# MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

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Texas looks to break Missouri's six-game winning streak tonight in the Texas Bowl.

Page 1C

# Global oil finds fall to 1940s level, analysts say

*Companies divert spending from conventional exploration to shale fields — most notably in Permian*

**By David Hunn**
*Houston Chronicle*

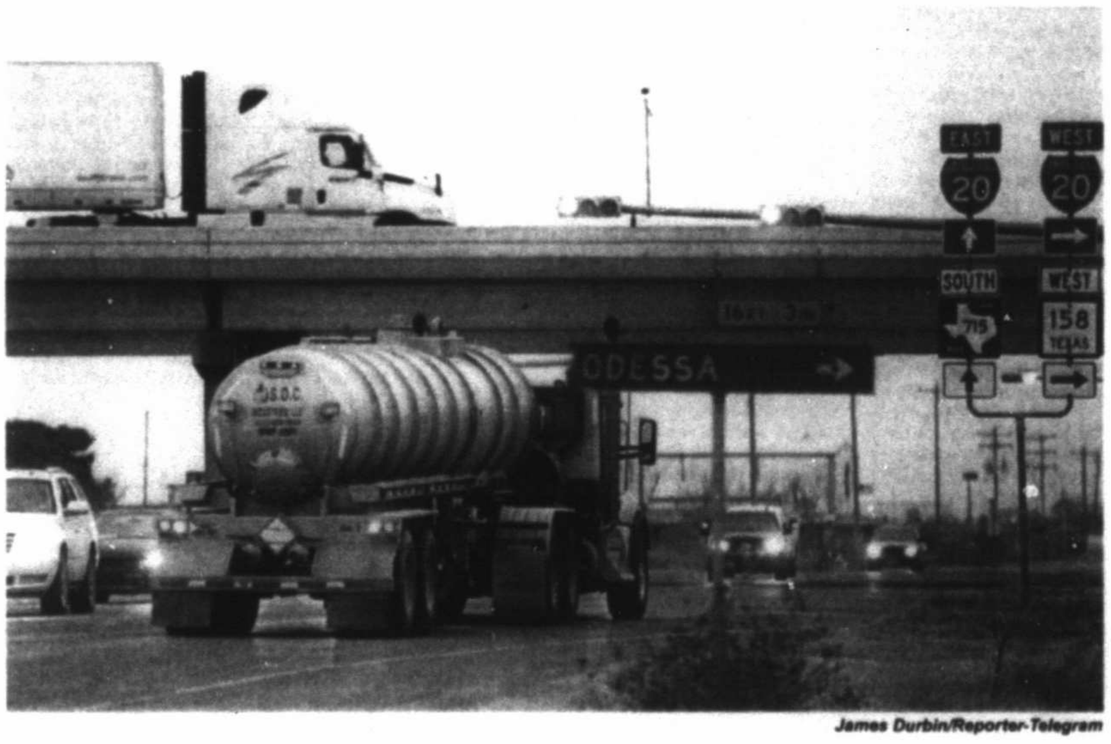
Major oil discoveries have fallen to their lowest levels in more than seven decades, as drillers across the world wrestle with stubbornly low prices and the tantalizing draw of quick returns in U.S. shale fields.

Global oil companies are projected to end 2017 with discoveries totaling just 7 billion barrels of oil and gas — less than one-quarter of the 30 billion barrels identified in 2012, according to Norwegian research firm Rystad Energy. That falloff eventually could translate into supply shortages and sharply rising prices as global demand diminishes existing reserves.

"We haven't seen anything like this since the 1940s," senior Rystad analyst Sonia Mladá Passos said in a report. "We have to face the fact that the low discovered volumes on a global level represent a serious threat to the supply levels some 10 years down the road."

Please see FALL/2A

# DRIVER SHORTAGE




James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Vehicle traffic, including commerical trucks, pass by the intersection of Feirgrounds Road and Interstate 20 on Tuesday

## Permian drillers in need of truckers

■ Many drivers who lost jobs in the downturn don't want to return

**By Sheela Tobben**
*Bloomberg*

When the price of oil collapsed in 2014 and disrupted drilling operations all across Texas' massive Permian Basin shale formation, truckers were among those hardest hit. Rendered unnecessary by the slump in output, they were fired in scores.

Now, three years later, with oil prices inching back higher and production in the Permian soaring once again, the drillers want the truckers back. The feeling, though, isn't mutual. The pain of the 2014 downturn remains fresh for many who went on to find driving gigs in other industries and, what's more, they worry that companies will remain tightfisted with pay as they re-hire.

The result is a growing trucker shortage that threatens to limit just how high drillers can push production. The problem is most acute in the western fringe of the Permian — known as the Delaware Basin — where shale companies are moving back into aggressively as prices climb.

Given the off-the-beaten-path location of these wells amid the sprawling 75,000-square-mile Permian, the need for truckers to haul the oil over primitive roads to pipelines is greater than in more centrally located spots.

"We are able to sell the trucks to the crude haulers," said Wade Black, a salesperson with Premier Truck Group in Amarillo, which is just to the north of the Delaware Basin. "But there's no one to drive them."

Permian production is surging, thanks to improving oil prices. Explorers are tapping oil in the furthest regions of the field, which extends from West Texas across into New Mexico. Output may reach 2.79 million barrels a day in January, 30 percent higher from the year before, according to latest government forecast. Led by Permian growth, total U.S. oil output is set to surpass 10 million barrels a day in June, potentially eclipsing OPEC's Saudi Arabia.

About 3,000 oil truckers are hauling oil around the Permian, more than the 2,000 to 2,500 just before the 2014 price bust, Willie Taylor, chief executive officer for Permian Basin Workforce Board, said in a phone interview. But companies will need to hire more than 3,000 additional drivers at the rate the patch is growing, he said.

Those drivers are sorely needed,

Please see DRIVERS/2A

## Sitton touts RRC's 2017 achievements

■ Commissioner: Agency creates online well log-filing system, addresses concerns after Harvey

**Editor's note:** This is the second in a three-part series in which the railroad commissioners look back at 2017.

**By Trevor Hawes**
*thawes@mrt.com*

It's been a big year for the Railroad Commission. The agency passed sunset review, and the Legislature gave the oil and gas regulator more money to work with.

For Commissioner Ryan Sitton, however, successes in the capitol building don't outweigh what the public might consider minor achievements.

"One of the things we got done this year, which seems like a small thing, is getting an online well log-filing system created," Sitton told the Reporter-Telegram. "It's a step in the direction of making the agency more efficient. It uses better technology and saves operators thousands of dollars because they are able to file the well logs electronically."

Sitton became an in-demand expert on gasoline shortages after Hurricane Harvey hit the Gulf Coast and put many refineries offline.

"In hindsight, there really wasn't the shortage people thought there was. But at the time, social media stories and misinformation really gripped the state," he said. "In Dallas and Austin, people were hoarding gas. It was a bad situation."

Sitton said he went into action by contacting refiners and pipeline operators to gather information. Setting up base in Austin, however was difficult. The commissioner lives in Friendswood, a Houston suburb where many homes flooded. Sitton's house was spared, but getting out of the area was quite a task because of flooded streets.

"I ended up flying to Austin on an itty bitty prop plane, that you might have called duct taped together, because the gasoline shortage panic was starting to go around the state," he said.

Once in Austin, Sitton sent out a press release with information about the gasoline situation, which not only resulted in an impromptu Facebook Live event with

Please see SITTON/2A

Visit us on social media

**Price of oil**
$59.97 ▲ $1.50
January 2018

**The big number**
More than **3** thousand dollars
in tips were given to a restaurant's employees in Ohio. Page 5A

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

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Index Business 7C | Classified 1D | Comics 6C | Dear Abby 5C | Lottery 3A | Obituaries 2B | Puzzles 4C | TV 5C


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# EPIC receives approval for 730-mile Permian-to-Corpus Christi pipeline

*From staff reports*

SAN ANTONIO — EPIC has announced that it has received sufficient customer interest to sanction the proposed 730-mile crude pipeline running from the Permian Basin to Corpus Christi based upon volume commitments and acreage dedications.

Distinctive to the EPIC crude project relative to traditional mainline pipeline commercial formats, customers have been provided the opportunity to make commitments through volume or acreage dedications.

Acreage dedication shippers for the crude project include Noble Energy, which is finalizing agreements with EPIC to dedicate substantially all of its gross acre position in Reeves County up to 75,000 barrels of oil per day. EPIC is in advanced discussions with numerous other producers in the Permian Basin to secure acreage dedications on similar terms.

EPIC and Noble Energy are finalizing the terms of a strategic relationship that will include an option to contribute equity in exchange for an ownership stake in the crude pipeline. Similarly, Noble will receive an option to participate in the EPIC NGL project currently under construction. The options, which include up to 30 percent ownership in the crude pipeline and up to 15 percent ownership in the NGL pipeline, expire in January of 2019 and can be exercised through Noble Energy, Inc. or its MLP subsidiary, Noble Midstream Partners LP.

Separately, another company has made an additional volume commitment of 75,000 barrels of oil per day.

EPIC Chief Executive Officer Phillip Mezey commented that "bringing in a strategic partner such as Noble greatly enhances the Crude and NGL projects. We believe EPIC offers a differentiated value proposition to producers by providing a low-cost transportation option from the Permian Basin to Gulf Coast markets that includes no risk of deficiency through acreage commitments for Permian producers. It is also notable that there is a meaningful amount of capital and operating synergies between the Crude and NGL projects as they will share ROW and site locations."

EPIC had announced an open season for the crude line in March of this year and an additional 10-day open season last week to offer remaining firm-capacity out of both the Permian and Eagle Ford basins, with the latter having terminals in Gardendale and Helena.

The 730-mile crude petroleum pipeline runs across Texas from Orla in the Permian Basin to the Port of Corpus Christi with capacity up to 590,000 barrels per day. The project includes terminals in Orla, Pecos, Crane, Wink, Midland, Helena and Gardendale, with Port of Corpus Christi connectivity and export access.

Expected to be in-service in 2019, the EPIC Crude Pipeline is being laid alongside EPIC's previously announced NGL Pipeline System, which is currently under construction. Right-of-way acquisition commenced back in October after the EPIC NGL project was kicked off.

## FALL

From 1A

Exploration budgets the cash oil companies spend on finding new fields have fallen for three consecutive years, Rystad said, dropping by more 60 percent in total. And the shale revolution has further diverted company spending from offshore and conventional exploration to U.S. fields, where hydraulic fracturing unleashed vast and previously unknown oil reserves.

But shale production won't come anywhere close to providing enough oil to satiate the world's growing appetite, rising toward 100 million barrels per day. Energy research firm IHS Markit estimates shale fields account for just 7 percent of global production.

World oil discoveries began falling in 2010, Rystad said. In 2012, companies found fields holding an estimated 30 billion barrels of oil and gas. By 2014, that number had fallen by half, to 15 billion barrels; last year it halved again, to 8 billion barrels.

More worrisome, Passos said, is that 2017 discoveries are on pace to replace just 11 percent of the world's production this year. Average offshore discoveries held just 100 million barrels this year, compared with 150 million in 2012.

Oil prices began tumbling in June 2014, after several years of sustained drilling, and fracturing in U.S. shale fields helped produce a glut of oil. They kept falling into February 2016, bottoming out at about $26 a barrel. More than 300 oil, services and pipeline companies went bankrupt; nearly all cut spending steeply.

As prices have rebounded, production has become concentrated in the Permian Basin, where companies could drill, frack and pump oil quickly and profitably, leading many to pull out of more expensive offshore and international positions.

Oil majors such as California-based Chevron Corp. and independents such as Houston's Marathon Oil Corp. and Apache Corp., shifted their focus from offshore and international toward such shale fields. Chevron recently began a multibillion-dollar drilling campaign on 2 million acres in the Permian. Marathon sold its offshore portfolio in Norway to focus almost exclusively on shale. Apache expects to spend about two-thirds of its $3 billion capital budget this year in the Permian.

Still, analysts, executives and energy agencies have all warned that low levels of investment in exploration of conventional oil fields could lead supplies to run hundreds of thousands of barrels short by the end of the decade.

In 2015, the Houston energy investment bank Tudor, Pickering, Holt & Co. projected oil industry cost-cutting could take 19 million barrels of oil out of daily production in the years that followed. Last year, the consulting firm Deloitte reported that the industry is $2 trillion short on the cash it needs to replace the crude it is pumping today.

And in January, Paal Kibsgaard, chairman and CEO of the international oil services giant Schlumberger, said most countries outside the Persian Gulf are depleting their reserves without replacing the oil they produce.

Rystad noted a few major discoveries in 2017, including Exxon Mobil's 1 billion-barrel find off Guyana and Dallas-based Kosmos Energy's 15 trillion feet of natural gas in Senegal. In Mexico, the state-owned oil company Pemex discovered about 350 million barrels in the onshore Ixachi field, and Houston's Talos Energy found at least 1.4 billion barrels in the Gulf of Mexico.

The research firm said it doesn't expect any other large discoveries this year, but with U.S. crude stockpiles shrinking and oil prices approaching $60 a barrel, companies may be more inclined to increase exploration budgets soon.



Jaime Almanzar, 54, stands in his living room in Victoria. Almanzar's home, located in the flood-prone Greens Addition community, was damaged in Hurricane Harvey and subsequent flooding. Almanzar and seven family members have been living at a Houston motel for the past four months since Hurricane Harvey. ***Angela Piazza/ The Victoria Advocate via AP***

# Christmas spirit endures despite hardship brought by Harvey

**By Laura Garcia**
*Victoria Advocate*

VICTORIA — A small Christmas tree twinkles with multicolored lights inside a room at Motel 6.

Stockings are hung on the wall, and snowflakes are affixed to the windows.

Jaime Almanzar, 54, and his seven family members have been living at the motel in Victoria for the past four months since Hurricane Harvey.

Almanzar can't afford to repair his damaged two-bedroom home and is working odd jobs every day for food and basic necessities.

But he's grateful to have a safe place to lay his head.

Motel 6 left the light on for those needing a place to ride out the storm on Aug. 25 and since then has become a place families can stay as they work through the Federal Emergency Management Agency process.

The motel has 22 rooms occupied by displaced families in FEMA's Transitional Sheltering Assistance program.

Manager Yolanda Cervantes said she's seen how hard families are working to recover from Harvey.

"They're still fighting to get home," she told the Victoria Advocate.

In the meantime, she said several families have decorated their rooms for the holidays.

"They do whatever they can do to make it feel like home," she said.

Motel 6 also sustained damage during Harvey and is almost finished with repairs.

The swimming pool and the sign are next on the list.

But repairs to Almanzar's house are much slower.

The home where Almanzar raised his five daughters was uninsured, and he learned this week that FEMA won't help beyond the $530 in aid he received early on.

But that money is long gone, and he'll need a lot more to fix his home.

His hope is that once the home is repaired, he and his wife will move back in with three of their daughters.

A fourth daughter, her husband and their toddler might also stay there because they lost their apartment after Harvey.

Church volunteers helped tarp the hole in his roof and cleaned out the mud left behind when the Guadalupe River entered his house.

They also ripped out the walls to prevent mold.

The FEMA aid was only enough to replace the walls in his daughters' room.

The windows still need to be repaired, and the walls are down to the frame in most parts of his home.

Despite suffering from hernias, Almanzar works as often as he can doing yard work and manual labor.

His wife, Cecilia Flores, and their older daughters are also working, but he said the costs are still overwhelming.

At one point, he almost fell victim to a phone scam promising money after purchasing a Walmart gift card.

Luckily his family warned him before it was too late and they reported the call to the police.

The family is often washing clothes at the motel with quarters and driving to their home to dry loads of laundry. The washer didn't survive the storm. Neither did the family's hamster. But their two Chihuahuas survived.

Most days, he's optimistic and his tanned, aged face is set in a big smile.

But when there's just a few dollars left to his name and he's tired, his mind wanders and he contemplates whether the daily struggle to survive is worth it.

That's usually when he says God provides.

"You can't have too much pride," he said. "There's no shame in asking for help."

And that's exactly what happened this week.

The nonprofit organizations that have helped Almanzar's family stay afloat came through for the holidays.

He attended a free dinner at Christ's Kitchen and was given $20 for gas and some bread and soups.

While he was at the soup kitchen, Almanzar was handed $100 in gift cards.

An employee of Victoria Independent School District, where two of his daughters attend, also came by the motel with an H-E-B gift card to help with groceries. The family, meanwhile, was able to buy some small Christmas gifts.

He said he just wanted to have everyone together this Christmas, wherever that is.

"Sometimes you think you have it bad, but other people have it worse," he said.

*Distributed by the Associated Press*

## SITTON

From 1A

a Dallas television station that drew more than 50,000 participants, but cooperation with the Texas Tribune on a webcast in which media and residents could ask questions and get answers.

"Being able to move quickly and get it out to media — who were across-the-board helpful at discerning real information and getting it out in real time — shows that we were on our game. I was proud of that," Sitton said. "We were responding to a public situation that people hadn't anticipated. It's not part of our everyday job."

Sitton commended the agency as a whole for its Harvey response.

"I'm proud of how the RRC handled Hurricane Harvey. We had offices closed down. We monitored thousands of wellhead operations and pad sites. We engaged where there were risks. We took calls and addressed any concerns. I think that was one of our strongest moments. Just like a lot of others in the state, we responded to all of the challenges that came with Harvey, and that reflected well not on just the RRC, but on the entire industry."

The fact that the RRC was the go-to for information demonstrated just how influential and trusted the agency is on oil and gas matters, Sitton said, adding that the agency should go outside of the state to become part of the national conversation on the industry.

"We have a potential to be a real leader in how we combine the discussion on promoting business, promoting industry and protecting the environment," Sitton said. "They're not mutually exclusive; they go together."

He added that the agency "needs to step out in a role of technical leadership," not just political leadership.

Going into 2018, Sitton is focused on three key areas for the agency. He hopes the RRC can hire an executive director who knows how to lead a large organization, can keep people accountable and understands the technical aspects of the agency and the industry it regulates.

Sitton also wants the RRC to continue to demonstrate it can work with outside groups that develop technology.

"We've done a good job internally of building an organization that supports our technology needs," he said. "If we want to get to where we need to go, we're going to need to partner with outside groups who can develop specific types of technology. Outsourcing effectively is a new thing for us. We need to get good at that."

The commissioner also wants to see a training and development program that gives RRC staff deep technical knowledge.

"I don't just mean experts in the RRC business, but in industry: expert geologists, petroleum engineers and technicians who understand the business and love to move with the times and keep up with the quick developments," he said.

## DRIVERS

From 1A

especially in the fast-growing Delaware Basin, which has become the Permian's second-largest section. There are as many as 2,000 trucks just servicing the Delaware, each able to transport about 180 barrels, Joey Lee, general manager with Premium Truck of Odessa, said in a phone interview.

He said drivers are worried they won't get paid much, given that most operators are still in austerity mode with prices well below their 2014 peak.

Oil truck drivers are paid about $100,000 per year, some 10 percent to 20 percent below 2014-15 salaries, according to Joseph Triepke, founder of Tennessee-based oilfield research firm InfillThinking.com. Typically, oil truckers got paid more than frac sand drivers because of the additional skills needed to haul a hazardous substance such as petroleum, he said in a phone interview. But that salary disparity is narrowing as demand grows for frac sand.

Truckers are also concerned about the implementation of digital log books that compute the hours of operations more accurately, instead of the manual logs in which drivers recorded their own hours. Drivers, who get paid by how much time they spend in a field "could manipulate the system with manual entries," Lee said.

The shortage won't cause any kind of slowdown in production or shutins, said Lee, adding that more staff likely will be added steadily next year as prices rise.

"Rehiring will be a slow process. It won't happen as fast as you need it."

While the race to expand production in the more distant reaches of the Permian boosts demand for truckers, technological developments may slow the hiring.

Advances in horizontal drilling allow fewer wells to produce the same amount of oil and gas, reducing the number of trucks needed to transport the oil to market, Stephen Robertson, executive vice president of the Permian Basin Petroleum Association, said by email.

Also, with so much production coming from a centralized pad site, it's cheaper to set up flow lines to transport the oil to storage hubs, Robertson said.

"Trucks are still greatly needed to transport people and equipment, it's just that we have been able to reduce the number of trips needed to produce an equivalent amount of hydrocarbons."

The Delaware Basin is far from most major cities, with the few hotels, and man-camps the primary form of accommodation. Infrastructure is poor, and trucks travel mainly on dirt roads, which can be bad for equipment, according to Premier's Black.

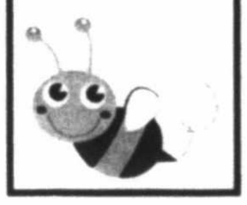
The rutted roads keep travel speeds at under 10 miles an hour to destinations that are as many as 50 miles away.

The manpower shortage is expected to ease soon. Trucking companies are redeploying assets to where there has been a large increase in output to meet demand, said Robert McEntyre, spokesman for the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association, in a phone interview from Santa Fe.

The oil industry will simply have to pay up get more drivers, Lee said. "It's offering better incentives like more time off or bigger bonuses. This is the competitive nature of the business."

**WORD OF THE DAY**
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**Colloquialism**
[kuh-loh-kwee-uh-liz-uh m]
noun
1. a colloquial expression.



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# TODAYINMIDLAND

## Things to do

■ Sahaja Yoga Meditation Stress Relief and Relaxation Workshop. 10-11 a.m. at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250. Free.

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

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

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

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

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

■ Dome Shows at Blakemore Planetarium, 1705 W. Missouri Ave.; "In My Backyard," noon, and "Star of Bethlehem," 2 p.m. museumsw.org.

## COM camp

Mabee Aquatic is hosting Winter Camp, which includes swimming, games and activities for kids 3 to 13. Half-day and full-day options available. Campo continues through Jan. 5 at COM Aquatics Learn to Swim, 3003 N. "A" St. Fee ranges from $25 to $175.

## Junior calf roping

The annual Tall City Ultimate New Year's Junior Calf Roping is Friday through Sunday at the Horseshoe Arena. Ropers 9 through 19 will be competing for saddles, buckles and cash prizes.

The first events begin 9 a.m. each day; the last event of the day is at 2 p.m.

For more information, visit ultimatecalfropings.com.

## Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 27, the 361st day of 2017. There are four days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**

**On Dec. 27, 1927,** the musical play "Show Boat," with music by Jerome Kern and libretto by Oscar Hammerstein II, opened at the Ziegfeld Theater in New York, beginning a run of 572 performances.

**On this date:**

**In 1831,** naturalist Charles Darwin set out on a round-the-world voyage aboard the HMS Beagle.

**In 1932,** New York City's Radio City Music Hall first opened.

**In 1945,** the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund were formally established.

**In 1947,** the original version of the puppet character Howdy Doody made his TV debut on NBC's "Puppet Playhouse."

**In 1979,** Soviet forces seized control of Afghanistan. President Hafizullah Amin, who was overthrown and executed, was replaced by Babrak Karmal.

**In 1985,** American naturalist Dian Fossey, 53, who had studied gorillas in the wild in Rwanda, was found hacked to death.

**One year ago:** Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, accompanied by President Barack Obama, visited Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, where he offered his "sincere and everlasting condolences to the souls of those who lost their lives" in Japan's 1941 attack; Abe did not apologize, but conceded his country "must never repeat the horrors of war again." Actress Carrie Fisher died in a hospital four days after suffering a medical emergency aboard a flight to Los Angeles; she was 60.

**Today's birthdays:** ABC News correspondent Cokie Roberts is 74. Journalist-turned-politician Arthur Kent is 64.

*Source: The Associated Press*

# Hogwarts Holiday at the library



*James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram*

Children had the opportunity to touch critters from the Petroleum Museum collection during a Harry Potter-themed Hogwarts event Thursday at the Midland County Public Library Centennial branch.

## Lottery

**Pick 3 morning:** 7-8-4
**Pick 3 day:** 4-8-4
**Pick 3 evening:** 7-0-4
**Pick 3 night:** 1-7-6
**Daily 4 morning:** 2-2-4-8
**Daily 4 day:** 7-2-9-5
**Daily 4 evening:** 9-8-1-7
**Daily 4 night:** 8-6-0-4
**Cash Five:** 9-20-22-29-30
**Triple Chance:** 8-10-15-17-26-30-40-41-47-50
**Mega Millions:** 10-12-20-38-41 BB: 25 Megaplier: 4
**All or Nothing morning:** 1-2-3-7-9-10-14-16-17-18-19-22
**All or Nothing day:** 4-5-7-9-12-14-18-20-21-22-23-24
**All or Nothing evening:** 3-5-8-9-10-11-13-14-18-19-20-24
**All or Nothing night:** 1-5-9-10-11-12-15-16-17-18-21-24

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## Weather

**Tuesday's temperatures**

| | |
|---|---|
| High | 44 |
| Low | 27 |
| Normal high | 57 |
| Normal low | 30 |

**Dec. 26's records**
**Record high:** 78, set in 2005, repeated in 2008
**Record low:** 11, set in 1939

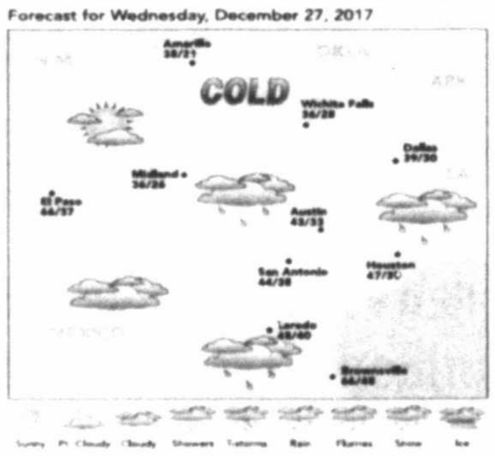
**Precipitation**

| | |
|---|---|
| Monday | 0.00 in. |
| Tuesday | 0.00 in. |
| Month total | 0.39 in. |
| Year total | 17.73 in. |
| Normal total (year to date) | 14.51 in. |

**Winds**
**Wind speed:** 18 mph
**Gust speed:** 22 mph

**Today's forecast**
**High:** 34
**Low:** 33
**Conditions:** Cloudy today/mostly cloudy tonight
**Winds:** Northeast 5-15 mph today/southeast 5 mph tonight
**Chance of rain:** Freezing drizzle today
**Sunrise** 7:48 a.m.
**Sunset** 5:22 p.m.

Forecast for Wednesday, December 27, 2017




*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 Capricorn and a Moon in Aries.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for **Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2017:**
This year you reveal a more thoughtful personality. You often have conflicts with others that stem from your own inner struggles. You will not tolerate interference with a project. If you are single, you attract many different types of people, but maintaining a close relationship will take work. Hold off on making a commitment until next year, if possible. If you are attached, you could be challenging for your mate, as you might become controlling. Be sensitive to your significant other. ARIES tends to irritate you.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)**
★★★★ You might wake up feeling as if you have witnessed a revolution. Consider the pros and cons of getting involved in a power play. You will eye a possible change, and even might act on it very soon. Expect some people to be taken aback. **Tonight:** A force to be dealt with.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**
★★★ You might have been suppressing some feelings, which seem to have manifested in a dream you woke up to. Work with your insights, and don't do anything just yet. You are likely to trigger some unexpected events. Try not to be overly reactive. **Tonight:** Make it an early night.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**
★★★★★ Your personality draws in many different people from various walks of life. You easily can see the common ties. Beware of a need to have control. A power struggle could be awaiting you. You might approach a potential partnership with some trepidation. **Tonight:** Hang at home.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**
★★ You feel as if you have little choice, as you seem to be pulled in two different directions and have difficulty juggling the two. A partner or close friend could become unusually demanding. Work with surprises, and embrace the unexpected. **Tonight:** Do your best to avoid a conflict.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**
★★★★ Take an overview, especially as others seem to be caught up in their own issues and needs. By gaining a new perspective, you will resolve a problem. You grow by remaining open. Do not be fearful when things seem to get out of control. **Tonight:** Be willing to break from tradition.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**
★★★ Deal with a loved one on an individual level, and resist making any sarcastic comments. You do not want to create an uproar, especially when you are as close as you are to manifesting a better understanding between you and this person. **Tonight:** Go with the togetherness theme.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**
★★★★ Happiness surrounds you. Greet an unanticipated happening with a smile. You will see how easily your life can flow if you become less critical and more open. You will be delighted by someone else's sudden change of mood. Make fun plans! **Tonight:** Among the crowds.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**
★★★★ Honor a fast change, but know that it could throw your plans into chaos. You could become reactive and stubborn as a result. Trust that you can handle what comes down the pike. You will exude confidence, allowing others to see the true you. **Tonight:** Keep plans relaxed.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**
★★★★ You could be exhausted by everything that is happening. Your creativity seems to come up with idea after idea, to the point that it's overwhelming. This ingenuity colors your relationships and interactions. You might experience some quick changes. **Tonight:** Avoid a power play.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**
★★★★ Do not fight the inevitable with a family matter over a domestic issue. You are likely to make excuses rather than get down to the root of the problem. The unexpected continues to shake up the status quo. Do not fight this trend. **Tonight:** Head home at a reasonable hour.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**
★★★★ Keep reaching out to others and be ready to hear some startling statements. You might not even realize how shocking a statement is, as you seem to be getting used to outrageous ideas. Let go of a nagging fear, or else you'll create a bigger nightmare. **Tonight:** Hang with a close friend.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**
★★★★ Refuse to become uptight over the possibility of a major change. You could see some financial agreements coming up. You might want some time to assess your various choices. Sometimes you sabotage your decision-making process. **Tonight:** Out on the town.

**BORN TODAY**
Actress Marlene Dietrich (1901), journalist Savannah Guthrie (1971), actress Emilie de Ravin (1981)

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# Cities sue Defense Dept. over gun-check failures

**By Colleen Long**
*Associated Press*

NEW YORK — Three large U.S. cities filed a federal lawsuit Tuesday against the Department of Defense, arguing that many service members who are disqualified from gun ownership weren't reported to the national background check system.

New York City, San Francisco and Philadelphia said in court papers that the military's broken system for relaying such information helped spur the massacre of 26 people inside a Texas church last month.

"This failure on behalf of the Department of Defense has led to the loss of innocent lives by putting guns in the hands of criminals and those who wish to cause immeasurable harm," New York Mayor Bill de Blasio said in a statement. "New York City is joining Philadelphia and San Francisco to stand up to the Department of Defense and demand they comply with the law and repair their drastically flawed system."

Local law enforcement officials rely on the FBI's database to conduct background checks on gun permit applications and to monitor purchases. It must be up-to-date in order to prevent people from wrongly getting guns, the cities' attorneys wrote.

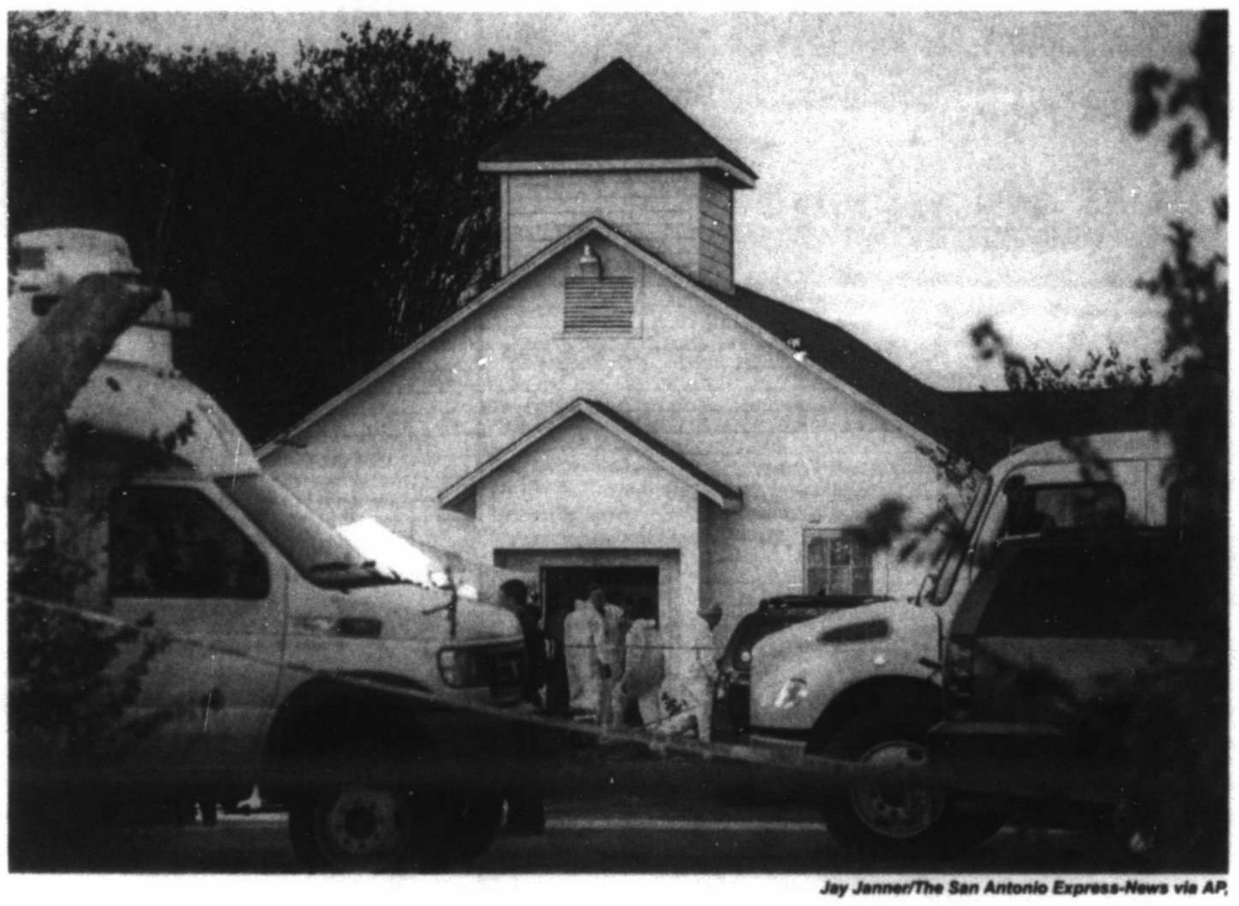
The lawsuit filed in federal court in Alexandria, Virginia, seeks an injunction and judicial oversight to ensure ongoing compliance with the Defense Department's obligation to submit records.

