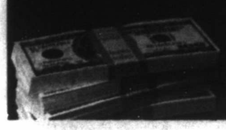
SPEND THAT GIFT MONEY

Today's edition is jam-packed full of post-Christmas Day deals, so be sure to check out our inserts!



HE KNOWS ...

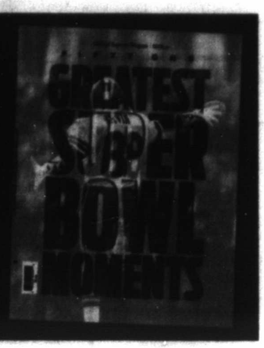
... and he's answering your questions. Find out what Santa has to say.

CULTURE | Page 1E

ARE YOU READY FOR THE POSTSEASON EXCITEMENT?

It's a crunch time in the world of professional football. To help you get ready for the National Football League's postseason, check out our special publication with the 51 greatest Super Bowl moments.

INSIDE



MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2016 mrt★com *235,000 readers in print and online monthly*

MERRY CHRISTMAS

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Luke 2:8-14, King James Version

Photo: Living Nativity organized by First Baptist Church earlier this month. ***James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram***

Joy is more than merely happiness

MELANIE NICHOLAS
Columnist

Christmas is supposed to be perfect, joyous, celebratory. But I haven't been feeling it the last few weeks.

My tree is gorgeous, and all my presents are wrapped. I have a few last-minute things to take care of, but overall, I should be feeling relaxed and ready for some magic.

Instead, I am in a funk. Everything feels juxtaposed. On the outside, things look festive, but I feel sad on the inside. I miss my brother and his sweet family. They just live too far away to see very often. I miss my nephew, Cole. I'm sad that he isn't here to play with my kids and tell me jokes while we set the table for Christmas dinner. He would have been 16 last month. He should have gotten to be a lot of things. His death has fundamentally changed our family; the grief is what lives on.

On Monday, we said good-bye to our sweet

Please see **NICHOLAS**/4A

Oil at $53 brings tidings of great joy

By Trevor Hawes
thawes@mrt.com

'Twas the last day of trading
For this holiday week.
WTI had risen slightly,
But its gains were not meek.

It has risen much higher
Since a year ago at this time:
Up $15 and a penny,
A change oilmen find sublime.

While not near the hundreds
Like in 2013,
The oilmen will take it
Because they know what it means.

The fifties yield profits
As they explore the Basin,
And the holes that they drill
Reverse rig count erasin'.

On Concho! On CrownQuest!
On Diamondback, ho!
On Pioneer! On Apache!
Let the oil again flow!

Go Chevron! Go Claytie!
Laredo, you too!
Halliburton and Schlumberger,
We haven't forgotten you!

RSP and Conoco!
Oxy and EOG!
You did it! You made it!
You survived 2016!

Yay Parsley! Yay Devon!
Legacy and Baker Hughes!
May your holidays be merry!
Now, on with the news.

The price of West Texas Intermediate futures contracts for February delivery settled at $53.02 a barrel Friday, a new high for the year. The price rose 7 cents (0.13 percent) on the day and $1.12 (2.16 percent) for the week.

The year low is $26.21. Overall, WTI is up $16.26 (44.23 percent) this year.

Plains Marketing posted prices were unchanged. WTI posted fetched $49.50 a barrel, a year high, while West Texas sour was priced at $45.60, also a high.

WTI posted is up $1.25 (2.59 percent) for the week. Sour also rose $1.25 (2.82 percent).

In other futures trading, March contracts rose six cents to $53.92. April was up 4 cents to $54.65 and May increased four cents to $55.24. There aren't any contracts in the $60s.

Like Trevor on Facebook and follow him on Twitter at @Howdy Hawes.

Weather
Sunny
62/37
See a weather almanac on 4A.

Early run
This edition of the Reporter-Telegram was published early so that all employees could spend time with their families Christmas Eve.

The big number
Texas received
256 million
Domestic visitors in 2016.
Read more on Page 2A.

Word of the Day: mountebank
Do you know what it means? Find out the definition on Page 2A.

Brought to you daily by JimBurrito

Vol. 88, No. 289
Christmas final edition $4

8 10499 02204 5

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WORD OF THE DAY
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mountebank
1. any charlatan or quack.
2. a person who sells quack medicines, as from a platform in public places, attracting and influencing an audience by tricks, storytelling, etc.
3. to act or operate as a mountebank.

Midland Reporter-Telegram
AT YOUR SERVICE
ISSN 0890-5932
A Hearst Newspaper
Published each morning by the Hearst, Midland Reporter-Telegram Division, 201 E. Illinois Ave., Midland, TX 79701. Periodicals postage paid at Midland, TX 79711. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Midland Reporter-Telegram, 201 E. Illinois Ave., Midland, TX 79701.

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Travel and tourism industry benefits are widespread

THE ECONOMIST

By M. Ray Perryman

Travel and tourism plays a large role in the Texas economy. Unique traditions and expansive wide-open spaces have lent a genuine mystique to "all things Texas" over the years. Today, the Lone Star State offers countless opportunities for leisure and business travelers — whether intrastate, interstate, or from far-flung places around the globe. From sleepy picturesque towns and winding country roads to enormous high-tech theme parks and world-class museums, and from high school, college, and professional athletic contests to out-of-the way nature trails, fishing holes, and cultural enrichment activities, Texas really is "like a whole other country."

According to data maintained by the Governor's Office, Texas received approximately 256 million domestic visitors in 2015, an increase of 5.2 percent from the previous year. About 76 percent of these visitors travelled for leisure purposes versus 24 percent for business.

We estimate that direct travel spending in Texas totals $72 billion per year (based on levels of activity in 2016), translating to over $197 million spent every day in the state. In addition, the travel and tourism industry directly supports 688,000 jobs. That equates to roughly 1 in 20 Texas nonagricultural jobs directly supported by travel spending.

These direct activities comprise only a portion of the overall economic and fiscal benefits of the travel and tourism industry. Any time new money is inserted into an economy, it leads to multiple rounds of economic activity or "multiplier effects" which greatly enhance the overall effect. These gains accrue to every industry and every area in the state, and we quantified the total effects using the impact assessment system we developed.

We estimated that the increase in business activity generated by travel and tourism industry activity (including multiplier effects) includes more than $128.9 billion in gross product each year and 1.4 million permanent jobs in the state (based on 2016 levels of activity). All major industrial sectors and communities across the state experience gains in business activity stemming from travel and tourism activity. (These results are fully adjusted for out-of-state spending and other leakages from the Texas economy.)

Another measure of the impact of travel and tourism on the state is in the form of local and state taxes received. Visitors pay sales and excise taxes for the goods and services they receive, including local and state sales taxes, lodging taxes, alcoholic beverage taxes, motor vehicle rental taxes and motor fuel taxes. In addition to sales and related tax receipts from visitors, the travel and tourism industry is also an important source of property tax and franchise tax revenue. Travel and tourism industry participants pay these levies in relation to their facilities and operations.

We measured the impact of travel and tourism on tax revenue throughout the state, in particular for local property taxes. In total, travel and tourism generates nearly $7 billion in State tax revenue each year (based on 2016 levels of activity). The largest source of state tax revenue came from sales and excise taxes, which totaled $5.8 billion, with occupancy and other taxes comprising the remainder.

The travel and tourism industry also contributes $3.3 billion in local tax revenue across the state per year (based on 2016 levels of activity). The largest source of local tax revenue is $1.6 billion in additional sales tax revenue for local areas. In addition, travel and tourism activity contributes $1.2 billion in local property tax revenue. This revenue stems from the increases in the property tax base associated with travel and tourism such as additional hotels and motels, restaurants, entertainment venues, and other real estate assets. Occupancy taxes add another $0.4 billion, with other taxes contributing $0.1 billion. Additional revenue is derived from the employees of the tourism sector, as well as both businesses and workers that benefit from spinoff effects.

As a result of the increased property tax base from travel-related real estate assets, independent school districts (ISDs) receive an estimated $675.8 million in tax revenue each year (based on 2016 levels of activity). Of this amount, about $538.7 million supports maintenance and operations, with the remaining $137.1 million being applied to debt service and retirement. These latter funds are important in providing the resources needed to support school construction and growth.

The travel and tourism industry is an important and influential part of the economic system of Texas. As travelers visit the state, they pay for the goods and services such as transportation, room and board, and food services. This economic activity generates further economic activity in communities across the state, as well as billions in tax receipts. These resources support education, infrastructure, and vital public services throughout Texas.

M. Ray Perryman is president and chief executive officer of The Perryman Group (www.perrymangroup.com). He also serves as Institute Distinguished Professor of Economic Theory and Method at the International Institute for Advanced Studies.

Want to be a safer consumer in 2017? BBB has some tips

By Heather Massey
Regional Director, Permian Basin Better Business Bureau

Better Business Bureau is proud of our mission: to be the leader in advancing marketplace trust. In order to fulfill that mission, every year BBB offers thousands of tips for consumers to help them find a business they can trust.

BBB helps people find and recommend business, brands and charities they can trust. Better Business Bureau serving Central, Coastal, Southwest Texas and the Permian Basin compiled the top 10 consumer tips to help you fight scammers, prevent identity theft and save money in 2017:

1. Do your research. Always check a business out with BBB before you buy. For any business, visit bbb.org to view their BBB Business Profile, which includes contact information, complaint details and customer reviews.

2. Protect your identity. Always shred paper documents that include sensitive financial data and dispose of computers, cell phones and digital data safely. Safely store all personal documents, such as your Social Security card. Pull your credit report at least once a year, and check your credit and debit card statements frequently.

3. Create a budget. Setting a budget that works for you can help ease any financial stress and worry in the upcoming year. While you're shopping, keep track of the cost and avoid impulse purchases to prevent over-spending. Also, know who or what you are shopping for and how much you are willing to spend.

4. Shop on trustworthy websites. BBB recommends researching businesses before you shop, especially with online stores. While many online shopping sites are legitimate, there are fraudulent online retailers trying to scam unsuspecting shoppers. These scammers set up fake or fraudulent sites in order to gain access to personal information or steal your money. Before you provide any personal or banking information over the Internet, look for the "s" in https:// when browsing a website.

5. Keep your computer safe. If you haven't already done so, install anti-virus software on your computer and check regularly for software and operating system updates. Don't open attachments or click on links in emails unless you can confirm the email came from someone you trust. Always log out of websites you're not using.

6. Give wisely. Most philanthropists give year-round. To ensure your time, treasure and talents are going to the cause you're looking to support, research all charities at give.org and check their BBB charity review to see how their monetary donations are distributed.

7. Get everything in writing. Don't just take a company's word for it. Get every verbal agreement in writing to limit miscommunication and misunderstandings between what you expect and what the business delivers.

8. Limit information shared on social media pages. Scammers use social media sites to gather information on potential victims. Avoid sharing too much personal information and check your privacy settings. Additionally, never announce on social media site that you are going out of town or won't be home for a specified amount of time.

9. Never wire money to someone you don't know. Many scams require money to be wired back to the scammers. Money sent via a money wiring service is almost impossible to trace once it's wired.

10. Let your BBB help. BBB is here to promote marketplace trust. If you have an issue with a business or feel you have been scammed, file a complaint with your BBB.

Heather Massey is the Regional Director for the Permian Basin office of Better Business Bureau serving Central, Coastal, Southwest Texas and the Permian Basin. Heather is available for media interviews and speaking engagements. You can reach her by phone: 432-741-2592 or email: hmassey@permianbasin.bbb.org.

China slaps GM with $29M fine amid growing tensions

Bloomberg

China slapped a $29 million fine on General Motors for antitrust violations, a sign of the growing tensions between the U.S. and the Asian nation.

GM is accused of setting minimum prices on some models in its SAIC General Motors joint venture. The Shanghai Municipal Development & Reform Commission, which imposed the 201 million yuan fine, alleged in a statement that GM punished dealers who sold cars for less than the prices set by the Detroit-based automaker.

Relations have become strained after President-elect Donald Trump proposed tariffs on Chinese goods, questioned the One-China policy regarding Taiwan and accused the Asian nation of stealing an American naval drone in international waters in the South China Sea. A Communist Party newspaper in November said a "tit for tat" retaliation could follow proposals by Trump for tariffs on the world's largest trading nation, which had $627 billion in U.S. trade in 2015.

BUILDING PERMITS

Building permits Dec. 12-16

508 W. Wall St.	Commercial Alteration
2104 N. A St.	Commercial Alteration
3300 Thomas Ave.	Commercial Alteration
6 Desta Drive	Commercial Alteration
6301 Holiday Hill Road	Commercial Alteration
1910 N. Big Spring	Commercial-Accessory
2104 Mulberry Lane	New Commercial
1412 W. Illinois Ave.	Commercial Addition
1009 S. Weatherford St.	Residential Addition
1605 N. Lamesa Road	Residential Addition
5006 Leisure Drive	Residential Addition
4405 Westminister Drive	Residential Addition
5905 Dunbarton Oaks Blvd.	New Residence
8601 Victory Parkway	New Residence
4404 Guadalupe St.	New Residence
1603 W. Kentucky Ave.	Residence-Detached
4600 Briarwood Ave.	Sign
5313 W. Loop 250 N.	Sign
900 W. Wall St.	Sign
5407 Thomason Drive	Sign
4230 N. Midland Drive	Sign

Source: City of Midland

Low-cost airline hopeful has tricks for costly Argentina

Bloomberg

The serial airline entrepreneur trying to launch Argentina's first low-cost carrier is betting the government will deregulate the industry enough to make his venture viable. And if it doesn't, he's got a back-up plan.

Julian Cook, 43, chief executive officer of Flybondi, said he's been told by Tourism Minister Gustavo Santos that price floors for airlines will be scrapped within the next year. But in Argentina, regulatory changes often take longer than planned and so Cook is ready with a few tricks to get around the restrictions, like setting up a members-only club or throwing in a free hotel room with the cost of a ticket.

"Don't get me wrong — I want these to be removed because, at times of the year and for special promotions, I want to be able to offer fares at $10," he says. But the government "is saying to us that if we want to do anything creative, they're not going to try to find out exactly how we're doing it."

Argentine President Mauricio Macri, who swept to power in an election last year on promises of ending Argentina's exile from international capital markets, is slowly opening up long-closed sectors as he tries to pull the nation out of recession. Doing away with minimum prices that airlines are required to charge would likely boost competition in a market that's dominated by only two big players: the state-owned Aerolineas Argentinas and Latam Airlines Group SA.

The Tourism Ministry said the minister wasn't available for comment because he was traveling. The government has never had plans to eliminate the minimum price, a Transport Ministry representative said.

Cook, who previously founded Fly Baboo SA, a regional Swiss carrier that filed for bankruptcy and was acquired by Darwin Airline in 2010, thinks he can offer fares for a third of what his bigger competitors charge and, in the process, snag about 20 percent of the market within five years.

DAILY PROMISE
BROUGHT TO YOU BY
HENRY
Luke 2: 11-14
... to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors.

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Tinsel was invented in 1610 in Germany and was once made of real silver.
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Saudi energy minister sees oil recovering on OPEC cuts

Bloomberg

Oil prices are set to recover next year as OPEC fulfills its agreement to cut output, halting the slump that battered the global oil industry, Saudi Arabia's energy minister said.

The kingdom sees no need for additional production cuts on top of the curbs pledged in recent weeks by OPEC and 11 other oil-producing countries, Khalid Al-Falih said at a ceremony to announce the annual budget in Riyadh. The intervention is intended only to "nudge along" the re-balancing of an oversupplied global oil market, he said in a Bloomberg interview.

"I'm very optimistic that next year will see economic recovery and a recovery of oil markets," Al-Falih said. Prices, unsustainable at current levels, will also need to rise to encourage investment in the new supplies needed in coming years, he said. Crude will balance somewhere between $50 and $100 a barrel, he said.

Investment in the world's oil industry has fallen for three consecutive years amid a slump in prices, leading to the lowest level of discoveries in five decades, according to the International Energy Agency. The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, working in concert with other producers such as Russia, has resolved to reduce output to clear a persisting oil glut and revive prices.

"Markets worldwide are leaving a contraction period and a period of low oil prices and reduced investment in the sector," Al-Falih said. The minister anticipates that crude prices will increase "tangibly" in 2017, he said in an interview with Al Arabiya television.

The kingdom expects its oil revenue to climb by 46 percent to $128 billion next year, the Finance Ministry said in a budget statement. Saudi Arabia is assuming that prices stay at $55 next year and advance to $61 in 2018, according to Al Arabiya.

Al-Falih's outlook echoed comments made by his counterpart from the United Arab Emirates, Energy Minister Suhail Al Mazrouei, who also predicted Thursday from Abu Dhabi that OPEC's intervention will result in higher prices in 2017.

While U.S. shale output grew excessively when prices exceeded $100 a barrel, burgeoning demand in coming years means supplies will be needed from a number of sources to keep markets in balance, Al-Falih said.

As for the policies of U.S. President-Elect Donald Trump, who selected Exxon Mobil Corp. Chief Executive Officer Rex Tillerson as his secretary of state, Al-Falih told Bloomberg they are "friendly to oil."

OPEC agreed to reduce its supplies by 1.2 million barrels a day, while 11 non-members including Russia and Kazakhstan pledged to curb output by almost 600,000 a day.

MRT file photo

More than 30 oil drilling rigs are seen in May 2015, waiting to be put back online in Odessa.

The Permian Basin gets more productive as oil stabilizes

By Arnessa Garrett
The Dallas Morning News

Last New Year, the business staff of The Dallas Morning News put together a list of the key topics likely to shape DFW's business landscape. And we did pretty well.

We thought oil prices were likely to remain lower but relatively steady throughout the year, and we cast doubt on prevailing predictions that our economy would tank if lower oil prices did, in fact, persist. We were right on all counts.

We foresaw downtown Dallas becoming even cooler, and expected the birth of The Star — the Dallas Cowboy's new headquarters and training center in Frisco's $5 billion mile — to blow everyone's minds.

But what will be the top economic catalyst for 2017?

The power of the Permian

Despite a prolonged slump in oil prices, there was one bright spot in the oil patch last year — the Permian Basin. The vast field that encompasses a large swath of West Texas and parts of southeastern New Mexico has remained surprisingly resilient even as oil hovered around $50 a barrel.

Once it was unthinkable that domestic crude production could be profitable at prices that low. But 2016 saw increases in efficiency and technology that drew more companies looking for opportunities to drill domestically. No oil field benefited more than the Permian.

There are now more active rigs in the Permian than in the rest of the United States combined, onshore or offshore, according to the Energy Information Agency.

The United States Geological Survey estimates that the Permian's Wolfcamp Shale contains more than 20 billion barrels of oil and 16 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, making it the largest field ever discovered in the United States.

In 2017, look for the Permian to become even more productive as oil prices stabilize. A deal reached by OPEC to limit supply should ease some of the wild swings we saw in 2016. And as getting a piece of the action in the Permian grows more expensive, expect the number of mergers and acquisitions to rise along with increased capital investment.

Does that mean an employment rebound for areas whose economy depends on oil and gas? That's uncertain. The industry recovery that's in the cards by midyear might not mean an increase in oil sector jobs. Due to increased efficiency, one rig today can do what it took dozens to produce a decade ago.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

One huge retailer ignored the internet — and won

Bloomberg

When Kimberly Dulude steps into a TJ Maxx store near her job at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, she likes to begin perusing a clearance aisle in the back. Then she works her way up to shoes. Beauty is next, and so on until she gets to the front. The 29-year-old does buy stuff online all the time-just not from TJ Maxx. The store, she says, provides the thrill of the hunt.

"I kid you not, I could spend hours in there," said Dulude.

There's been much talk this holiday season about the utter dominance of e-commerce. Cyber Monday set a record for online sales, racking up $3.45 billion, according to Adobe Digital Insights. The National Retail Federation said more people shopped online throughout Black Friday weekend than in physical stores. And the clicks continued past the weekend: Retailers such as Wal-Mart Stores and Amazon.com turned what was once just a discount day for online sales into weeks of bargains.

But there are some stores bucking the trend. Take TJ Maxx and Marshalls, owned by parent company TJX Cos. They're a rarity in the retail universe: stores that don't care about online sales because their businesses are based on the real-life retail experience. Inventory shifts regularly, so no visit is the same-the promise of discovering great items on the cheap is what draws shoppers inside.

Companies like Framingham, Mass.-based TJX and competitors Ross Stores Inc. and Burlington Stores Inc. have a team of buyers that pick up excess items on the wholesale market-anything from cashmere sweaters to copper mugs. TJX alone works with more than 18,000 vendors, including manufacturers and retailers, to scoop up stylish stuff in bulk and resell it at a steal. With more than 2,500 U.S. stores, the company is also adept at tailoring merchandise being offered to local trends.

If you love retailers like HomeGoods or Marshall's but don't live near one, you're out of luck-online, they only sell gift cards. T.J. Maxx sells some clothing and accessories on its website, but the experience is very different than sifting through racks for a one-of-its-size item.

"They're not worried about it at all," says Mickey Chadha, an analyst at Moody's Investor Service who considers the T.J. Maxx's online penetration negligible. "The product is right at the right price. Online is only as good as the product."

A representative for TJX declined to comment on the company's strategy. Executives have repeatedly stated on conference calls with analysts that they view e-commerce as a supplement to its shops, a way to drive real-life traffic. Though TJMaxx.com launched back in 2013, e-commerce sales remain at only about 1 percent of total sales and had an "immaterial impact" on growth last year, according to a January filing.

"While it's a small part of our business, we see it as highly complementary to our physical stores," TJX Chief Executive Officer Ernie Herrman said in May. "We are being methodical in how we grow this business."

It's working. Shares have more than doubled over the past five years and revenue is up more than 30 percent during the same time period. TJX's 10 brands hauled in nearly $31 billion in sales last year.

But don't expect a trend heading back in time. This is a difficult system to replicate, said Simeon Siegel, an analyst at Instinet. TJX boasts a wide net of inventory buyers who find small batches of desirable clothing, then make a small bet on those goods. This is unlike the traditional department store model, where buyers look at runway trends and make large orders of a few items, hoping that they'll be the winner for the season.

"You're buying closeout product, and you're buying samples," said Siegel. "You have to be very attuned to the numbers and very attuned to the fashion. The vendor base that you need to be plugged into and the intelligence that goes into buying the product is the most important asset they have. You need to find the most compelling stuff."

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Railroad commissioner

Christmas gifts arrive early here in Texas

This year, Christmas gifts arrived early for Texas in the form rising oil prices, new job growth and experienced elected officials with our nation's best interests in mind. We have much to be thankful for this holiday season, including our newly elected Republican president who will undoubtedly lead us to a better global position with his business-like approach.

Since the election in November, President-elect Donald Trump has begun filling his cabinet with smart, accomplished professionals like Rex Tillerson, Wilbur Ross and Andrew Puzder for the roles of secretary of State, secretary of Commerce and secretary of Labor, respectively. While these may not be household names, they share a common denominator - wildly successful business backgrounds.

I commend the president-elect for recognizing the value of hard working, successful businessmen and women. These selections represent a sentiment made clear by the American people during this election cycle -- career politicians will no longer suffice. Instead, we need people in office who have real work experience and understand what it means to sign the front of a paycheck. These are the folks who serve not because they need a job, but because they believe in giving back to the community through public service.

Of our 44 presidents, 24 were lawyers, 16 made a career in military service, and only one was considered a businessman by profession. On Inauguration Day, Trump will become the second president who is also a businessman by career.

Of course conspiracy theorists will always shout "conflict of interest" at any elected official who has been successful in business, but how else can we reverse course from the path career politicians like President Obama led us down? I spent my entire career in the energy industry, and as the founder of a small business, I can relate to Tillerson, Ross and Puzder. We've all experienced business success that, unfortunately, some try to paint as a negative instead of a positive.

In 2006 my wife and I founded our own company, PinnacleART, an engineering and technology company focused on reliability and integrity programs for the oil, gas, and petrochemical, mining, pharmaceutical and wastewater industries. It was in my position as CEO and founder of a private business that I truly saw the impact oil and gas has on our jobs, national security and economic freedom. That was also the place I developed leadership skills and business acumen that I'm now using to improve state government.

Over the last 10 years our business has succeeded, and we have been truly blessed. In 2013 I made the decision to run for a position on the Railroad Commission not because I needed a job, but because I want to put my time and energy into doing something that I hope will have a positive impact on our state and nation. I live by the belief that from everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted much, much more will be asked (Luke 12:48) I believe that is this same principle that has recently driven many of our great leaders to public office, including the president-elect, Tillerson, Ross and Puzder.

Business people aren't perfect, but at a time when our country is desperately ready for change, we should be excited for a leader who brings a unique background to the office of the presidency, and that he's appointing successful businessmen and women to his cabinet.

With Trump at the helm, this country can expect to see a re-energized economy and robust job growth. There is no doubt that the incoming administration's business-like approach, all-of-the-above energy strategy and commitment to serving the public will "Make America Great Again." As we celebrate Christmas, let's give thanks for these gifts come early and look forward to the year to come.

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TODAY IN MIDLAND

Today is Christmas

Many people in the United States celebrate Christmas Day on December 25. The day celebrates Jesus Christ's birth. It is often combined with customs from pre-Christian winter celebrations. Many people erect Christmas trees, decorate their homes, visit family or friends and exchange gifts.

Source: www.timeanddate.com

Christmas hours

GROCERY STORES
H-E-B: Sunday, closed
Albertsons: Sunday, closed
Wal-Mart: Sunday, closed; Monday, opens at 6 a.m.
Super Mercado: Sunday, closed

GROCERY STORES
(select locations)
■ **Buffalo Wild Wings:** 5107 W. Wadley Ave., 694-9400; 3 p.m.-2 a.m. Christmas Day
■ **Denny's:** 270 W. Wall St., 520-5306; open 24 hours
■ **Furr's:** 1116 N. Midkiff Road, 520-9629, 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Christmas Day
■ **Grand Buffet:** 2510 W. Louisiana Ave., 688-8881; 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Christmas Day
■ **IHOP:** 301 E. I-20, 7-3 a.m. Christmas Day, 686-0537; 2507 W. Loop 250 N., 6-3 a.m. Christmas Day, 684-5759;
■ **Saltgrass**, 4511 Loop 250 Frontage Road. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. with seating stopped at 3:45 p.m.
■ **Starbucks**, 2410 Rankin Highway: 3203 N. Midkiff Road; 4706 N. Midkiff Road, 7 a.m.-5 p.m.

Christmas Day weather history

Average high: 57
Average low: 30
Warmest high: 78 in 1955
Coldest low: 7 in 1983
Most precipitation: 0.53 of an inch in 1939

Top snowfalls on Christmas Day
■ 1.7 inches in 1939
■ 1.0 inch in 1997

Today's forecast
Sunny during the day and mostly clear at night
High: 62
Low: 37

Source: National Weather Service

Things to do

Wednesday
■ Moscow Ballet's "Great Russian Nutcracker," 7 p.m., Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $30-$70. Wagnernoel.com.

New Year's Eve events
■ New Year's Eve dinner will feature a five-course meal and live DJ. Doors at 5:30 p.m. at Gaek 42, 911 S. Big Spring St. $150 per couple which includes a bottle of wine. For reservations, call 432-528-8769 or 432-704-5242.
■ Toasting for Tails New Year's party and casino night, 7 p.m., Doubletree Hotel, 117 W. Wall St. This is the inaugural event by the Midland Humane Coalition. The night features dinner, dessert, casino games and a complimentary champagne toast. $90. Dress to impress. 21 and older. Midlandhumane.org.
■ Dos Amigos New Year's Eve Bash with Mark McKinney, 8 p.m., Dos Amigos, 4700 Golder Ave., Odessa. $20 individual, $30 couple. Dosamigos.com.
■ 80s Retro New Year's Eve Party with DJ Sho Nuff, 8 p.m., Midland Beer Garden, 7112 W. Highway 80. Free. midlandbeergarden.com.

This date in Texas history

Five years ago: A 56-year-old man dressed as Santa Claus shot and killed his estranged wife, their two teenage children and three other relatives at an apartment in Grapevine, before taking his own life.

Today in history

On Dec. 25, 1991, Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev went on television to announce his resignation as the eighth and final leader of a communist superpower that had already gone out of existence.

On this date:

In A.D. 336, the first known commemoration of Christmas on Dec. 25 took place in Rome.

In 1776, Gen. George Washington and his troops crossed the Delaware River for a surprise attack against Hessian forces at Trenton, New Jersey.

In 1818, "Silent Night (Stille Nacht)" was publicly performed for the first time during the Christmas Midnight Mass at the Church of St. Nikolaus in Oberndorf, Austria.

In 1990, the World Wide Web was born in Geneva, Switzerland, as computer scientists Tim Berners-Lee and Robert Cailliau created the world's first hyperlinked webpage.

Today's birthdays: Singer Jimmy Buffett is 70. Actress Sissy Spacek is 67. Former White House adviser Karl Rove is 66. Singer Annie Lennox is 62.

Watering schedule

The current outdoor watering schedule allows residents and businesses 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 washing outdoor surfaces ban is still in effect.

James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

First Baptist Church conducted its annual Living Nativity event earlier this month.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Below is an abbreviated list of Christmas church services throughout Midland.

Christ Church Anglican, 5501 N. Midkiff Road. ccanglican.com.
Christmas Day combined worship, 10 a.m.

Crestview Baptist Church, 301 N. Loop 250 N. crestview.church.
Christmas Day service, 11 a.m.

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity, 1412 W. Illinois Ave. holytrinity.org.
■ Christmas Day RITE I service, 8 a.m.
■ Christmas Day RITE II service 10 a.m.

Fannin Baptist, 2800 Mogford St: fanninbaptist.org.
Christmas Day service, 11 a.m.

First Baptist Church of Midland, 2104 W. Louisiana Ave. fbc-midland.org.
Christmas Day worship services at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church, 800 W. Texas Ave. fpcmid.org.
Christmas Day worship service, 11 a.m.

Golf Course Road Church of Christ, 3500 W. Golf Course Road. gcrcc.org
Christmas Day service, 10 a.m.

Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, 303 E. Shandon Ave.
Christmas Day service, 10 a.m.

The Orchard, 6112 N. Big Spring St. orchardmidland.com
Christmas Day service, 10 a.m.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish and Shrine, 1401 E. Garden Lane. olgmidland.com
■ Christmas Day Spanish mass, 8 a.m., 2 p.m.
■ Christmas Day Mass, 10 a.m. and noon.

Our Savior's Christian Fellowship, 3309 Neely Ave. oursaviorsmidland.com.
Christmas Day service, 10:15 a.m.

St. Ann's Catholic Church, 1906 W. Texas St., stannsparish.us.
■ Christmas Day Mass, 8:30 and 10:45 a.m.
■ Christmas Day Spanish mass, 1 p.m.

St. Nicholas' Episcopal Church, 4000 W. Loop 250 N. stnicksmt.org.
Christmas Day service, 9:30 a.m.

St. Stephen's Catholic Church, 4601 Neely Ave. ststephensmidlandtx.com.
■ Christmas Day Mass, 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.
■ Christmas Day Spanish mass, 12:30 and 7 p.m.

San Miguel, 1100 Camp St. sanmiguelchurch.com.
■ Christmas Day Mass, 10:30 a.m.
■ Christmas Day Spanish mass, 12:30 p.m.

Solid Rock Fellowship Out West, 4601 I-20. solidrockfellowshipoutwest.com.
■ Christmas Day Sunday school, 10 a.m.
■ Christmas Day Worship service, 11 a.m.

Sovereign Grace Church, 2901 W. Kansas Ave. sgcmidland.org.
Christmas Day worship service, 10:30 a.m.

NICHOLAS

From 1A

old dog, Marley. Two years ago, the vet told us he didn't expect her to live much longer. But Marley sure fooled him. Several thousand dollars in laser therapy and medications kept her with us a little bit longer. The Hubs hoped we could hang on past the holidays, but we just couldn't be that selfish. Marley couldn't hear anymore, and last week she lost her vision. I found her lost in her own backyard. She was bumping into the fence and the trampoline trying to find her way to the back door. I knew I couldn't make her go on like that anymore. But I was so very tempted. She looked like a big fluffy red panda and had the softest ears, like mink. I just keep crying, missing her footsteps and her not-so-soft snores. I asked Cole, who loved dogs, to find her and take care of her for us.

As I write this, Bodacious is dancing and singing in her room — Christmas carols, of course. She is so excited and happy, and that runs right at me.

Courtesy photo

Marley, the Nicholas family dog.

How can she be so happy when I feel so stinking blue? And I know I am not the only one. The holidays are hard for many people. Estrangement, poor heath, loss. They all isolate us during this most wonderful time of the year.

Last week at church, our pastor addressed it head on, saying he knew some of us did not feel joy this season. But he's a tricky one, because he didn't stop there. He added that he thought some of us had confused joy with feeling happy and excited.

He defined joy as a spiritual quality, a divine gift of God, which runs much deeper into our hearts and souls. Joy is more than feeling happy, it is a deep gratitude for what God has already done, the blessings we have already experienced and a powerful hope for blessings yet to come.

This is a year that I have to look for the joy, search it out in the cracks and corners. It's already there, but sometimes, I have a tendency to not see the proverbial forest for the trees.

Earlier in the morning, I had asked The Hubs to put the kids into bed with me. Nothing ever makes me feel more at peace than holding them. The glow of the Christmas tree spilled into our room, just enough to see my sweet babies. They were all warm and soft, miniature versions of us, I held them until my arms went numb, despite a tiny heel to the shin and stolen covers. And then, well, I let myself wallow in those feelings of completeness, of love without bounds, and that childlike sense of wonder I still feel when I see Christmas lights. Oh, thank you, gracious God for flooding my heart with joy this morning, for giving me my greatest blessings to hold, and for the knowledge that I will see Cole and Marley again.

