

MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2017

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COLLEGE PREP

MISD provides workshops for filling out FAFSA applications.

Page 1B



HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Lee boys beat Lamesa by 19 points. Read more inside.

Page 1C

Long shale wells make pumping oil harder

By David Wethe
Bloomberg

Imagine trying to slurp a thick chocolate shake through a J-shaped straw four miles long. That's the kind of cheek-puckering test the American shale industry must overcome to prolong a record boom in oil output.

For almost a decade, drillers have been using new techniques to tap vast petroleum reserves scattered within deep, porous rock layers in places like west Texas, Pennsylvania and southern Canada. By digging extra-long wells that went down and then sideways at different angles, engineers were able to capture a lot more crude than from a vertical hole.

While those new methods unlocked

a torrent of new supply and turned the U.S. into the world's largest producer, the increased difficulty of sucking fluid from so far underground is overwhelming pump systems that have changed little in decades. The mismatch is causing more well failures, rising costs at a time of low prices, and a scramble by companies like Exxon Mobil Corp. for alternative ways of maintaining flows.

"Every horizontal well — no matter where you are — has this problem," said Jeff Saponja, chief executive officer of Heal Systems, a Calgary-based engineering company that is working with Schlumberger Ltd., the world's biggest oil-service provider, on developing products that make pumps and pipes work more

Please see WELLS/2A



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

What appears to be trash was found near the recycling bins Monday at Scharbauer Sports Complex.

Recycled items, trash left outside bins

From staff reports

Items — some to be recycled, but some that are trash — were left over the weekend outside recycling bins at the Scharbauer Sports Complex.

This has become a frequent occurrence, according to Amanda Byrom, executive director of Keep Midland Beautiful.

"We have had a bad problem with contamination of the bins (with trash) and leaving items outside of the bins," she said via email. "I'm afraid that if the trend continues and people keep abusing the recycling containers ... the bins might be pulled from the locations that are abused."

If bins are full, items can be taken to Butts Recycling, 26 W Industrial

Loop, or Citizens Collection Station, 4100 Smith Road, she said. Items that can be dropped off at the recycling bins are aluminum cans, plastic Nos. 1 and 2 (the number is on the bottom of the container inside the recycle symbol triangle), paper and cardboard.

For more information and a list of recycling sites, go to keepmidlandbeautiful.org.

24-year-old to vie for Craddick's seat for District 82

By Stewart Doreen
sdoreen@mrt.com

A 24-year-old veteran of Democratic politics is taking the very large step to challenge former House Speaker Tom Craddick for the District 82 seat in the state House of Representatives.

Inspired by a wave of Democratic challengers across the region and across the state, Spencer Bounds of Midland told the Reporter-Telegram on Monday he is ready to run for the Democratic Party nomination and, if successful, take on the daunting task of facing the longest-serving representative in state House history.



Bounds

Bounds said he's been working with political candidates from Amarillo to San Angelo and across the region. He said

— having attended a State Democratic Executive Committee meeting in Austin this weekend — Texans are seeing more people running for the Democratic ticket than the party has seen in 25 years.

"It inspired me to put my name out there as well," Bounds said. "Maybe it was time to advise a little less and run myself."

Bounds said he is proud to join candidates in West Texas and the Panhandle who are 35 or younger. Bounds, who turned 24 last month, said he has experience working with the Young Democrats of West Texas, and previously served as its West Texas regional director. He was selected in August to be chairman of the rural caucus of Texas Young Democrats. He has been active in conventions and served as policy director of the national rural caucus of the Young Democrats of America, he said.

Bounds has been involved with the Tom Green Democratic Party and said he coordinated the campaign for a woman who

Please see BOUNDS/2A

Court approves pair of technology-related upgrades

■ Court also hears Midland Humane Coalition voucher program report

By Simone Jasper
sjasper@mrt.com

The Midland County Commissioners'

Court on Monday approved two requests related to information technology. Commissioners took action on agreements for printing in libraries as well as the purchase of generators for the county courthouse building.

The court approved agreements for a new printing system that will allow Midland County Public Library users to

pay for vouchers at kiosks. The vouchers can be used to print at the Centennial, downtown and law library branches.

Justin Stephenson, project infrastructure administrator for Midland County, said the library currently uses systems that aren't connected. He said the new

Please see COURT/2A

Visit us on social media

f



Price of oil

\$57.99 ▲ \$0.63

January 2018

The big number

A 12-year-old girl was sent by a Trump PAC to interview Roy Moore. Page 4A

Word of the Day:

superfluous

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

Brought to you daily by



Vol. 88, No. 276

Daily \$2, Sunday \$3



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Cathy Estlin
FINE JEWELRY

Monday - Friday 10 - 5:30
Saturday 10 - 4



SHINOLA
DETROIT

Woman allegedly hits officer with vehicle

From staff reports

A Midland woman was arrested Saturday after she drove a vehicle toward a police officer and hit him, according to court documents.

Julie Ann Gomez, 48, was being held Monday on a \$100,000 bond for a first-degree felony charge of aggravated assault against a public servant.

A Midland police officer was blocking southbound traffic on "A" Street after the Midland Christmas parade when Gomez attempted to go around him.

The officer advised her to turn around and find an



Gomez

alternative route. Instead, Gomez decided to drive around the officer, according to the affidavit.

While the officer tried to prevent her from passing, Gomez accelerated striking the officer twice, according to the affidavit.

If convicted of the first-degree felony charge, Gomez could face up to life imprisonment.

BOUNDS

From 1A

was elected to San Angelo City Council.

He said education is a big reason he joined the Democratic Party and is his No. 1 issue for the campaign. District 82 covers Midland, Martin (Stanton), Dawson (Lamesa), Upton (Rankin-McCamey) and Crane (Crane) counties. Bounds, a product of MISD schools, said he saw firsthand what cuts to education can do to teachers and students. He wants to give teachers the freedoms they need, as well as higher salaries. He wants to figure out how to create smaller class sizes and wants to see graduation rates go up.

He admits he doesn't have all the answer, but plans to talk with constituents and come up with the answers that are right for Texas.

Bounds said he doesn't necessarily favor the Robin Hood system of education funding that causes districts such as Midland to send to Austin tens of millions of dollars that are distributed to districts considered property-poor. In his mind, he said, it is a

version of everybody helping everybody else.

"If we didn't have money going into a pot, I don't know how we would keep (rural districts) open," he said. "Their funding is not what they need."

He said infrastructure and increasing voting

Candidate filings

Filings for office for the 2018 primary elections ended Monday.

Republican Party filings

County Judge
James Beauchamp
Stephen Robertson

County commissioner Precinct 2
Robert R. "Robin" Donnelly

County commissioner Precinct 4
Randy Prude

District Judge, 238th District Court
Elizabeth Byer Leonard
Chris DeAnda

District Judge, 318th District Court
David W. Lindemood

District Judge, 385th District Court
Robin Malone Darr

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

Judge, Midland County Court at Law
Kyle Peeler

Judge, Midland County Court at Law #2
Marvin Moore

Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1
Terry Luck

Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2
David M. Cobos

Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4
John Wesley Barton

District clerk
Ross Bush

Midland County treasurer

Mitzi Baker

Midland County clerk
Alison Haley

Midland County Republican Party chair
Sherri B. Merket

Democratic Party filings

County Judge
Steven Schafersman

District Judge, 441st District Court
Sara Ruth Spector

Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1
Hazel Holmes Hudson

Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3
Billy Johnson Jr.

Midland County Democratic Party chair
Margaret Hiett Williams
Kerry Manzo

participation will be other high priorities.

He thinks more people should feel like their votes matter — even in Midland County, where Tom Cradick has served residents since he was first elected nearly 50 years ago. Bounds said he believes

politicians — Republican and Democrat — should stay out of the business of creating district maps.

"It's in everybody's best interest that everyone has a real choice," Bounds said. "If everyone is participating, it can only get better."

coalition, according to a previous Reporter-Telegram report. The court approved \$50,000 in funding, to be distributed in \$10,000 increments, according to the report.

Wright hopes to use the voucher program balance to continue impacting animals in the county.

"The county is really a dumping ground for unwanted dogs and cats," she said. "Unfortunately, they either become feral, or they go to somebody's house."

To participate in the program, pet owners must be Midland County residents and live outside city limits. Also, the pet must receive or have current vaccinations and a microchip or eartip, according to the Midland Humane Coalition website.

Also at the meeting, commissioners approved:

■ appointing Karen Hood, tax assessor, as the Midland County candidate to the Midland Central Appraisal District.

■ appointing Roy Geer and Sharon Ziegler to the Midland County Public Library Advisory Board.

COURT

From 1A

system will use a virtual cloud software that patrons can access from their mobile devices.

"It'll basically be one system, and it'll be less moving parts," Stephenson said. "It'll be savings for the county, as well, because we will be using one copier, one kiosk."

For printing services, the court approved agreements with the electronics company Ricoh, subject to the county attorney's review. Stephenson said the county would pay about \$1,370 per month for a 36-month term, and it could have equipment within two or three months.

Stephenson said the county contracts with Ricoh to lease equipment. He thinks the new printing system will lower the costs to library users.

"On the library, we're actually trying to cut the cost down by unifying the solution," Stephenson said. "We're not increasing the costs. We're actually trying to decrease that."

In another vote, commissioners approved the purchase of two generators

for the Midland County Courthouse. The equipment cost would be nearly \$508,000, according to Stephenson.

He said the courthouse has one generator, and a roll-up generator can be brought in if that one doesn't work. Stephenson said the courthouse generator has had issues in the past.

"With the dual-generator set-up, that would just provide a little bit more comfort to know if one generator was to fail, that the other generator will come on, hopefully," he said. "When we need these generators, it's always in the worst times, whether it's in the streets or rain."

Stephenson said the courthouse is the county's main data center site and the county could lose information without timely generator restoration. He said plans call for the current courthouse generator to be moved to the Horseshoe Pavilion.

"That generator could have problems but the thing about it is, the IT equipment's what we're really concerned about

VOUCHER UPDATE

Also on Monday, the Commissioners' Court received a report about the Midland Humane Coalition's county voucher program. Six local veterinary clinics have agreed to participate in the program, which includes vouchers that can be applied toward spaying and neutering services.

Kelly Wright, coalition president, had previously petitioned the county to support the creation of a low-cost spaying and neutering program.

The Commissioners' Court in March approved a resolution for the program in partnership with the

Detained by US, Mexican journalist fears death if deported

By Nomaan Merchant
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Advocates for a Mexican journalist detained in a remote West Texas facility asked the U.S. government on Monday to grant him asylum instead of deporting him to a country where he believes he'll be killed.

Emilio Gutierrez Soto fled to the United States a decade ago after articles he wrote alleging corruption in the Mexican military caused his name to end up on a hit list. Mexico is one of the world's most dangerous places for journalism, likened to countries such as Syria and Iraq. At least 11 journalists have been killed in Mexico this year.

After coming within hours of possible deportation, Gutierrez, 54, is now appealing that denial. The National Press Club and other press freedom advocates held an event Monday highlighting Gutierrez's case and those of other reporters whose lives

were in danger.

Speaking by phone from a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention center in Sierra Blanca, Texas, Gutierrez accused Mexican leaders of being complicit in the violence of drug cartels and the murders of journalists, though he did not make specific allegations.

"The biggest criminal organization is the government," Gutierrez said. "I'm afraid to take one step into Mexico."

The U.S. government historically rejects most asylum claims. Over a five-year period ending in September 2016, the U.S. received about 267,000 asylum claims and granted 46,000.

It has granted asylum in recent years to a number of Mexican journalists. But Eduardo Beckett, Gutierrez's lawyer, accused the U.S. of turning a blind eye to corruption and violence in Mexico, and blamed the Trump administration for changing how it deals with asylum seekers.

WELLS

From 1A

efficiently.

Extracting oil is usually easy at first as liquid gushes to the surface. But that quickly fades as the pressure eases, so producers rely on pumps that slowly extract the bulk of the reserves over years or even decades. The most common variety is a pumpjack — more commonly known as a nodding donkey — a technology that's been in use for more than a century.

The nodding donkey has a steel hammerhead hovering over the well, bobbing up and down to create suction in the hole, aided by a rotating counterweight. The method is effective on vertical wells that go straight down, but is less so when used on horizontal ones. It's not uncommon for a shale well to go down a mile, then use another 800 feet of pipe to bend from vertical to horizontal before continuing sideways for a another mile or more.

SHORTER LIFESPANS

Pumpjacks on vertical wells can last five or six years without any problems, said Jesse Filipi, who until last year worked as an engineer for Marathon Oil Corp. and was responsible for about 700 producing wells in the Eagle Ford Shale deposit in south Texas. The same pumps might not last two years on the newer horizontal wells, he said.

"You're trying to understand what's going on, and then you start to realize, it's just not quite working the

way everyone tells you it should be working," said Filipi, who now works for Ambynt Inc., an oil-technology company in Calgary that focuses on ways to improve pumping systems that the industry refers to as artificial lift.

To be sure, there are only about 50,000 horizontal wells in the U.S. and Canada that use nodding donkeys, compared with a total of 1.2 million production wells in the region, according to data compiled by Ambynt.

But horizontal wells have been central to a resurgence of North American output. The shale boom helped to double U.S. production since 2005. It's now the highest ever, exceeding even Saudi Arabia, according to BP Plc data. Texas, home to the biggest shale deposits, saw output triple.

Yet some of those oil reserves may get stuck underground if the industry's pumps keep failing, which boosts costs for shale deposits that were initially cheap to exploit and often remained profitable even when crude fell to \$50.

It costs about \$250,000 to install a nodding donkey, along with all the startup gear, and as much as \$100,000 to repair or replace it, according to Ambynt.

"If you're failing your pump all the time, you're not getting low lifting costs," said Saponja, who had firsthand experience when he worked at a small exploration and production company in the Bakken shale region of North Dakota. Over a two-year period, Saponja said he replaced its

pump more than half a dozen times.

"There is no one favorable solution for the problem," said Cem Sarica, director of a research group at the University of Tulsa in Oklahoma that is trying to develop alternatives with funding from companies including Exxon and BP.

One workaround engineers have used is to shove natural gas into the hole to lighten the oil and make it easier to pump to the surface. Another is placing an electric-submersible pump, or ESP, down in the well. While both techniques work during the early stages in the life of a well, they often aren't as effective after output falls.

And then there are the slugs. That's what engineers call the separation of oil and gas in the horizontal pipes, which are often so long and bendy that they create small hills and valleys that allow the hydrocarbons to accumulate. The variations caused by big pockets of oil followed by large amounts of gas is too chaotic for most pumps to handle.

The oldest shale wells in North America are only about seven or eight years old, so the industry has only recently figured out the problems and begun looking for more efficiency, said Francis O'Sullivan, a researcher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge.

"There's a need now," O'Sullivan said. "If we're looking at the shale resource as a bigger component of our national production basin, that we try and apply the best possible husbandry to the resource. That's in the national interest."

Obituaries



Johnny E. Hill

Johnny E. Hill, 77, of Sweetwater, Texas, passed away on Sunday, December 10, 2017 at his residence.

Per his wishes, his body will be cremated.

A memorial service will be held 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, December 13, 2017 at Cate-Spencer & Trent Funeral Home Chapel with Dusty Lovell officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Cate-Spencer & Trent Funeral Home.

Johnny was born on January 20, 1940 in Gatesville, Texas to Edgar Travis and Clara Lorain (Benton) Hill. He married Barbara Jean Tackett on December 22, 1961 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He owned and operated an oilfield service company for many years before retiring. He was a U.S. Army veteran serving in Korea. He was a member of First Baptist Church.

He is survived by his son, Steven J. Hill and wife Robin of Sweetwater; daughter, Lquanna Hill Petrie of Dallas, Texas; four grandchildren: Casey Hill, Haley Hill, Amanda Petrie, and Lindsay Petrie; two sisters, Jackie E. Stovall and husband Bobby, and Sally Meurer.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Barbara Hill; parents, Edgar Travis and Clara Lorain Hill; and brother-in-law, Pat Meurer.



Thomas A. Puthoff

1946 - 2017

Thomas Allen Puthoff, 71, of Midland, Texas, lost his battle with cancer on December 8, 2017.

Thomas was born in San Antonio, Texas on October 21, 1946 to F. LeRoy and Faye Tucker Puthoff. He graduated from Jesuit High School in El Paso, Texas in 1964. He was a proud United States Navy veteran. He enjoyed fishing and watching sports on television. He always longed to return to the sea.

Thomas is survived by his

wife of 46 years, Joyce; his children, Dawn and Nathan; four grandchildren, Hannah, Madeline, Abigail, and Lauren; and his siblings, James and Margot.

A memorial service will be held at Ellis Funeral Home on December 13, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. with a reception to follow.

The family of Thomas Puthoff would like to thank all caregivers, friends, and family who showed compassion and concern during this difficult time.

In lieu of flowers, please consider giving a donation to The American Cancer Society at 2304 W Wadley Ave, Midland, Texas 79705.

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

Ellis Funeral Home
Funerals & Cremations
Dignity 801 Andrews Hwy. (432) 683-3333



Nathaniel Flores

Nathaniel Flores was born an angel on December 5, 2017 to Joanna Valadez and Larry Flores.

He is survived by brother, Zachary Flores, and sister, Aliyah Flores, all of Midland; grandma, Erma Valadez, aunt, Jessica Chavez, cousins, Sebastian, Victoria, and Alexander; and uncles, Matthew Valadez, Angel and Necia Flores, and Daniel Flores, all of Midland.

"We miss you so much! Now you're our guardian angel, sweetie."

Funeral service was held on December 11, 2017 at American Heritage Funeral Home, burial immediately following at American Heritage Cemetery.



Death Notices

Barbara Ann Roseberry

Barbara Ann Roseberry, 62, of Midland, passed away Wednesday, December 6, 2017.

Memorial services will be held at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 13, 2017 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Chapel in Midland.

Survivors include children, Sheldana Owens, Rochelle Moore, and Robert Roseberry.

WORD OF THE DAY
brought to you daily by

Superfluous

(soo-pur-floo-uh s)

adjective

1. being more than is sufficient or required; excessive.

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AT YOUR SERVICE

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This date in
Midland

On Dec. 12, 2000, George W.
Bush was transformed into the
president-elect as a divided U.S.
Supreme Court reversed a state court
decision for recounts in Florida's
contested election.
Source: Associated Press

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Trinity 9,733
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classes hold reunions 6,279
5. HS FOOTBALL: Edless Trinity
comes back to beat Lee in hard-
fought game 5,719
6. Scenes from Reindeer VI: 4,049
7. Five years later photos show
parade float-train crash tragedy 3,868
8. City of Midland Christmas
Parade 3,377
9. HS FOOTBALL: Ten MISD
players honored on first team District
2-6A last 3,236
10. Couple welcomes third child
through adoption 3,071
11. Sixth annual Gingerbread
Haven fundraiser 2,811
12. Magellan Midstream proposes
Permian-Gulf Coast pipeline 2,588

Things to do

- Palette Club Painting, 9 a.m.
to noon, Palette Club, 907 W. Wadley
Ave. paletteclubmidland.com
- 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@
artbyasara.com.
- Second Tuesday Salon is a free
lunchtime concert series, 11:30 a.m.,
Rose Building, 415 N. Grant Ave.
Odessa. This month's event features
the Permian Basin String Trio. Open
to the public. Noon Tuesday at the
Free. odesaarts.org
- Bridge game play, 1 p.m.,
Allison Bridge Center, 913 W. Wadley
Ave. \$6. For more information call
682-8595.
- Holiday Open House, 4-6
p.m., Midland County Public Library
downtown, 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., Midland County Public
Library Centennial branch, 2503 W.



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Lavonda Johnson shares a picture of her son, Jeremy, on Dec. 5 at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch during the annual tree dedication ceremony to honor homicide victims. Jeremy Johnson was killed in September 2011 in Midland.

Loop 250 N.
■ Bingo, 6 p.m., Tail City VFW
Post 7208, 1306 E. Taylor Ave.
Children welcome.
■ Live Trivia by Challenge
Entertainment, 7 p.m., Basin Burger
House, 607 N. Colorado St.
■ Cirque Dreams Holidaze, 7:30
p.m., Wagner Noel Performing Arts
Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road
1788, broadwayinthedesert.com.
■ 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

Meetings

City Council

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

Hanukkah begins at
sundown

What is Hanukkah
Chanukah (Hanukkah) begins
tonight and continues through Dec.

20. Chanukah (Hanukkah) is the
Jewish eight-day, wintertime "festival
of lights," celebrated with a nightly
menorah lighting, special prayers and
fried foods.
Source: <http://www.chabad.org>

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 12, the
348th day of 2017. There are 19 days
left in the year. Hanukkah, the Jewish
Festival of Lights, begins at sunset.
On this date:
In 1925, the first motel — the

Motel Inn — opened in San Luis
Obispo, California.
In 1946, a United Nations commit-
tee voted to accept a six-block tract
of Manhattan real estate offered as
a gift by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. to be
the site of the U.N.'s headquarters.
In 1977, the dance movie "Sat-
urday Night Fever," a Paramount Pic-
tures release starring John Travolta,
premiered in New York.
Today's birthdays: Former TV host
Bob Barker is 94. Singer Donna War-
wick is 77. Gymnast-turned-actress
Cathy Rigby is 65.

Lottery

Pick 3 morning: 4-1-4
Pick 3 day: 3-5-3
Pick 3 evening: 9-0-3
Pick 3 night: 7-3-7
Daily 4 morning: 0-7-5-5
Daily 4 day: 1-7-1-5
Daily 4 evening: 5-5-6-0
Daily 4 night: 7-0-4-9
Cash Five: 3-5-11-17-36
Triple Chance: 1-7-13-15-17
21-35-44-45-48

Texas Two Step: 4-20-25-28
88-30
All or Nothing morning: 3-4
6-7-8-10-12-13-14-17-23-24
All or Nothing day: 2-3-4-9
10-1415-19-20-21-22-24
All or Nothing evening: 2-4-7
8-11-12-14-16-19-20-22-23
All or Nothing night: 1-3-5-6
7-10-11-12-13-15-16-18

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Weather

Monday's temperatures

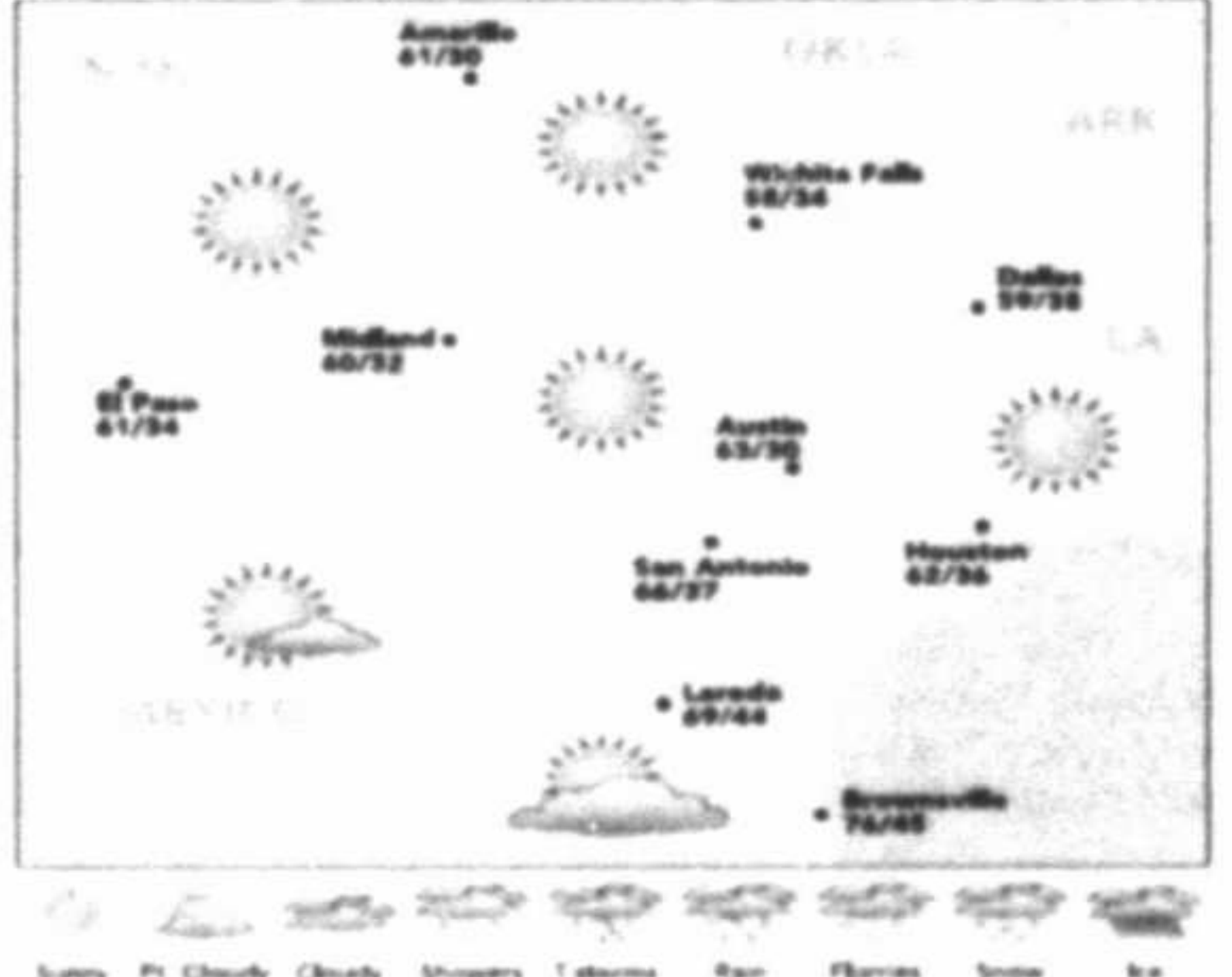
High: 66
Low: 32
Normal high: 59
Normal low: 31

Dec. 11's records
Record high: 84, set in
1987
Record low: 15, set in 1989

Precipitation
Monday: 0.00 in.
Sunday: 0.00 in.
Month total: 0.36 in.
Year total: 17.70 in.
Normal total
(year to date): 14.22 in.