Military officials previously acknowledged problems with their reporting.

A Pentagon spokesman on Tuesday said he couldn't comment specifically on the lawsuit.

"The department continues to work with the services as they review and refine their policies and procedures to ensure qualifying criminal history information is submitted to the FBI," said Tom Crosson, a Pentagon spokesman.

The Defense Department's failure to report "significant numbers" of disqualifying records to the FBI's national background check system allowed former U.S. Air Force member Devin P. Kelley to buy a rifle and shoot 26 people to death Nov. 5 in a Sutherland Springs church, the lawsuit said. Kelley had been convicted of assaulting family members in a 2012 court martial and should not have been allowed to purchase a gun.



*Jay Janner/The San Antonio Express-News via AP,*

Investigators work at the scene of a deadly shooting Nov. 5 at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs. New York City, San Francisco and Philadelphia filed a federal lawsuit Tuesday, Dec. 26, against the Defense Department, saying many service members who are disqualified from gun ownership weren't reported to the national background check system. A Defense Department failure allowed a disgraced former Air Force member to buy a high-powered rifle and shoot 26 people to death at the church.

Air Force leaders already acknowledged that the service failed to alert the FBI to Kelley's criminal history and that they discovered "several dozen" other such reporting omissions. They said that while policies and procedures requiring reporting were in place, training and compliance measures were lacking.

And Army leaders have said their service also has similar gaps.

Earlier this month, the Pentagon's watchdog agency it found a "troubling" number of failures this year by the military services to alert the FBI to criminal history information. Attorney General Jeff Sessions has ordered a far-ranging review of the FBI database.

Philadelphia in particular has been plagued by gun violence and "relies on this reporting when making the crucial decision whether a license-to-carry applicant should be permitted to carry a firearm," said Mayor Jim Kenney, who is a Democrat like the mayors of New York and San Francisco. "We're joining in this suit because reporting these records is absolutely critical to those decisions. The background check system only works if it contains the proper records."

San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera said in a statement that the Department of Defense's failure to accurately report criminal convictions puts Americans at risk.

"We cannot accept the level of gun violence in our country as 'just the way it is,'" he said.

The lawsuit names the armed forces individually, as well as the Department of Defense, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and several other officials.

According to the lawsuit, the U.S. Air Force failed to submit records in about 14 percent of cases, the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps failed to submit records in 36 percent of cases, and the U.S. Army didn't submit records in about 41 percent of cases.

The Air Force said it has already made changes designed to prevent such failures in the future. For example, it is now requiring that leaders up the chain of command verify that criminal history reporting requirements have been met in every case.

# Some states struggle to make preschool available to everyone

**By Sally Ho**
*Associated Press*

SEATTLE — In perhaps an unexpected twist, historically conservative strongholds like Oklahoma and West Virginia are leading efforts to bring preschool to all.

"They have in common a low-wage workforce, relatively low education levels and the desire to change that," said Steven Barnett of the National Institute for Early Education Research. "Whatever they say, politicians in West Virginia know the future of their state is not coal miners."

Other red states that have notable programs include Alabama and Georgia. But some liberal-leaning cities like Seattle and New York also are running public pre-K programs.

Advocates say more universal programs are needed to address what they call an alarming increase in child care costs. Studies have shown that children who attend a high-quality preschool are more adjusted for the rest of their academic lives and have better outcomes as adults, from higher incomes to healthier lifestyles.

Around the country, some budding programs say there are not enough seats to meet demand and not enough money to make it happen.

Programs in Seattle and New York enjoy overwhelming support locally, which in turn puts pressure on their state lawmakers to act as they face growing inequity in public education and research that touts the benefits of high-quality education in the critical early years.

"Clearly, a statewide program would be so much better, and it should be available to all 3- and 4-year-olds. It's the best investment we can make to right the wrongs of generations," said Tim Burgess, a retired Seattle mayor and city councilman credited with creating the Seattle Preschool Program.

It is now in its third year, serving 979 children with a sliding scale tuition model. About 80 percent of them go for free. Burgess is now pushing for a universal statewide offering in Washington, beyond its program for low-income children.

Aanchal Mehrotra's 4-year-old son is one of 300 kids now on the waiting list for the Seattle Preschool Program, but she says she doesn't have much hope that he'll get in. The Seattle preschool class would cost the family just $365 a month. She's paying almost four times that much for a month at a private day care franchise.

"It's so expensive and become so difficult to afford," said Mehrotra, a research scientist. "I'm just waiting for him to turn 5 so he can get into kindergarten."

The universal preschool movement hit peak momentum under the Obama administration but has been virtually unaddressed by President Donald Trump. Instead, Trump's daughter and adviser Ivanka Trump has dabbled with policies aimed at tackling child care costs.

A report by Democrats on the Joint Economic Committee in Congress this year indicated that less than half of the nation's 3- and 4-year-olds were in a pre-K program, ranging from 75 percent in Washington, D.C., to just 30 percent in Idaho.

The programs vary in quality and structure, with some offering just a few hours a week of learning sessions and others that are more similar to a full school day.

One of the central goals of preschool is social development, which advocates say will help children get adjusted to learning in a structured setting and is especially important for low-income children.

But for many families, cost is a major factor.

Child Care Aware of America reports that the average cost of child care per year for a 4-year-old in a licensed facility ranged from $14,000 in Massachusetts to $4,500 in Mississippi.

In Oklahoma and West Virginia, preschool is offered to virtually all 4-year-olds.

West Virginia's program last year cost $142 million — nearly a third of which was covered through federal funding — to educate 14,940 children, including 3-year-olds with special needs and all 4-year-olds.

The program was built up slowly over the past decade through layers of legislative wins that strengthened accessibility, partnerships, and most critically, funding.

"We have some very dedicated champions at the Legislature who really felt the need to look at the welfare of the children in our state," said Monica DellaMea, who oversees early learning at the state education department.

Access to preschool is also widely available in Washington, D.C., Vermont and Florida.

Though other cities and states have been able to launch preschool programs, funding often limits access, creating programs for the poor or disabled or limited to a certain district — instead of a truly universal one.

That's the case in Washington state, where only 9 percent of 4-year-olds were enrolled in preschool in 2016, according to National Institute for Early Education Research.

"For a decade, nothing has really changed in terms of access for the non-poor working families," Barnett said.

# Media face challenges in rush to sexual misconduct reckoning

**By David Bauder**
*Associated Press*

NEW YORK — Talk-show host Tavis Smiley isn't just upset with PBS for firing him on sexual misconduct charges. He's upset about his depiction in the media.

Smiley believes that if he hadn't talked publicly about romantic relationships with subordinates at his company, the behavior that led to his downfall, the public would make little distinction between him and those who have been accused of sexual assault or rape.

Conflation of different forms of misbehavior — the idea itself is controversial — is one of the issues facing media organizations covering the fast-moving story of sexual misconduct that went into overdrive with investigations into Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein's behavior.

"The media is painting with too broad a brush," Smiley said. "We have lost all sense of nuance and proportionality in how we cover these stories."

Actor Matt Damon was torched for broaching the topic recently. He told ABC News that all accused men shouldn't be lumped together because there's a spectrum of behavior. There's a difference between a pat on the rear and child molestation, he said.

"Both of those behaviors need to be confronted and eradicated without question, but they shouldn't be conflated, right?" he said.

Actress Minnie Driver called Damon tone-deaf. Actress Alyssa Milano, who began a cultural movement by urging other women who have been harassed to proclaim #MeToo on social media, tweeted in reply that victims are hurt by all forms of misconduct. All are evidence of misogyny.

Still, as the rush of stories about misbehavior slows down — if it slows down — the point Damon raises will loom larger. Debate over the consequences of Sen. Al Franken's groping continues despite his resignation. The New York Times noted the difficulties in deciding whether to fire reporter Glenn Thrush following documentation of his unwanted drunken advances on women. Thrush was suspended and stripped of his White House beat.

The New York Daily News groups many of its stories about misconduct allegations under the tag "Perv Nation." The newspaper makes clear that not all allegations are the same, said Daily News executive Rebecca Baker, also president of the Society of Professional Journalists.

However, she said, "I don't think the media can tell people what to think or stop people from conflating things."

Society is in the midst of a debate over changing norms of behavior that's very intense and not very organized, said Nicholas Lemann, former dean of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. Distinctions can fall by the wayside with the temperature so high, he said.

"It's a good way for society to change its values," Lemann said. "It's a bad way to protect individual rights."

In Smiley's case, PBS agreed that his history of dating subordinates was the central issue in his firing. But a PBS statement also spoke mysteriously of "other conduct," giving no other details in order to protect the privacy of people who complained about him.

An unwillingness, or inability, to specify behavior that results in discipline can contribute to conflation. In firing reporter Ryan Lizza, the New Yorker magazine cited "improper sexual behavior." Lizza said his bosses mischaracterized "a respectful relationship with a woman I dated." Her lawyer disputed this, saying the relationship wasn't respectful, but wouldn't say why.

A television news producer recently dismissed because of his behavior is concerned that he will be lumped in with bad-behaving media men like Matt Lauer or Charlie Rose, and had his lawyer issue a statement saying his client was never "accused of any physical contact, language of a sexual nature or any sort of lewd conduct."

But how he's judged is ultimately out of his control, since neither employer nor employee will publicly say what the person actually did that cost him his job.

Early stories on misconduct cases — think the Times and New Yorker on Weinstein, The Washington Post on Rose and Roy Moore — were meticulously reported and have proven airtight. The challenge for news organizations is maintaining that rigor with more women coming forward to tell their stories and the pressure for scoops ratchets up.

"If you don't have one of these things really nailed down, it's a very bad thing for you," Lemann said. "Whoever gets one of these things wrong, it's going to be very embarrassing."

The story has already led to some unorthodox decisions. Vox.com assigned a woman who alleged harassment by Thrush, who said the incident still made her angry, to report and write on accusations by her and others. Having someone with a clear personal stake report such a sensitive story would make many news organizations squeamish, although no substantive questions have been raised about her work.

Conservative commentator Hugh Hewitt wrote in The Washington Post about rough justice being dispensed by the media, "much of it deserved." Even the worst offenders deserve due process, he said. It isn't easy or quick — but other victims are watching, wondering whether it is safe to speak out.

"Rarely does media have such a complicated job with stakes as high as these," he wrote.

# T.I. helps mothers with last minute Christmas shopping

*Associated Press*


T.I. performs during the BET Hip Hop Awards in 2016 in Atlanta. *AP file photo*

ATLANTA — Rapper T.I. spent Christmas Eve spreading holiday cheer among some single mothers, helping them with their last-minute shopping for gifts.

In a video T.I. posted on social media, the Grammy-winning artist entered an Atlanta-area Target on Sunday and called for all single mothers present to follow him.

He strolled through the store alongside several mothers, went to the cash register with them and then paid for their Christmas presents.

T.I. says he spent $20,000 within a 30-minute stretch.

He had to leave after that because of a flight.

This isn't the first time T.I. has surprised shoppers by paying for their gifts. He appeared at metro Atlanta stores around Christmas in past years to help mothers in need, including making two different stops at Walmart stores in 2016.

# Bitter cold expected until New Year in Midwest and Northeast

*Associated Press*

CHICAGO — A white Christmas for much of the Northeast and Midwest has given way to bitter cold until the New Year.

Chicago-area National Weather Service meteorologist Amy Seeley says to expect colder-than-normal temperatures the rest of the week.

Temperatures hovered around zero degrees in Chicago on Tuesday.

Meteorologists warn of sub-zero frigid arctic air and dangerously cold wind chills.

Wind chill advisories or warnings are in effect for all of North Dakota and Wisconsin, as well as swaths of South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Michigan and Indiana.

Wind chill advisories are also in effect for parts of Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire and New York.

Meteorologists say frostbite is possible with as little as 30 minutes of exposure.

# Church stuns Waffle House workers with $3,500 Christmas tip

*Associated Press*

CELINA, Ohio — Employees of a Waffle House restaurant have received a huge tip of over $3,500 from Ohio churchgoers whose pastor preached about generosity at Christmas.

The Dayton Daily News and WHIO-TV report five women working at the Wapakoneta restaurant were stunned when congregants from Grand Lake United Methodist Church in Celina delivered the cash after a Christmas Eve service. The workers were told they could split the money, amounting to over $700 apiece.

Church member Barb Vorhees says several dozen churchgoers drove to the restaurant, a popular Southern chain, and packed inside to see the surprise.

The Rev. Mick Whistler had challenged families in his congregation to set aside cash during the weeks before the holiday and then to bring five $1 bills on Christmas Eve for the tip.


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★ Kids 8 and Under are FREE ★

FIRST GAMES – Thursday, Dec. 28th

Thursday December 28 - GIRLS Schedule
9:00 AM Chap Center — Bushland vs El Paso Jefferson
12:00 PM Chap Center — Plainview vs Midland Classical
3:00 PM Chap Center — El Paso Pebble Hills vs Midland Lee
6:00 PM Chap Center — Lake Travis vs Midland High

Thursday December 28 - BOYS Schedule
10:30 AM Chap Center — Houston Spring Woods vs Odessa High
1:30 PM Chap Center — El Paso Pebble Hills vs San Angelo
4:30 PM Chap Center — Plainview vs Midland Lee
7:30 PM Chap Center — Belton High vs Midland High

ADMISSION COST:

3-Day Tournament Pass:
Adults - $20.00
Students - $10.00
(includes free program)

Daily Pass:
Adults - $8.00
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(Programs - $2.00)



READERS' CHOICE AWARDS 2017 SILVER MEXICAN FOOD

IN ALL THINGS GIVE THANKS



READERS' CHOICE AWARDS 2016 GOLD MEXICAN FOOD

As we approach the Christmas Season we need to stop and ask ourselves why one of the major holidays this time of year has its emphasis on giving thanks. Our forefathers who came to this country and settled it could never have envisioned what an impact that their simple celebration so long ago would have on subsequent generations. They endured great hardship in a land that was wild, untamed and unfamiliar to them. In spite of this they took the time as an act of worship to God to simply share a meal with people whom they barely knew and to give thanks for the bounty that had been supplied to them.



In a sense Beatrice Lujan has lived out that same story. She came to this country as a young child of Mexican immigrants and instead of getting the education that she wanted Beatrice was forced to go to work to help the family. She began waiting tables when she was only 14 at a restaurant in Pecos, Texas and discovered that she liked waiting tables. She worked many jobs including a western wear store on Front Street. However when the opportunity presented itself she took a leap of faith and in 1991 and opened her own restaurant Carambas Spanish Inn. It was small with only 15 tables but because she built her menu around delicious food served in a gracious family atmosphere she began to get busier and busier. In 1993 her business was still growing and the prospect came to buy the former western wear store where she had worked on Front Street. With great effort and a lot of remodeling she reopened Carambas Spanish Inn at 3116 W. Front Street and for the last 24 years has continued the tradition of serving quality food at an affordable price in an environment that is warm and welcoming. Carambas's menu is extensive and if you are not in the mood for Mexican you can try their delicious hamburgers, catfish or fried shrimp. However Beatrice has perfected the art of Mexican cuisine with all items made from scratch including the famous Beatrice Special that consists of a chili relleno, taco, tamale, enchilada, rice, beans and a small scoop of guacamole. Needless to say you will not go away hungry. Some of the comments from her customers include "Downright Good Mexican Food, The Best Chicken enchiladas in town, or simply the word Awesome to describe their experience at Carambas.

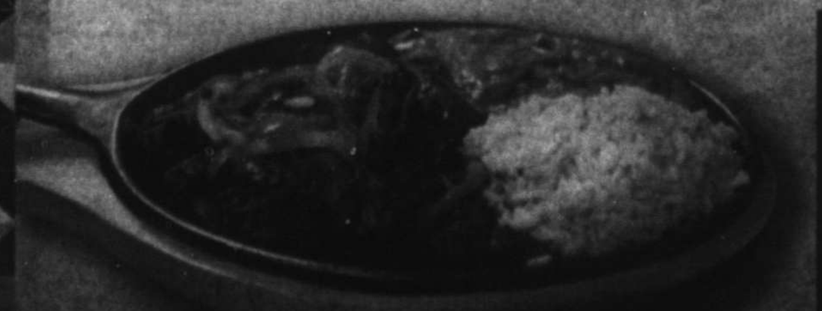


Even though the food is why people keep coming back Beatrice says that much of the success can really be attributed to the hardworking staff including Beatrice whom you can still find working in the kitchen. Many of her people have been with her for 20 plus years and have become more of a family than a staff of restaurant workers.

After giving her life to the Lord in 1993 Beatrice made a conscious decision to abstain from selling alcohol in her restaurant. Countless people wrote her oft telling her that she would never make it as a Mexican restaurant that doesn't sell alcohol. Once again Beatrice proved the critics wrong and placed her trust in God and His faithfulness. In her own words Beatrice will tell you "God has continued to watch over her business." There is no better illustration of that than the consistent recognition that Caramabas Spanish Inn has received by the people of Midland in the annual Reader's Choice awards.



Today Beatrice Lujan says, "I am grateful to my Lord and Savior for giving me the strength to persevere through adversity and to my family for their love and support." She is also quick to thank her customers for their loyalty and for affirming that Carambas is still doing a great job. Thanksgiving is about giving thanks and no one knows better than Beatrice Lujan what it means to have a grateful heart.



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Saturday 11am-9pm
Sunday Closed

# *Repealing certain laws serves only criminals*

■ Dropping SEC requirement that oil companies report payments to foreign governments would make it easier to get away with bribery



**CHRIS TOMLINSON**
*Houston Chronicle*

What the world needs now is more corruption.

I can only guess that's why Rep. Bill Huizenga, R-Mich., wants to repeal the Securities and Exchange Commission requirement that oil companies report how much they pay foreign governments in taxes, royalties and other fees.

The government should not be "imposing non-material disclosure requirements that only seem to push a social agenda," Huizenga said.

Dissecting that quote reveals Huizenga's complete disregard for the law and morality.

Whether or not a company is paying a foreign government too little or too much to pump oil and natural gas is material to shareholder interests. After all, paying too little indicates a bribe was paid, and paying too much indicates a kickback is going to be paid.

Engaging in illegal behavior, by the way, is very material to a company's future and something that shareholders care deeply about because it affects profits and dividends.

An Italian judge ruled last week that Italian oil giant Eni, Royal Dutch Shell and senior executives will face a civil trial over a $1.1 billion bribery scandal in Nigeria. Another European court will determine whether the same companies will face criminal charges over their acquisition of a deep-water oil-prospecting license.

Losing these cases could cost shareholders a billion dollars.

As for social agendas, Huizenga has no problem pushing pro-life legislation, which is "a social agenda." So I'm not sure why he has a problem with laws that discourage crimes already on the books.

The real issue, and one that honest members of the energy industry acknowledge, is that U.S. laws that ban them from paying bribes also makes it harder for them to do business with criminals, who sometimes control government decision-making.

Dropping the SEC reporting requirement would not make paying foreign bribes legal under U.S. law, but it would make it easier to get away with it.

This is part of a disturbing trend under President Donald Trump in which special interest groups try to make breaking the law easier by eliminating so-called red tape — the regulations used to enforce laws.

Recently, I wrote about the electronic logging device requirement for long-heul truckers and said law-abiding drivers should welcome them. The angry response from independent truckers was deafening.

The underlying takeaway from all of the heat, though, was that some truckers hate the federal rules that limit how many hours they drive a day, and when they have to take breaks. Most of them hated the logging devices not because they were unsound. They opposed them because they make it harder to cheat.

Oil companies will claim all day long that they don't pay bribes and don't want to pay bribes. But they also oppose every effort to make it easier for regulators and shareholders to catch them.

There is plenty of red tape to cut in Washington, and I encourage the judicious use of sharp scissors. But beware of those who want to gut the regulations that make it possible to enforce truly important laws, such as anti-corruption statutes.

Getting rid of those laws serves only criminals, not honest companies.

## GUEST VIEW

# *Big Oil's bets on Mexico underscores need for NAFTA*

For the first time in eight decades, retail gas stations in Mexico are getting competition from foreign firms — and a lot of it. It makes for a great illustration of the benefits of capitalism and, with NAFTA renegotiations languishing, for an especially timely lesson in how connected our economy is to that of our southern neighbors.

Irving-based Exxon Mobil turned heads this month by announcing plans to spend $300 million over the next decade opening gas stations in Mexico, the fifth-largest retail gasoline market in the world. Eight opened already, and 50 should be open by the spring. California-based Chevron and a consortium of partners have announced plans to open stores in Mexico, too.

BP and Royal Dutch Shell are also on the ground in Mexico. Shell, which opened its first gasoline station in Mexico in September, plans to open 1,000 more within the decade.

These investments reinforce the ties linking Mexico and America and our economies. Exxon, for instance, plans to supply its new stations, which it will operate jointly with a Mexican firm, with gasoline and diesel fuel produced at its refineries in Texas, and then ship that fuel by rail to Mexico.

The foreign capital is flowing to Mexico because Big Oil sees there's money to be made, now that the country has finally finalized rules in the wake of its 2013 shift to privatization. That change includes lifting the ban on foreign ownership of retail gasoline stations and, most dramatically, ending the monopoly on oil production by state-owned firm Petróleos Mexicanos.

Mexico sells some 800,000 barrels a day of gasoline. But since 1938, all that gasoline was sold at locally owned stations that carried the Pemex brand. That's beginning to change. It's true, Mexicans are now paying more for gas than during the years of the monopoly. But in return for paying more, they are likely to see better service, more options at the stations and cleaner, more reliable gas, too.

Pemex leaders have already conceded that the company will have to invest heavily in its 11,000 gas stations in order to keep customers from abandoning old habits and filling up in the stations that are already carrying Mobil, Shell and other foreign brands.

It's a good time to think about the way money and jobs and energy resources cross the border with Mexico. Negotiators from Canada, Mexico and the U.S. are in Washington this month for informal meetings ahead of next month's sixth round of talks in Montreal about the future of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Sen. John Cornyn of Texas has been one of the most consistent and vocal GOP supporters of keeping NAFTA's guts intact, including through conversations with President Donald Trump. This latest talk of cross-border investments ought to keep him well-supplied for that vital advocacy.

— **Dallas Morning News**

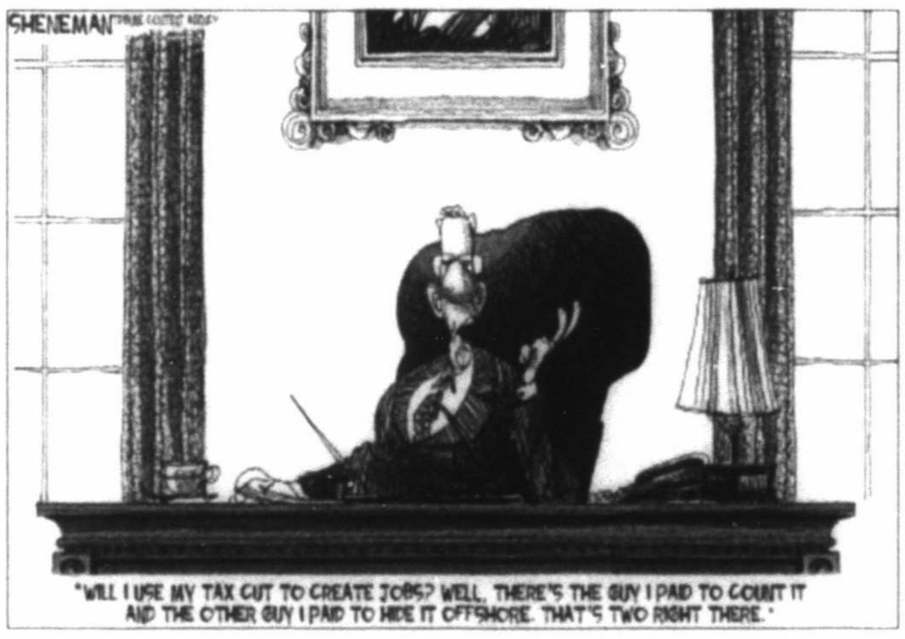
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# *Puerto Rico treated as foreign nation*

■ Island doesn't receive special tax treatment it deserves; residents still lack power, water, dry shelter



**DANA MILBANK**
*Washington Post Writers Group*

President Trump awarded himself a 10 out of 10 score two months ago for his response to Hurricane Maria, which leveled Puerto Rico.

"If you look at a real catastrophe like Katrina, and you look at the tremendous hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of people that died," Trump said as he toured Puerto Rico in October. "What is your death count, as of this moment — 17?"

"Sixteen certified," the governor of Puerto Rico replied.

"Sixteen versus literally thousands of people," Trump said. "You can be very proud."

How proud we are now.

Last week, we learned the truth. Some 1,065 more Puerto Ricans died in September and October of this year than in previous years, almost certainly storm-related deaths, according to the Center for Investigative Journalism. When all is tallied, the destruction in Puerto Rico will be very much on par with what Trump considers "a real catastrophe like Katrina," which killed about 1,800.

Incredibly, a large portion of the island remains without power — three months after the storm. It was reported last week that power may not be fully restored until May. Puerto Ricans — American citizens — are still awaiting tarps and temporary roofs to shelter them after an untold number of homes were destroyed.

A new report from Refugees International said, "Thousands of people still lack sustainable access to potable water and electricity and dry, safe places to sleep." The group faulted the Federal Emergency Management Agency's "bureaucratic and opaque assistance process" for leaving survivors with "enormous challenges."

This, in the United States of America, in 2017. Ten out of 10, Mr. President. A-plus for you!

In October, when Trump was tossing "beautiful, soft" rolls of paper towels at Puerto Ricans, he offered lavish promises of aid and said Wall Street lenders were "going to say goodbye" to Puerto Rico's $72 billion debt. But the debt was not written off, and disaster-relief aid has been inadequate and piecemeal. Now, Trump and congressional Republicans are hitting Puerto Rico with an additional, man-made catastrophe.

The GOP tax bill, which Trump celebrated last week, treats Puerto Rico as a foreign country, imposing a 12.5 percent tax on the income that companies there receive from intellectual property — a big hit to its crucial pharmaceutical and medical-device sector. Rather than give Puerto Rico special tax treatment, which it urgently needs, Trump and his congressional allies gave employers a powerful reason to move jobs off the island.

You might recognize this pattern, even if you don't care about Puerto Rico and the suffering of the more than 3 million Americans there. Trump comes in with razzle-dazzle and self-congratulation, promising great things to come. Then, when the cameras are off, comes the quiet collapse.

The prototype is the Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City. In April 1990, it opened with much fanfare as the world's largest casino-hotel complex. Six months later, it defaulted on payments. Nine months after that, it filed for bankruptcy.

Now this happens on a world scale. Trump promises an easy peace in the Middle East but winds up setting off a new wave of violence. He promises a tax cut for the middle class and winds up with a giveaway to corporations and millionaires. He promises to improve upon Obamacare but ravages the program and doesn't have a replacement.

In business, when Trump attended the ribbon-cutting and then moved on while deals went south, people lost their investments.

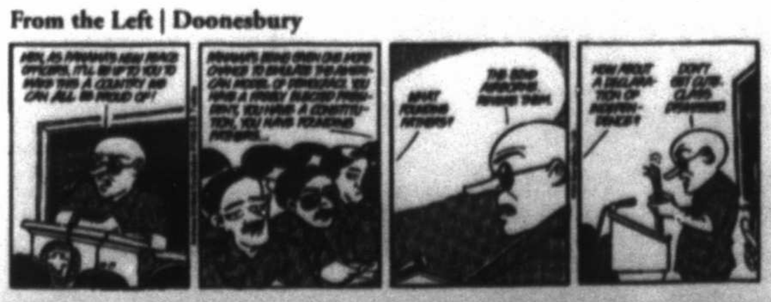
But when the United States walks away from promises, people lose rather more.

Nearly a million low-income Puerto Ricans are in danger of losing health care early in the new year because the territory's Medicaid program will soon be unable to pay providers. Federal law restricts Medicaid reimbursements for Puerto Rico to not-quite 20 percent, about a quarter of what it would get if it were a state. Puerto Rico's leaders have called for a few billion dollars to avert this latest crisis, but the request went unanswered as Congress rushed to complete the tax cut.

Puerto Rico's (Democratic) governor, Ricardo Rossello, made a dumb mistake in October when, appealing to Trump's vanity, he praised the president's hurricane response. That gave Trump cover to do nothing for Puerto Rico. Now Rossello has apparently realized his mistake, and, in an interview with Politico last week, he vowed to mobilize the more than 5 million Puerto Ricans living in the mainland United States. That includes hundreds of thousands of U.S. citizens fleeing Puerto Rico since Maria.

They are eligible to vote, in 2018 and 2020. One suspects they might award Trump something less than the 10 out of 10 he gives himself.

**From the Left | Doonesbury**



**From the Right | Mallard Fillmore**





AP file photo

This 2016 photo shows dollar bills in New York. Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, said that the tight labor market is expected to remain tight in 2018. That means companies will be hard pressed to find and retain workers, and in turn, will likely raise pay.

# What to expect for your personal finances in 2018

**By Sarah Skidmore Sell**
*Associated Press*

No one wants to be caught off-guard when it comes to their finances. So The Associated Press asked several experts to share their opinion on what will happen with some key issues in 2018 that will directly impact your personal financial well-being. Here's a look at their forecasts:

**Q.** What should I expect from gas prices?

**A.** Gas prices are still quite low, historically speaking, and were fairly steady in 2017. But 2018 may be a bit more rocky, according to Tom Kloza, global head of energy analysis at the Oil Price Information Service.

Kloza estimates the average price for regular gasoline will end 2017 around $2.39 a gallon. A typical family might consume 90 gallons of regular gas each month, so their cost in 2017 has been around $215 per month.

Overall, Kloza expects the average price nationwide to rise to around $2.45 for 2018. That's still well below the more than $3 a gallon that Americans faced from 2011 to 2014. Like every year, prices will vary greatly by region and season.

A word of warning though — hurricanes or recessions could disrupt even the best estimates.

**Q.** What will the job market look like in 2018?

**A.** The current strength in the job market should carry into 2018. This is particularly true if you are in a high-demand field like health care, technology or e-commerce, said Andrew Chamberlain, chief economist at jobsite Glassdoor.

"Today's labor market is probably the tightest in a generation so that puts workers in a strong bargaining position with employers," said Chamberlain.

Companies in high-demand fields should offer pay raises and other incentives to help attract and retain workers. Those not in high-demand fields may see some improvements in workplace conditions too.

Experts like Chamberlain are warning job-holders not to get lulled into complacency by the unusually long U.S. economic expansion. As economists say: times are good until they aren't. Chamberlain said this is a good time to prepare for an inevitable downturn by socking away money in savings, polishing your resume and keeping your list of work accomplishments handy.

**Q.** What about tax changes?

**A.** This is the big question mark for many. The tax overhaul bill, which passed Congress Wednesday and is awaiting the signature of President Donald Trump, would take effect in 2018.

You may see changes almost immediately in your withholdings from your paycheck. The IRS said earlier this month that it is closely monitoring the bill and expects to issue initial withholding guidance in January, which would allow taxpayers to begin seeing the benefits of the change as early as February.

However, other big changes from the overhaul — such as a lower tax rate or elimination of some deductions — won't be fully evident until you complete your taxes in the spring of 2019.

Generally speaking, the legislation reduces levies on the wealthiest Americans, while making more modest tax reductions for most others. The tax cuts for individuals are temporary, expiring in 2026. And while it doubles the standard deduction used by most Americans, that will also end in eight years.

**Q.** Will wages go up next year?

**A.** In short: most likely.

Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, said that the tight labor market is expected to remain tight. That means companies will be hard pressed to find and retain workers, and in turn, will likely raise pay.

Unemployment in the U.S. is already at a 17-year low of 4.1 percent and the economy is growing at a good clip, over 3 percent at last measure. But Shepherdson and other economists think this growth period is near its end, which is typically when the best gains come for workers.

He describes next year as the "sweet spot" for individuals to get raises that leave them feeling better off.

The only thing that could throw off this lower unemployment trend — which drives the wage growth — is if significant numbers of workers who've been on the sidelines try to rejoin the workforce.

"That is possible, but it's very low (risk)," he said. "If we were going to see a big surge we would have seen it by now."

**Q.** How is the housing market shaping up for 2018?

**A.** This year's turbulent politics, natural disasters and more should play out in the housing market in 2018, said Ralph McLaughlin, chief economist for housing website Trulia.

There will be less enthusiasm for home buying and more enthusiasm for selling, he said. That will help ease two major headwinds in the current market: low inventory and high prices.

However, there will be lower demand for homes prone to natural disasters, following this year's string of hurricanes, wildfires and floods.

There will also be a geographic reaction to the tax plan. The shrunken deduction for home interest and property taxes could dampen enthusiasm for homes in expensive and high-tax areas such as parts of the Northeast and much of the West. However, a major increase in the standard deduction should help boost demand in the Midwest and South, where few mortgages and property tax bills are large enough to warrant itemized deductions.

Trulia expects prices to rise across the county at a slower rate as the market starts to come into more balance. And for renters, the rate of rent will increase further but at a more modest pace thanks to new construction.

