 8. Jayton, 18-4; 9. Robert Lee, 17-2; **10. Rankin, 24-4**; 11. Nueces Canyon, 20-3; 12. McMullen County, 18-2; 13. Roby, 16-6; 14. May, 17-3; 15. Westbrook, 14-3; 16. Rocksprings, 15-4; 17. Leakey, 15-7; 18. Hermleigh, 17-6; 19. New Home, 18-5; 20. Slocum, 10-7; 21. Groom, 13-4; 22. Spur, 17-7; 23. Ira, 11-8; 24. Iredell, 11-3; 25. Cumby Miller Grove, 13-6.

GIRLS PRIVATE

TAPPS 6A/SPC

1. Houston Kinkaid, 16-2; 2. Dallas Bishop Lynch, 15-7; 3. Plano Prestonwood, 17-6; 4. Houston Christian, 21-5; 5. Houston St. Agnes, 17-7; 6. Dallas Parish Episcopal, 19-4; 7. Argyle Liberty Christian, 20-5; 8. SA Incarnate Word, 15-9; 9. Tomball Concordia Lutheran, 19-6; 10. Houston The Village, 17-5.

TAPPS 5A

1. SA Christian, 18-12; 2. Mesquite Dallas Christian, 11-11; 3. CC WA, 19-7; 4. Cedar Hill Trinity Christian, 14-7; 5. Austin St. Michael's, 15-6; 6. Houston Second Baptist, 13-12; 7. Tyler Grace Community Christian, 13-5; **8. Midland Christian, 11-4**; 9. CC John Paul II, 17-8; 10. Tyler All Saints Episcopal, 15-7.

TAPPS 4A

1. Houston Kinkaid, 16-2; 2. Dallas Bishop Lynch, 15-7; 3. Plano Prestonwood, 17-6; 4. Houston Christian, 21-5; 5. Houston St. Agnes, 17-7; 6. Dallas Parish Episcopal, 19-4; 7. Argyle Liberty Christian, 20-5; 8. SA Incarnate Word, 15-9; 9. Tomball Concordia Lutheran, 19-6; 10. Houston The Village, 17-5.

Class 3A

1. Beaumont Legacy, 15-8; 2. Temple Central Texas Christian, 16-4; 3. SA Castle Hills, 14-6; 4. **Midland Classical, 12-8**; 5. Mission Juan Diego, 12-4; 6. Round Rock Christian, 11-4; 7. Spring Frassati Catholic, 10-4; 8. Denton Calvary, 12-8; 9. Bryan Brazos Christian, 7-7; 10. Arlington Burton Adventist, 8-5.

Class 2A

1. Austin Waldorf, 16-2; 2. Shiner St. Paul, 12-7; 3. Lubbock All-Saints, 10-7; 4. Red Oak Ovilla, 8-2; 5. Bryan St. Joseph, 10-11; 6. The Woodlands Legacy, 13-4; 7. Lubbock Southwest, 9-2; 8. Bryan Allen Academy, 6-3; 9. New Braunfels Christian, 11-10; 10. Sherman Texoma, 6-13.

Class 1A

1. Edinburg Harvest, 8-3; 2. Lubbock Kingdom, 11-7; 3. SA Legacy, 14-3; 4. WF Notre Dame, 13-7; 5. Waxahachie Prep, 7-1; 6. Houston Southwest Christian, 9-2; 7. DeSoto Canterbury, 5-4; 8. Longview Trinity, 8-8; 9. San Angelo Cornerstone, 9-9; 10. Alamo Macedonian, 5-7.

MCS

From 1C

pretty much the catalyst for us."

Payton Hastings, Lyndee Walker, Madison Hastings and Jordan Driver all enjoyed double-digit scoring performances for the Lady Kats in their two wins last week.

"Depth, I think that's our key thing," Crabb said. "The best thing that we have this year that we haven't had in previous two years is just extremely good depth."

Garden City visits rival Sterling City (2-3 in District 14-1A) at 6:30 p.m. today.

MISD TEAMS HOPE TO BUILD OFF OPENING WINS

Midland High (17-9, 1-0 in District 2-6A) and Lee (12-11, 1-0) find themselves in a three-way tie for first with Amarillo Tascosa (14-9, 1-0) following last Friday's opening games of District 2-6A play.

Lee held off a late charge by Odessa Permian in a 42-41 road win, while MHS upended defending co-District 2-6A champion Wolfforth Frenship 44-41 at home.

Lee hosts defending co-District 2-6A champion Tascosa at 6 p.m. today at Chaparral Center. Meanwhile, the Lady Bulldogs visit Permian (10-10, 0-1) at the same tip-off time.

Follow Christopher on Twitter: @chris_MRTsports

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

PG Lela Beattie, So., Midland Classical — Beattie averaged 18.3 points in the Lady Knights' three games in three days, which included a 33-point effort in MCA's 64-42 victory over Andrews Friday.

District 2-6A Girls Basketball Standings

Team	Overall W	Overall L	District W	District L
Midland High	1	0	17	8
Tascosa	1	0	14	9
Lee	1	0	12	11
Frenship	0	1	19	6
Permian	0	1	10	10
Odessa High	0	1	5	17

Friday's Scores

Midland High 44, Wolfforth Frenship 41; Lee 42, Odessa Permian 41; Amarillo Tascosa 66, Odessa High 35

Today's Games

Amarillo Tascosa vs. Lee at Chaparral Center, Midland High at Odessa Permian, Odessa High at Wolfforth Frenship, all games at 6 p.m.

HONOR ROLL

PG Payge Grable, Sr., Stanton – Grable had 23 points in the Lady Buffaloes' 48-34 win over Andrews on Jan. 2. Grable averaged 16.0 points in Stanton's two contests.

PG Alaysha Green, Sr., Lee – Green scored a team-high 12 points to lead the Lady Rebels to a 42-41 road win over Odessa Permian in Friday's District 2-6A opener.

SG/SF Rae Johnson, Sr., Andrews – The versatile 5-foot-11 Johnson averaged 17 points in the Lady Mustangs' two games. The senior scored a team-high 19 points in Friday's 64-42 loss to MCA.

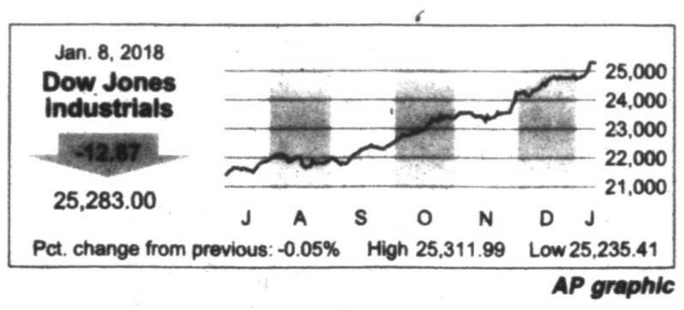
G Natalee Karcher, Sr., Greenwood – Karcher led the Rangerettes with 16 points in Friday's District 4-4A opener, a 61-34 win over Pecos.

PG Taysha Rushton, So., Midland High – She had a game-high 13 points to propel the Lady Bulldogs to a 44-41 win over defending co-District 2-6A champion Frenship on Friday.

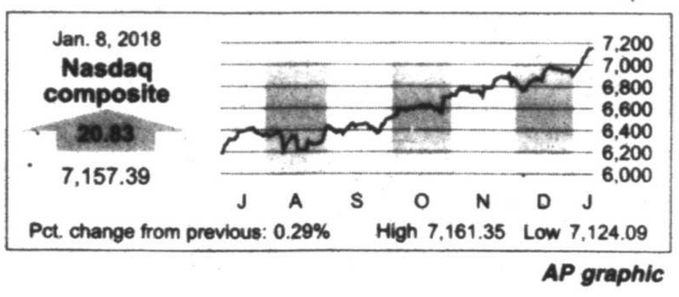
F Lyndee Walker, Jr., Garden City – Walker averaged 12.0 points in the Lady Kats' two wins, a 72-14 victory over Bronte Wednesday and a 61-50 defeat of MCA Thursday.

BUSINESS & OIL

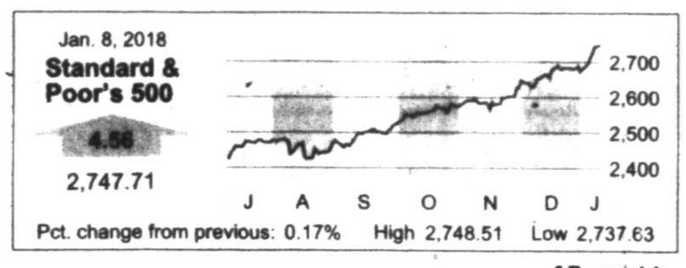
A DAY ON WALL STREET



AP graphic



AP graphic



AP graphic

OIL PRICES

FUTURES

Monday: $61.73
Previous: $61.44

POSTED

Monday: $58.00
Previous: $58.00

WEST TEXAS SOUR

Monday: $55.65
Previous: $55.65

NATURAL GAS

Monday: $2.835
Previous: $2.795

NYSE

Most Active ($1 or more)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
GenElec	786584	18.28	-.25
S&P500ETF	451042	273.92	+.49
SPDR Fncl	437297	28.87	-.04
BkofAm	412800	30.12	-.20
iShEMkts	347950	49.13	...

