

MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2017

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HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

The Byron Johnston Holiday Classic begins today.

Page 1C



O'ROURKE'S TOWN HALL

Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Beto O'Rourke spoke to a crowd of about 100 supporters Wednesday in Odessa.

Page 4A

Producers brace for higher oilfield costs

Drillers are expecting to pay up to 10 percent more in 2018

By Collin Eaton and David Hunn
Houston Chronicle

Oil producers are convinced they'll have to pay more to drill wells and pump oil next year as crude prices surge toward the \$60-a-barrel mark.

In a recent survey by the British bank Barclays, 90 percent of U.S. oil producers

For more on Permian's production record, go to mrt.com

mrt.com

said they expect oilfield costs to climb next year. Those costs rose this year in places like

Investors are waiting to see what crude does in 2018.

Page 5A

the Permian Basin, as drillers sent oil rigs back into the field and fracturing companies

struggled to find enough working equipment to keep up with demand.

Almost two-thirds of the surveyed companies said overall costs could rise up to 10 percent. Hydraulic fracturing costs could climb as much as 15 percent, most of the companies said.

Please see COSTS/5A

ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, left, talks with Libby Campbell, executive director of West Texas Food Bank, center, and Celia Cole, CEO of Feeding Texas, in April before announcing new legislation on helping end hunger. The Reporter-Telegram has designated the food bank as Organization of the Year.

West Texas Food Bank takes collective impact to a new level

Editor's note: This is the first in a series of three articles on the Reporter-Telegram's year-end coverage.

By Stewart Doreen
sdoreen@mrt.com

Collective impact: A framework to tackle deeply entrenched and complex social problems. It is an innovative and structured

approach to making collaboration work across government, business, philanthropy, nonprofit organizations and citizens to achieve significant and lasting social change.

Source: www.collaborationforimpact.com

What can be done through collective impact? How does the distribution of 6 million pounds of food sound? What about

800,000 pounds of fresh produce? It's happening in Midland-Odessa as are programs to make sure students don't go hungry at school and during the weekend and summer.

Collective impact helped send more than 500,000 pounds of supplies and food to the victims of Hurricane Harvey. It also gained the attention of U.S. John Cornyn, who came to Midland to see and hear about that impact first-hand.

That collective impact is taking place at the West Texas Food Bank, the Reporter-Telegram editor's pick for Organization of the Year.

If one needed information about what the West Texas Food Bank has done this

Please see IMPACT/4A

MPD officer is on leave after wreck

■ 90-year-old Midland man dies after crash with police car

By Mary Dearen
mdearen@mrt.com

A Midland police officer is on administrative leave pending the results of an investigation into the Sunday morning wreck that led to the death of a 90-year-old Midland man, city spokeswoman Elana Ladd said Wednesday.

Roy Neely was driving a Toyota Prius

Please see WRECK/4A

Christian: RRC needs to better inform public

Editor's note: This is the last in a three-part series in which the railroad commissioners look back at 2017.

By Trevor Hawes
thawes@mrt.com

Wayne Christian has spent most of his political career as a representative from East Texas, but the Center native says he loves his new task at hand: being one of three commissioners for the Railroad Commission.

"As a legislator, you're a jack of all trades but master of none, to a large extent. There's always something going wrong in some direction and fires to put out everywhere," he said recently.

Please see INFORM/4A

Visit us on social media



Price of oil

\$59.64 ▼ \$0.33
January 2018

The big number

3 people died in accident caused by a wild hog. Page 2A

Word of the Day:

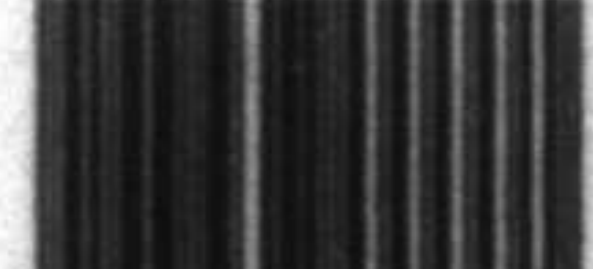
temerity
Do you know what it means? Find out the definition on Page 3A.

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Daily \$2, Sunday \$3



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UTPB choir heading for Carnegie Hall

By Ruth Campbell
Odessa America

About 40 singers from the University of Texas at the Permian Basin's choir will make their voices heard in April as part of a concert at Carnegie Hall.

Director of Choral and Vocal Studies Frank Eychaner will also have a chance to conduct at the famed venue. The choir he'll conduct will include UTPB students, plus some from Washington state and Colorado.

"In 2016, I was contacted by a company called MidAmerica Productions that organizes concerts and was invited to conduct. I will be conducting a combined group. There will be six choirs total. Our choir will form the core," Eychaner said. They will leave May 16 and return May 20.

"We'll have extensive rehearsals for three days and perform on the fourth, and of course, when we're not rehearsing and preparing for the performance, we'll introduce a bunch of West Texas kids to New York. We'll go see shows and art museums and eat food they've never eaten. It should be a lot of fun," Eychaner said.

Rehearsals will begin in earnest in January and fundraising is ongoing. Eychaner said the university is helping and some grant funding was obtained through the Rea Charitable Trust.

Singers are also available for events. The cost is \$250 for a quartet, \$500 for an octet and \$1,000 for a large group. Eychaner said. Those interested in making arrangements may call Eychaner at 303-875-5499.

Eychaner said having a chance to conduct at Carnegie Hall wasn't necessarily something he set his sights on. But he's pleased that the students will have the opportunity to represent their families, the schools they come from and the whole Permian Basin.

There are four choirs at UTPB and about 60 students involved in the choral programs, Eychaner said.

"I audition every student who wants to sing, not necessarily to eliminate people but rather to assess their skill set, to have a short conversation about how involved they want to be. Through that conversation... I'm able to tell them which choir is going to best fit their needs and aspirations," Eychaner added.

For their concert, Eychaner said, there will be two groups performing.

They will also be performing with the Permian Basin Opera for a production of "Tosca" April 19 and April 20 at the Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center.

Students are looking forward to the Carnegie Hall engagement.

Cindy Benbow, a senior studying music education, said she wouldn't miss the chance.

"I think it's an incredible opportunity and it's my last chance to get to do something like that, so it's kind of my graduation present to myself. But I'm super excited. I'm taking my family with me," Benbow said.

Jacylee Webb, a sophomore majoring in English, has been in choir since last year.

"I think it's a huge opportunity and a blessing because not a lot of people can say that they were able to perform at Carnegie Hall. It's really life-changing," Webb said.

Obituaries



Carolyn Gilland

Carolyn Jo Gilland was born November 2, 1927 in Houston, Texas and died peacefully on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2017 at Utah Valley Hospital in Provo, Utah. She was 90 years old.

She is survived by her sister, Beryl Dullin Burns; four children, Gina Davis (Dennis), Jim Gilland (Kimberley), Drew Gilland (Kathy), and Dave Gilland (Beth). She had 15 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren.

A graveside service will be conducted at Springville City Cemetery, Springville, Utah on Friday the 29th of December, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

For further information about Carolyn's life, please visit her page and leave a memory at <http://www.walkerspanishfork.com/obit/carolyn-jo-gilland/>



Jerene Oleta Darden Baker

Jerene Oleta Darden Baker, 68, of Stanton, Texas, entered Heaven's gates on December 26, 2017. She was surrounded by family in her home after a courageous fight with cancer.

She was the beloved wife of her childhood best friend and sweetheart, Sammy Baker of Haskell, Texas. Jerene was born January 2, 1949 in Haskell and was the daughter of the late Henry and Ordria Darden. She graduated Haskell High School in 1967 and then graduated nursing school in Stamford. Jerene and Sammy Baker were united in marriage on November 23, 1968 in Haskell. Together with her husband, they started a business in Stanton.

She is survived by her husband, Sammy Baker; two

children, Brian Baker and wife Lesley of Stanton, and Karrie Mitchell and husband John of Stanton; six grandchildren, Bailey Beard, Kelby Baker, Cory Yater, Morgan Latham, Alyssa Yater, and Madeline Baker; and by one great-grandchild, George Truett Beard IV.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her sister, Joan Meier.

Funeral services will be held 2:00 p.m., Friday, December 29, 2017 at God Loves You Ministries with Reverend David Johnson officiating, 11 Avenue E, Haskell, under the direction of Haskell Funeral Home. Interment will follow at the Willow Cemetery, Haskell.

A visitation will be held from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Thursday, December 28, 2017 at Haskell Funeral Home, 2 Avenue D, Haskell. Condolences may be made online at www.haskell-funeralhome.com.



Roy G. Neely, Jr.

Roy Griffith Neely, Jr., 90, of Midland, passed away Sunday, December 24, 2017 of injuries sustained in a traffic accident. Funeral services will be Friday, December 29, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. in Dallas at Restland Memorial Park.

Roy was born in Kerrville, Texas on August 7, 1927 to Roy and Elizabeth Neely. He had four sisters that share wonderful memories of growing up in rural Texas. Roy spent a short time in the Navy at the end of World War II. He then attended Texas A&M where he graduated with a degree in Electrical Engineering. His degree served him well when he ended up his career running the Texas Instruments plant in Sugarland, Texas.

Roy left the corporate world in 1971 to work with his dad at the family dairy in Midland, Texas. He transformed the dairy in Midland County to an award-winning dairy, including in 1995 when he was awarded Texas Dairyman of the year.

In 1949, he married Marjorie Purvis to whom he was married 47 wonderful years. To this marriage a son, David, and later a daughter, Lou, were born. When Marjorie became ill in 1995, Roy sold the dairy and took loving care of his wife until she died in 1997.

In 2003, Roy met Doris

(Tinker) Lloyd on the popcorn aisle of the Midland HEB. They were married a few months later and enjoyed retired life together until his passing.

Roy is survived by his wife, Doris, of Midland; son, David P. Neely and wife, Marie, of Austin, Texas; daughter, Lou Briley and husband, Robert Briley, of Abilene, Texas; and by seven grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by several step children and their families. Two of his sisters also survive him, Barbara Ross of Portland, Oregon and Leota Goodney of North Field, Minnesota.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations in Roy's memory be made to West Texas Rehabilitation Center, 4545 Hartford, Abilene, TX 79605 or Elhnos360; 312 West First Street, Sanford, Florida 32771.



Yvonne Marie Gutierrez

"My legacy is that I stayed on course...from the beginning to the end, because I believed in something inside of me."

Yvonne Marie Gutierrez, 36, of Midland, Texas, was called home on December 23, 2017. Yvonne was born on August 11, 1981 in Midland to Rick and Rosa Gutierrez.

A kind-hearted soul made of gold was a blessing to all that she came in contact with. She was a stranger to no one and made sure to love all and love hard. Life of the party and a smile that could melt anyone's heart she had. She would always say, "I was raised to see no color and to treat everyone the same." She left a legacy here on earth that cannot be replaced and for that we are forever blessed and grateful.

Yvonne attended Midland High School and graduated in 1999. She was blessed with two children who were her pride and joy; Ydan and Jordan Enriquez, and a step-daughter Dazzalynne who she loved and adored. She loved her Dallas Cowboys and also enjoyed bingo time with her grandpa. She also loved to entertain and gather with friends. Yvonne was employed at Tucker Midstream and loved what she did.

She is survived by her two

sons, Ydan and Jordan Enriquez; step-daughter Dazzalynne; parents, Rick and Rosa Gutierrez; brother and sister-in-law, Rocky and Ashley Gutierrez; Grandpa Fermin Romero; Grandma Adela; and by numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins whom all adored her.

She is preceded in death by grandparents, Fermin B. Gutierrez, Sr., and Carmen Romero; first cousin, Fermin R. Sanchez; and great-grandparents, Margarito and Julia Gutierrez, Sanovio and Carolina Puga, Emilio and Francisca Esquivel, and Noberto and Temotea Romero.

Evening Rosary will be held on December 28, 2017 at Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home, 2508 N Big Spring St., Midland, TX 79705 at 7:00 p.m.

Funeral services will be held on December 29, 2017 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, 1401 Garden Lane, Midland, TX 79701 at 10:00 a.m. Burial will follow at Serenity Memorial Gardens Cemetery.

The family would like to express their gratitude toward all those who joined Yvonne in the fight and all those who continue to carry on her legacy. We would love to extend our extreme gratitude to all their support during this time. Also, Pueblo Viejo, Rudy's Bar and Grill, Midland Memorial Hospital staff, Allison Cancer Center staff, Baylor T. Boone Pickens Cancer Hospital staff, and all family and friends.

Funeral service is under the direction of Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home and Chapel.

Family messages and condolences may be emailed to pipkin@nts-online.net or you can visit our website at www.lewallengarciapiipkin.com.

Lewallen Garcia Pipkin Funeral Home
2508 N. Big Spring - Midland, TX - (432) 482-1700



Inocencia Bitolas Lara

Inocencia Bitolas Lara (Chenta), 86, of Midland, Texas, passed away on Monday, December 25, 2017. She was born on December 20, 1931 in Toyah, Texas to Jose

and Juanita Bitolas.

She is survived by four sons, Henry Lara (Susie), George Lara (Belinda), Louis Lara (Dolores), and Paul Lara (Martha); four daughters, Gloria Ochoa (Larry), Rachel Guebara (Genaro), Elva Ochoa (John), and Dora Lara (Joe); and by her brother, Ben Bitolas from Odessa.

She is preceded in death by her loving husband, Secundino R. Lara, Sr.; both parents; two brothers and two sisters; son, Secundino Lara, Jr.; grandchildren, Maria Ochoa and Estaban Lara; and great-grandchild, Jonah Collazo.

She worked in local cafeterias and also was co-founder of Lara's Shamrock with her husband in 1970 through 1988 until she retired.

She loved gatherings at her house with family and friends for BBQ, holidays, and anytime it was a nice weekend to cook her favorite ribs.

She was a very loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandma. She always had a smile on her face. She loved her cat (Honey) very much. She will be very deeply missed!

Pallbearers will be Henry Lara, Jr., Adrian Lara, Larry Ochoa, Jr., Lazarus Ochoa, Angel Guebara, Isiah Guebara, Juan Ochoa, Jr., Matthew Ochoa, Raul Bustamante, Jr., Andrew Bustamante, George Lara II, Jonathan Lara, Jaime Lara, Nathan Lara, Louis Lara, Jr., and Paul Lara, Jr.

Services will be at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 28, 2017 at Our Lady of Guadalupe.

We would like to thank the Hospice nurses Maria Rangel, Julie Kroll, Kathryn N. Megan Rimer, and also the ER nurse, Abby.

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

Lewallen Garcia Pipkin Funeral Home
2508 N. Big Spring - Midland, TX - (432) 482-1700

Death Notices

Thelma Upton Hobbs

Thelma Upton Hobbs, 89, of Midland, passed away Friday, December 22, 2017.

Memorial services will be held at 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 3, 2018 at First Presbyterian Church in Midland.

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

Sheriff: Deputies threatened before gunfire that killed boy

Associated Press

SCHERTZ — A Texas sheriff says a wanted felon told deputies that she was armed and would shoot them before they killed her in a spray of gunfire that also left a 6-year-old boy dead.

Bexar County Sheriff Javier Salazar told the San Antonio Express-News that Amanda Jones, 30, forced her way into a mobile home where the boy, Kameron Prescott, lived on Dec. 21 and then was confronted outside by four

deputies.

A person inside the home in Schertz, northeast of San Antonio, also reported hearing Jones say she would shoot the deputies, Salazar said.

"Someone from inside the trailer that (Jones) forced her way into... said that she had an object in her hand. They believed it could have been a weapon," the sheriff said Tuesday.

"And when she exited the house, the witness heard the suspect proclaim to whoever was outside

— we now know that was the deputies — 'I have a gun, I'm going to shoot you.'"

Jones was found with a dark, metal tube after she was shot, but no gun. However, Salazar said deputies had seen Jones with a gun earlier as they chased her.

All four deputies have been placed on administrative leave. The sheriff's office is investigating. Bexar County District Attorney Nico LaHood's office said it will "analyze the initial work" of the investigation and "evalu-

Three die in accident caused by wild hog

John MacCormack
San Antonio Express-News

A wild hog crossing the roadway led to a late night accident in rural Maverick County late on Christmas Day that left three people dead, including an off-duty Border Patrol officer.

The fiery crash occurred just before midnight Monday on Farm Road 481 about 25 miles southwest of Uvalde.

Killed were Antonio Cordova, 27, of Eagle Pass, driving southbound

in a Mercedes SUV, Ruby Garza, 51, of Uvalde, driving north in a Ford Expedition, and her passenger, Julia Acuna Vasquez, 51, from Uvalde, who died later at Uvalde Memorial Hospital.

Two passengers in Garza's car, Noemi Acuna, 47, and Mayra Vasquez, 30, both of Uvalde, were hospitalized.

According to a preliminary report from the Department of Public Safety, Garza's "faulty evasive action" to avoid the wild pig caused her to enter

the southbound lane and strike Cordova's vehicle head-on.

The report notes that both vehicles were "fully engulfed in flames" which were later extinguished by the Uvalde Volunteer Fire Department.

Both Cordova and Garza were declared dead on the scene by Maverick County Justice of the Peace David Castelfreda.

Cordova was an eight year veteran of the U.S. Border Patrol, assigned to Uvalde, but was off-duty at the time of his death.

The descendants of feral domestic pigs and European wild boar that were introduced many decades ago, wild hogs have flourished in Texas, causing significant damage to agriculture.

According to Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, there are approximately 1.5 million wild hogs in Texas with the highest densities occurring in East, South and Central Texas. Only a few dozen counties in West Texas and the Panhandle do not have wild hogs.

Adults can weigh up to 400 pounds with a shoulder height of up to 36 inches. Because they are a non-native species, they can be hunted or trapped at any time of the year by any means.

This summer, the U.S. Department of Agriculture tested bait boxes for feral hogs at Camp Bullis. Future trials will poison hogs who eat the bait as part of a campaign to control the invasive species.

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Temerity

[tuh-mer-i-tee]

noun

1. reckless
boldness;
rashness.Midland
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Things to do

Bart Crow, 9 p.m. at Rockin'

Rodeo, 4400 N. Big Spring St. rockin-

rodeo@midland.com

West Texas Dance Club with

live country music, 7:30-10 p.m. at

206 W. VFW Way in Odessa. 687-

0281 or 631-6125.

Storytime at the Library 10:30

a.m. (birth-2 years), 11:30 a.m. (2-6

years), Midland County Public Library

downtown branch, 301 W. Missouri

Ave. co.midland.tx.us/rls

Bingo Nights, The American

Legion Auxiliary hosts play 7 p.m.,

501 Veterans Airpark Lane. 682-5511.

Bridge game play, 6:45 p.m.,

Allison Bridge Center, 913 W. Wadley

Ave. \$6. For more information call

682-8595.

Adult Kickball, 2 p.m. Visit face-

book.com/groups/midlandkickball for

more information.

Free skateboarding lessons,

noon-1:30 p.m. at RTD Skatepark.

rtdskatepark.com

Dome Shows at Blakmore

Planetarium, 1705 W. Missouri Ave.;

"In My Backyard" noon, and "Star of

Bethlehem," 2 p.m. museum.org

Trash service

The city of Midland suspended

trash service on Wednesday because

of the icy road conditions. Garbage

collection will resume today, and

the Solid Waste Department will be

operating routes on Saturday to clear

any backlog.

Source: City of Midland

Christmas tree
disposal

There are two locations to drop

off cut Christmas trees for recycling:

Hogan Park behind the Armory on

Lamesa Road, and the Citizens Col-

lection Station by Airpark. Hours for

the Citizens Collection Station are 10

a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday

and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

Source: Keep Midland Beautiful

Facebook page

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Dec. 28, the

362nd day of 2017. There are three

days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 28, 1917, the New York

Evening Mail published "A Neglected

Anniversary," a laudatory essay by

H.L. Mencksen supposedly recounting

the history of bathtubs in America.

Source: Keep Midland Beautiful

Facebook page

Lottery

Pick 3 morning: 3-9-8

Pick 3 evening: 5-4-8

Pick 3 night: 8-3-5

Daily 4 morning: 5-1-8-7

Daily 4 day: 9-7-7-4

Daily 4 evening: 8-5-3-0

Daily 4 night: 3-4-9-6

Cash Five: 4-5-8-10-25

Triple Chance: 3-9-20-31-32

30-34-36-38

Lotto Texas: 2-4-15-38-48-53

Powerball: 3-9-16-56-60 BB: 3

Power Play: 3

All or Nothing morning: 1-7-

9-11-14-17-18-20-21-22-23-24

All or Nothing day: 3-5-6-10-

12-13-14-17-18-21-23-24

All or Nothing evening: 1-6-7-

10-12-13-14-16-17-19-21-24

All or Nothing night: 2-3-4-5-

7-8-10-14-15-19-22-23

Source: Texas Lottery Commission

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TODAYINMIDLAND

Patching potholes



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Rudy Stone, a city of Midland transportation employee, patches a pothole that opened on West Texas Avenue during Wednesday's icy conditions. To report potholes, call the city's pothole hotline, 685-7293, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. After temperatures in the 30s on Wednesday, today's high is expected to be near 60.

starting with the "first" one in Cincinnati in 1842. Among the spoils of other

straight-faced claims: That Midland

"filmore" was the first president to

have a bathtub installed in the White

House. (Mencksen was astonished

when people took his "tissue of

absurdities" seriously.)

On this date:

In 1832, John C. Calhoun became

the first vice president of the United

States to resign, stepping down

because of differences with President

Andrew Jackson.

In 1846, Iowa became the 29th

state to be admitted to the Union.

In 1856, the 28th president of the

United States, Thomas Woodrow

Wilson, was born in Staunton (STAN-

ton), Virginia.

In 1895, the Lumiere brothers, Au-

guste and Louis, held the first public

showing of their movies in Paris.

In 1945, Congress officially recog-

nized the Pledge of Allegiance.

In 1961, the Tennessee Williams

play "Night of the Iguana" opened

on Broadway. Former first lady Edith

Bolling Galt Wilson, the second wife

of President Woodrow Wilson, died in

Washington at age 89.

In 1973, the book "Guns Archi-

peage" Alexander Solzhenitsyn's

expose (aka-poh-SAY) of the Soviet

prison system, was first published

in Paris.

In 1981, Elizabeth Jordan Carr,

the first American "test-tube" baby,

was born in Norfolk, Virginia.

In 1987, the bodies of 14 relatives

of Ronald Gene Simmons were found

at his home near Dover, Arkansas, af-

ter Simmons shot and killed two other

people in Russellville. (Simmons,

who never explained his motives, was

executed in 1990.)

In 1997, one woman was killed

when a United Airlines jumbo jet en-

route from Narita, Japan, to Honolulu

encountered severe turbulence over

the Pacific.

Ten years ago: President George

W. Bush used a "pocket veto" to reject

a sweeping defense bill because he

objected to a provision that would

have exposed the Iraqi government to

expensive lawsuits seeking damages

from the Saddam Hussein era.

Five years ago: Russia's

President Vladimir Putin signed a law

banning Americans from adopting

Russian children.

One year ago: Actress Debbie

Reynolds, who lit up the screen in

"Singin' in the Rain" and other

Hollywood classics, died at age 84 a

day after losing her daughter, Carrie

Fisher, who was 60.

Today's birthdays: Comic book

creator Stan Lee is 95. Actress Dame

Maggie Smith is 83. Actor Denzel

Washington is 63.

Weather

Wednesday's temperatures

High.....30

Low.....23

Normal high.....57

Normal low.....30

Dec. 27's records

Record high: 75, set in

1964, and repeated in 1970

and 1996

Record low: 9, set in 1939

Precipitation

Tuesday.....0.00 in.

Wednesday.....Trace

(snowfall)

Month total.....0.39 in.

Year total.....17.73 in.

Normal total

(year to date).....14.53 in.

Winds

Wind speed: 20 mph

Gust speed: 24 mph

WRECK

From 1A

eastbound on Wadley Avenue. As he turned north onto Ward Street, his car was hit by a Midland Police Department car being driven by Officer Christian Abraham, Ladd said. After being hit by the MPD Crown Victoria — which was westbound on Wadley — Neely's car spun around and hit a Ford Expedition that was stopped on Ward facing southbound, she said.

Abraham was responding to a disturbance call at the time the wreck occurred, which was about 11:45 a.m., according to a press release received earlier Wednesday. He is on administrative leave pending the results of the investigation.

"That is standard practice in a case like this," she said. "Anytime there's something severe which occurs, or is even accused of occurring, the officer is going to be placed on administrative leave."

Ladd said among the things the investigation will determine is if the police car's siren and lights were activated, if Neely was wearing a seat belt and the cars' speeds at the time of impact.

Neely was transported to Midland Memorial Hospital, where he later died. Abraham also was transported to the hospital and was treated and released, Ladd said. The Expedition driver was not injured.

Neely is the 42nd person to die on roads in Midland County this year and the fourth this month, according to Reporter-Telegram records.

The most recent fatal wreck occurred Dec. 16, when two men died in a two-vehicle wreck on State Highway 158, according to a previous Reporter-Telegram article.

The year-to-date total equals the number of fatalities in 2013 and is two less than the total in 2014, according to newspaper records.

INFORM

From 1A

"At the RRC, you can focus on a specific industry, specific goals and specific problems. I'm enjoying that."

Christian was elected to his RRC position in 2016, and while he admits that he has limited oil and gas industry experience, he follows certain tenets that have made his role at the RRC fruitful.

"I'm one guy who learned a long time ago that I'm usually never the smartest guy in the room," he said. "I'm always listening for what the industry has to say because I trust industry much more than I trust government."

His experience as a legislator helped the RRC pass sunset review after the agency failed to do so in three past sessions over eight years. Christian said he learned that for every \$1 Texas invests in the RRC, the agency generates \$51 in return for the state.

"I took that number and brought it to more than 70 representatives and state senators," he said.

As a result, the agency not only passed sunset review, but also received its request for an increase in funding.

Christian said he is focused on educating the public about the importance of oil and gas, particularly because of employment issues the industry faces.

Through his work on the Interstate Oil & Gas Commission, a position Gov. Greg Abbott appointed him to, "we found that the largest hindrance to the next boom is not the supply of gas or oil, but jobs," Christian said. "We do not have enough bodies that want to work in the oil and gas industry to man what we have before us."

He attributes a lack of interest in the industry among millennials to politically driven science that gives oil and gas a bad name.

"We need young people for these jobs, but part of this is the result of what I call the greenie movement, or the Al Gore movement, that has successfully taught our millennial generation that oil and gas is like tobacco: dirty, terrible and you should stay away from it," he said.

"I have found in my first year of learning the business from the inside out is that we have been quite lazy, frankly, in allowing the political atmosphere to drive the evidence to the public, our universities and their professors and our high schools and their teachers to tell our children that oil and gas is bad and that we need clean, green energy," Christian said.

"When you look at the facts and statistics pertaining to oil, gas and coal, the U.S. is by far the cleanest of any industrial nation, and we're cleaner than we were four years ago," he said.

The commissioner has established a task force to bring together industry and organizations to brainstorm ways to better inform the public.

Being a railroad commissioner can be daunting, but Christian takes it in stride.

"No, I recognize that I'm not in control of this. It's the 700-plus folks at the RRC that are doing the good work, so it's not all on my shoulders."

Christian said the agency's hard work is demonstrated through a recent Environmental Protection Agency analysis of the RRC.

"The EPA has commended a study we did at the RRC," he said. "We reviewed nearly 63,000 injection well applications since 1982. We did on-the-ground inspections and turned in the report last week. The EPA observed it, looked over this report on water safety, earthquake safety, etc. to the public. There was nowhere in the state of Texas where anybody had polluted the groundwater. I was overwhelmed. We're talking zero contamination to groundwater."

You're not expecting the EPA to brag on you, put you on the back and say you're doing a good job, but they did to the RRC for protecting the public."



Mark Sterkel/Odessa American

U.S. Senate candidate Beto O'Rourke speaks to a crowd of about 100 supporters Wednesday at the Gertrude Bruce Historical Cultural Center in Odessa.

O'Rourke speaks to about 100 supporters in Odessa

■ El Paso congressman: Winning Senate seat against Cruz is 'not going to be easy'

By Corey Paul
Odessa American

U.S. Rep. Beto O'Rourke knows he faces major obstacles in winning Texas' junior Senate seat from Ted Cruz.

"How the hell are we going to do this?" O'Rourke said during a visit to Odessa on Wednesday, one in a series of town halls he's having across the state. "It's not going to be easy."