# US industries can start counting their benefits from tax law

**By Paul Wiseman**
*Associated Press*



AP file photo

This Dec. 11, 2013, photo shows a beer at a microbrewery in Birmingham, Ala. Craft breweries are raising a glass to the Republicans' new tax overhaul: It cuts the excise tax on beer.

WASHINGTON — Craft breweries are raising a glass to the Republicans' new tax overhaul: It cuts the excise tax on beer. Retailers, long saddled with heavy tax bills, will get relief. So will some high-profile names in corporate finance, led by Wells Fargo.

The tax measure that President Donald Trump signed into law Friday distributes benefits across a range of American industries, from construction to health care.

"As a general rule of thumb, everybody's doing well under this bill," Martin Sullivan, chief economist at Tax Analysts, says of U.S. companies. "When you give out a trillion in tax breaks, it's hard to create a lot of losers."

No wonder the stock market has been roaring in anticipation of fatter after-tax corporate profits. The new law slashes the corporate tax rate to 21 percent from 35 percent. It applies a low one-time tax to the profits that corporations have long kept overseas to avoid paying taxes under the current higher rate.

It also delivers a windfall to people who pay personal taxes on business earnings. It lets companies immediately write off the full cost of new equipment. And it showers goodies on some individual industries, such as craft brewers, distilleries and wineries.

The reasoning behind shrinking the tax burdens of corporations is to free up money for companies to invest in buildings, equipment and people and thereby juice the economy — and, in turn, benefit workers. Yet mainstream economists have expressed mainly doubts that workers will benefit much from corporations' lower tax burdens.

In dollars, the biggest tax savings from 2018 through 2027 go to manufacturers: $261.5 billion, according to an analysis by the University of Pennsylvania's Penn Wharton Budget Model. Next-most-fortunate are insurance and finance companies ($249.4 billion) and retailers ($171.4 billion).

Supporters of the Republican tax bill point out that America's 35 percent corporate tax is one of the highest among advanced economies. But the tax code is so riddled with loopholes that few corporations have actually paid that list price. Without the new law, the effective tax rate across all industries would have been 21.2 percent next year. With it, the effective rate across industries drops all the way to 9.2 percent in 2018, according to the Penn Wharton Model.

Not all industries have gained equally from loopholes. Retailers, for example, would have paid a 27.5 percent rate in 2018; under the new law, they'll pay just 15.6 percent.

"The tax bill is a big shot in the arm for retailers, who have traditionally paid taxes at nearly the full amount," says Matthew Shay, CEO of the National Retail Federation.

Shay says he thinks the bill will help retailers accelerate investment in e-commerce and mobile technology. He also predicts that the bill will induce foreign-owned retailers to shift investment dollars into the United States.

Finance and insurance companies would have paid an effective corporate tax rate of 26.1 percent next year. Now, it will be 14.3 percent. Analysts at Goldman Sachs have estimated that the tax law will boost big-bank earnings per share by 13 percent next year. The top beneficiary will be Wells Fargo, which has been dogged by scandals over cheating customers. It will enjoy an 18 percent earnings surge in 2018, Goldman estimates.

Technology companies like Apple and Google's parent Alphabet Inc. can now catch a break on profits they've stored abroad. Under current law, corporations must pay the U.S. corporate tax on overseas earnings, but not until they return the money.

So tech companies have kept a big chunk of profits overseas — $669 billion worth at the end of last year, according to Moody's Investors Service.

The tax overhaul imposes a discounted one-time levy on those earnings — 15.5 percent for earnings held in cash or other liquid assets and 8 percent for earnings held in harder-to-sell assets. That means tech companies can return the money the United States with less of a tax burden. But their employees may not have cause to rejoice: CFRA analyst Scott Kessler predicts that tech companies will use most of the money they repatriate to buy back their stock and pay shareholder dividends.

The tax bill let craft brewers cross something off their longstanding wish list: The federal excise tax they pay will be halved to $3.50 a barrel on the first 60,000 barrels. Wineries and distillers also get tax breaks.

At COOP Ale Works in Oklahoma City, founder Daniel Mercer forecasts a tax windfall of about $60,000 next year. The 8-year-old brewery, which has quadrupled its staff to 31 in the past 2½ years and whose annual revenue has reached $5 million, was already planning to invest $2 million in equipment. The tax savings will contribute to that project and also "helps with building tap rooms, and tap rooms are a really high-margin source of revenue," Mercer says.

The tax plan also benefits owners of "pass-through" businesses, who pay personal income tax on business earnings: It lets them deduct 20 percent of the first $315,000 in earnings. The pass-through provision will help Esther Novis, who owns the Young Scientists Club, a company in Jamestown, Rhode Island, that sells science kits and other toys that encourage children to dabble in science.

"Margins in the toy industry are very small," Novis says. "If there's more money left over because we pay less taxes, we can be a little more competitive" and invest in new products.

Like many Americans, Peter Koehl of Skullduggery Inc., a toy maker in Anaheim, California, isn't yet familiar with the details of the tax changes.

"As with most government actions, we hope for the best and brace for the worst," Koehl says. "I can confidently tell you that a significant percentage of any 'windfall' will be invested in things that either increase sales or efficiencies."

# Trump predicts GOP and Dems will agree on health care plan

*Associated Press*

PALM BEACH, Fla. — President Donald Trump is predicting that Democrats and Republicans will "eventually come together "on a new health care plan for the country.

Sending a Twitter post early Tuesday from his Florida resort, Trump said "the very unfair and unpopular Individual Mandate has been terminated as part of our Tax Cut Bill, which essentially Repeals (over time) Obamacare."

Much of former President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act remains intact, however, and the sign-up period for the various options was carried out as normal this year.

Majority Republicans sought repeatedly to repeal the 2010 law this year, but couldn't get it through the Senate.

Trump, his wife, Melania, and their son, Barron, spent Christmas at his Mar-a-Lago resort.

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**Luke 2:16**

*So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.*

# In break with tradition, Trump doesn't host a state dinner

By Darlene Superville
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump couldn't stop talking about the red carpets, military parades and fancy dinners that were lavished upon him during state visits on his recent tour of Asia. "Magnificent," he declared at one point on the trip.

But Trump has yet to reciprocate, making him the first president in almost a century to close his first year in office without welcoming a visiting counterpart to the U.S. with similar trappings.

Trump spoke dismissively of state dinners as a candidate, when he panned President Barack Obama's decision to welcome Chinese President Xi Jinping with a 2015 state visit. Such visits are an important diplomatic tool that includes a showy arrival ceremony and an elaborate dinner at the White House.

"I would not be throwing (Xi) a dinner," Trump said at the time. "I would get him a McDonald's hamburger and say we've got to get down to work."

Last month it was Xi's turn to literally roll out the red carpet. The Chinese leader poured on the pageantry as he welcomed Trump to Beijing on what was billed as a "state visit, plus." Trump also made state visits to South Korea and Vietnam.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said there is no "singular reason" why Trump hasn't extended a state visit invitation yet, but added that the administration hopes to schedule a visit early in 2018. Sanders gave no hints about which of Trump's foreign counterparts are being considered for the diplomatic honor.



Andrew Harnik/Associated Press

President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping participate in a welcome ceremony Nov 9 at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China.

A state visit typically is offered as a sign of friendship and to showcase strategic ties between countries that are important to each other, said Anita McBride, a veteran of three Republican administrations who last served as chief of staff to first lady Laura Bush.

"The White House is the world stage to elevate that," she said. "These occasions really go a long way to solidify and strengthen relationships."

Trump speaks often about his relationships with many of his foreign counterparts, including Xi. Trump and the Chinese leader met at Trump's Florida estate in April, and Trump treated Xi to a full dinner — not the aforementioned burger — and what Trump described as "the most beautiful piece of chocolate cake."

"President Xi was enjoying it," the president reported.

Trump has also met at the White House, sometimes over lunch as well as abroad, with many of his foreign counterparts. He recently put the figure at more than 100.

But nothing compares to a state visit.

The White House portion of the visit begins with an elaborate arrival ceremony on the South Lawn, including the pomp of a military honor guard, a troop review and leader statements. The leaders meet privately in the Oval Office before they hold a joint news conference in the East Room or the Rose Garden. The evening ends with the foreign leader as the guest of honor at a lavish state dinner attended by hundreds, including members of Congress, business leaders, celebrities, political donors and others.

The visiting leader also has lunch at the State Department, and sometimes will address a joint meeting of Congress.

Such visits are reserved for when the U.S. wants to put on its "best face" for a particular leader and ally, said Peter Selfridge, who served as a liaison between the White House and visiting foreign dignitaries as U.S. chief of protocol from 2014 to January 2017.

"It's a really important arrow in a president's quiver when it comes to the diplomatic nicety side of his work," Selfridge said.

And not just for American presidents. Knowing Trump enjoys flattery, Xi pulled out all the stops to impress him on that November stop in Beijing.

The visit opened with an arrival ceremony considered lavish even by Chinese standards, with Trump and his wife, Melania greeted at the airport by Chinese and American dignitaries standing at attention, a band playing military music and scores of flag-waving children chanting "welcome."

Trump was then whisked away for a private tour of the Forbidden City that included dinner. The meal was a first for a visiting foreign leader at Beijing's historic imperial palace since the founding of modern China. Trump also raved about an outdoor opera performance.

The following morning brought another welcome ceremony at the Great Hall of the People featuring a military parade that Trump said was "magnificent." He said "the world was watching" and claimed to have received telephone calls about it from around the world. "Nothing you can see is so beautiful," Trump said.

Xi also honored Trump at a state banquet that included video highlights from the Chinese leader's visit to Florida, along with clips from Trump's trip and the screening of a video of Trump's granddaughter, Arabella, singing in Chinese.

McBride said Trump's decision to not extend a state visit invitation could be partly because his first year was a chaotic one, dominated by staff upheaval and lengthy negotiations with Congress over health care and tax legislation. Separately, the first lady, who is responsible for planning a state dinner down to the smallest detail, didn't officially relocate to the White House until June. A state visit is also a massive undertaking and Trump has been running the government with a bare-bones staff.

But Trump's first state visitor will matter. "The other world leaders will pay attention to that," McBride said.

Not since Calvin Coolidge in the 1920s has a president ended his first year in office without hosting a foreign leader for a state visit, according to the White House Historical Association.

Coolidge assumed office in 1923 after the sudden death of President Warren G. Harding, and was elected to a full term in 1924. Coolidge didn't hold a state dinner until October 1926 for Queen Marie of Romania, according to the White House association.

Every president since Coolidge has hosted at least one state visit their first year.

Lyndon Johnson held 12 in 1964, his first full year in office after President John F. Kennedy's assassination in 1963. Barack Obama, Trump's immediate predecessor, held just one in 2009 — and it was famously crashed by a celebrity-seeking couple.










# Medical professionals advise against cancer screening for elderly patients

**By Liz Szabo**
*Kaiser Health News*

Elena Altemus is 89 and has dementia. She often forgets her children's names, and sometimes can't recall whether she lives in Maryland or Italy.

Yet Altemus, who entered a nursing home in November, was screened for breast cancer this summer.

"If the screening is not too invasive, why not?" said her daughter, Dorothy Altemus. "I want her to have the best quality of life possible."

But a growing number of geriatricians, cancer specialists and health-system analysts say there are many reasons. Such testing in elderly patients is highly unlikely to detect lethal disease, is hugely expensive and is more likely to harm than help because any follow-up testing and treatment is often invasive.

And yet, such screening is widespread in the United States, the result of medical culture, aggressive awareness campaigns and financial incentives to doctors.

By looking for cancer in people who are unlikely to benefit, "we find something that wasn't going to hurt the patient, and then we hurt the patient," said Dr. Sei Lee, an associate professor of geriatrics at the University of California-San Francisco.

Nearly 1 in 5 women with severe cognitive impairment — including older patients such as Elena Altemus — still get regular mammograms, according to the American Journal of Public Health, even though they're not recommended for people with a limited life expectancy. And 55 percent of older men with a high risk of death over the next decade still get PSA tests for prostate cancer, according to a 2014 study in JAMA Internal Medicine.

Among people in their 70s and 80s, cancer screenings often detect slow-growing tumors that are unlikely to cause problems in patients' lifetimes. Such patients often die of something else long before their cancers would ever have become a threat, said Dr. Deborah Korenstein, chief of

Please see SCREENING/3B

# STRIKING A CHORD



Tom Sampson/Associated Press

Cellist Martha Vance plays for a patient at Medstar Georgetown University Hospital on Nov. 11 in Washington D.C. Musicians and dancers are part of the Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center's arts and humanities program.

# Scientists tune into brain to uncover music's healing power

**By Lauran Neergaard**
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Like a friendly Pied Piper, the violinist keeps up a toe-tapping beat as dancers weave through busy hospital hallways and into the chemotherapy unit, patients looking up in surprised delight. Upstairs, a cellist strums an Irish folk tune for a patient in intensive care.

Music increasingly is becoming a part of patient care — although it's still pretty unusual to see roving performers captivating entire wards, like at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital one fall morning.

"It takes them away for just a few minutes to some other place where they don't have to think about what's going on," said cellist Martha Vance after playing for a patient isolated to avoid spreading infection.

The challenge: Harnessing music to do more than comfort the sick. Now, moving beyond programs like Georgetown's, the National Institutes of Health is bringing together musicians, music therapists and neuroscientists to tap into the brain's circuitry and figure out how.

"The brain is able to compensate for other deficits sometimes by using music to communicate," said NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins, a geneticist who also plays a mean guitar.

To turn that ability into a successful therapy, "it would be a really good thing to know which parts of the brain are still intact to be called into action. To know

Please see MUSIC/2B

# Soaring overdose deaths cut US life expectancy

**By Mike Stobbe**
*Associated Press*

NEW YORK — U.S. deaths from drug overdoses skyrocketed 21 percent last year, and for the second straight year dragged down how long Americans are expected to live.

The government figures released Thursday put drug deaths at 63,600, up from about 52,000 in 2015. For the first time, the powerful painkiller fentanyl and its close opioid cousins played a bigger role in the deaths than any other legal or illegal drug, surpassing prescription pain pills and heroin.

"This is urgent and deadly," said Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The opioid epidemic "clearly has a huge impact on our entire society."

Two-thirds of last year's drug deaths — about 42,000 — involved opioids, a category that includes heroin, methadone, prescription pain pills like OxyContin, and fentanyl. Fatal overdoses that involved fentanyl and fentanyl-like drugs doubled in one year, to more than 19,000, mostly from illegally made pills or powder, which is often mixed with heroin or other drugs.

Heroin was tied to 15,500 deaths and prescription painkillers to 14,500 deaths. The balance of the overdose deaths involved sedatives, cocaine and methamphetamines. More than one drug is often involved in an overdose death.

The highest drug death rates were in ages 25 to 54.

Preliminary 2017 figures show the rise in overdose deaths continuing.

The drug deaths weigh into CDC's annual calculation of the average

Please see EXPECTANCY/3B

## GUEST VIEW

## *Fight against STDs can be won by educating youth*

Houston Chronicle

The debate on health care has been so riveted on the Republican Congress' quest to end Obamacare and reshape America's health care system that it is easy to forget the nation is in the midst of a STD epidemic.

The number of newly diagnosed sexually transmitted diseases has reached a record high in the United States. Not addressing the problem will likely result in dire consequences for the nation's most vulnerable populations, especially young people.

More than 2 million cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis were reported in the United States last year, the highest number ever, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced in September. The CDC report also marked the third year of overall increasing rates for chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis.

Concern and attention should be directed to the nation's most vulnerable populations. According to Gail Bolan, director of the division of STD Prevention, they are:

■ Youth aged 15-24, who make up most reported chlamydia and gonorrhea infections and are now experiencing syphilis increases.

■ Gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men who continue to face the highest rates of syphilis and HIV co-infection.

■ Pregnant women, who experience some of the harshest outcomes from untreated STDs, including give birth to babies infected with syphilis.

The good news is that antibiotics can cure these diseases. Left untreated, whether for lack of insurance or other reasons, those infected are at risk for serious health complications and HIV.

The majority, or 1.6 million, of these new diagnoses were cases of chlamydia, the CDC says. There were also 470,000 gonorrhea cases, and almost 28,000 cases of primary and secondary syphilis — the

Please see STDS/3B


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# Music

From 1B

the circuits well enough to know the backup plan," Collins added.

Scientists aren't starting from scratch. Learning to play an instrument, for example, sharpens how the brain processes sound and can improve children's reading and other school skills. Stroke survivors who can't speak sometimes can sing, and music therapy can help them retrain brain pathways to communicate. Similarly, Parkinson's patients sometimes walk better to the right beat.

But what's missing is rigorous science to better understand how either listening to or creating music might improve health in a range of other ways — research into how the brain processes music that NIH is beginning to fund.

"The water is wide, I cannot cross over," well-known soprano Renee Fleming belted out, not from a concert stage but from inside an MRI machine at the NIH campus.

The opera star — who partnered with Collins to start the Sound Health initiative — spent two hours in the scanner to help researchers tease out what brain activity is key for singing. How? First Fleming spoke the lyrics. Then she sang them. Finally, she imagined singing them.

"We're trying to understand the brain not just so we can address mental disorders or diseases or injuries, but also so we can understand what happens when a brain's working right and what happens when it's performing at a really high level," said NIH researcher David Jangraw, who shared the MRI data with The Associated Press.

To Jangraw's surprise, several brain regions were more active when Fleming imagined singing than when she actually sang, including the brain's emotion center and areas involved with motion and vision. One theory: it took more mental effort to keep track of where she was in the song, and to maintain its emotion, without auditory feedback.

Fleming put it more simply: "I'm skilled at singing so I didn't have to think about it quite so much," she told a spring workshop at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, where she is an artistic adviser.

Indeed, Jangraw notes a saying in neuroscience: Neurons that fire together, wire together. Brain cells communicate by firing messages to each other through junctions called synapses. Cells that regularly connect — for example, when a musician practices — strengthen bonds into circuitry that forms an efficient network for, in Fleming's case, singing.

But that's a healthy brain. In North Carolina, a neuroscientist and a dance professor are starting an improvisational dance class for Alzheimer's to tell if music and movement enhance a diseased brain's neural networks.

Well before memory loss becomes severe, Alzheimer's patients can experience apathy, depression and gait and balance problems as the brain's synaptic connections begin to falter. The NIH-funded study at Wake Forest University will randomly assign such patients to the improvisation class — to dance playfully without having to remember choreography — or to other interventions.

The test: If quality-of-life symptoms improve, will MRI scans show correlating strengthening of neural networks that govern gait or social engagement?

With senior centers increasingly touting arts programs, "having a deeper understanding of how these things are affecting our biology can help us understand how to leverage resources already in our community," noted Wake Forest lead researcher Christina Hugenschmidt.

Proof may be tough. An international music therapy study failed to significantly help children with autism, the Journal of the American Medical Association

Please see BRAIN/3B

# Obituaries



## Curtis Lewallen

Curtis Lewallen, 91, a longtime resident of Odessa, stepped into Heaven's Glory on Saturday, December 23, 2017, surrounded by his beloved family.

Visitation will be Wednesday, December 27, 2017 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm at Sunset Memorial Funeral Home.

A graveside service will be Thursday, December 28, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. at Sunset Memorial Gardens and a Celebration of Life at 1:00 pm at 1st Baptist Church with Rev. Dr. Byron McWilliams and Rev. Curtis Brewer officiating.

Curtis was born August 10, 1926 in De Leon, Texas, and served his country in the US Army in Europe during World War II.

He married the love of his life, Kathryn, on April 23, 1948, and they spent the next 70 years together, building a life and family.

Soon after their marriage, Curtis & Kathryn found their way to the Midland-Odessa area during the post-war boom, spending the next twelve years working for his father in law, Cecil Plummer, at the Odessa Hotel Supply. In 1961 they ventured out on their own to open Commercial Ice Machine Company, which grew and prospered under his leadership over the ensuing decades to the well-known Odessa business of today.

Curtis was a long-time and dedicated member of Odessa's First Baptist Church, and served as a deacon for many years, and his faith and love for Christ was one of his most well-known characteristics. Curtis loved Jesus and everyone who knew him saw Jesus through him, as he lived his faith daily. He loved his family dearly, and was the patriarch and rock of a family that he saw as his greatest blessing.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Nancy Lewallen; his beloved mother and father in law, Cecil and Angie Plummer; Brother, Valton Lewallen; granddaughter Bethany Lewallen; brother-in-law Earl Plummer, and his dear friend, Dub Porter.

He is survived by his wife, Kathryn, of Odessa; son, David Lewallen and wife Cheryl; daughter Sherry Fox and husband Gerald; son, Ronnie Plummer and wife, Suan of Canton, GA; brother Harold, and wife LaRue, all of Odessa; brother-in-law Jerry Plummer and wife Betty, of Houston; grandson James Lewallen and Michelle, of Odessa; granddaughter Staci Walker and Kevin, of Odessa; grandson Greg Fox and Cheryl of Seattle, WA; granddaughter Angela and Greg Stanford of Abilene; granddaughter Sydney Lyle and Brandon, of Odessa; grandson Zachery Enriquez and Krissy, of Odessa.

Thirteen great-grandchildren: Cody McCracken, Brianna Lewallen, Brandon McCracken, Kaleb Walker, Kinslee Gonzalez, Maddie Jo Lyle, Branch Lyle, Hannah Enriquez, Breland Fox, Stratton Fox, Spencer Davis and Sterling Davis; as well as numerous nieces and nephews, friends, and family.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Permian Basin Rehab Center in honor of Bethany Lewallen or to a charity of your choice.

Arrangements are under the direction of Sunset Memorial Gardens and Funeral Home. To sign our guestbook please go to www.sunsetodessa.com.

SUNSET MEMORIAL GARDENS & FUNERAL HOME



## Inocencia Bitolas Lara

Inocencia Bitolas Lara, age 86, of Midland passed away Monday December 25, 2017. She was born on December 20, 1931, in Toyah, Texas, to Jose and Juanita Bitolas.

She is survived by four sons, Henry Lara (Susie), George Lara (Belinda), Louis Lara (Dolores), and Paul Lara (Martha); four daughters, Gloria Ochoa (Larry), Rachel Guevara (Genaro), Elva Ochoa (John), and Dora Lara (Joe); and her brother Ben Bitolas from Odessa.

She is preceded in death by her loving husband Secundino R. Lara Sr., her parents, two brothers, two sisters, son Secundino Lara Jr., grandchildren Maria Ochoa and Estaben Lara, great grandchild Jonah Collazo.

Viewing is Wednesday December 27th from 9 am til 9 pm, with a rosary starting at 7 pm at Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home.

A funeral mass will be Thursday December 28th at 2:00pm at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish & Shrine. Burial will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park.

The family would like to thank the Hospice nurses Maria Rangel, Julie Kroll, Kathryn N. Megan Rimer and also the ER nurse, Abby.

Funeral mass is under the direction of Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home and Chapel. Family messages and condolences may be emailed to: pipkin@nts-online.net or you can visit our website at www.lewallengarciapipkinfh.com.

Lewallen Garcia Pipkin Funeral Home



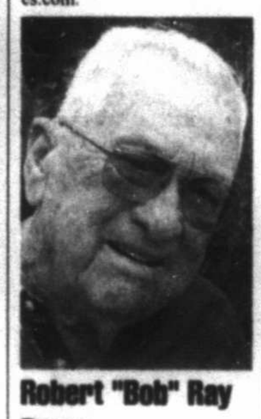
## Laverna "Suzie" Maberry Moseley

Sue Moseley, age 67, passed away of natural causes on Thursday, December 21, 2017. She had a date with my Papa that she just couldn't pass on anymore. A Memorial Service will be held for her at 11:00a.m. on Thursday, December 28, 2017 at Mosaic Church of Abilene, 6610 US Hwy 277 S.

Sue was born to Vernon D. Maberry and Norma Liegh Pierce on February 13, 1950. She grew up in the Sweetwater area until she married the love of her life, Gary D. Moseley and they built an amazing life together. She lived a life that though it was brought to an end too soon, was filled with love, happiness, family and friends.

Sweet Sue was preceded in death by her husband, Gary D. Moseley; his parents; her parents; and two brothers. Survivors include her son, Vernon Moseley and wife, Wendy; two grandchildren, Andrew and Kylee of Abilene; her daughter, Mima Kay (KK) Engelstad and husband, Dana of Midland; and numerous Maberry and Pierce cousins.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Mosaic Church of Abilene or to the charity of their choice. You may view and sign the guestbook at www.elliotthamilfuneralhomes.com.



## Robert "Bob" Ray Pryor

Robert "Bob" Ray Pryor, 91, of Midland, Texas (formerly of Deming, New Mexico) passed away on December 20, 2017 at his residence at Helen Greathouse Manor, Manor Park, Midland, Texas. Services will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the First Baptist Church Chapel, 2104 West Louisiana, Midland, Texas, on the 28th of December, 2017.

Bob was born on June 11, 1926 in Porum, Oklahoma to William Harrison Pryor and Minnie Minerva Shoemake. He was the youngest of four boys in addition to six sisters. Bob attended high school in Clint, Texas and was inducted into the Army on October 13, 1944. He was sent to Camp Wolters in Mineral Wells, then to Camp Pendleton, and later boarded the USS General John Pope with the assigned destination of the Philippines, Manila and Luzon Islands. When Bob arrived in Luzon, he was assigned to the 37th Infantry Division Company E, 145 Infantry. He was a first scout and went ahead of the troops making sure it was safe for them to proceed. During Bob's enlistment, the Japanese surrendered and he was brought in from the battlefields. The 37th Infantry Division was being sent home, however, Bob was selected to stay and was transferred to Company A, 50th Military Police Battalion as a Technician Fifth Grade. He served for 12 months as a military policeman in Manila. Bob was a member of the motorized patrol responsible for the security and enforcements of Army regulations among military personnel. He was awarded a Combat Infantry Badge, Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with Bronze Star, Philippine Liberation with Bronze Star, Philippine Independence Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, Victory Medal and two Overseas Service Bars.

Back home, Bob's sweetheart waited for his return. On September 27, 1947 Bob married the love of his life, Bettie Jo Vick. They lived in El Paso, Texas while Bob was employed by Safeway Stores and later El Paso Natural Gas Company. In 1956 Bob was transferred to Deming, New Mexico. Bob worked for El Paso Natural Gas for 37 years. On September 27, 2017, Bob and Bettie celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. Bob is survived by his wife, Bettie of Midland, TX, two daughters, Robin Bishop and husband David of Midland (Greenwood), Texas and Judy Fellows and husband Cecil of Kerrville, Texas. He is also survived by four grandchildren, Jennifer Tidwell and husband David, Kristen Leonard and husband Keith, Dustin Fellows and wife Lisa and Taylor Fellows. They have nine great grandchildren.

Bob's passion has always been flying remote control airplanes, hunting, fishing and gardening. Most of all, Bob was very proud of his service to his country. He has lived his life with honor and dignity and raised a wonderful family that he taught to live by the same values. He had the sweetest spirit and a fantastic sense of humor. He was a shining example of a life lived based on Christian values and beliefs.

The family would like to express their gratitude towards the staff of Helen Greathouse Manor, Manor Park, Midland, TX, Dr. Chau Le, nurses and staff of TTU Geriatric Center, Odessa, TX, and staff at Star Hospice. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the charity of your choice.

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

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



## William "Bill" Lovera

William "Bill" Lovera, 85, of Odessa passed away Monday, December 25, 2017 at Medical Center Hospital.

Bill was born on August 31, 1932 in Strawn, Texas to his parents Lazzie and Dora Lovera. He played semi pro baseball in the Texas League prior to being drafted into the army where he served as a sergeant during the Korean conflict.

He married Paula Pedigo in 1955 and the couple moved to Monahans, Texas.

Bill and Paula remained in West Texas where Bill had a 28 year career as an oilfield drilling superintendent.

Bill is preceded in death by his parents, Lazzie and Dora Lovera as well as his son, Larry Lovera.

He is survived by his daughter, Nancy Lovera Lanham and husband Bob of Port Aransas; sons, Mike Lovera of Odessa, Ronnie Lovera and wife Debbie of Keller; six grandchildren, David Lanham, Michelle Lanham Christadoss and husband Nathaniel, Jason Lovera, Brian Lovera, Taylor Lovera and Nicholas Lovera; two great grandchildren, Grayson Lovera and Landon Lovera.

Visitation will be from 9:00 am - 8:00 pm, Wednesday, December 27, 2017 at Sunset Memorial Funeral Home.

A Graveside Memorial for Mr. Lovera will be held at 4:00 pm, Thursday, December 28, 2017 at Sunset Memorial Gardens.

Arrangements are entrusted to Sunset Memorial Gardens and Funeral Home.

To send family condolences please sign his guestbook at www.sunsetodessa.com.

SUNSET MEMORIAL GARDENS & FUNERAL HOME



## Jose Ricardo Guerra

Jose Ricardo (Rick), age 65, returned home to the Lord on December 4, 2017, in Austin, Texas. He was born on October 8, 1952, in Falfurrias, Texas to Jose Hilario and Matilde S. Guerra.

He is preceded in death by his father, Jose Hilario Guerra.

He is survived by his mother Matilde S. Guerra of Portland, Texas; Four brothers- Joe (Sylvia) of Midland, Texas, Noel of Dallas, Texas, Michael of Corpus Christi, Texas, Omar of Galveston, Texas; Four sisters- Mary (Luis) of Portland, Texas, Yvonne of San Antonio, Texas, Priscilla of Portland, Texas, Matilda (Robert) Ybarra of Harlingen, Texas; One niece- Michaela Ybarra; three nephews- Robert Ybarra Jr., Jacob Ybarra and Pepe (Ariana) Guerra of Portland, Texas and one great nephew, Gabriel Guerra and great niece Julianna Guerra.

Prior to graduating Gregory-Portland high school in 1971, Rick was manager for the Gregory-Portland football team. He was a member of the varsity golf team. Rick worked for Channel 6 as a video photographer which he won an award for as well as being a weather watcher. He worked at the Texas State Aquarium and then at Atlantic Richfield Company for 10 years. Rick was employed by Travis County Parks and Recreation Department in Austin Texas, in park maintenance. He loved this job and wore his uniform proudly. During his off time, he would make any effort to spend time at the ranch in Concepcion, Texas, (La Chona) on CR 245 to relax with his family and friends and watch his favorite football team, the Tennessee Titans.

As part of his life's adventures, he traveled in his early years to the holy land on a pilgrimage. He loved nature and was an avid outdoorsman, which included trips to Big Bend National Park.

A rosary will be recited at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 27, at Limbaugh Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 28, at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church in Portland. Burial to follow to Gregory Cemetary

Arragements entrusted to Limbaugh Funeral Home, 500 Wildcat Dr. Portland TX 78374. 361-643-6564. www.limbaughfuneralhome.com

# Death Notices

## Feliz Cazares

Feliz Cazares 46 of Stanton, Texas was born August 8, 1971 and passed away December 25, 2017. Funeral Mass will be held at a later time.

He is survived by his daughter Audriana Cazares; sons Luis Antonio Cazares and David Angel Cazares; two sisters and one brother.

## Karen Stansbery

Karen Stansbery, 75, of Midland, passed away on Sunday, December 24, 2017. There is a private family service held with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home in Midland.

She is survived by her children, James Stansbery, Jr.; Loretta Moore; Leah Allen and Joe Stansbery.

## Norma Nancy Hembree

Norma Nancy Hembree, 71, of Greenwood, passed away December 23, 2017. She was born September 18, 1946 in Big Spring, Texas to Jose and Brijida Garcia.

She is survived by her husband, Joe. F. Hembree; children, David and Marci Hembree; three siblings; two grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Arrangements are entrusted to American Heritage Cemetery/Funeral Home/Crematory.

## Travis Daniel Bell

Travis Daniel Bell, 35, of Gardendale, passed away December 23, 2017. He was born May 17, 1982 in Odessa, Texas to Russel and Lavine Land.

He is survived by his wife, Ashley Bell; four sons, Trenton Kelley, Parker Lackey, Ranson and Baker Bell; parents, Russell Bell and Lavine Land; four siblings.

Viewing will be held Thursday, December 28, 2017 beginning at 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. at American Heritage. Funeral services will be held December 29, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. at University Park Fellowship in Odessa. Burial immediately following at American Heritage Cemetery.

Arrangements are entrusted to American Heritage Cemetery/Funeral Home/Crematory.

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

mrt★com

## SCREENING

From 1B

general internal medicine at New York's Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Prostate cancers, in particular, are often harmless.

Patients with dementia, for example, rarely live longer than a few years.

"It generally takes about 10 years to see benefit from cancer screening, at least in terms of a mortality benefit," Korenstein said.

Enthusiasm for cancer screenings runs high among patients and doctors, both of whom tend to overestimate the benefits but underappreciate the risks, medical research shows.

In some cases, women are being screened for tumors in organs they no longer have. In a study of women over 30, nearly two-thirds who had undergone a hysterectomy got at least one cervical cancer screening, including one-third who had been screened in the past year, according to a 2014 study in JAMA Internal Medicine.

Even some patients with terminal cancer continue to be screened for other malignancies.

Nine percent of women with advanced cancer — including tumors of the lung, colon or pancreas — received mammograms, and 6 percent received cervical cancer screening, according to a 2010 study of Medicare recipients over age 65. Among men on Medicare with incurable cancer, 15 percent were screened for prostate cancer.

Although screenings can extend and improve lives for healthy, younger adults, they tend to inflict more harm than good in people who are old and frail, Korenstein said. Testing can lead to anxiety, invasive follow-up procedures and harsh treatments.

"In patients well into their 80s, with other chronic conditions, it's highly unlikely that they will receive any benefit from screening, and more likely that the harms will outweigh the benefits," said Dr. Cary Gross, a professor at the Yale School of Medicine.

