

MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2017

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NEW RESTAURANT

Longhorn Steakhouse opens Monday.

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WEEKENDER

"Star Wars: The Last Jedi" opens today. Read a review before you head to the theater.

Inside

State senator wants to eliminate franchise tax

■ Craig Estes, chairman of the Senate Natural Resources and Economic Development Committee, says tax is confusing

By Trevor Hawes
thawes@mrt.com

"I have told people, only half in jest,

More content

Sen. Craig Estes discusses border issues in a future edition.

that you see a lot of bumper stickers in Austin that say, 'Keep Austin weird.' I want to replace every one of those with one that says, 'Have you hugged your oil and gas producer today?'"

That's the sentiment from state Sen. Craig Estes, R-Wichita Falls, who was in the heart of the oil patch this week to be honored by the Permian Basin Petroleum Association for his efforts to improve the oil and gas industry.

Estes is the chairman of the Senate Natural Resources and Economic Development Committee. He stopped by the Reporter-Telegram to talk about a bit about oil and gas, the business franchise

tax and even some of the funny laws on the Texas books. Here are highlights from the interview.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RAILROAD COMMISSION

The Railroad Commission is the agency that regulates the oil and gas

Please see TAX/4A

CONGESTION RELIEF



Traffic at the intersection of Loop 250 and Highway 191 photographed Wednesday.

James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Third lane proposed for loop service road

■ Plan is expected to relieve congestion on southbound service road of Loop 250, just north of SH 191

By Stewart Doreen
sdoreen@mrt.com

It appears the city of Midland and state of Texas are closer to bringing relief to motorists who get stuck on the Loop 250 service road north of State Highway 191.

J. Ross Lacy told the Reporter-Telegram that city officials during a briefing session Tuesday heard plans to create a third lane on the southbound service road of Loop 250, just north of SH 191. The plan is to have another lane so a continuous right-turn lane is possible. In that area, traffic is backed up and can stretch beyond the Loop 250 exit ramp.

Lacy said the Texas Department of Transportation already has land available for adding the turn lane and construction could begin by the summer of 2018. He also said TxDOT will fund the project because of safety concerns. The continuous turn lane is part of a longer-term solution that Lacy hopes will be in place by 2021. Plans for the Loop 250/SH 191 area could include "ramp reversals," an industry term that means the movement or realignment of ramps.

Longer-term solutions might require flyovers and an overall price tag of \$100 million, Lacy said. Right now, more realistic solutions are being considered. The short-term solution would cost \$10 million and would be shared by TxDOT (\$8 million) and the Midland Development Corp. (\$2 million).

"We are having to think out of the box (for solutions)," Lacy said. "The long-term solution is \$100 million, and that has not been established as a priority (by

the state)."

Earlier this fall, the MDC agreed to financially contribute toward three road projects: Loop 250 overpass at County Road 1140, I-20 at Midkiff Road and ramp reconfiguration project at Loop 250 and State Highway 191. The MDC's total investment was \$7 million. The cost of all three projects is estimated at nearly \$55 million.

The MDC has committed funding this year to nine infrastructure projects totaling \$13,698,767.34, as was reported in an October Reporter-Telegram article. Since 2010, the MDC has committed \$40,037,916.18 toward 28 projects.

Lacy said he has been a big fan of recent MDC contributions such as those being made for improvements at SH 191 and Loop 250. He said leveraging local dollars to receive state dollars has been, and will continue to be, helpful as the community deals with population and traffic growth.

MSW to host exhibit of Bush paintings

■ 'Portraits of Courage: A Commander in Chief's Tribute to America's Warriors' to be on display Jan. 2-March 25

From staff reports

The Museum of the Southwest announced Wednesday that it will host "Portraits of Courage: A Commander in Chief's Tribute to America's Warriors" beginning next month. The Midland museum is the first of four venues to display the paintings by former President George W. Bush, according to a press release from the museum.

"Portraits of Courage" will open Jan. 20 and be on display through March 25. It is sponsored by Concho Resources Inc. and Robert E. and Donna Landreth Family Fund at Permian Basin Area Foundation.

"Portraits of Courage" features 66 full-color portraits and a four-panel mural painted by Bush of 98 service members and veterans who have served since 9/11. Each painting is accompanied by the warrior's story, written by Bush.

In conjunction with "Portraits of Courage," the Museum of the Southwest will host a workshop taught by Bush's art teacher, Gail Norfleet, a Dallas-based artist. The workshop, set for Feb. 23-25 at the Blakemore Planetarium classroom, is open to teachers and the general public. Registration for the workshop begins Jan. 4 at museumsww.org. A supply list will be provided.

Veterans and active military personnel visiting the exhibition will receive free admission. An opening cocktail reception is planned for 6:30 p.m. Jan. 19. Tickets will be available for purchase at museumsww.org.

The exhibition from the George W. Bush Institute grew out of Bush's personal commitment and the ongoing work of the Bush Institute's Military Service Initiative, which works to ensure that post-9/11 veterans and their families make successful transitions to civilian life with a focus on gaining meaningful employment and overcoming the invisible wounds of war. The exhibition includes information and resources created by the initiative in support of post-9/11 warriors.

The paintings featured in "Portraits of Courage" are also the subject of a hardcover book by the same name, available now in stores and online. Bush is donating all of the book's profits to the George W. Bush Presidential Center.

Online

See photo of President Bush working on his art.
mrt.com

Visit us on social media



Price of oil

\$56.60 ▼ \$0.54

January 2018

The big number

The 3rd

federal interest rate increase of the year was approved Wednesday, Page 5A

Word of the Day:

cosmopolis

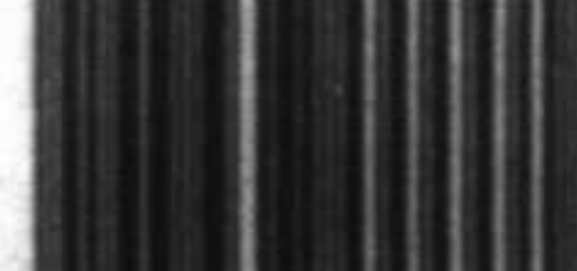
Do you know what it means? Find out the definition on Page 3A

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STATE BRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

ODESSA Missing woman found slain in dumpster, 1 arrested

Police say an Odessa woman reported missing has been found slain in a trash bin and her boyfriend's roommate is charged with her death.



Roberts

Police say 22-year-old Kevin Lee Roberts of Odessa was being held Wednesday on a murder charge after his arrest near Weatherford, nearly 300 miles away. Roberts was located Tuesday night driving a car belonging to the victim's boyfriend, who hours earlier reported her missing.



Williams

Officers interviewed Roberts, then found the stabbed body of 21-year-old Ashley Williams in a dumpster. No possible motive was released.

Roberts also was charged with unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. Odessa police on Tuesday arrested the victim's boyfriend on unrelated charges in a child sexual assault investigation.

AUSTIN Governor orders investigation into youth lockup abuse

Gov. Greg Abbott is ordering an investigation amid allegations of sexual misconduct within the state's juvenile detention system.

Abbott on Wednesday called the reports "reprehensible" in a letter to the Texas Rangers, the state's top law enforcement unit. The letter comes after The Dallas Morning News reported last month that one former juvenile detention officer was convicted of improper sexual conduct with a person in custody.

The Texas Juvenile Justice Department has also told lawmakers that two other former staff members have been arrested on similar charges.

The charges come a decade after a sex scandal at Texas' juvenile correction agency in which authorities believed at 13 boys were abused. The scandal included accusations of cover-ups and reports that exposed lax medical care and beatings.

THE WOODLANDS Officials: Son kills 90-year-old father, then self

Officials say a man fatally shot his 90-year-old father at a Houston-area home and then killed himself.

The Montgomery County sheriff's office says the man died in an apparent murder-suicide Tuesday night in The Woodlands.

Lt. John Schmitt said they believe the 65-year-old James Gregory Crawford shot his father, James Milford Crawford, before turning the gun on himself.

Schmitt says the father had been suffering from dementia. Deputies were called to the home after a family member returned home and found the son dead in his bed. After deputies arrived they searched the house and found the father.

NORTH RICHLAND HILLS Police believe: deaths of father, 2 kids was murder-suicide

Authorities in North Texas are investigating the shooting deaths of a man and his two small children as an apparent murder-suicide.

Police in North Richland Hills say the shooting took place on Saturday.

The children killed were a 5-year-old girl and a 9-year-old boy. Investigators say the children's mother, who was home at the time, called 911 after the shooting.

Obituaries



Billy Craig Heap

Billy Craig Heap - joke teller, fearless risk taker, and life of the party-died December 11, 2017 in Odessa, Texas. He was 67. Craig made friends everywhere he went. He loved to tell stories and make people laugh. Born in Odessa as the youngest child of Billie and Hub Heap, Craig played basketball at Odessa High School and went to Southern Methodist University before he began a career at Heap Equipment, where he later became president of the family business. Craig had a generous heart and quietly helped many in need. He lived life on his own terms, and he kept his family on their toes by constantly surprising them with his next big adventure. In one lifetime, Craig lived many lives: basketball star, offshore driller, airplane pilot, salesman, baseball umpire, farmer, Odessa City Council member, beloved "Pop," elk rancher, executive, and entrepreneur. Craig married the love of his life, Kim, in 1981. When he proposed, he told her, "I can't promise you fortune or fame, but I promise it will never be dull." He kept that promise. Craig loved Las Vegas, classic rock, a good spin on the dance floor, eating ketchup on steak, and collecting fast cars. He found adventure everywhere he went. At distant airports in far away cities, "Hey, Heap!" would ring out as he reunited with another old friend. He was daring. He was lucky. He was larger than life. He will be greatly missed.

Craig was preceded in death by his parents, Billie and Harry "Hub" Heap, his older brother, Harry Heap, and his oldest child, Ben Heap. He is survived by his wife, Kim (Gary) Heap, son, Cody Heap, daughter, Kristiana Heap Butler and her husband Andrew, son, Blake Heap and his wife Courtney, sister, Marsha Fairchild and her husband Mark, granddaughters Chloe, Tilley, and Abby, grandson, Jackson, and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Services will take place at 1 p.m. on Saturday, December 16, at the Chapel of Sunset Memorial Gardens in Odessa. The family will receive friends at Hubbard-Kelly funeral home from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, December 15, 2017. The family requests that you tell a good joke in Craig's memory.

Services entrusted to Hubbard-Kelly Funeral Home.

Hubbard-Kelly Funeral Home

801 North Abilene
Odessa, TX 79761
(432) 332-0901

Condolences may be offered at
www.hubbardkellyfuneralhome.com

Ellis Funeral Home
Funerals & Cremations
Dignity 801 Anderson Hwy.
(432) 683-5353

Harold Carden
Thompson

Harold Carden Thompson, 91, of Midland, Texas passed away the afternoon of December 11, 2017.

Harold was born on May 28, 1926 to Clarence and Florence Thompson in Loraine, Mitchell County, Texas and where he graduated from Loraine High School. From August 1945 to 1947 Harold served in the U.S. Army in WWII and Korea. After he was out of

the service he cowboied on several ranches in the Midland area.

Harold met his wife, Johnnie Stewart at a Bob Willis dance that was held in a hangar at the MAF base. Harold and Johnnie were married on February 6, 1954 at Johnnie's parent's home in Midland and were married for 63 years and had two children, Harold Carden Thompson, Jr. and Betty Ruth Thompson.

In 1953 he started working for Phillips Petroleum and worked for them for 32 years until he retired as field foreman with the exploration and production department in Sprayberry in 1985. While working for Phillips he started competing in what he loved to do the most, calf rope. After his retirement he enjoyed time with his family, gardening and just being outside. He was a blessing to all who knew him.

Harold Carden Thompson is survived by his wife, Johnnie; one son, Harold Carden Thompson, Jr. and one daughter, Betty Ruth Riddle and her husband David; two grandsons, Robert Riddle and James Riddle and his wife Whitney and one great grandson Dean Riddle.

He was preceded in death by his father, mother and two brothers.

Memorial services will be held December 14, 2017 at St Paul's Methodist Church at 4501 Thomson Dr in Midland at 11:00 am.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may go to one's favorite charity.

Online condolences may be offered at
www.ellisfunerals.com

was a member of the Carpenters Union for over 50 years, and was involved in the building of many of the casinos.

Jack was predeceased by his parents, John and Irene Woodruff, sister, Susie Stafford, and brother, Clifford Woodruff, also by his first wife, Maxine, his second wife, Nell, and his step-son, Jimmy Blair.

He is survived by sons, Ronnie and Randy Woodruff, daughters, Pam Schuster, Jackie and husband, Don Pearson, and Susan Woodruff, all of Las Vegas, Nevada. Sister, Ruth Ferrell of Robinson, Texas, brother, J.B. and wife, Lorene Woodruff of Midland, Texas, brother, Wayne Woodruff of Las Vegas, Nevada, sister, Juanita Woodruff of Midland, Texas, sister, Betty and husband, Riley Hutcheson of Midland, Texas, brother, Jeston and wife, Brenda Woodruff of Granbury, Texas, brother, Carl and wife, Lavone Woodruff of Midland, Texas.

Also by nine grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews, who adored him.

Jack and his brothers, Cliff, J.B. and Wayne entertained us with many tales of their escapades while growing up and quite a few after they were grown, have often wonder how they survived. Jack accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior, so when he left this world, he stepped into the arms of Jesus.

Jack, we are not saying good-bye, but see you tomorrow; 1000 years is as one day in Heaven.

The family was active in Midland Lutheran Church where Karen taught Sunday School, sang in the choir, trained the acolytes and was also active in the Ladies Circle. Karen was a lifelong Lutheran and for the last several years of her life, was a faithful member of the Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

Throughout her life, she was motivated by having fun. Whether playing golf, eating out, travelling, spending time with friends, family or grandchildren, she was always ready to go. She was blessed with a fighting spirit that helped her remain healthy and to live at home. Karen gave generously to many causes, especially charities that supported those in need.

Karen was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, brothers, Walter Theodore Gigstad, Goldbrin Gigstad and a sister Marie Harvick. She was survived by her daughter Marjean Arrow, sister Emma of Bixby, daughter Janis of Salem, OR and son Martin of Midland, TX. She is also survived by five (Andrew, Matthew, Jeremy, Whitney, and Cameron) grandchildren and two (Xavier and Emily) great grandchildren. Jimmie is preceded in death by her husband (Robert), father (Earl) and mother (Savola).

A devoted teacher she retired in 1988 from Tulsa Public Schools after teaching for over 4 decades in Denver, Bartlesville and Tulsa. She was an active member of Asbury United Methodist Church. She was an avid reader, bridge player, and she also loved knitting, square dancing with Bob and watching sports (especially OKC Thunder).

Visitation will be held Thursday December 14, at Moore's Southlawn from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Funeral services will be held on Friday, December 15, 2017 at 11:00 at Asbury United Methodist Church with Pastor Dick Read. Moore's Southlawn 918-663-2233 share memories at www.moorefuneral.com

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

Jack Woodruff departed this world December 2, 2017, he was born June 20, 1926 in Midland, Texas, his parents were John and Irene Woodruff. He enlisted in the Marines September 10, 1944, received a medical discharge after being hurt during a training exercise at Paris Island, NC. He married Maxine Brooks December 2, 1944, they had two sons, Ronnie was born September 5, 1946 and Randy was born April 10, 1952. Maxine died July 16, 1953.

Jack married Georgia Nell Gibson they were married 60 1/2 years, Nell died October 29, 2014. Jack and Nell had three daughters; Pamela, Jackie, Susan, Nell had a son from a previous marriage, Jimmy Blair.

Soon after they were married, they moved from Midland to Las Vegas, Nevada, they resided there for the rest of their lives. Jack

loved his boys and he loved being a dad.

He said that Copeland, an avid collector of a variety of items including Coca-Cola memorabilia, was always looking for a way to connect with other people.

"If he saw that you were hungry, he'd feed you," Caldwell said.

A procession of emergency vehicles escorted Copeland's body from a funeral home in San Marcos to the church about 50 miles away.

Copeland, 58, had been with the San Marcos Police Department for 19 years. He is survived by his wife and four sons — 13-year-old twins and 10-year-old twins.



Karen Victoria Gigstad Martin

Karen Victoria Gigstad Martin died peacefully in her home on December 11, 2017. She was born on January 25, 1925 in Beach, North Dakota. She was the fifth child of seven born to the Reverend Walter and Selma Gigstad. Karen cherished her childhood and delighted in sharing many stories of the time spent with her parents and siblings.

Karen spent her childhood in Lessor, Wisconsin and moved to Clifton, Texas in 1941. After High School, she went to North Texas State Teacher's College and graduated in 1947 with a degree in Education. She then taught school in Carthage, Texas. In 1956, she accepted a teaching position in Midland. Soon thereafter, she met and married the love of her life, William Henson Martin. Their marriage was blessed with two daughters, Marjean Martin Murphy and Sigrid Martin Coats.

The family was active in Midland Lutheran Church where Karen taught Sunday School, sang in the choir, trained the acolytes and was also active in the Ladies Circle. Karen was a lifelong Lutheran and for the last several years of her life, was a faithful member of the Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

Throughout her life, she was motivated by having fun. Whether playing golf, eating out, travelling, spending time with friends, family or grandchildren, she was always ready to go. She was blessed with a fighting spirit that helped her remain healthy and to live at home. Karen gave generously to many causes, especially charities that supported those in need.

Karen was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, brothers, Walter Theodore Gigstad, Goldbrin Gigstad and a sister Marie Harvick. She was survived by her daughter Marjean Arrow, sister Emma of Bixby, daughter Janis of Salem, OR and son Martin of Midland, TX. She is also survived by five (Andrew, Matthew, Jeremy, Whitney, and Cameron) grandchildren and two (Xavier and Emily) great grandchildren. Jimmie is preceded in death by her husband (Robert), father (Earl) and mother (Savola).

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Copeland, 58, had been with the San Marcos Police Department for 19 years. He is survived by his wife and four sons — 13-year-old twins and 10-year-old twins.

line condolences may be made at www.npwelch.com.

Nalley-Pickle & Welch
Funeral Home
& Crematory
(432) 556-5806



Ollie Marie Wedgeworth Mercer

(1937-2017)

Marie Mercer passed away on Sunday, December 10, 2017, at Midland Memorial Hospital. Marie, who recently celebrated her eightieth birthday, was born November 10, 1937, in Timpson, Texas. She was the daughter of the late Corine (Nall) and Frank Wedgeworth. Marie was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Her hobbies included cooking, gardening, and solving puzzles. Before retiring, she worked many years at Sears as a manager. She was a Christian and a Southern Baptist church member.

She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Allen Mercer of Midland. Her family includes her daughter and son-in-law Janice and Rhett Gist of Midland; daughter and son-in-law Darlene and Terry Wilson of Lexington, Texas. Marie's grandchildren include Cutler Gist and wife Lauren, Morgan MacDonald and husband Chad, Darcy Gist, Sarah Wilson, and Mariah Wilson. Her great-grandchildren are Cora, Ewan, Meredith, and Zella MacDonald; Thatcher, Mercer, and Mabel Gist; and Alyssa Gist.

Surviving siblings are Margie Bunch, Clara Pitts and husband Jesse, and Ann Harrison. She has many nieces, nephews, and other family members. Marie was preceded in death by her great-grandson Mercer Michael Gist, sister Jeanette Hodges, and brothers James Wedgeworth and Bob Wedgeworth.

The family would like to express their gratitude towards the Midland Memorial Hospital staff and Hospice of Midland for their care.

Friends are invited to visit with the family from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on Friday, December 15, 2017 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home in Midland, TX. Services will be Saturday, December 16, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Chapel in Midland. Burial will follow at Resthaven Cemetery in Midland.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hospice of Midland, 911 W. Texas Ave., Midland, TX, 79701.

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

Nalley-Pickle & Welch
Funeral Home
& Crematory
(432) 556-5806

Death Notices
Richard Dolan

Richard Dolan, 75, of Midland passed away Monday, December 11, 2017 in Midland. Memorial service will be 2:00pm Saturday, December 16, 2017 at Westside Church of Christ.

Funeral held in San Antonio for slain San Marcos officer

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — A Texas police officer who was fatally shot last week was a compassionate man who loved being a police officer and a father, mourners recalled Wednesday at his funeral.

Kenneth Copeland, who was a San Marcos officer, was killed Dec. 4 while serving a warrant on a domestic violence suspect.

A friend of Copeland's, Jeff Caldwell, told those attending the service at the Community Bible Church in San Antonio that Copeland was an "amazing man."

"His smile was larger than life," said Caldwell, who added, "Ken

loved his boys and he loved being a dad."

He said that Copeland, an avid collector of a variety of items including Coca-Cola memorabilia, was always looking for a way to connect with other people.

"If he saw that you were hungry, he'd feed you," Caldwell said.

A procession of emergency vehicles escorted Copeland's body from a funeral home in San Marcos to the church about 50 miles away.

Copeland, 58, had been with the San Marcos Police Department for 19 years. He is survived by his wife and four sons — 13-year-old twins and 10-year-old twins.



Jay Jenner/Austin American-Statesman via AP

People salute as the funeral procession for San Marcos Police officer Kenneth Copeland passes Wednesday on Interstate 35 in San Marcos.

WORD OF THE DAY
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cosmopolis
1. an internationally important city inhabited by many different peoples reflecting a great variety of cultures, attitudes, etc.



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TODAY IN MIDLAND

New steakhouse opening



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Longhorn Steakhouse at Midland Park Mall will be opening 3 p.m. Monday. Regular operating hours are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The 5,850-square-foot restaurant has seating for 200 patrons and will employ about 100 people from the community.

Things to do

- Watercolor art classes by Sara Drescher, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., Arts Council of Midland, 1506 W. Illinois Ave. To register, email sara@artsbysarah.com.
- Storytime at the Library 10:30 a.m. (birth-2 years), 11:30 a.m. (2-6 years), Midland County Public Library downtown branch, 301 W. Missouri Ave. or midlandtx.us/lib.
- Christmas at the Mansion 2017: An illustrated Christmas luncheon, noon-1 p.m., Museum of the Southwest, 1705 W. Missouri Ave. \$50 per seat, \$375 per table. museumsw.org
- Holiday Open House with an appearance by Lone Star Brass, 4-6 p.m., Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N.
- Ugly Sweater Christmas Mixer by Young Professionals of Midland, 6-8 p.m., Blue Door, 4610 N. Garfield St.
- Bingo Nights, 7 p.m., American Legion, 501 Veterans Airpark Lane. 682-5511.
- MOSC: "Merry Texas Christmas Y'all" with Aisling at the Wheel benefiting the Midland Odessa Symphony and Chorus, 7:30 p.m., Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$25-\$75. wagnemoel.com.
- Jon Walle, 9:30 p.m., Rockin' Rodeo, 4400 N. Big Spring St. \$12. rockinrodeoandland.com.

Holiday events

- Friday**
"Holiday Magic" by FirstCapital Bank of Texas and KWEL Radio. Celebrate the holiday season with a free musical performance by StrictLEE Orchestra from Lee High School. Noon at FirstCapital Bank of Texas, 310 W. Wall St.
- Saturday**
Family Films is a healthy holiday celebration with obstacle courses, a trail mix bar and photos with Santa. Open to the community, 7 a.m.-2 p.m., Midland YMCA, 800 N. Big Spring St. midlandymca.org
- Saturday Movie: "The Polar Express," 2 p.m., Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N.
- Parades with Santa by the Knights of Columbus, 8-8 p.m., St. Ann's Catholic Church, 1906 W. Texas Ave. Guests can listen to the story of St. Lucy, make an ornament for the church and have a picture taken with Santa.
- JCPenney at Midland Park Mall is hosting a holiday ornament-decorating event 11 a.m.-noon at the kids department. The arts and crafts project is part of the company's new Kids Zone program. For more information, call 689-4347 or visit jcpenny.com

When it's open

- Midland County Tax Assessor/Collector
2110 N. "A" St.
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, Friday
8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday
688-4810
- Midland Central Appraisal District

- 4631 Andrews Highway
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday through Friday
699-4991
- Department of Public Safety: Driver's License Office
2800 Wright Drive
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday and Wednesday through Friday
8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesdays
688-1120
- U.S. Postal Service

- Downtown, 100 E. Wall St. 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday
- Village, 2315 W. Louisiana Ave. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday
- Graves, 3304 W. Wesley Ave. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday
- 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday
- Clayton, 612 Veterans Airpark Lane. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday
- GMF Midland, 1000 Loop 40 E. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday

Lottery

Pick 3 morning: 9-3-5
Pick 3 day: 3-5-7
Pick 3 evening: 4-4-4
Pick 3 night: 3-3-6
Daily 4 morning: 6-9-7-3
Daily 4 day: 0-3-0-5
Daily 4 evening: 1-6-5-9
Daily 4 night: 2-0-0-1
Cash Five: 12-14-16-24-35
Triple Chance: 2-5-12-21-25-33-36-44-50-55

Lotto Texas: 12-14-19-34-39-47
Powerball: 2-24-26-51-58 BB: 7
Power Play: 3
All or Nothing morning: 2-3-4-5-6-9-11-13-17-19-20-22
All or Nothing day: 1-2-3-6-7-10-12-14-16-17-19-21
All or Nothing evening: 1-2-6-8-12-13-14-18-19-20-22-24
All or Nothing night: 1-3-4-6-7-10-11-14-15-17-22-23

Weather

Wednesday's temperatures
High: 68
Low: 29
Normal high: 58
Normal low: 31

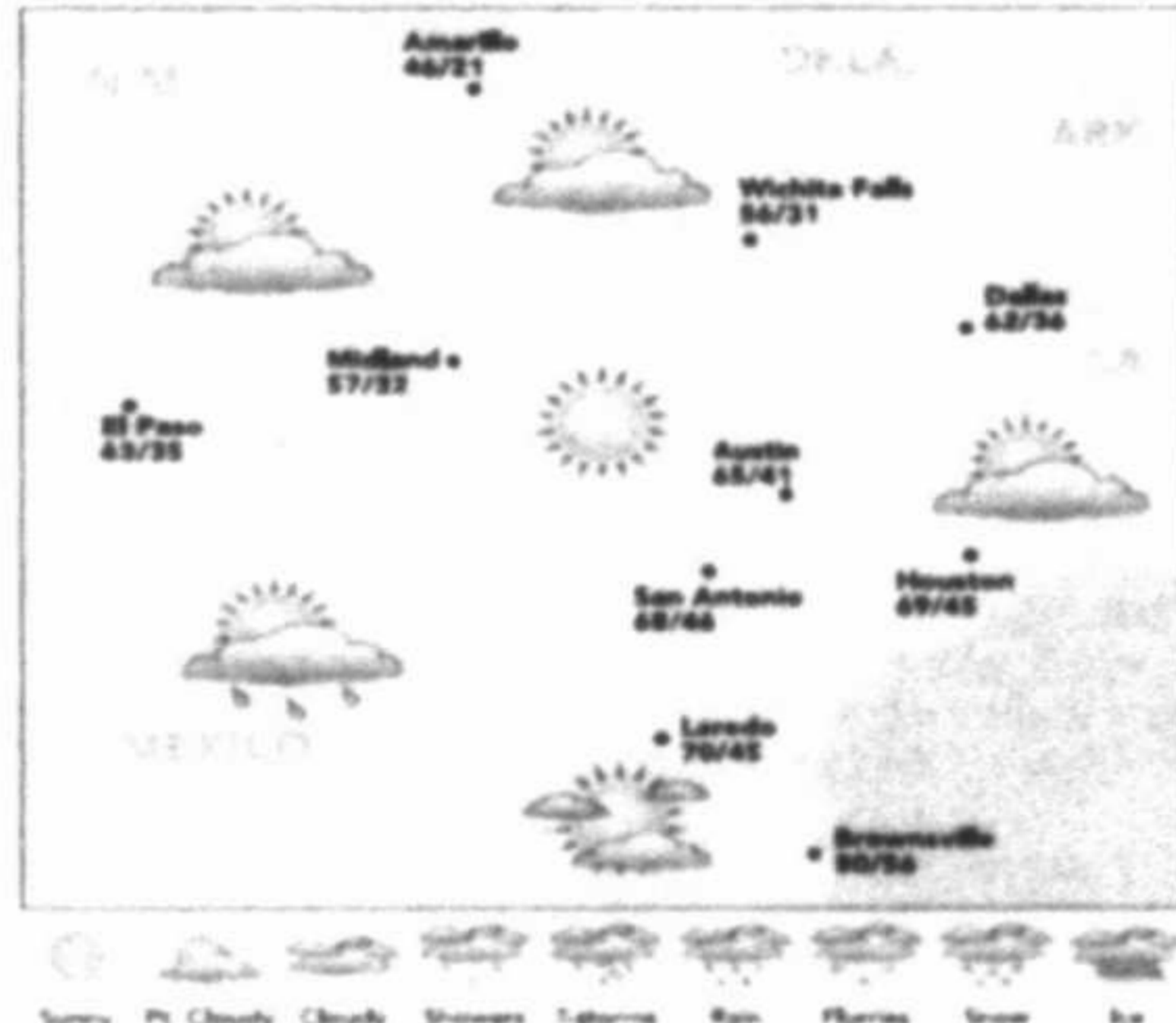
Dec. 13's records
Record high: 82, set in 1933 and equaled in 1995
Record low: 14, set in 1985

Precipitation
Tuesday: 0.00 in.
Wednesday: 0.00 in.
Month total: 0.36 in.
Year total: 17.70 in.
Normal total (year to date): 14.26 in.

Winds
Average speed: 9.3 mph
Highest speed: 22 mph
Highest gust speed: 27 mph

Today's forecast

Forecast for Thursday, December 14, 2017



High: 55
Low: 33
Conditions: Sunny during the day/partly cloudy at night
Winds: 5-10 during the day

and night
Chance of rain: None
Sunrise: 7:41 a.m.
Sunset: 5:46 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 in Sagittarius and a Moon in Scorpio

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursdays, Dec. 14, 2017:

This year you often want to keep your own counsel as you work through problems. In fact, you could seem reserved and touchy to those around you. If you are single, you will draw more people toward you. Sometime in the beginning of 2018, you could meet The One. If you are attached, the two of you are happiest alone as a couple. Make a point of planning frequent weekend getaways together. SCORPIO can read you clearly.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

*** In the morning, luck and intuition blend together to create extraordinary and memorable results. Embrace this rare opportunity! Tension builds in the evening, and you might need to distance yourself from an issue in order to make a reasonable decision. Tonight: Happy at home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

*** Once you decide

that certain events need to go a certain way, you could become stubborn. Deferring to someone else involved would be an excellent idea. Make it OK for you both to have different impressions about the matter. Tonight: Catch up on a loved one's news over dinner.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

*** You could be up for some fun in the near future. Try to postpone impulsiveness until later in the week. You have your hands full and a lot of ground to cover. When you go over the past few days in your head, you might opt for a major change. Tonight: Consider an early bedtime.

CANCER (June 21-July 21)

*** You could be looking at a situation from a strictly personal point of view. You might have difficulty getting away from this type of thinking. Learn to detach more often, and you will like the compassion you gain. Use the daylight hours to the max. Tonight: Get more personal.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

*** Good luck surrounds real estate, investments, family and your home life, especially in the morning. In the afternoon, events could carry a slight disconnect that forces you to make an adjustment. Stay centered, in either case. Tonight: Be the life of the party, wherever you are.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

*** Make an important call in the morning, when luck and good sense merge. By the afternoon, conversations could be a little awkward and difficult. You might see eye to eye with an associate, but not enough to eliminate some strong differences. Tonight: At a favorite haunt.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

*** Curb a tendency to be lavish in your choices. You might not be in the mood to employ your self-discipline to the same level as usual. You will have an opportunity to revisit what happens when you toss your strong will to the wind. Tonight: Lighten up the mood with spontaneity.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

*** Enjoy just being yourself right now. Don't hesitate to be spontaneous in your choices, especially in the morning. If you feel like you

want to buy a lottery ticket,

do. You seem to be able to pull white rabbits out of a black hat right now. Tonight: Start planning your weekend!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

*** You have some strong feelings that you might not be willing to share just yet. Look around, and you will notice that others also seem to be holding back. Your curiosity might get the best of you, but wait to ask questions, for now. Schedule some personal time. Tonight: Opt to stay in.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

*** You sense that you are on the right track. You'll move quickly, as you don't want to lose your momentum. By the afternoon, you could feel less enthusiastic, and will want to double-check on the details regarding certain holiday gifts. Tonight: Where the action is.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

*** Others look to you for help in completing a project. This deed remains unusually easy for you, as you recently completed a similar project. Do not take on a majority of the workload; instead, show others what is necessary to do. Tonight: Rethink your plans for the weekend.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

*** Your mind comes up with unusual ideas. You might want to seek out someone with more expertise in dealing with the issue at hand. The more detached you become, the easier your decision will be. Talk to a trusted confidant as well. Tonight: Be near good music.