I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas. May you all find joy this season, blessings to count and friends to love.

Melanie Nicholas is a full-time mother, writer and mommy blogger. She and The Hubs have two amazing children, Parksalot, 8, and Bodacious, 5. You can follow @MelNicholas13 and her amazing adventures fighting grime and insecurity on Facebook, Twitter and at TheBathwaterBlogs.com. Her column appears in the Midland Reporter-Telegram every other week.

Should older drivers face special restrictions?

By Jenni Bergal
Stateline.org

WASHINGTON — By 2030, more than 60 million older adults could be driving on the nation's roadways. But don't expect many more states to put added restrictions on their ability to get behind the wheel.

Legislatures have become increasingly reluctant to restrict driver's licenses for seniors or impose extra requirements — such as vision or road tests — for getting them renewed based solely on their advancing age.

That's partly because older people are generally considered safe drivers, more programs exist to improve their driving skills, and recent studies have shown that many of the restrictions aren't as effective as once thought in preventing traffic fatalities. It's also because a politically powerful group of advocates for seniors and motorists, such as AARP and AAA, argue that age shouldn't be used as the sole measure of an older person's fitness to handle a car.

"We believe that driving is about the ability and health of the driver, not their age," said AARP spokeswoman Kristin S. Palmer. "We can't stereotype older drivers."

Jonathan Adkins, executive director of the Governors Highway Safety Association, which represents highway safety offices, said another reason many legislatures have not passed age-based restrictions lately is that society has changed the way it defines "old." Being 75 isn't what it used to be, because people are more active and live longer than previous generations.

"We just elected the oldest president ever," Adkins said, referring to Republican President-elect Donald Trump, who is 70.

Many states place some sort of restrictions on seniors when it comes to renewing their driver's licenses, whether it's requiring vision screening, making them renew their licenses more frequently, or demanding they show up in person at the Department of Motor Vehicles to renew their licenses. But most of the restrictions were approved at least several years ago.

In recent years, efforts to impose restrictions often failed. Legislatures in more than a dozen states considered legislation affecting older drivers in the last two years, but only a handful of bills passed, none of them controversial.

And some enabled more people to get licenses or gave them breaks based on their age. For instance, a measure in South Carolina allows people with certain vision problems to get or renew a license if they use a special device on their glasses. One in New Mexico lowered the eligibility age to 50 for drivers to qualify for reduced insurance rates if they take a driver's education course.

In contrast, Vermont lawmakers killed a bill that would have demanded drivers 65 and older pass vision and road tests in order to obtain or renew their license. Tennessee lawmakers killed one that would have required people 76 and older to take a vision test.

But the fact remains as people age, their vision, hearing and reflexes often deteriorate. And states are faced with trying to balance ensuring the safety of older drivers and others on the road with not discriminating against people just because they are getting older.

"Age should not be the issue. It should be your ability to handle the car and drive safely," said Jurek Grabowski, research director for the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, a nonprofit research and education group.

The nation's senior population is projected to explode as 75 million baby boomers grow old. And traffic safety experts expect the number of at-risk drivers will also grow, as all indications are aging boomers who grew up behind the wheel want to continue to drive.

In the early 1970s, barely half of Americans 65 and older held a driver's license. Nowadays, 84 percent do. By many measures, they have a good driving safety record.

Seniors typically follow the rules and wear seat belts, observe the speed limit, and don't drink and drive, auto safety analysts say. Their crash rates have continued to drop over the years. And they are less likely than previous generations of seniors to be in a crash or to be killed or seriously injured in a crash because they're generally healthier and cars are safer.

But older drivers are at higher risk of crashing than middle-aged people because of declining vision, hearing and cognitive ability and medical conditions that could affect their driving. When they are involved in a crash, they are more likely to be injured or killed than drivers in other age groups.

"Usually, if someone dies, it's the older driver or their passengers, who tend to be older," said Jessica Cicchino, a vice president at the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, a nonprofit research group funded by auto insurance companies.

In 2014, 5,709 people 65 and older were killed and about 221,000 were injured in crashes.

Older drivers also are more likely than younger ones to be involved in certain types of collisions, such as crashes at intersections or those caused by failing to yield, according to the Insurance Institute.

States vary considerably in what they require of older drivers to renew a license.

Nineteen have shorter renewal periods for drivers over a certain age, according to the Insurance Institute. Eighteen demand more frequent vision screening. And 15 states that allow drivers to renew by mail or online don't offer that option to older drivers.

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11:00 P.M. Choral Christmas Eucharist Preceded by Carols with combined Choirs & Brass at 10:30 P.M.

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National chains, mom-and-pop stores grapple with holiday message

By Julie Zauzme
The Washington Post

Donald Trump's path to electoral victory was paved in part with a promise that Santa Claus might make: "We're all going to be saying 'Merry Christmas' again."

Months before he stood on a stage in Orlando as president-elect recently — in front of 16 Christmas trees on a podium with a sign that said "Merry Christmas, USA" — Trump trained his focus not just on coal country and a wall along the Mexican border, but also on the employees of Macy's and Bloomingdale's.

"If I'm president, you're going to see 'Merry Christmas' in department stores, believe me," he said. "Believe me."

And now it's Christmastime, in the dawning days of Trump's new America, and the question is: Retailers, will you start saying "Merry Christmas"?

"That's ridiculous," said John Boiler.

As the chief executive of 72andSunny, a Los Angeles ad agency that made Christmas ads this year for Target, Google, Comcast and Starbucks, Boiler is single-handedly responsible for much of the corporate Christmas messaging in the United States.

Boiler doesn't plan to heed Trump's advice. Reams of sophisticated consumer research tell him that "Merry Christmas" is rarely the best way to sell the most stuff around the holidays.

"To say that you're only going to recognize one segment of your audience to the exclusion of others is not only bad socially and culturally, it is bad economically. You're limiting your audience and your customer base," Boiler said. "You're going to make the choice that is more inclusive — if you're also into making the most money for your shareholders."

Of course, most Americans' preference for hearing "Merry Christmas" or not when they're shopping has nothing to do with the stores' bottom lines. The country's debate over whether to say "Happy holidays," which lumps in other winter festivals including Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and New Year's — or to stick only to Christmas — is just as politically and culturally polarized as so many of our other impasses.

In a poll by the Public Religion Research Institute this month, 66 percent of Democrats said that stores and businesses should say "Happy holidays" out of respect for people of non-Christian faiths. Republicans said just the opposite: 67 percent of them said stores should not opt for a more inclusive greeting.

That left the country exactly split — 47 percent for "Happy holidays" and 46 percent for "Merry Christmas."

It hasn't always been this way, of course. Gerry Bowler, who just published his third book about the history of Christmas, said most Americans blithely said "Merry Christmas," with perhaps a "season's greetings" thrown in sometimes, for most of our country's history.

U.S. presidents helped start the "happy holidays" trend by sending out annual holiday cards with nonreligious messages, Bowler said. The trend dates to Dwight D. Eisenhower in the 1950s, though "Merry Christmas" remained the cultural norm for decades longer.

But in the 1990s, Bowler said, "happy holidays" enjoyed a brief and happy reign, more or less uncontested as the country's corporate greeting of choice. Public schools preached multiculturalism at their holiday concerts. Bill Clinton's cards from the White House avoided "Merry Christmas," just as Ronald Reagan's had before him.

But then in 2004, a California group calling itself the Committee to Save Merry Christmas mounted a boycott of Macy's and Bloomingdale's because the stores said "Happy holidays." And the next year, Bill O'Reilly took up their cause, and returned to it year after year on Fox News Channel. The "war on Christmas," in O'Reilly's words, was underway.

We've been doing battle ever since.

The concept of Christmas being targeted played right into the fears of many conservatives, already anxious about demographic shifts that made Christians less of a majority, and about policies that went against their values, such as the legalization of same-sex marriage.

Many view themselves as persecuted in some ways in the public sphere. In a recent Pew poll, 21 percent of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents said evangelicals face "a lot" of discrimination — more than the number who said women, blacks, Hispanics or Jews face "a lot" of discrimination.

So being told they can't share their commonplace Christmas greeting has come to feel like another assault. After O'Reilly and other Christmas defenders began waging battle, "Merry Christmas" started sounding again in some of the stores that had abandoned it.

"It seems to me that the pressure has succeeded in returning 'Merry Christmas' to the commercial sphere," Bowler said.

He thinks Trump might have something to do with that in the future. "I think he can embolden those who are made shy about using it," he said. "I think our natural desire to be polite has cowed a lot of people."

Consolidation in the retail industry and competition from online shopping have sped up the disappearance of "Merry Christmas," as regional department stores and small businesses closed up shop. The remaining mom-and-pop stores are more able to reflect the desires of their customers in their locales.

At Murphy's Department Store in Stillwater, Oklahoma, the big hit item this season is a butter knife called "That!" which conducts heat from a person's hand to slice through cold butter with ease.

Everyone who buys one hears "Merry Christmas" at the checkout counter. "In Oklahoma, that's still pretty much the way you do it," owner Terry Monroe said.

In small-town Louisiana, Brad Wright agrees. "When customers check out and they leave, we tell 'em, 'Merry Christmas,'" he said about the Nichols chain of five department stores where he is the chief financial officer.

Business seems to have picked up at Nichols, Wright said, since Trump was elected. People laid off from their jobs in Louisiana's oil fields are optimistic that they'll be getting back to work.

"We're not worried about political correctness or what some left-winger thinks," Wright said. "I'm sure there are people in this area that may be Muslim or Jewish. I don't know. We always just said 'Merry Christmas.' ... That's our Christian beliefs."

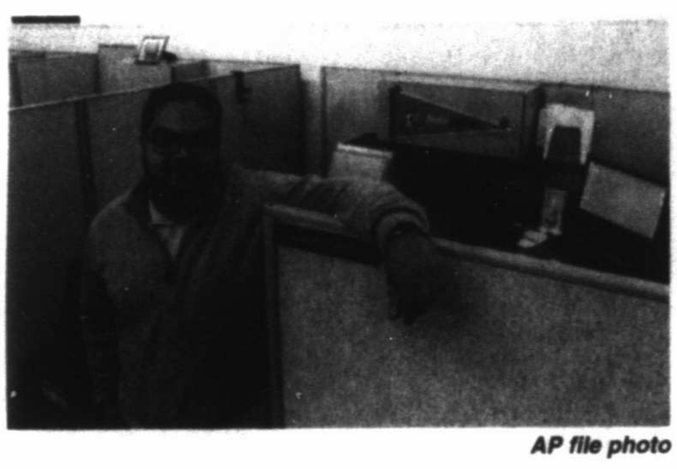
Please see MESSAGE/7A

AP file photo

Christian activist Dick Otterstad, left, of the Church of the Divide, is met by Linda Ostrofsky, right, as he protests Wal-Mart's decision to drop the word "Christmas" from its holiday advertising campaign Dec. 17, 2005, in Sacramento, Calif. It's Christmastime, in the dawning days of Donald Trump's new America, and the question is: Retailers, will you start saying "Merry Christmas"?

"When customers check out and they leave, we tell 'em, 'Merry Christmas.' ... We're not worried about political correctness or what some left-winger thinks. I'm sure there are people in this area that may be Muslim or Jewish. I don't know. We always just said 'Merry Christmas.' ... That's our Christian beliefs."

Brad Wright, chief financial officer of Nichols



AP file photo

Juan Hernandez, 25, an aide to a Hartford City Council member, poses at his work cubicle in Hartford City Hall on March 7 in Hartford, Conn. A quarter of full-time workers ages 18 to 25 who get paid time off say that by year's end they won't have taken any of their paid vacation days, according to a new survey.

Who's wasting the most vacation days?

By Polly Mosendz
Bloomberg

'Tis the season to be jolly, bright, and chained to your cubicle.

A quarter of full-time workers ages 18 to 25 who get paid time off say that by year's end they won't have taken any of their paid vacation days, according to a new survey.

The study, which Princeton Survey Research Associates conducted on behalf of personal finance website Bankrate Inc., surveyed more than 1,000 full-time American workers, with a focus on those who got paid vacation time from their employers.

Older baby boomers between the ages of 62 and 70 are most likely to use up all their vacation days, followed by Generation Xers, or workers between 36 and 51. Young millennials, 18 to 25, are least likely to take all their days. Only 35 percent of them said they would max out their vacation time.

On average, millennials overall-workers aged 18-34-are leaving 21 days unused this year, and boomers-ages 52 to 70-are leaving behind 25. Gen Xers are leaving just 13 days unused.

There's a reason millennials and boomers have similar vacation-taking strategies, explains Arielle O'Shea, the investing and retirement specialist for personal finance website NerdWallet: They're trying to prove themselves in competitive fields and concerned they'll be looked down on because of their age.

They might also just not be able to afford vacations-millennials because they're comparatively poor and paying off student loans, and boomers because they're saving for retirement (and maybe paying their kids' student loans).

But many say they're just too busy working: 28 percent of millennials and 25 percent of boomers said they weren't using up their vacation days because they had too much work to do. Just 14 percent of Gen Xers, who are right in the middle of parenting years, said the same. (Gen Xers were also most likely to decide not to use a vacation day in 2016 to roll it over to next year instead.)

And who kept on working just because they really, really love their jobs? That would be young millennials. Nearly a third said their love of their jobs kept them from taking time off.

Still, the study found, workers across all generations prefer cash to paid time off. Asked to choose between having an extra week of paid vacation time or an extra week's worth of pay, workers overwhelmingly picked cash.

Says O'Shea: "Vacations are expensive, and nothing beats cash."

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Holiday splurging not an option for many workers scraping by

By Anne D'Innocenzio
Associated Press

ELIZABETH, N.J. — At the brightly lit mall, clothing stores highlight holiday sweaters and big signs tout the sales, while Duquan Allen keeps his expectations in check.

Allen, who works full-time cleaning planes at Newark Airport, says his mother doesn't expect anything big, and he usually gets a hooded sweatshirt. He plans to spend about $150 on presents for his grandmother, mother and 21-year-old sister.

"I'm good at budgeting," says Allen, who makes $10.10 an hour.

Heading into this holiday season, with gas and food costs down, unemployment at its lowest point since 2007 and clothing prices on the decline, economists and retail executives declared it a great time to be a consumer. But seven years into the recovery, there's a stubborn divide that hourly workers see more starkly during the holidays, between themselves and better-off consumers who have benefited more as the economy improved.

"I see people traveling. I wish I could afford it," said Allen.

Many workers are indeed earning more. Average hourly earnings have picked up 2.5 percent over the past year, and major retailers have raised wages as competition for workers has increased.

Thanksgiving weekend featured crowds of shoppers at stores and malls, snapping up new TVs and clothing. Luxury stores have promoted "feel-good" gifts like $1,000 silk pajamas. Americans spent $3.45 billion online on Cyber Monday, according to Adobe Digital Insights, and nearly that much on Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving. The National Retail Federation trade group expects holiday sales for the November and December period to rise 3.6 percent to $655.8 billion.

From the data, people seem very able to buy. Overall, people plan to spend about $935 per person this holiday season, according to an NRF survey. Behind that figure, though, there's a split.

Consumers with income under $50,000 plan to spend a little over $362 on gifts for their family and friends, while for those with income of $50,000 and higher, that number is about $768. Throwing in decorations, greeting cards, flowers and food, the difference is even larger — around $512, compared to about $1,020. That divide also hasn't budged since the recession.

"The U.S. economy is not creating high-wage jobs for lower- and middle-income consumers," said Ken Perkins, president of research firm Retail Metrics LLC. "This is making it extremely difficult for lower-income consumers to make a living. There's really not a lot left for Santa Claus."

About half of American workers have seen their share of overall income growth shrink since 1980, according to a recent study by economists Thomas Piketty, Emmanuel Saez and Gabriel Zucman. In 1980, the top 1 percent of adults earned on average 27 times more than the bottom 50 percent adults; now, they earn 81 times more.

Workers at Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the nation's largest private employer, now earn an average of $13.38 an hour, while the average hourly pay for cashiers and low-level retail sales staff across the industry is $9.26, according to a Hay Group survey. But some groups say hourly employees across the board still don't make enough to live on. Their fight will face hurdles with President-elect Donald Trump's pick for labor secretary: fast-food CEO Andrew Puzder, who has been critical of minimum wage increases.

"It's a scary-looking administration," said Scott Courtney, executive vice president of the Service Employees International Union. But he said the "Fight for $15" campaign that began with retail and restaurant workers is not giving up. "You are going to see a lot more opposition and a lot more people taking part."

Besides the hourly wage, some workers say an issue is they can't get enough hours. The share of people working part-time because that's all they can get remains at recessionary low levels, according to research by Penn State professor and the University of Illinois' Project for Middle Class Renewal senior research analyst Lonnie Golden, published by the Economic Policy Institute. That level is nearly 45 percent higher than it was in 2008, fueled by a few industries like the retail sector.

Maria Coates, 20, of Elizabeth, New Jersey, works about 35 hours a week at a mall-based clothing store, but would like more hours to make more money.

"I wish I could shop for my mother, my grandmother and my sister," said Coates, who plans to spend $50 for the whole family. More than that, she'd like to be able to afford to study accounting. "What I really want is to go to school so I can get a better job."

After rent and rising health care costs, some workers find there's not much left. Allen says of the $1,260 per month he takes home, more than half goes toward rent. After food, Wi-Fi, phone and utilities, he has about $310 per month for any other needs. He doesn't have health insurance and recently paid $100 to fix an abscessed tooth — the equivalent of about ten hours of work.

"The real story for the economic pinch seems to be the rise in health insurance costs," said economist Michael P. Niemira, who examined 2015 data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and focused on the second-lowest income strata, which had an average pretax income of $28,343 — about $13.63 an hour for full-time work.

The story behind the beautiful way a mom told sons the truth about Santa

By Colby Itkowitz
Washington Post

Adam Rush's son was ready. So, the Texas father sat his 9-year-old down and he let him in on the secret of Santa Claus.

A jolly man didn't traverse the globe in one night leaving gifts, he explained. But not because Santa doesn't exist. There just isn't only one Santa, he told the boy, but there are Santas everywhere. And when someone is ready to become a Santa, they'll receive the message and be activated, like a soldier.

This year, he told his son, Tristan, he was ready to be a Santa.

If the story sounds familiar, it has been shared all over social media this season. It begins decades ago when Adam's mother — rather than killing the spirit of Christmas by revealing to her children that Santa wasn't real — told her boys it was their turn to be Santas. She wrote:

"In our family, we have a special way of transitioning the kids from receiving from Santa, to becoming a Santa. This way, the Santa construct is not a lie that gets discovered, but an unfolding series of good deeds and Christmas spirit. When they are 6 or 7, whenever you see that dawning suspicion that Santa may not be a material being, that means the child is ready."

She goes on to tell the story of her 7-year-old son; how she took him out for "coffee" and reminded him of ways that year he'd been empathetic or considerate of others' feelings. She told him that his "heart has grown so much that I think you are ready to become a Santa Claus."

That Christmas it was his job to identify something a person not their immediate family may need and then surreptitiously leave it for them. Her son picked the "witch lady" down the street, who yelled at the neighborhood kids when they were playing too loudly near her house. He noticed she always got her morning newspaper in her bare feet, so he told his mom he wanted to buy her slippers. They purchased a warm pair, wrapped them with a note, "Merry Christmas from Santa" and her son left them on her driveway. As the story goes, the next morning he watched as the elderly woman came out to get her paper in her new slippers.

The woman who shared that story is Leslie Rush, 57, a high school history teacher, in El Paso. She wrote it 10 years ago in response to an online forum query about how to handle when kids begin asking whether Santa is real. The little boy in her story is her son, Adam, who is now 32 years old, and this year passed along the gift of becoming Santa to his own son, Tristan.

It originated with her husband's mother, whose own grandfather turned her into a Santa during the Depression.

Rush can't say why her family's story suddenly went viral so many years later, but perhaps therein lies the magic of Christmas: Giving people what they need when they need it most. The idea that there are Santas living all around us feels especially comforting after this year.

"These days everything is so fast, I feel like it's a way to make personal connections that get lost in this digital age. You have to look into people's eyes and use your eyes instead of looking at a screen," Leslie Rush said in an interview. "Making that personal connection, you learn something more about someone ... It also teaches about doing for others without getting credit. You have to be thoughtful, put yourself outside of yourself."

Her decade-old post was rediscovered by a woman who shared it on her Facebook page and it was picked up by outlets like Upworthy, the Today Show and The Huffington Post. Even actor Ashton Kutcher shared it. But it wasn't until recently that a friend saw it going viral and remembered it as Rush's story. That's when Rush learned that likely millions of people all over the world were reading her words.

It's also quite a coincidence that this would happen on the same year her adult son had planned to pass the Santa secret on to his own child.

For Adam Rush, the attention has made him reflect on what his mother's gift to him, and later to his younger brother, meant to them. It instilled in them the power of giving. No matter how small the gesture, generosity can have a profound impact. It's a simple act that transcends politics and religion and race and nationality. It's about being human.

"I believe it to be in the spirit of St. Nicolas. I don't believe he had supernatural powers, but the message within his actions, it supersedes religion, it supersedes a lot of the separations we encounter," he said. "Putting that into action, something as simple as to take the time to do something for someone. They call it the spirit of St. Nick, and it is."

MESSAGE

From 6A

In the District of Columbia, by contrast — which is not just politically far more liberal than most of the country, but also more religiously diverse — retailers who know their clientele, just as Monroe and Wright know theirs, steer far clear of "Merry Christmas."

Call the 65 tents on F Street NW a "Christmas market," and the man in charge will quickly correct you.

"We're not a Christmas market. We're a holiday market," says Michael Berman, the Downtown Holiday Market's executive director. "Our focus is really handcrafts and small businesses, local businesses: a diversity of both products and what they celebrate."

Mina Karimi sells decorative wooden blocks at the market, with every imaginable message silk-screened and hand-painted onto them. For a significant other, someone might buy from Karimi and her two business partners a colorful wall-hanging that says: "I am really glad that you exist on this planet." Or, "You are actually the only person that doesn't annoy me."

But for all the dozens of sayings in her shop, there's nary a "Merry Christmas."

If there is a war over Christmas, Fay Hobbs Manthey's store in Alexandria's Old Town in Virginia seems a likely front.

The Christmas Attic sparkles, glows and hums to the tune of shelves of musical snow globes. Stockings hang, wreathes festoon, toy soldiers stand at attention. The whole room seems to unabashedly shout "Merry Christmas!"

But Hobbs Manthey sees herself not as a combatant in the war over Christmas, but as a peacemaker. "Merry Christmas," she thinks, doesn't have to be a term that excludes anybody.

"I think it's part of our American culture. People have always been saying 'Merry Christmas,'" she said. "This is more of a cultural tradition than a religious celebration."

In fact, no one has asked her in the 40-plus years since her parents opened a Christmas store, but — Hobbs Manthey isn't even Christian herself. She belongs to no church and considers herself a believer in "all religions."

She wants any American family, of any background, to feel that they can buy into Christmas.

This year, she sold ornaments featuring a same-sex couple. That would have been unimaginable a few years ago, she said.

The ornaments sold out.

Undocumented immigrants face deportation even for minor crimes

By Teresa Wiltz
Stateline.org

Last December, Mayra Machado was pulled over for a routine traffic stop in Arkansas. She had an unpaid ticket for failing to yield. And as a teenager, she'd spent four months in boot camp for writing bad checks. Now 31, the single mother of three, who is an undocumented immigrant, faces deportation to El Salvador, the battle-scarred country she fled when she was 5 years old.

Sylvester Owino, 40, said he survived torture in Kenya as a young activist and came to the U.S. on a student visa, which ran out. A 2003 robbery conviction in San Diego resulted in a nine-year stay in prison. Now, he is part of a U.S. Supreme Court case that will determine whether immigrant detainees have a right to a bond hearing.

The two situations illustrate the variety of crimes that can get immigrants detained and deported, even after they have served a jail or prison sentence for the crime — and even if they are in the country legally. And while the federal government says it targets noncitizens who are serious or repeat offenders, immigrants with minor offenses often are deported.

Immigrants with criminal records may soon come under increased scrutiny. Republican President-elect Donald Trump has pledged to immediately deport "the people that are criminal and have criminal records." There are, he said, "a lot of these people, probably 2 million, it could be even 3 million, we are getting them out of our country."

Immigration advocates say those numbers are inflated, and point to figures that indicate most immigrants are being deported for minor crimes or for no crimes at all.

First-generation immigrants commit crimes at much lower rates than do U.S. citizens. But for those who do commit crimes, it's hard to get a clear picture of whether they are serious or misdemeanors, violent or nonviolent.

Since 2014, the Department of Homeland Security has prioritized deporting noncitizens who pose a serious threat to public safety or national security — and from October 2014 through September 2015, of the 235,413 people who were deported, 59 percent had criminal convictions.

But federal data on criminal deportees does not specify the crimes they've committed — or how many of them are undocumented. Technically, if someone is undocumented and entered the country after January 2014, they are considered a high priority for criminal deportation, even if they have committed no other offense.

Further complicating matters: what constitutes a "criminal alien" is not defined in U.S. immigration law or regulations, and is used broadly, according to a September report by the Congressional Research Service. A criminal alien may be someone who is undocumented or an authorized immigrant who may be deportable, depending on the crime they have committed. He or she may be incarcerated or free, or have already served time.

"We see a ton of people deported for misdemeanors, probation violations, petty theft, shoplifting," said Alisa Wellek, executive director of the Immigrant Defense Project, a legal services group that advocates for immigrant rights in the criminal justice system.

"The federal government has these really overreaching laws on the books, laws that are very unforgiving for anyone who's had any contact with the criminal justice system — even if you've never served a day in jail."

Noncitizens convicted of an "aggravated felony" face particularly harsh penalties. Congress expanded the definition of the term since 1988 so that they can be deported for a crime that may be neither "aggravated" nor a "felony," according to Joshua Breisblatt, policy analyst for the American Immigration Council, a pro-immigration research group.

Thirty offenses qualify as aggravated felonies, including theft, failing to appear in court, or offenses that most states consider a misdemeanor or do not criminalize at all, such as consensual sex between a 21-year-old and a 17-year-old, the group said.

Any new offense Congress adds to the list is retroactive. So a noncitizen can become deportable even if he or she already served the sentence for the crime years before.

When she was 19, Machado pleaded guilty to three felony counts: forging a friend's name on a check, writing bad checks, and failing to appear in court.

Please see IMMIGRANTS/9A

Erik McGregor/Sipa USA/TNS

Thousands of New Yorkers rally to send a message to President-elect Trump and his administration on Dec. 18, International Migrants Day, to fight back against hate and anti-immigrant policies.

Who Wants To Party?

AND BY 'PARTY', WE MEAN HELP OUT! *Because that's how we party!*

During the fall semester of 2014, our UTPB organization started a project helping **our local homeless** by providing basic everyday necessities **to help** them get through the bitter cold winter months.

This past Sunday, December 18, 2016, plunged down to 19 degrees.
Brrrr

IMMIGRANTS

From 8A

Because of her criminal history, Machado is considered a "priority aggravated felon," according to a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) official.

Machado, who considers herself "totally Americanized," is in a detention facility in Louisiana. She is facing deportation any day now to El Salvador, a country where she said she knows no one and cannot read or write the language.

In 2014, President Barack Obama announced stepped-up deportation for "felons, not families." At the same time, the Department of Homeland Security announced that it would be prioritizing deporting noncitizens who posed a serious threat to public safety or national security.

Research by immigration think tanks indicates that serious crimes committed by noncitizens are rare. The Migration Policy Institute estimates that of the roughly 1.9 million noncitizens who are eligible for deportation based on their criminal history, about 820,000 are undocumented. Of those, 37 percent, or roughly 300,000, were convicted of a felony, which can range from murder to attempting to re-enter the country illegally, said Faye Hipsman, an MPI policy analyst.

Another 47 percent, or about 390,000, were convicted of a significant misdemeanor, such as drunken driving. But what constitutes a misdemeanor can vary greatly from state to state, and can be anything from shoplifting to minor drug possession, Hipsman said, and sometimes people with low-level traffic violations get caught up in the deportation pipeline.

But ICE says about 85 percent of people in detention facilities are there because they were considered "top priority" for removal — either they were a threat to public safety or national security, or they were attempting to cross the border illegally, or they were members of a criminal gang, or they had been convicted of a felony, or they were considered "aggravated felons."

Advocates for limiting immigration, such as Jessica Vaughan of the Center for Immigration Studies, urge the incoming Trump administration to get tougher and scrap the practice of ranking crimes to decide who should be deported.

The policy, she said, "exempted too many criminal aliens from deportation and allowed for exemptions based on family ties."

"All of that resulted in the release of tens of thousands of criminal aliens in the past few years," Vaughan said. "Many of these individuals went on to commit more crimes, sometimes with tragic results."

Many local law enforcement officials agree, although many of them ignore ICE requests to detain people without a court order for fear they could be found in violation of immigrants' civil rights.

The sheriff of Rockland County, Harold Eavenson, said he has seen more than his share of immigrants committing crimes, including a hit-and-run homicide committed by a man who'd been deported and then came back.

"There should be no doubt at all that anyone who has a criminal history in this country should be deported," said Eavenson, who is slated to become president of the National Sheriffs' Association in 2017.

"I've seen illegals who have been deported seven or eight times," he said. "The reason they keep coming back is they know there are no consequences."

One way to get a glimpse into the types of crimes immigrants have been convicted of is to look at so-called detainers. Detainers are requests by ICE to local, state and federal law enforcement to hold noncitizens for possible deportation.

Half of the 95,085 immigrants targeted by ICE for possible criminal deportation in fiscal 2015 did not have criminal convictions at all, according to an analysis of ICE data by the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse at Syracuse University. (TRAC has examined detainer requests issued between 2003 and 2015, which it obtained through the Freedom of Information Act.)

The rest had convictions for drunken driving (6.7 percent), assault (4 percent), drug trafficking (2.1 percent), burglary (1.8 percent), sale of marijuana (1.7 percent) and traffic offense (1.6 percent). Fewer still had convictions for illegal entry, larceny, sale of cocaine and domestic violence.

All the evidence shows that serious crimes committed by noncitizens are "extremely rare," said TRAC Director Susan Long.

"The issue is, what do you do when you can't find that many serious criminals?" she said. "We don't want murderers and rapists in our midst regardless of their citizenship, but you have to find them."

A detainer is the first step in a long process and does not always include complete details of a detainee's criminal history, according to ICE officials.

Black immigrants are particularly susceptible to getting caught in the prison-deportation pipeline, said Wellek of the Immigrant Defense Project.

According a 2016 report by the Black Alliance for Just Immigration, a research and advocacy group, more than one in five noncitizens facing deportation for criminal offenses is black. Black immigrants also are more likely than other immigrants to be deported because of a conviction.

Back home in Kenya, Owino was a track star, representing his country in international competitions. He was well-known — and he was outspoken about police corruption and human rights violations, he said, and that made him a target of police. After he was arrested and tortured twice, Owino said, he applied for a student visa and started attending college in San Diego in 1998.

But 18 months shy of graduation, he said, the combination of alcohol and gambling, plus the breakup of his marriage and "bad memories" from his life in Kenya sent him into a downward spiral. Owino dropped out of school and ended up living in the streets — and overstaying his visa. He said he was hungry and desperate when he decided to rob a beauty salon.

"I forced myself and demanded money," Owino said. "I was super drunk. Police caught me two blocks away."

No one was hurt, but because Owino brandished a penknife during the course of the robbery, he was sentenced to three years in state prison. After serving most of his term, Owino was transferred to a detention facility, where he waited for nine years to be adjudicated for deportation.

Last year, an immigration judge released him on $1,500 bond. His case, along with that of other immigrants who've been held in detention for long periods, is before the U.S. Supreme Court. Oral arguments were heard Nov. 30. At issue is whether it violates the Constitution to subject immigrants facing criminal deportation to long-term detention without bond hearings.

For now, Owino works at a farmers market in San Diego, selling Kenyan food as he waits to hear his fate. He is worried about what will happen to him if he's deported to Kenya. The police there, he said, have long memories. "They will kill me for sure."

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

Gina Ferazzi/Los Angeles Times/TNS

Bianca Salgado, left, and Leticia Zelaya are holding out hope that their granddaughter and niece Mayra Machado, 31, will get released from an immigration detention center in Louisiana where she's been held for about a year Nov. 20 in Santa Ana, Calif. Salgado raised Machado in Santa Ana after Machado arrived illegally at age 5

Where is God? Christmas offers an answer

■ Today reminds us of the possibility of transcendence breaking in on any common day. It is the unexpected humility of God

MICHAEL GERSON
Washington Post Writers Group

It is one of the common questions of eighth-grade theology (which is generally more insightful and useful than post-doctoral theology): If God really exists, why doesn't he just show himself in some dramatic, undeniable way?

In response, the author and minister Frederick Buechner proposes a thought experiment. What if God were to rearrange the stars in such a fashion that they spell out "GOD IS" in the sky, maybe to the accompaniment of soaring celestial music? For some time, Buechner speculates, the houses of worship would overflow, wars would stop, and there would be "a good many tears of regret."

And then one night, as Buechner tells it, a child with a wad of bubble gum in his cheek (speaking French in Buechner's version) turns to his father and says "So what if God exists? What difference does *that* make?" Then the message and music would fade, "or maybe they would continue for centuries to come," says Buechner, "but it would no longer make any difference."

