MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2016 mrt★com *235,000 readers in print and online monthly*

KEEP MIDLAND BEAUTIFUL

Amanda Byrum shares tips for keeping Christmas green.

Coming Sunday



STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Iraan lost the Class 2A District II state championship to Bremond on Thursday, ending the Braves' football season. Read more about the game in Sports.

Page 1C

MISD: New ratings system doesn't change mission

Board president: Letter-grade system doesn't tell classrooms' story

By Stewart Doreen
sdoreen@mrt.com

Midland ISD will not let the latest state accountability ratings system deter it from its mission to improve academic outcomes and student achievement.

That is the opinion of MISD board President Rick Davis, who said the system — which will use a single-letter grade (A through F) to rate campuses and districts — doesn't tell the whole story of what is taking place inside classrooms.

The ratings system, a product of House Bill 2804 during the 2015 legislative session, will take effect in August 2018. However, a preliminary rating will be issued early next month, according materials released by the district.

The most recent system used a pass-fail process with districts and campuses receiving "met standard" or "improvement required" marks.

Davis said the ranking — whether for an "A" or "F"— paints too broad of a picture on how a campus should be judged, doesn't adequately measure every student's achievement and every teacher's efforts and is flawed in that 5 percent of all districts and campuses will receive a failing grade "whether they deserve it or not."

"Philosophically, it is the wrong thing to do," said Davis, who also said that "while we think there are many things wrong with it, it doesn't change what our mission is. ... We have plenty of work to do."

Midland ISD will not be alone in its opposition to the new ranking system, which when installed fully in 2018 will be based on State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness test-related data (55 percent), post-secondary readiness (35 percent) and community and student engagement (10 percent).

Elise Kail, executive director of Accountability/PEIMS & Research for MISD, told the board on Monday that the state had not yet identified what the final criteria would be for the preliminary ratings released in January.

Davis said critics worry that the new system generally will show disparity between socio-economic groups. Rich districts, he said, are alleged to have an advantage and will perform better.

Board member James Fuller said at Monday's meeting that he is worried the

Please see **MISD**/2A

NICE CAPADES



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Erica Holguin, left, and Caroline Wheeler, right, skate at the Winter Wonderland skating rink Thursday in downtown Midland.

PBAF presents grants exceeding $1 million

From staff reports

The Permian Basin Area Foundation on Thursday announced that more than $1 million in year-end grants were presented to 29 area nonprofit organizations.

Of the $1,005,000 total, $911,500 was awarded to semi-annual competitive grant recipients, according to a press release from the foundation.

"It's been a challenging year by any standard, particularly for area nonprofits," said Andrew Semer, a member of the PBAF's Grants Committee. "In spite of that, these organizations continue to make critical and positive contributions to countless lives here in West Texas."

In addition to the competitive grant awards, the foundation announced grants of $93,500 from the Midland Housing Trust Fund, said committee member Carolyn Tripp.

"The purpose of this endowment is to promote safe, clean and affordable housing

Please see **GRANTS**/2A

Permian Basin Area Foundation grant recipients

- Alpine Christian School
- Alzheimer's Association West Texas Chapter
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Midland
- Buckner Children & Family Services
- Casa de Amigos of Midland
- Chinati Foundation
- George W. Bush Childhood Home
- Harmony Home Children's Advocacy Center
- High Sky Children's Ranch
- The Immunization Project
- Junior League of Midland
- Keep Midland Beautiful
- Manor Park
- MARC Inc.
- McDonald Observatory
- Midland Children's Rehabilitation Center
- Midland Rape Crisis & Children's Advocacy Center
- Mission Center Adult Day Service
- North Side Movement - Big Spring
- Odessa Chamber of Commerce
- Odessa Christian School
- Odessa College Foundation
- Odessa Community Foundation - Chris Kyle Memorial Plaza
- Permian Basin Petroleum Museum
- Permian Basin Regional Council on Alcohol & Drug Abuse
- Salvation Army of Midland
- Texas Lions Camp Inc.
- Ward County Greater Works Inc.
- Yucca Blossom Montessori Community

Source: PBAF

Border cities worry ending NAFTA would hurt economies

By Paul J. Weber
Associated Press

LAREDO — Donald Trump's only visit to the U.S.-Mexico border while running for president was a stop in Laredo that lasted less than three hours. On some days, that's not long enough for 18-wheelers hauling foreign-made dishwashers and car batteries to lurch through the gridlocked crossing.

Trump's campaign promise to tear apart the North American Free Trade Agreement helped win over Rust Belt voters who felt left behind by globalization. But the idea is unnerving to many people in border cities such as Laredo and El Paso or Nogales in Arizona, which have boomed under the 1994 treaty.

About 14,000 tractor-trailers cross the border daily in Laredo, the nation's busiest inland port. Local officials say roughly 1 in every 3 jobs benefits from international trade.

"We are NAFTA on wheels," Mayor Pete Saenz said.

Free trade across the border, he explained, is the "backbone" of this city of 255,000 people. The Democrat endured a backlash from his party for welcoming Trump in July 2015 after the then-candidate called immigrants from Mexico criminals and rapists.

Trump described NAFTA as "the worst single trade deal ever approved in this country." That kind of talk resonated in hard-hit industrial towns such as Greenville, Michigan, where Electrolux shut down a factory a decade ago and moved jobs to the Mexican border city of Ciudad Juárez.

During his transition to the White House, the president-elect has not discussed NAFTA at all. The agreement went unmentioned in a video Trump released last month laying out the priorities for his first 100 days in office.

Saenz, the telegenic son of a dairy farmer, talks about the possible repeal of NAFTA like a small-town Midwest mayor trying to keep a factory from moving away. He foresees unemployment spiking to double digits, abandoned warehouses and crippled city finances.

Please see **NAFTA**/3A

Weather
Mostly sunny
77/50
Get your complete forecast on 7C

Energy prices

WTI Futures	$50.90	▼ $0.14
WTI Posted	$47.50	-- $0.00
WTS Posted	$43.60	-- $0.00
Natural Gas	$3.434	▼ $0.109
Gasoline	$2.002	▲ $0.036

The big number

NBA reporter Craig Sager died Thursday at **65 years old** after battling cancer for more than two years. Read more on Page 1C.

Word of the Day: presentiment

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

Brought to you daily by Juan Burrito

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Gabe Hernandez/Corpus Christi Caller-Times via AP

Customers stand in line to pay for cases of water at an H-E-B store Thursday in Corpus Christi. The city is warning its 320,000 residents not to use tap water because it might be contaminated with petroleum-based chemicals, prompting a rush on bottled water and the closure of local schools.

Texas city's water deemed unsafe because of chemical leak

Associated Press

CORPUS CHRISTI — A harmful chemical from an asphalt plant leaked into the water supply in Corpus Christi, forcing school closures, disrupting commerce and causing a run on bottled water at supermarkets in the Gulf Coast city.

The spill happened Wednesday at a plant that didn't have the equipment or infrastructure needed to prevent it, though the owners of the property and plant claim it does, city spokeswoman Kim Womack said at a news conference Thursday.

"In the simplest terms, someone was careless when they were injecting chemicals with a pump and ... when the injection occurred it crossed over into our water system," she later told KRIS-TV.

Womack told the station that they were not releasing the name of the company leasing the plant because they are still trying to work with it.

"We feel like if we release their name, they will shut down and not work with us," she said.

Anywhere from three to 24 gallons of the chemical got into the water system. It is an asphalt emulsifier that can burn the skin in concentrated amounts.

During a short news briefing, angry residents scolded city leaders for not fully explaining how the water supply might have been contaminated.

After Womack briefly spoke and talked about an anonymous donor providing the city 27,000 cases of bottled water, a group of residents began chanting, "What do we want? Clean water! When do we want it? Now!"

City officials warned in a statement that "Boiling, freezing, filtering, adding chlorine or other disinfectants, or letting the water stand will not make the water safe." They didn't indicate when they might lift the order not to use the water.

City councilman Michael Hunter told the Corpus Christi Caller-Times early Thursday that it was unlikely that the leaked chemicals were concentrated enough to do harm, but that officials must take every precaution.

He said the problem was first reported by a local company that said the water coming from its faucets had a sheen. He did not identify that company or the nature of its business.

The discovery of the leak led to the closure of schools, disrupted businesses and led to long lines at grocery stores, as residents stocked up on bottled water. At least two large retailers, H-E-B and Wal-Mart, sent for more bottled water to be shipped in.

It is just the latest in a string of water scares for

Please see WATER/3A

CRIMEBRIEFS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Man arrested on assault charge

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

Sean Britton, 26, was being held Wednesday on a $15,000 bond for a third-degree felony charge of assault of a family/house member by impeding breath/circulation.



Britton

Midland police were dispatched to a residence at about 2:15 p.m. Tuesday in reference to a reported assault.

Britton was arguing with a woman when he pushed and slapped her, according to his arrest affidavit. He then choked and smothered her, impeding her breathing, according to the affidavit.

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

Two charged in child injury case

An Odessa man was arrested Tuesday after allegedly injuring a child, according to court documents. A Midland woman was also arrested Tuesday in connection with the case, according to the documents.

Mark Walter Martin, 36, was being held Wednesday on a $10,000 bond for a third-degree felony charge of injury to a child with intent to commit bodily injury. Samantha Kay Martin, 27, was being held Wednesday on a $10,000 bond for a state-jail felony charge of endangering a child by criminal negligence.



M. Martin



S. Martin

A Midland County Sheriff's deputy was dispatched to a residence at about 6:20 p.m. Tuesday in reference to a child abuse claim.

Mark Martin hit a child repeatedly on the back and torso with a belt, according to his arrest affidavit. Samantha Martin was at the residence and failed to help, according to her arrest affidavit.

If convicted of the third-degree felony charge, Mark Martin could face up to 10 years imprisonment. If convicted of the state jail felony charge, Samantha Martin could face up to two years imprisonment.

Man charged with assault

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

Jason Edward Reeves, 46, was being held Thursday on a $10,000 bond for a third-degree felony charge of assault of a family/house member by impeding breath/circulation.



Reeves

Midland County Sheriff's Office deputies were dispatched to a residence at about 1 a.m. Wednesday in reference to a disturbance.

Reeves was arguing with a woman when he grabbed her by the throat, impeding her breathing, according to his arrest affidavit.

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

Houston chosen to host 2020 World Petroleum Congress

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Houston has been chosen as the site for the 2020 World Petroleum Congress.

Mayor Sylvester Turner on Thursday announced Houston beat Vancouver, British Columbia, to host the event attracting as many as 10,000 oil industry executives. WPC delegates voted in Bahrain, with Turner and other Houston supporters in attendance.

Turner estimates the 2020 event could have an economic impact of up to $80 million for Houston, which last hosted the World Petroleum Congress in 1987.

A statement from Turner says the Houston bid promised to dedicate the net profit from the event to establish a Global Legacy Program benefiting the next generation of industry young professionals. The WPC will distribute the funds to select projects.

The 2014 event was held in Moscow. Istanbul hosts the 2017 World Petroleum Congress.

Texas, long a leader in executions, trails this year

By Michael Graczyk
Associated Press

HOUSTON — The state of Texas, long the nation's leader in executions, lost that distinction in 2016 and its two most populous counties didn't send a single convicted killer to death row, according to a new report.

The change is because of growing legal and public hesitance to impose the ultimate punishment, according to the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty.

"The death penalty landscape in Texas continues to change dramatically," Kristin Houlé, the advocacy group's executive director, said in a year-end report. "Prosecutors, juries, judges and the public are subjecting our state's death penalty practices to unprecedented scrutiny and, in many cases, accepting alternatives to the ultimate punishment."

Texas juries sent only three convicted killers to death row this year and none of them came from the two most populous counties — Harris including Houston, and Dallas including Dallas-Fort Worth.

Those two Texas counties have accounted for more people put to death than any other county in the nation since the death penalty was reinstated in the U.S. in 1976, according to the Death Penalty Information Center.

Seven convicted killers were given lethal injection in Texas this year, the lowest number since three were executed in 1996. For the first time since 2002, Texas did not lead or tie for the state with the most executions.

Georgia has that distinction for 2016, with nine, as only five states — Georgia, Texas, Missouri, Alabama and Florida — accounted for the 20 executions nationwide.

None of the seven Texas inmates given lethal injection this year was African-American, although all three prisoners arriving on death row this year are black. Over the past five years seven of the 35 people sentenced to death in Texas were white, according to the coalition's report, which contended the statistics showed "patterns of racial bias" in imposition of the death penalty.

The group also said in Texas' highest sentencing counties, all nine men sentenced to death in Dallas or adjacent Tarrant County since 2012 are African-American, as were 15 of the last 18 defendants from Harris County.

The overall numbers reflect a downward trend in capital punishment both in Texas and across the country.

A significant impact in Texas has been a change in the law that gave juries in capital cases beginning in September 2005 the option of deciding between a life sentence without parole and a death sentence.

In some other states, a shortage of lethal injection drugs has reduced executions.

Please see TRAILS/3A

MISD

From 1A

new ratings system would create a divisive scenario, and for Midland ISD, it will come at a time when the community is "building bridges."

Midland ISD doesn't appear to be alone in its opposition. The Dallas Morning News reported that about 20 districts around the state have passed resolutions asking the state Legislature to ditch the letter grades and give school districts and local communities more say in rating their schools. The DMN also reported the Texas Association of School Administrators is leading the charge against the A-F system and urged districts to join their cause.

Davis said he expects a similar resolution critical of the ratings system will come before the board in its January meeting and he anticipates the board will approve it.

Davis said his preference is to use other techniques to measure the district and its performance, including an analysis that compares MISD with districts of similar demographics and socio-economic makeup.

Ultimately, good or bad, MISD will be branded with a Texas Education Agency-followed rating. In the past few years, the delivery of ratings hasn't generally offered MISD the best news, and its former superintendents offered excuses for the district's performance or questioned the ranking.

Davis offered a different tact.

"Fundamentally, this isn't going to tell us something we don't already know," Davis said. "It won't be enlightening and won't tell us areas we aren't already working hard to improve on.

"Still, we expect (the January) rating will be improved by August 2018." he said

GRANTS

From 1A

ing opportunities and to support the development of housing resources for low-income and other disadvantaged individuals residing in Midland County," she said.

Grants, scholarships and distributions are expected to exceed $7.3 million this year, according to Aaron Bedell, executive associate of the foundation. Since the foundation was established in 1989, more than $83 million in grants and scholarships have been presented, he said.

"Each of those dollars represents a positive impact on the life of every person touched by our nonprofit organizations," Bedell said.

The foundation announces awards twice a year — after the spring-application cycle and fall-application cycle.

The deadline for the next round of applications is April 1. For more information, visit www.pbaf.org.

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presentiment
1. a feeling or impression that something is aboutto happen, especially something evil;foreboding.

Oklahoma police release airport shooting video

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Surveillance video released by Oklahoma City police showed people rushing to help a Southwest Airlines employee after he was fatally shot while crossing a road outside the Will Rogers World Airport.

Police said Lloyd Dean Buie, 45, killed Michael Winchester, 52, on Nov. 15. Winchester's body is barely in the camera's frame when he is shot. He was pronounced dead at a local hospital.

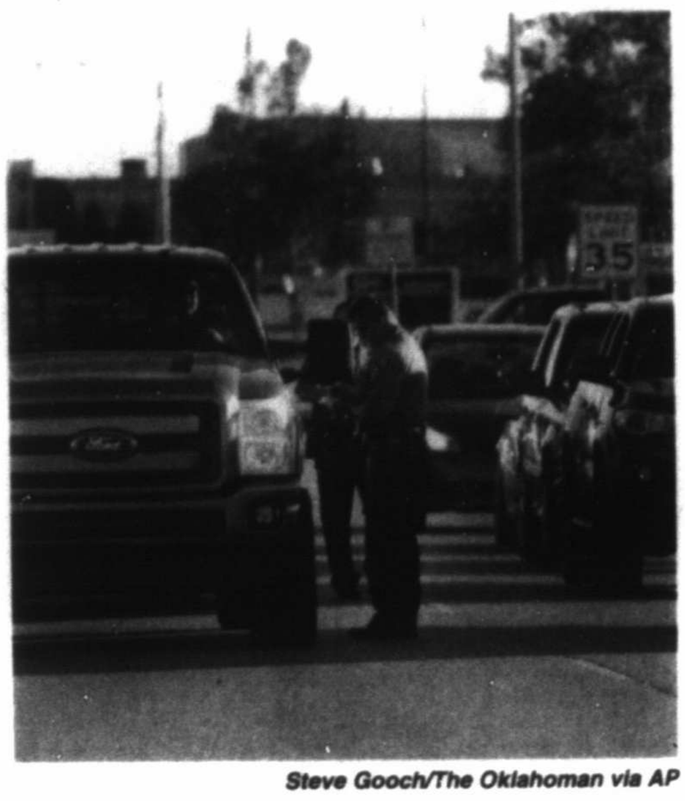
Buie was later found dead in his pickup truck in the parking garage from which he shot Winchester, The Oklahoman reported. Oklahoma City Police Capt. Paco Balderrama said the second shot heard on the video is of Buie taking his own life with a handgun.

The video footage also showed Buie wandering around various areas of the airport for several hours on Nov. 11, eventually leaving his vehicle in the parking garage and departing in a taxi. Buie was then seen on the day of the shooting returning to his vehicle by another taxi.

Authorities said the shooting was likely in retaliation for Buie having lost his job with the airline last year. Buie used to work as a ramp agent under Winchester, but quit in April 2015 after being asked to take a drug test. Airline employees told authorities that Buie was known to have held a grudge against Winchester, but police cannot conclude for sure that the airline employee was Buie's intended target.

"We believe this is an obvious premeditated act," Balderrama said.

Winchester was a former University of Oklahoma football player and the father of current Kansas City Chiefs player James Winchester.



Steve Gooch/The Oklahoman via AP

Oklahoma City police officers gather information from vehicles leaving Nov. 15 at Will Rogers World Airport. The airport was put on lockdown after a shooting in the main terminal.

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NAFTA

From 1A

Laredo keeps the toll revenue from international bridge traffic, which last year amounted to about $60 million, enough, according to Saenz, to cover police and fire department payrolls.

His grim predictions are not widely shared. Even customs brokers in Laredo who have cashed in on NAFTA believe they will survive and trade will continue if the agreement is abandoned.

But for now, there's still no better place in the U.S. to get a glimpse of the trade treaty than the Rio Grande city.

Interstate 35, clogged with wheezing 18-wheelers, starts here on its 1,600-mile straight shot to the Canadian border. Busy industrial parks are a revolving door of imported and exported goods. Four years after NAFTA was signed by President Bill Clinton and approved by a Republican-controlled Congress, the Census Bureau named Laredo the country's second-fastest growing area.

At one time, denim makers thrived in Texas, and El Paso was considered the blue jean capital of the U.S. But those clothing manufacturers closed and the jobs went south.

Bill Hrncir, owner of LMS International, turned a small factory that once made Levi's into a 200,000-square-foot distribution center. His warehouses are now stocked with coils of steel awaiting transport to Mexico.

Emilio Richer III, whose company has customs brokers and logistic-services offices up and down the U.S.-Mexico border, said ending NAFTA would be felt in his hometown of Laredo, but he does not think Trump is serious.

"I have it in the back of my head that he was being fed wrongful information," and Trump was talking to people in other parts of the country, telling them "what they wanted to hear," said Richer, whose vote for Trump was in the minority in heavily Democratic Webb County, which went 3-to-1 for Hillary Clinton.

Repealing or renegotiating the agreement could wallop Mexico, the United States' largest trading partner. Most American economists do not believe NAFTA has a major effect on the nation's overall job market.

Nor was NAFTA some high tide that lifted all boats, even in Texas. After NAFTA was adopted, $400,000 homes sprung up in Laredo. But beyond that wealth is widespread poverty in one of the nation's poorest cities. The poverty rate in Laredo is 32 percent, among the highest in the nation, according to census figures. And 92 percent of students in the city's public schools qualify as economically disadvantaged.

Warehouse jobs generally are not lucrative, with wages less than double the minimum wage of $7.25 an hour. At the South Texas Food Bank, just a few blocks behind Hrncir's distribution center, Claudia Lira waited in the lobby for a box of food to take home.

She and her husband moved back to Laredo after he retired from a John Deere factory in Iowa. She didn't know anything about NAFTA but, speaking in Spanish, theorized why the city has remained so persistently poor.

"A lack of jobs could be a factor," she said. "There aren't enough of them."



Eric Gay/Associated Press

A worker uses a lift to move rolls of sheet metal at LMS International Nov. 21 in Laredo. Donald Trump's campaign promise to abandon the North American Free Trade Agreement helped win over Rust Belt voters who felt left behind by globalization. But the idea is unnerving to many people in cities on the U.S.-Mexico border. But U.S. border cities that have thrived under the trade pact - such as Laredo and El Paso and Nogales in Arizona — now worry that an economic reckoning could be coming its way.

WATER

From 2A

this Gulf Coast city of 320,000 people.

In May, Corpus Christi officials issued their third boil-water advisory in a year.

That notice lasted two weeks and officials at the time said it was largely a precautionary measure taken after nitrogen-rich runoff from rain flowed into the water system, resulting in low chlorine disinfectant levels in the water supply.

Boil-water notices were issued last year because of elevated levels of E. coli and another for low chlorine levels, the Caller-Times previously reported. The notices mirrored two others that were issued in 2007.

City crews have worked to reconfigure some water mains to ensure that water keeps circulating and to prevent bacteria growth. But an overarching concern is an old water system where more than half of 225 miles of cast-iron pipe needs to be upgraded. Many of the pipes were installed in the 1950s and when they decay they're prone to collapse or to slow water flow, allowing bacteria to fester.

Civic leaders have expressed concern that recurring water advisories and warnings could cause long-term harm to the area's vibrant tourism business.

Abbott: No border wall in beautiful Big Bend

By Peggy Fikac
San Antonio Express-News

Gov. Greg Abbott, taking a distinct approach to hot-button Republican issues, said Tuesday that the border wall touted by President-elect Trump should avoid areas including "the beautiful Big Bend National Park."

Talking with reporters ahead of the legislative session that begins in January, Abbott also was cautious about the transgender-bathroom crackdown championed by Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, suggesting the state must define whether there's a problem before chasing a solution.

Abbott said some key issues including the transgender measure will be affected by how Trump's administration chooses to act. He also expects that people across the country will help shape the way Trump implements his campaign promise to build a huge wall on the country's southern border at Mexico's expense to control illegal immigration.

"I don't know all the detailed thought process of the Trump administration," Abbott said. "What I can expect is this: I would anticipate that the Trump administration will build a wall in certain parts of the border."

Abbott said a wall would be more easily built in Arizona, New Mexico and "maybe even certain regions of Texas."

But Abbott said border security can be accomplished in multiple ways — "sometimes with a wall, sometimes with strategic fencing, sometimes with other tools and technology and definitely with manpower.

"There are serpentine regions of the Rio Grande where it would be extremely challenging to build a wall," Abbott said. "We don't want to see a wall in the beautiful Big Bend National Park."

Asked whether he expects Texas to have input on that decision, Abbott said, "I think people across the United States will provide input about what the right strategies are and the right places are, about where a wall will work and where other strategies could work."

Please see ABBOTT/4A

TRAILS

From 2A

Besides the seven executions carried out in Texas, 12 other inmates were scheduled to die in 2016 but at least temporarily avoided the death chamber.

Seven lethal injections were halted by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and one by a federal court to more fully examine appeals in the cases.

The other inmates either had their dates withdrawn by their trial courts or were rescheduled for 2017.

Although the number of executions declined in 2016, it could pick up next year when at least nine Texas inmates already are set to die, including three in January.

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TODAY IN MIDLAND

This date in Midland

On Dec. 16, 2000, Lee defeated Austin Westlake, 33-21, in Austin's Royal/Memorial Stadium to claim its third-straight Class 5A state football championship.

Things to do

■ Pretend and Play for ages 3-6. 10 a.m., Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N. Every other Friday. co.midland.tx.us/lib.

■ Evening Storytime at the Library, 4:30 p.m. (2-6 years), Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N. co.midland.tx.us/lib.

■ Tim Kreitz Band, 5 p.m., The Bar, 606 W. Missouri Ave.

■ "A Christmas Carol" at Midland Community Theatre, 2000 W. Wadley Ave. mctmidland.org.

■ Bingo Nights, 7 p.m., the American Legion, 501 Veterans Airpark Lane. 432-682-5511.

■ Hold 'em poker tournaments, 7 p.m., The Detour.

■ Justin Kemp Band, 7 p.m., Rolling 7's Ranch Event Center, 11700 W. County Road 122, Odessa.

■ Permian Basin Christmas Celebration 2016 featuring Sandi Patty, Veritas and the Celebration Choir and Orchestra of FBC at First Baptist Church Odessa, 709 N. Lee Ave. $10. fbcodessa.com.

■ DJ Wildman, 9 p.m., The Lift on 7th, 1401 E. Seventh St. Odessa.

■ Shrimp Boil and Ugly Sweater Party, 5 p.m. Dec. 17 at Rue 432, 106 S. A St.

Holiday events

■ The Twelve Night Flights of Christmas, High Sky Wing, 9600 Wright Drive. $75-$145. Fly in vintage aircraft while seeing the Christmas lights of Midland and Odessa from the sky. Flights are every 30 minutes. To book a flight, email rides@highskywing.org or call 432-703-3142. Highskywing.org.

■ Very Merry Midland: Walking in a Winter Wonderland in downtown Midland will feature a walking tour of holiday window displays, hot chocolate, a giant snow globe and more. goyourcity.us/wonderland.

New movies in Midland

■ At Tall City 14: "Collateral Beauty," "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story"

■ At Cinergy Cinemas: "Collateral Beauty," "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story"

Gas prices in Midland

Cheapest gas: $1.87 (CEFCO, Big Spring Street/Florida; Alon, Big Spring Street/Florida)
Most expensive: $2.19 (Valero, Andrews Highway/Midkiff)
Most common price: $2.09
Cheapest prices in West Texas: Odessa $1.73; Lubbock $1.81; Midland $1.87; San Angelo $1.94; Abilene $1.97

	Midland/Odessa	
Thursday	$2.060	$2.034
Last week	$1.999	$1.988
Last month	$1.980	$1.952
Last year	$1.840	$1.797

Source TexasGasPrices.com

Texas prices top $2 per gallon

COPPELL — Retail gasoline prices in Texas are up 4 cents this week to top the $2 per gallon mark for the first time since mid-November.

AAA Texas on Thursday reported the statewide average price at the pump reached $2.03 per gallon. Nationwide gasoline prices rose 3 cents to an average $2.23 per gallon.

The association survey found San Antonio has the cheapest gasoline in Texas at $1.95 per gallon. Drivers in Dallas have the state's highest gasoline price at $2.07 per gallon.

Retail prices have risen since the Nov. 30 OPEC oil production agreement to cut output in 2017.

AAA officials predict more than 8.2 million Texans will travel during the year-end holidays — slightly more than last year. The holiday travel period begins Dec. 23 and runs through Jan. 2.

Source: Associated Press

Watering schedule

The current outdoor watering schedule allows residents and businesses in the city of Midland to water twice per week.

Even-numbered addresses may water outdoors on Saturdays and Wednesdays.

Odd-numbered addresses may water outdoors on Fridays and Tuesdays.

Any violation may result in a fine up to $500.

The ban on washing outdoor surfaces is still in effect.

Lottery

Pick 3 morning: 7-6-1
Pick 3 day: 7-0-4
Pick 3 evening: 3-2-1
Pick 3 night: 6-0-9
Daily 4 morning: 0-2-5-1
Daily 4 day: 2-1-3-5
Daily 4 evening: 1-0-8-8
Daily 4 night: 1-3-4-3
Cash Five: 6-10-12-22-27
Triple Chance: 3-13-14-15-23-25-31-37-45-55
Texas Two Step: 19-21-22-31
BB: 7
All or Nothing morning: 2-4-7-8-12-15-16-17-18-21-22-23
All or Nothing day: 1-4-6-9-10-12-14-15-17-18-20-21
All or Nothing evening: 5-7-8-9-12-13-15-16-17-20-21-24
All or Nothing night: 1-4-5-8-9-10-13-14-18-21-23-24



Facebook via AP

This photo combo of images provided by Facebook demonstrates some of the new measures Facebook is taking to curb the spread of fake news on its huge and influential social network. The company is focusing on the "worst of the worst" offenders and partnering with outside fact-checkers to sort honest news reports from made-up stories that play to people's passions and preconceived notions.

Facebook gets serious about fighting fake news

By Barbara Ortutay
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Facebook is taking new measures to curb the spread of fake news on its huge and influential social network. It will focus on the "worst of the worst" offenders and partner with outside fact-checkers and news organizations to sort honest news reports from made-up stories that play to people's passions and preconceived notions.

The social network will make it easier for users to report fake news when they see it, which they'll be able to do in two steps, not three. If enough people report a story as fake, Facebook will pass it to third-party fact-checking organizations that are part of the nonprofit Poynter Institute's International Fact-Checking Network.

Five fact-checking and news organizations are working with Facebook on this:

ABC News, The Associated Press, FactCheck.org, Politifact and Snopes.

Facebook says this group is likely to expand.

Stories that flunk the fact check won't be removed from Facebook. But they'll be publicly flagged as "disputed," which will force them to appear lower down in people's news feed. Users can click on a link to learn why that is. And if people decide they want to share the story with friends anyway, they can — but they'll get another warning.

Why fake news matters

"We do believe that we have an obligation to combat the spread of fake news," said John Hegeman, vice president of product management on news feed, in an interview. But he added that Facebook also takes its role to provide people an open platform seriously, and that it is not the company's place to decide what is true or false.

Fake news stories touch on a broad range of subjects, from unproven cancer cures to celebrity hoaxes and backyard Bigfoot sightings. But fake political stories have drawn outsized attention because of the possibility that they influenced public perceptions and could have swayed the U.S. presidential election.

There have been dangerous real-world

Please see NEWS/5A

Yahoo's mega breach shows how just how vulnerable data is

By Bree Fowler
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The revelation of Yahoo's latest hack underscores what many Americans have known for years: All those emails, photos and other personal files stored online can easily be stolen, and there's little anyone can do about it.

The only saving grace is that the attackers apparently did not exploit the information for fraud. But their true motives remain a mystery.

Although there are a number of straightforward measures all users should take to protect themselves, relatively few people actually do. And in this case, doing so wouldn't really have mattered. Even the most scrupulous individual countermeasures could only limit the damage.

"Yahoo users could have had immaculate computer security and still been the victim here," said Will Ackerly, chief technology officer at Virtru, a computer security firm he cofounded after working for eight years at the National Security Agency.

"Short of using encryption, there's no way to keep your email from being compromised in this kind of hack."

The mega breach disclosed Wednesday exposed more than a billion user accounts, the largest such attack in history. The company said the attack happened in August 2013, although Yahoo only discovered it recently. Worse, the company's announcement followed a similar announcement in September about a 2014 hack that Yahoo ascribed to an unnamed foreign government. That breach affected 500 million accounts.

Some experts believe the record-breaking amount of data stolen in the breach announced Wednesday also points to state-sponsored hackers in search of a specific target, which could be why three years later the data still hasn't been spotted for sale on the web. And neither Yahoo breach has yet been linked to online fraud or any specific repercussions for Yahoo users.

But their disclosure closely follows U.S. intelligence concerns about Russian hacking of Democratic emails during the presidential campaign — not to mention recent attacks on a major health insurer, a medical lab-test company and the government office that manages millions of federal employees.

"The lesson is clear: No organization is immune to compromise," said Jeff Hill, director of product management for cybersecurity consultant Prevalent. And since most of us are dependent on big organizations that hold our digital lives in their hands, in a broad sense that means no one is safe.

The hacks represent yet another stumble for the struggling Sunnyvale,

Please see YAHOO/5A

ABBOTT

From 3A

He also said he expects Trump "will have good advisers who will provide a menu of strategies to ensure operational security of our border."

Trump's administration also could shape the issue of whether transgender people should be banned from using the bathrooms of the gender with which they identify, Abbott said.

The issue is one that's a top priority of Patrick, who says those whose birth certificate states they are men need to use men's bathrooms in order to protect the privacy of women.

House Speaker Joe Straus, R-San Antonio, has said it's not one of his legislative priorities but that other House lawmakers may feel differently.

Abbott said more information is required, and will be gathered, about the need for a transgender-bathroom bill.

"This has been a concern expressed by many Texans and hence, it's something that needs to be looked at. I have not seen any proposed legislation yet. And I think we are in a situation where there are more unknowns than there are knowns," Abbott said.

For example, Abbott said, action by President Barack Obama's administration was "one of the precipitating factors" in the transgender-bathroom battle, by virtue of a directive that schools allow transgender students to use the bathroom that matches their gender identity.

"An unknown is, is the Trump administration going to peel back what the Obama administration did?" Abbott said. "If so, what effect does that have on the issue?"

Abbott also said the state must examine to what extent the transgender-bathroom issue is a problem; who has been endangered, how often, where, and under what circumstances; what laws already are on the books to protect people; and what modifications may be needed in those laws.

Abbott's assessment comes amid concerns by many in the business community that a transgender-bathroom law could damage the state's economy by dampening travel and tourism and imperiling events such as San Antonio's planned hosting of the NCAA Final Four in 2018.

"As a general rule, yeah, I don't think men should be in women's bathrooms," said Abbott, who during the 2015 battle over Houston's failed ordinance to protect gay and transgender people from discrimination tweeted, "No men in women's bathrooms."

Pressed on whether he would define a transgender woman as a man, Abbott reiterated of the transgender-bathroom proposal, "This isn't an issue that should be determined without a full evaluation of all the information."

Among other issues Tuesday, Abbott also renewed his promise to work to ensure Texas cities, counties and campuses don't provide sanctuary to people in the country illegally. Abbott said he wants to ensure that they all follow state and federal laws, giving as an example the need for sheriffs to respond to immigration detainer requests.

There's not a precise definition for sanctuary cities or campuses. A petition circulating to make the University of Texas at San Antonio a sanctuary campus was prompted by concerns over Trump's plans for a program that has protected young immigrants from being deported. A number of police chiefs, meanwhile, don't want their officers to focus on immigration status during routine stops.

Abbott cited the prospect of imposing consequences on officials who don't follow the law, ranging from removal from office to decreased government funding.

No governmental body — whether a state, county, city or campus — should treat laws "like some big buffet that you can choose one item and ignore other items," Abbott said.

Abbott also said he supports additional tax cuts despite the state's faltering revenues. The Legislature under Abbott approved property tax relief and a business tax cut in 2015.

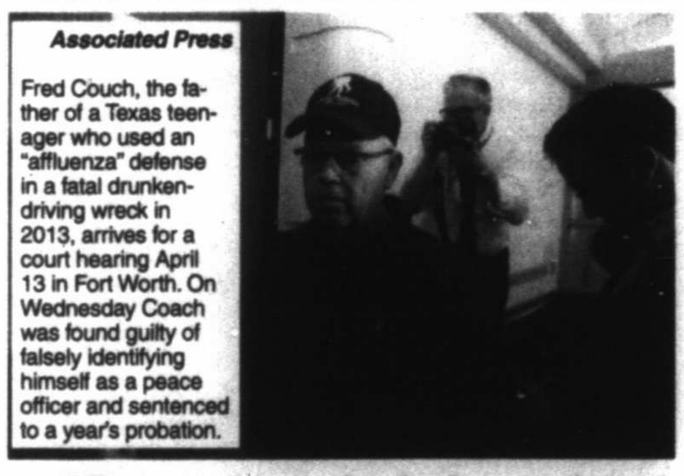
He said Texas could have more money at its disposal if Trump pours more federal resources into border security, allowing the state to ratchet back its substantial investment. If there are changes in the way the Medicaid program is handled to give states more flexibility, that also could cut Texas costs, Abbott said.

"I want to see tax cuts," said Abbott. He said his "first choice" is a cut of "as much as I can get" in the business tax. He cited a bill by Senate Finance Committee Chair Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, that would reduce the franchise tax rate by 2.5 percent a year if the comptroller certifies there is money available over the biennial revenue estimate.

Abbott said his focus also encompasses property taxes, saying he is looking at approaches including a proposal to require an automatic election to give voters veto power if cities or counties raise more than a certain amount in property tax revenue.

That idea is opposed by city and county officials who point out that school property taxes are a much bigger issue.

But lawmakers will be hard-pressed to cut school property taxes because the state would replace the revenue to school districts, and there's no big money available to do that. The state wouldn't replace money lost by cities and counties as a result of stricter rollback requirements.



Associated Press

Fred Couch, the father of a Texas teenager who used an "affluenza" defense in a fatal drunken-driving wreck in 2013, arrives for a court hearing April 13 in Fort Worth. On Wednesday Coach was found guilty of falsely identifying himself as a peace officer and sentenced to a year's probation.

'Affluenza' teen's dad convicted of pretending to be officer

Associated Press

FORT WORTH — The father of a Texas teenager who used an "affluenza" defense in a fatal drunken-driving wreck has been found guilty of falsely identifying himself as a peace officer.

Fred Couch, 51, was sentenced Wednesday in a Tarrant County courtroom to a year's probation. If he violates the terms, he could be jailed for up to 120 days.

In a dashcam video shown to jurors, Couch is seen telling North Richland Hills police officers responding to a disturbance two years ago that he is a reserve officer.

Defense attorney Scott Brown argued to a jury this week that Couch, who carried a badge bearing the words "search and rescue" and "Lakeside Police," never asserted authority with it.

Couch's family has been embroiled in one legal drama after another in recent years.

His son, Ethan Couch, was 16 when he killed four people in a 2013 drunken-driving wreck. His blood-alcohol level was three times above the legal limit for adult drivers when the crash occurred. A defense expert invoked the term "affluenza" in arguing during the sentencing phase of the teenager's trial that Couch's wealthy parents may have coddled him into a sense of irresponsibility. The condition is not recognized as a medical diagnosis by the American Psychiatric Association, and its use drew widespread derision.

The case of Ethan Couch, now 19, led to a protracted legal battle in which his attorneys argued he should be tried in juvenile court. A judge ultimately moved the matter to adult court and he is now serving a nearly two-year jail term.

The younger Couch's incarceration was triggered after it appeared he violated terms of his probation for the 2013 wreck when a video surfaced last December that showed him at a party with alcohol.

Couch then disappeared and Tarrant County authorities say he fled to Mexico with his mother, Tonya Couch. They were found a few weeks later in the Mexican resort city of Puerto Vallarta. Ethan Couch appeared to have grown a beard and dyed his hair black.

Tonya Couch subsequently was indicted on charges of hindering apprehension of a felon and money laundering. She was released from home confinement over the summer and was tending bar in suburban Fort Worth.

Her attorney, Stephanie Patten, has previously said her client did not break any state laws.

Fred and Tonya Couch are divorced.

Trump lags predecessors on diversity as he picks Cabinet

By Lisa Lerer and Julie Pace
Associated Press



AP file photo

President-elect Donald Trump walks Labor Secretary-designate Andy Puzder from Trump National Golf Club Bedminster clubhouse Nov. 19 in Bedminster, N.J. As President-elect Donald Trump fills out his Cabinet, it's looking less like America's population and more like the world Trump has always orbited, filled with rich white men and delivering on Trump's promise to ignore political correctness.

WASHINGTON — As Donald Trump fills out his Cabinet, it's looking less like America's population and more like the world Trump has always orbited: wealthy, white, male-dominated and business-minded.

Trump, who railed against what he called "politically correct crap" during his no-holds-barred presidential campaign, is on track to create the least diverse Cabinet in a quarter-century.

The uniformity is particularly striking in the president-elect's picks for the highest-profile Cabinet and White House jobs. While he has selected a handful of women and minorities for lower-profile posts, his choices for the big four Cabinet slots — Treasury, State, Defense and Justice — and his top White House jobs — chief of staff, national security adviser and senior adviser — are all white men.

So, too, will white men run the departments of Commerce, Energy, Homeland Security and Health and Human Services as well as the Environmental Protection Agency.

Should Trump be unable to complete his term as president, the top eight people in the line of succession are white men from the Cabinet and Congress. That number could grow to 12 if he picks a white man for Agriculture secretary. North Dakota Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, a Democrat, is the only woman believed to be in the mix.

Unlike recent predecessors in both parties, Trump so far has no Hispanics in the most prominent positions. Based on the current top contenders for remaining jobs, it appears unlikely he'll have a Hispanic in his Cabinet or in any top

Please see CABINET/7A

White House suggests Putin was involved in US hacking

By Bradley Klapper and Josh Lederman
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration suggested Thursday that Russian President Vladimir Putin personally authorized the hacking of Democratic officials' email accounts in the run-up to the presidential election and said it was "fact" that such actions helped Donald Trump's campaign. The White House also assailed Trump himself, saying he must have known of Russia's interference.

No proof was offered for any of the accusations, the latest to unsettle America's uneasy transition from eight years under Democratic President Barack Obama to a new Republican administration led by Trump. The claims of Russian meddling in the election also have heightened already debilitating tensions between Washington and Moscow over Syria, Ukraine and a host of other disagreements.

"Only Russia's senior-most officials could have authorized these activities," White House spokesman Josh Earnest said, repeating the words from an October U.S. intelligence assessment.

Obama's deputy national security adviser, Ben Rhodes, connected the dots further, saying it was Putin who was responsible for the Russian government's actions.

"I don't think things happen in the Russian government of this consequence without Vladimir Putin knowing about it," Rhodes said on MSNBC.

The explosive accusation paints Putin, the leader of perhaps the nation's greatest geopolitical foe, as having directly undermined U.S. democracy. U.S. officials have not contended, however, that Trump would have been defeated by Hillary Clinton on Nov. 8 if not for Russia's assistance. Nor has there has been any indication of tampering with the vote-counting.

The Kremlin flatly rejected the claim of Putin's involvement, with Putin spokesman Dmitry Peskov dismissing it Thursday as "laughable nonsense."

The dispute over Russia's role is fueling an increasingly public spat between Obama's White House and Trump's team that is threatening to spoil the delicate truce that Obama and Trump have

Please see PUTIN/7A

NEWS

From 4A

consequences. A fake story about a child sex ring at a Washington, D.C., pizza joint prompted a man to fire an assault rifle inside the restaurant.

By partnering with respected outside organizations and flagging, rather than removing, fake stories, Facebook is sidestepping some of the biggest concerns experts had raised about it exercising its considerable power in this area. For instance, some worried that Facebook might act as a censor — and not a skillful one, either, being an engineer-led company with little experience making complex media ethics decisions.

"They definitely don't have the expertise," said Robyn Caplan, researcher at Data & Society, a nonprofit research institute funded in part by Microsoft and the National Science Foundation. In an interview before Facebook's announcement, she urged the company to "engage media professionals and organizations that are working on these issues."

Facebook and fake news

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg has said that fake news constitutes less than 1 percent of what's on Facebook, but critics say that's wildly misleading.

For a site with nearly 2 billion users tapping out posts by the millisecond, even 1 percent is a huge number, especially since the total includes everything that's posted on Facebook — photos, videos and daily updates in addition to news articles.

In a study released Thursday, the Pew Research Center found that nearly a quarter of Americans say they have shared a made-up news story, either knowingly or unknowingly. Forty-five percent said that the government, politicians and elected officials bear responsibility for preventing made-up stories from gaining attention. Forty-two percent put this responsibility on social networking sites and search engines, and a similar percentage on the public itself.

Fake news stories can be quicker to go viral than news stories from traditional sources. That's because they were created for sharing — they are clickable, often inflammatory and pander to emotional responses. Mike Caufield, director of blended and networked learning at Washington State University Vancouver, tracked whether real or fake news is more likely to be shared on Facebook.

He compared a made-up story from a fake outlet with articles in local newspapers. The fake story, headlined "FBI Agent Suspected In Hillary Leaks Found Dead In Apparent Murder-Suicide" from the nonexistent Denver Guardian, was shared 1,000 times more than material from the real newspapers.

"To put this in perspective, if you combined the top stories from the Boston Globe, Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, and LA Times, they still had only 5% the viewership of an article from a fake news," he wrote in a blog post.

Facebook is emphasizing that it's only going after the most egregious fake news creators and sites, the "the clear hoaxes spread by spammers for their own gain," wrote Adam Mosseri , vice president of product for Facebook's news feed, in a blog post Thursday.

Follow the money

The social network's first public step toward fixing the fake-news problem since the election was a statement barring fake-news sites from using its lucrative ad network. But it wasn't much more than rhetorical. Facebook's policies already blocked sites that spread misleading information from its ad network, an automated system that places ads on sites across the internet.

Now, Facebook says it has also eliminated the ability for spammers to masquerade as real news organizations by spoofing domains. And it says it's weighing a crackdown on publishers of fake news as well.

Depriving scammers of money could be effective. "Google and Facebook are the single two biggest engines for monetization," said Susan Bidel, a senior analyst at Forrester Research focusing on digital publishers. "I don't think you are ever going to completely eradicate it.

But it could get down to a manageable level." Facebook will not allow publishers to promote any story flagged as disputed.

If this works, users should not see fake news stories in Facebook advertisements.

Robots vs. Falsehood

Facebook's main approach to problems has been to tackle them with studying its vast troves of user data, with algorithms that can be more effective at things than humans, and to favor engineers over editors. Data rules all else at the Menlo Park, California, company.

Beyond the human fact-checkers, Facebook is also using its algorithms to de-emphasize fake news stories. For example, if people are significantly less likely to share an article after they have read it, it's a "really good sign that the article was misleading or not informative in some way," Hegeman said — sort of like when you try a cereal sample at the grocery store, then decide not to buy it.

Fake news stories won't disappear from Facebook, not the way child porn and spam and various illegal stuff does. That is not Facebook's goal.

"We believe providing more context can help people decide for themselves what to trust and what to share," Mosseri wrote.

YAHOO

From 4A

California, company as it tries to reinvent itself. The breaches occurred during the reign of Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer, a once-lauded leader who has been unable to turn around the company in the four years since she arrived.

Earlier this year, Yahoo agreed to sell its digital operations to Verizon Communications for $4.8 billion — a deal that may now be jeopardized by the hacking revelations.

Meanwhile, it's clear that Yahoo didn't do enough to protect its users. For example, the company acknowledges using MD5, a password-storage method considered by many experts to be inadequate and inferior to others available at the time of the hack.

One of Yahoo's priorities will now need to be keeping its users updated as its investigation progresses, said Jeremiah Grossman, chief of security strategy for SentinelOne.

"I think that would go a long way to assuring users and everybody that they're doing the right things," said Grossman, who worked in security at Yahoo from 1999 to 2001. "The best peace of mind in cybersecurity is transparency."

There's only so much a company like Yahoo can do to protect its users without damaging its business model, which involves selling advertising based on data gleaned from its users, Grossman noted.

As a result, it can't do things like encrypt user data, which would make the information useless to hackers. Other companies that don't sell advertising, such as Apple, are able to encrypt. And some, such as Google, do so too but not in a way that would have protected against this type of hack. They also hold the keys to that encryption, giving them the access they need for advertising sales.

"If you take a step back, the 1 billion people aren't Yahoo's customers, they're its product," Grossman said.

For Yahoo users, experts say, there's little to do except for changing their passwords if they haven't done so in the past three years. And it's tough to protect against future hacks at Yahoo or other companies that hold personal information.

Changing email providers is, at the very least, a pain for most people. Experts say picking a tough password is a must, though they are divided on exactly how important it is to change it frequently.

The same password should not be used for multiple sites, and the questions and answers needed to reset it should be unique as well.

While perfect security doesn't exist, no one wants to be an easy target either. Cybersecurity experts like to compare the hacker threat to running from a bear: You don't have to be the fastest runner — just not the slowest.

The Yahoo breach should serve as a lesson to users that they can't assume that companies, even large multi-national tech companies, are doing security right, said John Shier, senior security adviser at Sophos.

"Hopefully this is the one that wakes everybody up, although I doubt it will be," Shier said. "It's frustrating to see this happen over and over again when for many years we've known how to better protect systems."

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Psalm 37:4-5
"Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act."

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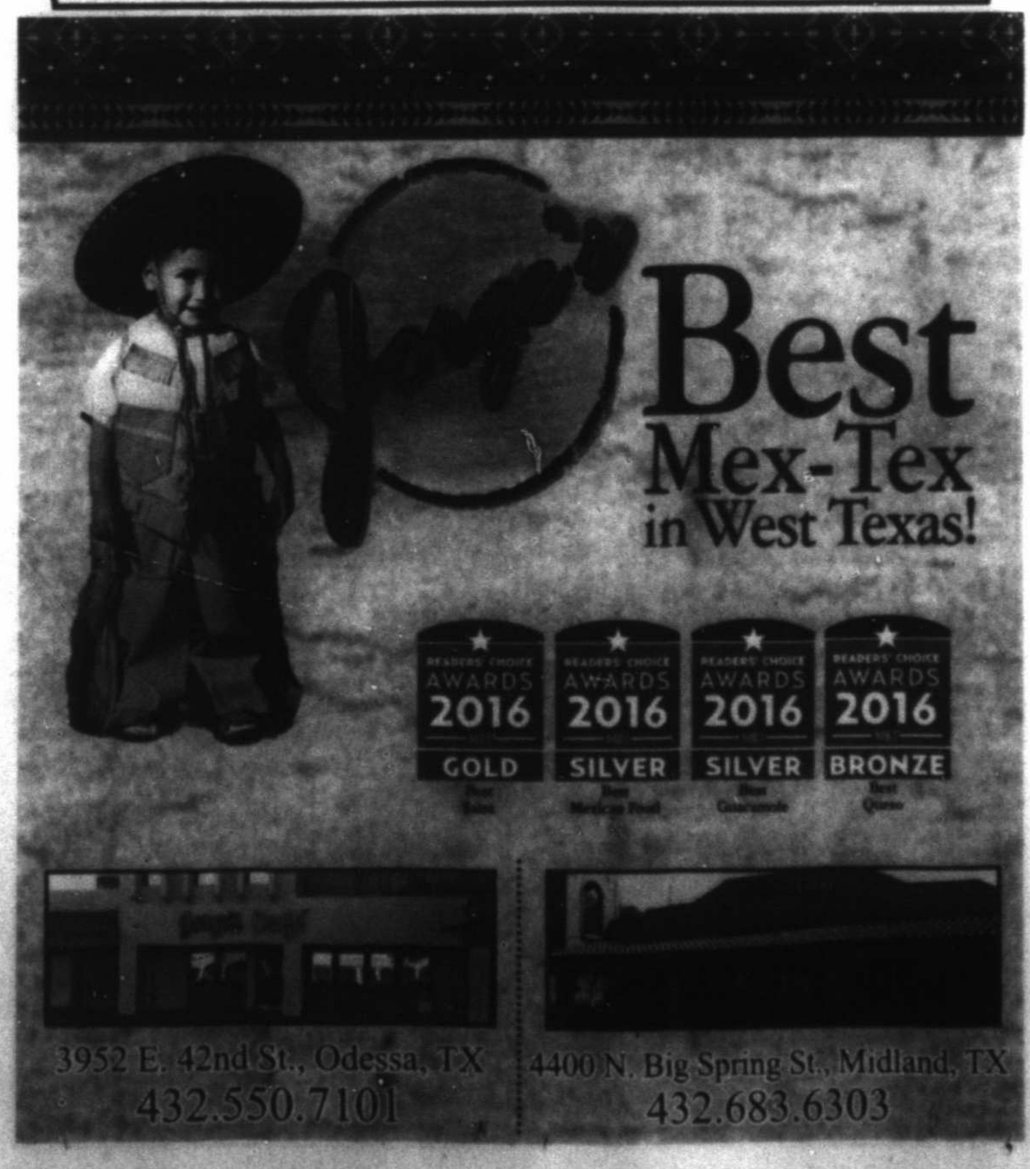
Women blink nearly twice as often as men.

Toto was paid $125 per week while filming The Wizard of Oz.



Trump Cabinet turns into a bonfire of agencies

■ Confirmation hearings will turn into a defense of liberalism and the last eight years



CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER
Washington Post Writers Group

Democrats spent the first two decades of the post-Cold War era rather relaxed about Russian provocations and revanchism. President Obama famously mocked Mitt Romney in 2012 for suggesting that Russia was our principal geopolitical adversary. Yet today the Dems are in high dudgeon over the closeness of secretary of state nominee, Rex Tillerson, to Vladimir Putin.

Hypocrisy aside, it is true that, as head of ExxonMobil, Tillerson made major deals with Russia, received Russia's Order of Friendship and opposed U.S. sanctions. That's troubling but not necessarily disqualifying. At the time, after all, Tillerson was acting as an agent of ExxonMobil, whose interest it is to extract oil and make money.

These interests do not necessarily overlap with those of the United States. The relevant question is whether and how Tillerson distinguishes between the two and whether as agent of the United States he would adopt a tougher Russia policy than he did as agent of ExxonMobil.

We don't know. We shall soon find out. That's what confirmation hearings are for.

The left has been in equally high dudgeon that other Cabinet picks appear not to share the mission of the agency which they have been nominated to head. The horror! As if these agency missions are somehow divinely ordained. Why, they aren't even constitutionally ordained. The Department of Education, for example, was created by President Carter in 1979 as a payoff to the teachers' unions for their political support.

