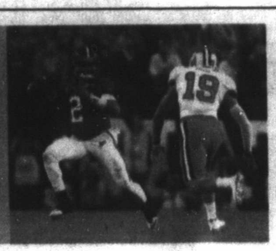
MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2017 mrt★com *235,000 readers in print and online monthly*

TIGERS GET REVENGE

Clemson defeated Alabama for the National Championship.

Page 1C



OPINIONS ON EDUCATION

- Even during difficult times, teachers should continue to let voices be heard.
- Community, schools have the power to improve as a district.

Page 1B

Patrick's bathroom bill lacks clear consensus

Local representatives still need more input from constituents about the need for SB 6

By Stewart Doreen
sdoreen@mrt.com

One of the higher profile pieces of legislation during the 85th Legislature, which begins today, will be Senate Bill 6, also called the Texas Privacy Act.

Known to many as the bathroom bill, SB 6, according to the Houston Chronicle, would prohibit city or county officials from adopting an ordinance that prevents a business from making policies for their bathrooms and dressing rooms. It also would bar local officials from considering these measures when awarding government contracts.

Texas Legislature

Today is the first day of the Texas Legislature. Find out what the important things to watch are, what the future holds for Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and how the state's economy is directly tied to the recent slump in oil prices.

Page 4A

Another part of the proposed legislation would require each locker room or restroom in government buildings, public schools and universities to be designated for use based on biological sex.

So far, local representatives are undecided or aren't saying anything regarding SB 6, which is being shepherded by Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick.

A study from the Texas Association of Business indicates SB 6 could mean the state's economy could take an $8.5 billion hit each year and puts at risk at least 185,000 jobs. The Midland Chamber of Commerce said Monday it does not have a position on the bill.

State Sen. Kel Seliger said city and county officials so far haven't said gender identity has created issues for their respective areas. He also said he wants to see where the problem has existed. Seliger calls himself undecided at this point.

"A lot of this is a response to the president's edict, which was grossly improper."

Please see BILL/4A

HITTING THE UNMOVABLE

Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Midland police and fire respond to a small TRAX bus that left the roadway Monday, traveling east on Business 20 in the 5700 block, and struck a train, injuring multiple passengers and the driver.

TRAX bus hits parked train

From staff reports

Three people were transported to Midland Memorial Hospital on Monday afternoon after a TRAX bus ran into a parked train near West Highway 80 and South Loop 250, according to the city's spokeswoman.

"The driver appeared to have had a medical episode and left the roadway and struck the train," spokeswoman Sara Bustilloz said.

The train was not moving and was unoccupied at the time of the incident, which occurred shortly after 1 p.m. across from Gateway Plaza, near Cinergy Cinema.

The driver of the bus — which is similar in size to the EZ Rider paratransit vehicles — was transported to the hospital, along with two passengers.

"The driver's condition was life-threatening, but that was from the medical episode and not the wreck," Bustilloz said.

1st fatality

A Midland man who hit a vehicle being towed is the first fatality on Midland County roads in 2017.

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The passengers suffered minor injuries, she said.

TRAX is a public transportation system for nonurbanized areas of the state, and is a program of West Texas Opportunities Inc., according to its website.

Is I-27 currently in Midland's near future?

■ Bill filed for study between Lubbock and Laredo; Tall City could see route pass through

By Trevor Hawes
thawes@mrt.com

Just one day before the start of the 85th Legislature, efforts to improve transportation in West Texas got a small shot in the arm.

Rep. Dustin Burrows of Lubbock filed a bill Monday seeking to direct the Texas Department of Transportation to conduct a feasibility study that would see Interstate 27 extend south of Lubbock to Laredo.

The bill supports the activities of the Ports-to-Plains Alliance, a Lubbock-based organization that seeks the conversion of the congressionally recognized ports-to-plains corridor into interstate-grade highway and designated as I-27.

The project is a long time coming. "The ports-to-plains highway has been talked about for as long as I can remember," Burrows told the Reporter-Telegram.

I-27 is unique among interstates in that its southern terminus does not connect to another interstate. Now is the right time to pursue a feasibility study to get it connected, Burrows said, because pro-infrastructure president-elect Donald Trump will soon take over as the nation's executive.

"Ideally, once we have a new president, who called for a large infrastructure package to be delivered from the federal government, I want Texas to be in the best place to potentially highlight this project as one of the opportunities to do infrastructure expansion," Burrows said.

The question on many minds, however, is where I-27 will go. The bill does not lay out the route. "It would be improper for my bill to tell TxDOT what the route ought to be," Burrows said. "TxDOT needs to determine the route."

According to a map provided by

Please see I-27/4A

Parents, save up: Cost of raising a child is more than $233K

By Mary Clare Jalonick
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Expecting a baby? Congratulations! Better put plenty of money in your savings account.

The Department of Agriculture says the estimated cost of raising a child from birth through age 17 is $233,610, or as much as almost $14,000 annually. That's the average for a middle-income couple with two children. It's a bit more expensive in urban parts of the country, and less so in rural areas.

The estimate released Monday is based on 2015 numbers, so a baby born this year is likely to cost even more. It's a 3 percent increase from the prior year, a hike higher than inflation.

Since 1960, USDA has compiled the annual report to inform — and probably terrify — budget-preparing parents. State governments and courts also use the information to write child support and foster care guidelines. The main costs include housing, food, transportation, health care, education, clothing and other miscellaneous expenses.

Things to know about how much it costs to raise a child:

Housing is expensive

Up to a third of the total cost is housing, accounting for 26 to 33 percent of the total expense of raising a child. USDA comes up with those numbers by calculating the average cost of an additional bedroom — an approach the department says is probably conservative because it doesn't account for those families who pay more to live in communities that have better schools or other amenities for children.

Urban vs. rural differences

The cost of raising a child varies in different regions of the country. Overall, middle-income, married-couple families in the urban Northeast spent the most ($253,770), followed by those in the urban West ($235,140) and urban South ($221,730). Those in the urban Midwest spent less ($217,020), along with those in rural areas ($193,020).

USDA estimates the annual housing cost per child in urban areas is $3,900, while it's $2,400 in rural areas.

There were also differences depending on income. Lower-income families are expected to spend around $174,690 per child from birth through 17; higher-income families will spend a whopping $372,210.

The average middle-income family

Please see COST/3A

Weather
Sunny
77/45
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Energy prices

WTI Futures	$51.96 ▼	$2.03
WTI Posted	$48.25 ▼	$2.25
WTS Posted	$43.80 ▼	$2.25
Natural Gas	$3.103 ▼	$0.182
Gasoline	$2.193 ▼	$0.012

Did you know?
A mom accused in a dismemberment case was a former child welfare worker. Page 3A

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

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Daily $2, Sunday $3

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Obituaries

Betty Jo Sides

Betty Jo Sides peacefully passed into the Lord's hands on Saturday, January 7, 2017.

A celebration of Betty's life will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 11, 2017 in the Sanctuary of University Christian Church in Fort Worth. Betty will be put to rest in Midland alongside her loving husband, Fred, in a private service.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to University Christian Church or a charity of your choice.

Betty was born on December 15, 1930 in Midland, but spent most of her youth in Abilene. She attended Texas Tech University where she was a member of DFD Sorority. She continued her education at McMurry College where she received a Bachelor of Sciences degree in 1951. That same year, she married Fred Calvin Sides. This union was blessed with three children and lasted 50 years until Fred's passing in 2007.

She had a 29 year career as a dedicated teacher and acted as head administrator of Hillander School in Midland until she retired in 1993. She will be fondly remembered by so many of her students whom she inspired at an early age.

In 2007, Betty relocated to Fort Worth to be near family. She made many new lifelong friendships that she treasured and brought her great joy. She was a member of University Christian Church and was active in Bible Study and Christ Care.

Betty's passions included reading, movies, music, playing bridge, and socializing with her many friends.

She is survived by her sister, Kay Cowden and husband Jax; three children, Debra Williams and husband Rich, Fred Sides and wife Patty, and Sharon Broyles and husband Robert; five grandchildren, whom she cherished and were the source of infinite joy and pride, Vanessa Williams and Andrew Williams, Cooper Sides, Katheryn Viera and husband Mason, Ben Broyles, and Sarah Broyles; two great-grandchildren, Blaine and McKayla Czerwonka; and also several nieces and nephews.

Her family would like to express heartfelt thanks to the physicians and staff of Texas Health Harris Methodist Southwest Hospital.

Earline McBride

Earline McBride, 85 of Midland, passed away on Sunday, January 8, 2017 in Midland. Rosary services will be held on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Stephen's Catholic Church in Midland.

Funeral Mass will be held on Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Stephen's Catholic Church with Monsignor James Bridges.

Earline was born to Earl and Marion Carter on July 25, 1931 in Ft. Worth, TX. Earline married her childhood sweetheart on June 30, 1951 in Ft. Worth, TX. She enjoyed bargain shopping, crocheting blankets and other things for her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Having family dinners, spending time with her family and friends especially the ones who affectionately called her "Mama Mac"

She is survived by her son, R.A. "Rick" McBride, Jr. and wife Linda and all of their children, Mendy Witzenman, Christie Kennard and Brandon McBride.

Daughter, Becky Gatlin and husband Tommy and her children, Jim Pat Magee, Joshua Magee and Jeromy Magee.

Son, Dan McBride and wife Charlene and their children, Danny McBride, Robert McBride, Diane Marlow and Kade Feuer.

Daughter, Mary Shelton and husband Greg and their children, Jennifer Shelton, Crystal Mihecoby, Matthew Shelton and Melissa Williams.

Daughter, Susan Gentry and husband Steve and their children Stephanie McQuitty and Katie Frerich.

Son, Greg McBride and wife M.J. and their children Trisha Acosta, Michelle Fay and Billy McBride

She was also blessed with 47 great grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren; and she is survived by two sisters Peggy Scott and Sally Moore.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Earl and Marion Carter; husband, R.A. "Dick" McBride; children Karen McBride and Bobby McBride; grandchildren, Bryan McBride and Caleb Freich and sister Evelyn Stewart.

Pallbearers will be Dan McBride, Jr., Robert McBride, Jim Pat Magee, Joshua Magee, Jeromy Magee, Matthew Shelton, Brandon McBride and Bill McBride.

Honorary pallbearer will be Bryan McBride.

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

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

Rick B. Smith

Rick B. Smith, beloved husband, father, and grandfather, went to be with the Lord on January 7, 2017.

Rickey Bud Smith was born on April 16, 1958 in Midland, Texas, one of three sons to Eddie Lee and Gladys Smith. He grew up in Midland and graduated from Midland High School in 1976. Shortly after, he met and married the love of his life, Mary Cannon, on August 26, 1978.

He was in business with his father, E.L. Smith, and two brothers, Danny and Don, at Smith Brother's Pipe for many years, enduring the numerous booms and busts of the Permian Basin oil business.

Always an entrepreneur, he founded Smith Industries, Inc. in 2004, where he built a family-owned company. He took great pride in everyone who has been a part of seeing that dream through.

Above all things, Rick valued God, family, country, honesty, and hard work. He was extremely gifted in so many areas. His personality was bigger than life. Everybody loved being around him and sharing in his wisdom and talents.

Rick also valued people, having a positive attitude, and had a true passion for the outdoors, guns, and cars. He loved sharing these passions with others, which included coaching his Gunsmoke 4-H shooting team, and every other sport you can imagine. He had a huge heart for those less fortunate and humbly served countless charities throughout his life, never thinking twice before giving to anyone he could.

His country and our military meant the world to him. He never owned a piece of property where our "Old Glory," wasn't flying high, with a bright light shining on it.

Rick is survived by his loving wife of 38 years, Mary Smith. His pride and joy came from their three children, Chris, Sally, and Sarah. Chris, his wife Alishia, Sally, her husband Dane Crunk, and Sarah, her husband Colton Wilber, all of Midland.

Rick was blessed with 10 grandchildren: Drew, Kate, Cash, Truitt, Tristin, Blake, Blayde, Malone, Delayni, and Gentry. He will always be their, "Papa Bear," their HERO, and the man who passed on so many values to each of them. They share his love for the great outdoors, and will always treasure that bond.

He is also survived by his two brothers, Danny Smith and wife Connie, and Don Smith and wife Debbie, all of Midland; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Eddie Lee and Gladys Lilly Smith.

The family would like to express their gratitude to all who knew and loved Rick. Each of you were special to him and he valued your friendships and relationship more than you will ever know. We are truly blessed by each of you.

We will honor his life at a service at Stonegate Fellowship, at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 11, 2017. Burial will immediately follow at Resthaven Memorial Park.

The family will accept guests from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at the Branch at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home in Midland.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Show of Support Hunt for Heroes Project, Larry Ratheal Scholarship Fund, or the Make-A-Wish Foundation, all of which were near and dear to his heart.

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

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

Tracy Peele Clark

Tracy Peele Clark was born April 30, 1921 in Spring Grove, Indiana to Tracey and Frances Clark. Tracy passed away in his home on December 22, 2016 surrounded by his family and his amazing care givers.

After graduating high school in Richmond, Indiana, Tracy served four years in the United States Army. He then received his Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from Texas College of Mines and Metallurgy in 1948 (now UTEP.) Tracy accepted a job with Stanolind Oil & Gas (Amoco-BP) in Roswell, New Mexico as their District geologist. It was during this time the company discovered the Empire ABO Field.

Tracy also met the love of his life Mary Jane Villard in Roswell and they were married in 1952. Tracy and Jane had three children. Tracy moved his young family to Artesia, New Mexico to accept a job with Carper Drilling Company where the Corbin ABO field was discovered.

Moving to Midland in 1965, Tracy accepted a job with McGrath & Smith as their Chief Geologist and when the company formed Coquina Oil Corporation in 1969, Tracy moved up the ladder becoming president of Coquina in 1980. Under his leadership, Coquina was very active in southeast New Mexico and was sold in 1983 with total assets of 17,649,000 equivalent barrels of production.

Tracy became an independent Geologist in 1983 working closely with his son Reb Clark, and Landmen David Rogers and Ferrell Davis until early 2016, when he retired at the age of 95.

Tracy received the Pioneer Award for his discoveries from West Texas Geological Society (WTGS) in 2009 and the Oil & Gas Pioneer award from New Mexico Landman Association in 1999. He was a member of several organizations including WTGS, NRA, Ducks Unlimited, and the Dirty Dozen.

Tracy was a very giving and generous man and supported many causes like WTGS, Scott & White, and United Way of Midland. He was also an avid fisherman and hunter his entire life, harvesting his last buck at the age of 94.

Tracy is survived by his three children, Alyson McMinn of Roswell, Kim Pooley of Mineral Wells, Texas, and Tracy Reb Clark and his wife Molly of Midland, Texas; and by five grandchildren, Traci McMinn Jobert and her husband Greg of Santa Fe New Mexico, Clint Pooley of Mineral Wells, and Seth Clark, Duncan Clark, and Cooper Clark, all of Midland.

Tracy is also survived by his sister, Cynthia Corsi of Tucson, Arizona; and brothers-in-law, Jack Villard of Alamogordo, New Mexico and Richard Villard of Roswell.

A celebration of life gathering is planned for Thursday, January 12, 2017 at Green Tree Country Club from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to West Texas Geology Foundation (WTGS) Scholarship Fund, P. O. Box 1595, Midland, Texas 79702 or Noah's Ark Animal Sanctuary, P.O. Box 51051, Midland, Texas 79710.

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

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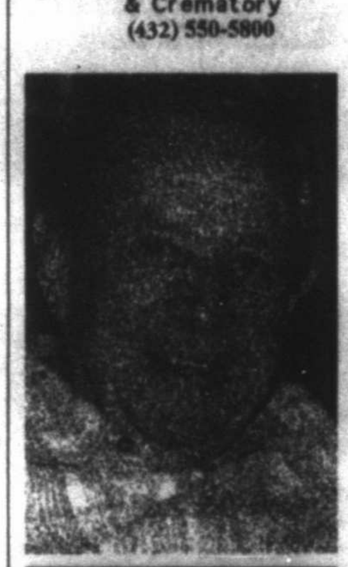

William John Fey

William John Fey, age 86, passed from this earthly life in his home in Granbury, Texas on Sunday, January 1, 2017, surrounded by his children.

William (Bill) was born on March 22, 1930 in New York City, NY to the late Elizabeth Mucha Fey and Harry C. Fey. Bill graduated from Southside High School in Rockville Center, NY. After faithful service in the United States Marine Corps during the Korean War, Bill attended Barry College in Miami, Florida (the first male to be admitted to the, then, all female college!). He then attended the University of Miami and received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. Bill happily married Joan O'Brien on September 3, 1955 in Danville, Illinois.

Bill had a distinguished 30+ year career in forest products sales (newsprint), working with Perkins-Goodwin, Southland Paper Mill, St. Regis Paper Company, Kruger Paper, Champion Paper, and retiring from International Paper Company. These were all the same company due to mergers and acquisitions, with the exception of Kruger Paper.

Bill will be missed by his children; daughter, Jenifer Fey "Jeni" Wood and husband, David, of Midland, Texas; son, William John (Jiggs) Fey, Jr and wife, Paula, of Raleigh, North Carolina, a sister, Lorry Yeager, and husband, Richard, of Port Orange, Florida, and his constant companion, Molly the Cat. Bill, also lovingly known as "Grandad", will forever be in the hearts of his grandchildren, Conner Wood and wife, CC, Rachel Wood, Katie Fey, Molly Fey, Will Fey and wife, Laura. Bill is preceded in death by his loving wife, Joan, and oldest son, John Patrick Fey.

Bill's volunteering pursuits included the Knights of Columbus (4th Degree Knight), the Marine Corps League (Comanche Peak Detachment) and Meals on Wheels, to name a few.

A Funeral Mass will be held at St. Francis Cabrini Catholic Church, 2301 Acton Highway, Granbury, Texas on Monday, February 6, 2017 at 11:00am. Internment, with honors, will be at the Dallas-Ft. Worth National Cemetery.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, or the charity of one's choice.

Death Notices

Don Daniel

Don Daniel, 80, of Midland, passed away on Sunday, January 8, 2014.

There will be a visitation on Wednesday, January 11, 2017 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Ellis Funeral Home.

A funeral service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 12, 2017 at Bellview Baptist Church. Interment will follow at Sunset Memorial Gardens in Odessa, Texas.

He is survived by his wife and three children.

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

Questions about death notices or online Guest Books? Email to obits@mrt.com

REGIONBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

OKLAHOMA

Report: Drop in Oklahoma saltwater disposal volumes

TULSA — Recent data shows disposal well operators placed about 23 percent less saltwater from oil and natural gas production into Oklahoma's deepest geological formation within the earthquake zone in 2016 compared to the previous year.

The Tulsa World reports the year-end data about the Arbuckle formation comes from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission. Commission spokesman Matt Skinner says the 2016 volume data is mostly complete. Some companies haven't reported their latest data.

According to Oklahoma Geological Survey data, there were 623 quakes of 3.0 or greater in 2016. A 31 percent reduction from 2015.

State regulators are developing a new directive with more restrictive wastewater restrictions following a 5.0 magnitude earthquake near Cushing in early November.

NEW MEXICO

FBI says it is processing a crime scene on Santa Ana Pueblo

ALBUQUERQUE — Authorities say they're processing a crime scene on the Santa Ana Pueblo in New Mexico's Sandoval County.

However, it remains unclear if the investigation is connected to the disappearance of two adult sisters and three children.

KOB-TV reports that Vanessa George, her sister Leticia, and their children — a 4-year-old and two 1-year-olds — were last seen Thursday on the pueblo.

FBI activity intensified on the pueblo Monday regarding what they called a crime scene involving a vehicle, but they didn't immediately release any other information.

Albuquerque police say they did a welfare check at one of the sister's houses and family and friends haven't heard from them at all.

Police don't speculate on what happened, but they say it's suspicious.

NEW MEXICO

State rekindles efforts to reinstate death penalty

SANTA FE — Republican-backed efforts to reinstate the death penalty in New Mexico are being rekindled after a debate last year that roiled the Legislature and echoed through November elections.

Rep. Monica Youngblood of Albuquerque has pre-filed a bill that would bring back lethal injection as a punishment option for convicted killers of police, children and corrections officers, with the Legislature set to convene next week.

An identical bill was approved by the state's Republican-controlled House of Representatives in October with the backing of GOP Gov. Susana Martinez — at the end of an emotional, all-night floor debate.

The Senate declined to consider the bill, which became fodder for election-season mailers accusing Democratic candidates of being weak on crime.

Democrats retook majority control of the House in November, and they expanded their control over the Senate.

Youngblood says the proposal still has popular appeal as a narrowly focused attempt to better protect law enforcement officers and children.

"It's my hope that we can look at this bill not as reinstating the death penalty for everyone, but to look at it in the purview of being able to protect children and those who protect us," she said.

A spokesman for GOP Gov. Susana Martinez said Monday said she still supports the proposal.

The Democratic nominee for majority House speaker, Rep. Brian Egolf, said the bill will be assigned to committee and handled in an "open and transparent way" — in part because Democrats objected last year to Republicans scheduling debate in the pre-dawn hours during an abbreviated special legislative session.

He personally opposes the legislation because of the risks of false convictions and concerns that poor, minority defendants are more likely be charged under death-penalty provisions.

ARIZONA

Phoenix police fatally shoot man after officers threatened

PHOENIX — Police say a man who allegedly made threats against officers has been fatally shot in Phoenix.

They say the incident occurred about 3:30 p.m. Monday.

Police say they stopped an SUV for a traffic violation and determined one of three people inside was wanted on a warrant and was taken into custody without incident.

Police say officers started asking another occupant about a gun officers found inside the vehicle.

They say the man then allegedly threatened the officers and said he had a gun.

Police say two officers shot the suspect after he had his hand in his waistband and turned toward them.

The 38-year-old man was taken to a hospital, where he later died.

WORD OF THE DAY
brought to you daily by
Jim Burrito

enumerate
[ih-noo-*mu*h-reyt, ih-nyoo-]
verb
1. to mention separately an if in counting; name one by one; specify, as in a list.
2. to ascertain the number of; count.

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CRIMEBRIEFS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Man arrested on assault charge

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

Jordan Keyshawn Sansom, 20, was being held Monday on a $75,000 bond for a third-degree felony charge of assault of a family/house member by impeding breath/circulation, a $10,000 bond for a state-jail felony charge of possession of a controlled substance and a $500 bond for a Class A misdemeanor charge of possession of a dangerous drug.

Sansom

A Midland police officer was dispatched to a business at about 1:40 p.m. Wednesday in reference to a reported assault.

Sansom was allegedly arguing with a woman at a residence when he pushed and choked her, impeding her breathing. He then pushed her face into a couch to attempt to smother her, according to his arrest affidavit. He allegedly choked her again outside the residence.

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

Man arrested on aggravated assault charge

A Midland man was arrested Sunday after allegedly injuring a woman, according to court documents.

Pablo James Sanchez, 42, was being held Monday on a $50,000 bond for a second-degree felony charge of aggravated assault causes serious bodily injury.

Sanchez

Midland County sheriff's deputies responded to Midland Memorial Hospital at about noon Jan. 1 in reference to a reported assault.

Sanchez and a woman were at another location when he punched her repeatedly in the face and neck, according to his arrest affidavit. The woman had a broken nose, a concussion and other injuries as a result of the assault, according to the affidavit.

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

Teen arrested for alleged sexual abuse of child

A Midland teen was arrested Thursday after he allegedly sexually abused a child, according to court documents.

Green

Ruben Green, 17, was being held Monday on a $150,000 bond for a first-degree felony charge of continuous sexual abuse of a child under 14.

Midland police were dispatched to a residence and a hospital on Thursday in reference to a report of sexual assault.

If convicted of the first-degree felony charge, Green could face up to 99 years imprisonment.

Midland man dies in 2-vehicle wreck

From staff reports

A Midland man died Monday morning when his pickup hit a vehicle being towed at the intersection of Business 20 and North County Road 1160, according to a press release from the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Alex A. Ortega, 31, was driving a Ford 250 eastbound on Business 20 around 6 a.m., while a 65-year-old Kaufman man was driving a Mack truck towing a semi-trailer northbound on NCR 1160. The Mack truck "became disabled," with the towed vehicle blocking the eastbound lanes of Business 20, according to the release. The pickup then hit the towed vehicle.

Ortega is the first person to die on roads in Midland County this year. There were 18 fatal wrecks in Midland County in 2016, according to Reporter-Telegram records. The most recent fatality occurred on Dec. 1, when a 56-year-old Gardendale man died in a two-vehicle wreck 7 miles south of Greenwood, according to a previous article.

Mom accused in teen's dismemberment was welfare worker

Associated Press

EASTON, Pa. — A woman charged with killing and dismembering her adoptive daughter, as part of a rape-murder fantasy she and her boyfriend shared, previously worked as an adoption supervisor for a children's welfare agency, authorities said Monday.

Sara Packer worked as a supervisor for the Northampton County Children, Youth and Families Division for adoptions from 2003 to 2010, when she was suspended, the county said.

Packer was arraigned Sunday on charges including criminal homicide, rape and abuse of a corpse. Her boyfriend, Jacob Sullivan, was arraigned on similar charges.

Packer and Sullivan didn't enter pleas and were denied bail, and no attorney information was available for them. But Sullivan apologized as he was led into court, the Intelligencer newspaper reported.

"I'm sorry for what I did," Sullivan said. "It was wrong."

Officials say 14-year-old Grace Packer was beaten, was raped as her mother watched, was poisoned and hours later was strangled in a stifling attic in July.

Investigators say the couple packed Grace's body with cat litter to mask decomposition smells and stored it in the attic. Officials allege the couple dismembered the body in October after being scared by a police visit.

The girl's torso was found by hunters in a Luzerne County park on Oct. 31, and K-9 teams found her legs and arms nearby, a criminal complaint said.

Bucks County prosecutors said the days and hours leading up to Grace's killing "were probably the most horrible and traumatic that any person should ever have had to experience."

Sara Packer had previously been charged with child endangerment and obstruction. Police say she provided misleading information to investigators when reporting that Grace was missing from their Abington home in July.

White policeman suspended but not fired after video incident

By Claudia Laurer
Associated Press

AP file photo

People protest against the Fort Worth Police Department at the Tarrant County Courthouse in Fort Worth on Dec. 22. Police say an investigation is complete into a confrontation captured on cellphone video in which a white officer wrestled a black woman to the ground before arresting her and her teenage daughters. Fort Worth police announced Monday whether the officer would face disciplinary action in the Dec. 21 incident.

DALLAS — A white Texas policeman was suspended without pay for 10 days, but will not be fired, after an incident in which he was caught on video wrestling a black woman and her daughter to the ground, Fort Worth Police Chief Joel Fitzgerald announced Monday.

Fitzgerald said the officer, identified by department officials as William Martin, violated policy, is sorry for his behavior and is eager to resume active duty at the end of the suspension. He said he has asked Martin, who will also be required to undergo additional training, to go back into the same community when the suspension ends "to repair relationships."

"We are not sanctioning bad behavior ... People make mistakes. We have levels of mistakes that every police officer makes," Fitzgerald said. "Some things deserve punishment, some do not. Some deserve termination and some do not."

The incident on Dec. 21 happened after Jacqueline Craig complained that a neighbor choked her 7-year-old son for allegedly littering in his yard. One of her daughters filmed the interactions between Craig and Martin.

In the video, Martin questions why Craig hadn't taught her son not to litter and later asks why the neighbor shouldn't have put his hands on her son. One of Craig's daughters tries to push her mother away from Martin, but the officer forces Craig and the daughter to the ground. He thrusts a stun gun into Craig's back and later points it at the daughter telling her to stay back.

He arrested Craig and her daughters on charges that include disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

The disciplinary report submitted to the Civil Service Commission, says Martin violated department policy by using excessive force and failing to thoroughly investigate. Other findings included neglect of duty, being discourteous to the public and conduct prejudicial to good order.

"Officer Martin violated state and departmental rules and policies by using excessive force, being disrespectful, and failing to thoroughly investigate a criminal offense," Fitzgerald writes in the letter.

Terry S. Daffron, an attorney representing Martin, said he has appealed the suspension.

"Clearly, we do not agree with the findings contained in the Chief's disciplinary letter," she wrote in an emailed statement. "We look forward to a fair, neutral, and impartial hearing process, free from political pressure and influence, one where Officer Martin will finally have a 'voice' and all of the evidence will be considered by the arbitrator."

Craig's attorney had demanded that Martin be fired and criminally charged, that all charges against the Craig family be dropped and that the neighbor be charged with assaulting her son. The attorney, S. Lee Merritt, did not immediately return a phone call Monday seeking comment, but he posted a video statement to Facebook Monday afternoon calling the suspension "intolerable" and describing it as a vacation.

"They are understandably in disbelief, shocked and upset," Merritt said of the Craig family. "There are still charges pending against the Craig family."

Fitzgerald said some members in the police chain of command did not agree with his disciplinary decision, but the ultimate decision was his to make. He referred questions about possible criminal charges to the Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Office.

A spokeswoman for the district attorney said the office will send the entire incident file including the department's investigation to a grand jury to determine if criminal charges should be filed against any of the parties involved.

"The report on the Craigs, the officer and the neighbor will all come together before the grand jury," spokeswoman Sam Jordan said. "They could find to press charges against all or no one."

Jordan said the office will not make any recommendations to the grand jury about charges for any of the parties. She said there is no set date, but the grand jury that was just seated will hear the case in the "next few months."

The video was viewed millions of times on Facebook, and letters and emails have been rolling into the department and to city officials asking that Martin be fired.

Cost

From 1A

earns between $59,200 and $107,400 before taxes.

Child care costs have risen

After housing, child care, education and food are the highest costs for families. For a middle-income couple with two children, food costs make up about 18 percent of the cost of raising a child. Child care and education costs make up 16 percent.

Education costs have sharply risen since 1960, when USDA estimated that those expenses were around 2 percent of child-rearing expenses. The report says this growth is likely due to the increased number of women in the workforce, prompting the need for more child care.

The numbers don't even include the annual cost of college, which the government estimates is $45,370 for a private college and $20,090 for a public college.

Older kids are more expensive

New parents may flinch at the costs of diapers and baby gear, but it's going to get worse. While a child costs around $12,680 when he or she is between 0 and 2, a teenager between 15 and 17 costs around $13,900 annually.

USDA says food, transportation, clothing and health care expenses all grow as a child ages. Transportation costs are highest for the oldest children, perhaps because they start driving, and child care and education costs are highest for six and under.

More kids, lower costs

There is some good news for big families. Families with three or more children spend an average of 24 percent less per child. USDA says that's because children often share bedrooms in bigger families, clothing and toys are handed down and food can be purchased in larger and more economical packages. Also, private schools and child care providers may offer sibling discounts.

In contrast, one-child households spend an average of 27 percent more on the single child.

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TODAY IN MIDLAND

Things to do

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

■ Second Tuesday Salon with the Permian Basin String Quartet, 11:30 a.m., The Rose Building, 415 N. Grant Ave., Odessa. STS is a free lunchtime concert series. Free. odessaarts.org.

■ Bingo, 6 p.m., Tall City VFW Post 7208, 1306 E. Taylor Ave. Children welcome.

■ Midland Quilters Guild Movie Night: "Quilts Bring History Alive," 6:30 p.m., Alamo Heights Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1305 N. Midland Drive. Midlandquiltersguild.com.

■ West Texas Line Dancing Classes, 7 p.m., Midland Senior Center, 3303 W. Illinois Ave. meetup.com/crossingthelinewesttexas.

■ Live Trivia by Challenge Entertainment, 7 p.m., Basin Burger House.

One Piece Film: Gold, 7:30 p.m., Tall City Stadium 14, 4915 SW Loop 250 N. $13.53. fathomevents.com.

■ Permian Basin Dance Club with live country music, 7:30 p.m., St. Stephen's Ballroom, 4601 Neely Ave. $6. For more information, call 432-520-4343.

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

Meeting

City Council
10 a.m.
Council Chambers City Hall
300 N. Loraine Ave.

Stay connected

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Most viewed at mrt.com

Here are the top viewed stories from Jan. 1-8 at mrt.com

1. Small Bites: Lori's Cafe is closed; Panera is now hiring
2. Sears in Odessa to close in March
3. Daughter surprises parents of Midland's first baby of 2017
4. Google: Timelapse shows how West Texas cities changed over 30 years
5. Restaurant, food trends changed local dining landscape in 2016
6. 2017: The year of building
7. Indoor storage facility bringing old Kmart back to life
8. Woman arrested on aggravated assault charge
9. 'Morning Drive' veterans ready to sign off
10. Man arrested on aggravated assault charge

MFD retirement

The Midland Fire Department will soon say goodbye and good luck to Assistant Chief Fritz Niggeler, who will retire on Friday after serving the department for 28 years.

A retirement party will be held at 2 p.m. Friday at the Central Fire Station engine bay located at 1500 W Wall St.

Source: City of Midland

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 washing outdoor surfaces ban is still in effect.

Lottery

Pick 3 morning: 7-0-8
Pick 3 day: 8-7-4
Pick 3 evening: 0-1-5
Pick 3 night: 2-9-8
Daily 4 morning: 7-6-3-7
Daily 4 day: 4-5-2-0
Daily 4 evening: 3-4-8-7
Daily 4 night: 5-5-8-3
Cash Five: 6-23-24-28-34
Texas Two Step: 1-27-28-34 BB 13
All or Nothing morning: 1-2-4-5-7-10-11-14-15-17-19-20
All or Nothing day: 1-4-5-7-8-9-10-13-14-17-21-24
All or Nothing evening: 1-3-5-6-7-8-10-13-15-16-18-22
All or Nothing night: 1-3-4-5-07-9-10-12-16-17-20-22
Triple Chance: 6-8-14-17-28-36-40-48-50-55

Today in history

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 10, the 10th day of 2017. There are 355 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight:

On Jan. 10, 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson, in his State of the Union address, asked Congress to impose a surcharge on both corporate and individual income taxes to help pay for his "Great Society" programs and the war in Vietnam.

On this date:

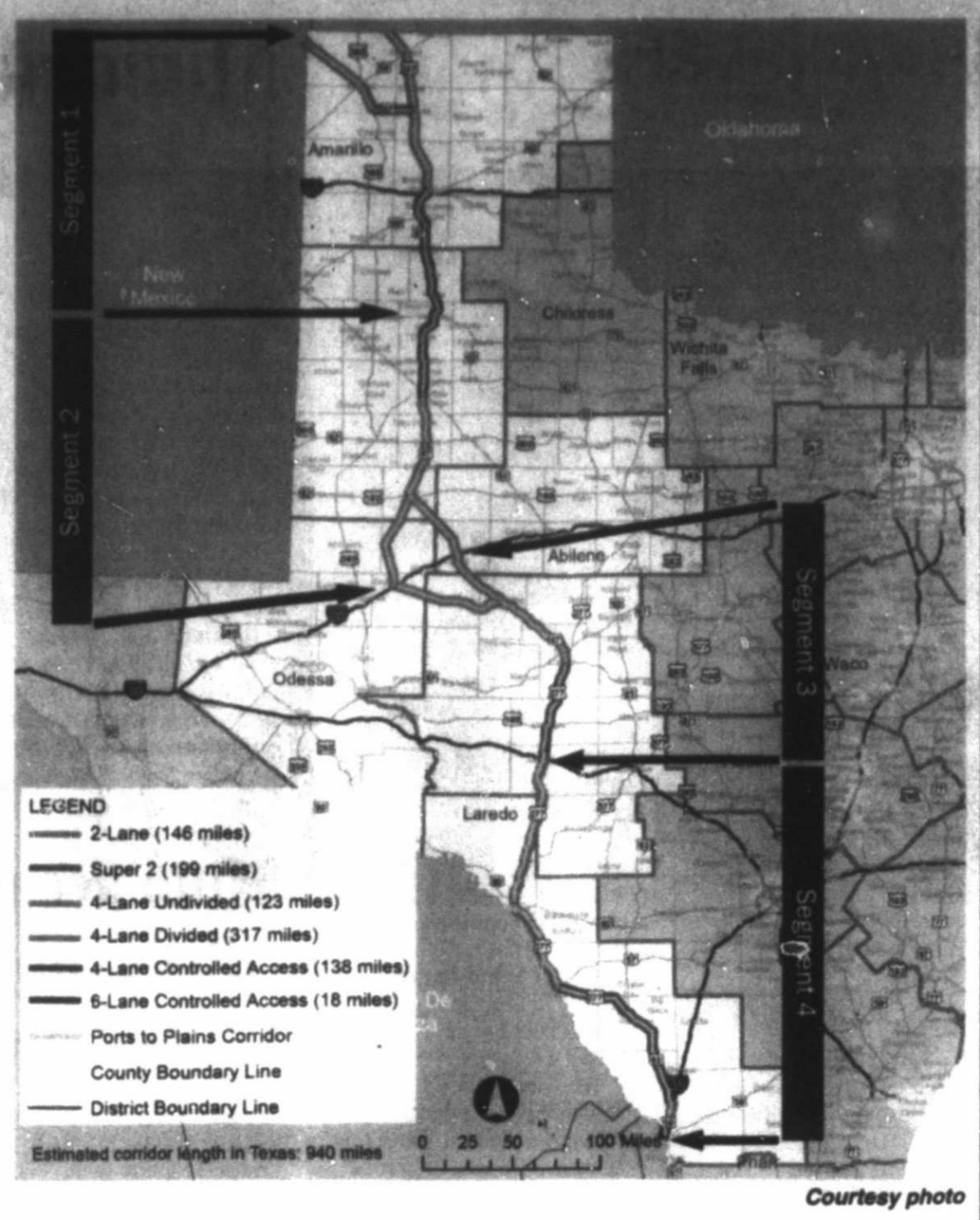
In 1776, Thomas Paine anonymously published his influential pamphlet, "Common Sense," which argued for American independence from British rule.

In 1984, the United States and the Vatican established full diplomatic relations for the first time in more than a century.

In 2000, America Online announced it was buying Time Warner for $162 billion (the merger, which proved disastrous, ended in December 2009).

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush said he took responsibility for any mistakes in Iraq and announced an increase in U.S. troops there to quell violence.

Today's birthdays: Singer Rod Stewart is 72. Singer Pat Benatar is 64.



Courtesy photo

This map provided by the Ports-to-Plains Alliance shows the Ports-to-Plains corridor in Texas. Rep. Dustin Burrows of Lubbock has filed a bill to convert the entirety of the corridor into Interstate 27, which currently terminates south of Lubbock on US Highway 87.

I-27

From 1A

Ports-to-Plains, the corridor has one of two options at Lamesa: continue south on U.S. Highway 87 through Big Spring or head into Midland via State Highway 349 and continue south on SH 158. Both options meet at Sterling City.

Burrows said he doesn't have a preferred route but that he has heard the most talk about going through Big Spring with possibly a spur heading through Midland.

Ports-to-Plains President Michael Reeves said Monday that it's possible both routes could be designated as I-27.

"When you look at what's happening with I-69 in East Texas, they have a couple of different stretches designated. Same with I-35; you have I-35 east and west in Fort Worth and Dallas," he said. "I don't think it would be unprecedented to have both of those segments designated. But that's why you have a feasibility study — to let the professionals and engineers look at it."

What might work in Midland's favor is the Midland-Odessa Transportation Alliance's push to redesignate the I-14 project's western terminus. I-14 is the centerpiece of the congressionally approved Gulf Coast Strategic Highway project, known as "Ports to Forts."

MOTRAN and other organizations support moving I-14's western terminus from I-10 and U.S. 190 to a point in western Ector County along I-20, then heading south on what is currently SH 158 and U.S. 87 to Brady.

Reeves said having I-27 and I-14 on the same route would be beneficial. "It's a wonderful opportunity to get two interstates for the price of one. Overlapping them would be a way to stretch that transportation dollar."

Burrows and Reeves said having I-27 extend completely to Laredo will be important for several reasons, but namely because a large amount of freight transported between the U.S. and Mexico through Laredo along I-35 has created tremendous congestion on that interstate. Having an interstate corridor traveling north-south to the west would serve the entire western United States, particularly fast-growing areas such as Denver.

The potential economic benefits for West Texans can't be underestimated, Reeves said. He cited a recent TxDOT freight mobility study that determined more than 73 percent of the Texas population and 82 percent of the state's employment are projected to be located within 5 miles of an interstate by 2040. I-27 could give the whole region a boost, he said.

Burrows offered similar sentiments. "It's a really good project for West Texas and our industries, including oil and gas. With a new president in place that wants to see new infrastructure come together, I want Texas to be in a position to show I-27 as a great opportunity for that investment."