Winds
Wind speed: 16 mph
Gust speed: 19 mph
Today's forecast
High: 58

Forecast for Tuesday, December 12, 2017



Low: 35
Conditions: Sunny today,
35 tonight
Winds: Northeast 5-10
mph today/southwest 5 mph
tonight
Chance of rain: None
Sunrise: 7:40 a.m.
Sunset: 5:45 p.m.
Source: National Weather Service

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
Libra.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for
Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017:
This year you open up new
doors and experience life from
a renewed perspective. You find
your day-to-day life much more
agreeable, especially if you are
willing to make the first move
and express your feelings. If you
are single, someone quite exotic
could enter your life soon. Do not
push this person too hard — let
the relationship evolve at its own
pace. If you are attached, the two
of you will make a commit-
ment that will recharge your life
together. You are likely to draw a
LIBRA into your life, his or her
friendship could become very
important to you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Focus on a key per-
son. You relate to others easily.
You could meet someone today
and feel as if she or he has been
in your life forever. Communica-
tion activates both professionally
and emotionally. You are likely to
achieve what you want. Tonight:
The unexpected occurs.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Your patience appeals

to many people who want to
work with you or be part of your
life. You have a lot to juggle and
handle. You will manage to clear
out a lot and not lose your any-
going attitude. Discussions later
in the day could be significant.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Keep communica-
tion moving, even if you feel
overwhelmed at times. Just
continue as you have been, as the
finish line is much closer than
you might realize. Ask for what
you need in order to keep such an
intense pace. Don't give up!

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You might want to
cocoon at home. You have a fun
style that draws people toward
you; however, you can screen
your calls and be unfindable, if
you so choose. You have a lot to
do, and you need some extra
time to handle what you must.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Others find you easy
to talk to. The biggest problem
you might face is having enough
time to socialize. You want what
you want, and you'll settle for
nothing less. Vital discussions

and intense feelings mark your
day. You can deal with only so
much. Tonight: Out and about.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Indulging others hap-
pens naturally. Gifts you buy for
someone are likely to make quite
an impression. You also are likely
to indulge yourself with a new
gift! Be careful when making
any money agreements, as plans
might backfire. Tonight: Out get-
ting into the holiday spirit.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Back away from
an ongoing issue, and you'll be
much happier as a result. A loved
one could be even more unpre-
dictable than usual. Refuse to take
this person's critique personally.
Your levelheadedness keeps your
days more stable. Tonight: Go
along with the moment.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Instead of starting a
fight to relieve some of the ten-
sion, face facts. You are known
as the Scrooge within your group

of friends, at least for now. Take
good care of yourself and get
some extra sleep, and you will see
your mood change in a few days.
Tonight: Schedule a massage.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-
Dec. 21)**
★★★★ Others might wonder
why you are constantly doing
your happy dance. Whether you
sense that a major change is about
to head your way or you simply
are happy to see Saturn leave
your sign in a few weeks, you
feel great. Tonight: A child plays
a major role in what happens.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.
19)**
★★★★ Step up to the plate.
You might not see a situation
as clearly as you think you do.
Be open to listening more and
speaking less. You will catch
more details about a key matter
close to your heart. Know that
you might need to stop to gather
more information. Tonight: In
the limelight.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb.
18)**
★★★★ You might like a
better friendship to evolve with
someone who is quite different
from you. Understanding and
acceptance will be key. Expect
the unexpected today. Others
might be getting uplight with
the holiday season in full force.
Tonight: Allow new information
to come to you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ One-on-one relating
takes you down a new path. Stay
mellow, even in the face of an un-
anticipated event. You will need
to ground the situation. What
seems difficult to grasp now will
become easier once you get out of
your own head. Tonight: Accept
a friend's invitation.

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Singer Frank Sinatra (1915),
game-show host Bob Barker
(1923), actress Mayim Bialik
(1975)

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Pipe bomb attack hits in NYC subway

By Colleen Long
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A would-be suicide bomber inspired by Islamic State extremists strapped on a crude pipe bomb, slipped unnoticed into the nation's busiest subway system and set the device off at rush hour Monday in a scenario that New York has dreaded for years, authorities said.

In the end, the only serious wounds were to the suspect identified as Akayed Ullah, a 27-year-old Bangladeshi immigrant and former cab driver. But the attack sent terrified commuters fleeing through a smoky passageway, and three people suffered headaches and ringing ears from the first bomb blast in the subway in more than two decades.

"This was an attempted terrorist attack," Democratic Mayor Bill de Blasio said. "Thank God the perpetrator did not achieve his ultimate goals."

The suspect had looked as Islamic State propaganda online and told investigators he acted alone in retaliation for U.S. military aggression, law enforcement officials said.

In Washington, President Donald Trump said the explosion highlighted the need to change immigration policies, including the type of family-based visa Ullah obtained to come to the U.S. in 2011. Such visas are "incompatible with national security," the Republican president said in a statement.

"America must fix its lax immigration system, which allows far too many dangerous, inadequately vetted people to access our country," said Trump, who campaigned on cracking down on immigration.

The attack near Times Square came less than two months after eight people died near the World Trade Center in a truck attack authorities said was carried out by an Uzbek immigrant who admired the Islamic State group.

Law enforcement officials said Ullah was inspired by IS but apparently did not have any direct contact with the group. Gov. Andrew Cuomo said there was no evidence, so far, of other bombs or a larger plot. He said officials were exploring whether Ullah had been on authorities' radar, but there was no indication yet that he was.

Cuomo said there was reason to believe the attacker looked at bomb-making instructions online.

Investigators described the bomb as a low-tech explosive device attached to Ullah with "Velcro and plastic ties." It was



Chuck Zoller/Associated Press

Police secure Eighth Avenue outside the Port Authority Bus Terminal following an explosion near New York's Times Square on Monday. Police said a man with a pipe bomb strapped to him set off the crude device in an underground passageway under 42nd Street between Seventh and Eighth Avenues.

ignited with a Christmas light, matches and a nine-volt battery. The short pipe was packed with explosive powder but did not work as intended. It was not powerful enough to turn the pipe into deadly shrapnel, the officials said.

Investigators said the suspect was seen on surveillance footage putting the circuits together with his hands and igniting the bomb.

Some of the bomb-making materials may have been bought commercially. The pipe may have been obtained from his job where he worked as an electrician, one official said.

Authorities were searching Ullah's Brooklyn home and a nearby rented space, interviewing witnesses and relatives, reviewing his subway fare card and looking for surveillance footage that might show his movements in the moments before the 7:20 a.m. attack.

Security cameras captured the attacker walking casually through a crowded passageway under 42nd Street between Seventh and Eighth avenues when the bomb went off amid a plume of white smoke, which cleared to show the man sprawled on the ground and commuters scattering.

"All we could hear was the

chaos," said Eirana Peralta, a Greyhound customer-service worker who was working at the Port Authority bus terminal near the blast, though she did not hear it. Instead, she heard people yelling, "Get out! Get out! Get out!"

Port Authority police said officers found the man injured on the ground, with wires protruding from his jacket to his pants and the device strapped to his torso under his coat. They said he was reaching for a cellphone and they grabbed his hands.

A photo published by the New York Post showed a bearded man crumpled on the ground with his shirt apparently blown off and black soot covering his bare midriff.

Law enforcement officials said the suspect was speaking with investigators from the hospital bed where he was being treated for burns to his hands and abdomen.

He was "all over the place" on the question of motive, but indicated he wanted to avenge U.S. aggression against the Islamic State, one official said.

The officials spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the blast.

Ullah came to the U.S. on an F-4 visa, available for those with

family in the U.S. who are citizens, the Department of Homeland Security said. Trump's administration has called for a "merit-based" immigration system that would limit family-based green cards to spouses and minor children. A White House spokeswoman said Monday that the proposed policy would have kept Ullah out of the U.S.

He had been licensed to drive a livery cab between 2012 and 2015, but the license was allowed to lapse, according to law enforcement officials and New York City's Taxi and Limousine Commission. He had been in two car accidents during his time driving, one law enforcement official said.

Ullah lived with his father, mother and brother in a Brooklyn neighborhood with a large Bangladeshi community, residents said. The family's red, two-story brick home is just off a shopping strip.

A statement on behalf of the family sent by the New York Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations said they were "deeply saddened" by the attack but also "outraged by the way we have been targeted by law enforcement, including a teenage relative of the suspect who was pulled from class and

questioned in his school without a parent guardian or attorney."

News of Ullah's arrest stunned Alan Butrico, who owns the house next door and a locksmith business two doors down. "It's very weird," Butrico said. "You never know who your neighbors are."

The last bomb to go off in the subway system was believed to be in December 1994, when an explosive made from mayonnaise jars and batteries wounded 48 people in a car in lower Manhattan.

The Times Square subway station is the city's busiest, with 64 million riders passing through every year. The subway system as a whole carried over 1.7 billion people last year.

Monday's explosion triggered a massive emergency response both above and below ground, halting what would ordinarily be a bustling rush hour at the "Crossroads of the World." But streets quickly began returning to normal.

"This is one of my nightmares, right: a terrorist attack in the subway system," Cuomo, a Democrat, later told cable channel NY1.

"The good news is: We were on top of it," he said, and "the reality was not as bad as the fear."

Alabama foes get in final shots before Tuesday's big vote

By Jay Reeves
Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.

Facing voters at last after the year's most bitter U.S. campaign, Alabama Republican Roy Moore said himself Monday as the victim of a national barrage of unjust allegations of sexual misconduct with teenagers. Rival Doug Jones, hoping to become the state's first Democratic senator in two decades, declared their race was Alabama's referendum on "who we are and what we're going to tell our daughters."

Allegations aside, President Donald Trump said in a rebroadcast to Alabama voters that he badly needs Moore's own vote in the U.S. Senate. Former President Barack Obama and his vice president, Joe Biden, recorded calls for Jones seeking to break the GOP's lock on statewide office in Alabama.

Whether the calls would sway anyone so late in such a highly publicized campaign was an open question. So was the impact of a rash of false news stories that have appeared on social media spreading misinformation.

One website wrongly claimed that one of the women who have accused Moore of sexual misconduct had recanted. Meanwhile, Moore's detractors took to social media to claim he had written in a 2011 textbook that women shouldn't hold elected office. He didn't.

On election eve, Moore called in to a conservative

talk radio show in Alabama to lament the tone of the campaign and portray cast himself as the victim of the sexual misconduct allegations.

"We've seen things happen in this campaign that I can't believe to this day," said Moore, who has denied all wrongdoing in contacts with the women who said he behaved inappropriately when they were in their teens and he was a local prosecutor in his 30s. One said he initiated sexual contact when she was 14.

"It's just been hard, a hard campaign," said Moore, a former Alabama Supreme Court chief justice who was twice removed from that post for violating judicial ethics.

Alabama has been a solidly Republican state for years, and Moore says he is much more in tune with the issues that matter to voters — and to the president.

Jones acknowledged Monday in Montgomery, "Look, I'm not going to be the senator that everybody in the state can agree with 100 percent of the time." But he added, "They'll know I'm somebody that will sit down with them. I will learn from them. ... I will try to be the public servant I think a U.S. senator ought to be."

Voters seemed as divided as ever, including young Alabamians, some going to the polls for the first time.

Lillian Woolf, 18, a University of Alabama freshman, said she was disgusted that some people would vote for Moore despite the allegations by multiple women.

Trump's PAC sent her to interview Roy Moore. She's 12 years old

By Mandy Matney
The Island Packet (Hilton Head Island, S.C.)

A pro-President Donald Trump political action committee sent a 12-year-old to Alabama to interview Republican Senate candidate Roy Moore, who has been accused of sexual harassment by several women in the last two months.

The video was released by the America First Project, a pro-Trump group, on Sunday. Millie March, a young Trump supporter who became well-known in the GOP during the 2016 election, interviewed both Moore and his campaign adviser Rich Hobson.

In the video, America First Project's Jennifer Lawrence said they "decided that we were going to bring Millie to Alabama, after everything that's happened in this Alabama Senate race up until this point."

She added that March's interview was meant to "show there is a wide range of people who support Roy Moore."

"Which age groups are supporting Roy Moore right now?" March asked.

"I wish I could say it was the 11-12 year olds right now —" Hobson responded. The video cut out before he finished his answer.

March asked Moore about his views on Trump's border wall and other issues.

When asked about what characteristics define a leader Moore responded, "Just adhering to principle."

Moore has faced criticism after a woman told The Washington Post in early November that Moore initiated a sexual encounter with her when she was 14 and he was 32. At least three other women told The Post that Moore "pursued" them when they were under the age of 18 when he was in his 30s.

The video of March's interview with Moore has received harsh criticism since it was published Sunday across social media platforms.

"Sending a child to interview a man accused of child molestation should be investigated as child abuse," a commenter wrote on Facebook.

"This is disturbing," a commenter wrote on YouTube. "Why are you using this child for political purposes?"

Others showed support for March.

"She's seen through the media bias for years!" a commenter wrote on Facebook. "She's inquisitive & really understands the good principles that Republicans are supposed to uphold, & understands the Constitution more definitively than most adults!"

Moore faces Democrat Doug Jones in the special election Tuesday for the U.S. Senate seat in Alabama. According to CBS News, Moore is slightly ahead of Jones in recent polls, but the race is "too close to call." Alabama has not elected a Democrat as U.S. Senator in 25 years.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

"It creeps me out," she said. "It shocks me just how much people are willing to ignore a person's past just because of their political stance."

But Joseph Chesnut, 20, a junior, said he will be voting for Moore, who "holds more Republican values ... just his Christianity standpoint and his Second Amendment standpoint and just,

you know, trying to fight the establishment up there."

For Alabama Democrats, the special election is viewed as a chance to renounce a history littered with politicians whose race-baiting, bombast and other baggage have long soiled the state's reputation.

Many Republicans see the

Please see RACE/5A

Pentagon to allow transgender people to enlist in military

By Lolita C. Baldor
Associated Press

WASHINGTON —

Transgender recruits will be allowed to enlist in the military beginning Jan. 1, the Pentagon said Monday, as President Donald Trump's ordered ban suffered another legal setback.

The new policy reflects the difficult hurdles the federal government would have to cross to enforce Trump's demand earlier this year to bar transgender individuals from the military.

Three federal courts have ruled against the ban, including one Monday in Washington state.

In October, U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly barred the Trump administration from proceeding with its plan to exclude transgender people from military service. Part of the effect of the ruling was that the military would be required to allow transgender people to enlist beginning Jan. 1.

The government had asked Kollar-Kotelly to put the Jan. 1 date on hold while they appealed her full ruling but she declined Monday, reaffirming the Jan. 1 start date. Department of Justice spokeswoman Lauren Ehrsam said Monday evening that the department will ask a federal appeals court to put on hold the Jan. 1 requirement "as we evaluate next steps."

Potential transgender recruits will have to overcome a lengthy and strict set of physical, medical and mental conditions that could make it difficult for them to join the armed services.

Maj. David Eastburn, a

Pentagon spokesman, said the enlistment of transgender recruits will begin next month and proceed amid legal battles. The Defense Department also is doing a review, which is expected to carry into 2018.

Eastburn told The Associated Press on Monday that the new guidelines mean the Pentagon can disqualify potential recruits with gender dysphoria, a history of medical treatments associated with gender transition and those who underwent reconstruction. But such recruits are allowed in if a medical provider certifies they've been clinically stable in their preferred sex for 18 months and are free of significant distress or impairment in social, occupational or other important areas.

Transgender individuals receiving hormone therapy must be stable on their medication for 18 months.

The requirements make it challenging for a transgender recruit to pass. But they mirror concerns President Barack Obama's administration laid out when the Pentagon initially lifted its ban on transgender service last year.

"Due to the complexity of this new medical standard, trained medical officers will perform a medical prescreen of transgender applicants for military service who otherwise meet all applicable applicant standards," Eastburn said. Aaron Belkin, director of the California-based Palm Center, an independent institute that has conducted research on sexual minorities in the military, said the 18-month timeline is fair.

Please see
MILITARY/5A

RACE

From 4A

vote as an opportunity to ratify their conservative views — referred to by Moore as “Alabama values” — and protect Trump’s agenda ahead of the 2018 mid-term elections. But the sexual allegations have dented some of that support. Sen. Richard Shelby said “I think the Republican Party can do better,” and he wrote in another Republican’s name.

The two candidates have taken very different approaches to campaigning, with Jones holding events regularly and Moore popping up only occasionally in small churches, rallies or in interviews with friendly media.

In a morning stop at a diner in Birmingham, Jones accused Moore of disappearing during the campaign’s closing days and claimed the Republican wasn’t even in Alabama over



Brynn Anderson/Associated Press

An alligator is displayed after people decorated a “swamp” before a scheduled campaign rally for U.S. Senate candidate Roy Moore on Monday in Midland City, Ala.

the weekend.

“We’re making sure our message is getting across while Roy Moore hides behind whoever he’s hiding behind,” said Jones.

Moore has made only a few public appearances since women came forward to accuse him of sexual misconduct years ago.

MILITARY

From 4A

“It’s a good standard because the Pentagon is treating gender dysphoria according to the same standards that are applied to all medical conditions,” he said.

However, Elaine Donnelly, president for the Center For Military Readiness, said Trump “has every right to review, revise, or repeal his predecessor’s military transgender policies, which would detract from mission readiness and combat lethality.” Court judges, she said, are not qualified to run the military.

The Pentagon move Monday signals the growing sense within the government that authorities are likely to lose the legal fight.

“The controversy will not be about whether you allow transgender enlistees, it’s going to be on what terms,” said Brad Carson, who was deeply involved in the last administration’s decisions. “That’s really where the controversy will lie.”

Carson worried, however, that the Defense Department could opt to comply with a deadline on allowing transgender recruits, but “under such onerous terms that practically there will be none.” Carson, who worked for Carter as the acting undersecretary of defense for personnel, said requiring 18 months of stability in the preferred sex is a reasonable time.

“It doesn’t have any basis in science,” he said, noting that experts have suggested six months is enough. “But as a compromise among competing interests and perhaps to err on the side of caution, 18 months was what people came around to. And that’s a reasonable position and defensible.”

Sarah McBride, spokeswoman for Human Rights Campaign, praised the court’s ruling, saying that it affirms “there is simply no legitimate reason to forbid willing and able transgender Americans from serving their country.”

PAID CONTENT

for your Information

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OPINION

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For sake of the country, leave the baker alone

Justice Kennedy has a chance to rule like a good emperor in the Masterpiece Cakeshop case, to balance his Obergefell decision with a panic-defusing counterpoint

ROSS DOUTHAT

New York Times News Service



There are fine constitutional lawyers who can argue back and forth about the Masterpiece Cakeshop case the Supreme Court heard last week, which will determine whether a Christian baker can decline to make a same-sex couple's wedding cake. The court's decision will either limit antidiscrimination law or limit First Amendment protections, so it's not surprising that you can find deeply-foot-noted legal arguments on both sides.

Nor is it surprising that I'm on the side of the baker. But I'm not going to make a constitutional argument for his rights. I'm going to make a political argument for why our country would be better off if he were left alone to bake his cakes.

The United States has the rules of a democratic republic but, increasingly, the cultural divisions of a sprawling Old World empire. We are governed by a Constitution, by the power of national majorities (or minorities with good luck in the Electoral College), and our laws are basically uniform across the land. But the scale and diversity of our country is vast and wild, encompassing immigrants from every part of the world and a native population riven by racial divisions, ideological wars, and a widening religious chasm.

Democratic life requires accepting that your own faction may be out of power roughly half the time. But in a culture this diverse and divided we trust our fellow citizens less, we share less with them, and we fear that any political defeat will leave our communities at their mercy, that if we lose power we will be routed and destroyed.

Meanwhile, because we are so distant from our rivals, we cannot recognize that they share the same fears about what will happen if power is in our hands — or else we dismiss those fears as the pleadings of a wicked clique whose destruction is entirely merited.

As a conservative Catholic who works in a liberal milieu, I watched this happen after Obergefell v. Hodges. For its opponents, the same-sex marriage ruling was less frightening for what it did than for what they feared might follow: not just legal same-sex nuptials, but a sweeping legal campaign against the sexual revolution's dissidents, in which conservative believers would be prodded out of various occupations, while their schools and hospitals

and charities would be fined and taxed and regulated and de-accredited to death.

And liberals who felt ascendant in the Obama years simply couldn't accept this fear as something to be managed and assuaged; to them, it was either ridiculous alarmism or a cloak for bigotry. So while the Obama White House was requiring nuns to pay for abortifacients and the ACLU was suing Catholic hospitals for not performing sterilizations and state bureaucrats were trying to punish a handful of Christians in the wedding industry, what Rod Dreher called "the law of merited impossibility" dominated the liberal mind: Religious conservatives were worrying about attacks on their institutions that would never arrive, and when the attacks did arrive they obviously deserved it.

Which in turn encouraged religious conservatives to vote rather desperately for a celebrity strongman named Donald Trump. At which point the roles reversed, and suddenly it was a certain kind of right-winger who couldn't understand why blacks and Hispanics and Muslims might feel threatened by the new president, why Trump's rhetoric might make them fear for their very safety, why causes conservatives regarded as procedurally neutral exercises in enforcing laws — illegal-immigrant roundups, strict voter ID laws — were experienced as acts of white-identitarian aggression.

This kind of cycle of incomprehension and aggression tends to destroy republics if it isn't broken, if leaders can't compro-

mise ideological principles to maintain civic peace, if partisans can't imagine how the world looks in communities vastly different from their own.

Race and religion are the crucial loci here. We need a liberalism that doesn't just rely on demographic replacement to win elections and a conservatism that doesn't just rely on fears of that replacement to hold its own. And we need a way to make the new shape of religion in America, in which a Christian core looks resilient, the lukewarm are secularizing and non-Christian faiths expand apace, feel less threatening to everybody — so that conservatives stop panicking about Shariah law every time a mosque goes up nearby, and the left stops preening about social justice while dragging nuns and florists into court.

I've written before that one hope is a president who behaves like a good emperor, who acts to reassure threatened feeling out-groups in a way that Obama failed to do and Trump is incapable of even attempting.

But Anthony Kennedy is also an imperial figure, and he has a chance to rule like a good emperor in the Masterpiece Cakeshop case, to balance his Obergefell decision with a panic-defusing counterpoint.

Liberalism won the same-sex marriage battle. Religious conservatism isn't going away. We all have to find a way to live together. That goal requires some compromise and magnanimity. Here is an opportunity. Please, for the sake of the country, leave the baker alone.

OPINION EXTRA

Neiman Marcus Christmas Book gifts this year range from amazing to absurd

If my critics are correct, I'm rolling in the dough. I'm one of those dirty "establishment" type conservatives who got into this business for the big bucks. That's right. I left the corporate world to do journalism — for the money.

Let's assume for a moment the accusation is right, and I've got money to burn. What better way to do so than peruse Neiman Marcus Christmas Book in search of expensive gifts for friends, family and, of course, me!

My colleague, Melissa Repko, went through the book and pulled out some real winners. Here are several for you to write down and buy for your friends, especially if you're a wealthy journalist like me (stop laughing).

Yours & Mine Rolls-Royce Limited Edition Dawns, Blue \$439,625 or Orange \$445,750

My first question is: Why are the orange cars more expensive? Regardless, you know those automobile commercials where one spouse reveals to another a new car in the driveway with a big bow on it? This would put that to shame. "Honey, I liked this Rolls so much I bought one for each of us!" Instant Christmas hero.

Olympia Le-Tan Bespoke Handbag Collection and Parisian Experience, \$45,000

Maybe it's because I am a man, but I have to confess I don't get this one. You pay \$45,000 and you get handbags that resemble books? The fee also covers a whopping two-night stay in Paris. Two nights. And book handbags. For \$45K. I guess if you're filthy rich like me, it's a gift that can be given without worrying about the cost, but I suspect my frugality would kick in nonetheless.

Ryder Cup Experience with Jim Furyk, \$250,000

A perfect Christmas gift for a man to buy for himself. Unlike the book-style handbags, this trip includes more than just a two-night stay in Paris: You get to hang with Furyk, get private cars, dinners and first-class flights. Plus Team USA gear. Buy that and stick it in your stocking for sure.

Stephen Webster Experience and 7.2-Carat Emerald, \$300,000

If you're going to buy a ring with a gem that isn't a diamond, this is the way to go. I don't even know what a 7.2-carat stone looks like, but it has to be big. The \$300K includes going to a gem mine in Africa and then to London, where this guy Webster will make a piece of jewelry that should make plenty of people envious. With my big bucks, I'd much rather drop money on this than the book handbags.

