MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2018 mrt★com *320,000 readers in print and online*

CONSTABLE CHARGED

Investigation reveals constable 'intentionally' damaged vehicle

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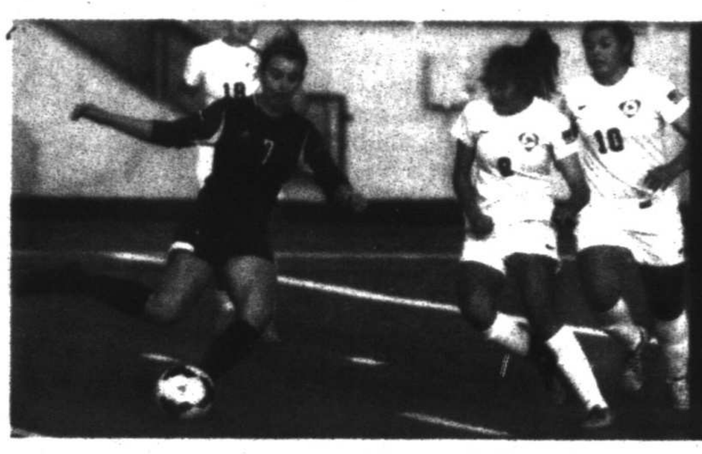

SOCCER PREVIEW

Previews for high school boys' and girls' upcoming season.

Page 1C

Oil industry seems to be getting back to normal

By Chris Tomlinson
Houston Chronicle

■ COMMENTARY

Oil inventories are dropping, federal regulations are dissipating, and OPEC members are committed to limiting production.

The year ahead holds immense promise for oil companies.

Oil field services are getting expensive, labor is in short supply, and higher prices could limit demand growth. Exploration and production companies will struggle to compete in 2018.

The energy business is finally getting back to normal.

After 3 1/2 years, the oil glut produced by horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing in the United States is shrinking. Inventory at the Cushing, Oklahoma, trading hub fell to 51.4 million barrels, the lowest level since March 2015, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Shrinking inventories have triggered higher prices. In June 2017, the price for West Texas Intermediate crude was $42.53 a barrel, but this year begins about $60.

Most analysts predict WTI will average $55 a barrel in 2018, a price high enough for the best wells to make money, but low enough to keep producers from drilling second-tier wells. Prices are nowhere near June 2014's $107, but are far better than the $26 barrel of February 2016.

President Donald Trump's administration, meanwhile, is promoting U.S. "energy dominance" by slashing regulations.

The Bureau of Land Management on Thursday repealed its rules for hydraulic fractured wells on federal land, leaving only state regulations in place. The federal Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, responsible for offshore wells, is rolling back safety regulations put in place following the 2010 Deepwater Horizon accident in the Gulf of Mexico.

"It's time for a paradigm shift in the way we regulate," said Scott Angelle, the director of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement.

While these changes should boost U.S. oil profit margins, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries holds the real key to keeping prices high. And its 14 members along with Russia appear

Please see **NORMAL**/5A

More inside

New Mexico moves up in oil and gas rankings.

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BRIDGE WORK TO BEGIN

James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Southbound traffic on Loop 250 near the intersection of Interstate 20 backs up during rush hour June 1, 2017, as viewed from the third floor of the Suburban Extended Stay Hotel on Antelope Trail.

Work on damaged bridge finally set to begin

From staff reports

Work on the bridge at West Loop 250 and Interstate 20 will begin this week.

The Texas Department of Transportation reported Wednesday that southbound Loop 250 (at I-20) will be closed during the day Friday. One lane will be re-opened Friday night and will remain open.

Next week, the crossover at the West Loop 250 location will be completed and concrete traffic barriers will be placed on I-20, according to TxDOT. Traffic will be switched to the westbound lanes while the eastbound lanes will be used to make repairs to the overpass. The project should take about 10 weeks. This lane configuration will be in place day and night, according to TxDOT.

The bridge was damaged when it was hit on Nov. 12, 2015, according to a June Reporter-Telegram article. TxDOT finally got the money to repair the Loop 250 overpass and another overpass in Odessa, which also had a bridge strike.

Damage to the Loop 250 overpass was caused by an oversized load. A tractor-trailer's load — a large, empty tank — struck the overpass, causing significant damage. The tractor-trailer was traveling eastbound, according to the article.

TxDOT officials said in June that there have been close to 100 bridge hits in the past six years.

To avoid hitting bridges, TxDOT suggested getting a permit for oversized loads. Call 800-299-1700 or go online to txpros.txdmv.gov to do so. Permits are a function of the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, not TxDOT.

Midlander to challenge Conaway for GOP nomination

By Stewart Doreen
Sdoreen@mrt.com

A Midlander has stepped up to run against current leadership in Congress.

Myers

Republican Paul Myers is seeking his party's nomination for Texas' District 11 seat to the House of Representatives, and he's calling for change on issues including tax and spending reform, health care reform, term limits, veterans affairs and immigration.

Myers said in a release sent to the Reporter-Telegram that he seeks to "restore the power of true representational government to the hands to the people."

He wants a congressman who "has the principles" to stand for the people in District 11, which includes Midland, Odessa, San Angelo, 29 total counties and stretches into Central Texas and areas closer to Interstate 35.

"I want a congressman that has the principles and fortitude to stand for the people of this district … a congressman that works to empower liberty and enrich the lives of his constituents," said Myers, who has lived in Midland since 2007.

He runs the West Texas branch of a drill stem testing company that his grandfather started in Abilene. The seventh-generation Texan is calling for a balanced federal budget and an end to government involvement that he said has played a part in raising the costs of health care and health insurance.

"Obamacare and repeal and replace are just two sides of the same coin," Myers said. "As your congressman, I will do everything in my power to repeal Obamacare and see it replaced by the same open-market capitalism that once made house calls affordable."

Myers calls himself a "staunch advocate" of term limits and said the time has come for Washington to fix the immigration system.

He is critical of the time that it took for improvements to be implemented since the Department of Veterans Affairs health care scandal broke.

"Too little, too late is not good enough for the men and women who have dedicated their lives to military service or the countless families that have found

Please see **MYERS**/4A

MCSO reports 15 DWI arrests during New Year's holiday

From staff reports

There were 31 arrests related to driving while intoxicated, public intoxication and driving under the influence with a minor in the vehicle that took place in Midland County during the New Year's Day weekend, according to the Midland County Sheriff's Office.

The arrests took place from Dec. 29 through Jan. 1. There were 15 DWIs and 15 arrests for public intoxication. The most arrests for DWI on any one day took place on Dec. 29 and 30 (five). The most arrests for public intoxication happened on Dec. 31 (seven). On Dec. 30 through Jan. 1, there were eight combined arrests each day, according to records from the sheriff's office.

Locations of the arrests included:

300 block of McDonald Street;

Loop 250 and Thomason Drive;

5400 block of Grasslands Boulevard;

5200 block of Cholla Road;

100 block of North Brentwood;

South Loop 250 (around mile marker 281);

State Highway 158 (around mile marker 295);

3300 block of West North Loop 250;

1900 block of North Midland Drive;

3500 block of South County Road 1230.

Visit us on social media

Price of oil

$61.63 ▲ $1.26

January 2018

The big number

3 The year-old girl who was found in a culvert died from "homicidal violence," according to autopsy findings. Page 4A

Word of the Day: dexterous

Do you know what it means? Find out the definition on Page 4A.

Brought to you daily by JuanBurrito

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Daily $2, Sunday $3

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Obituaries

Adelaida Blanco Mendoza

Adelaida Blanco Mendoza, 68, of Midland, passed away on Sunday, December 31, 2017.

Funeral Mass will be held on Thursday, January 4, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe. Burial will follow at Resthaven Cemetery.

Floral arrangements may be sent to Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home in Midland.

Adelaida was born on April 27, 1949 to Carlota and Pablo Blanco in Ft. Stockton, Texas. She was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother.

Adelaida is survived by her husband, Ricardo O. Mendoza; sons, Raymond and Richard T. Mendoza and wife, Verna; grandsons, Avery Mendoza, Ricardo M. Mendoza and wife, Erica; granddaughters, Missy Mendoza and Victoria Mendoza; brothers, Paul Blanco and William Blanco; sisters, Empidia Gomez and husband, Ben; Catherine Gonzales and husband, Efrian and Eliria Blanco; and great-grandchildren, Alexavier Mendoza, Adam Mendoza, and Alyson Mendoza.

She is preceded in death by her parents.

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

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

Christine M. Church

Christine M. Church, 89, of Stanton, Texas, passed away on Monday, January 1, 2018 in Odessa.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, January 4, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home in Midland.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, January 5, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Chapel in Midland. Burial will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park in Midland.

Christine was born on October 21, 1928 to Ethel Nora and Fred E. Alexander in O'Donnell, Texas. She graduated from Stanton High School in 1947. She married her beloved Douglas Texas Church on July 20, 1947. Christine was a homemaker, serving her family and her church as wife of a pastor and farmer, mother of three, and nursemaid to many family members. She and Doug ministered to many youth at Camp Ziyoca youth camps and hosted exchange students Alberto Rueda and Thea Verhoef in their home. Christine, known as Mama Chris, famous for her signature brownies made with her home-grown pecans, loved family, cooking, and music.

She is survived by sons, Stephen Douglas Church and Scott David Church and wife Stazie of Stanton; daughter, Stacy Michelle (Shelly) Baird and husband Wes of Odessa; grandchildren, Jennifer Greer and husband Greg, Jeremy Church and wife Kourtney, Michael, Skyler and Kirsten Church, Aubrea Marquez and husband Joseph, and Ashlea Zugg; great-grandchildren, Briley, Jolie, Alex, Bradley, Callie, and Layla, along with several nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Douglas Church; her parents, Ethel and Fred Alexander; and her brothers, Tommie, Aaron and Curtis Alexander.

Many of the family stayed with Christine allowing her to remain in her home as long as possible. We would like to express special thanks to her many caregivers and Courtyard Assisted Living Memory Care, where she resided for the past year. She was especially blessed by a weekly dose of cheer from Jen, Briley, and Jolie.

Christine touched the lives of many and will be dearly missed.

Flowers will be received at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home in Midland, or memorials may be donated to Stanton Community of Christ Church, or a charity of your choice.

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

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(432) 550-5800

Cynthia Ann Gomez

Cynthia Ann Gomez, 47, passed away on Saturday, December 30, 2017 with her family by her side in Cedar Park, Texas.

She was born on January 24, 1970 to Reverend Jesus Angel (Jesse) Gomez and AnnaBelle (Gonzales) Gomez in Del Rio, Texas. In the fall of 1991, Cynthia attended Midwestern State University as a Mass Communications major. She was a member of the International Students Association. In the spring of 1992, she was in a serious car accident. Although she suffered a traumatic brain injury, Cynthia persevered and maintained a strong faith in God.

Cynthia was an outgoing, loving person. She was a crafty person who loved making flower arrangements, beaded jewelry, and key chains. She also enjoyed music and attending outdoor concerts.

She is survived by her mother; brothers, Angelo B. Gomez, Fabian T. Gomez, Mark I. Gomez, and Frankie H. Gomez; sister, Yvonne J. Bejil; nieces, Hannah L. Gomez and Mia S. Bejil; and nephews, Dru T. Gomez, Nathan H. Bejil, Jesse M. Gomez, and Ivan O. Gomez.

She is preceded in death by her father; paternal grandparents, Francisco and Anita Gomez; and maternal grandparents, Hiram and Dora Gonzales.

We would like to send a special thank you to Silverado Memory Care and Hospice Care in Cedar Park, Texas for having such a caring and loving staff.

There will be a visitation at Ellis Funeral Home on Friday, January 5, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

A funeral service will be held at First United Methodist Church at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 6, 2018. Burial will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park.

The family invites everyone to a reception at First Presbyterian Church from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. with a meal catered by Teen Challenge/Adult Centers of Texas.

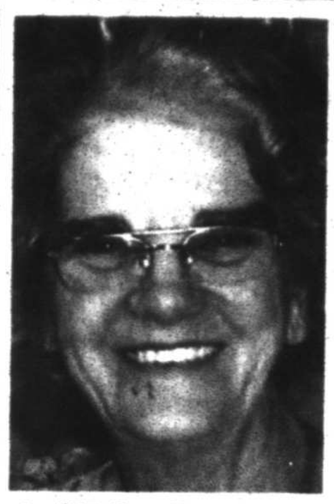
Pallbearers will be Fabian T. Gomez, Mark I. Gomez, Frankie H. Gomez, Dru T. Gomez, Nathan H. Bejil, and Randy Sosa.

The honorary pallbearer will be Angelo Gomez.

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

Ellis Funeral Home
Funerals & Cremations
Dignity 801 Andrews Hwy. (432) 683-5555

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



Jo Katherine Randolph Elliott Ford

Jo Katherine Randolph Elliott Ford went to our Lord and Savior after putting up a good fight to Alzheimers and Dementia.

She was born on July 25, 1939 to Sybil and Henry Randolph. She was the creative energy of the family; she was always ready for an adventure, making sure everyone participated and had fun. There was no sitting around for her (or you) because there was always something that needed to be painted, planted, cooked, or discovered. She was an awesome cook that always had room at her table and you never left hungry or empty handed.

She was a renowned artist throughout her life just like her mother and sister. She was proud to be the middle sibling of "The Fabulous Five" as they liked to call themselves. She literally brought JOY to everyone in her presence; even the girls at Courtyard called her their favorite.

She was preceded in death by her son, Jimbo Elliott; her mother and father; her first husband Clay Elliott; her brother, Troy Randolph; her step-daughter, Elan O'Neal; and late husband, Howard (Rocky) Ford.

She is survived by her son, Eddy Elliott (Tina); daughter, Lisa Elliott Gillian (Mike); step-son, Joel Ford (Monica); her grandchildren, Laci Wylie (Chris), Kristi Elliott, Chad Elliott, Dustin Gillian (Megan), and Whitney Hill (Aubrey); step-grandchildren, Greg, Jeff, Jorja, Justin, and Hollyn; and by 19 great-grandchildren.

Viewing is at Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home from 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. on Thursday January 4, 2018 and a service to celebrate her life will be held at Solid Rock Fellowship Out West Church, 4601 W. Interstate 20 (South Serv. Rd) at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, January 5, 2018.

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

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

Lewallen
Garcia
Pipkin
Funeral Home
2200 N. Big Spring - Midland, TX - (432) 682-3700

Kenneth (Kenny) Lewis Choate

Kenneth (Kenny) Lewis Choate was born on February 7, 1956 in Graham, Texas. He was the son of Kathryn Irene Choate and Lewis W. Choate. He grew up and attended school in Newcastle, Texas. He worked in the Newcastle/Graham area before moving to Midland, Texas almost 25 years ago.

Living in the Midland area, Kenny worked for Teen Challenge and Lucio's Janitorial until shortly before he passed away on December 9, 2017. While employed with Lucio's, he worked in the Fasken Building where numerous tenants appreciated him.

The Choate family wishes to acknowledge the emotional and financial support provided by the Fasken tenant and Lucio's Janitorial Service. We would also like to thank his caregiver Ericka Hernandez, the staff at Hogan Park Nursing, and Hospice of Midland for all the care they provided for Kenny.

He is survived by an older brother, W. Mike Choate of Eugene, Oregon, and younger brother Wilbert Lee Choate of Graham, Texas.

Kenny was a kind and gentle Christian man. He will be missed by all who knew him.

A memorial service will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 6, 2018 at the Ellis Funeral Home Chapel in Midland, Texas.

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

Ellis Funeral Home
Funerals & Cremations
Dignity 801 Andrews Hwy. (432) 683-5555

Loie Edward Badgett

Loie Edward "Pop" Badgett, 77 of Andrews, passed away on Sunday, December 31, 2017 surrounded by his family in Midland.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, January 4, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. at Alamo Heights Baptist Church in Midland.

Loie was born on January 30, 1940 to Averill and Hester Badgett in Stanton, Texas. Loie was a good 'ole country boy with a kind soul, who never met a stranger. He grew up in Martin County and was a true Stanton Buffalo. He played football and basketball and was a great athlete. Loie owned and operated his own business for the last 35+ years, Badgett Construction and Maintenance, where he took great pride in his work. His pride and joy was his tractors, and oh how he loved operating his tractors. Loie worked for Chevron Pipeline for 11 years and retired. Working to live was his choice of fulfillment.

Loie has been a member at Alamo Heights Baptist Church for many years. Loie loved old western movies and watched them over and over again. He was a big John Wayne fan and had a Will Rogers personality. Loie loved playing dominoes, fly fishing, and just spending time with family and friends. We always knew if he called us by our full name, we were in "BIG" trouble. He would bang on our doors and say, "Are you up getting ready for church?" He was a wonderful dad, pop, husband, and friend.

He is survived by his wife, Virginia Nall Badgett of Andrews; daughters, Tami Yonts and Clint of Midland and Kelli Wink and Kevin of Pecos; son, Keith Badgett and Cindi of Andrews; eight grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; brothers, Billy Ray Badgett and wife Doris, and Sammy Jo Badgett and wife Carol; brother-in-law, Royče Hamilton; sister-in-law, LaRue Yates; and by four stepsons, Carroll Nall, Jr. and Becky, James Nall and Sharilyn, Douglas Nall and Donna, and Ralph Nall and Marla.

He is preceded in death by dad, Olen Hester Badgett; mom, Averill Lois Badgett; sister, Latricia Hamilton; and former wife, LouAnn Adkins Badgett. .

Pallbearers will be Chris Yonts, Trevor Badgett, and Josh Hastings.

Honorary pallbearers will be Chris Hays, Andrew Peterson, Casen Yonts, Rowdy Hays, Maddux Hastings, Jaye Yonts, and Jeremiah Yonts.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials be donated to Christmas in Action or your favorite charity.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Midland.

Online condolences can be made at *www.npwelch.com*.

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

Mary Alice Glossop

Mary Alice Glossop passed peacefully into the arms of her Savior on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at the age of 87. She was born on November 20, 1930 in Osage County, Oklahoma to Alva and Alice Wagnon.

Mary Alice graduated from high school at the age of 16 and then from Oklahoma A&M in Stillwater, Oklahoma with a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics at the age of 19. She graduated in 1950 from Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas with a Master's degree in Education.

After graduating, she taught math for many years, including at Cowden Junior High School and Midland High School, and worked in the oil and gas industry. Teaching was a lifelong passion. She never missed an opportunity to teach somebody something new.

Mary Alice married the love of her life, Robert L. "Bob" Glossop, on August 5, 1957 in Pittsfield, Illinois. They enjoyed a blessed and wonderful life for 50 years until his passing in 2007.

Mary Alice was a member of Trinity Presbyterian Church. She was an amazing mother that lived life for her family. Her smile could light up any room and her laugh was infectious. She loved helping others and was an active philanthropist. She was loved by all who knew her and will be deeply missed.

Mary Alice is survived by her son, Robert L. Glossop, Jr. of Lubbock and her daughter, Angela G. Glossop and fiance' Ronnie Parker of Midland. She was "Granny and Grandma" to Robert L. Glossop III (Bobby) of Lubbock, Brandon H. Glossop of Lubbock, Jason P. Nash and wife Olivia of Ft. Worth, and a special friend and caregiver, Maryellen Gonzales of Midland.

Funeral services will be on Friday, January 5, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. at Ellis Funeral Home Chapel, officiated by Russ Hale. Interment will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park with a graveside service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be given to Hospice of Midland or any other charity of your choice.

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

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Catherine Elizabeth Reese Woods

Catherine Elizabeth Reese Woods of Roswell, New Mexico and formerly of Big Spring, Texas, returned to her heavenly home on December 31, 2017 after sharing 95 years with us.

Known to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren as "Granny," they describe her as having a good sense of humor, hardworking, strong, generous, witty, loving, charming, and honest as the day is long! She was "the glue" of the entire family, including her brother, sisters, nieces, and nephews.

Catherine was born to the late Walter Mike Reese and Allie Virginia Andrews Reese in Colorado City, Texas on May 25, 1922. She attended and graduated from public schools in Colorado City. She married John Harrison Woods on March 20, 1942 in Big Spring and they left for Oakland, California where Harrison worked in the shipyards in the Army during World War II. Nine months later, their first daughter, Brenda Joyce Woods,was born on December 26, 1942.

They returned to Knott, Texas where Catherine was a wonderful homemaker and cook. She helped Harrison farm cotton on their farm in Knott and Martin County. On October 9, 1950, their second daughter, Paula Kay Woods, was born. Catherine was very involved in the community and both of her daughter's school activities, serving many years as room mother, helping with fundraisers, and supporting athletics. When they moved to Big Spring in 1968, she worked at Hemphill-Wells Department Store while continuing to support Harrison on the farm.

After being diagnosed with breast cancer in 1996, Catherine moved to Roswell to be closer to her daughter, Paula. She fought and beat cancer and lived alone until she was 90 years old at which time she moved in with her daughter and family.

Catherine was a faithful member of Knott Church of Christ, then 14th and Main St Church of Christ in Big Spring. In Roswell, she attended Country Club Church of Christ.

Catherine joins her father, Walter Mike Reese (1897-1978); mother, Allie Virginia Reese (1900-1977); husband John Harrison Woods (December 27, 1920-June 24, 1988), brother, Jordan "Buddy" David Reese (August 20, 1924-January 4, 2006), son-in-law, Eugene Coleman (February 5, 1944-June 24, 2012), sister, Aleene "Ene" Reese Holloway (September 23, 1920-January 16, 2017); and sister, Kathryn Jane Reese Perry (December 17, 1927-June 5, 2017).

Catherine leaves a legacy and her life will be cherished forever in the lives of her two daughters, Brenda Joyce Woods Coleman of Houston, Texas and Paula Kay Woods Baker and husband Bobby Wayne Baker of Roswell; seven grandchildren, Heather Coleman Bothe and husband Bo Bothe of Houston, Anthony Blaine Coleman and wife, Tammy Brooks Coleman of Midland, Texas, Craig Miles Coleman of San Marcos, Texas, Michelle Baker Robinson and husband, Ben Robinson of Parker, Colorado, Charles Christopher "Chris" Crownover and wife, Amy Crownover of Midland, Allen Wayne Baker and Amanda Renee Baker of Syracuse, Utah, and Amber Shea Baker of Roswell; and 22 great-grandchildren, Hadlea Elizabeth Bothe, Harrison Edward Bothe, Hannah Isabella Bothe, Hollyn Rose Bothe, Skye Marie Coleman, Ryan Tyler Brooks, Jaycee Renee Brooks, Troy Austin Brooks, Cash Edward Coleman, Callie Elizabeth Coleman, Rachel Alexis Robinson, Kai Alexander Robinson, Ty Harrison Crownover, Cole Ray Crownover, Chace McAllen Baker, Beau McLain Baker, Logan Theodore Baker, Brody James Baker, Charlotte Rose Baker, Destanie Hope Baker, Robert Damian Baker, and Kamryn Saige Baker.

Visitation will be held Thursday, January 4, 2017 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Nalley Pickle Welch Funeral Home in Big Spring, TX.

Funeral services will be held Friday, January 5, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. at the Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park in Big Spring, TX.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Christian Children's Home, 1356 NM HWY 236, Portales, NM 88130 or to the Wounded Warrior Project, *https://support.woundedwarriorproject.org*.

Robert "Bubba" Dean Warren

Robert "Bubba" Dean Warren, 63, of Missouri City, passed away Tuesday, Janu-

Obituaries

ary 2, 2018.

The funeral service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, January 5, 2018 at Burleson Church of Christ.

Visitation will be from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 4, 2018 at Mountain Valley Funeral Home. Interment will be in Burleson Memorial Park.

Bubba was born November 1, 1954 in Post to Mack and Vinita (Luttrell) Warren. He loved college football and was a fanatic OU fan. Bubba loved to take his wife on cruises. Everything Bubba did was done with much passion and integrity. His legacy lives on forever in the hearts of everyone he touched. Generosity was a character trait; he never had to think about sharing or giving. He loved his family more than anything in this world. He learned to text and facetime just to communicate with kids and grandkids; this was big because he hated this technology. He was a good man. He left us with great memories.

Survivors include his wife, Lela Warren of Missouri City; daughter, Erika Baker and husband, Jason of Midland; sons, Shannon Warren of Allen and Tim Warren and wife Devon of Burleson; grandchildren, Ryan Warren, Logan Warren, Blake Warren, Bryce Warren, Hailey Baker, and Zachary Baker; mother, Vinita Warren of Hermleigh; siblings, Joyce Lionberger and husband, Jim of Hermleigh, Connie McClarney and husband, Lance of Katy; Stan Warren and wife, Terri of Georgetown; and Tracy Dickerhoff and husband, Paul of Snyder; sister-in-law, Sheila Vineyard and husband, Tommy of Missouri City; and numerous nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends.

Shirley Potts Hansen

Shirley Potts Hansen, 80, of Midland, Texas, passed away on January 2, 2018.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at the Ellis Funeral Home Chapel on Friday, January 5, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

Shirley was the seventh child of 10 children and was born on the family farm in Hamlin, Texas on April 7, 1937 to Vada Hewett Potts and James Potts. She married John F. Hansen on March 20, 1977. They were married for 22 years at the time of his death in 1999.

Shirley developed her work ethic growing up on the farm. She recounted her days picking cotton, feeding the chickens, slopping the hogs, and pitching in with family chores. Even as an adult, she was never idle and always found something to keep her busy.

During her working career, she worked for Union Oil of California and Buckeye, Inc. She was a member of St. Ann's Catholic Church. After retiring, she was actively involved in many community organizations over the years. She was an M-Squad Ambassador with the Midland Chamber of Commerce, a Pink Lady at the Midland Memorial Hospital Volunteer Auxiliary Department, Midland County Republican Women's Association member, and she volunteered with the Midland Rape Crisis Center and Children's Advocacy Center with her therapy dog, Puddin'.

Shirley was a devoted mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She could frequently be found in the kitchen cooking for her family. Shirley dreamed of winning the lottery so that she could build a sanctuary for homeless animals. She wanted to find every dog and cat their own loving home. She enjoyed her trips to Las Vegas and took them as often as she could. She loved Merle Haggard, Miller Light, and Kent Kwik Cokes.

Shirley is preceded in death by her husband, John; parents, Vada and James Potts; and siblings, Dorrace McCarty, Prentice Potts, Marjorie Neves, Berl Potts, Dwayne Potts, and Donnie Potts.

Her beautiful life will forever be cherished in the lives of her children, Lori VanHoozer and husband Stan of Midland, Jay Workman and wife Beth of The Woodlands, and Jim Hansen and wife Dixie of Lubbock; grandchildren, Kendra Carreon and husband Jonathan of Round Rock, Courtney Kuykendall and husband Bryan of Midland, Sarah Ascher and husband Jake of Rhome, Mary Katherine Workman of The Woodlands, Matthew Hansen of Corpus Christi, and Elizabeth Hansen of Lubbock; great-grandchildren, Camryn Kuykendall, Jackson and Austin Carreon, and Kira Ascher; siblings, Audie Merle White of Angleton, Earnest "Mickey" Potts of San Antonio, and Larry Potts of Colorado Springs, Colorado; her faithful furry companions, Molly and Lucy; and a host of devoted nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

The family wishes to thank Dr. Phillip Chae and his staff at Texas Oncology and Home Hospice for their compassion and care of our Mother and Granny.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials be directed to Christmas in Action, Home Hospice of Midland, or a local no-kill shelter.

Condolences may be offered at *www.ellisfunerals.com*.

Ellis Funeral Home
Funerals & Cremations
Dignity 801 Andrews Hwy. (432) 683-5535

Death Notices

Aimee Lee Cantu

Aimee Cantu, 33, of Stanton, Texas, passed away December 30, 2017.

A memorial service will be held at a later time.

He is survived by her husband, Adam Cantu.

Elbert Griffin Babb, Jr.

Elbert Griffin Babb, Jr. passed away on Sunday, December 31, 2017.

Funeral services are pending with Sunset Memorial Funeral Home in Odessa.

Felicia S. Tryon

Felicia S. Tryon, 47, of Midland, passed away December 28, 2017.

Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 6, 2018 at Avalos-Sanchez & Thomas Funeral Home Chapel.

Visitation will be 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Friday, January 5, 2018 at Avalos-Sanchez & Thomas Funeral Home Chapel in Midland.

She is survived by her husband, Jesse Tryon; children, Deramicka Merchant, Philip Merchant, and Chris "Skeet" Oliver; and by two sisters and three brothers.

John R. Gentry

John R. Gentry, 71, of Midland, passed away on December 29, 2017.

There will be a family memorial service at the family home in Russellville, Arkansas.

Nolan G. Henry

Nolan G. Henry passed away on December 19, 2017.

He is survived by his three children, Michael Augustus Henry, Rebecca Henry Stephens, and James Raymond Henry.

Memorial service will be held on Friday, January 5, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. at the Avalos-Sanchez & Thomas Funeral Home Chapel, 1502 N. Lamesa Road in Midland.

A graveside service will be held on January 6, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. in Mason, Texas at the Gooch Cemetery.

Rayos Aguirre Navarrete

Rayos Aguirre Navarrete, 51, of Midland, passed away December 25, 2017.

Funeral services were held in his hometown of Pueblito de Allende, Chihuahua.

He is survived by his wife, Estella Gutierrez Navarrete; and by three sisters and two brothers.

Ronald Burlie Thomas

Ronald Burlie Thomas, 72, of Midland, passed away on December 31, 2017.

Private services will be held at a later time.

He is survived by his children, Rhonda Scott, Michael Thomas, and Kara Bryant.

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

A baby born today has a Sun in Capricorn and a Moon in Leo.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for **Thursday, Jan. 4, 2018:**

This year you open up to many changes that involve your personal life. You often can be found negotiating for more of what you want from others. The assets of a partnership might be particularly significant. If you are single, you could meet someone through a friend, which would open many doors for you. This bond is likely to involve a deep friendship as well as a romantic relationship. If you are attached, you grow closer together because of your ability to realize a mutual long-term goal. LEO often goes out of his or her way for you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Tap into your imagination to find a solution. You seem more upbeat than you have been in a while. Recognize what is going on here, and embrace the opportunity that has presented itself. You could be considering pulling away from the majority of people. **Tonight:** Let it all hang out.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Your frustration becomes apparent when dealing with others. You have many inquiries heading your way, as friends and loved ones want your feedback. Consider your alternatives more carefully. News comes forward that is worth listening to. **Tonight:** Happily head home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You have a lot to share, and you want to keep communication open. Try to work through a problem by expressing yourself more clearly. You could be in a situation where you want to come to an understanding. Listen to feedback. **Tonight:** Understand what is happening.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ You have a tendency to overindulge. A money idea is likely to emerge from out of nowhere. You could find this concept to be quite eye-opening and life-changing. You probably won't be able to find a downside to following through on it. **Tonight:** Speak your mind.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ You might want to try a new approach and be clearer about your expectations. A family member does more than his or her fair share to support you. You could be quite touched by this person's words and actions. Be sure to express your gratitude. **Tonight:** Ask for what you want.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ A friend makes it clear just how highly he or she thinks of you, and the two of you become closer as a result. One-on-one relating continues to hold all kinds of surprises. Once you take a deep breath, you probably will like what you are hearing. **Tonight:** Get some extra R and R.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You need to get past an immediate problem, and the faster you can do this, the better. You might want to try a different approach from what you have attempted in the past. Friends surround you, but perhaps you feel flooded by too many ideas. **Tonight:** Ever playful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You are likely to make an excellent presentation. Others envy how positive your attitude is, especially if they are close to you. You seem to be able to land on your feet no matter what goes on. Share your contagious and upbeat attitude. **Tonight:** Be more available to a friend.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You seem more positive than you have been in a while. Be more direct in your dealings. Express your bottom line in a way that makes a difference and can be heard by a child or loved one. Your instincts help you through any confusion. **Tonight:** The only answer is "yes."

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Dig deep into your imagination and share your ideas with a loved one. You will see positive results if you brainstorm with a buddy. Optimism is the best way to get past a problem effectively and quickly. Know what you want and need from a situation. **Tonight:** All smiles.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Year sunny personality responds well to a friend's warmth and goodwill. You know what you need to do, but you might not be sure how far you want to extend yourself. Your funny and lighthearted ways elicit a smile from others, especially a key person. **Tonight:** Make it easy.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ You have your ways of getting what you want. Maintain a positive approach when dealing with a loved one. You might hear some unexpected news that could toss your finances into chaos. Know that you have the wherewithal to achieve your desires. **Tonight:** Pace yourself.

BORN TODAY
Mathematician Isaac Newton (1643), chef Graham Elliot (1977), soccer player Toni Kroos (1990)

TODAYINMIDLAND

Cold weather

Lows were in the teens over the past four days. The average low for this time of year is 30 degrees.

Dec. 31: .....19 degrees
Jan. 1: .....11 degrees
Jan. 2: .....15 degrees
Jan. 3: .....15 degrees

Source: National Weather Service

Things to do

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

■ Storytime at the Library, 10:30 a.m. (birth-2 years), 11:30 a.m. (2-6 years), Midland County Public Library downtown branch, 301 W. Missouri Ave. co.midland.tx.us/lib.

■ Bingo Nights, 4 p.m., American Legion, 501 Veterans Airpark Lane. 682-5511.

■ Bridge game play, 6:45 p.m., Allison Bridge Center, 913 W. Wadley Ave. $6. For more information call 682-8595.

■ "Disney Live! Mickey and Minnie's Doorway to Magic," 1, 4, 7 p.m., Wagner Noel performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $23-$53. wagnernoel.com.

■ Chet Johnson Band, 8 p.m., Rockin' Rodeo, 4400 N. Big Spring St. rockinrodeo-midland.com.

■ Sandhills Stock and Rodeo Show at Ector County Coliseum, 4201 Andrews Highway, Odessa. $16-$20. sandhillsstockshow.com.

Mrt.com report

December page views: 2.094 million
Unique visitors: 221,877
Facebook friends: 54,937

Geophysical Survey has started

Dawson Geophysical is conducting a geo-physical survey this month throughout east Midland.

Employees will be placing seismic-recording devices along streets and alleys, according to a press release from the city. The equipment consists of a small yellow box with a string of wires, along with a white box. Before placement of the equipment in a particular area, residents should expect to receive a flyer notification, which includes a picture of the equipment. The survey will cover areas of the city east of Midkiff Road, and extending into Martin County. Dawson Geophysical applied for and was granted a permit to place the seismic-recording boxes on public streets and city property.

Any questions or concerns may be directed to Robert Elmore or Will Elmore, with Dawson Geophysical, at 458-3473.

Today in history

Today is Thursday, Jan. 4, the fourth day of 2018. There are 361 days left in the year.

On this date:

In 1717, France, Britain and Holland formed a Triple Alliance against Spain.

In 1896, Utah was admitted as the 45th state.

In 1904, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Gonzalez v. Williams, ruled that Puerto Ricans were not aliens and could enter the United States freely; however, the court stopped short of declaring them citizens. (Puerto Ricans received U.S. citizenship in March 1917.)

In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in his State of the Union address, called for legislation to provide assistance for the jobless, elderly, impoverished children and the handicapped.

In 1943, for the second time, Soviet dictator Josef Stalin made the cover of TIME as the magazine's 1942 "Man of the Year."

In 1951, during the Korean War, North Korean and Communist Chinese forces recaptured the city of Seoul (sohl).

In 1960, author and philosopher Albert Camus (al-BEHR' kah-MOO') died in an automobile accident in Villeblevin, France, at age 46.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson delivered his State of the Union address in which he outlined the goals of his "Great Society."

In 1967, "The Doors," the self-titled debut album of the rock group featuring the song "Light My Fire," was released by Elektra Records.

In 1974, President Richard Nixon refused to hand over tape recordings and documents subpoenaed by the Senate Watergate Committee.

In 1987, 16 people were killed when an Amtrak train bound from Washington, D.C., to Boston collided with Conrail locomotives that had crossed into its path from a side track in Chase, Maryland.

In 1995, the 104th Congress convened, the first entirely under Repubiican control since the Eisenhower era.

Ten years ago: The government reported that the nation's jobless rate hit 5 percent in December 2007, a two-year high, fanning recession fears. Britney Spears lost custody of her two sons to ex-husband Kevin Federline a day after police and paramedics were called to her home.

Five years ago: The new Congress passed a $9.7 billion bill to help pay flood insurance claims to homeowners, renters and businesses damaged by Superstorm Sandy. No. 10 Texas A&M beat No. 12 Oklahoma, 41-13, in the Cotton Bowl.

One year ago: President Barack Obama urged congressional Democrats to "look out for the American people" in defending his legacy health care overhaul, while Vice President-elect Mike Pence stood firm in telling Republicans that dismantling "Obamacare" was No. 1 on Donald Trump's list. Macy's said it was eliminating more than 10,000 jobs and planned to move forward with 68 store closures after a disappointing holiday shopping season.