The bill is HB 869; to read it, visit www.capitol.state.tx.us.

Like Trevor on Facebook and follow him on Twitter at @HowdyHawes.

Welcome Back: Tight budget, bathroom bill await Legislature

By Will Weissert
Associated Press

AUSTIN — When the Texas Legislature last convened on June 1, 2015, Donald Trump was still two weeks from announcing his White House run. The former Bruce Jenner was gracing the latest cover of Vanity Fair to reintroduce herself to the world as Caitlyn. And it would be another season and a half before the Cubs would finally stop being loveable losers.

The world looks very different as lawmakers return to work Tuesday. A prolonged oil price slump has cooled Texas' economy considerably, the U.S. Supreme Court's legalization of gay marriage has seen conservatives shift their attention to transgender bathroom issues and President-elect Trump's vows to wall off the U.S.-Mexico may redefine law enforcement in South Texas.

All that means a host of new issues — and some rekindled ones — should dominate debate inside the Texas Capitol. Here are some key ones to watch:

Budget blues

Top Republicans have vowed to extend budget-busting tax cuts approved in 2015, but state revenue lost from the foundering energy sector means the Legislature may be $5 billion short of the funds needed just to preserve current services.

Bathroom bill

Republican lawmakers have proposed bills to outlaw "partial-birth" abortions, ban terminating pregnancies after detecting fetal abnormalities and requiring that fetal remains from abortions or miscarriages be cremated or buried. But traditionally white-hot policy clashes over abortion may be overshadowed this year by "bathroom bill" floor flights.

Championed by Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, the measure would force transgender Texans to use the public bathroom corresponding to their "biological sex" while prohibiting local ordinances that might have allowed them to choose which bathroom they use.

Patrick proclaimed that he and some of the state's most-powerful conservative leaders were "on the right side of history." However, business groups warn that passing such a bill and others like it could cost the state billions in lost revenue and thousands of jobs — pointing to the national uproar and widespread boycotts that rocked North Carolina after it approved a similar measure last year.

Democrats see the bill as an attempt to deny the civil rights of transgender Texans and have vowed to thwart it at all cost.

Border bonanza?

Some top Republicans have suggested that Trump's promise to build a wall the length of the U.S.-Mexico border, and crack down on anyone who still makes it into the country illegally, could help Texas reduce its border security spending. That'd be welcome since the Department of Public Safety wants more than $1 billion in the next state budget for border security — a massive request even if the state weren't facing such a tight budget.

Many conservatives also hope Trump's election will revitalize "sanctuary cities" bills giving local police more power to enforce federal immigration laws. Proposals doing that passed the Texas House and Senate at separate times in the past — but never became law.

Firearms fight?

Last session was very firearms friendly, with lawmakers approving license holders to openly carry handguns and to bring concealed guns onto college campuses. Though proposals doing so have been filed, there should be little appetite for taking the next step this session to "constitutional carry" which would allow virtually any Texan to openly carry guns without a permit.

STATEBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

AUSTIN

Texas lieutenant governor vows not to 'primary' governor

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick insists he'll run for re-election next year, trying to tamp down speculation he could mount a primary challenge against fellow Republican Gov. Greg Abbott.

Patrick told reporters at GOP of Texas headquarters Monday they could "put it in cement" that he won't compete against Abbott in 2018 or ever.

An ex-conservative talk radio host and tea party firebrand, Patrick has said repeatedly he sees Abbott as an ally.

But he's fueled reports of rivalry by consistently getting to the right of the more lawyerly Abbott, a former state Supreme Court justice, on many social issues — including trying to ban transgender Texans from using the public restroom of their choice.

Patrick also fully embraced Donald Trump's presidential candidacy while Abbott was more cautious in his support.

AUSTIN

Oil slump socks Texas budget, making spending cuts likely

A prolonged oil slump that has tested Texas' economic resilience is now badly chewing away at the state budget, leaving a hole that could be as big as $6 billion just to maintain the status quo, a top Republican lawmaker said Monday.

That dismal outlook came in response to spending allowances handed to Republican Gov. Greg Abbott and the Texas Legislature, which returns to work Tuesday confronting a child welfare crisis and threat of repercussions from businesses over a proposed anti-LGBT measure.

"Obviously there's going to be cuts in the budget. We're going to have to talk about where those cuts can come," Republican state Rep. Drew Darby said. He estimated the state would need another $5 billion to $6 billion to preserve current spending levels.

Democrats bemoan that baseline is already too meager to serve crowded public schools and overwhelmed social workers.

Oklahoma, Louisiana and other energy-producing states have spent the past two years absorbing the sting of budget cuts since oil priced began cratering in 2014. Texas had largely escaped that pain until now, and a strengthening U.S. economy is also hushing the state's longtime boasts of economic supremacy.

The national U.S. unemployment rate of 4.6 percent in November was identical to the rate in Texas, ending a decade of the state asserting the upper hand over the rest of the country in the monthly jobs report. Even California — a longtime liberal punching bag for Texas Republicans — has shown better economic growth by some recent indicators, including gross domestic product.

Texas lawmakers will have just under $105 billion to spend, Hegar said, which wouldn't even cover the current budget of $106 billion. And that small deficit doesn't take into account the billions of additional dollars needed to keep up with Texas' rapidly growing population.

"However you describe it, compared to what we're doing already, this is not a good situation," said Eva DeLuna Castro, a former state revenue analyst who is now a budget expert for the left-leaning Center for Public Policy Priorities.

Abbott suggested austerity in a statement Monday, saying he would work with lawmakers to fund "our most vital services."

BILL

From 1A

said Seliger, referencing the administration's directive on transgender bathrooms. The Associated Press reported that Texas led a 13-state coalition last year that successfully sued to block an Obama administration order from requiring public schools nationwide to let transgender students use the bathrooms and locker rooms of their choice.

"The threat by president is ridiculous," Seliger said.

State Rep. Tom Craddick and Midland Mayor Jerry Morales could not be reached Monday for comment.

Landgraf on SB6

"With the 85th Legislative Session about to begin on Tuesday, the state will address many issues that West Texans care about. In traveling across the district, I have heard concerns about creating jobs for our local economy, working to strengthen public education and making our roads safer. I haven't heard much from residents in the Permian Basin regarding bathrooms, but this will be a long session that ends in late May and I will continue to listen to West Texans' concerns regarding every issue that is brought up to ensure that Texas remains the best state in the nation to live, work, and raise a family."

— statement from state Rep. Brooks Landgraf, R-Odessa.

Contact your representative

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Fax: 512-463-1849
Web site: www.gov.texas.gov/
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Twitter: twitter.com/Gov-Abbott

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Energy boss: Nuke dump reopens but work remains

By Susan Montoya Bryan
Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The reopening of the nation's only underground nuclear waste repository nearly three years after a radiation leak marks a key step toward cleaning up a decadeslong legacy of bomb-making and research, but the U.S. energy secretary said more needs to be done before a backlog of contaminated material starts heading to the New Mexico desert again.

The radiation release halted work at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant and derailed a multibillion-dollar cleanup program, raising questions about oversight across the U.S. nuclear weapons complex and leading waste to build up at sites around the country.

Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz told The Associated Press that sweeping changes have been made to improve safety and that hard work by employees and technological advancements over the last three years should bolster public confidence in cleanup efforts following the 2014 leak.

"We are very, very excited about getting at least a resumption of operations," he said during an interview late Sunday. "I do want to caution we will not be at full speed yet for a few years."

Sam Christensen/Nuclear Waste Partnership via U.S. Energy Department

This image provided by the U.S. Energy Department and its contractor Nuclear Waste Partnership shows workers moving waste underground at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant on Jan. 4 near Carlsbad, N.M. The repository, the federal government's only underground spot for disposing of low-level nuclear waste, had been shuttered for nearly three years since a 2014 radiation release.

Moniz, Gov. Susana Martinez, members of the state's congressional delegation and others gathered Monday to formally mark the reopening of the site in southern New Mexico.

Officials shut down the repository in February 2014 after a chemical reaction inside a drum of inappropriately packed waste caused the lid to burst, contaminating some disposal vaults, corridors and air shafts.

The facility is carved out of an ancient salt formation about a half-mile below the desert surface, with the idea that eventually the shifting salt will entomb the waste.

Moniz acknowledged that the closure caused a backlog of waste at sites including northern New Mexico's Los Alamos National Laboratory, the birthplace of the atomic bomb, and the Savannah River Site in South Carolina, where the basic materials used to fabricate nuclear weapons were produced.

The secretary is hopeful shipments can resume later this year, but work to move the waste underground takes more time now because of the extra clothing, respirators and heavy monitoring devices that workers must wear to protect against the contamination. Limited ventilation also slows the work.

While no schedule has been finalized, officials expect the repository will be accepting about five shipments a week later this year.

The radiation leak also triggered intense state and federal investigations that revealed mismanagement, lax oversight and a failure to follow existing policies.

New Mexico cited the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant and Los Alamos lab — where the drum was packed — for numerous permit violations, while federal investigators detailed a list of corrective actions. Negotiations eventually led to the largest settlement ever between the Energy Department and a state.

"Bottom line: We moved quickly to hold the federal government accountable," Gov. Martinez said in a statement.

She also thanked Moniz and the department for taking responsibility, noting the importance of the repository to the U.S. and the state's economy.

The leak has been costly, with cleanup expected to approach a half-billion dollars once a new, permanent ventilation system is installed. Watchdog groups also have accused the federal government of rushing to reopen the facility.

Following a series of reviews and an inspection by New Mexico regulators, workers last Wednesday moved the first two pallets of waste from an above-ground storage building underground.

Moniz said the department has learned a lot since 2014: the criteria for characterizing, treating and packaging waste has been overhauled and numerous technological advancements have been made as scientists worked to solve problems the agency had not encountered before.

"The workers had some really challenging environments to deal with because of the contamination," he said. "That really made for a tough period, but again ingenuity came to the fore."

PAID CONTENT

for your information

To appear in *For Your Information* call Paul Wiseman at 697-7468 or your Midland Reporter-Telegram account executive at 682-5311.

Can replacing rotting bricks save you money? Yes, by cutting energy loss

It's almost like letting dollar bills escape through the gaps where bricks in your home are rotting and crumbling away, say George Rood and Jose Martinez of George Rood Masonry.

"Bricks crumble slowly, almost unnoticeably over many years," George points out. "You may not even notice it's happening until there are big gaps in your brickwork."

As the west Texas winds blow through those gaps they leak heat in or out, depending on the season, which makes your HVAC unit work harder to keep up. And there goes that money on your utility bills.

Too many times homeowners don't notice the problem until they try to sell their home, and the inspection shows issues that need repairs. Many area Realtors recommend that their clients call George or Jose when that time comes. But, they say, don't wait until then to take care of things.

"Really, a brief walk around your home can show you the problem areas," Jose says. "If you let us fix them now you can start saving money on heating or cooling right away." Usually the repairs are surprisingly affordable and can be done quickly. There's really no reason to put this job off!

Maybe you need a new fence or a brick patio or walkway around a swimming pool. For that, George or Jose will come to your home and listen to all your plans. They'll help you get the layout that gets you just what you need. Before they start, they will tell you exactly what is needed, what work will be done and what the cost will be, so you can relax knowing there will be no surprises at the end. Estimates, by the way, are free.

This is a hands-on project for George and Jose. One or both of them will be on site, working alongside the crew. Many times, Jorge will be the only bricklayer at the job. Jorge has 25 years' experience in bricklaying, the last 15 of which have been while working with George Rood Masonry. George himself has been a bricklayer for 49 years and has been in the Permian Basin since 1979. Both have lots of experience in brick repair and fence building, and they have deep roots in west Texas.

Let George Rood or Jose Martinez replace rotting bricks, build a fence or do other brick work. Call George at 432-664-1341 or Jose at 432-770-4920.

In fact, if you've seen a fence with columns built in it, spaced about 20 feet apart, that's a concept George introduced to the area. Those columns ensure that fences are strong and sturdy. "Before I came here and started doing that, no one had really used columns before," George says.

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Does the Dow Jones Index at 20,000 matter?

■ Dow 20,000 will be the stuff of front-page headlines, but there's more to it, right?

MOHAMED A. EL-ERIAN

Bloomberg

The Dow Jones Industrial Average came tantalizing close to 20,000 on Jan. 6, a record level that is being closely watched (and hyped) by the financial media. At one point during the trading session, it was within 0.37 points, or 0.0002 percent.

Most agree that it is just a matter of time before this milestone is attained. The longer-term significance, however, is subject to more debate.

Let's start by acknowledging that the DJIA is far from comprehensive when it comes to analytical content. The index covers a very narrow set of stocks and therefore is lacking in representation. Its calculation methodology also is problematic, placing way too much emphasis on the absolute share price, as opposed to market capitalization. As a result, a few names can move the index significantly — as has occurred recently with Goldman Sachs and JPMorgan Chase, which account for a substantial part of the upward surge since early November.

Nonetheless, the Dow is heavily mentioned when it comes to headline information about stock market performance. Moreover, it is not the only U.S. flirting with record levels. The more representative Standard & Poor's 500 and Nasdaq are at or near their all-time highs. Accordingly, assessing the implications of the hype about the Dow reaching 20,000 comes down to evaluating the volume of the signal, the influence on investing and business behaviors and the implications for economic governance.

We should have little doubt about the signaling outcomes. Dow 20,000 will be the stuff of front-page headlines of both general-interest and financial newspapers, and will be a trending topic in social media. Photos of celebratory hats and banners will be published widely. And the majority of market professionals will remember where they were when this milestone was attained.

Many hope that all this will act as a catalyst for wider participation of the general population — and millennials in particular — in stock ownership. After all, a bigger investor base is the best contributor to a fundamentally healthy and less volatile market. The problem is that it may take a lot more than headlines and social media likes for this to happen.

At the most fundamental level, Dow 20,000 does little to reduce the general mistrust of the financial establishment that was heightened by the 2008 global financial crisis and its aftermath. Still too many people believe that the financial markets are "rigged" to benefit "insiders." Moreover, the stock market's strong performance stands in stark contrast to the general malaise and unsettling feelings resulting from too many years of low and insufficiently inclusive growth, along with an unusual level of uncertainty regarding economic, financial and political conditions.

The same caution is also warranted when it comes to "animal spirits" in the corporate sector. The exuberance associated with the impressive post-election surge in stocks has, until now, been mainly a financial phenomenon. It has made it easier for companies to issue bonds, but has yet to translate into consequential changes in business investment and other productivity-enhancing behaviors that fuel more durable drivers of corporate profitability and economic growth. And this is unlikely to change just with the attainment of a financial milestone.

The most consequential immediate impact of Dow 20,000 may in fact have less to do with broadening the investor base and turbo-charging productive business behavior, and more to do with encouraging politicians to step up to their economic governance responsibilities. After all, politicians like to be popular.

The main reason the Dow is so close to this record level is the combination of pro-growth policy announcements by the president-elect and the hope that a less-dysfunctional Congress will act on these proposals. Politics can help change market and economic sentiment and, with that, set up a more enabling environment for growth. Indeed, the real hope for investors — and, more importantly, the broader economy — is that this financial milestone ends up helping to encourage and empower a Congress that, for too many years, has failed to step up to its economic governance responsibilities.

OUR VIEW

Discussion on 4B is almost as important as the election

Last week, Mayor Jerry Morales announced a campaign to transform the city's tournament fields through an addition to the city's sales tax.

Eligible voters who reside in the city limits will have a chance to vote on the tax in May. The Midland City Council still has to approve the election and its May date, but there shouldn't be an issue with that.

We are glad that an election date has been decided. City leaders owed it to the community to provide a firm date for a tax that should have ended well before May 2017. We are big believers that once a tax or assessment outlives its usefulness, it is time to end it. The 4B was no longer necessary in 2014, but city leaders kept it around for two reasons.

It generates funds that will help in the operations and maintenance of the Scharbauer Sports Complex, a facility that has been a budget-buster. No matter the result of the vote, the 4B tax approved in 1999 will end in May with about $25 million left over.

Also, city leaders wanted the tax to be on the books when this election took place so they could tell the community they weren't creating a "new" tax. Mission accomplished.

The Reporter-Telegram's editorial board will not take a stand on this ballot initiative. We see good and bad in what is being proposed. We feel comfortable allowing the voters to decide whether this ballot initiative checks all the boxes for a growing community.

We are pleased when measures come before the voters. There is nothing more beneficial to a community than discussion concerning where a community needs to go. We warn those on both sides of this issue: Discussion doesn't always guarantee passage or defeat. We can go back to October — the last time our community had an opportunity to participate in such a conversation.

We hope that you weigh in, no matter your view of the mayor's vision for $150 million in taxpayer money. We think that the discussion leading up the May election will prove to be as valuable as the vote itself.

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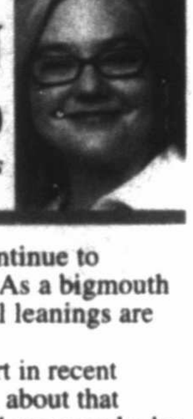
There's enough hate in America

■ The next four years require vigilance, not white-hot rage

JACQUIELYNN FLOYD

Dallas Morning News



If you're wary about our collective future, get on the bus. You've got a lot of company.

But you don't have to be hopping mad to get your ticket punched. Anger demands energy, and some of us are running a little short right now.

Unhinged fury is what got us in this fix. According to the never-ending autopsy of the November election, it was white anger, rural anger, "ordinary" person anger (with, perhaps, an assist from Vladamir Putin, the merriest prankster on the planet) that fueled the rise of the most improbable president in U.S. history.

This suggests that blind rage does not lead us to make our best decisions.

Yet a lot of us on the (approximate) half of the field that voted The Other Way feel compelled to parade a white-hot anger of our own. The mediasphere is full of righteous rage from people who disinvited relatives from holiday gatherings, unfriended Facebook pals, dropped golfing buddies or quit their book clubs in a surgical removal of Trump voters from their lives.

It's our turn to be angry. After a decade of being railed against as "elites," socialists, leftists, P.C. lockstep-marching Beltway insiders, we can snap the leash off a slavering outrage of our own.

I understand this, because there's a lot to be worried about: potential reversal of hard-earned rights for women, immigrants and minorities; an executive cadre of pampered billionaires entirely devoid of empathy for Americans who work at lousy-paying jobs or can't afford decent medical care; the bizarre and juvenile communiques with the outside world by Twitter fiat. Trust me, I'm worried, too.

This isn't to say we can't, or shouldn't speak our minds. Meryl Streep's impassioned address during Sunday's Golden Globes show has its critics, but she spoke out of dismay, not hatred (nevertheless provoking a response which, by now, is as predictable as poking an angry badger with a stick).

But I can't work up a constant boiler-full of percolating rage. I'm too tired, too distracted.

One, because I'm spent: We have had a scary, life-threatening emergency illness at our house. On a purely personal level, I just haven't had the energy that fury requires.

But also, because we cannot continue to equate disagreement with hatred. As a bigmouth newspaper columnist, my political leanings are no secret.

I have had a great deal of support in recent weeks from people who didn't ask about that stuff, who didn't care. The medical personnel who saved my husband's life; the people who used to live down the street who left a miniature Christmas tree at my front door; the across-the-street neighbors who quietly came over and swept the accumulated leaves out of my driveway, the hundreds of readers who sent kind messages — none of them asked who I voted for, and I didn't ask them, either.

We just can't afford a competition over who's the angriest. There is too much else to do — maintaining accountability, making sensible arguments, safeguarding civility and basic rights. And, yes, behaving with human decency to one another.

It's hard to do that while you're screaming and slinging drool.

Political considerations are important. They define the society we live in and the kind of people we want to be. But when they become more important than our obligations as friends, relatives and neighbors, we're in trouble.

If political affiliations become the most important connections in our lives, then we're defeating our own most basic goal as Americans: to peacefully coexist in a pluralistic society.

There are too many places on our troubled planet that differences of religion, race or belief cannot be tolerated without repressive hatred, killing hatred.

Yes, it's our turn on the outside. Our turn to be vigilant, passionate, earnest, concerned — and often, like Streep, dismayed.

Can we do it without the toxic contamination of unfettered rage? I hope so.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

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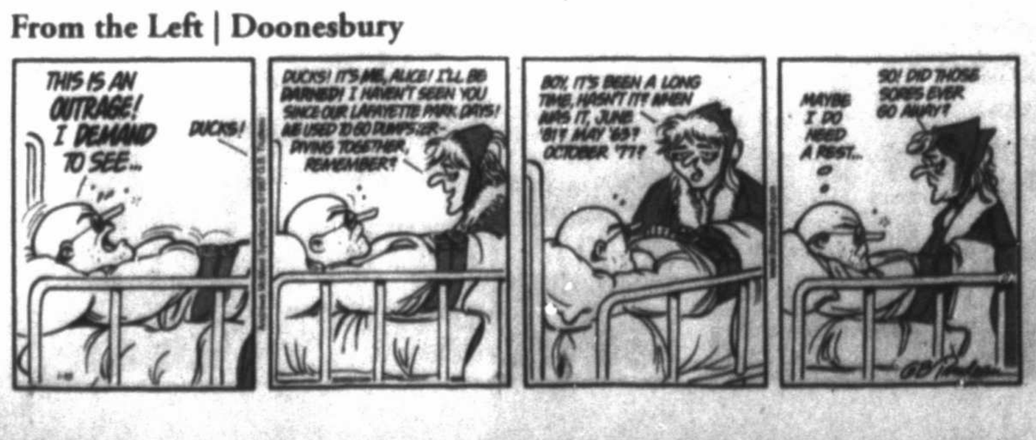
From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore

Zach Gibson/Associated Press

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., left, meets with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator-designate Scott Pruitt, right, on Capitol Hill on Thursday in Washington.

Ethics officials clear Trump EPA nominee

By Michael Biesecker
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal ethics officials on Monday cleared President-elect Donald Trump's nominee for the Environmental Protection Agency for confirmation.

The Office of Government Ethics released the personal financial disclosure report for Scott Pruitt, currently Oklahoma's attorney general. The ethics office affirmed that Pruitt's disclosures comply with applicable federal laws and rules.

No date has been set for Pruitt's Senate confirmation hearing.

His finances are among the least complicated of Trump's Cabinet nominees, a group that includes several billionaires. In just four pages, Pruitt disclosed an investment portfolio valued between $420,000 and $1 million, held primarily in mutual funds, bonds and a state retirement plan.

Pruitt, 48, also listed debt of between $500,000 and $1 million on a mortgage on his Oklahoma home.

Senate Democrats and environmental groups have criticized Pruitt for what they term cozy political ties with the oil and gas industry. Like Trump, Pruitt has also has also been a vocal denier of the science showing that the planet is warming and that man-made carbon emissions are to blame.

Pruitt, a Republican, has repeatedly sued the EPA since becoming attorney general in 2011. He joined with other Republican attorneys general in opposing the Clean Power Plan, which seeks to limit planet-warming carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants. Pruitt also sued over the agency's recent expansion of water bodies regulated under the federal Clean Water Act, which has been opposed by industries that would be forced to clean up polluted wastewater.

Though Pruitt ran unopposed for a second term in 2014, campaign finance reports show he raised more than $700,000, much of it from people in the energy and utility industries. Among those who gave the maximum contribution of $5,000 to Pruitt's campaign was Continental Resources Chairman and CEO Harold Hamm, an Oklahoma oil tycoon who has been advising Trump.

On his disclosure forms, Pruitt is also listed as chairman of the Rule of Law Defense Fund, a Washington-based tax-exempt organization founded in 2014. The group's website describes it as a public policy organization for the study of issues relevant to the nation's Republican attorneys general and to promote "the rule of law, federalism, and freedom in a civil society."

In a letter sent to an EPA ethics official last week, Pruitt said he has resigned from the group effective Dec. 8.

Pruitt is also listed on his disclosure form as a member of the boards for The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, and The Windows Ministry, a small Oklahoma City non-profit organization that describes its sole mission as "promoting the gospel of Jesus Christ."

In his letter to the EPA, Pruitt said he would also resign from those boards if he is confirmed to lead the agency.

Charlie Spies, an Oklahoma attorney for two political action committees tied to Pruitt said Monday he is in the process of filing the required paperwork with the Federal Election Commission required to dissolve them and distribute any remaining funds. Oklahoma Strong is Pruitt's leadership PAC to raise money for like-minded conservative candidates, while Liberty 2.0 was set up by Pruitt's supporters to support any future bids he might make for public office.

Spies said the political fundraising entities, which are likely to be criticized by Democrats for raising money from corporations and individuals who profit from fossil fuel production, have missions that are "no longer relevant."

"We don't want them to be a distraction during the confirmation hearings," Spies said.

AP file photo

A technician works to prepare voting machines to be used in the presidential election Oct. 14 in Philadelphia. Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson has told state officials that he is moving toward designating U.S. election systems as critical infrastructure, a designation that will provide more federal help for states to keep election systems safe from tampering.

US move to secure election systems meets criticism

By Tami Abdollah
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A last-minute decision by the Obama administration to designate election systems as critical infrastructure drew intense criticism from state and federal elections organizations Monday.

U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson announced the move Friday with 30 minutes' notice to the National Association of Secretaries of State and U.S. Election Assistance Commission, an independent bipartisan federal agency that develops voluntary voting guidelines and certifies voting systems.

Officials at both agencies are criticizing the department for what they said was a failure to work with state officials to fully answer their questions about the designation before making the change.

"We're having trouble understanding exactly what they're going to do, that we're not already doing," Connecticut Secretary of State Denise W. Merrill, who heads the national secretaries association, told The Associated Press. "States were already doing much of this (security work) themselves using very different products."

Discussions between Homeland Security Department officials and the states about whether to designate elections systems as critical infrastructure began in August after hackers targeted the voter registration systems of ultimately more than 20 states in the months prior to the election.

But after many states expressed worries about the potential for increased federal regulation or oversight, Secretary Johnson said he wouldn't make a decision until after the election.

The designation puts responsibilities on the Department of Homeland Security, requiring it to conduct security checks and provide information about emerging and imminent threats. The designation does not, however, require entities identified as critical infrastructure to participate.

Despite woes, Obamacare not in 'death spiral'

By Erica Werner
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President-elect Donald Trump says that President Barack Obama's health care law "will fall of its own weight."

House Speaker Paul Ryan says the law is "in what the actuaries call a death spiral."

And Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell says that "by nearly any measure, Obamacare has failed."

The problem with all these claims: They are exaggerated, if not downright false.

As congressional Republicans prepare to repeal the health law, they are working to portray it as a mess of Democrats' making, and themselves as the ones who will clean up that mess.

In the process they are exaggerating the law's very real problems, according to health care experts, who largely believe that the Affordable Care Act's troubles with high prices and lack of competition could be addressed with bipartisan solutions.

Republicans, who've gained political advantage from campaigning against the law since its passage in 2010, aren't interested in playing along. Instead they've denounced the law and made the case to repeal it, although there are signs some are getting cold feet now that the reality is upon them.

Democrats, too, are guilty of rhetorical excesses around the health care law, often claiming that it's working as intended while downplaying its flaws.

But with Republicans in the majority and driving the agenda, here's a look at some of the GOP claims about the law, and how they compare with the facts:

Trump, Ryan and McConnell: The law will "fall of its own weight," is in a "death spiral" and "has failed."

The Facts: Experts agree that the law is not currently in a "death spiral," an actuarial term that refers to a vicious cycle when rising insurance costs force healthy customers out of the marketplace, resulting in still higher prices, which cause even more customers to bail, etc., until the system collapses.

But some say that if the current situation continues, that is a likely or possible scenario. Health care premiums are jumping by double digits this year, and the health care marketplaces created by the law are short on the healthy consumers who make insurance companies profitable.

"It's not a failure in that 20 million people or more have insurance that didn't used to have insurance. Everything else, it's too early to judge," said economist Gail Wilensky, who ran Medicare under former President George H.W. Bush.

"To say that the exchange markets remain unstable and in turmoil is an appropriate statement," she said. "To say that they're in a death spiral really depends on what happens."

The American Academy of Actuaries itself disputed the "death spiral" claim Monday. The group provided a statement from its senior health fellow asserting that high premium increases in many states this year "do not necessarily indicate that a premium spiral is occurring" and could be a one-time adjustment.

Ryan: "You cannot fix a fundamentally broken law; you've got to replace it."

The facts: Experts agree that Congress could fix the law's problems, should it choose. Indeed many argue that some of the law's problems can be traced to the decision by Obama and Democrats to push it through on a partisan basis — alienating Republicans who have refused ever since to participate in any attempt to tweak the law to improve it, as would be necessary with any program of such size and complexity.

Some predict that when Republicans get through with their repeal-and-replace effort, what it will really amount to will be an improved Obamacare — even if they don't admit it.

The health care exchanges, for example, could be improved with changes aimed at getting more young and healthy people to sign up, such as giving insurers more flexibility to charge older people higher prices.

"You could, I think, relatively simply address the issues that the exchanges have," said Dan Mendelson, president of Avalere Health, a health consulting firm, noting that other major programs including Medicare have been tweaked repeatedly since their creation. "If you freeze a program in a point of time, it is likely to have problems, and that's exactly what's happening."

Bob Laszewski, a health care consultant, predicted: "Before this all ends they're going to fix it ... The Republicans are going to say they repealed and replaced, and the Democrats are going to say they fixed it."

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This is the boldness which we have toward God, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He listens to us. And if we know that He listens to us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

Azeez Akunleyan/Associated Press

Nigeria Minister of Interior, Abdulrahman Danbazau, left, welcome Senegal President Macky Sall, centre, and Nigeria President Muhammadu Buhari, right, before a meeting Monday in Abuja, Nigeria. Officials say Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari will lead three West African heads of state to Gambia on Wednesday in an effort to persuade its longtime leader to step down.

Nigerian president to head delegation to resolve Gambia crisis

By Bashir Adigun
Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria — Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari will lead three West African heads of state to Gambia on Wednesday in an effort to persuade its longtime leader to step down, officials said Monday.

A meeting Monday in Abuja agreed on the mission, Nigerian Foreign Minister Geoffrey Onyema said of the second presidential delegation from the Economic Community of West African States to visit Gambia since President Yahya Jammeh lost Dec. 1 elections.

Jammeh initially conceded the loss, but changed his mind.

The West African bloc has said it has a military force on standby if Jammeh refuses to cede power when his mandate expires Jan. 19.

Leaders meeting Saturday in Ghana said they were working on a diplomatic solution.

But Onyema told journalists on Monday that "every option is on the table" and "violence should be avoided, but nothing is ruled out."

He said the regional bloc is "prepared and determined to take advantage of any of the options that it feels is appropriate" to install election winner Adama Barrow as the rightful president.

The United States, European Union and others have condemned Jammeh's stance and supported efforts to enforce Gambia's Constitution.

Monday's meeting included the presidents of Liberia and Senegal, which would lead any military intervention.

The leaders expressed particular concern over the deteriorating security situation. Jammeh has mobilized troops, closed radio stations and ordered arrests, leading to a "mass exodus" of Gambians to their country's interior and to neighboring countries, Onyema said.

Nigeria also has said scheduling conflicts prevent it from sending judges to Gambia today to help consider a petition from Jammeh's party challenging the election that Barrow won.

Gambia's Supreme Court has been dormant for over a year and has only one sitting judge, Chief Justice Emmanuel O. Fagbenle.

"Our Justices are usually scheduled to sit in your Supreme Court in the months of May and November," Nigeria's Acting Chief Justice W.S.N. Onnoghen wrote to Fagbenle in a letter dated Jan. 5. "I regret to inform you that the re-scheduled date for this sitting session of your Supreme Court is unfavorable to us as it will greatly affect our schedule and case management."

Jammeh seized power in a bloodless coup in 1994, but is accused of gross human rights violations that include arbitrary detentions, torture and the killings of his opponents in the country of 1.9 million people.

Liberals in European Parliament reject 5-Star alliance

By Raf Casert and Nicole Winfield
Associated Press

ROME — The liberal group in the European Parliament has rejected a request from Italy's populist 5-Star Movement to join its alliance, ending a short-lived courtship.

Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe leader Guy Verhofstadt said late Monday that "there is insufficient common ground to proceed with the request of the 5-Star Movement to join."

In online balloting that ended Monday, 78.5 percent of 5-Star voters agreed to join ALDE, but were rebuffed within hours after the alliance's legislators started discussing the issue. Too many didn't want to be associated with the Italian populist party.

Verhofstadt says "there remain fundamental differences on key European issues."

The 5-Star Movement request had briefly sent shockwaves through the European Union legislature. If approved, it would have made the ALDE group the third-largest in the European Parliament behind the EPP Christian Democrats and the S&D socialists.

But there was too much internal revolt and too little faith that the Italian movement would retreat from its Euroskeptic stance almost overnight.

"I have come to the conclusion that there are not enough guarantees to push forward a common agenda to reform Europe," said Verhofstadt, who could have used the movement's support in the election for European Parliament president next week.

In a statement, the 5-Star Movement brushed off ALDE's rejection and hinted that it never expected to be accepted anyway.

"The delegation of the 5-Star Movement in the European Parliament will continue its work to create an autonomous political group for the next European legislature: the DDM (Direct Democracy Movement)."

It blamed "the establishment" for ganging up against it because it had "made the system quake like it never has before."

The 5-Star Movement previously was part of the European Parliament's EFDD group, where it had Britain's far-right U.K. Independence Party as an ally.

When the movement left that group, UKIP's Nigel Farage said 5-Star founder Beppe Grillo "will now join the Euro-fanatic establishment."

In a blog post encouraging supporters to vote for ALDE, Grillo said the decision to leave the EFDD was logical after Britain's vote to leave the EU, since Farage had achieved his aim and the EFDD would lose its reason to exist.

He said that by joining ALDE, the 5-Star Movement would keep its autonomy, but have a greater voice in Strasbourg.

"Dear Nigel, our paths have taken a different route," Grillo wrote to Farage, making clear the movement would not return to the EFDD.

Grillo said ALDE and the 5-Star Movement shared similar objectives, including direct democracy, transparency, voting autonomy, simplification of European bureaucracy, resolution of the migration crisis and promotion of a green economy.

Despite the common ground, the ALDE liberals doubted the movement's commitment to stick close enough to its parliamentary line.

Verhofstadt said that "on issues of shared interest, such as the environment, transparency and direct democracy," the two would continue to cooperate.

Turkey's Parliament debates giving greater powers to Erdogan

By Suzan Fraser
Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkey's Parliament on Monday kicked off debate on proposed constitutional amendments that would hand Recep Tayyip Erdogan's largely ceremonial presidency sweeping executive powers and Erdogan himself the possibility to serve two more five-year terms.

Erdogan, who has dominated Turkish politics for 14 years, has long pushed imbuing the presidency with greater political powers, arguing that strong leadership would help Turkey grow.

The main opposition party fears that if approved, the reforms would concentrate too much power in Erdogan's hands, turn the country into a de facto dictatorship and move Turkey away from democracy and its anchor in the West.

"They are trying to turn the democratic parliamentary regime into a totalitarian regime," said main opposition Republican Peoples' Party, or CHP, leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu.

Debate on the set of amendments is expected to last two weeks. The reforms must clear two rounds of balloting in parliament, known as the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, gaining at least 330 of the 550 votes.

If the package is approved by lawmakers, the government will submit it to a voter referendum for final approval — possibly in the spring.

On Monday, police used pepper spray to disperse a group of legislators, lawyers and other protesters who tried to gather near an entrance to the parliament building to oppose the proposed changes. Some roads leading to parliament also were blocked.

The ruling party, founded by Erdogan, is 14 votes short of the needed 330, but has secured the backing of the country's nationalist party.

The changes would scrap the office of prime minister and make the president the head of the executive branch, as well as allow him to appoint the government, dissolve Parliament, propose budgets and declare states of emergency. They would also allow Erdogan to serve another two terms, ending in 2029.

Currently, the prime minister leads the executive branch, while the president is mainly a figurehead with limited powers.

Prime Minister Binali Yildirim has expressed support for the constitutional changes. He said Monday the new system would end a possible tug-of-war between his office and that of the president.

"Two captains will sink the ship. There has to be a single captain," Yildirim said.

Other proposed amendments would increase the number of seats in the 550-member Parliament to 600, reduce the minimum eligibility age for legislators from 25 to 18, and set parliamentary and presidential elections on the same day.

The debate comes at a difficult time for Turkey, which has been rocked by a wave of bombings, renewed conflict with Kurdish rebels in the southeast, a military offensive in Syria and a failed coup attempt.

The botched July 15 coup set the stage for a sweeping purge of state institutions that has alarmed rights groups and Western governments.

The government has argued a strong presidential system would reduce instability.

Critics say the changes would allow Erdogan to rule with limited checks and balances. He already is criticized for overstepping the limits of the existing presidential powers, ruling behind the scenes and ignoring laws that require him to be neutral.

Erdogan argues that the fact that he was elected by the people directly — and not through Parliament as previous presidents were — gives him greater authority.

Former Republican Peoples' Party leader Deniz Baykal said the proposals are being rushed through while Turkey remains under post-coup emergency rule and at a time when the country is highly polarized.

"A proposal that will destroy our century-old tradition and will replace the will of the people with the hegemony of a single person stands before us," Baykal said, addressing the parliamentary session Monday.

AP Photo

Riot police use a water cannon to disperse protesters as dozens of demonstrators gather in front of Turkey's parliament to protest proposed amendments to the country's constitution that would hand sweeping executive powers to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's largely ceremonial presidency Monday in Ankara, Turkey. Parliament kicked off a debate Monday on a set of draft amendments.

WORLD BRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

UN experts: Rebels, criminals, some army exploit Congo gold

UNITED NATIONS — Experts monitoring sanctions against Congo say some army officers, rebel groups and criminal networks are still illegally exploiting the country's gold and mineral riches despite government and military bans.

In a report to the U.N. Security Council, the panel of experts says gold remains by far the mineral most used to finance rebel and criminal groups. It names several senior officers implicated in gold exploitation and trade, "on occasion in collaboration with private companies."

The report circulated Monday says a gold-tracing program has not yet become operational and efforts for the government to control its natural resources are impeded by "the impunity enjoyed by wrongdoers," corruption by a wide range of parties, and loopholes in implementing bans and monitoring.

It documents violations of human rights and an arms embargo.

MEXICO

Country switches to US-style 911 emergency number

MEXICO CITY — Mexico is finally getting a single, nationwide emergency number like the U.S. has, and the number is 911.

In Mexico's previous system, people often reported police emergencies to one number, and medical or fire emergencies to another.

And the public has long distrusted emergency numbers because authorities frequently fail to come when called. In northern Mexico, the army launched a crime-report number called "We do show up."

Trust hasn't been helped by reports that some dispatchers tipped criminals off to call-in complaints.

The government apparently seeks to imitate the perceived reliability of the U.S. number.

The gradual change was completed Monday, but not much public outreach was done.

The newspaper Reforma reported in a headline "911 starts up, and nobody knows it!"

Kenyan president signs electoral law amid rigging fears

By Tom Odula
Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — Kenya's president Monday signed an amendment to the country's election law to allow manual voting and counting of ballots as a backup, a move the opposition called a back door to rigging this year's presidential election.

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission can implement the backup process if the electronic voting system fails, said President Uhuru Kenyatta, who is running for a second term in the August election.

Kenya's Senate approved the changes Friday. The opposition coalition, led by former Prime Minister Raila Odinga and former Vice Presidents Musalia Mudavadi and Kalonzo Musyoka, said legislators in the Senate's ruling coalition have "committed a great betrayal on the people of Kenya."

The opposition also accused the ruling coalition of casting fraudulent votes during Friday's session.

Both houses of Parliament held emergency meetings over the holidays to pass the amendment to sections of the electoral law that were reformed with bipartisan support just months ago, in August.

UTPB online degrees receive rankings for cost, programs

By Simone Jasper
sjasper@mrt.com

ODESSA — In the digital age, many people seeking higher education have pursued online degrees. The trend extends to online offerings at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin, which were recently ranked for affordability and business programs.

Last week, the website OnlineU ranked UTPB as No. 21 on its national list of affordable online colleges for 2017. Another website, College Choice, ranked the university as No. 4 on its list of best online business schools in Texas for 2016.

The rankings add to a history of recognition for UTPB's online programs. President David Watts said the recent lists reflect the university's commitment to educating students while offering convenience.

"More universities are putting curriculum programs online," Watts said. "We recognize that higher education is expanding."

Students from across Texas and other states and countries have the opportunity to take online courses through UTPB. Watts said the online option is also beneficial for people living in Midland or even closer to campus.

