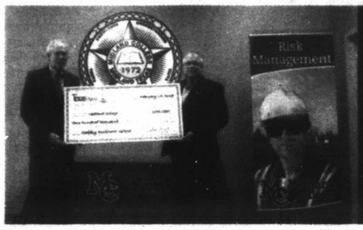
MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2018 mrt★com *320,000 readers in print and online*

SPORTS

Lee's Braydyn Hill sets the tone for the Lady Rebels.

Page 1B



RISK MANAGEMENT

Midland College receives $100,000 for safety training.

Page 2A

MPD leads training for mass-casualty incidents

Chief Henry encourages Midlanders to report suspicious activity

By Simone Jasper
sjasper@mrt.com

A training exercise on Thursday was a chance for local entities to prepare for a mass-casualty event. Steve Henry, chief of the Midland Police Department, said the practice helps law enforcement to do its best.

"Training like this — as cumbersome as it is sometimes — is necessary… to protect the citizens that we serve," he said. "They come in all shapes, sizes and forms, and the threat environment changes daily. We have to be ready for it."

More content inside

Warning signs may have been missed in Florida school shooting case.

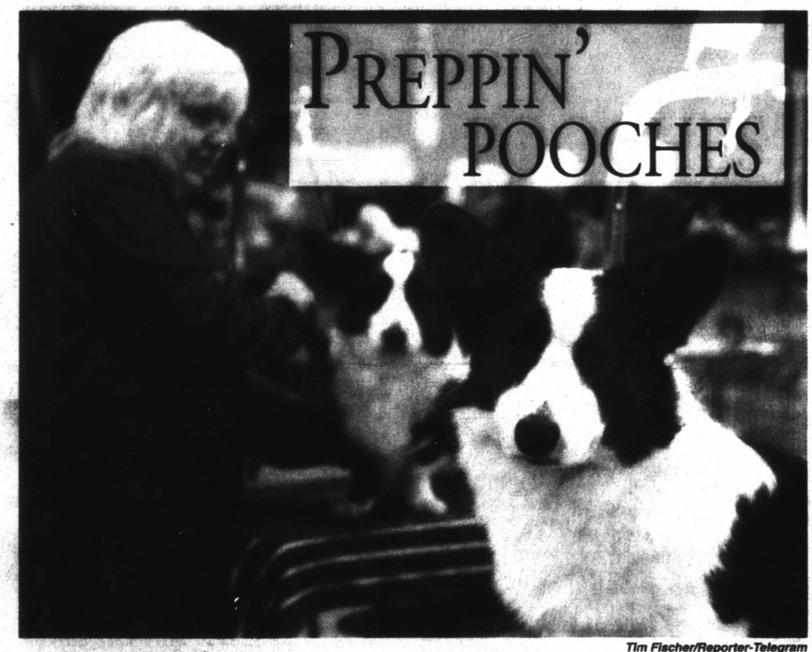
Page 4A

The training included a SWAT team and Explosive Ordinance Disposal — which involves steps related to dismantling explosive devices.

The exercise was held the same week that 17 people were killed in a shooting at a Florida high school. Henry said his department prepares for the worst and that the local training was scheduled in advance.

"This has been planned for quite a while," Henry said. "It's just ironic that this is happening a day after what happened in Florida — the tragedy that occurred there. Despite the irony, this is

Please see **TRAINING**/2A



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Becky Voegtlin preps her dogs Thursday at the West Texas and Big Spring Kennel Club's Dog Show at the Horseshoe Pavilion.

Price of gas in Midland drops by average of 3 cents

■ City has highest price for 11 straight weeks

From staff reports

The price of gas in Midland that was so quick to go up has not been as quick to go down.

While the price of gas dropped by 5 cents across the state and around the nation, the price decline in Midland was 3 cents, according to AAA Texas' survey of larger metropolitan areas. This followed last week's report when the average price across the state had dropped, while the average price in Midland rose by two pennies.

The association also reported that the most expensive gas in Texas cities surveyed could be found in Midland. The streak has now reached 11 weeks.

The average price of gasoline in Midland, according to AAA Texas, this week was $2.54. That was nearly a quarter higher than the average across the state ($2.30) and a penny lower than the average across the country ($2.55). Texas has the nation's lowest statewide average price for gasoline for the second straight week, the Associated Press reported Thursday.

Looking at TexasGasPrices.com, it appears the price in Midland is staying elevated, as only one-fifth of the stations in the city are posting prices below $2.50 a gallon. Of the 10 with prices below $2.50, eight are below $2.40 and two are lower than $2.30 a gallon. The cheapest gas could be found at Sam's Club — $2.50. The lowest price at a non-membership

Please see **GAS**/2A

MHS student charged in connection with gun-on-campus incident

From staff reports

The 17-year-old Midland High student who was arrested Tuesday after allegedly having a firearm on school grounds was being held Thursday on two third-degree felonies, according to court documents.

Williams

Ostyn Jacob Williams was being held on a $10,000 bond for a third-degree felony charge of places weapons prohibited and a $10,000 bond for a third-degree felony of tampering with physical evidence. He will be treated as an adult, District Attorney Laura Nodolf said Thursday.

Midland ISD police received a Crime Stoppers tip at about 1 p.m. Tuesday that a student had a firearm on campus, according to his arrest affidavit. The tip was in reference to a student having a gun "on his waistline," according to the affidavit.

The campus was placed on lockdown, and officers used campus cameras to search for the student who matched the description provided with the tip. Officers were able to identify the student as Williams, according to the affidavit.

Williams was taken from a classroom, searched and questioned. During the interview, Williams told officers "he had (a gun) but gave it to another person," according to the affidavit. Williams said he didn't know what type of gun it was, but confirmed it was one "where the magazine goes on the bottom," according to the affidavit.

Williams was not able to give officers the other person's full name or description.

Based on camera footage, the officers searched a classroom that Williams was seen entering but not exiting, according to the affidavit. Officers found a .40-caliber Taurus semi-automatic weapon behind a dictionary, according to the affidavit.

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

Visit us on social media

Price of oil
$61.34 ▲ $0.74
March 2018

The big number
36 percent;
that's how effective this year's flu shot is. Page 5A

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

Brought to you daily by JimBurrito

Vol. 89, No. 342
Daily $2, Sunday $3

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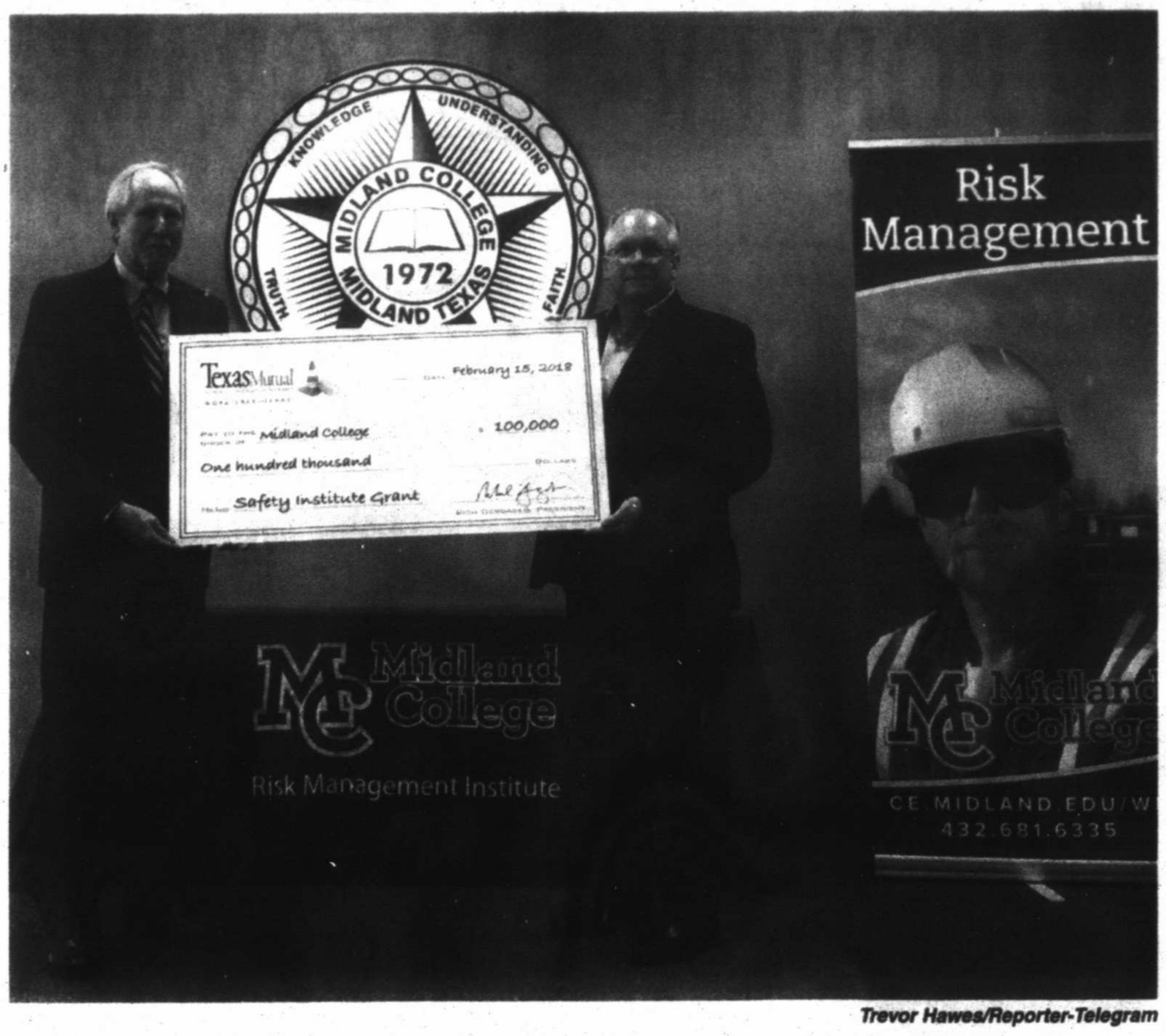
Midland Reporter-Telegram
31st Annual Regional Spelling Bee
Saturday, February 24, 2018
Midland College • 9:30 a.m.
Allison Fine Arts Building
Sponsored by JimBurrito



Trevor Hawes/Reporter-Telegram

Scott Bain, Texas Mutual Insurance regional manager, right, presents Midland College President Steve Thomas with a check for $100,000 to fund the school's Risk Management Institute on Thursday. A ceremony was held at MC's Advanced Technology Center.

MC receives $100K for safety training

By Trevor Hawes
thawes@mrt.com

Workplace safety is of utmost importance for businesses, and Midland College can continue to lend a hand.

The community college's Risk Management Institute has received $100,000 for the 13th consecutive year from Texas Mutual Insurance to offer courses on a variety of safety issues: accident investigation, hand safety, Occupational Safety and Health Administration requirements, general construction outreach — just to name a few.

All courses are offered free of charge.

"All companies — large, small or one-person operations — have the opportunity to come to the institute," MC President Steve Thomas said during a ceremony Thursday at the Advanced Technology Center.

Texas Mutual is the state's largest workers' compensation provider and offers $100,000 grants to 10 colleges around the state. The company has run the program since 1999 and has awarded $6.6 million total since then. MC has been a recipient every year since 2005 and has served more than 5,000 workers in that time, said Scott Bain, Texas Mutual regional manager for the Lubbock region.

Course enrollment in 2017 was 1,012, nearly 25 percent more than the number of workers served in 2016. The increase comes in part because of the uptick in the oil and gas industry.

"This is a time when a lot of new employees are coming into the industry, so it's even more important that they receive this type of training," Thomas said.

"When you're around heavy equipment, it can be risky at times. We want to see employees be safe, and so do the companies."

The Risk Management Institute isn't only for oil and gas workers. Industries such as construction, manufacturing, medical and even education are served with safety training programs.

New group opposes efforts to end cash bail

By Will Weissert
Associated Press

AUSTIN — A new Texas nonprofit promoting crime victims' rights is opposing bipartisan efforts to end cash bail systems that have gained traction around the country — hitting back at one of the few issues that unified powerful advocates on both the right and left.

Formally kicking off Thursday, the Texas Alliance for Safe Communities said it wants to strengthen public safety and curb violent crime by pushing in the Republican-controlled Legislature and beyond for criminal justice system accountability while preserving "judicial discretion."

The group hopes to halt bail system overhauls favoring assessments of defendants' danger to the public. Supporters of such changes say defendants deemed little risk should be eligible to be released from jail on "unsecured" bonds that don't require cash payments — rather than traditional, cash bond systems where defendants forfeit payments if they fail to show up in court.

"Texas communities are under assault by activist judges and misguided bureaucrats determined to let violent criminals get out of jail free," said Mark Miner, who was spokesman for former Texas Gov. Rick Perry's 2012 presidential campaign and now holds the same role for the alliance.

Similar groups defending cash bonds have popped up in other states and are often sponsored by bail bond companies worried about losing business. Miner said bail bond interests "are assisting with funding as the group is beginning." He said two of its five founding board members have links to the industry.

"They are part of the organization, but they're not the only part," Miner said of bail bond interests, adding that the alliance expects to attract members of other victims' groups, police organizations and "many ordinary citizens."

STATE&REGIONBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

AMARILLO

Police mistakenly shoot man who took gun from suspect

A Texas Panhandle shelter worker who wrestled a gun away from a man holding hostages was then shot by a police officer who mistook him as the suspect.

Amarillo police say they received a report Wednesday of a man holding dozens hostage in the chapel of Faith City Mission, a shelter serving the indigent and others.

An officer confronted a man inside holding a gun and shot him. Police say the investigation revealed the man who was mistakenly shot had moments earlier fought with the gunman and took away his weapon.

Police say the worker remained hospitalized Thursday with injuries not considered life-threatening.

Authorities say 35-year-old Joshua Len Jones is being held at the Potter County jail on multiple counts of aggravated kidnapping.

Online jail records don't indicate an attorney who's representing him.

PLANO

Two teenagers arrested for bringing guns to high schools

Authorities say two Texas high school students face charges after bringing guns to campus a day after a deadly mass shooting at a school in Florida.

The arrests Thursday happened at separate schools in suburban Dallas. Police didn't immediately release information on why the students brought firearms to class.

Flower Mound police said in a statement that a 16-year-old faced felony charges for bringing a small-caliber handgun to school. Police said the gun wasn't loaded but that ammunition was found.

The other arrest happened about 30 miles away at a Plano high school. Plano police spokesman David Tilley told The Dallas Morning News that a tip was called in about a student bringing a gun to school.

Tilley said no reported threats were made by the student.

FORT WORTH

Officers fatally shoot man after domestic disturbance

Police in Fort Worth say officers have fatally shot a man who had gone to a business and threatened a former girlfriend with a weapon.

Authorities said in a statement that officers responded Wednesday to a call of a domestic disturbance at the business. They learned the suspect had left and later pulled over his vehicle.

Authorities say the man stepped out of the vehicle and failed to comply with police orders. They say he was shot at least once when he continued to walk toward officers while displaying a gun.

The man was taken to a hospital where he died.

Officials say body cameras were worn by the officers at the scene but it's not yet clear what the cameras may have captured.

DENTON

Dad who fled to Mexico with son gets 50 years in death

A man convicted of killing his ex-girlfriend at a North Texas business and fleeing to Mexico with their 4-year-old son has been sentenced to 50 years in prison.

A Denton County jury on Monday convicted 27-year-old Ricardo Alfonso Lara-Martinez of murder in the December 2014 death of Maria Isabel Romero Medina. Her beaten and strangled body was discovered at a Denton insurance and tax office where she worked.

Prosecutors believe Lara-Martinez, who was sentenced Tuesday, and the 27-year-old victim argued over custody and his plans to take the boy to Mexico for a week.

Investigators say Lara-Martinez and his son were already in Mexico when the killing was discovered. The boy, now 7 years old, was located in 2016 and returned to relatives in Texas.

Lara-Martinez was extradited last June.

WACO

County commissioner continues to skip meetings

A county commissioner in east-central Texas has now missed 16 meetings in a row.

The Waco Tribune-Herald reports that McLennan County Precinct 2 Commissioner Lester Gibson has attended 23 of the last 58 meetings and hasn't made one this year. He last attended a commissioners meeting Sept. 19.

There are no attendance requirements for McLennan County commissioners, who make more than $96,000 a year.

Precinct 3 Commissioner Will Jones said in December it's inevitable that commissioners will sometimes miss meetings. But he's worried Gibson's constituents aren't being properly represented due to the extended absences.

Gibson maintained on Dec. 11 that he never missed more than two meetings in a row.

The commissioner has served on the court for nearly three decades. His term ends Dec. 31. He isn't seeking re-election.

AUSTIN

Texas reverses plan to cut more than 100 rehired troopers

The Texas Department of Public Safety is reversing plans to lay off more than 100 older state troopers as a means of hitting mandated budget cuts.

DPS Director Steve McCraw said in a memo to employees Thursday that the agency won't move forward with the reduction in force, which had been met with backlash by troopers and lawmakers.

The layoffs targeted formerly retired Texas troopers who were rehired. They had returned to the job under a program that was originally launched in response to struggles to recruit new members to the state's police force.

McCraw said in a memo that state leaders gave the OK to use other funds to cover the trooper salaries.

Texas has sought to add troopers in recent years while drastically increasing spending on border security.

FORT WORTH

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The man was taken to a hospital where he died.

Officials say body cameras were worn by the officers at the scene but it's not yet clear what the cameras may have captured.

OKLAHOMA

1-month-old baby found dead

OKLAHOMA CITY — Police say a 1-month-old baby has been found dead in an apartment in southwest Oklahoma City.

Police Capt. Arthur Gregory says officers were called for a welfare check on an infant at an apartment complex shortly before 3 a.m. Thursday.

Gregory says the baby was later pronounced dead at the scene.

The name and sex of the infant and a suspected cause of death have not been released.

GAS

From 1A

store — $2.29 — could be found at Murphy USA in northwest Midland.

Also, while the cheapest gas in Midland fell by 7 cents compared to last week, the most common price of gas in Midland remained around $2.58 or $2.59.

Compared to other communities in West Texas, Midland's prices still lag. While Midland and Odessa share a lowest price for gas ($2.25), nine of the lowest 10 prices in the two cities could be found in Odessa, according to TexasGasPrices.com. Lubbock is posting the cheapest gas at a store ($2.12) and posting an average ($2.223) that is more than 30 cents cheaper than Midland.

AAA Texas reports the cheapest gasoline in Texas is in the Dallas and Fort Worth-Arlington areas at an average $2.21 per gallon.

Gas prices by the numbers

Cheapest gas: $2.25 (Sam's Club, SH 191/Tradewinds)
Cheapest gas (non-membership store): $2.29 (Murphy USA, Midland Drive/Briarwood Avenue)
Most expensive: $2.59
Most common prices: $2.58, $2.59
Cheapest prices in West Texas: Lubbock $2.12, San Angelo $2.16, Odessa $2.25, Midland $2.25, Abilene $2.34

	Midland-Odessa	Texas
Thursday	$2.506	$2.265
Last week	$2.522	$2.360
Last month	$2.436	$2.285
Last year	$2.117	$2.089

Source: TexasGasPrices.com

TRAINING

From 1A

something that we have to do to keep our saws sharp."

Henry referenced reports about that incident, which revealed people had thought the suspect could carry out a shooting. He wants this community to be safe and hopes Midlanders will share their knowledge with the department.

"As a public, pay attention and report it," he said. "Certainly, as your chief of police, I'm paying attention, and I rely on the public to help us out. It won't fall on deaf ears with us."

For Thursday's exercise, training at Scharbauer Sports Complex included the response to an explosive device scenario at Security Bank Ballpark. Henry said dismantling the devices involves training and expertise.

As for the location, Henry said the complex draws large crowds and could be targeted. Though the training was at the sporting venue, Henry said the knowledge can be used in a mass-casualty incident at a school, government building or another setting.

"Those tactics are transferrable," he said. "That's why we do train over and over and over again, because it becomes muscle memory."

Henry didn't reveal the number of personnel or the specific tactics involved. He said the training included the Midland County Sheriff's Office, Midland Fire Department, city of Midland facilities workers and Midland RockHounds staff.

DAILY PROMISE
BROUGHT TO YOU BY
HENRY

Psalms 39:4-5

"O Lord, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am! Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you. Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath!"

TODAYINMIDLAND

Waiting for a chance to win

James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Guests line up to buy raffle tickets at Chocolate Decadence, the annual fundraiser for Aphasia Center of West Texas. The prize was a trip to New York City.

Things to do

- West Texas Kennel Club competition at Horseshoe Pavilion, 2514 Arena Trail. akc.org.
- Evening Storytime at the Library, 4:30 p.m. (2-6 years), 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., 4305 N. County Road 1140. Oldminersmaze.com.
- Couples Yoga Date night is a Hatha-based class where partners support each other in modified yoga poses, 6:30 p.m., Lacy J. Pilates and Fitness Studio, 3211 W. Wadley Ave. After the class, guests can enjoy wine, beer and food. $50 couple.
- Bingo Nights, 7 p.m., American Legion, 501 Veterans Airpark Lane. 682-5511.
- Hold 'em poker tournaments, 7 p.m., The Detour, 1709 Rankin Highway.
- O'Reilly Auto Parts Outlaw Nationals Monster Trucks, 7:30 p.m., Ector County Coliseum, 4201 Andrews Highway, Odessa. $23 adults, $13 children. Etix.com.
- "Mamma Mia," 7:30 p.m., MCT, 2000 W. Wadley Ave. $28. mctmidland.org.
- "Jersey Boys," 7:30 p.m., Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. broadwayinthebasin.com.
- Shane Rogers Band, Joe Trevino, 8 p.m., Escape Lounge, 3001 E. Business Loop 20, Odessa.
- DJ Wildman, 9 p.m., Lift on 7th, 1401 E. Seventh St. Odessa.
- Donnie Evetts, 10 p.m., Lone Star Bar, 621 W. Wall St.

Today is Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year, the most important holiday in China, begins today and marks the beginning of the Year of the Dog. Tied to the Chinese lunar calendar, the holiday was traditionally a time to honor household and heavenly deities as well as ancestors. It also was a time to bring family together for feasting.

Source: History.com

District 2 town halls

Councilman John B. Love III will be hosting two town hall events for residents of his district. The forums will feature officials from the city of Midland and Midland County and provide an opportunity to ask questions and share priorities.

The town halls are scheduled for 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesday at MLK Center, 2300 Butternut Lane, and 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday at Martinez Bakery, 206 E Florida Ave.

Primary elections

When: March 6
Early Voting dates: Feb. 20-March 2
Early voting centers
- Midland County Elections Office – county annex building, 2110 N. "A" St.
- Centennial Library, 2503 W. Loop 250 N
- Cogdell Learning Center, 211 W. Florida Ave.
- Fellowship Community Church, 5206 N. Midland Drive
- Manor Park (Cowden Clubhouse), 5212 Sinclair Ave.

Note: For more information, including times, see this Sunday's Reporter-Telegram for details.

Today in History

Today is Friday, Feb. 16, the 47th day of 2018. There are 318 days left in the year.

On this date:

In 1923, the burial chamber of King Tutankhamen's recently unearthed tomb was unsealed in Egypt by English archaeologist Howard Carter.

In 1937, Du Pont research chemist Wallace H. Carothers, inventor of nylon, received a patent for the synthetic fiber, described as "linear condensation polymers."

Source: Associated Press

Lottery

Pick 3 morning: 1-5-8
Pick 3 day: 0-4-5
Pick 3 evening: 2-9-6
Pick 3 night: 4-4-4
Daily 4 morning: 4-2-2-5
Daily 4 day: 7-9-0-5
Daily 4 evening: 1-5-2-8
Daily 4 night: 4-8-7-5
Cash Five: 2-22-29-35-36
Triple Chance: 2-4-6-12-19 29-36-44-48-49
Texas Two Step: 1-15-25-30 BB: 22
All or Nothing morning: 1-2-3-5-7-9-14-18-19-20-23-24
All or Nothing day: 1-2-5-6-9-11-12-15-16-20-23-24
All or Nothing evening: 1-4-5-6-8-9-10-15-19-21-22-23
All or Nothing night: 4-6-10-11-12-14-16-20-21-22-23-24

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Weather

Thursday's temperatures

High	83
Low	54
Normal high	62
Normal low	35

Feb. 15's records
Record high: 84, set in 2000 and equaled in 2014
Record low: 11, set in 1951

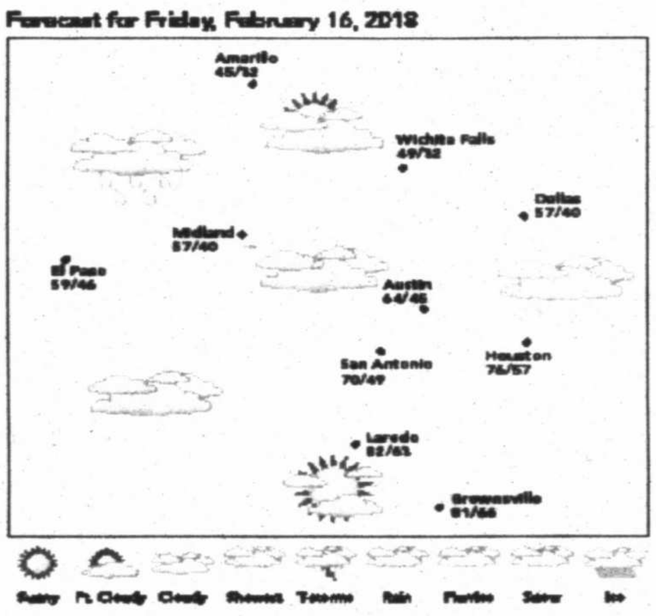
Precipitation

Wednesday	0.00 in.
Thursday	0.00 in.
Month total	trace
Year total	0.01 in.
Normal total (year to date)	0.94 in.

Winds
Average speed: 11 mph
Highest speed: 16 mph
Highest gust speed: 20 mph

Today's forecast

Forecast for Friday, February 16, 2018



High: 55
Low: 40
Conditions: Mostly cloudy during the day/rain at night
Winds: 15-25 mph (gusts up to 35 mph) during the day/5-15 mph at night
Chance of rain: 50 percent
Sunrise.....7:30 a.m.
Sunset.....6:36 p.m.

Source: National Weather Service

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

A baby born today has a Sun in Aquarius and a Moon in Pisces all day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for **Friday, Feb. 16, 2018:**

This year you embrace a more dynamic personality. Others sit back when you enter a room, as you exude energy and enthusiasm. Your friends and loved ones naturally defer to you. If you are single, you will meet someone you'll want to get to know well. Take your time deciding whether you can relate to this person as fully as you'd like to. If you are attached, the two of you smile even more when you are together. You'll have conflicts, but if you understand where the other person is coming from, you will evolve as a couple. PISCES encourages you to spend your money.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Curb a tendency to be possessive; make more of an effort to get past this type of behavior. Some of you will find other ways to handle your insecurities. You might be gentler and more caring than you choose to let on. Get into a favorite pastime. **Tonight:** Go with the moment.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You will want to keep your eye on the big picture. Avoid getting into a squabble at all costs. Focus on your friends and your long-term desires. You might become irritated by what is occurring around you. Allow more flow between you and others. **Tonight:** Where the gang is.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ You could be in a position where you can barely keep up with someone else's demands. You might feel put off and/or frustrated if you aren't able to fulfill this person's requests. Your feelings are likely to overflow and distract you. Get some downtime. **Tonight:** Out and about.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Reach out to a loved one at a distance. You might not be on top of what is happening in your inner circle. Avoid making any assumptions, and verify all of the information you hear. Ask questions, if need be. An authority figure pushes you hard. **Tonight:** On top of your game.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ One-on-one relating stirs up some fiery feelings. You could feel as if you are on a seesaw of emotions when dealing with one key person. Your high energy might create a hassle. Think about how much this person contributes to your personal life. **Tonight:** Let your naughtiness out.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Keep a conversation moving, and help a partner express his or her feelings. You could be quite serious about a problem. Listen to others' suggestions. You could be confused about which direction you should head in. Be responsive to inquiries. **Tonight:** Meet a loved one's request.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ You have a lot of ground to cover. However, first you will want to focus on an immediate problem. Allow more give-and-take with those who are in your immediate circle. Do not allow yourself to hold a grudge against a partner. **Tonight:** Take a walk by water to calm your nerves.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Your intensity allows greater give-and-take between you and others. You are likely to feel a strong connection to a new friend. Be open but cautious. Listen to a loved one who inspires plenty of ideas to come forward. Use caution when spending money. **Tonight:** Be playful.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You seem more grounded than you have been in a while. Feelings flow abundantly when you are at home and feel comfortable. Be direct with a family member, as confusion surrounds your communication. Make sure you are on the same page as others. **Tonight:** Order in.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Refuse to stand on ceremony. However, realize that you do need to express yourself, your concerns and choices. Return calls and emails that you have been putting off. You might be annoyed by one call, but the majority will be informative and pleasant. **Tonight:** Hang out.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You easily might start overspending. Once you relax with your funds and start purchasing various items, it could be almost impossible to stop. Re-evaluate a friendship that often leaves you feeling irritated or let down. **Tonight:** Do not risk anything that you can't afford to lose.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You might be more easygoing than you realize. Consider heading in a new direction subtly, without making any great announcements. You could be irritated by a supervisor, older friend or relative. Let go if you can, rather than express your irritation. Tonight: All smiles.

BORN TODAY
Actress Elizabeth Olsen (1989), actress Sarah Clarke (1972), actor LeVar Burton (1957)

WORD OF THE DAY
brought to you daily by
JimBurrito
Abbevillian
[Abbe·vil·li·an]
adjective
of or relating to an early Lower Paleolithic culture of Europe characterized by bifacial stone hand axes

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Warning signs may have been missed in school shooting case

By Kelli Kennedy
Associated Press

PARKLAND, Fla. — Months before authorities say Nikolas Cruz walked into his former high school and slaughtered 17 people, the troubled teen began showing what may have been warning signs he was bent on violence.

"Im going to be a professional school shooter," a YouTube user with the screen name "Nikolas Cruz" posted in September.

The 19-year-old had gotten expelled last year from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School for undisclosed disciplinary reasons. A former Junior ROTC cadet, he bought a military-style AR-15 rifle. And he began to participate in paramilitary drills with a white nationalist organization, according to its leader, Jordan Jereb.

Jereb, head of the Republic of Florida, told The Associated Press on Thursday that his group seeks to create a white state. He said he didn't know Cruz personally but was told the young man had "trouble with a girl," and he suggested the timing of the Valentine's Day attack wasn't a coincidence.

However, the Leon County Sheriff's Office in Tallahassee, where the Republic of Florida is based, said it monitors the group's membership and has seen no ties between the organization and Cruz. Sheriff's spokesman Lt. Grady Jordan said the Republic of Florida has never had more than 10 members.

Students and neighbors, meanwhile, reported that Cruz threatened and harassed others, talked about killing animals, posed with guns in disturbing photos on social media, and bragged about target practice in his backyard with a pellet gun.

In fact, schoolmates weren't surprised when Cruz was identified as the gunman in Wednesday's rampage, said 17-year-old Dakota Mutchler.

"I think everyone had in their minds if anybody was going to do it, it was going to be him," Mutchler said.

Benjamin Bennight, a Mississippi bail bondsman, was concerned enough after seeing the "professional school shooter" comment on his Youtube channel that he took a screenshot of it on his phone and called the FBI. Two FBI agents visited Bennight the next day.

The FBI said it never spoke to the Florida teen.

"No other information was included in the comment which would indicate a particular time, location or the true identity of the person who posted the comment," said Brett Carr, a spokesman for the FBI office in Jackson, Mississippi. "The FBI conducted database reviews and other checks but was unable to further identify the person who posted the comment."

Math teacher Jim Gard told The Miami Herald that before the shooting rampage, Cruz may have been identified as a potential threat.

Gard said he believes the school had sent out an email warning teachers that Cruz shouldn't be allowed on campus with a backpack.

"There were problems with him last year threatening students, and I guess he was asked to leave campus," Gard told the newspaper.

Student Victoria Olvera, 17, said that Cruz had been abusive to his ex-girlfriend and that his expulsion was over a fight with her new boyfriend. Cruz had been attending another school in Broward County since the expulsion, school officials said.

Jonathan Guimaraes, 17, told the Herald that he had been in JROTC with Cruz. "He was quiet, nice," Guimaraes said. "That's how he was able to blend in. He was wearing his JROTC uniform."

Cruz had on a maroon polo shirt bearing an ROTC insignia and the school's eagle mascot when he was arrested.

Cruz was an orphan — his mother, Lynda Cruz, died of pneumonia Nov. 1, and her husband died of a heart attack years ago, neighbors, friends and family members told the Sun Sentinel. The couple had adopted Nikolas and his biological brother.

Around Thanksgiving, Nikolas Cruz moved in with a friend's family in Broward County.

According to lawyer Jim Lewis, who represents but did not identify the family, they knew that Cruz owned the AR-15 but made him keep it locked up in a cabinet and never saw him go to a shooting range with it. He did have the key, however.

Cruz passed a background check and legally purchased the assault weapon from a licensed dealer in February 2017, a law enforcement official not authorized to discuss the investigation told the AP on condition of anonymity.

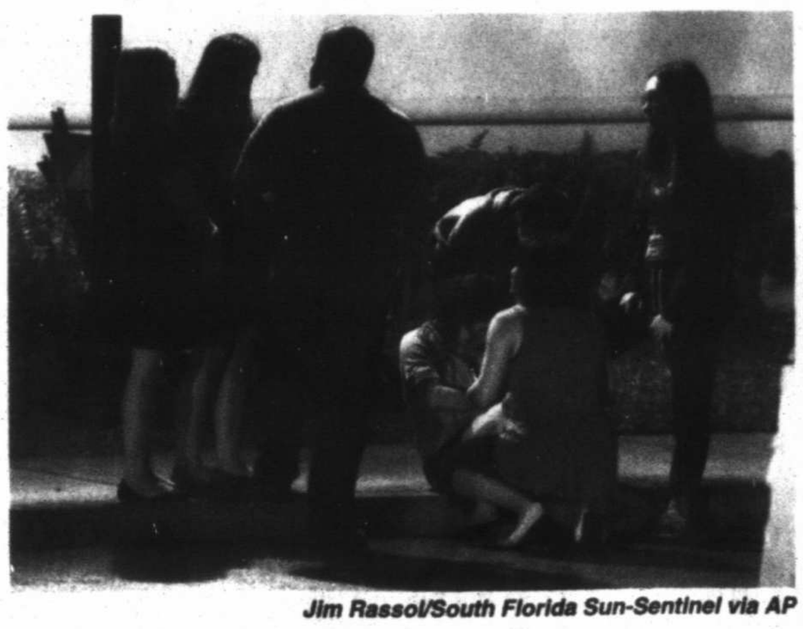
The family is devastated and shocked, Lewis said. During the three months Cruz lived there, he was respectful and quiet but also sad over his mother's death, the lawyer told the AP.

"No indication that anything severe like this was wrong," Lewis said. "Just a mildly troubled kid who'd lost his mom. ... He totally kept this from everybody."

Cruz's attorney, Melisa McNeill, said after a court hearing Thursday on the murder charges against the young man that Cruz was sad and remorseful and "just a broken human being."

"When you don't have the support system, that affects who you are, and that affects the people around you," McNeill said. "And when your brain is not fully developed you don't know how to deal with these things."

Cruz was getting treatment at a mental health clinic for a while but hadn't been there for more than a year, Broward County Mayor Beam Furr told CNN.



Jim Rassol/South Florida Sun-Sentinel via AP

Parents meet at a hotel Wednesday in Coral Springs, Fla. to pick up their children, following a shooting at nearby Marjory Stoneman Douglas High in Parkland, Fla. A former student opened fire at the Florida high school Wednesday, killing more than a dozen people and sending scores of students fleeing into the streets.

These are the lives lost in the Florida high school shooting

By Jay Reeves
Associated Press

When a gunman opened fire with an AR-15 at a large high school in south Florida, the 17 dead included students and school workers, young and old. Here is a look at some of some of those who lost their lives in the massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School:

Coach and security monitor

Assistant football coach Aaron Feis was shot to death while selflessly shielding students from bullets. A tweet from the school football program ended: "He died a hero and he will forever be in our hearts and memories."