Source: The Associated Press

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Lottery

Pick 3 morning: 7-0-2
Pick 3 day: 8-9-3
Pick 3 evening: 2-7-0
Pick 3 night: 5-0-8
Daily 4 morning: 6-4-0-9
Daily 4 day: 3-1-4-8
Daily 4 evening: 5-7-4-2
Daily 4 night: 1-1-6-2
Cash Five: 2-7-13-29-36
Triple Chance: 5-11-16-24-25-26-35-40-50-55
Lotto Texas: 6-8-21-33-34-47

Powerball: 2-18-37-39-42 BB: 12 Power Play: 3

All or Nothing morning: 1-3-5-7-11-14-16-17-20-22-23-24

All or Nothing day: 3-4-6-10-11-12-14-16-17-19-23-24

All or Nothing evening: 1-2-3-5-9-11-12-14-17-19-22-23

All or Nothing night: 2-3-5-7-9-12-14-15-17-19-21-24

Weather

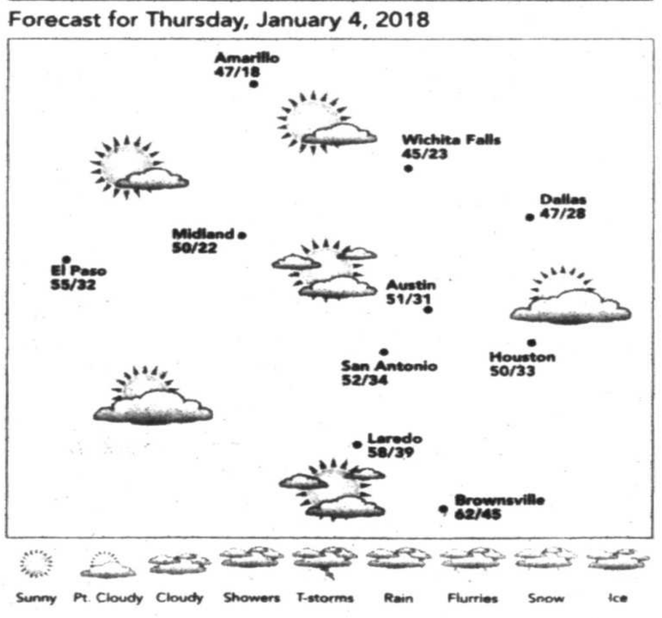
Wednesday's temperatures
High.....56
Low.....15
Normal high.....57
Normal low.....30

Jan. 3's records
Record high: 83, set in 2006
Record low: 15, set in 1983

Precipitation
Tuesday.....trace
Wednesday.....0.00 in.
Month total.....trace
Year total.....trace
Normal total (year to date).....0.03 in.

Winds
Average speed: 7.4 mph
Highest sustained speed: 14 mph
Highest gust speed: 18 mph

Forecast for Thursday, January 4, 2018



Today's forecast
High: 50
Low: 27
Conditions: Partly sunny during the day/partly cloudy at night
Winds: 5-10 mph during the day and night
Chance of rain: None
Sunrise.....7:50 a.m.
Sunset.....5:58 p.m.

Source: National Weather Service

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WORD OF THE DAY
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Dexterous
[dek-struh s, -ster-uh s]
adjective
1. skillful or adroit in the use of the hands or body.

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SUV wreck update

Mercedes Cordero/Reporter-Telegram

The one-vehicle wreck that occurred Tuesday night in the 5200 block of Storey Avenue was believed to be attributable to medical reasons, according to a press release from the city's spokeswoman. Officers believe the driver of the Mazda SUV was eastbound on Tradewinds Boulevard, turned on to Thomason Drive and proceeded to turn north on to the east service road of Loop 250. From the service road the vehicle began traveling north through an empty field and then struck a dumpster, which acted as a vault, propelling the vehicle over a fence and on to a shed, according to the release. The driver was transported to Midland Memorial Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. Charges will not be filed, according to the release.

Man charged with aggravated assault

From staff reports

A Midland man was arrested Saturday after allegedly assaulting a male, according to court documents.

Ral Hlei, 25, was being held Wednesday on a $75,000 bond for a second-degree felony charge of aggravated assault causes serious bodily injury.

Midland police were dispatched to a residence at about 1:15 a.m. Saturday in reference to a disturbance.

Hlei was arguing with a man and pushed him twice, according to his arrest affidavit. Hlei allegedly later picked up a rock and hit the man in the head with it several times. The man had severe bruising and lacerations on his face that were determined to be non-life threatening, according to the affidavit.

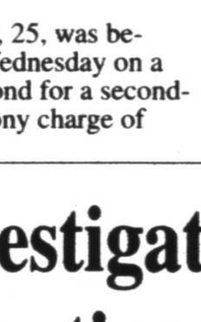
Hlei

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

Investigation reveals constable 'intentionally' damaged vehicle

From staff reports

The investigation into Precinct 3 Constable Jeffrey Rowland, 34, revealed that he intentionally and knowingly damaged the patrol vehicle issued to him by the county, according to his arrest affidavit.



Rowland

Rowland was released Friday on a $10,000 bond for a state felony charge of criminal mischief. The charges stemmed from an investigation by the Midland County Sheriff's Office regarding damage to Rowland's patrol vehicle, according to court documents.

Rowland spray painted the rear window black leaving behind damage to the interior and emergency lights.

He installed aftermarket HID lights on the unit that would not pass the state vehicle inspection, according to the affidavit. The installation of the HID headlights also didn't allow the front emergency "wig wag" headlights to work, according to the affidavit.

The monetary damages to the car totaled $2,845.34, according to the affidavit.

In order for a vehicle owned by Midland County to have any alterations, a request must be placed to Vector Fleet Management, which would then bring the matter before the county commissioners for approval, according to the affidavit.

Rowland surrendered Friday afternoon after the Sheriff's Office received the warrant, according to a previous Reporter-Telegram article.

Man arrested on aggravated assault charge

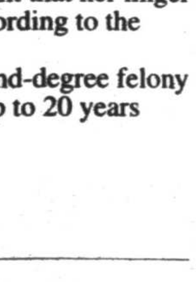
From staff reports

A Midland man was arrested Monday after allegedly assaulting a female, according to court documents.

Julius Joe Ruiz, 19, was released Tuesday on a $75,000 bond for a second-degree felony charge of aggravated assault causes serious bodily injury.

Midland police were dispatched to a residence at about 2:40 a.m. Monday in reference to a disturbance.

Ruiz was at the residence when he grabbed a door and repeatedly slammed it on a female, according to his arrest affidavit. The woman had a laceration on her finger, and EMS personnel thought that her finger probably was broken, according to the affidavit.



Ruiz

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

Autopsy shows Indian girl is homicide victim

By David Warren
Associated Press

DALLAS — A 3-year-old girl whose body was found in a culvert near her suburban Dallas home little more than a year after she was adopted from an Indian orphanage died from "homicidal violence," according to autopsy findings released Wednesday.

Steven Kurtz with the Dallas County medical examiner's office said Sherin Mathews was a victim of homicide but that he couldn't provide any other details from the autopsy at this point. The Texas attorney general's office must decide whether the full report can be released to the public, he said.

Police in Richardson have released their findings in Sherin's October death to the Dallas County district attorney's office, and a grand jury this month is expected to review charges filed against the girl's adoptive parents, Wesley and Sini Mathews.

The couple is being held at the Dallas County jail: Wesley Mathews is held on a $1 million bond and faces a charge of felony injury to a child, while his wife has a bond of $250,000 on a charge of abandoning a child.

Mitch Nolte, the attorney for Sini Mathews, told WFAA-TV that he's received a copy of the full autopsy report and that nothing in it implicates his client in the girl's death.

An attorney for Wesley Mathews, Rafael De La Garza, did not immediately return a call Wednesday for comment on the autopsy findings.

Wesley Mathews initially told police Sherin disappeared after he punished her by sending her out in the night to stand by a tree near the home.

He later told investigators Sherin had developmental disabilities and was malnourished. He described a special diet regimen in which she had to eat whenever she was awake in order to gain weight.

Mathews said he had been trying to get the girl to drink milk in the garage of their home, according to an arrest affidavit filed by Richardson police.

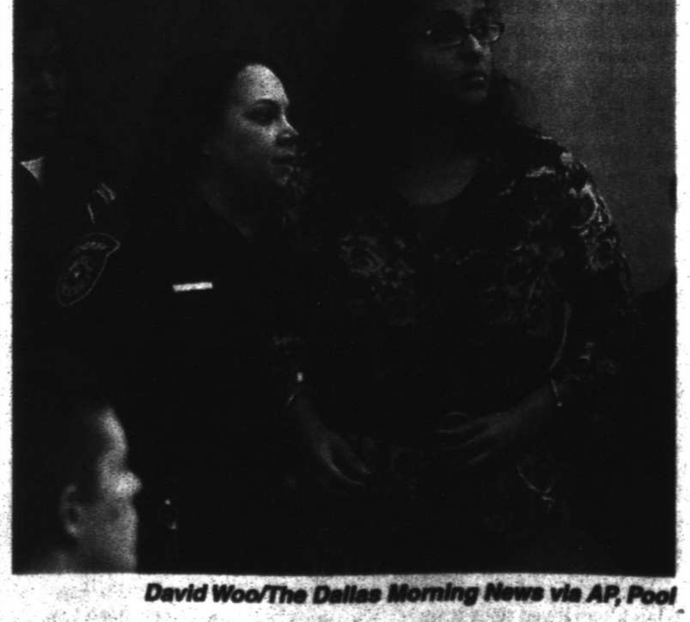
"Eventually the 3-year-old girl began to drink the milk. Wesley Mathews then physically assisted the 3-year-old girl in drinking the milk," according to the affidavit.

Mathews told police that Sherin choked and coughed and eventually he felt no pulse and believed the child had died. Investigators wrote that he "then admitted to removing the body from the home."

Sherin's disappearance in October generated a broad search involving a number of law enforcement agencies. Her body was found in the culvert Oct. 22.

Richardson police Sgt. Kevin Perlich would not say if additional charges could be forthcoming in light of the autopsy results, explaining that decision would be left to the district attorney's office. A spokeswoman for the office declined to comment.

The couple adopted Sherin in June 2016. Their 4-year-old biological daughter is staying with family in the Houston area.



David Woo/The Dallas Morning News via AP, Pool

Sini Mathews, mother of Sherin Mathews, appears in court Nov. 29, 2017 at the Henry Wade Juvenile Justice Building in Dallas. An autopsy report shows 3-year-old Sherin Mathews, whose body was found in a culvert near her suburban Dallas home died from "homicidal violence." The girls' father, Wesley Mathews, told investigators that Sherin choked to death on her milk. He is charged with felony injury to a child. Sini Mathews is charged with child abandonment.

MYERS

From 1A

themselves alone and unequipped to deal with the issues that their loved ones face," Myers said.

His is a member of Crestview Baptist Church, the NRA and Gun Owners of America, and he is a regular donor to the Red Cross, the Salvation Army and the Shriners Hospital for Children, according to the release.

Also running for the District 11 seat in the March 6 primary are incumbent Mike Conaway, also a Republican, and Democrats Jennie Lou Leeder and Eric Pfalzgraf. Early voting begins Feb. 20.

Ballot order

The following is the ballot order for selected contested races during the upcoming Republican primary, sent to the Reporter-Telegram by the Midland County Republican Party. The races shown are county races or include local candidates or candidates with local ties.

U.S. Representative, District 11
■ Paul Myers
■ Mike Conaway

Railroad Commissioner
■ Weston Martinez
■ Christi Craddick

State Senator, District 31
■ Mike Canon
■ Victor Leal
■ Kel Seliger

District Judge, 238th Judicial District
■ Elizabeth Byer Leonard
■ Chris DeAnda

District Judge, 441st Judicial District
■ Jeff Robnett
■ Sean Guerrero
■ Isaiah Roby Jackson
■ Wayne Frost

County Judge
■ James Beauchamp
■ Stephen Robertson
■ Terry Johnson

County Commissioner Precinct 4
■ Randy Prude
■ Carla Rapman

AP file photo

Pumpjacks work in a field in 2015 near Lovington, N.M. Thanks to more barrels of oil being pumped monthly from the Permian Basin, New Mexico is among the nation's top producing states. Industry officials in New Mexico on Wednesday, are celebrating the latest figures released by the U.S. Energy Information Agency, saying billions of dollars of investment by energy companies in the state is paying off as production is reaching record highs.

New Mexico moves up in oil and gas rankings

By Susan Montoya Bryan
Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Thanks to more barrels of oil being pumped monthly from the Permian Basin, New Mexico is among the nation's top producing states.

Industry officials in New Mexico on Wednesday celebrated the latest figures released by the U.S. Energy Information Agency, saying billions of dollars of investment by energy companies in the state over the past year is paying off as production is reaching record highs.

The figures show monthly production hitting more than 16.3 million barrels of oil in New Mexico in late 2017, and experts say the state is on pace to set an annual production record for the year. Those figures have yet to be released.

New Mexico surpassed Oklahoma and California in September and October to become the third-largest producer in the U.S., said Ryan Flynn, executive director of the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association. Texas and North Dakota top the list.

"We saw a surge of investment in the Permian basin, and that was really a precursor," Flynn said. "When people are making those types of acquisitions, they aren't going to just sit on those investments. They are going to make sure they're able to turn those investments around and start getting returns."

The result, Flynn said, is that the production boom is funneling more revenue into the state's coffers, which will ease pressure on lawmakers as they set spending priorities for education and other government programs during the upcoming legislative session. Early projections by state economists indicate that income for the next fiscal year will surpass current spending by nearly $200 million thanks to surging tax revenues and a rebound in oil and gas sectors.

Overall, U.S. crude oil production increased in 2017 to over 9 million barrels a day based on data through September and estimates for the remainder of the year. Federal energy analysts say the increase was driven especially by activity in the Permian Basin, which straddles the Texas-New Mexico border.

Analysts are expecting U.S. production to increase by an average of 800,000 barrels per day in 2018.

In the heart of New Mexico's oil and gas country, the community of Hobbs has seen an influx of families as the industry stabilized following a downturn a couple of years ago that saw prices plummet. Enrollment in public schools has now surpassed the high mark that was initially set in 2015, Mayor Sam Cobb said.

Cobb and other business and political leaders from the region have had conversations with top exploration and production companies as well as midstream companies that operate pipelines and processing facilities.

"They see southeastern New Mexico as being a long-term play for them and they are looking at substantial capital investments — not only this year, but in the years to come — so I think it's a good sign of sustainability not only for our area but it's going to be good for the state."

NORMAL

From 1A

committed to keeping 1.8 million barrels a day off the market in 2018.

Saudi Arabia needs high prices to generate value for the shares it is selling in Aramco, the country's national oil company. Other cartel members need high prices to cover government budgets.

That leaves American shale drillers to meet new global demand. The U.S. added 1 million barrels a day of new production in 2017 and exported 954 million barrels a day of it, according to the EIA.

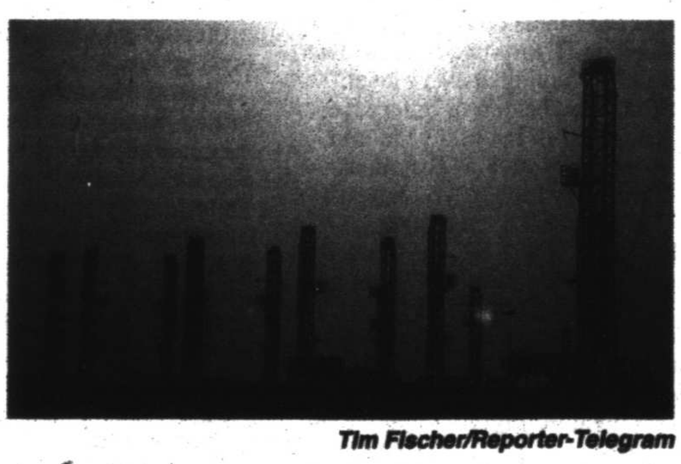
In early 2018, oil producers are expected to break the American record of 10.4 million barrels a day pumped in November 2017.

Higher production comes from more drilling and longer wells, though, which means higher costs.

"It will be interesting to see how cost inflation plays out against productivity gains in 2018," said Jessica Brewer, principal upstream analyst at research and consulting firm Wood Mackenzie. Drillers have already captured most of the easy savings, and per-barrel production costs are likely to rise.

Oil field services firms heavily discounted their work following the 2014 bust, and now that prices are rising, so will the cost of their services as they expect their cut.

More drilling also requires more workers, but companies are finding it hard to lure people back to the oil industry after three years of layoffs and pay cuts. Midland and Odessa, at the center of the Permian Basin, have unemployment rates of 2.6 percent and 3.4 percent respectively, and they need more workers.



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Drilling rigs stacked in a yard in Odessa are partially obscured by smoke from a large grass fire near Amarillo on March 7, 2017.

"This has been an unusual year from the standpoint that it's been steady in terms of growth," Willie Taylor, CEO of Workforce Solutions Permian Basin, told my colleague at the Midland Reporter-Telegram. "We're placing 300, 400 a month out of our offices."

The other dangers of higher prices, of course, include producers getting over-excited and creating another glut, or running up prices so high they hurt demand. This time around, investors who were burned by past boom-and-bust cycles, are pressuring executives to prioritize profits over barrels.

"The shale hype seems to be over, with CEOs and management teams being held strongly accountable to deliver positive cash flow over production growth," said Chris Midgley, global head of analytics at S&P Global Platts. "Planned capital investments across oil over the next couple of years of around $300 billion show, that the industry is not underinvesting and is on target."

If all market players stay on target, 2018 could be a stable and profitable year for the oil industry. But when has that ever happened?

U.S. producers are like race horses, their instinct is to compete by pumping more oil. If they can squeeze more crude out of each well for the same cost, that could create another glut.

Russian oil companies have also made their displeasure with the current production quotas clear. While President Vladimir Putin has committed them to at least another six months of restraint, they will eventually balk at letting U.S. exporters gain global market share at their expense and flood the market with cheaper oil.

The fundamental problem of excess oil production capacity remains, and that will cap how high prices can go and limit profits. The oil business may be looking up in 2018, but that doesn't mean it will be easy.

Colorado man made descent from star student to deputy killer

By Dan Elliott and Kathleen Foody
Associated Press

DENVER — He was once a standout student in law school and an Army medic who deployed to Iraq. By last weekend, he lay dead in a Colorado apartment building, killed by a SWAT team after he gunned down a 29-year-old deputy.

Matthew Riehl's six-year descent from a budding attorney to a gunman who live-streamed the final violent hours of his life was accompanied by episodes of mental illness, according to police and a document from the Veterans Affairs Department.

Three days after the gunbattle with authorities, it was still unclear whether Riehl's problems were grave enough to legally disqualify him from buying a weapon. Police have said he used a rifle, but they haven't released details about the weapon or how he obtained it.

Federal standards prevent anyone from buying a gun who has been determined to be a danger to themselves or others by a court or other authority. People who have been involuntarily committed to a psychiatric institution also can't buy from federally licensed gun dealers.

Riehl was hospitalized at a VA psychiatric ward in Wyoming in 2014, and at one point he was placed under a 72-hour mental health hold there, according to a VA document obtained by The Associated Press and other news outlets this week.

But the agency declined to say whether that treatment meant Riehl should not have been allowed to own a gun.

Stephen Fischer, a spokesman for the FBI division that manages the background-check databases used for gun purchases, didn't immediately respond Wednesday to a request for more information.

Riehl

Revelations about Riehl's mental health history came to light amid increased scrutiny of those databases.

After former Air Force member Devin P. Kelly massacred 26 people at a Texas church in November, the Air Force acknowledged it failed to alert the FBI that he had a criminal history.

Kelley had been convicted of assaulting his then-wife and stepson in 2012, when he was still in the Air Force. The military never reported the conviction to the FBI, which should have stopped Kelley from buying weapons, and later blamed training and compliance measures. Kelley was found dead after the killings.

In Riehl's case, a sketchy but striking picture of his life began to emerge. He joined the Army Reserve in 2003 and later the Wyoming Army National Guard, serving as a medic. He enrolled in the University of Wyoming College of Law and was named to the dean's honor roll in fall 2007.

He interrupted school to serve a tour of duty in Kuwait and Iraq from 2009 to 2010. Returning to law school, he won a coveted spot on a team of students who sometimes got to argue before the Wyoming Supreme Court. He graduated in 2011 and left the military with an honorable discharge in 2012.

Some news reports have cited people who described Riehl sometimes behaving oddly in law school.

Riehl's records did not show any military service-related psychiatric disorders, according to the VA document. But within two years of his discharge, he appeared to lose his way: In April 2014, he suffered a psychotic episode and was hospitalized in the mental health ward of the Sheridan, Wyoming, veterans hospital, the document said.

He escaped but was found and returned, the document said. A year later, in June 2015, he had an "urgent contact for mental health" with a different VA hospital, according to the document.

It offers few details and does not describe the nature of Riehl's psychiatric problems. The VA has refused to elaborate, citing privacy concerns.

By mid-2016, Riehl was at the center of a string of worrisome events reported by police in Colorado and Wyoming: A fight with his father and a call to police from his mother, who was concerned about his mental health. He posted tirades on social media about the faculty at the Wyoming law school and sent harassing emails to police after getting a speeding ticket, authorities said.

University of Wyoming police began investigating Riehl last October after the social media posts, including a vague threat to shoot someone, The Denver Post reported. Riehl's brother told campus police that Matthew Riehl had been diagnosed with bipolar disorder.

By Nov. 14, university police were concerned enough to call Colorado authorities about Riehl, according to police in Lone Tree, Colorado, about 18 miles south of Denver.

On Sunday, Riehl dialed 911 and police responded to his apartment in Highlands Ranch, not far from Lone Tree. He opened fire, police said, killing Douglas County Deputy Zackari Parrish and wounding four other officers and two civilians.

Parrish's funeral will be Friday.

Ancient DNA gives glimpse of ancestors of Native Americans

By Malcolm Ritter
Associated Press

NEW YORK — DNA from an infant who died in Alaska some 11,500 years ago is giving scientists the best look yet at the genetics of the ancestors of today's native peoples of the Americas.

Decoding the infant's complete set of DNA let researchers estimate the timing of key events in the ancestral history of today's Native Americans and indigenous peoples of Canada and Central and South America.

Expert said that while the new work doesn't radically change the outlines of what scientists have thought, it provides more detail and better evidence than what was available before.

The infant girl was buried about 50 miles southeast of Fairbanks; and her remains are the earliest known in the far north of North America, said anthropologist Ben Potter of the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He reports the analysis along with others in a paper released Wednesday by the journal Nature.

The first Americans were descended from Asians, and they reached the New World by way of Beringia, a now-submerged land bridge that used to connect Asia to Alaska. Recent research suggests they followed the shorelines of Beringia and the Pacific Coast as they spread into the Americas by at least 15,000 years ago.

The new paper supports a theory that the migrants from Asia spent thousands of years in isolation, either in Beringea or Asia, before entering the Americas. During that time they developed unique genetic signatures that are now found in natives of the Americas.

The DNA analyzed by Potter and his colleagues came from a skull bone. The infant's remains, along with remains of a fetus, had been uncovered in 2013 in a circular pit that showed signs of ritual burial. The fetus was related to the infant, perhaps a cousin, but contained too little DNA for a full analysis of it.

By comparing the genetic details of the infant to those of genomes from other populations, the researchers were able to estimate the times of key events in the ancestral story of today's indigenous Americans. For example, they calculated that the ancestors completed their split from Asians by about 25,000 years ago.

Ancestors of the Alaskan girl split away from this group about 20,000 years ago. So her DNA allows a direct glimpse of the ancient population that led to today's native peoples, said Jennifer Raff of the University of Kansas, who didn't participate in the study

Much of the research in this area has been based on DNA that tells only about a person's maternal ancestors, she said. A complete genome is more informative and allows scientists to have more confidence in their time estimates, she said.

Excavators work at the Upward Sun River discovery site in 2003 in Alaska. According to a report released Wednesday, DNA from an infant who died in Alaska some 11,500 years ago, found at this site, is giving scientists the best look yet at the genetics of the ancestors of today's native peoples of the Americas. *Ben Potter/University of Alaska via AP*

OPINION

Tough campaign against MS-13 should continue

■ Nurtured on violence in the guerrilla wars of Central America, members of the incipient MS-13 have been well-prepared to fight it out in the worst gang-ridden neighborhoods

RICH LOWRY
King Features Syndicate

Donald Trump is given to lurid rhetoric, and in the MS-13 gang he has finally met a subject beyond his ability to exaggerate.

He calls members of the largely Salvadoran gang "animals." He charges them with "spreading gruesome bloodshed." He says "they kidnap, they extort, they rape and they rob, they prey on children." And, finally, he insists that "they shouldn't be here."

He's right on every count. If there is any aspect of the Trump immigration agenda that should command universal support, it is his crackdown on an immigrant gang whose motto is "murder, rape and control," and whose signature weapon is the machete.

Yet the Trump administration's focus on MS-13 has occasioned criticism from the usual quarters, for the usual reasons. A piece in The Boston Globe objected to the administration blaming crime on "highly organized gangs of immigrants." Well, what if a highly organized gang of immigrants is indeed responsible for its own crime wave?

Philip Bump of The Washington Post objected to Trump at an Ohio rally speaking of the brutal stabbing death of a teenage girl at the hands of MS-13. It was a "graphic depiction of Hispanic immigrants in the United States," Bump wrote, as "violent, bloodthirsty animals." As it happens, MS-13 are, indeed, bloodthirsty, and they are Hispanic immigrants.

Jamelle Bouie of Slate accused the president of undertaking "a political plan to demagogue Hispanic immigrants as imminent threats to white Americans, and white women in particular."

This has it backward. The chances of a white person getting extorted, assaulted or killed by MS-13 is vanishingly small compared with the poor Hispanic immigrants who live and work in the communities blighted by the gang.

As Jessica Vaughan and Jon Feere noted in a report for the restrictionist Center for Immigration Studies, a surge of more than 2 million immigrants came to the United States from Central America during the 1980s and 1990s, most settling in Los Angeles, most illegal immigrants. Nurtured on violence in the guerrilla wars of Central America, members of the incipient MS-13 were well-prepared to fight it out in the worst gang-ridden neighborhoods in the city.

Law enforcement substantially disrupted the gang in the United States during the 2000s, but it has made a comeback. The gang's leaders in El Salvador professionalized its U.S. operations. And the flow of so-called unaccompanied children from Central America across the southern border has replenished the gang's ranks; MS-13 members have been among the migrants, and the influx of non-English-speaking young males with no connections to the U.S. provides a ready base of recruitment.

This has led to horrifying headlines in places across the U.S. with large Central American populations, from Long Island to Houston to the Washington, D.C., area.

In a lengthy report on Langley Park, Maryland, The Washington Post detailed the depredations of MS-13 "seven miles from the White House."

According to the Post, "It took Abigail Bautista less than a month of living in Langley Park to learn that her new neighborhood in Maryland had its own set of laws, written not in statutes but in gang graffiti and blood."

Needless to say, Bautista is not a white woman. She's an illegal immigrant and mother of five, whose street vending business made her a prime target for extortion by the gang.

The tragedy of immigrants in places like Langley Park is that they encounter in the U.S. exactly the breakdown in civil society and lack of rule of law that they thought they were escaping in Central America.

It will only stop if we continue the newly invigorated campaign against MS-13 members, and get a better handle on migrants coming here from Central America. The commentators tsk-tsking Trump's focus on MS-13 surely don't, by and large, live in neighborhoods dominated by savage gangs. Why should anyone else?

OPINION EXTRA

Iran situation shows America's left in the grip of insanity

President Trump is unpopular. He's unpopular because he's boorish, crude and silly; he's unpopular because he has a unique capacity to turn winning news cycles into referenda on his use of Twitter. But the United States under President Trump hasn't seen any serious anti-liberty revanchism. In fact, under Trump, regulations have dropped precipitously; the economy continues its pattern of growth; and press freedoms have actually been strengthened. Despite popular opinion, women aren't on the verge of enslavement into Vice President Mike Pence's "Handmaid's Tale," nor are black Americans in danger of resegregation or political disenfranchisement.

Yet while Iranians protest against a regime that reportedly hangs homosexuals from cranes, members of the hard left in the United States insist that protesters against the Trump administration demonstrate bravery similar to that of Iranians risking death by an Islamist regime. Huffington Post political commentator Alex Mohajer tweeted: "The #IranianProtests, the #Resistance, and @WomensMarch are all the same. Across the world, people are fighting autocracies and oppressive regimes. @realDonaldTrump is NO DIFFERENT than the oppressive Ayatollahs in Iran." Oddly, that movement of solidarity hasn't prompted those who walked in the Women's March on Washington to say a single word in support of the Iranian protesters to this point.

This idiocy doesn't merely spring from hatred for Trump but from a deep-seated need to justify the Obama administration's feckless Iran policy. Thomas Erdbrink of The New York Times reported that violence broke out in Iran after the demonstrators ignored "pleas for calm from President Hassan Rouhani" and termed Rouhani — a tool of the mullahs — a "moderate." Meanwhile, one CNN anchor fretted that Trump might put a "finger on the scale" against the Iranian regime. Members of the Obama administration took to Twitter to tell Trump to be quiet (Susan Rice, former national security adviser), chide Trump for failing to take in Iranian refugees (Samantha Power, former U.N. ambassador) and suggest that American policy has nothing to do with Iran's protests (Ben Rhodes, former national security adviser and architect of the Iran nuclear deal narrative). All of these administration members did nothing as President Obama watched dissidents die in the streets in 2009, and all of them actively abetted the maximization of Iran's regional power.

Herein lies the insanity of the left. Only nutcases on the right believed that Barack Obama's governance was morally equivalent to the Iranian government. In the main, conservatives thought that Obama pursued bad policies domestically and horribly immoral foreign policies. But many on the left seem to believe that Trump is merely steps removed from the ayatollahs. The ayatollahs agree, and they use that nuttery for public-relations leverage: No wonder Ayatollah Khamenei tweeted: "The U.S. gov. commits oppression inside the U.S., too. U.S. police murder black women, men, & children for no justifiable reason, and the murderers are acquitted in U.S. courts. This is their judicial system! And they slam other countries' and our country's judicial system. #BLM."

Trump isn't Khamenei. And the only recent administration to help build Iran's power is the Obama administration. Comparing the Trump administration to Iran's regime isn't just delusional; it's insulting and counterproductive. And the only people it helps are America's enemies.

— Ben Shapiro, Creators Syndicate

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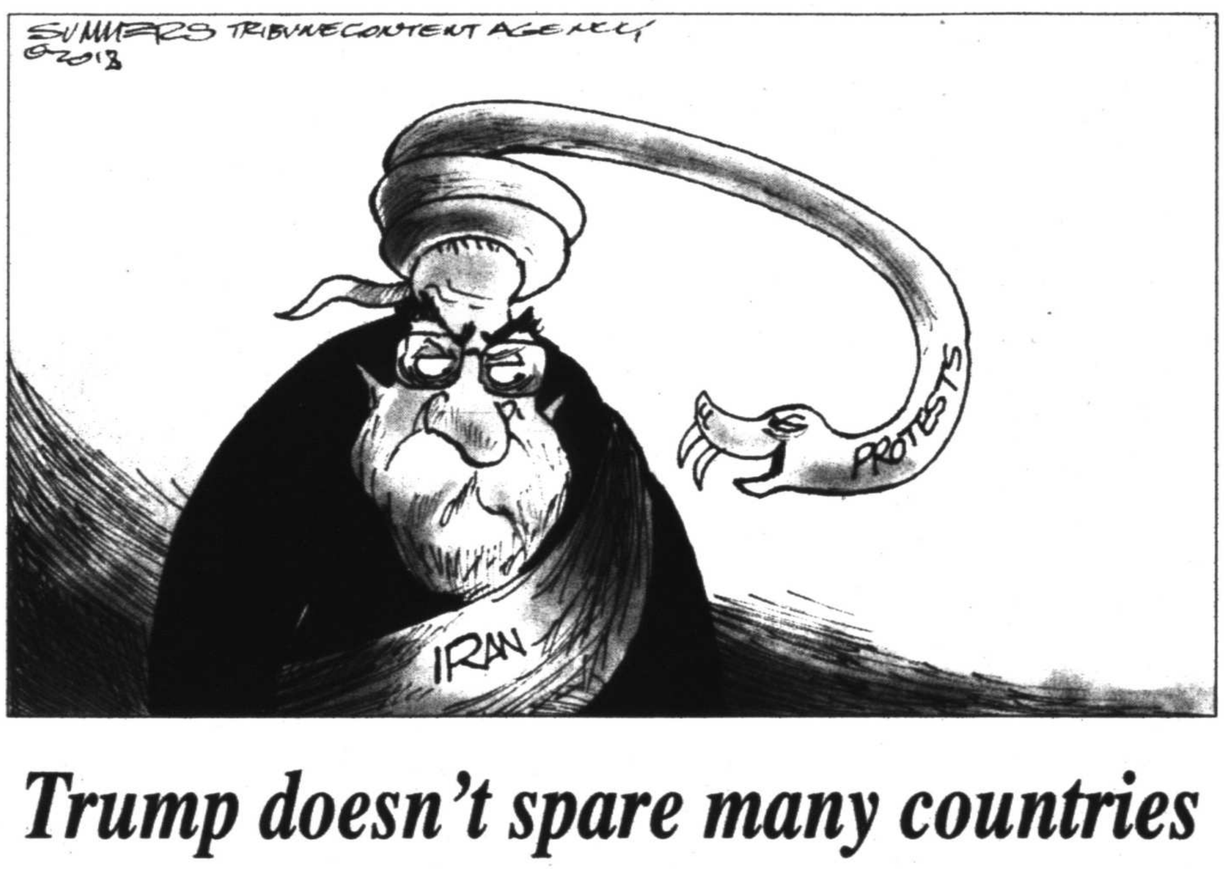


Trump doesn't spare many countries

■ President has insulted, browbeaten or otherwise abused dozens of countries in his first year, and they are as likely to be allies such as Britain as foes such as North Korea

DANA MILBANK
Washington Post Writers Group

New year. Same old president.

2018 was only seven hours and 12 minutes old when President Trump launched his first verbal attack of the year on a foreign country.

His target: the unsuspecting nation of Pakistan, which, he charged, has "given us nothing but lies & deceit" and "safe haven to the terrorists."

Only 10 weeks earlier, Trump tweeted about a "much better relationship with Pakistan," saying, "I want to thank them for their cooperation on many fronts."

Before whiplashed Pakistanis could make sense of it all, Trump moved on. Thirty-two minutes later, he was attacking Iran for "failing at every level."

Trump has insulted, browbeaten or otherwise abused dozens of countries in his first year, and they are as likely to be allies such as Britain as foes such as North Korea (which, if you haven't heard, is run by a "short and fat" "madman" known as "Rocket Man"). The BBC has created an interactive feature on its website titled "What has President Trump said about your country?"

Early in his term, Trump turned his wrath on the great Scandinavian menace. "Look at what's happening last night in Sweden," he told a crowd, suggesting there had been immigrant violence in that peaceful land. Swedes were baffled: Nothing newsworthy had occurred the previous night.

Trump physically shoved aside the prime minister of Montenegro while making his way to the front of a group of NATO leaders for a photo. But his other assaults have been verbal.

Americans have barely had cross words with the Dutch since New York was New Amsterdam — until now. Trump sent to the Hague an ambassador, Pete Hoekstra, who had said that the Netherlands' terrorism problem was so bad that there were "no go" areas. Hoekstra denied to a Dutch journalist that he had said that, and when shown footage of him saying that, denied that he denied saying it.

That's minor compared with what Trump did to Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull — or, as the White House has called him, "Trumbull." A transcript leaked to The Washington Post showed Trump calling their conversation "the worst call by far" and an agreement between the countries "the worst deal ever."

Some insults come from ignorance. A White House news release identified the People's Republic of China as "the Republic of China" — China's antagonist Taiwan. At the G-20 Summit, Trump posted a photo on Instagram of him "and the president of Indonesia, Joko Widodo." The man in the photo with Trump was Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore. Trump has likewise referred repeatedly to Tanzania as Tan-ZANY-a, and he has invented a country called "Nambia," to the likely consternation of Namibia and Zambia.

Less excusable is Trump calling the mayor of London "pathetic" and telling Prime Minister Theresa May to mind her own business when she protested his retweeting of a British white-supremacist group.

Trump doesn't spare the weak, reportedly claiming all immigrants from Haiti "have AIDS." But he generally avoids insulting strongmen such as Russia's Vladimir Putin, the Philippines' Rodrigo Duterte, Egypt's Abdel Fatah al-Sissi and the Saudi rulers.