New Year's Eve at the Knickerbocker Hotel in Times Square, \$1.6 million

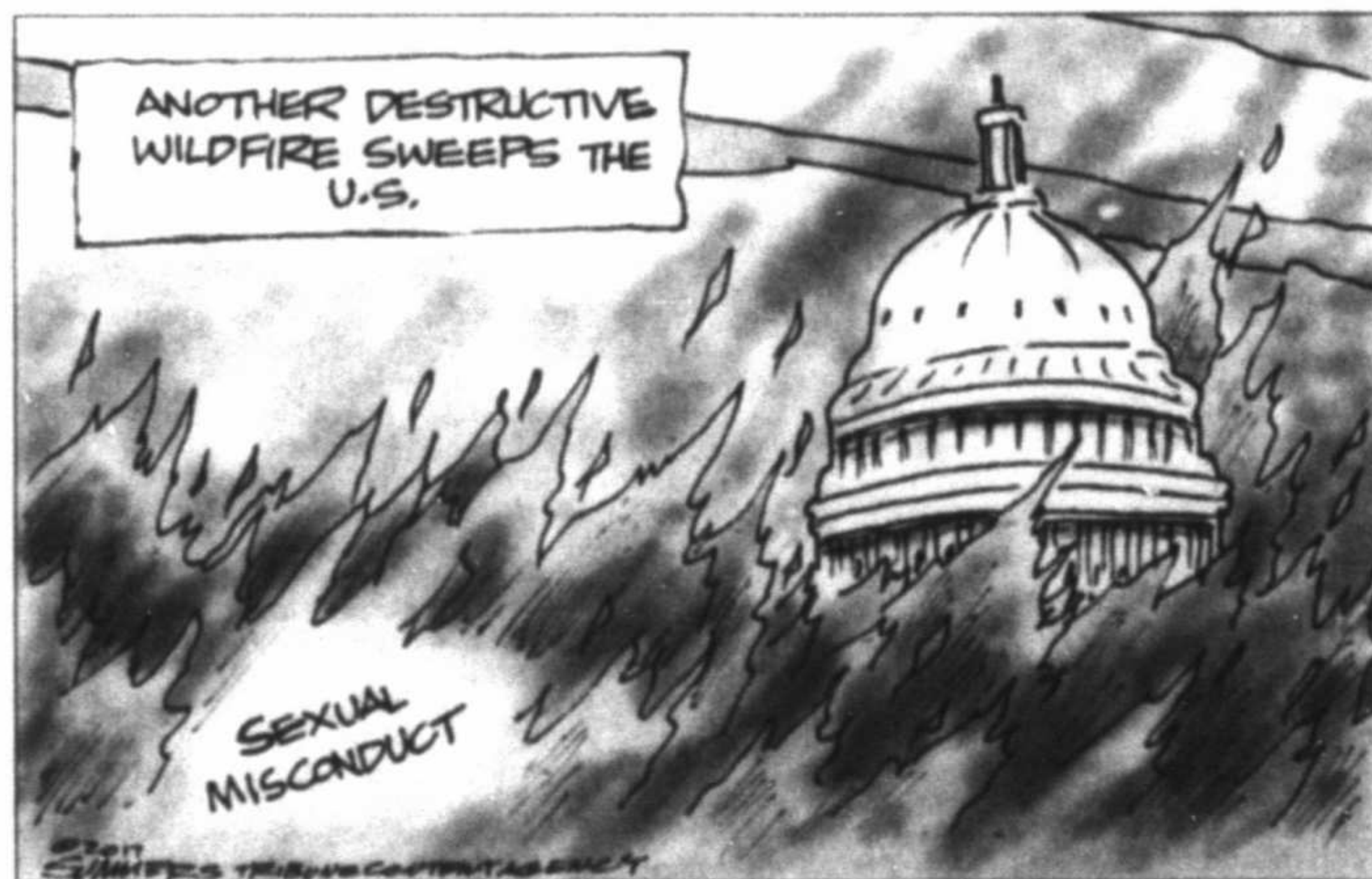
Now we're talking. It's party time. Knickerbocker style. If you have \$1.6 million lying around and need a New Year's Eve party idea, why not rent out the rooftop and 150 rooms at a hotel in Times Square? You might even see Ryan Seacrest! Best of all, you won't have to deal with the police presence or the street crowds. Plus, you'll have the satisfaction of knowing you dropped in one night more than most people will see in a lifetime.

There you have it, folks. Establishment journalist friends, head over to the Christmas Book and start throwing some cash around. You've earned it.

— Jay Caruso
The Dallas Morning News

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Tax bill won't matter on Election Day

Members of both parties are exaggerating the legislation's impact

RAMESH PONNURU

Bloomberg



There's nothing wrong with supply-side economics that division by 10 wouldn't cure. The quip came from Charles Schulze, the chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors in Democrat Jimmy Carter's White House. It meant that improving incentives to work and invest would promote economic growth — but not nearly as much as tax-cutting enthusiasts believed.

The point applies to the politics of tax cuts, too. Both parties are exaggerating the impact the tax bill making its way through Congress is likely to have in the next elections.

A lot of Republicans on Capitol Hill think passing a tax cut is vital to their re-election chances. They believe it will show that they can accomplish something, reassuring their core supporters. "Doing nothing, you're running as the gang that couldn't shoot straight," former Republican congressman Tom Davis tells me. They also think that voters will appreciate the higher take-home pay they will get as withholding tables are adjusted for the new tax code.

Finally, many Republicans believe that the bill will boost their candidates by amping up economic growth. It's a theory that conservatives have often invoked when arguing among themselves about how to design the bill. FreedomWorks, a conservative group, warned Senate Republicans, "If we don't make the corporate tax rate reduction immediate, Americans won't see the impact of economic growth and job creation by November 2018."

All of these effects are likely to be small. Not everyone who gets a tax cut is going to realize it. President George W. Bush cut taxes twice during his first term, in a less complicated way than the current tax bill does. Yet when he ran for re-election, only a fifth of voters believed he had cut their taxes.

It's true that one detailed analysis of the Senate tax bill shows it significantly boosting growth in 2018. Contrary to the FreedomWorks forecast, it's the delay in the reduction of the corporate tax rate that generates the extra growth. The bill lets companies write off the full cost of their investments in 2018 — creating a more powerful incentive to invest when the tax rate is higher. Strong growth usually helps the party in power. But we may be living through a time that is an exception to that

rule. The economy has been doing pretty well already, while President Donald Trump is unpopular and getting more so.

Democrats, meanwhile, may be overestimating how much the unpopularity of the tax bill will matter in the next election. For example, Chris Cillizza of CNN looks at survey data and concludes that "the Republican tax bill is a major motivator for Democratic base voters" and will "drive Democrats to the polls to show their anger and disapproval." Such data can be misleading, though, because a lot of those angry Democrats would be angry about something else in the absence of that tax bill. Or about someone else: Trump as president may be motivation enough for Democrats to vote.

What may help the Democrats is not the bill's overall unpopularity but its unpopularity with a specific group: relatively affluent voters in high-tax states. Both the House and the Senate versions of tax reform scale back the deduction for state and local taxes, resulting in a net tax increase for many of these voters — who have already been turning away from the Trump-era Republican Party.

What may help the Republicans, on the other hand, is that passing the tax bill will give them something to say for themselves. Next fall they may be able to say that the economy is booming and that they helped it get that way. Whether they will be right or wrong about it, it's the best argument they are likely to have at their disposal. Republicans in competitive races are probably not going to want to talk about the president's Twitter feed instead.

Passing a tax bill looks likely to be the major legislative accomplishment of this Congress. That doesn't mean it's going to be a dominant issue in the election. My guess is that passing it will be a modest net plus for Republicans. But whatever you think the political effect will be, divide it by 10.

From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



Journalists consider response to errors after Trump attacks

By David Bauder
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Some stinging mistakes in stories involving President Donald Trump have given him fresh ammunition in his battle against the media while raising questions about whether news organizations need to peel back the curtain on how they operate.

The president tweeted six attacks on what he calls "fake news" over the weekend, saying the "out of control" media puts out purposely false and defamatory stories.

That led to a contentious exchange at Monday's White House press briefing between press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders and CNN's Jim Acosta.

"Journalists make honest mistakes," Acosta said. "That doesn't make them fake news."

When Sanders responded that reporters should own up to their mistakes, one said, "we do."

"Sometimes, but a lot of times you don't," she said. "There's a very big difference between honest mistakes and purposely misleading the American people."

Trump has his own issues: The Washington Post's fact-checking blog counted 1,628 false or misleading claims made by the president in his first 298 days in office.

Still, it was an undeniably bad week for news organizations reporting on investigations into the Trump campaigns dealings with Russia.

ABC News suspended Brian Ross for incorrectly reporting the timing of a Trump directive to Michael Flynn.

Several news outlets wrongly reported that Trump and his family's bank records were the subject of the special prosecutor's subpoena.

And CNN corrected a story on the timing of a tip to the Trump campaign about damaging information on Democrats.

With the hyper-speed of the modern news environment, the stories spread swiftly beyond their original source.

News organizations corrected themselves but fell short in their explanations, said Kathleen Hall Jamieson, a communications professor and the director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania.

"When a mistake is made, the public really needs to understand why it was made and what corrections have been put in place to make sure it doesn't happen again," she said.

In announcing Ross' four-week suspension, ABC News issued a two-paragraph statement saying the story "had not been fully vetted through our editorial standards process."

Executives were not made available to explain to the public what exactly that meant.

Ironically, the only time ABC News President James Goldston's reaction to the error was heard came from a leaked tape of him talking to staff members obtained by CNN's media reporting team.

Sanders specifically cited Ross' story when asked for an example of one that was purposely misleading.

When CNN made its mistake a week later, its own executives did not talk publicly about it.

even when the topic was discussed on the network's weekend show about the media, "Reliable Sources."

Network representatives, speaking without allowing a name to be attached, blamed the error on sources that provided information to reporters Manu Raju and Jeremy Herb.

That still left questions: New York University journalism professor Jay Rosen wondered, for example, how it was possible that different sources made the same error about a date.

CNN earlier this year fired journalists involved in a discredited story about former Trump aide Anthony Scaramucci. CNN said — again, without allowing a name to be attached — Raju and Herb followed the network's procedures for sensitive stories. In the Scaramucci case, the reporters didn't.

Again, it was up to consumers to decipher precisely what that meant.

CNN's communications staff, responding Monday to Trump's tweet that he once called anchor Don Lemon "the dumbest man on television," said "in a world where bullies torment kids on social media to devastating effect on a regular basis with insults and name calling, it is sad to see our president engaging in the very same behavior himself. Leaders should lead by example."

With politicians targeting journalists, it is more important than ever to be clear, Jamieson said. People need to know that there are consequences when reporters make mistakes, and what those consequences are, she said.

She pointed to The Washington Post, which last Friday began what it said will be an occasional series of videos about its operations.

The first, titled "How to Be a Reporter," featured interviews with two journalists who worked on the newspaper's story about Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore dating young girls.

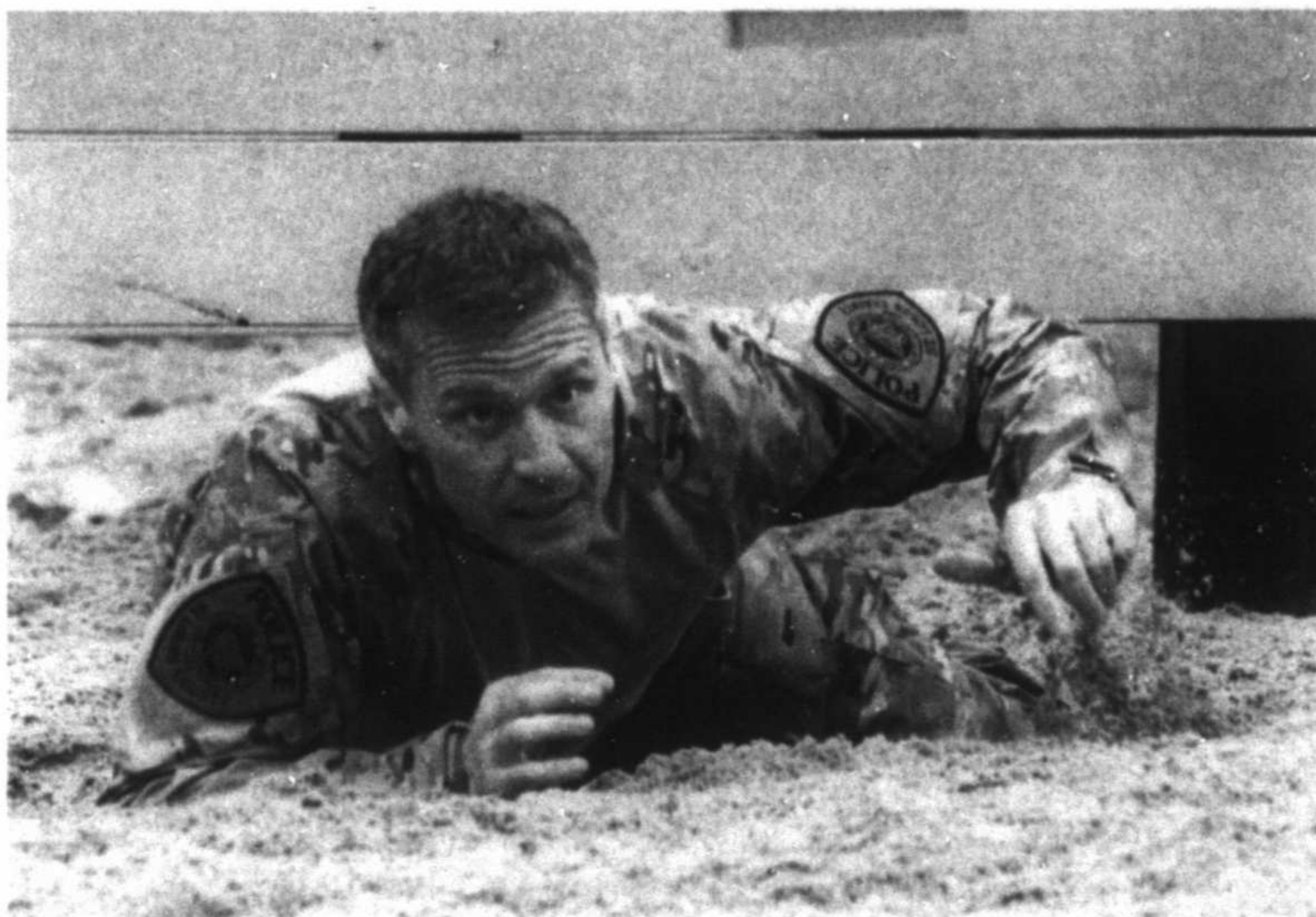
The reporters explained how they were tipped to the story and went about reporting it.

"As corny as it sounds, the agenda is to find out what the reality is, what the truth is of the story," said reporter Stephanie McCrummen. "That's it."

Over the weekend, Trump demanded an apology from the Post for a photo that he said was deceptive about the number of people who attended his Florida rally, since it had been taken while people were waiting outside.

Post reporter Dave Weigel apologized; Trump later said he should be fired.

On Monday, Trump said a Times story exaggerated the amount of time he watched television each day, and that he seldom watched CNN or MSNBC. The Times said its story was based on interviews with 60 people, "including many who interact with President Trump every day."



Jacob Scott/Daily Journal via AP

Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens crawls under an obstacle during the SEMO SWAT Challenge on April 22 in Fredericktown, Mo. Greitens is earning a reputation for public displays of physical prowess and revels in the attention, posting videos of his action adventures on Facebook and even using them to help stay fit while keeping a demanding schedule.

Hyperactive Missouri Gov. Greitens touts his physical feats

By Summer Baillentine and Margaret Stafford
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Rappelling into a bull-riding rodeo event, crawling through dirt in a SWAT obstacle course and entering a burning building with firefighters.

These could be action movie stunts by Arnold Schwarzenegger, the Hollywood star turned California governor.

But they were all done by another governor earning a reputation for public displays of physical prowess — Eric Greitens of Missouri.

The 43-year-old Greitens is the nation's second-youngest state executive, reveling in the attention, posting videos of his action adventures on Facebook and even using them to help stay fit while keeping a demanding schedule.

In one feat of strength, Greitens visited an indoor rock climbing business and easily scaled two walls as media cameras

rolled. Greitens was at the veteran-owned business to announce an initiative to eliminate all start-up business fees for veterans in Missouri. Other exploits include leading runs with military members, climbing 110 flights of stairs in memory of 9/11, and riding in a Missouri Highway Patrol car through a high-speed obstacle course.

In a bet with Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin, Greitens in a Facebook video posted Saturday pledged to do 10 push-ups for every point scored by the Army if the Navy lost, which it did 14-13. That added 140 push-ups to the governor's to-do list.

"Look, this is fun. It's a good time," Greitens said after scaling the climbing wall. "And I think it's important that people know we are fighting every day for the people of Missouri."

A novice to politics, Greitens has experience in real fights. He was a boxer in college and has a black belt in Taekwondo. A former Navy SEAL officer, he was once chlorine-gassed

in a suicide bomb attack in Iraq. He returned to service three days later.

Greitens was elected in 2016 with no prior experience in public office. He typically wakes up between 5 a.m. and 6 a.m. to run on local trails or do strength training at the Missouri State Highway Patrol gym, spokesman Parker Briden said. Shooting the photos and videos of the governor does not require a fulltime staffer and there is no cost to the state of Missouri, Briden said.

He's not the first elected official to earn a reputation for fitness. House Speaker Paul Ryan is a fan of high-intensity P90X workouts. And seven-time Mr. Olympia — Schwarzenegger — went every year to a bodybuilding competition. He called lawmakers "girlie men" when they didn't go along with his political agenda.

But Missouri State University communications expert Elizabeth Dudash-Buskirk said Greitens' use of social media to highlight his physical exploits is

"unprecedented."

"He wants to be that picture that you think of when you think of a strong government, when you think of a strong military (and) when you think of a strong police force," she said.

Dudash-Buskirk said Greitens' self-branding as a veteran might also signal higher political aspirations from a governor who has long been pegged as highly ambitious. The Republican reserved the web address ericgreitensforpresident.com years ago.

The governor has gotten generally good reviews on Facebook for the stunts. In response to a video of Greitens rappelling into the bull-riding event, one user commented that "Missouri now officially has the coolest governor."

Springfield resident Conor Bruner, who voted for Greitens, said the videos show Greitens "being a man."

"They're all pencil pushers," said Bruner, referring to other elected officials. "He sort of changed the game."

There are skeptics, too. Sharon Swon of Mexico, Missouri, asked why Greitens keeps trying to prove how "macho" he is.

"So he can do push-ups," Swon said. "I'm not impressed."

Trump administration gives tax overhaul plan rosy assessment

By Marcy Gordon
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Wednesday will try to sell the American people on an unpopular Republican tax overhaul that his administration claims will generate a large part of \$1.8 trillion in new revenue — a figure that a top Democratic lawmaker dismissed as "fake math."

Trump's pitch will focus on how the GOP tax reform plan will lead to a brighter future for taxpayers and their families, according to spokeswoman Lindsay Walters. House and Senate negotiators are rushing to finalize a bill and deliver the measure to Trump before Christmas.

Trump and Republican leaders in Congress have promoted the massive tax plan by promising the tax cuts will boost the economy. Their idea is that growth sparked by the legislation will let the tax cuts pay for themselves and not balloon the \$20 trillion deficit.

Public polling shows many Americans are unhappy with the proposal. The House and Senate tax bills combine steep tax

cuts for corporations with more modest reductions for individuals.

The administration's rosy estimate of new revenue from the tax plan over 10 years is a lot higher than nonpartisan congressional analysts have projected. The Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that growth stimulated by the anticipated tax cuts will generate some \$408 billion in additional tax revenue over 10 years.

The new Treasury Department analysis says about half the expected increase in economic growth likely will result from tax benefits for corporations. Trump and the Republicans have insisted that businesses will use the tax savings to invest and create new jobs.

According to the Treasury analysis, the other half of new revenue will come from tax reductions for individuals and businesses whose profits are reported on owners' personal income tax returns, as well as from planned administration initiatives such as infrastructure development and a welfare overhaul.

The analysis includes an assumption that tax cuts and

other administration policies would cause the economy to expand at a 2.9 percent annual pace over 10 years. Economic growth at that level would, in theory, be enough to keep the national debt from rising.

But most analyses have concluded that the tax overhaul would add at least \$1 trillion to budget deficits in the next decade because the analyses foresee significantly less growth resulting from the tax cuts.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer called the administration's analysis "nothing more than one page of fake math."

"It's clear the White House and Republicans are grasping at straws to prove the unprovable and garner votes for a bill that nearly every single independent analysis has concluded will blow up the deficit and

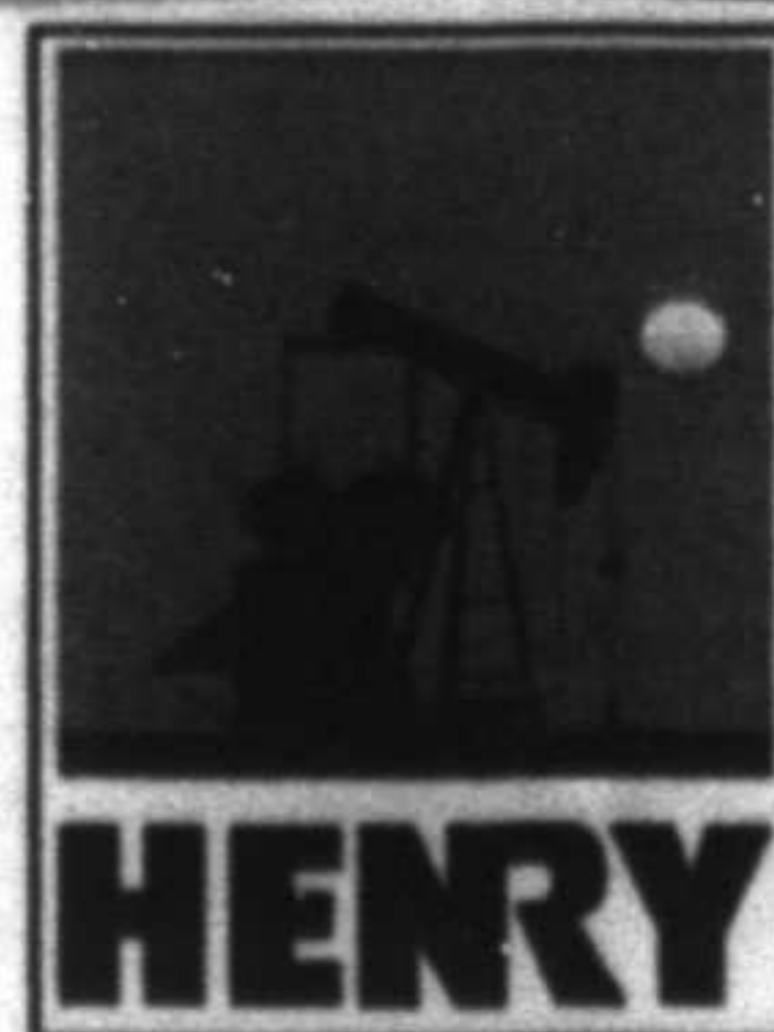
generate almost no additional economic activity to make up for it," Schumer said.

The estimates by Treasury and the Joint Committee on Taxation apply specifically to the Senate bill. Underlining the divergent estimates, the congressional tax committee released an analysis of the House bill late Monday projecting sufficient growth to generate \$483 billion in new revenue.

Republicans are determined to deliver the first revamp of the nation's tax code in three decades and prove they can govern after their failure to dismantle Barack Obama's health care law.

GOP leaders in Congress aim to iron out differences between the \$1.5 trillion House and Senate tax bills to pass a final blended package.

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Psalm 100:1-2

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.

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The Statue of Liberty used to have a reddish brown color.

The Statue of Liberty was intended for Egypt.



Mark Lennihan/Associated Press

Rachel Crooks, left, Jessica Leeds, center, and Samantha Holvey attend a news conference Monday in New York to discuss their accusations of sexual misconduct against Donald Trump. The women, who first shared their stories before the November 2016 election, called for a congressional investigation into Trump's alleged behavior.

#MeToo spotlight increasingly pointed at past Trump conduct

By Jonathan Lemire
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Donald Trump sailed past a raft of allegations of sexual misconduct in last year's presidential election.

Now the national #MeToo spotlight is turning back to Trump and his past conduct. Several of his accusers are urging Congress to investigate his behavior, and a number of Democratic lawmakers are demanding his resignation.

With each day seeming to bring new headlines that force men from positions of power, the movement to expose sexual harassment has forced an unwelcome conversation on the White House. In a heated exchange with reporters in the White House briefing room on Monday, press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders steadfastly dismissed accusations against the Republican president and suggested the issue had already been litigated in Trump's favor on Election Day.

But to Trump's accusers, the rising #MeToo movement is an occasion to ensure he is at last held accountable.

"It was heartbreaking last year. We're private citizens and for us to put ourselves out there to try and show America who this man is and how he views women, and for them to say, 'Eh, we don't care,' it hurt," Samantha Holvey said Monday. The former beauty queen claimed that Trump ogled her and other Miss USA pageant contestants in their dressing room in 2006.

"Let's try round two," she said. "The environment's different. Let's try again."

Holvey was one of four women to make her case against Trump on Monday, both in an NBC interview and then in a news conference. Rachel Crooks, a former Trump Tower re-

ceptionist who said the celebrity businessman kissed her on the mouth in 2006 without consent, called for Congress to "put aside party affiliations and investigate Trump's history of sexual misconduct."

"If they were willing to investigate Sen. Franken, it's only fair that they do the same for Trump," Crooks said.

Franken, the Democratic senator from Minnesota, announced last week that he would resign amid an ethics probe into accusations that he sexually harassed several women. Reps. John Conaway, D-Mich., and Trent Franks, R-Ariz., also resigned after misconduct accusations.

But a Capitol Hill investigation into Trump's conduct appears unlikely. The Senate and House Ethics Committees investigate members of Congress, not presidents, and Republican-led committees are not apt to investigate Trump on sexual misconduct unless there is some sort of connection to the ongoing Russia probe.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said Congress shouldn't investigate the allegations against Trump.