Now, teachers are wonderful. But teachers' unions are there to protect benefits and privileges, not necessarily to improve schooling. Which is why they zealously defend tenure, protect their public-school monopoly and reflexively oppose school choice.

Conservatives have the odd view that the purpose of schooling — and therefore of the Department of Education — is to provide students with the best possible education. Hence Trump's nominee, Betsy DeVos, a longtime and passionate proponent of school choice, under whom the department will no longer be an arm of the teachers' unions.

She is also less likely to allow the department's Office for Civil Rights to continue appropriating to itself the role of arbiter of social justice, micromanaging everything from campus sexual mores to the proper bathroom assignment for transgender students. If the mission of this department has been to dictate policy best left to the states and localities, it's about time the mission was changed.

The most incendiary nomination by far, however, is Scott Pruitt to head the Environmental Protection Agency. As attorney general of Oklahoma, he has joined or led a series of lawsuits to curtail EPA power. And has been upheld more than once by the courts.

Pruitt has been deemed unfit to serve because he fails liberalism's modern-day religious test: belief in anthropogenic climate change. They would love to turn his confirmation hearing into a Scopes monkey trial. Republicans should decline the invitation. It doesn't matter whether the man believes the moon is made of green cheese. The challenges to EPA actions are based not on meteorology or theology, but on the Constitution. The issue is that the EPA has egregiously exceeded its authority and acted as a rogue agency unilaterally creating rules unmoored from legislation.

Pruitt's is the most important nomination because it is a direct attack on the insidious growth of the administrative state. We have reached the point where EPA bureaucrats interpret the Waters of the United States rule — meant to protect American waterways — to mean that when a hard rain leaves behind a pond on your property, the feds may take over and tell you what you can and cannot do with it. (The final rule excluded puddles — magnanimity from the Leviathan.)

On a larger scale, Obama's Clean Power Plan essentially federalizes power generation and regulation, not coincidentally killing coal along the way. This is the administration's end run around Congress' rejection of Obama's proposed 2009-2010 cap-and-trade legislation. And that was a Democratic Congress, mind you.

Pruitt's nomination is a dramatic test of the proposition that agencies administer the law, they don't create it. That the legislative power resides exclusively with Congress and not with a metastasizing administrative bureaucracy.

For some, this reassertion of basic constitutionalism seems extreme. If so, the Obama administration has only itself to blame. Such are the wages of eight years of liberal overreach. Some legislation, like Obamacare, will be repealed. Some executive orders will be canceled. But most important will be the bonfire of the agencies. We may soon be secure not just in our puddles but our ponds.

OUR VIEW

Rendall makes impact during his terms on MDC board

All good things must come to an end.

That is what we thought when we heard Robert Rendall had served his last term on the Midland Development Corp.

We appreciate the leadership Rendall has provided in his eight years on the board. During his tenure, we believe the corporation — which is funded by a quarter-cent addition to the city's sales tax — hit its stride.

First, the corporation provided funding to key city of Midland projects, including roads, water and sewer and parking infrastructure.

Second, the MDC achieved what many have felt was the purpose of the economic development tax approved by voters in 2001 — diversification. Rendall played a lead role in the MDC's space industry strategy, which started with the recruitment of XCOR Aerospace and Orbital Outfitters.

And as he leaves the MDC, the Spaceport Business Park has been started, the MDC has its Midland Altitude Chamber Complex, the city has a spaceport, and the foundation is set for more space industry companies to call Midland home.

Rendall has always been a key player in making things happen in our community. Those we talked with also mentioned his role in working with the Midland County Fresh Water Supply District to make the T-Bar Ranch pipeline a reality.

Rendall also was active in making sure the MDC erred on the side of being transparent with its business since it was spending taxpayer money — which is something we appreciate. But most of all, he provided the leadership at a crucial time for the development corporation.

Rendall deserves more than a laurel for his work at the MDC. He deserves the thanks of a community.

Laurel

■ **For Paul O'Neill.** The Animal Services director is leaving the city of Midland for a position in Denton and will leave his department and our community in better shape than he found it. Under his leadership, the city installed a voucher program that has been called a factor in the drop in the number of animals euthanized (from 4,286 in fiscal year 2007-08 to 2,400 last year). On Tuesday, he helped see to the finish line a worthy ordinance that we expect — when implemented — will do even more to control the pet population and reduce the need for euthenizing animals.

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/CityofMidlandTX
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Hacking can't lead to whacking America

■ Keep in mind that mainstream media did as much to distribute the material as WikiLeaks and that the vast majority of what has been disclosed appears absolutely on target



JAY AMBROSE
Tribune News Service

The presidential election has come and gone except in the hearts of a forlorn, desperate, leftist crew intent on tearing our democracy apart and instigating a maelstrom of division unseen in modern times.

Their greatest hope is to deny Donald Trump access to the White House, but, short of that, to delegitimize the election, to say it was a fraud, a travesty, that uneducated, morally challenged moron voters did this thing but actually lost.

Hillary Clinton won the popular vote, the dismayed repeatedly affirm, as if they do not quite get how the Constitution rightly works and forgetting that Trump captured most of the heartland. What's the goal — to squeeze the East and West coasts together as a kind of peninsula of power, essentially disenfranchising those who reside in between?

These hopefuls hardly stop there. What really defeated Clinton, they say, was racism, homophobia, Islamaphobia, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, rigged voting procedures, FBI director James Comey, fake news, Fox News, voting machines gone awry and Russians. This last item is the headline of the day. Our intelligence agencies have said Russians hacked emails of the Clinton campaign and the Democratic National Committee with the intent of electing Trump.

In that case, some reply, the Electoral College should deny him the presidency when it votes on Dec. 19. Clinton is party to this. John Podesta, her campaign chairman, has said the intelligence agencies should give the electors an evidential briefing, not so surreptitiously hoping something major comes of it.

Most onlookers say such an unprecedented turnaround would never happen. It does not require a minute's worth of alertness to see as well that the result could be a fiery combustion keeping the country in self-destructive turmoil for heaven knows how long. The Russians would be tickled to death, of course, and the question isn't just whether it might happen, but why any half-sane patriot would want it to happen.

First off, we do not yet have the evidence, just a pronouncement. There's no need for congressional hearings as now contemplated. Just give the data to us, taking care, of course, not to divulge any investigative secrets of our own. For the Electoral College to make a decision on information not shared with everyone else would instigate suspicions.

The Russians almost surely did it, but understand that our intelligence agencies have been mistaken before and that it is no more disrespectful of our government to await the facts and interpretations than it is for the left to have at the FBI for its handling of the Clinton email scandal. It might not hurt at the same time to note that Russia and China have been hacking away at us for years without the Obama administration doing enough to stop it.

Russia actually once had access to President Barack Obama's unclassified emails, and China obtained personal information on something like 20 million federal employees. Both nations have swiped our intellectual property and billions of dollars worth of trade secrets. The administration has spent billions on cybersecurity without security emerging. It has also established a policy of sanctions that do very little. When something goes amiss, Obama generally says watch that stuff and not much more.

None of us can want Russia playing games with our elections. One consequence of its information gathering, if Clinton had been elected, is that it might have had the means of blackmail. That is possible with Trump, too. But keep in mind that mainstream media did as much to distribute the material as WikiLeaks and that the vast majority of what has been disclosed appears absolutely on target. How much of a factor was it in the election? It is anyone's guess, but a tiny speck, I would wager, compared to reports on the increasing costs of Obamacare.

The effort now should be a principled effort to forge a good future and deter the Russians, Chinese and others from digital skullduggery.

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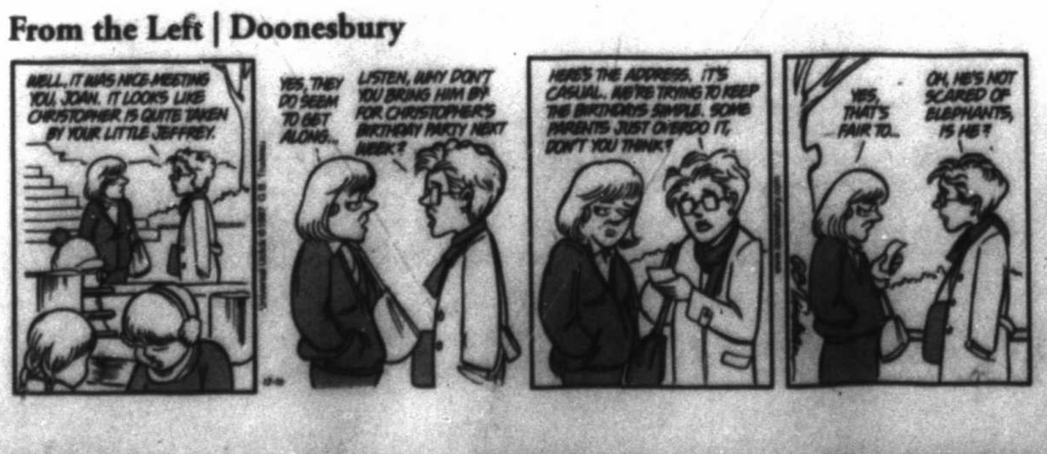
From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



PUTIN

From 5A

forged since Election Day.

Although the president and president-elect have avoided criticizing each other publicly since Trump's win, their aides have been more openly antagonistic. Kellyanne Conway, Trump's senior transition adviser, said it was "breathtaking" and irresponsible that the White House had suggested Trump knew Russia was interfering to help his campaign.

That led Obama spokesman Josh Earnest on Thursday to unload, arguing that Trump, who has dismissed the CIA's assessment of Russian interference, should spend less time attacking the intelligence community and more time supporting the investigation that Obama has ordered.

Earnest said it was "obvious" Trump knew what Russia was doing during the campaign, pointing out that Trump had encouraged Moscow during a news conference to find Clinton's missing emails. Trump has said he was joking.



Toru Hanai/Pool Photo via AP

Russian President Vladimir Putin is seen Thursday in Nagato, western Japan. The Obama administration suggested Thursday that Putin personally authorized the hacking of Democratic officials' email accounts in the run-up to the presidential election, which intelligence agencies believe was designed to help Donald Trump prevail. The White House also leveled an astounding attack on Trump himself, saying he must have known of Russia's interference.

"I don't think anybody at the White House thinks it's funny that an adversary of the United States engaged in malicious cyber activity to destabilize our democracy," Earnest said. "That's not a joke."

U.S. intelligence officials have linked the hacking to Russia's intelligence agency and its military intelligence division. Moscow has denied all accusations that it orchestrated the hacking of email accounts of Democratic Party officials and Clinton's campaign chief, John Podesta, and then leaked them to the anti-secrecy website WikiLeaks.

CABINET

From 5A

White House job.

Trump spokesman Jason Miller has pledged that the president-elect's team will be "very broad and diverse, both with the Cabinet and the administration."

But Trump himself seems to have different priorities: "I want people that made a fortune! Because now they're negotiating for you, OK?" he said, at a rally in Des Moines, Iowa, last week.

Even if he appoints women or minorities to three remaining Cabinet-level posts — Veterans Affairs, Agriculture and the Office of Management and Budget — Trump will lag behind the past three administrations in creating a demographically diverse White House.

President Bill Clinton installed 10 women and minorities into Cabinet-level jobs during his first term, part of an effort to create an inclusive image for his new administration. Other presidents have followed suit: George W. Bush had nine in his first term, and Barack Obama broke records with 13, according to an analysis of data compiled by University of California at Berkeley law school professor Anne Joseph O'Connell.

So far, Trump has selected five non-white men or women for the 16 posts he's filled: Neurosurgeon Ben Carson for secretary of Housing and Urban Development, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley as U.N. ambassador, former Bush administration Labor Secretary Elaine Chao for Transportation, activist Betsy DeVos as Education secretary and World Wrestling executive Linda McMahon to head the Small Business Administration.

"The Cabinet choices are the most visible. And, consequently, to the extent that he faces pressure on diversity, it plays out here," said O'Connell, who added that she expects even less diversity in lower-level government posts.

Republicans say it's important to consider the entirety of Trump's government, not just the roles at the top. For example, the president-elect has included several women and minorities on his list of candidates for the Supreme Court.

"It matters that government as a whole is representative of America," said Republican strategist Sara Fagen, former White House political director for George W. Bush. "I don't think this says something about him and his values."

Raw numbers don't tell the whole story when it comes to diversity in government and who wields influence in an administration. While Obama put together the most diverse Cabinet ever, some women in his White House still felt marginalized. The concerns reached the president himself during his first year in office, leading him to hold a dinner with senior female advisers to discuss his administration's boys-club image.

Some of Trump's most powerful aides are women. Kellyanne Conway served as his third and final campaign manager and remains a senior adviser. Trump's daughter Ivanka consults on most major decisions and is expected to continue doing so once her father is in the White House.

Shortly after the election, Trump met with BET founder Robert Johnson, who suggested the White House create an office of minority and urban affairs. Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and influential adviser, was in the meeting and told Johnson it was something the transition team was already considering.

"It ended with me telling him, 'I want to be helpful to you if I've got an open door to make my case that I think are in the best interests of African-Americans,'" Johnson said. "Everyone nodded they were willing to listen."

Earlier this year, an Associated Press review of the upper ranks of the Trump Organization revealed few, if any, black executives. Other minorities were also scarce at that level.

Trump had a rocky relationship with women and minorities during his presidential campaign. His victory over Democrat Hillary Clinton hinged almost entirely on white voters. Only about 2 percent of Trump voters were black and about 7 percent were Hispanic, according to exit polls conducted by Edison Research for the AP and television networks. Nearly 9 in 10 were white.

Less than half of Trump voters — about 47 percent — were female, the exit polls show, compared with 59 percent of Clinton voters.

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Shurfine Granulated Sugar 4 Lb. Bag $5 3 For
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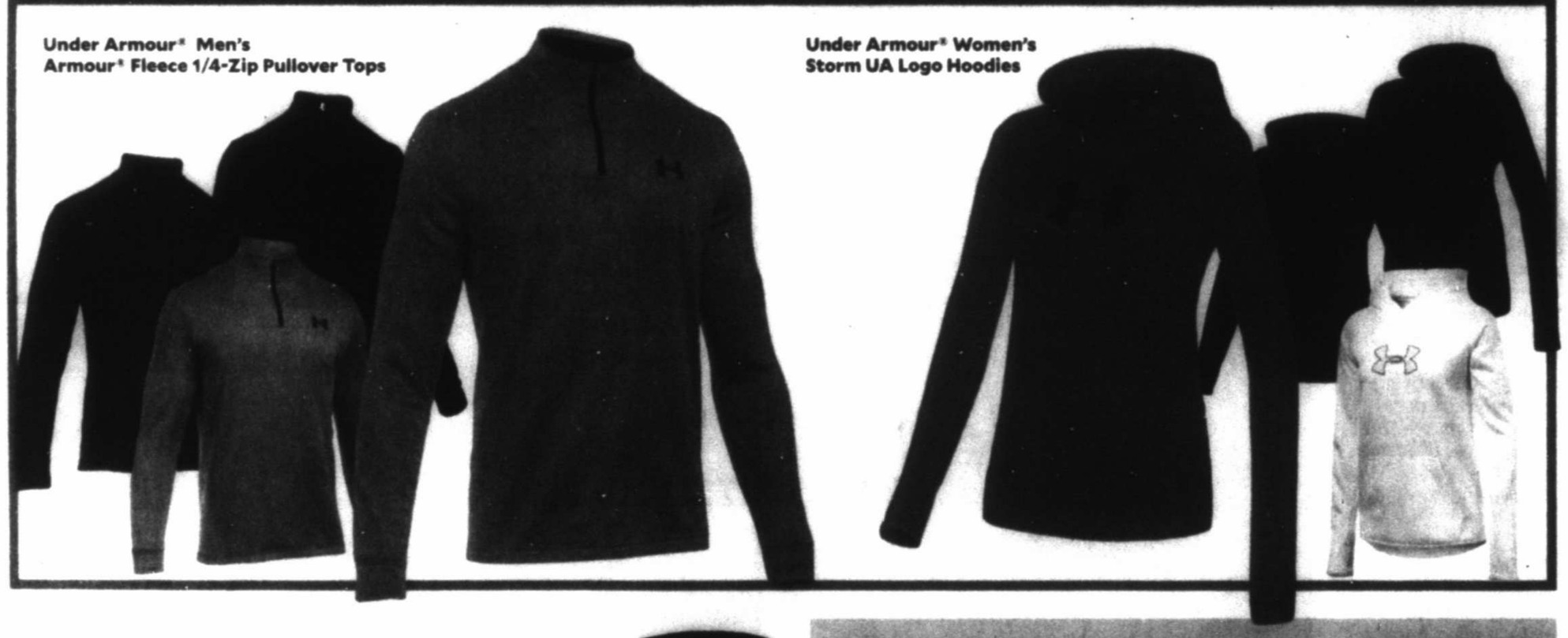

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FAITH & PHILANTHROPY

THIS WEEK

TODAY

TOY DRIVE
Midland Soup Kitchen Ministry is collecting unwrapped toys for ages 5-12 and gift cards for teens. Drop off at 1401 Orchard Lane.



SATURDAY

This is the final day of Midland County Public Library's book drive for Casa de Amigos and High Sky Children's Ranch. Their goal is to collect 5,000 books for the children of those organizations. Drop off a new or gently used children's book at downtown or Centennial branch between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

SATURDAY

FESTIVE FAMILY FUN
First Presbyterian Church hosts Family Christmas Falalalapalooza with Christmas attire contest, hot chocolate, photo booth, games, dinner and more. 5 p.m. Purchase tickets online at fpcmid.org.



SATURDAY

PLUMB GOOD
Recording artist Plumb headlines the Traveler's Christmas service at First Methodist Midland. 6 p.m.

See more calendar items on Page 6B.

ONLINE

See photos from the Midland Nativity Festival at mrt.com.

IN NEED

DONATIONS FOR GIRLS ATHLETICS
Texas Leadership Charter Academy's new women's athletic program is seeking both monetary and equipment/uniform donations. Both can be mailed or dropped off to Linsey Rivas' attention at at TLCA, 3300 Thomas Ave. Building R, Midland, Texas 79703.

BE A MENTOR
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Midland is expanding its school-based program and is short of volunteers. The agency needs help since adding Houston Elementary to its program, which already serves Milam and Crockett elementaries. Mentors do not tutor but provide friendship and serve as a positive role model. Visit bbbsmidland.org.

Miss Patty leads into Christmas





Iconic Christian singer Sandi Patty will headline First Baptist Church's Permian Basin Christmas Celebration in Odessa. The five-time Grammy winner performs three nights starting tonight with Veritas and the Celebration Choir and Orchestra of FBC Odessa. Her appearance this weekend is part of her current Forever Grateful farewell tour that began in February. Tickets to the celebration are $10 and can be purchased online at fbcodessa.com.



Courtesy photo

UTPB students with Enactus collected donations from Midland Park Mall shoppers for local organizations Lone Star Animal Sanctuary and Mike's Backpacks for the Homeless.

Community members help nonprofits during holiday shopping

By Rich Lopez
jrlopez@mrt.com

Members of Uptown Midland Business and Professional Women helped the Salvation Army on Dec. 3 with time at their famous red kettle. The women were joined by the Army's Advisory Board and University of Texas of the Permian Basin students to help raise donations for the organization as well as for Lone Star Animal Sanctuary and Matt's Backpacks for the Homeless.

"These three charities are in desperate need of donations, especially during our cold and rainy weather," BPW director Jonna Smoot said.

As both BPW and Salvation Army Advisory Board members took shifts at the kettle — both inside and outside of the mall — Dillard's

Please see SHOPPING/4B

Food bank partners with Abell-Hanger to support families

By Rich Lopez
jrlopez@mrt.com

The Abell-Hanger Foundation has partnered with the West Texas Food Bank to help those in need during the holidays and winter season. A $100,000 matching challenge grant was made by the foundation to supporters of WTFB. Donations will be matched through Dec. 31, which comes at a critical time for the communities WTFB serves.

"During the holiday season, we worry in particular about seniors and children," said WTFB executive director Libby Campbell.

The nonprofit serves more than 50,000 people who are food-insecure in 19 counties; half of them are children. School breaks and holiday vacations can increase concerns. With students out of school for two weeks, they will not have access to reduced-priced or free meals. Homebound seniors may not have family or friends in town to check in. The food bank wants to ensure that those seniors are healthy and fed.

Please see SUPPORT/4B

Please join us this Sunday, Dec. 18th

Music Sunday Worship
Traditional Service
"One Morning in Bethlehem"

Rev. Kurt Borden Preaching
Contemporary Service
"Christmas Card From God"

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Traditional 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary
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Communion
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St. Paul's Anglican Church
1600 N. A Street
432-559-6312

Apostolic
First Apostolic Church
710 S. Baird
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Faith Tabernacle
4001 W Illinois
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Faith Tabernacle AFC
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432-413-5478

Assemblies of God
Abundant Life Worship Center
4801 Princeton
432-520-7122

Calvary Assembly of God
908 S. Johnston
432-682-8473

Calvary Christian Fellowship
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432-967-3604

Calvary Tabernacle - U.P.C
409 W. Pine
432-685-3919

First Assembly of God
100 W. Wadley
432-684-4613

Baptist
Alamo Heights Baptist Church
1305 N. Midland Dr.
432-697-3101

Antioch Baptist Church
1400 E. Golf Course Rd.
432-683-3711

Bellview Baptist Church
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432-682-9474

Bethel Missionary Baptist
1410 S. Calhoun St.
432-683-9465

Cotton Flat Baptist Church
6409 S. Hwy 349
432-684-7562

Crestview Baptist Church
301 N. Loop 250 West
432-681-8200

Cuthbert Ave. Baptist Church
3308 W. Cuthbert
432-694-6075

Goodwill Missionary Baptist Church
1001 S. Main
432-684-4831

Grace Covenant Church
5711 Whitman
432-553-1053

Home Line Baptist Church
4406 Mockingbird Lane
432-695-6365

Ebenezer Baptist Church
2400 N. Tyler
432-686-9923

Emmanuel Baptist Church
(Iglesia Bautista Emanuel)
1800 Cherry Ln.
432-686-8209

Fannin Terrace Baptist Church
2800 Mogford
(432) 682-5272

First Baptist Church
2104 W. Louisiana Ave.
432-683-0600

Greater Ideal Baptist Church
411 S. Tyler
432-682-8169

Greater Mt. Zion Baptist
1700 Cloverdale
432-685-1301

Greater New Hope Baptist
2400 E. New York
432-684-6893

Greenwood Baptist Church
9501 FM 307
432-685-1249

Hillcrest Baptist Church
5200 W. Illinois
432-520-7733

Macedonia Baptist Church
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432-682-7120

Midland Korean Baptist Church
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432-413-9593

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South Memorial Baptist Church
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Southwest Baptist Church
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Tall City Baptist Church
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Temple Baptist Church
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432-694-3634

Travis Baptist Church
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432-682-7812

Valley View Baptist Church
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Victory Fellowship
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West Kentucky Baptist Church
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The HUB Outreach Ministry & Church
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432-269-6988

Wilshire Park Baptist
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432-694-7787

Kelview Heights Baptist Church
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Bible
Calvary Chapel of Midland/Odessa
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Colonial Bible Church
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Midland Bible Church
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432-684-9722

Catholic
Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church
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San Miguel Archangel Catholic Church
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St. Ann's Catholic Church
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432-682-6303

St. Michael The Archangel Traditional Catholic Church
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432-686-7709

St. Stephen's Catholic Church
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432-520-7394

Christian
Abundant Living Christian Center
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432.687-1419

Amistad Cristiana
401 S. Main
432-686-0427

Christian Church of Midland
2608 Neely
432-684-7681

Community of Christ
3603 Douglas
432-694-7720

St. Paul CME Church
409 S. Lee
432-682-0010

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Church on the Journey (Disciples of Christ)
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432-694-2685

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
1301 W. Louisiana
432-682-2541

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Alliance Fellowship Community Church
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432-699-6068

The Redeemed Christian Church of God
3201 Heritage Blvd., Midland
347-737-8952

Christian Science
First Church of Christ, Scientist
1001 W. Tennessee
432-682-8197

Christian Science Reading Room
Mission Square, 4400 N. Big Spring
St., Ste. A-10
432-682-8476

Church of Christ
Andrews Hwy. Church of Christ
4603 Andrews Hwy.
432-694-2394

Church of Christ in Greenwood
9501 FM 307
432-685-1249

Eastside Church of Christ
611 S. Webster
432-684-4733

Fairmont Park Church of Christ
3813 N. Midland Dr.
432-699-7064

Iglesia de Cristo
1501 E. Cherry Lane
661-3223, 634-1948

Iglesia de Cristo (En Espanol)
902 Midkiff Road
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4448 Morning Glory Rd.
432-366-0042

Golf Course Road Church of Christ
3500 W. Golf Course Rd.
432-694-8836

Lamesa Rd. Church of Christ
3409 N. Lamesa Rd.
432-685-0885

Lee Street Church of Christ
101 N. Lee Street
432-684-4786

Main Street Church of Christ
101 W. Parker
(432) 570-1212

North "A" Church of Christ
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432-682-8653

Northside Church of Christ
1511 N. Fort Worth St.
432-682-1553

One Hope Church of Christ
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432-528-9099

Westway Church of Christ
1701 Hughes St.
432-889-6987

Westside Church of Christ
4410 W. Illinois Ave.
432-694-3614

Woodcrest Church of Christ
1401 Woodcrest Drive
432-689-0955

Charismatic
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(The Joyful Church)
2301 W. Indiana

Redeemer Christian Fellowship
3000 Franklin Street
432-683-1370

Church of God
Church of God
5300 Thomason Dr.
432-694-7586

Church of God in Christ
Alexander Temple Church of God in Christ
200 N. Tyler
432-684-5466

Faith Temple Church of God in Christ
1605 N. Terrell
432-684-5253

Holy Trinity Church of God in Christ
1301 E. Cowden
432-682-9271

Parks Memorial Church of God in Christ
708 Humble St., Odessa TX
432-337-8014

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
4805 Gateway St. & 2101 Tarleton St.
432-694-4716

Episcopal
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1412 West Illinois
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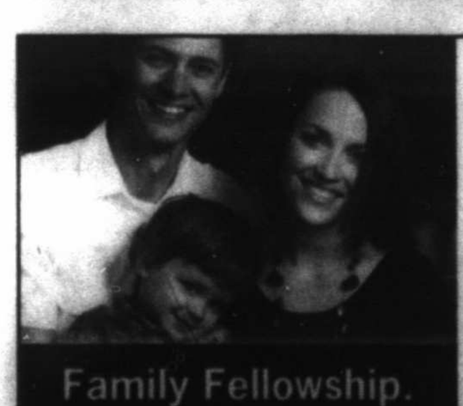
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Church Listings

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Living Way Church Foursquare
415 Alta
432-683-1750

Camino de Vida Midland Hispanic y Foursquare Church
100 West Oak
432-352-9524

Full Gospel

Living Hope Church
2911 CR 1140
432-693-6398

Voice of Victory - A Word Church
1508 S. Main St.
432-686-7566

Redeemer Christian Fellowship
3000 Franklin Street
432-683-1370

Hindu

Hindu Association of West (HAWT)
4401 Cardinal Lane
432-520-4298

Inter-Denominational

Midland Center for Spiritual Living
1908 W. Wall, Ste. D-Midland, Texas
432-684-4230

Sovereign Grace Church
(formerly Christian Life Center)
2901 W. Kansas
432-683-4506

West Texas Cowboy Church
12144 E. Hwy 158, Gardendale, TX
432-488-8588

Jewish

Temple Beth El
1501 N. Grandview, Odessa, TX
432-550-5111

Lutheran

Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church
3800 Bluebird Lane
432-694-4971

Grace Lutheran Church
3000 W. Golf Course Rd
432-697-3221

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
5110 N. Garfield
432-570-8149

Hope Lutheran Church (ECLA)
2003 N. A St.
432-683-1936

Lutheran Church of the Risen Lord
1603 N. Grandview, Odessa, TX
432-362-2549

Midland Lutheran Church
2705 W. Michigan
432-694-1373

Messianic

Beit Haderekh
13370 Hwy 191, Odessa, TX
432-264-8976

Methodist United

Resurrection United Methodist Church
9541 W. 57th St., Odessa, TX
432-385-1212

St. Mark's United Methodist
1701 N. Main
432-683-3339

First United Methodist Church
Main & Ohio St.
432-682-3701

First United Methodist Church
600 N. Goldsmith St., Goldsmith, TX
432-385-1212

St. Luke's United Methodist Church
3011 W. Kansas
432-694-2571

St. Paul's United Methodist Church
4501 Thomason Drive
432-694-2544

Visionary Hollowell Community UMC
400 S. Marshall St.
432-682-1574

Muslim

Muslim Association of West
1200 S. Midland Dr.
432-262-6226

Islamic Center of the Permian Basin
5010 W. Loop 250 N. Apt 10E
432-520-3751

Nazarene

The Gathering @ Midland (A Church of the Nazarene)
3303 W. Illinois, Space #2
432-889-9178

Non-Denominational

The Potters' House
4411 W Illinois, #85
432-279-0198

The Orchard, Your Neighborhood Church
6112 N. Big Spring Street

Renew Life Church
Cole Theatre, 2000 W. Wadley Ave.
432-689-7284

Abiding in Christ Ministries
1208 A Counrty Road 138 West Midland
432-699-4513

Christian Faith Ministry
2215 N. Midland Dr., #5A
432-218-6412

Church of God 7th Day
609 N. Dallas
432-218-8595

Church of New Beginnings
4309 W. Illinois, Suite A
432-553-1400

Cornerstone Christian Fellowship
901 N. Midland Dr.
432-689-8898

CrossRoads Fellowship
6901 East State Hwy. 191, Odessa, TX
432-368-2500

Family Faith Christian Center
7909 Hwy. 307
432-686-9468

The HUB Outreach Ministry & Church
4201 W. Illinois, Midland, TX
432-269-6988

Inner City Tabernacle of Life Ministries
3607 N. Dixie, Odessa, TX
432-272-2544

LifeHouse Fellowship
3300 Thomas Avenue
432-262-LIFE

Manna For Life Ministries
1312 S. Jackson, Odessa, TX
432-221-4072

Mid-Cities Community Church
8700 W. Hwy. 191
432-563-9444

Mount Moriah Disciples of Christ
701 S. Calhoun
432-687-0630

New Harvest Fellowship Church
4010 North County Road 1130
(432) 853-9830 and (432) 894-6281

Our Savior's Christian Fellowship
3309 Neely
432-694-4517

The Cowboy Church of the Permian Basin
3900 N. FM 1788
432-563-0028

Apostolic Assembly in the Faith Christ Jesus
2309 S. Fort Worth
432-686-8526

Beacon Light Outreach Ministries
410 S. Lee
432-599-0793

Christian Motorcyclists Association
4632 Conley Ave., Odessa, TX
432-978-1986

Christian Tabernacle Church
10807 W. CR 145
432-262-5072

Church in the Wind
1001 Austin St.
432-556-2062

Crossway Church Adult
1000 Upland
432-528-8541

Destiny by Grace Christian Worship Center
3303 S. Hwy 349
432-556-6638

Elevate Church
200 Baldwin
432-685-1981

Faith Apostolic Church
4001 W. Illinois Ave.
432-520-5371

Faith Country Church
Exit 143 off I-20 E. to FM 1208, 5 miles
432-458-3580

Footprints Redemption Church
6005 E Hwy 80 (Bus I-20)
432-664-9113

Greater Grace Temple Christian Faith Center
Midland Center Room 3
866-544-7223

Harvest Time Church
8300 State Hwy. 191
432-563-5683

Heart of Worship Baptist Fellowship
1306 E. Taylor
432-337-9372

Iglesia de Dios 70 Dias
405 E. Stokes
432- 684-8541

Inner City Tabernacle of Life Ministries
3607 N. Dixie Blvd., Odessa, TX
432-272-2544

New Day Christian Fellowship
4200 W. Illinois, Suite 280
432-694-4233

New Harvest Fellowship
4010 NCR 1130
432-699-5821, 432-853-9830

Rock Fellowship Church
410 S. Pecos
432-685-3858

Salvation Army Church
3500 Park Lane
432-683-3614

Solid Rock Fellowship Outwest
4601 W. Interstate 20 (South Service - Road Between Midkiff and Loop 250)
432-664-4279

St. Paul C.M.C. Church
409 S. Lee Street
432-682-0010

Teen Challenge Services
6901 S. CR 1200
432-687-0348

Teen Flow Service
711 S. Main
432- 686-2525

Templo Jerusalem
1205 S. Belmont
432-683-4806

The World Wide Church of God Bible
1207 W. 10th St., Odessa, TX
432-381-8352

True Life Christian Fellowship Church
3001 N. A St.
432-687-3077

Wings of Mighty Prophecy Church
5005 ECR 73, Midland
432-559-5018

Orthodox

Holy Cross Orthodox Church
Currently meeting at St. Stephen's Catholic Church (Parish Hall Rooms 1&2), 4601 Neely, Midland, Texas For more information please call (432) 741-1040

Pentecostal Assemblies of the World

Jesus Name United Pentecostal Church
3110 W. C.R. 116
432-694-8702

Lighthouse Pentecostal Church
200 N. Lincoln
432-682-7186

Templo Gloriosa Mañana
511 S. Stonewall
432-664-0803

The Pentecostals
5110 W. Illinois Ave
432-697-4007

This Generation UPC (United Pentecostal Church)
409 W. Pine
432-685-3919

Presbyterian

First Presbyterian Church
800 W. Texas
432-684-7821

Grace Presbyterian Church
2801 N. Garfield
432-684-6542

Providence Presbyterian Church (PCA)
2900 Princeton
432-520-5255

Seventh Day Adventist

Seventh Day Adventist Church
3114 Travis
432-694-2746

Midland Spanish Seventh Day Adventist Church
110 W Pennsylvania
432-620-0882

Southern Baptist

Iglesia Bautista El Buen Pastor
4712 Shadylane
432-684-5490

Grace Covenant Church
5711 Whitman
432-553-1053

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Obituaries



Charles Fredrick Selmon

Charles Fredrick Selmon was born in Slayton, TX. on Monday, January 18, 1932 to the late Travis Lee and Thelma Cleo Selmon. He passed away in Odessa, TX at Medical Center Hospital on Wednesday, December 14, 2016. Charles served in the National Guard during the Korean Conflict (1950 to 1953).

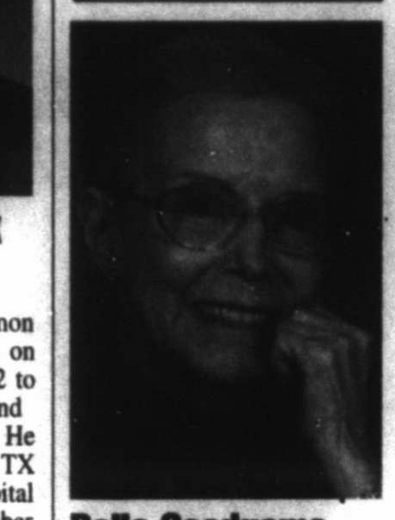
An electrician by trade, he worked for Texas Electric for 38 years. He was also the owner and operator of Double Eagle Pawn for ten years. Upon retirement, he was able to spend more time on his other varied interests: upholsterer, seamstress, jeweler, gunsmith, cook, machinist and carpenter to name a few. He was always doing something with his hands. If he did not know how to do it, Charles would find a way. He enjoyed hunting and fishing, dancing, and cooking for his family. Mr. Selmon was a 3rd ° Master Mason (Lodge #1385 AF & AM), 32nd ° Scottish Rite and a member of the Al Maida Shrine.

Preceding him in death were his parents: Travis and Thelma Selmon, one sister: Jessie Beth, and a brother: Truman Lee Selmon.

Charles is survived by his loving wife and companion of 65 years: Mary Idell Selmon; daughter: Pamela Rimer and husband Larry; granddaughter: Christy Graham; great-grandchildren: Tiffany Graham Elrod and Jarred Graham and wife Jessica; and great-great grandsons: Trystin Elrod, Jarred and Braxten Graham. He is also survived by his sisters: Clara Jean Tarver of Sulphur, LA. Wilma Kidd of Hobbs, NM, and Nelda Sue Lee and Billy Francis Thatcher Parker, both of Decatur, TX. and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 6:00 to 8:00 pm Friday, December 16, 2016. Funeral services will be at Acres West Funeral Chapel in Odessa, TX. at 10:00 am Saturday, December 17, 2016. Masonic Graveside Services will be at Rose Cemetery in Merkel, TX. that afternoon at 3:00 pm. Arrangements are entrusted to Acres West and condolences to the family may be sent online at acreswestfuneral.com.

Acres West



Della Goodgame

Della Goodgame, age 81, passed away peacefully on December 13, 2016. The daughter of W.A. and Elsie Allen, Della was born January 7, 1935 in Paducah, Texas, where she graduated from Paducah High School in 1952. She married Jim Goodgame in November 1952. After many moves they settled in Midland in 1974 where she was active in Bellview Baptist Church. In 2009 she moved to Amarillo where her daughter Cindy resides.

A private family gathering to celebrate her life was held on December 14.

Memorial contributions for international missions may be made to Temple Baptist Church, 3208 S. Van Buren Street, Amarillo, Texas 79109.

She is survived by her daughter Beth Dennis and husband Kevin of Bartlesville, Oklahoma; daughter Cindy Nickson and husband Alan of Amarillo; son Buddy Goodgame and wife Diane of Midland; six grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother Alfred Allen and her sister Freddie Russell.

Jo Evelyn Odell Talley

Jo Evelyn Odell Talley died peacefully in her sleep on November 26, 2016 at the age of 86 years old. She was born March 30, 1930 in Alpine, TX to Gladys Peters Odell & Gene Pickney Odell. During the Depression her father worked for the CCC helping to build many of the famous landmarks in the West Texas area. However, the family moved to El Paso when Jo was a young child for the job opportunities.

Jo Talley graduated from Yselta High School in 1948. She attended Sul Ross State College and graduated with a BBA from Texas Western College (now UTEP) in 1952. She married her former husband Raymond Talley in 1957, and spent over 20 years staying home to raise her children. When she returned to work, she was a long time employee for ARCO in Midland and then also worked for IBM in Austin before she retired. Upon her retirement she moved to Fort Stockton where she made her home for the next 17 years.

Jo was an active bridge player and belonged to a number of different bridge clubs over the years. She was also a member of the PCMH Auxiliary for many years. Though a devout Baptist, she attended services many times at First Presbyterian Church to be with her family. She loved gardening, reading, and spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren. She was a three time cancer survivor (breast, bladder, bladder) before the ravages of Alzheimer's disease finally took her.

Ms. Talley was preceded in death by her parents and by her brother Gene Odell Jr.

She is survived by her sister Gladys Harris (Don) of El Paso, TX. She is also survived by her six children-Sheri Talley (Jim Hatcher) of Ft Stockton, Karen Talley (Christine Pointeau) of Gallup NM, Bill Talley (Paula) of Ft Worth, Beverly Bister (Geoff), Paul Talley (Glenda) of Flower Mound, and Dianne Talley of Austin. She is also survived by 9 grandchildren.

A memorial service has been planned for December 17, 2016 at First Baptist Church in Ft Stockton at 2 pm with the Rev. Charles Reigle officiating. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Alzheimer's Association at alz.org/donate.





Merle Evelyn Gipson Findlay

Merle Evelyn Gipson Findlay, 89, passed away in her home on December 6, 2016. She was born July 5, 1927 in Mineola, Texas to M.E. and Sudie Gipson. Merle grew up in Mineola and Jackson, Mississippi, and she spent her summers with her McLeod cousins in Oil City, Louisiana.

After her 1944 graduation from Mineola High School, Merle attended Baylor University School of Nursing in Dallas on a Woman's Army Auxiliary Core (WAC) scholarship. She earned her Registered Nursing degree in 1947 then moved to Austin to work at the University Hospital. While there she met Donald Charles Findlay and they married in 1949 in San Antonio. After Don completed his PhD, they lived in Houston where Merle was among the first nurses employed by M.D. Anderson Hospital. Following Houston, they traveled the globe and Merle became a homemaker. Their residences included Kentucky, Washington, Oklahoma, California, Newfoundland, Germany, Spain, Maryland, West Virginia, and finally Ohio in 1970.

Merle was an accomplished gourmet, talented seamstress, and an active volunteer in nursing, 4-H Club, and several university organizations at Ohio State.

When the empty nest stage occurred in 1978, Merle and Don retired back to East Texas at Hide-Away-Lake. During their retirement they spent 18 summers traveling Europe in their VW Camper. Their favorite campgrounds were Lauterbrunnen, Switzerland and Oxford, England as well as the coast of Spain. Every spring (prior to their overseas trip), she hosted the family's "Annual Easter Celebration" which included an easter egg hunt, birthday celebration for each family member and a trip to the zoo! It was during this time her grandchildren nicknamed her "Grandma in the Woods." In the spring of 2007, Merle and Don relocated to Midland to be close to children and grandchildren.

Merle's husband, family, and travels were most important to her. She was always happy, cheerful, and always had a big smile. Merle's kindness was freely given to everyone she met. Her constant optimism will be missed by all who knew her.

She is survived by her three children Rebecca Ann Arnold and husband Tony of Columbus, Ohio; Clyde Pitt Findlay II and wife Jenny of Midland; and Sarah Ann Philpy and husband Mark of Midland. Grandchildren include Laurin Arnold and Wesley Arnold of Columbus; Deeann Camp and husband Drew of Midland; Clyde Pitt Findlay III and wife Jenny of College Station; Holly Findlay of Austin; Christopher Cliver of Houston; Olivia Cliver of Midland; Clara Cliver of College Station. Also there is one great grandchild, Isla June Findlay of College Station.

The family would like to extend their deep appreciation for their four loyal and compassionate caregivers Annie, Crystal, Dianna and Dorothy as well as Hospice of Midland.

A memorial service to celebrate Merle's life will be held Sunday, December 18th at 3:00 pm at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Chapel in Midland with a family visitation following. Memorials may be made to Hospice of Midland or to one of Merle's favorite charities: Public Television and Radio, Planned Parenthood, and Sibley Nature Center.

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

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



Teresa Bustamante

Teresa Bustamante, 55, of Midland, went home to be with her Lord Jesus Christ on Wednesday, December 14, 2016 in Midland.

Teresa was born April 22, 1961 in Durango, Durango Mexico to the late Jesus and Maria Enriquez. She was raised by her mother, Maria Enriquez.

Teresa met and later married Adolfo Bustamante on March 19, 1995. She was a loving wife, mother, sister, and grandmother who enjoyed spending time with her loving family. She will be missed greatly by all her family and friends.

Teresa was preceded in death by her parents; one brother, Isidro Enriquez; and one sister, Guadalupe Guerrero.

She is survived by her husband, Adolfo Bustamante of Midland, Texas; four daughters, Luizanna B. Sessions and husband Jared, Yadira Bustamante, Melina Bustamante, and Xizela Bustamante, all of Midland; three brothers, Juan Enriquez and Santiago Enriquez, both of Midland, and Jesus Enriquez of Durango, Mexico; three sisters, Maria del Carmen Enriquez of Gainesville, Georgia, Angeles Padron of Graham, Texas, and Socorro Gil of Mineral Wells, Texas; one granddaughter, Sadie Esmeralda Sessions; and by numerous nephews, nieces, and cousins.

A funeral service will be Friday, December 16, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. at Iglesia De Cristo. Burial will follow at Serenity Memorial Gardens.

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
2500 N. Big Spring · Midland, TX · (432) 682-3700

Thomas Byron Parker, Jr.

1924-2016

Thomas (Tom) Parker passed away December 9, 2016 in Marble Falls, Texas. Tom was 92 years old and had lived with his wife of 75 years, Norma, in Meadowlakes for the last 20 years. Prior to moving to Meadowlakes Tom and Norma lived in Midland for 40 years where Tom worked in the plumbing supply business.

Tom was a World War II combat veteran who received a Purple Heart from the Battle of Bulge in the Ardennes forest.

Tom is survived by his wife Norma, daughters Sherry Weber and Candy (Steve) Hawkins, and his son Tim (Sunny) Parker all of the Marble Falls area. He also has 4 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

Services for Tom are pending.

Online condolences may be made at: www.clementswilcoxfuneralhome.com

Death Notices

Harvey Harper

Harvey Harper 80, of Midland, TX. passed away December 8, 2016 at Terrace West Nursing Home with Hospice.

He is survived by three daughter, Jackie Strambler, Cynthia Hutson and Erica Hooper and brother, Henry "Stormy" Beck.

Services will be at Saturday, December 17, 2016, 2 pm at Jackie Warren Funeral Home.

Martha Elida Elvira

Martha Elida Elvira, 54, of Midland, passed away on Tuesday, December 13, 2016.

Rosary will be recited at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, December 18, 2016 at Acres West 24 Hour Chapel in Odessa. Funeral Services will be 10:00 a.m. Monday, December 19, 2016 at Acres West 24 Hour Chapel. Interment follows at Serenity Memorial Gardens in Midland.

Martha is survived by her father, Cipriano Parra; sons, Adrian Bejarano and Alex Elvira; one brother; and one sister.

Roberto "Boss" Aldana

Roberto "Boss" Aldana, 81, of Midland passes away Tuesday, December 13, 2016 surrounded by his family. Memorial Mass will be held 11:00 a.m., Monday, December 19, 2016 at St. Stephen's Catholic Church in Midland.

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

Survivors include wife, Elida Aldana; son, Robert Aldana, Jr.; daughters, Yvonne Garcia, Cynthia Marquez, and Amy Purdy; thirteen grandchildren; six great grandchildren; and sisters, Janie Cantu and Irene Castaneda.

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

Pope picks bishop from Alaska to lead Diocese of Dallas

By Liz Farmer and Claire Ballor
The Dallas Morning News

"I am grateful to our Holy Father, Pope Francis, for his confidence in appointing me as your next bishop. I am humbled by this opportunity."

Bishop Edward J. Burns

DALLAS — In a move North Texas Catholics have been awaiting since August, Pope Francis named Juneau's Bishop Edward J. Burns as bishop of the Dallas Catholic Diocese on Tuesday.

The 59-year-old has served in Alaska since 2009 and the year before was named rector of St. Paul Seminary in Pittsburgh.

The Dallas position had been held by Bishop Kevin Farrell until August, when he was named to lead the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life, a new Vatican department.

The beloved leader was named a cardinal two months later.

Burns was introduced to Dallas on Tuesday during a news conference at the Diocese of Dallas building where his picture is already framed and hanging on the wall.

"I am grateful to our Holy Father, Pope Francis, for his confidence in appointing me as your next bishop. I am humbled by this opportunity," he said.

The diocese tweeted a statement from Farrell, who said he's known Burns and worked with him for many years at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"His warm, outgoing and collaborative personality as well as his extensive experience on vocations, safe environment and parish ministry make him an excellent choice to lead the Diocese of Dallas," Farrell wrote. "I know he will be warmly welcomed in the diocese that I love so well."

Burns worked on the national level as executive director of the Secretariat for Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, D.C., since 1999, according to a Dallas Diocese news release issued Tuesday.

He was ordained a priest in 1983 after attending seminary at St. Paul and earning a degree in philosophy and sociology from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.

He serves as chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People, is a member of the subcommittee on Catholic Home Missions and as a member of the Catholic Relief Services Board of Directors.

Burns arrives to a diocese of 1.3 million Catholics; the Juneau community had 10,000. It will be a significant change, he said, but one he's ready for.

About 700,000 Dallas Catholics are Latinos. Farrell, who speaks fluent Spanish, was widely praised for his work with the Latino community and his efforts to close the gap between English and Spanish speaking parishes.

Burns said carrying on this work will be a large focus. Although he doesn't speak Spanish fluently, he said he plans to learn.

Please see BURNS/6B

SUPPORT

From 1B

The challenge grant will not only sustain WTFB's efforts through the holiday season, but beyond. Campbell said that seniors face many more obstacles, such as living on a fixed income and dietary requirements, which sometimes force them to choose between buying medication or food.

The grant will help those struggling to afford their basic needs.

"For many in our community, holiday memories are about hunger, not hope," she said. "We want to change that."

For more information or to donate to WTFB, visit wtxfoodbank.org.

SHOPPING

From 1B

manager Sandra Crain hosted the other organizations at the center of the store's main entrance. UTPB Enactus students accepted donations to Lone Star Animal Sanctuary and Matt's BackPack while also talking to shoppers about the missions of each agency.

"They really made everyone who gave feel so special and like they really were a part of something larger."

Uptown Midland Business and Professional Women director Jonna Smoot

ally were a part of something larger," Smoot said.

Enactus is an international nonprofit that works to inspire students to better the world through entrepreneurial action. Matt's Backpacks provides supplies and packs to the homeless population in Odessa.

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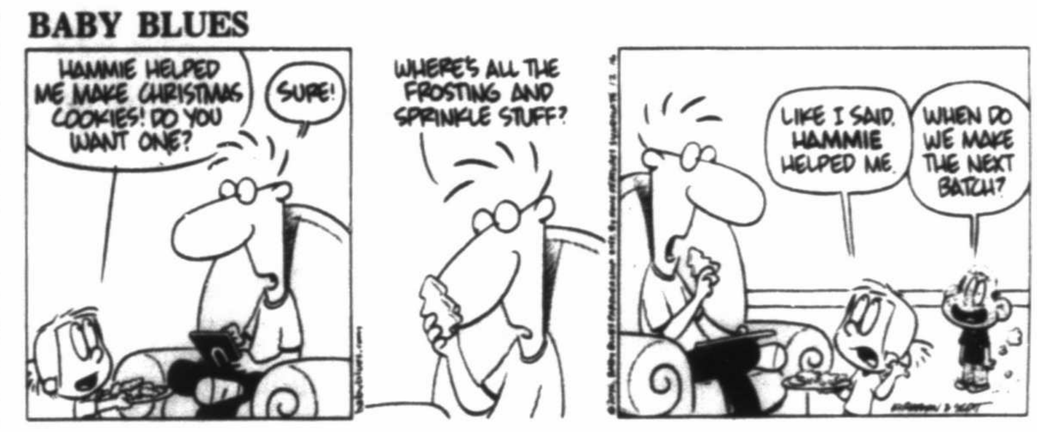

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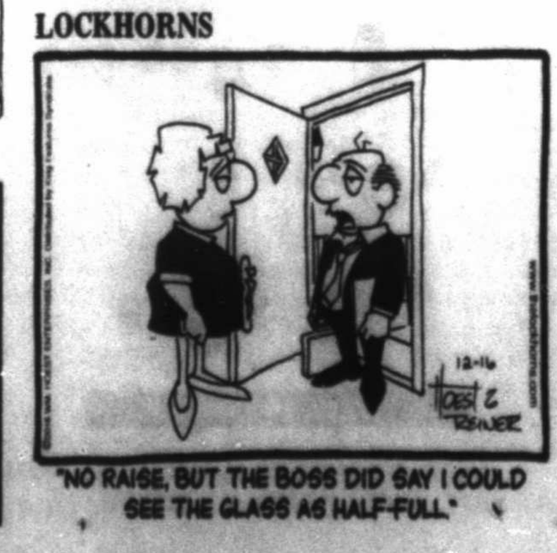

"NO RAISE, BUT THE BOSS DID SAY I COULD SEE THE GLASS AS HALF-FULL."

CALENDAR

Today

Christmas Toy Drive: Midland Soup Kitchen Ministry is collecting unwrapped toys for ages 5-12 and gift cards for teens. Drop off at 1401 Orchard Lane.

Permian Basin Christmas Celebration 2016 featuring Sandi Patty, Veritas and the Celebration Choir and Orchestra of FBC. Through Sunday at First Baptist Church Odessa, 709 N. Lee Ave. $10. fbcodessa.com.

Saturday

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

One Night in Bethelehem, 4 p.m. through Sunday at First Methodist Midland, 300 N. Main St.

Daddy Daughter Dance, 6 p.m. at Contre Tempo, 4400 Big Spring St., Suite C38. $25 per adult, $25 per child. dancestudio-pro.com.

Sunday

One Morning in Bethelehem, 8:30 and 10:45 a.m. at , First Methodist Midland, 300 N. Main St.

"God is with Us" Christmas musical during morning service. 10:45 a.m. at Second Baptist Church, 711 E. 17th St., Odessa. 2bcodessa.com.

Family Christmas Fala-lalapalooza will feature tacky Christmas attire contest, hot chocolate, photo booth, games, dinner and more. 5 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 800 W. Texas Ave. Adults, $8, children $4. fpcmid.org

Monday

Grief Support six-week session, 6:30-8 p.m. Mondays at Hospice Midland. hospiceofmidland.org.

Belly Dancing Class, 8 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Church, 3301 Neely Ave. uumidland.org.

Wednesday

Caregiver Support group, noon-1 p.m. at Hospice Midland. hospiceofmidland.org.

Traveler's Christmas Service with Plumb, 6 p.m. at First Methodist Midland, 300 N. Main St.