Cruz, who also faces some lesser-known primary challengers, has a greater campaign war chest and a national fundraising network after running for president. Polls show Cruz with low

Online

To check out the favorability rating for U.S. Rep. Beto O'Rourke, go to <https://texaspolitics.utexas.edu/set/beto-orourke-favorability-october-2017>

favorability ratings, but they also suggest a majority of Texans don't know of O'Rourke, a congressman from El Paso.

Then there is the fact that Cruz is a Republican in a state that has not elected a Democrat to a statewide office since 1994.

But O'Rourke said he is encouraged that his campaign has "outraged Ted Cruz so far in this race." The money for O'Rourke, who has vowed not to take money from any political action committees, is from individual donors, he said. He

still said he expects his campaign to be outspent.

"The second thing is that we are showing up," O'Rourke said. "We are here in Odessa. This is my third visit this year to Odessa and to Midland, to listen to the people that I want to serve and to represent. Getting to know those issues, being able to run on them in a campaign — that's part of success. And it's a slow, long process. But it's the best way to connect with people that I want to vote for me in this election."

This time, O'Rourke spoke to a crowd of about 100 supporters at the Gertrude Bruce Historical Cultural Center. O'Rourke talked mainly about other topics than Cruz, who he said "is viewed less favorably here in Texas by his own constituents than Roy Moore is in Alabama."

The El Paso congressman

called for expanding affordable health care.

He supported "rewriting our immigration laws to reflect the reality on the ground here in Odessa: the incredible contribution that people who have chosen this community and this state and this country have made, and ensuring that they can continue to make those contributions."

That includes extending protections offered under DACA.

O'Rourke was traveling with his family and was scheduled to speak in San Angelo later in the day. Such trips are a key part of his campaign, along with social media, and hope that more supporters will turn out to vote amid more contested local and congressional races.

"They are going to be the explanation for how we win," O'Rourke said of the group in Odessa on Wednesday.

"They are more fired up than folks in Odessa have been in my lifetime. It's the same in El Paso. It's the same in Corpus Christi. It's the same in every single part of this state. The people of Texas are going to deliver this victory, regardless of what the trends look like over the last 30 years."

IMPACT

From 1A

year, the list would be long and impressive. The Food Bank appears to have changed the perceptions some people have about what a food bank is and what it does. That is evident in the facility in west Midland and what officials in Midland and Odessa are doing for residents in those communities and across West Texas.

The list includes:

■ Mobile outreach: nine rural sites received monthly visits during which 480,000 pounds of food was distributed, including 27,000 pounds of produce;

■ Salvage and reclamation: 3.5 million pounds of food were recovered from 23 grocery stores;

■ 191 food drives collected 198,527 pounds of food;

■ Food 2 Kids program served 1,252 students in 22 schools in Odessa, Midland and Pecos; 38,908 sacks of food were distributed through the 2016-17 school year;

■ Kid's Café: 54,376 meals were served at five sites during the school year, including the Midland County Public Library's downtown branch;

■ Summer feeding: 39,327 meals and snacks were served at eight sites;

■ Midland Senior Pantry distributed 50,000 pounds of food to 989 households.

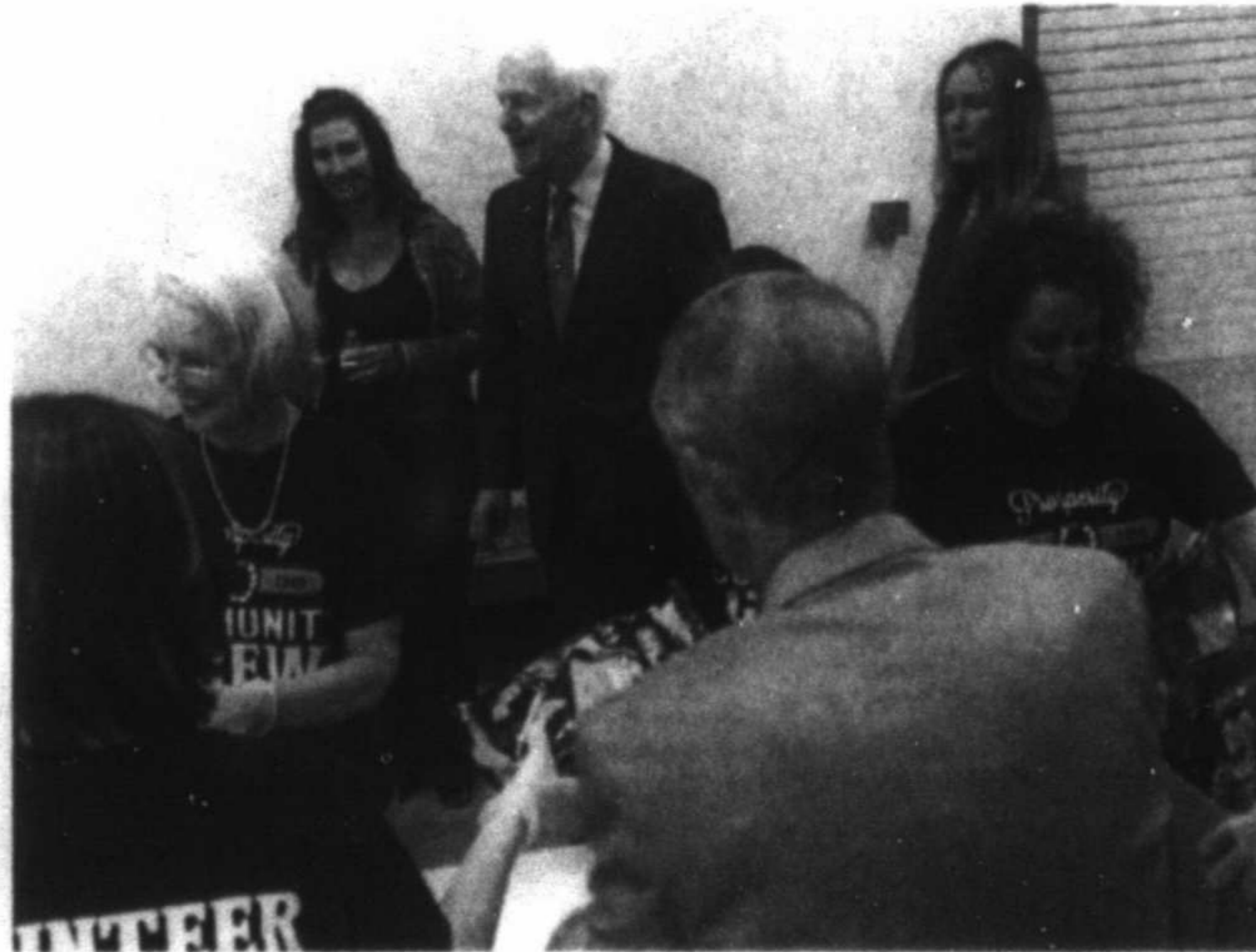
The West Texas Food Bank has also won an award for green innovation, thanks to water collection and solar system efforts at the Midland Volunteer and Education Center. And its 3,135 volunteers have donated 18,640 hours for a savings of \$428,720 in payroll. It's quite an operation.

And because no one chooses to be hungry, as the WTFB states on its website, officials have engaged the community to offer its support. The WTFB boasts 25 partner agencies in Midland alone.

The battle to fight hunger is fought over 19 counties, according to the food bank's website.

■ Of the households served by the West Texas Food Bank, 74 percent have incomes that fall at, or below, the federal poverty level.

■ Fifty-eight percent of households have incomes of \$10,000 or less, and 31 per-



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn toured the West Texas Food Bank April 18 with Executive Director Libby Campbell, left, and Celia Cole, CEO of Feeding Texas, as volunteers sort bags of chips donated to the facility.

cent have annual incomes of \$10,001 to \$20,000.

■ About 40 percent of WTFB clients are under 18, and 16 percent are over 65.

■ In 2016, WTFB supplied 4.75 million meals to hungry West Texans.

But collective impact is more than what an agency does; it also involves how the agency is doing it. Executive Director Libby Campbell in an op-ed earlier this year told Reporter-Telegram readers the collective impact model can be seen in the USDA Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), for example. CSFP works to improve the health of low-income persons who are 60 and older by supplementing their diets with USDA Foods.

To make that program possible, "the Food Bank maintains partnerships with food retailers through our extensive salvage and reclamation program," Campbell wrote.

"On a daily basis, the Food Bank stores visit 16 local grocery stores to retrieve donated goods which will be distributed to our partner agencies. The items collected range from breads and fresh vegetables

to meats, dairy and poultry. Beyond the daily pickups at these sites, our partnership with H-E-B provides two semi-truck loads of food a month, and our partnership with United Supermarkets provides us with a semi-truck every other month. These partnerships are the backbone of our operation, and allow the Food Bank to put \$1.95 out of every dollar back into feeding people."

Another example is the Food Bank's Food Purchase Program. "The Food Bank acts as a broker and intermediary between food wholesalers and the partner agencies we work with," she wrote. "We have bulk purchasing power afforded to us by collaboration with other food banks in our area and partnerships with Feeding Texas and Feeding America. In turn, we are able to purchase the food directly from the wholesaler, store large quantities of inventory, and are able to distribute the food to other agencies and even other food banks in our area. The service has zero cost to the agency beyond the cost of the food. So while, you may hear the food bank sells food, this is true, but

not for a profit."

"As you can see, the partnerships we utilize bridge the gaps between the available resources and the people who need them, and most importantly the collective impact model allows the Food Bank and its partners to get the right food to the right people at the right time," Campbell wrote.

What does the future hold for the West Texas Food Bank? Officials are hoping for 1.2 million pounds of fresh produce, 8 million pounds of food distributed, up to 25 schools being served by Food 2 Kids in Odessa, Midland, Pecos, Rankin and McCarney, new Kid's Café locations and a new mobile food pantry generously donated by Oxy.

Coming Friday: Newsmaker of the Year

Previous honorees:

2011: The firefighter

2012: Bob Fu, of China Aid

2013: The foundations

Organizations of the Year

2014: Midland Habitat for Humanity

2015: Midland County Public Libraries

2016: None selected

Analyst: Investors 'are waiting to see what 2018 brings'

By Meenal Vamburkar
Bloomberg

Oil's bull run is grinding to a halt. Hedge funds lowered their bets on Brent crude after they rose to a record a week earlier. And the net-bullish position on West Texas Intermediate, which hit a nine-month high last month, dwindled for a third straight week. The message: After a months-long build-up, investors are wavering, concerned U.S. crude will continue to boom in 2018, undercutting OPEC's push to drain a global glut.

"It seems like now most people have got their positions and are waiting to see what 2018 brings," said Rob Thummel, managing director at Tortoise Capital Advisors.

Oil futures in New York have jumped almost 40 percent since June as OPEC and its allies extended their production-cut deal and U.S. inventories shrank to two-year lows. But the decline in American stockpiles is largely because of refinery maintenance and exports near an all-time high. Meanwhile, gushers in the country are producing at a record pace.

Global stockpiles won't fall enough to reach the level targeted by OPEC when the group meets in June, Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih said last week.

American output is poised to reach 9.99 million barrels a day in May, according to the Energy Information Administration. That would surpass Saudi Arabia's curtailed production of 9.97 million barrels a day in November.

The Brent net-long position — the difference between bets on a price increase and wagers on a drop — fell 1.1 percent to 538,045 contracts in the week ending Dec.

19, according to data from ICE Futures Europe. That's after reaching a record 544,051 contracts in the previous week. Longs fell 1.2 percent, while shorts decreased 1.8 percent.

Money managers cut their WTI net-long position by 1.8 percent to 383,828 futures and options during the week, according to data from the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission on Friday. Longs fell by 1.2 percent, while shorts rose 3.9 percent.

"It's been a good year," but there's "some worry about what next month is going to bring," said John Kilduff, founding partner at Again Capital in New York. "There's not as much enthusiasm about the OPEC/non-OPEC accord as there was even a few weeks ago."

The North Sea's Forties Pipeline System, which carries crude used to price the Dated Brent benchmark, is set to return to normal flows early in the new year, according to a statement from operator Ineos Group. The outage, which gave a boost to prices, was the first time a force majeure had been declared in the North Sea since 1988. Repairs are expected to be completed by "around Christmas."

In the fuel market, money managers reduced their net-long position on benchmark U.S. gasoline by 2.1 percent. Meanwhile, the net-bullish position on diesel rose by 1.9 percent.

Heading into next year, investors will be watching how long it takes to get inventories back to the five-year average, Thummel said. The OPEC deal extension brought some certainty to the market, which is now waiting to see how the cuts and U.S. production play out.

"That was the big cloud overhanging the oil market and prices," he said.

Costs

From 1A

That's good news for Houston's crop of oil field services companies — companies that cut tens of thousands of jobs in 2015 and 2016 after crude prices collapsed. Services companies, such as Halliburton and Baker Hughes, both of Houston, and Schlumberger, which maintains one of its principal offices here, provided deep discounts to their customers and accepted greatly reduced profit margins to hold onto business during the downturn.

They slashed jobs to lower costs — for both the services firms and their production company customers. But with U.S. drillers planning to pump a record amount of oil, rising services costs will follow. Across North America, oil and gas producers plan to increase spending 21 percent next year after boosting spending 35 percent this year, according to Barclays.

Much of this year's spending surge was concentrated in West Texas' prolific Permian Basin. Permian production hit a record 815 million barrels in 2017, blowing past the previous mark of 790 million barrels set in 1973, business research firm IHS Markit said Tuesday.

"The magnitude of the rebound in Permian Basin liquids production is unprecedented," analyst Reed Olmstead said in a report.

"Not so long ago, many in the industry were saying the Permian was dead."

In 1973, operators pumped an average of 2.16 million barrels of oil and gas liquids per day. Permian volumes this year will average 2.75 million barrels per day, IHS said, a rise of more than 25 percent, or about 600,000 barrels, per day. By the end of 2018, the Permian surge should push total U.S. liquids production to an all-time high of 10.5 million barrels per day, Olmstead said.

"The implications for U.S. energy security are significant," Olmstead said.

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"The implications for U.S. energy security are significant," Olmstead said.

"since we have become, in a relatively short period of time, more self-sufficient in terms of energy supply and are less reliant on imports."

The Barclays survey was based on oil prices hovering around \$55 a barrel next year. On Tuesday, U.S. crude prices climbed 2.6 percent to settle at \$59.97 a barrel, the highest close since June 2015. The rally came after news that an explosion crippled a Libyan pipeline.

Rising services costs will test whether oil producers can make money on cheap oil. Over the past few years, U.S. energy companies have touted efficiency gains that have made it cheaper to produce oil and gas. Those efficiency gains are a mix of low oil field services prices and technological breakthroughs.

More than half of the surveyed companies (51 percent) thought rising oil field costs would erase at least 75 percent of those efficiency gains.



Howard Schnapp/Newsday via AP

People line up Tuesday at the Hempstead, N.Y., tax receiver's office to pay their real estate taxes before the end of the year, hoping for one last chance to take advantage of a major tax deduction before it is wiped out in the new year. The tax overhaul signed last week by President Donald Trump puts a new \$10,000 limit on the amount of state and local taxes people can deduct from their income when calculating their federal tax liability.

Homeowners line up at tax office to get major deduction

Associated Press

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Homeowners are lining up in droves at local tax collection offices, hoping for one last chance to take advantage of a major tax deduction before it is wiped out in the new year.

In Hempstead, town Tax Receiver Donald Clavin said "thousands" of people packed his office Tuesday trying to pay their 2018 property and school taxes a year in advance.

"This is almost chaotic," Oyster Bay Tax Receiver James Stefanich told Newsday. He said homeowners began lining up in the cold an hour before his office opened.

Similar scenes played out at tax collection offices around the country in places with high local taxes.

The tax overhaul signed last week by Republican President Donald Trump puts a new \$10,000 limit on the amount of state and local taxes people can deduct from their income when calculating their federal tax liability.

That new cap could translate into a tax hike of hundreds or even thousands of dollars in mostly wealthier, high-tax communities in California, Connecticut, New York and New Jersey and other states.

People in some communities are trying

to effectively delay that hike for a year by paying their 2018 taxes in advance.

The IRS said Wednesday that some homeowners who prepay local property taxes due in 2018 will be able to claim the deduction on this year's returns, but only if the taxes have already been assessed and billed. People can't guess at what next year's assessment might be, pay it now and claim a deduction for that amount.

"A prepayment of anticipated real property taxes that have not been assessed prior to 2018 are not deductible in 2017," the IRS said on its website.

That distinction wasn't always clear to people flooding into local tax offices after Christmas, or to the officials trying to help them. But most thought it was worth a try.

"I know later on it is going to hurt me," Scott Arbuse, of East Meadow, New York, said of the disappearing tax deduction as he waited to make a payment. "But at least I save some money now."

Across the country, Steve Sheffield made the same calculation as he went to pay his taxes in Sacramento, California.

"My accountant told me it was the thing to do," Sheffield told the Sacramento Bee. "Next year, I probably won't be able to itemize."

Amazon says it sold 'tens of millions' of Echos, other Alexa devices during holiday shopping season

By Matt Day
The Seattle Times

SEATTLE — Amazon's Alexa had a very good Christmas.

The retailer said on Tuesdays that it sold "tens of millions" of devices bearing the Alexa voice-activated digital assistant during the peak shopping season. That lineup includes Amazon's Echo speakers and Fire TV streaming device, among other gizmos.

Sales of Amazon devices were "millions more" than a year ago, when the company's holiday release touted sales of Alexa devices as in the "millions."

The Alexa sales range was among a barrage of factoids Amazon released on its activities during the holiday shopping frenzy.

The disclosures lean toward the self-promotional and the trivial ("An Amazon Air cargo plane can hold more than 10,000 Instant Pots" and "Millions of customers in the U.S. watched deals with Watch a Deal"), but include some limited data points that retail analysts will pick apart for hints at the health of Amazon's business.

Among the more useful set: During a single, unspecified week, 4 million people signed up for paid or trial Amazon Prime memberships. Analysts say subscribers of Amazon's membership program, which costs \$99 a year in the U.S., likely spend more on the retail site than non-members.

More than one billion items were ordered from the legions of independent sellers on Amazon's Marketplace. Such sellers in recent quarters have accounted for half of the products purchased on Amazon.com.

Among Amazon's expanding fleet of warehouses, 10 facilities managed to pack and ship more than one million packages in a single day, an emerging benchmark for Amazon's increasingly automated depots. Use of Amazon's mobile shopping app worldwide was up 70 percent.

Amazon's shelves this year were stocked with an expanded range of Alexa-enabled devices, including refined versions of the



Mark Lennihan/Associated Press

The Amazon Echo Dot is stocked on a shelf alongside jars of Garlic Chili Sauce Dec. 20 at the Amazon Prime warehouse in New York.

cylindrical Echo speaker and a smaller, alarm-clock-like Echo Spot.

Analysts say Amazon's Alexa has a wide lead in the emerging competition to build voice-activated software for the home, a market for which Google, Apple and Microsoft are also vying.

In addition to setting timers, checking the weather or reading the news, Alexa devices can be programmed to control other internet-connected devices. And, crucially for Amazon, a company skilled at using one product or perk to get customers to buy more, Alexa opens up shopping by voice.

Analysts with RBC Capital Markets estimated in a report last week that Amazon was on track to sell 33 million Alexa devices in 2017, up from 4 million in 2016. Adding together Alexa device sales and the increased Amazon spending of their owners, the analysts project Alexa will bring in \$10 billion in sales in 2020.

Amazon hasn't released sales figures outside of broad ranges. On Tuesday, the company said the Echo Dot miniature speaker was the best selling product from any manufacturer across Amazon's retail site during the holiday season, with "millions" of units sold.

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HOOPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS



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FIRST GAMES - Thursday, Dec. 28th

Thursday December 28 - GIRLS Schedule

9:00 AM Chap Center Bushland vs El Paso Jefferson
12:00 PM Chap Center Plainview vs Midland Classical
3:00 PM Chap Center El Paso Pebble Hills vs Midland Lee
6:00 PM Chap Center Lake Travis vs Midland High

Thursday December 28 - BOYS Schedule

10:30 AM Chap Center Houston Spring Woods vs Odessa High
1:30 PM Chap Center El Paso Pebble Hills vs San Angelo
4:30 PM Chap Center Plainview vs Midland Lee
7:30 PM Chap Center Belton High vs Midland High

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Daily Pass:

Adults - \$8.00
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(Programs - \$2.00)

OPINION

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Thursday, December 28, 2017 | Page 6A

Trump succeeds when he gets out of the way

■ President's achievements can be attributed to Republican policy-makers, activists and bureaucrats

Contrary to what many predicted, President Trump's end-of-year accomplishment list isn't that skimpy. That's an analytical observation. For many, particularly liberals and Democrats, Trump's first year hasn't been merely bad. It's a great evil, a grievous wound to the American body politic.

But even that is a kind of partisan tribute to what's been accomplished on his watch: a record number of judicial appointments, including a Supreme Court justice; the defeat of Islamic State; repeal of the Obamacare individual mandate; tax reform; and major rollbacks of various regulations, from arctic drilling to net neutrality.

It hasn't exactly been smooth sailing. Trump is the most unpopular first-year president in American history, for reasons far beyond mere bad press.

Still, among conservatives, the tally of "wins" has sparked some intramural debates. The most prominent one is how Trump skeptics and avowed Never Trumpers should respond to those wins. For writers such as the Washington Post's Jennifer Rubin and the Atlantic's David Frum, the only legitimate response is

JONAH
GOLDBERG
Tribune News Service



either to ignore these successes or denigrate them, lest people lose sight of the threat Trump poses to the country. Others, including myself, argue instead that one needn't deny the merits of a policy victory simply because the president might get credit for it.

This debate skips over the larger question of whether these victories happened because of Trump or despite him.

On one level, the president always gets the credit — or blame — for anything that happens on his watch. But Trump poses a challenge to such superficial scorekeeping. No president in American history has rejected Harry Truman's "The buck stops here" motto as vehemently or consistently as this one. He never accepts responsibility for his own mistakes, never mind those of his administration or party. When American troops die, the commander in chief blames "the generals." When legislation fails, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and the "establishment" are at

fault.

Trump boosters agree. Conservative writer Roger Simon argues that all "re-maining Never Trumpers" must apologize for being wrong about the president. He chalks up Trump's "astoundingly successful" first year to the fact the president is a "quick study."

But what evidence is there that Trump has actually learned the art of presidential management?

Aside from the mandatory flattery required of Republican elected officials, there's remarkably little testimony that Trump has involved himself in the process of governing. Tax reform was carried across the finish line by the GOP congressional leadership. Net neutrality was repealed by independent Republicans at the Federal Communications Commission.

Foreign policy is a more mixed bag. If the president deserves credit for the defeat of Islamic State, it's because he let "the generals" do their thing. On the other hand, credit (or blame) for recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel or pulling out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Paris accord on climate change certainly goes to him.

In general, it seems to me that Trump's success (such as it is) is less attributable to sudden mastery of the issues than to staying out of the way of rank-and-file Republican policymakers, activists and

bureaucrats.

For instance, the task of selecting judicial appointees, starting with Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch, has largely been outsourced to the Federalist Society. When the president revealed his new national security strategy last week, his speech — the usual campaign blather — had only a passing resemblance to the underlying document. The tax bill is clearly more in line with House Speaker Paul Ryan's ideology than candidate Trump's supposed populism. As for a counter example: When Trump was "hands-on" with Obamacare repeal, he often revealed he didn't even know what was in the legislation.

In 2016, some conservatives argued that Republicans should vote as if we live in a parliamentary democracy, electing a party, not a person. Trump's 3,000 political appointees would be better than Hillary Clinton's. That argument had its flaws, not least that voters tend not to compartmentalize that way — which is why the GOP faces a potential bloodbath in the 2018 midterms.

But there's merit to it as well. To listen to Trump's cheerleaders, the biggest obstacle to conservative victories is the party establishment, when in reality it looks more like it's running the show.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

OPINION EXTRA

US needs to slash contributions to United Nations

Last week, Democrats and many in the mainstream media became highly perturbed by the Trump administration's suggestion that the United States might tie continued foreign aid to support for its agenda abroad. Foreign dictators agreed. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who spent the last year arresting dissidents, announced, "Mr. Trump, you cannot buy Turkey's democratic free will with your dollars, our decision is clear."

Herein lies the great irony of the United Nations. While it's the Mos Eisley of international politics — a hive of scum and villainy — and it votes repeatedly to condemn the United States and Israel, the tyrannies that constitute the body continue to oppress their own peoples. Among those who voted last week to condemn the U.S. for recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital and moving its embassy to Jerusalem were North Korea, Iran, Yemen and Venezuela. Why exactly should the United States ever take advice from those nations seriously?

We shouldn't. And we should stop sending cash to an organization that operates as a front for immoral agenda items.

The United Nations spends the vast majority of its time condemning Israel. According to UN Watch, the U.N. Human Rights Council issued 135 resolutions from June 2006 to June 2016, 68 of which were against Israel, the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization only passes resolutions against Israel; and the U.N. General Assembly issued 97 resolutions from 2012 through 2015, 83 of which targeted Israel.

Meanwhile, the U.N. has done nearly nothing with regard to Syria. It has instead suggested that Israel turn over the Golan Heights to the Syrian regime. The U.N. can't even successfully prevent the slaughter of the Rohingya in Myanmar. But they certainly have something say about whether the United States ought to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

One of the great lies of the Obama administration was that diplomacy is a foreign policy. We often heard from it that the only two alternatives were diplomacy and war. That was the stated reason for pursuing a one-sided nuclear deal with Iran that left Iran with burgeoning regional power and legitimacy. "What? Do you want a war or something?" the administration asked.

But the moment that the Trump administration uses tools of diplomacy, including financial pressure, to achieve American ends, the left complains. Would it prefer war? Diplomacy is a tool, not a foreign policy, and the use of diplomacy to pressure other nations to follow our lead is not only smart but also necessary. That is why the Trump administration was exactly right to negotiate a \$285 million cut to the U.N.'s budget. Now we ought to slash our contributions to the counterproductive organization, since we pay one-fifth of the total bill.

The U.N. has always been a foolish fantasy, a League of Nations knockoff that's been about as productive and twice as irritating. It's an outmoded organization that's outlived whatever small usefulness it once had. There's no reason for us to continue cutting checks to prop up regimes that condemn us publicly for exercising the most basic standards of morality.

— Ben Shapiro, Creators Syndicate

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Reporter-Telegram

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Trump's name becomes racial taunt

■ There's ample evidence that Americans were already racist long before the president entered politics

RUBEN
NAVARRETTE
Washington Post Writers Group



There is a new form of hate speech that white people use to poke at Latinos. It goes like this:

"Trump! Trump! Trump!"

As President Trump concludes his first year in office, his "street cred" as a bully, demagogue and racist is well-established. And Latinos — especially Mexicans and Mexican-Americans — are his favorite pinata.

Whether he's slamming an immigrant, beauty queen, or federal judge, Trump can barely hide his contempt for America's largest minority. It's not enough that Latinos start businesses at a greater rate than others, receive the Medal of Honor in high numbers, help shape popular culture, pay their share of taxes and raise kids to respect authority.

Now, Latinos must put up with constantly being told they're ruining the country and America would be a better place if they weren't in it. And all this isn't just coming from some random crackpot. No sir. This crackpot is the leader of the free world.

When you consider everything that Trump has done to antagonize Latinos — from threatening to create a deportation force modeled on 1954's "Operation Wetback" to pardoning lawman-turned-outlaw Sheriff Joe Arpaio, who profiled them while enforcing immigration law — it's not surprising that Trump's name has become a racial taunt.

Politicians use code to send messages, but the public is pretty good at deciphering. The message that many Americans have received from Trump is that Latinos are a foreign menace that usurps resources, takes jobs, lowers wages, commits crimes, imports drugs, speeds urban decay and gobbles up welfare.

And who will protect the country from this plague? Why, Donald Trump.

That's why two white announcers, a few weeks ago, made racist comments when calling a high school basketball game in Iowa. The team from Forest City was hosting a more diverse squad from nearby Eagle Grove High School, when the two started making wisecracks about the Latino names of some Eagle Grove players. "They're all foreigners," said 76-year-old Orin Harris, a longtime broadcaster. "As Trump would say, (they should) go back where they came from."

At other high school sporting events, the chant "Trump! Trump! Trump!" has emerged as a popular way for white students — and onlookers in the stands — to put Latinos in their place.

In March, at a basketball game at suburban Canton High School in Connecticut, white fans in the

bleachers shouted the chant as players from Hartford's Classical Magnet School, which is largely Latino, took foul shots during a basketball game.