"I don't think there's any forum for us to do that," he said. "Just think about how that could be abused."

Nonetheless, several Democratic senators have seized the moment and called for Trump to step down.

"President Trump should resign," New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand told CNN on Monday. "These allegations are credible; they are numerous. I've heard these women's testimony, and many of them are heartbreaking."

New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker and Oregon Sen. Jeff Merkley have also called on Trump to resign.

White House aides have warily watched the movement sweep Capitol Hill, opting to repeat rote denials about allegations against the president. The president's advisers were stunned Sunday when one of the highest-ranking women in

the Trump administration broke with the White House line and said the accusers' voices "should be heard."

"They should be heard, and they should be dealt with," Nikki Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said in a CBS interview. "And I think we heard from them before the election. And I think any woman who has felt violated or felt mistreated in any way, they have every right to speak up."

Haley's comments infuriated the president, according to two people who are familiar with his views but who spoke on condition of anonymity because they aren't authorized to speak publicly about private conversations. Trump has grown increasingly angry in recent days that the accusations against him have resurfaced, telling associates that the charges are false and drawing parallels to the accusations facing Republican Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore.

Sixteen women have come forward with a range of accusations against Trump, many after the release of the "Access Hollywood" tape last October in which Trump was caught on an open microphone bragging about groping women. One woman, Summer Zervos, a contestant on Trump's reality show, "The Apprentice," sued, contending that Trump's denials of her accusations amount to false and defamatory statements.

Jessica Leeds, who appeared at Monday's news conference, recalled sitting on an airplane next to Trump in the 1970s when he began to fondle her.

"All of a sudden, he's all over me. Kissing and groping, groping and kissing," she said. "Nothing was said. It was just this silent groping going on."

Trump denied the allegations during the campaign, and Sanders did the same Monday.

"Look, as the president said himself, he thinks it's a good thing that women are coming forward, but he also feels strongly that a mere allegation shouldn't determine the course," Sanders said. "And again, the American people knew this and voted for the president. And we feel like we're ready to move forward in that process."

Sanders declined to say whether she believed the accusers or if she herself had been the victim of harassment. She grew impatient with the repeated questions and pledged to provide a list of eyewitnesses whose accounts exonerated the president.

The White House did not provide the list by late Monday.

Mario Batali steps down after sexual misconduct allegations

By Michelle Chapman and Joseph Pisani
Associated Press

Celebrity chef Mario Batali stepped away from his restaurant empire and cooking show "The Chew" on Monday as he said that reports of sexual misconduct "match up" to his behavior.

Food news website Eater New York published an article Monday that said four women accused the chef of inappropriate touching. One of the women said that Batali groped her chest after wine spilled on her shirt. Another said he grabbed her from behind and held her tightly against his body. Eater said the four women, three of whom worked for Batali, asked to remain anonymous for fear of retaliation.

The sexual misconduct allegations are the latest to come against powerful men in entertainment, politics and other industries. Batali, who has appeared on "The Chew" since its debut six years ago, oversees several restaurants in a handful of cities.

Batali apologized in a statement Monday, and said that "much of the behavior described does, in fact, match up with ways I have acted."

A representative for his restaurant business, Batali & Bastianich Hospitality Group,

said an employee reported inappropriate behavior by Batali in October. The company told Eater it was the first formal complaint against Batali and that he was reprimanded and required to attend training.

The group's restaurants include Babbo in New York, Carnevino Italian Steakhouse in Las Vegas and Pizzeria Mozza in Los Angeles. It's also a partner in Eataly, an Italian food hall and grocer, which has locations in New York, Chicago and Boston. In 2012, Batali and his business partners agreed to pay more than \$6 million to settle two separate lawsuits from restaurant workers who said they were deprived of tips or overtime pay.

Batali, who is 57, was well known in culinary circles, taking jobs early in his career as a sous chef at the Four Seasons in Santa Barbara and San Francisco.

His career took off after opening Po in New York City in the early 1990s, and he skyrocketed to fame with the airing of "Molto Mario," a show that ran on the Food Network for eight years, until 2004. It was there that his signature look, a fleece vest, shorts, and orange Crocs, became recognizable to most people. He has also won several prestigious James Beard awards, which are considered the Academy Awards of the culinary world.

Will misconduct scandals make men wary of women at work?

By Jennifer Peltz
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Some women, and men, worry the same climate that's emboldening women to speak up about sexual misconduct could backfire by making some men wary of female colleagues.

Forget private meetings and get-to-know-you dinners. Beware of banter. Think twice before a high-ranking man mentors a young female staffer.

"I have already heard the rumblings of a backlash: 'This is why you shouldn't hire women,'" Facebook chief operating officer Sheryl Sandberg wrote in a recent post.

"So much good is happening to fix workplaces right now. Let's make sure it does not have the unintended consequence of holding women back," said Sandberg, author of the working women's manifesto "Lean In."

Ana Quincoces, a Miami-based attorney and entrepreneur who owns her own food line, says her business and its success involves working mostly with men, and sales and other activities are often concluded over lunch or drinks. Those opportunities, she says, are dwindling, because many of the men she knows through her business "are terrified."

"There's a feeling of this wall that wasn't there that is suddenly up because they don't know what's appropriate anymore — it's disconcerting," Quincoces said. "I feel that they're more careful, more formal in their relationships with co-workers. And I can't say I blame them, because what's happened is pervasive. Every day there's a new

accusation."

She said many of the men she knows are now avoiding one-on-one social occasions that were normal in the past.

"This is going to trickle down into all industries. ... It's going to become the new normal," Quincoces said. "It's a good thing because women are not afraid anymore, but on the other side, it's a slippery slope."

Americans were already edgy about male-female encounters at work: A New York Times/Morning Consult poll of 5,300 men and women last spring found almost two-thirds thought workers should be extra careful around opposite-sex colleagues, and around a quarter thought private work meetings between men and women were inappropriate.

But in a season of outcry over sexual misconduct, some men are suddenly wondering whether they can compliment a female colleague or ask about her weekend. Even a now-former female adviser to the head of Pennsylvania's Democratic Party suggested on Facebook that men would stop talking to women altogether because of what she portrayed as overblown sexual misconduct claims.

Certain managers are considering whether to make sure they're never alone with a staffer, despite the complications of adding a third person in situations like performance reviews, says Philippe Weiss, who runs the Chicago-based consultancy Seyfarth Shaw at Work.

Philadelphia employment lawyer Jonathan Segal says some men are declaring they'll just shut people out of their offices, rather than risk ex-

changes that could be misconstrued.

"The avoidance issue is my biggest concern, because the marginalization of women in the business world is at least as big a problem as harassment," Segal says. A recent report involving 222 North American companies found the percentage of women drops from 47 percent at the entry level to 20 percent in the C suite.

Vice President Mike Pence has long said he doesn't have one-on-one meals with any woman except his wife and wants her by his side anywhere alcohol is served, as part of the couple's commitment to prioritizing their marriage. The guidelines have "been a blessing to us," the Republican told Christian Broadcasting Network News in an interview this month.

Employment attorneys caution that it can be problematic to curb interactions with workers because of their gender, if the practice curtails their professional opportunities. W. Brad Johnson, a co-author of a book encouraging male mentors for women, says limiting contact sends a troubling message.

"If I were unwilling to have an individual conversation with you because of your gender, I'm communicating 'you're unreliable; you're a risk,'" says Johnson, a U.S. Naval Academy psychology professor.

Jessica Proud, a communications professional and Republican political consultant in New York City, said it would be wrong if this national "day of reckoning" over sexual misconduct resulted in some men deciding not to hire, mentor or work with women. She recalled a campaign she worked on where she was told she couldn't travel with the candidate because of how it might look.

"I'm a professional, he's a professional. Why should my career experience be limited?" she said. "That's just as insulting in a lot of ways."

EDUCATION

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Tuesday, December 12, 2017 | Section B

MISD aims for 75 percent FAFSA completion

Workshops provide assistance for filling out federal student aid application

By Simone Jasper
sjasper@mrt.com

Families of local high school seniors have opportunities this school year to receive help with a step in the post-graduation process. Community partners have offered workshops with the intent of increasing the number of Midland ISD students who fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Educate Midland, Midland College and the University of Texas of the Permian Basin are collaborating to help the district reach its goal of 75 percent of spring 2018 graduates completing the FAFSA, a requirement to receive federal funds to pay for higher education.

Jeff Horner, executive director of

secondary education at MISD, hopes high school seniors and their parents will contribute the information needed to fill out the FAFSA. He said increasing application numbers is in line with the district's mission to graduate college- and career-ready students.

"Our seniors are leaving, every year, money on the table that could supplement or even pay for college or post-secondary," he said.

Nearly all MISD seniors complete college applications through ApplyTexas, but only 46 percent of 2017 graduates filled out the FAFSA, according to Horner. He said the federal form is a way to measure student interest in attending college.

"It's a good indicator that those students aren't attempting to go on if

they're not completing FAFSA," Horner said. "So our major purpose is to help close the gap between kids applying to college and actually going to college."

The district has had three pushes for offering FAFSA assistance: early evening and weekend workshops with MC staff; after-school 1 TO 1 Tutoring sessions for Lee and Midland high school students; and daytime group sessions with MC and UTPB staff.

Natasha Enriquez, financial aid specialist at MC, said the college offers assistance regardless of the institution a student plans to attend. She said the FAFSA workshops show high school students that colleges can help them prepare for the future.

"I think it's making them feel more comfortable that their FAFSA is

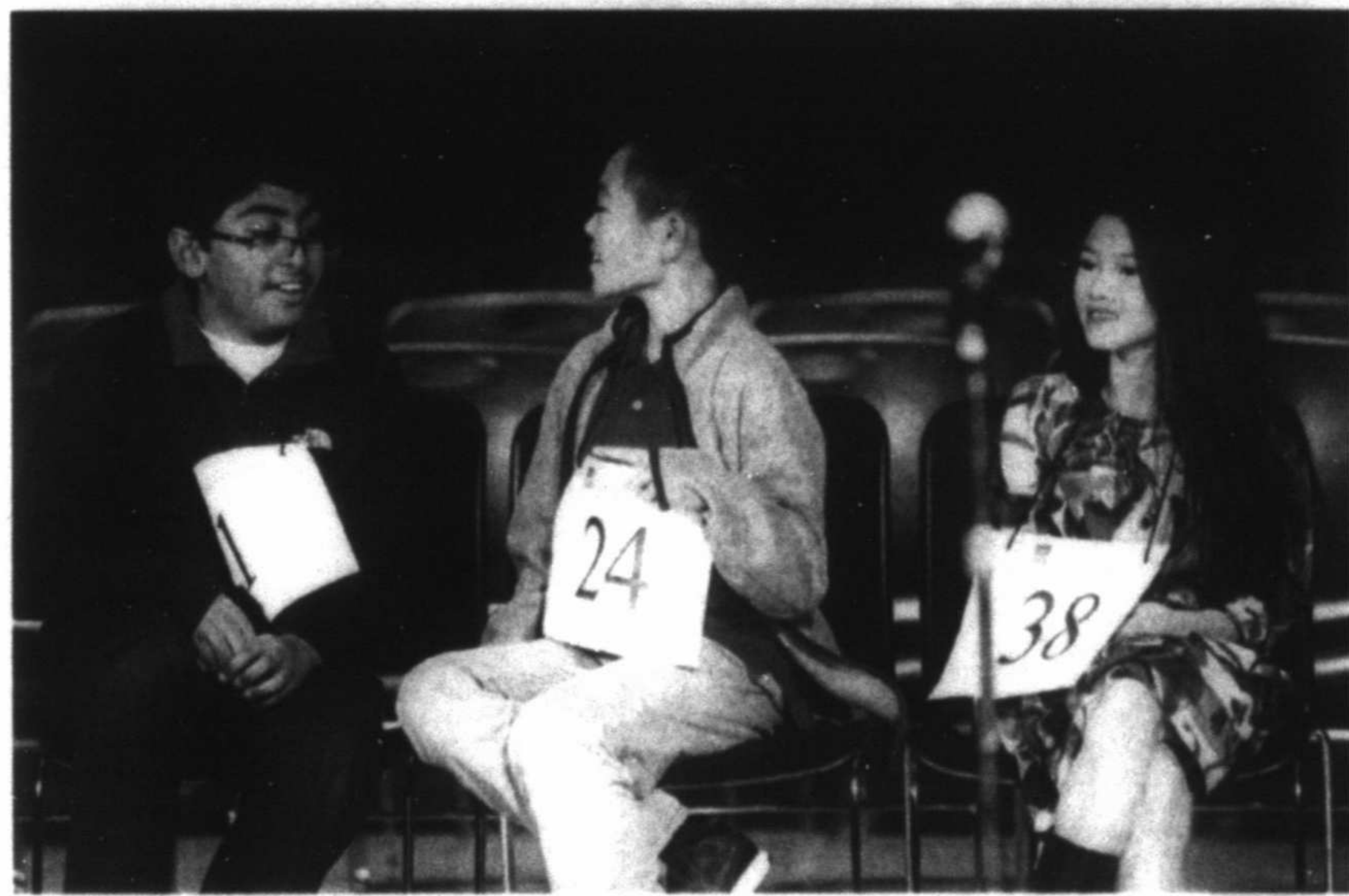
being filled out correctly and on time for [scholarships]," Enriquez said.

As a part of the FAFSA push, the Chick-fil-A at Andrews Highway and West Wall Street has agreed to donate nearly 1,000 gift cards to students who have completed the application, according to Mike Mills, program director at Educate Midland.

When calculating FAFSA form completions, MISD will also count graduates who join the military or have filled out the TASFA — an application for students who aren't U.S. citizens — according to a document provided to the Reporter-Telegram. The district has created target numbers for Coleman, Early College, Lee and Midland high schools.

Please see FAFSA/2B

SPELLING WARS RULE CHANGE



MRT file photo

Srikanth Chamarthi, from left, Jaiden Catalasan and Prayer Lonskulint chat between rounds during the Midland Reporter-Telegram's 30th annual Regional Spelling Bee on Feb. 25 at the Allison Fine Arts Building at Midland College. Srikanth won the bee, Jaiden was runner-up, and Prayer came in third. The 2018 regional is Feb. 24 at MC. Because of a rule change, students who don't win the regional bee but won their school bee will be able to apply to compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

National spelling bee offers way to expand field

By Ben Nuckols
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For three years running, Siyona Mishra and Dhyana Mishra faced off amid some of the highest stakes in competitive spelling.

They outlasted the rest of the field at the regional spelling bee in Orlando, Florida. But there was only room at the Scripps National Spelling Bee for one of them. Siyona finished eighth overall at nationals in 2015, but last year, she lost the regional bee to Dhyana — the two are not related — and had no way to return.

Under a rule change announced by Scripps last week, the stakes would be much lower when spellers like the Mishras clash.

Scripps is establishing RSVBee, a

Want to know more?

For more information about RSVBee, visit the Scripps National Spelling Bee website: spellingbee.com

new path to the national bee that could result in the field of spellers nearly doubling, from fewer than 300 to more than 500. Any speller who wins a school-level bee will now have the opportunity to request a wild-card invitation to the national bee. Scripps will hand out up to 225 wild cards, giving top priority to those who have been to nationals before and then to older spellers who are running out of eligibility. The bee is open to students through the eighth grade.

The motivation behind the change is to level the uneven playing field at

regional bees, which previously offered the only path to the finals. A handful of regions are extraordinarily competitive, with the winners immediately entering the conversation as potential bee champions. For the runners-up, it can be a bitter experience to watch less accomplished spellers compete on the biggest stage.

"We are aware of so many stories, so many different situations, kids who've been runners-up to, let's say ... a kid who was in our top 20 for four consecutive years. That runner-up might have been good enough to make our finals, but because of the way the contest was structured, that child never even got a chance to go to Washington," Paige Kimble, the bee's executive director, told The Associated Press ahead of

Please see BEE/2B

MIDLAND COLLEGE PROFILES

By Rebecca Bell

Nursing student shares accomplishment with family

Nicole Arizpe would change the subject quickly when her children asked her about high school and college.

"I was embarrassed to tell them that I dropped out of school in the ninth grade," said Arizpe. "I always wanted to finish high school and then go to college, but I never had the courage to take the first step. When I would be in the car driving down Garfield and pass the Midland College sign that reads, 'Your College,' I would think to myself, 'Midland College could be my college,' but it was always just a wish."

"One day, my oldest son, Sebastian Jr., who was then 12, asked me about high school and college, and even though I tried to change the subject, he kept asking. So, I had to tell him that I didn't finish high school. I said 'But I'm going to go back to school.'"

Arizpe kept her promise to her son, and in early 2012, she began taking high school equivalency classes at the Midland College Cogdell Learning Center. In early May of that year, right before Mother's Day, she passed the GED exam.

"I printed the results of my exam and put them in a picture frame," explained Arizpe. "Then, I gave the frame to my mom for Mother's Day. I was such a rebellious teenager, and I know that I was a 'challenge' for my parents. Of course, they were disappointed that I didn't finish high school, so passing that GED exam was a milestone for all of us."

"I remember thinking, 'OK, I've done it — now I have a high school diploma!' I wasn't thinking of going to college right away, but Anita Martinez, the advisor at Cogdell, encouraged me to apply to Midland College and enroll



Arizpe

Please see PROFILE/2B

Everyone's
'why' adds to
the vision for
Midland's
future

As we embark on the busiest time of year, it's a time to reflect and celebrate accomplishments. 2017 was a bright year for Midland ISD. We made gains in academic performance. We celebrated scholars, athletes, musicians. We danced and sang and read books. We made changes and gained new leadership. We started to look innovatively at possibilities for the future. We collaborated. And, we found our why.

Our why. Why do we wake up each day and work with the students of Midland? Why do we find cars in the parking lot

JENNIFER SEYBERT

Abell Junior High School



of every school in town hours after dark? Why do we cry and laugh and sometimes both at the same time? Why do we stay up late grading? Why do we collaborate with

our colleagues? Why do we make plans and change plans and rework plans? Why do we stress over grades and homework and wonder if we are enough? Why do we call home and meet with parents and bring the community into our schools? Because, we know our why.

If you don't know your why, let us inspire you. Walk into any school in Midland and take a look around. We love our students. We want our students to be successful. We spend hours and days and

Please see SEYBERT/2B

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TRIPP'S TRIUMPH



Courtesy photo

Trinity School senior Tripp Hankins served as president of the Model Organization of American States General Assembly for High Schools. The 2017 gathering was Nov. 29-Dec. 1 in Washington, D.C.

MAKING THE GRADE

FROM STAFF REPORTS



Vargas

Lee High School senior **Mario Vargas** has been honored by the Midland Morning Lions Club. He is the son of Veronica Vargas.

He is a choir officer and is a member of Chorale and Origin. Vargas plans to attend Texas Tech University.

Lee High School senior **Shelby Crisp** has been honored by the Midland Morning Lions Club. She is the daughter of Herbert and Peggy Crisp.

She is a member of the track team, Students in Philanthropy and volunteers with the school's life skills students.

She volunteers at Manor Park. Crisp plans to attend Texas Tech University and major in business.



Crisp

The Midland College English Department presented the Rebecca Watson Creative Writing Contest Awards during an event Nov. 16 at the Allison Fine Arts Building McCormick Gallery.

Awards were presented in fiction, nonfiction and poetry.

■ Fiction: first place, **Connor Kendall**; second place, **Sheridan Frost**; third place, **Dustin Butler**.

■ Nonfiction: first place, **Dana Fletcher**; second place, **Sheridan McCray**; third place, **Lauren Smith**.

■ Poetry: first place, **Rachel Brewer**; second place, **Nell Balderas**; third place, **Liam Doria**.

Honorable mention awards were presented to **Kendall, Butler, Parker Killian, Emily Spaulding, Enia Agaj, Cylie Mebane, Rachel Barner, Alexander Ferries, Jennifer Garcia, Kylie Jones and Jordan Saldana**.

MC began the creative writing contest in 1975, and in 2012, the contest was named in honor of Rebecca Watson, a retired English professor who directed the contest for many years.

Three Midlanders recently were inducted into Phi Kappa Phi, an honor society for all academic disciplines. **Challis Long** and **Austin Hafner** were inducted at Angelo State University, and **Austin Beam** was inducted at Mississippi State University.

Membership is by invitation and is for top 10 percent of seniors and top 7.5 percent of juniors.



White

Midlander **Emily Rita White** graduated from Covenant School of Nursing in Lubbock on Sept. 15. She is the daughter of John and Diane White of Midland and the granddaughter of Sue True, also of Midland, and Walter White of Methuen, Massachusetts.

White was valedictorian of the class.

EDUCATION BRIEFS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

MC winter session starts next week

Registration deadline for Midland College's Winter Interim classes is Friday. The session runs Dec. 18 through Jan. 3. So far, about 1,000 students have enrolled, according to a press release. All courses are offered online.

Spring semester scholarships are still available. Students interested in receiving a scholarship should complete the short scholarship application located at www.midland.edu/scholarships.

Educational tour planned

An educational tour of England is planned for May. The tour will be led by Marianne Woods, associate professor of art history at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin.

The tour is May 17-27 and includes London, Bath and Windsor. For

information on price and itinerary, contact Woods at m@utpb.edu or 552-2290.

Theatre directing scholarship accepting applications

The application period is open for the Marilyn Pool Allen Directing Scholarship, named for a Midlander who has served on the Midland Community Theatre board. The scholarship is available to anyone with an undergraduate degree who is associated with a Texas Nonprofit Theatres Inc. member university or theater, according to a press release. MCT is one of the members.

A scholarship award of up to \$1,000 may be used to cover costs of continuing education programs related to theatrical directing. The deadline for the scholarship application is Feb. 15. For more information and application instructions, visit texastheatres.org.

FAFSA

From IB

Horner said the district will have accurate FAFSA applicant figures in a few months. He said this semester's efforts have received positive reception and he hopes to communicate with more families in the future.

"The feedback from parents and students has been great, but the quantity is not what we're still looking for," Horner said. "We're not going to reach our 75 percent goal if we don't really significantly change the practice of getting the parent involved on that application."

Horner said some students may not complete the FAFSA because they think their families aren't eligible to receive financial aid. Others could be concerned about sharing their personal information with the government, he said.

But those partnering for the FAFSA initiative want the families of MISD seniors to know the form opens opportunities for funding through scholarships, loans and

Required information for FAFSA assistance:	
- Parent's completed 2016 tax return and W-2 forms - Student's completed tax return, if filed, and/or W-2 form - Student's and parent's FSA (federal student aid) ID from fsaid.ed.gov	Advanced Technology Center - Feb. 20: 4:30 – 6 p.m. at MC Welcome Center - Feb. 27: 4:30 – 6 p.m. at MHS library - March 1: 4:30 – 6 p.m. at LHS library - March 6: 4:30 – 6 p.m. at MC Welcome Center - March 20: 4:30 – 6 p.m. at MC Welcome Center - March 24: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at MC Advanced Technology Center - March 27: 4:30 – 6 p.m. at MC Welcome Center - Every Monday (starting Jan. 22): 4:05 – 6 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church - Every Tuesday (starting Jan. 23): 4:05 – 6 p.m. at LH
Upcoming FAFSA sessions:	
Fall 2017 - Today: 4:30 – 6 p.m. at LHS library - Thursday: 4:30 – 6 p.m. at MHS library - Every Monday: 4:05 – 6 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church - Every Tuesday: 4:05 – 6 p.m. at LHS library Spring 2018 - Feb. 10: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at MC	

work-study.

"You don't know what you don't know," Mills said. "It's helping to turn the light on."

To spread details about the FAFSA, plans for next semester include reaching out to parents through phone calls and continuing to offer workshops. Mills said com-

pleting the application could open the minds of high school seniors, including those who will be the first in their families to attend college.

"There's such a ripple effect to this," he said. "All of the sudden there's hope when they didn't realize there was hope."

SEYBERT

From IB

often a lifetime working with generations of students. We teach them to read and write, help them with science experiments, counsel them, eat with them, watch them run and play, celebrate successes and work through failures. We refuse to give up. We refuse to let them give up.

So, if you are struggling with knowing your why, spend some time and thought and look closely at how you can make a difference in this community. We need you.

We need you to continue to embrace the students of this community, the schools of this community, the future of this community. Every Midlander has a part in this, and if all know our why, we can change the future; we can change the present.

If you are a teacher, an administrator, a staff

member in Midland ISD, know your why. Know that you wake up each and every day and make a difference. You are part of a team, and together we are amazing. Dig deep, look at each child's face and know that each of those faces has a very bright future. Celebrate the smallest progress and work through the biggest obstacles. We cannot do this in isolation and without each other; lean on your colleagues and continue the good work. Know your purpose and then you will easily find your why.

If you are a parent, know your why. Know that you wake up each and every day and make a difference. We need you. You are part of our team and together we are amazing. Our purpose is the same: to educate our children, our students. Help rally behind this purpose and you will eas-

ily find your why.

If you are a community member, know your why. Why do you choose to support education in Midland? Why do you spend time and energy and money to educate our future? You have a front-row seat to the future. Speak up about why you support this ... and that will be your why.

My favorite John Maxwell story comes from a time he spoke about three men at work. One man saw himself as a bricklayer, placing brick after brick, day in and day out. He came to work, placed brick after brick, and left knowing that he had done what was required of him. The second man saw himself as a builder, a builder of walls. At the end of every day, he knew that he built a wall, and that was a success to him. He never thought about what the walls would form, but he felt successful because

he saw the walls complete. The last man was a visionary. He claimed to be a creator of cathedrals. He spent hours upon hours laying bricks, thinking about his next steps, watching the bricks form something greater than just walls. The interesting thing to note is that the last man was simply a bricklayer as well. They all three were. The difference came in purpose and why.