Thursday

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

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

BURNS

From 4B

He addressed the immigrant community directly after speaking in broken Spanish and said: "We are in solidarity with you. We want to serve you in any way that we can."

A lead organizer with Dallas Area Interfaith, Josephine Lopez Paul, said the multi-institutional group is eager to work with the new bishop.

"His attention and care to the immigrant community will be very critical," said Lopez Paul. "Farrell focused on building bridges between communities, and we need that to continue."

President Thomas Keefe of the University of Dallas, a Catholic college in Irving that works closely with the bishop of Dallas, said Burns has already called the school and introduced himself.

"Bishop Burns is an incredible find for the Dallas Diocese," said Keefe. "He's one of the best bishops in the country with a great reputation as a hard worker and collaborator. UD is very excited for him to come to Dallas."

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Cowboys' Prescott unfazed by Romo talk



Associated Press

Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott (4) reacts after being knocked down during the second half of a game against the New York Giants on Sunday in East Rutherford, N.J.

By Schulyer Dixon
Associated Press

FRISCO — If Dak Prescott hears the chatter about Tony Romo after his worst game as a pro, Dallas' rookie quarterback isn't letting on. .

And if Jerry Jones is irritating franchise icon Troy Aikman by giving the Romo talk more life with comments on his radio show, the Dallas owner doesn't really care.

"He might have had sensitivity but Dak doesn't," Jones said Thursday, referring to the quarterback who won him three Super Bowls in the 1990s.

"I'm serious. I don't mean that negatively. I appreciate him saying it. I respect him. But Dak Prescott's No. 1 quality is that he doesn't get distracted."

The 23-year-old who assumed Romo's job and kept it with an 11-game winning streak after the 36-year-old hurt his back again in the preseason was right on cue a day earlier.

"Everybody has the option to listen to it, so I just don't listen," Prescott said.

And it doesn't matter if those close to him are listening.

"My family definitely knows not to come to me with he said, she said," Prescott said. "And the teammates know, not just me, but throughout this locker room, we don't pay attention to that. Ya'll get paid to do that. We don't."

After Prescott had a season-low 45.4 passer rating in a 10-7 loss to the New York Giants that ended the 11-game run, Jones was asked what it would take for the Cowboys to consider replacing his new starter with Romo.

Dallas' 10-year starter was relegated to the backup role when he returned from his fourth back injury in less than four years.

"I don't have a definition for it, but you'll know it when you see it," Jones said on his radio show. "It's kind of like a definition I heard one time of another issue trying to define a negative topic, and they said, 'I don't know how to say it, but it's just something that when you see it, you'll know it's there.' We'll see it."

Two days later, Aikman strongly criticized his former boss in his

Please see **PRESCOTT**/3C

Braves fall short at state



Photos by Jacob Ford/Odessa American

TOP: Bremond Tigers' Josh White (7) runs for a large gain as Iraan Braves Corley Collins (4) attempts a tackle during the second quarter of the Class 2A District II state championship Thursday at AT&T Stadium in Arlington. **BELOW:** Iraan Braves' quarterback Clayton Kent (11) carries the runner-up trophy off the field and towards the locker rooms as his team follows behind.

Bremond, Paul too much for Iraan

By Eric Blum
Odessa American

ARLINGTON — Iraan's football season didn't end the way the team and community dreamt of.

It wasn't the ideal ending for the Braves, who brought their undefeated record into Arlington's AT&T Stadium for the Class 2A Division II state championship game against Bremond.

They were riding not only the wave of emotion from the recent cheerleader bus crash, but more importantly, the Braves came into Thursday's game confident that what they'd been practicing all season was good enough to lift a state championship trophy.

The Tigers wanted to win a third straight state championship as well led by quarterback Roshauud Paul, who was recently named Mr. Texas Football. Paul showed throughout the state championship game why he is committed to Texas A&M despite playing in the state's smallest 11-man football classification.

Bremond defeated Iraan 49-28 in front of a crowd of nearly 8,000 with Paul accounting for six of his team's seven touchdowns.



"We prepared as much as we could, but when you're up against a guy like that, you can't make a single tackle, it has to be group tackles," Iraan senior Canon Andrews said about Paul. "Sometimes we'd get it and sometimes he'd break free."

At halftime, Paul only had 48 yards rushing on 16 carries, with Iraan's defense stuffing him after a few steps several times.

The lid containing Paul could only stayed closed for so long as he erupted for 183 yards in the game's final two quarters, bringing his game-high total to 231 yards. Paul added 153 yards passing and a touchdown.

"We kind of opened it up by giving it to (Kaidyn Peralez) who tried to run outside and that opened up the holes up

Please see **IRAAN**/2C

Cheerful, colorful NBA reporter Craig Sager dies at 65

By Kristie Rieken
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Craig Sager never once thought about giving up as he battled cancer for more than two years.

"Man, life is too beautiful, too wonderful, there's just too many things," he said in late August. "It's not just you. It's your family and kids and all. Fight. Fight until the end. Fight as hard as you can."



Sager

The end for the beloved TNT broadcaster came Thursday when the man known as much for his outrageous wardrobe as his relationships with the NBA's elite succumbed to the disease he fought so hard to overcome. Turner Sports announced his death without disclosing details. He was 65 and had worked basketball games for TNT for nearly a quarter-century.

"Craig Sager was a beloved member of the Turner family for more than three decades and he has been a true inspiration to all of us," Turner President David Levy said. "There will never be another Craig Sager. His incredible talent, tireless work ethic and commitment to his craft took him all over the world covering sports."

His son, Craig Jr., posted a loving video tribute to his father, tweeting: "We packed a lifetime and then some into these 28 years together."

Sager's passing brought out condolences from every corner of the NBA and Hall of Famer Larry Bird expressed what many were feeling.

"He was as identifiable with the NBA as any player or coach," Bird said. "The league will not be the same without him."

Magic Johnson echoed those sentiments on Twitter.

"The NBA family lost a legend who changed the way sideline reporters did their job. RIP Craig Sager," Johnson said.

It wasn't just the NBA community that mourned his passing, with Vice President Joe Biden and Drake expressing sadness at the loss.

Sager had two bone marrow transplants with his son as the donor before undergoing a third one from an anonymous donor at the end of August in Houston to fight an aggressive form of leukemia. To no one's surprise, he was characteristically cheerful.

"It really isn't all that painful, not physically," he said then. "I think the hardest toll is mentally and emotionally. I have this thing of positive thinking. I think if you think something is going to be right and you think positive then you feel that way and if you feel that way

Please see **SAGER**/4C

Mary Hardin-Baylor, Wisconsin-Oshkosh meet for DIII title

Associated Press

SALEM, Va. — One newcomer to the Division III national championship game and a team that has been there once before will square off when Mary Hardin-Baylor of Texas and Wisconsin-Oshkosh vie for the Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl title Friday night.

Coach Pete Fredenburg of Mary Hardin-Baylor (14-0) said the absence of mighty Mount Union from the Division III national championship game for the first time in a dozen years is "refreshing." It was Fredenburg's team that sent the defending champion Purple Raiders home for the holidays, beating them 14-12 last week.

"Beating Mount Union Saturday was a huge boost for our program," Fredenburg said about the significance of beating the perennial power that has made appearing in the Stagg Bowl nearly a foregone conclusion, playing in 19 of the last 21 games. "Beating Mount Union gives you some confidence that you can compete with anybody in the country."

Wisconsin-Oshkosh (13-1) had its own brush with regular visitors to Salem Stadium this season, losing to Wisconsin-Whitewater 17-14 on Oct. 8.

The Warhawks have been to nine title games in 11 seasons, and have won six times.

The Titans, however, have since run off nine victories in a row, and secured their first trip to the championship game with a 10-3 victory against John Carroll in the lowest scoring semifinal in Division III history. John Carroll, which also lost 33-14 to Oshkosh in its opener, had beaten both Whitewater and Mount Union.

Mary Hardin-Baylor is making its second appearance in the championship, having lost 28-21 to Linfield in 2004, while Oshkosh has never made it this far. Coach Pat Cerroni credits regular-season meetings with Mount Union in 2010 and 2011 with providing his coaching staff and players with a "huge turning point" for his program.

"You really saw where you needed to get to," Cerroni said.

Both teams enter the title showdown boasting eye-popping numbers on both sides of the ball.

Mary Hardin-Baylor is second nationally, averaging 49.4 points, and Oshkosh averages 38.3 points. The Titans are sixth nationally in scoring defense, allowing just 12.9 points, while the Crusaders allow just 14.4 points.

Individually, Crusaders running back Markeith Miller has

Please see **TITLE**/3C

DAILY RUNDOWN

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

ON TV

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

FCS Semifinal: James Madison at North Dakota State, 6 p.m., ESPN2

Division III Championship: Mary Hardin-Baylor vs. UW Oshkosh, 8 p.m., ESPNU

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Class 4A Division II Final: Sweetwater vs. West Orange-Stark, Noon, FSSW, FCSC

Class 4A Division I Final: Abilene Wyle vs. Carthage, 4 p.m., FSSW, FCSC

Class 5A Division II Final: Aledo vs. Corpus Christi Calallen, 8 p.m., FSSW+, FCSC

KICKBOXING

Joe Schilling vs. Victorio Lermano, 10:15 p.m., SPIKE

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

North Dakota State at North Dakota, 8 p.m., FCSP

MEN'S COLLEGE HOCKEY

Colorado College at Miami-OH, 6:30 p.m., FCSA

MEN'S SOCCER

Bundesliga: TSG 1899 Hoffenheim vs. Borussia Dortmund, 1:30 p.m., FS1, GolTV

Scottish Premier: Hamilton Academical FC vs. Rangers FC, 1:40 p.m., FSP

English Championship: Norwich City FC vs. Huddersfield Town FC, 1:40 p.m., beIN

La Liga: Deportivo Alaves vs. Betis, 1:40 p.m., beIN2

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

King Mo vs. Satoshi Ishii, 8 p.m., SPIKE

NBA

LA Lakers at Philadelphia, 7 p.m., ESPN, ESPNDEP

Dallas at Utah, 9:30 p.m., ESPN, FSSW

NHL

Los Angeles at Pittsburgh, 6 p.m., NBCSN

ON RADIO

NBA

Dallas at Utah, 9:30 p.m., KBST 1490 AM (Big Spring)

WHAT'S ON DECK

High school

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Fort Stockton at Midland High, 6 p.m.

Brownfield at Midland Christian, 6 p.m. with art

Lee at Snyder, 6:30 p.m.

Greenwood at Levelland, 6:30 p.m.

MCA at O'Donnell, 6 p.m.

Ira at Big Spring, 6 p.m.

McCamey at Andrews, 6 p.m.

Stanton at Crane, 6:30 p.m.

Coahoma at Sands Varsity Tournament

Borden County at Grady, 6:30 p.m.

Forsan at Winters, 6:30 p.m.

Robert Lee at Garden City, 6:30 p.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Ira at Grady, 2 p.m.

Lubbock Monterey vs. MHS at Chaparral Center, 6:30 p.m.

Klondike at Coahoma, 6:30 p.m.

Midland Christian at San Angelo TLCA, 7:30 p.m.

MCA at Odessa Latter Rain, 7:30 p.m.

Seminole at Big Spring, 7:30 p.m.

McCamey at Andrews, 7:30 p.m.

Greenwood at Levelland, 8 p.m.

Stanton at Crane, 8 p.m.

Klondike at Coahoma, 6:30 p.m.

Forsan at Sands Varsity Tournament

Robert Lee at Garden City, 8 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

American League

NEW YORK YANKEES — Agreed to terms with LHP Aroldis Chapman on a five-year contract. Designated RHP Nick Goody for assignment.

National League

COLORADO ROCKIES — Agreed to terms with LHP Mike Dunn on a three-year contract.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Agreed to terms with LHP Tommy Milone on a one-year contract and with INF Eric Sogard, RHP Hiram Burgos and LHP Andy Oliver on minor league contracts.

NEW YORK METS — Agreed to terms with RHP Ben Rowen and RHP Cory Burns on minor league contracts.

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Agreed to terms with OF Odubel Herrera on a five-year contract.

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Named Dave Brundage manager of Sacramento (PCL).

American Association

KANSAS CITY T-BONES — Sold the contract of RHP David Holman to the Colorado Rockies.

SIOUX FALLS CANARIES — Signed C Michael Fabech.

WINNIPEG GOLDEYES — Signed INF Wes Darvill. Traded RHP Winston Abreu to Cleburne for future considerations.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES — Assigned G Wade Baldwin IV to Iowa (NBADL). Waived G Toney Douglas.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

NFL — Suspended Cleveland OL Alvin Bailey, without pay, for two games for a substance violation.

BUFFALO BILLS — Signed LB Bryson Albright and RB Cedric O'Neal to the practice squad.

CHICAGO BEARS — Signed DB De'Vante Bausby to the practice squad. Placed TE Justin Perillo on the practice squad injured list.

CLEVELAND BROWNS — Signed DL Trevon Coley to the practice squad.

DETROIT LIONS — Claimed DE Corey Lemonier off waivers from Cleveland. Waived CB Adarius Barnes.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Signed LB Deontmaz Mount from the practice squad. Waived LB Lavar Edwards.

LOS ANGELES RAMS — Placed RB Benny Cunningham and DE Robert Quinn on injured reserve. Signed G David Arkin and DL Morgan Fox from the practice squad.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Claimed WR Michael Floyd off waivers from Arizona. Released WR Griff Whalen.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

BOSTON BRUINS — Recalled F Anton Blidh from Providence (AHL). Assigned F Danton Heinen to Providence.

COLORADO AVALANCHE — Reassigned F Reid Petryk to San Antonio (AHL).

American Hockey League

MILWAUKEE ADMIRALS — Assigned Fs Anthony Richard and Justin Kirkland to Cincinnati (ECHL).

ECHL

ELMIRA JACKALS — Announced G Jason Kasdorf has been recalled by Rochester (AHL).

SOCCER

Major League Soccer

COLORADO RAPIDS — Signed coach Pablo Mastroeni to a contract through the 2019 season.

FC DALLAS — Signed D Atiba Harris.

PORTLAND TIMBERS — Announced Portland and D Steven Taylor have mutually agreed to terminate his contract.

COLLEGE

CALIFORNIA — Fired defensive coordinator Art Kaufman.

LSU — Named Bobby April special teams coach.

MOREHEAD STATE — Announced the resignation of men's basketball coach Sean Woods.

SPORTS ODDS

FAVORITE	OPEN	College Football TODAY Saturday	O/U	UNDERDOG
		New Mexico Bowl At Albuquerque, N.M.		
New Mexico	7½	7½	(59½)	UTSA
		Las Vegas Bowl At Las Vegas		
Houston	3	4	(51½)	San Diego St
		Cure Bowl At Orlando, Fla.		
UCF	6½	6	(49½)	Arkansas St
		Camellia Bowl At Montgomery, Ala.		
Toledo	2½	1	(59½)	Appalachian St
		New Orleans Bowl At New Oleans		
Southern Miss	2	5½	(58½)	Louisiana-Lafayette
		Monday (Dec. 19) Miami Beach Bowl At Miami		
Tulsa	11	12½	(69)	Cent. Michigan
		Tuesday, (Dec. 20) Boca Raton Bowl At Boca Raton, Fla.		
W Kentucky	7	5	(79)	Memphis
		Wednesday (Dec. 21) Poinsettia Bowl At San Diego		
BYU	7½	9	(56½)	Wyoming
		Thursday (Dec. 22) Famous Idaho Potato Bowl At Boise, ID		
Colorado St.	13	13½	(65)	Idaho
		Friday (Dec. 23) Bahamas Bowl At Nassau, Bahamas		
Old Dominion	+1	4	(64½)	E. Michigan
		Armed Forces Bowl At Fort Worth, TX		
Louisiana Tech	+1	5	(66½)	Navy
		Dollar General Bowl At Mobile, Ala.		
Troy	5	4	(49)	Ohio
		Saturday (Dec. 24) Hawaii Bowl At Honolulu		
at Hawaii	OFF	OFF	(OFF)	Middle Tennessee
		Monday (Dec. 26) St. Petersburg Bowl At St. Petersburg, Fla.		
Mississippi St	11	13	(58½)	Miami (Ohio)
		Quick Lane Bowl At Detroit		
Maryland	+2	1	(43½)	Boston College
		Independence Bowl At Shreveport, La.		
NC State	4	4½	(44)	Vanderbilt
		Tuesday (Dec. 27) Heart of Dallas Bowl At Dallas		
Army	9½	10	(49)	North Texas
		Military Bowl At Annapolis, Md.		
Temple	12	13	(41)	Wake Forest
		Holiday Bowl At San Diego		
Washington St.	4½	9½	(61½)	Minnesota
		Cactus Bowl At Phoenix		
Boise St.	9½	7	(67)	Baylor
		NFL Saturday		
Miami	4	2	(37½)	at NY JETS
		Sunday		
at DALLAS	9	7	(47)	Tampa Bay
at NY GIANTS	3½	4	(40½)	Detroit
at BALTIMORE	6½	5½	(40)	Philadelphia
Green Bay	4½	5½	(39)	at CHICAGO
at MINNESOTA	4	4	(45½)	Indianapolis
at BUFFALO	10	10	(41½)	Cleveland
at KANSAS CITY	6	5½	(41)	Tennessee
at HOUSTON	6	6	(39)	Jacksonville
at ARIZONA	3½	2½	(50)	New Orleans
at ATLANTA	11	14	(51½)	San Francisco
New England	3	3	(43½)	at DENVER
Oakland	PK	3	(49½)	at SAN DIEGO
Pittsburgh	3	3	(44)	at CINCINNATI
		Monday		
at WASHINGTON	4	6½	(50½)	Carolina

MHS lands 4 on APSE 6A honorable mention

From staff and wire reports

Four Midland High football players received honorable mention recognition on the Texas Associated Press Sports Editors Class 6A All-State Football Team released on Thursday.



Heiting



Childress



Springer



Sims

Senior offensive lineman Paxton Heiting, senior wide receiver Jalen Childress, senior defensive end Dillon Springer and senior safety Chris Sims made the list based on their performances during the regular season.

Childress had 39 catches for 833 yards and scored 12 total touchdowns. Heiting was the anchor of the Bulldogs' offensive line and was credited with 45 pancakes. Springer was credited with 95 total tackles, 10 tackles for loss, three sacks, four fumbles caused, four passes breakups and 13 hurries. And Sims had 102 total tackles, two tackles for loss, two interceptions, two fumble recoveries, two fumbles caused and eight pass breakups.

The only other District 2-6A team with multiple selections was district champion San Angelo Central, led by second team offensive lineman Cameron Cross. Six other Bobcats received honorable mention recognition: Receiver Adam West, quarterback Cal Vincent, running back Daven Manning, defensive lineman Henry Howard, linebacker Gehrig Scott and defensive back Dedrick Howard.

Wolfforth Frenship offensive lineman Jacob Piel was also honorable mention.

Texas APSE Class 6A all-state football team By The Associated Press

The 2016 Texas Associated Press Sports Editors Class 6A all-state high school football team, released Thursday. Voting based on regular-season performance. Players are listed in alphabetical order at each position.

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

Lineman:

■ CARSON GREEN, Southlake Carroll, Sr. — 98 percent grade, 81 knockdowns, no sacks allowed

■ JOE HEIRONIMUS, Austin Westlake, Sr. — 80 pancakes; 31 knockdowns, no sacks allowed, 97 percent grade

■ EDWARD INGRAM, DeSoto, Sr. — 99 percent grade, 46 pancakes

■ RYAN MILLER, Southlake Carroll, Sr. — 96 percent grade, 101 knockdowns, no sacks allowed

■ XAVIER NEWMAN, DeSoto, Sr. — 98 percent grade, 42 pancakes

Receivers/ends:

■ O'SHAE CLARK, Cypress Springs, Sr. — 70-1,736, 18 TDs

■ ERIK EZUKANMA, Keller Timber Creek, Jr. — 81-1,364, 18 TDs

Quarterback:

■ CHARLIE BREWER, Lake Travis, Sr. — 139-186-2,369, 35 TDs, 0 INTs passing; 5 TDs rushing

Running backs:

■ KENNEDY BROOKS, Mansfield, Sr. — 196-2,125, 26 TD

■ JOSH FIELDS, EP Americas, Sr. — 2,282 yards, 25 TDs rushing

■ DEONDRICK GLASS, Katy, Soph. — 150-1,594, 27 TDs

Kicker:

■ MICHAEL EWTON, Allen, Sr. — 10-11 FGs, 5 of 40+ yards, long of 51, 44-44 PATs

Offensive Player of the Year: Charlie Brewer, Lake Travis, Sr.

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

Linemen:

■ OBI ODUME, Alief Taylor, Sr. — 83 tackles, 43 solo, 12 sacks, 6 TFL, 2 FF

■ LIVINGSTON PROGOFIE, Arlington Bowie, Sr. — 61 tackles, 21 TFL, 7 sacks, 4 FF, 2 FR

■ MICHAEL PURCELL, The Woodlands, Sr. — 71 tackles, 10 TFL, 3 FF, 5 PBUs, 11 sacks

■ CODY ROSCOE, Houston Heights, Sr. — 59 tackles, 24 TFL, 22 sacks, 5 FF

Linebackers:

■ BRUCE BIVENS, Aldine Davis, Sr. — 81 tackles, 14.5 sacks, 20.5 TFL, 4 FR, 2 defensive TDs, 6 FF, 7 PBUs, 2 INTs

■ ANTHONY HINES, Plano East, Sr. — 220 tackles, 133 solo, 38 TFL, 5 sacks, 2 INTs, 4 FF

■ DE'LEX JONES, Austin Westlake, Sr. — 104 tackles, 13 TFL, 7 sacks, 3 FF, 11 PBUs

Defensive backs:

■ NOAH MORENO, Nolte Central, Jr. — 21 solo tackles, 15 assists, 6 INTs, 2 FR

■ CADEN STERNS, Cibolo Steele, Jr. — 56 tackles, 28 solo, 3 INTs, 2 INT returns for TDs, 4 PBUs

■ GARRISON VAUGHN, Belton, Jr. — 124 tackles, 5 INTs

■ CHRISTIAN WALLER, League City Clear Springs, Jr. - 29 tackles, 24 solo, 10 INTs, 11 PBUs, defensive TD

Punter:

■ ALEC BRINTON, Keller, Sr. — 43.1 avg., long of 71, 7 inside 20

Defensive Player of the Year: Anthony Hines, Plano East, Sr.

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

Lineman:

■ Shea Baker, Round Rock Cedar Ridge, Sr.; Jaylin Brown, Longview, Jr.; Samuel Cosmi, Humble Atascocita, Sr.; Cameron Cross, San Angelo Central, Sr.; Jake Helton, Austin Vandegrift, Sr.

Receivers/ends:

■ Arjei Henderson, Fort Bend Travis, Soph.; Charleston Rambo, Cedar Hill, Sr.

Quarterback:

■ Cedarious Barfield, EP El Dorado, Jr.

Running backs:

■ Noah Cain, Denton Guyer, Soph.; Justin Dinka, Lewisville Marcus, Soph.; Abram Smith, Abilene, Sr.; Treion Smith, Cypress Ridge, Sr.

Kicker:

■ Kole Ramage, Southlake Carroll, Sr.

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

Linemen:

■ Ivan Avila, McAllen Rowe; Josh Crosten, Cibolo Steele; Sir'Cole Maxwell, Allen, Sr.; Max Wright, Katy Taylor, Jr.

Linebackers:

■ Terrel Bernard, La Porte, Sr.; Surprise Gillman, Arlington Bowie, Sr.; Jaryd Lem, McAllen Memorial, Sr.; Nick Shiffmer, Keller Central, Sr.

Defensive backs:

■ Adrian Acosta, Edinburg Vela, Sr.; Jeff Okudah, South Grand Prairie, Sr.; Andrew Puente, La Joya Palmview, Sr.; Darius Vandyke, Schertz Clemens, Jr.

Punter:

■ Chris Robison, Mesquite Horn, Sr.

HONORABLE MENTION OFFENSE

LINEMEN: Alan Ali, Keller Timber Creek; Alex Coelitz, San Marcos; Austin Deculus, Cypress-Fairbanks; Noah Godinez, McAllen Memorial; Paxton Heiting, Midland; Camron Horry, Katy Taylor; Brenden Jaimes, Lake Travis; John Lenz, Denton Guyer; Manase Mose, Euless Trinity; Julio Pecina, San Benito; Brandon Perez, Westlaco; Brian Polendey, Denton Guyer; Donbi Smajli, Rockwall; Kendall Starling, Longview; Trey Stratford, Allen; Tyrese Williams, Cypress Ridge

RECEIVERS/ENDS: Keiwan Carter, The Woodlands; Jalen Childress, Midland; Sam Crawford, Rockwall; Shane Creamer, Del Rio; Brennan Eagles, Alief Taylor; Gaston Flores, Del Rio; Maurice Frank, Fort Bend Dulles; Dennis Houston, SA Northside Warren; Peyton Sawyer, League City Clear Springs; Adam West, San Angelo Central

QUARTERBACKS: Amryn Jeffrey, Fort Bend Travis; Peyton Mansell, Belton; Shawn Robinson, DeSoto; Chris Robison, Mesquite Horn; Kordell Rodgers, Lufkin; David Sanchez II, Laredo United; Eric Schmid, The Woodlands; Bryson Smith, Tyler; Greg Torres, Del Rio; Cal Vincent, San Angelo Central

RUNNING BACKS: Ean Beek, Katy Taylor; Marquis Duncan, SA Reagan; Lazarus Fisher, Mesquite; Daven Manning, San Angelo Central; Draeheim Minniewaether, North Mesquite; Roy Pedraza, Westlaco East; Jesus Posada, Laredo United South; Isaac Velasquez, Laredo United; Nakia Watson, Austin Westlake

KICKERS: Caden Davis, Coppell; Cameron Dicker, Lake Travis; Jonathen Manny, Abilene; Johan Portales, Laredo United South

HONORABLE MENTION DEFENSE

LINEMEN: Corey Bethley, Katy; Jordan Crawford, Pearland; Fernando Garza, Westlaco East; Eddie Hernejon, Laredo United; Henry Howard, San Angelo Central; Tony Kresnicz, Garland Sachse; Demarvin Leal, Corpus Judson; Spencer Misko, Keller; Jacob Piel, Wolfforth Frenship; Jaxon Player, Waco Midway; TJ Simien, Lake Travis; Dillon Springer, Midland; Deiontae Watts, Plano East; Kobie Whiteside, Alief Taylor

LINEBACKERS: Marrinevious Allison, Tyler; Alfredo Cardenas, Westlaco East; Jack Gibbens, Smithson Valley; Jayden Jackson, Cibolo Steele; Cort Jaquess, SA Churchill; John Garcia, SA Southwest; Matt Garland, Keller Central; Emilio Garza, San Benito; Zach Lazarkins, The Woodlands; Allan Martinez, Laredo United South; Daniel Mata, Del Rio; Dimitri Moore, Cedar Hill; Devin Nader, Cedar Hill; Gehrig Scott, San Angelo Central; Misi Tupou, Mission Veterans Memorial; Laredo Alexander; Kolby Watts, DeSoto

DEFENSIVE BACKS: Salid Acebo, Mansfield; Austin Allen, Laredo United; Raudel Alvarez, PSJA North; Robert Barnes, Southlake Carroll; Stevor Bowden, North Crowley; Millard Bradford, SA Northside O'Connor; Jay-Veon Cardwell, Cibolo Steele; Barrett Chambers, Austin Westlake; Isaac De La Fuente, Laredo United South; Joey Delgado, McAllen Memorial; Nick Enriquez, Edinburg Vela; Austin Hiller, Lake Travis; Dedrick Howard, San Angelo Central; Isaiah Humphries, Garland Sachse; Bryce Jackson, Denton Guyer; Jacob Keaton, Del Rio; Luke Lathlaen, Austin Vandegrift; Jephanish Lister, Longview; Brock Martin, San Angelo Central; Diego Rodriguez, Westlaco; Chris Sims, Midland; Lorenzo Solis, Laredo United South; Isaiah Stewart, DeSoto; Trenton Webster, Longview

PUNTERS: Matt Jones, Rockwall; Kole Ramage, Southlake Carroll; Alexis Tovar, La Joya.

IRAAN

From 1C

in the middle," Paul said about his second-half success. "I got to give credit to him. They had to defensively watch him and not just watch me. It allowed me to make my plays."

Paul's three straight rushing touchdowns from the middle of the third quarter to early in the fourth sealed the win for the Tigers (16-0) as he extended their lead from seven to 28.

"We tried to get more than one person to the ball," Iraan head coach Mark Kirchhoff said about stopping Paul. "You saw in the second half, four or five people didn't matter at times — phenomenal athlete, but just a great football player.

"Watching tape on the kid, it's not just his physical attributes but his leadership. And also, you could see his mental understanding of the game is superior to a lot of high school kids. I thought we did a nice job on him early. We started taking some chances in the second half, as far as our kids not really reading their keys. Everybody wanted to make the big play. And they made us pay a couple of times."

"We had a hell of a season and we just came up one game short," Iraan senior quarterback Clayton Kent said. "(Bremond) is a great team and they just outplayed us today.

"It's big to go out this way; the only better way would be if we won. I couldn't ask for a better season except for a win here."

Iraan (15-1) never led in the game, coming as close as trailing by seven on four occasions, but it couldn't pull out a touchdown or a defensive stop at the right time to flip the game's momentum.

"I thought we went out and played hard like we always do, just a great experience for our kids," Kirchhoff said. "I thought all night ours kids responded well to adversity as it came along. We were able to put some drives together and be in a really good position coming out at halftime.

"That's the character of our kids. They don't have the word quit in their vocabulary."

BREMOND 49, IRAAN 28

Bremond	7	14	14	14—49
Iraan	0	14	7	7—28

First quarter

Bremond — Joe Williams 40 pass from Roshaaud Paul (Gerardo Ponce kick), 3:56

Second quarter

Bremond — Kaidyn Peralez 37 run (Ponce kick), 11:52

Iraan — Kyle O'Bannon 43 yards run (Daryel Lozoya kick), 11:04

Bremond — Paul 2 run (Ponce kick), 8:59

Iraan — Lozoya 3 run (Lozoya kick), 1:21

Third quarter

Bremond — Paul 16 run (Ponce kick), 7:19

Iraan — O'Bannon 9 run (Lozoya kick), 5:05

Bremond — Paul 51 run (Ponce kick), 4:18

Fourth quarter

Bremond — Paul 4 run (Ponce kick), 11:54

Bremond — Paul 50 run (Ponce kick), 10:38

Iraan — O'Bannon 27 pass from Clayton Kent (Lozoya kick), 6:05

	Bremond	Iraan
First downs	16	15
Rushes-yards	43-309	50-311
Passing yards	153	26
Comp.-Att.-Int.	6-13-1	1-4-0
Punts-Avg.	0-0	2-36.0
Fumbles-lost	0-0	2-1
Penalties-yds	3-25	5-30

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING — Bremond, Roshaud Paul 32-231, Kaidyn Peralez 10-74, Josh White 1-4. Iraan Clayton Kent 17-149, Daryel Lozoya 25-98, Kyle O'Bannon 5-62, Canon Andrews 1-3, Team 1-(-1)

PASSING — Bremond, Paul 6-13-1—153. Iraan — Kent 1-4-0—26

RECEIVING — Bremond, White 3-84, Joe Williams 1-40, Peralez 1-22, Michael Pruitt 1-7. Iraan, O'Bannon 1-26

INTERCEPTIONS — Iraan, Corley Collins 1-0

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP ROUNDUP

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

REFUGIO CAPTURES 2A DI STATE TITLE

ARLINGTON — Diego Gonzales kicked an 18-yard field goal with 8 seconds remaining, and Refugio beat Crawford 23-20 to win the Class 2A Division I championship Thursday at AT&T Stadium.

Refugio's Jacobe Avery had 40 of his game-high 116 yards rushing on the winning drive, which covered 11 plays and 74 yards in the final 4 1/2 minutes. Refugio (15-1) won its fourth state title and first since 2011.

Gage Pearson threw for 168 yards and two touchdowns for Crawford (14-2), which was playing in its first title game since 2004. The announced attendance was 15,017, more than doubling the attendance of last seaon's Class 2A Division I championship game in Houston.

The game was delayed early in the fourth quarter when Refugio lineman Jackson Carroll was immobilized and taken off the field on a stretcher.

Avery opened the scoring with a 43-yard pass to Robert Ortiz and ran for two touchdowns, including a 17-yarder that gave Refugio a 20-13 lead midway through the fourth quarter.

After Crawford pulled even on Pearson's 44-yard touchdown pass to Garrett Dutschmann with 4:36 left to play in the fourth, Jaylon Mascorro ran 19 yards on the second play of the winning march, followed by Avery's 22-yard run to the Crawford 27.

Refugio drove to the Crawford 1 while working the clock, setting up Gonzales' kick, which sailed through the uprights with eight seconds to play.

GUNTER ROLLS BY BOLING FOR 3A DII STATE TITLE

ARLINGTON — Colson Stovall rushed for 180 yards and four touchdowns and Gunter rolled in its first state final appearance, beating Boling 43-7 for the Class 3A Division II championship Thursday night.

Stovall had TD runs of 1, 5, 22 and 2 yards, and quarterback Trey Carr opened the scoring with a 1-yard plunge as Gunter (16-0) built a 21-0 lead by the middle of the second quarter. Carr rushed for 105 yards and completed all four of his passes for 37 yards.

The announced attendance for the game was 18,812.

Gunter didn't allow an offensive touchdown and gave up just 142 yards total offense and six first downs while gaining 411 yards.

The only touchdown for Boling (13-3) came on an 80-yard kickoff return by Ronal Krushall.

Gunter was coming off a semifinal victory over two-time Class 2A Division I champion Canadian. Boling won a title in its only other trip to the state finals in 1972.

Dylan Jantz rushed for 48 yards and Gunter's final touchdown on a 26-yard run in the fourth quarter.

HS FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP PAIRINGS

CLASS 6A DIVISION I
State Championship
The Woodlands (15-0) vs. Lake Travis (14-1), 8 p.m. Saturday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 6A DIVISION II
State Championship
DeSoto (15-0) vs. Cibolo Steele (14-1), 4 p.m. Saturday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 5A DIVISION I
State Championship
Dallas Highland Park (13-2) vs. Temple (12-3), noon Saturday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 5A DIVISION II
State Championship
Aledo (15-0) vs. CC Calallen (14-1), 8 p.m. Today, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 4A DIVISION I
State Championship
Abilene Wylie (13-1) vs. Carthage (12-2), 4 p.m. Today, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 4A DIVISION II
State Championship
Sweetwater (13-1) vs. West Orange-Stark (15-0), noon Today, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

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PLEASE VISIT THE EVENTS SECTION OF OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.MIDLANDHUMANE.ORG/EVENTS FOR TICKETS AND MORE INFORMATION

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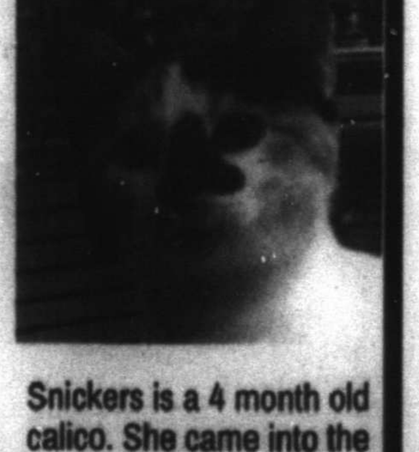
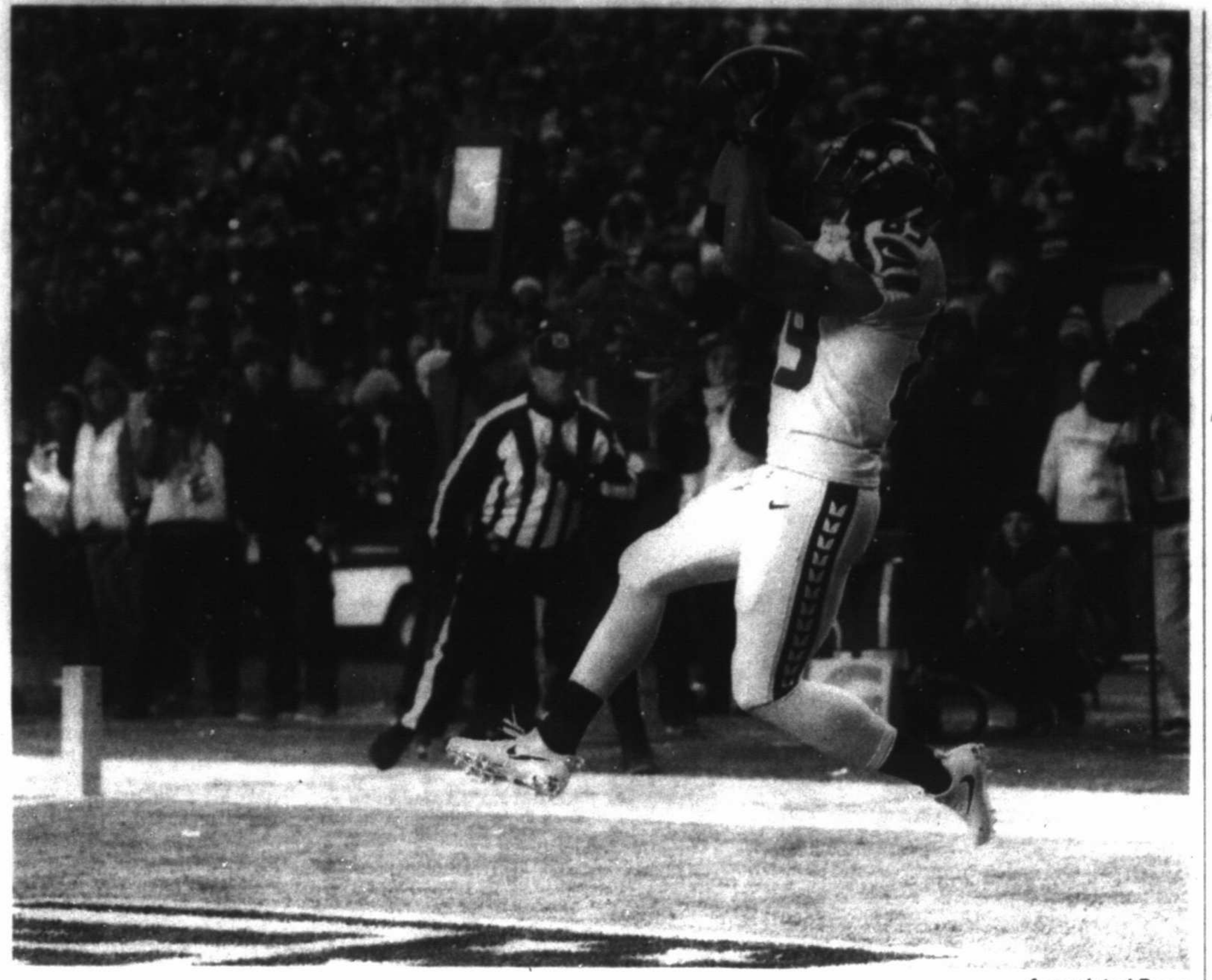


Snickers is a 4 month old calico. She came into the Center with her brothers Mars (available) & Twix (adopted). Snickers is about as friendly & loving as they come & can't wait to meet her new owners.



Associated Press

Seattle Seahawks wide receiver Doug Baldwin catches a pass in the end zone for a touchdown against the Los Angeles Rams in the second half of a game, Thursday in Seattle.

Seahawks take NFC West title with 24-3 win over Rams

By Tim Booth
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Russell Wilson threw three touchdown passes, Tyler Lockett had 130 yards receiving and a score, and the Seattle Seahawks won the NFC West title with a 24-3 victory over the Los Angeles Rams on Thursday night.

Seattle claimed its third NFC West title in four seasons, assuring itself of at least one home game in the playoffs and keeping the pressure on Detroit in the competition for the No. 2 seed in the NFC and a first-round bye. Seattle also snapped a three-game losing streak to the Rams.

It wasn't an impressive display by Seattle (9-4-1), but was far better than Sunday when the Seahawks were blown out by Green Bay with Wilson throwing five interceptions.

Wilson was good enough against the listless Rams. After slogging through the first half, Wilson threw a 1-yard touchdown pass to Doug Baldwin late in the third quarter for a 17-3 lead, then put the game away on a 57-yard touchdown strike to Lockett on the second play of the fourth quarter.

Wilson finished 19 of 26 for 229 yards, but also threw a careless interception at the goal line midway through the fourth quarter. Seven of those passes went to Lockett, whose previous career high was 104 yards. Luke Willson also had an 8-yard TD catch in the first half.

Another mostly forgettable Thursday night game was made at least somewhat more entertaining by the Seahawks and their highlighter green uniforms that drew wild opinions all over social media. The "Action Green" uniforms had very little action in the first half, before a second-half effort that assured another banner would be raised at CenturyLink Field.

A tumultuous few days for the Rams (4-10) after the firing of Jeff Fisher as head coach culminated in their fifth straight loss and first under interim coach John Fassel. The Rams' defensive front caused problems for Seattle in the first half but the Los Angeles offense provided zero help.

Jared Goff was 13 of 25 for 135 yards before leaving in the fourth quarter to be checked for a possible concussion. The Rams finished with 183 total yards, but 90 of those came in the fourth quarter.

QUIET GURLEY: Los Angeles running back Todd Gurley was again unable to get started in the run game, continuing a frustrating second season. Gurley was held to 38 yards on 14 carries. He did have a 22-yard run late in the second quarter that set up Greg Zuerlein's 36-yard field goal, but it as just his second run of 20 yards or more this season. Gurley had 11 runs of 20 or more yards last year.

SACK ATTACK: After getting no pressure on the quarterback in the past three weeks, the Seahawks rediscovered their pass rush.

Seattle had two sacks in the first half and finished with four after the Seahawks had five total sacks in the previous five weeks. Cliff Avril was the main culprit with 1 1/2 sacks, giving him a career-high 11 1/2 for the season.

Colorado's Mike MacIntyre wins AP Coach of the Year

By Pat Graham
Associated Press

BOULDER, Colo. — Mike MacIntyre has the reputation as a turnaround artist. Give him a program, any program, and he will transform it.

Colorado, though, had the looks of being the sort of program that not even MacIntyre could fix.



MacIntyre

After three years that resulted in a grand total of 10 victories, MacIntyre led the 11th-ranked Buffaloes to a 10-win season, a spot in the Pac-12 Championship game and even onto the fringes of the national-title conversation for a week or two. Colorado also will make its first bowl appearance since 2007.

For that, MacIntyre is The Associated Press college football Coach of the Year. He received 109 points and 25 first-place votes from the AP college football poll panel, while Penn State's James Franklin was second with 98 and 16. Alabama's Nick Saban was third with 57 and 13.

"We played a lot of young guys and they worked hard and got better," explained MacIntyre, who became the first Colorado coach to win the award since it began in 1998. "They grew into their talent and kept right on going."

To comprehend just how far Colorado has come, it's important to know where the Buffaloes were before MacIntyre arrived. In 2012, they led the nation in games started by true freshmen, got outscored by a 552-214 margin and lost a school-high 11 games that ultimately cost coach Jon Embree his job.

MacIntyre realized he was inheriting a program that had fallen on hard times. But the depths of that decline caught him off guard.

"Overall, to be able to compete, to be in the Pac-12 Championship game, we weren't very close," MacIntyre said.

MacIntyre gradually revamped the program — just like he did at San Jose State when he inherited a 2-10 squad and in three seasons turned the Spartans into a double-digit win team.

All he needed was time and a chance to develop his talent. After going 2-25 in conference games over his first three seasons at Colorado, some publications listed him on the hot seat heading into the season.

Now, he's one of the hottest coaches in the business.

"It's been remarkable, what's occurred this season," said former Colorado coach Gary Barnett, who's now a radio analyst for Buffs football games. "They've acted like they've been there before, acted like a mature team that's used to winning. They have this resiliency to find a way to win, every single game they've been in."

"The Rise" — as Colorado has labeled it — has been no surprise to his players. They bought in from the beginning. Take junior running back Phillip Lindsay. He was recruited by the previous regime and didn't know if his scholarship would still be honored after suffering a serious knee injury in high school.

MacIntyre visited him and assured Lindsay that one day he would play a role in leading this team back to prominence. Lindsay rushed for 1,189 yards and 16 scores this-season. He won't forget that trust from MacIntyre.

He believed. His teammates believed — even as the Buffaloes struggled.

And that's a program trending in the right direction — with big crowds showing up again at Folsom Field. They appeared in their first conference title game — losing 41-10 to No. 4 Washington — since 2005, when they were in the Big 12. They're also heading to the Alamo Bowl against Oklahoma State — with a chance to become just the fourth team in school history to win 11 games.

"We've been making steps. Some of them were baby steps, but we were moving forward," said MacIntyre, whose late father, George MacIntyre, was the coach at Vanderbilt from 1979 to 1985. "We weren't going backward at all."

This helped, too — upgrades to the athletic facilities, including a new indoor practice field. Recently, MacIntyre took the team over to their old digs, just as a reminder of how far they've come.

"Those young freshmen were like, 'What's this?'" MacIntyre recounted. "You can't kick it high, the lights are weird. But this is what it was for us all the time.

"There might be some times we go back down there and do some morning drills like we used to and make them realize how nice we've got it."

MacIntyre's always been an emotional coach. After a win at Oregon, MacIntyre hugged his son Jay, a sophomore receiver, as he wiped away tears. His players appreciate that side of him.

NFL GLANCE

Standings

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
East						
New England	11	2	0	846	349	230
Miami	8	5	0	615	281	301
Buffalo	6	7	0	462	325	301
N.Y. Jets	4	9	0	308	229	324
South						
Houston	7	6	0	538	229	274
Tennessee	7	6	0	538	321	306
Indianapolis	6	7	0	462	328	333
Jacksonville	2	11	0	154	240	338
North						
Pittsburgh	8	5	0	615	317	256
Baltimore	7	6	0	538	279	237
Cincinnati	5	7	1	423	268	269
Cleveland	0	13	0	000	207	375
West						
Kansas City	10	3	0	769	302	255
Oakland	10	3	0	769	358	320
Denver	8	5	0	615	296	242
San Diego	5	8	0	385	350	347

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
East						
x-Dallas	11	2	0	846	340	238
N.Y. Giants	9	4	0	692	255	244
Washington	7	5	1	577	330	317
Philadelphia	5	8	0	385	290	272
South						
Atlanta	8	5	0	615	428	345
Tampa Bay	8	5	0	615	293	296
New Orleans	5	8	0	385	358	351
Carolina	5	8	0	385	311	337
North						
Detroit	9	4	0	692	295	268
Green Bay	7	6	0	538	333	312
Minnesota	7	6	0	538	258	225
Chicago	3	10	0	231	221	290
West						
y-Seattle	9	4	1	679	298	235
Arizona	5	7	1	423	299	277
Los Angeles	4	10	0	286	197	328
San Francisco	1	12	0	077	251	393

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Scores and schedules

Monday's Score
New England 30, Baltimore 23

Thursday's Score
Seattle 24, Los Angeles 3

Saturday's Game
Miami at N.Y. Jets, 7:25 p.m.

Sunday's Games
Philadelphia at Baltimore, noon
Cleveland at Buffalo, noon
Detroit at N.Y. Giants, noon
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, noon
Tennessee at Kansas City, noon
Green Bay at Chicago, noon
Indianapolis-at Minnesota, noon
Jacksonville at Houston, noon
New Orleans at Arizona, 3:05 p.m.
San Francisco at Atlanta, 3:05 p.m.
New England at Denver, 3:25 p.m.
Oakland at San Diego, 3:25 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday's box

SEAHAWKS 24, RAMS 3

Los Angeles	0	3	0	0	—3
Seattle	0	10	7	7	—24

Second Quarter
Sea—Willson 8 pass from Wilson (Hauschka kick), 12:21
Sea—FG Hauschka 48, 8:45
LA—FG Zuerlein 36, :55

Third Quarter
Sea—Baldwin 1 pass from Wilson (Hauschka kick), 3:12

Fourth Quarter
Sea—Lockett 57 pass from Wilson (Hauschka kick), 14:49
A—69,067

	LA	Sea
First downs	13	19
Total Net Yards	183	299
Rushes-yards	17-47	30-72
Passing	136	227
Punt Returns	0-0	2-16
Kickoff Returns	5-98	2-48
Interceptions Ret	1-8	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	18-35-0	19-26-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	4-31	2-2
Punts	4-54.0	3-36.0
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-0
Penalties-Yards	8-76	13-86
Time of Possession	27:29	32:31

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Los Angeles, Gurley 14-38, Austin 2-13, M.Brown 1-(minus 4). Seattle, Rawls 21-34, Ryan 1-26, Wilson 6-12, Graham 1-0, Reece 1-0.

PASSING—Los Angelus, Goff 13-25-0-135, Hekker 0-1-0-0, Keenum 5-9-0-32. Seattle, Wilson 19-26-1-229.

RECEIVING—Los Angeles, K.Britt 4-50, Quick 3-46, Cooper 3-21, Austin 3-14, Higbee 1-15, M.Brown 1-12, M.Thomas 1-6, Kendricks 1-5, Gurley 1-(minus 2). Seattle, Lockett 7-130, Baldwin 5-35, Willson 3-19, Rawls 2-5, Graham 1-31, Reece 1-9.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

Prescott

From 1C

weekly radio appearance.

"I'm just really dumbfounded by the comments, and not only the first time, but why they continue," Aikman said. "I don't understand why you would talk."

Coach Jason Garrett follows the Aikman model, repeatedly declining to address the Romo issue other than reiterating that Prescott is the starter.

"We talk about the importance of focus with our team, right from the start," Garrett said. "It's an important word for everybody — coaches and players alike. That's not new this year, that's not new this week."

The two lowest totals in passing yardage for Prescott have come in the past two games, and he looked uncomfortable on a sub-freezing night at the Giants.

He doubled his interception total this season by throwing two for the first time.

Garrett said after the game he never considered going to Romo, but that didn't stop the topic during the week. Not that Prescott, a fourth-round pick who started training camp as the No. 3 quarterback, was surprised.

"The noise didn't just start," Prescott said. "It's the Dallas Cowboys. There's been noise from the time I've been drafted, so nothing really changes. So I don't think they need to come in and reinstate their confidence in me or do anything like that."

The Cowboys haven't been surprised by Prescott's reaction.

"That's there, and he knows it's there," executive vice president of Stephen Jones said. "When you have a Pro Bowl quarterback who a lot of people think is one of the best ones in the NFL sitting there, it's going to happen.

"Some people are going to say, 'Well, you've got a guy like that sitting there, should you consider that if you start to have a bump in the road.'"

Once Jerry Jones said it, he wasn't concerned about affecting the psyche of his young quarterback.

"The last thing I'm worried about is the fragileness of our team," Jerry Jones said. "Nobody is fragile. We completely support Dak as our starting quarterback. Unequivocally. That's that."

The owner just had a roundabout way of saying it earlier in the week.

Title

From 1C

run for 1,472 yards and 20 touchdowns, while quarterback Blake Jackson has thrown for 3,111 yards and 35 touchdowns with just eight interceptions. He also directs an option running game and has added 785 rushing yards and 10 touchdowns as a complement to Miller.

The Titans' quarterback, Brett Kasper, has thrown for 2,404 yards and 19 touchdowns with just six interceptions, and running backs Dylan Hecker and Devon Linzenmeyer have combined to run for 1,961 yards and 26 TDs.

Mary Hardin-Baylor has forced 45 turnovers, tops in the country, and Oshkosh has forced 40.

Fredenburg, in his 19th year since starting the football program at Mary Hardin-Baylor, has led the Crusaders to 15 NCAA tournaments. Beyond their 2004 championship appearance, they reached the semifinals in 2012 and 2013, but having gotten over the hump and back to Salem was just the next step, he said.

"Obviously to get to the Stagg Bowl is a huge step," he said, "but the reality is we want to win the national championship."

FCS ALL-AMERICA TEAM LIST

The 2016 Associated Press FCS All-America team:

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Quarterback — Jeremiah Briscoe, junior, 6-foot-3, 209 pounds, Sam Houston State.

Running backs — Chase Edmonds, junior, 5-9, 205, Fordham; Tarik Cohen, senior, 5-6, 170, North Carolina A&T State.

Linemen — Julie'n Davenport, senior, 6-7, 315, Bucknell; Jessamen Dunker, senior, 6-5, 290, Tennessee State; Zach Johnson, senior, 6-4, 331, North Dakota State; Landon Lechler, senior, 6-7, 298, North Dakota State; Mitchell Kirsch, 6-6, 300, senior, James Madison.

Tight end — Dallas Goedert, junior, 6-4, 250, South Dakota State.

Wide receivers — Cooper Kupp, senior, 6-2, 215, Eastern Washington; Kenl Hamilton, senior, 6-1, 205, Samford.

All-purpose player — Detrez Newsome, junior, 5-10, 210, Western Carolina.