Gainers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
NavroCorp	81.33	+10.24	+14.4
LightInBox	2.81	+.33	+13.3
WtWatch	52.62	+5.71	+12.2
EmergeES	8.88	+.86	+11.0
Vipshop	13.58	+1.21	+9.8

Losers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
MicrFoc n	29.92	-5.76	-16.6
Invitae n	8.63	-1.42	-14.1
DaqoNEn	55.85	-8.93	-13.8
FiveOaks	3.52	-.43	-10.9
DBDogs22	24.13	-2.93	-10.8

Diary

Advanced	1,699
Declined	1,221
Unchanged	103
Total issues	3,023
New Highs	250
New Lows	21
Volume	3,066,748,140

AMEX

Most Active ($1 or more)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
22ndCentry	96538	3.38	+.18
NwGold g	54394	3.25	-.18
DigitalPwr	49009	2.39	-.46
Amtiph rs	46952	1.87	+.50
Paratem rs	47780	2.66	-.17

Gainers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Skyline	22.00	+3.00	+15.8
US Geoth rs	3.81	+.49	+14.8
StneEn wt	5.25	+.63	+13.5
StneEn wt	5.15	+.51	+11.0
IntelligSys	4.83	+.43	+9.7

Losers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
DigitalPwr	2.39	-.46	-16.1
Regt-B pfA	7.46	-.75	-9.1
GeoGroup	2.55	-.22	-7.9
SwGA Fn	20.05	-1.71	-7.8
Plexus	3.16	-.22	-6.5

Diary

Advanced	171
Declined	180
Unchanged	21
Total issues	372
New Highs	17
New Lows	3
Volume	203,643,283

NASDAQ

Most Active ($1 or more)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
GoPro	582522	6.56	-.96
MicronT	312472	45.55	-.25
Intel	298442	44.74	...
SeagateT	216727	46.00	+3.06
PwShs QQQ	215932	162.55	+.63

Gainers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
MySize n	2.86	+1.20	+72.3
Atlyns n	38.62	+12.71	+49.1
DeltaTch h	2.34	+.52	+28.6
DragVic n	5.83	+1.13	+24.0
TandmD rs	3.11	+.59	+23.4

Losers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Axovant n	2.31	-3.06	-57.0
DaveBuster	43.79	-12.58	-22.3
OxfordImm	11.39	-2.67	-19.0
YangPuD n	7.10	-1.43	-16.8
NatuMed	30.40	-6.00	-16.5

Diary

Advanced	1,467
Declined	1,449
Unchanged	187
Total issues	3,103
New Highs	250
New Lows	32
Volume	1,933,445,134

New Neiman Marcus CEO faces steep challenge of $4.8 billion debt

By Lindsey Rupp, Emma Orr
Bloomberg

Geoffroy van Raemdonck has spent his career at global fashion companies such as Ralph Lauren and Louis Vuitton.

But it will take more than an eye for style to fix the problems at Neiman Marcus Group Ltd., a quintessentially American luxury department-store chain hoping to relive its former glory. Van Raemdonck, who becomes chief executive officer next month, is taking over a retailer facing heavy losses, an industrywide traffic slowdown and — worse — nearly $5 billion in debt.

The pressure means the executive won't have much of a honeymoon after taking the job on Feb. 12. Neiman Marcus needs to stem the red ink and hammer out a deal with creditors to restructure debt, all while navigating the broader travails of brick-and-mortar retail. Though Neiman Marcus has shown signs of reviving sales growth — and generating more revenue from e-commerce — it's unclear if the just-ended holiday season was kind to department stores.

"As the rising tide lifts all, the sinking tide sinks all as well," said Noel Hebert, a credit analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence.

In hiring van Raemdonck, Neiman Marcus picked a leader who spent much of his career at big fashion brands. He headed up Ralph Lauren's operations in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, and held a number of roles at Louis Vuitton. He also ran St. John Knits International Inc.

Current CEO Karen Katz, in contrast, has spent decades at the luxury chain, including seven in the top job. But it's unclear how an outside perspective will help with Neiman Marcus's financial woes.

The company is contending with a common plight in the retail industry: the hangover of leveraged buyouts. The nearly 110-year-old business was bought for $6 billion in 2013 by Ares Management and the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board. They acquired the chain from TPG Capital and Warburg Pincus, which purchased Neiman Marcus for about $5 billion in a 2005 buyout.

The chain was poised for an initial public offering, but management scrapped those plans in January 2017. That was followed by speculation that Hudson's Bay Co., the owner of Saks Fifth Avenue, would make a bid. Those hopes fizzled last summer when Katz said bluntly: "Any conversations regarding any kind of transactions are terminated."

That left the company to fix its problems on its own, and it has made some progress. Same-store sales — a key measure — rose 4.2 percent last quarter. That was the first increase in more than two years. Still, the retailer reported a loss of $26.2 million in the period.

And even though this Christmas season was probably one of the best in a decade, that's no guarantee Neiman Marcus reaped an outsized share of those benefits. Two other department-store chains, Macy's and J.C. Penney, underwhelmed investors with their preliminary holiday numbers.

Even if Neiman Marcus gets a nice bump for the holidays, the Dallas-based company's total sales are still declining — and below the level required to maintain a roughly $4.8 billion debt load.

That means the company will need to renegotiate its terms in the next year, said S&P Global Ratings analyst Mathew Christy.

"The fourth quarter is usually the period where they pull in most of their cash flow, but we still expect the company as of right now to have overall negative sales for the full year with declining margins," he said. "We expect the company to enter some sort of restructuring within 12 months."

Groups of Neiman Marcus lenders and bondholders have already banded together. They've also hired lawyers and advisers to assist in the talks.

Neiman Marcus does have one advantage at a time when retailers are closing hundreds of underperforming locations: It only operates about 40 physical stores, and they're generally in desirable areas.

It's also built a solid e-commerce operation and partnered with startups like Rent the Runway to attract younger consumers. But it's getting more expensive for retailers to maintain market share, said Moody's Investors Service analyst Christina Boni.

"In this environment, the requirements of investment and infrastructure and the like mean that companies just can't be as levered as they once historically were," Boni said.

In other words, you have to be lean and nimble — and not buried in debt. "They need to get to a point where they have a structure that gives them the financial flexibility to be able to make investments," she said.

Neiman Marcus's depressed bond prices reflect a consensus that creditors are likely to take a loss in any scenario, but they have rallied recently. Its $960 million of 8 percent notes due in 2021 climbed almost 4 cents Thursday to trade at 64 cents on the dollar, up from an all-time low of 51 cents in September, according to the Trace bond-price reporting data. The notes were down half a cent on the dollar Friday.

A major problem for Neiman Marcus — and other retailers with high debt loads — is that its terms were determined when the industry was still thriving, Hebert said. For Neiman, they were based on earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization of about $700 million.

Ebitda, on an adjusted basis, was $433.8 million in fiscal 2017 and $584.9 million the year before. That means even if creditors accept a debt exchange where they're getting 50 or 60 cents on the dollar, that may not be enough, Hebert said.

"It still leaves them too levered," he said.

Van Raemdonck will have to find ways to generate money from the company's remaining assets, like real estate and subsidiaries such as the site MyTheresa, Hebert said. With its current debt levels, an outright sale of the company — either to another private equity buyer or to a strategic partner — seems unlikely.

Stocks erase morning losses, continuing strong start to year

NEW YORK — The stock market's perfect start to the year rolled on, and the Standard & Poor's 500 index shook off a bit of weakness on Monday to tick further into record territory.

Stocks had dipped in early trading, and the S&P 500 appeared to be on pace for its first down day of the year. But accelerating gains for dividend-paying and technology stocks helped offset losses in the health care industry, and the S&P 500 eked out a fifth straight gain. Other U.S. indexes edged higher or held close to their record levels.

The S&P 500 rose 4.56 points, or 0.2 percent, to 2,747.71. The last time the index led off a year with more consecutive gains was in 2010, when it had six.

The Dow Jones industrial average slipped 12.87, or 0.1 percent, to 25,283.00, the Nasdaq composite rose 20.83, or 0.3 percent, to 7,157.39 and the Russell 2000 index of small-cap stocks gained 1.80, or 0.1 percent, to 1,561.81.