"Even for folks who live near the university, online increases flexibility," Watts said. "Instead of driving over, they're able to log onto their computers and work on their classes."

For the OnlineU ranking, the Washington state-based organization SR Education Group researched the tuitions of institutions that offered at least 10 online bachelor's degree programs.

Taitum Ridgway, marketing manager for SR Education Group, said the ranking offers transparency about tuition as online programs gain popularity.

"It's very difficult to find standardized information about college tuition, especially for online programs," Ridgway said. "There's no standard way colleges list them."

The College Choice ranking for online business programs scores Texas institutions for reputation and return on investment, according to its website. The ranking comes after UTPB began offering its own online master of business administration program following a previous partnership with the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

UTPB also recently appeared in rankings from Affordable Colleges Online, which measured cost and programming. Watts said the university is determined to balance affordability and quality.

"We have a commitment to doing both," Watts said. "Almost all the programs we offer have received recognition. Also, we have independent professional accreditations."

Please see **UTPB**/2B

WOLFF PACK OFF CAMPUS

Courtesy photo

Students from the Wolff Center for Entrepreneurship at the University of Houston pose for a group picture in Tokyo on Nov. 21, 2016. For two of the students, it was their first time on an airplane. Celerino Sanchez and Jonathan Campirano, standing left to right in the back row with their hands raised, called the journey life changing.

Program takes students beyond classroom

CHRIS TOMLINSON
Houston Chronicle

Celerino Sanchez's first time to step on an airplane took him on a 14-hour flight to the other side of the world.

A Houston native from an immigrant family of modest means, he hasn't seen much more than Texas and Mexico. But he doesn't plan to let that stop him from becoming an international business leader.

Feeling comfortable in foreign countries and corporate boardrooms, though, doesn't come easily to those who don't get a frequent-flier number and enrollment in a private school along with their birth certificates. That's one reason the Wolff Center for Entrepreneurship and the Japanese government flew him and 23 other top-ranked University of Houston students to Tokyo.

The experience is just one of the life lessons that the Wolff Center provides to help students exceed expectations.

Sanchez, 23, decided to become a businessman as he watched his father, who emigrated from Mexico with only a spare pair of jeans, go from being a day laborer to starting his own construction business.

"He's been able to grow that to four companies. Knowing that he didn't go to school, that he didn't graduate high school, that he had to learn English here, I thought: If he can do it, why can't I?" Sanchez said.

The hurdles, though, were high. Celerino Sanchez didn't speak English fluently until the third grade, no one in his family had attended college, and there was no money to pay for it. He took odd jobs and started saving, eventually making his way to Dave Cook, director of the Wolff Center.

The program only accepts about 30 students a year for what amounts to a full-time job of intense coaching, developing business plans and interacting with business leaders.

"We want to change these kids' lives, both personally and professionally," Cook said. "We then create simulations and experiences to reinforce everything that they do in the classroom."

The center's namesakes, Cyvia and Melvyn Wolff, invite the students into their home and recruit their business contacts to pitch in. Among the 324 businesspeople who volunteer to mentor the students is Warren Buffett, whose Berkshire Hathaway purchased Star Furniture from the Wolffs.

"They are taking us to meet Warren Buffett. Me, sitting in the same room as one of the richest persons in the world," said Jonathan Campirano, a 21-year-old student who grew up in the Greenspoint area.

The flight to Japan was also Campirano's first time on a plane, but beyond the tourism, he took advantage of the tour to learn more about Japanese businesses and their best practices.

"I was thinking about what business I could bring to Japan. Or what business could I bring back here. I learned that I may have grown up in America, but do I really have to stay in America to make abusiness?" he said. "A couple of months ago, before the program, I would not have been able to communicate. I was so shy, in a shell. With all of these opportunities, you really grow."

To break kids out of their shells, Cook has recruited Sharon Birkman Fink and Torri Olanski to provide personality assessments and individual coaching free of charge. Brad Deutser of the Deutser Agency helps the students establish their personal values and brands, both personal and business. And Brené Brown, founder of Courageworks, helps with a free leadership development course.

"Having someone to mentor me, other than my dad, that's a life-changing opportunity," Sanchez said.

The opportunity, though, comes with a high price. The students spend as much time traveling and working on projects as they do in the classroom. They are also required to do volunteer work to give back to disadvantaged communities. It's tough on students who work

Please see **TOMLINSON**/2B

AMANDA MELCHOR-MCCOWN
Lee High School

Even during difficult times, teachers should continue to let voices be heard

During the last few weeks of 2016, the Reporter-Telegram helped all of us to reflect upon the biggest Midland news stories of the year. Of course, Mr. Scharbauer's unrelenting generosity and commitment to the Midland community and Midland ISD's leadership twists and turns were noted as some of the top stories of 2016. Some of us did not need these reminders, however. You see, when the stories of the past are your present realities, and the stories of the future are not headlines waiting to be written but a breath you are holding, waiting to exhale — you don't need the ringing in of a new year to remind you that Midland ISD is still in need of those in the arena to keep leading the way.

A kind of unnerving silence has fallen over the topic that is Midland ISD. The school board election has come and gone. A semester and a winter break have come and gone. Community activists old and new have quieted to recalibrate. Silence and stillness is necessary when recalibrating. But for those in the arena, there is no time for silence and stillness.

To my fellow educators who still have the audacity to beam with hope in the teachers' lounge, who still have the tenacity to nod "let's do this, let's turn this thing around" in a faculty meeting, who still have the strength to teach bell-to-bell, who still have the creativity to make a way when there seems to be no way — to you I say: Keep daring greatly to be great.

To my fellow Midlanders who made a resolution well before the new year that your child's public school should be — and will be — better, and so would your commitment to your community, who let your (no) vote send a message, who gained an appreciation and awareness of how hard the teachers of this community work — to you I say: Keep demanding better of us and yourself.

The teachers of Midland ISD cannot sit in silence. There is too much work to be done for teachers to be silent and still. There are students raising their hands, there are first-year teacher colleagues waving white flags, there is more than one student who needs more than one extra minute of tutoring. There are so many things to do and only those of us in the arena can do them.

Teachers, let's not be still and silent.

Please see **MELCHOR-MCCOWN**/2B

Community, schools have the power to improve as a district

CHRIS HIGHTOWER
Midland ISD director of social studies

One of my favorite quotes comes from the famous martial artist and film star Bruce Lee. When asked the question "What is defeat?" he responds: "Nothing but education; nothing but the first step to something better."

As a school district, we have been handed our fair share of defeats lately. Nine campuses placed on improvement required status, an unsuccessful tax ratification election and most recently, a new accountability rating from the Texas Education Agency that has scored many of the campuses in Midland ISD with a low letter grade classification. So what's wrong, and can MISD make the needed changes to improve?

As a community, we all are searching for the answers to these questions about our public schools. We all want good schools for our children and grandchildren, and overall, this news seems frightening. Be that as it may, the school district understands that we do not need to run away from difficulty and that we do have to change the way we do business in order to do better for our community.

Our new interim superintendent, Rod Schroder, sincerely understands the issues we face. He understands that we are currently designed for the results that we are getting. Mr. Schroder has been taking this message to every campus, and actively is working to instill a sense of urgency and change in what we are doing in Midland ISD. He has stated that "if we want different results, we will have to change." Part of that change is based upon his observations of what he has seen in our district.

Upon his arrival, Mr. Schroder observed that our central administration staff was too large. He made the tough decision to begin cutting positions, and to date 45 positions have been eliminated. Several other positions will not be filled upon their vacancy in an attempt to restructure our school district into one that can better serve our public.

Mr. Schroder wants Midland ISD to be focused on our mission, that "ALL students will graduate prepared and ready for college and career." There is no pretension in this message, and he wants to help build a team that will work together to find success from our previous defeats. The approach Mr. Schroder utilizes is in three basic areas: a growth mindset, a "no-excuses" philosophy and a focus on the instructional process at each campus.

First, Mr. Schroder wants to have a growth mindset as a district. We have to break away from the fixed mindset that sees failure as the end. This boils down to the principle that every child can learn. So as a district, we must cope with the challenges that we face and embrace the difficulties that we currently endure.

The second part of his approach is the no-excuses mentality. This means that our district is not going to shift responsibility elsewhere. Every one of our students has the right to be prepared for college, and the adults in the district have the

Please see **HIGHTOWER**/2B

Courtesy photo

Celerino Sanchez, a student enrolled in the Wolff Center for Entrepreneurship at the University of Houston shakes hands with a Japanese government official during a field trip to Tokyo.

TOMLINSON

From 1B

part-time jobs to pay their bills.

"Financial aid doesn't cover books and the extra stuff you need to go to school," Sanchez said. But he's one of the lucky ones who has a scholarship that allows him to commit full time to the program.

Cook is trying to create an endowed fund of $5 million to provide every Wolff Center student a scholarship. He has raised $2.2 million so far, much of it from the Wolffs.

"We want to open their scope of possibility of what their lives can be," Cook said. Equally important is recruiting businesspeople to volunteer so there is one mentor for each student.

The program is certainly working for Campirano, a finance major who knows firsthand how some people try to pigeonhole kids from the other side of the tracks.

In high school, he worked at a Holiday Inn preparing banquets, and one was for a conference of investment bankers. He told one of the attendees he was interested in investment banking as a career.

"He asked me, 'Are you Hispanic?' And I said, 'yeah,' " Campirano said. "He said, 'I don't mean to be rude, but you don't fit the demographics of investment banking.' "

Campirano said it took him a minute to register what the man was actually saying.

"He then told me, 'I look forward to you doing big things, but if I were you, I would consider other career choices,' " Campirano said.

"That has always stuck with me," Campirano said. "Why don't I fit the demographics? Demographics don't define who I am."

The Wolff Center works to make sure that's true.

HIGHTOWER

From 1B

responsibility of developing a system of education that makes this preparation a reality.

Third, each campus must have an instructional process and use it with fidelity in order to create an effective environment for instruction. The improvement will come through the process of making certain that we know what we want each student to learn and then assess how we know each student learned it. We will also have to respond when students have difficulties learning and work with them. We will also have to enrich learning for those who do learn so that we can take those students to a higher level.

While there still may be some who think nothing will change and others that will still criticize our actions, please know that as a district we hear you. We want to show our kids and our community that just because we get a failing grade that does not mean that we are nothing. It means that we will simply have to start the next chapter in our story by finding a new pathway to something better. Mr. Schroder may be our interim superintendent, but his vision for a better MISD is one we all have begun to embrace. It is our most sincere hope that the new MISD board of trustees understands what Mr. Schroder has started and works to find a superintendent with a similar mindset. We have the power to improve as a district and together we will work to that end.

Chris Hightower is director of social studies for Midland ISD.

UTPB

From 1B

UTPB offers online bachelor's degrees in several subject areas, including business administration, communication, nursing and psychology. Students also have the opportunity to pursue advanced degrees in business and education fields.

But pursuing an online degree doesn't appeal to every student, Watts said.

"The real advantage to the face-to-face program is the level of interaction they have with other students and faculty members," Watts said. "Online isn't for everyone. They have to be well-motivated and prepared to do a substantial amount of their work independently."

Taking classes at UTPB's campus is about $2,000 cheaper than online tuition, making it even more affordable than the OnlineU ranking, according to Watts.

"There's an economic advantage and an interaction advantage with faculty and students for coming to face-to-face classes," Watts said. "Online is a different venue for us to offer high-quality, low-cost options to people in Texas and beyond."

MELCHOR-MCCOWN

From 1B

let's be hard at work; let's be heard.

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly."

Theodore Roosevelt

Amanda Melchor-McCown teaches AP English and composition at Lee High School.

AP file photo

Students take their exam at the Chunlei primary school on the outskirts of China's Chongqing municipality May 29, 2007. The school provides free education for students, most of whom are from needy families, according to local media.

As test scores slip, China must rethink its schools

ADAM MINTER
Bloomberg View

It had become something of a ritual. Every three years, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development would release the results of its PISA exams, which are given to hundreds of thousands of students in dozens of countries. And every three years, an American freakout would ensue as Chinese students seemed to be outperforming their U.S. counterparts by a wide margin.

In 2009, Shanghai students did so well — beating the world in math, science and reading — that President Barack Obama declared it a "Sputnik moment," requiring immediate action. A similar panic broke out in 2012. But this year proved to be a surprise. The results from the 2015 tests, released this month, showed Chinese students ranked sixth in math, 10th in science and 27th in reading. What happened?

On one hand, the answer is simple. Instead of merely testing Shanghai's elite, the 2015 exams included a broader selection of students across China, which dragged down scores. But the results also highlighted an important problem: China's much-lauded education system remains riven by inequality, with far-reaching consequences for schools, students and, ultimately, the economy.

Unequal access to education is a centuries-old challenge in China. Traditionally, most Chinese have lived in the countryside, where the time, money and even the need for education was limited. Starting in the 1950s, the government began a largely successful effort to build a literate modern workforce. Between 1950 and 2001, China's literacy rate improved from 20 percent to more than 85 percent. In 1986, the government adopted a nine-year compulsory education requirement.

Paying for that requirement, though, hasn't been easy. Although the central government allocates some money to China's schools, the bulk of funding is local. In rich cities, such as Shanghai, that generally works fine. Not so for China's countryside, where money is so short that some schools can't even provide desks, let alone books. Rural teachers typically earn one-third what their urban peers do — if they get paid at all. Inevitably, this leads to tension: Between 2014 and 2015, there were at least 168 "strike and protest" actions by rural teachers.

Ironically, China's economic boom is worsening these problems. With plenty of jobs beckoning in the cities, tens of millions of Chinese have moved out of the countryside. But thanks to strict residency permit laws, their children aren't allowed to attend city public schools. That leaves two options. Parents can enroll their children in local "migrant schools," which tend to be inferior. Or they can leave them behind in the hands of relatives.

For the 61 million children who have been left behind, the educational outlook is grim. According to one study, only half of rural children have parents who read to them, compared to 78 percent of urban children. Rural kids would benefit greatly from preschool and kindergarten, but fewer than half have access to such programs, compared to 76 percent in the cities. In 2010, government researchers administered math and vocabulary tests to a broad range of students, and the results were damning: Rural students performed consistently worse than their urban counterparts, and the gap persisted even for children of intact rural families.

Those scores are indicative of a simmering economic dilemma. At a time when China's leaders are trying to transform the economy from one reliant on factories to one based on services and knowledge-work, the country's social and educational policies are blunting the ambitions of rural children. One survey found that 77 percent of urban children aspire to college, while only 59 percent of rural kids do. That's a recipe for developing another generation of unskilled rural workers.

Fixing these problems won't be easy. And many of them are out of the hands of government. But there are natural places to start, beginning with repealing the residency permit laws that too often separate children from their parents or relegate them to second-rate schools. Investment in early-childhood education for rural kids could go a long way toward bridging achievement gaps. (China has lagged behind the global average in education spending as a percentage of gross domestic product for years.) And the government should lower the notoriously high fees that rural parents pay for public education.

In time, such steps might help transform China's educational system into one better suited for the 21st-century economy. They might even ensure that China's schools are worthy of the admiration they earn around the world.

MAKINGTHEGRADE

FROM STAFF REPORTS

ALPINE — Several Midlanders were named to the Dean's List for the fall semester at Sul Ross State University. To be eligible, students must maintain a grade point average of at least 3.3.

Local honorees are: **Kacey Barton, Megan Ennis, Devan Gable, Mariah Gaston, Chelsey Gorter, Alexandria Guerra, Misti Teinert** and **Brittany Thompson.**

* * *

Midland High School senior **Shanice Woods** has been honored by the Negro Business and Professional Women's Club of Midland. She is the daughter of Nakish Toland and Thomas Carpenter.

Woods

She is involved in track, dance and is a member of FACES.

She is a member of Goodwill Baptist Church and Teen Flow.

Woods plans to attend Texas Tech University.

* * *

Lee High School senior **David Jazmal Jones** has been honored by the Negro Business and Professional Women's Club of Midland. He is the son of Lesscina and David Jones.

Jones

He is a member of the football team.

He is a member of True-Lite Christian Fellowship.

Jones plans to attend Angelo State University or Texas Tech University and major in welding/mechanics.

* * *

Midland High School senior **Ariene Alwayz Boyce** has been honored by the Negro Business and Professional Women's Club of Midland. She is the daughter of Ricky and Melondy Whitfield.

She is a member of National Honor Society, powerlifting team, cheerleading squad and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She is president of the debate team and chaplain of Be the Change. She is homecoming queen.

She is a member of Lee Street Church of Christ and volunteers for Keep Midland Beautiful, Midland Soup Kitchen and with her church.

* * *

Eleven Midland ISD students — all from Lee High School — were selected for Area A All-State Choir during auditions Saturday at LHS. They competed against close to 300 students from 74 area high schools, according to a press release from Midland ISD.

The All-State choir students are: **Zach Harrell** and **Cannon Hawkins,** bass 1; **David Anderson, Charles Johnson, Gus Pollack,** bass 2; **Christian Shedwin,** tenor 1; **Krystina Arguello, Aubry Jarman,** alto 1; **Canlyn Korner** and **Annelisa Martinez,** alto 2; **and Savannah Waltenbaugh,** soprano 2, and a two-year All-State member.

They will perform with other All-State Choir students at the Texas Music Educators Convention, which is Feb. 8-11 in San Antonio.

Study explores link between college debt, 'boomerang' effect

By Holly Ramer
Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. — While both college debt and the "boomerang" phenomenon are growing, a new study casts doubt on the notion that staggering student loans are driving young adults back to their parents' doorsteps.

In the past decade, student debt has doubled, with the average 2015 college graduate owing $30,000. The rate at which young adults "boomerang" also is increasing — recent studies report that between 20 and 50 percent are returning home. Many assume the former causes the latter, but Jason Houle and Cody Warner — assistant sociology professors at Dartmouth College and Montana State University, respectively — found the opposite.

Their study, published Thursday in Sociology of Education and based on annual surveys of more than 5,000 people born between 1980 and 1984, found that so-called boomerangers had less student loan debt than young adults who didn't return home.

"We're trying to have an important corrective to the narrative that's out there," Houle said.

While many in policy and academic circles subscribe to what Houle called the Chicken Little idea that "The sky is falling, student debt is destroying the dreams of a generation," others believe there is not so much a college debt crisis as there is a college completion crisis. The study backs up the latter idea, he said. The authors

Please see LINK/3B

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52 FACES OF COMMUNITY

To nominate a Face of Community, please visit mrt.com/52Faces

TUESDAY PRIME TIME — JANUARY 10, 2017

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

	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	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Middle (N)	Am.Housewife (N)	Fresh Off the Boat	The Real O'Neals	Agents of SHIELD "Broken Promises" (N)		Local 2 News/ 10	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live		(:35) News Nightline
KOSA CBS	CBS 7 News	Ent. Tonight	NCIS "Being Bad"		Bull "Never Saw the Sign"		NCIS: New Orleans "Second Line"		CBS 7 News	(:35) Stephen Colbert		(:35) J.Corden
KWWT CW	M*A*S*H "No Sweat"	M*A*S*H "No Sweat"	A. Griffith	A. Griffith	MacGyver "Family Matter"		Hogan's Heroes	Hogan's Heroes	Carol Burnett	Mason "The Case of the Injured Innocent"		Twilight Zone
KPEJ FOX	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	New Girl (N)	The Mick (N)	Bones "The Brain and the Bot" (N)		Fox 24 News	TMZ	Modern Family	Two and a Half	Hot In Cleveland	Met Your Mother
KMLM IND	Rocks/Manuscripts	Housecall	Update News	Behind the Veil	Light of the Southwest "Part 1"		Light of the Southwest "Part 2"		Aleph Course	Mission: M25	Ministerios Nueva Vida	
KWES NBC	News-West 9	NewsWest 9 Now	The Wall "Jarrod and Shantel" (N)		This Is Us "The Right Thing to Do" (N)		Chicago Fire "The People We Meet" (N)		NewsWest 9 at 10	(:35) The Tonight Show		(:35) Seth Meyers
KPBT PBS	PBS NewsHour		Nazi Mega Weapons "The Eagle's Nest"		American Experience "Command and Control" (N)				Charlie Rose (N)		Newsline	Tavis Smiley
KUPB UNI	La rosa de Guadalupe		Despertar contigo		Vino el amor		El color de la pasion		Noticias Tejas	Noticiero noctu.	Contacto Deportivo	
KOSA MNT	Last Man	Last Man	Bones		Bones		Mike&M.	Mike&M.	Anger M.	Anger M.	Tosh.0	Access H.
FLIX	(5:30) Death Wish		★★ Wonder Boys Michael Douglas.				★ Things You Can Tell Just by Looking ...					★ Man About Town
HBO	Movie	Vice News	★ Demolition Jake Gyllenhaal.				(:40) ★ AVPR: Aliens vs. Pred...		(:25) ★ Child 44 ('15, Thri) Tom Hardy.			
HBO2	(5:30) ★ Straight Outta Compton						★★★★ the Martian ('15, Act) Matt Damon.				(:25) ★★★ The Green Mile	
HBO5	★ Sisters ('15, Com) Amy Poehler, Tina Fey.				★ Genius ('16, Bio) Jude Law.		Making	Real Sports			★ Enemy at the G...	
MAX	(5:40) ★ Search Party	(:15) ★★ American Pie 2 Jason Biggs.					★★★ Bad Santa				(:35) ★★ The Sweetest Thing	
MAX2	(:05) ★★ Remember the Titans						★★★★ American Gangster Denzel Washington.				(:40) ★★★★ Crimson Tide	
PLEX		96	(5:10) ★ The Magic...	★★★★ Kramer vs. Kramer	(:10) ★★ The Company Neve Campbel...						(:40) ★★ Brick Lane	
SHOW	(5:30) ★★★★ Cinderella Man			Inside the NFL (N)			Doin' Time		Inside the NFL		★★ Saw II	
TMC	(5:00) ★ The Royal ...	★★ Red Corner ('97, Susp) Richard Gere.					(:05) ★ The Seven Five (2015, Documentary)		The 700 Club		Gilmore Girls	
A&E	Remini: Scientology "A Leader Emerges"		Remini: Scientology "Golden Era"		Remini: Scientology "Auditing"		L. Remini "Enemies of the Church"		(:05) L. Remini "A Leader Emerges"		(:05) L. Remini "Golden Era"	
AMC	(4:00) ★ Man on Fire		★★★ The Departed ('06, Thri) Matt Damon, Leonardo DiCaprio.								★★ Inside Man	
BET	(5:00) ★★ Madea's Family Reunion			Being Mary Jane (N)		Being Mary Jane		Martin	Martin	Fresh P.	Fresh P.	
BRAVO	Beverly "Pantygate"		Bev Hills Social (N)		Beverly Hills (N)		Ladies of London (N)		Watch (N)	Beverly Hills		Ladies L.
CNBC	Billion Dollar Buyer		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Billion Buyer (N)		Shark Tank		Shark Tank	
CNN	OutFront		A. Cooper 360		A. Cooper 360		CNN Tonight		CNN Tonight		A. Cooper 360	
DISC	Moonshiners		Moonshiners (N)		Moonshiners (N)		Killing Fields (N)		Moonshiners		Killing Fields	
DISNEY	Underc.	Good Luck	StuckMid	GoodLuck	LivMad	LivMad	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Jessie	Jessie	Girl M	Friends
ESPN	NCAA Basketball Kentucky at Vanderbilt (L)				NCAA Basketball Indiana at Maryland (L)				SportsCenter			
ESPN2	NCAA Basketball Baylor at West Virginia (L)				NCAA Basketball Kansas at Oklahoma (L)				Basketb.	Drone Racing		Drone
FNC	On the Record		The Kelly File		Hannity				The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File	
FOOD	Chopped		Chopped Junior (N)		Chopped		Chopped (N)		Chopped		Chopped	
FREEFORM	(5:30) ★★★ Uncle Buck				★★★ Ferris Bueller's Day Off		Matthew Broderick.		The 700 Club		Gilmore Girls	
FSSW	Inside Big East (N)	SportsDay OnAir	Champio. "Football: 4A, 5A and 6A"		Stars Insider	Stars Pregame (L)	NHL Hockey Dallas Stars at Anaheim Ducks Site: Honda Center -- Anaheim, Calif. (L)					Stars Live (L)
FX	(5:00) ★ Colombiana		★★ Lucy ('14, Act) Scarlett Johansson.				Taboo "Episode 1" (P) (N)			Taboo "Episode 1"		Taboo
HALLMARK	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls
HGTV	Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper (N)		H.Hunt	House (N)	Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper	
HISTORY	Curse of Oak Island		Oak Island (N)		Curse Oak Island (N)		(:05) Forged Fire (N)		(:05) Oak Island		(:05) Oak Island	
LIFETIME	Dance Moms "New Kid on the Block"		Dance Chat "No Clowning Around" (N)		Dance Moms "The Fresno Curse" (N)		Celebrity Wife Swap		Celebrity Wife Swap		Celebrity Wife Swap	Dance Moms: Chat "No Clowning Around"
MSNBC	Hardball		All In With C. Hayes		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word		11thHour	Hardball		Rachel Maddow
NBCSN	NHL Live! (L)		NHL Hockey Boston Bruins at St. Louis Blues (L)					(:45) NHL	Overtime (L)	Rivals		Poker After Dark
NICK	Paradise	Thunder	Thunder	GShakers	F.House	F.House	F.House	F.House	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
SPIKE	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Campus	Campus	Cops	Cops	Campus	Campus	Cops	Cops
SYFY	(4:30) ★★★ Blade		★★ The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian Ben Barnes.								★★ I, Frankenstein Yvonne Strahovski.	
TBS	Sein. "The Contest"	Seinf. "The Airport"	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Conan (N)		Full Frontal	Conan
TCM	★ Hollywood My ...		★★★ Papillon ('73, Adv) Steve McQueen.						(:45) ★★★ Escape From Alcatraz Clint Eastwood.			
TELE	Caso cerrado		Silvana Sin Lana		La Doña		El Chema		Al rojo	(:35) Titular.	La Doña	
TLC	Little People "Are You Dating?" (N)		People "Life's About To Change ..." (N)		OutDaughtered (N)		Kate Plus Eight "Game Night" (N)		OutDaughtered "A Thanksgiving Miracle"		Kate Plus Eight "Game Night"	
TNT	(5:00) ★★ Divergent ('14, Action) Kate Winslet, Miles Teller, Shailene Woodley.				Good Behavior "All the Things"		(:55) Good Behavior	(:55) The Last Ship "It's Not a Rumor"		(:55) The Last Ship "Solace"		
TVLAND	Griffith	(:35) Griffith	(:10) Griffith	(:50) Ray	(:25) Loves Ray		Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens
USA	NCIS "Psych Out"		WWE Smackdown! WWE superstars do battle in long-running rivalries.				Shooter "Ballistic Advantage" (N)		Incorporated "Sweating the Assets"		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Alternate"	
WGN	★★★ Pretty Woman A wealthy businessman hires a free-spirited call girl to be his companion for a week.				★★★ Pretty Woman A wealthy businessman hires a free-spirited call girl to be his companion for a week.						Rules of Engage.	Rules "Fun Run"

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LINK

From 2B

found a strong association between college completion and the boomerang effect: Young adults who did not finish their degrees had at least a 40 percent higher risk of returning home than those who graduated, likely due to limited options to finding a job.

Corey Dowe, who graduated from Cornell University in 2015, has been living with her parents in Barrington, New Hampshire, for just under a year. She said she did not leave college with significant debt, but said it makes more sense for her to live with her parents as she completes an online master's degree program.

"They don't mind me being here, and I don't mind being here," said Dowe, 23. "I'm just trying to be smart with money right now, so it's somewhat money-oriented, but it's not because of debt."

But Mike Rocchio, also 23, said debt was a huge factor in his decision to live with his parents in Cranston, Rhode Island. He graduated from Quinnipiac University in 2015 with more than $150,000 in debt and works as a clinical research coordinator in Boston.

"It was pretty much a no-brainer," he said. "There was no way I was going to be able to make loan payments and afford rent on an apartment, especially in Boston."

Rocchio said he was surprised by the study's findings.

"In my close group of friends, with few exceptions, we all pretty much live at home," he said. "Out of six kids that I'm really close with, three of them live in an apartment together, and three of us live at home, and it really depends on loans. I know for the three of us who live at home, (our debt) was in the six figures."

The new study is among only a few that has examined the link between student debt and boomeranging. A 2015 report by the Federal Reserve Board used credit-report data to conclude that student debt is positively associated with boomeranging. The authors of that report did not respond to a request for comment Friday. Houle said that research was limited in that it only included young adults who had credit reports, and therefore didn't include those without debt, and used less precise methods of determining whether the subjects lived with their parents.

Houle's study used data from the National Longitudinal Study of Youth 1997 Cohort, a sample of 8,984 respondents across the country who were born between 1980 and 1984, and aside from two years, have been interviewed by the U.S. Department of Labor every year since 1997. For this study, the sample was restricted to the 5,025 who had attended college and had lived apart from their parents at some point. The authors acknowledge several limitations, including that there may be other differences between respondents with different debt amounts that may affect boomeranging.

GUEST VIEW

Why grade students if Texas campuses can't take the A-F heat?

Dallas Morning News

If assigning grades to students is a pillar of education, what's unfair about doing the same for Texas schools?

Educators reacted to Friday's release of tentative grades for their districts with even less enthusiasm than students show for summer homework. And with a lot more backtalk than they'd allow in their own classrooms.

Consider these words from DeSoto superintendent David Harris, whose district received two Fs and two Ds: "This continued attack on public schools, your DeSoto public schools, is an attack on the foundation of our country."

Similar apocalyptic responses will only grow louder as district leaders lobby the 85th Legislature, which will convene today, to kill the A-F grading system.

We do sympathize with the perspective of DeSoto's Harris and superintendents statewide that their campuses are under siege as a result of lawmakers' funding and school-choice priorities.

But running scared from an accountability system that's still evolving is no way to make a credible case or win support, especially as parents try to decide where their children will get the best education.

The Legislature approved the A-F system for districts and campuses in 2015. The model is intended to provide much-needed clarity and consistency in measuring and reporting school performance.

Our support for A-F largely rests on the many variables that the Texas Education Agency is baking into the plan. The five categories making up each campus and district grade take into account not just how many students pass STAAR, but also year-to-year growth and other measures.

Lawmakers gave the Texas Education Agency plenty of time to fine-tune the system, which won't officially begin until 2018. But opponents inserted a poison pill into the legislation, requiring a tentative mockup to be released this month.

Many school superintendents intend to paint these preliminary grades into the most nightmarish scenario possible in hopes of dumping the system before it even takes effect.

A more constructive

Please see GRADE/4B

Attention Readers
Unfortunately Bananagrams is no longer available for Newspaper publications. We apologize for an inconvenience this may have caused. We are in the process of searching for a new daily puzzle.
If you have any recommendations please contact Lori Diaz at 687-8865

Alan Youngblood/Star-Banner via AP

In this Dec. 15, 2016, photo, instructor David Kissel, right, and Trinity Catholic High School senior Clayton Wilson go over the checklist as they prepare for an afternoon instruction flight at Ocala Aviation at the Ocala International Airport in Ocala, Fla. Trinity Catholic students can get their private pilots license for a much cheaper cost through taking classes ground study classes through the high school and flight training through Ocala Aviation.

Students soar with aeronautics program

By Joe Callahan
Daytona Beach News-Journal

OCALA, Fla. — Alexandra Sexton had always dreamed of becoming a pediatric oncologist. But all that changed about a year ago when she was introduced to Ocala Trinity Catholic High School's Aerospace Career Academy.

Alexandra, an Irish-born 17-year-old who has lived in Marion County for most of her life, fell in love with aviation, thanks to academy instructor John Edsall, who also is an adjunct professor with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach.

"He lit the fire of aviation in me," said Alexandra, who now wants to be an airline pilot. "And I also thought about flying in the medical field (delivering supplies). I love helping people."

Alexandra is one step closer to realizing her dream. In November, she became the first student in the academy to get her pilot's license, an arduous process that took hours of classes, testing and, of course, flying.

It's been a year since the academy took flight at Trinity Catholic. Now there are 20 students taking aerospace courses and about 33 percent are currently taking flying lessons.

This month, the academy will add more unmanned flying instruction for students who want to make a career of flying in the ever-expanding drone markets, like in real estate or the military. One day soon, officials said, drones will require a traditional pilot's license once the drones are allowed to fly frequently in Federal Aviation Administration-regulated airspace.

Edsall said these joint educational ventures between high schools and Embry-Riddle are vital for the future of the commercial airline industry. With new guidelines that force pilots into retirement at age 65, coupled with a law that requires pilots to be U.S. citizens, there is a pilot crisis brewing around the country.

According to numerous studies that have been conducted during the past five years, the industry will need about 12,000 new pilots between 2017 and 2022 because of the forced retirement.

Edsal said that is why Embry-Riddle is expanding programs into high schools throughout the state. In 2004, there were only a handful of schools that offered aviation; today, Embry-Riddle has teamed with 77 schools and counting.

Trinity Catholic's president, David McKenzie, said Embry-Riddle pays about $100,000 annually to Trinity to run the program. That covers the instructor and other program costs.

The parents of each student who enrolls must pay $2,500, which is cheap considering it costs about $10,000 for student flying lessons. The remainder of the money is collected from donors through fundraisers by McKenzie and staff to keep the students airborne.

The academy started last January with two courses: pilot ground school and principles of aeronautical science. In August, the school beefed up the instruction to include unmanned flight.

Trinity Catholic students enrolled in the Aerospace Career Academy may receive up to 21 college credits, McKenzie said. All college credits earned through Embry-Riddle while at Trinity Catholic will be transferable to any college or university.

The new program has evolved quickly, considering the aerospace concept first lifted off the ground in June 2015.

Edsall, who taught at Francis Marion Military Academy until June 2014, had planned to launch the program at the military charter school. When that didn't work out, he spoke with the officials with the public school district and Trinity Catholic High about the need for such an academy locally.

"Trinity Catholic jumped on the idea," said Edsall in a previous interview, adding that students also can get industry certification in addition to college credits.

Edsall said any student who completes the Aerospace Career Academy program is guaranteed admission to Embry-Riddle following high school graduation, with an $8,000 scholarship.

Embry-Riddle's Aerospace and Engineering Program is the largest in the nation and is consistently ranked No. 1 in the country by U.S. News and World Report.

Very soon, Trinity Catholic High senior Clayton Wilson will take his final flying exam. Trinity uses Ocala Aviation Services, and owner Ron Towater agreed to charge cheaper rates.

Wilson, 17, said he plans to attend Mercer University in Macon, Georgia, to become a mechanical engineer. "I want to design drones," he said.

Distributed by Associated Press

Education nominee favors free-market approach

■ Billionaire Betsy DeVos also advocates public money for private religious schools

By Jeff Green
Bloomberg

New York had the Rockefeller oil fortune. Seattle has Bill Gates' Microsoft money. Grand Rapids, Michigan, has the DeVos Amway bonanza.

The DeVos family has given away $1 billion, and the Rust Belt city of 195,000 has benefited from tens of millions of dollars a year of their largess. This little-examined philanthropy holds a key to understanding Betsy DeVos, Donald Trump's billionaire nominee for secretary of education.

Her vision includes religious academies, charters schools with for-profit management companies, including fully online operators; and specialized public schools. The stated philosophy of Amway Corp., the multi-level marketing juggernaut based in a Grand Rapids suburb, could easily apply to her brand of public education: "Personal opportunity and economic opportunity go hand in hand."

DeVos marks a break with a bipartisan consensus, supported by other billionaires, especially Microsoft co-founder Gates. For years, while they have supported charter schools, especially in poor communities, these benefactors also have stressed accountability through testing and tying teacher pay to student performance.

By contrast, DeVos favors an approach that lets parents take public money through vouchers and spend it wherever they like — including at private, religious schools.

"What sets her apart is that she favors market solutions," said Robert Floden, dean of the Michigan State University College of Education.

DeVos' views will be on display this week in Washington, when the Senate has scheduled a hearing for Wednesday on her confirmation. Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York had identified her as among the eight "most troublesome" Trump cabinet choices.

Growing up in nearby Holland before settling down in Grand Rapids, Michigan's second-largest city, DeVos first found a way to adapt her conservative free-market politics and religion to the world of public education.

Take a tour of the institutions that educated her and you immediately find the powerful influence of religion. DeVos attended Holland Christian Schools, and she belongs to the Christian Reformed Church, a Calvinist denomination.

The nominee for education secretary graduated from Calvin College, a liberal arts institution in Grand Rapids that "prepares students to be Christ's agents in renewal in the world."

Not far away is The Potter's House private school, one of her favorite education charities. A "Christ-centered school, birthed in prayer and rooted in Scripture," it offers generous scholarships to poor students.

"She's always thinking about what is the best way to educate kids in the 21st century, and are we locked into models that have perhaps become somewhat outdated?" said John Booy, Potter's House superintendent.

DeVos herself represents the confluence of two Michigan fortunes. Through her father, she was heir to the Prince family's auto-parts empire. The father of her husband, Dick DeVos Jr., founded Amway, whose parent company is closely held Alticor Inc.

Through her network of nonprofits and political-action committees such as American Federation for Children and the Great Lakes Education Project, DeVos is pushing to direct public money into private religious schools like Potter's House. Since 1989, DeVos and her relatives have given at least $20.2 million to Republican candidates, party committees, political-action committees and super PACs, according to OpenSecrets.org, which tracks money in politics.

DeVos, a former chair of the Michigan Republican Party, declined an interview request. Her support for vouchers stems from one of her core beliefs.

"Let the education dollar follow each child, instead of forcing the child to follow the money," she said in a 2015 speech. "This is straightforward. And it's how you go from a closed system to an open system that encourages innovation."

In Michigan, she supported a ballot measure on vouchers that failed. She then funded successful efforts in states including Indiana, where most of the money goes to religious schools. President-elect Trump has proposed $20 billion in federal money for vouchers.

As a second choice, DeVos favors public schools operated by private organizations, or charter schools. The Lansing, Michigan-based Great Lakes Education Project — a combination of a political-action committee, lobbying group and nonprofit educational fund — pushed for a charter-school law that now gives the private organizations more freedom and less oversight than in most states.

In Grand Rapids, near the city's airport, her family founded its own charter school. Her husband, who loves airplanes, started West Michigan Aviation Academy, which offers student training on its pair of Cessna planes.

Full-size airplanes hang from the ceiling of the main school commons area, and a partially disassembled helicopter forms the centerpiece of a study area. Students not only learn to fly, they also build remote-control aircraft as well as robots. About a third of the students are in the pilot program.

As is typical at the state's charter schools, the nonprofit academy has a contract with a company called Michigan Educational Personnel Services, which provides administrative support. The state's charter law, as crafted by DeVos allies, has been among the most hospitable for for-profit companies. But Betsy DeVos's heart is clearly in vouchers.

"Charter schools take a while to start up and get operating," she said in a 2013 interview. "Meanwhile, there are very good nonpublic schools, hanging on by a shoestring, that can begin taking students today."

Chicago high school has Quiet Time to help reduce students' stress

By Patrick M. O'Connell
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — Teens shuffle into the classroom, backpacks slung over shoulders and earbuds dangling out of sweatshirts. Jokes among friends fly as the students plop into desks arranged neatly in rows.

The instructor in the green shirt jingles a small silver bell. The room grows still. Murmurs fade.

The polished wooden floorboards creak amid the pressure of shuffling feet. A portable fan whirs. Then the room turns quiet.

For the next 20 minutes, there is no lesson, no talking, no laughing, none of the bustling sounds of a high school classroom on a weekday morning.

The boys and girls close their eyes and allow their bodies to relax. Some rest their heads on the palms of their hands. Most close their eyes.

These Gage Park High School students are participating in Quiet Time, a transcendental meditation program that aims to help them with the stress and pressures of life inside and outside the brick walls of the Southwest Side school.

This happens twice a day. Every school day.

The program is run by the David Lynch Foundation, a nonprofit organization co-founded by the movie director, and is being studied for its effectiveness by the University of Chicago Crime Lab. Researchers are examining whether the meditation program offers tangible benefits for teens at a school where 98.3 percent of students are considered low-income.

"In their neighborhood, they are fighting to survive, literally," said Jose Morales, who teaches English as a second language. "And they need an alternative to the violence."

Quiet Time was one of three programs — out of 200 applications — selected by the Crime Lab when it asked for proposals to help address youth violence in the city. The Crime Lab awarded a $300,000 grant to the foundation to launch the program in Chicago Public Schools because of its goal to address the effects of toxic stress on young people. Quiet Time also has been implemented in San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York City.

