

MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2018

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TRUMP PULLS OUT

US' withdrawal from Syria and Afghanistan rock region.

Page 5A



HOLIDAY HOOPS

Greenwood girls knock off Lee in non-district basketball contest.

Page 1B

Workforce Commission: Midland labor market cools

■ November unemployment holds steady at 2.1 percent — the lowest in Texas

By Mella McEwen
mmcewen@mrt.com

Midland's labor market cooled along with the weather, according to November figures released Friday by the Texas Workforce Commission.

Unemployment in the commission's Midland metropolitan statistical area (MSA) remained at 2.1 percent, unchanged from October and just below the 2.4 percent reported in November 2017.

Midland continued to enjoy the state's lowest unemployment, followed by Amarillo at 2.5 percent and Odessa at 2.6 percent.

Willie Taylor, chief executive officer of the commission's Workforce Solutions Permian Basin, observed a small decline in Midland's civilian labor force, which fell below 100,000 for the first time since September.

The November workforce fell almost 600 to 99,745 but is well above the November 2017 figure of 94,673.

He said there was also a slight increase in unemployment claims and a slight drop in wages, all of which he attributed to seasonal factors — weather, the holidays and

possibly a slowdown in oilfield activity.

"When you have such a need for thousands of workers, it doesn't seem like much of a slowdown," Taylor said.

Midland lost 700 jobs from October to November, led by the loss of 1,100 jobs in the Mining, Logging and Construction sector — which includes Midland's dominant oil industry.

The Education and Health Services sector lost 200 jobs, followed by Financial Activities, which lost 100 jobs.

Those losses were offset by the gain of 400 jobs in the Trade, Transportation and Utilities sector, 200 jobs in the Government sector and 100 jobs in the Manufacturing sector.

For the 12 months from November 2017 to November 2018, Midland gained 5,600 jobs for a growth rate of 5.7 percent.

Mining, Logging and Construction led with the addition of 4,300 jobs, followed by Trade, Transportation and Utilities with 700 jobs and the Leisure and Hospitality sector with 600 jobs.

The Manufacturing sector and the Other Services sectors each added 200 jobs while the Government sector added 100 jobs.

The only sector to lose jobs during that period was the Education and Health Services sector, which lost 400 jobs.

Please see LABOR 2A

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Pioneer Natural Resources and Academy Sports hosted a Christmas party featuring a toy and bicycle giveaway on Friday at the Half Park Boys and Girls Club.

Price retreat continues; oil falls from \$50 range

From staff and wire reports

Crude prices continued their retreat this week, weakened by continued concerns about growing supplies of oil — primarily U.S. shales — and increasing concerns about a weakening global economy, which would undercut oil demand.

West Texas Intermediate fell below the \$50 level Monday and remained below that level all week. WTI futures lost 29 cents to close at \$45.59 a barrel Friday while the posted price ended the week at \$42, down \$6 from Monday. Natural gas remained below \$4 per Mcf but closed the week with a 23-cent jump to \$3.816 per Mcf on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Report: Little change to rigs in Permian, Texas

The number of rigs actively drilling for oil and gas jumped by nine from last week even with U.S. crude oil prices sitting well below \$50 a barrel, according to a Houston Chronicle report.

The Bakken shale in North Dakota led

Please see OIL 2A

Average price of gas drops another 9 cents

■ Midland price is down by more than 50 cents in last eight weeks

By Stewart Doreen
sdoreen@mrt.com

For the second straight week,

AAA Texas is reporting a 9-cent drop in the average price of gas in Midland, and for the second straight week, no Texas city posted a larger drop.

The organization reports Midland and Abilene were tops when it came to the larger average price decline.

Last week, Midland was alone at the top of the state's 27 larger metropolitan areas.

The 9-cent drop was nearly double the state average (5 cents) and means that in the past eight weeks, drivers in Midland have seen prices drop 51 cents, to an average of \$2.54 a gallon for regular unleaded.

What also didn't change week to week was that Midland had the highest average in the state, according to AAA Texas.

The average in Midland is 52 cents higher than the state average and 66 cents behind the average reported in Amarillo

the lowest in the state.

Drivers in Midland are paying, on average, 35 percent more than their neighbors to the north for a gallon of gas.

Midland and Odessa, at \$2.51 a gallon, are well behind other cities in the region.

The prices in those cities are: \$1.91 in Lubbock, \$1.96 in San Angelo, \$2.01 in Abilene and \$2.03 in El Paso.

When it comes to the decline over the past eight weeks, there is still room for improvement, but Midland — down 51 cents — has closed or is closing the gap with other cities in the region.

In Odessa, that decline is also 51 cents.

Other price decreases over the past eight weeks are: San Angelo, 52 cents; Amarillo, 58 cents; Lubbock, 65 cents; El Paso, 68 cents; and Abilene, 70 cents.

Distributors have told the Reporter-Telegram there are many complexities in the fuel business that impact pricing.

They pointed to the high cost of transportation from Gulf Coast refineries and Midland's distance from pipelines.

There are also issues with the

Please see GAS 2A

Price of oil

\$45.59 ▼ \$0.29

Did you know?

Work continues in a government shutdown, although some employees are furloughed. Page 8A.

The big number

Ford is recalling 874,000 F-series pickups because they can catch fire. Page 7A.

Word of the Day:

sleigh

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

Brought to you daily by



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Daily \$2, Sunday \$3



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Nathan Hunsinger/The Dallas Morning News via AP

A baby horned lizard was tagged with a harmonic tracking device Sept. 5 before being released at Mason Mountain WMA in Mason.

Researchers track Texas horny toads to help bolster lizards

By Charles Scudder
The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — In a welcome surprise to researchers fighting to protect the state reptile, signs are good that a number of Texas horned lizard hatchlings released this fall have survived into hibernation.

The Dallas Morning News reports the hatchlings were born at the Fort Worth Zoo this summer, part of an ambitious program to bring the lizard back to Texas landscapes. The partnership between Texas zoos, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas Christian University has worked to study and protect the iconic critter, but success has been slow and hard to measure.

However, new tracking technology and a refused effort to release hatchlings could be the latest, greatest hope to bring the species back from the brink.

Once backyard favorites across the state, the Texas horned lizard — or horny toad, or horned frog, or whatever you call them — has vanished from most parts of the state for reasons researchers can't fully explain.

For the past decade, biologists, zoologists, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department officials and others have worked together to try to reintroduce the lizards in some pockets of the state. They've tried moving adult lizards from South Texas to Central Texas. They've tried breeding lizards in zoos and releasing captive-bred adults.

Recently, the effort pivoted to releasing hatchlings born at Texas zoos,

including those in Dallas and Fort Worth. The baby lizards, some hardly the size of a quarter, were too small for radio transmitters. Officials had to simply release the lizards and hope for the best without tracking them.

This year, however, 10 of the 139 hatchlings released at Mason Mountain Wildlife Management Area in September were fixed with tiny harmonic tracking devices that can be used on smaller reptiles, amphibians and insects.

In the past, it appeared that most if not all of the hatchlings released here died within a few months. Even in good conditions, horned lizards have a high mortality rate, so efforts have focused on releasing hundreds of hatchlings at once to establish a stable population.

Thanks to the new harmonic tracking technology, however, researchers were able to follow the 10 hatchlings through the fall.

A month into the project, five were still trackable. In early November, one lizard had buried itself for hibernation, three had lost their tags by shedding their skin, and one was still above ground and trackable. Despite a few hard freezes in November, that last lizard was still up and moving as late as last week.

On Dec. 4, researchers saw the lizard digging, and by Dec. 13 it was fully buried for the winter.

Diane Barber, curator of ectotherms at the Fort Worth Zoo, said the project's success means they are purchasing more tracking equipment to continue studying survivorship and microhabitats of the juvenile lizards.

Out of the 883 oil rigs, well more than half of them — 486 — are situated in the booming Permian Basin in West Texas and extending into New Mexico. Texas accounts for 531 rigs overall, almost 50 percent of the nation's full tally.

Because of pipeline shortages in West Texas, many companies are continuing to drill Permian wells while leaving more of them uncompleted for the time being until new pipelines come online. The total count is up from an all-time low of 404 rigs in May 2016.

Oil

From 1A

the way with an increase of three rigs. The Chronicle also reports the little-known Mississippian shale in Oklahoma and Kansas also added three rigs, giving the play a total of eight active rigs, including the only two rigs operating in Kansas.

The total rig count rose this week to 1,080 rigs nationwide, according to the energy services firm Baker Hughes, a GE company. Of that tally, 883 are drilling primarily for oil while 197 are actively seeking natural gas.

Labor

From 1A

"We have a very tight labor market," said Taylor. "Companies are still relying on outside workers coming in, and that's hard to track. My board tells me they're seeing things steady and busy. We need skilled workers in all sectors."

Midland and Odessa are not the only Texas metropolitan areas needing workers, he said, noting all the state's metro areas are reporting low unemployment.

Said Taylor, "dealing with labor force is not easy. It's very competitive all across the nation. We're at full employment all across Texas."

There's also the supply-and-demand factor. There is a great demand in Midland and Odessa relative to the amount of supply.

AAA Texas reports that the last time Texans paid an average of \$2.02 for a gallon of regular unleaded gas — which was the case this week — was July 2017.

With 8.4 million Texans expected to travel 50

Obituaries



Carol June James

We are honored to take a moment to tell you about the life of our incredible mother. It is a life that should be celebrated and remembered as one full of love for us and everyone else around her.

Carol June James was born on September 3, 1943 in McCamey, Texas, to George and Clydene Wolfrum, the second of three daughters. She passed away on December 19, 2018 in Midland, TX.

Mom had a love of art and earned an art degree from San Angelo State. She worked various jobs after college until discovering a new passion when she started work as a licensed vocational nurse. She went back to school in the early 1970s with the help of her parents, earned a nursing degree and became a registered nurse.

After that we moved to Midland, where she started working nights as a telemetry nurse at Midland Memorial Hospital, where she worked for 15 years. Then she worked at Women's & Children's for a while before moving back to McCamey to help care for her father, who had Parkinson's, taking a nursing position at McCamey Hospital and eventually becoming the director of the nursing home there, until retiring due to health issues.

She also had a love of cooking and spent many weekends cooking enchiladas with her best friend Irene, having bar-b-ques and potlucks with her neighbors and making Christmas candy with her mom. She never stopped her love of art, painting lots of pictures and doing needlepoint and other craft items over the years.

She is survived by her younger sister and brother-in-law, Becky and Ronnie Gryder of McKinney, TX, her son Douglas James of Midland, her daughter LeAnna James-Gay & Joshua of Olympia, Washington, 3 nieces, Melissa & Edwin Kirby of Tyler, TX, Jana Gryder & Don of Austin, TX, Janet Hunter & Stewart of Frisco, TX and grandchildren Kennadi, Zack and Alex James of Midland and Brodie and Spencer James-Gay of Olympia.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her older

sister Sarah Tucker all of McCamey, TX. Visitation is Saturday, December 22, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Ellis Funeral Home, with services on Sunday, December 23, at 11:00 a.m., followed by a graveside service at 2:00 p.m. in McCamey at Resthaven Cemetery.

Ellis Funeral Home
Funerals & Cremations
201 Andrews Blvd.
(432) 683-3553



Edon Lynn Shirey

Funeral services for Edon Lynn Shirey, 72, of Pearland, Texas will be held on Saturday, December 22, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at Kirby-Smith-Rogers Funeral Home Chapel with Reverend John McLean officiating. Burial will follow at Lovington Cemetery. Mr. Shirey was born in Portales, NM on May 31, 1946 to Clarence Oren and Martha (Denerson) Shirey and passed away at his home in Pearland, TX on December 18, 2018.

He graduated from Midland High School. While at high school, he loved playing sports. He was a lineman for the MHS football team and was President of the Student Council at MHS. He continued his studies after graduation at Texas Tech University. Edon was self-employed and did remodeling on model trains and overhauled motors for model trains. He was the "go to guy" to help fix their model trains. Highly respected and well known as "THE MOTORMAN" for buying and selling motors all over the world and his saying was always "Happy Trains!" He was a Christian and a spiritual man, a father who was an encourager, very thoughtful and always praised his kids.

Edon was also considerate of others. He had faith that could move mountains and he had more faith than sense. He was an independent soul who always did things "his way." He had a heart of gold and will be greatly missed.

Preceding him in death were his parents and one infant sister Deborah Shirey.

Surviving him is his son and two daughters: Edon Lynn Shirey II and wife Christina, Ragan Harris and husband Eric and Emily Yarish and husband Jim, seven grandchildren: Breanna Harris, Blake and wife

Mandy Harris, Blane Harris, Jason Shirey, Jessica Shirey, Brooke Yarish and Corey Yarish; great-grandchildren: Kairee, Aaliyah, Mila, Sadie, Jaxson and Lil' Max on the way. Also, one sister: Jeannette and husband David LoPour of Lovington, NM; two brothers: Delbert and wife Loreta Shirey and Bobby and wife Cheryl Shirey and a host of friends. Condolences may be sent to www.kirbysmithrogers.com.



Emma Natividad

Emma Natividad, 65 of Midland, Texas passed away Wednesday December 19, 2018 in Ft. Worth, TX at Baylor Scott & White All Saints Medical Center. She was born November 16, 1953 in Midland, TX to Jesus and Avelina Natividad.

Emma was raised and educated in Midland. She retired from Midland ISD after 32 years of teaching. Emma leaves her family behind to cherish her memories, two sons, Manuel Madrid Jr. and wife Traci Madrid and Moses Madrid and wife Tasha, four grandchildren, Tatiana Madrid, Manuel Jaxon Madrid, Elisa Madrid and Nina Posey all of Midland, TX.

She also leaves behind her parents, Jesus and Avelina Natividad; one brother, Saul Natividad; four sisters, Yolanda Romero, Celia Gonzalez, Nora Natividad and Anna Ramos; numerous uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces and cousins.

Funeral service will be today at 12:00 p.m. at Lwallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park.

Pallbearers for the service will be JJ Leon, Raymond Garcia, Clay Perkins, Jonathan Moreno, Josh Reyes, Marky Ramos, Steven Ramos and Isaac Natividad.

Funeral service is under the direction of Lwallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home. Family messages and condolences may be emailed to pipkinfamily@online.net or you can visit our website at www.lwallengarcia-pipkinfh.com.

Lwallen Garcia Pipkin
Funeral Home
208 N. Big Spring - Midland, TX 79701-4706



Glenda Lee "Trixie" Wright

Glenda Lee "Trixie" Wright left this earth on December 14, 2018 after 80 years of spreading love to her family and friends and those who knew her. She loved to travel, always up for new adventures even zip lining in Costa Rica when she was 78.

Her favorite meal of hamburgers, Oreos, peanut brittle and ice cream along with her iced Chardonnay were some of the secrets to her ever lasting beauty combined with the learned lesson to never go to bed without cleansing your face. She spoke her own language we lovingly refer to as Trixieisms that have kept us all laughing and crying over the years. She was devoted to others during her 35 plus years as a registered nurse, being recognized many times over for her outstanding care of her patients. She taught us what loyalty and determination are and how to have fun.

We learned from her that dogs are God's greatest gift to man with horses coming in a close second. Above all she taught us unconditional love. We will continue to love and honor her memory always.

She is adored and missed by her daughter Stephanie Wright and granddaughter Lexi Elder and beloved dog Joey of Cypress, TX, brother Granville "G 2" and Susan Lasseter of Richmond, TX, sister Gloria and Dan Riley of Fulshear TX. Her nieces Angela Thompson and Jenna Scott, nephews Chris Riley, Granville Lasseter III, Benjamin Lasseter and families.

Death Notices

Virginia Stephenson (Clark)

Virginia Stephenson (Clark) of Midland, TX passed away on December 19, 2018. She was born on August 6, 1923 in Coalgate, Oklahoma where she will be laid to rest.

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

Gas

From 1A

high cost of living, at least in Midland and Odessa, where rents are climbing at rates incomparable around the nation.

There's also the supply-and-demand factor.

There is a great demand in Midland and Odessa relative to the amount of supply.

AAA Texas reports that the last time Texans paid an average of \$2.02 for a gallon of regular unleaded gas — which was the case this week — was July 2017.

With 8.4 million Texans expected to travel 50

Gas price report

Cheapest gas: \$2.41 (Sam's Club, Tradewinds/SH 191)
Cheapest gas (non-membership club): \$2.45 (Sunoco, SH 191/FM 1788, Alon, Big Spring/Fortida Avenue, Stripes, Front/Garfield)
Cheapest prices in West Texas: Lubbock \$1.72, Amarillo \$1.78, El Paso \$1.84, San Angelo \$1.79, Abilene \$1.91, Odessa \$2.37, Midland \$2.41

	Midland-Odessa	Texas
Thursday	\$2.538	\$2.005
Last week	\$2.587	\$2.071
Last month	\$2.861	\$2.316
Last year	\$2.466	\$2.182

Source: TexasGasPrices.com

miles or more to their holiday destination, a year-end travel record and 4 percent increase over last year, the organization

expects drivers will certainly experience savings at the pump compared to this time last year.

"AAA Texas expects 8.4

million Texans to drive to their holiday destination this year, which is a 4 percent increase year-over-year," said Daniel Armbruster, AAA Texas/AAA New Mexico spokesman. "No doubt, cheaper gas prices are fueling their decision to hit the road."

Year-over-year, only two cities in Texas are showing higher averages: Midland (5 cents) and Odessa (6 cents), according to AAA Texas.

The state average year-over-year is a drop of 15 cents. Six of the 27 areas are showing drops of 20 cents or more.

Midland unemployment

Percent unemployment by year			October numbers in parentheses:			
	2018	2017				
January	2.4	4	Midland 2.1	(2.1)	Waco 3.2	(3.2)
February	2.5	3.8	Amarillo 2.5	(2.5)	Tyler 3.4	(3.4)
March	2.4	3.5	Odessa 2.6	(2.6)	Laredo 3.5	(3.5)
April	2.1	3	Austin-Round Rock 2.7	(2.7)	Victoria 3.6	(3.6)
May	2.1	3	College Station-Bryan 2.7	(2.7)	Houston-The Woodlands	
June	2.4	3.2	Lubbock 2.7	(2.7)	Sugar Land 3.8	(3.8)
July	2.2	3	San Angelo 3.0	(3.0)	Killeen-Temple 3.8	(3.8)
August	2.2	3	Sherman-Denison 3.0	(3.0)	Longview 3.8	(3.8)
September	2.2	2.6	Abilene 3.1	(3.1)	El Paso 3.9	(3.9)
October	2.1	2.4	San Antonio-New Braunfels 3.1	(3.1)	Corpus Christi 4.3	(4.3)
November	2.1	2.4	Wichita Falls 3.1	(3.1)	Texarkana 4.7	(4.7)
Preliminary numbers for November with			Dallas-Ft. Worth 3.2	(3.2)	Beaumont-Port Arthur 5.3	(5.3)
			Fort Worth-Arlington 3.2	(3.2)	Brownsville-Harlingen 5.3	(5.3)
					McAllen-Edinburg-Mission 5.8	(5.8)

The infrastructure issues that are serving as barriers to recruiting new workers — such as housing, roads and the cost of living — are being addressed, he said, but "it's going to

take, not days, but years to get things addressed."

That is one reason why he continues to encourage the region's young people to stay here, enroll in local training programs, enroll

in local community colleges or local universities and enter the workforce when they graduate.

"We need to address the quality of life and get our young people to

understand this is the place to live," he said. "We are so blessed to have a community with jobs, where anyone who wants to work can work, where people care about the

community." A little diversification across the area's industrial sectors would be phenomenal, he said, but "the impact of the oil and gas industry here is unbelievable."

Statewide, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.7 percent, unchanged from October, when it reached a historic 42-year low.

The state added 14,000 seasonally adjusted non-farm jobs for a growth rate of 3 percent, marking 103 consecutive months of annual growth.

While Midland reported the lowest unemployment rate, the highest was in McAllen-Edinburg-Mission at 5.8 percent.

WORD OF THE DAY
brought to you daily bysleigh
[sley]
noun

1. a light vehicle on runners, usually open and generally horse-drawn, used especially for transporting persons over snow or ice.
2. a sled.

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Reporter-Telegram

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make a concerted effort to keep the cost of
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When a price change or frequency change
occurs, each subscriber's expiration date will
be adjusted based on the credit balance on
their account.

TODAY IN MIDLAND

A fond farewell



Courtesy photo

Ann Bradford, from left, and Midland County Judge Mike Bradford attend his retirement party Dec. 6. Bradford chose not to run for re-election, and his retirement is set to be acknowledged Thursday during a Commissioners' Court meeting. Terry Johnson will start in January as the new county judge.

Things to do

Because of the holidays, some
recurring events may be canceled.

■ Free Yoga. Open class, bring
a mat. 9 a.m., Unitarian Universalist
Church of Midland, 3301 Neely Ave.
Free.

■ Toddler Time Paint Class: "Little
Snowman Ornament." 10 a.m., Kidd's
and Canvas Parties, 3300 N. Midland
Road. \$20. kiddsart.com.

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

■ Saturday movies and popcorn.
2-3:30 p.m., Centennial Library.

■ Polar Express Party. Guest can
wear their pajamas to enjoy orna-
ment making, cookie decorating and
more with a screening of "The Polar
Express." 5:30 p.m., Palmer Activity
Christian Center, 1305 E. Illinois Ave.
Free.

■ YuGiOh! tournaments, 6-10
p.m., Entertainment, 3111 W. Cuthbert
Ave. \$5.

■ Steak Night, 6 p.m., Ranchland
Hills Golf Club, 1600 E. Wadley Ave.
ranchlandhills.com.

■ The Eighty-Eights Duel-
ing Pianos Show, 9 p.m., Midland
Beer Garden, 7112 W. Highway 80.
\$40-\$60.

■ Runnin' Blind, 9 p.m., Your
Place, 3704 W. Wall St.

■ Karaoke, 9 p.m., Delour Bar,
1708 Rankin Highway.

■ Zack Walther Band, 9:30 p.m.,
Riley's Bar and Grill, 3421 W. Wall St.

Today and Sunday

■ "The Nutcracker" by Midland
Festival Ballet, 7:30 p.m. today, 2:30
p.m. Sunday, Wagner Noel Performing
Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market
Road 1788. \$20-\$59. midlandfestival-
ballet.org.

Post office
deadlines

The U.S. Postal Service's
CityDesta and Graves stations will
be open 9 a.m.-2 p.m. today. Also,
residents should keep in mind the
following USPS deadlines to get a
package there by Dec. 24, priority
mail express, today.

Source: USPS

Open
Christmas DayRestaurants open
on Christmas Day

Midlanders will have very few
places to eat out on Christmas Day.
■ Saltgrass, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. To
make reservations, call 699-0476.

■ Garden Grille and Bar at the
Hilton Garden Inn, 5-10 p.m.

■ The Bistro at the Courtyard by
Marriott, 6-10 a.m. (breakfast)

■ Buffalo Wild Wings, 4 p.m.-2
a.m. Will close at 3 p.m. on Christmas
Eve.

■ Denny's. Will be open 24 hours.

■ IHOP. Loop 250 location will
close at 2 p.m. on Christmas Day.
Interstate 20 location will be open
24 hours.

■ Jack in the Box, 6 a.m.-10 p.m.
Also, H-E-B, Albertson's/Market

Street, Walmart and Super Mercado
will be closed on Christmas Day.
Walmart will close at 9 p.m. on
Christmas Eve.

Watering
schedule

The current outdoor watering
schedule allows residents and busi-
nesses in the city of Midland to water

twice per week.
Even numbered addresses may
water outdoors on Saturdays and
Wednesdays.

Odd numbered addresses may
water outdoors on Fridays and
Tuesdays.

Any violation may result in a fine
up to \$500.

The watering outdoor surfaces ban
is still in effect.

Lottery

All or Nothing morning:
01-02-03-04-07-09-13-14-20-21-
23-24

All or Nothing day: 05-07-08-
12-14-16-17-18-19-21-22-24

All or Nothing evening:
01-02-03-06-07-08-09-10-11-13-
14-16

Daily 4 morning: 9-34-40
Daily 4 day: 4-2-7-8
Daily 4 evening: 7-5-4-8
Pick 3 morning: 5-3-3
Pick 3 day: 0-1-1
Pick 3 evening: 8-7-5

Because of an earlier deadline, the
night drawings were unavailable.

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Weather

Friday's temperatures

High: 70
Low: 29
Normal high: 57
Normal low: 30

Dec. 21's records

Record high: 81, set in
1981 and equaled in 2010

Record low: 8, set in 1989

Precipitation

Thursday: 0.00 in
Sunday: 0.00 in
Month total: 0.88 in
Year total: 17.55 in
Normal total (year to date): 14.42 in

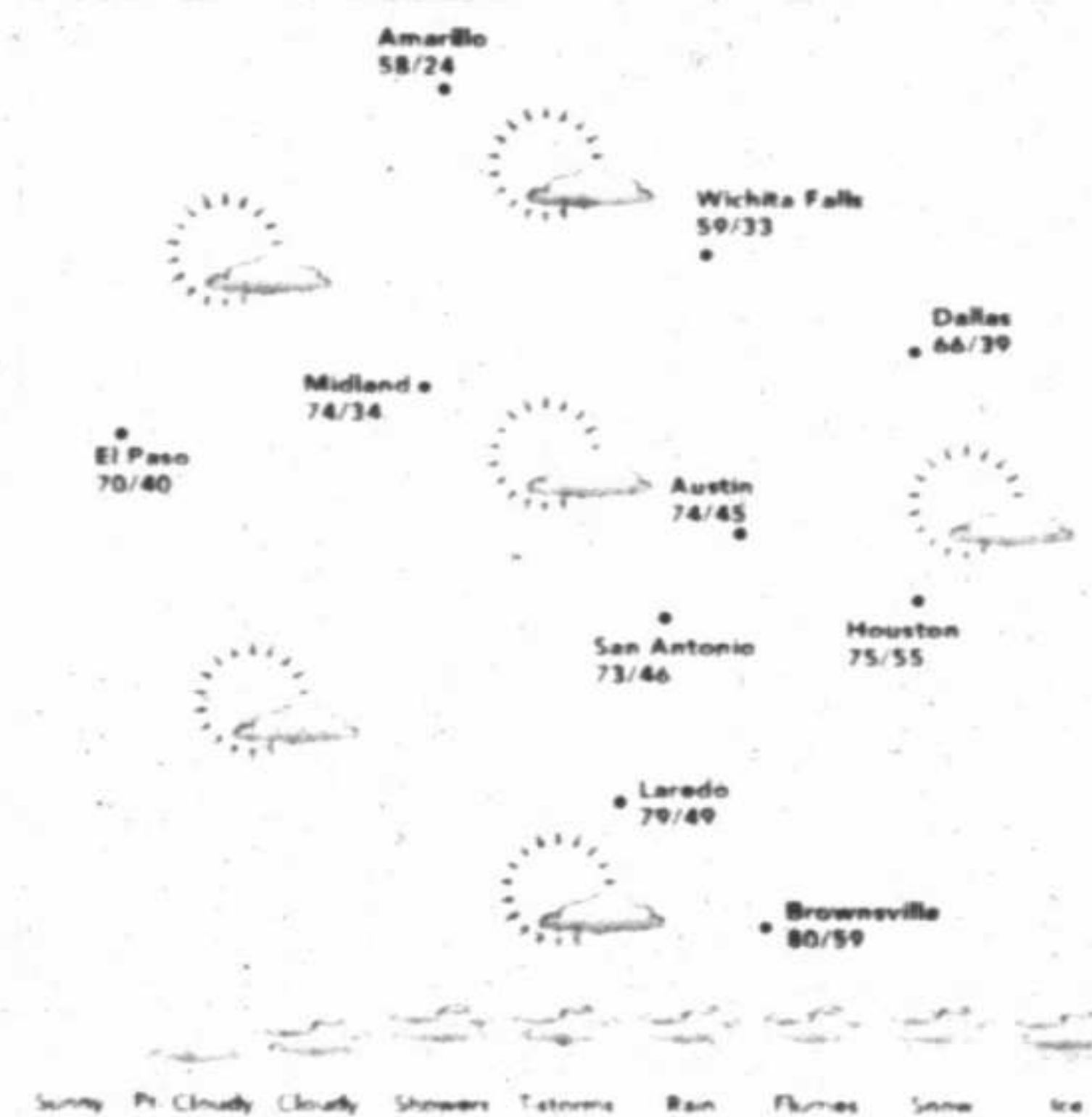
Winds

Wind speed: 8.6 mph
Highest sustained wind
speed: 26 mph
Highest gust speed: 32 mph

Dec. 22 forecast

High: 74
Low: 32

Forecast for Saturday, December 22, 2018



Conditions: Sunny during
the day clear at night

Winds: 5-10 mph during
the day and night

Chance of rain: None

Sunrise: 7:46 a.m.
Sunset: 5:49 p.m.

Source: National Weather Service

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

A baby born today has a
Sun in Capricorn and a Moon
in Gemini if born before 10:28
a.m. Afterward, the Moon will
be in Cancer.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for
Saturday, Dec. 22, 2018:

This year you will learn to
handle your temper. You might
be fester than others realize.
You also can be spontaneous at
times. Try to curb unexpected
actions or words. You might find
that you often see both sides
of a problem. If you are single,
you could attract a strong group
of admirers. Your temper and
volatile style could be a problem
when dating, though. If you
are attached, the two of you
experience more closeness than
in the recent past. Perhaps you
will pursue a mutually enjoyed
hobby together. CANCER can
be quite nurturing.

ARIES
(March 21-April 19)

*** Tension builds.
Choose to take a much-needed,
unscheduled day off. You enjoy
spontaneity. You also might
have some observations to think
about. A day away from the
daily grind could be more than
a mood-changer. Tonight: Take
care of yourself first.

TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)

***** Keep plans light
and easy. Defer to a friend or
loved one. You might discover
that letting go could be difficult,
but worthwhile. Take care of
some errands, but above all else,
make sure that you get to relax
before the next round. Tonight:
Dinner for two.

GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)

*** You might be juggling
your finances or find yourself
having to be Peter Pan. Paul
Stop and take a hard look at the
situation. Is there any way you
could avoid this scenario? Even
if the path is rocky, it could be
well worth it. Tonight: At a
favorite spot.

CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

***** Enjoy others;
attention, but don't forget about
someone who could be far more
in need of it, and who could use
some emotional support as well.
You have put a lot of effort into
the holidays. You need time for
yourself, too. Tonight: Leader
of the gang.

LEO
(July 23-Aug. 22)

*** Step away from the
daily grind for a bit. Spend the
day alone or with one other
person. Everyone needs time
to recharge his or her battery,
and you'll need this even more
as you interact with others.
Screen calls, and play it low-key.
Tonight: Happy at home.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

***** Note how quickly an
associate can lose his or her tem-
per. You might want to emerge
those around you. Understand
that you could feel pushed
between two different views.
If you have tried one approach
already, try the other. Tonight:
Hang with friends.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Love Where You Live
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Manor Park
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*** Pressure builds. A con-
versation with an older person or
someone you look up to could be
frustrating. You want to make
this person understand where
you are coming from. I under-
stand what is happening around
you. Tonight: In the limelight.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

***** Take a risk and
choose to see life from a different
perspective. Walk in some-
one else's shoes and see why
he or she responds the way he
or she does. Try to maintain an
easy, relaxed attitude throughout
the day. Tonight: I listen to a
favorite piece of holiday music.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

***** Anger seems to sur-
face from out of nowhere. Make

time for a special person in your
life. You could feel uptight about
your spending. You also might
feel as if you have had enough
of a certain situation. Tonight:
You finally identify with a close
loved one.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

***** One-on-one relating
happens naturally. You could
lose your temper easily if some-
one keeps pushing you. Know
that irritation might be close
to the surface most of the day.
Do not push a loved one away.
Tonight: Paint the town red with
friends.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

*** If you find your temper
rising to the surface, you might
want to relax more. Everyone

PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)

***** Tap into your
creativity and understand what
is happening with a loved one.
If you're faced with a problem
when you have a lot to get done,
trust that you can handle it. You
could be a great problem-solver
right now. Tonight: Be more
playful and upbeat.

BORN TODAY

Singer/songwriter Robin Gibb
(1949), TV journalist Diane
Sawyer (1945), singer/song-
writer Jordin Sparks (1989).

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Migrants wait for a chance to request U.S. asylum Friday alongside the El Chaparral pedestrian border crossing in Tijuana, Mexico.

New asylum policy comes with few details, many questions

By Moises Castillo
and Elliot Spagat
Associated Press

TIJUANA, Mexico — The Trump administration's decision to make asylum seekers wait in Mexico while their cases wind through clogged U.S. courts was announced with crucial details still unknown — a move that creates uncertainty along the border and possibly an incentive for people to cross illegally before the change takes effect.

The policy shift would force asylum seekers to stay in often-dangerous Mexican border cities as they navigate the American immigration court system.

On Friday, little had changed at Mexico's busiest U.S. border crossing, where Mauricio Gomez of Nicaragua joined about 150 others to learn if his name would be called to claim asylum.

"We are aware of the news, but nothing has happened so far," said Gomez, 41, who hoped to join a cousin in Nebraska. "We don't know when they are going to implement it."

Details were missing when the U.S. announced the policy Thursday in response to a large and growing number of Central American asylum seekers, many of them families, who are typically released in the United States while their cases are adjudicated, a process that can take years. The process at the border remains status quo until specific new procedures are put in place.

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen said the next step was "more legal paperwork" with Mexico.

"So, we'll work on a technical agreement with them, but we have our teams working on that now," she told Fox News on Friday.

The U.S. characterized the policy as a unilateral move, but Mexico almost simultaneously said it would grant foreigners permission to stay in the country while their asylum claims are considered in the U.S. and that they could seek work authorization. The two governments have been in discussions for months, and the timing of the twin announcements suggested a high level of cooperation and coordination.

A Homeland Security official, speaking to reporters Thursday on condition of anonymity, said some details were expected in the coming days and that the policy would be rolled out in phases at different locations on the border. The U.S. said the policy will not apply to children traveling alone or to Mexican asylum seekers.

The mechanics may get complicated. Where will immigration hearings be held and how will asylum seekers get there? How will they communicate with attorneys? How will they be returned to

Mexico?

Details about implementation and "the circumstances in which people will be shuttled back and forth across the border are not at all clear," said Alan Bersin, a former Customs and Border Protection commissioner who helped negotiate repatriation agreements with Mexico as a senior Homeland Security official under President Barack Obama.

Government protocols are meant to establish uniform guidelines "rather than leave it up to the operators in the field to make it up as they go along," Bersin said.

Some U.S. authorities worry that any lag between the announcement and implementation may encourage some asylum seekers to cross illegally before the changes take effect. Illegal crossings surged between Trump's election and inauguration in fear of what the new president might do.

Bersin said smugglers always seek to take advantage of perceived "loopholes," and they may view a lag in implementation as an incentive.

There is also uncertainty on the legal front. Judges have blocked some of Trump's biggest strokes on immigration, the latest reminder coming Friday when a divided Supreme Court decided it would not let the administration begin enforcing a ban on asylum announced last month for anyone who illegally crosses the U.S.-Mexico border.

Andrew Selee, president of the nonpartisan Migration Policy Institute, said elements of the rollout may be challenged in court as they become known. That could include issues such as whether phone access is sufficient to consult an attorney or what happens if the Mexican government is at fault for someone failing to cross the border in time for a court date.

"All of these pieces, every logistical piece, can be litigated. This can go on for years," Selee said. "I actually wonder if this will ever be implemented."

A migrant named Ismael, who declined to give his last name for fear of reprisal in his native Honduras, went to the Tijuana border crossing Friday to check his place on a list of asylum seekers kept in a tattered notebook managed by the migrants themselves. U.S. inspectors process about 100 claims a day at the crossing, and there are more than 1,800 waiting.

Ismael, who has been waiting in Tijuana for nearly three months, heard about the policy change on the news and wondered when it would take effect. He was shaken by the recent killings of two Honduran migrants in Tijuana and feels unsafe and unwelcome in the Mexican border city. But, he said, returning to Honduras would be too dangerous.

The United States has its laws, he said. "I don't agree, but if they send us back here, what can one do? Wait."

Mexico appears willing but unready to hold US refugees

By Marko Alvarez
And Mark Stevenson
Associated Press

TIJUANA, Mexico — Mexico's willingness to accept U.S. asylum seekers while their applications are processed appears to be yet another sign of the blooming honeymoon between leftist President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador and President Donald Trump, though it is also causing concern among officials in Mexican border cities already struggling to deal with thousands of Central American migrants.

Mexico could have simply refused, as it historically has, to accept the return of non-Mexicans. But this week's announcement of \$10.6 billion in U.S. development aid and the personal relationship between the two presidents appeared to smooth the path. It is the same relationship that helped resolve stalled negotiations on Mexico's free trade agreement with the United States and Canada.

"Right now it's a honeymoon, in part because even though one is on the left and the other is more to the right, they have things in common — protectionism, the anti-establishment thing, each one's nationalism," said Jose Antonio Crespo, a political analyst at Mexico's Center for Economic Research and Training.

Crespo noted Trump was getting along better with Lopez Obrador than with his conservative predecessor, Enrique Pena Nieto. "Up to now it's been a honeymoon, who knows how long it will last."

Mexico, meanwhile, is struggling to say how it will house and protect what could become tens of thousands of Central American migrants who might wind up in its cities along the border with the United States. It is clearly not ready to shelter so many.

Tonatiuh Guillen, the head Mexico's immigration agency, said, "In the short term, the National Immigration Institute does not have the organizational capacity to operate this kind of program — the current legislation also doesn't help us."

Mexico is already hosting thousands of Central Americans who arrived as part of a migrant caravan in November. Those migrants were dismayed by Thursday's announcement.

"This is bad, because every country has its sovereignty, it doesn't have to depend on another country," said Luis Miguel Conde, a Guatemalan who travelled to Tijuana with his wife and two children



Moises Castillo/AP

A Honduran migrant pleads with a U.S. Border Patrol agent to let him cross into the U.S. on Dec. 15 as he peeks through a barrier in Tijuana, Mexico. The officer did not respond, and the Honduran did not know the agent would not prevent him from crossing. The man returned to the group of people he was with.

to request asylum in the U.S. "When you apply for asylum in Mexico, they don't send you to Guatemala to wait. You wait for your application within the country's territory."

Tijuana is currently the most popular crossing point for asylum seekers waiting to submit claims in the United States, but the border city is already weary of housing over 7,000 migrants who arrived in the caravan in November.

The city's police staged a raid before dawn Thursday to clear dozens of migrants who had resisted moving to a shelter farther from the border and camped out on a downtown street a few blocks from the border. Riot police loaded about 120 people onto buses to take them to the Barretal shelter, located about 14 miles from the San Ysidro border crossing. Officers arrested two dozen who refused to relocate.

"We did have to detain 24 people who refused to leave the street, and we found some who were doing illegal drugs," Police Chief Marco Sotomayor said.

Cesar Palencia, director of migrant affairs for the city government, reacted with surprise to Thursday's announcement by the federal government on housing asylum seekers.

"How would it be done? For how long? How many people? We don't know what the strategy or the plan is, nor have any studies been done," Palencia told The Associated Press. "We respect the federal government's decision, but we would ask that it be accompanied by personnel, funding and a strategy."

The assistant legal counsel for Mexico's foreign relations department, Alejandro Celorio, said that there will not be any detention centers for migrants. "They will not be detained," he said.

But Celorio did not say whether shelters, like the

former Barretal concert venue in Tijuana, would be built, expanded or made more permanent — and whose money would be used to pay for such shelters.

The only strategy Mexico's federal government has launched so far is a TV and radio "campaign against xenophobia" announced Thursday to combat suspicion and dislike of migrants.

"Migrants are not a threat, this is not an invasion," said Alexandra Haas, the head of Mexico's anti-discrimination agency.

The most outraged reaction came from U.S. immigration activists, but reaction on the Mexican side was muted, in part because Lopez Obrador's administration was apparently successful in depicting the decision as a humanitarian measure to protect migrants.

"There is a segment of Mexicans who are better off and don't feel threatened by migrants who can say this is good, we have to be humanitarian, show solidarity," said Crespo, the analyst. "But for those (Mexicans) who are looking for a job, they perhaps won't like this."

All in all, it will be hard for opponents to accuse a die-hard nationalist like Lopez Obrador of being too pro-American.

"Who can stand up in congress and say: 'You're selling the country out,'" said Federico Estevez, a political science professor at the Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico "He (Lopez Obrador) may absorb a cost, but it's relatively small price to get your neck out of the noose on the immigration issue."

"I don't think you can find on the Mexican side much of a coherent stance against these concessions," Estevez added. "I don't think you have a very strong constituency on this side" in favor of the Central American migrants.

Baby quilt meant for daughter may bring back sad memories

DEAR ABBY: Several years ago, my daughter got pregnant. She and her husband were overjoyed, as was I. Being a quilter, I immediately made a baby play quilt. However, before I could send it, she had a miscarriage. After that, she had another miscarriage, so I have never given her the quilt, nor have I given it to anyone else.

She and her husband divorced, and she has since remarried. They haven't had children, nor do they want any. They are happy with their decision, and it's fine with me.

They often entertain and sometimes small children are there with their parents. I will visit her in a couple of months, and I'm wondering if I should give her the quilt for the young ones to play with. I don't want to open old wounds, but I'd like her to have it. Of course, this is more about her feelings than mine, but I'm unsure about what to do. I would appreciate your thoughts. — NOT A GRANDMA IN TENNESSEE

DEAR NOT A GRANDMA: Do not surprise your daughter with the quilt. A couple of weeks before your visit, mention it to her and ask what she would like done with it. The decision should be hers. I am sure you put much love and effort into creating it, but don't be surprised if there is so much pain associated

with it that she asks you not to bring it.

DEAR ABBY: I'm an adult who had to move back home with my parents due to ill health. In the evening, we like to watch TV together. However, I often find myself hiding out alone in my bedroom because my father has the volume turned so high my ears hurt. I "jokingly" said he should get a hearing aid, but he seemed offended by the suggestion.

I would love to enjoy family time, but don't want to have to wear earplugs every time I sit in the living room. Do you (or your readers) have any suggestions? I'm hoping he sees this because he reads your column every morning. — TURN THE VOLUME DOWN

DEAR VOLUME: Stop dreaming. Your dad is in denial about his hearing loss and wouldn't recognize himself in my column if you hit him with the newspaper.

Have another chat with Dad and tell him the TV volume is so

loud it is painful for your ears, which is why you stay in your room rather than watch with him. The solution might be as easy as earplugs for him (rather than earplugs for you) so you and your mom can enjoy the programs at a normal volume. It is also time for him to have a conversation with an audiologist, once he can finally reconcile himself to the fact that there is a problem.

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating a man for a few months, and we really seem to have hit it off. I recently found out that he has been hiding some information about his home life that isn't flattering to him. Should I tell him that I'm aware of this information or dismiss it? — UNCERTAIN IN ARIZONA

DEAR UNCERTAIN: Do not dismiss it. Talk to him about it, if only to find out if the information you were given was accurate. (It may not be.) However, if he has deliberately misled you, recognize it's time to end the relationship.

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.