This sort of thing has been going on for the last 2 1/2 years, ever since Trump announced his candidacy for president by accusing Mexico of sending its worst to the United States and calling Mexican immigrants rapists and criminals.

Sometimes, there are variations to the taunt. Last year, the girls' soccer team from Beloit Memorial High School in Wisconsin, which is made up largely of Latinos, left the field traumatized after fans of the team from Elkhorn Area High School chanted: "Donald Trump, build that wall!"

After the election, the Southern Poverty Law Center published a report called "The Trump Effect: The Impact of the 2016 Election on Our Nation's Schools." After surveying more than 10,000 teachers, it found an increase in incidents involving such racist symbols as swastikas and Confederate flags. There were also multiple references to immigrants.

Calling this a "Trump effect" goes a bit too far. It implies that Trump made Americans racist, while there is ample evidence that Americans were already racist long before Trump descended that escalator at Trump Tower and entered politics.

You want to talk racism? Take a good look at the ugly campaign that Bill and Hillary Clinton — and their surrogates — waged in 2008 against a brash young African-American senator from Illinois who didn't want to wait his turn.

Trump didn't really divide Americans, but he did an awfully good job of pushing buttons and exploiting divisions that were already there.

Sometimes, at high school sporting events, the reference to Trump is followed by an even more troubling chant: "U.S.A.! U.S.A.!"

That's the line, folks. Don't cross it. You don't go up to a group of people — who, when it came to paying the ultimate price for freedom, died on foreign soil, from Normandy to Pork Chop Hill to Khe Sanh to Fallujah — and question our patriotism.

You want to claim the name "Trump" as your own, be our guests. You're welcome to it.

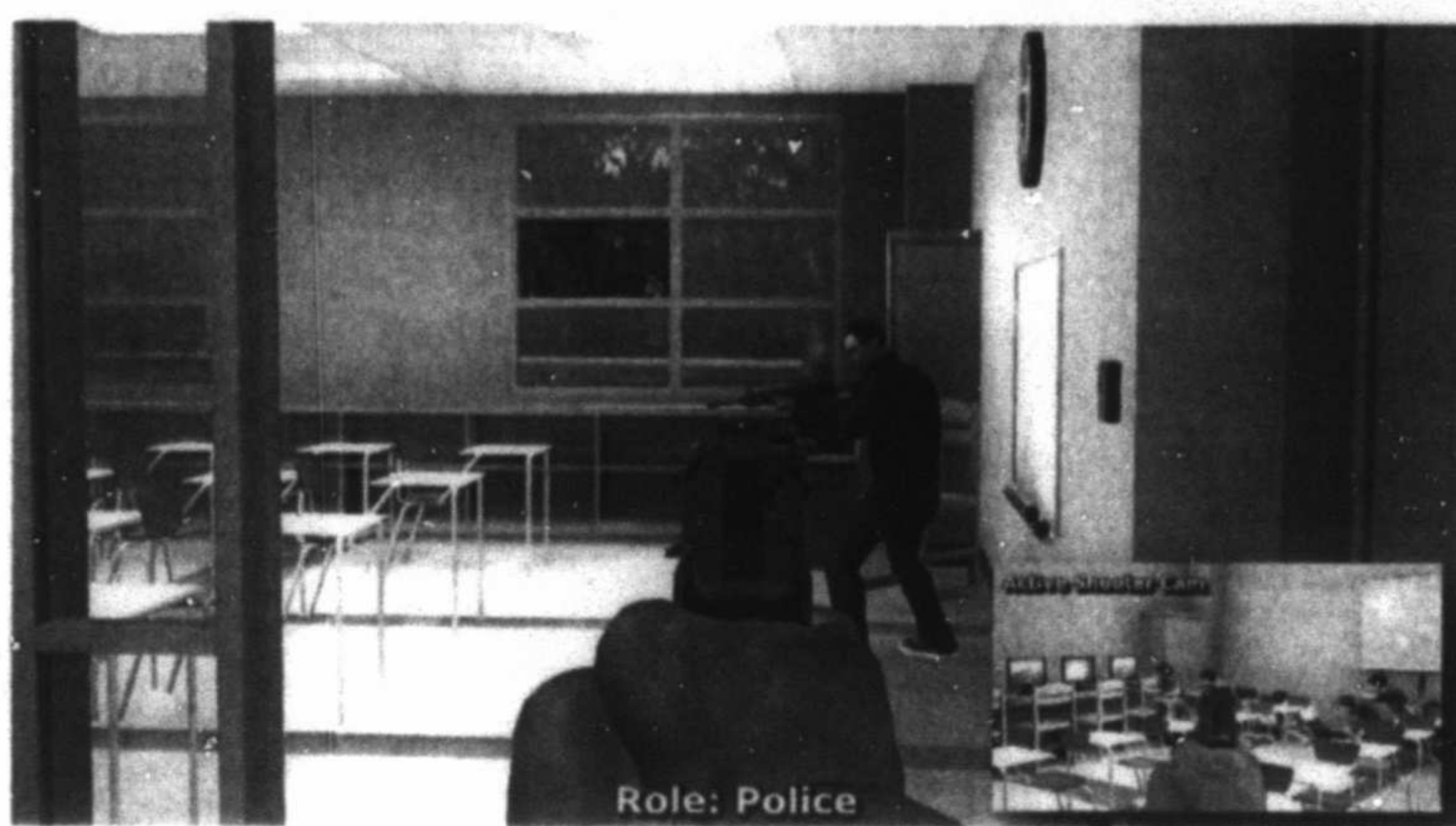
But hands off the phrase "U.S.A." That belongs to us as much as it does you. And, just as we have countless times before, we'll fight to defend our claim.

From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore





This updated frame from the video shows video game play footage of a mass shooting simulation. The game designers listened to real dispatch tapes to understand the dynamics of such situations, as part a \$5.6 U.S. million government-funded program known as the Enhanced Dynamic Geo-Social Environment.

School virtual shooter training program aimed at survival

By Curt Anderson
Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — The shooter rapidly fires through the front doors of an elementary school with an assault rifle and blasts his way down the hallway. Screaming children are running for their lives or frozen in fear. Teachers quickly try to decide: barricade the doors, or make a run for it with their students?

Police officers arrive with guns drawn, working their way through the school. Finally they confront the shooter and end the threat.

Using cutting-edge video game technology and animation, the U.S. Army and Homeland Security Department have developed a computer-based simulator that can train everyone from teachers to first responders on how to react to an active shooter scenario. The training center is housed at the University of Central Florida in Orlando and offers numerous role-playing opportunities that can be used to train anyone in the world with a computer.

"With teachers, they did not self-select into a role where they expect to have bullets flying near them. Unfortunately, it's becoming a reality," said Tamara Griffith, a chief engineer for the project. "We want to teach teachers how to respond as first responders."

The \$5.6 million program — known as the Enhanced Dynamic Geo-Social Environment, or EDGE — is similar to those used by the Army to train

soldiers in combat tactics and scenarios using a virtual environment.

Originally designed for police and fire agencies, the civilian version is now being expanded to schools to allow teachers and other school personnel to train for active shooters alongside first responders. Homeland Security officials say the schools version should be ready for launch by spring.

Each character has numerous options, including someone playing the bad guy, said project manager Bob Walker. For example, each teacher has seven options on how to keep students safe, and some of the students in the program might not respond or be too afraid to react. So that becomes another problem to be solved.

"Once you hear the children, the screaming, it makes it very, very real," Walker said.

The program can have the shooter be either an adult or a child.

"We have to worry about both children and adults being suspects," he said.

The program's designers listened to real dispatch tapes to understand the confusion and chaos that goes along with such frightening situations, Griffith said. They also talked to the mother of a child killed in the 2012 mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, who walked through everything that happened that tragic day.

"It gives you chills when you think

about what's happening on those tapes," Griffith said. "It tore us apart to listen to her and what she went through."

But it all serves one main goal: to train educators to save lives when an armed attacker bursts through a school door.

Another EDGE program, which was launched in June, has an active-shooter scenario involving a 26-story hotel that includes numerous possible environments for first responder training: a conference center, a restaurant, or office spaces. As many as 60 people can train on the program at once and can be located anywhere.

"It's important that this provides agencies like fire and law enforcement an opportunity to train together," said Milt Nenneman, Homeland Security Science and Technology First Responder Group program manager in a recent Justice Department article. "Very seldom do they have the opportunity to train together in real-life, and it is hard to get those agencies time away from their regular duties."

School safety advocates say safety training gets pushed to the back burner until a tragedy happens. Amanda Klinger, director of operations for nonprofit Educators School Safety Network, said this new program could help change that.

"I hope that people will sort of see this simulation as a really cool and engaging way," she said, "to think about school safety."

Trump's Clinton tweets cut against Comey firing explanation

By Eric Tucker
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When President Donald Trump fired James Comey in May, he said he was acting on the recommendation of Justice Department leaders who had faulted the FBI director for releasing "derogatory information" about Hillary Clinton at the conclusion of the email server investigation months earlier.

Yet with each tweet about the Clinton probe, Trump seems to be further undermining his administration's stated rationale for a termination that's now central to special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation.

The disconnect between Trump's attacks on Comey's handling of the email investigation and the criticism of Comey by his own Justice Department could muddy the explanation for exactly why Comey was fired, and may complicate efforts by the president's legal team to present a coherent narrative as Mueller and his prosecutors examine whether the dismissal could support obstruction of justice allegations.

Trump has complained for months about the FBI's decision not to pursue criminal charges against Clinton, his Democratic opponent in the 2016 presidential election, for her use of a personal email server. He has suggested the criminal investigation was rigged in her favor, claiming in one October tweet that Comey "totally protected" her. He recently seized on the revelation of politically charged text

messages from an FBI agent who worked on that probe to again deride the investigation. And in a Saturday tweet that appeared to suggest Clinton should have been prosecuted, Trump caustically referred to "33,000 illegally deleted emails."

Yet those attacks are increasingly hard to square with a Justice Department memo that the White House held up as justification for firing Comey. That document, authored by Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, cited an unusual July 2016 news conference in which Comey described Clinton and her aides as "extremely careless" as well as Comey's notification to Congress, days before the election, that the investigation was being revisited because of the sudden discovery of additional emails.

"From the beginning there's always been serious doubt that the memo from the deputy attorney general was the actual reason the president fired the FBI director," said Scott Fredericksen, a Washington criminal defense lawyer and former federal prosecutor. "These tweets," he added, "probably don't

help the president in that regard."

A lawyer for Trump did not return a phone message seeking comment.

Mueller's team has been interested for months in the circumstances of Comey's firing, with prosecutors obtaining an initial White House memo, drafted but never released, that purported to lay out a basis for Comey's removal.

The final memo the White House released on May 9, signed by Rosenstein, castigated Comey for announcing that criminal charges were not warranted against Clinton even though such determinations are generally left to Justice Department prosecutors. He also faulted Comey for comments made during that news conference, which Rosenstein said broke with Justice Department protocol by issuing "derogatory information" about someone who was investigated but never charged. Though he did not explicitly say it, his assessment seemed in line with that of Clinton and her supporters — that Comey's statements and actions during the investigation had harmed her election prospects.

"The Director laid out

his version of the facts for the news media as if it were a closing argument, but without a trial," Rosenstein wrote.

"It is a textbook example of what federal prosecutors and agents are taught not to do."

In a single-page letter to Comey released alongside Rosenstein's memo, Trump said he had accepted the Justice Department's recommendation for termination.

From the start, though, that explanation has been tough to reconcile with Trump's blistering attacks on Clinton, and his repeated assertions on the campaign trail and as president that she should have been prosecuted.

He returned to that theme days after Mueller revealed a plea deal with Michael Flynn, Trump's former national security adviser, by tweeting: "Many people in our Country are asking what the 'Justice' Department is going to do about the fact that totally Crooked Hillary, AFTER receiving a subpoena from the United States Congress, deleted and 'acid washed' 33,000 Emails? No justice!"

Brrr! After record snow, bitter cold ahead for northern US

Associated Press

ERIE, Pa. — Freezing temperatures and below-zero wind chills socked much of the northern United States on Wednesday, even setting a record in a Minnesota city so cold it's called the Icebox of the Nation, and will stay put for days to come as snow-hardened Erie digs out from a record snowfall.

Forecasters warned of hypothermia and frostbite from arctic air settling in over the central U.S. and spreading east.

The National Weather Service reported International Falls and Hibbing, Minnesota, set record low temperatures on Wednesday morning. International Falls, the self-proclaimed Icebox of the Nation, plunged to 37 degrees below zero, breaking the old record of 32 below set in 1924. Hibbing bottomed out at 28 below, breaking the old record of 27 below set in 1964.

Wind chill advisories or warnings were in effect for much of New England, northern Pennsylvania and New York. Those places and states in the northern Plains and Great Lakes were projected to see highs in the teens or single digits and lows below zero for the rest of the week and into the new year.

The National Weather Service said wind chills in many areas Thursday could make temperatures feel below zero.

Meanwhile, Erie was recovering from a storm that brought 34 inches of snow on Christmas Day, smashing the daily snowfall record for the Great Lakes city of 8 inches, and 26.5 more inches on Tuesday. More than 65 inches have fallen on the city since Christmas Eve, with several more inches falling Wednesday as residents dug out in frigid temperatures.

Strong westerly winds over Lake Erie picked up moisture, developed into snow and converged with opposing winds, dumping snow in a band along the shore from Ohio to New York, said Zach Sefcovic,

a National Weather Service meteorologist in Cleveland.

Sabrina Ram drove into Erie on Christmas Eve to visit her parents just as the snow began to fall. Ram, who lives in suburban Washington, D.C., and her father spent five hours on Christmas and two hours on Tuesday clearing the driveway.

"In D.C., we'd be out of commission for weeks," Ram said. "Things here are pretty much back to normal now."

She said she was going to build a snowman but didn't know where to start — "where do you put it?" — and she went outside to clear off the satellite dish before falling face first into the snow because she couldn't figure out where the porch ended.

"I totally just flew forward while my dad laughed at me," Ram said.

In New York, communities near Lake Ontario's eastern end, including Redfield and Boylston, also saw around 5 feet of snow this week.

The storm's timing was good, since people were off the streets and staying home for Christmas, giving plows more space to clear streets, officials said.

By Wednesday, Erie's roads were relatively clear, emergency calls were relatively slow and the big task was digging out, County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper said.

"We're used to a lot of snow here in Erie, but this is unprecedented, the amount we got," Dahlkemper said.

In Mill Creek, outside Erie, it took Kathleen Palkovic and her son two hours to shovel out so she could make it to her waitressing job. The 5-mile drive to Dave's Diner in downtown Erie took an hour. Palkovic and the cook opened the restaurant at a little after 6 a.m. in single-digit temperatures.

"We're dedicated people, I guess," Palkovic said. "Something else helped: 'It took 800 milligrams of ibuprofen after all that to get me to work.'"

Attention Readers:

The Midland Reporter-Telegram circulation department will not take calls on Sunday, December 24th or Sunday, December 31st.

All vacation stops for Christmas weekend will need to be placed by Wednesday, December 20th. Vacation stops for New Year's weekend will need to be placed by Wednesday, December 27th.

Have a Merry Christmas and Safe New Year's

Midland Reporter-Telegram

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Luke 2:17-18

When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told to them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

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In Texas, it is legal to kill Bigfoot if you ever find it.

Heightened security in Las Vegas on New Year's Eve

By Regina Garcia Cano
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — An unprecedented number of law enforcement officers and National Guard members will be on duty when tens of thousands of people gather to ring in 2018 on the Las Vegas Boulevard, just three months after one of the world's most famous roadways became associated with the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department will have every officer working Sunday, while the Nevada National Guard is activating about 350 soldiers and airmen after lawmakers earlier this month approved tripling the state funding for the event's security measures. The federal government is also sending dozens of personnel to assist with intelligence and other efforts. "I'm confident every available resource is being used to make sure this New Year's Eve will be safe," Clark County Sheriff Joe Lombardo said during a news conference Wednesday.

Tourism officials expect about 330,000 to come to Las Vegas for the festivities that are anchored by a roughly eight-minute fireworks display at the top of seven of the destination's casino-hotels. The show will start 10 seconds before midnight Sunday at the Stratosphere. The other firing locations are at the Venetian, Treasure Island, Caesars Palace, Planet Hollywood, Aria and MGM Grand.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security recently upgraded the city's New Year's Eve on its list of special events that due to its economic or social impact, length and attendance could be potential targets of criminal activity. For the first time, the celebration was



Steve Marcus/Las Vegas Sun via AP

Clark County Commission Chairman Steve Sisolak looks over alcohol in glass bottles before a news conference Wednesday on New Year's Eve security at Metro Police Headquarters in Las Vegas. Glass bottles, backpacks and coolers are not permitted on The Strip on New Year's Eve, police said.

ranked in the highest category, which also includes the Super Bowl.

The designation of the Special Event Assessment Rating 1 leads to a substantial increase in federal resources. Lombardo said the assistance will include intelligence personnel who will analyze social media and other information, medical technicians and helicopters.

The change in rating was not a direct result of the mass shooting carried out by a high-stakes gambler on Oct. 1. The man killed 58 people and injured hundreds more after he shattered the windows of his suite on the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay hotel-casino on the Strip and unleashed gunfire on a country music festival below. He then killed himself.

Lombardo said no specific threat to the festivities has been discovered. Snipers will be posted for the first time during the event. Buses and other large vehicles will block key intersections to try to prevent anyone from plowing onto crowds.

Clark County Commission Chairman Steve Sisolak said crews have installed nearly 800 steel posts along the Las Vegas Strip. The bollards are capable of with-

standing a head-on collision from a 15,000-pound vehicle traveling at 50 mph. The county plans to install an additional 7,500.

The number of National Guard soldiers and airmen activated in connection with Sunday's festivities is more than double compared to last year. They will be at several locations, including McCarran International Airport. A legislative committee approved almost \$357,000 to cover the cost.

The control center for the show, located at the Rio All-Suites Hotel and Casino, will be staffed by officials from Clark County's building and fire prevention department, fire department, police, Federal Aviation Administration, the fireworks company and organizers. Wind conditions are monitored. Sustained wind speeds that exceed 10 miles per hour can lead to the show's cancellation.

The expected visitation figures provided by the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority shows a drop of 1.2 percent compared to last year. Visitors are expected to spend \$254.3 million. More than 97 percent of the city's nearly 149,000 hotel and motel rooms are expected to be booked.

Co-creator of 'MTV Unplugged' dies after being hit by taxi

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A co-creator of MTV's "Unplugged" has died of injuries suffered when he was hit by a taxi while walking his dog.

Jim Burns was walking the dog on Saturday morning when he was struck by a cab making a turn onto Manhattan's Fifth Avenue, police said. Burns, 65, suffered a serious head injury and died from his injuries on Tuesday.

The taxi driver remained at the scene. Police still were investigating on Wednesday.

An MTV spokeswoman said the network was deeply saddened to learn about the death of Burns, who created "MTV Unplugged" with Robert Small.

"As co-creator of the beloved 'Unplugged' franchise, his groundbreaking work continues to resonate with audiences

around the world," MTV said in a statement. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and loved ones."

Small said Burns was "a terrific human being."

"He could make fun of people without making them feel bad," Small told the New York Post. "He just had a knack for making people happy."

Police initially said Burns was with a guide dog when he was struck, but that account was contradicted by family friends, who said he didn't have vision problems and the dog was a pet.

The dog, named Jules, wasn't injured and was being cared for by a neighbor, Burns' friend Paul Ward told the Daily News.

"Many of his friends have taken comfort in knowing that the end of his life came doing his favorite thing ... walking Jules to Central Park," Ward said.

Preacher fights ban on spreading gospel on Atlanta sidewalks

By Jeff Martin
Associated Press

ATLANTA — A Georgia preacher who says he was barred from public sidewalks and feared arrest for spreading the gospel on the fringes of a large outdoor concert in Atlanta is challenging the restrictions in court.

In a federal lawsuit, Eric Love says his free speech rights were violated outside the Shaky Beats music festival, which drew thousands in May to downtown Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park.

Love is asking a judge to decide whether the Georgia World Congress Center Authority and its police force can prohibit preaching from the surrounding sidewalks. The authority oversees the park, which was created for the 1996 Olympic Games.

The authority has cited a Georgia law that allows it to ban solicitation and other activities on public sidewalks and streets bordering the park when large events are held. That amounts to an unreasonable ban on free speech, one of Love's lawyers, Terry Lloyd, maintains in the suit.

"These sidewalks are just like any other sidewalks — they're used by the public and they really ought to be open to the public," said Tony Mangini, another attorney for Love, speaking in an interview Wednesday. Mangini is with the Memphis, Tennessee-based Center for Religious Expression, which is representing Love.

Representatives of the authority and

Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal, who is named as a defendant, did not immediately return messages Wednesday from The Associated Press seeking comment.

Love cares deeply about people, so he "is compelled to tell people about Jesus Christ and his offer of salvation," the lawsuit states.

"Love does not yell when he preaches; he only speaks loud enough to be heard by those near him, like someone delivering a speech in public," Lloyd wrote.

At the May concert, Love was on a sidewalk outside the park near the entrance when he and two friends were confronted by the authority's police officers, he said.

They were told they needed a permit to express their views on the sidewalk, but were not eligible for such a permit and would have to move, the complaint states.

At one point, one of Love's two friends was handcuffed and placed in the back of a police vehicle but later was released, Love's lawyer wrote.

"Love strongly desires to return to the public sidewalks adjacent to Centennial Olympic Park and share his religious views while large events are taking place in the park, but he does not want to risk criminal arrest," Lloyd wrote.

His lawyer wants the matter resolved so that Love can preach without fear of being arrested outside the SweetWater 420 Fest, another large concert scheduled for the park in April.

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WEEKENDER

YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS IN THE PERMIAN BASIN

BEST BETS

TODAY



TRIP THE LIGHTS

See more than 100,000 lights and holiday displays at Starbright Village in Odessa's McKinney Park nightly through Monday beginning at 6 p.m.



CROW BAR T-Bart

Crow returns to headline Rockin' Rodeo in support of his newest album "The Parade." 9 p.m.

FRIDAY



GREAT CALVES

Cheer on rodeo athletes at the Tull City Ultimate New Year's Eve call-rope event for both junior and ultimate competitors at the Horseshoe Arena. The event runs through Sunday.



VISIONS OF SUGAR PLUMS

The Moscow Ballet returns with its annual production of "The Great Russian Nutcracker" at the Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. 7 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. No new listings.

CINERGY CINEMAS
Opening. No new listings.

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

COMING SOON



Comedian and "Saturday Night Live" star Rob Schneider brings his "Evening of Laughs" to the Wagner Noel on Jan. 12. Tickets available now at wagnernoel.com.



HEAT INDEX: Ring in the New Year at these area parties

By Rich Lopez
jrlopez@mrt.com

Party people are not lacking in options when it comes to ringing in the New Year on Sunday. From speakeasies to grand openings, there will be a spectrum of celebrations in Midland before starting in on those resolutions. Here are some places to make your midnight toast to 2018.

NEW YEAR'S EVE SPEAKEASY AT MIDLAND BEER GARDEN

Go back in time with this '20s-themed celebration. The event will feature a costume contest, midnight champagne toast and brunch. Music by the Jack Nelson Band begins at 9 p.m.

Doors open at noon at 7112 W. Highway 80. No cover. midland-beergarden.com.

NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH AT THE BAR

This nightlife staple will celebrate with live music by Jay Zertuche, party favors and champagne and breakfast burritos at midnight. The full menu will also be available for dinner. Reservations encouraged.

Doors at 6 p.m. at 606 W. Missouri Ave. \$20.

THE NEW YEAR'S EVE FIRST RESPONDERS SNOW BALL AT ROLLING 7s RANCH

This Las Vegas-style event will put guests' betting skills to the test with a casino and \$1,000 worth of chips with ticket purchase. A truck auction adds to the excitement. The event includes a live DJ, dinner, open bar with a midnight champagne toast and fireworks. Only 350 tickets are available; they will not be sold at the door. To make your reservations, call 432-741-2317.

6:30 p.m. at 11700 W. County Road 122, Odessa. \$250. R7rec.com.

NEW YEAR'S EVE AT DOS AMIGOS

Get a double feature of music with the Chet Johnson Band and the Justin Taylor Band headlining this bash.

Doors at 7 p.m. at 4700 Golder Ave. Odessa. \$25 advance, \$30 door. dosamigos.com.

NEW YEAR'S PARTY AT AMERICAN LEGION WOODS LYNCH POST 19

The post opens up its ballroom to feature music by Dennis Snyder and the Sundowners. The event

will feature snacks, party favors, a cash bar and champagne and breakfast at midnight. To make reservations, call 682-3511. For those 21 and older.

7:30 p.m. at 501 Veterans Airpark Lane. Advance \$30-\$50, door \$40-\$60.

NEW YEAR'S EVE AT SAINT GEORGE HALL

Why not take a road trip into 2018? Head to Marfa for Hotel Saint George's party featuring a heavy line-up of music headlined by Jimmie Dale Gilmore and Butch Hancock. The show also features The Mastersons, Colin Gilmore, Nic Armstrong and the Thieves and Rory Hancock. The buffet dinner menu will feature candied applewood-smoked bacon strips, charcuterie, beef tenderloins, grilled lamb chops, chocolate truffles and champagne gelee. 7:30 p.m. at 105 S. Highland Ave. Marfa. \$30-\$500. ticketstripe.com/marfany2017.

"OUR FIRST NEW YEAR" AT BEAN AND GRAPE

This new specialty shop that's part wine bar and part coffee house celebrates its grand opening with a New Year's Eve party. The event will feature champagne,

wine and beer, charcuterie and more. Space is limited, so reservations are required. Deadline is today. Formal wear required.

8 p.m. at 3211 W. Wadley Ave. \$100. beanandgrapeandmidland.com.

"A NIGHT IN HOLLYWOOD:" TOASTING FOR TAILS NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH

Benefiting the Midland Humane Coalition, this glitzy party will feature music by the Plush Party Band. Tickets will also include one drink, hors d'oeuvres, dessert bar, photo booth, silent auction and midnight champagne toast. Best of all, guests can also help the organization with its efforts to place some 1,000 pets a year in forever homes.

9 p.m.-1 a.m. at DoubleTree By Hilton, 117 W. Wall St. \$75. midlandhumane.org.

NEW YEAR'S EVE 2017 AT THE RESERVE IN THE DOUBLETREE BY HILTON

The hotel's own party will feature food, cocktails and dancing in its onsite nightclub. Make a staycation out of it with hotel packages that include a room, dinner and tickets to the event. 9 p.m. at 117 W. Wall St. \$10.

Tommy Wiseau's 'The Room' gets wide release 14 years after premiere

By Peter Sblendorio
New York Daily News

Movie theaters across America are finally making room for "The Room."

The 2003 cult-classic film created by and starring Tommy Wiseau is getting a wide release more than 14 years after its initial premiere, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Over 500 cinemas will show the movie in the United States on Jan. 10 — a month after "The Disaster Artist," James Franco's movie about the making of "The Room," hit theaters. "The Room," which

WANT TO GO?

"Tommy Wiseau's The Room" screens at 8 p.m. Wednesday at Regal Tall City Stadium, 4915 SW Loop 250 N. \$13.50. fathomevents.com.

Wiseau also directed and produced, is revered by fans for being so bad it's good thanks to wacky lines, unanswered storylines and memorable characters like Wiseau's Johnny and Greg Sestero's Mark.

It was initially only screened in a few theaters in California after its 2003 release, but has since garnered a tremendous cult



following. Midnight showings of the movie in major American cities continue to earn large crowds today.

Franco based his movie "The Disaster Artist" — which he directed and stars in as Wiseau — on the 2013 book by the same

name written by Sestero, who was a close friend of Wiseau, in addition to being his co-star in the movie.

Wiseau, meanwhile, gave his stamp of approval to Franco's movie and helped promote the film ahead

of its premiere. He was excited when news of "The Room" wide release broke.

"14 1/2 years! Never give up!" Wiseau tweeted Tuesday.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

CALENDAR

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Editor's note: Recurring events will likely be affected by the holidays. Consider reaching out directly to confirm schedules.

CLASSES, LECTURES & WORKSHOPS

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

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

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

EVENTS

Starbright Village. View the largest display with more than 300,000 lights and holiday displays. 6-11 p.m. nightly through Monday at McKinney Park, 625 W. Pool Road, Odessa. Free. odessatxparke.org.