As we move forward in Midland, it is important that we know our individual why and that we know how we impact the bigger picture. As we leave 2017 and move into 2018, think carefully about your why and how your why adds to the vision of our community.

Jennifer Seybert is principal at Abell Junior High School.

PROFILE

From IB

in courses. So, in August 2012, I started taking college courses."

Arizpe said that ever since she was a child she had wanted to be a nurse; however, during her "rebellious" teen years, that dream faded. Once she began taking college courses, the dream of being a nurse suddenly seemed attainable again.

"I was determined to get into Midland College's Associate Degree Nursing program so that I could become a registered nurse," she said. "It took me four years to get accepted. I had to take developmental math courses. My instructor, Connie Sanchez, was so supportive. She really made math make sense to me, and I was able to get the fundamentals I needed in order to progress in more math classes and also science classes. I took all the prerequisite courses needed to be admitted to the associate degree nursing program. I took the TEAS [Test of Essential Academic Skills] three times before I passed, but I finally got accepted!"

Arizpe was one step closer to her dream of becoming a nurse. Then she began taking nursing classes at Midland College in January 2016. "Nursing school is very rigorous," said Arizpe. "It takes a lot

of time, and I felt guilty that I wasn't able to do 'mom' things for my children. My husband, Sebastian, was very supportive, and he stepped in to help with taking our children to the doctor and picking them up from school. It wasn't easy. Sebastian has his own landscaping company, and sometimes he would miss business opportunities because he was helping with the children."

Nicole and Sebastian have three children: Sebastian, Jr., 18; Matthew, 16; and Adrianna, 14.

"My sons encouraged me throughout my college experience, but Adrianna had a hard time because she felt a little 'cheated' out of quality mom time," said Arizpe. "However, not long ago, Adrianna came to me and said 'I'm so proud of you.' I think we both cried!"

Family is important to Arizpe. She enjoys watching her children's sports activities. Matthew plays soccer for Midland High School, and Adrianna plays basketball for Midland Freshman High School.

"My favorite pastime is being with my family, and, unfortunately, I haven't had as much time to do that as I would have liked while I was in nursing school," she said.

Arizpe said there were times when she didn't think she could

juggle family and school, but her mother and aunt came to the rescue.

"I'll never be able to thank them enough," said Arizpe. "They cooked meals and washed clothes. They basically helped Sebastian keep the house running smoothly. I am so grateful to them!"

Arizpe has just a few more days of college left before she graduates with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Nursing. She will receive her nursing pin on Thursday and be the first person in her family to graduate from college. She plans to take the National Council Licensure Exam for Registered Nurses in mid-February, and then she would like to work in community health or in a hospital's post-surgical unit.

"It's been six years since I had to confess to my son that I didn't finish high school," Arizpe said. "But now, I can proudly tell my children that I have a high school diploma and a college degree. I share the degree with my entire family because they have had to make sacrifices right along with me. At Thursday evening's pinning ceremony, we will celebrate our victory!"

Rebecca C. Bell is dean of Community Relations at Midland College.

BEE

From IB

the announcement. "We really want to do as much as we can to address fairness and make the playing field more even."

The 92-year-old spelling bee — staged annually around Memorial Day at a convention center outside Washington — has grown in popularity and difficulty since ESPN began broadcasting the finals in 1994, and it has also become a showcase for children of Indian descent, who have accounted for 18 of the past 22 champions.

There are roughly 275 regional bees, including a handful overseas. But 25 percent of the 11 million spellers who participate in the Scripps program are concentrated in just eight regions.

One such region is Dallas, where Ananya Kodali lost two straight years to Smriti Upadhyayula, who went on to finish fifth in the national bee.

Ananya got a measure of revenge in their friendly rivalry when she beat Smriti in the finals of the North South Foundation, another national bee that serves as a training ground for future Scripps champions or, in Ananya's case, a consolation prize.

Several current and former spellers said they were pleased by the rule change. Sylvie Lamontagne finished ninth in her first appearance at nationals and then had to persuade the sponsor of her regional bee, the Denver Post, to change its rules to allow repeat champions. She finished fourth her second time and now coaches younger spellers.

"I really, really like the rule," Sylvie said. "There have been lots of people who were even favorites to win and returning finalists or semifinalists who lost at regionals and would have had an amazing shot at nationals."

Dhyana Mishra, who's 13 and has two years of competition left after losing twice to Siyona, said she feels "a little bit less pressure" under the new system, although she still wants to win her region.

Questions remain about how the new system will play out, and whether Scripps can avoid arbitrarily picking which spellers receive invitations.

Shaheer Ali Imam likely would have benefited from the wild-card system. This year, he set a record for the longest gap (five years) between appearances at nationals. But he feels like the new rule would cheapen his accomplishment and make the regional bees less exciting.

"This would be a bit unfair to those who actually win their regional bees," Shaheer said.

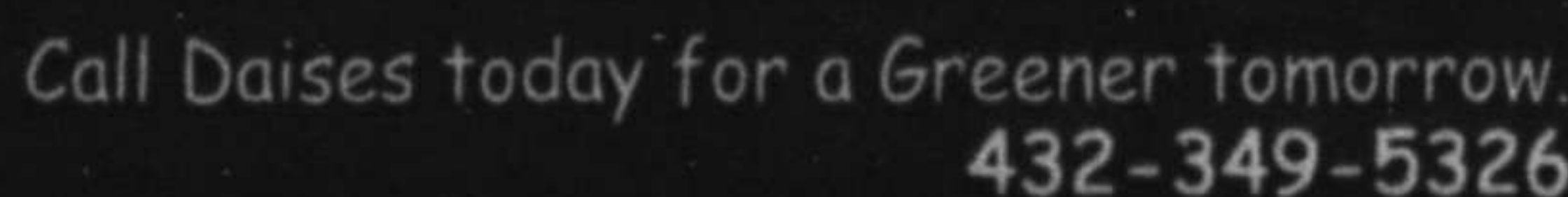
There's also a financial catch: While sponsors pay for regional winners to travel to Washington

for the bee, those who get invitations will have to pay a \$750 entry fee and cover their own travel, food and lodging costs. That's one reason Kimble says she's not sure how many people will apply.

But if the bee ends up adding the maximum 225 spellers — 291 competed last year — Kimble is fine with that, saying it's time for the bee to grow.

Winning the regional bee will come with the same spoils: a guaranteed, expenses-paid spot at nationals. But it won't be a win-or-go-home proposition anymore.

"For me, it was one letter wrong, just one letter and you could be out for the year. That happened to a lot of friends," said Stuti Mishra, Dhyana's older sister and the 2012 national runner-up. "That added to the stress. With this new process, it seems like it kind of takes that element away."



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There is another rule that is not so well known — "Don't cover the first of touching honors. Cover the second". That would have saved the day for West on this deal.

EXTRA CREDIT

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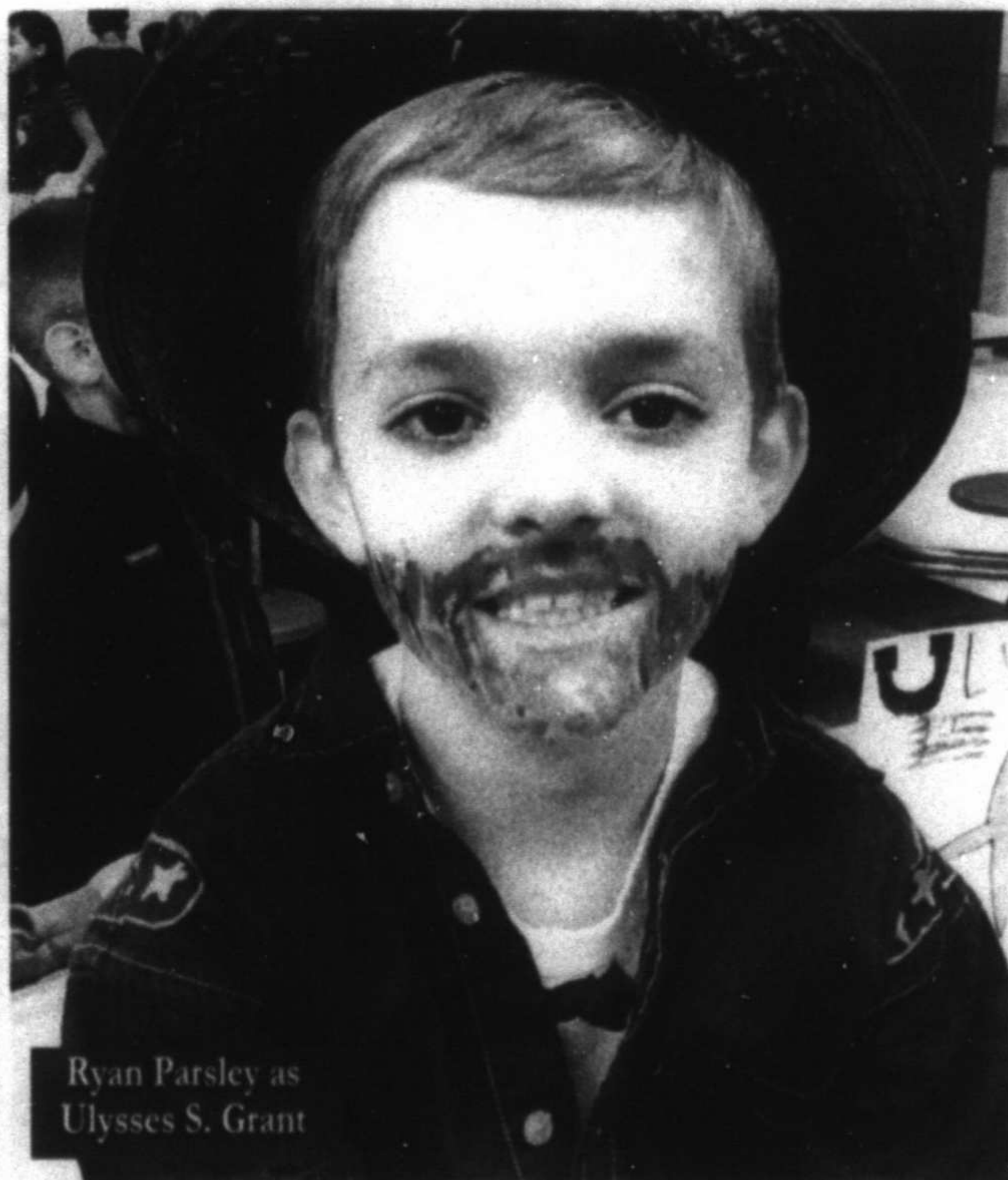
A VERY PEANUTS CHRISTMAS

The Midland High School Drama Dawgs performed "A Charlie Brown Christmas" last weekend at the campus auditorium. Cast members are: Alex Alvarado, front row from left, Allie Wheelless, Blane Wheelless and Julia Melton; and Hayden Uphoff, back row from left, Karlie Smith, Zoe Jackson, Jer Munoz, Jonah Thacher, Reagan Ream, Jacob Zoller and Logan Holmes.



WAX MUSEUM

Courtesy photos



Ryan Parsley as Ulysses S. Grant

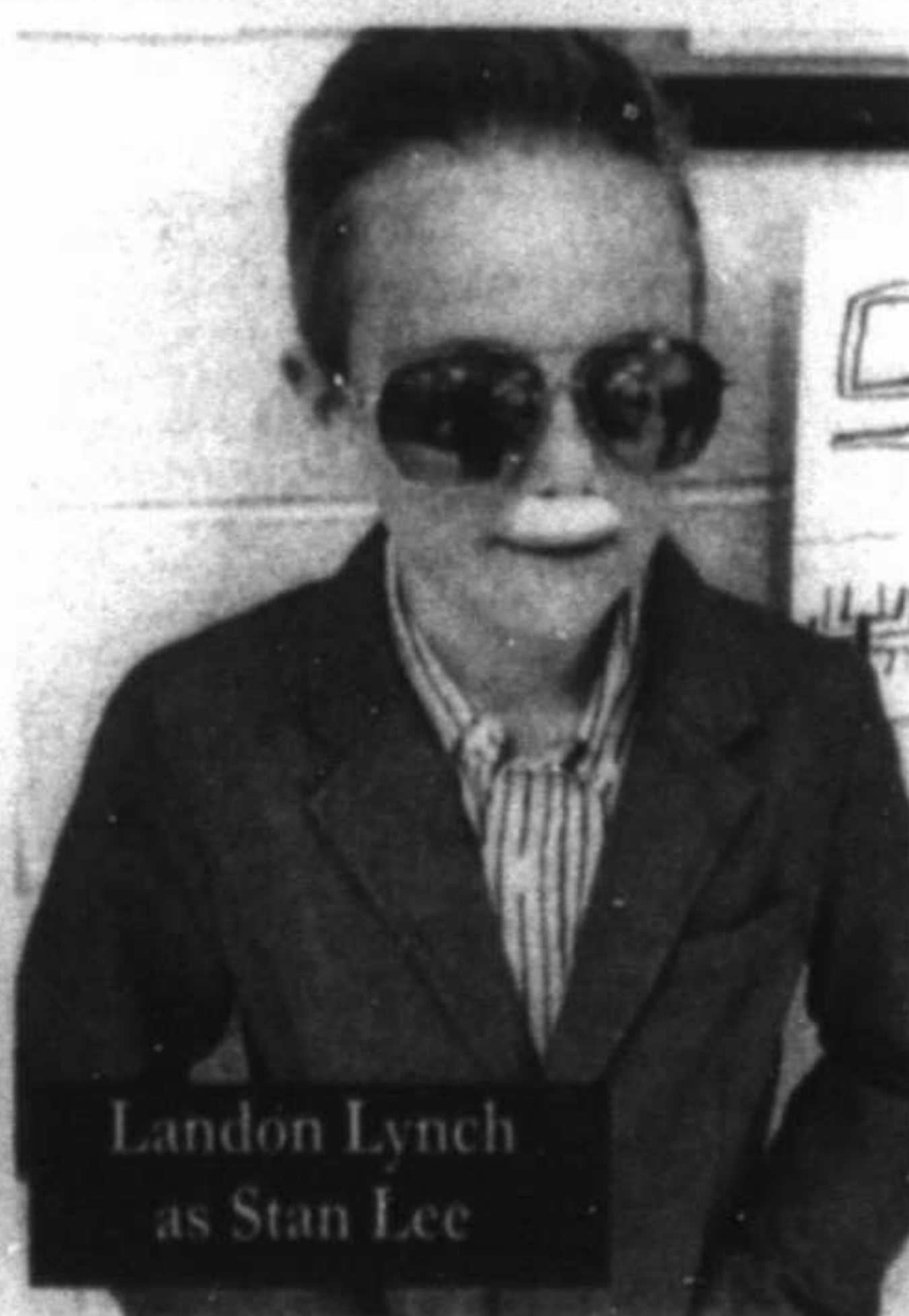


Danny Salinas as Abraham Lincoln

Santa Rita Elementary third-graders recently participated in a "wax museum." The students researched historical figures and dressed as these characters.



Emily Gomez as Pocahontas



Landon Lynch as Stan Lee



Aiden Valenzuela as Dr. Seuss

MILBURN MEMORIES

THE MIDLAND HIGH SCHOOL DAWGS performed "A Charlie Brown Christmas" last weekend at the campus auditorium. Cast members are: Alex Alvarado, front row from left, Allie Wheelless, Blane Wheelless and Julia Melton; and Hayden Uphoff, back row from left, Karlie Smith, Zoe Jackson, Jer Munoz, Jonah Thacher, Reagan Ream, Jacob Zoller and Logan Holmes.

SPORTS

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

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Tuesday, December 12, 2017 | Section C

Cowboys are improving, but playoff picture isn't clear

By Schuyler Dixon
Associated Press

FRISCO — The Cowboys are a win away from breaking even in six games without suspended star running back Ezekiel Elliott.

While Dallas has improved in two straight wins following three consecutive losses without last year's NFL rushing leader as a rookie, the playoff outlook hasn't changed much.

The Cowboys (7-6) will need help even if they finish on a five-game winning streak.

The last game without Elliott, suspended six games over alleged domestic violence, is at Oakland (6-7) on Sunday night.

"We know where we are, we know

what we've got to do," quarterback Dak Prescott said after a career-high 332 yards passing in a 30-10 win over the last-place New York Giants that was tied going into the fourth quarter.

"We're excited for it and we're going to get back to work. We're hungry and motivated to keep going."

The most interesting decision the Cowboys will have once Elliott returns is how to use his replacements — Alfred Morris and Rod Smith.

Morris has been the starter — and steady, averaging 74 yards per game and 3.6 per carry. But Smith was the first one to show the explosiveness the Cowboys have missed without Elliott, taking a short pass 81 yards for a touchdown against the Giants.

The older brother of second-year Dallas linebacker Jaylon Smith had

his first two-touchdown game with a 15-yard run to finish the scoring. Rod Smith has four TDs, three more than Morris.

"Rod's someone we've tried to put in in the third series of each of the halves," coach Jason Garrett said. "And also he plays a lot in situational football. You're always trying to look for ways to get him some more opportunities. It was kind of a situational-type opportunity for him that he was able to make a play for us in."

Linebacker Sean Lee returned after missing three straight games with a hamstring injury, making it five overall that he has missed. He had one of two late interceptions to help the Cowboys win the turnover battle for the second straight week after going



Associated Press

Dallas Cowboys running back Rod Smith (45) runs for a touchdown against the New York Giants during the fourth quarter Sunday in East Rutherford, N.J.

Please see COWBOYS/2C

Hot-shooting Rebels

Lee posts a dozen 3-pointers in win vs. Lamesa

Rebels 96
Golden Tornadoes 77

By Will Korn
wkorn@mrt.com

If the Lee boys basketball team was still carrying heavy legs after playing four games over the weekend in the Tall City Oilman's Invitational, they didn't show it Monday night.

The athletic Rebels rode another hot-shooting night with 12 3-pointers and a 33-point second quarter to a 96-77 win over visiting Class 4A Lamesa at the Lee High School gym.

Freshman guard Zhuric Phelps led the Rebels (6-8) with a team-high 23 points, including 15 from beyond the 3-point arc. Avery Chambers added 19 points and five more treys, while Cevonte Eaden and Patrick Okimi produced double-figure efforts with 11 and 10 points, respectively.

Lamesa senior guard Buddy Williams netted a game-high 27 points for Lamesa (8-6), while Khalil Smiley chipped in with 26.

Lee head coach Justin Boswell was impressed with his team's all-around performance and especially with its play in transition. For the game, the Rebels sunk 53.4 percent (39-of-73) of their shot attempts. Lee also held a commanding 41-22 edge on the glass in the win, which helped to spark the team on the break.

"I was very pleased," said Boswell, whose team is now two-thirds of the way to its win total from last season. "We were able to put the ball in the hole, we made good passes, our transition game was, I thought, really good. We ran the floor well, we saw the floor well, we made the right passes and we did a pretty good job (finishing).



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Lee's Zhuric Phelps drives to the basket during Lamesa defenders Zack Quentenilla (20) and Jackson Napier (40) on Monday in a non-district game at the Lee gym.

Inside

■ Check out the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches rankings for high school teams from around the state.

Page 3C

We had trouble finishing in the paint early, but we kind of got rolling and got a lot of momentum. It was great. It was a good team performance."

Said Phelps on his team's explosive night on the offensive end: "It felt good. (My teammates) find a way to get open."

The Golden Tornadoes wasted no time jumping out to a 7-3 lead to open the first quarter and behind eight points from Williams, Lamesa hung tough early and

trailed by just five after eight minutes.

But Lamesa's offense faltered in the second quarter and its defense didn't do it any favors. The Rebels nailed six 3-pointers in the frame and seemingly quickened the pace of the contest with every Golden Tornado turnover they forced.

Lamesa managed just 12 points in the period and limped into the locker room with a 58-32 deficit.

Head coach Sam Estes said his players lost focus and began to abandon the game plan when things started going south.

"We had to get tougher," Estes said. "This is a couple games now where we get down on the scoreboard about five, seven points — still manageable — and it's just breaking down. We've

got to get mentally tough and fight through adversity. That second quarter — that was the difference in the game. That (Chambers) — God, he's a good shooter and he was on fire (Monday)."

The Rebels continued their onslaught in the third, braced by the sweet shooting of both Phelps and Chambers. Lee grew its lead to as many as 31 points, before the Golden Tornadoes made an inspired push in the fourth quarter with a 30-16 advantage.

"After the game, we talked about how we played a good second half," Estes said. "It's a moral victory which we don't settle on. I really liked the toughness we got off our bench. We had some guys step up in key situations, and our point guard really stepped up."

Please see LEE/3C

Stanton joins Judge as Yankees' Towers of Power

By Ronald Blum
Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Giancarlo Stanton eased his 6-foot-6 frame into a pinstriped No. 27 jersey, ready to join 6-foot-7 Aaron Judge as the Towers of Power on the resurgent New York Yankees.

"They're winners," Stanton said after his trade from the Miami Marlins to New York was finalized Monday. "They're young, and they're in a good position to win for a long time, and I lost for a long time. So I want to change that dynamic and be a winner."

New York sent second baseman Starlin Castro and a pair of minor leaguers to the Marlins for the NL MVP, also giving up right-hander Jorge Guzman and infielder Jose Devers. The Yankees became just the fourth team in big league history with the reigning home run champions in each league, joining Hank Greenberg and Ralph Kiner of the 1947 Pirates, Joe DiMaggio and Johnny Mize of the 1949 Yankees, and Mike Schmidt and Dick Allen of the 1975 Phillies.

Stanton joined a team that reached Game 7 of the AL Championship Series against Houston led by Judge and fellow young sluggers Gary Sanchez and Greg Bird. The Yankees expect top infield prospect Gleyber Torres to join the big league team next season.

"New York's a marquee town, and I think it's important to have some marquee players," Yankees owner Hal Steinbrenner said. "But more important than that, I think it's important to have veteran players that could be mentors for the young kids."

Stanton, a 28-year-old who like Judge plays right field, is owed \$295 million over the final decade of his record \$325 million, 13-year contract. The payroll-slashing Marlins, with new CEO and former Yankees star Derek Jeter presiding over the team's fourth roster purge in two decades, will send \$30 million to the Yankees if Stanton doesn't exercise his right to opt out of the deal after the 2020 season: \$5 million each on July 1 and Oct. 1 in 2026, 2027 and 2028. Under a change in baseball's new labor contract, that money will be prorated for the luxury tax and Stanton will count as \$22 million annually.

"It's a win-win for both sides," Marlins president of baseball operations Michael



Stanton

Please see STANTON/4C

Del Conte moves from TCU to athletic director at Texas

By Jim Vertuno
Associated Press

AUSTIN — Chris Del Conte once parked himself outside the office of the Texas athletic director to make a personal plea to the Big 12's most powerful member to get TCU into the league.

Over several hours and drinks, Del Conte poured himself and TCU out to then-Texas athletic director DeLoss Dodds.

"I do not remember much of that conversation," Del Conte said Monday, "except the next day I needed two aspirin."

Dodds didn't get all the details — he thought Del Conte's first name

was Del — but got enough to be impressed. TCU got in and the Horned Frogs quickly bloomed into a Big 12 heavyweight in football and baseball, and a rising power in other sports.

It was Del Conte's power of persuasion and his leadership in turning a small private school into a Big 12 contender that led Texas to him this time, to bring him back to Austin to be the athletic director.

Texas President Greg Fenves first met Del Conte through Big 12 leadership meetings. Although athletic director Mike Perrin still had nearly another year left on his employment agreement, Fenves decided to move quickly to lure Del Conte to Texas. They finalized the move last week

at meeting in a New York City steak house, the deal was done Saturday and Del Conte was introduced to the Longhorns at a news conference Monday.

"What he has done at TCU, to take that program to new heights, to heights that were unimaginable when he began at TCU," Fenves said. "Chris has the vision for how important athletics is for a great university."

Del Conte spoke like Texas was the dream destination for any athletic director. It has one of the wealthiest and largest athletic departments in the country, a massive, passionate

Please see TEXAS/4C



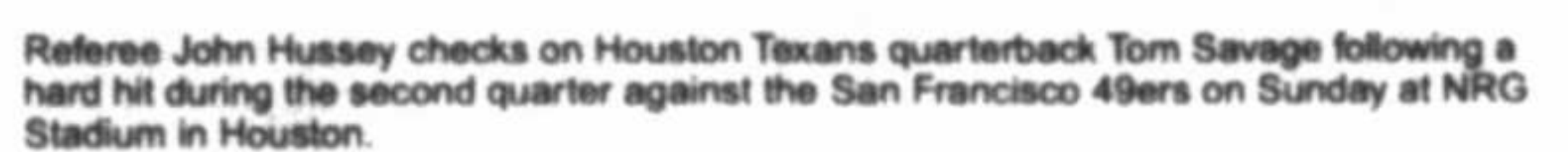
Associated Press

Chris Del Conte holds up the Hook'em sign at a news conference where he was introduced as the new president and athletics director for the University of Texas on Monday in Austin.

ON THE AIR

San Francisco 3 10 0 231 228 314
y-cinched division

Thursday's Game



League spokesman Joe Lockhart said the NFL and the players' association "together will conduct a thorough review of the incident focused on whether the protocol was properly followed, but we're also continuing questions that they were asking him, and they pulled him from the game," O'Brien said.