One of the biggest gains in the S&P 500 came from Kohl's, which jumped after it raised its earnings forecast for the year.

Metal prices fall

Gold fell $1.90 to $1,320.40 per ounce, silver lost 14 cents to $17.14 per ounce and copper dipped a penny to $3.22 per pound.

MIDLAND STOCKS

Midland-Headquartered Publicly Traded Companies

Concho Resources (CXO)
Closing Price $156.04 Up 0.44

Dawson Geophysical (DWSN)
Closing Price $6.16 Up 0.71

Diamondback Energy (FANG)
Closing Price $130.99 Up 1.01

Legacy Reserves (LGCY)
Closing Price $1.61 Up 0.05

Mexco Energy (MXC)
Closing Price $4.41 Down 0.29

Natural Gas Services Group (NGS)
Closing Price $28.15 Up 0.75

ProPetro Holdings (PUMP)
Closing Price $19.85 Up 0.12

RSP Permian (RSPP)
Closing Price $41.69 Up 0.51

Ring Energy (REI)
Closing Price $14.75 Down 0.04

Viper Energy Partners (VNOM)
Closing Price $23.30 Down 0.08

HOW STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST FARED

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
AK Steel	...	18	6.64	+.03	+17.3
AT&T Inc	2.00f	14	38.24	+.11	-1.7
Abraxas	...	63	2.81	+.05	+2.9
AdvDvsEq	1.32a	...	15.42	+.04	+2.5
AMD	...	...	12.28	+.40	+19.5
Alibaba	...	54	190.33	-.37	+10.4
AlpAlerMLP	1.35e	...	11.38	+.03	+5.5
Ambev	.05e	6	6.62	-.05	+2.5
Amgen	5.20e	19	180.60	-.05	+3.9
Anadarko	.20	...	65.39	+.37	+3.3
Apache	1.00	...	45.62	-.47	+6.8
Apple Inc	2.52	20	174.35	-.65	+3.0
ApldMatl	.40	18	55.92	+1.32	+9.4
Archrock	.48	...	9.75	+.10	-7.1
ATMOS	1.80	24	83.45	+.26	-2.9
AutoData	2.52f	31	117.84	-.36	+.5
Axovant n	...	...	2.31	-3.06	-56.2
BP PLC	2.36	31	43.98	-.02	+2.5
BkofAm	.48	17	30.12	-.20	+2.0
B PVxST rs	...	...	25.96	-.30	-6.9
BeringsCp s	1.20	...	15.32	-.16	+.4
BasicEnS	...	...	.45	...	...
BerkHa A	...	25304180.00	285501.02		+2.2
BkHlltsCp	1.76	17	57.85	+.44	-3.9
BlackBerry	...	17	14.12	+.22	+26.4
BostonSci	...	18	25.61	-.18	+4.1
BrkfldRe	1.06f	22	61.61	+.02	+1.0
BrookPA s	.79	40	67.22	+.23	+3
BrownFB s	.79	...	69.80	+.40	-.1
CVS Health	2.00	14	77.77	-.65	+7.3
CallonPet	...	39	12.82	+.14	+9.0
Calpine	...	...	15.05	-.03	-.5
Caterpillar	3.12	43	106.03	+4.07	+5.4
Celestica g	...	8	10.77	+.08	+2.6
Celgene	...	26	104.18	-.81	-.2
CitryLink	2.16	6	17.23	+.23	+3.3
Closing	...	7	3.97	+.01	+.8
Cloverdn	4.32	65	139.03	+.63	+2.7
Cliffs	.39	13	9.12	+.35	+3.4
Cimarex	.32	34	128.24	+.42	+5.1
Cisco	1.16	21	33.94	+.41	+4.3
Citigroup	1.28	14	74.53	-.88	+.2
CoastEnla	1.48	28	68.80	-.07	+.3
ColgPalm	1.68	28	75.63	+.11	+.1

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
Comcast s	.63	20	40.48	-.56	+1.5
ConAgra	.85	20	37.82	-.64	-.4
ConchoRes	...	...	156.04	+.38	+3.9
ConocoPhil	1.56	46	57.46	+.59	+4.7
CracklerB	4.80	30	170.61	+3.37	+7.4
CrosTim	.92e	15	15.21	+.12	+3.6
DCP Mid	3.12	54	38.34	...	+5.5
DTE	3.30	21	106.98	+.76	-2.3
DeltaTch h	...	...	2.34	+.52	+120.8
DenburyR	...	...	2.28	-.03	+3.2
DevonE	.24	62	43.25	+.14	+4.5
DrGMBll rs	...	...	17.40	-.82	-2.0
Disney	1.68f	19	110.01	-1.61	+2.3
EOG Resce	.67	...	112.71	+.65	+4.4
EldorGld g	.02e	26	1.32	-.09	-7.7
Energen	.08	...	59.22	+.84	+2.9
Energous	...	...	23.44	+1.47	+20.5
EnPro	.80	62	92.12	-.49	-1.5
ENSCO	.04	...	7.08	+.37	+19.8
EntProPt	1.68f	22	27.77	+.04	+4.8
Ericsson	.11e	...	6.79	-.02	+1.6
Exelon	1.31	15	38.60	+.41	-2.1
ExxonMbl	3.09	34	87.14	+.44	+4.2
Facebook	...	35	188.25	+1.43	+6.7
FBfull n	...	...	5.65	-.25	-1.1
Fordm	.60a	12	13.15	-.04	+5.3
FrptMcM	...	...	19.61	-.08	+4.5
GATX	1.68	19	63.60	+.49	+2.3
GabelliET	.54e	...	9.35	-.01	+1.6
GAMer	1.15e	...	36.01	+.23	+1.8
GenElec	.48	15	18.28	-.25	+4.6
GenMotors	1.52	7	44.22	+.21	+7.9
Gerdau	.02e	...	4.30	+.16	+15.6
GoPro	...	...	6.56	-.96	-13.3
GlPhlnEn	1.19	18	91.80	+.19	-3.0
Halliblrtn	.72	...	52.22	+.47	+7.0
HP Ent n	.36f	37	14.62	-.24	+3.2
HuntBncsh	.44f	18	14.95	-.03	+2.7
iShGold	...	...	12.69	...	+1.4
iShBrazil	.67e	...	42.67	-.17	+5.5
iShEMkts	.59e	...	49.13	...	+4.5
iS Eafe	1.69e	...	72.33	-.02	+2.9
iShR2K	1.77e	...	155.03	+.24	+1.7
InspMD rs	...	...	.20	+.07	+57.8

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
Intel	1.00	19	44.74	...	-3.1
InterDig	1.40	11	80.85	+1.00	+6.2
IlauUnibM	.32e	...	13.86	-.19	+6.7
JD.com	...	27	46.10	+.46	+11.3
JPMorgCh	2.24f	16	108.50	+.16	+1.5
JohnJn	3.36	21	141.89	+.17	+1.6
KimbClk	3.88	20	119.43	+1.22	-1.0
KindMorg	.50	35	18.86	-.09	+4.4
Kohls	2.20	15	56.90	+2.54	+4.9
Kroger s	.50	14	27.97	+.65	+1.9
LegacyRes	...	...	1.62	+.06	+.7
Lubys	...	...	2.68	+.09	+1.5
Macys	1.51	8	24.44	-.04	-3.0
McDnlds	4.04f	30	173.93	-.18	+1.1
Merck	1.92f	15	56.66	-.33	+.7
MeritMed	...	53	45.35	+.65	+5.0
MexcoEn	...	...	4.31	-.29	+9.7
MicronT	...	10	45.55	-.25	+10.8
Microsoft	1.68	31	88.28	+.09	+3.2
MySize n	...	...	2.86	+1.20	+341.4
Nabors	.24	...	7.47	+.29	+9.4
NGMVanco	.20	...	38.71	+.50	+7.5
NiluSv s	.80f	28	64.55	+.57	+3.2
NSTPB	.85e	...	18.02	+.09	-1.1
NTXGI	.65	...	14.35	-.05	-.1
Nvidia	.40f	61	222.00	+6.60	+14.7
OcciPet	3.08	...	76.19	+.82	+2.1
OhrPhar h	...	...	.39	+.01	-79.1
Oracle	.76	21	46.96	+.51	+3.6
PDC Engy	...	...	59.55	+.39	+3.9
Pandora	...	...	4.85	-.32	+.8
ParTech	...	23	9.25	-.07	-1.3
ParkDrl	...	...	1.17	-.09	+17.9
PetMEI	.88	...	54.39	+.61	+6.8
Pfizer	...	19	3.71	+.10	+17.4
PennWEst	.84	14	11.77	+.04	+1.0
Pmtan	.63e	24	8.71	-.09	-1.8
Petrobras	...	...	11.22	+.14	+9.0
Pfizer	1.20	15	35.48	+.41	+.6
PlrNtl	.08	...	178.53	+2.14	+3.3
PlnsAAP	2.20	27	22.69	+.24	+9.2
PwShs QQQ	1.52e	...	162.55	+.63	+4.4
Prasair	3.16	29	161.31	...	+4.5
PrmEgy	...	...	52.60	+.35	+1.8
PUVxST rs	...	...	8.77	-.22	-14.1

