

MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2018

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TEXAS PECANS

Texas pecan growers monitor tariffs, markets during harvest.

Page 2A



TENACIOUS D

Two crucial goal line stands by the Dallas defense kept the Cowboys in the game but a 49-yard catch and run by DeAndre Hopkins in overtime helped lead Houston to victory.

Page 1B

China slams brakes on US crude oil imports

By Sheela Tobben
Bloomberg

Even though Beijing hasn't sanctioned American oil imports yet, Chinese buyers aren't taking any chances.

The world's second largest economy halted purchases of U.S. crude in August for the first time since September 2016, according to U.S. Census Bureau data

released Friday. In July, Chinese buyers received nearly 12 million barrels of crude from the U.S.

Beijing, once an enthusiastic buyer of U.S. crude after Washington lifted its restrictions on exports in December 2015, has even jockeyed with Canada for the position of top importer at times. Yet, China's interest in American oil has diminished amid the escalating trade spat

between the two nations.

In June, Beijing threatened to slap a 25 percent tariff on crude imports in response to U.S. President Donald Trump's \$50 billion levy on Chinese imports. China's largest refiner Sinopec then suspended its incoming shipments of U.S. crude, yet eventually resumed some purchases after crude was removed from that list.

The future of American crude ship-

ments into China remains uncertain and there is still no guarantee that threats of a U.S. crude tariff won't resurface as the trade conflict persists. American oil producers, particularly those who operate in the key Permian Basin of West Texas and New Mexico, risk feeling the pain from the ongoing tensions as they increasingly look to foreign shores to market their supplies, as local demand becomes saturated.

IT'S PUMPKIN PICKIN' TIME



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Two-year-old Gunnar pulls a wagon through the pumpkin patch at St. Luke's United Methodist Church on Saturday. St. Luke's Pumpkin Patch, 3100 W. Louisiana Ave., began operating Friday. Hours are 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday. The patch will be open until Oct. 31 – or until organizers run out of pumpkins, according to St. Luke's United Methodist Church's website. Admission is free. Pumpkins are priced by size and begin at \$1. Payment is by cash only. Activities include story time, coloring sheets, picture opportunities.

County to address Horseshoe projects

From staff reports

Midland County commissioners are set to discuss and take action today on projects for the Horseshoe facility, according to a meeting agenda. The county has budgeted \$5.7 million in capital spending for the complex this fiscal year.

The county previously spent \$45.5 million in Horseshoe capital projects, according to numbers provided to the Reporter-Telegram. That total includes spending for the amphitheater and pavilion as well as construction at the arena, barn and education building.

Commissioners in August unanimously approved additional capital projects as presented for RV parking, arena seating and an event preparation crew house. Other projects — a VIP building and a concession stand — received one opposing vote. Vandergriff Group Architects in its estimate presented a total of nearly \$4.9 million for the five projects.

County Judge Mike Bradford told the Reporter-Telegram he would be able to explain the Horseshoe-related costs in more detail today.

Capital projects at the Horseshoe

Construction (arena, barn, education building): \$12.8 million
Pavilion: \$30.6 million
Amphitheater: \$2.0 million
Budgeted spending for next fiscal year: \$5.7 million
Total: \$51.1 million

Meeting today

Commissioners' Court 9 a.m.
Midland County Courthouse
auxiliary courtroom
500 N. Loraine Ave.

Trucking company sees impact of wear, tear on area roads

By Mella McEwen
mmcewen@mrt.com

Permian Basin roads were already supporting tons of trucks ferrying even more tons of oilfield equipment, supplies and personnel. Add in more tankers carrying crude oil and water as operators struggle to cope with pipeline bottlenecks and the result is wear and tear on West Texas infrastructure that is rapidly becoming an economic concern.

"There's been such a huge increase in activity with the interest in the shales and more demand for oilfield

services," Ronnie Witherspoon, president and chief executive officer of Aveda Transportation, said in a phone interview.

"Today's infrastructure is not conducive to that activity," he said. "There are millions and millions of pounds of oil, water, sand and iron, everything under the sun."

The stress on the region's roads has companies such as Aveda, which is primarily a rig transport company, scrambling to adapt.

Tom Halliday, Aveda's vice president, operations for the U.S., said the company seeks to schedule the times

their loads are moved to less-congested periods. He also said that with trucks increasingly hauling bigger, heavier equipment, those loads are routed around congested areas.

"It costs us time. Scheduling off-peak hours challenges us," Halliday said.

And some of the new routes are gravel roads, he said.

"What should be a short 20- or 30-mile move is now a 120-mile move," Witherspoon said. "That costs time and is more expensive."

Please see TRUCKS/2A



Photo courtesy Aveda

An Aveda Transportation truck is shown in this undated photo. The trucking company is looking to re-route and schedule off-peak driving times so its trucks aren't part of the congestion and pipeline bottlenecks on area roads.

Weather service

In just the past few months, Midland has not only reached but surpassed its annual rainfall expectations. Check out the totals and find out how much more rainfall we can expect today on Page 4A.



The big number

Comic-book movie "Venom" earned \$80 million at the box office over the weekend despite tepid reviews. Page 4A.

Word of the Day

cursor
Do you know what it means? Find out the definition on Page 2A.

Brought to you daily by



Vol. 98, No. 211

Daily \$2, Sunday \$3



20 dead in crash of limo headed to a birthday celebration

By Michael Hill and Bob Salsberg
Associated Press

SCHOHARIE, N.Y.

A limousine carrying four sisters, other relatives and friends to a birthday celebration blew through a stop sign and slammed into a parked SUV outside a store in upstate New York, killing all 18 people in the limo and two pedestrians, officials and victims' relatives said Sunday.

The weekend crash was characterized by authorities as the deadliest U.S. transportation accident in nearly a decade. The crash turned a relaxed Saturday afternoon to horror at a rural spot popular with tourists viewing the region's fall foliage. Relatives said the limousine was carrying the sisters and their friends to a 30th birthday celebration for the youngest.

"They were wonderful girls," said their aunt, Barbara Douglas, speaking with reporters Sunday. "They'd do anything for you and they were very close to each other and they loved their family."

Douglas said three of the sisters were with their husbands and she identified them as Amy and Axel Steenburg, Abigail and Adam Jackson, Mary and Rob Dyson and Allison King.

"They did the responsible thing getting a limo so they wouldn't have to drive anywhere," she said, adding, the couples had several children between them who they left at home.

The 2001 Ford Excursion limousine was traveling southwest on Route 30 in Schoharie, about 170 miles (270 kilometers) north of New York City, when it failed to stop at 2 p.m. Saturday at a T-junction with state Route 30A. State Police First Deputy Superintendent Christopher Fiore said at a news conference in Latham, New York.

It went across the road and hit an unoccupied SUV parked at the Apple Barrel Country Store, killing the limousine driver, the 17 passengers, and two people outside the vehicle.

The crash "sounded like an explosion," said Linda Riley, of nearby Schenectady, who was on a shopping trip with her sisters. She had been in another car parked at the store, saw a body on the ground and heard people start screaming.

The store manager, Jessica Kirby, told The New York Times the limo was coming down a hill at "probably over 60 mph." In an email to The Associated Press, she complained that the junction where the crash occurred is accident-prone.

"We have had 3 tractor trailer type trucks run through the stop through our driveway and into a field behind the business," Kirby wrote. "All of these occurred during business hours and could've killed someone then."

She added that the state Department of Transportation has banned heavy trucks from the intersection but there are constant smaller crashes. "More accidents than I can count."

The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating. "This is one of the

biggest losses of life that we've seen in a long, long time," NTSB Chairman Robert Sumwalt said.

It's the deadliest transportation accident since February 2009, when Colgan Air Flight 3407 crashed in Buffalo, New York, killing 50 people, Sumwalt said.

And it appears to be the deadliest land-vehicle accident since a bus ferrying nursing home patients away from Hurricane Rita caught fire in Texas 2005, killing 23.

At the news conference, Fiore didn't comment on the limo's speed, or whether the limo occupants were wearing seat belts. Authorities didn't release the names of the victims or speculate on what caused the limo to run the stop sign. Autopsies were being conducted.

Speaking through tears on the telephone, Valerie Abeling said her 34-year-old niece Erin Vertucci was among the victims, along with Vertucci's newlywed husband, 30-year-old Shane McGowan.

"She was a beautiful, sweet soul, he was too," Abeling said.

The couple was married in June at a "beautiful wedding" in upstate New York, Abeling said. "They had everything going for them."

Vertucci, who grew up in Amsterdam, New York, was an administrative assistant at St. Mary's Healthcare in Amsterdam, Abeling said.

The vehicle was an after-market stretch limousine, according to an official briefed on the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity. The official was not authorized to discuss an ongoing investigation publicly and thus declined further identification.

Safety issues on such vehicles have arisen before, most notably after a wreck on Long Island in July 2015 in which four women on a winery tour were killed. They were in a Lincoln Town Car that had been cut apart and rebuilt in a stretch configuration to accommodate more passengers. The limousine was trying to make a U-turn and was struck by a pickup.

A grand jury found that stretch limousines often don't have safety measures including side-impact air bags, reinforced rollover protection bars and accessible emergency exits. That grand jury called on New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo to assemble a task force on limousine safety.

Limousines built in factories are already required to meet stringent safety regulations, but when cars are converted into limos, safety features are sometimes removed, leading to gaps in safety protocols, the grand jury wrote.

On Sunday, New York's senior U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer, noted he asked NTSB to toughen standards after the 2015 crash. "I commend the NTSB's immediate aid on scene and am very hopeful that we will have concrete answers soon," Schumer said.

Limousine accidents remain rare, according to NTSB data. They accounted for only one death crash out of 34,439 fatal accidents in 2016, the last year for which data is available.



Ana Ramirez/Austin American-Statesman via AP

Mark Walls looks at a cluster of pecans Sept. 26. Walls owns 38 Pecans, which buys pecans from his family's orchard and markets them. The orchard has 38 varieties of pecans that are grown on 300 acres in Seguin.

Texas pecan growers monitor tariffs, markets during harvest

By Bob Sechler

Austin American-Statesman

AUSTIN — Texas pecan growers are about to find out what the front line of an international trade war is like.

The Austin American-Statesman reports the 2018 harvest is gearing up amid widespread anxiety over the price of the official Texas state nut. China — the top buyer of U.S. pecans — slapped a 47 percent tariff on them this summer as part of its broad effort to fight back against what it views as the Trump administration's hardball "America First" trade policies.

Federal assistance available for pecan growers and other farmers hurt by China's various retaliatory tariffs, despite being limited, could mitigate the blow, as could an unrelated two-year-old effort by the U.S. pecan industry to better market the nut's health attributes and to increase pecan consumption overall.

But with demand from the industry's top buyer likely reduced because of the Chinese tariffs, pecan prices are poised to fall nonetheless as growers start bringing in what's widely expected to be a big harvest in 2018.

The price earned by growers for a pound of cultivated U.S. pecans sold in the shell has fluctuated over the years but averaged \$2.40 in 2017, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. That compares to \$1.23 a pound a decade earlier, when China was beginning to purchase large quantities of the crop. Texas growers harvested \$85 million worth of pecans in 2017, making it the No. 3 state for pecan production behind only Georgia and New Mexico.

"I support (President Trump), but it's tough we're taking such a big hit" in the form of the retaliatory tariffs, said Mark Walls, who owns 38 Pecans in Austin, a wholesaler and retailer of pecans harvested from his family's orchards near Seguin. "There's nothing (the industry) can do about it. Quickly find new buyers? That's not going to happen — and it's going to be years until we realize what the benefit (of the trade war) is going to be."

China's appetite for U.S. pecans has soared because the nuts — served roasted in the shell and often flavored — have become popular across the country as a delicacy during festivities surrounding Chinese New Year. Nearly 30 percent of the U.S. pecan crop was exported to China last year, compared to about 1 percent in 2005, according to Daniel Zedan, an industry expert and an executive at Navarro Pecan Co. in Corsicana and Nature's Finest Foods in Illinois.

The likelihood now is that Chinese buyers will shift purchases to the U.S. industry's main international competitors — Mexico and South Africa, both of which have been ratcheting up harvests in recent years — because of the steep increase in China's U.S. import tariff. Last fall, China had a 10 percent import tariff on U.S. pecans, but it lowered the figure to 7 percent at the beginning of 2018 before cranking it up over the summer as part of its retaliatory arsenal.

"Unless the tariff changes, I don't see how a Chinese buyer could source from the U.S.," said Drew Haas, director of international business at San Saba Pecan. "It seems like a nonviable option from a price standpoint."

The demand from China has predominantly been for whole pecans, so prices for this year's U.S. crop aren't expected to become clear for a few weeks as the harvest progresses.

But Haas noted that the price of pecan

"kernels" — meaning halves and pieces from previous crops, which are popular in the U.S. as snacks and recipe ingredients — already has dipped by about 12 percent since earlier in the year, a trend he attributed partly to concerns about the downward pull of the Chinese tariffs and the potential for a pecan glut overall.