The hit occurred in the end zone and O'Brien said he was near the 50-yard line when it happened and that

nope.

midlandhumane.org **BROWN'S PERMIAN ELECTRIC CO.**

Dolly is a 1.5 year old, 45 lb, female Red Heeler Mix from Midland Animal Services. Dolly has a good nature, but we are unsure how she will do with small children and cats



Houston Chronicle

Houston Rockets center Clint Capela (15) defends against New Orleans Pelicans center DeMarcus Cousins (0) during the second half at Toyota Center on Monday in Houston.

Capela, Harden lead Rockets over Pelicans

By Kristie Rieken
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Clint Capela had a career-high 28 points and James Harden scored 12 straight points for Houston in the fourth quarter as the Rockets rallied for a 130-123 victory to extend their winning streak to 10 games on Monday night.

The game was tied with about three minutes remaining after Harden made two free throws. Those were the first of seven straight points by Harden that put Houston's up 124-119 with 1:30 left.

Jrue Holiday made a basket after that, but Harden hit a 3-point shot seconds later to push the lead to 127-121. Harden stole the ball from

Rockets 130
Pelicans 123

E'Twaun Moore after a timeout by New Orleans. He was fouled and made both free throws to make it 129-121 with 34 seconds left. After scoring 48 points in Houston's last game, Harden finished with 26 on Monday, but he tied a career-high with 17 assists, finding the 6-foot-10 Capela under the basket again and again.

Holiday had a season-high 37 points for the Pelicans. Moore had a career-high 36 points and made a career-most six 3-pointers on a night New Orleans set a franchise record with 18 3-pointers.

The Pelicans led by seven entering the fourth and were up by eight with

about 10 minutes left when Moore scored all their points in a 6-2 run. Houston used an 11-3 spurt after that to tie it at 112-112 with about six minutes remaining. Paul made five points in that span and Capela capped it with two dunks.

New Orleans was without Anthony Davis, who sat out with a groin injury. He missed three games after sustaining the injury on Dec. 1 but played in the last two games before the problem began to bother him again.

The Pelicans were up by 2 early in the third quarter when Holiday scored five quick points to push the lead to 89-82. They led by seven later in the quarter when Holiday got going again, scoring all of their points in a 5-2 run that made it 96-86.

NBAROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

BULLS 108 CELTICS 85

CHICAGO — Nikola Mirotic scored 24 points, Bobby Portis added a career-high 23 and Chicago rolled to its third straight win.

The last-place Bulls built an 18-point lead in the second quarter against the Eastern Conference leaders. When Boston cut it to 12 in the fourth, Chicago pulled away for the runaway victory.

The Celtics played without star guard Kyrie Irving, who was sidelined by bruised left quadriceps.

Before Monday night, Mirotic and Portis had only made headlines together this season for the wrong reasons. Mirotic missed the first 23 games with facial fractures he suffered in a fight at practice with Portis.

Al Horford scored 15 points for Boston.

HORNETS 116 THUNDER 103

OKLAHOMA CITY — Dwight Howard scored 23 points, leading Charlotte to the road win.

Kemba Walker had 19 points for the Hornets, who

had lost seven of eight. Marvin Williams scored 18, and Michael Kidd-Gilchrist finished with 17 points.

It was Charlotte's second road win of the season in 12 tries.

Russell Westbrook had 30 points and seven assists and Paul George scored 20 points for the Thunder after missing the previous two games with a right calf contusion.

Charlotte shot 53 percent from the field against one of the league's best defensive teams. The Bobcats made 13 of 25 3-point attempts.

NBA GLANCE

Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	20	6	.769	—
Toronto	17	7	.708	3 1/2
New York	13	13	.500	8 1/2
Philadelphia	13	13	.500	8 1/2
Brooklyn	10	16	.385	11

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	14	12	.538	—
Miami	13	13	.500	1 1/2
Orlando	11	15	.423	4
Charlotte	10	16	.385	4

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	21	4	.840	—
San Antonio	19	6	.760	3
New Orleans	14	11	.560	8 1/2
Memphis	8	18	.308	14
Dallas	7	20	.259	15

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	16	11	.593	—
Denver	14	13	.519	1 1/2
Portland	10	17	.370	5 1/2
Oklahoma City	12	14	.462	3 1/2
Utah	12	14	.462	3 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	21	6	.776	—
L.A. Lakers	10	17	.370	10 1/2
L.A. Clippers	9	19	.321	12 1/2
Sacramento	10	18	.357	12 1/2

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Central Division

STANTON

From 1C

Hill said, "Opportunity for him to start fresh, and an opportunity for us to gain needed flexibility."

Stanton led the majors with 59 home runs and 132 RBIs last season, and Judge was second in the majors with 52 homers. The daunting duo figures to create must-see BP, and new Yankees manager Aaron Boone isn't sure yet who will play right or left, figuring they also will see time at designated hitter.

"A 10-year commitment to any player, any position, should be a concern for the owner, without a doubt," Steinbrenner maintained, "but having say that, he's 28 and in great shape, and I think there's go-

ing to be many, many years."

Stanton's contract includes a no-trade provision, and last week he turned down prospective deals to St. Louis and San Francisco. He told the Marlins he was willing to accept trades only to the Yankees, his hometown Los Angeles Dodgers, the Astros and Chicago Cubs.

"I would have been putting it over the hump rather than jumping into a team already prepared to be there," he said.

He wore a light blue suit, white-and-blue herringbone-pattern dress shirt and black monk shoes, ready to talk business and baseball. Having grown up in Southern California, going to the Giants was a challenging concept.

"I wouldn't base a decision off that,

but also I wouldn't want to go to a team that they disliked the most — and wasn't sure if they were going to beat that team, either," Stanton said.

New York hasn't had a losing record since 1992. The Marlins haven't had a winning season since Stanton made his big league debut in 2010.

"He spends his Octobers in Europe," said Stanton's agent, Joel Wolfe. "It was killing him."

Yankees general manager Brian Cashman spoke briefly with Hill about Stanton at last month's GM meetings but didn't move forward, wanting to save DH at-bats in case New York added Shohei Ohtani. But the Japanese pitcher/outfielder eliminated all East Coast teams in early De-

cember and talks with the Hill resumed.

"I felt maybe Wednesday of last week I thought it was not going to happen," Cashman said. "And then he re-engaged me Thursday."

By Thursday night, a tentative agreement was in place. Stanton said he would approve, but Wolfe told him to sleep on it.

"I told him I'm sleeping in, so if there's some deadline just go ahead and say yeah," Stanton said with a smile.

Boone began mulling lineups as soon as Cashman told him Thursday the trade was possible. Boone must decide whether to bat Judge, Stanton and Sanchez — all right-handed hitters — in a row, or mix in lefties Didi Gregorius or Greg Bird, or switch-hitting Aaron Hicks.



Fort Worth Star-Telegram via AP

TCU announced Jeremiah Donati as its next athletic director at a press conference Monday in Fort Worth. Donati saved Chris Del Conte for last on the list of people he thanked after TCU named Del Conte's assistant as the new athletic director just two days after his former boss took the same job with the Texas Longhorns.

Del Conte assistant Donati named as TCU AD

By Schuyler Dixon
Associated Press

FORT WORTH — Jeremiah Donati was named TCU's athletic director just two days after his former boss, Chris Del Conte, took the same job with the Texas Longhorns.

As Donati was introduced on Monday, he saved Del Conte for last on the list of people he thanked, and he left no doubt about his respect for his predecessor.

"Chris brought me here to TCU and made me a Horned Frog," Donati said Monday, the same day Del Conte was introduced in Austin. "He believed in me, he challenged me, he trusted me, he made me better. He was and is an unbelievable friend to me. I personally look forward to seeing him down the road."

That shouldn't be a problem, since they're both still in the Big 12 — the Power Five league the Horned Frogs joined during Del Conte's tenure. Del Conte hired Donati to run the fundraising

TCU Frog Club in 2011 before Donati was promoted twice, most recently to deputy athletic director last year.

The 40-year-old Donati inherits a program that has been a Big 12 championship contender under longtime football coach Gary Patterson and is coming off an NIT title in the first season under men's basketball coach Jamie Dixon, Del Conte's most significant hire.

The school's two most successful high-profile coaches were already in place when Del Conte was hired in 2009 — Patterson and baseball coach Jim Schlossnagle, who has taken the Horned Frogs to four straight College World Series but is still looking for his first national championship.

Del Conte made his biggest mark off the field, though, with facilities upgrades that helped make TCU more attractive to the Big 12 when it lost four schools and added West Virginia along with the Frogs going into the 2012 football season.

"I'm forever indebted to Chris," Donati said. "He really opened the door for me to

show me different sides within the athletic department even outside my own role to one day prepare me hopefully for something like that at TCU or another place."

TCU has been through \$300 million in donor-funded construction projects, highlighted by a \$164 million makeover of Amon Carter Stadium and a \$72 million renovation of the basketball arena. Donati said his top priority was a \$100 million upgrade to the east side of the football stadium that is still in the planning stages.

Before joining TCU, Donati worked for prominent basketball agent Leigh Steinberg as general counsel and director of player representation. He also had fundraising roles at Arizona, Washington State and Cal Poly.

"His tremendous experience, his stellar work ethic and his sense of Horned Frog pride will be instrumental in assuring continued success of our athletics programs," TCU Chancellor Victor Boschini said.

"I'm excited to see what we can achieve under his leadership."

TEXAS

From 1C

alumni base that spreads from coast to coast, and an internationally recognizable brand.

It also is a place that has struggled through losing football, unrest in the fan base and an unsettled administration in recent years. Del Conte will be Texas' fourth athletic director since 2013.

"The standard of college athletics starts here," Del Conte said. "When (Fenves) said, 'I want to talk to you about this position,' I was floored. ... We have one rodeo. My thought was, 'If I'm ever going to do it, why not now? Why not at the University of Texas?' It is like riding a bull. Eight seconds, hang on, let's see what we can do. Awesome."

Del Conte's seven-year contract has a salary that starts at \$1.3 million annually and must still be approved by university regents, who will be expecting stability and results. Dodds' successor, Steve Patterson, was fired after less than two years of clashes with fans, coaches and administrators.

Perrin, a former Texas football player, was brought



Associated Press

Chris Del Conte, right, arrives for a news conference where he was introduced as the new vice president and athletics director for the University of Texas on Monday in Austin.

in to calm the unrest but was always viewed as a placeholder until a permanent hire could be found. Perrin will stay on as an advisor to Del Conte.

"Mike stepped up to serve this university," Fenves said. "There was a lot of turbulence and a lot of problems within the athletic department, with our fans, our loyal fans, and Longhorn Nation."

In Del Conte, Texas gets an experienced leader who is a

familiar and respected name across the Big 12.

He takes over a program starved for success in football. Former coach Charlie Strong, who was hired by Patterson, was fired after three consecutive losing seasons. First-year coach Tom Herman is 6-6 and needs a bowl win over Missouri to avoid another one.

The men's basketball team finished last in the Big 12 last season but the school remains

confident in third-year coach Shaka Smart and the Longhorns are off to a 6-2 start. Baseball was resurgent under coach David Pierce last season, and women's basketball and volleyball rank among the best programs in the country.

Del Conte will lead new efforts to build an on-campus basketball arena to replace the 40-year-old Frank Erwin Center. At TCU, he oversaw massive renovations to football and basketball facilities.

Del Conte will have the title of vice president and director of athletics and will oversee both the men's and women's athletic departments. Texas has been the last major university with separate men's and women's departments and women's athletic director Chris Plonsky will now answer to him.

"Chris Plonsky is a star. We're going to have the relationship of working together," Del Conte said.

Plonsky attended Del Conte's news conference and called Del Conte "a perfect hire."

"Chris is one of the most beloved and respected individuals in our industry," Plonsky said.

SPORTS BRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

NEW YORK SMU hires Texan and former Cal coach Dykes to replace Morris

SMU hired former California and Louisiana Tech coach Sonny Dykes on Monday as its new coach, replacing one Texan with a reputation for directing potent offenses for another.

Dykes will replace Chad Morris, who left SMU last week to become Arkansas' coach. SMU will hold a news conference Tuesday with university President Gerald Turner and athletic director Rick Hart to introduce Dykes.

Dykes, whose father Spike Dykes was a longtime coach at Texas Tech, went 22-15 in three seasons at Louisiana Tech from 2010-12. He spent four years at Cal, where he had just one winning season. He was fired after the 2016 season and spent 2017 working as an offensive analyst at TCU.

SMU has been on the rise under Morris, who took over the program when it was coming off 1-11 season. The Mustangs went 7-5 this year to reach the postseason for the first time since 2012. Morris, another Texas native and former offensive coordinator at Clemson, re-established the Dallas-based school's in-state recruiting ties and brought an exciting style of offense to SMU.

Dykes fits a similar profile. The 48-year-old was born in Big Spring and is a disciple of former Kentucky coach Hal Mumme and Washington State coach Mike Leach. Dykes' version of the "Air Raid" offense has consistently produced some of the most productive attacks in the nation. At Cal, he coached Jared Goff for three seasons before the quarterback became the first overall pick in the NFL draft.

"This is home, and this is a program I grew up watching. I watched Mustang legends compete and I could always see myself putting on that iconic pony. Today, I'm proud to do just that," Dykes said in a statement.

ARLINGTON Source: Martin headed to Rangers after 2 years in Japan

The Texas Rangers are bringing another pitcher back from Japan to try to bolster their bullpen, and this time it's a homegrown talent who took a long road to his first shot at the majors three years ago.

The Rangers and right-hander Chris Martin have agreed on a \$4 million, two-year contract after the reliever spent the past two seasons in Japan, a person with direct knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press on Monday.

Texas will be Martin's third major league team after previous stints with Colorado and the New York Yankees. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the deal was pending a physical.

Two years ago, the Rangers signed Tony Barnette after the right-hander spent six seasons in Japan. Earlier this month, Barnette signed for a third season in Texas after a strong debut in 2016 followed by a rough second year.

In two seasons with the Nippon Ham Fighters, Martin had a 1.12 ERA in 92 appearances, including 21 saves in 2016.

The 31-year-old Martin was born in Arlington and pitched at Arlington High School before twice opting not to sign after getting drafted. Martin hurt his shoulder after deciding to return to McLennan Community College in Waco and eventually had surgery.

Martin returned and tried to pitch for an independent league team in nearby Fort Worth but quit when the shoulder still bothered him. After three years out of baseball, Martin began throwing pain-free, starting a process that eventually got him a spot in the minors with the Boston organization.

He was traded to the Rockies three years later and had a 6.89 ERA in 16 appearances in the big leagues. The Yankees purchased Martin's contract and he had a 5.66 ERA in 24 games with them in 2015 before going to Japan.

2017 AP ALL-AMERICA TEAMS

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Quarterback — Baker Mayfield, senior, Oklahoma.
Running backs — Bryce Love, junior, Stanford; Rashard Perry, senior, San Diego State.
Tackles — Orlando Brown, junior, Oklahoma; Mike McGlinchey, senior, Notre Dame.
Center — Billy Price, senior, Ohio State.
Linebackers — Myles Garrett, junior, Cleveland; Haason Reddick, senior, Wake Forest.
Defensive line — Quwan Nelson, senior, Notre Dame; Broderick Smith, senior, Auburn.
Tight end — Mark Andrews, junior, Oklahoma.
Placekicker — James Washington, senior, Oklahoma State.
Punter — Matt Gay, junior, Utah.

DEFENSE

Linebackers — Bradley Chubb, senior, North Carolina State; Cato Fawell, sophomore, Clemson.
Tackles — Herman Edwards, junior, Washington State; Maurice Hage, senior, Michigan.

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Quarterback — Lamar Jackson, junior, Louisville.
Running backs — Jonathan Taylor, freshman, Wisconsin; Najee Johnson, junior, Auburn.
Tackles — Mitch Hyatt, junior, Clemson; Justin Wynne, senior, Georgia.
Center — Coby O'Connell, senior, Washington State; Will Hernandez, senior, UTEP.
Linebackers — Bradley Bozeman, senior, Alabama.
Tight end — Trey Fumagalli, senior, Wisconsin.
Placekicker — David Sills II, junior, West Virginia; Michael

DEFENSE

Linebackers — Roquan Smith, junior, Georgia; Jase Jewell, senior, Texas; TJ Edwards, junior, Wisconsin.
Tackles — Josh Jackson, junior, Texas; Damarious Randall, senior, Washington.
Linebackers — Malik Jefferson, junior, Texas; Christian Wilkins, junior, Clemson.
Defensive line — Malik Jefferson, junior, Texas; Christian Wilkins, junior, Clemson.
Tight end — Devin Jones, junior, Florida State; Josh Hall, junior, Stanford.
Punter — Johnny Townsend, senior, Florida.

THIRD TEAM

OFFENSE

Quarterback — Mason Rudolph, senior, Oklahoma State.
Running backs — Ronald Jones II, junior, Southern California; Chase Brinkley, sophomore, Florida Atlantic.
Tackles — David Edwards, sophomore, Wisconsin; Jonah Williams, sophomore, Alabama.
Linebackers — Deion Belton, senior, Texas Tech; Jamarco Chase, sophomore, Texas Tech.
Center — Ford Ragan, senior, Arkansas.
Linebackers — Steve Delaney, senior, Syracuse; A.J. Brown, sophomore, Mississippi.
Defensive line — D.J. Reed, junior, Kansas State; Khyler Foy, senior, Florida.
Tight end — Austin Bryant, junior, Clemson; Matt Bossett, senior, TCU.
Placekicker — Vito Viti, junior, Washington; Harrison Phillips, senior, Stanford.
Punter — Matt Koon, senior, Virginia Tech; Thomas Edwards, junior, Virginia Tech; Devin Bush, sophomore, Michigan.

FOURTH TEAM

OFFENSE

Quarterback — Mason Rudolph, senior, Oklahoma State.
Running backs — Ronald Jones II, junior, Southern California; Chase Brinkley, sophomore, Florida Atlantic.
Tackles — David Edwards, sophomore, Wisconsin; Jonah Williams, sophomore, Alabama.
Linebackers — Deion Belton, senior, Texas Tech; Jamarco Chase, sophomore, Texas Tech.
Center — Ford Ragan, senior, Arkansas.
Linebackers — Steve Delaney, senior, Syracuse; A.J. Brown, sophomore, Mississippi.
Defensive line — D.J. Reed, junior, Kansas State; Khyler Foy, senior, Florida.
Tight end — Austin Bryant, junior, Clemson; Matt Bossett, senior, TCU.
Placekicker — Vito Viti, junior, Washington; Harrison Phillips, senior, Stanford.
Punter — Matt Koon, senior, Virginia Tech; Thomas Edwards, junior, Virginia Tech; Devin Bush, sophomore, Michigan.

COACHES

OFFENSE

Quarterback — Mason Rudolph, senior, Oklahoma State.
Running backs — Ronald Jones II, junior, Southern California; Chase Brinkley, sophomore, Florida Atlantic.
Tackles — David Edwards, sophomore, Wisconsin; Jonah Williams, sophomore, Alabama.
Linebackers — Deion Belton, senior, Texas Tech; Jamarco Chase, sophomore, Texas Tech.
Center — Ford Ragan, senior, Arkansas.
Linebackers — Steve Delaney, senior, Syracuse; A.J. Brown, sophomore, Mississippi.
Defensive line — D.J. Reed, junior, Kansas State; Khyler Foy, senior, Florida.
Tight end — Austin Bryant, junior, Clemson; Matt Bossett, senior, TCU.
Placekicker — Vito Viti, junior, Washington; Harrison Phillips, senior, Stanford.
Punter — Matt Koon, senior, Virginia Tech; Thomas Edwards, junior, Virginia Tech; Devin Bush, sophomore, Michigan.

COACHES

DEFENSE

Quarterback — Mason Rudolph, senior, Oklahoma State.
Running backs — Ronald Jones II, junior, Southern California; Chase Brinkley, sophomore, Florida Atlantic.
Tackles — David Edwards, sophomore, Wisconsin; Jonah Williams, sophomore, Alabama.
Linebackers — Deion Belton, senior, Texas Tech; Jamarco Chase, sophomore, Texas Tech.
Center — Ford Ragan, senior, Arkansas.
Linebackers — Steve Delaney, senior, Syracuse; A.J. Brown, sophomore, Mississippi.
Defensive line — D.J. Reed, junior, Kansas State; Khyler Foy, senior, Florida.
Tight end — Austin Bryant, junior, Clemson; Matt Bossett, senior, TCU.
Placekicker — Vito Viti, junior, Washington; Harrison Phillips, senior, Stanford.
Punter — Matt Koon, senior, Virginia Tech; Thomas Edwards, junior, Virginia Tech; Devin Bush, sophomore, Michigan.

COACHES

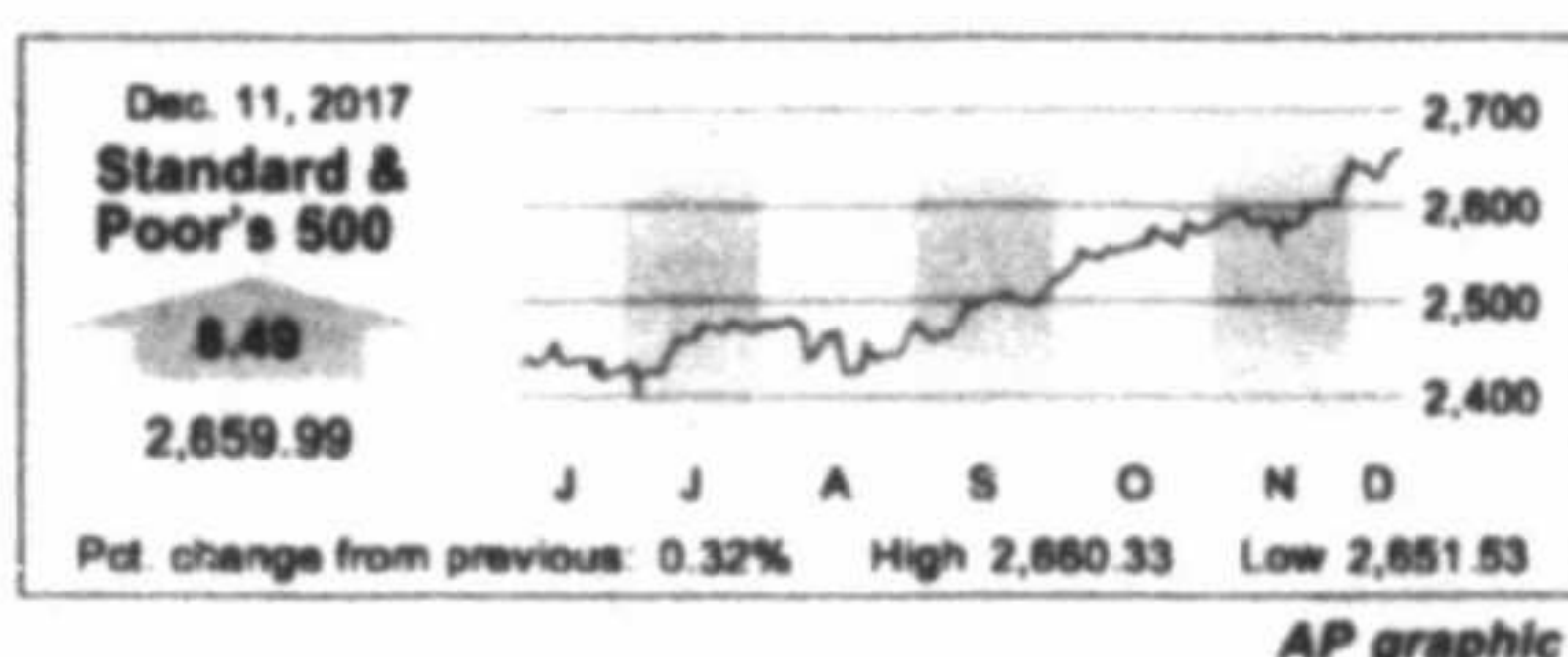
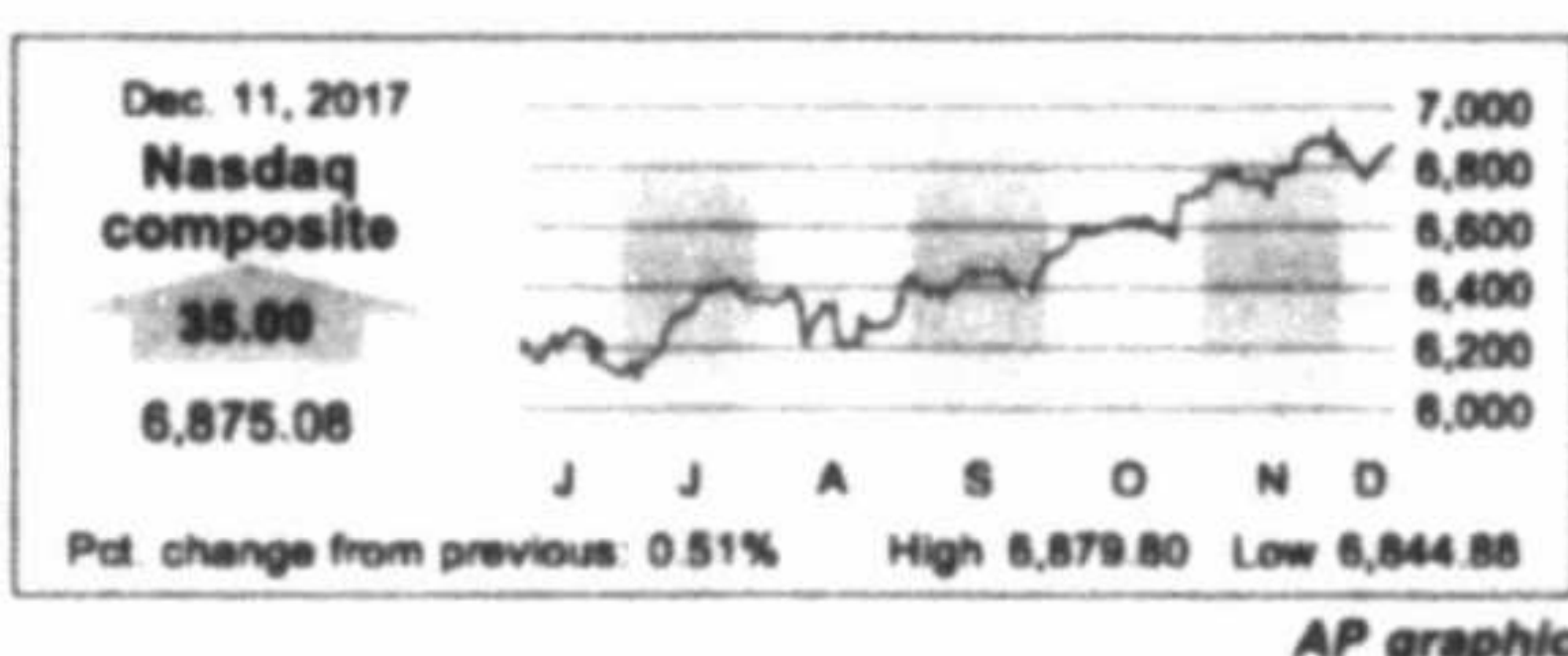
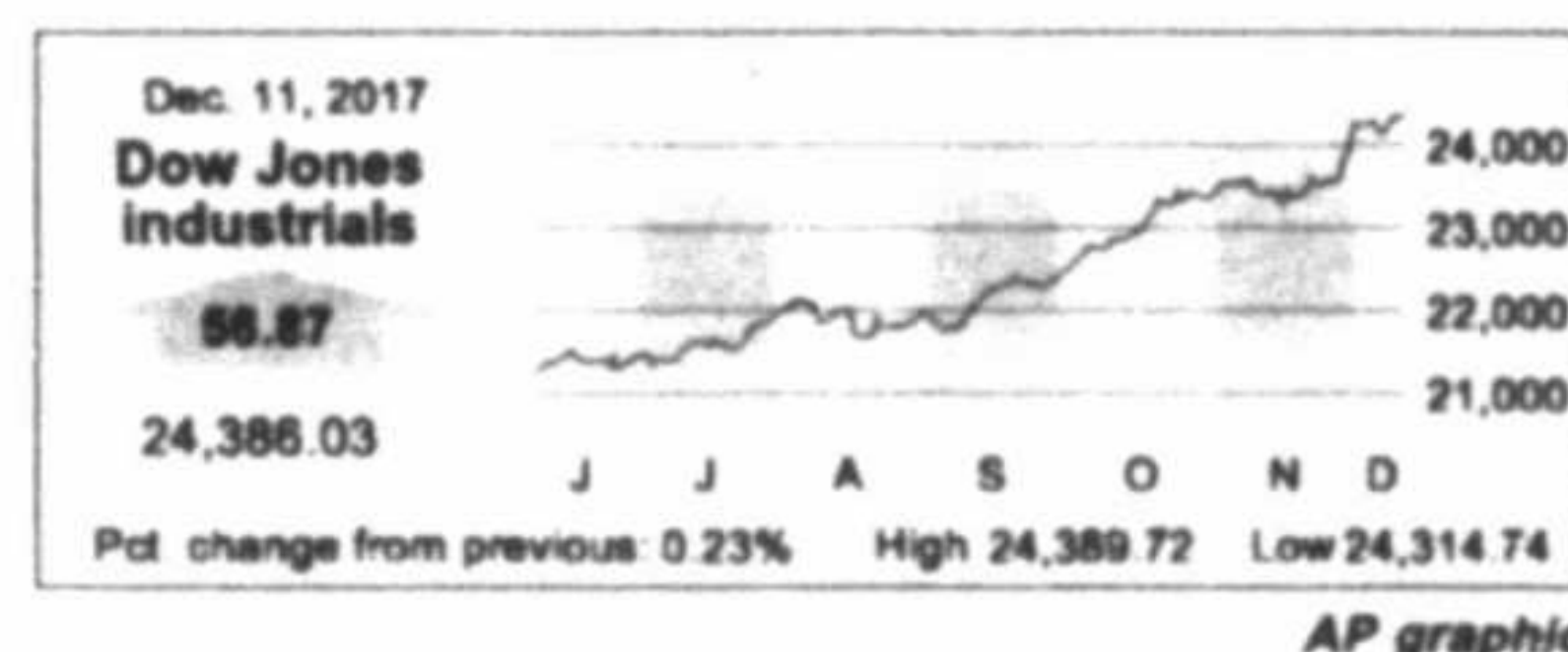
DEFENSE