BORN TODAY

Actress Patty Duke (1946), comedian Miranda Hart (1972), soccer player Michael Owen (1979)

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James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Children pick out presents during a Christmas party for Centers clients Wednesday at the Junior League of Midland.

Bombing underscores New York subway system's vulnerability

By Colleen Long
and Larry Neumeister
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The crude pipe bomb that exploded beneath the streets of New York this week served as a chilling reminder of the vulnerability of the city's subway system, a 24-hour-a-day operation with 472 stations and more than 5 million daily riders.

While police say the nation's largest subway system has some of the tightest security possible that still allows busy New Yorkers to get where they're going, they acknowledge they can't be everywhere or anticipate every kind of attack, particularly in this era of lone-wolf terrorism.

"It's very difficult, and it's getting harder," John Miller, the New York Police Department's deputy commissioner of intelligence and counterterrorism, said on CBS's "This Morning." "This is not the al-Qaida model, where a cell of people who are communicating with a base are an intelligence problem."

Instead, he said, the threat is coming from people "where the conspiracy is within the confines of their own mind."

Investigators say that appears to be what happened Monday, when a Bangladeshi immigrant indoctrinated into terrorism through internet videos strapped a bomb to his body and set it

off in a busy passageway. He was the only one seriously hurt, suffering burns on his hands and torso.

Akayed Ullah, who's 27, was charged with federal terrorism-related offenses punishable by up to life in prison and was informed of the charges via video Wednesday as he lay in his hospital bed. He did not enter a plea and said little during the hearing, which lasted a little over 10 minutes.

It was the second lone-wolf terror attack on the city in six weeks. On Oct. 31, a man in a rented truck mowed down cyclists and pedestrians on a crowded bike path near the World Trade Center, killing eight people.

But the blast this week was the first bombing on the subway in 23 years, a streak police attribute in part to a multilayered security approach that begins with 3,000 officers underground every day, patrolling trains and platforms.

That's bolstered by hundreds of security cameras, including one that captured detailed pictures of Monday's explosion, and roving teams of officers with heavy weapons and dogs to sweep subway stations and trains. Officers are outfitted with pager-size radiation detectors to guard against a radioactive dirty bomb. Police also conduct tens of thousands of random bag searches in the system each year.

Yet those officers are confronted

daily with thousands of people of every background, from every corner of the globe, carrying big backpacks, suitcases and large boxes, with no easy way of knowing whether any of those items contain a bomb.

Police have to rely on riders as their eyes and ears, constantly reminding them. "If you see something, say something."

"Look up from your phones. Look up from your books now and then. Take your earphones out. You can't say something when you see something if you don't look at it," Joseph Fox, chief of the NYPD's transit bureau, urged New Yorkers after the attack.

But the see-something, say-something system didn't work Monday. Authorities said Ullah boarded a subway train deep in Brooklyn with a bomb strapped to his torso, spent nearly an hour riding into Manhattan, changing trains along the way, and walked through one of the most heavily patrolled subway stations before triggering the device in front of a security camera.

"We're considering spending millions (of dollars) to erect a border wall, maybe we should be thinking about using the money to better secure rail and transit lines," said James Norton, a former homeland security official and professor at Johns Hopkins University.

Kentucky lawmaker accused of assault dies in apparent suicide

By Adam Beam
Associated Press

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Dan Johnson, a Republican state lawmaker in Kentucky who defiantly denied allegations that he sexually assaulted a teenage girl in the basement of his home, died in an apparent suicide Wednesday night, the county coroner said. He was 57.

Bullitt County Coroner Dave Billings said Johnson died of a single gunshot wound on Greenwell Ford Road in Mount Washington, Kentucky. Billings said Johnson stopped his car at the end of a bridge in a secluded area, then got out and walked to the front of the car. He said an autopsy is scheduled for Thursday morning.

"I would say it is probably suicide," he said. Johnson was elected to the state legislature in 2016, part of a wave of Republican victories that gave the GOP control of the Kentucky House of Representatives for the first time in nearly 100 years. He won his election despite Republican leaders urging him to drop out of the race after local media reported on some of his Facebook posts comparing Barack and Michelle Obama to monkeys.

The pastor of Heart of Fire church in Louisville, Johnson sponsored a number of bills having to do with religious liberty and teaching the Bible in public schools. But he was mostly out of the spotlight until Monday, when the Kentucky Center for Investigative Reporting published an account from a woman saying Johnson sexually assaulted her in the basement of his home in 2013.

At the time, the woman told police, who investigated the incident but closed the case and did not file charges.

On Tuesday, Johnson held a news conference in the pulpit of his church, which he began by leading friends and family in singing a portion of the Christmas carol "O Come All Ye Faithful." He said the allegations against him were "totally false" and said they were part of a nationwide strategy of defeating conservative Republicans. He referenced Republican Alabama U.S. Senate candidate Roy Moore, who faces accusations of sexual misconduct from multiple women.

Shortly before 5 p.m. Wednesday, Johnson posted a message on his Facebook page that asked people to care for his wife. He wrote that PTSD "is a sickness that will take my life, I cannot handle it any longer. It has won this life, BUT HEAVEN IS MY HOME." The post appears to have been removed.

Tax

From 1A

industry, which does much to drive the state's economy. However, the RRC had been under scrutiny by the Texas Commission in three of the past four legislative sessions. Estes is credited with helping the agency finally pass its sunset review.

"Frankly, it was kind of an embarrassment that (sunset review) took so long," he said. "(Rep.) Tom (Cradick) and I have been very close friends over the years, and he said, 'Craig, keep it clean. Let's not have add-ons that are going to bog it down, such as changing the name.'"

Estes said he did just that by putting any changes or amendments on separate bills to ensure the sunset bill would pass.

Plus, he said he likes the agency's name. "At one time, I thought we ought to change the name, but then I thought it's kind of an insider joke. If someone says, 'Tell me about the railroads they regulate,' then you know they don't know much about it at all."

CLEANING UP REGULATIONS

Among Estes' priorities is re-examining the state's business rules and regulations. "Even beyond oil and gas, you want to have reasonable rules and regulations but not be overly burdensome. Be fair to all, play by the rules and let them know what they are," he said.

Among the dangers of overregulation is regulatory uncertainty, for

example in the chemicals industry. "Texas has one of the largest chemical complexes in the world. There are billions of dollars wanting to be invested in this area," he said.

However, there are pitfalls. For example, he said, the government in Louisiana gives a deadline for when a permitting decision will be made for new chemical manufacturing plants. "This isn't the case in Texas."

"Regulatory uncertainty draws a lot of business to other states," Estes said, adding that there is progress in the capital. "It's amazing how much legislation is tweaking or undoing something we've done before."

THE FRANCHISE TAX

Estes wants to eliminate the business franchise tax. "For a lot of reasons, it would be a lot better for the Texas economy if it were gone."

"I think it was a mistake for us to do it," he said. "We changed it from a tax that some people pay to a tax that more people pay, so in that sense it's more fair, but studies show it's confusing and it's expensive to hire the CPAs you need to find out you don't need to pay it."

Estes said the franchise tax contributes about \$9 billion per two-year legislative cycle, "but studies say an increase in the economy would make up for it (if the tax were gone)."

He likened the question to the tax cut debate happening in nation's capital.

"Will a tax cut stimulate the economy? The empirical evidence from 30

years ago under the Reagan administration says, yes, it does. The big debate is it's not going to be enough; others say it's going to stimulate the economy a lot. Who knows? I hope they get something done up there and don't get into gridlock."

As for the franchise tax, "That is one bill I will file every session until we get it solved."

FUNNY LAWS

Estes mentioned that there are lots of funny laws on the books in Texas, such as it being illegal to walk around with a pair of wire cutters in your back pocket or not being allowed to shoot a buffalo from the second story of a hotel.

"I wanted to do an omnibus bill to clean up all those funny old laws, but the problem is, you've got a one-subject rule and can't do a catch-all bill," he said.

WHY HE SERVES



Estes has been a state senator for 16 years.

"I don't have a whole lot more to prove; I still have more to give," he said. "I can't run from my record, and I don't have anything to hang my head in shame about. I've accomplished a lot."

The senator says he serves because he wants to contribute to society. "I didn't join the military. When I was done with school, I joined my family business, and it's my way of giving back."

"On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, a partridge in a pear tree..."

A partridge is a pear tree symbolizes Jesus Christ, the resurrection of God.

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OPEC: Markets won't balance until late 2018

By Grant Smith
Bloomberg

OPEC predicted that global oil markets won't rebalance until late next year after boosting forecasts for supplies from the U.S. and other rivals.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' monthly report raised its outlook for non-OPEC supply in 2018 by 300,000 barrels a day, as its projections for American output caught up with those of the U.S. government. As a result, an initiative by OPEC and Russia to clear a global oil glut by cutting production — previously seen succeeding in the third quarter of 2018 — will take effect more slowly.

Oil prices climbed to a two-year high

above \$65 a barrel in London this week, supported by a temporary pipeline halt in the U.K. and the Nov. 30 decision by OPEC and Russia to press on with supply curbs until the end of next year. While Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates said this week the group could consider winding down its efforts in mid-2018 if the market is back in balance, Wednesday's report suggests they'll need to persevere for longer.

"Continued efforts by OPEC and non-OPEC to support oil market stability" should "lead to a further reduction in excess global inventories, arriving at a balanced market by late 2018," OPEC's Vienna-based research department said in the report.

The cartel's latest figures showed its strategy is paying off, having reduced

the oil-inventory surplus in developed nations to about 137 million barrels as of October, compared with about 380 million before the cuts began. OPEC Secretary-General Mohammad Barkindo, speaking to Bloomberg television in Beijing on Wednesday, said stockpiles have since fallen further to about 130 million.

OPEC output fell by 133,500 barrels a day last month to 32.45 million, according to the report. Venezuela's troubled industry suffered further production losses, the U.A.E. belatedly stepped up efforts to deliver its pledged cutbacks and Saudi Arabia cut deeper than required.

If OPEC were to maintain current output levels to the end of 2018, world inventories would shrink by a further about 274 million barrels, data in the report indicate. Yet the stronger outlook for supplies

elsewhere is blunting the impact of OPEC's strategy. American shale explorers, who grew more efficient during the industry's three-year downturn, are locking in future revenues as U.S. prices near \$60 a barrel, potentially readying for a new surge in drilling.

OPEC increased estimates of its competitors' output in 2018 for the first time since the forecast was introduced last summer. It now expects that rival supplies will increase by about 1 million barrels a day, or about 1.7 percent, in 2018. It bolstered forecasts for total U.S. oil production growth next year by 180,000 barrels a day to 1.1 million a day.

"The momentum seen this year is expected to continue in 2018 on the back of increased investment in U.S. tight oil and improved well efficiency," OPEC said.

Crude awakening

Several years ago, the sight of mile-long trains of black tank cars became increasingly common and increasingly worrisome across the United States as crude oil production surged across the Northern Plains.

Oil production in the Bakken region of North Dakota and Montana quickly outpaced pipeline capacity, and the number of train cars of oil being hauled across the United States surged from about 10,000 in 2009 to a peak of 493,146 in 2014.

Nearly all of those oil tank cars have reached their destinations safely, but a number of fiery derailments have highlighted the potential dangers.

Since 2006, the United States and Canada have seen at least 27 oil train accidents involving a fire, derailment or significant fuel spill. In response, U.S. and Canadian officials have responded with more stringent construction standards for tens of thousands

of tank cars made by companies like Greenbrier, American Railcar Industries and Union Tank Car.

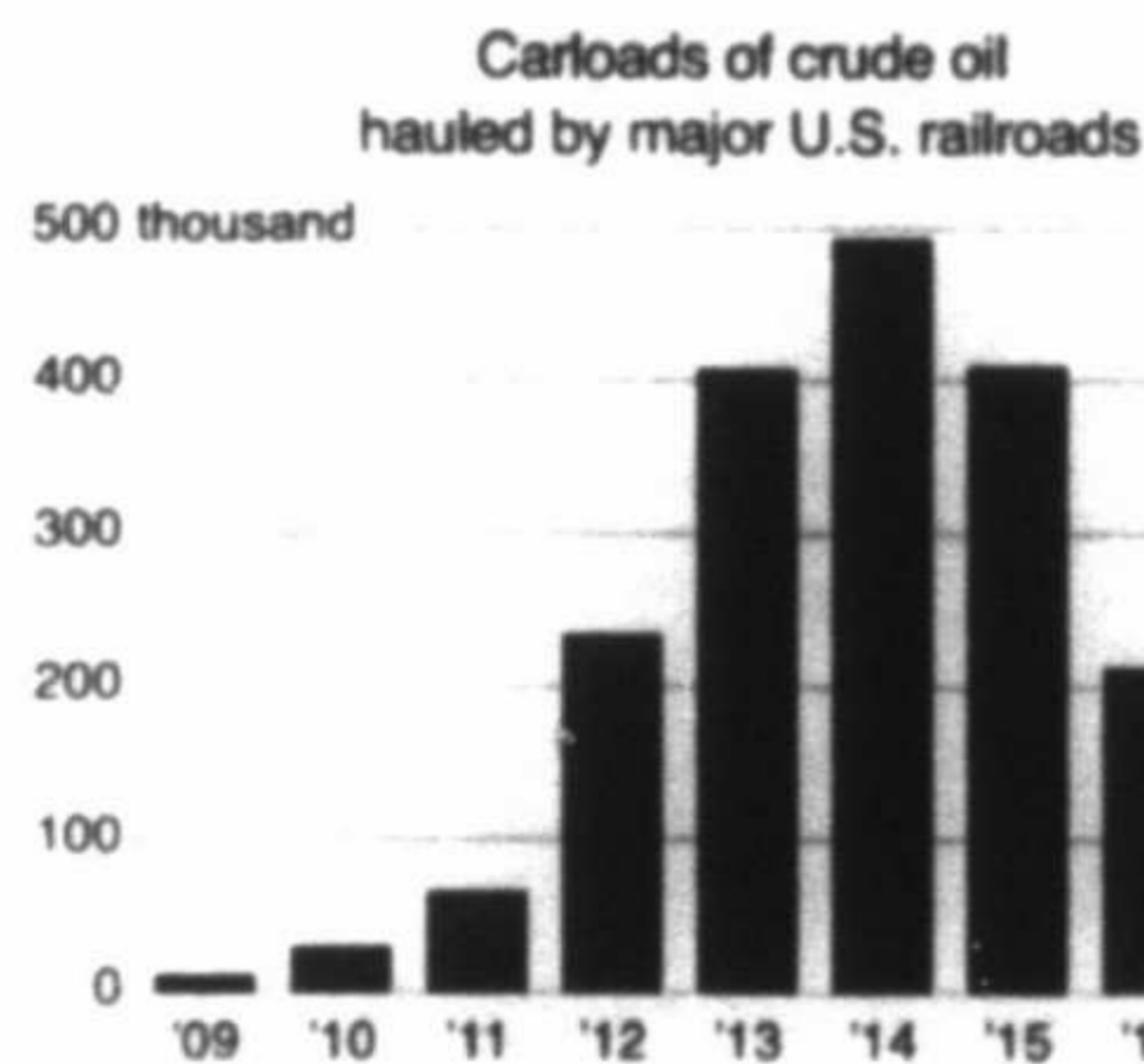
As crude oil prices collapsed in recent years and pipeline capacity increased, the amount of oil moving by rail has dropped significantly since 2014.

Industry statistics show that 211,986 carloads of crude oil were hauled last year, and railroads will haul significantly less than that this year.



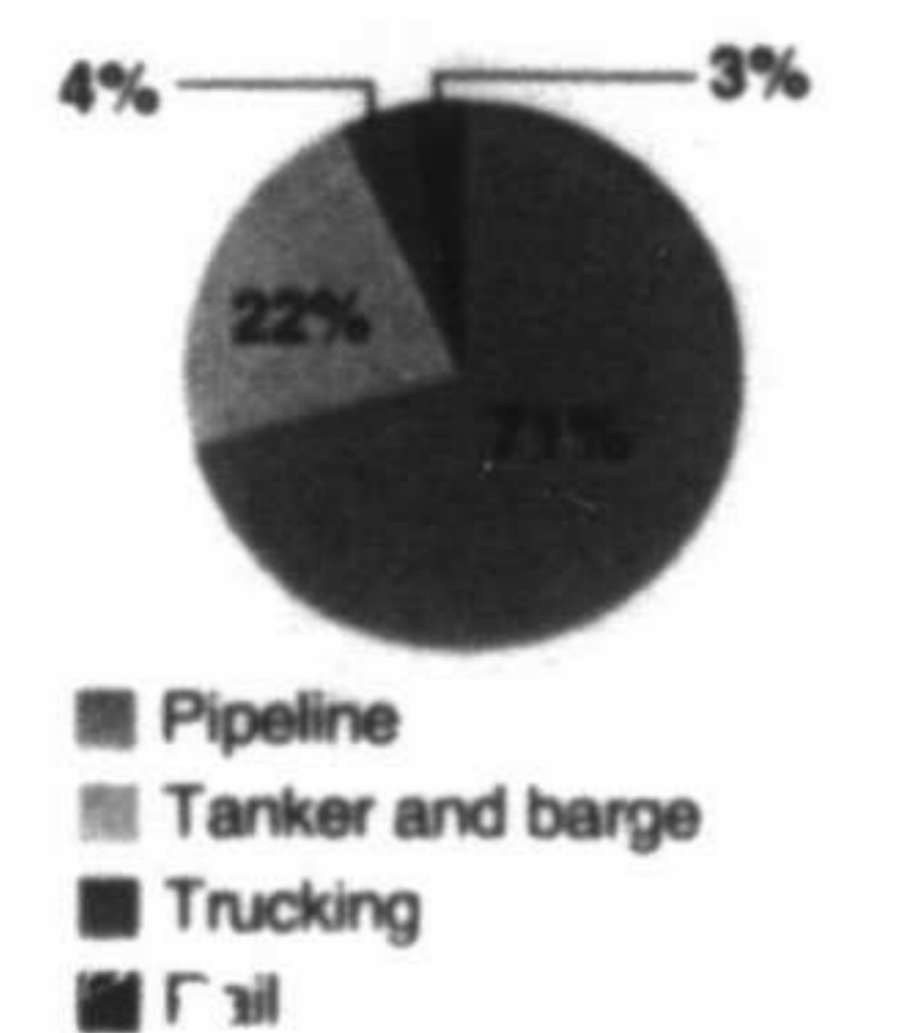
Off the rails

As crude oil prices collapsed in recent years, the amount of oil moving by rail has dropped. Less than 100,000 carloads of crude oil were hauled in the first 9 months of 2017.



Sources: Association of American Railroads trade group; Association of Oil Pipe Lines

Crude oil and petroleum products shipments by mode



Josh Funk; Alex Nieves • AP

Associated Press

Fed rate increase is 3rd this year; foresees 3 more in 2018

By Martin Crutsinger
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve is raising its key interest rate for the third time this year and foresees three additional hikes in 2018, a vote of confidence that the U.S. economy remains on solid footing 8 1/2 years after the end of the Great Recession.

The Fed said Wednesday that it's lifting its short-term rate by a modest quarter-point to a still-low range of 1.25 percent to 1.5 percent. It is also continuing to slowly shrink its bond portfolio. Together, the two steps could lead over time to higher loan rates for consumers and businesses and slightly better returns for savers.

The central bank said in a statement after its latest policy meeting that it expects the job market and the economy to strengthen further. Partly as a result, it expects to keep raising rates at the same incremental pace next year under the leadership of Jerome Powell, who will succeed Janet Yellen as Fed chair in February.

Chris Probyn, chief economist at State Street Global Advisors, said he was surprised that Fed officials upgraded their forecast for economic growth next year and lowered their forecast for unemployment yet signaled no additional rate hikes. "They're saying, 'We're going to get more growth, we're going to get lower unemployment, but we're not going to respond to it with any more tightening,'" he said. "They are prepared to let the economy run a little hotter."

Investors took Wednesday's widely anticipated rate hike in stride, with the Dow Jones industrial average setting another record-high close.

Asked whether she was concerned that the Fed's prolonged low rates might be fueling a stock bubble, Yellen said she thought the market's gains had been supported by a sturdy U.S. and global economy. She said that if stock prices were to suddenly "adjust" downward, the economy and the financial system should

be able to withstand it.

"When we look at other indicators of financial stability risks, there's nothing flashing red there or possibly even orange," Yellen said.

The Fed's rate decision Wednesday was approved 7-2, with Charles Evans, president of the Fed's Chicago regional bank, and Neel Kashkari, head of the Minneapolis Fed, voting no. Both preferred to keep the benchmark rate unchanged.

The central bank's message Wednesday departed little from its recent statements. It still stresses that it expects to keep raising rates gradually. Its projections for future hikes, based on estimates of 16 officials, showed that the median expectation remains three rate hikes in 2018, at least two in 2019 and two more in 2020.

By then, the Fed's target for short-term rates would have reached 3.1 percent — slightly above its estimate of a long-term neutral rate of 2.8 percent. That would mean the Fed would still be seeking to tighten credit three years from now.

At a news conference after the Fed's meeting, Yellen said she would work to provide a smooth transition for Powell. Powell has been a Yellen ally who backed her cautious stance toward rate hikes in his five years on the Fed's board. Yet no one knows for sure how his style of chairmanship or rate policy might depart from hers.

What's more, Powell will be joined by several new Fed board members who, like him, are being chosen by President Donald Trump. Some analysts say they think that while Powell might not deviate much from Yellen's rate policy, he and the new board members will adopt a looser approach to their regulation of the banking system.

On Wednesday, the Fed boosted its forecast for growth to 2.5 percent next year, up from a previous forecast of 2.1 percent. But it then foresees growth slowing to 2.1 percent in 2019 and 2 percent in 2020.

Those rates are far below the 3 percent to 4 percent growth that the Trump administration insists would result from its economic policies of tax cuts, deregulation and



Carolyn Kaster/Associated Press

Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen speaks Wednesday during a news conference following the Federal Open Market Committee meeting in Washington.

stricter enforcement of trade laws against unfair foreign imports.

The Fed modified its forecast to take into account that unemployment has fallen lower this year than it had expected. For the next two years, the Fed projects that unemployment will decline from the current 4.1 percent to 3.9 percent in 2018 and 2019 and then tick up to 4 percent in 2020.

It also expects inflation to rise from 1.7 percent this year to 1.9 percent in 2018 and 2 percent in 2019. The Fed's inflation target is 2 percent. But the rate has puzzlingly remained below that level for more than five years.

Even before Wednesday, most analysts had said they thought the still-strengthening U.S. economy would lead the Fed to raise rates three more times next year. A few, though, have held out the possibility that a Powell-led Fed will feel compelled to step up the pace of rate hikes as inflation finally picks up and the economy, perhaps sped by the proposed Republican tax cuts, begins accelerating.

At his Senate confirmation hearing last month, Powell impressed his listeners as an evenhanded moderate who favored the kind of incremental stance toward rate hikes that both Yellen and her predecessor, Ben Bernanke, embraced. A Senate committee approved Powell's nomination and sent it to the full Senate, where his confirmation is considered certain.

Besides Powell, Trump has so far chosen two new members for the seven-member board. And he has the opening to nominate three more, including a Fed vice chair. Trump has made clear that he favors low rates. But he has also expressed a desire to pull back on many of the regulations that were imposed on banks after the 2008 financial crisis. Trump and many Republicans argue that those regulations are too burdensome, especially for smaller banks. Powell himself has sent some signals that he agrees.

GOP says it's got a deal on taxes; cuts coming for next year

By Stephen Ohlemacher
Andrew Taylor
and Marcy Gordon
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Confident congressional Republicans forged an agreement Wednesday on a major overhaul of the nation's tax laws that would provide generous tax cuts for corporations and the wealthiest Americans — Donald Trump among them — and deliver the first major legislative accomplishment to the GOP president.

Middle- and low-income families would get smaller tax cuts, though Trump and GOP leaders have billed the package as a huge benefit for the middle class. The measure would scrap a major tax requirement of Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act, a step toward the ultimate GOP goal of unraveling the law.

"The cynical voices that opposed tax cuts grow smaller and weaker, and the American people grow stronger," Trump said at the White House. "This is for people of middle income, this is for companies that are going to create jobs. This is for very, very special people, the great people of America."

The business tax cuts would be permanent, but reductions for individuals would expire after a decade — saving money to comply with Senate budget rules. In all, the bill would cut taxes by about \$1.5 trillion over the next 10 years, adding billions to the nation's mounting debt.

The legislation, which is still being finalized, would cut the top tax rate for the wealthy from 39.6 percent to 37 percent, slash the corporate income tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent and allow homeowners to deduct interest only on the first \$750,000 of a new mortgage.

The top tax rate currently applies to income above \$470,000 for married couples, though lawmakers are reworking the tax brackets.

The standard deduction would be nearly doubled, to \$24,000 for married couples.

Details of the agreement were described by Republican senators and congressional aides.

"It's not my vision of the perfect, but again, this is definitely going to be a strong pro-growth tax package," said Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis.

Republicans see passage of the legislation as a political imperative, proving to voters they can govern as the GOP fights to hold onto its majorities in the House and Senate. Republicans said they expect the package to increase economic growth, generating additional tax revenue and lessening the hit to the budget deficit. Independent economists aren't as optimistic.

Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said she and her colleagues expect a "modest lift" to economic growth from the tax package.

Yellen said at a news conference the likelihood of lower taxes is why Fed officials expect the economy to grow at 2.5 percent in 2018. But growth would then slip back closer to its recent 2 percent average.

She said that any wage growth would likely stem from the low unemployment rate rather than the tax cuts.

Negotiators have removed several controversial provisions from the tax bill, including one that would have eliminated the deduction for interest on student loans and another deduction for medical expenses, said two congressional aides. Also, the bill would no longer start taxing graduate-school tuition waivers, said the aides, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss private negotiations.

The tax bill would scale back the deduction for state and local taxes, allowing families to deduct only up to a total of \$10,000 in property and income taxes. The deduction is especially important to residents of high-tax states like New York, New Jersey and California.

Business owners who report business income on their personal tax returns would be able to deduct 20 percent of that income.

OPINION

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Thursday, December 14, 2017 | Page 6A

Tax reform could be the GOP's Obamacare

■ After years of mocking Nancy Pelosi for dismissing the need to read the Obamacare text before passing it, Republicans now insist we must pass tax reform to know what's in it

Will the tax reform effort be the GOP's version of Obamacare? I don't know, and neither does anyone else. We have little idea what the final legislation will look like, and even if we did, it's hard to predict its overall effect.

But there are some similarities already, starting with the ugliness of the process. For years, Republicans mocked Rep. Nancy Pelosi — and other Democrats — for dismissing the need to read the text of the Affordable Care Act before passing it. This time around, Republicans have insisted that we must pass tax reform to know what's in it, and Democrats have denounced the sausage-making.

The more important similarity lies in the fact that both parties pursued long-term ideological goals in the face of public opposition. President Obama gave dozens of speeches in favor of the Affordable Care Act, and yet it was never popular with vot-

JONAH GOLDBERG

Tribune News Service



ers before passage or after — at least not until Donald Trump was elected, which just shows you how policy preferences take a backseat to partisanship.

In both instances, the respective parties made a bet that voters would reward their efforts in the long term. During the Obama years, the Democrats' bet didn't pay off. They lost control of both houses of Congress, at least in large part because of Obamacare, and one could certainly argue that the issue helped Trump in 2016.

Republicans are betting that the middle-class tax cuts combined with an expected boost in economic growth from the cut in the corporate tax rate will result in a political windfall.

Contrary to a lot of hysterical punditry, partisan rhetoric and sloppy reporting, there's a plausible case that this could happen. House Speaker Paul Ryan's initial claim that "everybody" will get a tax cut

was an overstatement, but he's on sounder footing when he notes that the average taxpayer in each bracket will get one.

But some people won't. Indeed, some wealthy people in particular could get screwed. The Wall Street Journal reports that a few high-income taxpayers could — under the Senate GOP version — actually see a marginal tax rate of more than 100 percent. FDR once proposed 100 percent top tax rate. Who would have predicted that the GOP would inadvertently revive that idea?

More broadly, a lot of upscale taxpayers in blue states could see their tax bills go up if the Republicans cap or eliminate various state and local tax deductions as well as the home mortgage interest deduction.

Opponents insist that this is a deliberate effort to punish blue states, which have much higher income and property taxes and housing costs. These claims seem somewhat overblown. Ronald Reagan wanted to eliminate the state and local tax deduction at a time when the red-blue divide was less meaningful.

Moreover, tax reformers, including many on the left, have wanted to get rid of, or reform, the home mortgage interest deduction for decades, particularly for second homes. Why should the federal

government subsidize affluent people buying bigger homes, never mind country houses?

Also, as my National Review colleague Ramesh Ponnuru notes, the House version seeks to get rid of the alternative minimum tax, which disproportionately hurts taxpayers in blue states. If partisan vengeance were a higher priority than policy, they wouldn't kill it. Then again, the Senate version keeps it, so who knows?

That's just it. What makes all of this so unpredictable — and so similar to Obamacare — is that economic analysis is of secondary importance.

It's unlikely that the 35 percent of (no doubt mostly Republican) voters who support the tax effort are doing so out of pure self-interest. Rather, many want President Trump — who, ironically, ran against big corporations — to have a win. Likewise, Democrats insisting that GOP tax reform amounts to "Armageddon" (Pelosi's term) are surely driven more by partisan myopia than careful study of the tax tables.

The GOP plan may end up being a win in economic terms. Whether it's a political win for the GOP will probably depend on political factors not found on a spreadsheet.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

OUR VIEW

Roy Moore deserved to lose, and the GOP is better because he did

It isn't going to make some Republicans feel better, but Roy Moore needed to lose that Senate race in Alabama. Moore was a bad candidate that a wing of the Republican Party — some call it the Steve Bannon wing — pushed, even though signs indicated this was not going to end well. No matter how the election turned out, the result would have been bad for the GOP. If Moore had won, he would have been persona non grata in Washington. He would have — and should have — been investigated for sexual misconduct allegations made by women during the campaign.

But he lost, and what should have been a Republican victory went to the Democrats. Because of Moore and those who insisted he stay in the race, the president has another obstacle to getting his agenda passed.

Either way, our expectation is that Tuesday night's winner will be a lame duck. This election was to fill out a term that expires in 2020. No matter the result on Tuesday, a better, conservative choice will come forward.

However, the Roy Moore candidacy offered conservatives another example that they need men and women who can win general elections and not just primaries. We had hoped the party and its voters learned this in 2010 and 2012 when flawed candidates such as Todd Akin, Sharon Angle and Christine O'Donnell cost Republicans a chance to take control of the Senate. They were fringe candidates who used the tea party movement to win Republican primaries. Once vetted by a larger electorate, however, they were exposed as being capable only of snatching defeat from the jaws of victory.

Moore was another example of this unforced political error. The fringe pushed him as the best person to support Donald Trump's agenda. But sexual misconduct allegations kept potential Republicans home or provided a reason for others to vote Democrat — not because they supported his liberal opponent, but because they didn't approve of Moore. Again, we learned Republicans must do better — in Alabama and across the nation.

We caution Democrats who believe a Moore victory is part of some blue wave sweeping across the nation. It is not. There indeed might be a Trump effect in the 2018 elections, but in our view, this won't impact good candidates, and as Tuesday's results showed, Moore was not a good candidate.

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Trump, tell Bannon to back off

■ Congratulations, Steve Bannon, you just elected a Democrat in Alabama

MARC THIESSEN

Special to the Washington Post



Steve Bannon and his alt-right movement have helped accomplish something no one in a quarter-century has been able to do: get a Democrat elected in the state of Alabama.

Alabama is one of the most reliably Republican states in the country. The last time a Democrat was elected was in 1992, and no Democrat has won more than 40 percent of the vote in a Senate race there since 1996. The closest election in recent memory was in 2002, when Jeff Sessions won re-election by a razor-thin margin of 19 points. Sen. Richard Shelby has won his last three elections by 35 points, 30 points and 28 points, respectively. So it takes a special kind of stupid to pick a candidate who can lose to a Democrat in Alabama.