Kicker — Griffin Trau, sophomore, 5-8, 180, Richmond.

DEFENSE

Linemen — P.J. Hall, junior, 6-1, 280, Sam Houston State; Karter Schult, senior, 6-4, 269, Northern Iowa; Tanoh Kpassagnon, senior, 6-7, 290, Villanova; Darius Jackson, junior, 6-3, 237, Jacksonville State.

Linebackers — Dylan Cole, senior, 6-1, 240, Missouri State; Alex Scearce, senior, 6-3, 220, Coastal Carolina; Darius Leonard, junior, 6-3, 220, South Carolina State.

Defensive backs — Donald Payne, senior, 6-0, 223, Stetson; Cole Reyes, junior, 6-2, 215, North Dakota; Lorenzo Jerome, senior, 6-0, 195, Saint Francis (Pa.); Dee Delaney, junior, 6-1, 193, The Citadel.

Punter — Miles Bergner, senior, 6-0, 225, South Dakota.

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Quarterback — Gage Gubrud, sophomore, Eastern Washington.

Running backs — Khalid Abdullah, senior, James Madison; Jonah Hodges, senior, San Diego.

Linemen — Corey Levin, senior, Chattanooga; Erik Austell, senior, Charleston Southern; Brandon Parker, junior, North Carolina A&T State; Casey Dunn, senior, Jacksonville State; Nick Demes, senior, Penn.

Tight end — Eric Saubert, senior, Drake.

Wide receivers — Brian Brown, senior, Richmond; Kamron Lewis, sophomore, St. Francis (Pa.).

All-purpose player — Rashard Davis, senior, James Madison.

Kicker — Lane Clark, sophomore, Tennessee State.

DEFENSE

Linemen — Donovan McCray, senior, Grambling State; Keionta Davis, senior, Chattanooga; Anthony Ellis, junior, Charleston Southern; Derek Rivers, senior, Youngstown State.

Linebackers — Christian Kuntz, senior, Duquesne; Folarin Orimolade, senior, Dartmouth; Bratt Taylor, junior, Western Illinois.

Defensive backs — Mike Basile, junior, Monmouth; Casey DeAndrade, senior, New Hampshire; Deion Harris, junior, North Dakota; LeRoy Alexander, senior, Youngstown State.

Punter — Jake Ryder, senior, Towson.

THIRD TEAM

OFFENSE

Quarterback — Devlin Hodges, sophomore, Samford.

Running backs — Lenard Tillery, senior, Southern; Lorenzo Long, senior, Wofford.

Linemen — Taylor Gadbois, senior, Southeastern Louisiana; Anton Wahrby, senior, Wofford; Mark Spelman, senior, Illinois State; Jerry Ugokwe, senior, William & Mary; Max Rich, senior, Harvard.

Tight end — Andrew Vollert, junior, Weber State.

Wide receivers — Jake Wieneke, junior, South Dakota State; Troy Pelletier, junior, Lehigh.

All-purpose player — Jody Webb, senior, Youngstown State.

Kicker — Erik Medina, senior, Texas Southern.

DEFENSE

Linemen — Pat Afriyie, junior, Colgate; Samson Ebukam, senior, Eastern Washington; Grag Menard, junior, North Dakota State; Winston Craig, senior, Richmond.

Linebackers — Garrett Dolan, junior, Houston Baptist; Darien Anderson, senior, Alcorn State; Chad Geter, senior, Gardner-Webb.

Defensive backs — Nick Gesualdi, junior, Cornell; Danny Johnson, junior, Southern; Xavier Coleman, senior, Portland State; Jaylen Hill, senior, Jacksonville State.

Punter — Tate Lewis, senior, Southern Utah.



Associated Press

Baylor's Lauren Cox (15) celebrates a basket as Winthrop's Teylahna Green (44) and Angela Coello Perez (55) watch during a game Thursday in Waco.

TEXASCOLLEGEROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Women

NO. 3 BAYLOR 140 WINTHROP 32

WACO — In the biggest Division I women's basketball rout ever, No. 3 Baylor overwhelmed Winthrop 140-32 Thursday.

The 108-point margin of victory surpassed the 102 set by Grambling when it beat Jarvis Christian College 139-37 in 1986.

Baylor (11-1) led 77-18 at halftime and outscored the Eagles 29-0 in the fourth quarter.

Baylor coach Kim Mulkey substituted freely throughout the game and no one played more than 21 minutes. Leading scorer Alexis Jones, who's had knee trouble, sat out for the second straight game to rest.

Khadijiah Cave had a career-high 25 points to lead five double-figure scorers. Baylor set school single-game records for points, rebounds (75) assists (42) and blocked shots (17).

Erica Williams led Winthrop (1-9) with 15 points. The Eagles shot 13.6 percent for the game and were outrebounded by 50.

Winthrop did best Baylor in one statistical category — foul shooting percentage. It made 12 of 15 while the Lady Bears were 13 of 20.

Baylor's point total was the second highest in women's Division I history, topped only by the 149 scored by Long Beach State in 1987.

The biggest rout between two Division I teams in women's basketball had been in 1989 when Louisiana Tech topped Texas-Pan American 126-25.

NO. 16 TEXAS 85 RIO GRANDE VALLEY 61

AUSTIN — Freshman Joyner Holmes had 16 points and a career-high 13 rebounds for her first double-double and No. 16 Texas defeated Texas Rio Grande Valley 85-61 on Thursday night.

Brooke McCarty added 14 points for the Longhorns (4-4), who picked up their 500th victory — against 96 losses — in the Frank Erwin Center. Jada Underwood had 12 points off the bench, making all four of her shots and all four free throws, and senior Kelsey Lang had her third double-double — and fourth of her career — with 10 points and 10 rebounds

Texas led 29-17 after one quarter and broke the game open by outscoring the Vaqueros (5-6) 25-8 in the third quarter to lead 71-40. They made 22 of 62 shots (53 percent) and had a 50-35 rebounding advantage.

Bernesha Peters and Shawnte' Goff had 12 points apiece for Rio Grande Valley, which shot 29 percent (21 of 71).

COLLEGE BASKETBALL SCORES AND TOP 25 FARED

Men

SOUTHWEST
Rice 93, St. Edward's 64

SOUTH
Alabama 78, SC-Upstate 61
Blue Mountain 57, Jackson St. 49
Bryan 77, Hiwassee 75
Chowan 75, Shaw 72
Coll. of Charleston 53, East Carolina 35
Coppin St. 89, Goldey Beacom 83, OT
Francis Marion 103, St. Andrews 78
Georgia Southern 75, FIU 68
Johnson C. Smith 71, Tuskegee 50
Mississippi 78, Murray St. 73
NC State 97, Appalachian St. 64
North Florida 110, Thomas (Ga.) 80
St. Augustine's 74, Elizabeth City St. 63
Tennessee 92, Lipscomb 77
Wofford 96, Austin Peay 77

FAR WEST
CS Bakersfield 105, Bethesda 78

MIDWEST
Columbia (Mo.) 82, Lindenwood (Ill.) 61
Minn.-Crookston 82, Bemidji St. 81
Omaha 80, UMKC 75
Park 85, Williams Baptist 68
Rockford 84, Beloit 80

EAST
George Washington 74, UCF 59
Wilmington (Del.) 91, Chestnut Hill 74

Women

SOUTHWEST
Baylor 140, Winthrop 32
Rice 70, Texas A&M-CC 36
Texas 85, Rio Grande 61
Tulsa 70, Saint Louis 64

SOUTH
Alabama 86, Georgia St. 57
Bethune-Cookman 52, North Florida 50
Campbell 56, SC-Upstate 41
Freed-Hardeman 74, Stephens 40
Hampton 72, Richmond 45
Lee 77, Mississippi College 66
Presbyterian 69, UNC-Greensboro 62
South Alabama 62, William Carey 39
South Carolina 83, Clemson 61
Spring Hill 83, Shaw 67
UNC Wilmington, 56, Furman 52
Valdosta St. 69, Christian Brothers 63
Virginia St. 56, Fayetteville St. 50
W. Kentucky 87, Lipscomb 35
William & Mary 65, Norfolk St. 52

MIDWEST
Adrian 83, Lancaster Bible 79
Georgia 51, Cincinnati 48
Lake Erie 81, Lake Superior St. 62
Lindenwood (Ill.) 68, Columbia (Mo.) 63
Maranatha Baptist 66, Crown (Minn.) 64
Michigan Tech 68, Hillsdale 61
Minn.-Crookston 80, Bemidji St. 68
N. Michigan 61, Findlay 50
Ohio Dominican 69, Wayne (Mich.) 68
South Dakota 100, Northwestern (Minn.) 57
Walsh 75, Northwood (Mich.) 72
Wisconsin 54, Green Bay 53
Wright St. 85, Cincinnati Christian 61

EAST
Chestnut Hill 102, Wilmington (Del.) 67
Holy Family 71, Philadelphia 53

Top 25 Fared
Thursday

1. UConn (33) (9-0) did not play. Next: vs. No 12 Ohio State, Monday.
2. Notre Dame (9-1) did not play. Next: at Toledo, Sunday.
3. Baylor (11-1) beat Winthrop 140-32. Next: vs. Kansas State, Thursday, Dec. 29.
4. Maryland (11-0) did not play. Next: at Duquesne, Wednesday, Dec. 21.
5. Mississippi State (10-0) did not play. Next: vs SMU, Friday.
6. South Carolina (8-1) beat Clemson 83-61. Next: vs. No. 9 UCLA, Sunday.
7. Florida State (10-1) did not play. Next: vs. North Florida, Monday.
8. Louisville (9-2) did not play. Next: vs. College of Charleston, Friday.
9. UCLA (8-1) did not play. Next: at No. 6 South Carolina, Sunday.
10. Stanford (8-1) did not play. Next: at George Washington, Wednesday, Dec. 21.
11. Washington (10-1) did not play. Next: vs. Savannah State, Sunday.
12. Ohio State (8-3) did not play. Next: vs. Alabama State, Friday.
13. Miami (8-1) did not play. Next: at FIU, Friday.
14. West Virginia (10-0) did not play. Next: vs. Longwood, Saturday.
15. Colorado (9-0) did not play. Next: at MVSU, Saturday.
16. Texas (4-4) beat Texas-Rio Grande Valley 85-61. Next: vs. UTSA, Saturday.
17. DePaul (6-3) at Temple. Next: at Loyola of Chicago, Sunday.
18. Duke (10-1) did not play. Next: vs. Villanova, Wednesday, Dec. 21.
19. Kentucky (7-3) did not play. Next: vs. Radford, Sunday.
20. Oklahoma (7-2) did not play. Next: vs. Xavier, Monday.
21. Syracuse (8-3) did not play. Next: vs. Old Dominion, Tuesday.
22. South Florida (8-0) did not play. Next: vs. Long Beach State, Monday.
23. Arizona State (7-2) did not play. Next: vs. Oral Roberts, Saturday.
24. Virginia Tech (10-0) did not play. Next: at Auburn, Sunday.
25. Oregon (8-2) did not play. Next: at Portland State, Saturday.

COLLEGEVOLLEYBALLROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

STANFORD BEATS NO. 2 MINNESOTA

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Inky Ajanaku had 15 kills and nine blocks and Stanford beat second-ranked Minnesota in four sets Thursday night to reach the NCAA women's volleyball final.

The 6-foot-6 freshmen hitting duo of Kathryn Plummer and Audriana Fitzmorris combined for 25 kills in the 26-24, 25-19, 22-25, 25-22 victory.

Plummer, Fitzmorris and the 6-4 Ajanaku consistently got touches at the net on the majority of Minnesota's attacks. Morgan Hentz and setter Jenna Gray made up the rest of the freshmen quartet that proved vital in leading Stanford (26-7) to its first national final since 2008.

Paulina Prieto-Cerame added 15 kills in Texas' 25-18, 25-23, 25-21 victory.

The Longhorns (27-4) will face Stanford in the final. The Cardinal beat Minnesota in four sets in the first semifinal.

The match was a rematch of the 2015 national championship game in Omaha, Nebraska, where the Cornhuskers won in three sets. The Huskers beat Texas in late August, but the Longhorns attack proved too tough for the reigning national champs.

NO. 4 TEXAS RUNS SWEEPS NEBRASKA

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ebony Nwanebu had 15 kills to help No. 4 Texas beat top-ranked Nebraska in three sets in the NCAA women's volleyball semifinals.

SAGER

From 1C

you'll act that way. I try not to get down."

Sager announced in April 2014 that he had been diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia, and he missed the playoffs and much of the following season as he underwent the first two transplants. Sager revealed in March 2016 that his leukemia was no longer in remission. He said doctors told him the typical prognosis was three to six months to live, but "I am receiving the best treatment in the world and I remain fully confident I will win this battle."

He was overwhelmed by how news of his fight spread and people across the world started talking about the Sager Strong campaign.

"At first was our family's fight," Sager said. "Then because of TV and TNT and people seeing me in the stands and I talk to people and then it got bigger and then that inner circle became an endless world to tell you the truth."

Sager then started gaining inspiration from everyone who shared their story or reached out to show support.

"They saw that I refused to give up and I refused to give in and that I'm still fighting it and they saw a lot of inspiration in what I was doing," he said. Now I feel I'm not only fighting for what I want and what my family wants, but for everybody out there who has cancer or will."

His battle brought out the soft side of Gregg Popovich, the prickly San Antonio Spurs coach with whom he had many memorable exchanges during in-game interviews.

Sager never faulted Popovich for his gruff attitude during those interviews, saying "he's trying to win a game. He doesn't want to talk to some reporter." But he said they had a great relationship.

Sager sported suits in every color of the rainbow and plenty of shades not found in nature, from teal to fuchsia to magenta. He would match plaid blazers with paisley ties or striped shirts — all in bold hues.

Kevin Garnett once told him to burn an entire outfit. In a 2016 interview with HBO's "Real Sports," Sager recalled how Popovich reproached him for trying to stand out. Sager explained to him: "Coach, you don't understand. If I'm not wearing bright colors and if I don't feel lively, it's not me."

Sometimes lost in the glare of his wardrobe was Sager's relentless nature as a reporter. Every time Popovich would give a terse non-answer, an unfazed Sager would pepper him with another question.

During the 2016 NBA All-Star Weekend, Popovich described Sager as "an iconic figure in the NBA."

"He does a great job," the coach added. "His sense of humor is obvious. We have a lot of fun going back and forth with that."

Sager's persistence was on display at the start of his career, when the 22-year-old found himself in the middle of one of the most famous moments in sports history. Making $95 a week in 1974 as the news director at WSPB — a Braves-affiliated AM radio station in Sarasota, Florida — Sager risked getting fired by deciding to hop a flight to Atlanta for a game with Hank Aaron a home run away from breaking Babe Ruth's career record.

With a last-minute credential, Sager was stuck in the third-base photographers' well. As the historic homer sailed out of the park, Sager, without thinking, sprinted onto the field and wound up chasing Aaron down the third-base line. When Aaron's teammates mobbed him at home plate, Sager can be seen in his trench coat in the middle of the scrum.

The next day, Sager caught a 5 a.m. flight to Sarasota to be back for his morning drive responsibilities, and his tapes from the game wound up in Cooperstown.

Sager worked as a reporter on the Olympics, Major League Baseball playoffs, the NFL and the NCAA Tournament, among other sports. But he was indelibly connected to the NBA.

"Craig was as vital to the NBA as the players and coaches," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said in a statement. "A true original and an essential voice on Turner Sports' NBA coverage for 26 seasons, Craig chronicled some of the most memorable moments in league history and was a ubiquitous presence with his splashy suits and equally colorful personality. Craig earned widespread respect for his insightful reporting and inspired so many most recently with his courage."

NBAROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

PELICANS 102 PACERS 95

NEW ORLEANS — Anthony Davis had 35 points, 16 rebounds and five blocked shots, rookie Buddy Hield scored a career-high 21 points, and the New Orleans Pelicans defeated the Indiana Pacers 102-95 on Thursday night.

Davis highlighted a dynamic performance with two 3-pointers and a couple of driving dunks. He was at his best during a pivotal 15-0 Pelicans run inside the final 5 minutes, when he converted a three-point play on a driving dunk, hit a 3, added four free throws and blocked two shots.

Jrue Holiday, who started the surge with a driving layup, had 16 points.

Myles Turner scored 26 points on 11-of-14 shooting for Indiana, but the Pacers missed eight straight shots during a 4-minute scoring drought late in the fourth quarter. Indiana's Jeff Teague scored 21 points.

The game was close for 3 1/2 quarters, with neither team building a lead larger than eight points. The Pacers led 90-85 after Paul George's layup with 4:52 to go, but that's when the game turned dramatically in New Orleans' favor.

George, who finished with 18 points, missed seven of his 13 shots while failing to reach 20 points for just the first time in the last seven games.

Hield scored 14 points in the third quarter, when he hit four of his five 3s, helping New Orleans turn a seven-point deficit into a briefly held lead.

Terrence Jones added 10 points, 11 rebounds and two blocked shots for New Orleans.

Al Jefferson scored 14 points for the Pacers, but Indiana struggled from the outside, hitting just three of their 21 3-point attempts en route to a second straight loss.

BUCKS 108 BULLS 97

MILWAUKEE — Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 30 points and Jabari Parker added 28 to lead the Milwaukee Bucks to a 108-97 victory over the Chicago Bulls on Thursday night.

Milwaukee led the entire game and held a 24-point advantage early in the fourth quarter but had to hold on to snap a three-game losing streak, its longest of the season.

Antetokounmpo has totaled 86 points and 35 rebounds in his last three games, and Parker has reached at least 27 points in four of his last five.

Chicago lost for the fifth time in seven games and dropped its third straight on the road despite 21 points from Jimmy Butler and 20 from Dwyane Wade. The Bulls also got 19 points from Taj Gibson in the opener of a home-and-home between the teams on back-to-back nights.

The Bucks went up 95-71 on a dunk by Antetokounmpo with 10:01 remaining. But then Chicago cut the deficit in half by scoring the next 12 points, with 10 of them coming from Wade. His two free throws trimmed the margin to 95-83 with 7:14 to go.

Milwaukee led by at least eight the rest of the way.

The Bucks' biggest lead of the night was 27 on a dunk by Tony Snell that made it 58-31 with 3:40 left in the second quarter.

The advantage was 64-45 at halftime, as Antetokounmpo (20), Parker (17) and Mirza Teletovic (10) combined to outscore Chicago by two points.

NBA GLANCE

Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	18	7	.720	—
New York	14	11	.560	4
Boston	13	12	.520	5
Brooklyn	7	17	.292	10½
Philadelphia	6	19	.240	12

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Charlotte	14	12	.538	—
Atlanta	12	13	.480	1½
Washington	10	14	.417	3
Orlando	11	16	.407	3½
Miami	9	17	.346	5

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	18	6	.750	—
Chicago	13	12	.520	5½
Detroit	14	13	.519	5½
Milwaukee	12	12	.500	6
Indiana	13	14	.481	6½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	20	5	.800	—
Houston	19	7	.731	1½
Memphis	18	9	.667	3
New Orleans	9	18	.333	12
Dallas	6	19	.240	14

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	16	10	.615	—
Oklahoma City	15	11	.577	1
Portland	13	14	.481	3½
Denver	9	16	.360	6½
Minnesota	7	18	.280	8½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	22	4	.846	—
L.A. Clippers	19	7	.731	3
Sacramento	9	16	.360	12½
L.A. Lakers	10	18	.357	13
Phoenix	8	17	.320	13½

Scores and schedule

Thursday's Scores
Milwaukee 108, Chicago 97
New Orleans 102, Indiana 95
Portland at Denver, late
San Antonio at Phoenix, late
New York at Golden State, late

Today's Games
Brooklyn at Orlando, 6 p.m.
Detroit at Washington, 6 p.m.
Atlanta at Toronto, 6:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Boston, 6:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Miami, 7 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Milwaukee at Chicago, 7 p.m.
New Orleans at Houston, 7 p.m.
Sacramento at Memphis, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Utah, 9:30 p.m.

Nash scores short-handed in 3rd, Rangers shut out Stars 2-0

Associated Press

DALLAS — Rick Nash scored an unassisted goal short-handed in the third period and two New York Rangers goalies combined to shut out the Dallas Stars 2-0 on Thursday night.

Nash broke up a pass by Jamie Benn near the Rangers blue line, skated down the ice and put a snap shot past Dallas goalie Antti Niemi at 7:08.

It was Nash's first game back after missing four because of a groin injury.

Mats Zuccarello added an empty-net goal.

Henrik Lundqvist started in the New York net for the first time in six games, but left for 5:31 of the first period after Dallas' Cody Eakin hit him behind the net.

Eakin received a major penalty for charging and a game misconduct.

Lundqvist finished with 27 saves. His brief replacement, Antti Raanta, had none.

Niemi made 28 saves for Dallas.

The Rangers have won four of five. The Stars missed a chance to match their longest winning streak this season at two games.

Niemi made five saves during a first-period power play that lasted 6:09. His best stop was a sprawling save on a snap shot by Brandon Pirri at 10:32.

The first 51 seconds of that power play were 5-on-3 after Eakin's penalties. Dallas has escaped three 5-on-3s without a goal in the last two games, though Anaheim scored 5-on-4 just 5 seconds after the first penalty expired Tuesday night.

Dallas entered this one ranked 28th in the NHL on the penalty kill.

NHL GLANCE

Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Montreal	29	19	6	4	42	92	64
Ottawa	30	16	11	3	35	73	82
Boston	32	16	13	3	35	77	79
Tampa Bay	31	15	13	3	33	87	84
Florida	31	13	13	5	31	74	89
Detroit	31	13	14	4	30	72	85
Toronto	28	11	11	7	29	83	80
Buffalo	28	11	11	6	28	62	75

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	30	20	7	3	43	108	87
N.Y. Rangers	32	21	10	1	43	108	72
Philadelphia	32	19	10	3	41	105	97
Columbus	27	18	5	4	40	90	57
Washington	28	18	7	3	39	76	61
New Jersey	29	12	11	6	30	71	87
Carolina	29	12	11	6	30	77	82
N.Y. Islanders	31	11	13	5	27	77	90

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Chicago	32	20	8	4	44	88	75
Minnesota	29	17	8	4	38	85	69
St. Louis	31	17	10	4	38	87	87
Winnipeg	33	14	16	3	31	86	99
Nashville	29	13	12	4	30	86	88
Dallas	32	12	14	6	30	81	100
Colorado	28	11	16	1	23	63	80

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
San Jose	30	18	11	1	37	75	69
Anaheim	31	16	10	5	37	87	84
Edmonton	32	15	12	5	35	94	98
Calgary	32	15	12	5	35	94	92
Los Angeles	29	15	12	2	32	78	77
Arizona	30	11	14	5	27	69	93
Vancouver	30	12	16	2	26	73	94

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Scores and schedule

Thursday's Scores
Chicago 5, N.Y. Islanders 4
Anaheim 4, Boston 3
Arizona 3, Toronto 2, SO
Los Angeles 4, Detroit 1
St. Louis 5, New Jersey 2
Winnipeg 4, Florida 3, SO
Minnesota 5, Nashville 2
N.Y. Rangers 2, Dallas 0

Today's Games
Los Angeles at Pittsburgh, 6 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Buffalo, 6 p.m.
Washington at Carolina, 6:30 p.m.
San Jose at Montreal, 6:30 p.m.
Columbus at Calgary, 8 p.m.
Florida at Colorado, 8 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Vancouver, 9 p.m.

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PRESENTED BY CHEVROLET AND THE MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

FRIDAY PRIME TIME — DECEMBER 16, 2016

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

	C	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	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Last Man St. (N)	Dr. Ken (N)	Shark Tank		20/20		Local 2 News/ 10	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live		(:35) News Nightline
KOSA CBS	7	CBS 7 News	Ent. Tonight	MacGyver (N)	"Scissors"	Hawaii Five-0 "Kaili aku" (N)		Blue Bloods "Town Without Pity"		CBS 7 News	(:35) Stephen Colbert		(:35) J.Corden
KWWT CW	5	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	A. Griffith	A. Griffith	Happy Days	Gilligan's Island	Hogan's Heroes	Hogan's Heroes	Carol Burnett	P. Mason "The Case of the Difficult Detour"		Twilight Zone
KPEJ FOX	8	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Kitchen "Dancing in the Grotto" (N)		Exorcist "Chapter Ten: Three Rooms" (SF) (N)		Fox 24 News	TMZ	Modern Family	Two and a Half	Hot in Cleveland	Met Your Mother
KMLM IND	11	Hidden In Sight	Zola Levitt Presents	Update News	HaYesod	Light of the Southwest "Part 1"		Light of the Southwest "Part 2"		Update News	Shepherd's Heart		Dr. Brad Young
KWES NBC	9	News-West 9	NewsWest 9 Now	Caught on Camera "Rough Commute" (N)		Dateline NBC Investigative features are covered.				NewsWest 9 at 10	(:35) The Tonight Show		(:35) Seth Meyers
KPBT PBS	13	PBS NewsHour		Wash. Week (N)	On Story	Lincoln "Joshua Bell's Seasons of Cuba" (N)		Lidia Cel. America "Holiday for Heroes"		Charlie Rose (N)		Newsline	Tavis Smiley
KUPB UNI	4	La rosa de Guadalupe		Despertar contigo		Vino el amor		El color de la pasion		Noticias Tejas	Noticiero noctu.	Contacto	Deportivo
KOSA MNT	16	Last Man	Last Man	American Ninja War.		American Ninja War.		Mike&M.	Mike&M.	Anger M.	Anger M.	Tosh.0	Access H.
FLIX	340	(5:30) Permanent ...		★★★ Dressed to Kill			(:45)	Frankenhooker		(:10) ★★★ Pulp Fiction John Travolta.			
HBO	300	Movie	Vice News	Pete Holmes		★★★ Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice				1stLook	(:05) The Kingdom		
HBO2	302	Race "(16, Bio) Stephan James.				★★★ The Revenant ('15, Dra) Leonardo DiCaprio.				(:40) Real Sports			(:40) Fight
HBOS	304	★★★ The Aviator				★★ Self/ Less ('15, Sci-Fi) Ben Kingsley.				★★ The Boy Next Door			Movie
MAX	380	Under Siege		(:05) ★★ Run All Night Liam Neeson.				★★★ The Transporter		(:35) ★★ Furious 7 Vin Diesel.			
MAX2	382	Pretty in Pink Molly Ringwald.				★★ 27 Dresses Katherine Heigl.				(:55) What Happens in Vegas			Lingerie
PLEX		(5:25) ★★ Ed				★★★ Babe: Pig in the City		(:40) Cops and Robbersons		(:15) ★★ Big Trouble			Movie
SHOW	320	Tears of the...		The Affair		LawrencePhillipsStor (N)		Shameless		LawrencePhillipsStor			
TMC	336	Paddington ('14, Fam) Ben Whishaw.				★★★ Erin Brockovich Julia Roberts.				(:15) ★★★ Born on the Fourth of July			
A&E	27	The First 48 "Bound and Burned"				Live PD (SF) (N)				The First 48 "The Fighter/ Final Ride"		Live PD	
AMC	40	Miss Cong...				★★ Deck the Halls Danny de Vito.				★★ Deck the Halls Danny de Vito.		★ Ghostbusters	
BET	58	Browns	Browns			★★ National Security ('03, Com) Martin Lawrence, Steve Zahn.				★★★ Blue Streak Martin Lawrence.			
BRAVO	65	Housewives Atlanta		Married Medicine (N)		Married Med (N)		Married to Medicine		Housewives Atlanta		WatchWhatHappens	
CNBC	46	Boss "Baja Fresh"		Undercover Boss		Undercover Boss		Undercover Boss		Undercover Boss		Boss "Fatburger"	
CNN	43	OutFront		A. Cooper 360		A. Cooper 360		CNN Tonight		CNN Special Report		The Wonder List	
DISC	50	Gold Rush		Gold Rush: Dirt (N)		Gold Rush (N)		Treasure Quest (N)		Gold Rush		(:05) Treasure Quest	
DISNEY	56	GoodLuck	Good Luck	★ Good Luck Charlie, It's Ch...		Bizaard.		Bunk'd	Cali Style	Friends	Friends	Girl M.	Austin
ESPN	32	NBA Countdown (L)		NBA Basketball L.A. Lakers vs Philadelphia (L)						NBA Basketball Dallas Mavericks at Utah Jazz (L)			
ESPN2	34	NCAA Football Division I Tournament (L)						SportsCenter		SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
FNC	45	On the Record		The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File		Hannity		The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File	
FOOD	64	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners, Drive-ins (N)		Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners, Drive-Ins	
FREEFORM	53	Movie	(:35) ★ National Lampoon's Christmas Va...			(:45) ★★★ The Polar Express ('04, Ani) Tom Hanks.				(:55) ★ A Christmas...			
FSSW	37	(4:00) H.S. Football UIL State Championship (L)		Ford Championship Live (L)		Under the Lights		Maver-icks (N)	Mavs Pre (L)	NBA Basketball Dallas Mavericks at Utah Jazz Site: Vivint Smart Home Arena – Salt Lake City, Utah (L)			
FX	31	The Hango...		★★★ A Million Ways to Die in the West						★ A Very Harold and Kumar Christmas			Movie
HALLMARK	54	The Nine Li...		★ Love You Like Christmas						★ Ice Sculpture Christmas Tonya Albers.		★ A Christmas Me...	
HGTV	63	Renovation		Renovation		Renovation		H.Hunt	House	H.Hunt	House	Renovation	
HISTORY	71	Ancient Aliens		Ancient Aliens		Ancient Aliens		Ancient Aliens		(:05) Ancient Aliens		(:05) Ancient Aliens	
LIFETIME	28	(5:00) ★ Heaven Sent Christian Kane.		★ Christmas on the Bayou (2013, Romance) Hilarie Burton, Tyler Hilton, Markie Post.						★ A Christmas Wedding Date ('12, Rom) Chris Carmack, Catherine Hicks, Marla Sokoloff.		★ Christmas on the Bayou Markie Post.	
MSNBC	47	Hardball		All in With C. Hayes		Rachel Maddow		Hardball		All in With C. Hayes		Rachel Maddow	
NBCSN	38	NHL Hockey Los Angeles Kings at Pittsburgh Penguins (L)				NHL Overtime (L)			NHLTop10	Mecum Auto Auctions "Kansas City, MO"			
NICK	55	★ Santa Hunters			Thunder	Up Sync Shorties		F.House	F.House	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
SPIKE	30	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Bellator MMA				(:15) Kickboxing Card TBA			
SYFY	66	(5:00) ★ Indiana Jones & the Kingdom of t...				Z Nation (N)			Incorporated	Z Nation		★ The Legend of ...	
TBS	25	Seinfeld	Seinf. "The Gymnast"	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Search Party	Search Party	2 Broke Girls	2 Broke Girls
TCM	41	(5:30) ★ Men in White		★★★ Broadway Bill Walter Connolly.						★★★★ The Best Years of Our Lives ('46, D-a) Myrna Loy.			
TELE	20	Caso cerrado		Silvana Sin Lzna		La Doña		El Chema		Al rojo	(:35) Titular	La Doña	
TLC	51	Paranormal Lock. "Franklin Castle"		Lockdown "Randolph County Infirmary"		Paranormal Lockdown "Monroe House" (N)				Paranormal Lockdown "Monroe House"			
TNT	24	Bones "The Body in the Bag"		★ Star Wars: Episode I: The Phantom Menace Two Jedi Knights help a queen save her world & discover a boy with potential.					(:45)	★ Star Wars: Episode II: Attack of the Clones A Jedi & his allies must battle mysterious forces that aim to enslave the universe.			
TVLAND	49	Griffith	A. Griffith	Griffith	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens
USA	26	NCIS "Last Man Standing"		★★★★ It's a Wonderful Life James Stewart. An angel shows a suicidal banker how important he has been in the lives of others.						Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern 'Integrity'	Modern Family
WGN	19	85		★★★ Apollo 13 ('95, Doc/Dra) Tom Hanks. The true story of how the crew of the ill-fated Apollo 13 moon mission averted tragedy.						★★★ Apollo 13 ('95, Doc/Dra) Tom Hanks. The true story of how the crew of the ill-fated Apollo 13 moon mission averted tragedy.			

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Tiger Woods signs deal to play with new golf ball

By Doug Ferguson
Associated Press

One tournament into his return was all Tiger Woods needed to strike a deal with Bridgestone to play its golf ball.


Woods

Bridgestone Golf said Thursday it has signed Woods to a multi-year agreement in which he will play and promote the golf ball. Woods effectively became a free agent for equipment deals when Nike decided to stop making clubs and golf balls and instead focus on apparel.

Bridgestone becomes the first new equipment company that Woods has endorsed since he turned pro 20 years ago. He signed with Titleist (equipment) and Nike (footwear and clothing) in 1996, and his switch to all Nike equipment began with its golf ball in May 2000.

Terms of the contract were not disclosed. Woods had not played in 15 months while recovering from back surgeries, though he still draws more attention and spikes media ratings more than any other player.

Woods had been testing equipment the last few months after Nike said it was getting out of the hard goods golf business. He used the Bridgestone ball at the Hero World Challenge in the Bahamas, and said the golf ball was the critical component of any equipment change.

Woods tied for 15th against an 18-man field in the Bahamas, though he was hitting a greater variety of shots than when he had last played on the PGA Tour.

The 14-time major champion tends to play a golf ball that spins more than most, and Woods said the Bridgestone B333-S was "hands-down the best for my game."

"The ball is reacting identical with how I want to play," he said in a release announcing the deal. "For me, that's fun."

As part of the deal, Woods will be considered a Bridgestone ambassador and be featured in all advertising.

Woods also was using a TaylorMade driver and fairway metal in the Bahamas, and he said he put his old Scotty Cameron putter back in the bag right after Nike announced it was out of the club business.

Hopkins ready for final fight in career

By Dan Gelston
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Bernard Hopkins hobbled into the gym before a sparring session using a cane to aid his small steps. He scrapped his usual stylish Prada glasses for a cheap pair old fogeys might wear and a fake gray beard that sprouted several inches past his chin.


Hopkins

Hopkins chuckled as he wagged his cane toward amused onlookers. Long a contender in the jumbled alphabet concoctions of boxing organizations, Hopkins seemed more fit in disguise to apply for an AARP membership. Hopkins is in on the joke and has the sober realization that not even he can KO Father Time.

At 51, Hopkins may have enough Executioner left in him to make it seem like old times again inside the ring.

Hopkins has forged his life by hook — like the left one he threw to knock out Oscar De La Hoya — or by crook, the time served at Graterford Prison that steeled his resolve for a boxing career. Just about a month before he turns 52, Hopkins will fight on both his word and contractual obligation for the final time in a 28-year career when he faces 27-year-old Joe Smith Jr. in a light heavyweight bout Saturday in Los Angeles.

No one savvy enough around boxing will count out Hopkins (55-7-2, 32 KOs) for a final victory. Even as the years ticked from his late 30s to his late 40s, the days of thinking of Hopkins as a washed-up fighter sure to see his career end in a thunderous embarrassment have long ended.

Hopkins once promised his mother he'd retire at 40. He vowed to quit at 41 after he defeated Antonio Tarver in one of his greatest fights in 2006. The Associated Press wrote of the fight that Hopkins had a "storybook finish" and noted Tarver starred in the "final installment of the 'Rocky' series."

Yet much like the fictional Rocky Balboa, Hopkins had many more rounds left in his story.

At 48, Hopkins scored a 12-round unanimous decision over Tavoris Cloud to become the oldest boxer to win a major title.

"I'm glad I reneged on that 10 years because I've added to my legacy even further," Hopkins said.

BANANAGRAMS!

LEVEL

For each phrase below, rearrange the letters to spell two new words that are things found in most laundromats. For example: WEAR STUDS becomes SUDS and WATER.

A HORSE SWAP
W

CHERRY RAID
C

ABSENT SICKO
B

TEACHER LIMB
B

Yesterday's Answer: AVOWED, FATHOM, MAGGOT 12.16

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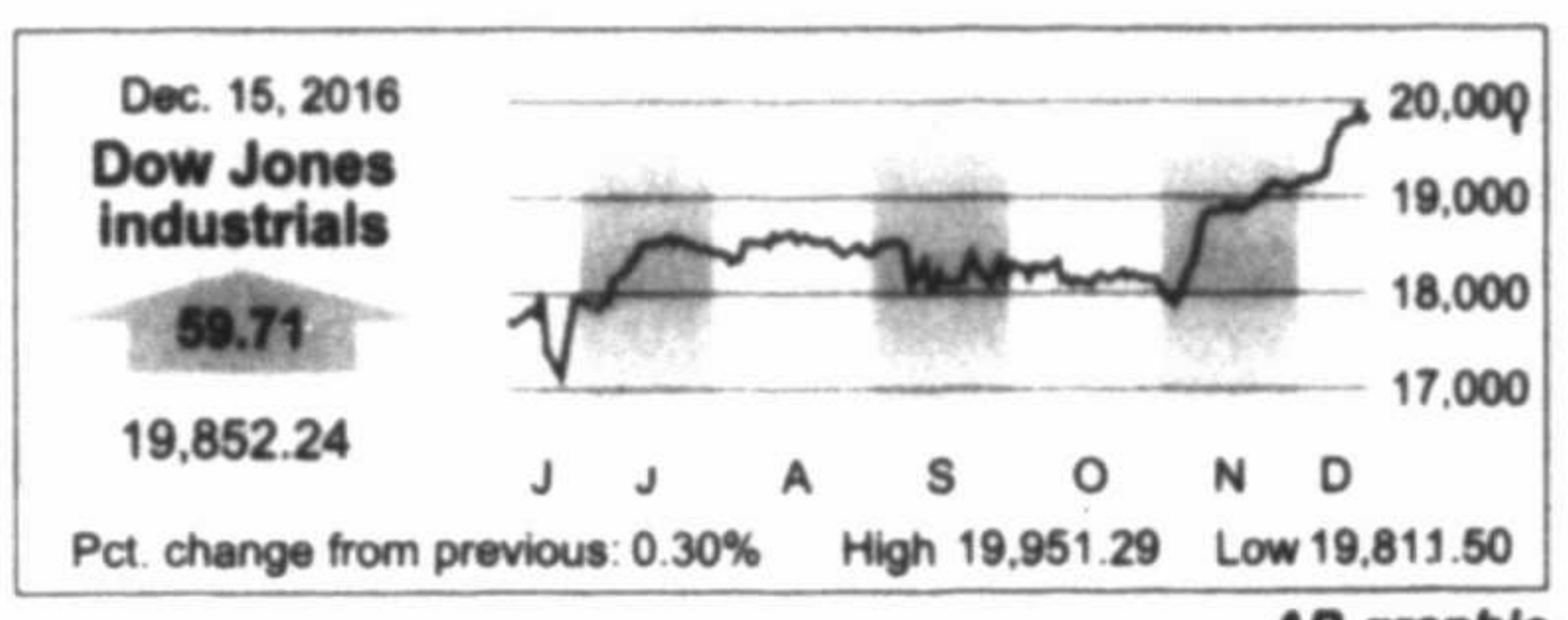
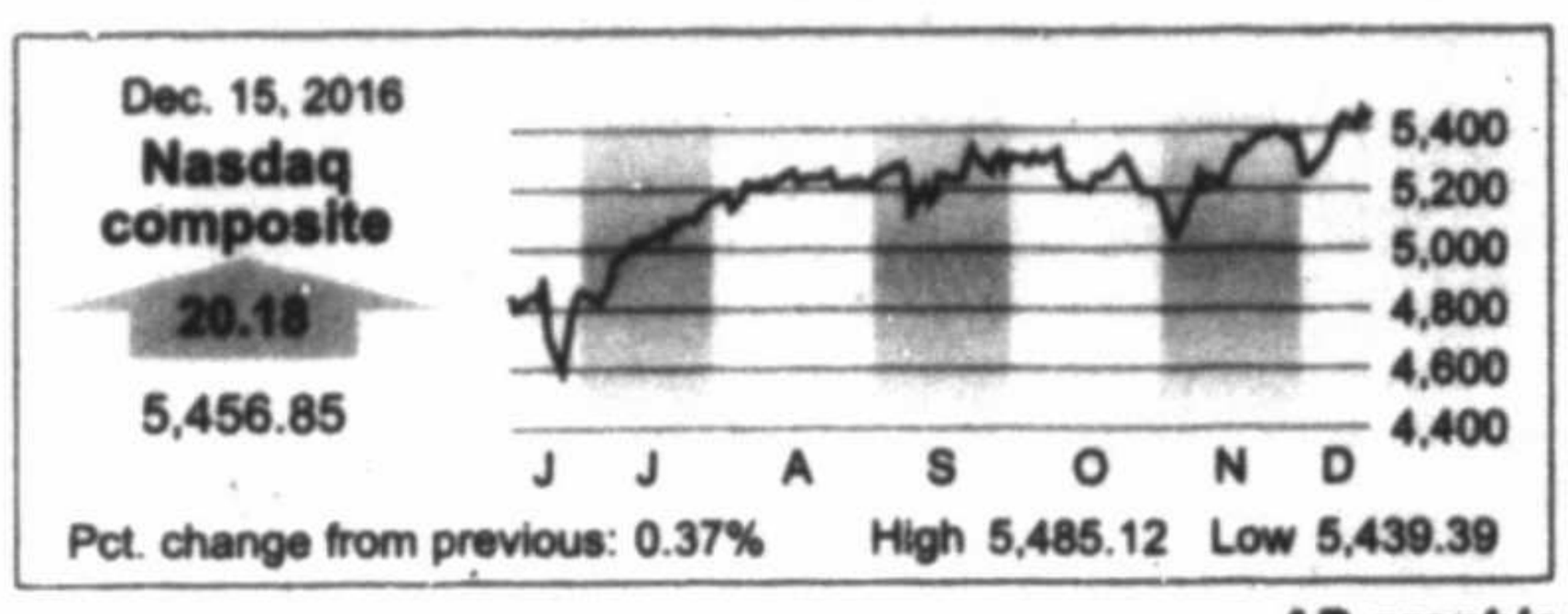
BUSINESS & OIL

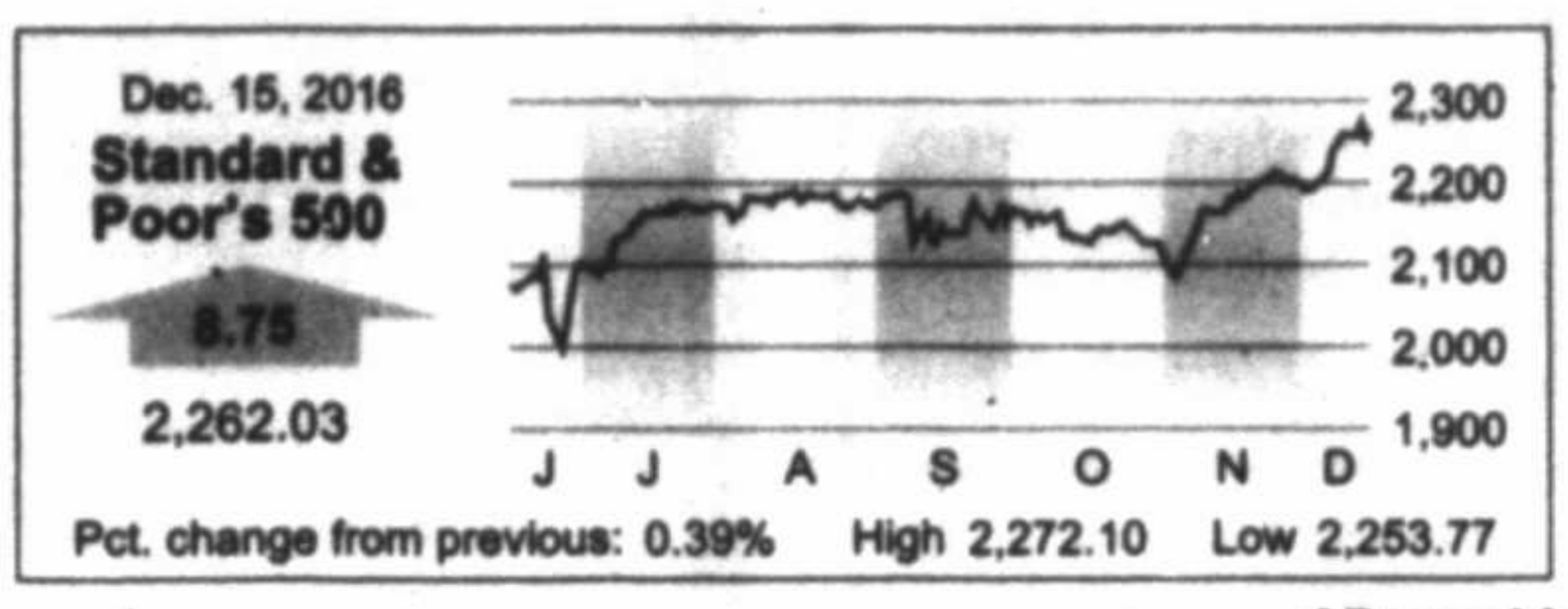
A DAY ON WALL STREET



AP graphic



AP graphic



AP graphic

OIL PRICES

FUTURES

Thursday:	$50.90
Previous:	$51.04

POSTED

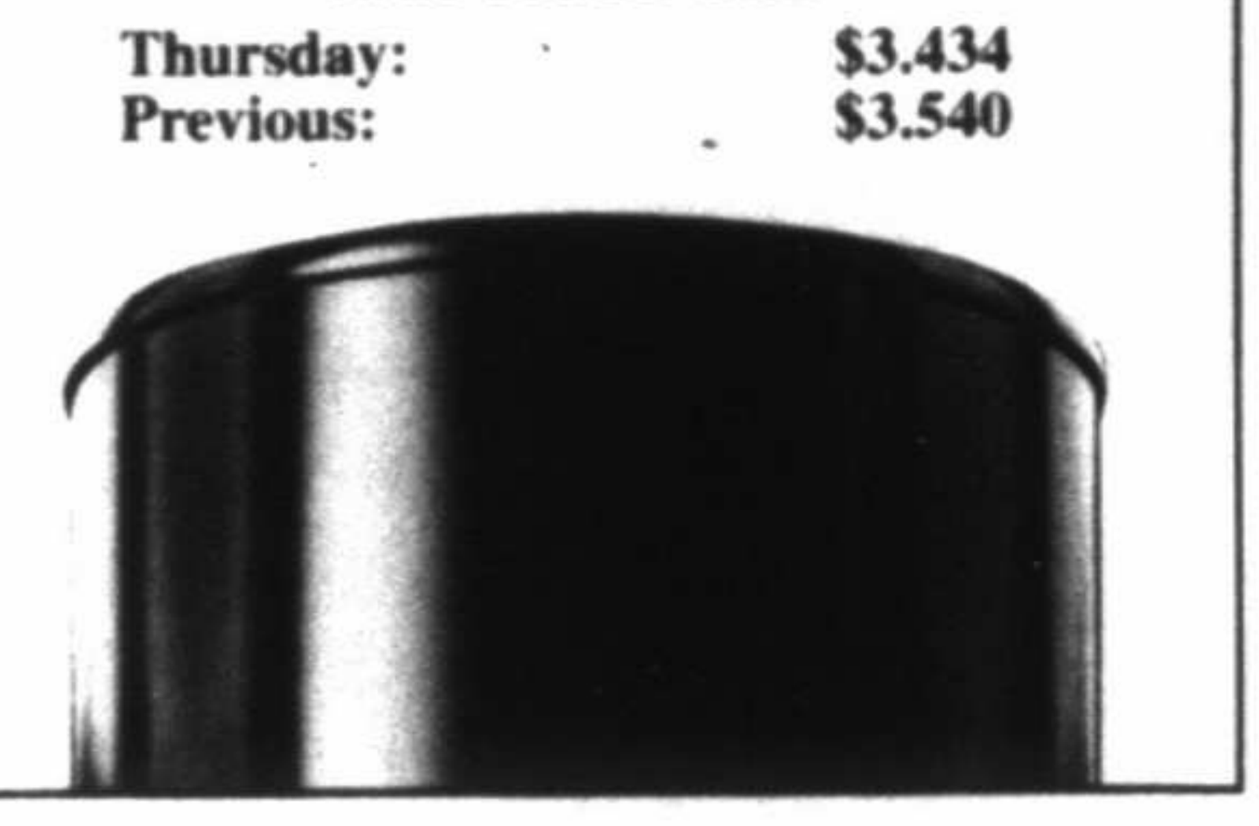
Thursday:	$47.50
Previous:	$47.50

WEST TEXAS SOUR

Thurday:	$43.60
Previous:	$43.60

NATURAL GAS

Thursday:	$3.434
Previous:	$3.540



NYSE

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
BkofAm	1528536	23.16	+.49
VanEGold	1370031	18.99	-.90
SPDR Fncl	1073979	23.67	+.20
DxGBull s	1023154	5.93	-.98
S&P500ETF	853879	226.81	+.93

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
GencoSh rs	9.15	+2.39	+35.4
Pier 1	8.57	+2.09	+32.3
DianaShip	3.29	+.49	+17.5
ParkH wi	29.99	+3.84	+14.7
IntPotash	2.41	+.30	+14.2

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
DrGMBll s	4.42	-.97	-18.0
HilGrVa wi	26.10	-4.90	-15.8
DxGBull s	5.93	-.98	-14.2
PrUJMin rs	45.47	-5.80	-11.3
RedLionH	8.10	-1.00	-11.0

DIARY

Advanced	1,690
Declined	1,323
Unchanged	90
Total issues	3,103
New Highs	114
New Lows	117
Volume	4,040,615,252

AMEX

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
NwGold g	104984	3.37	-.26
B2gold g	75457	2.05	-.20
GtPanSilv g	44320	1.36	-.10
SynergyRs	34523	9.45	-.03
GastarExp	34443	1.26	+.02

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
EnviroStr	15.60	+2.55	+19.5
StrPathCm	29.22	+2.25	+8.3
EvolPetrol	9.55	+.65	+7.3
GSE Sy	3.70	+.25	+7.2
AltisrcAst	46.85	+3.05	+7.0

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
GoldResrc	3.82	-.40	-9.5
B2gold g	2.05	-.20	-8.9
MAG Slv g	10.41	-.96	-8.4
InspMD rs	2.77	-.24	-8.0
NTN Buzz rs	9.32	-.77	-7.6

DIARY

Advanced	153
Declined	202
Unchanged	18
Total issues	373
New Highs	11
New Lows	8
Volume	150,153,080

NASDAQ

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Apple Inc	432429	115.82	+.63
Yahoo	418616	38.41	-2.50
OnSmcnd	309829	13.03	+.55
Microsoft	259560	62.58	-.10
SiriusXM	256088	4.49	-.02

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
DianaCn h rs	3.88	+1.82	+88.3
Euroseas rs	2.50	+1.11	+79.9
DryShp rs	5.40	+1.85	+52.1
SinoGlobl	3.96	+1.14	+40.4
GlobusM rs	6.38	+1.36	+27.1

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
PacBiosci	3.89	-3.01	-43.6
AmicusTh	4.80	-1.05	-17.9
NantHlth n	9.71	-1.90	-16.4
CS VSSilv	11.60	-2.11	-15.4
Vericel	3.50	-.60	-14.6

DIARY

Advanced	1,701
Declined	1,138
Unchanged	205
Total issues	3,044
New Highs	170
New Lows	69
Volume	2,000,490,504

All types of loans cost more after Fed's rate hike

Bloomberg

It's been less than 24 hours since the Federal Reserve raised interest rates and already bank customers are paying more for loans.

JPMorgan Chase & Co., Bank of America Corp. and Wells Fargo & Co. and other big lenders raised their prime lending rate to 3.75 percent from 3.5 percent following the Fed's decision on Wednesday. Prime rate is what banks charge their best commercial customers, but it also affects credit cards and home-equity loans.

The increase should help net interest margins — the difference between what banks charge for loans and pays depositors — since most lenders didn't announce a boost in what they're offering customers for their deposits, according to analysts. Years of stubbornly low interest rates crimped banks' revenue and resulted in record deposits, meaning banks won't feel pressure to raise deposit rates any time soon, said Jason Goldberg, an analyst at Barclays Plc.

"They've been battling net-interest-margin compression for many years now, and this is a chance to get some relief," Goldberg said Thursday in a telephone interview. "It should be beneficial to revenue and earnings because your adjustable-rate and floating-rate assets will reprice higher and banks will lag in terms of increasing what they pay out."

Bank stocks have been on a tear since the election of Donald Trump, who has promised to increase spending on infrastructure, reduce corporate taxes and ease regulations on the financial-services industry. The 24-company KBW Bank Index has climbed 24 perce. . since Nov. 8, and is at its highest since February 2008.

"For the first time in 10 years, there's reason to be optimistic about the bank sector," said Michael Rose, an analyst at Raymond James Financial Inc. "The banks have had a good run since the election, but I think there's reason after this run to continue to be optimistic."

The Fed hike was the first this year, and new projections show central bankers expect three quarter-point rate increases in 2017, up from the two seen in the previous forecasts in September, based on median estimates.