"It's in anticipation of there being a lower price for the new crop, and also just (lower) demand and a lot of product," said Haas, whose company shells and processes pecans for a variety of wholesale and retail purposes and also sells some in the shell.

In an indication of the degree to which the issue has rattled Texas growers, pecans briefly became a topic during the initial U.S. Senate debate on Sept. 21 between Republican incumbent Ted Cruz and Democratic challenger Beto O'Rourke.

O'Rourke — who is from El Paso, one of the state's top pecan-growing regions — cited the increase in China's pecan tariffs while criticizing the Trump administration's trade policies. He said he'd been speaking to a West Texas pecan grower who told him "no one is buying his pecans around the world right now," and that he fears international buyers "will find other countries from whom to buy (and) his farm will no longer be sustainable anymore."

Cruz, in his response, didn't mention China's measures to retaliate against the Trump administration's trade policies, but he said he supports free trade overall and noted that he has worked to try to lower a longstanding, 36 percent import tariff that India has on U.S. pecans.

Many U.S. growers may view such political wrangling as cold comfort as they begin their 2018 harvests while facing a probable drop in what has been voracious demand from China.

But Zedan, of Navarro Pecan, is taking a long-range view of the issue, saying he considers it an opportunity for the industry to seek out new markets. Navarro is a pecan sheller, meaning it buys whole nuts from growers and processes them, mostly to sell as food ingredients.

"Is there going to be hurt this year (for growers)? There is no doubt," Zedan said. But "all the tariffs did was focus our industry on how we do business — too much of our (industry) was focused on one customer."

Even before the retaliatory tariffs, he said, Mexico and South Africa were capturing increasing shares of the Chinese market. The American Pecan Council — a cooperative effort among growers and shellers created in 2016 to establish a unified marketing message — can play a key role in developing new demand for U.S. pecans, both domestically and internationally, he said.

"U.S. growers will have to re-strategize how they market crops, and we'll all have to take a closer look at where to expand consumption, even here in the U.S.," Zedan said.

Dan Berdoli, a pecan grower near Bastrop, agreed that the pecan council's effort eventually will be good for the industry, but said he expects it to be several years before it gains traction and moves the needle on sales significantly.

For the time being, he's bracing for a possible financial hit from China's retaliatory tariffs. But he said Trump is doing what needs to be done to defend U.S. economic interests, so he isn't complaining.

"Even if it is costing me money now," Berdoli said, "in the long run I support it."

Distributed by Associated Press

Obituaries

Death Notices

Thelma Louise Traweck

Thelma Louise Traweck 88, of Midland, Texas passed away October 3rd, 2018. A private burial will be held for the family. Flower offerings can be sent to Ellis Funeral Home. Services entrusted to Ellis Funeral Home.

NM Indian center offers empty lot for tiny homes for homeless

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — An Albuquerque nonprofit that serves Native Americans offered an empty lot on its property for Bernalillo County to build its planned village of "tiny homes" for the homeless.

Officials have struggled to find a location for the project until hearing from the Albuquerque Indian Center, the Albuquerque Journal reported. District 1 County Commissioner Debbie O'Malley confirmed last week that the center has reached out to offer the vacant lot behind its building for the village of up to 30 tiny homes.

"We went to go see it and talked with them and thought this would be a very good fit," O'Malley said. "It's a weeded lot and idle space, so it's not being used to its full potential. This would be a vast improvement for the area."

The county received \$2 million for the project from a voter-approved general obligation bond, but building at the Albuquerque Indian Center can save money, O'Malley said.

Instead of having to buy land, the Albuquerque Indian Center will offer a long-term lease and be contracted to provide management and operations services. The project could save on infrastructure because the property already has water, sewer and other utilities.

The Albuquerque Indian Center has bathrooms and a commercial kitchen that serves breakfast and lunch Monday through Friday to about 200 people. It also offers mail collection for clients, employment assistance, and behavioral health, DWI and substance abuse counseling, center executive director Mary Garcia said.

The center also owns a small building across the street from its main site that could be used to help teach skills and provide a revenue stream for the village, Garcia said.

The majority of the center's clients are Native American, but not exclusively.

Homeless adults selected to get a tiny home "have to be in some kind of program" and heading toward self-sufficiency to qualify for the temporary housing, Garcia said.

The center's property is zoned for high-density residential use, such as apartment buildings. Because the design of the tiny homes has them constructed on a chassis with wheels, the property will have to be rezoned for setting up recreational vehicles, O'Malley said.

City Councilman Pat Davis, who represents the area where the center is located, has submitted paperwork for that zoning change, Garcia said. The city has to sign off on zoning changes, while the county has to approve the lease and a contract with the center for management and operations, O'Malley said.

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STATEBRIEF

FROM WIRE REPORTS

AUSTIN Appeals court puts execution on hold

Texas' highest criminal appeals court has put on hold an execution that was scheduled for this week.

Juan Segundo was set to be executed Wednesday for the rape and slaying of 11-year-old Vanessa Villa. He was arrested nearly 19 years after the 1986 crime when a DNA match tied him to the cold case slaying in Fort Worth.

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals on Friday ordered that his execution be put on hold in light of a 2017 U.S. Supreme Court decision that invalidated the state's method of discerning intellectual disability. Attorneys for Segundo have argued that he's intellectually disabled and therefore ineligible for execution.

Segundo's attorneys also say the trial judge incorrectly allowed evidence on other offenses.

Ten inmates have been put to death in Texas so far this year.

TRUCKS

From 1A

Halliday said those expenses often have to be passed onto the customer. He said the company gets some pushback over the increased expenses, but many customers are understanding of the challenges Aveda faces.

"As a company, we've brought in additional crew vans to minimize the number of trucks on the road. We bus employees and we've centralized them in two camps, in Midland and in Pecos," Witherspoon said.

Aveda has also increased the number of owner-operator truck drivers it uses in order to reduce its dependence on third-party drivers, he said. That will help establish what he described as a homogeneous set of standards. Aveda also has an extensive training program that all drivers attend.

The company was just acquired by Dacis Inc., North America's largest flatbed, specialized transportation and logistics solutions company.

Witherspoon said that has allowed Aveda to significantly increase its benefits, which he expects will positively impact the company's retention and recruitment efforts as well as employee safety.

The situation has become so dire some roads have become known as "death highway," Witherspoon said that designation currently goes to Highway 285 between Pecos and Carlsbad, New Mexico. A few years ago, said Halliday, that designation could have been given to Highway 302 between Midland and Mentone, which "was as bad if not worse."

The good news is that there are "much-needed plans in place to address the challenges," even though the construction period will temporarily cause more delays, Witherspoon said.

"As a company, we're pleased to see the issue being taken seriously. As the Department of Transportation explains its plans for the future, that's encouraging. But it seems a long way away. It can't get here soon enough," said Witherspoon.

WORD OF THE DAY
brought to you daily by

cursory

(kur-suh-ree)

adjective

1. going rapidly over something, without noticing details; hasty, superficial.

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Call rates - U.S. Virgin Islands

Things to do

■ STEAM Sprouts is a six-week hands-on, interactive program for children 4 and 5, 9:30-10:30 a.m. or 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Petroleum Museum, 1500 Interstate 20 West \$80 members, \$100 non-members. Ppetro.org

■ Cyber Insecurity Help Keep Your Organization Safe with John Ansbach, vice president of engagement management at Stroz Friedberg's. Hosted by the Nonprofit Management Center, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., AT&T Energy Community Room, 2304 Loop 40 \$35-\$45, nmc-ph.org

■ All Day Skate, noon-5 p.m., KC's Nifty Roller, 1004 Andrews Highway \$6 admission, \$1-\$5 for rentals, kcanuttyroller.com

■ BYOB: Bring Your Own Baby Book Club, 4 p.m., Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W Loop 250 N. tinyurl.com/mcplbyob

■ Adoption Center Volunteer Orientation will show how volunteers can work with animals and the staff of Midland Humane Coalition. Must be 18 or older, 6-9 p.m., MHC, 4206 W Loop 250 N (inside PetSmart) midlandhumane.org

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

■ Open Shop Nights are hosted by the Midland Gem and Mineral Society and open to the public, 6:30-9 p.m., 602 S. Main St. midlandgemmineralsociety.org

■ Bridge game play, 8:45 p.m., Allison Bridge Center, 913 W Wadley Ave. \$6. For more information call 682-8595

■ The Malpass Brothers, 7 p.m., Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788 \$35. liveonstage-ph.com

■ Annual Beer Dinner, 7-10 p.m., Garlic Press, 2200 W Wadley Ave. \$90. thegarlicpress.net

■ Monday Mayhem features unlimited bowling for \$14.99 with free shoe rentals after 8 p.m. Bowlero, 5320 W Loop 250 N. bowlero.com

Coming Tuesday

■ Empty Your Harris, 7:30 p.m., Chaparral Center at Midland College, 3600 N. Garfield St. Free. midland.edu

■ Bob Dylan and His Band, 8 p.m., Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$57-\$127. wagnernoel.com

Meetings today

■ Commissioners' Court, 9 a.m., Midland County Courthouse, 500 N. Loraine Ave.

■ Greenwood ISD, 7:30 p.m., Distance Learning Center, Greenwood High School

League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters has a candidate forum planned for Oct. 15 for people running for Midland ISD and Midland City Council positions. The forum is scheduled for 7 p.m. in the Carrasco Room at Midland College. Also, Tuesday is the last day to register in order to be eligible to vote in the Nov. 6 election. The League of Women Voters will be at the Elections Office from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. that day to register voters.

Happy Columbus Day

Columbus Day, which is on the second Monday of October, remembers Christopher Columbus' arrival to the Americas on October 12, 1492. Source: www.timeanddate.com

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Weather

Sunday's temperatures

High: 80

Low: 67

Normal high: 81

Low: 55

Oct. 7 records

High: 99 in 1979

Low: 38 in 1976 and 2000

Precipitation

Saturday: 0.89 inch

Sunday: 0.01 inch

Month: 1.58 inches

This year: 12.77 inches

Normal: 12.04 inches

Winds

Average speed: 18.0 mph

Source: National Weather Service

Forecast for Monday, October 8, 2018

High: 78/82

Low: 56/60

Conditions: Mostly cloudy during the day and night. Winds 15-20 mph (gusts up to 25 mph) during the day/10-15 mph at night.

Rain: 60 percent during the day/80 percent at night.

Sunrise: 7:47 a.m.

Sunset: 7:25 p.m.

Source: National Weather Service

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TODAY IN MIDLAND

Blessing the beasts



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

The Rev. Nancy Springer pets a dog during a blessing of the animals service Saturday at St. Nicholas Episcopal Church.

2700 Farm-to-Market Road 1379

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Weather

Sunday's temperatures

High: 80

Low: 67

Normal high: 81

Low: 55

Oct. 7 records

High: 99 in 1979

Low: 38 in 1976 and 2000

Precipitation

Saturday: 0.89 inch

Sunday: 0.01 inch

Month: 1.58 inches

This year: 12.77 inches

Normal: 12.04 inches

Winds

Average speed: 18.0 mph

Source: National Weather Service

Forecast for Monday, October 8, 2018

High: 78/82

Low: 56/60

Conditions: Mostly cloudy during the day and night. Winds 15-20 mph (gusts up to 25 mph) during the day/10-15 mph at night.

Rain: 60 percent during the day/80 percent at night.

Sunrise: 7:47 a.m.

Sunset: 7:25 p.m.

Source: National Weather Service

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

A baby born today has a Sun and Moon in Libra

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, Oct. 8, 2018: This year, you don't hesitate to use your charm, charisma and intelligence to achieve your goals. It might be important to know your long-term objectives. If you are single, meeting desirable potential partners will not be an issue, but sorting through them could be. You know what you want, so try to choose someone who also has desires similar to yours. If you are attached, your sweetie will feel very close to you. Plan a much-needed trip for the two of you. A fellow LIBRA knows how to bring out your sassier side.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

*** You could feel as if someone is raining on your parade. This person might be more vital to your well-being than you realize. Mobilize your energy behind a key objective. Share your thoughts with others, and you will like the response you receive. Tonight: Time for teamwork.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

*** Face yourself, and lower your energy levels. News from a distance might be slow to come in or might not be to your liking. Understand what your expectations are, and ask yourself if they are reasonable. Make decisions accordingly. Tonight: If you're tired, make it an early bedtime.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

*** You could be unusually creative and dynamic. Even so, you might feel limited by an associate or partner. You will do your best to attempt to bypass this person. Reach out to someone at a distance who can shed light on your situation. Tonight: So what if it is Monday?