By screening patients near the end of life, doctors often detect tumors that don't need to be found and treated. Researchers estimate that up to two-thirds of prostate cancers are overdiagnosed, as are a third of breast tumors.

"Overdiagnosis is serious," Gross said. "It's a tremendous harm that screening has imposed. ... It's something we're only beginning to reckon with."

A variety of medical specialties — from the American College of Surgeons to the Society of General Internal Medicine — have advised doctors against screening patients with limited time to live. For example, the American Cancer Society recommends prostate and breast cancer screenings only in patients expected to live 10 years or more.

In November, a coalition of patient advocates, employers and others included prostate screenings in men over age 75 in its list of the top five "low-value" medical procedures. Dr. A. Mark Fendrick, co-director of the coalition, referred to the five procedures as "no-brainers," arguing that health plans should consider refusing to pay for them.

Prostate cancer screening in men over 75 cost Medicare at least $145 million a year, according to a 2014 study in the journal Cancer. Mammograms in this age group cost the federal health plan for seniors more than $410 million a year, according to a 2013 study in JAMA Internal Medicine.

And while cancer screenings generally aren't expensive — a mammogram averages about $100 — they can begin a series of follow-up tests and treatments that add to the total cost of care.

Most spending on unnecessary medical care stems not from rare, big-ticket items, such as heart surgeries, but cheaper services that are performed much too often, according to an October study in Health Affairs.

Many older patients expect to continue getting screened, said Dr. Mara Schonberg, an associate professor at Harvard Medical School and Boston's Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

"It's jarring for someone who's been told every year to get screened and then at age 75 you tell them to stop," she said.

*Distributed by Tribune Content Agency*

# Study: Vitamin D supplements, calcium don't prevent fractures

**By Ariana Eunjung Cha**
*Washington Post*

One of the most contentious questions in nutrition science over the past decade has been whether older adults should be taking supplemental vitamin D and calcium. As the world's population ages and broken bones and fractures become even more of a public health concern, with huge social and economic consequences, researchers have been trying to make sense of conflicting studies on the association between supplements and fracture risk.

A study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association on Tuesday took a fresh look at this issue by analyzing 33 randomized clinical trials involving a total of more than 50,000 adults over the age of 50. Each of these previous research papers involved comparing calcium, vitamin D or both with a placebo or no treatment. The analysis, conducted by Jia-Guo Zhao of Tianjin Hospital in China, was focused on older adults who live in the general community and did not include those in nursing homes, hospitals and other facilities.

The conclusion was clear: Vitamin D and calcium supplements do not seem to be warranted to prevent bone breaks or hip fractures in those adults. Such supplements had no clear benefit regardless of dose, the gender of the patient, history of fractures or the amount of calcium in the diet.

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, an influential federal advisory body, has raised questions about these supplements since 2013, when it issued recommendations saying evidence to support the benefit of the supplements in older adults without osteoporosis or vitamin D deficiency was "insufficient."

Marion Nestle, a professor emerita of food sciences and nutrition at New York University, wrote in an opinion piece at that time that the UPSTF's statement should caution clinicians "to think carefully before advising calcium and vitamin D supplementation for healthy individuals."

She said this week bone health involves many different aspects of eating and activity. "Bone preservation throughout life requires eating healthfully, engaging in weight-bearing activity, avoiding excessive alcohol, and not smoking - good advice for everyone," Nestle said.

Vitamin D is not a vitamin but a hormone that is produced in reaction to sunlight and seems to have many different roles in the body related to bones, cancer, heart disease, diabetes, immune function and reproductive health.

Daniel Fabricant, president of the Natural Products Association, which represents manufacturers and retailers of dietary supplements, said the study draws its conclusions with "too broad of a brush." He said it focuses on the healthiest segment of the population by looking at people who are able to live at home.

"There is a lot missing," Fabricant said. "People with prior breaks or family incidence of osteoporosis may still need vitamin D."

Calcium and vitamin D have been known to be important to bone maintenance for a long time, and the best way to get the daily recommended doses are the natural way. For calcium, that means eating dairy products like milk, cheese, yogurt or calcium-rich leafy greens. For vitamin D, that means getting some sun exposure. Only a few foods contain vitamin D, and they include fatty fish like salmon.

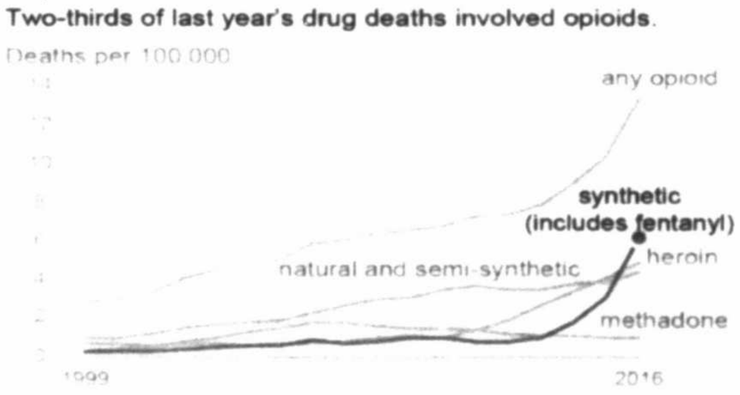
The issue is many Americans don't get enough calcium or vitamin D — which is why the debate over supplements has become so important. In 2010, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) released recommendations tripling the daily intake of vitamin D for most people to 600 IU per day and raising the calcium intake to 1,000 milligrams. While that report has few explicit mentions of supplements, the use of supplements seems assumed, and it includes a lot of discussion about the importance of setting and following upper limits for intake of vitamin D and calcium.

"As North Americans take more supplements and eat more of foods that have been fortified with vitamin D and calcium, it becomes more likely that people consume high amounts

Please see STUDY/4B

## Opioid-related deaths

**Two-thirds of last year's drug deaths involved opioids.**

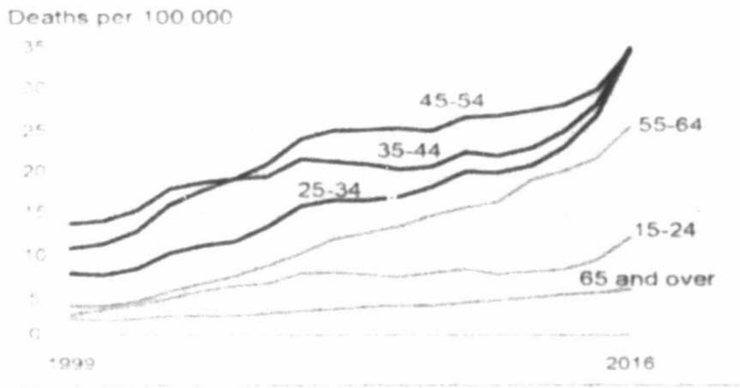



*More than one drug is often involved in an overdose death

SOURCE The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention AP

## Death rates rise for younger adults

**The highest drug death rates were in ages 25 to 54.**




SOURCE The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention AP



Tom Sampson/Associated Press

Violinist Anthony Hyatt leads dancers through MedStar Georgetown University Hospital in Washington on Oct. 11. Musicians and dancers are part of the Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center's arts and humanities program.

## BRAIN

From 2B

recently reported, contradicting earlier promising findings. But experts cited challenges with the study and called for additional research.

Unlike music therapy, which works one-on-one toward individual outcomes, the arts and humanities program at Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center lets musicians-in-residence play throughout the hospital. Palliative care nurses often seek Vance, the cellist, for patients anxious or in pain. She may watch monitors, matching a tune's tempo to heart rate and then gradually slowing. Sometimes she plays for the dying, choosing a gently arrhythmic background and never a song that might be familiar.

Julia Langley, who directs Georgetown's program, wants research into the type and dose of music for different health situations: "If we can study the arts in the same way that science studies medication and other therapeutics, I think we will be doing so much good."

## EXPECTANCY

From 1B

time a person is expected to live. The life expectancy figure is based on the year of their birth, current death trends and other factors. For decades, it was on the upswing, rising a few months nearly every year. But last year marked the first time in more than a half century that U.S. life expectancy fell two consecutive years.

A baby born last year in the U.S. is expected to live about 78 years and 7 months, on average, the CDC said. An American born in 2015 was expected to live about a month longer and one born in 2014 about two months longer than that.

The dip in 2015 was blamed on drug deaths and an unusual upturn in the death rate for the nation's leading killer, heart disease. Typically, life expectancy goes back up after a one-year decline, said Robert Anderson, who oversees the CDC's death statistics. The last time there was a two-year drop was 1962-63. It also happened twice in the 1920s.

"If we don't get a handle on this," he said, "we could very well see a third year in a row. With no end in sight."

A three-year decline happened in 1916, 1917 and 1918, which included the worst flu pandemic in modern history.

Overall, there were more than 2.7 million U.S. deaths in 2016, or about 32,000 more than the previous year. It was the most deaths in a single year since the government has been counting. That partly reflects the nation's growing and aging population. But death rates last year continued to go down for people who are 65 and older while going up for all younger adults — those most affected by the opioid epidemic.

The CDC also reported :

■ West Virginia continued to be the state with highest drug overdose death rate, with a rate of 52 deaths per 100,000 state residents in 2016. Ohio and New Hampshire were next, both at about 39 per 100,000.

■ Life expectancy for men decreased, but it held steady for women. That increased the gender gap to five years; about 76 for men and 81 for women.

■ U.S. death rates decreased for seven of the 10 leading causes of death, but rose for suicide, Alzheimer's disease and for a category called unintentional injuries (which includes drug overdoses).

■ Accidental injuries displaced chronic lower respiratory diseases to become the nation's third leading cause of death. Contributing were increases in deaths from car crashes and falls.

■ Gun deaths rose for a second year, to nearly 39,000. They had been hovering around 33,500 deaths a few years ago.

The United States ranks below dozens of other high-income countries in life expectancy, according to the World Bank. Highest is Japan, at nearly 84 years.

"The fact that U.S. has basically stagnated over the past seven years — and now we're seeing small declines — is a real sign that the U.S. is doing badly," said Jessica Ho, a University of Southern California researcher who studies death trends.

## STDs

From 1B

most infectious stages of the diseases.

According to the CDC, Texas ranks 15th among the states when it comes to chlamydia, with 142,952 cases, or 520.4 for every 100,000 people. Texas is 17th when it comes to gonorrhea, with 42,472 cases or 154.6 cases per 100,000 population. We are in 19th place for primary and secondary syphilis, with 1,955 cases, or 7.1 per 100,000 population. The strategy for combating these diseases logically starts with kids in high school, where they should learn about sex, including warnings about STDs. Unfortunately, according to a study released earlier this year by Texas Freedom Network, more than 83 percent of Texas school districts during the 2015-16 academic year taught abstinence-only courses or didn't offer any sex education curriculum at all.

Therein lies part of the problem.

As difficult as it is for some to face, young people do generally grow into sexually active adults. Many will begin having sex as teenagers. Parents and lawmakers should not take for granted that today's young people will wait for marriage to become sexually active, or that they will magically learn to protect themselves from disease and unwanted pregnancy without knowledgeable guidance. Previous generations learned the hard way, suffering lifelong consequences for their ignorance.

At home and from their parents should be where students learn about sex, but in many cases it just does not happen. Requiring health and sex education at school would the logical venue for such classes. In the classroom and under with the guidance of qualified teachers, students will get the information they need to avoid unintended pregnancy and prevent infection by a sexually transmitted disease.

Texas lawmakers could go a long way toward stemming the tide of this epidemic by reversing a short-sighted decision in 2009 to drop health education as a high school graduation requirement. Knowledge is power. In this case, it's the power to keep oneself and one's loved ones safe from dreaded disease.

Concern and attention should be directed to the nation's most vulnerable populations.

### Food addiction is topic of next medicine center class

The Lifestyle Medicine Center offers weekly classes on topics such as nutrition, chronic disease, food addiction and stress management.

Classes are open to the public and patients of the Lifestyle Medicine Center. Classes are 6 p.m. at the Midland Memorial West Campus Dining Room and only 20 spots are available. Grocery store tours are 7:30-p.m. at H-E-B Loop 250 and only 10 spots are available.

Each class is $5. To register, go to midlandhealth.org and click on classes & events. Upcoming classes are:

Jan. 4: Understanding and Overcoming Food Addictions

Jan. 11: Poor Nutrition and Lifestyle-related Diseases

Jan. 25: Stress Management and Relaxation Techniques

Feb. 1: Plant-based Grocery Store Tour

Feb. 8: Understanding Glycemic Index and Macronutrients

Feb. 22: Resolving Conflict and Finding Purpose

March 1: Meal Planning and Cooking Demonstration

March 8: Benefits of Physical Activity

March 22: Plant-based Nutrition and Diabetes

March 29: Meditation and Finding Balance

### Walking club to participate in Monahans event

The Midland Walkabout Volkssport Club meets for monthly walks. The next walk is in conjunction with the Monahans Sandhills Resolution Run/Walk on Jan. 7.

This is an American Volkssport-sanctioned walk, and participants can walk a 5K or 10K. The event starts at 9 a.m. at the Monahans Sandhills State Park Visitor Center. To register, contact the Monahans Chamber of Commerce or go to www.active.com or www.raceentry.com. Registration fee is $25.

Midland walking club members will meet 7 a.m. at the parking lot of JumBurrito near Midland Park Mall and carpool to the park. For information about club membership, visit www.midlandwalkabout.org.

## HEALTHBRIEFS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

### Conference on aging is planned

Midland College is partnering with various nonprofit agencies to offer the annual West Texas Conference on Aging. The conference is 8 a.m.-4 p.m. March 6 at Golf Course Road Church of Christ, 3500 W. Golf Course Road.

Early registration fee of $50 is available until Feb. 23; after that date, registration is $75. Seven Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are available to health care professionals.

Registration is available online at www.midland.edu/agingconference or by phone, 681-6354. For more information, contact Kimberly Daw at 681-6338 or kdaw@midland.edu.

### Weekly support groups & hotlines

*(subject to change)*

■ TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursdays, Christian Church of Midland, 2609 Neely Ave. 694-8643.

■ Overeaters Anonymous; 3 p.m. Sunday, 7 p.m. Tuesdays, St. Stephen's Catholic Church. 553-1031.

■ Survivors of sexual abuse; interactive Bible study to help deal with the consequences of sexual abuse meets Tuesdays. Child care available; House of Hope, 570-5935.

■ Peer to Peer support group for veterans, active duty, guard, reserves and their families, 6 p.m. Tuesdays, Permian Basin Community Center, 401 E. Illinois Ave., Suite 403; Wil Hoggard, 213-5342, william.hoggard@wtcmhmr.org.

■ PDAP meetings: 7-8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays: Parents group and younger group (12-17), 1208 W. Wall St.; college group (18-26), 2503 W. Ohio Ave.; older group (27 and over), First Presbyterian Church 11:30-1:30 p.m. Wednesdays: older group, 1208 W. Wall St., includes lunch.

■ Alcoholics Anonymous — hotline 580-7868.

■ Serenity Group, 8 p.m. daily, 3101 N. "A" St., Building C; 685-3100. 710 Group, 7 a.m., noon and 8 p.m. Wednesdays, 710 Ohio Ave.; 682-8162.

■ Alpha Omega, 8 p.m. Tuesdays and 11 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays, 311 S. Pecos St.

■ 12-Step Group of Alcoholics Anonymous, 7:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, 10 a.m. Saturdays; PDAP, 1208 W. Wall St., 553-7220.

■ Al-Anon (support group for family members of alcoholics), Serenity Group 3101 N. "A" St. Bldg. C. noon Monday, Wednesday and Friday; 8 p.m. Monday and Wednesday.

■ Narcotics Anonymous — hotline 582-2926.

■ Laundry Group, 8 p.m. daily and noon Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 104 N. Marshall St.

■ Xodus Group, 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays, PDAP, 1208 W. Wall St., 634-7609.

■ CODA Group, 12-step program for relationships, 7 p.m. Fridays and Sundays, PDAP, 1208 W. Wall St., 599-4490.

■ La Hacienda Alumni, support group for former patients, 7 p.m. Thursdays, PDAP, 1208 W. Wall St. 553-7220.

### Finding a doctor

Access to a primary care provider is one mission of Midland Health. Residents who need help finding a physician or setting up an appointment can call 221-3627 (221-DOCS).

### Hope Chest

Hope Chest is a program that provides support for women during their pregnancy and after their baby is born.

Hope Chest allows mothers and mothers-to-be to earn necessities such as diapers, wipes, clothing and car seats through a point system.

Points are earned by attending prenatal appointments and childbirth classes, and once the baby is born, moms continue to earn points at pediatrician visits until the child turns 2.

The program office is at Midland Memorial Hospital West Campus. For more information or to enroll in the program, call 221-1150. To make a monetary donation or donate brand new baby items, call the March of Dimes office at 416-7310.

### MMH payment options

Midland Memorial Hospital recognizes that our community is facing challenging financial times. Resources are tight and families are having to make important decisions about what to spend money on now and what has to wait.

Realizing health care can be expensive and the increasing deductibles make it hard to manage, the hospital has adjusted its payment procedures. We want to make sure you receive the care you need, when you need it. To find out about the new options now offered to better accommodate your payment needs, call 221-4705.

### How sick are you?

Midland Memorial Hospital offers a a nurse triage program "68-NURSE." The program is designed to help people determine whether their health situation warrants a trip to the emergency room. Midland residents can call the line by dialing 686-8773.

The program is free and available 24 hours a day-365 days a year. Local nurses are available to help you determine the best place to receive care for your situation. 68-NURSE can help you save time and money by directing you to the most appropriate health care option, whether it's a clinic, urgent care center, emergency room ... or just staying home.

# Apple reportedly developing smartwatch EKG

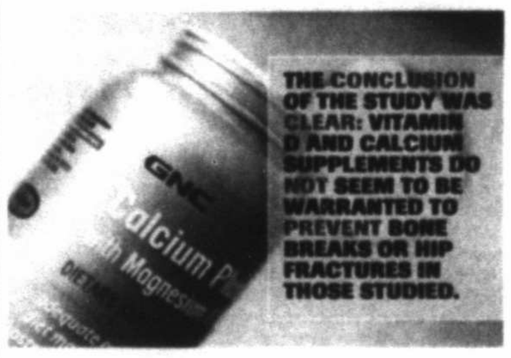
■ Version company is testing could detect abnormalities such as irregular heart rate

**By Alex Webb**
*Bloomberg*

Apple is developing an advanced heart-monitoring feature for future versions of its smartwatch, part of a broader push by the company to turn what was once a luxury fashion accessory into a serious medical device, according to people familiar with the plan.

A version being tested requires users to squeeze the frame of the Apple Watch with two fingers on the hand that's not wearing the device, one of the people said. It then passes an imperceptible current across the person's chest to track electrical signals in the heart and detect any

Please see EKG/5B




## STUDY

From 3B

of these nutrients," the group wrote, warning of the possibility of kidney and tissue damage from overconsumption.

Fabricant also said the new study contained limited information on the dosages involved. "Maybe the average dose was on the lower end of dose response curve," he said. "While it's a nice exercise of mathematics, it doesn't get at the actual issue which is what are optimal levels for people who need the supplements."

The new study did not look at the benefits or risks of vitamin D supplements on other conditions, but previous studies have suggested they can lower risks for diabetes and certain cancers. However, an April 2017 study in JAMA Cardiology found high monthly doses of vitamin D supplements did not seem to do much to help with cardiovascular disease.

One other limitation of the study is some of the trials included in the analysis did not test baseline vitamin D blood concentration for all participants.

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# *Family should support individual seeking mental health therapy*



CHRISTINE HALL
*Centers*

Mental health is one of the most important aspects of an individual's life; however, it often takes a back seat to overall health. Stigma continues to surround mental health disorders and mental health therapy, which causes many people to avoid getting the help they need.

The mental health field has grown, yet social acceptance is still limited. People are encouraged by family and friends to seek treatment from medical doctors to ensure the best physical health possible, but they don't always do so for mental health therapy.

Adults and children who struggle with emotional issues often are told to "get over it" or "don't let it get to you." In theory, this is an easy concept but it is not practical. So why is there a negative attitude toward mental health therapy? Why is it not socially acceptable to receive treatment for emotional, behavioral and mental health issues? One reason is a fear of the unknown. Mental health issues and therapy is not black or white. They are much more complex. Many people do not have accurate information about the diagnosis or treatments of mental illness, thereby creating resistance to therapy.

It's important to support someone who decides to seek help for mental health issues. Even if you don't agree with mental health therapy, you should not attempt to influence their decision. Criticizing an individual's well-being and the form of treatment they choose could cause that person to perceive that those who care about them will judge them or view them differently. This may lead to a negative self-identity.

It should not matter the source of help an individual chooses. What matters is that the individual finds health, self-worth and happiness.



AliveCor president and CEO Vic Gundotra rests his thumb on a wristband sensor to check his heart rate in Mountain View, Calif. on Dec. 7. AliveCor just received FDA approval for its Kardia Band EKG-monitoring wristband for the Apple Watch.

*San Francisco Chronicle file photo*

## EKG

From 4B

abnormalities like irregular heart rates. Such conditions can increase the risk of strokes and heart failure and develop in about one-quarter of people over 40, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

These medical tests, known as electrocardiograms or EKGs and ECGs, are common in doctors' offices, hospitals and ambulances. But they only monitor the heart's activity for short periods, limiting their ability to spot potential abnormalities. There are wearable versions, too, such as the Holter monitor, but these usually track the heart continuously for a few days at most.

Apple's current Watch has a more basic heart rate monitor, but the company is increasingly trying to use advanced sensors to predict future afflictions, rather than simply collect historical data about the body. An EKG would make it easier to establish the health of a user's heart, and potentially spot some cardiac problems early.

The development process is ongoing and Apple may still decide not to include the technology in future products, the people said. They asked not to be identified talking about private plans. Apple spokeswoman Amy Bessette declined to comment.

"I can see a role for wearable ECGs as a mechanism to diagnose arrhythmia as an adjunct to what is currently available," said Ethan Weiss, a cardiologist at the University of California, San Francisco. However, he'd only recommend it for patients who are already displaying symptoms like heart palpitations and fainting. "There's no reason to follow ECG in normal, healthy people."

Apple announced a research initiative into irregular heart rhythms in November with Stanford Medicine, where Apple's head of special health projects Michael O'Reilly also serves as a professor of anesthesiology. Participants download an app that uses the Apple Watch's existing heart rate monitor to identify potential irregularities.

The current system uses LEDs and light sensors on the underside of the Watch to track changes in blood flow from the pumping heart. If any abnormalities are spotted, the user is offered a free video consultation with a doctor from telehealth provider American Well Corp. Data from the research may help Apple develop artificial intelligence-based tools that can spot abnormalities more easily and support the EKG project.

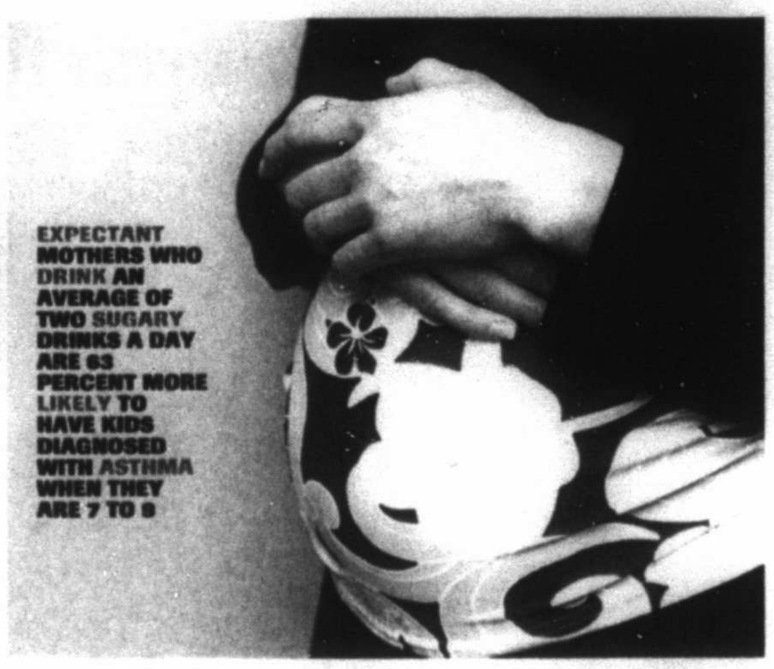
When it was first released in 2015, the Apple Watch was largely marketed as a high-end fashion piece. As the second and third generations went on sale, the focus shifted to health and fitness, with Apple adding alerts for abnormal heart rate spikes. While Apple executives have repeatedly highlighted the health-care sector as a target for innovation, the field is of particular interest to Chief Operating Officer Jeff Williams.

"There's tremendous potential to do on-device computing, to do cloud computing as well and to take that learning, and through machine learning, deep learning and ultimately artificial intelligence, to change the way health care is delivered," Williams told an audience at a conference in October. "We can't think of anything more significant than this."

The health industry's size has made it attractive for tech giants seeking new growth markets. U.S. health spending is forecast to grow from almost $3.5 trillion in 2016 to $5.5 trillion by 2025, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. Google parent Alphabet has two health-care divisions, while Amazon.com has for almost two decades been looking at ways to get into the pharmaceutical industry.

One hurdle to tech companies such as Apple entering the medical-device market has been the stringent testing requirements imposed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The agency outlined proposals in July to use more computer testing to speed up approvals, potentially helping new entrants.

Apple Watch users can already buy an EKG made by AliveCor Inc. that is built into the watch's strap. The startup's device and its algorithm have received FDA approval. Portable EKGs from the likes of Medtronic Plc that work with smartphones have been available for several years.



EXPECTANT MOTHERS WHO DRINK AN AVERAGE OF TWO SUGARY DRINKS A DAY ARE 63 PERCENT MORE LIKELY TO HAVE KIDS DIAGNOSED WITH ASTHMA WHEN THEY ARE 7 TO 9

# Study correlates soda consumption during pregnancy, child's health

**By Kaitlyn Alanis**
*The Wichita (Kansas) Eagle*

While it is already common knowledge that pregnant women should not drink alcohol while pregnant, new research suggests that drinking soda or pop could also cause health problems for the child later in life.

The study conducted through Harvard Medical School found that expectant mothers who drink an average of two sugary drinks a day are 63 percent more likely to have kids diagnosed with asthma when they are 7 to 9.

"Increasingly, we're understanding that the processes that put a kid on a trajectory for obesity and asthma start in pregnancy," Rosalind Wright with Icahn School of Medicine told Medline Plus. "This may give us some clues to how early life programming of asthma starts in utero, and how we might intervene more directly to give children a healthy start."

The researchers said the correlation may be because of fructose's potentially inflammatory effect on the child's lungs.

However, the research team also looked at the effects of fruit juice because it contains naturally occurring fructose.

"We don't see evidence for the same strength of adverse effects from fruit juice," Harvard nutrition professor Emily Oken told Medline Plus. "That may be perhaps because fruit juice also contains vitamins and other anti-inflammatory factors."

For the study, the team analyzed data from 1,068 mother-child pairs. The women were asked about the quantity of beverages they consumed daily, including sugar-sweetened drinks and fruit juices.

By mid-childhood, 1 out of 5 kids born to women who drank sugary beverages had developed asthma.

The researchers also note that they cannot prove sugary drinks cause asthma, but rather that there is a correlation between the two.

The study was published Dec. 8 online in the Annals of the American Thoracic Society.

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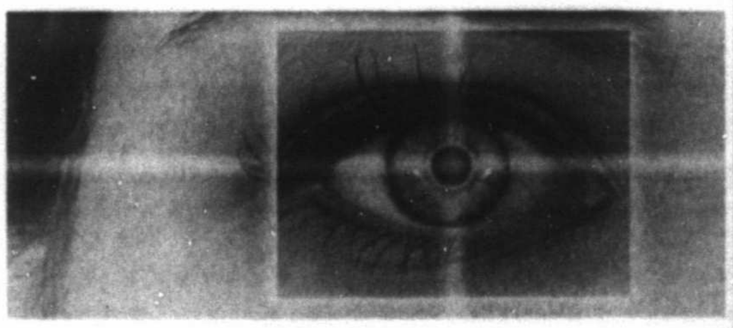
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# Bodybuilder's heaviest lift reveals disabled hand

**By Elyse Samuels**
*Washington Post*



*Washington Post image from video*

Bodybuilder and motivational speaker Chris Ruden posted a video online Nov. 12, showing that his left hand only has two fingers, for the first time in 17 years.

Bodybuilder, powerlifter and motivational speaker Chris Ruden was ashamed of his disabled hand for most of his life, and he hid it under a cloth glove for 17 years. Ruden was born with a birth defect that left him with only two fingers on his left hand and his left arm four inches shorter than his right.

In middle school, a girl Ruden had a crush on mocked him in front of their class, humiliating Ruden so much that he decided never to show his hand to anyone. At school, he refused to take his hand out of his pocket when others could see it, even going to the bathroom to take off his backpack.

"I was petrified by what people might think of me," said Ruden, 27, who lives in Coconut Creek, Florida. "I always pretended like I didn't care what people thought, but the real problem was I believed what people thought. It was me being my own bully to myself."

Last month, Ruden posted an emotional video to his Youtube page, revealing his deformed hand. The video was posted to Reddit and quickly went viral, receiving an overwhelmingly positive response. Ruden received thousands of emails and direct messages on social media from people who shared heartfelt stories of their own struggles hiding a disability.

He decided to go public and show the world his hand after so long because he recently got a prosthetic hand. He decided that when the hand arrived, he would take off the glove for good because to use the prosthetic, he would have to take it on and off in public.

Myoelectric sensors in the prosthetic detect muscle contractions in Ruden's forearm muscles. The prosthetic, called the i-Limb Quantum by Touch Bionics, moves based on these muscle commands. For example, Ruden flexes his muscles to close his hand and extends his wrist to open it.

Ruden decided he wanted the prosthetic because of injuries and pain he faced while lifting weights. He lifted using a lifting hook that he would wrap around his arm. Having a prosthetic hand balances things out, putting an even pull on his spine from side to side so that he's not leaning one way as he lifts.

Ruden admitted powerlifting can be difficult at times, especially with a physical disability, because "I felt like I needed to look a certain way, like the guys in the magazine and on Instagram-perfect Photoshop-type bodies."

But now he thinks his hand "looks pretty cool."

"I finally accepted the last bit of myself. I accepted this thing is part of me, but it doesn't define me," Ruden said in an interview with The Washington Post. "Seeing the response from that video made me realize you're always going to have that good and bad. Whatever someone says about you, it doesn't matter unless you have the right mindset about yourself."

On his Instagram page, Ruden describes himself as a seven-fingered diabetic powerlifter. One of his big achievements is a 655-pound dead lift, meaning lifting a barbell with weights from the ground to just below the hips.

Ruden said he chose to start powerlifting because people told him he couldn't.

When he's not lifting, he spends his time as a motivational coach helping others overcome their own disabilities. At first Ruden was concerned those he helped might see him as fake because he was hiding his disability. To Ruden's surprise, the opposite occurred.

"People saw I was genuine and real," Ruden said. "I wasn't a hero. I wasn't a celebrity. I was a real person still dealing with my own problems while helping people with theirs."

Ruden plans to continue powerlifting and motivating others who live with disabilities. He said he looks forward to using his new insight to help others now that he has conquered such a long-lasting hurdle for himself.

"Some people see me and are inspired, but I see other people and realize there's so much room for improvement and growth," Ruden said. "My biggest motivation has always been other people."

Now that his big emotional reveal is behind him, Ruden says his next step is to make lighthearted YouTube videos about his disability. "It might sound weird but people take life way to seriously. ... I know I did," he said.




No one likes to think about worst-case scenarios. Unfortunately, every day, family members are summoned to emergency departments to make life and death decisions for those who matter most to them. Having the important conversations and completing an advance directive are two of the most precious gifts we can give to those we love the most.

If you already have an advance directive, you should re-examine it every decade, whenever you experience the death of a loved one, in the event of a divorce or other major family change, if you are diagnosed with a serious health condition, and when you experience a significant decline or deterioration of an existing health condition—especially if it decreases your independence

Help us make Midland the healthiest community in Texas—today, and in the seasons to come. Join us and learn about advance directives for free. Download and complete your own advance directive at **midlandhealth.org/ACP.**

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# Texans looking to end skid in finale against Colts

**By Kristie Rieken**
*Associated Press*

HOUSTON — The Houston Texans have lost five games in a row for the first time since 2013, and as they prepare for their regular-season finale at Indianapolis they're trying not to dwell on how disappointing this season has been or look too far ahead.

Coach Bill O'Brien and his team are simply focused on trying to improve and end their skid this week.

"Neither one of us are going to the playoffs, but this is kind of like our playoff game — playoff game right here," O'Brien said. "Let's see how we can finish the season and ... see if that puts us ending on a good note heading into the offseason."

The Texans (4-11) failed to make the playoffs this season after winning the AFC South the past two seasons, and it's the first time in O'Brien's tenure that they'll finish with a losing record after going 9-7 in each of his first three years in Houston.