The Crime Lab believed the program showed promise because of its demonstrated success in the other cities, executive director Roseanna Ander said, and it was helpful that it was cost-effective to launch and had the ability to be rigorously evaluated.

"It helps you to slow your mind," said James, 17, a senior at Gage Park. The Tribune agreed not to publish students' last names at the school's request.

"It helps you to slow down and focus."

Before taking part in the Quiet Time program, James said he was quick to anger and often was arguing and fighting. Now, James said, he is calmer and thinks about how to react when someone says something objectionable or he finds himself in a stressful interaction.

"I feel it can help people in school and out of school and with everything you do in life," James said after a restful meditation session.

Initially, James thought the program was going to be an opportunity to nap, but after learning how it worked, he gave it a try and was surprised at what he found. James has even had friends who do not attend Gage Park ask him about meditation, and he's trumpeted its benefits.

In addition to Gage Park, Quiet Time has been rolled out at Daniel Hale Williams Preparatory School and Bowen High School. The meditation program is voluntary. In order to study its effects, students at the beginning of the school year were randomly selected for the program, while others participate in a general quiet period that serves as a control group. At Gage Park, the entire school goes quiet at the same time twice daily, even though only about half the students are meditating.

Staffers with the foundation teach the students the basics of transcendental meditation at the start of the semester, learning how to focus on a phrase or mantra that allows them to rest their minds. While students meditate, there is no music or background sound, and no chanting, singing or specific instruction. Students attempt to clear their minds and let stress fade away. The meditation, the foundation says, does not involve any religious or philosophical component and is taught to students by certified instructors.

Bob Roth, chief executive officer of the foundation, said transcendental meditation is a state of "restful alertness." It helps kids relax and aids in learning readiness, he said.

"You just can't keep jamming more facts and figures into a kid's brain," Roth said. "The message to the child is 'quiet is important.' ... Quiet Time gives the child a tool, a technique that's very simple," Roth said. "The stakes are very high. We're in danger of losing an entire generation of kids because of the stress."

U. of C. researchers are studying the effects of the meditation program by observing in the classroom and analyzing data from CPS and the Chicago Police Department. Researchers will collect grades, test scores, attendance records and disciplinary records, including in-school infractions and out-of-school arrests, or whether students were victims of crimes.

GRADE

From 3B

approach would be to help legislators look carefully into what methodology improvements can be made to the grading model they wrote into law. There are reasonable questions to ask, such as whether they inadvertently weighted absenteeism in elementary and middle school too heavily by not providing more options for measurement.

Most important, how about if everyone in this discussion remembers what's most important: improving academic outcomes for kids.

That's why we're listening for school leaders who don't recite a litany of broad-brush excuses about the A-F system but rather analyze the results and use them to drive better performance.

The morale issue inherent in these campus grades —especially among hard-working teachers — is a legitimate one. That's another place where this newspaper can help, with regular reminders that A-F is not about stigmatizing schools but about creating better-educated students.

After all, that's what grades are supposed to be about. A quality school gives students the scores they deserve; if that's, say, a D in math, the accompanying message is, "You aren't there yet. But staff will help get you there."

Many campuses aren't there yet either. And sugar-coating that message is just as damaging for schools as it is for students. If district leaders can't embrace a growth mindset for their schools, how do they expect academic growth for their students?

HB 2804, from the 2015 legislative session, mandates that the Texas Education Agency create a grading model like this:

Three STAAR-based categories: How many students passed, year-to-year student growth and the closing of performance gaps. Results count toward 55 percent of overall grade.

Post-secondary readiness: This category includes graduation and dropout rates and attendance; 35 percent of overall grade.

Local districts' self-grading: Indicators, such as survey results, chosen by each district; 10 percent of overall grade.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

TODAY: Sunny	WEDNESDAY: Mostly sunny	THURSDAY: Mostly sunny	FRIDAY: Mostly cloudy	SATURDAY: Cloudy	SUNDAY: Partly sunny
High: 77 Low: 45	High: 78 Low: 48	High: 76 Low: 52	High: 56 Low: 37	High: 47 Low: 35	High: 49 Low: 33

Local forecast

The National Weather Service expects another warmer-than-average day to follow the record-tying day Monday. More warmer weather is expected before cooler and wetter weather hits this weekend. The NWS is calling for a chance of showers Friday through Sunday.

The record high for Jan. 9 is 80, set in 2009 and equaled in 2017. The record low is 7, set in 1967. On Jan. 9 of last year, the high was 46 and the low was 31.

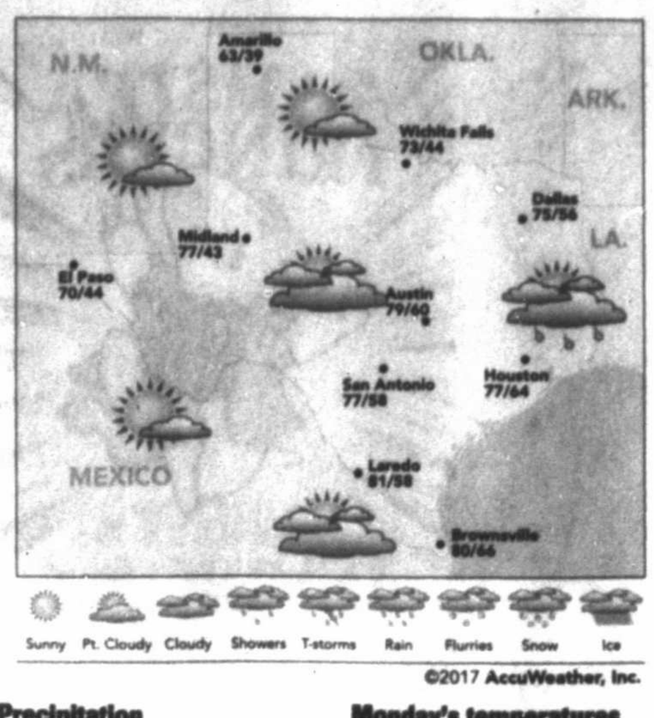
Weather brief

SERBIA

Emergency measures taken to battle snow, cold

BELGRADE — Serbian authorities have declared emergency measures in nine municipalities in central and southern parts of the country as fresh snow and extremely low temperatures that have blocked roads and cut off villages.

Emergency officials said Monday that more than 120 people and 70 vehicles have been evacuated overnight in the hardest-hit south of the country.



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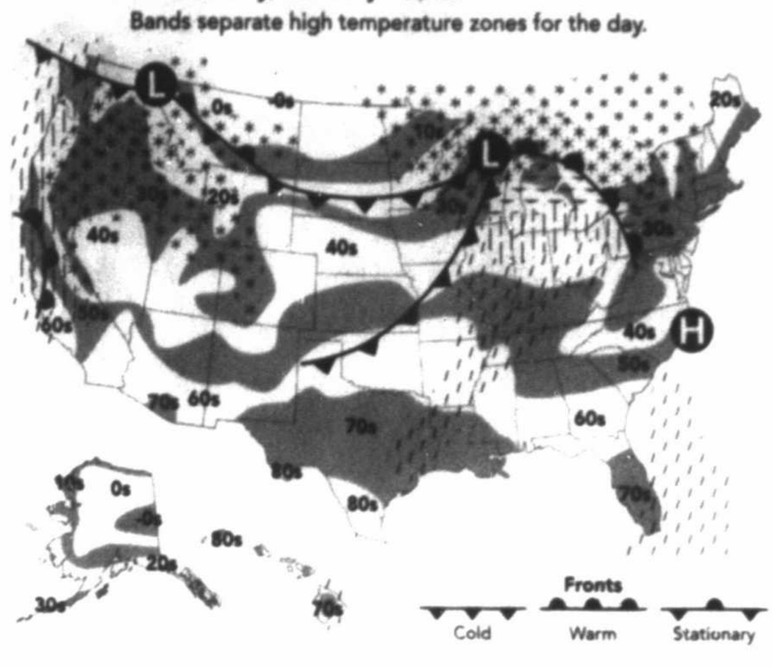
Precipitation		Monday's temperatures	
Sunday	0.00 in.	High	80
Monday	0.00 in.	Low	34
Month total	0.08 in.	Normal high	57
Year total	0.08 in.	Normal low	30
Normal total (year to date)	0.13 in.	Sunrise	7:50 a.m.
		Sunset	6:03 p.m.

National weather

AccuWeather.com

Forecast for Tuesday, January 10, 2017

Bands separate high temperature zones for the day.



Ex-husband who drives drunk should be taken off the road

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: A few months ago I left my husband after a long marriage, mostly due to his drinking. He often insisted on getting behind the wheel while drunk, and I was uncomfortable about it, although I repeatedly begged him not to do it.

Since our split, he has been drinking much later at his favorite bar. Where he used to come home about 8, he now stays until 10 or 11. He recently had an accident on his way home from the bar, but managed to get away before the police arrived.

Part of me wants to contact the police and report it because I would feel horrible if he hurt someone and I had done nothing to stop it. I admit there are also selfish reasons I'd like to see him picked up. My concern is that he'll find out I turned him in. Any suggestion on what to do? — NERVOUS IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR NERVOUS: Your husband is a menace on the road, and unless something is done to stop him, he may kill somebody. I say this not only because it is common sense, but also because the daughter-in-law of a friend of mine was the victim in a terrible accident caused by a man who was blind drunk. She was the only survivor; two others died. Her injuries are extensive and traumatic, and it may take years for her to fully recover.

So, please, put aside your personal issues. For the safety of the community, turn him in. If his car was damaged, you would not be the only person who is aware of it.

DEAR ABBY: "Kirk" and I have been together for 10 years, married for five. We're nearing our 30s, and the idea of a child has come up. While I have never had any desire for children, I'm becoming more open to the idea. My parents divorced when I was young, so I have a fear of being a single mom. Kirk grew up never knowing his father, so he has always wanted to take on that role.

Kirk is a wonderful, loving husband, but when he's tired, he doesn't always handle things well. We have two dogs, and when they bother Kirk during the night or when he wants to be left alone, he gets frustrated. I'm wondering if this is an example of how he would be if we were to have a baby.

I have discussed my concerns with him; he says it would be different because it would involve a child, not a pet. I love my dogs dearly and feel they should have their needs met as children do, no matter the circumstances. Is it possible that Kirk will be different with our child, or is this how he'll react when he's disturbed in the middle of the night? — LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

DEAR LOOKING: That depends upon how Kirk reacts when he becomes "frustrated." Most adults are mature and rational enough to differentiate between an animal's need for attention and a small child's, and react appropriately.

However, since you are approaching this rationally in advance of becoming pregnant, it might quiet your fears if you and Kirk were to join some parenting classes together. Your OB/GYN might be able to tell you where to locate one. Or go online and do a web search on parenting classes in your area.

GOREN BRIDGE

With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

The late great

East-West vulnerable, South deals

NORTH
♠ K Q 2
♡ Void
◇ 10 8 5 3
♣ K J 6 5 3 2

WEST
♠ A 8 4
♡ A J 9 8 7 3 2
◇ Void
♣ 10 8 4

EAST
♠ 9 7 3
♡ Q 10 5
◇ Q J 9 6
♣ Q 9 7

SOUTH
♠ J 10 6 5
♡ K 6 4
◇ A K 7 4 2
♣ A

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♡	2♡	4♡	Dbl
4♠	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♢	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All pass			

Opening lead: Ace of ♠

Today's deal is from a Far East Championship back in the '60s. South was legendary Australian expert, the late Tim Seres. This is the auction we were given. Should it be mysterious to you, we understand, but there is no one left to ask about it. Let's just assume that bidding was different 50 years ago in the Far East.

West switched to a club at trick two, won by Seres with the ace perforce South led the two of diamonds to the eight and East's nine. Seres ruffed the heart shift in dummy and led the 10 of diamonds to the queen and ace. A spade to the queen was followed by the king of clubs and a club ruff, leaving this position:

NORTH
♠ K
♡ Void
◇ 5
♣ J 6 5

WEST
♠ 8
♡ A J 9 8
◇ Void
♣ Void

EAST
♠ 9
♡ Q 5
◇ J 6
♣ Void

SOUTH
♠ J 10
♡ K
◇ K 7
♣ Void

Seres ruffed the king of hearts in dummy and led the jack of clubs. East was helpless. Should he ruff, Seres would overruff, draw the last trump, and return to dummy with a spade. Should he discard, Seres would discard also. Another gem from a master!

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Doofus
5 Dodge Aries and Plymouth Reliant
10 Smack on the mouth
14 Letter-shaped support piece
15 "For real!"
16 Pop singer Brickell
17 Dice roller's exhortation
19 Scrabble piece
20 TV preview
21 Taken as a whole
23 Satchel feature
26 Marganta glass nm coating
27 Curved sword
30 Application info Abbr.
32 Pool measure
35 What soccer shootouts resolve
36 Peaceful state
38 P-like Greek letter
39 Actress Thurman
40 Actor with near-synonymous first and last names
41 Museum hanging
42 Amount after costs
43 Suitcase attachments
44 Yuletide
45 Not so hot?
47 __ Lanka
48 Swollen
49 Upper, in Ulm
51 Male voice range
53 "Toodle-oo!"
56 Evaluate for tax purposes
60 Wee bit
61 Cause trouble ... and a hint to this puzzle's circled letters
64 Time in office
65 Emulate Vesuvius
66 Scarlet letter of fiction
67 Slow Churned ice cream brand
68 Hagar of Van Halen
69 Wine bottle number

DOWN

1 Random House vol.
2 Woodwind instrument
3 Dalai __
4 Locks on heads
5 Soup mix brand
6 "Blue Bloods" extra
7 Pie-mode connection
8 TV host Kelly
9 Applies weatherstripping to
10 Stovetop whistler
11 Pretty darn simple
12 Housecat's perch
13 Watermelon eater's discard
18 Four: Pref.
22 Saddled (with)
24 People with skill
25 Toaster snack
27 Publicity ploy
28 Evangelist __ Semple McPherson
29 Verses by Allen Ginsberg, e.g.
31 Shake it on the dance floor
33 Burglar
34 "Deck the Halls" greenery
36 Free (of)
37 Yearbook gp.
40 One on horseback
44 Room with a crib
46 Steel girders
48 Luxurious
50 Greets the judge
52 Well-dressed
53 Mention in a footnote
54 Broke up some clods
55 Senorita's "other"
57 Weapon with a tip guard
58 Scotch go-with
59 Walk of Fame figure
62 Periodic table suffix
63 Turntable no

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

C	A	B	S			R	A	F	T	S		C	O	M	B
A	L	L	Y			A	T	R	I	A		I	S	E	E
L	E	A	R			D	E	A	L	W	I	T	H		T
M	U	S	I	C	I	A	N			T	E	A	R	S	
S	T	E	A	L	A	S	C	E	N	E					
				A	L	E		Y	A	M	A	H	A	S	
M	O	L	E	S			H	E	M		V	I	C	E	
S	H	O	P	P	E	R	S	D	E	L	I	G	H	T	
G	O	B	I		C	O	T			A	S	H	E	S	
T	H	E	C	A	R	S		H	I	T					
				B	U	Y	S	O	M	E	T	I	M	E	
A	C	T	O	R			I	N	F	R	A	R	E	D	
B	A	R	G	A	I	N	F	O	R		S	A	T	E	
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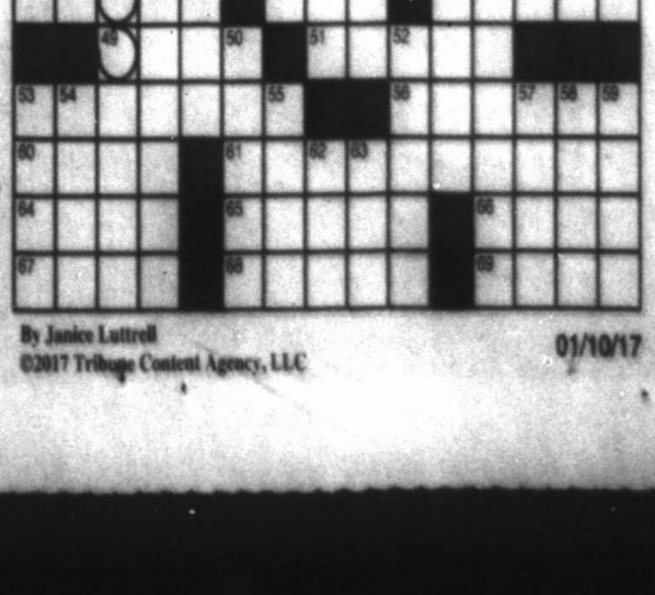
xwordeditor@aol.com 01/10/17



By Janice Luttrell
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01/10/17

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 Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2017:

This year you are either plugged into work or lobbying to have your way. You have the ability to float from topic to topic with ease. You also love diversity and change. You note that your flexibility is needed on the homefront, where there could be several disruptions. If you are single, your romantic life becomes far more exciting after summer 2017. Someone quite engaging is likely to enter your life at that time. If you are attached, the two of you are in a period of readjustment. Try not to lose your focus on what is necessary. CANCER often seems very needy.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★ You will be on top of your game early in the day. You'll clear out a lot of work and responsibilities. You might slow down by the end of the day, as fatigue seems to follow your whirlwind act. Postpone important communication, if need be. Tonight: Make it early.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★ Do your best with a money agreement. Make the most of what is happening between you and someone else. Try to get past the cold chill that exists between you. You could be surprised by the perspective you gain as a result. Tonight: Catch up on news and recent events.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★ Use the daylight hours to the max, even if you feel as if you would like to do something else. Understand what is happening with a difficult person rather than take his or her behavior personally. It is not worth the stress or the time. Tonight: Treat a loved one to dinner.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★ You might be slow to start, much like the tortoise, but you will finish first. At the last minute, you'll be full of energy and hit a homerun. Perhaps others had not anticipated to encounter this much energy. In fact, you'll even surprise yourself. Tonight: Easy does it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★ Listen to news more openly. You could be amazed by all the different ideas, responses and thoughts you hear in reference to what seems to be happening around you. You might decide to take a step back and do some thinking before making a final decision. Tonight: All by yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★ Express your feelings about a project that has saturated your life. Know when it is time to say "enough is enough!" You could be full of fun ideas. Be as direct as possible with a group of friends. Discussions could become manipulative with one specific person. Tonight: Join friends.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ Reach out to a loved one at a distance who is always full of valuable feedback. The unexpected marks your relationships. You know that others are not being their rational selves. Go with the flow, and you'll be pleased with the results. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★ Listen to a partner or dear friend with whom you have a very special relationship. This person knows how to rain on your parade. Go with the moment, but expect some strong reactions. If you can relax, do. Stay more centered. Tonight: Read between the lines.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★ Confusion runs through your day. Others seem to seek you out to ask you a question, invite you to dinner with them, etc. You might want to stop and consider what you want to do before you say "yes." Stay focused on your decision. Tonight: Out with a favorite person.

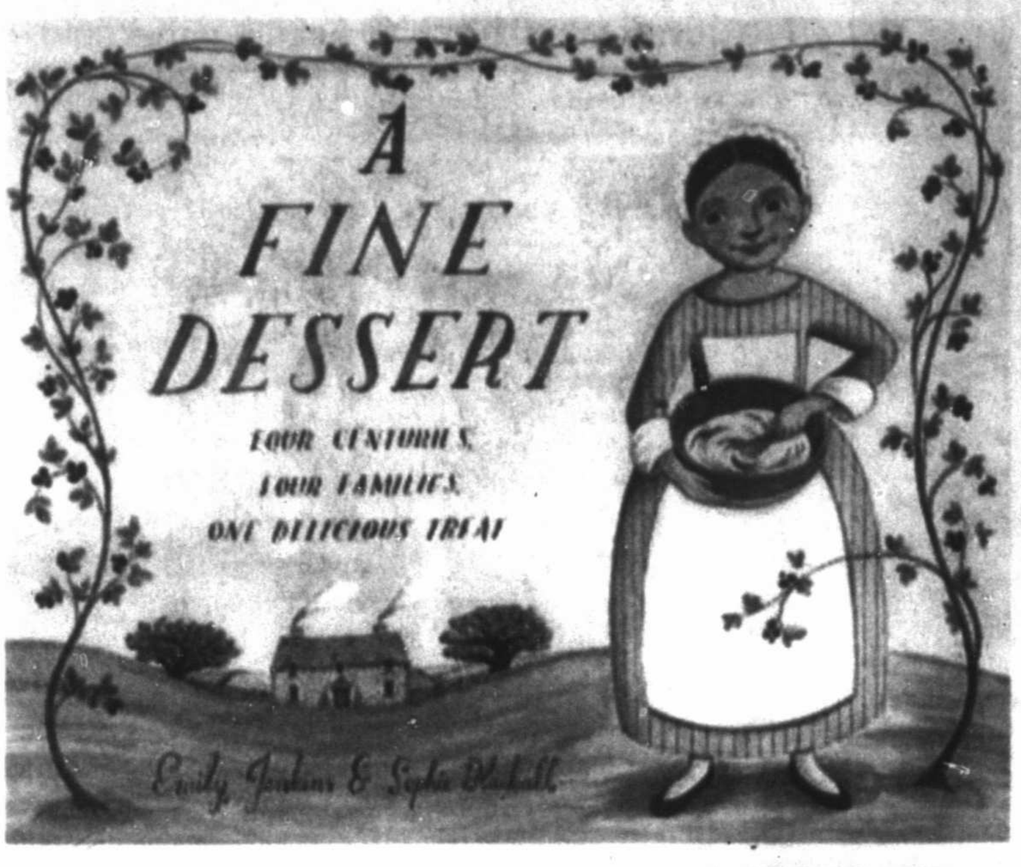
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★ You have the ability to read between the lines. How you visualize a creative endeavor could make all the difference in how you handle a problematic situation. Others are likely to become intrigued and excited about what they hear. Tonight: A must appearance.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★ You have a greater need for excitement than many others. Your tone and mood could change throughout the day. Handle a person who acts spontaneously with care. Communication soars between you, giving you a window into his or her personality. Tonight: Your treat.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★ A domestic matter could weigh heavily on your soul. There could be a push and pull between two areas of your life. You might dispel some of this energy on a spending spree. Be careful, as you could inflict damages on yourself as a result. Tonight: Use your imagination.

BORN TODAY

Singer/songwriter Pat Benatar (1953), singer/songwriter Rod Stewart (1945), boxer George Foreman (1949)



County libraries to serve as Texas Bluebonnet Award polling place

From staff reports

For the first time, Midland County Public Library branches are serving as polling places for the Texas Bluebonnet Award, which is presented annually in children's literature.

"Some MISD elementary school libraries serve as polling places, as well," said Edward McPherson, education and program coordinator for MCPL, in an email. "We're excited to be focused on expanding the number and availability of polling places for local families."

Voting is open to third- through sixth-graders who have read or listened to at least five of the 20 titles on the Texas Bluebonnet Award Master List, according to a press release from the MCPL. More than 100,000 students vote, and the title with the most votes will be the winner.

In conjunction with the "election," the library's Centennial branch is hosting Bluebonnet Brunch 10:30 a.m.-noon Jan. 28. It is open to students and their families, as well as the general public, McPherson said.

The event and balloting is an opportunity to show children the importance of reading, according to library director John Trischitti III.

"Many children lack the basic, or functional, reading skills needed to read the menu at their favorite restaurant," he said in the press release. "If kids are behind reading level in fourth grade, 78 percent of them will never catch up. Our incredible library staff continually strive to support the school district's efforts by helping to remind students and parents that reading is cool.

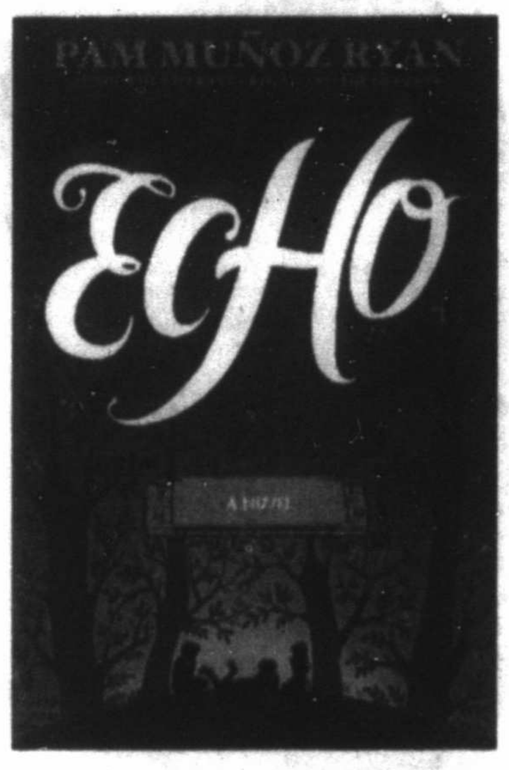
"The libraries' first ever Bluebonnet Brunch is geared toward bringing families together to celebrate the power of reading, voting, and their importance to our country and its future," he said.

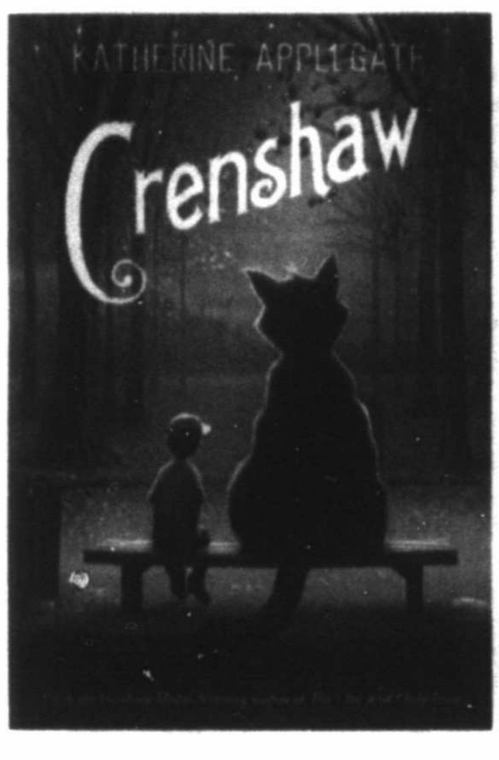
McPherson said the library's staff hopes the Bluebonnet Brunch can become "an annual event that celebrates reading, literacy, parental involvement, and our community's commitment to a culture that acknowledges and values the power of education to change lives."

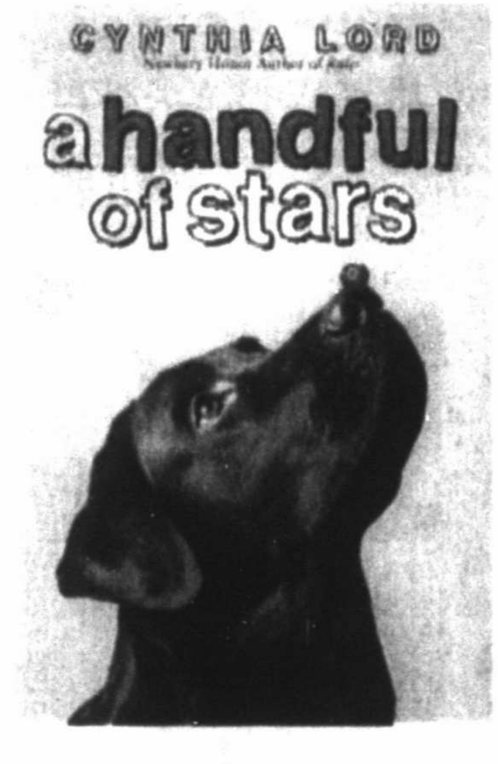
Voting for the Texas Bluebonnet Award is taking place in the children's department of both branches through Jan. 31. Library hours are 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The downtown branch is at 301 W. Missouri Ave.; the Centennial branch is at 2503 W. Loop 250 N.

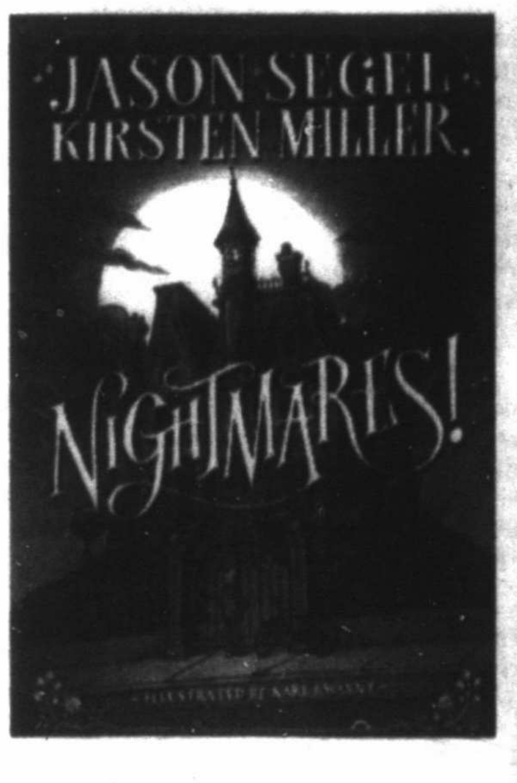
Texas Bluebonnet Award books for 2016-17

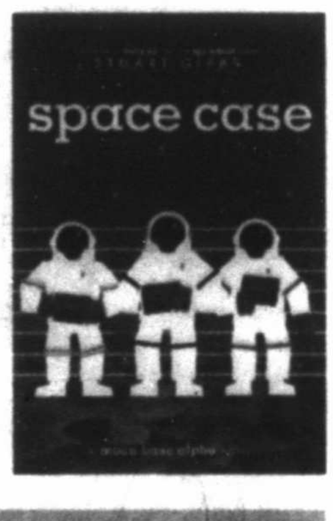
- "The Amazing Age of John Roy Lynch" by Chris Barton, illustrated by Don Tate
- "The Chicken Squad" by Doreen Cronin, illustrated by Kevin Cornell
- "Circus Mirandus" by Cassie Beasley
- "Crenshaw" by Katherine Applegate
- "Echo" by Pam Nunoz Ryan
- "A Fine Dessert" by Emily Jenkins, illustrated by Sophie Blackall
- "The Fog Diver" by Joel N. Ross
- "Hamster Princess: Harriet the Invincible" by Ursula Vernon
- "A Handful of Stars" by Cynthia Lord
- "Hiawatha and the Peacemaker" by Robbie Robertson, illustrated by David Shannon
- "Lowriders in Space" by Cathy Camper
- "Mesmerized: How Ben Franklin Solved a Mystery that Baffled All of France" by Mara Rockliff, illustrated by Iacopo Bruno
- "Nightmares!" by Jason Segel and Kirsten Miller, illustrated by Karl Kwasny
- "Poems in the Attic" by Nikki Grimes, illustrated by Elizabeth Zunon
- "Ratscalibur" by Josh Lieb, illustrated by Tom Lintern
- "Roller Girl. Dial" by Victoria Jamieson
- "Space Case" by Stuart Gibbs
- "The Terrible Two" by Mac Barnett and Jory John, illustrated by Kevin Cornell
- "Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer" by Kelly Jones, illustrated by Katie Kath
- "Woof" by Spencer Quinn

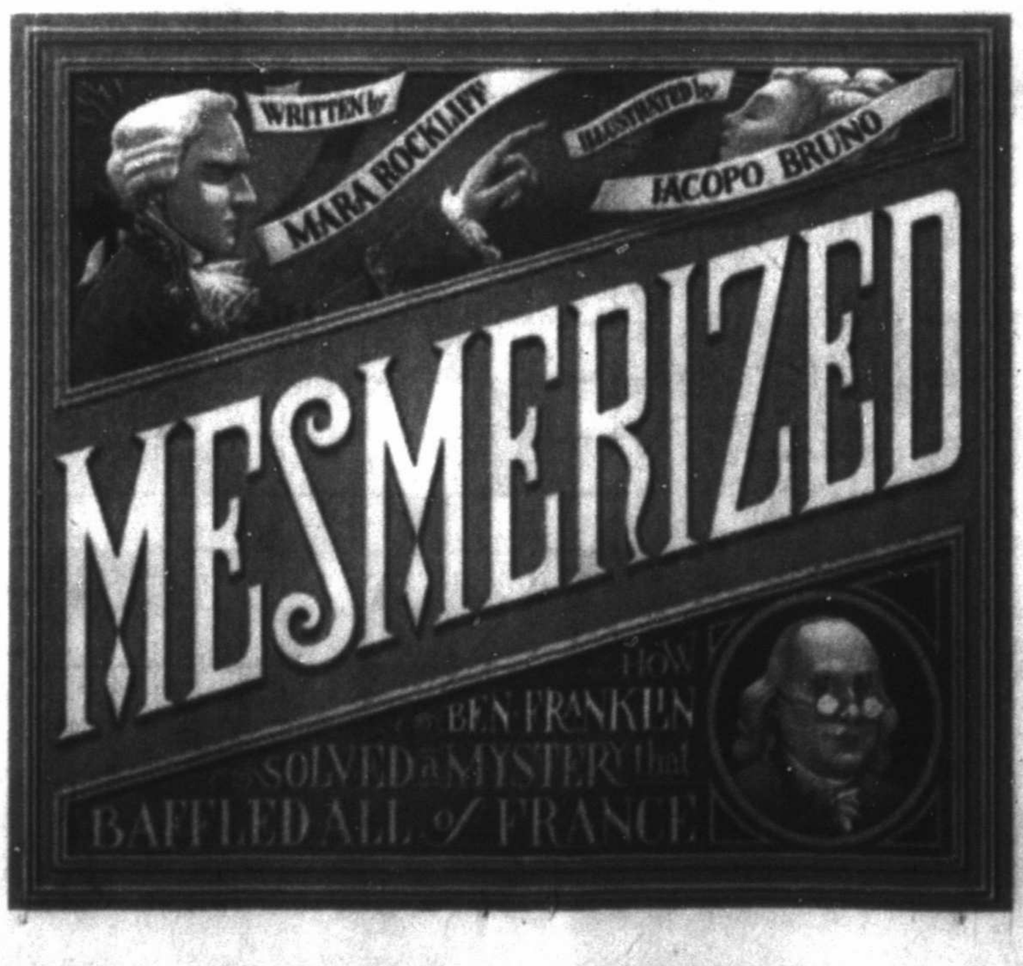


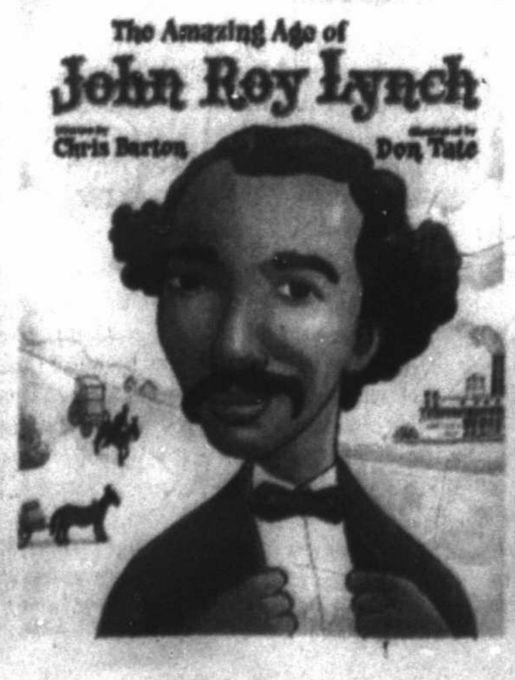


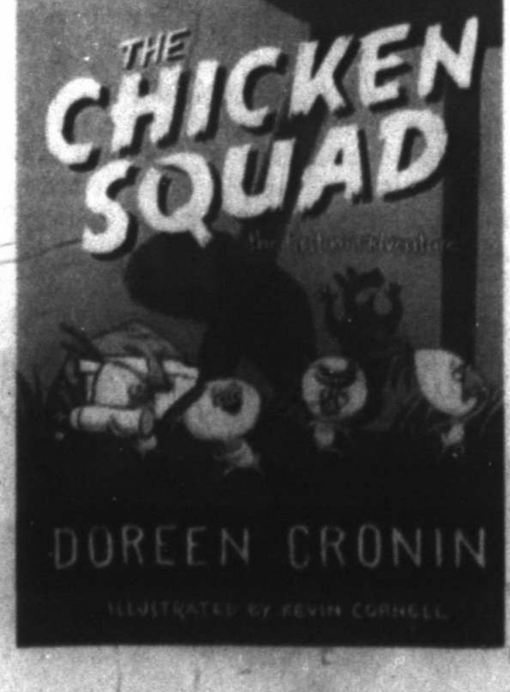












Clemson beats 'Bama for national championship

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — In a sequel as thrilling as the original, Clemson defeated Alabama 35-31 to win its first college football title in 35 years.

Deshaun Watson's 2-yard touchdown pass to Hunter Renfrow with 1 second remaining gave Clemson a wild 35-31 win over Alabama in the College Football Playoff national championship game.

Watson completed 36 of 56 passes for 420 yards and three scores in his last college game, as the Tigers (14-1) got their first national title since 1981.

Renfrow caught two scoring passes for Clemson, which rallied from a 14-0 deficit and snapped Alabama's 26-game winning streak.

Bo Scarbrough ran for two touchdowns for Alabama (14-1), which failed in its quest to be the first 15-win major college team since Penn in 1897. Scarbrough left the game with a leg injury in the second half.

Alabama beat Clemson 45-40 last season in the title game. This sequel was as thrilling as the original.

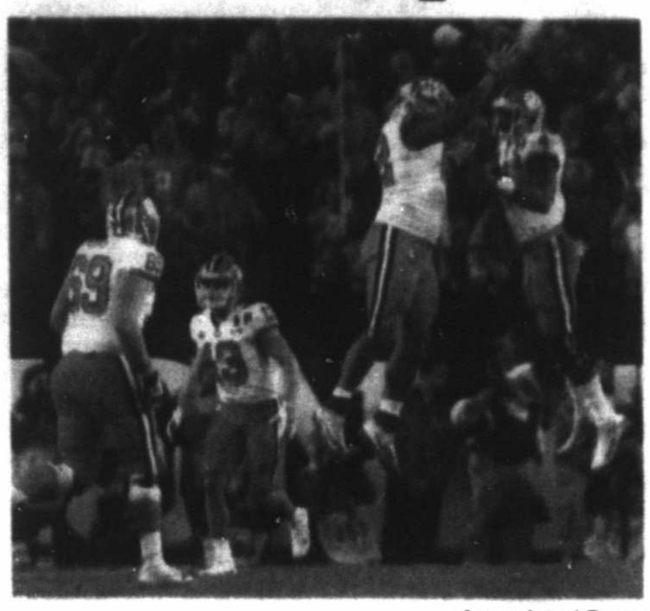
Clemson put up 511 yards on Alabama's defense, held the ball for nearly 35 minutes and scored three touchdowns in the fourth quarter. Clemson then recovered an onside kick, and fittingly that gave Watson a chance to kneel down for the game's final play — then streamed onto the field in celebration.

Prior to Watson's game-winning TD pass, Jalen Hurts' 30-yard touchdown run with 2:07 left pushed Alabama to a 31-28 lead.

And it came with the Tide's title hopes essentially down to one play moments earlier.

Damien Harris delivered a 5-yard run on fourth-and-2 with 3 minutes left to keep the drive going. Then a backward pass — Hurts to ArDarius Stewart, who then threw it to O.J. Howard, got Alabama down to the 30.

Hurts did the rest, coming through with the TD run to put the Tide back on top after it led for almost the entire game.