New Year's Eve Bash with live music by Jay Zertuche, party favors, champagne and breakfast burritos at midnight; full menu available for dinner. Doors at 6 p.m. Sunday at The Bar, 606 W. Missouri Ave. \$20. Reservations encouraged.

New Year's Eve Speakeasy with the Jack Nelson Band features a '20s-themed costume contest, midnight champagne toast and brunch. Music begins at 9 p.m. Sunday at Midland Beer Garden, 7112 W. Highway 80. midlandbeer-garden.com.

New Year's party with Dennis Snyder and the Sundowners features snacks, party favors, a cash bar and champagne and breakfast at midnight. Sunday at American Legion Woods Lynch Post 19 Ballroom, 501 Veterans Airpark Lane. Advance \$30-\$50, door \$40-\$60. Call 682-3511 for reservations. For those 21 and older.

The New Year's Eve First Responders Snow Ball features a live DJ, dinner, open bar, casino and truck auction with a midnight champagne toast and fireworks. 6:30 p.m. Sunday at Rolling 7s Ranch Event Center, 11700 W. County Road 122, Odessa. R7rec.com.

Toasting for Tails New Year's Eve Bash: A Night in Hollywood with the Plush Party Band benefits the Midland Humane Coalition. Tickets include one drink, hors d'oeuvres, dessert bar, photo booth, silent auction and midnight champagne toast. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Sunday at DoubleTree by Hilton, 117 W. Wall St. \$75. midlandhumane.org.

New Year's Eve features food, cocktails and dancing. Hotel packages available include one room, dinner and tickets to the event. 9 p.m. Sunday at The Reserve at DoubleTree by Hilton, 117 W. Wall St. \$10.

FAMILY & YOUTH

Writing is Magic teen writing club for ages 13-19. Writing is Magic is a creative writing club with writing time and weekly topics that will meet monthly. 4:30 p.m. every first Friday 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), Thursdays. Midland County Public Library



NEW YEAR'S EVE CALF ROPING

downtown branch, 301 W. Missouri Ave. co.midland.tx.us/lib.

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

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

"The Story of Ferdinand" storytime with activities to follow. 11 a.m. Saturday at Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 2617 W. Loop 250 N. barnesandnoble.com.

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 works of Anabella Charlton and Jesse Trejo on display Fridays through December at Kamiposi, 510 S. Big Spring St.

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

Winter Art Exhibit featuring works by area art associations at The Gallery at Midland Shared Spaces, 3500 N.A. St.

FOOD & DRINK

Our First New Year rings in 2019 with the opening of **Bean and Grape**. The event will feature champagne, wine and beer, charcuterie and more. Space is limited so reservations are required no later than today. Formal wear required. 8 p.m. Sunday at Bean and Grape, 3211 W. Wadley Ave. \$100. beanandgrape-midland.com.

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. midlandshuttle-services.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

COUNTRY

Bart Crow, 9 p.m. today at Rockin Rodeo, 4400 N. Big Spring St. rockinrodeomidland.com.

New Year's Eve with the Chet Johnson Band and the Justin Taylor Band. 7 p.m. Sunday at Dos Amigos 4700 Golder Ave. Odessa. \$25 advance, \$30 door. dosamigos.com.

COVER/TRIBUTE

Farm Fresh Frijoles, 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday at Your Place, 3704 W. Wall St.

The Ochoa Brothers, 9 p.m. Sunday at the Atrium Lounge, 3904 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.

KARAOKE

Karaoke, 9 p.m. Sunday at The Detour Bar, 1709 Rankin Hwy. thedetourbar.com.

Karaoke with All, 8 p.m. Tuesdays at Your Place, 3704 W. Wall St.

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

OUTDOORS, SPORTS & FITNESS

Tall City Ultimate New Year's Eve junior and ultimate calf roping event. Friday-Sunday at Horseshoe Arena, 2417 Arena Trail. midlandhorseshoe.com.

Odessa Jackalopes play Amarillo Bulls, 7:11 p.m. Friday at Ector County Coliseum, 4201 Andrews Hwy. Odessa. jackalopes.org.

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

Yoga at the Museum for museum members. 8 a.m. Wednesdays at Ellen Noel Art Museum, 4909 E. University Blvd. Odessa. Free. noelartmuseum.org.

Kundalini Yoga with Kacie Lunson. All levels are welcome. Bring a mat and dress in comfortable clothing. 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays at Kamiposi, 510 S. Big Spring St. \$5.

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.

ROAD TRIP

New Year's Eve with Jimmie Dale Gilmore, Butch Hancock, The Mastersons and more with a buffet dinner. 7:30 p.m. Sunday at Saint George Hall, Marfa. ticket-stripe.com/marfanyes2017.

STAGE, COMEDY & FILM

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

Moscow Ballet's "Great Russian Nutcracker," 7 p.m. Friday at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$25-\$177. wagner-noel.com.

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

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

"Tommy Wiseau's The Room," 8 p.m. Wednesday at Regal Tall City Stadium, 4915 SW Loop 250 N. \$13.50. fathomevents.com.

COMING SOON

JANUARY

Sandhills Stock and Rodeo Show, Jan. 4-14 at Ector County Coliseum, 4201 Andrews Highway, Odessa. \$16-\$20. sandhillstockshow.com.

"Disney Live! Mickey and Minnie's Doorway to Magic," 1 and 4 p.m. Jan. 4 and 5. 7 p.m. Jan. 4 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$23-\$53. wagner-noel.com.

Chet Johnson Band, 8 p.m. Jan. 4 at Rockin' Rodeo, 4400 N. Big Spring St. rockinrodeomidland.com.

First Friday: The art of Kerry McLain, 6 p.m. Jan. 5 at Kamiposi, 510 S. Big Spring St.

Texas Pride, 9 p.m. Jan. 5 at Your Place, 3704 W. Wall St.

Author signing: Tyler Frick will sign copies of his book, "Prevailing Soul." Noon Jan. 6 at Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 2617 W. Loop 250 N. barnesandnoble.com.

"What Do You Do With a Chance?" Storytime, 11 a.m. Jan. 6 at Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 2617 W. Loop 250 N. barnesandnoble.com.

Colt Ford, Jan. 6 at Dos Amigos, 4700 Golder Ave., Odessa. dosamigos.com.

Midland Walkabout Volkssport Club January Walk. The walk will be in conjunction with the Monahans Sandhill Resolution Run/Walk. Midland members will meet at Jumburrito by Midland Park Mall to carpool to Monahans at 7 a.m. The Monahans event begins at 9 a.m. Jan. 7. \$25. Register at active.com or raceentry.com. For more information about the club, visit midlandwalkabout.org.

Basin PBS Preview: "Victoria." The first hour of season two's opening episode will be screened. Guests can enjoy refreshments and a silent auction at the preview. 4:30 p.m. Jan. 7 at Junior League of Midland, 902 W. Dengar Ave. Free. basinpbs.org.

Crowder, 7 p.m. Jan. 11 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. wagner-noel.com.

"Alien Intrusion: Unmasking a Deception," 7 p.m. Jan. 11 at Tall City Stadium 14, 4915 SW Loop 250 N. \$15.13. fathomevents.com.

Sleepsant, 7 p.m. Jan. 11 at Kamiposi, 510 S. Big Spring St.

January Grocery Store Tour by Healthy City. Healthy City will lead guests throughout H-E-B to learn about whole foods, plant-based groceries and reading labels. Only 10 spots available and registration is required. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 11 at H-E-B, 5407 Andrews Highway. \$5. ourhealthycity.com.

Rob Schneider: An Evening of Lies, 8 p.m. Jan. 12 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$35-\$60. wagner-noel.com.

Runnin' Blind, 9 p.m. Jan. 12 and 13 at Your Place, 3704 W. Wall St.

Nature Journaling Workshop with Michael W. Nickell, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Jan. 13 at Sibley Nature Center, 1307 E. Wadley Ave. \$30 members, \$40 nonmembers. sibleynaturecenter.org.

"Paddington" Storytime 11 a.m. Jan. 13 at Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 2617 W. Loop 250 N. barnesandnoble.com.

"The Opera House" looks at the history of the Metropolitan Opera. 12:55 p.m. Jan. 13 at Tall City Stadium 14, 4915 SW Loop 250 N. \$15.13. fathomevents.com.

Laser Spectacular featuring the music of Pink Floyd, 8 p.m. Jan. 13 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$32-\$47. wagner-noel.com.

"The Opera House" looks at the history of the Metropolitan Opera. 12:55 and 6:30 p.m. Jan. 17 at Tall City Stadium 14, 4915 SW Loop 250 N. \$15.13. fathomevents.com.

"Kung Fu Panda" with Matthews Martis: Arts. 6 p.m. Jan. 18 at Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 2617 W. Loop 250 N. barnesandnoble.com.

"Mary and the Witch's Flower," 7 p.m. (dubbed) and 8 p.m. (subtitled) Jan. 18 at Tall City Stadium 14, 4915 SW Loop 250 N. \$16.21. fathomevents.com.

An Evening with Gladys Knight, 8 p.m. Jan. 18 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$59-\$89. wagner-noel.com.

"Food Truck: The Play" written and directed by Midlander Chase Cochran. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 19 and 20 at the Yucca Theatre, 208 N. Colorado Ave.

Lost and Found, 9 p.m. Jan. 19 and 20 at Your Place, 3704 W. Wall St.

Donnie Evetts, 9:30 p.m. Jan. 19 and 20 at The Bar.

"You!" Storytime with activities to follow. 11 a.m. Jan. 20 at Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 2617 W. Loop 250 N. barnesandnoble.com.

Intocable, Siggnó, 8 p.m. Jan. 20 at Hacienda Event Center, 12610 State Highway 191. \$40. haciendamidland.com.

West Texas Wedding Expo will feature more than 100 vendors and two fashion shows. Proceeds benefit Midland Rape Crisis and Children's Advocacy Center. 1-4 p.m. Jan. 21 at Horseshoe Pavilion, 2514 Arena Trail. \$5-\$10. Wtbridal.com.

Chris Mann, 8 p.m. Jan. 21 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$60. wagner-noel.com.

The Price is Right Live! 7:50 p.m. Jan. 23 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$36.50-\$53.50. wagner-noel.com.

Ronnie Milsap, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 25 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$50-\$70. wagner-noel.com.

ON SCREEN

In Netflix's 'Wormwood,' Errol Morris blurs the line between fact and theories

A rmy scientist Frank Olson plunged to his death from a Manhattan hotel window in 1953. The authorities deemed it a suicide. His son contends he was murdered by the CIA.

Director Errol Morris examines both possibilities in painstaking detail — exploring Eric Olson's lifelong obsession with discovering the truth surrounding his father's mysterious death — in "Wormwood," a six-episode docu-series streaming Friday on Netflix. (It will also be released in select theaters as a 240-minute film.)

In Morris' hands, it's as much a true-crime whodunit as a conspiracy theorist's dream come true, replete with covert, Cold War-era CIA operations, chemical and psychological warfare, government espionage and state-sponsored murder.

The results are a mixed bag of gripping narratives and thinly sourced theories, firsthand accounts and cinematic re-creations, exhaustive research and flagrant conjecture.

Morris upended the world of documentary filmmaking with 1988's "The Thin Blue Line," a masterpiece that elevated (or, some would say, compromised) the medium and helped free an innocent man serving a death sentence for murders he did not commit. Morris deviated from the traditional, just-the-facts approach with his use of fictional, dramatic re-creations and speculative scenarios, making his own theories central to the theme.

Reenactments are now a standard tool of the trade, as true-crime networks such as Oxygen and Investigation Discovery. But in the hands of less artful directors, dramatizations by amateur actors are often as distracting as they are unintentionally amusing.

With "Wormwood," Morris reclaims the approach he popularized by employing accomplished performers such as Molly Parker, Tim Blake Nelson, Peter Sarsgaard and Bob Balaban to bridge the gap between fact, presumption and fantasy.

Eric Olson claims that, in the weeks before his father's death, Frank Olson became part of a CIA experiment when he was unwittingly fed LSD by a colleague. Frank had been working on a top-secret

LORRAINE ALI
Los Angeles Times



project but had become increasingly disillusioned with the agency he worked for. He reacted poorly to the drug and was deemed unstable and a potential threat to CIA security.

As absurd as it sounds, documents uncovered over the years by journalists such as Seymour Hersh validate many of Olson's claims. Reams of formerly classified papers revealed that his father was, indeed, part of an LSD experiment, and the experience triggered a deep depression that caused Olson to take his own life. The family was paid \$750,000 in compensation by the government.

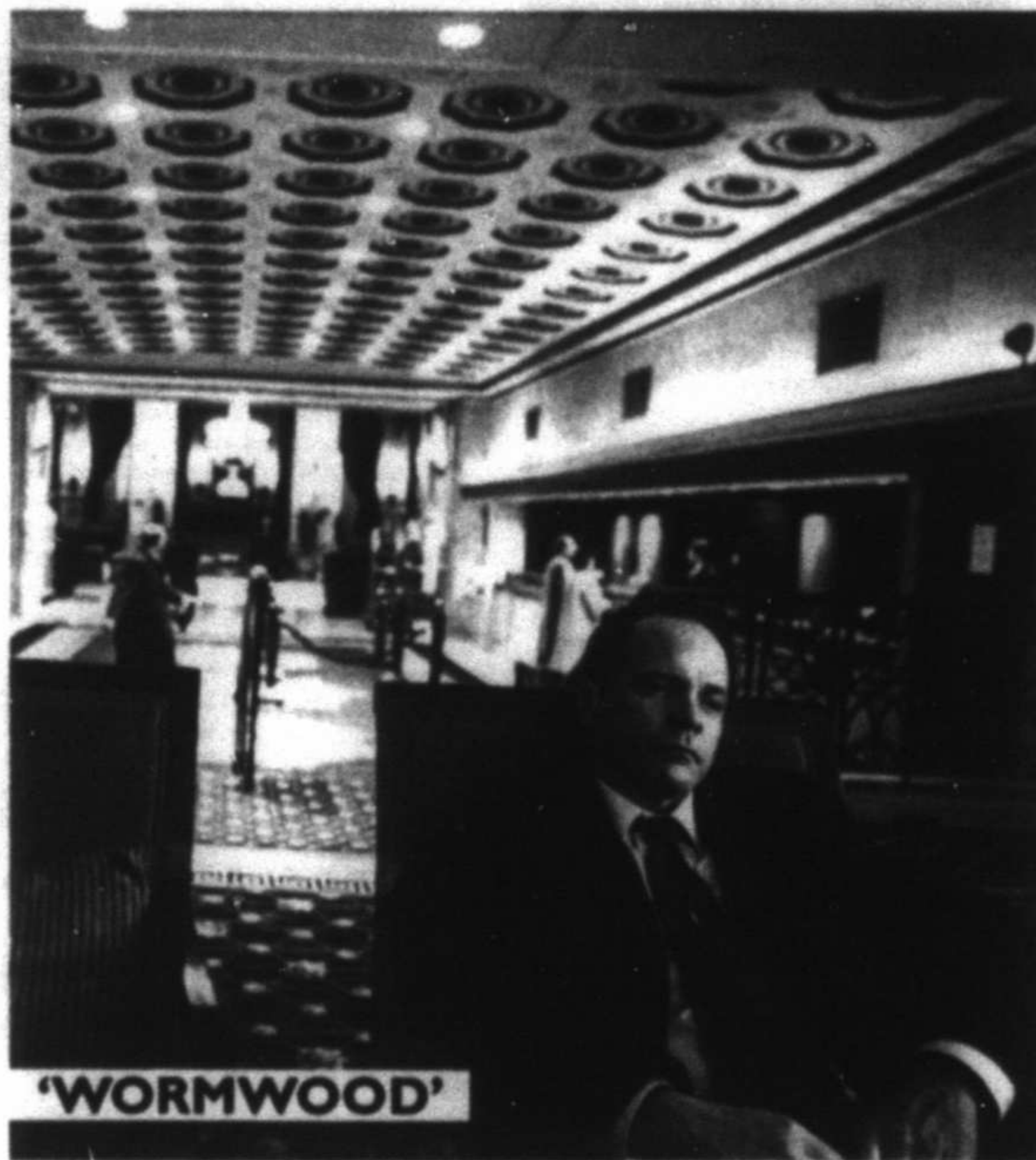
Eric Olson, however, makes the case that his father was murdered and backs up his claim with decades' worth of convincing research.

Olson is a character unto himself, an awkward yet brilliant Harvard alum, a psychotherapy researcher who spent his best years consumed with his father's death. He's not an emotional or warm figure, so sticking with him here as a viewer means becoming invested in his obsessive quest. It's a big ask that may be too much for the mildly interested.

But he's an irresistible figure for the conspiracy-minded. "He was losing control," explains Eric of his father, "and there's a premium placed on control," he says of the CIA.

Documents obtained here include an alleged CIA assassination manual from the 1950s that provides a step-by-step guide on the best way to dispose of someone. "Push them off a high window or ledge," it reads, and Morris peppers the scene with news clips of several other men connected with the CIA who fell from windows.

Interviews with Olson's former colleagues, Hersh and witnesses such as the hotel night manager on duty the night



Olson fell to his death lay the groundwork for a tale of state-sponsored murder and cover-up that goes all the way up to President Ford. Some of it's believable, some of it too intent on bringing Eric Olson's fantasies and nightmares to life.

This isn't Netflix's first rodeo in the arena of true crime. 2015's "Making a Murderer" helped put the streaming service on the map in that regard, inciting a national conversation about the guilt or innocence of convicted murderer Steven Avery. Though wildly successful, it was

also amateurish and irresponsible, pushing so hard in one direction to prove Avery's innocence that it became blinded to its own glaring bias.

Morris is much better than that, and with "Wormwood," he never promises to wrap up the mystery of Frank Olson's death in a neat little package. It's a son's journey to find closure that makes this absorbing, if not slightly paranoid, series worth your time.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

Bright' is when Harry Potter vomits in cop flick

That old Hollywood standby, the venerable buddy cop movie, may have met its anguished demise this holiday season. Will Smith just killed it.

Virtually every permutation of the genre has been done — we've seen black cops teamed up with white cops, black cops with black cops, white cops and other white cops, a white cop and a Latino cop, an Irish cop with a Yank cop, two women cops, and human cops with dog cops.

Alas, the category will likely not survive the latest: a human cop teamed up with an Orc. Yes, that's right — an Orc, along with Elves, Fairies and at least one Centaur. Even with Smith being his most charming singular Smith, "Bright" is a total mess.

To prepare for writing "Bright," it seems Max Landis decided to throw every cop film cliché into a Cuisinart, put it on the high setting and leave the top off. This film is what happens when Harry Potter throws up on "Training Day," "16 Blocks," "The Wire," "48 Hours" and "Police Academy."

It opens in an alternate reality of South Central Los Angeles — a gritty, graffiti-covered, gang-infested patrol area that includes Orcs in thick gold chains and sweatsuits drinking liquor in front of burning barrels and listening to rap. Elves, on the other hand, seem to be prissy, elitist and vapid. They live in — wait for it — ElfTown.

Smith's Officer Ward has just returned to the job after being shot and is assigned to reunite with his rookie partner, Nick Jakoby, the first Orc to serve with the LAPD. Jakoby is played by Joel Edgerton and he is made to look like a hunk of Roquefort cheese rotting on an August afternoon.

Because Orcs have in the past been horrible to humans, Jakoby faces bitter resentment from fellow officers, who call him a "diversity hire." He also is hated by his own kind, who consider him a turncoat. So we are left to wonder if he's a cop first or an Orc first. (And what his ears might taste like on a nice multigrain cracker.)

It's a tough spot to be in, made worse because nobody likes the police. (As Ward's daughter points out: "Why do you have to be a policeman? Everybody hates policemen.") Why does Ward stay on the job? You guessed it — he's five years from his pension. (Many thanks, "Lethal Weapon.")

At this point, the film might have explored racism and systemic profiling by having different otherworldly species represent whites, black, Latinos and Asians. But that's not "Bright." Instead, the film doubles down on the fantasy, embark-

MARK KENNEDY

Associated Press



ing on a city-wide nonsensical search for a rare magic wand. Cue the car chases, over-the-top gang members, throat slitting, martial arts moves, torture and gas station explosions. (Warning: Many, many Orcs were harmed making this film. Logic was also badly injured.)

Wait, hold up. Did we really just say "wand"? Yes indeed, this alternate L.A. reality may have Uber, former "Fear Factor" host Joe Rogan, Toyota Corollas and topless bars, but it also has a dark prophecy, "renegade Elves, a Magic Task Force and a wand that has enormous power." "This is like a nuclear weapon that grants wishes," we are told by someone in a straight face. Only a Bright — a person with supernatural abilities — can use it correctly. They might not even know they are a Bright. You can see where this film is going even without being very bright.

David Ayer is the director and he's had a role in other buddy cop films, helming "End of Watch" and writing "Training Day." This, though, is a labored affair with little stylistic coherence. The scenes fit poorly together and the humor is forced. Though it's supposed to span a day and night, it rains whenever the film needs that "Blade Runner" brooding wet darkness, a manipulative touch.

Actually, there's not an original thing in the film, with the possible exception of a football table being used to try to kill an Elf. But the soundtrack seems nice, with songs by Logic, Meek Mill, alt-J, Machine Gun Kelly, X Ambassadors, Camila Cabello, Portugal. The Man and ASAP Rocky. (There's an idea: Stream the movie but turn off the screen.)

Things go seriously off the rails as the film lurches to its conclusion. Smith seems to know how bad the film is so he agrees to have his face hit repeatedly, leaving it puffy and bloody. Perhaps he hopes no one can recognize him anymore. But there's no escaping the truth. This film makes his misfire "Wild Wild West" look like "The Godfather." Plus, he knows he just buried the buddy cop film genre. You'll never see two cops swapping snide comments in the front seat of a cruiser again — and not laugh.

"Bright," a Netflix Studios release, is rated TV-MA. Running time: 117 minutes. No stars out of four.



10 AM-5 PM Tues.-Sat., 2-5 PM Sun. (Tours given until 4:30)
1412 W. Ohio, Midland, TX
432-685-1112

www.bushchildhoodhome.org

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Happy New Year

We will be closed
New Year's Day

(Open regular hours on other days)

"We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day."

Thank you for a great 2017!

ON SCREEN



Darren Aronofsky's 'mother!' isn't for everyone, maybe not for anyone

PICK O' THE WEEK

"mother!" (R) Darren Aronofsky's mind must be both compelling and repulsive, much like his latest film. "mother!" is a dark, dreamlike film that rarely goes to a happy, friendly place, like many of his films. From his first feature, "Pi," to the disturbing "Requiem for a Dream," through his Oscar-contender, "Black Swan," his audiences are in for quite a ride. Even his "Noah" couldn't stick with the biblical story. But his films also share another trait: endless fascination. You may not like the direction they take, but you can't stop from going there. "mother!" is just such a film. Filled with uncomfortable but (mostly) plausible situations, the descent into madness isn't just for the young bride played by Jennifer Lawrence. The audience might just question what is playing out, as well. It's a film that's not for everyone. It may very well not be for anyone, but the journey is impossible to resist. **A**

ICK! O' THE WEEK

"Birth of the Dragon" (PG-13) Story of a legendary fight between Bruce Lee and kung fu master Wong Jack Man has some decent choreography reflective of the 1960s fighting it represents. Lee was never short on confidence but he had a charisma that made him likeable. This portrait of him does not do him any favors; it portrays him as arrogant, cocky and thoroughly detestable. **D**

MORE REVIEWS

"Blood Money" (R) Lukewarm action fare starring John Cusack, which pretty much describes his last 10 films. **D+**

"Demon" (unrated) Anthology of unrelated short films that peak at the beginning with a 2012 short called "Demon's Dilemma," which is kind of a riff off the great Showtime series "Dead Like Me." It's all downhill from there.

Reeled Stream

By Nancy Adamson | nadamson@mrt.com

REDBOX'S TOP 10

The top 10 DVD rentals at Redbox kiosks for the week of Dec. 18:

1. Kingsman: The Secret Service
2. Atomic Blonde — Universal
3. The Hitman's Bodyguard — Lionsgate
4. Detroit — Fox
5. American Assassin — Lionsgate
6. Jeepers Creepers 3 — Dogwatch
7. Kidnap — Universal
8. mother! — Paramount
9. Logan Lucky — Universal
10. Stronger — Lionsgate

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

though. **C**

"Demon Hole" (unrated) A drilling crew unearths an ancient demon on sacred Native American land in this cheesy film that dares cast itself as a horror movie. This is one of those so-bad-it's-good movies. It would have been so much better if more effort had been put into the look of the "demon," which is given a much scarier look on the DVD cover. Had that creature been in the film rather than the old, fat, bald guy with bad makeup, this would have been a different result. **D**

"Detroit" (R) Kathryn Bigelow's film based on the real civil rights turmoil in the Motor City in 1967 is vibrant, shocking and thought-provoking. It also was the struggle that made one of the city's African-American leaders a hero who went on to represent his city in Congress until just recently, when he resigned over sexual misconduct allegations. The John Conyers character sadly detracts from the impact this story should have. It's still a powerful film, but the timing couldn't be worse. **A-**

"Jeepers Creepers 3" (unrated) Although one of the more creative film creatures of the modern horror age, this film has a couple of unique moments of horror, but doesn't come near its potential. **C-**

"Leatherface" (R) "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre" is an unquestionable legend in horror movie history. Although watching it now promotes more laughter than scares, it is one of the standard bearers for the slasher film. Over the years, its sequels have been far better than the original and even attracted a couple of actors — Matthew McConaughey and Renée Zellweger — who went from their appearance in 1984's "Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Next Generation" to Oscar winners. This origin story contains a couple of B-listers, including Lili Taylor and Stephen Dorff, and helps answer a few questions about the killer's youth. **B-**

"The Lego Ninjago Movie" (PG) There's still a few laughs and a lot of adorable, but this Lego effort doesn't live up to the standard set in its homage to Batman. **C+**

"Stronger" (R) Biopic about Jeff Bauman, who lost both legs above the knee in the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, is touching and heartbreaking but it also clearly reflects Bauman's sense of humor and will to live. Between this and the other high-profile film about the event, 2016's "Patriots Day," one thing is abundantly clear: Bostonians must love the f-word. **B+**

FILM CAPS

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

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

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

"The Disaster Artist" (R) James Franco's shrewd, affectionate and frequently hilarious comedy re-creates and deconstructs the making of Tommy Wiseau's cult landmark "The Room," with Franco giving a fully committed, even haunted performance as Wiseau.

"Downsizing" (R) A stressed Omaha couple choose to take part in a groundbreaking experiment where they're shrunk to 5 inches tall. With Matt Damon, Christoph Waltz, Hong Chau, Kristen Wiig. Written by Alexander Payne & Jim Taylor. Directed by Payne.

"Father Figures" (R) Two brothers set out to find their biological father after discovering everything their mother told them was a lie. With Owen Wilson, Ed Helms, J.K. Simmons, Glenn Close. Written by Justin Malen. Directed by Lawrence Sher.

"Ferdinand" (PG) Animated tale about a large, gentle bull determined to return to his family after being captured. Voices of John Cena, Kate McKinnon, Gina Rodriguez. Inspired by a book by Munro Leaf and Robert Lawson. Directed by Carlos Saldanha.

"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.

"Justice League" (PG-13) Batman and

Wonder Woman recruit a team of superheroes to defend the planet against a new threat. With Ben Affleck, Henry Cavill, Gal Gadot, Raymond Fisher, Jason Momoa, Ezra Miller. Written by Chris Terrio and Joss Whedon; story by Terrio & Zack Snyder, based on characters from DC Entertainment. Superman created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster. Directed by Snyder.

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

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

"Pitch Perfect 3" (PG-13) Graduated from college and struggling to find jobs on their own, the Bellas reunite for a USO tour. With Anna Kendrick, Rebel Wilson, Hailee Steinfeld. Written by Kay Cannon and Mike White; story by Cannon, based on the book by Mickey Rapkin. Directed by Trish Sie.

"Star Wars: The Last Jedi" (PG-13) Rey continues her search for the truth behind the Force in Episode VIII. With Daisy Ridley, Adam Driver, John Boyega, Oscar Isaac, Mark Hamill, Carrie Fisher. Written and directed by Rian Johnson; based on characters created by George Lucas.