Not just any Democrat, but an uncompromising pro-abortion Democrat. Alabama is one of the most pro-life states in the union. According to the Pew Research Center, 58 percent of Alabama voters believe that abortion should be illegal in all or most cases, while only 37 percent disagree. And yet the Democrats won with a pro-abortion extremist on the ballot. How extreme? In September, "Meet the Press" host Chuck Todd asked Jones what limitations he would support on abortion. He could not name one. "I am a firm believer that a woman should have the freedom to choose what happens to her own body," he said, "and I'm going to stand up for that and I'm going to make sure that that continues to happen." When pressed if he would support a ban on late-term abortions after 20 weeks, Jones said, "I'm not in favor of anything that is going to infringe on a woman's right and her freedom to choose," adding that he supports the right to life "once a baby is born. ... That's where I become a right-to-lifer."

Yet despite these radical views, Jones won in pro-life Alabama. Why? Because Bannon and his allies forced Alabamians to choose between a pro-abortion Democrat and an alleged sex predator. Bannon helped nominate a man who was credibly accused of pursuing and sexually molesting teenage girls — and then stood by him when his loathsome alleged conduct was exposed. Bannon counted on distrust of the mainstream media and conservative voters' repulsion at the Democrats' pro-abortion views to put his man over the top. It didn't work. Because while the state's evangelical Christian majority is appalled by abortion, they are also appalled by grown men who prey on high-

school girls.

Now Bannon wants to replicate his disastrous Alabama strategy in Republican primaries across the country. He has announced that he is seeking Moore-like challengers to take on every GOP incumbent except Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas. Bannon is busy taking the GOP back to the glory days of 2010, when Republicans nominated such terrible Senate candidates that they lost very winnable Senate races in places such as Delaware and Nevada — losing the chance to retake control of the Senate. The difference is, back then, the stakes were not so high. Barack Obama was president, and unless Republicans could win 60 votes, a few more GOP Senate seats would have made little difference.

But today, a few GOP Senate seats can make all the difference, because Republicans control the House, the Senate and the White House. President Donald Trump was already struggling to get his agenda passed with a narrow 52-seat GOP Senate majority. Thanks to Bannon, that majority has been whittled down to 51. That makes it harder for Trump to advance any of his remaining agenda next year and complicates his ability to confirm judges and get other nominees through the Senate. Jones' victory also put the Democrats within striking distance of taking back control of the Senate in 2018. If that happens, the Trump presidency is over. The "resistance" will control Congress, and Trump's ability to pass conservative legislation and continue appointing conservative judges will be gone. Moreover, Democrats will run the Russia investigation and Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., as majority leader, will have unbridled subpoena power. Trump could face impeachment proceedings.

That is the future if Trump does not learn the lesson of Alabama and tell Bannon to back off. The goal in 2018 should be to expand Trump's governing majority, not lose it. Instead of targeting vulnerable Democrats and strengthening the Trump presidency, Bannon is busy destroying the Trump presidency. Trump may want to suggest he stop.

From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



'Mannequin Skywalker' rides Blue Origin's new crew capsule

By Marcia Dunn
Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Blue Origin's 'Mannequin Skywalker' has rocketed almost all the way to space, just in time for the new Star Wars movie.

The aerospace company led by Amazon's Jeff Bezos launched its New Shepard rocket Tuesday from West Texas for the seventh time. It marked the first flight, though, of the latest version of Blue Origin's crew capsule, featuring big windows for future space tourists.

An instrumented test dummy was aboard, named Mannequin Skywalker and dressed in a blue — naturally — flight suit.

"He had a great ride," Bezos said via Twitter.

The New Shepard rocket, named after the first American in space, Alan Shepard,

Online
See photos of a "Star Wars" themed Christmas light display.
mrt.com

landed back on the ground following the 10-minute suborbital flight. The capsule reached a peak altitude of 99.39 kilometers above sea level or 61.7 miles, just shy of the 100-kilometer or 62.1-mile mark that's considered the start of true space.

Besides Mannequin Skywalker, the capsule carried a dozen experiments, including an Arduino Nano electronic computer board, designed and programmed by Colorado schoolchildren, and student artwork.

"Star Wars: The Last Jedi" opens in theaters Friday.

Minnesota Lt. Gov. Tina Smith named to fill Franken seat

By Kyle Potter
Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton appointed Lt. Gov. Tina Smith on Wednesday to fill fellow Democrat Al Franken's Senate seat until a special election in November, setting up his longtime and trusted adviser for a potentially bruising 2018 special election.

Smith was widely seen as Dayton's top choice from the moment Franken announced his resignation last week. But her previous decision not to run for governor had raised questions about her appetite for a closely watched and expensive Senate campaign.

Smith said she is in and fully committed.

"I can tell you I shouldn't be underestimated and if I weren't confident I wouldn't be doing this," she said.

It's not clear when Smith will head to Washington. Franken, who resigned under pressure from his own party after he was accused of improper behavior by at least eight women, announced last Thursday that he would resign "in the coming weeks." His office hasn't set a final departure date yet, Smith indicated it would likely be in early January.

In a statement, Franken called his successor the perfect choice but didn't shed light on his formal resignation plans, saying only that he would work with Smith to ensure "a speedy and seamless transition."

Smith will be the second Democrat on a path to the Senate in as many days, after Doug Jones' victory in Alabama in Tuesday's special election.

Smith, 59, served as Dayton's chief of staff for four years before ascending to become his No. 2 when his previous lieutenant chose not to join him in seeking a second term in 2014. Dayton has long treated Smith as an equal in the office, and it was that deference that fueled speculation she was being groomed to succeed him.

Her path to politics was unconventional. A native of New Mexico, she graduated from Stanford and earned an MBA from Dartmouth. A marketing job with General Mills brought her to Minnesota, where she eventually started her own marketing and political consulting firm.

She managed Ted Mondale's unsuccessful campaign for governor in 1998, then ran the short-lived 2002 Senate campaign for his dad, former Vice President Walter Mondale. Smith served as chief of staff to Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak before eventually taking the same job with Dayton in 2011.

Smith, a soft-spoken,



Aaron Lavinsky/Star Tribune via AP, file

Minnesota Democratic Lt. Gov. Tina Smith speaks to attendees at the North Star Ball on Jan. 10, 2015 in St. Paul, Minn. Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton appointed Lt. Gov. Tina Smith on Wednesday to fill fellow Democrat Al Franken's Senate seat until a special election in November.

smiling presence at the Capitol, is credited with quiet but key roles in the response to the 2007 bridge collapse in Minneapolis and in the building of a new Vikings stadium. Dayton made her his point person on a massive public-private partnership to work with Mayo Clinic on an ambitious expansion in Rochester.

Next year's race to fill the final two years of Franken's term is certain to be one of the nation's most closely watched and expensive, and Dayton was under pressure from fellow Democrats in Washington to ensure his pick would use the appointment as a springboard for that election.

Meanwhile, Republicans immediately floated former two-term Gov. Tim Pawlenty as a possible candidate, but many others were said to be weighing a race.

Republicans said

Dayton's selection of Smith for the seat could upset voters.

"Minnesota voters deserve a senator who will look out for their best interests, not another DFL (Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party) insider handpicked by Mark Dayton," National Republican Senatorial Committee spokesman Michael McAdams said in a written statement.

And Smith's past work with Planned Parenthood in Minnesota and other Midwestern states, which provides abortions along with other health services, was sure to become a flash point with Republicans on the campaign trail.

Smith, who served as vice president of external affairs, said Planned Parenthood provides critical health care and sexual transmitted disease treatment to "thousands and thousands of women."

"I'm proud of that work," Smith said.

Studies: Warming made Harvey's deluge 3 times more likely

By Seth Borenstein
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Global warming's fingerprints were all over the record rainfall from Hurricane Harvey this year, confirming what scientists suspected, according to new research.

While scientists say man-made climate change didn't trigger Harvey, new studies calculate that a warmer, wetter world made it at least three times more likely that the stalled storm over Houston would flood the fourth most populous U.S. city. Researchers also said global warming often goosed aspects of two other destructive hurricanes this year, Irma and Maria.

Findings were discussed Wednesday at the American Geophysical Union meeting in New Orleans. The Harvey studies used a combination of established and new techniques. An international team used computer simulations and decades of past observations to estimate the odds for the record rainfall that came with Harvey over a period of three days in August with and without global warming. By comparing those two, they concluded global warming tripled the likelihood for the deluge, which reached more than 50 inches in one location.

Based on Houston's weather history, researchers said a storm like Harvey would occur about once every 9,000 years.

"Did climate change make this event more likely than in the past? Yes," said Karin van der Wiel of the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute.

Another study by the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory used computer simulations to analyze Harvey's downpours over a week and calculated that global warming increased rainfall by nearly 20 percent.

Kevin Trenberth of the National Center for Atmospheric Research linked Harvey's downpours to the heat content in the ocean. Most of the heat trapped by greenhouse gases gets absorbed by oceans and that energy serves as fuel for hurricanes and other storms. The ocean heat content was record high in the Gulf of Mexico and elsewhere before Harvey hit. If it had been lower, there would have been much less rain, he said.

Changes in the jet stream — the rivers of air that steer weather — led to Harvey's stalling over Houston, unleashing rain, said Kerry Emanuel of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who presented two studies.

While Emanuel wouldn't directly blame climate change on Harvey, he said destructive hurricanes will be more likely in a warmer world.

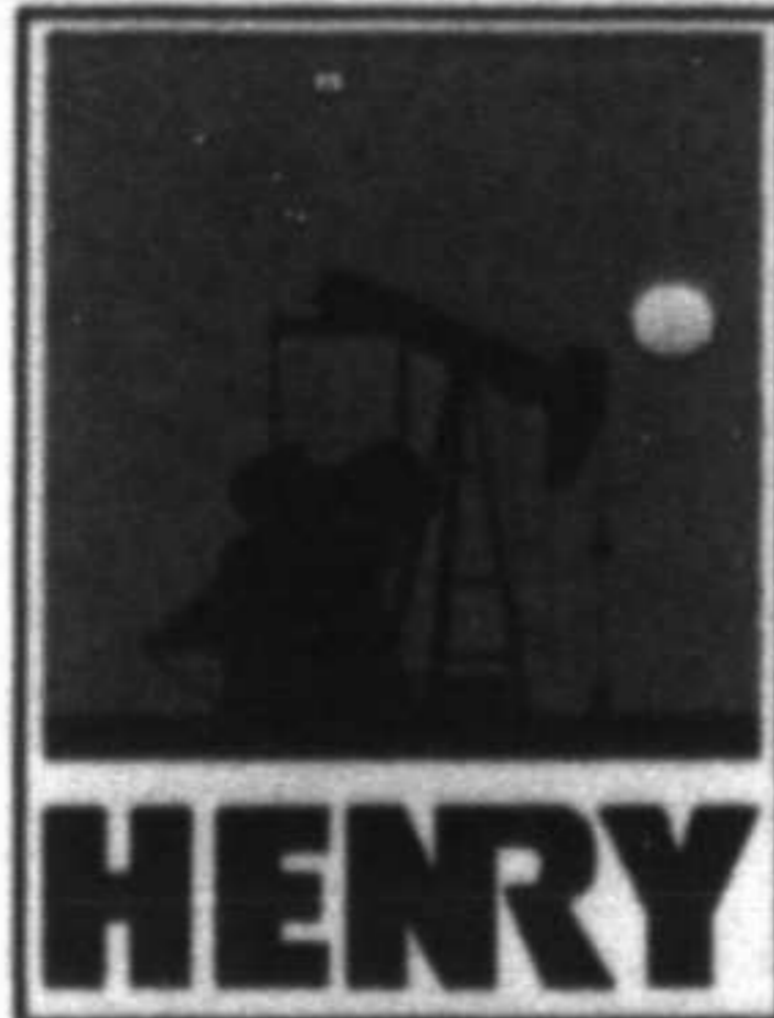
"I think this is a window into the future. I think nature is giving us a foretaste of the future," Emanuel said in an interview.



David J. Phillip/Associated Press

Volunteer rescue boats make their way into a flooded subdivision to rescue stranded residents as floodwaters from Tropical Storm Harvey rise Aug. 28 in Spring. The deluge damaged 156,000 dwellings, according to the flood control district for Harris County, which includes Houston.

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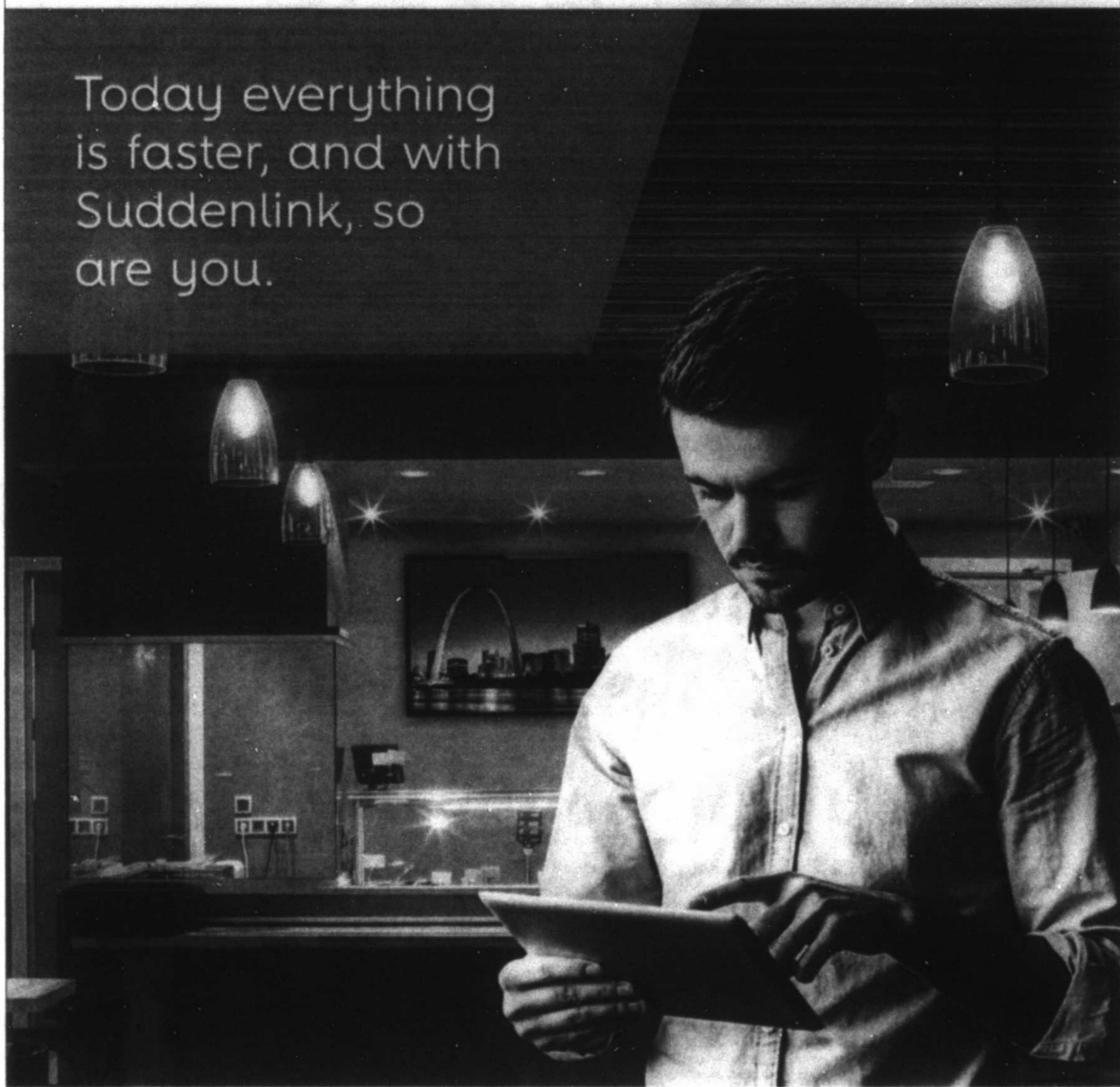
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WEEKENDER

YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS IN THE PERMIAN BASIN

BEST BETS

TODAY



NO SLEEP Asleep at the Wheel bids a Merry Texas Christmas Y'all tonight at the Wagner Noel. The concert benefits the Midland Odessa Symphony and Chorus. 7:30 p.m.



ON THE MIC Spin some verses and strum your songs at the Brew St. Bakery tonight. Spoken word, songs, poetry and more will be featured at this Holiday Open Mic. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY

LAST MIRACLE Midland Community Theatre closes out its season with the final performances of "Miracle on 34th Street: The Musical" this Friday and Saturday. 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

DINNER TIME Opal's Table hosts a four-course meal for its Caymus Wine Dinner event. Food will be paired with various labels. 7 p.m. Reservations required.



HIGH JINKS Texas country singer Cody Jinks takes over the stage at Dixie Amigos with Ward Davis. 8 p.m.

See complete schedule of weekend events on Page 2.

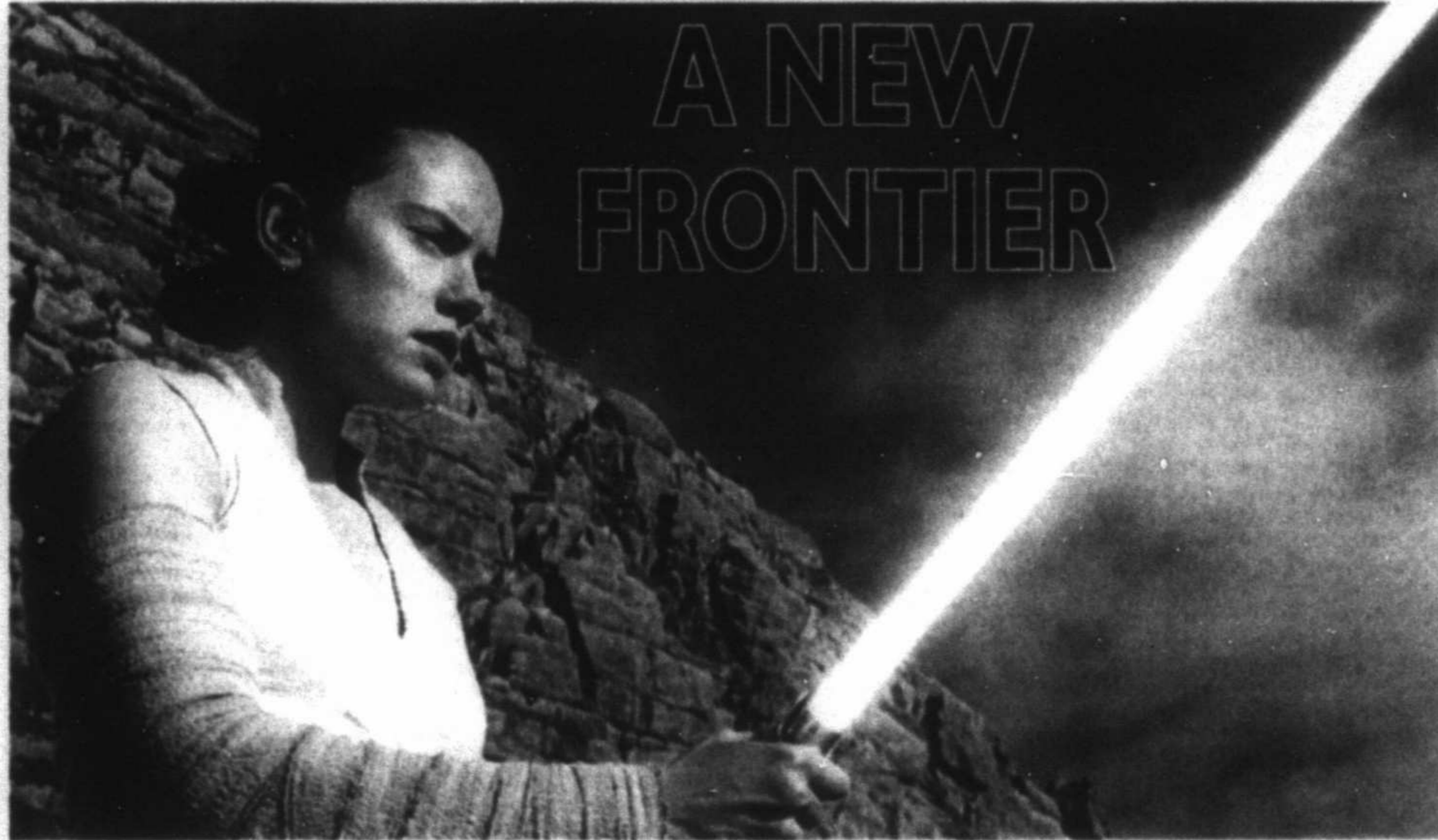
MOVIES



Films opening and closing this week at Midland theaters.

TALL CITY 14
Opening: "The Disaster Artist," "Terminator: Genisys," "Star Wars: The Last Jedi."
Closing: "Bad Moon's Christmas," "Lady Bird," "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri."

CINERGY CINEMAS
Opening: "Terminator: Genisys," "Star Wars: The Last Jedi."
Closing: "Bad Moon's Christmas," "Murder on the Orient Express," "The Star," "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri."



A NEW FRONTIER

'The Last Jedi' a welcome disturbance in the Force

A welcome disturbance in the Force, Rian Johnson's "The Last Jedi" is, by wide measure, the trippiest, scrappiest and most rule-breaking "Star Wars" adventure yet.

Not the exercise in nostalgia that was J.J. Abrams' "The Force Awakens," Johnson's Episode VIII takes George Lucas' space opera in new, often thrilling, and sometimes erratic directions while finding the truest expression yet of the saga's underlying ethos of camaraderie in resistance to oppression. Though there are countless familiar broad strokes — rebel escapes, Jedi soul-searching, daddy issues — "The Last Jedi" has discovered some new moves yet, in the galaxy far, far away.

As the second installment in this third "Star Wars" trilogy, "The Last Jedi" is like the inverted corollary of "The Empire Strikes Back" (long the super fan's favorite). While it is, like its part-two predecessor, often murky and weird, Johnson's frequently comic film distinguishes itself by upending the traditional power dynamics of heroes and bit players in the Star Wars galaxy.

Here, the odds-defying daredevil flyboy (Oscar Isaac as

JAKE COYLE
Associated Press



Pesistance pilot Poe Dameron) is an impetuous chauvinist, at odds with a female commander (a purple-headed Laura Dern). "Get your head out of your cockpit," admonishes Leia (the late Carrie Fisher, to whom the film is dedicated). The master-apprentice relationship — previously Yoda instructing young Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) on a swampy remote planet — is now tilted more toward Rey, the young Jedi (Daisy Ridley), sent to stir a monkish Skywalker from a windswept, Porg-infested isle. And instead of a Tauntaun's guts being spilled, there are even moments of animal rights reflections creeping into the galaxy. About to bite into his rotisserie dinner, Chewbacca, with a sad groan, is struck by pangs of doubt.

Abrams' finest touch in his zippy and nimble reboot was in

his diverse casting — in particular Ridley and John Boyega, as Finn, the Stormtrooper turned good guy. But Johnson, who also wrote the film, has gone further to shake up the familiar roles and rhythms of Star Wars. Scattershot and loose-limbed, "The Last Jedi" doesn't worship at its own altar, often undercutting its own grandiosity.

Those breaks of form — formerly mostly reserved for a smirking Harrison Ford — will throw some diehards. Especially in the surreal isolated scenes of Rey and Luke — where Luke, with a thick gray mane and a hermit's foul-manner is seen drinking a creature's breast milk and pole-vaulting from rock to rock — "The Last Jedi" teeters on the edge of camp.

It's not surprising that Johnson, the director of the twisty time-traveling noir "Looper," has made a movie full of clever inversions. What's jarring is that he's made a "Star Wars" film that tries to not take itself too seriously, while simultaneously making it more emotional.

Yet, before its considerable payoff, "The Last Jedi" feels lost and grasping for its purpose. Unlike the earlier films, the less tactile "The Last Jedi" isn't much

for world building, and its sense of place isn't as firm. As an intergalactic travelogue, it's a disappointment.

There are exceptions, though, especially the chambers of the Supreme Leader Snoke (Andy Serkis, adding to his gallery of grotesques). Soaked in an otherworldly crimson red, Snoke's lair looks like something out of Kubrick's "Eyes Wide Shut."

Johnson also lacks what Lucas and Abrams alike recognized as the franchise's most potent weapon: Ford. As the prairie boy turned knight, Hamill has never been the saga's heart-and-soul. While Luke gets his big moment, "The Last Jedi" doesn't do him any favors, plopping him on a pitiless jagged rock away from the action and a backstory filled with regret.

As Fisher's final "Star Wars" film, it's a shame she isn't more front-and-center. (The next film was to be hers, the way Ford and now Hamill have had theirs.) But she makes her scenes count.

Though Isaac has been fashioned as the heir-apparent to the bemused Ford, Boyega is the actor I've left both episode VII and

Please see COYLE/Page 3

HEAT INDEX: Nodal, German headline La Hacienda; outdoor brunch set for downtown

By Rich Lopez
jrlopez@mrt.com

5:30 p.m. today at 3500 N. "A" St.

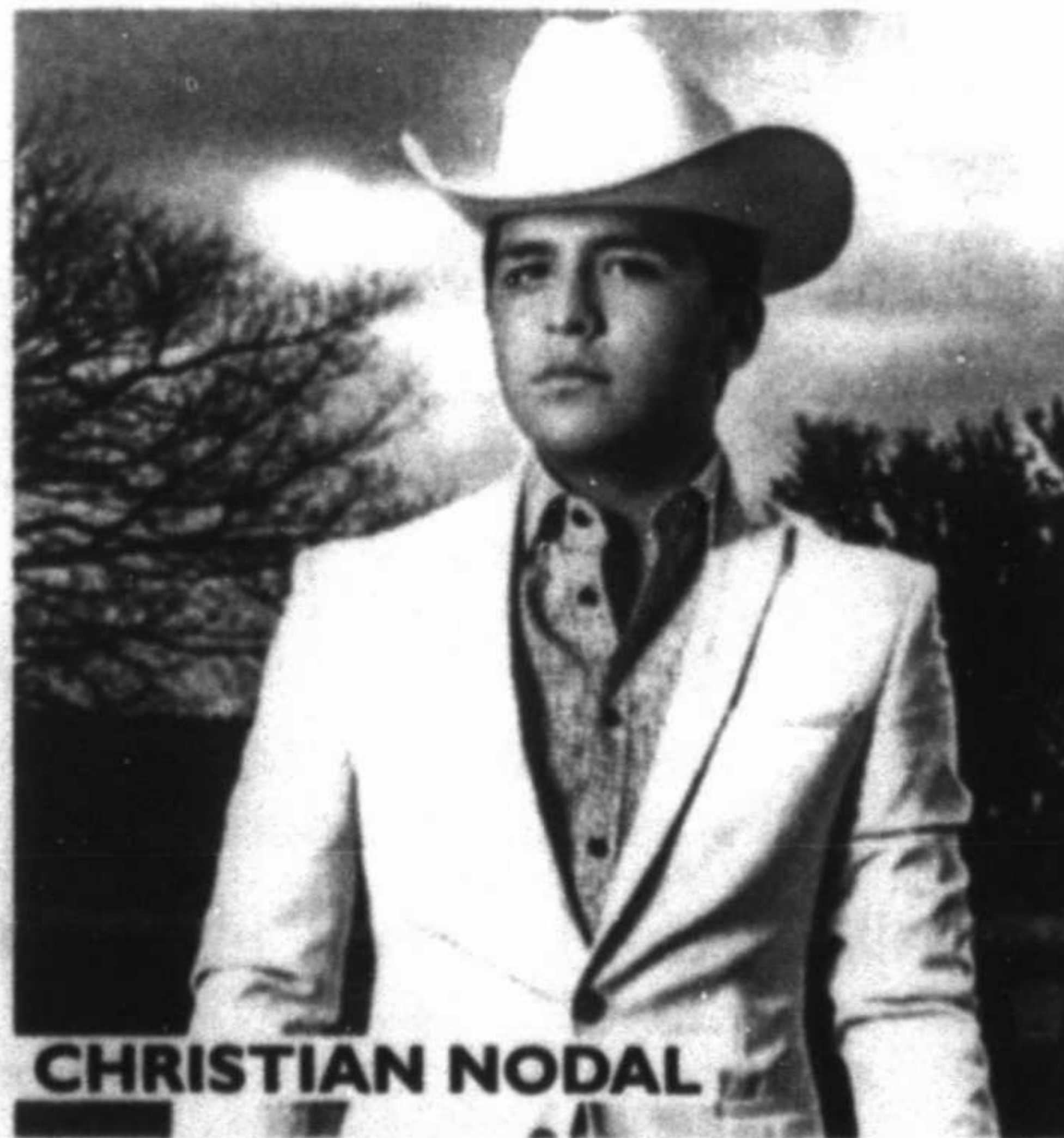
WINTER ART EXHIBIT OPENING AT MIDLAND SHARED SPACES

Midland Shared Spaces isn't your typical gallery setting, but probably one of the best in town. The building is home to several nonprofits, but local artists and art groups are showcased in the building's hallways and the opening receptions are a big deal. Grab some wine and appetizers and stroll through two stories of local art while listening to live music by Amy Huzjak, principal cellist for the Midland Odessa Symphony and Chorus (MOSC).

CHRISTIAN NODAL, CRECER GERMAN AT LA HACIENDA EVENT CENTER

The future of Latin music headlines Midland this weekend. Christian Nodal, 18, and Crecer German, 21, have been hailed as the new guard of the genre. Nodal topped the charts with "Adios Amor" early this year, following up with his No. 1 album "Me Deje Llevar." German's "Quien Te Entiendo" made a splash in 2016 landing in the top 20 of the Hot Latin Songs charts with some 30 million streams of the

Please see HEAT INDEX/Page 3



CHRISTIAN NODAL

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CALENDAR

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

FAMILY & YOUTH

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

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

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

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

Garden Explorers: Garden Science is an outdoor exploration experience for grades 3-5. 10 a.m. Saturday at Sibley Nature Center, 1307 E. Wadley Ave. \$5 members, \$8 nonmembers. sibleynaturecenter.org.

SciGirls STEM Camp for ages 8-12. 5 p.m. Monday at Midland County Public Library downtown branch, 301 W. Missouri Ave.

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

Downtown Family Game Night with a variety of classic and new board games. 4:30 p.m. Tuesday at Midland County Public Library downtown branch, 301 W. Missouri Ave.

Storytime at the Library. 10:30 a.m. (birth-2 years), 11:30 a.m. (2-6 years). Wednesdays. Tickets required for later sessions due to limited space. Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N.

FINE ART & DANCE

OPENING: Winter Art Exhibit featuring works by area art associations. Live music by MOSC principal cellist Amy Huzjak. Opening reception begins at 5:30 p.m. today at the Gallery at Midland Shared Spaces, 3500 N. "A" St.

The works of Anabella Chariton and Jesse Trejo on display Fridays throughout December at Kamiposi, 510 S. Big Spring St.

"What If," University of Texas at the Permian Basin Senior Art Exhibition by Iamhlex Fernandez on display through Jan. 5 at the Arts Council of Midland, 1506 W. Illinois Ave. acmidland.org.

FOOD & DRINK

Winter Market by the Midland Downtown Farmers Market. 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday at Museum of the Southwest, 1705 W. Missouri Ave.

Christmas at the Mansion: An Illustrated Christmas Luncheon. Noon-1 p.m. today at Museum of the Southwest, 1705 W. Missouri Ave. \$50 per seat, \$375 per table. museumsw.org.

Pancakes with Santa by the Knights of Columbus. Guests can listen to the story of St. Lucy, make an ornament for the church and have a picture taken with Santa. 6-8 p.m. Saturday at St. Ann's Catholic Church, 1906 W. Texas Ave.

Caymus Wine Dinner will feature a four-course meal paired with various Caymus Vineyard labels. 7 p.m. Saturday at Opal's Table, 223 W. Wall St. \$85. opalstable.com.

December Brunch Market with vendors and outdoor brunch. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday at So Fly Boutique, 312 W. Colorado St.

GAMES

Bingo Nights. The American Legion Auxiliary hosts weekly play throughout the week. 7 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, 4 p.m. Sundays. 501 Veterans Airpark Lane. 682-5511.

Zia Park Casino Hotel and Racetrack bus trips by Midland Shuttle Services. Departs at 5 p.m. First Fridays and Sundays to Hobbs, New Mexico. \$55 for adults, \$45 for 65 and older. RSVP by calling 260-5428. midlandshuttleservices.com.