It's not unusual that he denounces Cuba and Venezuela. But he seems to take joy in poking the eyes of friends and neighbors, including Mexico ("one of the highest crime nations in the world"), Canada (trade practices a "disgrace"), France ("Paris is no longer Paris") and Germany (declining to shake German Chancellor Angela Merkel's hand).

Dissing friends is confusing business. Iraq is an ally — but it was included in Trump's first travel ban.

Chad is an ally, but it was included in a later travel ban — because it didn't have the right kind of passport paper.

(Trump, by the way, has a "very good relationship" with China — when it isn't "raping our country.")

Before he became president, Trump insulted Germany ("a total mess"), Merkel ("ruining Germany"), South Africa ("a crime ridden mess") and the United Nations ("so sad!").

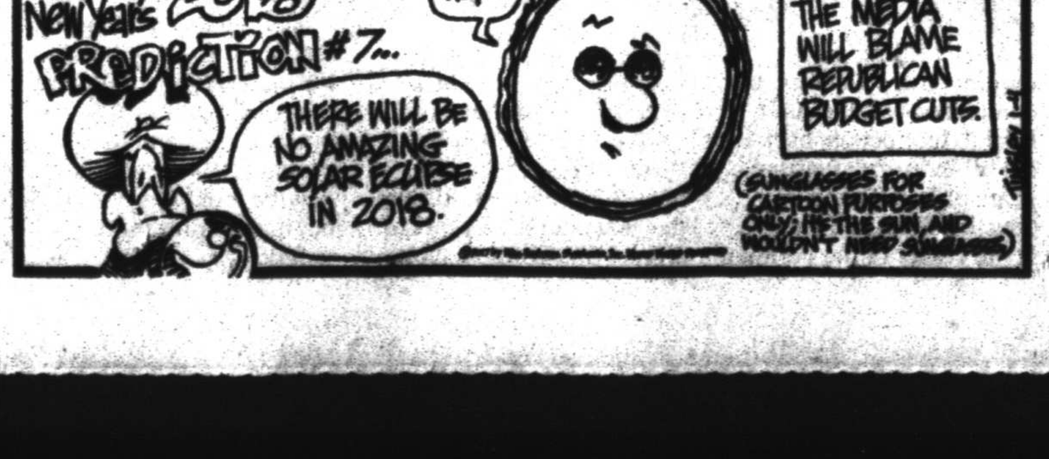
Now he's threatening to cut U.N. funding and to punish nations that supported a General Assembly resolution denouncing Trump's decision to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley threatened that "the U.S. will be taking names."

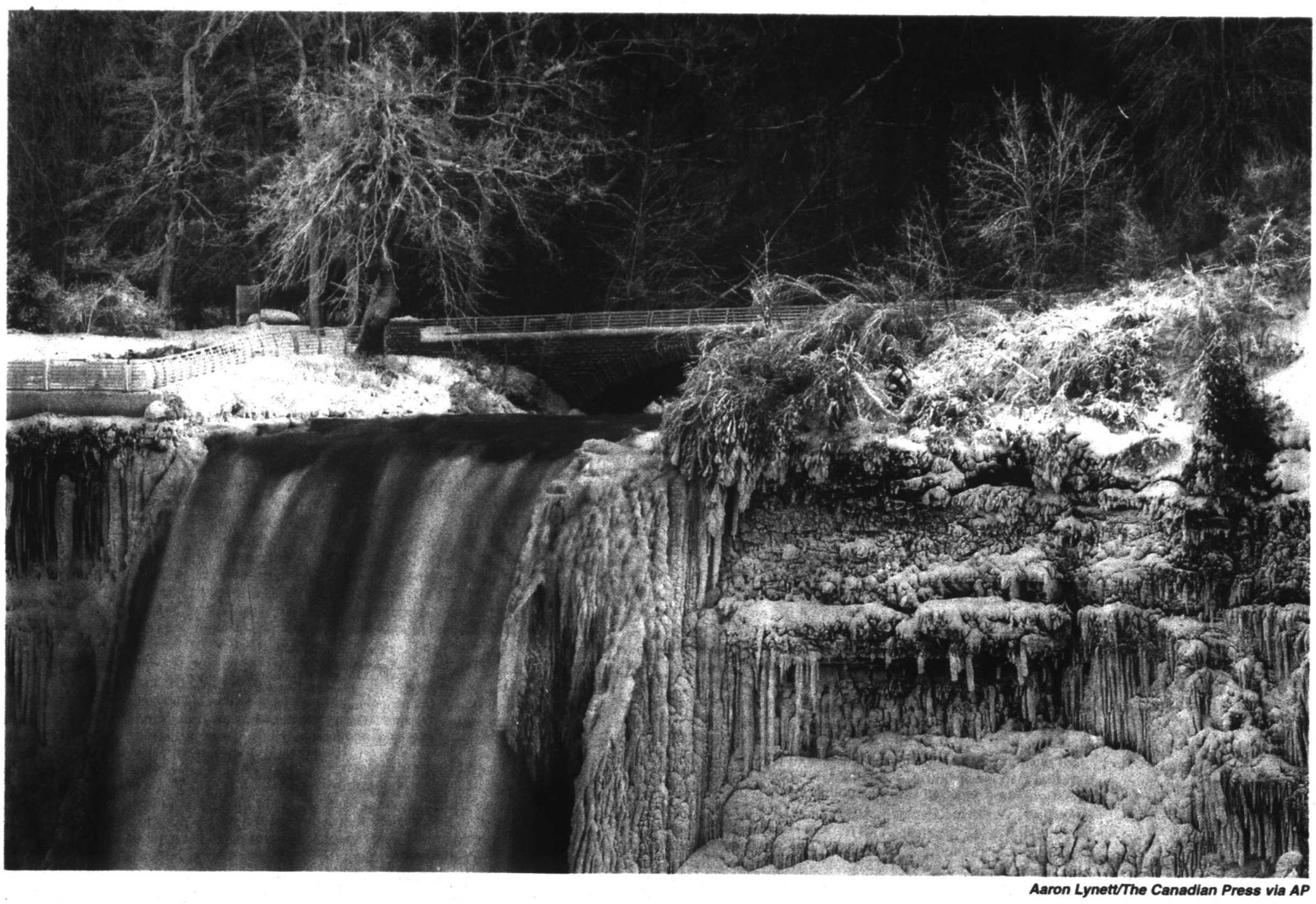
Hope she brought a lot of paper. Fully 128 nations, including France and Britain, defied the Trump threats, while 56 others abstained or skipped the vote. Only eight supported the U.S. position, and those were mostly microstates in the south Pacific.

That's quite an achievement: After a year of insults, Trump can now count America's friends on the fingers of two hands.

From the Left | Doonesbury

From the Right | Mallard Fillmore





Aaron Lynett/The Canadian Press via AP

Water flows Tuesday over the over the Bridal Veil Falls in Niagara Falls, N.Y., viewed from the Canadian side in Niagara Falls, Ont. Almost every year, frigid temperatures transform the falls into an icy winter wonderland when the mist is blown back, freezing on the landscape.

Niagara Falls turns into winter wonderland

By Carolyn Thompson
Associated Press

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. — Niagara Falls is one place the nation's deep freeze is as much seen as it is felt.

Mist from the surging waters has been freezing instantly on everything it touches, coating trees, walkways, cliffs and overlooks in a dreamy, brilliant white. Visitors hardy enough to withstand the bone-chilling cold are treated to snapshots and selfies in a winter wonderland.

"It's outstanding. As cold as it gets, it's a year-round attraction," Paul Tabaczynski said during a visit to see the spectacle on Tuesday. A Buffalo native, he lives in Dallas now but remembered to dress in layers — flannel over a T-shirt and a lined sweatshirt that passes for his winter jacket in Texas.

Although everything around them freezes, the three waterfalls that make up the natural attraction between the United States and Canada continue to flow and churn up the frosty mist. The westerly wind usually blows it toward the U.S. side, National Weather Service meteorologist Steven Welch said, where the moisture wraps every inch of the landscape in white.

"I can't feel my feet!" 12-year-old Keila Cruz told her father, Jonathan, as she and a dozen other family members thawed out inside the Niagara Falls State Park visitor center during a trip from Deltona, Florida.

"We haven't even gone out yet," Jonathan Cruz said. The family had only come from the parking lot about 200 yards away, but with temperatures in the teens and wind gusting over 40 miles per hour, the group needed a warming break before venturing to the water's edge.

"We're trying to get our feet warm because we're frozen," Jonathan Cruz said.

With a deep freeze stretching from south Texas to Canada and from Montana through New England, the surreal scenes have played out across a wide swath of the U.S.

Fountains froze in Texarkana, Arkansas, New York City's Bryant Park — and even Savannah, Georgia, where January's average high is 60 degrees. The thermometer read 30 on Tuesday, cold enough for icicles to dangle from the ornate wrought-iron fountain in Forsyth Park.

Chunks of ice floated down the Mississippi River and Lake Michigan made "ice balls" with its rolling waves. As of Monday, ice cover on the Great Lakes was at 19.7 percent, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Forecasters warned of hazardous travel from the southeast to New England through Friday, with the worst expected from the Carolinas to Maine. The bitter cold will linger into the weekend.

Tim Partin of Williamsburg, Kentucky, was in Niagara Falls on business when he decided to take in the scenery.

"It really is pretty," Partin said.

Storm slaps coastal South with most snow in nearly 3 decades

By Russ Bynum
Associated Press

SAVANNAH, Ga. — A brutal winter storm smacked the coastal Southeast with a rare blast of snow and ice Wednesday, hitting parts of Florida, Georgia and South Carolina with their heaviest snowfall in nearly three decades.

Forecasters warned that the same system could soon strengthen into a "bomb cyclone" as it rolls up the East Coast, bringing hurricane-force winds, coastal flooding and up to a foot of snow.

At least 17 deaths were blamed on dangerously cold temperatures that for days have gripped wide swaths of the U.S. from Texas to New England.

A winter storm warning extended from the Gulf Coast of Florida's "Big Bend" region all the way up the Atlantic coast. Forecasters said hurricane-force winds blowing offshore on Thursday could generate 24-foot seas.

Schools in the Southeast called off classes just months after being shut down because of hurricane threats, and police urged drivers to stay off the roads in a region little accustomed to the kind of winter woes common to the Northeast.

In Savannah, snow blanketed the city's lush downtown squares and collected on branches of burly oaks for the first time in nearly eight years. William Shaw, a Savannah native, used baby steps to shuffle along a frozen road from his home to the post office.

"It almost seems the town is deserted just like in the last hurricane," said Shaw, 65. "There's no one on the street. It's got a little eerie feeling."

Dump trucks spread sand on major streets in Savannah ahead of the storm and police closed several bridges, overpasses and a major causeway because of ice.

By the time the morning's dreary sleet and rain turned to fluffy snow, Savannah came out to play. Families with children flocked to Forsyth Park near the downtown historic district for snowball fights. The National Weather Service recorded 1.2 inches of snow — Savannah's first measurable snowfall since February 2010 and the first that exceeded an inch in 28 years.

Across the Georgia-South Carolina line in Charleston, the weather service reported 5 inches as the snow was winding down at 5 p.m. That's the most snowfall in Charleston since December 1989, and plenty for Chris Monoc's sons, ages 4 and 2, to go sledding outside their home near the city's iconic Ravenel Bridge.

"They probably will be teenagers the next time something like this happens, and that's kind of sad," Monoc said. "But we'll enjoy it while it is here."

Airports shut down in Savannah, Charleston and elsewhere as airlines cancelled 500 flights Wednesday, and at least 1,700 more were cancelled Thursday. Interstate 95 was nearly an icy parking lot for almost all of its 200 miles in South Carolina. Troopers couldn't keep up with the number of reported wrecks which numbered in the hundreds.

In Tallahassee, Florida, Michigan transplant Laura Donaven built a snowman 6 inches tall. The city tweeted that snow fell there for the first time in 28 years.

"I made a snowball and threw it at my dad," said Donaven, a 41-year-old hair salon owner.

The weather service said the winter storm will probably intensify into a "bomb cyclone" that could dump more than 8 inches of snow on the Boston area on Thursday and at least half a foot of snow in the New York City region.

Meteorologists have been using the term "bomb" for storms for decades, but the phrase went viral on social media on Wednesday. A storm is a bomb — or bombogensis happens — when it drops 24 millibars of pressure in 24 hours. This storm looks like it will intensify twice that rate, said Bob Oravec, lead forecaster at the National Weather Service's Weather Prediction Center.

Blizzard warnings were issued from Rhode Island to Maine. Oravec said he expects they could be extended as far south as parts of New York.

"It's sort of akin to a hurricane traveling up the coast," says Ryan Maue, a meteorologist at the private firm Weather.US.

Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal declared a state of emergency through Friday for 28 counties. School systems on the Alabama coast waived uniform requirements so students could bundle up.

Florida's largest theme parks announced that water attractions such as Disney's Typhoon Lagoon, Universal Orlando's Volcano Bay and SeaWorld's Aquatica were closed. Temperatures were running well below normal for this time of year, and the lows are expected to hover right around freezing.

In Prairieville, Louisiana, Valerie Anne Broussard struggled overnight to keep warm in a house that is being rebuilt after the 2016 floods that hit the small community southeast of Baton Rouge. Her home has exterior walls and floors but no insulation, no central heating and only a few working electrical outlets. Eggs that she left on the kitchen counter froze and broke open.

"It's like a camping trip that I didn't sign up for," said Broussard, who's been huddling with her 8-year-old daughter, newborn baby and boyfriend in a bedroom warmed by space heaters.

Making the most of the South's bitter cold snap, the North Carolina Zoo in Asheboro offered discounted tickets for those willing to brave the cold to see polar bears frolic in their kind of weather, along with Arctic foxes and elk. African elephants, lions and gorillas were sheltered out of public view.

Two homeless men found dead in Houston amid freezing weather

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Houston police say two homeless men have been found dead amid freezing weather and officials are trying to determine if the cold snap caused the deaths.

Police spokeswoman Jodi Silva says officers have been working to help get homeless people to shelters as freezing temperatures continued Wednesday.

Police Chief Art Acevedo says two bodies were located before dawn Tuesday in separate locations and the deaths were believed to be the result of "exposure to frigid weather."

Investigator Roxanne Phatak at the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences said Wednesday the cause of death in each case is pending.

A hard freeze warning issued by the National Weather Service expired Wednesday morning for Houston. Temperatures were in the upper 40s by late afternoon.

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Genesis 1:9-10
God spoke: "Separate! Water-beneath-Heaven, gather into one place; Land, appear!" And there it was. God named the land Earth. He named the pooled water Ocean. God saw that it was good.

Trump blasts Bannon over book, says ex-aide 'lost his mind'

By Jill Colvin and Jonathan Lemire
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump launched a scathing attack on former top adviser Steve Bannon on Wednesday, responding to a new book that portrays Trump as an undisciplined man-child who didn't actually want to win the White House and quotes Bannon as calling his son's contact with a Russian lawyer "treasonous."

Bannon

Hitting back via a formal White House statement rather than a more-typical Twitter volley, Trump insisted Bannon had little to do with his victorious campaign and "has nothing to do with me or my Presidency."

"When he was fired, he not only lost his job, he lost his mind," Trump said.

It was a blistering attack against the man who helped deliver the presidency to Trump. It was spurred by an unflattering new book by writer Michael Wolff that paints Trump as a leader who doesn't understand the weight of the presidency and spends his evenings eating cheeseburgers in bed, watching television and talking on the phone to old friends.

White House aides were blindsided when early excerpts from "Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House" were published online by New York magazine and other media outlets ahead of the Jan. 9 publication date.

The release left Trump "furious" and "disgusted," said White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders, who complained that the book contained "outrageous" and "completely false claims against the president, his administration and his family."

Asked what specifically had prompted the president's fury with Bannon, she said: "I would certainly think that going after the president's son in an absolutely outrageous and unprecedented way is probably not the best way to curry favor with anybody."

In the book, an advance copy of which was provided to The Associated Press, Bannon is quoted as describing a June 2016 meeting at Trump Tower between Donald Trump Jr., Trump campaign aides and a Russian lawyer as "treasonous" and "unpatriotic." The meeting has become a focus of federal and congressional investigators.

Bannon also told Wolff the investigations into potential collusion between Russia and Trump campaign officials would likely focus on money laundering. "They're going to crack Don Junior like an egg on national TV," Bannon was quoted as saying in one section that was first reported by The Guardian.

A spokeswoman for Bannon did not immediately respond to a request for a comment. Trump Jr. lashed out in a series of tweets, including one that said Andrew Breitbart, the founder of the Breitbart News site that Bannon now runs, "would be ashamed of the division and lies Steve Bannon is spreading!"

Bannon, who was forced out of his White House job last summer, was not surprised or particularly bothered by the blowback, according to a person familiar with his thinking but not authorized to speak publicly on the matter. That person said Bannon vowed on Wednesday to continue his war on the Republican establishment and also predicted that, after a cooling-off period, he'd continue to speak with Trump, who likes to maintain contact with former advisers even after he fires and sometimes disparages them.

Sanders said Bannon and Trump last spoke in the first part of last month.

The former-and-current Breitbart News head has told associates that he believes Trump has been ill-served by some his closest allies, including eldest son Don Jr. and Jared Kushner, the president's son-in-law. Bannon believes they have exposed Trump to the Russia probe that could topple his presidency and that Trump would be able to accomplish more without them

So far, there is no indication that Bannon is being investigated by Special Counsel Robert Mueller. But the House intelligence committee has invited him, along with former Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski, for a closed-door interview as a part of the panel's investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 election, according to a person familiar with the invitation.

Trump, up until Wednesday, had been complimentary of Bannon, saying in October that the two "have a very good relationship" and had been friends for "a long time."

In the book, Bannon also speaks critically of Trump's daughter and White House adviser, Ivanka, calling her "dumb as a brick."

"A little marketing savvy and has a look but as far as understanding actually how the world works and what politics is and what it means — nothing," he is quoted saying.

New York magazine also published a lengthy adaptation of the book on Wednesday, in which Wolff writes that Trump believed his presidential nomination would boost his brand and deliver "untold opportunities" — but that he never expected to win.

It says Trump Jr. told a friend that his father looked as if he'd seen a ghost when it became clear he might win. The younger Trump described Melania Trump as "in tears — and not of joy."

The first lady's spokeswoman, Stephanie Grisham, disputed that, saying Mrs. Trump supported her husband's decision to run, encouraged him to do so and was happy when he won.

"The book is clearly going to be sold in the bargain fiction section," Grisham said in a statement.

Wolff was generally granted access to the White House with a 'blue badge" instead of the traditional press badge, giving him wide access to the West Wing, according to officials who spoke on condition of anonymity in order to discuss internal protocol. One former White House official said Wolff was known to camp out for hours in the West Wing lobby after meetings, sitting on a sofa as he waited to talk to staffers passing by.

Wolff said in an author's note that the book was based on more than 200 interviews, including multiple conversations with the president and senior staff. But Sanders said Wolff "never actually sat down with the president" and had spoken with him just once, briefly, by phone, since Trump had taken office.

She also said the vast majority of interviews Wolff conducted with other White House officials were done at Bannon's request.

Bannon's comments in the book are just his latest published criticism of the president and his family. In a Vanity Fair piece late last year, he was quoted telling friends and advisers that Trump had "lost a step" since his swearing-in and was "like an 11-year-old child."

Trump barrels into 2018 with fresh foreign fights on Twitter

By Josh Lederman and Matthew Lee
Associated Press

Carolyn Kaster/Associated Press

President Donald Trump turns to talk to the gathered media Dec. 24, 2017 during a Christmas Eve video teleconference with members of the military at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Fla. Trump has stormed into 2018 in an exceptionally aggressive mood, picking fresh fights with Pakistan and the Palestinians, and touting the size of his "nuclear button" in a threat to North Korea.

WASHINGTON — You thought President Donald Trump might mellow out in 2018? Refrain from taunting world leaders tweet by tweet? Think again.

Trump is storming into the new year in exceptionally aggressive fashion, picking fresh fights on Twitter with such speed that his aides, international partners and the public are struggling to catch up. If he was brash on the global stage in Year 1, the first days of Year 2 suggest he was just warming up.

Pakistan? Liars and swindlers who enable terrorists, the president tweeted just hours after the world celebrated the arrival of a new year.

The Palestinians? No more U.S. aid until they get their act together and agree to peace talks with Israel.

Iran? "Failing at every level," Trump tweeted as he declared full-throated U.S. support for protesters there opposing the government.

And North Korea? Leader Kim Jong Un may have a figurative "nuclear button" on his desk, but Trump's is "much bigger," the president quipped, flippantly tossing off a threat to launch the world's first nuclear strike in more than 70 years

To Trump's supporters, and even to his critics, it may seem business as usual. After all, in his inaugural year Trump relentlessly pushed presidential boundaries with provocative declarations that often weren't fulfilled.

Yet for foreign nations trying anxiously to interpret the U.S. leader, such statements can have real-world consequences. Pakistan is livid at Trump's remarks, summoning the U.S. ambassador in Islamabad to explain the disparagement of a key U.S. security partner. North Korea experts worry Trump's taunting of Pyongyang could lead the two countries to stumble into war.

"I think he should stop. It's dangerous. It's dangerous bravado," former Vice President Joe Biden told The Associated Press on Tuesday. During a visit to the U.S. Capitol, Biden also said Trump needed to learn that it's not a game and that "words matter" when uttered by the commander in chief.

The White House played down the furor.

Spokeswoman Sarah Sanders insisted Trump wasn't "taunting" Kim Jong Un, merely "standing up for the people of this country." What would be dangerous, Sanders said, would be for Trump to stay silent.

"This is a president who is not going to cower down and is not going to be weak," she said.

Trump's rapid-fire spate of new pronouncements on foreign policy came as the president, fresh off his holiday vacation, made clear the second year of his presidency would be no less of a rollercoaster than the first.

On Wednesday, much of official Washington gasped as Trump, responding to a new book filled with criticism and insider gossip about his administration, issued a statement blasting his former chief strategist Steve Bannon as "out of his mind."

"This is just who he is," Ari Fleisher, former press secretary to President George W. Bush, said of Trump. "One year in, he still appraises his job as an outsider, not as the insider who leads the government, but the outsider who tweets and critiques and lets it rip."

Trump's social media taunts have left officials at the White House National Security Council, the State Department and other agencies scrambling over the past two days to determine whether he was setting new directions on a dime, or simply giving some New Year's oomph to his pre-existing foreign policy.

For the most part, it turned out to be the latter. Senior administration officials said they're directing government staff to consider the tweets to be "just tweets" and assume that no new policies are announced unless told otherwise through formal channels. The officials weren't authorized to discuss internal conversations publicly and demanded anonymity.

On Pakistan, for instance, Trump tweeted about slashing the country's aid because its leaders treat U.S. leaders "as fools" and "give safe haven to the terrorists we hunt in Afghanistan." He appeared to be echoing U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley. Her comments earlier in the day came as she confirmed the U.S. was withholding $255 million in assistance to Pakistan — a decision made last summer.

Despite the anger in Islamabad, officials in Washington felt the uproar was overstated. Although Trump's tweets were hardly diplomatic, officials said, they reflect years-long frustrations with the Pakistanis that have gripped administrations of both parties.

And Trump's threat to cut aid to the Palestinians didn't come out of the blue. U.S. officials had been considering steps against Palestinian authorities after they brought a vote to the U.N. General Assembly to condemn Trump's action in recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital. It passed overwhelmingly.

Officials described the discussions on cutting aid as still preliminary. An initial government-wide meeting to review possibilities is set for today, and Trump's top national security aides aren't expected to weigh the options until at least next week, the officials said.

Nevertheless, Palestinians responded sharply, and senior officials there said they wouldn't be "blackmailed" by Trump.

Whatever the president decides, his threat didn't give any immediate new life to an Arab-Israel peace process he wants to lead.

White House, lawmakers hopeful after 'positive' budget talks

By Andrew Taylor
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House and top congressional leaders from both major parties issued upbeat assessments Wednesday after a Capitol Hill meeting in which they forged progress on a stack of unfinished Washington business, starting with a hoped-for bipartisan budget deal.

The session in the office of House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., came with little more than two weeks before the next threatened government shutdown. Topping the agenda was an effort to spare both the Pentagon and domestic Cabinet agencies from spending cuts. Other issues, including immigration, disaster aid, and health care, were also discussed in hopes of resolving the raft of leftover issues, which could be a prelude to moving on to new business such as President Donald Trump's overdue infrastructure plan.

Both sides issued bland but positive statements after the session, which lasted more than an hour and included White House budget director Mick Mulvaney.

"We had a positive and productive meeting and all parties have agreed to continue discussing a path forward to quickly resolve all of the issues ahead of us," said Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., in a joint statement.

The White House, Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said in a joint statement of their own that they "hope that further discussions will lead to an agreement soon." McConnell briefed fellow Republicans afterward and told them the session was "surprisingly good," according to Sen. John Cornyn.

Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., said, "I don't think they reached any conclusions, but I think it was a fairly good meeting is what we were told."

The budget debate has been roiled by a demand from Democrats that nondefense programs win increases equal to those to be awarded to the Pentagon. That was a feature of prior budget pacts in 2013 and 2015 that were negotiated during the tenure of President Barack Obama.

Now, with Trump in the Oval Office, Republicans insist that this idea of parity between guns and butter belongs on the scrap heap.

"We need to set aside the arbitrary notion that new defense spending be matched equally by new nondefense spending," McConnell said earlier in the day. "There is no reason why funding for our national security and our service members should be limited by an arbitrary political formula that bears no relationship to actual need."

But unlike the recently passed tax bill and the GOP's failed efforts to repeal the Obama-era health care law, the upcoming agenda will require votes from Democrats. Bipartisanship has been in scarce supply under Trump, and heading into the session, spokesmen for Ryan and Schumer were not banking on a breakthrough.

The budget battle is but one element of a tricky Washington matrix facing the White House, its GOP allies and Democratic rivals like Schumer.

Particularly challenging is the question of immigrants who were brought to the country illegally as children but who face deportation in March because of Trump's decision to strip away Obama-issued protections for them.

Democrats say they won't go along with any budget deal until those immigrants, commonly referred to as Dreamers, are guaranteed protections. That has sparked pushback from GOP leaders who have refused to cede leverage to Democrats and insist on dealing with politically nettlesome immigration issues on a separate track.

Cornyn told reporters that he and other Republicans on the Judiciary panel, which has jurisdiction over immigration, are meeting with Trump at the White House today to discuss the issue.

BILBREY TOURS
2018 Travel Showcases

Big Spring Travel Show
Friday, January 5
10:00 AM
Dora Roberts Com. Center
Comanche Trail Park
100 Whipkey Drive
Big Spring, Texas

Lubbock Travel Show
Tuesday, January 9
2:00 PM
MCM Elegante Hotel
801 Avenue Q
Lubbock, Texas

Permian Basin Travel Show
Friday, January 5
2:00 PM
Holiday Inn Express Hotel
5309 West Loop 250 North
Midland, Texas

Concho Valley Travel Show
Wednesday, January 10
2:00 PM
Senior Annex Station 618
618 South Chadbourne
San Angelo, Texas

Abilene Travel Show
Saturday, January 6
1:00 PM
First Baptist Church
1333 N. 3rd
Abilene, Texas
Dining Hall; corner of N. 2nd & Hickory

Brownwood Travel Show
Thursday, January 11
2:00 PM
Adams Street
Community Center
511 E Adams
Brownwood, Texas

3262 South 27th Street; Abilene, Texas 79605
(325) 692-1300 * 1-888-692-1300 * www.bilbreytours.com

WEEKENDER

YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS IN THE PERMIAN BASIN

BEST BETS

TODAY

LAST DAYS See "What If" the University of Texas of the Permian Basin senior art exhibition by Imbilex Fernandez at the Arts Council of Midland before it closes on Friday. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

COUNTRY NIGHT Get those boot scooters on and head to Rockin' Rodeo to see the Chet Johnson Band take over the stage for the night. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY

GAME TIME Adults partake in board games, while kids watch a screening of "Leap" at Permian Basin LGBTQ (plus) family movie and game night at Sleep Inn and Suites. 7 p.m.

SATURDAY

SOUND MIX Check out Clete Bradley and the Mood when they bring their mix of rock, country and blues to the Lone Star Bar. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY

WALK THIS WAY The Midland Walkabout Newspaper Club [illegible] to Mountains for the Spirit Revolution Run/Walk. Dress warm and [illegible] follow walkers as [illegible] by the cold. 2 p.m.

For complete schedule of weekend events see Page 3

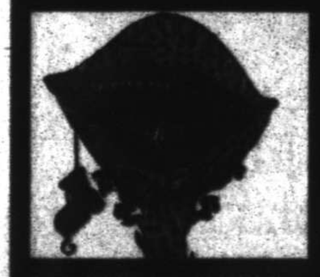
MOVIES

TALL CITY 14
Opening: [illegible]
Closing: [illegible]

CINERGY CINEMAS
Opening: [illegible]
Closing: [illegible]

STAYING IN
[illegible]
Page 4

COMING SOON



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ARTISTIC JOURNEY

Courtesy photo

Kerry McClain's fractal art kicks off the year at Kamiposi

By Rich Lopez
jrlopez@mrt.com

New year, new art could perhaps be the mantra for gallery space Kamiposi. The monthly First Friday opening this weekend features computer-generated fractal art by Kerry McClain. The show is a first for Kamiposi and McClain, although it's not his first appearance there.

"I was in the Midland Arts Association show last spring at Kamiposi," the San Angelo-raised artist said. "The gallery was definitely a new one on me to find here in Midland that speaks differently."

IF YOU GO

First Friday: The Art of Kerry McClain opening reception, 6 p.m. Friday. Art will be on view Fridays in January at Kamiposi, 510 S. Big Spring St.

He then answered the gallery's call for submissions in the fall, and now he finds himself putting the final touches on the first show of the year.

His fractal-based art takes a base image in digital form, which he manipulates to create original pieces. The medium was a natural fit for the techie.

"I'm a computer programmer by trade. I came up on this software that — based on mathematics, which I don't pretend to understand — comes with these variable infinite patterns. So, it's quite a random process."

He's worked on his fractals for 20 years. Before that his focus was on photography.

"I guess in junior high, I was drawn to photography. The gizmo aspect of cameras drew me in but I realized I can make photos with these things and got better and better. I enjoy being out in nature, so that was my focus."

McClain doesn't observe much parallel in his transition from photography to fractal art, save for some of his abstract photography.

Instead, he looks at his artistic journey like life.

"You just don't know what tomorrow's going to bring," he said.

This particular tomorrow, though, he does know that he'll debut his first solo show in Midland. And he's looking forward to hearing what viewers think.

"I'm anxious to talk to folks about what they see. That's always a source of fascination to hear their perspectives," he said.

HEAT INDEX:
Disney takes the stage at Wagner Noel

By Rich Lopez
jrlopez@mrt.com

"Disney Live! Mickey and Minnie's Doorway to Magic" at the Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center

Mickey and Minnie Mouse bring magic to Midland with a show full of illusions and trickery. Characters for the show include Cinderella and her fairy godmother, the Toy Story gang, the genie from "Aladdin" performing feats of magic live on stage. With three performances, the show can be a treat for everyone.

1, 4 and 7 p.m. today; 1 and 4 p.m. Friday at 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $23-$53. wagnernoel.com.

Sandhills Stock and Rodeo Show at Ector County Coliseum

Running through Jan. 13, the Sandhills Stock and Rodeo Show will feature 10 days of livestock exhibitions, rodeo performances, steer roping, a quarter horse show and the 2018 Miss Rodeo Sandhills contest. The show culminates with a children's rodeo and a dance and concert by Jake Hooker and the Outsiders.

Opens today at 4201 Andrews Highway, Odessa. $16-$20. sandhillsstockshow.com.

Colt Ford at Dos Amigos

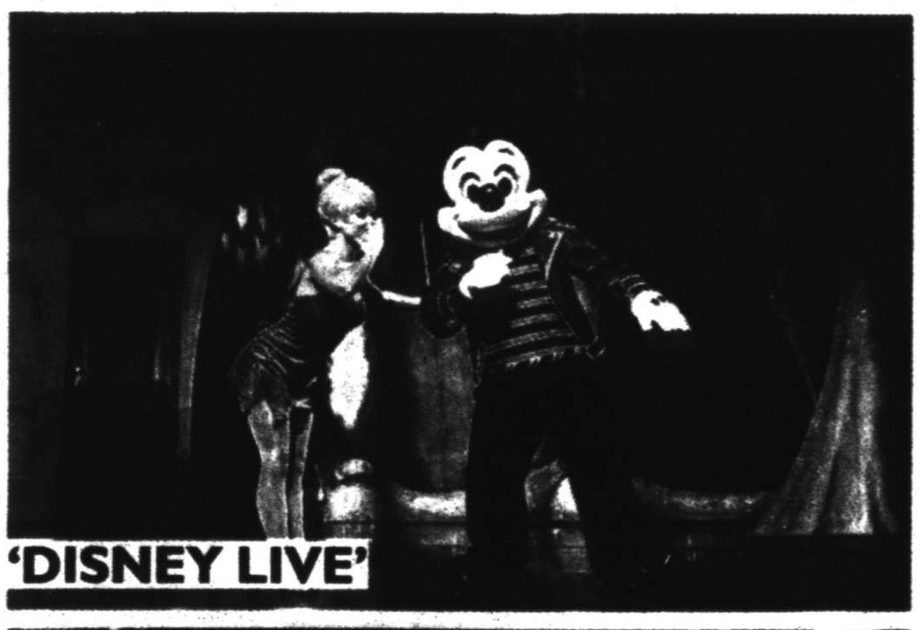
Colt Ford defies all convention when it comes to being a music artist. The former pro golfer turned his career into a rapper and country singer. Despite any head-scratching, Ford has made it work with six albums, his latest being "Love Hope Faith" released in May. He even snagged a Country Music Award nomination in 2011 for "Cold Beer." Clearly he's doing something right.

Saturday at Dos Amigos, 4700 Golder Ave., Odessa. $15 advance, $20 door. dosamigos.com.

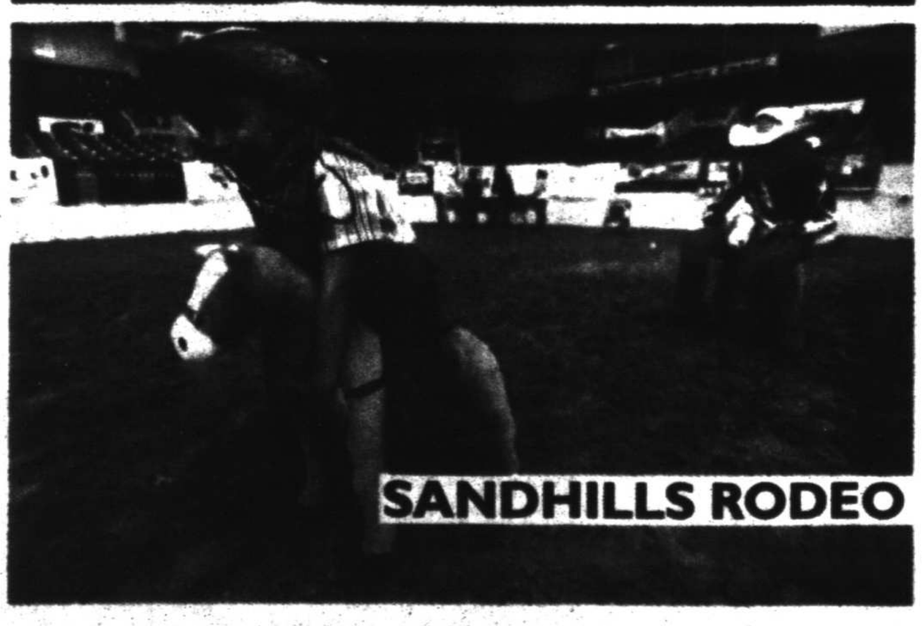
Basin PBS screens "Victoria" preview at Junior League

Follow the continuing story of the young Queen Victoria when Basin PBS screens this preview of the season two premiere. The drama unfolds with scandal and corruption, which makes it more fun to watch. Guests will be able to enjoy refreshments and a silent auction at the preview.

4:30 p.m. Sunday at Junior League of Midland, 902 W. Dengar Ave. Free. basinpbs.org.



'DISNEY LIVE'



SANDHILLS RODEO

COLT FORD

CALENDAR & MORE

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

CLASSES, LECTURES & WORKSHOPS

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

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

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

EVENTS

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

FAMILY & YOUTH

Storytime at the Library. 10:30 a.m. (birth-2 years), 11:30 a.m. (2-6 years). Thursdays. Midland County Public Library downtown branch, 301 W. Missouri Ave. co.midland.tx.us/lib.