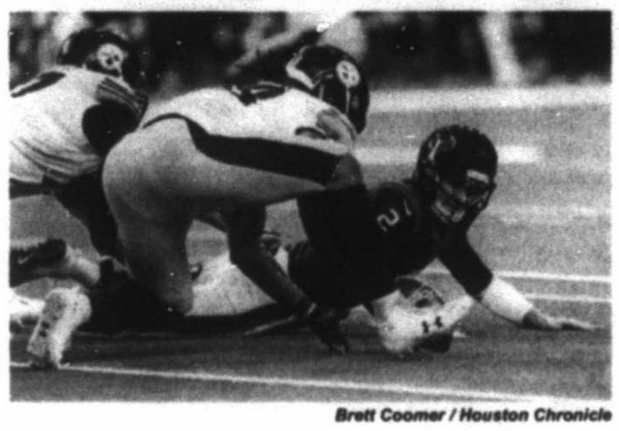
Though there's little left to play for in this dreadful season marked by injuries to stars Deshaun Watson and J.J. Watt, O'Brien hopes his team will play for pride on Sunday and for the opportunity not to finish last in their division for the first time since going 2-14 in 2013. Houston is in third place in the division, one game ahead of the Colts (3-12).

"In the division, you don't want to end up in last place," O'Brien said. "It's very important to go out there and try to win this game and not be in last place, no doubt about it."

To do that the Texans will have to figure out a way to get their passing game going. Houston has struggled in that area since Watson was injured in early November, but things have gotten even worse in the two games since third-stringer T.J. Yates has taken over for Tom Savage.

The Texans have managed just 13 points combined in the two games Yates has started. And their passing game, which was among the league's best with Watson at the helm, has averaged just 105.5 yards a game in the past two weeks.

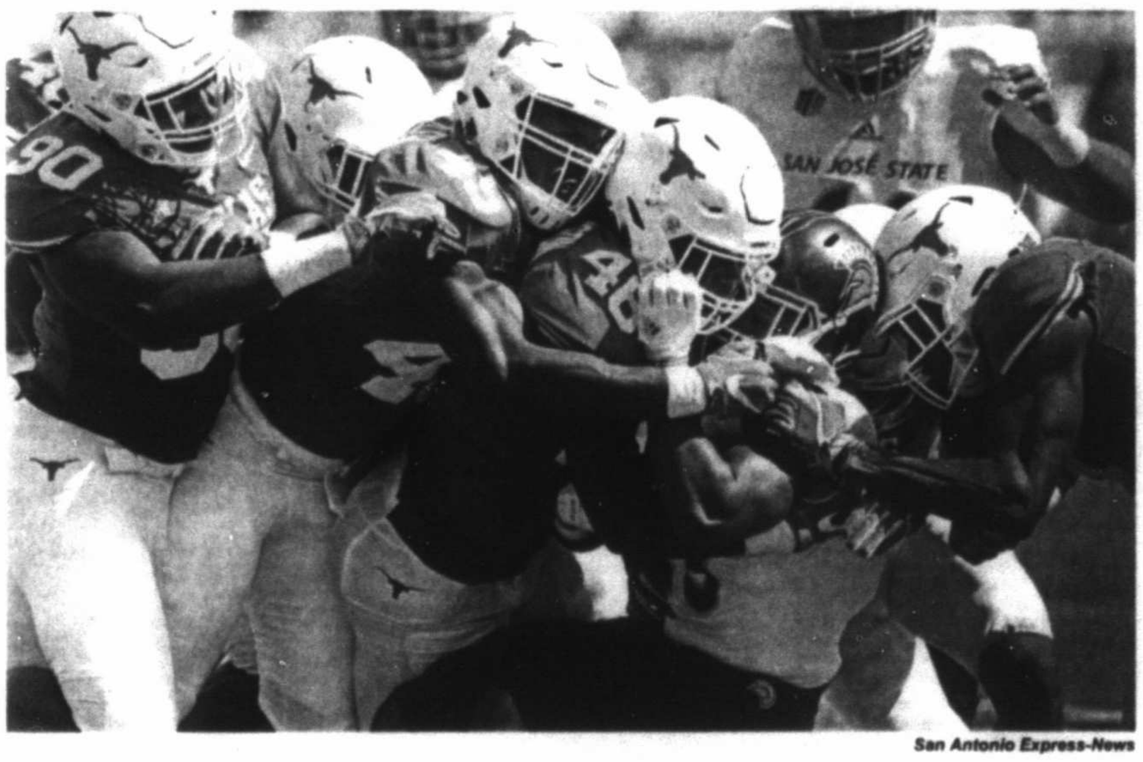
Please see **TEXANS**/3C



*Brett Coomer / Houston Chronicle*

Pittsburgh Steelers outside linebacker Bud Dupree (48) goes after a ball fumbled by Houston Texans quarterback T.J. Yates (2) on a sack during the second quarter at NRG Stadium on Monday in Houston.

# Trying to break the streak



*San Antonio Express-News*

The Longhorn defense collapses on running back Tyler Nevens as Texas hosts San Jose State at DKR Stadium on Sept. 9.

# Missouri aims for 7th straight win against Texas in Texas Bowl

**By Kristie Rieken**
*Associated Press*

HOUSTON — Missouri is on a six-game winning streak after starting the season 1-5.

A win over Texas in tonight's Texas Bowl would make the Tigers (7-5) only the second team from a Power 5 conference to finish with eight wins after opening the year 1-5 and the first since Rutgers did it in 2008.

Such a remarkable turnaround has many asking second-year coach Barry Odom what he did to get the team on track.

"I'm going to sell it for $19.99 and if you call now, you can buy one, get one free. We'll see how that goes in the offseason," Odom joked.

Then he got serious.

"Really, we didn't change much," he said. "We've got a really good group of kids that were bought in together; that cared about each other; that knew that we were doing a lot of things in our program the right way and we were getting so close to breaking down the wall. We just weren't playing really good on Saturdays."

The Tigers, who are in a bowl for the first time since 2014, have not only won six games in a row, they have done it in impressive fashion, winning those games by an average of 30 points. They have also scored 45 points or more in each of those wins, to set a school record.

Texas is back in a bowl for the first time since the team also played in the Texas Bowl in 2014. They're coming off a loss to Texas Tech that capped another disappointing season in the first year under coach Tom Herman. The Longhorns (6-6) need a victory to give them their first winning season since finishing 8-5 in Mack Brown's final season in 2013.

Herman said this year has been a challenge in changing the culture on the team.

"That three straight losing seasons takes its toll on kids, really does," he said. "It's difficult for them, especially when you ... deal with adversity, it can be a: 'here we go again syndrome.' So that has been an ongoing challenge of re-establishing the right way to handle adversity and the right way to compete and the right way to go about our daily business."

Some things to know about the Texas Bowl.

**Sitting out**

The Longhorns will be without several players on Wednesday night for a variety of reasons. Safety DeShon Elliott and offensive tackle Connor Williams are skipping the game after declaring for the NFL draft. Cornerback Holton Hill, who missed the last three games of the season for violating team rules, will also miss the game after declaring for the draft. Defensive tackle Chris Nelson won't play after injuring his elbow in practice and tight end Garrett Gray, receiver Lil'Jordan Humphrey and running back Toneil Carter will miss the game after being suspended for violating team rules.

**Lock(ed) in**

Missouri quarterback Drew Lock threw 43 touchdown passes this season to set school and Southeastern Conference records. Lock's touchdown passes were the most in the nation, marking the first time an SEC quarterback led the country in that category since Florida's Danny Wuerffel

Please see **TEXAS**/3C

# Oklahoma's rivalry with SEC continues with new coach Riley

**By Cliff Brunt**
*Associated Press*

NORMAN, Okla. — Oklahoma has no plans to bow down to the mighty Southeastern Conference.

The SEC has run roughshod over most of college football for the past decade, but in recent years, former Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops was vocal about his belief that the Sooners and the Big 12 were elite, too. He had the facts to back up his claim — under his leadership, Oklahoma beat Alabama in the Sugar Bowl after the 2013 season, Tennessee during the 2014 and 2015 regular seasons and Auburn in the Sugar Bowl after the 2016 season.

As far back as 2013, Stoops called some of the stories about the SEC's supremacy "propaganda." The rivalry he stirred up continues with new coach Lincoln Riley and Oklahoma's matchup with Georgia in the Rose Bowl national semifinal on Jan. 1.

Riley tried to temper things a bit when the pairings first came out.

"Georgia is a great team, regardless of what league they're in," he said. "They're a great football team. I've had a chance to watch them a little bit this year. Obviously, they're really, really good defensively. It doesn't take long to figure that out. Strong running game. Their young quarterback has come on and played really well."

Riley also has great respect for Georgia coach Kirby Smart. The Bulldogs are 12-1 in Smart's second year.

"Kirby has obviously done a great job in just a short time," Riley said. "To me at this point, it's not about conference vs. conference. It's about this really good team from Oklahoma going up against a really good team in Georgia."

Riley wasn't as complimentary toward the SEC earlier in the season when he was defending the Big 12. After Oklahoma's 62-52 win over Oklahoma State , he had heard enough from critics who said the Big 12 was watered down because of the lack of defense. He referenced Oklahoma's 35-19 win over Auburn in the Sugar Bowl , among other things, as evidence that the Big 12 can hold its own.

"Going back to the bowl games last year, there's one conference that gave up under 20 points a game," he said. "That was the Big 12, where everybody's playing out-of-conference teams. So everybody wants to talk about all that.

Please see **OKLAHOMA**/3C



*Tony Gutierrez/Associated Press*

Oklahoma head coach Lincoln Riley making a call from the sideline in the second half of the Big 12 Conference championship Dec. 2 in Arlington. The SEC has run roughshod over most of college football in recent years, but not over Oklahoma. The Sooners beat Alabama in the Sugar Bowl after the 2013 season and Auburn in the Sugar Bowl after the 2016 season, with a couple of wins over Tennessee sandwiched in between. The rivalry Bob Stoops started continues with new coach Lincoln Riley and Oklahoma's matchup with Georgia in the Rose Bowl.

# Moss, Utah run past West Virginia 30-14 in Heart of Dallas

**By Stephen Hawkins**
*Associated Press*

DALLAS — Zach Moss took a third-down handoff and quickly burst through the line and into an opening in the middle of the field. Utah was off and running to another bowl victory.

Moss ran for 150 yards, including a career-long 58-yard run for a touchdown on the Utes' opening drive in the Heart of Dallas Bowl on way to a 30-14 win over West Virginia on Tuesday. They are now 11-1 in postseason games under Kyle Whittingham, who matched Alabama's Nick Saban for the most bowl wins by an active coach.

"He knows how to coach the team and he always caps the year off right," Utah sophomore quarterback Tyler Huntley said.

Huntley scored twice, both on 2-yard keepers, but they led for good in their fifth straight bowl victory after Moss broke free on a drizzly and chilly day in Cotton Bowl Stadium.

"It was very important for us to come out of the gates with a big play early on and set the tone," said Moss, who like Huntley still has two seasons left with the Utes (7-6).

Please see **UTAH**/3C



*Rose Baca/The Dallas Morning News via AP*

Utah players hold up their championship trophy after winning the Zaxby's Heart of Dallas Bowl against West Virginia at Cotton Bowl Stadium on Tuesday in Dallas. Utah won 30-14.

# DAILY RUNDOWN

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

## ON THE AIR

**COLLEGE FOOTBALL**

Independence Bowl: Southern Miss vs. Florida State, 12:30 p.m., ESPN

Pinstripe Bowl: Iowa vs. Boston College, 4:15 p.m., ESPN, ESPNDEP

Foster Farms Bowl: Arizona vs. Purdue, 7:30 p.m., FOX, FXDEP Texas Bowl: Texas vs. Missouri, 8 p.m., ESPN, LHN, ESPNDEP

**HOCKEY**

IIHF World Junior Championships Switzerland vs. Belarus, 2 p.m., NHL

Slovakia vs. Canada, 6 p.m., NHL

**MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**

Butler at Georgetown, 5:30 p.m., FS1

Eastern Michigan at Syracuse, 6 p.m., ESPN2

FGCU at Rhode Island, 6 p.m., ESPNU

Villanova at DePaul, 6:30 p.m., CBSSN

Cal State Bakersfield at Arkansas, 7 p.m., SEC

Xavier at Marquette, 7:30 p.m., FS1

UCF at SMU, 8 p.m., ESPN2

Chicago State at Wisconsin, 8 p.m., ESPNU

Air Force at New Mexico, 8 p.m., ATTSW

Colorado State at Boise State, 8:30 p.m., CBSSN

**MEN'S SOCCER**

PL: Newcastle vs. Manchester United, 1:45 p.m., NBCSN

**NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION**

Dallas at Indiana, 6 p.m., FSSW

Toronto at Oklahoma City, 7 p.m., NBAtv Utah at Golden State, 9:30 p.m., NBAtv

**NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE**

Dallas at Minnesota, 7 p.m., FSSW+

Washington at NY Rangers, 7 p.m., NBCSN

**RADIO**

**COLLEGE FOOTBALL**

Foster Farms Bowl: Arizona vs. Purdue, 7:30 p.m., KMND 99.5 FM/1510 AM

Texas Bowl: Texas vs. Missouri, 8 p.m., KFST 860 AM (Ft. Stockton), KVLF 1240 AM (Alpine), KBST 1490 AM (Big Spring)

**NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION**

Dallas at Indiana, 6 p.m., KBTS 94.3 FM (Big Spring)

## WHAT'S ON DECK

**HS Girls Basketball**

Big Spring at Albany Tournament

## TRANSACTIONS

**BASEBALL**

**American League**

MINNESOTA TWINS — Agreed to terms with LHP Zach Duke on a one-year contract.

NEW YORK YANKEES — Agreed to terms with LHP CC Sabathia on a one-year contract.

**National League**

CINCINNATI REDS — Agreed to terms with RHP Jared Hughes on a two-year contract.

**Frontier League**

GATEWAY GRIZZLIES — Signed OF Terry McClure to a contract extension.

LAKE ERIE CRUSHERS — Signed RHP Justin Sinbaldi to a contract extension.

SCHAUMBURG BOOMERS — Signed INF John Holland to a contract extension.

**FOOTBALL**

**National Football League**

ARIZONA CARDINALS — Placed S Antoine Bethea on injured reserve. Signed LB Edmond Robinson from the practice squad.

BUFFALO BILLS — Placed WR Andre Holmes and RB Travaris Cadet on injured reserve. Released DT DeAndre Coleman. Signed RB Marcus Murphy, DT Rickey Hatley and WR Malachi Dupre from the practice squad. Signed DT Marquavius Lewis and LB Xavier Woodson-Luster to the practice squad.

CAROLINA PANTHERS — Placed WR Damiere Byrd on injured reserve.

CLEVELAND BROWNS — Signed WR C.J. Board to the practice squad. Placed WR Kasen Williams on practice squad injured reserve.

DALLAS COWBOYS — Released LB Justin Durant.

GREEN BAY PACKERS — Signed TE Emanuel Byrd from the practice squad. Placed OT Jason Spriggs on injured reserve. Signed WR Jake Kumerow to the practice squad.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Signed LS Jeff Overbaugh. Placed G Nick Easton on injured reserve.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Signed LB James Harrison. Released LB Trevor Reilly.

NEW YORK GIANTS — Placed S Landon Collins on injured reserve. Signed LB Deiric Matthews from the practice squad.

**Canadian Football League**

WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS — Re-signed OL Marcase Fokes.

**HOCKEY**

**National Hockey League**

ARIZONA COYOTES — Recalled F Lawson Crouse from Tucson (AHL).

**American Hockey League**

AHL — Suspended Hartford F Peter Holland two games for a slashing incident in a Dec. 23 game against Bridgeport.

**LACROSSE**

**National Lacrosse League**

BUFFALO BANDITS — Signed G Zach Higgins to a one-year contract.

**COLLEGE**

MISSISSIPPI — Announced DL Breeland Speaks will enter the NFL draft.

## NFL GLANCE

**AMERICAN CONFERENCE**

| East | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| y-New England | 12 | 3 | 0 | .800 | 432 | 290 |
| Buffalo | 8 | 7 | 0 | .533 | 280 | 343 |
| Miami | 6 | 9 | 0 | .400 | 285 | 371 |
| N.Y. Jets | 5 | 10 | 0 | .333 | 292 | 356 |
| **South** | **W** | **L** | **T** | **Pct** | **PF** | **PA** |
| y-Jacksonville | 10 | 5 | 0 | .667 | 407 | 253 |
| Tennessee | 8 | 7 | 0 | .533 | 319 | 346 |
| Houston | 4 | 11 | 0 | .267 | 325 | 414 |
| Indianapolis | 3 | 12 | 0 | .200 | 241 | 391 |
| **North** | **W** | **L** | **T** | **Pct** | **PF** | **PA** |
| y-Pittsburgh | 12 | 3 | 0 | .800 | 378 | 284 |
| Baltimore | 9 | 6 | 0 | .600 | 368 | 272 |
| Cincinnati | 6 | 9 | 0 | .400 | 259 | 322 |
| Cleveland | 0 | 15 | 0 | .000 | 210 | 382 |
| **West** | **W** | **L** | **T** | **Pct** | **PF** | **PA** |
| y-Kansas City | 9 | 6 | 0 | .600 | 388 | 315 |
| L.A. Chargers | 8 | 7 | 0 | .533 | 325 | 262 |
| Oakland | 6 | 9 | 0 | .400 | 291 | 343 |
| Denver | 5 | 10 | 0 | .333 | 265 | 355 |

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

| East | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| y-Philadelphia | 13 | 2 | 0 | .867 | 457 | 289 |
| Dallas | 8 | 7 | 0 | .533 | 348 | 332 |
| Washington | 7 | 8 | 0 | .467 | 332 | 370 |
| N.Y. Giants | 2 | 13 | 0 | .133 | 228 | 379 |
| **South** | **W** | **L** | **T** | **Pct** | **PF** | **PA** |
| x-New Orleans | 11 | 4 | 0 | .733 | 424 | 295 |
| x-Carolina | 11 | 4 | 0 | .733 | 353 | 305 |
| Atlanta | 9 | 6 | 0 | .600 | 331 | 305 |
| Tampa Bay | 4 | 11 | 0 | .267 | 304 | 358 |
| **North** | **W** | **L** | **T** | **Pct** | **PF** | **PA** |
| y-Minnesota | 12 | 3 | 0 | .800 | 359 | 242 |
| Detroit | 8 | 7 | 0 | .533 | 375 | 365 |
| Green Bay | 7 | 8 | 0 | .467 | 309 | 349 |
| Chicago | 5 | 10 | 0 | .333 | 254 | 297 |
| **West** | **W** | **L** | **T** | **Pct** | **PF** | **PA** |
| y-L.A. Rams | 11 | 4 | 0 | .733 | 465 | 295 |
| Seattle | 9 | 6 | 0 | .600 | 342 | 306 |
| Arizona | 7 | 8 | 0 | .467 | 269 | 337 |
| San Francisco | 5 | 10 | 0 | .333 | 297 | 370 |

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

**Sunday's Games**

N.Y. Jets at New England, noon
Washington at N.Y. Giants, noon
Chicago at Minnesota, noon
Dallas at Philadelphia, noon
Green Bay at Detroit, noon
Cleveland at Pittsburgh, noon
Houston at Indianapolis, noon
Cincinnati at Baltimore, 3:25 p.m.
New Orleans at Tampa Bay, 3:25 p.m.
Kansas City at Denver, 3:25 p.m.
Jacksonville at Tennessee, 3:25 p.m.
Buffalo at Miami, 3:25 p.m.
Arizona at Seattle, 3:25 p.m.
San Francisco at L.A. Rams, 3:25 p.m.
Oakland at L.A. Chargers, 3:25 p.m.
Carolina at Atlanta, 3:25 p.m.

## NHL GLANCE

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

**Atlantic Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tampa Bay | 35 | 26 | 7 | 2 | 54 | 133 | 87 |
| Toronto | 37 | 22 | 14 | 1 | 45 | 122 | 104 |
| Boston | 34 | 19 | 10 | 5 | 43 | 101 | 89 |
| Montreal | 36 | 16 | 16 | 4 | 36 | 98 | 114 |
| Florida | 36 | 15 | 16 | 5 | 35 | 103 | 119 |
| Detroit | 35 | 13 | 15 | 7 | 33 | 96 | 113 |
| Ottawa | 34 | 11 | 15 | 8 | 30 | 92 | 114 |
| Buffalo | 36 | 9 | 20 | 7 | 25 | 78 | 120 |

**Metropolitan Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| New Jersey | 35 | 21 | 9 | 5 | 47 | 113 | 103 |
| Washington | 37 | 22 | 13 | 2 | 46 | 114 | 107 |
| Columbus | 37 | 22 | 13 | 2 | 46 | 105 | 99 |
| N.Y. Rangers | 36 | 19 | 13 | 4 | 42 | 117 | 104 |
| N.Y. Islanders | 36 | 19 | 13 | 4 | 42 | 130 | 127 |
| Carolina | 35 | 16 | 12 | 7 | 39 | 99 | 109 |
| Pittsburgh | 37 | 18 | 16 | 3 | 39 | 104 | 118 |
| Philadelphia | 36 | 15 | 13 | 8 | 38 | 99 | 105 |

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Central Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nashville | 35 | 21 | 9 | 5 | 47 | 116 | 99 |
| St. Louis | 37 | 22 | 13 | 2 | 46 | 110 | 93 |
| Winnipeg | 37 | 20 | 11 | 6 | 46 | 121 | 105 |
| Dallas | 37 | 20 | 14 | 3 | 43 | 110 | 106 |
| Chicago | 35 | 17 | 13 | 5 | 39 | 103 | 94 |
| Minnesota | 36 | 18 | 15 | 3 | 39 | 102 | 106 |
| Colorado | 35 | 17 | 15 | 3 | 37 | 112 | 113 |

**Pacific Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vegas | 34 | 23 | 9 | 2 | 48 | 119 | 100 |
| Los Angeles | 35 | 22 | 10 | 4 | 48 | 109 | 83 |
| San Jose | 33 | 18 | 11 | 4 | 40 | 93 | 84 |
| Anaheim | 37 | 16 | 13 | 8 | 40 | 101 | 108 |
| Calgary | 36 | 18 | 15 | 3 | 39 | 101 | 106 |
| Edmonton | 36 | 17 | 17 | 2 | 36 | 108 | 113 |
| Vancouver | 36 | 15 | 16 | 5 | 35 | 97 | 118 |
| Arizona | 38 | 8 | 25 | 5 | 21 | 85 | 133 |

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

**Tuesday's Scores**

No games scheduled

**Today's Games**

Buffalo at N.Y. Islanders, 6 p.m.
Montreal at Carolina, 6 p.m.
Ottawa at Boston, 6 p.m.
Columbus at Pittsburgh, 6 p.m.
Detroit at New Jersey, 6 p.m.
Nashville at St. Louis, 7 p.m.
Washington at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
Edmonton at Winnipeg, 7 p.m.
Arizona at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Vegas at Anaheim, 9 p.m.

## NBA GLANCE

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

**Atlantic Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Boston | 27 | 10 | .730 | — |
| Toronto | 23 | 9 | .719 | 1½ |
| New York | 17 | 16 | .515 | 8 |
| Philadelphia | 15 | 18 | .455 | 10 |
| Brooklyn | 12 | 21 | .364 | 13 |
| **Southeast Division** | **W** | **L** | **Pct** | **GB** |
| Washington | 19 | 15 | .559 | — |
| Miami | 18 | 16 | .529 | 1 |
| Charlotte | 12 | 21 | .364 | 6½ |
| Orlando | 11 | 24 | .314 | 8½ |
| Atlanta | 8 | 25 | .242 | 10½ |
| **Central Division** | **W** | **L** | **Pct** | **GB** |
| Cleveland | 24 | 10 | .706 | — |
| Detroit | 19 | 14 | .576 | 4½ |
| Indiana | 19 | 15 | .559 | 5 |
| Milwaukee | 17 | 15 | .531 | 6 |
| Chicago | 11 | 22 | .333 | 12½ |

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Southwest Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Houston | 25 | 7 | .781 | — |
| San Antonio | 24 | 11 | .686 | 2½ |
| New Orleans | 17 | 16 | .515 | 8½ |
| Memphis | 10 | 23 | .303 | 15½ |
| Dallas | 10 | 25 | .286 | 16½ |
| **Northwest Division** | **W** | **L** | **Pct** | **GB** |
| Minnesota | 21 | 13 | .618 | — |
| Oklahoma City | 19 | 15 | .559 | 2 |
| Denver | 19 | 15 | .559 | 2 |
| Portland | 17 | 16 | .515 | 3½ |
| Utah | 15 | 20 | .429 | 6½ |
| **Pacific Division** | **W** | **L** | **Pct** | **GB** |
| Golden State | 27 | 7 | .794 | — |
| L.A. Clippers | 13 | 19 | .406 | 13 |
| Sacramento | 11 | 21 | .344 | 15 |
| L.A. Lakers | 11 | 21 | .344 | 15 |
| Phoenix | 12 | 23 | .343 | 15½ |

**Tuesday's Score**

Dallas 98, Toronto 93
Detroit 107, Indiana 83
Miami 107, Orlando 89
Chicago 115, Milwaukee 106
San Antonio 109, Brooklyn 97
Denver 107, Utah 83
Memphis at Phoenix, late
Sacramento at L.A. Clippers, late

**Today's Games**

Boston at Charlotte, 6 p.m.
Dallas at Indiana, 6 p.m.
Washington at Atlanta, 6:00 p.m.
Brooklyn at New Orleans, 7 p.m.
Denver at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
New York at Chicago, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Oklahoma City, 7 p.m.
Cleveland at Sacramento, 9 p.m.
Memphis at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m.
Utah at Golden State, 9:30 p.m.

## SKI REPORT

**NEW MEXICO**

Angel Fire — Mon 6:15 am machine groomed 12-12 base 5 of 70 trails 23% open, 5 of 7 lifts, am Mon-Thu 9a-4p Fri 9a-8p Sat 9a-8p Sun 9a-4p

Pajarito — Sun 11:20 am machine groomed 12-16 base 3 of 44 trails, 7% open 2 of 7 lifts, Mon-Fri 9a-4p Sat/Sun 9a-4p

Red River — Sat 7:43 am machine groomed 20-24 base 13 of 63 trails 21% open, 5 of 7 lifts, am Mon-Fri 9a-4p Sat/Sun 9a-4p

Sandia Peak — Sat 9:03 am variable 14-14 base 1 of 39 trails 3% open, 2 of 5 lifts, Fri 9a-4p Sat/Sun 9a-4p Open Fri-Sun Dec 25-Jan 2 9a-4p

Sipapu — Mon 5:19 am machine groomed 18-18 base 10 of 43 trails, 23% open 4 of 6 lifts, Mon-Fri 9a-4p Sat/Sun 9a-4p

Ski Apache — Sat 10:14 am machine groomed 24-35 base 2 of 55 trails 4% open, 2 of 10 lifts, am Mon-Fri 9a-4p Sat/Sun 9a-4p

Ski Santa Fe — Sun 7:11 am machine groomed 22-32 base 12 of 83 trails 14% open, 5 of 7 lifts, Mon-Fri 9a-4p Sat/Sun 9a-4p

Taos — Mon 12:00 am machine groomed 10-18 base 15 of 110 trails, 13% open 6 of 15 lifts, am Mon-Fri 9a-4p Sat/Sun 9a-4p

# Fisher headlines MCS' all-state selections

*From staff reports*

Midland Christian senior offensive lineman Luke Fisher has been named to the first team offense of the TAPPS Division II all-state football team that was recently released.



Fisher

The Mustangs also landed senior linebacker David Threadgill, sophomore defensive back Garison Breeding and senior athlete Silas Crews on the second team.

MCS senior defensive lineman Nifemi Esan was an honorable mention selection.

Fisher, Esan, junior Daniel Gower, senior Jeremy Helmcamp, senior Josh Brown, senior Luke Sheppard and junior Micah Strahan were Midland Christian honorees on the all-academic team.

**TAPPS Division II all-state football team**

**First team offense**

Quarterback – Tyler Knoop, Fort Worth Christian, Jr.

Running backs – Zach Smith, Austin Regents, Jr.; Maurice Washington, Cedar Hill Trinity, Sr.; Quaian Jones, Cedar Hill Trinity, Jr.; Cade Garcia, Fort Worth Christian, Sr.

Receivers – Zach Robert, Austin Regents, Sr.; Lincoln Veltenheimer, Grapevine Faith Sr.; Curtis Teichman, Houston Lutheran South, Sr.; Isaiah Haggerty, Tyler Bishop Gorman, Sr.

Tight end – Brandon Thomas, Sr., Dallas Christian

Offensive linemen – Walt Horton, Austin Regents, Sr.; Sawyer Alexander, Fort Worth Christian, Sr.; Victor Currie, Houston Second Baptist, Sr.; Jeffery Sims, Dallas Christian, Sr.; **Luke Fisher, Midland Christian, Sr.**

Kicker – Zach Robert, Austin Regents, Sr.

Athlete – Anthony MacKenzie, Houston Second Baptist, Jr.

**First team defense**

Defensive linemen – Cal Long, Austin Regents, Sr.; Christian Neal, Fort Worth Christian, Sr.; Joseph Harper, Houston Westbury Christian, Jr.; Kaliph Michael, San Antonio Holy Cross, So.; Justin Duffie, Tyler Bishop Gorman, Sr.

Linebackers – Ja'Marvin Hatfield, Cedar Hill Trinity, Jr.; Jay Marshall, Fort Worth Christian, Sr.; Chrisiion Harper, Houston Westbury Christian, Sr.; Palmer Nix, Dallas Christian, Sr.; Joshua Centeno, San Antonio Holy Cross, Sr.

Secondary – Carrson Smith, Cedar Hill Trinity, Sr.; Devin Baur, Fort Worth Christian, Sr.; Jayvon Hill, Houston Westbury Christian, Sr.; Davis Baucum, Dallas Christian, Sr.; Jaime Ramirez, San Antonio Holy Cross, Sr.

Punter – Jacob Ross, San Antonio St. Mary's, Sr.

**Second team offense (MCS only listed)**

Athlete – Silas Crews, Sr.

**Second team defense (MCS only listed)**

Linebacker – David Threadgill, Sr.

Secondary – Garison Breeding, So.

**Honorable mention defense (MCS only listed)**

Nifemi Esan, Sr.

**Academic All-State (MCS only listed)**

Luke Fisher, Sr.; Nifemi Esan, Sr.; Daniel Gower, Jr.; Jeremy Helmcamp, Sr.; Josh Brown, Sr.; Luke Sheppard, Sr.; Micah Strahan, Jr.

## NBA ROUNDUP

**MAVERICKS 98**
**RAPTORS 93**

DALLAS — J.J. Barea scored 20 points, including a clinching layup in the final seconds, and the Dallas Mavericks ended another six-game winning streak by Toronto with a 98-93 victory over the Raptors on Tuesday night.

The Mavericks held DeMar DeRozan and the Raptors to season lows in shooting percentage as Toronto lost for just the second time in 14 games, with each loss coming after six straight wins.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 18 points and fellow German Maxi Kleber had 15 points and matched his rookie season best with five blocks. Harrison Barnes had 16 points and 10 rebounds.

Kyle Lowry led Toronto with 23 points but didn't score in the fourth quarter, while DeRozan couldn't get going at all after averaging 37 points on a three-game road winning streak that ended.

**SPURS 109**
**NETS 97**

SAN ANTONIO — Kawhi Leonard scored 21 points, LaMarcus Aldridge added 20 and the Spurs beat the Nets in their first game of the season with every player healthy and available.

San Antonio is third in the Western Conference at 24-11 despite being without Leonard and/or Tony Parker for 30 games this season.

Playing with a full roster for the first time led to some hesitation, as the Spurs scored just 19 points in the opening quarter while trying to involve all their scoring options.

San Antonio settled into a rhythm, shooting 51 percent overall in capturing its 15th straight win at home over Brooklyn.

Pau Gasol added 15 points. Parker had 14 and Patty Mills and Manu Ginobili each had 11 for the Spurs.

**BULLS 115**
**BUCKS 106**

MILWAUKEE — Nikola Mirotic came off the bench to score 24 points in 28 minutes and the Bulls won for the eighth time in 10 games, beating the Bucks.

Chicago's surge coincides with the return of Mirotic, who missed the beginning of the season after suffering facial fractures in an October fight with teammate Bobby Portis.

Kris Dunn rebounded from a 1-for-12 shooting game Saturday against Boston with 20 points and 12 assists in 33 minutes for the Bulls.

Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 28 points and Eric Bledsoe had 22 to pace Milwaukee, which has lost five of seven.

Mirotic led Chicago's bench in outscoring Milwaukee's reserves 54-25. It was the second time the Bulls won at Milwaukee in 12 days, including a 115-109 victory on Dec. 15.

**PISTONS 107**
**PACERS 83**

DETROIT — Tobias Harris scored 30 points to help the Pistons rout the Pacers.

The victory moved the Pistons (19-14) past the Pacers (19-15) and into second spot in the NBA's Central Division.

Andre Drummond added 21 points for the Pistons. Ish Smith (12 points) and Reggie Bullock (11) also reached double digits for Detroit.

Victor Oladipo led the Pacers with 13 points. Domantas Sabonis, Bojan Bogdanovic and Myles Turner each scored 10 points.

The win gave the Pistons a 3-1 decision in the season series between the two teams, the first time Detroit had won the season set from Indiana since going 4-0 against the Pacers in 2007-08.



*LM Otero/Associated Press*

Dallas Mavericks guard J.J. Barea (5) reacts to scoring during the second half against the Toronto Raptors on Tuesday in Dallas. The Mavericks won 98-93.

**HEAT 107**
**MAGIC 89**

MIAMI — Josh Richardson scored 20 points, Wayne Ellington had 12 of his 18 points in a dominant fourth quarter and the Heat beat the struggling Magic.

Tyler Johnson added 17, Kelly Olynyk scored 15 and Goran Dragic had 14 for the Heat, who outscored Orlando 39-21 in the fourth — the biggest margin by Miami in a final quarter this season.

Hassan Whiteside returned from an 11-game absence with a bone bruise in his left knee, adding seven points and eight rebounds in 18 minutes.