GOREN BRIDGE

With Bob Jones

Bidding Quiz

- Q1 — Neither vulnerable, as South. What call would you make?
- you hold: ♠A654 ♥K6 ♦AK109 ♣975
- Partner opens 2H, weak. What call would you make?
- Q2 — North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠10876 ♥AJ10 ♦AQ3 ♣963
- Q3 — East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠108 ♥KQ84 ♦A3 ♣KQJ92
- As dealer, what call would you make?
- Q4 — Both vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠K73 ♥873 ♦AK ♣J10642
- Partner opens 1D and right-hand opponent passes. What call would you make?
- 10 Pass 10 Pass
- 20 Pass ? make?

Afghan generals worry about US withdrawal

By Kathy Gannon
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — The Taliban welcomed news of the U.S. plan to withdraw half its troops in Afghanistan by the summer, as Afghan generals warned Friday it would be a blow to the morale of the country's beleaguered security forces, who come under daily attacks from the insurgent fighters.

The announcement seems certain to complicate efforts to reach a peace deal, mostly because it gives the Taliban leverage by allowing them to hold off until a total U.S. withdrawal, or step up their demands over a weakened Afghan government.

"I believe the Taliban will see this as a reason to stall, and therefore it disincentivizes the Taliban to actually talk to the Afghan government, which it has refused to do," said Bill Roggio, an Afghanistan analyst with the Washington-based Foundation for Defense of Democracies.

Afghanistan's security forces rely heavily on U.S. airpower against both Taliban and an upstart Islamic State affiliate, and Afghan military officials note the announcement by the Trump administration comes as the country's security is at its worst since 2014, when more than 100,000 NATO troops pulled out of the country and handed off security to Afghans. The U.S. and NATO retreated into a training and advising role.

"A complete withdrawal of U.S. forces would very likely cause the Taliban to make gains in key areas throughout Afghanistan," Roggio said. "This likely would cause the general collapse of the (Afghan National Security and Defense Force) as a cohesive fighting force and lead to the return of the warlords."

U.S. President Donald Trump considers the war in Afghanistan a lost cause and has long pushed to pull the troops out. His decision was made public a mere few hours after he abruptly announced the U.S. was withdrawing troops from Syria.

Trump's state of mind is sure to have given a sense of urgency to U.S. peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, who has been working to reach a negotiated end to America's longest war and has been pushing for a deal by April.

In an interview with Afghanistan's TOLO TV on Thursday — hours before the withdrawal plans were announced — he noted Trump had campaigned for



Afghan National Army soldiers stand guard Oct. 17 at a checkpoint in Kabul, Afghanistan.

president on a promise to end the Afghan war, which has already cost Americans nearly \$1 trillion. More than 2,400 American soldiers have also died in Afghanistan since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion.

"There was little doubt that Amb. Khalilzad was always working with limited time and a zeal of desperation to achieve something before the president pulled the plug," said Daniel Markey, senior research professor at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies.

A Taliban official told The Associated Press the announcement was a positive step. Speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the press, the official said Taliban officials think the promised departure could help the peace process because it could "lead to trust building that the U.S. wants a political solution."

But there was no sign the Taliban were ready to move on the two major sticking points: Direct talks with the Afghan government and a cease fire while the two sides negotiate Khalilzad's so-called "roadmap for the future of Afghanistan."

Peace talks aside, the announced withdrawal has Afghan generals and analysts worried about the ability of the beleaguered Afghan National Security Force to stave off a Taliban insurgency unfettered by U.S. troops and their pounding air power.

The Taliban are already stronger today than they have been since their ouster in 2001, controlling or holding sway over nearly half the country.

Several high ranking Afghan military officials, who spoke on condition they not be identified because they were not authorized to speak to the media, said the morale of Afghanistan's under-trained and poorly equipped

security forces was already at a dangerously low ebb. The troops routinely complain about reinforcements that arrive too late, equipment that fails and even running out of food.

The officials called America's withdrawal a defeat, comparing it to the U.S.'s evacuation from Vietnam, and Russia's 1979 forced withdrawal from Afghanistan that capped a failed 10-year campaign.

U.S. troops invaded Afghanistan in November 2001 in response to the Sept. 11 attacks. Their ouster of the Taliban returned to power former warlords, whose bitter infighting and runaway corruption had resulted in vast tracts of the capital Kabul being destroyed and given rise to the Taliban, who used a strict and harsh interpretation of Islam to restore calm to the country.

Ordinary Afghans have mixed feelings about the presence of U.S. and NATO troops. Many fear their departure believing it will strengthen the Taliban, yet criticize their presence for doing little to improve security, which has deteriorated. Afghans complain bitterly about their deeply corrupt government and see the U.S. — which largely bankrolls the government — as responsible.

Neighbor Pakistan, who has been harshly criticized by Trump for not doing enough to bring the Taliban to the table, had warned that a sudden departure of U.S. troops would result in chaos in Afghanistan and destabilize the region.

"The last thing it (Pakistan) wants is a radical Islamist state on its Western border, even if that eliminates or reduces Indian influence in Afghanistan," said Shuja Nawaz, author and fellow at the Atlantic Council's South Asia Center.

Trump call with Turkish leader led to US pullout from Syria

By Matthew Lee
and Susannah George
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw American troops from Syria was made hastily, without consulting his national security team or allies, and over strong objections from virtually everyone involved in the fight against the Islamic State group, according to U.S. and Turkish officials.

Trump stunned his Cabinet, lawmakers and much of the world with the move by rejecting the advice of his top aides and agreeing to a withdrawal in a phone call with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan last week, two U.S. officials and a Turkish official briefed on the matter told The Associated Press.

The Dec. 14 call, described by officials who were not authorized to discuss the decision-making process publicly, provides insight into a consequential Trump decision that prompted the resignation of widely respected Defense Secretary Jim Mattis. It also set off a frantic, four-day scramble to convince the president either to reverse or delay the decision.

The White House rejected the description of the call from the officials but was not specific.

"In no uncertain terms, reporting throughout this story is not true," National Security Council spokesman Garrett Marquis said. "It is clear from the context that this false version of events is from sources who lack authority on the subject, possibly from unnamed sources in Turkey."

The State Department and Pentagon declined to comment on the account of the decision to withdraw the troops, which have been in Syria to fight the Islamic State since 2015.

Despite losing the physical caliphate, thousands of IS fighters remain in Iraq and Syria, and the group continues to carry out insurgent attacks and could easily move back into territory it once held if American forces withdraw.

The Dec. 14 call came a day after Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu agreed to have the two presidents discuss Erdogan's threats to launch a military operation against U.S.-backed Kurdish rebels in northeast Syria, where American forces are based. The NSC then set up the call.

Pompeo, Mattis and other members of the national security team prepared a list of talking points for Trump to tell Erdogan to back off, the officials said.

But the officials said Trump, who had previously accepted such advice and convinced the Turkish leader not to attack the

Kurds and put U.S. troops at risk, ignored the script. Instead, the president sided with Erdogan.

In the following days, Trump remained unmoved by those scrambling to convince him to reverse or at least delay the decision to give the military and Kurdish forces time to prepare for an orderly withdrawal.

"The talking points were very firm," said one of the officials, explaining that Trump was advised to clearly oppose a Turkish incursion into northern Syria and suggest the U.S. and Turkey work together to address security concerns. "Everybody said push back and try to offer (Turkey) something that's a small win, possibly holding territory on the border, something like that."

Erdogan, though, quickly put Trump on the defensive, reminding him that he had repeatedly said the only reason for U.S. troops to be in Syria was to defeat the Islamic State and that the group had been 99 percent defeated. "Why are you still there?" the second official said Erdogan asked Trump, telling him that the Turks could deal with the remaining IS militants.

With Erdogan on the line, Trump asked national security adviser John Bolton, who was listening in, why American troops remained in Syria if what the Turkish president was saying was true, according to the officials. Erdogan's point, Bolton was forced to admit, had been backed up by Mattis, Pompeo, U.S. special envoy for Syria Jim Jeffrey and special envoy for the anti-IS coalition Brett McGurk, who have said that IS retains only 1 percent of its territory, the officials said.

Bolton stressed, however, that the entire national security team agreed that victory over IS had to be enduring, which means more than taking away its territory.

Trump was not dissuaded, according to the officials, who said the president quickly capitulated by pledging to withdraw, shocking both Bolton and Erdogan.

Caught off guard, Erdogan cautioned Trump against a hasty withdrawal, according to one official. While Turkey has made incursions into Syria in the past, it does not have the necessary forces mobilized on the border to move in and hold the large swaths of northeastern Syria where U.S. troops are positioned, the official said.

The call ended with Trump repeating to Erdogan that the U.S. would pull out, but offering no specifics on how it would be done, the officials said.

Over the weekend, the national security team raced to come up with a plan that would reverse, delay or somehow limit effects of the withdrawal, the officials said.

AP-NORC Poll: Nearly 6 in 10 say Trump impeded Russia probe

By Eric Tucker
and Emily Swanson
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A majority of Americans say they believe President Donald Trump has tried to obstruct the investigation into his campaign's ties to Russia, though the public is divided on whether he should be removed from office if he's found to have stymied the probe, according to a new poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Meanwhile, the survey shows Americans are somewhat less likely to say Congress should remove Trump from office if he directed his former personal attorney, Michael Cohen, to arrange hush money payments to cover up claims of extramarital relationships during the 2016 campaign.

Still, opinions on both matters see a stark partisan divide.

The poll was conducted just after federal prosecutors in New York implicated Trump in illegal payments to a former Playboy model and an adult-film actress and after special counsel Robert Mueller revealed that discussions over a possible Trump Tower in Moscow extended longer than had been previously known. It was done amid signs of intensifying legal danger for Trump, whose actions face scrutiny in New York and in Mueller's investigation into possible coordination between Russia and the Trump campaign.

Overall, 42 percent of Americans approve of the job Trump is doing as president, while 56 percent disapprove. Those numbers have held steady for most of the year. About 8 in 10 Republicans approve of Trump's job performance, while just 1 in 10 Democrats say the same.

The swirling investigations are helping define public opinion, creating clear divi-

sions about whether and for what Trump should be impeached and to what extent he might be culpable of wrongdoing.

A majority of Americans — 58 percent — think the president has tried to impede the Russia investigation, while 4 in 10 say he has not. An overwhelming share of Democrats, 90 percent, say the president has sought to obstruct the probe, compared with 22 percent of Republicans.

The survey also shows that if Mueller's investigation finds that Trump did not personally have inappropriate contacts with the Kremlin but nonetheless tried to obstruct the FBI's work, 51 percent of Americans think Congress should take steps to remove him from office, while 46 percent think it should not.

The special counsel's obstruction investigation has shadowed the president for a year and a half, unfolding alongside his inquiry into whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Russia to sway the election and the separate campaign finance probe in New York. The last month has produced bombshell developments in the investigation, including Cohen's sentencing, allegations that Trump's former campaign chairman lied to prosecutors and a judge's unexpected upbraiding of former national security adviser Michael Flynn.

Jonathan Levine, a 64-year-old financial services professional in Connecticut, said he was especially concerned by reports that negotiations over a Trump Tower in Moscow continued deep into the 2016 campaign.

"He's running to be president of the United States. The United States is ideologically opposed to Russia, so he's accidentally dealing with the enemy, accidentally in bed with the enemy," Levine said. "Obviously he should have discontinued negotiations in Moscow when he turned the campaign on full time."



2018 BYRON JOHNSTON HOLIDAY CLASSIC Boys' Pool Play Schedule and Bracket

Pool A

Midland High
Plainview
Centennial High
San Angelo Central

Pool B

Midland Lee
El Paso Pebble Hills
Houston Spring Woods
Canyon Randall

Thursday - December 27th Schedule

10:30 AM	Chap Center	Spring Woods	vs	Canyon Randall
1:30 PM	Chap Center	Plainview	vs	SA Central
4:30 PM	Chap Center	EP Pebble Hills	vs	Midland Lee
7:30 PM	Chap Center	Centennial High	vs	Midland High

Friday - December 28th Schedule

9:30 AM	Chap Center	Midland Lee	vs	Spring Woods
9:30 AM	Midland High	EP Pebble Hills	vs	Canyon Randall
12:30 PM	Midland High	Centennial High	vs	SA Central
12:30 PM	Chap Center	Midland High	vs	Plainview
3:30 PM	Chap Center	Spring Woods	vs	EP Pebble Hills
7:30 PM	Midland High	Plainview	vs	Centennial High
7:30 PM	Midland Lee	Canyon Randall	vs	Midland Lee
7:30 PM	Chap Center	SA Central	vs	Midland High

No. 4 Pool A

Dec 29 @ 10:30 AM
(Midland High)

7th Place Winner

No. 4 Pool B

No. 3 Pool A

Dec 29 @ 10:00 AM
(Chap Center)

5th Place Winner

No. 3 Pool B

No. 2 Pool A

Dec 29 @ 1:00 PM
(Chap Center)

3rd Place Winner

No. 2 Pool B

No. 1 Pool A

Dec 29 @ 4:00 PM
(Chap Center)

2018 Byron Johnston
Champions

No. 1 Pool B



J. Scott Applewhite/AP

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., leaves the chamber Friday as the Senate waits to take up a House-passed bill that would pay for President Donald Trump's border wall and avert a partial government shutdown at midnight, at the Capitol in Washington.

Trump, Democrats dig in as government heads for shutdown

By Lisa Mascaro,
Matthew Daly
and Zeke Miller
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Racing toward a partial government shutdown, President Donald Trump appeared dug in Friday in a standoff with Democrats over his demand for billions of dollars in U.S.-Mexico border wall money.

The shutdown, scheduled for midnight, would disrupt government operations and leave hundreds of thousands of federal workers furloughed or forced to work without pay just days before Christmas.

Trump convened Republican senators for a lengthy meeting at the White House, but it produced no clear path toward passage of a government-funding bill containing billions for wall construction. The Senate began a procedural vote on the legislation but was stuck in a long holding pattern waiting for the return of senators who had already left town.

"This is our only chance that we'll ever have, in our opinion, because of the world and the way it breaks out, to get great border security," Trump said Friday at the White House. Democrats will take control of the House in January, and they oppose major funding for wall construction.

Trump tried to pin the blame on Democrats for the possible shutdown, even though just last week he said he would be "proud" to shut part of the government in a fight for the wall, which was a major promise of his presidential campaign.

Congress had been on track to fund the government but lurching when Trump, after a rare lashing from conservative supporters, declared Thursday he would not sign a bill without the wall billions. His supporters on the right warned that his "caving" on repeated wall promises could hurt his 2020 re-election chances, and those of other Republicans as well.

"We're totally prepared for a very long shutdown," Trump said Friday. Embracing his changed terminology, he claimed there is tremendous enthusiasm for border security — "the barrier, wall or steel slats — it's all the same."

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell returned to Capitol Hill saying lawmakers "had a good conversation about the way forward. We are going to continue to be talking this afternoon."

McConnell quickly set in motion a Senate procedural vote on a House Republican package that would give Trump \$5.7 billion for the wall, but it was not expected to pass. At least one Republican,

AP Explains: What happens if the Senate goes 'nuclear?'

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is urging the Senate, where Republicans hold the majority, to go "nuclear" over funding for the border wall with Mexico.

Enough Republicans have said they oppose it to make it unlikely to be used to avoid a government shutdown. But what does that mean and why is it, well, nuclear?

What is the nuclear option?

Under normal rules, the Senate requires a simple majority to pass bills, but any Senator can block one with what is known as a filibuster, or ongoing debate. To move past a filibuster, the Senate needs 60 of 100 votes. With the chamber split 51-49 Republicans to Democrats, getting to 60 votes can be a high hurdle.

The majority party can change the rules and allow an up-or-down vote, but doing so is called "the nuclear option" because it goes against Senate traditions of bipartisanship and debate. And, importantly, it can have unintended consequences.

It has happened before

This procedural maneuver has recent precedent. In 2017, Republicans used the "nuclear option" to force through the appointment of Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court. Supreme Court nominees had been exempted

under new rules the Democrats set for judicial appointments in 2013.

At that time, Democrats were in the majority under the leadership of Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada and upset about the blockage of President Barack Obama's nominees to a powerful appellate court.

At the time, now-Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell warned Democrats the strategy would backfire: "I say to my friends on the other side of the aisle, you will regret this, and you may regret it a lot sooner than you think."

Before 1975, it was even tougher for presidents to get their nominations through because two-thirds of the senators present and voting had to agree to move forward.

Why it is explosive

Such a rule change would be a momentous shift for the Senate, which traditionally operates via bipartisanship and consent from all senators. Some believe it could begin to unravel Senate traditions at a hyper-partisan moment in politics and perhaps end up in the complete elimination of the filibuster even for legislation—which would mean an entirely different Senate from the one that's existed for decades.

Senate experts note that the filibuster is not enshrined in the Constitution, but McConnell is an institutionalist who has made clear he did not favor invoking the nuclear option and did so grudgingly on Gorsuch's nomination.

retiring Sen. Jeff Flake of Arizona, was opposed, saying he would resist wall money without broader immigration reforms, leaving even the procedural vote in doubt.

Senators were being recalled to Washington after having already approved a bipartisan package earlier this week that would continue existing border security funding, at \$1.3 billion, but without new money for Trump's wall.

Friday's voting dragged on as senators rushed back to town. Sen. John Cornyn, the Senate's No. 2 Republican, said he returned to the Lone Star state on Thursday only to get back on an early Friday morning flight to Washington.

Democratic Sen. Brian Schatz flew all the way home to Hawaii, tweeting that he spent 17 minutes with his family, before returning on the 11-hour flight.

"Wheels down IAD ready to vote no on this stupid wall," Schatz tweeted Friday, referring to Dulles International Airport outside Washington.

At the White House, senators engaged in a lengthy back-and-forth with the president, but it did not appear to set a strategy for moving forward.

"I was in an hour meeting on that and there was no conclusion," said Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa. The Senate was ex-

pected to reject the House measure because Democratic votes are needed and McConnell showed little interest in changing the rules — as Trump proposed — to allow a simple majority for passage.

One possibility was that the Senate might strip the border wall funds out of the package, pass it and send it back to the House. House lawmakers said they were being told to stay in town for more possible votes.

Only a week ago, Trump insisted during a televised meeting at the White House he would take ownership of a shutdown over his border wall. "I will take the one to shut it down," he asserted.

But with the hours dwindling before the midnight deadline, Trump sought to reframe the debate and blame Democrats for the impasse that threatens hundreds of thousands of federal workers on the eve of the end-of-the-year holidays.

"Senator Mitch McConnell should fight for the Wall and Border Security as hard as he fought for anything. Later in the morning, not even waiting for a Senate vote, Trump tweeted that "the Democrats now own the shutdown!"

The White House said Trump would not go to Florida on Friday as planned for the Christmas

AP Explains: What happens in a partial government shutdown

By Matthew Daly
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As President Donald Trump and Congress bicker over Trump's call for \$5 billion to build a border wall with Mexico, government agencies are preparing for a partial government shutdown set to begin at midnight Friday.

The dispute could affect nine of 15 Cabinet-level departments and dozens of agencies, including the departments of Homeland Security, Transportation, Interior, Agriculture, State and Justice, as well as national parks and forests. More than 800,000 federal employees would see their jobs disrupted, including more than half who would be forced to continue working without pay.

The U.S. Postal Service, busy delivering packages for the holiday season, wouldn't be affected by any government shutdown because it's an independent agency.

Work goes on

Social Security checks will still go out. Troops will remain at their posts. Doctors and hospitals will get their Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements. In fact, virtually every essential government agency, like the FBI, the Border Patrol and the Coast Guard, will remain open. Transportation Security Administration officers will continue to man airport checkpoints.

But hundreds of thousands of federal workers will be forced off the job, and some services will go dark. Even after funding is restored, the political repercussions could be enduring.

According to a report by Democrats on the Senate Appropriations Committee, more than 420,000 federal employees deemed essential would continue to work without pay during a partial shutdown, including about 41,000 law enforcement and corrections officers and nearly 150,000 Homeland Security employees. Those working without pay — three days before Christmas — would include about 53,000 TSA workers, 54,000 Customs and Border Protection agents and officers and 42,000 Coast Guard employees.

As many as 5,000 Forest Service firefighters and 3,600 National Weather Service employees also would continue working, with the expectation that they will be paid back in full once the government reopens.

Meanwhile, more than 380,000 employees will be furloughed — including nearly all of NASA and Housing and Urban Development and 41,000 Commerce Department employees. About 16,000 National Park Service employees — 80 percent of the agency's workforce — would be furloughed, and many parks would close. Some parks already are closed for the winter.

Among those set to be furloughed: 52,000 staffers at the Internal Revenue Service, slowing analysis

and collection of hundreds of thousands of tax returns and audits.

Who works — and who doesn't

The rules for who works and who doesn't date back to the early 1980s and haven't been significantly modified since. The Trump administration is relying mostly on guidance left over from former President Barack Obama.

Under a precedent-setting memorandum by Reagan budget chief David Stockman, federal workers are exempted from furloughs if their jobs are national security-related or if they perform essential activities that "protect life and property."

The air traffic control system, food inspection, Medicare, veterans' health care and many other essential government programs would run as usual. The Federal Emergency Management Agency could continue to respond to disasters.

On the other hand, the Washington Monument and many other iconic park service attractions would close, as would museums along the National Mall. In the past, the vast majority of national parks were closed to visitors and campers, but during the last government shutdown in January the Interior Department tried to make parks as accessible as possible despite bare-bones staffing levels. It was not clear Monday if that effort will be repeated.

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, who greeted visitors at the World War II Memorial and other sites in downtown Washington during the last shutdown, said today he is stepping down at the end of the year.

Federal workers still get paid — eventually

While they can be kept on the job, federal workers can't get paid for days worked while there is a lapse in funding. In the past, however, they have been repaid retroactively even if they were ordered to stay home.

Rush hour in downtown Washington, meanwhile, becomes a breeze. Tens of thousands of federal workers are off the roads.

Shutdowns happen

Way back in the day, shutdowns usually weren't that big a deal. They happened every year when Jimmy Carter was president, averaging 11 days each. During Reagan's two terms, there were six shutdowns, typically just one or two days apiece. Deals got cut. Everybody moved on.

Before a three-day lapse in January, caused by Democrats' insistence that any budget measure come with protections for young immigrants known as "dreamers," the most recent significant shutdown was a 16-day partial shuttering of the government in 2013. That one came as tea party conservatives tried to block implementation of Obama's health care law.

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Tech stocks drop again as huge losses pile up on Wall Street

By Marley Jay
Associated Press

NEW YORK — More misery for technology stocks pulled major indexes lower on Wall Street Friday, worsening what's turning into the worst month for the market in a decade.

Amazon, Facebook, Netflix and a handful of other huge technology companies, once the best-performing stocks on the market, are now leading the way lower. Their huge popularity during the recent boom years in the market made them even more vulnerable when investors' mood turned sour, as it has this fall.

Big drops in those stocks as well as Apple and Alphabet, Google's parent company, have contributed to what's now a 20 percent drop in the Nasdaq from its peak in August. That index is heavily loaded with technology companies.

When the broader market was rising, those stocks rose even more. Now that the whole market is falling, these former favorites are now taking the worst of the losses.

"Technology was doing well on the way up because of momentum buying, and if you live by momentum, you die by momentum," said Sam Stovall, chief investment strategist for CFRA.

Several big technology companies, notably Facebook and Twitter, have also suffered as a result of scandals over matters such as data privacy and election meddling, and traders worry that the companies will eventually face greater government regulation that could increase their costs and affect their profits.

Markets have suffered wide losses over the last week. The major U.S. indexes have fallen more than 11 percent in December, and without a substantial gain over the final days of trading, they are headed for their single worst month since October 2008, when the market was being battered by the global financial crisis.

Investors around the world have grown increasingly pessimistic about the global economy's prospects over the next few years. It's widely expected to slow down, but traders are concerned the cooling might be worse than they previously believed and that the U.S. could eventually tip into a recession.

After a sharp early gain, the S&P 500 index retreated 30 points, or 1.2 percent, to 2,437 at 2:38 p.m. Eastern time. The S&P 500, the benchmark for many index funds, has

fallen 16.8 percent from its high in September.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average sank 233 points, or 1 percent, to 22,626. The Nasdaq skidded 142 points, or 2.2 percent, to 6,385. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks lost 26 points, or 2 percent, to 1,299.

Amazon fell 4.8 percent to \$1,391 and Facebook gave up 4.6 percent to \$127.30. Netflix declined 5.8 percent to \$245.55 and Apple lost 2.5 percent to \$152.91.

The market's plunge comes even as the Federal Reserve projects that the U.S. economy will grow 3 percent this year, the fastest since 2005, and about 2.3 percent next year, and two years of further increases after that. But as interest rates rise and regions the U.S. does a lot of business with, like Europe and China, also slow down, those estimates might be harder to reach.

Trade tensions between the U.S. and China, the two largest economies in the world, are not the only reason for the expected slowdown in economic growth and corporate profits, but they are adding even more uncertainty to a picture that already looks cloudy.

The Federal Reserve raised interest rates earlier this week and signaled that it expects to raise them two more times next year. Investors aren't sure how much that will impair the economy, and the stock market tumbled as they worried the Fed just wasn't concerned about that possibility.

Defense contractors fell after President Donald Trump said he's withdrawing U.S. soldiers from Syria in an unexpected move. Media reports say the administration might also pull large numbers of soldiers out of Afghanistan. Lockheed Martin fell 1.9 percent to \$260.14 and Raytheon shed 2.6 percent to \$153.78.

The market's big losses this month are an outlier because December is generally the strongest time of the year for U.S. stocks. Traders often talk about a "Santa rally" that adds to the year's gains as positions are closed out and people adjust their portfolios in anticipation of the year to come. Barring huge gains, this will be the worst December for the U.S. market since the 1930s.

Germany's DAX rose 0.2 percent and the FTSE 100 in Britain added 0.1 percent. France's CAC 40 was little changed. The Hang Seng index in Hong Kong rose 0.5 percent while South Korea's Kospi inched up 0.1 percent. The Japanese Nikkei declined 1.1 percent.

All of those indexes have taken steep losses this year. The DAX, Hang Seng and Kospi have all plunged at least 20 percent since early January and the Nikkei is down 17 percent since early October.

Oil prices have declined 40 percent from recent highs amid concerns over a glut in the market and the slowing economy. U.S. crude oil slipped 0.6 percent to \$45.59 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, the

standard for international oil prices, fell 1.3 percent to \$53.67 a barrel in London.

Wholesale gasoline was little changed at \$1.32 a gallon. Heating oil fell 1 percent to \$1.73 a gallon. Natural gas jumped 6.5 percent to \$3.82 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Bond prices were mixed. The yield on the 2-year Treasury note fell to 2.63 percent from 2.65 percent. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note stayed at 2.79 percent.

Gold lost 0.8 percent to \$1,258.10 an ounce and silver fell 1.1 percent to \$14.70 an ounce. Copper lost 0.8 percent to \$2.67 a pound.

The U.S. dollar also ticked higher after two days of sharp losses brought on by fears about the economy and slower increases in interest rates. The dollar rose 111.36 yen from 111.11 yen. The euro fell back to \$1.1369 from \$1.1469 and the British pound slipped to \$1.2639 from \$1.2671.

NATION BRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

DETROIT Fire risk forces recall of 874K Ford F-Series pickup trucks

Ford is recalling more than 874,000 F-Series pickup trucks with engine block heaters in the U.S. and Canada because they can catch fire.

The recall covers certain F-150s from the 2015 through 2019 model years, as well as the 2017 through 2019 F-250, 350, 450 and 550.

The company says in documents posted Friday on the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website that water and contaminants can get into the heater cable and cause corrosion. That can cause electrical shorts and possible fires. Engine block heaters warm the engines so they can start and warm up faster in extreme cold temperatures.

The company says the risk of fire happens only when the block heater cable is plugged into an electrical outlet. Ford has received three reports of fires in Canada, but none in the U.S.

Minor property damage was reported in one incident, but there haven't been any reports of injuries, Ford said in a statement.

Dealers will inspect and seal the cable or replace the heaters if needed. The recall is expected to start in the U.S. on Jan. 7.

DENVER

Dancing FBI agent who shot man at bar pleads guilty

A dancing FBI agent who accidentally shot a man in the leg after doing a backflip at a Denver bar will avoid jail time after pleading guilty Friday to third-degree assault.

Chase Bishop, 30, struck a plea deal with prosecutors and was sentenced to two years of probation. The Denver Post reported. He also must pay more than \$1,600 in fines and court costs.

Footage of the June 2 shooting at Mile High Spirits and Distillery shows Bishop dancing in the middle of a circle of people before doing the backflip. The gun falls to the ground mid-flip and discharges as Bishop picks it up.

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at 10:30 P.M.

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10:00 A.M.

With Musical Prelude beginning at 9:30 A.M.

Science Says: A big space crash likely made Uranus lopsided

By Seth Borenstein
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Uranus is a lopsided oddity, the only planet to spin on its side. Scientists now think they know how it got that way: It was pushed over by a rock at least twice as big as Earth.

Detailed computer simulations show that an enormous rock crashed into the seventh planet from the sun, said Durham University astronomy researcher Jacob Kegerreis, who presented his analysis at a large earth and space science conference this month.

Uranus is unique in the solar system. The massive planet tilts about 90 degrees on its side, as do its five largest moons. Its magnetic field is also lopsided and doesn't go out the poles like ours does, said NASA chief scientist Jim Green. It also is the only planet that doesn't have its interior heat escape from the core. It has rings like Saturn, albeit faint ones.

"It's very strange," said Carnegie Institution planetary scientist Scott Sheppard, who wasn't part of the research.

The computer simulations show that the collision and reshaping of Uranus — maybe enveloping some or all of the rock that hit it — happened in a matter of hours, Kegerreis said. He produced an animation showing the violent crash and its aftermath.

It's also possible that the big object that knocked over Uranus is still lurking in the solar system too far for us to see, said Green. It would explain some of the

orbits of the planet and fit with a theory that a missing planet X is circling the sun well beyond Pluto, he said.

Green said it's possible that a lot of smaller space rocks — the size of Pluto — pushed Uranus over, but Kegerreis' research and Sheppard point to a single huge unknown suspect. Green said a single impact "is the right thinking."

The collision happened 3 billion to 4 billion years ago, likely before the larger moons of Uranus formed. Instead there was a disk of stuff that would eventually come together to form moons. And when that happened, Uranus' odd tilt acted like a gravity tidal force pushing those five large moons to the same tilt, Kegerreis said.

It also would have created an icy shell that kept Uranus' inner heat locked in, Kegerreis said. (Uranus' surface is minus 357 degrees, or minus 216 Celsius.)

Ice is key with Uranus and its neighbor Neptune. A little more than a decade ago, NASA reclassified those two planets as "ice giants," no longer lumping them with the other large planets of the solar system, the gas giants Saturn and Jupiter.

Pluto, which is tiny, farther from the sun and not even officially a planet anymore, has been explored more than Uranus and Neptune. They only got brief flybys by Voyager 2, the space probe that entered interstellar space last month.

Uranus and Neptune "are definitely the least understood planets," Sheppard said.

Amazon's fleet of jets is growing

By Joseph Pisani
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Amazon is expanding its airplane fleet, diminishing further its reliance on major delivery services like UPS, FedEx and the U.S. Postal Service.

The company said Friday it will lease 10 Boeing 767s planes, bringing its total fleet to 50 with the goal of getting orders to people faster and more reliably.

Amazon's fleet of planes is far smaller than those at UPS and FedEx, which number in the hundreds, but it's pushed in recent years to close that gap and gain more control over deliveries.



AP file photo

A Boeing 767 with an Amazon.com "Prime Air" livery flies Aug. 5, 2016, over Lake Washington. The online retailer says it will lease 10 Boeing 767s planes, which will bring its total aircraft fleet up to 50.

Amazon launched a program over the summer that allows contractors around the country to deliver Amazon packages in vans stamped with the Amazon

smile logo. It also plans to open a package sorting hub at Fort Worth Alliance Airport in Texas next year and another at Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport in 2021.

FedEx CEO Frederick Smith said this week that he didn't see Amazon Air as a competitor and that it was "fantastical" to think it could disrupt FedEx.

A number of industry watchers see a more significant threat.

Analysts at Morgan Stanley estimated this month that FedEx and UPS could lose a combined 2 percent of revenue this year to Amazon Air.

The Seattle company says the 10 new jets will join the rest of its fleet over the next two years.

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Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Saturday, December 22, 2018 | Section B

Rangers trade Profar to A's in 3-team deal

By Stephen Hawkins
Associated Press

ARLINGTON — Texas traded infielder Jurickson Profar to the Oakland Athletics on Friday in a three-team deal that included Tampa Bay and netted the Rangers four prospects.

Oakland also reached an agreement on a \$15 million, two-year contract with free agent right-hander Joakim Soria, giving the A's a reliable and versatile reliever.

The 34-year-old Soria, a two-time All-Star, went 3-4 with a 3.12 ERA in 66 ap-

pearances and 60 2/3 innings this year for the Chicago White Sox and Milwaukee Brewers.

Profar, who at 19 in 2012 homered in his first big league at-bat before shoulder issues forced him to miss two full seasons, hit .254 with 20 homers and 77 RBIs in 146 games while playing all four infield positions for Texas this year.

In Oakland, he will take over at second



Profar

base for departing free agent Jed Lowrie. Profar had been expected to become the starting third baseman for the Rangers after Adrian Beltre retired last month.

The Rangers acquired right-hander Yoel Espinal and left-handers Kyle Bird and Brock Burke from Tampa Bay, and infielder Eli White from Oakland. Texas also got \$750,000 international slot compensation from the A's.

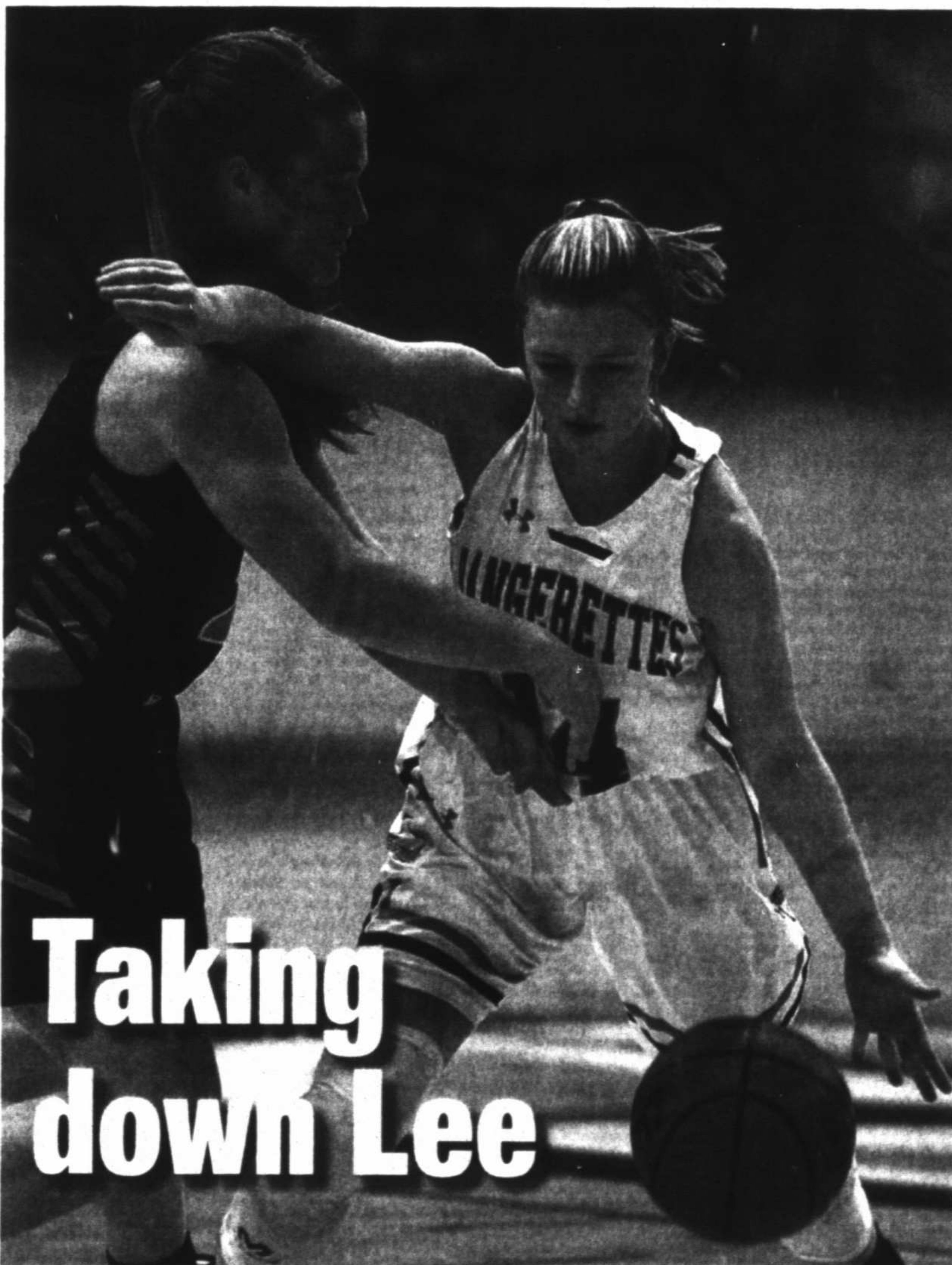
Texas sent right-hander Rolie Lacy to Tampa Bay. The A's also sent right-handed pitcher Emilio Pagan and a 2019 Competitive Balance Round A pick to the

Rays.

The Rangers had two more seasons of arbitration eligibility for Profar before he can become a free agent. General manager Jon Daniels said there had been discussions about the possibility of an extension but that it became clear that wasn't going to happen.

Daniels said the A's had been consistent in their interest in Profar, and with Tampa Bay in the deal it enabled the Rangers to get the full value they felt was needed to

Please see **TRADE/3B**



Taking down Lee

James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Greenwood's Taylor Payton (14) tries to dribble past Lee's Rylee Low (21) on Friday at Greenwood High School.

Greenwood notches hard-fought win against Lee

By Christopher Hadorn
chadorn@mrt.com

The Greenwood girls basketball team may lack a prototypical-sized post player.

But the Rangerettes don't let their lack of height stop them from playing with tenacity and intensity, and Lee found that out Friday in a non-district game at Greenwood High. In a physical affair, Greenwood was able to hold off a late run by the Lady Rebels in a 45-40 victory.

The Rangerettes (5-12) were sparked early by the long-range shooting of Karsyn Payton, who sank five 3-pointers in the first half to push Greenwood to a 31-16 halftime lead. Payton finished with a team-high 17 points.

"I think we've just come together and learned to fight, even though we're not the biggest team," Payton said. "We've come together as a family and learned to work hard together."

The Rangerettes also were boosted by the hustle of Madison Hartman, who grabbed 10 rebounds. Greenwood guard Kensleigh Ellis spearheaded her team's defensive effort, notching a team-high four steals. Rangerettes head coach Ginger Hartman also praised the effort of Teresa Rodriguez and Taylor Payton for their defense in the paint.

"With the schedule we've been playing, we're used to playing 6-footers, a bunch of big girls and so they've learned to become big in a sense," Ginger Hartman said. "We've learned to play really, really big. You've got to give credit to

Taylor and Teresa and the girls that have to guard those post players. They think they're big and they play really big, so kudos to those girls that guard the post players."

Following a lackluster first half, Lee (9-10) was able to force key turnovers with its trap in the fourth quarter and turn the affair into a one possession game with less than a minute remaining. Lady Rebels freshman Loredana Fouonji scored in the paint off a fast break, narrowing her team's deficit to 43-40 with 45 seconds left.

Following Greenwood's in-bounds pass, Lee forced a turnover on the trap with a steal from Fouonji. However, the Lady Rebels couldn't capitalize, missing multiple shot attempts before

Please see **WIN/3B**

Army going for 1st 11-win season in Armed Forces Bowl

By Stephen Hawkins
Associated Press

FORT WORTH — During a 10-loss season three years ago, Army coach Jeff Monken saw something that made him believe the Black Knights were on the way to being a good team.

The freshmen from that team are now seniors going into their last game Saturday against Houston (8-4) in the Armed Forces Bowl, when the No. 22 Black Knights will try to complete the program's first 11-win season.

"Didn't have a great start to their careers," Monken said. "But for them to experience 10 losses, seven of them being by a touchdown or less, and they would just continue to come back each week and battle and fight to the end. I saw a fight in that team that encouraged me."

Two weeks after beating Navy for the third year in a row, Army (10-2) is playing in a bowl for the third consecutive season. The cadets have their second 10-win season in a row, and an eight-game winning streak since an overtime loss at Oklahoma on Sept. 22.

Fullback Darnell Woolfolk described that as "such a big disappointment" and said it made them determined not to lose again.

"That definitely let us know that we could play with anyone," linebacker Cole Christiansen said.

Houston, without injured quarterback D'Eriq King and NFL draft-prepping defensive tackle Ed Oliver, has lost three of its four games since a 7-1 start.

"For us, it's just about finishing strong with one game," second-year Cougars coach Major Applewhite said.

No Ed or D'Eriq

King was responsible for 302 points (50 total touchdowns, a 2-point conversion) in 11 games before season-ending knee surgery. The quarterback has another season left with the Cougars. Oliver had made it known long ago that his junior season would be his last. He missed four games because of a bruised right knee and is skipping the bowl game to focus on preparing for the NFL draft.

Lot of offense

Houston ranks fourth nationally with 46 points a game, and sixth with 529 total yards per game. The Cougars opened the season with eight consecutive 40-point games, a school record. Only Houston and Oklahoma rank in the top 25 for both passing offense and rushing offense. Ten different Houston players have had TD catches, and eight different players have run for scores.

Extra points

Army leads the nation in time of possession, at nearly 39 minutes a game. Houston is last among the 129 FBS teams at 25:04. The last two Armed Forces have been decided in the final seconds.

Please see **ARMY/4B**

Rattler, Kendall likely next from Oklahoma's quarterback factory

By Cliff Brunt
Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — Oklahoma coach Lincoln Riley recalls an odd request from fellow assistant Tim Kish a few years ago. Kish asked Riley, then Oklahoma's offensive coordinator, to watch film of a high school freshman quarterback.

Riley was taken aback, but it didn't take long to see what Kish saw in Spencer Rattler.

"I looked and saw he was a (class of)

2019, and this was right after the 2015 season," Riley said. "I'm like, 'You want me to watch a freshman?' I'm like, 'Really?' Then I turned on the tape, I was like, 'OK.'"

Rattler, who matured into the consensus No. 1 quarterback in his class, signed with the Sooners on Wednesday.

He didn't sign up for an ordinary job — the Sooners have produced the first back-to-back Heisman Trophy-winning quarterbacks from the same school in Kyler Murray and Baker Mayfield. Mur-

ray, a first-round draft pick by the Oakland Athletics this year, has said he plans to play professional baseball after this season, leaving Rattler in line to possibly be the next big thing.

"Extremely excited to be officially apart of the Oklahoma Family!" Rattler tweeted on Wednesday. "Thank you @LincolnRiley for making this the best recruitment ever. Next stop Norman."

Rattler passed for an Arizona state record 11,083 yards and ran for more than 1,000 during his prep career.

