MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2018 mrt★com *320,000 readers in print and online*

HEAT INDEX

"The Jungle Book" comes to life at MCT.

Page 1B

SPRING BREAK IDEAS

Popular Texas state parks still have availability for spring break 2018.

mrt.com

La Hacienda owners, attorney address shutdown

■ Fire marshal's inspection described as intimidating

By Rich Lopez
jrlopez@mrt.com

The Hacienda Event Center tends to be noisier at night with concerts and special events, but on Wednesday afternoon, the sounds of drills and construction could be heard. A crew was working throughout the building installing signs and working on fire alarms and sprinkler systems. Owners Manuel and Silvia Herrera are addressing safety issues after the Midland County fire marshal declared the venue shut down on Friday evening.

Fire Marshal Dale Little and a number of sheriff's deputies entered the venue in the middle of the Los Huracanes concert on Friday, according to the Herreras and their attorney, Israel Guardiola.

"This isn't the first time," Guardiola said. "They have done this four times in the last 10 months."

The Herreras and Guardiola are set to meet with the Commissioners' Court this afternoon to discuss the occurrence and perhaps the future of the venue.

"I expect they'll give us an opportunity to be heard and to address the way the inspection took place," Guardiola said. "Beyond that, we don't know."

The Herreras described the inspection as intimidating and that customers were

Please see ADDRESS/4A

■ Commissioners to hear from La Hacienda representatives at a session to deal with fire safety violations at entertainment venue

By Simone Jasper
sjasper@mrt.com

Midland County commissioners today are scheduled to have a discussion related to fire safety violations that recently shut down La Hacienda Event Center. Midland County Judge Mike Bradford said the special meeting will give representatives from the venue the opportunity to address commissioners.

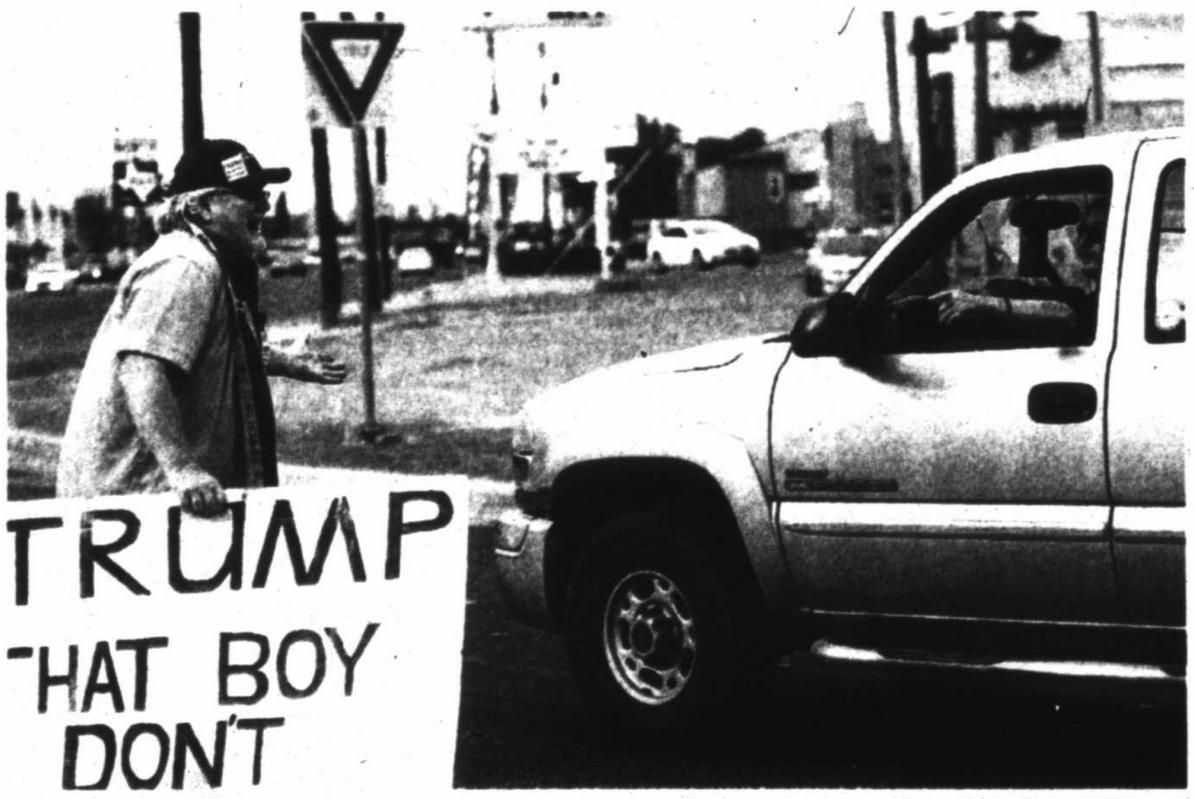
The session scheduled for 3:30 p.m. comes after officials on Friday entered La Hacienda, located on State Highway 191, and ultimately shut it down. A document from the State Fire Marshal's Office lists violations for the venue, including those related to the fire alarm system, sprinklers, wiring, exit doors and occupancy.

Bradford said Midland County Fire Marshal Dale Little provided commissioners with photographs of "numerous fire violations." The county judge said they saw sprinklers that hadn't been connected and push-bar exit doors that had been locked and tied shut.

"Public places have to be safe for the public to attend, and knowing they're safe is everyone's right," Bradford said. "The

Please see VENUE/4A

OLD MAN WITH A SIGN



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

ABOVE: A motorist yells at Gale McCray as he stands holding a sign that states "TRUMP THAT BOY DON'T ACT RIGHT," Wednesday at the corner of Andrews Highway and Midland Drive. McCray is a retiree who lives in Fort Worth and has become a small internet sensation for making appearances across the country holding the sign. McCray passed through Midland on Wednesday and spent about two hours standing at the intersection." standing at the corner of Andrews Highway and Midland Drive.

Momentum of sellers' market continues in housing

■ Number of homes available in Midland County is down to 228

By Stewart Doreen
sdoreen@mrt.com

The month of January didn't provide much of a change to a heated housing market inside Midland County.

The Permian Basin Board of Realtors reported this week that the number of houses dropped, the number of homes sold increased, the average time a home sold spent on the market fell and the median price for a home sold increased compared to statistics from December and one year ago.

Coming off the most active and costliest year in residential real estate in the PBBOR's record history, it was interesting to see how January would start, but it appears the market isn't slowing down. People are moving to the Permian Basin, and specifically to Midland, in droves. As Friday's groundbreaking for a new Anadarko headquarters indicates, even more companies are betting big on the future and will need people to make good on the billions invested in the Permian.

The number of homes on the market dropped to 228 (down from 239 in December and nearly half of the 432 on the market in January 2017). The number of homes on the market is actually the lowest since May 2013 (also 228). The last time the PBBOR reported the number of homes was below 200 was March 2013 (197).

The number of homes sold continued to break records for the month. The 177 sold in January was more than the 169 in January 2017 and more than any January going back to at least 2012, according to the PBBOR. Last year, 2,462 homes were sold and that total broke the previous record by more than 20 percent.

The PBBOR also reported that — for the sixth straight month — the market showed less than two months of supply available. Veteran Realtor Victoria Printz recently told the Reporter-Telegram a balanced market in a community the size of Midland has between 900 to 1,100 homes.

Average sales price actually went down compared to December (from $298,426 to $285,711), but an average sales price decline from December to January appears to be a trend in the Midland market. The average sales price did increase by more than $25,000 compared to January

Please see HOUSING/2A

Shale surge boosted US production to record high in November

By Jessica Summers
Bloomberg

U.S. oil production reached a record high in November as the shale boom puts the nation among the world's biggest suppliers and upends global markets.

Once the world's largest importer of crude, the U.S. is passing Saudi Arabia and closing in on Russia to become the world's largest producer. Oil prices above $60 a barrel have lured companies to ramp up production. Oil and gas exploration last year was a money-maker for the first time in more than a decade, according to Wood Mackenzie Ltd. As a result, drillers in the U.S. are using the most oil rigs since 2015.

Efforts by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to trim output and tighten global markets has fueled a surge in exports, with the first supertanker leaving an American port earlier this month.

The current "explosive growth" in U.S. oil output may extend beyond 2018, International Energy Agency Executive Director Fatih Birol said this week.

Shale's impact on the global market can be felt as OPEC's head plans to meet with shale producers in Houston on Monday,

Please see SHALE/2A

Visit us on social media

Price of oil
$61.64 ▼ $1.37

Did you know?
PBS is launching
a new conservative political talk show. The program will air on Basin PBS on April 13. Page 7A

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

Brought to you daily by Jimmy John's

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Business 6C | Classified 1D | Comics 5C | Dear Abby 4C | Lottery 3A | Obituaries 2A | Puzzles 7C | TV 4C

Obituaries

Delbert "Pete" Klein

Delbert "Pete" Klein was born along with his twin brother in Artesia, New Mexico on March 7, 1953 to the late Johnnie and Sara Klein.

He was a good man with a big heart that was always there for his family, friends, and all strangers. He tried to leave people better than when he found them. Pete was interested in many things such as girls fast pitch softball (coaching and umpiring), being a football referee, was a motorcycle enthusiast, and loved pistol shooting tournaments. He always had a smile and an awful joke to tell.

He passed away on Saturday, February 24, 2018 in Lubbock, Texas at the age of 64.

Pete is survived by his wife of 46 years, Janice; daughter Heather Paulsen and husband Mark and their children Cadean and Bailey; his twin brother, Elbert and wife Duchess; and by his sister, Dorothy Price and her husband Ronnie.

There will be a funeral service at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, March 2, 2018 at the Ellis Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Helping Hands of Midland at 1301 Brinson, Midland, TX 79703.

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

Ellis Funeral Home
Funerals & Cremations
Dignity 801 Andrews Hwy. (432) 683-3335

Doris Jones Parks

Doris Jones Parks, 78, passed away Sunday, February 25, 2018, at her home.

There will be no services at the request of Mrs. Parks. Cremation is under the direction of Robert Massie Funeral Home.

Mrs. Parks was born February 6, 1940 in Clifton. She has been a resident of San Angelo since 2002. Doris married Cleveland Parks on June 18, 1976 in Midland. He preceded her in death on May 31, 2007. Doris was an operator for Enron Corp. for 22 years, retiring in 2000.

Survivors include her sister, Ila Parnell and husband Robert of Compton, California, two nieces, Shandalyn Parnell and Bridget Parnell, both of Long Beach, California; nephews, Anthony Parnell of Las Angeles and Robert Parnell II of St. Louis, Missouri; and numerous other relatives and friends.

Please sign the online register at *www.robertmassie.com*.

Ila V. "Nita" Hooper

Ila V. Rhodes Hooper, Nita, was born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma to parents Iler and Samuel Edward Rhodes on October 28, 1930. The family moved to Penwell, Texas around 1935. Nita graduated from Odessa High School in 1949. She married Gordon Hooper on March 17, 1950. Nita and Gordon lived in Amarillo while Gordon served in the Air Force. At the end of his service in 1955, they moved to Crane County, then moved into town in 1960.

She was a member of the Mary Street Church of Christ in Crane. The past three years, Nita and Gordon lived in Midland.

Nita was preceded in death by her daughter, Judy (Crane); her brothers, Jack Rhodes (Odessa) and Coy Rhodes (Snyder), and her parents, (Penwell).

She is survived by her husband of almost 68 years, Gordon (Midland); three sons, Danny Hooper and wife Rhonda (Midland), Steve Hooper (Gardendale), and Paul Hooper and wife Julie (Midland.)

Nene had seven grandchildren, Blaine, Sheila, Brooke, Chase, Tanner, Savannah, and Destiny, and seven great-grandchildren. She is also survived by one brother, Lowell Rhodes (Penwell), a sister-in-law, Kay Rhodes, and nieces and nephews.

The guestbook will be available to sign at the Shaffer-Nichols Funeral Home on Friday, March 2, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

The family will be receiving friends at the funeral home on Friday from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Graveside services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 3, 2018 at the Crane County Cemetery with Jeff O'Rear and Ed Jenkins officiating.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of Shaffer-Nichols Funeral Home of Crane.

Martha Belle Holland Conine

Martha Belle Holland Conine died peacefully on February 20, 2018 in Austin, Texas. Marty was born July 17, 1932 to Lan Morgan Holland and Minnie O'Dell Holland and grew up in McAllen with her sister and brothers. After their mother died unexpectedly when Marty was just two years old, she spent many summers with her Aunt Willie and Uncle Dewey in Rotan, Texas and later with her sister Doris and brother-in-law Bill in Monahans. She graduated from Baylor in 1953 and taught school in Galveston before moving to Midland in 1955. Marty loved Midland and lived there until last November.

Known for her sweet and elegant demeanor, Marty was generous and kind to all. She also had a wonderful sense of humor. When her oldest niece would visit during the summer, Marty would buy an old-fashioned pinwheel, hold it out the window of the car and drive down the street singing Moon River at the top of her lungs, much to the delight of her niece. Marty took her nieces and their friends to see The Music Man many years ago and marched up and down the aisle of the movie theater during Seventy-Six Trombones, playing an imaginary trombone. She made every activity fun.

Marty was a fiercely loyal friend and defender of her family. She was overjoyed when she became a mother to Nancy Lynn and was heartbroken when Nancy passed away in 2001. Marty taught English and speech before Nancy was born and again from 1997 until 2003. Ever the teacher, she felt compelled to correct blatant errors in grammar right up until she died. Marty was a member of First United Methodist Church in Midland and was active in the Junior League and Midland Community Theatre. Marty excelled at play readings and acting. Among her roles were the ghost Elvira in Blithe Spirit, and in 1963 she starred in Midland's very own movie production of High Noon. Marty loved her monthly Chocoholics gatherings and frequent lunches with her treasured Midland friends. The highlight of every summer was the visit from her beloved granddaughters. She adored them and was so thankful to have living reminders of Nancy.

Marty was preceded in death by her parents, her daughter Nancy Conine Hester, her sister Doris Holland Parker and her brothers O'Dell Holland, John A. Holland, and Nick Holland. She is survived by her granddaughters Jordyn and Jodi Hester of Superior, Colorado; sisters-in-law Clo Holland of El Paso and Joy Holland of Houston; nieces Marty Parker of Austin, Mary Parker of Austin, Cathy Holland of Coppell, Jenny Holland Miller (Clay) of Mandeville, Louisiana; and nephews Johnny Holland (Kathryn) of El Paso and Keith Holland of Georgetown. She also loved and was loved by her nieces' and nephew's 12 children and grandchildren. A celebration of Marty's life will be held at 2:00 pm Saturday, March 3, 2018 at Glass Chapel, First United Methodist Church in Midland. For those who wish, memorial donations to the charity of your choice will be greatly appreciated by Marty's family.

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

Novelette Barrett

Novelette Barrett, 98, was born September 20, 1919 to James Nowlin and Anna Jones in Navasoto, Texas. Narvie Lee, as she was known to close friends and church members, departed this life February 26, 2018.

She moved to Midland in 1940 and worked as a cosmetologist and a domestic worker. She joined Antioch Baptist Church at an early age and served faithfully as an usher and a Sunday school teacher until her health failed.

Narvie Lee was preceded in death by both parents and her husband, Howard H. Barrett.

She leaves to love and cherish the time had with her son, Don (Sonny) Bradford, two daughters, Bernice Brown and Annette Green, nine grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and seven great-great-grandchildren; and a host of friends and relatives.

Visitation will be held from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. on Friday, March 2, 2018 at Nalley-Pickle and Welch Funeral Home in Midland.

A memorial service will be held at Antioch Baptist Church under the pastorship of Reverend Ronald Vandyke on Saturday, March 3, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

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

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

Marian Elizabeth Huggins

"There on the mountains, as you get near the real high places, the air is fresh and invigorating. It strengthens the whole body and there are streams with wonderful healing properties, so that those who bathe in them find all their blemishes and disfigurements washed away". - Hannah Hurnard "Hinds Feet on High Places"

The Lord God maketh my feet like hinds' feet, and setteth me upon mine High Places. - Psalm 18:33 and Habakkuk 3:19

Marian Elizabeth Huggins finds herself in the High Places with her Lord and Savior. Marian and her family walked the long journey of Alzheimer's together.

Marian Elizabeth Huggins passed away in Jacksonville, Texas on Sunday, February 25, 2018.

Marian was born on July 9, 1942 to Marion Ralph Haddox and Ruby Elizabeth Haddox in Garfield, New Mexico and was the second of five children. Her early years were spent in the Hatch Valley of New Mexico. She was a 1960 graduate of Yuma Union High School in Yuma, Arizona. Her mother and grandmother shared the gift of sewing and needlework with Marian as a child.

During high school, Marian worked for the Singer Sewing Machine Company, giving sewing lessons to students, and for her service, she was awarded her first sewing machine. That sewing machine changed her life. She was a brilliant seamstress, who throughout her life, had a great love of fabric, lace, needles, and thread. Her father relied upon her good sense and her mother considered her to be her assistant and thus the nickname "Gabby," because she always had the last word.

She met and fell in love with Jim Daugherty in Yuma, Arizona and they married on December 30, 1959. As a young Air Force wife, she made her home with two small children, James and Lisa, in several places including two foreign countries, but ultimately Midland, Texas became her home.

Providence brought Marian to Midland in 1972. She settled in with her two young children and began her life in Midland. On September 5, 1976, Marian married Bob Huggins, and they began a journey spanning almost four decades together. With love and patience, they blended a family that was formed out of their union of 40 years. Marian and Bob were members of Midland Christian Fellowship, Cornerstone Fellowship, and First Baptist Church of Midland.

During her years in Midland, Marian raised a family and worked as a Bookkeeper, but in her private time, she was a Bible teacher. She loved reaching out to women by hosting weekly Bible studies and prayer groups. Her love of the scriptures, combined with her love of fabric and needles, were displayed in the beautiful tapestry that she stitched into the lives of those she taught, counseled and prayed over.

Marian is rejoicing with those who have gone before her into Heaven!

Among many dear friends and loved ones, she has been reunited with her parents Ralph and Ruby, three sisters, Patty, Jane and Shirley, and her beloved husband, Bob Huggins.

Marian is survived by her children, James Daugherty and wife Karen of Midland; and Lisa Zachry and husband Jimmy of Midland; and Shawn Axworthy and husband Bob, of Bullard and Darren Huggins and wife Paula Vachon of Copper Canyon. Marian is also survived by her brother Wayne Haddox of Camarillo, California. She was blessed with six grandchildren, Zachary Huggins, Molly Axworthy, Libby Axworthy, Derek Daugherty, Casey Zachry, and Robyn Zachry Wendel, and by seven great-grandchildren. The birth of her eighth great grandchild is expected in May of this year.

A memorial service honoring Marian will be held at a later date.

A gentle heart has stopped beating
Loving hands that now lay still
The Good Shepherd brought her home
According to his will
New heavenly eyes are open
And oh the glory she must see
Praise you Lord that in your presence
She soars like an Eagle now set free
Her long journey here on earth is through
Oh the joy that she is now with you
Her feet are set upon the high places
And she's welcomed by familiar faces
Reunited when we are all made new
That bright morning covered in Heaven's dew
Until that blessed reunion
We will continue to seek your will
And at the end to embrace Jesus
God's love and grace fulfilled
- Lisa Zachry

Death Notices

Bruce Robert Dury

Bruce Robert Dury, 69, of Midland, passed away on Tuesday, February 27, 2018.

The family will receive friends on Friday, March 2, 2018 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Midland from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

He is survived by his wife, Trisha Brooks-Dury; two brothers; and by children, Dwayne and Felicia.

Margaret Vaughan

Margaret Vaughan passed away on Monday, February 26, 2018.

There will be a funeral service in the Ellis Funeral Home Chapel on Thursday, March 1, 2018 at 12:00 p.m.

Marquette Latricia Miller

Marquette Latricia Miller passed away February 21, 2018.

She leaves behind one daughter, Anyia Miller, and one sister, Mary Pugh.

Service will be March 1, 2018 at 11:30 a.m. at Prepared Place Funeral Home, 4228 S Lancaster Rd., Dallas TX 75216.

Martha Lou Bean

Martha Lou Bean, 80, of Midland, passed away on Monday, February 26, 2018.

There will be a memorial service on Saturday, March 3, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. at The Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity.

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

She is survived by her daughter, Melinda Voda; and son, Robert Bean.

Renata Klepper

Renata Klepper, 56, of Midland, passed away on Monday, February 26, 2018.

There are no services scheduled with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory.

Survivors include mother, Mary Charlotte Irwin; father, Allen Mit Irwin; and one brother and two sisters.

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

SHALE

From 1A

the second consecutive year he's met with the group's biggest rivals. Compliance by OPEC and its allies to their supply deal came in at 133 percent last month. And even though non-OPEC decline rates accelerated last year, U.S shale supply will fill the gap, according to Bank of America Merrill Lynch analysts.

Nationwide monthly crude production was revised to 10.057 million barrels a day for November, the highest figure on record in monthly data collected since 1920, the Energy Information Administration reported in its Petroleum Supply Monthly report Wednesday. Daily output slipped back to 9.949 million in December. The EIA's crude-oil production data includes lease condensate. Weekly crude oil production is proving irrepressible, rising to near 10.3 million barrels a day and heading for 11 million late this year.

Oklahoma toughens oil fracturing rules as shale earthquakes climb

David Wethe
Bloomberg

Oklahoma is tightening its rules for fracturing after studying a new cluster of earthquakes in one of the hottest U.S. regions for drilling.

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission announced that all explorers within certain areas must use equipment known as a seismic array, which detects movement underground. The regulators also lowered the quake threshold for pausing work from 3.0 magnitude to 2.5, a level where humans can feel the earth move. The mandated delay is for at least six hours.

Fracturing loosens hydrocarbons from shale by blasting water, sand and chemicals underground. Since December 2016, Oklahoma officials have counted 74 earthquakes of at least 2.5 magnitude that may be linked directly to fracturing, said Matt Skinner, a commission spokesman, in an email last month.

"While more study needs to be done, the indications are that those operators who have their own seismic arrays and took actions when there were seismic events too small to be felt decreased the risk of having multiple, stronger earthquakes," said Tim Baker, director of the commission's oil and gas conservation unit, in a statement Tuesday.

The new rules are designed to slow quakes in the so-called SCOOP and STACK shale plays, where wastewater disposal, long thought to be the main culprit for larger, more prevalent tremors in the northern half of the state, isn't as much of an issue. That opens up the idea that fracturing itself may be to blame.

For Oklahoma, it's a cautious move forward, limiting though not halting drilling in an oil industry that has fueled its output in the past decade to 497,000 barrels a day and created thousands of jobs in the state.

HOUSING

From 1A

2017. Also, the median price ($265,000 in January) did increase not only from January 2017 ($226,000) but from December ($261,500).

"January appears to have continued on our record trends from 2017 in spite of low housing inventories and slowly rising interest rates," said Carroll Nall, MLS executive director for the PBBOR. "We continue to be encouraged by the consistency and stability of the real estate market in Midland and the surrounding area. Our market remains a leader in our per capita rates among the state and national markets."

The average number of days a house sold remained on the market dropped slightly from December (40 to 39 days). However, the average DOM was 60 in January 2017.

January 2018 statistics

Total homes on the market: 228
Homes sold: 177
Average days on market: 39
Average sold price: $288,711
Average list price: $291,435
Median sold price: $265,000
Median list price: $269,573

Source: Permian Basin Board of Realtors

The PBBOR also reports $50.57 million in homes sold in Midland County in January, nearly $10 million less than December. A reason for the drop was that 25 fewer homes were sold. Another reason was that a higher percentage of homes sold were in the $200,000 to $299,999 range. Also, in December 71 homes sold for $300,000 or more. In January, that number was 63.

WORD OF THE DAY
brought to you daily by

JumBurrito
BIG TASTE. MORE TO IT.

Beatify
[be·at·i·fy]
verb
1.to make supremely happy
2. Christianity : to declare to have attained the blessedness of heaven and authorize the title "Blessed" and limited public religious honor She was beatified six years after her death

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TODAYINMIDLAND

Conaway town hall

U.S. Rep. Mike Conaway will hold a town hall at 9 a.m. Friday at the Andrews Business & Technology Center in Andrews.

The event is open to the public. The center is located at 201 NW Ave. D.

Meeting

Commissioners' Court
At or after 1:30 p.m.
Auxiliary Courtroom
Midland County Courthouse
500 N. Loraine St.

Primary elections

Early voting centers
■ Midland County Elections Office — county annex building, 2110 N. "A" St.
■ Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N
■ Cogdell Learning Center, 211 W. Florida Ave.
■ Fellowship Community Church, 5206 N. Midland Drive
■ Manor Park (Cowden Clubhouse), 5212 Sinclair Ave.

Times
■ Elections Office
Today and Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
■ Other four locations
Today and Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Election Turnout
Feb. 20: 534
Feb. 21: 358
Feb. 22: 443
Friday: 702
Saturday: 400
Sunday: 175
Monday: 694
Tuesday: 829
Wednesday: 798
Total in person: 4,933 (Republicans 4,453, Democrats 480)
By mail: 669
Total: 5,602

Texas Independence Day

James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Lee Hise fires a smoothbore flintlock musket during last year's Texas Independence Day Celebration at the Haley Memorial Library. This year's celebration is 1:30 p.m. Friday at the Haley. The annual observance includes raising the ceremonial Texas flag, reciting Pledge to Texas and toasting the state with Texas spring water. In addition, students will read their winning Texas history essays. The contest is sponsored by the Aaron Estes Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas.

Lottery

Pick 3 morning: 2-2-9
Pick 3 day: 9-3-3
Pick 3 evening: 8-4-8
Pick 3 night: 1-1-9
Daily 4 morning: 9-5-1-8
Daily 4 day: 3-7-8-7
Daily 4 evening: 5-6-9-3
Daily 4 night: 0-0-7-2
Cash Five: 10-18-20-27-37
Triple Chance: 3-9-14-27-41-42-45-47-50-52
Lotto Texas: 1-5-18-39-45-52
Powerball: 12-30-59-65-69
BB: 16 Power Play: 5
All or Nothing morning: 1-3-4-5-8-15-17-18-19-20-22-24
All or Nothing day: 1-2-7-8-10-12-17-18-19-22-23-24
All or Nothing evening: 1-2-4-7-9-10-11-14-15-16-17-21
All or Nothing night: 1-2-3-5-6-7-11-12-13-14-16-19

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Weather

Wednesday's temperatures
High 72
Low 57
Normal high 66
Normal low 38

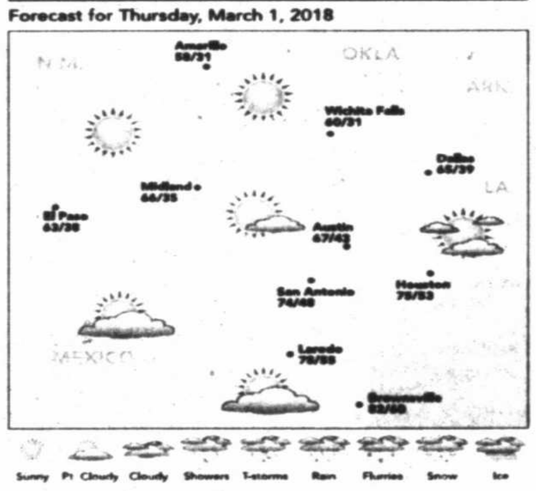
Feb. 28's records
Record high: 87, set in 1940
Record low: 14, set in 1962

Precipitation
Tuesday ..... 0.00 in.
Wednesday ..... trace
Month total ..... 0.04 in.
Year total ..... 0.05 in.
Normal total (year to date) ..... 1.27 in.

Winds
Average speed: 9.0 mph
Highest speed: 20 mph
Highest gust speed: 24 mph

Today's forecast

Forecast for Thursday, March 1, 2018



High: 64
Low: 37
Conditions: Sunny during the day/clear at night
Winds: 5-15 mph during the day and night
Chance of rain: None
Sunrise ..... 7:16 a.m.
Sunset ..... 6:47 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 Pisces and a Moon in Leo if born before 9:57 a.m. Afterward, the Moon will be in Virgo.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for **Thursday, March 1, 2018:** This year you experience an internal conflict over how much to follow your intellectual voice, as opposed to your emotional one. You are likely to use both at different times, and will note which one works best in each situation. If you are single, seek out someone with a perspective different from yours. A relationship is more interesting when the two people are not too similar. If you are attached, the two of you will learn to deal with each other's variable characteristics. Make sure that each of your unique and special qualities adds to your bond. LEO knows how energize you!

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★ Your responses can be fiery, especially to an emotionally charged person in your life. Know that you will settle down and have a calm discussion after today's Full Moon. You often keep many of your thoughts to yourself, but not today. **Tonight:** Throw yourself into a project.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ Your creativity emerges naturally in the face of opposition. You can bypass a problem just by being yourself. You'll want to rethink a decision you recently made, as it might feel off right now. Don't get between two friends who tend to argue. **Tonight:** Lighten up the moment.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ Tension builds quickly, and you could feel pulled in two different directions. How you handle this juggling act depends on how fine-tuned your skills are. A family member or a domestic situation might be out of control. **Tonight:** Be where you feel more comfortable.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★ An important call or email grabs your attention. Your attention is focused on the initiator and what he or she wants. You have a decision to make. Understand that your response will have an effect on this person. Say "no" to impulsiveness for now. **Tonight:** Sort through invitations.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★ You might be more possessive or money-oriented than usual. Taking care of the economic areas of your life remains instrumental. A disagreement involving your funds could be putting your focus on this area of your life. **Tonight:** A loved one wants more time with you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★ You might get some flak today, but you can control your responses. You usually would be quite bothered by what you hear; however, that's not the case now. Refuse to be triggered by a somewhat deceitful person. **Tonight:** Let go of the day, and greet the night.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★ Read between the lines when dealing with someone you care about and/or to whom you have financial ties. You could be dealing with a personal issue that you don't often discuss. Understand what is happening in your day-to-day life. **Tonight:** Do your vanishing act.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★ You handle the present Full Moon well. Your positive attitude draws others' attention. Zero in on what you desire, and understand that others seem to be focused on you. Know that you can have what you want. A talk could have a serious overtone. **Tonight:** Join a friend or two.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★ Be aware of the implications of a career- or work-related question. You might have to juggle your time between your personal and professional lives, which could be distressing. Deal with financial overload by cutting your spending ASAP. **Tonight:** Out late with friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★★ Reach out to a favorite person at a distance. You might not believe everything you hear, but you certainly will absorb the information. When push comes to shove, your integrity will come through for you. Take your time making a decision. **Tonight:** Try to lighten up.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★ You always seem to have a friend checking in with you to make plans. Though you might hit a bump in the road, you'll still want to follow through on getting together with this person. A loved one has a unique influence over you. **Tonight:** Try out a new restaurant.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★ Run through certain procedures that you normally keep under wraps, and make it OK to share them with others. You might feel as if there needs to be some changes made to a key relationship in your life. Ask yourself how realistic you are being. **Tonight:** Paint the town red.

BORN TODAY
Actor Ron Howard (1954), actress Cara Buono (1974), singer Harry Belafonte (1927)

FROM THE FAMILY OF
BEATRICE DENMON HURD

It is with sincere gratitude that we thank all her Friends, Church Family, "Class of 1983", Class of 1979, and all the community for the outpouring of love and support. Because you cared, we were not alone.
Your calls and visits touched our hearts and will always remain as treasured memories.

Thank you again, love the Chandler, Denmon, Thomas and Mayberry Family.

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Man allegedly escapes from county jail

From staff reports

A man was arrested Monday after allegedly escaping from the Midland County Detention Center, according to court documents.

Becenti

Dion Shawndean Becenti, 22, was being held Wednesday on a $25,000 bond for a third-degree felony charge of escape while arrested/confined and a $2,500 bond for a state felony charge of unauthorized use of a vehicle.

Becenti allegedly escaped from the facility by leaving his assigned housing area and climbing the perimeter fence, according to the arrest affidavit.

Becenti was stopped by two ICE deportation officers who were driving past the area, according to the affidavit.

He admitted to the officers he was an inmate at the Midland County Detention Center.

If convicted of the third-degree felony charge, Becenti could face up to 10 years imprisonment.

Man arrested for allegedly evading officers

From staff reports

A man was arrested Monday after allegedly evading police officers, according to court documents.

Ramirez

Reymundo Ramirez Jr., 22, was being held Wednesday on a $25,000 bond for a third-degree felony charge of evading arrest/detention with a vehicle and a state felony charge of possession of a controlled substance less than one gram. Bond information for the state felony was not available.

Midland police conducted a traffic stop at about 10 p.m. Monday for failure to signal lane change.

Ramirez, who was driving the vehicle, allegedly drove off during the traffic stop. A short pursuit ensued, and officers lost visual of Ramirez's car, according to the affidavit.

Officers located Ramirez's vehicle in a field where he hit two fences and got caught in barbed wire, according to the affidavit.

Ramirez was not in the vehicle when officers arrived, according to the affidavit. Officers found needles and a substance that appeared to be methamphetamine, according to the affidavit.

He was found in a pickup after a K9 unit helped track him down, according to the affidavit.

If convicted of the third-degree felony charge, Ramirez could face up to 10 years imprisonment.

Officer who killed gunman in 2017 mass shooting won't face criminal charges

By Valerie Wigglesworth
The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — A Plano police officer has been cleared of criminal charges for killing the man responsible for the city's worst mass shooting in decades that left eight people dead.

A Collin County grand jury declined to indict the officer last week after hearing evidence about his actions on Sept. 10, 2017.

The officer, who has not been publicly identified, was on patrol when he responded to a 911 call just after 8 p.m. When he arrived at the scene, he heard gunfire. Rather than wait for backup, he entered the home, saw several victims and engaged the suspect.

The heavily armed man, later identified as 32-year-old Spencer Hight, was killed in the home he shared with his wife, Meredith, before she filed for divorce last year. Eight others at the home that night for a Dallas Cowboys football watch party were also killed. One woman survived.

Plano Police spokesman David Tilley said Wednesday that the officer reverted to his training, which includes active shooter drills, and made good decisions that night.

"We believe the officer acted appropriately," Tilley said. "It's never the outcome you want with so many dead. But it could have been worse."

The Texas Rangers assisted Plano police with the investigation into the officer's actions. The criminal investigation into the mass shooting continues, Tilley said. Even though there is no suspect to put on trial, police treat it as they would any other fatal shooting, collecting and analyzing evidence to determine what happened.

Evidence showed Hight used an AR-15 rifle that night to fatally shoot his estranged wife and their friends. Also killed were Rion Morgan, 31; Anthony "Tony" Cross, 33; Olivia Deffner, 24; James Dunlop, 29; Darryl William Hawkins, 22; Myah Bass, 28; and Caleb Edwards, 25.

Spencer and Meredith Hight married in Collin County in 2011 but separated in March 2017.

Meredith Hight told her parents that her husband had been violent with her at least twice. One time he slammed her face against a wall. When she filed for divorce last July, she did not request a restraining order.

Friends said Spencer Hight had a drinking problem. He also liked guns.

Investigators found several weapons at the scene belonging to Spencer Hight, including a small folding knife, a large knife, a shotgun, a pistol that was tucked into his pants and the AR-15 rifle.

At his Plano apartment, investigators found a semiautomatic rifle and more than 2,300 rounds of ammunition. They also recovered 481 grams of psychedelic mushrooms, 2 ounces of marijuana and drug paraphernalia, documents showed.

The officer had been placed on administrative leave after the shooting. He returned to active duty after his department's internal investigation was done.