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

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

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

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★ DOORWAY TO MAGIC ★

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JAN 4 & 5

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JAN 11

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CLOSE TO HOME



DENNIS THE MENACE



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



WIZARD OF ID



DILBERT



LOCKHORNS



FAMILY CIRCUS



DINING

WEEKENDER PUBLISHES A PORTION OF THE RESTAURANT GUIDE EACH WEEK. ENTREE PRICE RANGE IS BASED ON THE AVERAGE ENTREE PRICE ON THE MENU:
 \$ = \$1-10, \$\$ = \$10-20 AND \$\$\$ = \$20 OR MORE. RESTAURANTS ARE GIVEN A GENERAL RATING BASED ON QUALITY OF FOOD, SERVICE, CLEANLINESS, ATMOSPHERE AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE.
 1 SPOON = POOR, 2 SPOONS = AVERAGE, 3 SPOONS = ABOVE AVERAGE, 4 SPOONS = GOOD AND 5 SPOONS = EXCELLENT.



SUBWAY
TEN LOCATIONS IN MIDLAND



WHICH WICH
100 N. MAIN ST., SUITE 400 (PLUS ONE MORE LOCATION) | 685-1203



POTBELLY SANDWICH SHOP
401 N. LOOP 250 W. | 704-5500

DELI

FIREHOUSE SUBS National chain with tribute to local firefighters. Try the meatball sub or the Italian. Order it "fully involved" if you want all the veggies, mayonnaise, mustard and a pickle slice. 2900 W. Loop 250 N., 689-6500 | firehousesubs.com | \$ | 4 spoons

JASON'S DELI National chain has a salad bar that's hard to beat and a nice selection of sandwiches and soups. Plenty of vegetarian, organic and gluten-free options. 4610 N. Garfield St., Suite D 1-B, 682-2200 | jasonsdeli.com | \$ | 4 spoons

JERSEY MIKE'S SUBS The New Jersey-based sub shop offers freshly sliced meats and special sauces on its made-to-order sandwiches. 4400 N. Midland Drive, 695-9990 | jerseylikes.com | \$ | 4 spoons

JIMMY JOHN'S GOURMET SANDWICHES The chain puts an emphasis on freshness of ingredients in its menu selections, which includes sandwiches, chips and cookies. 3201 N. Midland Road Suite 110, 689-0468 | \$ | 4 spoons

LIVING 360 ORGANICS All organic, non-GMO menu includes juices, smoothies and acai bowls. Soups change daily. Sandwiches,

wraps and a la carte items are available. Try the cold quinoa salad and a cup of soup. 3211 W. Wadley Ave. Suite 21, 262-3411 | living360organics.com | \$ | 4 spoons

McALISTER'S DELI Hot and cold sandwiches, salads and soups. Combo options let you customize your meal and watch your calorie count. Two Midland locations. 2306 Rankin Highway, Suite 100, 687-0880 | 4415 W. Wadley Ave., 694-1800 | mcalistersdeli.com | \$ | 4 spoons

MURRAY'S You're sure to spot someone you know at this Midland lunch hotspot. Try the cheese soup or the turkado with curly fries. 3211 W. Wadley Ave., 697-3433 | \$ | 5 spoons

PANERA BREAD Freshly-baked pastries and cookies paired with one of its coffee drinks makes this a nice dessert spot. Or snag a one of their many types of breads on display. Salads, sandwiches and soups make up the menu for a nice lunch or dinner. 2804 W. Loop 250 N., 689-0933 | panerabread.com | \$\$ | 5 spoons

POTBELLY SANDWICH SHOP With a fairly small menu, the chain sticks to classics

such as ham and cheese, turkey and Swiss and roast beef with provolone. The shop also features a plethora of salads, cookies, shakes and soups. 1401 N. Loop 250 W., 704-5500 | \$ | 3 spoons

SCHLOTZSKY'S Chain serving deli fare, such as its original sandwich, specialty pizzas, soups and salads. Two locations: 5211 W. Wadley Ave., 683-9169 | 1109 Andrews Hwy., 689-2867 | schlotzskys.com | \$ | 4 spoons

SMILING MOOSE DELI Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, this deli serves breakfast burritos, wraps, soups, sandwiches and salads. The namesake sandwich starts with ground beef on a hoagie bun. 3322 North Loop 250 West, 697-3354 | smilingmoosedeli.com | \$ | 4 spoons

SUBWAY The popular sandwich chain has 10 locations in the Tall City. The menu offers standard deli fare such as turkey and roast beef on your choice of bread along with heart-healthy items, all veggie sandwiches, salads and breakfast specialties. 610 N. Big Spring St., 682-4816 | 300 W. Wadley Ave., 682-5541 | 329 Dodson St., 684-0005 | 1220 N. Midkiff Road, 683-8132 | 101 E. Longview Ave., 685-5090

| Westwood Village | 4310 West Illinois Suite 140, 689-3469 | 4324 Andrews Hwy., 520-0770 | 4509 N. Big Spring St., 684-4058 | 4517 Midland Dr., 699-1991, 3201 State Highway 158, 683-8132 | 2109 S. Midkiff Road, 684-4533 | 4400 N. Midkiff Road, 699-2428 | subway.com | \$ | 4 spoons

SWENSEN'S One menu for sandwiches, burgers, patty melts and salads and an entirely separate full menu for ice cream. Try the sourdough cheeseburger. Friendly service and a clean atmosphere. 900 W. Loop 250 N., 570-7271 | swensens.com | \$ | 4 spoons

TASTE@508 Stop by the chic downtown cafe for breakfast, lunch or a coffee break. We recommend the chocolate croissant, Cubano Westie panini and beet and goat cheese salad. 508 W. Wall St., 687-1755 | taste508.com | \$ | 4 spoons

WHICH WICH In addition to custom sandwiches, Which Wich also offers shakes, cookies and ice cream sandwiches. The restaurant has free Wi-Fi, and several silver chairs and tables outside for sunnier days. Two locations: 100 N. Main St. Suite 400 685-1203 | 3415 N. Loop 250 W. #505, 704-5097 | \$ | 4 spoons

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SPORTS

Please see Friday's edition for complete Texas Bowl coverage.

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Thursday, December 28, 2017 | Section C

Astros star Jose Altuve named AP Male Athlete of the Year

By Kristie Rieken
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Jose Altuve led the Houston Astros to their first World Series title with a win over the Los Angeles Dodgers in November and picked up the franchise's first MVP trophy in more than two decades a couple of weeks later.

And as his huge 2017 is coming to a close, the diminutive second baseman already is looking for more.

"Winning the World Series, winning the MVP, you feel like you have everything," Altuve told The Associated Press. "But my perspective is to try and get

better every year and if we win one World Series, why not win another one? Just keep playing for the team and keep playing for my city."

Altuve, who was one of only a handful of players who endured the Astros' painful rebuilding process en route to this year's championship, which gave hope to a city ravaged by Hurricane Harvey, was chosen as The Associated Press Male Athlete of the Year.

Results of voting by U.S. editors and news directors was announced Wednesday. The 5-foot-6 dynamo got 715 points, beating out New England quarterback Tom Brady, who had 646, and third-place finisher

Cleveland Cavaliers star LeBron James, with 626.

On Tuesday, Katie Ledecky was named AP Female Athlete of the Year.

Altuve is a five-time All-Star who led the majors with a career-high .346 batting average and his 204 hits topped the American League. He is the first player in MLB history to lead his league in hits in four straight seasons. He tied a career-best with 24 homers and had 81 RBIs. He was second in the AL by scoring 112 runs, his on-base percentage of .410 ranked third, he was third with 32 steals and his .547 slugging percentage ranked sixth.

Please see ALTUVE/2C



Mark J. Terrill/AP File Photo

Houston Astros' Jose Altuve hits a home run against the Los Angeles Dodgers during the 10th inning of Game 2 of baseball's World Series Oct. 25 in Los Angeles.

Holiday hoopin'



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Lee's Zhuric Phelps takes the ball down the court against Lubbock Coronado Nov. 28, at Lee High School.



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Midland High's Taysha Rushton (14) dribbles against El Paso El Dorado's Akili Alexander (15) in the Tall City Oilman's Invitational Tournament on Dec. 8 at Lee High School.

The 25th annual Byron Johnston Classic begins today

By Will Korn and
Christopher Hadorn
wkorn@mrt.com
chadorn@mrt.com

Since 1993, the final days of December have signaled a special time for basketball in the Tall City, as the Byron Johnston Holiday Classic takes center stage.

The tournament, now in its 25th year of existence, is set to run today through Saturday and welcomes eight boys and girls teams from around the state. In typical tournament fashion, games will be played in pool format at Chaparral Center and Midland High, with a lone 7:30 p.m. Friday contest at Lee.

Representing the boys field are host and defending BJHC champion Midland High (6-8), crosstown rival Lee (6-10) and Class 6A foes Houston Spring Woods (7-8), El Paso Pebble Hills (9-4), Belton (9-7), Odessa High (11-3) and San Angelo Central (2-8). Plainview (9-7) is the boys field's lone Class 5A team.

MHS head coach Shan Hooker said he's thrilled to be a part of one of the most competitive tournament fields in recent memory.

"I think it is a good draw and a good tournament that (tournament committee member) Blake (Johnston) has put together," Hooker said. "He wanted some different types of teams and styles that we don't ordinarily get to see. It's exciting to be able to play some of those teams, especially some teams well known for their athletes, such as Belton and Spring Woods. It's a good tournament. I don't think there are any cupcakes and I'm looking forward to it."

Johnston, an MHS grad who played on the Bulldogs' 1998 state championship team and at the University of Oklahoma from 2000-03, said he and the committee made it a priority this year to include a more geographically diverse field.

The tournament will feature teams from central Texas (Belton boys and Lake Travis girls), from southeast Texas (Houston Spring Woods boys) as well as contingent of squads from El Paso and the panhandle.

"That was a big focus following last year's tournament," Johnston said. "We enjoyed the tournament last year but we had a shared vision of bringing more teams from around the state back in. (Spring Woods attending) is a great testament to what we're trying to do every year."

Of the eight boys teams, five are returning from last year's tournament, with Pebble Hills, Belton and Spring

Woods being the newcomers. Plainview, under longtime head coach Leon Hagerman, fell to MHS, 66-61 in last year's championship game and expects to be in the conversation for this year's title.

In the girls field, the host Lady Bulldogs (13-8) will be joined by fellow Tall City teams Lee (9-9) and Midland Classical (8-5), both 2016 tournament participants. The Lady Rebels are the defending tournament champions.

In addition, Austin Lake Travis (8-11), Plainview (12-8) and Bushland (10-4) are also back for another year, as six of the eight participating teams were 2016 competitors. The two newest teams are El Paso Pebble Hills and El Paso Jefferson.

Pebble Hills, which opened in 2015, is an up-and-coming girls basketball program that has established itself in District 1-6A, the competing district that MHS and Lee will face in the bi-district round of the playoffs if the two Tall City teams are able to secure postseason berths.

"I really like having two El Paso teams," said MHS girls head coach Wes Torres. "I like that brand of basketball that they play in El Paso and us getting to see it year in, year out in our own tournament I think is a posi-

Please see JOHNSTON/4C

Heisman finalist Love to lead Stanford against TCU

By Jim Vertuno
Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Another season, another Stanford player as a Heisman Trophy finalist. With Cardinal players making the trip to New York five times since 2009, it's become as predictable as anything in college football.

Running back Bryce Love is the latest. But unlike his predecessor Christian McCaffrey, Love will be joining his teammates for what could be his last bowl game.

McCaffrey, a Heisman finalist in 2015, bolted for the NFL after his junior season in 2016, opting to skip his bowl game to prepare for the NFL draft. Love, a junior, will lead the Cardinal (9-4) into Thursday night's Alamo Bowl (10-3) against TCU.

Love hasn't decided yet if he will return to Stanford for his senior season, Cardinal coach David Shaw said Wednesday.

"He's just thought about the bowl game. After the bowl game I'm sure he'll talk to his family ... He's just excited to go and play," Shaw said.

Even with 1,973 yards and 17 touchdowns — he needs just 57 against TCU to break McCaffrey's school record set in 2015 — Love's season still has a flavor of what might have been. Love has been dogged by a sprained ankle since midseason.

He still piled up huge numbers and ended the season with four consecutive 100-yard games, somehow running for 125 yards despite being barely able to walk in a loss to USC in the Pac-12 title game. The Doak Walker Award winner averaged a stunning 8.3 yards this season.

Love has said this week his ankle feels "amazing" and the "best it's felt in a while."

"I'm really excited about that," TCU coach Gary Patterson said with a tinge of sarcasm. "Four weeks of rest. A healthy Bryce

Love."

Pity TCU. For the second consecutive game, the Horned Frogs faces a Heisman finalist. Oklahoma quarterback Baker Mayfield — the Heisman winner — shredded TCU in the Big 12 title game, and now they get to face the best running back in the country.

TCU had arguably the top defense in the Big 12, but Love brings something special behind a punishing offensive line, Horned Frogs linebacker Ty Summers said.

"To be able to run for almost 2,000 yards like he did, it just shows he's got grit," Summers said. "I mean, his skill, he's shifty, really elusive. You can't go in there and break him down. He'll make you miss."

Alamo Bowl, San Antonio
Stanford (9-4) vs. TCU (10-3), 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Please see ALAMO/3C



Eric Gay/Associated Press

TCU head coach Gary Patterson, left, and Stanford head coach David Shaw, right, pose for photos following a news conference for the Alamo Bowl NCAA football game Wednesday in San Antonio.

DAILY RUNDOWN

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

COLLEGE FOOTBALL
Military Bowl: Virginia vs. Navy, 12:30 p.m., ESPN
Camping World Bowl: Virginia Tech vs. Oklahoma State, 4:15 p.m., ESPN
Alamo Bowl: Stanford vs. TCU, 8 p.m., ESPN
Holiday Bowl: Washington State vs. Michigan State, 8 p.m., FS1, FXDEP

HOCKEY
IIHF World Junior Championships
Finland vs. Denmark, 11 a.m., NHL
Sweden vs. Czech Republic, 3 p.m., NHL
USA vs. Slovakia, 7 p.m., NHL

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
ECU at Tulsa, 4 p.m., ESPN

Creighton at Seton Hall, 5:30 p.m., FS1

Tulane at Temple, 6 p.m., ESPN2

Houston at USF, 6 p.m., ESPN2

Providence at St. John's, 6 p.m., FSN (FSW+)

Tennessee State at UT Martin, 6 p.m., CBSN

Louisiana Tech at Western Kentucky, 7 p.m., beIN

Pacific at Gonzaga, 8 p.m., ESPN2

Portland at BYU, 8 p.m., BYUtv

LSU at Memphis, 8 p.m.,

CBSN
Pepperdine at Santa Clara, 9 p.m., go90

MEN'S SOCCER
PL: Crystal Palace vs. Arsenal, 2 p.m., NBCSN

NBA
Houston at Boston, 7 p.m., TNT

New York at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m., FSNW

Philadelphia at Portland, 9:30 p.m., TNT

NHL
Boston at Washington, 6:30 p.m., NBCSN

Vegas at Los Angeles, 9 p.m., NBCSN

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Penn State at Michigan, 5 p.m., BTN

Ohio State at Nebraska, 7 p.m., BTN

Texas at Oklahoma, 7 p.m., FSNW, FCS

St. John's at Marquette, 7:30 p.m., FS1

RADIO
College Football
Alamo Bowl: Stanford vs. TCU, 8 p.m., KXCS 105.5 FM (Big Spring)

Holiday Bowl: Washington State vs. Michigan State, 8 p.m., KMND 95.5 FM/1510 AM

NBA
New York at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m., KBYG 106.1 FM/1400 AM (Big Spring)

WHAT'S ON DECK

HS Boys Basketball

MHS, Lee at Byron Johnston Holiday Classic
MCS, MCA, Big Spring at Monahan Tournament
Greenwood at Brownwood Tournament
Andrews at Littlefield Tournament
Stanton, Coahoma and Garden City at Mary Tatum Tournament in Big Lake

HS Girls Basketball

MHS, Lee and MCA at Byron Johnston Holiday Classic
MCS at Wellman-Union Tournament
Greenwood at Caprock Tournament, Lubbock
Andrews at Littlefield Tournament
Big Spring at Albany Tournament
Coahoma at Sterling City Tournament
Stanton at Garden City 2p.m.

JC Mens Basketball

Midland College at Phoenix College 8 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
SIOUX FALLS CANADIANS — Signed INF
Troy White

Can-Am League
QUEBEC CAPITALES — Released INF
Jordan Linneman and Dalton Fuchino

FOOTBALL

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
ARIZONA CARDINALS — Signed CB
Jonathan Mingo to the practice squad

BUFFALO BILLS — Signed DT Josh Jones to the practice squad

CHICAGO BEARS — Signed DT DJ Tavares to the practice squad

DETROIT LIONS — Signed QB Alex Truitt to the practice squad

GREEN BAY PACKERS — Signed LB Zach Tomer to the practice squad

HOUSTON TEXANS — Placed C Covey Moore on injured reserve. Released G Dorian Johnson from the practice squad

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Placed CB Rossman Merion on injured reserve. Signed CB Brian Kelley to the practice squad and DT Jonathan Calton to the practice squad

NEW YORK GIANTS — Signed CB DT Apple one game for contract determined to the team. Placed LB B.J. Goodson on injured reserve. Signed WR Marques Bundy from the practice squad and WR Carson Stearns and DL Kristian Solari to the practice squad

NEW YORK JETS — Placed G Brian Winters on injured reserve. Signed DL Dean Simon from

the practice squad and DL Francis Kalton to the practice squad

WASHINGTON REDSKINS — Waived RB Kerry Hillard. Signed TE Marwan Garner from the practice squad. Signed QB Josh Johnson

Signed G Eric Austin to the practice squad

HOCKEY

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE
NHL — Suspended Andrew C. Ziegler for six games for punching Colorado D Samuel Girard during first game on Dec. 23

ALABAMA CRYSTALS — Recalled G Sean Maguire from Fort Wayne (ECHL) to Tucson (AHL)

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS — Placed G Covey Moore on injured reserve. Recalled T David Kampf and G Jeff Glass from Rockford (AHL)

LOS ANGELES KINGS — Recalled D Kevin Gravel from Ontario (AHL)

ST. LOUIS BLUES — Signed president of hockey operations and general manager Doug Armstrong to a two-year contract extension

OLYMPIC SPORTS

USA — Announced American track and field jumper Vlas Poff accepted a four-year contract for anti-doping role within

SOCCER

Major League Soccer
LA Galaxy at L.A. — Tied the rights to F. Jose Villarreal in Orlando City for a 2019 third-round draft pick

ILLINOIS — First offensive coordinator Garret McGee and defensive backs coach Paul Williams

NFL GLANCE

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East
W L T Pct PF PA

New England 12 3 0 0.80 430 290

Buffalo 8 7 0 0.53 280 343

Miami 6 9 0 0.40 265 371

N.Y. Jets 5 10 0 0.33 292 356

South
W L T Pct PF PA

Jacksonville 10 5 0 0.67 407 253

Tennessee 6 7 0 0.53 315 346

Houston 4 11 0 0.26 325 414

Indianapolis 3 12 0 0.20 241 391

North
W L T Pct PF PA

Pittsburgh 12 3 0 0.80 378 284

Baltimore 9 6 0 0.60 368 272

Cincinnati 9 9 0 0.50 328 322

Cleveland 0 15 0 0.00 210 380

West
W L T Pct PF PA

Kansas City 9 6 0 0.60 388 315

L.A. Chargers 8 7 0 0.53 325 282

Detroit 6 9 0 0.40 291 343

Cowboys 5 10 0 0.33 265 355

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East
W L T Pct PF PA

Philadelphia 11 2 0 0.85 457 289

Dallas 8 7 0 0.53 348 332

Washington 7 9 0 0.44 312 370

N.Y. Giants 2 13 0 0.13 228 378

South
W L T Pct PF PA

New Orleans 11 4 0 0.73 424 290

NHL GLANCE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division
GP W L OT Pts GF GA

Tampa Bay 36 23 10 3 49 119 100

Boston 36 20 10 6 46 106 80

Toronto 37 22 14 1 45 122 104

Montreal 36 19 16 1 39 117 117

Florida 36 18 16 2 38 102 116

Detroit 36 13 18 5 31 116 119

Ottawa 36 11 18 7 30 119 119

Buffalo 37 9 20 8 36 103 123

Metropolitan Division
GP W L OT Pts GF GA

New Jersey 36 22 9 5 49 118 104

Washington 36 22 13 1 47 114 108

Columbus 36 22 13 1 47 109 104

N.Y. Rangers 37 20 15 2 44 118 106

N.Y. Islanders 37 20 15 2 44 129 129

Carolina 36 17 12 7 41 102 110

Pittsburgh 36 16 16 4 36 102 102

Philadelphia 36 15 15 6 36 100 100

Western Conference
Central Division
GP W L OT Pts GF GA

Nashville 36 22 9 5 49 118 100

Winnipeg 36 21 11 4 46 125 105

St. Louis 36 20 14 2 42 114 98

Dallas 36 20 15 1 41 112 110

Chicago 37 19 15 3 41 108 108

Columbus 36 17 15 4 37 113 116

Pacific Division
GP W L OT Pts GF GA

San Jose 36 22 9 5 49 118 100

Vancouver 36 21 11 4 46 125 105

St. Louis 36 20 14 2 42 114 98

Dallas 36 20 15 1 41 112 110

Chicago 37 19 15 3 41 108 108

Columbus 36 17 15 4 37 113 116

Pacific Division
GP W L OT Pts GF GA

San Jose 36 22 9 5 49 118 100

Vancouver 36 21 11 4 46 125 105

St. Louis 36 20 14 2 42 114 98

Dallas 36 20 15 1 41 112 110

Chicago 37 19 15 3 41 108 108

Columbus 36 17 15 4 37 113 116

Pacific Division
GP W L OT Pts GF GA

San Jose 36 22 9 5 49 118 100

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Columbus 36 17 15 4 37 113 116

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Pacific Division
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Elizabeth Conley / Houston Chronicle

Texas Longhorns wide receiver John Burt (1) celebrates his touchdown catch with his teammates during the Academy Sports + Outdoors Texas Bowl against Missouri at NRG Stadium on Wednesday, in Houston. Texas was leading 26-16 in the fourth quarter at press time Wednesday. See coverage of this game in Friday's paper.

Clash of styles: Oklahoma State, Virginia Tech to square off

By Tim Reynolds
Associated Press

Mike Gundy and Justin Fuente have plenty in common. They were both born in Oklahoma. Both were recruited by Oklahoma State. And both had virtually the same assessment of what awaits them in the Camping World Bowl.

"An interesting challenge," Gundy said.

"A tremendous challenge," Fuente said.

Both coaches are right. Gundy and high-octane Oklahoma State (9-3) will face off with Fuente and airtight Virginia Tech (9-3) on Thursday in a bowl matchup that will be an ultimate clash of styles — one of the best offenses in America versus one of the best defenses. The Cowboys score an average of 46.3 points per game; the Hokies give up an average of 13.5.

"This could very well be the best defense that we've competed against," Gundy said of Virginia Tech. "You know, there's different ways to make that opinion. Sometimes you do it on athleticism. Sometimes you do it on scheme. But when you look at what they've accomplished with the group that they have in the end, it comes down to, 'Do you keep them from scoring or not?'"

And with the Hokies, the answer to that is usually yes.

The overwhelming majority of FBS teams this season posted no shutouts, Virginia Tech led the nation with three. The Hokies have given up 162 points in 2017, which is 37 fewer than the Cowboys scored in November alone.

But when Fuente looks at Oklahoma State on film,



Brody Schmidt/Associated Press

Oklahoma State quarterback Mason Rudolph looks to the sidelines during a game between Kansas and Oklahoma State on Nov. 25 in Stillwater, Okla.

he doesn't see a whole lot of weakness.

"The thing that stands out about Oklahoma State, I think, are their skill players," Fuente said. "You look at wide receivers, running backs, a big NFL quarterback, push the tempo and, you know, scored points in bunches. That's not to say that they aren't good in the other phases of the game. They are. They're very sound and well prepared and have done a fantastic job."

Here's some of what to know going into the Camping World Bowl:

SCORING POKES: Oklahoma State is the first Big 12 team to have a 4,000-yard passer (Mason Rudolph), a 1,000-yard rusher (Justice Hill) and two 1,000-yard receivers (James Washington and Marcell Ateman). Washington is this season's

Biletnikoff Award winner as the nation's top receiver, with 69 catches for 1,423 receiving yards and 12 touchdowns this season. He leads the nation with 17 catches for 30 yards or more, and he needs 68 yards for the school career receiving yards mark.

DEFENSIVE LEADERS: Virginia Tech is fifth in points allowed per game this season, along with second in third-down conversion defense and third in red zone defense. It also helps that the Hokies aren't penalty-prone (4.6 per game as a team for 40 yards) and control the ball (averaging 32 minutes per game on offense). And no one runs it up on the Hokies; they allowed 31 points only once this season, while Oklahoma State scored at least 31 in 11 of its 12 games.

AT STAKE: Both teams are chasing a 10-win

season, which would be a school-record third straight for Oklahoma State and the second straight for Virginia Tech — which is also bidding to a bowl game for the fourth consecutive year. Hokies quarterback Josh Jackson could become the first freshman in Blacksburg to win 10 games as a starter since Michael Vick did in 1999.

COMMON OPPONENTS: The teams have two common opponents this season, both going 2-0 against West Virginia and Pitt. Virginia Tech won those two games by a combined 13 points; Oklahoma State won by a combined 49 points.

UNCOMMON OPPONENTS: This is only the third time the programs have faced off. The Hokies and Cowboys split two games in 1971 and 1972, both winning at home.

Virginia, Navy compete for winning season in Military Bowl

By David Ginsburg
Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Virginia has already accomplished plenty this season, tripling its win total from a year ago and reaching a bowl game for the first time since 2011.

That's not quite enough for second-year coach Bronco Mendenhall, who won't be satisfied unless the Cavaliers defeat Navy on Thursday in the Military Bowl.

"It's one thing to qualify," Mendenhall said. "It's a whole different thing to perform well and win the game." Virginia (6-6) hasn't won a postseason game since defeating Minnesota in the Music City Bowl under Al Groh in 2005. The Cavaliers are also seeking their first winning season in six years.

"The postseason was something we were shooting for," Mendenhall said. "Now we're looking to get our seventh win."

A victory over the Midshipmen at the illustrious Naval Academy could mark the beginning of something special for a program that owned a collective 17-43 record from 2012-16.

"In this type of game, in this type of setting with this type of an opponent, it's a foundational piece for us moving forward," Mendenhall said.

Navy (6-6) will be making its 14th bowl appearance over the last 15

years. But it's been an up and down season for the Midshipmen, who have lost six of seven following a 5-0 start and are coming off a disheartening 14-13 loss to Army.

Navy desperately wants to avoid being saddled with a losing record for the first time since 2011. Playing at home should help.

"From a preparation standpoint, you can't beat this," coach Ken Niumatalolo said. "You've got everything like you would in a normal game."

Some things to know about the 10th Military Bowl:

Familiar foes

This will be the 40th meeting between the two schools, but the first since 1994. Though Navy leads the series 28-11, the Cavaliers have won five straight.

A common thread in the rivalry is coach George Welsh, who guided Navy from 1973-81 before spending 19 years at Virginia and becoming the school's all-time leader in wins. Welsh won 55 games at Navy, second on the career list behind Niumatalolo.

Welsh, a 1956 Navy graduate, went 4-1 against Virginia with the Midshipmen and 7-3 against Navy while on the Virginia sideline.

Stand your ground

Virginia's task on defense will be to stop Navy's triple option, the driving force behind the nation's second-ranked rushing attack at 343 yards per game.

The Cavaliers surrendered 36 points in November to Georgia Tech, which also runs the option. To stop the three-pronged attack, each player must adhere to his assignment.

"You've got to trust the people around you to do their job," Virginia linebacker Jordan Mack said. "You can't try to do too much."

Sophomore Malcolm Perry, who ran for 250 yards and a touchdown against Army, will start at quarterback for Navy.

Air Benkert

Cavaliers quarterback Kurt Benkert has thrown for 25 touchdowns and a school-record 3,062 yards, including a four-TD, 384-yard performance against Miami.

The 6-foot-4 senior needs three touchdowns passes Thursday to tie Matt Schaub for the most in UVA history (28).

Olamide Zaccheaus leads Virginia with 80 catches for 833 yards and five touchdowns. Dont Dowling has 48 receptions for 632 yards and five scores.



Gerald Herbert/Associated Press

Florida State quarterback James Blackman, left, and defensive back Nate Andrews, hold their offensive and defensive players of the game trophy after defeating Southern Mississippi in the Independence Bowl in Shreveport, La. on Wednesday.