"I think physically, he'll be as gifted as anybody that we've brought in here," Riley said. "I've felt that for a long time, even when I watched him as a freshman, that he was a cut above most guys out there. So he's got elite physical talent. And I think he's got the mentality to come in and compete early."

Rattler won't be handed anything. Austin Kendall was Mayfield's backup in 2016 and battled Murray for the starting

Please see **QB/4B**

DAILYRUNDOWN

From staff and wire reports

ON THE AIR

TV
Boxing
 Dillian Whyte vs. Derek Chisora 2, 4 p.m., SHO
 Jermall Charlo vs. Matt Korobov, 7 p.m., FOX
College Basketball
 Wake Forest at Tennessee, 11 a.m., ESPN2
 Georgia at Georgia Tech, 11 a.m., ESPN
 Little Rock at Georgetown, 11 a.m., FSN (FSW+)
 Grambling at Wisconsin, 11 a.m., BTN
 Villanova vs. UConn, 11:30 a.m., CBS
 Clemson at South Carolina, 1 p.m., ESPN2
 Texas State at Arkansas, 1 p.m., SEC
 Cal State Fullerton at Nebraska, 1 p.m., BTN
 St. Louis vs. Florida State, 1:30 p.m., FS2
 UCLA vs. Ohio State, 2 p.m., CBS
 Indiana State vs. Colorado, 2 p.m., ESPN
 Boston College at DePaul, 2:30 p.m., FS1
 Wichita State at VCU, 3 p.m., ESPN2
 Air Force at Michigan, 3 p.m., BTN
 Murray State at Auburn, 3:30 p.m., SEC
 UNLV vs. Hawaii, 4 p.m., ESPN
 Loyola-Chicago at Saint Joseph's, 4 p.m., CBSN
 FGCU vs. Florida, 4 p.m., FS2
 Kentucky vs. North Carolina, 4:15 p.m., CBS
 Seton Hall at Maryland, 4:30 p.m., FS1
 Jacksonville at Indiana, 5 p.m., BTN
 Vanderbilt vs. Kansas State, 6 p.m., ESPN2
 Wright State vs. Mississippi State, 6 p.m., SEC
 BYU at San Diego State, 6 p.m., CBSN
 New Mexico State vs. Drake, 6:30 p.m., FS2
 Sacred Heart at St. John's, 7 p.m., FS1
 Missouri vs. Illinois, 7 p.m., BTN
 Kansas at Arizona State, 8 p.m., ESPN2
 San Diego vs. Washington State, 9 p.m., FS1
College Football
 Birmingham Bowl: Memphis vs. Wake Forest, 11 a.m., ESPN
 Armed Forces Bowl: Houston vs. Army, 2:30 p.m., ESPN
 Dollar General Bowl: Buffalo vs. Troy, 6 p.m., ESPN
 Hawaii Bowl: Hawaii I vs. Louisiana Tech, 9:30 p.m., ESPN
High School Football
 UIL Class 5A Division I Championship: Highland Park

vs. Alvin Shadow Creek, 11 a.m., FSSW, FCSC
 UIL Class 6A Division II Championship: Beaumont West Brook vs. Longview, 3 p.m., FSSW, FCSC
 UIL Class 6A Division I Championship: Galena Park North Shore vs. Duncanville, 7 p.m., FSSW+, FCSC
Men's Soccer
 PL Arsenal FC vs. Burnley FC, 6:30 a.m., NBSCN
 FIFA Club World Cup, 3rd Place: River Plate vs. Kashima Antlers, 7:25 a.m., FS2, UNVSO
 Serie A: AC Milan vs. ACF Fiorentina, 7:55 a.m., ESPN2, ESPNDEP
 Bundesliga: RB Leipzig vs. SV Werder Bremen, 8:30 a.m., FS1, FXDEP
 PL Manchester City vs. Crystal Palace, 9 a.m., NBSCN
 PL Chelsea FC vs. Leicester City, 9 a.m., CNBC
 FIFA Club World Cup, Final: Al Ain vs. Real Madrid, 10:30 a.m., FS1, TELE
 PL Cardiff City FC vs. Manchester United FC, 11:30 a.m., NBC, UNVSO
 Bundesliga: Eintracht Frankfurt vs. FC Bayern Munich, 11:30 a.m., FS2, FXDEP
National Basketball Association
 Toronto at Philadelphia, 6:30 p.m., NBA TV
 San Antonio at Houston, 7 p.m., ATTSW, Cable One Ch. 6
 Dallas at Golden State, 7:30 p.m., FSSW
National Football League
 Washington at Tennessee, 3:30 p.m., NFL
 Baltimore at LA Chargers, 7 p.m., NFL
National Hockey League
 Nashville at Boston, Noon, NHL
 Los Angeles at San Jose, 3 p.m., NBSCN
 NY Rangers at Toronto, 6 p.m., NHL
 Dallas at Minnesota, 7 p.m., FS Go
Tennis
 ATP Hawaii Open: Semifinals, 3 p.m., TENNIS
Women's College Basketball
 Notre Dame at Marquette, 12:30 p.m., FS1
 Texas Southern at Texas Tech, 1 p.m., FSSW+, FCSP
RADIO
NAHL Hockey
 Shreveport at Odessa, 7 p.m., KFZX 102.1 FM
National Basketball Association
 San Antonio at Houston, 7 p.m., KBYG 106.1 FM/1400 AM (Big Spring)
 Dallas at Golden State, 7:30 p.m., KBST 1490 AM (Big Spring)

Boys

GREENWOOD 62
GLEN ROSE 34
 SAN ANTONIO — Jordan Riley scored a game-high 20 points to lead Greenwood to a rout of Glen Rose in Friday's non-district game played at AT&T Center, the San Antonio Spurs' home arena.
 Logan Jarvis added nine points for the Rangers (14-5), who outscored Glen Rose in every quarter and led 33-19 at halftime. Greenwood finished with a 13-3 run in the fourth quarter.

GREENWOOD 62, GLEN ROSE 34

Glen Rose — Kellan Moorey 4, Austin Worthen 2, Drew Dunson 7, Kasey Kasey 2, Colin Dunson 2, Jett Gould 8, Parker Simmons 2, Brady Taylor 2, Karyn Kasey 5
 Greenwood (14-5) — Brady Ray 2, Cameron Jones 3, Cade Lueble 5, Ryan Snodgrass 4, Jake Somers 2, Jordan Riley 20, Seth Weatherly 6, Omeron Jamison 6, Logan Jarvis 9, Nathan Martinez 5
 Glen Rose — 13 6 12 3 — 34
 Greenwood — 22 10 18 12 — 62
 3-point goals — Glen Rose 4 (Dunson 2, Gould, Kasey, Kasey); Greenwood 6 (Weatherly 2, Jones, Riley, Jarvis, Martinez); Free Throws — Glen Rose 4-5, Greenwood 2-7; Total fouls — Glen Rose 4, Greenwood 13; Fouled out — none
 Next Greenwood in the Texas Bank Holiday Classic, Thursday, Brownwood

CRANE 50

FORSAN 38
 FORSAN — Trailing 26-24 at halftime, Crane used a strong 26-12 second half to beat For-

san in a non-district game. Forsan's Kobe Richardson led all scorers with 18 points and grabbed 13 rebounds to finish with a double-double.

CRANE 50, FORSAN 38
 Crane (11-2) — Sully 12, Rappard 4, Carle 8, Bishop 6, Wills 2, Hartman 7
 Forsan (5-9) — Clayton Morgan 4, Ty Freeman 2, Aaron Gubert 2, Ryan Buss 5, Jordan Ennos 4, Kobe Richardson 18, Jonathan Gubert 2
 Crane — 15 9 14 12 — 50
 Forsan — 12 14 4 8 — 38
 3-point goals — Crane 3 (Sully, Jones, Wills); Forsan 2

Thursday's late result

LEE 68
PECOS 44
 PECOS — Lee defeated Pecos, 68-44, in its final game before the Christmas break.

Thursday night, Brian Leyva scored a team-high 14 points and Zhunc Phelps added 13 points to help the Rebels (4-12) pick up their second straight win.

LEE 68, PECOS 44
 Lee (4-12) — Brian Leyva 14, Zhunc Phelps 13, Jaylan Jones 9, Logi Frunzy 8, Noah Vasquez 7, Noah Phelps 6, Kyle Phelps 5, Trent Low 2, Key Hubert 1, Mikey Parris 1
 Pecos — Sanchez 8, Baca 10, Omer 8, Murr 5, Bart 5, Hernandez 4, Bunsen 2, Camilo 2
 Lee — 12 26 10 18 — 68
 Pecos — 10 10 8 16 — 44
 3-point goals — Lee 3 (Phelps, Jones, Vasquez); Pecos 4 (Omer 2, Murr, Bart)
 Next Lee vs. El Paso Pecos Hills, 4:30 p.m. Dec. 27 in Byron Johnson Holiday Classic, Chapparral Center

HS FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP ROUNDUP

From staff reports

4A DIVISION I
LA VEGA USES 21-0 RUN TO DOWN LIBERTY HILL
 ARLINGTON — Waco La Vega created cushion with a 21-0 third quarter en route to a 35-21 victory over Liberty Hill in Friday's Class 4A Division I state championship at AT&T Stadium.
 Tied at 7 at halftime, the Pirates (14-2) took control in the third quarter, as Dante Stuart scored on a 94-yard kickoff return and Malachi Wright hauled in two touchdown receptions, including a 90-yarder. Wright had three receptions for 163 yards to earn the game's Offensive MVP honors.
 The Panthers (13-2) rushed for 318 yards and three TDs on 71 carries. Kyle Harrison led Liberty Hill with 114 yards rushing.

4A DIVISION II
CUERO RUSHES PAST PLEASANT GROVE
 ARLINGTON — Jordan Whittington had 28 carries for a state championship record 334 rushing yards and added five rushing

touchdowns to lead Cuero to a 40-28 victory over Teasarkana Pleasant Grove in the Class 4A Division II state title game, Friday at AT&T Stadium.

Whittington scored three TDs in the fourth quarter to help the Gobblers (15-1) pull away after trailing 21-20 through three quarters. Whittington also had eight tackles to earn the game's Offensive and Defensive MVP honors.
 Bruce Garrett had 21 attempts for 208 rushing yards and three TDs for the Hawks (13-3).

3A DIVISION I

GRANDVIEW NABS 1ST STATE TITLE
 ARLINGTON — Grandview scored two fourth-quarter touchdowns to pull away from Malakoff with a 35-21 victory in Thursday's Class 3A Division I state championship game at AT&T Stadium. Dane Jentsch had a team-high seven tackles, 171 passing yards, three TD passes, 89 rushing yards and a rushing TD to earn both Offensive and Defensive MVP honors for the Zebras (14-2), who

claimed the program's first state championship. The Tigers (12-3) tied the game at 21 when Andreas Garrett scored on a 44-yard TD pass from Daron Peace with 2:49 left in the third quarter.
 Garrett had five catches for 101 yards

UIL Football State Championships
AT&T Stadium, Arlington
Wednesday
 Conference 1A San Mar Division I — St. Ignace 48, Tule 0
 Conference 1A San Mar Division I — Midland 100, Midland 70
 Conference 2A Division I — Altam 77, Gruver 33
Thursday
 Conference 2A Division I — Mason 44, New Deal 8
 Conference 3A Division I — Newton 21, Canadian 16
 Conference 3A Division I — Grandview 35, Malakoff 21
Friday
 Conference 4A Division I — Cuero 40, Teasarkana Pleasant Grove 28
 Conference 4A Division I — Waco La Vega 35, Liberty Hill 21
 Conference 5A Division I — Abilene 115-0 vs. FB Marshall (115-0) late

Saturday
 Conference 5A Division I — Dallas Highland Park (15-0) vs. Alvin Shadow Creek (15-0), 11 a.m.
 Conference 6A Division I — Longview (15-0) vs. Beaumont West Brook (13-2), 3 p.m.
 Conference 6A Division I — Duncanville (14-0) vs. Galena Park North Shore (15-0), 7 p.m.

Baylor wins after holding off Oregon comeback

Associated Press

WACO — Makai Mason had 14 points with some key second-half shots as Baylor beat Oregon 57-47 on Friday night after holding off a big comeback by the Ducks.
 Oregon (8-4) trailed by as many as 16 points after halftime, but cut its deficit to 47-45 on Payton Pritchard's 3-pointer with 3:32 left.
 That was the closest the Ducks would get before Mason hit a jumper.

Mason later added a layup and two free throws.

Pritchard finished with 14 points for the Ducks, whose season-best four-game winning streak ended. Will Richardson had 10 points.

Tristan Clark had 13 points and eight rebounds for Baylor (7-4). Mark Vital had 11 points and eight rebounds before leaving the game with 6 1/2 minutes left after he fell hard and was helped as he walked gingerly to the locker room.
 A jumper by Vital put the Bears up

37-21 with 15 minutes left. Oregon responded with a 13-2 run when Pritchard had two 3s and assisted on two other baskets.

Pritchard hit another 3 in a 7-0 spurt for the Ducks to get within 45-42 before the teams traded turnovers three times in a row.

Baylor jumped out to a 15-3 lead while Oregon missed 14 of its first 15 shots. The Ducks went more than 11 minutes between Pritchard's jumper in the first minute of the game to Kenny Wooten's putback dunk.

LOCAL GOLF

BROWN ACES AT HOGAN PARK

Arthur "Wally" Brown made a hole-in-one on the fourth hole of the Roadrunner Course at Hogan Park Golf

Course on Wednesday. Brown, 68, used an 8-iron for his 11th career ace and the shot was witnessed by Charles Roberts, Tom Albrecht, Daniela Albrecht and Larry Dorth.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL
American League
 BOSTON RED SOX — Agreed to terms with RHP Heath Hembree on a one-year contract.
 NEW YORK YANKEES — Agreed to terms with LHP Danny Coulombe and LHP Rex Brothers on minor league contracts. Announced RHP Parker Brower was claimed off waivers by the Los Angeles Angels.

CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Agreed to terms with RHP Justin Serna on a two-year contract. Traded RHP Emilio Pagan and a 2019 Competitive Balance Round A draft pick to Tampa Bay for LHP Ryan Yarbrough and a 2019 Competitive Balance Round A draft pick.
TEXAS RANGERS — Acquired LHPs Kyle Bart and Brock Burris and RHP Jose Espino from Tampa Bay and RHP Ed Whelan and international signing bonus from Oakland. Traded RHP Jackson Hollister to Cleveland and RHP Rafael Lugo to Tampa Bay. Agreed to terms with RHPs Alex Hernandez and Phillip Velez. LHPs Miguel Del Pozo and Jack Leathersich, and RHP Austin Fox on minor league contracts.

CHICAGO REDS — Acquired OF Noel Puga, OF Matt Kemp and LHP Jose Velazquez and cash from the Los Angeles Dodgers for RHP Homer Bailey, RHP Jake DeGrom and RHP Jason Givens.

COLORADO ROCKIES — Agreed to terms with RHP Daniel Murphy on a two-year contract.
LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Agreed to terms with RHP Jose Kelly on a three-year contract.

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Agreed to terms with LHP Jeremy Beach, C Raul Ibanez, RHP Phil Gosselin and Gregor Pelt, RHP Josh Martin, C-OF Matt McLendon and OF Shane Bieber to minor league contracts.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Agreed to terms with LHP Andrew Miller on a two-year contract.
SAN DIEGO PADRES — Agreed to terms with LHPs Ryan Borkner and Daniel Ernie, RHP Yusef Higgins, RHP Alex Cragg, RHP Mike Breen and Adrian Rodriguez, and OFs Alex Dickerson and Austin Scarsone on minor league contracts.
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Agreed to terms with LHP RHP Pip Verdine on a one-year contract.

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
WASHINGTON WIZARDS — Signed G For Blake

FOOTBALL
National Football League
BUFFALO BILLS — Signed QB Matt Barkley to a four-year contract extension.
MIAMI DOLPHINS — Promoted S Maurice Smith from the practice squad. Waived C-G Lorenzo Green.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Signed OL Uchenna Nwankwo from the practice squad. Signed OL Tony Adams to the practice squad.
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Placed S Josiah Searcy on the injured reserve.
WASHINGTON REDSKINS — Placed OT Austin Howard on injured reserve. Signed OT Tyson Parris from the practice squad.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League
ARIZONA COYOTES — Recalled F Michael Bunting from Tucson (AHL).
CALGARY FLAMES — Assigned F Rudy Robinson to Stockton (AHL).
LOS ANGELES KINGS — Recalled F Austin Wagnon and Michael Amadio, and D Sean Walker from Ontario (AHL).
NEW JERSEY DEVILS — Placed F Marcus Johansson on injured reserve. Activated F Stefan Noesen from injured reserve.

SOCCER
Major League Soccer
COLUMBIUS CREW — Acquired D Milton Velazquez on a permanent transfer as a Young Designated Player from Real Salt Lake (Argentine).
FC DALLAS — Announced the resignation of coach Jason Stiles after one season. Luis Muci signed (D) from Real Salt Lake (Argentine).
PHILADELPHIA UNION — Signed G Matt Frazer.

COLLEGE
DRAKE — Promoted Todd Stepien to head coach.
EAST CAROLINA — Named Ryan Robinson executive associate athletics director for external operations.

MICHIGAN — Junior DT Aubrey Solomon announced he is transferring to Tennessee.
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA — Promoted Joe DeFuria to outside linebackers coach.

NHL GLANCE

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division
 GP W L OT Pts GF GA
 Toronto 36 27 7 2 58 148 103
 Tampa Bay 35 23 10 2 48 130 96
 Buffalo 35 20 11 4 45 108 105
 Boston 35 19 12 4 42 97 89
 Montreal 36 18 13 5 41 111 114
 Detroit 35 15 18 2 32 104 119
 Ottawa 35 15 17 3 34 118 140
 Florida 33 13 14 6 32 107 121

Metropolitan Division
 GP W L OT Pts GF GA
 Washington 34 21 10 3 45 125 103
 Carolina 35 22 11 2 47 128 106
 Pittsburgh 35 17 12 6 40 116 110
 NY Islanders 34 17 13 4 38 98 97
 NY Rangers 35 17 13 5 37 97 107
 Columbus 33 14 14 5 33 85 97
 Philadelphia 33 14 14 5 32 88 119
 New Jersey 34 12 15 7 31 102 122

Central Division
 GP W L OT Pts GF GA
 Winnipeg 35 23 10 2 48 127 101
 Nashville 36 22 12 2 46 109 90
 Colorado 35 19 16 8 44 124 107
 Dallas 35 17 15 3 37 88 88
 Minnesota 34 17 15 2 36 102 97
 St. Louis 35 19 16 4 42 111 104
 Chicago 37 12 18 6 30 108 138

Pacific Division
 GP W L OT Pts GF GA
 Calgary 35 22 11 2 47 128 106
 San Jose 36 19 12 5 43 119 108
 Anaheim 37 19 13 5 43 98 108
 Vegas 37 17 15 5 42 111 104
 Edmonton 35 18 14 3 39 89 105
 Vancouver 36 17 17 2 36 117 124
 Arizona 34 14 18 2 30 85 94
 Los Angeles 32 12 20 3 27 79 107

Thursdays Scores
 Pittsburgh 2, Minnesota 1
 Detroit 4, Carolina 1
 Boston 3, Anaheim 1
 Columbus 2, New Jersey 1
 Toronto 6, Florida 1
 Philadelphia 2, Nashville 1
 Chicago 5, Dallas 2
 Montreal 2, Arizona 1
 Tampa Bay 5, Calgary 4, 90
 Vancouver 5, St. Louis 1
 Vegas 4, NY Islanders 2
 Winnipeg 6, San Jose 3
 Friday's Games

Washington 2, Buffalo 1
 New Jersey 5, Ottawa 2
 Chicago at Colorado, late

Today's Games
 Nashville at Boston, Noon
 Columbus at Philadelphia, Noon
 Florida at Detroit, 1 p.m.
 St. Louis at Calgary, 3 p.m.
 Montreal at Vegas, 3 p.m.
 Los Angeles at San Jose, 3 p.m.
 Colorado at Arizona, 6 p.m.
 Anaheim at Buffalo, 6 p.m.
 Washington at Ottawa, 6 p.m.
 Pittsburgh at Carolina, 6 p.m.
 NY Rangers at Toronto, 6 p.m.
 Dallas at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
 Winnipeg at Vancouver, 8 p.m.
 Tampa Bay at Edmonton, 9 p.m.

MIDLAND HUMANE COALITION

P.O. Box 53213 | Midland, TX 79710 | midlandhumane.org

We are just \$37,000 short of our goal of \$3M to build the Van and Joe Mober Wellness & Treatment Center. Visit our website at midlandhumane.org for ways you can help us reach the goal by the end of 2018!

Tell us your rescue story! Send a 30-60 second video of how your adopted pet has changed your life. Use Facebook Messenger or email it to ourstory@midlandhumane.org and you might just see it on local TV!



Cammie is a 4-month-old female Domestic Short Hair with dilute calico markings. She has a solid grey nose and half grey mark that splits her chin. Cammie was rescued from Midland Animal Services with her sister, Lilly. Both Cammie and Lilly are shy in their new surroundings. They are friendly and enjoy petting and affection in the safe zone of their kennel space.

Enhanced Adoption Center

Open for adoptions
 Mon-Sat 10-7, Sun 10-5

Adoption fees
 (fully vetted & chipped)

Cats \$75
 Dogs \$150

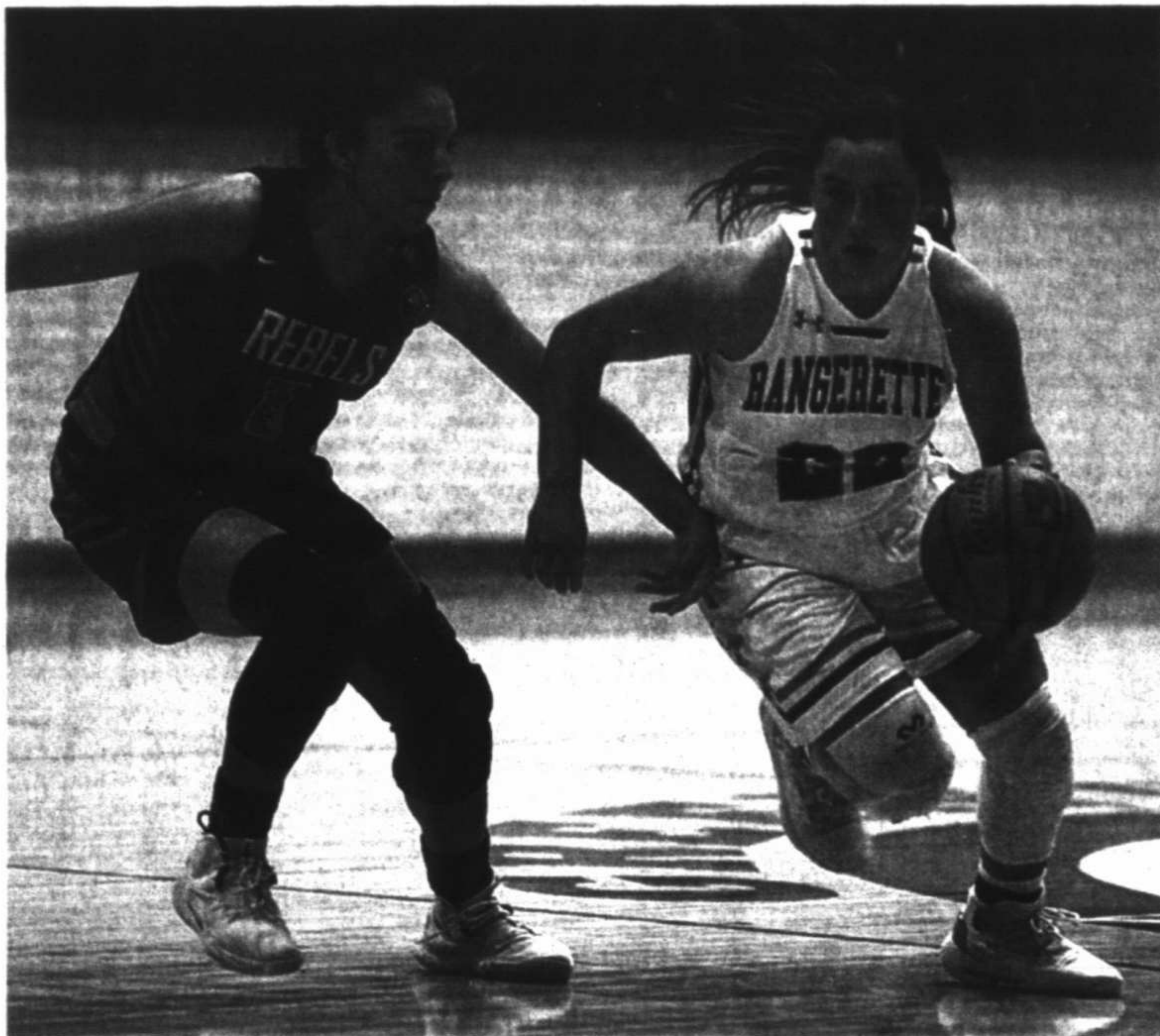
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James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Greenwood's Kensleigh Ellis (22) dribbles against Lee's Salma Trejo (5) on Friday at Greenwood High School.

Win

From 1B

Madison Hartman came up with a defensive rebound with eight seconds left to change possession.

"That's just (Ginger Hartman's) identity, their identity," Lee head coach Alfred Acosta said of the Rangerettes' style of play. "The kind of identity we try to have as well. They were just better at it. They just play hard. They're going to play hard every single possession. They're going to do the things they need to do every single possession and it showed. They got out on us early and by the time we started fighting back and making our little run, it was just

too late."

Junior post Paige Low spearheaded Lee's rally attempt, scoring nine of her team's 12 fourth-quarter points. At one point in the fourth quarter, Low scored three consecutive baskets to narrow the Lady Rebels' deficit from 11 points to five within a span of three minutes.

Low finished with a game-high 20 points and a team-high nine rebounds. But Lee waited too long to find its rhythm, as it trailed by as much as 17 points at one point in the second half.

"We can't expect to win too many basketball games when we play only one half of basketball," Acosta

said. "It's a long season, it's right before Christmas break, but I'm not making any excuses. It's unacceptable. I put that on myself. I didn't have the girls prepared to play."

Greenwood was deadly accurate from long range, sinking eight 3s and made its share of jumpers just inside the arc. Ellis made a couple of 3s to end up with 13 points.

In the first half, the Rangerettes did an admirable job of passing the ball down the court against the pressure of Lee's guard tandem of Braydyn Hill and Destiny Stanford. Following Christmas break, both teams will head back to the hardwood Thursday

in the Byron Johnston Holiday Classic at Chaparral Center. The Rangerettes face Bushland at 9 a.m., while the Lady Rebels meet El Paso Eastlake at 3 p.m.

Follow Christopher on Twitter
(@chris_MRTsports)

GREENWOOD vs. LEE
Lee (19-10) - Braydyn Hill 7, Destiny Stanford 1, Ryan Lee 4, Londalyn Fournier 6, Haley Perkins 2, Paige Low 20.
Greenwood (5-12) - Hunter Russell 3, Taylor Peyton 2, Karyn Peyton 17, Kaitlan Kase 2, Kensi Ellis 13, Madison Hartman 6, Tessa Rodriguez 2.
Lee: 9 7 12 12 -40
Greenwood: 18 13 7 7 -48
3-point goals - Greenwood 8 (R. Peyton 5, Ellis 2, Russell), Free Throws - Lee 8-17, Greenwood 5-17. Total fouls - Lee 17, Greenwood 14. Fouled out - Stanford.
Next Lee vs. El Paso Eastlake, 3 p.m. Thursday in Byron Johnston Holiday Classic, Chaparral Center. Greenwood vs. Bushland, 9 a.m. Thursday in Byron Johnston Holiday Classic, Chaparral Center.

Cardinals reach \$25M, 2-year deal with Andrew Miller

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — When healthy, Andrew Miller has been one of baseball's top relievers. The St. Louis Cardinals are banking on a return to form.

Miller agreed to a \$25 million, two-year deal with St. Louis that includes a club option and performance bonuses that could make it worth \$36 million over three seasons.

The 6-foot-7 left-hander has been dominant for much of this decade, but he went just 2-4 with a 4.24 ERA in 37 games with Cleveland last season while dealing with hamstring, knee and shoulder issues.

"One of our stated goals this offseason was to improve our bullpen," said John Mozeliak, the Cardinals' president of baseball operations. "Andrew Miller is one of the premier relievers in the major league, and his addition certainly strengthens our bullpen."

Miller gets \$11 million next year and \$11.5 million in 2020, and the deal includes a \$12 million team option for 2021 with a \$2.5 million buyout. The option would become guaranteed if Miller has 110 games as a pitcher in 2019 and '20 combined.

He can earn \$500,000 annually in performance bonuses based on games pitched: \$100,000 each for 40, 45, 50, 55 and 60. He would get a \$1 million assignment bonus each time he is traded.

Cleveland acquired Miller in a trade during the 2016 season, and manager Terry Francona used him as a multi-inning weapon out of the bullpen. He was the MVP of the AL Championship Series that year, and Cleveland made it all the way to Game 7 of the World Series before losing to the Chicago Cubs. Miller appeared in 10 games that postseason, going 2-0 with a 1.40 ERA, 30 strikeouts and

tive walks.

Miller has been exclusively a reliever since 2012, and from 2014-17, he never posted an ERA higher than 2.04. That all changed this year, when Miller couldn't prevent Cleveland's bullpen from declining drastically. Two prominent relievers for the Indians — Miller and Cody Allen — became free agents this offseason, although the AL Central champions still have Brad Hand, who was acquired in a July trade with San Diego.

The Cardinals went 88-74 this year but missed the postseason. They already made waves this month by trading for slugger Paul Goldschmidt.

The St. Louis bullpen had plenty of issues last season. Luke Gregerson hurt his hamstring in spring training and posted a 7.11 ERA in 17 games. The Cardinals signed Greg Holland at the beginning of the season, but he too had an ERA over 7.00 when he was released at the beginning of August.

Bud Norris had 28 saves for St. Louis last season, but he is now a free agent. Lefty Brett Cecil had a 6.89 ERA in 40 appearances.

Miller began his MLB career in 2006 with Detroit after being drafted by the Tigers in the first round. He was later dealt to the Marlins in the deal that sent Miguel Cabrera to Detroit.

Since making 12 starts for Boston in 2011, Miller has been used only in relief. He was traded to Baltimore in 2014, then signed with the New York Yankees before the 2015 season. The Indians acquired him from New York in 2016.

In the past three seasons, Miller had 16 saves, 263 strikeouts and a 2.00 ERA in 171 innings.

The Cardinals designated right-hander Ryan Meisinger for assignment to make room for Miller.

Dodgers send Yasiel Puig, Matt Kemp, Alex Wood to Reds in blockbuster trade

By Jorge Castillo
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — The Dodgers completed a blockbuster trade with the Cincinnati Reds Friday afternoon, sending outfielders Yasiel Puig and Matt Kemp, left-hander Alex Wood, catcher Kyle Farmer, and \$7 million to the Reds for right-hander Homer Bailey and minor leaguers Jeter Downs and Josiah Gray.

The Dodgers plan on immediately releasing Bailey, a veteran starter slated to make \$23 million in 2019, according to a person with knowledge of the situation, leaving the two-time-defending National League champions without a major league in exchange for three veterans who played significant roles for the club over the years. Their motives were elsewhere.

First, the deal is a substantial

money-shedding measure for the Dodgers, one that grants significant funds they can allocate towards top-flight talent either in free agency or the trade market without having to blow past baseball's \$206 million competitive-balance tax (CBT) threshold.

While Bailey will still count as \$17.5 million against the tax line, the Dodgers skinned \$22.8 million off their CBT payroll, according to Cot's Baseball Contracts and MLBTradeRumors.com's arbitration projections for Puig and Wood. According to the website, Puig will make \$11.3 million in arbitration and Wood is predicted to earn \$9 million in arbitration for 2019. Kemp, meanwhile, was on the books for \$20 million against the CBT threshold next season.

Trading Kemp and Puig also clears some of their logjam in the outfield — and perhaps creates a spot for Bryce Harper, this winter's prized

free agent — while the Dodgers' surplus of starting pitchers made Wood expendable in their eyes.

Finally, the move adds a couple of prospects to a farm system that has needed some replenishing after significant hauls were needed to acquire Yu Darvish and Manny Machado for their World Series pushes each of the last two seasons.

Talent evaluators believe Downs, a first-round pick in 2017, has star potential in the middle infield. Downs, 20, batted .257 with 13 home runs and a .753 on-base-plus-slugging percentage for the Reds' Class A affiliate in his first full professional season. Gray, a right-hander, posted a 2.58 ERA in 12 starts for the Reds' rookie-league affiliate after being drafted in the second round in June. He turned 21 Friday.

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Haynes King wins Texas AP player of year honor

Associated Press

DALLAS — Longview quarterback Haynes King has been voted the Texas Associated Press Sports Editors high school player of the year.

King is the seventh straight quarterback and 10th overall in 12 seasons to win the award. He was named Friday in voting by a panel of eight sports writers and editors who cover Texas high school football.

The player of the year ballot included the 10 offensive and defensive players of the year from all five classifications of the Texas APSE's all-state teams. The honors are based on regular-season statistics.

King, a junior who was recently offered a scholarship by Kansas under new coach Les Miles, finished the regular season with 28

touchdowns and one interception. He completed 123 of 177 passes for 2,414 yards. Longview is playing Beaumont West Brook for the Class 6A Division II championship Saturday.

Including five playoff games, King has 3,252 yards passing with 39 touchdowns and four interceptions. He has rushed for 503 yards and seven more TDs for the Lobos (15-0). King has thrown for more than 6,000 yards in 26 games for his career.

There are two Heisman Trophy winners among the Texas APSE players of the year. Johnny Manziel won the Texas award in 2010 at Kerrville Tivy before becoming the first freshman to win the Heisman with Texas A&M in 2012. Kyler Murray, the 2014 Texas winner with Allen, won the Heisman at Oklahoma this season.

Rockets' Paul strains another hamstring

By Tim Reynolds
Associated Press

MIAMI — Different leg. Same problem.

Chris Paul has another hamstring issue to deal with, and the Houston Rockets are bracing for another stint without their All-Star point guard. Paul will have an MRI in Houston on Friday to determine the severity of the strain in his left hamstring, one that he hurt during the second quarter of the Rockets' 101-99 loss in Miami.

"We've got to figure it out," said Rockets guard James Harden, the league's reigning MVP. "Injuries happen."

Seeing Paul grab at the back of his leg surely conjured up bad reminders of his right hamstring strain late last season, the injury that knocked him out of Games 6 and 7 of the Western Conference finals against the Golden State Warriors. The Warriors won both of those games to erase the Rockets' 3-2 lead in the series, and went

on to sweep Cleveland for the NBA title.

The Rockets are 0-5 without Paul this season, and have dropped nine straight when he doesn't play going back to last season. Including playoffs, the Rockets are 77-22 when Paul plays.

"I've had hamstring issues before and I know how frustrating they are," said Heat guard Dwyane Wade, one of Paul's closest friends in the league. "And especially an injury like that ... last year you could say it cost them a championship not having him out there with the hamstring. It's hard, but I just want him to stay positive. It's a small hurdle again and you get over it, but it starts mentally first. Physically, I know he will do the work."

Paul is averaging 15.6 points, 8.0 assists and 2.1 steals this season for the Rockets, who host San Antonio on Saturday.

His latest injury came on a relatively innocuous-looking play. Paul dribbled behind his back near

midcourt while cutting right, and the ball got knocked away by Miami's Derrick Jones Jr. That was the moment where Paul grabbed the back of his left leg — the telltale sign of a hamstring issue.

He went directly to the Houston locker room, never returned and was dressed and gone before the room opened post-game.

"It's definitely tough because he's a big-time playmaker and ball handler for us," Rockets guard Eric Gordon said. "In this offense you need all of the playmaking that you can have and usually me, Chris, and James have the ball in our hands trying to play-make for other people and provide good scoring."

Paul is 33, and not even half a season into a four-year, \$159.7 million contract that he signed with Houston back in July. He was struggling with his shot of late — connecting on 34 percent of his tries in his most recent five games entering the matchup in

Miami — but was still a big factor in Houston being able to match a season high with five straight wins.

The Rockets were winning by eight in Miami when he got hurt, and got outscored by 10 the rest of the way. And the combined winning percentage of their next nine opponents is .601 — so being without Paul for a while would obviously make this looming stretch even more daunting for a Rockets team that has been decidedly up and down this season.

They lost only 17 regular-season games last season. They've nearly matched that already, off to a 16-15 start, and entering Friday are tied for merely the eighth-best record in the jammed Western Conference. The Rockets are two games out of fourth, and two games out of 14th.

"It's definitely going to be tough," Gordon said of the prospects of being without Paul for a while again. "But we've just got to make adjustments and play even better."

TRADE

From 1B

consider trading away the player that signed with them as a 16-year-old in 2009.

The GM said all four players coming to the Rangers are at the upper levels of the minor leagues and knocking on the door of the big leagues.

"There is definitely an emotional piece to this one," Daniels said. "We have seen the ups and downs. Seen the really precocious talent and the big smile and the way he loves to play the game, to looking like he was going to be our second baseman and the shoulder issue that went on for a year longer than I think any of us would have liked it to."

Bird and Burke will be added to the 40-man

roster for the Rangers. The 22-year-old Burke was selected the Rays' top minor league pitcher after combining to go 9-6 with a 3.08 ERA and 10.4 strikeouts per nine innings in his 25 games (22 starts) on at the High-A and Double-A levels.

The Rangers also signed four players to minor league contracts with invitations to major league spring training. They were lefty Miguel Del Pozo, infielder Nolan Fontana, and right-handed pitchers Ariel Hernandez and Phillips Valdez.

Fontana was the only of the four to play in the majors this year. He reached the big leagues each of the last two seasons with the Angels, appearing in 20 games in two stints with Los Angeles this year.

BOWL ROUNDUP

Associated Press

Anthony Jones rushes for 3 scores, FIU beats Toledo 35-32

NASSAU, Bahamas — FIU fumbled away the opening kickoff, gave up a touchdown 23 seconds into the game and found itself trailing by double digits by the end of the first quarter. They needed a comeback.

And Anthony Jones might know more about comebacks than anyone on the FIU roster. Jones — one of two FIU players who were victims of a drive-by shooting in September — rushed for three touchdowns, including the clincher with 41 seconds remaining as the Panthers topped Toledo 35-32 on Friday in the Bahamas Bowl. Jones tied a school record with the three scores, and FIU (9-4) set a school record with its ninth win of the season.

"I'm extremely happy for my teammates, these seniors, all my coaches, the support staff at FIU, they were all behind me the whole time," Jones said. "I've been extremely blessed by the man above."

Jones and offensive lineman Marshawn Miller were shot in the city of Opa-locka, Florida — just north of downtown Miami — on the afternoon of Sept. 6. The alleged gunman is in

custody and is facing two counts of attempted first-degree murder. Miller was hit in the arm, Jones was shot in the back and the bullet exited just under his eye. He lost about 20 pounds in the days afterward, during which he was fed by tube.

Perfect Wilson helps BYU beat W. Michigan in Potato Bowl

BOISE, Idaho — Zach Wilson set a BYU record and tied the NCAA bowl mark with 18-for-18 passing, throwing for 317 yards and four touchdowns in the Cougars' 49-18 victory over Western Michigan on Friday in the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl.

Selected the game MVP, Wilson tied the NCAA bowl record for completion percentage set by Riley Skinner at 11 for 11 for Wake Forest in the 2008 EagleBank Bowl.

Down 10-7 at halftime, BYU (7-6) scored 28 points in the third quarter. Wilson connected with Aleva Hilo for a 70-yard scoring strike, and Riley Burt had a 37-yard touchdown run in the quarter.

Western Michigan (7-6) rolled up 192 yards of offense in the first half, then managed only 41 yards on 18 plays in the decisive third quarter.

BOWL PREVIEWS

Associated Press

Memphis, Wake Forest meet in Birmingham Bowl minus stars

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — The Memphis Tigers' formidable ground game took a big hit when All-America running back Darrell Henderson opted to skip the bowl game. Their offensive coordinator has already left for another job, and the defensive boss isn't far behind.

The Tigers (8-5) are hoping to overcome those potential issues against Wake Forest (6-6) Saturday in the Birmingham Bowl at Legion Field. The Demon Deacons also will be without their biggest offensive star, wide receiver Greg Dortch, with a hand injury.

For Memphis, Patrick Taylor Jr. and Tony Pollard are expected to shoulder much of the running load.

"We're all excited for Darrell and his future opportunities," Tigers coach Mike Norvell said. "I know he's going to be tuned in and watching and cheering. These two guys have prepared. There's nothing different going into any game. These guys have been key players for us."

Still, Henderson's departure dealt a blow to the nation's No. 2 rushing offense's apparent advantage over the Atlantic Coast Conference's 10th-best run defense.

He ranked second nationally with 1,909 yards rushing, while leading the nation with 25 total touchdowns and an 8.9-yard per carry average. Taylor has topped 1,000 rushing yards and Pollard is averaging 7.3 yards on 61 carries.

"It's not like they had one great back and nobody else," Wake Forest coach Dave Clawson said. "That's been a three-headed monster all year for them. And if you still have two of your best three, there's plenty of stuff they can do."

Dortch was injured in the regular-season finale against Duke, and Clawson said Friday the standout receiver/return man wouldn't play.

Wake Forest quarterback Jamie Newman enters the bowl game after starting the final three games following a season-ending leg injury to freshman Sam Hartman.

The Demon Deacons still won on the road over North Carolina State and Duke over the final three weeks to make a bowl game. Clawson called the finish "really remarkable."

"I think we have a really good culture and we have really good seniors," he said. "Football is just too important to these guys to fold."

Here are some things to know about the Birmingham Bowl.

Louisiana Tech seeking 5th straight bowl victory

Line: Hawaii by 1.
Series Record: Hawaii leads 8-2.

WHAT'S AT STAKE
The Warriors are seeking their seventh bowl victory in 12 appearances, including their eighth trip to the Hawaii Bowl. The Bulldogs are in a bowl game for the 11th time overall and looking for a fifth consecutive season with a bowl win.

KEY MATCHUP
Hawaii QB Cole McDonald vs. Louisiana Tech secondary. McDonald has thrown for 300 or more yards seven times this season and eclipsed the 400-yard mark in three games. His 3,790 passing yards rank fifth nationally and his 35 passing touchdowns, seventh. He will be tested by a Bulldogs pass defense that allows just 193.6 yards per game, good for 28th in the country.

PLAYERS TO WATCH
Louisiana Tech: DE Jaylon Ferguson is 1.5 sacks away from tying the all-time NCAA career record held by Terrell Suggs. Ferguson leads the nation in sacks (15.0) and is second in tackles for loss (23.5). His 42.5 sacks make him the nation's active career leader.

Hawaii: WR Josh Ursua leads the nation in receiving touchdowns (16) and is three short of the school record of 19 set by Ashley Lelie in 2001. Ursua also ranks fifth in the country in receiving yards (1,343), fifth in total TDs (17) and fifth in receiving yards per game (103.3).