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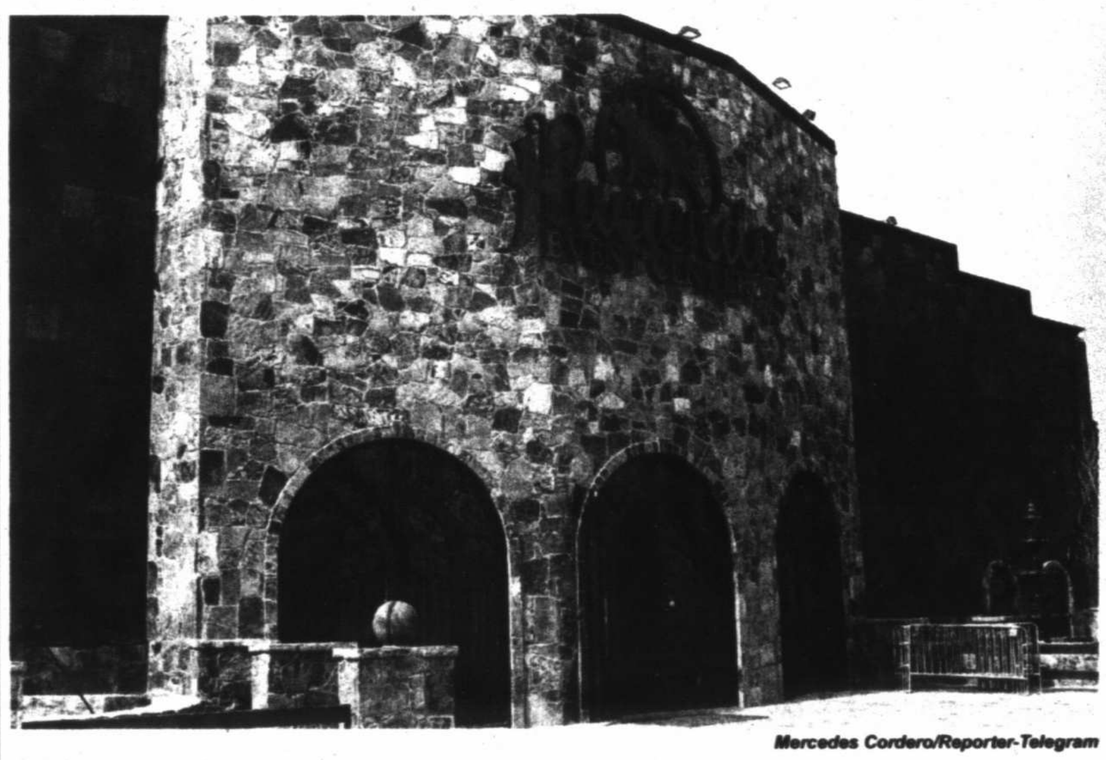


Mercedes Cordero/Reporter-Telegram

Midland County commissioners are scheduled to meet with La Hacienda Event Center representatives at 3:30 p.m. today concerning fire code violations.

VENUE

From 1A

county per se does not close nor open businesses under those two codes — health and safety."

Jerry Hagins, public information officer with the Texas Department of Insurance, said the State Fire Marshal's Office conducted the fire safety inspection at the request of local authorities. The results were sent to Little, and the county made the decision to shut down the space.

Bradford said the Midland County Sheriff's Office coordinated the inspection, which included the county and state fire marshals' offices as well as U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

"They saw something that they felt like needed to be addressed at this level," said Robin Donnelly, commissioner for Precinct 2.

Sheriff Gary Painter refused to comment about the incident. His department on Friday night and Saturday morning arrested about one dozen people in the 12000 block of State Highway 191 — the same block as La Hacienda — according to the office's media arrest summary.

Offenses included public intoxication, minor in possession, possession of a controlled substance, resisting arrest/search/transportation, purchasing/furnishing alcohol to a minor, consumption of alcohol by a minor and failure to stop at a red light.

Also, eight people arrested in that area by the sheriff's office or ICE had holds related to immigration.

Bradford said having La Hacienda open is related two factors: any extenuating charges that could come out of the situation as well as the health and safety of the community.

The county shared with the Reporter-Telegram the State Fire Marshal's Office list of violations for La Hacienda, which include — but are not limited to — the following:

- The fire sprinkler system lacks the required installation or inspection tags
- There are numerous wires, decorative lighting, data lines etc. attached to the fire sprinkler piping
- The fire alarm system was last inspected on 9/16/2012
- The fire pump lacks the required installation and inspection tags
- The fire pump has never been tested (per owner Manuel Herrera)
- The FDC is blocked by the domestic water tank
- The fire pump water supply line was in the closed position
- Several areas have undergone renovations and/or new additions that are not protected by the fire sprinkler system
- Several areas have the shipping protective covers on the fire sprinkler heads
- Emergency lighting was inoperable throughout the building
- The building lacked emergency lighting in many areas
- The building lacked exit signs
- The building lacked the appropriate number of exits to accommodate the crowd
- The panic hardware was damaged on many egress doors
- Some exit doors were locked and others required excessive force to open
- The exit access to the exit doors are restricted by the crowd control barriers
- The building lacks the required occupant load sign
- There is no accountability for the number of occupants in the building during events
- There were exposed electrical wire splices throughout the building
- Extension cords were being used as permanent wiring throughout the building
- There are numerous open j-boxes throughout the building
- Multiple plug adapters are being used as permanent outlets

ADDRESS

From 1A

scared. About 20 arrests were made that night. Guardiola takes issue with that kind of behavior.

"I don't see why it became so antagonistic," he said. "People were here having a good time, and they come in here with overly aggressive attitudes. I've looked into the code, and nothing suggests that (Little) has the authority to shut us down unless it's imminent danger, but I don't think that's one of these cases."

The other three inspection were also at Latin music concerts. La Hacienda is the primary venue for such concerts in the area. La Adictiva is scheduled to headline Friday night.

"We don't have a notice or anything official from anyone that says we're not open," Silvia Herrera said. "So for Friday, the show is going to happen. It's business as usual."

The Herreras said the only official paperwork they received was a citation for a door that was difficult to open. That has now been remedied, they said.

"I wouldn't call it business as usual," Guardiola said. "We don't believe it was a valid shut-down order. It was basically a verbal threat on his part, but we are nonetheless respecting the concerns and addressing those as best we can."

Manuel Herrera is ready to move forward.

"I don't feel right that we have to go through this. I think we try to do the best with events and benefits," Herrera said.

"We have a lot of people that like this place and we work so hard for those people."

Prosecutor dismisses more cases tied to biker shooting

Associated Press

WACO — A Texas prosecutor on Wednesday dismissed another 13 cases against bikers stemming from a 2015 shootout in Waco involving bikers and police, citing evidence from a federal racketeering trial against leaders of the Bandidos Motorcycle Club that began this week.

The evidence, including transcripts of a lengthy wiretap operation against former Bandidos vice president John Portillo, helps prove the theory that members of the Bandidos traveled to Waco to confront members of a rival club, the Cossacks, McLennan County District Attorney Abel Reyna said during a press conference.

"That is what we have stated all along, that there was an issue" between the groups, he said.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric Fuchs did not immediately respond to a request for comment, but KSAT-TV reported that federal prosecutors asked the judge for assurance that the ongoing legal action in Waco would have no bearing on the trial.

The May 2015 shootout left nine bikers dead and 20 injured. Documents show that in the aftermath of the shooting, Reyna ordered police to arrest members of both groups as well as their support clubs. Police charged and jailed 177 bikers on identical charges of engaging in organized criminal activity.

Ballistics evidence showed that police bullets struck four bikers, killing at least two of them. The three officers involved in the shooting were no-billed by a grand jury after being cleared by an internal investigation.

Bikers' attorneys have argued that Reyna's involvement in the case makes him a material witness, and have pledged to make him testify to corruption allegations made in affidavits signed by former employees and a former Waco police officer.

Earlier this month, Reyna dismissed 13 cases hours before a hearing where he was due to testify. Reyna has recused his office from prosecuting another three cases. The sole case to be tried resulted in a mistrial in November. The second trial of the bikers is set to begin April 2.

Reyna said in a statement Wednesday that the dismissals were "an effort to narrow in on those most culpable," and denied the corruption allegations.

Of the original 154 bikers indicted, prosecutors are still pursuing 128 cases. Reyna said his office would not pursue cases against 32 bikers who were arrested but not indicted.

Reyna faces a Republican primary election March 6.

STATEBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

AUSTIN

City to rename 5 schools with names tied to Confederacy

Five Austin schools are searching for new names after officials voted to get rid of the current names that have ties to Confederate leaders and soldiers.

The Austin Independent School District's board of trustees voted Monday to rename Fulmore Middle School, Lanier High School, Reagan High School, Eastside Memorial High School at The Johnston Campus and the now-closed Allan Elementary School.

Trustees estimate that the name changes will cost more than $322,000.

Supporters say the change is about integrity, while those against the move say it erases history.

It's unclear how long it will take before officials decide on new names for the campuses. It took two months for officials to gather community input and vote on a new name for the former Robert E. Lee Elementary school in 2016.

HOUSTON

Speeding driver fleeing police dies after crash, explosion

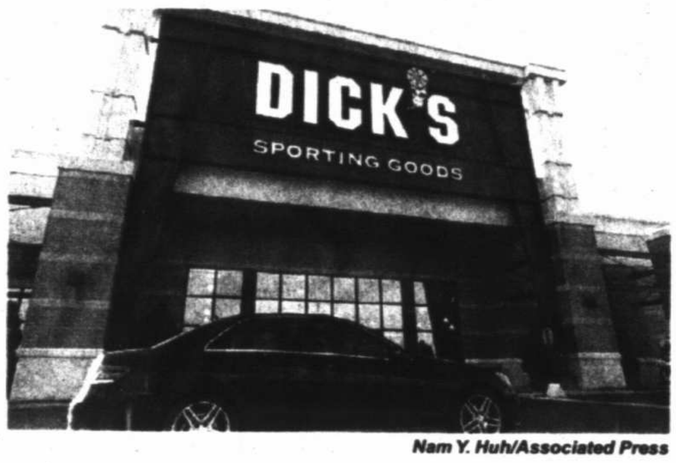
The driver of a speeding car being chased by Houston police has been killed after his car caught fire, hit a highway wall, flew over a bridge, crashed into a bayou and then exploded.

Police say the driver, who may have been intoxicated, sped through traffic signals and stop signs and ran other cars off the road during the 8-mile-long chase Tuesday night.

After the crash, police went into the bayou to try to rescue the driver but the car blew up.

The name of the driver hasn't been immediately released.

He's believed about 30 years old.



A Dick's Sporting Goods store is seen Wednesday in Arlington Heights, Ill. Dick's Sporting Goods announced Wednesday that it will immediately end sales of assault-style rifles and high capacity magazines at all of its stores and ban the sale of all guns to anyone under 21.

Nam Y. Huh/Associated Press

Dick's to end sales of assault-style rifles

Beth Mellor
Bloomberg

Dick's Sporting Goods, the biggest sporting-goods retailer in the U.S., is immediately ending sales of assault-style rifles following the mass shooting at a Florida high school earlier this month that killed 17 people.

Dick's is expanding its assault-rifle ban to its 35 Field & Stream stores, after removing the weapons from its flagship stores following the 2012 Sandy Hook shooting. The company is also ending sales of firearms to anyone under the age of 21 and will no longer sell high-capacity magazines.

"We support and respect the Second Amendment, and we recognize and appreciate that the vast majority of gun owners in this country are responsible, law-abiding citizens," Chief Executive Officer Edward Stack said in a statement on the company's website. "But we have to help solve the problem that's in front of us. Gun violence is an epidemic that's taking the lives of too many people, including the brightest hope for the future of America — our kids."

The gun industry has come under intense scrutiny since the deadly Feb. 14 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Companies that offer discounts to National Rifle Association members, including Delta Air Lines and United Continental Holdings, have cut ties to the lobbying group after calls for a boycott proliferated on social media.

Walmart, the world's largest retailer, decided to stop selling military-style weapons such as the AR-15 in 2015. The company said then that it was a business decision, since sales have declined, and wasn't politically motivated. Still, the decision by large chains to abandon assault-style rifles has increasingly turned them into the domain of mom-and-pop sellers and gun shows.

Dick's will "never" reverse the decision and is ready for any backlash it may face, Stack said in an interview on "Good Morning America." He also urged Congress to act, and his letter called for bans on assault-style firearms, high capacity magazines, bump stocks, a higher minimum age requirement and universal background checks.

The financial implications of the decision remain to be seen. Since Dick's had already removed assault-style rifles from most of its stores, the gesture is largely symbolic. Still, the company joins a growing number of large U.S. corporations willing to take a stand on guns.

Dick's investors were unfazed by the decision, sending its shares up as much as 2.2 percent to $32.49 in New York trading.

Gun stocks, meanwhile, declined. Sturm Ruger & Co. fell as much as 3.7 percent, dropping for a third straight day. American Outdoor Brands fell as much as 3 percent, while Vista Outdoor slipped 2 percent.

Nikolas Cruz, the perpetrator in the Florida shooting, purchased a shotgun at a Dick's store in November 2017. That wasn't the gun used in the attack this month, "but it could have been," CEO Stack said in his letter.

Amazon, Apple struggle to sit out NRA gun-control debate

Spencer Soper, Selina Wang
Bloomberg

Gun-control activists are demanding that Amazon.com Chief Executive Officer Jeff Bezos do something he has carefully avoided: pick a side in a hot-button political debate.

The online retailer, along with Apple, Roku and other video streaming services, is facing pressure from customers protesting any corporate relationship with the National Rifle Association in the aftermath of a Florida school shooting that killed 17 people. Even though it doesn't sell guns or ammunition, Amazon seems to be taking the most heat. Angry consumers started using the hashtag #StopNRAmazon on Twitter, which surfaced last week with customers threatening to cancel their $99-a-year Prime subscriptions.

At issue is NRA TV, a free online channel focused on pro-gun content, which many technology companies offer through their streaming services and devices alongside more popular options such as Netflix, ESPN and HBO. Recent episodes criticized Broward County (Fla.) Sheriff Scott Israel for what NRA TV said was a failure to act on warning signs about the shooter. In one segment, NRA TV host Grant Stinchfield shouts at the camera: "There was no act of heroism when these deputies were sitting outside taking cover behind a cruiser as kids were getting shot."

Being dumped from streaming services and devices, which many cord-cutters use to watch programs, might limit the gun lobbying group's reach and visibility, though NRA TV is also available via the organization's website.

The protest against Amazon and other tech companies followed moves by airlines, hotels, car-rental firms and other businesses to cut ties with the NRA by ending member discounts, and a bank canceling its NRA-branded credit card. FedEx said it would continue to honor its discount for the group's members, even though the company supports gun restrictions. The NRA didn't respond to a request for comment.

Activists are learning that when their concerns fall on deaf ears with politicians, businesses are more likely to yield to changes in public sentiment, said Ethan Zuckerman, director of the Center for Civic Media at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"This is a problem that ought to be worked out in our legislature, but people are turning to corporations because it doesn't seem like our legislators can get anything done," he said. "People feel so powerless to change things, this is how they feel they can bring change. I'd expect we're going to see a lot more of this."

Amazon declined to comment on the current campaign. In the past, the company has tried to stay neutral, avoiding comment on political issues that aren't directly tied to its business. The online retailer didn't react to calls to yank advertising from the conservative news site Breitbart even after a Twitter-based campaign in 2016 called out companies whose ads were appearing on the site. The question for Amazon -- which did donate $30,000 in gift cards to a Seattle gun-buyback program in 2015 -- is whether the same approach will work with firearms, when some gun-control activists are embracing a you're-either-with-us-or-against-us attitude to marginalize the NRA.

That approach is having some success. The list of companies severing ties with the NRA includes Delta Air Lines and Hertz, signaling their executives see greater risk affiliating with the group than reward in offering perks to its nearly 5 million members. As more companies take a stand on political topics, it becomes increasingly difficult for other corporations to keep out of the fray, said Daniel Korschun, an associate professor of marketing at Drexel University who has studied corporate political activism.

"For executives, this is the part that's gut-wrenching -- because politics are so polarized now, it's very difficult to find that middle ground," Korschun said. "Executives are forced to make a choice for one side or the other, and it can be very difficult."

When it's content or free speech at issue, the stakes become even higher. NRA TV can also be streamed via other services such as Google's YouTube or Chromecast devices, or listened to via SiriusXM or IHeartRadio, according to the group's website. The protest over carrying the channel puts these services in the uncomfortable position of deciding what kind of information is appropriate based on what some people find objectionable -- a challenge since the devices and services try to appeal to a range of different tastes and political leanings.

"While the vast majority of all streaming on our platform is mainstream entertainment, voices on all sides of an issue or cause are free to operate a channel," said streaming-device maker Roku. "We do not curate or censor based on viewpoint," Roku said, adding that NRA TV doesn't violate any of its policies. Apple didn't respond to requests for comment.

Some businesses make political activism part of their brands, like the environmental stances taken by apparel company Patagonia. Hobby Lobby Stores fought government requirements to provide emergency contraceptives that the company said conflicted with its religious beliefs in a case that went to the U.S. Supreme Court. That can work for smaller niche retailers. But it's tougher for big corporations with sprawling businesses, like Amazon and Apple, that want to sell their products and services to as many people as possible.

Delta tax cut stripped from Georgia bill after NRA feud

By Ben Nadler and R.J. Rico
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Republicans in the Georgia legislature took a step Wednesday toward fulfilling the GOP lieutenant governor's vow to punish Delta Air Lines for severing business ties with the National Rifle Association. But a Democratic rival warned the political threat could be illegal.

The Republican-dominated Senate Rules Committee cast a non-unanimous voice vote Wednesday to strip a sales tax exemption on jet fuel from a larger tax bill, which now goes to the full Senate. Atlanta-based Delta stood to save tens of millions of dollars annually as the biggest beneficiary of the fuel tax break.

The move came two days after Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle threatened to kill the tax break for Delta. Cagle and other GOP candidates to succeed Gov. Nathan Deal next year have been united this week in attacking Delta ever since it announced it was ending the travel discount program it had offered to NRA members.

The airline's recent decision to cut ties with the NRA following a deadly school shooting in Florida had prompted Cagle to tweet Monday that he would "kill" a proposed tax exemption benefiting Delta unless the airline reverses its stance. Georgia officials have been working behind the scenes ever since to try to reach a resolution between Republican lawmakers, Delta and the NRA.

Cagle took to the Fox News Channel on Wednesday morning to defend his position, arguing that Delta had taken "punitive" action against defenders of the Second Amendment and was unfairly targeting "law-abiding gun owners."

"We should never be forced to choose between our values and growing our economy. We stand for both!" the gubernatorial candidate tweeted shortly after his "Fox & Friends" appearance.

But a Democratic candidate for the governor's office believes Cagle has gone too far.

In a Wednesday letter, Stacey Evans urged Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr, a Republican, to investigate whether Cagle's recent tweet broke bribery, extortion and ethics laws.

Cagle stands to benefit economically from the threat as a member of the NRA, Evans said. She also said Cagle's campaign for governor could also benefit.

"Cagle threatened to use his elected office to impose retribution against Delta ... unless Delta conformed to his personal ideology," she wrote.

Cagle's spokesman declined comment. The Attorney General's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Although Cagle's threat to kill the tax cut may win fans among GOP voters, it could also backfire when it comes to recruiting business — most notably Georgia's status as a finalist for Amazon's planned second U.S. headquarters, said William Hatcher, an Augusta University professor who studies economic development.

Delta employs 33,000 workers statewide in Georgia, and its busy Atlanta hub has made Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport the busiest in the world.

Airlines would have owed the state an estimated $38 million less annually under the proposal removed from the tax-cut package by the Senate Rules Committee on Wednesday. Prior to the NRA controversy, the bill had easily passed the House last week with the jet fuel exemption included. If the amended measure passes the Senate, the jet fuel proposal could still be added back if the bill is sent to a conference committee.

Democrats, who control roughly one-third of the votes in both the Georgia House and Senate, have said that picking a fight with the airline is directly at odds with the state's "business-friendly" policies that legislators so regularly tout.

"We've worked too hard to make this a place where businesses can come and thrive for us to be so reckless in terms of the language that has been used on social media," said state Sen. Jen Jordan, an Atlanta Democrat. "If we lose corporations and jobs because of political pandering, that's problematic."

Deal, who is serving his last year in office, has not commented publicly on the issue since Cagle's tweet. In the past, the governor has opposed social conservatives in his own party on issues the governor feared might tarnish Georgia's business-friendly reputation.

More than a dozen companies, including Metlife, Hertz, Avis, Enterprise, Best Western, Wyndham and United Airlines have ended NRA partnerships since the Feb. 14 school shooting in Parkland, Florida. Police say the suspect, 19-year-old Nikolas Cruz, killed 17 people with an AR-15 assault-style rifle.

A message posted to the NRA's official Twitter account Tuesday said: "Having those on the left pushing for a boycott to pressure companies to drop discounts just shows how out of touch some are."

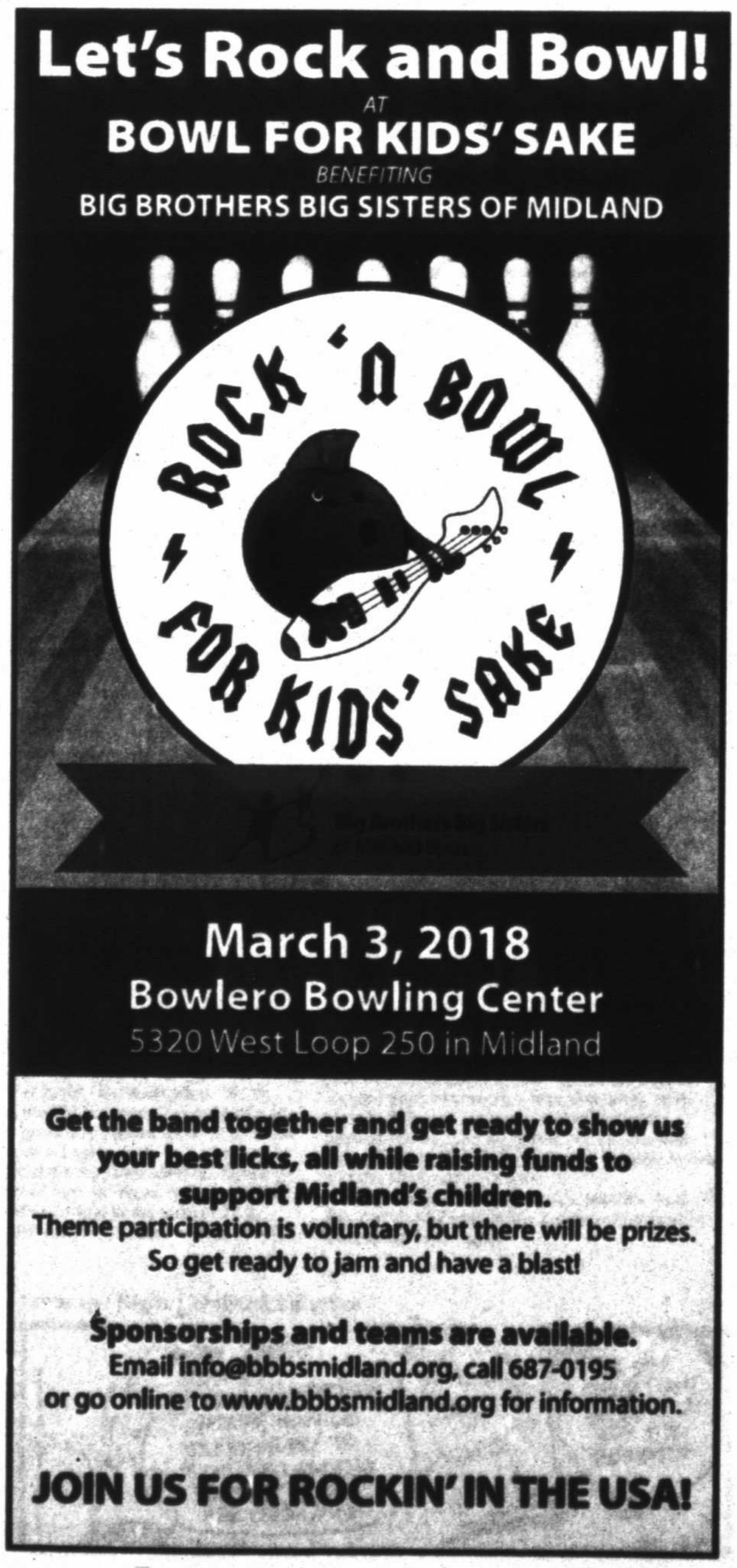
Delta spokesman Anthony Black declined comment Tuesday.

Following Cagle's tweet, Democratic officials in other states have made overtures to Delta.

"@Delta, if Georgia politicians disagree with your stand against gun violence, we invite you to move your headquarters to New York," Democratic New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo tweeted Tuesday.

On "Fox & Friends" Wednesday, Cagle scoffed at the notion that Delta, which recently signed a 20-year lease extension with Atlanta's airport, would move to New York.

"When you look at our tax rate, our cost of living along with our tort system, our regulatory environment and our workforce, we're second to none," Cagle said. "I don't think New York has anything to offer Delta that we do not already offer."



Attacking NRA is attacking everyday Americans

■ Members have done more to prevent gun deaths, and promote firearms safety, than any other citizens' association in the country

MARC THIESSEN

Washington Post Writers Group

A few weeks before the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, Democratic Rep. Henry Cuellar of Texas invited a special guest to attend the State of the Union address: Stephen Willeford, the hero who just months earlier had stopped a mass shooter at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs.

An ordinary citizen who heard the shots from his home across the street, Willeford grabbed his weapon, ran to the scene barefoot (knowing every second he delayed could mean another life lost) and exchanged fire with the gunman, wounding him in the leg and torso. When the killer jumped into his vehicle to escape, Willeford stopped a passing vehicle and followed in hot pursuit until the shooter crashed his car and shot himself in the head.

Willeford says he's not a hero. "I'm no brave man. I was terrified," he said after the shooting. But, he added, "I was there when nobody else was." Thank God he was.

Here's something else you need to know about Willeford. First, he is a long-time National Rifle Association instructor; it was his NRA training that allowed him to subdue the shooter. Second, the weapon he used to stop the killing spree in Sutherland Springs was an AR-15 — the very weapon gun-control advocates now want to ban. Without an AR-15, he says, he might not have stopped the killer. "If I had run out of the house with a pistol and faced a bulletproof vest and Kevlar and helmets, it might have been futile," he said. Because of his weapon, his training and his courage, countless lives were probably saved.

They could have used a Stephen Willeford in Parkland.

Keep his story in mind as you watch the current movement to boycott the NRA and ban so-called assault weapons. In the wake of the Parkland shooting at least a dozen companies — including United Airlines, Delta, Best Western and First National Bank of Omaha — have joined the NRA boycott. Chubb Limited insurance even announced it would cancel a program, "NRA Carry Guard," which provided insurance for NRA members who faced lawsuits for using their weapons in self-defense. When companies do this, they are not boycotting lobbyists in Washington; they are boycotting upstanding citizens such as Willeford. He and his fellow gun owners deserve better.

The NRA is a grass-roots organization made up of millions of decent, patriotic Americans who believe that guns in the hands of law-abiding citizens make our country safer, not more dangerous. To suggest that it is responsible for what happened in Parkland is obscene. Police officers were called to shooter Nikolas Cruz's house on 39 separate occasions since 2010. The FBI was warned about the shooter in January and failed to adhere to its own procedures to follow up. An armed sheriff's deputy was on the scene at the shooting, but he failed to act. And yet somehow the NRA is at fault? Please.

The NRA is far from perfect. I've criticized the NRA leadership's resistance to legislation banning "bump stocks." And there is nothing sacrosanct about the age of 18 for buying certain guns (or voting for that matter).

But NRA members have done more to prevent gun deaths, and promote firearms safety, than any other citizens' association in the country. When Democrats respond to shootings like the one in Parkland by demonizing the NRA and calling for a ban on weapons such as the AR-15 that are critical to Americans' right to self-defense, they send a clear and unmistakable message to millions of gun owners across the country: We don't respect you or your gun rights. This makes it harder to reach bipartisan agreement on solutions that could improve public safety without threatening the fundamental constitutional right of Americans to keep and bear arms.

We all want to keep guns out of the hands of mentally unstable people such as Nikolas Cruz. But we should all want to keep guns in the hands of responsible citizens such as Stephen Willeford. That's not the case today. Willeford deserves a medal, not a boycott. If corporate America can't figure that out and continues capitulating to the NRA boycott movement, maybe it is time for gun owners to boycott them.

OPINION EXTRA

Choice is the right way for MISD to co-exist with private schools

During a community meeting on Tuesday about district performance, Lone Star Governance and "Midland on the Move," Midland ISD Superintendent Orlando Riddick fielded a question about private schools, and hallelujah, the man didn't shy away from the topic. He embraced the entire educational community.

He talked about the "great options in front of (Midland's) children" and how the community needs those opportunities.

Maybe it was something he noticed in his three years as principal at a North Dallas public school. While he was campus leader at W.T. White High School, he was in the middle of a region that hosts some of the highest-performing private high schools in Texas. The Hockaday School, Jesuit College Preparatory of Dallas, Episcopal School of Dallas, Ursuline Academy of Dallas and St. Mark's School of Texas are all within 3 miles of W.T. White.

Midland has Midland Christian School, Trinity School and Midland Classical Academy, three private schools that serve elementary and high school students. St. Ann's Catholic School goes through eighth grade and there are Hillander School and Midland Montessori School for elementary students. Other private schools offering a different setting than MISD include Hillcrest. And there are plans for a Catholic high school.

Riddick knows that inside Midland — which has as many private schools per capita as any city in the state — you don't go around crying about what you don't have or knocking choice. On Tuesday — and during his first eight months as superintendent — he embraced "choice," particularly inside the school district. Midland's "choice" schools include Bowie Fine Arts Academy, Pease Communications and Technology Academy, Washington STEM Academy, Carver Center and Early College High School at Midland College. A collegiate preparatory elementary school planned at the current Houston Elementary campus is expected to start in the fall. MISD Chief Academic Officer Patrick Jones expects more choices for all students, possibly as early as next school year and certainly within three years. This includes the first in-district charter school.

"I like the fact that we have an opportunity for parents to have a choice," Riddick said. "We should have that. I want the private schools and want to learn from the work they do. I hope they can also learn from what we do. We need those opportunities and choices."

And then he offered the following: That no matter the student, he wants them to line up all those choices in front of them and their families and he wants to make it a difficult choice. He wants Midland ISD's options to tempt those enjoying the private school experience or to at least provide thought about whether they need to be at MISD.

I didn't feel the superintendent was offering a recruiting speech that might put private school leaders on the defensive. Conflict isn't what our community expects, one way or another. Riddick was saying what all superintendents should have been saying during the last 10 to 20 years: Midland ISD can provide a preparatory or a specialized education; it can provide those higher-caliber offerings; it can provide an alternative to the education experience we knew decades ago.

There is a lot of work for Midland ISD moving forward. Any talk about new facilities or budget increases requiring a tax increase require Riddick and other community leaders to demonstrate that choice and how an upgraded school district will impact not only the district's students but the thousands of students and families elsewhere. There must be the inspiration to attract the support of people who don't have a dog in the fight.

But we know where the superintendent stands, and I appreciate that his attitude isn't to ignore or whine about what Midland is. He embraces the community as it exists now and knows if MISD doesn't embrace choice or the current makeup of the city, it will get left even farther behind.

— Stewart Doreen,
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America has not-so-great gun debate

■ We're dismissing even modest proposals because of paranoia, and we're ascribing sinister motives to those whose views we don't agree with

RUBEN NAVARRETTE

Washington Post Writers Group

Is anyone else embarrassed by the great American gun debate? It's not so great. In fact, much of it is absurd.

It's been two weeks since the massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, that left 17 people dead, and we've learned that much of what went wrong in that case had nothing to do with guns.

It had to do with armed Broward County sheriff's deputies crouching behind their squad cars outside the school while teachers and students were being slaughtered inside, and the FBI fumbling its dealings with 19-year-old Nikolas Cruz. It had to do with all those people who ignored red flags that this young man was dangerous, and the fact that law enforcement had been called to Cruz's house at least 45 times. And it had to do with extreme negligence on the part of James and Kimberly Snead, the couple who took in Cruz and let the young man bring high-powered weapons into their home.

Of course, none of this lets firearms — and those who make, sell and buy them — off the hook. And it is when the talk turns to guns that the absurdity really kicks into overdrive.

Like when Wayne LaPierre tells attendees of the annual Conservative Political Action Conference that the problem with our society is that everyone plays the victim — moments before the executive vice president of the National Rifle Association makes victims out of gun owners.

Or when an arena full of left-wing anti-gun activists at a CNN town hall betray the liberal traditions of preaching tolerance and defending women by intolerantly attacking and slandering NRA spokesperson Dana Loesch.

Or how conservatives — many of whom oppose legalizing drugs because they say doing so would only encourage more drug use — now say that the way to curb gun violence in schools is to put more guns in schools and arm teachers.

Americans need a serious gun debate. We're not there yet. We're spiraling. We're shouting at one another. We're barricaded in our ideological bunkers. We're tuning out each other. We're dismissing even modest proposals because of paranoia. And we're ascribing sinister motives to those whose views we don't agree with.

Meanwhile, amid the fog, important questions go unanswered. Should high-powered, military-style semiautomatic rifles be sold to the public? If so, who should be allowed to own them — and at what age? How many such guns should someone be able to purchase? How do we strengthen background checks, and should we perhaps add a psychological test? And how do we make our schools safer — while still preserving the Second Amendment?

Let's at least be clear what the gun debate is really about. Here's a hint: It's not hunting.

A few days after the Parkland shooting, radio host Rush Limbaugh took a revealing call from a gun enthusiast who said the real reason that he and his kind want to own high-powered, high-capacity, semiautomatic rifles is because they want to have as much firepower as the U.S. government — just in case things go sideways and our leaders turn tyrannical.

I've heard others say the same thing. And it makes me recall Donald Trump's notorious sound bite in June 2015 about Mexican immigrants. To paraphrase:

When the NRA defends gun owners, they're not always defending the best people. ... They're defending people that can have lots of problems, and they're bringing those problems with them — to our schools. They're bringing death. They're bringing chaos. They're fanatics. And some, I assume, are good people.

Welcome to the new arms race, one that private citizens are never going to win until people can buy battleships on Amazon.

Here's what the Second Amendment says:

"A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

And here's what many gun enthusiasts hear:

"Just in case it becomes necessary to overthrow the State, the right of the people to stockpile weapons of war and engage in an arms race with Uncle Sam shall not be infringed."

See what happened there? Over the years, the gun lobby has brazenly repurposed the Second Amendment 180 degrees into something completely different than what it was originally intended to be. The Founders wanted everyday Americans to be able to own guns in order to protect the state, not overthrow it.

The latter is not freedom. It's anarchy. And, if you can't tell the difference, you most certainly should not have a gun.

From the Left | Doonesbury

From the Right | Mallard Fillmore

PBS launching new conservative political talk show

By David Bauder
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Columnist Michael Gerson and commentator Amy Holmes are teaming to start a conservative-oriented talk show on PBS that takes its cue from William F. Buckley's "Firing Line," which aired from 1966 to 1999.

The new show, "In Principle," will air Friday nights starting April 13. PBS will decide after an eight-week run whether to continue.

"In Principle" will air on Basin PBS at 7:30 p.m. Fridays from April 13 through June 1.

The hosts plan to interview two guests each show, hoping for an in-depth discussion on issues and their formative political experiences. No guests have been announced yet, but Gerson said he'd like to discuss issues like race, gun control and whether conservatism is the right message for the working class.

"I find when I go around the country that there is actually a hunger for serious, civil dialogue as an alternative to the bitterness of our civic discourse," Gerson said.

Gerson is known to the PBS audience as a frequent guest on "NewsHour." Holmes worked on MSNBC and on Glenn Beck's media company, The Blaze.

Although the show is beginning at a time of Republican dominance in both the White House and Congress, Gerson has often found himself at odds with President Donald Trump. He said Holmes more often takes the president's side, or acts as the "anti-anti-Trump."

"I think the Trump era has been a very difficult time for traditional conservative discourse," he said. "I think a lot of institutions and places have been co-opted in this era. I view conservatism not only as a belief but a state of mind, a respect for tradition but also a respect for facts."