COLLEGE BOWL ROUNDUP

PINSTRIPES BOWL
IOWA 27
BOSTON COLLEGE 20
NEW YORK — Drake Kulick fought for a 1-yard touchdown run late in the fourth quarter on his only carry of the game and Iowa beat Boston College 27-20 in the frigid Pinstripes Bowl on Wednesday night at Yankee Stadium to snap a five-game bowl losing streak.

The Hawkeyes (8-5) had been the only team in the nation to lose a bowl game in each of the last four seasons. Iowa had last won a bowl game in 2010 and started the losing streak the next season.

The Hawkeyes used their first sack of the game late in the fourth to spark the winning drive. Iowa defensive end Anthony Nelson hit Darius Wade, and Parker Hesse recovered a fumble at the BC 45.

Nate Stanley's pass to Nate Wieting on a rollout was ruled a touchdown until a review showed the tight end was down at the 1. No worries. Kulick got the call over 1,000-yard rusher Akrum Wadley and barged through for the go-ahead score. The smattering of Iowa fans went wild and Josh Jackson gave them reason to stay on their feet when he sealed the win with an interception.

Boston College (7-6) had nothing on its final drive and that ended an otherwise miserable day at Yankee Stadium.

The Yankees' postseason games in October seemed downright balmy compared to the kickoff temperature of 23 degrees and a wind chill that made it feel like 12 degrees.

INDEPENDENCE BOWL
FLORIDA STATE 42
SOUTHERN MISS 13

SHREVEPORT, La. — James Blackman threw three of his Independence Bowl-record four touchdown passes to Auden Tate and Florida State beat Southern Mississippi. Florida State (7-6) avoided its first losing season since 1976.

Southern Miss took a 6-0 lead in the first quarter after a 63-yard touchdown drive that was aided by two 15-yard Florida State penalties, one for unsportsmanlike conduct and the other for roughing the kicker. Blackman matched an Independence Bowl record with three touchdown passes in the first half to help Florida State take a 23-6 lead.

The Seminoles pushed the advantage to 33-6 late in the third quarter. Cam Akers led Florida State with 94 yards rushing, and Jacques Patrick added 61 yards. Blackman completed 18 of 26 passes for 233 yards.

Southern Miss (8-5) was led by Ito Smith, who ran for 92 yards. Kwadwa Griggs completed 13 of 25 passes for just 86 yards and a touchdown.

COLLEGE BOWL GLANCE

Wednesday's Scores Independence Bowl Shreveport, La. Florida State 42, Southern Mississippi 13 Pinstripes Bowl New York, N.Y. Iowa 27, Boston College 20 Foster Farms Bowl Santa Clara, Calif. Arizona 17-41 vs. Purdue 16-41, late Texas Bowl Houston Texas 19-41 vs. Missouri 7-5, late Turkey's Games Military Bowl Annapolis, Md. Virginia 19-41 vs. Navy 16-41, 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)	Thursday's Scores Liberty Bowl Memphis, Tenn. Iowa State 17-5 vs. Memphis 10-21, 11:30 a.m. (ABC) Florida Bowl Orlando, Fla. Washington 10-21 vs. Penn State 10-21, 3 p.m. (ESPN) Orange Bowl Miami Gardens, Fla. Washington 12-11 vs. Miami 10-21, 7 p.m. (ESPN) Monday, Jan. 1 Outback Bowl Tampa, Fla. Michigan 18-41 vs. South Carolina 18-41, 11 a.m. (ESPN2) Peach Bowl Atlanta UCF 12-41 vs. Auburn 10-31, 11:30 a.m. (ESPN) Citrus Bowl Orlando, Fla. Notre Dame 19-31 vs. LSU 19-31, noon (ABC) Razor Bowl (ESPN2) Pasadena, Calif. Oklahoma 12-11 vs. Georgia 12-11, 4:10 p.m. (ESPN) Sugar Bowl (ESPN2) New Orleans Clemson 12-11 vs. Alabama 11-11, 7:45 p.m. (ESPN)
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ALAMO

From 1C

Cardinal QB

The Stanford offense revolves around Love. But if his ankle gives him problems again, that puts more pressure on the arm of redshirt freshman quarterback K.J. Costello. He's a move-the-chains QB who wasn't called on to put up big numbers in a grinding offense. He averaged 174 yards passing with seven touchdowns and two interceptions over the last five games as Love was battling the ankle problem.

Long run Love

If the ankle is in good shape, Love's big-play ability is unmatched. Love had 12 runs of 50 yards or more, and 11 of them went for touchdowns.

Swan song for "Trill"

TCU quarterback Kenny Hill started his career at Texas A&M where a quick start earned him the nickname "Trill." The fun with the Aggies didn't last, however, and he transferred to TCU, where he's been the starter the last two seasons without the nickname. Hill passed for 21

touchdowns and threw six interceptions this season. His final game is his last chance for the same sort of fireworks and highlights his career started with.

Speedy Turpin

The Horned Frogs' most dangerous player might be do-it-all KaVontae Turpin. He's a do-it-all KaVontae Turpin. He's got the ball. Turpin has exceptional speed and his 38 catches rank second on the team. He also has 15 punt returns with one for a touchdown. Get Turpin in space and he can get to the end zone in a hurry.

"A very explosive player," Stanford safety Justin Reid said. "They just try to find unique ways to get him the ball so he can do what he does and try and create yards ... Going against him will be fun."

Eyes on the NFL

Stanford defensive tackle Harrison Phillips, the Cardinal's leading tackler, hinted strongly he'll be leaving the program for the NFL after the bowl, and could make a big statement for scouts with a big game. Phillips has 100 tackles, and also leads the defense in sacks (7 1/2) and tackles for loss (17).

COLLEGE BASKETBALL GLANCE

Men's

SOUTHWEST
Arkansas 95, CS Sacramento 68
SOUTH
Georgia Tech 76, Oregon St. 62
South Carolina 74, Louisiana 45
PAC WEST
New Mexico 87, Air Force 58
Utah St. 86, San Jose St. 72
Wyoming 62, San Diego St. 59
NEWEST
Villanova 105, DePaul 85
Xavier 91, Marquette 87
EAST
Butler 91, Georgetown 80, 2OT
Purdue 105, Delaware St. 82
Pittsburgh 85, Florida Gulf Coast 60
Syracuse 62, E. Michigan 47

Top 25 Fared

1. Villanova (13-0) beat DePaul 105-85, Sat.
2. Michigan State (12-1) did not play Sat. vs. Cleveland State, Friday.
3. Arizona State (12-0) did not play Sat. at No. 17 Arizona, Saturday.
4. Duke (12-1) did not play Sat. vs. No. 24 Florida State, Saturday.
5. Texas A&M (11-1) did not play Sat. at Indiana, Saturday.
6. Xavier (13-1) beat Marquette 91-87, Sat. vs. DePaul, Saturday.
7. West Virginia (11-1) did not play Sat. at Oklahoma State, Friday.
8. Wichita State (10-2) did not play Sat. vs. UConn, Saturday.
9. Virginia (11-1) did not play Sat. vs. Boston

College, Saturday.
10. TCU (12-0) did not play Sat. vs. No. 12 Oklahoma, Saturday.
11. Kansas (10-2) did not play Sat. at Texas, Friday.
12. Oklahoma (10-1) did not play Sat. at No. 10 TCU, Saturday.
13. North Carolina (11-2) did not play Sat. vs. Wake Forest, Saturday.
14. Purdue (10-2) did not play Sat. vs. Loyola, Saturday.
15. Miami (11-1) did not play Sat. at Pittsburgh, Saturday.
16. Kentucky (9-2) did not play Sat. vs. Louisville, Friday.
17. Arizona (10-0) did not play Sat. vs. No. 3 Arizona State, Saturday.
18. Baylor (10-2) did not play Sat. at No. 22 Texas Tech, Friday.
19. Tennessee (9-2) did not play Sat. at Arkansas, Saturday.
20. Gonzaga (10-0) did not play Sat. vs. Pacific, Thursday.
21. Cincinnati (11-3) did not play Sat. vs. Memphis, Sunday.
22. Texas Tech (11-1) did not play Sat. vs. No. 18 Baylor, Friday.
23. Seton Hall (11-2) did not play Sat. vs. No. 25 Creighton, Thursday.
24. Florida State (11-1) did not play Sat. at No. 4 Duke, Saturday.
25. Creighton (10-2) did not play Sat. at No. 23 Seton Hall, Thursday.

Women's

SOUTH
Florida St. 85, Delaware St. 51
LSU 71, Sam Houston St. 58

NBA GLANCE

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	28	10	.737	—
Toronto	23	16	.589	2 1/2
New York	17	17	.500	9
Philadelphia	15	19	.438	10 1/2
Brooklyn	12	22	.353	14
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	19	16	.543	—
Miami	18	16	.529	1/2
Charlotte	12	20	.368	6 1/2
Orlando	11	24	.314	8
Atlanta	9	25	.265	9 1/2
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	24	10	.706	—
Denver	19	14	.576	4 1/2
Indiana	19	16	.543	5 1/2
Memphis	17	15	.531	6
Chicago	12	22	.353	12
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	25	7	.781	—
San Antonio	24	11	.686	2 1/2
New Orleans	18	16	.529	8
Dallas	11	23	.326	16
Memphis	10	24	.294	16
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB

PACIFIC DIVISION				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	27	7	.794	—
L.A. Clippers	14	19	.424	12 1/2
Phoenix	13	20	.397	15
L.A. Lakers	11	21	.344	16
Sacramento	11	22	.333	16 1/2
TODAY'S GAMES				
Boston 100, Charlotte 91				
Dallas 96, Indiana 94				
Atlanta 113, Washington 99				
Chicago 92, New York 87				
Minnesota 128, Denver 125, OT				
New Orleans 128, Brooklyn 113				
Oklahoma City 124, Toronto 107				
Cleveland at Sacramento, late				
Memphis at L.A. Lakers, late				
Utah at Golden State, late				
Detroit at Orlando, 8 p.m.				
Houston at Boston, 7 p.m.				
Minnesota at Milwaukee, 7 p.m.				
New York at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m.				
Philadelphia at Portland, 9:30 p.m.				

JOHNSTON

From 1C

Like I said, if we're fortunate enough to get in the playoffs, that's going to be a first-round opponent. It's nice to see that brand of ball they play out there."

Despite its Class 4A status, No. 8-ranked Bushland (10-4) is expected to be a top contender for the girls' tournament title. The Lady Falcons are spearheaded by senior point guard Jalee Sims.

"They're one of the strongest teams in the tournament," Torres said. "They've knocked off some really good talent up in the Panhandle and played some of the upper classification schools tough. They'll definitely be one of the frontrunners I think in our tournament."

Plainview, a long-time fixture of the BJHC, is typically one of the tournament's top performers and was the event's runner-up in 2016.

Hooker said he hopes this year's BJHC continues to highlight basketball in the Permian Basin and begins to attract some of the top programs in the state and nation.

"Anything that will help basketball (grow) here in Midland and in the Permian Basin, we're all for it and we're going to support it. It's important to the Midland community."

Follow Will on Twitter @Will_MRT

Follow Chris on Twitter @chris_MRTsports

Byron Johnston Holiday Classic

Participating Teams

Boys

Midland High

Record: 5-8

Coach: Brian Hooker

Notes: The Bulldogs are the defending champions of their local tournament and enter play on a two-game winning streak.

Record: 6-10

Coach: Justin Brown

Notes: The Rebels have the bulk of a much improved squad and enter BJHC play on a two-game winning streak.

Record: 7-8

Coach: Joe Gibson

Notes: The Tigers are representing and Texas first rounder and are looking to make a statement by producing 7 Area 4A County Award Winner and Texas Longhorn great, Roger Clemens.

Record: 3-4

Coach: Arthur Exelster

Notes: The Spartans are returning to the BJHC and will provide a potential playoff preview to the BJHC teams out of District 1-6A.

Record: 3-7

Coach: Tronice Jackson

Notes: Central Texas representative in the BJHC, the Tigers opened the year on a six-game winning streak. Baton is coached by Tronice Jackson, who is from Midland.

Record: 9-7

Coach: Lari Pagan

Notes: In a "Battle of the Bulldogs," Class 5A Permian beat MHS, 65-61 in last year's BJHC championship game.

Record: 11-9

Coach: James Morris

Notes: The District 3-6A Bulldogs have outscored their opposition by an average of 10.1 points per game (winning) their last 14 contests this year.

Record: 2-6

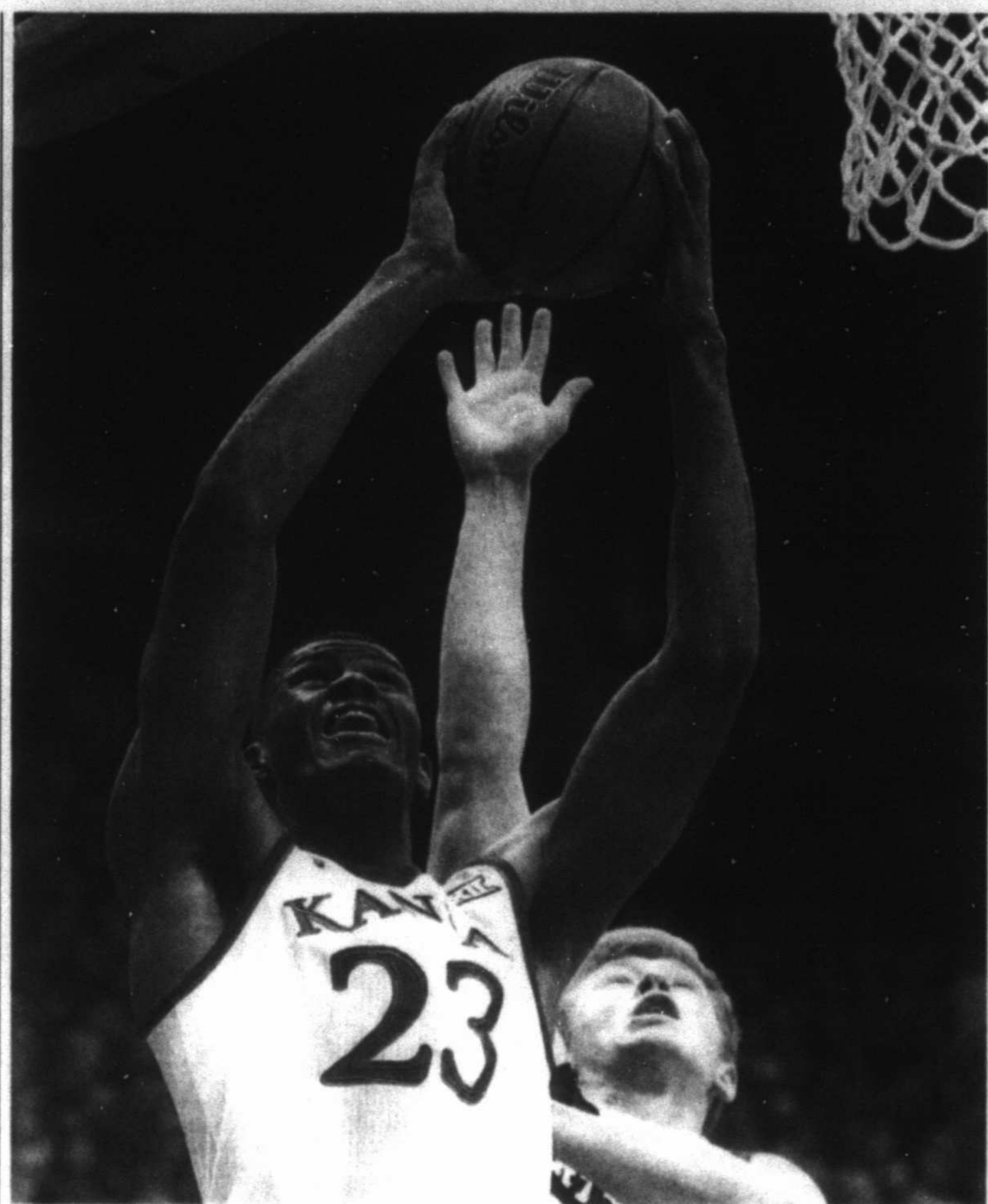
Coach: Dustin Wright

Notes: The Bulldogs are led by talented forward Daniel Taylor, one of the top players in the tournament.

Record: 1-1

Coach: [Name]

Notes: [Notes]



Charlie Riedel/AP File Photo

Kansas' Billy Preston (23) getting past Fort Hays State's Jared Vitrum for a shot during the first half on Nov. 7 in Lawrence, Kan.

Jayhawks favored, Sooners giving chase as Big 12 play tips

By Dave Skretta
Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. — When the Big 12 coaches made their annual preseason pilgrimage to Kansas City a few months ago, every one of them except Kansas coach Bill Self predicted the Jayhawks would win another conference title.

And that was only because Self couldn't vote for his own team. Yet things have changed over the course of the nonconference season, and what looked like a certainty that the Jayhawks would win an unprecedented 14th straight Big 12 title is suddenly up in the air.

West Virginia has lived up to expectations. Oklahoma is on the rise behind the Pete Maravich-like scoring of Trae Young, the sensational freshman that picked his hometown school over the Jayhawks. TCU is unbeaten, Baylor and Texas Tech are firmly ensconced in the Top 25. Kansas State took unbeaten Arizona State to the wire, and Texas, Oklahoma State and Iowa State have been hot lately.

In fact, every Big 12 team is rolling into the league's opening games Friday night.

"We feel good about where we're at, and yet we know we've got to keep working at it," said Sooners coach Lon Kruger, whose team puts its eight-game win streak on the line against TCU on Saturday.

"A lot of good teams in the Big 12 and we know how tough every night is going to be."

The fact that the gap has narrowed between Kansas and its rivals has every bit as much to do with the Jay-

hawks, though. They raised eyebrows with an early win over Kentucky in the Champions Classic, but also stubbed their toes in back-to-back losses to Washington and Arizona State that revealed many warts.

Their reliance on outside shooting. Their ability to get to the foul line. Their perilous lack of depth, which has been somewhat alleviated now that Sun Devils transfer Sam Cunliffe is eligible and five-star prospect Silvio De Sousa has arrived on campus for the second semester.

If they can get their other five-star recruit, Billy Preston, on the court after spending the entire fall investigating an off-the-court financial issue, the Jayhawks could still be the team to beat.

"We've played consistently well this year except for back-to-back games, a four-day stretch where we weren't very good," Self said, taking a rare optimistic outlook on his team heading into conference play. "Other than that, we played consistently well."

As the league schedule begins, here are some of the keys to watch:

ROUND ROBIN: Horned Frogs coach Jamie Dixon said the biggest adjustment he had to make after taking over last season was the difference in a nine-team league compared to the Big East and ACC, where he had spent most of his career. "Just playing everybody twice, smaller league with nine teams, there was more familiarity," he said. "You know you're going to play them again home and home."

TRAE-MENDOUS: Young is the early favorite for Player of the Year — never mind Freshman of the Year — as the Sooners' star heads

into league play averaging 28.7 and 10.4 assists in just 30.8 minutes. "When you're winning, that's the main thing," Young said. "You can just tell that this is the best time to be a Sooner. When you're winning it's fun, so we're going to try to continue doing that."

MORE FABULOUS FRESHMEN: Texas big man Mohamad Bamba is considered a lottery pick in the NBA draft thanks to his defense, but he's also averaging 10.9 points. Lindell Wigginton is averaging a team-leading 15.5 points for Iowa State, while teammate Cameron Lard's career is also off to a fast start.

SUPER SENIORS: Six of the Big 12's top eight scorers are seniors, including the starting Kansas backcourt of Lagerald Vick, Devonte Graham and Svi Mykhailiuk. Baylor's Manu Lecomte is averaging 18.4 points while Texas Tech's Keenan Evans and Iowa State's Donovan Jackson are averaging better than 16 per game. Throw in Baylor big man Jo Lual-Acuil Jr., who is averaging 15.1 points and a league-leading 10 boards, and there is plenty of experience in the league this year.

GAMES TO WATCH: Is it cheating to say all of them? OK, then start with TCU visiting Oklahoma on Jan. 13. Throw in the Jayhawks' trip to Norman just 10 days later. Oklahoma visits Texas Tech on Feb. 13, then visits Kansas six days later. West Virginia heads to Baylor on Feb. 20, and a lot could be at stake the final weekend when Iowa State visits Oklahoma, Kansas heads to Oklahoma State, the Mountaineers travel to Texas, Baylor visits Kansas State and TCU wraps things up at Texas Tech.

NBA ROUNDUP

MAVERICKS 98

PACERS 94

INDIANAPOLIS — Dirk Nowitzki scored 15 points, Harrison Barnes made the tehring free throw with 37.7 seconds left, and Dallas snapped an eight-game road losing streak. Nowitzki, the franchise's career leading scorer in his 20th season, scored six points in the final quarter to help the Mavericks rally for their third win in 17 road games.

Barnes and Yogi Ferrell each scored 13 points. Ferrell, an Indianapolis native, hit a 3-pointer to make it 94-90 Dallas with 2:09 remaining. Lance Stephenson, Myles Turner and Darren Collison had 16 points apiece for the Pacers, who played without injured leading scorer Victor Oladipo for the first time and struggled down the stretch.

PELICANS 128

NETS 113

NEW ORLEANS — Rajon Rondo set a franchise record with a career-high 25 assists in just 30 minutes on the court. Anthony Davis had 33 points, 11 rebounds and six blocks, and the New Orleans Pelicans beat

the Brooklyn Nets 128-113 on Wednesday night. DeMarcus Cousins had 27 points and 14 rebounds, and Jrue Holiday scored 23 points for the Pelicans, who have won three straight.

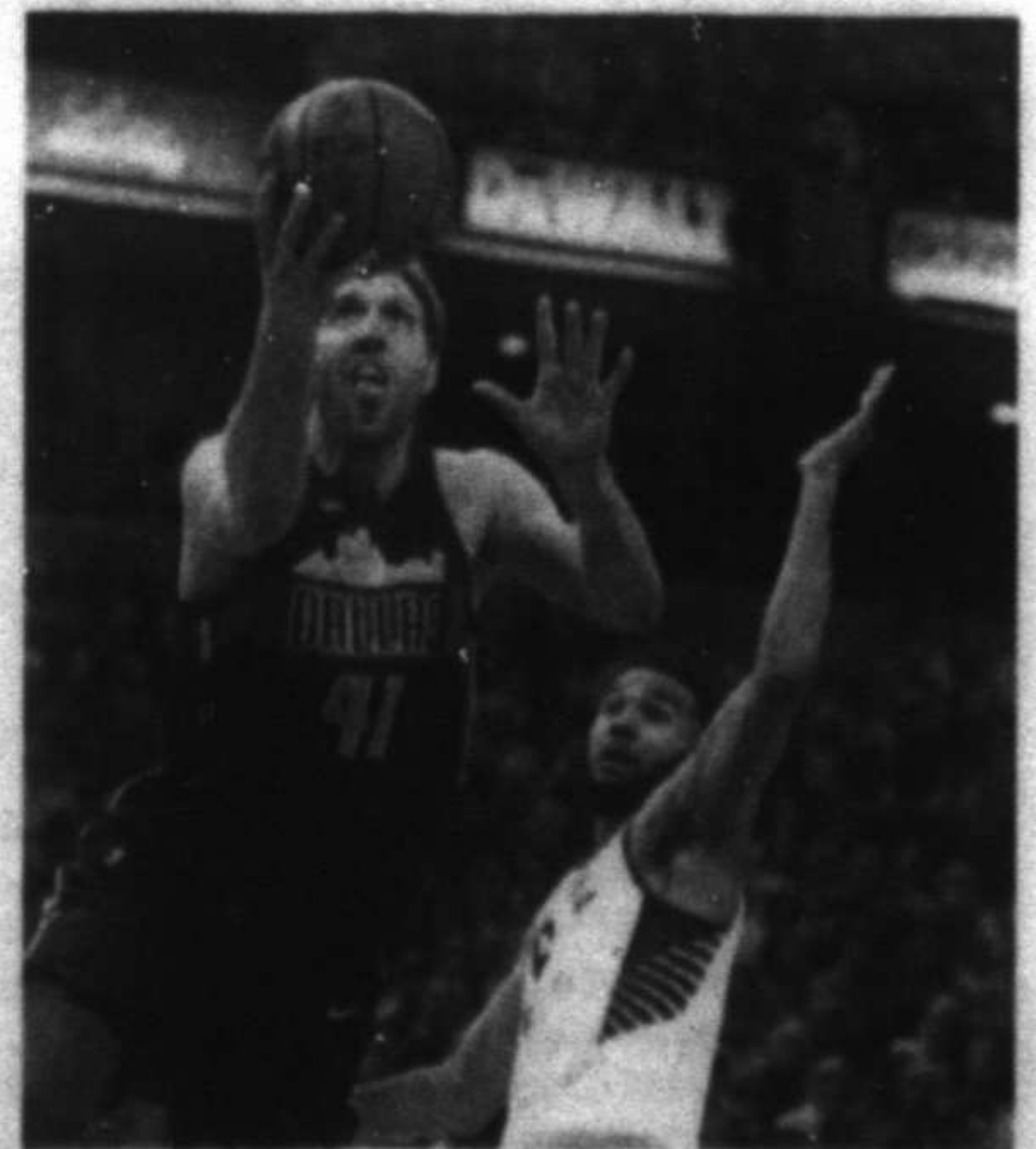
THUNDER 124

RAPTORS 107

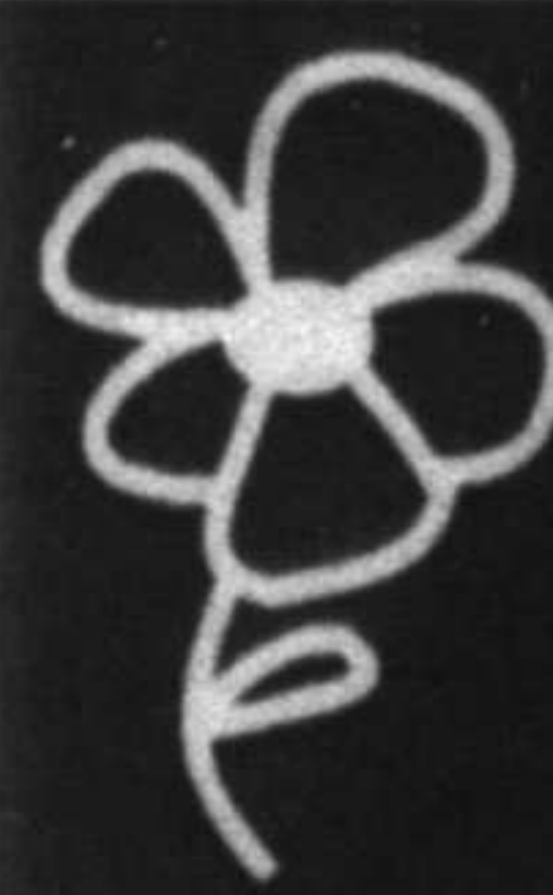
OKLAHOMA CITY — Russell Westbrook had 30 points, 13 assists and eight rebounds, and Oklahoma City earned its sixth straight win. Paul George scored 33 points, helping Oklahoma City improve to 12-3 in December. Carmelo Anthony and Steven Adams had 18 points apiece.

TIMBERWOLVES 126, NUGGETS 125, OT
MINNEAPOLIS — Jimmy Butler scored 12 of Minnesota's 14 points in overtime and finished with a season-high 39 in the Timberwolves' fifth straight victory.

Minnesota also got a big game from Andrew Wiggins, who made five 3-pointers and scored 21 points. Taj Gibson added 20 points, and Karl-Anthony Towns had 14 points and 13 rebounds.



Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki (41) shoots in front of Indiana Pacers guard Cory Joseph during the first half in Indianapolis on Wednesday.