Writing is Magic teen writing club for ages 13-19. is a creative writing club with writing time and weekly topics that will meet monthly. 4:30 p.m. every first Friday at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N.

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

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

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

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

FINE ART & DANCE

OPENING: First Friday: The art of Kerry McClain opening reception, 6 p.m. Friday at Kamiposi, 510 S. Big Spring St.

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

NEW: Midland Arts Association: Geoff Browne. Works will be on display 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Fridays throughout January at Community National Bank, 401 W. Texas Ave. midlandartsassociation.org.

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

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

MUSIC

COUNTRY

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

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

Forgotten Road, 9 p.m. Friday at Lone Star Bar, 621 W. Wall St.

Clete Bradley, 9 p.m. Saturday at Lone Star Bar, 621 W. Wall St.

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

Mike Stanley Band, 9 p.m. Saturday at Oasis Bar and Grill, 5200 E. University Blvd., Odessa. mcmeleganteodessa.com.

DJ/DANCE

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

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

KARAOKE

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

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

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

OUTDOORS, SPORTS & FITNESS

Sandhills Stock and Rodeo Show, today through Jan. 14 at Ector County Coliseum, 4201 Andrews Hwy., Odessa. $16-$20. sandhillsstockshow.com.

Sandhills Stock and Rodeo Show: Rodeo performance. 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday at Ector County Coliseum, 4201 Andrews Highway, Odessa. $16-$20. sandhillsstockshow.com.

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

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

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

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

Sandhills Stock and Rodeo Show: Rodeo performance. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 10 at Ector County Coliseum, 4201 Andrews Highway, Odessa. $16-$20. sandhillsstockshow.com.

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

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

STAGE, COMEDY & FILM

"Disney Live! Mickey and Minnie's Doorway to Magic," 1, 4 and 7 p.m. today; 1 and 4 p.m. Friday at Wagner Noel performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $23-$53. wagnernoel.com.

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

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

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

Gary Oldman is magnificent as Churchill in 'Darkest Hour'

MOIRA MACDONALD
Seattle Times

You could look at Joe Wright's historical drama "Darkest Hour" as the flip side of Christopher Nolan's "Dunkirk." It tells of the same events, but from a different perspective: Nolan's film focuses on the thousands of troops famously stranded on the beaches of Dunkirk during World War II; Wright's takes place in the dim hallways of power in London, where politicians led by Prime Minister Winston Churchill (Gary Oldman) debate how to rescue them. (Throw in Lone Scherfig's "Their Finest," in which wartime filmmakers make a movie inspired by the Dunkirk incident, and you'd have a pretty great triple feature.) And while "Dunkirk" swoops and dances with time, "Darkest Hour" is a straightforward, day-by-day depiction of world-changing events, told with meticulous simplicity.

This Masterpiece Theater-ish approach, however, works just fine. "Darkest Hour" is a handsome, old-fashioned film, filled with stirring music, dusty light and thoughtful performances—with one whopper of a star turn at its core. Oldman, who offscreen looks not a whit like Churchill, is physically transformed here: prosthetics drown his face in jowls; trousers are pulled high over a protruding belly; his walk is heavy and deliberate, leaning forward, hands clasped behind as if in counterbalance. His overstuffed cushion of a voice, complete with indistinguishable mumbles between words, intones both now-famous speeches ("We shall fight on the beaches … ") and more prosaic dialogue. ("How do you manage all this drinking during the day?" someone asks Churchill, whose day begins with breakfast Scotch-and-soda. "Practice," the prime minister replies.)

Wright surrounds Oldman with masterful supporting players: Kristin Scott Thomas, who gets only enough time to make you wish that her arch Clemmie Churchill had a movie of her own (somebody please make this movie); Lily James as a wide-eyed young secretary to the prime minister; Ben Mendelsohn's King George VI, struggling with a speech impediment (which Mendelsohn is careful not to overplay) and with events he cannot control. But this is Oldman's movie, and it's a pleasure to watch him disappear into Churchill. If the movie occasionally slips into implausibility—there's a charming scene involving Churchill on the Tube that's perhaps too charming—it's easy to forgive. "Darkest Hour" is history made drama; a portrait of a leader both larger than life and utterly human.

'DARKEST HOUR'

'DARKEST HOUR'

3.5 stars

With Gary Oldman, Kristin Scott Thomas, Lily James, Stephen Dillane, Ronald Pickup, Ben Mendelsohn.

Directed by Joe Wright, from a screenplay by Anthony McCarten.

Running time: 125 minutes.

Rated PG-13 for some thematic material.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

In 'All the Money in the World,' money is everything and nothing

KATIE WALSH
Tribune News Service

It may be unfair that the story of "All the Money in the World" — Ridley Scott's film about the 1973 kidnapping of John Paul Getty III — has been hijacked by the last-minute replacement of one of the film's most important supporting players. When Kevin Spacey went down in the Great Hollywood Sexual Assault Reckoning of 2017, director Scott was not about to let his film go down too as collateral damage.

The legendarily fast Scott reshot the every one of Spacey's scenes as curmudgeonly oil billionaire John Paul Getty with Christopher Plummer in the role, and pulled it off — from production to post — in only a matter of weeks. The seamless final product is astonishing for that fact alone. Its production has now become myth. But "All The Money In The World" deserves to be appraised on its own.

The film is a bold stylistic project from Scott, a faded, sepia-toned snapshot of a heady moment in time; a whirlwind of frenzied activity detailing the life and legend of John Paul Getty, through the lens of this ugly incident. Through this event, we come to understand the psychology of the man, a visionary oil billionaire for whom money becomes more plentiful than air. And yet, it is his miserliness that defines him.

When it came to his beloved grandson's kidnapping, Getty was a real Scrooge (ironically, Plummer played Ebenezer Scrooge himself in the meta-adaptation of "A Christmas Carol," "The Man Who Invented Christmas," this fall). Unlike Scrooge, it's doubtful Getty ever had a true change of heart, according to "All the Money in the World."

It's a testament to Michelle Williams's outsize talent that for all the hubbub surrounding the film, she shines like a beacon. It's one of her best performances, which helps explain why Scott so desperately wanted to save the film. She adopts a patrician accent as Gail Getty, the daughter-in-law of Getty Sr. and mother of Paul (Getty the third). For her, it never really seems to be about the money. She'd like her husband to get a job and suggests he contact his estranged father. But their connection to him places the target squarely on her son Paul's (Charlie Plummer) back.

When Paul is kidnapped, Gail is on her own, her ex-husband wasted in Marrakech, not a true Getty cent to her name. Reaching out to her father-in-law for help, he dispatches the hysterical woman with his hired dealmaker, former CIA man Fletcher Chase (Mark Wahlberg), refusing to pay the ransom, claiming his other grandchildren will be kidnapped.

For Fletcher, it seems like another gig, as Gail and Getty quibble over dwindling sums of money and the kidnapping stretches on interminably. Paul himself dwindles, losing an ear in the process. But, for its breathless pace, the plot eventually grinds to a stalemate.

As the film reaches its conclusion, the message we come away with is: Money means nothing and money means everything. For Getty, money is air, but he grasps at every last cent. Money is his entire existence. Gail's existence is family. But there isn't much more characterization or motivation than that, and Fletcher is granted even less. This movie may be about the soul-corroding nature of money, and it illustrates that well, but what exactly does it all mean? Scott proves miserly in providing answers beyond that.

'ALL THE MONEY IN THE WORLD'

2.5 Stars

Cast: Christopher Plummer, Michelle Williams, Mark Wahlberg, Charlie Plummer.

Directed By Ridley Scott.

Running Time: 2 Hours, 12 Minutes.

Rated R For Language, Some Violence, Disturbing Images And Brief Drug Content.

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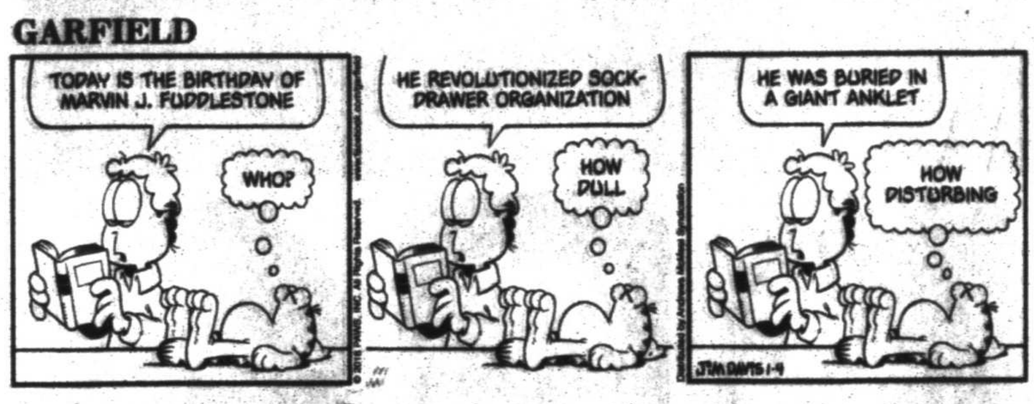
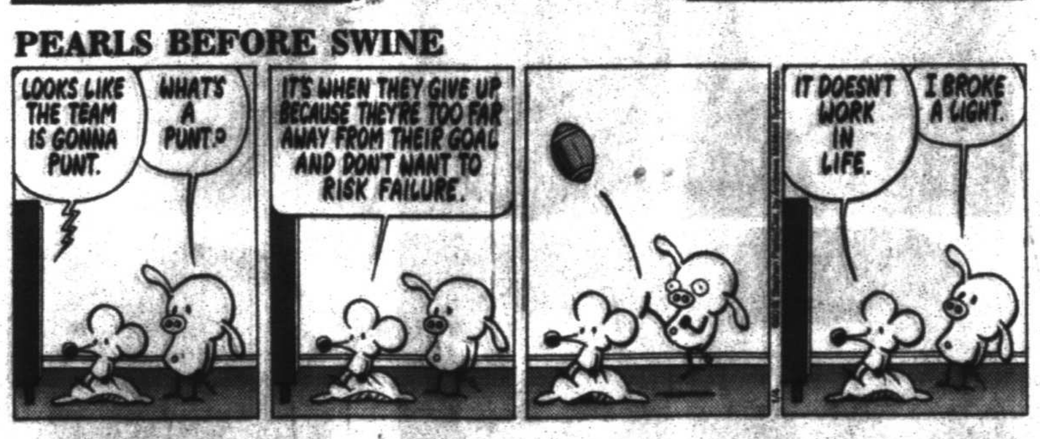


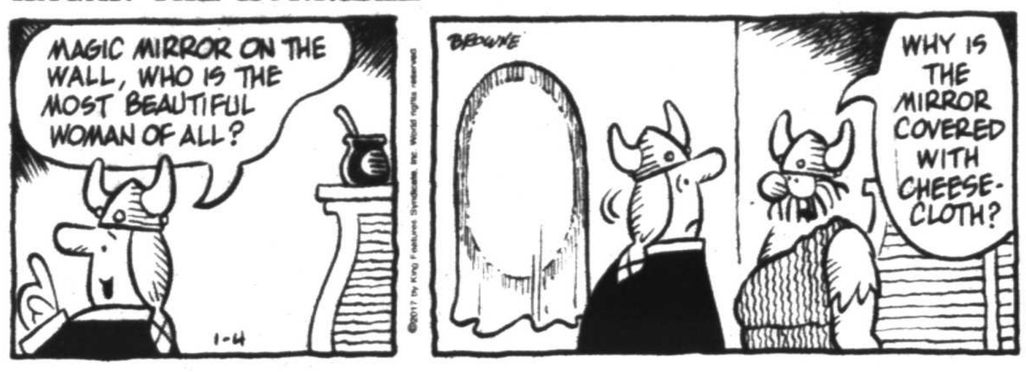
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



WIZARD OF ID

DILBERT

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



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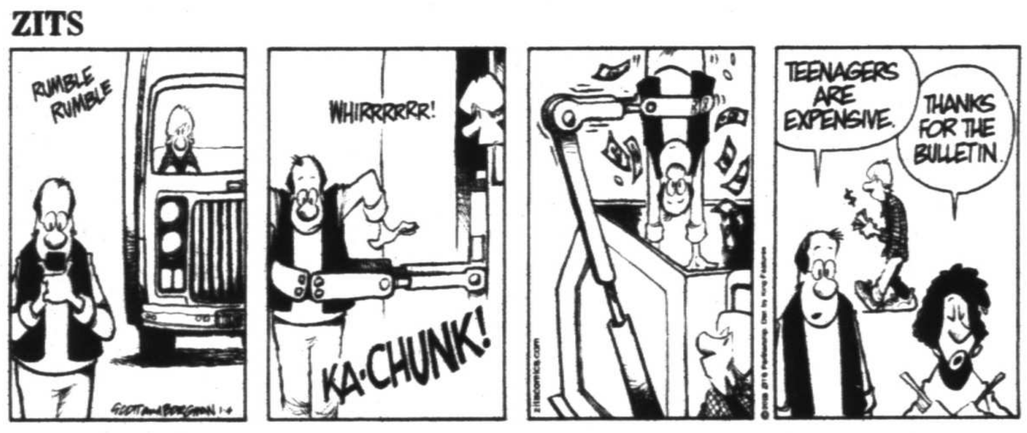
MARY WORTH

ZITS



BABY BLUES

MUTTS

CLOSE TO HOME

Roger opted for the extra-detailed GPS app.

DENNIS THE MENACE

"AT LEAST HE VISITS HIS PARENTS ONCE IN A WHILE."

LOCKHORNS

"YOUR MAIN JOB AS MY RIGHT-HAND MAN WILL BE TO TELL ME WHAT MY LEFT-HAND MAN IS DOING."

FAMILY CIRCUS

"Daddy purrs a lot louder than Kittycat."

ON SCREEN

Bombastic film is nasty, violent and thoroughly enjoyable

PICK O' THE WEEK

"Brawl on Cell Block 99" (R) S. Craig Zahler, who penned and directed the amazing "Bone Tomahawk" in 2016, maintains his high standards with his second feature. This film is bombastic, violent and nasty. Oh, and that's the best part. Vince Vaughn is brilliant in his portrayal of a boxer-turned-mechanic-turned-drug dealer who makes some unfortunate choices and lands in prison. That's where the film truly roars to life. The prison is unlike any real, legal prison in existence, natch, and the more unbelievable and ridiculous the conditions become, the better it gets. **A-**

ICK! O' THE WEEK

"Showdown in Manila" (unrated) Mark Dacascosse's best role is arguably playing The Chairman on Food Network's "Iron Chef America" and "Iron Chef Showdown." He has been noticeably absent for large chunks of the show recently. It must be because he was trading in his career as a B-list action actor to become a B-list action movie writer and director. It is obvious from the beginning of this film that the budget was going to keep things from being too entertaining but the filmmaking is just plain lazy on top of it. Within the first 20 minutes, a lackluster car chase ends when two fleeing females are cut off in traffic by two thug-filled vehicles. The women get out, pound the thugs, who lie writhing in pain on the street. The women then get back in their car — now miraculously unblocked — and drive away. That kind of laziness permeates the entire film. **F**

MORE REVIEWS

"Flatliners" (PG-13) This year's hands-down winner for most unnecessary remake goes to this film. Although not a lot of changes were made to the original 1990 film — which was an intriguing, interesting film — this version shows how utterly stupid the whole premise is. It does score a couple of style points, though, for its look. **D**

"Jungle" (R) Daniel Radcliffe turns in an impressive performance in this fact-based story of an Israeli man (Yossi Ghinsberg) lost in a Bolivian jungle. The nagging question, though, is how Ghinsberg allowed himself to be talked into the adventure to begin with. The film also does a poor job of conveying the time period, which is supposed to be 1981. There are other distractions, as well, which slowly but surely detract from the main story. **C**

Reeler & Stream

By Nancy Adamson | nadamson@mrt.com

REDBOX TOP RENTALS

The top 10 DVD rentals at Redbox kiosks for the week of Dec. 25:

1. Dunkirk — Warner
2. Kingsman: The Secret Service — Fox
3. Flatliners (2017) — Sony
4. The Lego Ninjago Movie — Warner
5. Atomic Blonde — Universal
6. The Hitman's Bodyguard — Lionsgate
7. Kidnap — Universal
8. American Assassin — Lionsgate
9. Brawl In Cell Block 99 — RLJ Entertainment
10. Girls Trip — Universal

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

FILM CAPS

"All the Money in the World" (R) The mother of kidnapped teenager John Paul Getty III races to persuade the boy's billionaire grandfather to pay the ransom. With Michelle Williams, Christopher Plummer, Mark Wahlberg. Written by David Scarpa; based on the book by John Pearson. Directed by Ridley Scott.

"Bright" (NR) In an alternative present where mythical creatures exist, a human cop partners with an orc to protect a powerful ancient relic. With Will Smith, Joel Edgerton, Noomi Rapace, Lucy Fry, Edgar Ramirez. Written by Max Landis. Directed by David Ayer. Streaming on Netflix.

"Darkest Hour" (PG-13) Gary Oldman has great fun as Winston Churchill in "Darkest Hour," and it's great fun to watch him play Britain's wartime prime minister, contending with political opposition while rallying his people and his king (Ben Mendelsohn) to the cause of opposing Germany, in the face of the dire events at Dunkirk. Joe Wright's showboating direction is a match for the heightened pitch of the performances, which include good work by Stephen Dillane, Kristen Scott Thomas and Lily James. 2 hrs. 5 PG-13 (language) — Gary Thompson

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

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

"Insidious: The Last Key" (R) A parapsychologist discovers a horrific threat inside her own home. With Lin Shaye, Angus Sampson, Leigh Whannell. Written by Whannell. Directed by Adam Robitel.

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

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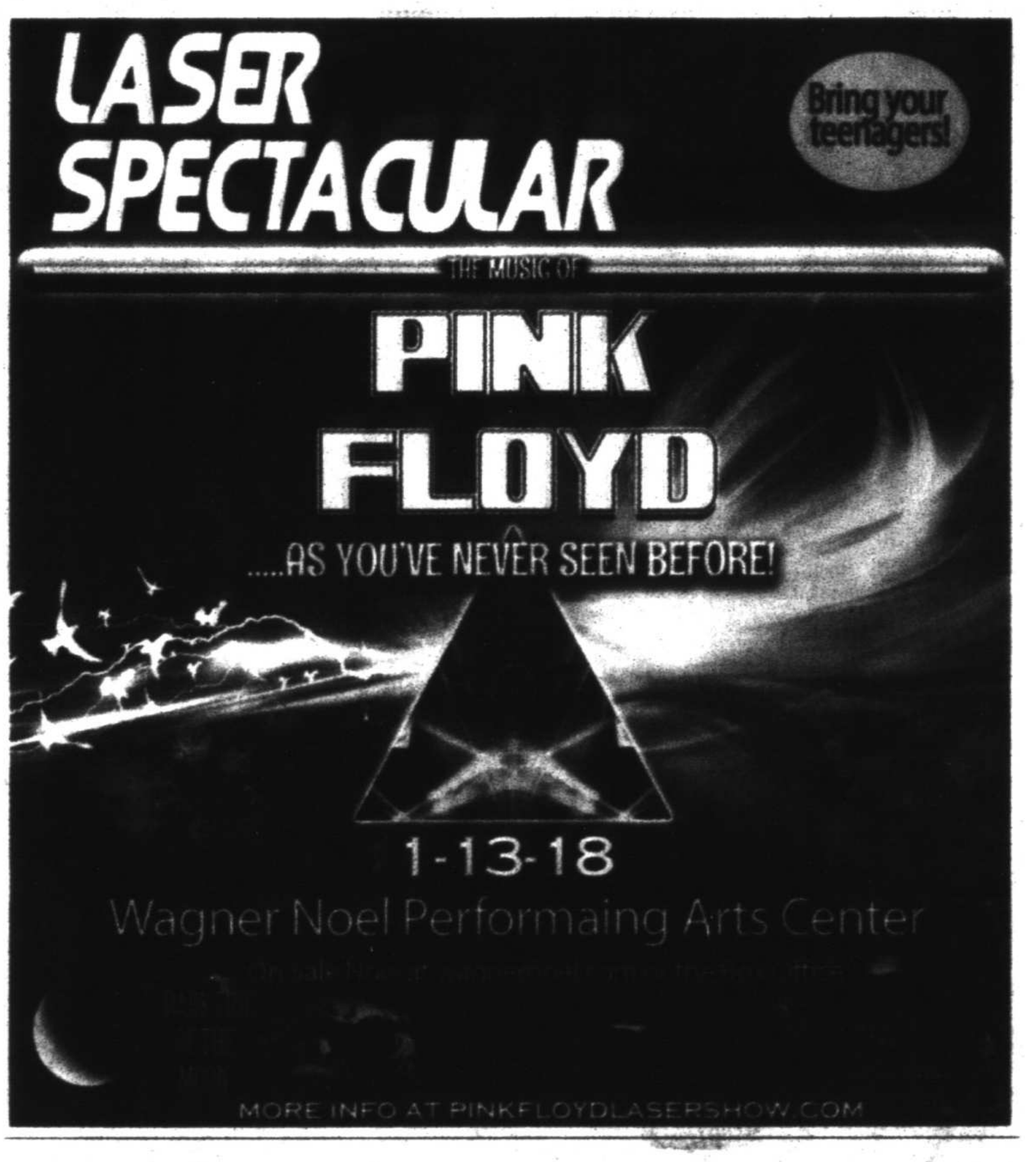

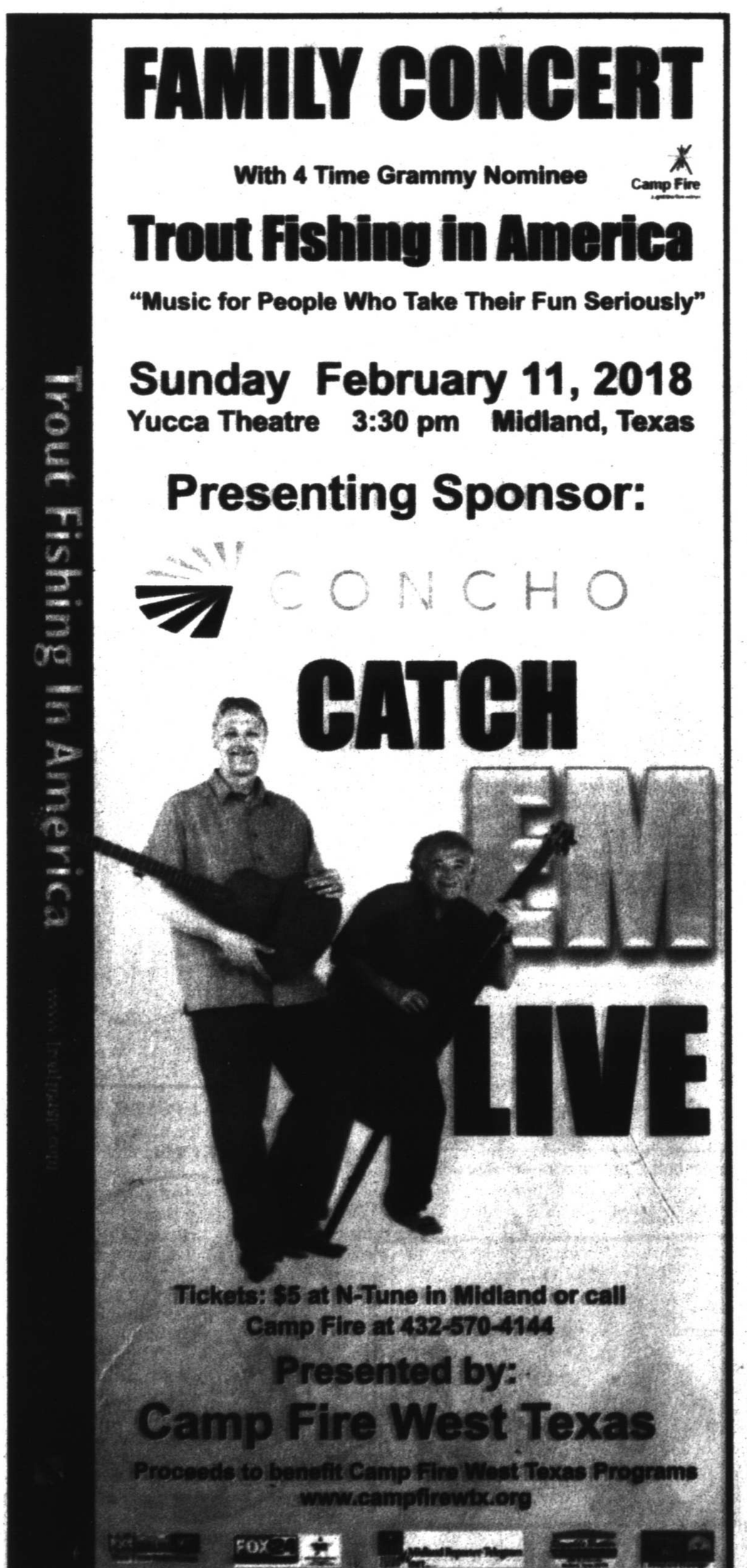

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THE SPIRIT OF THE SOUTHWEST

CIMAREX

O'Brien retains job with Texans; is vague about future

By Kristie Rieken
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Coach Bill O'Brien kept his job despite Houston's 4-12 finish and looks to be returning for next season.

His status beyond that is far less certain.

O'Brien, who has one season left on his contract, was asked repeatedly on Tuesday if he'll be with the Texans next season and if he's been offered a contract extension. He never refused comment, but avoided answering the questions directly with the skill of a veteran politician.

"These are things that are being discussed," he said when asked if he'll coach the team next season. "I feel like I will be here in 2018, but again, these are ongoing discussions that maybe we can clarify with you guys, maybe, at a later date. I'm sure we will, but this is where it's at right now."

When asked if he'd like to sign an extension, he again refused to give a direct answer, instead talking broadly about his relationship with owner Bob McNair and his son Cal McNair.

"We're having great discussions, very productive," O'Brien said. "They're very easy to talk to. They really do a great job of working with us, with me, of listening, back and forth, a lot of great ideas ... these are really good discussions that we're having and we'll move from there."

O'Brien has a 31-33 record in four seasons in Houston and this was his first losing season after he led the team to 9-7 records in each of his first three years.

The Texans won the AFC South the past two seasons before failing to make the postseason in 2017 as they dealt with injuries to quarterback Deshaun Watson and superstar defensive end J.J. Watt.

Along with firming up O'Brien's future with the team, the Texans also must find someone to fill in at general manager after Rick Smith announced that he's taking a leave of absence of at least a year to care for his wife as she fights breast cancer.

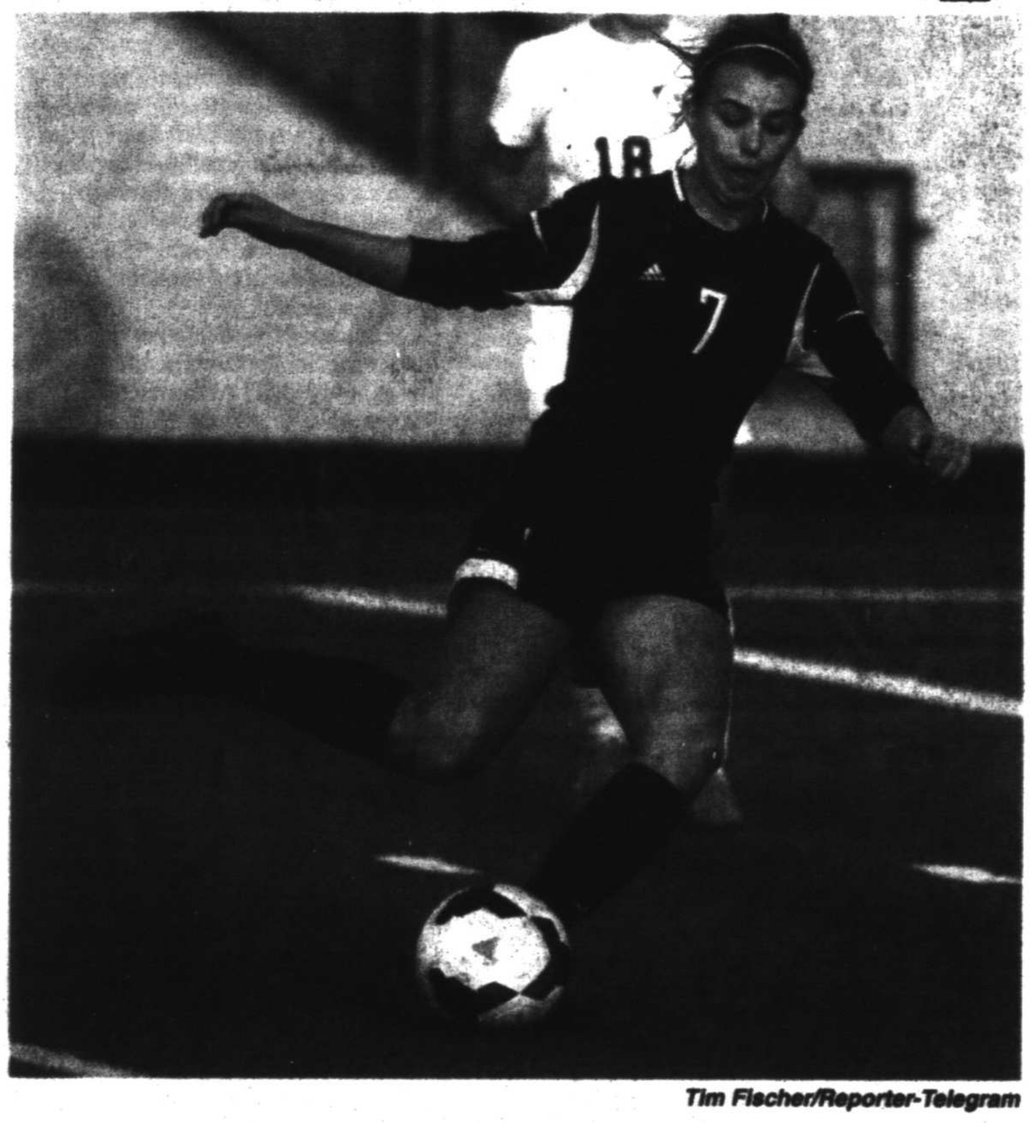
O'Brien said he isn't looking to have more personnel power in Smith's absence, but that he has been involved in discussions

Please see **TEXANS/4C**

Karen Warren / Houston Chronicle

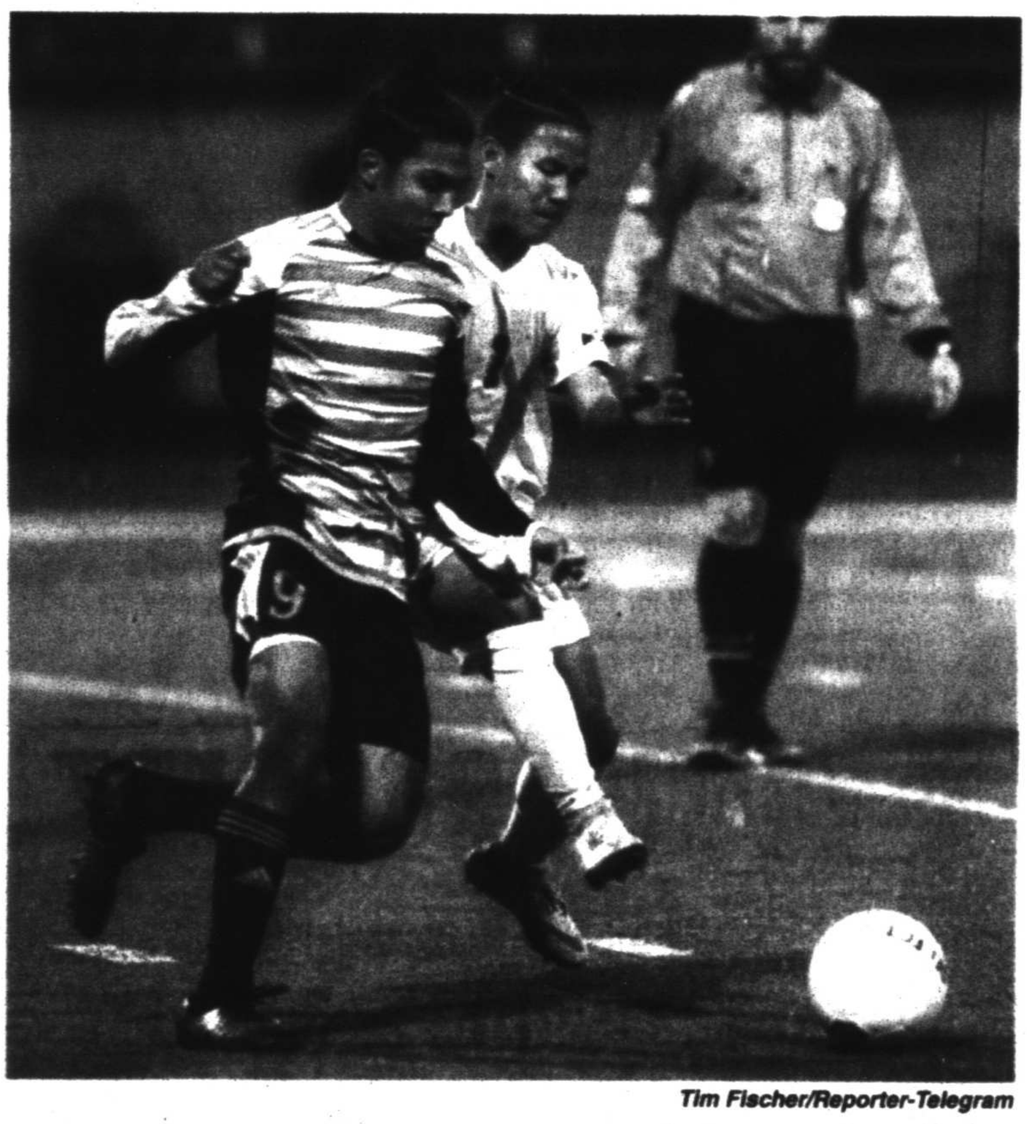
Houston Texans head coach Bill O'Brien speaks to the media at NRG Stadium on Tuesday in Houston.

Great expectations



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Midland High's Kylie VonHolle turns to take a shot March 3, 2017 at Grande Communications Stadium.



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Midland High's Brian Natividad and Lee's Johnny Thang battle for the ball March 3, 2017 at Grande Communications Stadium.

GIRLS SOCCER PREVIEW

Lee, MHS optimistic despite youth

By Oscar LeRoy
oleroy@mrt.com

The Midland ISD varsity girls soccer programs may have plenty of youth on their respective rosters this season, but coaches for both Midland High and Lee are excited about the potential once District 2-6A play begins next month.

Because of the lack of experience in some areas and the need to build chemistry, the early part of the season will be important for both the Lady Bulldogs and Lady Rebels as they begin the regular season this week. MHS will travel to play in the Frisco Tournament today, while Lee plays at Canyon on Friday.

Midland High, which is coming off its 10th straight playoff appearance, will look to fill some key holes left because of graduation. Meanwhile, Lee is hoping to continue to build up its program under the leadership of second-year coach Mark Hinshaw.

"I'm really excited about this season," said second-year MHS coach Cooper Barham. "I lost seven seniors, four starters to graduation, but the girls that have moved up and are going to fill their spots are practicing well. I'm hoping they will use this opportu-

Please see **GIRLS/3C**

BOYS SOCCER PREVIEW

MHS, Lee have experience, high hopes in 2018

By Will Korn
wkorn@mrt.com

When the Lee and Midland High boys soccer teams take the field today in their respective season openers, they'll be looking to build off quality performances last season.

The Rebels enjoyed a breakthrough 2017 season that saw them capture the District 2-6A title, the program's first since 2009. Meanwhile, the Bulldogs, who had established themselves as a district blueblood under former head coach Warren Cottle, claimed 2-6A's second seed, falling one point short of their archrivals.

Both teams return a slew of talent and experience and expect to be in the conversation for the district crown when league play opens in just over a month. But these two clubs won't be settling on their expectations.

"The feeling coming off last year was great," said Lee head coach Scott Hicks,

Please see **BOYS/3C**

Oklahoma's Riley proves capable in first year as head coach

By Cliff Brunt
Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — In his first year as Oklahoma's head coach, Lincoln Riley came within one more touchdown of playing for a national title.

Not bad for a 34-year-old who found out just months before the start of the season that he would be called upon to fill Bob Stoops' big shoes.

Riley picked up where Stoops left off as the high-scoring Sooners won their third straight Big 12 title, quarterback Baker Mayfield won the Heisman Trophy and Mark Andrews won the Mackey Award as the nation's best tight end.

Riley was Oklahoma's offensive coordinator for two seasons before being promoted, and the Sooners had two of the most productive offensive seasons in school history. Still, being the boss was different.