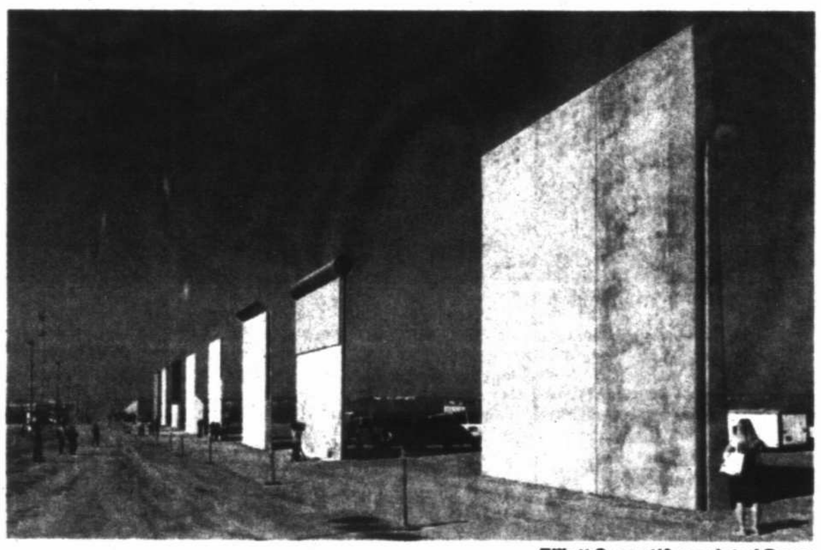
At the same time, Trump began to have political success because neither party was addressing the economic concerns of working class Americans, he said.

The show will originate from PBS' WETA-TV studio outside of Washington. The chief programming executive at WETA, Dalton Delan, will be executive producer.

"We need a place where we can have thoughtful, reasonable, in-depth conversations about politics, policy, culture — you name it — where we're really talking to each other instead of shouting at each other," Holmes said. She said she wanted viewers to feel like they spent their time wisely and learned something in the process.

Trump: California wall won't happen until 'whole wall' OK'd

By Jill Colvin and Elliot Spagat
Associated Press



Elliott Spagat/Associated Press

Prototypes of border walls are Oct. 26, 2017, in San Diego. President Donald Trump threatened Wednesday to prevent construction of a border wall with Mexico in California that the state sued to stop, his latest attack on the state over its positions on immigration enforcement.

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump threatened Wednesday to prevent construction of a border wall with Mexico in California that the state sued to stop.

In a puzzling early-morning tweet, Trump said he "decided that sections of the Wall that California wants built NOW will not be built until the whole Wall is approved."

California, however, joined four environmental advocacy groups in challenging the wall construction, arguing that Trump's administration had overreached when it waived environmental reviews and other laws.

And Gonzalo Curiel, the federal judge who was taunted by Trump during the 2016 campaign for his Mexican heritage, sided with the president on Tuesday in rejecting California's arguments. Trump hailed the ruling as a "big victory."

The White House did not immediately answer questions about the tweet. The Department of Homeland Security referred questions to the White House.

Trump has been increasingly annoyed at California, castigating the state for limiting its cooperation with federal immigration authorities.

Last week, he threatened to pull the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency out of the state in reprisal — an idea so unlikely that some of Trump's staunchest critics dismissed it as bluster amid escalating tensions with the state over its immigration policies.

Trump also has been frustrated in his efforts to get funding for the border wall, one of his central campaign promises. His administration has proposed spending $1.6 billion to extend the wall 60 miles in Texas and replace 14 miles in California, specifically in San Diego. It wants $1.6 billion to extend the wall 65 miles next year, all of it in Texas. Congress has yet to approve the spending.

Eight prototypes meant to serve as a guide for future designs were completed in San Diego in October.

And construction began last week to replace slightly more than 2 miles of wall in Calexico, California, the first wall contract that the administration awarded outside of the prototypes. Both projects carry a relatively small price tag and were funded last year.

Trump is scheduled to visit the wall prototypes in San Diego in mid-March, according to a U.S. official. Another person familiar with the visit said Trump would also go to Los Angeles for a fundraiser in his rare foray into California. Both people spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the visit publicly.

A Border Patrol spokesman in the sector that includes construction in Calexico said he was unaware of the president's tweet but insisted work there was not part of the president's planned wall. On Wednesday, crews continued to work on replacing a 1990s-era barrier with 30-foot-high bollards. The project is expected to take up to 300 days.

Imperial County Supervisor John Renison, who represents Calexico, said he supp rts the design being used there because people can see through it but opposes a wall generally. He was unaware of the president's tweet or any change of plans.

"We do not support a wall, obviously, and let me make that very clear," Renison said. "It's like the old Berlin. You're separating countries, and you're creating animosity, and it's not good."

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, a Democrat, has adamantly opposed Trump's plans, saying Tuesday in response to the court ruling that a "medieval wall along the U.S.-Mexico border simply does not belong in the 21st century."

MAGA hat, #MeToo pin? High court weighs voter clothing law

By Jessica Gresko
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — They were all dressed in basic black robes, but the Supreme Court's nine justices had a serious discussion about fashion Wednesday as they heard arguments over a Minnesota law that bars voters from wearing political clothing to the polls.

Almost every one of the justices had some hypothetical article of clothing to talk about as they explored the issue of free speech at polling places and whether various clothing items could be prohibited.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg asked about a #MeToo pin. Justice Elena Kagan wanted to know about clothing that says "Resist" or "Make America Great Again." And Justice Samuel Alito's laundry list of items included a National Rifle Association T-shirt, shirts with the text of the First and Second Amendments and a shirt with a rainbow flag.

Amid the arguments over apparel, several justices suggested support for at least some polling place restrictions. Chief Justice John Roberts told the attorney arguing against Minnesota's law that he wondered if, after months of a "maybe bitter, sharp, political campaign," if "maybe, just before you cast your vote, you should be able to have a time for some quiet reflection or to do that important civic obligation in peace and quiet without being bombarded by another campaign display."

Most states have laws restricting what voters can wear to the polls, but Minnesota's law is one of the broadest. It bars voters from casting a ballot wearing clothing with the name of a candidate or political party or related to an issue on the ballot. But Minnesota voters also can't wear clothing promoting a group with recognizable political views. That means no tea party T-shirts, AFL-CIO hats or MoveOn.org buttons.

Opponents of Minnesota's law say it's too broad. The state says it's a reasonable restriction that keeps order at polling places and prevents voter intimidation.

Both sides agree that there are about 10 states with laws like Minnesota's, though they have disagreed on which ones. Other states have narrower laws just barring voters from wearing campaign clothing.

During an hour of arguments Wednesday, some justices questioned Minnesota's broader ban. Justice Neil Gorsuch suggested Minnesota's law is "a bit of an outlier" in its sweep. And Alito said it invites "arbitrary enforcement." He then asked for answers on whether Minnesota's law would permit more than a half dozen different T-shirts.

Daniel Rogan, who argued in support of Minnesota's law, said it wouldn't allow the NRA shirt or Second Amendment shirt Alito asked about. The First Amendment shirt was fine, he said. And the rainbow flag shirt was OK unless there was an issue on the ballot that related to gay rights, Rogan said.

The case the Supreme Court was hearing dates back to 2010 and involves a dispute that began over tea party T-shirts and buttons with the words "Please I.D. Me," a reference to legislation then under discussion in Minnesota that would have required voters to show photo identification. It was later defeated.

Pointing to the state's statute, Minnesota officials said before the election that neither item would be permitted at the polls. In response, a group of voters and organizations sued. One of those voters, Andy Cilek, was in the courtroom Wednesday. Lower courts have sided with Minnesota.

The Supreme Court has previously upheld some restrictions at the polls on voters' free speech rights. In 1992, the court upheld a Tennessee statute prohibiting the display or distribution of campaign materials within 100 feet of a polling place.

US economic growth revised down slightly to 2.5 pct. in Q4

By Martin Crutsinger
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. economic growth was revised down slightly to a still-solid 2.5 percent annual rate in the final three months of last year, as business spent less on investment and restocking shelves than the government had previously estimated.

The fourth quarter advance in the gross domestic product, the economy's total output of goods and services, followed even faster increases of 3.1 percent at a seasonally adjusted annual rate in the second quarter and 3.2 percent in the third quarter, the Commerce Department reported Wednesday.

Consumer spending raced ahead at the fastest pace since the spring of 2016, although some of the components such as purchases of furniture and clothing were revised lower. However, these declines were offset by stronger spending on services such as utility bills.

Factors in the downward revision included a greater slowdown by businesses in spending to build up their stockpiles and weaker business investment on structures and intellectual property. The various small revisions pulled down GDP from the initial estimate of 2.6 percent growth.

Economists said the small changes were unlikely to change the upbeat assessment of the economy that Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell delivered to Congress on Tuesday.

"The Fed already knew that the economy had healthy momentum to end 2017 so this does little to change its thinking on the outlook," said Leslie Preston, senior economist at TD Economics.

For the year, GDP rose 2.3 percent, a significant pick-up from 1.5 percent in 2016, which had been the slowest annual growth rate since the economy contracted in the recession year of 2009.

President Donald Trump has often pointed to the pickup in growth last year as evidence that his economic program of tax cuts, deregulation and stronger enforcement of trade deals was working. During the campaign, Trump promised to double growth, which has averaged a lackluster 2.2 percent annual average since the recession ended in mid-2009. The current expansion is now in its ninth year, making it the third longest on records going back to the 1850s, but it has also been the slowest in the post-World War II period.

Trump has said he expects to achieve GDP growth of 4 percent or better, although his new budget is based on an expectation that the economy will expand at average annual rates of 3 percent over the next decade. The 3 percent GDP forecast has been challenged as overly optimistic by private forecasters who point to the retirements of the baby boom generation and lagging productivity as factors likely to constrain GDP growth.

Many forecasters have boosted their expectation for growth this year and next year, based on the boost they believe will come from the $1.5 trillion tax cut package Trump pushed through Congress in December and the $300 billion in extra government spending added to this year and next year by a budget deal Congress approved in January.

Analysts think the increased stimulus will help lift GDP to 2.5 percent growth this year and next year. But analysts think those gains will fade after 2019, as the economy is held back by higher budget deficits and rising interest rates engineered by a Federal Reserve that will be trying to slow the economy to make sure inflation does not get out of control.

In his public debut as chairman of the Federal Reserve, Powell said Tuesday that "further gradual increases" in the Fed's key policy rate will be the best way to keep the economy from overheating while at the same time achieving the Fed's goal of having inflation rise at a moderate pace of 2 percent per year.

But many analysts believe the Fed will boost rates four times in 2018, with the first increase coming next month. That would be up from three rate hikes in 2017.

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In public spat, Trump taunts Sessions, AG doesn't keep quiet

By Sadie Gurman
Associated Press

Susan Walsh/Associated Press

Attorney General Jeff Sessions delivers remarks Tuesday to the National Association of Attorneys General at their Winter Meeting in Washington.

WASHINGTON — Harshly criticized yet again by his boss, Attorney General Jeff Sessions on Wednesday abandoned his usual stony silence and pushed back against President Donald Trump for saying Sessions' response to Republican complaints about the FBI was "disgraceful."

Sessions gave no suggestion he would step down in light of the charge made on Twitter and insisted he would "continue to discharge my duties with integrity and honor."

Trump's latest tirade stems from a comment Sessions made Tuesday, when he suggested the Justice Department's inspector general will evaluate whether prosecutors and FBI agents wrongly obtained a warrant under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act to monitor the communications of a onetime Trump campaign associate. Sessions had asked the watchdog office to review the complaints in response to pressure from congressional Republicans, who, like Trump, have fumed about what they believe to be bias within the FBI.

Trump tweeted: "Why is A.G. Jeff Sessions asking the Inspector General to investigate potentially massive FISA abuse. Will take forever, has no prosecutorial power and already late with reports on Comey etc. Isn't the I.G. an Obama guy? Why not use Justice Department lawyers? DISGRACEFUL!"

Sessions answered hours later, saying his department had taken the appropriate step and "will continue to do its work in a fair and impartial manner according to the law and Constitution."

It was hardly the first time the president has aired his gripes against Session over the Russia probe. The former Alabama senator, an early supporter of Trump's candidacy, has endured a year's worth of Trump's wrath in order to hold onto the job he had long desired. But even for Trump, who once called the attorney general "beleaguered," Wednesday's volley elevated the rhetoric to a new level.

The exchange comes at a time of heightened tension between the Justice Department and the White House, which is mired in special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Trump campaign ties to Russia and possible obstruction of justice. Trump has long viewed Sessions' decision to step aside from that investigation as leading to Mueller's appointment.

Sessions has become a Trump scapegoat, allowing the president to avoid some of the political consequences of directly attacking Mueller as his probe escalates.

Trump this time is angry that Sessions referred the allegations of employee misconduct to the inspector general, but that's exactly what that office is charged with doing. Its lawyers are part of the department and, contrary to Trump's claims, can and often do refer matters for prosecution.

The office has been working on a separate review of the FBI's handling of the Hillary Clinton email investigation under former Director James Comey, but that report is not late and is expected to be released around March or April.

Inspector General Michael Horowitz's office has acknowledged receiving Sessions' request but hasn't said it is investigating. Horowitz was appointed to the post by President Barack Obama, as Trump noted. But years earlier, Horowitz was named in the Bush administration to a seat on the Sentencing Commission, suggesting he has more bipartisan bona fides than Trump acknowledges. Horowitz also launched the review of the FBI's handling of the Clinton case — the stated reason by Trump and Sessions for the dismissal of Comey in May.

GOP Rep. Trey Gowdy of South Carolina, recently one of the FBI's toughest critics, defended Horowitz as "fair, fact-centric and appropriately confidential with his work."

Until now, Sessions had largely keep quiet in the face of Trump's verbal and social media volleys, faithfully executing the president's agenda on guns, drugs, violent crime and illegal immigration. Some within Sessions' own department had criticized that silence as straining morale and making him seem too eager to appease the president at the risk of dangerously politicizing the institution.

The two bonded early in Trump's campaign. But Trump has not been able to get over Sessions' withdrawal from the Russia investigation and has relentlessly belittled him and pressured him to investigate political rivals. The criticism was so harsh that Sessions offered last year to resign; Trump refused.

Sessions has since tried to get back into Trump's good graces. His request of the inspector general should have appeased Trump, as White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders suggested Tuesday it would.

"It's something that he's clearly had frustration over so I would imagine he certainly support the decision to look into what we feel to be some wrongdoing," she said. "I think that's the role of the Department of Justice and we're glad that they're fulfilling that job."

J. Scott Applewhite/Associated Press

The body of Rev. Billy Graham is carried into the Capitol Rotunda where he will lie in honor as President Donald Trump, officials and dignitaries pay tribute to America's most famous evangelist, Wednesday in Washington. The North Carolina-born farm boy became a media-savvy Southern Baptist minister and spiritual adviser to numerous presidents, reaching millions around with the world with his rallies — or what he called "crusades" — through his pioneering use of television.

Graham praised by Trump as 'America's pastor'

By Laurie Kellman
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The president gently touched the bare wood of Billy Graham's casket. The speaker of the House bowed his head. And hundreds of other lawmakers, family and friends stood in a rare salute Wednesday to the man they called, "America's pastor."

"He ministered to all walks, from some of the greats whose statues line this hall — Eisenhower, King, Ford, and Reagan — to the everyday citizens lining up today to pay their respects," said House Speaker Paul Ryan, gesturing to Graham's casket under the eye of the Capitol Rotunda.

President Donald Trump, who met Graham but is closer to his son, Franklin, nonetheless recalled that the elder Graham had long been part of his life. Trump said his father, Fred, "said to me, 'Come on, son ... Let's go see Billy Graham at Yankee Stadium.' And it was something very special."

He called Graham "an ambassador for Christ who reminded the world of the power of prayer and the gift of God's grace."

Graham's influence stretched far beyond the city where he counseled presidents and lawmakers to a global flock over the better part of seven decades. He is known for having met every president, Trump included, and counseled most.

But he learned to be wary of the heat of politics. Close to Richard Nixon, Graham later said the details of the Watergate scandal made him feel used.

But the world of American politics and government embraced Graham on Wednesday, a week after he died at age 99. Those gathered, including Vice President Mike Pence, some members of Trump's Cabinet and members of the House and Senate, stood around the casket. They were ringed by paintings of the nation's founders.

"The man we recognize today shared the Gospel with more people, face-to-face, than anyone else in history," said Sen. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

As the leaders stood by the casket, Trump reached out to touch it. Ryan, nearby, bowed his head.

Some 30 family members accompanied Graham's casket to Washington, where he had befriended presidents of both parties. Graham's son, Franklin, tweeted a photo Wednesday of family members loading the casket onto a jet emblazoned with "Samaritan's Purse," the name of a Christian relief charity that he chairs.

Graham is lying in honor before a funeral Friday near his home in North Carolina. The Rotunda entrances were draped with black fabric, and Graham's casket rested on a black-draped catafalque beneath the soaring ceiling and its painting, the "Apotheosis of Washington."

Graham felt burned by Nixon for years. Nixon's White House tapes released in 2002 included Graham's voice telling the president that Jews "don't know how I really feel about what they're doing to this country." He apologized.

Nonetheless, he ministered to other presidents until his health began to fail.

Former President Bill Clinton recalled seeing one of Graham's crusades as a child, a profound experience that became more amazing over his life. Graham counseled him as Arkansas governor, and later as president in the White House itself.

"In that little room, he was the same person I saw when I was 11 on that football field," Clinton said Tuesday after viewing the casket at Graham's home.

Former President George W. Bush and his wife, Laura, visited Graham's home earlier in the week.

In Washington, Ryan said there had been no doubt that Graham would receive the honor of a public viewing in the Rotunda. He told reporters that almost immediately upon hearing of Graham's death he, Trump, McConnell and Rep. Patrick McHenry, who represents the Graham family's district, agreed it would happen.

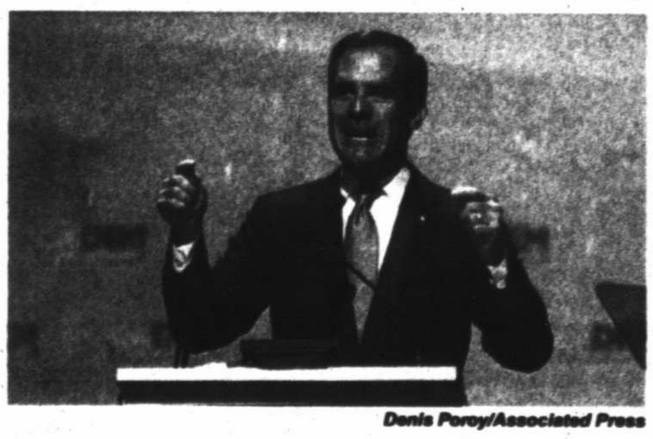
Trump met Graham at the pastor's 95th birthday party in 2013, but is closer to Franklin Graham Jr.

Graham shares the honor of a public viewing in the Rotunda with 11 presidents and other distinguished Americans, starting with Sen. Henry Clay of Kentucky in 1852 and, most recently, Sen. Daniel Inouye of Hawaii in 2012.

Graham is only the fourth private person to lie in honor since 1998. The others are two U.S. Capitol Police officers who died in the line of duty in 1998 and civil rights hero Rosa Parks in 2005.

Echo of Obamacare: Dems divided over vow to repeal tax law

By Steve Peoples and Kevin Freking
Associated Press



Denis Poroy/Associated Press

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti speaks Saturday at the 2018 California Democrats State Convention in San Diego. A number of high-profile liberals are calling for repeal of the Republican tax plan that President Donald Trump signed into law, including Garcetti.

WASHINGTON — Republicans spent much of the last decade firing up their base with a vow to repeal President Barack Obama's health care overhaul. But when it came to doing the deed, they found promises much easier than execution.

Democrats may be starting down the same path on taxes.

From New Mexico to New York, high-profile liberals are calling for the repeal of the Republican tax plan that President Donald Trump signed into law just two months ago. They're betting big that the message will resonate with voters in the midterm elections in November and provide the sort of clear, populist economic message some Democrats worry has been missing. But others, including red-state Democrats, are clearly queasy about the strategy, mindful that repealing a government benefit once it takes hold is far easier said than done — and not always popular.

When pressed, some leading Democrats conceded that they'd repeal only certain portions of the tax law despite the implication that they'd go further.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, a 2016 presidential candidate who appeared last weekend in Iowa, Wisconsin and Michigan as part of the "Repeal the Trump Tax" national tour, said "No" three times in an AP interview when asked whether he backed full repeal.

"I think what we have got to do is sit down and take a look at what kind of tax benefits would work best for small business, for working families and the middle class," Sanders said. "But what we must repeal completely is tax breaks that go to billionaires and to profitable large corporations that are in some cases are paying very little in taxes right now."

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, who may seek the Democratic presidential nomination in 2020 and was also featured on the repeal tour, offered a more aggressive position.

"Repeal this tax bill," Garcetti said. "It was passed by, and for, the Washington crowd and their rich friends. Corporations and billionaires are doing just fine."

The messaging challenge comes as the Republican tax overhaul emerges as a central issue in this year's midterm elections. More than health care, guns, or immigration, Republicans and Democrats both have embraced the tax debate. Each side believes it has the winning argument in a battle that will decide the balance of power in Washington for the last two years of Trump's first term.

The conservative Koch brothers' political network has already begun spending millions of dollars on TV ads and grassroots events to help improve the plan's popularity.

While Trump and many conservative leaders cheered the tax overhaul, it was among the least popular pieces of legislation in modern history when it became law in December. Not a single Democrat in the House or Senate voted for the tax plan, which overwhelmingly benefited the wealthy, but included modest savings for many middle-class and lower-income Americans.

"I would urge Democrats to embrace repeal. It is a simple clean message. It also captures essentially what most Democrats feel about this bill: It's bad," said Nicole Gill, whose liberal group, Tax March, coordinated the ongoing "Repeal the Trump Tax" national tour, which in addition to Sanders and Garcetti has already featured appearances from House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Democratic National Committee Deputy Chairman Keith Ellison and at least 16 other members of Congress in recent weeks. The tour runs through mid-April.

Maryland Sen. Chris Van Hollen, who leads Senate Democrats' 2018 campaign efforts, stopped short of calling for a full repeal, but he encouraged all of his party's candidates, even the most vulnerable, to embrace their opposition to the tax law.

"Our members will be talking to these issues," Van Hollen said. "It doesn't matter if you're a red state or a blue state, the idea of running up the debt by $1.5 trillion and cutting Medicare and Medicaid to pay for tax cuts for big corporations and the wealthy is not popular."

So far, at least, red-state Democrats are quick to say they would not repeal the law if given the chance, in what is a far more cautious approach than some party strategists and blue-state officials would like.

"I think there's a lot of good things in the tax bill. I just think they went a little too far on some things," said West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin, who is running for re-election this fall in a state Trump won by 42 points.

Manchin, for example, said he wanted the corporate tax rate placed at 25 percent and he would not have voted to repeal the health coverage mandate.

"No, I wouldn't vote to repeal it. I'm not that type of a person," he said in an interview, adding that he had a similar philosophy on Obama's health care overhaul: Fix it, rather than repeal.

Democratic Sen. Jon Tester of Montana, a state Trump won by 20 points, said he understands that some constituents will benefit from the tax law. He said headlines about bonuses are "all positive" as far as he's concerned.

"There's portions of the tax bill that actually made sense," he said in an interview. "But the thing is, who pays for it? And it's our kids."

During the bill signing in December, Trump highlighted the corporate tax cut in particular, which was dropped from 35 percent to 21 percent. Companies such as Apple, Walmart, Cisco and Pepsi will save hundreds of millions of dollars and sent some of the savings to workers in the form of bonuses and pay increases, but much more went to corporate executives and other shareholders. The bill also lowered the tax rates for each income level and doubled the standard deduction.

Most Americans, but not all, will save money on their tax bills in the coming years, with wealthier taxpayers saving the most. The individual tax cuts will expire in 2025, while the business cuts are permanent.

Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam, a Democrat elected three months ago, suggested that it didn't matter much whether Democrats promised outright repeal or major improvements as they campaign against the Republican tax law this fall.

WEEKENDER

YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS IN THE PERMIAN BASIN

BEST BETS

TEXAS INDEPENDENCE
The Haley Memorial Library hosts its observance of Texas Independence Day with a historical re-enactment, the Texas history essay contest winner and "A Toast to Texas." 1:30 p.m. Friday.

Continue your Texas pride with live music, armadillo racing and drink specials Friday and Saturday at Little Woodrow's weekend celebration.

FRIDAY

EXTRA GUAC
Maverick Players continue its run of "Last Roundup of the Guacamole Queens" at the VFW Hall. 7:30 p.m

SATURDAY

GONE TO MARKET
Visit with local vendors for food, arts and more at Alldredge Gardens' Market at the Gardens. 10 a.m.

TUESDAY

CLASSICAL ROCK
The Black Jacket Symphony recreates AC/DC's "Back in Black" album into an orchestra onslaught at the Wagner Noel. Is it rock? Classical? Maybe it's just cool. 8 p.m.

MONDAY

WHERE THE HEART IS
The pop-country vocalists Home Free return to the Wagner Noel in support of its newest album "Timeless." 7:30 p.m.

See complete schedule of weekend events on Page 2

MOVIES

Films opening and closing this week at Midland theaters

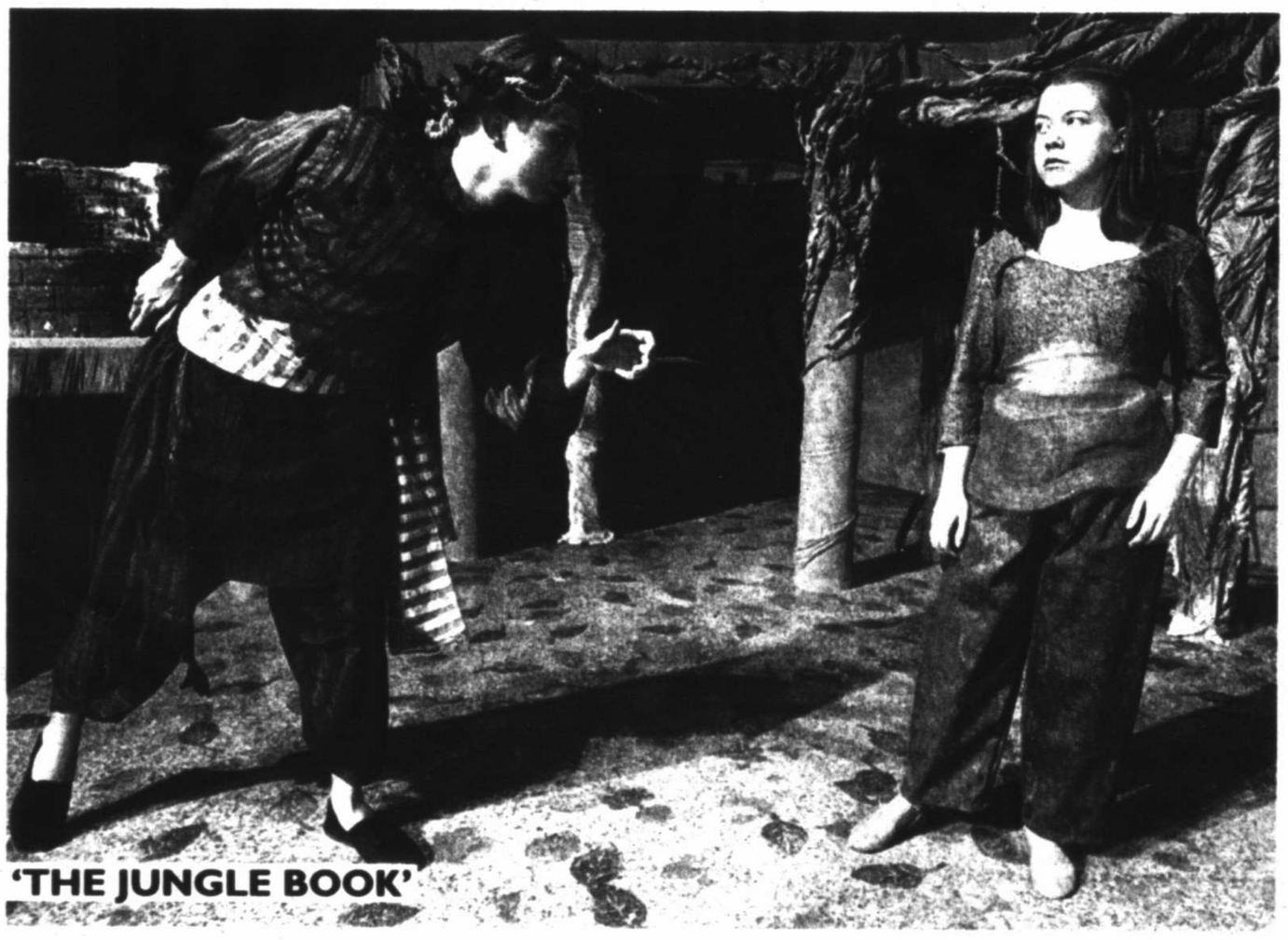
TALL CITY 14
Opening: "Death Wish," "Red Sparrow"
Closing: "50 Shades Freed"

CINERGY CINEMAS
Opening: "Death Wish," "Red Sparrow"
Closing: "50 Shades Freed"

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

COMING SOON

Texas country favorite Kevin Fowler headlines Rockin' Rodeo on March 15. Visit rockinrodeomidland.com for details.



'THE JUNGLE BOOK'

HEAT INDEX: 'The Jungle Book' comes to life at MCT

By Rich Lopez
jrlopez@mrt.com

The Official Blues Brothers Revue at the Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center

Being that it's official, then you know Las Vegas' Wayne Catania and Kieron Lafferty must be spot on as the Blues Brothers. In fact, the duo's act is the only one sanctioned by original Brother Dan Aykroyd and Judith Belushi, wife of the late Jim Belushi. These guys bring back the heart and soul — and the laughs — of the iconic act born on "Saturday Night Live" and then became a phenomenon. The event is part of the venue's LOL at the Wagner Noel series.

8 p.m. today at 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $35-$60. wagnernoel.com.

Wish Dr. Seuss a "Happy Birthday"

Children of all ages can celebrate Dr. Seuss' 114th birthday with two parties. Enjoy storytime and birthday games at 6:30 p.m. Friday at Barnes and Noble (2617 W. Loop 250 N.). If that's not enough cats in hats and Whos in Whoville, at noon on Saturday, the Centennial library (2503 West Loop 250 N) hosts a party with face painting, storytellers and a movie screening.

"The Jungle Book" by the Pickwick Players

Join the man-cub Mowgli in his adventures through the jungle in this theatrical adaptation of Rudyard Kipling's novel. Don't expect to hear "The Bare Necessities" in this one; though. This is not the Disney version. But Baloo, Bagheera and the sinister Shere Khan bring the classic story to the stage.

7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. 2:30 p.m. Sundays. Opens Friday and runs through March 25 at Midland Community Theatre, 2000 W. Wadley Ave. $28. mct-midland.org.

Jeremy Steding at the Lone Star Bar

Steding's 2017 album may be titled "Odessa" but he plays Midland this weekend. He once described the songs on the album "Wide Open Country" as his best yet. He regularly tours Texas, but we like the idea that West Texas has made quite an impression on him.

10 p.m. Friday at 621 W. Wall St.

The Well Tour a t Palmer Activity Christian Center

You can call it hip-hop, contemporary Christian or EDM music, but The Well Tour has a strong lineup. The roster includes 5ive, Young Noah, V. Rose, SPEC, Dee Black and Plain James. Audiences get all that music for the best ticket price — free.

6:30 p.m. Saturday at 1305 E. Illinois Ave.

Courtesy photo

Trumpeter Tony Carlucci also serves as the bandleader for Brass Transit, which performs with the MOSC on Saturday.

Brass Transit mixes it up with MOSC

By Rich Lopez
jrlopez@mrt.com

IF YOU GO

Pops with Brass Transit. 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. MOSC.org

The Midland Odessa Symphony and Chorale will host quite the mashup on Saturday. Canadian band Brass Transit plays the sounds of Chicago (the band) with the West Texas orchestra. Founder and trumpeter Tony Carlucci assured it will all sound awesome.

"We're already a big band, so having a 40-piece orchestra behind you adds a whole other angle and a lot of depth," he said.

The Toronto-based ensemble will play Chicago's biggest hits with the MOSC at the Wagner Noel — a far cry from the cover band's club days nine years ago.

"Chicago has always been one of my favorite groups so I thought it would be fun to make a cover band," he said. "Then it turned into this beast."

Not long after forming Brass Transit, Carlucci posted a video to a then-newish YouTube at the recommendation of his son. That quickly led to shows in theaters and larger venues. They even landed an American manager.

Carlucci had stumbled onto something good.

"I put this together for fun. I called guys who loved Chicago," he said. "We were doing more deep cuts in the beginning. Now, we do all the hits."

The big songs — particularly ballads — such as "Hard to Say I'm Sorry," "You're the Inspiration" and "If You Leave Me Now" are staples in the repertoire. Every so often, Carlucci and the rest of the band get a track in that might be more obscure.

Brass Transit must be doing something right. With almost a decade of covering the band, the two groups eventually met. And Chicago was so impressed with the cover band, they recruited Brass Transit's lead singer, Neil Donell, as their own.

"Yeah. That was like five weeks ago, too. Maybe we're the official farm team for the band now," Carlucci said, laughing.

MARK KENNEDY
Associated Press

'Red Sparrow' with Jennifer Lawrence never takes off

In the James Bond films, sex with a globe-trotting spy seems to be fun, fun, fun. A martini, a tuxedo, a witty line or two and then it's off to a luxurious bed with two tanned, muscular bodies. Not so in the new thriller "Red Sparrow ," where the sex is cold, ugly and often violent.

This dark, meandering and cliche-ridden bummer starring a trying-hard Jennifer Lawrence tries to reach for a cool and stylish look at contemporary spycraft but often falls victim to cartoon violence and a muddled story. The creators may call it erotic but it's as erotic as a visit to the dentist.

Francis Lawrence, the director of the last three "Hunger Games" films, reunites with Lawrence for more adult fare but one likely to be remembered more for the outdoor junket photos of Lawrence in a thigh-slit dress in chilly London while her male co-creators wore coats.

Based on a book by former CIA agent Jason Matthews, "Red Sparrow" stars Lawrence as Dominika, a Moscow ballerina who has to rethink her career after a devastating injury. With the advice of her

Please see KENNEDY/Page 3B

CALENDAR

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

CLASSES, LECTURES & WORKSHOPS

The Arlen Edgar Distinguished Lecture Series: Andrew J. Torget presents **"The Crisis at Mansfield High: How the Portal to Texas History is Uncovering Forgotten Stories of the Civil Rights Era in Texas."** 7 p.m. today at the Petroleum Museum, 1500 I-20 W. Free but reservations requested. 683-4403. pbpetro.org.

West Texas Iris Society meeting with Dawn Boyer of Amarillo, former vice president of Region 17 of the American Iris Society, discussing artistic arrangements. Open to the public. 7 p.m. today at Senior Link Midland, 3301 Sinclair Ave.

Trans 101: Lunch and Learn. Out in West Texas directors lead this informational session on transgender issues. Lunch provided and open to the public. 12:15 p.m. Sunday at Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland, 3301 Neely Ave. Free.

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

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

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

EVENTS

Texas Independence Day Celebration with live music, armadillo racing and drink specials. Friday and Saturday at Little Woodrow's, 3415 N. Loop 250. littlewoodrows.com.

Texas Independence Day Observance and Celebration. Haley Memorial Library and the Daughters of the Republic of Texas will host the annual observance of the signing of the Declaration of Independence by the founders of the Republic of Texas. The event also will feature the winner of the annual Texas history essay contest and a recitation of "A Toast to Texas." 1:30 p.m. Friday at the library, 1805 W. Indiana Ave.

Author Signing: Cristy Nickel discusses and signs copies of her book, "The Code Red Revolution: How Thousands of People are Losing Weight and Keeping it Off without Pills, Shakes, Diet Foods or Exercise." 4 p.m. Friday at Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 2617 W. Loop 250 N. barnesandnoble.com.

Market at the Gardens, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday at Alldredge Gardens, North Fairgrounds Road.