Hold 'em poker tournaments, 7 p.m. Fridays at The Detour, 1709 Rankin Highway.

Bridge lessons, 10 a.m. Saturdays at Allison Bridge Center, 913 W. Wadley Ave. \$3. permianbridgeclub.com.

Bingo, 6 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays at the Tall City VFW Post 7208, 1306 E. Taylor Ave. Children welcome.

Bridge game play, 6:45 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays; 1 p.m. Tuesdays; 10:30 a.m. Saturdays; 1:30 p.m. Sundays. Allison Bridge Center, 913 W. Wadley Ave. \$6. For more information call 682-8595.

Monday Mayhem features unlimited bowling for \$14.09 with free shoe rentals after 8 p.m. Bowlero, 5320 W. Loop 250 N. bowlero.com.

Live Trivia by Challenge Entertainment. 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Basin Burger House, 607 N. Colorado St.

Two-Dollar Tuesdays with the same price for games, shoes, select beers and arcade card after 8 p.m. Bowlero, 5320 W. Loop 250 N. bowlero.com.

Trivia Game Night, 7 p.m. Wednesdays at True Texas BBQ, 5407 Andrews Highway. Free.

Live Trivia by Challenge Entertainment. 8 p.m. Wednesdays at Torino's, 3303 N. Midkiff Road. challengeentertainment.com.

HOLIDAYS

Holiday Open House with an appearance by Lone Star Brass. 4-6 p.m. today at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N.

Ugly Sweater Christmas Mixer by Young Professionals of Midland. 6-8 p.m. today at the Blue Door, 4610 N. Garfield St.

Very Merry Midland: Reindeer Games will feature Santa's Workshop, ice skating, giant human snow globe, live holiday window displays and a new reindeer exhibit. Events run 5-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays and 1-5 p.m. Sundays. Runs through Dec. 23 at 303 W. Wall St. Free admission but \$6 for skating and snow globe photos.

Doyourcity.us.

Breaking Bread Christmas Party 5:30-7 p.m. Friday at Breaking Bread Soup Kitchen, 410 E. Florida St. Open to the community; Santa will have gifts for children and adults.

Starbright Village and Community Tree Lighting features more than 300,000 lights and holiday displays. 6-11 p.m. through Jan. 1 at McKinney Park, 625 W. Pool Road, Odessa. Free. odesatx.org.

Family Fitmas is a healthy holiday celebration with obstacle courses, a trail mix bar and photos with Santa. Open to the community. 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday at Midland YMCA, 800 N. Big Spring St. midlandymca.org.

Field Office Christmas Party. Guests are encouraged to take a wrapped white elephant gift and snacks. 7 p.m.-1 a.m. Saturday at the Field Office, 3205 W. Industrial Ave.

West Texas North Pole Village will feature Santa and Mrs. Claus, hayrides, Rudolph's Candy Store and more. Noon, Sunday at Rolling 7's Ranch Event Center, 11700 W. County Road 122, Odessa. \$10 adults, \$5 with unwrapped gift.

Santa, Milk and Cookies, 2-5 p.m. Sunday at Miss Cayce's Christmas, 1012 Andrews Highway.

LECTURES, MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS

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

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

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

MUSIC

BLUES

Tim Kreitz Band, 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the Bar, 606 W. Missouri Ave.

COUNTRY

Jon Wolfe, 9:30 p.m. today at Rockin' Rodeo, 4400 N. Big Spring St. \$12. rockinrodeomidland.com.

Cody Jinks, Ward Davis, Saturday at Dos Amigos, Odessa. dosamigos.com.

Truck Stop Gamblers, 9 p.m. Saturday at the Lone Star Bar, 621 W. Wall St.

DJ/DANCE

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

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

HIP-HOP

Jonathan Brown, 7 p.m. Sunday at Kamiposi, 10 S. Big Spring St.

HOLIDAY

MOSC: "Merry Texas Christmas Y'all" with Asleep at the Wheel benefiting the Midland Odessa Symphony and Chorus. 7:30 p.m. today

at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$25-\$75. wagner-noel.com.

"Holiday Magic" by FirstCapital Bank of Texas and KWEL Radio. Celebrate the holiday season with a free musical performance by StrictLYEE Orchestra from Lee High School. Noon Friday at FirstCapital Bank of Texas, 310 W. Wall St.

MOSC: "Jingle Brass" with Lone Star Brass, 3 p.m. Sunday at Rea-Greathouse Recital Hall, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. MOSC.org.

"Merry-achi Christmas" with Mariachi Sol de Mexico de Jose Hernandez, 8 p.m. Tuesday at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$29.50-\$45.50. wagner-noel.org.

KARAOKE

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

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

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

LATIN

Christian Nodal, Crecer German, Geru Legion, 8 p.m. Saturday at La Hacienda Event Center, 12610 State Hwy 191. \$60. haciendamidland.com.

OUTDOORS, SPORTS & FITNESS

Odessa Jackalopes play Corpus Christi IceRays, 7:11 p.m. Friday and Saturday at Ector County Coliseum, 4201 Andrews Hwy, Odessa. jackalopes.org.

Guided Trail Walk, 9 a.m. Saturday at Sibley Nature Center, 1307 E. Wadley Ave. sibleynaturecenter.org.

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

Yoga: Lower Body Burn, 4 p.m. Sunday at Project30 Pilates and Fitness Studio, 3211 W. Wadley Ave. \$5. Facebook: @project30midland.

Yoga at the Museum for museum members. 8 a.m. Wednesdays at

Ellen Noel Art Museum, 4909 E. University Blvd. Odessa. Free. noelartmuseum.org.

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

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

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

STAGE, COMEDY & FILM

Holiday Open Mic. Open to performers of music, poetry, spoken word and drama. 8 p.m. today at Brew St. Bakery, Coffee and Tea, 4610 N. Garfield St.

"Astronaut" dome show in 3D. 4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays in December at Blakemore Planetarium, 1705 W. Missouri Ave. museumsw.org.

CLOSING: "A Place Called Christmas" and "Twelve Daze of Christmas" ends Sunday. 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2:30 p.m. Sundays at Permian Playhouse, 310 W. 42nd St. Odessa. \$10. permianplayhouse.com.

CLOSING: "Miracle on 34th Street: The Musical" runs through Saturday. 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday at Midland Community Theatre, 2000 W. Wadley Ave. \$28. mctmidland.org.

Saturday Movie: "The Polar Express," 2 p.m. Saturday at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N.

"In My Backyard" dome show, noon. Tuesdays-Saturdays in December. Blakemore Planetarium, 1705 W. Missouri Ave. museumsw.org.

"Star of Bethlehem" dome show, 2 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays in December. Blakemore Planetarium, 1705 W. Missouri Ave. museumsw.org.

"The Meshuga Nutcracker! The Chanukah Musical" is a musical comedy that mixes Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite" with dancing dreidels. 7 p.m. Tuesday at Tall City Stadium 14, 4915 SW Loop 250 N. \$17.28. fathomevents.com.

COMING SOON

DECEMBER

Hogwarts Holiday "Harry Potter"-themed event will sort Hogwarts students and muggles into various houses and attend magical classes. Teens can partake in the Harry Potter Escape Room. Costumes encouraged. 2:30-5:30 p.m. Dec. 21 at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N.

Third Thursday Reading will have a featured book with copies given to each child. The monthly event is part of the Laura Bush Literacy Program. Free but space is limited so reservations are encouraged. Refreshments provided. 4:30 p.m. Dec. 21 at the George W. Bush Childhood Home, 1412 W. Ohio Ave. bush-childhoodhome.org.

Whiskey and Wild Game Dinner will feature four courses with whiskey pairings. 7 p.m. Dec. 22 at Opal's Table, 223 W. Wall St. \$95. Opalstable.com.

Tejano Christmas Dance with Los Mescaleros y David Lee Garza, Jay Perez, Gary Hobbs, La Deez, 7 p.m. Dec. 22 at Hacienda Event Center, 12610 State Highway 191. \$25. haciendamidland.com.

Cookies and Cocoa with Santa, 10 a.m.-noon. Dec. 23 at Opal's Table, 223 W. Wall St. \$20. opalstable.com.

Tatianna from "RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars," 11 p.m. Dec. 23 at The Recovery Room, 2802 N. County Road West, Odessa.

"Doctor Who: Twice Upon a Time," 7 p.m. Dec. 27 at Tall City Stadium 14, 4915 SW Loop 250 N. \$13.50. fathomevents.com.

Bart Crow, Dec. 28 at Rockin' Rodeo, 4400 N. Big Spring St. rockinrodeomidland.com.

Odessa Jackalopes play Amarillo Bulls, 7:11 p.m. Dec. 29 at Ector County Coliseum, 4201 Andrews Hwy, Odessa. jackalopes.org.

Moscow Ballet's "Great Russian Nutcracker," 7 p.m. Dec. 29 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$25-\$177. wagner-noel.com.

New Year's party with Dennis Snyder and the Sundowners. The event will feature snacks, party favors, a cash bar and champagne and breakfast at midnight. Dec. 31 at American Legion Woods Lynch Post 19 Ballroom, 501 Veterans Airpark Lane. Advance \$30-\$50, door \$40-\$60. Call 682-3511 for reservations. 21 and older only.

THE BIG SPRING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PRESENTS TCHAIKOVSKY'S NUTCRACKER BALLET

DR. KEITH GRAUMANN
Music Director & Conductor

FEATURING THE MIDLAND FESTIVAL BALLET

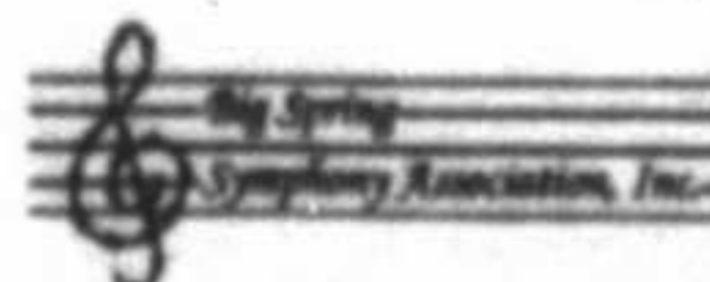
& BIG SPRING DANCE GALLERY STUDENTS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2017

7:30 PM • Big Spring Municipal Auditorium

STUDENTS THROUGH COLLEGE ADMITTED FREE.

STUDENTS 15 AND UNDER MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.



Adults - \$20 SENIORS - \$15

ADVANCE TICKET SALES:

Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce,
The Convention and Visitors Bureau,
HEB, The Heritage Museum, The Karat Patch

ON SCREEN & EVENTS



Children's book 'Ferdinand' jumps to screen nicely

This holiday season, there's all manner of conflict at your local movie theater — Jedis battling in the stars, Winston Churchill warring in Europe and Olympic athletes dueling on ice. And then there's that 2,000-pound bull that refuses to fight.

"Ferdinand" is a first-rate animated tale adapted from the beloved 1936 children's book about a pacifist Spanish bull who just loves to sit around and sniff flowers. It's often dark, sometimes whacky, but true to the heart of the book and beautifully brought to life in modern Spain.

Carlos Saldanha, the director of "Rio" and "Ice Age" movies, and screenwriters Robert L. Baird, Tim Federle and Brad Copeland faced a daunting task turning a spare 66-page book by Munro Leaf and Robert Lawson into more than 100 minutes of film.

But they've largely succeeded, while adding more serious issues along the way, including animal rights, rigged economic systems, nature versus nurture, cowardice, and the importance of looking out for each other. Not bad for a kid's flick, huh? It also plunges another sword in the sport of bull fighting.

At its core, "Ferdinand" is an anti-bullying statement that stars a bull. In a neat twist, that bull who refuses to fight is voiced by professional wrestler John Cena, a man who makes his living with violence.

Ferdinand is bred to fight but won't. His dad and peers at a bull fighting ranch all want to go into the ring and take on a matador. "Is it OK if it's not my dream?" the young Ferdinand asks. No, he's told. "You're either a fighter or you're meat."

After his father disappears, our bullish conscientious objector manages to escape and ends up in a peaceful flower farm, lovingly taken care of by a young girl. Good for Ferdinand, but bad for the filmmakers, who have more than another hour more to fill.

Enter a cavalcade of strange and bewildering creatures: three crafty hedgehogs, three condescending Lipizzaner horses and an unhinged goat called Lupe. Kate McKinnon voices the goat and her performance is Robin Williams-in-"Aladdin" level work. A film that was overly dark suddenly gets an infusion of silliness and comic genius.

We take a few detours — there's a brilliant dance competition between break-dancing bulls and the prancing horses; an unorthodox running of the bulls, this time with the animals chased by bad guys through the streets on Segways; and an utterly wonderful interpretation of a bull in a china shop.

Ferdinand is the only bull to realize

MARK KENNEDY

Associated Press

that the entire bullfighting game is fixed and tries to convince his peers to flee (the voice actors include a very good Peyton Manning — yes, that Peyton Manning — as a bull prone to vomiting, and a hysterical David Tennant as a very hairy Scottish bull.)

Ferdinand rescues some of his pals from the "chop shop" — note: seeing this with your kids may become uncomfortable if you promised hamburgers afterward — then sacrifices himself for the good of the group and ends up facing the meanest matador in all of Spain in the ring in Madrid. Will he finally fight? Will he die for his convictions?

There are a few weird notes. It's a little strange to hear the Ferdinand we grew up with under a Spanish cork tree now have a SoCal surfer accent, saying he's "stoked," "hold that thought" and "this is some next level stuff." He also does that weird thing where he talks to fellow animals but is mute when it comes to communicating with humans.

And the musical choices are a little odd. Nick Jonas offers the new soaring ballad "Home" and the Colombian artist Juanes delivers with "Lay Your Head On Me." But did we really need the unearthing of the 20-year-old "Macarena"? And Pitbull's overexposed "Freedom" makes little sense here unless it's because of the pun on his name. It would have been nice to have a more Spanish-heavy soundtrack.

Still, for all its problems, this is a film with world-class animation, revealing everything from astonishingly rich crowd scenes to rusty details on an old pail. The animators have managed to make wet fur feel tactile and show the headlights of cars bouncing off other cars.

So for the overall message of the film — "Live your own life" — plus the rich animation and the completely looney McKinnon, we have one word: Ole! "Ferdinand," a 20th Century Fox release, is rated PG by the Motion Picture Association of America for "rude humor, action and some thematic elements." Running time: 107 minutes. ★★★☆

MPAA definition of PG: Parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

COYLE

From Page 1

Villain wanting more of. The downside in a story that spins its characters around the galaxy is that the new generation of Star Wars protagonists hasn't had time for the small gestures that would shape their characters — close-ups that their forerunners were afforded. Even after two films, Rey is more of an unstoppable sprite than a fleshed-out person.

But "The Last Jedi," as if with a wind against its back, gathers momentum. By breaking down some of the old mythology, Johnson has staked out new territory. For the first time in a long time, a "Star Wars" film feels forward-

moving.

Much of that sense of progress comes in the character of Rose Tico (a superlative Kelly Marie Tran), a maintenance worker who's thrust into a pivotal role in the rebellion. It's she who voices the film's abiding message, one that — as the first "Star Wars" film of the Trump era — has affecting resonance. The Resistance will win, she says, "not fighting what we hate" but "saving what we love."

In a pop culture juggernaut as imposing as Star Wars, these moments carry more meaning than they would elsewhere. After long skating around anything political, "The Last Jedi" — whether it's

meant to be or not — has the tenor of a rallying cry. Johnson has fully internalized a single line of dialogue from "The Return of the Jedi" — "You rebel scum," said with disdain by a Nazi-like lieutenant — and turned it into a badge of pride.

"Star Wars: The Last Jedi," a Walt Disney Co. release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for "sequences of sci-fi action and violence." Running time: 152 minutes. ★★★☆

MPAA Definition of PG-13: Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

HEAT INDEX

From Page 1

track in the United States alone. Openers Geru y su Legion 7 have been touted by Pandora as an act to look out for in 2018.

8 p.m. Saturday at 12610 State Highway 191. \$60. haciendamidland.com.

"JINGLE BRASS" WITH LONE STAR BRASS

This annual holiday show is an intimate affair with big sound. The brass ensemble of the MOSC performs its annual concert that's often a sellout. In fact, you could head here after the Brunch Market for an eventful day to cap off the weekend.

3 p.m. Sunday at Rea-Greathouse Recital Hall, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$15. MOSC.org.

"THE MESHUGANUTCRACKER! THE CHANUKAH MUSICAL" AT REGAL TALL CITY STADIUM 14

With Hanukkah underway, enjoy this

screening of the musical comedy that mixes Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite" with dancing dreidels, singing suganiyot and other holiday traditions. The show also touches on the first Hanukkah and pays tribute to the eight nights with eight stories.

7 p.m. Tuesday at Tall City Stadium 14, 4915 SW Loop 250 N. \$17.28. fathom-events.com.

DECEMBER BRUNCH MARKET DOWNTOWN

How does chicken and waffles amid downtown sound? With food trucks and local vendors, Brunch Market is quickly becoming a hotspot. This second event will feature more than 30 local vendors and food trucks offering a brunch menu and outdoor seating. New food truck Bus 22 is expected to be among the food vendors; their Mexican Scotch Egg is all the rage.

11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday at 312 W. Colorado St.

HAVE AN EVENT TO SUBMIT?

Rich Lopez | Feature Editor | Email: rlopez@midland.com | Phone: 682-8814



10 AM-5 PM Tues-Sat, 2-5 PM Sun

(Tours given until 4:30)

1412 W. Ohio, Midland, TX

432-685-1112

www.bushchildhoodhome.org

fan us on **facebook** & **twitter**

FREE - Laura Bush Literacy Program reading event, Thursday, Dec. 14th, from 4:30-5:30 PM in our Visitor Center for kids of all ages. We will read several books including "It's Christmas". Each child will get a free copy of the feature book, snacks and a gift from Whataburger!

Call 685-1112 to reserve a space

Sponsors: Whataburger, The Texas Pecos Trail Region, & The Morrow Family Foundation

FREE Books for Kids

Bring your kids by our office any day we're open to pick out a free book from our Laura Bush Literacy Bookshelves. Limit one per day per child.

Please note the date change!

Reading events are usually on the 3rd Thursday each month, but due to the proximity to Christmas, this event has been moved up by one week.

Midland-Odessa Symphony & Chorale Presents

JINGLE BRASS

By Lone Star Brass



December 17, 2017 | 3:00 PM
Rea-Greathouse Recital Hall



Mike Santorelli - trumpet
Eric Baker - trumpet
Nicholas Conn - trombone
Scott Millichamp - horn
Kevin Young - tuba

TICKETS

MOSC.ORG | 800-514-3849 | OR AT THE DOOR
\$15 GENERAL ADMISSION | STUDENTS FREE



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ON SCREEN & MUSIC

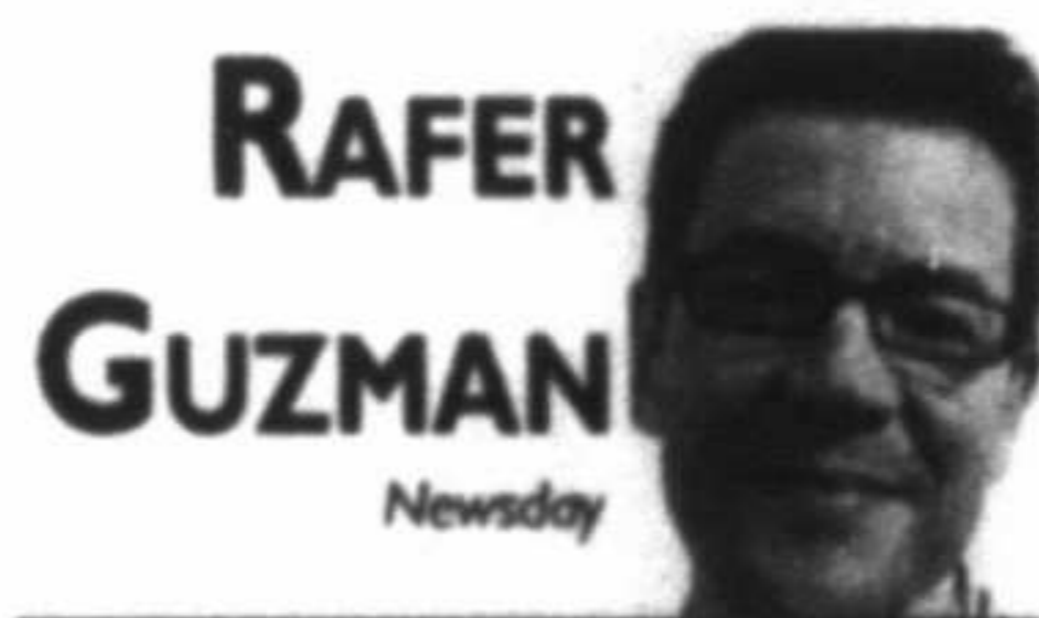


'The Disaster Artist' is James Franco's gonzo look at Tommy Wiseau

In the history of bad movies, Tommy Wiseau's "The Room" has held pride of place since its premiere in 2003. A turgid melodrama with baffling dialogue, dangling subplots and a histrionic streak, "The Room" initially bombed — people at the Los Angeles premiere reportedly demanded their money back — but word soon spread among the so-bad-it's-good crowd. Eventually, "The Room" became a cult hit, a film-geek badge of honor and even a video game.

One of those cultists, James Franco, has directed a biopic of sorts called "The Disaster Artist" and cast himself as Wiseau, the notoriously bizarre writer-director-producer-star of "The Room." It's a case of one auteur playing another, and though the project sometimes seems a little r-ran — a Hollywood star playing a failed aspirant — there's also something affectionate about it. Franco, too, has had his Wiseau moments, as anyone who saw his groaning 2013 drama "Child of God" can tell you.

"The Disaster Artist" is based on a memoir by Greg Sestero (Dave



Franco), a star of "The Room" who met Wiseau in San Francisco at an acting class. Franco's Wiseau cuts a strange figure — droopy-eyed and raven-haired, with stilted English and a geographically uncertain accent — but his fearlessly awful recital of the "Stella" scene from "A Streetcar Named Desire" greatly impresses the shy Sestero. The two move to Los Angeles (Wiseau, oddly, has an empty apartment there), but their acting careers stall. In a moment of terrible inspiration, Wiseau decides to make his own film.

Wiseau has enough money — just how is still a mystery — to hire a cast and crew for his "real Hollywood movie." The shoot becomes a gonzo farce in which Wiseau follows

his own weird logic both on-screen (he punctuates a tragic monologue with laughter) and behind the camera (he builds replicas of real locations near the real locations). It's all great fun, thanks partly to Seth Rogen's Sandy Schklair, an increasingly exasperated script supervisor.

When the premiere audience howls with laughter at Wiseau's masterpiece, Sestero cheers up his friend with this rather beautiful observation: "Look how much fun they're having." In the end, "The Disaster Artist" decides that the only bad movies are the ones that fail to bring us joy. "The Room" certainly can't be accused of that.

'THE DISASTER ARTIST'

3.5 stars
Cast: James Franco, Dave Franco, Seth Rogen.
Rated R (language, some sexuality and nudity).
Running time: 1:43

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

Rock Hall 2018 class: Nina Simone, Bon Jovi, Moody Blues, Dire Straits

By Mesfin Fekadu
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Iconic singer Nina Simone and New Jersey rockers Bon Jovi lead the 2018 class of Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees, which includes four first-time nominees.

The Cars, as well as first-time contenders Dire Straits, The Moody Blues and Sister Rosetta Tharpe, also are part of the 2018 class announced Wednesday. They will be inducted April 14 in Cleveland.

The six inductees were chosen from a group of 19 nominees, including Radiohead, who were expected to enter in the Rock Hall in their first year of eligibility, but didn't make it.

Tharpe, a pioneering guitarist who performed gospel music and was known to some as "the godmother of rock 'n' roll," will be inducted with the "Award for Early Influence." She died in 1973. The other five acts will be inducted as performers.

The jazzy and soulful Simone, also a first-time nominee, was a leader in pushing for civil rights and influenced the likes of Alicia Keys and Aretha Franklin before her death in 2003.

Bon Jovi, first nominated in 2011 and again this year, have sold more than 120 million albums and launched No. 1 hits with "Livin' on a Prayer," "You Give Love a Bad Name," "Bad Medicine" and "I'll Be There for You."

In an interview with The Associated Press on Wednesday, Jon Bon Jovi said the news was "wonderful. It's rewarding. It's humbling."

"I didn't know how long things would last because I never envisioned 35 years later. I could have never dreamt of that," he added. "I'm happy for the whole band, my family and for me."

He will be inducted alongside current bandmates David Bryan and Tico Torres, as well as former members Richie Sambora and Alec John Such. Sambora left in 2013; Such left in 1994.

The frontman said he and the other current members

haven't spoken to Sambora since he left the group four years ago, but said he invites the performer, along with Such, to be part of the Rock Hall festivities.

"(Sambora) had things he had to deal with and (he) didn't show up anymore. I respect that," Bon Jovi said. "He's absolutely invited and will be asked to participate in every aspect, including the performance, as will Alex Such ... and they'll be able to join the band, the current band, onstage. They'll be most welcomed."

In another interview Wednesday with the AP, Sambora said he accepts Bon Jovi's offer: "Sure, of course. There's a lot to have gratitude for. There's no malice. I have no malice toward anybody. There's none of that — that's for sure."

"I don't take one minute for granted. I wake up and I'm a happy dude," added Sambora, who will release a new EP on Friday under his duo with guitarist Orianthi called RSO. "This is one of those days where you go, 'Thank you.' It's nice to be recognized."

Rock Hall voters have recently opened their hearts to progressive rockers, which benefited "Nights in White Satin" singers The Moody Blues. English rockers Dire Straits, which includes brothers Mark and David Knopfler, blended blues into their music. And The Cars, founded in Boston in 1976, combined New Wave and classic rock sounds. This year marked the band's third nomination.

Each year, between five and seven acts usually make it into the Rock Hall following a vote by 1,000 people, including performers, music historians and industry experts. Fans also were able to vote on the Rock Hall's website. All of the inductees had to have released their first recording no later than 1992 to be eligible.

The 33rd annual Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be held at Public Auditorium. Tickets will go on sale in January and the event will later air on HBO and be heard on SiriusXM Radio.

Online:
<https://www.rockhall.com>

FILM CAPS

"A Bad Moms Christmas" (R) Three mothers face the most daunting holiday — coupled with visits from their own moms — in this sequel to the 2016 comedy. With Mila Kunis, Kristen Bell, Kathryn Hahn, Jay Hernandez, Cheryl Hines, Peter Gallagher, Christine Baranski, Susan Sarandon. Written and directed by Jon Lucas & Scott Moore.

"Coco" (PG) A young boy with musical aspirations visits the Land of the Dead. Voices of Gael Garcia Bernal, Anthony Gonzalez, Benjamin Bratt, Renee Victor. Directed by Lee Unkrich. Co-directed by Adrian Molina.

"Daddy's Home 2" (PG-13) Sensitive stepdad Will Ferrell and macho dad Mark Wahlberg return in this sequel to the 2015 comedy, this time dealing with the arrival of their own fathers just in time for Christmas. With Linda Cardellini, John Cena, John Lithgow, Mel Gibson. Written by Sean Anders & John Morris, based on characters created by Brian Burns. Directed by Anders.

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

"Ferdinand" (PG) Animated tale about a large, gentle bull determined to return to his family after being captured. Voices of John Cena, Kate McKinnon, Gina Rodriguez. Inspired by a book by Munro Leaf and Robert Lawson. Directed by Carlos Saldanha.

"Just Getting Started" (PG-13) Rivals at a Palm Springs seniors resort compete for the attention of an attractive newcomer. With Morgan Freeman, Tommy Lee Jones, Rene Russo. Written and directed by Ron Shelton.

"Justice League" (PG-13) Batman and Wonder Woman recruit a team of superheroes to defend the planet against a new threat. With Ben Affleck, Henry Cavill, Gal Gadot, Raymond Fisher, Jason Momoa, Ezra Miller. Written by Chris Terrio and Joss Whedon; story by Terrio & Zack Snyder, based on characters from DC Entertainment. Superman created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster. Directed by Snyder.

"Lady Bird" (R) As warm as it is smart, and it is very smart, this portrait of a high school senior year marks actor-screenwriter Greta Gerwig's superb debut as a solo director and yet another astonishing performance by star Saoirse Ronan.

"The Meyerowitz Stories (New and Selected)" (NR) Three adult siblings grapple with the impact their domineering father has on them. With Adam Sandler, Ben Stiller, Dustin Hoffman, Emma Thompson, Elizabeth Marvel, Grace Van Patten. Written and directed by Noah Baumbach. Streaming on Netflix.

"Mudbound" (R) Two families — one black, one white — struggle to farm the Mississippi Delta under Jim Crow laws during World War II. With Carey Mulligan, Garrett Hedlund, Jason Mitchell, Mary J. Blige, Jonathan Banks, Jason Clarke, Rob Morgan. Written by Virgil Williams and Dee Rees, based on a novel by Hillary Jordan. Directed by Rees. Streaming on Netflix.

"Murder on the Orient Express" (PG-13) Kenneth Branagh directs and stars in a mystery that plays out on a train across Europe. With Penelope Cruz, Willem Dafoe, Judi Dench, Johnny Depp, Josh Gad, Derek Jacobi, Leslie Odom Jr., Michelle Pfeiffer, Daisy Ridley. Written by Michael Green, based on the novel by Agatha Christie.


"Star Wars: The Last Jedi" (PG-13) Rey continues her search for the truth behind the Force in Episode VIII. With Daisy Ridley, Adam Driver, John Boyega, Oscar Isaac, Mark Hamill, Carrie Fisher. Written and directed by Rian Johnson; based on characters created by George Lucas.

"Thor: Ragnarok" (PG-13) Chris Hemsworth stars in the third installment as the thunder god is held prisoner without his mighty hammer. With Tom Hiddleston, Cate Blanchett, Idris Elba, Jeff Goldblum, Tessa Thompson, Karl Urban, Mark Ruffalo, Anthony Hopkins. Written by Eric Pearson; story by Craig Kyle & Christopher Yost and Pearson, based on the Marvel Comic. Directed by Taika Waititi.

"Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri" (R) Uncommon writer-director Martin McDonagh and a splendid cast top-lined by Frances McDormand, Woody Harrelson and Sam Rockwell present a savage film, even a dangerous one, the blackest take-no-prisoners farce in quite some time.

"Wonder" (PG) The factual differences that a fifth-grader was born with present challenges during entry into a mainstream school. With Julia Roberts, Owen Wilson, Jacob Tremblay, Mandy Patinkin, Daveed Diggs. Written by Jack Thorne and Steven Conrad and Stephen Chbosky; based on the novel by R. J. Palacio. Directed by Chbosky.