Elfrid Payton scored 19 points for Orlando, which now has two separate nine-game losing streaks this season. The Magic started 8-4, and are 3-20 since.

Evan Fournier and Mario Hezonja had 14 apiece for Orlando, which got 12 from Marreese Speights. The Magic led by 10 in the third quarter, and got outscored by 28 in the final 20 minutes.

# Oklahoma-TCU headlines big week in Big 12

**By Aaron Beard**
*Associated Press*

RALEIGH, N.C. — The Big 12 is poised for a big week as conferences dive deep into league play.

It has a national-best six teams in this week's AP Top 25 along with two games featuring a pair of ranked teams, including No. 12 Oklahoma's visit to 10th-ranked surprise TCU as the top game on the schedule in the week ahead.

"I think it's two teams playing with a lot of confidence, and we've got to go in there and do what we do every day in practice," Sooners coach Lon Kruger said after Friday's win against Northwestern . "A lot of good teams in the Big 12 and we know how tough every night is going to be."

No. 18 Baylor (10-2) visits No. 22 Texas Tech (11-1) on Friday to start the Big 12 doubleheader, then freshman star Trae Young leads Oklahoma (10-1) into Fort Worth to face TCU (12-0) — which owns the nation's longest winning streak at 17 games dating to last year's run to the NIT title.

The Horned Frogs have their highest ranking in program history under second-year coach Jamie Dixon. They had never been higher than 13th (February 1998) before climbing five slots in Monday's new poll.

"It's what it is — I don't spend a lot of time on it," Dixon said after Friday's win against William & Mary . "I think we're good. I know we can be better. ... But I think certainly we'll have a big-time atmosphere and a big-time game come December 30th. That's what we came here to do. So it's upon us."

**Sun Devils' test**

Third-ranked Arizona State (12-0) has spent the past month reaching milestones for matching the highest ranking in program history (last time in 1980-81) and posting the best start in program history.

Now comes a new test: a Saturday trip to face a regrouped Arizona squad.

The 17th-ranked Wildcats (10-3) went from No. 2 nationally to unranked in a week after an 0-3 showing at the Battle 4 Atlantis in the Bahamas, but have since won seven straight games .

**More ranked matchups**

There are two other matchups between ranked teams. No. 23 Seton Hall hosts No. 25 Creighton in the Big East on Thursday, while No. 4 Duke hosts No. 24 Florida State in the Atlantic Coast Conference on Saturday.

**Villanova stays on top**

The top four teams stayed unchanged in Monday's poll , with Villanova checking in at No. 1 for the third straight week after receiving 43 of 65 first-place votes.

The Wildcats (12-0) open Big East play with two road games, first Wednesday at DePaul and then Saturday at Butler.

**Status quo**

There were no new teams nor departures from this week's poll, with eight teams staying in their same spot from last week.

**Watch list**

Arkansas was the leading vote-getter not to make this week's poll, though the Razorbacks will get a chance for a resume-helping win this week. The Razorbacks (9-2) first host Cal State-Bakersfield on Wednesday before hosting No. 19 Tennessee (9-2) on Saturday in their Southeastern Conference opener.

Clemson (11-1) hovers 30 points back of Arkansas and hosts North Carolina State on Saturday in the ACC.

Two other teams — Texas and Louisville — face ranked opponents Friday. The Longhorns (9-3) host No. 11 Kansas, while the Cardinals (10-2) visit No. 16 Kentucky.


**MIDLAND HUMANE COALITION**

UPCOMING EVENTS

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# Katie Ledecky swims to AP Female Athlete of the Year honors

**By Beth Harris**
*Associated Press*



Darko Bandic/AP File Photo

United States' Katie Ledecky reacts after winning the gold medal in the women's 1500-meter freestyle final during the World Aquatics Championships on July 25 in Budapest, Hungary. Ledecky was named The Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year on Tuesday.

Katie Ledecky got her start in swimming because she just wanted to make friends. Her brother was eager to join a team at a pool near their house and as a 6-year-old, she tagged along.

By summer's end, the Ledecky siblings had made 100 friends ranging in age from 6 to 18. Some of them remain good friends with Katie, who went on to become the world's best swimmer in the post-Michael Phelps era.

She earned five golds and a silver at this year's world championships in Budapest, maintaining the upward trajectory she first established as a surprise gold medalist at the 2012 London Olympics.

Her dominant performance in Hungary earned Ledecky Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year honors.

In balloting by U.S. editors and news directors announced Tuesday, Ledecky received 351 points, edging out Serena Williams with 343. Williams won the Australian Open for her Open era-record 23rd Grand Slam tennis title . Olympic track star Allyson Felix finished third in voting, with 248 points.

Last year, Ledecky was second to gymnast Simone Biles in the balloting.

The AP Male Athlete of the Year will be announced today.

Ledecky is the eighth female swimmer to win and the first since Amy Van Dyken in 1996. Among the others is 1969 winner Debbie Meyer. At last year's Rio de Janeiro Games, Ledecky equaled Meyer's feet of sweeping the 200, 400 and 800 freestyles in a single Olympics.

"It's a really great history of women swimmers and freestylers," Ledecky said of the AP honor roll. "I really look up to a lot of those women."

She is the first active college athlete to win since UConn basketball player Rebecca Lobo in 1995.

Ledecky is a sophomore at Stanford, still debating whether to major in psychology or political science, and enjoying life in the dorms, where she lives with five other swimmers.

"Just being in the college environment has kind of added another layer of fun," she said. "Being with teammates and working toward NCAA championships and having that team goal, that's another thing that is fun."

Ledecky heads to Colorado Springs, Colorado, for high-altitude training with her Stanford team this week. Her focus is on the collegiate season through the NCAAs in March.

In moving cross-country from her home in Bethesda, Maryland, to attend college in California, Ledecky left behind longtime coach Bruce Gemmell. But like some of those old summer league teammates, Ledecky has stayed in touch. She trains with Gemmell when she returns to visit her family.

She was a star to them in 2012 but a little-known 15-year-old to the rest of the world when she won the 800-meter freestyle in American-record time in London.

In 2013, Ledecky won four golds at the worlds in Barcelona, setting a pair of world records. Two years later in Kazan, she swept every freestyle from 200 to 1,500 meters, setting two more world records. Another two world records fell last year in Rio.

In her typically understated way, Ledecky said: "I really pride myself on the consistency I've had over the past couple years. Just being able to compete at the international level and come away with some gold medals each year."

Ledecky didn't set any personal bests or world records in Budapest, something she's done with such frequency that people expect to witness something spectacular anytime she dives in the pool.

Her loss in the 200 free in Hungary was considered an upset.

"If they're disappointed with me not breaking a world record, it's an honor because it's representative of what I've done in the past and a benchmark for myself," she said. "I don't focus on what anyone thinks of my goals or wants to see me do."

Not yet halfway toward the 2020 Tokyo Games, Ledecky already is thinking ahead. Like Phelps, she never publicly reveals her target times or placements.

"I set big goals for myself and that's always what has motivated me," she said.

Despite living in a results-focused world, Ledecky enjoys the journey, something she learned between London and Rio.

"Trying to find those little things to improve on and the process of getting better," she said. "Doing everything in practice to set yourself up well each year."

# Jones leads Duke over Northern Illinois, 36-14

**By Dave Hogg**
*Associated Press*

DETROIT — Daniel Jones threw for two touchdowns and ran for another as Duke beat Northern Illinois 36-14 in the Quick Lane Bowl on Tuesday.

Jones finished with 338 yards of offense, while Shaun Wilson and Brittain Brown added touchdowns for Duke (7-6).

Marcus Childers threw for 234 yards and a score for Northern Illinois (8-5).

The Blue Devils took a 14-0 lead in the first quarter, sandwiching rushing touchdowns around a failed Northern Illinois fake punt on 4th-and-18 from their own 11.

The Huskies had two first downs and 46 yards in the quarter, but tied the game with two scores in the first 2:38 of the second Duke, though, moved back into a 26-14 lead with two touchdowns before halftime.

Jones fumbled on the first possession of the second half, but Northern Illinois turned the ball back over after a failed fake field goal.

**The takeaway**

**Duke:** Other than the start of the second quarter, where they lost defensive focus on back-to-back possessions, the Blue Devils were in complete control.

**Northern Illinois:** The Huskies recovered from the disastrous first-quarter fake punt to get back into the game, but couldn't stay with Duke on either side of the ball.

## COLLEGE BOWL GLANCE

**Tuesday's Scores**
**Heart of Dallas Bowl**
Utah 30, West Virginia 14
**Quick Lane Bowl**
**Detroit**
Duke 36, Northern Illinois 14
**Cactus Bowl**
**Phoenix**
Kansas State (7-5) vs. UCLA (6-6), late
**Today's Games**
**Independence Bowl**
**Shreveport, La.**
Southern Mississippi (8-4) vs. Florida State (6-6), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)
**Pinstripe Bowl**
**Bronx, N.Y.**
Boston College (7-5) vs. Iowa (7-5), 4:15 p.m. (ESPN)
**Foster Farms Bowl**
**Santa Clara, Calif.**
Arizona (7-5) vs. Purdue (6-6), 7:30 p.m. (FOX)
**Texas Bowl**
**Houston**
Texas (6-6) vs. Missouri (7-5), 8 p.m. (ESPN)
**Thursday, Dec. 28**
**Military Bowl**
**Annapolis, Md.**
Virginia (6-6) vs. Navy (8-4), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)
**Camping World Bowl**
**Orlando, Fla.**
Oklahoma State (9-3) vs. Virginia Tech (9-3), 4:15 p.m. (ESPN)
**Alamo Bowl**
**San Antonio**
Stanford (9-4) vs. TCU (10-3), 8 p.m. (ESPN)
**Holiday Bowl**
**San Diego**
Washington State (9-3) vs. Michigan State (9-3), 8 p.m. (FOX)
**Friday, Dec. 29**
**Belk Bowl**
**Charlotte, N.C.**
Wake Forest (7-5) vs. Texas A&M (7-5), noon (ESPN)
**Sun Bowl**
**El Paso, Texas**
NC State (8-4) vs. Arizona State (7-6), 2 p.m. (CBS)
**Music City Bowl**
**Nashville, Tenn.**
Kentucky (7-5) vs. Northwestern (9-3), 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)
**Arizona Bowl**
**Tucson, Ariz.**
New Mexico State (5-6) vs. Utah State (8-4), 4:30 p.m. (CBSSN)
**Cotton Bowl Classic**
**Arlington, Texas**
Southern Cal (11-2) vs. Ohio State (11-2), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)
**Saturday, Dec. 30**
**TaxSlayer Bowl**
**Jacksonville, Fla.**
Louisville (8-4) vs. Mississippi State (8-4), 11 a.m. (ESPN)
**Liberty Bowl**
**Memphis, Tenn.**
Iowa State (7-5) vs. Memphis (10-2), 11:30 a.m. (ABC)
**Fiesta Bowl**
**Glendale, Ariz.**
West Virginia (10-2) vs. Penn State (10-2), 3 p.m. (ESPN)
**Orange Bowl**
**Miami Gardens, Fla.**
Wisconsin (12-1) vs. Miami (10-2), 7 p.m. (ESPN)
**Monday, Jan. 1**
**Outback Bowl**
**Tampa, Fla.**
Michigan (8-4) vs. South Carolina (8-4), 11 a.m. (ESPN2)
**Peach Bowl**
**Atlanta**
UCF (12-0) vs. Auburn (10-3), 11:30 a.m. (ESPN)
**Citrus Bowl**
**Orlando, Fla.**
Notre Dame (9-3) vs. LSU (9-3), noon (ABC)
**Rose Bowl (CFP Semifinal)**
**Pasadena, Calif.**
Oklahoma (12-1) vs. Georgia (12-1), 4:10 p.m. (ESPN)
**Sugar Bowl (CFP Semifinal)**
**New Orleans**
Clemson (12-1) vs. Alabama (11-1), 7:45 p.m. (ESPN)
**Monday, Jan. 8**
**College Football Championship**
**Atlanta**
Rose Bowl winner vs. Sugar Bowl winner, 7 p.m. (ESPN)
**Saturday, Jan. 20**
**East-West Shrine Classic**
**At St. Petersburg, Fla.**
East vs. West, 2 p.m. (NFLN)
**NFLPA Collegiate Bowl**
**At Carson, Calif.**
American vs. National, 3 p.m. (FS1)
**Saturday, Jan. 27**
**Senior Bowl**
**At Mobile, Ala.**
North vs. South, 1:30 p.m. (NFLN)

## TEXANS

From 1C

However, O'Brien was quick to point out that Yates isn't the only problem in Houston's passing woes.

"There's a lot that goes into playing that position and it's not just him," O'Brien said. "It's protection. It's route-running. It's his execution, his reads of the coverage, his ability to go from one side to the next as far as making the proper read within his progression. So, we'll work on all those things and he'll ... work very, very hard to improve and we'll get it better this week."

One encouraging sign from Monday's loss to the Steelers was the improvement of the running game. The Texans finished with 176 yards rushing for their first 100-yard rushing game since running for 134 in their win over the Cardinals on Nov. 19.

That effort was led by backup Alfred Blue, who had 16 carries for a season-high 108 yards. It was the first time this season Houston has had a 100-yard rusher as Lamar Miller has struggled in his second season with the Texans after running for 1,073 yards last season.

The Texans will likely have to sign another quarterback this week to back up Yates after Taylor Heinicke sustained a concussion on Monday when he briefly took over when Yates was being evaluated for a concussion.

O'Brien said he wasn't sure of Heinicke's status for this week on Monday and that they were discussing options if he can't play.

Though this season is very different from O'Brien's first three with the Texans, he insists that he and his staff are approaching the last game the same way they have faced every week since he arrived here and they're determined to turn things around on Sunday.

"The thing that's key for our players and our coaches to understand is that we have to prepare and be ready to go on Sunday because that's what our responsibility is as professional coaches and professional players, and that's what we're going to do," he said. "These guys are going to prepare hard, they're going to practice hard and we'll go up there and try to find a way to win."

## UTAH

From 1C

West Virginia (7-6) finished the season with its third straight loss. The Mountaineers had only 153 total yards without junior quarterback Will Grier, who broke a finger Nov. 18, and 1,000-yard rusher Justin Crawford, a senior who bypassed the bowl game in advance of the NFL draft.

"It was a pretty disappointing loss to end a pretty disappointing season," Mountaineers coach Dana Holgorsen said. "You never hear me use it as an excuse. If you lose guys, you need guys to step in and play at a high level and that is the bottom line."

Whittingham's debut as head coach was a Fiesta Bowl win at the end of the 2004 season. He co-coached that game with Urban Meyer, who had taken the Florida job three weeks earlier but returned to be part of Utah's post-season win over Pittsburgh after his defensive coordinator had been promoted to head coach.

Under Whittingham, the Utes prepare for bowl games like regular season games, often in full pads and with continuing conditioning work. There is also a little bit of peer pressure.

"We've got a group of guys and have had several groups of guys come here that take a lot of pride in their bowl performance and the bowl record that we have," Whittingham said. "This group was no different. Each subsequent group doesn't want to be the group that lets the previous groups down. They want to keep that bowl prowess alive."

**The takeaway**

**Utah:** Both of Huntley's TDs came after West Virginia miscues. The first came after a muffed punt return set Utah up at the Mountaineers 13, and the second came after an offside penalty on a short punt gave the Utes a second chance on fourth down. Huntley then completed a 25-yard pass on the fourth-and-3 play before scoring on another short run.

West Virginia: The Mountaineers missed Grier, who broke the middle finger on his throwing hand early in a loss against Texas. Grier, whose 34 TD passes were the second most in a season for West Virginia, already has said he will return next year for his senior season.

Saban has a chance, maybe two, to add a bowl win this season. The Crimson Tide will play Clemson in the Sugar Bowl on New Year's Day in the College Football Playoff. Two other active coaches can get their 11th bowl wins before then: Miami's Mark Richt and Meyer, who is now at Ohio State.

KaRaun White's 18-yard TD catch with 2 minutes left for West Virginia put him over 1,000 yards receiving this season, along with teammate Gary Jennings. But David Sills V, who had 18 TD catches, had no catches Tuesday and finished 20 yards shy of giving the Mountaineers three 1,000-yard receivers.

Utah: The junior seasons for Huntley and Moss begin at home on Aug. 30 against Weber State. For the start of what will be Whittingham's 14th full season, the Utes could have back 14 of their starters from the bowl game (eight on offense, six on defense).

West Virginia: Grier can be back in the lineup for the 2018 season opener Sept. 1 against Tennessee in Charlotte. It will be the third time in five years the Mountaineers will open a season against another Power Five opponent in an NFL stadium.

## TEXAS

From 1C

in 1996 when he won the Heisman Trophy.

Lock threw for 3,695 yards and has thrown three or more touchdown passes in each of his last eight games, highlighted by a six-touchdown game in a win over Idaho.

"He's playing with a lot of confidence," Herman said. "He's getting the ball out of his hands quickly and accurately. But I also see guys, supporting cast, that are making plays for him, too."

**Two Quarterbacks**

Herman said that both Shane Buechele and Sam Ehlinger will get time at quarterback against the Tigers.

Ehlinger is a freshman who appeared in eight games and was 147 of 260 for 1,803 yards with 10 touchdowns and seven interceptions. Buechele is a sophomore who also played in eight games. He was 131 of 199 for 1,350 yards with six touchdowns and four interceptions.

"Neither of these quarterbacks have done anything so egregious that you would say that a guy is behind the other one, but neither of them have done anything really to take the bull by the horns," Herman said. "So we'll figure out who is playing better and who is in a rhythm and who is seeing the defense better and playing the game better and ride that guy for as long as we can."

**Defensive turnaround**

After the 1-5 start, Missouri's defense made a major turnaround to help get the Tigers on the right track. Through their first six games the Tigers allowed 42.2 points a game, but have allowed just 21.3 points a game since then.

The Tigers have a knack for getting in the backfield and are tied for 14th in the nation with 92 tackles for losses.

## OKLAHOMA

From 1C

We didn't have any problem moving the ball against SEC defenses, one of the best ones in the country last year, in the bowl game."

Riley said at the time that some of the offensive numbers Big 12 teams allow during league play are a product of teams taking necessary risks. He called the perception that the Big 12 was a step below "uneducated."

"When you play great offenses week in and week out, and when the other teams know you're playing great offenses, people are going to be more aggressive," he said. "People are more aggressive against us, I promise you, because they know they're going to have to score some points to win. So it's a little bit different mindset. It's a different set of challenges."

Even in those statements, Riley was more reserved than Stoops. As the Sooners prepared for Tennessee in 2014, Riley's predecessor quipped about the SEC's supposed belief that its athletes are a cut above.

"I don't know," Stoops said at the time. "That hasn't been the case in our experience. Whenever we've played, that hasn't been much of a difference."

After Oklahoma's win over Auburn, Stoops said reporters should "maybe just bury that narrative" about SEC supremacy.

Heisman winner Baker Mayfield has a chance to extend Oklahoma's streak against the conference. Smart knows the Bulldogs will have their hands full.

"People have always said the SEC is going to have really competitive defensive linemen that can pass-rush and reduce that time window, but I think Baker Mayfield is the great equalizer because he extends that time, and he makes those plays go longer where you have to cover longer," Smart said. "That has a lot to do with it, and they've got really good skill receivers in that conference."

# SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 7 | | | | 2 |
| | 8 | | 1 | | | | | 9 |
| 9 | 5 | | | | 2 | | | |
| 1 | 6 | 8 | | | | | 2 | |
| 5 | 3 | | | | | | 4 | 8 |
| | 2 | | | | | 6 | 9 | 5 |
| | | | 5 | | | | 3 | 7 |
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SOLUTION TO TUESDAY'S PUZZLE

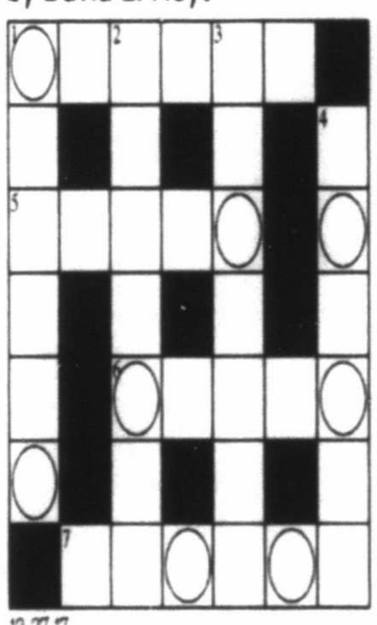
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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 8 |
| 6 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 |
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| 2 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 4 |
| 4 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 5 |
| 3 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 1 |
| 9 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 6 |
| 8 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 7 |
| 1 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 9 |

12/27/17

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# JUMBLE® CROSSWORDS™

by David L. Hoyt



**ACROSS**

| CLUE | ANSWER |
|---|---|
| 1. Multitude | GONLEI |
| 5. Striped mammal | ARZBE |
| 6. Fibbing | YNLGI |
| 7. ___ medal | ZROBEN |

**DOWN**

| CLUE | ANSWER |
|---|---|
| 1. Type of reptile | ZRLADI |
| 2. Male turkey | ROBGELB |
| 3. Standing ___ | VOANOTI |
| 4. ___ parent | GSINEL |

How to play - Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

12-27-17

**CLUE:** This character was given a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 2004.

BONUS ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )

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ANSWERS: 1A-Legion 5A-Zebra 6A-Lying 7A-Bronze 1D-Lizard 2D-Gobbler 3D-Orator 4D-Single 5D-Goatee

Send comments to TCA - 435 N. Michigan Ave., Third Floor, Chicago, IL 60611 or DLHoyt@aol.com

# JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TYTKI ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )

VICCI ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )

GIDNIO ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )

NIWONM ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )

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Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app




Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PANIC CLERK VASTLY THROWN
Answer: The new national book club had — LOCAL CHAPTERS

# DAILY CROSSWORD

Edited By Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

**ACROSS**

1 Bottomless gulf
6 See 8-Down
11 Murphy __
14 Lerner collaborator
15 "That's my wish"
16 "Fahrenheit 451" novelist Bradbury
17 "More than just indoctrinated
19 Ducks' home: Abbr.
20 Hindu retreat
21 Available to watch anytime
23 Classic Fords
25 Pomegranate bit
26 Three-time Pulitzer-winning playwright
29 Big letters in home security
32 Costume items for horror movie villains
35 __ of paradise
36 Top
38 CD yield
39 "Rope-a-dope" boxer
40 Labeled ... or, divided into three parts, what surrounds the answers to starred clues
41 Actress Ruby
42 Pester
43 Irritated reply to "Aren't you ready yet?"
44 Toolbar button with a question mark
45 Messenger service replaced by Google Hangouts
47 Suffix with front
48 Area component
49 Lipstick holder
51 High-five sound
53 Homers, in baseball lingo
57 Have high hopes
61 At all
62 "Brunette
64 Frozen water
65 Cry after a golfer's ace
66 Human __
67 Journalist Koppel
68 The ones here
69 Newspaper copy

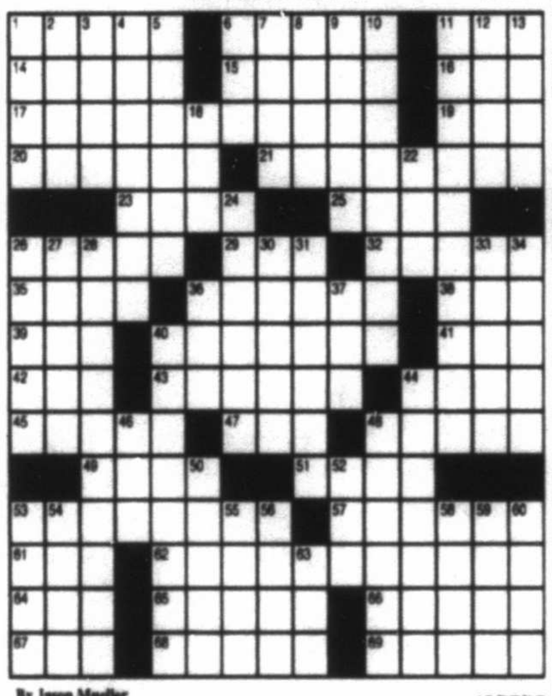
**DOWN**

1 "Sin City" actress Jessica
2 Knight of the Round Table
3 "You said it!"
4 Blew in circles, as the wind
5 100-lawmaker group
6 Actress Farrow
7 "Got it"
8 With 6-Across, prime minister before Tony Blair
9 Newspaper essays
10 Used, as credit card rewards
11 "Hit at an intersection, maybe
12 Merit
13 Made blue, in a way
18 Iraq War concern: Abbr.
22 "Do __ favor ..."
24 Sandwich meat
26 Go out with __
27 Flowery candle scent
28 "Alert and peppy
30 "No man is an island" poet
31 Henry VIII et al.
33 Prepared to pray
34 Two-time NBA MVP Curry
36 Bikini half
37 Wrap (up)
40 Gradually
44 Many Woodstock attendees
46 Ger. neighbor
48 Sushi condiment
50 Third of eight
52 "Well, __-di-dahl"
53 Walking pace
54 Previously
55 Wine choice
56 Sobriety checkpoint concerns, for short
58 Spring flower
59 Bausch + Lomb product
60 Brink
63 Peoria-to-Green Bay dir.

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | I | M | O | S | A | | U | L | N | A | | E | F | T |
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| | S | T | E | R | | | T | H | U | N | D | E | R | |
| G | O | A | T | C | H | E | E | S | E | | D | I | C | E |
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| T | U | R | N | C | O | A | T | | L | E | O | N | I | D |
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| A | S | P | | S | L | E | D | | A | S | S | E | T | S |

xwordeditor@aol.com 12/27/17



By Jason Mueller
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1.

G T
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2.

oy

Print Your Answers Here:

1. ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )
( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )
2. ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )

Today's Answers:

1. Traveling around the country
2. Annoy

12-27

Created by Tom Underwood
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WUZZLES® Answers

1. Traveling around the country
2. Annoy

12-27

Be sure to check out Sunday's edition to read weekly

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

| | G | S | R | C | N | 6 PM | 6:30 | 7 PM | 7:30 | 8 PM | 8:30 | 9 PM | 9:30 | 10 PM | 10:30 | 11 PM | 11:30 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| KMID ABC | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 2 | Jeopardy! (N) | Wheel of Fortune (N) | Goldberg | Speech-less | Modern Family | Am.Ho-usewife | Match Game | | News (N) | (:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live | | (:34) News Nightline |
| KOSA CBS | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | CBS 7 News (N) | Ent. Tonight | To Be Announced | | SEAL Team "The Spinning Wheel" | | Criminal Minds "Collision Course" | | CBS 7 News (N) | (:35) The Late Show | | (:35) J.Corden |
| KWWT CW | 5 | 14 | | 5 | 14 | M*A*S*H | M*A*S*H "Dreams" | A. Griffith | A. Griffith | Mama's Family | ALF | Hogan's Heroes | Hogan's Heroes | Carol Burnett | Mason "The Case of the Resolute Reformer" | | Twilight "Two" |
| KPEJ FOX | 8 | 5 | 5 | 8 | 3 | Big Bang Theory | Big Bang Theory | CBF Pre-game (L) | NCAA Football Foster Farms Bowl Arizona vs. Purdue Site: Levi's Stadium -- Santa Clara, Calif. (L) | | | | | | | Fox 24 News | Met Your Mother |
| KMLM IND | 11 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 11 | Shepherd's Heart | | Update News | Creation Magazine | Light of the Southwest | | Light of the Southwest | | Update News | In Touch With Dr. Charles Stanley | | The Essentials |
| KWES NBC | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | NewsW-est 9 (N) | NewsWest 9 Now | The Wall "Prince and Chris" (N) | | Dolly Parton's Christmas of Many Colors: Circle of Love Jennifer Nettles. | | | | NewsW-est 9 (N) | (:35) The Tonight Show | | (:35) Seth Meyers |
| KPBT PBS | 13 | 13 | | 13 | 8 | PBS NewsHour (N) | | Nature | | Nova "Day the Dinosaurs Died" (N) | | SuperNature: Wild "Crowded Skies" | | Nature | | News (N) | Tavis Smiley |
| KUPB UNI | 4 | 4 | | 4 | 16 | Enamorandome de Ramon | | El Rey David | | Mi marido tiene familia | | Caer en Tentacion | | Noticias Tejas | Noticiero noctu. | Contacto Deportivo | |
| KOSA MNT | 16 | 16 | | 16 | | Last Man | Last Man | Dateline "Tangled" | | Dateline "Consumed" | | Mike&M. | Mike&M. | Anger M. | Anger M. | Game | Game |
| FLIX | 340 | 575 | | 165 | | (5:04) Away From... | | (:35) The OC,sr Solemn Gir! | | | | | | | | | |
| HBO | 300 | 500 | 14 | 14 | | (5:30) Wanted | | (:20) Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice Ben Affleck. | | | | | | Fight (N) | Boxing | | Boxing |
| HBO2 | 302 | 501 | 15 | 101 | 23 | (:10) Game of Thrones | (:05) Thrones | (:10) Gunpowder | | (:10) Gunpowder | | | | (:15) Gunpowder | | (:15) Deepwater... | |
| HBO5 | 304 | 552 | 16 | 102 | | (:15) Down With Love Ewan McGregor. | | Wilson Woody Harrelson. | | | | | | (:40) Unforgettable Rosario Dawson. | | | Movie |
| MAX | 380 | 557 | 17 | 120 | 24 | (4:55) Duplicity | The Big Lebowski Jeff Bridges. | | | Keanu | | | | (:40) Independence Day: Re... | | | |
| MAX2 | 382 | 550 | 18 | 122 | | (:15) The Truth About Charlie | | EuroTrip | | | | | | (:20) Semi-Pro Will Ferrell. | | (:10) Sixteen Can... | |
| PLEX | | | 96 | | | (5:15) Something... | An Ideal Husband | | | (:40) Miss Pettigrew Lives I... | | | | (:15) Uptown Girls | | | Movie |
| SHOW | 320 | 548 | 19 | 140 | 25 | (5:40) Legends of the Fall Brad Pitt. | | The Hateful Eight ('15, Wes) Samuel L. Jackson. | | | | | | | | Punisher: War ... | |
| TMC | 336 | 570 | 22 | 155 | 26 | (5:20) The Imbecile... | | Conan the Barbarian | | | | | | (:10) Conan the Destroyer | | Darkman | |
| ABE | 27 | 58 | 28 | 35 | 47 | Storage Wars | Storage Wars | Storage Wars | Storage Wars | Storage Wars (N) | Storage Wars (N) | Ozzy'sonBlack "Slit" and Chillin" (N) | | (:40) S. Wars | (:20) S. Wars | (:40) S. Wars | (:20) S. Wars |
| AMC | 40 | 74 | 23 | 42 | 51 | (:10) Into the Badlands | | (:10) Badlands | | (:10) Badlands | | | | (:11) Badlands | | (:11) Badlands | |
| BET | 58 | - | | 40 | | Movie | To Be Announced | | | | | Face | 50 | Face | 50 | Martin | Martin |
| BRAVO | 65 | 76 | | 41 | | Housewives NJ | | Housewives NJ | | Housewives NJ | | Housewives NJ | | Watch | Beverly Hills | | Beverly |
| CNBC | 46 | 52 | | 39 | 72 | Shark Tank | | Shark Tank | | Shark Tank | | Jobinter | Jobinter | Shark Tank | | Shark Tank | |
| CNN | 43 | 50 | 51 | 30 | 56 | OutFront | | A. Cooper 360 | | CNN Special Report | | CNN Tonight | | A. Cooper 360 | | CNN Special Report | |
| DISC | 50 | 60 | 31 | 24 | 42 | Homestead (N) | | To Be Announced | | Homestead (N) | | To Be Announced | | Homestead Rescue | | To Be Announced | |
| DISNEY | 56 | 64 | 36 | 25 | 36 | Gravity | (:20) Gravity | Gravity | Gravity | Gravity Falls | | Bizaard. | LivMad | Bizaard. | Raven's. | StuckMid. | Bunk'd |
| ESPN | 32 | 35 | 48 | 31 | 30 | (6:15) NCAA Football | | (:40) Scrmb. | | NCAA Football Texas Bowl Texas vs. Missouri Site: NRG Stadium (L) | | | | | | | SC (N) |
| ESPN2 | 34 | 36 | 49 | 32 | 31 | NCAA Basketball E. Michigan vs Syracuse (L) | | | | NCAA Basketball C. Florida vs SMU (L) | | | | SportsCenter (N) | | SpritC (N) | Awards |
| FNC | 45 | 48 | 53 | 23 | 55 | The Story | | Tucker Carlson | | Hannity | | ••••••graham | | Fox News @ Night | | Tucker Carlson | |
| FOOD | 64 | 70 | 27 | 68 | 54 | Iron Chef "Final" | | Iron Chef Showdown | | Iron Chef Show. (N) | | Iron Chef: Behind (N) | | Iron Chef America | | Iron Chef Showdown | |
| FREEFORM | 53 | 63 | 34 | 42 | 33 | (5:30) Matilda | | | | Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory | | | | The 700 Club | | Gnomeo & Juliet | |
| FSSW | 37 | 38 | 50 | 45 | 29 | NBA Basketball Dallas Mavericks at Indiana Pacers Site: Bankers Life Fieldhouse -- Indianapolis, Ind. (L) | | | | | Mavs Post (L) | Rangers Insider | Cowboys Legends | Soccer Kick In for Houston Site: BBVA Compass Stadium | | | Best of Game |
| FX | 31 | 56 | 59 | 64 | 69 | (5:00) The Wolverine Hugh Jackman. | | | | X-Men: Days of Future Past ('14, Adv) Ian McKellen, Hugh Jackman. | | | | | | | Mother |
| HALLMARK | 54 | 71 | 58 | | 34 | (5:00) Marry Me ... | | A Rose for Christmas Rachel Boston. | | | | | | Christmas Getaway Bridget Regan. | | The Mistletoe Inn | |
| HGTV | 63 | 69 | 26 | 48 | 44 | Buying and Selling | | Property Brothers | | Property Brothers (N) | | H.Hunt | House (N) | Property Brothers | | Property Brothers | |
| HISTORY | 71 | 59 | 29 | 50 | 43 | American Pickers | | American Pickers | | American Pickers | | (:40) Amer. Pickers | | (:40) Amer. Pickers | | (:40) Amer. Pickers | |
| LIFETIME | 28 | 30 | 25 | 28 | 48 | Little Women: Atlanta "Rumor Has It" | | LittleW. (N) | (:50) LW Atlanta | LW Atlanta "Big Little News" (N) | | WomenTerra'sBigWe-dding "Pipe Dreams" (N) | | LittleW. (N) 4:10 | LittleW. | LW Atlanta | (:50) LW Atlanta |
| MSNBC | 47 | 53 | | 49 | 73 | Hardball (N) | | All In (N) | | Rachel Maddow (N) | | The Last Word (N) | | The 11th Hour (N) | | Rachel Maddow | |
| NBCSN | 38 | 43 | | | | NHL Live! (L) | | NHL Hockey Washington Capitals at New York Rangers (L) | | | | | | (:40) NHL Overtime (L) | WinterClsc | Sport | Sport |
| NICK | 55 | - | 39 | 34 | 37 | The Thundermans | | Thunder | Nicky | F.House | F.House | F.House | F.House | Friends | Friends | Friends | Friends |
| SPIKE | 30 | - | 55 | 53 | 58 | Friends | Friends | Friends | Friends | Training Day ('01, Thril) Denzel Washington. | | | | | | The Departed | |
| SYFY | 66 | 82 | 41 | 57 | 67 | Movie | Thor ('11, Act) Chris Hemsworth. | | | | | Happy! (N) | | G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra | | | |
| TBS | 25 | 33 | 44 | 66 | 41 | Big Bang Theory | Big Bang Theory | Big Bang Theory | Big Bang Theory | Big Bang Theory | Big Bang Theory | Big Bang Theory | Full Frontal | Conan Andy Samberg, Jay Oakerson | | Full Frontal | Conan |
| TCM | 41 | 75 | 24 | 63 | 66 | (5:45) Cat People | | The Producers | | | | (:45) The Front Woody Allen. | | | The Angel Levine | | |
| TELE | 20 | - | 10 | 20 | | Caso cerrado (N) | Hasta Que Te Conoci | | | Sangre de mi Tie (N) | | Señora acero (N) | | Al rojo | Titulares | Sangre de mi Tierra | |
| TLC | 51 | 61 | 32 | 38 | 52 | My 600-lb Life "Steven and Justin's Story Part 1" Pt. 1 of 2 cont'd next | | | | My 600-lb Life "Steven and Justin's Story Part 2" 2/2 | | | | My 600-lb Life "Steven and Justin's Story Part 1" 1/2 cont'd next | | | |
| TNT | 24 | 34 | 40 | 26 | 50 | (5:00) Red ('10, Act) Bruce Willis. | | Librarians "And the Bleeding Crown" (N) | | Librarians "And the Graves of Time" (N) | | The Librarians "And the Bleeding Crown" | | The Librarians "And the Graves of Time" | | Blast From the Past | |
| TVLAND | 49 | - | 35 | 54 | 35 | MASH | M*A*S*H | Loves Ray | Loves Ray | Loves Ray | Loves Ray | Mom | Mom | Queens | Queens | Queens | Queens |
| USA | 26 | 55 | 42 | 27 | 49 | Law & Order: S.V.U. "Twenty-Five Acts" | | Law & Order: S.V.U. "Daydream Believer" | | Law & Order: S.V.U. "Parent's Nightmare" | | Fifty Shades of Grey A literature student falls for a wealthy young entrepreneur with singular tastes. | | | | (:35) Chrisley | |
| WGN | 19 | 85 | | | | Cops | Cops | Cops | Cops | Cops | Cops | Cops | Cops | Cops | Cops | Cops | Cops |

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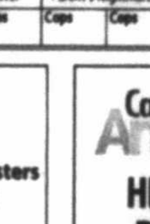
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# *Husband's threat of divorce compels wife to lose weight*

## Dear Abby



*Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Her column is distributed by Universal Press Syndicate.*

**DEAR ABBY:** I have been married for 18 years and have two wonderful kids, ages 14 and 12. Ten months ago, my husband said to me, "I told you I would divorce you if you ever got fat." I was shocked! Yes, I have gained some weight over the years, but at 5 feet 5 inches tall and 150 pounds, I was not exactly obese.