FACTS & FIGURES
Hawaii is playing in the Hawaii Bowl for the second time in three seasons. The Rainbow Warriors last bowl appearance was a 52-35 win over Middle Tennessee in the 2016 Hawaii Bowl. They lost their last three bowl games prior to that. Hawaii is 6-5 all-time in bowl games and 4-3 in the Hawaii Bowl. Rainbow Warriors have scored at least 50 points in three of their four Hawaii Bowl victories. Louisiana Tech is playing in its fifth consecutive bowl game, a first in program history. It is one of only four teams nationwide to win four straight bowl games (Georgia, Utah and Wisconsin). Four of Louisiana Tech's seven wins came in one-possession games. It is 4-1 on the season in games decided by eight points or less. Hawaii and Louisiana Tech met every season from 2003-11, when they were members of the Western Athletic Conference. The last time they faced off was in Ruston, Louisiana, in 2011. Hawaii won 44-26. Bulldogs sixth-year coach Skip

Holtz is 1-0 in the Hawaii Bowl. He coached East Carolina to a 41-38 win over Boise State in the 2007 Hawaii Bowl. Louisiana Tech defensive back Daniel Lewis played for Hawaii from 2014-17 before joining the Bulldogs as a graduate transfer this season.

Troy, eyeing 10 wins, plays Buffalo in Dollar General Bowl

Line: Buffalo by 11/2.
Series Record: First meeting.
Buffalo (10-3) vs. Troy (9-3). Today, 6:05 p.m. (ESPN)

WHAT'S AT STAKE
Troy is trying to win its fourth straight bowl game and get to 10 wins for the third straight season. Buffalo is trying to win a bowl game for the first time. This is Buffalo's third bowl game — the Bulls lost to UConn in the 2009 International Bowl and to San Diego State in the 2013 Famous Idaho Potato Bowl.

KEY MATCHUP
Buffalo QB Tyree Jackson vs. Troy's defense. The Bulls have already scored 452 points this season, which is the most in school history. Jackson has thrown for 2,857 yards and 27 touchdowns this year and also run for seven touchdowns. Troy has forced 27 turnovers this season, which is tied for fifth nationally, and is giving up just 21 points a game.

PLAYERS TO WATCH
Buffalo: LB Khalil Hodge. The senior has been one of the most productive defensive players in the country with 139 tackles, including 7½ for a loss. He also has two sacks and an interception.

Troy: RB B.J. Smith. He's run for 1,093 yards and 12 touchdowns this season while averaging 5.5 yards per carry.

FACTS & FIGURES
Troy's fourth-year coach Neal Brown has a 34-16 record at the school. The Trojans have won 16 of their past 19 games. Troy's Hunter Reese has a streak of 20 straight games with a tackle for a loss.

The Trojans have 36 sacks this season which ranks 12th nationally. Buffalo is playing its first game against a team from the Sun Belt Conference.

Buffalo's Jackson needs two touchdown passes against Troy to tie the school record for TDs in a season. Joe Licata set the record with 29 in 2014. Buffalo is the only team in the nation that has had a freshman score a TD in every game.

Miami, USC have work to do as early signing period ends

By Steve Megargee
Associated Press

Some traditional recruiting heavyweights have plenty of work to do in the next several weeks to sign the level of talent they usually attract.

As college football's early signing period concluded Friday, Southern California was outside the top 20 and Miami wasn't in the top 30 of the team standings in composite rankings of recruiting sites compiled by 247Sports. That leaves both schools needing to stock up by the Feb. 6 traditional signing date.

"The average star ratings are just not very good at least compared to what we're used to for those programs," Rivals director of recruiting Mike Farrell said.

There aren't many senior prospects left to pursue. 247Sports scouting director Barton Simmons says "roughly 80 percent" of the likely Football Bowl Subdivision recruits signed this week.

But the geographic tilt of those signees gives Southern California reason for optimism.

"There's a lot of work still to do, typical of the West Coast," USC coach Clay Helton said. "A lot of the West Coast recruits wait until February to sign."

Four of the top five California prospects in the 247Sports Composite remain unsigned. Simmons said USC is a leading contender for Bru McCoy and Kyle Ford, two of the top three prospects in California.

"We're confident (USC) will rise to a certain degree, but in the context of what we expect out of USC — a top-five kind of class — they've still got some work to do to get in that type of conversation," Simmons said. "We might be looking at more of a top-15 class than a top-five class depending on what they're able to accomplish down the stretch."

Alabama leads the 247Sports Composite team standings and is followed in order by Southeastern Conference rivals Georgia, Texas A&M and LSU.

Miami remains in the chase for two top uncommitted players in receiver Jadon Haselwood and cornerback Tyrique Stevenson. Haselwood, ranked sixth in the 247Sports



Timothy J. Gonzalez/AP

Southern California head coach Clay Helton leads his team onto the field Nov. 3 before an NCAA football game in Corvallis, Ore.

Composite, also is considering Georgia and Oklahoma. Stevenson, 38th in the 247Sports Composite, is deciding between Miami and Georgia.

"If Miami lands those guys, all of a sudden things are looking up," Simmons said. "But it feels like those guys are trending elsewhere right now."

Some notable recruiting angles to watch as the early signing period ends and teams turn to February.

More flipping

Some top-100 prospects made last-minute switches. Safety Jordan Battle signed with Alabama after verbally committing to Ohio State. After switching his verbal commitment from Michigan to Alabama this month, safety Daxton Hill ended up signing with Michigan after all. Quarterback Sam Howell signed with North Carolina after being verbally committed to Florida State.

"There were more flips than I thought there would be," Farrell said. "I thought with the early signing period, there would be less last-second flips. In February, it was something we were used to. Last year there weren't a lot of flips in (the early) signing period, so I thought that would slow down."

Oklahoma receivers

Oklahoma already has a top-10 class that includes two of the nation's four top receiving prospects according to Rivals in Theo Wease and Trejan Bridges. If the Sooners also sign Haselwood, they'd have three of Rivals' top four receivers.

"If he goes to Oklahoma, it would be on paper the

best wide receiver class ever," Farrell said.

Arkansas' surge

Chad Morris went 2-10 in his debut season as Arkansas' coach, but he earned plenty more victories on the recruiting trail. Arkansas ranks 20th in the 247Sports team standings. While the Razorbacks are still in the bottom half of the SEC, a top-20 position is quite impressive considering their recent struggles on the field.

"Arkansas was probably the biggest surprise of the year with the class they put together coming off a 2-10 season," Farrell said.

Players to watch

Four of the top 10 players in the 247Sports Composite remain uncommitted. Haselwood is the top remaining uncommitted player. McCoy (rated No. 7 overall) is choosing between USC and Texas. Defensive tackle Ishmael Sopsher (No. 9) is considering Alabama and LSU. Offensive tackle Darnell Wright (No. 10) is looking at Tennessee and Alabama.

Stock risers

Because so much of the top seniors already have signed, the remaining uncommitted players could start getting more offers as schools try to fill out their classes.

"With only 20 percent (of prospects) left out there and plenty of programs still with some room available, there are going to be some guys who were otherwise middle-of-the-road prospects who are going to be treated like five-stars in the next couple of weeks," Simmons said.

QB

From 1B

job into fall camp this season.

"It was really a great competition between Austin and him (Murray), one that we carried on longer than maybe even we expected because of how well both guys played," Riley said in August. "There weren't a lot of differentiating factors in the end because both did play so well and so efficiently, but just felt like from an overall perspective that Tyler was just a little bit ahead."

Kendall has completed 28 of 39 passes for 265 yards and three touchdowns without an interception in his career.

Tanner Mordecai has seen brief action this season and has the tools to do the job. The freshman was rated a four-star recruit by ESPN and a three-star prospect by 247Sports and Rivals. Tanner Schafer, a redshirt sophomore, also could be in the mix.

That's why Riley is trying to slow the hype about Rattler just a bit.

"As Spencer knows, we've got other really good quarterbacks on this roster, and there's going to be competition like there's always been," he said. "But any of these guys we've signed, we don't sign or recruit many of these guys if we think

they're two or three years down the line of being capable of doing it. Now, being capable is one thing, going and doing it is another."

The next quarterback will have a chance to put up massive numbers, in part because of Riley's system. Mayfield set the single-season FBS passer efficiency record in 2016, then he broke it in 2017. Murray is on pace to break Mayfield's record this season.

Riley's offense is the reason Murray thought all along that winning the Heisman was a realistic goal.

"With coach Riley and the guys that we have on this team and the guys that they keep bringing in here, yeah, I felt like it was possible," he said. "Obviously, sitting behind Baker and seeing what he was doing — why not?"

The next quarterback will face not only the history of the past two winners, he'll join a program that also had Jason White in 2003 and Sam Bradford in 2008 as Heisman-winning quarterbacks.

"There's a standard here at the position," Murray said the day he was named the starter over Kendall. "You come here to play quarterback, you play it well. To me, that's my job and I'm prepared to do that."

ARMY

From 1B

Last year, Army got the go-ahead touchdown to beat San Diego State with 18 seconds left, then returned a fumble for a score as time expired for a 42-35 win. Two years ago, Louisiana Tech kicked a field goal on the last play to beat Navy 48-45. ... Army or Houston will become the first three-time winner of the Armed Forces Bowl, now in its 16th year. Army has won both of its previous appearances. Houston is 2-2 in the game. California is the only two-time winner.

Final exams

Army players got a week off after the

Navy game to prepare for final exams. Monken said the final day of exams at West Point was Friday, but the players took all their tests last weekend. Christiansen said he had five exams within about 36 hours.

"Very intense," he said.

Holding on

The Army offense has lost only eight fumbles in 1,710 plays over the past two seasons. The Black Knights have only four lost fumbles this year, and two of those came in the season opener at Duke. Houston's defense has forced turnovers in 16 consecutive games — only two teams have longer active streaks.

2018-19 BOWL GLANCE

Associated Press

Saturday, Dec. 15 Celebration Bowl At Atlanta N.C. A&T 24, Akron 22 Cura Bowl Orlando, Fla. Tulane 41, Louisiana-Lafayette 24 New Mexico Bowl Albuquerque Utah State 52, South Texas 13 Las Vegas Bowl Fresno State 31, Arizona State 20 Carmichael Bowl Montgomery, Ala. Georgia Southern 25, Eastern Michigan 21 New Orleans Bowl Appalachian State 45, Middle Tennessee 13 Sunday, Dec. 16 Boca Raton Bowl Lafayette 57, Northern Illinois 13 Wednesday, Dec. 19 Pineau Bowl Ohio 27, San Diego State 0 Thursday, Dec. 20 Gatorade Bowl At St. Petersburg, Fla. Marshall 38, South Florida 20 Friday, Dec. 21 Birmingham Bowl	Monday FIU 35, Toledo 32 Famous Idaho Potato Bowl BYU 49, Western Michigan 18 Tulsa Birmingham Bowl Memphis 50, Wake Forest 45, 11 a.m. (ESPN) Armed Forces Bowl Houston 54, Army 10-23, 2:30 p.m. (ESPN) Dollar General Bowl Buffalo 10-3 vs. Troy 9-3, 6 p.m. (ESPN) New Mexico Bowl Louisiana Tech 71-5 vs. Hawaii 6-5, 9:30 p.m. (ESPN) Wednesday, Dec. 20 SEC/PPV Final Four/Reunion Bowl Duke Stetson College 71-5 vs. Boise State 10-5, 12:30 p.m. (ESPN) Gulf State Bowl Mississippi State 45 vs. Georgia Tech 71-5, 4:15 p.m. (ESPN)	Thursday, Dec. 20 Champ-Bowl California 71-5 vs. TCU 8-6, 8 p.m. (ESPN) Thursday, Dec. 27 Independence Bowl Shreveport, La. Tulane 54 vs. Duke 71-5, 12:30 p.m. (ESPN) Friday, Dec. 28 Mormon 71-5 vs. Wake Forest 71-5, 4:15 p.m. (ESPN) Tulane Bowl Baylor 54 vs. Vanderbilt 8-6, 6 p.m. (ESPN) Friday, Dec. 28 Waco City Bowl Houston, Texas Purdue 54 vs. Auburn 71-5, 12:30 p.m. (ESPN) Compass World Bowl Orlando, Fla. West Virginia 54 vs. Syracuse 9-5, 4:15 p.m. (ESPN) Alabama Bowl San Antonio Iowa State 54 vs. Washington State 10-2, 8 p.m. (ESPN)	Saturday, Dec. 29 Peach Bowl Florida 9-5 vs. Michigan 10-2, 11 a.m. (ESPN) Belt Bowl Charlottesville, Va. South Carolina 71-5 vs. Virginia 71-5, 11 a.m. (ABC) Arkansas Bowl Tulsa, Ark. Arkansas State 54 vs. Nevada 71-5, 12:15 p.m. (ESPN) Cotton Bowl Classic Arlington COP Sandhills State 12-5 vs. Clemson 12-5, 3 p.m. (ESPN) Orange Bowl Miami Gardens, Fla. COP Sandhills State 12-5 vs. Auburn 71-5, 7 p.m. (ESPN) Monday, Dec. 31 Military Bowl Annapolis, Md. Cincinnati 10-5 vs. Virginia Tech 9-5, 11 a.m. (ESPN) Sun Bowl El Paso Stanford 54 vs. Pittsburgh 71-5, 1 p.m.	ICBS Raiders Bowl San Jose, Calif. Michigan State 71-5 vs. Oregon 8-6, 2 p.m. (FOX) Liberty Bowl Memphis, Tenn. Missouri 54 vs. Oklahoma State 8-6, 2:45 p.m. (ESPN) Holiday Bowl San Diego Northwestern 8-5 vs. Utah 9-4, 6 p.m. (FS1) Cotton Bowl Jacksonville, Fla. NC State 9-5 vs. Texas A&M 8-6, 6:30 p.m. (ESPN) Saturday, Jan. 1 Outback Bowl Tampa, Fla. Mississippi State 54 vs. Texas 8-6, 11 a.m. (ESPN) Citrus Bowl Orlando, Fla. Kentucky 10-5 vs. Penn State 9-5, Noon (ABC) Florida Bowl Orlando, Fla. LSU 9-5 vs. UCF 12-5, Noon (ESPN)	Non Bowl Pasadena, Calif. Washington 10-5 vs. Ohio State 12-1, 4 p.m. (ESPN) Sugar Bowl New Orleans Texas 9-5 vs. Georgia 11-2, 7:45 p.m. (ESPN) Monday, Jan. 7 College Football Championship San Jose, Calif. Cotton Bowl winner vs. College Bowl winner 7 p.m. (ESPN) Saturday, Jan. 19 East-West Shrine Classic At St. Petersburg, Fla. East vs. West, 1 p.m. (NFLN) NFL/NFL College Bowl At Pasadena, Calif. American vs. National, TBA (NFLN) Saturday, Jan. 26 Sunset Bowl At Seattle, Ala. North vs. South, 1:30 p.m. (NFLN)
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Chiefs' Mahomes picked by AP writers as top QB in 2018

By Rob Maaddi
Associated Press

Patrick Mahomes has dazzled NFL audiences with no-look passes, left-handed throws and stellar performances in just his first full season as a starter.

The dynamic Mahomes has the Kansas City Chiefs (11-3) leading the AFC and he's already earning top honors.

Mahomes barely squeaked past Drew Brees as the NFL's top quarterback in 2018 in voting released Friday by a panel of 10 football writers for The Associated Press. Mahomes received six first-place votes, three seconds and one third. Brees got the other four first-place votes.

"When Mahomes got off to a ridiculously good start, many wondered if he could keep up that pace. The answer has been a resounding yes, and the Chiefs gunslinger has shown no sign of slowing," said New York-based Dennis Waszak Jr.

Mahomes has 45 touchdown passes and a chance to become just the third player to reach 50. Peyton Manning set the single-season record with 55 TDs in 2013. Tom Brady had 50 in 2007.

"The poster boy for wild creativity in the wide-open offensive environment that pervades the NFL, Mahomes has that star quality teams crave," said New York-based Barry Wilner, who put Mahomes third behind Brees and Philip Rivers. "He also has the talent they desperately need to succeed."

Brees, at age 39, is having a sensational season. He already broke Manning's record for career yards passing and surpassed Brett Favre's mark for most completions. He's on pace to break his own record for highest completion percentage in a season, and he has the New Orleans Saints (12-2) on the verge of securing the NFC's No. 1 seed.

"He's taken his game to another level this year, posting some of the best marks of a brilliant career," San Francisco-based Josh Dubow said.

Rivers finished third in voting. The 38-year-old is having perhaps his finest season and has the Los Angeles Chargers (11-3) back in the playoffs with a chance to surpass the Chiefs for the top spot.



Charlie Riedel/AP

Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) flips the ball Dec. 13 during the first half of an NFL game against the Los Angeles Chargers in Kansas City, Mo. Mahomes needs five touchdown passes to become the third quarterback to throw for 50 in a season.

The rankings

1. Patrick Mahomes, Chiefs
2. Drew Brees, Saints
3. Philip Rivers, Chargers
4. Andrew Luck, Colts
5. Tom Brady, Patriots
6. Russell Wilson, Seahawks
7. Aaron Rodgers, Packers
8. Jared Goff, Rams
9. Deshaun Watson, Texans
10. Ben Roethlisberger, Steelers

"One of his generation's most underappreciated players has finally begun to get the praise deserved for the Bolts' 11-wins-and-counting surge," said Minnesota-based Dave Campbell.

Andrew Luck came in fourth after missing the entire 2017 season and returning to help the Indianapolis Colts get back into the playoff chase.

"He's back and so are the Colts. Wonder if Josh McDaniels has any regrets about renegeing on that gig now," said Denver-based Arnie Stapleton.

Brady finished fifth in the poll after placing first in September.

"Not the best season by his near-impossible standards, but the G.O.A.T. still has the Patriots a win away from yet another AFC East title," said New York-based Simmi Buttar.

Russell Wilson was sixth followed Aaron Rodgers, Jared Goff, Deshaun Watson and Ben Roethlisberger. Wilson has helped the Seattle Seahawks (8-6) move toward a playoff berth in what was supposed to be a rebuilding season.

"Wilson has gone from a quarterback who rode a great defense to a Super Bowl title early in his career to one leading his team to a likely playoff berth this year," Dubow said. "Few have the ability to extend plays like Wilson, who regularly turns what look like busted plays into big ones."

Rodgers only has thrown two interceptions, but he dropped in the rankings because the Green Bay Packers are 5-8-1 and cost coach Mike McCarthy his job. Rodgers hasn't had a losing record since his first season as a starter in 2008.

"Having only two interceptions this season would be more impressive if the Packers were having more success," Tennessee-based Teresa Walker said. "Instead, there's not been much difference since firing Mike McCarthy."

Only 13 quarterbacks received votes. Matt Ryan was named on six ballots, Baker Mayfield was on three and Carson Wentz, who finished third in NFL MVP voting last season, made one list.

No-show Bell, 3-11 Gruden lead list of NFL letdowns in 2018

By Dave Campbell
Associated Press

The hype trains touting NFL offseason activity typically start leaving their stations each January, when new head coaches are hired and fan bases are fired up about the fresh start that sends hope soaring high like the football in the air on the opening kickoff of a game.

There's another round of departures in March, when the biggest-buck free agent contracts are signed to put some of the highest-profile players in the league on new teams snatching up missing pieces to their Super Bowl puzzles. Then, the first-round draft picks clamber aboard at the end of April.

By December, well, the derailments are inevitable. From Le'Veon Bell to Jon Gruden to Leonard Fournette, here's a pick-six of the biggest disappointments in the NFL this year.

No-show

The millions of fantasy football players who snagged Bell for a seeming bargain in their auctions and drafts would wholeheartedly agree, though the Pittsburgh Steelers survived the absence of the two-time All-Pro running back due to the emergence of James Conner and, most recently, Jaylen Samuels.

Bell bet on himself, steadfastly refusing to sign his franchise tender without the promise of a contract extension one of the sport's most dangerous positions and ultimately accepting his ineligibility for the season. The Steelers didn't blink, either, and Bell will presumably restart his career with another team in 2019.

Challenge for Cheeky

The Oakland Raiders, eyeing an eventual move to Las Vegas, gave Jon Gruden a 10-year contract worth about \$100 million to return to the franchise he got his start with as a head coach.

The Raiders are in this for the long haul, after burning through nine head coaches in the 16 seasons that passed after Gruden shed his silver and black. Their 3-11 record two years after a 12-4 finish, however, is a shaker of salt in the wound for the Bay Area loyalists on the verge of losing their team. Watching traded stars Khalil Mack and Amari Cooper thrive elsewhere has only made this season hurt worse. No team has been easier to score on this year than the Raiders, with an average of nearly 30 points allowed per game.

Sophomore slump

Part a strong crop of rookie running backs last season, Leonard Fournette finished fifth in the league in yards rushing per game as the Jacksonville Jaguars came so close to beating the New England Patriots in the AFC championship game. The Jaguars as a team would qualify as the league's biggest letdown, so Fournette is hardly alone. But even with a

mulligan for missing six games because of a hamstring injury, Fournette has taken a clear step back.

The fourth overall pick in the 2017 draft has averaged only 3.4 yards per attempt (46th in the NFL) and 56.6 rushing yards per game (24th in the NFL). Last week in a three-point loss to Washington, Fournette spent most of the second half on the sideline while undrafted rookie Dave Williams ate into his playing time.

Tough times for top-10 quarterbacks

Drafting a quarterback in the first round is a decision made with as much long-term view as any in the league, and success for rookies at this high-pressure position can be awfully difficult without strong supporting casts.

Still, more and more quarterbacks in their early 20s are coming to the NFL with the skills to be an instant success, and given the impatient nature of a results-driven culture there's been no shortage of complaints about Sam Darnold (third overall pick), Josh Allen (seventh overall pick) and Josh Rosen (10th overall pick), particularly when judging them against first overall pick Baker Mayfield's late-season surge with the Cleveland Browns. With a combined 30 touchdown passes against 38 interceptions, Darnold, Allen and Rosen have displayed a need for more experience and more help. The New York Jets, Buffalo Bills and Arizona Cardinals have a collective record of 12-20.

Kicking it away

Sure, Chicago and Green Bay play on grass in cold climates, but Minnesota and Detroit have indoor stadiums. NFC North teams have enjoyed a long line of successful kickers. This year, though, has been a struggle, with 12-year veteran Matt Prater of the Lions the only specialist whose season has become a story. The Vikings cut rookie Daniel Carlson after two games and three missed field goals that cost them a victory against the rival Packers, who had their own issues with Mason Crosby. Cody Parkey ranks 28th in field goal percentage for the Bears, one spot behind Crosby.

So much for drama

That last-second 2-point conversion the Los Angeles Chargers used to win at Kansas City and tie the Chiefs for the AFC West lead turned that division race into a December thriller. That's the exception, though, with the Bears, New Orleans Saints and Los Angeles Rams already in possession of top-four seeds in the NFC and the New England Patriots and Houston Texans holding two-game leads in their divisions with two games to play. That three-team race in the AFC East has been muted by all that mediocrity. The Baltimore Ravens, at least, have made the AFC North a legitimate competition with the Steelers.

Some players skip bowls, coaches bonuses at stake

By Ralph D. Russo
Associated Press

Dana Holgorsen can earn a \$25,000 bonus if West Virginia beats Syracuse next week in the Camping World Bowl, a game the Mountaineers will play without star quarterback Will Grier and left tackle Yodny Cajuste.

Dave Doeren's contract with North Carolina State calls for him to receive a \$50,000 bonus if the Wolfpack beat Texas A&M in the Gator Bowl. N.C. State's best players on either side of the ball (receiver Kelvin Harmon and linebacker Germaine Pratt) will not play.

Grier and Cajuste, Harmon and Pratt are part of a growing trend in college football. At least 20 players are planning to skip their teams' bowl games to focus instead on getting ready for the NFL and avoid injuries. The importance of non-playoff post-season games depends on who you ask and changes from player to player and team to team. But for many coaches, winning a bowl game has a set value.

Six coaches who have players sitting out bowl

games this year have nearly \$400,000 in total bonuses at stake in those games. Arizona State's Herm Edwards would have earned the largest bonus in the group, \$166,667 for winning the Las Vegas Bowl against Fresno State last week. The Sun Devils lost 31-20, playing without star receiver N'Keal Harry. The junior is a possible first-round draft pick who led the team with 73 catches for 1,088 yards and nine touchdowns.

Like Doeren, Minnesota coach PJ Fleck and Memphis coach Mike Norvell can each earn \$50,000 bonuses for winning their bowl games. Fleck's Gophers face Georgia Tech in the Quick Lane Bowl on Dec. 26 on Detroit without linebacker Blake Cashman, the team's leading tackler, and offensive tackle Donnell Greene. Norvell's Tigers play Wake Forest in the Birmingham Bowl on Saturday without All-America running back Darrell Henderson.

Houston coach Major Applewhite would earn a \$25,000 bonus if the Cougars can beat Army in the Armed Forces Bowl

on Saturday in Fort Worth, Texas. Houston won't have star defensive tackle Ed Oliver, who missed four games this season with a knee injury and decided after the regular-season finale that it would be best for him to skip the bowl.

Bob Lattinville, a St. Louis attorney who specializes in sports law with the firm Spencer Fane, provided the contract information to The Associated Press.

The bonuses for winning bowls in most cases are tiny compared with the coaches' yearly salaries, ranging in this group from Holgorsen's \$3.6 million to Applewhite's \$1.75 million. They also receive bonuses for just making a bowl.

Lattinville said bonuses for bowl wins should generally be avoided by coaches and universities. They can be redundant to other contract bonuses and schools sometimes barely break even financially when they participate in lower-tier bowls.

"Consequently, both parties are usually better off saving their negotiation gun powder for economic provisions that better

marry their long-term interests and don't create the impression of wasting money or calling into question their motivations for encouraging a player to play in a given bowl," Lattinville said.

Coaches frequently receive bonuses just for reaching a bowl, not on the result.

That's the case with Michigan's Jim Harbaugh. The Wolverines will be without three key players when they face Florida on the Peach Bowl on Dec. 29. Running back Karan Higdon announced Thursday in an Instagram post that he would not play, joining defensive end Rashan Gary and linebacker Devin Bush, who said he had not been cleared by doctors after injuring his hip in the regular-season finale against Ohio State.

Harbaugh's contract provides a \$200,000 bonus for the team playing in a New Year's Six game — such as the Peach Bowl — that is not a College Football Playoff semifinal, but nothing more for winning it. He would get a \$500,000 bonus for winning the College Football Playoff national championship.

Broncos' Joseph has made strong case to stick around

By Arnie Stapleton
Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — Across the airwaves, the consensus is that Vance Joseph is about to coach his final two games in Denver.

Hold on. Although the Broncos (6-8) must beat the Raiders and Chargers to avoid their first back-to-back losing seasons in 46 years, there's a strong case for John Elway to keep the coach who's won just 11 of 30 games since taking over a team that was a year removed from a Super Bowl title.

Elway reportedly flirted with bringing back Mike Shanahan a year ago but decided to give Joseph another shot after the first-time head coach went 5-11.

Game management issues have kept Joseph from making the most of that second chance, but he has made

strides despite a rash of injuries that sent seven starters to injured reserve and a rugged schedule that will include nine playoff teams if Seattle and Baltimore both get in.

"Oh yeah, definitely he has a great case," Pro Bowl cornerback Chris Harris Jr. said Friday. "I don't think we had enough players for him to really succeed. Injuries just killed us. We had a tough schedule. We lost a lot of one-score games. I mean, he definitely improved from the first year to the second year."

Joseph has declined to discuss his job situation, saying he's focused only on beating the Raiders on Monday night.

The question facing Elway is this: Did Joseph improve enough this year

to stick around in 2019?

"We're a win-now organization," Harris said, "so he doesn't get a lot of time."

If Elway fires Joseph, he'll be looking for the team's sixth head coach in 12 years — and he won't have Peyton Manning as bait.

After eight double-digit losses last year, the Broncos have been more competitive this season, losing six times by a combined 23 points. Those included close calls against some of the league's heavyweights such as the Chiefs (twice), the Rams and the Texans.

Despite a sensational rookie class that includes Phillip Lindsay, the first undrafted offensive rookie to make the Pro Bowl, Bradley Chubb, Courtland Sutton and DaeSean Hamilton, Joseph was still saddled with a roster dotted with dead weight from previous draft classes that didn't shine like this one.



Joseph

NFL GLANCE

Associated Press

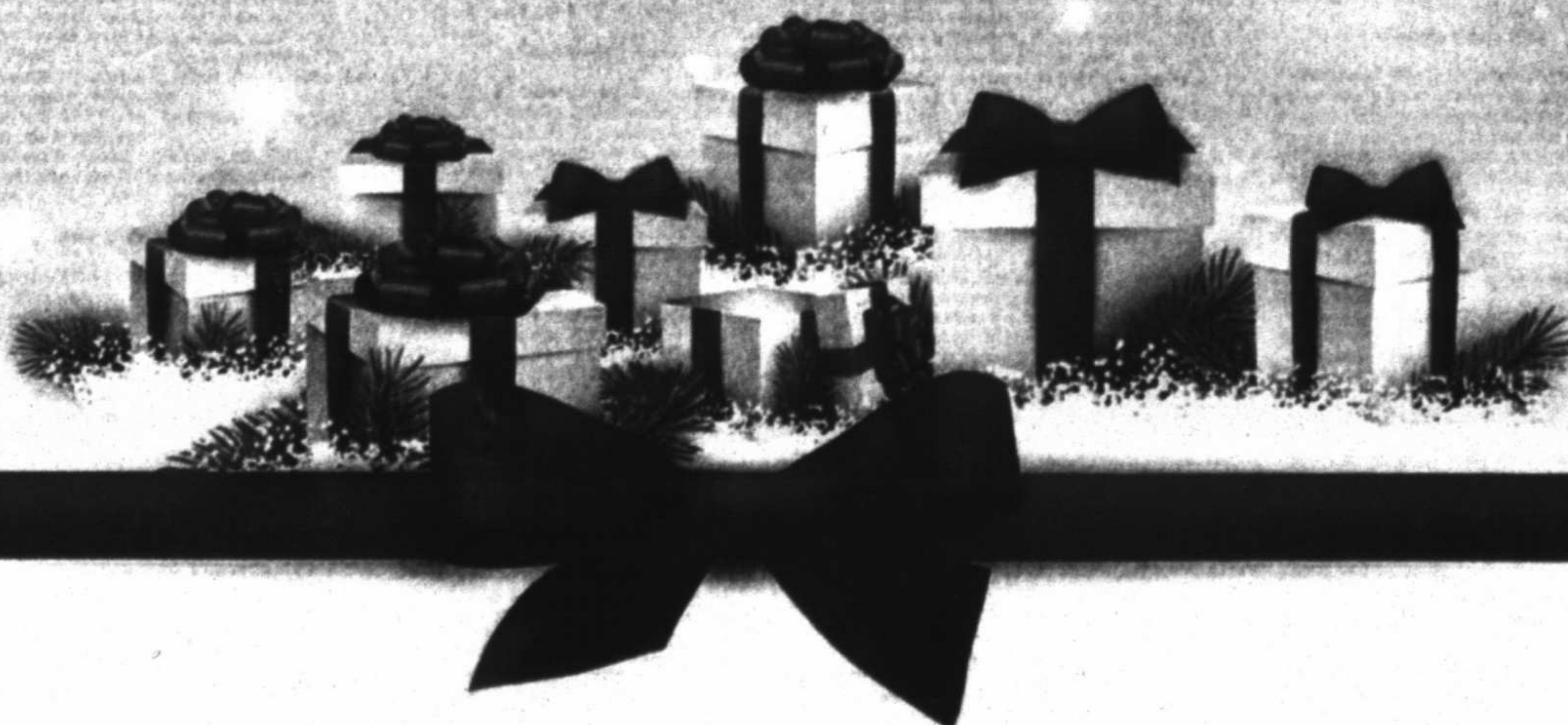
AMERICAN CONFERENCE													Tempe Bay				5	0	357	344	403
East						North							South								
W	L	T	Pct	PP	RB	W	L	T	Pct	PP	RB	W	L	T	Pct	PP	RB				
New England	9	5	0	.643	274	210	10	4	0	.714	283	264	10	4	0	.714	283	264			
Miami	7	7	0	.500	295	274	7	6	1	.538	323	288	7	6	1	.538	323	288			
Buffalo	5	9	0	.357	215	282	Green Bay	5	8	1	.385	352	351	5	8	1	.385	352	351		
N.Y. Jets	4	10	0	.286	222	289	Detroit	5	9	0	.357	284	289	5	9	0	.357	284	289		
South						West							East								
W	L	T	Pct	PP	RB	W	L	T	Pct	PP	RB	W	L	T	Pct	PP	RB				
Houston	10	4	0	.714	282	281	San Francisco	11	3	0	.786	440	343	11	3	0	.786	440	343		
Indianapolis	8	6	0	.571	332	288	Seattle	6	8	0	.429	283	282	6	8	0	.429	283	282		
Tennessee	8	6	0	.571	288	254	San Francisco	4	10	0	.286	301	273	4	10	0	.286	301	273		
Jacksonville	4	10	0	.286	225	288	Arizona	3	11	0	.214	192	357	3	11	0	.214	192	357		
West						AFC playoff spot							NFC playoff spot								
W	L	T	Pct	PP	RB	Washington at Tennessee, 5:30 p.m.							Baltimore at L.A. Chargers, 7:25 p.m.								
Pittsburgh	8	5	1	.607	304	216															
Baltimore	8	6	0	.571	341	223															
Cleveland	6	7	1	.454	309	343															
Cincinnati	6	8	0	.429	337	413															
East						Sunday's Games							Monday's Games								
W	L	T	Pct	PP	RB	Atlanta at Carolina, noon							Houston at Philadelphia, noon								
at Kansas City	11	3	0	.786	489	380	Washington at Tennessee, 5:30 p.m. <td colspan="7">San Francisco at Seattle, 8:05 p.m.</td>							San Francisco at Seattle, 8:05 p.m.							
at L.A. Chargers	11	3	0	.786	385	228	Chicago at San Francisco, 8:05 p.m. <td colspan="7">Philadelphia at New Orleans, 8:05 p.m.</td>							Philadelphia at New Orleans, 8:05 p.m.							
Denver	8	6	0	.571	358	289	San Francisco at Seattle, 7:25 p.m. <td colspan="7">Denver at Oakland, 7:15 p.m.</td>							Denver at Oakland, 7:15 p.m.							
Cleveland	3	11	0	.214	280	410															
National Conference						Tuesday's Games							Wednesday's Games								
W	L	T	Pct	PP	RB	at New Orleans							at New Orleans								
Dallas	8	6	0	.571	276	289	Carolina at Cincinnati, noon <td colspan="7">Carolina at Cincinnati, noon</td>							Carolina at Cincinnati, noon							
Philadelphia	7	7	0	.500	311	318	San Francisco at Seattle, 8:05 p.m. <td colspan="7">San Francisco at Seattle, 8:05 p.m.</td>							San Francisco at Seattle, 8:05 p.m.							
Washington	7	7	0	.500	285	210	Tempe Bay at Dallas, noon <td colspan="7">L.A. Rams at Arizona, 8:05 p.m.</td>							L.A. Rams at Arizona, 8:05 p.m.							
N.Y. Giants	5	9	0	.357	307	340	L.A. Rams at Arizona, 8:05 p.m. <td colspan="7">Philadelphia at New Orleans, 8:05 p.m.</td>							Philadelphia at New Orleans, 8:05 p.m.							
South						Thursday's Games							Friday's Games								
W	L	T	Pct	PP	RB	at New Orleans							at New Orleans, 7:25 p.m.								
at New Orleans	12	2	0	.857	459	282	Denver at Oakland, 7:15 p.m.														
Carolina	6	8	0	.429	339	344															
Atlanta	5	9	0	.357	326	351															

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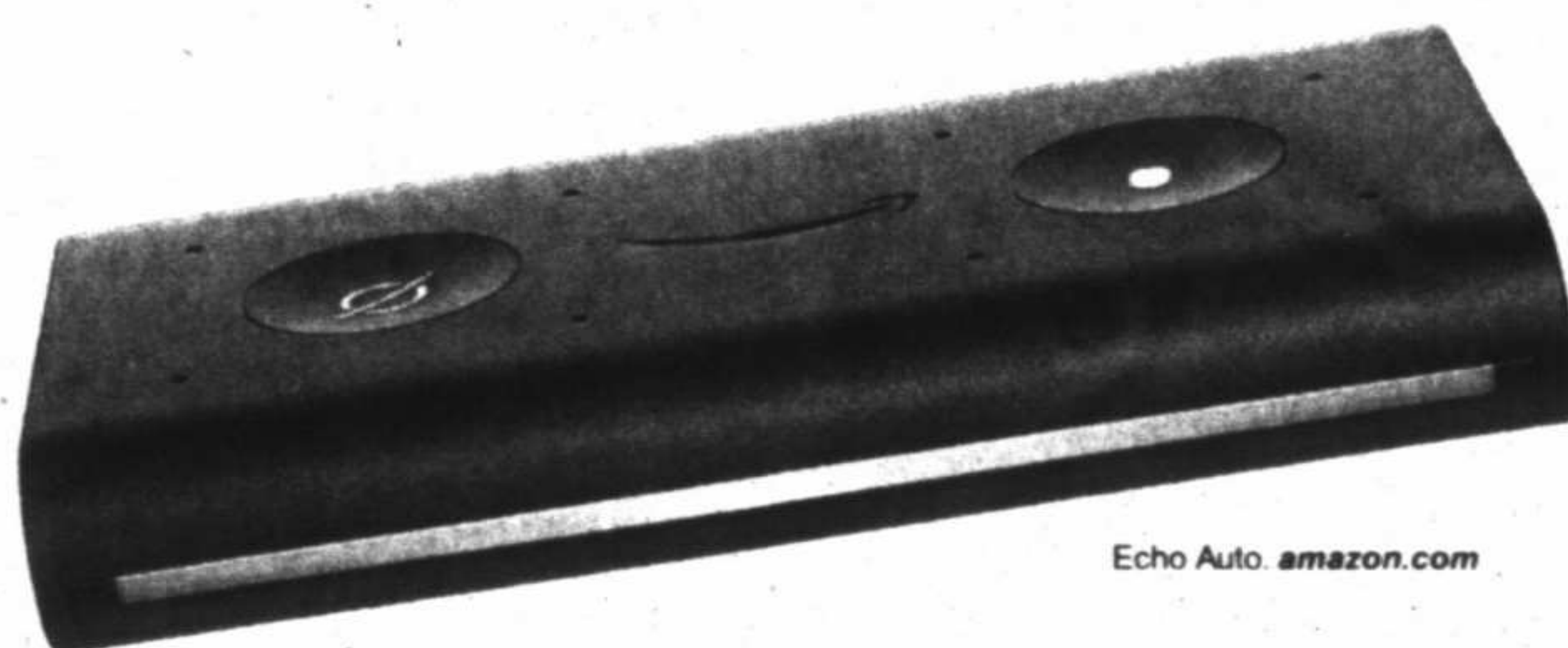


GIFT GUIDE

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Saturday, December 22, 2018 | Section C

Christmas buying 101

By Jim Rossman
The Dallas Morning News



Echo Auto. amazon.com



The SCOTTeVEST Hoodie Microfleece
Scottevest.com



Solo Duane Hybrid bag. Solo-ny.com



Apple HomePod. Apple.com

Handy helpers for car enthusiasts

Most of us have cars, so buying Christmas gifts that are automobile-related makes good sense. I know I think about car stuff when my mom asks what I'd like for Christmas.

Not all of these gifts are exactly high tech, but all these ideas will be welcomed by the car enthusiast on your list.

iClever Bluetooth Car Receiver

What is it? For car stereos that don't have Bluetooth, the iClever Bluetooth Car Receiver lets you stream music and make hands-free calls. You'll need a 3.5mm auxiliary input. You mount the receiver/microphone controller on your dash. The sound for calls and music is really good.

It comes with a 12v power supply with three USB ports.

Who is it for? Anyone who doesn't

have Bluetooth in their car.

What does it cost? \$24.99.

Where can I get it? Amazon.

GG Bailey All Weather Textile Car Mats

What is it? Every car needs good mats to keep the interior clean. These are custom fit for your car, and they look great. They grab dirt and debris before they get to your car's carpet or interior. They are also easy to vacuum. They are available in beige or charcoal.

Who is it for? Anyone whose car mats have seen better days.

What does it cost? It depends on the car and whether you need mats for front and back seats. They start at \$99.

Where can I get it? ggbailey.com

Thinkware F70 Full HD 1080P Dash Cam

What is it? A dashcam to keep watch over where you go and what happens to your car. It is incredibly

handy to have a dash cam if you ever get into an accident. Having a video record of any incidents will make things much easier to sort out. This is a small, lipstick-shaped camera without a screen, but it stays out of your way.

Who is it for? Anyone with a car who wants to keep a record of their driving.

What does it cost? \$109.99.

Where can I get it? Thinkware.com and Amazon.com.

Amazon Echo Auto

What is it? This is Alexa for your car. You connect the Echo Auto to your phone through the Alexa app. Echo Auto has eight microphones so it can hear your spoken commands over your car stereo. It connects to your car stereo so you can make calls, ask Alexa to play your favorite tunes or even control your connected home.

Who is it for? If you've ever wanted Alexa voice control in your car, this is for you.

What does it cost? It is available for preorder for now by invitation only. The preorder price is \$24.99. Regular price is \$49.99.

Where can I get it? Amazon.

lOttie Easy One Touch 4 CD Slot Car Mount

What is it? A car mount for your smartphone that fits in the CD slot on your car's dashboard. The mount tightens into the slot, and it is easy to move from car to car. The mount has a one-touch mount and release mechanism.

Who is it for? Anyone with a CD slot in their car who needs to mount a smartphone.

What does it cost? \$19.95.

Where can I get it? lottie.com and Amazon.

StaySafe Buddie LED Emergency Roadside Flashing Warning Lights

What is it? Remember those old roadside flares that looked like a stick of dynamite and burned like a

torch? These days technology has brought LED warning lights that are really bright and durable and they won't burn you. These AAA battery-powered lights are perfect to keep in your trunk to warn others if you have a roadside emergency.

Who is it for? Anyone who drives.

What does it cost? \$19.99 for a three-pack of lights.

Where can I get it? Amazon.

VIAIR 78P Portable Compressor

What is it? With more and more cars not having spare tires, keeping a portable compressor in the car is a necessity. Unless your tire is seriously damaged, a pump like this will help get you down the road for help. The 78P has a built-in work light and pressure gauge and can air up tires up to 225/60/R18. It plugs into your car's 12v power port.

Who is it for? Anyone who wants to be prepared for tire emergencies.

What does it cost? \$61.16.

Where can I get it? Amazon, walmart.com and autoanything.com

Ideas from Vibes, Soundot, Roborock and more for the hard-to-buy-for techie

Techies can be hard to buy for. They usually have everything they want. And even if they don't, you have absolutely no idea what they might need. I'm exactly that person — just ask my wife or my mom.

Here are a few gift ideas for the techies on your list. I'd be happy to get any of these as a gift this Christmas.

These might not be items you'd consider buying. The Vibes Earplugs are not very sexy, but protecting your hearing is very important.