Feis graduated from the school in 1999 and worked mainly with the junior varsity, the team website said. It said he lived in nearby Coral Springs with his wife and daughter.

The team website said Feis spent his entire coaching career at Marjory Stoneman after playing there as a student.

The Sun Sentinel reported that Feis, acting as a school security guard, responded to the original call on a school walkie-talkie. Someone on the radio asked if loud sounds they heard were firecrackers, said football coach Willis May, who also carries a radio.

"I heard Aaron say, 'No, that is not firecrackers.' That's the last I heard of him," May said.

Friend won't get to say 'I graduated high school'

Joaquin Oliver was known by his nickname "Guac," short for "guacamole," because many couldn't pronounce his first name.

"My friend will literally never get to say, 'I graduated high school,'" said Tyra Hemans, a 19-year-old who said she had been friends with Oliver since they were freshmen.

Hemans said she last saw her friend at school the day of the shooting.

"It was just a brief 'Happy Valentine's,'" she said. "He was with his girlfriend and I was just like, 'Oh my God, you guys are so cute.'"

She added, "He's just a goofball. He's the only kid you'd know that would dye his hair bleach-blond, walk around school, put some tiger stripes in and just be unique. He was a unique soul."

Athletic director 'was just amazing'

A married father of two and the athletic director at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, Chris Hixon wasn't shy about jumping in wherever he was needed, said friend and one-time colleague Dianne Sanzari.

Hixon belonged to a Roman Catholic church in Hollywood. The Archdiocese of Miami confirmed his death Thursday.

When a volleyball team needed a fill-in coach, Hixon took over; the same thing happened with the wrestling team, Sanzari said. And when the school needed someone to patrol the campus and monitor threats as a security specialist, Hixon did that, too.

It was in that security role that Hixon apparently came within range of the shooter.

'An angel taken away from us'

Meadow Pollack's parents called her phone repeatedly only to hear it ring, as they kept an anxious vigil outside the hospital. But on Thursday, her father, Andrew Pollack, confirmed that his daughter was among the dead, the Palm Beach Post reported.

Eighteen-year-old Pollack, a senior, had planned to attend Lynn University, her father said.

"Her life was taken way too soon and I have no words to describe how this feels," friend Gil Lovito posted on Facebook.

Family friend Adam Schachtel said in a Facebook post that "an angel was taken away from us in that horrific tragedy ... no words can be said so just prayers and sadness."

Victim's family: "Live for Alyssa!"

An amateur soccer club said one of its players, Alyssa Alhadeff, was among the students killed in the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

Parkland Soccer Club posted on its Facebook page that Alhadeff was a "loved and well respected member of our club and community."

The club posted a note it said was from her family which read: "To Alyssa's Friends honor Alyssa by doing something fabulous in your life. Don't ever give up and inspire for greatness. Live for Alyssa! Be her voice and breathe for her. Alyssa loved you all forever!"

"Only sadness"

Fourteen-year-old Alaina Petty was among those who died in the shooting, great-aunt Claudette McMahon Joshi confirmed in a Facebook post.

"There are no hashtags for moments like this, only sadness," she wrote, asking people to lift up Petty's family in prayer.

Petty attended a local Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Petty was a "valiant young member of the Coral Springs Ward," Church leader Stephen E. Thompson wrote in an update.

Geography teacher helped students

Students said geography teacher Scott Beigel, 35, helped them enter a locked classroom to avoid the gunman and paid for the brave act with his life.

"If the shooter would have come into the room, I probably wouldn't be speaking to you now," student Kelsey Friend told Good Morning America.

Friend said when she heard gunshots and realized it wasn't a drill she followed other students toward the classroom.

Beigel "unlocked the door and let us in," she said. "I thought he was behind me, but he wasn't. When he opened the door he had to relock it so we could stay safe, but he didn't get a chance to."

Student Bruna Oliveda said she saw Beigel blocking the door.

"I don't know how we're alive," she said.

14-Year-old looked out for underdogs

Ninth grader Jaime Guttenberg, 14, loved to dance and hoped to become an occupational therapist and mother, aunt Abbie Youkilis said.

"She always looked out for the underdog and the bullied and she probably had been kind to the (former) student who shot her," Youkilis said in a written statement sent to The Associated Press.

Guttenberg leaves her parents, Fred and Jennifer Guttenberg, and brother Jesse. Her father said in a Facebook post that he is "trying to figure out how my family gets through this."

Youkilis called for gun-control legislation, saying Jaime's parents were "the world's most loving and over-protective parents but they could not protect Jaime from the sickness that has gripped our country."

Balloons for the victims

Shooting victim Martin Duque was one of Isaac Briones' best friends.

"He was like, one of the nicest people I knew," said Briones, 15. "He was so caring."

Briones said he last saw Martin the day of the shooting during first period.

"We were just playing around, talking about jokes and stuff," said Isaac, who was outside the school Thursday with others holding a group of white balloons for the victims.

On Instagram, Miguel Duque wrote that words can't describe the pain of losing his brother. He added: "I love brother Martin you'll be missed buddy. I know you're in a better place. Duques forever man I love you junior!!! R.I.P Martin Duque!"

Freshman color guard member

Shooting victim Gina Montalto was a 14-year-old freshman who participated on the winter color guard squad at the school.

Friends and relatives posted tributes on Facebook, including mother Jennifer Montalto.

"She was a smart, loving, caring, and strong girl who brightened any room she entered..She will be missed by our family for all eternity," said the post.

One of Montalto's color guard instructors from middle school, Manuel Miranda, told the Miami Herald that Montalto was "the sweetest soul ever."

"She was kind, caring always smiling and wanting to help," Miranda said.

Swimming scholarship winner

Nicholas Dworet had committed to swim for the University of Indianapolis.

The college announced Thursday that the senior was among those killed in the mass shooting at his high school.

In a statement, UIndy swimming coach Jason Hite called Dworet an "energetic and very vibrant kind" who cheered for his soon-to-be university during a swimming meet last month.

"I spoke with his mom this morning, and she reiterated the fact that he was really looking forward to this next step in his life and becoming a Hound," said Hite. "He really felt like he had a family in the team, and was really excited about what we're doing up here."

ROTC student

Peter Wang, a 15-year-old ROTC student at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, wasn't interested in status but wanted to help others, relatives said.

A cousin, Aaron Chen, told the Miami Herald that Wang was last seen holding a door open so others could get away from the gunman.

Friends and relatives first thought Wang was just missing and checked with area hospitals. They later found out he had been killed.

"He wasn't supposed to die," Chen told First Coast News.

Family searched hospitals, and then ...

Fifteen-year-old Luke Hoyer was a loving, sweet person who loved basketball and "smiled all the time," his aunt Joan Cox said.

"He was just a good kid ... very loving and just enjoyed life," said Cox, of Greenville, South Carolina.

She said Luke's parents, Gena and Tom Hoyer, searched for their son at hospitals before finally going to the law enforcement command center, where they eventually learned he had died.

"It's just a terrible thing," said Cox, who said the family — including Luke's older sister Abby and brother Jake — spent Christmas with her and other family in South Carolina. "We just all pretty much can't get over it."

National Merit Semifinalist Among Victims

Carmen Schentrup was a smart girl with a sweet smile.

In September, she was named one of 53 National Merit Scholarship Program semifinalists in the county and a classmate tweeted "we all praised for her intelligence."

Cousin Matt Brandow posted on Facebook that the 16-year-old visited Washington State recently and said she wanted to go to the University of Washington. He asked: you like the rain?

"She answers, I hate sweating in the humid Florida weather," Brandow wrote. "That's when I knew you were perfect for Washington."

Condolences to demands for action, world reacts to shooting

Associated Press

Victims' relatives and student survivors called for action while the president and congressional leaders offered condolences and condemnation of the crime. Americans with close ties to past school shootings expressed distress at how little has changed. And world leaders, Olympic athletes and TV talk show hosts reacted with horror to the slaying of 17 by a lone gunman at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland Florida.

Here is a sample of those voices responding to the tragedy.

"We are all joined together as one American family, and your suffering is our burden also. No child, no teacher, should ever be in danger in an American school."

— President Donald Trump, addressing the nation the day after the shootings

"You're right. I've been saying this since my mom was murdered at #SandyHook in 2012. So, is it finally time to talk #gunsense? I'm happy to share my experience with you to help brainstorm solutions."

— Erica Lafferty, the daughter of slain Sandy Hook Elementary School principal Dawn Hochsprung, responding to Trump on Twitter

"If we do something, it should be something that works. And the struggle up to this point has been that most of the proposals that have been offered would not have prevented, not just yesterday's tragedy, but any of those in recent history."

— U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, a Republican from Florida, speaking on the Senate floor

"Why is your hunting hobby more important than my niece's life? ... I don't care that Nikolas Cruz did this. If it had not been him, it would have been some other sad sick young man. I do care that he was able to legally purchase an assault weapon."

— Abbie Youkilis, an aunt of 14-year-old Jaime Guttenberg, who was slain in the Florida shooting, in an emailed statement

"It's not as if nothing has been done to enforce the laws we have on the books and make sure that bad people who aren't supposed to get guns don't get guns. But I don't think that means you then roll the conversation into taking away citizens' rights."

— U.S. House Speaker Paul Ryan, a Republican from Wisconsin, in an interview with radio show host Tony Katz

"My message to lawmakers in Congress is please take action. Ideas are great. Ideas are wonderful and they help you get re-elected and everything. But what's more important is actual action. ... Children will continue to die if we don't take a stand now."

— David Hogg, a senior at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, on CNN

"It cannot be denied that something dangerous and unhealthy is happening in our country. ... We can and we must do better. We owe it to every one of those kids crying outside their school yesterday and all those who never made it out of that school."

— U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions, speaking to a group of sheriffs in Washington

"We are grieving with Parkland. But we are not powerless. Caring for our kids is our first job. And until we can honestly say that we're doing enough to keep them safe from harm, including long overdue, commonsense gun safety laws that most Americans want, then we have to change."

— Former President Barack Obama on Twitter

"I had to have the exact same conversation that every parent in Broward County had to have with their children this morning. And then I had to walk and meet with him. I'm fully aware of the impact that this has on the people that live here. This is a national conversation."

— Melisa McNeill, public defender for shooting suspect Nikolas Cruz

"Those families are going to say to me, when is enough, enough? For those saying now is not the time to talk about gun violence, ... I would ask, when is the time? If now is not the right time, when is the right time? After the next shooting? Or after the one that's going to come after that? Because these are not going to stop unless we change ourselves as a culture."

— U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson, a Democrat from Florida, on the Senate floor

"To say that such brutal, pointless violence is unconscionable is an understatement."

— Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Republican from Kentucky, in calling for a moment of silence for the Florida victims

Two freed after shots fired at SUV in NSA campus confrontation

By Brian Witte
Associated Press

FORT MEADE, Md. — Two of the three people who were in a sport utility vehicle that was stopped and fired upon when it tried to enter the National Security Agency campus without authorization have been released, an FBI spokesman said Thursday.

NSA police turned over the other person to the Howard County Sheriff's Office, because he was wanted on allegations of being behind on child support payments, said Dave Fitz, the spokesman for the FBI's Baltimore field office.

The man, Javonte Alhajie Brown, 24, was expected to be released sometime Thursday, said Deputy Christopher Adams, a spokesman for the sheriff's office.

Fitz said that the FBI investigation is ongoing to determine why the black SUV carrying the three people tried to enter a top-secret intelligence site at Fort Meade.

Investigators are considering the theory that the vehicle made a wrong turn and ended up at the NSA gate.

"The FBI continues to believe that yesterday's encounter was an isolated incident," Fitz said in a statement. "Our investigation continues and we do not see a nexus to terrorism."

FBI investigators left the scene Wednesday evening, Fitz said.

The unauthorized vehicle's arrival at the NSA's campus prompted shots to be fired at the vehicle Wednesday morning. The driver was hospitalized, though NSA and FBI officials say they don't believe any injuries were caused by bullets.

Authorities have not released the names of any of the individuals involved. Gordon Johnson, special agent in charge of the FBI's Baltimore field office, said at a Wednesday afternoon news conference that they were male, but didn't release ages.

The NSA campus in a suburban area edged by woods outside the nation's capital sits by a highway with an exit specifically designated for NSA employees. But drivers have taken the wrong exit before and ended up at the tightly secured gates. Most motorists then carefully follow the orders of heavily armed federal officers and turn around without getting into further trouble.

But in early 2015, two people were shot by NSA police when they disobeyed orders outside the heavily secured campus. One driver died at the scene after NSA police opened fire on the stolen sports utility vehicle. Authorities said the occupants had stolen a car from a man who picked them up for a party at a motel.

An NSA police officer and a civilian onlooker also were injured in the incident Wednesday. Both required hospital treatment, but their injuries were not life-threatening, Johnson said. Authorities did not say how they were injured.

Wednesday's incident began about 6:55 a.m. when the SUV tried to enter the spy agency's campus.

While Johnson declined to give details about who opened fire, he said preliminarily indications are that all gunfire was directed toward the vehicle.

The vehicle had a New York license plate, and Johnson said it was believed to be a rental car, but he said it was unknown exactly where the vehicle came from.

"We are working through that," Johnson said. "We believe that it was a rental car, but we're still working that as part of the ongoing investigation."

Jose Luis Magana/Associated Press

Fort Meade gate next to the The National Security Agency is seen Wednesday in Fort Meade, Md. One person was wounded in a shooting Wednesday morning outside the National Security Agency campus at Fort Meade.

Tax overhaul seen spurring more acrimonious divorce negotiations

By Ben Steverman
Bloomberg News

NEW YORK — President Donald Trump's tax law could make divorce an even more miserable experience, according to a new survey of the nation's top matrimonial attorneys.

Almost two thirds of respondents said they expect divorce negotiations to become more acrimonious following a change to the tax treatment of alimony, a poll by the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers showed. The new law includes a controversial provision that scraps the tax break divorcees get for paying alimony — starting for divorces finalized next year.

Battles will ensue since alimony payers will have less of a tax incentive to be generous to their former spouses. The provision allows recipients to omit the alimony they receive from their taxable income, but divorce lawyers don't expect that to offset the loss from a lower payout. The change could also have lasting consequences for child support, which is often calculated in tandem with alimony.

Previous rules "made it much easier to do divorce negotiations," said Madeline Marzano-Lesnevich, a New Jersey divorce attorney who is the president of the 1,650-member American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. She said she expects more resentment from alimony recipients — often women who downshifted careers to take care of children — and more divorce cases to head to court.

Alimony, also known as spousal support or maintenance, is typically paid by the higher-earning spouse for a period of time after a divorce. Under former Internal Revenue Service rules, money paid to a former spouse could be subtracted from the payer's taxable income, lowering his or her tax burden. Taxes had to be paid on any alimony received, but recipients typically had much lower incomes, and thus paid lower tax rates than those providing the alimony.

"It did make a very big economic difference," divorce attorney Alyssa Rower, founding partner of the New York matrimonial firm Rower LLC, said, referring to the alimony deduction. "It allowed people to pay more."

As more and more married people each pursue their own careers, alimony has become a less important part of some divorce settlements. Many states have limited the amount of time that people can receive alimony, on the theory that it should help divorcing spouses get on their feet but not provide unlimited support. New Jersey ended lifetime alimony in 2014.

An initial version of the Republican tax bill called for the elimination of the alimony deduction beginning in 2018 — prompting a brief rush to finalize divorces at the end of last year. Marzano-Lesnevich said. The final legislation only affects divorces finalized in 2019 and beyond. That gives time for divorcing couples and their attorneys to adjust to the new rules, but it also means couples could pay a price for any delay in settling their affairs beyond Dec. 31.

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Mortgage rates climb to a nearly 4-year peak

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Long-term U.S. mortgage rates jumped this week to their highest level in nearly four years, a sign that the prospect of higher inflation is steadily increasing the cost of borrowing to buy a home.

Mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said Thursday that the average rate on 30-year, fixed-rate mortgages rose to 4.38 percent this week, up from 4.32 percent last week and the highest since April 2014.

The rate on 15-year, fixed-rate loans rose to 3.84 percent from 3.77 percent last week.

Recent wage gains and rising prices are stoking concerns about inflation picking up, which has caused investors to seek higher interest rates. Mortgage rates are closely aligned with the yield on 10-year U.S. Treasury notes, which has climbed above 2.90 percent from 2.78 percent just two weeks ago.

The low mortgage rates had eased some of the price pressures facing would-be homebuyers. The shrinking inventory of sales listings has caused prices to increase at roughly double the gains in average hourly earnings, making it harder to save for a down payment and purchase a home.

But homebuyers had the benefit of average 30-year mortgages that were 3.78 percent in September. If mortgage rates keep rising at a quick pace, it could limit what people can afford to pay and cause demand for housing to fall.

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Senators raise serious, troubling questions

■ Democrats can't easily dismiss Charles Grassley-Lindsey Graham memo, which confirms Nunes' claims

MARC THIESSEN
Washington Post Writers Group

After House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes, R-Calif., sent his memo to the White House laying out potential abuses of the FISA process by the FBI, Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., demanded that he be removed as chairman. Nunes was "deliberately dishonest" in pushing to release a "bogus memo," Pelosi declared, and had "disgraced the House Intelligence Committee" with his "partisan effort to distort intelligence."

But Democrats can't so easily dismiss the far more detailed declassified criminal referral written by two respected Republican senators — Charles E. Grassley, R-Iowa, and Lindsey O. Graham, R-S.C. — which confirms the claims raised in the Nunes memo. The Grassley-Graham memo has been all but ignored since its release, but it deserves attention from everyone -- and answers from the Justice Department.

If you're concerned about Russia meddling in our election, as every American should be, then you should be deeply concerned about unverified allegations by Russian government officials, passed on to the FBI by a paid partisan of one candidate, leading to a warrant to spy on an American citizen associated with the other campaign.

According to Grassley and Graham, that is precisely what happened. The FBI "relied heavily" on the Steele dossier to obtain warrants for surveillance of Carter Page, a marginal former Trump campaign adviser, the senators write. Moreover, they say, the FBI did not have "meaningful corroboration" of Steele's claims when it submitted its application to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act court. "The bulk of the application consists of allegations against Page that were disclosed to the FBI by Mr. Steele and are also outlined in the Steele dossier. The application appears to contain no additional information corroborating the dossier allegations against Mr. Page" except for "a news article that appears to be sourced to Mr. Steele's dossier as well."

In other words, Steele's work was virtually the sole source of information the FBI relied upon to obtain a warrant to spy on a U.S. citizen. Without it, there would likely have been no surveillance approved.

The senators further confirm that the FBI did not, in fact, tell the court the full provenance of the dossier, writing, "The application failed to disclose that the identities of Mr. Simpson's ultimate clients were the Clinton campaign and the DNC." (Glenn Simpson is co-founder of the firm that hired Steele.) They also failed to tell the court that an FBI official, Bruce Ohr (whose wife worked for Fusion GPS on the Russia project), had warned the bureau that "Steele was 'desperate' to see that Mr. Trump was not elected" even though this information was relevant "to his credibility and his stated political motive." Grassley and Graham conclude that "it appears the FBI relied on admittedly uncorroborated information, funded by and obtained for Secretary Clinton's presidential campaign, in order to conduct surveillance of an associate of the opposing presidential candidate."

The senators note the FBI used the dossier because Steele was "considered reliable due to his past work with the Bureau." But in October 2016, the FBI suspended its relationship with Steele after it learned he had disclosed dossier information to the press and after he lied to the FBI about it. Yet despite Steele's deception, which calls into question his credibility, the FBI continued to rely on the dossier for renewals of the FISA warrant. Worse, the senators write, "the FBI did not subsequently disclose to the [court] this evidence suggesting that Mr. Steele had lied to the FBI."

None of these ugly details exonerate Trump or undercut the Mueller investigation. Nor was that the purpose. Both Graham and Grassley have always supported special counsel Robert S. Mueller III — Graham by introducing a bill that would require the attorney general to petition a panel of federal judges for permission to remove a special counsel, and Grassley by holding a hearing on the bill.

But if the FBI, wittingly or unwittingly, made representations before the court that were in error, then the American people have a right to know. And if a paid advocate of one presidential candidate persuaded the FBI to conduct surveillance on a member of the other candidate's campaign team, Congress has an obligation to investigate.

As for Democrats, are Grassley and Graham's claims "bogus" and "dishonest"? Have they "disgraced" their committee with a "partisan effort to distort intelligence"? I think not. They have raised serious questions that should trouble all Americans, no matter their political party.

OPINION EXTRA

Trump hasn't kept his vow to hire 'best people'

Let's take a quick look at five stories about the Donald Trump administration from the last few days:

■ Steve Bannon, a former top official in the Trump campaign and the White House, was reported to have said (as he was leaving his job as chief strategist last August) that he was sick of being a "wet nurse to a 71-year-old man."

■ Rob Porter, a senior White House aide, quit after allegations of physical abuse by two ex-wives and an ex-girlfriend went public. White House aides provided conflicting accounts of who had known what about the abuse. It appears that White House chief of staff John Kelly considered Porter more competent than many of his colleagues and was therefore reluctant to abandon him.

■ Rachel Brand, the No. 3 official in the Justice Department, announced that after less than a year she was leaving the government to work for Walmart.

■ Christopher Wray, whom Trump appointed director of the FBI, responded to a question about the president's criticisms of the bureau by dismissing "the noise on TV and in social media."

■ Trump told the world that he planned to impose a "reciprocal tax" on other countries, which "surprised some of his top aides, who warned that no formal plans have been prepared."

These stories raise very different issues. What they have in common is that all of them point to serious personnel problems. We have grown used to them over the last 13 months, but their extent remains unusual for a presidential administration.

Bannon, Brand and Porter are each examples of the extremely high turnover in senior positions, and Wray has his job because of turnover. It may be more taxing to work amid the ambient chaos of this administration than it usually is to hold a senior position in the executive branch — which adds to the turnover. Brand was reportedly unhappy in her job in part because the administration had not gotten enough other appointees confirmed to the Justice Department. Her departure will add to the vacancies.

The work can be grueling in any administration, and people take the jobs anyway because there are also rewards. But working for Trump presents special challenges.

The latest news illustrates some of them. The president inspires no loyalty, as Bannon shows. The top aides spend a lot of their mental energy figuring out how to leak to their advantage and to the disadvantage of their internal enemies, as we have seen in the days since Porter left the White House. Being employed there can lead others to associate you with low ethics, including callousness about domestic abuse. And the president feels it appropriate to criticize his own appointees in public rather than simply replace them if they have lost his confidence (as Brand's superior, Attorney General Jeff Sessions, has experienced).

Several of the stories remind us that people who work for the administration have adapted to the chaos by deciding that they do not need to follow what appears at any moment to be the president's lead. Consider that report about a "reciprocal tax." Trump has been saying for months now — decades, really — that he would like to see wide-ranging tariffs. His aides seem less than laser-focused on getting him what he wants.

Nor does anyone think that the president's public line on the Porter story — Trump says his former aide is innocent and has not thought the women to be worth mentioning — should be reflected in what other White House officials say about it on or off the record.

Traditionally, presidencies see declining levels of talent as they age. The most talented appointees burn out (and cash in) and are replaced by the B team. But the administration started in a worse place than many of its predecessors. Many Republicans who would normally have been eager to serve under a Republican president hung back when Trump took office.

Nothing that has happened since Trump has been in office has made people more willing to serve. More Republicans are sorry they accepted an opportunity to work for Trump than are sorry they turned one down.

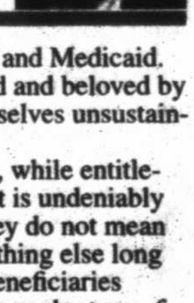
Many competent, well-qualified people work for the president because they think it is in the country's interest for them to be there — sometimes because they want to encourage what they see as his better angels. But there is room for doubt that Trump has kept his campaign promise that his administration would feature "the best people in the world." And it is likely that we are already seeing the highest-quality collection of people this administration will ever have to offer.

— Ramesh Ponnuru, Bloomberg

Midland Reporter-Telegram
A Hearst Newspaper

Fix debt by fixing entitlements

■ To sustain these programs, raise retirement age and reduce benefits to the rich



JAY AMBROSE
Tribune News Service

Congress just passed a two-year bipartisan spending bill that will take our $20 trillion debt and start stuffing it with deficit dynamite until it finally explodes at some point and America's wounded economy limps toward its death bed.

That's one prognostication, and it has a firm foundation if nothing is done to adjust Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. Here are major underlying causes of our current jeopardy, all of which could easily have been fixed long ago. They weren't because of what's still in the way: demagoguery, self-serving politics, putting present bliss over future dismay and ideological inanities.

This latest bill was framed by the Republicans to boost military spending by 10 percent, and that made sense. The military is in a bad way financially. Incredibly enough, for instance, there is a pilot shortage in part because of too little money for training, and this at such a tense, challenging time.

To get the bill passed, Democrats had to go along – 60 percent of senators have to say OK if spending bills are to be enacted – and they could easily have forced another shutdown. Instead, they promised to supply the needed votes if they got a historically high boost for social programs. It was an all-or-nothing proposition both ways. "All" won the game with consequences, including an extension of unwarranted subsidies, ending spending caps and, of course, massively amplifying the debt hazard.

The deal's spending increase comes to a whopping $400 billion and is all the worse, some say, because of the GOP tax-reduction package, which pleads innocent because of the good it otherwise does. This package has already spurred the economy and put money in pockets with lower taxes, higher wages and bonuses for average folks. The job-creating business expansion could be phenomenal, saving the savaged working class with higher pay and more opportunities and requiring leftist economists to rewrite textbooks saying this kind of growth was no longer possible.

Revenues actually will be increased, say some notable economists, although there remains a rescue without which there is no rescue. It is to address Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. These programs are hugely needed and beloved by just about everybody but are themselves unsustainable without change.

This point gets argued a lot, but, while entitlement treasury bonds speak to what is undeniably due to the programs under law, they do not mean all is well. The spending on everything else long ago ate up any means of paying beneficiaries without increasing the debt every year by tens of billions of dollars.

The baby boomers are retiring in huge numbers, the costs keep going up, Social Security and Medicare alone are taking up around 60 percent of the unified budget and here is what any number of bipartisan experts say: Down the road, our tax revenues will be sufficient only for entitlements and paying overwhelming interest on the debt. There will be no way to borrow our way out of this much of a mess.

All kinds of sensible plans have been proposed in the past as vile and inhumane demagogues have portrayed their proponents as vile and inhumane. To sustain these programs and a thriving economy we need to consider such things as raising the retirement age and reducing benefits to the rich with no effect on current beneficiaries or those close to retirement. Otherwise, the programs won't last and the economy will turn sour.

President Donald Trump, who refuses to do anything about Social Security, has produced a whirlwind of an unnecessarily controversial budget that does have some worthy ideas about Medicare and Medicaid. What's really needed now are courageous Republicans willing to do what's right despite the political risks. A Democratic change of attitude would not hurt, either, but they have long specialized in making things worse.

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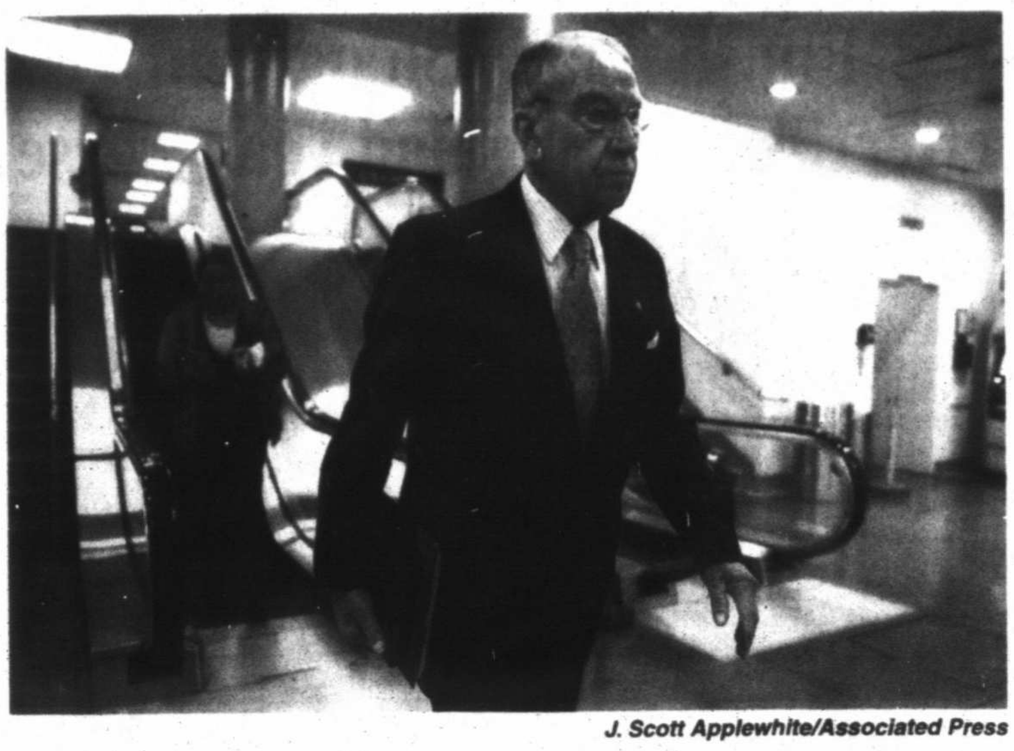
From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



J. Scott Applewhite/Associated Press

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, walks through a basement passageway Wednesday at the Capitol amid debates in the Senate on immigration in Washington. President Donald Trump is thanking Grassley for introducing legislation similar to the immigration framework pushed by the White House.

Senate rejects bipartisan immigration plan and Trump's, too

By Alan Fram and Kevin Freking
Associated Press

J. Scott Applewhite/Associated Press

Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., left, and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., walk together Wednesday outside the chamber during debate in the Senate on immigration, at the Capitol in Washington.

WASHINGTON — The Senate rejected both a bipartisan immigration plan and a more restrictive proposal by President Donald Trump on Thursday, suggesting the latest election-year debate on an issue that fires up both parties' voters will produce a familiar outcome: stalemate.

Facing a White House veto threat and opposition from the Senate's GOP leaders, the chamber derailed a plan by bipartisan senators that would have helped 1.8 million young immigrant "Dreamers" achieve citizenship. It also would have doled out $25 billion for Trump's coveted wall with Mexico and for other border security measures, but it didn't go as far as Trump wanted in curbing legal immigration.

It lost 54-45, six short of the 60 votes that were needed for passage. That scuttled what had seemed the likeliest chance for sweeping immigration legislation to make it through the Senate this year.

Trump's own plan fared even worse as 60 senators voted no and just 39 voted for it — 21 shy of the 60 needed. The embarrassing outcome for the president underscored the feelings of Republicans concerned about election damage in swing states with high numbers of Hispanic voters.

Top Democrats had held out faint hopes that the bipartisan package would prevail, or at least force Trump to negotiate further. But he proved unwilling to fold on his demands for a tougher bill, reflecting the hard-line immigration stance that was a cornerstone of his 2016 presidential run.

In a written statement earlier Thursday, the White House labeled the bipartisan proposal "dangerous policy that will harm the nation." It singled out a provision that directed the government to prioritize enforcement efforts against immigrants who arrive illegally beginning in July. Trump and GOP leaders said he'd already shown flexibility by offering a 10- to 12-year path to citizenship for so many Dreamers, a key demand for Democrats and some Republicans.

Minutes later, the chamber voted against Trump's proposal. Besides helping Dreamers achieve citizenship, the president's measure would have provided wall funding in one burst, rather than doling it out over 10 years as the bipartisan plan proposed.

In addition, Trump's bill would have prevented legal immigrants from sponsoring parents and siblings for citizenship and would have ended a visa lottery aimed at allowing more diverse immigrants into the U.S. The compromise bill would have left that lottery intact but barred Dreamers who obtain citizenship from sponsoring their parents.

"Dreamers" are immigrants brought to the U.S. illegally as children who risk deportation because they lack permanent authorization to stay.

Trump annulled the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, that President Barack Obama created that's protected the Dreamers. He's given Congress until March 5 to restore the program, though federal courts have blocked him temporarily from dismantling it.

Senate leaders opened the day's debate by trading blame. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., assailed Democrats for failing to offer "a single proposal that gives us a realistic chance to make law." Instead, he said, Democrats should back Trump's "extremely generous" proposal.

Instead, Democratic leaders rallied behind the bipartisan plan. Eight Republicans joined most Democrats in backing that compromise, while three Democrats joined most GOP senators in opposing it.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said Trump has "stood in the way of every single proposal that has had a chance of becoming law." He added, "The American people will blame President Trump and no one else for the failure to protect Dreamers."

Overnight, the Department of Homeland Security said in an emailed statement that the bipartisan proposal would be "the end of immigration enforcement in America."

That drew fire from Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., one of eight GOP co-sponsors of the bipartisan plan. "Instead of offering thoughts and advice — or even constructive criticism — they are acting more like a political organization intent on poisoning the well," Graham said in a statement.

The bipartisan compromise was announced Wednesday by 16 senators with centrist views on the issue and was winning support from many Democrats, but it faced an uncertain fate.

Besides opposition by the administration and leading Republicans, the bipartisan plan prompted qualms among Democrats. The party's No. 2 Senate leader, Dick Durbin of Illinois, said some Democrats had "serious issues" with parts of the plan. Those concerns focused on its spending for Trump's wall and its prohibition against Dreamers sponsoring their parents for legal residency.

The bipartisan measure's sponsors included eight GOP senators. It was produced by a group led by Sens. Susan Collins, R-Maine, and Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., that spent weeks seeking middle ground.

The moderates' measure would not have altered a lottery that distributes about 55,000 visas annually to people from diverse countries. Trump has proposed ending it and redistributing visas to other immigrants, including some who are admitted based on job skills, not family ties.

Also rejected was a more modest plan by McCain and Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del. It would have let many Dreamers qualify for permanent residency and directed federal agencies to more effectively control the border by 2020. But it didn't offer a special citizenship pathway for Dreamers, raise border security funds or make sweeping changes in legal immigration rules.

A proposal by Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pa., was killed that would have added language blocking federal grants to "sanctuary cities," communities that don't cooperate with federal efforts to enforce immigration laws.

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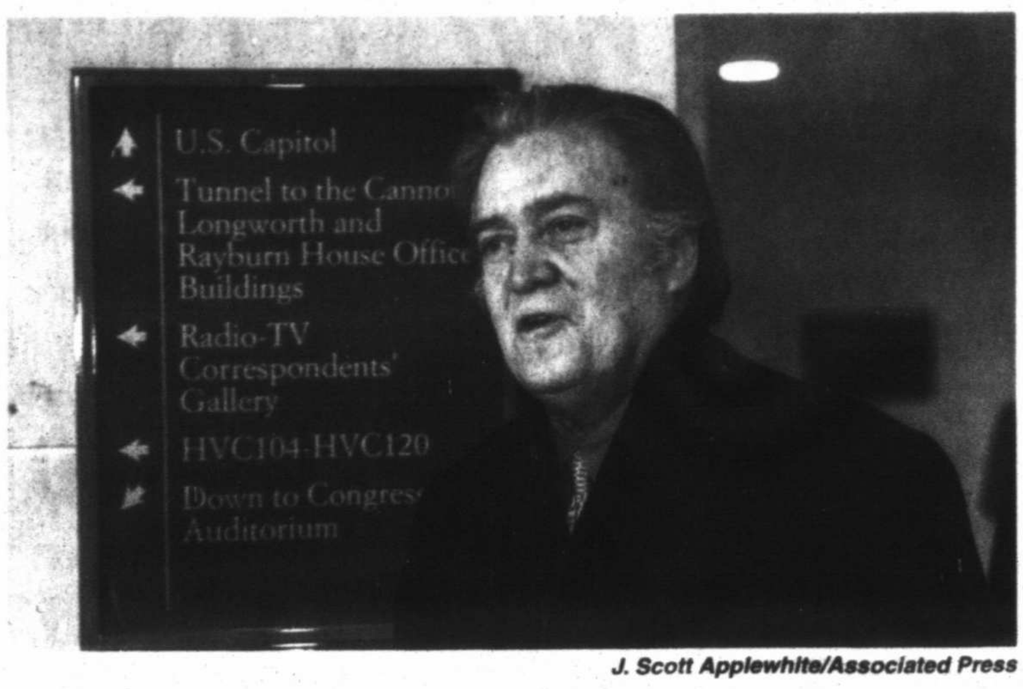


J. Scott Applewhite/Associated Press

Steve Bannon, President Donald Trump's former chief strategist, arrives for questioning by the House Intelligence Committee on Thursday as part of its ongoing investigation into meddling in the U.S. elections by Russia, at the Capitol in Washington.