Many of us, having seen the shining words at one point or another in our lives — knowing in our bones that we once knew, beyond all the doubts of philosophy, that GOD IS — have eventually turned away with a shrug. We continue with the normal, instinctual tendencies and occupations of homo sapiens, summarized by the "Four F's" — fighting, fleeing, feeding and ... mating. We worry about finances, politics and our health, living as though our tiny lives on a small planet near an average sun in a galaxy of a hundred billion stars among 100 billion galaxies really matter to anyone. And we see only futility and cruelty in the countless lives shortened by disease or disaster, or afflicted by poverty or conflict.

We have every reason and right to question where God can be found in a world that offers no certainty written in the sky.

Where is God in the oppression of whole peoples by cruel and corrupt dictators who care nothing for the lives of the innocent? Or among more than 60 million refugees torn from their homes and forced to live as resented strangers?

Where is God in the cruel stigmas we apply to one another when it comes to AIDS, or out-of-wedlock births, or other matters of sexuality?

Where is God in the normal, often boring, occasionally squalid, preoccupations of everyday life? In the temptations and ambitions that can lead us away from our true purpose? In the anxiety and depression that stalk our days?

Where is God in the death of a friend? In being doubted by a friend? In being betrayed by a friend?

Where is God in our march toward death, either slow or fast, but always onward? When optimism becomes delusion, and hope finally fails, and we are left feeling forsaken by a silent God?

Where is God in the lowly places, in the denial of lodging to a pregnant woman, in the smell of hay and manure, in the pain of childbirth, in the smack on the bottom of an infant who begins to breathe and cry?

"Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."

By any standard, this is an odd scenario for the entrance of divinity — to an occupied country, of disputed parentage, forced to flee as a refugee, living and working 30 years in silence, eventually betrayed by a friend, judicially tortured, and dying in utter abandonment. On a small planet, near an average star.

But this form of arrival does something important. It dusts off and reclaims every aspect of human experience and reorients our sense of low and high, weak and powerful. It is poverty given preference. It is the possibility of transcendence breaking in on any common day. It is the unexpected humility of God.

We cannot assume, of course, that this is real or true. But for countless millions who have accepted it, this story has divided B.C. and A.D. in their own lives. It has provided courage and comfort in the midst of the ordinary, the unjust and the unthinkable. It has given assurance that pain, while real, is not permanent. And it has kindled and sustained an unlikely hope — that love is somehow at the heart of all things.

OUR VIEW

We expect more from ticked-off community in 2017

Merry Christmas.

We hope this year was everything you expected, and that you and your family finished the year in better shape than when it started.

In some ways, this holiday season couldn't get here fast enough. This year, for many, was a struggle and certainly nothing like the previous years when a more vibrant economy was the rule.

Nonprofits have had to tighten their belts. Even in Midland, we saw a limit to the amount of donations available.

Many of our residents have limped through the year waiting for the price of oil to increase and hoping for higher wages in 2017. We hope the new year brings that type of a turnaround.

We know, based on the most recent election season, that people are mad at Washington and local government. They saw tax bills increase across the board, while their income remained stagnant or dropped. They sent a loud message to officials that as long as a downturn continues, don't come asking for more. They want swamps drained.

The holiday season gives us time to reflect. This year, it seemed like there were times when our community gave up and gave in to the downturn. We acted ticked off that life had dealt us the cruelest of hands, even when the numbers indicate that this downturn won't measure up to the one at the beginning of the decade, and really can't compare to busts of the previous century.

We aren't saying this because we want to guilt our readers and members of the community into paying more taxes or donating more money to local nonprofits. We want energy that is being spent on resentment and being ticked off to be used for helping to make Midland a better place. Stop your talking about what's wrong, and start acting on making our community a better place.

Christmas is the day when the believers praise God for the ultimate gift. And in places of worship across the city, Midlanders will praise him for the gift of Jesus. A strong faith, in our view, makes a community stronger.

We will take that one step further and challenge you to add "community" to those things you hold sacred -- namely faith and family. What in 2017 will you do to make Midland a better place? There is no right answer, just a hope that our readers will take this seriously.

We believe 2017 will be a better year. We also believe it will bring its own set of challenges. Will we as a community be ready to conquer those challenges? Will we believe that individually it is our responsibility to play a part?

Enjoy your holiday season, and be ready to play a part in a great 2017 for our community.

Merry Christmas.

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Baby, let's not ruin everything — especially a classic Christmas song

■ A standard Christmas song reminds us that some people don't know subtle

RICH LOWRY
King Features Syndicate

A Christmas standard since the 1940s, "Baby, It's Cold Outside" is an uncommonly catchy and witty song that is now — incredibly enough — controversial.

Anyone who has turned on the radio, walked in a shopping mall or watched a Christmas special is familiar with the tune, a duet featuring a smitten male suitor trying to convince a visiting female friend to stay with him a little while longer. Every time she sounds ready to go, he counters with an objection: It's cold. It's snowy. It's impossible to get a cab.

The appeal of the song is obvious; its offensiveness ... much less so. The indictment is that by pressing himself on his lady friend so insistently, the suitor has violated contemporary norms of consent. A cottage industry has sprung up denouncing the song as "creepy" and even as a "rape anthem." Two singer-songwriters recently reworked the song so it could pass muster, say, at the holiday party of the Oberlin College gender-studies department. The result is predictably leaden and humorless.

Despite all the effort, there is no reason to try to spoil "Baby, It's Cold Outside."

First, there are the circumstances of the song's composition, which don't speak to a predatory mindset. One of the great songwriters of the 20th century, Frank Loesser ("Guys and Dolls," "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying") wrote it to perform with his wife at a housewarming party for their new place in New York City in 1944. An instant hit, they sang it at private parties for years until Loesser, to his wife's chagrin, sold it to the studio MGM.

Then there are all the great female talents who have performed it in duets down to this day — Dinah Shore, Ella Fitzgerald, Doris Day, Velma Middleton, Dolly Parton, Norah Jones, Sheryl Crow — who presumably wouldn't want to lend moral support to harming women.

Finally, there is the song itself. It's not difficult to understand what is really happening. The lady guest never says she wants to go, and there is no hint of her being held against her will. What she says is that, "I really *can't* stay" and "I ought to say no, no, no, Sir (emphasis added)."

All of her reasons for going have to do with what other people will think — this being a long-ago time when a young woman wasn't supposed to be alone with a man. Mother will worry, father will pace, the neighbors will talk, sister will be suspicious and "my maiden aunt's mind is vicious." But for all her objections, the female guest allows that she'll stay for "maybe just half a drink more."

Of course, neither the boy nor the girl is being completely forthright, which lends the song its playful charm. The male host is coming up with excuses for why she can't go (*It's practically a polar vortex out there! Just imagine the Uber surge pricing!*), because he desperately wants her to stay; and she is coming up with reasons why she has to go, even though she wants to linger.

Those horrified by the song perversely wonder if when the lady guest asks, "Say, what's in this drink?" she is being drugged. Pop-culture mavens explain that this line often shows up in movies of the time as a sly way for characters to blame a drink — even if there is no alcohol in it — for something they don't themselves want to own up to.

In our culture that puts such a premium on the literal and explicit, it's no wonder that some people can't handle anything subtle and implicit.

The informal, socially enforced guardrails around the interactions of men and women that were the backdrop to "Baby, It's Cold Outside" are gone forever. But any era understands yearning and flirtatiousness. The enduring popularity of Frank Loesser's winsome handiwork is a testament to how, even at a time when killjoys will try to ruin anything, romance never goes out of style.

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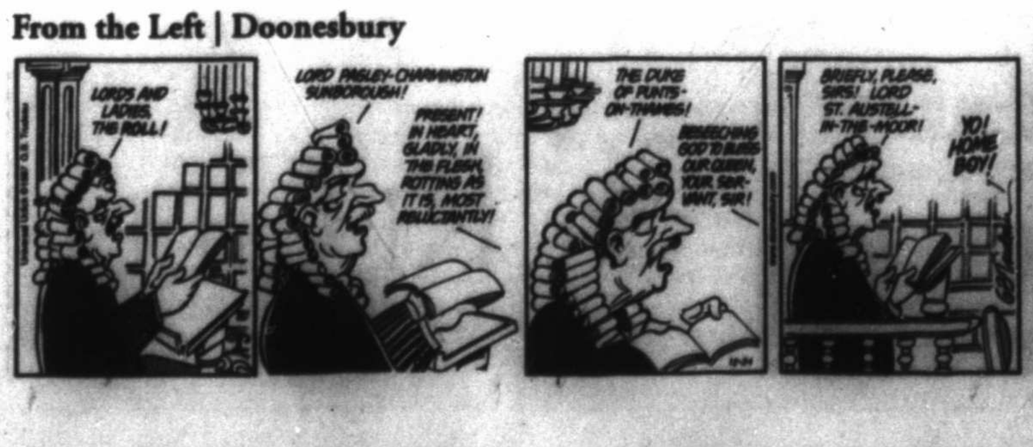
From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore

Silent night welcome amid this long hospital madness

JACQUIELYNN FLOYD
Dallas Morning News

It's Christmas, right? I remember now.

No tree for us this year, no presents, no decorations, no festive shindig. I have been oddly removed from those mainstream preoccupations.

They're like a distant shore viewed through binoculars. Since the morning, just over a month ago, when my husband mentioned an annoying pain in his gut, I have been sealed away in a private emotional bubble.

My husband — who lapsed into life-threatening septic shock after his appendix ruptured — has fought his way back, enduring a half-dozen surgeries, plus innumerable tests, complications, detours and the unavoidable indignities of hospital existence. He has been admirably courageous.

I have not. Fear and uncertainty seem to have disabled the apparatus in my noggin that rides herd on emotions and observes social proprieties. Here inside the bubble, I am a holiday fruitcake in human form.

A friend and colleague stopped by to visit last week, but found me alone in the hospital room. Mike, I explained, had been taken downstairs for a test — and then I collapsed in a fit of fevered hysteria.

He listened calmly, and then we had a long and entertaining talk about the history of American rock music.

Later, a doctor — a young resident — stopped by to deliver good news about the test. The unrestrained rocket of emotion fired again, this time blasting me into the stratosphere: "If I knew you, I'd kiss you!" I cried exuberantly. The resident made a hasty retreat.

My sister called to offer comfort, and I ended up raging uncharitably against well-meaning people who urge me to "be strong."

"I don't want to be strong!" I howled. "When can I quit being strong? It's somebody else's turn to be strong! Let them do it!"

I am embarrassed by these bipolar displays, but at a loss to control them. People keep saying, "You have to take care of you."

This, I suppose, entails not dissolving into tears because I can't find my car in the hospital parking garage; not firing off crazy text bulletins to people in the middle of the night; not drinking a shot of tequila out of a jelly glass and calling it supper — all behaviors I have modeled in recent weeks.

The staff here at Clements University Hospital in Dallas have been astoundingly patient, putting up with my hysteria while they worked — in quite literal terms — to save my husband's life. I have not been selective: I have broken down on nurses, on doctors, on a kind administrator, on a sweet medical student — not to mention on my own family and friends.

"It's a roller coaster," they solemnly assure me.

That's the common metaphor, anyway. But roller coasters are a fun ride, a thrill ride. This is just a lunatic ride, like a car spinning out of control or a rabbit being carried in a coyote's jaws. I have been wearing people out. I have been wearing myself out.

It all adds up to shouting into the abyss: "Why us? Why me?"

And of course, the impersonal answering voice replies: Why not you? Why has a dear colleague just been diagnosed with brain cancer? Why are friends enduring the misery of chemotherapy? Better people than you are suffering more.

But to shout "Why me?" is to be human, as are love and suffering and fear and sometimes encroaching on each other's nerves. Life in the hospital exposes our human messiness — our vulnerable bodies, our fragile emotions.

At this moment, I don't know where we'll spend Christmas Day: At Clements, at home or in a rehab facility. It doesn't really matter because we have each other. We know we have our family, our friends, our co-workers.

What Christmas has often meant to me is a moment of peace in our noisy, scary, excitable lives. It's the one day out of the year as quiet as falling snow, as comforting as a warm blanket.

That calm is a gift in itself. A little quiet in the bubble is all the Christmas I need.

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KAREN FINGERMAN
Dallas Morning News

Holiday greetings still matter in our disconnected digital age

In 1999, I published a study regarding older and younger adults' reactions to holiday cards. In the olden days, at the end of the 20th century, people used to send one another greetings in December, in cards that read, "Merry Christmas!" or "Happy Holidays," or even "Season's Greetings."

We would purchase these cards at a store because we didn't have Amazon, and we would hand-write a personal note to each individual on our list, risking writer's cramp and paper cuts. Then, we would put a stamp on each envelope and walk uphill through the snow to mail the card to our friends and relatives. (Seriously, I lived in Pennsylvania and the mailbox was at the top of the hill.)

People sent cards to friends they hadn't seen in years or to relatives they dreaded visiting. It seemed the older generation, in particular, enjoyed the holiday cards. This old-fashioned social behavior raised two research questions:

1. What did people get out of receiving these cards?

2. Did people of different ages react the same way to those cards?

A graduate student and I set out to answer these questions by asking people of different ages to complete a general questionnaire regarding their health, well-being and beliefs about family and holiday cards. We also asked them to complete a survey for each card they received and to provide the card or a photocopy of the card. We coded the content of the cards (and the notes in the cards) for whether the content was emotional and meaningful, referred to a shared past, seemed like an effort to maintain or build the relationship or was simply a holiday greeting.

As we expected, older people were more likely to find the notes they received meaningful or to view the holiday card as a tie to a personal past: "I was moved that she thought to write me," or "I always feel happy when I hear from him, we have known each other for decades."

Young people were slightly more likely to want to build a relationship with the person who wrote to them. But there was also a difference in the types of cards and notes that older and younger people received. Friends and relatives sent warm, sentimental notes to older adults, but pictures of reindeer drinking cappuccino to younger adults.

In fact, older adults felt more socially embedded; that is, more connected to other people, based on the number of cards they received. Older adults benefited from receiving cards at the holiday season, even if they didn't see those friends or relatives throughout the year.

Of course, that was almost 20 years ago. So what are the implications for holiday cards in the modern world?

Simply put, reaching out to people still matters.

We can't say whether a listserv email or a generic photocopied letter can lift spirits the way that handwritten notes did in the 20th century. But people still like connections to friends and family — particularly at a hectic time like the holiday season. So reach out via Twitter, Instagram, text, emoji or email.

Personally, I'm old school: I still let people know that I remember them, that they have meaning in my life, and that we retain a connection over time and place the way I always have.

I've gotten lazier and photocopy my holiday letter — but I sign each card, put stamps on envelopes and march uphill to the mailbox.

Karen Fingerman is a professor of human development and family sciences at the University of Texas at Austin. She wrote this for the Dallas Morning News.

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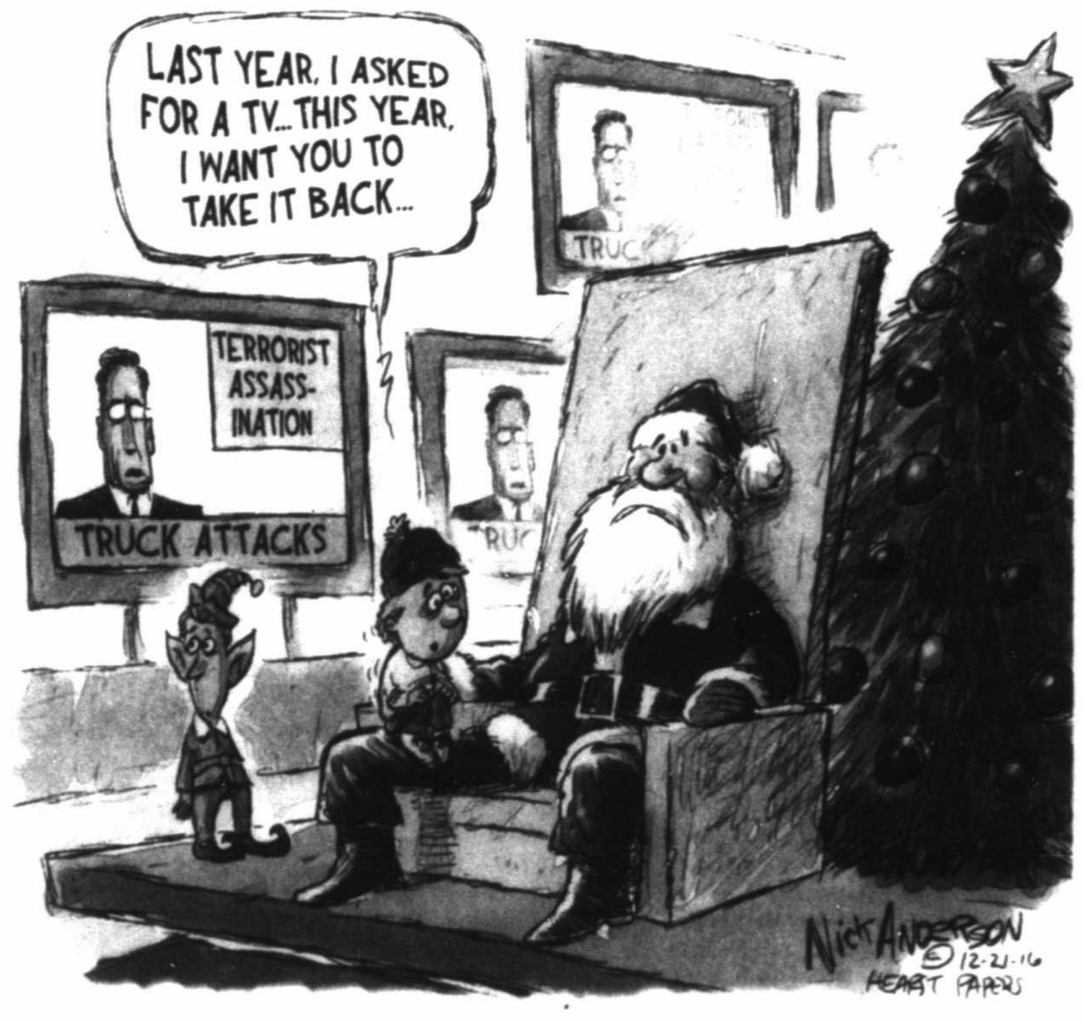

Two words to come to mind on this festive day

KATHLEEN PARKER
Washington Post Writers Group

CAMDEN, S.C. —

When my wickedly witty father wanted to insult someone, he'd say, "I have two words for you — and they're not "Merry Christmas."

At least this is what he *thought* he might say because I don't think he ever insulted anyone. Even in private, he spoke only favorably of others, which impressed me as a young girl. I liked that he expressed admiration for others' better qualities — their intelligence, humor, honor, dignity, generosity, grace, erudition, and other attributes of the sort.

His wit — usually deadpan and dry — wasn't for sissies, to borrow from his vernacular. His touch was light but his cut deep and true. My older brother and I became expert at the parry and the three of us spent many a night, often around Christmastime, galloping through gales of laughter and reveling in the rapport that attaches to those who've gazed upon the landscape of humankind's collective consciousness and reached the same wordless conclusion.

Popsie, as I called our father, would simply smile, point to the heavens and lift his brow. Translation: It's a joke.

Meaning, God's playing one on us. While we humans hustle to and fro making plans and promises, vexing over life's tribulations, most of which we create for ourselves, God wanders the clouds plucking raindrops for his soup, waiting.

One day, the creator of infinity must imagine that his most-dubious progeny eventually will recognize that meaning won't be found in wars or profits, in sporting victories or headboard notches, or among the other trophies, trinkets and totems we collect to deflect the possibility that we are only nothings after all.

Religion, mostly, has filled the void of unknowing. If one looks closely, one sees the rituals, symbols, icons as the motions of a people ordering their anxieties much as obsessive compulsive people do. Nothing wrong with that. The mind — or at least my mind — can only get so far before it hits the void of the inconceivable and, therefore, the unknowable. You can either take a pill and hire a shrink or accept on faith that there's something more. As a disciple of preparedness, I do both.

Because I was raised a Christian, Christmas is what I do.

If Jesus wasn't precisely the literal Son of God — I'm very comfortable with metaphor, parables, symbolism and, frankly, not knowing — then he was certainly God incarnate in that he embodied the eternal truths that make life bearable.

His essential message was so simple: Love. Love thy neighbor as thyself.

It would take a lifetime to list all the sonnets and songs written to love, an idea and ideal so compelling that the ancient Greeks had at least four words for the different kinds of love — "agape" (unconditional love between man and God, parents and children); "eros" (romantic or sexual love, encompassing physical attraction); "philia" (love between friends, based on common values and interests); and, finally, "storge" (rooted in fondness or familiarity, as well as acceptance, as in tolerating the king or tyrant). I had the same thought: Republicans have overdosed on "storge."

Plato argued that eros can be understood as seeking spiritual truth. We love Plato. What he meant was that in connecting with another through desire, we recall beauty. Essentially, he was talking about transcendence, another path to which is surely laughter. Maybe it's because laughing is a complete mind-body meld or because to laugh is to surrender.

When was the last time you laughed so hard you couldn't stop? I'll bet you're smiling now as you think of it. As to Plato's suggestion, confess sinners: When do you feel closest to God? In prayer, of course. That's what I meant.

It's funny, but I only realized as I've been writing that what made those kitchen nights so special, in addition to excellent wine, was love. We three became transcendent together, our souls connected through laughter, yes, but something else, too. I'm not sure what to name it, but we had agape and philia wrapped up with a bow.

Those times are long gone, the moments past, never to be repeated. My father has been gone 20 years now. My brother lives alone on a boat, far from the buzz of yuletide. Ever the anchor, I've been feverishly decorating my house so that when a certain 3-year-old arrives, she will feel love and joy.

To all of you reading, I have two words and it's no joke. Merry Christmas. And may your new year be filled with laughter.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Road prep needs work

It's that time of year again. The roads will be icy, it'll snow all night or day, etc. The city won't treat and prep the roads before it gets that bad ... or maybe so after it's already gone and too late.

Daniel Petrusaitis

Shoppers need to know the truth

It was unforgettably heartwarming to see the article you ran on the front page of Tuesday's Reporter-Telegram about what to look for when buying a Rolex watch. I was the recipient of one from one of the companies I retired from. The giver was not sure how to tell the real deal from a phony, so I wound up with a paper watch cut out from a Rolex magazine ad and wrapped around a Styrofoam cup.

That was eight years ago and I still have the watch and have not had to get it serviced yet. (It is embarrassing a little when someone wants to know the time and I have to pull out my smartphone and Bubba flashes his Rolex.) Hopefully your story will encourage Rolex shoppers to make sure they get the real deal and will be as surprised as I was.

Sammie L. Hodges

Road priorities go beyond Loop 250

While I agree with the need for the completion of Loop 250 in general, I disagree in the prioritization. We have greater needs beginning with the Loop 250/191 interchange. We need a connector road built from eastbound 191 to North Loop 250. And a connector road from South Loop 250 to westbound 191. This area is a traffic nightmare made worse by the growth of businesses in the area. Additionally the Loop 250 Interstate 20 interchange needs the same connectors built.

Instead, we will spend millions on the Fairgrounds Road interchange. We are looking at extending Loop 250 which will come with some issues as well. Namely more truck traffic and more vehicles which will enter the Loop 250/191 quagmire. The other consideration to traffic planning is the reversal of on ramps and off ramps on the existing Loop. The collisions that occur at the ignored yield signs is a greater issue than accidents in rural Midland County on the Loop.

Some other projects that are not fulfilled yet and require prioritization are, Deauville Boulevard extension. Wadley Avenue extension to Highway 158. Mockingbird Road extension to Holiday Hill Road to Highway 349. Loop 250 connection to County Road 120 in Southwest Midland.

Vision and planning for future growth is good for Midland. But not without taking care of our immediate needs first. Solve the current traffic quagmire before creating new ones.

James Gerety

Letters policy

There is a 350-word limit; candidate letters have a 200-word limit.

Letters must be submitted to letters@mrt.com.

Deadline is noon Thursdays for the following Sunday.

Reporter-Telegram policy limits individuals to one letter in a 30-day period.

Letter-writers should include phone number and address. Failure to do so could delay letter's publication.

■ COMMENTARY

If you're so intelligent, why aren't you rich?

By Faye Flam
Bloomberg

How much is a child's future success determined by innate intelligence? Economist James Heckman says it's not what people think. He likes to ask educated non-scientists — especially politicians and policymakers — how much of the difference between people's incomes can be tied to IQ. Most guess around 25 percent, even 50 percent, he says. But the data suggest a much smaller influence: about 1 or 2 percent.

So if IQ is only a minor factor in success, what is it that separates the low earners from the high ones? Or, as the saying goes: If you're so smart, why aren't you rich?

Science doesn't have a definitive answer, although luck certainly plays a role. But another key factor is personality, according to a paper Heckman co-authored in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences last month. He found financial success was correlated with conscientiousness, a personality trait marked by diligence, perseverance and self-discipline.

To reach that conclusion, he and colleagues examined four different data sets, which, between them, included IQ scores, standardized test results, grades and personality assessments for thousands of people in the U.K., the U.S. and the Netherlands. Some of the data sets followed people over decades, tracking not just income but criminal records, body mass index and self-reported life satisfaction.

The study found that grades and achievement-test results were markedly better predictors of adult success than raw IQ scores. That might seem surprising — after all, don't they all measure the same thing? Not quite. Grades reflect not just intelligence but also what Heckman calls "non-cognitive skills," such as perseverance, good study habits and the ability to collaborate — in other words, conscientiousness. To a lesser extent, the same is true of test scores. Personality counts.

Heckman, who shared a Nobel Prize in 2000 and is founder of the University of Chicago's Center for the Economics of Human Development, believes success hinges not just on innate ability but on skills that can be taught. His own research suggests childhood interventions can be helpful, and that conscientiousness is more malleable than IQ. Openness — a broad trait that includes curiosity — is also connected to test scores and grades.

IQ still matters, of course. Someone with an IQ of 70 isn't going to be able to do things that are easy for a person with an IQ of 190. But Heckman says many people fail to break into the job market because they lack skills that aren't measured on intelligence tests. They don't understand how to behave with courtesy in job interviews. They may show up late or fail to dress properly. Or on the job, they make it obvious they'll do no more than the minimum, if that.

John Eric Humphries, a co-author of the paper, says he hoped their work could help clarify the complicated, often misunderstood notion of ability. Even IQ tests, which were designed to assess innate problem-solving capabilities, appear to measure more than just smarts. In a 2011 study, University of Pennsylvania psychologist Angela Duckworth found that IQ scores also reflected test-takers' motivation and effort. Diligent, motivated kids will work harder to answer tough questions than equally intelligent but lazier ones.

Please see FLAM/13A

Does Obama feel any shame at all?

By Abdulfattah Alkhaled
Los Angeles Times

■ COMMENTARY

The United States representative to the United Nations, Samantha Power, gave an impassioned speech last week asking Russian and Syrian representatives whether they felt "any shame at all" for their actions in Aleppo, and whether there is "no execution of a child that gets under (their) skin?" For Syrians, these statements were infuriating. Americans should be asked the same questions. You, too, have blood on your hands.

Over the last few years, you have deceived us with your empty promises. From the first day of the 2011 revolution to the most recent breakdown of a life-saving evacuation effort, the killing of Syrians has been met with consistent U.S. inaction, or worse: American acquiescence to Russian aggression. While the Bashar Assad and Russian governments are responsible for the vast majority of Syrian bloodshed, by no means should you feel entitled to lecture the world based on your supposed "moral superiority." You have let us down again and again.

After Rwanda and then after Srebrenica, you said, "Never again." After Gaza you said nothing at all. Today, you can no longer rest on your hollow rhetoric celebrating freedom and equality. Today, as Syrians watching you glibly condemn a catastrophe that is partly of your own making, we ask whether you feel any shame at all for your inaction.

President Barack Obama, you declared that if President Assad used chemical weapons against his enemies, he'd be crossing a "red line." You watched him cross it. Aren't you ashamed? Ashamed that your concern and care for the Syrian people evaporated at the first sign of difficulty and complication? Are you not embarrassed that "strategic overseas interests" trumped your willingness to take any and all steps necessary to stop the wanton deaths of hundreds of thousands?

Do you and your spokespeople at the U.N. and beyond look in the mirror and think, "We encouraged the Syrian people to rise up, and then watched impassively as they were slaughtered for it"? Do you not feel cowardly for refusing to engage and confront Russian aggression beyond shallow public condemnations?

And President-elect Donald Trump, have you no shame in your public affirmation of Russia as the

Please see ALKHALED/13A

AP file photo

A Syrian man carries his sister who was wounded after a government airstrike hit the neighborhood of Ansari, in Aleppo, Syria, on Feb. 3, 2013.

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We will be closed on Christmas Day so that our team members may spend it with their families

In realist foreign policy, Obama found limits

By Bradley Klapper

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's foreign policy legacy may be defined as much by what he didn't do as by what he did.

Over eight years, Obama ushered in a new era of diplomacy, re-establishing the United States as the driving force behind fighting climate change and reducing the threat of nuclear weapons. He restored unity between the U.S. and its allies after the divisive tenure of President George W. Bush and avoided adding another large-scale U.S. military commitment overseas.

But Obama also ran headlong into his limitations as the world's chief diplomat. His cautious and pragmatic approach to world affairs ultimately couldn't deliver on the founding promise of his presidency: ending wars.

He will leave office in January having failed to end the conflicts he inherited in Iraq and Afghanistan, settling instead for greatly reducing U.S. involvement in each. And he will pass on the woes of a raging civil war in Syria that he has been helpless to stop.

Historians will grapple with whether Obama's forward-looking diplomatic achievements, like the Iran nuclear deal and rapprochement with Cuba, will outweigh his failings.

Their calculus will depend heavily on how far Donald Trump goes to unwind these efforts. If the president-elect makes good on promises to unravel Obama's climate change, trade and nuclear agreements, he will leave Obama's legacy defined not by his ambition but by his restraint, for better or worse.

"The United States is stronger now than it was eight years ago," said David Milne, historian of U.S. foreign policy at Britain's University of East Anglia. He described Obama as a "retrenchment president" akin to Dwight Eisenhower. Obama is a president who will be "perhaps best remembered for the paths not taken," he said.

In his first speech as president, Obama told America's foes he would "extend a hand if you are willing to unclench your fist." He largely made good on that offer.

Obama's outreach yielded historic diplomatic breakthroughs, but not without levels of compromise that brought howls of protest from his Republican critics.

The U.S. rapidly removed years of painstakingly constructed oil, trade, and economic sanctions on Iran in return for stringent new constraints on its nuclear program. But the threat of Iranian atomic weapons isn't gone for good. Many of the restrictions on Iran start expiring next decade, which will permit Tehran to edge toward weapons capacity again.

In Cuba, restoring diplomatic relations with the tiny island led to greater economic ties and a new U.S. embassy. The developments haven't yet been accompanied by democratic reforms or human rights improvements from the communist government. Trump has spoken vaguely about demanding more from Havana, without promising a reversal.

The U.S. has embraced a new relationship with Myanmar, with Obama visiting the country twice, despite the military maintaining significant political influence in the country and ongoing abuses against minority Muslims. If anything, abuses have intensified since Obama lifted the last U.S. sanctions on Myanmar.

And last year's global climate change pact commits the world to reducing the greenhouse gas emissions blamed for rising temperatures and sea levels, worsening droughts and heat waves. China can keep expanding its emissions until 2030.

As Obama's approach cleared new diplomatic paths, it sometimes led to dead ends.

The Obama administration was caught off guard when the Arab Spring erupted in 2011. Its response veered sharply from promising cooperation with imperfect allies to championing protesters seeking new leaders. After a military coup in Egypt and a Shiite rebellion in Yemen, the U.S. returned to many of the same regional powers and entrenched national elites it had abandoned.

When Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean peninsula in 2014, then supported an insurgency in eastern Ukraine, Obama responded with sanctions. They've had little effect on Moscow's strategic thinking, and Russia hasn't retreated.

After Washington accused Beijing of a territorial grab in the South China Sea, all Obama could do was object.

But nowhere has Obama's foreign policy proved more ineffective and his resistance to military intervention more contentious than with Syria's civil war. President Bashar Assad's government and his Russian and Iranian sponsors have made a mockery of Obama's declarations that Assad's "days are numbered," while Obama has endlessly recycled failed diplomatic tactics.

Even his proliferation record was undermined in Syria.

Obama declared the use of chemical weapons in the conflict a "red line" and Assad used them anyhow. Obama then backed down from his threat to respond with force, opting instead for a Russian-supported plan to remove much of Assad's declared chemical stockpiles. Since then, the U.S. says Syria's military has used other chemical agents instead. And the war only escalated.

Russia's military intervention on Assad's behalf led to a brief Obama effort to isolate Moscow. He quickly reversed course, turning to Moscow to stop the war diplomatically. That didn't work, either, as a string of cease-fires collapsed.

Obama has argued that the only other option was unacceptable.

"Unless we were all-in and willing to take over Syria, we were going to have problems," he told reporters at his year-end press conference. "And everything else was tempting because we wanted to do something and it sounded like the right thing to do. But it was going to be impossible to do this on the cheap."

The death toll has reached as many as a half-million people.

Obama's critics have called him feckless and weak. They've lampooned his talk about hitting "singles and doubles" in foreign policy, rather than swinging for the fences.

The president and his aides called his approach: "Don't do stupid stuff," often using a more profane term.