As a result, mortgage lenders including banks are bracing for a subdued year in 2017 as applications are expected to fall. U.S. home loan originations may decline 17 percent to $1.5 trillion in 2017 from a year earlier, according to Keefe, Bruyette & Woods.

U.S. mortgage rates, already at a two-year high, rose for a seventh week and are predicted to climb further after the Fed's decision. The average rate for a 30-year fixed mortgage was 4.16 percent, up from 4.13 percent last week and the highest since October 2014, Freddie Mac said in a statement Thursday. The average 15-year rate climbed to 3.37 percent from 3.36 percent, the McLean, Virginia-based mortgage-finance company said.

Higher rates also will damp refinancing activity, Goldberg said. U.S. Bancorp, the country's largest regional bank, said last week it expects mortgage revenue to decline 25 percent to 30 percent in the fourth quarter compared with the previous three months as fewer home owners refinance loans.

Verizon said to explore lower price or exit from Yahoo deal

Bloomberg

Verizon Communications Inc. is exploring a price cut or possible exit from its $4.83 billion pending acquisition of Yahoo Inc., after the company reported a second major email hack affecting as many as 1 billion user accounts, according to a person familiar with the matter.

Although a Verizon group led by AOL Chief Executive Officer Tim Armstrong is still focused on integration planning to get Yahoo up and running, another team, walled off from the rest, is reviewing the breach disclosures and the company's options, said the person, who asked not to be identified discussing private information.

A legal team led by Verizon General Counsel Craig Silliman is assessing the damage from the breaches and is working toward either killing the deal or renegotiating the Yahoo purchase at a lower price, the person said. One of the major objectives for Verizon is negotiating a separation from any future legal fallout from the breaches.

Yahoo shares fell as much as 6.5 percent to $38.25.

User data from more than 1 billion accouuts was stolen in August 2013, according to a Yahoo statement Wednesday, the second major breach the company has disclosed in the past three months. Given the severity of the hack, which included more than 150,000 U.S. government employees, Verizon is under pressure to reassess the value of the deal and appease shareholders who may see Yahoo as damaged goods.

Banks lead stock indexes higher

A surge in banks and other financial stocks that stand to benefit from higher interest rates pushed indexes to the edge of record highs Thursday. The dollar rose sharply against other currencies and the price of gold sank on expectations that the Federal Reserve will follow up Wednesday's rate increase with several more next year.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 8.75 points, or 0.4 percent, to 2,262.03. It made up about half its loss from the prior day, which was its worst in two months.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 59.71 points, or 0.3 percent, to 19,852.24. The Nasdaq composite rose 20.18 points, or 0.4 percent, to 5,456.85. All three indexes are within half a percent of their record highs.

"I think the market is just going through a period of rational exuberance," says Brian Jacobsen, chief portfolio strategist at Wells Fargo Funds Management.

The Federal Reserve raised short-term interest rates Wednesday by a quarter of a percentage point on the back of a strengthening economy. It was only the second rate increase in a decade, and the Fed indicated three more may be on the way in 2017.

Metal prices rise

Gold fell $33.90, or 2.9 percent, to settle at $1,129.80 per ounce. Silver fell $1.26 to settle at $15.96 an ounce, and copper dipped by less than a penny to $2.60 per pound.

MIDLAND STOCKS

Midland-Headquartered Publicly Traded Companies

Clayton Williams Energy (CWEI)
Closing Price $107.76 Up 7.58

Concho Resources (CXO)
Closing Price $139.22 Up 1.51

Dawson Geophysical (DWSN)
Closing Price $8.51 Up 0.29

Diamondback Energy (FANG)
Closing Price $101.18 Down 0.33

Legacy Reserves (LGCY)
Closing Price $2.36 Up 0.08

Mexco Energy (MXC)
Closing Price $4.57 Down 0.02

Natural Gas Services Group (NGS)
Closing Price $33.85 Up 0.90

RSP Permian (RSPP)
Closing Price $43.77 Up 0.62

Ring Energy (REI)
Closing Price $11.80 Up 0.19

Viper Energy Partners (VNOM)
Closing Price $15.76 Down 0.18

HOW STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST FARED

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
AK Steel	...	31	10.57	+.18	+371.9
AT&T Inc	1.96f	16	41.50	+.40	+20.6
Abraxas	...	...	2.43	+.09	+129.2
AdaDvsEq	.92e	...	12.81	+.05	-.2
AMD	...	...	10.86	+.31	+278.4
Alibaba	...	40	88.85	-2.34	+9.3
AlonUSA	.60	...	11.38	+.19	-23.3
Ambev	.06e	...	4.81	+.03	+7.8
Amgen	4.00	14	150.39	+1.70	-7.4
Anadarko	.20	...	70.33	-.35	+44.8
Annaly	1.20a	8	9.89	-.21	+5.4
Apache	1.00	...	66.74	+1.00	+50.1
Apple Inc	2.28	14	115.82	+.63	+10.0
ApldMatl	.40	20	33.06	+.92	+77.1
ArcelorMit	...	28	7.90	-.03	+145.7
Archrock	.48f	...	14.05	...	+86.8
ATMOS	1.68	22	73.00	+.59	+15.8
AutoData	2.28f	27	98.76	+1.07	+16.6
BP PLC	2.40e	...	35.85	-.17	+14.7
BakrHu	.68	...	65.35	+.61	+41.6
BcoBrad s	.54e	...	8.14	+.09	+86.1
BkofAm	.30f	18	23.16	+.49	+37.6
B iPVxST rs	...	...	25.97	-.34	...
BaringsCp s	1.20	...	15.62	+.10	-9.4
BarrickG	.08	32	14.00	-.73	+89.7
BasicEnSv	...	...	.42	+.01	-84.3
BerkHa A	...	16248	271.03	+1151.01	+25.5
BlkHillsCp	1.68	21	59.99	+.19	+29.2
BrMySq	1.56f	41	58.65	+.15	-14.7
BrownFA s	...	29	47.10	+.33	...
BrownFB s	...	...	45.14	+.39	-10.4
CVS Health	1.70f	14	78.29	-.67	-19.9
CatalystBio	...	...	1.07	+.53	-65.8
Caterpillar	3.08	26	94.53	+.79	+39.1
Celestic g	...	10	11.96	-.02	+8.4
CntryLink	2.16	10	23.97	+.10	-4.7
ChesEng	...	...	7.03	-.05	+56.2
Chevron	4.28	...	117.05	+1.09	+30.1
Chicos	.32	35	16.14	-.15	+51.3
Cimarex	.32	...	137.28	+.20	+53.6
Cisco	1.04	15	30.63	+.17	+13.7
Citigroup	.64	16	60.23	+.78	+16.4
ClayEng	...	...	107.76	+7.58	+264.4
CocaCola	1.40	25	41.55	+.34	-3.3

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
ColgPalm	1.56	24	66.23	+.32	-.6
ConAgra	.80m	22	38.42	+.68	+17.1
ConchoRes	...	...	139.22	+1.51	+49.9
ConocoPhil	1.00	...	51.74	+.25	+10.8
CrackerB	4.60	22	170.53	+.78	+34.5
CSVInvNG	...	...	4.16	+.38	-66.8
CrosTim	1.09e	14	18.82	+.12	+44.7
DCP Mid	3.12	17	35.76	+.53	+45.0
DTE	2.92	21	96.69	+.61	+20.6
Dataram rs	...	...	1.32	+.01	-33.3
DevonE	.24	...	47.53	+.51	+48.5
DrGMBll s	...	...	4.42	-.97	...
DxGBull s	...	...	5.93	-.98	...
Disney	1.56f	18	104.39	+.34	-.7
DowChm	1.84	19	58.35	+.69	+13.3
DryShp rs	...	1	5.40	+1.85	-97.9
EOG Rescs	.67	...	103.92	-.29	+46.8
EmpDist	1.04	23	34.11	+.01	+21.5
Energen	.08	...	58.87	+.60	+43.6
EngyTsfr	4.22	...	34.29	+.10	+1.7
EnPro	.84	50	65.97	+.64	+50.5
EnteroM rs	...	...	.06	+.00	-96.8
EntProdPt	1.62f	20	25.91	+.56	+1.3
Ericsson	.46e	...	5.86	+.13	-39.0
ExxonMbl	3.00	36	90.89	+.31	+16.6
Facebook	...	33	120.57	+.36	+15.2
FordM	.60a	6	12.58	+.05	-10.7
FrptMcM	...	...	14.61	-.04	+115.8
GATX	1.60	9	60.78	+.88	+42.8
GabMultT	.94e	...	7.27	+.02	-3.1
GAInv	1.15e	...	31.63	+.09	+10.3
GenElec	.96f	28	31.26	-.24	+.4
GenMotors	1.52	6	36.24	+.29	+6.6
GtPlainEn	1.10f	16	27.46	+.19	+.5
Groupon	...	...	3.59	-.05	+16.9
GulfportE	...	...	23.01	-3.87	-6.3
Hallibrtn	.72	...	53.79	+.28	+58.0
HarmonyG	...	...	1.92	-.08	+106.7
HeclaM	.01e	30	5.42	-.46	+186.8
Hilton	.28	19	27.31	+.63	+27.6
HuntBncsh	.32f	19	13.34	+.24	+20.6
IAMGld g	...	11	3.21	-.35	+126.1
iShBrazil	1.03e	...	31.87	+.37	+54.1
iShSilver	...	...	15.18	-.75	+15.1

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
iShChinaLC	.76e	...	35.88	-.32	+1.7
iShEMkts	.84e	...	35.31	+.06	+9.7
iS Eafe	1.70e	...	58.09	-.13	-1.1
iShR2K	1.77e	...	136.16	+1.01	+20.9
Intel	1.04	16	36.79	+.24	+6.8
InterDig	1.20	16	90.70	+5.95	+85.0
ItauUnibH	.32e	...	9.62	-.01	+48.0
JPMorgCh	1.92	15	86.00	+1.27	+31.1
JohnJn	3.20	18	115.89	+.90	+12.8
Keycorp	.34	17	18.37	+.23	+39.3
KimbClk	3.68	19	115.39	+.78	-9.4
Kinross g	...	...	3.13	-.08	+72.0
LegacyRes	.60m	...	2.36	+.08	+34.9
Lubys	...	...	4.29	-.02	-4.0
MarathnO	.20	...	18.24	+.04	+44.9
McDnlds	3.76f	23	122.36	-.48	+3.6
MelcoCrwn	.70e	42	16.28	-1.03	-3.1
Merck	1.88f	16	62.37	+.57	+18.1
MeritMed	...	35	26.35	+.45	+41.7
MexcoEn	...	...	4.57	-.02	+41.5
MicronT	...	...	20.29	+.27	+43.3
Microsoft	1.56f	26	62.58	-.10	+12.8
Mondelez	.76	50	44.71	+1.88	-.3
MorgStan	.80	17	43.01	+.15	+35.2
Nabors	.24	...	15.92	+.10	+87.1
NatGrid	3.35e	...	57.85	-.12	-16.8
NOilVarco	.20	21	39.70	+.22	+18.5
NSTFI3	.55a	...	13.93	-.09	-4.2
NTXQI	.65	...	13.68	-.11	-5.2
Nvidia	.56f	60	98.71	+2.26	+199.5
OcciPet	3.04f	...	71.30	+.34	+5.5
OnSmcnd	...	24	13.03	+.55	+33.0
Oracle	.60	20	40.86	-.02	+12.3
ParTech	...	16	5.27	-.01	-21.7
ParkDrl	...	...	2.55	-.15	+40.1
PattUTI	.08	8	26.73	+.21	+77.3
PennaRE	.84	79	18.98	-.32	-13.2
Prmian	.38e	23	8.31	+.37	+64.2
Petrobras	...	...	10.26	-.14	+138.6
Pfizer	1.28f	13	32.75	-.07	+1.5
Pier 1	.28	26	8.57	+2.09	+68.4
PioNtrl	.08	...	187.45	-.14	+49.5
PlainsAAP	2.20m	29	32.24	+.27	+39.6
PwShs QQQ	1.52e	...	120.40	+.19	+7.6
Praxair	3.00	24	123.43	+.85	+20.5

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
PrmEgy	...	...	49.50	+1.00	-6.6
PUVixST rs	...	...	9.08	-.29	...
ProctGam	2.68	23	84.68	+.31	+6.6
RangeRs	.08	...	34.66	-.19	+40.8
RegionsFn	.26f	19	14.52	+.18	+51.3
Rowan	.40	7	19.92	+.17	+17.5
RoyDShllA	3.76	81	53.69	+.38	+17.3
SpdrDJIA	3.98e	...	198.66	+.52	+14.2
S&P500ETF	4.13e	...	226.81	+.93	+11.3
SpdrOGEx	.73e	...	41.93	+.19	+38.7
SabnR	1.93e	17	35.85	-.10	+36.5
SanderFm	.96f	14	88.75	-.52	+14.5
Schlmbrg	2.00	56	85.28	+.12	+22.3
Schwab	.28	32	39.42	+.42	+19.7
SiriusXM	.01p	37	4.49	-.02	+10.3
Smucker	3.00f	16	127.45	-.63	+3.3
SP CnSt	1.28e	...	52.14	+.22	+3.3
SP Engy	2.04e	...	76.44	+.17	+26.7
SPDR Fncl	.46e	...	23.67	+.20	+22.3
SP Util	1.55e	...	48.29	+.34	+11.6
SunocoLog	2.04f	49	23.06	+.15	-10.3
TelefEsp	1.03e	...	8.92	+.06	-19.3
Tesoro	2.20	11	90.44	+.79	-14.2
3M Co	4.44	22	176.02	-.58	+16.8
Torchmark	.56	17	73.74	+.29	+29.3
TriContl	.82e	...	21.92	+.01	+9.5

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
21stCFoxA	.36f	18	27.99	-.03	+3.1
TylerTech	...	51	143.00	-5.95	-18.0
UBSI	1.32	25	48.35	+.60	+30.7
US NGas	...	...	8.64	-.33	-.3
US OilFd	...	...	11.36	+.04	+3.3
USSteel	.20	...	35.84	+.31	+349.1
Vale SA	.29e	...	8.45	+.17	+156.8
ValeantPh	...	15	13.60	-.52	-86.6
ValeroE	2.40	14	67.64	+1.15	-4.3
VanEGold	.12e	...	18.99	-.90	+38.4
VanE JrGld	...	...	30.32	-1.86	+57.8
VangEmg	1.10e	...	35.87	+.16	+9.7
VangFTSE	1.10e	...	36.72	-.06	...
VulcanM	.80	43	123.93	-.79	+30.5
WEC Engy	2.08f	20	57.14	+.23	+11.4
WalgBoots	1.50	19	85.72	-.02	+.7
Weathfintl	...	...	5.32	-.19	-36.6
WellsFargo	1.52	14	55.19	+.49	+1.5
WstnRefin	1.52	27	38.97	+.36	+9.4
WhitingPet	...	...	11.91	+.74	+26.2
WmsCos	.80	68	29.12	-.10	+13.3
XcelEngy	1.36	19	40.22	+.18	+12.0
Xerox	.31	12	9.03	+.03	-15.1
Yahoo	...	...	38.41	-2.50	+15.5
Yamana g	.02m	88	2.63	-.18	+41.4

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
19,966.43	15,450.56	Dow Jones Industrials	19,852.24	+59.71	+.30	+13.93	+13.47
9,490.29	6,403.31	Dow Jones Transportation	9,258.86	+40.50	+.44	+23.31	+22.90
723.83	548.08	Dow Jones Utilities	649.23	+4.18	+.65	+12.36	+12.95
11,256.07	8,937.99	NYSE Composite	11,131.89	+33.22	+.30	+9.74	+10.08
5,486.75	4,209.76	Nasdaq Composite	5,456.85	+20.18	+.37	+8.98	+9.08
2,277.53	1,810.10	S&P 500	2,262.03	+8.75	+.39	+10.67	+10.78
1,698.70	1,215.14	S&P Midcap	1,670.74	+6.41	+.39	+19.46	+19.86
23,802.01	18,462.43	Wilshire 5000	23,636.41	+92.24	+.39	+11.66	+12.02
1,392.71	943.09	Russell 2000	1,366.41	+10.39	+.77	+20.30	+20.35

TODAY: Mostly sunny — High: 77 Low: 50

SATURDAY: Mostly sunny — High: 69 Low: 18

SUNDAY: Sunny — High: 34 Low: 16

MONDAY: Partly sunny — High: 36 Low: 26

TUESDAY: Mostly sunny — High: 52 Low: 35

WEDNESDAY: Mostly sunny — High: 58 Low: 35

Local forecast

Forecasted highs are above normal for today and Saturday, and then the highs will be near freezing Sunday and Monday, according to the National Weather Service. There isn't any precipitation in the forecast.

The record high for Dec. 15 is 81, set in 2010. The record low is 11, set in 1987. On Dec. 15 of last year, the high was 58 and the low was 36.

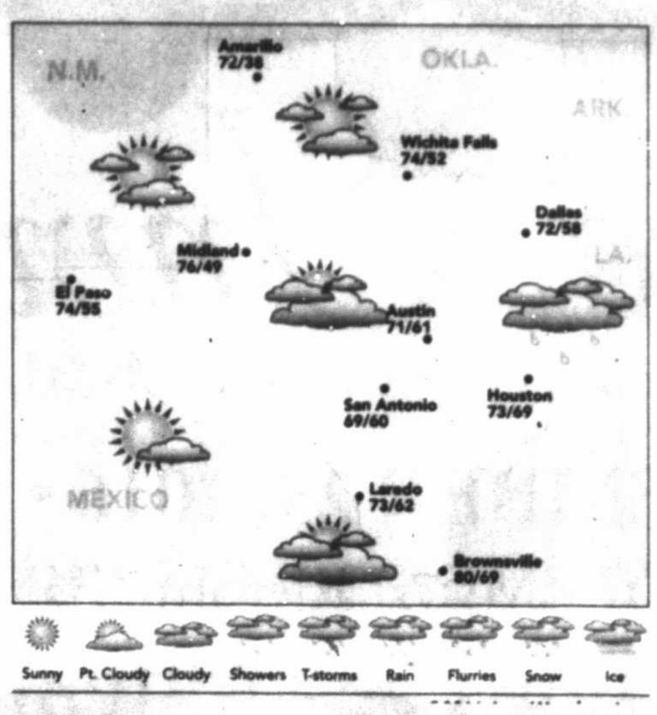
Environment brief

Mexico plans to catch, protect last few vaquita porpoises

MEXICO CITY — So few of Mexico's vaquita porpoises remain that the international committee to protect the endangered species is preparing to catch and enclose as many as it can in a last-ditch effort to save them from extinction, experts said Thursday.

It will be a risky effort, because the species has never been held successfully in captivity.

According to rough estimates, only about three dozen of the world's smallest porpoise remain in the upper Gulf of California, the only place it lives.



Precipitation

Wednesday	0.00 in.
Thursday	0.00 in.
Month total	0.35 in.
Year total	15.12 in.
Normal total (year to date)	14.30 in.

Thursday's temperatures

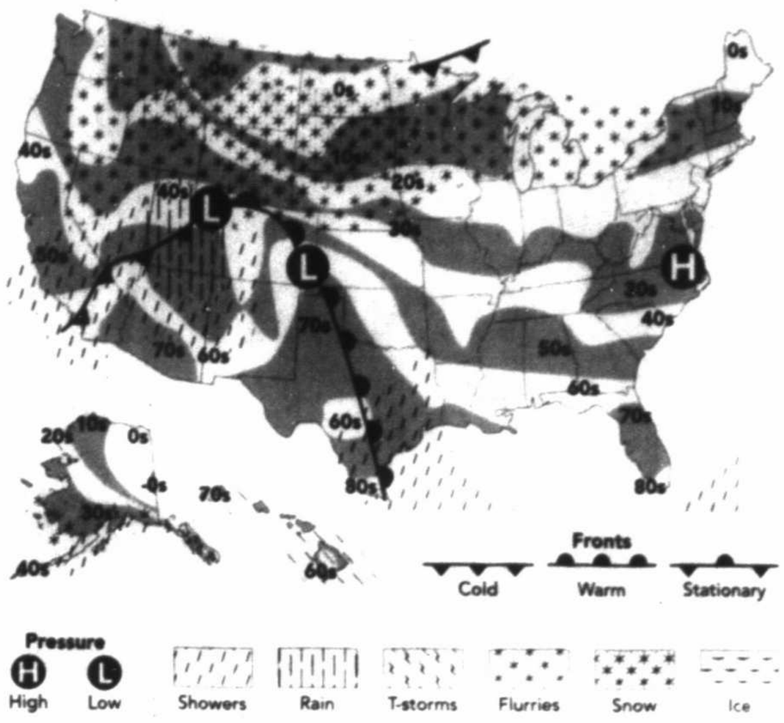
High	48
Low	32
Normal high	58
Normal low	31
Sunrise	7:43 a.m.
Sunset	5:47 p.m.

National weather

AccuWeather.com

Forecast for Friday, December 16, 2016

Bands separate high temperature zones for the day.



Mom and daughter launch into premature ring-shopping

DEAR ABBY

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



DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I have been dating for almost eight months. We love each other and talk often about marriage, family, etc.

The other night — just for fun — I looked online at rings and showed my mom a few I really loved. She quickly dismissed all of them, and started telling me how I need a big stone and that it needs to be expensive. Then she went online and looked herself and was telling me which ones I should be interested in. Mom offered to take me to a jeweler's to find the "perfect" ring.

She has always been a helicopter parent, but now, as my boyfriend and I are becoming more serious, she's going into warp drive. How can I tell her gently to butt out? Also, what's your advice on the ring situation? — DAUGHTER OF A HELICOPTER MOM

DEAR DAUGHTER: You and your mother are both jumping the gun. "Talking often of marriage, family, etc." is not an engagement. If you allow your mother to involve herself in this, I predict you will never get engaged because your boyfriend — if he's smart — will run for the hills. When and if you do decide to tie the knot, the two of you should go to a jeweler together and select something he can afford and you will enjoy wearing. Period.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a young woman in my 20s. I have been blessed with a loving family, lots of opportunities and people who care about me. My problem is, I don't feel worthy of any of it.

A lot of the time when I'm around people, I feel like I'm on the outside looking in — like an intruder. When I join groups and listen, I feel like I'm eavesdropping. When I try to pitch in, I feel like I'm annoying everyone. I try to be like people who other people like, but I feel I fall far short of the mark.

I wish I could change and be less irritating and more interesting, but I don't know how to change my personality, or even if I could. I'm just tired of not feeling worthy enough. I know this feeling isn't rational, but it's here to stay, apparently. What should I do? — UNWORTHY

DEAR UNWORTHY: There is nothing so defeating to social success than low self-esteem — feeling undeserving and not good enough. The first thing you should do is stop trying to change yourself to please others because it doesn't work. Then try to pinpoint where these feelings of unworthiness originated. If you can't manage it on your own — many people can't — make an appointment to discuss it with a licensed mental health professional. You deserve to feel good about yourself and what you contribute.

DEAR ABBY: Years ago, it was considered improper to send a holiday card to a friend or family member who experienced the loss of a child or spouse during the year.

What is correct today? And what about an invitation to a party? — CAREFUL IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR CAREFUL: If there was a "rule" that people who have suffered a loss should not receive a holiday card, I have never heard of it. One would think that those who are grieving would appreciate knowing they were being remembered.

As to inviting the person to a party — not everyone grieves in the same way or for the same length of time. Unless religious custom prevents it, if you think the friend or relative might enjoy the event, by all means extend an invitation. The invitee can always refuse if it's too soon.

GOREN BRIDGE

With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Lead directing?

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A 7 3
♡ A Q 7
♢ A Q J
♣ A J 9 4

WEST
♠ 8 5
♡ J 8 6 2
♢ K 10 8 6 4
♣ Q 2

EAST
♠ 2
♡ K 9 4 3
♢ 7 5 3 2
♣ K 8 6 5

SOUTH
♠ K Q J 10 9 6 4
♡ 10 5
♢ 9
♣ 10 7 3

The bidding:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♠*	Pass	4♠	Pass
6♠	Dbl	All pass	

*Artificial, forcing, at least 16 points

Opening lead: Six of ♢

North-South were playing a strong club system, where one club is an unlimited forcing bid with at least 16 high-card points. East intended his double to be lead directing, calling for the lead of dummy's first-bid suit, in this case clubs. West wasn't sure, as North's leap to slam might have been based on a strong club suit. West might have forgotten, in the heat of the moment, that the one-club opening was artificial.

Declarer played the jack from dummy on the opening diamond lead. Had that lost to the king, South planned to discard two clubs on the ace and queen of diamonds, and then try to develop a long club by ruffing. Should that not work, he would fall back on the heart finesse. When the jack held the trick, South was home free, and he found an elegant way to prove it.

South drew trumps, ending in his hand, and led a low club to dummy's nine. This end-played East in all three suits! A lead from East in either hearts, diamonds, or clubs would give South the extra trick that he needed. This was an absolutely lovely ending, and it would have succeeded even if East held both the king and queen of clubs. Well done!

Note that the contract makes easily on the queen of clubs lead. Declarer just draws the trumps and sets up the long club for a heart discard.

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Dec. 16, 2016:

This year you get ahead by being flexible. You also are full of positive energy. As a result, whatever you choose to become involved in will reflect this new attitude. Situations and interpersonal interactions flow easily. If you are single, you could meet someone who will make a substantial difference to your life. Even if this bond is not long-term, it will affect how you view future relationships. If you are attached, the two of you enjoy each other's company a lot. The two of you often invite friends to join you. LEO loves your intellectual energy.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★★ You have a flair about you that can't be denied. You know what to do in order to make what you want happen. You'll set up a plan and watch each piece fall into place. You are unusually creative; use that gift with a loved one. Tonight: Show off your stuff.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★ You might want to take off and run some errands. Touch base with a family member who often has the bah-humbugs. Make a point of spending time with this person. You probably can't change his or her feelings about the holidays, but you can lift his or her spirits. Tonight: Order in.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ You could be unusually evasive right now. So much is running through your mind simultaneously that sometimes your conversations are lacking in details. Slow down and take your time, especially when dealing with others. Tonight: Full of laughter and fun!

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★ You could be wondering how you should handle a personal matter. Your sense of humor emerges when dealing with a child. You might want to go ahead and get an item off his or her holiday wish list. Tonight: Treat a partner to eggnog and perhaps a visit under the mistletoe.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★★ You'll feel invigorated, no matter what you decide to do. If you are not attached, you probably will have several admirers surrounding you. Know that you don't need to make a decision right now. Enjoy all the positive energy coming toward you. Tonight: Out late.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★ You are better off maintaining a low profile for now. You know what you want and why. Before launching into action, verify whether you really believe you can get your desired outcome. Tonight: Make it an early night.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★★ Your friends seem to surround you; they obviously want time with you. You might need to be selective in choosing whom you give your attention to. You have had plans for the day and a project to accomplish. Still you do not want to snub anyone. Tonight: Where the party is.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★ An older relative and/or friend could make demands at the last minute. Be graceful about all the attention you are being given right now. You will not want to disappoint others. Tonight: A must appearance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★ Reach out to others at a distance. You might need to have a pre-holiday conversation with a key person, if only to go over plans. You'll find that detaching from the crazy and busy pace will allow you to relax. Tonight: Get into the holiday spirit with some seasonal music.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★★ You could be pushing very hard to achieve certain goals before the holidays arrive. Just the same, a partner or associate will be demanding a lot of your time right now. You might have no choice but to give this person your attention, at least for a bit. Tonight: Dinner out.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ You could be overwhelmed by all the inquiries and calls you receive. Just be responsive, and you might be surprised by how much you can get done. Tonight: Visit with a loved one.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★ Defer to others, knowing that you might need an extra push to get something done. Count on an associate or a loved one to help you. This person has a nurturing way of expressing his or her caring. Tonight: Let go and enjoy the moment.

BORN TODAY

Novelist Jane Austen (1775), actor Benjamin Bratt (1963), comedian Jerry Angelo Brooks

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Bird that's a national symbol
5 "Chasing Pavements" singer
10 Party time, casually
14 Eddie __, detective involved in the actual "French Connection"
15 Spring bloomer
16 Former constellation that included Vela (the sails)
17 "Don't waste your money on that pendant"?
19 Insulated cable
20 Thorough investigation
21 Opposite of bumpy
22 Pants part
23 Spinner in a numbers game?
26 Elaborate in design
29 It's heard in a herd
30 Online service option
31 Daring exploit
35 One eschewing leather, perhaps
39 Satisfied sounds
40 Pub pick
42 Presidential nickname
43 Long bout
45 Start of something big?
46 Quiets, in a way
47 Quirky
49 Hills of Rome, e.g.
51 Hammock?
57 Beginning
58 Square figure
59 Early or late hr., depending
63 Go on
64 Pruning ideology?
66 Pulitzer-winning author James
67 Sure-footed critters
68 Composer Khachaturian
69 "What __ you thinking?"
70 Not a hit, usually
71 Sport that hints at this puzzle's theme

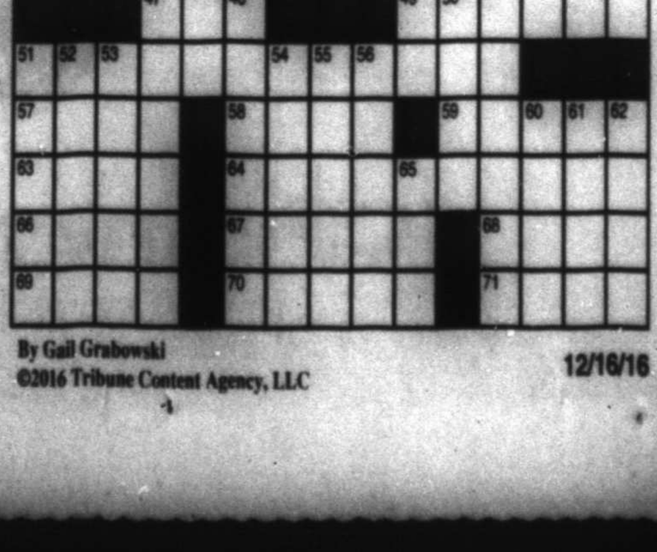
DOWN

1 Vegetation in underwater forests
2 Aviation pioneer Sikorsky
3 Chisholm Trail city
4 Test pattern
5 U-verse provider
6 Comforter
7 Sorbonne student
8 Large soda bottle label word
9 Henry Ford, e.g.
10 Excavating aid
11 Hive member
12 Think alike
13 Mountain air
18 Fair-hiring agcy.
24 Draped garment
25 Zigzagged
26 Some TVs
27 Offhand greeting
28 Discounted buy
32 Split-resistant wood
33 See 61-Down
34 Stress
36 Trot, say
37 Skilled
38 Source of tweets
40 Beginning to cure?
41 When repeated, Cult Jam singer
44 Driver's gadget
46 Source of flowing water
48 "CSI" setting
50 Sci. concerned with biodiversity
51 Multiple Emmy-winning legal drama
52 Missouri river
53 Usually disappointed one
54 Sales figure
55 Side in a decades-long war
56 Tied
60 Peseta replacer
61 With 33-Down, part of it is now a desert
62 Exec's reminder
65 Purpose

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

P	L	O	D	S		A	R	G	O		R	P	M	S
R	E	R	U	N		D	E	M	O		E	L	I	E
O	M	A	H	A	B	E	A	C	H		P	U	N	S
W	O	N		P	U	L	L		D	O	G	I	T	
E	N	G		O	N	E	M	O	R	E	T	I	M	E
S	T	E	I	N	S			R	E	A		N	E	T
S	E	R	B			B	A	C	A	L	L			
	A	Y	E	A	Y	E	C	A	P	T	A	I	N	
		T	R	A	I	T	S			N	C	O	S	
U	S	C		I	N	G		B	A	K	E	R	Y	
S	Q	U	E	E	G	E	E	M	O	P		M	E	N
M	U	R	A	L		N	A	T	L		A	T	A	
A	I	L	S		A	L	L	S	H	O	O	K	U	P
P	R	E	Y		L	E	A	K		M	Y	E	R	S
S	E	R	A		A	S	I	S		B	E	R	N	E

xworditor@aol.com 12/16/16



By Gail Grabowski
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12/16/16

You're Invited

Enjoy Christmas Dinner at the MCM Eleganté

SUNDAY DECEMBER 25, 2016 • 10am - 2pm

Served Inside the MCM Eleganté Ballroom

CARVING STATION

Herb Crusted Prime Rib | Honey Baked Ham

BUFFET LINE

Turkey and Dressing | Southwest Chicken | Mango Chutney Salmon | Fried Pork Chops
Giblet Gravy | Candied Yams | Loaded Mashed Potatoes | Primavera Mixed Vegetables
Peel & Eat Shrimp | Fried Shrimp | Omelet, Pasta, & Waffle Stations
Menudo | Beef Soup | Tamales | Bisquits & Gravy | Bacon & Sausage | Salad Bar

DESSERT TABLE

Fresh Fruit Display | Pies | Assorted Cakes | Bread Pudding | Ice Cream Sundae Bar | Cobbler

Adults **$24.99** | Seniors (65+) **$19.99** | Children (6-11) **$9.99** | Children 5 & Under **FREE**

Call Ahead for Reservations 432-368-5885

MCM Eleganté

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HOLIDAY ROOM RATES starting at **$79.99**

BOOK YOUR CHRISTMAS PARTIES! 432-368-5885

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Meet & Greet

SATURDAY DECEMBER 17 1-3PM

Clifford THE BIG RED DOG™

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Permian Petroleum Services, Inc. Need Class A CDL Vacuum and Tank Truck Drivers with tank endorsement and clean driving records. Must be experienced. Offering competitive wages, paid health insurance, uniforms and vacations. Retirement, family medical, dental and vision insurance available. Apply at 4601 S. Rankin Hwy., Midland, Texas: mail resume to P.O. Box 3663, Midland, Texas 79702; fax to 432-687-1643; call 24-hour phone 432-682-0434 or email rvmaskell@gmail.com

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WTG is seeking a GIS / Compliance Specialist for our Amarillo office. The qualified candidate will be responsible for the maintenance development of WTG's GIS systems. **Qualifications include**

- 3+ years GIS experience
- ESRI ArcGIS for Desktop / ESRI ArcGIS Server
- Knowledge of DOT pipeline regulations
- Knowledge of Microsoft Word / Excel
- Must be able to travel

Contact Ray Reed at 806-358-1321 rreed@westtexasecos.com

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Opening for Certified Dental Assistant. Two years experience and Nitrous Certified. Monday through Thursday, 401K and vacation available. Send resume to 4305 N. Garfield, Suite 221, Midland, TX. 79705

LCDC/LPC/Intern
LCDC/LPC/Intern needed for Addiction medical clinic part time Monday-Friday, 6am-10:30am. Tx planning, case mgmt and therapy. Paid holidays, paid sick days, no health benefits. Midland positions. Please fax resume to 800-671-8364.

Male Specimen Collector
Now hiring Male Specimen Collector. Please come by to apply at 711 W. Indiana Ave, Midland.

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Must be bilingual, available to work M-F & some Saturdays. Please call 432-699-5111 for more information.

Ophthalmic Technician
Full Time Ophthalmic Technician needed: Duties include screening patients, vision and diagnostic testing, assisting physician with minor surgical procedures. Serious inquires please send resume, via fax 432-694-7414 or 2706 W Cuthbert, BLDG A Midland, TX 79701.

Surgery Coordinator & Phlebotomist
Immediate opening for **Surgery Coordinator & Phlebotomist,** experience preferred. FT. Excellent benefit package. Send resume with references to: **jodyclinic@gmail.com or Midland Women's Clinic, Attn: Jody Sulta, 2500 W. Illinois Ave Suite 100, Midland, TX 79701.**

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Affinity Steel - Hiring Warehouse/Yard Manager. Pay based on experience. Job duties include management, customer service, shipping/receiving, inventory & other tasks as needed. Knowledge of structural steel & metal building components a plus. Apply in person 1809 W County Rd 114 Midland. Call 432-617-4477 for directions.

OTHER JOBS

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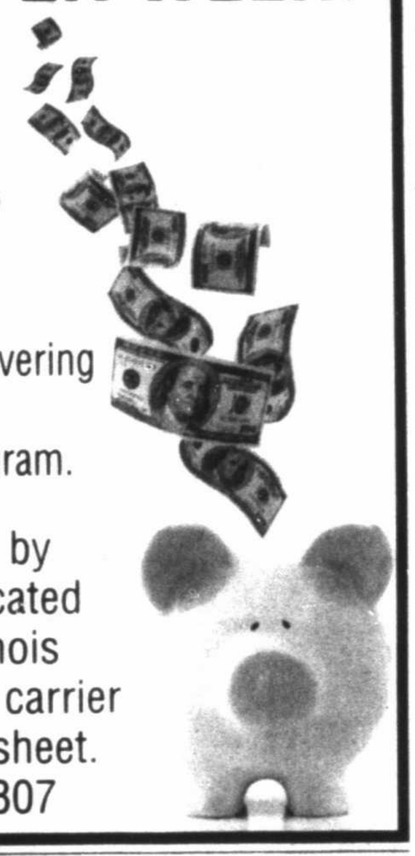
Do you have a reliable car with insurance and a phone?? Become an independent contractor delivering the Midland Reporter-Telegram.



Please come by our office located at 201 E. Illinois and fill out a carrier information sheet.
Linda 687-8807

Materials Handler
Machine Shop has immediate positon available. Material Handler, forklift and band saw experience a plus. Willingness to learn in a fast paced environment. Insurance and 401 (k). Send resume to hr@jhobbsmachine.com No calls or in person please. We will contact you.

Multiple Positions Available
Midland County has the following positions available:
*** Part-Time Library Clerk * Maintenance Helper In Jail**
*** Jailer * Senior Foreman- Road & Bridge**

Please see our website www.co.midland.tx.us/departments/hr/pages/employment.aspx for more details, pay and applications. To be considered you must send a completed application with job reference numbers to the address indicated on the application.

SALES JOBS

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Delivery driver with some warehouse and light maintenance duties needed. Benefits available. Clean driving record required. Apply in person at Basin Engine & Pump, 1914 S. County Rd., Midland, TX.

Electronic Billing Specialist
Local service company is looking for an experienced electronic billing specialist for a fast paced office has an opening for experienced electronic billing specialist. Must be organized, have accurate data entry skills and an attention to detail. Must have the ability to multi-task with distractions while still meeting strict goals. This candidate will have the skills listed above while being self-motivated and a team player. We offer an excellent work environment with good salary and benefits package for the right person.
Send your resume to hiringemployee9@gmail.com

Outside Sales Rep
Midland Reporter-Telegram

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, a cell phone allowance 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:

Adrianne Hrebicek, Senior Advertising Manager
201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX 79701 or **acramirez@hearstnp.com**
No phone calls please.

SALES JOBS

SALES ASSOCIATE
Wood's Boots is currently hiring part time sales associates. If you are interested in wearing boots and jeans to work, and working with great customers come see us at 812 W. I-20 in Midland. No phone calls!

Salesperson
Basin Engine and Pump
Experienced pump salesperson needed. Excellent compensation and benefit plans provided. Email resume to Jeff@basinengine.com

SKILLED LABOR

Commercial Construction Project Expeditor
Mid-Tex of Midland, Inc. Now hiring a commercial construction project expeditor. Competitive pay plus excellent benefits. Experience in commercial construction a must. Please send resumes to 5206 West Wadley, Midland, Texas 79707 or you may fax your resume to (432) 694-9627. Attention to Alan White

Field Mechanics
Basin Engine & Pump
Mechanics needed for Industrial Oilfield Shop. Must be experienced working on centrifugal & positive displacement pumps. Furnish your own tools. Uniforms provided. Benefits package includes vacation, health insurance and retirement match savings. Salary depends on experience. Please submit resume by fax to 432-570-1115 or email toTodd@basinengine.com. Applications can be filled out at 1914 S. County Rd. 1083, Midland, TX 79706.

Trackhoe & Loader Operators
Hiring experienced trackhoe and loader operators for oilfield dirt work,construction. 1-2 years operator experience required. Pay DOE. Health, vision, and dental insurance 100% paid! Apply in person: 9400 S. Service Rd., Coahoma, TX., or call 432-394-4604 for more information.

TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

CDL Class A Driver
Pro Oilfield Services LLC, Midland, TX. area needing CDL Class A Driver with Tanker & Hazmat endorsement. Must be able to operate heavy haul winch truck. Must pass background, DOT physical & drug test. Clean driving record. Minimum 5 years experience required. Send resumes to mmuller@proosllc.com

CDL Drivers & Owner Operators
Local trucking company Now hiring Class A CDL Drivers & Owner Operators, clean driving record is required. Must pass a criminal background check and DOT drug test. Apply in person at 3913 FM 715, Midland, Texas 79706

Class A CDL Drivers
Minimum of 2-3 years experience. Hazmat endorsement preferred but not necessary. Vacuum truck experience. Call 361-387-9400 or 432-934-3829

GLOBE
Energy Services

Now Hiring CDL Drivers
With Tanker Endorsement
Pump Truck Operators
Vacuum Truck Operators
Hot Oil Operators
Competitive pay, Health Insurance, Vacation and Retirement Benefits available!

Please apply at the following Main Office location:
2905 East I-20, Midland, Texas

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Experienced Oilfield Water Haulers
HOME DAILY!
●Paid Orientation ● $16.74 /Hr. Avg. 55 - 70 Hours per Week
● Day/Night Shift - Must be available for both
● Dispatched to and from terminal daily
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888-467-1191 EEOE/AAP

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Legal and Public Notices

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 7C
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Dec 1, 2016
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Jan 5, 2017
Address: Railroad Commission of Texas
ATTN: Drilling Permit Unit
P. O. Box 12967
Austin, Texas 78711-2967
Fax: (512) 463-6780
Email: SWR37@RRC.TEXAS.GOV

Rule 37 Case No. 0302621
Status/Permit No. 819446

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the PARSLEY ENERGY OPERATIONS, LLC. [RRC Operator No. 642652] has made application for a spacing exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 37 (16 Tex. Admin. Code section 3.37). Applicant seeks exception to the LEASE LINE requirement for the AMENDED NEW DRILL permit in Sec. 15, Blk. 39 TSS, T&P RR CO Survey, A-430, SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) R 40 EXC Field, UPTON County, being 8 miles SW direction from MIDKIFF, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted **WITHOUT A HEARING** if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception.A Protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at **(512)463-6848.** If you have questions which are specific to the Application or the information set forth in this Notice, please contact the Commission's Drilling Permit Unit at rule 37 **(512)463-6751.**

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER, OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY Jan 5, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO PROTEST AND THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.

THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION REQUIRES PUBLICATION

The location and identity of the well is as shown below:

FIELD: SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) R 40 EXC

Lease/Unit Name	:	JRS FARMS "22-27
Lease/Unit Well No.	:	4401H
Lease/Unit Acres	:	986.6
Nearest Lease Line (ft)	:	1.0
Nearest Well on Lease (ft)	:	3897.0
Lease Lines	:	390.0 F S L, 494.0 F W L
Survey Lines	:	390.0 F S L, 494.0 F W L

Wellbore Profile(s) : Horizontal

Lateral: TH1
Penetration Point Location
Lease Lines: 420.0 F S L
630.0 F W L
Terminus Location
BH County: UPTON
Section: 27 Block: 39 TSS Abstract: 436
Survey: T&P RR CO
Lease Lines: 15.0 F SOUTH L
330.0 F WEST L
Survey Lines: 2656.0 F NORTH L
330.0 F WEST L

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:

SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) R 40 EXC :
GAS Special Rules 330/0, 80.0 acres.
OIL Special Rules 330/1200, 80.0 acres.

This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 10040 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, Monna Coleman, at (737) 7042339.

Legal and Public Notices

NOTICE FOR BIDS

The School Land Board and the Texas General Land Office (GLO) will hold an online sealed bid Oil, Gas, and Other Minerals Lease Sale at EnergyNet.com. Bids received will be opened at the GLO in Austin, Texas on January 17, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. For more information call (832) 403-3122 or (512) 475-1512, write to Mineral Leasing, Rm. 840, 1700 N. Congress, Austin, Texas 78701, or visit www.energynet.com. or www.glo.texas.gov.

ORDINANCE NO. 9623

AN ORDINANCE ALTERING PRIMA FACIE SPEED LIMITS ALONG CERTAIN STREETS IN THE CITY; AUTHORIZING INSTALLATION OF APPROPRIATE SIGNS AND MARKINGS; CONTAINING A CUMULATIVE CLAUSE; CONTAINING A SAVINGS AND SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR A MAXIMUM PENALTY OR FINE OF TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS ($200.00); AND ORDERING PUBLICATION

City of Midland

Amy M. Turner
City Secretary

General Announcement

THE CATS MEOW OPEN HOUSE
408 Andrews Hwy - Midland, Texas
Fri. - Sat. 10am - 6pm

Everyone is welcome to come celebrate Christmas with us. If you have someone that collects Antiques we might just have the perfect gift for them. Every surface is full of Flow Blue, Staffordshire Dogs, Royal Doulton figurines, Santa Toby pitchers, Hummels, Mercury glass, cake stands, Cobalt, Meissen, Dresden, Limoges, Milk glass, 20th Century glass, Fenton, Roseville, kitchen collectibles, fine linens, monogrammed hankies, silver flatware, antique books, toys, electric train set, old tins, religious Statuary, 1930's doll house, etc.
In our vintage clothing area we have more than 77 vintage furs including Sable, Mink, Fox, Persian Lamb, Lynx, Fisher & Coyote. Come browse through our evening and cocktail gowns and don't forget our selection of over 2000 pieces of vintage jewelry. Our Vintage Christmas Decoration selection of more than 3500 pieces from 1900 - 1970's brings back all types of memories.

Come sign up to win our Diva Tree ($650.00 value) and a $100.00 gift certificate. You get one ticket for showing up, one ticket if you make a purchase and five more tickets for every $100.00 you spend. Photos will be sent out to our email list. Email us at svpmeow@aol.com to be added, or view photos on Steven Porterfield Midland Texas Facebook and Craig's List.
Visa, MC, AMEX accepted.

Legal and Public Notices

The City Council of the City of Midland, Texas, will hold a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 10, 2017, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 300 North Loraine, on a request by Diamondback E&P LLC (Bozeman Unit 803LS) for a Permit to Drill an Oil and Gas Well inside the City Limits on the following described property: Located 306 feet from the south line and 2,145 feet from the west line located in Section 8, Block 39, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey, Midland County, Texas

Generally located 405 feet north of Green Tree Blvd. extension and 2,102 feet east of North Midland Drive.

The meeting facility is accessible to disabled persons. A wheelchair entry ramp is located at the southeast entrance to City Hall. A parking space designated for use by disabled persons is available near the southeast entrance doors. Any disabled person needing special accommodations or hearing impaired persons wishing to have an interpreter should request services through the Administrative Services Department at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting by contacting Compliance Coordinator for the City of Midland, at (432) 685-7251. If communication via TDD is required, please call 1-800-735-2989.

CITY OF MIDLAND
Amy M. Turner, MMC
City Secretary

Legal and Public Notices

ORDINANCE NO. 9622

AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING USE CLASSIFICATION OF THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS A 3,763-SQUARE FOOT PORTION OF THE WEST 24.25 FEET OF LOT 9 AND ALL OF LOTS 10 THROUGH 12, BLOCK 65, ORIGINAL TOWN ADDITION, CITY AND COUNTY OF MIDLAND, TEXAS (GENERALLY LOCATED SOUTHEAST OF THE INTERSECTION OF NORTH COLORADO STREET AND WEST WALL STREET); WHICH IS PRESENTLY ZONED C-1, CENTRAL AREA DISTRICT, BY PERMITTING SAID PROPERTY TO BE USED UNDER A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT WITH TERM FOR THE SALE OF ALL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN A RESTAURANT FOR ON-PREMISES CONSUMPTION; MAKING SAID PERMIT SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS CONTAINED HEREIN; CONTAINING A CUMULATIVE CLAUSE; CONTAINING A SAVINGS AND SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR A MAXIMUM PENALTY OR FINE OF TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS ($2,000.00); AND ORDERING PUBLICATION

City of Midland

Amy M. Turner
City Secretary

Legal and Public Notices

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 7C
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Dec 1, 2016
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Jan 5, 2017
Address: Railroad Commission of Texas
ATTN: Drilling Permit Unit
P. O. Box 12967
Austin, Texas 78711-2967
Fax: (512) 463-6780
Email: SWR37@RRC.TEXAS.GOV

Rule 37 Case No. 0302619
Status/Permit No. 819426

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the PARSLEY ENERGY OPERATIONS, LLC. [RRC Operator No. 642652] has made application for a spacing exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 37 (16 Tex. Admin. Code section 3.37). Applicant seeks exception to the LEASE LINE requirement for the AMENDED NEW DRILL permit in Sec. 15, Blk. 39 TSS, T&P RR CO Survey, A-430, SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) R 40 EXC Field, UPTON County, being 8 miles SW direction from MIDKIFF, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted **WITHOUT A HEARING** if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception.A Protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at **(512)463-6848.** If you have questions which are specific to the Application or the information set forth in this Notice, please contact the Commission's Drilling Permit Unit at rule 37 **(512)463-6751.**

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER, OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY Jan 5, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO PROTEST AND THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.

THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION REQUIRES PUBLICATION

The location and identity of the well is as shown below:

FIELD: SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) R 40 EXC

Lease/Unit Name	:	JRS FARMS #22-27
Lease/Unit Well No.	:	4403H
Lease/Unit Acres	:	986.6
Nearest Lease Line (ft)	:	1.0
Nearest Well on Lease (ft)	:	330.0
Lease Lines	:	390.0 F S L, 554.0 F W L
Survey Lines	:	390.0 F S L, 554.0 F W L

Wellbore Profile(s) : Horizontal

Lateral: TH1
Penetration Point Location
Lease Lines: 420.0 F S L
690.0 F W L
Terminus Location
BH County: UPTON
Section: 27 Block: 39 TSS Abstract: 436
Survey: T&P RR CO
Lease Lines: 15.0 F S L
990.0 F W L
Survey Lines: 2655.0 F N L
990.0 F W L

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:

SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) R 40 EXC :
GAS Special Rules 330/0, 80.0 acres.
OIL Special Rules 330/1200, 80.0 acres.

This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 10050 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, Monna Coleman, at (737) 7042339.

Legal and Public Notices

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 7C
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Dec 1, 2016
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Jan 5, 2017
Address: Railroad Commission of Texas
ATTN: Drilling Permit Unit
P. O. Box 12967
Austin, Texas 78711-2967
Fax: (512) 463-6780
Email: SWR37@RRC.TEXAS.GOV

Rule 37 Case No. 0302620
Status/Permit No. 819444

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the PARSLEY ENERGY OPERATIONS, LLC. [RRC Operator No. 642652] has made application for a spacing exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 37 (16 Tex. Admin. Code section 3.37). Applicant seeks exception to the LEASE LINE requirement for the AMENDED NEW DRILL permit in Sec. 15, Blk. 39 TSS, T&P RR CO Survey, A-430, SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) R 40 EXC Field, UPTON County, being 8 miles SW direction from MIDKIFF, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted **WITHOUT A HEARING** if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception.A Protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at **(512)463-6848.** If you have questions which are specific to the Application or the information set forth in this Notice, please contact the Commission's Drilling Permit Unit at rule 37 **(512)463-6751.**

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER, OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY Jan 5, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO PROTEST AND THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.

THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION REQUIRES PUBLICATION

The location and identity of the well is as shown below:

FIELD: SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) R 40 EXC

Lease/Unit Name	:	JRS FARMS (22-27)
Lease/Unit Well No.	:	4202H
Lease/Unit Acres	:	986.6
Nearest Lease Line (ft)	:	100.0
Nearest Well on Lease (ft)	:	3567.0
Lease Lines	:	390.0 F S L, 524.0 F W L
Survey Lines	:	390.0 F S L, 524.0 F W L

Wellbore Profile(s) : Horizontal

Lateral: TH1
Penetration Point Location
Lease Lines: 420.0 F S L
660.0 F W L
Terminus Location
BH County: UPTON
Section: 27 Block: 39 TSS Abstract: 436
Survey: T&P RR CO
Lease Lines: 15.0 F S L
660.0 F W L
Survey Lines: 2655.0 F N L
660.0 F W L

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:

SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) R 40 EXC :
GAS Special Rules 330/0, 80.0 acres.
OIL Special Rules 330/1200, 80.0 acres.

This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 9586 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, Monna Coleman, at (737) 7042339.

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Call: 432-682-6222
Email: mrtclassified@mrt.com

Legal and Public Notices

The City Council of the City of Midland, Texas, will hold a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 10, 2017, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 300 North Loraine, on a request by Diamondback E&P LLC (Bozeman Unit 803MS) for a Permit to Drill an Oil and Gas Well inside the City Limits on the following described property: Located 306 feet from the south line and 2,175 feet from the west line located in Section 8, Block 39, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey, Midland County, Texas.

Generally located 405 feet north of Green Tree Blvd. extension and 2,132 feet east of North Midland Drive.