Rock 'n' Bowl for Kids Sake benefiting Big Brothers Big Sisters. 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Saturday at Bowlero, 5320 W. Loop 250 N. bbbsmidland.org

FAMILY & YOUTH

Writing is Magic teen writing club for ages 13-19. 4:30 p.m. every first Friday at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N.

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

Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration with games, activities and more. 6:30 p.m. Friday at Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 2617 W. Loop 250 N. barnesandnoble.com.

First Friday: Family movie and game night hosted by Permian Basin LGBTQ(plus). Enjoy board games and a movie screening of "Guardians of the Galaxy" for children every first Friday of the month. 7 p.m. Friday at Sleep Inn and Suites of Midland, 5612 Deauville Road. Free. pblgbtq.org.

"The Very Hungry Caterpillar" storytime. 11 a.m. Saturday at Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 2617 W. Loop 250 N. barnesandnoble.com.

Dr. Seuss' 114th Birthday Party with guest storytellers, face painting, art projects and a screening of "Horton Hears a Who." Refreshments will be served. Noon Saturday at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 West Loop 250 North.

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

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

FINE ART & DANCE

CLOSING: "The Work of Annita Delano" through Sunday. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays (open to 8 p.m. Thursdays), 2-5 p.m. Sundays. At the Ellen Noel Art Museum, 4909 E. University Blvd., Odessa. Free. noelartmuseum.org.

Visions 2018: "Peregrination in Photography" featuring works by Aaron Bedell through March 18 at Arts Council of Midland, 1506 W Illinois Ave.

"Captured by Detail: Camille Engel." The exhibition runs through May 20. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays (open to 8 p.m. Thursdays), 2-5 p.m. Sundays. At the Ellen Noel Art Museum, 4909 E. University Blvd., Odessa. Free. noelartmuseum.org.

"Portraits of Courage: A Commander in Chief's Tribute to America's Warriors" is a collection of President George W. Bush's works in oil that honors servicemen and women. Through March 25 at Museum of the Southwest, 1705 W. Missouri Ave. museumsw.org.

"Modern Frescos: Ali Cavanaugh" through May 13. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays (open to 8 p.m. Thursdays), 2-5 p.m. Sundays. At the Ellen Noel Art Museum, 4909 E. University Blvd., Odessa. Free. noelartmuseum.org.

"On with the Show, This is It! Chuck Jones and the Animation Art of Looney Tunes" through April 1. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays (open to 8 p.m. Thursdays), 2-5 p.m. Sundays. At the Ellen Noel Art Museum, 4909 E. University Blvd., Odessa. Free. noelartmuseum.org.

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

FOOD & DRINK

Plant-Based Cooking Demonstration: Quick and Easy Meals. 6-7:30 p.m. today at West Texas Food Bank, 1601 Westcliff Drive. $10. To register, call 221-5433.

Float the Keg with complimentary beer samples. 5 p.m. Tuesday at Little Woodrow's, 3415 N. Loop 250. littlewoodrows.com.

Cookies with a Cop. Meet and greet with the Midland Police Department. 3:30 p.m. Wednesday at Midland Community Theatre, 2000 W. Wadley Ave.

Steak Night, 6 p.m. Wednesdays through April 18 at Little Woodrow's, 3415 N. Loop 250.

GAMES

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

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

Hold 'em poker tournaments, 7 p.m. Fridays at The Detour, 1709 Rankin Hwy.

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

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

Bridge game play, 6:45 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays; 1 p.m. Tuesdays; 10:30 a.m. Saturdays; 1:30 p.m. Sundays. Allison Bridge Center, 913 W. Wadley Ave. $6. For more information call 682-8595.

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

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

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.

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

Live Trivia by Challenge Entertainment. 8 p.m. Wednesdays at Torino's, 3303 N. Midkiff Road. challengeentertainment.com.

MUSIC

AMERICANA SINGER-SONGWRITER

Jeremy Steding, 10 p.m. Friday at the Lone Star Bar, 621 W. Wall St.

COUNTRY

Shotgun Rider, 8 p.m. today at Rockin' Rodeo, 4400 N. Big Spring St. rockinrodeomidland.com

King George and Raised Right Men, 10 p.m. Friday at Rockin' Rodeo, 4400 N. Big Spring St.

COVER/TRIBUTE

Texas Pride, 9 p.m. Friday at Your Place, 3704 W. Wall St.

DJ/DANCE

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

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

DRAG

"RuPaul Drag Race All Stars" viewing party with host Ayyva Nevaeh. 7 p.m. Thursdays through April 20 at The Recovery Room, 2802 N. County Road West, Odessa. Facebook: @therecoveryroom432.

HIP-HOP

The Well Tour featuring Spec, V. Rose, Sive, Plain James, Young Noah, Dee Black. 6:30 p.m. Saturday at Palmer Activity Christian Center, 1305 E. Illinois Ave. Free.

JAZZ/SWING

MOSC Pops: "Brass Transit." 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. MOSC.org.

KARAOKE

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

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

Karaoke Wednesdays with DJ Savage and host Ayyva Nevaeh. 9 p.m. Wednesdays at The Recovery Room, 2802 N. County Road West, Odessa. Facebook: @therecoveryroom432.

LATIN

La Adictiva, T3R Elemento, Virlan Garcia, 7 p.m. Friday at La Hacienda Event Center, 12610 State Highway 191. haciendamidland.com.

RELIGIOUS

On the Way a cappella concert. 7 p.m. today at First Methodist Midland, 300 N. Main St.

ROCK

Sam Choate, 9 p.m. Today at Proof, 7270 E. Highway 191, Odessa.

The Black Jacket Symphony presents AC/DC's "Back in Black." 8 p.m. March 6 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $25-$50. wagnernoel.com.

VOCAL/CHORAL

Home Free, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $33.50-$53.50. wagnernoel.com.

OUTDOORS, SPORTS & FITNESS

Adult Kickball, 2 p.m. Thursdays. Visit facebook.com/groups/midlandkickball for more information.

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

Namaslay for all yoga levels. 4 p.m. Sunday at Lacy J. Pilates and Fitness Studio, 3211 W. Wadley Ave. $5. lacyjpilates.com.

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

ROAD TRIP

The 32nd annual Texas Cowboy Poetry Gathering, Friday and Saturday in Marshall Auditorium at Sul Ross State University, US-90in Alpine. $15-$20. texascowboypoetry.com.

STAGE, COMEDY & FILM

LOL at the Wagner Noel: The Official Blues Brothers Revue, 8 p.m. today at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $35-$60. wagnernoel.com.

OPENING: "The Jungle Book" by the Pickwick Players. 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. 2:30 p.m. Sundays. Opens Friday and runs through Friday5 at Midland Community Theatre, 2000 W. Wadley Ave. $28. mctmidland.org.

"Last Roundup of the Guacamole Queens," Feb. 23 through March 11. 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2:30 p.m. Sundays at VFW Hall, 409 Veterans Airpark Lane. $10-$15. maverickplayers.com.

The Adult Comedy Variety Show, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday at Dee's Bistro, 622 N. Lee St., Odessa. $10. westtexastalent.com.

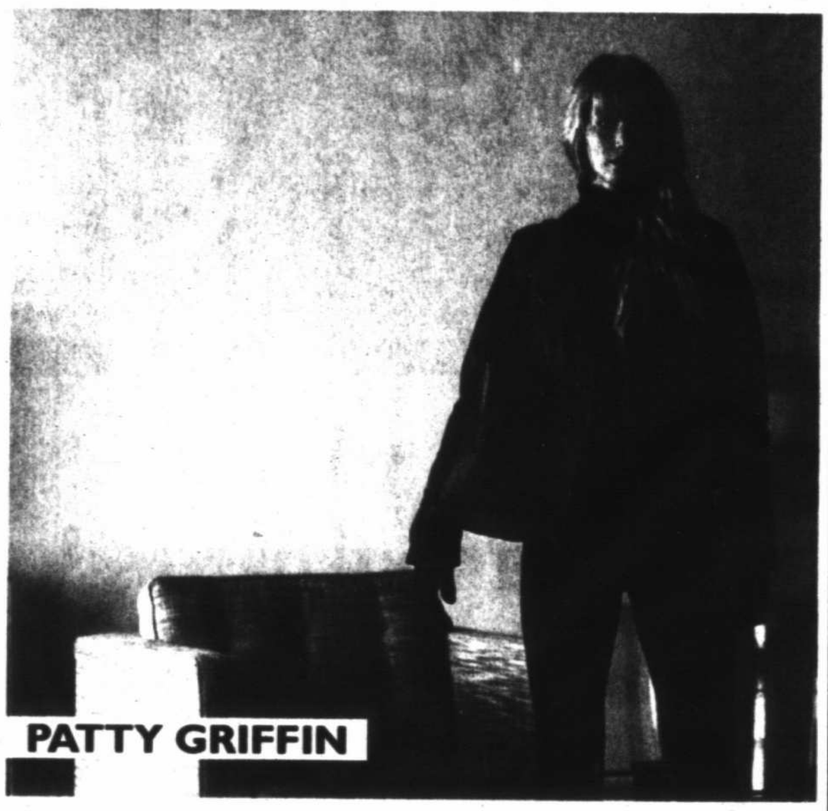
AUDITIONS: "His Girl Friday." Roles for four women and nine men. 7 p.m. Monday, 6 p.m. Wednesday at Dee's Bistro and Grill, 622 N. Lee Ave., Odessa.

"My Backyard" dome show, 1 p.m. Recommended for ages 3-5. Tuesdays-Saturdays in February. Blakemore Planetarium, 1705 W. Missouri Ave. museumsw.org.

"Robot Explorers" 3D dome show, 4 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 3 p.m. Sundays in February. Blakemore Planetarium, 1705 W. Missouri Ave. museumsw.org.

Primal Rage: Bigfoot Reborn". 7 p.m. Feb. 27 at Regal Tall City Stadium 14, 915 SW Loop 250 N. $13.50. fathomevents.com.

EVENTS & ON SCREEN



PATTY GRIFFIN

KENNEDY

From Page 1B

high ranking spy uncle, she goes to a "sparrow" school where the students are taught to use seduction as their main weapon.

"Every human is a puzzle of need," the stern headmistress played by Charlotte Rampling tells her recruits. "You must become the missing piece and they will tell you everything."

Dominika isn't buying it and later complains to her uncle, "You sent me to whore school." But she's going to do it — forced to perform sex acts in front of the class — to pay for her sick mother's care, so that gets her conveniently off the hook morally.

Our heroine is soon unleashed onto the world, a little like Luc Besson's "La Femme Nikita" but without that film's visual coherence or empathy. (Lawrence does sport awesome bangs, so there's that).

Lawrence as an actress gives her all here, from learning ballet — daily, three-hour rehearsals for three months — to adopting a Russian accent that seems swiped from Natasha from "Rocky and Bullwinkle." ("I haf to ko avay vor a vile," she tells her mom).

But what really drives Dominika is never very clear, how she goes from a tea-drinking dancer to someone perfectly happy caving in someone's head with a cane. That's partly so viewers don't know where her loyalties lie and will stay intrigued, but she gets lost in what could be a double-cross or triple-cross — or, if you're in withdrawal from the Olympics — the infamous quad-cross.

Soon you just don't care. "We can't trust a word that comes out of her mouth," one character says of Dominika and he's right. No trust, no care. She's like a reflection of the film itself, getting flatter and more boring by the minute. As a sign of how lost the filmmakers get, a scene about whether or not a false drawer will open becomes the most thrilling element for a good 30 minutes.

In addition to Rampling, there are fine turns from Jeremy Irons, Douglas Hodge and Mary-Louise Parker (who nevertheless seems to be in a different film altogether.) On the other side, one of the worst casting decisions was making Joel Edgerton Dominika's love interest. He's a puppy dog next to her tiger and there are simply no sparks between them.

"Red Sparrow" takes place in the languid, rich air of old European capitals and it gains no energy from the mostly — and curiously empty — high-end restaurants, hospitals and swimming pools. There are gorgeous exteriors of Vienna, Budapest, London and lush hotel interiors. The soundtrack is Tchaikovsky and Mozart. It's like an extended ad for Chanel, except for all the gore.

Gore? Oh yes. There are two rape scenes, several instances of torture — one with a hospital-grade skin peeler — public and naked degradations, a gross garroting, a dead body in a tub with its head in a plastic bag, and more than a hint of incest. The bloodiness in juxtaposition with the bloodless high-end luxury is jarring — but not in a good way.

Courtesy of screenwriter Justin Haythe, the cliches are all here, from the matching sweatsuits the sparrows wear as they jog on their snowy campus to watching spies wordlessly pass packages in dark and empty parks. A hand-off of political prisoners is staged on an airport tarmac at night, complete with snipers, flashing police lights, enough troops to invade Belgium and the overly dramatic walk each person takes toward freedom.

This is a film in which interrogators coolly demand confessions in clipped European accents. It's where a demented torturer lovingly unrolls his bag of evil tools like a contestant with a knife roll on "Top Chef." Then he intones: "Do you know how long it takes to peel skin from a human being?" (Spoiler alert: "Hours and hours.")

Come to think of it, that might be more fun than sitting though "Red Sparrow."

"Red Sparrow," a 20th Century Fox release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for "strong violence, torture, sexual content, language and some graphic nudity." Running time: 139 minutes. One star out of four.

Cowboy poets from across US, Canada to gather in Alpine

TUMBLEWEED SMITH
Columnist

The Texas Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Alpine attracts participants and spectators alike who love and appreciate cowboy stories in song and verse. If you're planning to be in Alpine on Friday and Saturday and don't know about the event, you soon will. Cowboys and cowgirls recite and sing in hotel and motel lobbies, restaurants, nightspots and places in between. While most of the events take place during the day at Sul Ross State University, entertainers spill out after hours to do their thing all over town. The list of entertainers is impressive, and they come from all over the U.S. and Canada. The event is in its 32nd year.

"Sometimes folks from foreign states misunderstand our pride. I guess if you weren't born here it's hard to see our side. It's about independence, about honor. It's about the land. Making your own way in life and being your own man."

Those words were written and recited by Don Cadden on his CD, "Hombres de Campo." It contains a dozen songs and poems, one of which is "The Auction Barn Cafe." Don grew up in Dripping Springs but fell in love with the Texas Mountain Country when he spent a summer working on the Southern Pacific Railroad.

"I was stationed in Sanderson," says Don. "I'd go to Valentine, pay 50 cents to spend the night in a bunkhouse, then get on the train and head back to Sanderson. Of course, we'd come back through Alpine, Marathon and Marfa. I thought it was the end of the earth at first but I found it a fascinating place."

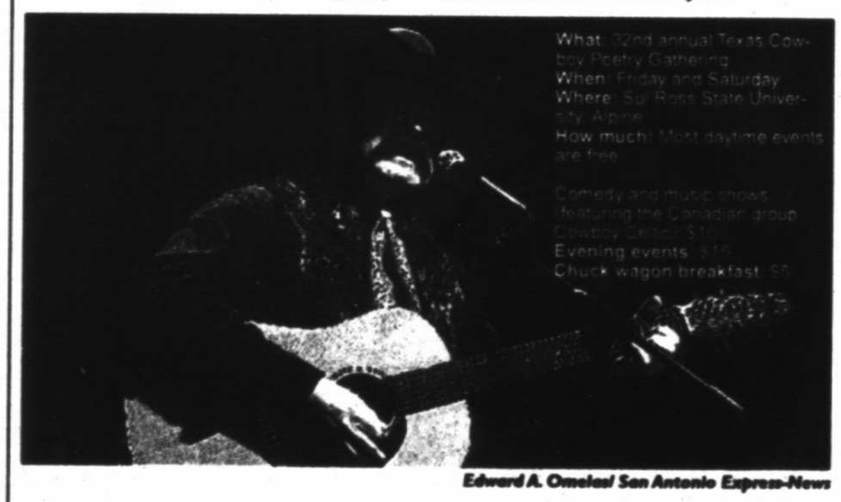
Don got interested in cowboy poetry and went to Alpine for one of the poetry events. At an open mic session, his wife encouraged him to get on stage and recite one of his poems. He got a good response and was invited back. Don now lives in Alpine.

"Luckily, I'm married to a woman who doesn't mind being 75 miles from the nearest Walmart and 2 1/2 hours from the nearest airport."

Don is president of the cowboy poetry event.

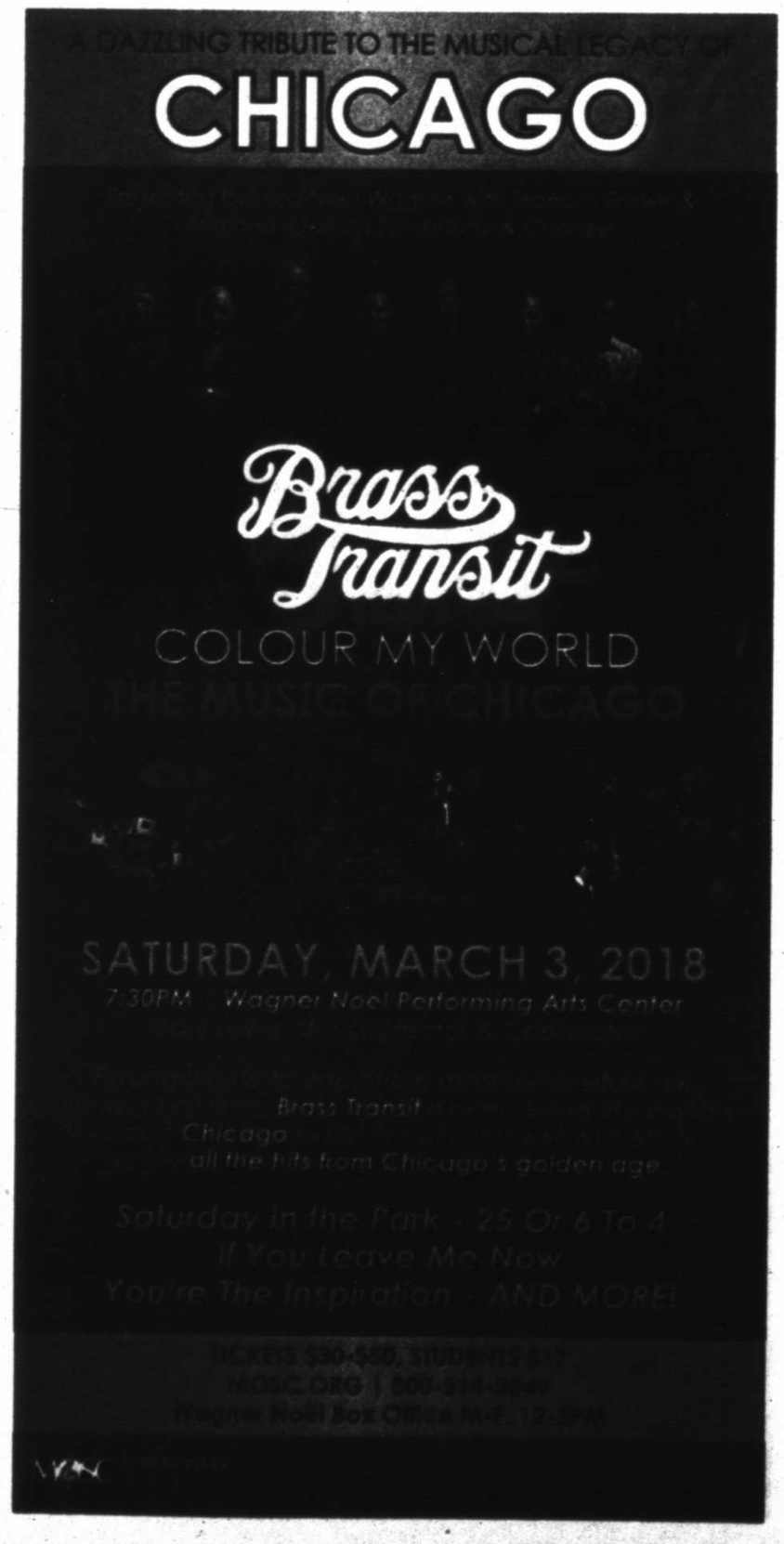
"We really concentrate on getting people who are ranchers, working cowboys, and they tell me over and over that this is the best such event because it's authentic. We haven't turned it into a festival. It's a gathering. This year, we'll have over 50 performers from a dozen states and Canada. Usually a couple of poets from Australia show up. And people from all over the country come for this event. It's amazing.

"It brings a ton of business to Alpine. Attendees have to have food and a place to sleep and shop. Hotels are booked nearly a year ahead of time. The owner of our biggest RV Park said 25 people who were leaving last year after the gathering made reservations for this year."



Edward A. Ornelas/ San Antonio Express-News

John Davis performs during the 29th annual Texas Cowboy Poetry Gathering at Marshall Auditorium on the campus of Sul Ross State University in Alpine.



MIDLAND NORTHSIDE LIONS CLUB

25th annual

BUNNY BREAKFAST

Midland Park Mall Food Court
7:00 to 10:00 a.m.
Saturday, March 24, 2018

Easter Bunny
Mascots, juggler
DJ/Karaoke
Hispanic Cultural Center mariachi group
Prize drawings
Winners will be contacted by phone

Sausage biscuit
Scrambled eggs
Potatoes
Fruit
Coffee, milk or juice

Presenting Sponsors: Frost, Abacus

Restaurant Sponsors: Texas Roadhouse, Sidekicks & Legends, Charley's Philly's Steaks, Chick-Fil-A (Mall)

CO-SPONSORS

Midland Park Mall, West Texas Radio Group, Cargile Investments, Town Square Media, Rainbow Paws by Safeguard, Pioneer Natural Resources, Midland Reporter-Telegram, Rowland Coffee Service, Reese Water, CBS 7, Pepsi, Bush Club

Tickets ($6 each) available at:
Abacus Computers, Claydesta Center
Dillard's (Customer Service), Midland Park Mall
Liberty Tax Service (all four locations)
Charley's Philly Steaks , Midland Park Mall

Proceeds to be used for:
Eyeglasses for needy children
Midland College scholarship
West Texas Lions Eye Bank
Texas Lions Camp for handicapped/diabetic children
Lions International Peace Poster contest
Lions International Youth Exchange Program

ON SCREEN

'WONDER'

'Wonder' plucks heartstrings without getting too sentimental

Reeled & Stream

By Nancy Adamson | nadamson@mrt.com

PICK O' THE WEEK

"Wonder" (PG) Ardent, feel-good movie of 2017 is as interesting as it is heartwarming. It also provides a lesson in tolerance we all can benefit from. **A-**

ICK! O' THE WEEK

"Geostorm" (PG-13) Is writer/director Dean Devlin aiming to be the new Michael Bay of emotionless, big-budget disaster films? If this is any indication, he's well on his way. **F**

MORE REVIEWS

"Abacus: Small Enough to Jail" (not rated) Searing documentary about a small, family-owned bank in New York City's Chinatown that fought back when prosecutors choose it to go after in the 2008 mortgage crisis instead of the "too big to fail" lenders. **A-**

"Antarctica: Ice & Sky" (not rated) Scientist who has been studying the impact of global warming offers startling evidence to support his claims but the film's heart is his research collecting that evidence, which includes core samples dating back thousands of years. **B**

"Art Bastard" (not rated) Terrific portrait of artist Robert Cenedella, who plays the politics card when it comes to museum exhibits — "It's not what they show. It's what they don't show. Mediocrity deciding the fate of genius." The man is full of anger and sarcasm toward the New York art world and it's a pleasure to watch. **B+**

"A Bad Moms Christmas" (R) There's no real plot, which ultimately tarnishes the film, but the sight gags are hilarious. The most bawdy involves "This is Us" star Justin Hartley in his role as a stripper. **B-**

"The Ballad of Lefty Brown" (R) The cliche-riddled themes that punctuate the first third of the film actually evolve into the film's most significant element on making it memorable. **A-**

"Beyond Skyline" (R) The sci-fi effects are the film's strongest feature but slogging through the derivative story and questionable acting do not further its cause. **C**

"Boo 2! A Madea Halloween" (PG-13) Madea's faithful did not seem to appreciate a second film dedicated to the spooky holiday. That's good, in that there is not likely to be a third. **D**

"#Captured" (not rated) When a film dealing with the social media interactions of teenagers uses proper punctuation and spells all the words correctly in the text messages, disaster in imminent, and not the kind the filmmakers hoped for. **D-**

"Citizen Jane: Battle for the City" (not rated) Unforgettable documentary about activist Jane Jacobs, who embarked on a one-woman crusade to stop the urban renewal efforts of Robert Moses in 1960s New York. **B**

"Day of the Dead: Bloodline" (R) Zombie master George A. Romero does get a writing credit for this dreary film but it's doubtful whether he would have wanted it. **F**

"Goodbye Christopher Robin" (PG) Whether the film is successful hinges largely upon the performance of its young actor in the title role. The cherub-faced Will Tilston manages beautifully. **B**

"Hellraiser: Bloodline" (not rated) It looks as though in order to ensure the series that has not released a sequel since 2011 remains dormant, an incomprehensible jumble needs to be foisted upon fans. **D**

"Keep Watching" (R) There is a really decent horror film lurking in here, nestled among the drawn-out set-up and derivative ending. **B-**

"Killing of a Sacred Deer" (R) Filmmaker Yorgos Lanthimos ("The Lobster") is emerging as not only a gifted writer and director but a creatively unique one, as well. His films are far from universally appealing but they are a voice in the wilderness for the adventurous. **A-**

"Last Flag Flying" (R) Steve Carell, Bryan Cranston and Laurence Fishburne take the somewhat flaccid story to a new level with passionate performances. **B-**

"LBJ" (R) Woody Harrelson delivers a transformative performance as the nation's 36th president, but the Rob Reiner-directed story makes Johnson more caricature than character. **C+**

"Mayhem" (unrated) As the zombie genre becomes so saturated that originality is virtually impossible, this film breaks the mold. **B+**

"Roman J. Israel, Esq." (PG-13) Denzel Washington's best actor Oscar nod is truly deserving but Colin Farrell deserved a little supporting actor love, too, in this legal drama. **B-**

"The Stolen" (not rated) The story isn't necessarily far-fetched but the delivery of it is. **C**

"The Stray" (PG) Low-rent version of "Marley & Me" means things — spoiler alert — might not bode well for one of the characters. **D**

"Suburbicon" (R) Joel and Ethan Coen passed the director baton to George Clooney for their latest modern noir. The result didn't wow the critics but I was plenty impressed. **B**

"Una" (R) Character study features extraordinary performances but the exposition dialogue is painfully absurd. **C-**

"Viceroy's House" (not rated) Story of the last days of British rule in India seems more interested in looking good than being good. However, its production design is fabulous. **C+**

FILM CAPS

"The 15:17 to Paris" (PG-13) Real heroes Anthony Sadler, Alek Skarlatos and Spencer Stone play themselves in this dramatization of their thwarting of a terrorist attack on a train bound for France in 2015. With Jenna Fischer, Judy Greer. Written by Dorothy Blyskal, based on the book by Sadler, Skarlatos, Stone and Jeffrey E. Stern. Directed by Clint Eastwood.

"Annihilation" (R) Natalie Portman stars as a biologist on a mission to learn her husband's fate in a mutated coastal sector of the U.S. With Oscar Isaac, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Tessa Thompson, Gina Rodriguez, Tuva Novotny. Written and directed by Alex Garland, based on novels by Jeff VanderMeer.

"Black Panther" (PG-13) Chadwick Boseman stars as the King of Wakanda faces external threats to his peaceful home. With Michael B. Jordan, Lupita Nyong'o, Danai Gurira, Martin Freeman. Written by Ryan Coogler & Joe Robert Cole. Directed by Coogler.

"Every Day" (PG-13) A teenager falls in love with a soul who changes bodies every 24 hours. With Angourie Rice, Maria Bello, Debby Ryan. Written by Jesse Andrews, based on David Levithan's novel. Directed by Michael Sucsy.

"Death Wish" (R) Bruce Willis stars in this remake as a surgeon seeking revenge after his family is brutally attacked. With Vincent D'Onofrio, Elisabeth Shue, Dean Norris, Kimberly Elise. Written by Joe Carnahan, based on the 1974 screenplay by Wendell Mayes from novel by Brian Garfield. Directed by Eli Roth.

"Game Night" (R) A weekly get-together levels up when the couples participate in a murder-mystery party. With Jason Bateman, Rachel McAdams, Billy Magnussen, Sharon Horgan, Kyle Chandler. Written by Mark Perez. Directed by John Francis Daley & Jonathan Goldstein.

"The Greatest Showman" (PG) Hugh Jackman stars as P.T. Barnum, the 19th century empresario who created entertainment known around the world. With Michelle Williams, Zac Efron, Rebecca Ferguson, Zendaya. Songs by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul. Written by Jenny Bicks and Bill Condon; story by Bicks. Directed by Michael Gracey.

"Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle" (PG-13) Four teenagers find themselves inside an old video game console featuring ferocious realism and danger. With Dwayne Johnson, Jack Black, Kevin Hart. Written by Chris McKenna & Erik Sommers and Jake Kasdan & Scott Rosenberg & Jeff Pinkner; story by McKenna, based on the book by Chris Van Allsburg. Directed by Jake Kasdan.

"Peter Rabbit" (PG) James Corden gives voice to Beatrix Potter's notable hare in this mix of live-action and animation. With Rose Byrne, Domhnall Gleeson; voices by Daisy Ridley, Elizabeth Debicki, Margot Robbie. Written by Rob Lieber and Will Gluck. Directed by Gluck.

"Red Sparrow" (R) Jennifer Lawrence stars as a former Russian ballet dancer recruited to be a seductive and deadly spy. With Joel Edgerton, Matthias Shoenearts, Jeremy Irons, Mary-Louise Parker, Charlotte Rampling. Written by Justin Haythe, based on a novel by Jason Matthews. Directed by Francis Lawrence.

"Samson" (PG-13) The biblical hero battles the Philistines. With Taylor James, Billy Zane. PG-13.

"The Shape of Water" (R). Adult fable from Guillermo del Toro, set Cold War Baltimore in 1962, about a lonely woman (Sally Hawkins) working on the cleaning staff in a government lab who falls in love for the amphibious creature (Doug Jones) brought there for study. Richard Jenkins and Octavia Spencer have charming roles as the woman's friends and co-conspirator in a plot to save the creature. Michael Shannon — surprise — is the heavy. The film is nominated for 13 Academy Awards.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

'DEATH WISH'

Teams back at combine in search of 2018 success

By Arnie Stapleton
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Lured out of the broadcast booth with a $100 million contract that makes him the highest-paid football coach ever, Jon Gruden sauntered up to the podium and flashed that mischievous smile.

"I'm very excited to be back here in Indianapolis," Gruden declared. "I sure have missed the combine."

Gruden is navigating an offseason NFL landscape that's changed drastically since he last roamed the sideline nearly a decade ago.

"It's a lot different because you're not allowed to have any interaction with the players, and I've always complained about that since the new (collective bargaining agreement) came into place," Gruden said Wednesday. "A lot of players would come to see me in Tampa to get their football fix.

"So, you're not allowed to have contact with these guys. But what's most discouraging to me is we've got to make some decisions on our roster, on salaries, on players and their futures and you can't even meet them," Gruden grumbled.

"I don't know these guys. I've never coached them. I never met half of them. So, that's been very, very difficult for me and I've been emotional about it at times."

On the next podium was Matt Patricia, who, unlike his former colleague Josh McDaniels, didn't balk at leaving Bill Belichick's brigade.

Then there was Andy Reid, in the midst of another major roster shakeup, and his protege, Doug Pederson, still basking in Philadelphia's first Super Bowl triumph in just his second season as coach of the Eagles.

All are gathering this week in Indianapolis hoping to better their chances of winning in 2018.

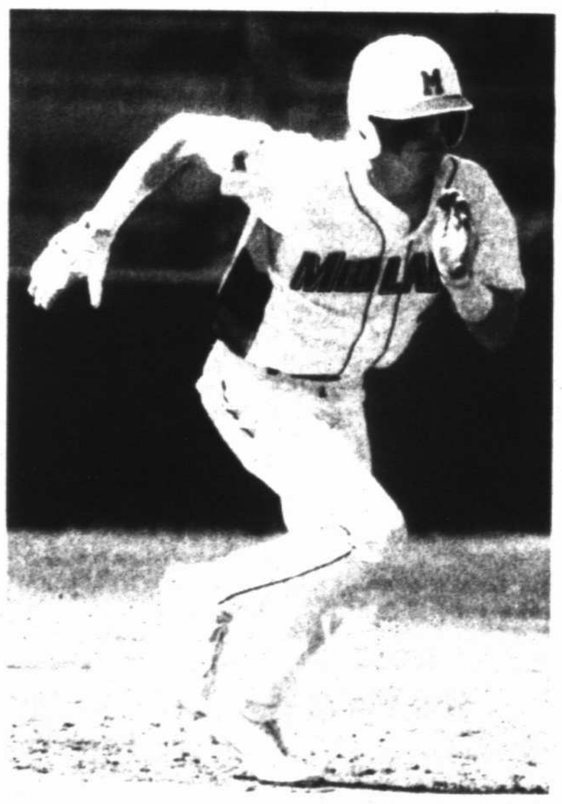
Top college prospects, including a group of quarterbacks that could produce five first-round draft picks, will spend four days getting poked and prodded, tested and timed.

Please see COMBINE/2C

Darron Cummings/AP Photo

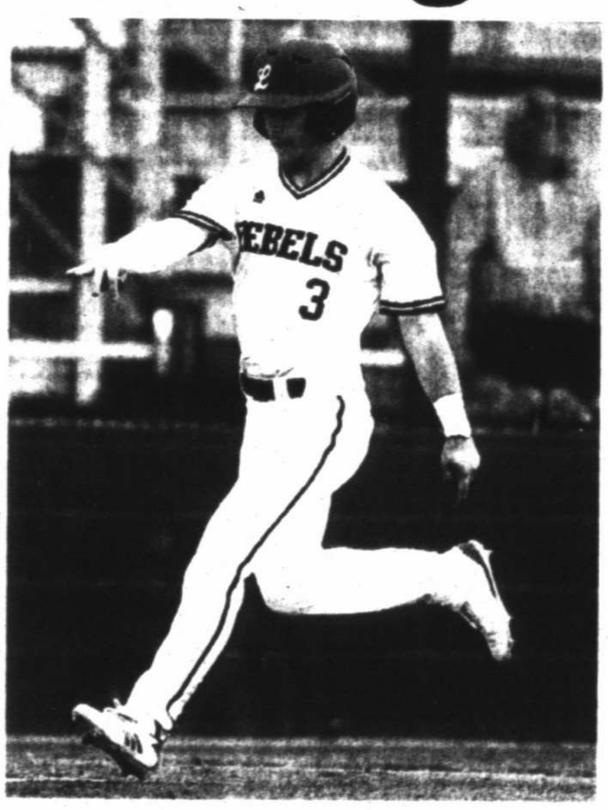
Buffalo Bills head coach Sean McDermott, left, talks with Arizona Cardinals head coach Steve Wilks at the NFL Combine on Wednesday in Indianapolis.

Home cooking



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Midland High's Tyler Wade (2) hits against Odessa Permian on March 16, 2017, at Zachery Field.



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Lee's Ty Coleman (3) scores a run against Big Spring on Tuesday at Ernie Johnson Field.

Lee, MHS look to continue recent success in TOC

By Will Korn
wkorn@mrt.com

As the calendar turns to March, both the Lee and Midland High baseball teams have gotten off to an encouraging start to the 2018 season.

They'll be looking to continue their recent success when they begin play today in Midland's historic Tournament of Champions. The tournament, now in its 43rd year, will feature 16 teams and 39 games played at MHS' Zachery Field, Lee's Ernie Johnson Field, Christensen Stadium, Odessa High's Pressly Field and Odessa Permian's McCanlies Field, today through Saturday evening.

This year's TOC returns all 16 competitors from last season, headlined by No. 8-ranked Lee along with the entirety of District 2-6A and a formidable El Paso contingent in El Paso Americas, El Paso Montwood, El Paso Franklin and El Paso Eastwood.

Defending tournament champion Canyon Randall is also back, along with Andrews, which has been the lone representative of Class 4A over the last couple of years.