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

*** You could feel frustrated by a key person in your life. Like it or not, this person often blocks you. Be more direct in how you deal with this person. You do need to accept the status quo. Make it OK to branch out and be spontaneous. Opt for adventure. Tonight: Be amiable.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

*** Reach out to someone at a distance. Lengthy chats, laughter and a general enjoyment of each other are trademarks of your interactions. Make an effort to get together more often. You might be surprised by the response you get. Tonight: Clear up a problem before heading out.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

*** Think about the costs of proceeding as you have been. You would be wise to step on the brakes and rein in your spending. Speak with someone you trust, so he or she could share some important insights. Do not automatically negate what you hear. Tonight: As you like it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

*** You are extra charming right now. People come toward you because they like your perspective and energy. Know that nearly anything you say will be accepted at the present moment. You need to deal with someone who does a lot of saying. Tonight: Out late.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

*** Know when to keep information to yourself, even if it's just for the time being. You might not have all of the facts, or perhaps mulling over what you've heard reveals new insights. You need to process what you are hearing. Try to avoid negative people. Tonight: Fun and games.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

*** You can have what you want, but know that achieving this goal could be a struggle. Trust a group of supporters, and let them play devil's advocate. You will gain through this process. An associate seeks you out, don't

think you can avoid him or her. Tonight: Hang out with friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

*** Your take-charge attitude might not be to your liking at the moment, yet it could be needed. Others count on your leadership. If you can charm them into thinking like you do, all the better. A new beginning becomes possible. Tonight: You're a force to be dealt with, wherever you are.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

*** Take the high road, and know that others will appreciate your attitude. Ultimately, you will feel more comfortable that way. You can make a dif-

ference where it counts. Your nonjudgmental perspective will get through to others. Tonight: Relax by watching a favorite TV series.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

*** You will feel much better than you have in quite a while. Loosen up and enjoy yourself. Don't let someone else interfere in a situation. No one can represent your interests better than you can, especially with a close associate. Trust yourself. Tonight: Chat over dinner for two.

BORN TODAY

Actor Matt Damon (1970); singer/songwriter Bruno Mars (1985).

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Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

A car ended up in Scharbauer Draw on Saturday morning following an accident late Friday or early Saturday morning near the intersection of Scharbauer and D Street. Yellow caution tape on the waters indicates the vehicle has been checked by police and rescuers.

Weather worries

From drought to drenched

A once dry Midland is now saturated. The National Weather Service reports that during the first five months of the year, only 0.84 of an inch of precipitation fell at Midland International. Oh, how that changed. From June 1 through Sunday afternoon, 11.82 inches of rain has fallen at Midland International. That is more than 4 inches above normal. In fact, so much rain has fallen that the 12.78 inches for the entire year is more than the average through Oct. 7 (12.04 inches). Considering the start of the year was one of the driest in the city's history, that speaks volumes to the change in weather over the last five months. Today, the NWS is calling for more storms. There is a 60-80 percent chance of rain today and tonight. New rainfall amounts up to a half-inch are possible.

Rainfall since June 1

June	2.86 inches
July	1.86 inches
August	3.24 inches
September	2.89 inches
October	1.87 inches (through 3:30 p.m. on Oct. 7)
Total	11.82 inches
Normal	7.81 inches

'Venom' sets October record with \$80M; 'Star Is Born' soars

By Jake Coyle
Associated Press

NEW YORK In a weekend of perfect counterprogramming for Hollywood, the comic-book movie "Venom" shrugged off bad reviews to shatter the October box-office record with an \$80 million debut, while Bradley Cooper's "A Star Is Born" soared to \$41.3 million.

With \$174.5 million in tickets sold at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore, it was easily the best October weekend ever thanks to two very different films that both outperformed expectations. "Venom" came in a critically panned, much-doubted foray by Sony Pictures to kick-start a Marvel expansion away from "Spider-Man." Warner Bros. "A Star Is Born" remake rode a wave of hype, Oscar buzz and acclaim for Cooper's directorial debut and Lady Gaga's first leading performance.

One was a very iffy proposition, the other a sure thing. Both worked big time.

"We knew we had a hit," said Warner Bros. distribution chief Jeffrey Goldstein of "A Star Is Born." "We also knew that every time people saw the movie, they felt it, they cried, they loved it. People just like the movie."

That was more in question for director Ruben Fleischer's "Venom," starring Tom Hardy as the antihero who first appeared in 2007's "Spider-Man 3." The film earned a dismal 32 percent "fresh" rating on Rotten Tomatoes. In "Venom," many expected another studio misfire with "cinematic universe" ambitions.

Yet audiences flocked to "Venom" in record numbers, giving it a B-plus CinemaScore. The previous best October opening was 2013's "Gravity" with \$55.7 million (not adjusted for inflation). Adrian Smith, president of domestic distribution for Sony, said that even though the studio was confident, "I did not see \$80 million coming."

The most telling number that explained the film's success, Smith said, was the 89 percent "fresh" audience score on Rotten Tomatoes. "Venom," which cost about \$100 million to make (relatively modest for a superhero film), grossed a total of \$205.2 million globally.

Steven O'Dell, Sony's president of international distribution, said the studio wanted to carve out a new approach for the comic-book adaptation with the PG-13-rated "Venom." "This is not a Marvel style, it's not DC," O'Dell said. "Totally, it's its own unique direction."

Kavanaugh fight raises stakes for midterms

By Julie Pace
Associated Press

WASHINGTON The bitter battle over Brett Kavanaugh's nomination to the Supreme Court has exacerbated the nation's political divide and left many Americans emotionally raw. It's also given new definition to the high stakes of November's election. Until now, the fight for control of Congress has largely been viewed as a referendum on President Donald Trump's first two years in office. But the turmoil surrounding Kavanaugh has transformed the midterms into something bigger than Trump, with implications that could endure long after his presidency.

The election is suddenly layered with charged cultural questions about the scarcity of women in political power, the handling of sexual assault allegations, and shifting power dynamics that have left some white men uneasy about their place in American life.

Both parties contend the new contours of the race will energize their supporters in the election's final stretch. Both may be right.

Republicans, however, may benefit most in the short term. Until now, party leaders, Trump included, have struggled to rev up GOP voters, even with a strong economy to campaign on. The president's middling job approval rating and independent voters' disdain for his constant personal attacks have been a drag on GOP candidates, particularly in the more moderate suburban districts

■ ANALYSIS

that will determine control of the House.

But Republican operatives say internal polling now shows Kavanaugh's acrimonious confirmation has given the party a much-needed boost, with GOP voters viewing Democrats as overzealous partisans following the public testimony by Kavanaugh and Christine Blasey Ford, who accused the judge of trying to rape her while they were both in high school. Ford said she was "100 percent" certain that Kavanaugh was her attacker. Kavanaugh steadfastly denied her allegations.

The Democrats' "strategy to capitalize on the 'Me Too' movement for the political purposes backfired on them," Republican strategist Alice Stewart said. "The fact that they were willing to use Dr. Ford's story that was uncorroborated to launch character assassinations on Judge Kavanaugh did not sit well with voters. A lot of people looked at this as a bridge too far."

The surge in GOP enthusiasm could recalibrate a political landscape that was tilting toward Democrats throughout the summer. Though Democrats still maintain an advantage in competitive House races, the past two weeks appear to have shifted momentum in the fight for the Senate majority back to the GOP.

In North Dakota, Republican Rep. Kevin Cramer has pulled comfortably ahead of Democratic Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, who voted

"no" on Kavanaugh. GOP operatives say they're also seeing renewed Republican interest in states such as Wisconsin, where Democratic candidates for both Senate and governor have been polling strong.

"It's turned our base on fire," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said Saturday, moments after the Senate confirmed Kavanaugh.

To be sure, some tightening in the race was likely inevitable this fall. Wavering voters often move back toward their party's candidates as Election Day nears, and most of the competitive Senate races are in states that voted for Trump by a significant margin.

With just over four weeks until Election Day, there is still time for the dynamics to shift again. And the political headwinds from the Kavanaugh confirmation are unlikely to blow in just one direction.

To Democrats, Kavanaugh's ascent to the Supreme Court in spite of decades-old sexual misconduct allegations will only deepen the party's pull with female voters, including independents and moderates who may have previously voted for Republicans. Democrats point to the flood of women who have spoken out about their own assaults following Ford's testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee. Party operatives also believe the optics of the all-male GOP panel that presided over the hearing struck a chord with female voters.

"Kavanaugh's confirmation will leave a lot of outraged and energized women in its wake,"

said Geoff Garin, a Democratic pollster.

Democrats argue that some of the same tactics that have helped energize Republican voters also motivate their base, particularly Trump's attacks on Ford. During a campaign rally in Mississippi, the president mocked Ford for not remembering key details of the alleged attack, including the date and location of the party she says she and Kavanaugh attended 36 years ago.

"You've seen some shifts, but I still think that we're in a strong place," said New Mexico Rep. Ben Ray Lujan, who heads the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. "I still think that it gives us a lot of enthusiasm on our side because there are a lot of people out there that are really upset, not just with the testimony that came from Judge Kavanaugh but the way the president was even mocking (Ford) days ago."

Trump remains the fall campaign's biggest wild card. White House advisers and Republican senators are encouraging him to keep Kavanaugh in the spotlight in the campaign's final weeks. But they're well aware that the president often struggles to stay on message and can quickly overshadow his political victories with new controversies.

Given that, Stewart said Republicans can't assume that this burst of momentum will sustain itself through Election Day.

"The question is whether this is the October surprise or the calm before the storm," Stewart said.

Supreme Court moves right, but how far, how fast?

By Mark Sherman
Associated Press

WASHINGTON The moment conservatives have dreamed about for decades has arrived with Brett Kavanaugh joining the Supreme Court. But with it comes the shadow of a bitter confirmation fight that is likely to hang over the court as it takes on divisive issues, especially those dealing with politics and women's rights.

With Kavanaugh taking the place of the more moderate Anthony Kennedy, conservatives should have a working majority of five justices to restrict abortion rights, limit the use of race in college admissions and rein in federal regulations.

The newly constituted court also might broaden gun rights, further relax campaign finance laws and halt the expansion of the rights of LGBT people, who three years ago won the right to marry nationwide with Kennedy in the majority.

Yet Kavanaugh may

have a hard time putting behind him the tumultuous confirmation process, which ended with the Senate voting 50-48 to confirm him Saturday, the narrowest margin of victory for a Supreme Court nominee in 137 years.

"In the public mind, there will always be this dark cloud hanging over the court, even if Kavanaugh is eventually embraced by all his colleagues on the court," said Elizabeth Wydra, president of the liberal Constitutional Accountability Center.

That cloud stems from allegations of sexual assault and other inappropriate behavior by Kavanaugh while he was in high school and college, along with his politically charged testimony that labeled the look into his past a political hit job by Democrats.

Kavanaugh has forcefully denied any inappropriate behavior with women. He also acknowledged in a Wall Street Journal column that some of his testimony went too far, but did not apologize for anything he said.

The bitter partisan fight

over the confirmation could continue in another form if Democrats take control of the House after the November elections. Key House Democrats have said they would investigate Kavanaugh.

In the meantime, the focus will be on the court's new majority's willingness to take on controversial issues.

A potential early test is two cases involving state efforts to strip public money from Planned Parenthood. The justices are considering appeals from Kansas and Louisiana. Lower courts have blocked the states from going forward. The court could announce Tuesday that it has rejected the appeals, if the justices voted that way in their private conference Friday. But they also could defer action to allow Kavanaugh to weigh in.

It is far from certain that the court will move precipitously on this or any high-profile issue. "It's not going to be lost on anyone on the court that everybody is going to be watching the new court to see which issues they engage in," said Paul Clement, solicitor general under President George W. Bush.

The justices could look for cases that are more likely

to produce consensus, including those about privacy protections in the digital age, Clement said.

Some contentious issues, though, will be harder to avoid because federal law compels the court's involvement. In coming months, the issue of drawing political districts for partisan advantage will return to the court in a case from North Carolina.

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Psalms 27:1

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Strong aftershock rattles Haiti day after deadly quake

Associated Press

PORT-DE-PAIX, Haiti — Survivors sifting through the rubble of their earthquake-topped cinderblock homes in Haiti on Sunday were rattled by a magnitude 5.2 aftershock that caused panic and threatened to raise the death toll even further from 12.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the epicenter of the aftershock was located 9.8 miles north-northwest of Port-de-Paix, the city hard hit by Saturday night's 5.9 magnitude earthquake. Sunday's aftershock had a depth of 10 kilometers.

"It was an aftershock. It was at the same location," said Paul Caruso, a geophysicist with the USGS. "This is the first significant aftershock."

The tremors caused panic on streets where emergency teams were providing relief to victims of Saturday's quake, which toppled cinderblock homes

and rickety buildings in several cities.

Haiti's civil protection agency said at least seven people died in the coastal city of Port-de-Paix and three people died in the nearby community of Gros-Morne in Artibonite province. Among the dead from Saturday night's quake were a 5-year-old boy crushed by his collapsing house and a man killed in a falling auditorium.

A total of at least 12 people were killed in the quake, Interior Minister Fednel Monchery told radio station MAGK9. Authorities said 188 people were injured.

"I feel like my life is not safe here," said nun Maryse Alsaint, director of the San Gabriel National School in Gros-Morne, where several classrooms were severely damaged.

She said that about 500 students would not be able to return to school today.