The meeting facility is accessible to disabled persons. A wheelchair entry ramp is located at the southeast entrance to City Hall. A parking space designated for use by disabled persons is available near the southeast entrance doors. Any disabled person needing special accommodations or hearing impaired persons wishing to have an interpreter should request services through the Administrative Services Department at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting by contacting Compliance Coordinator for the City of Midland, at (432) 685-7251. If communication via TDD is required, please call 1-800-735-2989.

CITY OF MIDLAND
Amy M. Turner, MMC
City Secretary

Legal and Public Notices

The City Council of the City of Midland, Texas, will hold a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 10, 2017, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 300 North Loraine, on a request by Diamondback E&P LLC (Bozeman Unit 803WB) for a Permit to Drill an Oil and Gas Well inside the City Limits on the following described property: Located 306 feet from the south line and 2,085 feet from the west line located in Section 8, Block 39, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey, Midland County, Texas.

Generally located 405 feet north of Green Tree Blvd. extension and 1,976 feet east of North Midland Drive.

The meeting facility is accessible to disabled persons. A wheelchair entry ramp is located at the southeast entrance to City Hall. A parking space designated for use by disabled persons is available near the southeast entrance doors. Any disabled person needing special accommodations or hearing impaired persons wishing to have an interpreter should request services through the Administrative Services Department at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting by contacting Compliance Coordinator for the City of Midland, at (432) 685-7251. If communication via TDD is required, please call 1-800-735-2989.

CITY OF MIDLAND
Amy M. Turner, MMC
City Secretary

Legal and Public Notices

The City Council of the City of Midland, Texas, will hold a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 10, 2017, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 300 North Loraine, on a request by Diamondback E&P LLC (Bozeman Unit 803WA) for a Permit to Drill an Oil and Gas Well inside the City Limits on the following described property: Located 306 feet from the south line and 2,115 feet from the west line located in Section 8, Block 39, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey, Midland County, Texas.

Generally located 405 feet north of Green Tree Blvd. extension and 2,072 feet east of North Midland Drive.

The meeting facility is accessible to disabled persons. A wheelchair entry ramp is located at the southeast entrance to City Hall. A parking space designated for use by disabled persons is available near the southeast entrance doors. Any disabled person needing special accommodations or hearing impaired persons wishing to have an interpreter should request services through the Administrative Services Department at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting by contacting Compliance Coordinator for the City of Midland, at (432) 685-7251. If communication via TDD is required, please call 1-800-735-2989.

CITY OF MIDLAND
Amy M. Turner, MMC
City Secretary

Legal and Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Donald Louis Handley, Deceased, were issued on November 29,2016, in Cause No. P-8903, pending in the County Court of Midland County, Texas, to James Michael Handley, Independent Executor, whose residential address is 7100 Airline Drive, #606, Midland, TX 79706.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law, in care of the Executor.

DATED the 15th day of December, 2016.

COTTON, BLEDSOE, TIGHE & DAWSON, P.C.
A Professional Corporation
P. O. Box 2776
Midland, Texas 79702
(432) 684-5782
(432) 682-3672 (FAX)

By: Kristi Franklin Hyatt
State Bar No. 07376700
khyatt@cbtd.com

ATTORNEYS FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR

Legal and Public Notices

ORDINANCE NO. 9621

AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING USE CLASSIFICATION OF THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS A 2,124-SQUARE FOOT PORTION OF BLOCK 1, REPLAT OF BLOCKS 1 AND 2, IMPERIAL HEIGHTS ADDITION, CITY AND COUNTY OF MIDLAND, TEXAS (GENERALLY LOCATED ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF WEST WADLEY AVENUE, APPROXIMATELY 270 FEET EAST OF NORTH MIDKIFF ROAD), WHICH IS PRESENTLY ZONED LR-2, LOCAL RETAIL DISTRICT, BY PERMITTING SAID PROPERTY TO BE USED UNDER A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT WITH TERM FOR THE SALE OF BEER AND WINE IN A RESTAURANT FOR ON-PREMISES CONSUMPTION; MAKING SAID PERMIT SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS CONTAINED HEREIN; CONTAINING A CUMULATIVE CLAUSE; CONTAINING A SAVINGS AND SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR A MAXIMUM PENALTY OR FINE OF TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS ($2,000.00); AND ORDERING PUBLICATION

City of Midland

Amy M. Turner
City Secretary

Legal and Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Gary Ott, Deceased, were issued on December 13, 2016, in Cause No. P18912, pending in the County Court of Midland County, Texas, to: Sandra Simoneau

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: **Rudd F. Owen**
Attorney at Law
700 W. 7th
P O Box 328
Plainview, Texas 79072

DATED the 13th day of December, 2016.

Rudd F. Owen, Attorney for Sandra Simoneau

Legal and Public Notices

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR EXCEPTION TO SWR 26/27 SURFACE COMMINGLING PERMIT Notice is hereby given that SM Energy Company (RRC P-5 # 788997) has filed with the Texas Railroad Commission an amended P-17 Application for an exception to SWR 26 and/or 27 to add production from the following oil and gas leases to existing surface commingle Permit No. 8042: Dorcus Janey (SA) G 1961WA (RRC Lease No. 816199), Dorcus Janey (SA) N 1971WB (RRC 816201), Dorcus Janey (SA) O 1972WB (RRC Lease No. 816202), Dorcus Janey (SA) F 1960WA (RRC Lease No. 817536), Dorcus Janey (SA) M 1970WB (RRC Lease No. 817542), all in the Spraberry (Trend Area) in Midland and Upton Counties, Texas. The wells and leases are located in Section 19, Block 41, T-4-S, T&P Ry Co. Survey, Midland and Upton Counties, Texas and Section 18, Block 41, T-4-S, T&P Ry Co. Survey, Midland County, Texas. This application is for off lease storage, common storage and casinghead gas metering by allocation by well test. Production will be allocated by W-10 Tests. Any royalty interest owners who have not received written notification, please consider this your Notice of Application. If you have objections to the issuance of this permit, you may submit a letter to P-17 Department, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711. Unless the Railroad Commission receives a protest to this application, the Commission may issue a permit within 21 days following the date of last publication.

General Announcement

Mark Berryhill.com
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Teach the Lord's Word 1-4

Lost and Found

LOST LADIES RING at Michaels Grill. Reward. 432-934-5062

Autos For Sale-Lease

Passenger Cars

NICE CLEAN ' BMW 2003 model 325, must see. New tune up, clutch & fuel pump. Asking $5,000. 432-349-0041

Will buy wrecked & unwanted cars, trucks & RVs. 432-685-4078

Pickup Trucks

2011 CHEVROLET 2500, extended cab, 6 liter, automatic, 4x4, 148K miles. $12,500. 432-557-2130

FORD 350, 1999. 7.3 Diesel Hotshot Welder. 220,000 miles refurbished; good condition. Asking $10,000.00, make an offer. Como see at 1209 W. Illinois, Midland, TX.

NEW TODAY!

FORD F150 Lariat, 2007. 75,000 Miles. GREAT CONDITION! $9,000 OBO. 432-210-6561.

4WD and SUV

CHEVROLET 2000 Suburban 227K miles $2,900 432-634-0950 Text or leave message

LIKE NEW 2008 Yamaha Raptor ATV. Garage kepted, only ridden 4 times. $5,000 432-349-0041.

Recreation Vehicles

2014 PARK Model 40', 2 queen beds, full size washer & dryer, fridge, 2 baths. Sleeps 8, good rubber. CLEAN $25,000. 405-609-7070

31' RV/ Motor home for sale. Great condition - less than 50K miles. 2001 Fleetwood Jamboree/ Ford 10 cylinder. $20,000. See & drive by appointment. Henry K Hermann - 432-664-8813

REDUCED
HARLEY DAVIDSON 2005 Road King. 13K miles. $8,000 OBO. MUST SEE! 432-697-9787 leave message

Garage-Estate-Yard Sale

Yard - Garage Sales

79701

2813 W Golfcourse Road Saturday 8am-noon. Furniture, household goods, & lots of miscellaneous.

79703

4705 W. CUTHBERT Friday & Saturday 8am-? Many items still in boxes. Home decor, brand new Christmas decorations, furniture, adult & kid clothing, lots of remodeling supplies & more.

5206 BELAIRE Drive Friday & Saturday 8am-? Prelite Christmas tree, ladies shoes & boots, size 6 1/2, office chair, old recliner, ladies sweater &coats, home decor & more.

Yard - Garage Sales

79705

1900 SPARKS. Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bedroom furniture, living room furniture, dining chairs, recliner, household goods, baby clothes and more!

2512 Maxwell Dr. Multi family sale. Washer & dryer, baby, miscellaneous items, women's clothes (all sizes), jackets, some furniture - raising money for family in need. Coffee's, hot chocolate & burritos

79707

5505 SAN Clemente. Fri & Sat 7:30am-? MOVING SALE with furniture, children's clothes & toys, & home decor.

6212 ORIOLE Saturday only 8am-11am. 2 family Moving Sale! Furniture, home decor, holiday decor, kitchen appliances, childrens toys, lots of baby gear, office equipment & tons more.

Merchandise

Free Stuff

SMALL MIX breed puppies free to good home. 432-634-5395

Miscellaneous 4-Sale

4304 BROOKDALE Drive Saturday & Sunday. 100's of Wood crafts, too much to mention.

NICE PRACTICE piano 39" high. $300 call 432-553-0970.

OAK, PECAN, hickory, mesquite, pinon. 432-209-0416 or 325-762-4262

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

Miscellaneous 4-Sale

FREON 12 WANTED
R12 collecting dust in your garage? We pay CA$H FOR refrigerant 12. EPA cert. (312)291-9169, sell@refrigerantfinders.com

Dogs

Dogs

"CHRISTMAS PUPPIES"
AKC German Shepherd puppies
5 females & 3 males. Ready to got this weekend, 12/18. $500. 432-634-4618.

Legal and Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Beer & Wine License by DKS Lounge, Inc., DBA DKS Lounge to be located at 3920 W. Wall Street, Midland, Texas, Midland County, Texas. Officer of said corporation is Douglas Keith Sherifick, President.

Legal and Public Notices

ORDINANCE NO. 9624

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE IV, "BUILDING REGULATIONS", CHAPTER 8, "DANGEROUS AND DILAPIDATED BUILDINGS", OF THE CITY CODE OF MIDLAND, TEXAS, BY ESTABLISHING SECTION 7, "ABATEMENT OF SUBSTANDARD BUILDINGS", SO AS TO ESTABLISH MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE CONTINUED USE AND OCCUPANCY OF BUILDINGS AND AN ABATEMENT PROCESS FOR SUBSTANDARD BUILDINGS; REQUIRING THE VACATION, RELOCATION OF OCCUPANTS, SECURING, REPAIR, REMOVAL, OR DEMOLITION OF SUBSTANDARD BUILDINGS; PROVIDING FOR NOTICE AND A PUBLIC HEARING; CONTAINING A CUMULATIVE CLAUSE; CONTAINING A SAVINGS AND SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF JANUARY 1, 2017; AND ORDERING PUBLICATION

City of Midland

Amy M. Turner
City Secretary

Pets-Animals

Other Pets

1 year old male Lab/ Husky mix. Neutered, playful good with kids. 432-559-2246

Real Estate Rental-Sale

Residential Rentals

Apartment Rent Unfurn

EFFICIENCY APARTMENT for single person. $650 monthly $300 deposit, all bills paid including cable. 432-238-2271

LARGE 2 & 3 Bedroom Apt. Homes VILLA CHATEAU APTS. CALL 432-694-1112 OR COME BY at 1603 N. Midkiff Rd. & ASK ABOUT OUR MOVE-IN SPECIAL.

Condo Thome Rent Unfurn

DUPLEX FOR RENT. 4813 A Cuthbert, 1 Bedroom, 1 Bath, tile floors. $900.00 per month, 900.00 Deposit. 432-894-1030.

Lots and Land

Acreage

21.23 AC. N. OF SAN ANGELO. LEVEL WITH NICE MESQUITE TREE COVER. DEER, HOGS, TURKEY, QUAIL & DOVE. NEAR LAKE E. V. SPENCE. $2,926 DN-$485/MO. CALL/ VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO. 800-876-9720 rancheenterprisesltd.com

Lots and Land

47.75 AC. W. TX. HUNTING, N OF COMSTOCK. DEER, JAVELINA, TURKEY, QUAIL & DOVE. $2,375 DN-$394/MO. CALL/ VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO. 866-286-0199 rancheenterprisesltd.com

Lots and Land

SHOE BAR RANCH
25,572 Deeded Acres
Ector County, Texas

The Shoe Bar Ranch is located approx. 15 air miles southwest of Odessa, Texas at Penwell. This ranch has been under the same family ownership since the 1920's. This quality Permian Basin ranch is all native pasture and is in good condition. The ranch has been rested with no livestock for approximately two years. Livestock water is primarily provided by eight taps on the CRMWD water line, two windmills and one submersible. Structural improvements include a two bedroom/two bath brick home, a bunkhouse, a shop building, pipe shipping pens and two sets of working pens. Oil production is mostly concentrated in the southeast portion. The majority of the ranch is free of oil field activity, which could possibly present future opportunities for the collection of surface damage income. Trophy quality mule deer and an abundance of quail are found on the ranch. Seldom does a ranch of this size, mostly free of oil field activity, come up for sale in close proximity to Midland/Odessa. The Shoe Bar Ranch is reasonably priced at $350 per acre.

Offered exclusively by:
Chas. S. Middleton and Son
www.chassmiddleton.com
1507 13th Street | Lubbock, Texas 79401
(806) 763-5331

Residential Rentals

Condo Thome Rent Unfurn

FAIRGATE TOWNHOME $1,300 month $1,000 deposit. Small pets welcome with pet deposit. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. 432-686-2800

GREAT GUY SPACE
2 bedroom apartment with all utilities paid. Inside of a security fence with an electric gate. Located on the east side of Midland inside of Loop 250. $850 per month. For more information call Terry at 432-889-6073

House Rent Unfurn

1 BEDROOM upstairs duplex available. Appliances provided, bills paid. Near Midland Memorial Hospital. $650 monthly. Call 432-230-9687

2613 Haynes B
Midland, TX. $1,800
3 Bedroom, 3 Baths
2,400 sq. ft.
Storage & Carport.
Berkshire Hathaway HS Cooper Realty
Call 432-689-7700 or 432-230-1331

3BD/2BTH lg bk yard. No pets/no smoking. 6301 Shawnee across from MCC. $1200/mo. & $1200 deposit. Now available; call for appt 432-683-2243.

CondoThomeRentUnfurn

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

ALL real estate advertising herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to indicate any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, age, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitations of discrimination.

We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate, which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on equal opportunity basis.

To file a complaint, contact www.hud.gov or 1800-669-9777

Find it fast in the Midland Reporter-Telegram

Classifieds

Attention Readers

In observance of Christmas Day

The Midland Reporter-Telegram will be closed

Monday, December 26th, 2016

Advertising Deadlines

Classified Word Ads

Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Sat., Dec 24th	Fri., Dec 23, 11am
Sun., Dec 25th	Thurs., Dec 22nd, 5pm
Mon., Dec 26th	Fri., Dec 23rd, 5pm
Tues., Dec 27th	Fri., Dec 23rd, 5pm

Classified Display Ads

Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Sat., Dec 24th	Thurs., Dec 22nd, 2pm
Sun., Dec 25th	Wed., Dec 21st, 2pm
Mon., Dec. 26th	Thurs., Dec 22nd, 2pm
Tues., Dec 27th	Thurs., Dec. 22nd, 4pm

Retail Display Ads

Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Sat., Dec 24th	Thurs., Dec 22nd, 2pm
Sun., Dec 25th	Wed., Dec 21st, 2pm
Mon., Dec 26th	Thurs., Dec 22nd, 2pm
Tues., Dec 27th	Thurs., Dec 22nd, 4pm
Sun., Dec 25th (Oil Report, Culture)	Tues., Dec. 20th, 2pm

CIRCULATION HOURS
Customer Service calls will be taken
Monday, December 26th from 7 AM-10 AM only.
We will re-open Tuesday, Dec. 27th for regular business hours.

Midland Reporter-Telegram
mrt.

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

5			6					9
		4			7	3	5	
1			9				6	
		6			9			
2		9				1		6
						8		
		2			5			4
		7	3	8		9		
6					2			1

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

SOLUTION TO THURSDAY'S PUZZLE

4	3	1	5	9	8	6	2	7
2	6	8	4	3	7	5	1	9
7	5	9	2	6	1	4	3	8
8	7	6	3	5	4	2	9	1
9	4	3	1	2	6	7	8	5
5	1	2	6	7	9	3	6	4
6	9	4	7	8	2	1	5	3
1	2	5	9	4	3	8	7	6
3	8	7	6	1	5	9	4	2

12/16/16

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Who's Who For Service



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Call 682-6222 for details.

Svcs. Professionals

Accounting-Financial

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REPAIR SERVICES and Parts for Refrigerators, Freezers, Stoves, Washers & Dryers. Free Service Call with Repair. Free Removal. Full Warranty, Very Affordable Prices. M&M Appliances 1007 N Midkiff, Midland Call 432-570-8278

Cleaning Services

Home Cleaning

CLEAN HOUSES, apartments, offices. Good prices. Call 432-254-6544

HONEST, Dependable housekeeping. References available. Call Wendy 432-894-4279!

Window Cleaning

WINDOWS PLUS + Serving Midlanders since 1994. Residential, Commercial. 432-682-9322.

Computer Services

Repair-Replacement

A+ COMPUTER Tutor! Overcome Your Fear of Computers! ✔Your PLACE at Your PACE. ★Call Karen 432-553-2468 (leave msg).

Hauling

CLEANOUTS & TRASH HAULING. FAST SERVICE 432-254-3501.

HAULING & Cleanouts Home, storage, or office. 432-889-1316

Home Services ft Home Improvement

Brick-Block-Stone

ADVANCED BRICK DOCTOR, brick & mortar repair. All types of new construction specializing in block and brick fence. Steve Rickay. 432-853-2859.

BRICK, BLOCK & Stone Work. 45 years experience. References. Max 432-661-8699

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Computer Repair-Replacement

Hate Windows 10? We can Help. We'll tell you how, in plain English. Design, Repair, Virus Removal. At Home & On the Job, If It's Technology, We Handle It. Refurbished PC's & Training too. (432) 631-7202

Home Services ft Home Improvement

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ALPHA MASONRY and Concrete work. Free Estimates. Small Jobs Welcome 432-813-8552.

AMH FENCING Quick response. All types! No job to big or small. Foundation, driveways, patios, sidewalks, footing, and flowerbeds. Free estimates. 432-661-7627.

CABALLERO MASONRY. Brick/block/stone, stucco, driveways, sidewalks, wood fences. Insurance. Bonded. Residential & Commercial. Free estimates. 432-631-8781

JS Concrete
Slabs, curbs, driveways, patios, Stamp concrete. Free Estimates. Bonded & Insured. Juan Sanchez, owner. 432-413-0924

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

Home Services ft Home Improvement

Contractors-Builders

CLEARAWAY FOR all your REMOVAL needs and light construction, trash, & tree limbs, residential & commercial cleanout. Tired of higher prices? Give us a call for affordable prices. 432-235-9999

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ALL YOUR electrical needs met. Call G&S Electric. 32 Years experience. 432-685-0859. Tecl # 22541

LAING ELECTRIC. Licensed and insured. TECL 18544. 432-413-5880. Always appreciated!

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AMH FENCING A rating on Angie's List. Residential fence, builder and repair. Reliable, professional, and quick response. 432-661-7627

HANDYMAN SERVICES, We do it all! 432-254-3501.

Home Services ft Home Improvement

Fences

CABALLERO MASONRY. Brick/block/stone, stucco, driveways, sidewalks, wood fences Insurance. Bonded. Residential & Commercial. Free estimates. 432-631-8781

Fireplaces-Firewood

ERIC'S FIREWOOD Oak/Mesquite or Mix 1/4-$100, 1/2 $200, Full $400. Call 432-258-9636. Thank you!

FIREWOOD BY Midland Fireman. Oak, Pinon, Mesquite firewood. Full, half and quarter cords. Free delivery. Also, Tree Trimming services and firewood racks for sale. Call 432-557-2897, 209-1131.

FIREWOOD FOR sale, Oak $350 cord, $200 1/2 cord, Mixed $250 cord, $175 1/2 cord plus tax. Delivered/stacked. Williams Tree. 432-638-6163 or 432-561-8802.

Handyman Services

HANDYMAN SERVICES, We do it all! 432-254-3501.

Heat-Air Condition

At your service actionairplumbing.com (432) 620-8900

ELLIS & Sons Plumbing & Air Conditioning Sales & Service. Service all brands. 683-2679. TALCB005482.

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CRC Interior and Exterior. Remodeling, painting, fencing & fabrication. Clayton R. Cross. 432-770-6595. 1st ESTIMATE FREE.

DOUBLE TT PAINTING Interior and Exterior Texture, tape & bed also auto paint & body. Christmas/New Years Special. Work gauateed. 432-288-7849 or 352-4633.

FEMALE PAINTER: Interior/exterior, residential/commercial very professional, takes pride in her work, very dependable & affordable. FREE Estimates. 432-250-4643

Handyman Services

PAINTING, SHEET rock, repairs, fans, electrical, plumbing, tile-floor & bath. Permian Maintenance 432-697-5417

Plumbing Home Svc

At your service actionairplumbing.com (432) 620-8900

HANDYMAN SERVICES, We do it all! 432-254-3501.

Home Services ft Home Improvement

Plumbing Home Svc

Septic Installation
actionairplumbing.com
432-620-8900

Remodeling-Repair

ALPHA GENERAL Construction, remodeling additions, metal and wood fencing, cabinets, stucco, roofing, painting, tile, showers, counter tops, masonry work, landscaping and hardscaping. Small jobs welcome. Call 432-813-8552

COMPLETE REMODELS, specialize in kitchen & baths, Handyman services. 14 Years experience. 889-8387

PAINTING, SHEET rock, repairs, fans, electrical, plumbing, tile-floor & bath. Permian Maintenance 432-697-5417

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

Cabinetry-Furniture

CABINETS OF ALL TYPES Bathroom and Kitchen renovation specialists. Native Midlanders' Michael Friday 432-770-1048 Lance Friday 432-638-7495.

Contractors-Builders

SPECIALTIES: Small building projects. Hobby shops, efficiencies, storage building, additions, garages, etc. By native Midlander Manny Ribera est. 1961, cleser of 1974-76 MHS. www.mRiberaConstructin.com (Three month waiting list)

Fences

For all your fencing needs, Midland Alamo Fence Free estimates. 432-689-2700.

Plumbing-Home Service

★ SUPERIOR PLUMBING ★ Call us on all your plumbing repairs, new construction, and remodels. M39721. For superior service at reasonable rates. Please call 432-687-5906.

Landscape and Tree Maintenance

Lawn and Garden

EL JARDIN - Trees, Landscape, Irrigation. Experienced Professionals From Start to Finish. New Landscape Design & Installation, Relandscaping, New Lawns & Lawn Restoration. Tree Pruning, Planting, Removal & Health Care. Sprinkler Repair, Modification, New Design & Installation. Drip Irrigation Specialists! 24 Years in the Permian Basin. We accept major credit cards. Please call Bruce at 432-770-2399 eljardintx@icloud.com

35 AND UP LAWN SERVICE. Ask for Donald 432-352-6200.

AFFORDABLE TREE shrub pruning, removal, sprinkler repairs Licensed & Insured. Call Williams Tree Lawn Sprinkler 561-8802, 638-6163.

Arbor Solutions Irrigation services. Residential, Commercial Designs, installations & repairs TECQ LI0020921 (432) 557-1340

♣EL JARDIN♣ Keep your Trees strong & healthy this year with our professional level services. Tree healthcare, pruning, planting & removal. 24yrs. exp. in Permian Basin. Call now to schedule fall pruning. We accept major credit cards. 432-770-2399 eljardintx@icloud.com

FALL CLEANUP! Trees, shurbs, trimming & removal, stump grinding, flowerbeds hauling, bucket truck. Free estimates. 30 years experience. Ryan 432-693-3870 or Ann 432-296-2023

LEYVA LAWN CARE Trees & Lawns. Professional & Efficient 432-250-9470

MURPHY'S LAWN CARE Mowing, edging, trimming, Hedge/ shrub trimming, clean-ups. Bill or Maryann. (432)687-2131

RAUL'S LAWN Services. Lawn mowing, edging, shrub & tree trimming. Free estimates. Reasonable. Call Raul @ 432-254-6384.

RETIRED MIDLAND fireman trimming trees, hedges, flower beds cleaned and mowing. Call 697-2030 for free estimates!

STRACENER IRRIGATION Sprinkler Systems Repairs & Installations License #4933 Call (432) 561-9525

WILL TRIM, prune or uproot just about any tree, very reasonable prices. Call Norman 432-296-1424.

Fax Your Ad 24-7 682-6999

Miscellaneous Services

Water Treatment

Culligan of West Texas Residential & Commercial FREE WATER ANALYSIS 563-2690

We buy homes in any area in any condition. **Call the Scott Williams Team of Realtors 432-689-7770.**

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♥ MASSAGE BY HENRY ♥ DEEP TISSUE, PAIN RELIEF. $50/HR. MIDLAND /ODESSA. 432-349-7811

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WELDING
DFC, LLC
Custom Steel Fabrication & Welding
We can build or repair it!
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Lawn and Garden

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Studies show that more readers turn to Classifieds everyday than almost any other section of the newspaper.
Call Classifieds Today!
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Residential Rentals

House Rent Unfurn

402A WEST PINE, 3 bedroom 2 bath duplex. All tile floors. $1,075 month $1,075 deposit. Pets permitted with deposit. Background & credit check required. 12 month lease minimum. 432-557-0018.

4512 PARKDALE 3 bedroom 2 bath, single carport, recently remodeled. Non smoker. 600 credit score required. $25 application on anyone over 18. $1,500 month, $1,500 deposit. 1 year lease. 432-940-0920.

Clean and pretty 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex near the new HEB. 4806 Harvard, A side. Lots of information posted at the front door. Rent $950, deposit $800.

Residential Rentals

House Rent Unfurn

CLEAN UPDATED 3 bed/2 ba., 1 car garage. $1,200 mo. $1,000 dep. 4736 Bedford 432-638-6053

HOME FOR rent: 3 Bedrooms, 2 bath, living area, dining area, 1 car garage, central heating & A/C. $1,500/mo. plus deposit. 4313 Sentinel. 432-349-1439.

Residential Sales

Single Family Homes

Home for sale in Midland, 3 bedroom, 2 baths with den. Nice cabinets. 5 rooms with hardwood floors. Well priced call 903-783-0258

Fax Your Ad 24-7 682-6999

Commercial

FOR LEASE: 5405 E. Hwy. 80. Located towards Stanton, quick access to HWY 80, I-20, loop 250. 1200 sq. ft. shop with office, 4 overhead doors, water, sewer. 2nd property 1,200 sq. ft. with office attached. 664-2718

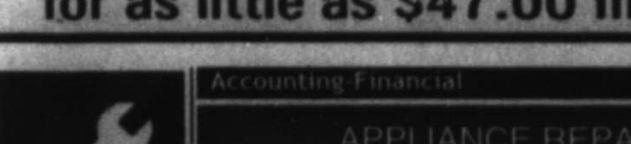
Commercial

READY-RANCH
WWW.READY-RANCH.COM
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.READY-RANCH.COM

- **Ector 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 whitetail and mule deer, turkey, hogs, quail..... $850
- **Nolan County**
  - *648 ac, over 1 mile SOLD creek, blinds, feeders, elevation change, oak..... $3,550/ac
  - *585 ac, Pecan Creek, New Living/Shop, 200 acres cleared for cattle, blinds/feeders, windmill..... $4,425/ac
- **Howard County**
  - *642 ac, canyons, blinds/feeders, great deer, cedar/mesquite, surface water, some oil/well traffic..... $750/ac
  - *150 ac, big canyon, SOLD anks, cedar/mesquites, great deer, turkey, jav..... $895/ac
- **Martin County**
  - *139 ac, Sulphur Springs SOLD deer and whitetail, hogs, varmints, metal stor..... $1,150/ac

(432) 664-7784 or (432) 934-7777
No Realtors - Buy Direct!!!
Deal with Landowners that know the Country!!!
*** Owner Financing Available! ***

Commercial



NNN Leased Commercial Investment Property 1.39+/- acre, 9,026 SF Dollar General (Fortune 500 Company, S & P Rated BBB-) tenanted property. Initial 15 Year NNN Lease commenced June 2014 with 10% increases at each option period. Ideally located with excellent frontage along University Blvd in Odessa, TX. NOI $93,932, List Price $1,456,000. Call Ed Routzong 281-872-3411 or visit 10x.com/texasdollargeneral for more information

Residential Sales

Vacation Resort

LAKE LEON, Eastland TX. Waterfront home 2 BD, 2 full BA, fireplace, peer fishing dock, concrete boat ramp, 2 storage buildings, 2 carports - 1 for RV or pontoon size SB, long back southern style porch, beautiful yard and sunsets. Built in 2009. $225,000 price negotiable. 254-647-5399. Cell- 432-270-3506 leave message.

Lots and Land

Ranches

RANCH FOR SALE 4,212 Acres near Snyder, Tx. Water, 3 houses, great hunting. Owner Financing $795/ Acre (432) 664-7764

Commercial

5 ACRE fenced caliche yard, available for sub lease. $1,200 month. 432-631-6079

COMMERCIAL YARD/ BUILD TO SUIT FOR LEASE 5 ACRES, FENCED 2 AC CALICHED ELECTRIC GATE $2200/MONTH JUST EAST OF MIDLAND 432-664-7784

GREAT SPOT FOR a commercial yard. 1, 2, or 3 acre caliche yard for lease with secured fencing & electric gate. Located on the east side of Midland just outside of the city limits inside of Loop 250 For more information call Terry at 432-889-6073.

NOW LEASING
- Office/Warehouses -
- Small Office Suites -
- Fenced Yards

Various locations. Call 432-661-4057

Commercial

OFFICE / RETAIL space for lease. 45' X 75' 2209 N. Big Spring, Call Matt 800-672-3911

OFFICE/ WAREHOUSE. 3650 sq ft with 8 offices, conference room, kitchen/ breakfast area. Plus 1500 sq ft warehouse with HVAC. Fenced yard with a wash bay for vehicles. 1601 Idlewilde. $5,300/ month. 432-638-1341.

MOM & Pop Retail Convenience store, with house on side, paid $176,000 in 2006, willing to take offers due to health issues. Serious inquires only! Call Diane at 325-656-1254 or email blackwell357@gmail.com

Mobile-Modular Homes

Mobile Homes Rent

Mobile Homes for rent ranging between $650 - $800. Deposit $500. Fenced in yard. Paved roads. Ready to move in to. 432-687-6324.

SMALL 1 Bedroom, trailer, single person or couple. $450 month Bills paid except electricity & butane. $100 deposit. 432-296-2023

Mobile Homes Sale

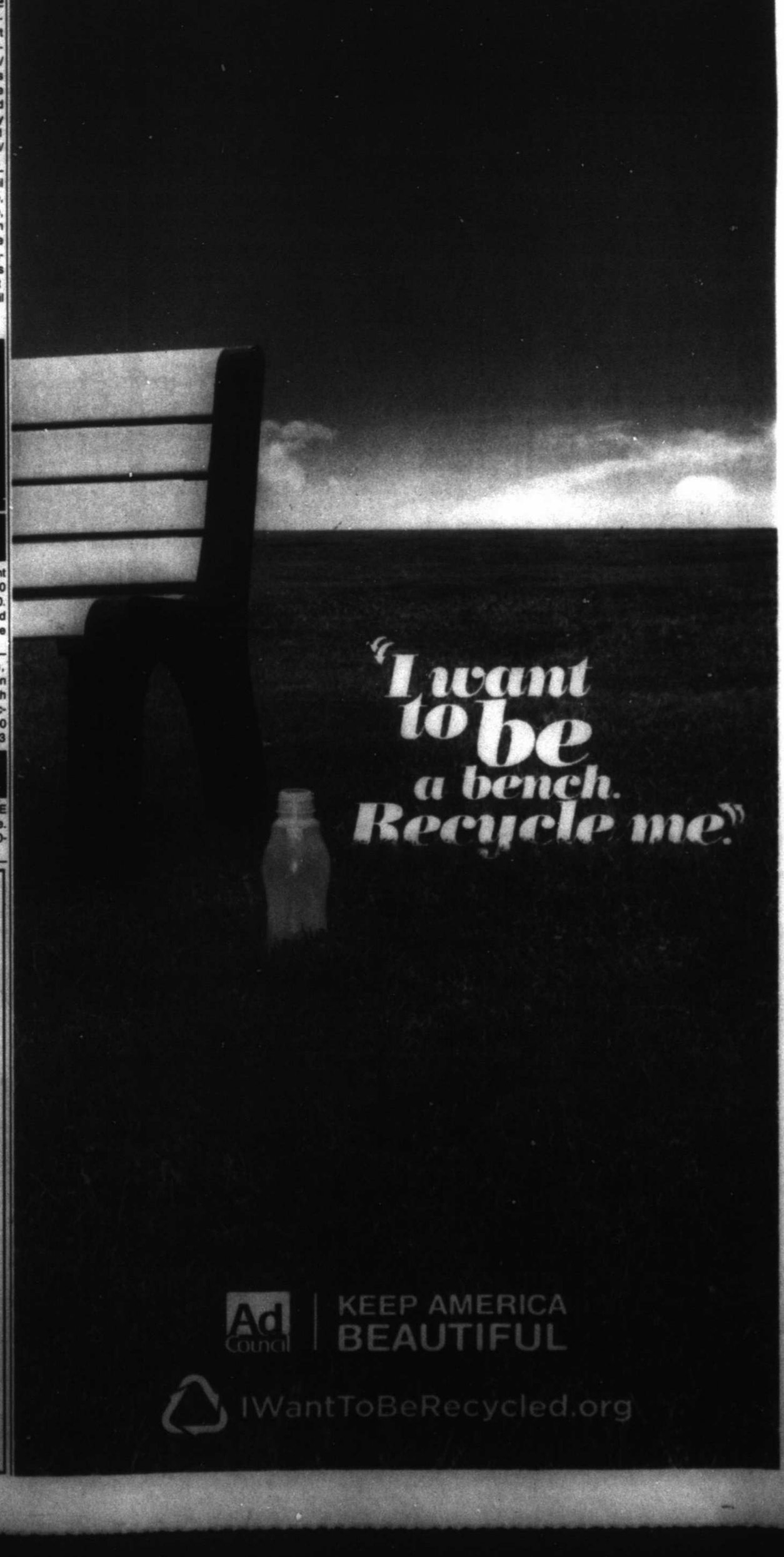
2BD/1BTH MOBILE home for sale. $7,000. Call 432-260-5607 after 5pm.

Placing an ad in Classifieds is very easy.

All you have to do is call 432-682-6222.

We'll help you create an effective, easy to read ad, that is delivered daily to thousands of homes in Midland & surrounding areas.

If you expect value and results from every advertising dollar, Call 432-682-6222 TODAY!



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Ad Council

NHTSA

SOLOMON: O'BRIEN FINDING A WAY

TEXAS ★ SPORTS NATION

OPTIONS GALORE FOR ASTROS' HINCH

THE LONG GOODBYE

Revisiting the Oilers' finale in Houston, 20 years later



$1.99
10499 02217 5

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DALE ROBERTSON

16 **END OF AN ERA**
The Oilers' 37-year run in Houston ended with a thud 20 years ago this week.

JOHN McCLAIN

21 **UNFORGETTABLE DAYS**
The 20th anniversary of the Oilers' last game in Houston stirs up many memories.

Oilers coach Bum Phillips shows the emotions that he shared with many of his players as they were welcomed at an Astrodome rally Jan. 6, 1980, after losing the AFC title game at Pittsburgh.

JEROME SOLOMON MAKING DO • Despite a dearth of offense, Bill O'Brien somehow has the Texans in first. • PAGE 22

Sam C. Pierson Jr. / Houston Chronicle

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Dale Robertson goes deeper than 140 characters.

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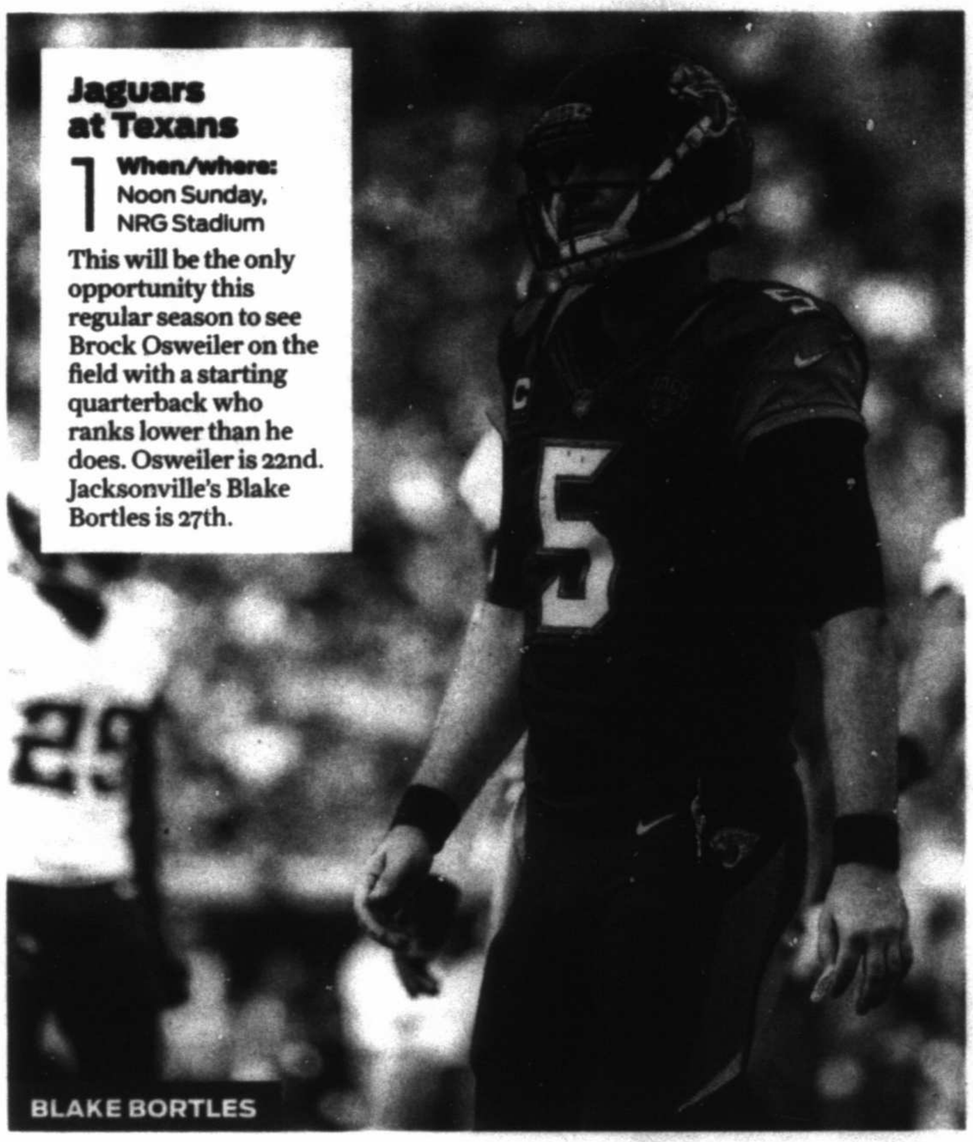
BEST BETS FOR THINGS TO DO AND SEE IN HOUSTON THIS WEEK


BLAKE BORTLES

Jaguars at Texans

1 **When/where:** Noon Sunday, NRG Stadium

This will be the only opportunity this regular season to see Brock Osweiler on the field with a starting quarterback who ranks lower than he does. Osweiler is 22nd. Jacksonville's Blake Bortles is 27th.

HISD basketball tournament final

4 **When/where:** 7:30 p.m. Saturday, The Pavilion

The 77th annual tournament features 23 HISD teams plus others from the area. After games Thursday and Friday at four venues, the semifinals are scheduled for 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. at The Pavilion followed by the final.

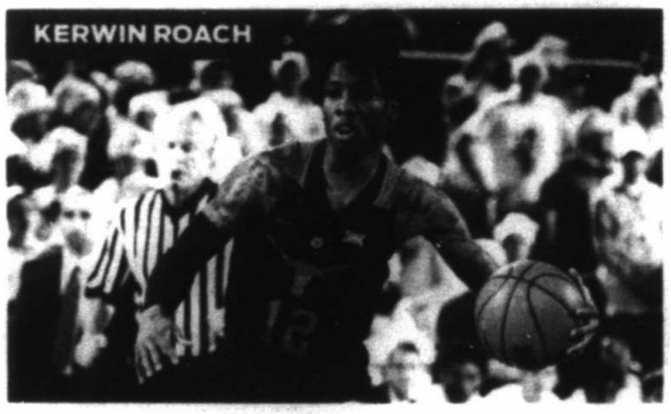


ANRIEL HOWARD

Lone Star Shootout

2 **When/where:** 11 a.m., 1:45 p.m. Saturday, Toyota Center

The Longhorns and Aggies will be on the same court on the same afternoon. Unfortunately, they won't be playing against each other. The Aggies meet Arizona in the first game. The Longhorns meet Arkansas in the second.


KERWIN ROACH

Pelicans at Rockets

3 **When/where:** 7 p.m. today, Toyota Center

The last time these two teams met was during the preseason in China, where the Rockets swept two games in Shanghai and Beijing. They don't have to travel as far this time, but the result should be the same.

Texas A&M vs. Southern

5 **When/where:** 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Campbell Center

The Aggies (7-2) are ranked just out the top 25 in women's basketball, with the two losses coming by a combined five points. They are led by Anriel Howard, the nation's second-leading rebounder.

TODAY

Television

Col. football	James Madison at N. Dakota St.	ESPN2	6 p.m.
Col. football	Mary Hardin-Baylor vs. Wis.-Oshkosh	ESPNU	6 p.m.
Col. wrestling	Cornell at Oklahoma St.	FSSW+	7 p.m.
HS football	Sweetwater vs. West Orange Stark	FSSW	noon
HS football	Abilene Wylie vs. Carthage	FSSW	4 p.m.
HS football	Aledo vs. Corpus Christi Calallen	FSSW	8 p.m.
Pro basketball	L.A. Lakers at Philadelphia	ESPN	7 p.m.
Pro basketball	New Orleans at Rockets	Root	7 p.m.
Pro basketball	Dallas at Utah	ESPN	9:30 p.m.
Pro hockey	Los Angeles at Pittsburgh	NBCSN	6 p.m.
Soccer	Borussia Dortmund at TSG 1899 Hoffenheim	FS1	1:30 p.m.

Radio

Pro basketball	New Orleans at Rockets	790 AM	7 p.m.
	Rockets in Spanish	850 AM	

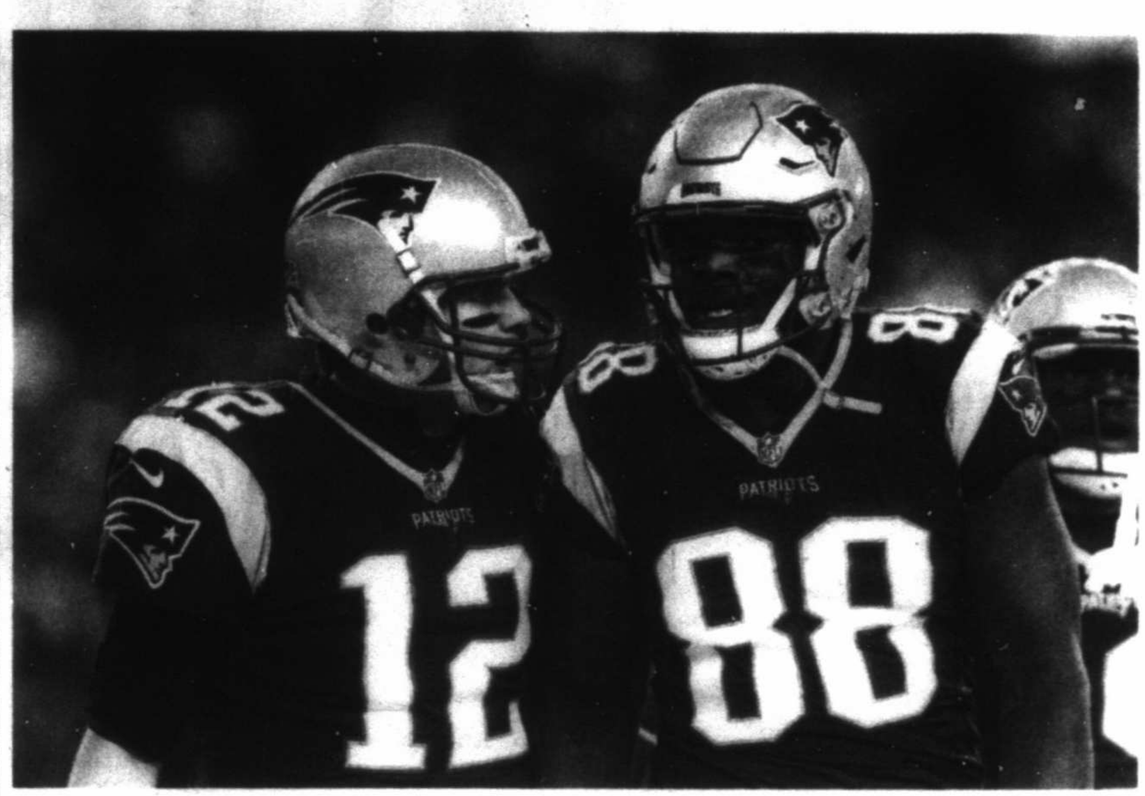
SATURDAY

Television

Boxing	Bernard Hopkins vs. Joe Smith Jr.	HBO	9 p.m.
Col. basketball	Georgetown at Syracuse	ESPN	11 a.m.
Col. basketball	Texas A&M vs. Arizona	ESPN2	11 a.m.
Col. basketball	Wagner at Providence	FS1	11 a.m.
Col. basketball	Memphis at Oklahoma	CBS	11:30 a.m.
Col. basketball	Texas Tech at Richmond	ESPNU	11:30 a.m.
Col. basketball	South Carolina at South Florida	CBSSN	noon
Col. basketball	Charleston Southern at Georgia	SEC	noon
Col. basketball	Florida St. vs. Manhattan	FS2	12:30 p.m.
Col. basketball	Notre Dame vs. Purdue	ESPN2	1 p.m.
Col. basketball	Chicago St. at DePaul	FS1	1 p.m.
Col. basketball	Texas vs. Arkansas	ESPNU	1:30 p.m.
Col. basketball	Maryland-Eastern Shore at Michigan	Big Ten	2 p.m.
Col. basketball	Ohio St. vs. UCLA	CBS	2 p.m.
Col. basketball	Kansas St. vs. Colorado St.	CBSSN	2 p.m.
Col. basketball	N. Carolina Central at McNeese St.	Root	2 p.m.
Col. basketball	Eastern Illinois at Missouri	SEC	2:30 p.m.
Col. basketball	Charlotte vs. Florida	FS2	3 p.m.
Col. basketball	Robert Morris at Virginia	ESPNU	3:30 p.m.
Col. basketball	Butler vs. Indiana	Big Ten	4 p.m.
Col. basketball	Kentucky vs. North Carolina	CBS	4:30 p.m.
Col. basketball	Delaware at Seton Hall	FS2	5 p.m.
Col. basketball	Baylor vs. Jackson St.	FSSW	5 p.m.
Col. basketball	UTSA at Texas (w)	LHN	5 p.m.
Col. basketball	Texas Southern at LSU	SEC	5 p.m.
Col. basketball	Dayton vs. Northwestern	Big Ten	6 p.m.
Col. basketball	Davidson vs. Kansas	ESPN2	6 p.m.
Col. basketball	Wake Forest at Xavier	FS1	7 p.m.
Col. basketball	Oral Roberts at Creighton	FS2	7 p.m.
Col. basketball	Arkansas-Pine Bluff at New Mexico	Root+	7 p.m.
Col. basketball	Chattanooga at Vanderbilt	SEC	7:30 p.m.
Col. basketball	BYU vs. Illinois	Big Ten	8:30 p.m.
Col. basketball	UNLV vs. Oregon	ESPN2	10 p.m.
Col. football	Grambling St. vs. N. Carolina Central	ABC	11 a.m.
Col. football	UTSA vs. New Mexico	ESPN	1 p.m.
Col. football	Houston vs. San Diego St.	ABC	2:30 p.m.
Col. football	North Alabama vs. NW Missouri St.	ESPN2	3 p.m.
Col. football	Appalachian St. vs. Toledo	ESPN	4:30 p.m.
Col. football	Arkansas St. vs. Central Florida	CBSSN	4:30 p.m.
Col. football	Youngstown St. at E. Washington	ESPN2	5:30 p.m.
Col. football	La.-Lafayette vs. Southern Miss	ESPN	8 p.m.
Col. volleyball	NCAA women's final	ESPN2	8 p.m.
HS football	Highland Park vs. Temple	FSSW	noon
HS football	Cibolo Steele vs. DeSoto	FSSW	4 p.m.
HS football	The Woodlands vs. Lake Travis	FSSW	8 p.m.
Hockey	Canada vs. United States (w)	NBCSN	3:30 p.m.
MMA	UFC Fight Night	FS1	4 p.m.
		Fox	7 p.m.
Pro basketball	Rockets at Minnesota	Root	7 p.m.
Pro football	Miami at N.Y. Jets	NFL	7:25 p.m.
Pro hockey	Philadelphia at Dallas	FSSW+	12:30 p.m.
Soccer	Chelsea at Crystal Palace	NBCSN	6:30 a.m.
Soccer	Hertha BSC Berlin at Leipzig	FS1	8:30 a.m.
Soccer	Hamburg at Mainz 05	FS2	8:30 a.m.
Soccer	Manchester United at West Bromwich Albion	NBC	11:30 a.m.
Soccer	Club World Cup third-place game	FS1	12:50 a.m.

Radio

Col. basketball	Texas A&M vs. Arizona	97.5 FM	11 a.m.
Col. basketball	Texas vs. Arkansas	790 AM	1:30 p.m.
Col. basketball	Ohio St. vs. UCLA	610 AM	2 p.m.
Col. basketball	Kentucky vs. North Carolina	610 AM	4:30 p.m.
Col. basketball	UT-Rio Grande Valley at Houston	950 AM	7 p.m.
Col. football	UTSA vs. New Mexico	1560 AM	1 p.m.
Col. football	Houston vs. San Diego St.	950 AM 97.5 FM	2:30 p.m.
Col. football	Appalachian St. vs. Toledo	1560 AM	4:30 p.m.
Col. football	La.-Lafayette vs. Southern Miss	1560 AM	8 p.m.
Pro basketball	Rockets at Minnesota	790 AM	7 p.m.
	Rockets in Spanish	850 AM	
Pro football	Miami at N.Y. Jets	610 AM	7:25 p.m.



Former Alief Taylor and Texas A&M standout Martellus Bennett, right, and the Patriots head to Denver for a rematch of last year's AFC title game (3:25 p.m. Sunday, CBS).

Maddie Meyer / Getty Images

SUNDAY

Television

Col. basketball	Penn St. at St. John's	FS1	10 a.m.
Col. basketball	Miami, Ohio at C. Florida	ESPNU	11 a.m.
Col. basketball	Mercer at Auburn	SEC	noon
Col. basketball	UCLA at South Carolina (w)	ESPN2	1p.m.
Col. basketball	Gardner-Webb at Nebraska	ESPNU	1 p.m.
Col. basketball	Stanford at Tennessee (w)	SEC	2 p.m.
Col. basketball	Gonzaga vs. Tennessee	ESPN2	3 p.m.
Col. basketball	Clemson vs. Alabama	ESPNU	3 p.m.
Col. basketball	John Brown at Baylor	FSSW	3:30 p.m.
Col. basketball	Virginia Tech at Auburn (w)	SEC	4 p.m.
Col. basketball	Texas Southern at TCU	ESPNU	5 p.m.
Col. basketball	Northeastern at Michigan St.	Big Ten	6 p.m.
Pro basketball	Sacramento at Dallas	FSSW NBA	6 p.m.
Pro football	Jacksonville at Houston	CBS	noon
Pro football	New Orleans at Arizona	Fox	3 p.m.
Pro football	New England at Denver	CBS	3:25 p.m.
Pro football	Tampa Bay at Dallas	NBC	7:30 p.m.
Soccer	Club World Cup championship game	FS1	4:20 a.m.
Soccer	Southampton at Bournemouth	NBCSN	7:30 a.m.
Soccer	Bayern Munich at Darmstadt 98	FS2	8:20 a.m.
Soccer	Arsenal at Manchester City	NBCSN	10 a.m.

Radio

Pro football	Jacksonville at Texans	610 AM 100.3 FM	noon
	Texans in Spanish	1180 AM	
Pro football	New England at Denver	97.5 FM	3:25 p.m.
Pro football	Tampa Bay at Dallas	610 AM	7:30 p.m.