Both analyses reflect Obama's essential caution and pragmatism about one nation's ability to shape global events, prevent violence and expand freedom and stability.

This realism, as Obama termed it, was behind many of his earliest foreign policy decisions: resetting ties with Russia, leading to a new nuclear arms control treaty; offering a new beginning with Arab monarchs and despots threatened by the younger Bush's freedom agenda; "pivoting" from the unstable Middle East to rapidly growing Asia; emphasizing multilateral coalitions, as evidenced by the NATO-led bombing campaign against Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi.

The White House long believed this Obama doctrine would be propelled by the power of his personal story. The son of a father from Kenya and mother from Kansas, who spent part of his childhood in Indonesia, Obama at times presented himself as a model for a new, more connected world and a generation less inclined to see U.S. military intervention as a solution.

"He thought that his personal charms, whatever they are, could do away with the adversarial relations that the United States had with Russia, China, Iran and so on," said Michael Mandelbaum, foreign policy director at John Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies. "Presidents always overrate their own personal efficacy."

Flam

From 12A

Teaching personality or character traits in school wouldn't be easy. For one thing, it's not always clear whether more of a trait is always better. The higher the better for IQ, and perhaps for conscientiousness as well. But personality researchers have suggested the middle ground is best for other traits — you don't want to be so introverted that you can't speak up, or so extroverted that you can't shut up and listen.

What does any of this have to do with economics? "Our ultimate goal is to improve human well-being," Heckman says, and a major determinant of well-being comes down to skills.

A newer study published this month in the journal Nature Human Behaviour focused on the flip side of success: hardship. After following some 1,000 New Zealanders for more than 30 years, researchers concluded that tests of language, behavioral skills and cognitive abilities taken when children were just three years old could predict who was most likely to need welfare, commit crimes, or become chronically ill.

The lead author of that paper, Duke University psychologist Terrie Moffitt, says she hopes the results would foster compassion and help, not stigma. Her results also suggested that helping people improve certain kinds of skills before they're out of diapers would benefit everyone.

Alkhaled

From 12A

United States' strategic partner in Syria? The same Russia that has joined the Assad government in massacring the Syrian people. Are you not uncomfortable with stating publicly that the Syrian government is fighting Islamic State despite the evidence suggesting that Assad has actually facilitated the expansion and survival of the extremist group?

President Obama and President-elect Trump, your silence is deafening.

You have set a dangerous global precedent. And you should be ashamed.

Now it is our turn to lecture you. Next time you trumpet the American commitment to human rights, remember how far you have fallen. In the early days you claimed to support our protests as legitimate expressions of the desire for change. But you supported us only with words, not actions, and now activists in Aleppo are sending their final goodbyes before they're executed, forcibly displaced, raped, tortured, or killed in an airstrike.

The fall of Aleppo is only the beginning. Russia and the Assad government have a far more ambitious end goal: complete military victory at any cost. The atrocities committed in Aleppo this week will undoubtedly be followed by similar cleansings in other areas.

In the past, I might have closed by making specific demands for U.S. action and leadership. But now I know better. All I can do is loudly proclaim that Syrians are no longer blind to the emptiness and cruelty of U.S. foreign policy.

This is your legacy, Obama, one that Trump seems happy to continue. Is there nothing that can shame you? Are there no acts of barbarism against civilians, no execution of a child that gets under your skin?

Abdulfattah Alkhaled is a manager at Kesh Malek, a Syrian advocacy group, and a board member of Shaml, a coalition of Syrian civil society organizations. This was written for the Los Angeles Times.

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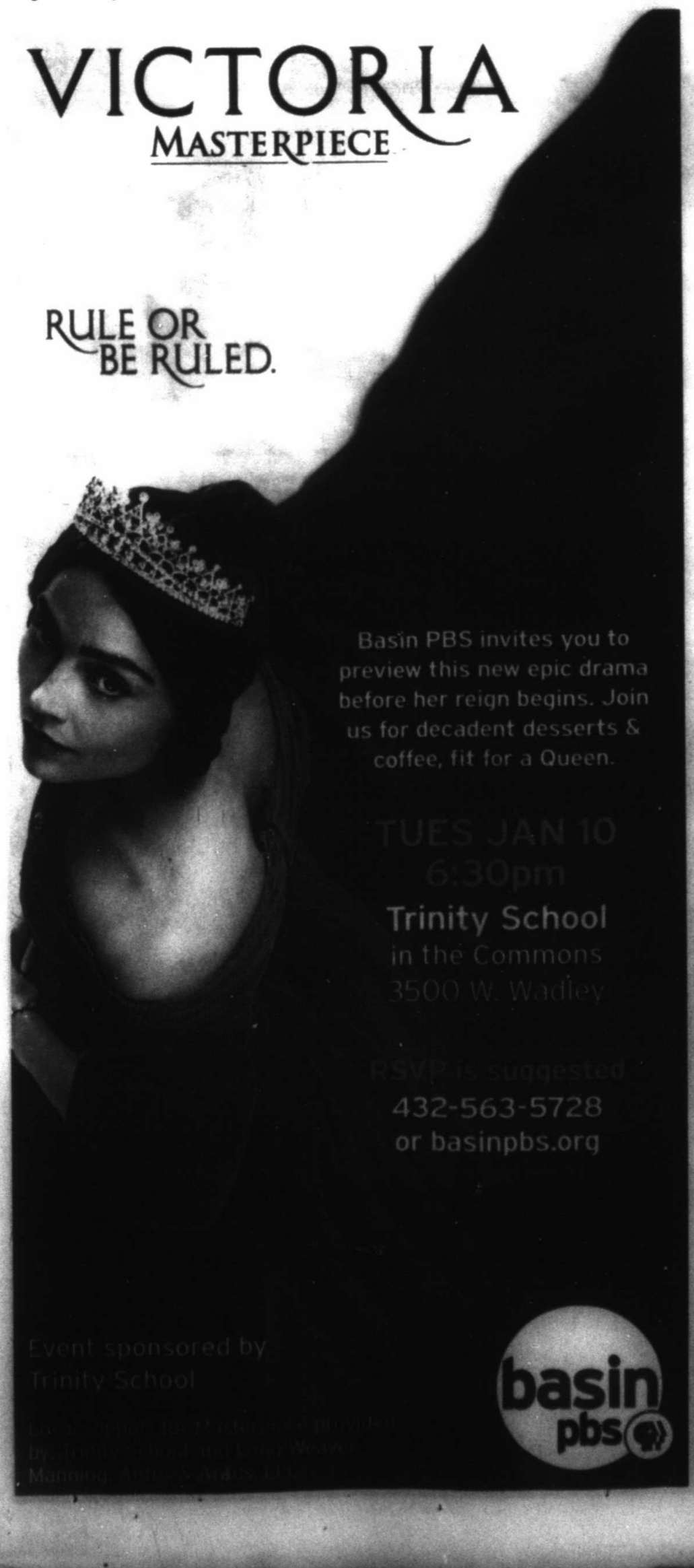

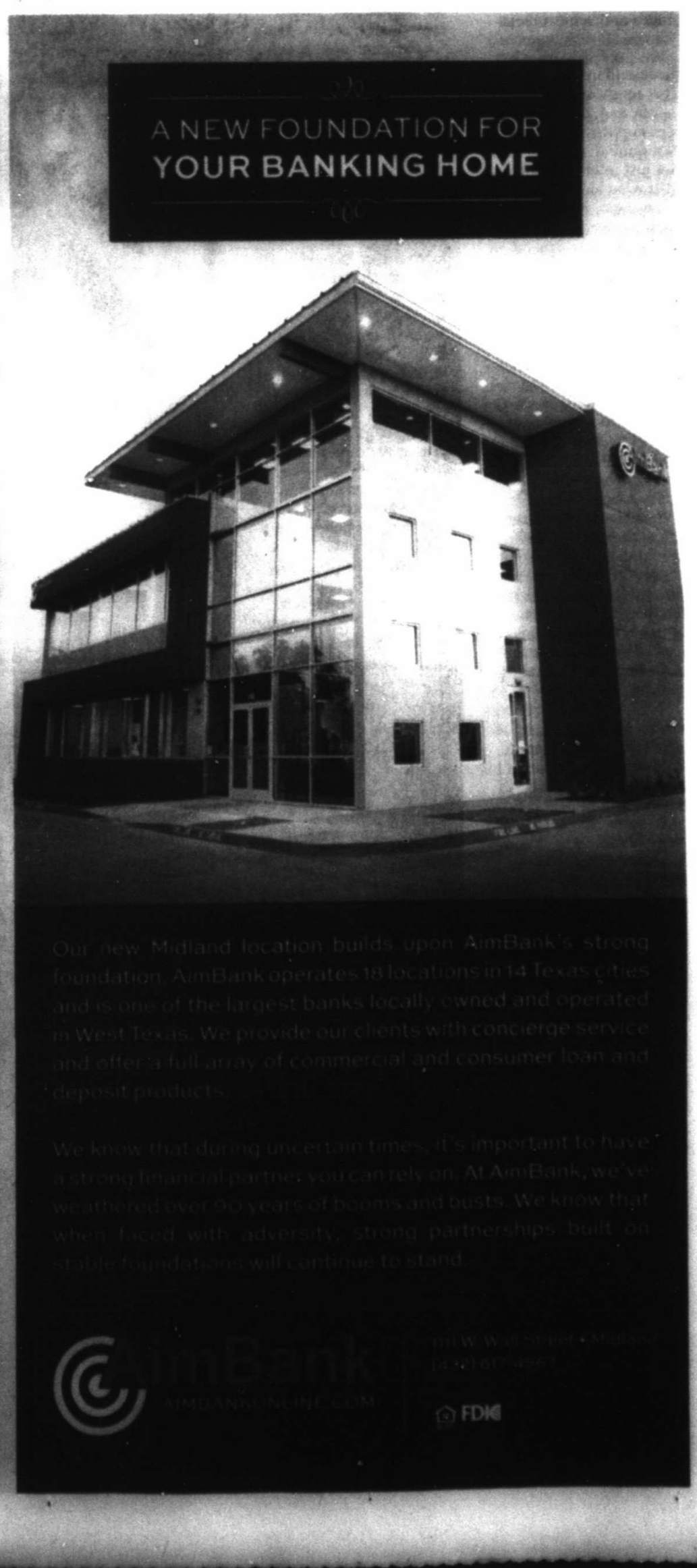

How Trump could accidentally fuel a global trade boom

By Sid Verma
Bloomberg

Far from jolting the U.S. into a protectionist lurch, might President-elect Donald Trump unwittingly help buoy global trade next year?

Here's one scenario to mull over: A strong dollar and a tight U.S. labor market, combined with Trump's proposed fiscal plans, may fuel a rise in net U.S. imports in 2017, a boon for commodity exporters and goods manufacturers such as China — in defiance of the Republican's protectionist vows on the campaign trail.

That's the view advanced by Gabriel Stein, a developed-market analyst at Roubini Global Economics LLC. He reckons the stars are aligning for a broad-based pickup in investment activity that will see a rise in America's current-account deficit next year, as all three domestic players — the public sector, households, corporations — draw down on their savings.

"The policies of the Trump administration are likely to lead to a strong dollar and a widening U.S. current account deficit," Stein notes in a report last week. "Some — exporters to the U.S. (Canada, the Eurozone, China, Korea), oil and commodity exporters — will benefit to a greater or lesser degree."

Stein draws this perspective from what's known as sectoral financial balances. Put simply, national current accounts reflect the interaction between savings and investment; the amount saved in an economy equals the amount invested, as a matter of accounting. If corporate America invests, for example, and neither the household nor the public sectors increase their savings by a corresponding level, the current account balance must, by definition, fall to negative territory, mirroring a rise in net inflows of savings from abroad.

This view — that the government influences the savings and investment balances of households, businesses, and foreign trading partners — took center stage in trade-deficit economies during the austerity debate that followed the 2008 financial crisis. Proponents argued that the private sector's desire to increase their net saving ratios necessitated corresponding budget deficits to offset the former's savings impulse — thereby effectively solving the paradox of thrift.

Fast-forward to 2017: There's a new question for economists. How would an increase in the U.S. budget deficit affect the American private sector's savings impulse, and how would this influence global aggregate demand?

"Expanding the government deficit should fund higher net financial balances in the non-government sector, private and foreign," says Naufal Sanaullah, trader and founder of the website MacroBeat. "If Trump implements no material trade barriers, then part of the higher government deficits can flow to higher foreign net financial balances — equivalently, a larger U.S. current account deficit — while the rest pads private-sector balance sheets."

Stein foresees an uptick in U.S. import demand next year driven by the bullish outlook on the public and private-sector investment cycle.

He sees the corporate sector's financial surplus, at 1.9 percent of GDP in the third quarter, narrowing next year, buoyed by fiscal stimulus and tax reform plans. Meanwhile, households are also likely to run down their balances, at 0.7 percent of GDP, driven by higher growth expectations and greater borrowing to lock in low interest rates, according to the Roubini Global Economics analyst, who first dove into the issue in a report last month.

With all three domestic sectors therefore likely to reduce their savings in 2017, the U.S. current account deficit will widen, Stein concludes.

Even without a fiscal shift, there's an argument U.S. economic activity may boost external aggregate demand next year. "We have a strong labor market and we have a resilient economy," Janet Yellen, Federal Reserve chair, stated after this month's decision to hike interest rates, suggesting the U.S. economy could achieve full employment in the absence of fiscal stimulus.

The strengthening labor market may thus finally reach a level at which it spurs businesses to ramp up production and investment. At the same time, upward pressure on wages, in light of diminished slack in the economy, would boost the purchasing power of the $13 trillion U.S. consumer gorilla, triggering, in theory, a positive demand impulse for the rest of world in the form of accelerating imports.

But that all hinges on the outlook for free trade.

Sizing up Trump's wild-card administration

By Jonathan Bernstein
Bloomberg

■ ANALYSIS

I don't think it has sunk in yet just how unpredictable virtually everything in Donald Trump's administration is going to be.

To begin with, the incoming tweeter-in-chief has taken positions on both sides of many issues. Maybe he has thought through a number of policies and maybe he hasn't, but either way we know almost nothing of his preferences beyond those that appear to be based on instinct (trade deals bad, Putin good).

And this is only the beginning.

Recent presidents have been fairly predictable because they were partisan. Their actions, including personnel choices, reflected the views of the majority coalition within their party. Even those White House staffers whom we think of as having close ties to the president (George Stephanopoulos for Bill Clinton, Karl Rove for George W. Bush, David Axelrod and David Plouffe for Barack Obama) had careers as Democratic or Republican campaign or governing professionals before their better-known connection was established. As such, they could be seen as partisan actors, not presidential loyalists, and were part of the process of constraining the president.

Trump's White House is going to be different, but it's hard to describe exactly how. From the evidence so far, the White House isn't going to be like those in the 1960s and 1970s, when personal loyalists with weak (if any) party ties held important positions. The most notable example was under Richard Nixon, whose top two staffers, Bob Haldeman and John Ehrlichman, were solely loyal to him.

By contrast, Trump's White House staff is shaping up as surprisingly normal so far. You can't get any more "party" than Reince Priebus, the outgoing Republican Party chair who will be, along with Steve Bannon, one of the new president's top two advisers. Even Bannon has been at the extended fringes of the GOP network. Neither man has a long-term relationship with Trump. Neither was even part of his nomination campaign.

He's still filling openings on the White House staff, but so far he is making choices typical of recent presidencies. For example, Stephen Miller, who will be senior policy adviser, worked for Republicans on Capitol Hill, then joined the Trump campaign in January 2016. Trump's White House differs from George W. Bush's mainly in the kinds of Republicans it is drawing from. What was once the fringe is now assuming a more central place within the party coalition. (Miller, for example, once worked for Michele Bachmann.)

Trump is also following normal patterns when it comes to those agencies within the "presidential branch" of government — the executive office of the president. For example, his designee to lead the Office of Management and Budget, South Carolina Rep. Mick Mulvaney, has been a prominent member of the House Freedom Caucus.

So why should we be so uncertain about the results of these decisions and appointments?

For one thing, because he's choosing from a different coalition within the Republican Party, it appears Trump will wind up with a staff with little or no White House experience. This was an enormous problem for Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton, who ran the worst transitions among modern presidents. Poorly functioning White Houses cause uncertainty.

For another, what distinguished the (once) fringe of the Republican Party from mainstream conservatives wasn't that people such as Mulvaney (or Bachmann) were especially conservative. It was that they held a theory of governing that emphasized norm-breaking and brinkmanship. If put in practice from the Oval Office, it's impossible to predict what will happen.

It isn't even clear to what extent Trump himself will use the presidential branch the way previous presidents from Harry Truman through Barack Obama have done. It's not unusual for the commander in chief to have personal confidants and sounding boards, but no recent leader has had adult children (and a son-in-law) play such a central role in the transition, especially since Trump's family members have little connection to the Republican Party.

So, for example, it was reported that Donald Trump Jr. influenced the selection of Ryan Zinke for Interior secretary because the two are avid hunters, even though Zinke's opposition to a sell-off of public lands may create friction with some Republican interest groups. It's one thing for a president to develop a new policy that contrasts with traditional party doctrine; it's quite another to choose personnel and therefore policy because of his kids' hobbies.

Based on the reporting of the Cabinet selections, there doesn't seem to be any rhyme or reason to any of it. Some, such as Betsy DeVos at Education, suggest that Trump will fight for extremely conservative positions; others, such as former governor Rick Perry at the Department of Energy or Nikki Haley as U.N. ambassador, seem like mainstream Republican choices. Yet the choices also seem random, so if one nominee dropped out, the replacement might come from a totally different wing of the party with a totally different policy agenda.

Given the record of Trump's campaign (which went through three campaign managers), we might expect to see higher turnover than usual in the new administration. This too could mean unpredictable swings in policy — perhaps depending simply on the whims of the president when he chooses a new set of officials.

Website set to offer access to inauguration

By Roxanne Roberts
Washington Post

Can't make it to Washington for the inauguration? No problem — the Presidential Inaugural Committee will bring it to you.

The committee launched its official website on Tuesday, exactly one month from the swearing-in on Jan. 20. The site 58pic2017.org includes basic information on the pre-inaugural concert, the inaugural parade and all the social media venues on which you can follow the action at home.

The idea, says PIC Communications Director Boris Epshteyn, is for as many people to be part of the celebration as possible.

"Our comprehensive social media profile is going to give Americans across the country the best seat in the house to this historic event," says Epshteyn. "We'll be using interactive technologies and live streaming capabilities that will allow every person to join in President-elect Trump and Vice President-elect Pence's inclusive and uplifting celebration."

Twitter, of course, is Donald Trump's favorite way of speaking directly to his 17 million followers @realDonaldTrump. Because he has documented every step of his ascent to leader of the free world, it's fair to assume that he'll be weighing in on his inaugural plans as well.

The inaugural committee set up its own Twitter account — @trumpinaugural — earlier this month and has 66,000 followers. Since most of the events are still in the planning stages, the account has mostly been full of cheery updates and historical factoids about former presidents.

There's also a Facebook page, a YouTube channel and an Instagram account. An online store with commemorative inaugural products is in the works but has not yet been launched.

The website will also include information for the public seeking tickets for the January events.

The Jan. 19 "Welcome Concert" on the Mall is the official kickoff to the inaugural events, according to the website. The lineup of entertainers has not been announced, but both the president-elect and the vice president-elect will appear onstage.

Unsafe transport leads to death: Farmworkers 'disposable'?

By Allen G. Breed
Associated Press

AP file photo

Wenceslao Rangel Gutierrez places a miniature horse statue on a photograph of his late son, Jose, next to his son's hat July 15 inside the newly built bedroom at their home in El Sabino, Mexico. The room and bed were paid for using money his son sent home from the U.S. while part of a guest worker program, and was meant as a surprise for him. Jose never got to see his new room, killed in a bus accident when he was on his way back home.

Jose Rangel Chavez and 18 other Mexican guest workers were dozing as their bus hurtled down Interstate 40 in a light rain. After nine months away from home, the 22-year-old was about to complete a meandering round trip of nearly 5,000 miles.

They were just north of Little Rock, Arkansas, about a half day's hard ride from the border, when the motor coach struck a concrete bridge support, peeling back the roof like a sardine can. Chavez and five others were killed; seven more workers were severely injured.

The crash in November 2015 was the result of chronic problems within an American agriculture industry dependent upon a reliable supply of low-wage, foreign-born workers. Chavez and the others were part of an annual mass migration made possible partly by a guarantee of free and safe transportation to and from the fields each day and, at season's end, back home to their loved ones.

But for many, that transportation is neither free nor safe.

It has been just over a half-century since the nation's worst fatal vehicle accident killed nearly three dozen migrants, a horror that farmworker advocates had hoped would bring lasting reforms. Yet, because of enforcement gaps and the sometimes callous attitudes of those who contract for the workers, laborers continue to ride in overloaded, poorly maintained, uninsured vehicles — often driven by a fellow crew member without a proper license, or with no license at all.

The Associated Press found more than a dozen accidents that left at least 38 dead and nearly 200 injured just since January 2015. The casualties included a 4-year-old and a 5-year-old, traveling with migrant worker parents.

Grim as it is, the AP's tally is almost certainly a significant undercount.

"I think there's more unregistered, improperly insured, unsafe transportation out there for farmworkers than ... 20 years ago," says attorney Greg Schell, deputy director of Southern Migrant Legal Services.

A big reason, he and others contend: Rarely are those who profit most from this cheap labor made to pay. Instead, it is the families of people like Jose Chavez who lose.

In exchange for tending the landowner's animals in their remote mountain village, the Chavez family got the use of a leaky wooden shack. Jose wanted more for his parents and siblings, so he signed on to do farm labor in the United States.

Of the 1.1 million farmworkers in the U.S., 71 percent are foreign-born, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. Nearly half of those acknowledge working here illegally.

Chavez's employer, Vasquez Citrus & Hauling of Lake Placid, Florida, is one of thousands taking part in the federal H-2A guest worker visa program. In addition to wages of $11.56 an hour, contractor Juan Vasquez would provide Chavez room, board and, crucially, a guarantee of free transportation from Mexico and back.

Whenever he could, Chavez dutifully wired money home. Then, on Nov. 6, 2015, tragedy struck.

Investigators allege that the bus wasn't registered with the Labor Department — meaning the company was not authorized to use it to transport workers. The driver did not have a commercial operator's license.

Schell, who's been working with the victims' families, says Vasquez should have had liability insurance of around $5 million, but that he carried only one-fifth that amount. The company's workers' compensation policy did not cover the journey home.

In the two years prior to the crash, Vasquez Citrus had been cited 22 times for alleged violations, from underage drivers to vehicles with worn tires, according to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. The Labor Department had cited Juan Vasquez for failure to provide safe vehicles back in 2007, but issued no fines.

Lori Flores, a professor at Stony Brook University, calls the regulatory apparatus "an honor system."

"And it's only when accidents ... happen that agencies might get involved," she says. "But then it's way too late."

On Sept. 17, 1963, a makeshift bus carrying 58 migrant workers was struck by a freight train outside Chualar, California. Thirty-two workers died.

In the wake of Chualar, Congress passed a law requiring contractors to provide proof of liability insurance and to inform workers about housing, wages and transportation. Two decades later, lawmakers enacted the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act, or MSPA, which, among other requirements, mandates that agricultural employers show that transportation is properly insured and meets safety standards.

More than 10,000 farm labor contractors are registered under MSPA, but Labor's Wage and Hour Division has just 976 investigators to police them, plus the millions of other businesses covered by the laws it enforces.

That lack of manpower, combined with often minor penalties for infractions, encourages people to cut corners, farmworker advocates say.

Please see **WORKERS**/16A

Crash by crash, a tally of recent migrant transport deaths

■ **Sept. 1, 2015** — State police say a 36-passenger bus carrying 49 people was speeding when it ran off a road in Coffee County, Georgia, overturned and came to rest on its roof in a creek, injuring more than two dozen. Police say Jesus Rubio Nevarez was driving "too fast for conditions." The 1995 International bus was owned by WKI Outsourcing Solutions, whose federal farm labor certification had expired in May 2014. Although the labor contractor described himself as a crew leader for the grower, the Department of Labor found that the grower was not responsible. Thus far, the only repercussions from the accident were to Nevarez, who was cited for speeding and "failure to maintain lane." He paid about $317 in fines. Daysie Zepeda, 19, who fractured her left elbow in the crash, said neither she nor any of the other workers she's spoken with received any compensation.

■ **Sept. 8, 2015** — A 1995 international bus carrying 20 workers drifted off a two-lane road and rolled onto its side in White County, Indiana. Of the 13 people hurt, 10 reported "incapacitating" injuries. The AP found that the bus's owner had a history of alleged safety violations dating back to 2009. Records indicate that the insurance policy on the bus had expired in January 2015. Neither state nor federal labor officials investigated the accident.

■ **Sept. 21, 2015** — Twenty-six workers were injured when a tractor-trailer rear-ended their bus near Tarboro, North Carolina. Although it was not the bus driver's fault, he was charged for not having a commercial driver's license. State police said the bus, which is owned by a federal labor contractor, also lacked insurance.

■ **Sept. 28, 2015** — Three women were killed and four others injured when their minivan, making a U-turn, was hit by a dump truck in McFarland, California. The women were on their way to work in a vineyard. Officials say driver Zenaida Quintero-Reyes, who was among those killed, had a valid license.

■ **Nov. 6, 2015** — Six Mexican guest workers were killed and seven others injured when a bus traveling from Michigan to Texas struck an overpass on Interstate 40 north of Little Rock, Arkansas. Police say the driver Roberto Vasquez was fatigued; a DOL report said he "hit a bump and lost control." An investigation determined that farm labor contractor Vasquez Citrus & Hauling had failed to have the bus inspected and was carrying less than a quarter of the required insurance. The company owner told investigators "he did not know that the worker's compensation insurance did not cover the travel back to Mexico."

■ **Dec. 1, 2015** — At least six people were injured when a van carrying 11 farmworkers failed to slow down and hit another car from behind in Copperopolis, California. According to the California Department of Motor Vehicles, the driver did not have a farm labor transportation certificate. The DMV said his license was suspended, "except in the course of employment."

■ **Jan. 27, 2016** — A 1994 Blue Bird bus carrying 23 Haitian farmworkers went through a flashing light intersection in Belle Glade, Florida, and crashed into a pickup truck. Police say the Haitian immigrant driver, Elie Dupiche, did not stop to make sure that no other vehicles had entered the intersection. No one was seriously injured.

■ **May 13, 2016** — Three workers died when their pickup crossing railroad tracks was struck by an Amtrak train in Madera County, California. The crossing was on private farmland, and the truck was owned by Erickson Farms. Jim Erickson said the driver, a Mexican native, had been with his company more than 20 years and was "like a son to me."

■ **June 18, 2016** — Six migrants — including a mother and her 5-year-old son — died when the van they were in hit another vehicle and flipped multiple times on Interstate 95 in Caroline County, Virginia. Ten others, including the driver, were injured. Police said the van's occupants, all undocumented immigrants from Guatemala and Mexico, had just finished harvesting blueberries in North Carolina and were on their way to do the same in New Jersey. Driver Wenceslao Cruz-Marquez, who authorities say did not have a driver's license, has been charged with manslaughter. Investigations by Labor and the National Transportation Safety Board are ongoing.

■ **July 2, 2016** — Four people, including a 4-year-old boy, died when the 1979 Blue Bird school bus they were in allegedly ran a flashing red light and collided with a tractor-trailer in St. Marks, Florida. Both vehicles burst into flames. The driver of the truck and three people in the bus died. Another 25 people were injured, including bus driver Elie Dupiche, the same man involved in the Jan. 27 accident. Later that month, the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Administration ordered farm labor contractor Billy R. Evans to immediately pull all of his vehicles off the road, saying he posed "an imminent risk of serious injury or death if your actions are not discontinued immediately." Neither Evans nor Dupiche responded to AP's calls for comment.

■ **Aug. 11, 2016** — Six workers were injured when the school bus transporting them caught fire on Highway 135 in Santa Barbara County, California. The California Highway Patrol said that when the bus began smoking, the driver slowed to about 5 mph, and the 28 people on board began jumping out. No citations were issued in that case. But the Department of Transportation has issued 286 safety citations against the bus owner in the past two years, including seven for "Acute/Critical Violations" in inspections following the fire.

The Associated Press

Why so many fatal crashes for migrant workers?

Following two 1963 crashes that resulted in the deaths of 59 migrant farmworkers, a member of Congress declared that the "plight of the migrant laborer in this country is an inexcusable and cancerous sore in the body politic." Safety legislation followed, and then, two decades later, Congress passed the Migrant and Seasonal Worker Protection Act (MSPA) to offer broader safeguards to these workers, notably in their transportation. But large numbers continue to be killed and maimed on the roads. Here are some of the factors at play.

■ **Are the growers held responsible for accidents involving the people working their fields?**

The U.S. Department of Labor can hold the grower "jointly responsible" for an accident if there is proof that the employer directed or arranged for the transportation that led to the accident. Since so many farms are far removed from public transportation, worker advocates argue the grower must know that laborers are being transported long distances to the fields. Some growers say labor contractors whom they hire have the responsibility to ensure workers are safely transported. But in 1997, a federal court ruled in a Florida case that it was not sufficient for a grower to rely on a contractor's valid certificate of registration, saying, "Congress surely did not pass a law to impose additional responsibilities on agricultural employers, then turn around and say that all they must do is examine a piece of paper."

■ **Doesn't the Department Of Labor check vehicles to make sure they are in compliance?**

Farm labor contractors are required to submit paperwork identifying vehicles to be used to transport workers, and proof that they have passed inspection. A standard job order — in which a contractor describes to DOL how it will house, feed and transport guest workers — states that all transportation provided "meets the requirements of applicable Federal, State, and Local laws and regulations. Transportation will be provided daily between living quarters and the employer's work site and return without charge to the worker." DOL says that between 2010 and 2015, its Wage and Hour Division found transportation violations in 1,623 cases. But the agency says it is limited in what it can do, noting it cannot even "pull vehicles over on the road."

■ **What is the difference between a car pool and a "raitero?"**

Legitimate car pools, in which workers chip in for gasoline and other expenses, are not covered by MSPA, though the usual seat belt, insurance and other rules apply. A "raitero" — derived from the English word "ride" — is someone who charges a per-head fee for each passenger. "Farm workers who ride with others, or especially raiteros, are often subject to outrageous and inconsistent charges, dangerous driving, and unreliable and unsafe vehicles," says the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation. Following 63 deaths between 1994 and 1999, that state imposed strict farm labor vehicle certification requirements.

■ **Why would a migrant worker put up with unsafe, illegal transportation practices?**

Caitlin Ryland, an attorney with Legal Aid of North Carolina's Farmworker Unit, says workers fear being blacklisted if they complain. Even workers here legally on an H-2A visa can be stuck with large transportation bills if they speak up. Workers often pay their own costs up front and are reimbursed. But under federal regulations, reimbursement doesn't kick in until the worker has completed at least half of the contract period. "If a worker does not complete 50 percent of the work contract the worker will be required to repay the employer for the cost of travel and subsistence for which the worker has been reimbursed ...," reads one labor contractor's job order.

■ **Why can't the government just put bad actors out of business?**

Labor can "debar" a farm labor contractor for unsafe practices. But even debarment is no guarantee. According to a report from the Government Accountability Office, it is relatively easy for barred employers to "reinvent" themselves by starting new companies with different names. Even when DOL decides to revoke a company's certificate, it can take years. In the months leading up to a 2002 accident that killed 14 Guatemalan workers in Maine, worker advocates had begged Labor to revoke their employer's visa privileges. One official wrote that the company had "a lengthy and woeful history of non-compliance" dating back to at least 1984. The company was granted visa applications for another four years while the case wound its way through the process.

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First Baptist

WORKERS

From 15A

"... (Y)ou end up saving money by just paying the fine and treating the farmworkers as disposable," says Dawson Morton of the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation.

Violators are "aided and abetted" by the fact that most workers are too afraid of dismissal or deportation to complain, Schell says. Often, a record of noncompliance is discovered only after a crash.

This July 2, police say a 1979 school bus carrying dozens of Haitian farmworkers and family members blew through a flashing red light near the town of St. Marks, Florida, and was struck by a tractor-trailer. The truck driver and three on the bus were killed.

Unsecured seats were among 25 violations cited in post-accident inspections of farm labor contractor Billy R. Evans' fleet. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration called the Belle Glade, Florida, contractor "an imminent risk of serious injury or death," and ordered him off the roads.

The case remains under investigation. Neither Evans nor the driver responded to AP's calls for comment.

Most growers don't provide transportation to their remote fields. So, many workers fall prey to so-called "raiteros," who illegally charge desperate workers often exorbitant fees for unregulated transportation.

Two recent California cases show the challenges regulators face when trying to assign responsibility for an accident.

On Jan. 9, 2015, four men returning from the fields died when their overloaded van plowed into a tractor-trailer in Fresno County. Investigators concluded that the driver was a foreman for C.A.T. Labor Services, and Labor moved to revoke the firm's certification .

Company attorney Anthony Raimondo insists the driver, who pleaded no contest in March to manslaughter, was solely responsible for this "horrible tragedy," and that the accusations against his client were "paperwork violations."

In another case, four farmworkers, including a 16-year-old girl, died when the van they were in crashed on June 20, 2015, in Merced County. Police say the unlicensed driver fell asleep at the wheel.

This August, Labor's San Francisco office filed suit against grower Valley Garlic Inc. and contractor, X-Treme Ag Labor Inc., citing a 1997 federal court ruling that rejected the view that growers who use labor contractors have no responsibility themselves to make sure workers travel safely.