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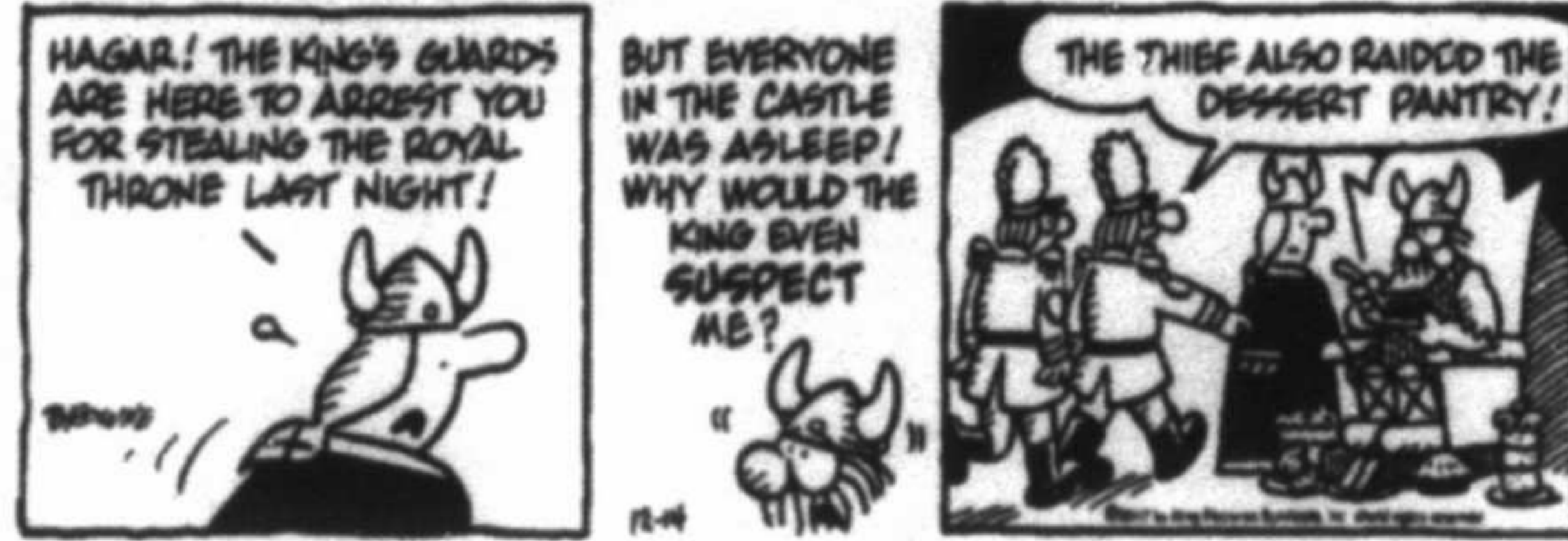
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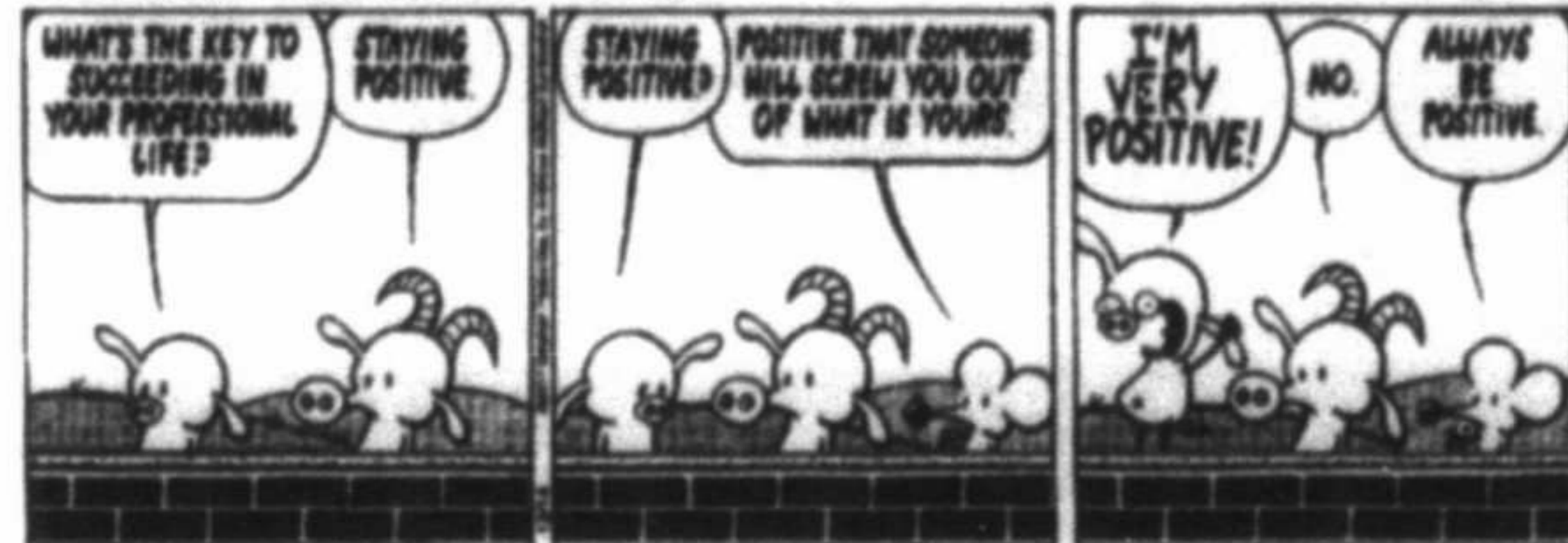
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PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



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DINING

WEEKENDER PUBLISHES A PORTION OF THE RESTAURANT GUIDE EACH WEEK. ENTREE PRICE RANGE IS BASED ON THE AVERAGE ENTREE PRICE ON THE MENU: \$ = \$1-10, \$\$ = \$10-20 AND \$\$\$ = \$20 OR MORE. RESTAURANTS ARE GIVEN A GENERAL RATING BASED ON QUALITY OF FOOD, SERVICE, CLEANLINESS, ATMOSPHERE AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE. 1 SPOON = POOR, 2 SPOONS = AVERAGE, 3 SPOONS = ABOVE AVERAGE, 4 SPOONS = GOOD AND 5 SPOONS = EXCELLENT.



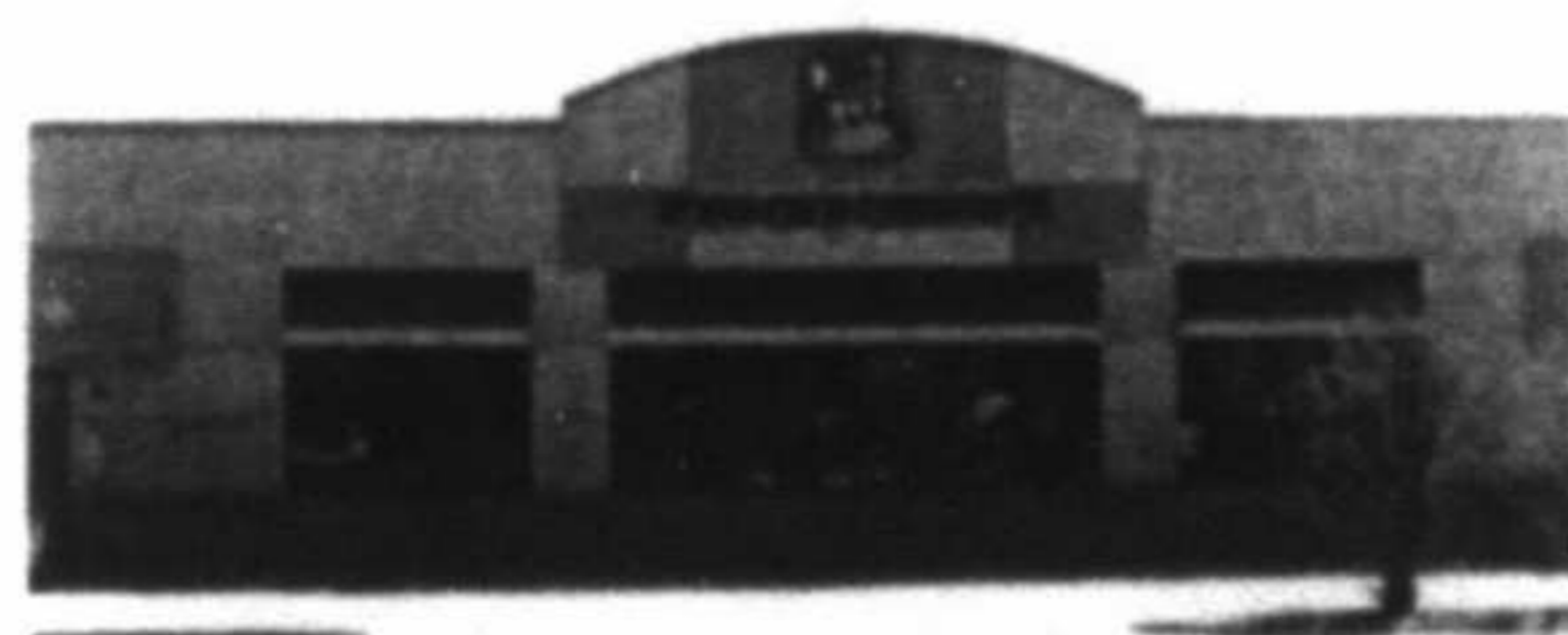
MI PIACI ITALIAN
2607 N. GRANDVIEW AVE., ODESSA | 432-362-8060



ZUCCHI'S ITALIAN RISTORANTE
1541 JOHN BEN SHEPPARD PARKWAY, ODESSA | 550-7443



VENEZIA RESTAURANT
2521 W. WADLEY AVE., #20



CHUCK E. CHEESE'S
4703 LOOP 250 FRONTAGE RD. | 697-2322



PAPA MURPHY'S TAKE 'N' BAKE PIZZA
4416 BARNWOOD AVE., SUITE 113 | 699-7272



LUCIANO'S
4511 N. MIDKIFF ROAD | 689-2244

ITALIAN & PIZZA

CARINO'S Classic Italian chain restaurant serving familiar & modern fare in a family-friendly setting. Try the Spicy Chicken Romana. 4711 Loop 250 Frontage Rd., 520-7600 | carinos.com | \$\$ | 4 spoons

CHUCK E. CHEESE'S Kid-friendly chain known for its arcade games, pizza parties, play zones & mouse mascot. Perfect for the kids' birthday parties, not so great for date night. 4703 Loop 250 Frontage Rd., 697-2322 | chuckecheese.com/storedetails/tx/midland/928 | \$ | 2 spoons

CICIS Italian chain offering buffets with an array of specialty pizzas, plus simple pastas and salads. The chain places an emphasis on its affordability so you can eat a lot for not a lot of money. 2106 Rankin Hwy. 685-3020 | http://bit.ly/2k5V5X | \$ | 2 spoons

DOMINO'S PIZZA Inconsistency is the chain's biggest flaw but when it's good, it's fantastic. The newest location at 503 E. Interstate 20 is also the first Domino's Pizza Theater in town, where customers can dine inside the restaurant, watch their food being prepared and watch television in the dining room. The other locations offer carryout and delivery. 606 N. Big Spring St. 685-3030, 3300 W. Illinois Ave. 699-3030, 4519 N. Garfield St. 689-3030 3111 Faudree Road 362-3030 | dominos.com | \$ | 3 spoons

DOUBLEDAVE'S PIZZA-WORKS Chain counter-serve pizzeria known for its Pepponi Rolls and make-your-own pizzas. 3208 N. Loop 250 W #100, 618-3283 | \$\$ | 3 spoons

FAZOLI'S Casual restaurant chain known for baked pastas, subs, pizza and other Italian fare. We recommend the Three-Cheese Tortellini Alfredo. 4505 Loop 250 Frontage Rd., 520-4260 | http://bit.ly/2t02GkM | \$ | 3 spoons

GATTI'S PIZZA Long-running chain delivering pies with a wide variety of toppings, plus spicy wings and salad. Food is served buffet-style but fresh pizza doesn't always seem to be a priority. Family-friendly spot with a huge game room that's possibly more popular than the food. 614 W. Wadley Ave. 688-3977 | http://bit.ly/2s2Nnt | \$\$ | 3 spoons

LITTLE CAESAR'S Carry-out chain featuring chicken wings, signature breadsticks and pizza tossed from housemade dough. There are three locations serve the Tall City. 5109 W. Wadley Ave #107, 618-1719; Town & Country Barber Shop, 1000 N. Midkiff Rd., 694-3676; 2106 Rankin Hwy #100, 618-8776 | littlecaesars.com | \$ | 2 spoons

LUCIANO'S Take a break from shopping for pizza, pasta, calzones or cheesecake. Luciano's serves Italian food in the Midland Park Mall food court. Try the calzone with pep-

peroni, ham, mozzarella and ricotta cheeses or go for a piece of stuffed gourmet pizza. 4511 N. Midkiff Road | 689-2244 | \$ | 4 spoons

LUIGI'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT Eat by candlelight at tables covered in red and white checkered table clothes in the heart of downtown Midland. Go for the pizza snack and the antipasto salad. 111 N. Big Spring St. 683-6363 | \$ | 5 spoons

MANNY'S ITALIAN RISTORANTE Traditional Italian food — pasta, chicken, veal, seafood. Try the fettuccini di flavia with shrimp, prosciutto, broccoli and artichokes in a creamy vodka sauce. 3211 W. Wadley Ave. 684-6595 | manny'sitalian-village.com | \$ | 5 spoons

MD PIZZA FACTORY Locally owned pizzeria with unique toppings and combinations like chicken teriyaki and Genoa pesto chicken. Lunch specials, senior and teacher discounts. 4706 N. Midkiff Road, Suite 13 682-4440 | \$ | 3 spoons

MI PIACI ITALIAN Traditional Italian food restaurant in Odessa. The garlic bread and dipping sauces make it worth the drive from Midland. 2607 N. Grandview Ave., Odessa 432-362-8060 | \$ | 4 spoons

OLIVE GARDEN ITALIAN RESTAURANT Lively, family-friendly chain known for its bread-

sticks features Italian standards such as pastas and salads, with a full bar. For a delicious change of pace, try the calamari for an appetizer and the Zuppa Toscana soup instead of the salad. 2705 Loop 250 Frontage Rd., 687-4400, olivegarden.com | \$\$ | 4 spoons

PALIO'S PIZZA CAFE Stop by during the lunch hour for a personal pizza, pasta or calzone plus a salad and drink for around \$10. You'll have money left over for a cannoli or cheesecake. 2900 W. Loop 250 N. 699-1388 | paliospizzacafe.com | \$ | 4 spoons

PAPA JOHN'S PIZZA Now with two locations in Midland, this popular chain offers several specialty pizzas, including Cheesy Chicken Cordon Bleu, Mediterranean Veggie and Hawaiian BBQ Chicken that you can order for carryout or delivery by phone or online. Make sure you add some extra yummy garlic butter dipping sauce. 4408 West Loop 250 N. 694-7272 and 1901 Rankin Highway, Suite 110, 684-4884 | papajohns.com | \$ | 3 spoons

PAPA MURPHY'S TAKE 'N' BAKE PIZZA Order a pizza with whatever toppings you like. Papa Murphy's puts it together and you take it home and bake it. It's almost like home-cooking. 4416 Briarwood Ave., Suite 113 699-7272 | papamurphys.com | \$ | 4 spoons

PIZZA HUT Four locations offer dine-in, carryout and delivery. 4400 Midland Dr #201, 694-7225; 427 Andrews Hwy., 682-3302 4320 Andrews Hwy., 697-5581; 2200 W. Wadley Ave., 683-2240 | pizzahut.com | \$\$ | 4 spoons

RAY'S ITALIAN BISTRO Offering many standard Italian dishes. Ray's also offers a wide variety of pasta dishes featuring chicken, seafood and veal plus pizza. Internet reviews rave about the food and the service. 2300 W. Wadley Ave., 682-7297, http://bit.ly/2r1vfd | \$ | 4 spoons

TORINO'S Comination pizza joint and sports bar. Go for other game-time snacks like wings, cheese sticks or fried mushrooms. 3303 N. Midkiff #110 218-6943 | \$ | 4 spoons

VENEZIA RESTAURANT Fine dining in a beautiful atmosphere. Sit on the patio if there's room and enjoy a glass of wine, veal piccata and something from the impressive dessert table. 2101 W. Wadley Ave. #20 | venezia-restaurant.info | \$\$\$ | 4 spoons

ZUCCHI'S ITALIAN RISTORANTE Well-known Odessa restaurant with unique atmosphere and distinctive menu. Try the baked harvarti in phyllo dough with raspberry sauce for an appetizer. 1541 John Ben Sheppard Parkway, Odessa 550-7443 | \$ | 4 spoons



JERSEY MIKE'S SUBS
4400 N. MIDLAND DRIVE | 695-9990



JIMMY JOHN'S GOURMET SANDWICHES
3201 N. MIDKIFF ROAD, SUITE 110 | 689-0468



TASTE@508
508 W. WALL ST. | 687-1755

DELI

FIREHOUSE SUBS National chain with tribute to local firefighters. Try the meatball sub or the Italian. Order it "fully involved" if you want all the veggies, mayonnaise, mustard and a pickle slice. 2900 W. Loop 250 N. 689-6500 | firehousesubs.com | \$ | 4 spoons

JASON'S DELI National chain has a salad bar that's hard to beat and a nice selection of sandwiches and soups. Plenty of vegetarian, organic and gluten-free options. 4610 N. Garfield St., Suite D 1-B 682-2200 | jasonsdeli.com | \$ | 4 spoons

JERSEY MIKE'S SUBS The New Jersey-based sub shop offers freshly sliced meats and special sauces on its made-to-order sandwiches. 4400 N. Midland Drive, 695-9990 | jerseylikes.com | \$ | 4 spoons

JIMMY JOHN'S GOURMET SANDWICHES The chain puts an emphasis on freshness of ingredients in its menu selections, which includes sandwiches, chips and cookies. 3201 N. Midland Road Suite 110 689-0468 | \$ | 4 spoons

LIVING 360 ORGANICS All organic, non-GMO menu includes juices, smoothies and acai bowls. Soups change daily. Sandwich-

es, wraps and a la carte items are available. Try the cold quinoa salad and a cup of soup. 3211 W. Wadley Ave., Suite 21 | 262-3411 | living-360organics.com | \$ | 4 spoons

MCALISTER'S DELI Hot and cold sandwiches, salads and soups. Combo options let you customize your meal and watch your calorie count. Two Midland locations. 2306 Rankin Highway, Suite 100, 687-0880 | 4415 W. Wadley Ave. 694-1800 | mcalistersdeli.com | \$ | 4 spoons

MURRAY'S You're sure to spot someone you know at this Midland lunch hotspot. Try the cheese soup or the turkado with curly fries. 1211 W. Wadley Ave. 697-3433 | \$ | 5 spoons

PANERA BREAD Freshly-baked pastries and cookies paired with one of its coffee drinks makes this a nice dessert spot. Or snag one of their many types of breads on display. Salads, sandwiches and soups make up the menu for a nice lunch or dinner. 2804 W. Loop 250 N. | 689-0933 | panerabread.com | \$\$ | 5 spoons

POTBELLY SANDWICH SHOP With

a fairly small menu, the chain sticks to classics such as ham and cheese, turkey and Swiss and roast beef with provolone. The shop also features a plethora of salads, cookies, shakes and soups. 1401 N. Loop 250 W | 704-5500 | \$ | 3 spoons

SCHLOTZSKY'S Chain serving deli fare, such as its original sandwich, specialty pizzas, soups and salads. Two locations: 5211 W. Wadley Ave., 683-9169; 1109 Andrews Hwy., 689-2867 | schlotzskys.com | \$ | 4 spoons

SMILING MOOSE DELI Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, this deli serves breakfast burritos, wraps, soups, sandwiches and salads. The namesake sandwich starts with ground beef on a hoagie bun. 3322 North Loop 250 West | 697-3354 | smilingmoosedeli.com | \$ | 4 spoons

SUBWAY The popular sandwich chain has 10 locations in the Tall City. The menu offers standard deli fare such as turkey and roast beef on your choice of bread along with heart-healthy items, all veggie sandwiches, salads and breakfast specialties. 610 N. Big Spring St. 682-4816, 2300 W. Wadley Ave., 682-5541, 329 Dodson St. 684-0005, 1220

N. Midkiff Road 683-8132, 101 E. Longview Ave. 685-5090, Westwood Village, 4310 West Illinois Suite 140 689-3469, 4324 Andrews Hwy. 520-0770, 4509 N. Big Spring St. 684-4058, 4517 Midland Dr. 699-1991, 3201 State Highway 158 683-8132, 2109 S. Midkiff Road 684-4533, 4400 N. Midkiff Road | 699-2428 | subway.com | \$ | 3 spoons

SWENSEN'S One menu for sandwiches, burgers, patty melts and salads and an entirely separate full menu for ice cream. Try the sourdough cheeseburger. Friendly service and a clean atmosphere. 900 W. Loop 250 N. 570-7271 | swensens.com | \$ | 4 spoons

TASTE@508 Stop by the chic downtown cafe for breakfast, lunch or a coffee break. We recommend the chocolate croissant. Cubano Westie panini and beet and goat cheese salad. 508 W. Wall St. | 687-1755 | taste508.com | \$ | 4 spoons

WHICHWICH In addition to custom sandwiches, Which Wich also offers shakes, cookies and ice cream sandwiches. The restaurant has free Wi-Fi, and several other chairs and tables outside for summer days. 100 N. Main St. Suite 400 685-1203 | \$ | 4 spoons

SPORTS

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

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Thursday, December 14, 2017 | Section C

Former Texas great Tommy Nobis dies at 74

By Paul Newberry
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Tommy Nobis, the first player drafted by the expansion Atlanta Falcons and a hard-hitting middle linebacker who was never fully recognized for his talents on a struggling franchise that failed to make the playoffs during his long career, died Wednesday. He was 74.

The team said he died at his suburban Atlanta home after an extended illness with his wife of more than 50 years, Lynn, at his side. Nobis was among hundreds of ex-NFL players who struggled with physical and cognitive ailments after their careers ended, having played in an era when no one paid much attention to the lingering impact of concussions nor thought twice about groggily going back on the field after a shot to the head.

When the Falcons reached

the Super Bowl last season, his wife told the Houston Chronicle she wasn't sure if Nobis had any idea what his former team had accomplished.

"We've told him the Falcons are in the Super Bowl, and we wear red and black," Lynn Nobis said. "But it doesn't seem to click. I don't know if he understands."

A native of San Antonio who sported a red-headed crew cut, Nobis starred on both sides of the line at the University of Texas, where his No. 60 is one of six numbers retired by the school. Despite being slowed by a knee injury during his senior season, he won the Maxwell Award as the nation's best all-around player and the Outland Trophy as top lineman. He also finished seventh in the Heisman Trophy balloting — highest among those who played defense — and appeared on the cover of Life and Sports Illustrated.

"The best defender in college football," SI declared.

He was drafted first overall by the Falcons and also picked by his home-state Houston Oilers of the American Football League, leading to a spirited bidding war that drew interest as far away as outer space. While orbiting the Earth in his Gemini spacecraft, astronaut Frank Borman — whose two sons were ball boys for the Oilers — urged Nobis to sign with Houston.

"I hope he comes here," Borman said as his spaceship flew over Houston during its 59th orbit.

Nobis wound up signing with Atlanta, becoming the first player in franchise history and a beloved figure who would forever be known as "Mr. Falcon." He earned NFL rookie of the year honors and the first of five Pro Bowl berths in 1966, the launch

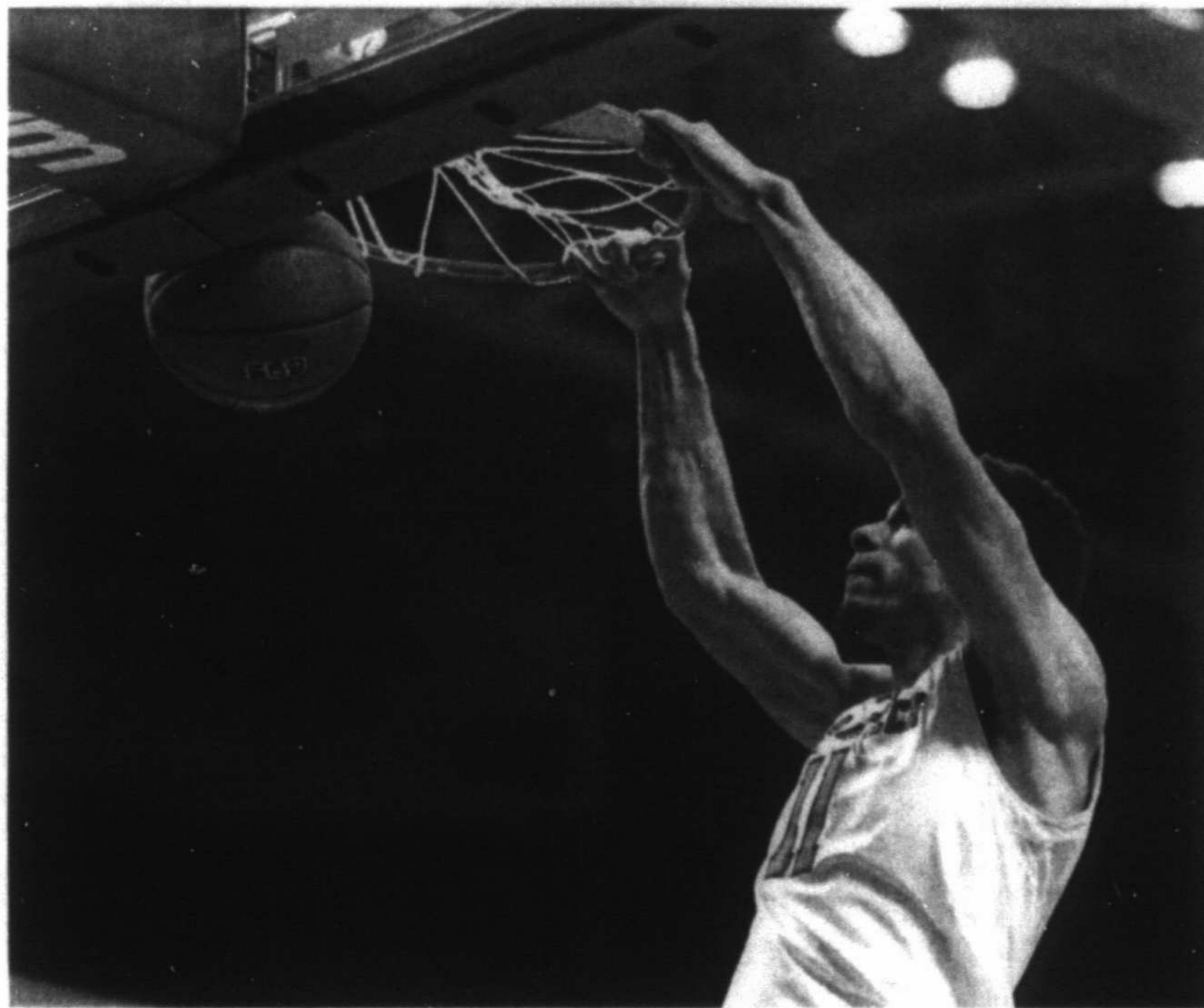


AP Photo/Phil

All-America Texas linebacker Tommy Nobis, left, and Rankin Smith, owner of the Atlanta Falcons announce Nobis' signing of a contract with the team in 1966 in Austin. Nobis, the first player ever drafted by Atlanta in 1966 and a hard-hitting linebacker who went on to spend his entire 11-year career with the team, died Wednesday after an extended illness, the team announced. He was 74.

Please see NOBIS/4C

Jam session



Brad Tolleson/Associated Press

Texas Tech's Zach Smith (11) dunks the ball during an NCAA college basketball game against Kennesaw State, Wednesday in Lubbock.

Evans leads No. 24 Texas Tech over Kennesaw State

Associated Press

LUBBOCK — Keenan Evans scored 16 points and No. 24 Texas Tech defeated Kennesaw State 82-53 on Wednesday night for its first win as a ranked team in eight years.

The Red Raiders were ranked 22nd two weeks ago when they lost to Seton Hall at Madison Square Garden and fell out of the Top 25. They returned after handing then-No. 22 Nevada its first loss last week.

Texas Tech (8-1) rolled to a 42-19 halftime lead, holding the Owls to 4-of-19 shooting and outrebounding them 26-10.

Kennesaw State (1-8) shot 33 percent for the game.

Tommy Hamilton IV and Zach Smith scored 11 points each and Justin Gray added 10 for the Red Raiders.

James Scott scored 19 points for the Owls and Tyler Hooker had 14, going 9 of 11 on free throws. Kennesaw State made more free throws (20) than field goals (14).

Texas Tech entered the rankings last month for the first time since the 2009-10 season, when the Red Raiders started 9-0, were ranked as high as 16th and reached the quarterfinals of the NIT.

Kennesaw State went almost 10 minutes

without a field goal in the first half and trailed 34-9 when that drought ended on a jumper by Scott with 4:26 left before halftime.

Big picture

Texas Tech: The Red Raiders knew the game against Nevada was a chance to redeem themselves for the loss to Seton Hall and have a chance to return to the rankings. Now that they've done it, they have got a good shot at being in the poll when Big 12 play starts.

JD Martinez meets and greets, Ozuna to Cards

By Ben Walker
Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — J.D. Martinez has a chance to see in person what his monster year is worth.

The free-agent star who hit .303 with 45 home runs was ready for a meet-and-greet session with teams at the winter meetings. The Boston Red Sox wanted to see him, having hit the fewest homers in the majors last season.

"The only reason I think you have players talk to owners, presidents and general managers is there's a request to really get to know the player," agent Scott Boras said Wednesday. "They get to ask questions that they can never ask because they're never in front of the player."

St. Louis added a power bat, swinging a deal for Marlins outfielder Marcell Ozuna, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press. The move came just a few days after Miami slugger Giancarlo Stanton turned down a trade to the Cardinals.

The bullpen carousel continued to turn, too.

Side-arming Joe Smith moved to the World Series champion Houston Astros, who wanted a right-hander tough on righty hitters after Luke Gregerson went to St. Louis.

Seattle appeared to close in on Juan Nicasio, who led the National League with 76 appearances. The New York Mets reached a deal with righty Anthony Swarzak, a person familiar with the talks told the AP.

Minnesota boosted its rotation — for late 2018, at the earliest. The Twins agreed to a \$10 million, two-year contract with former Yankees righty Michael Pineda, who had Tommy John surgery last July.

Martinez totaled 104 RBIs and a 1.066 OPS with Detroit and Arizona, and his season included a four-homer game for the Diamondbacks. The 30-year-old lives in Florida and was going to hit the meetings before they end Thursday.

The Red Sox need power, a feeling heightened by the Yankees completing a trade for Stanton this week, less than a month after he won the NL MVP by leading with majors with 59 home runs and 132 RBIs.

Ozuna joined Stanton and second baseman Dee Gordon as All-Stars traded by Miami as new CEO Derek Jeter and the Marlins cut payroll.

"Ozuna is one of those names that you have to have great respect, especially as much we see him," Cardinals manager Mike Matheny said.

An All-Star the last two seasons, the 27-year-old Ozuna set career bests this season with a .312 average, 37 homers and 124 RBIs. He is eligible for salary arbitration and likely will earn more than \$10 million.

The Cardinals quickly found a bopper after Stanton invoked his no-trade clause and blocked a deal.

"I was just very impressed the fact that we were involved in those conversations," Matheny said. "Unfortunately, that didn't work, but I think that just kind of parlayed into, OK, now what are we going to do?"

Ozuna's acquisition could prompt the Cardinals to make another trade.

Please see MEETINGS/2C

There is a reason why to watch every bowl game

By Ralph D. Russo
Associated Press

We have some bad news. It happened months ago, but there is a chance you were not paying attention when the Poinsettia Bowl passed away back in January. If you need to let that settle in, it's OK. Somehow, college football fans will have to make do with only 39 FBS-level bowl games — one fewer than a year ago.

The good news is that it still is a lot of bowls and you should watch every one.

Why? Glad you asked.

Saturday Celebration Bowl at Atlanta
North Carolina A&T vs. Grambling State, 11 a.m. (ABC)

Why watch? Last year, fans who watched the Celebration Bowl between MEAC and SWAC champions discovered FCS star Tarik Cohen, who is now ripping it up with the Chicago Bears. Allow us to introduce you to Grambling quarterback Devante Kincade. Enjoy!

Pick: NORTH CAROLINA A&T 24-17.

New Orleans Bowl
North Texas (plus 7) vs. Troy, noon. (ESPN)

Why watch? One of three Conference USA-Sun Belt matchups on the first day of bowl season. By the end you might have finally figured out which teams are in Conference USA and which teams are in the Sun Belt. There will be a quiz.

Pick: NORTH TEXAS 34-28.

Cure Bowl at Orlando, Florida
Georgia State (plus 6.5)

vs. Western Kentucky, 2:30 p.m. (CBSN)

Why watch? Sun Belt-C-USA matchup No. 2 features a quarterback in WKU's Mike White who is on the NFL's radar.

Pick: WESTERN KENTUCKY 28-17.