I was frightened by what he said, so I took off 25 pounds. He didn't appear to notice, so I asked him, "Now what do you think?" He said, "You have no muscle tone!"

Abby, nothing I do is good enough. I work part-time and take care of our kids and the house. I go out of my way to cook and bake interesting things for them. Any appreciation? His praise is, "Not bad."

Abby, what should I do? — BIGGEST LOSER IN NEW YORK

**DEAR "LOSER":** Before I answer your question, I should point out that the way some abusers maintain control is by withholding approval, love, money, etc.

According to the National Institutes of Health, a woman who is 5 feet 5 inches tall should weigh between 114 and 144 pounds to be considered a normal weight. For your husband to threaten you with divorce if you didn't lose weight was brutal. Nothing you do is good enough because keeping you insecure and always trying to gain his approval is how he maintains the upper hand in your marriage. Losing weight is not easy. You should have been praised for your success.

Since you asked what to do, I'll tell you: Take him at his word. Your husband may have said your muscle tone is flabby, but from where I sit, what's sagging is your self-esteem. Go to the gym. Get into a training program. Improve that muscle tone, and along with it your image of yourself.

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a 63-year-old widow. I have not been with a man since my husband died 10 years ago. I am now dating a 31- year-old man. I am deeply in love with him. He says he's in love with me, too, but his family says he doesn't know what love is. He was previously in a four-year relationship with someone his own age.

Am I crazy for dating a man who is 31? He's everything I have always wanted, and what I would consider the perfect man for me. He claims his only problem with dating me is that I will probably pass away in 20 years, and he will be alone and devastated. My concern is I feel I am preventing him from future children and a possible wife his own age. He says he doesn't want kids, but I'm not so sure. Please tell me what to do. I have never been in this situation before. — HELP, PLEASE, IN PENNSYLVANIA

**DEAR HELP, PLEASE:** As relationships evolve, couples learn more about each other. You didn't mention how long you and this man have been involved with each other, but if it has been less than a year, you would be wise to slow things down. It would be in your interest to know why his family thinks he doesn't know what love is. The answer to that question could be enlightening.

# Goren Bridge

**With Bob Jones**

## Solving the problem

Neither vulnerable, South deals

NORTH
♠6 2
♡K J 3 2
◇Q 10 6 5 2
♣Q 8

WEST
♠A Q 9 7 3
♡10 4
◇A K J 9
♣K 4

EAST
♠J 8 4
♡7 6 5
◇8 7 4
♣7 5 3 2

SOUTH
♠K 10 5
♡A Q 9 8
◇3
♣A J 10 9 6

The bidding:

| SOUTH | WEST | NORTH | EAST |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1♠ | Dbl | 1♤ | Pass |
| 1♡ | 1♠ | 2♡ | Pass |
| 3♠ | Pass | 4♡ | All pass |

Opening lead: Ace of ◇

The auction gave South ample warning that the king of spades might not be well placed, but he soldiered on bravely anyway. Brave is what we call it when it leads to success. His game try was accepted by North and he now had to find a way to solve the spade problem.

The ace of diamonds opening lead held the trick and West shifted to the 10 of hearts, won in dummy with the jack. One way to solve the spade problem was to find the king of clubs onside, so South hopefully ran the queen of clubs at trick three. No luck there, as West won the king of clubs and led another trump, won in hand by declarer with the queen.

Looking at two almost certain spade losers, South came up with a clever plan. He cashed the ace and jack of clubs, discarding a spade from dummy. A low heart to dummy's king drew the last outstanding trump, and South led dummy's remaining spade to his 10. West won with the queen but could do nothing to hurt declarer.

A diamond would set up dummy's queen, so West did the best he could by leading a low spade away from his ace. South was not fooled and discarded a diamond from dummy, winning with the king in his hand. He ruffed his remaining spade in dummy and claimed the rest. Nicely played!

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### HAGAR THE HORRIBLE




### FUNKY WINKERBEAN




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### BEETLE BAILEY




### ZITS




### CLASSIC PEANUTS




### BABY BLUES



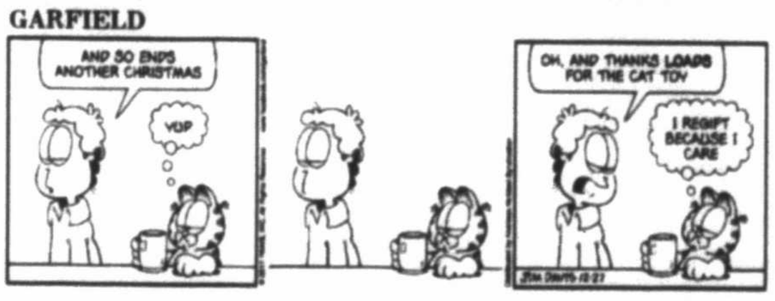

### SHOE




### MUTTS




### GARFIELD




### CLOSE TO HOME




Brindini's Law of Inverse Proportional Leftover Containers: The smaller the amount of food, the larger the container will be.

### DENNIS THE MENACE



"I'd be cranky, too, if I had to spend my childhood winding everything up!"

### PEARLS BEFORE SWINE




### WIZARD OF ID




### LOCKHORNS



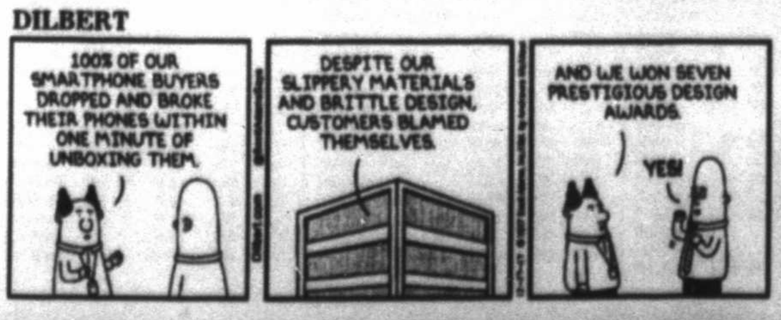
"IT'S BAD ENOUGH BEING A FOOTBALL WIDOW... NOW I'M A FANTASY FOOTBALL WIDOW."

### FAMILY CIRCUS




"...He's back at the North Pole taking a long winter's nap."

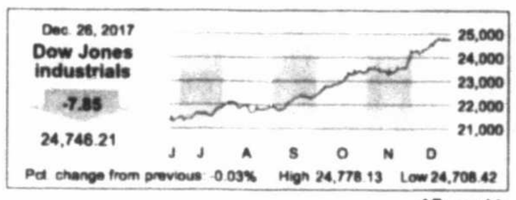
### DILBERT



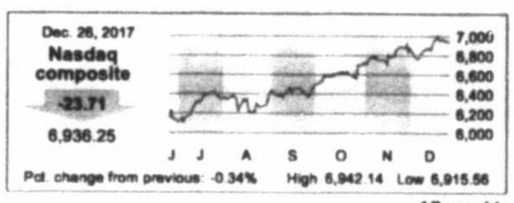
# BUSINESS & OIL



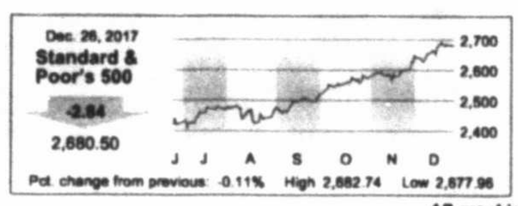
## A DAY ON WALL STREET




AP graphic




AP graphic




AP graphic

## OIL PRICES

**FUTURES**

| | |
|---|---|
| Tuesday: | $59.97 |
| Previous: | $58.47 |

**POSTED**

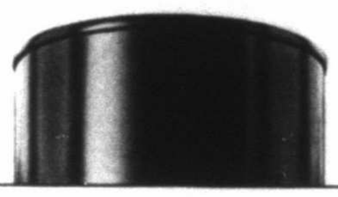
| | |
|---|---|
| Tuesday: | $56.25 |
| Previous: | $55.00 |

**WEST TEXAS SOUR**

| | |
|---|---|
| Tuesday: | $53.50 |
| Previous: | $52.25 |

**NATURAL GAS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Tuesday: | $2.643 |
| Previous: | $2.667 |



### NYSE

**MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)**

| Name | Vol (00) | Last | Chg |
|---|---|---|---|
| GenElec | 526140 | 17.43 | +.05 |
| BkofAm | 414964 | 29.78 | -.10 |
| S&P500ETF | 374160 | 267.19 | -.30 |
| SPDR Fncl | 312964 | 27.97 | -.08 |
| VanEGold | 267492 | 23.20 | +.31 |

**GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)**

| Name | Last | Chg | %Chg |
|---|---|---|---|
| MV Oil9 | 8.88 | +1.00 | +12.7 |
| PionEnSvc | 2.75 | +.30 | +12.2 |
| Mechel rs | 4.69 | +.48 | +11.4 |
| BaytexE g | 3.09 | +.30 | +10.8 |
| EP Energy | 2.30 | +.21 | +10.0 |

**LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)**

| Name | Last | Chg | %Chg |
|---|---|---|---|
| CS InvBr n | 51.07 | -5.63 | -9.9 |
| Etr2xLevLg | 16.58 | -1.43 | -7.9 |
| USCF SNOI | 11.58 | -1.00 | -7.9 |
| UBS 3xInvC | 15.55 | -1.27 | -7.6 |
| CentEBr B | 6.26 | -.50 | -7.4 |

**DIARY**

| | |
|---|---|
| Advanced | 1,637 |
| Declined | 1,262 |
| Unchanged | 123 |
| Total issues | 3,022 |
| New Highs | 175 |
| New Lows | 25 |
| Volume | 1,911,507,742 |

### AMEX

**MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)**

| Name | Vol (00) | Last | Chg |
|---|---|---|---|
| Paratek rs | 397222 | 2.80 | +1.53 |
| IndiaGCap | 173940 | 1.26 | +.60 |
| Globalstar | 67347 | 1.31 | |
| DigitalPw | 36901 | 4.16 | +.05 |
| BarcGSOil | 29773 | 6.49 | -.21 |

**GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)**

| Name | Last | Chg | %Chg |
|---|---|---|---|
| Paratek rs | 2.80 | +1.53 | +120.5 |
| AmpioPhm | 3.33 | +.59 | +21.5 |
| DocuSec rs | 2.11 | +.31 | +17.2 |
| StreEn wt | 5.48 | +.68 | +14.2 |
| NuverEnv n | 22.50 | +2.75 | +13.9 |

**LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)**

| Name | Last | Chg | %Chg |
|---|---|---|---|
| RxVitmInF | 35.08 | 10.09 | -22.3 |
| PrGPrEq bl | 35.76 | -5.89 | -14.1 |
| Sifco | 6.25 | -.45 | -6.7 |
| NTN Buzz rs | 3.81 | .26 | -6.5 |
| Intellichk | 2.30 | -.16 | -6.5 |

**DIARY**

| | |
|---|---|
| Advanced | 182 |
| Declined | 159 |
| Unchanged | 24 |
| Total issues | 365 |
| New Highs | 15 |
| New Lows | 7 |
| Volume | 150,562,049 |

### NASDAQ

**MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)**

| Name | Vol (00) | Last | Chg |
|---|---|---|---|
| MicronT | 410836 | 42.25 | -1.87 |
| Apple Inc | 318536 | 170.57 | -4.44 |
| PwShs QQQ | 208977 | 156.52 | -.85 |
| SucampoPh | 203928 | 18.00 | +1.00 |
| Intel | 150261 | 46.08 | .62 |

**GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)**

| Name | Last | Chg | %Chg |
|---|---|---|---|
| FullFintch fl | 6.24 | +1.89 | +43.4 |
| Adomani n | 5.00 | +1.32 | +35.9 |
| WrisFin | 241.00 | +61.98 | +34.6 |
| LongFin n | 54.42 | +13.42 | +32.7 |
| AptoseB g | 2.31 | +.53 | +29.8 |

**LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)**

| Name | Last | Chg | %Chg |
|---|---|---|---|
| LI loadT n | 4.80 | -1.21 | -20.1 |
| SigmaLb n | 3.05 | -.45 | -12.9 |
| EstroAm n | 9.25 | -1.25 | -11.9 |
| Valeritas n | 3.32 | -.40 | -10.8 |
| PortolaPh | 49.00 | -5.68 | -10.7 |

**DIARY**

| | |
|---|---|
| Advanced | 1,312 |
| Declined | 1,543 |
| Unchanged | 234 |
| Total issues | 3,089 |
| New Highs | 110 |
| New Lows | 33 |
| Volume | 1,246,048,290 |

# Amid sales drop, Harley-Davidson wants to teach more to ride

*Associated Press*

MILWAUKEE — Harley-Davidson is placing a renewed emphasis on teaching people to ride as part of its efforts to attract more customers.

The Milwaukee-based company's decision to expand the number of dealerships with a Harley "Riding Academy" comes as the industry grapples with years of declining sales and an aging customer base.

The program launched in 2000 with about 50 locations and now 245 dealerships in the U.S. offer the three- or four-day course. The company says about a quarter of those launched since 2014.

Harley sold 124,777 new motorcycles through nine months in 2017, down from 135,581 during the same period the previous year, according to the company's most recent earnings report.

The Motorcycle Industry Council says the median age of motorcycle owners increased from 32 to 47 since 1990. About 46 percent of riders are over 50; only about 10 percent are 30-34.

Samantha Kay rode on the back of her father's motorcycle growing up, but when the 25-year-old took a class to ride for the first time she couldn't help being anxious.

"I think motorcycles inherently do scare a lot of people," said Kay, a Milwaukee woman who is one of 50,000 people nationwide who took a riding course at a Harley-Davidson dealership this year.

The training is one of the ways Harley is trying to attract a new generation of riders like Kay amid big demographic shifts.

"Some of the aging Baby Boomers, which have been the guts of Harley-Davidson's purchasers, they're getting older and some of them are just getting out of the sport because they can't handle the motorcycle anymore," said Clyde Fessler, who retired from Harley-Davidson in 2002 after holding several executive positions over 25 years. He created what became the "Riding Academy."

He said the idea "is getting people comfortable on a motorcycle and getting them to feel safe and confident."

In addition to riders getting older, a slow economic recovery has made it harder for millennials to buy new motorcycles, said Jim Williams, vice president of the American Motorcyclist Association.

Among the newest models, a 2018 Softail Slim starts at $15,899 and a 2018 Sportster Forty-Eight at $11,299.

"The younger generations are buying plenty of motorcycles, they're just not new," Williams said.

But it's not all the millennials' fault, said Robert Pandya, who managed public relations for Indian Motorcycles and Victory Motorcycles. Pandya recently launched "Give A Shift," a volunteer group discussing ideas to promote motorcycling.

Currently, women are about 14 percent of the riding population, according to the Motorcycle Industry Council.

"The biggest possible opportunity in motorcycling is to invite more women to ride," he said.

# US home prices surge 6.2 percent, outpacing wage growth

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — U.S. home prices climbed a robust 6.2 percent from a year ago, amid strong demand from would-be buyers and a shrinking supply of properties for sale.

Standard & Poor's said Tuesday that its S&P CoreLogic Case-Shiller national home price index stood in October a solid 6 percent above its previous 2006 peak. Prices are rising at more than double the pace of wage growth, creating some affordability pressures that have been offset by relatively low mortgage rates. Metro areas with booming job markets and the steepest home price gains could see more residents staying as renters.

"Since home prices are rising faster than wages, salaries, and inflation, some areas could see potential home buyers compelled to look at renting," said David M. Blitzer, managing director and chairman of the index committee at S&P Dow Jones Indices.

The strongest annual gains occurred in Seattle, where prices have shot up 12.7 percent since October 2615. Las Vegas has seen prices increase 10.2 percent, while San Diego notched growth of 8.1 percent. Of the 20 metro areas tracked by the index, Washington, DC reported the smallest price gain with 3.1 percent.

As the economy has steadily recovered from the 2008 financial crisis, demand from would-be buyers has steadily improved. The 17-year low unemployment rate of 4.1 percent has left more Americans confident enough to put bids on homes. Sales of existing homes in November reached their strongest pace since December 2006, according to the National Association of Realtors. But the sales growth hasn't compelled more people to list their homes for sale, as the number of properties on the market has tumbled nearly 10 percent in the past 12 months.

Mortgage giant Freddie Mac said last week that the rate on 30-year fixed-rate mortgages averaged 3.94 percent, down from 4.30 percent a year ago.

## US stocks finish slightly lower after light day of trading

A listless day of trading on Wall Street ended with major stock indexes closing slightly lower Tuesday, weighed down by losses among some big technology companies.

Apple slid 2.5 percent amid speculation that the consumer electronics giant might cut its targets for sales of its latest iPhone. Banks also declined, outweighing gains by energy companies and retailers. Oil prices closed higher.

Trading was light as investors returned from the Christmas holiday.

"It's a low-volume day after Christmas, with hardly anything going on," said Tom Martin, senior portfolio manager with Globalt Investments. "You have one piece of news that is significant on a major company, Apple. That moved some of the components around."

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 2.84 points, or 0.1 percent, to 2,680.50. The Dow Jones industrial average slid 7.85 points, or 0.03 percent, to 24,746.21. The Nasdaq lost 23.71 points, or 0.3 percent, to 6,936.25. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks picked up 1.30 points, or 0.1 percent, to 1,544.23.

## Metal prices rise

Gold rose $8.70, or 0.7 percent, to $1,287.50 an ounce. Silver added 16 cents to $16.60 an ounce. Copper picked up 4 cents to $3.28 a pound.

## MIDLAND STOCKS

**Midland-Headquartered Publicly Traded Companies**

**Concho Resources (CXO)**
Closing Price $153.92 Up 2.15

**Dawson Geophysical (DWSN)**
Closing Price $5.01 Down 0.07

**Diamondback Energy (FANG)**
Closing Price $125.97 Up 1.60

**Legacy Reserves (LGCY)**
Closing Price $1.20 Down 0.07

**Mexco Energy (MXC)**
Closing Price $4.21 Down 0.06

**Natural Gas Services Group (NGS)**
Closing Price $25.95 Down 0.05

**ProPetro Holdings (PUMP)**
Closing Price $20.49 Up 0.58

**RSP Permian (RSPP)**
Closing Price $40.88 Up 0.71

**Ring Energy (REI)**
Closing Price $14.44 Down 0.20

**Viper Energy Partners (VNOM)**
Closing Price $23.61 Up 0.82

## HOW STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST FARED

| Name | Div | PE | Last | Chg | YTD %Chg |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AK Steel | | 16 | 5.78 | +.07 | -43.4 |
| AT&T Inc | 2.00f | 15 | 39.07 | +.13 | -6.1 |
| **Abraxas** | ... | **60** | **2.39** | **+.18** | **-7.0** |
| **AdaDvsEq** | **1.32e** | ... | **15.00** | **-.08** | **+18.0** |
| AMD | | | 10.46 | -.08 | -7.8 |
| Alibaba | | 49 | 172.33 | -3.96 | +96.3 |
| AlpAlerMLP | 1.35e | ... | 10.86 | +.02 | -13.8 |
| Alibaba | | ... | 69.86 | -1.72 | +80.7 |
| Ambev | .05e | 6 | 6.35 | +.08 | +29.3 |
| **Amgen** | **5.20e** | **16** | **176.09** | **-.33** | **+20.4** |
| **Anadarko** | **.20** | **...** | **54.10** | **+1.17** | **-22.4** |
| **Apache** | **1.00** | **...** | **43.36** | **+.45** | **-31.7** |
| Apple Inc | 2.52 | 20 | 170.57 | -4.44 | +47.3 |
| **ArloMatl** | **.40** | **16** | **51.85** | **-1.01** | **+58.2** |
| AptoseB g | | 14 | 2.31 | +.53 | +66.2 |
| Archrock | .48 | ... | 10.55 | +.15 | -20.1 |
| **ATMOS** | **1.80** | **24** | **84.60** | **-.49** | **+14.1** |
| AutoData | 2.52f | 31 | 117.57 | +.69 | +14.4 |
| **BP PLC** | **2.38** | **30** | **41.69** | **+.40** | **+11.5** |
| BkofAm | .48 | 17 | 29.78 | -.10 | +34.8 |
| **B rPVxST rs** | ... | ... | **27.78** | **+.05** | ... |
| BaringsCp s | 1.20 | ... | 15.57 | -.05 | +.6 |
| BasicEnS | ... | ... | 45 | ... | ... |
| **BerkHa A** | **...** | **242963** | **70.03** | **-30.27** | **+21.4** |
| **BlkHillsCp** | **1.78** | **17** | **58.64** | **-.38** | **-4.4** |
| **BrMySq** | **1.60f** | **21** | **61.26** | **+.30** | **+4.8** |
| **BrownFA s** | **.79** | **39** | **66.94** | **+.11** | **+44.7** |
| **BrownFB s** | **.79** | **...** | **66.59** | **+.71** | **+52.5** |
| CVS Health | 2.00 | 13 | 73.68 | +.27 | -6.6 |
| **CallonPet** | ... | **39** | **12.39** | **+.56** | **-19.4** |
| **CaterpBar** | 3.12 | 41 | **156.44** | **+.69** | **+56.7** |
| Celestic g | | 7 | 10.43 | -.11 | -12.0 |
| CntryLink | 2.16 | 8 | 17.36 | +.12 | -27.0 |
| ChesEng | | 7 | 4.00 | +.15 | -43.0 |
| **Chevron** | **4.32** | **83** | **125.09** | **+1.00** | **+7.0** |
| Chicos | .33 | 13 | 9.17 | +.39 | -36.3 |
| Cimarex | .32 | 32 | 122.18 | +2.23 | -10.1 |
| Cisco | 1.16 | 20 | 38.48 | -.07 | +27.3 |
| Citigroup | 1.28 | 14 | 74.78 | -.71 | +25.8 |
| **CocaCola** | **1.48** | **28** | **45.81** | **+.22** | **+10.5** |
| **ColgPalm** | **1.80** | **26** | **75.48** | **+.33** | **+15.3** |
| Comcast s | .83 | 20 | 40.82 | +.04 | +18.2 |
| **ConAgra** | **.85** | **21** | **38.21** | **+.13** | **-3.4** |
| **ConchoRes** | ... | ... | **153.92** | **+2.15** | **+16.1** |
| **ConocoPhil** | **1.06** | **45** | **56.23** | **+.73** | **+12.1** |
| Corcept | ... | 94 | 18.79 | +.90 | +158.8 |
| CrackerB | 4.80 | 26 | 162.71 | -2.00 | -2.6 |
| CSVlxSh rs | ... | ... | 5.50 | +.02 | -94.2 |
| **CrosTim** | **.93e** | **14** | **14.64** | **-.02** | **-16.5** |
| DCP Mid | 3.12 | 52 | 36.87 | +.09 | -4.5 |
| DTE | 3.30 | 21 | 108.13 | -.59 | +9.8 |
| DelmarPh n | ... | ... | 1.10 | +.28 | -65.5 |
| DenburyR | ... | ... | 2.12 | +.11 | -42.4 |
| **DevonE** | **.24** | **61** | **42.58** | **+1.01** | **-6.8** |
| DrGMBll rs | ... | ... | 18.04 | +1.13 | ... |
| **Disney** | **1.68f** | **19** | **108.12** | **-.55** | **+3.7** |
| **EOG Resrc** | **.67** | **...** | **109.41** | **+2.30** | **+8.2** |
| EldorGld g | .02e | 28 | 1.41 | +.07 | -56.2 |
| Energen | .06 | ... | 58.68 | +.93 | +1.8 |
| EngyBtPt | 2.28f | 24 | 17.91 | +.25 | -25.4 |
| **EnPro** | **.88** | **53** | **93.80** | **-.22** | **+39.4** |
| ENSCO | .04 | ... | 5.86 | +.18 | -39.7 |
| EntProdPt | 1.68f | 21 | 26.57 | +.17 | -1.7 |
| Ericsson | .11e | ... | 6.81 | -.03 | +13.4 |
| **ExxonMbl** | **3.08** | **32** | **83.96** | **+.01** | **-7.0** |
| Facebook | ... | 33 | 175.99 | -1.21 | +53.0 |
| FordM | .60a | 11 | 12.60 | +.02 | +3.9 |
| FrptMcM | ... | ... | 18.87 | +.57 | +41.5 |
| FstFintch fl | ... | ... | 6.24 | +1.89 | -5.5 |
| **GATX** | **1.68** | **13** | **62.12** | **+.78** | **+.9** |
| **GabBtdT** | **.94e** | **...** | **9.12** | **-.12** | **+26.0** |
| **GAInv** | **1.15e** | **...** | **34.19** | **-.11** | **+9.7** |
| **GenElec** | **.48** | **14** | **17.43** | **+.05** | **-44.8** |
| Globalstar | ... | ... | 1.31 | ... | -17.1 |
| **GtPlainEn** | **1.16** | **18** | **31.96** | **-.09** | **+16.9** |
| Groupon | ... | ... | 5.20 | ... | +56.6 |
| Halliblrtn | .72 | ... | 48.77 | +.76 | -9.8 |
| iShBrazil | .67e | ... | 39.99 | +.48 | +19.9 |
| iShSilver | ... | ... | 15.59 | +.19 | +3.2 |
| iShEMkts | .59e | ... | 48.48 | -.04 | +32.7 |
| iS Eafe | 1.66e | ... | 70.09 | -.02 | +21.4 |
| iSh20K | 1.77e | ... | 153.26 | +.09 | +13.7 |
| Ignyta | ... | ... | 26.70 | -.15 | +403.8 |
| IndiaGCap | ... | ... | 1.26 | +.60 | +350.0 |
| **Intel** | **1.09** | **28** | **46.09** | **-.62** | **+27.0** |
| InterDig | 1.40 | 10 | 76.00 | -.20 | -16.8 |
| JD.com | ... | 25 | 42.14 | -.05 | +65.6 |
| JPMorgCh | 2.24f | 16 | 107.02 | -.43 | +24.9 |
| **JohnJn** | **3.36** | **20** | **140.09** | **-.03** | **+21.6** |
| **KimbCls** | **3.88** | **20** | **121.31** | **+.65** | **+6.3** |
| KindMorg | .50 | 34 | 18.11 | +.06 | -12.6 |
| Kroger s | .50 | 14 | 27.80 | -.45 | -19.4 |
| LM FdgA n | ... | ... | 1.84 | +.58 | -54.8 |
| LegacyRes | ... | ... | 1.20 | -.07 | -43.4 |
| **Lulsys** | **...** | **...** | **2.74** | **-.06** | **-36.0** |
| Macys | 1.51 | 9 | 26.85 | +1.18 | -25.0 |
| Mallinckdt | ... | ... | 23.48 | +.16 | -52.9 |
| MarathnO | .20 | ... | 17.26 | +.36 | -.3 |
| McDnlds | 4.04f | 29 | 171.29 | -.13 | +40.7 |
| Merck | 1.92f | 14 | 56.34 | -.02 | -4.3 |
| **MerMMed** | **...** | **50** | **43.86** | **+.86** | **+62.5** |
| MexcoEn | ... | ... | 4.20 | -.07 | -16.0 |
| MicronT | ... | 9 | 42.25 | -1.87 | +92.7 |
| Microsoft | 1.68 | 30 | 85.40 | -.11 | +37.4 |
| Mondelez | .88 | 30 | 43.42 | +.06 | -2.1 |
| Nabors | .24 | ... | 6.63 | +.18 | -59.6 |
| NOilVarco | .20 | ... | 35.62 | +.18 | -4.9 |
| NobleCp | .17e | ... | 4.78 | ... | -.6 |
| **NSTFI3** | **.55a** | **...** | **14.84** | **+.04** | **+4.7** |
| **NTXQI** | **.65** | **...** | **14.26** | **+.04** | **+3.9** |
| Nvidia | .60f | 55 | 197.44 | +2.17 | +85.0 |
| Nxt-ID rs | ... | ... | 4.75 | -.33 | +72.7 |
| OasisPet | ... | ... | 8.38 | +.32 | -44.6 |
| **OcciPet** | **3.80** | **...** | **73.54** | **+.55** | **+3.2** |
| Oracle | .76 | 20 | 47.43 | +.07 | +23.8 |
| **PDC Engy** | **...** | **...** | **51.73** | **+1.52** | **-20.7** |
| PG&E Cp | 2.12f | 10 | 44.45 | -.12 | -26.9 |
| **ParTech** | **...** | **23** | **9.23** | **-.21** | **+65.4** |
| Paratek rs | ... | ... | 2.80 | +1.53 | ... |
| **ParkDrl** | **...** | **...** | **.99** | **+.03** | **-61.9** |
| **PattUTI** | **.80** | **...** | **22.98** | **+.39** | **-14.6** |
| Penney | ... | 17 | 3.31 | +.17 | -60.2 |
| **PennaRE** | **.84** | **13** | **11.62** | **+.16** | **-38.7** |
| Pmian | .63e | 25 | 8.93 | +.05 | +15.8 |
| Petrobras | ... | ... | 10.16 | +.17 | +.5 |
| **Pfizer** | **1.28** | **14** | **36.21** | **+.07** | **+11.5** |
| PioNtrl | .08 | ... | 173.99 | +2.87 | -3.4 |
| **PlainsAAP** | **2.20** | **25** | **21.29** | **+.17** | **-34.1** |
| PwShs QQQ | 1.52e | ... | 156.52 | -.85 | +32.1 |
| **Pratair** | **3.16** | **27** | **152.61** | **-1.23** | **+30.2** |
| **PrmEgy** | **...** | **...** | **59.86** | **...** | **-7.6** |
| PUVlxST rs | ... | ... | 10.05 | -.01 | ... |
| **ProctGam** | **2.79f** | **24** | **92.49** | **+.36** | **+10.0** |
| RangeRs | .08 | 18 | 16.99 | +.53 | -50.6 |
| RiteBick | 1.00p | ... | 31.22 | +6.70 | +811.8 |
| RiteAid | ... | ... | 2.02 | +.01 | -75.5 |
| Rowan | .40 | 10 | 15.72 | +.63 | -16.8 |
| RoyDShllA | 3.76 | ... | 66.54 | +.79 | +22.4 |
| SpdrDJIA | 3.96e | ... | 247.25 | -.15 | +25.2 |
| SpdrGold | ... | ... | 121.77 | +.83 | +11.1 |
| S&P500ETF | 4.13e | ... | 267.19 | -.30 | +19.5 |
| SpdrOGEx | .73e | ... | 37.64 | +.82 | -9.1 |
| **SabnR** | **2.31e** | **21** | **45.50** | **+.05** | **+29.4** |
| **SanderFm** | **1.28f** | **11** | **140.42** | **-.41** | **+49.0** |
| Schlmbrg | 2.00 | 52 | 67.61 | +.17 | -19.5 |
| SiriusXM | .04f | 30 | 5.42 | +.05 | +21.8 |
| Smuckar | 3.12f | 16 | 125.27 | +.05 | -2.2 |
| SnapInc A n | ... | ... | 15.01 | -.14 | -38.7 |
| **SwstnEngy** | ... | **39** | **5.45** | **+.13** | **-49.6** |
| Sprint | ... | ... | 5.79 | +.15 | -31.2 |
| Square n | ... | ... | 35.05 | -.09 | +157.2 |
| SP CnSt | 1.28e | ... | 57.00 | +.13 | +10.2 |
| SP Engy | 2.04e | ... | 72.60 | +.63 | -3.6 |
| SPDR Fncl | .46e | ... | 27.97 | -.08 | +20.3 |
| SP Tech | .78e | ... | 64.11 | -.43 | +32.6 |
| SP Util | 1.55e | ... | 52.14 | -.31 | +7.4 |
| SucampoPh | ... | ... | 18.00 | +1.00 | +32.8 |
| **TelefEsp** | **1.28e** | **...** | **9.75** | **+.03** | **+6.0** |
| TevaPhrm | .73e | 6 | 18.92 | +.17 | -47.8 |
| 3M Co | 4.70 | 27 | 235.45 | +.72 | +31.9 |
| **Torchmark** | **.60** | **20** | **90.63** | **-.06** | **+22.9** |
| Transocn | ... | 10 | 10.62 | +.26 | -28.0 |
| **TriContl** | **1.00e** | **...** | **28.64** | **-.04** | **+39.8** |
| Twitter | ... | ... | 24.26 | -.20 | +48.8 |
| **TylerTech** | **...** | **56** | **177.81** | **+.45** | **+24.5** |
| **UBSI** | **1.36f** | **19** | **35.65** | **...** | **-22.9** |
| US NGas | ... | ... | 5.22 | -.03 | -64.1 |
| US OilFd | ... | ... | 11.95 | +.29 | +2.0 |
| Vale SA | .29e | ... | 12.08 | +.16 | +58.5 |
| ValeantPh | ... | 5 | 21.65 | +.10 | +49.1 |
| ValeroE | 2.80 | 24 | 91.86 | +.73 | +34.5 |
| VanEGold | .06e | ... | 23.20 | +.31 | +10.9 |
| VanE JrGld | ... | ... | 34.30 | +.77 | +8.7 |
| VangEmg | 1.10e | ... | 45.48 | +.05 | +27.1 |
| Vipshop | ... | 25 | 12.20 | -.01 | +10.8 |
| **VulcanM** | **1.00** | **40** | **126.72** | **+2.49** | **+1.3** |
| WEC Engy | 2.21f | 22 | 65.36 | -.36 | +11.4 |
| WalgBoots | 1.60 | 15 | 73.30 | +.59 | -11.4 |
| Weathfrnl | ... | ... | 4.03 | +.12 | -19.2 |
| **WellsFargo** | **1.56f** | **15** | **61.13** | **-.42** | **+10.9** |
| WmsCos | 1.20 | 53 | 30.49 | +.18 | -2.1 |
| **XcelEngy** | **1.44** | **20** | **47.83** | **-.42** | **+17.5** |
| Xerox rs | 1.0L | 11 | 29.41 | -.17 | +27.9 |
| Yamana g | .02 | ... | 3.14 | +.15 | +11.7 |