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
ProctGam	2.76f	23	91.71	+.47	-.2
RangeRs	.06	18	16.85	+.09	-1.2
RiteAid	...	...	1.98	-.05	+.5
Roku n	...	...	47.47	+1.19	-8.3
Rowan	.40	10	17.02	-.05	+8.7
RoyDShllA	3.76	...	69.06	+.02	+3.5
SpdrDJIA	3.96e	...	252.59	-.18	+2.1
S&P500ETF	4.13e	...	273.92	+.49	+2.6
SpdrLehHY	2.30	...	36.99	-.04	+.7
SabrR	2.31e	22	46.20	+.50	+3.6
SanderFm	1.20f	11	134.43	+.88	-3.1
Schlmbrg	2.00	58	74.80	+1.20	+11.0
SeagateT	2.52	12	46.00	+3.06	+9.9
SiriusXM	.04f	30	5.31	-.02	-.9
Smucker	3.12f	16	126.69	+1.14	+2.0
Snapinc A n	...	...	14.06	-.45	-3.6
SwstnEngy	...	41	5.73	+.14	+2.7
Sprint	...	...	5.80	...	-1.5
Square n	...	...	40.76	-.38	+17.6
SP CnSt	1.28e	...	57.07	+.14	+.3
SPDR Fncl	.46e	...	28.87	-.04	+1.6
SP Util	1.55e	...	51.81	+.46	-1.7
TaleoEsp	1.20e	...	19.00	-.89	+3.3
Tesla Inc	...	...	335.41	+19.83	+8.0
TevaPhrm	.73e	6	19.12	-.10	+.9
3M Co	4.70	25	239.79	-.69	+1.9

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
TimeWarn	1.61	15	93.06	-.54	+1.7
Torchmark	.60	20	91.33	+.26	+.7
Transocn	...	11	11.88	+.26	+11.2
TriContl	1.00e	...	27.29	+.10	+1.3
Twitter	...	...	24.59	+.27	+2.4
TylerTech	...	58	185.19	+.80	+4.6
UBSI	1.36f	18	35.05	+.25	+.9
USSteel	.20	...	39.42	+.93	+12.0
Vale SA	.29e	...	13.32	+.23	+8.9
ValeantPh	...	6	23.11	-.74	+11.2
ValeroE	2.80	25	94.25	+.22	+2.5
VanEGold	.06e	...	23.42	-.25	+.8
VEckOilSvc	.47e	...	28.38	+.50	+8.9
VangEmg	1.10e	...	47.87	+.01	+4.3
VerizonCm	2.36	11	52.39	-.09	-1.0
Vipshop	...	28	13.58	+1.21	+15.9
VulcanM	1.00	42	133.94	+2.04	+4.3
WEC Engy	2.21f	22	65.43	+.55	-1.5
WalgBoots	1.60	15	73.85	+.93	+1.7
WeatherInt	...	...	4.05	+.18	-2.9
WellsFargo	1.56f	15	62.04	-.71	+2.3
WstnUnion	.70	12	21.49	+.93	+13.0
WmsCos	1.20	56	32.58	+.13	+6.9
XcelEngy	1.44	20	47.14	+.36	-2.0
Xerox rs	1.00	11	30.26	+.34	+3.8

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Send your favorite to sdoreen@mrt.com or mmcewen@mrt.com.
We will regularly update the Permian Basin stocks list.

INDEXES

52-Week High	Low	Name	Last	Chg	Net %Chg	YTD % Chg	52-wk % Chg
25,299.79	19,677.94	Dow Jones Industrials	25,283.00	-12.87	-.05	+2.28	+27.13
10,089.83	6,744.35	Dow Jones Transportation	10,907.83	+85.69	+.79	+3.63	+21.89
778.60	568.34	Dow Jones Utilities	707.87	+7.13	+1.02	-2.14	+8.37
13,104.52	11,094.29	NYSE Composite	13,114.35	+11.12	+.08	+2.39	+17.41
7,187.04	5,397.99	Nasdaq Composite	7,157.39	+20.83	+.29	+3.68	+29.39
2,743.45	2,245.26	S&P 500	2,747.71	+4.56	+.17	+2.77	+21.10
1,998.82	1,659.04	S&P Midcap	1,946.11	+9.84	+.51	+2.40	+16.52
28,459.99	23,479.42	Wilshire 5000	28,503.52	+82.97	+.22	+2.55	+20.15
1,560.83	1,335.03	Russell 2000	1,561.80	+1.79	+.11	+1.71	+15.05

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit ***www.sudoku.org.uk***

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

SOLUTION TO MONDAY'S PUZZLE

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

1/9/18

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JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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

LANAV

USEGS

REVUDO

TEELTK

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Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

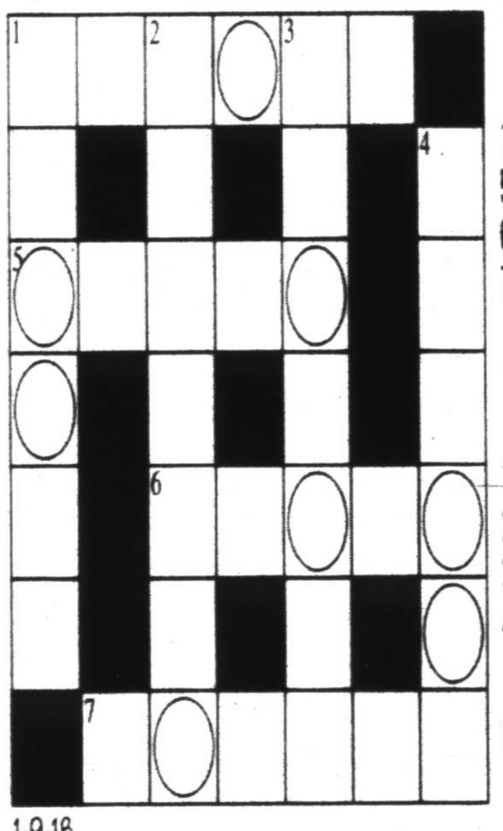
Print your answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SIGHT AMAZE LESSON BUCKET
Answer: As the cruise ship rocked, the struggling crew and passengers were — IN THE SAME BOAT

JUMBLE® CROSSWORDS™

by David L. Hoyt



ACROSS

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Place of worship	NRESIH
5. Synthetic material	LNONY
6. Type of performer	CROAT
7. Dredge, say	PENEDE

DOWN

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Crooner	GNSREI
2. ___ form	SLEAEER
3. ___ flight	SPOOTNN
4. Customer	AORNPT

How to play - Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

1-9-18

CLUE: This makes up about 78 percent of the Earth's atmosphere.

BONUS

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ANSWERS: 1A-Shrine 5A-Nylon 6A-Actor 7A-Deepen 1D-Shaper 2D-Release 3D-Nonstop 4D-Patron 5D-Nirvana

Send comments to TCA - 435 N. Michigan Ave., Third Floor, Chicago, IL 60611 or DLHoyt@aol.com.

DAILY CROSSWORD

Edited By Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Groups of orcas
5 Quaint "Holy moly!"
9 Teases
14 Scott Turow memoir
15 Stubborn critter
16 Calendario page
17 *Crimes of violence, e.g.
20 School sport, or its setting
21 Inheritance recipient
22 "Singin' in the Rain" dance style
23 *Jungle gym
26 Operatic princess
27 Mo. with no holidays
28 Patriotic org. since 1890
29 Lightly colored
31 Fraction of a min.
33 Go quickly
36 Golden __: seniors
37 *Not-so-humorous humerus spot
40 Formal will?
43 Trampled (on)
44 Doesn't keep up
48 Lightweight straw hat
50 Swiffer product
52 Divide before the deal
53 Departure notice?
54 *Young boy's role model
58 Game with matchsticks
59 *Catch a Falling Star" singer Perry
60 Verdi opera "__ Miller"
61 Fledgling enterprise ... and what the first word of the answers to starred clues can literally do
65 __ limits: extremes
66 The life of Riley
67 Folk singer Burl
68 Snorkeling spots
69 Inventor's spark
70 Formally surrender