"You can't really understand it until you get in the chair, although I had some unique perspective into it," he said. "I didn't at one point through throughout the whole year feel unprepared, though. I never did. I never felt unprepared. I never felt overwhelmed. I think a lot of that was because the staff and team around me."

The youngest head coach in the Football Bowl Subdivision found out quickly that he indeed was ready to make the jump. In the second game in his new role, he led the Sooners to a 31-16 win at then-No. 2 Ohio State. After Oklahoma lost to Iowa State in October, the Sooners reeled off eight straight wins to reach the College Football Playoff. In the national semifinal, the Sooners forced Georgia into its worst defensive performance of the season, but the Bulldogs escaped with a 54-48 double-overtime victory on Monday.

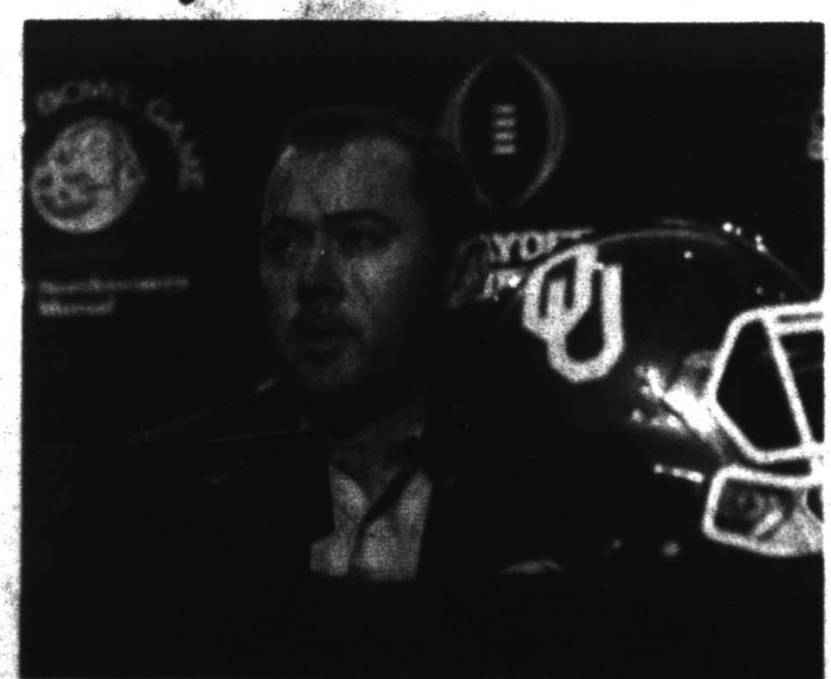
Mayfield and the Sooners had their chance in the first overtime after Georgia was held to a field goal. Oklahoma stalled, and had to settle for a tying kick.

Even with the bitter ending — as of Wednesday morning, Riley had not watched film of the game — he deemed the season a good one.

"We won 12 games and we won a guy Big 12 championship," he said. "A guy won the Heisman. We had a boatload of All-Americans. Absolutely, yes. Was it everything we wanted it to be? No. We wanted to win a national championship and we had a chance to do it. To say it wasn't a success, then you're saying there's only one successful team a year."

Riley said Georgia was exceptional defensively, and the Sooners will need to improve on

Please see **RILEY/4C**



Curtis Compton/Atlanta Journal-Constitution via AP

Oklahoma head coach Lincoln Riley answers questions at an NCAA football news conference Sunday in Los Angeles. Georgia defeated Oklahoma 54-48 in double overtime at the Rose Bowl on New Year's Day.

DAILY RUNDOWN

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

Figure Skating
US Championships: Pairs Short, 4 p.m., NBCSN
US Championships: Men's Short, 7:30 p.m., NBCSN
Golf
PGA: Sentry Tournament of Champions, 1st Round, 5 p.m., GOLF
High School Football
Under Armour All-American Game, 5 p.m., ESPN2
Hockey
IIHF World Junior Championships Semifinal 1, 3 p.m., NHL
Semifinal 2, 7 p.m., NHL
Men's College Basketball
Houston at Wichita State, 6 p.m., ESPN
Ohio State at Iowa, 6 p.m., ESPNU
UT Martin at Austin Peay, 6 p.m., CBSSN
Maryland at Michigan State, 7 p.m., FS1
UTEP at Southern Miss, 7 p.m., beIN
Arizona at Utah, 8 p.m., ESPN
Cincinnati at Temple, 8 p.m., ESPN2
SMU at Tulane, 8 p.m., ESPNU
Northern Iowa at Missouri State, 8 p.m., CBSSN
UCLA at Stanford, 9 p.m., FS1
Gonzaga at Pepperdine, 10 p.m., ESPNU
Men's Soccer
PL: Tottenham Hotspur vs. West Ham United, 2 p.m., NBCSN, NBCU
National Basketball Association
Golden State at Houston, 7 p.m., TNT
Oklahoma City at LA Clippers, 9:30 p.m., TNT
National Hockey League
New Jersey at Dallas, 7:30 p.m., FSSW
Olympic Trials
Speed Skating: Men's & Women's 1500, 5:30 p.m.,NBCSN
Tennis
ATP: Qatar ExxonMobil Open, Quarterfinals, 6:30 a.m., beIN, TENNIS
ATP: Brisbane Invitational, Quarterfinals 1 & 2, 7 p.m., TENNIS
Women's College Basketball
Iowa at Maryland, 5 p.m., BTN
Kentucky at Texas A&M, 6 p.m., SEC
TCU at Oklahoma, 7 p.m., FSSW+, FCSC
Michigan at Wisconsin, 7 p.m., BTN
Middle Tennessee at Western Kentucky, 7 p.m., FCSA
Arkansas at Mississippi State, 8 p.m., SEC

WHAT'S ON DECK

HS Boys Basketball
Lamesa at Midland High, 4:30 p.m.
MCA at Garden City, 7:30 p.m.

HS Girls Basketball
MCA at Garden City, 6:15 p.m.

HS Boys Soccer
Lee at Frenship Tournament, Wolfforth
MHS at Flower Mound Marcus Tournament

HS Girls Soccer
MHS at Frisco Tournament

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL
National League
MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Traded RHP Dylan Baker to the L.A. Dodgers for cash.
Can-Am League
SUSSEX COUNTY MINERS — Traded RHP Fabio Martinez to Kansas City (AA) for LHP Mark McCoy.

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
WASHINGTON WIZARDS — Waived F Mike Young. Assigned F Chris McCullough to Wisconsin (NBAGL).

FOOTBALL
National Football League
CINCINNATI BENGALS — Signed offensive coordinator Bill Lazor to a new contract.
GREEN BAY PACKERS — Fired defensive coordinator Dom Capers, assistant linebackers coach Scott McCurley and defensive line coach Mike Trgovac. Signed G Kofi Amichia.
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — Placed CB Phillip Gaines on injured reserve. Signed DT Stefen Charles.
MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Signed WR Brandon Zylstra to a reserve/future contract.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Signed LB Trevor Reilly to the practice squad. Released WR Bernard Reedy from the practice squad.
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Signed K Jason Myers and RB Jalston Fowler to reserve/future contracts.
WASHINGTON REDSKINS — Signed DL Monton Hughes to a reserve/future contract.

NFL PLAYOFF GLANCE

Wild-card Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 6
Tennessee at Kansas City, 3:35 p.m. (ESPN/ABC)
Atlanta at Los Angeles Rams, 7:15 p.m. (NBC)
Sunday, Jan. 7
Buffalo at Jacksonville, 12:05 p.m. (CBS)
Carolina at New Orleans, 3:40 p.m. (FOX)
Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 13
New Orleans/Carolina/Atlanta at Philadelphia, 3:35 p.m. (NBC)
Kansas City/Tennessee/Buffalo at New England, 7:15 p.m. (CBS)
Sunday, Jan. 14
Jacksonville/Kansas City/Tennessee at Pittsburgh, 12:05 p.m. (CBS)
Los Angeles Rams/New Orleans/Carolina at Minnesota, 3:40 p.m. (FOX)
Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 21
AFC
TBD, 2:05 p.m. (CBS)
NFC
TBD, 5:40 p.m. (FOX)
Pro Bowl
Sunday, Jan. 28
At Orlando, Fla.
AFC vs. NFC, 2 p.m. (ESPN/ABC)
Super Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 4
At Minneapolis, Minn.
AFC champion vs. NFC champion, 5:30 p.m. (NBC)

COLLEGE BOWL GLANCE

Monday
College Football Championship
Atlanta
Georgia (13-1) vs. Alabama (12-1), 7 p.m. (ESPN)
Saturday, Jan. 20
East-West Shrine Classic
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
East vs. West, 2 p.m. (NFLN)
NFLPA Collegiate Bowl
At Carson, Calif.
American vs. National, 3 p.m. (FS1)
Saturday, Jan. 27
Senior Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
North vs. South, 1:30 p.m. (NFLN)

SPORTS ODDS

NFL
Playoffs Saturday

FAVORITE	OPEN	TODAY	O/U	UNDERDOG
at KANSAS CITY	7½	8½	(44)	Tennessee
at LA RAMS	5	6½	(48½)	Atlanta
Playoffs Sunday				
at JACKSONVILLE	7½	8½	(39½)	Buffalo
at NEW ORLEANS	5½	6½	(48)	Carolina
NCAA FOOTBALL				
National Championship Game				
Alabama	4½	3½	(44½)	Georgia

NBA GLANCE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	31	10	.756	—
Toronto	26	10	.722	2½
Philadelphia	18	19	.486	11
New York	18	20	.474	11½
Brooklyn	15	23	.395	14½

Southeast Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	22	16	.579	—
Miami	20	17	.541	1½
Charlotte	14	23	.378	7½
Orlando	12	27	.308	10½
Atlanta	10	27	.270	11½

Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	25	13	.658	—
Detroit	20	16	.556	4
Milwaukee	20	16	.556	4
Indiana	19	19	.500	6
Chicago	13	25	.342	12

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	27	9	.750	—
San Antonio	26	13	.667	2½
New Orleans	19	18	.514	6½
Dallas	13	26	.333	15½
Memphis	12	26	.316	16

Northwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	24	15	.615	—
Oklahoma City	20	17	.541	3
Denver	20	17	.541	3
Portland	19	18	.514	4
Utah	16	22	.421	7½

Pacific Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	30	8	.789	—
L.A. Clippers	17	19	.472	12
Phoenix	15	25	.375	16
Sacramento	12	25	.324	17½
L.A. Lakers	11	25	.306	18

Wednesday's Scores
Houston 116, Orlando 98
Philadelphia 112, San Antonio 106
Washington 121, New York 103
Brooklyn 96, Minnesota 97
Miami 111, Detroit 104
Boston 102, Cleveland 88
Milwaukee 122, Indiana 101
Toronto 124, Chicago 115
Golden State 125, Dallas 122
Denver 134, Phoenix 111
New Orleans 108, Utah 98
Oklahoma City at L.A. Lakers, late.
Today's Games
Golden State at Houston, 7 p.m.
Oklahoma City at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m.

NHL GLANCE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	39	29	8	2	60	146	93
Boston	38	22	10	6	50	119	95
Toronto	41	23	16	2	48	135	120
Florida	39	17	17	5	39	109	126
Detroit	39	16	16	7	39	106	120
Montreal	40	16	20	4	36	101	125
Ottawa	38	12	17	9	33	99	130
Buffalo	39	10	20	9	29	86	129

Metropolitan Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	41	25	13	3	53	128	117
New Jersey	39	22	10	7	51	123	110
Columbus	41	23	15	3	49	115	115
N.Y. Rangers	40	21	14	5	47	125	114
Carolina	39	18	13	8	44	110	119
N.Y. Islanders	40	20	16	4	44	137	144
Pittsburgh	41	20	18	3	43	119	129
Philadelphia	39	16	15	8	40	107	114

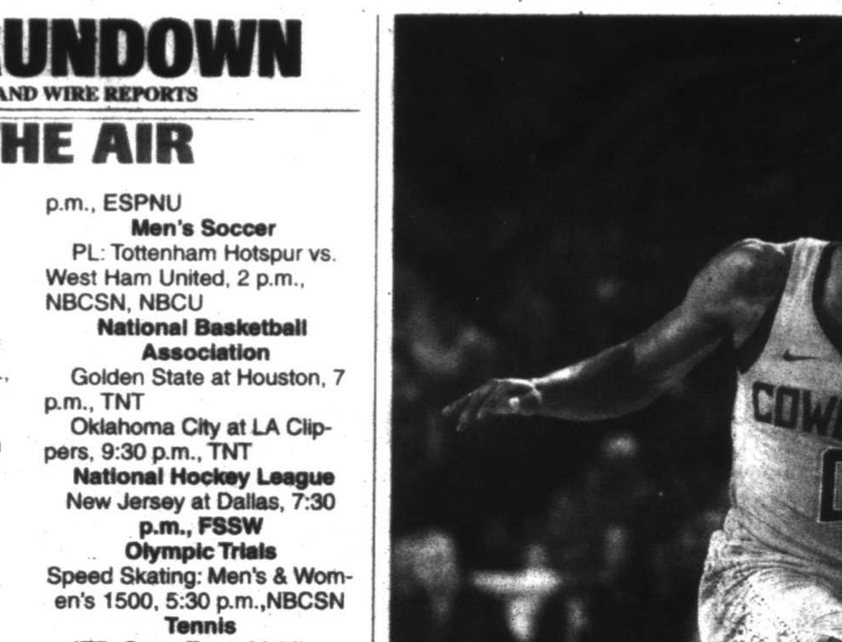
WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Winnipeg	41	23	11	7	53	136	113
St. Louis	42	25	15	2	52	122	104
Nashville	39	23	11	5	51	123	107
Dallas	41	22	16	3	47	123	114
Minnesota	40	21	16	3	45	115	114
Chicago	39	19	14	6	44	117	128
Colorado	39	20	16	3	43	126	122

Pacific Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	39	27	9	2	56	135	106
Los Angeles	40	24	11	5	53	120	91
San Jose	37	21	12	4	46	102	93
Anaheim	41	19	14	8	46	114	115
Calgary	39	19	16	4	42	108	114
Edmonton	40	17	20	3	37	114	131
Vancouver	40	16	19	5	37	106	132
Arizona	41	9	27	5	23	84	146

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

Wednesday's Scores
Detroit 2, Ottawa 1, OT
Chicago 5, N.Y. Rangers 2
Today's Games
Florida at Boston, 6 p.m.
Carolina at Pittsburgh, 6 p.m.
San Jose at Toronto, 6 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Montreal, 6:30 p.m.
Buffalo at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
Vegas at St. Louis, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Los Angeles at Calgary, 8 p.m.
Anaheim at Edmonton, 8 p.m.
Columbus at Colorado, 8 p.m.
Nashville at Arizona, 8 p.m.



Sue Ogrocki/Associated Press

Oklahoma guard Trae Young, center, drives against Oklahoma State guard Brandon Averette (0) and forward Mitchell Solomon, right, during the second half of an NCAA basketball game in Norman, Okla., on Wednesday. Oklahoma won 109-89.

Trae Young's 27 points help No. 7 Oklahoma rout Oklahoma St.

By Cliff Brunt
Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — Trae Young fell one rebound short of a triple-double to help No. 7 Oklahoma defeat Oklahoma State 109-89 on Wednesday night.

Young, the nation's leader in scoring and assists, finished with 27 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds. In just his 13th career game, the freshman became the first Oklahoma player to score at least 20 points in 12 straight games.

Freshman forward Brady Manek scored a season-high 28 points and Kameron McGusty added 15 for Oklahoma (12-1, 2-0 Big 12), which won its 10th straight.

It was the first time Oklahoma scored at least 100 points against Oklahoma State since 1990. The Sooners, who entered the night leading the nation in scoring, shot 54 percent from the field to improve on their 94.7-point average.

Thomas Dziagwa scored a career-high 19 points and Jeffrey Carroll added 15 points and 10 rebounds for Oklahoma State (10-4, 0-2). Tavarius Shine scored 16 points for Oklahoma State, but he fouled out with 13:29 remaining.

Young had 10 points and seven assists in the first half to help Oklahoma lead 50-42. Shine scored 14 points in the first half, and Oklahoma State had 11 offensive rebounds before the break and scored 13 second-chance points to stay in it.

Young drained a deep 3 over Shine just over 3 minutes into the second half to push Oklahoma's lead to 62-46, and the ensuing conversation between the two drew double technical fouls. A breakaway dunk by Oklahoma's Rashard Odomes pushed the Sooners' lead to 20 just 5 minutes into the second half.

Young got his 10th assist with just under 10 minutes remaining. He had nine rebounds heading into the final minutes but couldn't get a bounce to go his way.

Big picture

Oklahoma State: The Cowboys hung tough before losing at home to then-No. 7 West Virginia 85-79 on Dec. 29, and they looked ready to compete against another Top 10 team before the Sooners overwhelmed them in the second half. Oklahoma State became the latest team to do a lot of things right and still fail to come up with enough answers against Oklahoma. The Cowboys entered the night allowing just 67.2 points per game.

Oklahoma: It was another quality win for the Sooners, whose only loss was to now-No. 22 Arkansas. The Sooners have solid wins against Oregon, USC, Wichita State, Northwestern, TCU and now Oklahoma State.

TEXAS WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

NO. 6 BAYLOR 89, IOWA STATE 49

WACO — Natalie Chou had 17 points and hit five of Baylor's 12 3-pointers and the Lady Bears overwhelmed Iowa State.

Dekeiya Cohen and Lauren Cox each scored 14 points, and Kalani Brown had 13 points and 11 rebounds for her seventh double-double this season. Baylor (13-1, 3-0 Big 12) started the game with a 10-0 run and won its 10th straight. The Lady Bears led by 18 points after the first quarter and had their largest halftime lead ever in a Big 12 game at 52-16.

Bridget Carleton led Iowa State (7-7, 1-2) with 15 points and five rebounds.

NO. 8 TEXAS 84, NO. 20 OKLAHOMA STATE 79

AUSTIN — LaShann Higgs scored a career-high 30 points and Brooke McCarty added 21 to help Texas rally late to beat Oklahoma State.

Texas (12-1, 3-0) shot 56 percent and went 12 of 13 from the free throw after not getting to the line until there were less than three minutes left in the third quarter.

Braxtin Miller scored 23 points for Oklahoma State (11-3, 2-1 Big 12), and Loryn Goodwin and Kaylee Jensen each had 20 points.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Men's

SOUTHWEST
Abilene Christian 79, McNeese St. 74
Sam Houston St. 82, Cent. Arkansas 76
Stephen F. Austin 81, Nicholls 64
Texas A&M-CC 67, Northwestern St. 65
Tulsa 90, UConn 86, 2OT
SOUTH
Bethune-Cookman 86, SC State 80
Davidson 54, Saint Louis 51
East Carolina 67, South Florida 65
Florida A&M 84, Howard 76
Florida St. 81, North Carolina 80
Gardner-Webb 82, Campbell 80, OT
Georgia 71, Mississippi 60
High Point 84, UNC-Asheville 74
Jackson St. 59, Alabama A&M 56
Kentucky 74, LSU 71
Lipscomb 99, Fisk 53
Morgan St. 85, Md.-Eastern Shore 82
New Orleans 72, Lamar 62
Norfolk St. 75, Coppin St. 67
Presbyterian 78, Longwood 65
Radford 85, Winthrop 79
UCF 65, Memphis 56
Virginia 78, Virginia Tech 52
Wake Forest 73, Syracuse 67
FAR WEST
Boise St. 90, New Mexico 62
MIDWEST
Bradley 80, Valparaiso 71
Creighton 78, St. John's 71
Dayton 82, St. Bonaventure 72
Drake 87, Illinois St. 82
Indiana St. 61, Loyola of Chicago 57
Purdue 82, Rutgers 51
S. Dakota St. 87, N. Dakota St. 80
S. Illinois 65, Evansville 63
South Dakota 62, W. Illinois 50
EAST
Brown 70, NJIT 69
Clemson 74, Boston College 70
Duquesne 69, George Washington 52
Fordham 69, Richmond 65, OT
George Mason 80, UMass 72, OT
Hartford 72, Albany (NY) 64
Marquette 95, Providence 90, OT
NC Central 65, Delaware St. 62
Rhode Island 74, La Salle 62
Saint Joseph's 87, VCU 81, OT
Stony Brook 71, Maine 70
UMBC 71, New Hampshire 67

Top 25 Fared

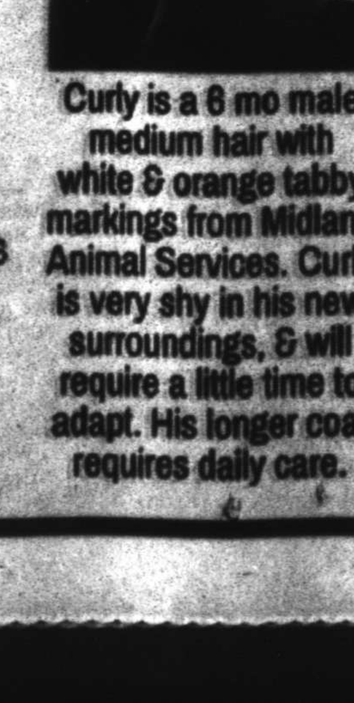
1. Michigan State (14-1) did not play. Next: vs. Maryland, Thursday.
2. Duke (13-1) did not play. Next: at N.C. State, Saturday.
3. Villanova (13-1) did not play. Next: vs. Marquette, Saturday.
4. Arizona State (12-1) did not play. Next: vs. Colorado, Thursday.
5. Xavier (15-1) did not play. Next: at Providence, Saturday.
6. West Virginia (13-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 7 Oklahoma, Saturday.
7. Oklahoma (12-1) beat Oklahoma State 109-89. Next: at No. 6 West Virginia, Saturday.
8. Virginia (13-1) beat Virginia Tech 78-52. Next: vs. No. 12 North Carolina, Saturday.
9. Wichita State (11-2) did not play. Next: vs. Houston, Thursday.
10. Kansas (11-3) did not play. Next: at No. 16 TCU, Saturday.
11. Texas A&M (11-3) did not play. Next: vs. LSU, Saturday.
12. North Carolina (12-3) lost to No.24 Florida State 81-80. Next: at No. 8 Virginia, Saturday.
13. Purdue (14-2) beat Rutgers 82-51. Next: vs. Nebraska, Saturday.
14. Arizona (11-3) did not play. Next: at Utah, Thursday.
15. Miami (12-2) lost to Georgia Tech 64-54. Next: vs. No. 24 Florida State, Sunday.
16. TCU (13-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 10 Kansas, Saturday.
17. Kentucky (12-2) beat LSU 74-71. Next: at No. 23 Tennessee, Saturday.
18. Texas Tech (13-1) did not play. Next: vs. Kansas State, Saturday.
19. Cincinnati (12-2) did not play. Next: at Temple, Thursday.
19. Gonzaga (12-3) did not play. Next: at Pepperdine, Thursday.
21. Seton Hall (13-2) did not play. Next: at Butler, Saturday.
22. Arkansas (11-3) did not play. Next: at Auburn, Saturday.
23. Tennessee (9-4) did not play. Next: vs. No. 17 Kentucky, Saturday.
24. Florida State (12-2) beat No. 12 North Carolina 81-80. Next: at No. 15 Miami, Sunday.
25. Clemson (13-1) beat Boston College 74-70. Next: vs. Louisville, Saturday.

Women's

SOUTHWEST
Baylor 89, Iowa St. 49
Cent. Arkansas 89, Sam Houston St. 44
Kansas 60, Texas Tech 47
Lamar 100, New Orleans 77
Prairie View 69, Southern U. 62
Texas 84, Oklahoma St. 79
Texas Southern 91, Alcorn St. 57
Tulane 72, Tulsa 63
UCF 60, SMU 42
SOUTH
Abilene Christian 80, McNeese St. 75
Austin Peay 68, UT Martin 62
Bethune-Cookman 68, SC State 50
Florida A&M 74, Howard 59
George Washington 81, VCU 39
Grambling St. 93, Alabama St. 71
Hampton 60, Columbia 59
Jackson St. 59, Alabama A&M 43
Louisiana Tech 61, North Texas 53
Morgan St. 63, Md.-Eastern Shore 50
Norfolk St. 71, Coppin St. 57
Saint Louis 79, Richmond 61
Stephen F. Austin 86, Nicholls 73
Texas A&M-CC 62, Northwestern St. 56
UConn 95, East Carolina 35
FAR WEST
New Mexico 100, Boise St. 83
Wyoming 66, Nevada 60
MIDWEST
Ball St. 85, Miami (Ohio) 61
Cent. Michigan 82, Ohio 56
E. Michigan 54, Bowling Green 52
Michigan St. 81, Northwestern 51
N. Illinois 81, Kent St. 79
S. Dakota St. 89, Nebraska-Omaha 64
South Florida 69, Cincinnati 46
Toledo 60, Akron 54
EAST
Buffalo 71, W. Michigan 49
Cornell 61, NJIT 46
Fordham 62, UMass 51
George Mason 69, La Salle 56
Hartford 70, Albany (NY) 55
Kansas St. 60, West Virginia 52
Maine 64, Stony Brook 56
NC Central 74, Delaware St. 67
New Hampshire 56, UMBC 51
Penn St. 77, Indiana 74
Rutgers 76, Illinois 37

Top 25 Fared

1. UConn (12-0) beat East Carolina 96-35. Next: at South Florida, Saturday.
2. Notre Dame (13-1) did not play. Next: vs. Miami, Thursday.
3. Louisville (16-0) did not play. Next: vs. No. 17 Duke, Thursday.
4. South Carolina (12-1) did not play. Next: at Mississippi, Thursday.
5. Mississippi State (15-0) did not play. Next: vs. Arkansas, Thursday.
6. Baylor (13-1) beat Iowa State 89-49. Next: at Kansas, Saturday.
7. Tennessee (13-0) did not play. Next: vs. Auburn, Thursday.
8. Texas (12-1) beat No.20 Oklahoma State 84-79. Next: at Kansas State, Sunday.
9. Oregon (13-2) did not play. Next: at Southern Cal, Friday.
10. Ohio State (13-2) did not play. Next: vs. Minnesota, Thursday.
11. Florida State (13-1) did not play. Next: at Clemson, Thursday.
12. West Virginia (13-2) lost to Kansas State 60-52. Next: vs. Iowa State, Sunday.
13. Maryland (13-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 18 Iowa, Thursday.
14. UCLA (10-3) did not play. Next: vs. No. 16 Oregon State, Friday.
15. Missouri (13-1) did not play. Next: vs. LSU, Thursday.
16. Oregon State (11-2) did not play. Next: at No. 14 UCLA, Friday.
17. Duke (11-3) did not play. Next: at No. 3 Louisville, Thursday.
18. Iowa (14-1) did not play. Next: at No. 13 Maryland, Thursday.
19. Texas A&M (11-4) did not play. Next: vs. Kentucky, Thursday.
20. Oklahoma State (11-3) lost to No. 8 Texas 84-79. Next: vs. Oklahoma, Sunday.
21. Villanova (11-2) did not play. Next: vs. Xavier, Friday.
22. Michigan (12-3) did not play. Next: at Wisconsin, Thursday.
23. California (10-3) did not play. Next: at No. 25 Arizona State, Friday.
24. Stanford (9-5) did not play. Next: at Arizona, Friday.
25. Arizona State (11-3) did not play. Next: vs. No. 23 California, Friday.

MIDLAND HUMANE COALITION
UPCOMING EVENTS
1/08 6:00 pm Adoption Center Volunteer Orientation
1/20 1:00 pm No-Sew Adoption Blanket Demo, Brew St.
PLEASE HELP US CONTROL OVERPOPULATION & PROTECT YOUR PET FROM STRESS & ACCIDENTAL PREGNANCIES.
$70 SPAY/NEUTER VOUCHERS AVAILABLE TO MIDLAND CITY & COUNTY RESIDENTS.
MIDLANDHUMANE.ORG/SPAYNEUTER-VOUCHERS
ENHANCED ADOPTION CENTER
Open for adoptions Mon. - Sat. 12-7 & Sun. 12-6
Adoption Fees (fully vetted & chipped):
Cats $110, Dogs $150
432.520.3134 ext. 7
Located within Midland's PetSmart Store
AD SPONSORED BY BROWN'S PERMIAN ELECTRIC CO.
MIDLAND HUMANE COALITION
P.O. Box 53213
Midland, TX 79710
midlandhumane.org

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

Boys

From 1C

who, along with former head coach Dusty Payne, was named the district's Co-Coaches of the Year last season. "We felt like we played well last year and we've got several of those guys back but we also lost some key guys. Teams change from year to year. We're just hoping to build on what we did last year and be competitive, fight the other teams in the district for the top position or a playoff spot."

The Rebels bring back a capable group of forwards and midfielders from a squad that dominated possession and scored prolifically a year ago. Headlining that group is forward Luis Aranda, the district's reigning Co-MVP, now in his fourth season on the team and in his second as captain. Seniors Isael Ramirez and Jose Gutierrez, and junior Esau Soto will also help lead a deep midfield that figures to be one of 2-6A's best.

Lee will need to find a steady goalkeeper after the graduation of second-team all-district keeper Eddie Ramirez and will spend tournament season focusing on tightening up its defense. Senior defender Deshaun Hunter will head the Rebels' back line.

"We've got a few guys returning in the back, but goalkeeper is the main area that we're going to have to look at," Hicks said. "We've got three guys that are going to battle it out. We've got those three tournaments and two games to kind of see which one comes to the top. We've got a couple positions with some young guys on defense that we need to shore up."

Across town, JD Bales, in his first season as MHS' head coach, said he likes the way his players have progressed together through the offseason. Though the Bulldogs lost 2-6A's Co-Goalkeeper of the Year Pedro Cereceres to graduation, they are entering their 2018 campaign with plenty of chemistry and camaraderie.

Junior Noah Venegas, who played quality minutes last season, is expected to take over in goal.

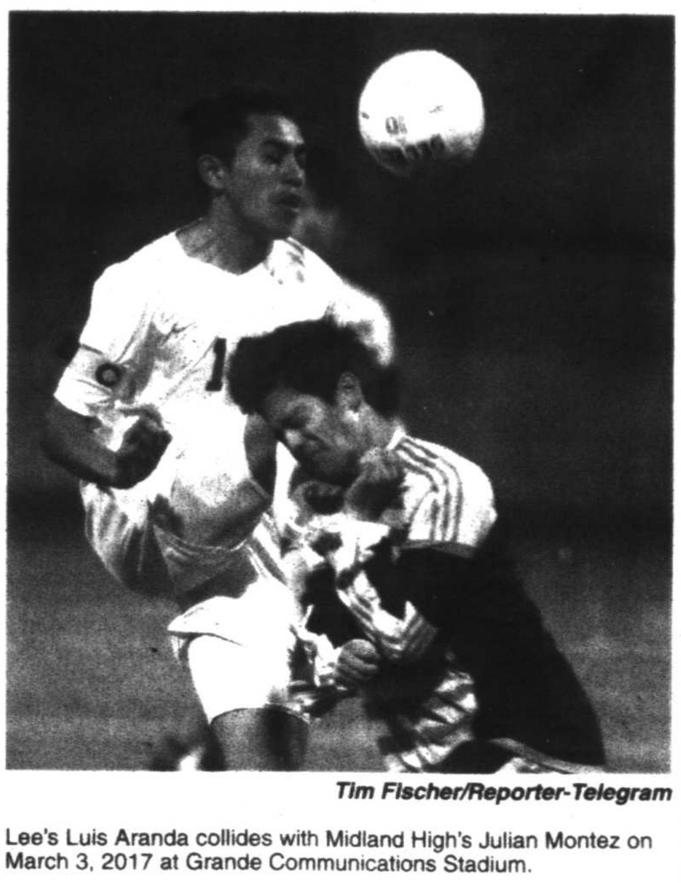
MHS returns 10 starters from last year, most notably senior center back and reigning district Defensive MVP Donte Ferguson. Forwards Brian Natividad, defender Julian Montez and midfielder/defender Alan Rodriguez are returning all-district first team pieces.

"A year of development and a year of varsity experience definitely gives us an edge," Bales said. "We still have a target on our back. But only losing one player and having them all come back, that's definitely going to be a strength. Our center backs have played together, our back four is pretty solid, we have a great midfield and two good forwards."

Bales said this group has plenty of motivation as well. The Bulldogs remember a 1-0 regulation loss to Lee on March 3, 2017 – a defeat that cost them the district title – all too well.

"That's something that has been in the back of their minds all the time," Bales said. "That 1-0 loss to Lee still stings and we talk about that. I don't think we want to feel that again, so we're trying to put it all together and move forward."

Follow Will on Twitter: @Will_MRT



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Lee's Luis Aranda collides with Midland High's Julian Montez on March 3, 2017 at Grande Communications Stadium.

REBELS AT A GLANCE

Coach: Scott Hicks

2017 record: 11-7-1, 6-2-1-1, 23 points in District 2-6A (1st)

2017 playoffs: Lost, 2-1 to El Paso Franklin in Class 6A bi-district

Key players lost: GK Eddie Ramirez (all-district second team); MF Jaime Dominguez (District 2-6A Midfield MVP), MF Leandro Aranda (all-district first team); D Nathan Bowden (all-district first team); D Tristan Pacheco (all-district second team)

Key returners: MF Luis Aranda, Sr.; F Esau Soto, Jr.; F Jose Gutierrez, Sr.; F Johnny Thang, Jr.; MF Isael Ramirez, Sr.; D DeShaun Hunter, Sr.

Top newcomers: F Marco Jurado, So.; D Christian Bryant, Sr.; D Sonny Ortiz, Jr.; D Devin Ortiz, Sr.; MF Dillon Crabtree, So.; MF Jacob DeLaRosa, Jr.

Notes: Lee brings back seven players from last season who earned all-district honors, led by Aranda. … Hicks said with as much offensive ability as his team has, improving off-ball play in the opponents' third will be a priority. The Rebels shouldn't have a problem generating shots, but Hicks is emphasizing creating quality attempts that maximize pressure. "We just try to put that ball on frame and we've continued that this year. It's important when you shoot that you get that ball on frame and you give yourself a chance to put it in the net, get a deflection and a follow-up."

2018 LEE ROSTER

No.	Name	Class	Position
0	Pablo Muniz	Sr.	GK
00	Hayden Hicks	Jr.	GK
000	Chris More-Brandt	So.	GK
1	Daniel Martinez	Sr.	D
2	Dillon Crabtree	So.	MF
3	Sonny Ortiz	Jr.	D
4	Esteban Bellinas	Jr.	MF
5	Devin Ortiz	Sr.	D
6	Christian Bryant	Sr.	D
7	Joseph Fontana	Sr.	MF
8	Abraham Zuniga	Sr.	MF
9	Esau Soto	Jr.	F
10	Luis Aranda	Sr.	F
11	Johnny Thang	Jr.	F
12	Dakota McCord	Sr.	F
13	Isael Ramirez	Sr.	MF
14	John Thompson	Jr.	MF
15	Justin Ochoa	So.	D
16	DeShaun Hunter	Sr.	D
17	Tyler Erwin	Sr.	MF
18	Jacob DeLaRosa	Jr.	MF
19	Marco Jurado	So.	F
21	Jose Gutierrez	Sr.	F
22	Daniel Santos Barron	So.	F
23	Jeremias Carrasco	Sr.	D
24	Daniel Gonzalez	Sr.	D

2018 LEE SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
Jan. 4	at Frenship Tournament	TBA
Jan. 5	at Frenship Tournament	TBA
Jan. 6	at Frenship Tournament	TBA
Jan. 11	President's Cup	TBA
Jan. 12	President's Cup	TBA
Jan. 13	President's Cup	TBA
Jan. 18	at Leander Tournament	TBA
Jan. 19	at Leander Tournament	TBA
Jan. 20	at Leander Tournament	TBA
Jan. 30	Brownwood-a	7 p.m.
Feb. 2	at Lubbock Estacado	TBA
Feb. 10	at Amarillo Tascosa*	2 p.m.
Feb. 13	Midland High*-a	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 16	at Wolfforth Frenship*	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 20	at Odessa High*	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 23	Odessa Permian*	7:30 p.m.
March 6	Amarillo Tascosa*	7:30 p.m.
March 9	Midland High*-a	7:30 p.m.
March 13	Odessa High*	7:30 p.m.
March 16	Wolfforth Frenship*	7:30 p.m.
March 20	at Odessa Permian*	7:30 p.m.

*-Denotes District 2-6A opponent

a-denotes match played at Grande Communications Stadium

BULLDOGS AT A GLANCE

Coach: JD Bales (2nd year at MHS, 1st as head coach)

2017 record: 10-7-1, 5-3-1-1, 22 points in District 2-6A (2nd)

2017 playoffs: Lost, 2-1 to El Paso Coronado in Class 6A bi-district

Key players lost: GK Pedro Cereceres (co-Goakeeper of the Year)

Key returners: GK Noah Venegas, Jr.; CM/DM Alan Rodriguez, Sr.; CB Donte Ferguson, Sr.; F Brian Natividad, Sr.; F Jeremy Martinez, F; CB Julian Montez, Jr.; F Chandler Reese, Jr.