MHS (6-2) opens its five-game tournament slate by playing EP Franklin at 1 p.m. today at Zachery Field. Lee (5-1) begins its four-game schedule by hosting Lubbock High at 4 p.m. today at Ernie Johnson Field.

The Rebels, the tournament's 2016 champions, enter the TOC riding a five-game winning streak and have experienced a little bit of everything so far through their six contests.

Lee was originally slated to play in the Lewisville Tournament during opening weekend, but was diverted to the Lubbock Tournament after inclement weather hit the Metroplex.

The Rebels made the adjustment without much of an issue and though they dropped their season opener to Lubbock Cooper, 5-3, they responded with a pair of complete game shutouts by seniors Tyler Madrid and Dylan Drace, as well as 36 runs scored over their next four.

Head coach Brian Roper said his players were exposed to a variety of game situations that will be beneficial down the line. He added that he has a deep roster and getting everyone some valuable playing time this weekend will be important.

"(The Lubbock Tournament) was great. It was a little chilly in some of the games, but man it really worked out great," Roper said. "We had a little bit of everything. I felt like this was a great weekend because we had a bad inning on the mound, came back and just really fought back (over the next three games). In the last game, we had a great pitching performance. The guys have stepped up on the mound and done things well.

"We'll be ready for the TOC. We just need to get all our guys out on the field."

Rebels senior third baseman Adam

Please see CHAMPS/3C

Plenty of opinions, but few solutions to fix college hoops

By Ralph D. Russo
Associated Press

The cracked facade of NCAA hoops appears to be crumbling and while LeBron James, John Calipari and many agree that college basketball should be overhauled, there's no consensus on how to repair the system.

A federal investigation has alleged hundreds of thousands of dollars in bribes and kickbacks being funneled to influence recruits, an FBI probe that many fans believe reveals just a tiny slice of potential corruption in college sports.

In September, the Justice Department arrested 10 people, including four assistant coaches from Arizona, Southern California, Auburn and Oklahoma State. Payments of up to $150,000, supplied by Adidas, were promised to at least three top high school recruits to attend two schools sponsored by the shoe company, according to federal prosecutors.

A report last week by Yahoo! Sports revealed documents showing dozens of prominent players, coaches and schools could be involved in — while likely not criminal behavior — breaking NCAA rules. All this looms over college basketball as March begins, the month when championship tournaments and brackets take center stage across America. The cash cow of college sports that brings in hundreds of millions of dollars to the NCAA annually.

The NCAA has already announced the formation of the commission on college basketball , headed by former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, to recommend changes.

"I don't know if there's any fixing the NCAA. I don't think there is," said James, who never played in college, jumping from high school to the NBA at a time when that had not yet been prohibited by the league.

"The NCAA is corrupt — we know that," the Cleveland Cavaliers superstar said.

Fingers point in several directions about

Please see FIXES/3C

Christopher Millette/Erie Times-News

Agua Caliente Clippers' J.J. O'Brien (22) looks for an outlet as Erie BayHawks' Andrew White (4) defends during the first quarter of an NBA G-League game at the Erie Insurance Arena on Feb. 7 in Erie, Pa.

Starks, Texas A&M hold on for tough win over Georgia

By George Henry
Associated Press

ATHENS, Ga. — T.J. Starks scored 15 points and hit the go-head basket with 58 seconds remaining to help Texas A&M eke out a 61-60 victory over Georgia on Wednesday night.

Tyler Davis added 13 points and Admon Gilder and D.J. Hogg each scored 11 for the Aggies (19-11, 8-9 Southeastern Conference). Texas A&M has won two straight, both on the road, heading into its regular season finale on Saturday at home against Alabama.

Yante Maten finished with 16 points and 12 rebounds for Georgia (16-13, 7-10). The Bulldogs led by five with 2:28 remaining but missed their last five shots from the field and did not score again.

It was an ugly ending for Georgia. Starks missed a free throw with 12 seconds remaining and Maten grabbed the rebound. For some reason, the Bulldogs did not call timeout, and Juwan Parker took a wild 3-point attempt from the right side that sailed far from the rim as the buzzer sounded.

Georgia had won three of four to keep its scant NCAA Tournament hopes alive, but it will likely need to upset Tennessee again on Saturday and then make a long run in the league tournament next week. Otherwise, the Bulldogs will be looking, at best, for an NIT bid for the fourth time in the last five years.

Teshaun Hightower, with 11 points, was the only other Georgia player to finish in double figures.

Texas A&M won last Saturday at Vanderbilt to snap a three-game skid and is looking like the team that was ranked as high as No. 7 in December. They dropped out of the poll and have been ranked just once since Jan. 1, but Texas A&M has put itself in position to avoid having to play five straight days to win the SEC Tournament next week and improve its chances of a second NCAA bid in seven years under coach Billy Kennedy.

BIG PICTURE

Texas A&M: The Aggies did a solid job despite having their best big men, Davis and Robert Williams, in foul trouble in the second half. Williams, a projected NBA lottery pick, fouled out with 2:28 remaining and finished with just three points. He scored only five against Vanderbilt, and will have to get his game back to full strength if Texas A&M can get into the NCAA field. Davis kept pounding at Maten inside all night and finished the game with seven rebounds.

Georgia: Unable to create and maintain passing lanes against A&M's zone defense, the Bulldogs' offense was sluggish most of the night. That comes as no surprise. Georgia ranks last in the SEC in scoring with an average of 69.2 points. They shot just 32.8 percent one game after scoring a season-high 93 points.

UP NEXT

Texas A&M: Host Alabama on Saturday. The Aggies are 5-3 at home in the SEC, 12-3 overall. They'll be looking to avenge a 22-point loss to the Crimson Tide on Dec. 30.

Georgia: Visit No. 16 Tennessee on Saturday. The Bulldogs are 2-6 on the road in the SEC, 4-8 overall. They upset Tennessee on Feb. 17, but the Volunteers have won three straight since.

Joshua L. Jones/Athens Banner-Herald via AP

Georgia forward Nicolas Claxton (33) prepares to shoot against Texas A&M during an NCAA game Wednesday in Athens, Ga.

DAILY RUNDOWN

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

AFL Women's
Melbourne vs. Brisbane, 2 a.m., FSP

Golf
PGA: WGC-Mexico Championship, 1st Round, 1 p.m., GOLF
LPGA: HSBC World Championship, 2nd Round, 11 p.m., GOLF
EPGA: Tshwane Open, 2nd Round, 4:30 a.m., GOLF

Major League Baseball
Spring Training: Boston at Houston, Noon, ATTSW
Spring Training: NY Yankees at Philadelphia, Noon, MLB

Men's College Basketball
Big Ten 2nd Round: Maryland vs. Wisconsin, 11 a.m., BTN
Big Ten 2nd Round: Michigan vs. Iowa/Illinois winner, 1:30 p.m., BTN
Big Ten 2nd Round: Penn State vs. Northwestern, 5:30 p.m., BTN
Wichita State at UCF, 6 p.m., ESPN
Tulsa at ECU, 6 p.m., ESPNU
Patriot League Quarterfinal: Army West Point/Loyola-MD winner at Bucknell, 6 p.m., Twitter
Western Kentucky at Middle Tennessee, 7 p.m, CBSSN
Cincinnati at Tulane, 8 p.m., ESPN
Oregon at Washington State, 8 p.m., ESPN2
Cal at Arizona State, 8 p.m., ESPNU
USF at Memphis, 8 p.m., ESPNews
Big Ten 2nd Round: Indiana vs. Minnesota/Rutgers winner, 8 p.m., BTN
Stanford at Arizona, 9 p.m., FS1
Oregon State at Washington, 10 p.m., ESPN2
Long Beach State at UCSB, 10 p.m., ESPNU

National Basketball Association
Philadelphia at Cleveland, 7 p.m., TNT
Minnesota at Portland, 9:30 p.m., TNT

National Hockey League
Pittsburgh at Boston, 6 p.m., NBCSN
Tampa Bay at Dallas, 7:30 p.m., FSSW
Chicago at San Jose, 9 p.m., NBCSN

Tennis
ATP: Acapulco, 4 p.m., TENNIS

Track and Field
IAAF World Indoor Championships, Day 2 Morning Session, 4 a.m., OLYHD

Women's College Basketball
ACC 2nd Round: NC State vs. North Carolina/Boston College winner, 10 a.m., FSSW
SEC 2nd Round: Kentucky vs. Alabama, Noon, SEC
ACC 2nd Round: Syracuse vs. Virginia Tech, 1 p.m., FSSW
Pac-12 1st Round: Colorado vs. Utah, 1:30 p.m., P12, P12 MTN
WCC 1st Round: Pepperdine vs. Santa Clara, 2 p.m., BYUtv
SEC 2nd Round: Texas A&M vs. Vanderbilt/Arkansas winner, 2:30 p.m., SEC
ACC 2nd Round: Virginia vs. Georgia Tech/Clemson winner, 5 p.m., FSSW+
SEC 2nd Round: Tennessee vs. Auburn, 6 p.m., SEC
ACC 2nd Round: Miami-FL vs. Wake Forest/Pitt winner, 7:30 p.m., FSSW+
SEC 2nd Round: Missouri vs. Florida/Ole Miss winner, 8:30 p.m., SEC
UAB at North Texas, 9 p.m., beIN

Women's Soccer
She Believes Cup: USA vs. Germany, 6 p.m., ESPN2

LATE HS BOYS BASKETBALL

REGION II-A QUARTERFINAL
IMPERIAL BUENA VISTA 72, GRADY 52

Grady	13	15	10	14	–52
Buena Vista	18	15	22	17	–72

Grady (21-9) – Sergio Reyna 5, Cristian Jimenez 11, Cole Short 9, Dante Ruiz 1, Marshall Cox 14, Jordan Rodriguez 12
Buena Vista – Jo. Saraiba 8, Gordon 3, J. Rodriguez 6, D.J. Whaley 30, J. Saraiba 2, Martinez 4, Rodriguez 19
Free throws – Grady 16-27, BVHS 6-9. 3-point goals – Grady 2 (Short, Rodriguez), BVHS 6 (Whaley 4, Jo. Saraiba 2). Total fouls – Grady 13, BVHS 21. Fouled out – Grady: Jordan Rodriguez.

HS GIRLS BASKETBALL

2018 UIL Girls Basketball State Tournament
March 1-3
Alamodome, San Antonio, Texas

Thursday, March 1
Class 1A Semifinals
8:30 a.m. - Dodd City (36-1) vs. Slocum (27-10)
10 a.m. - Nazareth (34-3) vs. Hermleigh (27-7)
Class 3A Semifinals
1:30 p.m. - Vanderbilt Industrial (34-5) vs. Martin (31-8)
3 p.m. - Brock (32-6) vs. Mount Vernon (26-9)
Class 5A Semifinals
7 p.m. - Mansfield Timberview (39-2) vs. Kerrville Tivy (33-6)
8:30 p.m. - Amarillo (38-2) vs. Temple (31-5)

Friday, March 2
Class 2A Semifinals
8:30 a.m. - Martin's Mill (38-1) vs. Mason (33-8)
10 a.m. - LaRue LaPoynor (33-2) vs. Claude (26-9)
Class 4A Semifinals
1:30 p.m. - Wheatley (31-3) vs. Argyle (32-7)
2:30 p.m. - Denver City (30-6) vs. San Antonio Veteran's Memorial (32-9)
Class 6A Semifinals
7 p.m. - Cypress Creek (34-4) vs. Plano (33-6)
8:30 p.m. - Converse Judson (33-4) vs. Garland Sachse (30-7)

Saturday, March 3
8:30 a.m. - Class 1A Final
10 a.m. - Class 3A Final
1:30 p.m. - Class 2A Final
3 p.m. - Class 5A Final
7 p.m. - Class 4A Final
8:30 p.m. - Class 6A Final

WHAT'S ON DECK

HS Baseball
Lee, MHS at Tournament of Champions
Greenwood, Midland Christian at Levelland Tournament

HS Softball
Lee at Belton Tournament
Midland High at McKinney Tournament
Greenwood at Fox Country Tournament, El Paso
Midland Christian at Seminole Tournament JC Women's Basketball
Midland College at New Mexico JC, 6:45 p.m.

JC Mens Basketball
Midland College at New Mexico JC, 8:45 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL
American League
CLEVELAND INDIANS — Agreed to terms with 1B Mike Napoli on a minor league contract.
KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Designated OF Billy Burns for assignment. Agreed to terms with 1B Lucas Duda on a one-year contract. Traded RHP Domingo Pena to Texas for international slot compensation.
MINNESOTA TWINS — Agreed to terms with DH Logan Morrison on a one-year contract.
National League
ATLANTA HAWKS — Assigned F Tyler Cavanaugh to Erie (NBAGL). Signed G Jaylen Morris to a 10-day contract.
LOS ANGELES LAKERS — Waived F Corey Brewer. Recalled C Thomas Bryant from South Bay (NBAGL).

FOOTBALL
National Football League
CAROLINA PANTHERS — Released RB Jonathan Stewart.
CHICAGO BEARS — Released LB Willie Young.
NEW YORK JETS — Released DE Muhammad Wilkerson. Announced the retirement of RB Matt Forte.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League
VANCOUVER CANUCKS — Signed D Alex Biega to a two-year contract extension.
American Hockey League
MILWAUKEE ADMIRALS — Assigned G Jake Paterson to Allen (ECHL).
SAN ANTONIO RAMPAGE — Recalled F Conner Bleackley from Tulsa (ECHL).

COLLEGE
CULVER-STOCKTON — Fired men's basketball coach Jack Schrader.

NBA GLANCE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	43	17	.717	—
Boston	44	19	.698	½
Philadelphia	32	27	.542	10½
New York	24	38	.387	20
Brooklyn	20	42	.323	24

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	36	26	.581	—
Miami	32	29	.525	3½
Charlotte	28	34	.452	8
Atlanta	19	43	.306	17
Orlando	18	43	.295	17½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	36	24	.600	—
Indiana	34	27	.557	2½
Milwaukee	33	28	.541	3½
Detroit	29	32	.475	7½
Chicago	20	41	.328	16½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	47	13	.783	—
San Antonio	36	26	.581	12
New Orleans	35	26	.574	12½
Dallas	19	42	.311	28½
Memphis	18	42	.300	29

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	38	26	.594	—
Portland	35	26	.574	1½
Oklahoma City	35	27	.565	2
Denver	33	28	.541	3½
Utah	31	30	.508	5½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	48	14	.774	—
L.A. Clippers	32	27	.542	14½
L.A. Lakers	26	34	.433	21
Phoenix	19	44	.302	29½
Sacramento	18	43	.295	29½

Wednesday's Scores
Detroit 110, Milwaukee 87
Toronto 117, Orlando 104
Atlanta 107, Indiana 102
Boston 134, Charlotte 106
Golden State 109, Washington 101
Phoenix 110, Memphis 102
New Orleans 121, San Antonio 116
Oklahoma City 111, Dallas 110, OT
Houston at L.A. Clippers, late

Today's Games
L.A. Lakers at Miami, 6:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
Brooklyn at Sacramento, 9 p.m.
Minnesota at Portland, 9:30 p.m.

NHL GLANCE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	64	43	17	4	90	228	172
Toronto	65	39	20	7	85	218	185
Boston	61	38	15	8	84	199	150
Florida	60	29	25	6	64	178	185
Detroit	63	26	27	10	62	165	185
Montreal	63	24	29	10	58	160	195
Ottawa	62	21	31	10	52	169	219
Buffalo	64	20	33	11	51	153	207

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	64	35	21	7	79	189	191
Philadelphia	63	34	19	10	78	189	178
Pittsburgh	64	35	24	4	76	205	190
New Jersey	63	33	22	8	74	168	160
Columbus	63	32	21	5	69	168	175
Carolina	63	27	25	11	65	167	190
N.Y. Islanders	64	28	29	7	63	208	228
N.Y. Rangers	63	27	30	6	60	177	201

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Winnipeg	63	37	17	9	83	213	170
Minnesota	63	35	20	7	79	185	177
Dallas	63	36	23	4	76	185	164
St. Louis	65	35	26	4	74	178	173
Colorado	62	33	24	5	71	189	185
Chicago	63	27	28	8	62	178	179

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	63	41	17	5	87	218	173
San Jose	64	34	21	9	77	187	178
Los Angeles	64	35	24	5	75	184	159
Anaheim	64	31	21	12	74	176	178
Calgary	64	32	23	9	73	182	187
Edmonton	63	27	32	4	58	179	209
Vancouver	63	24	32	7	55	168	204
Arizona	62	18	34	10	46	148	205

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.

Wednesday's Scores
Buffalo 2, Tampa Bay 1, OT
Montreal 3, N.Y. Islanders 1
St. Louis 2, Detroit 1
Calgary at Colorado, late
N.Y. Rangers at Vancouver, late

Today's Games
Carolina at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Boston, 6 p.m.
New Jersey at Florida, 6:30 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Nashville at Edmonton, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Arizona, 9 p.m.
Chicago at San Jose, 9 p.m.
Columbus at Los Angeles, 9:30 p.m.

TEXAS NBA ROUNDUP

Associated Press

PELICANS 121, SPURS 116

SAN ANTONIO — Anthony Davis had 26 points and 15 rebounds, and the New Orleans Pelicans rallied in the final two minutes to beat San Antonio 121-116 on Wednesday night, adding to the Spurs' misery after losing LaMarcus Aldridge to an injury in the first half.

New Orleans won its seventh straight after trailing by as many as 15 points.

San Antonio, which has been without superstar forward Kawhi Leonard for all but nine games this season, lost Aldridge to a sprained right ankle late in the first half. Aldridge landed awkwardly while defending a driving hook shot by Davis with three minutes left in the second quarter.

The injury would prove critical down the stretch for the Spurs, who've lost five of their past six. The team did not immediately disclose how long Aldridge will be out.

Jrue Holiday finished with 25 points and Rajon Rondo added 13 points and 12 assists for the Pelicans.

San Antonio had six players in double figures, including 19 from Rudy Gay and 18 from Dejounte Murray.

The Pelicans pulled within 105-102 with eight minutes remaining on a 3-pointer by Darius Miller. Davis' alley-oop dunk gave New Orleans its first lead at 114-113 with just under two minutes left.

After Murray and the Pelicans' E'Twaun Moore exchanged 3-pointers, Holiday collected a turnover by Patty Mills. Holiday was fouled and missed the ensuing free throws, but Davis fought through the smaller Spurs and was fouled while collecting the miss. Davis made two free throws to give New Orleans a 119-116 lead.

Mills and Gay both missed 3-pointers on the Spurs' final possession.

Coming off a feel-good victory at Cleveland on Sunday, the Spurs led throughout the game but lost their momentum with Aldridge in the locker room.

Aldridge finished with eight points, snapping a 59-game streak of scoring in double figures.

TIP-INS

Pelicans: The Pelicans are 18-14 on the road this season, one of only five teams in the West with a winning record away from home. ... Emeka Okafor went scoreless and had one rebound in four minutes in his eighth game with the Pelicans. ... New Orleans had lost five straight in San Antonio. The Pelicans' last victory at the AT&T Center was Nov. 8, 2014.

Spurs: After missing the first 27 games of the season, Leonard has missed 17 games since returning to the sidelines following a nine-game return. ... Pau Gasol (bruised left knee bone) did not play. . Davis Bertans started his eighth game of the season. ... Tony Parker passed Tim Duncan for fourth in Spurs history in steals with 1,026.

THUNDER 111, MAVERICKS 110

DALLAS— Russell Westbrook scored 30 points, including the go-ahead three-point play in the final minute of overtime, and the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Dallas Mavericks 111-110 on Wednesday night.

Westbrook, who had 11 rebounds and seven assists, drove for the tying layup and made the free throw with 38 seconds left in OT to help the playoff-contending Thunder salvage a four-game split of the season series against a one-time postseason rival now among the NBA's worst teams.

Dwight Powell forced overtime at 100-all with a follow shot at the buzzer to match his career high with 21 points. It was the first points for Dallas since Powell's alley-oop dunk with 4 minutes remaining. Harrison Barnes led the Mavericks with 26 points.

The Mavericks had a chance to win in overtime, but could only get a desperation jumper from rookie Dennis Smith Jr. at the buzzer.

The Mavericks almost turned it over on the final possession of regulation but Wesley Matthews kept the play alive before missing a wild layup, with Powell grabbing the rebound on the other side of the basket and laying it in.

Eric Gay/ Associated Press

New Orleans Pelicans forward Anthony Davis (23) shoots over San Antonio Spurs forward LaMarcus Aldridge (12) during the first half of an NBA game Wednesday in San Antonio.

CHAMPS

From 1C

Becker leads the team with a .588 batting average, while shortstop and Texas A&M signee Ty Coleman is hitting .455 with a team-high nine runs.

For MHS, which was re-routed to the Socorro ISD Tournament in El Paso after inclement weather knocked out the Round Rock Tournament, improving its defense will be the priority over the next five games.

The Bulldogs are hitting .362 as a team and have posted a sparkling 2.18 team earned run average through their eight games. But MHS, thanks in part to a varsity inexperienced and shifting lineup, have already committed 21 errors.

The club has been buoyed by the emergence of a deep rotation led by Midland Christian transfer Randall Blanscett and senior Michael Madrid. At the plate, senior infielder Mario Rodriguez is hitting .727 with three home runs and six RBI, while junior Sean Porter his hitting .522 with a team-leading 12 RBI.

Head coach Barry Russell, who will likely miss the start of the tournament due to family reasons, said his Bulldogs have shown promising potential at times, but need to get more consistent and cut down mistakes.

"We're a tale of two teams – When we play well, we're pretty good. But when we played bad, we're pretty awful," Russell said. "Our pitching has been good but our defense needs to get better. We need to worry about us because we've got so many kids who aren't young, but they're inexperienced. We've got to get some experience playing at this level, picking up the pace."

Follow Will on Twitter: @Will_MRT

43rd annual Tournament of Champions
Today-Saturday
Zachery Field, Ernie Johnson Field, Christensen Stadium, Pressly Field, McCanlies Field
Competing teams: Midland High, Lee, Odessa High, Odessa Permian, Wolfforth Frenship, Amarillo Tascosa, El Paso Americas, El Paso Montwood, El Paso Eastwood, El Paso Franklin, Weatherford, Lubbock Cooper, Lubbock High, Canyon Randall, Plainview, Andrews

Today's games
Zachery Field
1 p.m. – Wolfforth Frenship vs. Plainview
4 p.m. – El Paso Franklin vs. Midland High
Ernie Johnson Field
10 a.m. – Lubbock High vs. Canyon Randall
1 p.m. – El Paso Eastwood vs. Lubbock Cooper
4 p.m. – Lee vs. Lubbock High
Christensen Stadium
10 a.m. – Plainview vs. Andrews
1 p.m. – El Paso Americas vs. Andrews
4 p.m. – Amarillo Tascosa vs. El Paso Americas
7 p.m. – El Paso Eastwood vs. Weatherford
Pressly Field, Odessa
1 p.m. – El Paso Montwood vs. Weatherford
4 p.m. – Odessa High vs. Canyon Randall
McCanlies Field, Odessa
Noon – El Paso Franklin vs. Odessa Permian

Friday's games
Zachery Field
10 a.m. – Wolfforth Frenship vs. El Paso Franklin
1 p.m – Midland High vs. El Paso Montwood
4 p.m. – Midland High vs. El Paso Eastwood
Ernie Johnson Field
10 a.m. – Canyon Randall vs. El Paso Americas
1 p.m. – Lubbock High vs. Amarillo Tascosa
4 p.m. – Lee vs. El Paso Americas
Christensen Stadium
10 a.m. – Amarillo Tascosa vs. Lubbock Cooper
1 p.m. – Lubbock Cooper vs. Wolfforth Frenship
4 p.m. – Plainview vs. El Paso Montwood
7 p.m. – Lee vs. Weatherford
Pressly Field, Odessa
10 a.m. – Odessa High vs. El Paso Eastwood
1 p.m. – Odessa High vs. Weatherford
McCanlies Field, Odessa
1 p.m. – Odessa Permian vs. Andrews
4 p.m. – Odessa Permian vs. Canyon Randall

Saturday's games
Zachery Field
10 a.m. – Weatherford vs. El Paso Franklin
1 p.m. – Midland High vs. El Paso Americas
4 p.m. – Plainview vs. Amarillo Tascosa
Ernie Johnson Field
9 a.m. – El Paso Franklin vs. Weatherford
1 p.m. – Lee vs. El Paso Eastwood
4 p.m. – Plainview vs. Amarillo Tascosa
Christensen Stadium
10 a.m. – Amarillo Tascosa vs. Andrews
1 p.m. – Canyon Randall vs. Lubbock Cooper
4 p.m. – Wolfforth Frenship vs. El Paso Montwood
7 p.m. – Midland High vs. Andrews

COMBINE

From 1C

GMs and coaches will pepper them with questions either in formal 15-minute interviews or during a mixed zone after their physical assessments.

"It's a chance to get to know these guys, to know exactly what you're getting when they come into the building," said new Texans general manager Brian Gaine.

He said their athleticism and acumen are already well-known, and they'll flash their strength, speed and swiftness this week at Lucas Oil Stadium.

What the GMs and coaches want to do is get a look under the hood.

"We'd like to talk about football as much as we can, but we need to know everything we can to find out about these players," Gaine said. "So when they come into our building (we know) that they're a good fit for us in the locker room, in the weight room, in the training room, in the meeting rooms, out on the practice field."

After this week, teams will retreat to their headquarters and begin preparing for the annual flood of free agents that will hit the market in mid-March.

NFL.com reported this week that teams will soon receive in-game player-tracking data on every NFL player in the league, something that could change the way they scout opponents and evaluate free agents.

The league has gathered the data since 2014 through sensors in players' shoulder pads. Until now, teams only had data on their own players.

Some teams have embraced the new tools more than others.

"Are you talking about the analytics, the GPS, all the modern technology?" Gruden said. "Man, I'm trying to throw the game back to 1998.

"You know, really as a broadcaster, I went around and observed every team, asked a lot of questions, took a look at the facilities, how they're doing business, there's a stack of analytic data or 'DAY-tuh,' however you want to say that word, people don't even know how to read it. It's one thing to have the data — or DAY-tuh — it's another thing to know how to read the damn thing.

"So, I'm not going to rely on GPSs and all the modern technology. I will certainly have some people that are professional that can help me from that regard. But I still think doing things the old-fashioned way is a good way, and we're going to try to lean the needle that way a little bit."

Also meeting in Indianapolis this week is the league's competition committee, which is looking into fixing the catch rule, something commissioner Roger Goodell said was his top offseason priority.

The committee is also pondering whether to change the defensive pass interference rule from a spot foul into a 15-yard infraction as it is in college.

Broncos coach Vance Joseph dismissed that possibility because of the harm it could cause to a league that just gave us a thrilling Super Bowl featuring 1,151 yards of offense, more than any NFL game ever played.

"The DPI rule's not going to change, guys. That's nice media talk," Joseph said. "The catch rule? It has to clear up what's an actual catch and what's not a catch. But the DPI rule's not going to change. It's a fun game. We like to see points being scored. If that rule changes, there's going to be a lot of defensive backs grabbing and pulling guys, so that won't change."

MIDLAND HUMANE COALITION

3/01 6:30-8:30 Microchip Clinic at Beer Garden's Yappy Hour
6/16 4th Annual Hot Dog Run 5K and 1K

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UTPB's Francis named LSC Player of the Year

From staff reports

FRISCO – For the second consecutive year, UTPB senior guard Daeshon Francis was named the Lone Star Conference's Player of the Year, Wednesday night at the Lone Star Conference Banquet.

Francis

Falcon teammate Sammy Allen was named the LSC's Defensive Player of the Year and also earned second team all-conference honors. In addition to his superlative award, Francis, along with teammate Josh Morris, were first team all-conference selections.

UTPB's James McPherson was a third team all-conference selection, while Morris and Allen also took home all-academic recognition.

Francis, who averaged 20.7 points and 7.6 rebounds this season for the Falcons, became the second player in program history to top the 1,000-point mark in his career at UTPB. This season, he was named the conference's Offensive Player of the Week four times.

UTPB begins play today in the LSC Tournament as the conference's No. 2 seed.

HS BASKETBALL AREA ALL-DISTRICT AWARDS ROUNDUP

ANDREWS' LEACH, GREENWOOD'S RAY EARN 4-4A SUPERLATIVES

Five Greenwood and Andrews players received superlative or first team honors on the All-District 4-4A boys basketball team just released.

Andrews sophomore guard Brett Leach was named the district's Co-Offensive Player of the Year after leading the Mustangs to a 23-10 record. Greenwood sophomore Brody Ray earned Newcomer of the Year honors.

Andrews senior guard Payton Lopez, Greenwood sophomore guard Ryan Snodgrass and Greenwood junior forward Logan Jarvis were selected to the first team.

2017-18 District 4-4A All-District Boys Basketball Team

Most Valuable Player – Andric Herrera, Sr., Fort Stockton
Co-Offensive MVP – Seth Burgess, Sr., Monahans
Co-Offensive MVP – Brett Leach, So., Andrews
Defensive MVP – Michael Smith, Sr., Monahans
Newcomer of the Year: Brody Ray, So., Greenwood

First Team

David Birdwell, Sr., Monahans; Casey Nolan, Sr., Fort Stockton; Payton Lopez, Sr., Andrews; Ryan Snodgrass, So., Greenwood; Bubba Henson, Sr., Pecos; Luis Guerra, Sr., Fort Stockton; Logan Jarvis, Jr., Greenwood

Second Team

Jovan Wisiar, Sr., Fort Stockton; Omarion Jameson, So., Greenwood; J.T Pittman, Jr., Monahans; Zachary Padilla, Sr., Pecos; Markeese Lawrence, Fr., Andrews; Corbe Navarrette, Sr., Monahans; Matt O'Connor, Sr., Andrews

C-CITY DOMINATES 5-3A GIRLS ALL-DISTRICT

Region I-3A finalist Colorado City took home four of the five superlative awards and two more first team honors on the All-District 5-3A Girls Basketball Team just released.

Colorado City senior Kaitlyn Kimball was named Most Valuable Player, Colorado City senior Conley Niblett was named Offensive Player of the Year, Colorado City freshman Mia Monroe was named Newcomer of the Year and Lady Wolves head coach Barry Kimball was the Coach of the Year.

Stanton senior Payge Grable and Coahoma freshman Makynlee Overton were named to the First Team, as well as Colorado City seniors Taylor Epperson and Clancy White.

2017-18 District 5-3A Girls Basketball All-District Team

Most Valuable Player – Kaitlynn Kimball, Sr., Colorado City
Offensive Player of the Year – Conley Niblett, Sr., Colorado City
Defensive Player of the Year – Torey Bradshaw, Sr., Jim Ned
Newcomer of the Year – Mia Monroe, Fr., Colorado City
Coach of the Year – Barry Kimball, Colorado City

First Team

Taylor Epperson, Sr., Colorado City; Jaycee Fortune, Sr., Clyde; Brooke Galvin, So., Jim Ned; Payge Grable, Sr., Stanton; Caressa McMillan, Sr., Clyde; Jenna Moore, Jr., Jim Ned; Makynlee Overton, Fr., Coahoma; Kayd Pursley, So., Merkel; Libby Tutt, Jr., Jim Ned; Clancy White, Sr., Colorado City

Second Team

Jolie Branch, Sr., Jim Ned; Brooklyn Caspar, Sr., Merkel; Kirsten Church, Jr., Stanton; Caitlyn Corley, So., Coahoma; Alexa Garza, Sr., Colorado City; Malorie Graham, Jr., Jim Ned; Katie Harris, Jr., Stanton; Malloree Labodie, Sr., Merkel; Makayla Overton, Sr., Coahoma; Nichole Thomas, Sr., Merkel

Honorable Mention

Stanton – Ashlyn Mauldin, Sr., Stanton

Academic

Stanton – Kirtsen Church, Jr.; Payge Grable; Katie Harris; Ashlyn Mauldin, Sr.; Payden North, Jr., Stanton

CHAVEZ NAMED 14-1A DEFENSIVE MVP

Garden City junior Cesar Chavez was named Defensive MVP on the All-District 14-1A Boys Basketball Team just released.

Chavez also nabbed district Defensive MVP honors during football season.

Garden City senior Scott Miller and junior Hagan Hallfmann were named to the first team.

2017-18 District 14-1A Boys Basketball All-District Team

Most Valuable Player – Shawn Puentez, Sr., Bronte
Offensive MVP – Jaxon Chantell, Sr., Bronte
Defensive MVP – Cesar Chavez, Jr., Garden City
Newcomer of the Year – Devan Clower, Fr., Blackwell
Coach of the Year – Rocky Rawls, Bronte

First Team

Zach Jackson, Sr., Bronte; Tanner Bedford, Sr., Bronte; Scott Miller, Sr., Garden City; Jayton Warren, Jr., Veribest; Dalton Briley, Sr., Veribest; Michael Lowry, So., Blackwell; Hagan Hallmann, Jr., Garden City; Chris Jones, Sr., Water Valley; Wyatt Sisco, So., Sterling City; Manny Gamboa, Jr., Water Valley

Second Team

Grant Gott, So., Blackwell; Nathan Scates, Jr., Robert Lee; Cay Schaefer, Sr., Veribest; Hunter Davis, Jr., Water Valley; Hunter McMillan, So., Garden City; Cross Knittel, Fr., Sterling City; Dillon Solis, Sr., Blackwell; Quinton McMullen, So., Sterling City; Parker Koenning, Jr., Garden City

Honorable Mention

Garden City – Dakota Roberts, So.; John Michael Alegria, So.

FIXES

From 1C

the reasons for the problems, including the NCAA itself, the age limit to enter the NBA, paying college athletes. Here is a more in depth look at some of them:

THE NCAA IS THE SCHOOLS CURRENTLY: The most common misconception about college sports' governing body is that it is an independent organization that governors the schools. The NCAA is a voluntary association of the schools and that membership ultimately determines the rules — like what payments to an athlete or his family members are allowable. NCAA President Mark Emmert is the face and voice of the association, but — unlike a commissioner of a professional league — he has very limited power beyond being a potential catalyst for change. Or protector of the status quo.

THE TALK: There are 351 schools that play Division I basketball from powerhouse Kentucky to tiny St. Francis College in Brooklyn, New York. Priorities range far and wide and what an Atlantic Coast Conference school sees as a potential fix to the system, an Atlantic Sun school could see as a threat to what little competitive balance exists in D-I. The result is: Many of the potential remedies floated for corruption in college sports don't actually involve NCAA changes.

ONE-AND-DONE

CURRENTLY: The NBA instituted a rule 12 years ago that prohibited players from entering the draft before they were at least 19 and a year removed from high school. The NCAA has no control over this rule. The NFL rule — which requires players be three years removed from high school — is also problematic, but high school aged football players are not generally as close as basketball players to being pro-ready.

THE TALK: There is much buzz about change. One option would be to let pro-ready high school seniors enter the NBA draft and make players who chose to attend college stay at least two years. The rule only impacts the top players. Since 2006, 66 one-and-done players have been NBA draft lottery picks — and that's after a record 11 in last year's draft.

And while age is a hot-button issue, several players who played two or more college seasons were listed in probe documents as potentially accepting impermissible payments, according to Yahoo.

When Pistons coach Stan Van Gundy slammed the NCAA recently as "maybe the worst organization in sports," he pivoted to point blame at the league where he works, even suggesting the one-and-done rule was racist in how it limits black athletes.

"I don't get it. You can get out of high school, you can turn 18, let's say, and go to work anywhere else," Van Gundy said.

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said during the recent All-Star break his league is "conflicted" about one-and-done. The players' union and teams both benefit from players using a year of college to develop skills, mature and grow name recognition before they enter the NBA and start pressuring veteran players.

FARM SYSTEMS

CURRENTLY: The NBA and NFL essentially set up college sports to be a de facto farm system for professional teams and the people who defend college sports want no part of that.

THE TALK: James said the NBA should explore expanding its developmental G League to make it more like major league baseball's farm systems. He also wondered why the United States does not have an athlete development model more like what exists in Europe, where elite soccer players, for example, can get professional development outside of higher education.