Vibes Hi-Fidelity Earplugs

What is it? If you attend concerts — especially loud ones — you'd be well advised to wear some hearing protection. Vibes are designed to reduce the sounds getting to your ears by 22 decibels. You'll still hear the music, but your ears will thank you. Unlike foam earplugs that just muffle the sound, Vibes are reusable, and they'll let you enjoy the concert without all the ringing in your ears afterwards.

Who is it for? Concertgoers and anyone who is exposed to loud sounds.

How much does it cost? \$23.99.

Where can I get it? Discovervibes.com.

Soundot AF1 headphones with FM radio

What is it? This is a set of headphones specifically designed for iPhones and iPads. The AF1 connects via Lightning port, and it includes an FM radio. Instead of streaming, you're actually pulling FM radio from the airwaves. You'll need to download the Soundot app to control the FM tuner and to adjust the equalizer. They also have a microphone for phone calls.

Who is it for? Perfect for listening to the play-by-play at the ballpark.

How much does it cost? \$69.89.

Where can I get it? Blackcloud.com and Amazon.

Solo Duane Hybrid bag

What is it? It's a briefcase case for your laptop and accessories.

But wait ... it also has hidden straps so you can sling it over your shoulders and wear it as a backpack (hence the "hybrid" in the name). This is a great-looking gray tweed case that can carry up to a 15.6-inch laptop plus all your other gear.

Who is it for? Everyone with a laptop. The convertible nature is really handy.

How much does it cost? \$54.99.

Where can I get it? Solo-ny.com and Amazon.

Roborock Xiaowu Lite C10 Robot Vacuum Cleaner

What is it? An inexpensive robot vacuum cleaner that can keep your floors clean without your having to do much at all. It has 10 sensors for navigating around your room. It moves easily from hard floors to carpet and adjusts the suction accordingly. The C10 can be scheduled from a smartphone app. It'll clean for an hour before it

needs a recharge on its base.

Who is it for? Everyone has floors. This will help keep them clean.

How much does it cost? \$199.

Where can I get it? Amazon.

Crate Club

What is it? A monthly subscription box of tactical gear that's hand-picked by special ops veterans. The boxes contains cool gear like flashlights, multi-tools and survival gear. There are several levels of the subscription boxes. The more you spend, the more stuff is included each month. The costs also decrease if you prepay for six or 12 months.

Who is it for? This is a unique subscription box service aimed at guys.

How much does it cost? Paid annually, the plans range from \$23.99 to \$104.17 per month.

Where can I get it? Crateclub.us.

Ting Mobile SIM

What is it? A postpaid mobile service that operates on two nationwide networks (Sprint or T-Mobile), so it will work with most phones. You only pay for what you use each month, plus a \$6 service fee for each line. You can use the Ting website to estimate your monthly costs. You can pool your family's usage for more savings (plus the \$6 monthly fee for each device).

Who is it for? Anyone looking to save money on their wireless bills.

How much does it cost? As an example, one line, using up to 500 voice minutes, sending/receiving up to 100 texts and using up to 500gb of data will cost just \$28 per month.

Where can I get it? Ting.com.

Scottevest Hoodie

What is it? Hoodies are pretty geeky by themselves, but the folks at Scottevest have figured out a way to include 18 pockets, including one big enough to carry your iPad. There are also channels and access ports throughout so you can route your headphone wires inside the hoodie up to your ears. There's even a coiled wire to keep your keys from falling out. I found it to be very soft and warm, but the additional pockets make it a bit heavier than a normal hoodie. Available in six colors.

Who is it for? This is a great gift for a high school or college student.

How much does it cost? \$95 in sizes M-XXXL.

Where can I get it? Scottevest.com.

SOL Republic Amps Air 2.0 Wireless Earbuds

What is it? Very cool wireless earbuds with a charging case that will allow for up to 45 hours of playback (the case's internal battery can charge the earbuds 15 times).

They are very small and pack a great sound. There is no wire tethering them, so you can move around very easily while listening to your tunes. They work great for phone calls, too.

Who is it for? They're sweat- and rain-resistant, so they're great for people who work out.

How much does it cost? \$129.99.

Where can I get it? Solrepublic.com.

Let's talk voice assistants

Voice assistants have been a part of our lives for a few years, and it seems like they're on the edge of a great expansion.

Amazon, Google and Apple are working hard to get us to adopt their virtual assistants into our everyday lives.

Want to know the temperature? Ask Alexa, Google or Siri.

Want to hear some jazz? Just speak your request.

Ask them to tell you a joke or sing Happy Birthday.

You can also incorporate them into your home automation system. I always smile when I ask Alexa to turn on the lights.

Amazon continues to pour money and resources into its Alexa ecosystem of products, even licensing the Alexa voice service to be included in products from other companies.

Google and Apple are behind Amazon in the number of products released, but they are all racing forward.

I thought about including Facebook's new Portals, but they really don't meet the definition of a voice assistant. They do a good job with video conferencing with other Portals, but they don't have the voice interaction and search capabilities that make the others useful.

Here are a few products that you might want to consider as gifts this Christmas.

Amazon Echo Dot

What is it? This is the smallest and cheapest Echo, and the one shown here is the third generation version. It has a decent speaker, but more importantly, it gives you the ability to pair two Dots for stereo sound or connect to external speakers via Bluetooth or 3.5mm aux-out jack.

Who is it for? This is the perfect first Echo.

What does it cost? \$49.99, but holiday sales can drop the price by half. Shop around.

Where can I get it? Amazon, Best Buy and Target.

Amazon Echo Show

What is it? This is a second-generation Echo with a camera and a 10-inch video screen. Besides the usual Echo features, you can watch live TV from Hulu or make video calls to other Echo Shows or Echo Spots or even Skype calls. The Show can even show your compatible surveillance cameras.

Who is it for? Great for placement in a kitchen or family room.

What does it cost? \$229.99, but watch for holiday sales.

Where can I get it? Amazon, Best Buy and Target.

iHome iAV14

What is it? The iHome iAV14 Alexa Built-in Bedside/Home Office Speaker System is a bedside alarm clock with Alexa built in. The black box looks good on a nightstand. It is not technically a clock radio, but it does stream music and radio stations from the internet.

and Alexa's alarms will wake you or tell you a bedtime story. It also has a USB port to charge your phone.

Who is it for? Anyone with a table beside their bed or a desk.

What does it cost? \$99.99.

Where can I get it? home.com and Amazon.

Google Home Max

What is it? This is the premium speaker of the Google Home line. The Max has the best speakers and highest price. Dual woofers and custom tweeters provide very nice sound. Far field microphones enable the Max to hear your commands even when the music is cranked up.

Who is it for? This is the Google Home for music lovers.

What does it cost? \$399.99, but look for holiday sales.

Where can I get it? Google.com, Best Buy and Walmart.

Google Home Mini

What is it? The little brother of the Google Home line. The Mini is hockey puck-sized so it'll fit nicely in any room. It is affordable, but at the expense of sound quality. The Mini lacks a connection for external speakers.

Who is it for? Good starter speaker for the Google Home assistant.

What does it cost? \$49, but expect to find it for less.

Where can I get it? Google, Best Buy, Walmart and Target.

Google Home Hub

What is it? The first Google Home device with a video screen is much cheaper than its Amazon Show counterpart, but at 7 inches, the screen is closer to the size of a phone than a tablet. The Hub lacks a camera, but if you don't plan on video chatting, you won't miss it.

The Hub is also a home automation hub, so it can help you voice-control connected devices all over your house.

Who is it for? Any Google Home user would like a Hub.

What does it cost? \$149, but it will be cheaper.

Where can I get it? Google, Best Buy, Walmart and Target.

Apple HomePod

What is it? Apple finally brings Siri to a home speaker. The HomePod is a substantial speaker with really good sound and the ability to do multiroom audio quite easily.

HomePod has the best voice recognition. You can whisper and be heard, even when the music is playing loudly.

Who is it for? You are stuck with Apple's audio services, so this is a popular choice for Apple Music customers.

What does it cost? \$349.

Where can I get it? Apple stores and Apple.com, Walmart.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

By Jim Rossman
The Dallas Morning News

Home security and automation

So, it's almost 2019 and I still don't have a flying car, but I can turn on the lights in my house with my voice.

We have cameras to keep an eye on your home, a system to bathe your home in Wi-Fi and a gadget that will let you know if you leave the garage door open.

Wyze Cam

What is it? Wyze Cam is a very simple (and cheap) wireless camera you can use to keep track of what's going on at home. The cameras are small, easy to set up and can record video clips to the cloud with no ongoing fees. Add a microSD card to enable continuous recording. You monitor the Wyze Cam through an app on your phone.

Who is it for? Anyone who wants to keep an eye on their home, office or yard.

How much does it cost? \$19.99 or three for \$53.97 (offer is good through Dec. 31).

Where can I get it? wyzecam.com.

Ooma Home Security

What is it? VOIP provider Ooma has introduced a home security system you can install yourself. You can put sensors on your doors, windows and garage door as well as install smoke detectors, water leak sensors and cameras.

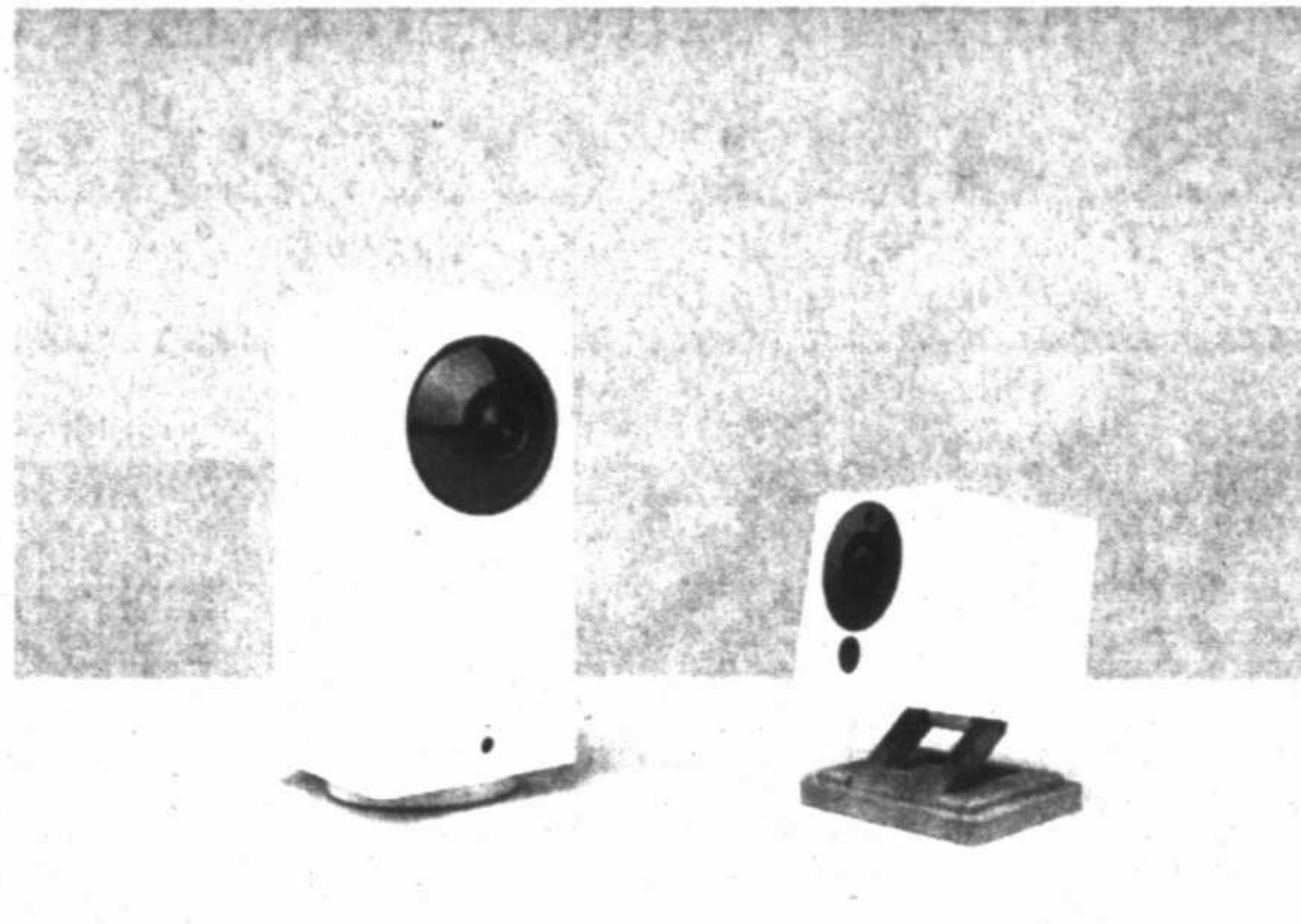
Who is it for? Home owners or renters who want to install their own alarm systems.

How much does it cost? Kits start at \$129, and monitoring is \$5.99 per month (no contract).

Where can I get it? Ooma.com and Amazon.

Ring Floodlight Cam

What is it? Ring is a leader in doorbell cameras, but its Floodlight Cam is great too. You get the security of a Ring security camera with the safety of object and person detection and two really bright flood lights. You can also remotely



Wyze Cam.

trigger a siren if you really want to get serious.

Who is it for? Great for the backyard or garage — anywhere you want to monitor and record video.

How much does it cost? \$249, and recording plans start at \$3 per month.

Where can I get it? Ring.com and Best Buy.

Nest Hello Smart Wi-Fi Video Doorbell

What is it? Nest jumped into the video doorbell game this year. It offers 24/7 HD video recording, two-way audio and the ability to play prerecorded messages. The doorbell can even recognize faces and give you custom alerts

based on the individual. You can't stop porch thieves, but you can record wrongdoers in the act.

Who is it for? Everyone could use a little more security on their front porch.

How much does it cost? \$229 (\$329 with professional installation); cloud recording subscriptions start at \$5 per month.

Where can I get it? Nest.com and Best Buy.

Arlo Go LTE Wire-Free

What is it? This is a wireless camera that has an LTE radio, so you need to subscribe to a data plan for the camera itself. It works

anywhere you can get a cell signal. It runs on rechargeable batteries (up to 45 days on a charge), so there's no need for power or internet. The Arlo Go records on motion and uploads the clips to the cloud. It has two-way audio and night vision.

Who is it for? Anyone who needs to monitor really remote locations.

How much does it cost? \$349.99, AT&T data plan required.

Where can I get it? AT&T.com.

Eero Wi-Fi System

What is it? A mesh Wi-Fi system for your whole house. It uses multiple access points to blanket your entire home and yard with fast Wi-Fi. The first Eero box connects to your broadband modem. Smaller Eero beacons are placed in other areas of your home. All three Eero boxes talk to each other and broadcast the same network.

Eero offers an optional \$99-per-year internet security subscription.

Who is it for? Owners of large homes or people who have dead spots in their houses.

How much does it cost? The Eero starts at \$199 for the main box, and beacons cost \$149 each. You can bundle to drop the price.

Where can I get it? Eero.com and Best Buy.

Insignia Wi-Fi Garage Door Controller

What is it? A box that connects your garage door opener to the internet (specifically Apple's HomeKit system). Use your iPhone to open and close your garage door or get notifications when the door is opened or closed. You can also control the door from anywhere on the internet if you have an Apple TV at home (it's a HomeKit hub).

Who is it for? Anyone with a garage door opener and an iPhone. You'll also need Wi-Fi coverage in your garage.

How much does it cost? \$69.99.

Where can I get it? Best Buy.

Sound Advice

By Jim Rossman
The Dallas Morning News

These cooking machines make great gifts

Culinary additions to my holiday gift guide. I love to cook and every once in a while I find something that warrants inclusion in the column, like the Panasonic Countertop Induction Oven I raved about in 2017. Here are two nifty cooking machines that will make great gifts.

Panasonic High Speed Toaster Oven NB-W250S with Convection, \$99

This 1750-watt, 9-cubic-foot wonder requires no preheating and heats up instantly. The innovative design cooks food up to 35 percent faster than a typical toaster oven, and the rapid cooking times led one happy owner to describe it as a cross between a toaster oven and a microwave. Digital presets make operation incredibly easy, and it creates outstanding results you would not expect from such a small, inexpensive appliance. You can see the NB-W250S at panasonic.com and walmart.com, but you have to go to a Walmart store to pick one up, even if you order it on Walmart's website. This hot seller (no pun intended) is in very high demand so if you want one, start looking now and grab one when you see it.

Masterbuilt MES 130S Digital Electric Smoker, \$159

The outdoor chef in your life will be thrilled with this electric smoker, which makes cooking delicious smoked foods (like brisket, pulled pork and baby back ribs) incredibly easy. Just add wood chips and program the time and temperature to cook low and slow for fall-off-the-bone barbecue perfection. It's the size and shape of a mid-sized dorm refrigerator and is big enough

to smoke six chickens, two turkeys, four racks of ribs or four pork butts. It smells great when it is in operation, too! The Meater thermometer I recommended in my gift guide is a great companion to this machine. masterbuilt.com

Q. Is it possible to build a surround sound system with five speakers for under \$300? I do have a subwoofer that I can still use, so I just need the speakers and receiver. I don't want a soundbar as I like rear speakers for true surround with movies.

A. Going wireless for the rear speakers is too much of a stretch at the price point. Wireless surround speakers are not as wonderful as you might think anyway because you still need to run power to them, which means a rear-located amplifier or individual speakers that must each have an outlet. You may as well just run a wire from the receiver.

Get two pairs of Dayton Audio B452-AIR speakers (\$55/pair) for front and surround speakers, and the Dayton Audio C452-AIR center speaker for \$36. This tonally-matched system uses exotic AMT (Air Motion Transformer) tweeters and sounds better than you would expect for under \$150 for the whole set.

The Sony STRDH590 receiver can be found online for \$178. It has 5.2 channels, Bluetooth and 4 HDMI inputs that support 4K with Dolby Vision HDR. So though it is inexpensive, you won't be buying something that does not work with all the most advanced digital standards currently on the market.

That puts us at \$324, so I guess my answer is it is not possible to build a surround system for under \$300, unless you want to buy speakers that are ultra-cheap and very low quality. The extra \$24 over your budget is definitely worth the extra investment. See the speakers at daytonaudio.com, and I obtained the pricing from Amazon when I built your system.

TCL 55-inch 5 Series 4K Roku TV a perfect under-\$500 pick

Q. We want to buy televisions for our kids and their families this Christmas. We have \$500 per television budgeted and would like at least a 50-inch screen size. Any recommendations?

A. L. A., San Antonio

A. Go straight to the TCL 55-inch 5 Series 4K Roku TV, \$449. I love finding exceptional values for my readers, and this is one of them. Since their introduction in April, TCL 6 Series televisions have become the toast of the town among professional reviewers and audio/video hobbyists. They have been praised for delivering premium picture quality that is competitive with upper-end TVs from top tier manufacturers, but at one-third to one-half the price. I chose to review the 55-inch 5 Series because it struck me as a great value, sharing many features of the 6 Series as well as the promise of premium picture quality.

I should start by saying I am a TV snob. Almost every TV I have purchased since 2002 has been top-of-the-line and sold for \$3,500 at a minimum. It was the only way to get the performance and quality I demand, and to provide a proper reference point for evaluating other TVs for this column. Other than LG OLED models, I have not enthusiastically gotten behind any TV recommendation since plasma went away. That has changed with this TV, and it is affordable, too!

The TCL 5 Series is a Smart TV and the Roku interface makes setup and operation a breeze. For 4K HDR (high dynamic range) it supports both HDR10 and Dolby Vision, a rarity in TVs under \$500.

It was easy to adjust the TV for a great picture. I left most of the picture settings on normal, but changed the color temperature to warm and bumped the color up to between 60 and 70 from the midpoint of 50. Televised football sometimes looked best using the "movie" setting.

Picture quality is excellent, especially for a 55-inch TV selling for under \$450. I reviewed it with over-the-air broadcasts, 1080p content from DISH satellite TV and Blu-ray, and 4K content from 4K UltraHD Blu-ray. Colors are natural, yet bright and beautiful, flesh tones are realistic, and shadows don't break down into an inky mass. Motion is free from the artificial "CGI look" I see on so many TVs, even expensive ones.

Blu-ray movies are the killer app for this TV. Regular Blu-ray looks phenomenal, and 4K UltraHD Blu-ray looks mouth-wateringly cinematic. With the "Avengers: Infinity War" 4K UltraHD Blu-ray the color, sharpness, depth and detail were extraordinary. I felt like I was in my local luxury theater with its top-of-the-line digital projection system. You have to see it to appreciate it, and I strongly recommend using 4K UltraHD Blu-ray players and discs with this TV. It is definitely worth the investment.

If you spend more on a TV you might get a better picture, but you also might not. You might even get a picture that is not as good. An LG OLED would be better across the board, but those start at around \$1,500. Most people who read this column would be happier with "excellent" for \$449 than "perfect" for \$1,500. I get that, and I am sure a lot of you are very happy to be reading about this TV.

It makes me wonder how much better the TCL 6 Series could be, and perhaps I will review one someday. And TCL, if you are listening, how about making some 5 and 6 series TVs that are 75 inches and larger? Bigger is better! tcusa.com

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

How to plan your smart home — and weigh privacy risks

By Anick Jesdanun
Associated Press

NEW YORK — You might have heard of lights that turn off with an app or voice command. Or window shades that magically rise every morning.

Technology companies are pushing the "smart home" hard, selling appliances and gadgets that offer internet-connected conveniences you didn't know you needed. But before you succumb to the temptation — for yourself or others — consider that these devices might also give companies and hackers a key to your homes.

Here's how to get started on your smart home and what to worry about along the way.

Starting that smart home

A smart home can encompass features as simple as remote-controlled lamps and as sophisticated as thermostats that know when you're home and turn up the heat automatically. Down the line, you may want to mix and match these tasks into routines, such as a wake-up ritual that automatically starts the coffee maker, lifts the window shades and plays the news.

With the right tools, you can check remotely whether your remembered to lock the doors — and lock them if you forgot. Some systems can also create temporary digital keys for guests and contractors.

Many people start thinking about a smart home when they get a voice-activated speaker such as Amazon's Echo or Google Home, although such gadgets aren't strictly necessary. Nor do you even need actual smart lights and appliances, as



Richard Drew/AP

Google Home Hub is displayed Oct. 9 in New York. Technology companies are pushing the "smart home," selling appliances and gadgets that offer internet-connected conveniences you didn't know you needed.

you can buy smart plugs, adapters that control existing lights or whatever you plug into them.

If you catch the smart-home bug, you can add appliances with the smarts already built in as you replace your existing ones. Major remodels also offer an opportunity to make bigger smart-home plans. You probably wouldn't want to get new window shades now only to replace them with smart ones a year later.

The risks

There are some concerns to

keep in mind. Many devices are constantly listening for commands and connect to corporate servers to carry them out. Not everyone is going to be comfortable with live microphones in their homes (though your phone may already be doing the same thing, if you had enabled assistive features such as "Hey Siri" and "OK Google").

For the most part, recordings will leave home only when you trigger the device, such as by speaking a command phrase like "OK Google" or pressing a button to get the device's at-

tention. But an Amazon device mistakenly recorded and sent a family's private conversation to an acquaintance after the device mistakenly thought it heard the trigger word followed by a "send message" request.

Check what safeguards a device offers before buying. Smart speakers, for instance, typically have a mute button to disable the microphone completely. Mozilla's Privacy Not Included project seeks to warn consumers about products with security or privacy problems. A general web search also might turn up complaints.

In general, it helps to stick with major brands, as their corporate reputations are at stake if they're caught taking shortcuts. Bigger companies can also quickly fix security holes that crop up. Gadgets from startups and no-name brands may offer little or no protection; those companies may be more concerned with rushing a product to market.

Bigger companies, however, are also more likely to use your data for marketing. So consider the trade-offs.

Leaving a digital trail

Even if a product works as intended, it may be leaving a record that can resurface after hacks, lawsuits or investigations.

Manufacturers, for instance, typically store the voice commands their gadget send over the internet and use that data to help them personalize their services — and, potentially, advertisements. These voice snippets may include music or conversations in the background. Reputable brands let you review and delete your voice history; be sure to do so regularly.

And think twice about smart locks and their digital keys.

In a child-custody dispute, for instance, your ex might subpoena the records to learn that you've been staying out late on school nights. If you rent, a landlord might suspect an unauthorized occupant if you create a guest key that's used daily.

Choosing a system

As cable and internet services become commodities, the companies behind them are turning to smart homes for new sources of revenue. AT&T's Digital Life and Comcast's Xfinity Home offer cameras, door controls and other smart-home devices. The packages are good for those who prefer one-stop shopping, though you might save money and get more choices by shopping around.

For the do-it-yourself approach, consider which company's services you're already using heavily.

If it's Amazon, then devices powered by its Alexa digital assistant might work best. There's a range of Alexa products, including refrigerators and washing machines. You can command an Alexa microwave oven to "reheat one potato" instead of having to look up how many seconds. It'll also reorder popcorn with a command — from Amazon, of course.

Likewise, if you're a heavy Google user, choose devices that support Google's Assistant. Apple has products under the umbrella of HomeKit, while Samsung has SmartThings. Some products will work with more than one digital assistant.

Some devices, especially cameras, come with extra fees for extended storage and other features. But in most cases, you have to pay only for the product.

Be sure to check out Sunday's edition to read weekly LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



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SATURDAY MORNING

DECEMBER 22, 2018

FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION

PLEASE CHECK MOVIE LISTINGS

STATION	6 AM	6:30	7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30
KMDZ ABC	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
KWTT CW	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
KPEI FOX	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
KMLM HD	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
KPTV PBS	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
KUPB UNIV	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
KOSA MNT	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
FLIX	340	375	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105
HBO	300	300	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
HBO2	302	301	15	101	23	101	23	101	23	101	23	101
HBO5	304	302	16	102	24	102	24	102	24	102	24	102
MAX	380	387	17	120	24	120	24	120	24	120	24	120
MAX2	382	388	18	122	26	122	26	122	26	122	26	122
FLIX	320	360	19	140	25	140	25	140	25	140	25	140
SHOW	336	370	22	106	26	106	26	106	26	106	26	106
TIME	336	370	22	106	26	106	26	106	26	106	26	106
ARE	27	58	28	35	47	59	71	83	95	107	119	131
AMC	40	74	23	42	51	60	69	78	87	96	105	114
BET	58	92	40	74	108	142	176	210	244	278	312	346
BRAVO	65	76	41	75	109	143	177	211	245	279	313	347
CHNC	46	52	39	72	106	140	174	208	242	276	310	344
CHN	43	50	51	30	56	63	70	77	84	91	98	105
DISC	50	60	31	24	42	53	64	75	86	97	108	119
DISNEY	56	64	36	25	36	44	52	60	68	76	84	92
ESPN	32	35	48	51	54	57	60	63	66	69	72	75
ESPN2	34	36	49	52	55	58	61	64	67	70	73	76
FNC	45	48	53	55	58	61	64	67	70	73	76	79
FOOD	64	70	27	68	54	60	66	72	78	84	90	96
FREEFORM	53	63	34	42	50	58	66	74	82	90	98	106
FSW	37	38	50	45	29	20	11	2	13	24	35	46
FX	31	54	59	64	69	74	79	84	89	94	99	104
HALLMARK	54	71	58	75	92	109	126	143	160	177	194	211
HISTV	63	69	28	48	68	88	108	128	148	168	188	208
HISTORY	71	59	29	49	69	89	109	129	149	169	189	209
LIFETIME	28	30	25	28	48	68	88	108	128	148	168	188
MSNBC	47	53	49	73	97	121	145	169	193	217	241	265
NBCSN	38	43	39	44	49	54	59	64	69	74	79	84
NICK	55	59	34	37	41	45	49	53	57	61	65	69
SPKE	30	35	53	58	63	68	73	78	83	88	93	98
SYFY	68	82	41	57	67	77	87	97	107	117	127	137
TBS	25	33	44	46	41	49	57	65	73	81	89	97
TCM	41	75	24	63	66	70	74	78	82	86	90	94
TELE	20	20	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
TLN	51	61	32	38	52	62	72	82	92	102	112	122
TNT	24	34	40	26	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120
TYLAND	49	35	54	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55
USA	26	55	42	27	49	69	89	109	129	149	169	189
WGN	19	85	47	47	47	47	47	47	47	47	47	47

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

DECEMBER 22, 2018

FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION

PLEASE CHECK MOVIE LISTINGS

STATION	12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30
KMDZ ABC	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
KWTT CW	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
KPEI FOX	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
KMLM HD	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
KPTV PBS	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
KUPB UNIV	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
KOSA MNT	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
FLIX	340	375	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105
HBO	300	300	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
HBO2	302	301	15	101	23	101	23	101	23	101	23	101
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FLIX	320	360	19	140	25	140	25	140	25	140	25	140
SHOW	336	370	22	106	26	106	26	106	26	106	26	106
TIME	336	370	22	106	26	106	26	106	26	106	26	106
ARE	27	58	28	35	47	59	71	83	95	107	119	131
AMC	40	74	23	42	51	60	69	78	87	96	105	114
BET	58	92	40	74	108	142	176	210	244	278	312	346
BRAVO	65	76	41	75	109	143	177	211	245	279	313	347
CHNC	46	52	39	72	106	140	174	208	242	276	310	344
CHN	43	50	51	30	56	63	70	77	84	91	98	105
DISC	50	60	31	24	42	53	64	75	86	97	108	119
DISNEY	56	64	36	25	36	44	52	60	68	76	84	92
ESPN	32	35	48	51	54	57	60	63	66	69	72	75
ESPN2	34	36	49	52	55	58	61	64	67	70	73	76
FNC	45	48	53	55	58	61	64	67	70	73	76	79
FOOD	64	70	27	68	54	60	66	72	78	84	90	96
FREEFORM	53	63	34	42	50	58	66	74	82	90	98	106
FSW	37	38	50	45	29	20	11	2	13	24	35	46
FX	31	54	59	64	69	74	79	84	89	94	99	104
HALLMARK	54	71	58	75	92	109	126	143	160	177	194	211
HISTV	63	69	28	48	68	88	108	128	148	168	188	208
HISTORY	71	59	29	49	69	89	109	129	149	169	189	209
LIFETIME	28	30	25	28	48	68	88	108	128	148	168	188
MSNBC	47	53	49	73	97	121	145	169	193	217	241	265
NBCSN	38	43	39	44	49	54	59	64	69	74	79	84
NICK	55	59	34	37	41	45	49	53	57	61	65	69
SPKE	30	35	53	58	63	68	73	78	83	88	93	98
SYFY	68	82	41	57	67	77	87	97	107	117	127	137
TBS	25	33	44	46	41	49	57	65	73	81	89	97
TCM	41	75	24	63	66	70	74	78	82	86	90	94
TELE	20	20	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
TLN	51	61	32	38	52	62	72	82	92	102	112	122
TNT	24	34	40	26	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120
TYLAND	49	35	54	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55
USA	26	55	42	27	49	69	89	109	129	149	169	189
WGN	19	85	47	47	47	47	47	47	47	47	47	47

SATURDAY PRIME TIME

DECEMBER 22, 2018

FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION

PLEASE CHECK MOVIE LISTINGS

PEAPAK COUNTEY MOVIE LISTINGS												
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4
	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
KMDZ ABC	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
KWTT CW	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
KPEI FOX	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
KMLM HD	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
KWSB NBC	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
KPNT PBS	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
KUPV HD	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
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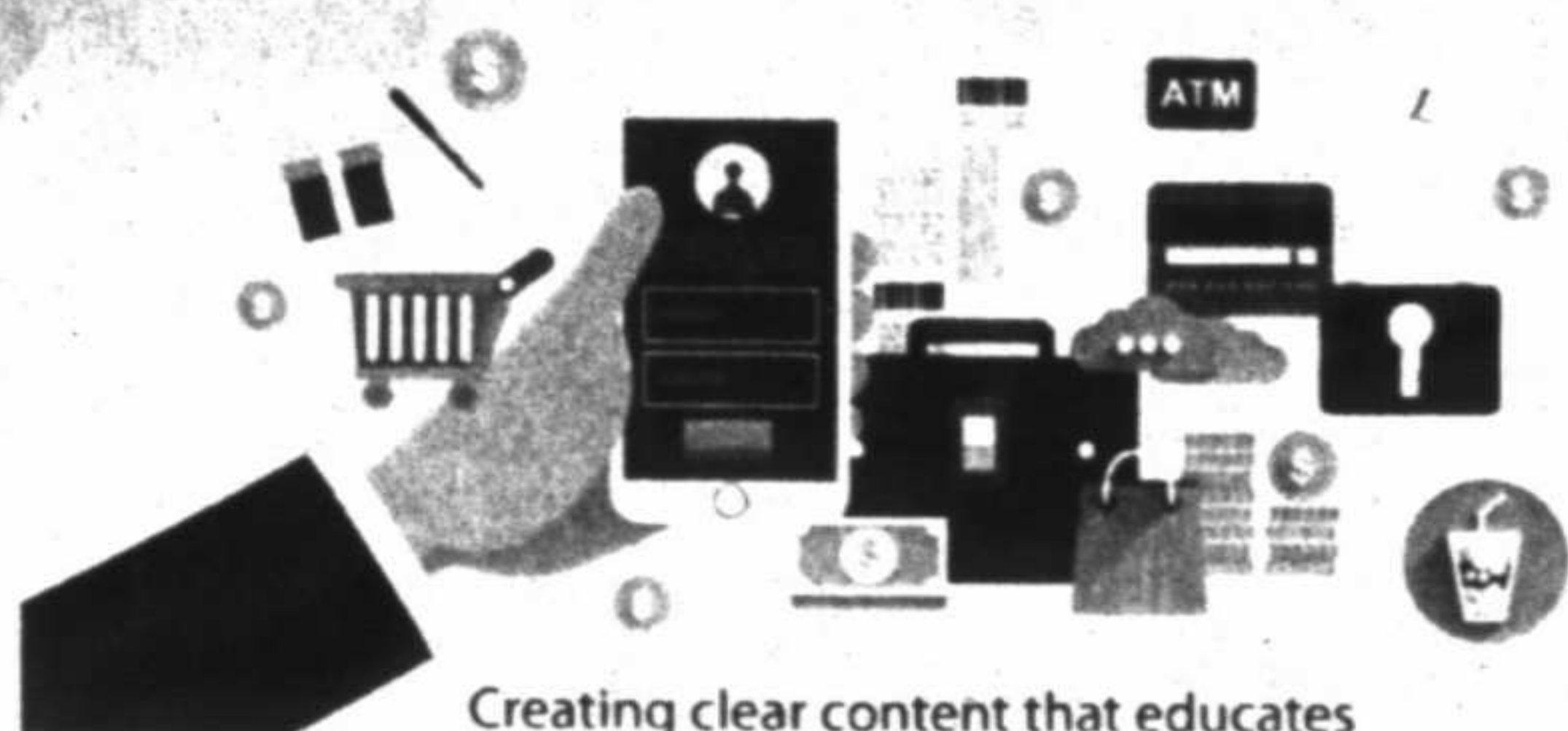




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Textures & Fabric LTD is now Hiring!
Looking for a Customer Services Rep
Job Includes:
* Answering incoming calls from customers needing assistance in variety of areas
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* Answer questions, give explanation, and solve problems for customers
* Complete special projects as assigned Send resume to pjob001@aol.com

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Home & Office Cleaners
Home & Office Cleaners wanted \$800/week. Cleaning position available, working days Mon. - Fri. 11am-2pm. Minimum requirement. Email: patriciatracy164@gmail.com

OTHER JOBS

**\$500
SIGN ON BONUS**
For the first 10 people who sign on for a route

Be In Business for Yourself With No Money Down Home Delivery Routes Available

The Midland Reporter Telegram's Circulation Department is looking for independent contractors to deliver newspapers to home delivery subscribers in **Midland city & county areas**.

Applicants must be dependable, service oriented to provide excellent service to our readers. You must also be available early morning hour's 7 days a week [Our Distribution Centers open as early as 1:30 am with route delivery deadlines of 6 am during the week and 7 am on Sunday]. Compensation is dependent on route size and the number of copies delivered with the approximate gross profit potential between \$250 - \$630 every 2 weeks for 2 1/2 - 3 hours per day. The successful applicant must be able to work independently of direct supervision.

Applicants must have a dependable vehicle, valid driver's license and proof of insurance.

For more information and to be considered for a route please contact the Midland Reporter Telegram representative listed below.

Adam Kahle
432-238-4998

Oscar Ronquillo
432-687-9001

Wash & Lube Positions

Mighty Wash NOW Hiring Full/Part-Time Positions
Wash & Lube 3314 N Loop 250
or email daniel@mighty-wash.com or online mighty-wash.com



OTHER JOBS



CIRCULATION CLERK

The purpose of this position is to assist Circulation department in reaching goals for start pressure, volumes, retention, single copy, and customer service. The primary function of the Circulation Clerk is to handle administrative functions of the department including tracking and analysis.

Maintain reports for Circulation including tracking of start pressure, volumes, service and collection statistics, and retention for all properties in West Texas primarily the Plainview Herald and Midland Reporter Telegram. Report return information to the Accounting department on a timely basis for Plainview Herald and the MRT.

Process customer and DSM written and email correspondence, and respond to their phone inquiries. Work with the call center to resolve customer complaints as well as helping walk in customer's in reference to their account.

Work with customers and delivery staff to resolve delivery questions and service issues for our West Texas properties.

Special projects and administrative support tasks assigned by Circulation Managers as needed.

Designated back-up for other Circulation & Finance support staff members as needed.

Able to react to change productively and handle other essential tasks as assigned.

In order to communicate with company personnel and customers English is vital.

College degree or equivalent years of experience in office management or related areas required.

Proficient computer skills including Microsoft Office package (Excel, Word, PowerPoint and Access), experience in data entry and typing speed minimum 35wpm required.

Customer Service Skills, computer skills, analytical skills. Must be goal oriented, energetic and have good time management and organizational skills. Must be able to react to change productively.

This position is instrumental in analyzing data, interacting with all department personnel and resolving customer problems.

Sign-On Bonus

Send resumes to shackler@hearstnp.com



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- Great attitude and desire to be part of the Domino's team a must!
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- Your own vehicle with insurance
- Earn hourly wage plus tips and mileage. Great drivers can earn \$15-\$25 per hour with a great attitude and hustle
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- Earn a \$12 hourly wage with quick raise opportunities
- Full time & Part-time positions available

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or any of the 10 Midland & Odessa locations

1307 N Loop 250 - Midland

3300 W Illinois - Midland

4519 N Garfield - Midland

804 N Big Spring St. - Midland

503 I-20 - Midland

3111 Faudree Rd. - Odessa

980 E 87th St. - Odessa

1106 E 42nd St. - Odessa

2251 Linda Ave. - Odessa

9001 W University Blvd. - Odessa

SALES JOBS

Manager & Cashiers

Smoker's Outlet has SIGNING BONUS for MANAGER TRAINEE & CASHIERS Full-time & Part-time position must have own transportation
Apply in person Mon-Fri 9-5 at either store
5000 E University, Ste 11, Odessa, Tx & 312 N Midland Dr, Midland, TX

SKILLED LABOR

Diesel Mechanics

Job Opportunity: Presto Offroad Services are seeking to hire Diesel Mechanics with CDL to work on heavy equipment. Must have 2 years experience in a similar position. Interested candidates may send their resume to operations@prestooffroadservices.com

Owl Energy Services

General Labor/Field Hand

Poly Line Installation

Requirements:

Valid DL

Drug Testing

Monday- Friday w/occasional weekend work.
Benefits include 401K & Medical

\$5 Paid Holidays \$5

Apply @ Owl Energy Services, 2052 Commerce St, Midland, Texas 79703. Between 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

NO PER DIAM

NO TELEPHONE CALLS ACCEPTED, MUST COME TO IN AND FILL OUT APPLICATION. BRING ID's with You.