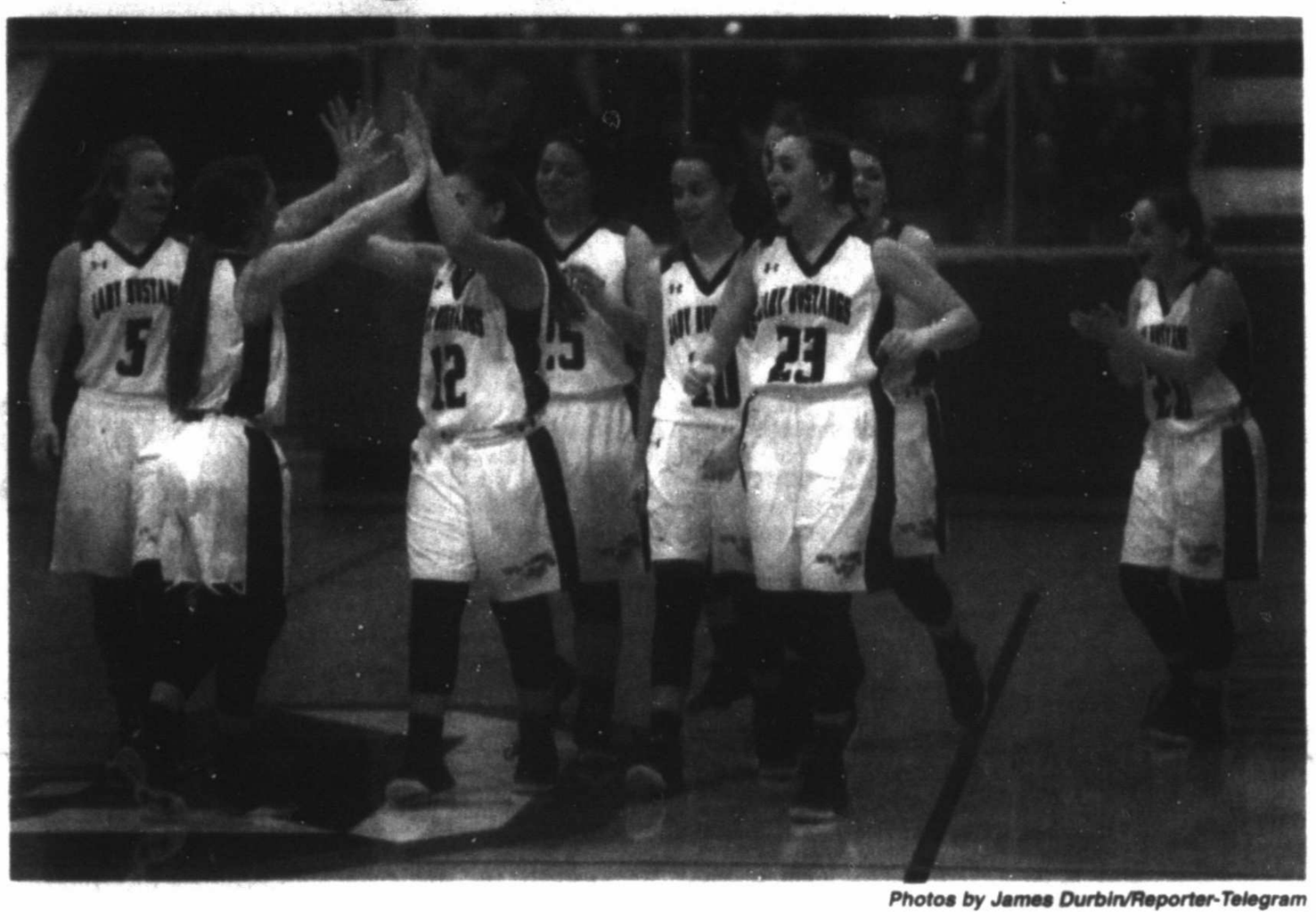


Clemson's Deshaun Watson celebrates a touchdown with teammate Christian Wilkins (42) during the second half of the college football playoff championship game against Alabama on Tuesday in Tampa, Fla.

Associated Press

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL NOTEBOOK

Moving up in the world

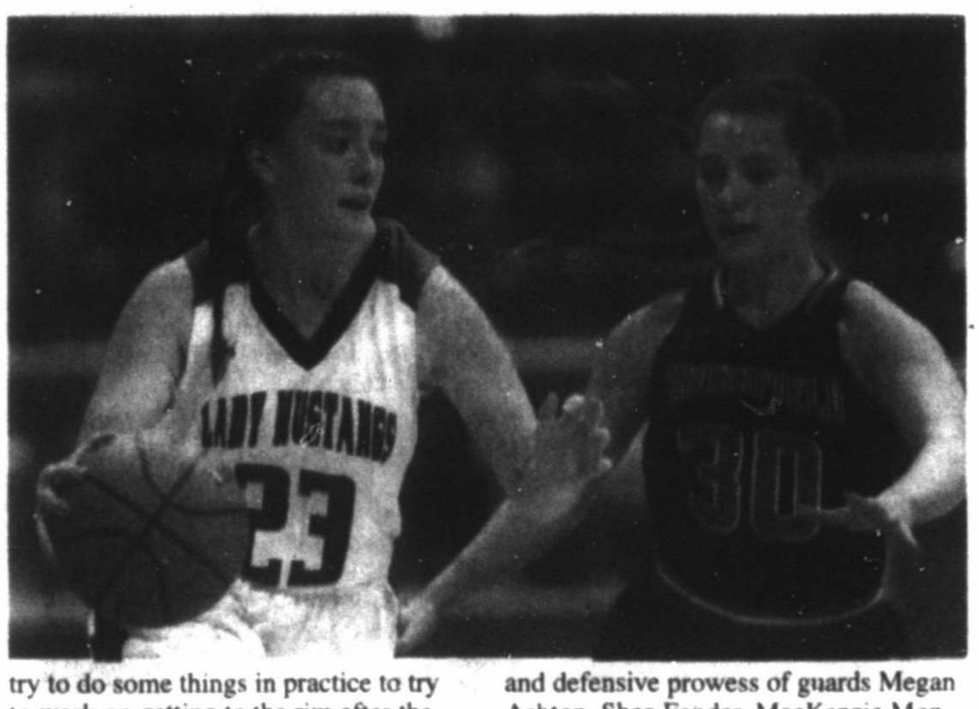


Photos by James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

TOP: Midland Christian girls basketball players celebrate a win against Brownfield on Dec. 16, 2016, at McGraw Event Center. **BELOW:** Midland Christian's Blaire Neatherlin (23) moves the ball against Brownfield's Jasmine Fields (30).

MCS rides winning streak to TABC ranking

By Christopher Hadorn
chadorn@mrt.com



There might not be a girls basketball team in the area playing better than Midland Christian right now.

The Lady Mustangs (20-3) are currently riding an 11-game winning streak since their last loss against Odessa High on Dec. 3.

Last Friday, MCS had a splendid showing in its TAPPS 1-5A opener as it rolled to a 75-16 win over Fort Worth Southwest Christian at McGraw Event Center.

The coaches around the state are taking notice as Midland Christian has garnered a No. 4 ranking in the TABC TAPPS 5A poll.

"That's a credit to the kids," Lady Mustangs head coach Amy Daniels said of the state ranking. "It's good for them, but we try not to get caught up in it too much because you have to earn it every time. If you got points for rating, I guess that would be different, but I'm proud of the kids to see that. It's a compliment to their success to what they're doing on the floor."

MCS isn't flushed with height or size, but Daniels has been proud of the way her team has crashed the boards and controlled the glass this season.

"They get in good position, they want to try to get the ball," Daniels said. "We try to do some things in practice to try to work on getting to the rim after the shot and anticipating that free throw. So much about rebounding is position and heart. Our kids do a really good job of that."

In addition to rebounding, Daniels lauded her team's speed for its success in creating turnovers and converting them into points in transition.

Since the start of the season, Daniels has praised the athleticism, quickness and defensive prowess of guards Megan Ashton, Shea Fender, MacKenzie Mondragon and Anaiz Galindo.

Even Blaire Neatherlin, the Lady Mustangs' standout post, has a knack for creating steals with her ability to close passing lanes with her quick hands and anticipation.

"We are using our athletic ability really well," Daniels said. "We've got

Please see **MCS**/3C

Chaps roll past Ranger behind 2nd half surge

By Oscar LeRoy
oleroy@mrt.com

The Ranger College men's basketball team felt pretty good at the half against Midland College on Monday afternoon.

The Rangers took a 30-29 lead at the half at Chaparral Center on a thunderous dunk by Devonte Patterson and they had a spring in their step while walking back to their locker room.

Then the second half started.

The Chaparrals came out with a little fire as they went on a 22-4 run to pull away from Ranger for an 84-65 nonconference win.

Whatever was said by head coach Jordan Dreiling in the locker room seemed to work its magic as the Chaps (10-6) were a different team after halftime, shooting 65.6 percent in the second half.

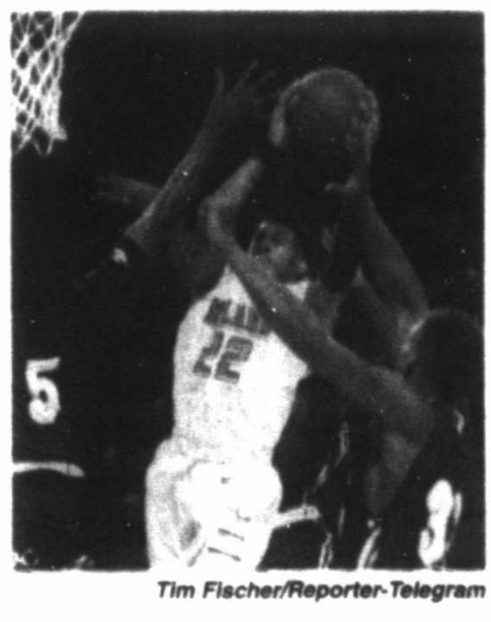
"It was a grind in the first half," Dreiling said. "It was a possession game and it was two teams playing very hard but not very crisp. Then we finally got a little space, got a lead and took advantage of it."

MC also showed great energy on both ends of the floor and showed for the second day in a row that the holiday break did not make them rusty.

"I was proud of them because they kept their focus," Dreiling said. "We've struggled with losing focus at halftime and they did a good job of keeping their focus at halftime. By the time I walked into the locker room, they were talking about what we've got to do and what our focus has to be. That was a player-coached team. We encourage that, we want guys to be leaders, we want guys to step up. I think we turned the corner tonight because we got a lead and we kept it."

Juan Cardenas, a 6-foot-7 sophomore

Please see **CHAPS**/3C



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Midland College's Jordan Jackson puts the ball up between Ranger defenders Trey Conrod, 5, and Devonte Patterson, 33, Monday at Chaparral Center.

Baylor is No. 1 in AP poll for 1st time, Villanova falls to 3rd

By Stephen Hawkins
Associated Press

A decades-long Baylor fan got emotional with coach Scott Drew after the Bears won their last game to remain one of two undefeated teams in the country.

The fan told Drew, "I thought we could go to a Final Four, but I never thought I'd see the day when Baylor was ranked No. 1."

That day came Monday, when the Bears (15-0) moved up a spot to the top of The Associated Press men's basketball poll for the first time.

Baylor wasn't even getting votes in the Top 25 poll at the start of the season two months ago, when its football team was in the midst of a 7-6 season overshadowed by scandal. Coach Art Briles was fired last May after an investigation that determined the school mishandled assault claims for years, including several against football players.

Now Baylor is the 59th school to be ranked No. 1 since the AP men's basketball poll started in the 1948-49 season. And the two-time national champion Lady Bears remain No. 2 in the women's poll.

"It's great seeing the excitement for Baylor University, and seeing the people that care so much about the university be able to smile and be excited," said Drew, who took over a tattered program when he arrived on the Waco campus in 2003.

Even new football coach Matt Rhule , hired last month, was in the front row of the student section for Saturday night's win over Oklahoma State.

"I think we're on that trajectory upward," said Mack Rhoades, who took over as Baylor's athletic director in August. "We realize that there's a lot of work ahead of us."

Baylor got 55 of 65 first-place votes to replace Villanova on top after the defending national champion lost to Butler, leaving the Bears and No. 5 Gonzaga (15-0) as the only unbeaten teams. The Wildcats (15-1) got one first-place vote and dropped to third.

The Big 12 is 1-2 in the poll, with Kansas (14-1) moving from third to second with eight first-place votes. UCLA (16-1) stayed fourth with the other first-place vote.

Kentucky, Duke, Creighton, Florida State and West Virginia rounded out the top 10, followed by North Carolina, Butler, Oregon, Louisville, Xavier, Arizona, Purdue, Wisconsin, Virginia and Notre Dame. The last ranked teams are Saint Mary's, Cincinnati, Florida and Minnesota, with

Please see **BAYLOR**/3C

DAILY RUNDOWN

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

ON TV

CRICKET

Big Bash: Brisbane Heat vs. Perth Scorchers, 2:30 a.m., NBCSN

GOLF

Web.com: The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic, 3rd Round, 2 p.m., GOLF

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Kentucky at Vanderbilt, 6 p.m., ESPN

Baylor at West Virginia, 6 p.m., ESPN2

Syracuse at Virginia Tech, 6 p.m., ESPNU

Xavier at Villanova, 6 p.m., FS1

Auburn at Missouri, 6 p.m., SEC

Indiana at Maryland, 8 p.m., ESPN

Kansas at Oklahoma, 8 p.m., ESPN2

Florida at Alabama, 8 p.m., ESPNU

Providence at DePaul, 8 p.m., FS1

Mississippi State at Arkansas, 8 p.m., SEC

Kansas State at Texas Tech, 8:15 p.m., ESPNews

San Jose State at San Diego State, 10 p.m., ESPNU

MEN'S SOCCER

English Football League Cup: Manchester United FC vs. Hull City AFC, 1:55 p.m., beIN

Coppa Italia: Napoli vs. Spezia, 2 p.m., GolTV

Copa del Rey: Atletico de Madrid vs. Las Palmas, 2:10 p.m., beIN2

Portuguese League Cup: V. Guimaraes vs. Benfica, 4 p.m., GolTV

Ascenso MX: Loros vs. Cleaya, 7 p.m., GolTV

NBA

Boston at Toronto, 6:30 p.m., NBAtv

Milwaukee at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m., FSSW+

Miami at Golden State, 9:30 p.m., NBAtv

NHL

Boston at St. Louis, 7 p.m., NBCSN

Dallas at Anaheim, 9 p.m., FSSW

TENNIS

ATP: Auckland and AO Qualifiers M Round 1, 5 p.m., TENNIS

WTA: APIA International Sydney, Quarterfinals, 7 p.m., beIN

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Indiana at Michigan, 5 p.m., BTN

USF at Connecticut, 6 p.m., CBSSN

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

Oklahoma State at Texas, 7 p.m., LHN

ON RADIO

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Kansas State at Texas Tech, 8:15 p.m., KPET 105.1 FM/690 AM (Lamesa)

NBA

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

WHAT'S ON DECK

High school

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Lee at Amarillo Tascosa, 6 p.m.

Odessa Permian vs. MHS, 6 p.m., Chaparral Center

MCA at Kermit, 6 p.m.

Trinity at Abilene Christian, 6 p.m.

Big Spring at Abilene Wylie, 6:15 p.m.

Monahans at Greenwood, 6:30 p.m.

Merkel at Stanton, 6:30 p.m.

Coahoma at Colorado City, 6:30 p.m.

Eldorado at Forsan, 6:30 p.m.

Grady at O'Donnell, 6:30 p.m.

Sterling City at Garden City, 6:30 p.m.

Pecos at Andrews, 7:30 p.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Stanton at Reagan County, 7 p.m.

Lee at San Angelo Lake View, 7:30 p.m.

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

Trinity at Abilene Christian, 7:30 p.m.

Greenwood at Denver City, 8 p.m.

Andrews at Seminole, 8 p.m.

Eldorado at Forsan, 8 p.m.

Grady at O'Donnell, 8 p.m.

Sterling City at Garden City, 8 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER

Lee at Del Rio, 5:30 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

American League

HOUSTON ASTROS — Agreed to terms with C Luis Barajas on a minor league contract.

National League

MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Agreed to terms with C Cody Decker on a minor league contract.

NEW YORK METS — Agreed to terms with RHP Williams Valencia on a minor league contract.

American Association

FARGO-MOORHEAD REDHAWKS — Signed RHP Tyler A. Greene.

LAREDO LEMURS — Released INF Will Soto. Traded LHP Luis Pollorena to Sugar Land for future considerations.

LINCOLN SALTDOGS — Traded INF Rene Laverat to Fargo-Moorhead for future considerations.

Can-Am League

QUEBEC CAPITALES — Traded RHP Ryan Leach to Windy City for a player to be named.

TROIS-RIVIERES AIGLES — Traded INF Yeixon Ruiz to Normal (Frontier) for a player to be named.

Frontier League

SCHAUMBURG BOOMERS — Signed RHP Kurt Lipscomb to a contract extension. Signed 2B Melvin Gray.

TRAVERSE CITY BEACH BUMS — Signed C Kendall Patrick to a contract extension.

WINDY CITY THUNDERBOLTS — Signed OF Devin Carter.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

NBA — Fined L.A. Lakers G Jordan Clarkson $15,000 for throwing a forearm above the shoulders of Miami G Goran Dragic.

NEW JERSEY NETS — Waived F Anthony Bennett.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

CHICAGO BEARS — Waived LB Josh Shirley.

DETROIT LIONS — Signed WR Jared Abbrederis and Andrew Turzilli. OL Matt Rotheram and Brandon Thomas. TEs Kennard Backman and Khari Lee. RB Mike James. LB Steve Longa and DB Charles Washington to reserve/future contracts.

GREEN BAY PACKERS — Released DT Mike Pennel.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Signed LB Alex Bazzie to a reserve/future contract.

OAKLAND RAIDERS — Signed DE Jimmy Bean, DL Demetrius Cherry, CB Kenneth Durden, TEs Cooper Helfet and Ryan O'Malley, WRs Jaydon Mickens and K.J. Brent and Gs Oni Omoile and Ian Silberman to reserve/future contracts.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

CALGARY FLAMES — Assigned D Tyler Wotherspoon to Stockton (AHL). Recalled D Brett Kulak from Stockton.

COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS — Waived G Curtis McElhinney. Assigned F Markus Hannikainen to Cleveland (AHL). Recalled G Anton Forsberg from Cleveland.

EDMONTON OILERS — Assigned RW Jesse Puljujarvi to Bakersfield (AHL). Recalled RW Anton Slepyshev from Bakersfield.

NASHVILLE PREDATORS — Assigned D Petter Granberg to Milwaukee (AHL).

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING — Reassigned Fs Erick Condra and Adam Erne to Syracuse (AHL).

WASHINGTON CAPITALS — Recalled F Paul Carey from Hershey (AHL).

American Hockey League

CHICAGO WOLVES — Loaned F Sam Povorozniouk to Elmira (ECHL).

TUCSON ROADRUNNERS — Recalled G Austin Lotz from Reading (ECHL).

SOCCER

Major League Soccer

PHILADELPHIA UNION — Signed F Jay Simpson.

PORTLAND TIMBERS — Loaned M Lucas Melano to Club Atletico Belgrano (Primera Division-Argentina) through Dec. 31. Traded F Christian Volesky to Sporting Kansas City for a 2017 fourth-round draft pick.

SPORTING KANSAS CITY — Acquired F Latif Blessing from Liberty Professionals FC (Premier League-Ghana).

COLLEGE

AIR FORCE — Signed football coach Troy Calhoun to a contract extension through the 2021 season.

IOWA — Named Brian Ferentz offensive coordinator.

NEBRASKA — Announced junior F Isaac Copeland has transferred from Georgetown.

NORTH CAROLINA — QB Mitch Trubisky will enter the NFL draft.

OHIO STATE — RB Curtis Samuel will enter the NFL draft.

SOUTH CAROLINA — Named Eric Wolford offensive line coach.

STANFORD — Announced the retirement of women's volleyball coach John Dunning.

TUSCULUM — Announced the retirement of golf coach Bob Dibble, effective May 31.

WAKE FOREST — Named Wayne Lineburg tight ends coach and special teams coordinator.

Manning, Spurrier enter College Football Hall of Fame

By Ralph D. Russo
Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Peyton Manning and his Southeastern Conference nemesis, former Florida coach Steve Spurrier, will go into the College Football Hall of Fame together.

Manning

Spurrier

The rest of the new Hall of Fame class of 13 players and coaches announced Monday includes Southern California Heisman Trophy winner Matt Leinart, San Diego State running back Marshall Faulk and Danny Ford, who coached Clemson to its only national championship.

Manning started for four seasons at Tennessee and set school records for yards passing (11,201) and touchdown passes (89). He led the Volunteers to four consecutive bowl games and was Heisman Trophy runner-up as a senior in 1997.

"His stats were incredible ... but as we all know his legacy goes much, much further than that," former Tennessee coach and Hall of Famer Philip Fulmer said. "He was absolutely the ultimate team player, the ultimate teammate, the ultimate greatest guy you could possibly want to coach."

But Manning never did beat Spurrier's Gators, going 0-3. Spurrier built Florida into an SEC powerhouse from 1990-2001, winning six conference titles and the school's first national championship in 1996. He also was never shy about taking verbal jabs at his rivals such as Tennessee ("You can't spell Citrus without U-T") and Florida State ("Free Shoes University").

"Steve and I, people think we're bitter enemies, we really aren't," Fulmer said. "We're actually pretty good friends. I've said this before - until somebody puts a microphone in front of him, he's a pretty good guy."

Also to be inducted in December at the National Football Foundation banquet are:

■ Notre Dame linebacker Bob Crable (1978-81)

■ Michigan State wide receiver Kirk Gibson (1975-78)

■ Texas offensive tackle Bob McKay (1968-69)

■ Texas A&M linebacker Dat Nguyen (1995-98)

■ Georgia Southern running back Adrian Peterson (1998-2001)

■ Boston College nose guard Mike Ruth (1982-85)

■ New Mexico defensive back Brian Urlacher (1999-99)

■ Mount Union coach Larry Kehres, who won 93 percent of his games and 11 Division III national championships from 1986-2012.

Leinart won the Heisman in 2004 and led Southern California to two national championships and a BCS national title game.

Faulk was the first freshman to lead the nation in rushing and scoring in 1991. He won back-to-back rushing titles and was a three-time Heisman finalist. He went on to have a Hall of Fame NFL career with the Indianapolis Colts and St. Louis Rams.

Ford was 33 when he led Clemson to the national title in 1981 and is still the youngest coach to win a national championship. He spent 12 seasons at Clemson and five at Arkansas and is second in career victories for the Tigers with 96.

Gibson's greatest fame came as a baseball player. He played for World Series winners in 1984 with the Detroit Tigers and in 1988 with the Los Angeles Dodgers. He was the National League MVP in '88 and hit one of the most famous World Series home runs, against Oakland Athletics reliever Dennis Eckersley.

For the Spartans, Gibson averaged 21.0 yards on 112 receptions with 24 touchdowns.

Sorry, Pop: The Spurs are good at 3-pointers

By Tim Reynolds
Associated Press

There was a coaching clinic in Berlin back in 2014, when San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich paced along the sideline for a while and talked about his various philosophies and keys to basketball success.

It didn't take him long to mention his disdain for the 3-point shot, which is no secret.

So imagine this irony: His Spurs, this season, are shooting the 3 as well as just about any team in league history.

Overlooked, perhaps, in their 30-7 start this season is this. The Spurs are connecting on 41.3 percent of their 3s — on pace to be the third-best success rate since the shot was added to the NBA game nearly four decades ago. Only the 1996-97 Charlotte Hornets (42.8 percent) and last season's Golden State Warriors (41.6) shot it better than San Antonio has to this point.

"I hate it," Popovich said that day in Berlin. "It's not real basketball."

Ah, but it can be part of smart basketball, as the Spurs keep showing.

Houston has missed more 3s this season than the Spurs have taken — by a lot, too. Entering Sunday, only Chicago was averaging fewer 3-point attempts per game than San Antonio.

But the Spurs take good ones.

They're making 45 percent of their corner 3s, 40 percent of ones taken from above the break. And the Spurs are on pace to be the first team in NBA history to shoot better than .400 from 3-point range and .800 from the foul line.

Confusing Hawks

Kyle Korver has now been traded to the Cavaliers and Paul Millsap will likely be next to leave Atlanta. So if (or when) the Millsap deal happens, the entire starting lineup from the Hawks team that won 60 games just two seasons ago will be gone.

And amid all this change and rumor, the Hawks keep winning.

Atlanta plays at Brooklyn on Tuesday night. Should the Hawks win there, it would be seven straight victories for Atlanta — the longest streak by any team in the Eastern Conference so far this season.

It also would make the Hawks the first team this season to have both a seven-game winning streak and a seven-game losing streak. The Clippers came close, winning seven in a row once and later losing six straight.

The week ahead

A look at some of the games to watch this week:

■ Oklahoma City at Chicago, Monday. Jimmy Butler's last six games for the Bulls — 34.2 points, 8.7 rebounds, 5.7 assists, 72 for 83 from the foul line.

■ Boston at Toronto, Tuesday. Celtics have scored 100 or more in 11 straight games, one away from matching their longest such streak under Brad Stevens.

■ Indiana vs. Denver in London, Thursday. The NBA hits London for the seventh time. A 3 p.m. weekday start for fans in Indiana, 1 p.m. for those in Denver.

■ Memphis at Houston, Friday. Hard to find two coaches who have done better so far than the Rockets' Mike D'Antoni and the Grizzlies' David Fizdale.

■ Minnesota at Dallas, Sunday. The Mavs moved up the start, so this game should end about the same time the Cowboys-Packers playoff game kicks off.

Towns, Rubio lead Timberwolves over Mavericks

By Patrick Donnelly
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Karl-Anthony Towns had 34 points and 11 rebounds, Ricky Rubio added 13 points and a season-high 15 assists, and the Minnesota Timberwolves snapped a four-game losing streak with a 101-92 victory over the Dallas Mavericks on Monday night.

Harrison Barnes scored 30 points for the Mavericks and Dirk Nowitzki had 26, including five 3-pointers.

Towns hit 15 of 19 shots from the floor as the Timberwolves shot 56.3 percent.

Rubio scored nine points in the fourth quarter, including consecutive baskets during an 8-0 run that gave the Timberwolves some breathing room after Dallas had whittled a 21-point lead to 81-77.

He hit three free throws with 2:08 to play to give Minnesota a 97-83 advantage.

Towns got the Wolves off to a fast start, scoring Minnesota's first seven points and 16 total in the first seven minutes. He finished with 20 in the period as the Timberwolves took a 33-14 lead after one quarter. The Wolves shot 65 percent from the field in the quarter.

They stretched the lead to 44-23 before the Mavericks responded with a 15-2 run to get back in the game. Nowitzki hit 3-pointers on three straight possessions to close the first half as Dallas pulled to 54-46 at the break.

NHL GLANCE

Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Montreal	41	25	10	6	56	125	97
Boston	43	21	17	5	47	105	105
Ottawa	39	21	14	4	46	99	102
Toronto	39	18	13	8	44	120	116
Florida	42	18	16	8	44	98	113
Tampa Bay	42	19	19	4	42	118	127
Buffalo	39	15	15	9	39	89	109
Detroit	40	17	18	5	39	100	115

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Columbus	39	28	7	4	60	132	85
Pittsburgh	39	26	8	5	57	139	109
Washington	40	26	9	5	57	115	84
N.Y. Rangers	42	26	13	3	55	146	107
Philadelphia	42	21	15	6	48	123	129
Carolina	40	18	15	7	43	104	108
New Jersey	42	16	18	8	40	95	124
N.Y. Islanders	38	15	15	8	38	106	117

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Chicago	43	26	12	5	57	120	104
Minnesota	39	25	9	5	55	123	85
St. Louis	40	21	14	5	47	114	118
Winnipeg	43	20	20	3	43	118	126
Nashville	40	17	16	7	41	112	110
Dallas	40	16	16	8	40	103	121
Colorado	39	13	25	1	27	79	130

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
San Jose	40	24	14	2	50	105	90
Anaheim	42	21	13	8	50	113	113
Edmonton	42	21	14	7	49	120	113
Calgary	43	22	19	2	46	114	119
Los Angeles	40	20	16	4	44	98	99
Vancouver	42	20	19	3	43	105	121
Arizona	40	12	22	6	30	86	128

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss

Scores and schedules

Monday's Scores

Florida 3, New Jersey 0
Washington 4, Montreal 1
Winnipeg 2, Calgary 0
Dallas at Los Angeles, late

Today's Games

Columbus at Carolina, 6 p.m.
Philadelphia at Buffalo, 6 p.m.
Boston at St. Louis, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at Nashville, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.
San Jose at Edmonton, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Anaheim, 9 p.m.

NBA GLANCE

Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	24	13	.649	—
Boston	23	14	.622	1
New York	17	21	.447	7½
Philadelphia	10	25	.286	13
Brooklyn	8	28	.222	15½

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	21	16	.568	—
Charlotte	20	18	.526	1½
Washington	18	18	.500	2½
Orlando	16	23	.410	6
Miami	11	28	.282	11

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	28	9	.778	—
Indiana	20	18	.526	9
Milwaukee	18	18	.500	10
Chicago	19	19	.500	10
Detroit	18	21	.462	11½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	30	7	.811	—
Houston	30	9	.769	1
Memphis	24	16	.600	7½
New Orleans	15	24	.385	16
Dallas	11	27	.289	19½

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	23	16	.590	—
Oklahoma City	23	16	.590	—
Portland	16	23	.410	7
Denver	14	23	.378	8
Minnesota	12	26	.316	10½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	32	6	.842	—
L.A. Clippers	26	14	.650	7
Sacramento	15	22	.405	16½
L.A. Lakers	15	26	.366	18½
Phoenix	12	26	.316	20

Scores and schedules

Monday's Scores

New Orleans 110, New York 96
Minnesota 101, Dallas 92
Oklahoma City 109, Chicago 94

Today's Games

Chicago at Washington, 6 p.m.
Atlanta at Brooklyn, 6:30 p.m.
Boston at Toronto, 6:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Houston, 7 p.m.
Milwaukee at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Utah, 8 p.m.
Detroit at Sacramento, 9:30 p.m.
Miami at Golden State, 9:30 p.m.
Portland at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday's Games

New York at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.
Houston at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
Memphis at Oklahoma City, 7 p.m.
Washington at Boston, 7 p.m.
Cleveland at Portland, 9:30 p.m.
Orlando at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m.

WJCAC STANDINGS

Men's WJCAC standings

Team	Conference W	Conference L	Overall W	Overall L
South Plains	3	0	15	0
Odessa College	2	1	13	3
Clarendon College	2	1	11	6
Howard College	1	1	12	4
Midland College	1	1	10	6
Western Texas	1	1	9	6
New Mexico JC	1	2	13	4
New Mexico Military	1	2	5	11
Frank Phillips	0	3	11	6

Monday's Scores

South Plains College 101, Odessa College 88; Howard College 81, Western Texas College 73; Clarendon College 78, Frank Phillips 64; New Mexico JC 69, New Mexico Military Institute 60; Midland College 84, Ranger College 65 (non-conference)

Thursday's Games

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

Women's WJCAC standings

Team	Conference W	Conference L	Overall W	Overall L
South Plains	2	1	17	2
Odessa College	2	0	14	0
Howard College	2	0	6	10
Frank Phillips	1	1	11	2
New Mexico JC	1	1	12	4
Midland College	1	1	10	4
Western Texas	0	2	6	6
Clarendon College	0	3	11	6

Monday's Scores

Odessa College 78, South Plains College 72; Howard College 64, Western Texas College 52; Frank Phillips 71, Clarendon College 60; Midland College and New Mexico JC were open

Thursday's Games

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

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Caleb is a 1-2 year old male Corgi Mix. He is friendly, playful, and has a short easy to maintain coat. He is new to the Center and has not yet been introduced to dogs or children, but we do not foresee any problems as he is pretty easy going.

CHAPS

From 1C

forward from Medellin, Colombia, led the Chaps with 23 points and nine rebounds, with 14 of those points coming in the first half. Jordan Jackson added 17 points, Jachai Simmons had 16, and Roland Griffin added 12 for Midland College.

"The difference in the second half was that we played hard, we played to win and played as a team," Cardenas said. "We just got together at halftime and we knew what we had to do to achieve our objectives in this game."

The game against Ranger (14-3) — one of the better teams out of the North Texas Junior College Athletic Conference — was a good final tune-up for the Chaps, who jump back into Western Junior College Athletic Conference play Thursday night against rival Howard College.

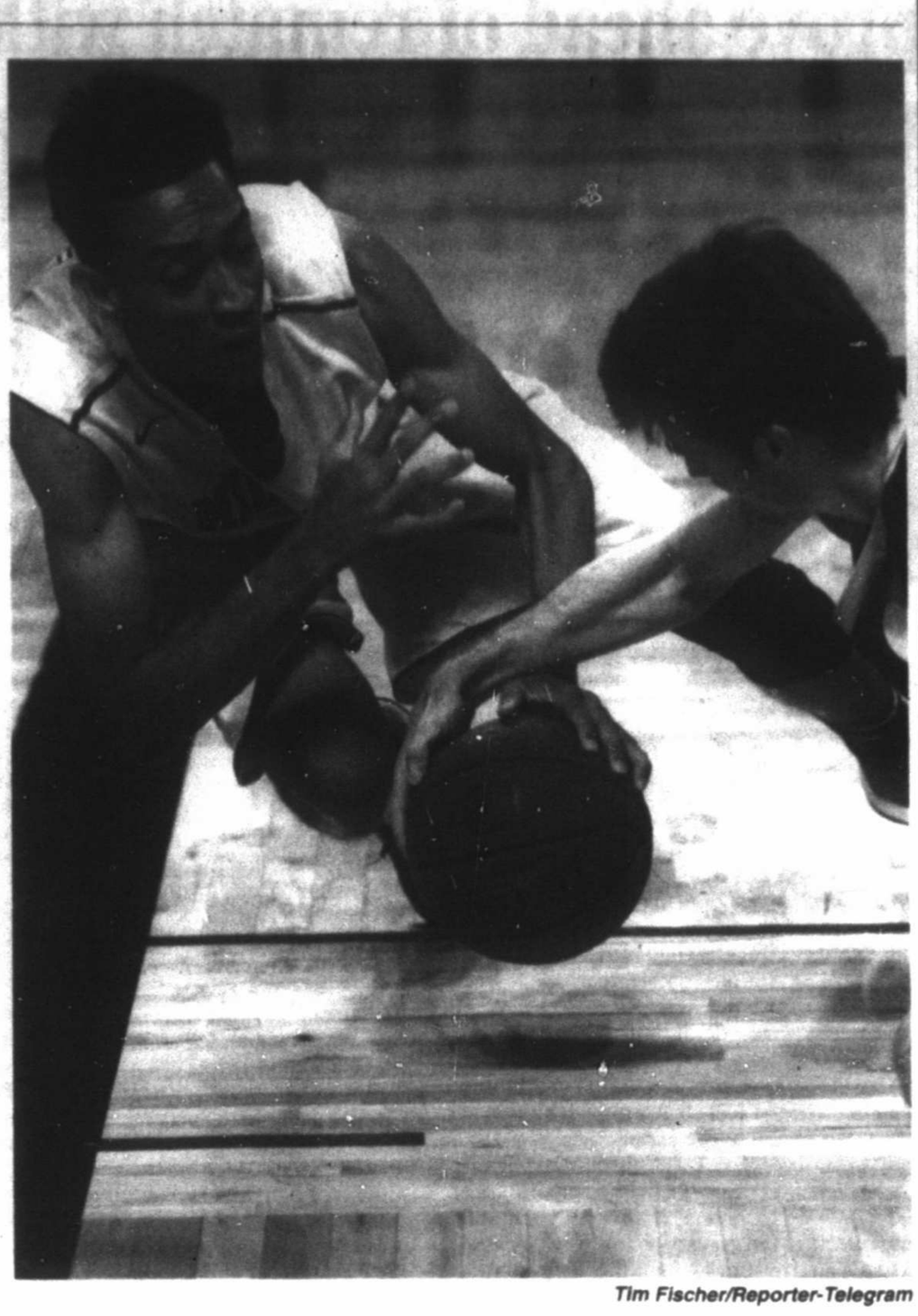
Not only was this a good game offensively, but the Chaps played some solid defense as well.

"I wanted to hold them under 60 and we were close, but this is one of our better defensive teams, one of the best I've ever had," Dreiling said. "The reason for that is the length and versatility of this team. We're going to be a good defensive team if we get to where we have five guys communicating. We don't have five guys communicating yet. We've got to get all five guys talking, one heartbeat and we'll be a good defensive team."

Patterson led Ranger with 17 points and Trey Conrod added 14.

The Chaps now look to continue the momentum on Thursday against the Hawks.

"We've got to keep it going, we cannot have a letdown," Dreiling said.



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Midland College's Juan Cardenas dives to save the ball as Ranger College's Michael Bowers tries to save it Monday at Chaparral Center.

"We had three guys (in the locker room) when we went to huddle said 'We have to be better on Thursday.' That's the mindset we have to have."

Follow Oscar on Twitter: @OLeRoy_MRT

MIDLAND COLLEGE 84, RANGER COLLEGE 65

Ranger College (14-3) — Michael Bowers 1-3 0-0 2, Jabri McCall 1-6 2-2 4, Trey Conrod 6-11 2-3 14, Steve Walker 0-3 3-4 3, Jordan Woodberry 0-0 0-0 0, Corbin Stephens 4-7 0-0 9, Tony Allen 0-1 0-0 0, Terrance Sewell 1-6 2-2 4, Kendale Hampton 1-1 0-0 3, Vance Hughes 0-0 0-0 0, Chris Royal 3-5 2-2 9, Dievonte Patterson 6-10 5-6 17, Bishop Coulter 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 23-53 16-19 65.

Midland College (10-6) — Jacha Simmons 6-14 2-3 16, Roland Griffin 5-8 2-2 12, Jordan Jackson 6-10 4-5 17, Grant Weatherford 1-1 0-2 2, Juan Cardenas 11-14 1-2 23, Sean Ofodile 1-1 0-0 2, Ashawn Jones 0-3 2-2 2, Anthony McCoy 0-1 0-0 0, Germaine Wright 2-3 0-0 5, Rashadre Wilson 0-2 0-0 0, Daven Joseph 2-3 1-1 5. Totals 34-80 12-17 84.

Halftime — Ranger 30, Midland 29. 3-point goals — Ranger 3-14 (Stephens 1-3, Hampton 1-1, Royal 1-2, Conrod 0-1, Walker 0-2, Allen 0-1, Sewell 0-2), Midland 4-13 (Simmons 2-5, Jackson 1-2, Wright 1-1, Griffin 0-1, Cardenas 0-1, Jones 0-1, Wilson 0-2). Total fouls — Ranger 16, Midland 14. Fouled out — McCall, Rebounds — Ranger 22 (Walker 6), Midland 33 (Cardenas 9). Assists — Ranger 7 (Patterson 2), Midland 13 (Weatherford 5). Turnovers — Ranger 22, Midland 23.

Next game: Howard College at Midland College, 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

MCS

From 1C

a quite a few players that just have a lot of speed, so I think we're utilizing that on the defensive end and trying to create turnovers and getting most out of that opportunity and getting the ball down the floor quickly. There's not a whole lot of teams in our district, I don't think that when you put us on the floor to match up, player for player, that's faster than we are from top to bottom."

Looking ahead, Daniels says she would like to see MCS improve on reducing its giveaways, improving its 3-point shooting percentage and free-throw rate.

But most of all, Daniels believes her team is thriving on the hardwood because of a challenging non-district slate where the Lady Mustangs played TABC ranked teams such as Midland Classical, and Klondike, previously ranked Forsan, and historically competitive squads like Brownfield and Seminole.

"We don't think anybody, especially in our district, plays a tougher preseason than we do because of the good quality of teams in West Texas," Daniels said.

MCA'S chemistry prevails on court

As a TAPPS 3A school, by nature, Midland Classical isn't going to have the depth as some of their larger enrollment opponents.

Furthermore, the Lady Knights' depth took a hit when they lost post Hilary Sunderland and guard/forward Andie Sheppard to injuries prior to the Byron Johnston Holiday Classic.

Despite not having a full roster, No. 2-ranked MCA continues to shine on the court.

Last Thursday, the Lady Knights (15-6) earned an impressive 36-32 road victory against Class 1A No. 5 Garden City.

MCA head coach Carla Cunneen said on-court cohesiveness has helped her team overcome some of the adversity it has faced.

The Lady Knights have two dynamic scoring guards with Leia Beattie and Delanie Griffin, and a pair of capable rebounders with Elleri Heast and Makenna Beattie.

"We like that our girls have good attitudes and we play together as a team," Cunneen said. "We have always focused on playing together as a team and this is a great group of girls, they get along with each other off the court and it helps to play together as a team on the court."

Cunneen said some of her players have needed to learn new positions because of the injuries.

Today, the Lady Knights hope to keep their chemistry going when they visit Kermit for a 6 p.m. tip-off.

Every game, it's coming, it's going to be like a playoff atmosphere,' and they understood that."

Lee seeks its first district win today when it visits Amarillo Tascosa at 6 p.m.