Top newcomers: CB/OB Chris Purdy, So.; CM Jorge Mitre, So.; F Arturo Mendoza, So.; F/CM Daniel Olivas, So.; CM Pete Gamboa, Jr.

Notes: Possibly the most experienced team in District 2-6A, the Bulldogs return nine players from last year's roster who earned all-district honors, headlined by center back Ferguson. … First-year head coach Bales said having all that returning experience back should help MHS. He added that the Bulldogs, traditionally a more defensive minded club, will try to emphasize offensive improvement in 2018. MHS scored more two goals or more in just four of their 12 district matches last year. "We're going to try to possess the ball forward and if it's not there, we'll start over," Bales said. "We're going to try to get numbers into the box, so we can have support there." … Senior forward Roman Ramirez is the team's captain this season.

2018 MIDLAND HIGH ROSTER

No.	Name	Class	Position
0	Noah Venegas	Jr	GK
2	Jake Moylett	Sr	MF
3	Josh Ibarra	Jr	MF
4	Alan Rodriguez	Sr	CM/DM
5	Donte Ferguson	Sr	CB/DM
6	Roman Ramirez	Sr	F
7	Anthony Marroquin-Brito	So	F
8	Chandler Reese	Jr	CM/F
9	Brian Natividad	Sr	F
10	Jeremy Martinez	Sr	F
11	Raul Jaramillo	Sr	OM
12	Chris Purdy	So	CB/OB
13	Jorge Mitre	So	CM
14	Arturo Mendoza	So	F
15	David Purdy	Sr	OB
16	Daniel Olivas	So	F/CM
17	Fernando Quintero	Jr	F
18	Pete Gamboa	Jr	CM
19	Abdiel Villa	Sr	OM
22	Matthew Anzpe	Jr	OB
23	Julian Montez	Jr	CB
24	Ethan Martinez	Sr	OM

2018 MIDLAND HIGH SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
Jan. 4	at Marcus Tournament	TBA
Jan. 5	at Marcus Tournament	TBA
Jan. 6	at Marcus Tournament	TBA
Jan. 11	President's Cup	TBA
Jan. 12	President's Cup	TBA
Jan. 13	President's Cup	TBA
Jan. 16	at Abilene High	6 p.m.
Jan. 19	at Abilene Wylie	7 p.m.
Jan. 26	at Amarillo High	6 p.m.
Jan. 30	San Angelo Lake View-a	6 p.m.
Feb. 9	Odessa Permian*	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 13	Lee*-a	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 17	Amarillo Tascosa*	2 p.m.
Feb. 20	Wolfforth Frenship*	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 23	at Odessa High*	7:30 p.m.
March 6	at Odessa Permian*	7:30 p.m.
March 9	Lee*-a	7:30 p.m.
March 13	at Wolfforth Frenship*	6 p.m.
March 17	at Amarillo Tascosa*	2 p.m.
March 20	Odessa High*	7:30 p.m.

*Denotes District 2-6A opponent

a-denotes match played at Grande Communications Stadium

Girls

From 1C

nity to grow and I believe they've grown every single day.

"Even though we're young, the girls have shown an increase in their maturity level since last year and are doing and excellent job in our practices. Every single day they're excited to be out there. It makes it fun."

The biggest loss for MHS off a 16-4 season is Claudia Fricker, who was the co-Midfielder of the Year in the district in 2017, and was a leader both on and off the field.

One of those players who have stepped up into that leadership role, according to Barham is senior center forward Kylie Vonholle.

"She's done a good job of stepping up and bringing the team together," Barham said. "Chemistry will be our biggest strength this year. We're starting to put the pieces together and that's what is going to help us be successful."

The Lady Rebels also look to build off the foundations laid last year in Hinshaw's first season with a very young team that went 4-11-3.

While Lee may have five seniors on this year's roster, Hinshaw said his team is still young in some areas but believes the Lady Rebels are ready to take the next step.

"Our goal is to be relevant toward district which is we have set up a challenging pre-district schedule," Hinshaw said. "We're excited about this season. After a year in the program, we're starting to understand the expectations and I like the direction we're going. On the field, we're starting to see some proof of our labor. Last year was a challenge because the program faced some struggles in a few games. Last year they learned that when they come together, fight for one another and work hard good things can happen."

Hinshaw added that last year's play during district was an eye-opening experience and his team unfortunately took its share of lumps.

Since the end of last season, however, Hinshaw has seen his team grow and learn from those lumps and hopes that translates to some success on the field.

"We were young last year but our talent is growing and the girls are understanding what we're trying to establish as a program," he said. "Across the board, the cohesiveness is much better and the morale is much stronger. I'm looking forward to the season."

Follow Oscar on Twitter: @OLeRoy_MRT

LADY BULLDOGS AT A GLANCE

Coach: Cooper Barham

2017 record: 16-4 overall, 7-0-0-3, 21 points in District 2-6A (2nd)

2017 playoffs: Lost to Keller, 5-0, in Class 6A area round

Key players lost: MF Claudia Fricker (District Co-Midfielder of the Year), MF Marli Martin (first team all-district), F Ashlynn Dominguez (first team all-district), D Lyndsey Vargas (second team all-district)

Key returners: CF Kylie Von-Holle (first team all-district), GK Allison Robinson (second team all-district), F Raquel Houston (first team all-district)

Key newcomers: MF Hannah Ware, D Sally Simmons, F Alexis Ramos, MF Reagan Rivas

Barham on the Lady Bulldogs' key to success: "We just need to be competitive and take one game at a time. I think we need to take it day to day and don't get ahead of ourselves. We need to just enjoy playing and being out there. That'll help us be successful."

Notes: The Lady Bulldogs will have some work to do losing key players to graduation but, Barham is confident in what the young players coming up can do. He added that even though some players are very young and inexperienced at the varsity level, he believes that they bring in the right attitude and are very coachable. … One of those key players lost to graduation was Fricker, who meant so much to her team. Freshman Ware is one of those candidates to replace Fricker in the lineup. … Barham added the team came in ready to work and get better, which showed to him that it's excited to get the season started.

2018 MIDLAND HIGH GIRLS SOCCER ROSTER

No.	Name	Class	Pos.
0	Allison Robinson	Jr.	GK
1	Maila Garcia	So.	GK
2	Leel Tindle	Jr.	MF
3	Alexis Ramos	So.	F
4	Shaylee Davis	Fr.	F
5	Megan Cuellar	Fr.	CM
6	Tess Moylett	Fr.	CM
7	Kylie VonHolle	Sr.	F
8	Hannah Ware	Fr.	CM
9	JoHanna Doan	So.	D
11	Anna Boring	Jr.	D
12	Reagan Rivas	Jr.	MF
13	Chloe Terebessy	Jr.	D
14	Alexandra Moylett	Jr.	MF
15	Sally Simmons	Fr.	D
16	Kensley Vandeburg	Jr.	D
17	Amaris Portillo	Sr.	F
18	Madison Olivas	Jr.	D
20	Dominique Banks	Sr	F
21	Sarahi Lujan	Sr.	D
22	Sam Hernandez	Fr.	F
26	Raqi Houston	Jr.	F

2018 MIDLAND HIGH GIRLS SOCCER SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
Jan. 4	at Frisco Tournament	TBA
Jan. 5	at Frisco Tournament	TBA
Jan. 6	at Frisco Tournament	TBA
Jan. 9	Lubbock High	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 11	at Lubbock Tournament	TBA
Jan. 12	at Lubbock Tournament	TBA
Jan. 13	at Lubbock Tournament	TBA
Jan. 22	Amarillo Caprock	5 p.m.
Jan. 26	at Amarillo High	4 p.m.
Feb. 6	at Abilene Wylie	7 p.m.
Feb. 9	*Odessa Permian	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 13	*Lee	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 17	*Amarillo Tascosa	noon
Feb. 20	*Wolfforth Frenship	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 23	at *Odessa High	5:30 p.m.
March 6	at *Odessa Permian	5:30 p.m.
March 9	*Lee	5:30 p.m.
March 13	at *Wolfforth Frenship	4 p.m.
March 17	at *Amarillo Tascosa	noon
March 20	*Odessa High	5:30 p.m.
March 23	Lubbock Monterey	TBA

*Denotes District 2-6A opponent

LADY REBELS AT A GLANCE

Coach: Mark Hinshaw

2017 record: 4-11-3 overall, 1-1-0-8, 5 points in District 2-6A (5th)

2017 playoffs: None

Key players lost: F Jessy Luna (first team all-district), D Destany Rodriguez (second team all-district)

Key players returning: MF Gabby Granado (first team all-district), GK Jenna McEnaney, D Ashlyn Morgan (honorable mention all-district), F Hattie Renfro (all-district honorable mention)

Key newcomer: MF Ana Duran

Hinshaw on Lady Rebels' key to success: "We need to eliminate mental mistakes, early goals and late goals. In the majority of our losses most of the goals we gave up came early or late. The key is maintaining mental discipline. If we can apply that to tactical understanding and avoid mental mistakes, we'll be much improved. I think they've grown up a lot and have become strong. This year is going to look vastly different than last year."

Notes: The Lady Rebels will be a little more experienced than last year, when they were very green in a lot of areas. Lee is still young, but those freshmen have now become sophomores with a year of varsity experience. … Hinshaw said he knew the process was going to take a while when he took the job but has been pleased with the progress the Lady Rebels have made. … Ana Duran is a senior transfer from South Mountain High School in Phoenix and will look to add some experience to the lineup.

2018 LEE GIRLS SOCCER ROSTER

Name	Pos.	Class
Jenna McEnaney	GK	So.
Ashlyn Morgan	D	So.
Rene Cabrera	D	Sr.
Amber Luna	D	Fr.
Andrea Gutierrez	D	So.
Valeria Avila	D	So.
Jenna Gonzalez	D	Jr.
Berenice Delarosa	D	Sr.
Sarah Ramos	M	Fr.
Gabby Granado	M	Sr.
Alexa Villa	M	Sr.
Tatiana Sandoval	M	Jr.
Bella Waite	M	Sr.
Ana Duran	M	Sr.
Jessie Rodriguez	M	Fr.
Audrey Sokolowski	F	Fr.
Hattie Renfro	F	So.
Kalle Walters	F	So.

2018 LEE GIRLS SOCCER SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
Jan. 5	at Canyon	3 p.m.
Jan. 9	Del Rio	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 11	a-San Marcos	9:30 a.m.
Jan. 12	a-Oak Ridge	8 a.m.
Jan. 12	a-Huntsville	3:30 p.m.
Jan. 13	a-Caballen	8 a.m.
Jan. 18	Abilene Cooper	5 p.m.
Jan. 19	at Wichita Falls Hirschi	5 p.m.
Jan. 23	San Angelo Lake View	5 p.m.
Jan. 26	Lubbock Cooper	4 p.m.
Jan. 30	Brownwood	4 p.m.
Feb. 10	at *Amarillo Tascosa	2 p.m.
Feb. 13	*Midland High	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 16	at *Wolfforth Frenship	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 20	at *Odessa High	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 23	*Odessa Permian	5:30 p.m.
March 6	*Amarillo Tascosa	5:30 p.m.
March 9	*Midland High	5:30 p.m.
March 13	*Odessa High	5:30 p.m.
March 16	*Wolfforth Frenship	5:30 p.m.
March 20	at *Odessa Permian	5:30 p.m.

a-at San Marcos Tournament

*Denotes District 2-6A opponent

LM Otero/Associated Press

Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) takes the last shot of the game against Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki (41) during the second half Wednesday in Dallas.

NBA ROUNDUP

WARRIORS 125
MAVERICKS 122

DALLAS — For nearly three weeks, the Warriors both thrived and labored without Stephen Curry. On Wednesday, Curry both thrived and labored without some of his supporting cast.

Unlike when the Warriors coasted here by double-digit margins nearly three months ago, the Warriors secured a 125-122 victory over the Dallas Mavericks on Wednesday after Curry's 3-pointer with three seconds remaining helped them overcome varying circumstances.

After the Warriors mostly excelled defensively when Curry sat for 11 games with a sprained right ankle, their defensive intensity waned for the second consecutive game with Curry back in the lineup. Dallas featured six players in double figures in Wesley Matthews (22 points), Dwight Powell (21), Harrison Barnes (18), Dennis Smith Jr. (14) J.J. Barea (13), Dirk Nowitzki (12) and Yogi Ferrell (11). The Mavericks also shot 43-of-89 from the field and 19-of-42 from 3-point range.

After fielding overlapping injuries all season most notably to Curry, the Warriors had more players return to the trainer's room. They nursed injuries to key reserves in Andre Iguodala (low back and hip strain) and Omri Casspi (mid back strain).

But Curry (32 points) made the difference along with Kevin Durant (25) and Klay Thompson (25).

76ERS 112
SPURS 106

PHILADELPHIA — Joel Embiid shook off a sprained right hand that nearly kept him out of the lineup to score 21 points, grab 11 rebounds and lead Philadelphia past San Antonio.

The 76ers snapped a 12-game losing streak to the Spurs. They needed all 35 minutes from Embiid to knock off short-handed San Antonio.

Embiid was injured in a hard fall Saturday against the Suns. Philadelphia's leading scorer and rebounder sat at his locker before the game and said his hand was swollen and he couldn't shoot.

Embiid used a soft touch to sink a couple of shots during pregame drills, and that was enough to convince the Sixers he could play.

The Sixers blew a 16-point lead and might have been thumped from the outset had the Spurs not sat five players. Patty Mills led the Spurs with 26 points and LaMarcus Aldridge had 24 points and 14 rebounds.

ROCKETS 116
MAGIC 98

ORLANDO, Fla. — Gerald Green scored 27 points, Clint Capela had 21 points and eight rebounds and Houston got by without NBA scoring leader James Harden, routing Orlando.

Harden was sidelined by a strained left hamstring.

Green made his first five 3-point shots and finished 7 for 10 from behind the arc for the Rockets, who were never behind and led by as many as 28 late in the third quarter.

Eric Gordon added 17 points and six assists to help Houston tune up for its Thursday night showdown with Golden State.

Aaron Gordon led the Magic with 16 points after missing his first eight shots. Elfrid Payton and Mario Hezonja added 14 each during Orlando's 12th loss in 13 games.

CELTICS 102
CAVALIERS 88

BOSTON — Terry Rozier scored 20 points in 20 minutes, stealing the spotlight from LeBron James, Kyrie Irving and Isaiah Thomas in a rematch of the Eastern Conference finals and leading the Boston Celtics to a 102-88 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Wednesday night.

Rozier scored the last eight Boston points of the first quarter to give the Celtics an 11-point lead, and had another eight in a row midway through the fourth when they expanded the lead to 21. Marcus Smart and Jayson Tatum had 15 points apiece, and Irving and Al Horford each had 11 points and nine rebounds to help Boston to its fourth straight win.

James had 19 points, seven rebounds and six assists, and Tristan Thompson had 10 points and 10 rebounds for Cleveland, which lost for the fourth time in five games. Playing on back-to-back nights — the Celtics had been preparing for them since New Year's Eve — Cleveland shot 34.8 percent.

It was the first time the teams had played since the season opener, when top Boston free agent Gordon Hayward broke his leg in a gruesome injury that reshuffled the Eastern Conference playoff race.

WIZARDS 121
KNICKS 103

WASHINGTON — Bradley Beal scored 27 points, John Wall added 25 with nine assists and Washington beat New York.

Playing for the first time since he was selected Eastern Conference player of the week, Beal followed his 39-point outburst on Sunday by hitting 11 of his 14 field goal attempts for Washington, which was won five of six.

Marcin Gortat had a season-high 21 points, shooting 9 of 10 from the field.

Michael Beasley had 20 points, including 16 in the second half to lead the Knicks, who have lost six of seven.

Kristips Porzingis scored 16 points. New York has lost 14 of its last 15 against Washington.

HEAT 111
PISTONS 104

MIAMI — Kelly Olynyk scored 25 points, including a big layup with 39 seconds left, and Goran Dragic added 24 as Miami held off Detroit.

Olynyk finished with 13 rebounds and Dragic had 13 assists for the Heat, who are three games over .500 for the first time since April 2016.

Josh Richardson scored 22 for Miami, which shot 51 percent and outscored the Pistons 51-27 from 3-point range. James Johnson scored 16, Wayne Ellington had 12 and Hassan Whiteside added 10 for the Heat.

Tobias Harris led a balanced Detroit effort with 19.

NETS 98
TIMBERWOLVES 97

NEW YORK — Spencer Dinwiddie made the go-ahead jumper with 9.7 seconds left and tied his career high with 26 points, leading Brooklyn over Minnesota.

Jimmy Butler missed at the buzzer as the Timberwolves lost for just the second time in nine games.

Dinwiddie added nine assists as the Nets improved to 2-0 in the new year — more wins than they had all last January, when they were 1-15. Joe Harris came off the bench to score 17 points.

Butler finished with 30 points, mostly on the strength of 16-of-18 shooting at the foul line. Andrew Wiggins added 17 points and Karl-Anthony Towns had 16 points and 10 rebounds.

RAPTORS 124
BULLS 115

CHICAGO — DeMar DeRozan had 35 points and Delon Wright set career highs with 25 points and 13 rebounds as Toronto beat Chicago.

DeRozan came up big again after scoring a franchise-record 52 points in a win over Milwaukee on New Year's Day. Held to nine in the first half this time, he scored 18 in the third quarter. He also shot 5 of 8 on 3-pointers and converted all 10 free throws.

Wright had his first career double-double and hit four 3s.

Serge Ibaka scored 16 points for Toronto. Fred VanVleet added 13 and the Raptors pulled away in the fourth quarter for their ninth win in 11 games.

Justin Holiday led Chicago with 26 points, and Lauri Markkanen added 22 points and 12 rebounds. Nikola Mirotic scored 20, but the Bulls dropped their third straight.

BUCKS 122
PACERS 101

MILWAUKEE — Giannis Antetokounmpo had 31 points and 10 rebounds, Khris Middleton added 27 points and Milwaukee pulled away from Indiana.

Antetokounmpo had his way around the rim with his usual array of dunks and layups, shooting 12 of 18. He secured his 18th double-double of the season with 1:01 left in the third quarter and was rested for the entire fourth.

Minus leading scorer Victor Oladipo (24.9 points per game) for a fourth straight game because of a knee injury, the Pacers couldn't keep up. Domantas Sabonis had a career-high 24 points on 10-of-13 shooting for Indiana, which lost its season-high fifth in a row.

The Pacers shot just 3 of 15 from 3-point range.

New year on PGA Tour can't start soon enough for players

By Doug Ferguson
Associated Press

Matt York/AP File Photo

Dustin Johnson hits from the fourth fairway during the third round of the Tournament of Champions golf event at Kapalua Plantation Course on Jan. 7, 2017 in Kapalua, Hawaii. Johnson is No. 1 in the world, a 33-year-old entering his prime who won four times last year.

KAPALUA, Hawaii — Dustin Johnson sat outside the Honolua Store on the first day of the new year, scarfing down the "Hobo Breakfast" of steamed rice and eggs as the sun was just starting to filter through the Cook pines that line the entrance to Kapalua.

He abruptly closed the lid on his carton and announced, "Let's go."

That about sums up the anticipation of the start to a new year in golf.

Johnson is No. 1 in the world, a 33-year-old entering his prime who won four times last year. Right behind him in the world ranking are Jordan Spieth, Justin Thomas, Jon Rahm and Hideki Matsuyama, four players 25 or younger.

Still to come: another return of Tiger Woods, this time with strong indications that he is healthy again.

"I think this year, the unknowns are very exciting," Spieth said. "I think with the amount of depth and talent at a younger age, mixed with the guys in their 30s that are playing — No. 1 in the world, D.J. — some other phenomenal players that you would call in maybe in their prime, and then obviously the major question, which is what's it going to be like with Tiger coming back ... it's a pretty special time to be a part of professional golf."

The Sentry Tournament of Champions is reserved for those who did something special last year — win on the PGA Tour.

Even though Johnson, Spieth, Thomas and Matsuyama are among those who won multiple times last year, winning is not getting any easier. Only nine players who were at Kapalua a year ago made it back to paradise, and 14 players in the 34-man field are making their debut this week.

Thomas is the defending champion, courtesy of an 8-iron from 214 yards that settled 3 feet away for birdie on the 17th hole that secured his three-shot victory and sent him on his way to a season that ended with his first major (PGA Championship) and being voted PGA Tour player of the year.

The encore is never easy.

"I think the hardest part is going to be staying in the moment and recognizing that it's a new year," Thomas said as last year was ending. "It's a new opportunity for great things, and I just need to continue to work hard."

Spieth knows the feeling. He won five times in 2015, including the Masters and U.S. Open and close calls in the other two majors. He started the following year with an eight-shot victory at Kapalua, but then won only one more time the rest of the year.

So if Thomas wants any advice on how to handle the higher profile, he can always check with his longtime friend.

And he already has.

"I was able to — I hope — share just a couple of insights that maybe I wasn't prepared for that could have helped me, not necessarily on the golf course but more in just blocking stuff out and staying focused," Spieth said.

Spieth didn't share details of their conversation, though he revealed some advice he took last year during a critical juncture in his season, if not his young career.

It came from an excerpt in Theodore Roosevelt's "Citizenship in a Republic" speech delivered in Paris in 1910.

Spieth, who takes pride in being a good closer, still couldn't shake the memory of losing a five-shot lead on the back nine of the Masters in 2016. He thought about it again during the final round of the British Open, where a three-shot lead in the final round turned into a one-shot deficit with five holes to play. He answered with three birdies and an eagle over the next four holes to capture the third leg of the career Grand Slam.

"The British Open, it just did wonders for me individually," Spieth said. "And not only my view of myself, but my view on being the man in the arena. I'm the one that's out there, that's putting it on the line every single week. I'm going to fail and learn and I'm going to succeed, but I'm the one in the arena.

"I feel like I'm in a great place of who I am and what I'm doing going forward," he added. "And starting 2018, I'm kind of ready for anything. I'm ready for failure, for success and everything in between."

It starts at the Tournament of Champions on Thursday, where Ryan Armour — the oldest player in the field at 41 — hits the opening tee shot. The forecast calls for plenty of sunshine all week, plenty of possibilities all year.

More of the same: Bengals stick with Marvin Lewis

By Joe Kay
Associated Press

John Minchillo/Associated Press

Cincinnati Bengals head coach Marvin Lewis speaks during a news conference following an announcement that he will remain in his position for an additional two seasons, on Wednesday, in Cincinnati.

CINCINNATI — The assistant head coach is gone, but head coach Marvin Lewis is coming back for a 16th try at a playoff victory.

And so it goes in Cincinnati.

In a what-have-you-done-lately league, the Bengals remain the outlier. Lewis met with the media on Wednesday, a day after getting a two-year extension through 2019, and talked in general terms about how his team needs to change.

Better players. Better coaching. Better performance.

All the things he's said many times during the second-longest active coaching tenure in the NFL, behind only Bill Belichick. Unlike the New England coach, who has five Super Bowl titles, Lewis has yet to win a playoff game.

But owner Mike Brown hates change and was willing to give Lewis yet another chance after yet another futile season.

The 82-year-old owner didn't attend the news conference — he rarely addresses the media — so it was left to Lewis to explain why he was still there.

"You're going to have to start from scratch regardless, so you might as well start from scratch with someone you understand, you know," Lewis said.

"Everybody can always look at what's negative from it, but the only way we can go about it and do it positive is to get back to work and go about it."

One change: Lewis wanted more control over the coaching staff and evidently got it. Paul Alexander, the assistant head coach and offensive line coach for 23 seasons, was let go.

Bill Lazor, who was elevated to offensive coordinator after an 0-2 start last season, will remain in the role and get a chance to redesign the NFL's worst offense in the offseason.

Defensive coordinator Paul Guenther will interview for the job with the Raiders, making it likely Lewis will have to find a replacement.

Lewis has defied the odds and kept his job, and he's not the only odds-beater in Ohio.

The 0-16 Browns have retained head coach Hue Jackson for another season as well.

The Browns and Bengals have played a total of 64 games the past two seasons and won 14 collectively, yet neither team is changing head coaches.

Must be something in that icy Lake Erie and Ohio River water.

In Cincinnati, fans were still trying to wrap their heads around Marvin Lewis 16.0, with a few upgrades to fix some of the many bugs in the program.

Lewis said Brown wants to win a championship, and that's why he decided to keep Lewis in charge despite his record so far.

Lewis is 0-7 in the playoffs, an NFL record for coaching futility. His teams lost five straight opening-round games from 2011-15, another record.

The Bengals haven't won a playoff game since the 1990 season, the sixth-longest streak of futility in league history.

Brown decided that Lewis was the best choice, regardless of what's happened in the past 15 years.

"I tell people when you go to a car lot, you know what you're looking for and they're not going to sway you one way or another, that's what you're going to do," Lewis said. "I believe that about (NFL owners)."

During the news conference, a media member relayed questions from fans, including one from a woman named Betty Lou at a chili parlor in northern Kentucky about the team's commitment to winning.

One of Lewis' jobs in his latest incarnation will be trying to win back Betty Lou and many other fans who gave up on him.

Bengals' attendance plummeted last season to one of the lowest in the league. They had 10,000 empty seats for a home game against the rival Steelers.

Paul Brown Stadium was half-empty for the final home game. Bringing Lewis back and rearranging the staff won't create a surge in ticket sales.

Brown chose to stay in his comfort zone rather than trying something different.

RILEY

From 1C

that end to take the next step. He said the incoming recruiting class will help.

"You look on the field with the two defenses, and one of them looked a little bit different than the other just physically," he said. "We've got to continue to grow in that area. I think we're starting to."

Riley praised defensive coordinator Mike Stoops, who was a target for critics after Georgia gained 527 yards against the Sooners, including 340 on the ground.

"Mike is a really good coach," Riley said. "I have a lot of confidence in him as I do our whole staff. To do what this staff and this program did this year with all the changes and all that, it's unprecedented. People better remember that, too."

Now, for the first time at Oklahoma, Riley will prepare for games without Mayfield. Kyler Murray, this season's backup, is the front-runner, but Riley said Austin Kendall and incoming freshman Tanner Mordecai could figure into the mix.

"I've had a great run with Bake," Riley said. "No doubt about it, we all have. But it's also fun getting on to the next stage of it. I've had to do it several times during my career. We've always found a way to get a guy who can get first downs. I feel confident we'll be able to do the same. It'll be a fun battle."

TEXANS

From 1C

with the McNairs about his replacement and that he hopes they hire someone who shares his thoughts on the team's needs.

"The big thing for me and I think the big thing for the McNairs, and I don't want to speak for them, but I would just say is alignment, being aligned philosophically on what type of team we want," O'Brien said.

Some things to know about the Texans as they wrap up the season:

Watson's health

Watson is recovering well since having surgery on his right knee in November, and O'Brien said there's a chance he could be healthy enough to do some things in organized team activities in May. The 12th overall pick in the 2017 draft showed that he could be the solution to Houston's long-term quarterback woes with his work before the injury.

He appeared in seven games with six starts and threw for 1,699 yards with 19 touchdowns and eight interceptions.

"He's an exciting player," O'Brien said. "He's just a very coachable guy, eager to learn, eager to get better. He's got great poise on the field. We're all excited about his future."

Watt's thoughts

Watt is already looking ahead to next season after seeing a second straight season cut short by an injury. Watt has played just eight games over the past two seasons after a back injury ended his 2016 season after just three games and he broke his left leg in Houston's fifth game this season.

The three-time NFL Defensive Player of the Year said he is careful not to get caught up in negative thoughts after his tough stretch and is optimistic for the future.

"That's what gets me to work my hardest every single day is what this team is capable of and what we can do with these guys," he said.

And although he's on the other side of the ball, Watt is thrilled to have Watson on his team after seeing the revolving door at quarterback over the past few years.

"We have won a few division titles with like 15 different quarterbacks," Watt said. "So if we have one quarterback who is back there who can play the way that he plays, who has the potential and has the abilities he has ... we are really excited to see what he can do with a full season. I'm definitely excited to have a franchise quarterback."

Clowney's Campaign

Defensive end Jadeveon Clowney's play was one of the few bright spots during Houston's tough season. The top overall pick in the 2014 draft had the best season of his career to earn his second straight Pro Bowl nod.

Clowney finished second in the NFL with a career-high 21 tackles for losses and his 9½ sacks, 21 quarterback hits and two forced fumbles were also career bests. He also had a career-high 59 tackles and started all 16 games for the first time in his career after struggling with injuries in his first two NFL seasons before playing 14 games last season.

"I'm going to keep getting better," he said. "I get excited about it because I know my potential and I just say I'm going to keep improving year-in and year-out as long as I stay healthy."

Midland College Basketball
Al G. Langford Chaparral Center

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Friday, January 5, 2018

Special Promotion General Admission
Ticket Price: $1.00 per person

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@ 7:00 p.m. Weatherford College Coyotes vs. Midland College Chaparrals

Both Midland College teams will wear Energy Industry Commemorative shooting shirts during warm-ups!

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THURSDAY PRIME TIME — JANUARY 4, 2018

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

	G	S	R	C	W	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
KMID ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel of Fortune (N)	The Middle	Am.Ho-usewife	Truth and Lies "Waco" The deadly raid on the Branch Davidian compound. (N)				News (N)	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live		(:35) News Nightline
KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	CBS 7 News (N)	Ent. Tonight	The Big Bang (N)	Sheldon (N)	Mom (N)	Life In Pieces (N)	S.W.A.T. "Blindspots" (N)		CBS 7 News (N)	(:35) The Late Show		(:35) J.Corden
KWWT CW	5	14		5	14	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H "No Sweat"	A. Griffith	A. Griffith	Gomer Pyle	Mama's Family	Hogan's Heroes	Hogan's Heroes	Carol Burnett	Mason "The Case of the Barefaced Witness"		Twilight Zone
KPEJ FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	The Four: Battle for Stardom "Week One" Four competitive singers battle it out. (P) (N)				Fox 24 News (N)	TMZ	Mom	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
KMLM IND	11	12	12	11	11	All About Us	Mission: M25	Update News	Wings of Truth	Light of the Southwest		Light of the Southwest		Faith for Families	Our Messiah	Fruits of Zion	Biblical Israel
KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	NewsW-est 9 (N)	NewsWest 9 Now	Supers-tore (N)	The Good Place (N)	Will & Grace (N)	Great News	Chicago Fire "A Man's Legacy" (N)		NewsW-est 9 (N)	(:35) The Tonight Show		(:35) Seth Meyers
KPBT PBS	13	13		13	8	PBS NewsHour (N)		Wild West	Two for the Road	Daytri-pper	Places to Love	Antiques Roadshow "Knoxville (Hour One)"		Aman-pour (N)	TBA	News (N)	TBA
KUPB UNI	4	4		4	16	Enamorandome de Ramon		Rey David		Mi marido tiene familia		Caer en Tentacion		Noticias Tejas	Noticiero noctu.	Contacto Deportivo	
KOSA MNT	16	16			16	Last Man	Last Man	Law:Cl "Cherry Red"		Law & O: CI "Blink"		Mike&M.	Mike&M.	Anger M.	Anger M.	Game	Game
FLIX	340	575			165	(5:00) ★ Pride		★ The Nanny Diaries			(:45) ★ Forces of Nature Ben Affleck.				★ The Doors Val Kilmer.		
HBO	300	550	14	14		Movie	News (N)	★ King Arthur: Legend of the Sword				(:15) ★ Mechanic: Resurrection				Comedy	Comedy
HBO2	302	551	15	101	23	(3:15) ★ Finding Nev...		Gunpowder		Gunpowder		(:05) Gunpowder		(:10) ★ The Take Idris Elba.			Movie
HBO5	304	552	16	102		(:55) ★ ★ Jason Bourne Matt Damon.				★ ★ Kindergarten Cop				★ I Love You, Beth Cooper			Movie
MAX	380	557	17	120	24	(5:20) ★ ★ ★ Fargo		★ ★ Ronin ('98, Act) Robert De Niro.				★ ★ ★ Kiss Kiss Bang Bang			(:45) ★ ★ ★ Super Troopers		
MAX2	382	558	18	122		(5:50) ★ ★ ★ Good Will Hunting				★ Table 19 Anna Kendrick.				★ ★ ★ The Blues Brothers John Belushi.			Movie
PLEX			96			(5:20) ★ Soapdish		★ ★ Canadian Bacon			(:40) ★ Son of the Pink Panther			(:15) ★ ★ The Beautician and the Beast			
SHOW	320	565	19	140	25	SoulSoul	(:45) ★ ★ A Beautiful Mind ('01, Dra) Russell Crowe.					Shameless		SNCTM	SMILF	Shameless	
TMC	336	573	22	155	26	(5:00) ★ Sweeney To...		★ Fair Game ('10, Dra) Naomi Watts.				★ ★ Casualties of War Michael J. Fox.				★ Free State of J...	
A&E	27	58	28	35	47	The First 48 "Monster"		The First 48 "Cruel Summer" (N)		60 Days In "Shank Anxiety" The participants are in real danger. (N)				(:05) Intervention "Chapter 1"		(:05) Intervention "Chapter 2"	
AMC	40	74	23	42	51	(4:00) ★ Enemy of t...		★ ★ ★ Demolition Man ('93, Sci-Fi) Sylvester Stallone.						★ ★ Under Siege ('92, Act) Steven Seagal.			
BET	58	-		40		(:50) ★ To Be Announced						Martin	Martin	Rundown	Get Down	Get Down	Rundown
BRAVO	65	76		41		Million Dollar List		Million Dollar List		Million Listing (N)		Top Chef (N)		Watch	Million Dollar List		Top Chef
CNBC	46	52		39	72	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Jay Leno Garage (N)		Jay Leno's Garage		Jay Leno's Garage	
CNN	43	50	51	30	56	OutFront		A. Cooper 360		A. Cooper 360		CNN Tonight		CNN Tonight		A. Cooper 360	
DISC	50	60	31	24	42	To Be Announced		Fields "Isle of Wight"		Killing Fields		Interrogation Room		Killing Fields		Interrogation Room	
DISNEY	56	64	36	25	36	Bunk'd	Raven's.	Andi M.	StuckMid.	Bizaard.	Bizaard.	Bunk'd	Jessie	Andi M.	StuckMid.	Underc.	GoodLuck
ESPN	32	35	48	31	30	NCAA Basketball (L)				NCAA Basketball (L)				SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)	
ESPN2	34	36	49	32	31	(5:00) H.S. Football All-America Game (L)				NCAA Basketball (L)				Basketb.	ESPN	To Be Announced	
FNC	45	48	53	23	55	The Story		Tucker Carlson		Hannity		The Ingraham Angle		Fox News @ Night		Tucker Carlson	
FOOD	64	70	27	68	54	Chopped		Chopped		Chopped		BeatFlay	Beat Flay	Beat Flay	Beat Flay	Chopped	
FREEFORM	53	63	34	42	33	(5:00) ★ ★ Miss Congeniality				★ ★ Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous				The 700 Club		★ Freaky Friday	
FS5W	37	38	50	45	29	Best of Game	Cowboys Insider	Stars Pre-game (L)	NHL Hockey New Jersey Devils at Dallas Stars Site: American Airlines Center -- Dallas, Texas (L)					Post-game (L)	Stars Insider	WPT Poker L.A. Classic	
FX	31	56	59	64	69	(4:30) ★ Men in Bla...		★ ★ Iron Man 2 ('10, Act) Robert Downey Jr..						★ ★ Iron Man 2 ('10, Act) Robert Downey Jr..			
HALLMARK	54	71	58		34	F.House	Full House	F.House	F.House	Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls
HGTV	63	69	26	48	44	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	Flip-Flop	H.Hunt	House (N)	H.Hunt	House	Flip-Flop	Flip-Flop
HISTORY	71	59	29	50	43	American Pickers		American Pickers		American Pickers (N)		American Pickers		American Pickers		American Pickers	
LIFETIME	28	30	25	28	48	Project Runway "Finale Part One" 1/2		Project Runway "Finale Part Two" 2/2		Runway "Rookies vs. Vets" (5P) (N)		Runway (N) /(:10) Married		Project Runway "Rookies vs. Vets"		Project Runway "Finale Part Two" 2/2	
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				(5:30) SpeedSkate Olympic Trials (L) Figure Skating U.S. Championships Site: SAP Center -- San Jose, Calif. (L)										American Ninja War.	
NICK	55	-	39	34	37	H.Danger	Thunder	★ To Be Announced						Nashville		Friends	Friends
SPIKE	30	-	55	53	58	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	★ ★ ★ Shooter ('07, Act) Michael Peña, Mark Wahlberg.						Nashville (N)	
SYFY	66	82	41	57	67	★ ★ ★ Men in Black ('97, Sci-Fi) Will Smith.				Van Helsing (N)		Ghost Wars (N)		Superstition (N)		★ ★ ★ Hanna	
TBS	25	33	44	66	41	Brooklyn 99 "Pilot"	Brooklyn Nine-Nine	Brooklyn 99	Brooklyn 99	Brooklyn 99	Brooklyn 99	Brooklyn 99	Brooklyn 99	Conan J.B. Smoove, Whitney Cummings		Drop the Mic	Conan
TCM	41	75	24	63	66	(5:00) ★ Deception		★ ★ ★ ★ Love Affair			(:45) ★ ★ ★ All This and Heaven Too ('40, Dra) Bette Davis.					★ Lilion	
TELE	20	-	10	20		Caso cerrado (N)		Hasta Que Te Conoci		Sangre de mi Tie (N)		Señora acero (N)		Al rojo	Titulares	Sangre de mi Tierra	
TLC	51	61	32	38	52	My 600-lb Life "Angel's Story"		My 600-lb Life: Supersized "Steven & Justin Assanti"				Dr. Pimple Popper: Supersized (P) (N)		My 600-lb Life: Supersized "Steven & Justin Assanti"			
TNT	24	34	40	26	50	NCIS: New O. "Careful What You Wish For"		NBA Basketball Golden State Warriors at Houston Rockets Site: Toyota Center -- Houston, Texas (L)				NBA Basketball Oklahoma City Thunder at Los Angeles Clippers Site: Staples Center -- Los Angeles, Calif. (L)					
TVLAND	49	-	35	54	35	MASH	M*A*S*H	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Nashville		Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens
USA	26	55	42	27	49	Law & Order: S.V.U. "Hunting Ground"		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Girls Disappeared"		Law & Order: S.V.U. "American Disgrace"		Damnation "The Goodness of Men" (N)		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Holden's Manifesto"		SVU "Glasgowman's Wrath"	
WGN	19	85				Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops

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Ride in vintage car makes passenger fear for her life

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: Recently a friend came over and took me to lunch. She has a small, 50-year-old vintage car that was very popular in the '60s. She had come from Marin County over the Golden Gate Bridge to my house.