Heavy Equipment Operators

Hiring experienced heavy equipment operators for offroad dirt work - 2+ years O&G experience required. Dozer, trackhoe, loader positions available. Pay DOE. Health, vision, and dental insurance 100% paid! Apply in person: 9400 S. Service Rd, Coahoma, TX, or call 432-394-4804 for more information

Technical Service & Field Sales

J&W Services and Equipment Co. is seeking a Technical Service and Field Sales rep for our Rader Electric Feed Thru division (a BW Distributor). 2+ yrs experience preferred but willing to train. Benefits include health, dental & life ins. Vacation & Sick pay. Opportunities to earn commissions and quality bonuses. Participation in 401k after one year. Stop at 3510 E Hwy 158 in Midland/online www.jandweservices.com for app & submit to jobs@jwellheads.com



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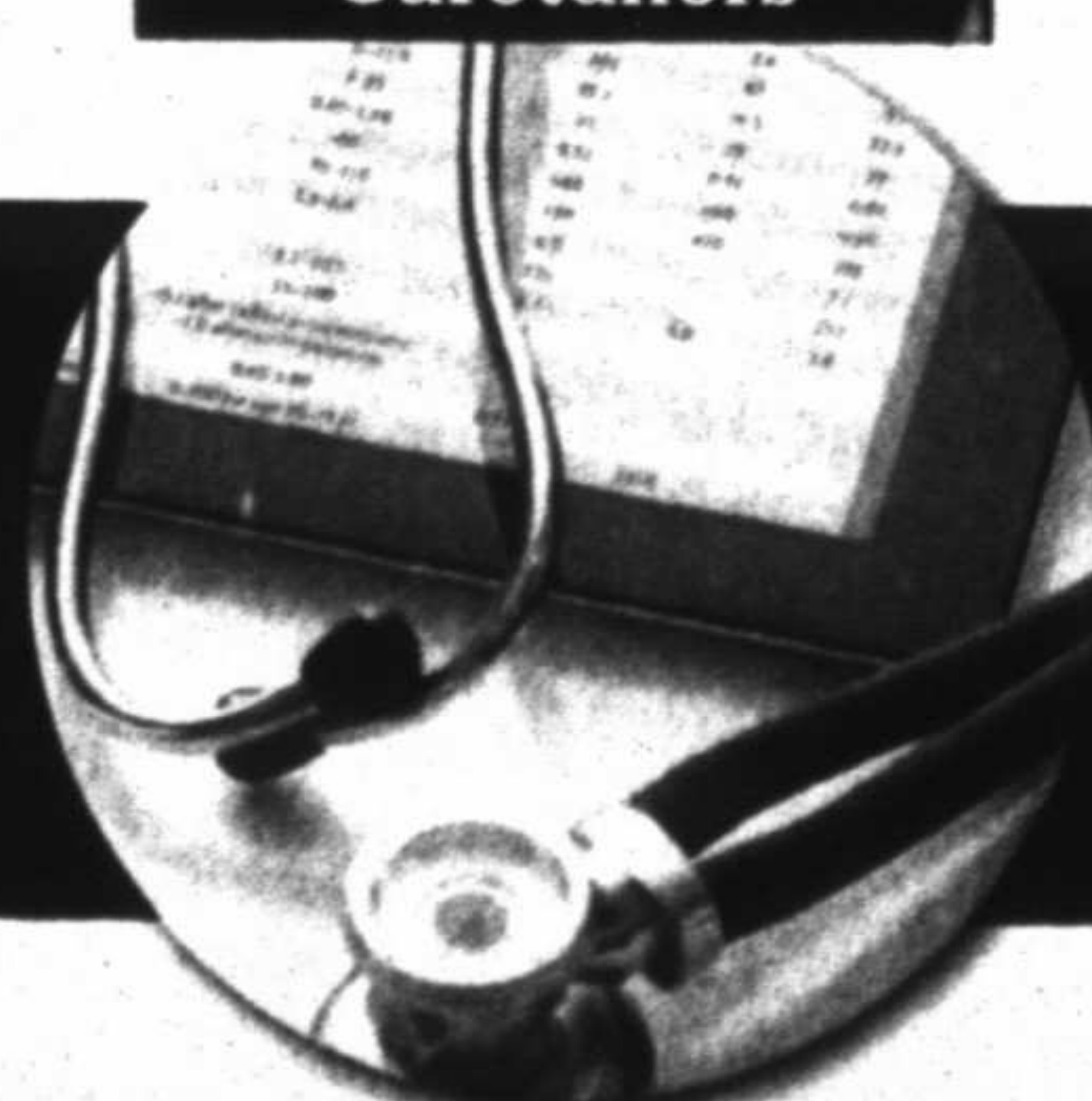
Animal Lovers



Educators



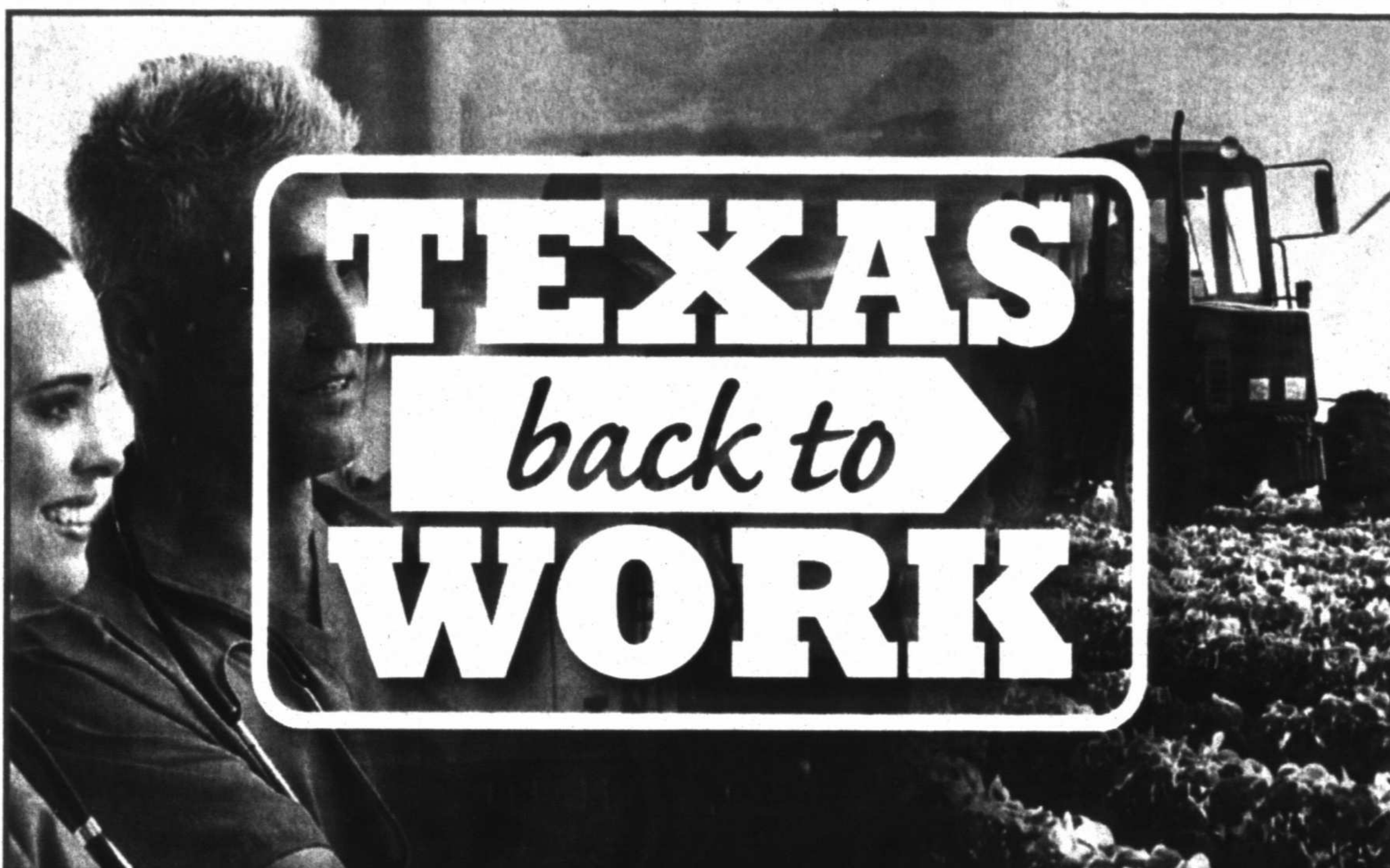
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Passenger Cars

2011 LINCOLN Towncar Limo, 47 K original miles, looks good run good. Asking \$24,000. 830-777-0120

TOYOTA Scion XB, 2010, 7K miles, good condition everything works. For more information, 432-934-1499



Recreation Vehicles

07 TRAVEL Supreme, 34', 4 slides & 50 amp. Cherrywood, leather, new G tires, 15 A/C, fireplace, awnings, excellent condition. \$16,500. Delivery available. 641-425-5178

2007 KEYSTONE Laredo 5th wheel, 30' tires with 2k miles, new refrigerator, everything works. Asking \$13,500. Located in Midland. 817-694-8780 or 432-889-6921



Auto Services-Parts

PRIMED HEAVY duty bumper guard, \$275 OBO. Cash. 432-238-0953



Merchandise

Miscellaneous & Sale

GET DISCOUNTED perfume and cologne for Christmas gifts! Selling new bottles for 50% off retail. Please text (432)201-3822.

FIREWOOD for sale mix \$125 a truck load or \$80 a truck load of stumps Call Norman 432-296-1424

Firewood For Sale Oak, Pecan, Hickory, Mesquite, Pinon. 325-762-4262



Pets-Animals

Dogs

GOLDENDOODLE PUPPIES ready for new homes, Tuxedo chocolate & black. Happy & healthy. Text or call 432-694-0331

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Notice on Sale of Personal Property to satisfy a judgment lien for CASH ONLY. Sale date is Thursday, January 10, 2019.

Aztec A-1 Storage Center
1219 S Midland DR
Midland TX 79703
Time 10:25am

#223 LaTasha Allen
#347 David Molina
HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Dogs

HELP PLEASE rescue us from our evil step-mother. She never takes time to play with us, she just keeps us in the back yard. We want to be with a family who has lots of room for us to run and play outside. I love my sister but we can be separated. If you can help us please call 432-230-6118



LABRADOR RETRIEVER PUPPIES

Grand Hunting Champion, bloodlines Xmas day delivery in Midland! \$1,200 English Labs OFA Cert. Hips & elbows. Brooke 432-978-5300



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Rental-Sale

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HOUSE NEEDING a home 3 bedroom 2 bath, location/ move your choice of areas. \$19,500. Like to discuss details. 468-383-2480

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LAND FOR SALE Lots 2 acres plus, SE Midland County. BSK down, \$995mo. Call 432-631-5850.

Lots and Land

Acreage

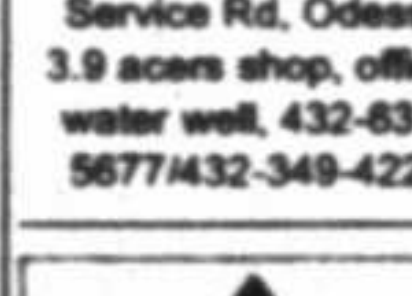
RECREATIONAL PROPERTY Opportunity. 455+/- acres of gently rolling Mesquite/ Cedar pasture very close to Lake Vista priced at \$1,000,000.00. Seller is also offering a beautiful 3br, 3.5ba home and acreage on Lake Vista priced at \$400,000. Call David at ERA 325-277-3946

Commercial

BEER STORE FOR RENT. 10' x 18' cooler, 5 doors and 1 walk door. \$2,000 month. \$1,000 deposit. 432-528-1809

CORNER LOT FOR SALE 412 BAIRD, water tap, sewer tap, paved. Walk to Court house. \$189,000K 432-631-2905

FOR SALE by Owner 5550 W-20 North Service Rd, Odessa 3.9 acres shop, office, water well. 432-631-5677/432-349-4224



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Lots and Land

Acreage

700 SCENIC acres in SW Runnels County Upland elevations to Large Creek Bottom Large Ponds(Stocked) & Rural Water Meter on Property. Electric close to Property. Whitetail Deer, Quail, Turkey, Dove Provides Excellent Hunting. All Minerals & Water Rights will Convey. \$1800.00 Per Acre. Contact: Rick 980-820-8881

FOR SALE. 400 gross acres of royalty. For sale is a 125 interest, E/2 S/2 NW Section 48, Bk. F. G&MB&B&A Survey, Whittier County Texas. Located in two shale areas. Any reasonable offer I will consider. Call 405-919-6228

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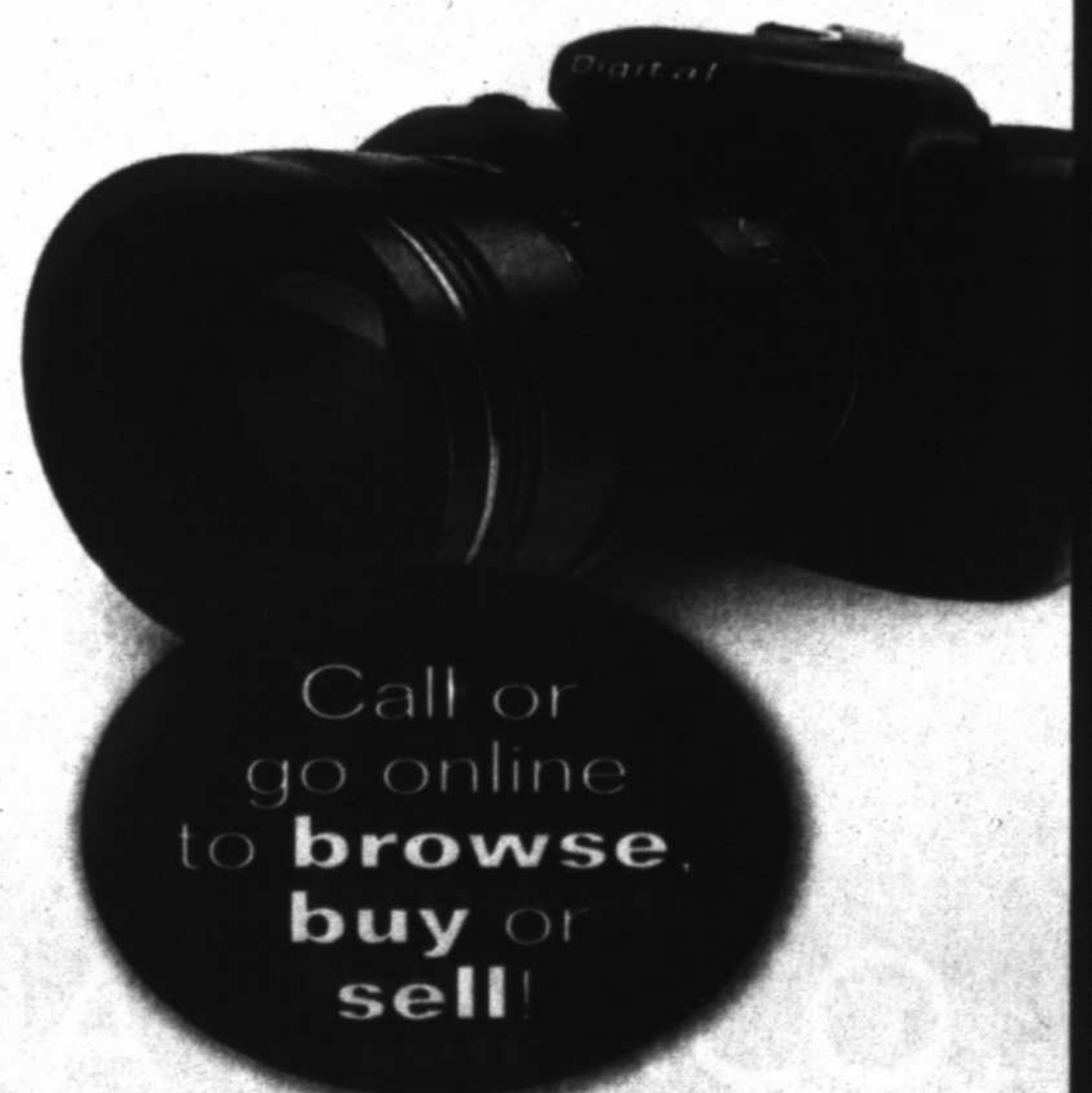
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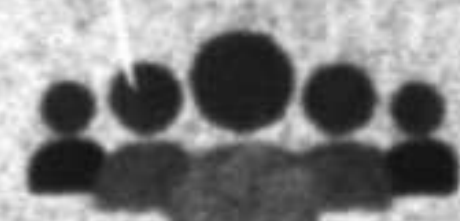
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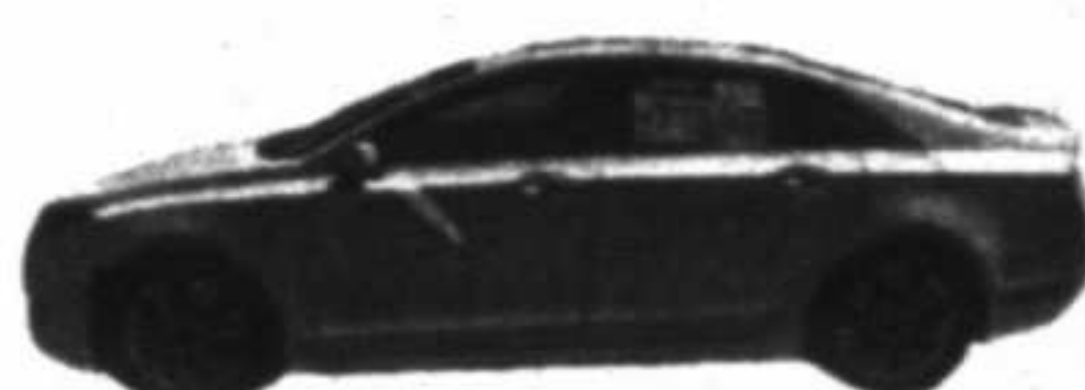
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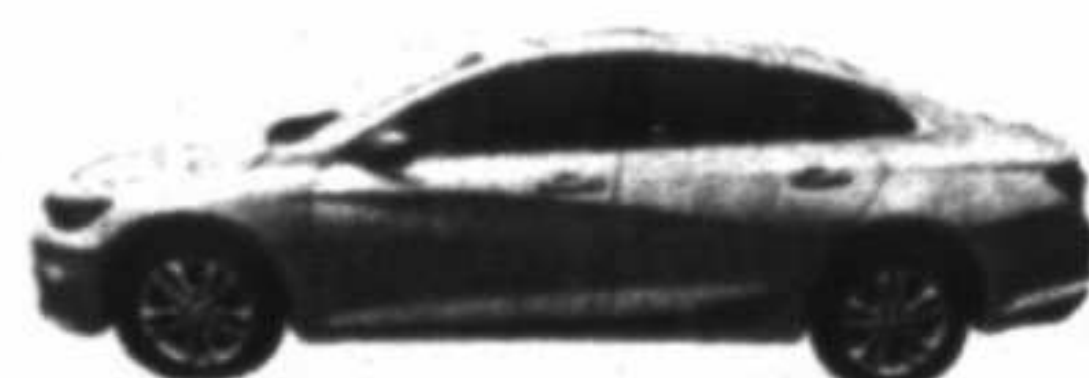
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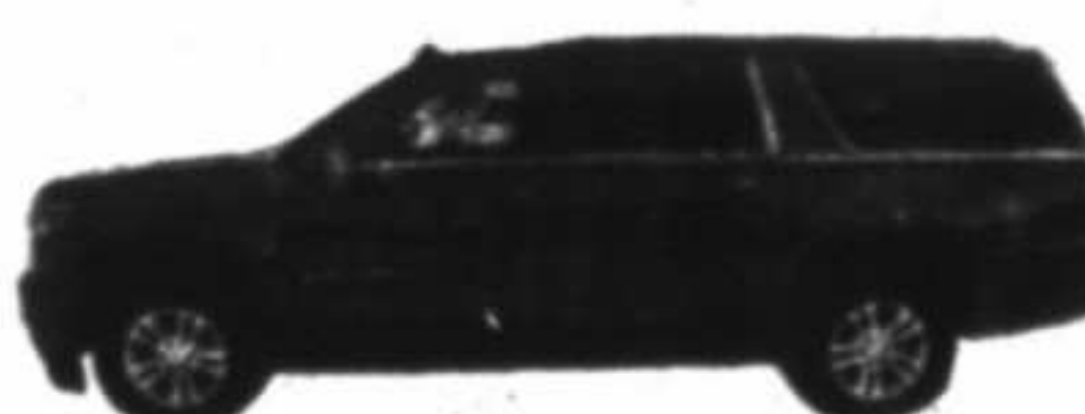
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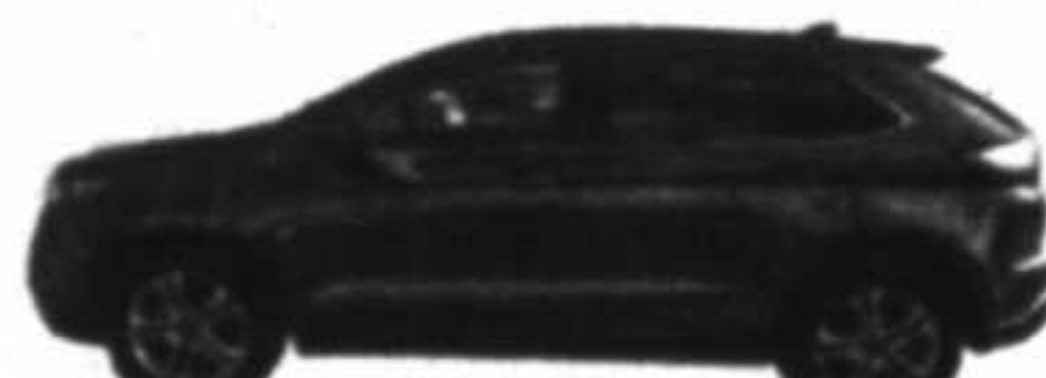
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NOW **\$26,995**

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Edge**

18,055 Miles
Stk#1840080



Was ~~\$26,995~~
NOW **\$22,995**

**2017 Nissan
Rogue**

11,628 Miles
Stk#1840046



Was ~~\$30,995~~
NOW **\$27,995**

**2015 Lincoln
MKC**

24,835 Miles
Stk#1840085



Was ~~\$32,995~~
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**2016 Toyota
4Runner**

39,956 Miles
Stk#1831386C



Was ~~\$42,995~~
NOW **\$39,995**

**2017 Nissan
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**2017 Ford
Taurus**

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Stk# 1850068

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SPORTS

Permian football players received recognition at the district, state levels. **Page 9**

TRUE CRIME

Read about the country's worst serial killer PD helped catch. **Page 7**

NIMITZ IN SPACE

Sixth graders are working on a treatment for cancer. **Page 5**

A SHAKESPEARE CHRISTMAS



Jacy Lewis/191 News

Members of the Society of Juliets had a Christmas party on Dec. 15 at the home of Barbara Hogan. Corine Berry, from left, Hogan, Beverly McColloch, Juanita Pyfer, Esther Sofge and, sitting, Delores Schuler.

The Society of Juliets celebrate Christmas and look back on history at the Globe

By Jacy Lewis
jacy.lewis@hearstnp.com

Juliet members have been ushering people for plays at the Globe of the Southwest for over 43 years. But before there were the Juliets there was Marjorie Morris, an English teacher at Odessa High School and then a professor at Odessa College. Morris

wanted to bring a replica of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre to Odessa College.

Juliet member Beverly McColloch has Morris as a teach at Odessa High School and Odessa College. She remembers Morris' love for Shakespeare's plays.

"If you ever wanted to learn Shakespeare that is where you would learn

it," McColloch said.

Morris raised all the money for the construction through big donations and asking students at Odessa College for one dollar at a time, Juliet member Esther Sofge said. The Globe of the Great Southwest started showing plays in 1968. The Juliet Fine Art

JULIETS Page 5

CRIME

DPS study: High-profile gangs have local presence

From staff reports

Thirteen of the 14 gangs listed as having the greatest threat to the state of Texas have a presence in Ector County, according to the Texas Gang Threat Assessment, a state intelligence estimate produced by the Texas Department of Public Safety.

The document released by DPS shows that the four "Tier 1" gangs — Tango Blast and Tango Cliques, Texas Mexican Mafia, Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) and Barrio Azteca — are in Midland and Ector counties. Joining them are nine of the 10 "Tier 2" gangs. They are Bloods, Aryan Brotherhood of Texas, Texas Syndicate,

MORE INFO

To read more about gangs in West Texas, go to mrt.com.

Latin Kings, Sureños, Crips, Gangster Disciples, Aryan Circle and Bandidos Outlaw Motorcycle Gang.

A breakdown of the DPS West Texas region, which includes El Paso, Midland, Odessa and San Angelo, indicates that the most significant gangs in West Texas this year include Barrio Azteca,

Bloods (multiple sets), Crips (multiple

GANGS Page 4

EDUCATION

ECISD staff members to start receiving retroactive raises prior to start of new year

From staff reports

An update to the Ector County Independent School District board indicated that district staff members will receive their retroactive raises related to the tax ratification election (from the start of the school year through this month) in a separate, lump-sum check on Dec. 31.

The raise, according to the school district, will be part of their regular check starting in January.

Trustees voted 7-0 to approve a revised pay schedule for substitute teachers.

The new rates for subs are increased as follows: short-term, uncertified subs \$85 to \$100 per day; short-term, certified subs \$100 to \$120 per day; para-professional subs \$8.91 per hour to \$9.30 per hour; long-term, uncertified subs \$170 to \$190 per day; long-term, certified subs \$190 to \$220 per day. The increases are for all long-term subs, not just those in core subject areas, will begin on the first day of the long-term assignment, and the new long-term daily rate will be paid for staff development days, too.

ECISD Page 4

I reserved my perfect residential lot at Village South!

My sister is a long time resident of Manor Park, and I have been thinking about making the move for a while.

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Hazel Wilbanks

GROWTH

191 NEWS | THE191NEWS.COM | SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2018 | PAGE 2

GAS

Average price for gas drops 8 cents in Odessa

■ Average price has fallen more than 50 cents in last eight weeks

By Stewart Doreen
sdoreen@hearnet.com

AAA Texas is reporting an 8-cent decline in the average price of gas in Odessa, again one of the highest in the state.

The organization reports Midland and Abilene were tops when it came to the larger average price decline — 9 cents each — but Odessa downward trend was higher than the state average — 5 cents this week.

The trend of lower prices goes back eight weeks, and AAA Texas is reporting Odessa is gaining more ground on other cities in the region. The organization reports the average price in Odessa is down 51 cents over that time — which is the same as Midland. Other price decreases over the past eight weeks are: San Angelo, 52 cents; Amarillo, 58 cents; Lubbock, 65 cents; El Paso, 68 cents; and Abilene, 70 cents.

Drivers in Midland and Odessa are still paying the highest average price in the state — \$2.54 and \$2.51, respectively. The next closest price is \$2.07 in Bryan-College Station. The

average price across the state is \$2.02, and the lowest average price in Texas, according to AAA Texas, was \$1.88 in Amarillo. Midland and Odessa are well behind other cities in the region as the following prices were reported: \$1.91 in Lubbock, \$1.96 in San Angelo, \$2.01 in Abilene and \$2.03 in El Paso.

Distributors have told the 191 News there are many complexities in the fuel business that impact pricing. They pointed to the high cost of transportation from Gulf Coast refineries and Midland's distance from pipelines. There are also issues with the high cost of living, at least in Midland and Odessa, where rents are climbing at rates incomparable around the nation. There's also the supply-and-demand factor. There is a great demand in Midland and Odessa relative to the amount of supply.

AAA Texas reports that the last time Texans paid an average of \$2.02 for a gallon of regular unleaded gas — which was the case this week — was July 2017. With 8.4 million Texans expected to travel 50 miles or more to their holiday destination, a year-end travel record and 4 percent increase over last year, the organization expects drivers will certainly experience sav-

ings at the pump compared to this time last year.

"AAA Texas expects 8.4 million Texans to drive to their holiday destination this year, which is a 4 percent increase year-over-year," said Daniel Armbruster, AAA Texas/AAA New Mexico spokesman. "No doubt, cheaper gas prices are fueling their decision to hit the road."

Year over year, only two cities in Texas are showing higher averages — Midland, 5 cents, and Odessa, 6 cents, according to AAA Texas. The state average — year over year — is a drop of 15 cents. Six of the 27 areas are showing drops of 20 cents or more.

Gas price report

Cheapest gas: \$2.37 (Valero, North County Road/16th Street)

Cheapest prices in West Texas: Lubbock \$1.72, Amarillo \$1.78, El Paso \$1.84, San Angelo \$1.79, Abilene \$1.91, Odessa \$2.37, Midland \$2.41

\$1.91, Odessa \$2.37, Midland \$2.41		
	Midland-Odessa	Texas
Thursday	\$2.538	\$2.005
Last week	\$2.587	\$2.071
Last month	\$2.861	\$2.316
Last year	\$2.466	\$2.182

Source: TexasGasPrices.com



Guy Cummings descends from the control room of Robinson Drilling rig #4 on Feb. 17, 2016, in Midland County.

OIL

Permian's growth spurt at risk of being stunted by oil collapse

By Kevin Crowley
Bloomberg

The U.S.'s biggest oil field may be about to pump the brakes if crude keeps plunging.

Just 10 weeks ago, the Permian Basin was on course to grow almost 1 million barrels a day by the end of 2019, potentially surpassing Iraq, OPEC's second-largest producer. Now, it may not grow at all, removing a large chunk of expected production from global oil markets.

Shale is highly sensitive even to small changes in prices and the Permian is not immune. With West Texas Intermediate oil at \$70 a barrel, the basin would likely produce 4.9 million barrels a day by end of next year, but at \$40, output will likely stagnate at around 4 million barrels a day, according to Oslo-based consultancy Rystad Energy.

The U.S. benchmark dipped below \$46 in New York on Tuesday, down almost 40 percent from early October. In Midland, the heart of the Permian, prices were even worse, touching \$38.99 a barrel, the lowest since the depths of the 2016 crash.

"We'll definitely see some companies next year revisit their activity plans versus what they initially had in mind," said Artem Abramov, vice president of shale analysis at Rystad.

It's already starting to happen. Diamondback Energy Inc., one of the biggest Permian-only producers, is rowing back its 2019 capital budget, forecasting about \$2.9 billion of spending, less than analysts' estimates of \$3.2 billion. Chief Executive Officer Travis Stice said the "dramatic decline in oil prices" were to blame as well as higher service costs.

Breakevens for new wells in various counties that contain the Spraberry layer of oil-soaked rock in the Permian currently average between \$32 to \$47 a barrel, according to Bloomberg NEF data. But well performance varies substan-

tially. In Upton County, for example, top-quartile wells make money at \$31 a barrel, while the bottom quartile need \$65.54 a barrel.

"BNEF's break-even model calculates that an average Permian well can produce oil for under \$50 a barrel, but only the top performers in the Denver-Julesburg or Bakken can match that," BNEF analyst Tai Liu said Friday in a research note.

The Permian's better productivity means output isn't dropping, just slowing down, if oil averages \$50 a barrel and halting growth at \$40, Rystad said. IHS Markit and RS Energy, agree that modest growth is likely at current prices because companies in the Permian have dropped their well costs so much over the last four years through productivity improvements.

"There's a lot less cash flow to go around but it's not an existential threat like it was in 2014," said Ian Nicholson at RS Energy, referring to the oil-price crash of that year. Higher-cost production in the Bakken in North Dakota and Eagle Ford in south Texas are more susceptible to the recent price plunge, he said.

One of the key advantages of shale is that crude flows from wells within weeks of drilling, rather than years for large, offshore megaprojects that defined the production growth in the early 2000s. That means shale can be turned on or off like a tap, depending on whether it's profitable or unprofitable at any given price. That may be of no consolation to equity investors starved of earnings, cash flow and dividends but it does help to rebalance oil markets.

"If we don't get those barrels in 2019, they will simply be waiting to show up in 2020, or 2021, or whenever the market needs them," said Raoul LeBlanc, a Houston-based analyst at IHS Markit. "The eventual limit is sweet spot exhaustion, and in the Permian, that will not happen in the next seven years."



Photos by Jacy Lewis/191 News

More houses are under construction near Parkes Bell Ranch on Dec. 20.

BUILDING PERMITS (DEC. 9-15)

1412 N. Jackson Ave./	Mobile home location	1 Balmoral Circle/	Residential, new single family
916 Muskingum/	Mobile home location	9 Balmoral Circle/	Residential, new single family
1101 Monterey Ave. /	Mobile home location	36 Balmoral Circle/	Residential, new single family
9008 Rice Ave. /	Residential, additions, alt., conversions	42 Balmoral Circle/	Residential, new single family
704 E. 4th St./	Residential, additions, alt., conversions	9010 Rice Ave./	Residential, new single family
221 Orchard St./	Residential, additions, alt., conversions	9014 Rice Ave./	Residential, new single family
5012 N. Tom Green Ave. /	Residential, additions, alt., conversions	9016 Rice Ave./	Residential, new single family
30 Balmoral Circle/	Residential, new single family	9000 Rice Ave./	Residential, new single family
19 Balmoral Circle/	Residential, new single family	9006 Rice Ave./	Residential, new single family
34 Balmoral Circle/	Residential, new single family	9012 Rice Ave./	Residential, new single family
44 Balmoral Circle/	Residential, new single family	9024 Rice Ave./	Residential, new single family
5 Balmoral Circle/	Residential, new single family	9034 Rice Ave./	Residential, new single family
37 Balmoral Circle/	Residential, new single family	9030 Rice Ave./	Residential, new single family
11 Balmoral Circle/	Residential, new single family	9018 Rice Ave./	Residential, new single family
45 Balmoral Circle/	Residential, new single family	9020 Rice Ave./	Residential, new single family
38 Balmoral Circle/	Residential, new single family	9022 Rice Ave./	Residential, new single family
41 Balmoral Circle/	Residential, new single family	9026 Rice Ave./	Residential, new single family
46 Balmoral Circle/	Residential, new single family	9028 Rice Ave./	Residential, new single family
7 Balmoral Circle/	Residential, new single family	9032 Rice Ave./	Residential, new single family
47 Balmoral Circle/	Residential, new single family	409 N. Carver Ave./	Residential, new single family
31 Balmoral Circle/	Residential, new single family	1207 W. 10 St./	Change of use
13 Balmoral Circle/	Residential, new single family	2000 N. County Road West/x	Change of use
15 Balmoral Circle/	Residential, new single family	412 W. 10th St. Suite A/	Non-residential, office, bank-profession
3 Balmoral Circle/	Residential, new single family	6005 Eastridge Road/	Non-residential, office, bank-profession
32 Balmoral Circle/	Residential, new single family	320 E. Interstate 20/	Non-residential, store-customer service
35 Balmoral Circle/	Residential, new single family	2701 Kermit Highway/	Non-residential, store-customer service
39 Balmoral Circle/	Residential, new single family		
43 Balmoral Circle/	Residential, new single family		

Source: City of Odessa



GANGS

From Page 1

sets), Gangster Disciples, Sureños (multiple sets), Chuco Tango and West Texas Tangos. The majority of reported gang activity in West Texas, occurs in El Paso and Midland counties, according to the report.

Barrio Azteca has a documented presence throughout the West Texas region, with a majority of documented members in El Paso and Midland counties. Other significant gangs active throughout the region include Latin Kings, Aryan Brotherhood of Texas and Aryan Circle.

The Aryan Brotherhood of Texas and Aryan Circle don't have a presence in El Paso but there is a "documented presence of members" in Ector, Midland, and Tom Green counties, according to the report.

According to reported arrest data from fiscal year 2017 through calendar year 2017, the majority of gang arrests in West Texas were for drug and violent crimes. The data indicates that 85 percent of the arrests for violent crimes were assault, 8 percent were for robbery, 3 percent were for homicide, 2 percent were for kidnapping and 2 percent were for sexual assault.

Gang members with the most arrests for violent crimes in West Texas belong to Barrio Azteca, Gangster Disciples, Sureños (multiple sets), West Texas Tangos and Chuco Tangos. Sureños (multiple sets) and Tangos (Chuco and West Texas) had the highest number of arrests for homicide.

Tangos (Chuco and West Texas) also had the highest number of arrests for kidnapping (aggravated), robbery (aggravated) and sexual assaults (aggravated).

The report also mentioned law enforcement work having to do with gang activity and the high auto theft rates in the Midland and Odessa area. The case focused primarily on people who were members and associates of the Aryan Circle and the Aryan Brotherhood of Texas. Members of these gangs, according to the report, collaborated to steal vehicles. The vehicles were altered and either re-sold or used to commit other crimes, including drug and weapons trafficking, robbery, burglary, prostitution, mail theft, identity theft, forgery of bank checks and credit card fraud. The investigation resulted in 115 total seizures — 34 seizures of drugs valued at \$58,644, 26 seizures of firearms valued at \$17,548, 55 recoveries of vehicles valued at \$719,817 and six seizures of stolen property.

Special agents filed 147 charges that resulted in 21 indictments, 93 arrests and 20 convictions on individuals. Agencies that worked with DPS on this 18-month investigation include the Midland and Odessa police departments, Ector County Sheriff's Office, U.S. Attorney's Office, Drug Enforcement Administration and the Midland County and Ector County district attorney's offices.

The following Tier 1 and Tier 2 gangs have a presence in Midland County, according to the assessment.

Gangs with the highest scores are deemed the most significant and are classified as Tier 1, with other significant gangs classified as Tier 2 and Tier 3. Listed in the report are descriptions of the Tier 1 and 2 gangs.

Tier 1: Tango Blast and Tango Cliques

Tango Blast and its associated cliques are located in most metropolitan areas and many rural counties across Texas. Tango Blast first established as a self-protection group against traditionally structured prison gangs, such as the Texas Mexican Mafia and Texas Syndicate. The Tangos continue growing at a fast rate, and maintain the highest membership numbers among all Texas-based gangs. With their lack of organizational structure and no strict commitment rules, Tango's unique "hybrid" gang status allows for widespread recruitment and increasingly dangerous appeal to younger generations. In their rapid criminal evolution, the Tangos established a robust résumé of violence and illicit activities, while building business relationships with various Mexican cartels.

Tier 1: Texas Mexican Mafia

The Texas Mexican Mafia (TMM) formed within the Texas prison system in 1984 as a means for inmates to protect themselves from the Texas Syndicate. Though TMM members continue to uphold commitment to the gang, unceasing law enforcement targeting efforts have affected membership growth and structure. The new generation of TMM is causing internal strife, dismantling the organization from within, and increasing the level of separation between older and younger members. Despite these struggles, the TMM will likely continue to be organizationally effective, changing their structure to best fit their available resources and engage in criminal activity, and remain a significant threat to the Texas.

Tier 1: Mara Salvatrucha

Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) has attracted national attention over the past year, highlighting the violent nature of the gang and leading to increased scrutiny of the gang by law enforcement. MS-13 leadership may be attempting to capitalize on this attention and allegedly has made efforts to extend their control of cliques and programs in the United States. MS-13 members historically used Texas as a transitional area or as a location to hide from criminal charges in other states or countries. Recent intelligence, however, suggests MS-13 now uses Houston as a hub of criminal activity. This trend is likely the cause of increased membership in Texas, though actual gang presence is fluid due to the transient nature of gang members and gang activities. MS-13 continues to refine and change techniques in evading law enforcement detection by changing their long-standing rules regarding clothing and tattoos. Given the gang's propensity for

violence, relationship with cartels, increased control over numerous cliques, rising numbers and juvenile recruiting practices, MS-13 remains a Tier 1 threat.

Tier 1: Barrio Azteca

Barrio Azteca continues to be a significant threat to Texas because of its propensity for violence, level of criminal activity, relationships with cartels and other gangs, control of the Valle de Juarez in Mexico and the drug corridor in El Paso, their involvement in sex trafficking, and a high level of transnational criminal activity. While in recent years there have been ebbs and flows in the amount of reporting on Barrio Azteca, and though their hub of activity remains in Juarez and El Paso, the level at which they are operating earns them a high threat ranking for Texas as a whole. This is partly because members' reach extends far outside the city limits of El Paso, as they distribute high amounts of drugs from their operations further into Texas and throughout the United States. It is likely that Barrio Azteca will continue to ensure its dominance in West Texas and across the border, directly affecting the citizens of Texas.

Tier 2: Bloods

The Bloods are a violent street gang that originated in Los Angeles in the early 1970s, with ties to People-Nation-affiliated gangs. Bloods' gang presence in Texas has been documented since the 1980s. Multiple cities in Texas have instituted gang injunctions against the Bloods and their rivals, the Crips. The Bloods' overall presence, the level of their criminal activity, and the violence perpetrated by their members qualify them as a serious threat in Texas. The Bloods continue to be a loosely organized, extremely violent street gang that is involved in a wide variety of crimes, ranging from petty theft to murder. Much like their traditional rival, the Crips, the Bloods' street gang presence is mainly in the major urban areas, but its members regularly form small groups that travel throughout the state and beyond to conduct criminal activity, such as robberies and burglaries.

Tier 2: Aryan Brotherhood of Texas

The Aryan Brotherhood of Texas (ABT) places its racist ideology secondary to its everyday criminal activities. Although law enforcement continues to disrupt ABT operations and leadership structure around the state, the gang remains a significant threat because of its continued involvement in violent crimes, drug trafficking, firearms trafficking, frequent property crimes and the strength of their organizational structure inside of correctional facilities. Multiple incidents of involvement with Mexican cartels occurred during 2017, in which ABT acted as a courier. In 2017, threats to law enforcement from ABT increased in multiple states and one member engaged in sex trafficking. Recent law

enforcement actions resulting in ABT members receiving federal sentences possibly facilitated the creation of a wider (though not necessarily larger) ABT network. Reports show ABT's interactions with gangs typically not active in Texas and an increase of communications and incidents involving ABT members and associates located outside of Texas.

Tier 2: Latin Kings

The Almighty Latin Kings Nation (ALKN) is a violent street gang originating from Chicago, Illinois, in the early 1960s. Though initially created to overcome racial prejudice, Latin Kings soon evolved into a criminal force nationally and internationally. The gang migrated into Texas shortly after its creation and opened local chapters, while continuing to communicate with leaders from Chicago, Illinois (aka "Motherland"). However, a recent successful multi-agency operation severely disrupted the gang's illicit activities and criminal network within the Central Texas area. As a result, it appears the ALKN is currently in a dormant mode, as leadership continues to reestablish an effective criminal structure in Texas. However, Latin Kings remain a continuous threat to Texas, in part due to its interstate structure, varying criminal activities and networking capabilities.

Tier 2: Texas Syndicate

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Midland Reporter-Telegram

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In order to communicate with company personnel and customers English is vital.

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Proficient computer skills including Microsoft Office package (Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Access), experience in data entry and typing speed minimum 20wpm required.

Customer Service Skills, computer skills, analytical skills. Must be goal oriented, energetic and have good time management and organizational skills. Must be able to react to change productively.

This position is instrumental in analyzing data, interacting with all department personnel and resolving customer problems.

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CARTER'S

GANGS

From Page 1

sets), Gangster Disciples, Sureños (multiple sets), Chuco Tango and West Texas Tangos. The majority of reported gang activity in West Texas, occurs in El Paso and Midland counties, according to the report.

Barrio Azteca has a documented presence throughout the West Texas region, with a majority of documented members in El Paso and Midland counties. Other significant gangs active throughout the region include Latin Kings, Aryan Brotherhood of Texas and Aryan Circle.

The Aryan Brotherhood of Texas and Aryan Circle don't have a presence in El Paso but there is a "documented presence of members" in Ector, Midland, and Tom Green counties, according to the report.

According to reported arrest data from fiscal year 2017 through calendar year 2017, the majority of gang arrests in West Texas were for drug and violent crimes. The data indicates that 85 percent of the arrests for violent crimes were assault, 8 percent were for robbery, 3 percent were for homicide, 2 percent were for kidnapping and 2 percent were for sexual assault.

Gang members with the most arrests for violent crimes in West Texas belong to Barrio Azteca, Gangster Disciples, Sureños (multiple sets), West Texas Tangos and Chuco Tangos. Sureños (multiple sets) and Tangos (Chuco and West Texas) had the highest number of arrests for homicide.

Tangos (Chuco and West Texas) also had the highest number of arrests for kidnapping (aggravated), robbery (aggravated) and sexual assaults (aggravated).

The report also mentioned law enforcement work having to do with gang activity and the high auto theft rates in the Midland and Odessa area. The case focused primarily on people who were members and associates of the Aryan Circle and the Aryan Brotherhood of Texas. Members of these gangs, according to the report, collaborated to steal vehicles. The vehicles were altered and either re-sold or used to commit other crimes, including drug and weapons trafficking, robbery, burglary, prostitution, mail theft, identity theft, forgery of bank checks and credit card fraud. The investigation resulted in 115 total seizures — 34 seizures of drugs valued at \$58,644, 26 seizures of firearms valued at \$17,548, 55 recoveries of vehicles valued at \$719,817 and six seizures of stolen property.

Special agents filed 147 charges that resulted in 21 indictments, 93 arrests and 20 convictions on individuals. Agencies that worked with DPS on this 18-month investigation include the Midland and Odessa police departments, Ector County Sheriff's Office, U.S. Attorney's Office, Drug Enforcement Administration and the Midland County and Ector County district attorney's offices.

The following Tier 1 and Tier 2 gangs have a presence in Midland County, according to the assessment.

Gangs with the highest scores are deemed the most significant and are classified as Tier 1, with other significant gangs classified as Tier 2 and Tier 3. Listed in the report are descriptions of the Tier 1 and 2 gangs.

Tier 1: Tango Blast and Tango Cliques

Tango Blast and its associated cliques are located in most metropolitan areas and many rural counties across Texas. Tango Blast first established as a self-protection group against traditionally structured prison gangs, such as the Texas Mexican Mafia and Texas Syndicate. The Tangos continue growing at a fast rate, and maintain the highest membership numbers among all Texas-based gangs. With their lack of organizational structure and no strict commitment rules, Tango's unique "hybrid" gang status allows for widespread recruitment and increasingly dangerous appeal to younger generations. In their rapid criminal evolution, the Tangos established a robust résumé of violence and illicit activities, while building business relationships with various Mexican cartels.