Both companies have denied wrongdoing . Janet Herold, West Regional Solicitor for the Department of Labor, says these legal actions are a message to the agricultural community that "we are going to change tools until you change practices."

In the crash that killed Jose Chavez, Labor Department inspectors recommended more than $500,000 in civil penalties, according to a draft settlement obtained by AP. A review knocked that recommendation down to $2,000.

Federal investigations continue. Despite that, Vasquez was authorized visas for nearly 350 guest workers this past year. The company did not reply to AP requests for comment.

Meanwhile, lawyers are wrangling over how to divide the limited insurance proceeds.

Jose's wages helped his parents build a small but sturdy two-room concrete house. They had to borrow money to bury him.

Sitting before a portrait of her oldest boy, Maria Felix Chavez Martinez weeps.

"He was our only option," she says. "The only hope we had."

Fox News has kept most of its audience after the election

By David Bauder
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A sharp drop in cable news ratings following a presidential election is as inevitable as snow in Buffalo. Yet in the Age of Trump, so far Fox News Channel is defying that trend.

Comparing the five weeks after the election to the white-hot campaign days of October, Fox's prime-time audience is down 8 percent, the Nielsen company said. That's a much smaller drop than rivals CNN and MSNBC, and smaller than all of the networks historically following elections.

"They've really, obviously, established themselves as the go-to place for all things Trump, Trump supporters certainly," said Paul Sweeney, an analyst for Bloomberg Intelligence. "This is their time to shine and they're making the most of it."

Post-election has been a victory lap for Sean Hannity, who made no secret of his support for Trump and was rewarded with regular interviews. Fox also enticed viewers with TMZ's Harvey Levin getting a guided tour of the president-elect's New York apartment.

Following Barack Obama's victories, Fox's post-election viewership dropped by 50 percent in 2012 and 36 percent in 2008, Nielsen said. The drop was 25 percent after Republican George W. Bush's 2004 win.

Fox's audience likely reflects the surprise nature of Trump's win: Viewers depressed about his chances of winning were less inclined to watch during October and much more excited in November. Fox's viewership shot up in late October when new questions were raised about Hillary Clinton's emails.

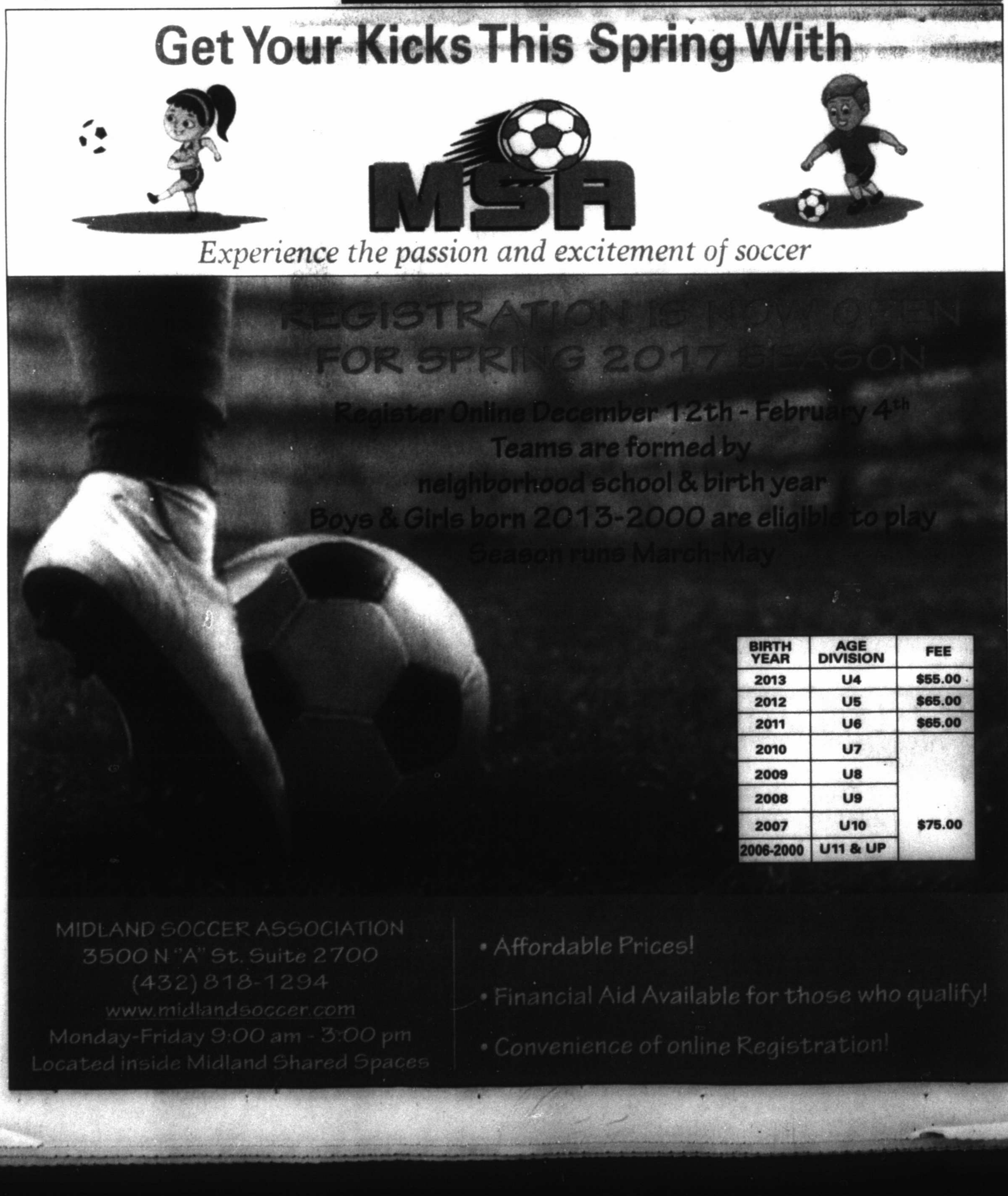
The timing couldn't be better for Fox, thrown into uncertainty this summer with the ouster of the man who essentially invented the network, Roger Ailes. People wondered whether James and Lachlan Murdoch, who run Fox's parent 21st Century Fox, would want to change the focus of a network that strongly appeals to conservatives.

"The rising tide of Trump and what he represents coincides well with what Fox traditionally has been," Sweeney said.

Given its success, Lachlan Murdoch has been quoted as saying it would be foolish of Fox to change direction. His brother James, during an appearance at a Business Insider conference earlier this month, said there's more to the network's success than politics, and that the programming is very engaging for viewers.

Fox last month plugged Tucker Carlson into the 7 p.m. time slot vacated by Greta Van Susteren. The next big decision comes from prime-time host Megyn Kelly, who's mulling whether to stay at Fox following the expiration of her contract next year. It's an interesting case: Her talent is undeniable, but many of Trump's fans are cool to her because their candidate was angered by her debate questioning.

Should Kelly leave, Fox has a good track record of developing stars, Sweeney said.



Abandoned oil wells seen as 'ticking time bombs'

Texas grapples with a surge of abandoned drilling sites and dwindling funds to clean them

By Jim Malewitz
Texas Tribune

IMPERIAL — Peculiar things can happen after folks drill deep into the Earth — looking for oil, water or whatever — and leave a bunch of holes in the ground. Fluids can gurgle and leak, migrating where they don't belong. In rare instances, land could even sink or collapse.

The oddest unintended consequences tend to bubble up in this pockmarked slice of West Texas, where wildcatters started poking holes in the ground nearly a century ago.

"If this stuff was even close to Austin, hell, it'd be national news," said Ty Edwards, the fresh-faced assistant general manager of the Middle Pecos Groundwater Conservation District, as he barreled down an empty stretch of highway during a June tour of the some of the standouts.

Texas, the nation's petroleum king, is home to nearly 300,000 wells currently pumping oil, gas and dollars into the economy. But those are hardly the only holes that petroleum companies have bored into the Texas landscape. As far back as 1990, Texas touted more than 1.5 million oil and gas-related holes, including hundreds of thousands of test wells, service wells and those that came up dry.

And even prolific wells don't always pump forever.

When most wells end their service, no big deal. Operators plug them, limiting pollution threats, and move on. But when companies leave their wells open, a practice predating Spindletop and other prodigious early strikes, that's another story.

Amid a recent oil market crash that followed years of frenzied drilling, Texas is among several states — including Louisiana and Oklahoma — grappling with a surge of abandoned drilling sites and dwindling funds to clean them up.

Occasionally, the wells yield pollution you can see: oil, brackish water or other smelly substances leaking onto the land. But the biggest threats lie thousands of feet underground: the possible, but tough-to-detect migration of oil and other toxic minerals into aquifers or water supplies.

Not every abandoned well threatens groundwater. But in some oil fields, they "can be ticking time bombs," said Ronald Green, a hydrologist at the Southwest Research Institute, a private research organization in San Antonio. And as boom-and-bust cycles continue across Texas drilling fields, walling off water sources from potential contamination will only get harder.

Off of Farm-to-Market Road 1053 a few miles south of the Permian Basin town of Imperial (population 278 at last count) and next to a crumbling church, sits what locals call Boehmer Lake. It's not really a lake, and you wouldn't want to wade in it. Its waters have tested more than three times saltier than averages in the Gulf of Mexico, with sulfur and salt crystals coating the surrounding vegetation. It attracts birds that don't seem to belong here.

"Isn't that wonderful?" Edwards asks sarcastically as a reporter takes a whiff of the stench.

The source of the putrid smell: a well that has gushed for more than a decade. And it's only getting bigger.

"It's like new wetlands," said Gil Van Deventer, an Odessa-based hydrologist who has examined the area. "It's not like West Texas at all."

Oil wells are bored through multiple

Please see **WELLS**/7B

OPEN HEARTS, HELPING HANDS

James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

ABOVE: Jason Ivy, of the Midland Soup Kitchen Ministry, prays and shares a message about God to families in attendance Friday. **RIGHT:** Workers serve meals at the Midland Soup Kitchen Ministry. See more photos on **Page 6B.**

Company wants to study nuclear waste disposal in Pecos County

By Corey Paul
Odessa American

A company hoping to win a drilling project in Pecos County to study high-level nuclear waste storage will launch a months-long public relations campaign in hopes of winning community support for a research site.

No nuclear waste would be stored in the test, which would also be used to research geothermal energy production.

But a successful test in the Fort Stockton area could prompt the federal government and private companies to consider the Trans-Pecos for permanently storing canisters of high-level nuclear waste underground.

Local approval would be key before the Department of Energy would allow the company, AECOM, to drill the so-called deep borehole field test into a solid rock formation more than three miles beneath the surface. The Department of Energy scrapped a similar project in North and South Dakota earlier this year amid local opposition.

AECOM, a multinational engineering firm, is competing against companies in two New Mexico sites and one South Dakota site to win approval to drill the borehole. The DOE announced the four companies selected to explore a test site on Monday.

The proposed site in Fort Stockton is University Lands. The University of Texas' Bureau of Economic Geology would perform research on the site, and the driller would be Corpus Christi-based Orion Drilling Company.

The DOE estimated the research project could take up to five years to conduct and cost $20 million to $40 million.

"This is only a research test," said Chuck McDonald, a consultant hired by AECOM to work on the P.R. effort. "There is no nuclear waste involved. Is it possible that after five years the test determined that this could be done and somebody could come back and say 'Let's propose a disposal facility?' Yes, that could happen. But just the mere fact that there is a research test being done in no way triggers that."

McDonald said officials are planning a series of public meetings that will begin as soon as January. They will also open an office in Fort Stockton as they seek approval for the research project from various local governmental agencies.

This first phase of community outreach, along with some geological analysis, will last through about May. But the P.R. campaign could last several more months before the DOE picks a site later in 2017.

The test borehole would be drilled about 16,400 feet into the crystalline basement rock formation near Fort Stockton, deeper than most oil wells. Canisters would be

Please see **PECOS**/7B

Old time gospel still preached in West Texas ghost town

By John MacCormack
San Antonio Express-News

PUMPVILLE — The "Gospel West of the Pecos," as some like to call it out here, is old-fashioned without apology or adulteration — sinners all, salvation by grace and full-dunk baptism.

And don't expect modern Christmas music or a feel-good message at the Pumpville Baptist Church. The sermons are long, loving and stern, the King James is the only Bible used and the church hymnal dates to 1951.

"He ain't here to tickle your ears. It's out of the Book. It's the way it is," said Larry Dingler, 66, of the preacher, Rick Bonds of Del Rio. "I'm not here for a social gathering. We come to be preached to and to worship. I want to be told my problems."

A week before Christmas, a handful of the scattered faithful assembled at the old limestone church by the tracks, the lingering pulse of a railroad ghost town 230 miles west of San Antonio.

Colorful wreathes decorated the sanctuary, giant stockings hung at the windows and corn bread warmed in the oven for the potluck to follow.

The holiday spirit was in full bloom and there was a lot of affectionate kidding, including daring husband and wife jokes, before and during the service.

When someone inquired of an absent congregant, another replied in jest: "He's off being an atheist."

And the fact that only 10 people — including Rev. Bonds and his wife, Jackie — turned out on this freezing sabbath, didn't seem to bother anyone. After all, it's all in God's hands.

Please see **GOSPEL**/2B

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Obituaries

Dale Lee Waldron

Dale Lee Waldron, 78, of Midland, Texas, passed away on December 13, 2016 due to heart failure.

He was born in Tabler, Oklahoma on April 26, 1938 to George and Helene Waldron.

Dale graduated from Friend High School in 1956. He married Carol Sue Brown later that year on September 29, 1956. They recently celebrated their 60th year of marriage. Dale owned Alpha Equipment Company and Co-Ex Pipe. He loved the special people that run these operations.

Dale was preceded in death by his son, Steven Dale Waldron.

Dale is survived by his wife, Carol Sue; his daughter, Marsha Carol Matthews; and grandchildren, Marcee Carol Hultsman, Steve Waldron, and Sean Waldron Matthews.

Dale's motto in life was, "I may not be right. but I'm never wrong!"

Do Not Stand At My Grave And Weep

Do not stand at my grave and weep;
I am not there. I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow;
I am the diamond glints on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain;
I am the gentle autumn's rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush,
I am the swift uplifting rush,
of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft star that shines at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry.
I am not there; I did not die.

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

Ellis Funeral Home
Funerals & Cremations
Dignity 801 Andrews Hwy. (432) 683-5535

Edwin R. Buie

Edwin Rudolph Buie, 90, of Midland, passed away on December 20, 2016.

The family will be accepting guests from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Monday, December 26, 2016 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 27, 2016 in the funeral home chapel with interment following at Resthaven Memorial Park.

Ed (Rudy) Buie, the eldest child of J.A. and Ella Mae Buie, was born on April 18, 1926 in the Bascom community near Tyler, Texas. He attended school in Tyler and, immediately after his eighteenth birthday in 1944, joined the United States Navy. He served aboard the USS Smith in the Pacific for the remainder of World War II and was honorably discharged in 1946.

He lived in Conroe, Texas for a number of years where he married and started a family. He moved his family to Midland in 1957 and worked as a sales rep for Bottenfield's, Inc. for more than fifteen years. Ed worked in real estate in Ruidoso, New Mexico and also owned Armstrong-McCall franchises in Hobbs and Roswell, New Mexico.

He was a gifted and successful salesman until his retirement. After a few years in Tyler, he and wife, Juanice, moved back to Midland and spent approximately ten years RVing throughout the U.S. from Canada to Mexico. He was a member of Memorial Christian Church and a volunteer at the food pantry.

Ed was pre-deceased by his wife of 45 years, Juanice Buie, and brother-in-law, Troy Harris.

Surviving are his daughters, Donna Cox (Eddie) and Mary Atwater (Jim), and their mother, Imogene (Jean) Buie.

Ed is also survived by stepsons Phil Petty, Mike Petty, and Bob Petty, as well as three grandsons, Brent Cox, Lee Atwater, Chad Atwater, and five step grandchildren, Wendy Breeland, Todd Petty, Jennifer Petty, Justin Petty, and Chandler Petty.

He is also survived by his brothers, Norris Buie (Nelda), Herbert . Buie (Melvina); and sister, LaVonne Harris.

Together, Ed and Juanice had eight great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers will be Brent Cox, Lee Atwater, Chad Atwater, Justin Petty, and Micah Atwater.

The family wishes to express special appreciation to caregiver and friend, Jan Lacy, and to the nursing staff of the Younger Center at Manor Park.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials be made to Hospice of Midland, 911 W. Texas Ave, Midland, TX 79701.

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

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

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

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John Davenport/San Antonion Express-News

Bob Johnson (standing May 21, 2005) travels from San Angelo to the Pumpville Baptist Church west of Del Rio weekly to hold services for local ranching families there. The once thriving railroad town has no residents but church services are still held there for local ranching families.

GOSPEL

From 1B

John Davenport/San Antonion Express-News

Dora Dingler talks with friends Mirtle Malone (rt.) and Dorothy Askins (L) before Sunday services at the Pumpville Baptist Church west of Del Rio on May 22, 2005.

"Most of us are older. We're going to keep going with the church until the Lord comes or until there is no one," said Bonds, 67, who has been preaching here since 2012.

"We're all pretty much happy. We believe we're a little different church than most you'll find, and not just because of the location. We still believe what the Bible says and we try to live by it," he said.

Membership, now at about 15, has dropped steadily over the past two decades, as the surrounding countryside has slowly emptied of people. In the past 30 years, neighboring Terrell County has lost almost half its population.

Most who attend now are at least of retirement age and children rarely are sighted. But the church still supports 26 missionaries, and is trying to start up a sister congregation 35 miles to the west in Dryden, population nine.

"We're still chugging along. People come from as far as 65 miles away to be part of it," Bonds said.

Some would find it a miracle that the church exists at all, an island of devotion in a sea of greasewood and falling-down ruins, almost five decades after the town died.

"We're still raising cattle out here, but in this area there are only about four ranches with livestock. Most are being abandoned, or sold for recreation or cut up into pieces," said Martha Sue Hinds, 73, who attended elementary school here in the 1940s.

"People can't live out here because there is no way to make a living. Lord willing, we'll get some more people, but people are just not interested in church anymore," she said.

Founded in 1865 as a water stop for the Southern Pacific steam engines, Pumpville's fate was sealed midway through the next century with the arrival of diesel locomotives.

Also a hub for ranchers, Pumpville slowly faded after the railroad crews left. It breathed its last breath when store keeper Froggy Cash finally threw in the towel.

Its short life was not without moments of high drama, however.

In 1897, Black Jack Ketchum robbed the train of $6,000 just west of town. And in 1965, Alfredo Hernandez, the notorious "caveman bandit," shot the postmaster, Pelham Bradford, 67, in the leg during a nighttime robbery.

For reasons that still are unclear, the town's Baptist minister also vanished.

"The preacher was gone the next day. Something scared the holy fire out of him," Dingler recalled.

Built in 1947, during the post-war era of prosperity, the Baptist church survived until the early '70s, and the town was abandoned to the snakes and coyotes.

It didn't reopen until 1985 when the Rev. Paul Ray of Sanderson heeded the pleas of area ranchers and others, and joined them in the effort.

"It was a junk yard outside. Inside the church, other than the coons getting in and messing things up, it was ready for a service with the songbooks and everything in place. We got our paintbrushes out and scrubbed things up," he said.

The reopened church proved a magnet to worshipers from many miles away. Ray, 79, preached there for three years, left for the East Coast, and came back later for another stint in the pulpit from 1991 to 1996.

"Pumpville is an anomaly. There's no one there and it doesn't really make any sense. I was ridiculed quite a bit for going down there," he recalled.

But as it turned out, the anomaly worked out just fine.

"After the service, we'd have lunch. We'd play horseshoes and pingpong. We'd have a big tournament, and it was the social event of Pumpville," he said.

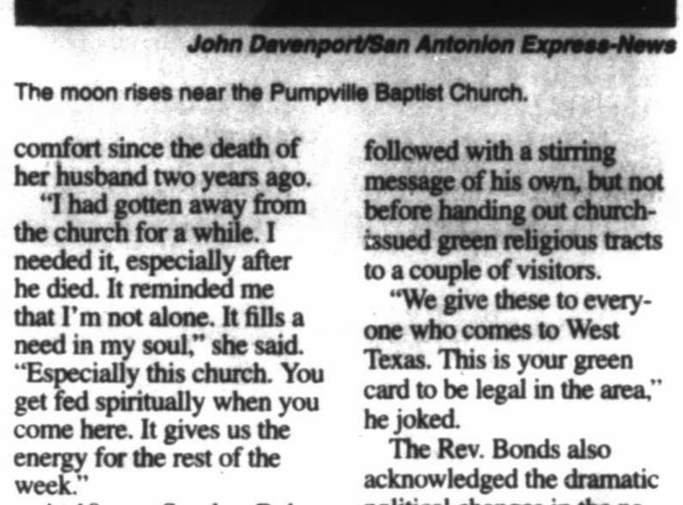
"When we had our first baptism, which was in the late 1980s, we invited the First Calvary Baptist Church in Sanderson, and we had quite a day. There had to be at least 100 people there," he recalled.

When he stepped down from the Pumpville pulpit in 1996, Ray's farewell message to the tiny church was to keep on keepin' on.

"I said, 'I'm leaving but the church ought to be here when the Lord comes back because it's the only lighthouse for a 50-mile radius,'" he recalled.

And for more than four decades, the church has been reliable well of spiritual succor for folks who otherwise would have no place.

One of the newest members, Tina Sivils, 54, of Dryden, 28 miles away, said it has given her great comfort since the death of her husband two years ago.



John Davenport/San Antonion Express-News

The moon rises near the Pumpville Baptist Church.

"I had gotten away from the church for a while. I needed it, especially after he died. It reminded me that I'm not alone. It fills a need in my soul," she said. "Especially this church. You get fed spiritually when you come here. It gives us the energy for the rest of the week."

At 10 a.m. Sunday, Bob Hinds, 74, rose to deliver the Sunday school message. Cradling a worn black leather Bible with pages fragile from use, he asked all present to turn with him to Epheisans 5:20.

But before beginning his message, Hinds delivered a rigorous advisory: Take no mortal man's word for what the Good Book says.

"I don't care who is in the pulpit, whether he is a renowned preacher or just a layman. You have your Bible and you have to check what he has to say, to make sure it's the truth, that it's not the speaker, it's the Bible speaking," he said.

Drawing later from Mathew and Luke, Hinds delivered a rousing sermon, drawing supportive "amens" and "that's rights" from the congregation.

"We've got a greater cause, glorifying Jesus, telling other people about Jesus Christ. Look at what Christ has done for me. Look how he has blessed me," he said toward the end.

After everyone rose and sang, "Born to Die On Calvary," the Rev. Bonds followed with a stirring message of his own, but not before handing out church-issued green religious tracts to a couple of visitors.

"We give these to everyone who comes to West Texas. This is your green card to be legal in the area," he joked.

The Rev. Bonds also acknowledged the dramatic political changes in the nation's capital in his opening prayer.

"We thank thee Lord for (Donald) Trump's victory, but we know there will be difficulties after the inauguration. Every tyrant in the world will test him," he said.

At the close of his message, he had a series of congregants, one by one, read Romans 6:23.

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord," they each recited.

Then he told everyone to gather in a close group in front of the pulpit.

"Each of you read it right, but each has a small voice. Now read it like you believe it, like it's true, read it together," he ordered, which they did in full commanding voice.

He then explained the meaning of the exercise.

"We're a powerful church with just a handful of people. Don't let it go," he said.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

Report: Police on the lookout for man impersonating officer

Associated Press

Midland police are looking for a man that is impersonating an officer, according to a police department press release.

The man is wearing a uniform shirt and driving a black passenger vehicle with red and blue lights embedded in the grill guard, according to the release.

The suspect, according to MPD, performed a traffic stop on a female driver around 7 p.m. Thursday near Illinois Avenue and Ric Drive in a small, black, four-door sedan. He identified himself as "Officer Perez" and made the woman step out of her vehicle when she said she had a concealed handgun license. He patted her down and inappropriately touched her during the encounter.

The suspect, according to police, is described as a non-Hispanic, white male with a dark complexion between the ages of 30 and 40. The suspect has black, medium-length hair parted to the side and stands about 5-foot-11 with a skinny build and a 2-inch scar on his right cheekbone just under his eye. He was wearing black rimmed glasses, a black uniform shirt with patches on the shoulders and a badge on his chest, and gloves at the time of the incident.

Anyone with information about this suspect or who believes they may have come into contact with him is asked to call the Midland Police Department immediately at 685-7108.

Individuals who are not sure about an officer's authenticity can call 911 and ask dispatch to verify, ask to see credentials or request a supervisor's presence or phone call to verify.

Keeping foster kids with local families may be the fix Texas needs

By Robert T. Garrett
Dallas Morning News

MINERAL WELLS — Texas foster care is in crisis, but there is hope for a homegrown, grassroots solution.

The current system is discombobulated, with no one really in charge. Worse, it regularly rips kids from their home communities and sends them to live with strangers far away.

When Texas foster children turn 18, they often emerge in sorrier shape — distrustful, emotionally scarred, behind their age cohort in school — than when they entered state care, a federal judge says.

U.S. District Court Judge Janis Graham Jack of Corpus Christi, the Dallas Morning News Texan of the Year, is demanding that the state do better in response to a class-action lawsuit.

Thanks to an experiment called "foster care redesign," it is.

A Fort Worth nonprofit is leading the effort, and it's generating excitement in child welfare circles. However, it's not clear that the Texas Legislature will fully embrace — and fund — the new procurement method when it meets next year. That's in spite of appeals by many advocates. They say redesign could be a partial answer in a court battle over foster care that so far, the state is losing.

The effort's mottos are simple, if profound: Get involved. Make decisions locally.

Wayne Carson, chief executive of lead vendor ACH Child and Family Services, has honed a civic pride argument. He makes it regularly to audiences at town meetings called "foster care strategy sessions" in Tarrant County and six counties to its south and west.

Don't let distant protective-services officials in Austin decide the fate of your local children whom Child Protective Services has removed from dysfunctional and destructive families, Carson says.

Because the state faces a severe shortage of foster beds, the children face strong odds they'll be

Please see FOSTER/8B

Baylor sex assault scandal: Everything you need to know to understand what happened

By Sarah Mervosh
Dallas Morning News

A sexual assault scandal engulfed Baylor University this year, generating a crisis that snowballed throughout 2016 and shows no signs of abating in the months to come.

The scandal erupted after a string of Baylor football players were accused of sexual assault, exposing a systemic, campus-wide problem.

The world's largest Baptist university now finds itself under attack, pelted by lawsuits, accusations of victim-blaming and demands to know more about how the school handled one of the worst college rape scandal in history.

Here's a breakdown of what happened:

How did the crisis unfold?

The public began paying attention to sexual assault at Baylor after multiple football players were accused of the crime, including two who were convicted and another who is under indictment.

In 2015, after the second football player was convicted, Baylor launched a review of its response to sexual assault and dating violence.

The university hired Philadelphia-based law firm Pepper Hamilton to investigate.

The results, released in May, were blistering. The firm found that Baylor staffers failed to properly look into complaints, directly discouraged victims from reporting and behaved in a way that "could be perceived as victim-blaming."

In short; "institutional failure at every level."

How many victims are there?

It's believed there were at least 125 cases of sexual assault or harassment at Baylor — and possibly many more — since 2011.

It's difficult to pinpoint the exact number of cases. Studies show the vast majority of sexual assaults on college campuses go unreported.

But Baylor has said it is reviewing about 125 reports of sexual assault or harassment from 2011 to 2015.

Former Title IX coordinator Patty Crawford, who oversaw all sex assault investigations from 2014 to 2016, estimated the actual number of cases may be higher.

In her two years alone, she said, "hundreds" of women came forward with stories of rape, stalking, harassment or assault, Crawford told 60 Minutes Sports.

How many of those cases involved football players?

Seventeen women reported sexual or domestic assaults involving 19 football players, including four alleged gang rapes, since 2011, Baylor has said.

Several high-profile cases fueled public interest.

In 2014, former defensive end Tevin Elliott was sentenced to 20 years in prison after multiple women testified that he sexually assaulted them.

The next year, Sam Ukwuachu, another defensive end, was sentenced to six months in jail and 10 years of probation for sexually assaulting a female Baylor soccer player.

Then, as Baylor was wrapping up its internal investigation, a third player was arrested.

In April, Shawn Oakman, then an NFL draft prospect, was arrested for sexually assaulting a Baylor graduate student he met at a bar. Oakman, who says the sex was consensual, is awaiting trial.

Still more football players were named in police reports but never charged.

Who should be held responsible?

Baylor fired its head football coach, ousted the university president and accepted the athletic director's resignation. But critics have questioned whether that was enough — and whether the right people have been held accountable.

Who knew what when?

That question still looms over Baylor, in part because the university has not released the full findings from the Pepper Hamilton investigation. Officials say they received only an oral presentation of the results and do not have a written report to release.

A summary of the results, released on university letterhead in May, spread blame from the administration to the athletic department. It did not name specific employees.

In at least one case, school regents told The Wall Street Journal, head football coach Art Briles knew about an alleged incident and did not report it. Briles has since sued regents for libel.

Briles, who led Baylor to its first-ever Big 12 title and first bowl game in 16 years, was fired for a failure in leadership, not one specific incident, regents said. University president Ken Starr and athletic director Ian McCaw also departed amid the fallout.

But a vocal group of alumni have increasingly pointed blame at the regents who govern the school, asking what role they had in ignoring the school's sexual assault problem.

Crawford, the former Title IX coordinator who resigned in October, has pointed a finger at "senior leadership" who she says protected the university's brand instead of students.

The university took action months ago. Why is there still so much controversy surrounding Baylor?

Frustrated survivors, alumni and former employees have waged a battle against Baylor in the form of lawsuits and calls for more transparency.

At least 13 survivors of sexual or physical assault have sued Baylor.

Briles' libel lawsuit is pending. Another former athletics staffer, Tom Hill, has sued Pepper Hamilton for its investigation.

Bears for Leadership Reform, a group of alumni, students, and faculty who want change at Baylor, has publicly clashed with the board amid repeated calls for transparency. Its members include some of the biggest donors in school history.

Baylor is also under investigation by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights for a possible Title IX violation.

That was a lot of information. What's the takeaway?

Since 2011, 19 Baylor football players have been accused of sexual assault, including four gang rapes, the university has said. In that time, two players have been convicted and another was indicted. Others were named in police reports.

Campuswide, Baylor received about 125 reports of sexual assault or harassment between 2011 and 2015.

An investigation of Baylor's response found institutional failure "at every level," including employees who did not report cases they knew about or discouraged complainants from moving forward. Several people lost their jobs, including the head football coach and university president.

People really want the full results of that investigation. So far, Baylor has released only a summary, leading to ongoing controversy. Big-time alumni and donors are calling on the university to release more information, and several lawsuits are pending.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

Lawyer: Texas police must show arrest not racially motivated

By David Warren
Associated Press

DALLAS — The lawyer for a black woman who's seen on video being wrestled to the ground and arrested by a white officer said Friday the burden is on police to prove the officer's actions weren't racially motivated.

Attorney S. Lee Merritt said police in Fort Worth and elsewhere in the country have shown "discriminatory behavior" toward minorities. He told The Associated Press that his client, Jacqueline Craig, is not currently considering a federal civil rights claim against police. She wants to see the Fort Worth officer fired and other actions taken by authorities, Merritt said.

"Everything that was done that day was done incorrectly," he said.

The officer, whose name hasn't been released, responded to a call for service after Craig argued with a man who she said had physically confronted her 7-year-old son for littering. In the cellphone video of Wednesday's incident, Craig can be heard telling the officer that the man had "grabbed and choked" her son.

The officer engages Craig in a conversation that quickly escalates. He asks why she hadn't taught her son not to litter. Craig says that regardless of whether the boy littered, the man did not have the right to "put his hands on him." The officer says, "Why not?"

One of Craig's daughters tries to push her mother away, but the officer forces Craig and the teen to the ground. He points a stun gun into Craig's back and then at her daughter when she tries to approach. Craig, her daughter and a second daughter who intervened were arrested on charges that include disorderly conduct. All three are now out of jail and back home.

Video of the confrontation posted to Facebook has been viewed more than 2.5 million times.

The officer allowed the situation to escalate, Merritt said, and did not file a report on Craig's claim that her neighbor accosted her son.

"We don't see this kind of action taken against citizens who are not black or who aren't brown," he said.

The officer was placed on restricted duty Thursday. Later that day, about 100 protesters gathered at a courthouse, holding signs that read, "Moms Stick Together," "Racism Is a Sin," and "Am I Next?"

Police Chief Joel Fitzgerald and other city officials at a news conference Friday expressed concern with the officer's actions and asked the community to remain calm.

"I can't call it racism but I noticed in the video that

Please see POLICE/6B

Joyce Marshall/Star-Telegram via AP

People gather outside the Tarrant County Courthouse on Thursday to protest a white officer wrestling Jacqueline Craig, a black woman, to the ground, which was captured on video. Attorney S. Lee Merritt said the officer allowed the situation to escalate and did not file a report on Craig's claim that her neighbor accosted her son.

Thank You For Making This Christmas A Joyous One!

Thanks to your help we were able to provide Christmas to 118 families (317 children). The children received a complete set of new clothing, and at least 4 toys apiece, the teenagers each received a $100 gift card so they could purchase what they needed, and the families were given a bag of food and a gift card to Super Mercado where they could purchase the meat of their choice for the holiday.