Las Vegas Bowl
No. 25 Boise State (plus 7) vs. Oregon, 3:30 p.m. (ABC)

Why watch? Get a look at the quarterback everybody will be talking about heading into next season: Oregon's

Please see BOWLS/4C

DAILY RUNDOWN

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

- Alpine Skiing Audi World Cup: Men's Super-G, 5 a.m., OLYHD
Baseball Asian Winter League 5th Place Game, 4 a.m., MLB
Boxing Diego De La Hoya vs. Jose Salgado, 9:30 p.m., ESPN2, ESPNDEP
Golf Asian Tour: Indonesian Masters, 2nd Round, 11 p.m., GOLF
High School Basketball Webster Groves (MO) at Memphis East (TN), 6 p.m., ESPN2
Hockey AHL: Cleveland at San Antonio, 7 p.m., FSSW
Men's College Basketball Valparaiso at Northwestern, 7 p.m., BTN
Texas Southern at Baylor, 7:30 p.m., ESPN2
Men's Soccer FA Cup: Hereford vs. Fleetwood Town, 1:40 p.m., FSP
National Basketball Association LA Lakers at Cleveland, 7 p.m., TNT
Dallas at Golden State, 9:30 p.m., TNT
NBA G-League Fort Wayne at Maine, 6 p.m., ESPN
National Football League Denver at Indianapolis, 7:25 p.m., NBC, NFL, Amazon! Prime
National Hockey League Pittsburgh at Vegas, 9 p.m., NHL
Olympic Trials Curling: Mixed Doubles, 6 p.m., NBCSN
Rodeo National Finals, 9 p.m., CBSN
Women's College Volleyball Semifinal: Penn State vs. Nebraska, 6 p.m., ESPN
Semifinal: Stanford vs. Florida, 8:30 p.m., ESPN RADIO
National Basketball Dallas at Golden State, 9:30 p.m., KBST 1490 AM (Big Spring)

WHAT'S ON DECK

- HS Boys Basketball Coahoma at Klondike Tournament
HS Girls Basketball Coahoma at Sands Tournament
Midland Christian, Trinity at Buena Vista Tournament

LATE HS BASKETBALL

Table with columns for game details, scores, and dates. Includes games like Tulsa vs. Muskogee, etc.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL American League MINNESOTA TWINS - Signed to terms with RHP Michael Pineda on a one-year contract. SEATTLE MARINERS - Acquired RHP Thayer Armstrong from Cleveland and LHP Anthony Misiewicz from Tampa Bay for future considerations.
Frontier League FLORENCE FREEDOM - Signed C Craig Lewis to a contract extension. GAITHERSBURG GRIZZLIES - Signed RHP Mike Everett, RHP Kyle Richards, and RHP Brent Sakala to contract extensions.
Normal Cornbelters - Signed RHP Ryan Caperton. Estimated the 2018 contract option on OF Diego Castano, C Brian Hooten, RHP Ben McFarland, OF Ty Moore, LHP Matt Proulx, LHP Matt Proulx, RHP Jason Rios, and RHP Chance Simpson.
SCHALMERS BOOMERS - Signed RHP KJ Fowler to a contract extension.
WASHINGTON WILD THINGS - Sold the contract of OF Brian Jackson to the Pittsburgh Pirates.
BASKETBALL National Basketball Association ATLANTA HAWKS - Traded G Josh Smith to the Boston Celtics. MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES - Assigned F Jermar Robinson to the Memphis Grizzlies. PHOENIX SUNS - Signed D coach Cassin Hill.
National Football League ARIZONA CARDINALS - Re-signed WR Carter Atkins to the practice squad. CLEVELAND BROWNS - Signed DE Lashon Merriweather to the practice squad. WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM - Signed WR Terrence Hill to the practice squad.
DENVER BRONCOS - Placed S Justin Simmons on injured reserve. GREEN BAY PACKERS - Signed WR Cobie Smith to the practice squad. HOUSTON TEXANS - Signed S Stephen Campbell to the practice squad. Released WR Owen Lucas from the practice squad.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS - Signed WR Harry Bill, Re-signed DT Ricky Jean-Francois, Re-signed LB Jonathan Freese, and WR Bennett Hoyer. Placed OL Marcus Cannon on injured reserve.
OKLAHOMA RAIDERS - Signed DT Derius Lathan. Placed LB Cory James on injured reserve. Signed DT Jody Sarr Flour to the practice squad.
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS - Signed LB Paul

NHL GLANCE

Standings table for NHL Eastern Conference, Metropolitan Division, and Western Conference.

NFL GLANCE

Standings table for NFL American Conference, National Conference, and AFC South.

YOUTH SPORTS

Newsom brothers selected as Offense-Defense All-Americans

From staff reports

Brothers Coiten and Ethan Newsom, of Midland, have been named as Offense-Defense All-Americans and both have been invited to participate in the 12th Annual Offense-Defense Bowl Week festivities taking place later this month in New Orleans.

Coiten, 12, is a quarterback, who plays for the GMFL Patriots, the four-time GMFL Super Bowl champions, while Ethan, 9, is a center who played for the GMFL fourth grade Patriots, the two-time GMFL Super Bowl champions.

The brothers both attended an Offense-Defense football camp over the summer and were selected as All-Americans among a group of thousands from across the country.

The Offense-Defense All-American Bowl is the culmination of a week-long worth of event that includes an All-Star football game showcasing 88 of the top high school seniors in the country.



Ethan, left, and Coiten Newsom, right, have both been selected for the Offense-Defense Bowl in New Orleans later this month.

Benn has a goal, 2 assists to lead Stars past Islanders, 5-2

By Vin A. Cherwoo Associated Press

NEW YORK — Tyler Pitlick scored twice and Jamie Benn had a goal and two assists to lead the Dallas Stars to a 5-2 victory over the New York Islanders on Wednesday night.

Alexander Radulov and Remi Elie also scored for the Stars, who won their second straight after a three-game skid. Kari Lehtonen stopped 32 shots for his 300th career victory, and John Klingberg had two assists.

Anders Lee scored twice for the Islanders, who have lost five of seven (2-4-1), and John Tavares and Josh Bailey each had two assists. Jaroslav Halak, starting for the seventh time in nine games, was pulled near the midpoint

of the second period after giving up four goals on 20 shots. Thomas Greiss came on and stopped six of the seven shots he faced.

Leading 2-0 after one period, the Stars added to their lead 1:01 into the second. Devin Shore got a pass from Klingberg and fired a shot from the right side that Halak stopped. However, the rebound went in front and Elie fired it in before the Islanders' goalie could recover for his fourth.

Benn made it 4-0 at 9:21 as he brought the puck up the left side, paused briefly above the left circle and fired a shot past Halak for his 13th.

Greiss came on to replace Halak after that. Josh Bailey fed the inside of the right goalpost with 9 1/2 minutes remaining in the second for the Island-

ers, and Casey Cizikas also hit a post about three minutes later.

Pitlick made it 5-0 with his second of the night and fifth of the season just 21 seconds into the third, deflecting a point shot by Klingberg past Greiss. Benn had an assist on the play, giving him two goals and three assists in his last three games.

Lee put in a deflection 45 seconds later to get New York on the scoreboard, and made it 5-2 with his 19th with 4 1/2 minutes remaining.

Both teams had chances in the opening period, in which the Islanders outshot the Stars 15-14. Halak denied a tip-in by Brett Ritchie about 2 1/2 minutes in and made a right pad save on a shot by Radulov less than two minutes later.

Lehtonen had a pad save on Calvin de Haan 30 seconds earlier.

The Stars took a 1-0 lead at 7:37 as Dan Hamhuis fired a shot from above circle that bounced off the end boards and came right to Pitlick, who put it in from the left side for his fourth of the season.

Jordan Eberle fired a shot that Lehtonen knocked down and smothered with about 8 minutes left. The Stars' goalie also denied Andrew Ladd's attempt on a rebound in front less than a minute later and a deflection by Tavares in close with a little more than five minutes to go.

Radulov made it 2-0 with 4:14 remaining in the first, firing it past Halak from outside the right circle in front of the side boards for his 10th.

Costas wins Hall's Frick Award for baseball broadcasting

By Ben Walker Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — As a boy, Bob Costas took a cross-country drive with his dad, delighting in spinning the radio dial and listening "through the crackle and static" to broadcasts from far-flung ballparks.

He pulled in the big stations — WJR in Detroit, KDKA in Pittsburgh, WBAL in Baltimore and beyond — mesmerized by the games.

And the great voices that called them. On Wednesday, Costas joined them. Familiar to fans for four decades, he won the Ford C. Frick Award presented by the baseball Hall of Fame for broadcasting excellence.

"Even if you're coming off the bench, you're on the same team as Jack Buck, Vin Scully, Ernie Harwell, Red Barber, Harry Caray and Mel Allen," he said, naming a few famed announcers.

The honor was announced at the winter meetings. A 28-time Emmy Award winner who's called the Olympics and several other sports, the 65-year-old Costas said he was humbled by the award.

"Because of my love of baseball and because of the other names that (won the Frick Award), this is at the top of

the list," he said on a conference call. "No disrespect of all the other awards, because they all mean a lot to me, but this means the most."

Mixing history, anecdotes and analysis, Costas is popular with viewers and listeners, using his words to paint pictures from the parks.

"For almost 40 years, Bob Costas has presented an incredibly thoughtful and informed voice on every game he calls for NBC, The Baseball Network and MLB Network," Hall President Jeff Idelson said.

"But it's Bob's pure affection for baseball that has made him a national treasure. From the first day he entered our living rooms, Bob became one of the national pastime's greatest friends," he said.

Said Costas: "It's always been my favorite sport to broadcast." Costas has long carried at 1958 Mickey Mantle card in his wallet, a nod to his boyhood hero, the star whose games he listened to on his transistor radio growing up in New York.

They eventually became friends, and Costas delivered the eulogy at Mantle's funeral. Costas later did the eulogy for Cardinals great Stan Musial.

Costas also calls St. Louis home, dating to his days at KMOX radio and his time doing play-by-play for the Spirits of St. Louis in the American

Baseball Association on KMOX-AM.

He didn't do baseball then — the Cardinals had the revered Jack Buck at the microphone — and Costas said he soaked up those broadcasts.

Costas' first chance to baseball came after he moved to NBC. And a lucky break let him get on the air for the first time.

He was assigned a Saturday game at Yankee Stadium on the final weekend of the 1980 season, working with Bobby Valentine. But there was a catch to that Tigers-New York tilt on NBC: It was the backup game, meaning it would only be seen if the main game didn't get on the air.

In fact, he said the featured game was delayed for four hours by rain, so Costas made his big league broadcasting debut.

"I'm sure there was some fan in Tacoma scratching his head and wondering who the hell is this kid doing this?" Costas said, laughing.

Over the years, Costas has handled play-by-play and pregame assignments at the World Series, postseason and regular season. He's called games and been a documentary host for the MLB Network for nine seasons, and praised John Smoltz, Jim Kaat, Tony Kubek, Bob Uecker and others he's worked with throughout his career.

for us to continue working together. May not. It's a business on both ends," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said. "He's certainly of interest, but because of who he is and what he continues to do, he's of interest elsewhere, too."

MEETINGS

From 1C

with outfielder Stephen Piscotty perhaps heading to Oakland.

While Yu Darvish and Jake Arrieta remain the top free-agent starters on the market, CC Sabathia also is available.

The 37-year-old lefty, who went 14-5 with a 3.69 ERA last season for the Yankees, met this week with Toronto.

"He's a workhorse, man," Blue Jays manager John Gibbons said. "He's always pitched well against us. One of the great com-

petitors in the game for a number of years. I thought he looked strong last year."

Sabathia has played since 2009 for the New York Yankees, who would like him to remain.

"He's been a great performer for us, and there may very well be a chance

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NBAROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

ROCKETS 108 HORNETS 96
HOUSTON — Chris Paul scored a season-high 31 points, James Harden added 21 and Houston beat Charlotte to extend its NBA-best winning streak to 11 games.
The Rockets have won 17 of their last 18 games to improve to 22-4, the best record in the league.
Houston led by one late in the first before scoring 25 straight points over the end of that quarter and the beginning of the second to make it 49-23.
Dwight Howard tied a season high with 26 points and had 18 rebounds and three blocks for the Hornets. They've dropped nine of their last 10.

THUNDER 100 PACERS 95
INDIANAPOLIS — Paul George made a winning return to Indiana, hitting the clinching free throws with 10.7 seconds left in the Oklahoma City Thunder's 100-95 victory over the Pacers on Wednesday night.
Steven Adams had 23 points and 13 rebounds, and Russell Westbrook finished with 10 points, 17 rebounds and 12 assists in his ninth triple-double this season. The Thunder have won two straight on the road.
Former Oklahoma City guard Victor Oladipo led the Pacers with 19 points and Bojan Bogdanovic had 15. Indiana had a chance to tie after getting the ball back with 15.2 seconds left, but committed a turnover and then fouled George. The Pacers' winning streak ended at four.
But the highly anticipated matchup between George and Oladipo, the key components in last summer's blockbuster trade, didn't go as expected.
George was booed loudly during introductions and every time he touched the ball. Fans only cheered for George when he was called for a foul or made a mistake and it seemed to take a toll on the four-time All-Star. He finished 12 points on 3-of-14 shooting, had two rebounds and four turnovers.
Oladipo, the reigning Eastern Conference player of the week, didn't have a typical night either. He was 9 of 26 with five rebounds and six assists.

CELTICS 124 NUGGETS 118
BOSTON — Kyrie Irving had 33 points and Boston shot a season-high 60 percent from the field to rout Denver in the Celtics' highest-scoring game of the season.
Irving added seven assists in his return after missing a blowout loss Monday night in Chicago because of a bruised left quadriceps. It was his eighth game this season with 30 or more points. Jaylen Brown finished with 26 points and five rebounds.
Gary Harris led the Nuggets with a career-high 38 points and six assists. Jamal Murray added 28 points and 10 assists. Denver's Nikola Jokic sat out his seventh straight game with a left ankle sprain.

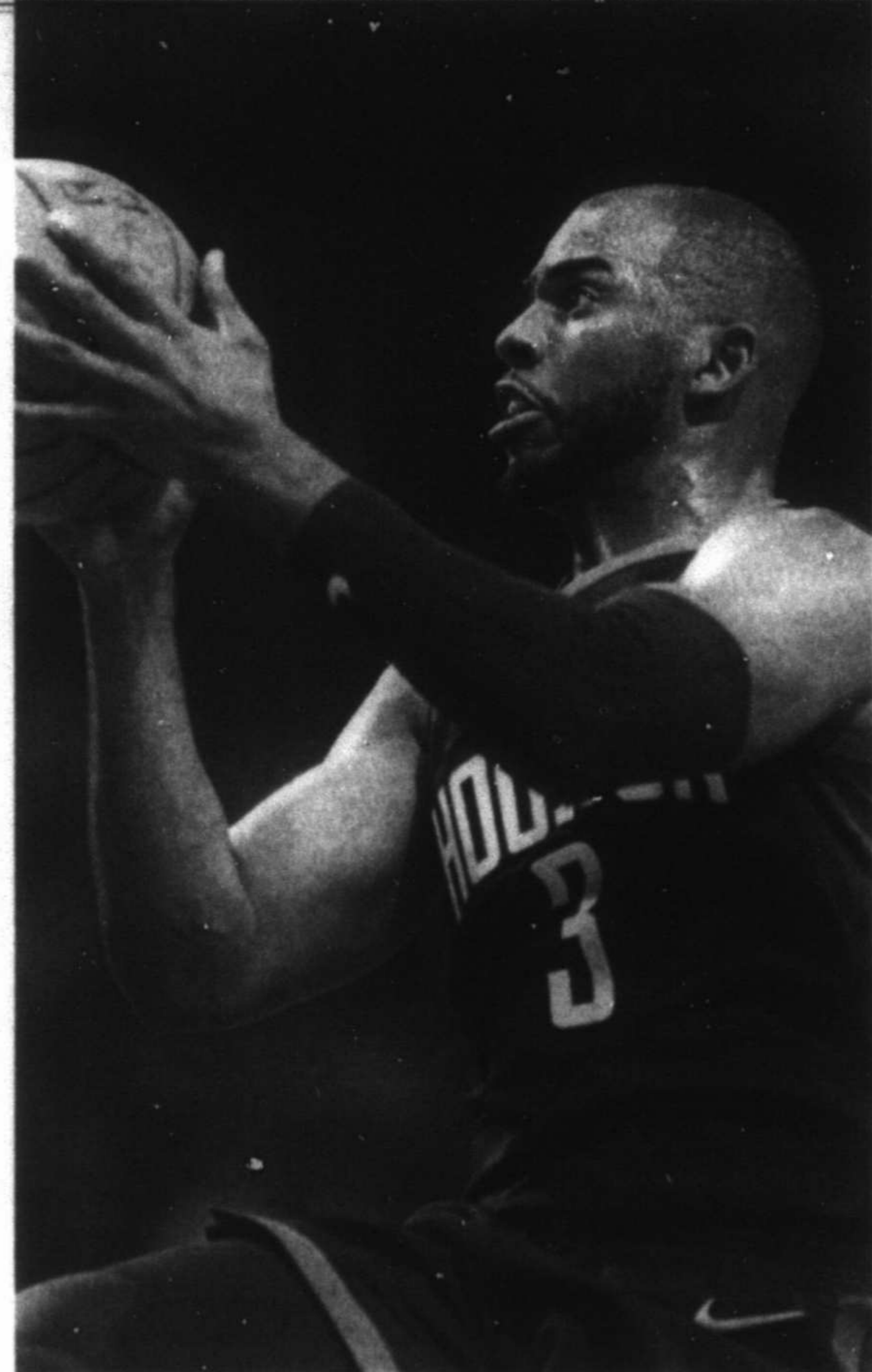
WIZARDS 93 GRIZZLIES 87
WASHINGTON — Bradley Beal scored 18 points and John Wall had 13 in his return from a sore knee to help Washington hold off Memphis.
Beal scored 11 points in the fourth quarter, hitting three 3-pointers. Otto Porter Jr. added 14 points, and Marcin Gortat had 12. Wall missed nine goes, with Washington going 4-5 in his absence.
Andrew Harrison led Memphis with 20 points, JaMychal Green had 15 points and 15 rebounds, and Marc Gasol had 15 points and 10 rebounds. The Grizzlies have lost five straight and 16 out of 17.

TRAIL BLAZERS 102 HEAT 95
MIAMI — Damian Lillard scored seven of his 18 points in the final 3:16, and the Portland Trail Blazers overcame a 16-point second-half deficit to beat Miami and snap a five-game losing streak.
Lillard had only one field goal in the first 31 minutes. But he converted a three-point play put the Trail Blazers ahead to stay, 98-95, and sank two free throws on their next possession for a five-point lead. CJ McCollum scored 28 points for the Trail Blazers.
Miami reserve Wayne Ellington sank seven 3-pointers and scored a season-high 24 points.

PELICANS 115 BUCKS 106
NEW ORLEANS — DeMarcus Cousins had 26 points and 13 rebounds and New Orleans beat Milwaukee.
The Pelicans turned the ball over 21 times, with nine committed by Cousins, but the mercurial All-Star center came through in the clutch with a couple of soaring dunks — one on a putback and another on a cut down the lane — and added a 3-pointer with 22 seconds left that put it virtually out of reach.
Anthony Davis returned from a one-game absence caused by a nagging adductor injury to score 25 points and grab 10 rebounds. Giannis Antetokounmpo had 32 points and nine rebounds for Milwaukee.

BULLS 103 JAZZ 100
CHICAGO — Nikola Mirotic scored 29 points, Kris Dunn hit a clutch jumper with 22 seconds left and Chicago beat Utah for its fourth straight victory.
Mirotic made 11 of 18 shots from the field and grabbed nine rebounds in his best performance since he returned last week after missing the start of the season with facial fractures. The 6-foot-10 forward got hurt in a practice fight with teammate Bobby Portis, throwing the future of both players in question, but the Bulls are perfect since Mirotic returned to the court.
Donovan Mitchell led Utah with 32 points on 15-for-26 shooting.

RAPTORS 115 SUNS 109
PHOENIX — DeMar DeRozan matched his season high with 37 points and Toronto beat Phoenix for its seventh victory in eight games.
DeRozan scored 18 points in the third quarter and Toronto led by as many as 15 before the Suns rallied in the fourth. Serge Ibaka had 21 points and 13 rebounds, and Jonas Valanciunas added 20 points and 11 rebounds for the Raptors. Toronto was 3-1 on its four-game trip.
Troy Daniels led the Suns with a season-high 32 points on 11-of-16 shooting, including 7 of 10 on 3-pointers. Phoenix was lost five straight and seven of eight — the last four losses with star guard Devin Booker sidelined by a groin injury.



Elizabeth Conley/Houston Chronicle
Houston Rockets guard Chris Paul (3) drives to the basket in the second quarter against the Charlotte Hornets at the Toyota Center on Wednesday in Houston.

Patriots sign WR Kenny Britt, Cannon to IR

By Jimmy Golen
Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — The New England Patriots have beefed up Tom Brady's receiving corps for this week's game against the Pittsburgh Steelers, adding veteran Kenny Britt.
They'll also get tight end Rob Gronkowski back after his one-game suspension. Also Wednesday, tackle Marcus Cannon was placed on injured reserve.
A second-team AP All-Pro last season, Cannon, an alum of Odessa High, played in seven of the first eight games but missed the last five with an ankle injury.
Britt, a 2009 first-round pick out of

Rutgers, was released by Cleveland last week in his first season after signing a four-year, \$32.5 million contract in March. He appeared in nine games with four starts for the Browns, catching 18 passes for 233 yards and two touchdowns.
But the Patriots' corps of wideouts is on the small side, and at 6-foot-3, 215 pounds, Britt gives Brady another big target to go with Gronkowski.
"He's a good guy, a joy to be around, always upbeat, always smiling ear to ear, a physical guy, obviously big-bodied guy," said Patriots defensive back Devin McCourty, who also went to Rutgers.
"I'm excited for him (to have) the opportunity to come here and try to catch on," McCourty said. "Obviously,

it's tough coming in at this point in the year, just trying to learn as much as possible and get out there."
Britt was plagued by dropped passes and penalties with the Browns. He was also sent back to Cleveland along with fellow wide receiver Corey Coleman in October for missing curfew while the team was in Houston to play the Texans.
"I've played against him. He's a pretty good receiver," Patriots defensive back Stephon Gilmore said. "I'm glad to have him on my team."
The Patriots also re-signed defensive lineman Ricky Jean Francois. Linebacker Jonathan Freeny and receiver Bernard Reedy were released to make room on the roster.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL AT A GLANCE

Men

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| SOUTHWEST | SOUTHWEST |
| BSU 79, New Orleans 88 | Boyer 81, Missouri 51 34 |
| Texas A&M 113, Savannah 51 46 | Texas 88, Northwestern 51 44 |
| Texas Tech 82, Mississippi 51 53 | Texas Tech 89, Prairie View 60 |
| SOUTH | SOUTH |
| Alabama 82, Mississippi 61 | Dalhousie-Cookman 88, Southern U. 56 |
| LSU 80, Houston 77 | Longwood 86, Michigan 56 |
| Mississippi 82, Sam Houston 51 69 | Louisiana-Lakeville 88, SE Louisiana 54 |
| North Florida 57, FIU 81 | Mississippi St. 80, Oregon 79 |
| Southern Miss. 89, Alabama A&M 54 | PAC WEST |
| UNC-Charlotte 71, UNC-Wilmington 58 | Oregon St. 84, Savannah 51 36 |
| PAC WEST | Suffolk 78, Montana 84 |
| N. Colorado 83, Denver 80 | MIDWEST |
| Bradley 81, ULR 46 | Duquesne 82, Northwestern 83 |
| Illinois 82, Longwood 45 | Missouri 112, Cal Poly 88 |
| Indiana-Ohio 77, Arkansas 51 74 | EAST |
| U. of Mississippi 81, 51 | Rutgers 70, Princeton 50 |
| Western Ill. W. Kentucky 80 | UCF 47, Boston U. 52 |
| EAST | UMass Lowell 73, Mass. Lowell 61 |
| Duquesne 73, NYU 69 | |
| Mass. Lowell 87, Boston U. 82 | |
| Villanova 87, Temple 87 | |

Top 25 Fared

1. Villanova (11-0) beat Temple 87-67, beat vs. Indiana, Friday, Dec. 22
2. Michigan State (9-1) did not play, beat vs. Oakland, Saturday
3. Wichita State (9-1) did not play, beat vs. Chapman, Saturday
4. Duke (11-1) did not play, beat vs. Evansville, Wednesday, Dec. 20
5. Arizona State (9-0) did not play, beat vs. Vanderbilt, Sunday
6. Miami (9-0) did not play, beat at George Washington, Saturday
7. North Carolina (9-1) did not play, beat at No. 20 Tennessee, Sunday
8. Kentucky (9-1) did not play, beat vs. Virginia Tech, Saturday
9. Texas A&M (9-1) beat Savannah State 113-66, beat vs. Northern Kentucky, Tuesday
10. Xavier (9-1) did not play, beat vs. ETSU, Saturday
11. West Virginia (9-1) did not play, beat vs. Coppertown, Wednesday, Dec. 20
12. Gonzaga (9-0) did not play, beat vs. North Dakota, Saturday
13. Kansas (7-2) did not play, beat at the beach, Saturday, beat vs. Omaha, Monday
14. TCU (10-0) did not play, beat vs. Texas Southern, Monday
15. Boston Hall (9-1) did not play, beat at Rutgers, Saturday
16. Virginia (9-1) did not play, beat vs. Davidson, Saturday
17. Florida (10-0) did not play, beat vs. Butler, Saturday
18. Boise State (9-0) did not play, beat vs. Indiana, Saturday
19. Florida State (9-0) did not play, beat vs. Oklahoma State, Saturday
20. Tennessee (7-1) did not play, beat vs. No. 7 North Carolina, Saturday
21. Baylor (7-2) did not play, beat vs. Texas Southern, Thursday
22. Baylor (7-2) did not play, beat vs. Clemson, Saturday
23. Arizona (7-0) did not play, beat at Iowa, Saturday
24. Texas Tech (9-1) beat Tennessee State 80-55, beat vs. Rice, Saturday
25. Cincinnati (8-2) did not play, beat at UCLA, Saturday

TEXAS COLLEGE BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

NO. 9 TEXAS A&M 113 SAVANNAH STATE 66
COLLEGE STATION — Tyler Davis recorded a double-double before halftime and No. 9 Texas A&M put seven players in double figures while rolling over Savannah State 113-66 on Wednesday night.
D.J. Hogg led the balanced scoring for the Aggies (9-1) with 18 points. Davis overpowered the smaller Tigers (3-8) near the basket, finishing with 17 rebounds and 14 points on 5-of-9 shooting.
A&M produced its highest point total since the 1988-89 season, connecting on a school-record 16 3-pointers in 38 attempts. Hogg made 5 of 9 from 3-point range, while point guard Duane Wilson and reserve T.J. Starks hit four apiece.
Javaris Jenkins led Savannah State of the MEAC with 18 points. The Tigers, who lead the country in 3-point attempts, fired 40 shots from beyond the arc, making 12.
The Aggies scored the last 10 points of the first half, building a 52-33 lead. Savannah State got no closer than 19 points in the second half.



Sam Craft/Associated Press
Texas A&M center Tyler Davis (34) looks to shoot against Savannah State forward Javaris Jenkins (5) during the first half Wednesday in College Station.

OLE MISS 82 SAM HOUSTON ST. 69
OXFORD, Miss. — Markel Crawford scored 16 points to lead four in double figures as Mississippi beat Sam Houston State 82-69 on Wednesday night.
The Rebels (5-4) snapped a three-game losing streak, taking a 39-33 halftime lead and stretched it by as many as 20 points midway through the second half. Devontae Shuler scored 14 points. Bruce Stevens added 13 and Deshaun Burnett had 12 points in a balanced attack.
Chris Galbreath Jr. had a game-high 22 points and nine rebounds for Sam Houston State (5-5). John Dewey III and Cameron Delaney had 12 points apiece as the Bearkats finished 26 of 64 (40 percent) from the field. Dewey had 10 of the Bearkats' 19 assists.
The Rebels shot 31 of 60 (52 percent) from the field, 10 of 29 (35 percent) from 3-point

range, including 4-of-8 shooting from Crawford. Ole Miss out-rebounded the Bearkats 43-30, including a team-high nine from Marcaravis Hymon.
LSU 89 HOUSTON 77
BATON ROUGE, La. — Aaron Epps scored a career-high 26 points and Tremont Waters blocked a game-tying 3-point attempt in the final seconds as LSU defeated Houston 89-77 on Wednesday night.
Epps, who also grabbed a career-high 18 rebounds, put the Tigers (5-2) ahead by six points on a 3-point play with 57 seconds remaining. Rob Gray pulled the Cougars within three points at 80-77 on a 3-pointer to tie it, but the 5-foot-11 Waters blocked Corey Davis Jr.'s 3-point attempt with six seconds to play. Owen Davis missed a long 3-point shot at the buzzer for the Cougars.
Waters had 17 points and six assists to go along with his

first blocked shot of the season for the Tigers, who never trailed during the final 6½ minutes. Mays had 18 points and a career-high nine rebounds.
Gray and Corey Davis Jr. scored 20 points apiece for Houston, whose winning streak ended at seven games. Devin Davis had 14 points.
WOMEN
NO. 6 BAYLOR 95 MCNEESE STATE 54
WACO — Kristy Wallace scored 20 points and No. 6 Baylor opened on a 27-3 run to rout McNeese State 95-54 on Wednesday.
Kalani Brown had 17 points and 16 rebounds, and Didi Richards added 11 points and 12 rebounds for her first career double-double with the Lady Bears (9-1), who were playing their first game in eight days. Baylor shot 44 percent (36 of 80), including 39 percent from 3-point range (9 of 23).
Natalie Chou scored 17 points, Juley Landrum had 10 and Wallace had five assists to bring her total over the last

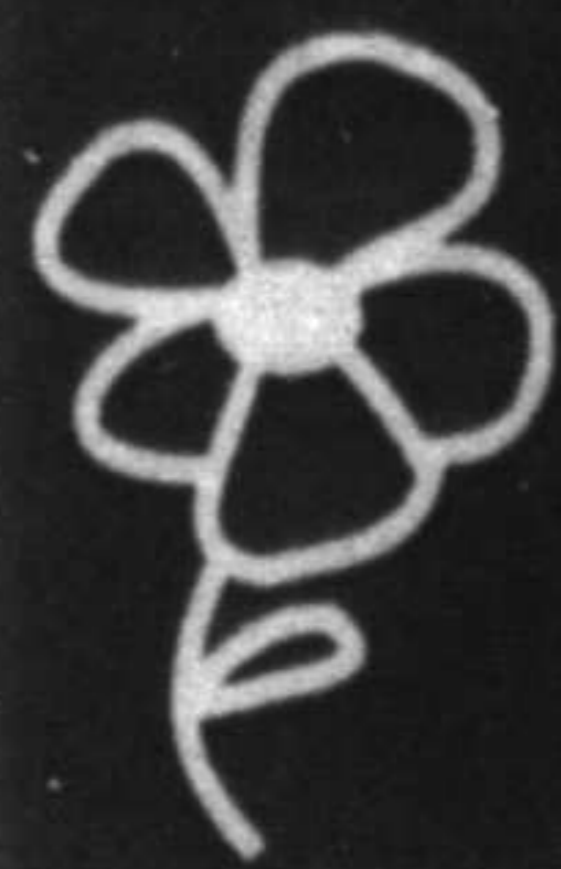
three games to 20 with only one turnover. Moon Ursin grabbed a career-high 12 rebounds.
McNeese State (4-5) shot 18 percent (11 of 61) and didn't make its first two-point field goal until the 8:53 mark of the second quarter. The Cougars didn't have a player reach double figures, with Gabby Guindy scoring a team-high seven.
Baylor dominated in the paint, 50-10, and turned 21 McNeese State turnovers into 23 points.
NO. 8 TEXAS 86 NORTHWESTERN STATE 44
AUSTIN — Ariel Atkins had 13 points, seven rebounds and three steals in only 21 minutes and No. 8 Texas beat Northwestern State 86-44 on Wednesday night.
The senior guard converted all six of her shots from the field for the Longhorns (8-1). Center Jataria White added 15 points in 19 minutes, and Jade Underwood had 11 points.