"We have to figure out a way that we can shore up our farm league and if kids feel like they don't want to be a part of that NCAA program, then we have something here for them to be able to jump back on and not have to worry about going overseas," said James, who said he wants to meet with Silver to discuss his ideas.

PAYING ALL COLLEGE PLAYERS

CURRENTLY: Nixing the one-and-done rule would still leave some college players with value to agents, coaches and shoe companies. And the NCAA has no means to compensate players at full value. But facing pressure from antitrust lawsuits, NCAA schools changed rules in 2015 to allow athletic scholarships to include a cost-of-attendance stipend. Those payments range from about $2,000 to $5,000 per year.

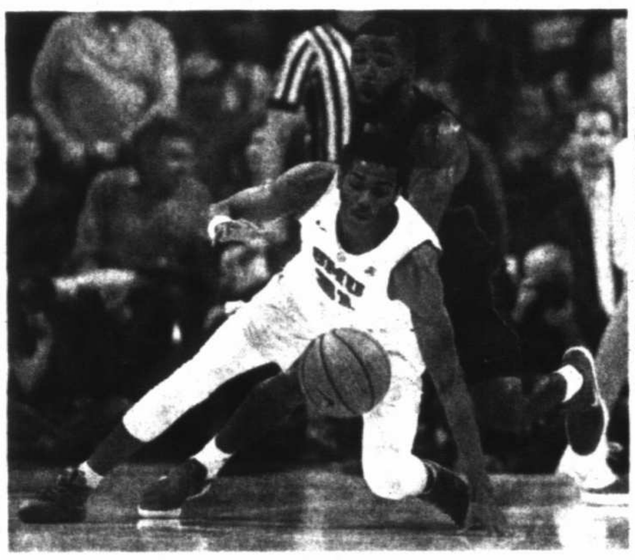
THE TALK: Paying athletes akin to a salary is nonstarter for those in college sports. It goes against the notion that athletics is part of the educational experience. Hence, the term student-athlete. From a practical standpoint it is problematic because of tax issues and federal Title IX requirements. More importantly, schools could never pay an elite athlete enough to eliminate the potential for corruption.

"Whatever you pay them, there's somebody who can pay them more, the guys that they think will be pro prospects, because when they leave, they become a very hot commodity," Tennessee coach Rick Barnes said.

COMPENSATION FOR THE BEST

CURRENTLY: The NCAA not only doesn't allow schools to pay players beyond the value of a scholarship, but also prohibits others from paying athletes for being athletes. This could be where a realistic solution lies. A federal judge ruled in 2014 the NCAA used the names, images and likenesses for athletes for years without proper compensation for things such as video games and merchandise.

THE TALK: "There may be something similar to the Olympic model," Golden State Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "It used to be the Olympians couldn't make a dime. Now you see Michael Phelps or Lindsay Vonn in commercials. They're still in the Olympics. Still doing great. People loved the Olympics. So, there's a way."


Tony Gutierrez/AP Photo

SMU guard Jimmy Whitt (31) loses control of the ball as Houston guard Corey Davis Jr., rear, defends in the first half of an NCAA game on Wednesday in Dallas.

Gray leads No. 25 Houston past SMU 69-56

DALLAS — Rob Gray had 19 points and nine assists and Corey Davis Jr. added 17 points to lead No. 25 Houston to a 69-56 win over SMU on Wednesday night.

The Cougars (23-6, 13-4 American) have won seven of eight games and are a half game behind second-place Wichita State, which will visit UCF on Thursday.

SMU (16-14, 6-11) has lost seven of eight games since leading scorer Shake Milton was sidelined with a hand injury.

Jahmal McMurry scored 13 of his 17 points in the first half to lead the Mustangs. He was the only SMU player to score during the first 9½ minutes.

Houston outscored SMU 17-4 in points off turnovers and 28-16 in points in the paint.

The Cougars' largest lead was 18 points late in the second half after leading 36-24 at halftime. The Mustangs missed 11 consecutive field-goal attempts during the first half.

Cougars senior guard Wes Van Beck, who has made seven starts this season, missed his second consecutive game with an injured hand.

Houston leads the all-time series 49-32 with games played as non-conference opponents and as members of the Southwest Conference, Conference USA and the American.

BIG PICTURE

Houston: With the Cougars headed to the NCAA Tournament, coach Kelvin Sampson will have taken each of the NCAA Division I schools that he has coached to the tournament — Washington State, Oklahoma, Indiana and Houston.

SMU: The Mustangs went 13-5 at Moody Coliseum during the regular season. They were 68-4 at home during the past four seasons.

UP NEXT

Houston will end its regular season at home vs. Connecticut.

SMU will visit South Florida on Sunday

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Men

EAST

Duquesne 76, Saint Louis 69
Fairleigh Dickinson 84, St. Francis (Pa.) 75
George Washington 72, Fordham 56
LIU Brooklyn 73, St. Francis Brooklyn 50
La Salle 71, Dayton 53
Robert Morris 80, Mount St. Mary's 56
UConn 72, Temple 66
Wagner 73, CCSU 61

SOUTH

George Mason 81, VCU 80
Kentucky 86, Mississippi 78
Nicholls 73, Northwestern St. 70
Richmond 90, UMass 65
SE Louisiana 68, New Orleans 64
South Carolina 83, LSU 74, OT
Tennessee Tech 80, SIU-Edwardsville 51
Texas A&M 61, Georgia 60

MIDWEST

Iowa 98, Illinois 87
Notre Dame 73, Pittsburgh 56
Rutgers 65, Minnesota 54
Xavier 84, Providence 74

SOUTHWEST

Cent. Arkansas 88, Sam Houston St. 70
Incarnate Word 83, Houston Baptist 71
Stephen F Austin 76, Abilene Christian 56
Texas A&M-CC 82, McNeese St. 76

FAR WEST

Wyoming 66, Air Force 54

Top 25 Fared

1. Virginia (26-2) did not play. Next: at Louisville, Thursday.
2. Michigan State (28-3) did not play. Next: vs. Maryland or Wisconsin, Friday.
3. Xavier (26-4) beat Providence 84-74. Next: at DePaul, Saturday.
4. Villanova (26-4) beat Seton Hall 69-68, OT. Next: vs. Georgetown, Saturday.
5. Duke (24-6) did not play. Next: vs. No. 9 North Carolina, Saturday.
6. Kansas (24-6) did not play. Next: at Oklahoma State, Saturday.
7. Gonzaga (27-4) did not play. Next: vs. Loyola Marymount or Portland, Saturday.
8. Purdue (26-5) did not play. Next: vs. Indiana, Rutgers, Friday.
9. North Carolina (22-6) did not play. Next: at No. 5 Duke, Saturday.
10. Cincinnati (25-4) did not play. Next: Next: at Tulane, Thursday.
11. Wichita State (23-5) did not play. Next: at UCF, Thursday.
12. Texas Tech (22-8) did not play. Next: vs. TCU, Saturday.
13. Ohio State (24-7) did not play. Next: vs. Penn State or Northwestern, Friday.
14. Auburn (24-6) did not play. Next: vs. South Carolina, Saturday.
15. Michigan (24-7) did not play. Next: vs. Iowa, Thursday.
16. Tennessee (22-7) did not play. Next: vs. Georgia, Saturday.
17. Rhode Island (23-5) did not play. Next: at Davidson, Friday.
18. Clemson (22-7) beat Florida State 76-63. Next: at Syracuse, Saturday.
19. Arizona (22-7) did not play. Next: vs. Stanford, Thursday.
20. West Virginia (22-8) did not play. Next: at Texas, Saturday.
21. Nevada (25-5) at UNLV. Next: at San Diego State, Saturday.
22. Saint Mary's (27-4) did not play. Next: vs. Santa Clara or Pepperdine, Saturday.
23. Kentucky (21-9) beat Mississippi 96-78. Next: at Florida, Saturday.
24. Middle Tennessee (23-5) did not play. Next: vs. Western Kentucky, Thursday.
25. Houston (23-6) beat SMU 69-56. Next: vs. UConn, Sunday.

Women

EAST

Holy Cross 65, Lehigh 62
Penn St. 83, Illinois 57

SOUTH

Arkansas 88, Vanderbilt 76
Belmont 88, Murray St. 84
Georgia Tech 61, Clemson 52
Mississippi 48, Florida 43
North Carolina 69, Boston College 64
UT Martin 63, SE Missouri 60

MIDWEST

Northwestern 68, Wisconsin 63

Top 25 Fared

1. UConn (29-0) did not play. Next: vs. Memphis or Tulane, Sunday.
2. Mississippi State (30-0) did not play. Next: vs. Alabama or Kentucky, Friday.
3. Baylor (28-1) did not play. Next: vs. Kansas State or Kansas, Saturday.
4. Louisville (29-2) did not play. Next: vs. Syracuse or Virginia Tech, Friday.
5. Notre Dame (27-2) did not play. Next: vs. Virginia or Georgia Tech, Friday.
6. Oregon (27-4) did not play. Next: vs. Utah or Colorado, Friday.
7. Texas (24-5) did not play. Next: vs. Iowa State or Texas Tech, Saturday.
8. South Carolina (23-6) did not play. Next: vs. No. 12 Tennessee or Auburn, Friday.
9. UCLA (23-6) did not play. Next: vs. California or Washington, Friday.
10. Oregon State (23-6) did not play. Next: vs. Arizona State or Arizona, Friday.
11. Florida State (24-5) did not play. Next: vs. Miami or Wake Forest, Friday.
12. Tennessee (23-6) did not play. Next: vs. Auburn, Thursday.
13. Ohio State (24-6) did not play. Next: vs. Purdue or Rutgers, Friday.
14. Missouri (23-6) did not play. Next: vs. Mississippi, Thursday.
15. Texas A&M (22-8) did not play. Next: vs. Arkansas, Thursday.
16. Stanford (20-9) did not play. Next: vs. Southern Cal or Washington State, Friday.
17. Maryland (23-6) did not play. Next: vs. Indiana or Michigan State, Friday.
18. Duke (22-7) did not play. Next: vs. No. 23 N.C. State or North Carolina, Friday.
19. Georgia (24-5) did not play. Next: vs. No. 14 Missouri or Mississippi, Friday.
20. South Florida (24-6) did not play. Next: vs. East Carolina or SMU, Sunday.
21. Green Bay (28-3) did not play. Next: vs. Northern Kentucky or Detroit, Saturday.
22. Belmont (29-3) did not play. Next: vs. Jacksonville State or Morehead State, Friday.
23. N.C. State (22-7) did not play. Next: vs. North Carolina, Thursday.
24. LSU (19-8) did not play. Next: vs. Texas A&M or Arkansas, Friday.
25. Mercer (27-2) did not play. Next: vs. Western Carolina, Thursday.

MC BASKETBALL CAPSULES

WOMEN

MIDLAND COLLEGE AT NO. 3 NEW MEXICO JC

When/where: 6:45 p.m. CDT today, Caster Activity Center, Hobbs, N.M.

Records: Midland College 16-10, 9-4 in Western Junior College Athletic Conference; NMJC 28-1, 12-1

Last WJCAC game: Midland College 74, Howard College 52; New Mexico JC 71, Odessa College 69

Notes & quotes: Midland College looks to continue to build momentum heading into next week's Region V Tournament at Wolfforth Frenship High School.

Thacker

The Lady Chaparrals have won five straight, including an impressive win at Howard College on Monday. MC used a 23-4 run in the second quarter and stellar defensive play for the blowout victory over its rivals. Bianca Thacker added a game-high 22 points to go with nine rebounds for MC, while Bethany Theodore and Alexandrea Washington each added nine points. ... NMJC is having a stellar season and the WJCAC champion Lady Thunderbirds have won seven straight, including a come-from-behind victory over Odessa College on Monday by outscoring OC 21-7 in the fourth quarter. Alexes Bryant had a game-high 32 points, while Ni'Asia McIntosh added 19 in the win for NMJC. ... MC coach Ron Jones said playing the Lady T-birds is almost like starting the regional tournament as this game will be a good test for next week. ... NMJC defeated MC, 69-63, in the first meeting at Chaparral Center on Jan. 29. The Lady Chaps had a 51-47 lead heading into the fourth quarter before NMJC made another comeback. "They are very talented," said Jones about the Lady T-birds. "We need to do all the little things as well as possible to give us a chance to win," Jones said. "We want to limit what the other teams like to do and have a good balance. This is a tough assignment but I believe we could have won that game (on Jan. 29) and we would like to have another crack at it." ... If MC wins, it will be the No. 2 seed at the Region V Tournament. If MC loses and Frank Phillips beats Clarendon, MC will be the No. 3 seed and FPC will be the No. 2 seed.

Next: Midland College vs. TBA at Region V Tournament, March 8, Wolfforth; NMJC vs. TBA at Region V Tournament, March 8, Wolfforth

2017-18 WJCAC women's basketball standings

	Conference W	Conference L	Overall W	Overall L
Overall				
x-y-New Mexico JC	12	1	28	1
x-Frank Phillips	9	4	20	5
x-Midland College	9	4	16	10
x-Odessa College	7	6	19	9
Howard College	5	9	15	15
Clarendon College	4	9	20	9
Western Texas	4	10	12	15
South Plains	2	11	15	14

x-clinched Region V Tournament spot
y-clinched WJCAC title

Monday's Games

Midland College 74, Howard College 52; New Mexico JC 71, Odessa College 69; South Plains College 88, Clarendon College 57; Frank Phillips College 78, Western Texas College 69

Thursday's Games

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

MEN

MIDLAND COLLEGE AT NEW MEXICO JC

When/where: 8:45 p.m. CDT today, Caster Activity Center, Hobbs, N.M.

Records: Midland College 9-20, 5-10 in Western Junior College Athletic Conference; NMJC 15-14, 4-11

Last WJCAC game: Howard College 83, Midland College 80; Odessa College 92, New Mexico JC 70

Notes: This is a pride game for both teams that are out of postseason contention. ... Midland College is coming off a disappointing performance at Howard College on Monday as the Chaparrals fails to make it much of a game and got blown out by the Hawks.

Fraser

MC coach Pat Rafferty said his team had a lackluster effort and didn't compete as well as it had during the WJCAC season. Marquell Fraser led MC with 26 points and seven rebounds, while Kevin Kangu added 11. ... NMJC has the lost the last two games and is coming off a blowout loss to WJCAC champion Odessa College. Franklyn Penn Jr. led three Thunderbirds scoring in double figures with 14 points, while Tavon Robinson and Paul Williams each added 11. ... MC defeated NMJC 76-64 on Jan. 29.

2017-18 WJCAC men's basketball standings

	Conference W	Conference L	Overall W	Overall L
Overall				
x-y-Odessa College	14	1	25	3
x-South Plains	12	3	20	7
x-Howard College	10	6	22	8
Clarendon College	8	7	18	11
New Mexico Military	8	7	18	11
Midland College	5	10	9	20
New Mexico JC	4	11	15	14
Frank Phillips	4	11	12	17
Western Texas	3	12	14	14

x-clinched Region V Tournament spot
y-clinched WJCAC title

Monday's Games

Howard College 83, Midland College 80; Odessa College 92, New Mexico JC 70; South Plains College 85, Clarendon College 69; Western Texas College 74, Frank Phillips College 69; New Mexico Military Institute was open

Thursday's Games

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

End of Regular Season

-Compiled by Oscar LeRoy

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THURSDAY PRIME TIME — MARCH 1, 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)	Grey's A. "You Really Got a Hold on Me" (N)		Scandal (N)		How to Get Away With Murder (N)		News (N)	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live		(:35) News Nightline
	KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	CBS 7 News (N)	Ent. Tonight	The Big Bang (N)	Sheldon (N)	Mom (N)	Life in Pieces (N)	S.W.A.T. "Fences" (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	Mason "The Case of the Capricious Corpse"		Twilight Zone
	KPEJ FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Gotham "Pieces of a Broken Mirror" (N)		Showtime-Apollo "Premiere" (P) (N)		Fox 24 News (N)	TMZ	Mom	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
	KMLM IND	11	12	12	11	11	All About Us	Mission: M25	Update News	Wings of Truth	Light of the Southwest		Light of the Southwest		Faith for Families	Our Messiah	Fruits of Zion	Biblical Israel
	KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	NewsWest 9 (N)	NewsWest 9 Now	Superstore (N)	A.P. Bio (N)	Will & Grace (N)	A.P. Bio (N)	Chicago Fire "The F Is For" (N)		NewsWest 9 (N)	(:35) The Tonight Show		(:35) Seth Meyers
	KPBT PBS	13	13		13	8	PBS NewsHour (N)		Wild West	Two for the Road	Daytripper	Places to Love	PBS Previews	POV "Last Men in Aleppo"			News (N)	News (N)
	KUPB UNI	4	4		4	16	La rosa de Guadalupe		El Rico y Lazaro		Papa a Toda Madre		Caer en Tentacion		Noticias Telas	Noticiero noctu.	Contacto Deportivo	
	KOSA MNT	16	16		16		Last Man	Last Man	Law & Order: C.I.		Law:CI "The Saint"		Mike&M.	Mike&M.	Anger M.	Anger M.	Game	Game
PREMIUM	FLIX	340	575		165		(4:55) The Claim		★★ Open Range ('03, West) Robert Duvall.					★★ Cold Creek Manor Dennis Quaid.				Movie
	HBO	300	550	14	14		Movie	News (N)	★★ The Fate of the Furious Vin Diesel.		(:20) Here and Now		HighMain	(:50) 2 Dope Queens				Movie
	HBO2	302	551	15	101	23	(5:25) ★★ 0		Notes From the Field		2 Dope Queens		Crashing	★★★ Allens Sigourney Weaver.				
	HBO5	304	552	16	102		★★ Gone in 60 Seconds Nicolas Cage.		★ Honey, I Shrunk the Kids		(:35) ★ Honey, I Blow Up the...				(:10) ★ A Monster...			
	MAX	380	557	17	120	24	(4:34) ★ A Cure for ...		★ The Blair Witch Project		(:25) ★★★ The Dark Knight ('08, Act) Christian Bale.				Strikeflk			Movie
	MAX2	382	558	18	122		(:55) ★★★ 15 Minutes Robert De Niro.		★★★ Adaptation ('02, Dra) Nicolas Cage.		(:55) ★ Crimes & Misdemeanors							Movie
	PLEX			96			(5:25) ★ Stolen Su...		★★ I Am Sam ('01, Dra) Sean Penn.		(:15) ★★ Music of the Heart Meryl Streep.				(:20) ★★ Jericho			
	SHOW	320	385	19	140	25	Homeland "Standoff"		★★ U-571 Matthew McConaughey.		The Chi "The Whistle"		Cartoon	Homeland "Standoff"		The Chi		
	TMC	336	579	22	155	26	(5:10) ★ The Lawmm...		★★★ Con Air ('97, Act) Nicolas Cage.		★★ Last Action Hero					(:15) ★ Bulletproof		
CABLE	A&E	27	58	28	35	47	The First 48 "Down on Bourbon/ Deadly Trap"		The First 48 "Devil in Me/ Trail of Blood"		The First 48 "Officer Down"		60 Days "The Inmate Who Loved Me"		(:05) The First 48 "Mother of Two"		(:05) First 48 "Devil in Me/ Trail of Blood"	
	AMC	40	74	23	42	51	(4:40) ★ Uncle Buck		★★★ The Devil Wears Prada Meryl Streep.					★★ Bruce Almighty Jim Carrey.				Movie
	BET	58	-		40		★★★ Rush Hour ('98, Act) Chris Tucker, Jackie Chan.						Black (N)	Mancave	Rundown	Black	Mancave	Rundown
	BRAVO	65	76		41		Beverly Hills		Top Chef		Top Chef (N)		BethFred	BethFred	Watch (N)	Beverly Hills		Atlanta
	CNBC	46	52		39	72	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		The Profit		The Profit		The Profit	
	CNN	43	50	51	30	56	OutFront		A. Cooper 360		A. Cooper 360		CNN Tonight		CNN Tonight		A. Cooper 360	
	DISC	50	60	31	24	42	St. Outaws Fast Loud		Outlaws FastLoud		Outlaws Fast (N)		Chopper (N)		(:20) Outlaws Fast		(:20) Chopper	
	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 Wichita State vs C. Florida (L)				NCAA Basketball (L)				SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)	
	ESPN2	34	36	49	32	31	Soccer SheBelieves Cup (L)				NCAA Basketball Ore./Wash.St. (L)				NCAA Basketball Ore. St./Wash. (L)			
	FNC	45	48	53	23	55	The Story		Tucker Carlson		Hannity		The Ingraham Angle		Fox News @ Night		Tucker Carlson	
	FOOD	64	70	27	68	54	Chopped		Chopped		Chopped		BestFlay	Best Flay	Best Flay	Best Flay	Chopped	
	FREEFORM	53	63	34	42	33	(5:00) ★ The Waterboy		Beyond "Stir" (N)		★★★ Matilda ('96, Fam) Mara Wilson.				The 700 Club		★ The Waterboy	
	FSSW	37	38	50	45	29	The Boat Tex A&M	Rangers Insider	Stars Pre-game (L)	NHL Hockey Tampa Bay Lightning at Dallas Stars Site: American Airlines Center -- Dallas, Texas (L)					Post-game (L)	Rodeo (L)	(:40) Stars	UFC "222: Cyborg vs. Kunitskaya"
	FX	31	56	59	64	69	★★★★ Straight Outta Compton ('15, True) O'Shea Jackson Jr..						Atlanta	Atlanta	Atlanta	★ Straight Outta Compton		
	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	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	H.Hunt	House (N)	H.Hunt	House	FlipFlop	FlipFlop
	HISTORY	71	59	29	50	43	American Pickers		American Pickers		American Pickers		American Pickers		American Pickers		American Pickers	
	LIFETIME	28	30	25	28	48	Project Runway	(:55) ProjectR	Project Runway "A Kick in the Astro" (N)		Project Runway "Mizrahi Madness" (N)		Glam Masters "Made You Look"		UnREAL "Oath"		Project Runway "A Kick in the Astro"	
	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 Hockey Pittsburgh Penguins at Boston Bruins (L)					Overtime	NHL Hockey Chicago Blackhawks at San Jose Sharks (L)					Overtime
	NICK	55	-	39	34	37	Paradise	Thunder	★ To Be Announced				Fresh P.	Fresh P.	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
	SPIKE	30	-	55	53	58	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Lip Sync	Lip Sync	MusicCty	MusicCty	★★★ Dirty Dancing		
	SYFY	66	82	41	57	67	(5:00) ★★★ The Fifth Element		★★★ The Chronicles of Riddick Vin Diesel.						The Magicians		★ Open Water 3:...	
	TBS	25	33	44	66	41	Final Space	Final Space	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Conan (N)		Brooklyn 99	Conan
	TCM	41	75	24	63	66	(5:00) ★ Sounder		★★★★ The Bridge on the River Kwai William Holden.						★★★ Patton ('70, War) George C. Scott.			
	TELE	20	-	10	20		Caso cerrado (N)		José José, el pr (N)		Al Otro Lado del (N)		Enemigo Intimo (N)		Al rojo	Tinderos	Al Otro Lado del	
	TLC	51	61	32	38	52	My 600-lb Life "Chay's Story"		600 Lbs: Supersized "Robert's Story" Robert is bedridden at 900lbs and ready to give up. (N)				685-lb "Supersized: The 685-lb Teen" (N)		600 Lbs: Supersized "Robert's Story" Robert is bedridden at 900lbs and ready to give up.			
	TNT	24	34	40	26	50	NCIS: New Orleans "Musician Heal Thyself"		NBA Basketball Philadelphia 76ers at Cleveland Cavaliers Site: Quicken Loans Arena -- Cleveland, Ohio (L)				NBA Basketball Minnesota Timberwolves at Portland Trail Blazers Site: Moda Center -- Portland, Ore. (L)					
	TVLAND	49	-	35	54	35	MASH	M*A*S*H	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Mom	Mom	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens
	USA	26	55	42	27	49	(5:15) ★★★ Shooter (2007, Action) Michael Peña, Danny Glover, Mark Wahlberg.				A. Ninja "Qualifying Episode 1" (N)		★★★ Shooter ('07, Act) Michael Peña, Mark Wahlberg. A sniper who was abandoned behind enemy lines is called back to service.					
	WGN	19	85				Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Messenger "Beginner's Luck"		Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops

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Wife can't watch as 'friend' abuses husband's generosity

DEAR ABBY

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

DEAR ABBY: My husband loaned a "dear friend" some money a year ago. She has yet to pay back a penny. When I ask him about it, he gets mad and tells me it's none of my business. I have hinted to her about some large bills that we have to pay, to no avail.

Other than that, my husband and I have a great marriage and love each other very much. I just don't like her taking advantage of his generosity. I know taking care of his friends gives him pleasure, but he has been burned before and I can see it happening again. I find it hard to ignore. What do I do? — SICK OF IT IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEAR SICK OF IT: I wish you had mentioned whether you work and the money your soft-touch hubby gave his friend was partly earned by you. If that's the case, I don't blame you for being upset.

While I'm not sure you can prevent your husband from doing this, I do think you are within your rights to insist that before he does it he discuss it with you. If he will do that, perhaps the two of you can find an alternative for the person other than giving out money.

DEAR ABBY: My son passed away unexpectedly a little over eight years ago. He was 21. At the time, he had been dating a very nice young lady. We kept in touch for a while after the funeral — letters and emails mostly, as I had moved out of state — but things gradually tapered off.

I have been able to keep somewhat informed about her life because of the magic of social media and mutual friends she shared with my son who still contact me occasionally. I recently learned she's being married within the next two weeks. I am wondering if it would be wrong or weird of me to send a congratulatory card to the happy couple. I wish only continued happiness for her and her future husband. — WISHING HAPPINESS

DEAR WISHING: I see nothing wrong or weird about sending her a nice card, and when you do, be sure to tell her not only that you wish her a happy future, but also that she will always have a special place in your heart.

DEAR ABBY: Would it be appropriate for someone to tell someone else's children to stop doing something dangerous if the parent is not around? I'm talking about kids holding scissors the wrong way or running with them, pushing others, etc.

My children are in their teens now and know that such behavior is wrong. If it were the other way around, I would be grateful if someone cared enough to tell my kids that a behavior is wrong and/or dangerous. — GLAD IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR GLAD: How else would the children know if they weren't warned? To speak up would be an act of kindness, particularly if they were doing something that could cause harm to themselves or others.

GOREN BRIDGE

With Bob Jones

The safe hand

East-West vulnerable, East deals

NORTH
♠ K 9 4 2
♡ Q 8
◇ K 8 5
♣ A 9 4 2

WEST
♠ 10 7 6 5
♡ Void
◇ J 10 9 7 4 3 2
♣ 7 3

EAST
♠ 8
♡ K J 10 7 4 3
◇ A Q 6
♣ Q 6 5

SOUTH
♠ A Q J 3
♡ A 9 6 5 2
◇ Void
♣ K J 10 8

The bidding:

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
1♡	1♠	Pass	2♡*
Pass	4♠	All pass	

*Spade fit, invitational or better

Opening lead: Jack of ◇

What would you bid with the South hand after East's one heart opening? The one spade overcall looks just right to us.

The diamond lead suggested a heart void with West. South played low from dummy and ruffed in his hand with the jack. He reasoned that it would make no difference if the trumps split 3-2, but it might make things easier if West had four trumps. That was good thinking. South cashed the ace and queen of spades, and then drew the rest of the trumps by leading a spade to dummy's nine and cashing the king. Wanting to keep West off lead, South led a club to his king and ran the jack of clubs, losing to East's queen. East exited with his remaining club. South won in hand and led a club to dummy's ace, leaving this position:

NORTH
♠ Void
♡ Q 8
◇ K 8
♣ Void

WEST
♠ Void
♡ Void
◇ 10 9 7 4
♣ Void

EAST
♠ Void
♡ K J
◇ A Q
♣ Void

SOUTH
♠ Void
♡ A 9 6 5
◇ Void
♣ Void

South led dummy's queen of hearts and allowed East's king to hold the trick. Rather than see his own suit run against him for an overtrick, East cashed the ace of diamonds and conceded. Well played!

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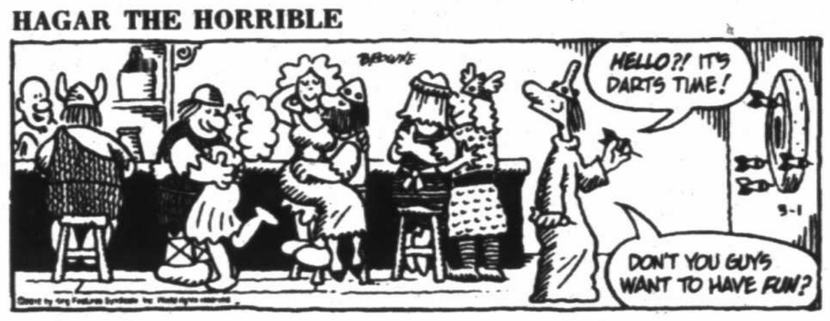
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



FUNKY WINKERBEAN

LUANN

BLONDIE

MARY WORTH

BEETLE BAILEY

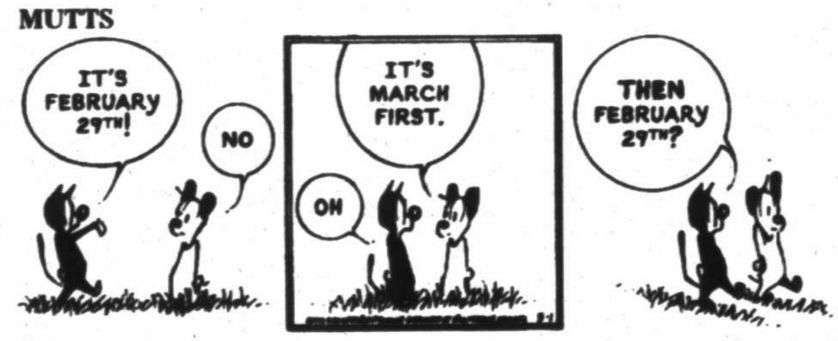
ZITS

CLASSIC PEANUTS

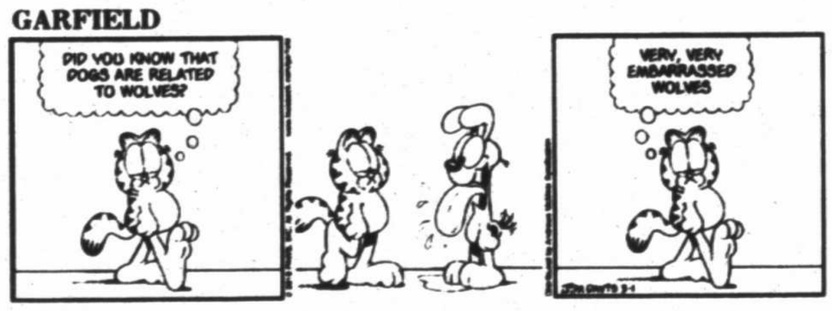
BABY BLUES

SHOE

MUTTS



GARFIELD



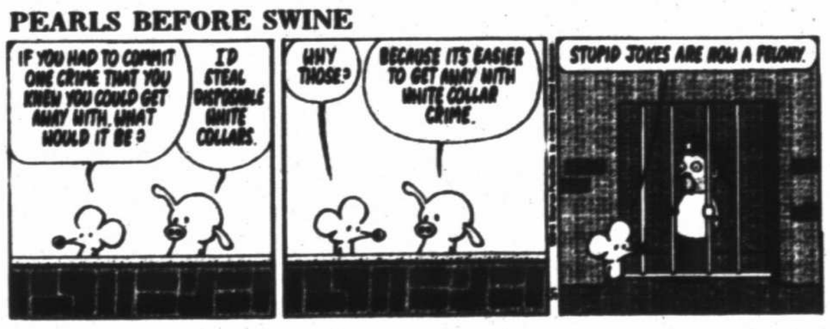
CLOSE TO HOME

"That's what I love about Spellman. He's always been a self-starter."

DENNIS THE MENACE

"I CAN'T TELL YOU WHAT I'VE BEEN DOING... YOU'D WORRY WAY TOO MUCH!"

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



WIZARD OF ID

FAMILY CIRCUS

"But if I eat my sandwich first, how do I know I'll have room for the cupcake?"

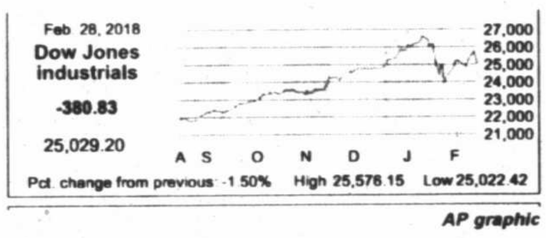
DILBERT

LOCKHORNS

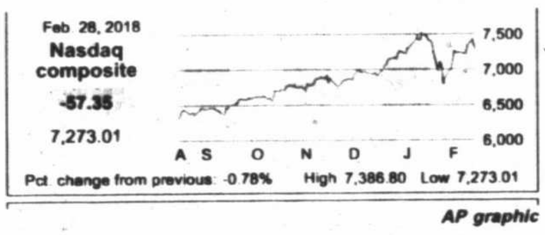
"I'VE FOUND A PIECE OF RED VELVET IN YOUR RED VELVET CAKE."

BUSINESS & OIL

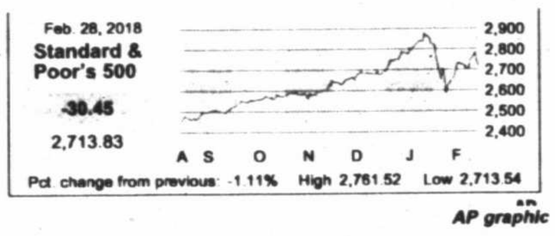
A DAY ON WALL STREET



AP graphic



AP graphic



AP graphic

OIL PRICES

FUTURES

Wednesday:	$61.64
Previous:	$63.01

POSTED

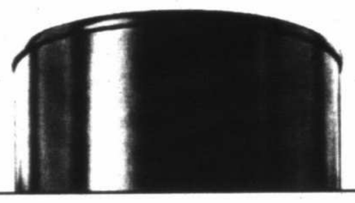
Wednesday:	$58.00
Previous:	$59.50

WEST TEXAS SOUR

Wednesday:	$55.85
Previous:	$57.35

NATURAL GAS

Wednesday:	$2.667
Previous:	$2.683



NYSE

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
S&P500ETF	1208227	271.41	-2.97
iShEMkts	1020501	48.03	-.70
GenElec	884378	14.11	-.39
BkofAm	717838	32.10	-.23
SPDR Fncl	645205	28.87	-.39

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
PHH Corp	10.58	+2.06	+24.2
Chicos	10.04	+1.37	+15.8
TriNetGrp	47.17	+5.59	+13.4
VeevaSys	69.70	+7.83	+12.3
TutorPerini	24.15	+2.30	+10.5

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
CmtyHlt	5.12	-1.06	-17.2
Franksintl	5.23	-.96	-15.5
DonnlyFn n	17.31	-2.71	-13.5
PSBMetDS	6.50	-1.00	-13.3
BBarrett	4.53	-.66	-12.7

DIARY

Advanced	823
Declined	2,086
Unchanged	96
Total issues	3,005
New Highs	42
New Lows	125
Volume	4,211,211,372

AMEX

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
iShIndia bl	75331	34.35	-.44
NwGold g	75216	2.52	+.04
Paretem rs	51144	2.27	+.27
B2gold g	37520	2.98	-.01
TransEnrgy	34288	1.90	-.11

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Myomo n	4.85	+.81	+21.1
Paretem rs	2.27	+.27	+13.5
Zedge n	3.30	+.21	+6.8
CRH Med	2.90	+.15	+5.5
Plexus	3.85	+.19	+5.2

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
RingEngy	13.57	-1.10	-7.5
Contango	2.90	-.22	-7.1
Libbey	6.27	-.43	-6.4
DeltaApril	18.05	-1.19	-6.2
IntelBchk	2.56	-.16	-6.0

DIARY

Advanced	118
Declined	192
Unchanged	24
Total issues	334
New Highs	--
New Lows	10
Volume	217,595,022

NASDAQ

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Comcast s	889134	36.21	-.45
MicronT	448900	48.81	+.23
PwrShs QQQ	419143	167.21	-1.06
CSVtrSh rs	411885	8.86	+.71
Apple Inc	353220	178.12	-.27

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Endocyte	5.93	+1.73	+41.2
AxonEntpr	34.83	+7.58	+27.8
StudentTrn	7.49	+1.48	+24.6
Invitly n	4.15	+.80	+23.9
AmPubEd	30.75	+5.45	+21.5

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
ZosanoP rs	6.24	-2.05	-24.7
Frontr rs	7.03	-2.21	-23.9
AcadiaPh	24.92	-6.25	-20.0
MaidenH	6.00	-1.20	-16.7
Stratasys	18.23	-3.60	-16.5

DIARY

Advanced	771
Declined	2,087
Unchanged	152
Total issues	3,010
New Highs	64
New Lows	71
Volume	2,348,806,510

New Mexico proposes new rules to rein in predatory lending

By Morgan Lee
Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. — New Mexico has begun rewriting store-front lending regulations under a law designed to bolster consumer protections and caps interest rates for small loans at an annual 175 percent.