This year we again assisted the families from **MISD's Head Start Program,** but we also were able to provide Christmas for all of the children in **Safe Place** (a shelter for victims of domestic violence), **The Genesis Center** (transitional housing for homeless women and their children), and **Family Promise** (transitional housing for homeless families).

We thank the parishioners of **St. Stephen's Catholic Church** for "adopting" the angels, to the St. Stephen's Youth Groups for assisting in distributing the toys and clothing, Carmen Robledo, Leticia Gutierrez and the St. Stephen's Women's Organization for organizing the distribution of the clothing, **St. Ann's Catholic Church** for an awesome toy drive, **Midland Memorial Hospital** for adopting many of the angels, **AT&T Pioneers** and all of you who either adopted children or contributed to the project.

Merry Christmas! From all of us at Helping Hands God bless you!

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nancyivy23@yahoo.com
Midland Soup Kitchen Ministry

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"On the sixth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, six geese-a-laying..."

The six geese-a-laying represent the six days of Creation.

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Traditional Catholic Church
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686-7709

"On the seventh day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, seven swans-a-swimming..."

The seven swans-a-swimming represent the seven sacraments and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Barbara Elliott
Russell B. Buchanan
Owners

Serenity Memorial Gardens Cemetery
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Midland, Texas 79701

Office (432) 684-6200
Fax (432) 684-6275
serenitymemorial@gmail.com

"On the eighth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, eight maids-a-milking..."

The eight maids-a-milking are the eight Beatitudes in Matt. 5, part of the Sermon on the Mount.

Midland Reporter-Telegram
mrt★com

"On the ninth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, nine ladies dancing..."

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The Twelve Days of Christmas

On the first day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
A Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the second day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
2 Turtle Doves
and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the third day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
3 French Hens
2 Turtle Doves
and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the fourth day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
4 Calling Birds
3 French Hens
2 Turtle Doves
and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the fifth day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
5 Golden Rings
4 Calling Birds
3 French Hens
2 Turtle Doves
and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the sixth day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
6 Geese a Laying
5 Golden Rings
4 Calling Birds
3 French Hens
2 Turtle Doves
and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the seventh day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
7 Swans a Swimming
6 Geese a Laying
5 Golden Rings
4 Calling Birds
3 French Hens
2 Turtle Doves
and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the eighth day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
8 Maids a Milking
7 Swans a Swimming
6 Geese a Laying
5 Golden Rings
4 Calling Birds
3 French Hens
2 Turtle Doves
and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the ninth day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
9 Ladies Dancing
8 Maids a Milking
7 Swans a Swimming
6 Geese a Laying
5 Golden Rings
4 Calling Birds
3 French Hens
2 Turtle Doves
and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the tenth day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
10 Lords a Leaping
9 Ladies Dancing
8 Maids a Milking
7 Swans a Swimming
6 Geese a Laying
5 Golden Rings
4 Calling Birds
3 French Hens
2 Turtle Doves
and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the eleventh day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
11 Pipers Piping
10 Lords a Leaping
9 Ladies Dancing
8 Maids a Milking
7 Swans a Swimming
6 Geese a Laying
5 Golden Rings
4 Calling Birds
3 French Hens
2 Turtle Doves
and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the first day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
12 Drummers Drumming
11 Pipers Piping
10 Lords a Leaping
9 Ladies Dancing
8 Maids a Milking
7 Swans a Swimming
6 Geese a Laying
5 Golden Rings
4 Calling Birds
3 French Hens
2 Turtle Doves
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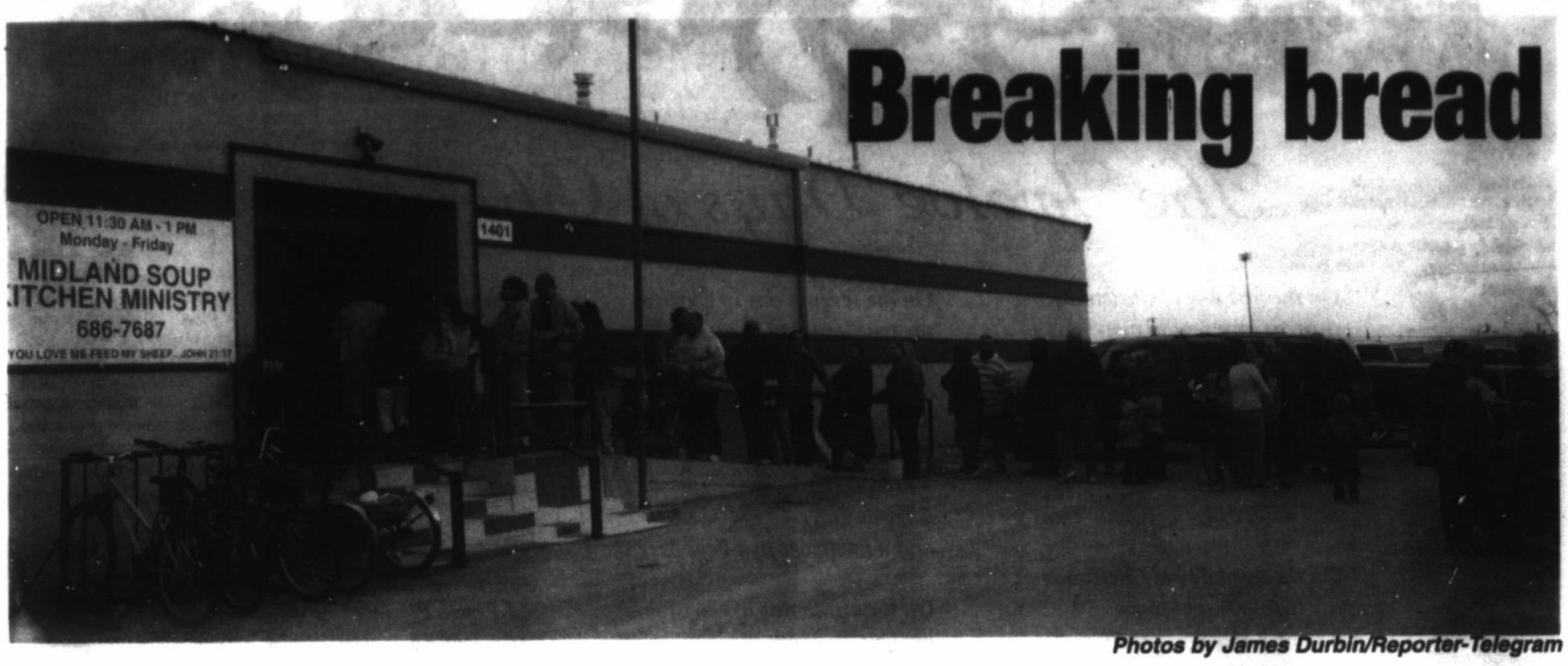

Photos by James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

TOP: The line for the Midland Soup Kitchen Ministry stretched across the parking lot Friday. **BELOW:** Families are served a holiday meal.

POLICE

From 3B

the officer was rude," said Fitzgerald, who is black. "There's a difference between rude and racism."

Fitzgerald said the video "disturbed" him but that investigators need time to review the matter and submit their findings.

Mayor Betsy Price added, "This is an isolated incident in Fort Worth and we are taking it very seriously."

Attorney Terry Daffron, who represents the officer as counsel for the Combined Law Enforcement Association of Texas, said people shouldn't jump to conclusions based solely on the video, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported.

"As has become the norm in our society, the video does not show the entire interaction between the officer and the individuals on the scene," Daffron said in a statement to the newspaper. "It is shameful that there is an immediate rush to judgment that my client is a racist cop simply because of the color of his skin ... I am confident that when all of the facts, evidence, and information come to light, it will present a different account of the events."

Police said in an earlier statement that they have reviewed the officer's body camera footage, but will not be releasing it or many other details because state law regarding internal investigations doesn't allow them to do so, particularly investigations that involve minors.

US allowing work to restart at nuke dump 3 years after leak

By Susan Montoya Bryan
Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The U.S. Energy Department authorized its contractor Friday to begin disposing of radioactive waste again at the nation's only underground repository, setting the stage for the first barrel to go below ground since a radiation release forced the facility to shut down nearly three years ago.

Agency officials said the move confirms that numerous corrective actions uncovered during a recent review of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in southern New Mexico have been completed.

A team of Energy Department experts from around the nation had found paperwork and documentation issues that needed to be fixed. It also had found inadequate procedures for new requirements on accepting waste from national laboratories and other defense sites.

The federal government called the authorization a major milestone.

"Safety has and will continue to be our number one priority," Energy Department spokeswoman Bridget Bartol said, noting that workers will complete minor maintenance on the walls and floors of the underground disposal area before waste-handling work resumes.

The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant has been closed since February 2014 when a radiation release contaminated a significant portion of the repository, where disposal rooms are carved out of a thick salt formation deep underground.

AP Photo/New Mexico Environment Department, File

In this photo, provided by the New Mexico Environment Department, a team of state regulators tour the federal government's only underground nuclear waste repository Dec. 8 near Carlsbad, N.M., as part of an inspection necessary before the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant can resume operations. State regulators have approved restarting normal operations at the nuclear waste repository, according to two letters obtained Thursday by The Associated Press.

The shutdown put shipments from around the country on indefinite hold as the federal government poured hundreds of millions of dollars into recovery efforts and policy overhauls.

New Mexico regulators cited the government and the contractor for numerous permit violations related to the radiation release and an unrelated fire involving a mining truck weeks earlier. That resulted in a multimillion-dollar settlement with the state.

Los Alamos National Laboratory, in northern New Mexico, also was cited because the breached container of waste from 2014 had been inappropriately packed there before being shipped to the repository.

Investigators said the incident could have been avoided had managers not ignored existing policies and procedures for handling and treating the waste, which includes gloves, tools, clothing and other materials from decades of bomb-making and research.

The Energy Department released a slew of documents Friday related to reviews of the facility's readiness to reopen that state and federal officials conducted in recent weeks. State officials gave their approval for work to resume in letters sent to the federal agency late last week.

Some watchdog groups had asked the department not to rush, citing the previous incidents and the importance of the facility to the nation's multibillion-dollar cleanup of Cold War-era waste.

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Judge who ruled Texas' foster care system broken recognized

Associated Press

DALLAS — U.S. District Judge Janis Graham Jack, who ruled that Texas' foster care system is unconstitutionally broken, has been named The Dallas Morning News' Texan of the Year.

Jack "punctured our comfortable obliviousness to the appalling treatment" being endured by the 12,000 children labeled permanent wards of the state, the newspaper said in its announcement of the award Friday.

"It takes an extraordinary person to hold up a mirror that shows us the stark reality of our indifference. And it takes a powerful voice to make it clear that our state has countenanced unspeakable suffering for far too long," the newspaper said.

It noted that Jack's December 2015 ruling not only focused statewide attention on those in long-term foster care, but all of the approximately 30,000 children whose welfare is overseen by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, the agency that oversees Child Protective Services.

Jack has ordered an independent overhaul of the foster care system and has appointed experts to come up with a plan.

Her order followed a lawsuit that was filed by the New York-based advocacy group Children's Rights along with attorneys from Texas. The plaintiffs were children who had been placed in long-term foster care.

"In a just world, they would be at the front of the line for the best care and compassion society could offer. In reality, they are, in Jack's words, 'the forgotten children,'" the newspaper said.

Jack devoted nearly half of her 260-page ruling to detailed histories of the child plaintiffs. One child, Jack wrote, entered the foster care system at age 5 and within months reported being raped by an older child. The girl was moved more than 45 times, including to psychiatric hospitals, and missed several chances for adoption because of paperwork delays. At 18, after aging out of the system, she walked into traffic. She was hit by a car but survived.

The newspaper called the judge's ruling an "extraordinary document," noting "it examines Texas child-welfare procedures in more exacting detail than many DFPS bureaucrats were able to define at trial" and "it identifies systemic failings that have been repeated for decades."

"Dramatic change needs a catalyst," said Houston lawyer Paul Yetter, the lead plaintiffs' attorney in the case. "Judge Jack's opinion shines such a bright light on this broken system that the harm to these children cannot be ignored."

Todd Yates/Corpus Christi Caller-Times via AP

U.S. District Judge Janis Graham Jack administers the U.S. oath of citizenship to more than 100 area residents representing 25 countries July 4, 2008 aboard the USS Lexington. The federal judge who ruled that Texas' foster care system is unconstitutionally broken has been named The Dallas Morning News' Texan of the Year. The newspaper announced Friday that Jack was being recognized because she "punctured our comfortable obliviousness to the appalling treatment" being endured by the 12,000 children labeled permanent wards of the state.

Pecos

From 1B

placed in the bottom 2,000 meters of the borehole, while the upper portion of the borehole would be sealed.

Researchers would study areas such as drilling techniques, wellbore stability, sealing and properties of the subsurface with a goal of determining whether deep boreholes in the area could serve as safe disposal sites for nuclear waste the DOE stores at plants around the country, State Geologist and Bureau Director Scott Tinker said in a statement.

Researchers would also explore potential for developing geothermal energy.

Supporters of the research project signaled they would tout economic and scientific benefits the test could offer the area.

After scrapping the North and South Dakota deep borehole project, the DOE restarted the project and required public support and outreach that makes clear the field test site will not be used for future nuclear waste disposal, the DOE's Undersecretary for Science and Energy Franklin Orr said in a statement.

Orr said the test project is part of the DOE's effort to find a "safe and practical alternative" for storing smaller forms of nuclear waste to mined geological repositories, such as the stalled Yucca Mountain permanent disposal site in Nevada.

Orr said that "anytime a community hears about a federal government project involving the words 'nuclear waste,' questions and concerns understandably arise," but that "only those teams that establish an agreement with the local community will go forward in the competition for the final site selection."

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

Wells

From 1B

layers of rock and other geology, aiming for below where groundwater pools. The idea is to tap the oil or gas deposits and pump them to the surface without letting any seep into other layers. Oil and gas comes up through metal piping that helps keep it from mixing with water resources. Cementing around that piping adds more layers of protection.

At Boehmer Lake, brackish San Andres aquifer water is shooting through a corroded wellhead, mixing with salt and other minerals on the way out. Even worse, Van Deventer says, the area is sinking as water eats away at underground salts. He fears a collapse like the "Wink Sinks," famously large sinkholes not far away in Winkler County.

With its own sleuthing and help from the Railroad Commission, the Middle Pecos Groundwater Conservation District has discovered that the well was among dozens that oilmen drilled around here during the 1930s, 40s and 50s — unable to strike it rich. Ranchers then repurposed some of these wells for irrigation. But they walked away, leaving the wells subject to cracks, corrosion and other natural damage.

The groundwater district has found about a dozen such unplugged wells, including several that are flowing. Landowners — some of whom live elsewhere and own small parcels — are unwilling or unable to pay for plugging, which would probably cost hundreds of thousands of dollars more than typical jobs.

Cash-strapped itself, the district has asked the Texas Railroad Commission to clean them up. But that agency, which jointly regulates and champions oil and gas production, says it can't plug most of them — even if oilmen originally drilled them.

"The Railroad Commission will take action on any well to plug or repair it, when we have evidence the well is an abandoned oil or gas well," said Ramona Nye, an agency spokeswoman. "If the well has been transferred over for use by a private landowner for irrigation or for a water supply well, the Railroad Commission no longer has jurisdiction or authority to plug the well."

Terry Clawson, a spokesman for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, said his agency has no plugging responsibilities either — for water wells or any other types. It appears no state agency has such a role.

"That's the biggest problem we have," said Van Deventer. "No one wants to claim responsibility."

Groundwater officials like Edwards and his boss, Paul Weatherby, spend plenty of time searching for abandoned wells.

Often by truck, once in a while by plane, and sometimes just using Google maps, they scour Pecos County for drilling leftovers that could pollute water. They try to gather as much information as they can about each well. Who drilled it? Who last operated it? Who is responsible for shelling out thousands of dollars to plug it?

The groundwater officials send whatever they can glean to the Railroad Commission. The agency can order companies to plug abandoned wells and levy penalties if they don't. But often, the responsible party is long gone — bankrupt, perhaps. In those cases, the commission, tapping fees it collects from industry, might hire a contractor to plug a well.

"I can't find any drilling reports or nothing. I just know it's here," Edwards said at one stop on this day's tour — a narrow well surrounded by puddles of black sludge and hoof prints. "Looks like the cattle have been stopping in here. I don't know if they've been drinking that?"

The hit-and-miss process can be frustrating, even when it results in a state-funded cleanup.

Edwards recalled one recent case — a well that was spewing oil long before he spotted it on a map that Google had just updated. "It shouldn't take me looking on Google – at something that's been happening for two years."

But he understands that overworked state regulators can't be everywhere on "the biggest damn oil patch in the country."

How often do abandoned wells pollute groundwater? That's hard to say.

A 2011 study prepared for the Oklahoma-based Groundwater Protection Council cited 30 times that abandoned drilling sites polluted Texas groundwater from 1993 to 2008. The Railroad Commission told The Texas Tribune that it has not linked any groundwater contamination cases to abandoned wells since 2009.

But experts say pollution can fester where no one has looked. In one extreme case decades ago, an abandoned well leaked brine for more than 22 years before someone discovered that it was polluting groundwater below 400 to 600 acres of Scurry County, according to a 1990 study by the University of Texas' Bureau of Economic Geology.

"What happens underground, where you have a contaminated aquifer, no one knows," said Green, the Southwest Research Institute hydrologist.

Old wells typically offer the biggest threats because freewheeling drillers long ago faced lax standards and used relatively weak materials for casing — meaning the wells do little to guard water from pollutants. Mother Nature also exacts a toll.

In Pecos County, "you're going to have problems with water that's very salty and very corrosive," Edwards said of decades-old wells. "Once it eats through the casing, it's coming to meet you, then it's going to mingle with whatever is above it."

But some sloppy drilling techniques aren't exclusively a thing of the past, one former state regulator suggests.

Robert Traylor, a geoscientist who left the Railroad Commission's Groundwater Advisory Unit in 2015 after more than 20 years at the agency, said that some drillers cut corners during the most recent boom — eager to start pumping after pouring millions of dollars into horizontal wells.

"Just drill the well as fast as possible, because they were under such pressure to get cash flow going," Traylor said in an interview with the Tribune.

Fighting the backlog

Texas officials paid little attention to the environmental dangers of abandoned oil wells throughout much of state history. But in 1992, the Railroad Commission launched an aggressive plan to plug wells across Texas — tapping bonds, taxes and other fees it collected from drillers. It has since plugged nearly 31,600 wells at a cost of more than $243 million, according to a commission report published this month. The agency evaluates each well based on a litany of risk factors, and it tries to plug the riskiest wells first.

At the end of August, the Railroad Commission was tracking five leaking abandoned wells and 589 that it labeled Priority 2H — a high-risk category that includes wells that don't protect water sources.

The agency's full stock of "orphaned wells" — those that have been inactive and have lapsed paperwork for more than a year — shrunk dramatically during the 1990s and 2000s.

Totals plunged from nearly 18,000 to 7,000 from 2002 to 2010.

But the trend has since reversed amid a drilling downturn that followed a years-long bonanza. Texas's total orphaned well count eclipsed 10,100 in the 2016 fiscal year — the most since 2007. (In September, the Railroad Commission narrowed its definition of such wells, specifying that all must have also violated another rule for inactive wells. That purged more than 3,000 wells from the list.)

In recent weeks, West Texas crude has inched above $50 per barrel, giving producers hope that their rough patch will soon be over. But some experts foresee even more abandoned wells on the horizon.

"There is about to be a tsunami of abandoned wells," said Kerry Knorpp, an Amarillo oil and gas attorney who sat on a now-inactive state committee that monitored oilfield cleanup efforts and offered input to the Railroad Commission. "Wells were drilled at $110 oil that you would have never completed otherwise."

For now, the state's orphaned well list is growing largely because the Railroad Commission struggles to keep plugging at its previous pace.

The commission's annual reports on oilfield cleanup efforts describe the conundrum: few contractors are bidding on state contracts because more lucrative private industry is luring them away. During the boom, these contractors helped companies drill more wells. And during the industry's two-year slowdown? The state can't compete with private plugging contracts.

(Well operators plug the vast majority of inactive wells on their own. In 2016, they funded 94 percent of all Texas plugings — leaving the rest to the Railroad Commission, according to agency data.)

Industry representatives play down the severity of the growing orphaned well count — a fluid list that includes thousands of wells in less problematic conditions and a few that don't necessarily need plugging.

"A portion of the orphaned wells in Texas are considered assets with future production value," Ed Longanecker, president of the Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners, said in an email. "These wells are routinely acquired by other operators."

And some wells could eventually escape the list if their owners simply renew their lapsed permits.

But ahead of what promises to be a tight-fisted Texas legislative session, the Railroad Commission is making it known that it's bleeding cash and needs more money for cleanups and other core duties.

During the drilling slowdown, the agency said it's collecting less revenue from its chief source: industry taxes and fees. That has forced a 21 percent cut ($16 million) to the "Oil and Gas Regulation Cleanup Fund," which foots the bill for plugging and other activities.

To avoid more cuts, the agency is asking Texas lawmakers for a two-year cash infusion of about $45 million and the ability to keep some of the gas utility taxes it collects, according to a memo written by Commission Chairman Christi Craddick's office and backed by her two fellow commissioners.

The current funding approach "is not sustainable for the long-term welfare of the agency or the oil and gas industry and can lead to health and safety issues that the state must avoid," the memo says.

State Rep. Drew Darby, R-San Angelo, who chairs his chamber's Energy Resources Committee and formerly sat on the powerful Appropriations Committee, said he would listen closely to such arguments in a session with many high-profile priorities competing for funding.

"I just think the Legislature's got to recognize – we've had a downturn," he said. "We've got to have a functioning agency."

But Traylor, the retired Railroad Commission geoscientist, suggested that the agency would need more than cash to fully address the environmental problem — if you want to call it that.

"The abandoned well issue is just going to increase with the number of wells drilled, and it's going to become far more complex," he said. "If you don't know how to solve it, it's beyond calling it a problem. Okay? It's called a major crisis."

How much do pluggings cost?

The table below shows how many wells the Railroad Commission plugged in recent years and how much the state paid. (Note: Costs in 2013 were particularly high because the commission that year plugged 30 offshore wells at a cost of $8.4 million.)

Year	Number of wells plugged	Total spent plugging wells	Average cost per well
2012	764	$12.9 million	$16,100
2013	778	$20.9 million	$26,900
2014	563	$15 million	$26,600
2015	692	$10.7 million	$15,500
2016	544	$8.5 million	$15,700

Source: Texas Railroad Commission

FOSTER

From 2B

shipped halfway across Texas and live a lonely existence, he warns.

The meetings effectively are pep rallies. They are designed to touch the hearts and consciences of local residents. Some will take the momentous step of signing up to be foster parents. Others will play supportive roles as volunteers.

Palo Pinto County, the most rural of the pilot area's counties, had the biggest need in September 2014, when ACH took charge of placing all foster children in the seven counties.

Then, Palo Pinto had only three foster homes. Meanwhile, CPS had removed and placed into foster care 89 of the county's children.

"Very few of them are here," Mineral Wells Mayor Mike Allen said of local foster kids, speaking at an August strategy session in his town, the county seat. "They're in Houston, Sherman, all over."

Residents are concerned and highhearted but knew nothing about their county's shortage of foster homes, he said.

What's different

In buying a place to stay and services for 92 percent of the state's 17,000 foster children, the state uses "open enrollment" procurement. At CPS, conservatorship caseworkers and placement specialists send email blasts to vendors about their need for a home for a child. The first one to respond often gets the kid.

Experts, though, have said that kind of shotgun approach fails to match children well with caregivers. They said that's why at least 40 percent of initial placements fall apart.

In redesign, one vendor agrees to be responsible for placing all the children in a geographic area. The contractor also agrees to make sure supply fits demand.

ACH, the lead contractor, considers one of its key jobs to raise awareness about local needs — and provide practical ways for people to help, Carson said.

After two years of sophisticated marketing and persuasion — but chiefly aided by a kind of religious revival ignited through collaboration with a local ministerial alliance — ACH is crowing about a turnaround in Palo Pinto County.

There, about 30 families have started the process of becoming licensed as foster parents. Others stepped up by pledging to provide babysitting and prayer for the new foster parents.

Several empty nesters volunteered to be "court-appointed special advocates." After undergoing training, they befriend the children and appear in court on their behalf.

"It's flexing your faith," said J.R. Patterson, a fabrication shop owner who with wife Sheree has been a CASA volunteer for six years.

"I'm a God-fearing Jesus freak, OK?" he explained as a panelist at the August session, which drew about 60 people to a country club in Mineral Wells.

After learning more about the diaspora of local foster kids, Patterson said he felt a religious conviction that he and Sheree should become foster parents. Still, he worried it's "too big, too tough" a task. Not until further recruitment meetings, which yielded other adults willing to all be trained together, did the Pattersons feel comfortable enough to sign up, he recalled.

"You better get ready and own it," he told fellow townspeople at the Holiday Hills Country Club. "They're not broken kids, they're our kids."

ACH has culled two of its 44 regional providers for poor performance and has improved communication with those who still take and treat kids, Carson said.

The lead vendor tries to remove obstacles that frustrate current and prospective foster families, he said.

Early on, it soothed complaints by working with the Department of Family and Protective Services to speed approvals of state-paid day care for foster children under the age of 5, he said.

Then Carson learned that the system was losing rural adults, many of whom said they couldn't complete their required 30 hours of training if they had to drive as far as Fort Worth or Arlington. He put out a bid that lured four child-placing agencies to offer the courses in Palo Pinto and Parker counties.

Early results promising

Early data show good results, though there are challenges because a higher percentage of children coming into Texas foster care are considered "high needs."

Across all seven counties in what the department designates as "Region 3B," more children are staying closer to their hometowns. Eighty-three percent are within 50 miles of home, compared with 71 percent before the redesign's launch. In Palo Pinto, the number of foster kids staying in the county has increased sixfold.

More children are participating in their court cases. More take part in designing their therapies. Eighty-four percent take classes intended to help them "age out" of foster care successfully, compared with 71 percent in the old system.

Region 3B, though, still lacks a residential treatment center. The centers, which are numerous in metro Houston but rare in Dallas-Fort Worth, are used to house children with the most severe medical, behavioral and intellectual-development problems. When Texas leaders first kicked around redesign as a concept in early 2010, the geographic imbalance in treatment centers was a big impetus to shake things up.

Asked at a town meeting in Cleburne whether and when ACH could lure a provider to start a center in the region, Carson said that if the state improves reimbursements, it could happen within a year.

To keep more of the most troubled children closer to home, ACH has created a new category of specially trained "therapeutic" foster parents. Carson has 127 therapeutic foster homes in Region 3B. Two are in Palo Pinto.

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Wednesday December 28 - GIRLS Schedule
9:00 AM Chap Center — Lake Travis vs Bushland
12:00 PM Chap Center — MCA vs Plainview
3:00 PM Chap Center — Bushland vs Midland Lee
6:00 PM Chap Center — EP Eastlake vs Midland High

Wednesday December 28 - BOYS Schedule
10:30 AM Chap Center — Odessa High vs Hereford
1:30 PM Chap Center — Plainview vs Odessa Permian
4:30 PM Chap Center — San Angelo Central vs Midland Lee
7:30 PM Chap Center — Bushland vs Midland High

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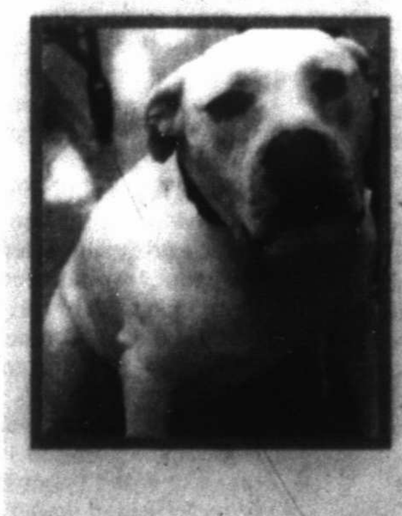
MASA

MASA is one of MIDLAND'S LARGEST DOG RESCUES.

MASA is one of Midland's largest dog rescues. The primary goal of MASA is to network animals at the Midland Animal Shelter in order to increase adoptions and reduce the number of animals euthanized at the city's animal shelter. MASA's volunteers visit the Midland Animal Shelter daily to photograph every dog and cat that the shelter intakes, and posts every animal's photos and information at www.facebook.com/MASAdoptables.



MASA also adopts and fully vets dogs pulled from the Midland Animal Shelter by utilizing a foster based system to provide temporary homes and/or transportation to outside rescues for the animals until a forever home can be found. Our vision is to make the Midland Animal Shelter a no-kill shelter where every animal has a second chance at a loving home. MASA also strives to educate the public on the importance of spaying and neutering animals. With great programs and a variety of family-oriented offerings, we believe that we enhance the quality of life in this community, making it a better, more interesting place to live. MASA has was able to save the lives of over 460 dogs that entered the Midland Animal Shelter this year. Our rescue has over 80 fully-vetted dogs of all ages, sizes and breed that are in need of loving homes.

MASA is funded 100% on donations and is operated 100% by volunteers, if you are interested in adopting from MASA or volunteering, donating or fostering for MASA please visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MASAdoptables or our website at http://MasaRescue.com/ MASA does weekly adoption events on most Saturdays from 10 AM-5 PM at the Midland Petsmart

Cowboys keep their main focus on Lions

By Schulyer Dixon
Associated Press

FRISCO — Jason Witten had to figure the questions were coming after the Dallas Cowboys wrapped up the NFC East and home-field advantage in the playoffs with two games remaining.

The last time Dallas had the top seed secured before the end of the regular season, Witten was a fifth-year tight end in 2007. The Cowboys promptly lost their first playoff game to the New York Giants and watched their division rival upset undefeated New England in the Super Bowl.

So now the question is how the Cowboys (12-2) keep their edge with two games that won't change their spot in the playoff bracket — starting Monday night at home against Detroit (9-5) — along with a bye before their postseason opener. The Lions are trying to secure a playoff berth.

"I don't think it's entered anybody's minds," Witten said Friday, a day after the Cowboys clinched thanks to the Giants' 24-19 loss to Philadelphia . "I think we're all aware of where it's at. It's a long time away, to think that you would rest or anything like that. Our job is to go play and coaches will handle those situations."

For instance, will backup Tony Romo — the architect of that 13-3 season nine years ago — get playing time so that Dallas can protect Dak Prescott, the rookie who took the 10-year starter's job with an 11-game winning streak?

What about left tackle Tyron Smith and defensive end DeMarcus Lawrence with their bad backs? Should Darren McFadden, last year's leading rusher for Dallas, get more carries in relief of rookie NFL rushing leader Ezekiel Elliott because the nine-year veteran just returned from an offseason elbow injury?

Sorry. Coach Jason Garrett isn't interested in discussing such things.

"We don't really think about that," Garrett said. "We're focused on practicing and playing as well as we can in this game on Monday night against Detroit."

Elliott needs 258 yards to break Eric Dickerson's 33-year-old rookie record of 1,808 yards, and he acknowledged that it would be special. But the fourth overall pick, whose career took off with a dominant stretch when Ohio State won the first College Football Playoff two years ago, was surprisingly candid when asked what he preferred.

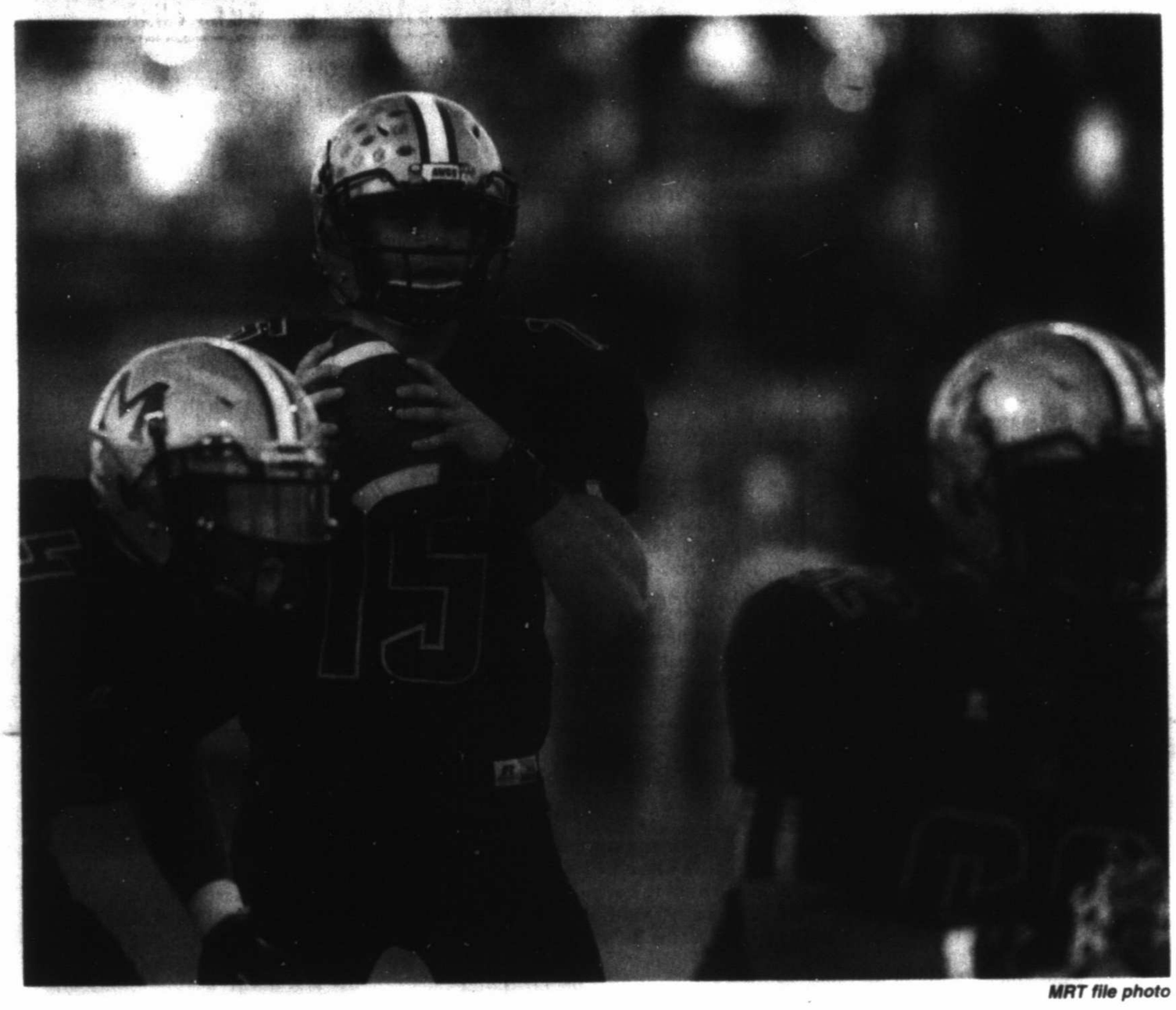
"I think there is a shot to get that rookie rushing record, but it's not worth risking what we have the opportunity to do as a team," said Elliott, who has 1,551 yards. "And I wouldn't want to risk getting it for something (when) we have the opportunity to go and play for a Super Bowl. Whatever they think is best for our team, then that's what's going to happen."