Bannon interviewed in Mueller's Russia investigation

By Mary Clare Jalonick and Jonathan Lemire
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former White House chief strategist Steve Bannon, whose involvement in the Trump White House and the president's election campaign makes him knowledgeable about matters related to Russian meddling and potential obstruction of an ongoing federal inquiry, was interrogated over two days this week by investigators for special counsel Robert Mueller, according to a person familiar with the process.

The person, who declined to be named because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the investigation, said Bannon answered every question that was put to him.

Bannon's interview by Mueller's team came just before he visited Capitol Hill on Thursday to answer questions as part of the House intelligence committee's own Russia probe. Like his first visit in January, Bannon declined to answer some questions in the closed-door interview — forcing Republican lawmakers to weigh whether to hold him in contempt of Congress.

He would only answer 25 questions that had been pre-approved by the White House in reference to any events after President Donald Trump's election. His answer to each question was "no" and he told the committee he was not authorized to elaborate, according to lawmakers of both parties.

Bannon was already under subpoena as lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have been critical of the White House's sweeping interpretation of executive privilege and its contention that pretty much everything is off limits until the president says it's not.

The escalating fight between Congress and the White House over the privilege issue has centered around Bannon, an outsized figure in President Donald Trump's campaign and White House and an inspiration to some conservatives as he has publicly battled the Republican establishment. He was fired from the White House last summer, and more recently had a falling out with Trump after the January publication of a book in which he sharply criticized Trump family members.

Despite his fractured relationship with Trump, Bannon has followed White House direction as the House lawmakers have sought to talk to him in its probe of Russian meddling in the 2016 election and whether Trump's campaign was involved. Because he was one of Trump's top advisers, lawmakers were expected to question him about key events during his time in the White House, including Trump's firings of former national security adviser Michael Flynn and former FBI Director James Comey.

At issue is whether Bannon can talk about the presidential transition, his time at the White House and communications with Trump and others since he left last summer. Texas Rep. Mike Conaway, the Republican leading the panel's Russia probe, said Bannon would only answer the pre-approved questions about any time period past the day Trump was elected in November 2016.

Conaway wouldn't say whether Republicans would hold Bannon in contempt. He said he'd discuss the issue with House lawyers and with House Speaker Paul Ryan, who is likely to have the final say in whether the House votes on contempt.

"That's an ongoing conversation we'll have among an awful lot of lawyers," Conaway said after Bannon's interview.

At least one Republican on the intelligence panel said before the interview that a contempt vote would be necessary if Bannon were uncooperative. Florida Rep. Tom Rooney said Tuesday that if Bannon didn't cooperate with the panel and they didn't hold him in contempt, that would set a bad precedent.

"For not just our committee but every committee, that (subpoenas) don't mean anything, that it's just a hollow threat," Rooney said. "You can't do that."

Democrats are pushing for a contempt vote, with the top Democrat on the intelligence panel, California Rep. Adam Schiff, saying he believed Bannon's non-answers were all an attempt to draw out and block the Russia probe.

"That's not how privilege works, that's how stonewalling works," Schiff said. "And we cannot take that kind of stonewalling for an answer."

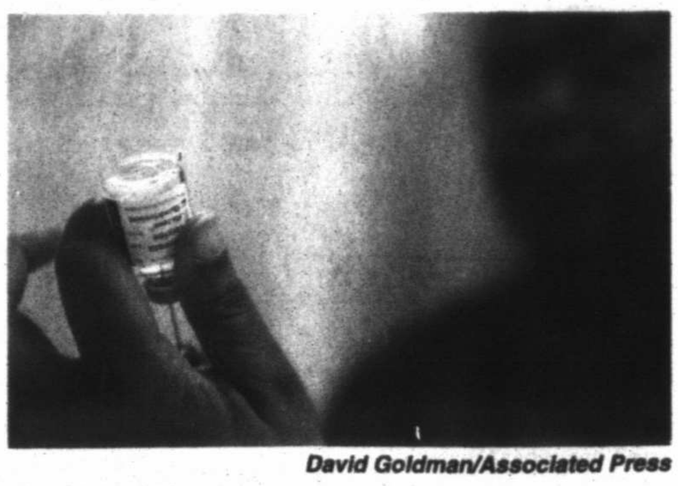
This was the second time Bannon appeared before the committee. Republicans and Democrats subpoenaed him after he similarly refused to answer some questions in a January interview. Negotiations between the House and White House have been ongoing since then, and interviews have been scheduled and postponed in recent weeks. Lawmakers headed into the meeting ahead of Bannon's entrance appeared unsure if he would arrive.

Bannon is one of the committee's few remaining witnesses in its Russia probe, which Republicans on the panel have said they want to wrap up early this year.

The Senate intelligence committee is running a separate investigation into the Russian meddling. The Senate panel hasn't yet spoken to Bannon, according to a source familiar with the probe. The person declined to be named because the interview schedule isn't public.

Flu shot only 36 percent effective, making bad year worse

By Mike Stobbe
Associated Press



David Goldman/Associated Press

A nurse prepares a flu shot Feb. 7 from a vaccine vial at the Salvation Army in Atlanta. Most doses of vaccine are made in a production process that involves growing viruses in chicken eggs.

NEW YORK — The flu vaccine is doing a poor job protecting older Americans and others against the bug that's causing most illnesses.

Preliminary figures released Thursday suggest the vaccine is 36 percent effective overall in preventing flu illness severe enough to send a patient to the doctor's office.

There's only been one other time in the last decade when the flu vaccine did a worse job.

Most illnesses this winter have been caused by a nasty kind of flu called Type A H3N2. The vaccine was only 25 percent effective against that type.

This kind of virus tends to cause more suffering and have been responsible for the worst recent flu seasons. But experts have wondered whether low vaccine effectiveness is another reason for the surprisingly severe season hitting the United States this winter.

Based on these numbers, the answer is yes.

"The fact that the vaccine doesn't work as well as we would like is clearly a contributing factor," said Dr. William Schaffner, a Vanderbilt University vaccine expert.

The estimates were published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The numbers are a snapshot taken in the middle of a frantic flu season. They are based on relatively small numbers of people and they are considered preliminary. Numbers may change as the season continues and more patients are added to the study.

And experts say it's still worth getting a flu shot. It still provides some protection, it can lessen the illness's severity, keep people out of the hospital, and save lives. There are as many as 56,000 deaths connected to the flu during a bad year.

"Any type of vaccine is better than none," said Scott Hensley, a University of Pennsylvania microbiologist who has led studies that raised critical questions about the vaccine.

The effectiveness estimates come from the tracking of about 4,600 children and adult patients in five states. To make the effectiveness calculations, researchers tracked who got the flu, and who among them had been vaccinated.

The vaccine provided good protection — 67 percent effective — against another common kind of flu virus, Type A H1N1, which has not been seen much this winter. And it was 42 percent effective against Type B flu viruses.

The vaccine worked relatively well in young children, but it performed worse in older people, including seniors who are most vulnerable. Against H3N2, the vaccine was 51 percent effective in children ages 6 months to 8 years. In every other age group, the numbers were low, falling in a range that made them essentially ineffective in preventing flu, statistically speaking.

That includes people 65 and older, a group that tends to suffer the highest hospitalization and death rates during H3N2 seasons. If the preliminary numbers hold, it will mean that in five of the last eight flu seasons, vaccine was essentially ineffective in seniors.

It points to a need for better flu vaccines, said Dr. Anne Schuchat, the CDC's acting director.

"The vaccines that we have today are not the ones that we'd like to have in 10 years," she said.

Scientists think part of the reason for that has to do with when people are born and what kind of flu viruses they're first exposed to in life. Most seniors were first exposed to H1N1 viruses and their bodies seem to handle them better, but H3N2 viruses — which didn't spread broadly in the United States until the late 1960s — seem to be harder for their bodies to deal with.

But some researchers say part of the problem is tied to how 85 percent of the nation's flu vaccine doses are made. Manufacturers grow flu viruses in chicken eggs. But the viruses can mutate in the eggs, and researchers are finding vaccine from the egg-grown viruses is not a good match to the H3N2 flu bugs in people.

Some research suggests that newer vaccines, using newer production methods, seem to work better against recently circulating H3N2 strains, but not enough people in the effectiveness study got those kinds of shots to compare performance.

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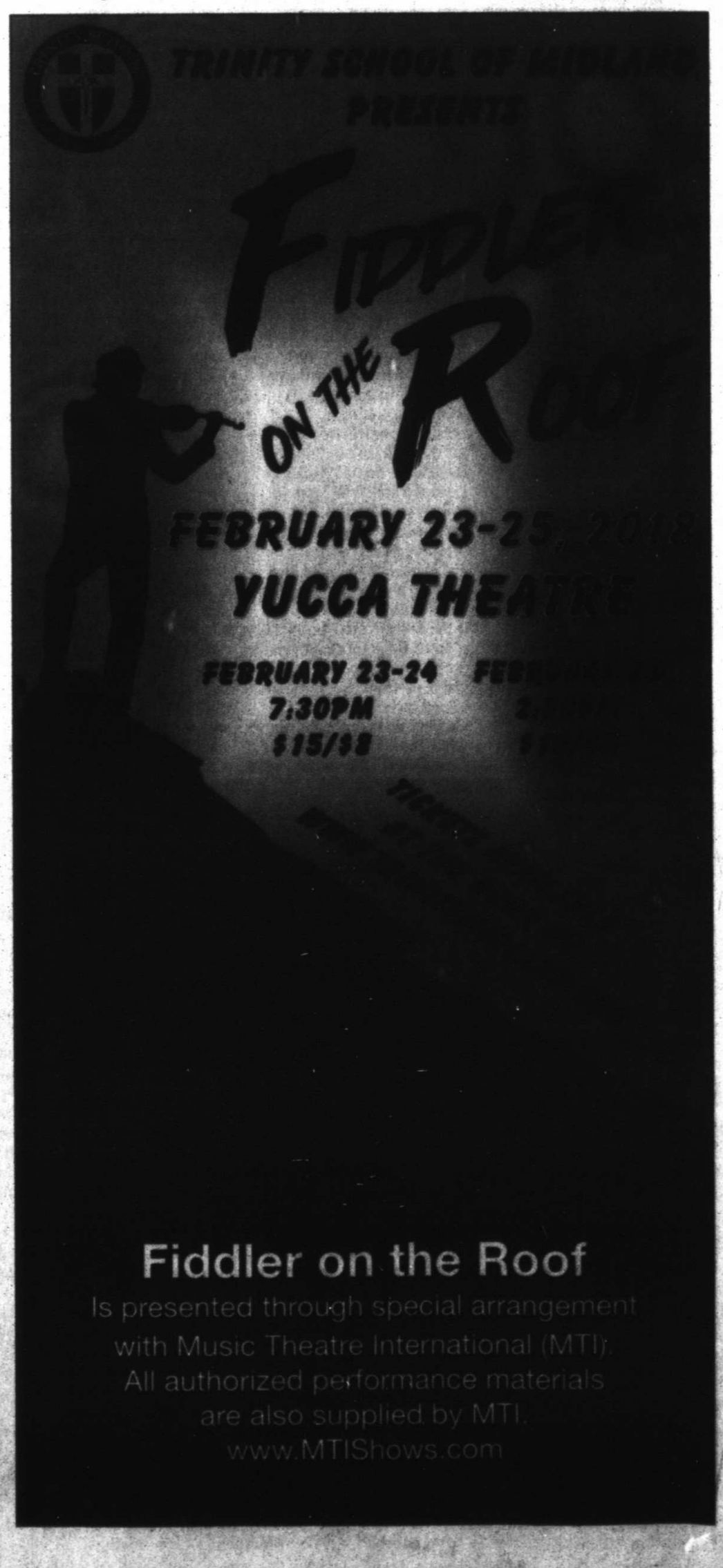

THIS WEEK

TODAY

DANCE HALL DAYS
Valentine's sweetness continues when Golf Course Road Church of Christ hosts its annual Daddy Daughter Dance in the GCR gym. 7 p.m.

SATURDAY

MORNING MOVIE
Cinergy hosts a sensory-friendly screening of "Peter Rabbit" with brighter lights, reduced volume and space to move around. 9:30 a.m.

SUNDAY

HOPE HEALS
The First Ladies of the First Presbyterian Church host authors Katherine and Jay Wolf in the sanctuary. 5 p.m.

THURSDAY

POWER LUNCH
The Power of One Luncheon at Midland Country Club features author Victoria Rowell and benefits CASA of West Texas. 11:30 a.m.

IN THE BEGINNING
Fathom Events screens "Is Genesis History?" — which takes a look at the first book of the Bible — at Tall City Stadium 14. 7 p.m.

IN NEED

WEEKEND HELP
Kairos Prison Ministry in Fort Stockton needs adult volunteers for the April 26-29 weekend to help with meal preparation or ministering to prisoners. First team meeting is from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday at The Seed Church, 4201 W. Illinois Ave. kairosftstockton.org, 432-559-1685.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
Midland Volunteer Connections offers an online list of opportunities at midlandvolunteerconnections.com for current needs by area nonprofits.

HOSPICE HELP
Volunteer opportunities for two to four hours a shift. Call 432-682-2855 for more information.

RETAIL SKILLS
Habitat ReStore is in need of people who enjoy decorating and setting up displays to help set up the ReStore for maximum customer appeal. Must be at least 16 years old.

BE A MENTOR for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Midland. Mentors do not tutor but provide friendship and serve as positive role models. Visit bbbsmidland.org.

VOLUNTEER READERS The Recording Library of West Texas needs volunteer readers to help with morning shifts. Call 432-682-2731.

Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Senior Link pushes for volunteers for its Meals on Wheels and other programs through fundraisers like Thursday's Saluté and March for Meals next month.

Senior Link Hollywood fundraiser adds sparkle to awareness

By Rich Lopez
jrlopez@mrt.com

Organizers of Senior Link's upcoming fundraiser are readying the glitz and glam. Saluté: A Night of Old Hollywood Glam is Feb. 22 at the Petroleum Club and will feature dining, dancing and even some "celebrity" appearances. But the night is about much more than the spectacle.

"This event is a fundraiser for Meals on Wheels and the many programs of Senior Link Midland," Executive Director Kathleen Kirwan-Haynie said.

Last year, the event raised more than $50,000, which translated to 7,500 meals for area seniors. With current table and ticket sales, marketing director Tracy Renton is optimistic about this year's event.

"We are on track to surpass that already," she said. "We have lots of generous donors who want the event to be a success, so we're extremely fortunate."

If you go

Saluté: A Night of Old Hollywood Glam, 7 p.m. Feb. 22 at the Petroleum Club of Midland, 501 W. Wall St. $150. Tables still available. seniorlinkmidland.org.

The event will include the 17-piece orchestra, Basin Big Band led by Eric Baker; a silent auction and retro guests in the guises of Elizabeth Taylor, James Dean and Marilyn Monroe.

Kirwan-Haynie and Renton said there is a deeper side to all the festivities.

"Guests will, of course, be supporting our work to provide 500 hot nutritious meals each weekday," Renton said. "And we're also always in recruitment mode for volunteers."

Senior Link also is preparing for its inaugural March for Meals and Community resource Fair, which is planned for March 24. Renton described the event as an awareness event and as a way to introduce volunteer opportunities to the community.

"Not only will we use it to hopefully recruit volunteers but also clients and families who need access to our resources — we want to give that ability to the community," she said.

With spring break coming up, the organization is hoping to find volunteers who can sub in for those who may be leaving for the week.

Beyond Meals on Wheels volunteers, Senior Link is also in need of help for its RSVP, Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions programs and even the Texas-Size Garage Sale in October.

"We always hope to bring awareness to seniors in our community who are homebound and facing hunger, and we also hope to gain new volunteers to help us with this challenge and to help with our vision 'to improve the lives of seniors in Midland County.'" Kirwan-Haynie said.

Christians need to 'unplug,' pursue habits of discipleship

PASTOR PETER M. DIETSCH
Providence Presbyterian Church

Ask any fish to describe the effect that water has on him and he'll respond, "What water?"

Ask any of your neighbors to describe the effect that technological media has on him and he'll probably respond the same way. Of course, this is only true if you can get him to first put down his cellphone – or if you can put down yours.

Most of us have become so accustomed to an environment dominated by digital media that we fail to recognize how it affects us. Focusing on the content of what we take in, we don't recognize how our computers and smartphones influence the way we think and act as individuals and as a society.

In the New York Times bestseller, "The Shallows: What the Internet Is Doing to Our Brains," Nicholas Carr writes:

"Although even the initial users of the technology can often sense the changes in their patterns of attention, cognition, and memory as their brains adapt to the new medium, the most profound shifts play out more slowly, over several generations, as the technology becomes ever more embedded in work, leisure, and education – in all the norms and practices that define a society and its culture. How is the way we read changing? How is the way we write changing? How is the way we think changing? Those are the questions we should be asking, both of ourselves and of our children."

For Christians who seek to be a people of the word (Luke 1:2; 1 Peter 1:2-3), it is especially important that we ask these questions. We live in an age of distraction and a media-saturated culture that is dominated by the ubiquity of the moving image, immediate gratification, instant communication and an obsession with the trivial. Therefore, it's more important than ever for believers to find ways to "unplug" and to pursue sustainable habits of discipleship – as individuals and in our communities.

If you're a fish, I encourage you to get back in the water so that you can get back to being a fish. If you're a human being, I encourage you to get out of the technological media-saturated water that you're swimming in — at least briefly — so that you can get back to being human.

To help Christians to be better disciples of Jesus Christ (and to help human beings be more human), Providence Presbyterian Church will host the free conference "Christian Discipleship in a Media-Saturated Culture" with T. David Gordon, an ordained minister and professor of religion and Greek at Grove City College. He is also a leader in the field of media-ecology.

Gordon will present a series of lectures on the history of technology, the benefits and problems of new forms of communication, how digital technology affects the human brain and the importance of pursuing solitude.

This fourth annual theological conference, hosted by Providence Presbyterian Church, is a continuing effort to bring sound, biblical and Reformed teaching to West Texas that's relevant to the Christian life. Providence Presbyterian Church is a confessional and Reformed church, and part of the Presbyterian Church in America, which seeks to be "faithful to the Scriptures, true to the Reformed faith and obedient to the Great Commission of Jesus Christ."

This conference begins at 7 p.m. Feb. 23 and continues through Feb. 24. The event will be held at Providence Presbyterian Church, 2900 Princeton Ave. For more information, visit providencemidland.org.

Midland Shared Spaces names new executive director

From staff reports

Midland Shared Spaces has a new executive director to succeed Vicki Jay. Autumn Vest will assume the position March 12.

"I am looking forward to joining the staff of Midland Shared Spaces," Vest said in a statement released Thursday. "I have had the honor of working within Midland's unique nonprofit landscape for over 10 years, where I have built strong relationships and enjoyed discovering opportunities to create partnerships to better serve our community."

Vest currently is the executive director of Sibley Nature Center. Previously, she worked marketing and public relations for the Commemorative Air Force, served as director of the American Airpower Heritage Museum and was director of membership for the Midland Chamber of Commerce. Her time with these organizations gives her a unique perspective on the community, its needs and the opportunities for impact by the nonprofit sector, according to the release.

Midland Shared Spaces houses a number of area nonprofits and works to establish relationships and collaborations between those organizations, the business sector and the community.

"I am excited to be joining an organization with a mission that is driven by the concept of collaboration," she said. "It is an incredible gift to be charged with supporting our fellow nonprofits and to encourage their success both individually and collectively."

This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Psalm 118:24

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PSALM 31:24

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Sarah A. Miller/Tyler Morning Telegraph via AP

Elder Darryl Madlock, the Rev. Orenthia Mason, pastor at St. James CME and James Shackelford, church treasurer and superintendent, pose outside the old church building Feb. 2 next to the current St. James CME church in Tyler.

East Texas city honors African-American doctors, ministers

By Augusta Robinson
Tyler Morning Telegraph

TYLER — In his 74 years of attending the St. James Christian Methodist Church, James Shackelford, 85, of Tyler, has learned to view church as a place where he can find healing for what troubles him.

The Tyler Morning Telegraph reports it's given him, like many other African-Americans in the community, the strength to persevere when the color of his skin could determine which doctors would see him, or even where he could worship.

"(Church is) a place where you can go and feel secure...," he said. "I have often heard it's a hospital for what's ailing you. That you can go there to be cleansed of what's ailing you and God has no respect of persons."

On Saturday evening, the city of Tyler celebrated Black History Month at Liberty Hall with videos, music and speakers in a program titled "The Heartbeat of Our Community."

The theme highlighted those who looked after the physical and spiritual well-being of the African-American community during some of the darkest moments in the nation's history.

In a video shot by the city, those interviewed shared memories and reflected on the progress that's been made.

Although their stories differ, participants expressed one recurring hope from those who hear their stories.

"It's very vital that we embrace our history because our history tells us from where we have come," said Rev. Ralph E. Caraway, 64, pastor of St. Louis Missionary Baptist Church. "It also points to where we're going, because without an understanding of that history it's going to be really hard to reach where we're trying to go."

Multiple conversations with those who knew Dr. Theodore J. Taliaferro can yield a common question: When did he sleep?

His son, Richard Taliaferro, 69, a minister at St. Louis Missionary Baptist Church, has thought about this a lot over the years and still is not quite sure.

Known as Dr. T, he came to Tyler in 1939 with his wife, Geneva, a nurse, and was well known as being one of the few doctors in the area who was willing to provide quality health care to African-American patients.

At the height of his father's career, Taliaferro said Dr. T could see 50-60 patients a day.

"There were a lot of times when people would not be able to pay," Taliaferro said. "..People would bring in food and they would bring vegetables. Dad wasn't into that kind of thing, but he wouldn't say no. If somebody needed help, dad would see them."

A native of Allentown, Pennsylvania, Dr. T attended Wilberforce University in Ohio and Meharry Medical College in Tennessee before completing his residency at Homer G. Phillips Hospital in Missouri.

After a few years in Tyler, he opened the Taliaferro Clinic and Hospital at 1106 W. Trezevant St.

"He very seldom took vacations because he didn't ever have anybody to relieve him," his son said. "Dad was a good doctor. What was found out in the medical community is that he knew what he was talking about."

As Dr. T blazed trails in Tyler's medical community, he also made it his priority to mentor the next generation of African-American medical professionals.

"He was an outstanding physician," said Dr. Samuel Houston, 81, of Tyler. "He used to always tell me, he'd say 'Sam, I'm holding the doors open for you (for) when you come back."

By the time Houston decided to come back to his hometown to practice medicine in 1971, the door left cracked by local African-American doctors like Dr. T made his decision a little less risky.

But as a board certified surgeon, Houston had some concern that his career and potential would be limited.

"This was during the time of the integration of schools and there was a great deal of turmoil going on at that particular time," Houston said. "I was not absolutely convinced that I should have moved to Tyler.

"I anticipated (segregation) problems that I might run into, but I must say that my career has been enhanced by having come here," he said.

Just as with Dr. T, the quality of Houston's work began to speak for itself. He was soon performing surgeries in Tyler's major hospitals and over the course of his career he said his clientele became more and more diverse.

Houston and his wife, Edna, now 80, who worked as an anesthesiologist, had their own office on Idel Street, in the heart of Tyler's medical community.

Retired since 2002, Houston also hopes to inspire the next generation just as Dr. T did before him.

"Never forget where you came from," he said. "Don't let it be a negative factor in your life. I don't think that (it) should interfere with your desire to pursue whatever dreams you want to achieve."

In 1885, a group of recently freed slaves were so determined to form a church that they were willing to worship in a structure that offered little relief from the elements.

Like some early churches that were strapped for funds, St. Louis Missionary Baptist Church began under a brush arbor, essentially a large wall-less tent made from tree branches, twigs and plants.

Please see HISTORY/6B

Obituaries

Beatrice Denmon Hurd

Beatrice Denmon Hurd, 73, of Midland, peacefully passed away February 13, 2018 surrounded by her loving family.

She was born November 16, 1944 to William and Henrietta Denmon. She was employed by ConocoPhillips for 20 years and MISD for 26 years.

A wake service will be held on Friday, February 16, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Avalos-Sanchez & Thomas Funeral Home Chapel, 1502 N. Lamesa Road, Midland.

Funeral services will be Saturday, February 17, 2018 at Macedonia Baptist Church, 201 S. Carver, Midland at 11:00 a.m. with Reverend Woodrow W. Bailey III officiating. Burial will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park Cemetery.

Beatrice is preceded in death by her parents, William and Henrietta Denmon; her husband, Glen Hurd; and a brother, William Lloyd Denmon.

Beatrice leaves to cherish her beautiful memory her loving daughters, Michelle Mayberry of Midland, Vickie Windham and husband Terrance of Houston, and Delisa Harris and husband Zachery of Midland; four sisters, Shirley Walton and husband Lawrence of Denver, Colorado, Willetta Langley and husband William of Northridge, California, and Artelia Taylor and husband Dempsey, and Pearl Jackson, all of Midland; two grandchildren, Corbin Phillip Mayberry of North Hollywood, California and Xenith Windham Green of Houston; one great-grandchild, Reagan Green of Houston; and a host of other nieces, nephews; a very special friend, Sylvester Spells of Midland; and an abundance of family and friends whom she loved dearly.

The family thanks the doctors and staff at Medical Center Hospital in Odessa for their care and compassion.

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Avalos-Sanchez & Thomas Funeral Home.

Mary Eunice (Peggy) Lewis Leeton

"I have had a good run."

Words spoken by Peggy Leeton two weeks prior to her death on Sunday, February 11, 2018 in Midland, Texas.

Peggy loved New Orleans, New York, Chicago, spending time in Laguna Beach with her grandchildren, and cooking. Her mashed potatoes were legendary with her grandchildren.

Peggy was born on January 1, 1919 to Lucy Harriss Lewis and Angus Valentine Lewis in Fort Worth, Texas. She graduated from Stripling High School, now Arlington Heights High School, in Fort Worth, Texas. She sang in a "Girls Trio" during her three years of high school and was awarded the "Outstanding Actress Award" for the Fort Worth/Dallas Region.

She attended the North Texas Agricultural College in Arlington, Texas, now University of Texas Arlington, the University of Wisconsin at Madison, the University of Southern California at Los Angeles, and upon return from Southern Cal, was told to not unpack her bags because she was to be on the next train to University of Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas, and she graduated from TCU in Fort Worth in 1944.

In 1943, she married James Robert Leeton, Sr. who graduated from the University of Texas Law School and was a pilot in World War II. After being stationed in a series of southern towns in Louisiana, Alabama, and Florida during World War II, they moved to Fort Worth, where Jim practiced law and Peggy and Jim raised five children. While living in Fort Worth, Peggy was a member of the Fort Worth Law Wives, Daughters of the American Revolution, San Jacinto Decedents, Jewel Charity Ball, Fort Worth Ballet Association, Fort Worth Children's Art Association, and the Fort Worth Opera Association where she served as President.

Peggy, Jim, and the two youngest children moved to Odessa, Texas in 1965 where Jim owned and managed PL&B Well Servicing Company. Peggy was involved in the Odessa Permian Playhouse and President of the Odessa Art Association.

In 1972, they moved to Midland, Texas where Jim opened his law practice. Peggy taught for the Midland Independent School District and was the Vocational Adjustment Coordinator for Midland High School and was awarded "Best Teacher Award." She was a member of the Midland/Odessa Symphony Guild and Midland Bridge Club, where she was a devoted bridge player.

Peggy is preceded in death by her parents and husband; two brothers, John Laffett Lewis and Angus Valentine (Jack) Lewis, Jr., both of Fort Worth; daughters, Lucy Leeton Link, Kathy Leeton Fowler, and Patricia Leeton; and granddaughter, Andrea Fowler.

She is survived by her son, James R. Leeton, Jr. and wife Barbara of Midland; her daughter, Elizabeth Leeton Shipman and husband Terry of Odessa; son-in-law, Peter J. Link and wife Maureen of Covington, Louisiana; grandchildren: Peter Link, Jr. and wife Becky of Ladson, South Carolina, Lisa Link Edwards and husband Tony of Austin, Texas, Patricia Link of Austin, Helen Link Schenck and husband David of Covington, Melissa Fowler and James Fowler of Cleburne, Texas, Emily Leeton Misleh and husband Paul of Seattle, Washington, Ryan Leeton of Carpinteria, California, Justin Johns and wife Brittany of Round Rock, Texas, Jaclyn Johns McCabe of Odessa, and Hillary Shipman Foreman and husband Kellen of Odessa; and by 18 great-grandchildren.

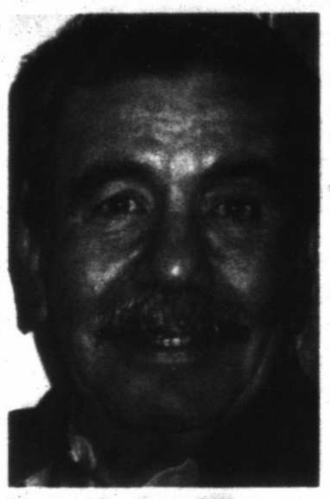
The family would like to thank her amazing caregiver of many years, Sofia Benavidez.

Memorial service and Interment will be at Greenwood Cemetery in Fort Worth, on Saturday, February 17, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

The family requests that memorials be directed to Hospice of Midland, St. Ann's Catholic Church, or a charity of your choice.

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

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



Tony F. Costilla

Tony F. Costilla, 65 passed Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at University Hospital in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Tony was born July 3 1952 in Stanton, Texas to Jose and Maria Costilla.

Tony was survived by one son, Brian Costilla, daughters Michelle and Belinda, brothers, Jose Costilla, Jesus Costilla and Johnny Costilla, sisters, Beatrice Earle, Inez Gavia, Sulema Benavidez, Rosalinda Revilla and Jolanda Costilla

Tony was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Ceferino Costilla.

Funeral service will be held Friday, February 16, 2018, 10 am at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, Father David Herera officiating. Burial will follow at Fairview Cemetary, Midland, Texas.

Death Notices

Bettie Jo Pryor

Bettie Jo Pryor, 90, of Midland, passed away on February 14, 2018.

Graveside services will be held on April 7, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. at Mountain View Cemetery in Deming, New Mexico.

Bettie is survived by her daughters, Robin Bishop and Judy Fellows.

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

CALENDAR

COMPILED BY STAFF REPORTS AND THE ARTS COUNCIL OF MIDLAND | ACMIDLAND.ORG

FEB. 16-22

TODAY

GCR's annual Daddy Daughter Dance for 3-year-olds to sixth graders. 7 p.m. at Golf Course Road Church of Christ, 3500 W. Golf Course Road. gcrchurch.com

The Holistic Approach by Earth, Body and Soul. The monthly meetup covers the uses of essential oils, crystals, meditation and more. 7-8 p.m. at Brew St. Bakery, 4610 N. Garfield St.

CODA Group: 12-step program for relationships. 7 p.m. Fridays and Sundays at Christ Church Anglican, 5501 N. Midkiff Road. 432-599-4490.

SATURDAY

Yoga classes are offered weekly. 9 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church, 3301 Neely Ave. Free. uumidland.org.

Engaging the Body of Christ is a one-day empowerment seminar designed for church leaders and spouses. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Hilton Garden Inn, 1301 N. Loop 250 W. Free.

Sensory-friendly screening: "Peter Rabbit." The auditorium will be dedicated to guests on the spectrum and with sensory-processing disorders. Brighter lights, reduced volume and space for movement and interaction are provided for these screenings. 9:30 a.m. at Cinergy, 1917 Liberty Drive. cinergy.com.

Garden Explorers: Composting. 10 a.m.-noon at Sibley Nature Center, 1307 E. Wadley Ave. $5 members, $8 non-members. sibley-naturecenter.org

Jealous Midland is a special evening of word, declaration, prophecy and worship. Childcare available. 4-8:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian church, 800 W. Texas Ave.

SUNDAY

First Ladies Community Event with speakers and authors Katherine and Jay Wolf. 5-7 p.m. at First Presbyterian church, 800 W. Texas Ave. Free.

MONDAY

Grief Support six-week session, 6:30-8 p.m. at Hospice Midland, 911 W Texas Ave. hospiceofmidland.org.

Belly dancing class, 8 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Church, 3301 Neely Ave. uumidland.org.

TUESDAY

JBS Distinguished Lecture Series: An Evening with Jackie Joyner-Kersee. 7 p.m. at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $10. Shepperdinstitute.com.

Peer Support Group is a safe space for fellowship hosted by Permian Basin LGBTQ (plus). 7 p.m. at Sleep Inn and Suites of Midland, 5612 Deauville Road.

Intro to Buddhism features basic meditation and then discussion. Hosted by Permian Basin Buddhists. 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Unitarian Universalist Church, 3301 Neely Ave. meetup.com/Permian-Basin-Buddhists.

The 12-Step Group, 7 p.m. Tuesdays, 10 a.m. Saturdays at Christ Church Anglican, 5501 N. Midkiff Road. 432-553-7220.

WEDNESDAY

Caregiver Support group, noon-1 p.m. at Hospice Midland, 911 W Texas Ave. hospiceofmidland.org.

Before You Say "I Do" is geared toward dating, engaged or newly married couples. Fee childcare provided. 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Feb. 28 at Kelview Heights Baptist Church, 402 W. Scharbauer Drive. Free. kelview.com.

THURSDAY

Brothers in Christ is a weekly men's group with studies that range from the Bible to topical issues. 6:30 a.m. at Midland Bible Church, 5900 Whitman Drive. midlandbible.org.

The second annual Power of One Luncheon and Children's Style Show with guest speaker Victoria Rowell, author of "The Women who Raised Me." The event benefits CASA of West Texas. 11:30 a.m. at Midland Country Club. casawt.org.

"Is Genesis History?" 7 p.m. at Tall City Stadium 14, 4915 SW Loop 250 N. $13.50. fathomevents.com.

La Hacienda Alumni: Support group for former patients and guests. 7 p.m. Thursdays at Christ Church Anglican, 5501 N. Midkiff Road. 432-553-7220.