The prison and police station in Port-de-Paix

were damaged, leading some inmates to try to escape. Police were using tear gas to contain prisoners inside the lockup. There was no word if any inmates had escaped.

The USGS said Saturday's quake was centered 12 miles (19 kilometers) northwest of Port-de-Paix, which is about 136 miles (219 kilometers) from the capital of Port-au-Prince.

It was felt lightly in the capital, as well as in the neighboring Dominican Republic and in eastern Cuba, where no damage was reported.

In Haiti, officials have struggled to shore up buildings despite the two major fault lines along Hispaniola, which is the island shared with the Dominican Republic. Deep poverty and government instability have also rendered weaker homes and structures particularly vulnerable in earthquakes.

Rescue workers in Haiti said they were not looking for any more victims.

Indonesian officials fear 5,000 missing

Associated Press

PALU, Indonesia — Christians dressed in their tidiest clothes flocked to Sunday sermons in the earthquake and tsunami damaged Indonesian city of Palu, seeking answers as the death toll from the twin disasters breached 1,700 and officials said they feared more than 5,000 others could be missing.

Indonesia's disaster agency said the number of dead had climbed to 1,763, mostly in Palu. Agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said many more people could be buried, especially in the Palu neighborhoods of Petobo and Balaroa, where more than 3,000 homes were damaged or sucked into deep mud when the Sept. 28 quake caused loose soil to liquefy.

"Based on reports from village chiefs in Balaroa and Petobo, some 5,000 people have not been found. Our workers on the ground are trying to confirm this," he said at a news briefing in Jakarta, Indonesia's capital.

Nugroho said that efforts to retrieve de-

composed bodies in deep, soft mud were getting tougher and that some people may have fled or been rescued and evacuated. More than 8,000 either injured or vulnerable residents have been flown or shipped out of Palu, while others could have left by land, he said.

Officially, Nugroho said only 265 people are confirmed missing and 152 others still buried under mud and rubble, nine days after the magnitude 7.5 earthquake and powerful tsunami hit Palu and surrounding areas.

The government targets to end search operations by Thursday, nearly two weeks after the disaster, at which time those unaccounted for will be declared missing and considered dead, Nugroho said.

In Palu on Sunday, at least 200 people, including soldiers, filled the gray pews of the Protestant Manunggal church for a service.

They sang as a young girl in a black and white dress with a red bow danced in the aisle, prayed and listened to a 30-minute sermon from the pastor, Lucky Malonda. A woman in the front pew wept.

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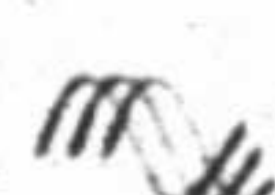
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OPINION

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Monday, October 8, 2018 | Page 6A

Is a housecleaning at the Vatican necessary?

■ Can Francis change the church while stonewalling on sex abuse?

Let me ask you to do the impossible, tear your mind away from the Kavanaugh affair for a moment, and cast your eyes from the new Rome to the old one — from the American Empire's judicial wars to the similar mix of scandal, polarization, and intrigue in the Roman Catholic Church.

The pontificate of Francis and the presidency of Donald Trump have been odd mirrors of one another for a while — populist leaders, institutional crises, norm violations, #metoo scandals, leaks and whistle-blowers and cries of "fake news" and more. And as the Trump era has moved toward its Kavanaugh crescendo, the Catholic drama has also escalated, with the church's doctrinal conflict and its sex abuse scandal converging in a single destabilizing crisis.

This month the crux of the drama is the Synod on Young People, a meeting of bishops in Rome that like prior synods in the Francis era is a chance for the pope to prod some alteration of church teaching on sexuality through a process stage-managed to give the appearance of consensus.

No such consensus was evident in the prior two synods, in which the contested issue was divorce and remarriage, but the pope forged ahead with an ambiguous revision of church teaching, currently half-digested around the Catholic world. This time, thanks to his appointments there are fewer bishops in opposition, and the synod's endgame is probably some

ROSS DOUTHAT

New York Times News Service



ambiguously- liberalizing statement on homosexuality, contraception or both.

The promise of such change would normally guarantee the pontiff a wave of favorable media coverage. But glowing profiles of Francis are no longer easy to write, because the pope is now besieged by sexual scandal and his initial response was in a style familiar from Trump-era American politics — a mix of stonewalling, scapegoating and literal demonization.

The most notable of his accusers, Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, charged the pope and many prominent cardinals with having knowledge of the crimes of Cardinal Theodore McCarrick and allowing him to maintain honor and influence nonetheless. Viganò's allegations were flavored with conservative theological grievances, but their broad outline has held up under scrutiny, and the Vatican has finally been forced to promise, as of this weekend, a "thorough study of the entire documentation present in the Archives of the Dicastries and Offices of the Holy See regarding the former Cardinal McCarrick." Whether this is a real investigation or a P.R. move remains to be seen, but it's a welcome change from the initial response,

which consisted of sermons from Francis in which the pope likened himself to a silent, blameless Christ and claimed that the Great Accuser, the Devil, was at work in allegations against bishops.

If so, Lucifer seems to have a lot to work with, including a newfound scrutiny of the pope's tenure in Argentina, where victims are accusing him of chilly indifference to clerical sex abuse. The story is getting particular attention in Germany, home of many of Francis' allies in the hierarchy: the newsmagazine Der Spiegel has a cover package that casts a cold eye on the pope, with harsh quotes from Argentines suggesting that "he protected for years rapists and abusers."

To Francis' allies much of the scandal is dismissed as a plot by his enemies, an attempted coup by frustrated conservatives. But if so it's the most ineffectual coup imaginable, with no actual plan for changing the direction of his pontificate. Michael Brendan Dougherty of National Review likened Viganò's bombshell to the failed putsch by Turkish officers against Recep Tayyip Erdogan, which led nowhere because none of the higher-ups could execute a plan. So it is among the church's conservative cardinals: To talk with anti-Francis churchmen is to encounter not Machiavellian plots but despair and bafflement and impotence.

Which the pope senses, seemingly, because his response to the scandals has been to refuse obvious adaptations — there have been no further resignations in his corruption-tainted inner circle, no Roman investigation of the American

church despite the specific request for one from the American bishops — while plunging ahead boldly on other fronts. So far the current sex abuse agony has been punctuated by a papal revision of church teaching on the death penalty and a dramatic, high-risk deal with the Communist government in Beijing; this month's synod may provide further doctrinal punctuation. No scandal is big enough, apparently, to derail the pope's ambitions to leave the church permanently changed.

But this approach guarantees that the scandals will keep coming. As the bishops met in Rome, there was a story stateside about a group of American donors funding investigations into sexual and financial improprieties among the College of Cardinals, trying to expose the other red-hatted McCarricks before the next papal conclave rolls around.

This effort was quickly attacked as a right-wing witch-hunt, animated by an un-Catholic sense of the church as a contested political space. Which is a fair critique — except that the pope himself is the one driving the church to that point, by treating traditional piety as a roadblock to his efforts, by demonizing whistle-blowers in an age of awful scandal, and behaving less like a pastor than an ideologue in white.

The truth is that Francis can pre-empt the right-wing partisans with a Roman housecleaning, an American investigation, an accounting for both his own record and his predecessors' failures. Perhaps all this will happen. The alternative, silence and stonewalling, promises a church permanently in flames.

GUEST VIEW

President's tariffs undercut his progress on trade

In a perfect world, President Donald Trump would be busy running a victory lap on trade while his staff quietly took down a few of his tariffs. After all, some of those tariffs were supposedly put in place to pressure Mexico and Canada to the bargaining table and then into granting concessions.

But then, we live in a fallen world where prices go up at a time when political decisions could help drive them down. In this case, we are particularly bothered by the tariffs the president is leaving in place on Canada.

Now, we aren't all that interested in the Canadian economy (other than the ability to enjoy maple syrup and some other sweet items from up north), except for one tiny little thing that is probably so obscure, the president has understandably missed it. And that is this: When Canadian products that Americans want to buy are arbitrarily jacked up in price, we are all made all the worse off.

In this case, it's Texas (and residents of the lesser states) that are made worse off. By some estimates, (the National Association of Home Builders) the cost of a new home is approximately \$9,000 more today than it would be if we dropped our silly tariffs on Canadian lumber. Given that the feds (a.k.a. the Census Bureau) put the average cost of a home at \$320,000, Americans are essentially paying a 3 percent tax on their homes to serve the president's tariff agenda.

The higher prices actually show up in a bunch of things ranging from flooring to countertops to shingles because of a variety of tariffs. The pain is expected to worsen with costs increasing for sinks, light fixtures, appliances and toilets as the various trade spats metastasize. Trump's newly imposed tariffs on China, for example, amount to what the builders association says is a \$2.5 billion tax on residential construction.

We could also run through a dissertation on steel tariffs here, but we have sympathy for our dear readers (who can't possibly want to read a dissertation on steel tariffs on purpose). The point is we don't fully understand why the president doesn't take yes for an answer.

Canada has now joined his new trade agreement with Mexico, allowing Trump to cement a new trade deal with new terms with both of our neighbors on the North American continent. Pulling back tariffs levied against Canada actually enhances that victory and lines the pockets of regular old American homebuyers (that's a good thing) with a few thousand bucks. By the way, that's actually more than most of those stimulus checks the feds handed out in years past.

So how about it, Mr. President? Why not drop the tariffs on our North American friends?

By The Numbers

■ \$2.5 billion: The cost that the newly imposed tariffs on China will add to residential construction, according to the National Association of Home Builders.

■ \$9,000: The cost increase for construction of a new home because of Canadian lumber tariffs, according to NAHB.

■ \$320,000: The median cost of new-home construction in August, according to the Census Bureau.

— The Dallas Morning News

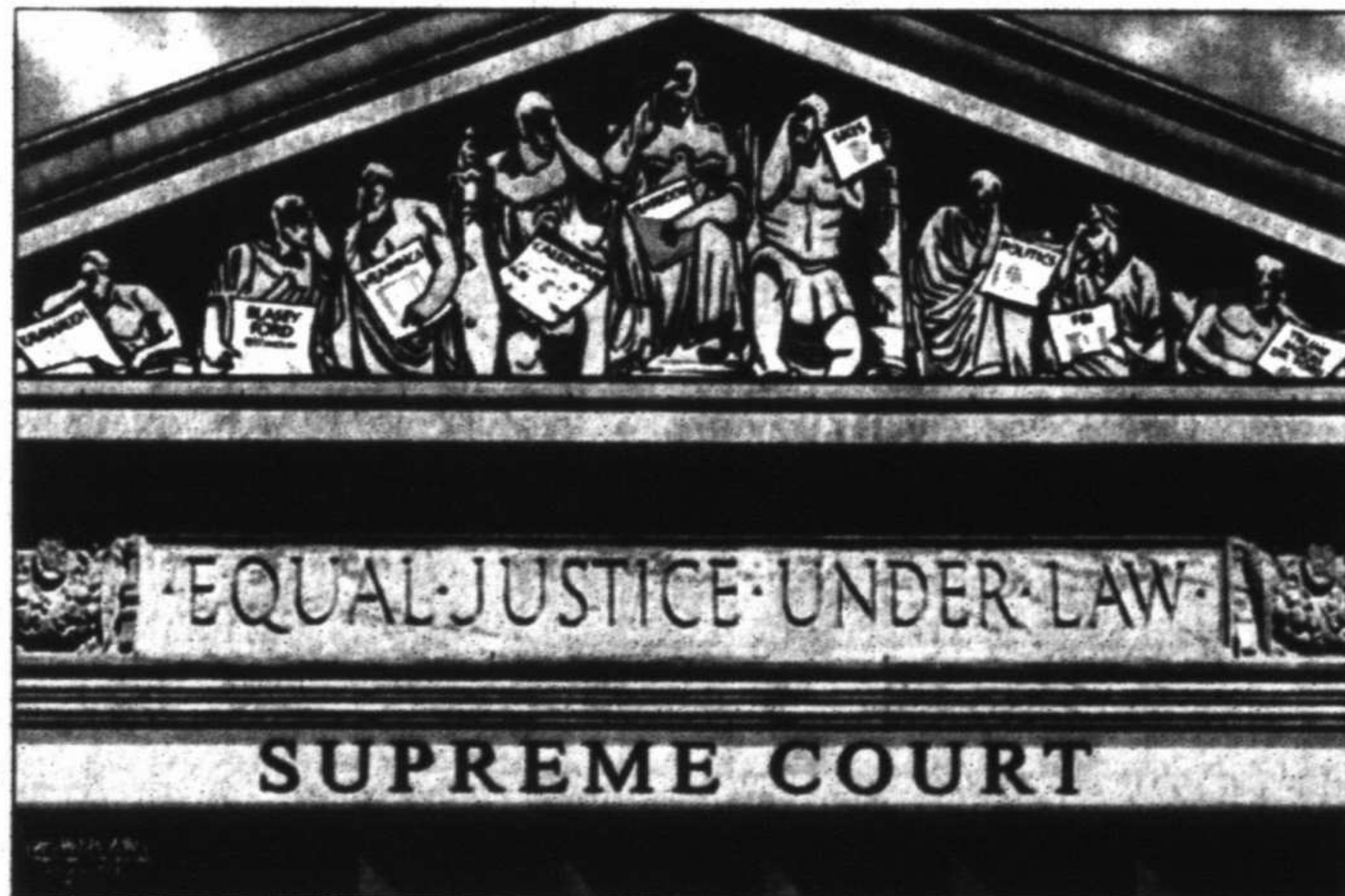
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TO OUR READERS

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The new Supreme Court justice didn't lie

Brett Kavanaugh gave high-profile testimony that very few people seem to have paid attention to in any detail.