As she drove us to the restaurant, her car stalled twice. It was very underpowered and, in my opinion, rickety. After she dropped me home, I sent her an email strongly expressing my concern that she is driving an unsafe car. I was worried for her safety. She took offense, so I apologized.

She has plenty of money to buy a safe used car like anyone else, but she says, "I like driving vintage." I don't want to get into her car again. Was I wrong to tell her I felt her car was unsafe? — NERVOUS PASSENGER IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR PASSENGER: You weren't wrong to warn her. However, you may have been wrong to assume that she has "plenty of money to buy a safe used car." Nobody has as much money as others assume they do. Because you don't want to get into her car again, you should provide the transportation from now on or meet her at the restaurant.

DEAR ABBY: My across-the-street neighbor and I have become friendly. She has a 15-month-old and a newborn. Not only is she not married to the baby's daddy, but they don't even live together.

She has been asking me to help her a lot now that the baby is born. I'm 10 years older and raising three kids, all in their teens.

Abby, I don't want to raise anyone else's kids. How can I politely tell her that I have my own family to care for? She has a tendency to overreact. — KEEPING DISTANCE

DEAR KEEPING DISTANCE: To tell your neighbor you "don't want to raise anyone else's kids" may be accurate, but it's a bit rough. When she asks you to do things for her, be pleasant and say — consistently — that you are busy, you don't have time, you have other plans, etc. If you do, she will soon realize that you are not to be depended upon.

DEAR ABBY: My son has lived overseas on and off for six years. He's being married to a wonderful young woman where they met, which was in Wales. Needless to say, not everyone can attend, so we are having a reception for them here in the States. My son already has a fully furnished house overseas and doesn't need anything, plus the cost of taking gifts back would be astronomical! Anyway, he is thinking of asking for monetary help with the honeymoon. Would this be all right to do and, if so, how do you ask people for it? — HELP FOR THE HONEYMOON

DEAR HELP: Many young people today post requests like that on their wedding website. Or, because friends and relatives may ask what they need after receiving invitations or announcements, the message can be conveyed verbally. According to the rules of etiquette, however, requests for gifts or money should NEVER be included WITH the invitations or announcements.

Goren Bridge

With Bob Jones

Their lucky day

East-West vulnerable, East deals

NORTH
♠Q 10
♡J 8 5
◊A 8 4
♣Q J 10 5 2

WEST
♠J
♡K 9 6 4 3
◊J 10 5
♣8 7 4 3

EAST
♠A K 9 6 5 4 2
♡10 7
◊7 3 2
♣6

SOUTH
♠8 7 3
♡A Q 2
◊K Q 9 6
♣A K 9

The bidding:

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
3♠	Dbl	Pass	4♣
Pass	4◊	Pass	5◊
All pass			

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

It is often said that it is better to be lucky than good. North's conservative decision to bid only four clubs, combined with South's decision to bid four diamonds when he might well have passed or raised clubs instead, led them into the only game contract that had a chance. Had South's three spades included any one of the spades held by West or North, three no-trump would have romped home with overtricks. Even trading South's eight of spades with East's nine would have been sufficient. Five clubs will fail with two spade losers and an inevitable heart loser.

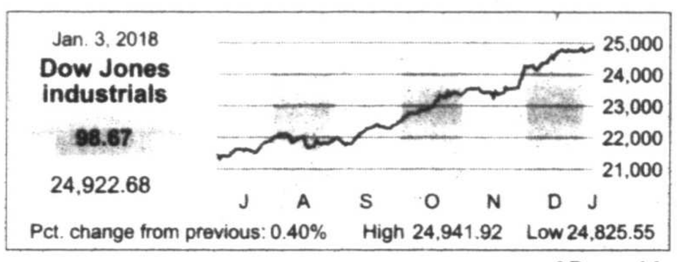
East cashed two spade tricks before shifting to a heart. Holding seven spades to the ace-king, East was not likely to hold an outside king for his pre-empt. Declarer rose with his ace of hearts and led his remaining spade. What was West to do? Should he discard, South would be home with five diamond tricks, five club tricks, and one heart trick.

West chose to ruff with the 10 of diamonds, leaving South with the losing option of finessing East for the jack. South wasn't buying. He overruffed with dummy's ace and led a diamond back to his king. When the jack of diamonds fell under his queen, he drew East's remaining trump with his nine of diamonds and claimed the balance.

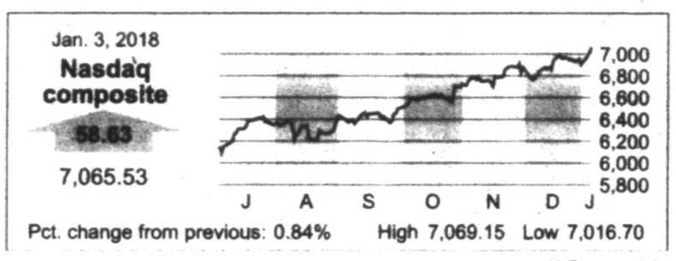
Five diamonds bid and made was a great result for North-South. We ask you, were they lucky or good?

BUSINESS & OIL

A DAY ON WALL STREET



AP graphic



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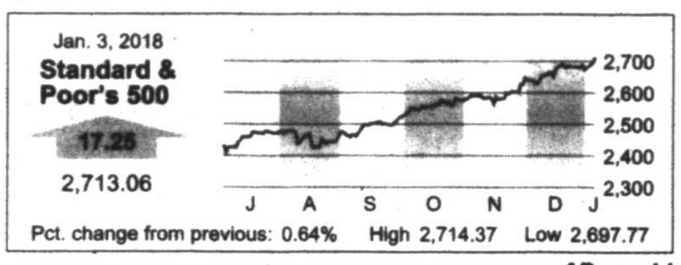


AP graphic

OIL PRICES

FUTURES

Wednesday: $61.63
Previous: $60.37

POSTED

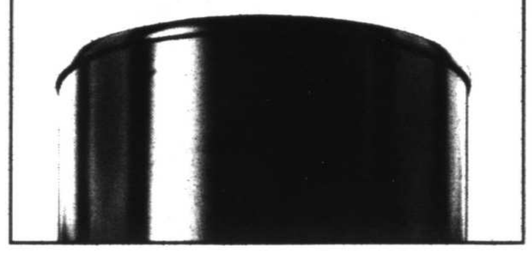
Wednesday: $58.00
Previous: $57.00

WEST TEXAS SOUR

Wednesday: $55.65
Previous: $55.00

NATURAL GAS

Wednesday: $3.008
Previous: $3.056



Intel says broad range of chips vulnerable to hack, denies 'bug'

Bloomberg

Intel Corp. confirmed a report saying its chips contain a feature that makes them vulnerable to hacking, though it said other companies' semiconductors are also susceptible. But the company disputed that its products contain a "bug" or a "flaw," as reported by the technology website The Register on Tuesday.

"Intel and other technology companies have been made aware of new security research describing software analysis methods that, when used for malicious purposes, have the potential to improperly gather sensitive data from computing devices that are operating as designed," the Santa Clara, California-based company said in a statement. "Intel believes these exploits do not have the potential to corrupt, modify or delete data."

Intel's microprocessors are the fundamental building block of the internet, corporate networks and PCs. The company has added to its designs over the years trying to make computers less vulnerable to attack, arguing that hardware security is typically tougher to crack than software.

Companies including Advanced Micro Devices Inc. and ARM Holdings are working with Intel and operating system makers to develop an industry-wide approach to resolving the issue, according to the statement. Intel said it's begun providing software to help mitigate the potential exploits. Impacts on performance depend on the task the computer is performing and for the average user "should not be significant and will be mitigated over time."

The company's stock pared earlier losses after the announcement. The shares were down 3.9 percent to $45.05 at 3:22 p.m. in New York. Competitor AMD, the only other maker of processors for computers, also gave up some earlier gains and was up 6.4 percent to $11.68.

Surging trucks emerge as bright spot in slowing U.S. auto market

Bloomberg

Carmakers capped their first year of shrinking U.S. sales since the recession on a high note, with surging truck demand buoying General Motors and carrying it to a surprise gain.

Ford's light vehicle deliveries rose 1.3 percent last month as its F-Series pickup line had its best year since 2005. GM reported a less dramatic monthly drop than analysts expected, as sales of the Chevrolet Silverado climbed 25 percent.

All major automakers had been projected to report declining sales to wrap up the market's first down year since 2009, when GM and Chrysler went bankrupt. Most companies beat or matched estimates thanks to a strong close to the year for pickup models that are helping them command record prices, according to car-shopping website Kelley Blue Book.

"This year, it'll be an even bigger year for trucks, because there are new ones coming," Michelle Krebs, an analyst with car-shopping website Autotrader, said on Bloomberg Television. "We know that Fiat Chrysler will be introducing a new Ram this year. General Motors has a couple of new full-size pickup trucks and Ford will have some additions to the F-Series. So, it's going to be the year of the truck."

GM predicted the industry would post an annualized selling rate for December, adjusted for seasonal trends, of 18.2 million light vehicles, matching the pace set a year earlier and beating the average estimate of analysts surveyed by Bloomberg News.

"I'm actually surprised the industry was as strong as it was, we had some pretty severe weather, bitterly cold in much of the country," Mark LaNeve, Ford's U.S. sales chief, said on a call with analysts and reporters. "That typically isn't great for vehicle shopping, but the industry ran really strong in the last 10 days" of the month.

Ford's F-Series was the top pickup in the U.S. for the 41st consecutive year and extended to 36 years its annual reign as the best-seller among all vehicles. Toyota's RAV4 was the leading sport utility vehicle for the first time and joined Nissan's Rogue crossover in outselling all passenger cars in what was a bleak year for sedans.

Fiat Chrysler Automobiles reported an 11 percent decline for the month, in line with analyst estimates. While the automaker's U.S. sales have dropped each of the last 16 months, it's been curbing discounted shipments to rental-car companies and other fleet buyers. Deliveries to those customers plunged 42 percent in December.

Toyota posted an 8.3 percent decrease in December sales, in line with analyst estimates, while Nissan and Honda trailed projections with declines of 9.5 percent and 7 percent, respectively. Industry sales in 2018 will probably drop again thanks in part to higher interest rates and greater availability of used sport utility vehicles.

The average analyst estimate is for 16.7 million light-vehicle sales in 2018, which is still a healthy level by historical standards. Light trucks, which include pickups and SUVs, gained share last year, accounting for 63 percent of U.S. sales through November, up from 59 percent a year earlier, according to researcher Autodata Corp.

Technology, energy help stocks sustain strong start to 2018

NEW YORK — Big gains for technology and health care companies helped U.S. stocks set records again Wednesday. Rising crude and heating oil prices also sent energy companies higher.

Chipmakers including Nvidia and Advanced Micro Devices made big gains while Intel skidded following news that its processors have a security flaw that could slow down computers. Energy company Scana, which plunged after it canceled a $9 billion nuclear project and started raising rates to cover its costs, jumped after Dominion Energy agreed to buy it for $7.9 billion in stock.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 17.25 points, or 0.6 percent, to 2,713.06. The Dow Jones industrial average added 98.67 points, or 0.4 percent, to 24,922.68. The Nasdaq composite climbed 58.63 points, or 0.8 percent, to 7,065.53. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks gained 2.56 points, or 0.2 percent, 1,552.58. All four finished at record highs.

Metal prices mixed

Gold inched up $2.40 to $1,318.50 an ounce. Silver added 6 cents to $17.27 an ounce. Copper slipped 2 cents to $3.26 a pound.

NYSE

Most Active ($1 or more)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
GenElec	790613	18.15	+.17
S&P500ETF	698720	270.47	+1.70
SPDR Fncl	560036	28.07	+.15
BkofAm	541054	29.80	-.10
iShEMkts	510945	48.47	+.46

Gainers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Renren rs	18.32	+5.89	+47.4
SCANA	47.65	+8.78	+22.6
Hornbeck	3.69	+.63	+20.6
BlackBerry	13.53	+1.51	+12.6
W&T Off	4.16	+.44	+11.8

Losers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
InnovInd n	32.08	-4.49	-12.3
WestmRs s	2.55	-.26	-9.3
CmtyHlt	4.11	-.37	-8.3
SturmRug	52.85	-4.15	-7.3
CgpVellCrd	12.95	-.96	-6.9

Diary

Advanced	1,730
Declined	1,197
Unchanged	95
Total issues	3,022
New Highs	219
New Lows	30
Volume	3,379,746,663

Amex

Most Active ($1 or more)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Paretem rs	417356	2.98	+.30
22ndCentry	96039	3.26	+.05
B2gold g	66728	3.03	-.04
DigitalPwr	62773	3.08	-.42
NwGold g	61128	3.45	+.04

Gainers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
MexcoEn	5.04	+.72	+16.7
Paretem rs	2.98	+.30	+11.2
SanchzM rs	12.85	+1.25	+10.8
AdmRsc	48.20	+4.20	+9.5
Myomo n	3.94	+.29	+7.9

Losers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
AmpcPhm	3.01	-.47	-13.5
DigitalPwr	3.08	-.42	-12.0
Takung n	2.60	-.29	-10.0
RegHlt plA	7.38	-.44	-5.6
VolltonRX	2.66	-.16	-5.5

Diary

Advanced	208
Declined	130
Unchanged	25
Total issues	363
New Highs	18
New Lows	2
Volume	185,783,987

Nasdaq

Most Active ($1 or more)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Intel	1102714	45.26	-1.59
MicronT	405239	44.98	+1.31
SiriusXM	284400	5.21	...
Apple Inc	278657	172.23	-.03
PwShs QQQ	261537	160.03	+1.54

Gainers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
ChinaHGS	2.45	+1.19	+94.3
RenEng rs	2.26	+.87	+62.6
CmstkH rs	2.20	+.62	+39.2
ArrowPhm	4.64	+.92	+24.7
SAExpir rs	2.56	+.45	+21.3

Losers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
AquaB Tc n	6.82	-2.07	-23.3
Chantic rs	3.14	-.58	-15.6
RiotBlck	24.36	-3.54	-12.7
LexnFint n	15.39	-1.90	-11.0
TechComm	8.25	-.95	-10.3

Diary

Advanced	1,737
Declined	1,206
Unchanged	171
Total issues	3,114
New Highs	232
New Lows	25
Volume	2,038,963,591

MIDLAND STOCKS

Midland-Headquartered Publicly Traded Companies

Concho Resources (CXO)
Closing Price $152.59 Up 0.69

Dawson Geophysical (DWSN)
Closing Price $5.22 Up 0.15

Diamondback Energy (FANG)
Closing Price $129.17 Up 1.29

Legacy Reserves (LGCY)
Closing Price $1.67 Up 0.10

Mexco Energy (MXC)
Closing Price $5.04 Up 0.72

Natural Gas Services Group (NGS)
Closing Price $27.60 Up 0.80

ProPetro Holdings (PUMP)
Closing Price $20.00 Down 0.31

RSP Permian (RSPP)
Closing Price $41.48 Down 0.13

Ring Energy (REI)
Closing Price $14.42 Down 0.13

Viper Energy Partners (VNOM)
Closing Price $23.30 Down 0.30

HOW STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST FARED

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
AK Steel	...	18	6.34	+.10	+12.0
AT&T Inc	2.00f	14	37.65	-.89	-3.2
Abraxas	...	64	2.55	-.01	+3.7
AddDvsEq	1.32e	...	15.22	+.12	+1.3
AMD	...	...	11.55	+.57	+12.4
Alibaba	...	52	184.00	+.35	+6.7
AlpAlerMLP	1.35e	...	11.33	+.27	+5.0
Ambev	.05e	6	6.65	+.04	+2.9
Amgen	**5.28e**	**16**	**180.34**	**+3.34**	**+3.7**
Anadarko	**.20**	**...**	**54.77**	**...**	**+2.1**
Apache	**1.00**	**...**	**45.33**	**+1.03**	**+7.4**
Apple Inc	2.52	20	172.23	-.03	+1.8
ApldMatl	**.40**	**17**	**53.96**	**+.94**	**+5.6**
Archrock	.48	...	9.90	-.10	-5.7
ATMOS	**1.80**	**24**	**84.34**	**-.70**	**-1.8**
AutoData	2.52f	31	117.25	+1.26	+.1
BP PLC	**2.38**	**31**	**42.87**	**+.49**	**+2.0**
BkofAm	.48	17	29.80	-.10	+.9
B iPVxST rs	...	...	26.38	-.57	-5.5
BarringsCp s	1.20	...	15.31	-.16	+.3
BarrickG	.12	22	15.00	-.20	+3.7
BasicEnS	...	...	.45	...	...
BerkHa A	**...**	**24299905.00**	**+4149.96**	**+.8**	
BlkHillsCp	**1.78**	**17**	**58.62**	**-.52**	**-2.5**
BlackBerry	...	16	13.53	+1.51	+21.1
BrMySq	**1.60f**	**21**	**61.36**	**+.05**	**+.1**
BrownFA s	**.79**	**39**	**66.94**	**-.53**	**-.4**
BrownFB s	**.79**	**...**	**68.19**	**+.49**	**-.7**
CVS Health	2.00	13	73.25	-.27	+1.0
CallonPet	**...**	**38**	**12.19**	**-.31**	**+.3**
Caterpillar	3.12	41	157.28	+.24	-.2
Celestic g	...	7	10.55	-.05	+.7
Cemex	.29t	...	7.86	+.14	+5.1
CntryLink	2.16	8	17.08	-.33	+2.4
ChesEng	...	7	4.07	-.03	+2.8
Chevron	**4.32**	**85**	**128.51**	**+.93**	**+2.7**
Chicos	.33	13	9.06	+.05	+2.7
Cimarex	.32	33	126.20	+.69	+3.4
Cisco	1.16	20	39.17	+.31	+2.3
Citigroup	1.28	14	74.59	+.23	+.2
ClevCliffs	**...**	**7**	**7.85**	**-.05**	**+8.9**
CocaCola	**1.46**	**28**	**45.44**	**-.10**	**-1.0**
ColgPalm	**1.80**	**28**	**74.85**	**-.29**	**-.9**
Comcast s	.83	20	40.41	-.86	+1.3

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
ConAgra	**.85**	**20**	**37.33**	**-.19**	**-.9**
ConchoRes	**...**	**...**	**152.59**	**+.89**	**+1.6**
ConocoPhil	**1.06**	**45**	**56.34**	**+1.02**	**+2.6**
CrackerB	4.80	29	165.22	+4.80	+4.0
CrosTim	**.93e**	**15**	**15.09**	**+.24**	**+2.7**
DCP Mid	3.12	54	38.65	+1.18	+6.4
DTE	3.30	21	108.10	-.35	-1.2
DenburyR	...	...	2.32	+.03	+5.0
DevonE	**.24**	**61**	**42.72**	**+.49**	**+3.2**
DrGMBil rs	...	...	18.33	-.99	+3.2
Disney	**1.68f**	**20**	**112.28**	**+.48**	**+4.4**
DomResCs	3.08f	21	77.19	-3.09	-4.8
EOG Resces	**.67**	**...**	**110.93**	**+1.63**	**+2.8**
Energen	.08	...	58.74	-.40	+2.0
Energous	...	...	23.37	+1.03	+20.2
EngyTrPrt	2.28f	25	18.68	+.28	+5.4
EnPro	**.68**	**53**	**92.99**	**-.49**	**-.6**
ENSCO	.04	...	6.61	+.44	+11.8
EntProdPt	1.69f	22	27.63	+.75	+4.2
Ericsson	.11e	...	6.70	+.02	+.3
ExxonMbl	**3.08**	**33**	**86.70**	**+1.65**	**+3.7**
Facebook	...	35	184.67	+3.25	+4.7
FordM	.60a	11	12.76	+.10	+2.2
FrptMcM	...	...	19.47	-.30	+2.7
GATX	**1.68**	**13**	**62.71**	**-1.31**	**+.9**
GabMultT	**.94e**	**...**	**9.27**	**+.06**	**+.8**
GAInv	**1.15e**	**...**	**34.46**	**+.14**	**+.2**
GenElec	**.48**	**15**	**18.15**	**+.17**	**+3.9**
GenMotors	1.52	6	42.82	+1.02	+4.5
GtPlainEn	**1.10**	**18**	**31.60**	**-.58**	**-2.0**
Hallibrtn	.72	...	50.50	+.89	+3.3
HuntBncsh	.44f	16	14.72	+.12	+1.1
iShGold	...	...	12.64	-.03	+1.0
iShBrazil	.67e	...	42.19	+.51	+4.3
iShChinaLC	.87e	...	48.18	+.41	+4.4
iShEMkts	.59e	...	48.47	+.46	+2.9
iS Eafe	**1.66e**	**...**	**71.17**	**+.34**	**+1.2**
iShIBxHYB	5.09	...	87.76	+.42	+.6
iShR2K	1.77e	...	154.06	+.16	+1.0
Intel	**1.60**	**20**	**45.26**	**-1.59**	**-1.9**
InterDig	1.40	11	79.65	+1.05	+4.6
iShJapan rs	...	...	61.12	+.83	+2.0
ItauUnibH	.32e	...	13.71	+.18	+5.5
JPMorgCh	2.24f	16	108.06	+.11	+1.0

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
JohnJn	**3.36**	**20**	**140.56**	**+1.33**	**+.6**
KimbClk	**3.88**	**19**	**117.08**	**-1.99**	**-3.0**
KindMorg	.50	35	18.96	+.16	+4.9
Kinross g	...	...	4.46	-.02	+3.2
LegacyRes	...	...	1.68	+.10	+4.3
Lubys	**...**	**...**	**2.72**	**-.01**	**+3.0**
Macys	1.51	9	25.33	-.96	+.6
McDnlds	4.04f	29	172.49	-.73	+.2
Merck	1.92f	14	56.14	-.08	-.2
MeritMed	**...**	**52**	**45.00**	**+1.45**	**+4.2**
MexcoEn	...	...	5.04	+.72	+28.2
MicronT	...	10	44.98	+1.31	+9.4
Microsoft	1.68	30	86.35	+.40	+.9
Nabors	.24	...	7.05	+.18	+3.2
NOilVarco	.20	...	37.85	+1.05	+5.1
NBTFB	**.85e**	**...**	**15.17**	**+.15**	**-.1**
NTXQI	**.85**	**...**	**14.44**	**+.12**	**+.7**
Nvidia	.60f	59	212.47	+13.12	+9.6
OasisPet	...	...	8.60	+.23	+4.6
OcciPet	**3.08**	**...**	**75.00**	**+1.02**	**+1.8**
Oracle	.76	20	47.71	+1.08	+.9
PDC Engy	**...**	**...**	**52.62**	**-.23**	**+2.1**
ParTech	**...**	**22**	**9.21**	**+.01**	**-1.5**
Paretem rs	...	...	2.98	+.30	+44.0
ParkDrl	**...**	**...**	**1.07**	**+.06**	**+7.0**
PattUTI	**.08**	**...**	**23.47**	**+.29**	**+2.0**
Penney	...	19	3.70	+.20	+17.1
PennsylRE	**.84**	**14**	**12.10**	**-.37**	**+1.8**
Pmian	.63e	25	9.07	+.21	+2.3
PetrbraA	...	...	10.45	+.23	+6.3
Petrobras	...	...	10.97	+.27	+6.6
Pfizer	**1.28**	**15**	**36.71**	**+.27**	**+1.4**
PioNtrl	.06	...	176.34	+3.42	+2.0
PlainsAAP	**2.20**	**27**	**22.27**	**+.06**	**+7.9**
PwShs QQQ	1.52e	...	160.03	+1.54	+2.7
Praxair	**3.15**	**28**	**157.50**	**+1.31**	**+1.8**
PrmEgy	**...**	**...**	**61.50**	**...**	**...**
PUVixST rs	...	...	9.05	-.40	-11.4
ProctGam	**2.76f**	**29**	**80.54**	**-.11**	**-1.5**
RangeRs	**.06**	**19**	**17.81**	**-.11**	**+4.4**
RiteAid	...	...	2.11	-.02	+7.1
Rowan	.40	10	16.81	+.62	+7.3
RoyDShllA	3.76	...	68.59	+.55	+2.6
SCANA	2.45f	12	47.65	+8.78	+19.6
SpdrDJIA	3.99e	...	248.95	+.93	+.6

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
S&P500ETF	4.13e	...	270.47	+1.70	+1.4
SpdrLehHY	2.30	...	36.94	+.18	+.6
SpdrOGEx	.73e	...	38.60	+.38	+3.6
SabnR	2.31e	22	45.80	+.45	+2.7
SanderFin	**1.28f**	**11**	**133.89**	**+.89**	**-8.5**
Schlmbrg	2.00	55	71.33	+1.81	+5.8
SeadrillLtd	...	1	.29	+.05	+25.5
SiriusXM	.04f	29	5.21	...	-2.8
Smucker	3.12f	16	123.40	-.32	-.7
SnapInc A n	...	...	15.31	+.36	+4.8
SwstnEngy	...	42	5.91	...	+5.9
Sprint	...	...	5.90	-.03	+.2
Square n	...	...	37.31	+1.14	+7.6
SP CnSt	1.28e	...	56.52	-.02	-.7
SP Engy	2.04e	...	74.55	+1.10	+3.2
SPDR Fncl	.46e	...	28.07	+.15	+.6
SP Inds	1.12e	...	76.53	+.41	+1.1
SP Tech	.78e	...	65.26	+.54	+2.1
SP Util	1.55e	...	51.78	-.41	-1.7
TeleEsp	**1.20e**	**...**	**9.77**	**-.07**	**+.9**
TevaPhrm	.73e	6	19.13	+.02	+.9
3M Co	4.70	27	235.63	-.01	+.1
Torchmark	**.60**	**19**	**90.47**	**+.26**	**-.3**
Transocn	...	11	11.17	+.23	+4.6
TrMConti	**1.00e**	**...**	**27.97**	**+.14**	**+.5**
21stCFoxA	.36	23	36.54	+.68	+5.8

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
Twitter	...	...	24.45	-.06	+1.8
TylerTech	**...**	**57**	**180.19**	**+1.60**	**+1.8**
UBSI	**1.36f**	**18**	**34.85**	**...**	**+.3**
US NGas	...	...	5.91	-.10	+1.4
US OilFd	...	...	12.34	+.27	+2.7
USSteel	.20	...	37.49	+.07	+6.5
Vale SA	.29e	...	12.85	+.08	+5.1
ValeantPh	...	6	23.01	+1.22	+10.7
ValeroE	2.80	25	93.29	+.49	+1.5
VanEGold	.06e	...	23.57	-.25	+1.4
VnEtRus	.01e	...	22.09	+.49	+4.1
VEckOilSvc	.47e	...	27.22	+.86	+4.5
VanE JrGld	...	...	34.54	-.80	+1.2
VangEmg	1.10e	...	47.15	+.45	+2.7
VerizonCm	2.38	11	52.43	-1.10	-.9
VulcanM	**1.80**	**42**	**134.39**	**+2.42**	**+4.6**
WEC Engy	2.21f	22	65.54	-.23	-1.3
WalgBoots	1.80	16	75.51	+.56	+4.0
WeatherInt	**...**	**...**	**3.67**	**+.21**	**-12.0**
WellsFargo	**1.56f**	**15**	**61.56**	**+.47**	**+1.5**
WmsCos	**1.20**	**55**	**32.00**	**+.86**	**+5.0**
XcelEngy	**1.44**	**20**	**47.49**	**-.32**	**-1.8**
Xerox rs	1.00	10	29.33	-.04	+.6
Yamana g	.02	...	3.21	-.06	+2.9
Zynga	...	...	4.02	+.10	+.5

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
24,876.07	19,677.94	Dow Jones Industrials	24,922.68	+98.67	+.40	+.82	+24.97
10,810.80	8,744.36	Dow Jones Transportation	10,820.74	+10.79	+.10	+1.96	+18.70
778.80	648.34	Dow Jones Utilities	769.52	-9.20	-1.29	-2.33	+7.17
12,952.72	11,094.29	NYSE Composite	12,957.29	+84.85	+.62	+1.16	+15.21
7,008.91	5,087.80	Nasdaq Composite	7,065.53	+58.63	+.84	+2.35	+29.00
2,895.84	2,245.28	S&P 500	2,713.05	+17.25	+.64	+1.48	+19.48
1,918.23	1,659.04	S&P Midcap	1,923.36	+6.00	+.31	+1.20	+13.42
27,991.16	23,479.42	Wilshire 5000	29,181.10	+189.92	+.65	+1.39	+16.40
1,559.60	1,335.03	Russell 2000	1,552.58	+2.57	+.17	+1.11	+11.86

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***

			7				6	
		1		9				5
2		3			6			7
4								6
	2			4			1	
6								2
3			9			7		
1				5		4		3
	9				7			

SOLUTION TO WEDNESDAY'S PUZZLE

7	2	3	4	6	8	5	9	1
1	6	5	3	7	9	8	2	4
9	8	4	5	1	2	3	6	7
8	7	9	2	4	3	6	1	5
2	5	6	1	8	7	9	4	3
4	3	1	6	9	5	7	8	2
3	9	8	7	2	1	4	5	6
5	4	2	8	3	6	1	7	9
6	1	7	9	5	4	2	3	8

1/4/18

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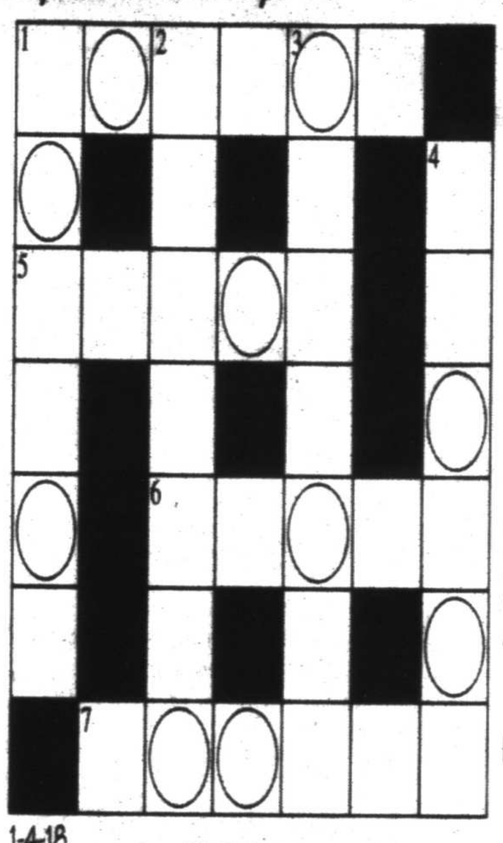
JUMBLE® CROSSWORDS™

by David L. Hoyt



ACROSS

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Fashionable	NEYRTD
5. ___ passage	SLAAN
6. ___ paper	EGLLA
7. Foot part	PSEITN

DOWN

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Itch, prickle	IGETNL
2. Fifth Greek letter	PELONSI
3. Joy	HIETLDG
4. Defeat soundly	OWPLLA

How to play - Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

1-4-18

CLUE: There are a number of theories as to the origin of the ___ ___.

BONUS

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ANSWERS: 1A-Trendy 5A-Nasal 6A-Legal 7A-Insect 1D-Tingle 2D-Epsilon 3D-Delight 4D-Mallop 5D-Dollar sign

Send comments to TCA - 435 N. Michigan Ave., Third Floor, Chicago, IL 60611 or DLHoyt@aol.com.

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.

PORAN

SITOH

RETVDI

CRAEDA

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Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CHEER NOVEL STODGY DISOWN
Answer: The superhero was a star on her softball team and not a — ONE-HIT WONDER

DAILY CROSSWORD

Edited By Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Waldorf __
6 Crawford of the Timberwolves
11 Rx watchdog
14 Cast out
15 Where glasses may be raised?
16 Standee's lack
17 Duffer's flaw from the tee?
20 Wingless parasite
21 "Cheers" actor Roger
22 Approximately
23 Speech characteristic of Dustin on "Stranger Things"
25 "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" newsman
26 Duffer's impossible dream?
31 Family dinner entrée
32 __ de guerre
33 It may be sharp
37 Pageant VIPs
38 Handyman's tasks
42 Each
43 Bean used in Asian sauces
45 Classic auto
46 Cutting
48 Duffer's cry after botching a putt and settling for par?
52 Yelp piece
55 Move, in Realtor lingo
56 They have pHs below 7
57 "Let It Go" singer in "Frozen"
59 Landing
63 Duffer's sad 18th-hole reply to "Bogey for you?" ... and 19th-hole request to the bartender?
66 Miner concern
67 Make __: rake it in
68 Deal with
69 '60s activist gp.
70 Help for the graveyard shift, maybe
71 Slurpee insert

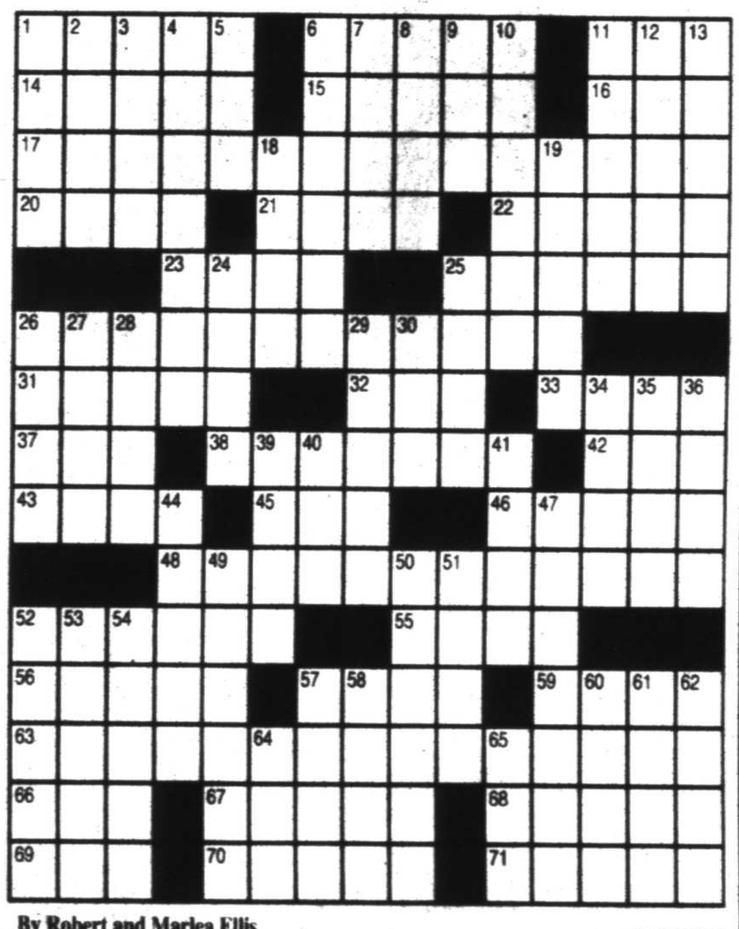
DOWN

1 Lowly worker
2 Winter Olympics jump
3 Wingless parasites
4 They have pHs above 7
5 Second-smallest U.S. state
6 Nativity figure
7 Church area
8 Rx specifications
9 Itinerary abbr.
10 Not of the cloth
11 Toy (with)
12 Hula or hora
13 __ score: neonatal measure
18 Once, quaintly
19 Kit's mom
24 Absorbed by
25 Fall flat
26 Readies for battle
27 2017 Pixar film set in Mexico
28 Like Sunday morning, in a Commodores title
29 "Have a nice time!"
30 "Woo-__!"
34 Newspaper page
35 Actress Garr
36 Kathryn of "Law & Order: C.I."
39 Used charcoal pencils, say
40 Society newcomer
41 Glide (through)
44 Bear
47 Alice had to play it with flamingos as mallets
49 Sycophant
50 Not authentic
51 Rosary unit
52 "Parenthood" actress Sarah
53 Digital greeting
54 Twin Cities team, familiarly
57 Oklahoma city
58 Carson's successor
60 Taxi alternative
61 Utah ski resort
62 "Ouch!"
64 Texting qualifier
65 CIA predecessor

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

B	E	A	M		J	O	K	E	S		S	A	R	A
E	L	M	O		O	N	A	P	L	A	T	T	E	R
A	B	E	L		P	E	T	E	R	L	O	R	R	E
V	A	N	D	A	L	I	Z	E		A	V	I	A	S
				H	I	D				B	E	A	N	O
	H	A	V	A	N	A	C	I	G	A	R			
P	E	R	E				R	O	A	M		P	L	O
T	A	K	E	A	D	V	A	N	T	A	G	E	O	F
A	D	S		T	O	W	N				U	N	I	T
			M	E	N	S	E	R	V	A	N	T	S	
K	O	R	E	A				E	O	N				
A	H	I	N	T		M	O	V	I	N	G	V	A	N
P	A	N	T	O	M	I	M	E	D		O	I	L	Y
U	R	G	E	N	T	C	A	R	E		B	A	S	E
T	A	S	E		M	A	N	E	D		S	L	O	T

xwordeditor@aol.com 01/04/18



By Robert and Marlea Ellis

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01/04/18

WUZZLES®

WORD PUZZLES BY WOOD TOM

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1. Espionnnnage LASH

2. LASH

Print Your Answers Here:

1.