**Can't find your favorite stocks or mutual funds listed?**
Send your favorite to sdoreen@mrt.com or mmcewen@mrt.com.
We will regularly update the Permian Basin stocks list.

## INDEXES

| 52-Week High | 52-Week Low | Name | Last | Chg | Net %Chg | YTD % Chg | 52-wk % Chg |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 24,876.07 | 19,677.94 | Dow Jones Industrials | 24,746.21 | -7.85 | -.03 | +25.22 | +24.07 |
| 10,691.01 | 8,744.36 | Dow Jones Transportation | 10,672.66 | -2.31 | -.02 | +18.01 | +16.02 |
| 778.80 | 616.34 | Dow Jones Utilities | 717.03 | -4.02 | -.56 | +8.71 | +8.46 |
| 19,763.65 | 11,034.06 | NYSE Composite | 12,808.90 | +11.46 | +.09 | +15.85 | +14.92 |
| 7,003.89 | 5,371.89 | Nasdaq Composite | 6,936.25 | -23.71 | -.34 | +28.85 | +26.40 |
| 2,694.97 | 2,253.62 | S&P 500 | 2,680.50 | -2.84 | -.11 | +19.73 | +18.14 |
| 1,916.71 | 1,657.28 | S&P Midcap | 1,905.73 | +1.10 | +.06 | +14.76 | +13.42 |
| 27,994.24 | 23,368.50 | Wilshire 5000 | 27,850.17 | -14.67 | -.05 | +18.89 | +17.35 |
| 1,559.60 | 1,336.03 | Russell 2000 | 1,544.23 | +1.30 | +.08 | +13.79 | +12.09 |

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**Now hiring individual with strong computer skills, billing background helpful. Up to $16 per hour depending on experience. Contact HR Department at 800-295-2542**

ENERGY AND UTILITIES

**Warehouse Personnel & Delivery Driver**

**VAN ZANDT Controls**, a leader in valve automation, instrumentation & controls is seeking high energy, qualified candidates for the following open positions:

**Warehouse Personnel**:

- We are looking for an effective warehouse personnel to direct receiving, warehousing and distribution operations
- Overseeing receiving, warehousing, distribution and maintenance operations
- Leadership skills and ability to direct people
- Proven ability to implement process improvement initiatives
- Follow and understand VanZandt Controls safety procedures & processes
- Ability to operate forklift
- Safe driving record

**Delivery Driver**:

- Loading, unloading, preparing, and operating the delivery vehicle
- Following routes and time schedules, communicate with customers
- Follow DOT regulations and safety standards
- Follow and understand VanZandt Controls safety procedures & processes
- Ability to operate forklift
- Safe driving record

**Please send resume to chelsey@vzcontrols.com**

HEALTHCARE

**Resident Care Partners-Asst. Cook-Maintenance**

**Cimarron Place in Midland is HIRING!** We are looking to expand our growing team with the following positions: Resident Care Partners, an Assistant Cook, and a Maintenance Technician.
**Please apply at enlivant.com**

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.

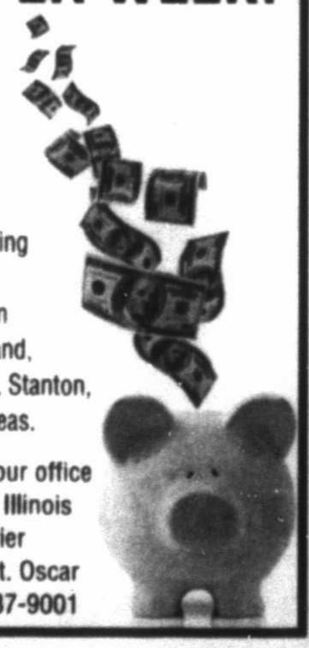
This is a full time salaried position, eligible for full benefits including health, vision, dental and paid time off with excellent starting salary.

To apply, please email your resume and cover letter to sheckler@hearstnp.com.
No phone calls please.

OTHER JOBS

**EARN UP TO $500 PER WEEK!**

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



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

OTHER JOBS

**Delivery Driver**

**American Glass Dist.** PT

Help wanted: Male or Female Dallvery Driver, must be able to drive standard transmission. Must be 25 years of age, have social security card, driver's license, have a decent driving record, & must be able to lift 100 pounds. Good benefits after 6 months of employment. Starting at $13.00/hr. Please call 432-699-5235 or come by 5002 Basin Street, A-2, to fill out an application.

OTHER JOBS

**Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN ITS DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR NIGHT TIME ASSOCIATE**

Night time associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE
Must be able to count at a fast pace. Be able to work between the hours of 12-6 am Sunday night thru Friday night and be able to work Saturday night 8pm-4am. Will be working inside and outside depending on the job you are doing that night. Will be 5-6 nights per week. We will train the right person.
$11.00 per hour

These positions require some physical lifting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr. shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspaper bundles. Applicants must be dependable, be over 16, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.



Apply in person at: 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk • Monday - Friday 8-5 or email: jmaddox@hearstnp.com
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

**Fireworks Operator**

Make $1000.00 in 2 days, $1500.00 for 3 days. Truckload Fireworks Operator needed. Minimum 4 person family or group in Midland and Stanton. Must be available December 30th, December 31st and January 1st if 3 days. Please call 432-653-4047.

RESTAURANT FOOD SERVICES

**BUFFALO WILD WINGS**

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

TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

**LOCAL TRUCK DRIVER CDL A OR B / SHOT CREW MEMBER**

**Austin Powder Company is hiring at our Midland, TX location.**

**Duties**
- Operate company vehicles to transport products to and from job sites
- Loading/unloading product for delivery, frequent lifting of 40-50 pound product bags or boxes.
- Perform labor support at job sites and location

**Qualifications**
- Class A or B CDL
- 2+ years' CDL driving experience
- HAZMAT, Tanker & Air Brakes endorsements preferred
- Able to work outside in all weather conditions

**Benefits**
- Medical / Dental / Vision
- 401(k) / Profit Sharing

**Apply at**
**www.austinpowder.com**
**Click on Careers**
**Or forward resume to Austin Powder Company,**
**Email: humanresources@austinpowder.com or Fax: (216) 591-1588**

**EEO Employer M/F/Vets/Disabled**

**Classified CAN 682-6222**

Snap Up a Deal in the **Classifieds**




Midland Reporter-Telegram
**CLASSIFIEDS**
sellittexas.com • 432-682-6222



# Midland Reporter-Telegram
## Media Group

Our goal is to be the premier media provider in the community.
Let our team of experts work with you to develop a results-driven,
first rate digital and print marketing strategy for your business.




**DIGITAL MARKETING SERVICES**

MRT Media Group has an extensive offering of digital promotional tools that produce measurable results for today's online marketing arena. We offer marketing solutions through digital channels such as search engines, websites, social media, email, and mobile apps.

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**MAGAZINE MARKETING SERVICES**

MRT Media Group has an extensive line of Magazine publications offering a variety of local content and specialized categories to fit all your needs. We offer MRT Business Insider, Midland Magazine, Discover Midland, MRT All American and MRT Oil Report.

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**PRINT MARKETING SERVICES**

MRT Media Group is a seven day a week paper offering a variety of local content and specialized categories to fit all your needs. We offer Education, Health, The Weekender, Faith & Philanthropy, Oil and Gas and Cultural sections.

## We don't sell advertising, we offer marketing solutions!

MRT Digital Services will help you find your customers
and engage with them to grow your business!

**Local, Trustworthy, News At Your Finger Tips.**
**Advertise – 432-687-8811**

MRT MEDIA GROUP mrt.com SELLITTEXAS.com MRT TRUE PRECISION TARGETED DIGITAL ADVERTISING

# mrt classifieds

432.682.6999 432.682.6222 mrtclassifieds@mrt.com

## Legal and Public Notices

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**

Pursuant to the Decree and Order for Partition by Public Sale entered in Cause No. 7 I 04 in the I I 8 t h 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 I0:30 a.m.

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

***Notice to Bidders***

**Midland Independent School District in Midland, TX**

is requesting bids for

**Leased Wide Area Network Circuits**

Midland ISD is seeking bids for leased Wide Area Network circuits. The bid opening date will be on January 26th, 2018, 9:00 a.m. at 615 W. Missouri Ave. Room 704, Midland, TX 79701. Additional details are available at www.crwconsulting.com/rfp.

***Notice to Bidders***

**Midland Independent School District in Midland, TX**

is requesting bids for

**Wide Area Network Circuits**

Midland ISD is seeking bids for Wide Area Network circuits, either leased or constructed for the district to own. The bid opening date will be on February 21, 2018, 9:00 a.m. at 615 W. Missouri Ave. Room 704, Midland, TX 79701. Additional details are available at www.crwconsulting.com/rfp.

## Estate Sales

**THE CAT'S MEOW**
408 Andews Hwy- Midland 687-2004
Dec. 26th - Jan. 6th
10 AM-6 PM - Closed Sunday
**ONCE A YEAR SALE!**
Everything Storewide 20% to 50% Savings
See our ad in
The Midland Reporter Telegram

## Miscellaneous 4-Sale

**FREON R12 WANTED**
Certified buyer pays CA$H
for cylinders & cans.
(312) 291-9169, refrigerantfinders.com

## Pets-Animals

### Dogs



LABRADOR RETRIEVER PUPPIES Grand Hunting Retriever Champ. bloodlines Xmas day delivery in Midland! $1,000 English Labs OFA Cert. Hips & elbows Avail. in time for Xmas! Brooke 432-978-5300

## Real Estate Rental-Sale

### Residential Rentals

### Apartment Rent Unfurn

APT FOR RENT all bills paid except electric. $450/mo. Call 432-522-1948.

### Condo Thome Rent Unfurn

3200 ELMA Drive, Very nice townhome 3 bedroom 3 baths, fireplace, double car garage, sprinkler system, nice trees, gated patio area. $1,800 per month & $750 deposit. Call 432-230-0157 or 432-230-3671

### House Rent Unfurn

Lovely 3 bedroom 2 bath, brick home with fireplace, attached garage & large backyard in great neighborhood. $1,200 deposit, $1,500 month for a year's lease. 1908 Woodlawn near downtown. 903-385-2017 for showing appointment after January 1.

### Residential Sales

### Single Family Homes

FOR SALE 17 acres in Nogal Canyon and a home with a spacious living area with a rock fireplace. Property also includes, a courtyard, guest house, barn, shop, two entrances, fully fenced property. Seller will include a 140 acre lot in Ancho with an acceptable offer for this Nogal, NM property. $299,000 Please check out the video: www.211nogalcanyon.com Offered by Darien Ross Associate Broker Pinnacle Real Estate 931 Hwy 48 Alto, NM 88312 575-336-7711 Office 575-973-0117 cell.

FSBO 4 bedroom, 2 full baths, 1 3/4 bath and 1/2 bath by heated pool and hot tub. 2507 Bellechasse Ct. Midland. See pictures at 2Bhw.com. Call 432-853-8080 for an appointment to see.

### Residential Sales

### Single Family Homes

$585,000.00
1909 SCR 1133 in Greenwood's Stoneridge Subdivision. Gorgeous 4 bedroom, 3 bath with two living areas, office, game room/man cave. 3,335 Sq. ft. Outside features include large covered patio, sprinkler system, fenced yard, three car garage, barn, and a wonderful pool! Large parking pad leads to 24x30 shop with overhead door. All of this sits on 3 acres in one of Greenwood's finest subdivisions. 432-664-7272.

LIQUIDATION OF 2 divorced homes in Midland, TX. 1608 W. Kansas & 2612 N. Garfield. Call for price. 214-356-5244 Realtor

### Lots and Land

### Acreage

LAND FOR sale! Midland acres, 0.161 acre. 604 N. Lee Street, Midland, TX. 79701. Please call Raul at 505-450-8290

### Ranches

GREAT 150 Acre Ranch near Christoval, paved road. $1,995 / Ac. Call agent 512-656-3789. A&G Land Mgt.

RANCH FOR SALE
4,212 Acres
near Snyder, Tx.
Water, 3 houses,
great hunting.
Owner Financing
$795/ Acre
(432) 664-7764

### Commercial

COMMERCIAL YARD/ BUILD TO SUIT FOR LEASE
5 ACRES, FENCED
2 AC CALICHED.
$2350/MONTH
JUST EAST OF MIDLAND
432-664-7764

OFFICE SPACE FOR LEASE. 1800 square feet. Utilities and general maintenance included. Midland International Airport area. Contact Cheryl Keith, 432-262-4909, or ckeith@pbrpc.org

## Vacation-Resort



Lake Alan Henry - North Ridge Development. Two 1 acre Lots # 134 & 135 $75,000 for both. Build-able view of lake, paved roads, private water plant, private boat ramp. site map nrlah.com. 3111 Properties, LLC 806 441 7005

## Hunting Leases

HUNTING, RETIREMENT, INVESTMENT PROPERTY. 20 - 80 ACRES IN THE FOLLOWING COUNTIES: EDWARDS, KINNEY, CONCHO, COKE AND MENARD. SCENIC VIEWS, NATIVE GAME WITH FREE RANGING EXOTICS IN SOME COUNTIES. STARING AT $2,916 DOWN, $485/MO. CALL/ VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO. 800-876-9720 ranchenterprisesltd.com

## Lots and Land

WEST TEXAS TRANS PECOS AREA, NEAR LAKE AMISTAD. 40 - 65 ACRES. MESQUITE, CEDAR, BRUSH COVER. WHITETAIL, JAVELINA, BLUE QUAIL, TURKEY, DOVE STARING AT $2,200 DOWN, $349/MO. CALL/ VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO. 866-286-0199 ranchenterprisesltd.com

## Commercial

READY-RANCH RR
WWW.READY-RANCH.COM
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.READY-RANCH.COM

- **East County**
  - *11,195 ac. S. of Snyder. 4 houses, pens/roping arena, 800 ft. elev., creek, lakes, Whitetail deer, mule deer and quail ..... $795/ac
  - *4,212 ac. Maveric Creek, canyons, whitetail and mule deer and quail ..... $825/ac
  - *1,771 ac. windmill, creek, blinds and feeders, great whitetail and mule deer, turkey, hogs, quail ..... $850
- **Nolan County**
  - *648 ac. over 1 mile SOLD creek, blinds, feeders, elevation change, oak ..... $3,560/ac
  - *565 ac. Pecan Creek, New Living/Shop, 200 acres cleared for cattle, blinds/feeders, windmill ..... $4,425/ac
- **Howard County**
  - *842 ac. canyons, blinds/feeders, great deer, cedar/mesquite, surface water, some oilfield traffic ..... $750/ac
  - *150 ac. big canyon, SOLD acres, cedar/mesquite/live, great deer, turkey, jav ..... $895/ac
- **Martin County**
  - *135 ac. Sulphur Springs SOLD deer and whitetail hogs, varmints, metal stor ..... $1,150/ac

(432) 684-7764 or (432) 934-7777
No Realtors - Buy Direct!!!!
Deal with Landowners that know the Country!!!
***Owner Financing Available***

Classified CAN 682-6222

## 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. 432-349-0041.

### Passenger Cars

CADILLAC 2006 DTS. One owner, 60K actual miles. Garage kept. Have records of all service & oil changes. $9950. 432-212-1830

### Passenger Cars

VOLKSWAGEN 2007 Beetle. 79K miles. Good tires, new battery, new fuel pump. Runs well. $4500. 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 (432) 661-0233.

### 4WD and SUV

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

## Merchandise

OAK, PECAN, Hickory, Mesquite, Pinon. 432-209-0416 or 325-762-4262

Classified CAN 682-6222

## Community Events

Attention Readers:

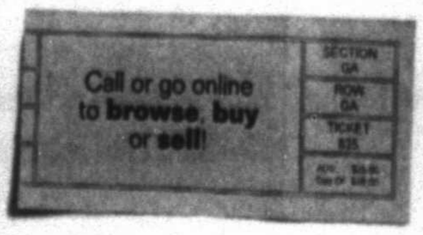
The Midland Reporter-Telegram Circulation department will not take calls on Sunday, December 24th or Sunday, December 31st.

All vacation stops for Christmas weekend will need to be placed by Wednesday, December 20th. Vacation stops for New Year's weekend will need to be placed by Wednesday, December 27th.

Have a Merry Christmas and Safe New Year's.

Midland Reporter-Telegram

# The Classifieds: Your Ticket to Local Finds




Midland Reporter-Telegram
**CLASSIFIEDS**
sellittexas.com • 432-682-6222

# Recycle Your Stuff for Cash in the Classifieds



Call or go online to **browse**, **buy** or **sell**!

Midland Reporter-Telegram
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# Who's Who For Service



You can advertise your business for as little as $47.00 monthly.

Call 682-6222 for details.

Svcs-Professionals

**Cleaning Services**

**Home Cleaning**

ALL IN one cleaning done right, also offering private sitting, C.N.A. Nurse and references available. Contact Segura at 432-269-4580

Cleaning Specialist. Excellent references. Get ready for the holidays! 432-661-8622

**Computer Services**

**Repair-Replacement**

A+ COMPUTER Tutor! Overcome Your Fear of Computers! ✔Your PLACE at Your PACE. ★Call Karen 432-553-2468 (leave msg).

**Hauling**

HAULING & Cleanouts Home, storage, or office. 432-889-1316

**Home Services & Home Improvement**

**Brick-Block-Stone**

ADVANCED BRICK DOCTOR, brick & mortar repair. All types of new construction specializing in block and brick fence. Steve Rickey. 432-853-2859.

BRICK, BLOCK & Stone Work. 45 years experience. References. Max 432-661-8899

**Concrete**

For all your concrete needs, driveways, sidewalks, new slabs house or garage additions. Call Danny @ 432-894-0702

JS Concrete

Slabs, curbs, driveways, patios, Stamp concrete. Free Estimates. Bonded & Insured. Juan Sanchez, owner. 432-413-0924

**Electrical**

ALL YOUR electrical needs met. Call G&S Electric. 32 Years experience. 432-685-0859. Tecl # 22541

**Home Services & Home Improvement**

**Fences**

AMH FENCING A rating on Angie's List. Residential fence, builder and repair. Reliable, professional, and quick response. Local for 12 years. 432-254-9207

**Fireplaces-Firewood**

ERIC'S FIREWOOD, 1/4 cord $100, 1/2 cord $200, full cord $400, stacked & delivered. Thank you. 432-934-6198.

FIREWOOD BY Midland Fireman. Oak, Pinon, Mesquite firewood. Full, half and quarter cords. Free delivery. Also, Tree Trimming services and firewood racks for sale. Call 432-557-2897, 209-1131.

**Heat-Air Condition**

ELLIS & Sons Plumbing & Air Conditioning Sales & Service. Service all brands. 683-2679. TACLB005482.

**Home Services & Home Improvement**

**Painting-Wallpaper**

CRC INTERIOR and Exterior Painting Remodeling, fencing & fabrication. Clayton R. Cross. 432-770-6595. 1st ESTIMATE FREE.

DOUBLE TT PAINTING Interior and Exterior, texture, tape & bed. Christmas & New Years Special. Work guaranteed. 432-288-7849 or 352-4633.

**Painting-Wallpaper**

PAINTING, SHEET rock, repairs, fans, electrical, plumbing, tile-floor & bath. Permian Maintenance 432-697-5417

**Painting-Wallpaper**

PRECISE PAINTING FEMALE PAINTER: Interior/exterior, residential. Very professional, takes pride in her work, very dependable & affordable. FREE Estimates. 432-250-4643

**Home Services & Home Improvement**

**Remodeling-Repair**

PAINTING, SHEET rock, repairs, fans, electrical, plumbing, tile-floor & bath. Permian Maintenance 432-697-5417

**Roofing**

J&J ROOFING All Types of Roofing & Repairs. Fence Repairs, Metal roofs. 25 years experience. Free Estimates Call Juan, 432-631-6861

**Tile and Vinyl**

CERAMIC TILE work all types. 57 years experience. Free estimates. 432-352-6509

**Landscape and Tree Maintenance**

**Lawn and Garden**

AFFORDABLE TREE shrub pruning, removal, sprinkler repairs. Licensed & Insured. Call Williams Tree Lawn Sprinkler 561-8802, 638-6163.

LEYVA LAWN CARE Trees & Lawns. Professional & Efficient 432-250-9470 Free Estimates.

**Accounting-Financial**

APPLIANCE REPAIR

REPAIR SERVICES and Parts for Refrigerators, Freezers, Stoves, Washers & Dryers. Free Service Call with Repair. Free Removal. Full Warranty, Very Affordable Prices. M&M Appliances 1007 N Midkiff, Midland Call 432-570-8278

**Landscape and Tree Maintenance**

**Lawn and Garden**

DAVID'S TREE & LAWN SERVICE Trimming trees & shrubs, leaf clean ups, mowing and more! Please call to make appointment 432-349-0894 www.facebook.com/davidstreelawnservice

LEYVA LAWN CARE Trees & Lawns. Professional & Efficient 432-250-9470 Free Estimates.

WILL TRIM, prune or uproot just about any tree, very reasonable prices. Call Norman 432-296-1424.

**Personal Services**

♥ MASSAGE & Bodywork by Henry ♥ 2401 N. Dixie in Odessa - 4500 W. Illinois in Midland By Appointment only. 432-349-7811 www. sportsmassageodessa.com

**Landscape and Tree Maintenance**

**Lawn and Garden**

RAUL'S LAWN Services. Lawn mowing, edging, shrub trimming. Free estimates. Reasonable. Call Raul @ 432-254-6384.

**Landscape and Tree Maintenance**

**Lawn and Garden**

RETIRED MIDLAND fireman. Trim trees, hedges, clean flower beds, clean up & mowing. Call 697-2030.

STRACENER IRRIGATION Sprinkler Systems Repairs & Installations License #4933 Call (432) 561-9525

**Personal Services**

IRMA'S UPHOLSTERY & DRAPERY. 20 yrs exp. 432-352-4633.

**Miscellaneous Services**

WATER TREATMENT Culligan of West Texas Residential & Commercial FREE WATER ANALYSIS 563-2690

We buy homes in any area in any condition. Call the Scott Williams Team of Realtors 432-689-7770.

**Pet Services**

THE HOWLIDAY INN DOG SUITES 2008 N. Torrance Ave. Odessa, TX. 79761 432-381-1949 - Javier Vigil

TENDER LOVIN KENNEL. (Just like grandma's house) Small shop with one on one personal care. $10/day under 30lbs. 218-7410 Book now!

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

★ Classified CAN 682-6222


# Midland Reporter-Telegram
## Media Group

Our goal is to be the premier media provider in the community. Let our team of experts work with you to develop a results-driven, first rate digital and print marketing strategy for your business.




### DIGITAL MARKETING SERVICES

MRT Media Group has an extensive offering of digital promotional tools that produce measurable results for today's online marketing arena. We offer marketing solutions through digital channels such as search engines, websites, social media, email, and mobile apps.

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## We don't sell advertising, we offer marketing solutions!

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**Local, Trustworthy, News At Your Finger Tips.**
**Advertise – 432-687-8811**

MRT MEDIA GROUP mrt.com SELLTEXAS.com MRT TRUE PRECISION TARGETED DIGITAL ADVERTISING

# ONE CATASTROPHIC STORM
# ONE INCREDIBLE BOOK






SAVE $10 TODAY

HARVEY'S DESTRUCTION DOCUMENTED IN A HARDCOVER BOOK:

## Thousand-Year Flood







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

**A portion of the proceeds from this book will go to Southeast Texas Emergency Relief Fund. www.seterf.org**

**order online securely at:**
**beaumont.hurricanebook.com**
**and save with flat-rate shipping**

BEAUMONT ENTERPRISE
BeaumontEnterprise.com

**Pre-order by mail now (discount expires 11/01/17). Select an option:**

☐ **I'll pick up my order**
$29.95 plus $2.47 tax per book. Pick up order at the Beaumont Enterprise office (380 Main Street, Beaumont) **after 12/04/17.**
**Quantity:** ___ **x $32.42 = $** _____ **total**

OR

☐ **Ship my order to me**
$29.95 plus $3.04 tax and $6.96 shipping and handling per book. Order will be shipped to the address below **after 12/08/17.**
**Quantity:** ___ **x $39.94 = $** _____ **total**

**Payment method:** ☐ Check/Money Order ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ AmEx ☐ Discover

**Name** _____

**Address** _____

**City** _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

**Phone** _____ **E-mail** _____

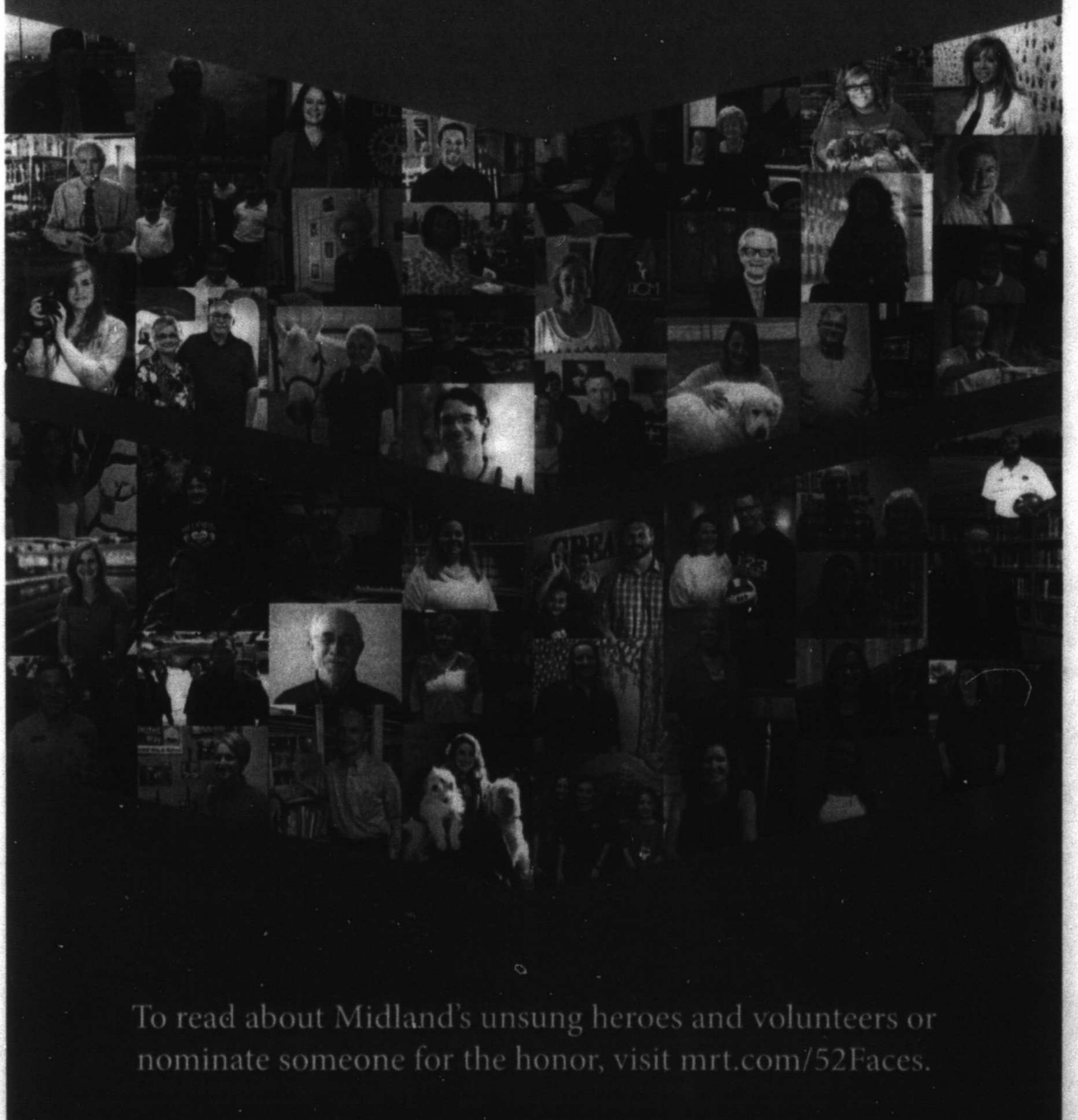
**Card #** _____ **Expiration** _____

**Signature** _____ **Verification Code** _____

BEAUMONT ENTERPRISE
**Send form and payment to:**
Beaumont Enterprise
c/o Harvey Book
380 Main Street
Beaumont, TX 77701
or call 409-838-2085

These Midlanders each play a
different role in making the Tall City
a better place to live.

# THEY ARE FACES OF COMMUNITY



To read about Midland's unsung heroes and volunteers or
nominate someone for the honor, visit mrt.com/52Faces.

Human Energy
Fuels Our Community

**Chevron supports Midland.**

Chevron
Human Energy™