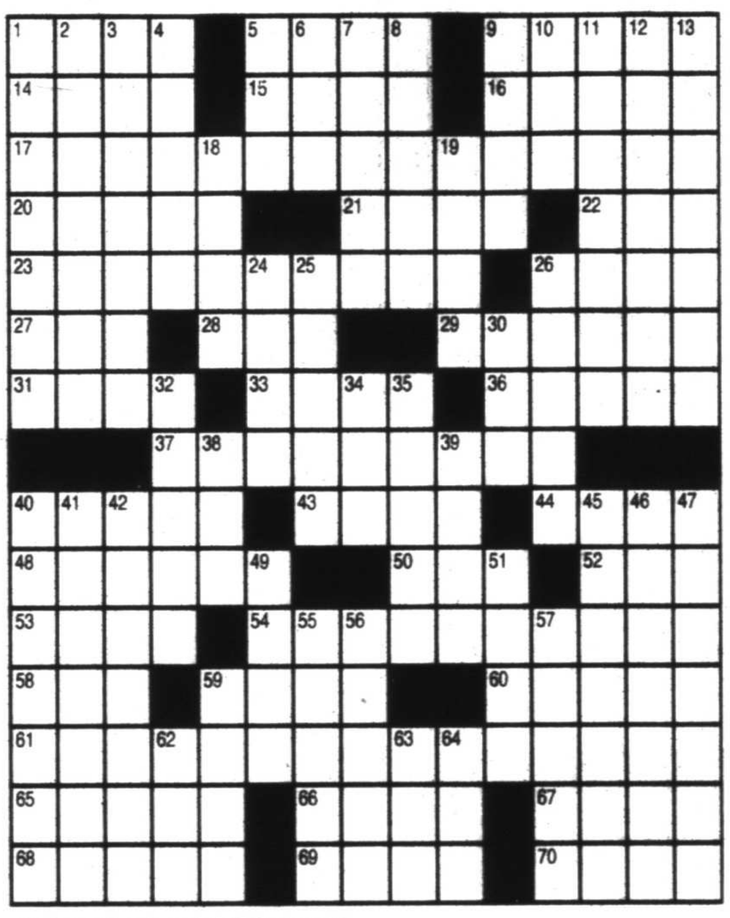
DOWN

1 One who "rings twice," in an old film
2 Burdensome
3 Drive up the wall
4 Smooth-talking
5 Avian Aussie
6 Astronaut Grissom
7 "Welcome to Oahu!"
8 Schedule for later
9 Boo and hiss
10 Stopover with a "keeper"
11 Slight trace
12 Barnes & Noble Nook, for one
13 Steel wool scrubbers
18 Gave one's blessing to
19 It may be pumped in victory
24 Knitting need
25 Full force
26 Well-behaved tot
30 English golfer Poulter
32 Key equivalent to B
34 Damascus is its cap.
35 Weapon in a 1952 test
38 Einstein's birth city
39 Baking-soda-in-the-fridge target
40 One buying time, perhaps
41 Regular patron
42 Bring to life, as cartoons
45 Accomplish
46 Acted desperately on "Jeopardy!," perhaps
47 German street
49 "__ Ben Adhem"
51 __ sci
55 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame architect
56 Spoil
57 Roman garment of yore
59 NBA big men: Abbr.
62 Whistler between baskets
63 Take advantage of
64 Beach house view

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

J	A	D	E		G	A	R	B	O		S	C	A	M
A	M	I	R		A	R	E	A	R		T	O	R	A
N	A	D	A		L	I	B	R	E		R	O	A	N
U	Z	I		P	L	E	A	D	G	U	I	L	T	Y
S	E	T	S	A	I	L		A	R	F				
			A	P	U		A	N	N	E	T	T	E	
	P	O	K	E	M	O	N	G	O			H	A	W
T	U	N	E	R		G	I	A		G	N	O	M	E
A	L	T			P	E	E	R	G	R	O	U	P	
D	I	V	U	L	G	E			A	I	D			
			N	O	R		C	R	E	E	P	E	R	
P	E	R	S	I	A	N	G	U	L	F		I	L	A
A	L	O	E		T	I	A	R	A		E	Q	U	I
S	K	U	A		E	N	D	I	N		F	U	D	D
T	E	X	T		D	O	S	E	D		T	E	E	S

xwordeditor@aol.com 01/09/18



By Bruce Venzke and Gail Grabowski
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01/09/18

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1.

J U
T S

2.

CAL WEATHER

Print Your Answers Here:

1.

2.

Today's Answers:

1. Just around the corner
2. Local weather

1-9

Created by Tom Underwood
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WUZZLES® Answers

1. Just around the corner
2. Local weather

1-9

There's a little bit of everything in

Education

Look for it in Tuesday's edition of the Reporter-Telegram

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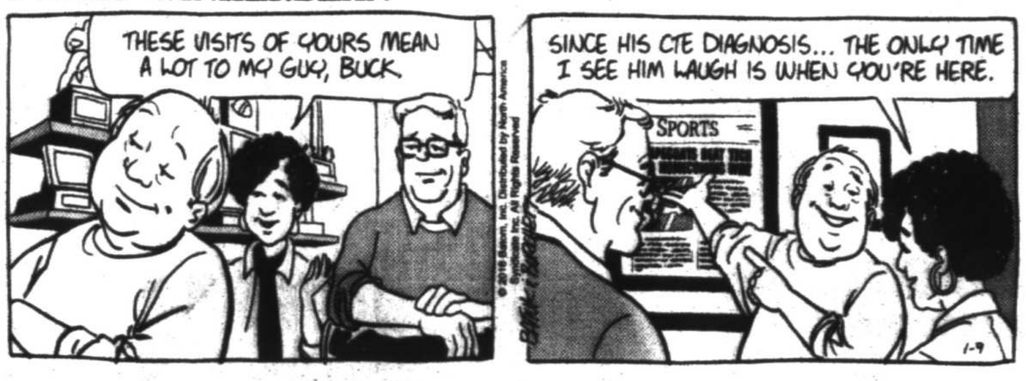
FUNKY WINKERBEAN