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THURSDAY PRIME TIME

DECEMBER 28, 2017

	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
4MID ABC	3	3	4	3	2							
4OSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7							
4WNT CW	5	14	5	14								
4PEJ FOX	8	5	5	8	3							
4MLM IND	11	12	12	11	11							
4WES NBC	9	9	9	9								
4PST PBS	13	13	13	8								
4LUP UNI	4	4	4	4	16							
4OSA MNT	16	16	16									
4LUP	140	170	180									
4HBO	200	200	14	14								
4HBO2	202	202	15	15	13							
4HBO3	204	204	16	16								
4MAX	200	200	17	17	24							
4MAX2	202	202	18	18								
4LUP	200	200	19	19	25							
4SHOW	210	210	20	20	25							
4TMC	210	210	21	21	26							
4A&E	27	27	28	28	35	47						
4AMC	40	40	24	24	42	51						
4BET	58	58	40	40								
4BAYO	65	65	76	76	41							
4CHBC	46	46	52	52	39	72						
4CHN	43	43	50	50	31	56						
4DISC	50	50	60	60	31	24	42					
4DISNEY	56	56	64	64	35	25	36					
4ESPN	32	32	35	35	40	31	30					
4ESPN2	34	34	36	36	40	32	31					
4FNC	45	45	48	48	53	23	55					
4FOOD	64	64	70	70	27	68	54					
4FREEFORM	53	53	63	63	42	33						
4PSW	37	37	38	38	50	45	29					
4FX	31	31	56	56	44	69						
4HALLMARK	54	54	71	71	58	34						
4HISTV	63	63	69	69	26	48	44					
4HISTORY	71	71	59	59	29	50	43					
4LIFETIME	28	28	30	30	25	28	48					
4MEHNC	47	47	53	53	49	73						
4NBCSN	38	38	43	43								
4NICK	55	55	39	39	34	37						
4SPIKE	38	38	55	55	53	58						
4SYFY	68	68	82	82	41	57	67					
4TBS	25	25	33	33	44	66	41					
4TCM	41	41	75	75	24	63	66					
4TELE	20	20	10	10	20							
4TLC	51	51	61	61	32	38	52					
4TNT	24	24	34	34	40	26	30					
4TYLAND	49	49	35	35	54	35						
4USA	26	26	55	55	42	27	49					
4WGN	19	19	85	85								



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Husband loses desire for wife after witnessing her overdose

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for three years to a woman who is very beautiful inside and out. (We have been together for six years.) Recently, I found out she is addicted to pain meds — and two months ago she confessed that she had gotten hooked on heroin.

I set up an intervention to get her into rehab. But when the time came to go, she kept putting it off. She said she wanted to get high "one more time," so I told her OK, as long as she did it at home, so I'd know she was safe. After she injected herself, she went limp, so I called 911 and got her into the hospital.

It is now two months later, and she is back. I love her dearly, but I no longer desire to be intimate with her. How do I tell her I will always stand by her, but no longer want to be intimate? She's younger and still has a strong sex drive. — **LOST THAT PART IN THE EAST**

DEAR LOST: The news should be conveyed in the office of a licensed marriage and family therapist. While your sexual problem may result from the shock of seeing your wife nearly die in front of you, there may be more to it. You say she is "younger and still has a strong sex drive." This suggests that you are older and your lack of desire might to some extent be age- or hormone-related.

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.



The two of you have a lot of talking to do about your feelings and your future. It would be better if it's done with the help of a trained moderator.

Also, if your wife was sharing needles, you both need to be tested for any diseases she may have contracted.

DEAR ABBY: My parents and my wife's parents both live 20 minutes from us. Both sets of parents purposely moved to be close to us. The problem is both sets of parents tell people the few times we are together how often they see their grandkids — which is simply not true.

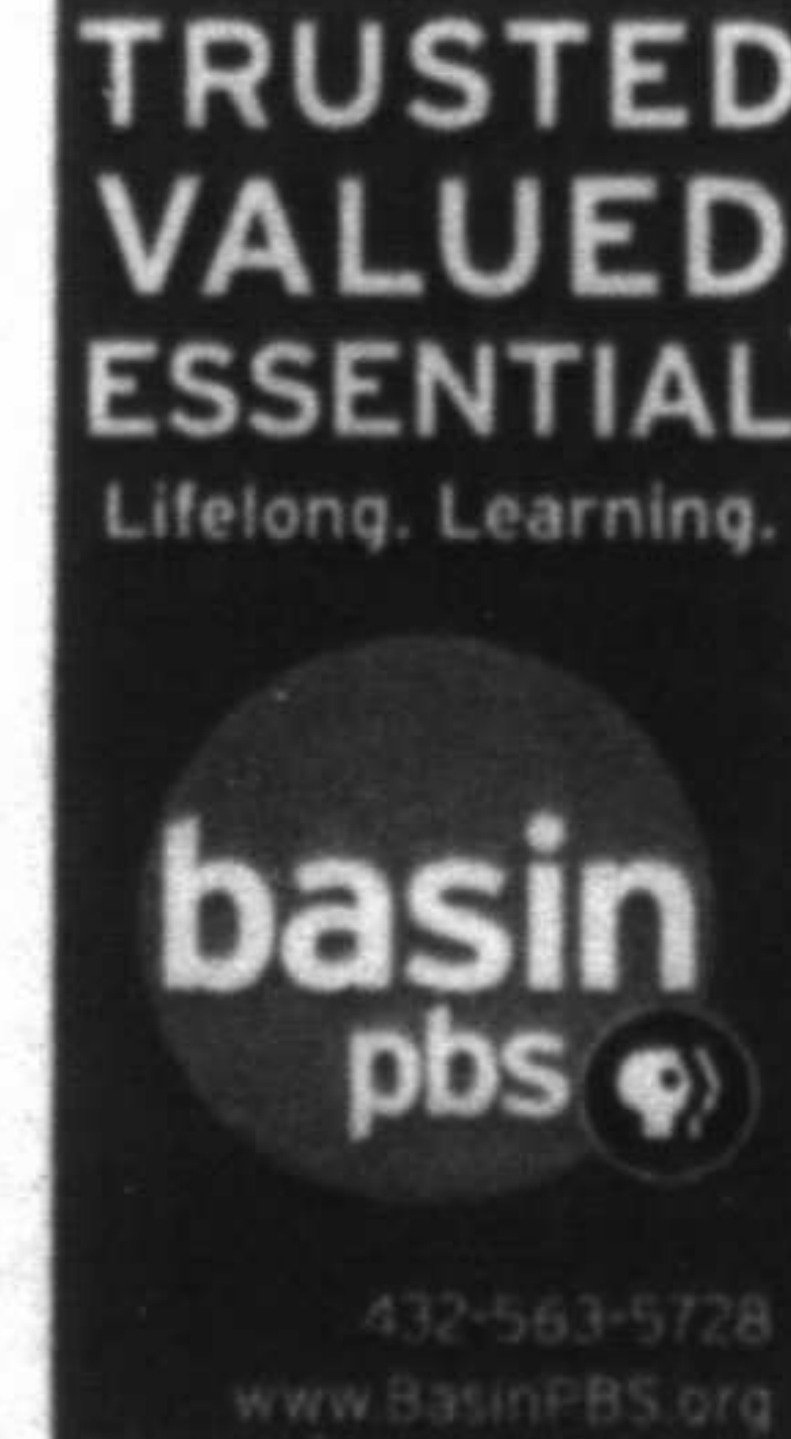
Mom talks as if she sees them multiple times a week, although she generally sees them less than once a month. She does watch my niece three days a week, but to hear her tell it, all her grandkids fall into that category. My wife's parents see me, my wife and our two kids about twice a month, but also tell others it's "all the time." Then, when we do meet, they

ignore the kids! I am bothered about it for two reasons: They are taking undue credit for "helping us out," and second, I'm sick of having heard for the last 12 years how "lucky" my kids are to have such wonderful grandparents. It caused us to miss out on help from extended family because they thought my wife and I were already receiving so much. Is there a nice way to say to my parents-in-laws that the story they are selling is fiction? We do love them. All we would like is for them to help out the way they claim to. — **SICK OF THE FICTION**

DEAR SICK OF THE FICTION: I find it strange that both sets of in-laws would relocate to be close, and then not follow through on trying to be close. I also don't know why your parents would loudly take credit for the things they haven't been doing. If you want to end the fiction, tell the extended family the truth and explain that you really do need their help and why. You should have done it years ago.



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Little things

North-South vulnerable, East deals

NORTH
♠ K 8 5
♥ A 7 6 4 3
♦ 9 5
♣ K 8 4

WEST
♠ 10
♥ Q 10 9
♦ K Q J 7 6 4
♣ 10 7 3

EAST
♠ A Q J 9 7 4 3 2
♥ J
♦ 10 3 2
♣ 6

SOUTH
♠ 6
♥ K 8 5 3
♦ A 8
♣ A Q J 9 5 2

The bidding:
EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH
46 56 All pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

What is the difference between good bridge players and experts? It is not a barrel full of brilliancies, although there may be a small plate full of those.

The differences are often quite subtle and might not even be noticed by the opponents at the table. South in today's deal was the late Paul Soloway, one of the all-time greats.

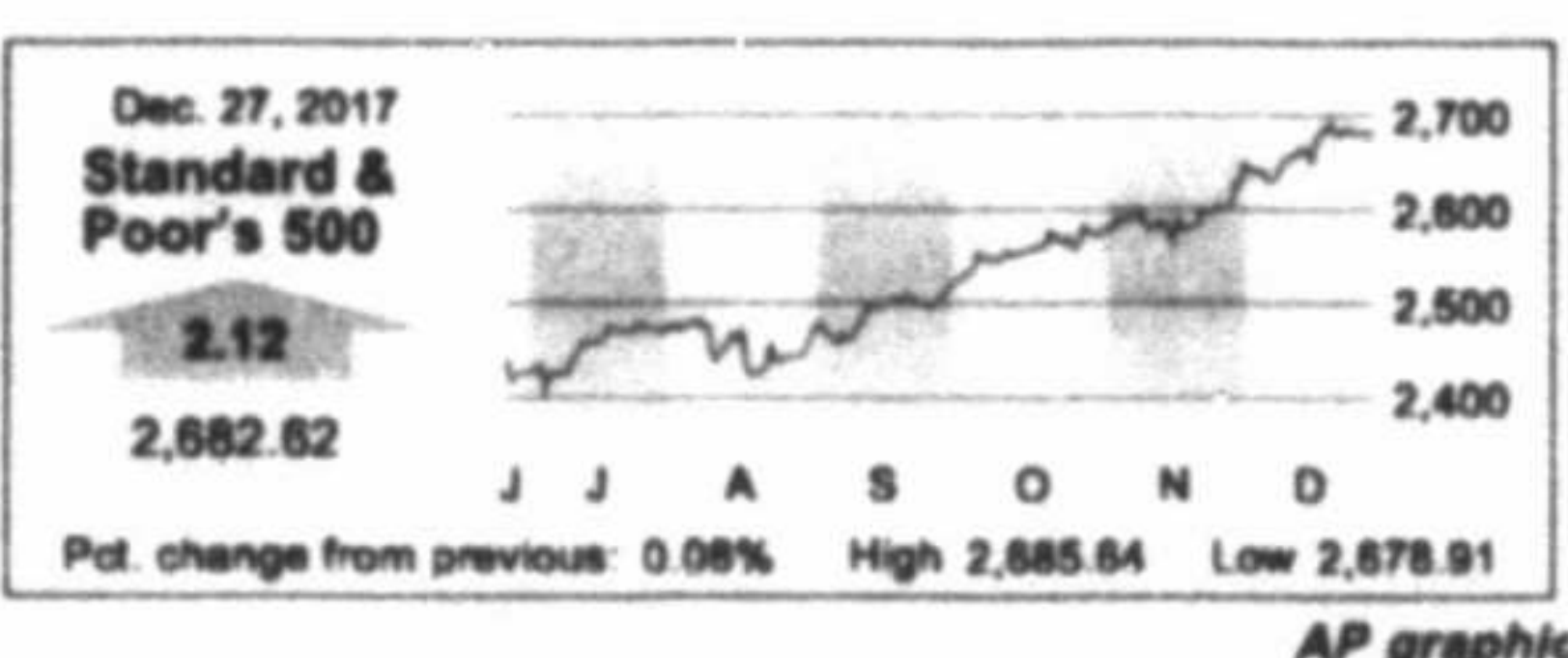
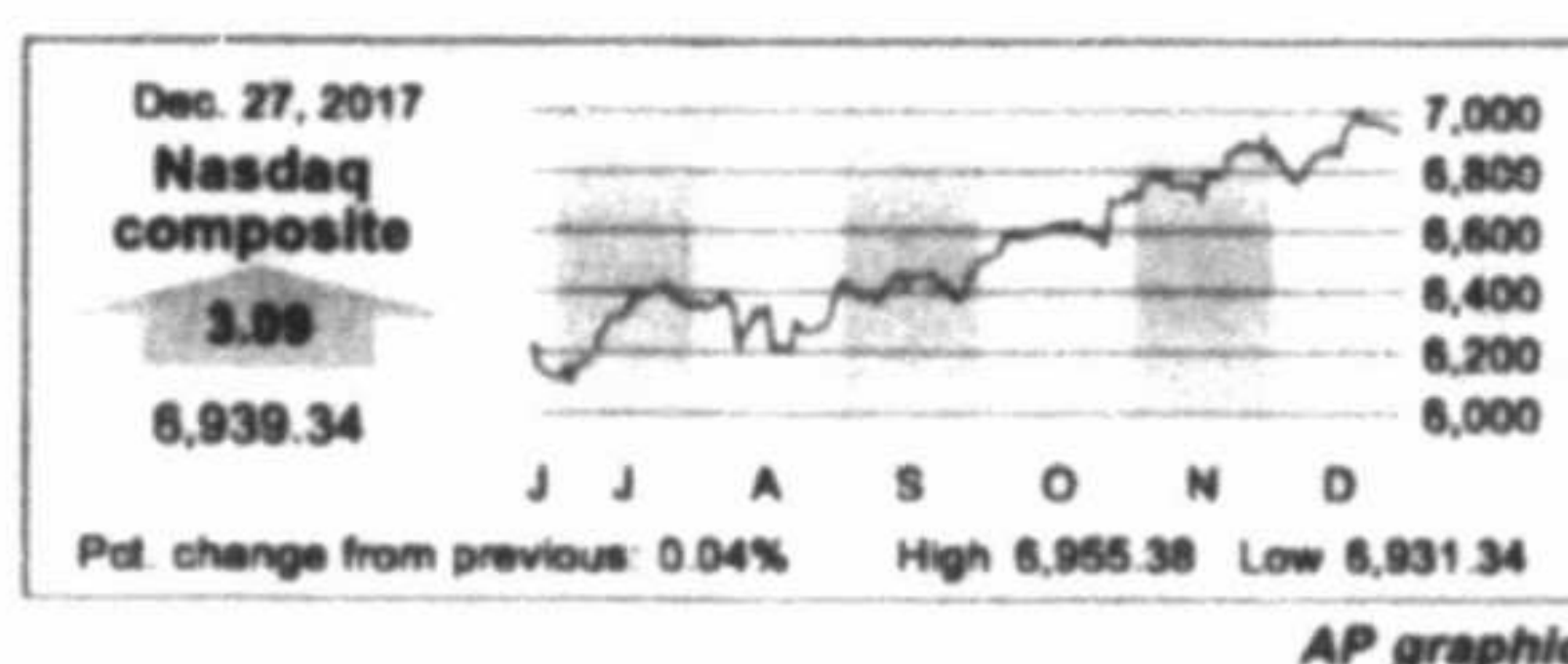
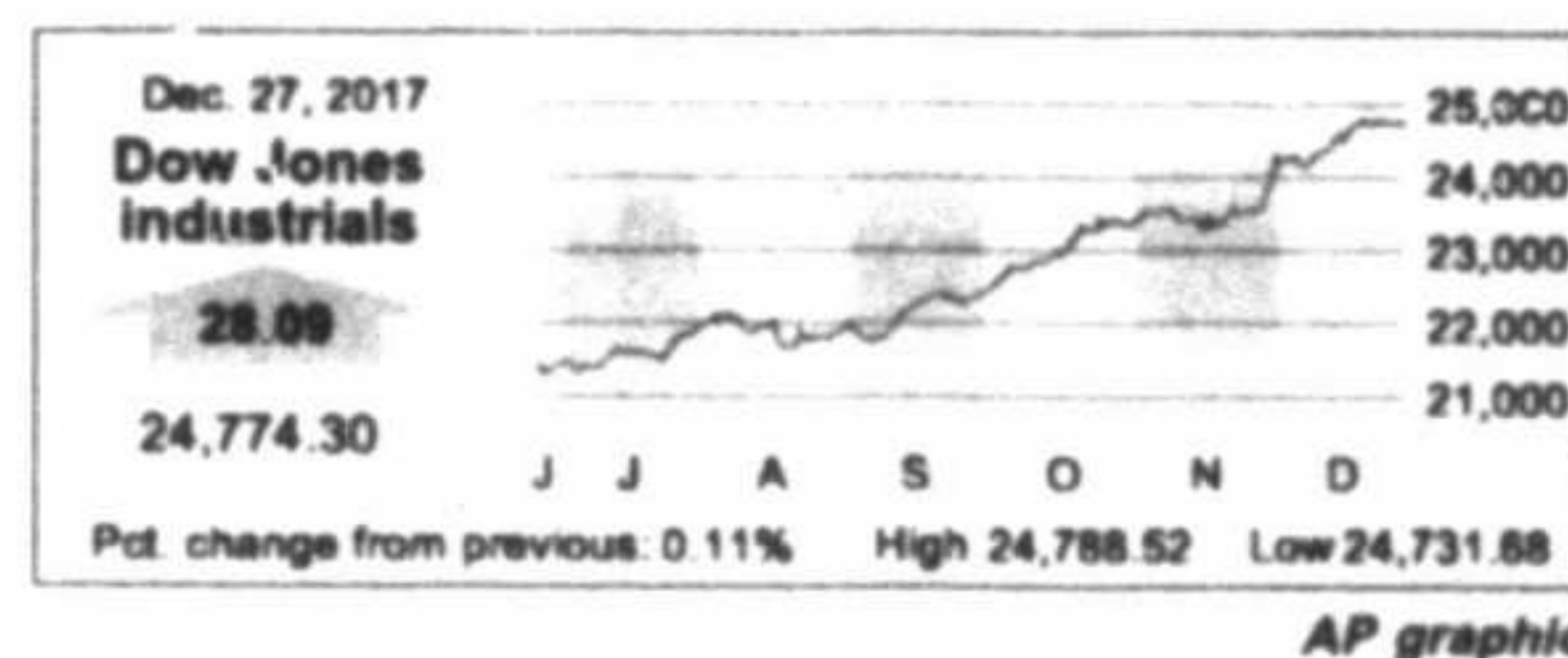
The given auction was repeated many times at a tournament some years ago. A diamond lead would have left declarer with no hope, but West can't be faulted for leading his singleton in partner's suit. This looks like a "four-or-six" hand, with 12 easy tricks should the hearts split 2-2, but only 10 tricks if the hearts split 3-1. Soloway realized that was true only if the defense found a diamond shift at trick two.

Many declarers, at other tables, played low from dummy at trick one. East overtook the 10 of spades with the jack. A spade continuation would only set up dummy's king, so with nothing better to do, East shifted to a diamond. That defense defeated the contract. Soloway played dummy's king of spades at trick one, thus removing it as a threat to the defense. East won this with the ace and made the "safe" continuation of the spade queen. OOPS! Soloway ruffed high, drew trumps in three rounds, and played on hearts. He conceded a heart to West and discarded his diamond loser on dummy's long heart. The king of spades was a subtle play, but it brought a big dividend on this deal.

BUSINESS & OIL

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Thursday, December 28, 2017 | Page 6C

A DAY ON WALL STREET



OIL PRICES

FUTURES

Wednesday: \$59.64
Previous: \$59.97

POSTED

Wednesday: \$56.00
Previous: \$56.25

WEST TEXAS SOUR

Wednesday: \$53.25
Previous: \$53.50

NATURAL GAS

Wednesday: \$2.738
Previous: \$2.643



Small retailers capitalized on strengths for holiday season

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Independent retailers who've had a successful holiday season say they took advantage of the fact that there are strengths in not being huge.

Store owners report they were able to change pricing and other strategies quickly. Many offered customers more personal service and a warmer atmosphere. And they said they used social media tools designed for smaller companies, including inexpensive ads on Facebook.

Bekka Palmer, who sells baskets, tote bags and jewelry in New York, says she sold at pop-up markets where shoppers gave her feedback that let her know she's on the right track.

Jon Abt says his appliance and furniture store held its own this holiday season, up against competition like Amazon, Walmart, Best Buy and more, by capitalizing on advantages it has over the big guys.

Abt offers free technical support for the life of a product and some free delivery. The store, in the Chicago suburb of Glenview, is designed to be entertaining — it offers chocolate chip cookies, a Santa every weekend during the holidays, and an aquarium in the store year-round that give customers and their families an experience that goes beyond shopping for a TV.

"You've got to have a good price but you've also got to present some compelling reasons for why someone should buy from you," says Jon Abt, who says sales were up about 15 percent from the 2016 holiday season. Independent retailers who've had a successful holiday season recognize that there are strengths in not being huge. They're able to change pricing and other strategies quickly. They can offer customers more personal service and a warmer atmosphere. And they're able to take advantage of social media tools designed for smaller companies, including inexpensive ads on Facebook. How successful the season was for the retail industry as a whole won't be known until estimates from market researchers like ShopperTrak and a tally from the Commerce Department arrive in January. And after Christmas business, when consumers are redeeming gift cards and looking for

clearance sale bargains, can make the difference. But individual retailers including small and independent merchants already have a sense of how they've done, and what worked for them. Bekka Palmer's baskets, tote bags and jewelry sold better than she expected because she made sure she got publicity. Palmer, owner of the online retailer Closed Mondays, met an editor of Domino, a magazine and website that publishes a holiday gift guide, and that bit of networking led to several of her creations being featured on Domino. She also approached New York magazine and a website called Design Milk and got mentions.

People browsing the online gift guides and then deciding to buy gave Palmer nearly a quarter of her sales from mid-November until mid-December, when she processed her last orders before Christmas.

"I was so much busier than I was last year," says Palmer, who lives and runs her business in Brooklyn, New York.

Palmer timed her outreach to gift guides better this year. In 2016, she contacted websites too late to be included. This year, she got in touch with them sooner. She also sold at pop-up markets where shoppers gave her feedback that let Palmer know she's on the right track. "Many of our customers this year were specifically looking for things made in the U.S.," she says.

This was the first holiday season for Garrett Ryan and Clark Passino, who started their online men's underwear company, Mr & Muse, in January. Sales have been better than expected after the partners used social media throughout the year to build their customer base. As they launched the Clarendon Hills, Illinois-based business, they began advertising on Facebook where they could inexpensively test their marketing campaign.

"We literally spent \$20 a week on five different ads, picked one or two that worked, and the next week spent \$30 on five different ads with that image," Ryan says. "We continued pouring more money into ad types, copy and images that work."

They also invested in tracking the products potential customers look at, and then showing them the same products in other websites or apps, helping some shoppers decide to buy.

Shell, Barclays say US tax plan means billions in 4Q charges

Associated Press

LONDON — Two major European companies, oil producer Shell and Barclays bank, say the U.S. tax reform law will force them to take big charges in the last quarter of the year.

Shell said Wednesday it expects to book between \$2 billion and \$2.5 billion in charges in the fourth quarter as it adjusts its

measurements of deferred taxes. Barclays says it expects a charge of \$1.34 billion.

The change in U.S. tax law cuts the corporate income tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent, but also reduces companies' ability to offset tax bills with past losses.

Shell says it expects the law to be beneficial ultimately. Barclays says the benefits could be eroded by the implementation of the tax overhaul's complex provisions.

US stock indexes eke out gains in quiet day on Wall Street

U.S. stock indexes capped another quiet day on Wall Street Wednesday with slight gains, recouping some of the market's modest losses from a day earlier.

Technology, health care and industrials stocks accounted for much of the gain. A report showing that pending U.S. home sales inched higher last month helped lift homebuilder shares.

Retailers and consumer-goods manufacturers declined the most, following a late-afternoon slide. Energy stocks also fell along with the price of crude oil. Bond yields fell following a report showing U.S. consumer confidence dipped this month. "Trading is obviously very light, but the market is certainly going out on a high as we head into the end of the year," said Erik Davidson, chief investment officer for Wells Fargo Private Bank.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index gained 2.12 points, or 0.1 percent, to 2,682.62. The Dow Jones Industrial average added 28.09 points, or 0.1 percent, to 24,774.30. The Nasdaq rose 3.09 points, or 0.04 percent, to 6,939.34.

Metal prices mixed

Gold added \$3.90 to \$1,291.40 an ounce. Silver gained 15 cents to \$16.76 an ounce. Copper was little changed at \$3.28 a pound.

MIDLAND STOCKS

Midland-Headquartered Publicly Traded Companies

Concho Resources (CXO)
Closing Price \$151.03 Down 2.89

Dawson Geophysical (DWSN)
Closing Price \$5.02 Up 0.01

Diamondback Energy (FANG)
Closing Price \$123.19 Down 2.78

Legacy Reserves (LGCY)
Closing Price \$1.18 Down 0.02

Mexco Energy (MXC)
Closing Price \$4.12 Down 0.08

Natural Gas Services Group (NGS)
Closing Price \$2.95 Unchanged

ProPetro Holdings (PUMP)
Closing Price \$20.31 Down 0.18

RSP Permian (RSPP)
Closing Price \$40.36 Down 0.52

Ring Energy (REI)
Closing Price \$14.57 Up 0.13

Viper Energy Partners (VNOM)
Closing Price \$23.67 Down 0.06

HOW STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST FARED

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg	Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg	Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg	Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
AK Steel		16	5.67	-11	-44.5	ConocoPhillips	1.86	44	55.59	-64	+10.9	LM FedA			1.70	-14	-58.2	Rowen	40	9	15.51	-21	-17.9
AT&T Inc	2.00	15	38.89	-18	-44.6	Cadbury	4.80	28	162.39	-32	-2.7	Lagacy			1.18	-02	-44.3	RayShin	3.78		66.23	-31	+21.8
Abraxas		59	2.36	-83	-4.2	CSVStn			5.54	+04	-94.2	LibBndC			83.54	-1.63	+12.8	SpdDJA	3.96		247.48	+23	+25.3
AdvaEq	1.37		15.85	+85	+18.4	CresTm	39	14	14.58	-96	-18.9	Lightbnd			1.48	+33	+29.8	S&P500ETF	4.13		267.32	+13	+19.6
AMD		10.53	+07	-7.1		DCP Mid	3.12	52	36.61	-06	-4.6	Lufay			2.87	-87	-37.8	SpdOGE	7.36		37.34	-30	-8.9
Amgen		14	+01	-22.6		DTE	3.30	21	108.74	+51	+10.4	Maxys	1.51	9	25.54	-1.21	-28.4	S&P500	2.31	21	45.53	+03	+29.5
Alibaba	40	172.97	+64	+97.0		Dow	34	69	41.84	-74	-8.4	MaxPro	20		17.01	-26	-1.7	S&P500	1.28	53	141.24	+82	+48.9
ApplMktP	1.35		10.75	-07	-14.4	DowDu			17.94	-10	-1.0	McD	4.04	29	172.57	+1.38	+41.9	Schlingm	2.90	31	87.92	+31	-19.1
Ambev	0.56	6	6.37	+02	+29.7	Drum	1.88	19	107.64	-48	-23.3	McD	1.92	14	56.34	-4.3		S&P500	1	23	88.3		
Amgen	5.28	16	178.21	+12	+20.5	EOG Reser	67		108.36	-1.65	-2.7	MerMed		91	43.48	+40	+66.6	S&P500	1	23	88.3		
Anadarko	39		53.78	-32	-22.9	ElmGrd	0.28	28	1.42	+01	+5.9	MerMed			4.12	-08	-17.6	Smuchm	3.42	18	124.79	-48	-2.8
Apache	1.80		42.89	-47	-32.4	Engrus	08		57.70	-98	+1	MicroT		9	42.48	+23	+93.8	S&P500	1	23	88.3		
Apple Inc	2.52	20	170.60	+03	+47.3	Engrus			23.70	+14.86	+40.7	MicroT	1.88	30	85.71	+31	+37.9	S&P500	1	23	88.3		
ApplMktP	40	16	91.68	+63	+68.1	Engrus	2.26	24	18.53	+12	-24.9	NXP Bsm		26	116.69	+12	+19.1	S&P500	1	23	88.3		
Archrock	48		10.45	-10	-29.8	Engrus	88	53	94.33	+43	+48.8	Natlon	24		61.82	-01	-58.6	S&P500	1	23	88.3		
AT&T	1.89	24	64.99	+39	+14.6	Engrus	94		5.86	-39.7	Natlon			35.28	-34	-5.8	S&P500	1	23	88.3			
AutoData	2.52	31	117.26	-31	-14.1	Engrus	1.89	21	26.38	-19	-24.0	Natlon	17		4.73	-05	-1.7	S&P500	1	23	88.3		
BP PLC	2.38	30	41.72	+83	+11.8	Engrus	11		5.59	-02	-13.0	NATFYS	55		15.62	+18	+6.0	S&P500	1	23	88.3		
BioM	48	17	29.73	-05	-34.5	Engrus	3.88	32	83.90	-86	-7.0	NATFYS	66		14.33	+87	+4.4	S&P500	1	23	88.3		
BioPharm			27.90	+12		Facebook	33	177.62	+1.63	+54.4	Natlon	66	54	197.17	-27	-64.7	Teladigm	1.29	8	8.71	+6	+7.1	
Barrick	1.20		15.63	+06	+1.0	Formli	60	11	12.50	-10	-3.1	QualPst			8.32	-06	-45.0	Teladigm	4.70	27	25.20	+75	+35.0
BasicE			45			Formli			18.69	+02	+1.7	QualPst	3.88		73.32	-22	-2.9	Tenormark	30	29	98.89	+68	+25.0
BerkH	1.78		99.88	+148	+22.1	GATX	1.88	13	62.23	+11	+1.1	Oracle	76	20	47.38	-05	-23.7	Tenormark	10	19	17.72	+10	-27.3
BerkH	1.78		99.88	+148	+22.1	GATX	1.88	13	62.23	+11	+1.1	Oracle			91.99	-35	-23.7	Tenormark	1.88		38.77	+13	+21.4
BerkH	1.78		99.88	+148	+22.1	GATX	1.88	13	62.23	+11	+1.1	Oracle			91.99	-35	-23.7	Tenormark	1.88		38.77	+13	+21.4
BerkH	1.78		99.88	+148	+22.1	GATX	1.88	13	62.23	+11	+1.1	Oracle			91.99	-35	-23.7	Tenormark	1.88		38.77	+13	+21.4
BerkH	1.78		99.88	+148	+22.1	GATX	1.88	13	62.23	+11	+1.1	Oracle			91.99	-35	-23.7	Tenormark	1.88		38.77	+13	+21.4
BerkH	1.78		99.88	+148	+22.1	GATX	1.88	13	62.23	+11	+1.1	Oracle			91.99	-35	-23.7	Tenormark	1.88		38.77	+13	+21.4
BerkH	1.78		99.88	+148	+22.1	GATX	1.88	13	62.23	+11	+1.1	Oracle			91.99	-35	-23.7	Tenormark	1.88		38.77	+13	+21.4
BerkH	1.78		99.88	+148	+22.1	GATX	1.88	13	62.23	+11	+1.1	Oracle			91.99	-35	-23.7	Tenormark	1.88		38.77	+13	+21.4
BerkH	1.78		99.88	+148	+22.1	GATX	1.88	13	62.23	+11	+1.1	Oracle			91.99	-35	-23.7	Tenormark	1.88		38.77	+13	+21.4
BerkH	1.78		99.88	+148	+22.1	GATX	1.88	13	62.23	+11	+1.1	Oracle			91.99	-35	-23.7	Tenormark	1.88		38.77	+13	+21.4
BerkH	1.78		99.88	+148	+22.1	GATX	1.88	13	62.23	+11	+1.1	Oracle			91.99	-35	-23.7	Tenormark	1.88		38.77	+13	+21.4
BerkH	1.78		99.88	+148	+22.1	GATX	1.88	13	62.23	+11	+1.1	Oracle			91.99	-35	-23.7	Tenormark	1.88		38.77	+13	+21.4
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ENERGY AND UTILITIES