Romo made his infamous trip to Cabo San Lucas with then-girlfriend Jessica Simpson during the bye week in 2007, fuel for criticism after the Cowboys' 21-17 loss to New York. Barring an injury to

Please see **COWBOYS**/3C

MRT OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Action Jackson leads MHS



MRT file photo

Midland High's Jackson Anuszkiewicz takes the snap against DeSoto on Sept. 9 at Grande Communications Stadium.

Anuszkiewicz's evolution drives Dawgs' success

By Christopher Hadorn
chadorn@mrt.com

The Midland High offense had the talent to do special things in 2016.

The Bulldogs had four big-play receivers, a tough downhill running back in Ricky Hubert and an experienced offensive line. But most importantly, MHS had the right conductor with senior quarterback Jackson Anuszkiewicz to lead the offense to new heights.

Anuszkiewicz rewrote the school record book in guiding the Bulldogs to a 9-3 record, a second-place finish in District 2-6A and the most points scored (517) in the program's 97-year recorded history.

Anuszkiewicz set the Midland High single-season records for passing yards (3,066), passing TDs (36), total offense (3,629), completions (179) and attempts (286), and he also set career school marks in passing yards (4,262), total offense (4,890) and passing TDs (46).

For his historic campaign, Anuszkiewicz has earned the Reporter-Telegram's Offensive Player of the Year.

"Whenever it says I broke the passing yards record or whatever, that's definitely not me," Anuszkiewicz said humbly. "That's me having time in the pocket from the offensive linemen and me just completing the pass.

"People when they see that record, they don't realize all the things that the receiving corps did this year and what they did after the catch. That's really what made this year so special is having time to throw the ball and the big explosive plays that the receivers made after the catch, so I have to give the credit to them on that one."

Anuszkiewicz's selfless attitude is a reason why MHS head coach Craig Yenzer offered him a chance to play quarterback before his junior year. Anuszkiewicz got the opportunity despite never playing quarterback before, spending his sophomore and freshman seasons as a wide receiver and safety.

But Yenzer believed the 3.9 grade point average student had the intangibles, leadership qualities and competitive spirit to thrive at the position.

"He kind of epitomizes what we try to get our players all to do, to keep working and get in the weight room," Yenzer said. "He's a two-sport guy, played baseball. Many times I have seen him as a sophomore and as a freshman, after being out here for a 2 1/2 hour baseball workout in April, he was in the weight room until 7:30 p.m. It was dark, he was by himself or with his dad or maybe with one of his buddies and they're in there lifting after baseball or even after baseball playoff games.

"He was the first guy to get to the spring practice. He always the first guy on the field, the last guy off."

The 6-foot, 180-pound senior's persistence and drive paid off in 2016 as he evolved into a pocket passer after relying more on his scrambling ability and improvisational skills as a junior.

"He was seeing the field and the game was slowing down for him, and he was able to see his No. 1, No. 2, No. 3 or even No. 4 receiver on the backside," Yenzer said. "His vision was better. He was getting the ball and he was distributing the ball how you want it to be distributed."

Anuszkiewicz, who used to attend 7:30 a.m. quarterback meetings during spring practice, was in complete command of operating the Bulldogs' no-huddle, up-tempo offense by the fall.

"That was the toughest part for me was like knowing which defense they ran and what would be best for our offense to run and what type of audible to make," Anuszkiewicz said. "After the spring and after the early season, it all came pretty naturally."

Anuszkiewicz directed Midland High to a 56-point showing in its season opener against El Paso Franklin, and the offense kept on churning from that point

Please see **ANUSZKIEWICZ**/2C

Sumlin pitches stability, but frustrated Aggies looking for results

By Brent Zwerneman
Houston Chronicle

COLLEGE STATION — Recruiting is in a dead period around Christmas and the new year, but Texas A&M coach Kevin Sumlin kept sharp on the topic with a recruiting pitch last week. To a room full of reporters gathered for a Texas Bowl news conference.

Sumlin

"Without a doubt we are the most stable — a combination of stability and winning — program in the state of Texas," Sumlin said, citing a comparison of the state's FBS programs over the last five years. "The only team that has more wins than us is Baylor."

He then vaguely referenced the sexual-assault scandal that has rocked Baylor. "But we all know what they've been through, with three different coaches and what's happened there."

Five years ago this month, Sumlin left the University of Houston for A&M, and he's back in town this week with the 8-4 Aggies, who face 8-4 Kansas State on Wednesday night at NRG Stadium in the Advocare V100 Texas Bowl.

Sumlin, 52, entered the season with his gig on the line, in coming off consecutive 8-5 finishes and two starting quarterbacks transferring a year ago in Kyle Allen and Kyler Murray. Senior Trevor Knight's transfer from Oklahoma and the leadership and decent play he provided solidified the position, however, and the Aggies are counting on redshirt freshman Nick Starkel or incoming freshman Kellen Mond, a five-star recruit, to lock down quarterback in 2017.

Mond of IMG Academy in Bradenton, Florida, has verbally pledged to play for the Aggies, and national signing day is in a little more than a month. The Aggies appeared to quell any "hot seat" chatter around Sumlin, who's yet to win a division title in SEC West action over five seasons, with a hot start and a No. 4 slotting in the first College Football Playoff ranking in early November.

But the Aggies' slide that month right out of the top 25 after losing their final four SEC games (after winning their first four) cranked the chatter right back up entering the bowl season.

"Are we where we want to be? No," Sumlin said. "Are we approaching things at a pace that can be frustrating to some people? Probably."

Sumlin and then-Texas coach Charlie Strong entered the year in the same predicament: coaching for their jobs. The Aggies responded — at least over the first two months of the season — and the Longhorns didn't, and following a third consecutive losing season Strong was fired.

That also meant the hottest name on the market this year, UH's Tom Herman, was off the market with his hire by UT.

Please see **SUMLIN**/2C

DAILY RUNDOWN

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

ON TV

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Diamond Head Classic 7th Place, 11:30 a.m., ESPNU

Diamond Head Classic 5th Place, 1:30 p.m., ESPNU

Diamond Head Classic 3rd Place, 5 p.m., ESPN2

Diamond Head Classic Championship, 7 p.m., ESPN2

MEN'S SOCCER

Liga MX La Gran Final, Leg 2: Tigres UANL vs. Club America, 6 p.m., UNIV, UDN

NBA

Boston at New York, 11 a.m., ESPN, ESPNDEP

Golden State at Cleveland, 1:30 p.m., ABC, ESPNDEP

Chicago at San Antonio, 4 p.m., ABC, ESPNDEPMinnesota at Oklahoma City, 7 p.m., ESPN, ESPNDEP

Los Angeles Clippers at Los Angeles Lakers, 9:30 p.m., ESPN, ESPN2, ESPNDEP

NFL

Baltimore at Pittsburgh, 3:30 p.m., NFL

Denver at Kansas City, 7:30 p.m., NBC

ON RADIO

NBA

Chicago at San Antonio, 4 p.m., KBYG 106.1 FM/1400 AM (Big Spring)

SKI REPORT

New Mexico

Angel Fire — Wed 5:58 am machine groomed 16-21 base 13 of 76 trails 17% open, 5 of 7 lifts. Mon-Thu: 9a-4p Fri: 9a-8p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p

Pajarito — Thu 5:32 am 1 new machine groomed 15-20 base 3 of 44 trails 7% open, 2 of 7 lifts, sm Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p Dec 26-27 9a-4p Jan 2: 9a-4p

Red River — Tue 10:55 am variable machine groomed 24-24 base 27 of 58 trails 47% open: 5 of 7 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p

Sandia Peak — Plan to Open 12/23

Sipapu — Thu 5:56 am machine groomed 12-24 base 15 of 42 trails, 36% open 4 of 6 lifts. sm Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p

Ski Apache — Tue 12:36 pm machine groomed 31-31 base 2 of 55 trails 4% open, 2 of 10 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p

Ski Santa Fe — Tue 11:12 am machine groomed 24-24 base 19 of 79 trails 24% open. 5 of 7 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p

Taos — Thu 11:13 am 1 new powder machine groomed 37-37 base 31 of 110 trails 28% open. 9 of 15 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p

Colorado

Arapahoe Basin — Thu 5:32 am packed powder machine groomed 42-42 base 65 of 109 trails 60% open, 547 acres, 5 of 8 lifts. Mon-Fri 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p

Aspen Highlands — Thu 3:37 am packed powder 30-37 base 104 of 113 trails 92% open. 927 acres, 5 of 5 lifts. Mon-Fri: 9a-3:30p Sat/Sun: 9a-3:30p

Aspen Mountain — Thu 3:35 am packed powder 27-28 base 61 of 76 trails 80% open, 612 acres, 6 of 8 lifts. Mon-Fri: 9a-3:30p Sat/Sun: 9a-3:30p

Beaver Creek — Thu 5:25 am packed powder machine groomed 30-30 base 130 of 150 trails 87% open. 1471 acres, 24 of 25 lifts. Mon-Fri 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p

Breckenridge — Thu 5:31 am packed powder machine groomed 35-35 base 79 of 187 trails 42% open. 1545 acres, 32 of 35 lifts. Mon-Fri 8:30a-4p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p

Buttermilk — Thu 3:36 am packed powder 15-17 base 39 of 44 trails 89% open. 434 acres. 7 of 8 lifts. Mon-Fri: 9a-3:30p Sat/Sun: 9a-3:30p

Cooper — Thu 5:43 am packed powder machine groomed 22-28 base 37 of 39 trails, 95% open 26 miles, 400 acres, 3 of 4 lifts. Mon-Fri 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p

Copper Mountain — Thu 5:46 am machine groomed 30-34 base 103 of 143 trails 72% open. 1112 acres, 19 of 23 lifts. Mon-Fri 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p

Crested Butte — Thu 5:39 am packed powder machine groomed 45-45 base 80 of 121 trails 66% open, 695 acres, 12 of 16 lifts. Mon-Fri 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p

Eldora — Thu 8:55 am 2 new machine groomed 28-30 base 57 of 57 trails 100% open. 680 acres, 10 of 11 lifts, sm Mon-Fri 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p

Keystone — Thu 5:27 am packed powder machine groomed 32-32 base 104 of 127 trails 82% open, 2816 acres, 19 of 20 lifts. Mon-Fri 8:30a-4p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p

Loveland — Thu 5:02 am packed powder 36-36 base 40 of 94 trails, 43% open 501 acres, 7 of 10 lifts. Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p

Monarch — Thu 6:51 am 1 new packed powder machine groomed 48-48 base 55 of 62 trails 89% open, 625 acres, 6 of 6 lifts. Mon-Fri 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p

Powderhorn — Thu 5:30 am powder machine groomed 38-38 base 35 of 42 trails 76% open, 4 of 5 lifts. Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p

Purgatory — Thu 10:00 am 5 new powder machine groomed 32-36 base 86 of 94 trails 91% open, 853 acres, 8 of 11 lifts. Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p

Silverton Mountain — Plan to Open 12/29

Ski Granby Ranch — Thu 7:00 am packed powder machine groomed 17-17 base 20 of 40 trails 50% open, 4 of 5 lifts, sm Mon-Thu: 9a-4p Fri: 9a-4p Sat: 9a-4p Sun: 9a-4p

Ski Hesperus — Thu 9:20 am 2 new powder machine groomed 10-10 base 25 of 26 trails, 96% open, 1 of 1 lift Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p

Snowmass — Thu 3:35 am packed powder 25-41 base 76 of 91 trails, 84% open 2112 acres, 17 of 20 lifts, Mon-Fri: 8:30a-4p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p

Steamboat — Thu 5:26 am 2 new packed powder 43-51 base 156 of 165 trails 95% open, 2832 acres, 15 of 18 lifts, Mon-Fri: 8:30a-4:30p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4:30p

Sunlight — Thu 5:32 am machine groomed 23-30 base 29 of 67 trails, 43% open 300 acres. 3 of 3 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p

Telluride — Thu 6:10 am 2 new powder machine groomed 34-34 base 88 of 147 trails 60% open, 1180 acres, 14 of 18 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p

Vail — Thu 5:32 am 1 new packed powder machine groomed 32-32 base 188 of 195 trails 96% open, 5074 acres, 28 of 31 lifts, Mon-Fri: 8:30a-4p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p

Winter Park — Thu 6:08 am 1 new packed powder machine groomed 36-40 base 101 of 143 trails, 71% open, 918 acres, 18 of 25 lifts, sm Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p

Wolf Creek — Thu 2:27 pm 9 new powder machine groomed 54-58 base 77 of 77 trails 100% open, 42 miles, 1600 acres, 6 of 9 lifts, Mon-Fri: 8:30a-4:p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4:p

Ashcroft XC — Mon 7:34 am packed powder 26-28 base 4 of 20 trails 5 miles Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p

Utah

Alta — Thu 5:45 am packed powder 58-58 base 73 of 116 trails, 63% open 6 of 12 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9:15a-4:30p Sat/Sun: 9:15a-4:30p

Beaver Mountain — Thu 5:46 am packed powder 40-40 base 48 of 48 trails 100% open. 5 of 6 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p Dec 25: Not open

Brian Head — Thu 5:47 am packed powder 34-34 base 42 of 71 trails 59% open, 7 of 10 lifts, Mon-Wed: 10a-4p Thu/Fri: 10a-9p Sat: 9:30a-4p Sun: 9:30a-4:30p

Brighton — Thu 5:51 am packed powder 54-54 base 40 of 66 trails, 61% open 6 of 7 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p

Deer Valley — Thu 5:32 am machine groomed 50-50 base 71 of 101 trails 70% open, 19 of 21 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4:15p Sat/Sun: 9a-4:15p

Eagle Point — Thu 5:53 am packed powder 38-38 base 38 of 40 trails 95% open. 5 of 5 lifts. Fri. Mon: 10a-4:30p Sat/Sun: 9:30a-4:30p Open Fri-Mon Dec 22-29: 9:30a-4:30p

Nordic Valley — Thu 5:53 am packed powder 18-18 base 18 of 22 trails 82% open, 4 of 4 lifts, Mon-Fri: 11a-8p Sat: 9a-9p Sun: 9a-4p Dec 25: Not open

Park City — Thu 5:55 am packed powder machine groomed 42-48 base 246 of 338 trails 73% open, 4396 acres, 35 of 41 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p

Powder Mountain — Thu 5:56 am packed powder 64-64 base 144 of 144 trails 100% open, 7 of 7 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-9p Sat/Sun: 9a-9p

Snowbasin — Thu 5:30 am machine groomed 64-64 base 102 of 104 trails 98% open, 28 miles, 3000 acres, 10 of 11 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p

Snowbird — Thu 5:57 am packed powder 59-59 base 107 of 168 trails 64% open, 9 of 11 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-5p Sat/Sun: 9a-5p

Solitude — Thu 8:23 am 1 new variable machine groomed 57-57 base 75 of 77 trails 97% open, 6 of 8 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p

Sundance — Thu 5:58 am packed powder 26-26 base 38 of 45 trails, 84% open 5 of 5 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4:30p Sat/Sun: 9a-4:30p

Wyoming

Grand Targhee — Thu 6:12 am packed powder machine groomed 91-176 base 91 of 95 trails 96% open, 40 miles, 2000 acres, 5 of 5 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p

NBA SCHEDULE

Today's Games

Boston at New York, 11 a.m.
Golden State at Cleveland, 1:30 p.m.
Chicago at San Antonio, 4 p.m.
Minnesota at Oklahoma City, 7 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m.

Monday's Games

Memphis at Orlando, 6 p.m.
Milwaukee at Washington, 6 p.m.
Charlotte at Brooklyn, 6:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Detroit, 6:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
Dallas at New Orleans, 7 p.m.
Indiana at Chicago, 7 p.m.
Phoenix at Houston, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Portland, 9 p.m.
Denver at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Sacramento, 9:30 p.m.

SPORTS ODDS

FAVORITE	OPEN	College Football TODAY	O/U	UNDERDOG
		Monday (Dec. 26) St. Petersburg Bowl At St. Petersburg, Fla.		
Mississippi St	11	13	(58½)	Miami (Ohio)
		Quick Lane Bowl At Detroit		
Maryland	+2	1	(43½)	Boston College
		Independence Bowl At Shreveport, La.		
NC State	4	4½	(44)	Vanderbilt
		Tuesday (Dec. 27) Heart of Dallas Bowl At Dallas		
Army	9½	10	(49)	North Texas
		Military Bowl At Annapolis, Md.		
Temple	12	13	(41)	Wake Forest
		Holiday Bowl At San Diego		
Washington St	4½	9½	(61½)	Minnesota
		Cactus Bowl At Phoenix		
Boise St	9½	7	(67)	Baylor
		Wednesday (Dec. 28) Pinstripe Bowl At New York		
Pittsburgh	3	5½	(65½)	Northwestern
		Russell Athletic Bowl At Orlando, Fla.		
Miami	1½	2½	(57)	West Virginia
		Texas Bowl At Houston		
Texas A&M	2½	2½	(56)	Kansas St
		Foster Farms Bowl At Santa Clara, Calif.		
Utah	12	7	(54½)	Indiana
		Thursday (Dec. 29) Birmingham Bowl At Birmingham, Ala.		
South Florida	11	10	(62)	South Carolina
		Belk Bowl At Charlotte, N.C.		
Virginia Tech	6	7	(61)	Arkansas
		Alamo Bowl At San Antonio		
Colorado	4½	3	(62)	Oklahoma St
		Friday (Dec. 30) Liberty Bowl At Memphis, Tenn.		
TCU	1½	PK	(48)	Georgia
		Sun Bowl At El Paso		
Stanford	+1	3	(54)	North Carolina
		Arizona Bowl At Tucson, Ariz.		
Air Force	15	13½	(57)	South Alabama
		Music City Bowl At Nashville, Tenn.		
Tennessee	3	4	(60½)	Nebraska
		Orange Bowl At Miami Gardens, Fla.		
Michigan	8	7	(52½)	Florida St
		Saturday (Dec. 31) Citrus Bowl At Orlando, Fla.		
LSU	PK	3	(59½)	Louisville
		Taxslayer Bowl At Jacksonville, Fla.		
Georgia Tech	5	3	(61)	Kentucky
		CFP Semifinals Peach Bowl At Atlanta		
Alabama	11	15	(54)	Washington
		Fiesta Bowl At Glendale, Ariz.		
Ohio State	3½	3	(58½)	Clemson
		NFL Today		
at PITTSBURGH	6½	5	(44½)	Baltimore
at KANSAS CITY	3½	3	(37)	Denver
		Monday		
at DALLAS	7	7½	(44½)	Detroit

Stafford, Lions visit Cowboys, try to close in on the playoffs

By Schulyer Dixon
Associated Press

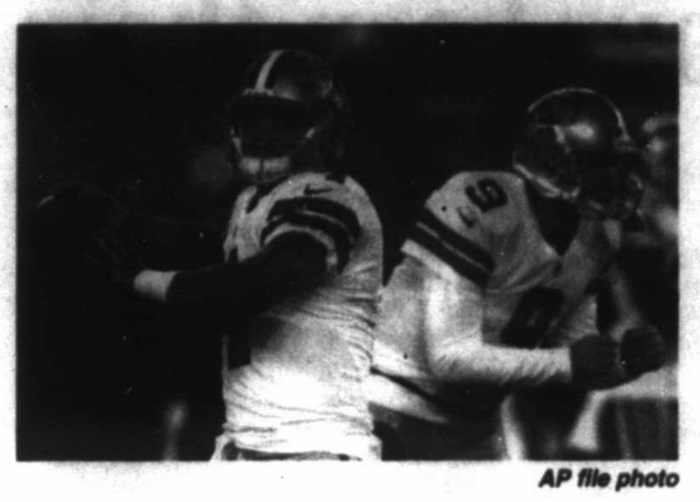
ARLINGTON — Matthew Stafford and the Detroit Lions aren't quite in win-or-go-home mode like the last time they visited his hometown Dallas Cowboys for a wild-card playoff two years ago.

The Lions could do their postseason hopes a lot of good Monday night with a victory, though. That includes scenarios where Detroit (9-5) clinches the NFC North by beating the conference-leading Cowboys, who were the first team to lock up a playoff berth this season.

It's the second straight week Detroit can take a significant step toward the playoffs on the road against an NFC East contender. The Lions didn't take advantage in a 17-6 loss to the New York Giants.

"Last week, we had opportunities to make some plays and we just didn't make them," Stafford said. "For the majority of the season, we've done a really nice job of, in those crucial times, making those plays. I'm sure this week and from here on out will be no different."

Tony Romo made the crucial play to rally the Cowboyspast the Lions 24-20 two years ago for just their second playoff win in two decades since their last Super Bowl title. He's the backup now, replaced by Dak Prescott because the rookie led an 11-game winning streak while Romo was recovering from a preseason back injury.



AP file photo

Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott (4) and Tony Romo (9) warm up before a game against the New York Giants in East Rutherford, N.J., on Dec. 11. The Cowboys play the Detroit Lions on Monday.

The streak ended with Dallas' second loss of the season to the Giants, but Prescott and the Cowboys (12-2) recovered by beating Tampa Bay.

Then the Cowboys clinched the NFC East title and home-field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs when the Giants lost to Philadelphia on Thursday night.

The Giants-Eagles outcome didn't concern Prescott, who followed his worst game as a pro against New York with the second-best completion percentage with at least 30 attempts in NFL history (88.9 percent).

"This game is going to matter," he said. "Any game I play, I participate in and think pretty much everybody in this locker room, we want to win. We hold ourselves to high standards and I know I do individually. We want to win this game."

Things to consider in a series in which four of the past five games, playoffs included, have been decided by four points or less:

HOMECOMING: Stafford will be playing on the same field a little more than a week after his high school, Dallas Highland Park, won its first state championship since Stafford won a title with the Scots in 2005. The latest title came with Cowboys owner Jerry Jones' grandson, John Stephen Jones, at quarterback. "I don't really know him, but obviously know the family and just happy that his success was a big part of Highland Park's success," Stafford said.

KETTLE 2.0? Don't count on it. While Dallas rookie sensation Ezekiel Elliott wasn't worried about getting in trouble with his coaches for jumping into an oversized Salvation Army red kettle to celebrate a touchdown against Tampa Bay, he's pretty sure he got a one-time reprieve with the NFL deciding not to fine him. "I think I had one get out jail free card. I used it already," the NFL rushing leader said.

PAIR OF SNUBS: Stafford and Dallas linebacker Sean Lee were among the most prominent snubs on the Pro Bowl roster. But at least the Cowboys are contenders with some Pro Bowlers. They have five (Prescott, Elliott and offensive linemen Tyron Smith, Zack Martin and Travis Frederick). The Lions don't have any. "I don't think we're going to have any sort of recount, but nevertheless, our guys are really focused on trying to win games," Lions coach Jim Caldwell said.

GREGORY'S RETURN: Jerry Jones says he expects Randy Gregory to play in his return from a 14-game suspension. The second-year defensive end, banned for multiple violations of the NFL's substance-abuse policy, practiced for the first time Thursday. "Champing at the bit," Dallas coach Jason Garrett said.

ANUSZKIEWICZ

From 1C

on.

The first-team All-District 2-6A quarterback enjoyed four 300-yard passing performances, three of them occurring in big games. Anuszkiewicz eclipsed 300 yards passing while facing evenutal Class 6A Division II state champion DeSoto, and he duplicated the feat during a six-TD performance in a 73-52 bi-district playoff victory over El Paso El Dorado.

However, Anuszkiewicz's favorite moment happened on Oct. 7 when he engineered a game-winning comeback drive to edge rival Odessa Permian, 49-48 in the waning seconds. Overcoming a two-score deficit, Anuszkiewicz passed over 307 yards and six touchdowns passes against the Panthers to earn the Built Ford Tough Player of the Week for Class 6A.

"It was more special for the team and the coaching staff because that was Coach Yenzer's 100th win of his career at MHS," Anuszkiewicz said. "That was something that was just really exciting for our team to accomplish because he is a great guy and a great coach. More importantly, a great guy and that was something our team kind of wanted to give him, to make sure that he got that 100th win. It was fun to do in that fashion, to kind of drive down the field on the last drive and finish it for him."

Follow Christopher on Twitter: @chris_MRTsports

Other players for consideration:

■ **Stace Bell, Greenwood senior running back:** Bell rushed 109 times for 795 yards and 14 touchdowns to lead the Rangers to a 7-3 record.

■ **Riley Eggemeyer, Garden City senior quarterback/running back:** The versatile offensive weapon carried the Bearkats to the state quarterfinals.

■ **Tearell McVae, Forsan senior running back:** McVae guided the Buffaloes to the Class 2A Division I regional round behind his 1,879 yards rushing and 22 total TDs.

■ **Jackson Pinnow, Trinity senior running back:** The Chargers reached the state semifinals behind Pinnow's 1,322 rush yards and 31 TDs.

■ **Peyton Powell, Midland Christian sophomore quarterback:** The dual-threat QB passed for 1,918 yards, rushed for 1,594 yards and accounted for 41 total TDs.

■ **Josh Traylor, Lee sophomore running back:** Traylor ran for 1,087 yards and eight TDs, while averaging 7.8 yards per attempt.

■ **Triston Williams, Andrews senior quarterback:** The Reporter-Telegram's 2015 Offensive Player of the Year posted another fine season by completing 65.8 percent of his passes for 3,640 yards, 51 touchdowns and only five interceptions.

SUMLIN

From 1C

leaving those frustrated Aggies asking one question: Who exactly would replace Sumlin and guarantee a better record than his 44-20 at A&M?

With Herman in Austin — and certainly he was no guarantee, either — the answer is murky, meaning A&M's brass has moved forward with Sumlin for a sixth season, with the idea he can finally turn in another winning record in SEC play for the first time since his first season of 2012 (6-2, followed by 4-4, 3-5, 4-4 and 4-4).

Back to his emphatic comparison among in-state programs, which made reporters covering his program last week feel like five-star running backs soaking in his sell.

"From a winning-percentage standpoint, there really aren't a whole lot of people who are close," he said. "You've got other programs who've had one coach in the last five years, but their winning percentage is not even close."

TCU under long-term coach Gary Patterson is the lone program of that status in the same neighborhood, and the Aggies are 44-20 compared to the Horned Frogs' 40-23 over the past five seasons. A&M also competes in a league that has won eight of the past 10 national titles, while the Big 12 hasn't won a national championship since Texas following the 2005 regular season.

"Those are things that, from a stability standpoint and a winning standpoint and a coaching standpoint, are not being talked about, but are being realized and appreciated by recruits across the state and across the country," Sumlin said. "Because it reflects why guys are coming here, and why our recruiting is at the rate it is right now, and why it's only going to get better."

Rivals.com currently ranks A&M's 2017 recruiting class seventh, still behind fellow SECers Alabama (one), Georgia (four) and LSU (sixth). After next season Sumlin will have $10 million (two seasons) remaining on a contract paying him $5 million annually, making his buyout a bit more manageable for antsy maroon-blooded bigwigs than it has been in the past couple of years.

It all adds up to Sumlin earning another season to try and break through the stranglehold Alabama and LSU have had on his program, as the Aggies are a combined 1-9 against their primary SEC West foes.

Has he earned that chance? Despite zero SEC titles to this point, it mostly adds up to yes — exactly why he'll get another shot in 2017, even if his pace is, as he put it best, frustrating to some people.

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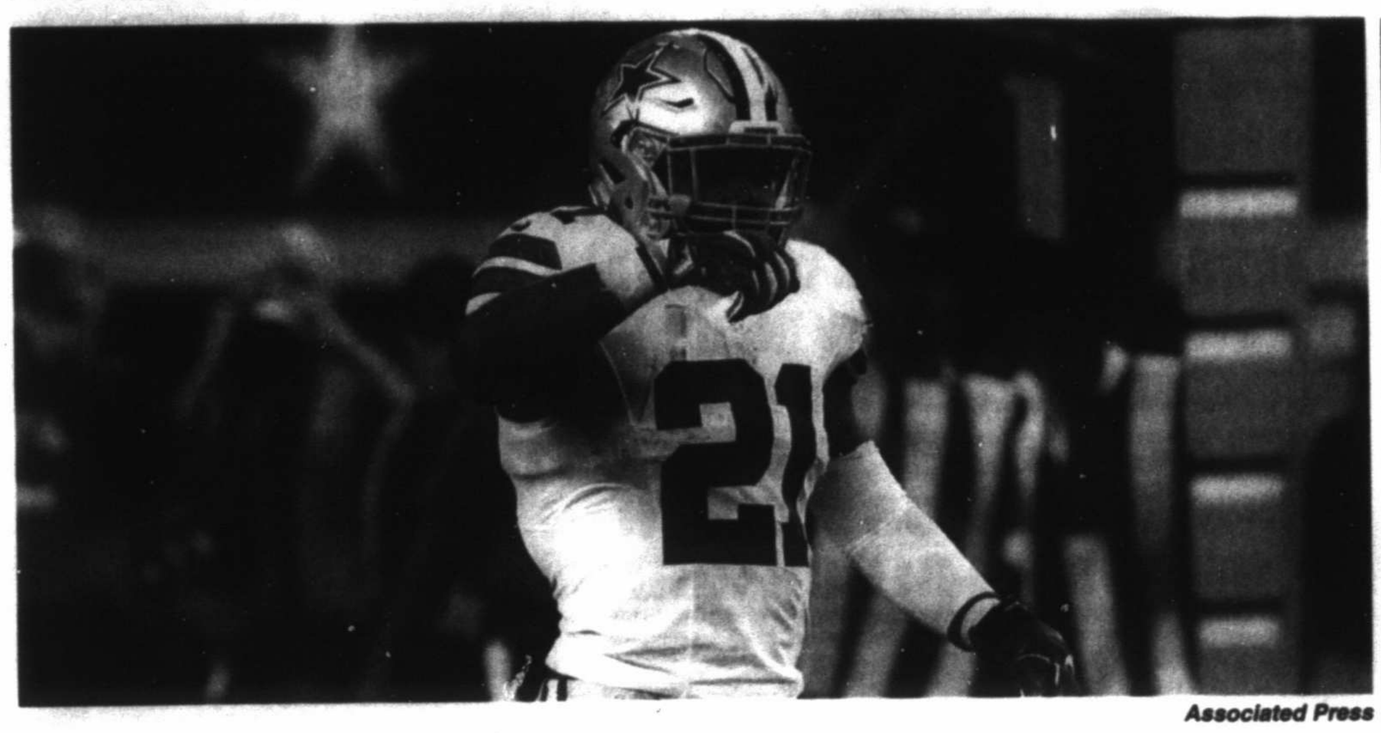
NFL CAPSULES

FROM WIRE REPORTS

BALTIMORE (8-6) at PITTSBURGH (9-5)
Today, 3:30 p.m., NFL Network
OPENING LINE — Steelers by 6 1/2
RECORD VS. SPREAD — Ravens 6-7-1, Steelers 9-5
SERIES RECORD — Steelers lead 24-21
LAST MEETING — Ravens beat Steelers 21-14 on Nov. 6, 2016
LAST WEEK — Ravens beat Eagles 27-26; Steelers beat Bengals 24-20
AP PRO32 RANKING — Ravens . No. 13, Steelers No. 7
RAVENS OFFENSE — OVERALL (18), RUSH (28), PASS (11)
RAVENS DEFENSE — OVERALL (5), RUSH (2), PASS (10)
STEELERS OFFENSE — OVERALL (7), RUSH (12T), PASS (5)
STEELERS DEFENSE — OVERALL (8), RUSH (5), PASS (14)
STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES — Steelers can clinch AFC North with win. Ravens can win division by beating Steelers and winning next week in Cincinnati. ... Ravens have won four straight and six of seven in series. ... Teams have combined to win 10 of 14 AFC North titles since division was formed in 2002. ... Ravens have dropped four straight road games. ... Baltimore QB Joe Flacco needs 390 yards to break Vinny Testaverde's single-season passing record (4,177 yards) set in 1996. ... Ravens LB Terrell Suggs has collected 14 1-2 of his 114 1-2 career sacks against Steelers. ... Baltimore K Justin Tucker's 33 FGs lead NFL. He's made 10 field goals of 50 yards or more, tied for most in league history. ... Ravens DE Elvis Dumervil has at least half-sack in nine of 12 career games against Pittsburgh. ... Baltimore rushed for season-high 151 yards last week against Philadelphia. ... Steelers' current five-game winning streak is longest since 2009. ... Steelers are 13-2 in December games since 2013. ... QB Ben Roethlisberger needs two TD passes to tie John Elway for ninth all-time (300). Roethlisberger is eight completions away from passing Testaverde for 10th all-time (3,787). ... Pittsburgh RB Le'Veon Bell has at least 100 scrimmage yards in six straight games. ... Pittsburgh WR Antonio Brown leads AFC in receptions (96) and is two TD receptions shy of tying Hall of Famer Lynn Swann for third in team history (51). ... Steelers LB Lawrence Timmons will make 100th straight start, longest active streak by NFL LB. ... Pittsburgh K Chris Boswell tied franchise record with six FGs last week against Cincinnati. ... Steelers coach Mike Tomlin's 101 career wins are tied for sixth most by coach in his first 10 seasons. ... Steelers are averaging 32.9 points at Heinz Field when Roethlisberger plays since start of 2015. ... Fantasy Tip: If you're in championship game, might want to start Roethlisberger. Last time he faced Ravens at home with Bell and Brown in lineup, he threw for 340 yards and six touchdowns on Nov. 2, 2014.