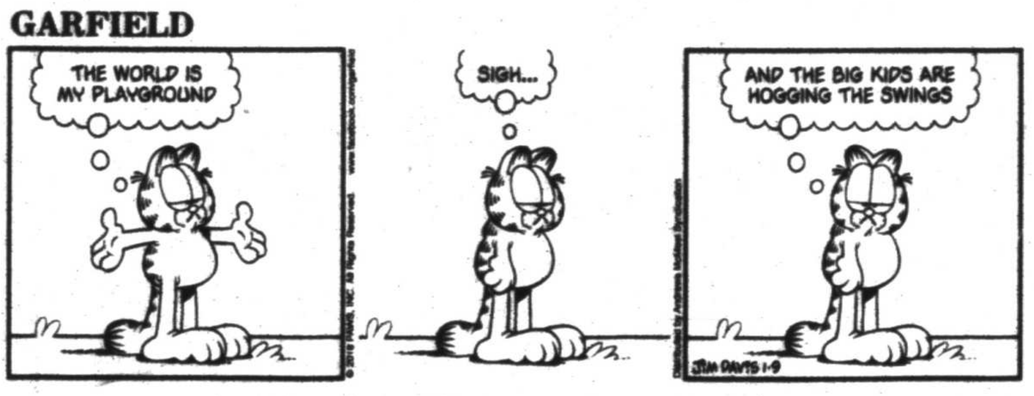
BLONDIE

BEETLE BAILEY

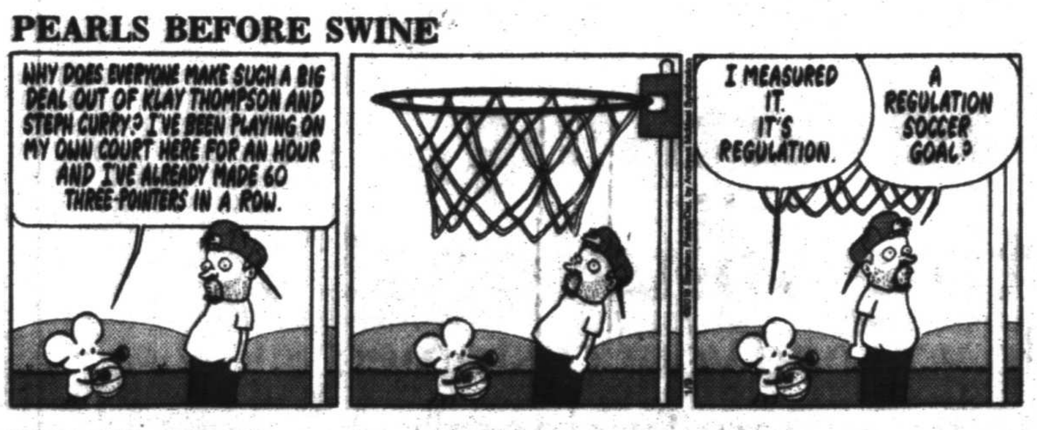
CLASSIC PEANUTS

SHOE

GARFIELD

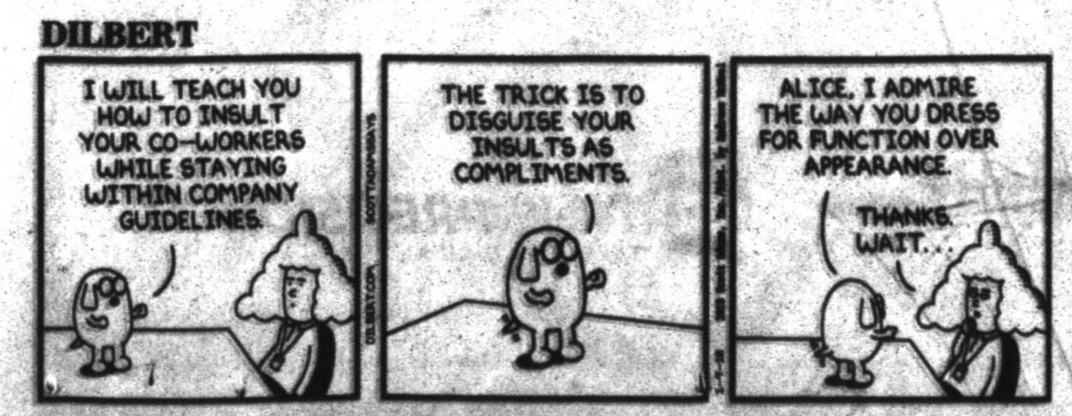


PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



WIZARD OF ID

DILBERT



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

LUANN

MARY WORTH

ZITS

BABY BLUES

MUTTS

CLOSE TO HOME

"COOL! Okay, let's put the Barbie dolls in!"

DENNIS THE MENACE

"WHAT DO YOU THINK HE'LL BE WHEN HE GROWS UP?" "MAYBE...75."

LOCKHORNS

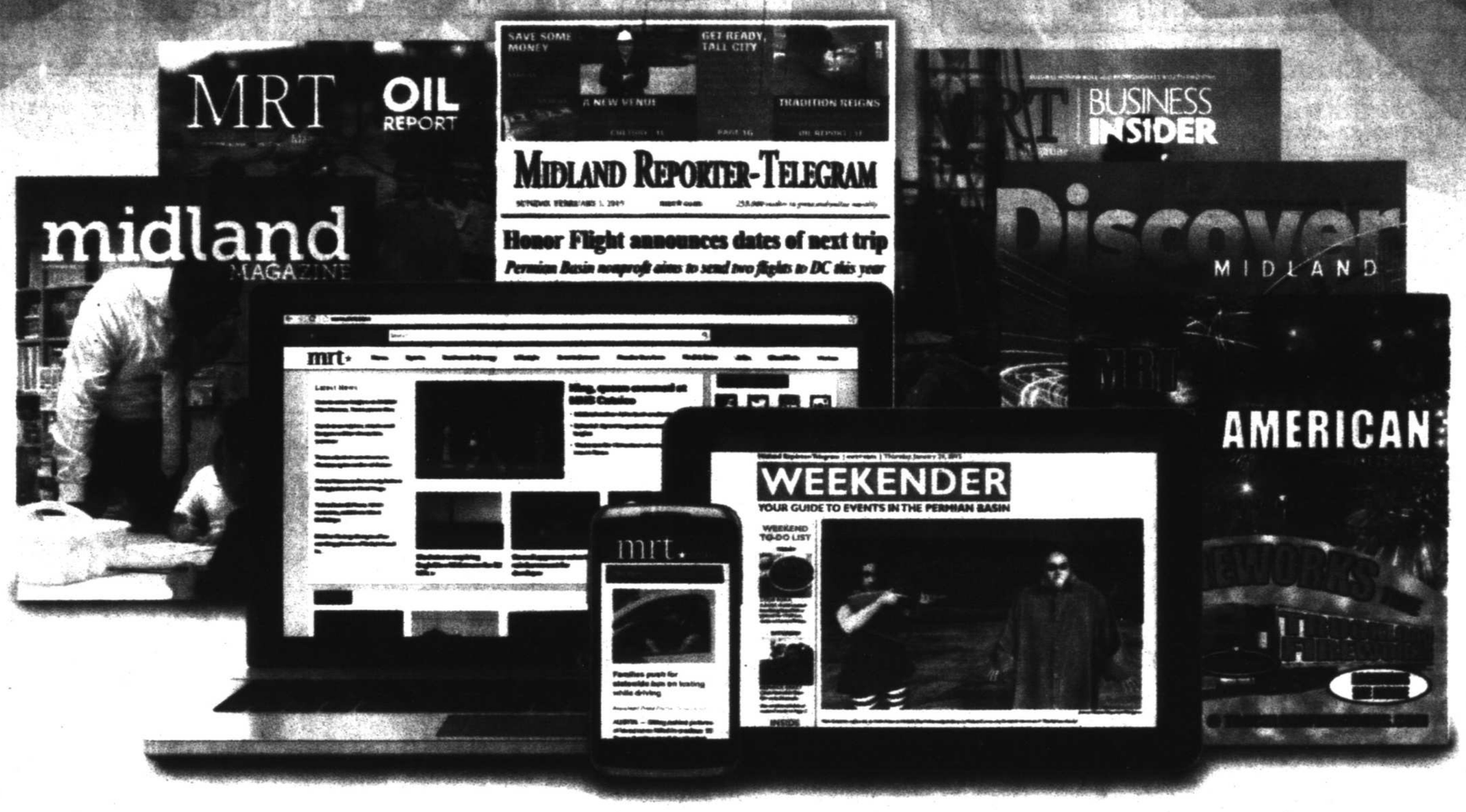
"HOLD THAT... I WANT TO SEE IF MOTHER'S BED WILL FIT."

FAMILY CIRCUS

"Mommy! Guess how many slices of bread are in a loaf!"

Midland Reporter-Telegram
Media Group

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



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PLANT OPERATOR NEEDED IMMEDIATELY: Experience preferred but not required. Gas Plant knowledge is a plus. Location near Rankin Tx. Fax resume to (432)683-2132 or mail to Benedum Gas Plant, HC 34, Box 63, Midkiff, Tx 79755

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Male Specimen Collector

Now hiring Male Specimen Collector. Please come by to apply at 711 W. Indiana Ave, Midland.

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Midland County is currently seeking a Drug Court Magistrate. Requirements include being a Midland County resident, current license to practice law, and being certified and in good standing with the State Bar of Texas. Benefits will begin after the 91st day of employment and include health, paid time off, and retirement. Please see our website: www.co.miland.tx.us/departments/hr/pages/employment.aspx for more details, pay, and applications. To be consider you must send a completed application with job reference numbers to the address indicated on the application.

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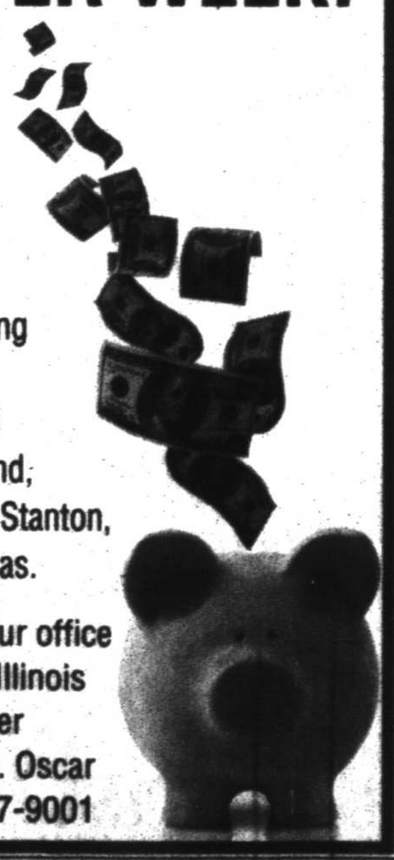

Please come by our office located at 201 E. Illinois and fill out a carrier information sheet. Oscar Ronquillo 432-687-9001

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Part Time Day Associate • MUST BE DEPENDABLE

Must be able to work Monday thru Saturday from 8am-6pm. Tuesday will be here later till about 8 or 9 pm. Need to be able to work on your feet thru 6-8 hour shift. Will work at night occassionally. We will train the right person.

$11.00 per hour

These positions require some physical lifting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr. shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspaper bundles. Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.

Apply in person at: 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk • Monday - Friday 8-5 or email: jmaddox@hearstnp.com

NOPHONECALL SPLEASE

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN ITS DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR NIGHT TIME ASSOCIATE

Night time associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE

Must be able to count at a fast pace. Be able to work between the hours of 12-6 am Sunday night thru Friday night and be able to work Saturday night 8pm-4am. Will be working inside and outside depending on the job you are doing that night. Will be 5-6 nights per week. We will train the right person.