To include your event on this calendar, please email Rich Lopez at rlopez@mrt.com

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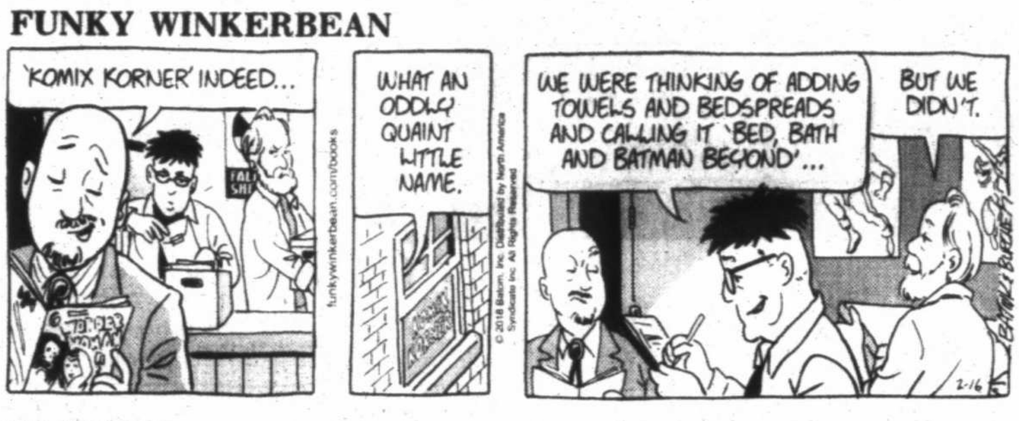

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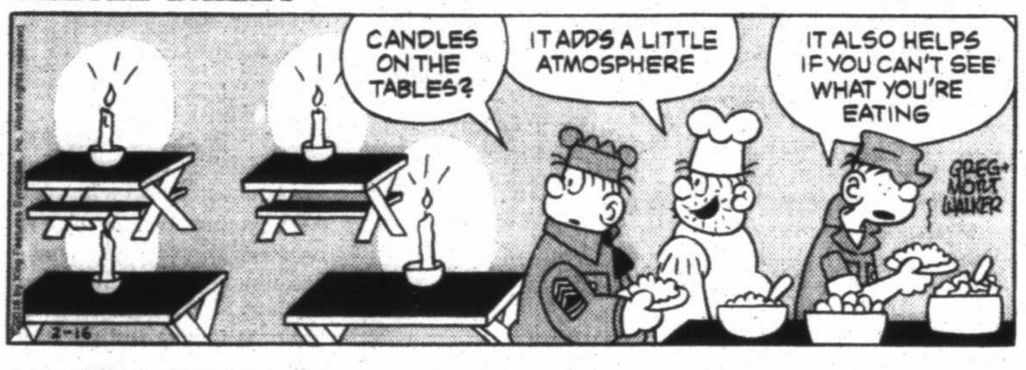
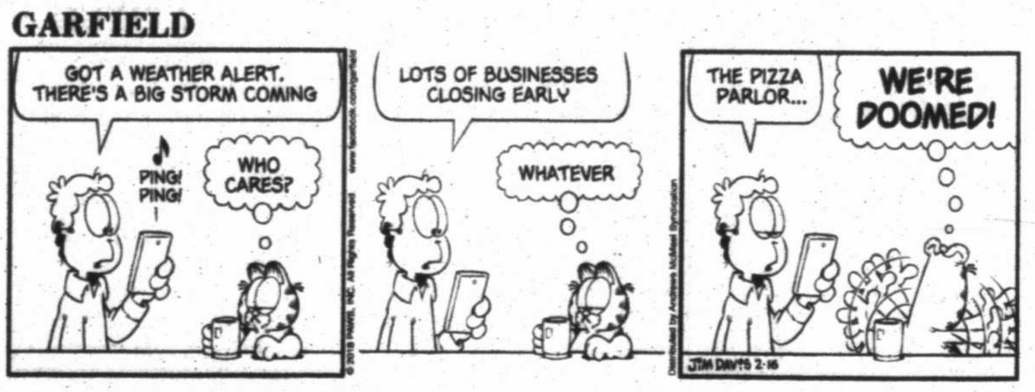


CLASSIC PEANUTS

SHOE

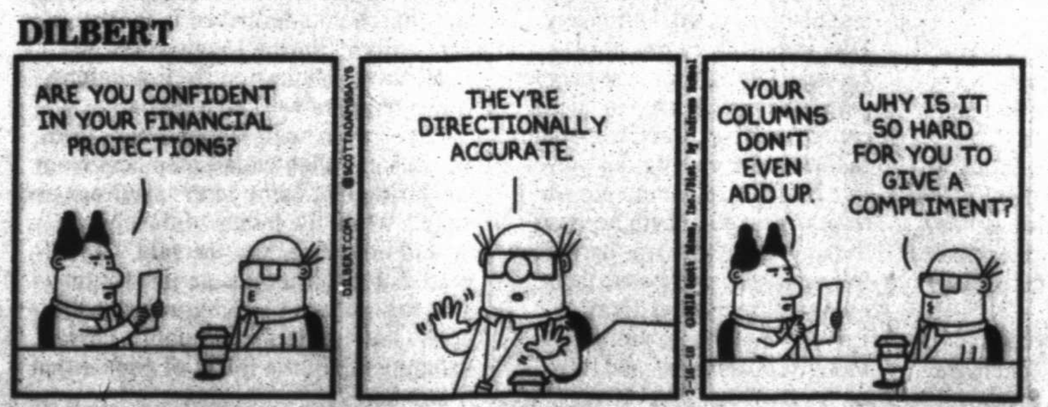
GARFIELD



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

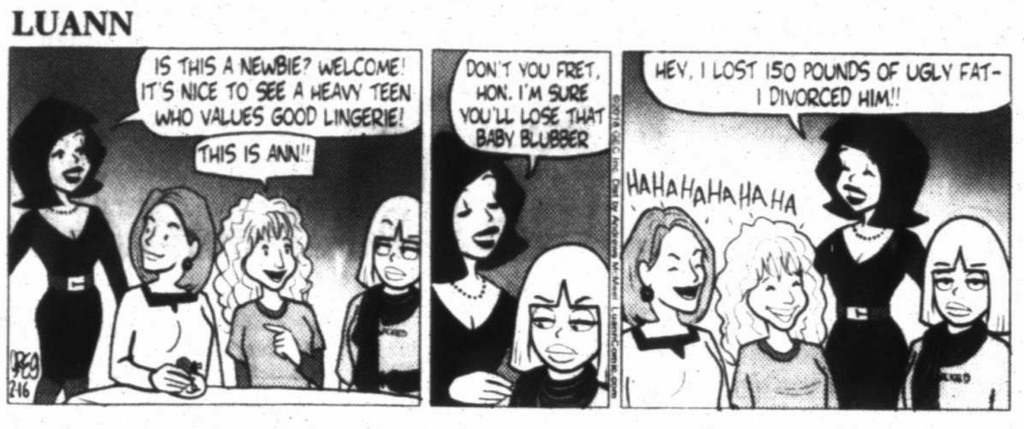
WIZARD OF ID

DILBERT



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

LUANN



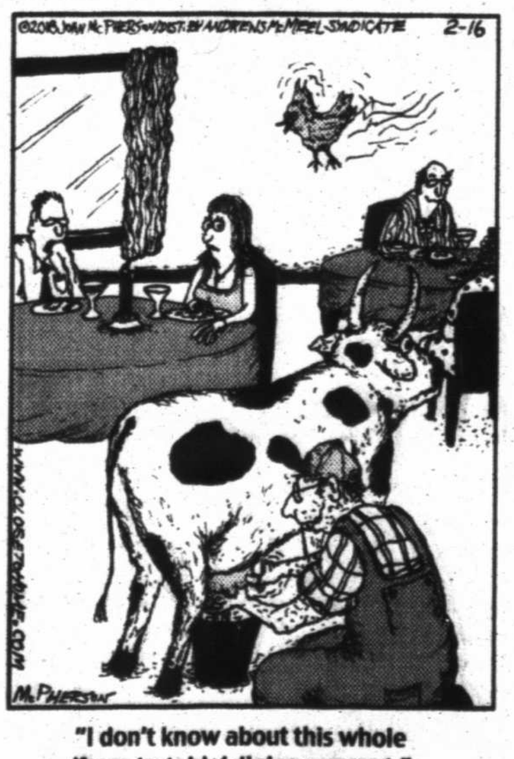
MARY WORTH

ZITS

BABY BLUES

MUTTS

CLOSE TO HOME



"I don't know about this whole 'farm-to-table' dining concept."

DENNIS THE MENACE

"MOM SAYS YOU'RE 'ELDERLY.' THAT'S JUST A NICE WAY OF SAYIN' 'OLD.'"

LOCKHORNS

"LEROY SURPRISED ME ON VALENTINE'S DAY– HE REMEMBERED VALENTINE'S DAY."

FAMILY CIRCUS

"Mommy, can you come here? PJ needs someone to feel sorry for him."

Gates focuses on schools, examines US poverty issues

By Sally Ho
Associated Press

KIRKLAND, Wash. — Bill and Melinda Gates, as the world's top philanthropists, are rethinking their work in America as they confront what they consider their unsatisfactory track record on schools, the country's growing inequity and a president they disagree with more than any other.

In an interview with The Associated Press, the couple said they're concerned about President Donald Trump's "America first" worldview. They've made known their differences with the president and his party on issues including foreign aid, taxes and protections for immigrant youth in the country illegally.

And they said they're now digging into the layers of U.S. poverty that they haven't been deeply involved with at the national level, including employment, race, housing, mental health, incarceration and substance abuse.

"We are not seeing the mobility out of poverty in the same way in the United States as it used to exist," Melinda Gates said.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is studying these topics with no plans yet for any particular initiatives, though it has done related work at home in Washington state on a much smaller scale. Last year, it funded a grant for the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities to look into state and federal policies that can reduce poverty.

Once the world's richest man, Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates has marked a decade since transitioning away from the tech giant to focus on philanthropy. He said he's had two meetings with Trump, where they discussed innovation in education, energy and health — including vaccines, which Trump has voiced skepticism about.

Ted S. Warren/Associated Press

Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates and his wife Melinda take part in an interview with The Associated Press on Feb. 1 in Kirkland, Wash. The Gateses, as the world's top philanthropists, are rethinking their work in America as they confront what they consider their unsatisfactory track record on schools, the country's growing inequity and a president they disagree with more than any other.

"I got, both times, to talk about the miracle of vaccines and how those are good things," Bill Gates said.

Melinda Gates, who left her job at Microsoft to raise their three children before turning to the foundation full-time, has lately embraced her role as a public figure more boldly. She called out Trump's behavior, saying the president has a responsibility to be a good role model when he speaks and tweets, and that his verbal attacks don't belong in the public discourse.

"You just have to go look in Twitter to see the disparaging comments over and over and over again about women and minorities," Melinda Gates said. "That's just not what I believe. It's not the world that I see."

Trump has said he's a counterpuncher who goes after people when they go after him, only 10 times harder.

Taking a more reflective review of their work than in years past, the couple in their annual letter published Tuesday also answered 10 questions critics often ask them. They acknowledge it's unfair that they have so much wealth and influence but reject the notion that they're imposing their values on other cultures.

"Behind the scenes, these are the tough, tough questions that people are asking us, and yeah, we have to wrestle with them ourselves," Melinda Gates said in the Feb. 1 interview.

Since 2000, the Seattle-based private foundation has amassed an endowment worth over $40 billion, which includes a large portion of billionaire investor Warren Buffett's fortune. The Gates Foundation has given money to various programs in more than 100 countries, as well as in all 50 states and Washington, D.C.

Their approach to giving has shifted the philanthropy world as a whole. They've been criticized for prescribing how the money is spent and then expecting tangible proof their investments work.

About 75 percent of the foundation's resources are dedicated to global health and development. Bill Gates said they're proudest of their efforts to help eradicate polio and curb the number of child deaths, calling those global health improvements a miracle.

But he concedes the same level of progress didn't happen in the U.S. with their strategy of chasing equity through education reform. U.S. education initiatives are a distant second funding priority for the foundation, but the $450 million the Gateses spend annually on the issue makes them the top funders of schools reform in America.

They've been major supporters of charter schools and also pushed Common Core education standards, teacher evaluation systems that factored in student test scores and a smaller schools model — highly polarizing education policy reforms that didn't dramatically change student outcomes but made the Gateses deeply unpopular in some communities.

"It's in taking all of those lessons and saying, 'OK, but did they reach the majority of the school districts? Did they scale and change the system for low-income and minority kids writ large, at scale?' And the answer when we looked at it, it was no," Melinda Gates said.

Christopher Lubienski, an education policy expert who studies philanthropy, said he found the couple's honesty refreshing but noted their foundation's overall approach means it will continue to systematically influence education reform.

Lubienski, who said he has not sought nor received money from Gates, also noted that by turning their attention to poverty, the Gateses are tackling the "really big elephant in the room" when it comes to student achievement.

"It's also a much bigger, more expensive and politically stickier area to attack than simply changing the structure of schools," Lubienski said.

The Gateses say they're going in a less prescriptive direction on U.S. education by funding efforts through regional networks of schools, which will lean more heavily on educators at the local level. They also intend to support new curriculum development and charters catering to students with special needs.

The foundation will spend $1.7 billion on education over the next five years, as K-12 will remain their primary focus in the U.S. But as they take stock of the country — from the West Coast's growing income gap to the generations of racial inequities in the American South — the Gateses say they're looking at myriad problems that hinder children in the classroom.

"Poverty is like education, where there's not enough philanthropic resources to take on responsibility, but if you can show how to have a lot more impact, then the policies will benefit from that," Bill Gates said.

Seguin tattoo artists donate funds from special event to advocacy center

By Felicia Frazar
Seguin Gazette

Maria Rodriguez watched as local tattoo artist Amy Contreras began inking a permanent heart on Rodriguez's hand.

"Me, my daughter and three of her friends, are like the bestest friends of life. I would do anything for these girls," Rodriguez said. "We decided that we would all get something that would symbolize each other. We all love each other and we'll all be here for each other always."

Rodriguez and her cousin Gloria Contreras were among the 100 people who ventured into Body Expressions Tattoo Studio on Friday to get a small tattoo and, in return, donate money to the Guadalupe County Children's Advocacy Center.

"I wanted to donate to the charity .... and, I love tattoos," Rodriguez said. "It was a good combo."

After sitting in the chair and letting Amy etch the heart on her right finger, Gloria said this was the perfect opportunity for her circle of friends to commemorate their love for each other.

"I love tattoos in general and I've always wanted one with them," she said. "We have a great bond and we're always there for each other. It is little but it means a lot to us. That is why I wanted it."

Body Expressions Tattoo Studio owner Thomas Diaz said the event was a success.

"We set our goal at $1,000 and we hit that," he said. "We hit our 100 people and took a couple more who are coming in today (Saturday) to donate. I'm really stoked. I'm really happy. These guys were working hard."

The shop's three tattoo artists, Amy, Jeremiah Camacho and Rafael Quiles set up their chairs in the main parlor and worked side by side as a steady flow of clients swooped in to get a little bit of ink.

Customers scheduled a time slot in which to come in and then chose a quarter-sized tattoo from a flash sheet.

There was a minimum donation of $10, however, they could choose to donate more.

As the buzzing of the tattoo guns quieted between a wave of clients, Amy said she was thrilled to be able to participate in such a fun event.

"It is an amazing idea," she said. "It goes to a great cause that is personal to our boss. That makes us more motivated. I feel good about doing this."

Quiles said the idea of a charity event such as Friday's has been on his mind for a while.

"I had a customer and she works with abused children," he said. "I always had that in my mind, since two years ago. I was wondering how I could help these guys and that idea just came up. I was thinking what event we could do from my perspective with what I do. Just like that, it came up."

Diaz said all three artists together came up with the idea to tattoo for a charity and offered their services and talents to make it happen.

"All of them were tired but they were excited we hit our goal. I love every one of them, they are awesome," he said. "They were all for it. It was their idea. They said let's do this. Not too many tattoo shops would do a donation like that."

When the crew initially put the event out there, Amy said they didn't have a limit.

However, when they saw the amount of interest, they decided to scale it back.

"They filled it up quick. We were going to do unlimited and then we saw the amount of people and thought we're going to be here for days," Amy said. "It is amazing, especially since it is going toward a charity here in town to help the kiddos. People love getting tattoos and it is a great price."

It was the charity portion of the event that struck Gloria first.

"The first thing I saw was that it was for charity and I thought, I'm there," she said. "This place means a lot to a lot of people. Everyone knows this place. Since they are raising the money, everyone knew, everyone heard and everyone came out."

Quiles agreed adding the kindness and generosity in the community is abundant.

"People want tattoos, but they have the intention to help others. I can see that with my neighbors. Everywhere you can see it," he said.

Bold new Lifetime series features San Antonio woman

By Jeanne Jakle
San Antonio Express-News

Army Staff Sgt. Katherine Perusquia, an alumna of Judson High School and St. Philip's College, is featured in a new Lifetime series about women with stories that are informative, eye-opening and inspirational.

The San Antonio native speaks about the challenges she faces every day not only as a lesbian in the Army but also as a devout Christian from a religious family.

"Her America: 50 Women, 50 States" has both online and TV components and includes women from cities both big and small across the United States.

Lifetime, one of the preeminent female entertainment networks, set out to capture the truth about women's lives following the 2016 presidential election, when America seemed fractured and divided on so many issues. One goal was to amplify voices that often go unheard.

Lifetime crisscrossed the country with a production team of more than 20 women to ask the women they met one simple question: If you could broadcast your story to the world, what would you share?

Included in the videos and photographic essays presented are: Arizona's first female Asian-American state senator; an African-American police officer in Minnesota balancing the tensions of the Black Lives Matter and Blue Lives Matter movements; a practicing Catholic who works at Planned Parenthood in Albuquerque, New Mexico; and a Dreamer fighting for immigrant rights in her hometown of Las Vegas.

The series launched this week at heramerica.com and on Lifetime television. According to a series spokeswoman, the TV spots, featuring each of the 50 women, will air over the next few months between programming.

Texas is the final state in the digital series.

Over the last eight years, Perusquia has been stationed across the country and has served in Afghanistan as a medic. She also witnessed the 2011 repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, the policy that for years barred openly gay people from serving in the military.

She now can be a staff sergeant and an out lesbian. Last year, she and her wife, Macy Erin Perusquia, moved to Alaska, where Katherine — who goes by Kat — is a healthcare noncommissioned officer at Fort Wainwright.

"I feel like this is my calling," she says in the piece, which contains several photos of Kat and Macy. "I never thought I'd be the first woman in the family to join the military, and that I would actually love it as much as I do."

Kat has struggled to reconcile being a lesbian with her strong Christian faith.

"I always tell everybody, 'Well in my opinion, and in the Bible, it's a sin,' And I think that's the hardest thing I have to realize," she says in the piece. "I tell people, 'Just because the church doesn't agree with it, that doesn't stop me from having my relationship with God."

She elaborated on these thoughts in an email interview.

"When Lifetime called me to do several little interviews and asked me if I was interested in this project I said yes," Perusquia said.

"I was nervous but excited. They asked if I would be willing to discuss being lesbian and being married. Ultimately, I decided to share my story because I know there are people who have been scared to attend church or have turned from their faith because of religious views. I've had friends turn to me who turned from their faith because they said rejection was hard, they felt ashamed, or because their own family rejected them."

Her San Antonio family, though conservative and religious, has been supportive.

HISTORY

From 4B

"The name of the St. Louis Community came as a result of those settlers who came in here from St. Louis, Missouri, and they saw the similarity of the East Texas culture and climate and so they adopted the name St. Louis Community," said the Rev. Ralph E. Caraway, the current pastor of the church. "The community has been close-knit . It's probably one of the oldest communities within Smith County."

The church, now at 4000 Frankston Highway, has undergone many transformations over the years but still has members who are descendants from some of its first attendants.

Through the years, Caraway said the church has served many functions, and that it, like many churches founded by freed slaves, has served an important role in the community.

"Historically the church in the African-American community has been the center of the community," he said. "It is where a lot of entrepreneurships were established, the Civil Rights Movement . It was a hub of information."

When venue options were limited for those in Tyler's African-American community, the stained-glass windows, pink bricks, antique pews and roomy interior of the Old St. James Christian Methodist Church made it the ideal location.

In 1870, it too started under a brush arbor. By 1891, parishioners had constructed the building and continued to make additions for several decades. Over time, the church became a proud feature of the "String Town" area.

"When you walked in you were just (in) awe because you were able to just look around and see all the beautiful architecture," said the Rev. Orenthia Mason, 65, the church's current pastor. "(It) became a place where graduations were held because it was large enough. It had a beautiful edifice and St. James opened their doors to hold any programs that were necessary."

Several decades after its inception, the church changed its name from St. James Colored United Methodist Church to St. James Christian United Methodist Church.

The church, as well as other Methodist churches, was instrumental in the founding of Texas College.

Darryl Madlock, 75, and the church's presiding elder, was born and raised at the church and described it as "the one safe harbor" during tough times.

He drew inspiration from watching how members worked together.

"They didn't call in carpenters from the outside, they called members from the inside that came in the evenings and nights while the ladies of the church would bring snacks.," he said. "I realized that the church is an institution that brings about a closer relationship with God, but it also brought a closer relationship in the midst of people that were there."

MHS' Vines, Wright look to make waves at state

By Christopher Hadorn
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Midland High senior swimmers Braden Vines and Mollie Wright have left their mark at COM Aquatics.

Wright and Vines will soon have their future college flags hung on display at COM Aquatics' FMH Foundation Natatorium, a tradition that recognizes previous Tall City standouts such as Florida State swimmer Kile Carriger, Texas A&M diver Charlye Campbell, former Purdue diver Anna James and former Florida swimmer Natalie Hinds.

Vines is signed to compete at the University of Texas, while Wright is committed to swim at Texas A&M.

But before they head to college, Wright and Vines will have one final hurrah as they compete in the UIL Class 6A Swimming and Diving Championships, today and Saturday at Lee and Joe Jamail Texas Swim Center in Austin.

Vines, Wright, junior swimmer Nathan Keller and senior diver Grayson Jones make up the MHS contingent that will shoot for podium spots and medals with top three finishes.

Vines, a four-time state meet qualifier, believes he is going to have his best state meet yet after finishing third in the boys 100-yard breaststroke in 2017.

This year Vines holds the top seeded time of 55.57 seconds in the 100 breast, and is the No. 3 seed entering the 200 IM. The highly confident Vines is eyeing the 100 breast state record of 54.51 and 200 IM state record of 1:44.92.

"This year I'm tapering (workouts), resting all the way for state," Vines said. "I'm really hoping to see if I can get the state records in my races, so that's exciting. That's also a difference. I know I can win this year, 100 percent going in. I really think I can come out in first place. That's also really exciting. I kind of got a different mentality

Please see **MHS**/3C

James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Braden Vines and Mollie Wright qualified for the UIL state swim meet, photographed Tuesday, at COM Aquatics.

Adept at adjusting

James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Lee's Braydyn Hill (10) passes between Permian's Reyna Rayos (10) and Alena Madero (22) on Jan. 23 at Chaparral Center.

Point guard Hill sets tone for Lady Rebels

By Christopher Hadorn
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Braydyn Hill sets the tone on offense for the Lee girls basketball team.

Hill is fearless when it comes to driving the basket for easy layups. But if the open lane closes and is well defended, the junior guard is adept at adjusting and passing to a teammate for a wide-open shot.

"I try to find the open gaps," Hill said. "If the help side (defense) gets there, I kick it out. If not, I just drive."

Hill is a big reason why the Lady Rebels (18-15) have won four in row and find themselves in the second round of the postseason as they face Keller (18-14) in today's 6 p.m. Class 6A area playoff at Cooper High School in Abilene.

Hill had eight points in Lee's 51-45 victory over District 1-6A champion El Paso Franklin in Tuesday's bi-district playoff in Roswell, New Mexico.

"She has really good burst off that first step and she can create separation and get to the lane," Lee head coach Alfred Acosta said.

"She does a really job of seeing the basketball floor. She's going to make the right pass, make the right read a good percentage of the time. And that's what you want from your point guard. Your point guard has got to see the floor. She's got to be the floor general, got to get us going.

"She's definitely gone through some growing pains, but I am telling you right now, a lot of the success that we are having right now has to do with her, along with the seniors."

Acosta likens Hill to a senior because she is a three-year letterman who has played extensively since her freshman season on a Lady Rebels team that reached the regional tournament.

Despite her experience, Hill felt she needed to take her game up another notch when Lee lost four-year starter and point guard Karysa Edwards to graduation last season.

Hill focused on being more assertive on the floor by attacking the basket for high-percentage shots.

"I had to when Karysa left, I had to take over what she did and be a leader," Hill said.

Because of Hill's aggressiveness to the basket, Acosta said she is able to draw fouls, which is a help to the Lady Rebels when they go through a cold spell shooting wise.

On Jan. 29, Lee was sitting at 3-4 in district play before its current torrid stretch, which included wins over District 2-6A champion Wolfforth Frenship and playoff team Midland High.

Hill had 12 points, six rebounds, seven assists and six steals against MHS, and she tallied 13 points and five steals versus Frenship.

"We knew we had to push through it

Please see **REBELS**/3C

Chaps eliminated with lackluster loss to NMMI

By Oscar LeRoy
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Midland College men's basketball coach Pat Rafferty sat on a trainer's table at Chaparral Center on Thurs[illegible] with his head down in frustration.

The 71-70 loss to New Mexico Military Institute pretty much sealed the Chaparrals' postseason fate.

Combined with Howard College's 77-73 victory over Frank Phillips on Thursday, Midland College will miss out on the Region V Tournament for the seventh straight year.

On Thursday night, it was the same and familiar old story for Rafferty. He had seen his team have lackluster performances and not give the maximum effort that this veteran coach expects and he felt this game was another one to fall into that lackluster category.

"I didn't think we played well," Rafferty said. "I didn't think we played with passion and with competitive pride. It's like we were going back in time 2 1/2 months. That's the worst part. Mistakes are going to be made, shots are going to be missed, but at least if they're playing hard, good things are going to come from that. The thing that eats at me most is having to beg guys to play hard.

"Maybe that was their best. Maybe that's the best they can do. Then OK, you guys did your best. I don't believe that. Why wouldn't you come out and do your best? It goes back to consistency creates excellence and we haven't been that from day to day. Today wasn't about Xs and Os. Today was about competing."

Rafferty hoped that his team had turned the corner with recent performances. He had hoped his team would come out with a sense of urgency, especially with the Chaps (8-19, 4-9 in Western Junior College Athletic Conference) needing every win to keep their postseason hopes alive.

But the Broncos (16-11, 6-7) had different plans as they too were in need of a win. NMMI hit 12 3-pointers in the game, which proved to be the ultimate difference.

Like they did in Monday's 78-77 overtime loss to No. 5-ranked Odessa College, the Chaps had the ball with a chance to win it at the end, but Amari Hale's 3-point

Please see **CHAPS**/3C

James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Midland College's Marquell Fraser (1) shoots against New Mexico Military Institute on Thurgday at Chaparral Center.

Lee, MHS teams ready, excited for Tall City Invitational

By Will Korn
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The spring golf season is now in full swing and 13 West Texas programs are set to bring their games to Midland for the 32nd annual Bobby Dunn Tall City Invitational.

Today's first round commences at 8:30 a.m. at Green Tree Country Club. The second round tees off with a shotgun start at 8 a.m. Saturday at Hogan Park Golf Course.

The Bulldogs will tee off today from Hole 10 at Green Tree CC at 8:30 a.m., while the Rebels will start from Hole 1 at 8:30 a.m.

Joining hosts Lee and Midland High will be defending tournament champion Odessa Permian, Odessa High, El Paso Coronado, El Paso Franklin, Abilene Cooper, Seminole, Greenwood, Monahans, Pecos, as well as Midland Christian and defending TAPPS 4A state champion Trinity.

MHS head coach Bryan Sledge and Lee first-year head coach Wes Overton said they are both thrilled to see how their teams fare against yet another quality tournament field this weekend.

"There are going to be some good teams (competing)," Sledge said. "It's kind of a measuring stick to see where we are as a team."

Said Overton: "The field is going to be strong."

Thus far, the common denominator between the MHS and Lee teams is a focused search for more consistency.

Led by varsity experienced seniors Sebastian Cruz and Carter Petty, the Bulldogs are a continually developing group. With the infusion of promising freshman Mitchell Maddox, MHS will have some talent on the course over the next two days. But posting competitive team scores on consecutive days has been an obstacle.

Sledge said he hopes a greater sense of camaraderie among his players will aid that effort, as the Bulldogs look to improve on a 13th place finish at last year's TC Invitational.

"We just need to get more consistent," Sledge said. "I'm happy with the kids, I'm happy with their effort. It's more of a family atmosphere this year and it's real competitive and that has helped us."

Overton, who is directing a much younger Rebels team this year, said fine tuning the mental side of playing each hole has been the preferred route to better consistency.

"We're working on the mental part of it, taking it one shot at a time," Overton said. "We work a lot with 'What do you do after you get off the tee box?' Chipping and putting — that's where you save strokes or lose strokes."

Please see **INVITATIONAL**/2C

Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Trinity's Austin Escamilla follows his shot in 2017 at the 31st Annual Jack Ratcliff Tall City Invitational at Greentree Country Club.

DAILYRUNDOWN

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

Boxing
Raymundo Beltran vs. Paulus Moses, 8 p.m., ESPN, ESPNDEP

College Baseball
Lafayette at Texas, 6 p.m., LHN

College Gymnastics
Florida at Georgia, 6 p.m., SEC
Perfect 10 Challenge, 7 p.m., FSSW+, FCSC
Kentucky at Alabama, 7:30 p.m., SEC

College Hockey
Penn State at Michigan State, 5:30 p.m., BTN
North Dakota at Omaha, 6:30 p.m., CBSSN
Miami-OH at Minnesota-Duluth, 7 p.m., FCSP
Ohio State at Minnesota, 8 p.m., BTN
Denver at Colorado College, 9 p.m., CBSSN

College Lacrosse
Denver at Duke, 4 p.m., ESPNU

Golf
Champions: Chubb Classic, 1st Round, 2 p.m., GOLF
PGA: Genesis Open, 2nd Round, 4 p.m., GOLF
LPGA: ISPS Hanada Australian Open, 3rd Round, 9 p.m., GOLF
EPGA: NBO Oman Golf Classic, 3rd Round, 3 a.m., GOLF

Men's College Basketball
Rhode Island at St. Bonaventure, 6 p.m., ESPN2
Bowling Green at Buffalo, 6 p.m., ESPNU
Princeton at Cornell, 7 p.m., ELVN
Georgia State at Georgia Southern, 8 p.m., ESPN2
Northern Kentucky at Wright State, 8 p.m., ESPNU Men's

Soccer
Bundesliga: Hertha BSC Berlin vs. 1. FSV Mainz 05, 1:20 p.m., FSP
FA Cup: Chelsea FC vs. Hull City AFC, 1:50 p.m., FS2, FXDEP
Liga NOS: Feirense vs. Portimonense, 2:30 p.m., GolTV
Ascenso MX: Potros vs. Cafetaleros, 7 p.m., GolTV

Mixed Martial Arts
Bellator: Matt Mitrione vs. Roy Nelson, 8 p.m., PARA
Legacy Fighting Alliance 33, 8 p.m., AXS

Motorsports
XFINITY: PowerShares QQQ 300, Practice, 11 a.m., FS1
Monster Energy Cup Series: Daytona 500, Practice, Noon, FS1
XFINITY: PowerShares QQQ 300, Final Practice, 1 p.m., FS1
Monster Energy Cup Series: Daytona 500, Practice, 2 p.m., FS1
Camping World Truck Series: NextEra Energy Resources 250, Qualifying, 3:30 p.m., FS1
Camping World Truck Series: NextEra Energy Resources 250, 7:30 p.m., FS1

National Basketball Association
2018 NBA Celebrity All Star Game, 6 p.m., ESPN, ESPNDEP
2018 Rising Stars Challenge, 8 p.m., TNT

National Hockey League
St. Louis at Dallas, 7:30 p.m., FSSW

Tennis
ATP: Rotterdam, Quarterfinals 3 & 4; ATP: New York Open, Quarterfinals, Noon, TENNIS

Winter Olympics
Men's Hockey: Finland vs. Norway, 6 a.m., USA
Men's Hockey: Sweden vs. Germany, 7:10 a.m., NBCSN
Skeleton: Women's Run 1, 9:30 a.m., NBCSN
Speed Skating: Women's 5000m; Ski Jumping: Men's Individual Large Hill, Qualifying, 10:45 a.m., NBCSN
Women's Curling: South Korea vs. Switzerland, 1 p.m., NBCSN
Ski Jumping: Men's Individual Large Hill, Qualifying; Speed Skating:
Women's 5000m; Cross Country: Men's 15km Freestyle, 2 p.m., NBC
Men's Curling: USA vs. Denmark, 4 p.m., CNBC
Freestyle: Women's Aerials; Skeleton: Women's Runs 1 and 2; Alpine
Skiing: Women's Super G; Figure Skating: Men's Free Skate, 7 p.m., NBC
Figure Skating: Men's Free Skate, 7 p.m., NBCSN
Women's Hockey: Quarterfinal, 9 p.m., CNBC
Men's Hockey: Canada vs. Czech Republic, 9:10 p.m., NBCSN
Women's Curling: USA vs. Olympic Athletes from Russia, 11:30 p.m., NBCSN
Freestyle Skiing: Women's Slopestyle; Figure Skating: Men's Free Skate, 11:35 p.m., NBC
Women's Hockey: Quarterfinal, 1:30 a.m., USA
Men's Hockey: Switzerland vs. South Korea, 1:40 a.m., NBCSN
Men's Curling: Canada vs. Sweden, 4 a.m., NBCSN
Men's Curling: Slovenia vs. Slovakia, 4 a.m., USA
Medal Ceremonies, 4 a.m., OLYHD

Women's College Basketball
Seton Hall at St. John's, 6 p.m., FS2

Women's College Hockey
Minnesota at Wisconsin, 7 p.m., FCSA

RADIO
Odessa at Shreveport, 7 p.m., KFZX 102.1 FM

WHAT'S ON DECK

HS Baseball
Midland Christian at Texas Private School Classic, Fort Worth
Abilene Christian vs. Trinity, 6 p.m., Simonds Field

HS Boys Soccer
Lee at Wolfforth Frenship, 7:30 p.m.
Amarillo Tascosa at Midland High, 7:30 p.m.

HS Girls Soccer
Lee at Wolfforth Frenship, 5:30 p.m.
Amarillo Tascosa at Midland High, 5:30 p.m.

HS Boys Golf
Tall City Tournament

HS Girls Basketball
Class 6A Area, Lee vs. Keller, 6 p.m., Abilene Cooper HS
Class 4A area, Greenwood vs. Lubbock Estacado, 8 p.m., Snyder
Class 2A area, Forsan vs. Seagraves, 6:30 p.m., Grady HS
Class 1A Area, Garden City vs. Eula, 6:30 p.m., Winters HS
Class 1A area, Rankin vs. Ira, 6 p.m., Garden City
TAPPS 5A bi-district, Midland Christian at Dallas Christian, 6 p.m.

HS Softball
Lee at Lubbock Tournament
Midland High at Bryan Tournament
Snyder at Greenwood, 5:30 p.m.
Midland Christian at Brock Classic Tournament

HS Swimming & Diving
UIL State Meet, Austin

HS Track
MHS, Lee at Queen City Relays, Del Rio

JC Softball
Midland College at Cowtown Tournament, Fort Worth

NBA GLANCE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	41	16	.719	—
Boston	40	19	.678	2
Philadelphia	30	25	.545	10
New York	23	36	.390	19
Brooklyn	19	40	.322	23
Southeast Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	33	24	.579	—
Miami	30	28	.517	3½
Charlotte	24	33	.421	9
Orlando	18	39	.316	15
Atlanta	18	41	.305	16
Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	34	22	.607	—
Indiana	33	25	.569	2
Milwaukee	32	25	.561	2½
Detroit	28	29	.491	6½
Chicago	20	37	.351	14½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	44	13	.772	—
San Antonio	35	24	.593	10
New Orleans	31	26	.544	13
Memphis	18	38	.321	25½
Dallas	18	40	.310	26½
Northwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	35	25	.583	—
Oklahoma City	33	26	.559	1½
Denver	32	26	.552	2
Portland	32	26	.552	2
Utah	30	28	.517	4
Pacific Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	44	14	.759	—
L.A. Clippers	30	26	.536	13
L.A. Lakers	23	33	.411	20
Sacramento	18	39	.316	25½
Phoenix	18	41	.305	26½

Thursday's Scores
Denver 134, Milwaukee 123
L.A. Lakers at Minnesota, late

Today's Games
Team World vs. Team USA at Los Angeles, Calif., 8 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL
American League
BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Signed RHP Andrew Cashner to a two-year contract.
CLEVELAND INDIANS — Agreed to terms with C Ryan Hanigan on a minor league contract.
TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Agreed to terms with LHP Jaime Garcia on a one-year contract.
National League
CINCINNATI REDS — Voided the contract of RHP Jeff Manship. Agreed to terms with INF Cliff Pennington on a minor league contract.
MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Named Daniel Fumai chief financial officer. Agreed to a minor league contract with LHP Wade Miley.
NEW YORK METS — Agreed to terms with OF Matt den Dekker to a minor league contract.
Atlantic League
LONG ISLAND DUCKS — Signed LHP Jake Fisher.
Can-Am League
NEW JERSEY JACKALS — Traded RHP Kyle Hansen to Kansas City (AA) for OF Marcus Lemon.
SUSSEX COUNTY MINERS — Released INF Nick Giarraputo and RHP Hector Nelo.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
NFL — Announced Cincinnati Bengals' QB AJ McCarron has won his arbitration case against and will become an unrestricted free agent.
NEW YORK GIANTS — Named Mike Shula offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, Tyke Tolbert wide receivers coach, Hal Hunter offensive line coach, Ben Wilkerson assistant offensive line coach, James Bettcher defensive coordinator, Gary Emanuel defensive line coach, Lou Anarumo defensive backs coach, Deshea Townsend assistant defensive backs coach, Thomas McGaughey special teams coordinator and Anthony Blevins assistant special teams coach. Retained Craig Johnson running backs coach, Lunda Wells tight ends coach, Ryan Roeder offensive assistant coach, Bill McGovern linebackers coach, Rob Leonard assistant linebackers coach and Bobby Blick defensive assistant coach.
Canadian Football League
EDMONTON ESKIMOS — Re-signed RB John White.
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS — Recalled G Jean-Francois Berube from Rockford (AHL). Assigned G Jeff Glass to Rockford. Acquired C Chris DiDomenico from Ottawa for D Ville Pokka and assigned DiDomenico to Rockford.
COLORADO AVALANCHE — Reassigned F Rocco Grimaldi to San Antonio (AHL).
American Hockey League
SAN ANTONIO RAMPAGE — Reassigned Fs Brady Shaw and Julien Nantel to Colorado (ECHL).
COLLEGE
CHARLESTON SOUTHERN — Named Chad Scott assistant athletic director of student-athlete development and Connor Klekota men's assistant soccer coach.
TEXAS — Fired track coach Mario Sategna.