The media is now engaged in a full-court press to establish that Kavanaugh drank to excess — when he admitted in his testimony that he drank to excess.

In his opening statement in the Senate hearing, Kavanaugh said, "Sometimes, I had too many beers." This is obviously an acknowledgment of excessive drinking. He further allowed of himself and his friends, in a statement that covers a lot of misbehavior: "We sometimes did goofy or stupid things. I doubt we are alone in looking back in high school and cringing at some things."

In the Martha MacCallum interview on Fox News the week before the hearing, he said much the same thing: "And yes, there were parties. And the drinking age was 18, and yes, the seniors were legal and had beer there. And yes, people might have had too many beers on occasion."

Kavanaugh never denied going to keg parties, or — to cite the recent reporting — enthusiastically planning his high school friends' excursion for beach week, or getting in a barroom scuffle at Yale. If Kavanaugh had been asked about any of these specifically and denied them, his critics would have a case for dishonesty that simply doesn't exist.

They object that Kavanaugh put too much emphasis on the "choir boy" parts of his record, but what obligation was he under to talk about, say, the Ralph Club over and above his academic and athletic record, when he was being fiercely pressed by opponents determined to assassinate his character?

His critics took great umbrage that he told MacCallum that "the vast majority of the time I spent in high school was studying or focused on sports and being a good friend to the boys and girls that I was friends with." This is almost certainly true, though. If he was at school for roughly a seven-hour day, five days a week, and had football and basketball practice too, and had to spend some time studying and six to eight hours a night sleeping, that doesn't leave the "vast majority" of his time for anything else.

He wasn't a dropout or an alcoholic. He, by

RICH LOWRY

King Features Syndicate



his own recollection, was at or near the top of his class during high school. None of that means that he didn't drink to excess, but — again — he never said otherwise.

His specific denial is that he never blacked out. So far, in all the people who knew him who have emerged to say he slurred his words or stumbled when he'd been drinking, no one has credibly alleged that Kavanaugh told them after a bout of drinking that he had no idea where he was or what he did the night before.

The other charges of lying are picayune. A cluster concerns his high school yearbook and his allegedly dishonest explanation of the slang terms "boof" and "Devil's Triangle." His critics say those terms refer to sex acts, whereas Kavanaugh says they refer to flatulence and a drinking game, respectively.

The evidence suggests that he's right. A history of farting — yes, there is such a thing — notes that "boof" was one slang word for flatulence, and former classmates of Kavanaugh's wrote a letter saying that they played Devil's Triangle, and explained how it was done.

Another yearbook phrase is "Renate Alumnus," a reference to a female friend of Kavanaugh's and his buddies. Kavanaugh's critics believe that it is sexual innuendo. Kavanaugh said the "reference was clumsily intended to show affection," and expressed regret over it and specifically apologized to the woman. How you regard this answer will depend on how much weight you put on the word "clumsily," but it's hardly the stuff of a perjury charge.

The emphasis this week of Kavanaugh's opponents on his drinking isn't a sign of strength, but of desperation and weakness. On lying under oath, they've got nothing.

From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore





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SPORTS

To submit information to the sports department, email sports@mrt.com

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Monday, October 8, 2018 | Section B

Are Longhorns back after big win over OU?

By Stephen Hawkins
Associated Press

DALLAS — There was a long pause by coach Tom Herman while considering the obvious questions after Texas extended its winning streak to five games with an impressive victory over three-time defending Big 12 champion Oklahoma in the Red River rivalry.

Are the Longhorns, now a top-10 team again, really back?

Ready to be a Big 12 powerhouse again?

A playoff contender?

"It's irrelevant to us," I think is probably the best way to put it. We're not so concerned about where people think Texas is," Herman finally said in

the wake of the postgame celebration. "The people in that locker room, the coaches and players, are the people whose opinions matter the most to us. ... Those are the people that we have to answer to on a daily basis."

These Longhorns (5-1, 3-0 Big 12) have won three games over Top 25 teams since a season-opening loss at Maryland.

They mostly bullied their way past Oklahoma except for a Kyler Murray-led rally in the fourth quarter that necessitated Texas true freshman Cameron Dicker's 40-yard field goal with nine seconds left to win 48-45.

Texas moved up 10 spots to No. 9 in the new AP Top 25 poll on Sunday, the first time the Horns have been a top 10 team after September since

2009 — when they won their last Big 12 title and were the national runner-up.

"It would be foolish for me to not understand the big picture," said Herman, who later recoiled a bit at even the mention of the College Football Playoff.

"We've taken some really big steps here the last few weeks. I'm not going to deny that. I'm not going to downplay that for these players," he said. "They have some taken very important steps in this program's development and its progress."

Oklahoma (5-1, 2-1), a playoff team two of the last three seasons, slipped four spots to 11th in the AP

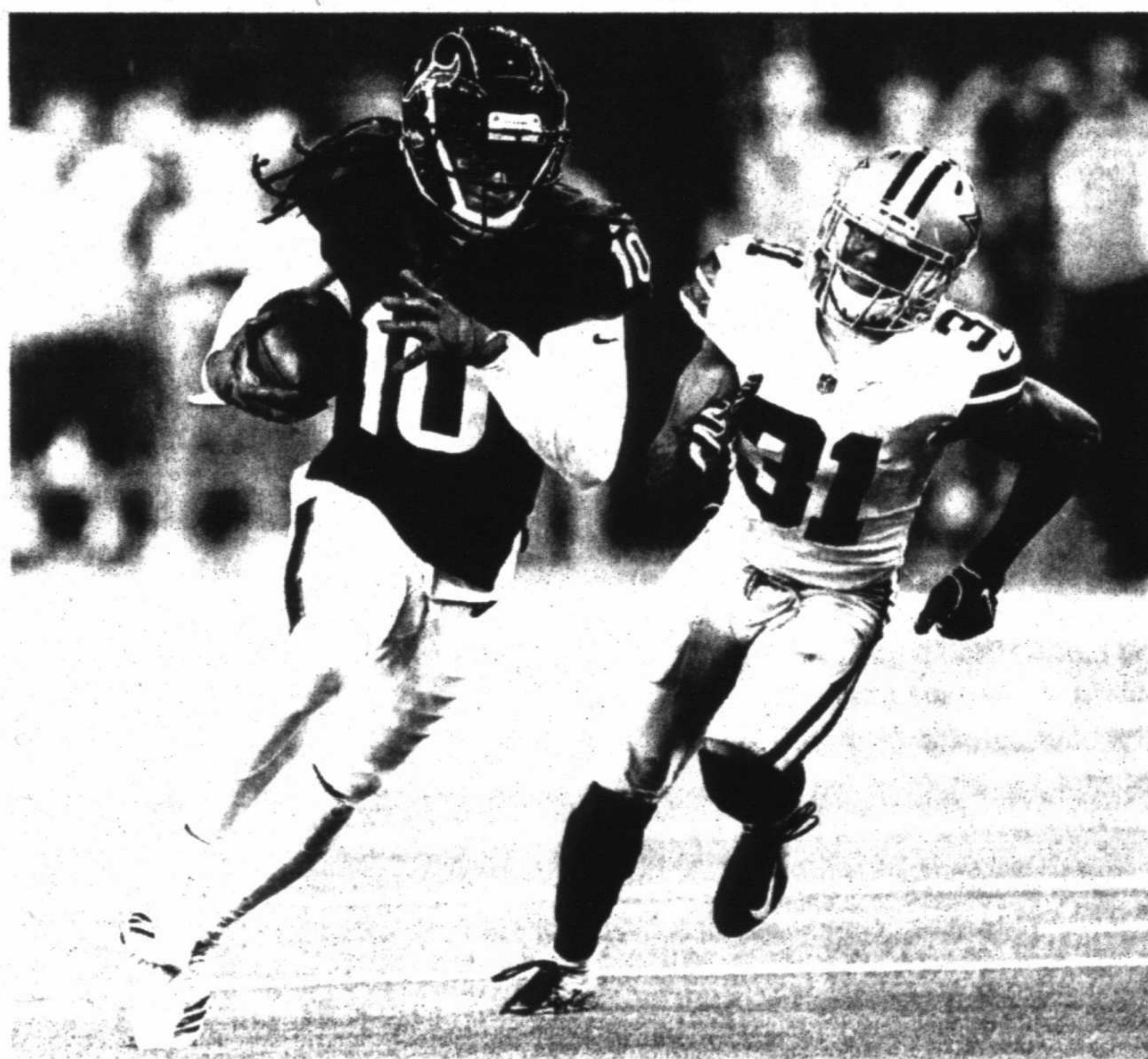
Please see LONGHORNS/4B



Nick Wagner/Austin American-Statesman via AP

Texas defensive back Josh Thompson (29) celebrates with fans while wearing the Golden Hat on Saturday following Texas' 48-45 win over Oklahoma at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas.

RACING AGAINST TIME



David J. Phillip/AP

Houston Texans wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins (10) is pursued by Dallas Cowboys cornerback Byron Jones (31) after a catch during the first half Sunday in Houston.

Fairbairn's FG in OT lifts Texans over Cowboys

By Kristie Rieken
Associated Press

HOUSTON — DeAndre Hopkins had 151 yards receiving, including a key reception in overtime, and Ka'imi Fairbairn's 36-yard field goal lifted the Houston Texans to a 19-16 win over the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday night.

The Cowboys got the ball first in OT but had to punt when Zach Cunningham stopped Ezekiel Elliott for no gain on third-and-1.

A 49-yard catch and run by Hopkins got the Texans in scoring range in overtime. He grabbed a short pass from Watson and twice spun away from would-be tacklers to stretch the play.

Houston was just 1 of 5 in the red

zone on Sunday with Fairbairn making four field goals to help the Texans to the victory.

It is Houston's first win over the Cowboys (2-3) since the team's first game on Sept. 8, 2002, ending a three-game losing streak to Dallas. The Texans (2-3) did it in front of a franchise-record crowd of 72,008, which was peppered with plenty of Cowboys fans.

Deshaun Watson threw for 375 yards with a touchdown and an interception for the Texans, who won in overtime for the second straight week.

Dak Prescott had 208 yards passing and a touchdown but threw two interceptions for the Cowboys. Elliott, who entered the game as the NFL's leading rusher, was limited to 54 yards rushing.

The Texans were driving late in the fourth quarter when Xavier Woods intercepted Watson, who threw under heavy pressure, with 10 seconds left and returned it 15 yards to give Dallas the ball at its 47. Kareem Jackson nearly intercepted Prescott on the next play before his Hail Mary on the last play of regulation was knocked down in the end zone by receiver DeAndre Hopkins, who came in to play defense.

A 27-yard pass interference call by Byron Jones on a ball intended for Hopkins got Houston to the 1-yard line in the third quarter. But two failed running plays followed by an incomplete pass forced another field goal which gave

Please see TEXANS/3B



Phil Long/AP

Houston Astros' Alex Bregman walks to the batting cage Sunday during a workout in Cleveland.

The bigger the stage, the brighter Bregman shines

By Kristie Rieken
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Ask any Houston Astro and they'll say the same thing: Alex Bregman was made for these moments.

The young third baseman was great for the defending champions all season and now that the calendar has flipped to October he's taken his play to another level, slugging two home runs to help Houston to a 2-0 lead in the AL Division Series against the Cleveland Indians.

"He loves the bright lights," praised George Springer, MVP of the World Series last year. "He loves the big stage ... he believes he should get a hit every time or make the big play or score the big run. That's just who he is and when you have a guy like that it makes you want to do the same thing."

Game 3 is Monday in Cleveland.

The 24-year-old Bregman had the best year of his career this season, leading the AL with a career-high 51 doubles, and setting career marks by hitting .286 with 31 homers and 103 RBIs. His breakout season helped carry the offense in a year where last year's MVP Jose Altuve and star shortstop Carlos Correa struggled with injuries.

"He brings joy to the team," Altuve said. "He shows up here and lets everybody know he's ready to play and ... you see how he plays and you're like: 'OK. I want to join him, and I want to play at the same level he's playing.'"

Bregman gave Houston its first run of the playoffs this season when he hit a solo homer off Corey Kluber in the fourth inning of Game 1 on Friday. It was the first of four homers hit by the Astros in a 7-2 win. The Astros were up by 1 in Game 2 on Saturday when Bregman connected off Trevor Bauer with two outs and none on in the seventh to add some insurance in the 3-1 victory.