NBA GLANCE

Standings

| EASTERN CONFERENCE | | | | WESTERN CONFERENCE | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|-----|--------------------|----|----|-----|
| Atlantic Division | | | | Pacific Division | | | |
| Boston | 24 | 8 | 880 | Golden State | 22 | 6 | 780 |
| Toronto | 16 | 8 | 882 | L.A. Clippers | 11 | 15 | 423 |
| New York | 14 | 11 | 819 | L.A. Lakers | 9 | 18 | 389 |
| Philadelphia | 14 | 13 | 819 | Sacramento | 9 | 18 | 329 |
| Brooklyn | 11 | 12 | 403 | Phoenix | 9 | 21 | 359 |
| Southeast Division | | | | Northwest Division | | | |
| Washington | 15 | 13 | 826 | Portland | 20 | 8 | 714 |
| Miami | 12 | 14 | 811 | Minnesota | 15 | 11 | 577 |
| Orlando | 11 | 18 | 379 | Indiana | 16 | 12 | 571 |
| Charlotte | 10 | 17 | 379 | New Orleans | 14 | 13 | 519 |
| Atlanta | 8 | 21 | 252 | Chicago | 7 | 25 | 229 |
| Central Division | | | | Southwest Division | | | |
| Cleveland | 20 | 8 | 714 | Houston | 22 | 4 | 880 |
| Milwaukee | 15 | 11 | 577 | San Antonio | 19 | 9 | 679 |
| Indiana | 16 | 12 | 571 | New Orleans | 14 | 13 | 517 |
| Minnesota | 14 | 13 | 519 | Memphis | 8 | 20 | 286 |
| Chicago | 7 | 25 | 229 | Dallas | 8 | 20 | 286 |
| | | | | Northeast Division | 8 | 21 | 252 |

Scores & Schedule
Wednesday's Scores
L.A. Clippers 105, Orlando 80
Chicago 103, Indiana 85
Washington 83, Memphis 87
Boston 124, Denver 118
Portland 102, Miami 99
Chicago 102, Utah 100
New Orleans 715, Milwaukee 108
Toronto 115, Phoenix 108
Houston 108, Charlotte 99
Thursday's Games
Detroit at Atlanta, 6:30 p.m.
New York at Brooklyn, 6:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
Sacramento at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Golden State, 8:30 p.m.



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THURSDAY PRIME TIME DECEMBER 14, 2017

| Channel | 6:30 | 7:00 | 7:30 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 |
|----------|--------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| KMDZ ABC | Jeopardy! | Wheel | College Football | Prep & Landing | Baking Show | Baking Show | News | News | News | News | News |
| KOSA CBS | 7 News | Ent. Tonight | The Big Bang | Young Sheldon | Man | Pieces | News | News | News | News | News |
| KWWT CW | M*A*S*H | M*A*S*H | A. Griffith | A. Griffith | Mama's Family | ALF | Hogan's Heroes | Hogan's Heroes | Carol Burnett | Ferry Mason | Tonight Zone |
| KPEL FOX | The Big Bang | Big Bang Theory | Showtime Apollo Christmas | Yogi's White Hot Holidays | News | TMZ | News | Modern Family | Modern Family | Modern Family | Met Mother |
| KMLM IND | About Us | Miscellaneous | Update | Wings of Truth | Light of the Southwest | Light of the Southwest | Faith for Families | Our Messiah | Fruits of Zion | Biblical Israel | The Tonight Show |
| KWES NBC | News | Football | Football | Football | Football | Football | Football | Football | Football | Football | Football |
| KPBT PBS | PBS NewsHour | Daytop | Two for the Road | A Chef's Life Holiday Special | Baking Christmas | History Detectives | News | News | News | News | News |
| KUPB UNI | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| KOSA MNT | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| FLIX | 340 | 340 | 340 | 340 | 340 | 340 | 340 | 340 | 340 | 340 | 340 |
| NBO | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 |
| NBO2 | 302 | 302 | 302 | 302 | 302 | 302 | 302 | 302 | 302 | 302 | 302 |
| NBO3 | 304 | 304 | 304 | 304 | 304 | 304 | 304 | 304 | 304 | 304 | 304 |
| MAX | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 |
| MAX2 | 302 | 302 | 302 | 302 | 302 | 302 | 302 | 302 | 302 | 302 | 302 |
| FLIX | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 |
| SHOW | 320 | 320 | 320 | 320 | 320 | 320 | 320 | 320 | 320 | 320 | 320 |
| TMC | 336 | 336 | 336 | 336 | 336 | 336 | 336 | 336 | 336 | 336 | 336 |
| ABC | 27 | 58 | 28 | 35 | 43 | The First 48 | The First 48 | The First 48 | Mamade | News | The First 48 |
| AMC | 40 | 74 | 23 | 42 | 51 | The First 48 | The First 48 | The First 48 | Mamade | News | The First 48 |
| BET | 58 | - | - | - | - | The First 48 | The First 48 | The First 48 | Mamade | News | The First 48 |
| BRAVO | 65 | 76 | 41 | - | - | The First 48 | The First 48 | The First 48 | Mamade | News | The First 48 |
| CHBC | 46 | 52 | 39 | 72 | 72 | The First 48 | The First 48 | The First 48 | Mamade | News | The First 48 |
| CHN | 43 | 58 | 51 | 30 | 56 | The First 48 | The First 48 | The First 48 | Mamade | News | The First 48 |
| DISC | 50 | 60 | 31 | 24 | 42 | The First 48 | The First 48 | The First 48 | Mamade | News | The First 48 |
| DISNEY | 56 | 64 | 36 | 25 | 36 | The First 48 | The First 48 | The First 48 | Mamade | News | The First 48 |
| ESPN | 32 | 35 | 48 | 31 | 30 | The First 48 | The First 48 | The First 48 | Mamade | News | The First 48 |
| ESPN2 | 34 | 36 | 49 | 32 | 31 | The First 48 | The First 48 | The First 48 | Mamade | News | The First 48 |
| FNC | 45 | 48 | 53 | 23 | 55 | The First 48 | The First 48 | The First 48 | Mamade | News | The First 48 |
| FOOD | 64 | 70 | 27 | 68 | 54 | The First 48 | The First 48 | The First 48 | Mamade | News | The First 48 |
| FREEFORM | 53 | 63 | 34 | 42 | 33 | The First 48 | The First 48 | The First 48 | Mamade | News | The First 48 |
| FISW | 37 | 30 | 50 | 45 | 29 | The First 48 | The First 48 | The First 48 | Mamade | News | The First 48 |
| FZ | 31 | 36 | 59 | 64 | 69 | The First 48 | The First 48 | The First 48 | Mamade | News | The First 48 |
| HALLMARK | 54 | 71 | 58 | - | - | The First 48 | The First 48 | The First 48 | Mamade | News | The First 48 |
| HGTV | 63 | 69 | 26 | 48 | 44 | The First 48 | The First 48 | The First 48 | Mamade | News | The First 48 |
| HISTORY | 71 | 59 | 29 | 50 | 43 | The First 48 | The First 48 | The First 48 | Mamade | News | The First 48 |
| LIFETIME | 28 | 30 | 25 | 28 | 48 | The First 48 | The First 48 | The First 48 | Mamade | News | The First 48 |
| MSNBC | 47 | 53 | 49 | 73 | - | The First 48 | The First 48 | The First 48 | Mamade | News | The First 48 |
| NBCSN | 38 | 43 | - | - | - | The First 48 | The First 48 | The First 48 | Mamade | News | The First 48 |
| NICK | 55 | - | 39 | 34 | 37 | The First 48 | The First 48 | The First 48 | Mamade | News | The First 48 |
| SPICE | 30 | - | 55 | 53 | 58 | The First 48 | The First 48 | The First 48 | Mamade | News | The First 48 |
| SYFY | 60 | 62 | 41 | 57 | 67 | The First 48 | The First 48 | The First 48 | Mamade | News | The First 48 |
| TBS | 25 | 33 | 44 | 66 | 41 | The First 48 | The First 48 | The First 48 | Mamade | News | The First 48 |
| TCM | 41 | 75 | 34 | 63 | 68 | The First 48 | The First 48 | The First 48 | Mamade | News | The First 48 |
| TELE | 28 | - | 10 | 28 | - | The First 48 | The First 48 | The First 48 | Mamade | News | The First 48 |
| TLC | 51 | 61 | 32 | 38 | 52 | The First 48 | The First 48 | The First 48 | Mamade | News | The First 48 |
| TNT | 34 | 34 | 40 | 26 | 50 | The First 48 | The First 48 | The First 48 | Mamade | News | The First 48 |
| TYLAND | 49 | - | 35 | 54 | 35 | The First 48 | The First 48 | The First 48 | Mamade | News | The First 48 |
| USA | 28 | 55 | 42 | 27 | 49 | The First 48 | The First 48 | The First 48 | Mamade | News | The First 48 |
| WGN | 19 | 85 | - | - | - | The First 48 | The First 48 | The First 48 | Mamade | News | The First 48 |

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Christmas babies find plenty to celebrate at the holidays

DEAR ABBY: This letter is in response to "Blessed in New York" (Aug. 4), the mom who gave birth to her precious daughter on Christmas Day and wondered if maybe she should have timed her pregnancy better. Our daughter was born on Dec. 20. When she was only a few years old, we purchased a 2-foot-tall artificial tree and named it the "birthday tree." She could decorate it every year however she liked. Any birthday presents went under that tree. That made her day special. When she got married and moved out, her birthday tree went with her. — **BLESSED, TOO, IN INDIANA**

DEAR BLESSED, TOO: I enjoyed reading the letters from you and other readers who are Christmas babies or have a family member who is one. Their upbeat, positive experiences made me smile.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter was born on Christmas Eve. From the time she was 5 and able to recognize that her birthday cards were getting scrambled in with the other holiday cards, we started celebrating on June 24 — her half-birthday. She gets excited every year as it nears. She'll be 32. Celebrating her half-birthday was the best thing we could have decided to do, and I have no regrets. — **MOM OF A CHRISTMAS BABY**

DEAR ABBY: I was born in

DEAR ABBY

December and I LOVE my birthday! My mother, grandmother, sister-in-law and niece were also born in December. It's a great time to have a birthday. Everything is decorated for the holidays, and most people are in a good mood. My family never blended the occasions, so that helped.

As to people's comments, my reply is: "Everyone has a birthday. Mine just happens to be at Christmastime, so please acknowledge that." The only thing I do wish is, if I receive a birthday gift, I hope it's wrapped in birthday paper and not Christmas wrap. — **HOLLY IN ARKANSAS**

DEAR ABBY: I do not recommend celebrating the kid's half-birthday in June. In June, people are away at camp or on vacation, and there's no one to invite to the party.

Early December is a perfect time for a birthday party. Sports are over and the holiday parties haven't started, school is still in session so everyone is still around. Another good time is

early January, right after school starts again but the other activities haven't yet geared up. — **BUSY DECEMBER MOM**

DEAR ABBY: Fifty-five years ago my husband and I weren't thinking ahead either. Our son was born on Christmas Day. He still thinks that's great. Christmas always lasted until after the presents were opened and the kitchen was cleaned following lunch. Then it was birthday time! It was special because his long-distance grandparents were always there.

When he became old enough for birthday parties, he could choose to have it on any day while school was out for the holiday break — either before or after Christmas. It worked well for our family and it might for others, too. — **CAROLYN IN TEXAS**

DEAR ABBY: Tell that new mom to cheer up. My mother was born on Christmas Day and she loved it. She said the reason was no one ever forgot it, and everyone got the day off! — **SARA IN FLORIDA**



GOREN BRIDGE

With Bob Jones

Desperate measures

Neither vulnerable. South deals

NORTH
♠ K 9 6 4
♥ A
♦ K J 8 3
♣ J 9 8 4

WEST
♠ A J 8 7 2
♥ J 8 7
♦ 9 5 2
♣ Q 10

EAST
♠ Q 5
♥ Q 10 9 6 5 4 2
♦ 6
♣ K 7 3

SOUTH
♠ 10 3
♥ K J
♦ A Q 10 7 4
♣ A 6 5 2

The bidding:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1♣ 1♠ 2♠ 3♣
3NT 4♣ 4NT All pass
*Diamond 10, invitational or better

Opening lead: Seven of ♣

East-West did well to compete to four hearts. That would have been an excellent sacrifice as there were only five losers in that contract. The four-no-trump contract presented a serious challenge. There were only eight top winners. The spade ace was likely to be with West, but that would only get them up to nine winners. The club suit

would have to be played for three winners to get to 10 tricks.

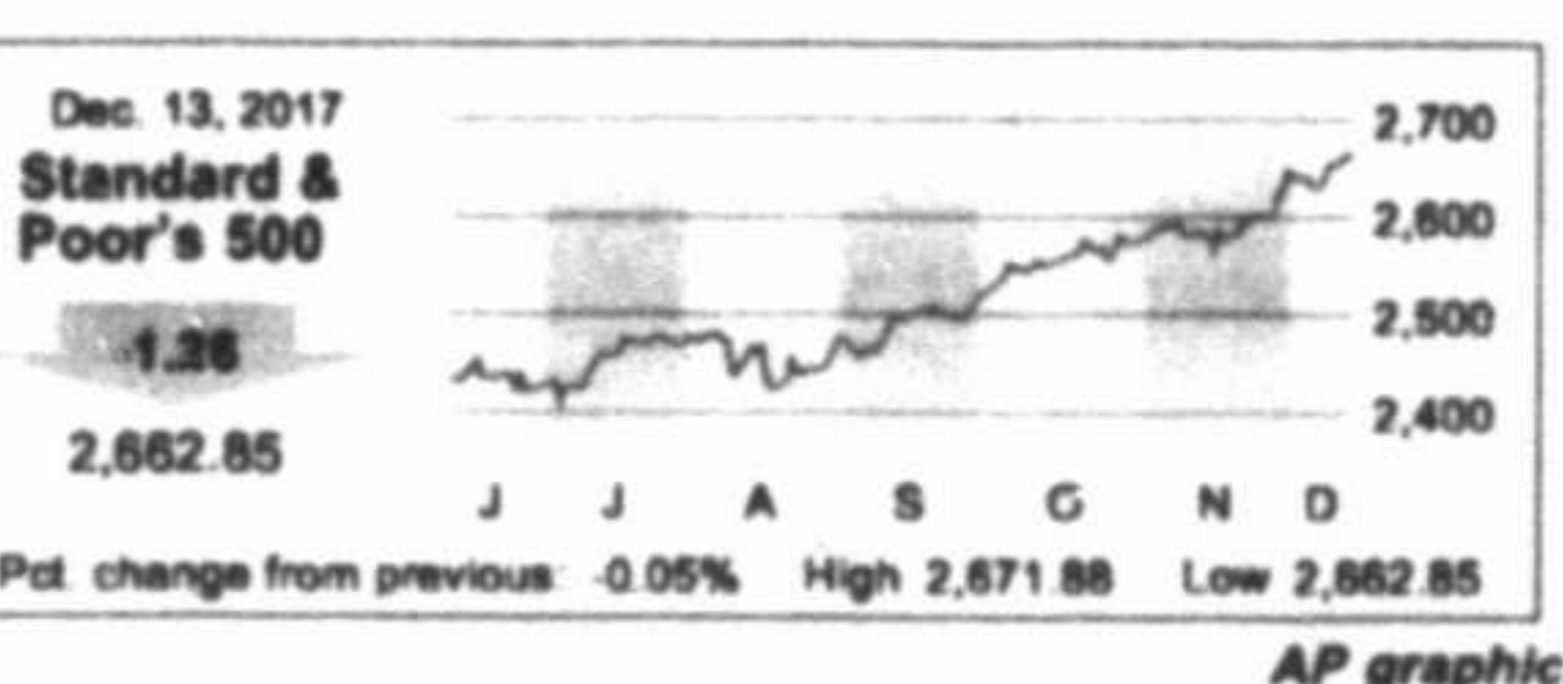
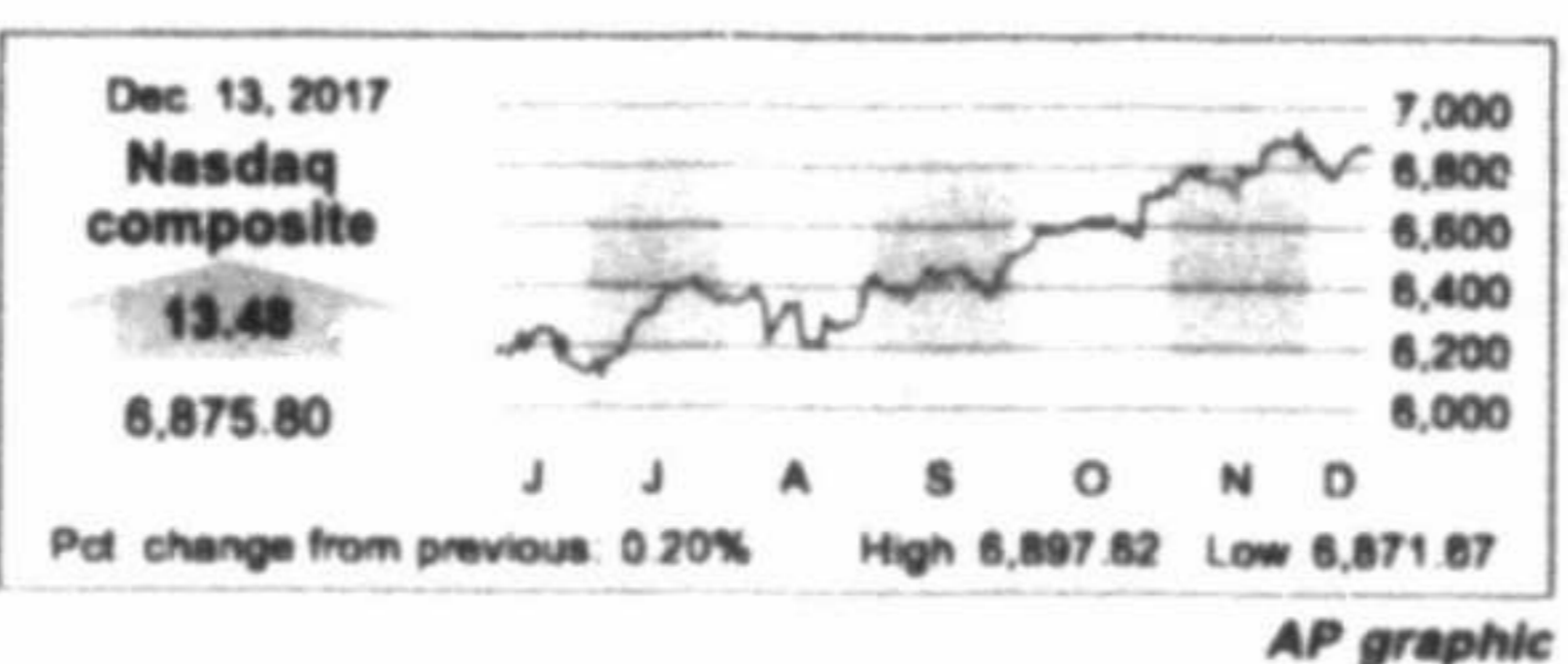
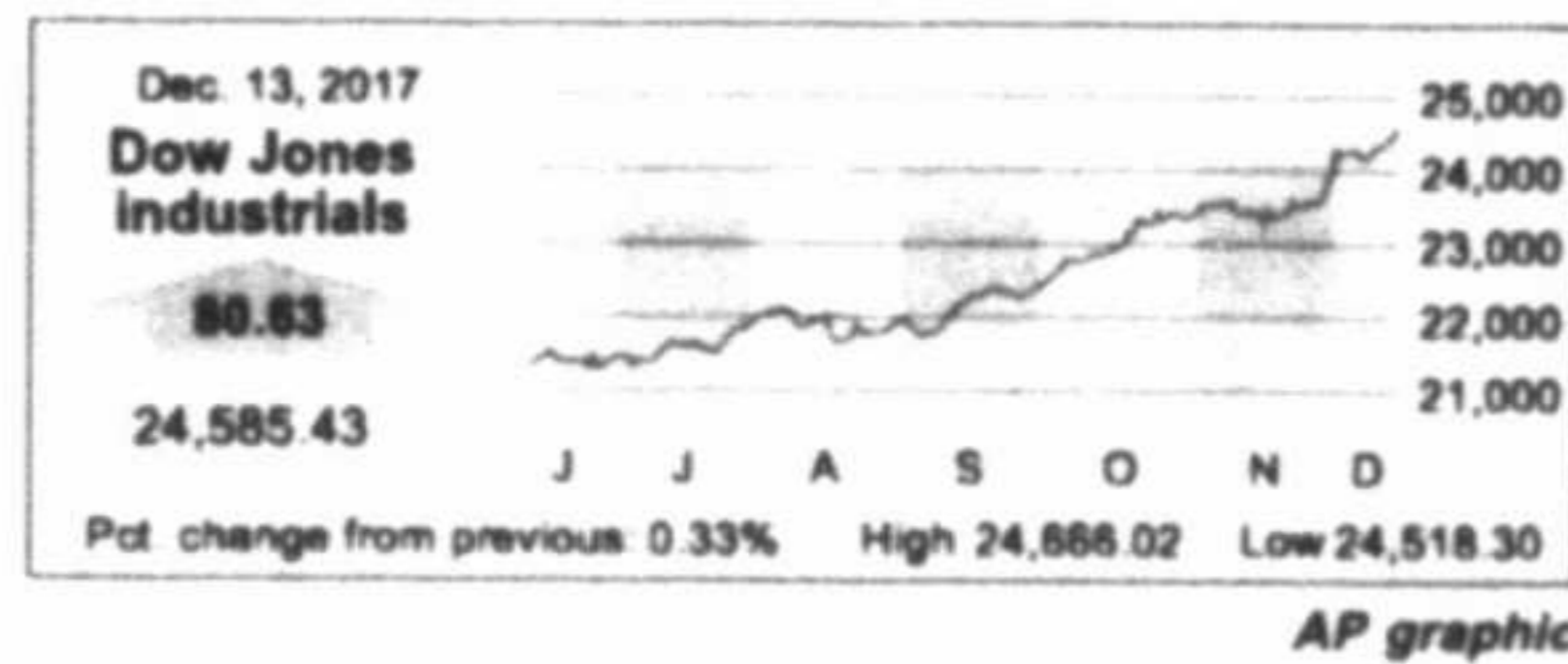
There are several lies of the club suit, all unlikely, that would allow declarer to play for three winners. South set out to learn a little more about the hand. He won the opening heart lead with dummy's ace perforce, cashed the king of diamonds, and led a diamond to his ace. East's discard was informative. West was known to have at least five spades and three hearts from the auction, and now was known to have started with three diamonds. West had to be played for short clubs.

Declarer led a low club toward the dummy. West rose with the queen to continue hearts to South's king, and South crossed to dummy with the jack of diamonds. Decision time! Should West be played for an original club holding of king-queen doubleton, or queen-10 doubleton? Queen-10 doubleton is more likely, for a couple of reasons, so South led dummy's jack of clubs and ran it when East played low. The fall of the 10 from West was sweet, and South had the 10 tricks that he needed. Well played!

BUSINESS & OIL

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Thursday, December 14, 2017 | Page 6C

A DAY ON WALL STREET



OIL PRICES

FUTURES

| | |
|------------|---------|
| Wednesday: | \$56.60 |
| Previous: | \$57.14 |

POSTED

| | |
|------------|---------|
| Wednesday: | \$53.00 |
| Previous: | \$53.50 |

WEST TEXAS SOUR

| | |
|------------|---------|
| Wednesday: | \$50.25 |
| Previous: | \$50.75 |

NATURAL GAS

| | |
|------------|---------|
| Wednesday: | \$2.715 |
| Previous: | \$2.678 |

NYSE

| MOST ACTIVE (\$1 on stock) | | | | GAINERS (\$2 on stock) | | | |
|----------------------------|--------|-------|------|------------------------|------|-------|-------|
| Name | Vol | Last | %Chg | Name | Last | %Chg | %Chg |
| SPDR Fin | 873210 | 27.87 | +35 | Jangp n | 8.00 | +1.30 | +19.4 |
| S&P500ETF | 926266 | 71.07 | +07 | PPGAI n | 8.50 | +1.00 | +13.3 |
| BioCrn | 756411 | 28.84 | +48 | TMGDr g | 7.35 | +0.71 | +11.0 |
| INMAs | 72967 | 46.41 | +55 | EndeDr g | 2.29 | +0.21 | +10.1 |
| VnEGold | 686108 | 22.16 | +74 | McEwnt | 2.02 | +0.17 | +9.2 |

| LOSERS (\$2 on stock) | | | | DIARY | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|----------|-----------|--------------|
| Name | Last | %Chg | %Chg | Advanced | Declined | Unchanged | Total Issues |
| NordAm | 2.65 | -1.02 | -27.8 | 1,634 | 1,287 | 123 | 3,044 |
| O.S.A.C. | 5.72 | -1.58 | -21.6 | 24 | 362 | 3 | 394 |
| BridgCo | 12.51 | -1.90 | -13.2 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| DnCRAP n | 65.39 | -4.36 | -6.7 | 159,399,063 | | | |
| ChitasSok | 17.70 | -2.10 | -10.6 | | | | |
| Volume | | | | | | | |

AMEX

| MOST ACTIVE (\$1 on stock) | | | | GAINERS (\$2 on stock) | | | |
|----------------------------|--------|------|------|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Name | Vol | Last | %Chg | Name | Last | %Chg | %Chg |
| DigitalP | 322449 | 5.85 | +89 | DigitalP | 5.85 | +89 | +21.4 |
| Herold g | 113841 | 2.89 | +01 | ShenGr n | 2.54 | +0.25 | +10.9 |
| Rdgrd g | 59878 | 2.85 | +21 | DnCR n | 6.00 | +0.55 | +10.1 |
| Globstar | 39924 | 1.21 | +05 | Rdgrd g | 2.85 | +0.21 | +8.0 |
| SRC Eng | 31765 | 8.24 | +12 | AdmFac | 49.22 | +3.29 | +7.2 |

| LOSERS (\$2 on stock) | | | | DIARY | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|------|-------------|----------|-----------|--------------|
| Name | Last | %Chg | %Chg | Advanced | Declined | Unchanged | Total Issues |
| TeladEl | 3.20 | -0.30 | -9.4 | 206 | 132 | 24 | 362 |
| Miron n | 2.72 | -0.20 | -7.3 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| AvatorHd | 2.02 | -0.12 | -5.9 | 159,399,063 | | | |
| Comp | 13.90 | -0.58 | -4.2 | | | | |
| EmEn n | 2.65 | -0.10 | -3.8 | | | | |
| Volume | | | | | | | |

NASDAQ

| MOST ACTIVE (\$1 on stock) | | | | GAINERS (\$2 on stock) | | | |
|----------------------------|---------|-------|-------|------------------------|-------|--------|-------|
| Name | Vol | Last | %Chg | Name | Last | %Chg | %Chg |
| Finser | 427960 | 23.70 | +4.40 | CoastP n | 3.50 | +1.35 | +62.8 |
| JD.com | 277039 | 40.80 | +2.24 | WinFin | 76.62 | +25.36 | +49.5 |
| MoronT | 270323 | 42.05 | +19 | ApollMed n | 22.90 | +5.33 | +32.0 |
| Comcast | 259390 | 38.58 | +93 | Finser | 23.70 | +4.40 | +22.8 |
| PdSh QQQ | 2319155 | 99.30 | +30 | MedFln | 3.76 | +0.62 | +19.7 |

| LOSERS (\$2 on stock) | | | | DIARY | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|----------|-----------|--------------|
| Name | Last | %Chg | %Chg | Advanced | Declined | Unchanged | Total Issues |
| WallSt n | 3.79 | -3.29 | -86.8 | 1,782 | 1,111 | 219 | 3,112 |
| LM Fdgr n | 2.51 | -0.57 | -21.1 | 104 | 51 | 51 | 206 |
| Rdgrd g | 23.03 | -5.17 | -22.5 | 159,399,063 | | | |
| OpardP n | 24.11 | -4.78 | -19.8 | | | | |
| Presba n | 2.18 | -0.36 | -16.2 | | | | |
| Volume | | | | | | | |

Venezuelans seeing bitcoin boom as survival, not speculation

By Christine Armario and Fabiola Sanchez
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela — In the last month, John Villar has bought two plane tickets to Colombia, purchased his wife's medication and paid the employees of his startup business in Venezuela — all in bitcoin.

As Venezuela's national currency loses value at a catastrophic rate, thousands have begun turning to the world of cryptocurrency to salvage what little value remains from their increasingly worthless bolivars.

"This is not a matter of politics," Villar said. "This is a matter of survival."
Both poor Venezuelan retirees and wealthy business leaders are converting their bolivars into bitcoins online and then using the digital currency to pay for everything from doctor appointments and honeymoons to motorcycles and artisanal beer. The transactions are relatively swift for anyone with a smartphone: Websites like LocalBitcoin and Colibit function as exchanges where Venezuelans can buy and sell bitcoins using a local bank account.

The shift toward cryptocurrencies in Venezuela is taking place as the price of bitcoin has climbed to a peak of more than \$17,000 this month. The digital currency debuted on a major U.S. exchange with its first futures contract Sunday. But while bitcoin is a speculative venture in developed nations, in Venezuela it has become a tool to keep families afloat, with some Venezuelans purchasing a small fraction of one coin to build their savings.

The number of Venezuelans using cryptocurrencies remains unclear, but weekly bitcoin trading volume through one popular website has soared from about \$225,000 earlier this year to nearly \$2.1 million in the first week of December — this in a country where the monthly minimum wage fetches less than \$2 on the black market. According to data website Coin Dance, that's far higher than the value of bitcoin transactions on the same website seen in more prosperous nations across the region, including Argentina, Brazil and Chile.

"Venezuelans are taking refuge in digital currencies," said Rafael Uscache, the founder of Colibit.
One of them is Jorge Ochoa, 34, who liquidated part of his bitcoin savings into dollars so that he could take his wife on a honeymoon to New York City.

The flight toward cryptocurrencies in a nation where inflation in bolivar prices is projected to surpass 2,000 percent next year falls in line with what has happened in other countries stricken by war or economic collapse. Following the debt crisis in Greece, hyperinflation in Zimbabwe and unrest in Ukraine, rising numbers of distressed citizens utilized bitcoin.

In Venezuela, the so-called "crisis currency" is allowing desperate Venezuelans to make potentially life-saving purchases.

Villar has been unable to find several of the medications needed to treat his wife's multiple sclerosis in Venezuela for the last two years, a story not uncommon in a country whose public health system has been crippled by shortages. Instead, he purchased them abroad with bitcoin and used courier services to deliver them to Venezuela.

"Bitcoin is already, for many in Venezuela, not about a business opportunity," he said.

The early Venezuelan bitcoin adopters consisted largely of engineers and business leaders, but these days Uscache said he is surprised by the number of poor, elderly Venezuelans making small bitcoin purchases. While the price of bitcoin has been highly volatile, Venezuelans with few or no other means of converting their bolivars into another currency believe it is a safer bet than the Venezuelan bills that steadily depreciate from one day to the next.

Trading in bitcoin futures was briefly halted Wednesday after dipping 10 percent.

"More than an asset that right now is rising in price, it is a reserve," Uscache said.

Cryptocurrencies have become so fashionable that even President Nicolas Maduro has proposed a government-backed version called the petro, and members of his administration have met with Venezuelan bitcoin entrepreneurs to determine how it might work. Though few details have been released, many in the bitcoin world have responded skeptically to the idea, saying Venezuelans won't trust a digital currency issued by a government they have little faith in.

Still, bitcoin has its fair share of detractors, from Wall Street to Caracas. Critics point out that the digital currency's lack of ties to any bank or government, allowing users to spend money anonymously, can facilitate illicit payments. That's a big concern in a country like Venezuela, which is a major drug transit zone and is rated one of the most corrupt in the world.

Authorities have largely permitted trading of bitcoin in Venezuela, though they have heavily fined and detained people who use computers to earn bitcoins by auditing online cryptocurrency transactions. Such "mining" operations use immense amounts of electricity, which is heavily subsidized in Venezuela — meaning the state essentially winds up paying for the process.

At the bitcoin's current value, one miner computer alone can now earn more than \$10,000 in six months.

"It's a really great opportunity for Venezuelans in a desperate position," said Andrea O'Sullivan, a cryptocurrency expert at George Mason University.

While there is no law on the books about mining cryptocurrency in Venezuela, not paying taxes on unreported earnings is illegal. One Venezuelan bitcoin miner who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisal said authorities demanded he pay them \$20,000 as a bribe but settled on taking 11 of his 20-some mining machines instead.

US stocks indexes close mostly higher after Fed rate hike

The major U.S. stock indexes finished mostly higher Wednesday, with small companies notching big gains as lawmakers in the House and Senate reached a deal on a sweeping tax reform package.

The Dow Jones industrial average eked out its third record-high close in as many days, driven by a jump in Caterpillar. But a last-minute pull-back in bank stocks left the Standard & Poor's 500 index slightly lower.

"Widely expected. No big surprises. No big changes," said Tim Dreiling, regional investment director at U.S. Bank Wealth Management. "It's encouraging that they continue to see economic growth continuing into 2018, which aligns with our thinking." The S&P 500 index slipped 1.26 points, or 0.1 percent, to 2,662.85. The index closed at all-time highs on Monday and Tuesday.

The Dow gained 80.63 points, or 0.3 percent, to 24,585.43. The Nasdaq added 13.48 points, or 0.2 percent, to 6,875.80. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks picked up 8.33 points, or 0.6 percent, to 1,524.45.