District 2-6A girls basketball standings

Team	District W	District L	Overall W	Overall L
Amarillo Tascosa	1	0	12	8
Odessa Permian	1	0	10	9
Wolfforth Frenship	1	0	17	7
Odessa High	0	1	17	5
Lee	0	1	12	5
Midland High	0	1	9	12

All games tip-off at 6 p.m. unless noted

Friday's Scores
Odessa Permian 48, Lee 40; Amarillo Tascosa 48, Odessa High 34; Midland High at Wolfforth Frenship; ppd. weather

Saturday's Scores
Wolfforth Frenship 54, Midland High 42

Tuesday's Games
Odessa Permian vs. Midland High at Chaparral Center; Lee at Amarillo Tascosa; Wolfforth Frenship at Odessa High

Lee suffers rare district loss

Odessa Permian stunned Lee, 48-40, in Friday's District 2-6A opener at Chaparral Center.

It was the Lady Rebels' first district loss since losing 38-36 to Midland High on Feb. 10, 2015.

Coming off three consecutive district titles, Lee finds itself in a rare position at 0-1 in district.

"The first night, I told them when I walked in, 'ladies you got a target on your back,'" Lady Rebels head coach Alfred Acosta said Friday. "'You're three-time district champs, you've got a target on your back. People are coming for you. They don't care who is on the team. They're coming for you.

HONOR ROLL

PG Leia Beattie, Fr., Midland Classical — Beattie averaged 20.5 points in two games, as the Lady Knights routed Crane 82-24 and squeaked past Garden City 36-32.

PF/C Kaylyn Evans, Sr., Midland High — Evans led the Lady Bulldogs with 16 points during their 54-42 loss to Wolfforth Frenship Saturday.

SG Payge Grable, Jr., Stanton — Grable led the Lady Buffaloes in scoring in both of their wins, which included 13 points in a 45-28 District 5-3A victory over Colorado City and 18 points in a 46-41 victory over Andrews.

SG Kortney Halfmann, Sr., Garden City — Halfmann scored a game-high 18 points in the Lady Kats' 36-34 loss to MCA Thursday.

PF/C Madison Leavitt, Sr., Lee — Leavitt registered a double-double with 10 points and 13 rebounds in the Lady Rebels' 48-40 loss to Odessa Permian Friday.

Follow Christopher on Twitter: @chris_MRTsports

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

PF Blaire Neatherlin, Jr., Midland Christian — Neatherlin averaged 21.0 points in two wins, which included a 61-28 victory over Fort Stockton and a 75-16 triumph against Fort Worth Southwest Christian.

BAYLOR

From 1C

Kansas State and Southern California tied for 25th.

Minnesota's first ranking in four seasons provides a Top 25 father-son duo with Louisville coach Rick Pitino and the younger Richard Pitino with the Gophers. Kansas State was last ranked in 2013-14. Virginia Tech and Indiana, earlier as high as No. 3, dropped out of the poll.

When Drew got to Baylor in 2003, the program was ravaged by the murder of a player by a teammate and scandalized by the former coach who had tried to cover up NCAA violations in the aftermath. There were significant scholarship and recruiting restrictions, and even a season when the Bears were only allowed to play only their Big 12 Conference games.

Baylor went into this season having to replace three senior starters — 12th overall NBA draft pick Taurean Prince, plus the school's career rebounding leader and a two-year starting point guard. They also faced a difficult early schedule.

But the Bears beat then-No. 4 Oregon the first week, and won the Battle 4 Atlantis tournament beating No. 24 Michigan State and No. 1 Louisville — they trailed the Cardinals by 18 at halftime. By the first Saturday in December, when they beat seventh-ranked Xavier at home, they already had three wins over top 10 teams in the same season for the first time.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL GLANCE

Monday's scores

MEN
SOUTHWEST
Ark.-Pine Bluff 81, Alabama A&M 65
SOUTH
Ala.-Huntsville 81, Christian Brothers 69
Appalachian St. 70, Arkansas St. 57
Augusta 83, Clayton St. 73
Belmont Abbey 74, Lees-McRae 71
Coastal Carolina 66, UALR 63
Coppin St. 76, Bethune-Cookman 73
Cumberlands 66, Campbellsville 66
Fayetteville St. 80, Bowie St. 71
Georgetown (Ky.) 84, Life 74
Georgia Southern 84, South Alabama 79
Grambling St. 67, Alcorn St. 62
Hampton 84, Savannah St. 80
Jackson St. 65, Southern U. 61
Lee 66, West Florida 64
Lindsey Wilson 90, Cumberland (Tenn.) 78
Md.-Eastern Shore 99, NC A&T 88
Milligan 94, Point (Ga.) 86
Tenn. Wesleyan 87, Voorhees 74
Troy 80, Georgia St. 77
Union (Tenn.) 97, North Alabama 76
Virginia St. 75, Johnson C. Smith 62
Virginia Union 83, St. Augustine's 75

WOMEN
SOUTHWEST
Ark.-Pine Bluff 61, Alabama A&M 51
SOUTH
Alabama St. 79, MVSU 73
Belmont Abbey 84, Lees-McRae 78
Bethune-Cookman 71, Coppin St. 52
Bowie St. 64, Fayetteville St. 50
Campbellsville 57, Cumberlands 37
Clayton St. 79, Augusta 63
Florida A&M 51, Morgan St. 48
Furman 95, Bob Jones 45
Georgetown (Ky.) 86, Life 57
Grambling St. 86, Alcorn St. 63
Hampton 75, Savannah St. 46
Johnson C. Smith 52, Virginia St. 35
Lee 89, West Florida 86
Lindsey Wilson 76, Cumberland (Tenn.) 64
Md.-Eastern Shore 60, NC A&T 57
NC Central at Delaware St., ppd.
Norfolk St. at SC State, ppd.
Point (Ga.) 61, Milligan 57
Southern U. 85, Jackson St. 56
Virginia Union 101, St. Augustine's 48

Today's schedules

MEN
SOUTHWEST
Kansas at Oklahoma, 8 p.m.
Mississippi St. at Arkansas, 8 p.m.
Kansas St. at Texas Tech, 8:15 p.m.
SOUTH
Delaware St. at NC Central, 3 p.m.
Kentucky at Vanderbilt, 6 p.m.
Fort Valley State at Jacksonville St., 6 p.m.
Syracuse at Virginia Tech, 6 p.m.
Morgan St. at Florida A&M, 6 p.m.
Duke at Florida St., 7 p.m.
Florida at Alabama, 8 p.m.
Indiana at Maryland, 8 p.m.
FAR WEST
UNLV at New Mexico, 8 p.m.
San Jose St. at San Diego St., 10 p.m.
MIDWEST
Auburn at Missouri, 6 p.m.
Toledo at W. Michigan, 6 p.m.
Akron at Cent. Michigan, 6 p.m.
Miami (Ohio) at Ball St., 6 p.m.
E. Michigan at Bowling Green, 6 p.m.
N. Illinois at Kent St., 6 p.m.
Tennessee Tech at SE Missouri, 6:30 p.m.
N. Kentucky at Green Bay, 7 p.m.
Providence at DePaul, 8 p.m.
EAST
Canisius at Fairfield, 6 p.m.
George Mason at Saint Joseph's, 6 p.m.
Niagara at Manhattan, 6 p.m.
Ohio at Buffalo, 6 p.m.
Baylor at West Virginia, 6 p.m.
Xavier at Villanova, 8 p.m.

WOMEN
SOUTHWEST
Oklahoma St. at Texas, 7 p.m.
SOUTH
Gardner-Webb at Longwood, 10:15 a.m.
Delaware St. at NC Central, 1 p.m.
Radford at Campbell, 6 p.m.
Presbyterian at Liberty, 6 p.m.
Charleston Southern at High Point, 6 p.m.
UNC Asheville at Winthrop, 6 p.m.
MIDWEST
Indiana at Michigan, 5 p.m.
Wichita at Creighton, 7 p.m.
Rutgers at Nebraska, 7 p.m.
Ohio St. at Michigan St., 7 p.m.
EAST
Siena at Iona, 10 a.m.
South Florida at UConn, 6 p.m.
Marquette at Seton Hall, 6 p.m.
DePaul at St. John's, 6 p.m.
Dayton at Duquesne, 6 p.m.
Georgetown at Providence, 6 p.m.
Manhattan at Quinnipiac, 6 p.m.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL POLLS

Men

Associated Press

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Jan. 8, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Baylor (55)	15-0	1,608	1
2. Kansas (8)	14-1	1,517	4
3. Villanova (1)	15-1	1,496	2
4. UCLA	14-1	1,433	6
5. Gonzaga	15-0	1,366	7
6. Kentucky	13-2	1,271	5
7. Duke	14-2	1,175	8
8. Creighton	15-1	1,111	10
9. Florida St.	15-1	1,071	12
10. West Virginia	13-2	972	3
11. North Carolina	14-3	902	14
12. Butler	14-2	880	16
13. Oregon	12-2	869	9
14. Louisville	13-3	744	13
15. Xavier	13-2	651	15
16. Arizona	13-2	634	17
17. Purdue	14-3	584	25
18. Wisconsin	13-3	581	11
19. Virginia	12-3	580	18
20. Notre Dame	14-2	468	23
21. Saint Mary's (Cal.)	14-1	377	19
22. Cincinnati	13-2	356	24
23. Florida	12-3	252	20
24. Minnesota	15-2	167	
25. Kansas St.	13-2	25	
25. Southern Cal.	13-2	25	25

Others receiving votes: Seton Hall 11, South Carolina 7, Iowa St. 7, Indiana 6, Virginia Tech 5, Maryland 3, SMU 3, Clemson 2, UNC Wilmington 2, VCU 2, Nevada 2, Dayton 2, Wichita St. 2.

USA Today

The top 25 teams in the USA Today men's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Jan. 8, points based on 25 points for a first-place vote and one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Baylor (22)	15-0	783	1
2. Kansas (9)	14-1	756	4
3. Villanova (1)	15-1	727	2
4. UCLA	14-1	691	6
5. Gonzaga	15-0	690	7
6. Kentucky	13-2	651	5
7. Duke	14-2	557	8
8. Creighton	15-1	552	10
9. West Virginia	13-2	484	3
10. Florida State	15-1	472	13
11. Oregon	12-2	421	14
12. North Carolina	14-3	408	16
13. Butler	14-2	401	17
14. Xavier	13-2	372	15
15. Louisville	13-3	370	12
16. Arizona	13-2	336	18
17. Wisconsin	13-3	331	11
18. Virginia	12-3	304	19
19. Purdue	14-3	254	25
20. Notre Dame	14-2	227	24
21. Saint Mary's	14-1	221	20
22. Cincinnati	13-2	145	22
23. Florida	12-3	144	21
24. Minnesota	15-2	97	
25. Southern Cal.	13-2	90	

Others receiving votes: South Carolina 74, Indiana 71, Kansas St. 70, Washington 27, New Mexico State 10, California 7, Virginia Tech 5, Clemson 4, Maryland 4, SMU 4, Seton Hall 3, Iowa State 2, Northwestern 2, Wichita State 1, Dayton 1, Miami (Ohio) 1.

Women

Associated Press

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Jan. 8, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and last week's ranking:

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. UConn (33)	14-0	825	1
2. Baylor	15-0	783	2
3. Maryland	15-1	747	3
4. Mississippi St.	15-1	679	4
5. South Carolina	13-2	595	5
6. Notre Dame	15-2	571	7
7. Florida St.	15-1	566	6
8. Washington	15-1	544	9
9. Louisville	15-1	542	8
10. Oregon St.	15-1	509	10
11. Ohio St.	14-4	468	11
12. Duke	14-2	436	12
13. Stanford	13-3	429	13
14. Miami	13-3	368	14
15. Virginia Tech	15-1	347	15
16. Texas	12-4	346	16
17. UCLA	13-4	328	17
18. West Virginia	14-2	269	18
19. Arizona St.	13-3	263	19
20. South Florida	13-3	181	21
21. DePaul	13-4	142	23
22. Oklahoma	12-4	139	20
23. N.C. State	13-4	134	
24. California	13-5	52	24
25. Kansas St.	12-4	48	22

Others receiving votes: Syracuse 37, Tennessee 33, Colorado 31, Green Bay 14, Texas A&M 11, Kentucky 9, Southern Cal 8, LSU 4, Oregon 1, Alabama 2, Chanotte 1.

TABC RANKINGS

SUGAR LAND — High school basketball rankings as compiled by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches for the week of Jan. 9

BOYS PUBLIC

Class 6A

1. Klein Forest, 18-0; 2. Houston Sam Houston, 23-1; 3. SA Wagner, 21-1; 4. Cedar Hill, 17-4; 5. Denton Guyer, 16-3; 6. Dallas Skyline, 18-1; 7. Garland Lakeview Centennial, 19-3; 8. Cypress Falls, 17-3; 9. Austin Westlake, 17-0; 10. Waco Midway, 19-2; 11. Laredo Alexander, 21-1; 12. Houston Belaire, 17-7; 13. EP Americas, 21-1; 14. Spring Westfield, 17-6; 15. Aldine Davis, 14-8; 16. Duncanville, 15-5; 17. Amarillo Tascosa, 12-4; 18. Spring Dekaney, 15-5; 19. Fort Bend Bush, 13-4; 20. Keller, 18-1; 21. Edinburg Vela, 18-3; 22. Houston Clear Lake, 15-6; 23. Coppell, 19-0; 24. South Grand Prairie, 18-4; 25. SA Reagan, 16-6.

Class 5A

1. Dallas Kimball, 12-6; 2. McKinney North, 19-4; 3. Mansfield Timberview, 19-3; 4. Austin LBJ, 13-4; 5. Lancaster, 13-7; 6. Fort Bend Elkins, 14-6; 7. Dallas Wilson, 11-1; 8. Fort Bend Marshall, 18-5; 9. Manvel, 14-6; 10. EP Bowie, 16-4; 11. Waco University, 16-8; 12. Lubbock Coronado, 20-2; 13. Brownsville Veterans Memorial, 21-3; 14. Amarillo Palo Duro, 14-2; 15. Little Elm, 17-4; 16. Waxahachie, 14-6; 17. FW Chisholm Trail, 14-4; 18. EP Andress, 13-6; 19. EP Burges, 14-3; 20. Beaumont Ozen, 13-5; 21. Amarillo, 13-11; 22. Humble, 18-6; 23. SA Jefferson, 15-5; 24. SA Holmes, 14-6; 25. Austin Northwest, 17-4.

Class 4A

1. Silsbee, 16-5; 2. Dallas Lincoln, 15-5; 3. Freeport Brazosport, 17-3; 4. Abilene Wylie, 18-3; 5. Lubbock Estacado, 15-7; 6. OC West Oso, 19-4; 7. Houston Yates, 11-6; 8. Center, 20-4; 9. Decatur, 16-4; 10. Smithumett, 17-3; 11. Argyle, 19-2; 12. Midlothian Heritage, 17-4; 13. Dallas Carter, 9-7; 14. WF Hirsch, 9-6; 15. Wilmer-Hutchins, 9-7; 16. Lamesa, 19-2; 17. Paris, 14-4; 18. Longview, 14-2; 19. Waxahachie Life, 17-7; 20. Seminole, 9-10; 21. Athens, 16-2; 22. Houston North Forest, 8-10; 23. Boerne, 17-6; 24. Levelland, 16-3; 25. Wharton, 14-7.

Class 3A

1. Dallas Madison, 9-8; 2. Santa Rosa, 19-2; 3. Jarrell, 16-3; 4. Pondo, 17-4; 5. La Marque, 21-4; 6. Brock, 14-8; 7. Teague, 19-2; 8. Poteet, 13-4; 9. Kountze, 14-8; 10. Hempstead, 14-3; 11. SA Randolph, 15-4; 12. Marion, 15-5; 13. Littlefield, 13-6; 14. SA Cole, 14-7; 15. Canadian, 9-2; 16. Childress, 13-1; 17. Dallas Triple A, 9-8; 18. Commerce, 18-2; 19. Mount Vernon, 16-0; 20. Wall, 12-5; 21. Karnes City, 20-1; 22. Nacogdoches Central Heights, 13-8; 23. Bowie, 11-9; 24. Rice, 8-3; 25. Jefferson, 13-7.

Class 2A

1. Muenster, 16-4; 2. Anthony, 13-4; 3. Mumford, 21-2; 4. Clarksville, 14-8; 5. Clarendon, 14-2; 6. Port Aransas, 18-3; 7. Electra, 14-3; 8. Tenaha, 19-2; 9. Karnes, 13-5; 10. La Pryor, 12-8; 11. West Texas, 16-1; 12. Nechas, 20-1; 13. New Deal, 17-2; 14. Stratford, 12-2; 15. Grapeland, 18-4; 16. Albany, 13-4; 17. Petrolia, 15-4; 18. Chamlins, 13-6; 19. Shelbyville, 15-1; 20. Snook, 17-3; 21. Dallardsville Big Sandy, 14-5; 22. Thorndale, 14-6; 23. Farwell, 15-3; 24. SA Lee, 14-1; 25. Evadale, 10-5.

Class 1A

1. Lipan, 20-1; 2. Happy, 11-3; 3. Leggett, 20-2; 4. Nazareth, 10-0; 5. New Home, 18-2; 6. Calvert, 8-4; 7. Wheeler, 16-4; 8. Lingleville, 13-4; 9. Grafford, 14-7; 10. Borden County, 5-1; 11. Lansville, 91-1; 12. Imperial Buena Vista, 14-3; 13. Turkey Valley, 7-2; 14. Eula, 13-6; 15. Grady, 9-4; 16. Jayton, 16-5; 17. Shamrock, 14-4; 18. Garden City, 4-4; 19. Water Valley, 4-6; 20. Ropesville, 12-2; 21. Meadow, 8-3; 22. Slidell, 13-6; 23. Bronte, 2-6; 24. Oakwood, 4-15; 25. Coolidge, 7-9.

BOYS PRIVATE

TAPPS 6A/5PC

1. Tomball Concordia, 18-6; 2. Houston Kinkaid, 14-7; 3. Plano Prestonwood Christian, 19-7; 4. Dallas Greenhill, 20-5; 5. Dallas Dunne, 13-8; 6. SA Central Catholic, 19-8; 7. Dallas Bishop Lynch, 20-7; 8. Houston Village, 16-2; 9. SA Antonian, 19-7; 10. Houston St Thomas, 13-6.

TAPPS 5A

1. SA Christian, 28-2; 2. Houston 2nd Baptist, 22-7; 3. Tyler All-Saints, 17-5; 4. St. Mary's Hall, 13-5; 5. Cedar Hill Trinity Christian, 19-9; 6. Midland Christian, 20-7; 7. Austin Hyde Park, 15-6; 8. Austin St. Michael's Cath., 19-9; 9. Houston Emery/Weiner, 16-8; 10. FW Southwest Christian, 14-6.

TAPPS 4A

1. Lubbock Trinity Christian, 20-6; 2. Waco Vanguard, 19-7; 3. Houston St. Thomas Episcopal, 10-3; 4. The Woodlands Christian, 15-3; 5. Lubbock Christian, 19-2; 6. Colleyville Covenant, 16-7; 7. Trinity, 13-4; 8. Boerne Geneva, 13-6; 9. Arlington Pantego, 12-7; 10. Austin Texas for Deaf, 12-4

TAPPS 3A

1. Abilene Christian, 11-1; 2. Dallas Yavneh, 18-2; 3. Kerrville Our Lady of the Hills, 13-6; 4. SA Lutheran, 18-8; 5. Denton Calvary, 14-8; 6. Bryan Brazos Christian, 12-5; 7. Dallas The Covenant, 9-6; 8. Willow Park Trinity Christian, 8-6; 9. Brownsville First Baptist, 10-7; 10. Beaumont Legacy Christian, 3-8

TAPPS 2A

1. Huntsville Alpha Omega, 23-2; 2. Austin The Waldorf, 16-3; 3. Richardson Canyon Creek Christian, 17-2; 4. Sherman Texoma Christian, 18-2; 5. Bryan Allen, 16-9; 6. Baytown Christian, 15-6; 7. Lubbock All-Saints Episcopal, 16-5; 8. Lubbock Southcrest Christian, 10-1; 9. Dallas First Baptist, 8-1; 10. Houston The Brawnood, 6-3.

TAPPS 1A/OTHER

1. Granbury North Central Texas, 13-4; 2. Conroe Lifestyle Christian, 19-8; 3. Houston Family Christian, 10-4; 4. Kingwood The Covenant, 21-4; 5. Raimund Faith Christian, 9-3; 6. Fredericksburg Heritage, 8-5; 7. Edinburg Harvest Christian, 12-5; 8. Athens Christian, 10-7; 9. DeSoto The Canterbury Episcopal, 5-11; 10. WF Notre Dame, 8-4

GIRLS PUBLIC

Class 6A

1. Duncanville, 23-2; 2. SA Johnson, 24-3; 3. League City Clear Springs, 19-3; 4. SA Wagner, 17-2; 5. Fort Bend Highlands, 18-4; 6. Plano West, 18-3; 7. Killeen Ellison, 20-4; 8. Celina Park Vista Ridge, 20-4; 9. Euless Trinity, 20-3; 10. Pflugerville, 19-7; 11. DeSoto, 12-5; 12. Cedar Hill, 18-6; 13. Cypress Ranch, 17-6; 14. Round Rock Cedar Ridge, 19-6; 15. Converse Judson, 19-4; 16. Cibolo Steele, 19-6; 17. Plano East, 18-5; 18. Spring Dekaney, 20-4; 19. Katy Seven Lakes, 23-3; 20. League City Clear Falls, 15-6; 21. Galena Park North Shore, 18-4; 22. Laredo Alexander, 25-1; 23. Arlington Bowie, 20-3; 24. Alief Hastings, 22-5; 25. Klein, 14-3.

Class 5A

1. Amarillo, 24-1; 2. Mansfield Timberview, 22-2; 3. Manvel Bonney, 18-4; 4. Canyon, 16-2; 5. Tomball Memorial, 18-4; 6. Barbers Hill, 20-4; 7. Saginaw Boswell, 24-3; 8. Frisco Lone Star, 18-5; 9. Frisco Liberty, 16-6; 10. Plainview, 20-5; 11. Kaufman Tiva, 20-2; 12. Lewisville The Colony, 24-1; 13. Georgetown, 17-6; 14. Dayton, 20-2; 15. Austin High, 21-5; 16. Colleyville Heritage, 17-6; 17. Prosper, 16-7; 18. College Station, 19-6; 19. Mansfield Legacy, 15-8; 20. EP Andress, 19-3; 21. Sulphur Springs, 19-3; 22. CC Carroll, 20-4; 23. Houston Madison, 15-7; 24. Brownsville Veterans Memorial, 19-7; 25. Laredo Cigarroa, 19-7.

Class 4A

1. Argyle, 21-2; 2. Kennedale, 24-3; 3. Liberty Hill, 22-2; 4. Godley, 22-4; 5. Tatum, 23-0; 6. Navasota, 26-3; 7. Levelland, 19-4; 8. Gainesville, 25-1; 9. Madisonville, 18-3; 10. Stephenville, 17-6; 11. Devine, 18-4; 12. Houston Wheatley, 19-3; 13. Boerne, 17-2; 14. Denver City, 15-4; 15. Brownsboro, 18-5; 16. Gilmer, 18-3; 17. Cleveland, 12-7; 18. Brownwood, 18-4; 19. Abilene Wylie, 14-8; 20. Freeport, 20-5; 21. OC West Oso, 19-5; 22. Canton, 16-6; 23. Midlothian Heritage, 16-7; 24. Bridgeport, 17-5; 25. Houston Yates, 19-4.

Class 3A

1. Canadian, 19-3; 2. Brock, 18-7; 3. Little River Academy, 18-5; 4. Wall, 14-7; 5. Tuscola Jim Ned, 16-6; 6. Hitchcock, 21-3; 7. Mount Vernon, 20-5; 8. Hempstead, 21-2; 9. Pottsboro, 19-1; 10. Sunnyvale, 21-2; 11. Palacios, 21-1; 12. Bowie, 19-1; 13. Winnsboro, 14-10; 14. Mount Pleasant Chapel Hill, 20-4; 15. Idalou, 18-5; 16. Shallowater, 17-4; 17. Jarrell, 15-7; 18. Pointer, 19-6; 19. Pearsall, 25-0; 20. Goliad, 16-8; 21. San Diego, 21-3; 22. Buffalo, 14-3; 23. Karnes City, 15-5; 24. Marion, 17-6; 25. Woodville, 19-5.

Class 2A

1. Claude, 22-0; 2. Martins Mill, 20-2; 3. Tenaha, 18-3; 4. La Rue La Poynor, 21-4; 5. Panhandle, 15-5; 6. Falls City, 17-4; 7. Bells, 18-4; 8. Muenster, 18-4; 9. Windthorst, 15-7; 10. Woden, 22-1; 11. Hico, 22-4; 12. Mason, 20-6; 13. Chireno, 19-7; 14. Wilmer, 19-8; 15. Stratford, 16-7; 16. San Saba, 21-3; 17. Centerville, 17-6; 18. Wellington, 15-6; 19. Evadale, 16-5; 20. Era, 19-2; 21. Sundown, 17-4; 22. Shiner, 18-5; 23. Abernathy, 16-5; 24. Grapeland, 21-5; 25. Haskell, 19-5.

Class 1A

1. Nazareth, 20-1; 2. Post City, 17-2; 3. Hermleigh, 19-0; 4. Huckabay, 19-2; 5. Garden City, 19-4; 6. O'Donnell, 18-3; 7. Eula, 16-5; 8. Spur, 16-5; 9. Whitharral, 19-4; 10. McMullen County, 19-3; 11. Ropesville, 15-2; 12. Bandolier Nueces Canyon, 16-5; 13. Klondike, 14-4; 14. Iris, 17-5; 15. McLean, 17-3; 16. Kennard, 12-3; 17. May, 14-6; 18. D'Hanis, 9-6; 19. Slocum, 14-6; 20. Moulton, 16-5; 21. Riley, 9-4; 22. Lipan, 13-10; 23. Lawley, 15-4; 24. Slidell, 17-3; 25. Blum, 14-8.

GIRLS PRIVATE

TAPPS 6A/5PC

Dallas Bishop Lynch, 19-3; 2. Houston Kinkaid, 20-3; 3. SA Antonian, 26-4; 4. SA Incarnate Word, 20-5; 5. Houston St. Agnes, 23-6; 6. Houston Christian, 22-6; 7. Dallas Parish Episcopal, 14-4; 8. Plano Prestonwood Christian, 15-7; 9. Dallas Greenhill, 17-4; 10. Argyle Liberty Christian, 15-9

TAPPS 5A

1. Dallas Christian, 19-5; 2. Corpus Christi Incarnate Word, 23-3; 3. Houston Westbury Christian, 12-9; 4. Midland Christian, 19-3; 5. Tyler Grace Community Christian, 17-7; 6. Austin St. Michaels, 18-7; 7. Austin Regents, 13-7; 8. CC John Paul II, 18-10; 10. SA Holy Cross, 13-9

TAPPS 4A

1. Marble Falls Faith, 21-4; 2. Houston Lutheran North, 12-8; 3. Lubbock Trinity Christian, 14-12; 4. Arlington Pantego, 10-5; 5. FW Lake Country Christian, 13-14; 6. Lubbock Christian, 12-14; 7. Flower Mound Cornerstone Chr., 16-5; 8. Austin School for Deaf, 16-4; 9. Bay Area Christian, 14-6; 10. Austin Brentwood, 12-6

SMALL TAPPS 3A

1. Beaumont Legacy, 22-2; 2. Midland Classical, 15-6; 3. Temple Central Texas Christian, 17-7; 4. Spring Pressar Catholic, 14-4; 5. Tomball Rosehill, 16- 10; 6. Mission San Juan Diego, 9-5; 7. Denton Calvary, 11-8; 8. Willow Park Heritage, 7-4; 9. Rockwall Heritage, 4-3; 10. SA Keystone, 5-0

TAPPS 2A

1. Austin Waldorf, 13-7; 2. Bryan St. Joseph, 15-7; 3. Muenster Sacred Heart, 20-4; 4. Red Oak Ovilla Christian, 12-3; 5. Sherman Texoma, 11-7; 6. Christian Academy of SA, 9-3; 7. Universal City First Baptist, 12-8; 8. Bryan Allen, 7-2; 9. Plainview Christian, 9-8; 10. Shiner St. Paul, 9-9.

TAPPS 1A/OTHER

1. DeSoto Canterbury, 10-3; 2. Edinburg Harvest Christian, 13-2; 3. WF Notre Dame, 11-7; 4. WF Christ, 12-6; 5. Houston Southwest Christian, 9-5; 6. San Marcos Hill Country, 8-3; 7. Lubbock Kingdom, 9-0; 8. EP Jesus Chapel, 5-1; 9. Granbury NCTA, 3-5; 10. Waxahachie Prep, 3-5.

Texans look to improve ahead of rematch with Patriots

By Kristie Rieken
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Despite a decisive win over the Raiders in the wild-card round, the Houston Texans know improvement is necessary if they hope to get the first divisional playoff win in franchise history on Saturday against New England.

"There's always room for improvement," coach Bill O'Brien said. "That's what the league is all about — who can improve the fastest to get to where you want to go?"

Brock Osweiler returned to the starting lineup on Saturday after being benched two weeks ago after inconsistent play and multiple turnovers.

He looked better than he had before he was pulled, throwing a touchdown pass and running for another score. He also took care of the ball in just his fourth start this season where he didn't throw an interception.

But he only finished with 168 yards passing, leaving the Texans looking for more from him this week.

"We were more consistent than we have been," O'Brien said of the offense. "I think we can still be better. There's always improvement to make."

A key to Osweiler's success on Saturday was his ability to get DeAndre Hopkins involved in the game after struggling to get him the ball this season.

"There's certainly been some ups and downs as far as getting him the football throughout the course of the year," Osweiler said.

Jon Shapley/Houston Chronicle

Houston Texans wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins (10) is congratulated by running back Lamar Miller (26) after scoring a touchdown during the second quarter of an AFC Wild Card Playoff game at NRG Stadium on Saturday in Houston.

"But I think the one thing that you were really able to see (Saturday) was that Hop and I were on the same page ... (and) anytime I can get the ball to Hop, I'm going to do it."

Hopkins finished with 67 yards receiving and a touchdown, giving the Texans something to build on this week against the Patriots .

The offense got a boost by the return of running back Lamar Miller , who missed the last two regular-season games with an ankle injury.

He ran for 73 yards and a touchdown, but was disappointed that he averaged just 2.4 yards a carry after averaging 4 per run in the regular season.

Despite those numbers, O'Brien was happy with his work.

"I think he looked good ... it was good to have him back in there," O'Brien said. "I thought it was the right move for his health, for our football team to do what we did.

"I don't think he was totally 100 percent for the last two weeks of the season and I think he feels better now. He's meant a lot to our team."

The Texans had often been settling for field goals instead of touchdowns when they got in the red zone in recent weeks.

But on Saturday they solved that problem when they scored touchdowns in all three trips to the red zone. They know doing that again must be a focus this week.

This will be Houston's second game against the Patriots this season after New England got a 27-0 win in Week 3 with third-string quarterback Jacoby Brissett running the offense.

Special teams play was a big problem for the Texans in that one where they lost two fumbles on kickoffs which led to 14 points for the Patriots.

One of the fumbles was by Charles James, who was released last month, and the other one was by rookie Tyler Ervin, who remains a punt and kick returner for Houston.

He fumbled two punts against the Raiders, but Houston recovered the ball both times.

O'Brien said they'll work on getting better in that area this week, but that he's been happy with Ervin's performance overall.

Before the second fumbled punt on Saturday he had a punt return for a touchdown negated because of a penalty.

"We have confidence in Tyler Ervin," O'Brien said. "Tyler Ervin's done a nice job for us this year. We think that he's made a difference for us when he's been in there. He returned one for a touchdown when we ran into the kicker, but I thought that was an excellent return by him."

As the Texans work to improve this week they'll have to listen to chatter about their underdog status entering this game. The Patriots are 15½-point favorites according to Pregame.com, and are 7-1 all-time against Houston, including a 41-28 win in the divisional round in 2013.

O'Brien insists that they aren't worried about the odds against them.

"What does that matter? The only thing that matters is what takes place in between the lines on Saturday night," he said.

"No, I don't really go too much to the Vegas betting line. I don't think that would be really a good motivation tool this week."

NOTES: Backup QB Tom Savage is out of the concussion protocol after being inactive on Saturday after suffering a concussion on Jan. 1 against the Titans. ... S Quintin Demps is listed day to day with a hamstring injury.

NFL playoff glance

Wild-card Playoffs
Jan. 7
Houston 27, Oakland 14
Seattle 26, Detroit 6
Jan. 8
Pittsburgh 30, Miami 12
Green Bay 38, N.Y. Giants 13
Divisional Playoffs
Saturday
Seattle at Atlanta, 3:35 p.m. (FOX)
Houston at New England, 7:15 p.m. (CBS)
Sunday
Pittsburgh at Kansas City, 12:05 p.m. (NBC)
Green Bay at Dallas, 3:40 p.m. (FOX)
Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 22
NFC
TBD, 2:05 p.m.
AFC
TBD, 5:40 p.m.
Pro Bowl
Sunday, Jan. 29
At Orlando, Fla.
AFC vs. NFC, 7 p.m. (ESPN)
Super Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 5
At Houston
TBD, 5:30 p.m. (FOX)

Now the Giants can all go on vacation

By Arnie Stapleton
Associated Press

■ ANALYSIS

Now, the New York Giants can all hit the sand and surf.

Any Vitamin D the receivers may have gotten from their much-maligned trip to Miami on their day off last week didn't help them hold onto Eli Manning's passes in Green Bay.

Rookie Sterling Shepard also had two drops, one for a likely touchdown. So, he, ODB and Victor Cruz will continue taking heat for their Florida foray whether or not it had anything to do with the Giants' meltdown that ended an unimpressive offensive season for the Giants.

The receivers had nothing to do with allowing Aaron Rodgers to complete a 42-yard Hail Mary to Randall Cobb for a game-turning touchdown at the end of the first half when seven Giants defenders were in the end zone but none jumped, and all of them let Cobb get behind them for the TD that gave Green Bay a 14-6 lead.

The laundry list of miscues extended to special teams, where returner Bobby Rainey inexplicably fielded a kickoff only for his momentum to carry him out of bounds at his 3.

These other miscues might have mattered less had Beckham and Shepard been able to hold onto catchable throws from Manning early on that would have made the Packers pay a price for their slow start.

Giants coach Ben McAdoo said they were simply missed chances that had nothing to do with the receivers' trip to Miami.

New York's season is, too.

Wild-card weekend was full of curious calls such as the Dolphins somehow forgetting to account for James Harrison , who swept in untouched for a sack-strip that kept Miami from making a game of it in Pittsburgh.

Down 20-6, the Dolphins had first-and-goal at the Pittsburgh 8 with 27 seconds and two timeouts left before halftime. Miami lined up with an empty backfield, but left tackle Branden Albert blocked down to double-team defensive end Leterrius Walton. Albert didn't see Harrison zip past him and hammer Matt Moore, forcing the fumble that Stephon Tuitt smothered.

Ben Roethlisberger walked out of Heinz Field in a boot, however, after tweaking an ankle long after the game was in hand. And former Pro Bowl linebacker and current Steelers assistant coach Joey Porter was charged early Monday with assaulting a doorman at a bar and a police officer who intervened hours after the team's 30-12 win.

Among the missed calls from mixed officiating crews who were working together for the first time in the playoffs:

■ Giants safety Leon Hall wasn't flagged for leading with the crown of his helmet on his brutal hit that knocked Packers receiver Jordy Nelson from the game with a rib injury . Hall should have been whistled for a hit on a defenseless player. Nelson, who led the league with 14 TD catches, had one reception for 13 yards before getting hurt.

■ Seahawks QB Russell Wilson wasn't whistled for an obvious block in the back and Seattle wide receiver Paul Richardson got away with a facemask on his one-handed touchdown catch in his team's 26-6 win over Detroit.

Both Detroit and Oakland, which lost to Houston 27-14 , were defeated on the road after blowing chances in Week 17 to earn a home playoff game, and in the Raiders' case, a first-round bye.

The Lions lost to Green Bay at home in their finale, so they hit the road, where they haven't won a playoff game since 1957 (their last playoff win in Detroit was back in 1993). They've now lost a league record nine consecutive postseason games and their road playoff skid stands at 11.

Oakland reached the playoffs for the first time since losing Super Bowl 37 to Tampa Bay on Jan. 26, 2003.

The heads-up and do-it-all awards of the week both go to Green Bay linebacker Clay Matthews, who knocked the ball from Eli Manning's hands for a sack-strip, then chased down the ball that several other players thought was simply an incompletion. Among them was Giants rookie running back Paul Perkins, who nonchalantly reached down to pick up the football and toss it back to the officials. Matthews rushed over to deliver another hard hit that again forced the ball out of the Giants' hands, recovering it himself this time.

Sack. Strip. Separate. Smother.

Jaguars hire Marrone, bring back Coughlin, extend Caldwell

By Mark Long
Associated Press

Jacksonville's coaching search landed someone from its past and present.

The Jaguars can only hope the old-school combination leads to better results in the future.

Marrone

Coughlin

Owner Shad Khan hired Doug Marrone as head coach and brought back Tom Coughlin in a front-office role Monday, according to a person familiar with the search process. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the team has not announced the hiring. ESPN first reported Marrone had been chosen to replace Gus Bradley, who was fired in late November after going 14-48 in three-plus seasons.

The Jaguars (3-13) also gave general manager Dave Caldwell a two-year contract extension, the person said. So Marrone, Coughlin and Caldwell are now signed through 2019, giving the new regime a three-year window to, at the very least, make Jacksonville relevant in the AFC South.

"I think Doug has earned the respect of the offensive players, and I'm excited for him to get this opportunity and the direction of this team," quarterback Blake Bortles told AP in a text message.

Coughlin, Jacksonville's first coach and a winner of two Super Bowls in 12 seasons with the New York Giants, will serve as executive vice president of football operations. It's unclear how much say Coughlin will have in the NFL draft and in free agency. Caldwell has been the primary decision maker in all personnel moves the last four years.

"I can see what they're doing," veteran tight end Marcedes Lewis told AP. "These are good moves for a young team, a team that needs to be held to a certain standard. Marrone's a good man. He's good for the culture.

"It's not like we're bringing in a brand new coach and he's going to wipe the face of the earth of everything we've built."

Khan, who hired Jed Hughes of Korn Ferry International to help with the search, also interviewed Atlanta offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan, Tampa Bay defensive coordinator Mike Smith, New England offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels and Arizona offensive coordinator Harold Goodwin for the head coaching job.

He ended up keeping Marrone, who served as Jacksonville's interim coach for the final two games. The Jaguarswon one and blew a late lead in the season finale at Indianapolis. Players seemed to rally around him, but after the loss to the Colts, rookie cornerback Jalen Ramsey said a "complete flip will serve us good."

Marrone and Coughlin could provide that. They surely will bring a different vibe, a much more disciplined approach.

Marrone likely will keep offensive coordinator Nate Hackett, providing some stability for the inconsistent Bortles. The 2014 first-round draft pick has had three play callers in three seasons.

Players said Caldwell told them the next coach would bring a winning mentality. Bradley came under fire for failing to evolve his always-positive message that placed little emphasis on winning games.

Marrone has been Jacksonville's assistant head coach/offensive line coach since January 2015. He joined the team after two seasons as Buffalo's head coach. He guided the Bills to a 15-17 record before opting out of his contract because of uncertainty over potential organizational changes.

The Bills went 9-7 in Marrone's second season in 2014, the franchise's only winning record since 2004.

Bradley hired Marrone in 2015 to replace offensive line coach George Yarno, who left the team after being diagnosed with cancer. Marrone interviewed with five teams that had head-coaching vacancies after the 2015 season, but was not offered a job.

Marrone also has been a head coach on the collegiate level, going 25-25 at Syracuse from 2009 to 2012.

The 70-year-old Coughlin led the Jaguars to a 68-60 record in eight seasons (1995-2002). Coughlin resigned last January after a dozen years with the Giants, but made it clear he wanted to return to the NFL. He served as a senior adviser to the league's football operations department this season.

"He's got so much experience on myself or on any coach that we have in this building and he's a great individual, so I think you can always learn from people," Caldwell said after Bradley was fired. "There's always a place for knowledge."

Steelers not concerned about Roethlisberger's foot

By Will Graves
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — A day later, the way the Pittsburgh Steelers manhandled the Miami Dolphins for long stretches during their lopsided wild-card win on Sunday felt just as good as it did the first time around.

Roethlisberger

"It was a pretty thing to watch," right tackle Marcus Gilbert said.