NHL GLANCE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	58	39	16	3	81	208	155
Boston	55	35	12	8	78	185	133
Toronto	59	35	19	5	75	198	165
Florida	54	25	23	6	56	158	175
Detroit	56	23	24	9	55	150	170
Montreal	56	22	27	7	51	144	174
Ottawa	56	20	27	9	49	150	196
Buffalo	58	17	30	11	45	139	191
Metropolitan Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	57	33	17	7	73	181	167
Pittsburgh	59	33	22	4	70	185	175
New Jersey	57	29	20	8	66	173	176
Philadelphia	57	28	19	10	66	169	167
Carolina	58	27	22	9	63	160	174
Columbus	57	29	24	4	62	154	162
N.Y. Islanders	59	28	25	6	62	197	214
N.Y. Rangers	58	27	26	5	59	166	178

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Nashville	56	34	13	9	77	176	147
Winnipeg	57	33	15	9	75	183	154
St. Louis	59	34	21	4	72	170	151
Dallas	57	33	20	4	70	175	151
Minnesota	57	31	20	6	68	170	163
Colorado	56	31	21	4	66	176	163
Chicago	58	24	26	8	56	162	169
Pacific Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	56	37	15	4	78	192	154
San Jose	57	30	19	8	68	166	158
Calgary	58	30	20	8	68	165	167
Anaheim	59	28	20	11	67	164	168
Los Angeles	57	30	22	5	65	163	143
Edmonton	55	23	28	4	50	157	184
Vancouver	57	22	29	6	50	150	184
Arizona	57	15	32	10	40	137	195

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

Thursday's Scores
Pittsburgh 3, Los Angeles 1
N.Y. Islanders 3, N.Y. Rangers 0
New Jersey 5, Carolina 2
Tampa Bay 4, Detroit 1
Ottawa 3, Buffalo 2, OT
Calgary 4, Nashville 3
Washington 5, Minnesota 2
Anaheim 3, Chicago 2
Montreal at Arizona, late
Edmonton at Vegas, late
Vancouver at San Jose, late

Today's Games
Columbus at Washington, 5 p.m.
Detroit at N.Y. Islanders, 5 p.m.
Calgary at N.Y. Rangers, 5 p.m.
Los Angeles at Florida, 5:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Carolina, 5:30 p.m.
St. Louis at Winnipeg, 6 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Dallas, 6:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Anaheim, 8 p.m.

PRO GOLF SCORES

Associated Press

PGA Genesis Open Scores
Thursday
At Riviera CC
Los Angeles
Purse: $7.2 million
Yardage: 7,322; Par 71 (35-36)
Partial First Round

Patrick Cantlay	33-33—66
Tony Finau	34-32—66
Tom Hoge	33-34—67
Dominic Bozzelli	34-33—67
Sam Saunders	32-35—67
Derek Fathauer	36-32—68
Ryan Moore	34-34—68
Chez Reavie	32-36—68
Aaron Wise	33-35—68
Kevin Na	34-34—68
Martin Laird	33-35—68
Jason Kokrak	33-35—68
Retief Goosen	32-36—68
Bubba Watson	34-34—68
Jamie Lovemark	33-35—68
Troy Merritt	33-35—68
Graeme McDowell	32-37—69
Justin Thomas	34-35—69
Kevin Chappell	37-32—69
Ernie Els	34-35—69
John Huh	35-35—70
Tyrone Van Aswegen	34-36—70
C.T. Pan	35-35—70
Billy Hurley III	34-36—70
Phil Mickelson	34-36—70
Tommy Fleetwood	34-36—70
James Hahn	35-35—70
Branden Grace	36-34—70
Peter Uihlein	34-36—70
Bud Cauley	34-36—70
Kyle Stanley	34-36—70
Adam Hadwin	35-35—70
Wesley Bryan	35-35—70
Sung Kang	36-34—70
Patrick Rodgers	34-36—70
Harris English	34-37—71
Parker McLachlin	37-34—71
Thomas Pieters	36-35—71
Luke Donald	35-36—71
Bryson DeChambeau	35-36—71
Rory McIlroy	33-38—71
Cody Gribble	35-36—71
Charl Schwartzel	37-34—71
Padraig Harrington	35-36—71
Shawn Stefani	35-36—71
Scott Stallings	34-37—71
Michael Kim	35-36—71
J.B. Holmes	37-34—71
Sean O'Hair	34-37—71
Nick Taylor	35-36—71
Brandon Harkins	34-37—71
Ryan Blaum	36-35—71
Jonas Blixt	35-36—71
Jordan Spieth	35-36—71
Ryan Armour	34-37—71
Billy Horschel	34-37—71
Xander Schauffele	32-39—71
Alex Noren	36-35—71
HaoTong Li	33-38—71
Kelly Kraft	34-37—71
Matt Every	37-35—72
Keegan Bradley	37-35—72
Geoff Ogilvy	35-37—72
Aaron Baddeley	35-37—72
Tiger Woods	35-37—72
Jimmy Walker	36-36—72
Brendan Steele	36-36—72
Pat Perez	36-36—72
Joel Dahmen	37-35—72
Kevin Streelman	35-37—72
Luke List	35-37—72
Morgan Hoffmann	36-36—72
Anirban Lahiri	37-35—72
Abraham Ancer	36-36—72
Xinjun Zhang	36-36—72
Beau Hossler	36-36—72
Martin Piller	36-36—72
Adam Scott	34-38—72
Vaughn Taylor	36-36—72
Cameron Smith	35-37—72
Vijay Singh	36-36—72
Rafa Cabrera Bello	32-40—72
Si Woo Kim	35-37—72
Scott Brown	35-37—72
Harold Varner III	35-38—73
David Lingmerth	35-38—73
Shane Lowry	36-37—73
Matt Kuchar	36-37—73
Greg Chalmers	38-35—73
Sangmoon Bae	35-38—73
William McGirt	36-37—73
Paul Casey	36-37—73
Chad Campbell	34-39—73
Scottie Scheffler	35-38—73
Richard H. Lee	37-36—73
J.J. Henry	33-40—73
Lucas Glover	37-36—73
Martin Kaymer	35-38—73
Jim Furyk	36-37—73
Danny Lee	38-35—73
Whee Kim	37-36—73
Smylie Kaufman	35-39—74
K.J. Choi	34-40—74
Brian Gay	34-40—74
Charles Howell III	36-38—74
Austin Cook	37-37—74
Ollie Schniederjans	36-38—74
Cameron Tringale	36-38—74
Marc Leishman	36-38—74
Dustin Johnson	38-36—74
John Merrick	36-39—75
Charley Hoffman	35-40—75
Brian Stuard	35-40—75
Rob Oppenheim	38-37—75
Robert Streb	37-38—75
Peter Malnati	37-38—75
D.A. Points	35-40—75
Daniel Berger	38-37—75
Fabián Gómez	37-38—75
Martin Flores	39-36—75
Kevin Tway	35-40—75
Jon Curran	37-39—76
Ted Potter, Jr.	39-37—76
Camilo Villegas	39-37—76
Andrew Landry	40-37—77
Chris Stroud	35-42—77
Francesco Molinari	38-39—77
Jhonattan Vegas	39-38—77
J.J. Spaun	41-38—79
Andrew Loupe	39-40—79
Charlie Beljan	41-39—80

LPGA Australian Open Scores
Thursday
At Kooyonga Golf Club
Adelaide, Australia
Purse: $1.3 million
Yardage: 6,599; Par: 72 (37-35)
First Round

(a-amateur)

Jin Young Ko	34-31—65
Jiyai Shin	34-33—67
Nelly Korda	36-32—68
Emma Talley	36-32—68
Luna Sobron Galmes	33-35—68
a-Suzuka Yamaguchi	34-34—68
Jodi Ewart Shadoff	34-34—68
Lydia Ko	36-32—68
Mo Martin	35-33—68
Sun Young Yoo	33-35—68
Caroline Hedwall	34-34—68
Caroline Inglis	36-32—68
Chella Choi	37-32—69
So Yeon Ryu	33-36—69
Erynne Lee	33-36—69
Ariya Jutanugarn	36-33—69
Moriya Jutanugarn	35-34—69
Megan Khang	35-34—69
Hyejin Choi	35-34—69
Hannah Green	34-35—69
Laetitia Beck	34-36—70
Karine Icher	36-34—70
Haru Nomura	36-34—70
Karrie Webb	35-35—70
Prima Thammaraks	38-32—70
a-Yuri Yoshida	37-33—70
Yu Liu	38-32—70
Cydney Clanton	36-34—70
Yani Tseng	36-34—70
Mariajo Uribe	34-36—70
Olivia Cowan	35-35—70
Cristie Kerr	37-34—71
Pernilla Lindberg	39-32—71
Ryann O'Toole	35-36—71
Marina Alex	35-36—71
Katelyn Dambaugh	36-35—71
Kelly W Shon	36-35—71
Tiffany Chan	36-35—71
Lee-Anne Pace	36-35—71
Sakura Yokomine	35-36—71
Mel Reid	37-34—71
Caroline Masson	37-34—71
Amy Boulden	35-36—71
Sandra Changkija	34-37—71
Thidapa Suwannapura	36-35—71
Lindy Duncan	36-36—72
Valdis Thora Jonsdottir	38-34—72
Austin Ernst	36-36—72
Nicole Broch Larsen	35-37—72
Minjee Lee	36-36—72
Nasa Hataoka	36-36—72
Ha Na Jang	36-36—72
Xiyu Lin	36-36—72
Amelia Lewis	40-32—72
Amy Olson	37-35—72
Lindsey Weaver	36-36—72
Peiyun Chien	35-37—72
Laura Davies	36-36—72
Brooke M. Henderson	37-35—72
Jane Park	38-34—72
Katherine Kirk	36-36—72
Cindy LaCrosse	38-34—72
Marissa Steen	37-35—72
Celine Herbin	35-38—73
Paula Reto	36-37—73
Tiffany Joh	36-37—73
Stephanie Na	37-36—73
Wei-Ling Hsu	36-37—73
Azahara Munoz	35-38—73
Celine Boutier	37-36—73
a-Ho Yu An	38-35—73
Su Oh	37-36—73
Na Yeon Choi	36-37—73
Angela Stanford	37-36—73
Saranporn Langkulgasettri	38-36—74
Robynn Ree	38-36—74
Angel Yin	36-38—74
Ally McDonald	37-37—74
Charley Hull	39-35—74
Brittany Lang	35-39—74
Christina Kim	36-38—74
Alison Lee	35-39—74
Cathryn Bristow	37-37—74
Wichanee Meechai	38-36—74
Justine Dreher	37-37—74
Leticia Nayla Ras-Anderica	35-39—74
Jeongmin Cho	36-38—74
Brianna Do	40-34—74
Maria Torres	37-37—74
Catriona Matthew	37-37—74
Olafia Kristinsdottir	38-36—74
Alena Sharp	37-37—74
Kim Kaufman	39-35—74
Dani Holmqvist	40-34—74
Perrine Delacour	37-38—75
Jenny Haglund	39-36—75
a-Tze Han Lin	37-38—75
a-Han Hsuan Yu	36-39—75
Eun Hye Jo	38-37—75
Jing Yan	37-38—75
Beth Allen	39-36—75
Christine Wolf	39-36—75
Holly Clyburn	35-40—75
Ellen Davies-Graham	38-37—75
Belen Mozo	36-39—75
Georgia Hall	39-36—75
Beatriz Recari	39-36—75
Karis Davidson	39-36—75
Michele Thomson	38-37—75
Whitney Hillier	40-36—76
Katie Burnett	39-37—76
Sarah Kemp	38-38—76
a-Hsin Yu Lu	39-37—76
Ashleigh Buhai	38-38—76
Jenny Shin	38-38—76
a-Grace Kim	36-40—76
Anne Van Dam	41-35—76
Bronte Law	38-38—76
Haeji Kang	38-38—76
Kassidy Teare	40-36—76
Anne-Catherine Tanguay	41-35—76
Aditi Ashok	36-40—76
Sarah Jane Smith	40-36—76
Nanna Koerstz Madsen	37-39—76
Ayaka Watanabe	39-37—76
Cheyenne Woods	38-38—76
Liv Cheng	40-37—77
Simin Feng	37-40—77
a-Tsai Ching Tseng	41-36—77
Marianne Skarpnord	36-41—77
Gemma Dryburgh	36-42—78
Alexandra Orchard	39-39—78
Madelene Sagstrom	43-35—78
Felicity Johnson	40-38—78
Lauren Coughlin	43-36—79
Nina Muehl	39-40—79
Hanee Song	41-38—79
Morgan Pressel	38-41—79
Rebecca Lillian Artis	41-38—79
Ayako Uehara	41-39—80
Charlotte Thomas	41-39—80
Jenna Hunter	41-40—81
Emily K. Pedersen	38-43—81
Jessy Tang	45-39—84

MHS' Stewart wins in San Angelo

From staff reports

SAN ANGELO – Midland High senior Allison Stewart went 3-0 and didn't lose a game in her girls singles matches to win Thursday's San Angelo Central Hall of Fame Tennis Tournament.

Stewart improved her season record to 26-1.

MHS freshman Tyler Stewart placed second in boys singles, while MHS brothers Nick Martinez and Diego Martinez finished second in boys doubles.

MHS' Jack Wall and Cole Carriger came in third in boys doubles.

Delays done, Shiffrin wins Olympic GS gold; best event next

Associated Press

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea — The nervous energy accumulated for Mikaela Shiffrin while she waited, waited, waited for these Olympics — the ones that so many are expecting to be HER Olympics — to finally get started. First one race was postponed. Then another.

And so it was not until a week into the Pyeongchang Games that Shiffrin and the other female Alpine skiers got to compete in the rescheduled giant slalom, an event the 22-year-old American considers a work in progress for her. In second place and still feeling some jitters after the first of Thursday's two runs, Shiffrin did two things during the 3 1/2 hours before the deciding leg of the GS: She took a nap, and then she sneaked onto the adjacent men's course at Yongpong Alpine Center for a little free skiing.

"Then," said Shiffrin's mother, Eileen, who is also a coach, "I think she was just like, 'I'm ready. I'm doing this.'"

Sure was. And sure did.

On a crisp, clear day with very little sign of the gusts that have played havoc with the skiing program, Shiffrin dealt well with her pent-up emotions and put together a pair of aggressive, if not quite perfect, trips through the gates to win the giant slalom for the second Olympic gold medal of her precocious career.

No American Alpine skier has won more.

"Definitely, it's been a mental strain the last couple days, thinking we're going to race and then not racing. So to finally have the race actually happen today, I was like, 'Well, I really hope that I actually can do it when the time comes that we finally race.' And, yeah, I did," said Shiffrin, who is based in Colorado. "So now we got the ball rolling. I'm really excited for tomorrow."

As well she should be.

That's because Friday brings the slalom, by far Shiffrin's best event, one that she has dominated for five years, including a gold at the 2014 Sochi Games plus a trio of world titles.

2018 Winter Olympic Medals Table
By The Associated Press

At Pyeongchang, South Korea
Through 5 of 9 medal events for Feb. 15
Through 35 of 39 total medal events

Nation	G	S	B	Total
Norway	5	7	4	16
Germany	8	2	3	13
Netherlands	5	4	2	11
Canada	3	4	4	11
United States	5	1	2	8
Japan	0	4	3	7
France	3	1	2	6
OA Russia	0	1	4	5
Sweden	2	2	0	4
Austria	2	1	1	4
Italy	1	1	2	4
Australia	0	2	1	3
Finland	0	0	3	3
South Korea	1	0	1	2
China	0	2	0	2
Czech Republic	0	1	1	2
Switzerland	0	1	1	2
Slovakia	0	1	0	1
Kazakhstan	0	0	1	1
Spain	0	0	1	1

INVITATIONAL

From 1C

Sophomores Paul Gomez and Cameron Lopez, as well as senior Ross Knittle, expect to be the Rebels' top players this season. The program is rebuilding after the graduation of four key seniors in Jared Arras, Cason Vitello, Ethan Hobbs and Lucas Molina, who helped Lee to a second place finish at the TC Invite a year ago.

Meanwhile, Trinity's top player, senior Austin Escamilla, is expected to be in contention for the individual title after finishing in a tie for sixth a year ago. Out of last year's top six finishers, Escamilla is the only returning player.

As a team, Trinity finished fifth at last year's tournament, 34 strokes behind MCS.

Follow Will on Twitter: @Will_MRT

2018 Bobby Dunn Tall City Invitational
When: Today, Green Tree Country Club; Saturday, Hogan Park Golf Course
Tee times: 8 a.m. today; 8 a.m. (shotgun) Saturday
Competing teams: Lee, MHS, Odessa Permian, Odessa High, El Paso Coronado, El Paso Franklin (medalist only), Abilene Cooper, Seminole, Greenwood, Monahans, Pecos, Midland Christian, Trinity

MIDLAND HUMANE COALITION

2/16-18 PetSmart Charities National Adoption Weekend
3/01 6:30-8:30 Microchip Clinic at Beer Garden's Yappy Hour
6/16 4th Annual Hot Dog Run 5K and 1K

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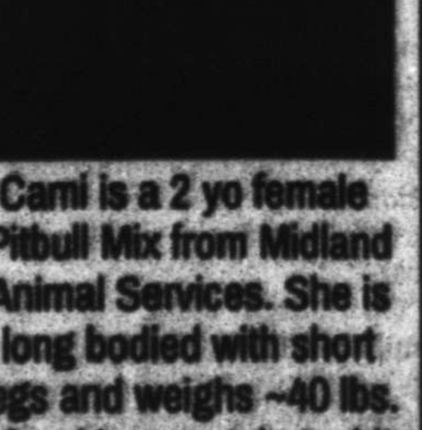
Cami is a 2 yo female Pitbull Mix from Midland Animal Services. She is long bodied with short legs and weighs ~40 lbs. Cami is sweet, but a bit shy and takes time to adapt to new situations. Cami does better with male dogs that are her size or smaller.

MHS

From 1C

going into this year than last year."

Wright, a three-time state qualifier, is a medal contender as well as she is the fifth seed in the girls 500 freestyle, and has also qualified in the 100 backstroke.

"It's definitely something I have been training for all year," Wright said. "It's something that I've kept in the back of my mind to do well at state this year and score as high as I can."

Wright and Vines have known each other for as long as they can remember, going back to attending First Christian Church.

"We practically grown up together through various activities," Wright said of Vines. "He's like a brother to me, kind of. I've known him for so long.

"It's really exciting to think about we were so little when we started and we had no idea of what to expect or where we would go. But it is exciting that we are both representing Midland High and COM at Texas schools. That will be really fun. We will see each other at swim meets."

Even though Wright and Vines will be swimming their final high school meet this weekend, Midland ISD swim and dive coach Steve Flato believes their impact will be felt in future years.

Flato says the pair's work ethic ranks with the best swimmers he has ever coached.

"They definitely have left impressions on all the kids," Flato said. "They have taught the kids how to excel in workouts day in and day out, not just when you feel like you want to work out hard. They have their bad days, but they are pushing through all the time. It's definitely rubbed off on the freshmen and some of the sophomores."

Vines is hoping that when COM swimmers see his Longhorn flag, it will inspire them. He hopes that a future swimmer can match his best times and realize that they can compete at the next level too.

"That's just a really big deal, having the flags up there," Vines said. "Having my flag up there will really motivate me. I know whenever Kile's flag went up that was a big motivator. You're going there, they are watching you."

JONES HEADED TO 2ND STATE MEET, KELLER GOING TO 1ST

Midland High senior Grayson Jones will compete in the boys 1-meter diving for the second straight year.

Jones improved on his performance at the 2018 regionals with a second-place finish after placing third in 2017 and he wants to eclipse the 400-point total at state.

"It feels really good that I progressed and I have gotten better," Jones said. "I feel like I have a good chance to prove myself and to get a better score than I did last time."

Midland High junior Nathan Keller qualified for his first state meet with a runner-up finish at regionals in the 500 freestyle (4:44.54).

"I'm going to swim fast, have fun, enjoy the experience and do the best I can," Keller said. "That's all I am going for."

Follow Christopher on Twitter: @chris_MRTsports

UIL STATE SWIMMING AND DIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

When/where: Today-Saturday, Lee and Joe Jamail Texas Swim Center, Austin

Schedule of events

Today

10 a.m. – Class 5A swim and dive prelims

5:30 p.m. – Class 6A swim and dive prelims

Saturday

9:30 a.m. – Class 5A swim and dive finals

3:30 p.m. – Class 6A swim and dive finals

Area qualifiers

Class 6A

Midland High – Braden Vines, Sr. (boys 200 IM, 100 breast); Mollie Wright, Sr. (girls 500 free, 100 back); Nathan Keller, Jr. (boys 500 free); Grayson Jones, Sr. (boys 1-meter diving)

Class 5A

Andrews – Avery Joiner, So. (girls 50 free; 100 free); Brycen White, Sr. (boys 50 free, 100 free); boys 200 freestyle relay team

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Associated Press

Men

EAST

Albany (NY) 91, Mass.-Lowell 81
Binghamton 69, Stony Brook 57
Fairfield 83, Marist 79
Fairleigh Dickinson 80, Mount St. Mary's 79
Hartford 67, Maine 63
Hofstra 90, William & Mary 84
Northeastern 75, Drexel 69
Penn St. 79, Ohio St. 56
Quinnipiac 71, Manhattan 70
Rider 97, Siena 71
Robert Morris 83, Bryant 60
St. Francis (Pa.) 77, CCSU 71, OT
St. Francis Brooklyn 84, LIU Brooklyn 79
Towson 67, Delaware 65
Tulsa 73, UConn 71
Vermont 71, New Hampshire 58
Wagner 99, Sacred Heart 84

SOUTH

Belmont 84, E. Kentucky 73
Charleston Southern 77, Longwood 65
Coll. of Charleston 81, James Madison 78, OT
Furman 75, Chattanooga 56
Kennesaw St. 97, Florida Gulf Coast 93
Liberty 82, UNC-Asheville 69, OT
Lipscomb 82, Stetson 73
Louisiana-Lafayette 73, Texas State 63
Louisiana-Monroe 84, Texas-Arlington 71
Mercer 82, VMI 58
Middle Tennessee 72, Southern Miss. 62
Murray St. 68, Jacksonville St. 60
NJIT 71, Jacksonville 69
North Florida 109, SC-Upstate 100
Old Dominion 100, UTSA 62
Presbyterian 69, High Point 62
SIU-Edwardsville 70, UT Martin 69
South Alabama 77, Appalachian St. 66
Tennessee St. 83, Morehead St. 74
Tennessee Tech 86, Austin Peay 80
Troy 66, Coastal Carolina 65
UNC-Greensboro 82, The Citadel 66
UNC-Wilmington 87, Elon 63
UTEP 87, Charlotte 86
Winthrop 90, Gardner-Webb 71
Wofford 84, W. Carolina 69

MIDWEST

North Dakota 61, S. Utah 57
SE Missouri 80, E. Illinois 73
UMKC 76, Chicago St. 67
Wichita St. 93, Temple 86
Wisconsin 57, Purdue 53

SOUTHWEST

Houston 67, Cincinnati 62
Marshall 93, Rice 80

FAR WEST

Gonzaga 76, Loyola Marymount 46
N. Colorado 95, N. Arizona 60
Utah 70, Washington 58

Top 25 Fared

1. Virginia (24-2) did not play. Next: vs. Georgia Tech, Wednesday, Feb. 21.
2. Michigan State (25-3) did not play. Next: at Northwestern, Saturday.
3. Villanova (23-3) did not play. Next: at No. 4 Xavier, Saturday.
4. Xavier (24-3) did not play. Next: vs. No. 3 Villanova, Saturday.
5. Cincinnati (23-3) lost to Houston 67-62. Next: vs. No. 19 Wichita State, Sunday.
6. Purdue (23-5) lost to Wisconsin 57-53. Next: vs. Penn State, Sunday.
7. Texas Tech (22-4) did not play. Next: at Baylor, Saturday.
8. Ohio State (22-6) lost to Penn State 79-56. Next: at No. 22 Michigan, Sunday.
9. Gonzaga (24-4) beat Loyola Marymount 76-46. Next: vs. Pepperdine, Saturday.
10. Auburn (23-3) did not play. Next: at South Carolina, Sunday.
11. Clemson (20-5) did not play. Next: vs. No. 12 Duke, Sunday.
12. Duke (21-5) did not play. Next: at No. 11 Clemson, Sunday.
13. Kansas (20-6) did not play. Next: vs. No. 20 West Virginia, Saturday.
14. North Carolina (20-7) did not play. Next: at Louisville, Saturday.
15. Saint Mary's (24-3) at San Francisco. Next: at Portland, Saturday.
16. Rhode Island (21-3) did not play. Next: at St. Bonaventure, Friday.
17. Arizona (21-6) beat No. 25 Arizona State 77-70. Next: at Oregon State, Thursday.
18. Tennessee (19-6) did not play. Next: at Georgia, Saturday.
19. Wichita State (20-5) beat Temple 93-86. Next: at No. 5 Cincinnati, Sunday.
20. West Virginia (19-7) did not play. Next: at No. 13 Kansas, Saturday.
21. Texas A&M (17-9) did not play. Next: at Arkansas, Saturday.
22. Michigan (21-7) did not play. Next: vs. No. 8 Ohio State, Sunday.
23. Oklahoma (16-9) did not play. Next: vs. Texas, Saturday.
24. Nevada (22-5) did not play. Next: at Utah State, Saturday.
25. Arizona State (19-7) lost to No. 17 Arizona 77-70. Next: at Oregon, Thursday.

Women

EAST

American U. 61, Boston U. 54
Army 66, Holy Cross 57
Binghamton 52, Vermont 38
Bucknell 74, Loyola (Md.) 69
Buffalo 85, Cent. Michigan 82
Colgate 54, Lehigh 48
George Washington 55, UMass 49
Maine 70, Mass.-Lowell 65
Marist 48, Fairfield 34
Navy 59, Lafayette 43
New Hampshire 76, Hartford 58
Penn St. 67, Northwestern 59
Richmond 79, St. Bonaventure 57
Stony Brook 53, UMBC 49
West Virginia 76, Kansas 46

SOUTH

Cent. Arkansas 51, McNeese St. 45
East Carolina 75, Memphis 62
New Orleans 82, SE Louisiana 73
Old Dominion 59, FAU 54
Saint Joseph's 64, Davidson 62
South Florida 64, SMU 54

MIDWEST

Duquesne 76, Saint Louis 66
E. Michigan 73, Ohio 58
Minnesota 93, Michigan 87
Nebraska 79, Michigan St. 69
Rutgers 63, Wisconsin 50
SE Missouri 51, E. Illinois 48
South Dakota 72, Nebraska-Omaha 50
Wichita St. 88, Temple 81

SOUTHWEST

Houston Baptist 57, Northwestern St. 51
Iowa St. 66, TCU 63
Lamar 71, Incarnate Word 47
Nicholls 70, Sam Houston St. 65
Stephen F. Austin 59, Texas A&M-CC 58
Texas 87, Texas Tech 72
UTSA 69, FIU 66

FAR WEST

Boise St. 63, Nevada 55
Fresno St. 81, San Jose St. 71
New Mexico 74, Utah St. 50
UNLV 67, Air Force 59
Wyoming 70, San Diego St. 50

Top 25 Fared

1. UConn (25-0) did not play. Next: vs. Temple, Sunday.
2. Mississippi State (26-0) at Vanderbilt. Next: vs. No. 17 Texas A&M, Sunday.
3. Baylor (24-1) did not play. Next: vs. Kansas, Saturday.
4. Louisville (26-2) beat Boston College 87-52. Next: at North Carolina, Sunday.
5. Notre Dame (24-2) beat Virginia 83-69. Next: at Boston College, Sunday.
6. Texas (21-4) did not play. Next: at No. 21 Oklahoma State, Saturday.
7. UCLA (21-4) did not play. Next: at No. 15 Oregon State, Friday.
8. South Carolina (21-5) beat No. 20 Georgia 77-65. Next: vs. Kentucky, Sunday.
9. Oregon (23-4) did not play. Next: vs. Southern Cal, Friday.
10. Maryland (22-4) lost to Purdue 75-65. Next: at Minnesota, Sunday.
11. Tennessee (21-5) lost to Alabama 72-63. Next: at No. 13 Missouri, Sunday.
12. Florida State (22-4) beat Clemson 91-43. Next: at No. 17 Duke, Monday.
13. Missouri (21-5) beat Auburn 59-51. Next: vs. No. 11 Tennessee, Sunday.
14. Stanford (18-8) vs. California. Next: at California, Saturday.
15. Oregon State (19-6) did not play. Next: vs. No. 7 UCLA, Friday.
16. Ohio State (21-6) did not play. Next: vs. Purdue, Sunday.
17. Duke (20-7) lost to Syracuse 68-65. Next: vs. No. 12 Florida State, Monday.
17. Texas A&M (20-7) beat Florida 85-80. Next: at No. 2 Mississippi State, Sunday.
19. Green Bay (22-3) lost to Cleveland State 71-60. Next: at Youngstown State, Saturday.
20. Georgia (21-5) lost to No. 8 South Carolina 77-65. Next: at Mississippi, Monday.
21. Oklahoma State (18-7) did not play. Next: vs. No. 6 Texas, Saturday.
22. South Florida (21-5) did not play. Next: at UCF, Sunday.
23. Michigan (20-8) did not play. Next: vs. No. 10 Maryland, Thursday, Feb. 22.
24. Belmont (25-3) beat Eastern Kentucky 95-62. Next: vs. Morehead State, Saturday.
25. N.C. State (20-6) did not play. Next: vs. Wake Forest, Sunday.

HS BASKETBALL PLAYOFF PAIRINGS

HS BOYS BASKETBALL

Area pairings

Class 4A bi-district

Greenwood (17-16, F4) vs. Clint (18-9, W3), TBA

Andrews (22-9, T4) vs. San Elizario (7-19, R3), 5 p.m. Wednesday, Fort Stockton HS

Class 2A bi-district

Forsan (25-4, W7) vs. Haskell (15-14, F8), TBA

Class 1A Region II bi-district

Grady (19-7, T11)) vs. Ira (13-10, R12), 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sterling City

TAPPS 5A area

Midland Christian (23-12, W1) vs. Austin St. Dominic Savio (15-17, R4), 7 p.m. Tuesday, McGraw Event Center

TAPPS 3A bi-district

Midland Classical (15-17, R1) vs Willow Park Trinity Christian (20-8, R2), 6 p.m. Tuesday, Merkel

HS GIRLS BASKETBALL

Area round

Region I

Class 6A

Arlington Bowie (29-6, W4) vs. El Paso Pebble Hills (26-6, R1), 6 p.m. Friday, Midland Classical Academy

Keller Timber Creek (29-4, W3) vs. Amarillo Tascosa (22-11, R2), 6 p.m. Friday, Burkburnett

Irving MacArthur (25-11, F7) vs. Allen (28-8, T6), 7 p.m. Friday, Hebron HS

Duncanville (36-1, W7) vs. McKinney (26-10, R6), 6 p.m. Friday Coppell

Frenship (28-7, W2) vs. North Crowley (26-9, T4), 6:30 p.m. Friday, Sweetwater

Lee (18-15, F2) vs. Keller (18-14, T3), 6 p.m. Friday, Abilene Cooper

Plano (29-6, W6) vs. DeSoto (28-5, R7), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Richardson

Flower Mound (23-9, W5) vs. Cedar Hill (26-10, T7), 6:30 p.m. Friday, Saginaw High

Class 4A

Greenwood (20-14, W4) vs. Lubbock Estacado (16-19, T2), 8 p.m. Friday, The Coliseum, Snyder

San Elizario (15-12, W3) vs. Denver City (26-6, R2), 5:30 p.m. Friday, Fort Stockton

Glen Rose (32-1, W8) vs. Brownwood (29-5, R5), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dublin

Kennedale (20-16, W7) vs. Snyder (14-17, T5), 6:30 p.m. Friday, Eastland

Levelland (32-2, W2) vs. Clint (11-15, R3), 5 p.m. Friday, Pecos

Fabens (5-24, T3) at Seminole (20-13, F2), 7 p.m. Friday

Stephenville (20-13, T8) 56, Burkburnett 46

Abilene Wylie (25-6, W5) vs. Midlothian Heritage (28-6, R8), 6 p.m. Friday, Dublin

Class 3A

Wall (27-5, W4) vs. Shallowater (26-5, T2), 6 p.m. Friday, Lamesa Middle School

Tornillo (28-2, W3) vs. Lubbock Roosevelt (19-9, R2), 5:30 p.m. Friday, Wink

Bowie (22-13, W8) vs. Jim Ned (25-7, R5), 6:30 p.m. Friday, Breckenridge

Brock (28-6, W7) vs. Merkel (22-8, T5), 6:30 p.m. Friday, Brownwood

Idalou (29-6, W2) 70, Alpine 25

Canadian (28-4, W1) 45, Ballinger 24

Comanche (19-10, W6) vs. Peaster (20-5, R7), 6:30 p.m. Friday, Glen Rose

Colorado City (27-6, W5) vs. Jacksboro (29-6, R8), 6 p.m. Friday, Cisco

Class 2A

Abernathy (W4) vs. Vega (31-3, R1), 6:30 p.m. Friday, Littlefield

Claude (28-5, R2) 55, Farwell 37

Haskell (32-1, W8) vs. Morton (15-13, R5), 6:30 p.m. Friday, O'Donnell

Forsan (23-5) vs. Seagraves (13-16), 6:30 p.m. Friday, Grady HS

Panhandle (30-3, W2) 68, Sudan 24

Stratford (25-4, W1) vs. Post (19-11, R4), 6:30 p.m. Friday, Amarillo High

Tahoka (F5) vs. Christoval (24-11, R7), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Garden City

Sundown (W5, 24-7) vs. Winters (T7, 21-13), 6 p.m. Friday, Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, Big Spring

Class 1A

Region II

Hermleigh (24-7, W12) 76, Buena Vista 15

Rankin (30-5, W10) vs. Ira (T12), 6 p.m. Friday, Garden City

Eden (W16) vs. Blackwell (T14), 8 p.m. Friday, Angelo State University

Garden City (31-1, W14) vs. Eula (24-8, R15), 6:30 p.m. Friday, Winters

Klondike (22-5, W11) vs. Grandfalls-Royalty (R10), 6:30 p.m. Friday, Andrews

Westbrook (R12) 69, Marfa 25

May (25-4, W15) vs. Robert Lee (25-3, R14), 6:30 p.m. Friday, Jim Ned HS, Tuscola

Roby (25-7, W13) vs. Baird (T15), 6 p.m. Friday, Merkel

TAPPS 5A bi-district

Midland Christian (21-10) at Dallas Christian (18-14), 6 p.m. Friday

TAPPS 3A area

Arlington Burton Adventist (13-7) at Midland Classical (18-8), 6 p.m. Tuesday

REBELS

From 1C

and fight harder because we were going into the playoffs and nobody wasn't going to give us anything," Hill said of the turnaround.

"Everybody is playing with heart and we're not afraid to mess up now."

Hill, who is listed at 5-foot-7, has an unbridled passion for basketball, which she took up as a 5-year-old.

The junior guard loves to collect Nike Air Jordan sneakers for fun, as she owns 12 pairs.

She said her parents Billy Hill and Tiffany Clay were major influences in her developing a love for the sport.

"They thought I was going to be a basketball player," Hill said. "I just loved having the ball in my hand."

And today Hill will do her part with the ball in her hand in order to get Lee to the regional quarterfinal round.