Metal prices rise

Gold rose \$6.90 to \$1,248.60 an ounce. Silver gained 20 cents to \$15.87 an ounce. Copper added 3 cents to \$3.05 a pound.

MIDLAND STOCKS

Midland-Headquartered Publicly Traded Companies

Concho Resources (CXO)
Closing Price \$138.29 Down 2.21

Dawson Geophysical (DWSN)
Closing Price \$4.73 Down 0.07

Diamondback Energy (FANG)
Closing Price \$111.59 Up 0.06

Legacy Reserves (LGCY)
Closing Price \$1.31 Up 0.01

Mexco Energy (MXC)
Closing Price \$3.89 Down 0.03

Natural Gas Services Group (NGS)
Closing Price \$24.95 Down 0.05

ProPetro Holdings (PUMP)
Closing Price \$19.61 Down 0.15

RSP Permian (RSPF)
Closing Price \$36.99 Down 0.10

Ring Energy (REI)
Closing Price \$13.24 Up 0.15

Viper Energy Partners (VNOM)
Closing Price \$22.19 Up 0.37

HOW STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST FARED

| Name | Div | PE | Last | Chg | %Chg | YTD | Name | Div | PE | Last | Chg | %Chg | YTD | Name | Div | PE | Last | Chg | %Chg | YTD | Name | Div | PE | Last | Chg | %Chg | YTD |
|-----------|-------|--------|--------|-------|------|-----|----------------|-------|-------|--------|-------|------|----------|------------------|------|-------|--------|-------|------|------------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| AK Steel | 1.5 | 5.38 | 0.05 | 47.3 | | | ConocoPhillips | 1.06 | 41 | 51.68 | -0.28 | -0.5 | | Procter & Gamble | 2.78 | 23 | 88.88 | +1.83 | +2.1 | | Torchmark | 0.0 | 19 | 88.31 | -0.48 | -0.5 | +21.1 |
| AT&T Inc | 1.96 | 14 | 36.04 | 0.06 | 10.6 | | Cracker Barrel | 4.80 | 29 | 164.03 | +1.10 | +0.7 | | Ranger | 0.0 | 18 | 18.24 | -1.11 | -6.1 | | YTCent | 1.00 | 0 | 38.82 | -0.87 | -2.3 | +21.6 |
| Altria | 0.33 | 2.12 | -0.03 | -17.5 | | | CVS Health | 5.84 | 0.4 | -47.4 | | | Regions | 3.0 | 18 | 17.08 | -0.23 | -1.3 | | 21stCenTel | 36 | 20 | 32.75 | -1.35 | -4.1 | +16.9 | |
| AdiaDevEq | 1.32 | 14.88 | +0.44 | +17.1 | | | CSX | 5.84 | 0.4 | -47.4 | | | Rockwell | 1.00 | 23 | 23.03 | -0.17 | -0.7 | | Twitter | 0.0 | 0 | 21.06 | +0.11 | +0.5 | +32.8 | |
| AMD | 10.11 | 10.11 | -2.11 | -20.8 | | | CrossTim | 0.36 | 14 | 14.38 | +0.03 | +0.2 | | Rdgrd | 0.0 | 92 | 1.83 | -0.02 | -1.1 | | TylerTech | 0.0 | 0 | 87.18 | -0.22 | -0.3 | +27.8 |
| Alibaba | 50 | 176.47 | +1.83 | +10.2 | | | DCP Mid | 3.12 | 52 | 37.18 | -0.41 | -1.1 | | Rosen | 4.0 | 9 | 14.98 | -0.42 | -2.8 | | USN | 1.36 | 19 | 36.15 | -0.05 | -0.1 | +24.9 |
| Aljazeera | 1.35e | 10.81 | +0.08 | +0.8 | | | DTE | 3.30 | 22 | 113.82 | -0.19 | -0.2 | | Ryan | 0.0 | 98 | 64.97 | +0.47 | +0.7 | | US OffSh | 0.0 | 0 | 11.33 | -1.11 | -9.8 | -42.6 |
| Alkerm | 1.24 | 71.24 | +1.47 | +2.1 | | | Devone | 24 | 64 | 38.12 | -0.29 | -0.8 | | SpdOJJA | 3.9e | 0.0 | 246.71 | +0.06 | +0.0 | | Vale SA | 2.9e | 0 | 10.98 | -0.08 | -0.7 | +44.1 |
| Amgen | 0.5e | 6 | 6.31 | -0.16 | -2.5 | | DigitalP | 5.85 | 0.0 | +671.0 | | | SPDR | 2.31e | 20 | 43.60 | -0.25 | -0.6 | | Vanguard | 6 | 22.05 | +0.18 | +0.8 | +51.9 | | |
| Amgen | 5.28e | 16 | 177.38 | +1.12 | +0.6 | | DIGMAB n | 14.21 | +1.45 | | | | SabR | 2.31e | 20 | 43.60 | -0.25 | -0.6 | | Vanguard | 2.80 | 23 | 87.45 | +0.51 | +0.6 | +28.0 | |
| Amstar | 0.20 | 48.28 | -0.28 | -0.6 | | | Dynegy | 1.68 | 10 | 197.61 | +0.18 | +0.1 | | SanderPm | 1.28 | 18 | 167.84 | +0.84 | +0.5 | | VnEGold | 0.6e | 0 | 22.16 | +0.74 | +3.4 | +5.9 |
| Apache | 1.80 | 39.80 | +0.80 | +2.0 | | | EOG Reser | 0.7 | 99.84 | -0.34 | -1.1 | | SPUR | 2.00 | 49 | 63.30 | -0.80 | -1.3 | | VnEGold | 0.6e | 0 | 22.16 | +0.74 | +3.4 | +5.9 | |
| Apple Inc | 7.52 | 20 | 172.27 | +5.7 | +3.3 | | EOG Reser | 0.7 | 99.84 | -0.34 | -1.1 | | SPUR | 2.00 | 49 | 63.30 | -0.80 | -1.3 | | VnEGold | 0.6e | 0 | 22.16 | +0.74 | +3.4 | +5.9 | |
| Asiatic | 48 | 18 | 88.78 | +2.8 | +3.1 | | EOG Reser | 0.7 | 99.84 | -0.34 | -1.1 | | SPUR | 2.00 | 49 | 63.30 | -0.80 | -1.3 | | VnEGold | 0.6e | 0 | 22.16 | +0.74 | +3.4 | +5.9 | |
| Astrac | 48 | 9.80 | -1.0 | -10.2 | | | EOG Reser | 0.7 | 99.84 | -0.34 | -1.1 | | SPUR | 2.00 | 49 | 63.30 | -0.80 | -1.3 | | VnEGold | 0.6e | 0 | 22.16 | +0.74 | +3.4 | +5.9 | |
| ATWOS | 1.80 | 25 | 89.88 | +0.8 | +0.9 | | EOG Reser | 0.7 | 99.84 | -0.34 | -1.1 | | SPUR | 2.00 | 49 | 63.30 | -0.80 | -1.3 | | VnEGold | 0.6e | 0 | 22.16 | +0.74 | +3.4 | +5.9 | |
| AutoData | 2.52 | 31 | 117.02 | -0.1 | -0.1 | | EOG Reser | 0.7 | 99.84 | -0.34 | -1.1 | | SPUR | 2.00 | 49 | 63.30 | -0.80 | -1.3 | | VnEGold | 0.6e | 0 | 22.16 | +0.74 | +3.4 | +5.9 | |
| BP PLC | 2.38 | 29 | 49.85 | -0.1 | -0.2 | | EOG Reser | 0.7 | 99.84 | -0.34 | -1.1 | | SPUR | 2.00 | 49 | 63.30 | -0.80 | -1.3 | | VnEGold | 0.6e | 0 | 22.16 | +0.74 | +3.4 | +5.9 | |
| BioCrn | 48 | 16 | 28.84 | -0.48 | -1.7 | | EOG Reser | 0.7 | 99.84 | -0.34 | -1.1 | | SPUR | 2.00 | 49 | 63.30 | -0.80 | -1.3 | | VnEGold | 0.6e | 0 | 22.16 | +0.74 | +3.4 | +5.9 | |
| BioCrn | 48 | 16 | 28.84 | -0.48 | -1.7 | | EOG Reser | 0.7 | 99.84 | -0.34 | -1.1 | | SPUR | 2.00 | 49 | 63.30 | -0.80 | -1.3 | | VnEGold | 0.6e | 0 | 22.16 | +0.74 | +3.4 | +5.9 | |
| BioCrn | 48 | 16 | 28.84 | -0.48 | -1.7 | | EOG Reser | 0.7 | 99.84 | -0.34 | -1.1 | | SPUR | 2.00 | 49 | 63.30 | -0.80 | -1.3 | | VnEGold | 0.6e | 0 | 22.16 | +0.74 | +3.4 | +5.9 | |
| BioCrn | 48 | 16 | 28.84 | -0.48 | -1.7 | | EOG Reser | 0.7 | 99.84 | -0.34 | -1.1 | | SPUR | 2.00 | 49 | 63.30 | -0.80 | -1.3 | | VnEGold | 0.6e | 0 | 22.16 | +0.74 | +3.4 | +5.9 | |
| BioCrn | 48 | 16 | 28.84 | -0.48 | -1.7 | | EOG Reser | 0.7 | 99.84 | -0.34 | -1.1 | | SPUR | 2.00 | 49 | 63.30 | -0.80 | -1.3 | | VnEGold | 0.6e | 0 | 22.16 | +0.74 | +3.4 | +5.9 | |



MALL HOLIDAY HOURS



OVER 100 MERCHANTS TO CHOOSE FROM, NOW WITH EXTENDED HOLIDAY HOURS

| DAY | DATE | MALL | DILLARDS | JC PENNEY | AT HOME | BURLINGTON |
|--------|--------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| Thurs. | 14-Dec | 10AM-10PM | 10AM-10PM | 10AM-10PM | 9AM - 11AM | 8AM - 12AM |
| Fri. | 15-Dec | 10AM-10PM | 10AM-10PM | 10AM-10PM | 8AM - 11PM | 8AM - 12AM |
| Sat. | 16-Dec | 9AM-10PM | 9AM-10PM | 9AM-10PM | 8AM - 11PM | 8AM - 12AM |
| Sun. | 17-Dec | 11AM-9PM | 11AM - 8PM | | 9AM - 10PM | 7AM - 12AM |
| Mon. | 18-Dec | 9AM-10PM | 9AM-10PM | 9AM-10PM | 9AM - 11AM | 7AM - 12AM |
| Tue. | 19-Dec | 9AM-10PM | 9AM-10PM | 9AM-10PM | 9AM - 11AM | 7AM - 12AM |
| Weds. | 20-Dec | 9AM-10PM | 9AM-10PM | 9AM-10PM | 9AM - 11AM | 7AM - 12AM |
| Thurs. | 21-Dec | 9AM-10PM | 9AM-10PM | 9AM-10PM | 9AM - 10PM | 7AM - 12AM |
| Fri. | 22-Dec | 9AM-10PM | 9AM-10PM | 9AM-10PM | 9AM - 10PM | 7AM - 12AM |
| Sat. | 23-Dec | 9AM-10PM | 9AM-10PM | 9AM-10PM | 9AM - 10PM | 7AM - 12AM |
| Sun. | 24-Dec | 8AM - 6PM | 10AM - 6PM | | 8AM - 6PM | 7AM - 9PM |
| Mon. | 25-Dec | Closed | Closed | Closed | Closed | Closed |
| Tue. | 26-Dec | 10AM-9PM | 9AM - 9PM | 10AM-9PM | 9AM - 11AM | 8AM - 10PM |
| Weds. | 27-Dec | 10AM-9PM | 10AM - 9PM | 10AM-9PM | 9AM - 11AM | 9AM - 10PM |
| Thurs. | 28-Dec | 10AM-9PM | 10AM - 9PM | 10AM-9PM | 9AM - 11AM | 9AM - 10PM |
| Fri. | 29-Dec | 10AM-9PM | 10AM - 9PM | 10AM-9PM | 8AM - 11PM | 9AM - 10PM |
| Sat. | 30-Dec | 10AM-9PM | 10AM - 9PM | 10AM-9PM | 8AM - 11PM | 9AM - 10PM |
| Sun. | 31-Dec | 12PM-6PM | 10AM - 6PM | TBA | TBA | TBA |
| Mon. | 1-Jan | 12PM-6PM | 10AM - 6PM | TBA | TBA | TBA |

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 Predator Drilling is now hiring a Mechanic in Midland. Experience in rig repair and maintenance required. Must have knowledge of hydraulic systems, top drives, draw works and other fundamental parts of a drilling rig. Apply online at predatordrilling.com

MANAGEMENT EXECUTIVE

District Manager
 The Midland Reporter-Telegram has an opening for a Circulation District Manager. This individual would be responsible for overseeing a delivery force of independent contractors/carriers, as well as performing other duties involved with the delivery and distribution of our newspaper, other contracted products, and niche publications.

This position requires excellent communication skills, must be able to work flexible hours (largely in the early morning hours including weekends), have reliable transportation. Candidate with previous newspaper delivery experience preferred but not required.

This is a full time salaried position, eligible for full benefits including health, vision, dental and paid time off with excellent starting salary.

To apply, please email your resume and cover letter to: thead@houston.com
 No phone calls please.

OTHER JOBS

EARN UP TO \$500 PER WEEK!

Do you have a reliable car with insurance and a phone?? Become an independent contractor delivering the Midland Reporter-Telegram in the in the Midland, Odessa, Andrews, Stanton, and Big Spring areas.

Please come by our office located at 201 E. Illinois and fill out a carrier information sheet. Oscar Ronquillo 432-687-9001

RESTAURANT FOOD SERVICES

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SKILLED LABOR

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 Mid-Tex of Midland, Inc. Now hiring commercial construction project superintendents. Competitive pay plus excellent benefits. Experience in commercial construction a must. Please send resumes to 5206 W. Wadley Ave. Midland, Texas 79707 or email them to Billy Mays at billy@midtexofmidland.com. You may also fax your resume to (432) 694-9627.

Lube Tech
 Lube Tech - 3 yrs experience, Class A CDL required, must have own tools. Must pass background, DOT drug and physical screening. Please contact Rhett at rvestal@bigdco.com or apply online at www.bigdco.com.

TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

DRIVER NEEDED
 Hazmat, Tankers & Class A CDL
 Contact Roman Hernandez 432-894-1418
 Fernando Uribe 432-556-0988
 Send Resume to: Lynnda.Garcia@CatalystOilfield.com

Class A CDL Drivers & Leasing Owner/ Operator
 Total Logistics Corp. is hiring Class A CDL drivers. Multiple positions are available. Must have a clean driving record and be able to pass a DOT drug/alcohol test and physical. Also leasing owner/ operators. Please apply at 2701 Earhart Drive, Midland, TX or call 432-561-8850 between 8-5 M-F for more info.

Truck Driver
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TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

LOCAL TRUCK DRIVER CDL A OR B / SHOT CREW MEMBER
 Austin Powder Company is hiring at our Midland, TX location.

Duties

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As Southeast Texas braced for Harvey, no one could have imagined the menace it would become as a deluge of rain dumped on Beaumont making Harvey the most extreme rain event in our nation's history. The *Beaumont Enterprise* is proud to present "Thousand-Year Flood: Harvey Wreaks Destruction on Southeast Texas, A Pictorial Account by the Photojournalists of The *Beaumont Enterprise*," a hardcover book that captures Harvey's devastation and our community's indomitable spirit to rise above. This 160-page book will feature breathtaking photos and compelling stories from the staff of the *Beaumont Enterprise* who captured it all. Order your commemorative book today and save \$10.00 off the \$39.95 retail price.

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 Ship my order to me \$29.95 plus \$3.04 tax and \$6.95 shipping and handling per book. Order will be shipped to the address below after 12/04/17.

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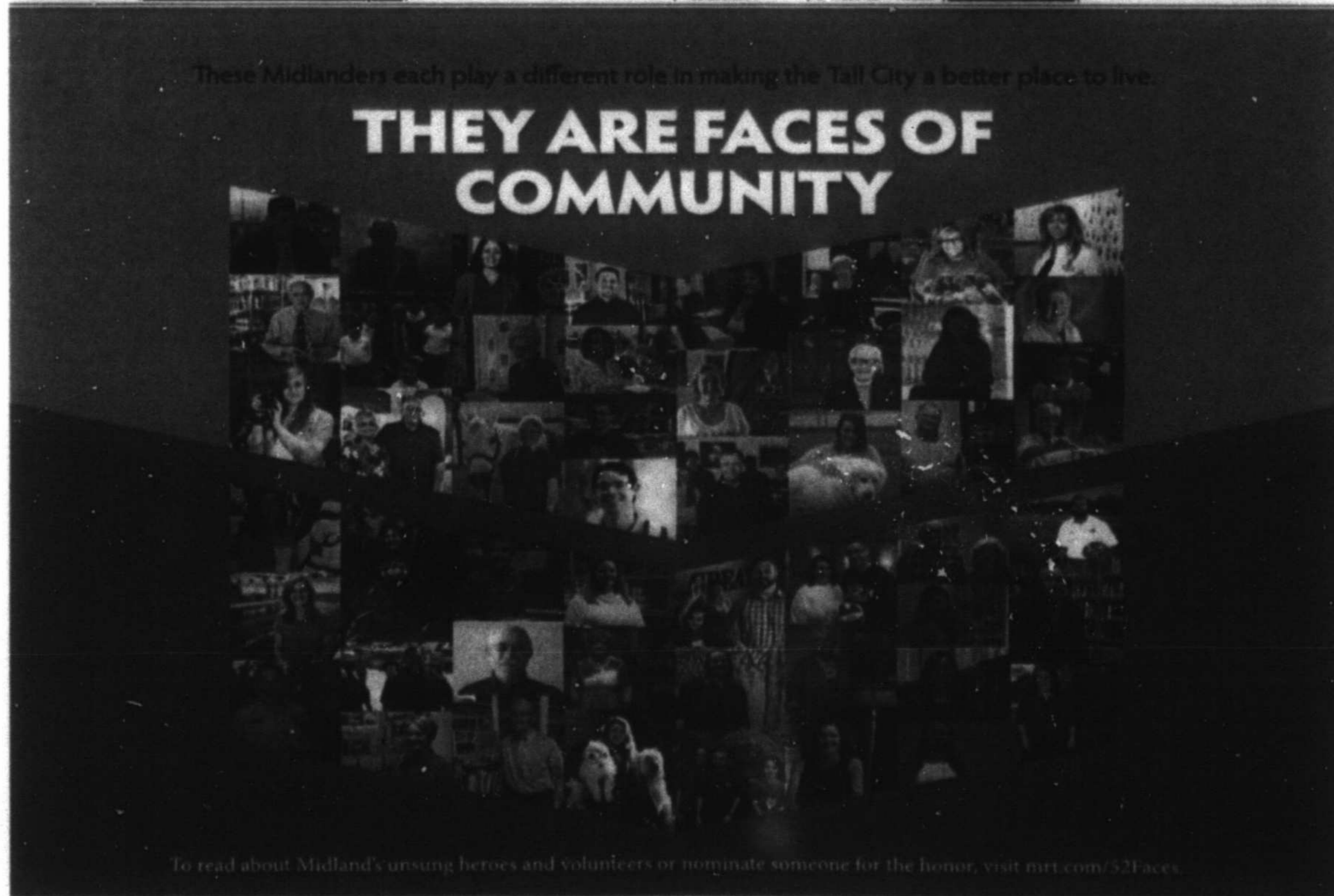
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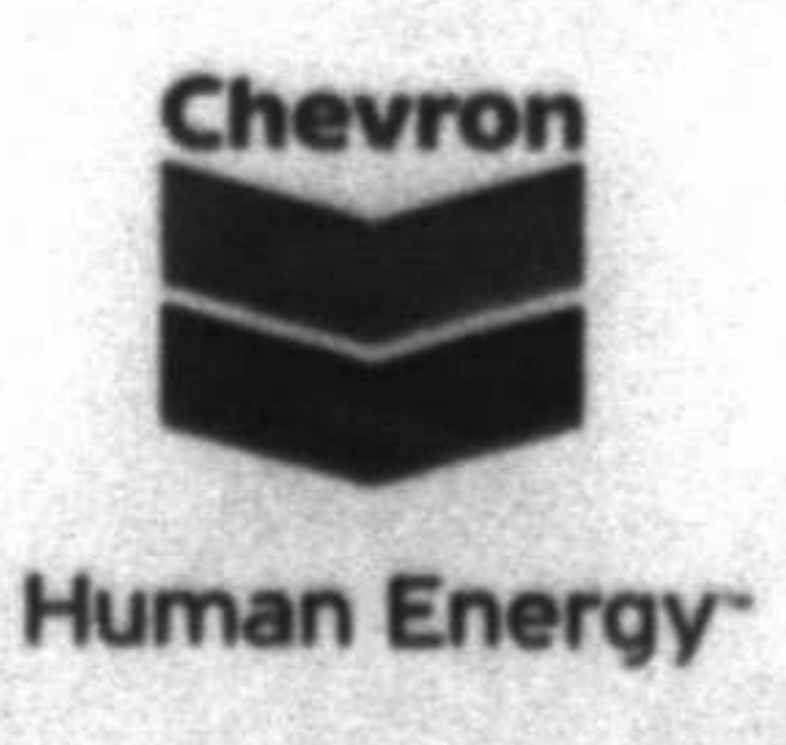
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| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|--|
| <p>Legal and Public Notices</p> <p>NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE</p> <p>Pursuant to the Decree and Order for Partition by Public Sale entered in Cause No. 7104 in the 118th District Court in Martin County, Texas, the following property will be sold by public auction:</p> <p>THE SURFACE ONLY OF SECTION 43, BLOCK 37, TOWNSHIP 1 NORTH, TEXAS & PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY SURVEY, ABSTRACT NO. 233, MARTIN COUNTY, TEXAS, CONTAINING 640.81 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS.</p> <p>Such sale will be for cash, which may also be in the form of certified funds. The public auction will take place in front of the northeast corner of the Martin County Courthouse on the 2nd day of January, 2018 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>For information about the property, please contact Brent Preston at (806) 470-0464.</p> | <p>Lost and Found</p> <p>FOUND POT BELLY PIG on the corner of 1135 South & 128. Please call 432-638-2687.</p> <p>Autos For Sale-Lease</p> <p>2015 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED SPORT 5 4x4, mint condition, clean carfax, white w/ black appearance group by Mopar w/ black 3 piece hard top. 41,000 mi., \$29,900 432-685-8337</p> <p>2001 TOYOTA Avonon. White. Has engine replacement, new tune up, new car stereo, new tires and rims. Must see! \$4,500. 432-349-0941.</p> <p>2009 HONDA Accord EX-L, gray / leather / brand new tires / great condition. 108K miles, runs great. \$7,950.00 Call (432) 889-2255</p> <p>NEW TODAY!</p> <p>CADILLAC 2008 OTS. One owner. 60K actual miles. Garage kept. Have records of all service & oil changes. \$9950. 432-212-1830</p> <p>VOLKSWAGEN 2007 Beetle. 79K miles. Good tires, new battery, new fuel pump. Runs well. \$4500. Call Edward 432-352-8938</p> <p>Antique and Vintage</p> <p>1985 SHELBY Cobra Replica. 1500 miles. custom built small block 427, 5.8 HP, 5 speed Tremec transmission. \$45,000.00 (432) 681-0233.</p> | <p>Pickup Trucks</p> <p>GMC 1999 Sierra 1500, 4wd, extended cab. 154k miles, black exterior, beige cargo interior, grill guard, off road tires, toolbox. \$4,500. 432-697-3787 or 432-653-9662</p> <p>AWD and SUV</p> <p>2015 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED SPORT 5 4x4, mint condition, clean carfax, white w/ black appearance group by Mopar w/ black 3 piece hard top. 41,000 mi., \$29,900 432-685-8337</p> <p>ORIGINAL PRICE \$69,900, now priced \$6,995! 1999 Lexus LX470 SUV, black, garage kept, regularly serviced. Call after 5pm 432-682-6139</p> <p>2009 HONDA Accord EX-L, gray / leather / brand new tires / great condition. 108K miles, runs great. \$7,950.00 Call (432) 889-2255</p> <p>LABRADOR RETRIEVER PUPPIES Grand Hunting Retriever Champ, bloodlines Xmas day delivery in Midland! \$1,000 English Labr OFA Cert. Hips & elbows Avail. in time for Xmas! Brooke 432-978-5300</p> | <p>Miscellaneous 4 Sale</p> <p>FREON R12 WANTED Certified buyer pays CASH for cylinders & cans. (312) 291-9189, refrigerantfinders.com</p> <p>OAK, PECAN, Hickory, mesquite, phone. 432-208-0416 or 325-782-4262</p> <p>REWARD IF FOUND! 2 LOST GERMAN SHEPHERDS 1 male 1 female, were together. Lost around 2505 W CR 140 on 12/13. 432-218-0960 or 432-212-2866</p> <p>FOR SALE</p> <p>Real Estate Rental-Sale</p> <p>Residential Rentals</p> <p>Apartment Rent Unfurn</p> <p>ONE BDRM APT. Bills paid. \$500/mo. \$100 deposit. Small Trailer, pet electric & busbars \$350/mo. \$100 deposit. Call 432-296-2023</p> <p>Condo/Thome Rent Unfurn</p> <p>3200 ELMA Drive, Very nice townhome 3 bedroom 3 baths, fireplace, double car garage, sprinkler system, nice trees, gated patio area. \$1,800 per month & \$750 deposit. Call 432-230-0157 or 432-230-3671</p> | <p>Residential Sales</p> <p>Single Family Homes</p> <p>HOME FOR SALE GARDEN CITY, TX. 3 BEDROOM 2 BATH, WITH 1200 SQ FT METAL BUILDING, 3 CAR GARAGE AND SHOP, ALL ON 3 LOTS. \$250,000 CALL 432-681-2687</p> <p>Residential Rentals</p> <p>House Rent Unfurn</p> <p>Brand new remodeled 3 bedroom 1 bath. Modern finishes, 2 car garage. Near downtown with view of Midland Memorial. \$1,500/month. Bills paid, \$1,500 deposit. 2700 W OHIO Call Annalee at 432-260-8009</p> <p>3 Bed, 2 Bath, w/ bonus room. 2 car garage. \$1100/mo. Midland. Lease to own. 675-637-6377</p> <p>Residential Sales</p> <p>Single Family Homes</p> <p>COMMERCIAL</p> <p>COMMERCIAL YARD BUILD TO SUIT FOR LEASE 6 ACRES, FENCED 2 AC CALCHIED. \$2300/MONTH. 432-684-7764</p> <p>OFFICE SPACE FOR LEASE. 1600 square feet. Utilities and general maintenance included. Midland International Airport area. Contact Cheryl Keith, 432-282-4908, or chkeith@bjrcy.org</p> <p>LIQUIDATION OF 2 divorced homes in Midland, TX. 1608 W. Kansas & 2612 N. Garfield. Call for price. 214-356-6244 Realtor</p> | <p>Residential Sales</p> <p>Single Family Homes</p> <p>HOME FOR SALE GARDEN CITY, TX. 3 BEDROOM 2 BATH, WITH 1200 SQ FT METAL BUILDING, 3 CAR GARAGE AND SHOP, ALL ON 3 LOTS. \$250,000 CALL 432-681-2687</p> <p>Residential Rentals</p> <p>House Rent Unfurn</p> <p>Brand new remodeled 3 bedroom 1 bath. Modern finishes, 2 car garage. Near downtown with view of Midland Memorial. \$1,500/month. 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| <p>General Announcement</p> <p>Thank You Jesus! Mark Berryhill.com Ministering for Christ Teach the Lord's Word 1-4</p> <p>Classified CAN 682-6222</p> | <p>Legal and Public Notices</p> <p>Permian Basin MPO Policy Board Meeting</p> <p>Date: December 18, 2017 5:00 p.m. Place: Permian Basin MPO 9601 Wright Dr., Suite 1 Midland, TX 79706</p> <p>The Policy Board of the Permian Basin MPO will hold a regularly scheduled meeting to discuss TxDOT's safety measures and hear updates on transportation planning topics. The Board may conduct an Executive Session as permitted under Chapter 551 of the Texas Administrative Code. Para asistencia en español por favor llame a 432-617-9129.</p> | <p>Pets Animals</p> <p>LABRADOR RETRIEVER PUPPIES Grand Hunting Retriever Champ, bloodlines Xmas day delivery in Midland! \$1,000 English Labr OFA Cert. Hips & elbows Avail. in time for Xmas! Brooke 432-978-5300</p> | <p>FOR SALE</p> <p>Real Estate Rental-Sale</p> <p>Residential Rentals</p> <p>Apartment Rent Unfurn</p> <p>ONE BDRM APT. Bills paid. \$500/mo. \$100 deposit. Small Trailer, pet electric & busbars \$350/mo. \$100 deposit. Call 432-296-2023</p> <p>Condo/Thome Rent Unfurn</p> <p>3200 ELMA Drive, Very nice townhome 3 bedroom 3 baths, fireplace, double car garage, sprinkler system, nice trees, gated patio area. \$1,800 per month & \$750 deposit. Call 432-230-0157 or 432-230-3671</p> | <p>Residential Sales</p> <p>Single Family Homes</p> <p>HOME FOR SALE GARDEN CITY, TX. 3 BEDROOM 2 BATH, WITH 1200 SQ FT METAL BUILDING, 3 CAR GARAGE AND SHOP, ALL ON 3 LOTS. \$250,000 CALL 432-681-2687</p> <p>Residential Rentals</p> <p>House Rent Unfurn</p> <p>Brand new remodeled 3 bedroom 1 bath. Modern finishes, 2 car garage. Near downtown with view of Midland Memorial. \$1,500/month. Bills paid, \$1,500 deposit. 2700 W OHIO Call Annalee at 432-260-8009</p> <p>3 Bed, 2 Bath, w/ bonus room. 2 car garage. \$1100/mo. Midland. Lease to own. 675-637-6377</p> <p>Residential Sales</p> <p>Single Family Homes</p> <p>COMMERCIAL</p> <p>COMMERCIAL YARD BUILD TO SUIT FOR LEASE 6 ACRES, FENCED 2 AC CALCHIED. \$2300/MONTH. 432-684-7764</p> <p>OFFICE SPACE FOR LEASE. 1600 square feet. Utilities and general maintenance included. Midland International Airport area. Contact Cheryl Keith, 432-282-4908, or chkeith@bjrcy.org</p> <p>LIQUIDATION OF 2 divorced homes in Midland, TX. 1608 W. Kansas & 2612 N. Garfield. Call for price. 214-356-6244 Realtor</p> | <p>Lots and Land</p> <p>Acresage</p> <p>500 ACRES +/- Close to Lake by. Lots of deer, turkey and quail. For more information call 806-790-3256.</p> <p>Hunting Leases</p> <p>HUNTING, RETIREMENT, INVESTMENT PROPERTY 20 - 60 ACRES IN THE FOLLOWING COUNTIES: EDWARDS, KINNEY, CONCHO, COKE AND MENARD. SCENIC VIEWS, NATIVE GAME WITH FREE RANGING EXOTICS IN SOME COUNTIES. STARTING AT \$2.916 DOWN, \$485/MO. CALL VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO. 806-876-8720 ranchesandprizesell.com</p> <p>Lots and Land</p> <p>WEST TEXAS TRANS PECOS AREA, NEAR LAKE AMITAD. 40 - 65 ACRES. MESQUITE, CEDAR, BRUSH COVER, WHITETAIL, JAVELINA, BLUE QUAIL, TURKEY, DOVE. STARTING AT \$2,200 DOWN, \$348/MO. CALL VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO. 806-296-0199 ranchesandprizesell.com</p> <p>READY-RANCH R/R</p> <p>WWW.READY-RANCH.COM</p> <p>Commercial</p> <p>COMMERCIAL YARD BUILD TO SUIT FOR LEASE 6 ACRES, FENCED 2 AC CALCHIED. \$2300/MONTH. 432-684-7764</p> <p>OFFICE SPACE FOR LEASE. 1600 square feet. Utilities and general maintenance included. Midland International Airport area. Contact Cheryl Keith, 432-282-4908, or chkeith@bjrcy.org</p> <p>LIQUIDATION OF 2 divorced homes in Midland, TX. 1608 W. Kansas & 2612 N. Garfield. Call for price. 214-356-6244 Realtor</p> | |




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