TWEETS AND TAKES

Twitter's got its 140-character limit and that's just fine. But sometimes a little more elaboration is called for . . .



Dale Robertson
@sportywineguy
Senior sports writer and wine columnist for the Houston Chronicle

chron.com

244 FOLLOWING **4,517** FOLLOWERS

Tweets | Media | Likes



Todd Stone
@_ToddStone
So, how much did # pay to promote the Major . . .?

As the head coach for a major (ahem) program now, Applewhite should change his name to General. At the very least, he's a Full Colonel. F.C. Applewhite? That has a nice throwback ring. Joking aside, this was an excellent, if not splashy, hire for the Cougars, who also seem to have protected themselves at least to a point from his being stolen away – as Baylor did with Art Briles, Texas A&M with Kevin Sumlin and Texas with Tom Herman – by tacking on a 50 percent contract buyout premium for potential in-state raiders. UH, of course, wants Applewhite to do well enough to be coveted by other programs, but enough is enough. Hope he puts down real roots.

Dale Robertson Retweeted 12/12/16



Jonathan Feigen
@Jonathan_Feigen
From today's day-after Three-Pointers: In the Rockets six-game winning streak (through Sunday night), they rank third in the NBA in defensive rating.

Dale Robertson Retweeted 12/12/16



Jonathan Feigen
@Jonathan_Feigen
Another stat that jumped out: Pat Beverley's net rating is 15.6, almost 7 points better than next-best (among Rockets) Corey Brewer.

These aren't mutually exclusive tweets. A healthy Beverley gives Mike D'Antoni's run-and-shoot program defensive credibility. Despite an injury to his left knee, which required an arthroscopic procedure Oct. 25 and was supposed to keep him out for as long as six weeks, Beverley returned early – #toughness – and he quickly resumed being his nasty junkyard-dog self. After going 5-5 without him, the Rockets are 14-2 with him. The guy's glue, both as a defender and from an esoteric standpoint. With him on the court, the sum is always going to be greater than the parts, and these Rockets have a lot of really good parts, it appears.



12/12/16

Dale Robertson @sportywineguy

Just found out Bill Dineen passed over the weekend. Another one of my all-time favorites. I could go on for hours talking about Foxy.



Forget characters. I'd need 140 paragraphs and still not be close to done speaking my piece about this tough, smart, kind, generous, humble man. We in the media loved him. His players loved him, too, none more than Gordie Howe, his legendary Detroit Red Wings teammate he reunited with in Houston and who also passed away this year. The salt-of-the-earth cliché totally applied to Dineen, who won two WHA championships and the hearts of everybody who got to know him in Houston. As my colleague Greg Rajan pointed out, it was wonderful that Foxy lived long enough (he was 84 when he died) to see his son, Kevin, claim a Stanley Cup as a Chicago Blackhawks assistant coach in 2015 after spending 18 seasons in the NHL as a player.

Dale Robertson Retweeted 12/13/16

Aaron Wilson
@AaronWilson_NFL

Texans placing Braxton Miller on injured reserve with shoulder injury, per a source

Dale Robertson Retweeted 12/13/16

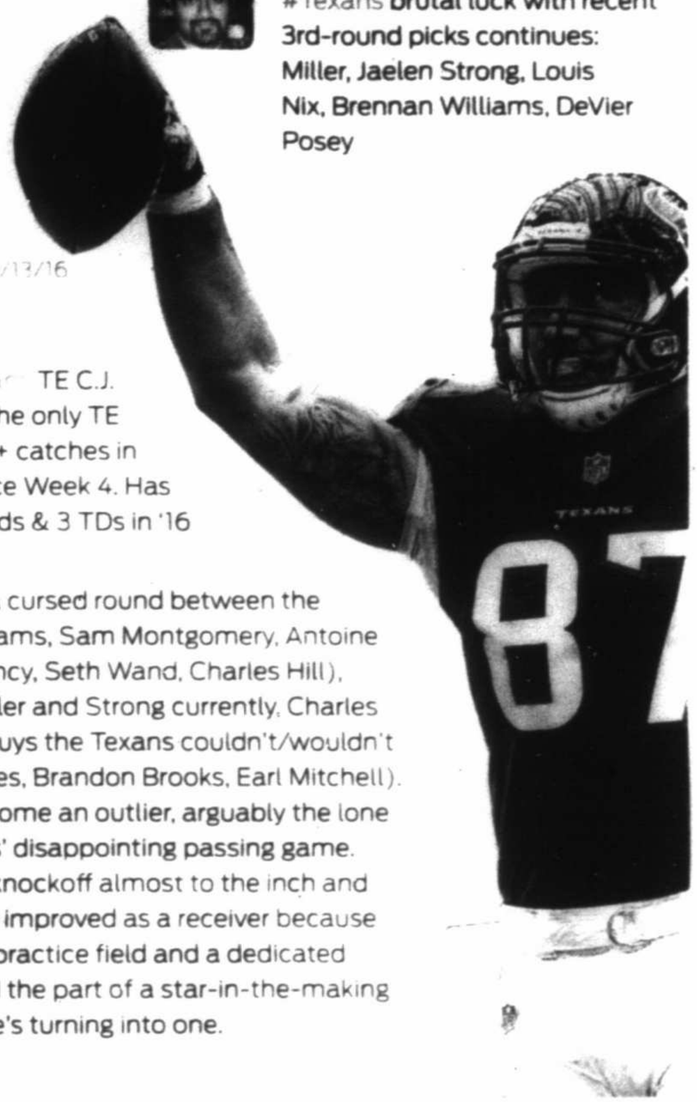
Texans PR
@TexansPR

.@HoustonTexans TE C.J. Fiedorowicz is the only TE in @NFL with 3+ catches in every game since Week 4. Has 48 rec., 505 yards & 3 TDs in '16

Dale Robertson Retweeted 12/13/16

Greg Rajan @GregRajan

#Texans brutal luck with recent 3rd-round picks continues: Miller, Jaelen Strong, Louis Nix, Brennan Williams, DeVier Posey



Historically, it has been a cursed round between the outright busts (Nix, Williams, Sam Montgomery, Antoine Caldwell, Vernand Morency, Seth Wand, Charles Hill), the hard-luck group (Miller and Strong currently, Charles Spencer formerly) and guys the Texans couldn't/wouldn't keep (Posey, Jacoby Jones, Brandon Brooks, Earl Mitchell). But Fiedorowicz has become an outlier, arguably the lone bright spot in the Texans' disappointing passing game. Physically, he's a Gronk knockoff almost to the inch and pound and he has vastly improved as a receiver because of his extra work on the practice field and a dedicated yoga regimen. He looked the part of a star-in-the-making when he arrived. Now, he's turning into one.

12/12/16

Dale Robertson
@sportyWHINEguy

Factoid: Since Sept. 30, 2001, the day of Tom Brady's 1st start, the Pats haven't lost at home in 85 games when leading at halftime.

Dale Robertson Retweeted

Gil Brandt @Gil_Brandt

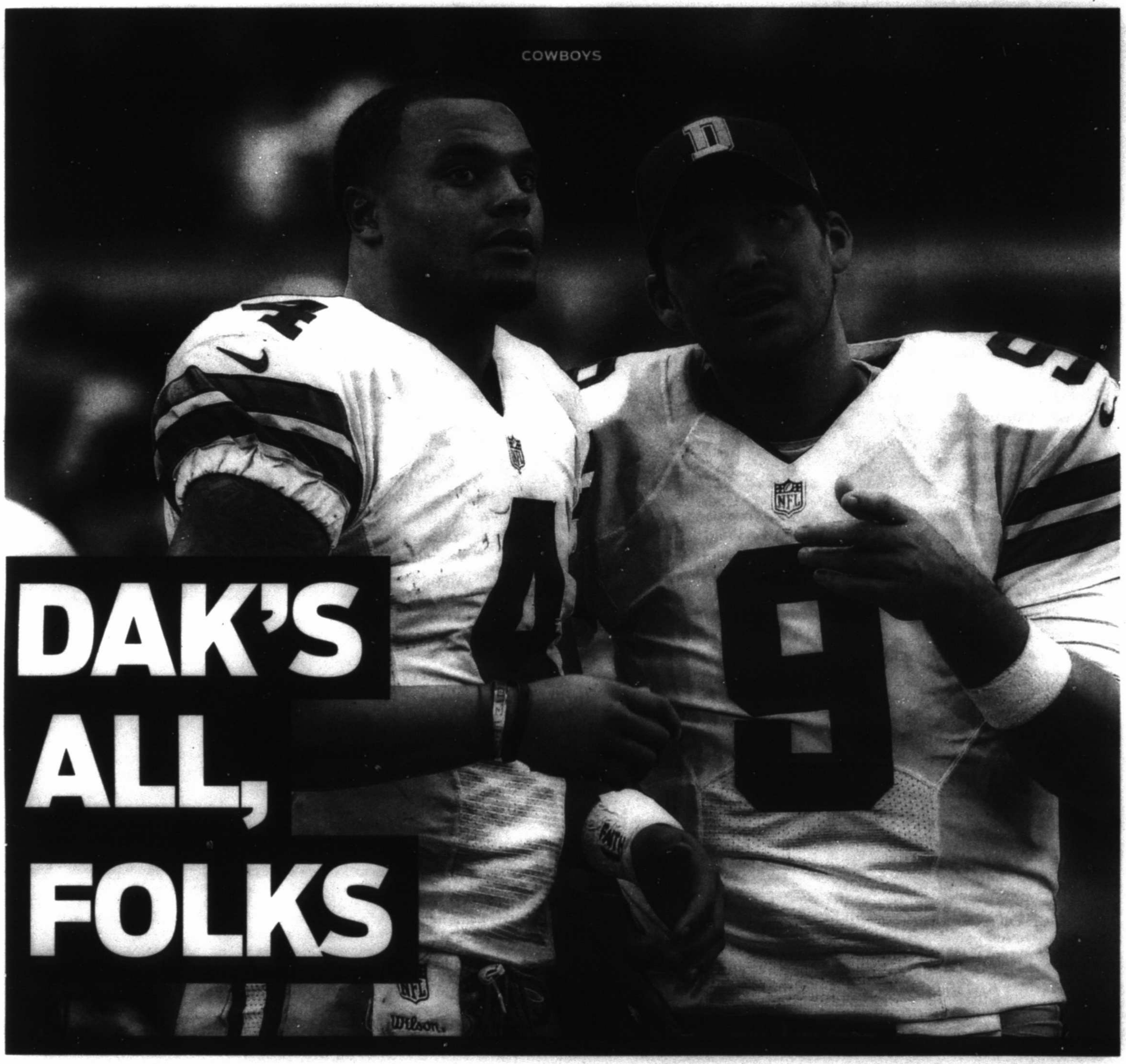
After last night, Tom Brady is 7-0 when facing No. 1 defenses: W-L: 7-0 Comp %: 66.1 Pass YPG: 344.4 TD-INT: 15-4 Rating: 102.1

Dale Robertson @sportyWHINEguy

Another crazy Pats stat: He's 50-1 at home against AFC teams since 2007.

I've always been adamant that Joe Montana is the greatest quarterback I've covered in my 40 years around the NFL, but Brady is making me re-think my position. If, at the age of 39, he wins another Super Bowl in Houston – with so many flawed teams in the mix, who would you honestly pick over the Patriots? – I'll grudgingly defer to Tom Terrific, Deflategate notwithstanding.





DAK'S ALL, FOLKS

DALLAS BRAINTRUST ADAMANT ABOUT STAYING WITH PRESCOTT AFTER ROUGH STRETCH

By David Moore • The Dallas Morning News

FRISCO — Keep this in mind as embers of a once-dead conversation begin to spark in the coming days. • Jason Garrett did not turn his back on Tony Romo. Jerry Jones did not lobby to go with a newer model in Dak Prescott. The rookie took the often difficult decision to change quarterbacks out of the organization's hands with his remarkable performance during Romo's absence. • The only way it again becomes an issue is if Prescott continues to struggle the way he did in Sunday's loss to the New York Giants.

It's easy to dismiss the topic as an overreaction to the Cowboys' first loss in three months. On one level, it shows a lack of respect and appreciation for Prescott's role in a franchise-record 11-game winning streak.

Garrett moved swiftly to minimize the matter with a declarative statement during his Monday afternoon news conference.

"You can make it as simple or complex as you want to make it," Garrett said. "It's pretty simple for us.

"Dak is going to play quarterback as we go forward."

The rookie quarterback had his worst game of the season in the 10-7 loss to the Giants, completing less than 50 percent of his passes for 165 yards with one touchdown and two interceptions. The offense was a streak-crushing 1 of 15 on its third-down conversion attempts.

Troubling offensive markers increase if you look at the last two games.

A group that gained more than 400 yards in eight consecutive games has averaged just 262 yards in the past two. The Cowboys have scored on four of their last 28 offensive possessions, which boils down to 14.3 percent of the time.

The Dallas offense has more turnovers (five) than touchdowns (three) in those two games. There have been 15 punts and 10 possessions of three-and-out.



The Giants' Romeo Okwara, top, and Olivier Vernon contributed to a rough night for Cowboys rookie quarterback Dak Prescott in New York's 10-7 victory Sunday.

Bill Kostroun photos / Associated Press

The most alarming statistic: The Cowboys are 2 of 24 on third-down conversions. Prescott has not picked up a first down on a third-down pass since the team played Washington on Thanksgiving.

Asked what it would take to consider putting Romo into the game, Garrett deflected the question into a show of support for his rookie quarterback.

"We're just focused on Dak playing quarterback for us," Garrett said. "We'll continue to do that in our preparation this week and as we go forward. ...

"We've won 11 out of 13 games that he's started. He's handled really every situation as well as you could handle it. So we'll just continue that way.

"Tony will be in a backup role for us and he'll be ready to go if he's called upon to play. But Dak's done an outstanding job up to this point. Excited to see him continue to play."

The Cowboys are right to stick with Prescott at this point. That doesn't mean it's taboo or unfair to raise the question.

Until recently, all of the principals, including Prescott, referred to this as Tony Romo's team. The peaceful transition of power took place before last month's game against Baltimore with Romo's revealing and graceful concession speech.

But Romo isn't your typical backup quarterback. No one raises this issue if Mark Sanchez is still the No. 2 quarterback. Kellen Moore's presence behind Prescott wouldn't stir this conversation after two subpar performances.

This is a situation the Cowboys must manage for the remainder of the season. If the team wins because of Prescott, it's obviously not an issue. If it wins in spite of Prescott, it can become an issue but isn't necessarily one.

But if this team loses and Prescott plays poorly on a consistent basis, the case for Romo grows stronger.

Monday's message was clear: There's no need for the rookie to look over his shoulder pads at the moment. But responsibilities and job descriptions can change quickly in the NFL.

Ask Tony Romo.

"We have a lot of confidence in Dak Prescott," Garrett said. "He's done lot of really good things over the course of this year, and we believe with all of our players our job is to instill belief in them and instill confidence in them.

"We try to do that with the preparation we have leading up to the ballgame. We try to give them opportunity to show what they can do, and he's certainly done that throughout the year and we'll continue to proceed that way."

Garrett and Jones didn't decide to make Prescott the starting quarterback. He made the decision for them.

The only way he can lose the job is to make that decision for them as well.

David Moore covers the Cowboys for The Dallas Morning News.

NFL PICKS

The games	John McClain Texans writer	Jerome Solomon TXSN columnist/co-host	Brian T. Smith Chronicle columnist	Jenny Dial Creech Chronicle columnist	Aaron Wilson Texans writer	Dale Robertson TXSN senior writer
Jaguars at Texans	Texans	Texans	Texans	Texans	Texans	Texans
Dolphins at Jets	Dolphins	Jets	Jets	Jets	Dolphins	Dolphins
Packers at Bears	Packers	Packers	Packers	Packers	Packers	Packers
Browns at Bills	Bills	Bills	Bills	Bills	Bills	Bills
Eagles at Ravens	Ravens	Ravens	Ravens	Ravens	Ravens	Ravens
Titans at Chiefs	Chiefs	Chiefs	Chiefs	Titans	Chiefs	Chiefs
Steelers at Bengals	Steelers	Steelers	Steelers	Steelers	Steelers	Steelers
Lions at Giants	Giants	Lions	Giants	Giants	Giants	Giants
Colts at Vikings	Vikings	Colts	Vikings	Vikings	Vikings	Colts
Saints at Cardinals	Cardinals	Cardinals	Cardinals	Cardinals	Cardinals	Saints
49ers at Falcons	Falcons	Falcons	Falcons	Falcons	Falcons	Falcons
Raiders at Chargers	Raiders	Raiders	Raiders	Raiders	Raiders	Raiders
Patriots at Broncos	Patriots	Patriots	Patriots	Patriots	Patriots	Patriots
Buccaneers at Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys
Panthers at Washington	Washington	Panthers	Washington	Washington	Washington	Washington
Last week/Season	12-3 / 114-63	11-4 / 111-66	12-3 / 111-66	10-5 / 110-67	10-5 / 110-67	7-8 / 109-68

7-6 TEXANS VS. JAGUARS 2-11

WHEN: NOON SUNDAY • **WHERE:** NRG STADIUM • **TV:** CBS • **RADIO:** 610 AM, 100.3 FM, 1180 AM (SPANISH)

The rivalry: The Texans lead 18-11 and are 10-4 in Houston. They won 24-21 on Nov. 13 in Jacksonville.

The coaches: The Texans' Bill O'Brien is 25-20 in three seasons with the Texans and has won 12 of his past 13 games against AFC South teams, including nine straight. If the Texans win two of their last three games, they'll finish 9-7 for the third consecutive year. Jaguars' Gus Bradley is 14-47, having lost at least 11 games in each of his four seasons.

How they compare: Offensively, the Texans are 28th in yards gained (fifth rushing, 30th passing) and also 28th in points scored, having managed only 19 offensive touchdowns, fewest in the NFL. The Jaguars are 24th in yards gained (21st rushing, 21st passing) and 27th in points scored. Defensively, the Texans are sixth in yards allowed (18th rushing, fifth passing) and 13th in points allowed. The Jaguars are fifth in yards allowed (23rd rushing, fourth passing) and 27th in points allowed.

Plot line: The Texans, tied for the AFC South lead with Tennessee, have everything at stake while the Jaguars are again playing out the string for the presumably doomed Bradley. With a victory, the Texans can tie the franchise record for most home victories in a season with six.

Trending: The Texans have rushed for more than 100 yards in eight consecutive games and have twice surpassed 180 in their last five. The defense has forced eight turnovers in the previous five games after totaling only six in the first eight. The Jaguars have lost eight in a row after back-to-back victories in early October. Their defense has forced only three turnovers in the past nine games.

Go figure: Brock Osweiler threw for a season-low 99 yards on 14-for-27 passing in the game in Jacksonville,


LAMAR MILLER

but two of his completions went for touchdowns. It was one of only five games in which he has had more than a single touchdown pass. Blake Bortles has thrown for as many as three touchdowns just once. With 1,010 yards, Lamar Miller is one of five backs who have surpassed 1,000. The Jaguars rank last in the league in interceptions (three), turnovers forced (eight) and plus/minus ratio (-17).

Worth pondering: The Texans and Jaguars haven't faced off in a game with any real playoff implications for both teams since a mid-season meeting in Jacksonville in 2010, the last year in which the Jaguars finished better than 5-11.

Dale Robertson

PASSING			COMP %	YARDS	TD	INT	RATING
Blake Bortles	QB	Jaguars	58.7	3,187	21	15	**77.9**
Brock Osweiler	QB	Texans	59.7	2,656	14	14	**73.4**

RUSHING			ATT	YARDS	AVG.	LONG	TD
Lamar Miller	RB	Texans	**246**	**1,010**	4.1	45	4
T.J. Yeldon	RB	Jaguars	120	**432**	3.6	16	1
Chris Ivory	RB	Jaguars	93	**350**	3.8	42	2
Alfred Blue	RB	Texans	67	**318**	4.7	25	0

RECEPTIONS			CATCHES	YARDS	AVG.	LONG	TD
DeAndre Hopkins	WR	Texans	**60**	701	11.7	44t	4
Allen Robinson	WR	Jaguars	**57**	639	11.2	51	2
Marqise Lee	WR	Jaguars	**54**	728	13.5	51	2
C.J. Fiedorowicz	TE	Texans	**48**	505	10.5	26t	3
T.J. Yeldon	RB	Jaguars	**45**	278	6.2	17	1
Ryan Griffin	TE	Texans	**40**	347	8.7	45	2
Will Fuller	WR	Texans	**37**	530	14.3	53	2
Julius Thomas	TE	Jaguars	**30**	281	9.4	24	4
Lamar Miller	RB	Texans	**29**	162	5.6	16	1

SACKS			SACKS	QB HITS	TFL	FF	FR
Yannick Ngakoue	DE	Jaguars	**6**	11	4	0	0
Whitney Mercilus	OLB	Texans	**5.5**	19	10	1	4
Malik Jackson	DT	Jaguars	**5**	13	7	0	1
Benardrick McKinney	ILB	Texans	**4**	9	7	1	0
Jadeveon Clowney	DE	Texans	**4**	14	14	1	0
John Simon	OLB	Texans	**3.5**	10	4	1	0

INTERCEPTIONS			INT.	PD	TACKLES	FF	FR
Quintin Demps	SS	Texans	**3**	5	30	1	0
Andre Hal	FS	Texans	**2**	7	22	0	0
A.J. Bouye	CB	Texans	**1**	11	32	0	0
Tashaun Gipson	FS	Jaguars	**1**	1	27	0	0
Yannick Ngakoue	DE	Jaguars	**1**	1	16	4	0
Kareem Jackson	CB	Texans	**1t**	4	47	0	1
Paul Posluszny	ILB	Jaguars	**1**	1	82	0	0
Robert Nelson	CB	Texans	**1**	2	8	0	0

WHAT TO WATCH

WEEKEND ON THE COUCH

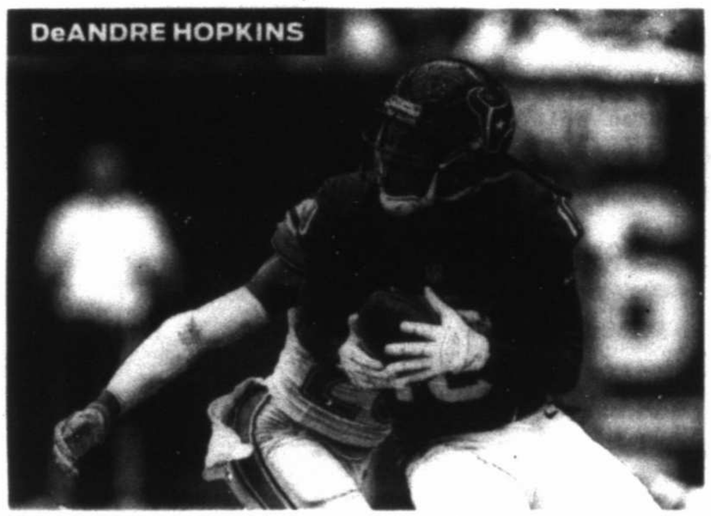
10 BEST TELEVISED SPORTING EVENTS

By Randy Harvey

Jaguars at Texans

1 **When:** Noon Sunday
TV: CBS

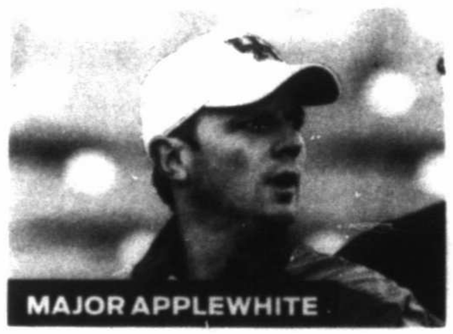
The Texans (7-6) could — and should — move one step closer to clinching a second consecutive AFC South title in a game at NRG against the weakest team, 2-11 Jacksonville, in the NFL's weakest division.


DeANDRE HOPKINS

Houston vs. San Diego State

2 **When:** 2:30 p.m. Saturday
TV: ABC

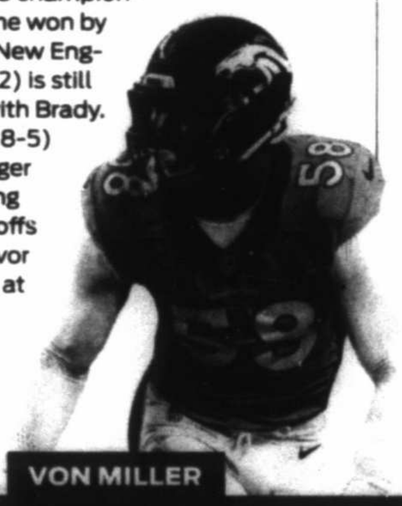
Major Applewhite makes his debut as the Cougars' head coach and as the new commander of the H-Town Takeover in the Las Vegas Bowl against Mountain West Conference champion San Diego State.


MAJOR APPLEWHITE

Patriots at Broncos

3 **When:** 3:25 p.m. Sunday
TV: CBS

Peyton Manning and Tom Brady played against each other for the final time in the most recent meeting between these two teams, the 2015 AFC championship game won by Denver. New England (11-2) is still rolling with Brady. Denver (8-5) is in danger of missing the playoffs with Trevor Siemian at QB.


VON MILLER

Buccaneers at Cowboys

4 **When:** 7:30 p.m. Sunday
TV: NBC

Dallas (11-2) missed a chance to clinch the NFC East with the loss at New York on Sunday night and now must win to keep the 9-4 Giants from moving closer in the division race. Tampa Bay (8-5) is not a pushover.

The Woodlands vs. Lake Travis

5 **When:** 8 p.m. Saturday
TV: Fox Southwest

The Woodlands (15-0) survived a huge test in a Class 6A Division I semifinal victory over No. 1 Allen. Now comes another in the state championship game at AT&T Stadium against 14-1 Lake Travis, which beat Atascocita 63-21 in the other semifinal.

Texas A&M vs. Arizona

6 **When:** 11 a.m. Saturday
TV: ESPN2

The Aggies are 7-2, having lost both games to Pac-12 teams Southern Cal and UCLA. Now they face another in No. 19 Arizona (9-2) in a game at Toyota Center.

Texas vs. Arkansas

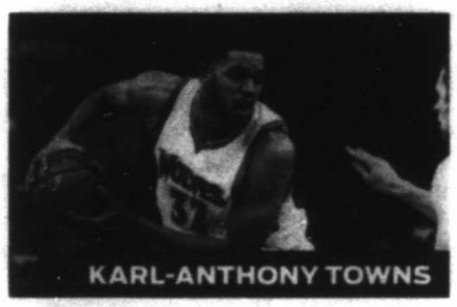
7 **When:** 1:30 p.m. Saturday
TV: ESPNU

In the second game of the doubleheader at Toyota Center, the Longhorns (5-4) renew their rivalry with the Razorbacks (8-1). It will be the first time they have met since January 2011.

Pelicans at Rockets

8 **When:** 7 p.m. today
TV: Root

The Rockets are surging in the West's Southwest Division, while New Orleans has been going in the opposite direction. But you never count out a team with 6-10 Anthony Davis, especially now that Jrue Holiday is back in the lineup.


KARL-ANTHONY TOWNS

Rockets at Timberwolves

9 **When:** 7 p.m. Saturday
TV: Root

Minnesota should be better with Andrew Wiggins, Ricky Rubio and Karl-Anthony Towns on the floor and coach Tom Thibodeau on the sideline but is languishing in last place in the West's Northwest Division.

Bernard Hopkins vs. Joe Smith Jr.

10 **When:** 9 p.m. Saturday
TV: HBO

Hopkins, 51, vows this will be his last fight, although he said that before his most recent bout in 2014. This is primarily considered a celebration of his career. The opponent, 23 years younger, is best known as a club fighter.

DALE ROBERTSON

THE STAT SHEET

All stats aren't created equal. These are the ones the most frequently influence the outcome of games

How the Texans stack up against the Jaguars entering Week 15:

	TEXANS	RANK	JAGUARS	RANK	NFL BEST	WORTH NOTING
POINT DIFFERENTIAL	**-3.5**	26	**-7.5**	29	+9.2	Jaguars' number reflects their record; Texans' doesn't.
YARDS PER RUSH	**4.3**	10t	**3.95**	18t	5.4	Texans' running game carrying the offense.
YARDS ALLOWED PER RUSH	**4.2**	16t	**3.9**	8t	3.4	Jaguars surprisingly good vs. run for a 2-11 team.
THIRD-DOWN OFFENSE PERCENTAGE	**40**	15	**36.8**	23	48	Texans should be able to move the chains on the Jaguars.
THIRD-DOWN DEFENSE PERCENTAGE	**37.3**	7	**38.7**	15	33.9	Texans came up with some big stops against Colts.
SACKS ALLOWED	**24**	9t	**28**	14	13	Protection has been spotty for both teams.
SACKS	**22**	28t	**26**	20t	39	Texans lagging badly without J. J. Watt.
TURNOVERS	**21**	24t	**25**	30	9	Both teams giving the ball away too much.
TURNOVERS FORCED	**14**	23t	**8**	32	24	Texans came up with three against Andrew Luck.
+/1	**-7**	27t	**-17**	32	+15	Texans' record doesn't reflect how bad their number is.
QB RATING	**73.4**	30	**78.0**	27	112.7	Brock Osweiler, Blake Bortles both treading water.
OPPOSING QB RATING	**88.1**	12	**93.3**	21	67.4	Jaguars present another great opportunity for Osweiler.
TIME OF POSSESSION	**31:07**	6	**29:19**	24	32:28	Texans dominated the clock against the Colts.

DALE ROBERTSON

NUMBERS

Statistics are for losers? Maybe. But they're also for the curious, and they're what makes sports tick. Every week, Texas Sports Nation looks at the numbers behind the stories we cover.

Breaking even

The Texans' Brock Osweiler has the NFL's third-worst touchdown-to-interception ratio among quarterbacks who have started most of their teams' games. The only quarterbacks behind him are former Texans Case Keenum and Ryan Fitzpatrick.

THE FIVE BEST



TOM BRADY
NEW ENGLAND
TDs 22 INT 2
RATIO 11.0



DAK PRESCOTT
DALLAS
TDs 20 INT 4
RATIO 5.0



AARON RODGERS
GREEN BAY
TDs 32 INT 7
RATIO 4.6



MATT RYAN
ATLANTA
TDs 30 INT 7
RATIO 4.3



MARCUS MARIOTA
TENNESSEE
TDs 25 INT 8
RATIO 3.1

THE FIVE WORST



RUSSELL WILSON
SEATTLE
TDs 13 INT 10
RATIO 1.3



CARSON WENTZ
PHILADELPHIA
TDs 13 INT 12
RATIO 1.1



BROCK OSWEILER
TEXANS
TDs 14 INT 14
RATIO 1.0



CASE KEENUM
LOS ANGELES
TDs 9 INT 11
RATIO 0.8



RYAN FITZPATRICK
N.Y. JETS
TDs 10 INT 14
RATIO 0.7

Fast starts

The Rockets' 122-118 victory over the Brooklyn Nets on Monday night gave them a seven-game winning streak and an 18-7 record, the fifth-best start through 25 games in franchise history:

	COACH	WINS	LOSSES	FINAL	PLAYOFFS
1993-94	Rudy Tomjanovich	22	3	58-24	Won championship
1996-97	Rudy Tomjanovich	21	4	57-25	Lost conference final
1995-96	Rudy Tomjanovich	19	6	48-34	Lost conference semifinals
2014-15	Kevin McHale	19	6	56-26	Lost conference finals
2016-17	Mike D'Antoni	18	7	TBD	TBD
1985-86	Bill Fitch	17	8	51-31	Lost final

Biggest 'losers'

Jeff Fisher tied Dan Reeves' record for most losses by an NFL coach Sunday but got fired Monday before he had a chance to claim the title all by his lonesome. Of the five coaches who have suffered the most defeats, Fisher has the lowest winning percentage, but, like the others, he did take at least one team to the Super Bowl:

		SEASONS	GAMES	WINS	LOSSES	PCT	SUPER BOWL RECORD
Dan Reeves	1981-2003	23	357	**190**	165	.535	●●●● 0-4
Jeff Fisher	1994-2016	**22**	**339**	**173**	165	.512	● 0-1
Tom Landry	1960-88	29	418	**250**	162	.607	●●●●● 2-3
Don Shula	1963-95	33	490	**328**	156	.677	●●●●● 2-3
Tom Coughlin	1995-2015	20	320	**170**	150	.531	●● 2-0

Oh, give me a home ...

Despite their 7-6 record, the Texans remain in a position to set a franchise record for home victories in a season – two more will give them seven – and also go undefeated against AFC South teams for the first time. Their records through the years:

	OVERALL			DIVISION		
	HOME	AWAY	TOTAL	HOME	AWAY	TOTAL
2002	**2-6**	2-6	4-12	0-3	1-2	**1-5**
2003	**3-5**	2-6	5-11	1-2	0-3	**1-5**
2004	**3-5**	4-4	7-9	2-1	2-1	**4-2**
2005	**2-6**	0-8	2-14	0-3	0-3	**0-6**
	10-22 (.313)					**6-18 (.250)**
			Capers			

	OVERALL			DIVISION		
	HOME	AWAY	TOTAL	HOME	AWAY	TOTAL
2006	**4-4**	2-6	6-10	2-1	1-2	**3-3**
2007	**5-3**	3-5	8-8	1-2	0-3	**1-5**
2008	**6-2**	2-6	8-8	2-1	0-3	**2-4**
2009	**4-4**	5-3	9-7	0-3	1-2	**1-5**
2010	**4-4**	2-6	6-10	3-0	0-3	**3-3**
2011	**5-3**	5-3	10-6	2-1	2-1	**4-2**
2012	**6-2**	6-2	12-4	3-0	2-1	**5-1**
2013*	**1-7**	1-7	2-14	1-2	0-3	**1-5**
	35-29 (.547)					**20-28 (.417)**
			Kubiak			

	OVERALL			DIVISION		
	HOME	AWAY	TOTAL	HOME	AWAY	TOTAL
2014	**5-3**	4-4	9-7	2-1	2-1	**4-2**
2015	**6-2**	3-5	9-7	2-1	3-0	**5-1**
2016	**5-1**	2-5	7-6	2-0	2-0	**4-0**
	16-6 (.727)					**13-3 (.813)**
			O'Brien			

*Wade Phillips coached final 3 games

Cush as in crush

Linebacker Brian Cushing was in on six tackles (3 solo, 3 assists) in the Texans' 22-17 victory over Indianapolis on Sunday to set the set the Texans' career record for combined tackles. But former teammate DeMeco Ryans is still well ahead in unassisted tackles and Jamie Sharper had a higher per-game average. The Texans top five all-time:



BRIAN CUSHING
ILB
2009-16 (8)
GAMES **97**
TOTAL **639**
AVG. **6.6**
SOLO **411**
ASSISTS **228**



DeMECO RYANS
ILB
2006-11 (6)
GAMES **86**
TOTAL **636**
AVG. **7.4**
SOLO **479**
ASSISTS **157**



JAMIE SHARPER
MLB
2002-04 (3)
GAMES **48**
TOTAL **442**
AVG. **9.2**
SOLO **300**
ASSISTS **142**



DUNTA ROBINSON
CB
2004-09 (6)
GAMES **84**
TOTAL **396**
AVG. **4.7**
SOLO **332**
ASSISTS **64**



KAREEM JACKSON
CB
2010-16 (7)
GAMES **97**
TOTAL **388**
AVG. **4.0**
SOLO **337**
ASSISTS **51**

Shouldering the load

The Texans' Nick Novak is in a four-way tie for second place in the NFL with 28 field goals made after he kicked five in Sunday's victory at Indianapolis. He also ranks 10th in scoring with 103 points, but he has accounted for a larger chunk of his team's total – 45 percent – than any of the kickers above him:

		FGs	XPs	POINTS	TEAM POINTS	PERCENT
Matt Bryant	Atlanta	27	43	**124**	428	29%
Justin Tucker	Baltimore	31	22	**115**	279	41%
Dustin Hopkins	Washington	28	30	**114**	330	35%
Matt Prater	Detroit	28	25	**109**	295	37%
Sebastian Janikowski	Oakland	25	33	**108**	358	30%
Caleb Sturgis	Philadelphia	28	24	**108**	290	37%
Brandon McManus	Denver	26	28	**106**	296	36%
Steven Hauschka	Seattle	27	23	**104**	274	38%
Adam Vinatieri	Indianapolis	23	35	**104**	328	32%
Nick Novak	Texans	**28**	**19**	**103**	**229**	45%





Houston Chronicle file photo

20 YEARS AGO THURSDAY AN ERA CAME TO AN END AS THE HOUSTON OILERS PLAYED THEIR LAST GAME IN THE ASTRODOME.

Jeff Fisher was a handsome, young Buddy Ryan-groomed coach with no baggage and big aspirations. Steve McNair was the hotshot young quarterback with a Super Bowl in his future — and the only man named McNair at that juncture on any Houston football fan's radar screen. Still, it all ended so predictably 20 years ago Thursday, with a loss.



DALE ROBERTSON

McNair's last pass as a *Houston* Oiler had gone for a touchdown, 16 yards to tight end Frank Wycheck at the end of a foreshadowing-of-things-to-come 89-yard drive, cutting the Cincinnati Bengals' lead to 21-13 with 37 seconds left in the Houston chapter of the Tennessee Titans' history. But Al Del Greco's onside kick wound up in a Bengal's clutches and that was that, the end of an occasionally electric but mostly error-filled era, one of great expectations routinely cancelled out by dashed hopes. The team's 8-8 record was a perfect metaphor.

Gusher to gone: Oilers in Houston

AUG. 3, 1959
Owner K.S. "Bud" Adams announces Houston will have a team in the American Football League. It's later named the Oilers.

JAN. 1, 1961
George Blanda throws three TD passes as the Oilers win the first AFL championship with a 24-16 victory over the Los Angeles Chargers at Jeppesen Stadium.

DEC. 24, 1961
The Oilers win their second consecutive AFL title with a 10-3 win over the Chargers at San Diego.

DEC. 23, 1962
The Oilers' bid for three straight AFL titles ends with a 20-17 double-overtime loss to the Dallas Texans in the championship game at Jeppesen Stadium.

FEB. 10, 1968
Adams announces the Oilers will move to the Astrodome after playing at Rice Stadium since 1965.

SEPT. 20, 1970
The Oilers win 19-7 at Pittsburgh in their first game as an NFL franchise following the NFL/AFL merger.

JAN. 25, 1975
O.A. "Bum" Phillips is named Oilers head coach. Weeks later, he adds general manager duties after Sid Gillman's departure.



Barely more than 15,000 Houstonians had bothered to trek to the Astrodome to say their goodbyes. Civic sentimentality was, to say the least, in short supply. Never had an Oilers game been more poorly attended, going back to the dark ages of the early AFL, when the games were played in the ramshackle high-school-caliber stadium called Jeppesen on the University of Houston campus. The prevalent mood in the city on Sunday, Dec. 15, 1996, was "Bud, don't let the door hit you in the . . ."

That's Bud as in Kenneth Stanley "Bottom Line" Bud Adams, the late oilman who gave Houston professional football and also ripped it from the city's clutches, lured to Nashville by lots of free money — a "relocation package" worth $292 million — and a chance to rewrite his personal narrative. No owner has ever been more widely reviled in these parts than Adams, the man who fired Bum Phillips on New Year's Eve, so there was a lot to be said for his starting over elsewhere.

In Nashville, Adams could pretend to be self-made, which he did, rarely if ever mentioning that his college graduation present from daddy, the famed wildcatter K. S. "Boots" Adams, had been every Phillips 66 station in the southwest. (Also, remember that his franchise fee to get the Oilers into the upstart American Football League was all of $25,000.) After being drummed out of Houston, Bud arrived in Music City to a chorus of steel guitars, even being selected to serve as the grand marshal of Nashville's Fourth of July parade.



Bud Adams moved the Oilers into the Astrodome in 1968 and vacated the aging stadium for Tennessee in 1996 after proposing a new downtown stadium to be shared with the Rockets.

Houston Chronicle file photos

Exit a wakeup call

Adams legacy in Houston, however, exceeded anything he ever accomplished from the owner's box.



APRIL 24, 1978
The Oilers trade up to get Heisman Trophy winner Earl Campbell of Texas with the first pick in the NFL draft. His arrival kicks off the "Luv Ya Blue" era.

NOV. 20, 1978
In one of the most memorable games in franchise history, Campbell runs for 199 yards and four touchdowns in a 35-30 home win over Miami on Monday Night Football.

DEC. 24, 1978
The Oilers win a playoff game for the first time since 1961, toppling the Dolphins 17-9 in Miami.



JAN. 7, 1979
The Oilers lose 34-5 at Pittsburgh in the AFC Championship Game. They are welcomed home by 50,000 fans at an Astrodome rally.

DEC. 29, 1979
In the divisional round, the Oilers – playing without the injured Campbell and QB Dan Pastorini – shock San Diego 17-14, with safety Vernon Perry grabbing an NFL-record four interceptions.

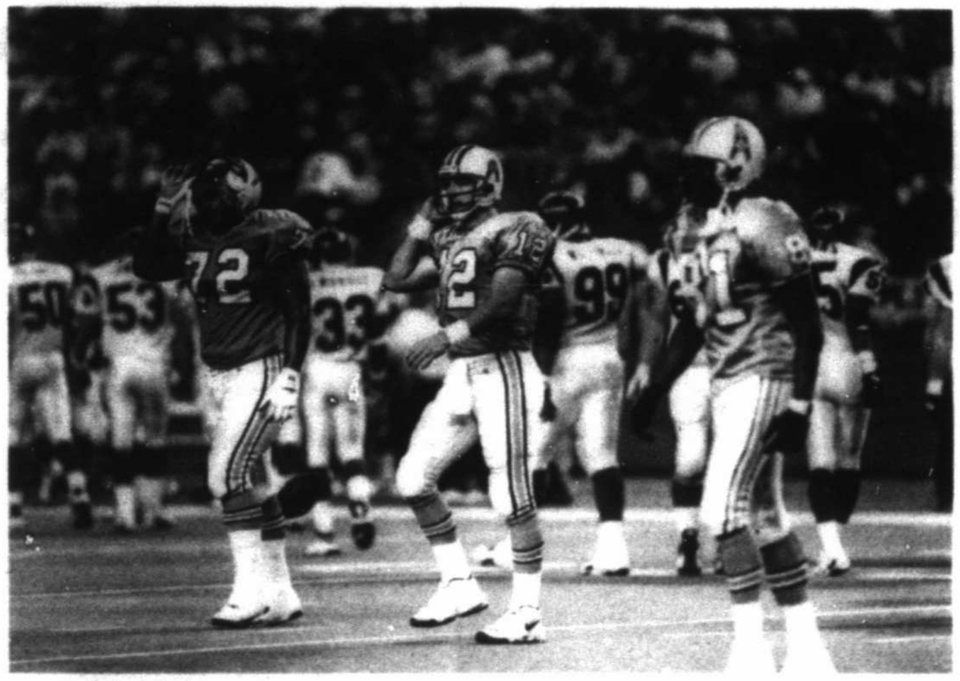
His exit woke the city up to a changing world, one in which football and baseball stadiums and basketball arenas, chock full of luxurious revenue-generating suites designed to suck gobs of cash from the pockets of the fat-cat class, were the minimum requirement for being allowed to continue playing in the big leagues.

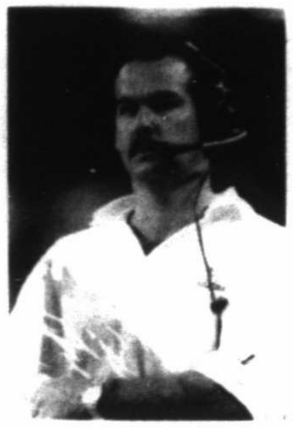
Adams' ill-timed insistence on a terrible plan — a new football venue downtown to be shared with the Rockets based on the grossly imperfect model San Antonio had in place for its Spurs with the Alamodome at the time — was a dead-on-arrival concept, especially with the Oilers, having blown leads in playoff games the previous three seasons, by then mired in the 2-14 season that got Jack Pardee fired and defensive coordinator Fisher promoted 10 games in.

However, it did launch a conversation that ended, not too long after he'd left, with Houston figuring out a way to construct three separate but equally excellent buildings in Minute Maid Park, NRG Stadium and Toyota Center mostly by taxing out-of-towners rather than the citizenry.

It's important to remember both Astros owner Drayton McLane, who had been Adams' landlord at the Astrodome, and Rockets owner Leslie Alexander also became infected with wanderlust. The Washington, D.C. area was courting McLane, while Alexander, whose team had won a couple of for-real, leverage-providing NBA championships, was already contemplating life after the Summit. He even took a fact-finding trip to Louisville to explore his Rockets options.

Note the irony that we're "celebrating" the anniversary of the Oilers departure in the same week that Fisher, now a graying, paunchy fellow whose coaching future is all behind him two decades on, was fired by the Los Angeles Rams, having just tied the record for most losses suffered by an NFL coach. In a perfect world, though, the Tennessee Titans, which the Oilers have been called since 1999 — the season when they, of course, went to the Super Bowl — would be visiting Sunday because that would have so neatly closed the circle.





In the 14 seasons since the Texans replaced the Oilers following Houston's five-season NFL hiatus, the two franchises never have played in a game with serious AFC South championship ramifications. The Titans were really good when the Texans in their infancy were really bad and of late the roles have been reversed with the Texans winning the last five meetings. For the moment they're tied for first place with 7-6 records and their collision in Nashville on Jan. 1 may determine who goes on to the playoffs and who doesn't.

QB Chris Chandler (12) leaves the field during the Oilers' final game in the Astrodome, a loss to the Bengals in which Chandler threw three interceptions. The journeyman, who saw action for seven franchises, didn't travel with the team to Tennessee like coach Jeff Fisher, right, did.

JAN. 6, 1980
The Oilers lose the AFC Championship Game at Pittsburgh again, this time by a 27-13 score. The game includes a highly controversial incomplete call that nullifies Mike Renfro's apparent tying TD catch.

MARCH 15, 1980
The Oilers and Oakland Raiders swap starting QBs, with Ken Stabler coming to Houston and Dan Pastorini heading west.

DEC. 29, 1980
The Oilers lose 27-7 at Oakland in the wild-card round. Three days later, Adams fires Phillips as head coach and general manager.

FEB. 3, 1984
The Oilers sign QB Warren Moon to a five-year, $6 million contract, making him the highest-paid player in pro football.

OCT. 9, 1984
An era ends as Campbell is traded to New Orleans for a first-round pick in 1985, reuniting him with Phillips.

DEC. 9, 1985
Hugh Campbell is fired as coach and replaced by defensive coordinator Jerry Glanville.

AUG. 13, 1987
The Oilers retire Campbell's No. 34.

DEC. 27, 1987
A 21-17 home win over the Bengals clinches the Oilers' first playoff berth since 1980.

JAN. 3, 1988
In the AFC wild-card game, the Oilers top the Seahawks 23-20 on Tony Zendejas' 42-yard field goal in overtime.

JAN. 10, 1988
The Oilers are bounced from the playoffs in a 34-10 loss at Denver that includes the infamous "Stagger Lee" lateral and turnover at their 1-yard line.

JAN. 1, 1989
The Oilers lose 17-10 in a playoff game at Buffalo.

FEB. 1, 1989
Ladd Herzeg resigns as general manager and is replaced by Mike Holovak a day later.

DEC. 31, 1989
The Oilers lose 26-23 in overtime to Pittsburgh at the Astrodome in the AFC wild-card round.

JAN. 6, 1990
Glanville and the team part ways; UH coach Jack Pardee replaces him three days later.

Lamest of lame ducks

The team Tennessee inherited from us in the fall of 1997 was similar to the current one, perched on the cusp of possible greatness after selecting McNair and Eddie George first in the previous two drafts, both held in Houston but of no appreciable long-term benefit to Houston. The news that Adams had a deal in place with the Nash-villains broke during mid-August 1995 with McNair, who would go on to become the franchise's all-time wins leader with 91 in 153 starts, just beginning to find his NFL legs.

Fisher declined to give McNair a start until three games remained in his rookie season and the Oilers had played themselves out of postseason contention. Although he acquitted himself well, Fisher stuck with the veteran Chris Chandler again the following season, when the Oilers had become the lamest of Houston ducks. It paid off with a 5-2 start — one of the victories, 23-13 over the Steelers, drew 50,337 on a riotous throwback Sunday at the Astrodome — before Chandler's wheels began to come off.

Four losses in five games followed to pretty much blow up their playoff chances and McNair wound up receiving three starts with mixed results. On Dec. 8, he passed for 308 yards and a touchdown in a 24-17 defeat in Jacksonville. Nonetheless, seven days later with the Oilers bidding their home of 36 years adieu, Chandler was back in the lineup, where he stayed until he threw his third interception on three successive second-half possessions — the first of them a 42-yard pick-six — and forced Fisher's hand.

Houston would after all get one last up-close-and-personal look at the future of its once and former franchise, the player who became the face of the Tennessee Titans and, three seasons later, almost won the Super Bowl for them.

Unruffled by a first-down sack that cost the Oilers five yards, pushing them back to their own 6, McNair needed 12 plays but barely three minutes to find Wycheck in the Cincinnati end zone. He completed six of nine passes and scrambled out of trouble on a third-and-10, gaining 11 yards to keep the drive alive. Rodney Thomas also came up big with a 12-yard scamper on a fourth-and-2 and caught the 7-yard pass that preceded Wycheck's touchdown.

The Houston Chronicle edition of Dec. 16, 1996, told of the Oilers' last game in town, but it was clear the fans had moved on themselves as the official attendance was listed as 15,131.



A year earlier, when it appeared the Oilers wouldn't be hanging around even for the 1996 season, Thomas was asked to reflect on what it felt like to be a player trapped in such a strange limbo, working for a man, Adams, who had packed his football bags and was ready to go. A confessed "home boy" — born in Groveton, he'd attended Texas A&M — Thomas admitted he hated what was going down.

"This has nothing to do with the players," Thomas said. "I understand why the fans are mad, but I hope they aren't mad at us, the players. It's not like I *want* to go. I don't know anybody on the team who does."

But leave they did.

Dale Robertson is a Houston Chronicle/ Texas Sports Nation staff writer.

DEC. 27, 1990
Moon throws for 527 yards in a 27-10 at Kansas City, the second-best single-game total in NFL history.

DEC. 29, 1991
Thanks to two timely Bubba McDowell interceptions, the Oilers top the Jets 17-10 in the wild-card round at the Astrodome.

JAN. 4, 1992
John Elway's late-game magic sends the Oilers to a crushing 26-24 loss at Denver in the divisional round.

JAN. 3, 1993
In the worst collapse in NFL playoff history, the Oilers lose 41-38 in overtime at Buffalo after leading 35-3 in the third quarter.

JAN. 29, 1993
Buddy Ryan is hired as defensive coordinator.

JAN. 2, 1994
The Oilers close the regular season with their 11th consecutive win, a 24-0 waxing of the Jets at the Astrodome. The game is marred by Ryan throwing a punch at offensive coordinator Kevin Gilbride on the sideline.

JAN. 16, 1994
Kansas City scores 21 fourth-quarter points to stun the Oilers 28-20 in the divisional round at the Astrodome. It is the last playoff game for the team in Houston.

NOV. 14, 1994
Pardee is fired after a 1-9 start and replaced by defensive coordinator Jeff Fisher. He's retained as head coach following the season.

NOV. 16, 1995
Adams signs a relocation agreement to move the team to Nashville, Tenn.

DEC. 15, 1996
The Oilers lose 21-13 to Cincinnati in their final game in Houston.

MAY 8, 1997
Adams reaches a settlement on the last year of the Oilers' lease at the Astrodome, freeing the team to relocate.

JUNE 12, 1997
The Oilers announce their intent to play the 1997 season in Tennessee under the moniker "Tennessee Oilers."