Consumer groups on Wednesday said the proposed regulations from the New Mexico Financial Institutions Division are a good start that includes some new disclosures of loan terms by store-front lending businesses and their online counterparts.

Center on Law and Poverty Staff Attorney Lindsay Cutler said the initial round of proposed rules apparently does not address anticipated changes in the consumer complaint process or financial literacy programs that are provisions of the law.

The Financial Institutions Division had no immediate comment on the extent of the proposed regulations and indications of industry compliance with the new law. The division has scheduled a public hearing for April 3 in Santa Fe.

The shift in state oversight comes as the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has decided to reconsider a key set of rules enacted last year that would have protected consumers against payday lenders.

There are about 525 registered small-loan outlets in New Mexico, and nearly 100 additional online lenders. The local store-front lending industry has defended triple-digit interest rates as a way to ensure borrowing options for low-income residents in New Mexico, where high poverty and unemployment rates are chronic.

Legislation approved in 2017 by the Democrat-led Legislature and GOP Gov. Susana Martinez contained a variety of consumer protections designed to discourage predatory lending practices. Limits on fees and interest for loans are combined with requirements giving borrowers at least 120 days to repay in at least four installments — effectively eliminating payday loans tied to the next paycheck.

Ford and Miami to form test bed for self-driving cars

Associated Press

DETROIT — Ford Motor Co. is making Miami-Dade County its new test bed for self-driving vehicles.

The automaker and its partners — Domino's Pizza, ride-hailing company Lyft and delivery company Postmates — are starting pilot programs to see how consumers react to autonomous and semi-autonomous vehicles. Self-driving startup and Ford partner Argo AI already has a fleet of cars in the area making the highly detailed maps that are necessary for self-driving. Ford also will establish its first-ever autonomous vehicle terminal in Miami, where it will learn how to service and deploy its test fleet.

More services will likely be introduced as the partnership goes on, including Chariot, an app-based shuttle service owned by Ford. It's all part of Ford's effort to find viable business models for fully autonomous vehicles and get them on the road by 2021.

"This is, I think, the future of any automotive company or mobility company. If a majority of the world's population is going to be living in cities, we need to understand how to move those people around," said John Kwant, Ford's vice president of city solutions, who inked the deal with Miami-Dade.

Ford isn't the first automaker to run test fleets of autonomous vehicles. General Motors Co. will start testing autonomous vehicles in New York City this year, while Nissan Motor Co. is launching an autonomous taxi service in Yokohama, Japan, next week. Technology companies like Waymo — a division of Google — are also testing self-driving vehicles on public roads in Phoenix, San Francisco and Singapore, among other cities.

But the partnership with a specific metropolitan is less common. Both sides envision a deep relationship where Ford can help Miami-Dade solve specific issues, like how to most efficiently move people from its suburbs to its downtown monorail, and Miami-Dade can offer
solutions like dedicated lanes for automated vehicles or infrastructure projects like advanced traffic lights that can send signals to connected cars.

"We want to be on the forefront of this because we want to give our people choices," said Carlos Gimenez, the mayor of Miami-Dade County, which is home to 34 cities and 2.7 million people.

Sherif Marakby, Ford's vice president of autonomous vehicles and electrification, says the company also intends to work closely with local businesses. The company wants to learn, for example, how a florist might use an autonomous delivery vehicle.

"Autonomous vehicle technology is interesting, but it's a whole lot more interesting with a viable business model," he said.

The city of Miami is the fifth-most congested in the U.S., according to a recent traffic study by the consulting firm Inrix. After more than a century of selling people vehicles, Kwant says Ford now wants to figure out ways to move people more efficiently in order to cut down on that time in traffic.

Sam Abuelsamid, a senior research analyst with the consulting firm Navigant Research, says Ford and others must figure out how to make money on self-driving cars.

Stocks fall as S&P 500 closes out cruelest month in 2 years

NEW YORK — U.S. stocks sank again on Wednesday and cemented February as the worst month for the market in two years.

Not only was the month's loss sharp, at 3.9 percent for the Standard & Poor's 500 index, it was also the first in a long time. S&P 500 index funds snapped a record-setting run where they had made money for 15 straight months, including dividends.

Some of Wednesday's drop was due to a slide in the price of oil, which sent energy stocks to the market's sharpest losses. The S&P 500 fell 30.45 points, or 1.1 percent, to 2,713.83, while the Dow Jones industrial average lost 380.83, or 1.5 percent, to 25,029.20 and the Nasdaq composite dropped 57.35, or 0.8 percent, to 7,273.01.

The dominant fear for the month was the threat of higher inflation and interest rates. Concerns got so high that the S&P 500 spiraled down 10 percent in just nine days at one point, before trimming some of its losses. The index had five losses of 1 percent or more in February, more than it did in all of last year.

Expect even more swings in coming weeks and months, said Brian Peery, portfolio manager at Hennessy Funds.

Metal prices

Gold slipped 70 cents to $1,317.90 per ounce, silver lost 3 cents to $16.41 per ounce and copper dropped 5 cents to $3.13 per pound.

MIDLAND STOCKS

Midland-Headquartered Publicly Traded Companies

Concho Resources (CXO)
Closing Price $150.80 Down 2.29

Dawson Geophysical (DWSN)
Closing Price $5.51 Down 0.12

Diamondback Energy (FANG)
Closing Price $124.64 Down 1.53

Legacy Reserves (LGCY)
Closing Price $3.61 Up 0.06

Mexco Energy (MXC)
Closing Price $3.50 Up 0.07

Natural Gas Services Group (NGS)
Closing Price $24.90 Down 2.05

ProPetro Holdings (PUMP)
Closing Price $16.13 Down 0.24

RSP Permian (RSPP)
Closing Price $38.31 Up 2.49

Ring Energy (REI)
Closing Price $13.57 Down 1.10

Viper Energy Partners (VNOM)
Closing Price $22.62 Down 0.98

HOW STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST FARED

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
AK Steel	...	14	5.16	-.31	-8.8
ARCAbio rs	...	...	.81	+.18	-40.0
AT&T Inc	2.00f	14	36.30	-.57	-6.6
Abraxas	...	64	2.16	-.12	-12.6
AdaDrvsEq	1.32e	...	16.33	-.17	+2.8
AMD	...	...	12.11	-.42	+17.8
AkersBios	...	...	.73	-.02	+444.8
Alibaba	...	53	186.14	-2.12	+8.0
AlpAlerMLP	1.35e	...	10.10	-.23	-8.4
Ambev	.05e	6	6.75	-.03	+4.5
Amgen	5.20e	17	183.77	-2.02	+6.7
Anadarko	1.00f	66	57.84	-1.43	+6.3
Apache	1.00	22	34.16	-.86	-19.1
Apple Inc	2.52	21	178.12	-.27	+5.3
ApldMatl	.80f	18	57.89	-.86	+12.7
Archrock	.48	24	9.50	-.60	-9.5
ATRION	1.88f	16	80.49	-.86	-8.3
AutoData	2.52	31	115.35	-1.12	-1.6
BP PLC	2.38	21	38.86	-.84	-7.5
BkofAm	.48	21	32.10	-.23	+8.7
B iPVixST rs	...	...	44.32	+1.91	+58.7
BaringsCp s	1.20	...	14.85	+.10	-2.7
BasicEnS	...	...	.45	...	...
BerkHa A	...	283	310260.03	-4094.98	+4.3
BioPhrmX	...	...	.26	+.03	+131.8
BlkHillsCp	1.76	16	60.79	-.91	-16.6
BrtBylSq	1.60f	66	66.30	-1.84	+6.6
BrownPA s	.79	40	60.60	-.29	+1.1
BrownPB s	.79	...	60.79	-.86	+1.6
CVS Health	2.00	12	67.73	-.52	-6.6
CalDivPot	...	33	10.67	-.23	-13.6
CambrE rs	...	...	.09	+.01	-28.7
CaterpillBr	3.12	27	154.63	-6.63	-1.9
Celastic g	...	9	10.86	-.04	+3.6
Celgene	...	28	87.12	-8.66	-16.5
CntryLink	2.16	8	17.67	-.41	+5.9
ChesEng	...	5	2.82	-.24	-28.8
Chevron	4.48f	80	111.92	-4.89	-10.6
Chicos	.33	14	10.04	+1.37	+13.8
Cimarex	.84f	21	96.09	-1.83	-21.2
Cisco	1.32f	23	44.78	-.28	+16.9
Citigroup	1.28	14	75.49	-.89	+1.5
CocaCola	1.56f	80	43.22	-.49	-6.8
ColgPalm	1.80	34	69.97	-.95	-6.6
Comcast s	.76f	17	36.21	-.45	-9.2
ConAgra	.86	29	36.13	-.87	-4.1
ConchoRes	...	23	150.80	-2.29	+.4
ConocoPhil	1.14f	43	54.31	-1.52	-4.1
CracknB	4.80	19	156.10	-.98	-1.8
CSVtrSh rs	...	...	8.86	+.71	+58.3
CresTlm	.97e	16	16.18	-.29	+9.3
DCP Mid	3.12	50	35.84	-.41	-1.3
DTE	3.53f	18	100.78	-1.25	-7.9
DevonE	.24	28	38.67	-1.19	-25.9
DiscCmA	...	12	24.32	-1.72	+8.7
DiscCmC	...	12	22.98	-1.77	+8.5
Disney	1.68f	18	103.16	-1.71	-4.8
EOG Resos	.67	...	101.42	-5.62	-8.8
Endocyte	...	...	5.93	+1.73	+38.6
Energen	.08	19	54.71	-1.38	-5.9
EgyTrEq s	1.22f	18	15.50	-.45	-10.2
EnPro	.88	41	72.46	-2.98	-22.6
ENSCO	.04	...	4.44	-.45	-24.9
EntProdPt	1.70f	20	25.42	-.25	-4.1
Ericsson	.13e	...	6.82	-.16	-.9
Etsy n	...	37	25.31	+4.28	+23.8
ExxonMbl	3.06	16	76.74	-1.76	-8.4
Facebook	...	33	178.32	-3.14	+1.1
FordM	.60a	5	10.81	...	-15.1
FrptMcM	...	15	18.60	-.49	-1.9
Frontr rs	2.40	...	7.03	-2.21	+4.0
GATX	1.76f	14	66.94	-2.13	+16.9
GoldfldRT	.94e	...	9.49	+.02	+2.2
GrAtlPac	1.16e	...	34.61	-.17	+.3
GenMos	.48	...	14.11	-.39	-19.3
GenMotors	1.52	...	39.35	-.82	-4.0
Gerdau	.02e	...	5.00	-.09	+34.4
GrPlainsEn	1.10	14	28.16	-.13	-8.6
Halliblrtn	.72	...	48.42	-1.20	-5.0
HertzGl	...	...	18.19	-1.87	-17.7
HP Ent n	.56f	46	18.50	-.23	+28.5
IBMBrazil	.87e	...	45.48	-.91	+12.4
iShChinaLC	.87e	...	47.22	-.98	+2.3
iShEMkts	.93e	...	48.03	-.70	+1.9
iS Eafe	1.66e	...	70.20	-.74	-.2
iShR2K	1.77e	...	150.43	-2.33	-1.3
Intel	1.20f	16	48.39	-.62	+6.8
IntraDig	1.40	10	71.80	-.30	-5.7
iShCorEM	.95e	...	57.93	-.80	+1.8
JPMorgCh	2.24f	18	115.50	-1.86	+6.0
JohnJn	3.36	18	129.88	-4.79	-7.9
Keycorp	.40f	17	21.13	-.03	+4.8
KimbClk	4.88f	17	118.92	-4.42	-8.1
KindMorg	.50	24	16.20	-.44	-10.3
LegacyRes	...	...	3.61	+.06	+124.2
Lowes	1.84	20	89.59	-6.20	-3.6
Lubys	...	...	2.80	-.06	+6.1
Macys	1.51	10	29.41	+1.01	+16.8
MalBrnchdt	...	...	16.88	-1.96	-28.1
MarsBrnO	.20	...	14.52	-.48	-14.2
McDrlds	4.04	27	157.74	-1.91	-8.4
Merck	1.92	20	54.22	-.50	-3.8
MerMMid	...	83	46.88	-4.48	+6.3
MexcoEn	...	...	3.50	-.02	-10.9
MicronT	...	10	48.81	+.23	+18.7
Microsoft	1.68	66	93.77	-.43	+9.6
Nabors	.24	...	6.47	-.19	-5.3
NOVarco	.20	...	35.09	-1.17	-2.8
Neovasc g	...	...	.24	+.05	-60.0
Novavax	...	...	2.17	-.08	+75.0
NSTFRI	.66e	...	14.26	+.06	-6.1
NTXSI	.66	...	13.53	+.06	-6.6
OasisPet	...	...	7.86	-.72	-6.3
OasisPet	3.06	...	66.66	-4.16	-46.9
Oracle	.76	22	50.67	-.06	+7.2
PDC Engy	...	...	62.63	-4.36	+1.9
PHH Corp	...	...	10.58	+2.06	+2.7
Pandora	...	...	4.41	+.05	-8.5
ParTech	...	27	11.84	-.31	+16.1
ParkDrl	...	...	.90	-.04	-16.9
PattUTI	.56	...	16.87	-.91	-21.6
Penney	...	22	4.33	+.12	+37.0
PennaRE	.84	14	19.46	+.31	-42.2
Pentair	.63e	25	9.15	-.41	+3.2
Petrobras	...	...	14.04	-.17	+36.4
Pfizer	1.28	16	36.31	-.49	+.2
PioNtrl	.32f	...	170.23	-4.44	-1.5
PlainsAAP	2.20	27	21.10	-.38	+8.2
Pwrshs QQQ	1.52e	...	167.21	-1.06	+7.4
Praxair	3.36f	24	149.76	-4.38	-8.2
PrmEngy	...	...	61.66	-4.66	-4.8
PUVixST rs	...	...	17.18	+1.04	+69.3
ProShtVix s	...	...	12.23	-.16	-60.5
PrestGem	2.76	21	78.62	-2.02	-44.6
PShtQQQ rs	...	...	16.71	+.31	-22.3
PUShtSPX	...	...	10.54	+.35	-7.3
RangeRs	.08	14	13.29	+.13	-22.1
RegionsFn	.36	20	19.41	-.21	+12.3
RiteAid	...	...	1.97	-.06	...
Rowan	.40	7	12.16	-1.04	-22.3
RoyDShBA	3.76	96	63.27	-.66	-5.2
SpdrDJIA	3.66e	...	250.20	-3.76	+1.1
S&P500ETF	4.13e	...	271.41	-2.97	+1.7
SpdrLehHY	2.30	...	36.21	-.03	-1.4
SpdrOGEx	.73e	...	33.06	-.88	-11.1
SabnR	2.28m	20	43.00	-1.05	-3.6
SandorPm	1.28	9	123.16	-4.81	-41.3
Schlmbrg	2.00	45	65.84	-1.27	-2.6
SiriusXM	.04	35	6.28	-.01	+17.2
Smucker	3.12	17	128.30	-.34	+1.7
SnapInc A n	3.28	...	17.32	+1.00	+18.5
SwstnEngy	...	26	3.57	-.12	-36.0
Sprint	...	3	5.19	-.06	-11.9
Square n	...	...	46.05	+.14	+32.8
SP Engy	2.04e	...	66.73	-1.58	-7.7
SPDR Fncl	.46e	...	28.87	-.39	+3.4
SP Inds	1.12e	...	76.65	-1.10	+1.3
SP Tech	.76e	...	68.17	-.49	+6.8
StudentTrn	.44	18	7.49	+1.48	+22.0
TJX	1.25f	22	82.68	+5.37	+8.1
TelefEsp	1.39e	...	9.83	-.07	-.8
3M Co	5.44f	30	235.51	-5.27	+.1
Tecnhmark	.60	7	86.37	-4.62	-6.9
Transocn	...	...	9.11	-.51	-14.7
TriContl	1.87e	...	27.27	-.09	+1.3
Twitter	...	...	31.86	+.54	+32.7
TylerTech	...	48	203.11	-.39	+14.7
UBSH	1.36	23	36.80	-4.00	+2.2
US OilFd	...	...	12.37	-.28	+3.0
Vale SA	.29e	...	13.73	-.76	+12.3
ValeantPh	...	4	16.39	-2.11	-21.1
ValeroE	3.20f	24	90.42	-2.35	-1.8
VanEGold	.06e	...	21.35	-.14	-8.1
VangEmrg	1.10e	...	47.17	-.62	+2.7
VerizonCm	2.36	7	47.74	-.30	-9.8
Vulcanlll	1.12f	28	117.73	-4.14	-8.3
WEC Engy	2.21f	19	59.92	-.65	-9.8
WalMart	2.06f	20	90.01	-1.51	-8.9
WhtgBoots	1.60	14	68.89	-.25	-5.1
WhotWrld	...	...	2.63	-.20	-36.9
WellsFargo	1.56	14	58.41	-.80	-3.7
WmsCos	1.36f	11	27.76	-.60	-9.0
XcelEngy	1.44	19	43.28	-.42	-10.8
Xerox rs	1.00	36	30.32	+.07	+4.0

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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	52-Week Low	Name	Last	Chg	Net %Chg	YTD % Chg	52-wk % Chg
26,616.71	20,370.95	Dow Jones Industrials	25,029.20	-380.83	-1.50	+1.25	+16.53
11,423.92	8,744.38	Dow Jones Transportation	10,301.99	-141.89	-1.35	-2.17	+6.21
778.80	647.81	Dow Jones Utilities	668.81	-3.21	-.48	-7.54	-3.84
13,637.92	11,324.50	NYSE Composite	12,652.55	-166.68	-1.30	-1.22	+6.50
7,595.77	5,780.39	Nasdaq Composite	7,273.01	-57.35	-.78	+6.35	+23.19
2,872.87	2,322.51	S&P 500	2,713.83	-30.45	-1.11	+1.50	+13.27
2,091.48	1,673.39	S&P Midcap	1,994.01	-22.69	-1.29	-1.89	+6.05
29,760.60	24,131.40	Wilshire 5000	28,117.02	-222.82	-.79	+1.16	+12.84
1,815.52	1,335.60	Russell 2000	1,512.45	-24.02	-1.56	-1.59	+6.60

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***

				8	1			
	6		5		9		1	
			6					4
		7				1	3	
	4	1	7		5	6	8	
	3	8				7		
9					3			
	1		4		8		6	
			2	7				

SOLUTION TO WEDNESDAY'S PUZZLE

7	6	9	4	8	5	1	3	2
8	5	1	2	3	9	7	4	6
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6	4	2	9	1	8	3	7	5
1	7	5	3	6	2	9	8	4
5	1	6	7	2	3	4	9	8
3	2	8	1	9	4	5	6	7
4	9	7	8	5	6	2	1	3

3/1/18

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JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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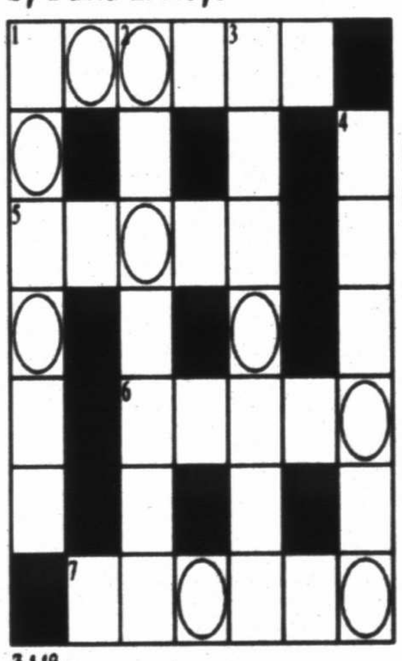
JUMBLE® CROSSWORDS™

by David L. Hoyt



ACROSS

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Tropical bird	UCNATO
5. Down ___	NRDEU
6. First-class	ETEIL
7. Climb	CSNDAE

DOWN

CLUE	ANSWER
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2. Disrobe	NUESRSD
3. United, for one	INEARIL
4. Astute	WDSREH

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.

3-1-18

CLUE: The TV version of "The ___ ___" premiered in 1970.

BONUS

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ANSWERS: 1A-Toucan 5A-Under 6A-Elite 7A-Accord 1D-Toupee 2D-Undress 3D-Airline 4D-Shrewd 5-Odd Couple

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 Tell target
6 Look for
10 Letting in some air
14 Dakota natives
15 Lyft alternative
16 Record, in a way
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36 First antibacterial soap
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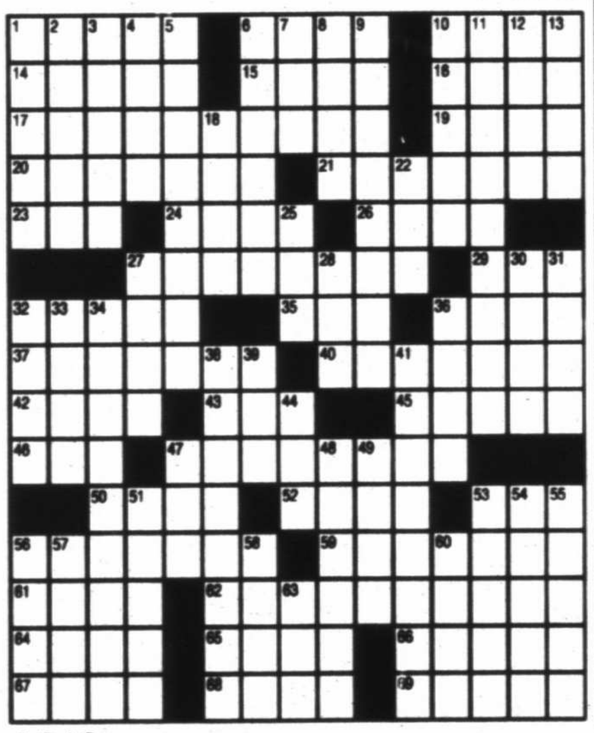
39 November tuber
41 Oater belt attachments
44 Economic fig.
47 Plant juice
48 Made
49 "With ya so far"
51 State one's views
53 Slasher film setting: Abbr.
54 Western prop
55 Actresses Gunn and Kendrick
56 Hide
57 Wear out
58 Armada unit
60 Purim month
63 Full Sail Amber __

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

T	I	M	E	L	Y		C	O	R	E		T	S	A
A	G	O	R	A	E		A	N	O	N		O	P	T
R	U	S	S	I	A		P	O	U	T		L	A	H
M	A	C	E		R	P	I		G	R	E	E	C	E
A	N	O		M	E	A	T		H	E	D	R	E	N
C	A	W		E	N	T	A	I	L		G	A	B	S
			C	O	D		L	O	Y		E	T	A	
	S	T	O	W		P	G	S		B	I	E	R	
	M	O	O		K	I	R		H	E	N			
L	U	L	L		A	N	I	M	A	L		O	R	T
U	G	L	I	E	R		D	E	N	T		T	E	A
A	N	G	O	L	A		L	T	D		S	T	A	B
N	E	A		E	C	H	O		C	A	N	A	D	A
D	S	T		C	H	I	C		A	V	O	W	E	R
A	S	E		T	I	C	K		R	E	W	A	R	D

03/01/18



By Craig Stowe
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03/01/18

WUZZLES®

WORD PUZZLES BY WOOD TOM

Each Wuzzle is a word riddle which creates a disguised word, phrase, name, place, saying, etc. For example, NOON GOOD = GOOD AFTERNOON

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"The Best of Wuzzles" ($4.00), "More of the Best of Wuzzles" ($4.50), and "Wuzzles for Kids" ($4.25) are available, postpaid, from Wuzzles, Box 1141, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

1.

RNEITIENGD
TEINNIRDGE
INENGETIRD

2.

Leaky
Shoe Shoe

Print Your Answers Here:

1.

2.

Today's Answers:

1. Mixed ingredients
2. Leaky overshoes

3-1

Created by Tom Underwood
www.wuzzleking.com

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WUZZLES®
Answers
1. Mixed ingredients
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Be sure to check out Sunday's edition to read weekly

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

				8	1			
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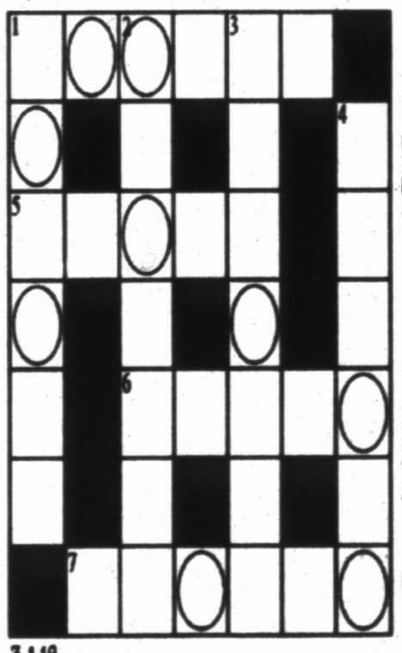

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R	U	S	S	I	A		P	O	U	T		L	A	H
M	A	C	E		R	P	I		G	R	E	E	C	E
A	N	O		M	E	A	T		H	E	D	R	E	N
C	A	W		E	N	T	A	I	L		G	A	B	S
			C	O	D		L	O	Y		E	T	A	
	S	T	O	W		P	G	S		B	I	E	R	
	M	O	O		K	I	R		H	E	N			
L	U	L	L		A	N	I	M	A	L		O	R	T
U	G	L	I	E	R		D	E	N	T		T	E	A
A	N	G	O	L	A		L	T	D		S	T	A	B
N	E	A		E	C	H	O		C	A	N	A	D	A
D	S	T		C	H	I	C		A	V	O	W	E	R
A	S	E		T	I	C	K		R	E	W	A	R	D

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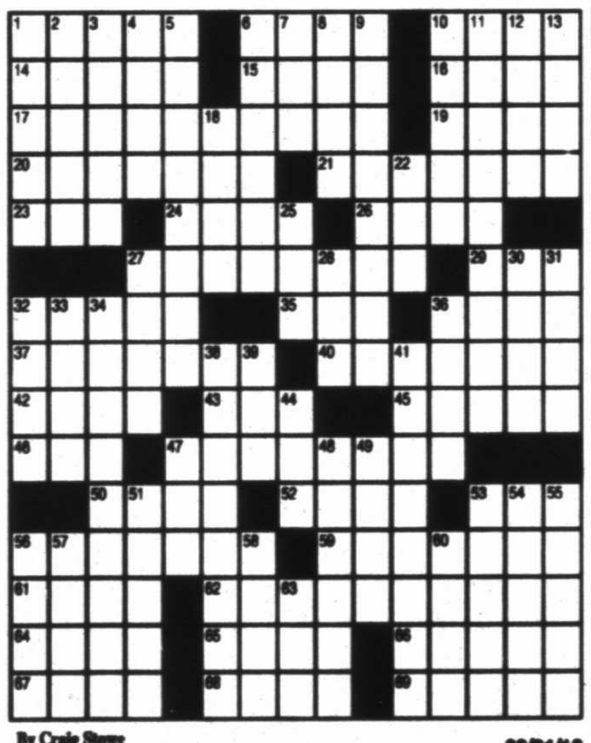

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Created by Tom Underwood
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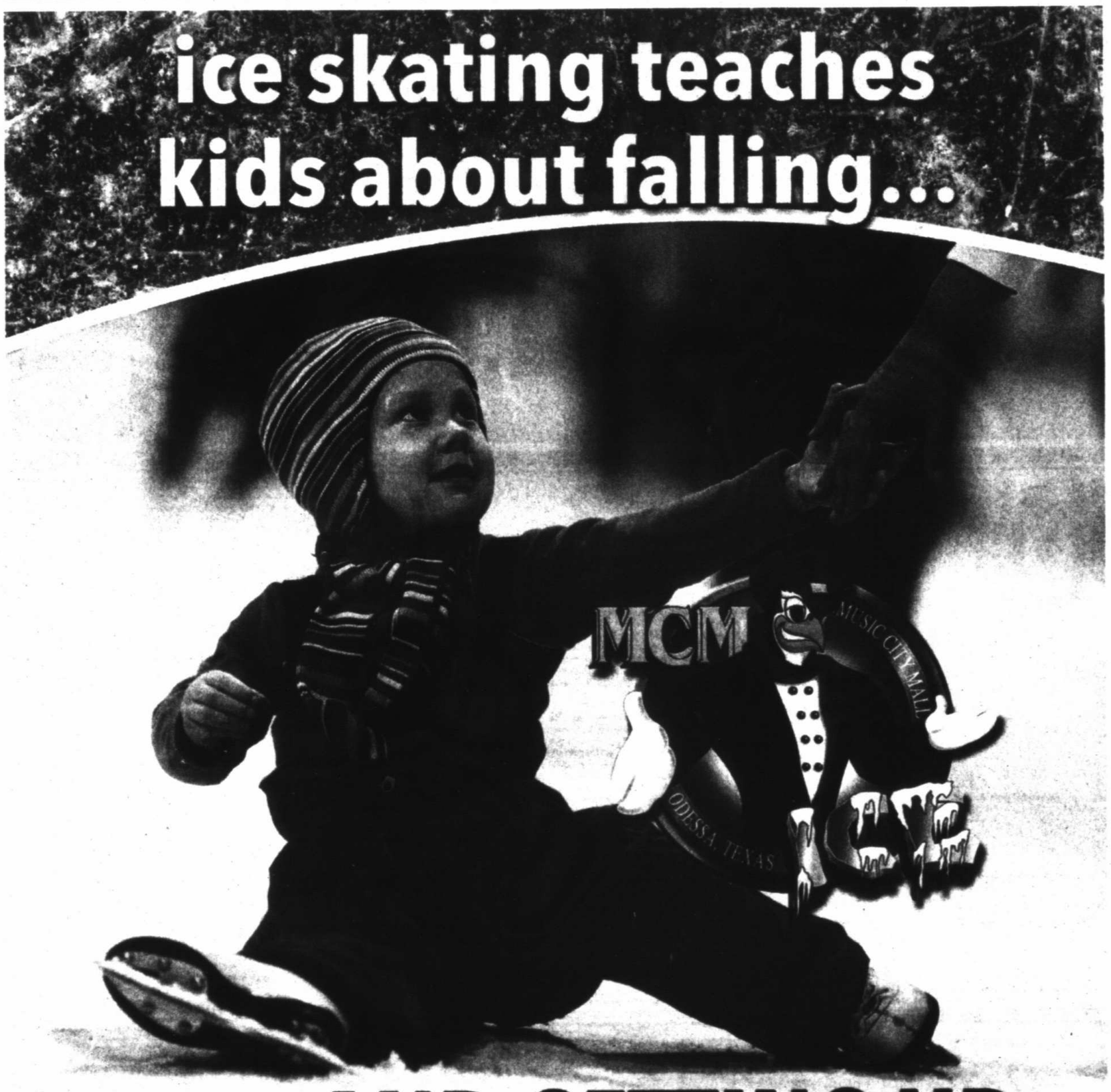

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- Staff, Train, Evaluate & Develop Team Members
- Understand & Execute Inventory Management System

Shop Technician:

- Build & Repair Different Types of Valves and Actuators
- Be Capable of Understanding Technical Documents
- Knowledge of Valve Actuators a Plus

Delivery & Pickup Driver:

- Unload Trucks & Check In Materials
- Pickup Products and Deliver Materials as Required
- Assist with Different Inventory Management Tasks

Please send your resume to Dave Latch - dlatch@vzcontrols.com.
Applicants must be reliable and have clean driving record.

VANZANDT Controls, LLC

ENERGY AND UTILITIES

Warehouse Customer Service Associate

Griffin Oil Company 3910 S. FM 1788, Midland, Texas 79706
Warehouse Customer Service Associate, Duties Include:
• Answer phones • Take customer orders • Coordinate deliveries
• Maintain Inventory • Encourage safe work habits • Keep all files current
•Needs computer skills/telephone etiquette. Good pay, Good benefits,
Let's discuss. **Resume to: pgilbert@ripgriffin.com for an interview**

OTHER JOBS

CDL Drivers Needed

Come Join our family! Jones Bros. Dirt and Paving
We want your work experience and your hard work!
NOW HIRING FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS

• Water truck drivers • Belly Dump drivers

Home every night and new equipment

Requirements: 1 year of driving experience
Valid Texas Class A CDL, w/tankers for water truck driver

Benefits: Medical, dental /vision, life insurance.
After 1 year of service Paid vacation and 401K

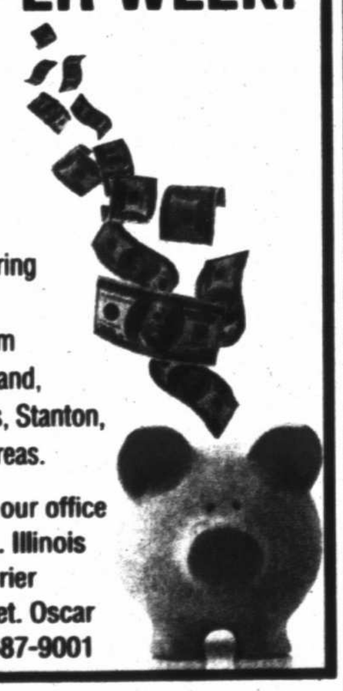
Apply in person at Jones Bros. Dirt & Paving Contractors, Inc
1401 S. Grandview
Odessa, Texas 79761

OTHER JOBS

EARN UP TO $500 PER WEEK!

Do you have a reliable car with insurance and a phone?? Become an independent contractor delivering the Midland Reporter-Telegram in the in the Midland, Odessa, Andrews, Stanton, and Big Spring areas.

Please come by our office located at 201 E. Illinois and fill out a carrier information sheet. Oscar Ronquillo 432-687-9001



OTHER JOBS

Jet Specialty, Inc.
A 38 year old oil field supply company. Our Pecos, TX, Midland, TX and Carlsbad, NM locations are looking for the following:

- Outside Sales Person
- Drivers
- Inside Sales People

Excellent Pay, Paid Vacation, Paid Holidays, 401K, Medical, Dental and Vision. Experience a plus!!!

Email resumes:
ryan.emrhovsky@jetspecialty.com

OTHER JOBS

Endeavor Energy Resources, LP

DOT Driver II

JOB DESCRIPTION: Job responsibilities include local (within Midland City and County) transportation by truck for Endeavor Energy completions or production crews. Cargo transport varies depending on driver's licensing.

Essential Functions:
- Follow instructions, and maintain compliance with all DOT, company and customer safety and operational policies and procedures
- Properly load and unload product at various customer locations in a professional, courteous, timely, safe, and efficient manner
- Connect and disconnect hoses, operating pumps and valves for loading and unloading
- Complete all paperwork accurately and timely, if applicable
- Complete other related tasks as assigned by manager

Minimum Requirements:
- High school diploma or GED required, must be at least 18 years of age
- Ability to read, write and communicate effectively required
- Computer proficiency is required
- Valid Texas Driver's license is required
- Class A CDL and Haz Mat is preferred but not required
- Must be able to pass background screening including MVR and criminal
- Must be able to work nights, weekends, and an extended workweek.
- Strong customer service skills, and the abilit / to effectively prioritize, multi-task, manage time, organize and execute tasks in a high-pressure environment

Supervisory Responsibilities:
No supervisory responsibilities are associated with this position.