Except for that one snap late in the fourth quarter with the Steelers up three scores and things well in hand, the one that left quarterback Ben Roethlisberger wearing a walking boot postgame after tweaking his right ankle when Dolphins defensive end Cameron Wake fell on Roethlisberger's legs during a third-down heave that led to an interception.

Roethlisberger was face down on the Heinz Field turf for a moment before walking off and later jogging to the locker room at the end of the 30-12 beat down.

While he brushed it off afterward and there appears to be no concerns over his availability for next weekend's visit to Kansas City, that didn't make it easier for Gilbert to deal with, particularly when he was the one who let Wake get loose.

"When you saw that, honestly kind of felt sick to your stomach," Gilbert said Monday.

"But you know he's one of the toughest guys I've been around. You know he's going to play through anything, get back up and do what he has to do to get to next week and play his kind of ball."

Even if the prospect of having Roethlisberger still under center and throwing with Pittsburgh firmly in control late seemed an unnecessary risk to some, particularly on social media even after Pittsburgh reeled off its eighth straight win.

"I think hindsight is always 20/20," guard David DeCastro said. "We've made plays like that before in that situation."

DeCastro isn't kidding.

Head coach Mike Tomlin and offensive coordinator Todd Haley have built Pittsburgh's offense into one of the league's most dynamic by consistently and relentlessly staying aggressive regardless of the situation.

Roethlisberger remained in the game and threw passes with under eight minutes to play in seven games this season in which the Steelers were at least two touchdowns ahead.

"We had our foot on the pedal," Gilbert said. "You take it off, tends to turn the opposite way. We kept our foot on the pedal."

And now that foot is a bit achy, one of the few blemishes on an otherwise spectacular performance.

Pittsburgh's biggest headaches going forward are the state of Roethlisberger's foot and the absence of outside linebackers coach Joey Porter.

The former Pro Bowler was placed on leave by the team Monday following his arrest at a Pittsburgh bar on Sunday night on charges of aggravated assault on an officer, simple assault, resisting arrest, disorderly conduct, defiant trespass and public drunkenness.

General manager Kevin Colbert said in a statement Monday the team is continuing to gather information and remains in communication with the NFL as part of the league's personal conduct policy.

Preparations for a rematch with the Chiefs will go on without the fiery Porter. Pittsburgh had no trouble with Kansas City on Oct. 2, overwhelming the Chiefs early in a nationally televised 43-14 whipping that was never in doubt.

Roethlisberger, by the way, remained in that game with it well out of hand too, throwing four times on a drive that ended with DeAngelo Williams' touchdown run that put the Steelers up 36 points midway through the fourth quarter.

Spieth set high expectations for youth

By Doug Ferguson
Associated Press

KAPALUA, Hawaii — Jordan Spieth made it tough on everyone in his age group, including Justin Thomas.

The high school class of 2011 features Spieth and Thomas, along with Daniel Berger, Patrick Rodgers, Ollie Schniederjans and Emiliano Grillo. Another of their friends from junior golf, Smylie Kaufman, was one year ahead of them.

They all were top players with bright futures.

None proved it quicker than Spieth, which only raised the bar for everyone else.

After failing to get through the second stage of qualifying school, and with no status on any tour going into 2013, Spieth managed to get special temporary status on the PGA Tour, picked up his first title that summer, made it all the way to the Tour Championship, played in the Presidents Cup and cracked the top 25 in the world.

Thomas turned pro that summer, in 2013, spent a year on the Web.com Tour and had no trouble getting to the big leagues. In his rookie year, he was in the hunt five times on Sunday, including The Players Championship, without winning.

It would be easy for Thomas to feel as though he were underachieving, even after such a strong rookie season. All the talk was on the youth movement, and he desperately wanted to be part of it. Thomas had just turned 22.

Two years later, he is part of the conversation when it comes to rising stars in golf.

Thomas started the new year by winning the SBS Tournament of Champions at Kapalua for his third PGA Tour title and second this season. He moved to a career-high No. 12 in the world ranking, joining Spieth (No. 5) and Hideki Matsuyama (No. 6) as the only players under age 25 in the top 15.

"I think it drove me a lot," Thomas said. "It's weird, I mean, some of the friends ... I wasn't mad, but it was maybe a little frustrating sometimes seeing some friends and peers my age do well. Not because I wasn't cheering for them, but because I felt like I was as good as them. It's just immature of me. The fact of the matter is, over the course of a long career, we're going to beat each other."

Associated Press

Jordan Spieth hits from the fifth tee during the third round of the Tournament of Champions golf event, Saturday at Kapalua Plantation Course in Kapalua, Hawaii.

Of that group of youngsters, Thomas was the fourth to win on the PGA Tour.

Spieth already had won six times, including the Masters and U.S. Open in 2015. At the start of the next season, Grillo won the Frys.com Open, Kaufman won in Las Vegas and Thomas broke through in Kuala Lumpur over the next three weeks.

The following week showed what a fraternity it really is.

One night in a Shanghai hotel during the HSBC Champions, Spieth, Grillo and Thomas were sitting in the lobby around a small table eating ice cream and laughing at their days as juniors (most of the stories were about Kaufman, who wasn't there).

Spieth, who rallied for a 65 on Sunday to tie for third, had one eye on an NFL playoff game and one eye on the final few holes when Thomas had a five-shot lead shrink to one shot in a span of two holes. When Thomas wrapped it up with an 8-iron to 3 feet for birdie on the 17th hole, Spieth headed down to meet him off the 18th green.

Spieth and Thomas have been linked as long as both have been on the PGA Tour.

During his rookie year, it seemed Thomas was referred to more as "Jordan's buddy" than his own name. That can get old, and it showed at Kapalua. Thomas had a share of the 36-hole lead, and when an unsuspecting reporter asked him if he had talked to Spieth about the course — Spieth won last year — Thomas replied, "No, I haven't."

When the rain arrived the weekend before the tournament, Spieth and Thomas headed to another part of Maui away from the clouds to practice and play.

They are rivals only on the golf course, which dates to 10 years ago when they were picked to represent the U.S. in the Evian Junior Masters in France. Thomas won the 36-hole event and earned a spot in the pro-am with Juli Inkster. Spieth caddied for him.

Thomas still says the most devastating loss in his golf career was to Spieth in the 2012 NCAA finals at Riviera, where Spieth holed a shot from the fairway bunker on No. 15, and his victory helped lead Texas to the title over Alabama.

Spieth was gushing about his friend as Thomas was building a big lead Sunday at Kapalua.

"I think it's potentially floodgates opening," Spieth said. "The guy hits it forever. He's got a really, really nifty short game. He manages the course well. He's playing the golf course the way it should be played, and honestly, he's taking advantage of the easier holes. ... It's awesome to see.

"He's going to be tough to beat next week, too."

Thomas and Spieth are both in the field.

So are Rodgers, Berger and Schniederjans. No doubt, they're paying attention to who's winning and wanting it to be their turn.

Cristiano Ronaldo wins FIFA best player award for 4th time

By Graham Dunbar
Associated Press

ZURICH — Capping what he called the best year of his career, Cristiano Ronaldo won his fourth FIFA best player award on Monday.

Ronaldo

The double European champion with Portugal and Real Madrid beat great rival Lionel Messi and Antoine Griezmann to complete a sweep of top individual awards.

"It was a year that was magnificent at a personal level and at a sporting level," the 31-year-old Ronaldo said in Portuguese in his acceptance speech, which he began by exclaiming "Wow, wow, wow."

Ronaldo's fourth career FIFA award closed the gap on five-time winner Messi, who has been the runner-up to each Ronaldo victory.

His 34.54 percent of total voting points in a 23-candidate ballot was clearly better than Messi's 26.42 percent. Griezmann got 7.53 percent. Voting was by national team captains and coaches, selected media, and fans online.

Messi did not attend after being pulled out hours before the ceremony by his club Barcelona to prepare for a cup match on Wednesday.

"Of course, I wish that they (Barcelona players) had been here tonight like in the other years. We have to respect the decision," Ronaldo said.

Yet again, Ronaldo and Messi snubbed each other on ballot papers they got as captains of Portugal and Argentina. Ronaldo selected three Real Madrid teammates headed by Gareth Bale, and Messi picked Luis Suarez atop an all-Barcelona ballot.

Ronaldo's 2016 trophy haul included the European Championship, Champions League, and Club World Cup, plus individual best player awards from UEFA and France Football magazine.

"I won a lot trophies, collective and individual, so I am proud," said Ronaldo, adding he would send the inaugural silver FIFA Best trophy to the museum dedicated to his career on his home island, Madeira.

Messi's Barcelona won the Spanish league and cup double in 2016, though Argentina lost another Copa America final. Griezmann's France and Atletico Madrid lost their finals to Ronaldo's teams.

Ronaldo's mentors for club and country were beaten to the coaching award by Leicester manager Claudio Ranieri, who earned the prize for a stunning English Premier League title.

"What happened last year was something strange. The God of football said Leicester must win," said Ranieri, who was in his first season at the unfashionable provincial club widely tipped for relegation.

Ranieri rose from his seat and politely shook hands with his two opponents, Madrid's Zinedine Zidane and Portugal's Fernando Santos, plus their partners before heading to the stage.

The 65-year-old Italian collected his trophy from Diego Maradona, who earlier Monday played in an exhibition match with other retired greats at FIFA headquarters.

Carli Lloyd of the United States won a FIFA player prize for the second straight year, despite a quarterfinals exit at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics.

WESTTEXASSPORTS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

To submit an item for West Texas Sports, please either fax, bring in, mail or email your information in hard-copy form to the Reporter-Telegram sports department.

Please make your submission as detailed as possible, including dates of events, deadlines, fees, age groups, etc.

To bring your item to the MRT, come to 201 E. Illinois Ave. in Midland. To mail your information, send it to Reporter-Telegram, c/o Sports Department, 201 E. Illinois Ave., Midland, TX 79701

You can email it to sports@mrt.com.

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When: Meets at 6:45 p.m.
For more info: Melton Post 684-5176 or Cactus Lanes 694-0177

Edith McElmore Three-Person League
When: 10 a.m. Wednesdays
Where: AMF Lanes
For more info: Call AMF Lanes at 689-9725

Reed's Super Bowl
What: Fall/winter leagues registration is currently ongoing.
For more info: Call 432-704-5385

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When: 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Saturdays
Where: Reed's Super Bowl, 3920 W Wall St.
Cost: $10-25
For more info: Call Zoe Reed at 575-689-5241 or Kevin Reed at 575-441-6646

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When: 7:30 p.m. Fridays
Where: Reed's Super Bowl
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For more info: Call Zoe Reed at 575-689-5241 or Kevin Reed at 575-441-6645

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For more info: Call 684-7755

Tennis clinics and lessons
Contact Coach Jon Lanier for clinics and lessons at jlanier@midlandchristianschool.org

Cycling

Permian Basin Bicycle Association Meetings
When: 7 p.m., third Monday of every month
Where: MCH Mission Fitness, corner of Highway 191 and Faudree Road Odessa
Dues: $25/$30 for a family
For more info: Peyton's Bikes 699-1718 or go to www.pbbatx.com

Dodgeball

Sticks and Kicks Leagues
Who: Kids, adults, co-ed players
Cost: $35 per player (8 game season)
Where: Register at Sticks and Kicks, 3918 W Wall
For more info: Call 520-6633

Flag Football

YMCA Officials Needed
What: The YMCA needs officials for Youth Flag Football games Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
For more info: Call 682-2551

Football

Permian Basin Officials Chapter seeks officials
Note: Education and training will be provided
For more info: Call Terrell Pierce at 559-5004 or Jesse Mendoza at 432-254-9214

Martial Arts

Aikido
When: Monday-Friday, 7 to 9 p.m., Saturdays, 12:30 p.m.
Note: Specializing in traditional Hombu style Aikido
For more info: Call John Riggs, 684-7008 or 770-3155

Private Martial Art/Self-Defense Lessons
For: Men-Women-Children
What: Learn Basic Skills to Advanced Techniques
Note: Private, Semi-Private and Group Lessons are available
For more info: Call Master Oscar Jimenez, 432-559-5008, ojimenez3@att.net

Matthews Martial Arts
When: Monday through Thursday, 5-8 p.m.
What: Karate-Judo-Jujitsu-Kempo-KungFu
For: Ages 3 and up
Where: 3208 Cuthbert
For more info: Contact Jason Matthews at 488-7467 or 689-8444

Miscellaneous

Student-Athlete Sports Consultant
For: Assisting high school student athletes with academic-athletic scholarships.
For more info: Call Jacob Santillano at (915) 240-1030

Poker

Lone Star Poker League
What: Free to play Texas Hold 'em Poker tournaments.
For: Beginners to experienced players. Ages 21 and up.
When/where: 6:30 p.m., Sunday, Wednesday and Friday at Woofers & Tweeters; 6:30 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday at Redneck Drafthouse. Players must be signed in by 6:15 p.m. each night.
For more info: Go to www.lonestarpokertour.net

Professional Wrestling

Old School Wrestling School
What: Professional wrestling school for all ages.
Where: 404 E. 61st St., Odessa
When: 7-10 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays; 2-6 p.m. Sundays
Cost: $50 down, $35 a month.
For more info: Call Fred, 770-7001, or Sam, 349-3055

Rugby

Mad Dog Rugby Football Club
Practices: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7-9 p.m. at Reyes-Washburn Park (north fork)
For more info: call 432-697-6418

Running

Permian Basin Running Club
Cost: $20 per year for individual membership; $30 for per year for family membership
For more info: Go to www.pbrunningclub.com or email Shawn Hailey, president at haileyshawn@pbrunningclub.com

Gazelles Training Group
When: 6 a.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
For more info: Call Popcorn Leonard at 512-762-1020 or 682-0988

Shooting

Comanche Trail Shootists
What: Single Action Shooting Society affiliated club in Midland
When: Monthly shoots first Saturday and third Sunday of each month; first Saturday beginning at 10 a.m., Third Sunday from 1 p.m. (Mandatory safety meeting at 12:30 p.m.) Also shoot on 9th Sunday on months that have them (begin at 1 p.m. and are no cost to the shooter); Mandatory safety meeting at 9:30 a.m.
Where: Timbertine Ranch adjacent to Jake's Clays
For more info: Go to comanchetrailshootists.org or call Hoodoo Brown 682-1422

Midland Shooters Association
What: All types of shooting practice and competition, featuring archery, benchrest rifle, bulls-eye rifle, high power rifle, pistol silhouette, rimfire silhouette, 3 gun, practical pistol, skeet, trap 5 state and sporting clays
When: Members can access rifle and pistol ranges from sunrise to sunset seven days a week. Shotgun ranges open 11 a.m. until dusk Wednesday to Sunday
For more info: Go to www.midlandshooters.com

Soccer

Permian Basin Soccer Association
What: Registration for women's spring/summer season
Where: Dunagan Park, located at corner of Gist and Terrell
When: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 7-8:30 p.m.
For more info: Contact Jesus Chavez at 557-7032 anytime or Josh Chavez at 238-6947 after 6:30 p.m.

Midland Soccer Association
For: Youth Recreational League Ages 4-18
When: Spring/Fall Games
Note: Also information on becoming a certified referee
For more info: Register online at www.midlandsoccer.com and go to 432-684-5425

Softball

Midland Softball Association Tournament Schedule
Now available at www.midlandsoftball.com
For more info: call Tommy Hawkins at 520-9100

Midland Men's Woodlet Fastpitch Association
For more info: Call 634-8474 or visit www.facebook.com/pages/Midland-Texas-Mens-Fastpitch or wyofastpitch@gmail.com

Swimming

COM Pre-competitive swimming
Where: Mabee Aquatic Center
Cost: $49 per month
Prerequisite: Must be able to swim 25 yards or freestyle or backstroke
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Water Aerobics Classes
When: All times, Monday through Saturday
Who: All skill levels
For more info: Call Tommy McAlister at 684-7755

COM Learn to Swim
Ages: All ages
Note: Private, semi-private and group lessons are available
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Masters Swimming
What: Competitive or non-competitive program for adults of all skill levels
When: 5-6 a.m., 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Cost: $40 per month (includes card+ training)
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Diving Instruction
Who: All ages and levels invited
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Learn to Dive
What: Learn basic skills for beginners then advance to pre-competitive and competitive diving that emphasize skilled diving techniques and participation in diving meets
Ages: 4 and up
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Competitive Dive Team
Who: Try out for Bronze, Silver, Gold Prep or Gold levels of COM Dive Team.
What: Emphasizes is on diving techniques and participation in local and out of town competitive meets
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Elite Dive Team
What: Highest level of COM diving. Concentrates on perfecting Olympic level skills, national and international travel
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Competitive Swim Team
Who: Try out for COM Swim Team. tryouts available by appointment
What: Emphasizes stroke correction and participation in local and out of town competitive meets
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Adult Conditioning
What: Allows adult participation use of top quality lap pools and fitness room during specified hours
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Water Walking Class
What: Unstructured, self-paced class
For more info: Call Tommy McAlister at 684-7755

COM Senior Fitness Class
Who: Senior citizens that need help with physical conditions resulting from injury, disease, chronic conditions, advanced age, etc.
For more info: Call Tommy McAlister at 684-7755

Central YMCA Water Aerobics Classes
When: Early morning, morning and evening
For more info: Call Leaf Faller 682-2551

Central YMCA Arthritis Water Exercise Classes
When: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
For more info: Call Leaf Faller 682-2551

Central YMCA Swimming Lessons
Who: All ages and ability
For more info: Call Leaf Faller 682-2551

Central YMCA Synchronized Swimming
For: Ages 6 and up
For more information: Call Leaf Faller 682-2551

Tennis

West Texas Tennis Association
What: West Texas Tennis Association, a non-profit community tennis association, promotes and oversees USTA leagues, programs and events in the area.
For more info: Call 432-210-0611 or www.westtexastennis.com for more information

Bush Tennis Center Clinics
What: Balloon Tennis 34 (ages 3-4); Redball 58 (ages 5-8); Orange and Green Ball 910 (ages 9-10); Junior Development (6th-8th grade 'freshman-JV) Junior Select (varsity); RSR Adults (adult beginners) Intermediate Adults 4.0-5.0 Adults (advanced adults). Also Junior Team Tennis registration now open
Where: Bush Tennis Center
For more info: Visit www.bushtenniscenter.com or call 620-8180

USTA Team Tennis Adult Leagues
When: Leagues run May through November
Where: Midland College Tennis Center
For more info: Sherry 620-8610 or Email www.midlandtennis@aol.com

Midland College Tennis
What: Clinics, lessons, leagues, tournaments
Where: Midland College Tennis Center
For more info: Call 687-4046

Midland College Tennis Club
When: A community tennis club
Where: Midland College Tennis Center
Annual Dues: Adults $85, youths $30, families $140
For more info: Call 563-1333 or email midlandtennisclub@aol.com
Note: Will be holding its annual meeting on Saturday, Jan. 30 at 11 a.m.

Midland Women's Tennis Association
Social women's doubles tennis, all levels
When: 9 a.m. Tuesdays
Where: Midland College
For more info: Call 854-707-0822 or email jmalcolmtexas@gamil.com Or go to the Midland Women's Tennis Association Facebook page

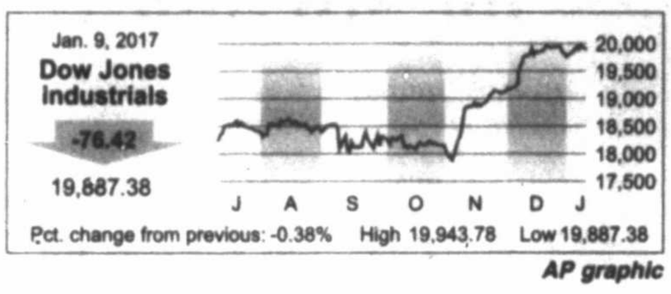
Ultimate Frisbee

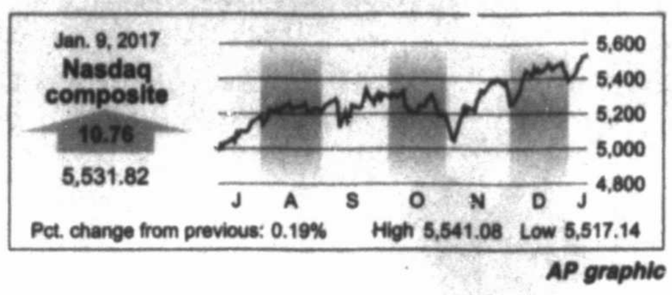
Midland Drought Ultimate Frisbee Club
What: The Club plays weekly casual pick-up games on Monday (from 7 p.m. to dark) and Saturday mornings (from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) and offer occasional opportunities for tourney travel
For ages: Males and females from the high school level to adult
For more info: Go to www.midlandultimatefrisbee.weebly.com or call Matt at 432-288-3139

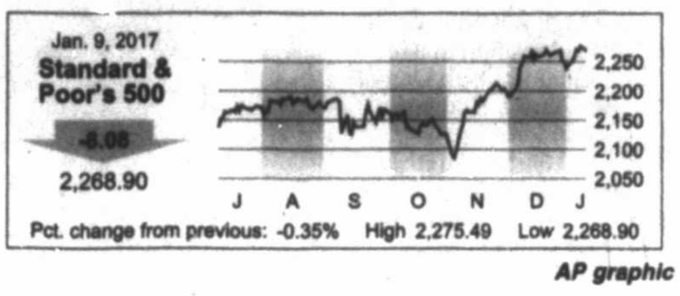
Walking

Midland Walkabout AWA Club
For: All Ages
Annual dues: $15 per family
Walks: One Saturday morning per month
When: First Monday of the month at Murray's Deli on Wadley at 6 p.m.
Who: All ages
For more info: Call 432-697-4310, email goldenrain3@suddenlink.net or visit midlandwalkabout.wordpress.com

A DAY ON WALL STREET







OIL PRICES

FUTURES

Monday: $51.96
Previous: $53.99

POSTED

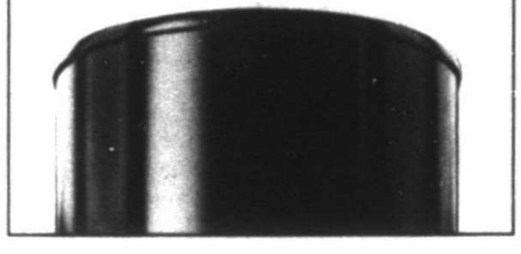
Monday: $48.25
Previous: $50.50

WEST TEXAS SOUR

Monday: $43.80
Previous: $46.05

NATURAL GAS

Monday: $3.103
Previous: $3.285



Blackstone deal for Energy Transfer stake said to collapse

Bloomberg

Blackstone Group is no longer in talks to buy a $5 billion stake in assets owned by Energy Transfer Partners, people with knowledge of the matter said.

The discussions fell through after the Wall Street Journal reported them last month, said one of the people, who asked not to identified because the information is private. The shares of Energy Transfer Partners jumped as much as 5 percent on the Journal's report, hurting the economics of the deal, the people familiar with the situation said.

A representative of Blackstone declined to comment, while a representative of Energy Transfer didn't respond to a request for comment.

The private placement announced on Monday by Energy Transfer worth about $568 million is in lieu of the Blackstone deal, one of the people said. That transaction involves its parent entity, Energy Transfer Equity LP, using the proceeds from the sale of 32.2 million common units to purchase 15.8 million units in Energy Transfer Partners, according to a statement.

Energy Transfer Equity's shares fell as much as 5.7 percent in New York.

Energy Transfer Equity, one of the largest oil and gas infrastructure companies in the U.S., is streamlining to conserve cash and pay down debt. Energy Transfer Partners agreed to sell itself in November to sister company Sunoco Logistics Partners LP in a deal that valued the company at $21.3 billion. The group is in the process of building the controversial Dakota Access oil pipeline.

Blackstone Group, one of the largest buyout firms in the world, closed a $4.5 billion energy fund last year.

Stocks close lower

A slide in oil and natural gas companies led U.S. stock indexes mostly lower Monday, even as the Nasdaq composite index eked out another record high.

Energy sector stocks declined the most, weighed down by lower prices for crude oil and other energy futures. Utilities and phone company stocks also fell sharply. But gains among health care and technology stocks helped lift the Nasdaq, extending a winning streak into its fifth day.

Absent major new economic data, investors mostly focused on company earnings and several corporate deals, including UnitedHealth's $2.3 billion cash-and-stock buyout of Surgical Care Affiliates.

All told, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 76.42 points, or 0.4 percent, to 19,887.38. The Standard & Poor's 500 index slid 8.08 points, or 0.4 percent, to 2,268.90. The Nasdaq rose 10.76 points, or 0.2 percent, to 5,531.82.

The market's postelection rally sputtered the last week of December. So far this year, the major stock indexes have mostly inched higher. That could change toward the end of the week.

Metal prices end mixed

In metals trading, the price of gold rose $11.50, or 1 percent, to $1,184.90 an ounce. Silver added 16 cents, or 1 percent, to $16.68 an ounce. Copper fell a penny to $2.54 a pound.

NYSE

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
DrGMBll s	733394	7.92	+.35
BkofAm	701470	22.55	-.13
VanEGold	581303	22.46	+.07
DxGBull s	511710	9.37	+.11
S&P500ETF	409248	226.46	-.75

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
BonanzaCE	2.08	+.34	+19.5
SthcrsaEn	2.00	+.29	+17.0
3D Sys	16.73	+2.27	+15.7
NavigatrH	10.30	+.85	+9.0
BP Pru	29.60	+2.30	+8.4

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
StageStrs	3.31	-.69	-17.3
Acuity	202.51	-34.85	-14.7
CSVLgNG rs	25.25	-4.13	-14.1
CgpVelLCrd	24.75	-2.62	-9.6
PrSUtltNG rs	13.34	-1.38	-9.4

DIARY

Advanced	1,063
Declined	1,926
Unchanged	85
Total issues	3,074
New Highs	74
New Lows	10
Volume	3,101,322,727

AMEX

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Globalstar	117759	1.61	-.10
NDynMn g	54840	2.04	+.12
B2gold g	48649	2.70	-.01
NovaGld g	35625	4.88	+.08
NwGold g	32264	3.88	+.07

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
InspMD rs	2.77	+.34	+14.0
NovaBay rs	3.70	+.40	+12.1
AvalonHld	2.98	+.24	+8.8
LGL Grp	4.93	+.31	+6.8
NuvPalMV	17.50	+1.08	+6.6

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
GldFld	5.15	-.60	-10.4
BG Staffing	13.88	-1.60	-10.3
Compx	14.20	-1.20	-7.8
Contango	8.77	-.71	-7.5
YumaEn rs	3.25	-.25	-7.1

DIARY

Advanced	157
Declined	188
Unchanged	25
Total issues	370
New Highs	9
New Lows	1
Volume	211,386,098

NASDAQ

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
AriadP	1118280	23.75	+10.01
SiriusXM	335767	4.60	+.04
FrontierCm	327543	3.68	-.07
Apple Inc	316809	118.99	+1.08
MermrkP	311484	3.67	+.07

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
DiffusPh n	5.70	+3.64	+176.7
EntreM rs	17.70	+8.51	+92.6
AriadP	23.75	+10.01	+72.9
GenVec rs	4.97	+1.31	+35.8
VCA Inc	90.79	+20.02	+28.3

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
AMAG Ph	23.00	-12.70	-35.6
Vivopwr n	4.58	-1.11	-19.5
ChromaDx n	3.06	-.61	-16.6
Dest XL	3.25	-.55	-14.5
Alcobra	2.17	-.35	-13.9

DIARY

Advanced	1,153
Declined	1,662
Unchanged	216
Total issues	3,031
New Highs	78
New Lows	18
Volume	1,784,060,796

VW executives in Germany said to face US diesel-case charges

Bloomberg

U.S. prosecutors are planning to charge high-level Volkswagen executives based in Germany over the automaker's emissions cheating scandal, according to a person familiar with the matter, after arresting a manager in the U.S. for allegedly misleading regulators.

A top Volkswagen emissions-compliance executive Oliver Schmidt, 48, was arrested at Miami International Airport on Saturday and charged with conspiracy to defraud the U.S.

A court filing against Schmidt lays out what could be a roadmap to charges against higher-level executives. Volkswagen's senior officials in Wolfsburg, Germany, were told in July 2015 of the existence, purpose and characteristics of the device that lowered emissions on diesel cars when it detected it was undergoing environmental testing, the U.S. alleged, citing information obtained from three cooperators. VW admitted its efforts to skirt environmental standards in September 2015.

"VW employees assured VW executive management that U.S. regulators were not aware of the defeat device," according to the filing in federal court in Detroit. "Rather than advocate for disclosure of the defeat device to U.S. regulators, VW executive management authorized its continued concealment."

The person familiar with the investigation declined to specify when charges against more senior-level executives may be filed or whether the executives to be charged are still employed by the automaker. The Justice Department declined to comment on additional charges.

Volkswagen is a nearing a multibillion-dollar settlement with the Justice Department to resolve a criminal investigation into the diesel emissions-cheating allegations, which could be announced as soon as this week, Bloomberg reported Friday.

The government and Volkswagen have been trying to reach a settlement by Jan. 20 before the Trump administration comes into office and replaces the political appointees who have been overseeing the diesel-cheating case. VW also faces a criminal probe and lawsuits in Germany.

Any criminal penalty from the government would come on top of a $14.7 billion U.S. civil settlement between drivers, regulators and VW that requires the company to fix or buy back about 480,000 of the cars in the U.S. with 2.0-liter engines cars and pay to promote zero-emissions vehicles.

Schmidt is accused of participating in a conspiracy to defraud the U.S. government and Volkswagen customers and to violate the federal Clean Air Act from 2006 to 2015, according to court papers. He was scheduled to make a court appearance in Miami later Monday.

Schmidt began working for the automaker in 1997 and served as general manager in charge of its Environmental and Engineering Office from 2012 to 2015, according to an affidavit filed by the FBI. That agency was primarily responsible for communicating and coordinating with U.S. regulatory agencies, according to prosecutors. In March 2015, Schmidt was promoted to a more senior management position within Volkswagen and returned to the company's headquarters in Germany.

MIDLAND STOCKS

Midland-Headquartered Publicly Traded Companies

Clayton Williams Energy (CWEI)
Closing Price $108.76 Down 4.33

Concho Resources (CXO)
Closing Price $134.67 Down 0.93

Dawson Geophysical (DWSN)
Closing Price $7.84 Down 0.26

Diamondback Energy (FANG)
Closing Price $101.43 Down 2.23

Legacy Reserves (LGCY)
Closing Price $2.40 Down 0.08

Mexco Energy (MXC)
Closing Price $4.75 Down 0.17

Natural Gas Services Group (NGS)
Closing Price $30.75 Down 0.60

RSP Permian (RSPP)
Closing Price $44.10 Down 1.84

Ring Energy (REI)
Closing Price $12.80 Down 0.20

Viper Energy Partners (VNOM)
Closing Price $16.40 Down 0.08

HOW STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST FARED

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
AK Steel		30	10.31	-.41	+1.0
AMAG Ph		13	23.00	-12.70	-33.9
AT&T Inc	1.96	16	40.80	.52	-4.1
Abraxas			2.72	-.06	+5.8
AdaDvsEq	.92e		12.94	-.01	+1.8
AMD			11.49	+.17	+1.3
AlonUSA	.60		12.07	-.19	+6.1
Ambev	.06e		5.13	+.04	+4.5
Amgen	**4.60f**	**14**	**158.84**	**+2.06**	**+8.6**
Anadarko	.20		69.96	-1.76	+.4
Apache	1.00		62.36	-.76	-1.7
Apple Inc	2.28	14	118.99	+1.08	+2.7
ApldMatl	.40	20	**32.78**	**+.74**	**+1.6**
ArcelorMit		27	7.51	-.10	+2.9
Archrock	.48f		13.60	-.45	+3.0
AriadP			23.75	+10.01	+90.9
ATMOS	1.68	22	**73.21**	**-.96**	**-1.3**
AutoData	2.28f	28	102.47	-.64	-.3
BP PLC	**2.40a**		**37.31**	**-.60**	**-.2**
BakrHu	.68		63.24	-.72	-2.7
BkofAm	.30f	18	22.55	-.13	+2.0
B iPVxST rs			22.04	-.09	-13.6
BarringtCp s	1.20		15.30	+.11	-1.2
BarrickG	.08	39	16.97	+.04	+6.2
BasicEnS			45		
BerkHa A			**162431**	**11.03-2282.99**	**-.4**
BlkHillsCp	**1.68**	**22**	**61.16**	**-.06**	**-.3**
BrMySq	**1.56f**	**42**	**59.73**	**-.22**	**+2.2**
BrownFA s		**29**	**46.30**	**-.21**	**+.1**
BrownFB s			**44.75**	**-.31**	**-.4**
CVS Health	1.70f	14	81.70	-.50	+3.5
Caterpillar	3.08	25	92.37	-.67	-.4
Celestic g		10	12.17	-.06	+2.7
CntryLink	2.16	10	25.23	-.15	+6.1
ChesEng			6.87	-.14	-2.1
Chevron	**4.28**		**115.84**	**-1.00**	**-1.6**
Chicos	.32	30	13.95	-.07	-3.1
Cimarex	.32		139.36	-.65	+2.5
Cisco	1.04	14	30.18	-.05	-.1
Citigroup	.64	16	60.22	-.33	+1.3
ClayEng			**108.76**	**-4.33**	**-8.8**
CocaCola	**1.40**	**25**	**41.32**	**-.42**	**-.3**
ColgPalm	**1.56**	**24**	**66.42**	**-.94**	**+1.5**
ConAgra	**.80**	**20**	**38.44**	**-.30**	**-2.8**
ConchoRes			**134.67**	**-.93**	**+1.6**
ConocoPhil	**1.00**		**49.66**	**-1.08**	**-1.0**
CrackerB	4.60	21	157.74	-1.69	-5.5
CSVInvNG			4.84	+.57	+59.7
CSVelIVST			53.75	+.08	+15.0
CrosTim	**1.06e**	**14**	**18.47**	**+.23**	**+2.8**
DCP Mid	3.12	17	36.03	-.94	-6.1
DTE	2.92	22	97.88	-.98	-.6
Dataram rs			1.52		-30.9
DevonE	**.24**		**46.58**	**-2.09**	**+2.0**
DrGlMBr rs			21.82	-1.04	-37.8
DrGMBll s			7.92	+.35	+41.9
DxGBull s			9.37	+.11	+22.6
Disney	**1.56f**	**19**	**108.36**	**-.62**	**+4.0**
DowChm	**1.84**	**19**	**57.79**	**+.35**	**+1.0**
DryShp rs		1	2.73	.30	-26.0
EOG Resrc	**.67**		**103.02**	**-2.19**	**+1.9**
EmpDist	**1.04**	**23**	**34.09**		
Energen	.08		56.63	-2.34	-1.8
EgyTrEq s	1.14	19	18.92	-.94	-2.0
EngyTsfr	4.22		36.53	-.91	+2.0
EnPro	**.84**	**50**	**66.23**	**-1.16**	**-1.7**
ENSCO	.04		11.70	+.02	+20.4
EnteroM rs			17.70	+8.51	+785.0
EntProdPt	1.64	21	27.56	-.09	+1.9
Ericsson	.46e		5.87		+.7
Exelixis			17.58	+2.26	+17.9
ExxonMbl	**3.00**	**35**	**87.04**	**-1.46**	**-2.6**
Facebook		35	124.90	+1.49	+8.6
FordM	.60a	6	12.63	-.13	+4.1
FrptMcM			14.68	-.22	+11.3
FrontierCm	.42		3.68	-.07	+8.9
GATX	**1.60**	**9**	**58.99**	**-1.34**	**-4.2**
GabMutT	**.94e**		**7.48**	**+.04**	**+3.3**
GAInv	**1.15e**		**31.79**	**+.26**	**+2.0**
GenElec	**.96f**	**28**	**31.46**	**-.15**	**-.4**
GenMotors	1.52	6	36.01	+.02	+3.4
Globalstar		15	1.61	-.10	+1.9
GtPlainEn	**1.10f**	**16**	**27.57**	**-.45**	**+.8**
HP Inc	.50	9	14.68	-.32	-1.1
Halliburtn	**.72**		**56.07**	**-.59**	**+3.7**
HP Ent n	.26f	14	22.56	-.54	-2.5
HostHotls	.80a	14	18.20	-.05	-3.4
HuntBncsh	.32f	19	13.32	+.03	+.8
IAMGld g		16	4.53	+.09	+17.7
iShBrazil	1.03e		34.85	-.01	+4.5
iShEMkts	.84e		35.91	-.03	+2.6
iS Eafe	1.70e		58.96	-.09	+2.1
iShR2K	1.77e		134.80	.89	
Intel	**1.04**	**16**	**36.81**	**+.13**	**+.9**
InterDig	1.20	15	88.70		-2.9
JPMorgCh	1.92	15	86.18	+.06	-.1
JohnJn	**3.20**	**18**	**116.28**	**-.02**	**+.9**
KimbClk	**3.68**	**19**	**114.84**	**-1.78**	**+.5**
LegacyRes	.60m		2.40	-.08	+13.2
Lubys			**4.09**	**-.03**	**-4.4**
MastThera			.15	+.05	+72.4
McDnlds	3.76f	23	120.43	-.33	-1.1
Merck	1.88f	16	61.10	+.83	+3.8
MerltMed		**34**	**25.85**	**+.40**	**-3.2**
MerrimkP			3.67	+.07	-10.0
MexcoEn			4.75	-.17	-5.0
MicronT			22.34	+.30	+1.9
Microsoft	1.56f	26	62.64	-.20	+.8
Nabors	.24		17.97	-.21	+9.6
NatGrid	**3.35e**		**57.85**	**-.69**	**-1.2**
NOilVarco	.20	21	38.07	-.92	+1.7
NobleCorp	.08		7.30	-.03	+23.3
NokiaCp	.30e		4.83	-.09	+.4
NSTFI3	**.55e**		**14.21**		**+.3**
NTXQI	**.65**		**13.98**	**+.08**	**+1.9**
Nvidia	.56f	65	107.28	+4.18	+.5
OcciPet	**3.04f**		**70.48**	**-.60**	**-1.1**
Oracle	.60	19	39.03	+.58	+1.9
Pandora			12.12	-.35	-7.1
PerTech		**17**	**5.88**	**-.04**	**+1.3**
PerkDrl			**2.75**	**-.05**	**+5.8**
PetitUTI	**.06**	**8**	**28.06**	**-.53**	**+4.3**
Nvidia	.56f	65	107.28	+4.18	+.5
OcciPet	**3.04f**		**70.48**	**-.60**	**-1.1**
Oracle	.60	19	39.03	+.58	+1.9
Pandora			12.12	-.35	-7.1
PerTech		**17**	**5.88**	**-.04**	**+1.3**
PerkDrl			**2.75**	**-.05**	**+5.8**
PetitUTI	**.06**	**8**	**28.06**	**-.53**	**+4.3**
Pennrey			7.19	-.38	-13.5
PennaRE	**.84**	**79**	**18.99**	**-.38**	**-.2**
Prmian	.41e	22	8.03	-.08	+4.2
Petrobras			10.83	-.04	+7.1
Pfizer	**1.28f**	**14**	**33.47**	**-.01**	**+3.0**
PioNtrl	.08		182.60	-2.47	+1.4
PlainsAAP	**2.20**	**29**	**32.40**	**-.15**	**+.3**
PwShs QQQ	1.52e		122.33	+.40	+3.2
Praxair	**3.00**	**22**	**116.55**	**+.35**	**-.5**
PrmEgy			**94.00**		
PUVixST rs			6.48	-.03	-25.9
PrUCrude rs			10.88	-.71	-6.8
ProctGam	**2.68**	**23**	**84.40**	**-.53**	**+.4**
RangeRs	.08		32.76	-1.47	-4.7
RiteAid		77	8.45	+.05	+2.5
Rowan	.40	6	19.15	-.66	+1.4
RoyDShllA	3.76	83	54.60	-1.19	+.4
SpdrDJIA	3.98e		198.76	-.75	+.6
S&P500ETF	4.13e		226.46	-.75	+1.3
SpdrLehHY	2.30		36.75	+.01	+.8
SabnR	1.86e	17	36.40	-.50	+3.6
SanderFm	**.96f**	**11**	**95.22**	**-1.46**	**+1.0**
Schlmbrg	2.00	56	85.77	-.71	+2.2
SiriusXM	.01p	38	4.60	+.04	+3.4
Smucker	3.00f	16	128.01	-1.03	
SwstnEngy			9.75	-.50	-9.9
Sprint			8.70	+.01	+3.3
SPDR Fncl	.46e		23.38	-.16	+.6
SP Util	1.55e		48.19	-.64	-.8
Starbucks s	1.00f	30	58.20	+1.07	+4.8
SunocoLog	2.04f	52	24.52	-.59	+2.1
TelefEsp	**1.03e**		**9.85**		**+4.9**
Tesoro	2.20	10	81.68	-2.07	-6.6
TewaPhrm	1.38e	12	35.06	-.04	-3.3
3D Sys			16.73	+2.27	+25.9
3M Co	4.44	22	177.27	-.96	-.7
Torchmark	**.56**	**17**	**73.91**	**-.68**	**+.2**
TriContl	**.82e**		**22.41**	**+.07**	**+1.6**
Twitter			17.50	+.33	+7.4
TylerTech		**53**	**149.32**	**+1.53**	**+4.6**
UBSI	**1.32**	**23**	**44.85**	**-.60**	**-3.0**
US NGas			7.79	-.38	-16.6
US OilFd			11.31	-.37	-3.5
USSteel	.20		33.61	-1.79	+1.8
VCA Inc		30	90.79	+20.02	+32.3
Vale SA	.29e		8.22	+.23	+7.9
ValeroE	2.40	14	66.37	-.29	-2.9
VanEGold	.12e		22.46	+.07	+7.4
VanE JrGld			36.96	+.56	+14.0
VangEmg	1.10e		36.67	-.06	+2.5
VerizonCm	2.31f	15	52.68	-.58	-1.3
VulcanM	**.80**	**42**	**122.72**	**-1.08**	**-1.9**
WEC Engy	2.08f	20	57.96	-.80	-1.1
WalgBoots	1.50	18	82.55	-.55	-.3
WealthInt			**5.88**	**-.03**	**+17.8**
WellsFargo	1.52	13	54.24	-.80	-1.6
WstnRefin	1.52	24	35.44	-.83	-6.4
WhitingPet			12.31	-.36	+2.4
WmsCos	.80	74	31.93	-.49	+2.5
XcelEngy	**1.36**	**19**	**40.30**	**-.82**	**-1.0**
Xerox	**.31**	**9**	**6.97**	**-.04**	**+21.2**
Yamana g	.02m		3.17	+.07	+12.8