$11.00 per hour

These positions require some physical lifting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr. shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspaper bundles. Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.

Apply in person at: 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk • Monday - Friday 8-5 or email: jmaddox@hearstnp.com

NOPHONECALLS PLEASE

Gymnastics Instructor

Coaches needed for class, team and cheerleading. Evening hours. Pay will depend on experience. Call 432-682-4113 for more information.

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Service Technician wanted. Servicing Safety Related equipment. Mechanical aptitude required with attention to detail. Requires licensing through TX State Fire Marshall for Portable Fire Extinguisher within 60 days of hire date. Paid Holidays, Accrued Paid Time Off, Medical Insurance, and 401K. Resume may be submitted by email serviceadmin@blazinsafety.com. Apply at 1000 S Goode St Midland.

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EMPLOYMENT SALES REPRESENTATIVE

The Midland Reporter-Telegram is looking for someone with excellent communication skills to provide outstanding customer service to our Employment customers.

Responsibilities include prospecting new clients, working closely with new and existing clients to develop employment campaigns that provide outstanding results, tracking sales activity, and meeting/ exceeding established monthly sales goals.

Qualified candidates must be a self-starter and possess excellent communication and organizational skills, be detail oriented and assertive, excel in spelling/grammar/punctuation, excel in time management, and possess a positive attitude.

We are willing to train and offer a competitive compensation and benefits package, guaranteed commission for three months and the opportunity to advance your career in an exciting, progressive and innovative organization in one of the fastest growing markets in Texas.

If you want to join a GREAT TEAM and are ready to SUCCEED, please send a resume to: Cranderson@hearstnp.com

Chad Anderson, Advertising Sales Manager 201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX 79701. No phone calls please.

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The Midland Reporter-Telegram is looking for someone with excellent communication skills to provide outstanding customer service to our Retail Advertising customers.

Responsibilities include prospecting new clients, working closely with new and existing clients to develop multi-media advertising campaigns that provide outstanding results, tracking sales activity, and meeting/ exceeding established monthly sales goals.

Qualified candidates must be a self-starter and possess excellent communication and organizational skills, be detail oriented and assertive, excel in spelling/grammar/punctuation, excel in time management, and possess a positive attitude.

We are willing to train and offer a competitive compensation and benefits package, guaranteed commission for three months and the opportunity to advance your career in an exciting, progressive and innovative organization in one of the fastest growing markets in Texas.

If you want to join a GREAT TEAM and are ready to SUCCEED, please send a resume to: Cranderson@hearstnp.com

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Legal and Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed Bid(s) will be received until 2:00 P.M., January 24, 2018 to be opened at 2:00 P.M. in the Office of the City Secretary City Hall, 300 N. Loraine, Midland, Texas for the following Bid(s):

Bid No. 18000360

For: Police Package Vehicles

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. Loraine, Midland, Texas.

Purchasing Division
City of Midland, Texas

Notice to Physicians and Providers: Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas, a Division of Health Care Service Corporation (Blue Essentials℠ and Blue Advantage HMO℠) administers individual practice association health maintenance organizations that arrange for the provision of both basic and supplemental health services to their members. Any physician or provider can make application to participate in the Blue Essentials and/or Blue Advantage HMO networks, at BCBSTX, 3300 N. A Street, Bldg. 6, Ste. 120, Midland, TX 79705 or Fax: 432-620-1428 from January 12, 2018, until January 31, 2018.

NOTICE TO PHYSICIANS AND PROVIDERS

Applications for participation in DentiCare, Inc.'s network of general and specialty dental commercial providers will be accepted March 1, 2018 through March 20, 2018. The networks included in the DentiCare, Inc. Health Maintenance Organization are: DentiCare Commercial HMO and Advantage Commercial HMO. All applications will be reviewed and responses will be made within 90 days of receipt. To request an application, or for further information please write: Humana, Attention: Specialty Networks-Den, N19 W24133 Riverwood Drive, Suite 100, Waukesha, WI 53188, or email your request to dentalrecruitment@humana.com.

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Legal and Public Notices

Notice to Physicians and Providers
(per TAC § 11.1402)

SHA, L.L.C. dba FirstCare, 12940 N. Hwy 183, Austin, TX 78750, a basic health service, individual practice model health maintenance organization, will accept written applications during the period of February 1, 2018, through February 20, 2018, from physicians and providers who wish to participate in the FirstCare network. FirstCare offers services for the following products: STAR Medicaid and CHIP, Commercial and Federal Marketplace. Marketplace applicants must FirstCare's practice standards and qualifications for acceptance. Applicants will be notified in writing of acceptance or non-acceptance within 90 days after FirstCare receives an application for participation. Applications should be sent to the attention of the Provider Relations Department.

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Lost and Found

FOUND 2 young dogs 1 being a pup. Boyd & Godfrey area. contact 432-699-4032 978-0906 ask for Annette

WORK WANTED
20+ years bookkeeping experience. Proficient with Quickbooks. Email: pj.bookkeeping@yahoo.com. References available.

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CADILLAC 2006 DTS. One owner, 60K actual miles. Garage kept. Have records of all service & oil changes. $9950. 432-212-1830

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Legal and Public Notices

NOTICE TO PHYSICIANS AND PROVIDERS

Humana Behavioral Health, Inc., a Health Maintenance Organization, located at 802 N. Carancahua, Suite 300, Corpus Christi, TX, 78401, will accept applications for the period beginning March 1, 2018, and ending March 20, 2018, from physicians and other health care providers who wish to become participating physicians or providers in their commercial provider networks. The networks included in the Humana Behavioral Health, Inc. Health Maintenance Organization are: Austin HMOx, Corpus Christi HMOx, Houston HMOx, San Antonio HMOx, Waco HMOx, and Texas Premier HMO. Applicants should go to the following website: https://www.humanabehavioralhealth.com/providers/join-our-network/provider-interest-forms/ and complete the applicable interest form. Applicants must meet the credentialing criteria of Humana Behavioral Health, Inc. for acceptance into their respective networks. Applicants will be notified in writing of acceptance or non-acceptance within 90 days after Humana Behavioral Health, Inc. receives an application(s) for participation.

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Cats

LOST: B & W Male Cat Has collar and tags if seen please call Ann @432-889-3515 last seen on Bedford &G St. Wil offer small reward if found!!

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AKC STANDARD POODLE PUPPIES, TAILS SHOWCUT AND DEWCLAWS REMOVED, VET HEALTH CHECKED, PARENTS ON SITE 432-210-4006, 432-212-7362

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Certified buyer pays CA$H for cylinders & cans.
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BUICK 1993 Riviera pearlescent diamond white, with red padded Landau top, SE prestige option package, 1 owner, 91,094 miles, garaged since new. $8,500 firm. 432-218-8869.

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Contract fell through! BEAUTIFULLY REMODELED 3 bedroom 2 baths, 2 car garage, large backyard. $169,000. Open house every Sunday 2-4 until sold. 5121 W. Illinois. 432-683-2243. No owner finance!

Single Family Homes

FOR SALE 17 acres in Nogal Canyon and a home with a spacious living area with a rock fireplace. Property also includes, a courtyard, guest house, barn, shop, two entrances, fully fenced property. Seller will include a 140 acre lot in Ancho with an acceptable offer for this Nogal, NM property. $299,000 Please check out the video: www.211nogalcanyon.com Offered by Darien Ross Associate Broker Pinnacle Real Estate 931 Hwy 48 Alto, NM 88312 575-336-7711 Office 575-973-0117 cell.

Residential Sales

Single Family Homes

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ONE OF the most scenic, spectacular, premier, hunting ranches in West Texas located in the Eagle Mountains near Van Horn, TX. spanning over 10,000 acres with beautiful western style lodge approx. 3 hours from Midland is now for sale. For info contact owner at 830-238-3168

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$2350/MONTH
JUST EAST OF MIDLAND
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WWW.READY-RANCH.COM
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*11,155 ac. n. of Snyder, 4 houses, pens/roping arena, 800 ft. mtn., creek, lakes, Whitetail deer, mule deer and quail $795/ac
*4,212 ac. Maveric Creek, canyons, whitetail and mule deer and quail $825/ac
*1,771 ac. windmill, creek, blinds and feeders, great w-tail and mule deer, turkey, hogs, quail $850
• Nolan County
*646 ac. over 1 mile creek, blinds, feeders, elevation change, oak $3,550/ac
*565 ac. Pecan Creek, New Living/Shop, 200 acres cleared for cattle, blinds/feeders, windmill $4,425/ac
• Howard County
*842 ac. canyons, blinds/feeders, great deer, cedar/mesquite, surface water, some oil/well traffic $750/ac
*150 ac. big canyon, deer and whitetail, oaks, cedar/mesquites, great deer, turkey, jav $895/ac
• Martin County
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Chevron supports Midland.