"This is what it's all about," Bregman said. "This type of baseball is a blast. Everybody in that clubhouse is living and dying on every pitch. It's fun to play these types of games."

Bregman, the second overall pick in the 2015 draft, hit four homers and drove in 10 runs in his postseason debut last season to help the Astros to their first World Series title. He homered twice against the Dodgers in the World Series, and his two-out single in the 10th ended Houston's thrilling 13-12 win in Game 5.

Selected as an All-Star for the first time, he hit a tiebreaking home run in the 10th inning at Nationals Park in July that sent the AL to victory.

Bregman never seems daunted by

Please see BREGMAN/2B

NFL SCOREBOARD WEEK 5

Texans	19	Chiefs	30
Cowboys	16, OT	Jaguars	14
Bills	13	Browns	12
Titans	12	Ravens	9, OT
Bengals	27	Chargers	26
Dolphins	17	Raiders	10
Steelers	41	Vikings	23
Falcons	17	Eagles	21
Jets	34	Rams	33
Broncos	16	Seahawks	31
Panthers	33	Cardinals	28
Giants	31	49ers	18
Lions	31		
Packers	23		

DAILY RUNDOWN

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

TV	ESPN2, ESPNDEP
Major League Baseball ALDS Game 3: Houston at Cleveland, 12:30 p.m., TBS NLDS Game 4: LA Dodgers at Atlanta, 3:30 p.m., FS1, FXDEP	National Hockey League Vegas at Buffalo, 2 p.m., NHL
ALDS Game 3: Boston at NY Yankees, 6:30 p.m., TBS NLDS Game 4: Milwaukee at Colorado, 8:30 p.m., FS1, FXDEP	Tennis ATP: Shanghai, 12 a.m., TENNIS
National Basketball Association Dallas vs. Philadelphia, 7 a.m., NBA TV Washington at New York, 6:30 p.m., NBA TV Phoenix at Golden State, 9:30 p.m., NBA TV	Women's Soccer CONCACAF Women's Championship: Jamaica vs. Costa Rica, 5 p.m., FS2 CONCACAF Women's Championship: Cuba vs. Canada, 7:30 p.m., FS2
National Football League Washington at New Orleans, 7:15 p.m., ESPN.	RADIO Major League Baseball ALDS Game 3: Houston at Cleveland, 12:30 p.m., KBYG 106.1 FM/1400 AM (Big Spring)

TRANSACTIONS

HOCKEY	SAN JOSE SHARKS — Placed F Joe Thornton on injured reserve. Recalled C Dylan Gambrell from San Jose (AHL).
National Hockey League	
ST. LOUIS BLUES — Assigned D Chris Butler to San Antonio (AHL).	

AP TOP 25 COLLEGE FOOTBALL POLL

Rank	Team	Record	Pts	Pv
1	Alabama (9)	6-0	1522	1
2	Georgia	6-0	1426	2
3	Ole Miss (1)	6-0	1420	3
4	Clemson (1)	6-0	1331	4
5	Notre Dame	6-0	1315	5
6	West Virginia	5-1	1174	6
7	Washington	5-0	1098	7
8	Penn State	4-1	1087	8
9	Texas	5-1	956	9
10	UCF	5-0	917	10
11	Ole Miss	5-1	879	11
12	Michigan	5-1	875	12
13	LSU	5-1	794	13

F1 JAPANESE GRAND PRIX RESULTS

F1 Japanese Grand Prix Results	NIR Nico Hulkenberg, Germany, Renault 37
At Suzuka International Racing Course Suzuka, Japan Lap length: 3.8 miles 27 laps, 119.739 km	NIR Kevin Magnussen, Denmark, Haas Faster: 8 laps, DNF
1. Lewis Hamilton, Britain, Mercedes 53 laps, 1:27:17.062, 254	Driver Standings
2. Valtteri Bottas, Finland, Mercedes 53 laps, +12.979 seconds behind, 18	1. Lewis Hamilton, 331
3. Max Verstappen, Netherlands, Red Bull Racing 53 laps, +14.295, 15	2. Sebastian Vettel, 264
4. Daniel Ricciardo, Australia, Red Bull Racing 53 laps, +15.495, 12	3. Valtteri Bottas, 207
5. Kimi Raikkonen, Finland, Ferrari 53 laps, +50.998, 10	4. Kimi Raikkonen, 196
6. Sergio Perez, Mexico, Force India Mer- cedes 53 laps, +1:19.279, 8	5. Max Verstappen, 173
7. Esteban Ocon, France, Force India Mer- cedes 53 laps, +1:28.055, 2	6. Daniel Ricciardo, 146
8. Carlos Sainz, Spain, Renault 52 laps, +1:40.1, 1	7. Sergio Perez, 53
9. Pierre Gasly, France, Scuderia Toro Rosso Honda 52 laps, +1:40, 1	8. Kevin Magnussen, 53
10. Marcus Ericsson, Sweden, Sauber Ferrari 52 laps, +1:40, 1	9. Nico Hulkenberg, 53
11. Brendon Hartley, New Zealand, Scuderia Toro Rosso Honda 52 laps, +1:40, 1	10. Fernando Alonso, 50
12. Esteban Ocon, France, Force India Mer- cedes 52 laps, +1:40, 1	11. Esteban Ocon, 49
13. Charles Leclerc, Monaco, Sauber Ferrari 52 laps, +1:40, 1	12. Carlos Sainz, 39
14. Lance Stroll, Canada, Williams Mercedes 52 laps, +1:40, 1	13. Roman Grosjean, 31
15. Sergey Sirotkin, Russia, Williams Mer- cedes 52 laps, +1:40, 1	14. Pierre Gasly, 28
16. Charles Leclerc, Monaco, Sauber Ferrari 52 laps, +1:40, 1	15. Charles Leclerc, 21
17. Lance Stroll, Canada, Williams Mercedes 52 laps, +1:40, 1	16. Stoffel Vandoorne, 8
18. Charles Leclerc, Monaco, Sauber Ferrari 52 laps, +1:40, 1	17. Lance Stroll, 6
19. Brendon Hartley, New Zealand, Scuderia Toro Rosso Honda 52 laps, +1:40, 1	18. Marcus Ericsson, 6
20. Sergey Sirotkin, Russia, Williams Mer- cedes 52 laps, +1:40, 1	19. Brendon Hartley, 2
21. Charles Leclerc, Monaco, Sauber Ferrari 52 laps, +1:40, 1	20. Sergey Sirotkin, 1

NHL GLANCE

EASTERN CONFERENCE							WESTERN CONFERENCE						
Atlantic Division							Pacific Division						
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF/GA	Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF/GA
Toronto	3	2	0	1	4	13/13	Edmonton	2	2	0	0	4	9/9
Montreal	2	1	0	1	3	7/4	Winnipeg	2	1	1	0	2	6/6
Ottawa	2	0	0	0	0	2/9	St. Louis	2	0	0	1	1	5/10
Buffalo	1	1	0	0	2	7/7	Minnesota	2	0	0	1	1	2/6
Boston	2	1	1	0	2	4/7							
Florida	2	0	0	0	0	2/3							
Calgary	2	0	0	0	0	2/3							
Vancouver	1	0	0	0	0	1/2							
Los Angeles	1	0	0	0	0	1/2							
San Jose	1	0	0	0	0	1/2							
Arizona	2	0	2	0	0	4/3							
Colorado	2	0	2	0	0	4/3							
Edmonton	2	0	2	0	0	4/3							
Winnipeg	2	1	1	0	2	6/6							
St. Louis	2	1	1	0	2	6/6							
Minnesota	2	0	1	1	1	2/6							

WESTERN CONFERENCE							EASTERN CONFERENCE						
Pacific Division							Atlantic Division						
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF/GA	Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF/GA
Carolina	3	2	0	1	5	12/8	Toronto	3	2	0	1	4	13/13
Washington	2	1	0	0	2	5/2	Montreal	2	1	0	1	3	7/4
New Jersey	1	1	0	0	2	5/2	Ottawa	2	0	0	0	0	2/9
Philadelphia	2	1	1	0	2	7/7	Buffalo	1	1	0	0	2	7/7
Columbus	2	1	1	0	2	4/5	Boston	2	1	1	0	2	4/7
Pittsburgh	2	0	0	0	0	2/11	Florida	2	0	0	0	0	2/3
N.Y. Islanders	2	1	0	0	2	5/5	Calgary	2	0	0	0	0	2/3
N.Y. Rangers	3	0	3	0	0	8/14	Vancouver	1	0	0	0	0	1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE							EASTERN CONFERENCE						
Pacific Division							Atlantic Division						
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF/GA	Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF/GA
Chicago	3	2	0	1	5	15/14	Carolina	3	2	0	1	5	12/8
Dallas	2	2	0	0	4	9/6	Washington	2	1	0	0	2	5/2
Nashville	2	2	0	0	4	7/5	New Jersey	1	1	0	0	2	5/2
St. Louis	2	2	0	0	4	7/5	Philadelphia	2	1	0	0	2	7/7
San Jose	2	2	0	0	4	7/5	Columbus	2	1	1	0	2	4/5
Edmonton	2	2	0	0	4	7/5	Pittsburgh	2	0	0	0	0	2/11
Los Angeles	2	2	0	0	4	7/5	N.Y. Islanders	2	1	0	0	2	5/5
San Jose	2	2	0	0	4	7/5	N.Y. Rangers	3	0	3	0	0	8/14

NBA PRESEASON GLANCE

EASTERN CONFERENCE					Northwest Division				
Atlantic Division					Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pts	GP		W	L	Pts	GP
New York	3	0	1,000	-	Danvers	3	1	1,000	-
Philadelphia	3	0	1,000	-	Utah	3	0	1,000	-
Toronto	2	1	807	-	Oaklands City	2	1	807	-
Boston	2	1	807	-	Portland	1	2	550	25
Brooklyn	2	1	800	25	Memphis	1	3	250	25
Southeast Division					Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pts	GP		W	L	Pts	GP
Charlotte	2	1	807	-	LA Clippers	3	0	1,000	-
Washington	2	1	807	-	Golden State	1	3	250	15
Orlando	1	1	550	25	Sacramento	1	3	250	25
Atlanta	1	1	550	25	Phoenix	1	2	353	2
Memphis	0	3	000	2	LA Lakers	1	2	350	25
Central Division					San Diego Sevens				
	W	L	Pts	GP	Oakland City 113, Atlanta 94				
Minneapolis	3	0	1,000	- <td colspan="5">Houston 108, San Antonio 85</td>	Houston 108, San Antonio 85				
Cleveland	2	0	1,000	- <td colspan="5">Dallas 102, Memphis 107</td>	Dallas 102, Memphis 107				
San Antonio	1	1	500	1 <td colspan="5">Utah at Portland, late</td>	Utah at Portland, late				
Chicago	1	1	500	1 <th colspan="5">Today's Games</th>	Today's Games				
WESTERN CONFERENCE					Dallas vs Philadelphia, 6:30 p.m.				
Southeast Division					Boston vs Detroit, 6 p.m.				
	W	L	Pts	GP	Chicago at Oakland, 6:30 p.m.				
San Antonio	2	1	807	- <th colspan="5">San Antonio vs Dallas, 6:30 p.m.</th>	San Antonio vs Dallas, 6:30 p.m.				
Houston	2	1	807	- <th colspan="5">Orlando at Miami, 6:30 p.m.</th>	Orlando at Miami, 6:30 p.m.				
Memphis	2	1	807	- <th colspan="5">Washington vs New York, 6:30 p.m.</th>	Washington vs New York, 6:30 p.m.				
Atlanta	1	2	550	1 <th colspan="5">Houston at Dallas, 6:30 p.m.</th>	Houston at Dallas, 6:30 p.m.				
New Orleans	0	3	000	2 <th colspan="5">Phoenix vs Golden State, 6:30 p.m.</th>	Phoenix vs Golden State, 6:30 p.m.				

MLS GLANCE

EASTERN CONFERENCE	West Division
Atlanta United FC	15 9 9 37 39 40
New York	14 9 9 37 39 40
New York City FC	14 9 9 37 39 40
Philadelphia	14 9 9 37 39 40
Columbus	14 9 9 37 39 40
Chicago	14 9 9 37 39 40
D.C. United	14 9 9 37 39 40
New England	14 9 9 37 39 40
San Jose	14 9 9 37 39 40
Seattle FC	14 9 9 37 39 40
Portland	14 9 9 37 39 40
San Diego	14 9 9 37 39 40
LA Galaxy	14 9 9 37 39 40
LAFC	14 9 9 37 39 40
San Jose	14 9 9 37 39 40
Seattle FC	14 9 9 37 39 40
Portland	14 9 9 37 39 40
San Diego	14 9 9 37 39 40
LA Galaxy	14 9 9 37 39 40
LAFC	14 9 9 37 39 40



John Leyba/AP

Milwaukee Brewers relief pitcher Jeremy Jeffress is doused by teammates as they celebrate in the clubhouse Sunday after Game 3 of the National League Division Series against the Colorado Rockies in Denver.