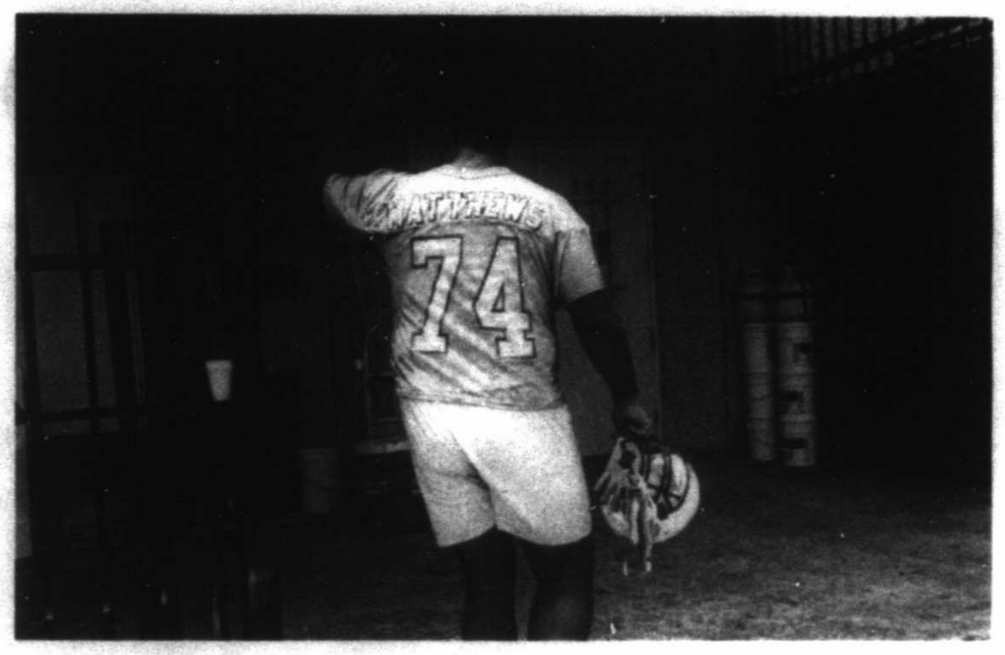


Unforgettable times

20th anniversary of Oilers' final home game stirs up variety of memories



JOHN McCLAIN



Bruce Matthews waves farewell following the Oilers' last official team workout in Houston on June 12, 1997.

Houston Chronicle file

Since Thursday was the 20th anniversary of the Oilers' last game in Houston, I would like to share with you two special memories of that unforgettable time in our city's sports history.

I will never forget what I witnessed after their last game in Houston on Dec. 15, 1996, and after their last practice in June 1997.

Because owner Bud Adams was negotiating to buy out the last year of their lease, they were unable to move to Nashville and become the Tennessee Oilers until the third week of June in 1997.

Before we get to that last practice, let me tell you about what transpired after their last game in the Astrodome.

The Oilers played Cincinnati. Only 15,131 — the smallest crowd in Houston history — showed up and the Oilers lost 21-13.

Rather than go to the Oilers' dressing room to interview coach Jeff Fisher and his players, I went where I had never been — outside the Astrodome, where Adams' limousine would exit.

What an ugly scene. Adams and his family came out, and fans surrounded his limo, throwing anything they could carry — beer, food, rocks, dirt — anything they could get their hands on.

Security was of little help because there were just too many irate fans pelting the limo, jumping on the hood and trunk, banging on the windows and shouting every obscenity they could think of. It was repulsive but understandable considering the circumstances.

Adams' limo moved slowly through the crowd until it could get up enough speed to finally escape and head for the exit to Fannin.

At that time, I wondered what must it feel like to be Bud Adams, to experience something like that and be so hated in your hometown, where you had done business since World War II?

Now, fast forward six months later. After an offseason in limbo, the Oilers knew they were moving to Nashville.

Their dilapidated practice facility was situated off Holly Hall and 288. It resembled a morgue that offseason because the players and coaches knew their fate.

At their last practice in June, there was a lot of local media, as well as reporters from Tennessee who had been covering the team.

As I watched the team practicing for the last time in Houston, I thought back to so many memorable moments at that facility.

Among them:

• The 1987 strike when players stood in the street throwing rocks and eggs at busses bringing replacement players for three-a-day practices under coach Jerry Glanville.

• Practice being stopped so a stripper could come on the field on a golf cart to sing "Happy Birthday" to receivers coach Chris Palmer.

• Because of a prank by Greg Montgomery, the offensive linemen taking the punter's stuffed rabbit from his locker and stringing it up between the goal posts and blasting away with shotguns, leaving nothing but cotton floating through the air.

• During a rainstorm that stopped practice, running back Lorenzo White climbing on a tractor underneath a shed and singing the "Green Acres" theme song at the top of his lungs.

• During another rainstorm, guard Doug Dawson going on the rain-soaked field wearing nothing but his jock, running 20 yards and seeing how far he could slide while television cameras recorded him.

I could go on and on about those memories I will always cherish.

The saddest was the last day at practice, when reporters stood on the field interviewing and just talking with players. No one was in a hurry to leave.

Finally, every player had gone into the facility except the greatest one who also happened to be the most outspoken against the move.

When we were through interviewing guard Bruce Matthews, who was finishing his 14th season of a 19-year career that would enable him to be enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame, he headed for the dressing room.

Right before he went through the door, with his back to us, Matthews carried his helmet in his right hand and raised his left arm to wave goodbye — signaling the end of pro football in Houston.

I will never forget that moment. While I stood there, I got this nauseating feeling: It's over. The Oilers are gone. The Dome is a dump. Houston will be without pro football for the first time since 1959. The NFL is not coming back to our city.

Not now. Not ever. Never.

And then Bob McNair came along.

John McClain is a Houston Chronicle staff writer.



JEROME SOLOMON

Numbers may be ugly, but somehow they add up to wins for O'Brien

MAKING IT WORK

Bill O'Brien deserves applause for running the best worst offense in the NFL.

Seriously.

I mean, for the Texans to be as good as they are considering how bad they are, is a testament to his coaching genius.

OK, genius is a bit much, and I can see how this might come across as asteism, but let's give the guy some credit for his ability to recognize his team's limitations.

Recognition is as important to coaching as teaching. Clearly, O'Brien realizes that his quarterback isn't good enough to be entrusted with a high percentage of the team's fortune.

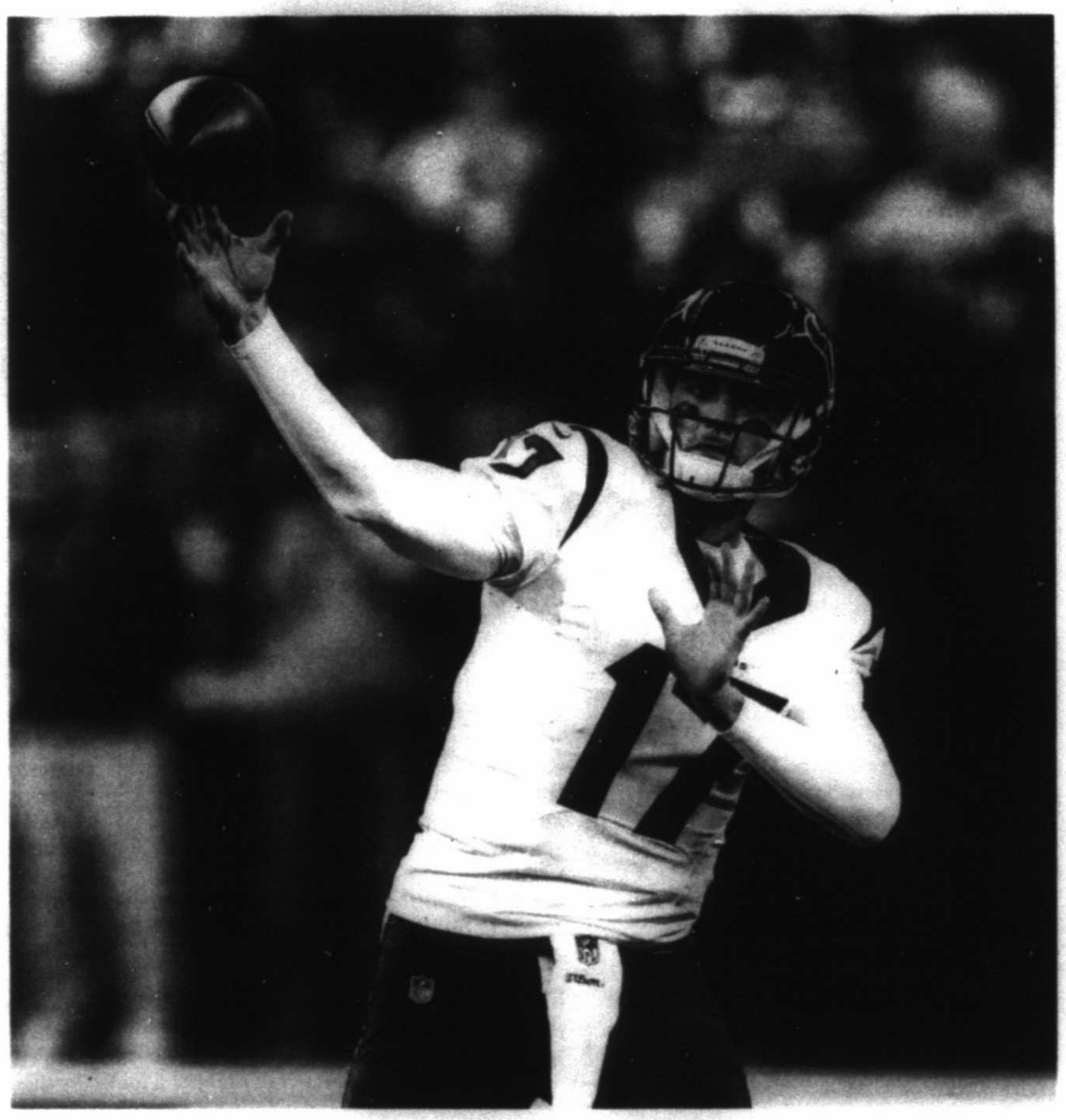
Houston is 7-6 and in first place in the AFC South, despite Brock Osweiler being on the field for all of the team's 862 plays, and being, arguably, the least productive starting quarterback in the NFL.

No need to argue it here. The five-year veteran and first-year Texans quarterback even being in the debate indicates how poorly he has played.

Wisely, we assume, O'Brien knows what he is working with and has accepted the things he cannot change.

Like the New England Patriots, the Texans pride themselves on being a "game plan" offense.

For the Patriots, that means Bill Belichick and offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels will tailor their offense to whatever weaknesses they see in an opponent and exploit that. Instead of a "This is what we run, stop it," approach, they tend to present a "You struggle against this, so we'll do a lot of it," attack.



Theirs is a versatile offense that can come at you in a variety of ways, and it is run by the best quarterback in NFL history.

The Texans, on the other hand, have what they describe as a complicated offensive system. It is supposed to be as versatile and sophisticated as the Patriots', but it appears to be simple and plain, because it is run by a quarterback not named Tom Brady.

Last Sunday at Indianapolis, Osweiler threw a season-low 24 passes, completing a season-low matching 14 for just 147 yards.

Yet, O'Brien praised him after the Texans' 22-17 win.

"I think Brock did a nice job of managing the game and did exactly what we asked him to do," O'Brien said.

Exactly? Okey dokey.

Against the Colts, Osweiler was off-target, looked rattled when there was little to be rattled about and was held back by play-calling — well, aside from a curious third-and-short pass play — that was surely designed to take the game out of his hands.

If he is capable of a big game, he might as well save it for the postseason.

Unwelcome flashback

The Texans are the only team in the NFL that hasn't had a 257-yard passing game this season.

Allow that to marinate for a minute.

The Texans have NEVER had a season in which they didn't have a game in which they totaled at least 257 yards passing.

Despite the fact that sack yards are deducted from passing yards to reach a final number, David Carr always managed to have at least one game that was more productive yardage-wise than as Osweiler has put up this year.

The Texans have won twice this season when they threw for 131 yards or fewer. The only season they won more is their inaugural year as a franchise, when three of their wins, including their first game against the Cowboys, were earned despite paltry passing numbers.

This year's Texans' offense is taking us back to a time when Nelly ruled the charts, but it's definitely not "Hot in Herre" or anywhere the Texans offense has been played.

Houston has scored a league-low 19 offensive touchdowns, and is one of only two teams that has more made field goals than touchdowns scored.

Thank goodness for the AFC South, where the Texans have won nine straight games and host 2-11 Jacksonville on Sunday.

"As far as the division, I think it's a very tough division," O'Brien said. "I don't get into whatever the narrators, authors, journalists think about the AFC South. I think it's a tough division.

"I think anyone who writes that, again, you have to grasp how hard it is to win a game in this league. These divisional games are very difficult. Give our players a lot of credit, they've played well in the division lately but it needs to continue on Sunday."

Say what you want about the competition — even if O'Brien's chastises you for it — a win over AFC South foe counts just as much in the standings as a win over (insert good team the Texans can't beat here).

O'Brien recognizes that. If the Texans beat division foes Jacksonville and Tennessee (in the season finale), the win the division title and will host a playoff game.

That would be two years in a row, for just the second time in Texans' history.

And O'Brien will have done it with one of the worst offenses in the league.

That's some really good coaching, right?

Jerome Solmon is the Texas Sports Nation TV co-host and columnist.



Despite the pedestrian statistics put up by quarterback Brock Osweiler, left, Texans coach Bill O'Brien, top, has adjusted and has the team poised to win the AFC South for the second consecutive season.

Brett Coomer photos / Houston Chronicle

COMMENTARY

A league in need

Home-run hires at Texas, Baylor could boost Big 12's national standing

By Chuck Carlton
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS



Baylor's football coaching search essentially lasted months. • Texas' was done in a day. • At the end, the results were remarkably similar with Texas landing Tom Herman and Baylor hiring Matt Rhule. • Each is 41, relatively young for an FBS head coach. Each won conference titles in the proving ground known as the American Athletic Conference, Herman at Houston in 2015 and Rhule this season at Temple. Each talks in positive motivational sound bites and each spoke about putting his stamp on the team immediately. • The two even sport enough facial hair for the coolness quotient. • As important as the two new coaches may be for their respective schools, they may be just as significant for the Big 12 — and not just for providing an obvious storyline at July's media days.



When a conference has just 10 teams, it can't afford too many mediocre or worse programs. The conference finished with just three teams ranked in the final College Football Playoff top 25, and No. 7 Oklahoma in the top 10.

It's up to Herman and Rhule to deliver on the promise that surrounded their introductions. It won't be easy in either case.

Since 2010, Texas has finished with a losing record in four of seven seasons and is 30-32 in the Big 12. While every story about Texas featured its young talent, it's also a team that finished 5-7 and didn't beat a team that finished over .500.

As much as fans at other schools may dispute the notion, the Big 12 does need Texas to return to national prominence from a brand standpoint. When Texas and Oklahoma each do well, the Big 12's image improves from perception to TV ratings. While Iowa State athletic director Jamie Pollard might have been politically incorrect talking about Texas and Oklahoma in relation to the rest of the Big 12, he's wasn't totally off-base.

Tom Herman, left, and Matt Rhule said all the right things at their introductory news conferences. Now, the Big 12 needs them to make Texas and Baylor national factors.

Associated Press photos

Herman already got an endorsement from a former employer, Ohio State coach Urban Meyer.

"Came into a tough situation of we asked him to learn our offense and help coordinate it, and he did a wonderful job," Meyer said at a College Football Playoff news conference last week. "I think he's ready for the task."

The Big 12 also can't afford for Baylor to return to the struggles that marked decades between Grant Teaff and Art Briles. While Baylor fans are adamant that so much is different now — from McLane Stadium to financial support — don't expect instant miracles.

The challenge for Rhule is to weather the damage done by the aftermath of the investigation into sexual assaults committed by football players. It led to the ouster of Briles and a fan base that is divided. It also decimated the 2016 recruiting class and Baylor has just one commitment so far in the 2017 class. With the departure of the current seniors after the Cactus Bowl, estimates have indicated that Baylor might have only 50 scholarship players.

Baylor AD Mack Rhoades hopes the hire got the right kind of attention.

"One of the things that I think about always in my mind is the other nine coaches in the league — and we've got great coaches in this league — but I always think about, if I hire somebody, what's their reaction going to be? Rhoades told Waco's KRZI-AM (1660). "I think they're going to say, 'Wow, Baylor just hired a heck of a football coach.'"

Chuck Carlton covers colleges for The Dallas Morning News.

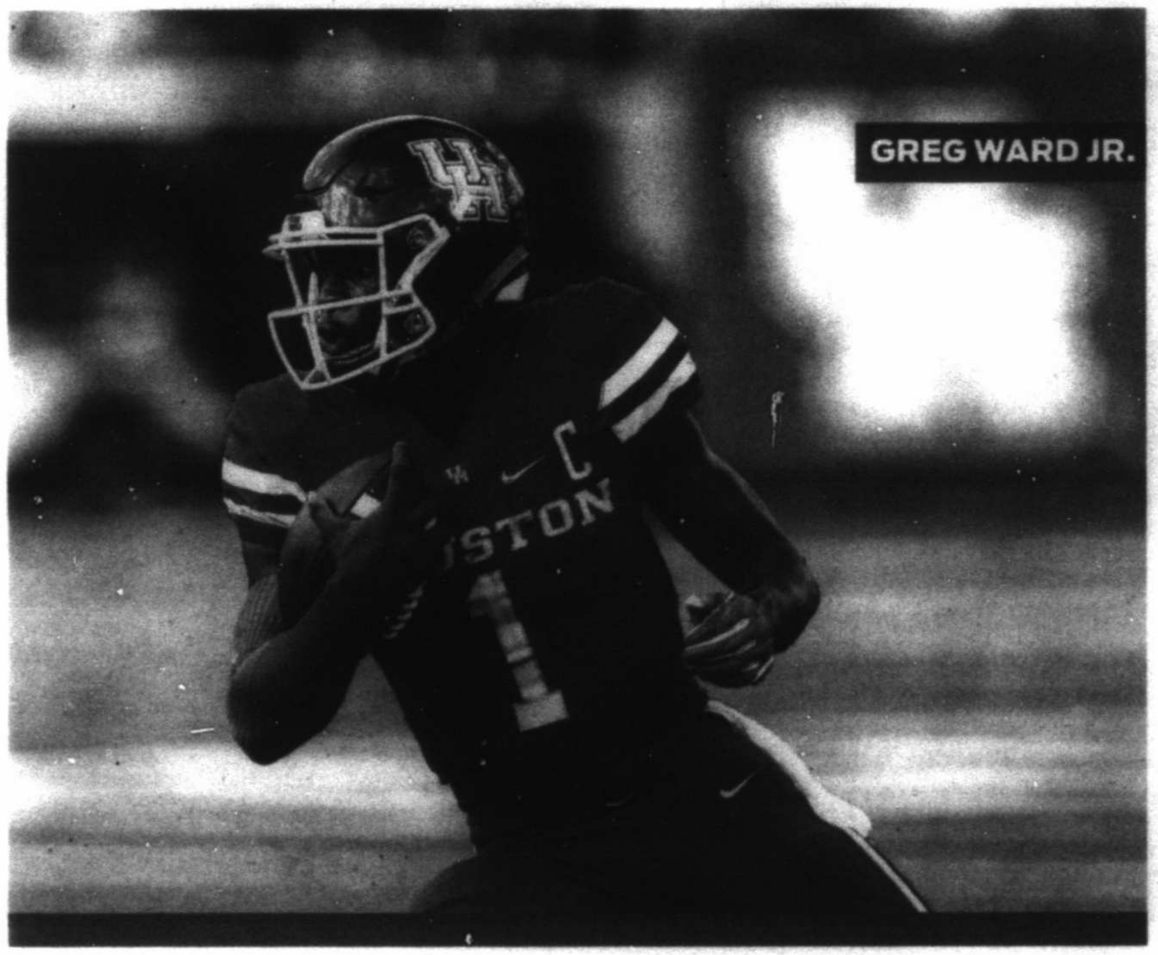
COLLEGE FOOTBALL

9-3 HOUSTON VS. SAN DIEGO ST. 10-3

LAS VEGAS BOWL • **WHEN:** 2:30 P.M. SATURDAY • **WHERE:** SAM BOYD STADIUM, LAS VEGAS • **TV:** ABC • **RADIO:** 950 AM, 97.5 FM

Series history: Houston leads 2-0.
Key players: UH — QB Greg Ward Jr., WR Linell Bonner, OLB Steven Taylor; SDS — QB Christian Chapman, RB Donnel Pumphrey, LB Calvin Munson.
Who has the edge:
Offense — Houston. The Cougars are 15th in passing offense (301.9 yards per game), 20th in scoring (38 points per game) and 34th in total yards (459). The Aztecs are seventh in rushing (273.3) and 31st in scoring (35.3). Ward enters with 3,328 yards and 22 TDs passing, and 518 yards and nine TDs rushing. Pumphrey has 2,018 yards and 16 TDs on 330 rushes.
Defense — Even. The Cougars are one of four FBS teams that held opponents to less than 100 rushing yards per game (97.9) during the regular season. They're also tied for 13th in sacks (37), led by Taylor (8.5) and Tyus Bowser (7.5). The Aztecs led the nation with 22 interceptions, including seven by Damontae Kazee.
Special teams — San Diego State. The Aztecs average 28.3 yards per kickoff return and 9.4 yards per punt return. They've returned three kicks for touchdowns. Also, K John Baron is 19-of-21 on field goals this season.
Notable: The Cougars won the only previous meetings 49-14 in 1972 at the Astrodome and 14-9 in 1973 at San Diego State. ... Defensive coordinator Todd Orlando was named interim coach after Tom Herman left for Texas, but ex-offensive coordinator Major Applewhite will lead the Cougars after he was named head coach.
About Houston: The Cougars (9-3) are coming off a 48-44 setback against Memphis on Nov. 25 on the road. Ward threw for 487 yards and four TDs in the game. The Cougars are 11-12-1 all-time in bowl games. They shocked No. 9 Florida State 38-24 ast year in the Peach Bowl.
About San Diego State: The Aztecs (10-3) lost to Wyoming (34-33) and Colorado State (63-31), but they beat Wyoming 27-24 in a rematch for the Mountain Westt title. Pumphrey, the nation's No. 2 rusher, had 110 yards and one TD on 25 carries, and Rashaad Penny carried 16 times for 117 yards and two TDs.

Jason McDaniel



HOW THEY COMPARE

UH SDSU

TOTAL YARDS
459 419 325 320
OFFENSE DEFENSE

PASSING YARDS
302 146 227 208
OFFENSE DEFENSE

RUSHING YARDS
157 273 98 112
OFFENSE DEFENSE

POINTS FOR 38.0 35.3

POINTS AGAINST 22.6 21.0

TIME OF POSSESSION 33:08 TIME 31:39 TIME

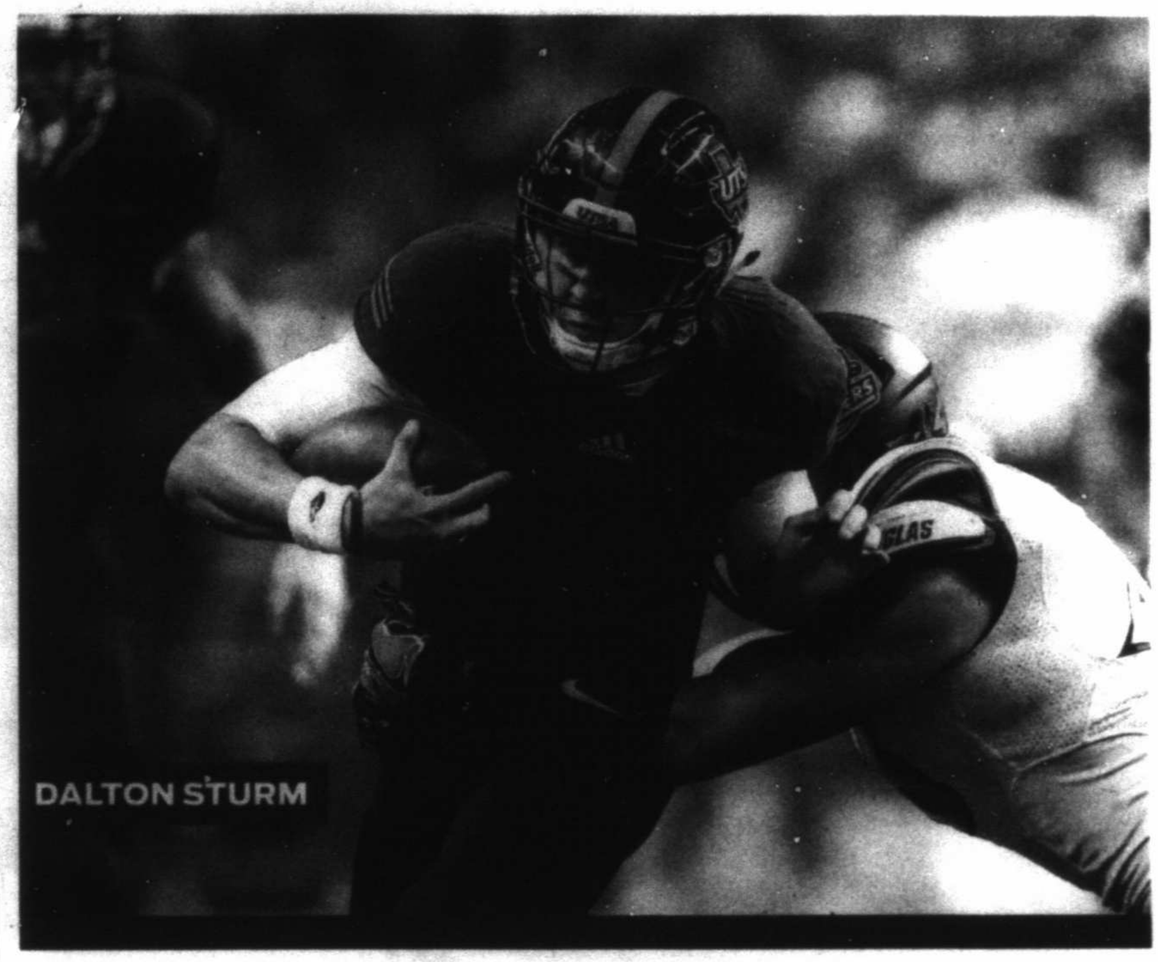
TURNOVERS PER GAME 1.75 1.15

6-6 UTSA VS. NEW MEXICO 8-4

NEW MEXICO BOWL • **WHEN:** 1 P.M. SATURDAY • **WHERE:** UNIVERSITY STADIUM, ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. • **TV:** ESPN • **RADIO:** 1560 AM

Series history: Tied 1-1.
Key players: UTSA — QB Dalton Sturm, WR Kerry Thomas Jr., MLB Josiah Tauaefa; NMU — QB Lamar Jordan, RB Richard McQuarley.
Who has the edge:
Offense — New Mexico. The Lobos lead FBS with 360.9 rushing yards per game. The only other FBS teams averaging at least 300 yards per game are Army (327.5), Air Force (322.8) and Navy (310.9). The Lobos are 21st in scoring (37.8) and 27th in total yards (470). The Roadrunners are 63rd in scoring (29.9), with RBs Jalen Rhodes (10 TDs) and Jarveon Williams (eight TDs) leading the way.
Defense — Texas-San Antonio. The season averages are close. The Roadrunners rank 58th in total defense, surrendering 400 yards per game, and 69th in scoring defense, allowing 28.3 points per contest. The Lobos give up 397 yards and 32.4 points per game. But the Roadrunners have the edge in takeaways (18-12). Michael Egwuagu leads UTSA with two forced fumbles and one INT.
Special teams — Even. The Roadrunners average 23.4 and 6.7 yards per kick and punt return, respectively. K Victor Falcon is 10-of-15 on field goals. The Lobos average 22.7 yards on kick returns and 7.0 yards on punt returns. K Jason Sanders is 11-of-12 on FGs.
Notable: The Roadrunners won the first meeting 21-13 in 2013 in Albuquerque, and the Lobos took the rematch 21-9 in 2014 in San Antonio. ... UTSA won seven games in 2013 but was not bowl eligible because it was in its final year of reclassifying to FBS football. ... Converted defensive end Tauaefa, a redshirt freshman, was named C-USA Freshman of the Year.
About Texas-San Antonio: The Roadrunners (6-6) are playing in their first bowl game after qualifying with a 33-14 win over Charlotte in their conference finale. Sturm threw for 286 yards and two TDs.
About New Mexico: The Lobos (8-4) won six of their last seven games, including a 56-35 victory over Wyoming to finish 6-2 in the Mountain West.

Jason McDaniel



HOW THEY COMPARE

UTSA NM

TOTAL YARDS
376 470 OFFENSE
400 397 DEFENSE

PASSING YARDS
222 109 OFFENSE
242 231 DEFENSE

RUSHING YARDS
155 361 OFFENSE
158 166 DEFENSE

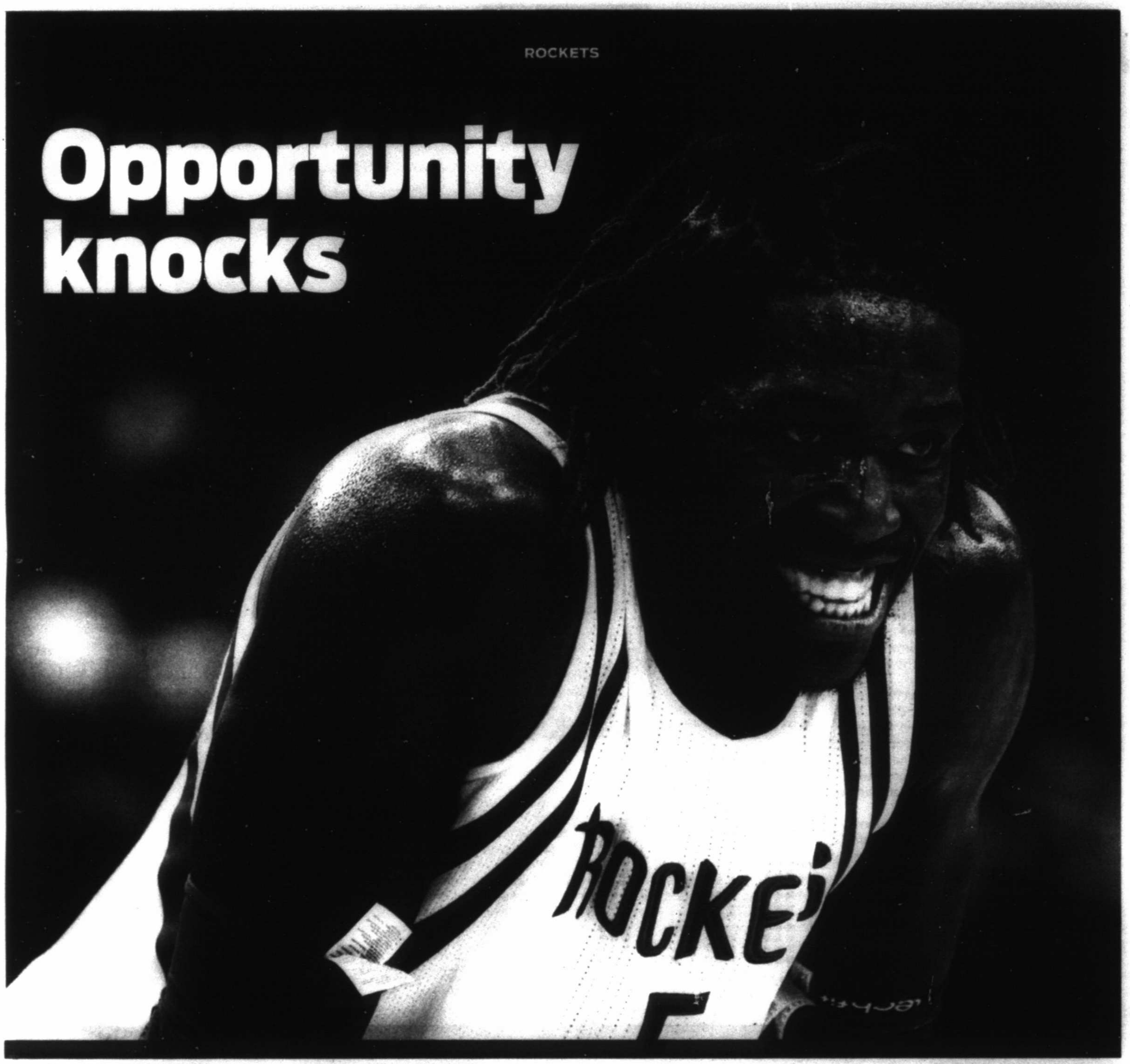
POINTS FOR
29.9 37.8

POINTS AGAINST
28.3 32.4

TIME
31:37 34:11

TURNOVERS PER GAME
1.2 1.2

Opportunity knocks



Elizabeth Conley / Houston Chronicle

MONTREZL HARRELL IGNORES DRAFT STATUS, WORKS ON MAKING IMPACT IN 2ND SEASON

By Greg Rajan

The motivation has been there for Montrezl Harrell well before the first time he hit the court with the Rockets. • On June 25, 2015, the Louisville product heard 31 names called before his during the NBA draft. He finally heard his name with the second pick of the second round at No. 32 overall. • That's not exactly an optimal spot from which to launch a pro career. But for Harrell, it presented an opportunity that he's trying to make the most of as he plays for the third coach of his NBA life.

As the Rockets have gotten off to one of the better starts in franchise history, Harrell has caught the eye of coach Mike D'Antoni as an energy guy. So far this season, Harrell is playing around 13 minutes a game — three more than he averaged as a rookie — and has averaged 6 points and 3 rebounds as the third center behind Clint Capela and Nenê.

"He's been great," D'Antoni said. "His energy, that's what makes him stay in the league and that will make him important in the league, just his attitude and how he can come in the game and change the game with his energy and defensive, running the floor, getting better offensively. I mean, there's a lot of good things he's doing."

The odds generally are stacked against NBA second-round picks. The second rounders turned superstars, such as San Antonio's Manu Ginobili (taken 57th in 1999) and Golden State's Draymond Green (No. 35 in 2012) are few and far between.

But under general manager Daryl Morey, the Rockets have found contributors in the second round over the years. They include Carl Landry (No. 31 in 2007), Chase Budinger (No. 44 in 2009), Chandler Parsons (No. 38 in 2011) and Isaiah Cannon (No. 34 in 2013).

Parsons fed off his draft status, having "38" put inside the tongues of his shoes as motivation. It apparently worked, as he landed a $94.8 million max contract with the Memphis Grizzlies last offseason.

Harrell hasn't gone quite as far with the motivational tactics, but make no mistake, his draft spot is something that drives him.



Montrezl Harrell is adjusting to another new coach and a position switch to center in his second NBA season.

Gary Coronado / Houston Chronicle

"It definitely was a blessing and an honor to be able to hear my name called and be welcomed to the NBA," Harrell said. "But I definitely thought I should have went higher than what I did. It is what it is.

"Honestly ... I looked at it just as a draft status. This team looked at me and liked the talent I have and the ability I bring. I'm glad to be here with the Houston Rockets. As for the history with second-round steals, that's a great history to have for this organization.

"If I'm lucky to be listed as one of those guys, that's a blessing. I'm trying to work on my game and (improve it) because I know it's not only going to help me but our team."

His year and change in the NBA has taught Harrell the importance of adapting, from changing coaches twice in a few months to moving to center from his college position of power forward. He also had to prepare for the dreaded "did not play — coach's decision" after being a key cog at Louisville.

"As a younger guy, it's just being able to adjust from going to college where you're the man or the guy who plays the majority of the minutes to being able to start back over," Harrell said. "You've got to be able to handle that. You've got to be able to take that in stride and work at it and get better."

For Harrell, that included a trip to the D-League to play for the Rockets' Rio Grande Valley affiliate. He played in 12 games for the Vipers last season, averaging 24 points and 9 rebounds.

While others might chafe at being optioned to a minor-league outpost, Harrell took the opposite view.

"I had fun," he said. "Every time I went down to the D-League, I enjoyed myself because I got to work on my game and I knew the things I was doing down there definitely helped me with my stamina and my conditioning. So when my name was called during NBA games, I was ready."

Now, he's trying to find his niche with a Rockets team that's off to a strong start and one of the NBA's early surprises.

"Obviously, he's worked for everything that's been given to him and he has to keep working," D'Antoni said.

"There's a lot of second-rounders that don't make it because they don't have that extra juice or that extra desire to put in the work. To be able to sit on the bench and be forgotten and all of a sudden be called upon, it takes a special person to be able to do that."

Greg Rajan is the senior editor of Texas Sports Nation.

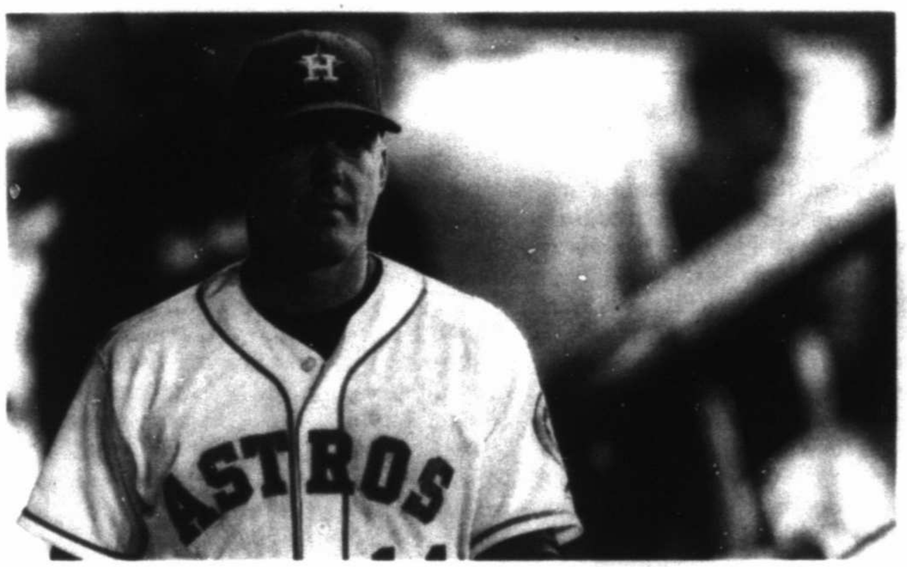
Houston Chronicle

ASTROS

MORE TOOLS AT HIS DISPOSAL

Latest roster additions will give A.J. Hinch plenty of flexibility in the field, balance at the plate

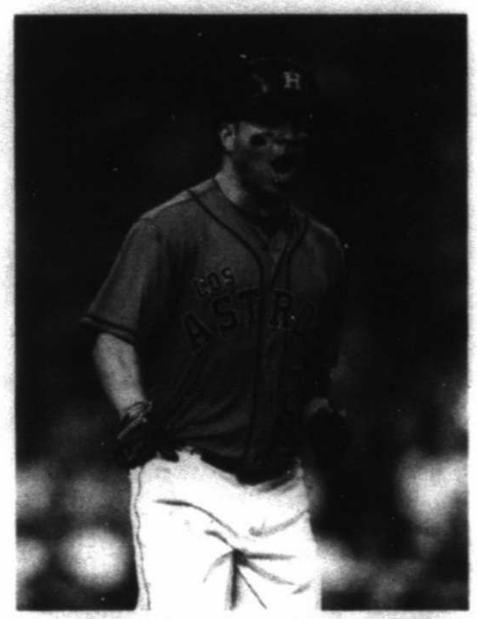
By Jake Kaplan



Since A.J. Hinch was hired as manager before the 2015 season, the Astros lead the majors in batting order variations. • Hinch, one of the game's more progressive managers, favors a matchup-based approach rather than set Nos. 1 through 9 constructions. In his two seasons at the helm, he never has used the same lineup more than four times. • Don't expect the daily mixing and matching to change in 2017 now that the Astros have the deepest — and arguably the best — lineup in the American League. In fact, the additions of Carlos Beltran, Josh Reddick, Brian McCann, and Nori Aoki may prompt even more variance than before.

Barring an injury in spring training, the Astros' group of 12 position players appears all but set. Positional flexibility and new-found balance between the roster's righthanded and lefthanded hitters will permit Hinch to perhaps even surpass his 2015 mark of 151 lineups used over the 162 game-schedule.

It's not difficult to envision how. Here are the aforementioned 12 position players, their handedness, and the positions at which they figure to be in the lineup (listed in alphabetical order): Jose Altuve (R) — 2B, DH; Aoki (L) — LF; Beltran (S) — DH, LF; Alex Bregman (R) — 3B, DH; Carlos Correa (R) — SS, DH; Evan Gattis (R) — C, DH; Marwin Gonzalez (S) — 1B, LF; Yulieski Gurriel (R) — 1B, 3B; Jake Marisnick (R) — CF, LF; McCann (L) — C; Reddick (L) — RF, LF; George Springer (R) — RF, CF, DH.



Karen Warren photos / Houston Chronicle

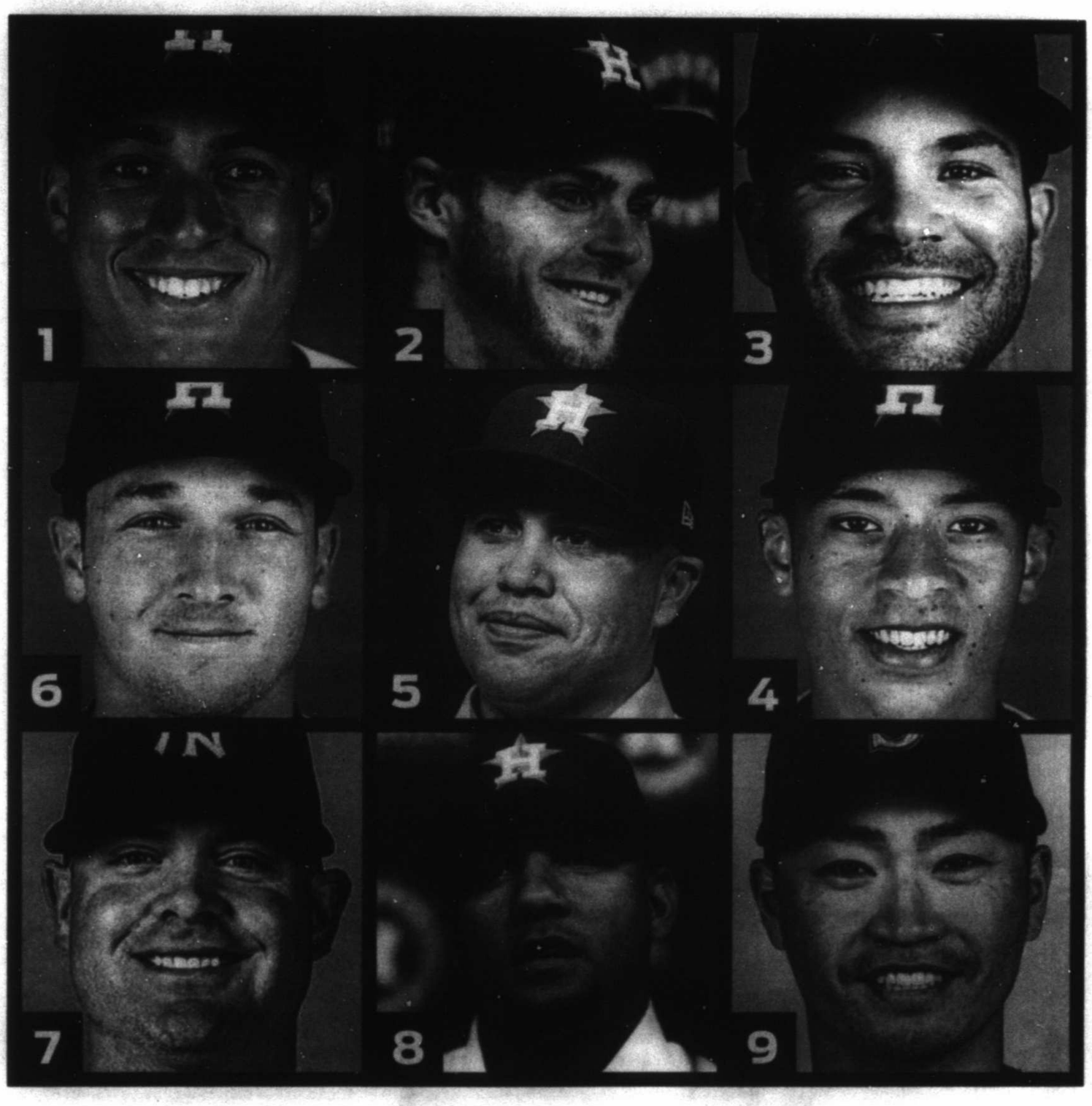
No matter what lineup combination the Astros use in 2017, expect Jose Altuve to be at the heart of it.

No. 2 the swing spot

The Astros' lineups against righthanded pitchers could vary somewhat significantly compared to those against lefthanded pitchers. Which direction Hinch decides to go for the two-hole will help dictate the rest of the batting order.

Although the team's core four of Springer, Bregman, Altuve and Correa each bat from the right side, Hinch has said he doesn't necessarily want to front-load the lineup with righthanded hitters and bottom-load it with the lefthanded bats.

This implies the lefthanded hitting Reddick as a possibility to bat second against righthanded pitchers with Bregman, the presumed two-hole hitter against lefthanders, dropping to fifth or sixth in the order against righthanders.



A plethora of options

Last season, Astros manager A.J. Hinch used 151 different lineups over the 162-game schedule. With new weapons on the roster for 2017, it's possible he could even surpass that number.

The Astros have 12 primary position players to work with this season. They are, in alphabetical order:

- **Jose Altuve (R)** // 2B, DH
- **Nori Aoki (L)** // LF
- **Carlos Beltran (S)** // DH, LF
- **Alex Bregman (R)** // 3B, DH
- **Carlos Correa (R)** // SS, DH
- **Evan Gattis (R)** // C, DH
- **Marwin Gonzalez (S)** // 1B, LF
- **Yulieski Gurriel (R)** // 1B, 3B
- **Jake Marisnick (R)** // CF, LF
- **Brian McCann (L)** // C
- **Josh Reddick (L)** // RF, LF
- **George Springer (R)** // RF, CF, DH

At left is what you might expect against righthanders (with career numbers vs. RHPs).

PLAYER, POS (bats)	Avg.	OBP	SLG
1. George Springer, CF (R)	.255	.342	.437
2. Josh Reddick, RF (L)	.270	.330	.457
3. Jose Altuve, 2B (R)	.299	.338	.415
4. Carlos Correa, SS (R)	.285	.359	.480
5. Carlos Beltran, DH (S)	.280	.356	.484
6. Alex Bregman, 3B (R)	.269	.316	.497
7. Brian McCann, C (L)	.269	.347	.471
8. Yulieski Gurriel, 1B (R)	.281	.323	.416
9. Nori Aoki, LF (L)	.277	.348	.389

Bregman actually performed better against righthanders than lefthanders last season, though the 56 at-bats he took against left-handers after his June debut is too small a sample to draw any meaningful conclusion.

So, for argument's sake, let's presume Bregman and Reddick alternate two-hole hitting duties. Here are two potential configurations:

Against righties: 1, Springer, CF; 2, Reddick, RF; 3, Altuve, 2B; 4, Correa, SS; 5, Beltran, DH; 6, Bregman, 3B; 7, McCann, C; 8, Gurriel, 1B; 9, Aoki, LF.

Against lefties: 1, Springer, RF; 2, Bregman, 3B; 3, Altuve, 2B; 4, Beltran, DH; 5, Correa, SS; 6, Gattis, C; 7, Gurriel, 1B; 8, Reddick, LF; 9, Marisnick, CF

Swapping the order of Correa and Beltran against lefthanders would help to balance out the handedness of the lineup, which could come into play once an opposing manager hands a game over to his bullpen. Beltran's career splits against righthanders and lefthanders are nearly even.

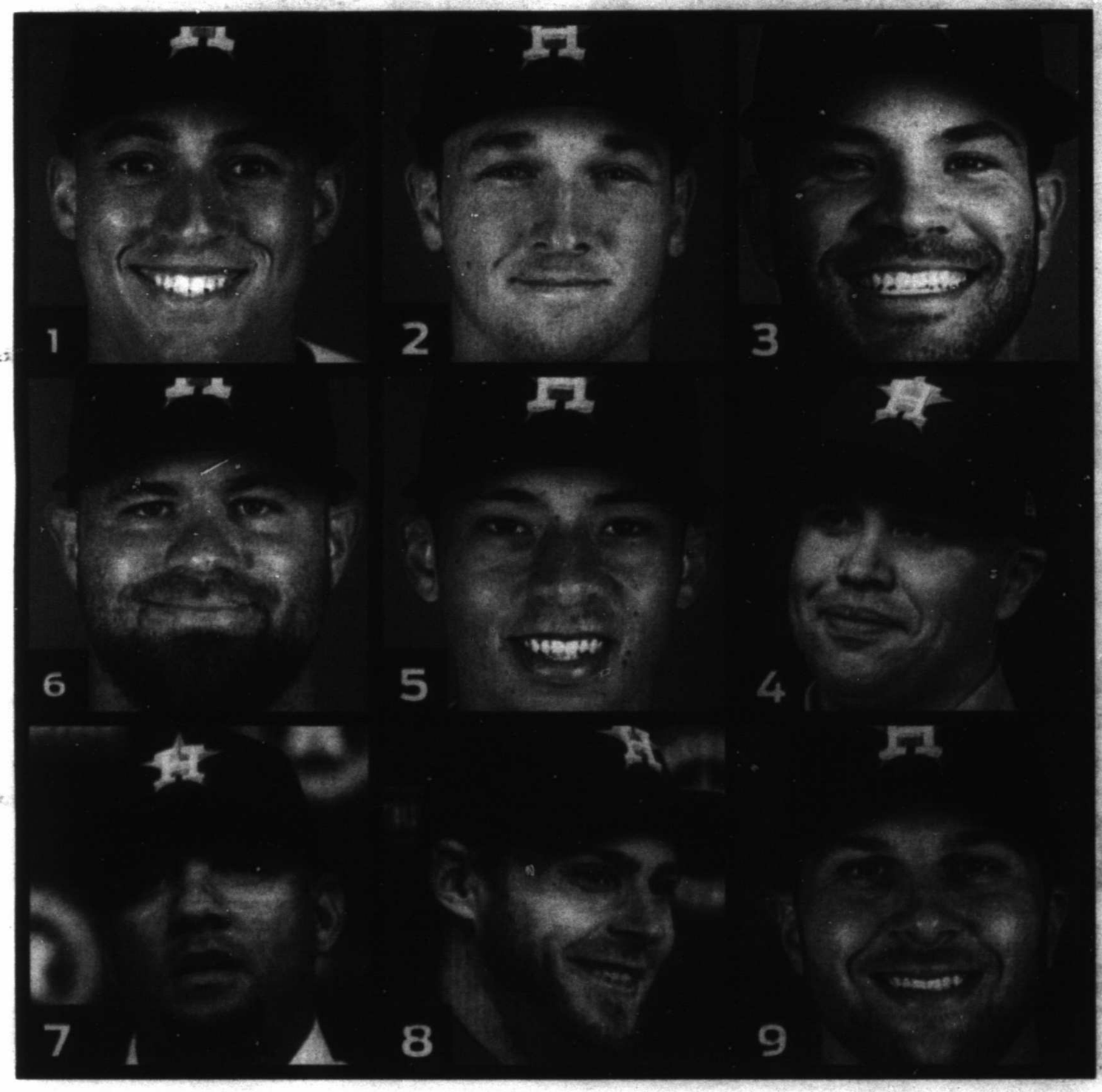
Other options

Gonzalez, the Astros' super utility man, figures to spell Gurriel at first base probably a couple times a

The look vs. lefties?

A possible 2017 Astros lineup against lefthanders (with career numbers vs. LHPs).

PLAYER, POS (bats)	Avg.	OBP	SLG
1. George Springer, RF (R)	.267	.391	.517
2. Alex Bregman, 3B (R)	.250	.306	.429
3. Jose Altuve, 2B (R)	.345	.396	.497
4. Carlos Beltran, DH (S)	.285	.348	.511
5. Carlos Correa, SS (R)	.254	.344	.463
6. Evan Gattis, C	.273	.313	.507
7. Yulieski Gurriel, 1B (R)	.220	.220	.317
8. Josh Reddick, LF (L)	.218	.280	.360
9. Jake Marisnick, CF (R)	.229	.276	.392



week, ditto for Beltran in left field in place of Reddick or Aoki. Marisnick certainly won't play every game against lefthanders but might not see much starting time at all against righthanders. He and Gattis stand to lose the most by the Astros' acquisitions of Beltran, Reddick, Aoki and McCann.

Like last season, Springer, Altuve and Correa figure to occasionally serve as DH, an avenue for Hinch to keep his stars off their feet for a day. The team's new-found depth makes it highly unlikely any player logs 162 games played in 2017, as Springer did last season.

"There are always going to be good players on the bench if we build a team correctly," Hinch said last week during his news conference at MLB's winter meetings in National Harbor, Md. "And I feel like right now, if we started the season today all healthy and all ready to go, I would have three guys on the bench that literally should be starting players in the big leagues."

Hinch acknowledged he will have players who will be hitting toward the bottom of the order for the first time in their careers which, he said, is "a great luxury to have as a manager."

A lack of production from the bottom half of the order often doomed the Astros last season, a year in which Hinch used 143 different lineup configurations, tied with the Yankees for fourth-most in the majors, fewer than only the Twins' Paul Molitor (148), the Cardinals' Mike Matheny (146) and the Phillies' Pete Mackanin (144).

A significantly lengthened lineup should be the biggest difference between the 2016 Astros and the 2017 club.

"As the batting order evolves, as the playing time is sorted out, I'm likely to have an angry guy next to me on the bench which is a good problem to have, maybe I'll have two," Hinch said. "I hope all three of them are mad and want to play. It's a luxury item to have as deep of a group provided we stay healthy."

Jake Kaplan is a Houston Chronicle staff writer.