Warehouse Personnel & Delivery Driver

VAN ZANDT Controls, a leader in valve automation, instrumentation & controls is seeking high energy, qualified candidates for the following open positions:

Warehouse Personnel:

- We are looking for an effective warehouse personnel to direct receiving, warehousing and distribution operations
- Overseeing receiving, warehousing, distribution and maintenance operations
- Leadership skills and ability to direct people
- Proven ability to implement process improvement initiatives
- Follow and understand VanZandt Controls safety procedures & processes
- Ability to operate forklift
- Safe driving record

Delivery Driver:

- Loading, unloading, preparing, and operating the delivery vehicle
- Following routes and time schedules, communicate with customers
- Follow DOT regulations and safety standards
- Follow and understand VanZandt Controls safety procedures & processes
- Ability to operate forklift
- Safe driving record

Please send resume to chelsey@vzcontrols.com

HEALTHCARE

Resident Care Partners-Asst. Cook-Maintenance

Cimarron Place in Midland is HIRING! We are looking to expand our growing team with the following positions: Resident Care Partners, an Assistant Cook, and a Maintenance Technician. Please apply at enlivan.com

MANAGEMENT-EXECUTIVE

District Manager

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

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

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

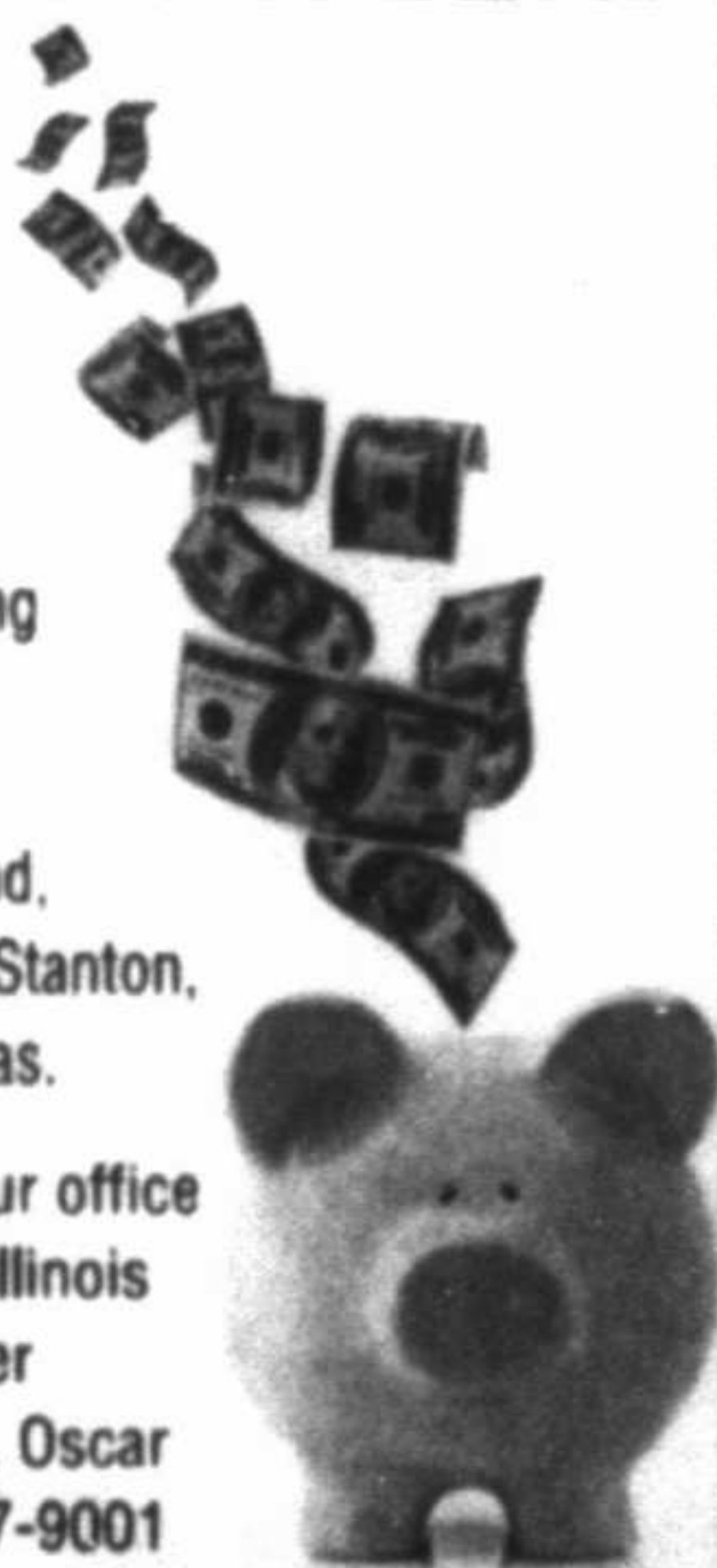
To apply, please email your resume and cover letter to shekter@hearstnp.com. No phone calls please.

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

Delivery Driver

American Glass Dist. PT
Help wanted: Male or Female Delivery Driver, must be able to drive standard transmission. Must be 25 years of age, have social security card, driver's license, have a decent driving record, & must be able to lift 100 pounds. Good benefits after 90 days of employment. Starting at \$13.00/hr. Please call 432-689-5235 or come by 5002 Basin Street, A-2, to fill out an application.

OTHER JOBS

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN ITS DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR NIGHT TIME ASSOCIATE

Night time associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE

Must be able to count at a fast pace. Be able to work between the hours of 12-6 am Sunday night thru Friday night and be able to work Saturday night 8pm-4am. Will be working inside and outside depending on the job you are doing that night. Will be 5-6 nights per week. We will train the right person. \$11.00 per hour

These positions require some physical lifting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr. shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspaper bundles. Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.

Apply in person at: 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk • Monday - Friday 8-5 or email: jmadrox@hearstnp.com
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE



Fireworks Operator

Make \$1000.00 in 2 days, \$1500.00 for 3 days. Truckload Fireworks Operator needed. Minimum 4 person family or group in Midland and Stanton. Must be available December 30th, December 31st and January 1st if 3 days. Please call 432-653-4047.

SALES JOBS

Sales Professional

Are you a sales professional looking to reach your true potential? Unlimited income, great benefits and 401K. YOU provide integrity, high ethical standards, compassion and a strong desire to achieve and learn new skills. WE provide a professional environment, hands on training and a strong commitment to your success. Call Mr. Dan at (409) 791-6773. Dignity Providers Midland/ Odessa EO/AF/DFW

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



DIGITAL MARKETING SERVICES

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

MAGAZINE MARKETING SERVICES

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

PRINT MARKETING SERVICES

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

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Legal and Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed Proposals will be accepted by the County Purchasing Agent, located in Suite 1101 of the Midland County Courthouse, 500 N. Loraine Street, Midland, Texas 79701 until 10:00 A.M., Local Time, January 18, 2018. The proposals will be opened and acknowledged at 10:05AM, Local Time, January 18, 2018.

Generally, the Commissioners Court selection will be made within 30 days. Interested parties are invited to attend the proposal acknowledgment and the Commissioners Court meeting.

RFP 17MCO529 - DOWNTOWN LIBRARY RENOVATION CONSTRUCTION

A MANDATORY site survey will be held at 9:00 A.M. on Thursday, January 4, 2018 at the Midland County Downtown Library.

Midland County reserves the right to reject any or all of the responses, to waive all formalities, and to withdraw the RFP at any time.

The RFP will be available on Thursday December 21, 2017. Information may be obtained from the County Purchasing Agent's Office 432-682-4872 or pur193@co.midland.tx.us or on the Midland County Purchasing website www.co.midland.tx.us/departments/purchasing

Kristy Engeldahl
Midland County Purchasing Agent

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

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

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

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

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



Autos For Sale/Lease

Passenger Cars

2001 TOYOTA Avalon, White. Has engine replacement, new tune up, new car stereo, new tires and rims. Must see! \$4,500. Call 432-349-0041.

CADILLAC 2006 DTS. One owner, 60K, actual miles. Garage kept. Have records of all service & oil changes. \$8950. Call 212-1830

VOLKSWAGEN 2007 Beetle, 79K miles. Good tires, new battery, new fuel pump. Runs well. \$4500. Call Edward 432-352-4938

Community Events

Attention Readers:

The Midland Reporter-Telegram Circulation department will not take calls on Sunday, December 24th or Sunday, December 31st.

All vacation stops for Christmas weekend will need to be placed by Wednesday, December 20th. Vacation stops for New Year's weekend will need to be placed by Wednesday, December 27th.

Have a Merry Christmas and Safe New Year's

Midland Reporter-Telegram

Estate Sales

ESTATE SALE
BY JOSEPH AND TEAM
5501 Ridgmont - Midland
Friday 9:00 AM - 3 PM
Saturday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
For pictures go to
<https://www.estatesales.net/tx/midland/797071757811>

THE CAT'S MEOW
408 Andrus Hwy - Midland 687-2004
Dec. 28th - Jan. 6th
10 AM-5 PM - Closed Sunday
ONCE A YEAR SALE!
Everything Storewide 20% to 50% Savings
See our ad in
The Midland Reporter-Telegram



Merchandise

Classified CAN
682-6222

Miscellaneous & Sale

FREON R12 WANTED
Certified buyer pays CASH
for cylinders & cans.
(312) 291-9189, redgar@redgar.com

OAK, PECAN, Hickory, Mesquite, Pinon. 432-209-0416 or 325-782-4262

Residential Sales

FOR SALE 17 acres in Nogal Canyon and a home with a spacious living area with a rock fireplace. Property also includes, a court-yard, guest house, barn, shop, two entrances, fully fenced property. Seller will include a 140 acre lot in Ancho with an acceptable offer for this Nogal NM property. \$299,000. Please check out the video: www.21topgroup.com Offered by Darlene Rosa Associate Broker Pinnacle Real Estate 931 Hwy 48 Abilene 88312 575-336-7711 Office 575-973-0117 cell

LABRADOR RETRIEVER PUPPIES Grand Hunting Champ. bloodlines. Xmas day delivery in Midland! \$1,500. English Labs CFA, Cert. Hips & elbows Avail. in time for Xmas! Brooke 432-978-5300

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Residential Real Estate
Apartment Real Estate
APT FOR RENT all bills paid except electric. \$450/mo. Call 432-522-1946

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Garage-Estate-Yard Sale

Estate Sales

3200 ELMA Drive, Very nice townhome 3 bedroom 3 baths, fireplace, double car garage, sprinkler system, nice trees, quiet patio area. \$1,800 per month & \$750 deposit. Call 432-230-0157 or 432-230-3671

5000 ELMA Drive, Very nice townhome 3 bedroom 3 baths, fireplace, double car garage, sprinkler system, nice trees, quiet patio area. \$1,800 per month & \$750 deposit. Call 432-230-0157 or 432-230-3671

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Vacation Resort

Lake Alan Henry - North Ridge Development
Two 1 acre Lots # 134 & 135 \$75,000 for both. Buildable view of lake, paved roads, private water plant, private boat ramp. site map nrhah.com. 3111 Properties, LLC 806 441 7005

Hunting Leases

HUNTING, RETIREMENT, INVESTMENT PROPERTY 20 - 60 ACRES IN THE FOLLOWING COUNTIES: EDWARDS, KINNEY, CONCHO, COKE AND MENARD. SCENIC VIEWS, NATIVE GAME WITH FREE RANGING EXOTICS IN SOME COUNTIES. STARTING AT \$2,916 DOWN, \$485MO. CALL/ VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO. 800-676-6720 www.huntland.com

Lots and Land

RANCH FOR SALE
4,212 Acres near Snyder, Tx. Water, 3 houses, great hunting. Owner Financing \$750/ Acre (432) 664-7764

WEST TEXAS TRANS Pecos AREA, NEAR LAKE AMSTAD 40 - 65 ACRES. MESQUITE, CEDAR, BRUSH COVER, WHITETAIL, JAVELINA, BLUE QUAIL, TURKEY, DOVE. STARTING AT \$2,200 DOWN, \$349MO. CALL/ VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO. 800-256-0189 www.huntland.com

Commercial

COMMERCIAL YARD/ BUILD TO SUIT FOR LEASE
5 ACRES, FENCED 2 AC CALCHED. \$2250/MONTH. JUST EAST OF I-10 AND 432-464-7764

OFFICE SPACE FOR LEASE 1800 square feet. Utilities and general maintenance included. Midland International Airport area. Contact Cheryl Keith, 432-262-4905, or cketh@pbcpc.org

READY-RANCH
WWW.READY-RANCH.COM

East County
*11,195 ac. N. of Snyder, 4 houses, panoramic views, 800 ft. mesa, creek, lakes, whitetail deer, mule deer and wild birds. \$1,700/ac.
*4,212 ac. Maricopa Creek, canyons, whitetail and mule deer and wild birds. \$1,771/ac. whitetail, creek, islands and meadows. \$1,800/ac.
*648 ac. over 1 mile. SOLD creek, birds, leaders, beautiful change, old. \$1,500/ac.
*965 ac. Pecos Creek, New Livingstone, 200 acres cleared for cattle, birds/leaders, whitetail. \$1,425/ac.
*842 ac. canyons, birds/leaders, great deer, cedar/ mesquite, whitetail, creek, canyons. \$1,700/ac.
*130 ac. San Carlos. SOLD deer and whitetail, meadows, canyons, whitetail. \$1,100/ac.
(432) 664-7764 or (432) 634-7777
See Realtors - Buy Direct!!!
Deal with Landowners that know the Country!!!
Owner Financing Available

LIQUIDATION OF 2 divorced females in Midland, TX 1608 W. Kansas & 2612 N. Garland. Call for price. 214-356-5244 Realtor

Acres

LAND FOR sale Midland acres, 0.161 acres. 804 N. Lee Street, Midland, TX 79701. Please call Raul at 505-450-8290

ONE OF the most scenic, spectacular, premier, hunting ranches in West Texas located in the Eagle Mountains near Van Horn, TX spanning over 10,000 acres with beautiful western style lodge approx. 3 hours from Midland is now for sale. For info contact owner at 830-238-3168

5000 ELMA Drive, Very nice townhome 3 bedroom 3 baths, fireplace, double car garage, sprinkler system, nice trees, quiet patio area. \$1,800 per month & \$750 deposit. Call 432-230-0157 or 432-230-3671

5000 ELMA Drive, Very nice townhome 3 bedroom 3 baths, fireplace, double car garage, sprinkler system, nice trees, quiet patio area. \$1,800 per month & \$750 deposit. Call 432-230-0157 or 432-230-3671

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Weekly Writing Corner

Holiday Traditions

Kid Scoop readers describe their favorite holiday traditions.

On Christmas Eve we go out to lunch with my grandma, grandpa, aunt and uncle. On Christmas Day we wake up, open presents and my mom makes us eggs, sausage, hashbrowns and English muffins. All of that food is delicious.

Keenan,
4th grade

My family goes to LA to see my cousins. We always get a very big Christmas tree and lots of presents. The one thing I love the most is that in the winter, you can go to the beach!

Stella,
3rd grade

My family tradition is at New Year when my whole family comes over. Every year my Grandmom makes delicious food. There is at least twenty people and so it's a big party and everyone that comes sleeps over because we all stay up to 3 or 2 in the morning.

Joshua,
3rd grade

My family celebrates Christmas Eve and each year my mom has a special dinner. She makes tamales. My grandma flies in all the way from Mexico to come celebrate. Every year I help my mom decorate the tree. In the morning we check our stockings first then we open our presents.

Anai,
5th grade

Our family does several things to celebrate the winter holidays. My favorite tradition is every Thanksgiving, we draw the name of someone in the family, and we have to make that person a special homemade gift for Christmas.

Dharma,
5th grade

We go to my cousin's house. My family give out presents. My favorite part is the family gathering all together.

Luis,
2nd grade

My family celebrates the most important family gathering—Christmas. I wake up at 6 a.m. while it is still dark and wake up my whole family. They usually groan and then turn the other way. We open presents while laughing and telling jokes, then at 9 we drive over to my grandma's house. We have a big feast with delicious lemon squares and apple pie. I always finish first so that I can hunt for candy canes and chocolate in the tree. Then we form a huge circle and pass out presents going from youngest to oldest, it usually takes a while. After more lemon squares we drive home and go to bed.

Sam,
4th grade

Write On!

Fitness Favorite

What is your favorite way to exercise? Why?

Deadline: January 21
Published: Week of Feb. 18
Send your story to:

Newspaper In Education
201 E. Illinois
Midland, TX 79701
ljdiaz@mr.com

Please include your school and grade.

Love Our Planet

Some people call our planet "Mother Earth." Like a mother, our planet provides us with the things that give us life—like food and water. Mother Earth gives us more than food and water—she gives us beautiful flowers, places to walk and even majestic mountains to enjoy.

What are three things you love about Planet Earth?

1.

Trash your mother?

The amount of trash people dump on Mother Earth each year is enormous. This causes problems for people, animals and the environment.



Each year people dump more than 2 billion tons of waste. That's the weight of about 5,480 Empire State Buildings! If all this waste was put on trucks, a line of those trucks would go around the world 24 times!

This holiday season you can give a gift to your planet by taking the "Love My Planet Pledge." Sign the Pledge, cut it out and keep it somewhere you can see it everyday. It will help remind you of how you can care for Mother Earth everyday!

2.

Love My Planet Pledge

- ☐ I will try to buy goods with little or no packaging. Less packaging, less trash!
- ☐ I will wipe up spills with a sponge or cloth instead of paper towels.
- ☐ I will use the Sunday comics to wrap presents.
- ☐ I will recycle as much trash as I can!
- ☐ I will not leave the refrigerator door open for long periods of time.
- ☐ I will use re-usable containers for my lunch.
- ☐ I will pick up litter!

Signed _____

3.

Find the two identical trees.



Extra! Extra! Who loves our planet?

Look through the newspaper for the names of people and groups who are caring for our planet. Select one and send a letter thanking them for what they do to care for our home.

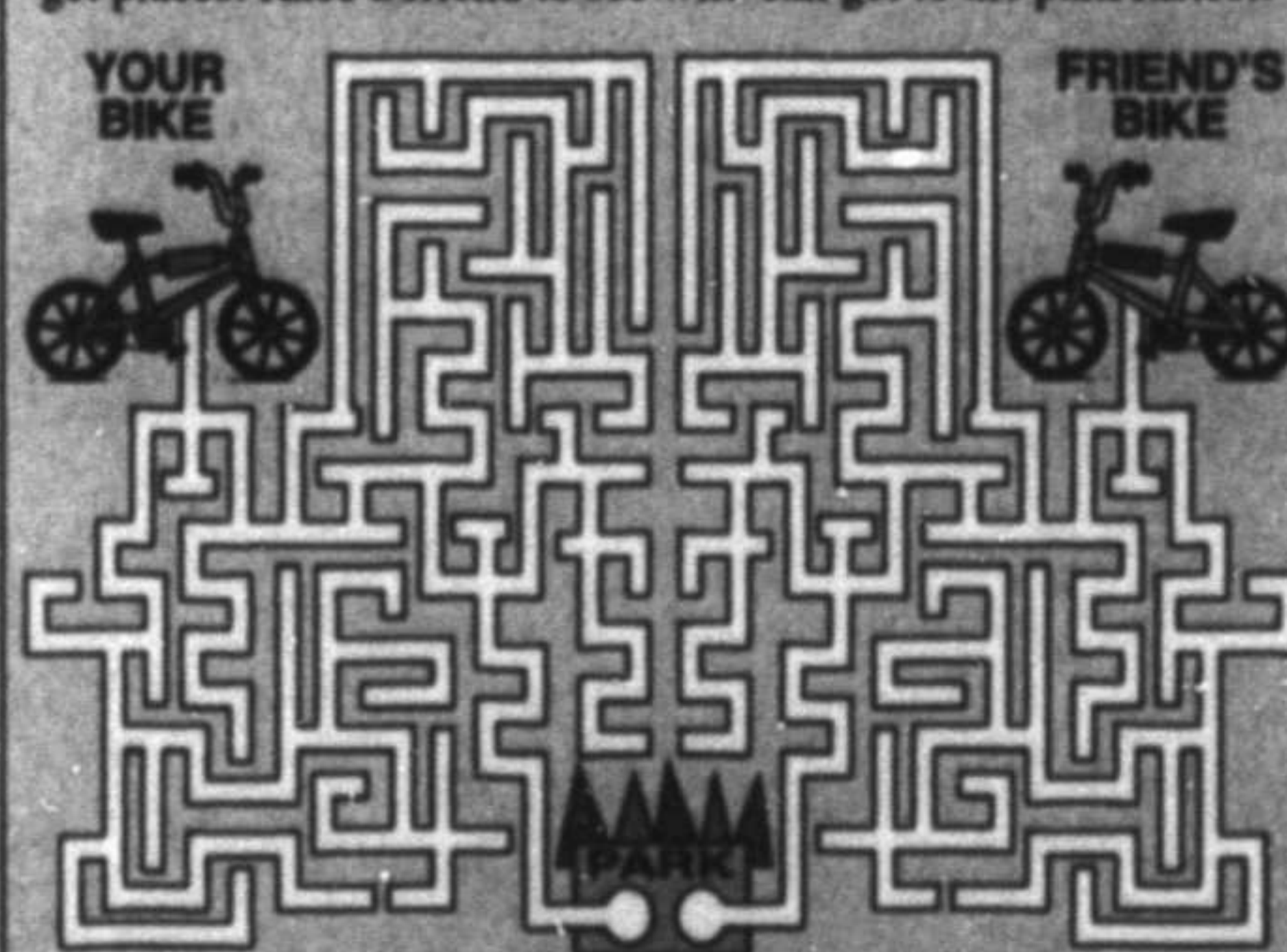
Standards Link: Writing
Write sentences using descriptive details.

What if the plants and animals fought back against pollution?



Kid Scoop Puzzler

One way to love the planet is by walking or riding your bike to get places. Race a friend to see who can get to the park fastest!



Kid Scoop Word Search

PACKAGING
ENORMOUS
PROBLEMS
RECYCLE
MOTHER
PLANET
LITTER
PLEDGE
EARTH
WASTE
LUNCH
WRAP
CARE
PICK
LOVE

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

L W S M E L B O R P
E O L U N C H E A L
L P V R O L O C C A
C L V E E M K A E N
Y E E T O A R M O E
C D P T G E R O T T
E G H I S H E T N R
R E N L C A E A H E
R G R T H K W R A P

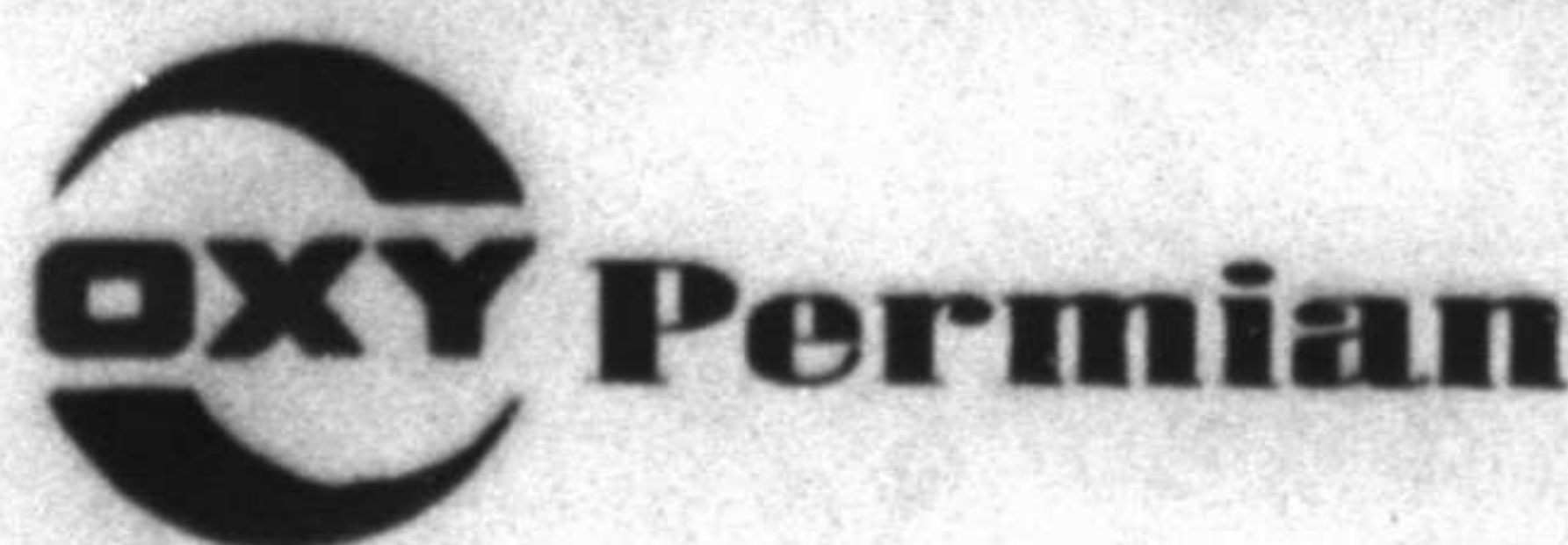
Standards Link: Letter sequencing, Recognized identical words, Skim and scan reading, Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Planet Points of View

Find an article that shows a way in which people harm or care for our planet. Re-write the article from the point of view of a wild animal that would be affected by the news in this article.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Read grade-level expository text.



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I'm lovin' it

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