MLB ROUNDUP

Associated Press

American League

BRAVES 6

DODGERS 5

ATLANTA — Reliever Aroldys Vizcaino escaped his own jam in a nervy ninth inning and the Atlanta Braves held off the Los Angeles Dodgers 6-5 Sunday night, cutting their deficit in the NL Division Series to 2-1.

Rookie Ronald Acuna Jr. hit a grand slam that helped the Braves build an early 5-0 lead. Atlanta blew that advantage, but Freddie Freeman hit a tiebreaking homer in the sixth.

Then in the ninth, the Dodgers got runners on first and second with no outs. Vizcaino came back from a 3-0 count to strike out slugger Max Muncy, then fanned Manny Machado on a wild pitch that moved the runners to second and third.

National League

BREWERS 6

ROCKIES 0

DENVER — Wade Miley pitched masterfully into the fifth inning before turning it over to a lights-out Milwaukee bullpen. Kratz kept up his torrid hitting and the Brewers beat the Colorado Rockies 6-0 in Game 3 on a cool, misty Sunday to sweep their NL Division Series.

With manager Craig Counsell making all the right moves, Milwaukee's pitching staff held Nolan Arenado, Trevor Story and the bruising Rockies to a combined two runs and 14 hits in the series. Of the 28 innings in the matchup, Colorado scored in only one of them.

Orlando Arcia and Keon Broxton hit back-to-back homers in the ninth off Wade Davis to make it 6-0 and end any sort of drama. Jesus Aguilar had a solo shot in the fourth off German Marquez that Counsell sort of predicted.

Granted, it wasn't with men on base. But it was still big and gave the Brewers a 2-0 lead.

That was more than enough against a Colorado offense that was shut out twice in the series and hit .146 against Milwaukee's stingy pitching. Colorado's three All-Stars — Story, Arenado and Charlie Blackmon — finished the series with a combined five hits.

This is how well it went for the Brewers on the drizzly day: They scored twice in the sixth without a hit — one on a balk and another on a wild pitch, with Kratz lumbering home for the second run.

MLB POSTSEASON GLANCE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WILD CARD	Division Series	League Championship Series	World Series
Houston 2, Cleveland 2 Saturday, Oct. 6 Cleveland 1, Houston 1 Sunday, Oct. 7	Atlanta 3, Los Angeles 1 Monday, Oct. 8 Los Angeles 2, Atlanta 1 Tuesday, Oct. 9	Atlanta 3, Los Angeles 1 Monday, Oct. 8 Los Angeles 2, Atlanta 1 Tuesday, Oct. 9	Atlanta 3, Los Angeles 1 Monday, Oct. 8 Los Angeles 2, Atlanta 1 Tuesday, Oct. 9
Los Angeles 2, Houston 2 Saturday, Oct. 6 Houston 1, Los Angeles 1 Sunday, Oct. 7	Los Angeles 2, Houston 2 Saturday, Oct. 6 Houston 1, Los Angeles 1 Sunday, Oct. 7	Los Angeles 2, Houston 2 Saturday, Oct. 6 Houston 1, Los Angeles 1 Sunday, Oct. 7	Los Angeles 2, Houston 2 Saturday, Oct. 6 Houston 1, Los Angeles 1 Sunday, Oct. 7

BREGMAN

From 1B

important moments despite having played just two full seasons in the majors.

Manager AJ Hinch said Bregman has a "calm heartbeat" and he knows the Astros can always count on him when they need a big play whether it be on offense or defense.

"I love how he describes pressure. He describes pressure as a privilege," Hinch said. "That, to me, shows someone that gets it, someone that is going

to be able to handle the moment."

Though Hinch and the Astros have come to expect this level of play from the former LSU standout, the manager sometimes takes a step back simply to appreciate his greatness.

"It's amazing to watch him do it time after time after time," Hinch said.

"We're getting spoiled. Guys aren't supposed to do it at this level at that rate he's been doing."

Altuve, who became the first Astro to win MVP

since Jeff Bagwell collected the National League award in 1994, has been wowed by Bregman's development this season. In a stacked MVP race led by Boston's Mookie Betts and J.D. Martinez and Angels star Mike Trout, Altuve believes that his teammate's season was the most impressive.

"Bregman does something big for us every single game," Altuve said. "He's the kind of player that you really want to have on your team. He had

an MVP season. He's my MVP."

Bregman isn't interested in discussing individual awards and accolades and says his only focus is helping the Astros repeat as champions. And as much as he's done so far, he's constantly working to do more and get better.

"This was definitely, definitely something I envisioned doing, (but) I think there's so much room to improve on both sides of the ball, and I look forward to working on it," he said.

Judge blares 'New York, New York,' as Red Sox head to Bronx

By Ronald Blum

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Aaron Judge walked past Boston's Fenway Park clubhouse early Sunday morning. Frank Sinatra's rendition of "New York, New York" blaring from a boom box atop the wheezy bag he was pulling with his left hand.

"It's a good song. And Aaron, he's one of our resident deejays, so he's got a pretty extensive playlist," New York manager Aaron Boone said later in the day at Yankee Stadium, a smirk filling his face. "We like to hear that

song sometimes when we win a big game."

New York and Boston split at Fenway Park and are tied 1-1 in the best-of-five AL Division Series going into Game 3 on Monday night. Luis Severino, coming off four scoreless innings in the wild-card game against Oakland, starts for New York and former Yankees pitcher Nathan Eovaldi pitches for the Red Sox.

Severino was 10-2 with a 2.74 ERA and .217 opponents' batting average at home, just 9-6 with a 3.99 ERA and .257 opponents' batting average on the road.

"Maybe my wife cooks better food here," he said.

New York is 19-9 in the postseason at new Yankee Stadium, where boisterous Bronx crowds try to intimidate. The Yankees were 53-28 there during the regular season, the second-best home record behind Boston's 57-24. The win over Oakland in last week's wild-card game improved New York to 7-0 at home in the postseason since the start of the 2017 playoffs.

"The fans, they're out there on the field with you," Judge said. "Every single pitch they're locked in. It's electric."

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Saturday, October 6th
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8:30 AM to 11:30 AM
Bush Tennis Center

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Volunteer Orientation
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Associated Press

**RAMS 33
SEAHAWKS 31**
SEATTLE — Todd Gurley rushed for three touchdowns, Jared Goff passed for 321 yards and a score and the Rams remained unbeaten.

Ron Schwane/AF

Rosen threw a 75-yard touchdown pass to fellow rookie Christian Kirk on

Patrick Mahomes threw for 313 yards and ran for a touchdown, though he also threw his first two picks of the season. Kareem Hunt

Crosby missed a career-high four field goals in one game and botched an extra point to boot.

Crosby missed a career-high four field goals in one game and botched an extra point to boot.

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Isaiah Crowell ran for a franchise-record 219 yards, including a 77-yard

Roethlisberger finished 19 of 29 for 250 yards and three scores, including a 9-yard strike to Brown in the third quarter and a 47-yard dart to the All-Pro wide receiver early in the fourth as Pittsburgh (2-2-1) put together its most complete performance of the season.

three turnovers, and LeSean McCoy broke from a September slump with a season-best 85 yards rushing. McCoy sparked the decisive drive with a 13-yard catch on third-and-3. And backup running back Chris Ivory had a 9-yard run in getting the Bills across

Rookie quarterback Josh Allen scored on a 14-yard touchdown run but was held in check as a passer. He finished 10 of 19 for 82 yards and an interception.

Associated Press

[illegible]

From 1B

Zach Cunningham.

quarter and it was recov-

the lead to 10-6.

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 INTERNAL CONFERENCE

AMERICAN CONFERENCE					NATIONAL CONFERENCE				
East					West				
W	L	T	PP	PS	W	L	T	PP	PS
New England	3	2	0	.667	135	103			
Buffalo	2	2	0	.667	99	117			
Seattle	2	3	0	.667	93	113			
N.Y. Jets	2	3	0	.667	125	105			
South					North				
W	L	T	PP	PS	W	L	T	PP	PS
Tennessee	3	2	0	.667	97	98			
Indianapolis	3	2	0	.667	103	109			
Houston	2	4	0	.333	115	134			
Indianapolis	1	4	0	.250	110	138			
South					North				
W	L	T	PP	PS	W	L	T	PP	PS
Connecticut	4	1	0	.800	130	133			
Baltimore	3	2	1	.667	140	137			
Cleveland	2	2	1	.500	114	119			
Pittsburgh	2	2	1	.500	142	135			
West					East				
W	L	T	PP	PS	W	L	T	PP	PS
Kansas City	5	0	0	1.000	175	139			
San Diego	3	2	0	.667	137	135			
Denver	2	3	0	.400	130	131			
Central					West				
W	L	T	PP	PS	W	L	T	PP	PS
Chicago	3	2	0	.667	111	85			
Green Bay	2	2	1	.500	110	71			
St. Louis	2	2	1	.500	115	114			
San Francisco	2	3	0	.400	125	127			
East					West				
W	L	T	PP	PS	W	L	T	PP	PS
San Francisco	5	0	0	1.000	175	150			
San Diego	3	2	0	.667	137	135			
Seattle	2	3	0	.400	130	131			

Elliott wins Dover, earns berth in playoff round

By Dan Gelston
Associated Press

DOVER, Del. — Chase Elliott pulled away to win in overtime Sunday at Dover International Speedway for an automatic berth into the next round of the NASCAR Cup playoffs.

Elliott was the surprise winner in a race that had been dominated by Stewart-Haas Racing drivers until a pair of wrecks over the final laps jumbled the field and set the stage for Elliott. He kept his No. 14 Chevrolet off pit road and drove into victory lane.

Elliott raced to his first career Cup win this season at Watkins Glen and earned a bit of redemption Sunday from a tough finish in last fall's Dover race. Elliott was passed by winner Kyle Busch with two laps left in the race and fell to 0 for 70 in his career.

Elliott rubbed his head and leaned against his car, crestfallen as he replayed the final laps in his mind. Jimmie Johnson walked over to offer some encouragement and let Elliott vent.

It was one big celebration on Sunday.

"It definitely makes it sweeter, for sure," Elliott said. "You don't appreciate it in those moments."

Elliott was greeted in victory lane with a hug from team owner Rick Hendrick and retired star Jeff Gordon also was there to con-



Nick Wass/AP

gratulate the winning driver. Elliott's father, Hall of Fame driver Bill Elliott, was not at the race.

"He's been so close here," Hendrick said. "It's really good to see him get this win and move on. He's like his dad. He really knows when to race. I'm really fortunate to have him in our camp."

The top eight drivers after the next two races move on to the next round and Aric Almirola, Clint Bowyer, Kyle Larson and Alex Bowman are the bottom four after the first playoff race in the round of 12.

SHR was in control with Kevin Harvick early and Almirola late. Harvick led 286 laps and was on pace to sweep the Dover races until tire issues derailed his run and he finished sixth. Almi-

rola, who led 64 laps late and had his second career Cup win in sight, was running sixth off a restart when he got loose and connected with Brad Keselowski. That triggered a multi-car wreck that collected championship contenders and brought out the red flag to force overtime.

Denny Hamlin was second, followed by playoff driver Joey Logano. NASCAR playoff drivers took 10 of the top 15 spots.

Here are other items of note from Dover.

Shane's ride

Johnson might have had better luck using one of the kids' bikes he bought as a gag gift for his ride at Dover. Johnson, who holds the

Dover record with 11 wins, was an early hit when he dropped off 12 bikes at Martin Truex Jr.'s hauler as an apology of sorts for triggering a wreck last week at Charlotte that denied both drivers a shot at a win.

Truex's team gave away the bikes to kids who stopped by in the garage.

Johnson gave away the race before it really started. His No. 48 Chevrolet was forced to the garage during the pace laps because of mechanical woes and he finished 36th.

Johnson's bid for a record eighth NASCAR Cup title ended last week when he was eliminated from the playoffs.

Big bet

NASCAR President Steve Phelps said the series is set to implement guidelines in the rulebook on sports betting in 2019.

Dover International Speedway opened its on-site betting kiosk this weekend and became the only track that allowed sports gambling on its property. NASCAR does not prohibit its drivers or team members from betting on the race.

"I think for '19, we'll have some rules that we'll put in place," Phelps said Sunday at Dover. "For right now, there'll be betting here. They have a kiosk here, you can bet inside."

NASCAR Monster Energy Gender Outdoor

LONGHORNS

From 1B

poll. The Sooners have won 27 of their last 30 regular-season Big 12 games, two of those losses are to Texas.

"We have been as good as anybody in the country the last three years of responding to the very few losses we've had," Oklahoma coach Lincoln Riley said. "We've got a track record right there that you could put up against team in the country, and that's absolutely what we expect to do again."

The Sooners have a week off before they return to the Dallas-Fort Worth area to play TCU on Oct. 20.

The highest-ranked Big 12 team, and the league's only remaining undefeated, is No. 6 West Virginia (5-0, 3-0).

The Mountaineers go to Texas on Nov. 3, and host the Sooners the day after Thanksgiving, and a week before the Big 12 championship game.