Tier 1: Texas Mexican Mafia

The Texas Mexican Mafia (TMM) formed within the Texas prison system in 1984 as a means for inmates to protect themselves from the Texas Syndicate. Though TMM members continue to uphold commitment to the gang, unceasing law enforcement targeting efforts have affected membership growth and structure. The new generation of TMM is causing internal strife, dismantling the organization from within, and increasing the level of separation between older and younger members. Despite these struggles, the TMM will likely continue to be organizationally effective, changing their structure to best fit their available resources and engage in criminal activity, and remain a significant threat to the Texas.

Tier 1: Mara Salvatrucha

Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) has attracted national attention over the past year, highlighting the violent nature of the gang and leading to increased scrutiny of the gang by law enforcement. MS-13 leadership may be attempting to capitalize on this attention and allegedly has made efforts to extend their control of cliques and programs in the United States. MS-13 members historically used Texas as a transitional area or as a location to hide from criminal charges in other states or countries. Recent intelligence, however, suggests MS-13 now uses Houston as a hub of criminal activity. This trend is likely the cause of increased membership in Texas, though actual gang presence is fluid due to the transient nature of gang members and gang activities. MS-13 continues to refine and change techniques in evading law enforcement detection by changing their long-standing rules regarding clothing and tattoos. Given the gang's propensity for

violence, relationship with cartels, increased control over numerous cliques, rising numbers and juvenile recruiting practices, MS-13 remains a Tier 1 threat.

Tier 1: Barrio Azteca

Barrio Azteca continues to be a significant threat to Texas because of its propensity for violence, level of criminal activity, relationships with cartels and other gangs, control of the Valle de Juarez in Mexico and the drug corridor in El Paso, their involvement in sex trafficking, and a high level of transnational criminal activity. While in recent years there have been ebbs and flows in the amount of reporting on Barrio Azteca, and though their hub of activity remains in Juarez and El Paso, the level at which they are operating earns them a high threat ranking for Texas as a whole. This is partly because members' reach extends far outside the city limits of El Paso, as they distribute high amounts of drugs from their operations further into Texas and throughout the United States. It is likely that Barrio Azteca will continue to ensure its dominance in West Texas and across the border, directly affecting the citizens of Texas.

Tier 2: Bloods

The Bloods are a violent street gang that originated in Los Angeles in the early 1970s, with ties to People-Nation affiliated gangs. Bloods' gang presence in Texas has been documented since the 1980s. Multiple cities in Texas have instituted gang injunctions against the Bloods and their rivals, the Crips. The Bloods' overall presence, the level of their criminal activity, and the violence perpetrated by their members qualify them as a serious threat in Texas. The Bloods continue to be a loosely organized, extremely violent street gang that is involved in a wide variety of crimes, ranging from petty theft to murder. Much like their traditional rival, the Crips, the Bloods' street gang presence is mainly in the major urban areas, but its members regularly form small groups that travel throughout the state and beyond to conduct criminal activity, such as robberies and burglaries.

Tier 2: Aryan Brotherhood of Texas

The Aryan Brotherhood of Texas (ABT) places its racist ideology secondary to its everyday criminal activities. Although law enforcement continues to disrupt ABT operations and leadership structure around the state, the gang remains a significant threat because of its continued involvement in violent crimes, drug trafficking, firearms trafficking, frequent property crimes and the strength of their organizational structure inside of correctional facilities. Multiple incidents of involvement with Mexican cartels occurred during 2017, in which ABT acted as a courier. In 2017, threats to law enforcement from ABT increased in multiple states and one member engaged in sex trafficking. Recent law

enforcement actions resulting in ABT members receiving federal sentences possibly facilitated the creation of a wider (though not necessarily larger) ABT network. Reports show ABT's interactions with gangs typically not active in Texas and an increase of communications and incidents involving ABT members and associates located outside of Texas.

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NEWS

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EDUCATION

Sixth graders at Nimitz MS chosen to send experiment to space

Sixth graders at Nimitz Middle School are working on a novel treatment for cancer ... in space.

The student researcher proposal, Activation of Clostridium Sporogenes, a novel cancer treatment in Microgravity, will study how well the bacteria, Clostridium sporogenes, activates in a microgravity environment. The results of this research could potentially assist in cancer treatments for astronauts if they become exposed to radiation in space.

Upon passing the flight safety review, their experiment will be conducted by an astronaut aboard the International Space Station next summer. Nimitz was one of three ECISD

finalists in the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program (SSEP). The other two finalists were from OCTECHS and Falcon Early College High School. All three groups have the opportunity to attend the SSEP National Conference next summer in Washington, D.C. The conference is hosted by the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education (NCSSE).

Students will be able to present their experiment designs and attend featured presentations by nationally recognized scientists, engineers and astronauts.

The Student Spaceflight Experiments Program (SSEP) is an opportunity brought by ECISD's In-

novation Department's program, PICK Education, which serves to bring real-world experiences into the classroom, make learning tangible and promote student ownership in their education. SSEP is designed as a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education initiative, and gives students the opportunity to become researchers where they are able to design and propose real microgravity experiments to be conducted by an astronaut aboard the International Space Station. SSEP had 38 communities participating in the competition, across three countries; U.S., Canada and Brazil. Funding was provided by a grant from the Texas

Space Grant Consortium, Subaru of America, Inc., Chevron and Education Foundation of Odessa.

A special thank you to these individuals for supporting our students in the process—from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, Dr. Natalia Schlubitz-Lutsevich, Dr. Kushal Gandhi, Dr. Seheung Lee and Aneesh Bapodra. ECISD Volunteer in Public Schools, Mike Schlueter.

If you would like to assist any of these schools get to Washington, D.C., donations are welcome.

Source: ECISD

ECISD

From Page 1

The following are other highlights from this week's Ector County ISD board meeting.

Also part of the TRE update: Five schools have gotten new roofs from the 2016 hailstorm; the other six buildings damaged that year are in progress. The bid process is underway for the first six buildings damaged in the 2017 hailstorm. The design and planning is underway for the facilities that will get secure entrances. A bid for fencing will open this week. One activity bus and seven yellow buses have been ordered so far.

Interim Superintendent Jim Nelson and Deputy Superintendent Stephanie Howard presented a recap of last year's accountability scores for each campus. They pointed out one of the areas of biggest concern is the scoring domain that compares our students' growth to the growth of students in comparable districts around the state. ECISD scores trail those similar districts significantly.

Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Gregory Nelson told trustees the Human Resources Department has a vision of ECISD becoming the preferred employer locally. They realize no single effort is going to fill more than 200 teacher openings (350 openings district wide) and, to that end, the department has 26 initiatives in place.

Those range from recruiting new people, growing our own staff, utilizing grant opportunities, finding housing options and emphasizing salaries and benefits.

Trustees voted 7-0 to approve the application from Oberon Solar, LLC, for appraised value limitation on qualifying property. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve Oberon's request to waive the job creation requirement. These types of agreements usually contain a requirement for a minimum of 10 new jobs; however, the solar facility only requires two full-time jobs once construction is complete.

Trustees voted 7-0 to approve the limitation on appraised value for school district maintenance & operations tax rate. These three votes marked the culmination of the application process that began in July. Oberon is putting in a 50 megawatt solar project in southwest Ector County. This agreement grants a limit to property tax valuations for 10 years. It impacts the school district's maintenance and operations tax rate (day-to-day operations) but not the debt service tax rate. It projects a savings of \$2.7 million for Oberon over the life of the agreement. This agreement also includes provisions to protect ECISD from a loss of local and state funding and costs of annual audits. The company will pay the school district for those losses of funding.

Source: ECISD

TAXES

Governor's office: Property tax caps should slow pace of recapture

By Stewart Doreen
sdoreen@hearsntn.com

Communities, like Midland, hoping to avoid sending tens of millions of dollars to Austin in school finance payments are getting a dose of reality.

Even as state officials talked about reforming the school finance system that requires "property-rich" districts such as Midland to send money to be redistributed to "property-poor" districts, the reality is that the best the governor's office will be able to do is slow the increase of payments.

In practical terms, the Midland community will still be have to pay. Since 2013-14, Midland ISD has sent \$178.449 million in recapture to Austin. The district projects a payment of \$62.845 million this year alone. And in 2019-20 and 2020-21, the district is showing "soft estimates" of payments around \$90.7 million and \$114.5 million, respectively.

If all those numbers hold true, that would be \$446 million in eight years.

Recapture payments are preventing the district from doing the things "we need to do," Midland ISD Superintendent Orlando Riddick told the Midland Reporter-Telegram Thursday after a meeting regarding school finance.

In town for a discussion about school finance and possible reforms Thursday was John Colyandro, senior advisor and director of policy for Gov. Greg Abbott.

Colyandro provided school finance 101 for those in attendance at the Center for Energy and Economic Diversification. He said the "Robin Hood" system of school finance brought in \$30 million in recapture payments in 1994. A decade later, that total exceeded \$1 billion. This year, the amount provided by property-rich schools, such as Midland ISD, is expected to be about \$2 billion. If there are no changes to the current school finance system, Colyandro said recapture payments will exceed \$5 billion by 2023.

"Another couple hundred ISDs will be going into recapture in the next five

years," he said. "We are on the cusp of being able to do nothing because the financial impact is so great."

During his presentation, Colyandro made a pitch for property tax caps, which he said can be part of a solution to the recapture issue. He said property tax rates need to be "compressed" and replaced with other current revenue streams. He said a school finance commission has identified 40 to 45 options for revenue.

Recapture was one of five problems addressed during Colyandro's presentation — "Comprehensive School Finance & Property Tax Reform." The other problems were the outdated school finance formula, the focus on attendance rather than student outcomes, reliance on property tax growth and the declining state share toward funding education.

He also addressed four goals. The first was "improving student outcomes." Less than 50 percent of public school students are reading at or above grade level by third grade, and graduates are not meeting college, career, or military readiness standards, he said.

Colyandro said there are 88,000 Texas third graders who failed the basic assessment for math and reading. He also reported that in 2017, of non economically disadvantaged students, only 31 percent reached the necessary basic score that would indicate college-readiness.

The three solutions he offered were: ■ put the best teachers in the earlier grades and on the toughest campuses and pay them more; ■ reward districts that achieve targeted student outcomes; and ■ increase state resources for early childhood education.

The second goal is to make the finance formula more efficient and equitable.

The two problems Colyandro identified were that the index is outdated and does not reflect student-need and that the current compensatory education weight does not accurately represent student poverty.

The solutions he identified were to utilize a spectrum-based approach

to efficiently and equitably address student-need with more resources and to give administrators spending flexibility to focus resources as they deem necessary to meet outcome goals.

The third goal was to ease reliance on property tax. The problems are

■ The school finance system relies too heavily on local property taxes and promotes declining state share.

■ Fixed maintenance and operations rates ensure property tax bills always increase as property values increase.

A document provided by the governor's office, states the average Texas home sold for \$182,451 in 2006. By 2017, the cost of the average home increased to \$274,073 — 50 percent higher. It also states that the average taxable value of the single family home has increased 192 percent in the last 20 years, while the median household income has increased 60 percent.

Colyandro said the solutions are to cap annual property tax revenue increases to promote housing affordability and compress district M&O tax rates as property values rise and fund the difference through new state revenues.

■ The last goal is to reduce "Robin Hood" recapture payments. He said the problem is that recapture growth will continue to skyrocket as property values rise. Under the governor's plan, recapture growth will slow to \$3 billion annually by 2023 instead of the expected \$5 billion.

Midland ISD Recapture payments

2013-14:	\$14.957 million
2014-15:	\$32.077 million
2015-16:	\$47.513 million
2016-17:	\$45.817 million
2017-18:	\$38.085 million
2018-19 (projection):	\$62.845 million

The amounts for 2019-20 and 2020-21 could be \$90.7 million and \$114.5 million respectively. MISD officials called those "soft estimates."

POLITICS

Conaway discusses possible shutdown, federal judge's ruling

By Simone Jasper
sjasper@hearsntn.com

With talk Tuesday of a partial federal government shutdown, U.S. Rep. Mike Conaway thinks the situation can go either way. The Midland Republican also considered the weight of a recent federal court ruling as the next congressional term comes on the horizon.

"The one wild card got handed to everybody last week when a federal judge nullified the Obamacare Act," Conaway said. "That means that the Democrats will have to deal with something that the president would sign and that would need to be bipartisan."

Conaway's discussion with the Reporter-Telegram came after a federal judge ruled Friday that the Affordable Care Act was unconstitutional and can't stand on its own. The ruling was related to the individual mandate and doesn't currently impact U.S. health care coverage.

While Conaway hasn't had much time to discuss the ruling with others, he thinks the judge's decision will elevate the issue.

Also in the news this week was the potential for a government shutdown, which could leave thousands of federal workers without pay. The topic came up last week during a discussion between President Donald Trump and Sen. Minority Leader Charles Schumer, among other

government leaders.

"Both of them are saying things," Conaway said about the meeting. "Can you really hold either one of them to the strict interpretation of what they're saying? There may be some New York City code going on there that's involved," he said referencing that both men are from New York.

"The funding impasse revolved about \$5 billion in funding for a wall at the U.S.-Mexico border."

"This really was between Schumer and the president to work this out — if at all," Conaway said. "I still think it's a 50-50 chance that it doesn't happen. But I think whatever the president agrees to, we can pass in the House."

The White House on Tuesday said the administration has found other ways to get border wall funding, but Democratic leaders were against that proposal. The deadline to come up with a solution is Friday.

For immigration reform, Conaway said there's opportunity for language to move away from a border wall and toward operational control of the border. He thinks people should be in favor of that concept, which relates to resources and infrastructure.

"Fencing or the wall in itself is not a panacea," Conaway said. "You still have to patrol the wall. You have to watch it to make sure people aren't trying to break through."

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Cathy Eastman
JANUARY 1, 2019

God bless you during this wonderful
season when we remember the birth of
the Lord Jesus Christ. As the word
says, "He is Lord."

OIL & GAS

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GAS

Natural gas coalition exceeds methane emission cuts 7 years early

By Mella McEwen
mmcewen@mrt.com

Amid the intensifying debate over climate change, the role of fossil fuels and what form energy sources should take, some energy companies are showing they can be part of the solution.

Our Nation's Energy Future (ONE Future) has 16 members: natural gas producers, transmission and distribution companies, many active in the Permian Basin. The coalition has issued a report saying it far exceeded its goal of 1 percent methane intensity across the natural gas value chain and did so ahead of its 2025 deadline.

In its recently released initial report of methane intensity numbers, the coalition registered a 2017 methane intensity number of 0.552 percent.

"We were surprised we were that good," Richard Hyde, ONE Future executive director, said in a phone interview from his Houston office.

He said the number was determined using uniform Environmental Protection Agency-approved reporting protocols that were independently reviewed by the National Energy Technology Laboratory and Innovative Environmental Solutions.

Hyde attributed the success to allowing member companies the flexibility to deploy their capital where it would be most effective — whether upgrading and replacing pipeline infrastructure or actively seeking and repairing system leaks.

"The key principal is we're performance-based," Hyde said. "Companies can pick and choose the technology that works on their systems. They get results more quickly and get results that are better."

Currently, ONE Future membership accounts for approximately 10 percent of total natural gas production, 32 percent of natural gas transmission miles and 9 percent of natural gas distribution and spans the value chain, from the wellhead to the burner tip.

Hyde said the coalition doesn't have specific limits on how many companies can become members, or how high a percentage of production, transmission and distribution are represented in ONE Future.

But as the coalition grows, it will gain critical mass and that will help create momentum for others to join as they see that the performance-based approach successfully drives down methane intensity numbers, he said.

ONE Future was formed in 2014 when eight natural gas companies came together with the goal of implementing a performance-based approach to the management and mitigation of methane emissions. Hyde said the initial goal of 1 percent was based on studies from the Environmental Defense

Fund, which utilized 2012 data from the EPA, the most recent available at the time. He said the first year was focused on putting a program in place, and then it doubled in size over the next two years.

"We want everything we do to be science-based. A well-known peer-reviewed study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences entitled, 'Greater focus needed on methane leakage from natural gas infrastructure' suggested that in order for natural gas usage to provide immediate greenhouse gas reduction benefits — as compared to any other fossil fuel in any other application — the industry would have to achieve a leak/loss rate of 1 percent or less. While ONE Future members do not unequivocally accept every conclusion of that paper, we believe it is sufficiently robust to serve as a guidepost for our targets," he said.

Asked if the coalition might set even lower thresholds or even a zero emissions threshold, Hyde said, "Eliminating all emissions would be both technically unfeasible and economically untenable. However, ONE Future believes that targeted investment in abatement technologies today can yield both significant improvements in environmental performance and supply-chain efficiency, which is just good business. We believe that the industry can cost-effectively achieve an average emissions intensity rate of 1 percent, and ONE Future companies have already achieved a rate of 0.552 percent. We will continue to work to lower our emissions and encourage other companies in the natural gas industry to join our coalition to ensure that natural gas remains the fuel of choice."

ONE Future's information and reports are shared with environmental groups and the coalition has not received any pushback yet, he said. He said the group publicizes its numbers and may be the only group that reports actual results.

"The key thing we believe in is, transparency is vital. We have our data independently looked at by NETL to make sure we're on the right track," he said. "We have to be a credible organization. If people don't believe our numbers, we've missed a golden opportunity to move the ball."

Another key belief is that natural gas is the foundation fuel for a low-carbon economy, and Hyde said research is being done in ways to break down methane into hydrogen for use as a power source.

"We think natural gas will be around a long time," he said. "We have to work on methane emissions to be competitive. We have to reduce them as low as we can. We want to go lower."

"There's a long way to go but we think we're trending in the right direction."

MEMBERS OF ONE FUTURE

Antero Resources, Apache Corp., Berkshire Hathaway Energy Pipeline Group, BHP, Dominion Energy, Equinor (formerly Statoil), EQT, Hess Corp., Jonah Energy, Kinder

Morgan, National Grid, Noble Energy, Southern Company Gas, Southwestern Energy, Summit Utilities and TransCanada U.S. Gas Operations.

EARTHQUAKES

Researchers study Permian for answers on injection-induced earthquakes

■ Concerns about seismicity could shake up energy activity

By Mella McEwen
mmcewen@hearsntn.com

Concerns about human-caused earthquakes could shake up water disposal in the oil patch.

Seismicity and research into injection-induced earthquakes were the focus of a recent visit to Midland by researchers with Stanford University's Stanford Center for Induced and Triggered Seismicity (SCITS).

Mark Zoback, Benjamin M. Page professor of geophysics and director of the Stanford Natural Gas Initiative, is co-director of Stanford's seismicity center. In his presentation, Zoback listed three factors to be studied in assessing potential fault slips related to injection-induced earthquakes: state of stress, fault orientation and pore pressure perturbations.

"Occurrences of reservoir-induced seismicity indicates very small pore pressure perturbations can trigger seismicity," he said. "In retrospect, the faults responsible for every significant earthquake in Oklahoma could have been identified as being problematic if the fault itself had been identified in advance."

It is possible to take proactive steps to prevent the occurrences of injection-induced seismicity, he said. "The ability to pre-identify pre-existing faults is the most challenging element of applying this technology."

The center offers software, Fault Slip Potential, to help identify potentially active faults. But Zoback said this software should be thought of as a screening tool and some potentially active faults will be missed. Still, he said, the software can be helpful in preventing injection near potentially active faults.

Jens-Erik Lund Snee, a doctorate candidate at Stanford, said, "across the planet, no places are more 'highly stressed' than others. Earthquakes are possible pretty much everywhere; they just occur in some places more often than others due to how rapidly tectonic activity is happening. Industry activity can simply make earthquakes happen sooner than they would have happened elsewhere, but nowhere — including the Permian Basin — is overstressed or 'understressed'."

"I emphasize this because I want to be clear that, at least from the stress data, there is

nothing especially dangerous — or unusually safe, either — about the Permian Basin from an earthquake point of view," he said.

Lund Snee said most of the Delaware Basin and North-west Shelf are in a normal faulting stress state, meaning faults of certain orientations to allow extension when they slip will be potentially active. Further east, in the Central Basin Platform and Midland Basin as well as southeast parts of the Delaware, he said the stress state is normal/strike-slip, meaning pre-existing faults that are oriented correctly for extension — normal faulting — as well as those oriented correctly for side-to-side offset — strike-slip faulting — are potentially active.

"The other piece for understanding the stress state is the orientation of the maximum horizontal stress direction. This is a measure of the direction of maximum horizontal compression that one would feel at depth in the Earth's crust. These measurements are routinely collected by oil and gas companies, some of which have contributed these data to SCITS," Lund Snee said.

He said researchers were surprised to see the remarkable change in the orientation of maximum horizontal stress direction from north to south across the Delaware Basin, from rotating smoothly about 150 degrees clockwise southward, from north-south in the northern Delaware Basin to southeast-northwest in the southeast. However, he said, further east, maximum horizontal stress direction is more or less east-west over much of the Central Basin Platform and the Midland Basin, including under Midland and Odessa.

"This has implications for understanding which faults are of concern for wastewater injection and production, and which faults are not of concern. Using both the faulting regime and the orientation of maximum horizontal stress direction, we can predict those problematic and non-problematic fault orientations. Our FSP program allows operators and regulators to do just that. If they know their fault orientations and they use our map, they can estimate the chances that wastewater injection could make a fault potentially problematic," he said.

He said stress orientations and faulting regimes also help operators decide which directions to drill their wells.

Peter Hennings, research scientist and lecturer at the Bureau of Economic Geology and Center for

Integrated Seismicity Research (CISR) — the research arm of the BEG's TexNet seismic monitoring program — said the center is pursuing many branches of study in the Permian Basin and in the Delaware Basin, specifically "with the technical disciplines involved at the University of Texas and with our partnering institutions in Texas and elsewhere."

"We are actively studying the entirety of the Delaware Basin for the studies that need to be conducted at that larger scale to gain a better understanding of the subsurface characteristics of the earthquakes, including the monitoring of seismicity, geological studies and more," Hennings said. "Detailed modeling studies need to focus on more local area; therefore, we are currently working on the shallower levels now, including the intervals being currently used for most of the saltwater disposal wells, the Delaware Mountain Group stratigraphy. In 2019, those studies of the shallow levels will continue, and we will add more detailed modeling studies of the deep levels where most of the earthquakes are occurring."

He reported good progress in developing a new tectonic model and map of the Delaware Basin that will become available in a preliminary status next year. Hennings said many new faults are being identified.

"Earthquakes, for better or worse, are helping us to locate previously unidentified faults, but that's not really how we prefer to map faults. It would be better to have greater access to active-source seismic reflection data for mapping of potentially problematic faults but that economically valuable data is mainly held as proprietary by seismic vendors and industry," he said. "However, even reflection seismic data has limits on the size of faults that can be resolved; many of the earthquakes occur on smaller faults."

Hennings said that many of the CISR sponsors — Anadarko, Apache, Chevron, Cimarex, ConocoPhillips, Devon, EOG Resources, ExxonMobil and its XTO Energy subsidiary, Marathon, Occidental Petroleum, Pioneer Natural Resources, QEP Resources, Shell and SM Energy — also are members of Stanford's seismicity center and are providing valuable assistance. He said member companies aid in placing seismometers in key areas and have indicated they intend to help CISR technically in other ways as research

evolves.

Placing those seismometers in key areas to better monitor earthquakes will help researchers get a better handle on the exact depth of the earthquakes, which Hennings said is a key concern.

"The subsurface environment of induced earthquakes in West Texas and the operational influences that may be contributing to them (are) far more geologically and geomechanically complex than in other areas such as north-central Oklahoma and the Dallas-Fort Worth area, and that makes it especially interesting, scientifically," he said. "It's possible that each of the dozen or so small magnitude earthquake clusters identified to date in West Texas may have its own particular mix of factors, both from human and natural influences. In the coming months and years, we will learn a lot about induced and natural earthquakes that will better enable us to mitigate their occurrence. The Texas Railroad Commission and our partner companies are closely watching our work, and we are doing everything in our power to advance our data and studies to provide what they need, as quickly as possible, given the complexity of the problem."

TexNet, the state-funded network of both permanent and mobile seismometers, has identified several clusters of activity in the Permian Basin, according to Alexandros Savvaides, manager of TexNet and principal investigator in seismology at CISR.

Since TexNet began providing data in January 2017, there have been about 40 earthquakes with magnitude of 1.5 or less along the Midland-Ector county line. The Snyder area, primarily around the Cogdell area, has had a higher number of higher-magnitude earthquakes, about 20 of 2.5 magnitude. The area between Pecos and Fort Stockton has reported earthquakes with the highest magnitude, five of 3 magnitude or higher.

Savvaides said TexNet is utilizing different methods, including geophysical, seismological and geomechanical, to identify faults. He said the center is currently working on research to find a correlation between oilfield activity — from water injection, saltwater disposal wells or hydraulic fracturing — and seismic events.

Lake Hennings, he said producers who are members of CISR are supportive of the research efforts, providing access to land to deploy seismometers or access to proprietary seismic data.

PERMITS

RRC: Number of permits issued is down in Midland region, across the state

From staff reports

The Railroad Commission reported a drop year-over-year in the number of permits issued statewide and in its Midland region in November.

The RRC showed 933 original drilling permits in November across the state (compared to 1,187 in November 2017). In the RRC's Midland region, the number of permits fell from 657 to 437. The RRC reported increases for oil completions (207 to 374) and gas completions (10 to 73).

The Midland region

continued to hold a commanding lead in the Railroad Commission's report for drilling permits and completions. In each case, the Midland region accounted for more than 46 percent of the activity across the state.

In November, of the 933 permits issued, 46.8 percent were for the Midland region. Also, of the 794 oil completions, 47.1 percent were in the Midland region. Of the 151 gas completions, 48.3 percent were in the Midland region.

The commission's number of drilling permits across the state in October

TEXAS DRILLING PERMITS AND COMPLETION STATISTICS FOR NOVEMBER

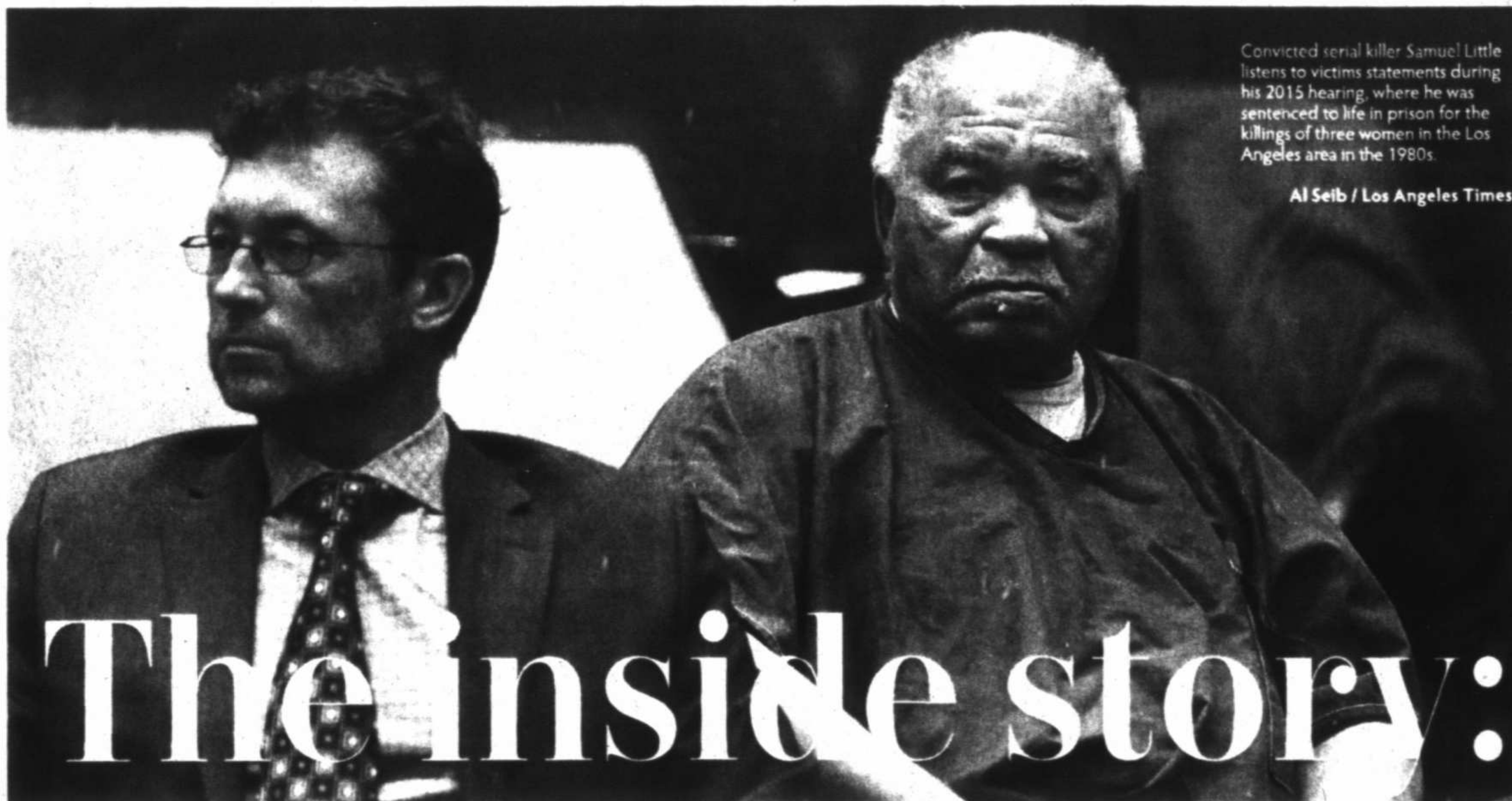
Region	Drilling permits	Oil completions	Gas completions
Midland	437	374	73
San Antonio area	158	87	21
Refugio area	59	106	14
Southeast Texas	38	28	6
Deep South Texas	14	2	3
East Central Texas	5	7	1
East Texas	41	9	15
West Central Texas	27	25	1
San Angelo area	64	88	0
Lubbock area	34	24	0
North Texas	35	34	4
Panhandle	21	10	13
Total	933	794	151

Source: Railroad Commission of Texas

included 870 permits to drill new oil or gas wells, one to re-enter plugged well bores and 62 for re-completions of existing well bores. The breakdown of well types for those permits is 212, oil; 55, gas; 595, oil or gas; 60, injection; two, service; and nine, other.

In November 2018, commission staff processed

794 permits for oil; 151, gas; 36, injection; and one other completion, compared to 388, oil; 74, gas; 29, injection; and one other completion in November 2017. Total well completions processed for 2018 year-to-date are 10,236, up from 6,291 recorded in the same time period in 2017.



Convicted serial killer Samuel Little listens to victims statements during his 2015 hearing, where he was sentenced to life in prison for the killings of three women in the Los Angeles area in the 1980s.

Al Seib / Los Angeles Times

The inside story:

How Odessa police and the FBI found one of the worst serial killers

By Del Quentin Wilber
Los Angeles Times

The FBI analysts sat mutely, listening intently to the scratchy audio feed from an interview room across the hall.

The two women were anxious, having spent months collecting and assessing ephemeral crumbs from the nomadic life of Samuel Little, a 77-year-old California prisoner and once-competitive boxer whom they suspected of multiple murders.

They had no hard evidence — no fingerprints, no DNA, no witnesses. Little had been convicted in 2014 of strangling three women in Los Angeles, and they were convinced there were more. How many, they didn't know.

The analysts mostly had a gut feeling, informed by detailed research into four decades of Little's itinerant wanderings across the country and how he seemed again and again to intersect with long-cold investigations into bodies and bones.

Their only hope was to obtain a confession, a task that fell to a Texas detective known for his expertise in sociopaths and psychopaths. But no one was optimistic.

Huddled in a guard break room in the California State Prison in Lancaster on May 17, the analysts shifted uneasily in their seats, their ears locked on a speaker and eyes fixed on stacks of notes, police reports and crime scene photographs.

They were as ready as they could be, though nothing could have prepared them for what was to come — the unspooling of one of the nation's worst serial killing sprees, involving dozens of deaths.

It would take dogged police work and more than a little luck. Unlike investigations that start with a victim and lead to a killer, this time a suspect would have to lead to the corpses. But was Little ready to talk?

The extraordinary investigation began in April 2013 when FBI analyst Christie Palazzolo received a call from Los Angeles homicide detectives, according to the FBI analysts, police investigators and a review of court files.

The LAPD detectives wanted to talk about Little. He had been arrested in 2012 at a homeless shelter in Kentucky on a warrant for a narcotics violation in Los Angeles.

Authorities had then linked him to three long-unsolved cases — women who were strangled in Los Angeles in 1987 and 1989. His DNA was found in semen on the shirts of two and skin under the fingernails of the third. The half-naked bodies had been found in an alley, a parking garage and a Dumpster.

Born in 1940 and raised in Ohio, Little had been in and out of trouble for most of his life. He spent about a decade behind bars and had been arrested scores of times on charges ranging from assault and rape to armed robbery and burglary.

He was repeatedly accused of targeting vulnerable women — largely prostitutes, drug addicts, the homeless and others living on the street or on the edge.

He was acquitted of the 1982 killing of a mentally disabled woman in Florida and a grand jury declined to indict him that year in the death of a prostitute in Mississippi. Both cases involved women who were strangled — just like the three in Los Angeles.

Two years later, he was convicted of assaulting two women in San Diego and spent two years in prison. Evidence showed he had tied one up

with stockings in a car and choked her nearly to death.

In old mug shots, Little looked every bit the ex-boxer — powerful, broad-shouldered but trim, with bushy hair and a thick mustache. In a 1972 police photo, when he was 31, Little looked bored, with his head cocked, as if shrugging off his latest arrest.

LAPD detectives found Little an enigma in 2013, however, partly because he refused to speak with them. That's when they asked Palazzolo to reconstruct his life — in case he had killed anyone else.

Palazzolo is one of 10 analysts assigned to the FBI's Violent Criminal Apprehension Program. Based in northern Virginia, ViCAP maintains a database of homicides and other violent crimes that police can search for clues to help find suspects or put names to unidentified victims.

The analyst, 34, and her colleagues provide hundreds of leads each year to local-level police that help break open so-called cold cases — long-unsolved murders.

Despite Little's use of aliases — Samuel McDowell was a favorite — Palazzolo was able to comb his criminal history and discover more arrests in other states.

She plowed through commercial databases, finding where he rented an apartment, lived in a hostel or held an odd job, including one at a cemetery.

The analyst next dug into the ViCAP database, looking for unsolved homicides that overlapped with her 150-page timeline of Little's life. She discovered a handful but suspected he might have committed more.

One stood out: the 1994 strangling of 38-year-old Denise Christie Brothers in Odessa. Her partially clothed body had been found in bushes in a vacant lot. Records showed Little had interacted with local police around that time, meaning he was in Odessa.

"This just felt like him," Palazzolo said.

ViCAP transmitted a national alert in June 2013 urging detectives to check their files for unsolved stranglings and other assaults that might fit Little's modus operandi, and the next year the FBI sent Palazzolo's final report to the LAPD.

Little was convicted in L.A. County Superior Court in September 2014 of murdering the three Los Angeles women and sentenced to life in prison. Although he appealed, investigators expected him to die in prison, taking his murderous oeuvre to the grave.

Just over three years later, in December 2017, Angela Williamson was attending a law enforcement conference in Tampa, Florida.

Armed with a doctorate in molecular biology and extensive experience in forensics, the 41-year-old Australian-born analyst splits her work between ViCAP and a Justice Department program that funds local-level police efforts to better investigate sexual assaults and related homicides.

She was chatting with Texas Ranger James Holland, who had just given a presentation about how to interview sociopaths and psychopaths, when two investigators from a Florida law enforcement agency sidled up.

They asked whether Williamson and Holland knew anything about a guy named Samuel Little. He had killed three women in Los Angeles and might have killed others in Florida, they said. They wanted Holland's insights.

Holland and Williamson promised to look into the suspect.

In March, Holland called Williamson at ViCAP and told her they had to do something "about this Little guy," she recalled.

Williamson turned in her cubicle and got Palazzolo's attention. She had a Texas Ranger on the phone and wondered if Palazzolo knew anything about Little.

"You bet I do!" Palazzolo said excitedly. "Tell him about the Odessa case."

Within weeks, the trio was in Lancaster to interview Little. They brought the Odessa case file, newspaper clips and Palazzolo's detailed timeline of Little's life, as well as other material. He had no idea they were coming — their plan was to surprise him.

"I was pretty pessimistic," Palazzolo recalled. "I thought he would just tell us to leave. Remember, he hadn't spoken to anyone about any of this. Why would he?"

Just after 10 a.m. on May 17, Holland sat down with Little and gave him some peanut M&Ms. In his Texas drawl, the ranger began chit-chatting about this and that — Little's time on the streets, his competitive boxing.

The ranger played to Little's ego, saying the FBI and Justice Department were very interested in him.

It didn't work. Little had beat murder rap before, and he insisted he would win his appeal in Los Angeles and soon be free.

Listening on the audio link, Palazzolo and Williamson slumped in their chairs. This was going nowhere.

After 30 minutes or so, Holland brought up the Odessa case. It seemed to flip a switch in the killer's head, although investigators still aren't sure why.

Little became animated and suddenly began discussing the 1994 slaying. Better yet, his surprisingly precise recall matched details in the crime scene photographs and reports.

"Game on!" Palazzolo said in the guard break room.

That night and the next, Holland and the analysts convened at the hotel and reviewed the day's audiotapes. In two days, Little had described 20 slayings in detail.

He had also cataloged his killings: Jackson, Mississippi — one. Cincinnati, Ohio — one. Phoenix, Arizona — three, he had told Holland, leaving the analysts to perform the addition.

Yet none of Palazzolo's suspected cases matched Little's grim tally. They turned to the ViCAP database but also struck out. It can be an imperfect tool because it relies on local-level police to enter data on their cases.

So Palazzolo tried Google, entering one of the cases into the search engine. She stared in shock at the results.

"I just found one," she told Williamson. Investigators would later corroborate Little's confession in that killing. The discovery spurred the team to step up the investigation.

Ultimately, Little confessed to killing 90 women between 1970 and 2005, including the two cases he had beaten in Florida and Mississippi. He admitted to strangling 18 in Los Angeles.

His bloody count, if confirmed, would rank Little among the deadliest serial killers in U.S. history.

Police have corroborated at least 36 of Little's confessions and are vetting others.

"This is not a case of him boasting," said Kevin Fitzsimmons, the

supervisory analyst for ViCAP. "Law enforcement has verified he did these things. It takes a lot of work, but we are doing it."

Confirming the confessions has been difficult. Most of the victims lived in society's shadows and few of the killings drew intense police attention or publicity.

Many of the deaths occurred before the advent of DNA testing. Many were attributed to accidents, drug overdoses or exposure — not homicide — because police recovered only bones or a decomposing corpse and didn't have clear evidence of a crime.

One reason is Little left no telltale stab or gunshot wounds. He said he usually stunned or knocked out his victims with powerful punches before strangling them.

He also did not always sexually assault his victims. In any case, many were prostitutes with multiple partners, so rape kits were of limited utility.

Another complicating factor was Little's memory.

Investigators say it's nearly photographic when it comes to his victims, methods and other details. He recited one woman's last meal — allowing detectives to verify his account by checking autopsy results that listed the contents of her stomach.

But his recall of dates is less solid — he can be off by a decade. And he sometimes can't name the towns where he stalked and strangled his prey.

"When you spent your life living in your car, things tend to blur," said Williamson. "You can imagine calling a police department and saying you have a potential homicide that occurred off a dirt road in 1984, or it could be 1974, or 1994. Did they even find the body? If they did, was it just bones?"

That was the case in early October in Maryland when Prince Georges County Police Det. Bernie Nelson got a call from a colleague in nearby Washington, D.C., asking whether he had any information about a 1972 homicide.

The D.C. detective told Nelson that a serial killer had claimed he had picked up a woman at Washington's old Greyhound bus terminal, and had driven down a dirt road and strangled her near an abandoned house.

The D.C. detective had no such homicides in his files but thought police in nearby counties might.

Nelson visited the dusty police file room and found the handwritten homicide ledger from 1972. Near the end, he found an apparent match: On Dec. 1, police had recovered the bones of an unidentified white woman off a dirt road.

According to the file, a hunter had discovered the remains near a deserted house about a quarter-mile down a rugged road off a major thoroughfare. The medical examiner suspected the victim, 20 to 25 years old, had been strangled six to 12 months earlier.

Nelson learned Little was arrested on a gun charge at the Washington bus terminal on May 28, 1972. He had been arrested in Florida on a rape charge three weeks earlier, but released from custody. Nelson suspected he had killed the woman during those three weeks.

By Nov. 8, Nelson and his boss, Sgt. Greg McDonald, and an FBI agent were in Wise County where Little was in jail awaiting trial in the Odessa murder. (On Thursday, he pleaded guilty to that charge. Prosecutors had agreed not to seek the death penalty in exchange for Little's continued cooperation with

the Texas Rangers and FBI.)

In their hotel, they met detectives from four other jurisdictions, also waiting for time to talk to Little.

Before questioning the prisoner the next morning at the sheriff's office, the visiting detectives were briefed by Holland, the Texas Ranger, and told what to expect.

Little suffered from diabetes and had a pacemaker. He sometimes became sexually excited when he recalled his crimes and would ask to see photographs of his victim to relive the event. The killer could become angry if asked to help a victim's family find closure.

Little also tended to go off on tangents and would speak of himself in the third person. His memory for faces and the scenes was eerily sharp. He was a decent artist, Holland said, and might be able to render a victim's likeness.

After Little finished his breakfast from McDonald's, the Prince Georges County detectives entered the drab interview room and confronted an old man with gray hair in a black-and-white-striped jail uniform. Although he had been brought in a wheelchair, Little seemed spry.

He boasted of his boxing prowess as a youth and engaged in a bit of a shadow boxing for the investigators. He said he still tried to keep in shape by doing sit-ups and push-ups.

Nelson, knowing other investigators were waiting in line, quickly shifted to the crime.

Little recalled the case, he said. He said he was living out of his car when he met an attractive white woman, a prostitute, at Washington's bus station, and flirted with her. When she learned he had a beat-up car, an Oldsmobile, she agreed to leave town with him.

She told him she came from Massachusetts and had just been divorced. As she left the bus station, Little recalled, she tossed her purse in the air and screamed, "Wahoo, I'm free!"

Little didn't remember her name or their destination — perhaps Boston or Baltimore. A few miles outside Washington, he told the detectives, the woman encouraged him to pull off a parkway and onto a dirt road.

As they were having sex, Little was overcome by the urge to kill and began to choke the woman. He thought she was dead but she suddenly awoke and scrambled from the car.

He followed her, put her in a choke hold and forced her to the ground. Little recalled her last words as he choked the life from her: "I'm too young to die."

His recollection matched perfectly with Nelson's timeline and crime scene evidence — down to curves in the road and a tree where the bones were recovered.

Prince Georges' police expect to charge Little in the coming weeks so they can close the case on their books. Prosecutors will not indict Little, Nelson said, because he is already serving life sentences.

Nelson's goal now is to identify the woman. He has clues — she was from Massachusetts, had extensive dental work by at least two dentists, and had just gotten divorced.

Little has even promised him a sketch of her face.

The killer told Nelson he remembered it well — down to how her dirty blond hair washed over his hands when he squeezed her neck and how her eyes stared lifelessly into the stars.