Quarterback — Mason Rudolph, senior, Oklahoma State.
Running backs — Ronald Jones II, junior, Southern California; Chase Brinkley, sophomore, Florida Atlantic.
Tackles — David Edwards, sophomore, Wisconsin; Jonah Williams, sophomore, Alabama.
Linebackers — Deion Belton, senior, Texas Tech; Jamarco Chase, sophomore, Texas Tech.
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BUSINESS & OIL

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A DAY ON WALL STREET



OIL PRICES

FUTURES

Monday: \$57.99
Previous: \$57.36

POSTED

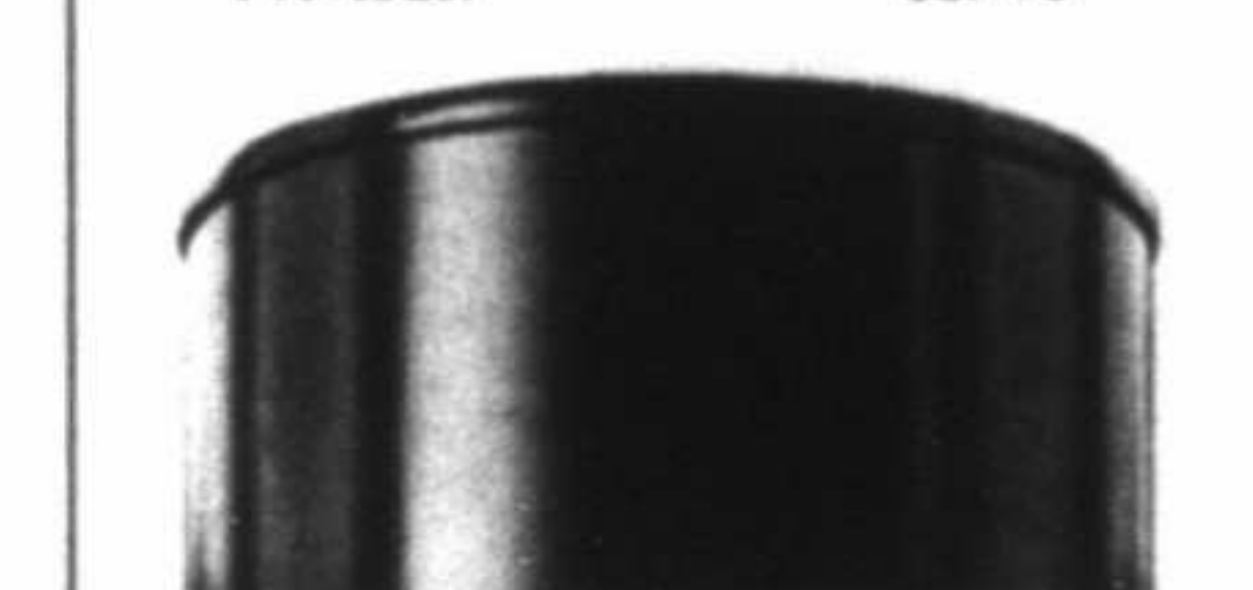
Monday: \$54.75
Previous: \$53.75

WEST TEXAS SOUR

Monday: \$52.00
Previous: \$51.00

NATURAL GAS

Monday: \$2.828
Previous: \$2.772



NYSE									
MOST ACTIVE (\$1 on stock)					GAINERS (\$2 on stock)				
Name	Vol	High	Low	%Chg	Name	Vol	High	Low	%Chg
SPDR S&P 500	1,000,000	243.86	243.15	+0.29	CONROIL	20	18.50	18.30	+1.10
GenCorp	570,000	17.85	17.65	+0.12	Procter & Gamble	27	15.30	15.10	+1.30
Endeavour	540,000	3.80	3.70	+0.27	Netflix	9	14.70	14.50	+1.30
Endeavour	520,000	28.30	28.10	+0.71	Netflix	9	14.70	14.50	+1.30
Endeavour	420,000	46.17	45.90	+0.59	Netflix	9	14.70	14.50	+1.30
LOSERS (\$2 on stock)					DIARY				
Name	Vol	High	Low	%Chg	Advanced	Declined	Unchanged	New Highs	New Lows
Hormel	2	7.75	7.60	-1.93	1,563	1,345	136	3,944	117
Vineyard	4	4.70	4.60	-2.13	206	15	3	11	11
Argon	43	3.70	3.60	-2.70	206	15	3	11	11
Ticket	25	0.05	0.04	-20.00	206	15	3	11	11
VeriSign	84	6.70	6.50	-2.99	206	15	3	11	11
					Volume: 2,926,005,353				

AMEX									
MOST ACTIVE (\$1 on stock)					GAINERS (\$2 on stock)				
Name	Vol	High	Low	%Chg	Name	Vol	High	Low	%Chg
DigitalPer	180,000	1.62	1.52	+6.58	DigitalPer	180,000	1.62	1.52	+6.58
22ndCentury	11,000	2.82	2.70	+4.44	22ndCentury	11,000	2.82	2.70	+4.44
Globalstar	390,000	1.31	1.20	+9.17	Globalstar	390,000	1.31	1.20	+9.17
NetScout	300,000	2.97	2.80	+6.07	NetScout	300,000	2.97	2.80	+6.07
Edgeline	340,000	2.67	2.50	+6.80	Edgeline	340,000	2.67	2.50	+6.80
LOSERS (\$2 on stock)					DIARY				
Name	Vol	High	Low	%Chg	Advanced	Declined	Unchanged	New Highs	New Lows
Zedge	2	7.60	7.50	-1.32	184	160	15	3	11
GlobalPer	26	2.50	2.40	-4.00	15	15	3	11	11
NetScout	24	2.80	2.70	-3.57	15	15	3	11	11
GlobalPer	26	2.50	2.40	-4.00	15	15	3	11	11
GlobalPer	26	2.50	2.40	-4.00	15	15	3	11	11
					Volume: 139,391,538				

NASDAQ									
MOST ACTIVE (\$1 on stock)					GAINERS (\$2 on stock)				
Name	Vol	High	Low	%Chg	Name	Vol	High	Low	%Chg
Apple Inc	2,945,000	172.87	172.50	+0.21	Apple Inc	2,945,000	172.87	172.50	+0.21
Microsoft	2,945,000	172.87	172.50	+0.21	Microsoft	2,945,000	172.87	172.50	+0.21
Amazon.com	2,945,000	172.87	172.50	+0.21	Amazon.com	2,945,000	172.87	172.50	+0.21
Facebook	2,945,000	172.87	172.50	+0.21	Facebook	2,945,000	172.87	172.50	+0.21
Google	2,945,000	172.87	172.50	+0.21	Google	2,945,000	172.87	172.50	+0.21
LOSERS (\$2 on stock)					DIARY				
Name	Vol	High	Low	%Chg	Advanced	Declined	Unchanged	New Highs	New Lows
SparkTr	47	72.50	72.00	-0.69	1,378	1,369	15	3	11
Synovus	4	8.40	8.30	-1.19	15	15	3	11	11
SpacComm	5	1.00	0.90	-10.00	15	15	3	11	11
WorldIn	48	0.80	0.70	-12.50	15	15	3	11	11
Verizon	160	73.00	72.50	-0.69	15	15	3	11	11
					Volume: 1,706,444,496				

Cryptocurrency Bitcoin surges in first day of futures trading

Washington Post

Bitcoin prices surged Monday as contract futures for the cryptocurrency began trading Sunday evening on the CBOE Global Markets, the first traditional platform serving the currency.

Bitcoin contract futures opened at \$15,000 and 890 contracts were traded in the first 15 minutes Sunday evening, according to the Chicago-based CBOE. The number of contracts had grown to 2,200 by around noon Eastern Standard Time on Monday.

CBOE reported two trading halts overnight of CBOE Bitcoin Futures (XBT) due to heavy demand. One halt lasted two minutes and one for five minutes, according to a Cboe spokesperson. There were no trading halts Monday.

"We are very pleased with the results so far," said Michael Mollet, director of product development at CBOE Global Markets. "The trading has been orderly. We hit a couple of our circuit breaker halts, but those are due to price movement and not the product itself. We halted like our rules said we would and opened back up."

Bitcoin values have skyrocketed more than 15 times in 2017, and the digital currency has been on a tear, last week topping \$17,000 a coin before settling back around \$15,000.

It has risen \$5,000 in the past week. The currency was up 6.5 percent in the past 24 hours.

Bitcoin has been the talk of Wall Street, dominating the financial press and its broadcast arms and even the chatter at holiday parties.

"Despite fears by many of the bubble popping, so far the price is going up," said JR Lanis, an attorney with Drinker Biddle. "The demand seems to be real. It is beyond just technological speculators. You now have institutional investors participating in the market and keeping the price high. We will see if that continues."

see if that continues."

As bitcoin goes mainstream, industry observers said people should be cautious about investing.

"Digital currencies are volatile and the prices can go up and down," said Brian Armstrong, chief executive at digital currency exchange Coinbase, in a blog. "Due to the rapidly changing price of digital currencies, some customers may not have sell limits that are sufficient relative to the value of total digital currency they are storing on Coinbase. Sell limits are one of the many measures Coinbase takes to protect client accounts and assets."

Bitcoin was created by an unknown person in 2009 under the alias of Satoshi Nakamoto. Bitcoins can be used to buy merchandise anonymously, without a middleman and involving lower or no fees and no banks.

The currency is traded on "Bitcoin exchanges" where people can buy and sell using various currencies. Bitcoins are a product of something called "blockchain technology," and they are stored in digital wallets that exist in the cloud or on people's computers.

The currency is unregulated and its future is uncertain. No one owns the bitcoin network. It is not tied to any government or country.

The larger CME Group, has announced its intention to trade bitcoin in the next few days. Nasdaq will begin trading the futures in 2018.

Monday's bitcoin trade "is an excellent sign for the digital currency industry," said Jay Blaskey, digital currency specialist at BitIRA, which helps people purchase bitcoin for retirement accounts. "What is interesting from our perspective is the volume being transacted as shown on a number of websites, including CoinMarketCap.com. The 24-hour volume trading over the past week has remained remarkably consistent."

Apple buys app Shazam to boost Apple Music

Bloomberg

Apple Inc. agreed to acquire music-identification service Shazam, taking ownership of one of the iPhone apps to demonstrate the power of the iPhone, recognizing songs after hearing just a few bars of a tune.

"Apple Music and Shazam are a natural fit, sharing a passion for music discovery and delivering great music experiences to our users," Apple said in an emailed statement on Monday. "We have exciting plans in store, and we look forward to combining with Shazam upon approval of today's agreement."

Terms of the deal weren't disclosed, but TechCrunch last week reported the business was valued at about \$400 million. That price would be a disappointment for some of Shazam

Entertainment's investors, who had valued the company at about \$1 billion when it closed its last funding round in 2015.

The Shazam app uses the microphone on a smartphone or computer to identify almost any song playing nearby, then points users to places they can listen to it in future, such as Apple Music or Google's YouTube.

While Shazam has been popular with customers, it struggled turning its clever music service into a business that justified its valuation. It expanded beyond simple audio recognition in 2010 by adding capabilities that let television viewers "Shazam" an ad, which would then open a promotion from the advertiser on a user's device. The company said this feature was used 700,000 times during the 2014 Super Bowl broadcast.

Stocks close modestly higher

Technology companies led U.S. stocks modestly higher Monday, driving the market to another set of milestones.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index and Dow Jones Industrial Average finished at new highs. Both indexes also hit record highs on Friday.

Solid gains by health care companies also helped lift the market, outweighing losses among banks and industrial stocks. Energy stocks rose along with the price of crude oil.

Investors had their eye on bitcoin futures, which made their market debut. But traders were mostly looking ahead to the outcome of Wednesday's meeting of Federal Reserve policymakers.

The S&P 500 index rose 8.49 points, or 0.3 percent, to 2,659.99. The index has risen on a weekly basis the past three weeks. The Dow gained 56.87 points, or 0.2 percent, to 24,386.03. The Nasdaq composite added 35 points, or 0.5 percent, to 6,875.08.

The Fed is scheduled to issue an interest rate policy update on Wednesday. Economists expect the central bank to lift short-term rates by 0.25 percent. That would be the third interest rate hike this year.

Gold price falls

Gold slipped \$1.50 to settle at \$1,246.90 per ounce, while silver fell 4 cents to \$15.79 per ounce. Copper added 3 cents to \$3.01 per pound.

MIDLAND STOCKS

Midland-Headquartered Publicly Traded Companies

Concho Resources (CXO)
Closing Price \$141.15 Up 0.94

Dawson Geophysical (DWSN)
Closing Price \$4.86 Down 0.12

Diamondback Energy (FANG)
Closing Price \$111.30 Up 0.53

Legacy Reserves (LGCY)
Closing Price \$1.29 Down 0.06

Mexco Energy (MXC)
Closing Price \$4.07 Unchanged

Natural Gas Services Group (NGS)
Closing Price \$25.10 Up 0.40

ProPetro Holdings (PUMP)
Closing Price \$18.92 Up 0.05

RSP Permian (RSP)
Closing Price \$37.00 Up 0.37

Ring Energy (REI)
Closing Price \$13.58 Up 0.20

Viper Energy Partners (VNOM)
Closing Price \$21.78 Down 0.22

HOW STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST FARED

YTD						YTD						YTD						YTD											
Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	%Chg	Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	%Chg	Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	%Chg	Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	%Chg						
AK Steel	15	5.40	0.07	+1.30	47.1	ConocoPhillips	1.06	41	91.89	+12	+3.1	JPMorganCh	2.24	16	105.62	-31	-22.4	Roche	1.00p	23.08	+7.22	+57.1	3M Co	4.70	26	239.30	+1.17	+0.4	
AT&T Int	1.96	14	36.90	+1.17	+13.2	Cracker	4.80	28	163.13	+39	+2.3	Johnson	3.36	28	141.14	+55	+22.5	RiteAid	1.88	02	-77.2	-	Torchmark	80	19	89.63	-32	-21.5	
Abraxis	53	2.19	+0.11	+5.0	18.3	CSX Corp	6.17	45	-83.5	-	-	Kroger	38	18	19.73	-15	-4.0	Roku	40	47.98	+119.42	-	TruCost	1.00p	26.70	+0.89	+21.1		
AdasDevEq	1.32p	14.84	+0.11	+0.7	16.7	CSVLNG	6.59	14	-85.7	-	-	KimbCh	3.85	19	118.49	-1.69	-3.3	Rosen	40	9	14.38	+11	-23.9	Twitter	14.38	11	-22.05	+5	+35.1
AMD	10	16	+22	+10.4	206	CrocsTim	9.35	14	14.40	-83	-19.9	KindKong	50	33	17.96	+17	+13.3	RayOchsma	3.76	97	63.94	+48	+17.6	YouTube	1.88	18	50.1829	-76	-28.1
Altitude	51	179.29	+1.67	+0.9	104.2	DCP Mid	3.12	54	37.08	-1.34	-3.4	LegacyFins	-	-	1.29	-0.77	-38.4	SOPDASHA	3.98p	24.17	+55	+23.6	USAA	1.88	18	34.89	-29	-24.8	
AltriaPharm	1.35p	10.64	+24	+15.6	206	DETE	3.30	23	115.99	-90	-21.7	LeadingCos	-	-	3.89	+3	+26.9	SOPDASHA 4.13p	-	26.33	+80	+19.1	US Bank	-	-	5.58	+63	+40.1	
Ambev	0.56	6	3.34	+0.11	+29.1	Dynegy	24	95	38.49	-84	-19.4	Lululemon	-	-	2.77	-85	-38.5	SOPDOSH	-	36.47	+43	-13.7	US CBPS	-	-	11.80	+11	+1.1	
Amgen	4.00	16	176.83	+1.41	+29.9	Dynegy	24	95	38.49	-84	-19.4	Macys	1.51	9	25.89	-0.09	-27.7	Square	2.31p	21	15.00	+21	+19.0	Verizon	20	10	10.82	-19	-18.2
Anadarko	20	46.39	+3.38	+7.3	36.7	Dynegy	1.68	19	106.83	+2.60	+2.5	Marathon	20	15	15	-15	-12.5	Sandwich	1.28	14	165.82	-4.28	+78.1	Veeva SA	29p	-10	10.82	-19	-18.2
Apache	1.80	46.19	-0.11	-0.2	36.7	Dynegy	16	11.55	34	+26.5	Marathon	-	-	6.30	+1.89	+8.4	Schleimig	2.00	50	64.56	+1.02	-23.1	Vale SA	29p	-10	10.82	-19	-18.2	
Apple Inc	2.52	20	172.87	+0.30	+49.1	EQ Recess	87	-10P.21	+82	+1	-	McDonalds	4.04	30	173.25	-10	-42.3	Shutterstock	0.41	31	5.64	-	+26.7	Valeant	2.80	23	87.20	-40	-27.1
AppliedMat	48	16	91.82	+1.39	+68.8	ElgerChg	0.02p	25	1.24	-0.08	-41.5	Merck	1.92	14	56.35	+80	+4.3	Shutterstock	0.12	15	11.26	-1.35	-4.8	ValeantGold	0.60	21	21.51	-17	-21.2
Archrock	48	9.80	+30	+25.1	206	Enbridge	68	54.73	-36	-5.1	-	Merck	-	-	90	43.35	+95	Shutterstock	0.12	15	11.26	-1.35	-4.8	Vanguard	1.10p	11	44.43	+29	+24.1
AT&T Int	1.96	14	36.90	+1.17	+13.2	Energy	68	54.73	-36	-5.1	-	Merck	-	-	90	43.35	+95	Shutterstock	0.12	15	11.26	-1.35	-4.8	Vanguard	1.10p	11	44.43	+29	+24.1
AT&T Int	1.96	14	36.90	+1.17	+13.2	Energy	68	54.73	-36	-5.1	-	Merck	-	-	90	43.35	+95	Shutterstock	0.12	15	11.26	-1.35	-4.8	Vanguard	1.10p	11	44.43	+29	+24.1
Auto Data	2.52	20	172.87	+0.30	+49.1	Energy	68	54.73	-36	-5.1	-	Merck	-	-	90	43.35	+95	Shutterstock	0.12	15	11.26	-1.35	-4.8	Vanguard	1.10p	11	44.43	+29	+24.1
BPS PLC	2.52	20	172.87	+0.30	+49.1	Energy	68	54.73	-36	-5.1	-	Merck	-	-	90	43.35	+95	Shutterstock	0.12	15	11.26	-1.35	-4.8	Vanguard	1.10p	11	44.43	+29	+24.1
Barrick	48	16	91.82	+1.39	+68.8	Energy	68	54.73	-36	-5.1	-	Merck	-	-	90	43.35	+95	Shutterstock	0.12	15	11.26	-1.35	-4.8	Vanguard	1.10p	11	44.43	+29	+24.1
Barrick	48	16	91.82	+1.39	+68.8	Energy	68	54.73	-36	-5.1	-	Merck	-	-	90	43.35	+95	Shutterstock	0.12	15	11.26	-1.35	-4.8	Vanguard	1.10p	11	44.43	+29	+24.1
Barrick	48	16	91.82	+1.39	+68.8	Energy	68	54.73	-36	-5.1	-	Merck	-	-	90	43.35	+95	Shutterstock	0.12	15	11.26	-1.35	-4.8	Vanguard	1.10p	11	44.43	+29	+24.1
Barrick	48	16	91.82	+1.39	+68.8	Energy	68	54.73	-36	-5.1	-	Merck	-	-	90	43.35	+95	Shutterstock	0.12	15	11.26	-1.35	-4.8	Vanguard	1.10p	11	44.43	+29	+24.1
Barrick	48	16	91.82	+1.39	+68.8	Energy	68	54.73	-36	-5.1	-	Merck	-	-	90	43.35	+95	Shutterstock	0.12	15	11.26	-1.35	-4.8	Vanguard	1.10p	11	44.43	+29	+24.1
Barrick	48	16	91.82	+1.39	+68.8	Energy	68	54.73	-36	-5.1	-	Merck	-	-	90	43.35	+95	Shutterstock	0.12	15	11.26	-1.35	-4.8	Vanguard	1.10p	11	44.43	+29	+24.1
Barrick	48	16	91.82	+1.39	+68.8	Energy	68	54.73	-36	-5.1	-	Merck	-	-	90	43.35	+95	Shutterstock	0.12	15	11.26	-1.35	-4.8	Vanguard	1.10p	11	44.43	+29	+24.1
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MANAGEMENT EXECUTIVE

District Manager

The Midland Reporter-Telegram
The MRT 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.