Hill says she is playing for Lady Rebel seniors Karigan Edwards, Alaysha Green, Quinci Strambler and Mackenzie Ross.

"I don't want it to end for them," Hill said.

"I know how much they love the game. I just want to get a few more gold balls while they are still here."

Follow Christopher on Twitter: @chris_MRTsports

CLASS 6A AREA PLAYOFF LEE VS. KELLER

When/where: 6 p.m. today, Cooper High School, Abilene

Records/seeds: Lee 18-15, No. 4 seed in District 2-6A; Keller 18-14, No. 3 seed in District 3-6A

Live updates: Follow @sportsfreaknut on Twitter

Last game: Lee 51, El Paso Franklin 45, bi-district; Keller 42, Arlington Martin 32, bi-district

Notes: The Lady Rebels have won four straight games and have taken five of their last six games. "The girls have just completely bought in to doing what we do," Acosta said of the hot streak. "They really bought in to just the mentality that we got to go out there and play. We've got to trust each other and we just have to leave it all on the basketball floor for 32 minutes. They understand over the course of the game, they are going to face some adversity and they just got to battle through it. That's the big part of it." … Acosta said the Lady Indians have a lot of length. "They want to create havoc in their defense. They've got a big that's probably about 6-3, 6-4 on the inside and they've got a couple of guards that do a really good job for them. They like to attack." … Lee handed Franklin just its sixth loss in 33 games in Tuesday's bi-district playoff. The Lady Rebels prevailed despite Lady Cougars point guard Katia Gallegos going off for 25 points. Gallegos played on the Mexico under 16 national team.

Next: Winner plays Wolfforth Frenship-North Crowley winner, regional quarterfinal, TBA

HS GIRLS BASKETBALL CAPSULES

CLASS 4A AREA PLAYOFF GREENWOOD VS. LUBBOCK ESTACADO

When/where: 8 p.m. today, The Coliseum, Snyder

Records/seeds: Greenwood 20-14, No. 1 in District 4-4A; Estacado 16-18, No. 3 in District 2-4A

Last game: Greenwood 67, Clint Mountain View 15, bi-district; Estacado 71, Perryton 58, bi-district

Notes: This is the third meeting between the two teams this season. Greenwood won at Estacado, 63-46, on Nov. 14, but the Lady Matadors took the second meeting, 54-46, at the Caprock Tournament Dec. 30. "We know each other, we know the players" Rangerettes head coach Ginger Hartman said. "It's the playoffs though. There are usually some surprises in the playoffs." … Hartman says ball security will be the key for her Rangerettes to prevail against an Estacado defense that will try to force the issue. "We know we have to handle the ball, we have to take care of the ball and limit our turnovers," Hartman said. "We need to make good decisions on offense." … Greenwood has won ninth straight. … The Rangerettes are seeking their fourth straight trip to the regional quarterfinal round.

Next: Winner faces Denver City-San Elizario winner, regional quarterfinal, TBA

TAPPS 5A BI-DISTRICT PLAYOFF MIDLAND CHRISTIAN AT DALLAS CHRISTIAN

When/where: 6 p.m. today, Dallas Christian School, Mesquite

Records/seeds: Greenwood 20-14, No. 1 in District 4-4A; Estacado 16-18, No. 3 in District 2-4A

Last game: MCS 51, Fort Worth All Saints, 29, Feb. 6; Cedar Hill Trinity 54, Dallas Christian 53, Tuesday

Notes: This is a rematch of the 2017 state quarterfinal, which Dallas Christian won 70-27 over MCS. The Lady Chargers went onto win the state championship. "They are good," Lady Mustangs head coach Amy Daniels said of the Lady Chargers. "They are not as big of a team as they were in the past. Their really tall post player has been out all year with a hip injury. Their guard play and other players are good. They are fundamental. We match up better this year because they are not as big." … MCS has predominantly a young team around seniors Blaire Neatherlin and Lexi Davila, but Daniels believes her younger players are up for the challenge. "We have really been preaching to them that they have earned the right to be here," Daniels said. "We have gotten better throughout the season. We are just going to attack and just try to play as hard as we can. They are capable of competing with Dallas Christian and we're capable of beating them. They have to believe that. I think we are ready."

Next: Winner plays at Tyler Grace Community, state quarterfinal, TBA

CLASS 2A AREA PLAYOFF FORSAN VS. SEAGRAVES

When/where: 6:30 p.m. today, Grady HS, Lenorah

Records/seeds: Forsan 23-5, No. 1 in District 7-2A; Seagraves 5-5 in district, No. 3 in District 5-2A

Last game: Forsan 43, Anson 24, bi-district; Seagraves 59, Wink 35, bi-district

Notes: The Lady Buffaloes have won 23 of their last 25 games. … Forsan is seeking its first trip to the regional quarterfinals since 2013. … In Tuesday's win, the Lady Buffaloes held Anson scoreless in the third quarter.

Next: Winner plays Haskell-Morton winner, regional quarterfinal, TBA

CLASS 1A AREA PLAYOFF NO. 2 GARDEN CITY VS. NO. 23 EULA

When/where: 6:30 p.m. today, Winters

Records/seeds: Garden City 31-1, No. 1 in District 14-1A; Eula 24-8, No. 2 in District 15-1A

Last game: Garden City 60, Rocksprings 40, Feb. 9; Eula 72, Brookesmith 31, bi-district

Notes: This is the fourth straight year these two teams have met in the area round. The Lady Kats won in 2015 and 2017 en route to state tournament appearances, while Eula took the 2016 game when Garden City was ranked No. 1. … The Lady Kats had a bye in the bi-district round by virtue of their District 14-1A title. … Garden City has won 27 in a row.

Next: Winner plays Eden-Blackwell winner, regional quarterfinal, TBA

-Compiled by Christopher Hadorn

Balanced effort helps UTPB cruise past ASU

From staff reports

ODESSA – The No. 13-ranked University of Texas of the Permian Basin men's basketball team avenged a loss to Angelo State with a dominating 103-74 victory at the Falcon Dome on Thursday night.

Five Falcons scored in double figures, led by Josh Morris with 24 points. Daeshon Francis had 22 points and 14 rebounds, James McPherson had 21 points, Sammy Allen had 14 points and 11 rebounds, and Andres Villa added 10 points as UTPB improved to 21-3 overall and 13-2 in the Lone Star Conference.

Angelo State (17-8, 8-7) was led by James Kirksey with 15 points, while Daron Mims and Ja'Michael Brown each had 13.

UTPB, which shot 57.6 percent for the game, led 50-38 at the half.

CHAPS

From 1C

attempt fell short and the Broncos escaped with another close win.

"As crazy as this sounds, I think our guys were satisfied," Rafferty said. "Because everybody's told them what a great effort against Odessa, blah, blah, blah. And I jumped on them on Tuesday because they came out like they had to hurry up and get to the parade that the city of Midland was throwing them because they played Odessa to an overtime game. I think that kind of lingered because we didn't play together like we have, we didn't play with the sharpness, and that's frustrating. And that comes back on me, to somehow figure out the psychology involved to care day in and day out."

Kevin Kangu led MC with 18 points, Marquell Fraser and Erkam Kiris each had 13 and Hale finished with 11.

Jaylan Williams led NMMI with 18 points, Rosel Hurley had 17, Jordyn Owens had 16 and Atem Bior added 12.

The Chaps will be off until next Thursday when they host Western Texas College in their home finale.

"Every day you have a chance to get better and we still have a season left and games left to do that," Rafferty said.

Follow Oscar on Twitter: @OLeRoy_MRT

NEW MEXICO MILITARY INSTITUTE 71, MIDLAND COLLEGE 70

NMMI (16-11, 6-7) – Matt Brown1-2 1-4 3, Rosel Hurley 8-10 1-1 17, Jordyn Owens 6-12 0-0 16, Atem Bior 5-10 1-3 12, Jaylan Williams 6-11 0-0 18, Devin Pate 1-1 0-0 2, Jeremie Kamgbaye 0-0 0-0 0, Davis Steelman 1-6 0-0 3. Totals 28-52 3-8 71

Midland College (8-19, 4-9) – Marquell Fraser 5-7 2-5 13, Amari Hale 4-9 0-1 11, Kevin Kangu 5-9 4-4 18, Jardin van der Korput 2-2 0-0 5, Kayo Goncalves 2-6 0-0 5, Iseri Palacio 2-3 0-0 5, Erkam Kiris 4-5 5-8 13. Totals 24-41 11-16 70

Halftime – NMMI 38, MC 37. 3-point goals – NMMI 12-25 (Williams 6-11, Owens 4-7, Bior 1-1, Steelman 1-5, Brown 0-1), MC 11-22 (Kangu 4-6, Hale 3-7, Fraser 1-2, van der Korput 1-1, Goncalves 1-3l, Palacio 1-2, Kiris 0-1). Total fouls – NMMI 17, MC 11. Fouled out – None. Rebounds – NMMI 26 (Bior 8), MC 20 (Fraser 5). Assists – NMMI 17 (Brown 7), MC 21 (Fraser 8). Turnovers – NMMI 12, MC 12.

Next: Western Texas College at Midland College, 7:45 p.m. Feb. 22

2017-18 WJCAC men's basketball standings

	Conference W	Conference L	Overall W	Overall L
x-Odessa College	12	0	23	2
South Plains	10	3	18	7
Clarendon College	8	4	18	8
Howard College	8	5	20	7
New Mexico Military	6	7	16	11
Midland College	**4**	**9**	**8**	**19**
New Mexico JC	3	9	14	12
Frank Phillips	3	9	11	15
Western Texas	2	10	13	12

x-clinched Region V Tournament spot

Thursday's Scores

New Mexico Military Institute 71, Midland College 70; Howard College 77, Frank Phillips College 73; Odessa College 100, Western Texas College 93, 2OT; South Plains College 83, New Mexico JC 74; Clarendon College was open

Monday's Games

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

2017-18 WJCAC women's basketball standings

	Conference W	Conference L	Overall W	Overall L
x-New Mexico JC	9	1	25	1
Frank Phillips	8	3	18	4
Midland College	**7**	**4**	**14**	**10**
Odessa College	5	5	17	8
Howard College	5	7	15	13
Clarendon College	4	6	20	6
Western Texas	3	8	11	13
South Plains	2	9	15	12

x-clinched Region V Tournament spot

Thursday's Games

Frank Phillips College 62, Howard College 61; Odessa College 70, Western Texas College 41; New Mexico JC 61, South Plains College 48; Midland College and Clarendon College were open

Monday's Games

Odessa College at Howard College; South Plains College at Western Texas College; Clarendon College at New Mexico JC; Frank Phillips College at Richland College (non-conference); Midland College is open

Houston ends No. 5 Cincinnati's 16-game win streak, 67-62

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Defense has been Cincinnati's cornerstone this season.

The Bearcats defense couldn't make up for a second half offensive slump Thursday night, and Houston made Cincinnati pay.

Corey Davis Jr. and Devin Davis each scored 16 points, and Houston beat No. 5 Cincinnati 67-62 to snap the nation's longest winning streak at 16 games.

"You never want to lose, but you learn some things from the loss," Cincinnati forward Kyle Washington said.

Rob Gray chipped in 13 points and Armoni Brooks added 12 as the Cougars (20-5, 10-3 American Athletic Conference) earned their second win this season over a top-10 team after beating then-No. 7 Wichita State on Jan. 20.

Houston last beat two top-10 teams in a season in 1983-84, when it did that four times en route to the national championship game.

"I think this win sets off some alarms in people's heads," Corey Davis said.

Cincinnati (23-3, 12-1) had a 50-49 lead with 4:18 left after Jacob Evans' free throw, but Gray hit a 3-pointer to give the Cougars back the lead with 3:32 left. Brooks nailed a 3-pointer from the right wing with two minutes left and Davis came up with a steal and went the length of the court for a layup to give the Cougars a seven-point advantage with 1:47 left.

"We didn't do a good job enough defensively, making them uncomfortable with what they wanted to run," Washington said. "They out hustled us."

The Bearcats entered the game second nationally in scoring defense, allowing 55.9 points per game and leading the nation in field goal percentage defense, holding opponents to 36 percent from the field. Houston shot 48 perfect from the floor, including 54 percent in the second half.

"We had a lot of inexcusable defensive breakdowns in the second," Cincinnati coach Mick Cronin said. "We lost shooters for no reason, and then we weren't tough enough to come out of there with the rebound when we got it."

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FRIDAY PRIME TIME — FEBRUARY 16, 2018

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

	G	S	E	W	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
KMID ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel of Fortune (N)	★★ Wreck-It Ralph (2012, Animated) Jane Lynch, John C. Reilly, Jack McBrayer.			20/20		News (N)	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live		(:35) News Nightline
KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	CBS 7 News (N)	Ent. Tonight	Big Brother: Celebrity Edition Follow a group of people living together.			Blue Bloods "Out of the Blue"		CBS 7 News (N)	(:35) The Late Show		(:35) J.Corden
KWWT CW	5	14		5	14	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	A. Griffith	A. Griffith	Gomer Pyle	Mama's Family	Hogan's Heroes	Hogan's Heroes	Carol Burnett	P. Mason "The Case of the Absent Artist"	Twilight "Steel"
KPEJ FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	The X-Files "This"		The X-Files "Plus One"		Fox 24 News (N)	TMZ	Mom	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
KMLM IND	11	12	12	11	11	Think Red Ink	Creation Magazine	Update News	HaYesod	Light of the Southwest		Light of the Southwest		Update News	Creation Magazine	Shepherd's Heart	
KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	NewsW-est 9 (N)	Olympic Zone	PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics Figure Skating (M) Free Final, Alpine Skiing (W) Super G Final, Freestyle Skiing (W) Aerials Final, Skeleton (W) (L)					(:05) News (N)	(:35) Olympics		
KPBT PBS	13	13		13	8	PBS NewsHour (N)		Wash. Week (N)	#MeToo, Now (N)	American Masters "Maya Angelou" The life of Maya Angelou is celebrated.		Amanpour (N)	World News	News (N)	Stories	
KUPB UNI	4	4		4	16	La rosa de Guadalupe		El Rico y Lazaro		Papa a Toda Madre	Caer en Tentacion	Noticias Tejas	Noticiero noctu.	Contacto Deportivo		
KOSA MNT	16	16		16		Last Man	Last Man	American Ninja War.		American Ninja War.		Mike&M.	Mike&M.	Anger M.	Anger M.	Game	Game
FLIX	340	575		165		(4:30) ★ Vanilla Sky		★★ Jaws (75, Hor) Roy Scheider.				(:05) ★★★ Jaws 2 ('78, Hor) Roy Scheider.		(:05) ★★★ Jaws 3		
HBO	300	550	14	14		Movie	(:50) ★★★★ Suicide Squad ('16, Act) Will Smith.				Bill Maher (N)		HighMain	2 Dope Queens (N)		Bill Maher
HBO2	302	551	15	101	23	(5:20) ★ Everything, ...	Here and Now		2 Dope Queens				★★ Semi-Pro Will Ferrell.	(:35) ★ Why Him? James Franco.		
HBO5	304	552	16	102		(:15) ★ Ouija: Origin of Evil Henry Thomas.		★ Going in Style Michael Caine.				(:45) ★★★ Gran Torino Clint Eastwood.				Movie
MAX	380	557	17	120	24	(6:45) ★ Good Will H...		(:55) ★★ Jason Bourne Matt Damon.			Strike Back (N)		StrikeBk	(:50) ★★ Jason Bourne		
MAX2	382	558	18	122		(:05) ★ The Mummy ('17, Act) Tom Cruise.				StrikeBk	(:50) ★ The Blair Witch Project		(:15) ★★ The Last House on the Left			
PLEX			96			(5:10) ★★ Gattaca		★★★ Stargate ('94, Adv) Kurt Russell.				(:05) ★ Stargate: Continuum		(:45) ★★ Antitrust		
SHOW	320	565	19	140	25	Movie	(:25) ★ Sleepless Jamie Foxx.			The Trade (N)		Word Is Bond (N)		The Trade		Cartoon
TMC	336	573	22	155	26	(5:00) ★ The Boond...		★ Delta Force Bill Engvall.			★★ Disaster Movie			★★ Kingpin ('96, Com) Woody Harrelson.		
A&E	27	58	28	35	47	(4:00) Live PD		Live PD "Rewind"		Live PD Live access inside the country's busiest police forces and the communities they patrol. (L) (N)				Live PD		
AMC	40	74	23	42	51	★★ Armageddon (1998, Adventure) Liv Tyler, Ben Affleck, Bruce Willis.							★★ Armageddon ('98, Adv) Liv Tyler, Bruce Willis.			
BET	58	-		40		★ Baggage Claim (2013, Comedy) Taye Diggs, Paula Patton.					The Quad		Black	Mancave	Rundown	Martin
BRAVO	65	76		41		★★ Next Friday ('00, Com) Ice Cube.				Married Medicine (N)	To Rome for Love		★★ Next Friday ('00, Com) Ice Cube.			
CNBC	46	52		39	72	(4:00) 2018Olympics		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		PyeongChang 2018	Ice Hockey (W) Quarter-final (L)			The Profit
CNN	43	50	51	30	56	OutFront		A. Cooper 360		A. Cooper 360		CNN Tonight		CNN Tonight		Patty Hearst
DISC	50	60	31	24	42	Gold Rush: Dirt (N)		Gold Rush Live		Gold Rush (N)		White Water (N)		Gold Rush		(:05) White Water
DISNEY	56	64	36	25	36	Bunk'd	Andi M.	★ Zombies Meg Donnelly.			AndiM.	(:15) ★ Zombies ('18, Mus) Meg Donnelly.			Andi M.	Raven's.
ESPN	32	35	48	31	30	NBA Basketball All-Star Celebrity Game (L)				Boxing Top Rank Site: Grand Sierra Resort & Casino (L)				SportsCenter (N)		
ESPN2	34	36	49	32	31	NCAA Basketball R.I./St. Bon. (L)				NCAA Basketball G. St./G. South. (L)				SprtC (N)	NFL Live	
FNC	45	48	53	23	55	The Story		Tucker Carlson		Hannity		The Ingraham Angle		Fox News @ Night		The Five
FOOD	64	70	27	68	54	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners		Diners	Diners		Diners, Drive-Ins
FREEFORM	53	63	34	42	33	(5:40) ★★★★ Mulan			(:45) ★★★★★ Up ('09, Ani) Edward Asner.					The 700 Club		★★ ParaNorman
FSSW	37	38	50	45	29	UEFA Mag. (N)	Mavericks Insider (N)	Stars Pre-game (L)	NHL Hockey St. Louis Blues at Dallas Stars Site: American Airlines Center -- Dallas, Texas (L)				Post-game (L)	Snow Motion		Bear Bryant Award Show
FX	31	56	59	64	69	★ The Croods ('13, Ani) Nicolas Cage.				★ The Croods ('13, Ani) Nicolas Cage.			★★★ Oblivion ('13, Sci-Fi) Tom Cruise.			
HALLMARK	54	71	58		34	(5:00) ★ The Weddi...		★ Wedding March 2: Resorting to Love				Middle	Middle	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls
HGTV	63	69	26	48	44	H.Hunt	H.Hunt	Dream H.	Dream H.	Dream H.	Dream H.	H.Hunt	House (N)	H.Hunt	House	Dream H.	Dream H.
HISTORY	71	59	29	50	43	Ancient Aliens		Ancient Aliens: Declassified "Angels, Gods and Heroes" (N)								(:05) Ancient Aliens	
LIFETIME	28	30	25	28	48	(4:00) ★ Madea's Witness Protection		★★ Daddy's Little Girls (2007, Romance) Idris Elba, Tasha Smith, Gabrielle Union.				Rap Game "The Press Got U Stressed" (N)		(:10) Da Brat (N) /(:15) To Be Announced		★★ Daddy's Little Girls	
MSNBC	47	53		49	73	Hardball (N)		All in (N)		Rachel Maddow (N)		The Last Word (N)		The 11th Hour (N)		Rachel Maddow	
NBCSN	38	43				PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics Figure Skating (M) Final (L)						(:10) Olympics Ice Hockey (M) Canada vs. Czech Republic					Olympics
NICK	55	-	39	34	37	Hunter	Sponge	★ The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of...			F.House	F.House	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
SPIKE	30	-	55	53	58	(5:00) ★★ National Treasure Nicolas Cage.				Mixed Martial Arts Bellator '4 Site: Mohegan Sun Arena (L)						(:15) Cops	Cops
SYFY	66	82	41	57	67	(4:30) ★ Conan the...		Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama
TBS	25	33	44	66	41	Brooklyn 99	Brooklyn Nine-Nine	★★ Ant-Man Paul Rudd. A con man dons a suit that shrinks him down, but bestows him with incredible strength.				ELeague (N)		★★ Tron: Legacy ('10, Adv) Garrett Hedlund, Jeff Bridges.			
TCM	41	75	24	63	66	(6:45) ★ Action in th...		★★★★ Mr. Smith Goes to Washington					★★★ The Champ			(:15) ★ A Star Is Born
TELE	20	-	10	20		Caso cerrado (N)		José José, el pr (N)		Sangre de mi Tie (N)		Señora acero (N)		Al rojo	Titulares	Sangre de mi Tierra	
TLC	51	61	32	38	52	Untold Stories of the ER "Oh, Deer!"		Untold Stories of the ER "Hooked"		Untold "Temperature Rising" (N)		Untold Stories of the ER "Face Off"		Untold Stories "Temperature Rising"		Untold Stories of the ER "Face Off"	
TNT	24	34	40	26	50	Bones "Player Under Pressure"		Bones "The Baby in the Bough"		NBA Basketball Rising Stars Challenge Site: Staples Center -- Los Angeles, Calif. (L)				Inside the NBA	The Alienist "These Bloody Thoughts"	The Alienist	
TVLAND	49	-	35	54	35	MASH	M*A*S*H	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Mom	Mom	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens
USA	26	55	42	27	49	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Chrisley Knows	Chrisley Knows	Chrisley Knows	Chrisley Knows
WGN	19	85				M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Rules of Engage.	Rules of Engage.	Rules of Engage.

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Woman's higher income may bruise her boyfriend's ego

DEAR ABBY

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

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Hal," and I have been dating for a year and a half, living together for six months. I'm afraid he feels emasculated. Because I make more money than he does, a lot of the responsibility for paying the bills lands on me. We try to split things down the middle, but recent complications with his job have meant it doesn't always work out that way.

I love Hal. I know he's the one I want to spend the rest of my life with. I don't want money to be a dividing force, but I don't know what to say to make him feel better. This has been the elephant in the room for some time.

Hal helps out with cooking and housework, and because of that, I don't mind putting a little more into the bills. I do not want this to be an issue further down the road. Any advice is appreciated. — STUCK ON THIS IN VIRGINIA

DEAR STUCK: The problem with elephants in the room is, the longer they are ignored, the larger the herd becomes. It's amazing that two important subjects — sex and finances — are such touchy ones to discuss.

Choose a time when you and Hal are relaxed, and then bring up your concerns. Tell him how much you appreciate him in your life and the efforts he makes to make life easier for you, and that you don't want money issues to cause problems between the two if you. He may need to hear you say it. Then encourage him to express his feelings the way you have.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I were invited by some friends to meet for dinner. We arrived first; they showed up several minutes later. During the meal, the wife said, "I always scan the restaurant to see if there's anyone else here I know."

After we finished dinner and the checks were paid, the couple got up and left the table. We didn't know where they had gone. I put my coat on and we were leaving, when the wife, who was now sitting down at another table with another couple, stopped us to introduce us to them.

I think they were terribly rude. I feel they should have waited and walked out with us, saying hello as they passed the table of their other friends.

This isn't the first time she has done this. Is there a way to politely tell her how rude it is? My husband still wants to meet them for meals, but I am really struggling with it. — DITCHED DINER IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR DITCHED: If your dinner companion had perfect manners, rather than disappear after the check was paid, she would have said, "I see the Joneses over there. We want to go over and say hello, so come with us or go on ahead." Because you have dined together before, you know this is her pattern. I do not think it is anything to ruin a friendship over.

GOREN BRIDGE

With Bob Jones

Another fork

Neither vulnerable, South deals

	NORTH ♠K 9 3 ♡ K J 8 ◇ A Q 7 ♣Q J 10 4	
WEST ♠A 5 2 ♡ A Q 4 ◇ K J 9 8 6 3 ♣3		EAST ♠J 10 8 7 ♡ 9 6 3 2 ◇ 4 2 ♣7 6 5
	SOUTH ♠Q 6 4 ♡ 10 7 5 ◇ 10 5 ♣A K 9 8 2	

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1NT	2◇	Dbl	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All pass

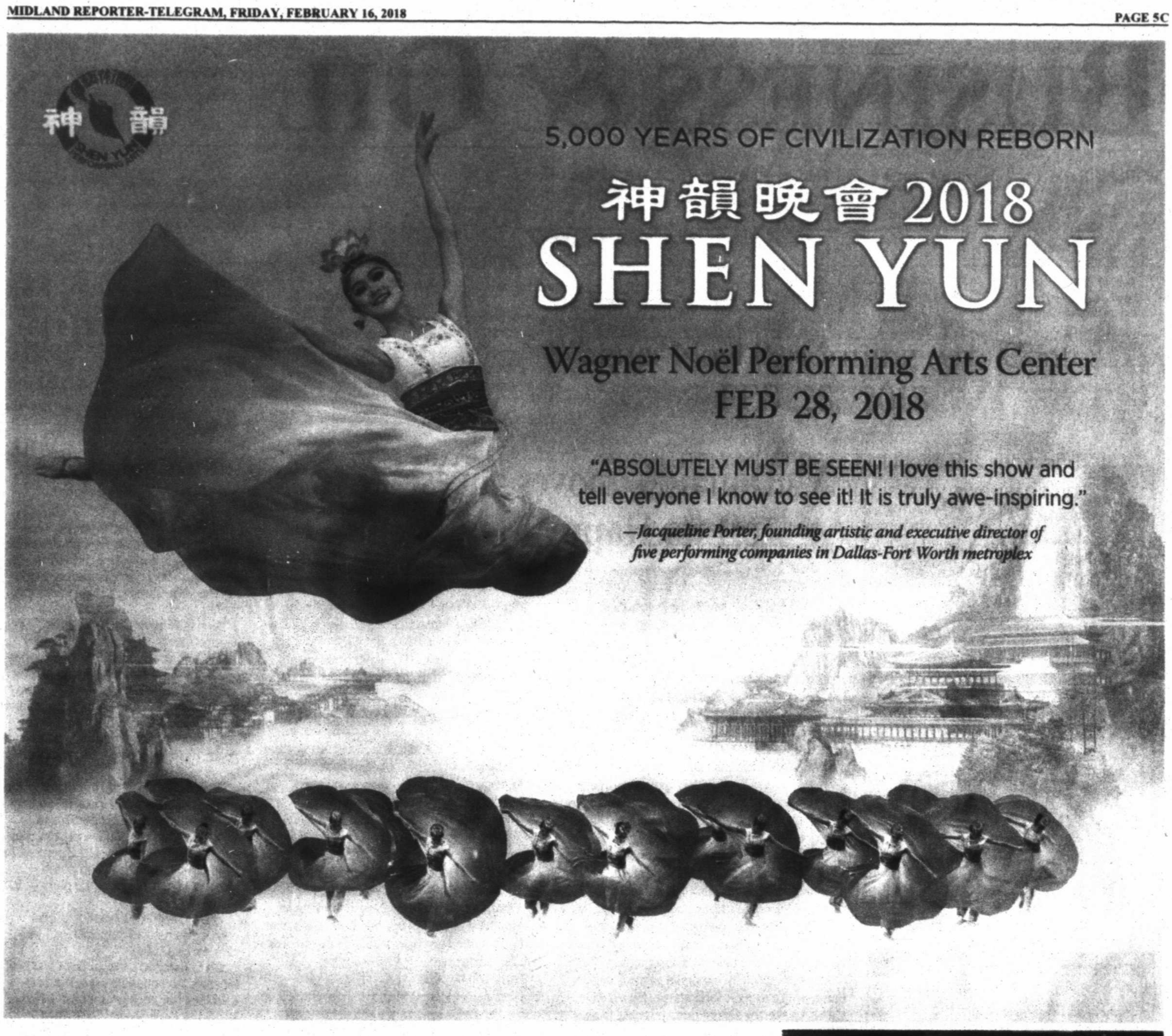
Opening lead: King of ◇

It's possible that you would not have opened one no-trump with the South hand.

South was Australian expert Stephen Burgess, whose agreed range for opening one no-trump was 10-14. Burgess, using his expert judgment and his clever bent, "promoted" his hand because of the good five-card club suit.

West found the excellent lead of the king of diamonds, hoping for a singleton queen or the like. It took the lead of a diamond honor to give the defense a chance. A low diamond lead, instead, would have run around to South's 10 and nine tricks would have been easy. As it was there were only seven tricks after Burgess ducked the opening diamond lead in dummy and then won the second. An eighth trick was easy enough, but how could declarer get a ninth before West was able to set up his diamonds? Burgess found a way!

At trick three, Burgess led dummy's queen of clubs and overtook it with his ace. He led a low spade and caught West in a form of the Morton's Fork Coup. West had to duck his ace or there would be nine tricks for declarer. When dummy's king of spades held the trick, Burgess led the jack of clubs and overtook it with his king. A low heart toward dummy's king now gave Burgess his ninth trick. The queen of spades was protected from attack and the entry situation in clubs was adequate for the needed transportation. Well played!



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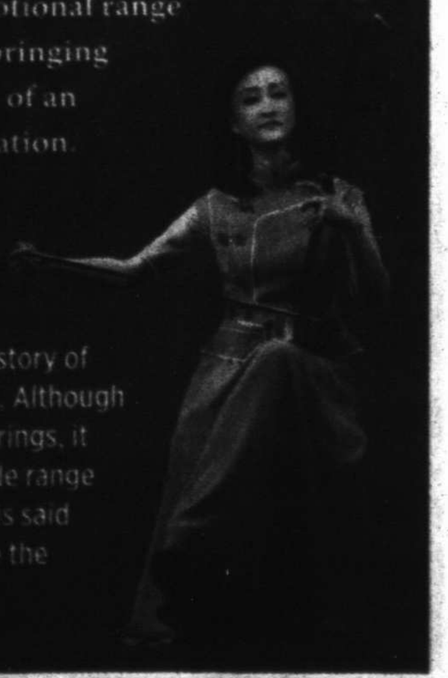
SHEN YUN'S unique artistic vision expands theatrical experience into a multi-dimensional, inspiring journey through one of humanity's greatest treasures—the five millennia of traditional Chinese culture. This epic production immerses you in stories reaching back to the most distant past. You'll explore realms even beyond our visible world. Featuring one of the world's oldest art forms— classical Chinese dance—along with patented scenographical effects and all-original orchestral works, Shen Yun opens a portal to a civilization of enchanting beauty and enlightening wisdom.

PRESERVING A LOST VOCAL ART

Shen Yun's award-winning singers are uniquely trained in the most traditional form of *bel canto*.

Music that Runs Millennia Deep

MUSIC IS SUCH A BIG PART of every Shen Yun performance—from the live orchestra that accompanies each dance to the vocal and instrumental solos on stage. Shen Yun's orchestra is one of a kind, harmoniously blending the distinct beauty of ancient Chinese instruments with the grandeur of a Western orchestra. The result is a gorgeous and vivid sound with great emotional range—perfect for bringing to life the soul of an ancient civilization.



ERHU

The erhu has a history of over 4,000 years. Although it has only two strings, it can express a wide range of emotions and is said to most resemble the human voice.

"Lavish production, brilliant choreography, extravagantly beautiful."
—*Broadway World*

"The spirit of hope, beauty and the blessing is a fabulous gift to us. I want to go again! I have to bring friends. I have to bring as many people as I can."
—*Sine McKenna, award-winning Celtic singer*

"Gorgeous stage magic! A must see!"
—*Broadway World LA*

"Really out of this world! The words to describe it might be 'divine,' 'reborn,' and 'hope.'"
—*Christine Walevska, master cellist*

"The 8th wonder of the world. People have no idea what they're missing until they come here and see the show."
—*Joe Heard, former White House photographer*

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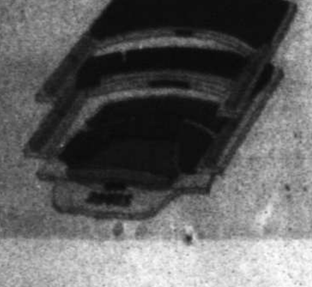
■ $80



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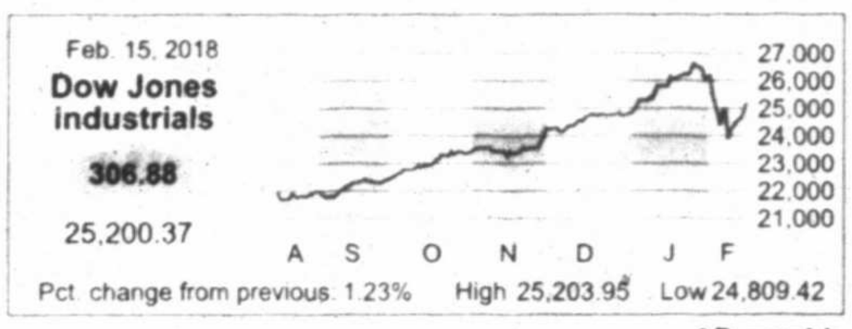
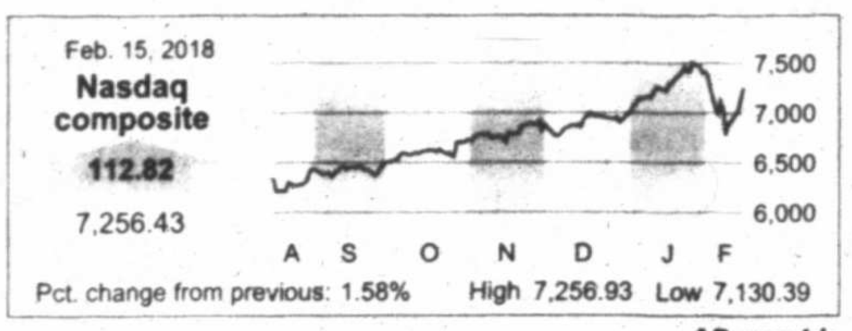
BUSINESS & OIL

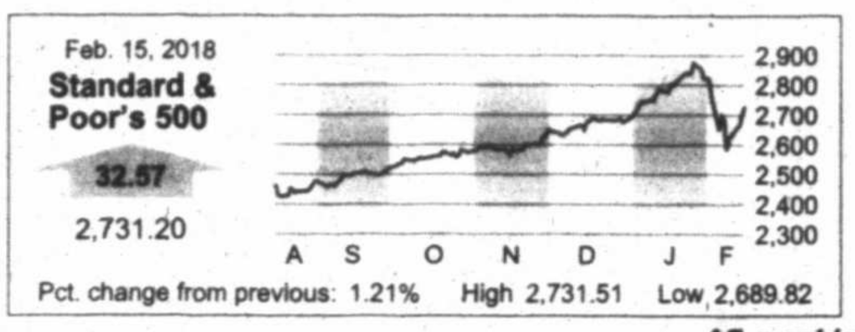
A DAY ON WALL STREET



AP graphic



AP graphic



AP graphic

OIL PRICES

FUTURES

Thursday:	$61.34
Previous:	$60.60

POSTED

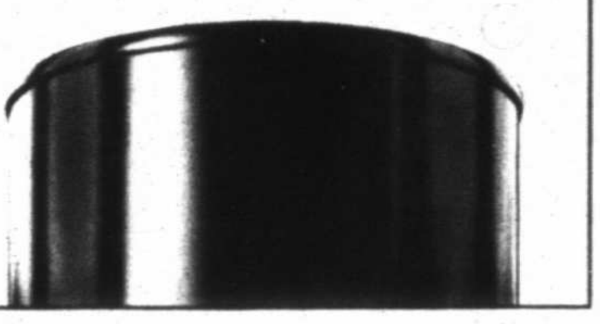
Thursday:	$57.75
Previous:	$57.00

WEST TEXAS SOUR

Thursday:	$55.60
Previous:	$54.85

NATURAL GAS

Thursday:	$2.580
Previous:	$2.587



NYSE

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
S&P500ETF	1101847	272.96	+3.29
iShEMkts	938774	49.71	+1.01
BkofAm	680811	32.20	+.20
SPDR Fncl	669574	29.02	+.16
GenElec	547322	14.85	-.06

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
500.com	15.52	+2.37	+18.0
BldBear	9.15	+1.35	+17.3
EKodak	7.00	+1.00	+16.7
Avon	2.57	+.30	+13.2
Bk of But n	44.89	+4.62	+11.5

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Textainer	18.75	-4.10	-17.9
CAI Intl	22.20	-4.45	-16.7
TritonInt n	28.60	-4.47	-13.5
TreeHseF	37.48	-5.53	-12.9
NL Inds	8.10	-.85	-9.5

DIARY

Advanced	2,024
Declined	887
Unchanged	99
Total issues	3,010
New Highs	67
New Lows	42
Volume	3,662,440,627

AMEX

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
NwGold g	56320	2.71	-.11
B2gold g	48825	3.05	-.01
22ndCentry	47056	3.10	+.22
SRC Eng	39203	8.78	-.12
iShIndia bt	29815	35.92	+.22

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Zomedica n	2.25	+.26	+13.1
22ndCentry	3.10	+.22	+7.5
FTE Net n	18.05	+.89	+5.2
AltisrcAst	68.70	+3.40	+5.2
BluerkRsd	7.86	+.35	+4.7

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
PacGE pfG	20.25	-1.36	-6.3
LevelBr n	4.01	-.22	-5.1
Alio Gld rs	3.09	-.12	-3.7
NwGold g	2.71	-.11	-3.7
NexGen g	2.19	-.08	-3.5

DIARY

Advanced	175
Declined	129
Unchanged	26
Total issues	330
New Highs	1
New Lows	10
Volume	98,188,905

NASDAQ

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Cisco	720447	44.12	+2.03
PwShs QQQ	511173	165.62	+2.94
Apple Inc	509064	172.96	+5.59
MicronT	349875	43.50	+.05
Microsoft	275233	92.70	+1.89

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Moleculin n	2.80	+.98	+53.6
AmeriHld n	2.91	+.66	+29.3
AMAG Ph	17.91	+4.01	+28.8
GalmedPh	6.96	+1.51	+27.7
SolarEdg n	45.80	+8.90	+24.1

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
AvidBios rs	2.37	-.88	-27.1
ALJ Reg n	2.41	-.59	-19.7
FlexSh n	2.99	-.67	-18.3
LiveVent rs	13.29	-2.44	-15.5
AdamisPh	2.93	-.53	-15.2

DIARY

Advanced	1,942
Declined	905
Unchanged	174
Total issues	3,021
New Highs	78
New Lows	50
Volume	2,087,321,946

McDonald's moves cheeseburgers off its Happy Meal menu

Associated Press

NEW YORK — McDonald's is taking cheeseburgers and chocolate milk off its Happy Meal menu in an effort to cut down on the calories, sodium, saturated fat and sugar that kids consume at its restaurants.