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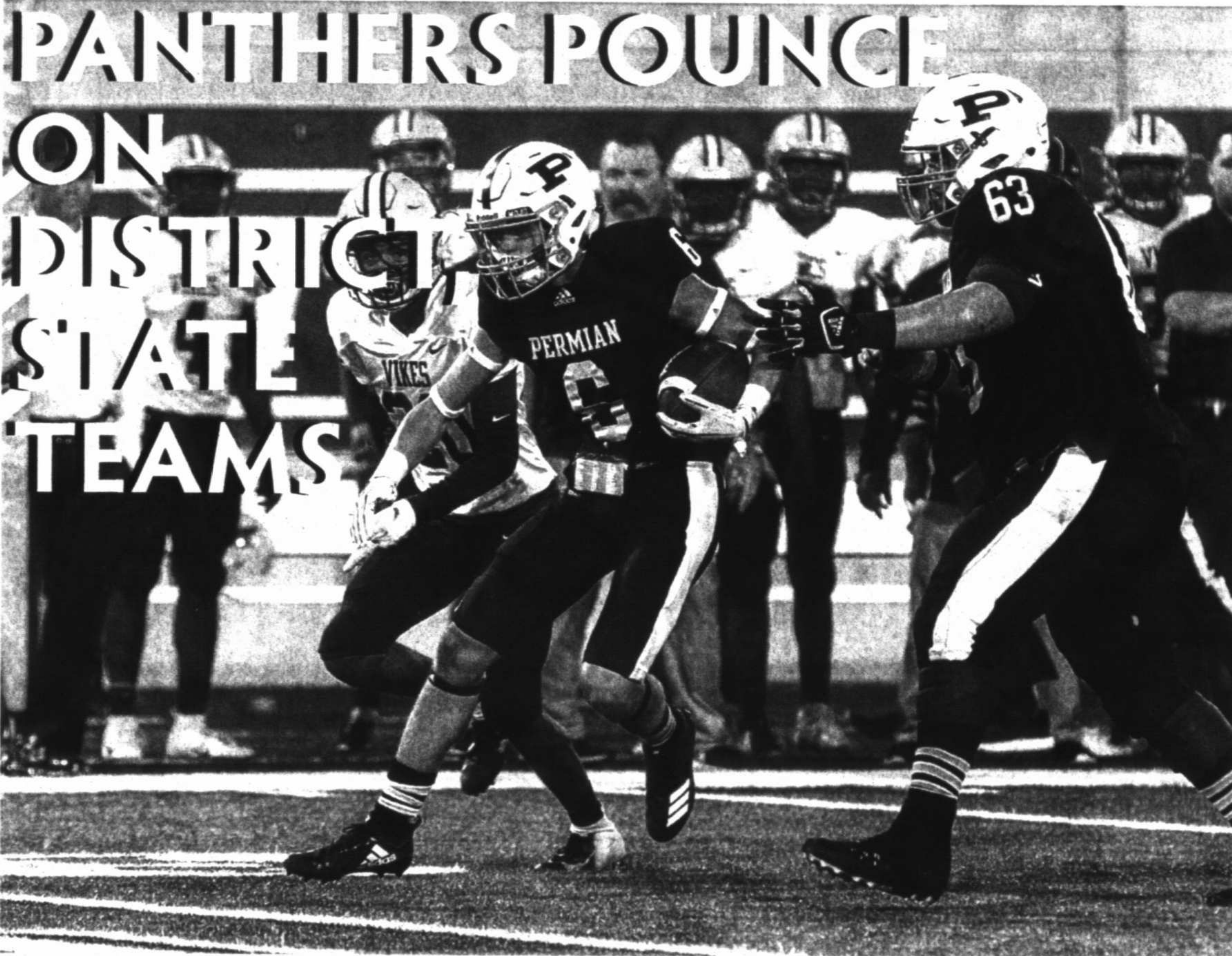
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PANTHERS POUNCE ON DISTRICT STATE TEAMS



Jacy Lewis/191 News

Dawson Reynolds (63) blocks for Tyler Ramage (6) during Permian's game against Arlington Lamar on Nov. 23 at Wildcat Stadium in Abilene.

Texas APSE Class 6A all-state football team

Associated Press

The 2018 Texas Associated Press Sports Editors Class 6A all-state high school football team, released Thursday. Voting based on regular-season performance. Players are listed in alphabetical order at each position.

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

Linemen (tie for final spot)
— JAYDEN BORJAS, Edinburg Vela, Sr. — 98% grade, 54 pancakes
— BEAUX LIMMER, Tyler Lee, Sr. — 95% grade, no sacks allowed, 88 pancakes
— EJDONMA-OGAR, Allen Sr. — 91% grade, 102 pancakes
— DAWSON REYNOLDS, Odessa Permian, Sr. — 96% grade, 82 pancakes, 69 knockdowns for team that averaged 441.7 yards and 40 points per game
— MATTHEW SANDERS, Austin Vandegriff, Sr. — 96% grade, 104 knockdowns, 32 pancakes at center, played every snap
— BLAKE WEBSTER, Austin Westlake, Sr. — 99.6% grade, 48 pins, 41 knockdowns, 1 sack allowed in 182 attempts for team that averaged 47.6 ppg

Quarterbacks
— JAXON SMITH-NIGBA, Rockwall, Jr. — 75-1,373, 16 TDs
— PARKER WASHINGTON, Fort Bend Travis, Jr. — 70-1,397, 18 TDs
— HAYNES KING, Longview, Jr. — 123-177-2,414, 28 TDs, 1 INT

Running backs
— AARON DUMAS, EP Americas, Soph. — 2,201 rushing yds, 15 TDs
— DEONDRICK GLASS, Katy, Sr. — 1,650 rushing yards, 25 TDs
— JORDAN SHELTON, Fort Bend Kempner, Sr. — 245-2,061 rushing, 27 TDs

Kicker
— CADEN DAVIS, Coppell, Sr. — 31-33 PATs, 10-14 FGs, long of 57, 3 FGs longer than 50, 33 touchdowns
— HAYNES KING, Longview, Offensive Player of the Year

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

Linemen
— OMAR DARAME, Arlington Sam Houston, Sr. — 123 tackles, 23 TFL, 10 sacks, 4 FF, 8 PBU's
— BRANDON ESTEVES, Brownsville Hanna, Jr. — 70 tackles, 28 TFL, 13 sacks, 2 FF
— BRAEDON MOWRY, Katy Taylor, Sr. — 66 tackles, 23 TFL, 12 sacks, 3 PBU's, 2 FR
— JORDAN REVELS, Galena Park North Shore, Sr. — 9 sacks, 16 TFLs, 77 tackles

Linebackers
— SMITH ESMAN, Midland, Sr. — 191 tackles, 125 solos, 20 TFL, 6 sacks
— GAVON LANGE, Haltom, Jr. — 122 tackles, 9 sacks, 2 INTs, 14 TFL, 2 FR
— LONDON ROQUE, Dickinson, Sr. — 126 tackles, 7 TFLs, 3 INTs

Defensive backs
— BRAYLEN BROOKS, Garland Sachse, Sr. — 31 tackles, 9 INTs (4 TDs), 12 PBU's, punt return for TD
— SEVEN SANCHEZ, PSJA North, Jr. — 154 Tackles, 14 TFL, 2 INTs, 3 FF, 2 FR, 6 sacks
— KEYON SHANNON, Haltom, Sr. — 106 tackles, 6 INTs
— BRANDON WHITE, Amarillo Tascosa, Sr. — 65 Total tackles, 4 TFL, 1 FF, 9 PBU, 4 INT, 1 sack
— Punter: ALAN LERMA, Sheldon King, Sr. — 26 punts, 47.8 avg, long of 52
— Defensive Player of the Year: Braylen Brooks, Garland Sachse

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE
Linemen (tie for final spot):
— John Basaldua, Converse Judson, Sr.; Brannon Brown, SA Northside O'Connor, Sr.; Mykel Estrella, Haltom, Sr.; Marcus Harry, Longview, Sr.; Henry Mossberg, Southlake Carroll, Sr.; Landon Peterson, Odessa Permian, Sr.

Receivers/ends:
— Kamden Perry, Longview, Sr.; Theo Wease, Allen, Sr.
Quarterbacks:
— Mike Welch, Dickinson, Jr.
Running backs:
— Jaylin Hastings, SA Jay, Sr.; T.J. McDaniel, Southlake Carroll, Sr.; Campbell Speights, McAllen Memorial, Jr.

Kicker:
— Gino Garcia, Richardson Pearce, Sr.

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE
Linemen:
— Aaron Alvarez, PSJA North, Jr.; DeBraylon Carroll, Duncanville, Sr.; DeMarvin Leal, Converse Judson, Sr.; Edgerrin Williams, Round Rock Cedar Ridge, Sr.

Linebackers:
— Uzochukwu Ebinama, North Garland, Sr.; Jax McCauley, Austin Vandegriff, Jr.; Jahari Williams, Haltom, Sr.

Defensive backs:
— Ty DeArman, Arlington Bowie, Sr.; Jamal Morris, Fort Bend Bush, Sr.; Cameron Oliver, Fort Bend Travis, Soph.; Karl Taylor, Midland Lee, Jr.

Punter:
— Carson Roberts, Odessa Permian, Jr.

HONORABLE MENTION OFFENSE
Linemen: Cole Birmingham, Katy; Eric Cisneros, Midland Lee; Andrew Coker, Katy Taylor; Daniel Doman, McAllen Memorial; Alexis Gil, Westlake East; James Jarmon, Round Rock Westwood; May Joyce, Rockwall; Logan Parr, SA Northside O'Connor; Juan Quezada, Austin High; Thalen Robinson, Arlington Bowie.

Receivers/ends: Jaelyn Anderson, Plano East; Trejan Bridges, Lewisville Hebron; Anthony Brown, Belton; Miguel Flores, PSJA; Loic Fouonji, Midland Lee; Justin Hammond, Odessa Permian; Tyler Hudson, Klein Oak; Decorian Mitchell, Haltom.

Quarterbacks: Michael Black, Haltom; Hudson Card, Lake Travis; Jacob Clark, Rockwall; Velton Gardner, Dallas Skyline; Trey Guajardo, PSJA; Brandon Mallory, Plano East.
Running backs: Jaelyn Benefield, Pearland; James Fullbright, Waco Midway; Tripp Graham, Austin Westlake; Justin Rodriguez, SA Johnson; Josh Traylor, Midland Lee; Eddie Villarreal, La Joya; Isaiah Spiller, Klein Collins; R.J. Smith, Katy Tompkins; Jacquarion Turner, South Garland; Ed Williams, Odessa Permian.

Kickers: Richard Garcia, Mesquite Horn; Jeffin Leslie, SA Northside O'Connor; John Villalobos, Galena Park North Shore.
HONORABLE MENTION DEFENSE
Linemen: Jaylon Allen, Longview; Jacob Banda, Westlake East; Jamie Ferguson, SA Madison; Avelino Garcia Jr., San Benito; Antonio Greer, Arlington Bowie; Pryson Greer, SA Northside O'Connor; Kadren Johnson, Lewisville; Alex Kingston, Southlake Carroll; Matt Jones, Odessa Permian; DeVere Levelston, DeSoto; Romeo Martinez, Midland Lee; Cristian Ramos, Laredo LB; Xavier Ross, Cedar Hill; Javarious Sullivan, Bryan; Khristian Versey, Lewisville; Jacob Wolfe, Haslet Northwest Eaton.

Linebackers: Freddy Cardenas, Westlake East; Jake Ehlinger, Austin Westlake; Corey Flagg, Galena Park North Shore; David Gbenda, Katy Cinco Ranch; Daemian Gray, Amarillo Tascosa; Chris Ingram, Killeen; Spencer Jones, Austin Vandegriff; Jephaniah Lister, Longview; Michael Morales, McAllen Memorial; Carter Norrie, Lewisville Hebron; David Parks, Bryan; Walker Polk, Coppell; Kayden Steen, Keller; Josh White, Cypress Creek; Anziah Williams, SA Northside Brennan; Zach Zimos, Fort Bend Travis.

Defensive backs: Larry Cooper, Mesquite Horn; Alice Flores, Brownsville Hanna; Braden Hay, Katy Taylor; Alex Hogg, Houston Lamar; Jonathan McGill, Coppell; RJ McKee, Southlake Carroll; Anfernee Orji, Rockwall; Jacob Plunk, Amarillo Tascosa; Ainsie Smith, Fort Bend Dulles; Darius Snow, Lewisville Hebron; Andres Sustaita, Brownsville Hanna; Christian Tschauer, Odessa Permian; Diego Villarreal, McAllen Memorial; Reese Watson, Austin Vandegriff; Frank Wilson IV, SA Northside Brandeis; Khambrail Winters, Allen Taylor; Rashad Wisdom, Converse Judson; Erick Young, Fort Bend Bush.

Punters: Logan Claborne, Rockwall; Richard Garcia, Mesquite Horn; Isaac Ochoa, La Joya.

ALL-DISTRICT 2-6A FOOTBALL TEAM

x-unanimous selection

SUPERLATIVES
District MVP — Justin Hammond, Sr., Odessa Permian
Co-Offensive Players of the Year — King Doerue, Sr., Amarillo Tascosa; Josh Traylor, Sr., Lee
Defensive Player of the Year — Matt Jones, Sr., Odessa Permian
Offensive Newcomer of the Year — Joseph Plunk, Jr., Amarillo Tascosa
Defensive Newcomer of the Year — Charlie Gonzales, Jr., Lee
Coaches of the Year — Ken Plunk, Amarillo Tascosa; Clint Hartman, Lee; Jeff Ellison, Odessa Permian

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE
Quarterbacks — Peyton Powell, Sr., Permian; Suddin Sapient, Sr., Midland High; Felix Hinojosa, Sr., Lee

Running backs — Ayden Noriega, Sr., Tascosa; Josh Lara, Sr., Odessa High; Ed Williams, Sr., Permian
Wide receivers — Julian Galindo, Sr., Odessa High; x-Loic Fouonji, Jr., Lee; x-Sheldon Bass Jr., Sr., Lee; Skyler Newsome, Sr., Wolfforth Frenship

Tight ends — Campbell Keithley, Jr., Midland High; Sejun McGarity, Jr., Odessa High

Offensive tackles — Ian Ordorica, Sr., Lee; Colton Cates, Sr., Tascosa; x-Landon Peterson, Sr., Permian

Offensive guards — Brandon Gonzalez, Sr., Tascosa; x-Dawson Reynolds, Sr., Permian; Zach Heller, Jr., Lee

Center — Jon Hignojos, Sr., Permian

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE
Defensive ends — Romeo Martinez, Sr., Lee; LB Moore, Jr., Tascosa
Defensive tackles — x-Daerian Madrid, Sr., Lee; x-Jake Parchman, Jr., Permian
Inside linebackers — Smith Esman, Sr., Midland High; Daemian Gray, Sr., Tascosa; Tanner Adams, Sr., Permian

Outside linebackers — Isaiah Harvey, Sr., Lee; Cameron Martinez, Sr., Permian; Easton Hernandez, Jr., Permian; Michael Gonzalez, Sr., Odessa High

Cornerbacks — Christian Tschauer, Sr., Permian; Rakeeb Adeyemi, Sr., Permian; Colton Brown, Sr., Frenship; Alex Perales, Sr., Odessa High

Safeties — Joseph Plunk, Sr., Tascosa; Karl Taylor, Jr., Lee

FIRST TEAM SPECIAL TEAMS
Kickers — Cage Jones, Jr., Frenship; Ivan Campos, Jr., Midland High; Carson Roberts, Jr., Permian
Punter — Cage Jones, Jr., Frenship
Utility — Charles McClure, Sr., Odessa High

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

Quarterback — Trey Smith, Sr., Odessa High
Running backs — D'Andre Campbell, Sr., Tascosa; Daniel Garcia, So., Midland High; Kaden Horrell, Sr., Permian
Wide receivers — Tyrone Caufield, Sr., Odessa High; Randall Blansett, Sr., Midland High; Tyler Ramage, Jr., Permian; Drew Hocutt, Jr., Frenship
Offensive tackles — Jaiven White, Sr., Lee; Luis Nunez, Sr., Odessa High
Offensive guards — Kayden Langen, Sr., Frenship; Ryan Pierce, Jr., Lee; Rodney Gann, Sr., Permian
Centers — Josh Ramos, Sr., Midland High; Eric Cisneros, Sr., Lee

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE
Defensive ends — Tracy Mackey, Jr., Lee; Randall Campbell, Sr., Tascosa
Defensive tackles — Julian Rios, Sr., Frenship; Alex Mincey, Sr., Tascosa; Ethan Ruiz, Sr., Midland High
Inside linebackers — Cade Mendoza, Jr., Odessa High; Michael Hinojosa, Jr., Lee; Andy Notley, Sr., Permian
Outside linebackers — Christian Kizer, Sr., Frenship; Trent Low, Jr., Lee
Cornerbacks — Bruce Franco, Jr., Lee; Caleb Reynolds, Sr., Tascosa
Safeties — Brandon White, Sr., Tascosa; Charles McClure, Sr., Odessa High
Second team special teams
Kicker — Cain Cordova, Jr., Odessa High
Punters — Max Burleson, Jr., Tascosa; Carson Roberts, Jr., Permian

HONORABLE MENTION
Lee — Fernando Hernandez, W.R.; Joseph Hart, DT; Damian Garcia, S
Midland High — Unique Lee, W.R.; Dez Washington, W.R.; Sean Porter, S; Carlos Baiza, OL; Spencer Blue, OL; Isaiah Hernandez, DL; Seth Reed, OL; Brett Canis, TE; Marshall Mayfield, LB

Permian — Mason Soller, W.R.; James Bruce, OL; Ke'Shawn Wright, S; Chase Stell, S
Frenship — Elijah Gomez, C; Colton Anderson, S; Christian Kiser, OLB; Jaden Lemons, S; William Bayouth, RB; Evan Barboza, DE; Tobin Banire, DE; Bo Mandrell, DT; Jack Woodward, C; Max Rowley, W.R.; Caleb Eugene, DS; Cooper Scott, W.R.; Ethan Fillo, OT

Tascosa — Evan Enos, Utility; Sobhan Soleymani, OT; Logan Fulton, OG; Jorge Gonzalez, C; Parker Settle, FB

Odessa High — Keegan Majors, OG; Louis Wilson, OT; Brandon Jones, C; Oscar Lucio, LB; Austin Aguirre, OLB; Parker Cherry, DB; Christian Ochoa, DB; Davien Hernandez, W.R.; Joel Rodriguez, OG; Xavier Minjarez, DB

CULTURE

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MRT Media Group file photo

Clara (Victoria Gilmore, 14) holds the Nutcracker while surrounded by the snowflakes during rehearsals for the "Nutcracker" at Midland Festival Ballet.

BALLET

MFB caps off 25th season with 'The Nutcracker'

By Rich Lopez

rllopez@hearsnmp.com

Rachel Kerr Ritter has two perspectives on the 25th anniversary season of the Midland Festival Ballet. She grew up as a young dancer in the organization. Now she serves as its executive director.

MFB is preparing for its annual production of "The Nutcracker," which Ritter said has come a long way, as has the company.

"It's really exciting that we've been around for so long, but especially with this production," she said. "We were first performing at the Allison Fine Arts auditorium at Midland College and just excerpts. Now we have two performances, a symphony, guest artists and a great venue."

MFB performs "The Nutcracker" Saturday and Sunday at the Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center with the Midland Odessa Symphony Choral accompanying.

The move to the Wagner Noel was a turning point for MFB.

"That made us up our game. To see

IF YOU GO

"The Nutcracker" by Midland Festival Ballet. 7:30 p.m. today, 2:30 p.m. Sunday at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$20-\$59. midlandfestivalballet.org

MFB grow into that space with better set pieces, costumes was the biggest change," she said. "This weekend, we'll have more than 100 student performers on stage, which makes it wonderful to perform for the community."

The show will feature MFB alum who are now dancing professionally, such as Lindsey Croop of Dance Theatre of Harlem and guest artist Karina Gonzalez and Ian Casady of the Houston Ballet. Midlander Michael Fields will return for his 22nd season as Mother Ginger.

Ritter said MFB isn't just about the performances. Through the years, the organization has grown in its community outreach.

"I think my favorite thing is that we get to spread the art of classical ballet through education and outreach. As much as we put the arts out there, we

teach young people qualities like perseverance, hard work and discipline that is the ethos of ballet."

Education and outreach is also Ritter's vision for the next 25 years. For her, MFB also provides opportunity. Students not only perform in the two stage shows at the Wagner Noel, but also work closely with professional dancers, compete in festivals and participate in renowned summer dance study programs.

"We have 200 students, and they do interesting things besides 'Nutcracker,'" she said. "I'm proud what we can provide for young dancers, and I think Midland Festival Ballet is producing high-quality dancers for when they venture outside the school."

But first, "The Nutcracker," which she urges the community to attend.

"This is the year to see it with all of our guests and alum joining. I want to tell people who haven't seen it that there is something for everyone to enjoy with the dancing, the live music and even some of the acrobatics by our guest dancers. I think it's just a fun, family-oriented holiday tradition."

also help serve at receptions and parties at the Globe Theatre when needed and they have volunteer time available. Money received by the organization is used to benefit the Globe Theatre."

Barbara Hogan joined the Juliets in 2009 after she moved back to Odessa from the Gulf Coast. Hogan said she misses serving patrons out of the barter booth.

"We could get everybody out and hand them hot chocolate on cold days," Hogan said. "I like being part of this group because it's a fun group and I think it's just amazing that there is an exact replica of the Globe Theatre in Odessa, Texas."

The Globe of the Great Southwest is located on 2308 Shakespeare Rd on the Odessa College campus. It is an exact replica, minus the roof as McCulloch pointed out, of the Globe Theatre in London.

Recently, the Globe of the Great Southwest has come under the full management of Odessa College. Before, it operated independently with a board of directors. Now the Juliets are only called upon to usher for productions not put on by Odessa College. They recently helped with the Shakespeare festival during Apocalypse.

"They used to have two dresses,

one pink, short sleeved for summer months and a cranberry colored dress for the winter," Schuler said. "Several years ago we went to the capes."

The capes are cooler and allow members to wear any white shirt they desire underneath, Hogan said. New members wouldn't have to buy or make dresses either, Schuler said.

Schuler said she remembers when attendees would find a Juliet in a red or pink dress and pay them 10 dollars for admittance to the production of the night. From 1979-2013, the Juliets helped usher about 250 plays on top of the monthly showings of the Brand New Opry on Saturday nights and annual Shakespeare Festival, records show.

Juliet membership numbers have fluctuated over the years with the Juliets numbering 40 at one time but recent membership is at 14 active members. Anyone can become a member; they just have to volunteer, Sofge said.

McCulloch said it would be wonderful to get more young women involved with the Juliets. Hogan said she would like to start having teas again, which were once a fundraiser for the Globe of the Great Southwest.

JULIETS

From Page 1

Society was organized in 1975, seven years later.

"The Juliets started out as a fundraising organization for the Globe," Delores Schuler the current president said.

Allie Taylor was the first president in 1975. Nobody could remember who started the Juliets but they have records showing the past presidents.

On a pamphlet among the records the Juliets keep, was a description of "What is a Juliet?"

"She is a student, career woman, teacher, wife, nurse, mother or grandmother. She has a special love of the GLOBE THEATRE, other Juliets and friends of the theatre."

"She is a valuable asset to the Globe Theatre and its productions, handling the patron house management, ushering, being a ticket greeter, program greeter and managing the concession/barter booth and the Anne Hathaway Cottage when needed. The Juliet Society, for their fundraisers, gives teas for organizations of the community, state conferences and conventions. They



Juanita Pyfer holds an undated picture of Marjorie Morris posing in front of the Globe of the Great Southwest. Morris helped get donations to build the Globe.

Jacy Lewis/191 News

THINGS TO DO

Through Jan. 1

Starbright Village and Community Tree Lighting. View one of the largest displays in the area with more than 300,000 lights and holiday displays, 6-11 p.m., McKinney Park, 625 W. Pool Road, Odessa. Free. odessatxparks.org.

Today

■ Polar Express Party, 5:30 p.m., Palmer Activity Christian Center, 1305 E. Illinois Ave., Midland. Guest can wear their pajamas to enjoy ornament making, cookie decorating and more with a screening of "The Polar Express." Free.

■ The Eighty-Eights Dueling Pianos Show, 9 p.m., Midland Beer Garden, 7112 W. Highway 80. \$40-\$60.

■ DJ Wildman, 9 p.m., the Lift on 7th, 1401 E. Seventh St.

Today and Sunday

"The Nutcracker" by Midland Festival Ballet, 7:30 p.m. Saturday; 2:30 p.m. Sunday at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$20-\$59. midlandfestivalballet.org.

Monday

Christmas Eve Lunch, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Midland Soup Kitchen Ministry, 1401 Orchard Lane, Midland. Free.

Friday

"The Great Russian Nutcracker: Dove of Peace" by the Moscow Ballet, 7 p.m., Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. nutcracker.com.

Coming Soon

■ Lightwire Theatre's A Very Electric Christmas, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 29, Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$29.50-\$104.50. wagnernoel.com.

■ Aaron Watson, 8 p.m. Dec. 29, Dos Amigos, 4700 N. Golder Ave. \$25 advance, \$30 door. dosamigos.com.

■ Gran Baile de Ano Nuevo with Polo Urias and Los Vendavales, 7 p.m. Dec. 31, La Hacienda Event Center, 12610 State Highway 191. \$35. haciendamidland.com.

■ New Year's Bash will feature all-you-can-play attractions, bowling, games and a chef-prepared buffet. For 10 and older., 7:30 p.m. Dec. 31, Cinergy Odessa, 8250 State Highway 191. \$24.99. Cinergy.com.

■ "Sesame Street Live! Let's Party," 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Jan. 5-6, Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$23-\$53. wagnernoel.com.

■ Vocal Trash, 7 p.m. Jan. 16, Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$35. liveonstage-pb.com.

■ The Oak Ridge Boys., 7:30 p.m. Jan. 17, Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$42-\$67. wagnernoel.com.

■ Josh Abbott Band, William Clark Green, 8 p.m. Jan. 17, Dos Amigos, 4700 N. Golder Ave. \$25 advance, \$30 door. dosamigos.com.

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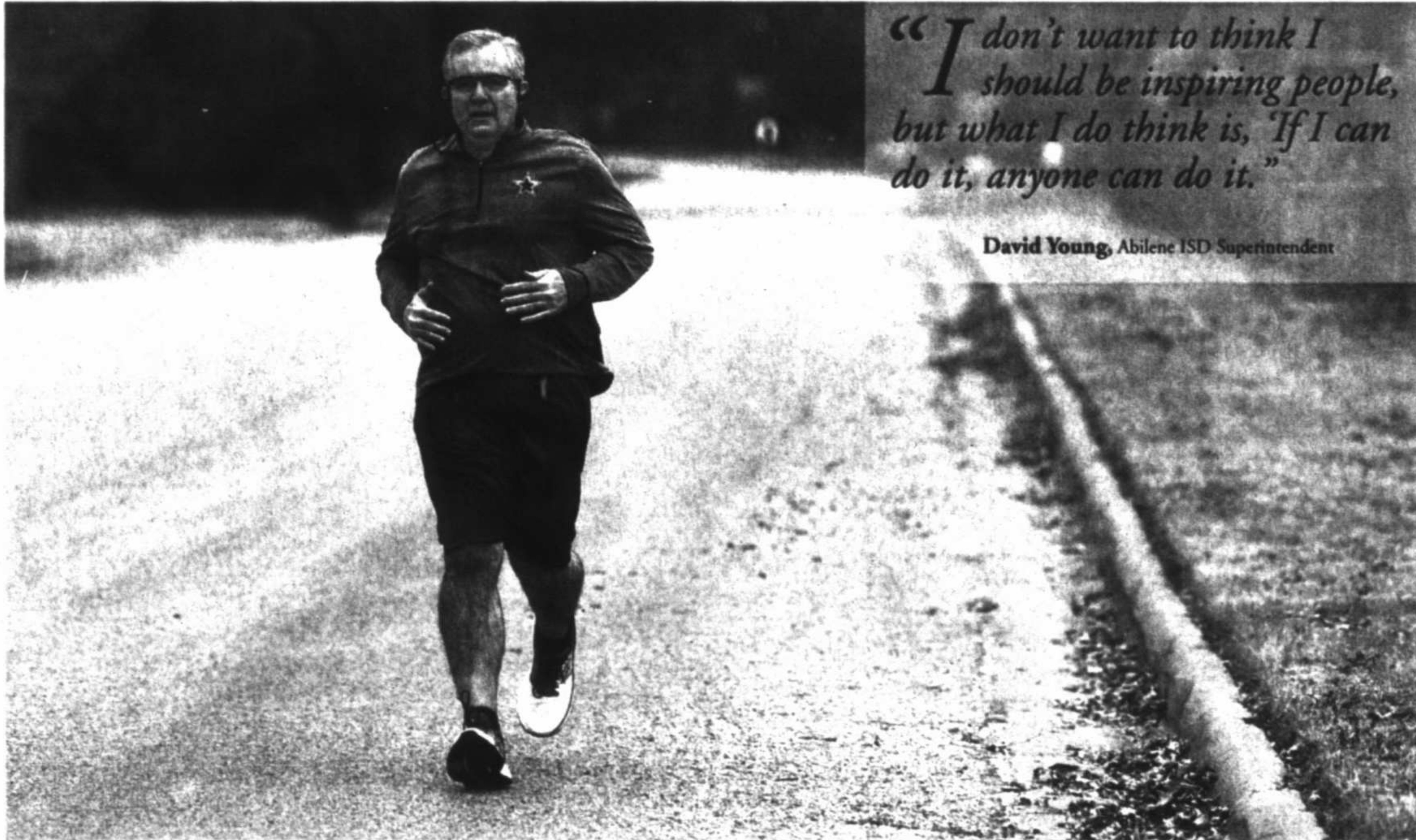


MEDIA
GROUP



HEALTH

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"I don't want to think I should be inspiring people, but what I do think is, 'If I can do it, anyone can do it.'"

David Young, Abilene ISD Superintendent

Ronald W. Erdrich/The Abilene Reporter-News via AP

Abilene Independent School District Superintendent David Young jogs Nov. 19 along S. 23rd St. near Austin Elementary School. Thanks to a little bit of motivation, Young is 100 pounds lighter than at the start of 2018.

EXERCISE

Abilene superintendent loses 100 pounds, inspires others

By Timothy Chipp
Associated Press

ABILENE — Meet Dave Young. He used to be David, but thanks to a lifestyle change, he's a slimmer, fitter version.

The "i" and "d" in his name just slid off his svelte waistline during a recent 10-mile jog on his treadmill. Thanks to a little bit of motivation, Young — Abilene Independent School District superintendent — is 100 pounds lighter than at the start of 2018.

Young now tips the scales at 216 pounds, compared to 320 in February.

Joe (Alcorta) had a heart attack last year, Young said. "I knew he and I are about the same age. That was the event for me. I knew I needed to make a change."

"The rumor was that I'd had surgery. But I don't have the time for surgery. It was just a lot of hard work."

In the aftermath of Alcorta's cardiac episode, Young and a few other AISD central office employees banded together to make a few general changes around the office. Small adjustments, like making sure heart healthy foods were available, were made.

Young said those changes, for the most part, are already gone, along with Alcorta, who moved from his childhood school district over the summer to become superintendent of the Dalhart ISD.

Young's success comes down to a

combination of his love of numbers and an obsession with rings. The numbers come from his doctor; the rings from the fitness app on his phone.

Young's journey started in February, when he went to his doctor with a goal in mind. The mission wasn't to lose 100 pounds, he said. He didn't even think such a loss would be possible.

"I told (the doctor), 'I need you to kick me in my shins about my weight,'" Young said. "He looked at me and said, 'You're a math guy: 3,500 calories is a pound.' He gave me a goal to lose a pound a week. But I'm motivated by numbers. I went home and made spreadsheets, graphs."

For the other numbers people, Young isn't losing one pound per week. It's actually about three. Achieving such results means Young is burning 1,500 calories more per day than he's taking in. And that's just on average.

His first 40 pounds, he said, came from changing his diet. Gone were the four bacon cheeseburgers each week. Salads at Abuelo's and weekly lunches at Subway with AISD board President Randy Piersall have taken their place.

Food was a massive issue for Young. But he has worked with a nutritionist to make sure he was consuming the right foods at the right time.

"I've always been the guy who when I have food on my plate, I eat it," Young said. "What I don't do anymore is eat between meals."

As he made more of an effort to take care of himself, he noticed a few changes he didn't expect. Like, arriving to work later than when he was not taking care of himself. And leaving work earlier.

It's because he wakes up and hits the treadmill. He finishes and begins preparing his breakfast. When he's done with work, it's time to go home and make dinner with his wife, Amanda, to make sure he sticks to his plan.

There's no room for slipping. "They use one of those mail order food services to have meals delivered. But they do the work turning it into a healthy dinner. Being there, together, is part of his new look at life."

"I get to the office later. I'm going home earlier," Young said. "But I feel much more productive through the day. And I hope all of this helps me be a better husband, a better father, a better superintendent."

After Young made it through April with dietary changes and saw the pounds come off, he added walking on his treadmill. Walking soon turned into running. He also added weightlifting to his routine.

Young now routinely doubles up his workouts, thanks to his house's location in relation to the gym. Planet Fitness is about 2 or 3 miles from where he lives, so he runs to the gym, works out and runs home.

"I lift weights three or four mornings a week," Young said. "I don't need to, as the kids say, get swole or anything, but I feel like I've done this journey the right way."

Eleven suits. That's how many Young donated thanks to his weight loss. The pounds coming off meant he couldn't keep a pair of pants long enough to actually wear them in.

Even when he doesn't lose weight, he needs to drill a new hole into his belt as his body continues to convert fat into muscle. The belt has acquired more than enough holes for his wife to demand he just buy a new one.

While Young is enjoying his slimmer waist — "I'm wearing the same pants size I wore in high school," he said — the slimmer bank account isn't eliciting the same excitement. It's a nice problem to have, he said.

Every month he hits the clothing store for new pants, especially. But with cold weather months here, Young said he's had to replace all of those clothes, too.

"I bought the same jacket I had been wearing," Young said, "but instead of 3XL, it's a large."

Yes, Young did take a moment before taking his 11 suits to Goodwill to enjoy his progress. Those pants and jackets went on one last time, he said, and it was exactly like those pictures people take after dramatic weight losses. The waist pulls out well beyond his stomach, signifying just how far he's progressed.

And then they were gone. While diet has helped Young from the beginning, once he added exercise to his regimen his smart watch and phone application have been the driving force.

Specifically, Young went with

My Fitness Pal, an application for his Apple iWatch and iPhone that tracks exercise, food consumption and more.

He said he's gotten a bit psychotic about making sure each and every day he meets his fitness goals. In the application, they're rings. Each successful one turns the day green.

Young pulls out his phone and rifles through months of green rings. Except one.

"It haunts me," he said. "It's my motivation."

It's not Young's first effort at weight loss.

"There has been a couple times in my life where I've been on a diet and lost weight," he said. "This time it feels different."

It's a far cry from someone who used to dread putting his shoes on in the morning because of difficulty reaching his feet.

He's hoping to simply maintain throughout the holidays this year; to eat enough, thanks to a family that enjoys gourmet cuisine, but not take in more calories than he burns.

For many, it's hard to do. He's excited for the challenge.

Young isn't looking to be an inspiration, but he does recognize his story could help push someone looking to be healthier over the edge into success.

"I don't want to think I should be inspiring people," he said. "But what I do think is, 'If I can do it, anyone can do it.'"

LIFESTYLE

'Silver Tsunami' set to hit Texas nursing homes

Houston Chronicle

As baby boomers reach retirement, a perfect storm is set to hit nursing homes as a surge in the number of aging Texans — the "Silver Tsunami" — is projected to affect long-term care services across the state.

More than 12 percent of the Texas population is over 65, and that number is growing. The over-65 population across the state is projected to increase by more than 262 percent by 2050. According to the Texas Demographic Center, the perfect storm is intensified by the increasingly complex medical conditions — such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's — of aging Texans needing nursing home care. More than 380,000 Texas residents have already developed Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia, according to data from the Alzheimer's Association. "2018 Texas Facts and Figures." In Texas, Alzheimer's

MORE INFO

To read the nursing home report, go to <https://bit.ly/2FKFt0C>

is the sixth leading cause of death, and its prevalence is expected to increase by almost 30 percent by 2025.

These factors will place an enormous strain on an industry that is already reeling from a workforce crisis, with more than 97 percent annual turnover for certified nurse aides.

The Texas Health Care Association recently released a report detailing the causes and effects of the approaching storm and urged lawmakers to take action to support the state's long-term care industry and the quality of care delivered.

"Texans respect and value seniors," said Kevin Warren, president and CEO of the Texas Health Care Association. "But Texas' history of chronically underfunding long-term care is producing

barriers to quality care and is setting up serious consequences as a Silver Tsunami of baby boomers looms on the horizon."

The number of Texans between 45 and 65 — the very people most likely to be called on to care for a loved one — is projected to grow at a slower rate than those over 65, according to the Texas Demographic Center. This means the people who will be caring for senior Texans will increasingly be seniors themselves.

Texas nursing homes are challenged with one of the lowest nursing home Medicaid reimbursement rates in the nation. In fact, the state's Medicaid rate falls almost \$10,000 short of the cost of care on an annual basis per Medicaid resident. More than two-thirds of all residents in Texas nursing homes rely on Medicaid to cover their costs after depleting their assets.

FOSTER CARE

Thousands of Texas children are waiting to be adopted

By Teresa Porath
Centers

After years of trying to conceive, my husband and I were overjoyed when we found out that we were finally expecting. Aware that the miscarriage rate is high during the first trimester, I tried to remain cautious. Once we made it past the threshold into the second trimester, I thought things would be smooth sailing. Our dreams, however, came to a screeching halt when we went in for the 20-week ultrasound. We got the news no one wants to hear. There was no explanation. We lost the baby.

We didn't want to give up on our dream of having a family, but testing confirmed that it would not be wise to try again. We looked into using a surrogate. We looked into private infant adoption. We looked into international adoption. Then we found out about a Texas Department of Family and Protective Services program for children

waiting to be adopted. We found out that at the same time we were losing our baby, nearly 30,000 kids in the state of Texas alone, were also losing their families and being placed in foster care. We later learned that while reunification with the biological family is the primary goal, it doesn't always work out that way. In January 2017, there were 3,600 kiddos in Texas waiting for adoptive families.

At that moment, we knew that fostering to adopt or participating in the waiting-child program was the route we needed to take to build our family. We were hoping to adopt our last placement, but they ended up being reunited with their biological family. Since then, people have asked why we haven't just gone back to the idea of private infant adoption to try for a baby. It isn't that simple. There seems to be a lot of misconceptions about adoption. It's not like there is a factory of pregnant women waiting to give up their kids. The process is long,

It is hard. It is emotionally taxing. It is expensive. But there are children out there waiting to be adopted. Those kids really do exist. However, the sad reality is that most won't be adopted.

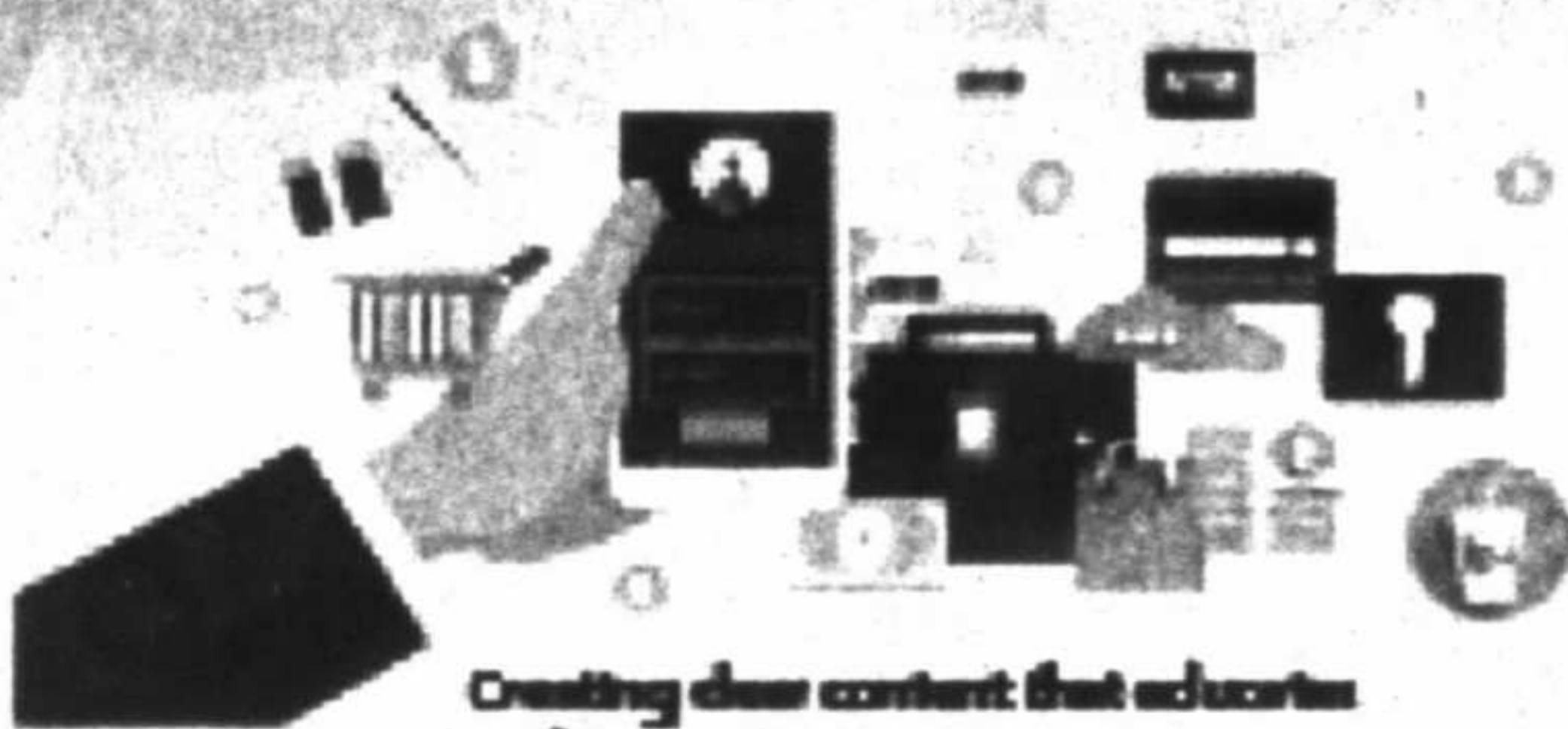
The majority of kids will "age out" of the foster care system and essentially will be orphans at the age of 18, according to CNN. In other words, most will be put out into the world without housing, financial assistance or emotional support. No one is equipped to go through this world alone, yet many who age out of the foster care system have no choice. Studies have found that 1 in 5 will become homeless after age 18; at 24, only half will be employed; less than 3 percent will earn a college degree; 1 in 4 will have experienced post-traumatic stress disorder at twice the rate of U.S. war veterans; and 71 percent of young women will be pregnant by age 21, which will likely only perpetuate the cycle.



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