Work Environment:
Work is often outdoors. Working conditions range from frigid to hot temps, high winds, flying dust, slipping hazards and conditions and frequently exposed to loud noise from heavy equipment and machinery.

Physical Demands:
Ability to sit, stand, walk, reach with hand and arms, climb, squat, kneel, and bend is required. Must also be able to occasionally lift, carry, push, pull, move, and drag up to 50 lbs.

Position type and expected hours of work:
This is a full-time position. The ability to work overtime is a requirement to performing this job.

Endeavor Energy Resources, LP is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate in regards to race, color, creed, age, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, marital status or disability. We comply with all local, state, and federal laws pertaining to employment and discrimination will not be tolerated.

Endeavor Energy Resources, LP

Now hiring for a Field Technician.

he Field Technician will provide advanced refueling services to support the Frac operations on location. Endeavor Energy will provide all necessary training for new employees. **This is a non-driving position.**

Job Duties:
- Comply with all OSHA and company safety procedures, rules and regulations
- Proper pre and post trip of equipment
- Consistently demonstrate safe unloading of fuels while handling, hooking and unhooking hoses and operating pumps while following directions and standard operating procedures
- Safely using pipe wrenches, crescent wrenches and other hand tools
- Immediate reporting and cleaning of any spills during shift
- Maintain professionalism through working courteously with supervisors, despatchers, fellow co-workers and customers
- All other duties as assigned

Minimum Qualifications:
- Ability to work in a fast-paced environment
- Proven capability to work both independently and collaboratively with different levels of management and individual contributors
- Demonstrated ability to manage work in stressful situations
- High school diploma or GED required, must be at least 18 years of age
- Ability to read, write and communicate effectively required
- Computer proficiency is required
- Valid Texas Driver's License is required
- Experience working on Frac site or similar responsibilities is preferred

Work Environment:
Work is often outdoors. Working conditions range from frigid to hot temps, high winds, flying dust, slipping hazards and conditions and frequently exposed to loud noise from heavy equipment and machinery.

Physical Demands:
Ability to sit, stand, walk, reach with hand and arms, climb, squat, kneel, bend, and occasionally lift /carry/push/pull/move/drag up to 60 /bs.

Position type and expected hours of work:
This is a full-time position

Endeavor Energy Resources, LP is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate in regards to race, color, creed, age, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, marital status or disability. We comply with all local, state, and federal laws pertaining to employment and discrimination will not be tolerated

Field Service Mechanics

Come Join our family! Jones Bros. Dirt and Paving
We want your work experience and your hard work!
NOW HIRING FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITION

Field Service Mechanics

Requirements: 3 years mechanic experience.
Must have own tools, Valid Texas Drivers license, Pay will depend on work experience, 50 plus work week.
Benefits: Medical, dental /vision, life insurance. Paid vacation after 1 year of service, and 401K

Apply in person at Jones Bros. Dirt & Paving Contractors, Inc.
1401 S. Grandview
Odessa, Texas 79761

Jewelry Repair Technician

Anderson Bros Jewelers in Lubbock, Texas is seeking a qualified candidate to fill the position of Jewelry Repair Technician
Qualified applicants must have:
• 5+ years experience as a jewelry repair technician
• Experience with a laser welder
• Experience with general repairs, setting stones and sizing rings
Email resume to **annringer@hotmail.com**
Anderson Bros Jewelers is an equal opportunity employer

MULTIPLE POSITIONS

Lucio Janitorial is hiring 1 garage guy, 3 Floor men and Evening maids. Hours are 5- 8 evening hours. Starting pay is $10, job is M-F with weekends and major holidays off. Please msg me or call me at 806-752-0881.
Must pass a background check

Warehouse

Please apply in person at: Sims Plastics 2700 W Front Midland, TX 79701

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

ESCROW ASSISTANTS

West Texas Abstract & Title Company is currently looking for 1-2 escrow assistants for immediate employment with a thriving company which offers many excellent benefits who has a strong customer service background and who is detail oriented. Must have good communication and problem solving skills with the ability to multi task. The position will be assisting closers in the last steps of the real estate closing process. Title company experience is preferred and/or a strong communication skill to work with clients throughout the closing process. Salary will be DOE. If you are looking for a rewarding career that can take you to any level you want to achieve, please send resumes to West Texas Abstract & Title Company, Attn: HR Department at 3700 N Big Spring St, Midland, TX 79705.
WTA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and a part of the FNF family.

RESTAURANT/FOOD SERVICE

Restaurant Positions

Genko Japanese Steakhouse FT
Would you like to make $15 to $20 an hour, depending on position?
Now hiring Hibachi Chefs, Waitresses, Hostesses, Cashiers, Bartenders, Bus Help, Dishwashers & Kitchen Help. Come apply in person: 11am-2pm at 1207 Tradewinds Blvd. 79706 or online at: www.my-otaku.com

SALES JOBS

Multi-Media Sales Executive

The Midland Reporter-Telegram, part of Hearst Communications, is excited to announce that due to our continued growth in the Midland, TX market, we are seeking Multi-Media Sales Executives just like you to join our team! Our industry is changing into a digital world, and we are looking for experienced professionals who are eager to facilitate our innovative efforts.

Join Midland's leading media company and become part of the winning sales team that offers advertisers a robust suite of digital and print products to help them achieve their business objectives. We are seeking digital savvy, highly motivated sales professionals to sell our marketing solutions to local businesses. Our ideal candidate will be goal oriented, is a relentless hunter, driving to win new businesses, and has a track record of exceeding monthly goals.

Multi-Media Sales Executives maximize advertising sales potential, through the development of quality business relationships and promotion of new/existing advertising products. This position requires a heavy amount of prospecting and lead-development with local businesses. We pride ourselves on simplifying the marketing process for our customers, while helping advertisers track the impact of their campaigns and understand their advertising options. In short, we help our customers grow their business.

Responsibilities Include:
- Consistently meets/exceeds all print and digital revenue goals.
- Understanding the clients' advertising needs, and develop the ideal marketing solution for them
- Delivering customized sales presentations in person, or by phone/web-demos
- Generating new leads by making cold calls and maintaining an awareness of new businesses opening in the area
- Be the face of the Midland Reporter-Telegram and ensure a superior customer experience

The Ideal Candidate:
- You're self-motivated and results oriented
- You have an outgoing, resilient personality
- You enjoy the thrill of the hunt by bringing in new business
- You're confident and not willing to accept average

Required Skills & Experience:
- 2+ years of sales experience with a proven record of successfully exceeding goals
- Passion to educate clients in their marketing options and close deals
- Exceptional communication and presentation skills
- Strong computer skills, Digital Sales experience a plus
- Bachelor's degree preferred

What's in it for you?
- Paid training
- Competitive Base Salary & Commissions
- Medical, Dental and Vision Coverage
- Flex spending accounts
- Short & Long-Term Disability Insurance
- 401K with company match
- Paid time off & more!

Send resume to David Robbins at david.robbins@hearstrp.com
No Phone Calls Please.

SKILLED LABOR

Field Service Techs, Shop Techs & Machinist

J&W Services and Equipment Company is seeking Field Service Technicians, Shop Technicians and Machinist. Experience preferred. However, we are willing to train. Hourly pay and overtime with benefits of group health, dental, life insurance and vacation pay. There is an opportunity to earn commissions and be awarded bonuses. Participation in matching 401k plan after one year of employment. You can stop by 3510 E. Hwy 158 in Midland or go online to **www.jandwservices.com** for application and submit to **jobs@jwwellheads.com.**

HVAC/ Refrieration Technician

Qualified service technician with a minimum 1 year experience in diagnosing and repairing HVAC & refrigeration equipment. Equipment installation a plus. EPA Certification, Valid drivers license with clean driving record required. Must work well with others and have good communication skills. Apply in person at 948 Advance Ave., Midland, TX. 79701

Laborers and Carpenters

Mid-Tex of Midland, Inc. Now hiring laborers and carpenters. Reliable transportation a must. You may apply or leave an application at 5206 W. Wadley Avenue, Midland, Texas.

PIONEER
NATURAL RESOURCES

NOW HIRING
Instrumentation & Electrical Technician

Maintains all electrical equipment used to monitor and control oil well services equipment. Home nightly

Qualifications:
- High school education or equivalent.
- 6 months experience maintaining and repairing electronic instrumentation and automation equipment.
- Valid operator's license with clean driving record

Comprehensive Benefits package!
- Medical, Dental, & Vision
- Prescription Drug
- 401 K
- Vacation, Sick Time, & Company Paid Holidays
- Company Paid Life
- Tuition Reimbursement
- Onsite Fitness Center

Apply at www.pxd.com/careers/job-openings

PIONEER
NATURAL RESOURCES

NOW HIRING
Local Drivers

Local truck drivers needed. Home nightly, local routes, scheduled shifts 5am - 5pm (14/7 rotational) never on call, optional overtime

Qualifications:
- High school education or equivalent
- Valid operator's license
- Clean driving record
- DOT compliant

Comprehensive Benefits package!
- Medical, Dental, & Vision
- Prescription Drug
- 401 K
- Vacation, Sick Time, & Company Paid Holidays
- Company Paid Life
- Tuition Reimbursement
- Onsite Fitness Center

Apply at www.pxd.com/careers/job-openings

PIONEER
NATURAL RESOURCES

NOW HIRING
Transportation Truck Driver

Responsible for driving Water, Dump, and/or Belly Dump Truck and hauling water/caliche to drill rigs, fracturing crews, etc. Hauls water/caliche from well locations to proper disposal facilities.

Qualifications:
- High school education or equivalent.
- Experience can range from commercial truck driving experience preferred to one year as a water truck driver required.
- Valid Class A CDL with Tanker endorsement.
- Clean driving record.
- Salary competitive and commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Comprehensive Benefits package!
- Medical, Dental, & Vision
- Prescription Drug
- 401 K
- Vacation, Sick Time, & Company Paid Holidays
- Company Paid Life
- Tuition Reimbursement
- Onsite Fitness Center

Apply at www.pxd.com/careers/job-openings

Plumber Apprentices

Plumber apprentices needed for new commercial projects. Must possess valid DL. Experience preferred. Good work environment with competitive pay and standard benefits. Call 432-687-9905

TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

Delivery Driver

Wanted: DELIVERY DRIVER for local oilfield chemical service company. Good pay, good benefits. Requirements: • High School Diploma or GED • CDL • Must be willing to acquire or currently possess: Hazmat endorsement, Tanker endorsement. **Call Tim (405) 380-4101**

REAGENT CHEMICAL & RESEARCH, INC.

$3000.00 SIGN-ON Bonus
Hiring Immediately
CDL-HAZMAT DRIVERS-
w/ at least
1 YEAR TANKER EXPERIENCE
2 YEARS CDL DRIVING
WITH GOOD DRIVING RECORD
MUST BE OVER 23 YEARS OLD
MUST PASS BACKGROUND CHECK

- Medical, Prescription, Vision & Dental Ins. for you and your family.
- 401K & Profit Sharing Savings Plan
- $700.00 week minimum guarantee
- Paid by the load
- 24 hour call
- 2 Weeks Paid Vacation plus 10 Paid Holidays
- Affordable Life Ins., Supplemental Ins., Short and Long Term Disability Ins.
- Scholarship Programs

Apply
Monday-Friday
8:00am-4:30pm
2833 I-20, South Service Rd,
Stanton TX
432-458-3446

Classified CAN
682-6222

Recycle Your Stuff for Cash in the **Classifieds**

Call or go online to **browse**, **buy** or **sell**!

Midland Reporter-Telegram
CLASSIFIEDS
sellittexas.com • **432-682-6222**

Who's Who For Service

You can advertise your business for as little as $47.00 monthly.

Call 682-6222 for details.

Cleaning Services
Home Cleaning

Call the cleaners!! Dusting, Organizing,Sweeping, Mopping, Tile, Bathrooms, Windows, Make Ready! One Time, Weekly, Bi-Weekly, & Monthly services available. Deep Cleaning & Free Estimates! Joey & Ashley Balli (432)-296-2942

E S M E R A L D A ' S HOUSE CLEANING Honest, independent, responsible, references available Call 432-254-4334

Old fashion detailed house cleaning, nice christian lady, reasonable prices! Call (432) 413-8665

Computer Services
Repair-Replacement

A+ COMPUTER Tutor! Overcome Your Fear of Computers! ✔ Your PLACE at Your PACE ★Call Karen 432-553-2468 (leave msg).

Hauling

HAULING & Cleanouts Home, storage, or office. 432-889-1316

Home Services & Home Improvement
Concrete

For all your concrete needs, driveways, sidewalks, new slabs house or garage additions. Call Danny @ 432-894-0702

Fences

ABC CONSTRUCTION Wood, chain link, block, gates & repairs are my specialty. Native Midlander building since 1979. Call Lonnie 432-528-5262

Handyman Services

Total Handyman Services A through Z and total remodel and room addition by native Midlander Manny Ribera (432) 967-3710 mRiberaConstruction.com Video: https://youtu.be/8LIUKSdQDIg

Heat-Air Condition

ELLIS & Sons Plumbing & Air Conditioning Sales & Service. Service all brands. 683-2679. TACLB005482.

Home Services & Home Improvement
Painting-Wallpaper

CRC Interior and Exterior Painting Remodeling, fencing & fabrication. Clayton R. Cross. 432-770-6595. 1st ESTIMATE FREE.

Painting-Wallpaper

DOUBLE TT PAINTING Interior and Exterior Texture, tape & bed Low Prices. Work gauranteed. References Available. 432-288-7849 or 352-4633.

Painting Wallpaper

PAINTING, SHEET rock, repairs, fans, electrical, plumbing, tile-floor & bath. Permian Maintenance 432-697-5417

Painting-Wallpaper

PRECISE PAINTING FEMALE PAINTER. Interior/exterior, residential. Very professional, takes pride in her work, very dependable & affordable. FREE Estimates. 432-250-4843

Miscellaneous Services

WATER TREATMENT
Culligan of West Texas
Residential & Commercial
FREE WATER ANALYSIS
563-2690

Home Services & Home Improvement
Pool and Spa

Pool Renovation. Pool deck stone decor, overlay, copping, tile, waterfall & grando. By artist Manny Ribera native Midlander (432) 967-3710 mRiberaConstruction.com Video: https://youtu.be/8LIUKSdQDIg

Remodeling-Repair

PAINTING, SHEET rock, repairs, fans, electrical, plumbing, tile-floor & bath. Permian Maintenance 432-697-5417

Roofing

J&J ROOFING All Types of Roofing & Repairs. Fence Repairs, Metal roofs. 25 years experience. Free Estimates Call Juan, 432-631-6861

Landscape and Tree Maintenance
Lawn and Garden

AFFORDABLE TREE shrub pruning, removal, sprinkler repairs. Licensed & Insured. Call Williams Tree Lawn Sprinkler 561-8802, 638-6163.

Arbor Max Solutions
Professional Landscape & TreeCare. Call to Schedule nut reduct applic. **Taylor Maxwell Degreed Horticulturist Certified Arborist** TX3606A 432-528-1737

M & M Landscape 22 years experience. Grass sodding, Xeriscaping, tree & shrub removal Native Midlander 432-230-3372.

Accounting-Financial

APPLIANCE REPAIR
REPAIR SERVICES and Parts for Refrigerators, Freezers, Stoves, Washers & Dryers. Free Service Call with Repair. Free Removal. Full Warranty, Very Affordable Prices. M&M Appliances 1007 N Midkiff, Midland Call 432-570-8278

Landscape and Tree Maintenance

DAVID'S TREE & LAWN SERVICE Trimming trees & shrubs, leaf clean ups, mowing and more! Please call to make appointment 432-349-0894 www.facebook.com/davidstreelawnservice

LEYVA LAWN CARE Trees & Lawns Professional & Efficient 432-250-9470 Free Estimates

TREE TRIMMING by L & D Services. Over 15 years experience Also removal & strump grinding. Butch @ 432-209-1131 or Dustin @ 432-557-2897

LONE STAR HANDY-MAN Lawn care service and flower bed clean up,trim hedges , raking leaves, wood fence & gates reparis,and planting flower beds Call 432-889-9233 after hours Mon-Sat 11:30 a.m-6:30 p.m

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

Lawn and Garden

RAINBOW LANDSCAPING We do it all! Mowing, edging, beds, flower pot, junk hauling. Free estimates, 20+ years experience, friendly service. Call Bryan at 432-301-1788

STRACENER IRRIGATION Sprinkler Systems Repairs & Installations License #4933 Call (432) 561-9525

VILLA'S YARD Service Free Est., Reasonable Rates. Mowing, flower beds, tree trimming & removal. 432-349-3893 Lord Is My Shepherd, I Shall Not Want. Psalm 23:1

Miscellaneous Services

BLUE'S SPRINKLER SYSTEM Installs and repairs Backflow assembly tester Lic. 8285 432-889-8983 432-704-2647

Gutters - Downspouts

PATIO CLEANING
UPSCALE PATIO & CLEANING SERVICE
Professional Patio, Window & Gutter Cleaning. Crete Surface Restoration Will haul off old patio furniture. Spring Clean Your Patio's Now Free estimate with an appointment. Call Rick Sanders @ 432-296-0723 email: upscalepatiocleaning@gmail.com web: www.upscalepatiocleaning.com

Miscellaneous Services

We buy homes in any area in any condition.
Call the Scott Williams Team of Realtors 432-689-7770.

Pavement Surfacing

COMMERCIAL and residential Concrete work. Slabs, walks, retaining walls, & all custom concrete 30+ years experience. Insured & all worked guaranteed. ALL TYPES of block and stone fence. Curbside Companies. 432-416-0321

Personal Services

IRMA'S UPHOLSTERY & DRAPERY. 20 yrs exp. 432-352-4633.

Classified CAN 682-6222

Legal and Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of TED COLLINS, JR., ALSO KNOWN AS C.O. TED COLLINS, JR., Deceased, were issued on February 20, 2018, in Cause Number P19340 pending in the County Court of Midland County, Texas, to:

James Patrick Collins
Dallas, Texas

as Independent Executor. The address to which claims may be presented in care of said representative's attorney is:

c/o Terri Lacy
Andrews Kurth LLP
600 Travis, Suite 4200
Houston, Texas 77002

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

DATED the 26th day of February, 2018.

ANDREWS KURTH LLP

By: Terri Lacy
Texas State Bar No. 11811500
600 Travis, Suite 4200
Houston, Texas 77002
Telephone: (713) 220-4482
Facsimile: (713) 220-4285
tlacy@andrewskurth.com

ATTORNEYS FOR JAMES PATRICK COLLINS, INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF TED COLLINS, JR., ALSO KNOWN AS C.O. TED COLLINS, JR. DECEASED

Legal and Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed Bid(s) will be received until 2:00 P.M., March 28, 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. 18001446

For: HA5 Surface Treatment Project

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

Legal and Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

The Midland County Purchasing Agent, located in suite 1101 of the County Courthouse, 500 N. Loraine Midland, Texas, 79701 will offer surplus items and vehicles for sale by electronic auction through GovDeals beginning March 1, 2018. The auction site can be seen at www.govdeals.com. The conditions of the sale are "as is" at the time of sale. Items can be viewed by appointment only. Please contact Kristy Engeldahl via telephone 432-688-4872 or by email pur103@co.midland.tx.us. Closing date is March 30, 2018.

Legal and Public Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE of property to satisfy landlord's lien. Sale is Tuesday - March 13, 2018 at 11:30 am 3420 Thomason Drive - Midland, TX. Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash; immediate removal is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw property from sale. Property includes the contents of the following delinquent tenants: Michael Valdez, Household Goods; Tanya Duncon, Household Goods; Laqutorre Edwards, Household Goods; Bobby Terraza, Household Goods; Tim Buretz, Household Goods; Mel Pride, Vehicle: 2002 Jaguar Sedan 4-Door. Property from the above listed delinquent tenants will be sold as individual units. For further information, contact Affordable Self Storage at 432-694-4444.

Legal and Public Notices

NOTICE FOR BIDS

The School Land Board and the General Land Office (GLO) will hold an online sealed bid Oil, Gas, and Other Minerals Lease Sale on EnergyNet.com. Bids received will be opened at the GLO in Austin, Texas on April 3, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. For more information about the lands to be offered for lease call (832) 403-3122 or (512) 475-1512, write to Mineral Leasing, Rm. 840, 1700 N. Congress, Austin, TX 78701, or visit www.energynet.com or www.glo.texas.gov.

Legal and Public Notices

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID DISPOSAL WELL PERMIT

Parsley Energy Operations, LLC, 303 Colorado, Suite 3000, Austin, Texas 78701 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to dispose of produced formation water/fluid into a formation that is not productive of oil or gas. The applicant proposes to dispose of fluids into the San Andres (formation), Alex 17 (lease), and Well Number: 1D. The proposed disposal well is located 5.4 miles Northeast of Midland, Texas. In the Spraberry (Trend Area) field in Midland County, TX. Fluid will be disposed into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 4,564 feet to 5,764 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the STATEWIDE Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512.463.6792)

Estate Sales

ESTATE SALES BY LAMAR COATS
2411 MAXWELL - (Midland)
Friday 9am-2pm • Saturday 9am-1pm •Sunday 2pm-4pm
House full of quality items, Baker, Drexel, Heritage, Waterford, silver, designer clothing, Chevron gas pump
NO CHILDREN PLEASE TOO MANY BREAKABLES
To see photos go to estatesales.net

Area Sales

Wall St. Antiques
Treasure Hunters

March 24 & 25, 2018
Sat 9am-6pm & Sun 10am-4pm
MIDLAND COUNTY HORSESHOE PAVILION
Seeking Dealers in Antiques, Vintage, Rustic, Upcycled, Repurposed, Junk, & Handmade!
For Vendor/Booth information contact
TreasureHuntersExpo@gmail.com
or call The Cedar Chest for additional info 432.685.0019

Commercial

READY-RANCH
WWW.READY-RANCH.COM
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.READY-RANCH.COM

- **East County**
  - *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 whitetail and mule deer, turkey, hogs, quail $850
- **Nolan County**
  - *646 ac. over 1 mile creek, blinds, feeders, elevation change, oak; SOLD $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 offfield traffic $750/ac
  - *150 ac. big canyon, SOLD anks, cedar/mesquites great deer, turkey, jav $895/ac
- **Martin County**
  - *135 ac. Sulphur Springs SOLD deer and whitetail, hogs, varmints, metal stor $1,150/ac

(432) 664-7764 or (432) 934-7777
No Realtors - Buy Direct!!!
Deal with Landowners that know the Country!!!
Owner Financing Available

Classified CAN 682-6222

Pickup Trucks

CHEVROLET 2006 extended cab pickup. New tires, runs great, reliable. Rough body. 117K miles. $6,000. 432-813-0031

Motorcycles

2012 Prowler 700 SeriesArcticCat, blue2-seater 4X4. Garage kept Must see asking $6,500. 432-349-0041.

Recreation Vehicles

Houseboat-Stardust cruiser Super Nicel 55FT, Powered with two 350 Chevy engines, low hours, central h/a, upper deck & waterslide, Kohler generator, sleeps 8, Lake Amistad, DelRio,TX.$65,000 OBO. (432)-661-6095.

Garage-Estate-Yard Sale

Find it fast in the Midland Reporter-Telegram

Estate Sales

ESTATE SALE
BY JOSEPH AND TEAM
TOOLS, TOOLS, TOOLS!
11603 W. County RD. 88 - Midland
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Saturday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
For pictures go to
https://www.estatesales.net/TX/Midland/79707/1708440

Estate Sales

The Antiques Barn Estate Sales Services
ESTATE SALE
713 Shell - Midland, 79701
Please - No children or strollers.
Multi-level home full of fragile items.
9AM - 3PM Thurs - Sat March 1, 2, 3
View photos and details at EstateSales.net

Yard - Garage Sales
79707

2807 W. Golf Course MARCH 2 - 3 Friday&Saturday. 8:00am-3:00pm. Dishes, tools, crafts, linens, milk glass, some furniture. Too much to list.

Residential Sales
Single Family Homes

FSBO 2805 Boeing, 3 bedroom 2 bath, 2 car garage, Old Midland. Owner financing. $225,000. 10% down plus closing cost. Call 432-631-4974.

1705 W. Cuthbert. 3000+ ft2 3/2-1/2/2 Remodeled kitchen Spring, 2017. 30 year roof Nov,2017. Ceramic tile, or brick, flooring througout. LOTS of built-ins. All appliances can stay. 300+ ft2 garage apartment rented for $700 per month. Call (432)-853-9341 $609,000

Classified CAN 682-6222

Merchandise
Appliances

27 inch Whirlpool Double oven pictures can been seen in Craigslist (Midland) Asking $600 5 yrs old 432-631-7764 or 432-631-7763

Miscellaneous For Sale

SUNSET MEMORIAL Gardens, Double deck lawn crypt. In Garden of Memories $6,000 call anytime. 432-528-7973.

LIQUIDATION OF 2 divorced homes in Midland, TX. 1608 W. Kansas & 2812 N. Garfield. Call for price. 214-356-5244 Realtor

Lots And Land
Ranches

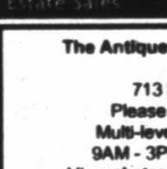
400 +/- acres, northwest Menard County, 2 water wells, mobile home door, black buck, antelope, turkey, Nice Live Oak rolling country. Sammy Martin Broker. 325-295-4244. www.huntingpropertiesrus.com

LAKE FRONT ACRES, Lake Brownwood gated community, 4.65 acres located on deep water can be divided into 5 lots of just less than 1 acres, or 2 lots of 1.8 acres, 1 lots of approximately .90 acres. Single lots $78,500. More than 1 lot price negotiable. 806-789-5209

Commercial

SHOP/ YARD for lease. CR 90 Properties, LP Broker/ Owner 432-230-9139

Real Estate Rental Sale



Commercial

COMMERCIAL YARD/ BUILD TO SUIT FOR LEASE
6 ACRES, FENCED
2 AC CALICHED.
$2250/MONTH
JUST EAST OF MIDLAND
432-894-7764

Midland Industrial Whse, 2703 W Industrial, 1000-4000 s.f. Dock High storage units, 830-988-0210

Real Estate Rental Sale

WEST SIDE
2 Bedroom 1 Bath House
In-closed Garage, Huge Fenced-In Yard
$1,400 a month
Call (432)-697-6020

Yard - Garage Sales

203 E. Oak Thurs 9am-6pm & Fri 8am-6pm. 3 Family garage sale. Furniture, clothes & lots of miscellaneous

Garage Sale 600 N F St Pac n Play, stroller, high chair, patio cushions, rugs, cook books, designer clothes, table linen, bedding, mod- century pieces & lots more!!! Fri&Sat 8am-?

Ladies clothes size 2-8, men's clothes size 34, mens and ladies shoes, bedding, and much more!! 4711 Thomason Dr. 8-2

Garage Sale 4320 Country Club Dr. Fri 8-3, Sat 8-?

BACKYARD SALE 3408 Douglas Ave. 3/2 starting at noon, 3/3 starting at 8am. Yard tools and miscellaneous.

Autos For Sale-Lease

Autos For Sale

2000 FORD F-250 Powerstroke 7.3-LITER Ext. Cab 4x4. 201,745 miles. 6-in lift. 37" mud tires. Replacement Bumpers. New Trans. Banks Performance Chip. 16K O.B.O Call or text: (325) 660-7055

General Announcement

Thank You! Jesus! Mark Berryhill.com Ministering for Christ Teach the Lord's Word 1-4

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Real Estate Rental Sale

FEATUREDRANCHESFORSALE

36,460deededacresinSandowskCounty,BrownCounty – Theterrainvariesfromhighelevatedpondersapinemeastobrownvalleysbybottoms.Thescenicranchhastheperfect "landofenchantment " charm.Thepropertyownillnotneedwithextensiveimprovementsandtheranchreceivesover100willpermits.One-halfmineralsowned.$550peracre.

10,466acresdeededinTerrellCounty,Texas – Thisstandingbeautifulranchislocatedwestof Sanderson.Big Canyonsrunthroughtheranchcreatingacombination of limestonehills, ridges, valleysbottomsandupland pastures.Theranchfeatures both mule deer and whitetail, and in recent years, elk have migrated to the property. Classified Brands. $525peracre.

25,785acresdeededinSutterCounty,Texas – Thisranchislocatedsouthwestofthe Town of Sutherland Springs. It has proved to be a good investment over the past decade with the Texas Land Hills. The property has access to I-10 with both east and west bound frontage. There are three new Caritas Aquifer water wells. See the results, survey and other pertinent information available. Because of the proven forage and livestock capability, this ranch has great upside potential. $1,047peracre.

14,399acresdeededinPecosandReevesCounties – Theterrainvariesfrom wide, productive valleys by better ranches by limestone hills and mountains. Extensive brush work has been done over portions of the ranch and approximately 4,000 acres are established for forage production. Excellent hunting, including pronghorn, Class fied Minerals. $650peracre.

7,785acresdeededinPecosCounty,Texas – Thisinvestmentpropertyisjustoutsidethe ranch, transitioning from gently rolling limestone hills, dotted with deep canyons. The property is well known for producing pronghorn trophies and also has deer, with the two common. Class fied Brands. $550peracre.

Brokersparticipationwelcome.

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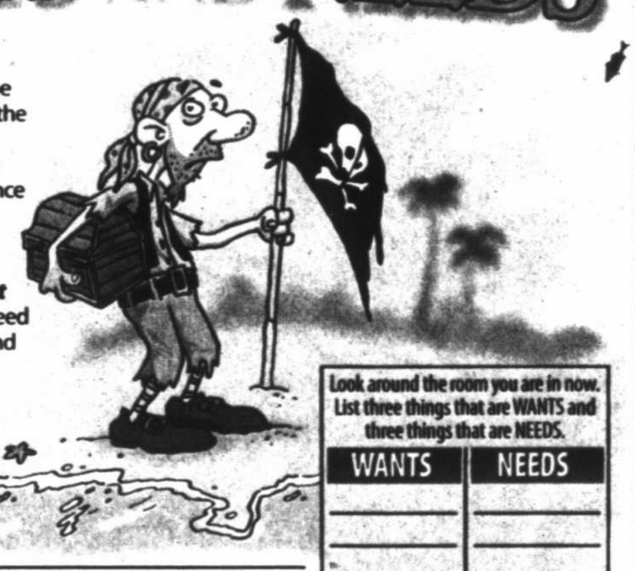
Do you know the difference?

WANTS AND NEEDS

Meet Pirate Pierre. He'll be stuck on this island for the next few months until another ship arrives to rescue him. It's a great time to know the difference between WANTS and NEEDS.



Which is which?

A NEED is something you ***must have*** in order to survive. You need water, food, shelter, clothing and sometimes medicines.

A WANT is something you would *like to have*, but can live without. A computer, cellphone, television and a bike are wants, not needs.

Look around the room you are in now. List three things that are WANTS and three things that are NEEDS.

WANTS	NEEDS

Standards Link: Economics: Understand the difference between basic survival and nonessential items.

True Treasure Map

It's going to be six months until the next pirate ship visits Pierre's island. He made a map of the island.

Circle the places on Pierre's map that will provide NEEDS. Cross out places that provide WANTS.

Standards Link: Economics: Differentiate between wants and needs.

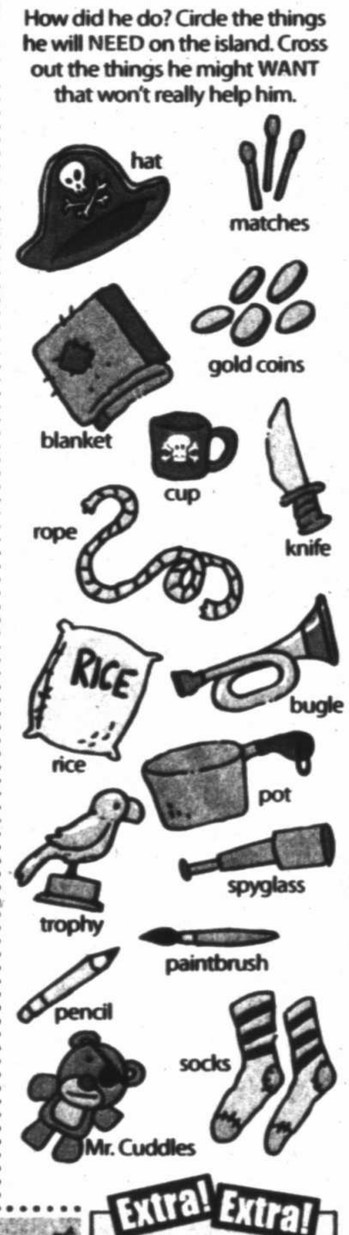
Help Pierre catch a crab for dinner!

Pierre needs fish! How many can you find on this page?

SURVIVAL SUPPLIES

When his ship began to sink, Pirate Pierre had to act quickly to grab things he would NEED on the island rather than things he might WANT.

How did he do? Circle the things he will NEED on the island. Cross out the things he might WANT that won't really help him.



Extra! Extra!

Wants and Needs in the Newspaper

Look through today's newspaper for five examples of things you need to survive. Then find five things you want.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Sometimes it's hard to decide if something is a **need** or a **want**. For example, cake is a food, but is it a want or a need?

Circle the foods here that you think are a need. Show your choices to a family member. Do they agree?

Kid Scoop Word Search

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

CELLPHONE
TREASURE
COMPUTER
RESCUE
ISLAND
PIRATE
TROPHY
OYSTER
WANTS
NEEDS
KNIFE
SINK
CRAB
ROCK
ROPE

R	E	T	S	Y	O	S	E	Y	E
D	E	T	A	R	I	P	E	H	N
U	N	R	V	S	O	S	R	P	O
K	I	A	D	R	T	I	U	O	H
V	C	E	L	E	A	N	S	R	P
L	E	O	M	S	A	K	A	T	L
N	B	A	R	C	I	T	E	W	L
C	O	M	P	U	T	E	R	T	E
K	N	I	F	E	E	R	T	S	C

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

"I REALLY Want That!"

Look through the newspaper ads for something that you want. Divide the price of that item by 12. There are 12 months in a year, so how much would you need to save each month to purchase the item in a year?

Standards Link: Math: Calculate amounts using money.

Weekly Writing Corner

Setting Goals

Students describe goals they would like to achieve.

If I want to be a skater I need to start practicing.

Juliana, 1st grade

1. Finish the Harry Potter series and Hunger Games series. I will do this by reading more than playing video games. 2. Pass high school and go to a good college. I will do this by studying and paying attention in my classes. 3. Get a good job and raise a healthy family. I will do this by working hard and being kind.

Abigail, 5th grade

A goal I have is to go to the zoo to feed tigers. I can meet my goal by being brave. A goal I have is to be a scientist. I can meet my goal by going to college.

Cameron, 1st grade

I want to have two jobs. One, I would like to be a museum owner. Two, I would like to be a second grade teacher. I would go to college to learn how. To be a museum owner, I would paint and draw. I will pretend to give a tour with my stuffed animals.

Lydia, 2nd grade

My three goals are to become a nurse, get better at math, and to live in California. In order to be a nurse, I have to be responsible and caring. In order to be better at math I have to work harder and practice more. In order to live in California, I have to fly across the country in an airplane and find a house.

Kristen, 5th grade

1. Go in a time machine. 2. Invent a machine to make food fall from the sky. 3. Ride in a flying car. I need to study hard and go to college.

Bella, 1st grade

I want to be a chef or a football player. To prepare I would watch my mom cook and other people cook and watch football on television. I want to be on a real team. I want to have my own team and be the quarterback for it and call it the Mean Machines. We would be undefeated and make it to the Super Bowl every year. So remember when you want to get a goal, go for it.

Austin, 4th grade

When I grow up I want to be a doctor. I want to make it through second grade. I want to know how to drive a car.

Shawn, 2nd grade

Write On!

Fiesta Time

Fiesta is how you say festival in Spanish. Pretend you are in charge of a festival. What will people do? What will they eat?

Deadline: March 25
Published: Week of Apr. 22
Send your story to:

Newspaper In Education
201 E. Illinois
Midland, TX 79701
ljdiaz@mrt.com

Please include your school and grade.

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