Diners can still ask specifically for cheeseburgers or chocolate milk with the kid's meal, but the fast-food company said that not listing them will reduce how often they're ordered. Since it removed soda from the Happy Meal menu four years ago, orders for it with Happy Meals have fallen 14 percent, the company said. Hamburgers and Chicken McNuggets will remain the main entrees on the Happy Meal menu.

The Happy Meal, which has been around for nearly 40 years, has long been a target of health advocates and parents who link it to childhood obesity. McDonald's has made many tweaks over the years, including cutting the size of its fries and adding fruit. Most recently, it swapped out its apple juice for one that has less sugar.

It's been especially important as the company tries to shake its junk-food image, since McDonald's is known for getting more business from families with children relative to its traditional rivals, such as Burger King and Wendy's. McDonald's doesn't say how much revenue it makes from the $3 Happy Meal, but the company said 30 percent of all visits come from families.

McDonald's will make the changes, including new nutritional standards for the Happy Meal changes, by June in the United States.

"It's a good step in the right direction," said Margo Wootan, the vice president for nutrition at the Center for Science in the Public Interest. "We would love to see many more restaurants do the same."

McDonald's said Thursday that it wants all its Happy Meal options to have 600 calories or fewer and have less than 650 milligrams of sodium. It also wants less than 10 percent of the meal's calories to come from saturated fat and the same percentage to come from added sugar.

The cheeseburger and chocolate milk didn't meet those new standards, the Oak Brook, Illinois-based company said. It is, however, working to cut sugar from the chocolate milk and believes it'll be back on the Happy Meal menu eventually — but doesn't know when that will happen.

Trudy Munk, a mother of three from Lombard, Illinois, who was at a McDonald's with her 3-year-old niece on Thursday, said she wasn't sure if the changes would make much of a difference. "I just feel like if you are coming to McDonalds, you're not necessarily looking for the healthiest option," she said. "I see it as a treat and I don't mind getting my kids French fries or the cheeseburgers."

There will be other tweaks: The six-piece chicken nugget Happy Meal will now come with a kids-sized fries instead of a small, lowering calories and sodium from the fries by half. And bottled water will be added as an option to the Happy Meal menu, but will cost extra. Currently, the Happy Meal menu lists milk, chocolate milk and apple juice. Soda does not cost extra.

For international restaurants, McDonald's Corp. said that at least half of the Happy Meal options available must meet its new nutritional guidelines. The company said some are adding new menu items to comply, like in Italy, where a grilled chicken sandwich was added to the Happy Meal menu.

US stocks keep gaining as tech, industrial companies rise

NEW YORK — Technology companies climbed Thursday as stocks rose for the fifth day in a row. They have now recovered about half their losses during the market's dramatic plunge earlier this month.

Tech bellwether Cisco Systems jumped after it posted strong quarterly results and announced a big stock repurchase, while Apple rose after an analyst said sales of the iPhone X in China are improving. Most other parts of the market climbed as well, with notable gains for industrial companies and household goods makers. Energy companies continued to struggle.

After a brief dip late in the morning, the Standard & Poor's 500 index rallied and rose 32.57 points, or 1.2 percent, to 2,731.20. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 306.88 points, or 1.2 percent, to 25,200.37. The Nasdaq composite climbed 112.81 points, or 1.6 percent, to 7,256.43.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies rose 15.10 points, or 1 percent, to 1,537.20.

Cisco reported a bigger profit and better sales than analysts expected, and said it will buy back another $25 billion of its own stock. It climbed $1.99, or 4.7 percent, to $44.08. Apple rose $5.62, or 3.4 percent, to $172.99 after an analyst for Morgan Stanley said the iPhone X is gaining market share in China, a critical market for Apple's products. Microsoft jumped $1.85, or 2 percent, to $92.66.

Amazon's top apparel victims: Target, Macy's, J.C. Penney

Bloomberg

U.S. shoppers may be ordering more clothing than socks and underwear on Amazon after all.

Amazon.com is spiriting away share of apparel sales from Target, Macy's and J.C. Penney, according to a report Thursday by Coresight Research. Amazon Fashion is tied with Target as the second-most-shopped apparel retailer in the U.S., behind Walmart Inc., as measured by number of shoppers, the survey found. More than 20 percent of respondents said they have switched more of their apparel spending to Amazon and away from Macy's and J.C. Penney. Amazon's fashion business is underpinned by those who are already members of the site, according to the study. While 46 percent of all apparel shoppers surveyed said they had bought clothes or shoes on Amazon in the past year, almost two-thirds of Prime members had done so, the research firm found.

"Further growth in Prime membership will, in the near term at least, be the foundation on which Amazon will build greater share in the apparel category," Deborah Weinswig, managing director of Coresight Research, said in the report.

The findings come as traditional retailers struggle to boost their sales, especially in apparel, which has seen outlays shrink. Americans spend just 3.1 percent of their household budgets on clothing, according to government data, shifting dollars to travel, technology and experiences.

Online upstarts and low-cost fast-fashion chains have drawn trend-conscious consumers in search of value away from department stores and full-price retailers. Amazon has cultivated a low-price image among shoppers, with 48 percent of respondents expecting to pay less than they would at another company, Coresight said.

Retailers have been hurt by depressed prices, though a 1.7 percent gain in January offered some solace, according to the latest government inflation report.

MIDLAND STOCKS

Midland-Headquartered Publicly Traded Companies

Concho Resources (CXO)
Closing Price $146.04 Down 0.82

Dawson Geophysical (DWSN)
Closing Price $5.68 Down 0.20

Diamondback Energy (FANG)
Closing Price $125.15 Up 2.32

Legacy Reserves (LGCY)
Closing Price $2.24 Down 0.03

Mexco Energy (MXC)
Closing Price $3.51 Down 0.06

Natural Gas Services Group (NGS)
Closing Price $26.70 Up 0.40

ProPetro Holdings (PUMP)
Closing Price $16.80 Up 0.78

RSP Permian (RSPP)
Closing Price $35.56 Down 0.40

Ring Energy (REI)
Closing Price $15.74 Up 0.08

Viper Energy Partners (VNOM)
Closing Price $23.24 Up 0.22

HOW STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST FARED

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
AK Steel	...	15	5.23	+.05	-7.6
AMAG Ph	...	...	17.91	+4.01	+35.2
AT&T Inc	2.00f	14	37.00	+.59	-4.8
Abraxas	...	54	2.16	+.01	-12.4
AdaDvsEq	1.32e	...	15.29	+.17	+1.7
AMD	...	...	12.19	-.01	+18.6
Alibaba	...	53	187.45	+.69	+8.7
Ambev	.05e	7	6.88	+.01	+6.5
Amgen	5.28e	17	183.63	+4.11	+5.6
Anadarko	1.00f	69	59.61	-.17	+11.1
Apache	1.00	...	38.10	-.10	-9.8
Apple Inc	2.52	20	172.96	+5.59	+2.2
ApldMatl	.80f	17	53.99	+2.03	+5.6
Archrock	.48	...	9.30	-.15	-11.4
ATMOS	1.88f	15	81.92	+1.68	-4.6
AutoData	2.52	31	115.49	+2.78	-1.5
Avon	...	...	2.57	+.30	+19.5
BP PLC	2.38	21	39.84	+.07	-5.2
BkofAm	.48	21	32.20	+.20	+9.1
B iPVxST rs	...	...	41.49	-.85	+48.6
BaringsCp s	1.20	...	14.86	+.05	-2.6
BarrickG	.12	28	13.34	-.32	-7.8
BasicEnS	...	...	.45	...	...
BerkHa A	...	25	305998.97	+4993.98	+2.8
BioPhrmX	...	...	.14	-.01	+31.8
BlkHillsCp	1.78	15	52.19	+.43	-13.2
BrMySq	1.60f	68	69.03	+3.68	+12.6
BrownFA s	.79	40	68.12	+1.66	+1.3
BrownFB s	.79	...	68.81	+1.47	+.2
CVS Health	2.00	12	70.49	+.70	-2.8
CallonPet	...	34	10.73	-.17	-11.7
Caterpillar	3.12	28	160.00	+1.94	+1.5
Celestic g	...	9	10.64	-.02	+1.5
CntryLink	2.16	9	19.13	+1.55	+14.7
ChesEng	...	5	2.87	+.07	-27.7
Chevron	4.48f	50	112.53	+.02	-10.1
Chicos	.33	14	9.97	+.05	+13.0
Cimarex	.32	21	98.76	-3.43	-19.1
Cisco	1.32f	23	44.12	+2.03	+15.2
Citigroup	1.28	15	77.06	+.35	+3.6
CocaCola	1.48	27	44.82	+.72	-2.3
ColgPalm	1.60	26	71.22	+1.60	-5.6
Comcast s	.76f	19	40.07	+.64	+.5
ConAgra	.85	20	36.36	+.82	-3.5

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
ConchoRes	...	...	146.04	-.82	-2.8
ConocoPhil	1.14f	44	54.54	-.97	-.6
CrackerB	4.80	31	174.79	+4.60	+10.0
CSVixSh rs	...	...	7.74	-.38	+39.7
CrosTim	.93e	14	14.49	+.01	-1.4
DCP Mid	3.12	53	37.32	-.90	+2.7
DTE	3.53f	20	103.15	+1.92	-5.8
DevonE	.24	50	34.74	-.82	-16.1
DrGMBll rs	...	...	15.93	+.10	-10.3
Disney	1.68f	15	105.15	+.55	-2.2
EOG Rescs	.67	...	107.69	+.93	-.2
EQT Corp	.12	...	53.34	+4.83	-6.3
EldorGld g	.02e	23	1.16	...	-18.9
Energen	.08	...	52.13	-.80	-9.4
EnPro	.88	43	76.40	+.49	-18.3
EntProdPt	1.70f	21	26.79	-.30	+1.1
Ericsson	.11e	...	6.78	+.12	+1.5
ExxonMbl	3.08	16	76.21	-.25	-8.9
Facebook	...	34	179.90	+.38	+1.9
FordM	.60a	6	10.76	+.02	-13.9
Fossil Grp	...	...	15.52	-1.45	+99.7
FrptMcM	...	16	19.12	...	+.8
GATX	1.76f	15	69.80	+.51	+12.3
GabMultT	.94e	...	9.37	+.06	+1.8
GAInv	1.15e	...	34.27	+.29	-.4
GenElec	.48	...	14.85	-.06	-15.1
Goldcrp g	.24	19	13.78	+.58	+7.9
GtPlainEn	1.10	18	30.48	+.61	-5.5
Groupon	...	...	4.58	-.14	-10.3
Hallibrtn	.72	...	46.88	-.99	-4.1
ICICI Bk	.16e	...	10.41	+.21	+7.0
iShGold	...	...	13.00	+.02	+3.9
iShBrazil	.67e	...	45.52	+.33	+12.5
iShChinaLC	.87e	...	49.34	+1.23	+6.9
iShEMkts	.59e	...	49.71	+1.01	+5.5
iS Eafe	1.66e	...	71.14	+.46	+1.2
iShiBxHYB	5.09	...	86.08	+.67	-1.4
iShR2K	1.77e	...	152.77	+1.59	+.2
Intel	1.20f	17	45.91	+.53	-.5
InterDig	1.40	11	80.55	+.90	+5.8
Interpublic	.84f	17	25.06	+.57	+24.3
iShCorEM	.95e	...	59.87	+1.10	+5.2
JPMorgCh	2.24f	18	115.54	+.51	+8.0
JohnJn	3.36	19	131.19	+1.52	-6.1

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
KimbClk	4.00f	18	115.82	+3.09	-4.0
KindMorg	.50	26	17.30	-.15	-4.3
Kinross g	...	31	3.98	-.29	-7.9
LegacyRes	...	...	2.24	-.03	+39.1
Lubys	...	...	2.94	+.04	+11.4
MarathnO	.20	...	16.32	-.63	-3.6
McDnlds	4.04	27	160.72	+.73	-6.6
Merck	1.92	21	55.97	+1.07	-.5
MeritMed	...	52	44.80	+1.45	+3.7
MexcoEn	...	...	3.51	-.06	-10.7
MicronT	...	9	43.50	+.05	+5.8
Microsoft	1.68	67	92.70	+1.89	+8.4
Moleculin n	...	...	2.80	+.98	+50.3
Nabors	.24	...	6.62	-.22	-3.1
NOilVarco	.20	...	35.13	-.01	-2.5
NetApp	.80	25	57.67	-2.98	+4.2
NokiaCp	.17e	...	5.73	+.08	+23.0
NSTFI3	.55e	...	14.15	+.04	-6.8
NTXQI	.65	...	13.44	+.02	-6.3
Nvidia	.60	60	246.37	+4.95	+27.3
OasisPet	...	...	7.92	-.15	-5.8
OcciPet	3.08	...	69.43	-.42	-5.7
Oracle	.76	22	50.64	+1.19	+7.1
PDC Engy	...	...	51.50	+.41	-.1
Pandora	...	...	5.05	+.15	+4.8
ParTech	...	21	8.62	+.12	-7.8
ParkDrl	...	...	1.03	-.07	+3.0
PattUTI	.08	...	18.42	+.12	-19.9
Penney	...	19	3.79	+.10	+19.9
PennaRE	.84	14	10.47	+.55	-11.9
Prmian	.63e	26	9.30	+.02	+4.8
Petrobras	...	...	12.82	+.14	+24.5
Pfizer	1.28	14	35.73	+.54	-1.4
PioNtrl	.32f	...	179.59	+.09	+3.9
PlainsAAP	2.20	29	22.54	-.22	+9.2
PwShs QQQ	1.52e	...	165.62	+2.94	+6.3
Praxair	3.30f	35	155.80	+.73	+.7
PrmEgy	...	...	50.70	+.70	-1.6
PUVixST rs	...	...	15.75	-.75	+54.3
ProShtVx s	...	...	12.92	+.27	-89.9
ProctGam	2.76	22	82.41	+1.73	-10.3
PShtQQQ rs	...	...	17.26	-.93	-19.8
PUShtSPX	...	...	10.38	-.39	-8.7
QEP Res	.08	...	8.37	+.46	-12.6
Qualcom	2.28	...	65.27	-1.32	+2.0

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
RangeRs	.08	15	13.63	+.49	-20.1
Rowan	.40	8	12.55	+.04	-19.9
RoyDShllA	3.76	98	64.73	+.12	-3.0
SpdrDJIA	3.98e	...	252.42	+3.12	+2.0
S&P500ETF	4.13e	...	272.96	+3.29	+2.3
SpdrLehHY	2.30	...	36.15	+.26	-1.6
SpdrOGEx	.73e	...	34.07	+.05	-8.4
SabnR	2.29m	20	43.05	-1.00	-3.5
SanderFm	1.28	10	131.64	+.48	-5.1
Schlmbrg	2.00	45	66.20	+.33	-1.8
SiriusXM	.04	34	6.15	+.06	+14.6
Smucker	3.12	16	122.57	+1.56	-1.3
SnapInc A n	...	...	19.75	+.19	+35.2
SwstnEngy	...	27	3.71	+.04	-33.5
Square n	...	...	44.29	+2.44	+27.7
SP CnSt	1.28e	...	55.37	+.37	-2.7
SP Engy	2.04e	...	68.27	-.19	-5.5
SPDR Fncl	.46e	...	29.02	+.16	+4.0
SP Tech	.78e	...	67.27	+1.25	+5.2
SP Util	1.55e	...	49.69	+1.09	-5.7
TOP Shi rs	...	...	.23	+.03	-8.8
TelefEsp	1.20e	...	9.38	+.05	-3.1
TevaPhrm	.73e	7	20.80	+1.47	+9.8
3M Co	5.44f	30	234.82	+4.18	-.2
Torchmark	.60	7	86.12	-.18	-5.1
Transocn	...	9	9.23	-.07	-13.6

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
TriContl	1.00e	...	27.18	+.20	+.9
TripAdvis	...	90	42.38	+1.66	+23.0
Twitter	...	...	33.61	-.14	+40.0
TylerTech	...	65	205.87	+7.46	+16.3
UndrArm s	...	32	18.41	+.65	+27.6
UBSI	1.36f	23	36.50	+.25	+5.0
US OilFd	...	...	12.34	+.16	+2.7
USSteel	.20	23	38.99	+.30	+10.8
Vale SA	.29e	...	14.13	+.13	+15.5
ValeroE	3.20f	25	93.00	+.37	+1.2
VanEGold	.06e	...	23.02	+.01	-1.0
VangEmg	1.10e	...	48.52	+.93	+5.7
Vereit	.55	12	7.08	+.15	-9.1
VerizonCm	2.36	7	49.73	+.22	-6.0
Vipshop	...	37	18.16	-.76	+54.9
VulcanM	1.12f	42	133.47	+3.85	+4.0
WEC Engy	2.21f	20	61.32	+1.16	-7.7
WalgBoots	1.60	14	69.76	+1.28	-3.9
Weathfintl	...	...	2.74	+.00	-34.3
WellsFargo	1.56	14	60.02	+.47	-1.1
WmsCos	1.20	11	29.98	...	1.7
XcelEngy	1.44	19	44.19	+.97	-8.1
Xerox rs	1.00	38	30.50	+.71	+4.6
Yamana g	.02	...	3.45	-.01	+10.6
Zynga	...	89	3.58	+.09	-10.6

Can't find your favorite stocks or mutual funds listed?
Send your favorite to sdoreen@mrt.com or mmcewen@mrt.com.
We will regularly update the Permian Basin stocks list.

INDEXES

52-Week High	52-Week Low	Name	Last	Chg	Net %Chg	YTD % Chg	52-wk % Chg
26,616.71	20,322.95	Dow Jones Industrials	25,200.37	+306.88	+1.23	+1.95	+22.21
11,423.92	8,744.36	Dow Jones Transportation	10,556.35	+74.19	+.71	-.53	+11.41
778.80	647.81	Dow Jones Utilities	675.72	+13.47	+2.03	-6.59	+.72
13,637.02	11,324.50	NYSE Composite	12,856.91	+110.19	+.86	+.38	+11.76
7,505.77	5,748.74	Nasdaq Composite	7,256.43	+112.82	+1.58	+5.11	+24.79
2,872.87	2,321.42	S&P 500	2,731.20	+32.57	+1.21	+2.15	+16.36
2,001.48	1,673.30	S&P Midcap	1,897.09	+18.82	+1.00	-.18	+9.46
29,760.60	24,131.40	Wilshire 5000	28,331.17	+326.58	+1.17	+1.93	+15.47
1,615.52	1,335.03	Russell 2000	1,537.20	+15.10	+.99	+.11	+9.87

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit ***www.sudoku.org.uk***

			9	4	7			6
		9	1			2		
		3						
	8		2			1	6	
6								5
	5	1			3		8	9
						8		
		6			8	4		
9			7	2	4			

SOLUTION TO THURSDAY'S PUZZLE

7	6	2	1	9	5	4	8	3
3	5	4	8	2	7	6	1	9
9	8	1	4	3	6	5	2	7
6	7	5	9	1	2	8	3	4
1	3	8	6	5	4	7	9	2
4	2	9	3	7	8	1	6	5
8	4	3	5	6	9	2	7	1
5	9	7	2	8	1	3	4	6
2	1	6	7	4	3	9	5	8

2/16/18

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JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LITET

TLASN

TAVLYS

EGNEVA

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Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app

THEY KNEW THE TIME OF THE AUTHOR'S READING BECAUSE OF THE ----

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

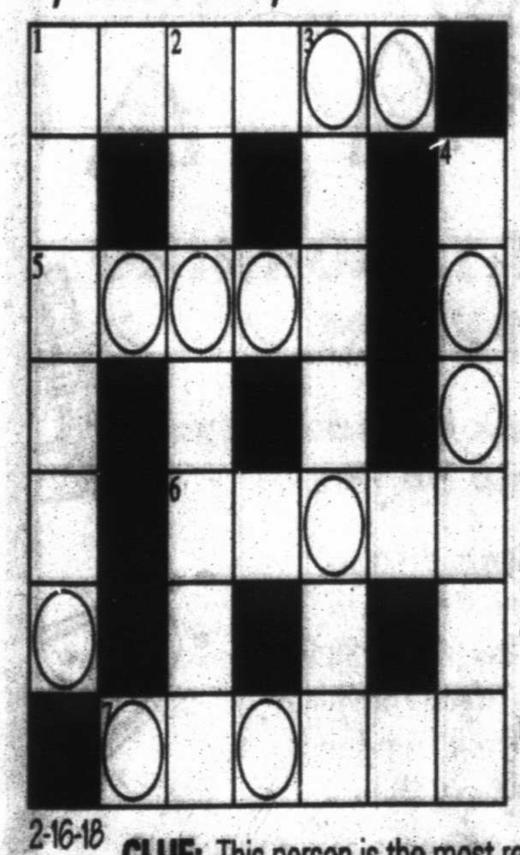
_____ - _____ _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: STUNG HALVE EMBARK GYPSUM
Answer: When B.B. King passed away in 2015, his fans — SANG THE BLUES

JUMBLE CROSSWORDS

by David L. Hoyt



ACROSS

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Computer ___	ERMMYO
5. Late ___	RATTS
6. Guide	SHRUE
7. In a tidy manner	LYEANT

DOWN

CLUE	ANSWER
1. "Night at the ___"	SMUMEU
2. Calculate, judge	UAESMER
3. ___ set	ACERHTT
4. F. ___ Abraham	RUMYAR

How to play - Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

2-16-18

CLUE: This person is the most recent U.S. president who did not earn a college degree.

BONUS _____ _____

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ANSWERS: 1A-Mammy 5A-Start 6A-Usher 7A-Heavy 1D-Measure 2D-Reduce 3D-Runway 4D-Harmy Hymen

Send comments to TCA - 435 N. Michigan Ave., Third Floor, Chicago, IL 60611 or DLHoyt@aol.com.

DAILY CROSSWORD

Edited By Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Scratch __: woodworking tools
5 Split wide open
9 Green "Sesame Street" character
14 Scallion relative
15 Sea predator
16 Asian city translating to "place of the gods"
17 *Protection for a press feeding frenzy?
19 Tight headgear
20 Masseur's workplace
21 Word with fly or about
22 Shining example
24 What a burglar hopes not to be
26 *Result of nodding off at an auction?
27 *Sandwich-centric extremists?
30 Fort Collins sch.
31 Merits
32 Italian capital
34 Dilute
38 Letters for John Smith?
39 Besmirch
42 Dudley the Dinosaur's org.
43 Books with test answers
45 Twitter's bird, e.g.
46 One with a title
48 Cry of discovery
50 *Where to read all the latest computer port news?
52 *Female employee of a tech giant?
56 Poems of praise
57 Lincoln output
58 "No seats" sign
59 Egg producer ... and product
62 Tuesday dish?
63 Rating reduction responsible for the answers to starred clues
66 Expect
67 Northern terminus of I-79
68 Lute family members
69 ATM features
70 Kind of lily
71 Tendency

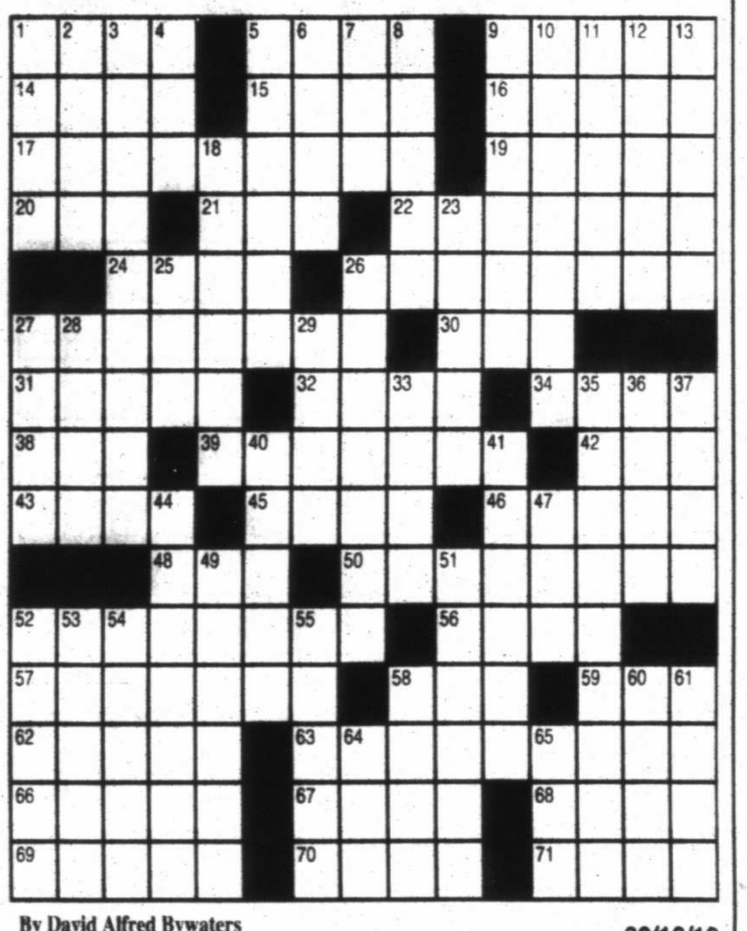
DOWN

1 Help for the poor
2 Sob
3 Acting on bad advice
4 __ jump
5 Explode
6 Parched
7 Chem. pollutant banned in 1979
8 Canvas support
9 Elvis hits, e.g.
10 Decathlon event
11 Chocolate substitute
12 "Me too"
13 Lost it
18 Elder hostile?
23 River through New Mexico
25 Seaside eagle
26 Immobilizing law-enforcement tool
27 Nose, slangily
28 Camp sight, perhaps
29 Forrest Gump, for one
33 Some are tributarios
35 Cordial greeting
36 Notion
37 Not
40 Budget competitor
41 Cylindrical sandwich
44 Took care of things
47 Sorrow
49 Construction site apparatuses
51 World's third-largest island
52 Tiny bits
53 Serious fight
54 Former Portuguese territory in China
55 Aconcagua's range
58 Way more than a sip
60 Paradise
61 Animal home
64 Willamette Valley state: Abbr.
65 Obstacle

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

R	O	S	A	S		S	A	N		R	E	B	A	R
U	N	P	I	N		A	B	O		E	B	O	N	Y
S	H	A	R	I		F	E	Z		A	B	A	T	E
H	A	R	D	P	R	E	T	Z	E	L	S			
E	N	T	R	E	E			L	E	M		A	S	U
D	D	A	Y		B	A	G	E	L	C	H	I	P	S
				B	E	B	E			C	A	N	O	E
C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	D	O	N	U	T	S
R	O	M	E	O			O	K	A	Y				
O	N	I	O	N	R	I	N	G	S		N	A	P	A
P	E	T		D	E	C			H	O	O	V	E	S
			H	O	L	I	S	T	I	C	D	I	E	T
P	A	N	I	C		C	O	O		H	E	A	V	E
T	R	U	N	K		L	U	G		O	A	T	E	R
S	E	N	D	S		E	R	A		S	L	E	D	S

02/16/18



By David Alfred Bywaters

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02/16/18

WUZZLES®

WORD PUZZLES BY WOOD TOM

Each Wuzzle is a word riddle which creates a disguised word, phrase, name, place, saying, etc. For example, NOON GOOD = GOOD AFTERNOON

3 WUZZLES BOOKLETS

"The Best of Wuzzles" ($4.00), "More of the Best of Wuzzles" ($4.50), and "Wuzzles for Kids" ($4.25) are available, postpaid, from Wuzzles, Box 1141, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

1.

P I R T
P I R T

2.

All Said Done

Print Your Answers Here:

1. _____ _____
2. _____ _____ _____ _____

Today's Answers:

1. Trips up
2. After all is said and done

2-16

Created by Tom Underwood
www.wuzzleking.com

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WUZZLES®
Answers
1. Trips up
2. After all is said and done
2-16

Be sure to check out Sunday's edition to read weekly
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ice skating teaches kids about falling...

AND GETTING UP

MCM Eleganté ★★★★

ASK US ABOUT OUR CATERING!

432.368.5885

Friday Night
SEAFOOD BUFFET

Shrimp Boat SEAFOOD

Seafood Pasta & Scampi Featuring:

Lobster & Snow Crab (Pasta Bar Only) | Cooked to Order

Entrees:

Peel & Eat Shrimp
Hand Battered Fried Shrimp
Almond Crusted Cod
Stuffed Crab
Orange Glazed Salmon

Sides:

Primavera Mixed Vegetables
Corn on the Cobb
Loaded Mashed Potatoes
French Cut Green Beans

Dessert Table:

Our Famous Bread Pudding with Jack Daniels Sauce
Peach Cobbler | Cakes & Cupcakes | Assorted Gelatin Cups

Fresh Soup | Salad Bar
Fresh Fruit Platter

Every Friday 5-10PM

(inside Eleganté Hotel) **5200 E. University | Odessa**
mcmelegante.com

SATURDAY MORNING SPECIAL

Omelet Bar with Cook-to-Order Eggs
Menudo • Caldo De Res

Chorizo & Potatoes • Chorizo & Beans
Hash Browns • Buttermilk Buscuits • Creamy Gravy
Mountain Bacon • Sausage LinksWaffle Station
Chile Verde • Asado • Red & Green Enchiladas
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MCM Eleganté ★★★★★

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mrtclassifieds@mrt.com

OTHER JOBS

Endeavor Energy Resources, LP

DOT Driver II

JOB DESCRIPTION: Job responsibilities include local (within Midland City and County) transportation by truck for Endeavor Energy completions or production crews. Cargo transport varies depending on driver's licensing.

Essential Functions:
- Follow instructions, and maintain compliance with all DOT, company and customer safety and operational policies and procedures
- Properly load and unload product at various customer locations in a professional, courteous, timely, safe, and efficient manner
- Connect and disconnect hoses, operating pumps and valves for loading and unloading
- Complete all paperwork accurately and timely, if applicable
- Complete other related tasks as assigned by manager

Minimum Requirements:
- High school diploma or GED required, must be at least 18 years of age
- Ability to read, write and communicate effectively required
- Computer proficiency is required
- Valid Texas Driver's license is required
- Class A CDL and Haz Mat is preferred but not required
- Must be able to pass background screening including MVR and criminal
- Must be able to work nights, weekends, and an extended workweek.
- Strong customer service skills, and the ability to effectively prioritize, multi-task, manage time, organize and execute tasks in a high-pressure environment

Supervisory Responsibilities:
No supervisory responsibilities are associated with this position.

Work Environment:
Work is often outdoors. Working conditions range from frigid to hot temps, high winds, flying dust, slipping hazards and conditions and frequently exposed to loud noise from heavy equipment and machinery.

Physical Demands:
Ability to sit, stand, walk, reach with hand and arms, climb, squat, kneel, and bend is required. Must also be able to occasionally lift, carry, push, pull, move, and drag up to 50 lbs.

Position type and expected hours of work:
This is a full-time position. The ability to work overtime is a requirement to performing this job.

Endeavor Energy Resources, LP is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate in regards to race, color, creed, age, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, marital status or disability. We comply with all local, state, and federal laws pertaining to employment and discrimination will not be tolerated.

CLERICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE

BOOKKEEPER
FULL CHARGE BOOKKEEPER WANTED. Can be Part time if needed. Please send resume to Jeanne_larance@jmcpa.com

Front Desk Position
Medical office front desk position. Patient management experience preferred. Tasks include making appointments, entering and updating patient records. Heavy phone duty. Competitive pay and holidays. Fax resume to 432-570-0602 or email to rmrdoc01@aol.com

CONSTRUCTION AND FACILITIES

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

Contractors w/ Plumbing Construction Exp.
Power Plumbing, Inc. is searching for contractors with plumbing construction experience. All candidates must live locally and be registered as a Section 3 resident or be Section 3 owned business. Power Plumbing acknowledges that the Construction of this project is subject to the Section 3 plan of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Please call: Power Plumbing, Inc. Attn: Lisa S. 281-213-6919

Safety Coordinator
Mid-Tex of Midland, Inc. Now hiring a Safety Coordinator for on-going commercial construction project in Midland, Texas. OSHA 10 certification required. Send inquiries to alan@midtexofmidland.com.

EDUCATION TRAINING

Child Care Positions
Child Care Number 1 Wee Care Learning Center, Midland, TX. 79705. Premier facility is looking to hire Teachers, Cafeteria Workers and Maintenance for infants and young children. Come by 3309 N. Lamesa Road to apply. No phone calls please.

ENERGY AND UTILITIES

Elite Well Services LLC

Elite Well Services has full time positions available for:
Equipment Operators/Drivers
Diesel Mechanics
Electronic Technicians

Please refer to www.chaseenergyservices.com for job descriptions.
Must be at least 21 years of age and able to pass a drug and background screening and meet vehicle insurance requirements.
We offer an excellent working environment and outstanding compensation and benefits package.
Application closing date – February 22, 2018
For consideration, email resume to hr@elitewells.com or apply in person at:

Elite Well Services LLC
125 W. Missouri
Midland, TX 79701
Equal Employment Opportunity Employer

Producer Accounting Analyst
Oil & Gas energy firm in Midland, TX. is looking to fill a Producer Accounting Analyst position. Duties include data preparation and monthly settlement for Permian area Gas Processing plants. Candidate must have excellent computer and communication skills. Degree preferred but not required. PGAS and TIPS experience preferred. Competitive benefits including health insurance, 401K and Cafeteria Plan. Mail resume to Producer Accounting, 211 N. Colorado, Midland, TX. 79701 or email to employment@westtexasgas.com.