2.

Today's Answers:

1. Foreign espionage
2. Lashes out

1-4

Created by Tom Underwood

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WUZZLES® 1. Foreign espionage 2. Lashes out Answers 1-4

Be sure to check out Sunday's edition to read weekly
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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EDUCATION-TRAINING

St. Luke's Development Program

We are currently hiring for full and part time positions. Must be 18 years of age with a high school diploma or its equivalency. We offer vacation, sick and personal time/401k/Health plan/paid holidays for full time positions. Apply in person at 3011 W. Kansas, Midland TX.

ENERGY AND UTILITIES

Downhole Tool Service Technicans

National Oilwell Varco now hiring Downhole Tool Service Technicians. Competitive pay and benefits. Apply in person or submit resume online at nov.com/careers or 8301 Groening Road, Odessa, TX. (Near the H & P yard). 432-563-1173

Plant Operator

PLANT OPERATOR NEEDED IMMEDIATELY: Experience preferred but not required. Gas Plant knowledge is a plus. Location near Rankin Tx. Fax resume to (432)693-2132 or mail to Benedum Gas Plant, HC 34, Box 63, Midkiff, Tx 79755

LAW ENFORCEMENT SECURITY

Drug Court Magistrate

Midland County is currently seeking a Drug Court Magistrate. Requirements include being a Midland County resident, current license to practice law, and being certified and in good standing with the State Bar of Texas. Benefits will begin after the 91st day of employment and include health, paid time off, and retirement. Please see our website: www.co.miland.tx.us/departments/hr/pages/employment.aspx for more details, pay, and applications. To be consider you must send a completed application with job reference numbers to the address indicated on the application.

OTHER JOBS

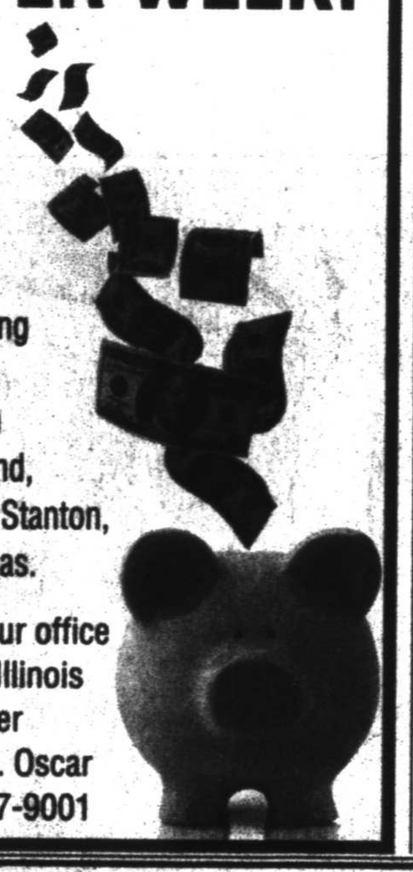
BOP TESTERS

Iron Horse Tools LLC HIRING EXPERIENCED BOP TESTERS IN PERMIAN BASIN Top Pay and Benefits Call Mark @ 814-462-8899.

EARN UP TO $500 PER WEEK!

Do you have a reliable car with insurance and a phone?? Become an independent contractor delivering the Midland Reporter-Telegram in the in the Midland, Odessa, Andrews, Stanton, and Big Spring areas.

Please come by our office located at 201 E. Illinois and fill out a carrier information sheet. Oscar Ronquillo 432-687-9001



OTHER JOBS

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: jmadzor@hearstmp.com

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

SALES JOBS

EMPLOYMENT SALES REPRESENTATIVE

The Midland Reporter-Telegram is looking for someone with excellent communication skills to provide outstanding customer service to our Employment customers.

Responsibilities include prospecting new clients, working closely with new and existing clients to develop employment campaigns that provide outstanding results, tracking sales activity, and meeting/ exceeding established monthly sales goals.

Qualified candidates must be a self-starter and possess excellent communication and organizational skills, be detail oriented and assertive, excel in spelling/grammar/punctuation, excel in time management, and possess a positive attitude.

We are willing to train and offer a competitive compensation and benefits package, guaranteed commission for three months and the opportunity to advance your career in an exciting, progressive and innovative organization in one of the fastest growing markets in Texas.

If you want to join a GREAT TEAM and are ready to SUCCEED, please send a resume to: Cranderson@hearstmp.com

Chad Anderson, Advertising Sales Manager 201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX 79701. No phone calls please.

SALES JOBS

OUTSIDE SALES REPRESENTATIVE

The Midland Reporter-Telegram is looking for someone with excellent communication skills to provide outstanding customer service to our Retail Advertising customers.

Responsibilities include prospecting new clients, working closely with new and existing clients to develop multi-media advertising campaigns that provide outstanding results, tracking sales activity, and meeting/ exceeding established monthly sales goals.

Qualified candidates must be a self-starter and possess excellent communication and organizational skills, be detail oriented and assertive, excel in spelling/grammar/punctuation, excel in time management, and possess a positive attitude.

We are willing to train and offer a competitive compensation and benefits package, guaranteed commission for three months and the opportunity to advance your career in an exciting, progressive and innovative organization in one of the fastest growing markets in Texas.

If you want to join a GREAT TEAM and are ready to SUCCEED, please send a resume to: Cranderson@hearstmp.com

Chad Anderson, Advertising Sales Manager 201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX 79701. No phone calls please.

SKILLED LABOR

Oilfield Journeymen Electricians & Apprentices

Coonrod Electric hiring Journeymen Electricians and Apprentices. Must have apprentice license and a valid driver's license. Potential candidates must have previous oilfield electrical experience. Call Melinda Reilly @ 361-946-9156, send resume to mreilly@cecnrg.com

Shop Welder/ Fabricator

Immediate opening for shop welder/ fabricator must have a minimum 3 years experience. Apply in person at 2710 SCR 1206, Midland, Texas 79706 between the hours of 8am- 2pm Mon.-Fri.

Painters/Coaters & Sandblasters

Industrial Painters/Coaters & Sandblasters Wanted
Local company is currently hiring for full-time Industrial Painters& Sandblasters. $18.00-25.00 an hr, depending on experience. Insurance and Vacations Benefits. Schedule appt. with Micheal McAfee 281-658-3680 or apply online mmcafee@universalcorrosion.com

★

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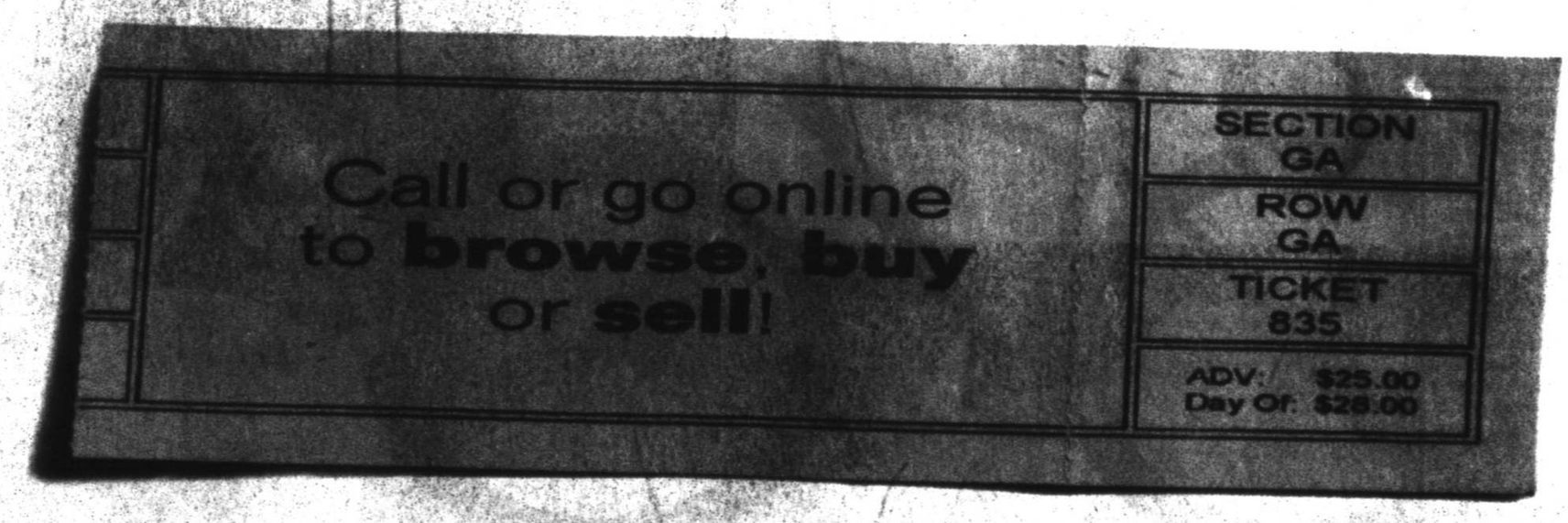

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Legal and Public Notices

Midland Independent School District

Midland, Texas

Notice to Vendors

Request for Charter Bus Services

The Midland Independent School District invites qualified vendors to submit a sealed proposal(s) for **RFP #19-02 Charter Bus Services** 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, Room 704, Midland, Texas at **2:00 P.M. Thursday, January 18, 2018.** Request for Proposal documents may be obtained by registering as a supplier at www.midlandisd.com/domain/44. For any questions, contact MISD Procurement Services department at (432) 240-1965.

NOTICE TO PHYSICIANS AND PROVIDERS

Aetna Life Insurance Company, Texas Health + Aetna Health Insurance Company, Aetna Health Inc., Texas Health + Aetna Health Plan Inc., and Aetna Dental Inc. and their affiliates will accept written applications for participation in their PPO, POS, HMO and DMO networks during the period of December 1, 2018 through December 21, 2018. Physicians and providers including advanced practice nurses and physician assistants, who wish to contract with us, must apply during this period and applications must be received no later than December 21, 2018. Medical network applications should be submitted online at www.Aetna.com; please direct all credentialing questions to Aetna Credentialing and Application Management at 1-800-353-1232.

Send Dental network inquiries to: Aetna Dental West, 21215 Burbank Blvd., Suite 620, Woodland Hills, CA 91367 or via Fax to 1-866-445-4387. Attention: 2018 Provider Enrollment. Please direct dental network related questions/inquiries to 1-800-451-7715.

NOTICE TO PHYSICIANS AND PROVIDERS

Cigna Health & Life Insurance Company and Connecticut General Life Insurance Company, which provide medical care benefit services, will accept applications for participation in their networks of physicians, pharmacies, and other providers from December 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018. Applicants must meet all credentialing and other participatory criteria. All applications will be reviewed and responses will be made within 90 days of receipt. To request an application, or for further information, please write:
Cigna Companies
Attn: Provider Relations
1640 Dallas Parkway
Plano, TX 75093

Notice to Physicians and Providers

The following healthcare organizations are accepting applications for physicians and providers who wish to become contracted physicians and providers during the period of **February 1, 2018 through February 20, 2018.** UnitedHealthcare Community Plan, offered by UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Texas, L.L.C., is a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) located at 14141 Southwest Freeway, Suite 800, Sugar Land, TX 77478, offers Medicaid Managed Care (STAR and STAR+PLUS) STAR Kids and Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP). UnitedHealthcare of Texas, Inc. and UnitedHealthcare Benefits of Texas, Inc. both located at 1311 President George Bush Highway, Richardson, Texas 75080 offer basic health care service Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) plans. United HealthCare Insurance Company and PacifiCare Life and Health Insurance Company offer Preferred Provider Organizations (PPOs) and Exclusive Provider Organizations (EPOs). Applicants must meet practice standards, qualifications and other participatory criteria established by the HMO and/or PPO/EPO's. To initiate the application process, have your tax ID number available and please call 1-877-842-3210. Select the following prompts: 1) Other professional services and 2) Credentialing.

Notice of Application for Oil & Gas Waste Disposal Well Permit

Pioneer Natural Resources, 5205 N. O'Connor Blvd., Suite 200, Irving, Texas 7509 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 San Andres, Epley 2 Lease, Well Number 1D. The proposed disposal well is located 11.7 miles NW of Stanton, in the Spraberry (Tread Area) Field, in Martin County.

The waste water will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 4,100 to 6,100 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.

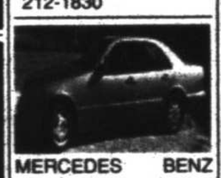
Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Service Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone) 512/463-6792).

WORK WANTED
20+ years bookkeeping experience. Proficient with Quickbooks. Email: pj.bookkeeping@yahoo.com. References available.

Autos For Sale-Lease

Passenger Cars

CADILLAC 2006 DTS. One owner, 60K actual miles. Garage kept. Have records of all service & oil changes. $9950. 432-212-1830



MERCEDES BENZ 2001, E320. $2,200. 432-517-5288

Antique and Vintage

BUICK 1993 Riviera pearlescent diamond white, with red padded Landau top, SE prestige option package, 1 owner, 91,094 miles, garaged since new. $8,500 firm. 432-218-8869.

RV Vehicles

RV trailer for rent, large space with fenced in gate. Green grass & trees. Very clean, come by and see. Ready by 1-1-18 Midland, 2505 WCR 140. 432-218-6960 or 432-212-2866.

Estate Sales

ESTATE SALE
BY JOSEPH AND TEAM
4601 Tanforan - Midland
Thursday 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Friday 9:00 AM - 2 PM
Saturday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

For pictures go to https://www.estatesales.net/TX/Midland/79707/1763106

Miscellaneous 4-Sale

FREON R12 WANTED
Certified buyer pays CASH for cylinders & cans.
(312) 291-9169, refrigerantfinders.com

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FOR FREE 37 IN. Toshiba Analog TV. Call 432-664-1379 or 432-699-5536 for address.

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GRAND PIANO 1926, Knabe model Louis XV. $10,000. 432-638-5127

OAK, PECAN, Hickory, Mesquite, Pinon. 432-209-0416 or 325-762-4262

Pets-Animals

Dogs

AKC STANDARD POODLE PUPPIES, TAILS SHOWCUT AND DEWCLAWS REMOVED, VET HEALTH CHECKED, PARENTS ON SITE 432-210-4006, 432-212-7362

LABRADOR RETRIEVER PUPPIES Grand Hunting Retriever Champ. bloodlines Xmas day delivery in Midland! $1,000 English Labs OFA Cert. Hips & elbows Avail. in time for Xmas! Brooke 432-978-5300

Real Estate Rental-Sale

Roommates

ROOMMATE WANTED $550. + $100 deposit, large Ste. own bath full privilege's. Call 601-764-8105

Residential Rentals

Condo Thome Rent Unfurn

3200 ELMA Drive. Very nice townhome 3 bedroom 3 baths, fireplace, double car garage, sprinkler system, nice trees, gated patio area. $1,800 per month & $750 deposit. Call 432-230-0157 or 432-230-3671

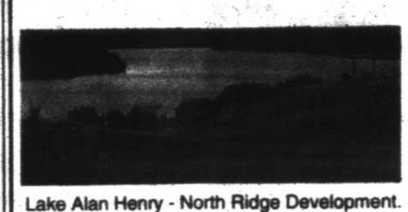
Residential Sales

Single Family Homes

Contract fell through! BEAUTIFULLY REMODELED 3 bedroom 2 baths, 2 car garage, large backyard. $169,000. Open house every Sunday 2-4 until sold. 5121 W. Illinois. 432-683-2243. No owner finance!

FSBO 4 bedroom, 2 full baths, 1 3/4 bath and 1/2 bath by heated pool and hot tub. 2507 Bellechasse Ct. Midland. See pictures at Zillow.com. Call 432-853-9080 for an appointment to see.

Vacation-Resort



Lake Alan Henry - North Ridge Development. Two 1 acre Lots # 134 & 135 $75,000 for both, Build-able view of lake, paved roads, private water plant, private boat ramp. site map nrlah.com. 3111 Properties, LLC 806 441 7005

Residential Sales

Single Family Homes

FOR SALE 17 acres in Nogal Canyon and a home with a spacious living area with a rock fireplace. Property also includes, a courtyard, guest house, barn, shop, two entrances, fully fenced property. Seller will include a 140 acre lot in Ancho with an acceptable offer for this Nogal, NM property. $299,000 Please check out the video: www.211nogalcanyon.com Offered by Darien Ross Associate Broker Pinnacle Real Estate 931 Hwy 48 Alto, NM 88312 575-336-7711 Office 575-973-0117 cell.

Single Family Homes

LIQUIDATION OF 2 divorced homes in Midland, TX. 1608 W. Kansas & 2612 N. Garfield. Call for price. 214-356-5244 Realtor

Lots and Land

Hunting Leases

ONE OF the most scenic, spectacular, premier, hunting ranches in West Texas located in the Eagle Mountains near Van Horn, TX. spanning over 10,000 acres with beautiful western style lodge approx. 3 hours from Midland is now for sale. For info contact owner at 830-238-3166

Lots and Land

Oil and Gas Leases

100% OF Minerals for sale Border & Dawson County. 360 acres. Call 940-399-6119

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GREAT 150 Acre Ranch near Christoval, paved road. $1,995 / Ac. Call agent 512-656-3789, A&G Land Mgt.

RANCH FOR SALE
4,212 Acres near Snyder, Tx. Water, 3 houses, great hunting. Owner Financing $795/ Acre (432) 664-7764

Commercial

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Lots and Land

24.29 AC. N. OF SAN ANGELO IN COKE COUNTY. MESQUITE, CEDAR COVER. DEER, HOGS, QUAIL & DOVE. $3,334 DOWN, $552/MO. CALL/ VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO. 800-876-9720 ranchenterprisesltd.com

46.64 AC. VAL VERDE COUNTY, N. OF COMSTOCK. W. TX BRUSH COUNTRY. DEER, JAVELINA, TURKEY, QUAIL & DOVE. NEAR LAKE AMISTAD. $2,554 DOWN, $423/MO. CALL/ VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO. 866-286-0199 ranchenterprisesltd.com

Commercial

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WWW.READY-RANCH.COM
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.READY-RANCH.COM

- **Kent County**
  - *11,155 ac. ft. of Snyder, 4 houses, pens/roping arena, 800 ft. mtn., creek, lakes, Whitetail deer, mule deer and quail $795/ac
  - *4,212 ac. Maveric Creek, canyons, whitetail and mule deer and quail $825/ac
  - *1,771 ac. windmill, creek, blinds and feeders, great w-tail and mule deer, turkey, hogs, quail $850
- **Nolan County**
  - *646 ac. over 1 mile creek, blinds, feeders, elevation change, oak $3,550/ac
  - *565 ac. Pecan Creek, New Living/Shop, 200 acres cleared for cattle, blinds/feeders, windmill $4,425/ac
- **Howard County**
  - *842 ac. canyons, blinds/feeders, great deer, cedar/mesquite, surface water, some oilfield traffic $750/ac
  - *150 ac. big canyon, anks, cedar/mesquites, great deer, turkey, jav $895/ac
- **Martin County**
  - *135 ac. Sulphur Springs deer and whitetail, hogs, varmints, metal stor $1,150/ac

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ADVANCED BRICK DOCTOR, brick & mortar repair, All types of new construction specializing in block and brick fence. Steve Rickey. 432-853-2859.

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Brick-Block-Stone

BRICK, BLOCK & Stone Work. 45 years experience. References. Max 432-661-8899

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JS Concrete

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Home Services & Home Improvement

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Landscape and Tree Maintenance

Landscape and Tree Maintenance

Lawn and Garden

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by Henry ♥
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4500 W. Illinois in Midland
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www. sportsmassageodessa.com

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2008 N. Torrance Ave. Odessa, TX. 79761
432-381-1949 - Javier Vigil

Miscellaneous Services

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Landscape and Tree Maintenance

Lawn and Garden

Landscape and Tree Maintenance

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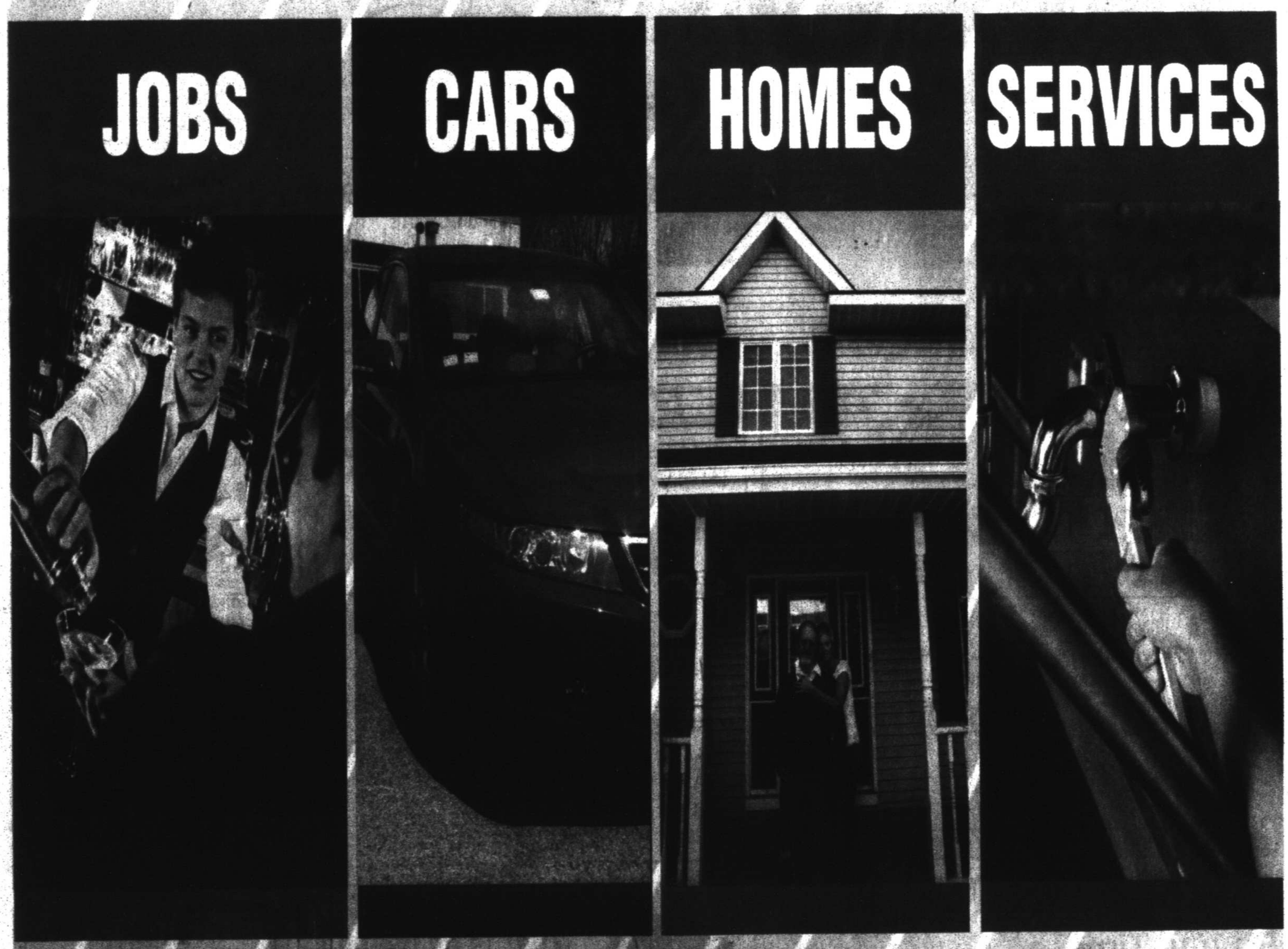
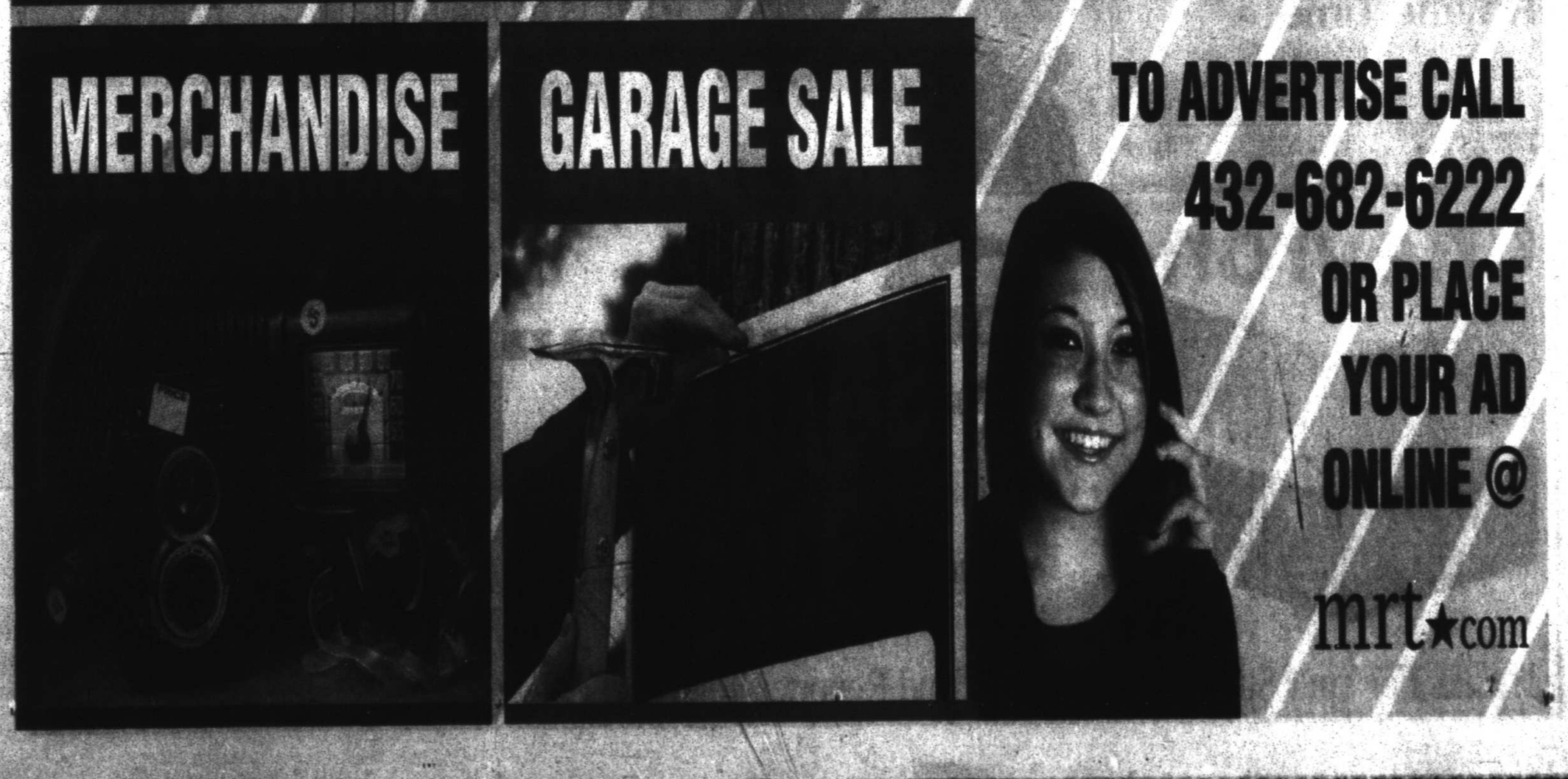
The Midland Reporter-Telegram





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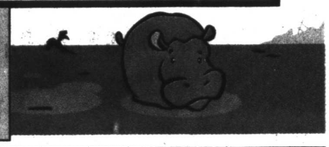
Owen and Mzee: A Most Unusual Friendship (A True Story!)

Hi there! My name is Mzee. I'm about 130 years old (I don't bother to keep track of my birthdays anymore). Here's the story of how I met my best friend named Owen.

Back in 2004, there was a terrible tsunami that caused unbelievable damage and loss of life in Southeast Asia and Africa. Your parents probably read about it.

In Kenya, a baby hippo was left stranded on a coral reef. He was too tired and frightened to get back to shore by himself. Hundreds of villagers and visitors worked together to rescue the young hippo.



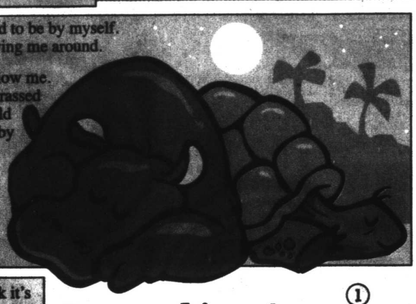
A man named Owen Sobien was able to tackle the slippery hippo long enough for others to drape a net over him. The hippo was named Owen in his honor.

Owen was moved to Haller Park, Kenya, where I live.

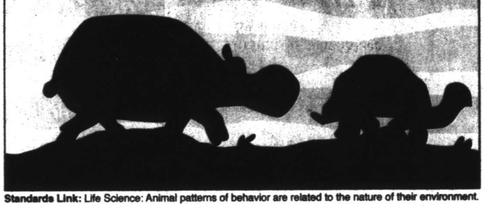
Now, I've always preferred to be by myself. But Owen just kept following me around.

If I walked away, he'd follow me. At first, I felt a little embarrassed and annoyed when he would crouch beside me like a baby hippo does with its mom.

But Owen was a nice enough kid. And without a mother, he needed someone to show him how to find food, so I did.



People wonder why we became such close friends. Some think it's maybe because my round shell looked a little like another hippo to Owen. What do YOU think?

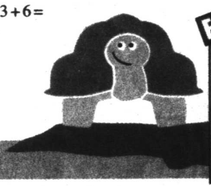


Standards Link: Life Science: Animal patterns of behavior are related to the nature of their environment.

Hippo or Tortoise?

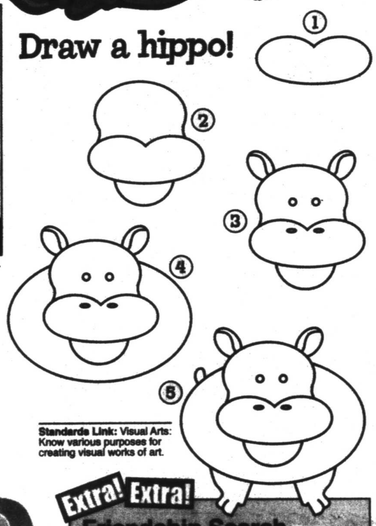
Do the math to find out which facts describe a hippo and which describe a tortoise. If the answer is less than 10, it describes a hippo. If the answer is more than 15, it describes a tortoise. If the answer is between 10 and 15, it is true for both hippos and tortoises.

Lives to be 200 years old. 9+7=
Lived with the dinosaurs. 19 - 4=
Is an herbivore. 6+5=
Likes to swim. 7+5=
Its closest living relative is a whale. 3+6=
Can run faster than a human. 4+3=



Standards Link: Number Sense: Add and subtract whole numbers.

Draw a hippo!



Standards Link: Visual Arts: Know various purposes for creating visual works of art.

Extra! Extra!

Friendship Search

Look through the newspaper and find:

- a friendly face
- a person acting like a friend
- a nice thing to do for a friend
- a word that describes you as a friend

Standards Link: Health: Know behaviors that communicate care, consideration and respect of self and others.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Unscramble the letters to find out what the word *hippopotamus* means in Latin.

ETWAR SHORE

_____ _____

Unscramble the letters to find out what Mzee means in Swahili.

SWIE DLO NMA

_____ _____ _____

Standards Link: Reading: Read and follow directions appropriate to grades 1-5.

Kid Scoop Word Search

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

FRIENDSHIP
TSUNAMI
HALLER
MZEE
TORTOISE
CORAL
SHORE
OWEN
SOBIEN
CROUCH
RESCUE
TRAIT
DRAPE
BABY
REEF

C	F	E	S	I	O	T	R	O	T
R	O	O	D	R	A	P	E	T	H
E	W	R	R	E	E	V	S	I	C
S	E	E	A	L	E	U	H	A	U
C	N	R	C	L	N	F	O	R	O
U	R	Y	B	A	B	I	R	T	R
E	E	Z	M	H	F	E	E	R	C
F	R	I	E	N	D	S	H	I	P
E	N	E	N	E	I	B	O	S	D

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Rhyme Time

Look through the newspaper for pairs of words that rhyme. Use these words to write a little poem and give your poem to a friend.

Standards Link: Word Analysis: Identify words that rhyme; Writing Applications: Write various forms of genres including poetry; Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

What is as big as a hippo but weighs nothing?

ANSWER: A hippo's shadow

Weekly Writing Corner

Best Friends

Students describe what makes a best friend.

I have a band of best friends and I hang with my brother too. A best friend always watches your back and is honest, loyal, and likes the things you like. Also, if you were in trouble, your best friend would take the trouble to help you.

Kellan,
5th grade

My best friend is a truthful and kind friend. He's nice to people and he doesn't argue and when I feel sad, he always there.

Millan,
6th grade

My best friend understands me and also, she always forgives me. I think that a best friend needs to understand you and laugh with you, not at you.

Jojo,
6th grade

A best friend is someone who you can talk to when you're down, to tell your feelings to, and a person beside you to help.

Amber,
6th grade

My best friends are equal but different. The qualities of my friends are that they are kind, safe, resourceful, imaginative, and athletic but most of all they are my friends.

Haven,
5th grade

My best friend is my brother. He's been with me forever. What makes a good best friend is loyalty and trust, without it your friendship is nothing.

Boden,
4th grade

My best friend is so special to me because she is honest and nice. What makes a best friend? She is there when I need her. Also, if I tell her one of my secrets, she doesn't tell. She keeps my secrets safe like a safe box.

Eva,
6th grade

I have some of the most wonderful best friends and we support each other through thick and thin. Trust, respect, loyalty, love and forgiveness are a big part of it. We all have different interests but that doesn't stop us from supporting each other. We love to laugh, play games, shop, talk for hours and most of all, enjoy being together.

Madeline,
7th grade

My best friend loves to dance as much as I do. We're best friends even when we fight. We are best friends forever!

Brianna,
4th grade

Write On!

Setting Goals

Think of three goals you would like to achieve in your future. Is there anything you could do now to help you prepare?

Deadline: January 28
Published: Week of Feb. 25
Send your story to:

Newspaper In Education
201 E. Illinois
Midland, TX 79701
ljdiaz@mrt.com

Please include your school and grade.

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