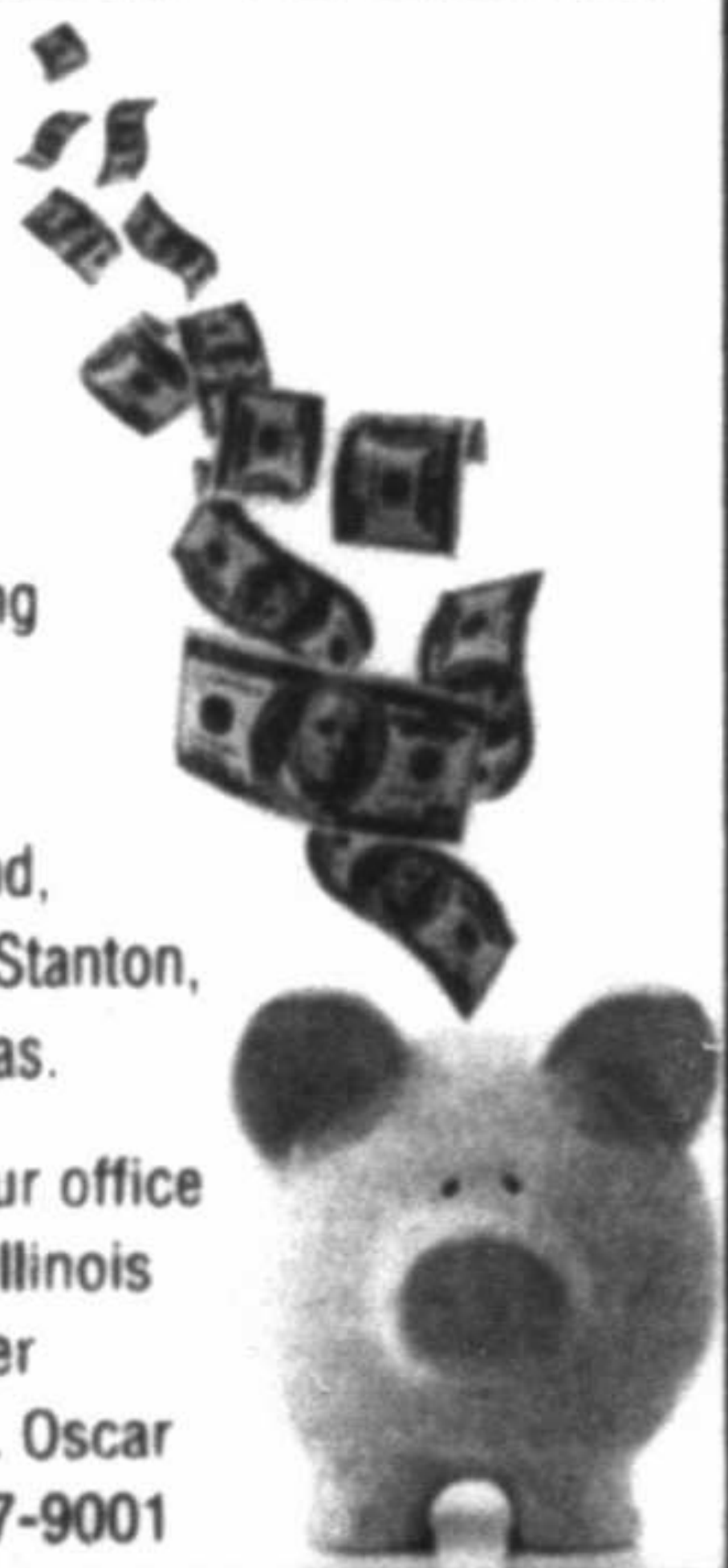
To apply, please email your resume and cover letter to:
shekter@hennepin.com
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**Factory Position**

Factory now hiring for full time position. Duties include warehouse, production & packaging. Must be dependable, flexible and a hard worker. Benefits available. Send information to factorymgr@all.net.

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BUFFALO WILD WINGS

Now hiring all positions. Apply in person from 2-5pm. Buffalo Wild Wings
5107 W. Wadley Ave.

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Commercial Construction Project Superintendents

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.

Welders

CONTRACT WELDERS & SINGLE HAND WELDERS NEEDED
3 Years Experience & 6G Pipe Test Required
Apply in person only - no phone calls
Fab Tech Drilling Equipment
2228 Steven Road, Odessa TX 79764

TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

DRIVER NEEDED

Hazmat, Tankers & Class A CDL
Contact Roman Hernandez 432-894-1416
Fernando Uribe 432-656-0966
Send Resume to: Lydia.Garcia@CatalystOffield.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 3-5 M-F for more info.

TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

Truck Driver

Avfuel is hiring a Truck Driver for bulk liquid tanker hauling. Class A CDL, HS or GED, 2 yrs exp. Apply online at www.avfuel.com

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Legal and Public Notices

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION FOR AN AIR QUALITY PERMIT

PROPOSED PERMIT NUMBER: 144241

APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION. Catalyst Offshore Services 2016, LLC, 11999 E US Highway 158, Gardendale, Texas 79758-4341, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for issuance of Proposed Air Quality Permit Number 144241, which would authorize construction on site of Catalyst Offshore Services located at 11999 E US Highway 158, Gardendale, Ector County, Texas 79758. This application was submitted to the TCEQ on December 5, 2016. The proposed facility will emit the following contaminants: hazardous air pollutants and volatile organic compounds.

The executive director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit which, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The executive director has made a preliminary decision to issue the permit because it meets all rules and regulations. The permit application, executive director's preliminary decision, and draft permit will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ central office, the TCEQ Midland regional office, and at Ector County Library, 321 W 5th Street, Odessa, Ector County, Texas, beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The facility's compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review at the TCEQ Midland Regional Office, 9900 W Interstate 20 Ste 100, Midland, Texas.

PUBLIC COMMENT/PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting about this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comment or to ask questions about the application. The TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the executive director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing. You may submit additional written public comments within 30 days of the date of newspaper publication of this notice in the manner set forth in the AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION paragraph below.

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTION. After the deadline for public comments, the executive director will consider the comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material or significant public comments. Because no timely hearing requests have been received, after preparing the response to comments, the executive director may then issue final approval of the application. The response to comments, along with the executive director's decision on the application will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments or is on a mailing list for this application, and will be posted electronically to the Commission's Integrated Database (CID).

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. When they become available, the executive director's response to comments and the final decision on this application will be accessible through the Commission's Web site at www.tceq.texas.gov/gototcid. Once you have access to the CID using the above link, enter the permit number for this application which is provided at the top of this notice. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application: <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/ndb10/index.html?lat=32.0533&long=-102.2957&z=zoom+13&type=>

MAILING LIST. You may ask to be placed on a mailing list to obtain additional information on this application by sending a request to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www.tceq.texas.gov/about/comments.html, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. If you communicate with the TCEQ electronically, please be aware that your email address, like your physical mailing address, will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the Public Education Program toll free at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Catalyst Offshore Services 2016, LLC at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Robert Andy Price, Principal Consultant at (432) 528-2777.

Legal and Public Notices

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 08 Rule 37 Case No. 0308023
DATE OF ISSUANCE Dec 1, 2017 Status/Permit No. 833125
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE 5:00 PM, Jan 5, 2018
Address: Railroad Commission of Texas
ATTN: Drilling Permit Unit
P.O. Box 12967
Austin, Texas 78711-2967
Fax: (512) 463-6780
Email: SWR37@RRRC.TEXAS.GOV

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the LARIO OIL & GAS COMPANY, [RRC Operator No. 486710] has made application for a spacing exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Rule 37 (16 Tex. Admin. Code section 3.37). Applicant seeks exception to the LEASE LINE requirement for the NEW DRILL, permit in Sec. 23, 38 T4S, T8P RR CO Survey, A-109, SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) R 40 EXC Field, MIDLAND County, being 21.7 miles SE direction from MIDLAND, Texas, PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted WITHOUT A HEARING if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessee of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protestor should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's District Services Department at (512) 463-6848. If you have questions which are specific to the Application or the information set forth in this Notice, please contact the Commission's Drilling Permit Unit at rule 37 (512) 463-6751.

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER, OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY JAN. 5, 2018 AT 5:00 P.M. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO PROTEST AND THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.

THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION REQUIRES PUBLICATION

The location and identity of the well is as shown below:

FIELD: SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) R 40 EXC

Lease/Unit Name: CLARK 4
Lease/Unit Well No.: 402WD
Lease/Unit Acres: 660.45
Nearest Lease Line (R): 1.0
Nearest Well on Lease (R): 1.0

Lease Lines: 320.0 F S L, 726.0 F W L
Survey Lines: 320.0 F S L, 726.0 F W L

Wellbore Profile(s): Horizontal

Letter: TH1

Penetration Point Location: 50.0 F S L, 330.0 F W L
Terminus Location: 50.0 F S L, 330.0 F W L
BH County: MIDLAND

Section: 14 Block: 38 T4S Abstract: 1041
Survey: T8P RR CO / MOORE, H H
Lease Lines: 330.0 F N L, 330.0 F W L
Survey Lines: 330.0 F N L, 330.0 F W L

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:

SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) R 40 EXC: Special Rules 330/0, 80.0 acres.

This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 10500 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, Ryan Bergeron, at (512) 4783456.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID DISPOSAL WELL PERMIT

Parsley Energy Operations, LLC, 303 Colorado, Suite 3000, Austin, Texas 78701 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to dispose of produced formation water/fluid into a formation that is not productive of oil or gas. The applicant proposes to dispose of fluids into the San Andres (formation), Hubbard 26 (lease), and Well Number: 1D. The proposed disposal well is located 12.7 miles Southwest of Garden City, Texas, in the Spraberry (Trend Area) field in Glascock County, TX. Fluid will be disposed into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 3,154 feet to 4,090 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the STATEWIDE Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512.463.6792).

Miscellaneous 4-Sale

FREON R12 WANTED
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Autos For Sale/Lease

Passenger Cars

2001 TOYOTA Avalon, White. Has engine replacement, new tune up, new car stereo, new tires and rims. Must see! \$4,500. Call 432-349-0041.

2008 HONDA Accord EX-L, gray / leather. Brand new tires / great condition. 108K miles, run great. \$7,950.00. Call (432) 889-2255.

VOLKSWAGEN 2007 Beetle, 79K miles. Good tires, new battery, new fuel pump. Runs well. \$4,500. Call Edward 432-352-8938.

Antique and Vintage

1965 SHELBY Cobra Replica, 1500 miles, custom built, small block 427, 528 HP, 5 speed Tremec transmission. \$45,000.00. Call (432) 661-0233.

Pickup Trucks

GMC 1998 Sierra 1500, 4x4, extended cab, 154K miles, black exterior, beige interior, grill guard, off road tires, toolbox. \$4,500. Call 432-687-3787 or 432-853-9862.

4WD and SUV

2004 GMC ENVY SUV, Tan, Excellent condition, 82,150 miles, \$8,500.00. Call 432-770-2099 or 432-770-5229.

2011 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE OVERLAND 5.7 HEMI V8 4WD, LOADED, 30,000 miles, \$24,300. 575-394-4800.

2015 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED SPORT S 4X4, mint condition, clean exterior, white w/ black appearance group by Mopar w/ black 3 piece hard top, 41,000 mi., \$29,900. Call 432-689-8337.

ORIGINAL PRICE \$69,900, now priced \$8,995! 1999 Lexus LX470 SUV, black, garage kept, regularly serviced. Call after 5pm 432-682-6139.

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ANTIQUE 5 curved roll top desk & Lawyer's bookcase, original finish \$2,500 or sold separately. Call 432-813-4590.

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LAST DAY of selling house full of furniture. Cheap! 432-563-9668.

Miscellaneous 4-Sale

Home Brand Dresses, EXCELLENT SHAPE! 42/44 & 10 & 12's. 432-563-9668.

Merchandise

OAK, PECAN, Hickory, mesquite, pine, 432-209-0415 or 325-762-4382.

Merchandise

LIQUIDATION OF 2 aboveground homes in Midland, TX. 1608 W. Kansas & 2012 N. Garland. Call for price. 214-356-5244 Realtor.

HOME FOR SALE GARDEN CITY, TX. 3 BEDROOM 2 BATH, WITH 1280 SQ FT METAL BUILDING, 3 CAR GARAGE AND SHOP. ALL ON 3 LOTS. \$250,000. CALL 432-661-2667.

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LIQUIDATION OF 2 aboveground homes in Midland, TX. 1608 W. Kansas & 2012 N. Garland. Call for price. 214-356-5244 Realtor.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Said Bid(s) will be received until 2:00 P.M., December 27, 2017 to be opened at 2:00 P.M. in the Office of the City Secretary City Hall, 300 N. Lorraine, Midland, Texas for the following Bid(s):

Bid No. 18000358

For: Light Trucks

If the Contract is awarded, it will be awarded to either the lowest responsible bidder, or to the bidder who provides goods or services at the best value for the City of Midland. In determining the best value for the City of Midland, the City of Midland may consider the criteria enumerated in Section 252.043 of the Texas Local Government Code. Information for Bidders, Proposal Forms, Specifications and General conditions for bidding may be obtained from the office of the Purchasing Agent, City Hall, 300 N. Lorraine, Midland, Texas.

Purchasing Division
City of Midland, Texas

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

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:

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.

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.

For information about the property, please contact Brent Preston at (806) 470-0464.

Lost and Found

FOUND POT BELLY PIG on the corner of 1135 South & 12th. Please call 432-635-2897.

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General Announcement

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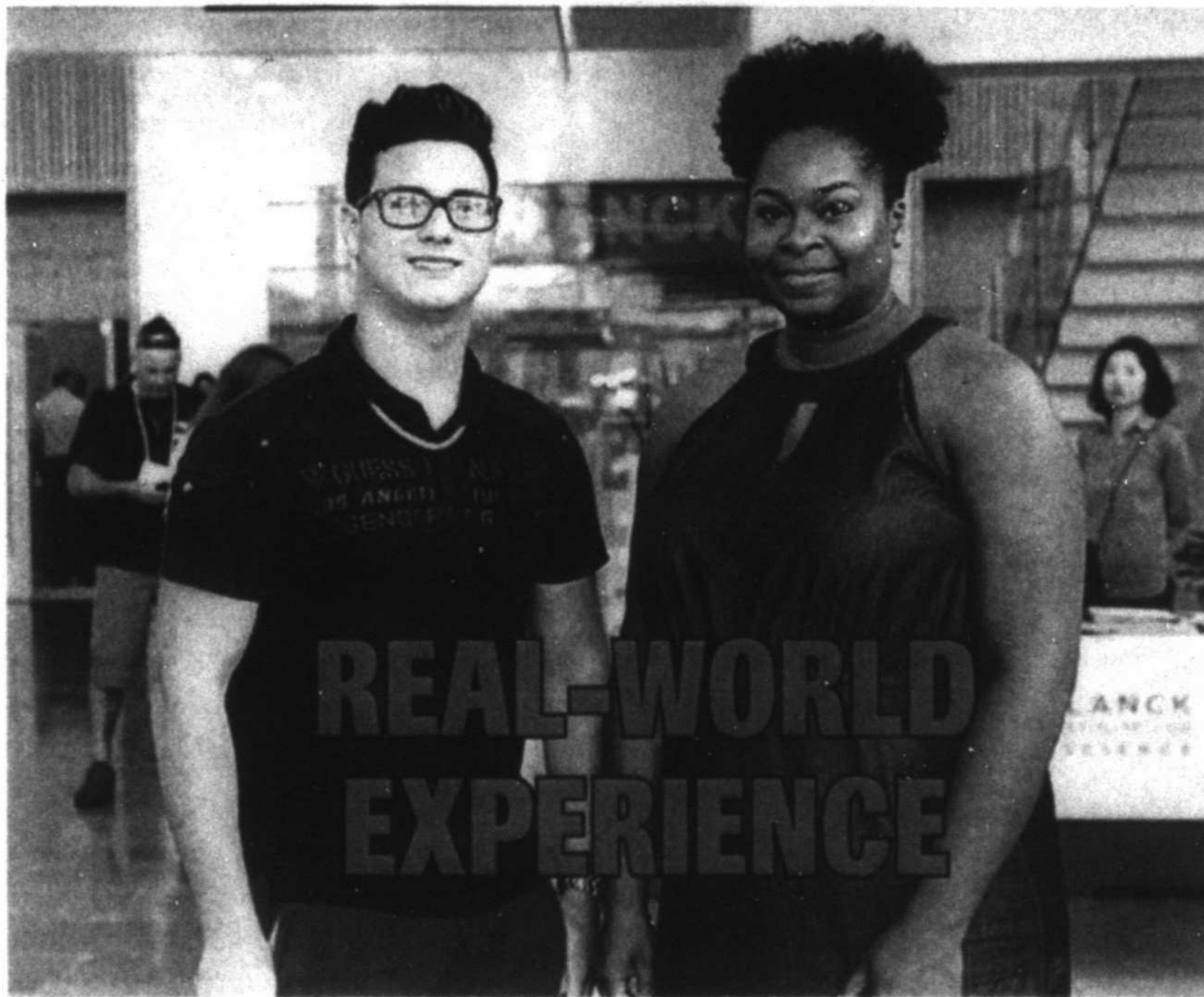
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MPFI via Tribune Content Agency

Audra Davis and her student Bryan Cruz, of Wellington Community High School, attended the Science Career Panel at the Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience.

Science panel aims to pique students' career interest

By Jennifer Shapiro-Sacks
Sun Sentinel

WELLINGTON, Fla. — Bryan Cruz, 17, a junior at Wellington High School, wants to become a bio-engineer, and he learned what that career involves during a recent Science Career Panel at Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience in Jupiter, Florida.

Cruz was one of 52 students and 10 teachers, including Carla Case-Sweeney from Santaluces High School, chosen from 16 Palm Beach County schools to participate in the sixth annual panel.

"I learned the amount of hard work and dedication it takes to be a full-time scientist, and a field in science isn't as black and white as I thought," he said.

MPFI is a not-for-profit research organization, which is part of the world-renowned Max Planck Society, Germany's most successful research organization with over 80 institutes worldwide.

During the career panel, participants experienced a panel discussion, lunch with MPFI scientists and a tour of the facilities and laboratories, said Helena Decker, Ph.D., scientific communications associate for MPFI.

"Students were given the opportunity to hear from scientists who are in various stages of training, from undergraduate

interns to senior scientists, with the goal of piquing interest in a science career," she said.

One of Cruz's favorite parts of the career panel was hearing the scientists share their stories and experiences, he said.

"Their knowledge of how things work will help me on my path," he said. "I wanted to participate because I wanted to see what a science lab was like, but mostly to try to learn something new."

Audra Davis, who teaches chemistry at Wellington High School and is Cruz's teacher, said opportunities that connect lessons in the classroom to real-world experiences are important.

"Opportunities such as this provided by Max Planck does just that. It could ignite a spark that blazes the trail for the next cure, the next application of technology, a scientist unlike our world has ever known. When such opportunities arise, you've no choice but to share it with your students," she said.

In addition to participating in the MPFI career panel, Davis also was one of the first of two science teachers from Palm Beach County chosen to work alongside scientists with The Scripps Research Institute in LaJolla, Calif. She's also received additional training on technology in the lab from MPFI.

Case-Sweeney teaches biology at

Santaluces High School in Lantana. Her goal is to give her students exposure to high-quality science events so they can be inspired to pursue a career in science, she said.

"Participating in the Science Career Panel will provide them a window into careers they might not otherwise choose because they either don't know about, or don't understand. Last year, I had students who were inspired by the stories of the panelists. I would love to open this up to even more students," Case-Sweeney said.

She also has participated in other events offered by MPFI such as the Brain Bee challenge, in which students answer questions on neuroscience topics and she's attended different workshops, she said.

"I attempt to attend/participate in anything offered by Max Planck. The experiences are valuable on so many levels. For myself, being able to learn directly from scientists about current research and methodologies is refreshing, and challenges me to keep improving my craft and stick with teaching," she said.

In addition to the panel, MPFI also offers high school and teacher internships and science teacher workshops, as well as other training programs.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

Trump wants to send man back to moon, on to Mars

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump wants to send man back to the moon — and on to Mars.

Trump signed a policy directive Monday instructing the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to "refocus America's space program on human exploration and discovery."

The move, Trump said, "marks an important step in returning American astronauts to the moon for the first time since 1972 for long-time exploration."

"This time we will not only plant our flag and leave our footprint," he said, "we will establish a foundation for an eventual mission to Mars, and perhaps someday, to many worlds beyond."

Past presidents, including George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush, have also proposed returning to the moon and missions to Mars. Budget constraints derailed their plans.

Trump was joined at the White House by several current and former astronauts, including Buzz Aldrin, the second man to walk on the moon, and former U.S. Sen. and Apollo 17 astronaut Harrison "Jack" Schmitt, the next-to-last person on the moon.

"Today we pledge that he will not be the last, and I suspect we'll be finding other places to land in addition to the moon," Trump said.

No human has been on the moon since Apollo 17 in December 1972. Only 12 men have set foot on the moon, all have been Americans.

Under the directive, the government is also expected to work closely with other nations and private industry.

Researcher ask Tennessee park visitors to contribute data

Associated Press

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn. — A Tennessee researcher is hoping visitors to a park will help her gather data for what she calls a "citizen science project."

East Tennessee State University researcher Ingrid Luffman wants people who are walking through Johnson City's Founders Park to stop at the bridge across Brush Creek, read the water level on a staff gauge and text the findings to her. The university said the gauge looks like a giant ruler extending from the water up the side of the bridge abutment.

The water depth data will be downloaded into a database program and converted into a spreadsheet to be analyzed with precipitation and other weather-related data.

Luffman says the purpose is to see how Brush Creek responds to rainfall events and to educate people about the creek's ecology.

Try a lunchtime walk or standing desk for better health

Dear PropellerHeads: The older I get, the more uncomfortable it is to sit at a desk for hours on end. Do you have any recommendations for comfortable office chairs?

A: Not to get all Zen on you, but what if I told you the best office chair is no chair at all? Pretty heavy, right?

You might have seen some of the alarmist headlines over the last few years, like *Sitting is Killing You* (time.com/sitting) or *Sitting is the New Smoking* (<http://bit.ly/1UeU42C>). The World Health Organization identifies physical inactivity as the fourth leading risk factor for mortality (<http://bit.ly/1USQDiN>), while multiple studies link a sedentary lifestyle to heart disease and diabetes (<http://bit.ly/1nwILG3>) as well as colorectal cancer, spinal disk damage, muscle degeneration, and poor circulation in the legs (<http://wapo.st/p8ctLL>).

But if I was really worried about any of that stuff, I'd stop putting gravy on my breakfast Cheetos every morning. Instead, it was the neck strains, lower back pain, and tight, cramping leg muscles that prompted me to change my routine.

Punctuating those 8-hour sitting marathons with short bursts of light activity helps. Try a 30-minute walk during your lunch break (<http://bit.ly/1XcWcY2>) or stand up and walk around for 2-5 minutes once every hour (<http://bit.ly/1Yxt5Qf>).



ASK the PropellerHeads

Or make like the boss and kick your feet up or recline your chair back (<http://bit.ly/1R75Rux>).

But sometimes the work is just too important and you can't leave your desk — those websites aren't going to code themselves — so consider a standing desk. A cottage industry has sprung up in recent years to address the needs of over-sitters like us and it's found an enthusiastic customer base. As the old joke about vegans and Cross Fit practitioners goes, how can you tell if someone has a standing desk? Don't worry — they'll tell you.

You don't want to stand all day, any more than you want to sit all day, so look for something adjustable. Prices vary wildly, based on style, construction materials, and other features (like electric adjustment controls versus manual).

Companies like UpDesk (updesk.com), NextDesk (nextdesks.com), and Uplift (upliftdesk.com) offer several models in various form factors. Other options include Ergotron (ergotron.com), Ikea's Bekant desk (<http://bit.ly/1p8fKSj>), and the Jarvis Desk line from Ergo Depot

(<http://bit.ly/1nwMOIE>).

I opted for the Varidesk (varidesk.com), specifically the \$395 Pro Plus 36 (<http://bit.ly/24R8J9f>). I didn't want to ditch my existing desk — despite all the articles about how it was trying to kill me — and the Varidesk sits on top of what you already have and lets you manually adjust it to several different heights. It's sturdy, easy to adjust, and comes in black or white. The two-tier design of this particular model has plenty of room on top for two 24-inch monitors and a lower deck big enough for a standard keyboard and mouse or a 17-inch laptop if you're really nerdy.

My only complaints so far are minor ones: monitor cords sometimes get trapped in the mechanism that lowers the desk, but Varidesk ships a set of cable ties with the product to prevent this, and a few pieces of well-placed tape resolved this quickly. Also, their free timer app (which plays a chime to remind you when to sit or stand) didn't work reliably on my phone. But I'm quibbling — I heartily recommend the product and applaud it with both hands clapping.

Now I'm able to stand 15-20 minutes every hour without losing my train of thought, and I've already noticed a decrease in leg pain and back problems. A warning, though: just as you can sit too much, you can also stand too much, which

can lead to varicose veins, knee problems, slouching, and cramping in other parts of your leg (<http://bit.ly/1Tta9Tu>). You were trying to avoid all that, remember?

Instead of standing all day, alternate between sitting and standing, and try to get about 15 to 30 minutes of standing in every hour. One trick is to stand for tasks that won't take long to complete, like answering emails or participating in conference calls. Also, don't lock your knees, and check out <http://bit.ly/1LD3SbU> for more tips.

If you really want to level up, there are options like treadmills to pair with your standing desk (see <http://bit.ly/1p8f8Vf> and <http://bit.ly/223gZQU>), and bike desks or related accessories (thefitdesk.com and deskcycle.com). I probably won't take that plunge any time soon — for one thing, I don't know what would happen if I fell at the office and there was no one around to hear me.

When the PropellerHeads at Data Directions aren't busy with their IT projects, they love to answer questions on business or consumer technology. Email us at askthepropellerheads@data-directions.com or contact us at Data Directions, Inc. 8510 Bell Creek Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23116. Visit our website at data-directions.com/askthepropellerheads.



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