Trainees & Mudloggers/Field Geologists
Advance Consultants Corp. is now hiring both Trainees and Experienced Mudloggers/Field Geologists for West Texas. Email resumes to advance@advancetogging.com

HEALTHCARE

Full Time Ophthalmic Technician
Full Time Ophthalmic Technician needed: Duties include screening patients, vision and diagnostic testing, assisting physician with minor surgical procedures. EMR and simb technician/surgical experience preferred, not required. Serious inquires. Please send resume via fax 432-694-7414, email insrsm2@sullnt.com or 2708 W. Cuthbert Bld. A Midland, TX 79701.

CDL Driver Water truck and Bully Dumps
Jones Brothers, is hiring CDL Driver WAter truck and Bully Dumps drivers.

1 year of driving experience. Valid Texas Class A CDL, w/tankers for water truck driver. 50 plus hour work week.

Benefits: Medical, dental /vision, life insurance.
After 1 year of service Paid vacation and 401K

Apply in person at Jones Bros. Dirt & Paving Contractors, Inc.
1401 S. Grandview
Odessa, Texas 79761

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1401 S. Grandview
Odessa, Texas 79761

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: jmaddox@hearstnp.com
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

Field Service Mechanics
Jones Brothers, is hiring Field Service Mechanics. 3 years mechanic experience. Must have own tools, Valid Texas Drivers license, Pay will depend on work experience, 50 plus work week.
Benefits: Medical, dental /vision, life insurance.
After 1 year of service Paid vacation and 401K

Apply in person at Jones Bros. Dirt & Paving Contractors, Inc.
1401 S. Grandview
Odessa, Texas 79761

Let Classifieds Work for You! Call

432-682-6222

SALES JOBS

DIGITAL AND SOCIAL MEDIA RECRUITMENT SPECIALIST

MRT Media Group is seeking a Digital and Social Media Recruitment Specialist for TexasBackToWork.com. This is an exciting opportunity for an energetic, enthusiastic and career-minded individual with a passion to grow their career in a multi-media and recruitment sales industry.

Must be a self-starter with excellent attention to detail, spelling/grammar/punctuation, great time management and a positive attitude.

We are willing to train and offer a competitive compensation and benefits package, guaranteed commission for three months, and the opportunity to advance your career with an exciting, progressive and innovative organization in one of the fastest growing markets in Texas.

Must have a valid driver's license and insurance. Background check / drug screen required.

If you want to join a GREAT TEAM and are ready to SUCCEED, please send a resume to: cranderson@hearstnp.com.
Chad Anderson, Advertising Sales Manager,
201 E. Illinois Ave., Midland, TX 79701.
No phone calls please.

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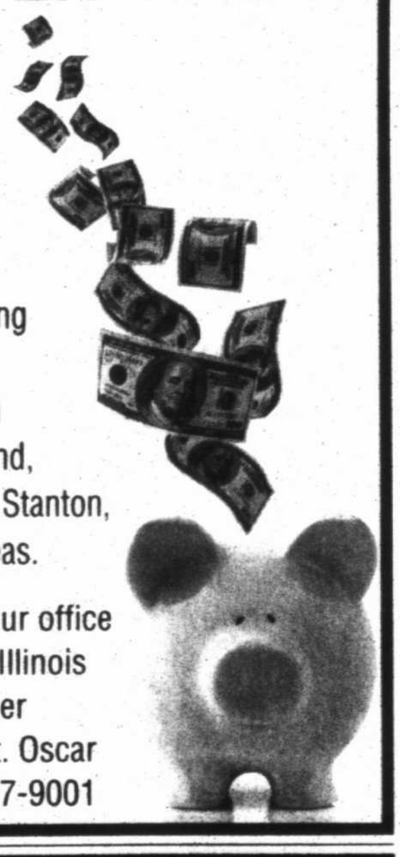
EARN UP TO $500 PER WEEK!

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

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN ITS DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR PART TIME DAY ASSOCIATE

Part Time Day Associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE
Must be able to work Monday thru Saturday from 8am-6pm. Tuesday will be here later till about 8 or 9 pm. Need to be able to work on your feet thru 6-8 hour shift. Will work at night occassionally. We will train the right person.
$11.00 per hour

These positions require some physical lifting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr. shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspaper bundles. Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.

Apply in person at: 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk • Monday - Friday 8-5 or email: jmaddox@hearstnp.com
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

OTHER JOBS

Endeavor Energy Resources LP

Now hiring for a Field Technician.

he Field Technician will provide advanced refueling services to support the Frac operations on location. Endeavor Energy will provide all necessary training for new employees. **This is a non-driving position.**

Job Duties:
- Comply with all OSHA and company safety procedures, rules and regulations
- Proper pre and post trip of equipment
- Consistently demonstrate safe unloading of fuels while handling, hooking and unhooking hoses and operating pumps while following directions and standard operating procedures
- Safely using pipe wrenches, crescent wrenches and other hand tools
- Immediate reporting and cleaning of any spills during shift
- Maintain professionalism through working courteously with supervisors, despatchers, fellow co-workers and customers
- All other duties as assigned

Minimum Qualifications:
- Ability to work in a fast-paced environment
- Proven capability to work both independently and collaboratively with different levels of management and individual contributors
- Demonstrated ability to manage work in stressful situations
- High school diploma or GED required, must be at least 18 years of age
- Ability to read, write and communicate effectively required
- Computer proficiency is required
- Valid Texas Driver's License is required
- Experience working on Frac site or similar responsibilities is preferred

Work Environment:
Work is often outdoors. Working conditions range from frigid to hot temps, high winds, flying dust, slipping hazards and conditions and frequently exposed to loud noise from heavy equipment and machinery.

Physical Demands:
Ability to sit, stand, walk, reach with hand and arms, climb, squat, kneel, bend, and occasionally lift /carry/push/pull/move/drag up to 60 lbs.

Position type and expected hours of work:
This is a full-time position.

Endeavor Energy Resources, LP is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate in regards to race, color, creed, age, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, marital status or disability. We comply with all local, state, and federal laws pertaining to employment and discrimination will not be tolerated.

Classified CAN 682-6222

RETAIL JOBS

Full Time Manager & Cashiers
Smoker's Outlet has openings for Manager Trainee & Cashiers. Full-time & Part-time positions avaible, must have own transportation. Apply in person Mon-Fri 8-5 5000 E University Ste 11, Odessa,TX

SALES JOBS

Counter Sales Associate
Ferguson is hiring a Counter Sales Associate in our Midland, TX location. Interested applicants please apply online https://ferguson.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/Ferguson_Experienced/job/Midland-TX/Counter-Sales-Associate_R-35884 EOE/M/F/Vet/Disability

SKILLED LABOR

Electrician Helper
Electrician Helper
Assist the fabrication and wiring of on-site buildings, and electrical control panels/PLC's. No experience necessary. Pre-employment drug screen required. Apply in person at R&D Specialties, 2629 Faudree Road #B 7, Odessa, Texas 79765, or send resume via fax 432-561-5696 or email rdspec@rdspec.com

Journeyman Electricians & Helpers
Salary DOE. Please call 432-413-9344. **You must have experience.**

Laborers and Carpenters
Mid-Tex of Midland, Inc. Now hiring laborers and carpenters. Reliable transportation a must. You may apply or leave an application at 5206 W. Wadley Avenue, Midland, Texas.

REAGENT CHEMICAL & RESEARCH

YARD TECHNICIANS

*** NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED ***
*** MUST BE OVER 21 YEARS OLD ***
*** Detailed Training Provided on Site ***
*** Must Speak, Read, and Write English ***

- Medical, Prescription, & Dental Insurance
- 401K & Profit Sharing Savings Plan
- 2 Weeks Paid Vacation plus 10 Paid Holiday
- Affordable Life Insurance, Supplemental Insurance
- Scholarship Programs

Apply
Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m 4:30 p.m.
2833 I-H 20, South Service Rd.
Stanton, Tx
432-458-3446

TECHNOLOGY

O & M Technician
Invenergy LLC is hiring an O&M Technician for the Ector County Energy Center, a 340 MW simple cycle power station utilizing GE7FA technology, located in Goldsmith, TX. Visit www.invenergyllc.com and click on "Careers" to apply.

TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

Hot Shot Driver & a Warehouse S & R Clerk
Hot Shot Driver, Class A CDL Required, & a Warehouse Shipping & Receiving Clerk. Top Pay & Benefits, Guaranteed 40 hour week Apply online at oriondrilling.com.

REAGENT CHEMICAL & RESEARCH, INC.

$3000.00 SIGN-ON Bonus
Hiring Immediately
CDL-HAZMAT DRIVERS-
w/ at least
1 YEAR TANKER EXPERIENCE
2 YEARS CDL DRIVING
WITH GOOD DRIVING RECORD
MUST BE OVER 23 YEARS OLD
MUST PASS BACKGROUND CHECK

- Medical, Prescription, Vision & Dental Ins. for you and your family
- 401K & Profit Sharing Savings Plan
- $700.00 week minimum guarantee
- Paid by the load
- 24 hour call
- 2 Weeks Paid Vacation plus 10 Paid Holidays
- Affordable Life Ins., Supplemental Ins., Short and Long Term Disability Ins.
- Scholarship Programs

Apply
Monday-Friday
8:00am-4:30pm
2833 I-20, South Service Rd,
Stanton TX
432-458-3446

Service Driver
B&W Chemical Toilets Inc
Service driver needed. Good driving record required. Apply in person only 4500 S. State Hwy 349, Midland, TX 79706.

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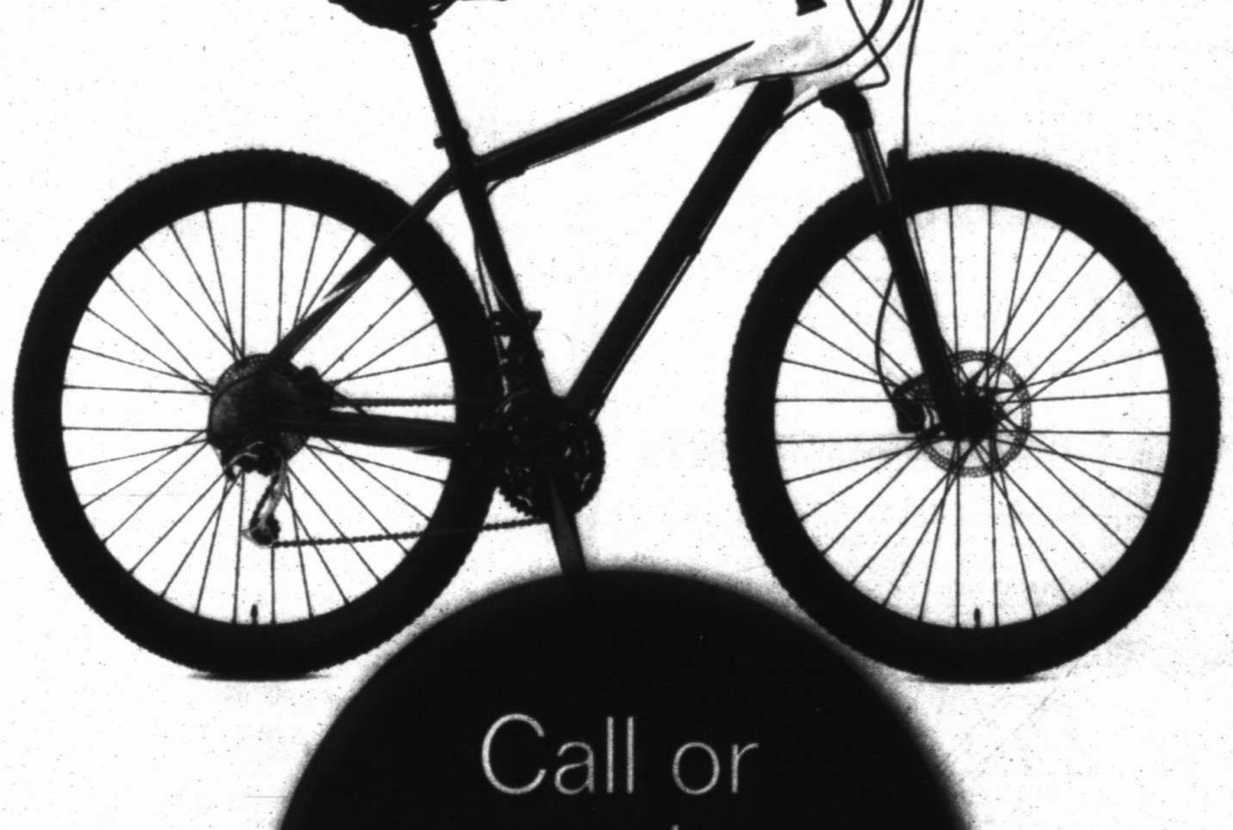

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Legal and Public Notices

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 08
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Feb 13, 2018
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Mar 20, 2018
Address: Railroad Commission of Texas
ATTN: Drilling Permit Unit
P. O. Box 12967
Austin, Texas 78711-2967
Fax: (512) 463-6780
Email: SWR37@RRC.TEXAS.GOV

Rule 37 Case No. 0309273
Status/Permit No. 835919

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the LARIO OIL & GAS COMPANY, [RRC Operator No. 486710] has made application for a spacing exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 37 (16 Tex. Admin. Code section 3.37). Applicant seeks exception to the LEASE LINE requirement for the NEW DRILL permit in Sec. 23, Bk. 38 T4S, T&P RR CO Survey, A-109, SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) R 40 EXC Field, MIDLAND County, being 21.7 miles SE direction from MIDLAND, Texas. PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted **WITHOUT A HEARING** if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at **(512)463-6848**. If you have questions which are specific to the Application or the information set forth in this Notice, please contact the Commission's Drilling Permit Unit at rule 37 **(512)463-6751**.

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER, OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY Mar 20, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO PROTEST AND THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.

THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION REQUIRES PUBLICATION

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

FIELD: SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) R 40 EXC

Lease/Unit Name:	CLARK 5				
Lease/Unit Well No.:	403WA				
Lease/Unit Acres:	660.45				
Nearest Lease Line (ft):	1.0				
Nearest Well on Lease (ft):	254.0				
Lease Lines:	321.0	FSL,		758.0	FWL
Survey Lines:	321.0	FSL,		758.0	FWL

Wellbore Profile(s): Horizontal
Lateral: TH1
Penetration Point Location

Lease Lines:	50.0	FSL,	660.0	FWL

Terminus Location
BH County: MIDLAND
Section: 14 Block: 38 T4S Abstract: 1041
Survey: T&P RR CO / MOORE, H H

Lease Lines:	50.0	FNL,	660.0	FWL
Survey Lines:	50.0	FNL,	660.0	FWL

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

SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) R 40 EXC: Special Rules 330/0, 80.0 acres.

This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 10600 feet. If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, Ryan Bergeron, at (512)4783456.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR EXCEPTION TO SWR 26/27 SURFACE COMMINGLING PERMIT

Notice is hereby given that XTO Energy Inc., Operator 945936, has filed to amend existing P-17 permit #7169 with the Texas Railroad Commission. The following amended P-17 application is for the exception to SWR 26 and/or 27 to surface commingle production from oil and gas leases in (45392) LHS Ranch 27 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field; (45772) Elona Brown 35 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field; (45856) Pat Anderson 26 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field; (46018) Frank Midkiff 35. lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field; (47254) LHS Ranch 27-33 Allocation 3301 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field; (47366) LHS Ranch 27-33 Allocation 3302 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) field; (47269) LHS Ranch 27-33 Allocation 3303 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field; (47279) LHS Ranch 27-33 Allocation 3304 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field; (New Lease ID) LHS Ranch 27-33 Allocation 3305 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field; (New Lease ID) LHS Ranch 27-33 Allocation 3306 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field; (New Lease ID) LHS Ranch 27-33 Allocation 3307 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field; LHS Ranch 27-33 Allocation 3308 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field; (47380) LHS Ranch 27-33 Allocation 3311 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field; (47276) LHS Ranch 27-33 Allocation 3312 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field;(47458) LHS Ranch 27-33 Allocation 3313 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field;(47379) LHS Ranch 27-33 Allocation 3314 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field;(New Lease ID) LHS Ranch 27-33 Allocation 3315 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field; (New Lease ID) LHS Ranch 27-33 Allocation 3317 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field;(47810) LHS Ranch 27-22 Allocation 2205 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field;(47394) LHS Ranch 27-22 Allocation 2206 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field;(47849) LHS Ranch 27-22 Allocation 2207 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field; ; (47935) LHS Ranch 27-22 Allocation 2208 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field;(47816) LHS Ranch 27-22 Allocation 2215 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field; (47957) LHS Ranch 27-22 Allocation 2217 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field; (47559) LHS Ranch 27-22 Allocation 2218 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field; (47831) Elona Brown 35 Allocation 2603 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field; (47850) Elona Brown 35 Allocation 2602 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field; (47861) Elona Brown 35 Allocation 2604 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field; (48018) Elona Brown 35 Allocation 2612 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field; (47866) Elona Brown 35 Allocation 2614 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field; (48330) Elona Brown 35 Allocation 2611 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field; (48501) Elona Brown 35 Allocation 2613 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field; (48711) Frank Midkiff 35 Allocation 3808 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field; (New Lease ID) Frank Midkiff 35 Allocation 3816 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field; (48620) Frank Midkiff 35 Allocation 2618 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field; (New Lease ID) Frank Midkiff 35 Allocation 2605 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field; (New Lease ID) Frank Midkiff 35 Allocation 2616 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field; (New Lease ID) Frank Midkiff 35 Allocation 2617 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field; (New Lease ID) Frank Midkiff 35 Allocation 3805 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field; (New Lease ID) Frank Midkiff 35 Allocation 3807 lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC field; in Midland County. This application is for common separation and common storage. Production will be measured by W-10. Any royalty interest owners who have not received written notification please consider this your Notice of Application. If you have objections to the issuance of this permit, you may submit a letter to the P-17 Department, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711. Unless the Commission receives a protest to this application, the Commission may issue a permit within 21 days after the date the application is filed.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Glenn Edwell Stehle, Deceased, were issued on February 13, 2018, in Cause No. P19324, pending in the County Court of Midland County, Texas, to: Belva Barrington.

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

c/o: **Austin L. Ramsey**
Attorney at Law
300 N. Marienfeld Suite 700
MIDLAND, TX 79701

DATED the 13th day of February, 2018.

/s/ AUSTIN L. RAMSEY
Austin L. Ramsey
Attorney for Independent Executor
State Bar No.: 24073484
300 N. Marienfeld Suite 700
MIDLAND, TX 79701
Telephone: (432) 683-3351
Facsimile: (432) 683-2587
E-mail: aramsey@lcalawfirm.com

NOTICE

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF RYAN WAYNE CHRISTOPHER, DECEASED:

Notice is hereby given that on the 13th day of February, 2018, Letters of Independent Administration were issued to Jana Kay Massingill as Independent Administratrix in proceedings in the County Court of Midland County, Texas, in Probate, styled "In the Matter of the Estate of Ryan Wayne Christopher, Deceased.", being Cause No. P19305 in that Court, and which proceedings are still pending. All persons having claims against the Estate are hereby required to present the same to Jana Kay Massingill, c/o Alan H. Meyers, Law Offices of Alan H. Meyers, P.C., 505 N. Big Spring, Suite 104, Midland, Texas 79701, within the time prescribed by law.

Notice of Application
for Commercial Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Well Permit

Solaris Water Midstream, LLC, 9811 Katy Freeway, Ste. 900, Houston, TX 77024, is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to dispose of produced salt water or other oil and gas waste by well injection into a porous formation not productive of oil or gas. The applicant proposes to dispose of oil and gas waste into the Ellenburger Formation, Gamma SWD Lease, Well Number 1. The proposed disposal well is located 8.1 miles northeast of Stanton, TX in the Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, in Martin County. The waste water will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 11,265 to 12,250 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512/463-6792).

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of public sale of property to satisfy landlord's lien per Chapter 59 Texas Property Code Sale

10 a.m. on Friday, February 23, 2018

A3 Storage
4610 N Holiday Hill Rd.
Midland, TX 79707
432-697-2222

Property will be sold to highest bidder for cash. Deposit for removal and cleanup will be temporarily required. Seller reserves the right to accept/refuse any bid and to withdraw property from sale. Property being sold includes contents in space of tenant listed below.

Unit	Customer	Contents
E3	Roman Anzures	furniture, mattress, etc.
F42	Braden Brownlee	misc. items
D6	Caleb Chavez	truck frame, toys, grill, etc.
A4	Eric Cortez	TV, Keurig, household items, etc.
E38	Joann Elizondo	household items, toys, tools, etc.
F4	Sally Lawler	household and misc. items
E22	Fabian Weatherholt	appliances, furniture, misc. items
P34	Evelyn Torres	'85 Chevy Silverado

Midland Independent School District

Midland, Texas

Notice to Vendors

Request for Proposals for Kitchen Equipment Repair

The Midland Independent School District invites qualified vendors to submit a sealed proposal(s) for **RFP # 18-04 Kitchen Equipment Repair** through the MISD electronic bid system. Proposals will be publicly opened and read in accordance with the proposal documents in the office of Rebecca Mull, Director of Procurement Services, at 615 W. Missouri Avenue, Suite 707, Midland, Texas at **10:00 A.M. Friday, March 2, 2018.** Award will be based on the following criteria **Per Texas Education Code Sec. 44.031 (b), the District shall consider the following criteria.**

1. The purchase price; (50 points)
2. The reputation of the vendor and the vendor's goods or services; (10 points)
3. The quality of the vendor's goods or services; (10 points)
4. The extent to which the goods or services meet the district's needs; (5 points)
5. The vendor's past relationship with the district; (5 points)
6. The impact on the ability of the district to comply with laws and rules relating to historically underutilized businesses; (0 points)
7. The total long-term cost to the district to acquire the vendor's goods or services; (0 points)
8. Any other relevant factor specifically listed in the request for proposals. (10 points)

Request for Proposal documents may be obtained by registering as a supplier at www.midlandisd.net/domain/44. For any questions, contact MISD Procurement Services department at (432) 240-1965.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT

APACHE CORPORATION, 303 Veterans Airpark Lane, Suite 3000, Midland, Texas 79705 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation, which is productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluids into the San Andres Formation, Tippett, June Lease, Well Number: 28. The proposed injection well is located 21 miles Southwest from Midland, Texas in the Pegasus (San Andres) Field, in Midland County, Texas. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 5,300'-5,625'.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Codes, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil & Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil & Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P O Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711-2967 (Telephone 512/463-6792).

Permian Basin MPO Policy Board Meeting

Date: February 20, 2018 5:00 p.m.
Place: Permian Basin MPO
9601 Wright Dr., Suite 1
Midland, TX 79706

The Policy Board of the Permian Basin MPO will hold a regularly scheduled meeting to continue discussion on the potential use of MPO funds to address safety issues at E. Loop 338 at 52nd/56th Streets, to consider allocating funds for a multi-use trail corridor study, and to hear updates on transportation planning topics. The Board may conduct an Executive Session as permitted under Chapter 551 of the Texas Administrative Code. Para asistencia en español por favor llame a 432-617-0129.

NOTICE

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF RICK TERRY VAN EVERY, DECEASED:

Notice is hereby given that on the 13th day of February, 2018, Letters of Independent Administration were issued to Senaida Ozuna Van Every as Independent Administratrix in proceedings in the County Court of Midland County, Texas, in Probate, styled "In the Matter of the Estate of Rick Terry Van Every, Deceased.", being Cause No. P19314 in that Court, and which proceedings are still pending. All persons having claims against the Estate are hereby required to present the same to Senaida Ozuna Van Every, c/o Alan H. Meyers, Law Offices of Alan H. Meyers, P.C., 505 N. Big Spring, Suite 104, Midland, Texas 79701, within the time prescribed by law.

Legal and Public Notices

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 170-foot Self-Support Communications Tower at the approx. vicinity of 3811 Tumbleweed Trail, Midland, Midland County, TX 79707. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Andrew, a.bray@trileaf.com, 2550 S IH-35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 5125199388.

Legal and Public Notices

Notice of Sale of Personal Property to satisfy a landlords lien for CASH ONLY. Sale date is Thursday March 8, 2018 @ 10:20am.

Aztec A-1 Storage
1219 S Midland Dr
Midland TX 79703

#380 Lorina Molinar*

***Household Goods**

General Announcement

Thank You! Jesus! Mark Berryhill.com Ministering for Christ Teach the Lord's Word 1-4

Homemade 16' open trailer, New Mexico Plate 02450TRH, No VIN#., White in color, $538.50 ECTOR COUNTY VSF 12102 WCR 100 ODESSA TEXAS 79765, 432-381-0209, 0650611VSF.

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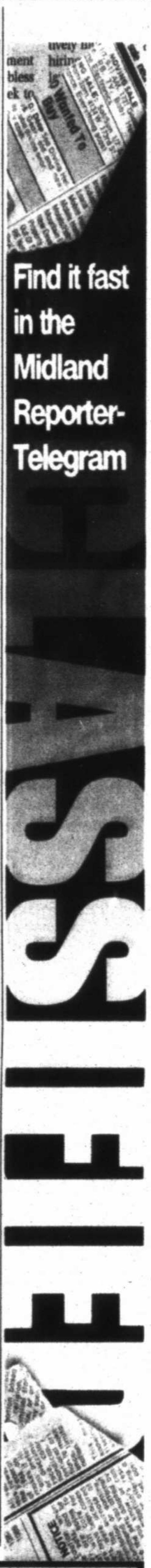
CHEVROLET 2006 extended cab pickup. New tires, runs great, reliable. Rough body. 117K miles. $6,000. 432-813-0031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Home Cleaning

I can clean your house and make it sparkle, also clean windows, rake yards and anything else I can do for you. Great references and years of experience. Please, call Gloria at 432-553-4052

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A+ COMPUTER Tutor! Overcome Your Fear of Computers! ✔Your PLACE at Your PACE ★Call Karen 432-553-2468 (leave msg).

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Fences

ABC CONSTRUCTION Wood, chain link, block, gates & repairs are my specialty. Native Midlander building since 1979 Call Lonnie 432-528-5262

Home Services & Home Improvement

Fences

AMH FENCING
A rating on Angie's List. Residential fence, builder and repair. Reliable, professional, and quick response. Local for 12 yea:s.
432-254-9207

Handyman Services

Total Handyman Services. A through Z and total remodel and room addition by native Midlander. Manny Ribera (432) 967-3710 mRiberaConstruction.com Video https://youtu.be/8LIUKSdQDlg

Heat-Air Condition

ELLIS & Sons Plumbing & Air Conditioning Sales & Service. Service all brands 683-2679. TALCB005482

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Painting-Wallpaper

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Pool and Spa

Pool Renovation. Pool deck stone decor, overlay, copping, tile, waterfall & grando. By artist Manny Ribera native Midlander (432) 967-3710 mRiberaConstruction.com Video https://youtu.be/8LIUKSdQDlg

Remodeling-Repair

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Home Services & Home Improvement

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All Types of Roofing & Repairs. Fence Repairs, Metal roofs. 25 years experience. Free Estimates Call Juan, 432-631-6861

Landscape and Tree Maintenance

Lawn and Garden

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TX3606A
Call 432-528-1737

RAUL'S LAWN Services. Lawn mowing, edging, shrub trimming. Free estimates. Reasonable. Call Raul @ 432-254-6384.

Landscape and Tree Maintenance

Lawn and Garden

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LONE STAR HANDYMAN Lawn care service and flower bed clean up,trim hedges , raking leaves, wood fence & gates repairs,and planting flower beds Call 432-889-9233 after hours Mon-Sat 11:30 a.m-6:30 p.m.

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16.5 ACRES available for lease between Midland and Odessa near Gardendale off of FM1788. Property located in Andrews, Ector and Midland counties. 3 phase power and well water available. Lease all 16.5 acres or by acre. Call for details. Jeff Winemiller 717-226-3535

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- 4,212 ac. Maveric Creek, canyons, whitetail and mule deer and quail $825/ac
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- **Nolan County** 646 ac. over 1 mile SOLD creek, blinds, feeders, elevation change, oak $3,550/ac
- 565 ac. Pecan Creek, New Living/Shop, 200 acres cleared for cattle, blinds/feeders, windmill $4,425/ac
- **Howard County** 842 ac. canyons, blinds/feeders, great deer, cedar/mesquite, surface water, some oilfield traffic $750/ac
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14,393 acres located in Pecos and Brewster Counties – The terrain varies from wide, productive valley bottoms to rocky limestone hills and mountains. Extensive brush work has been done on portions of the ranch and approximately 4,000 acres are established to Klein grass pasture. Excellent hunting, including elk. Classified Minerals. $650 per acre.

7,705 acres located in Pecos County, Texas – The terrain is gently sloping on portions of the ranch, transitioning to rugged limestone hills, divides and deep canyons. The property is well known for producing large whitetail and mule deer, with elk now common. Classified Minerals. $550 per acre.

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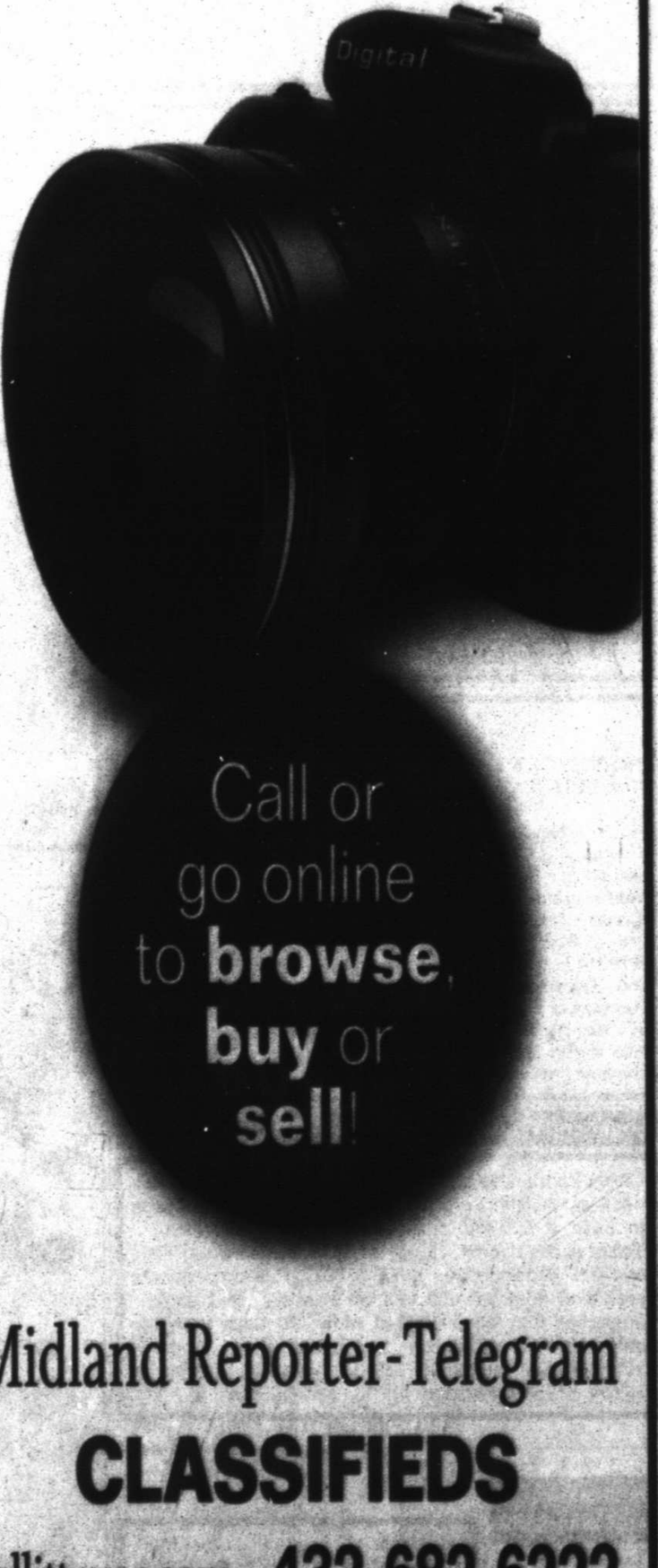

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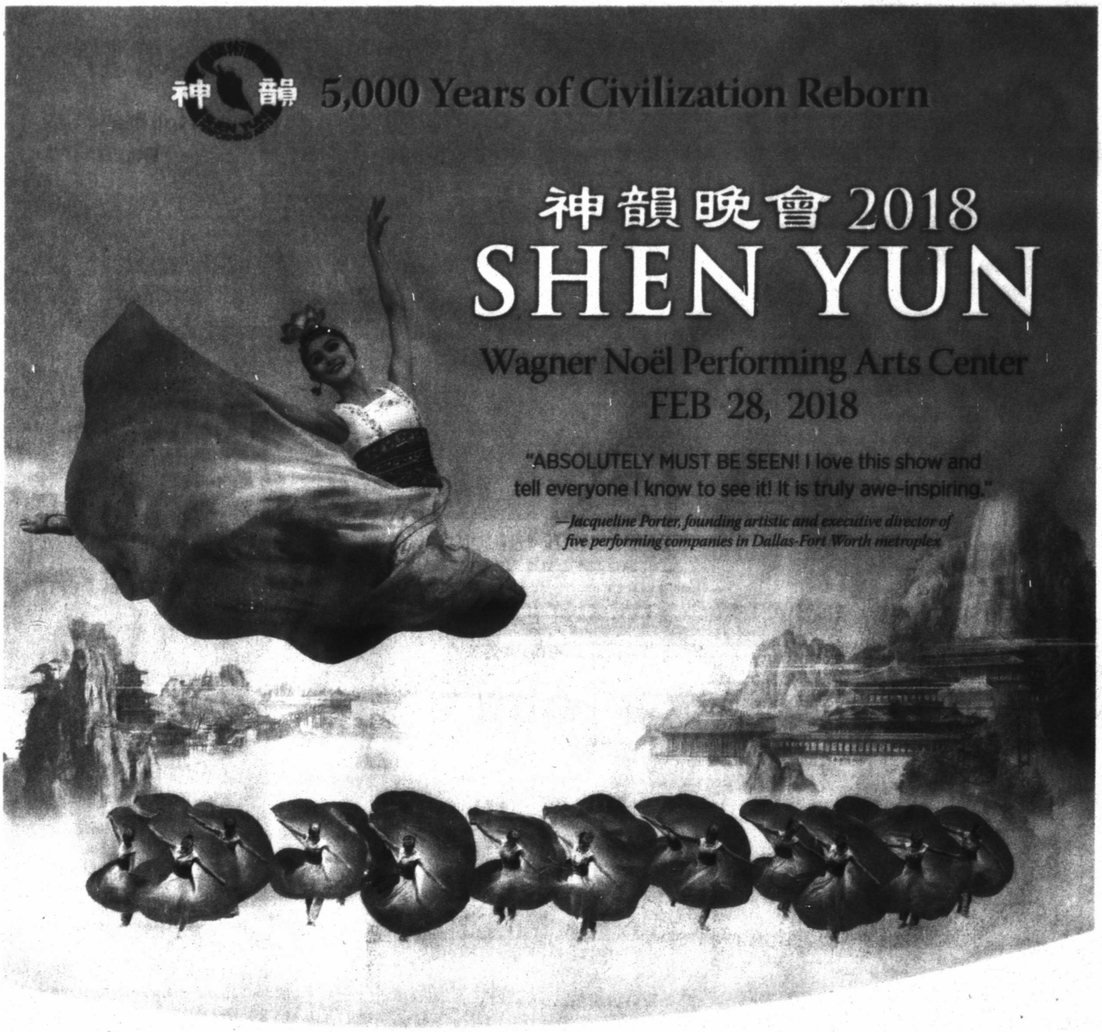

Pushing the Boundaries of Art

Shen Yun's unique artistic vision expands theatrical experience into a multi-dimensional, deeply moving journey through one of humanity's greatest treasures—the five millennia of traditional Chinese culture.

This epic production immerses you in stories reaching back to the most distant past. You'll explore realms even beyond our visible world. Featuring one of the world's oldest art forms—classical Chinese dance—along with patented scenographical effects and all-original orchestral works, Shen Yun opens a portal to a glorious civilization of unrivaled beauty, artistry, and inspiration.

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Shen Yun Performing Arts is a nonprofit organization based in New York. Its mission is to revive 5,000 years of traditional Chinese culture, which under decades of communist suppression was left deeply scarred and impoverished. Shen Yun cannot perform in China today.

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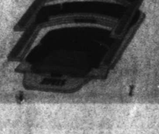

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