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Brick-Block-Stone

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The Midland Reporter-Telegram

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'CLIMATECHANGE FINGERPRINTS'

AP file photo

Highways around downtown Houston are empty Aug. 29, 2017, as floodwaters from Tropical Storm Harvey overflow from the bayous around the city in Houston. With three strong hurricanes, wildfires, hail, flooding, tornadoes and drought, supersized weather disasters tallied a record high bill for America last year: $306 billion.

US hits record for costly weather disasters: $306 billion

By Seth Borenstein
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With three strong hurricanes, wildfires, hail, flooding, tornadoes and drought, the United States tallied a record high bill last year for weather disasters: $306 billion.

The U.S. had 16 disasters last year with damage exceeding a billion dollars, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said Monday. That ties 2011 for the number of billion-dollar disasters, but the total cost blew past the previous record of $215 billion in 2005.

Costs are adjusted for inflation and NOAA keeps track of billion-dollar weather disasters going back to 1980.

Three of the five most expensive hurricanes in U.S. history hit last year.

Hurricane Harvey, which caused massive flooding in Texas, cost $125 billion, second only to 2005's Katrina, while Maria's damage in Puerto Rico cost $90 billion, ranking third, NOAA said. Irma was $50 billion, mainly in Florida, for the fifth most expensive hurricane.

Western wildfires fanned by heat racked up $18 billion in damage, triple the U.S. wildfire record, according to NOAA.

Besides Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico, California, Colorado, Minnesota, Nebraska, Missouri, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee and North Carolina all had more than $1 billion in damage from the 16 weather disasters in 2017.

"While we have to be careful about knee-jerk cause-effect discussions, (many scientific studies) show that some of today's extremes have climate change fingerprints on them," said University of Georgia meteorology professor Marshall Shepherd, a past president of the American Meteorological Society.

NOAA announced its figures at the society's annual conference in Austin.

The U.S. averages six of the billion-dollar weather disasters each year, costing a bit more than $40 billion annually.

The increase in billion-dollar weather disasters is likely a combination of more flooding, heat and storm surge from climate change along with other non-climate changes, such as where buildings are put, where people move and how valuable their property is, said Deke Arndt, NOAA's climate monitoring chief.

"Perhaps it is time to mandate urban development in a more resilient and sustainable manner given the increasing frequency of weather extremes, especially along the nation's coasts," Susan Cutter, director of the University of South Carolina's Hazards and Vulnerability Research Institute, said in an email.

The weather agency also said that 2017 was the third hottest year in U.S. records for the Lower 48 states with an annual temperature of 54.6 degrees — 2.6 degrees warmer than the 20th century average. Only 2012 and 2016 were warmer. The five warmest years for the Lower 48 states have all happened since 2006.

Arndt said the U.S. — which has had above normal annual temperatures for 21 straight years — is showing the same warming effects as the rest of the world. The burning of coal, oil and gas emits heat-trapping gases that change Earth's climate.

This was the third straight year that all 50 states had above average temperatures for the year.

Five states — Arizona, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and New Mexico — had their warmest year ever.

Temperature records go back to 1895.

More women entering dairy industry in Wisconsin

By Eric Lindquist
Leader-Telegram

COLFAX, Wis. — America's dairy land is undergoing a bit of a revolution, and it has nothing to do with the words on Wisconsin's license plate or even the size of farms.

It's about the cows — specifically who's minding the animals in the barn.

Increasingly, the folks caring for the cows, monitoring their health and managing the herd, are women, according to agriculture educators in west-central Wisconsin.

It's a stereotype-busting trend that's as dramatic as it is undeniable.

The animal science management program at Chippewa Valley Technical College has seen female applicants climb from a minority four years ago to about three-quarters of the total for 2018-19, program director Adam Zwiefelhofer told the Leader-Telegram .

The male-female ratio also has changed noticeably over the last few years at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, where women this year account for 91 percent of the 650 students in animal science, the largest program in the university's College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Science, said Dale Gallenberg, dean of the college.

When female students first claimed a majority of CVTC's animal science management slots three years ago, Zwiefelhofer brushed it off as just a coincidence.

"But it continues to happen, and it keeps increasing," Zwiefelhofer said. "It's absolutely wonderful for the industry."

Several of the young women in the two-year associate degree program recently explained the appeal of potential animal science careers, including herd manager, dairy consultant, reproduction specialist, nutritionist and sales specialist.

They mentioned the opportunity to work outside, use technology, help provide food for the world and do something hands-on instead of being stuck behind a desk.

But most of all they talked about their love of working with dairy cows — Wisconsin's official state domestic animal.

Bailey Karaba of Owen joked that caring for a herd of cattle was like raising 400 kids with one key difference: "Cows can't tell you what's wrong when they're not feeling well, so you have to be a problem-solver," she said. "When a sick cow bounces back, it's the best feeling."

As for the satisfaction of working with cows compared with other aspects of agriculture, Jennah Henk of Birchwood said simply, "I like seeing animals progress more than watching grass grow."

Clearly, the students feel a strong bond with the primary subjects of their studies — at least for animal science students in the land of cheeseheads — despite occasionally being on the receiving end of a kick.

"Cows are like big puppies; they're so cute," Karaba said, adding that sometimes they follow her around the barn.

Predictions for 2018? Bitcoin, lots of movie sequels

Dear PropellerHeads: What does the coming year hold for us?

A: Can't talk now … bingeing on GoT … so good.

Actually, speaking of "Game of Thrones" (hbo.com/game-of-thrones), not much of a prediction here, but the sad reality is that we'll have to wait until 2019 (bit.ly/2iSbAgn) for the 8th and final season of the extremely popular HBO series based upon the George R. R. Martin books.

Same deal with the next season of "Stranger Things" (bit.ly/29LcVyR), the extremely popular Netflix series based upon, seemingly, my entire life … minus telekinetic ninjas ... as I'm legally bound to declare. What is a child of the '80s to do? May I recommend "Ready Player One" (readyplayeronemovie.com), the Steven Spielberg movie based upon the Ernest Cline novel that frequently mentions … Steven Spielberg. Talk about a self-fulfilling prophesy!

My prediction is that it will ride the retro wave to a strong box office, but will fail to scale the full slate of sequels

Hollywood is pushing down our throats this year. In roughly chronological order, the sequels we will be bludgeoned with this year are: "Maze Runner," "Insidious," "Fifty Shades," "Pacific Rim" (really?), "Avengers," "Jurassic World," "The Incredibles," "Deadpool," "Mission: Impossible," "Mamma Mia" (please mamma no), "Predator" (Olivia Munn gives it a pass), "Madea Family," "Halloween" and "Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Sequels."

My prediction, besides most of them curing my insomnia, is that Movie Pass (moviepass.com) will use this literal mugging of mindless motion pictures to catapult themselves to full-blown respectability. For Christmas, I got my $10/month membership for a movie a day so I'm ready. I hear the theater down the street is installing lockers to store my blankets and pillows.

Another thing that will be catapulting in 2018 is Bitcoin (bitcoin.org), and then plummeting, and then skyrocketing, and then sinking and then swimming and then I'll throw up from the motion sickness I experience watching its value go uuuuuup and dooooown. Uuuuuup and dooooown. And that's just the first day! My prediction is that somebody is going to make a ton of money on Bitcoin and it ain't gonna be me.

Next prediction: The Internet of Things (bit.ly/2zBcXFx) will be The Thang! I mean, seriously, don't we expect pretty much everything we buy to be connected to the Internet so we can either monitor it or control it from our phones? I mean, when the heck is Coca Cola or Pepsi going to come up with IoT sodas so I know when they have achieved optimum coolness? I can't live my life like this any longer!

What will be less of a Thang in 2018? The NFL (or as Jerry Glanville prophesized 30 years ago: Not For Long, bit.ly/218AOJ3). Whether it is continued concussions, so many injuries to stars that the quality of the product is as exciting as Pacific Rim (1 or 2…take your pick), anthem protests, or #metoo scandals, the interest in football will continue to decline, and the ratings will prove it. The only thing that can save it? Tony Romo's predictions (bit.ly/2pMDaSA).

And my final prediction for 2018? That we'll continue writing hilarious, informative, insightful and just downright awesome articles for your personal enjoyment, all year long, baby! That's not a prediction, that's a guarantee, you heard it here first!

Mic drop.

When the PropellerHeads at Data Directions aren't busy with their IT projects, they love to answer questions on business or consumer technology. Email us at asktheapropellerheads@data-directions.com or contact us at Data Directions, Inc. 8510 Bell Creek Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23116. Visit our website at data-directions.com/asktheapropellerheads.

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