Texas and Oklahoma both had more than 500 total yards Saturday and combined for the most points in their 113-game series that dates back to 1900, and has been part of the State Fair of Texas since 1929.

Both dual-threat quarterbacks — steady Texas sophomore Sam Ehlinger and Sooners highlight-maker Murray — accounted for five touchdowns while throwing for more than 300 yards.

UFC champ could face fine, suspension

By Greg Beacham
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Khabib Nurmagomedov was the calm, glowering foil to Conor McGregor's antics for six months while the loquacious Irishman built a frenzy of hype around their UFC lightweight title fight.

When Nurmagomedov forced the biggest star in mixed martial arts to tap out Saturday night to end what's likely to be the most lucrative show in UFC history, he had fashioned the perfect response to McGregor's verbal insults and physical attacks.

But when Nurmagomedov promptly huddled over the cage and fought with McGregor's taunting cornermen while his own teammates ambushed McGregor in the octagon, the Russian champion and his friends might have seriously damaged careers that were just about to take off.

"These guys are in big trouble," UFC President Dana White said. "It is going to be ugly."

Executive director Bob Bennett said the Nevada Athletic Commission intends to file a complaint following its investigation into the actions of Nurmagomedov and his team for setting off a post-fight melee at UFC 229 immediately after McGregor submitted to Nurmagomedov's choke in the fourth round. Nurmagomedov's \$2 million purse has been withheld, and he could face a hefty fine along with a lengthy suspension.

White said three members of Nurmagomedov's team were detained by police, but released after McGregor refused to press charges. White acknowledged Nurmagomedov's lightweight title could be stripped if his actions result in a significant suspension.

"There's going to be fines," White said. "There's going to be God knows what. Can these guys get visas to get

back in the country? We'll see how this plays out, but I've been doing this for 18 years, and this is the biggest fight ever, and I couldn't be more disappointed."

McGregor's \$3 million purse was not withheld after commission officials examined video footage and determined his side had done nothing wrong in the melee. While Nurmagomedov brawled with McGregor teammate Dillon Danis outside the cage, a few men from Nurmagomedov's camp at least two of whom appeared to be UFC fighters, although the promotion and the commission haven't formally identified them — climbed into the cage and confronted McGregor, who defended himself while getting sucker-punched from behind.

McGregor's first public response to the drama came on Twitter early Sunday morning: "Good knock. Looking forward to the rematch."

By following his masterful victory with a reckless response to McGregor's lengthy campaign of verbal and physical aggression, Nurmagomedov showcased the best and worst sides of mixed martial arts in a 30-second span. The Dagestan native who trains in San Jose, California, also overshadowed his years of steady progress to become one of MMA's top pound-for-pound fighters.

But Nurmagomedov said he had been brought to a boil by McGregor's behavior since April, when McGregor infamously attacked a bus carrying Nurmagomedov and several other UFC fighters. McGregor was incensed after Nurmagomedov confronted a member of his team in New York earlier in that week, which ended with Nurmagomedov winning the UFC 155-pound belt.

"I don't understand how people can talk about I jump on the cage, you know?" Nurmagomedov said after apologizing to the Nevada commission

during a brief post-fight statement to reporters, his title belt displayed on the dais before him.

"What about he talked about my religion, he talk about my country, he talk about my father? He come to Brooklyn and he broke bus. He almost killed a couple of people. What about this? I don't understand. I'm respectful. My father teaches me, 'Hey, you have to be always respectful.'"

After McGregor agreed this summer to return from a 23-month UFC absence for this highly lucrative bout, Nurmagomedov absorbed the Irish superstar's gleeful taunts related to his family, friends and Muslim faith during their fight promotion.

McGregor crowed when Abdulmanap Nurmagomedov, the champion's beloved father and a longtime wrestling coach, couldn't attend UFC 229 because he couldn't secure a U.S. visa in time. McGregor called Nurmagomedov's father a "quivering coward" during a boisterous news conference.

On Thursday, McGregor referred to Nurmagomedov's manager, Ali Abdelaziz, as a "snitch terrorist rat." McGregor appeared to be referring to a book written several years ago which claimed that Abdelaziz once worked as an informant for the NYPD and FBI among U.S. Muslims in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

McGregor's barbs were pointed, as usual for a fighter who built his massive fortune both with heavy fists and cutting words. White knew that Nurmagomedov and his teammates took it all very personally, but he was shocked by their response.

"This isn't the last time guys are going to say mean things to each other," White said. "This is the fight business. That's how it works. People have been saying mean things to each other for 18 years here in the UFC. Nothing like this has ever happened."

South Korea wins International Crown

By John Duerden
Associated Press

INCHEON, South Korea — South Korea held off challenges from the United States and England to win the eight-nation International Crown for the first time in front of a delighted home crowd at Jack Nicklaus Golf Club on Sunday.

The top-seeded host team started the final round two points clear of the chasing pack and won two of the four singles matchups to finish with 15 points, four ahead of the defending champion United States and England.

Thailand finished fourth, and Sweden fifth. Australia, Taiwan, and Japan were all eliminated at the end of the third round.

In contrast to the wet conditions that cost the tournament an entire day's play on Saturday after the Korean peninsula, bright sunshine helped produce a big and passionate crowd

that cheered the home team on to victory.

"We never really feel nervous before majors but we have been nervous for a couple of months before this," So Yeon Ryu said. "Turns out that because this was home field, we felt comfortable with all the fans that came out to support us, and we had a lot of benefits. The support was incredible."

Ryu fought back from two down to halve with Lexi Thompson of the United States. Only world No. 1 Sung Hyun Park lost of the South Korean quartet, 2 and 1 against Ariya Jutanugarn of Thailand.

"Not only myself but all my teammates felt a lot of pressure coming into this tournament," Park said. "I am really happy we overcame that stress."

L.K. Kim defeated Brooke Law of England 2 up, and In Gee Chun overcame Anna Nordqvist of Sweden 1 up.

PRO GOLF SCORES

Associated Press

Shane Bieber (R), \$14,010 69-72-69-75-285

Camilo Ortiz (R), \$14,010 71-68-75-76-285

Brandon Stone (R), \$14,010 67-71-73-75-285

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healthy living

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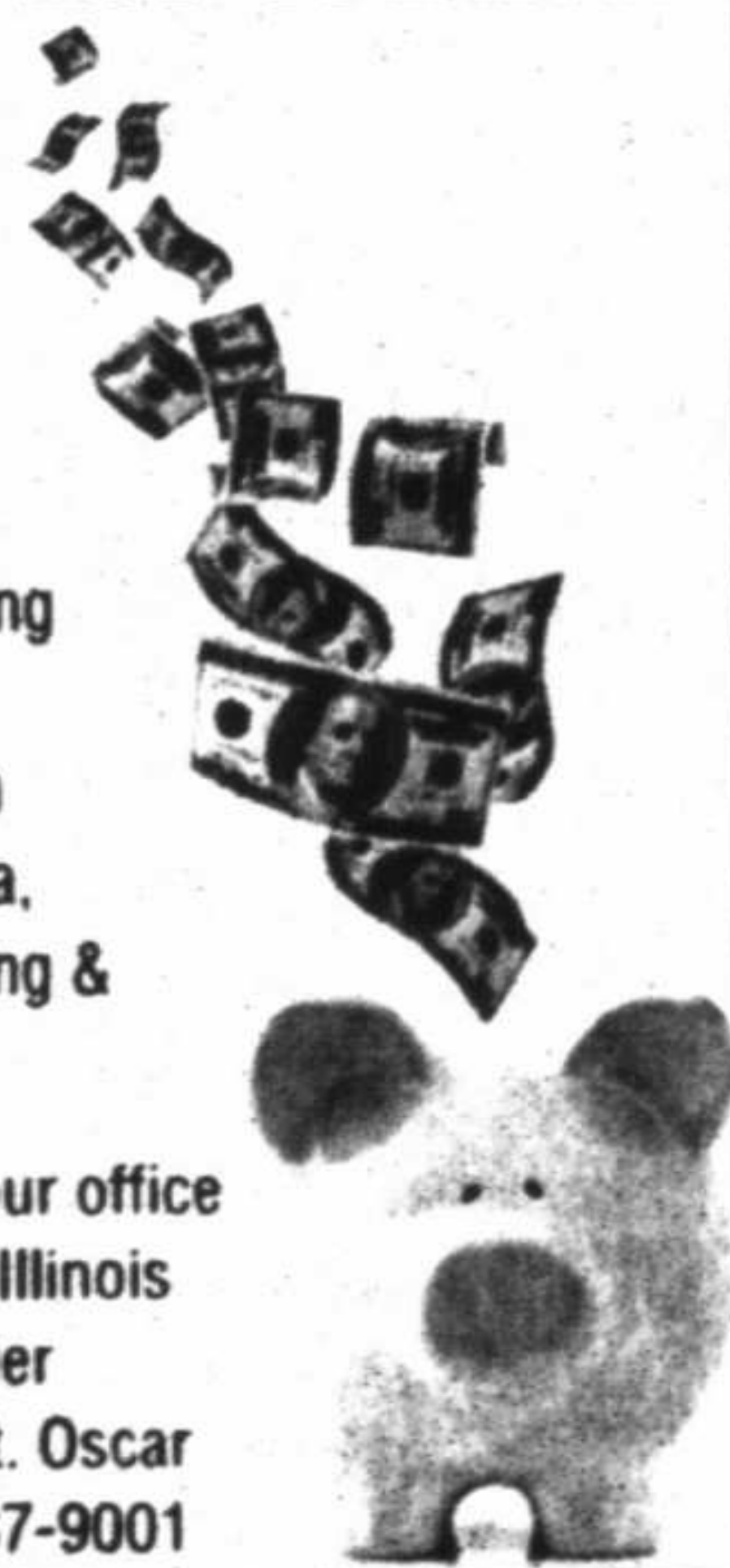
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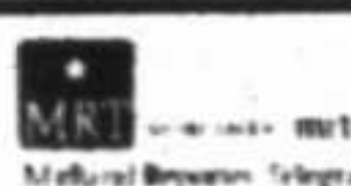
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This is a good position for a young reporter wanting to get experience in a booming market. Candidates should demonstrate their ability to report through traditional and nontraditional formats. Growth online matters, and the Reporter-Telegram seeks to find people who can help increase our audience in print and at mrt.com.

The Reporter-Telegram is a Hearst daily newspaper in West Texas. Anyone with questions about the position can contact Editor Stewart Doreen at 432-687-6666. Send reporting samples to sdoreen@mrt.com.

Medical Insurance Biller

Insurance Biller with 2 yrs experience 8:00 - 5:00 Mon-Friday. Fax resume to Permian Gastroenterology, 432-697-6000, Attn: Swapna Patel

Juvenile Probation Officer (Special Programs)

The Andrews County Juvenile Probation Department is accepting applications for the position of Juvenile Probation Officer (Special Programs). Please visit www.co.andrews.tx.us/departments/employment_opportunities.php for more details.

CARTER'S FURNITURE

Carter's Furniture position available. Delivery Help Wanted

- \$18 per hour
- Full time position
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- Good driving record preferred, but not required
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- Must be dependable, trustworthy & reliable
- Closed on Sundays
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- Employee insurance available
- Positive work environment

Must Apply in office located at 2101 W. Wadley St. Midland, TX

SKILLED LABOR

CNC OPERATOR

OILFIELD API MANUFACTURING COMPANY IS LOOKING TO FILL FIVE POSITIONS FOR CNC OPERATORS. EXPERIENCE IS REQUIRED MONDAY - FRIDAY 45-55 HOURS PER WEEK. TEN (10) PAID HOLIDAYS. 2 WEEKS PAID VACATION. 100% PAID EMPLOYEE HEALTH, DENTAL & VISION. INSURANCE. MONTHLY BONUS PLAN. 401K RETIREMENT PLAN. ADDITIONAL CHRISTMAS BONUS. GREAT WORKING ENVIRONMENT. TOP PAY. AIR CONDITIONED FACILITY. APPLICATIONS MUST BE FILLED OUT AT FACILITY. RESUMES WILL BE ACCEPTED WITH APPLICATION.

APPLY IN PERSON AT

ELLIS MANUFACTURING COMPANY
8101 WEST INDUSTRIAL
MIDLAND, TX 79706

SHOP HANDS

OILFIELD API MANUFACTURING COMPANY IS LOOKING TO FILL FIVE POSITIONS NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED. WILL TRAIN MONDAY - FRIDAY 45-55 HOURS PER WEEK. TEN (10) PAID HOLIDAYS. 2 WEEKS PAID VACATION. 100% PAID EMPLOYEE HEALTH, DENTAL & VISION. INSURANCE. MONTHLY BONUS PLAN. 401K RETIREMENT PLAN. ADDITIONAL CHRISTMAS BONUS. GREAT WORKING ENVIRONMENT. TOP PAY. AIR CONDITIONED FACILITY. APPLICATIONS MUST BE FILLED OUT AT FACILITY. RESUMES WILL BE ACCEPTED WITH APPLICATION.

APPLY IN PERSON AT

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