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
19,999.63	15,450.56	Dow Jones Industrials	19,887.38	-76.42	-.38	+.63	+21.28
9,490.29	6,403.31	Dow Jones Transportation	9,022.83	-81.25	-.89	-.23	+30.49
723.83	569.12	Dow Jones Utilities	653.19	-8.37	-1.27	-.97	+12.19
11,668.45	8,937.99	NYSE Composite	11,169.79	-67.83	-.60	+1.02	+17.24
5,536.52	4,209.76	Nasdaq Composite	5,531.82	+10.76	+.19	+2.76	+19.27
2,282.10	1,810.10	S&P 500	2,268.90	-8.08	-.35	+1.34	+17.95
1,698.70	1,215.14	S&P Midcap	1,670.24	-11.83	-.70	+.58	+28.09
23,675.45	16,462.43	Wilshire 5000	23,723.34	-93.22	-.39	+1.27	+19.52
1,392.71	943.09	Russell 2000	1,357.49	-9.79	-.72	+.03	+30.29

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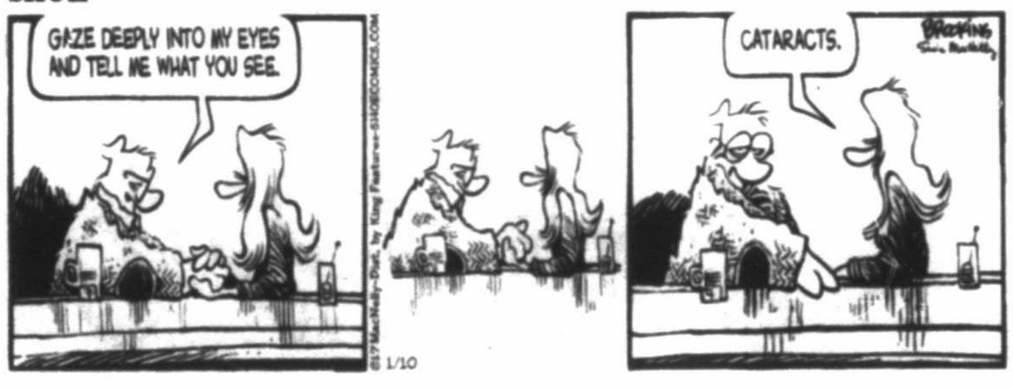
BEETLE BAILEY

CLASSIC PEANUTS

SHOE



GARFIELD

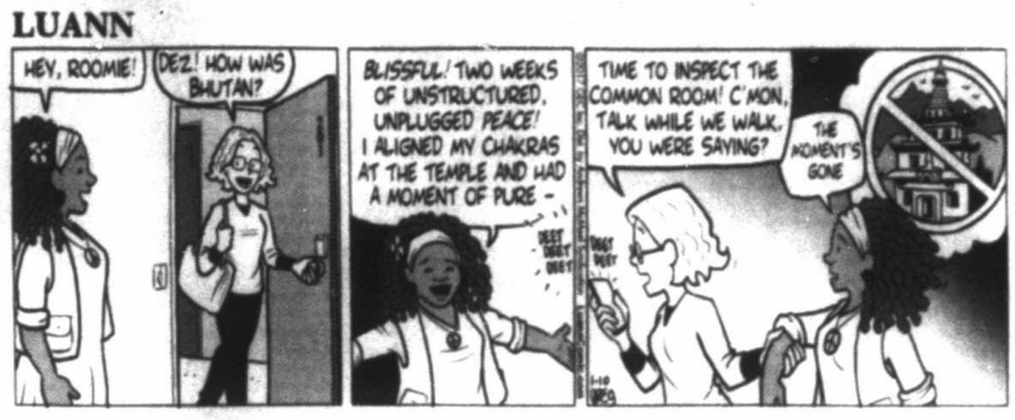
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

WIZARD OF ID

DILBERT

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

LUANN



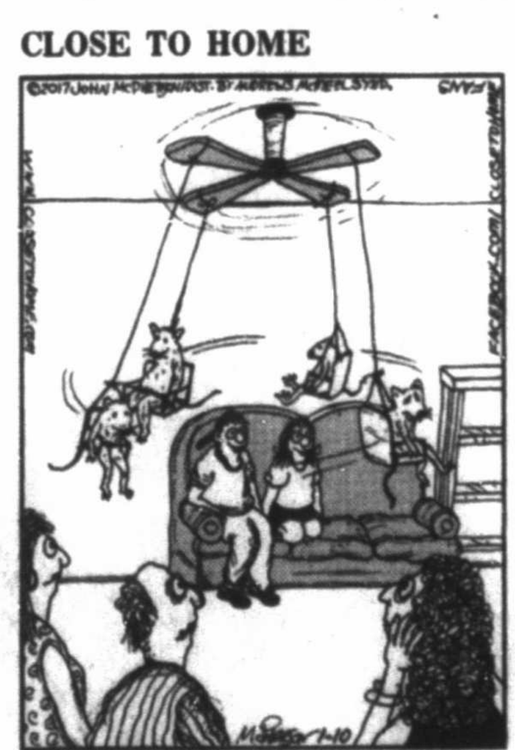
MARY WORTH

ZITS

BABY BLUES

MUTTS

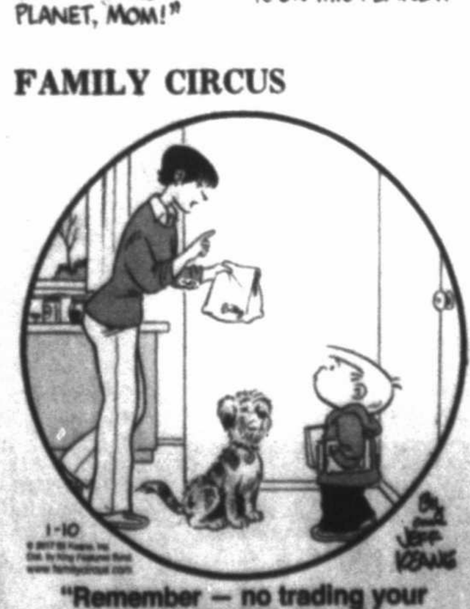
CLOSE TO HOME



Just as she was giving her Airbnb guests a tour, Shirley discovered that the kids had created an "amusement" ride for their pet rats.

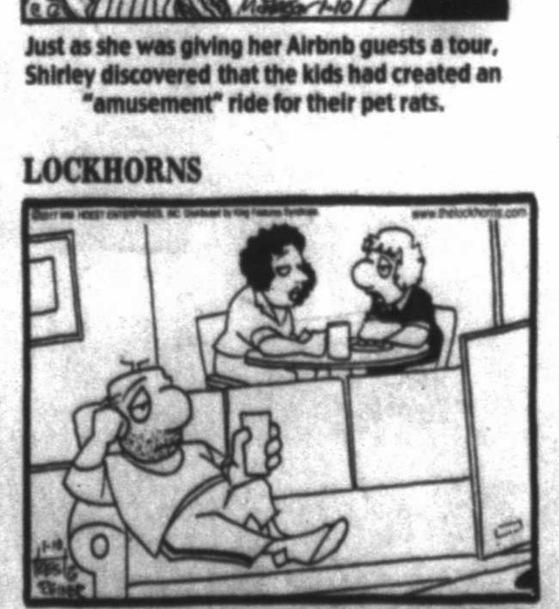
DENNIS THE MENACE

FAMILY CIRCUS

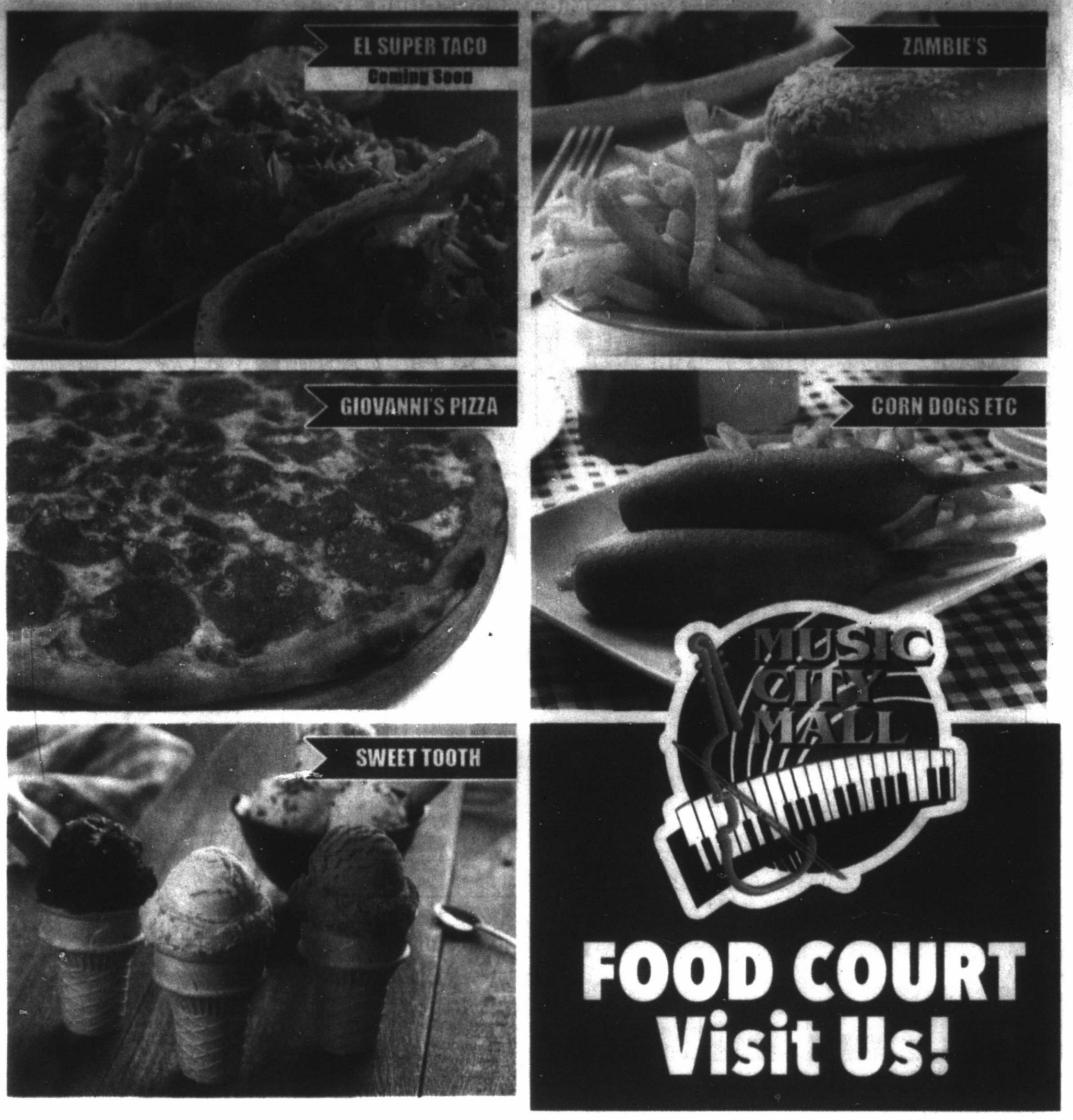


"Remember — no trading your roast beef and lettuce for peanut butter and jelly."

LOCKHORNS



"LOVE IS BLIND, BUT MARRIAGE HAS HELPED ME REGAIN MY EYESIGHT."



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432.682.6222

mrtclassifieds@mrt.com

CONSTRUCTION AND FACILITIES

Electrician

Experienced electricianans needed for a commerical project in Odessa. Please call 817-360-1818.

ENERGY AND UTILITIES

Automation Technician

Tanklogix is hiring for the position of Senior Level Automation Technician. We are seeking qualified, committed professionals to join our team in the fast-growing automation industry. This position requires a minimum of 3 years oilfield experience and 2 years electrical experience. Journeyman electricians preferred. Competitive pay based upon qualifications. Great benefits and working environment. Applicants must pass a background check, drug screen, and electrical aptitude test. Applications must be picked up at 12200 W. Hwy 80 E., Odessa, TX. Applicants must provide a resume in person. Applications must be received by January 23rd, 2017 at 4:00 P.M.

FIELD OPERATOR

1 year experience required in Natural Gas Compression. Must be able to read gauges, lift over 50 lbs., climb ladders. Must have valid DL and be able to work 12 hour shifts. Competitive wages and benefits. Fax resume to 432-458-3423 or email to vmccormack@wtggas.com.

Geotech/ Mudlogger

Two years of wellsite experience or 1 year of experience plus 12 semester hours of college. Use MainLog software. Email resume with references to admin@miphillps.com and 'GEO-TECH' in subject line

West Texas Mud Loggers Needed

Co. in business since 1953. Good benefits. Exp. Req. Send resume w/contact info. & exp. to: OFFICE@PWL-INC.COM

HEALTHCARE

LVN

LVN -Full Time needed for Addiction medical clinic. Early morning hours. Medication Management, TB tests, blood draws, medical orders. Paid vacations, holidays, personal days. Routine travel between Midland and Odessa. Periodic travel to Abilene/San Angelo area required. No health insurance available. Please fax resume to 800-671-8364.

Registered Nurse

Immediate opening for **RN,** experience preferred. FT.
Excellent benefit package. Send resume with references to: jodyetinic@gmail.com or Midland Women's Clinic, Attn: Jody Bulls, 2500 W. Illinois Ave Suite 100, Midland, TX 79701.

OTHER JOBS

Construction Positions

Johnson Bros now hiring Construction jobs position. Apply @ 5905 W I H 20 Big Springs, TX. 79720. Call Ryan 817-825-2403.

Gate Attendants needed

Gate Guard Services is looking for Gate Attendants in West Texas area, must have RV or Traveling trailer and must pass background. Requirements needed: Non-Commissioned license. Please call Patty for more information @ 361-949-6992.

GATE GUARD SERVICES, L.P.

KELLY SERVICES NOW HIRING:

Great Direct Hire Opportunities:

- Regional Tanker Truck Driver. Delivering chemical product to field locations. Must have HS diploma/GED, CDL Class A and 2 years or 150,000 miles experience and hazmat and tanker endorsements. Home 3-4 nights per week. excellent benefits. $20.00 hr.
- Field Service Tech - Service and maintenance of all equipment at the yard and the field. Must have a HS Diploma. Must have a minimum of 2 yrs as a mechanic or field service technician. Requires diesel and gasoline engine mechanical knowledge and various pumps and pump operation mechanical knowledge.
- Field Mechanics - Must have CDL and 3 years experience. Salary DOE

Great Temp and Temp to Hire positions:

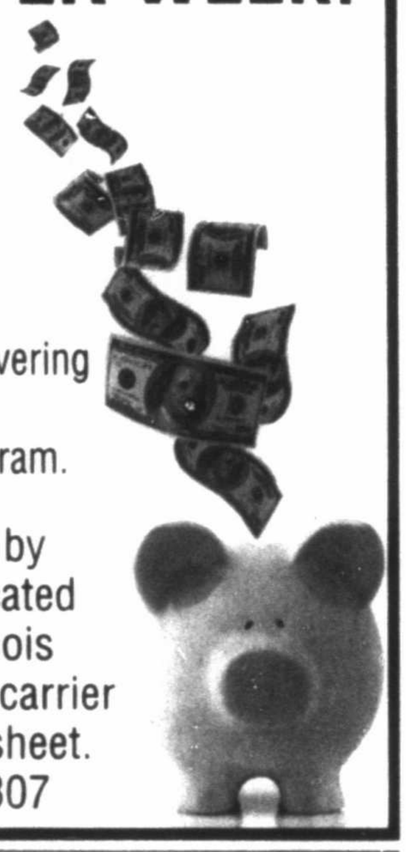
- DOT Clerk • Inventory Control • Receptionist
- Recruiter • Medical Billing Clerk • Validation Clerk

Apply in person 6 Desta Drive Ste 1260, Midland or email resume lopezle@kellyservices.com. 432-689-9801.
Never an applicant fee, equal opportunity employer

OTHER JOBS

EARN UP TO $500 PER WEEK!

Do you have a reliable car with insurance and a phone?? Become an independent contractor delivering the Midland Reporter-Telegram.



Please come by our office located at 201 E. Illinois and fill out a carrier information sheet.
Linda 687-8807

Multiple Positions Open

Production Chemical Company looking for experienced account managers, service technnicians, and CDL Drivers.
Call 432-558-8227 or mail resumes to:
M-2 C/O The Midland Reporter-Telegram
201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX. 79701

REAL ESTATE

Assistant Manager

Midland Village Apartments is taking applications for an assistant manager. Will train the right person. Please call for an appointment 432-683-9726.

RETAIL JOBS

SALES ASSOCIATE

Wood's Boots is currently hiring part time sales associates. No phone calls! If you are interested in wearing boots and jeans to work, and working with great customers, come see us at 4803 Andrews Highway & 812 West I-20.

SALES JOBS

Salesperson

Experienced pump salesperson needed. Excellent compensation and benefit plans provided. Send resumes to P-121 c/o Midland Reporter Telegram, 201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX, 79701

SKILLED LABOR

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

SKILLED LABOR

Experienced Bench Jewelers needed

Anderson Bros Jewelers in Lubbock, Texas is seeking to fill a position for a bench jeweler.

THIS JOB REQUIRES RELOCATION TO LUBBOCK, TEXAS

QUALIFICATIONS:
5+ years experience
Experience in stone setting, laser welding, sizing

Salary and benefits - commensurate with experience
Please email resumes along with 3 business references to jtoddfields@hotmail.com.
Anderson Bros Jewelers is an equal opportunity employer

NG RESOURCES CORPORATION

WELDER

The Welder will display basic mathematical skills (working with fractions down to 1/32") and basic structural welding and layout skills. The Welder possesses a general mechanical aptitude demonstrating his/her ability to proficiently operate hand and power tools and an understanding of plumb, level, and square. The Welder must be punctual, reliable, and motivated. The Welder must also take exceptional pride in their work and must pass a GMAW 1G plate or the pipe 6G test.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES include the following. Other duties may be assigned.

- Coordinate with Shop Supervisor to accomplish general assignments
- Pass GMAW 1G plate or pipe 6G test
- Mechanical aptitude, knowledge of how to use hand and power tools, drill press, grinder, ect.
- Have a general understanding of shop drawings
- Ability to work with minimal supervision
- Abide by all policies and procedures, including those related to quality, safety, and environmental issues
- Identifies and segregates materials and/or products that may have potential nonconformance

ESSENTIAL SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- The ability to read and write English
- A basic understanding of the mechanical aspects of gas compressor packages
- Must be code certified on flat plate in the 1G position
- Thorough understanding of all company safety, environmental, and practices
- Willing to attend training classes
- Be reliable, dependable, and able to work overtime when required
- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Strong team player

EDUCATION

High School Diploma, GED, or formal vocational training is preferred. Formal training in welding is preferred.

Please apply in person at NG Resources Corporation 5500 NCR 1150, Midland, Texas 79705

TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

Class A CDL Drivers

Minimum of 2-3 years experience. Hazmat endorsement preferred but not necessary. Vacuum truck experience. Call 432-934-3829 or 432-561-8334

Class A CDL Driver with Hazmat & Tanker endorsement

Service Seal LLC has an **immediate** opening for a Class A CDL Driver with Hazmat & Tanker endorsement. We are a stable company that offers a **sign-on bonus**, competitive hourly pay and excellent benefits. More information regarding our benefits will be given during the interview process. This position requires at least 3 years of verifiable professional driving experience, strong computer skills along with passing the pre-employment background screening. Our Drivers have most weekends off and will not have many overnight deliveries. Please submit your resume to tammy@oilcenter.com for review and consideration or contact Rodolfo Sanchez at 432-889-6985 to complete an application in person.

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Browse Dozens of **Rewarding Career Opportunities** for

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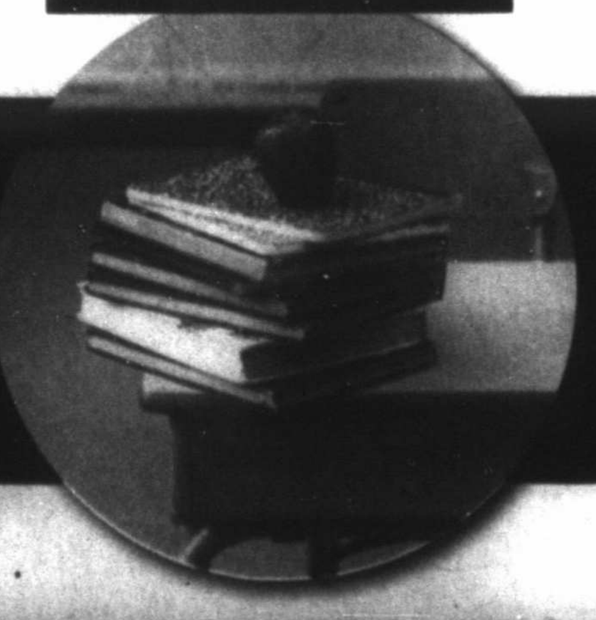
Educators



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Events and Notices

General Announcement

Mark Berryhill.com Ministering for Christ Teach the Lord's Word 1-4

Lost and Found

FOUND FEMALE boxer, 12/31-01/01. Call to identify. 432-697-5127

LOST 12/27/16 James Avery, I Am The Vine silver necklace and chain in parking lot of Tractor Supply or old Walgreens. Reward offered. Call 432-889-9656.

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

Autos For Sale-Lease

Passenger Cars

2003 PORSCHE 911. CONVERTIBLE Hardtop / Soft top. Lifetime garage. 6,800 miles. $35,000. Saddle Club. Charlie 432-570-1822.

2008 BMW 750I Series. Perfect condition. Beautiful black color. Asking $13,500. 432-770-7982.

MAZDA Miata. 1997. $2,900. Drives well. Needs paint job. 118K. 432-741-1768.

NEW 2016 Red Mercedes-Benz SLK 350 convertible. 950 mi. Paid $71,500 ask. $59,000. 325-473-2609, San Angelo, TX.

Legal and Public Notices

Public Auction of Items Left by Tenant: January 31, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. 4610 N. Garfield St.#B-11 Midland, TX 79705

Legal and Public Notices

Notice To Physicians and Providers Superior Health Plan inc., a licensed HMO in Texas, 5900 E. Ben White Blvd, Austin, TX. 78741 provides CHIP, Medicaid, and Commercial benefits to eligible members. Application can be made to participate at any time.

Legal and Public Notices

"ANNOUNCEMENT: As of 11:59 p.m., December 31, 2016, The Estate of Jerry Lee Jones, Amy Jones Cuellar, Lee Ann Jones Barrows, and Melody Jones Crowl will have dissolved all their individual and corporate relationships with Paragon Investigative Services Inc."

Legal and Public Notices

NOTICE TO PHYSICIANS and PROVIDERS

Applicatinns for participation in DentiCare, Inc.'s network of general and specialty dental commercial providers will be accepted March 1, 2017 through March 20, 2017. All applications will be reviewed and responses will be made within 90 days of receipt. To request an application, or for further information please write: Humana, Attention: Specialty Networks-Den, N19 W24133 Riverwood Drive, Suite 100, Waukesha, WI 53188, or email your request to dentalrecruitment@humana.com.

Legal and Public Notices

Notice to Physicians and Providers (per TAC § 11.1402)

SHA, L.L.C. dba FirstCare, 12940 N. Hwy 183, Austin, TX 78750, a basic health service, individual practice model health maintenance organization, will accept written applications during the period of February 1, 2017, through February 20, 2017, from physicians and providers who wish to participate in the FirstCare network. FirstCare offers services for the following products: STAR Medicaid and CHIP, Commercial and Federal Marketplace. Marketplace applicants must FirstCare's practice standards and qualifications for acceptance. Applicants will be notified in writing of acceptance or non-acceptance within 90 days after FirstCare receives an application for participation. Applications should be sent to the attention of the Provider Relations Department.

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Will buy wrecked & unwanted cars, trucks & RVs. 432-685-4078

Pickup Trucks

FORD F150 Lariat, 2007. 75,000 Miles. GREAT CONDITION! $9,000 OBO. 432-210-6561.

FOR SALE CHEVROLET 2004 1/2 ton pickup. $5,950. See at 1501 W. Illinois. Call 432-557-3366. Bill Jackson.

Vans and Mini Vans

2013 Town & Country minivan, 72k miles, leather seats, free lifetime oil change, all upgrades, text 432-528-0395. se habla espanol.

Merchandise

Free Stuff

FREE TO good home: Lovable chiweenie! Outdoor dog. Please call 432-557-1821.

Miscellaneous 4-Sale

Brand New Startrac stationary excercise bicycle. All the bells and whistles. Asking $1000 or best offer. Please call Kelly 432-556-1045.

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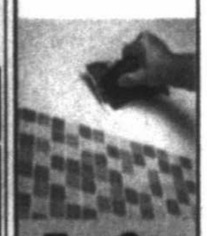

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6	4	9		2	1	5		
			6					
	8	5			4			
					3	8		
	5		4		7		6	
		1	9					
			7			2	8	
					9			
		2	5	4		1	9	6

Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

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7	3	2	6	5	1	4	8	9
6	9	5	8	3	4	1	2	7
8	4	1	9	2	7	5	3	6
5	1	7	3	8	2	6	9	4
4	2	9	7	1	6	3	5	8
3	6	8	5	4	9	7	1	2
1	8	6	4	9	5	2	7	3
2	7	3	1	6	8	9	4	5
9	5	4	2	7	3	8	6	1

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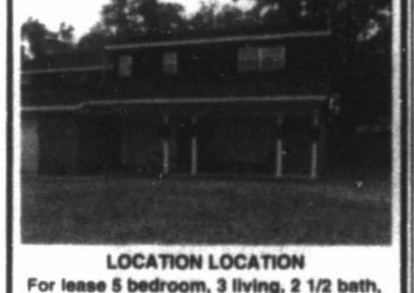

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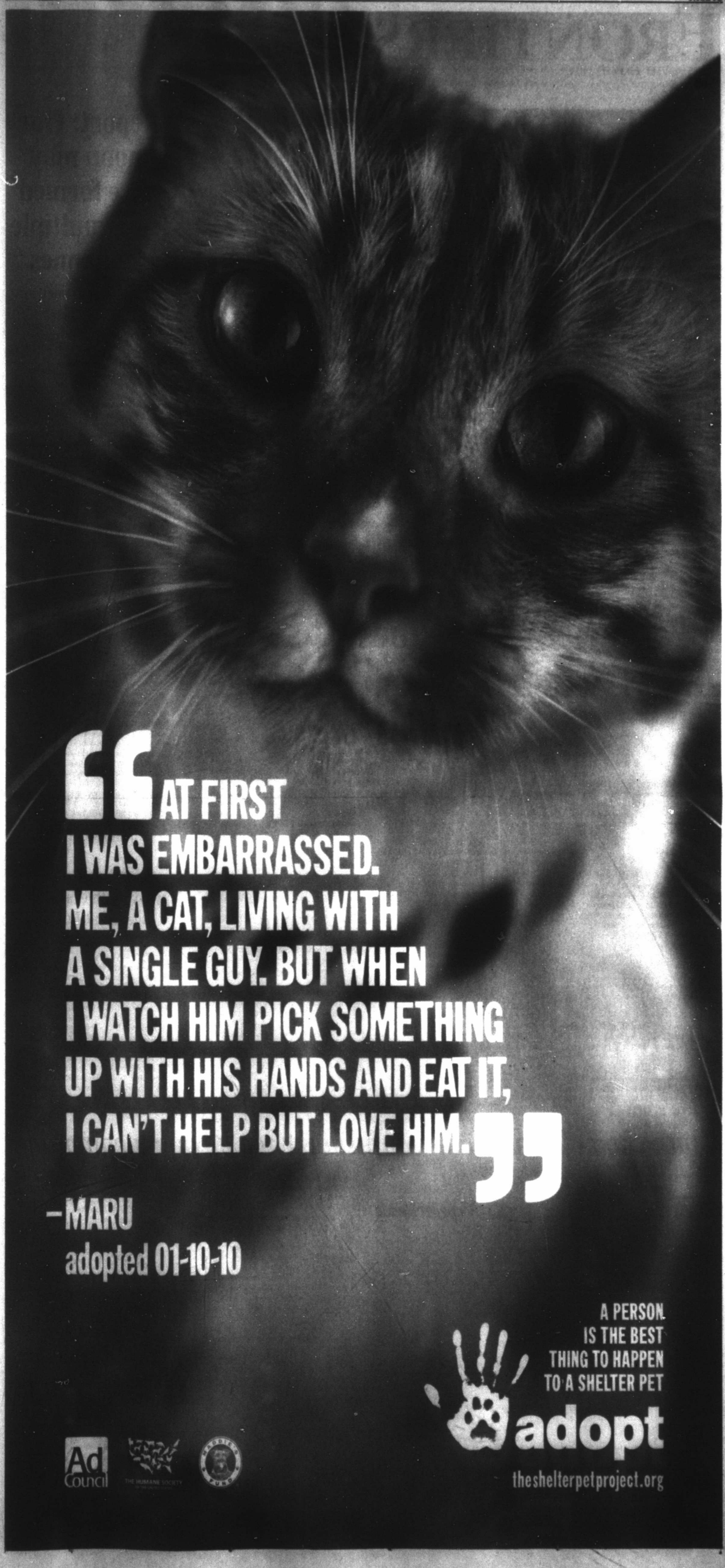
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In this Sept. 5, 2012, file photo, Ahpun, a female polar bear, strolls around her cage at the Alaska Zoo in Anchorage, Alaska. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released its plan Monday for the recovery of threatened polar bears, acknowledging it will take no direct action for addressing the primary threat, that of greenhouse gases that contribute to the decline of sea ice habitat. Polar bears, the first species to be declared threatened or endangered because of climate change, rely on sea ice for hunting seals and raising their young.

Polar bear plan doesn't seek direct action on climate change

By Dan Joling
Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Five years ago, in a meeting room in Alaska, two dozen federal wildlife biologists joined other experts to begin formulating a recovery plan for polar bears because the animals' primary habitat, sea ice, was melting beneath their feet in summer.

The planning came with a caveat: It was beyond their control, members said, to recommend rules addressing climate warming — the main threat to the animals — because the agency that oversees polar bears, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, had no jurisdiction over greenhouse gas emissions linked to the warming.

The agency on Monday released the final polar bear recovery plan, which includes provisions for tertiary threats, such as oil spills and excessive hunting. However, it does not push for any action to cut greenhouse gas emissions and bluntly acknowledges the likely outcome for polar bears.

"Short of action that effectively addresses the primary cause of diminishing sea ice, it is unlikely that polar bears will be recovered," the plan states.

Jenifer Kohout, co-chair of the recovery team, said telling the story of the polar bear's plight and the connection to climate warming is the main thrust of the plan.

"In order to recover polar bears, we believe that we have to address the climate change problem over the long-term," she said.

The recovery plan notes positive signs such as emission goals for individual countries expressed in the Paris climate agreement. However, reduction of emissions in the U.S. is in question under a Trump administration that has vowed to revitalize the coal industry and suggested the country should withdraw from global climate accords.

The world's population of polar bears is currently estimated at 22,000 to 31,000.

Two of the 19 subpopulations — the southern Beaufort Sea off Alaska's north coast and Canada's Western Hudson Bay — are in decline because of sea ice loss.

Shaye Wolf, climate science director for the Center for Biological Diversity, which filed the petition to list polar bears as endangered in 2005, said it was commendable that the plan acknowledges polar bears' dismal future.

However, the crucial step of cutting large-scale greenhouse gas pollution should have been included in criteria for recovery, she said.

The Fish and Wildlife Service may not regulate emissions, Wolf said, but it consults with other agency that do, such as the Environmental Protection Agency.

"A recovery plan should lay out the steps that the Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies should take to allow a species to recover," she said. "That includes, in this case, rapid cuts in greenhouse gas emissions and it should be the cornerstone of this recovery plan."

Polar bears use sea ice for breeding and hunting. They can go for months without eating but in late spring gorge on ice seals, especially ringed seals, when those animals give birth in snow caves dug on sea ice. Ringed seals themselves were declared threatened in December 2012 because of sea ice loss brought on by climate warming.

Polar bears were listed as endangered in 2008 by Dirk Kempthorne, the Interior secretary under then-President George W. Bush, amid the alarming loss of summer sea ice in recent decades and climate models indicating the trend would continue.

In the announcement, however, Kempthorne said the Endangered Species Act would not be used to regulate the nation's greenhouse gas emissions.

While drafting the polar bear recovery plan, Fish and Wildlife Service officials said it differed from other recovery plans that could link specific harmful actions to a threatened species, such as manure from a dairy farm entering a stream and killing endangered trout.

Kohout said there continues to be no clear connection to establish that a pollution source in Pennsylvania or elsewhere is the direct cause of ice loss in the Arctic.

Wolf called that argument outdated. Federal scientists, she said, estimate each metric ton of carbon dioxide emission results in a loss of 3 cubic meters of September Arctic sea ice. The average American emits 16.4 metric tons of CO_2 per year.

Report: Our moon may have formed from multiple small ones

By Marcia Dunn
Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — A series of cosmic collisions may have spawned multiple moonlets that morphed into the one big moon we know today.

Rather than one giant impact that knocked off part of early Earth and created the moon, a number of smaller collisions may have produced lots of mini-moons, Israeli scientists reported Monday

And those mini-moons, over millions of years, may have clumped together to make one large one.

The researchers conducted nearly 1,000 computer simulations and estimate about 20 impacts could do the job. They say that would explain why the moon seems to be composed of material from Earth, rather than some other planet, too.

It's actually an old theory revitalized now by the Weizmann Institute of Science's Raluca Rufu in Rehovot, Israel, and his team. Their findings were published in Nature Geoscience.

"Our model suggests that the ancient Earth once hosted a series of moons, each one formed from a different collision with the proto-Earth," said co-author Hagai Perets of the Technion, Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa.

Rufu added in the same statement: "It's likely that small moons formed through the process could cross orbits, collide and merge."

Small collisions like this were common in the early solar system, and support their premise. But a London scientist not associated with the study — Imperial College's Gareth Collins — is urging more evidence on both sides of the moon-forming argument.

Some of the moonlets surely were lost in space or did not merge properly with what was to become today's moon, Collins said in a companion article, and so many more impacts may have been required. That, in turn, would make the multi-impact theory "far less probable than any of the more exotic single-impact scenarios," he wrote.

Rufu and his colleagues agree more work is needed to understand how moonlets might indeed merge into one final moon.

Scientists: Another gypsy moth eradication needed at Purdue

Associated Press

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Scientists with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources are preparing for another round of efforts to eradicate the gypsy moth population near Purdue University's main campus.

The (Lafayette) Journal and Courier reports that traps last year detected a slight resurgence of the moths near the campus. Indiana officials want to perform another eradication treatment to avoid a revival of the moth's breeding population. The moths can defoliate large swaths of trees and harm the environment.

More choices can lead to confusion when buying a computer

Dear PropellerHeads: The last time I bought a computer, it seemed the only decision I had to make as far as the CPU was which clock speed I wanted. Now, I have to choose from duals and quads amongst an alphabet soup of letters and numbers. What the heck am I to do?

A: Yes, it has gotten a lot more complicated. Long gone are the days of the 486 series where we had a choice between SX and DX processors. Those acronyms were easy to decipher because everybody knew that SX SuXs and DX was DeluXe. How quaint. Today, it is a bit tougher to navigate the numerous Intel (intel.com) and AMD (amd.com) offerings. But let's see what we can do for you.

First, what are these numerous options? A quick survey of my favorite computer shopping sites yields the following CPU selections currently available in a new computer. From AMD there are the E2, A4, A6, A8, A10 and FX. Sounds more like the name of a US Air Force fighter jet than a CPU to me, but I'm sure they will be well equipped to fend off malware. Crickets.

On the Intel side, there are the Celeron Dual, Celeron Quad, Pentium Quad, Core 2, i3, i5 and i7. Pentium? Celeron? They still make those? I think I had one of those in one of my computers ten years ago, which is like seventy in computer years. You will also see a Xeon processer from Intel. Those are generally reserved for server use so we'll leave them out of the discussion here.

When it comes to CPUs, generally speaking, the higher the number, the better it is. Thus, quads are generally better than duals. A10s are better than A8s, which are in turn better than A6s.

If you are thinking that only having half a dozen or so CPU choices isn't that difficult to navigate, consider that each of these families of CPUs can have up to a dozen different children. For example, the Intel Core i7 can be found in i7-37xx, i7-38xx and i7-39xx, and again in the 40s, 50s and 60s. Again, the generalization is the higher the number the better.

But then, just to throw gasoline on the fire, you will see variations in each of those model numbers. The i7-6700, for instance, is available in HQ, K, T and TE varieties. If you ask me, those are looking more like football positions than anything else. Apparently, kickers are all the rage in the CPU biz because K chips tend to be the best. Crickets.

You note that I've said generally a lot. That's because some of the best i5 processors are better than some i7 processors. Heck, even some i3s are better than i7s. So how do you know which one is truly better than another? Benchmarking. No, not bench warming, which I did plenty of in high school, but benchmarking, which subjects each CPU to a standard battery of tests in order to determine which one performs tasks faster.

A good CPU benchmarking site to reference is PassMark Software (cpubenchmark.net), as it has not only statistics for CPUs, but also for video cards, hard driver and memory (RAM) chips.

The PassMark site has plenty of CPU charts available; however, the one that will be of most benefit to you is the Common CPU Chart (cpubenchmark.net/common_cpus.html). This is comprised of two charts: CPU Mark and Price Performance.

The first one lists the score for each CPU (the higher the better!). As of December 16, 2016, the best CPUs in order are the Intel i7-4930K, i7-5820K, i7-3930K, i7-4790K and the i7-6700K. You see what I mean about how generalizing can get you into trouble. However, kickers are clearly the best. Crickets.

Okay, fine, but if a i7-4930K costs twice as much as a i7-6700K, is it twice as good? Nope. Thus, we turn to the second chart that divides the CPUs' scores by price. When we do that, we start to see AMD chips percolating to the top along with some i5s.

So, there you have it. You now know how to navigate the fighter jet football field that is the CPU market! Crickets.

Wow, tough room!

When the PropellerHeads at Data Directions aren't busy with their IT projects, they love to answer questions on business or consumer technology. Email them to questions@askthepropellerheads.com or contact us at Data Directions, Inc. 8510 Bell Creek Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23116. Visit our website at www.askthepropellerheads.com.

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