DENVER (8-6) at KANSAS CITY (10-4)
Today, 7:30 p.m., NBC
OPENING LINE — Chiefs by 3 1/2
RECORD VS. SPREAD — Kansas City 7-7, Denver 6-7-1
SERIES RECORD — Chiefs lead 58-55
LAST MEETING — Chiefs beat Broncos 30-27, OT, Nov. 27
LAST WEEK — Broncos lost to Patriots 16-3; Chiefs lost to Titans 19-17
AP PRO32 RANKING — Broncos No. 11 (tie), Chiefs No. 4
BRONCOS OFFENSE — OVERALL (24), RUSH (27), PASS (18)
BRONCOS DEFENSE — OVERALL (2), RUSH (29), PASS (1)
CHIEFS OFFENSE — OVERALL (23), RUSH (23), PASS (22)
CHIEFS DEFENSE — OVERALL (29), RUSH (28), PASS (19)
STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES — Forecast is for temperature in 50s on Sunday. Temperature at kickoff was 1 degree last weekend at Arrowhead Stadium. ... Chiefs have won last two in series after seven-game skid. ... Denver is 2-0 on Christmas, beating Detroit in 1999 and Tennessee in 2004. ... Broncos have lost three of four overall. ... Denver has scored league-best 103 points off turnovers and won 29 straight when winning turnover battle. ... Broncos LB Von Miller has 13 1/2 sacks, second most in NFL. ... WR Demaryius Thomas needs four catches to tie Lionel Taylor (543) for third in Broncos history. ... Broncos S TJ Ward needs 13 tackles to reach 100 for season. ... Denver LB DeMarcus Ware needs one sack to tie Jason Taylor (139 1-2) for seventh on NFL career list. ... Broncos QB Trevor Siemian threw for 368 yards and three TDs vs. Chiefs in November. ... Chiefs have won three of last four overall. ... Chiefs WR Tyreek Hill had TDs running, receiving and on kickoff return vs. Broncos in November. ... Hill needs two TDs to match Abner Haynes' rookie record set in 1960. ... K Cairo Santos hit winning FG in overtime to beat Denver in first meeting. ... Chiefs WR Jeremy Maclin had season-best six catches for 82 yards in last week's loss to Tennessee. ... Chiefs have not scored offensive TD in second half in last three games. ... Alex Smith needs 4 yards rushing to pass Len Dawson (1,253) for most by Chiefs QB. ... TE Travis Kelce can move into fourth in Chiefs history with 47th consecutive game with catch. Kelce needs 43 yards receiving to reach 1,000 in single season for first time. ... Chiefs' defense has NFL-leading seven red-zone takeaways. ... Fantasy Tip: Broncos WRs Demaryius Thomas and Emmanuel Sanders are good bets this weekend. They are facing pass defense allowing 250 yards per game, and which ranks 29th overall.



Associated Press

Dallas Cowboys running back Ezekiel Elliott gestures after running for a first down against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in the second half of a game Dec. 18 in Arlington.

Cowboys favorites to win NFC; Zeke odds-on favorite to win MVP

By Drew Davison
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FRISCO — The Dallas Cowboys have the best odds of any NFC team reach Super Bowl LI, and rookie running back Ezekiel Elliott is projected to take home some hardware at the end of the season.

The Cowboys have 8/5 odds to win the NFC, according to Bovada. The Seattle Seahawks are 12/5 favorites followed by the Green Bay Packers (7/1), Atlanta Falcons (17/2) and New York Giants (9/1).

To take it a step further, the Cowboys have the second-best odds to snap their 22-year championship drought. They are listed as 5/1 favorites to win it all.

The New England Patriots have the best odds at 11/5. Seattle (11/2), Pittsburgh (10/1) and Green Bay and Oakland (each 12/1) round out the top five.

Elliott, meanwhile, is the favorite to win the MVP. He's a 2/1 favorite for the award. Elliott is leading the league with 1,551 rushing yards and set a franchise record for most rushing touchdowns by a rookie with his 13th against Tampa Bay last weekend.

Patriots quarterback Tom Brady has the second-best odds at 5/2 followed by the Falcons' Matt Ryan (9/2), the Oakland Raiders' Derek Carr (7/1) and the Packers' Aaron Rodgers (10/1).

Cowboys rookie quarterback Dak Prescott is listed as "off the board" last week. He had 33/1 odds the previous week.

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MVP? Cowboys QB Prescott throws his weight behind teammate Elliott

By David Moore
The Dallas Morning News

Dak Prescott and Ezekiel Elliott have already made the Pro Bowl. The Cowboys' rookie duo remains in the discussion for the NFL's Most Valuable Player award heading into the final two games of the season.

Prescott doesn't have a vote. But it will probably come as no surprise that if the Cowboys quarterback did, he'd cast it for Elliott.

"No, I mean, not really, not at all," Prescott said when asked if he should be in the conversation. "If anybody on this team is MVP I think it's the running back.

"He definitely opens up my game, opens up the passing game. Defenses have to key in on him and give us some one-on-ones outside. That's when the guys like Dez (Bryant) and Cole (Beasley) and those guys go and make plays."

Prescott said all of this a few seconds after Elliott admonished him for not having any M&Ms at his locker. Does Prescott keep his friend motivated with candy?

"Yeah, as long as he has a good day and he behaves, he gets M&Ms," Prescott said.

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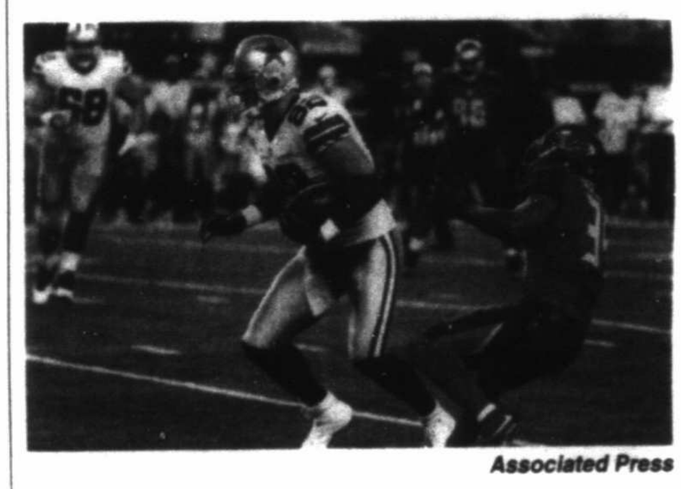

Associated Press

Dallas Cowboys tight end Jason Witten (82) gets past a tackle attempt by Tampa Bay Buccaneers' Javien Elliott (35) after catching a pass during a game in Arlington on Dec. 18.

I kind of missed on Dak and other things in 2016

By Kevin Sherrington
The Dallas Morning News

■ COMMENTARY

Because you can never get enough of this stuff — and because supply never seems to be a problem — here's the annual installment of "Things I Wish I'd Never Written," just in time for the holidays.

For most of us not named Jerry Jones, 2016 had its ups and downs, but my regrets pretty much went wire-to-wire.

Only nine days into a new year, in fact, an unblemished record was ruined.

Ten tips for Jerry Jones' offseason started out well enough. No. 1 on the list was drafting a quarterback, a perennial recommendation.

If the Cowboys couldn't get Jared Goff or Paxton Lynch with the fourth pick, I wrote, they should wait until the second round and take Michigan State's Connor Cook.

The second came and went, but Cook was still there in the third. Early in the fourth, too, until the Raiders grabbed him.

Meanwhile, Jerry, who'd tried to trade up for Lynch in the first, waited until the 135th pick for the steal of the draft. Maybe the decade.

And if Jerry had listened to me, Dak Prescott would be marooned on some other team instead of starting a Super Bowl run.

In my defense, all I can say is, Jerry never listens to me anyway.

A couple of weeks later, I pulled the trigger on a column prematurely. Noting that Texas' football recruiting class was ranked 46th, I wrote it was a bad sign while conceding Charlie Strong could still pull out a top-10 class.

"If Strong does that," I wrote, "he gets my vote as the best closer since Mariano Rivera."

If nothing else, Charlie walks away with that title. Besides, you gotta admit, it's a pretty good line.

February passed without incident, if you don't count Valentine's Day. Some things you don't live down. Like the time I bought the lovely wife a humidifier for Christmas.

In the words of the great George Costanza, "You should've seen her face. It was the exact same look my father gave me when I told him I wanted to be a ventriloquist."

I swear, if not for Seinfeld episodes, sometimes I think I'd have nothing to say at all.

Nearly made it through March before asserting on the 23rd that I didn't think the Cowboys would take Zeke Elliott.

Bulldog reporting, is what it was.

Opened a can of worms April 26 when, after the Thunder's elimination of the Mavs, I wrote maybe it was time for Dirk Nowitzki to go. No, I didn't insist. Just said, hey, the fun has gone out of these one-and-dones, it's time to rebuild and if Dirk doesn't want to suffer through it, Mark Cuban should thank him for his service and wish him well. Seemed like a good idea from way up in my Oklahoma City perch, anyway.

You'd have thought I spit on the Alamo. As far as I'm concerned, Dirk can stay as long as he wants. He can stay in the apartment behind our house, for that matter. He'll just have to evict the in-laws first.

Saturday's good for me, Dirk. Or Sunday. No hurry.

The Baylor scandal has been an occasional topic. On May 25, after Ken Starr got the gate, I affirmed reports that Art Briles, architect of the greatest football turnaround in Baylor history, would remain, adding, "You bet he will."

Two days later, he got his papers, too. Yet the story goes on and on and on.

Summer was mostly vacation and Rio, and one was not to be confused with the other. For the most part, the Olympics went pretty smoothly. If you don't count the water. And the smell. And Ryan Lochte.

Then there was the following basketball news conference exchange between me and Mike Krzyzewski, the U.S. coach:

Me: "Pardon the local angle, but is Harrison Barnes caught in a numbers game here?"

Coach K: "Harrison has a role on this team just like everyone else."

Krzyzewski basically dropped the mike at that point and exited. Couldn't have cleared the room faster if I'd hollered, "Zika!"

Good news: Barnes came back from the Olympics and proved he's a lot better than Coach K or the rest of us thought.

Bad news: I came back from the Olympics with the Rio crud, clouding my judgment. September was a disaster, starting Day One.

In just one column, I wrote that Dak wasn't ready to start an NFL game, the Cowboys would go 7-9 and Dak would do well to win two or three.

"If he breaks even," I added, "they should put up a statue of him at The Star."

Something in bronze, maybe. I'll write the plaque.

Otherwise, I bet on the 14th that the Big 12 would invite Cincinnati and Houston. Strike one. On the 20th, I liked Texas A&M's or Houston's College Football Playoff chances over Oklahoma's. Strike two. On the 24th, I said no Rangers team ever went into the playoffs better prepared.

Strike three.

As if September weren't bad enough, my colleague, Tim Cowlishaw, dragged me into a column about his projected Super Bowl winner, Arizona.

Proud of his pick, as usual, Tim then wrote, "But Kevin Sherrington and Dana Larson also picking the Cards?"

Sounded a lot like "that idiot and a girl also picking the Cards?"

With four games left in the regular season, I hereby submit partial standings in The DMN's weekly NFL predictions:

Sherrington: .535 against the line; .640 straight up.

Larson: .521 and .622.

Cowlishaw: .446 and .586. Dead last in both, to be exact.

Unfortunately, my college picks weren't as good. As on Nov. 3, when I wrote that the Aggies "stand a pretty good chance" of sweeping their last four games.

Only missed it by three.

Here's hoping my predictions turn out better in 2017. And if Dirk is reading this, the offer stands. You might bring backup, though. They're a feisty couple.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

COWBOYS

From 1C

Prescott, Romo won't have to answer questions about that episode in the Cowboys' return to the top spot in the NFC.

When the bye week arrives, Witten most likely will. But the answers probably won't be much different than they are now.

"I believe you want to build on the way you play in December and go into the playoffs," Witten said. "I think that's how good teams handle this situation. As I said before, that's for people to talk about at the barber shop. Our focus is just on what's going to allow us to win."

Nine years ago, Garrett was the offensive coordinator under coach Wade Phillips. In the regular-season finale at Washington, Romo sat after the first series of the third quarter. Witten recalls getting pulled in the second quarter — but never being told what the plan was.

And if there is a plan to start resting players as early as Monday night, the coaches aren't saying. Dallas finishes the regular season at Philadelphia.

"I think you've got to do exactly what we're doing," offensive coordinator Scott Linehan said. "When you put the pads on, you're going out there to win the football game. It doesn't matter what the implications are. We approach it the same way regardless."

NFL GLANCE

Standings

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-New England	12	2	0	.857	365	233
Miami	9	5	0	.643	315	314
Buffalo	7	7	0	.500	358	314
N.Y. Jets	4	10	0	.286	242	358
South						
Houston	8	6	0	.571	250	294
Tennessee	8	6	0	.571	340	323
Indianapolis	7	7	0	.500	362	339
Jacksonville	2	12	0	.143	260	359
North						
Pittsburgh	9	5	0	.643	341	278
Baltimore	8	6	0	.571	306	263
Cincinnati	6	8	1	.393	289	293
Cleveland	0	14	0	.000	220	408
West						
x-Oakland	11	3	0	.786	377	336
Kansas City	10	4	0	.714	319	274
Denver	8	6	0	.571	299	258
San Diego	5	9	0	.357	366	366

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Dallas	12	2	0	.857	366	259
N.Y. Giants	10	5	0	.667	291	274
Washington	7	8	1	.536	345	343
Philadelphia	6	9	0	.400	340	318
South						
Atlanta	9	5	0	.643	469	358
Tampa Bay	8	6	0	.571	313	322
New Orleans	7	8	0	.429	409	382
Carolina	6	8	0	.429	337	352
North						
Detroit	9	5	0	.643	301	285
Green Bay	8	6	0	.571	363	339
Minnesota	7	7	0	.500	264	259
Chicago	3	11	0	.214	248	320
West						
y-Seattle	9	4	1	.679	298	235
Arizona	5	8	1	.393	340	325
Los Angeles	4	10	0	.286	197	329
San Francisco	1	13	0	.071	264	434

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Scores and schedules

Monday's Score
Carolina 28, Washington 15
Thursday's Score
Philadelphia 24, N.Y. Giants 19
Saturday's Games
Atlanta at Carolina, late
Washington at Chicago, late
N.Y. Jets at New England, late
San Diego at Cleveland, late
Miami at Buffalo, late
Tennessee at Jacksonville, late
Minnesota at Green Bay, late
Indianapolis at Oakland, late
Arizona at Seattle, late
Tampa Bay at New Orleans, late
San Francisco at Los Angeles, late
Cincinnati at Houston, late
Today's Games
Baltimore at Pittsburgh, late
Denver at Kansas City, late

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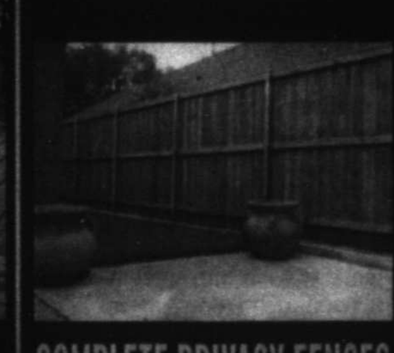
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CHRISTMAS PRAYER 2016

From the very beginning of time, You have given the command to be fruitful and multiply. You have blessed and sanctified families throughout history, most significantly through the birth of the Christ Child. May You continue to bless all families: may each relationship be strengthened or restored, may You, the Almighty Father protect and keep each family, providing for all of their needs through Your riches in Christ Jesus, so that together they can all rejoice in Your goodness, praising God and saying:

Glory to God in the highest!

Dear Lord, we especially pray for the unborn children all around the world. Bless their mothers with good health, surround them with people who love them and are determined to provide each child with everything needed to support both body and life. Keep the little ones safe up to and through delivery; let them also be gathered into the family of faith, so that they can join their voices with ours, praising God and saying:

Glory to God in the highest!

You Himself also provide for the needs of people by means beyond the family circle. Good civic leaders and servants — mayors and councils, emergency workers and health-care providers — all of them are "stocks of God," means through which You bless us and keep us safe. We thank You for them and ask You to keep them in Your care, praising God and saying:

Glory to God in the highest!

Father, You also care for the lonely and the destitute. Guide us, as Your children and Your servants, to reach out to those who are alone in this otherwise festive time of year. Help us find them and include them, reflecting the love You have shown to us, so that they truly have a reason to join us in praising God and saying:

Glory to God in the highest!

Bless the sick, the hurting, the grieving, Lord. Let them feel Your loving, healing presence; be their rock and their refuge in every trouble. Feeble voice or strong, You love them, and with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, they can join in praising God and saying:

Glory to God in the highest!

Receive our prayers for we pray in the Name of Immanuel, God-with-us, Jesus Christ who with the Father and the Holy Spirit is one God, now and forever. Amen.

In the peace of this season our spirits are joyful.
With the beasts and angels,
the shepherds and stars,
with Mary and Joseph we sing God's praise.
By your coming may the hungry be filled with good things,
and may our table and home be blessed.
Bless us O Lord, and these Thy gifts,
which we are about to receive from Thy bounty
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

* Eternal God, this joyful day is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light
May that light illuminate our hearts and shine in our words and deeds.
May the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love represented by the birth in Bethlehem fill our lives
and become part of all that we say and do.
May we share the divine life of your son Jesus Christ, even as he humbled himself to share our humanity
Bless us and the feast that You have provided for us, let us be thankful for the true gift of Christmas, your Son.
Amen.

God of all gifts, we thank you for the many ways you have blessed us this day. We are grateful each of those who are gathered around this table. We ask you to bless us and our food and to bless those we love who are not with us today. In our gratitude and love, we remember your humble birth into our lives and pray for those who are are without enough to eat. We remember the stable in which you were born and pray for those who have no place to live. We remember your challenging message of caring and giving and we pray for peace in families and nations throughout the world. We bless you and give you thanks in your Spirit who brings our hearts to life the Christmas Day and forever.
Amen.

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Christmas Hope

Your perfect birth in time and place will cause us to recall the promise of our Father in certain as from the fall.

We look our heads in thankfulness, this holy, baby will smile and frown, then up to tell the world Salvation has been born.

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READERS' CHOICE AWARDS 2014 BRONZE

Big-time college sports keeps falling on its face

■ COMMENTARY

By Jim Litke
Associated Press

Grayson Allen sure picked a lousy week to take college sports on a bad trip down memory lane.

The Duke junior has NBA-caliber talent but the lingering instincts of a playground bully. His nasty habit of taking down opponents even as they're going by him finally came full circle.

After Allen was hit with a technical foul and benched for tripping Elon guard Steven Santa Ana — the third time he pulled the same stunt in a year — Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski reluctantly did the right thing. He announced Thursday that Allen has been suspended indefinitely .

But even that small measure of justice required Coach K to do a little reflecting of his own. First, he put Allen back in Wednesday night's game, handily won by the Blue Devils 72-61, then defiantly told reporters in a postgame press conference that he wouldn't be bullied into punishing Allen just to satisfy others' expectations.

What Krzyzewski couldn't have known at either moment was that Allen's latest trip was looping endlessly on Twitter and television, reinforcing what other images and headlines have made all too apparent about the state of big-time college sports in the last few weeks:

It's as out of control as ever.

If you have doubts — and a strong stomach — go find the two-year-old, but-just-released video of Oklahoma football player Joe Mixon punching a woman in the face in 2014. Or read the stories about how Minnesota's football team pledged to boycott an upcoming bowl game to protest the suspensions of 10 players in connection with a sexual assault investigation; or how other players are voluntarily snubbing their teams' bowl games to prepare for next year's NFL draft.

While we're at it, let's not forget the comically dubbed "Wakyleaks" scandal at Wake Forest .

To be fair, the incidents vary widely in consequence and have only so much in common. But at the core of each is a serious lapse in judgment by college-age kids and the grown-ups who are supposed to be in charge. Their sense of entitlement has only swelled in proportion to the dollars flowing into the coffers of every big-time college program.

In the Mixon case, Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops originally suspended the player for the entire 2014 season. But after the video was made public last week, Stoops said that had Mixon done what he did in 2016, he'd kick him off the team. Like NFL commissioner Roger Goodell's similarly tortured mea culpa in the Ray Rice affair, it was too little, too late.

And while we're on the topic of cluelessness, how about a shout-out for Alabama coach Nick Saban?

On hearing the news that LSU's Leonard Fournette and Stanford's Christian McCaffery were ditching their respective bowl games to begin preparations for the NFL draft, he blamed the decision on the college football's power-that-be to switch from an all-bowl format to a playoff.

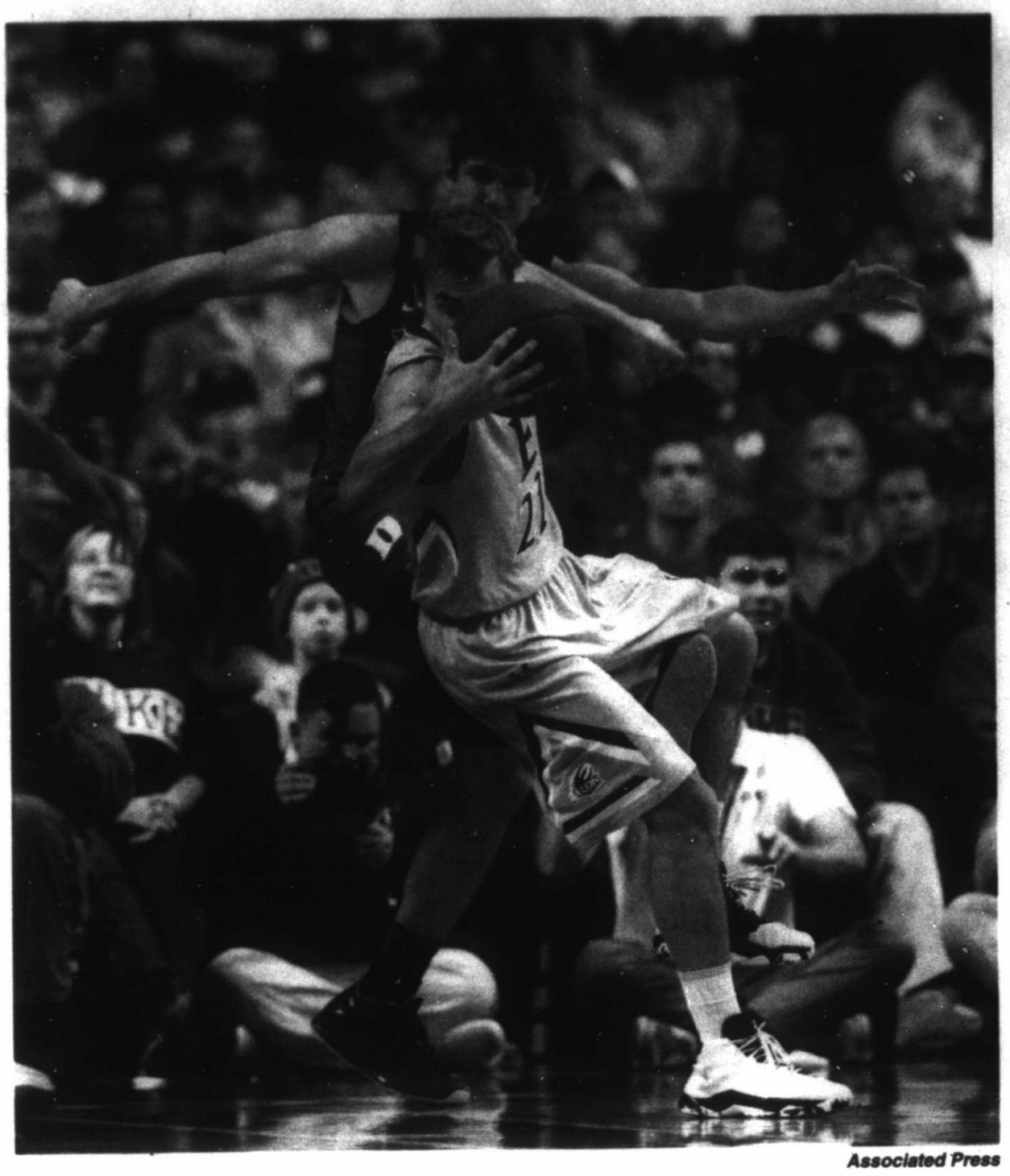
To his credit, Saban accepted some of the blame for dismantling what had been a quaint-but-unruly tradition and turning it into a multi-billion-dollar extravaganza. What he failed to mention, conveniently, was the lack of loyalty that mercenaries — Saban included — are now returning in spades at every level of the game.

To be fair, the kids are plenty culpable. They know the rules, and the overwhelming majority abide by them. Every big-time athletic program has at least one full-time compliance officer, and some employ as many as seven or eight. No one is telling them to abuse women, take envelopes stuffed with cash from agents, or even trip-up opponents.

But let's be honest. Money keeps flowing into big-time college sports and the pockets of coaches and administrator because they've effectively become a minor-league system for the NFL and NBA. And they're doing it largely on the backs of kids whose "schoolwork" is so demanding that many will never be able to take advantage of the scholarship that gets thrown in with it.

If that no longer outrages the rest of us, at least those same coaches and administrators can spare us the lecture about how much they care. Most of them genuinely care about their guys and would love to see them get through four years — or less — covered with nothing but glory.

Everybody stumbles. It's how you handle the fall and get back up that college sports can't seem to figure out.



Associated Press

Elon's Steven Santa Ana (22) is tripped by Duke's Grayson Allen (3) in the first half of a game in Greensboro, N.C., on Wednesday. Allen was called for a technical foul on the play.

Hey NFL, quit rewarding the teams that win bad divisions

By Greg Cote
Miami Herald

■ COMMENTARY

As we lay out the playoff situation entering NFL Week 16 — funneling all of the complex scenarios and what-ifs to keep it neat 'n easy — would you join me in wishing King Sport would finally do away with its division-winners/wild-cards format and simply let in the six best teams from each conference?

They "unconferenced" the Pro Bowl. They should "undivision" the postseason. Keep the divisions and tiebreakers as is, but admit the six teams with the best records regardless of division affiliation. No more automatic tickets to all division winners. Quit penalizing a 10-6 team that should have made it but got knocked out because some 9-7 team lucked to front a bad division.

OK, done ranting. Here's the playoff situation entering Week 16 of 17, excluding the infinitesimal possibility of tie games:

AFC

■ Already in (2) — Patriots and Raiders.

■ Able to clinch this week, in order of probability (4) — Chiefs (with win or Baltimore loss); Steelers (with win); Texans (with win and Tennessee loss); and Dolphins (with win and Denver loss).

■ Others still alive, in order of likelihood (5) — Ravens, Titans, Broncos, Colts and Bills.

■ Eliminated (5) — Bengals, Browns, Chargers, Jaguars and Jets.

NFC

■ Already in (2) — Cowboys and Seahawks.

■ Able to clinch this week, in order of probability (5) — Giants (if they won Thursday night or if Detroit, Green Bay, Tampa Bay or Atlanta lose); Falcons (with win and loss by Tampa Bay, Green Bay or Detroit); Lions (with win and loss by Green Bay or Tampa Bay); Packers (with win and loss by Washington, Tampa Bay and Atlanta plus strength-of-victory tiebreaker over Tampa); and Buccaneers (with win and loss by Green Bay, Detroit and

Please see COTE/7C

Former QB Holieway admires Alabama true freshman QB Hurts

By Cliff Brunt
Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — Jamelle Holieway dazzled the college football world as a true freshman who mastered Oklahoma's dynamic wishbone attack and led the Sooners to the 1985 national championship.

The 5-foot-11 field general stepped in after Troy Aikman went down with a broken leg during a loss to Miami early in the season, and the Sooners didn't miss a beat after that game. Oklahoma won seven straight to close out the regular season, then beat Penn State in the Orange Bowl, making Holieway the only true freshman quarterback to lead a Bowl Subdivision team to a national title.

Redshirt freshmen QBs have won it all, including Jameis Winston just a few seasons ago, but Holieway stands alone as the only true frosh to pull it off from the most important position on the field.

Alabama's Jalen Hurts is two wins away from joining Holieway. The top-ranked Crimson Tide will play No. 4 Washington in the Peach Bowl on Dec. 31 in a national semifinal.

Holieway, now 49 and living in Quinton, Oklahoma, has enjoyed watching Hurts from afar and sees similarities in their skills and situations.

"It's amazing that he has the same initials," Holieway told The Associated Press by telephone. "It's amazing that he's a true freshman. And three, black. So we've got three things going."

Holieway likes the intelligence Hurts brings to the game. He remembers the knock on black quarterbacks in the old days, that they weren't smart enough to lead. Now, he sees Hurts using his brains and athleticism at the highest level of college football, and he's proud. He expects Hurts and the Crimson Tide to claim the championship.

AP file photo

Alabama quarterback Jalen Hurts sets back to pass during the first half of the Iron Bowl against Auburn, in Tuscaloosa, Ala., on Nov. 26.

"I'm very fond of the young man," Holieway said. "He keeps his composure when the game is really tough, and they win. Thirty-one years ago, that was us."

Holieway had hoped for a chance to voice his appreciation for Hurts' game. He feels a connection to Hurts, yet they've never met and he wondered if Hurts even knows who he was. Hurts has only spoken to reporters once so far this season and isn't expected to be available until this week before the Peach Bowl.

In a way, Holieway believes Hurts winning a national title would be a greater accomplishment that his leading the Sooners to the championship.

"I think of how hard it is for any quarterback to do it (win a national title)," Holieway said. "Now, because of the parity, because of the equality across the board — back then, you might have had six powerhouses. So you can basically weed them out and figure out who's going to win the national championship. But now, it's a coin toss."

Holieway's road to stardom was unexpected. Aikman was an Oklahoma native with a strong arm and pro potential, so chances were good that Holieway would have to wait a while to play.

"My expectation was that I wanted to make the traveling team," he said. "I didn't want to stay in Norman when they had away games because it was a ghost town back then, and everybody went their separate ways."

Holieway had worked some with the first team the week of the Miami game that Aikman was injured in, so he was prepared. He never thought about Aikman's shadow when he took over.

"That part never entered my mind," Holieway said. "The part that entered my mind was, 'It's your time.' And you have to do whatever it is that the coaches ask of you, and you have to do it well. And given the opportunity, I did pretty well."

Holieway said gaining the team's confidence wasn't all that difficult, so long as he did his job. The Sooners thumped Iowa State 59-14 in his first start to set the tone. They later crushed No. 2 Nebraska 27-7 in Norman, then beat Oklahoma State and SMU to position themselves for a shot at the title on New Year's Day.

Holieway still credits Oklahoma coach Barry Switzer for showing confidence in him.

"He believed in me as a baby, as a young man, and I was up here with grown men," Holieway said.

Hurts has won over the Crimson Tide the same way Holieway won the Sooners over — by handling business in big game after big game.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL BOWL GLANCE

Saturday, Dec. 17
Celebration Bowl
At Atlanta
Grambling State 10, NC Central 9
New Mexico Bowl
Albuquerque
New Mexico 23, UTSA 20
Las Vegas Bowl
San Diego State 24, Houston 10
Camellia Bowl
Montgomery, Ala.
Appalachian State 31, Toledo 25
Cure Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
Arkansas State 31, UCF 13
New Orleans Bowl
Southern Miss. 28, Louisiana-Lafayette 21

Monday
Miami Beach Bowl
Tulsa 55, Central Michigan 10

Tuesday
Boca Raton (Fla.) Bowl
Western Kentucky 51, Memphis 31

Wednesday
Poinsettia Bowl
San Diego
BYU 24, Wyoming 21

Thursday
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl
Boise
Idaho 61, Colorado State 50

Today
Bahamas Bowl
Nassau
Old Dominion 24, Eastern Michigan 20
Armed Forces Bowl
Fort Worth
Navy (9-3) vs. Louisiana Tech (8-5), late
Dollar General Bowl
Mobile, Ala.
Ohio (8-5) vs. Troy (9-3), late

Saturday, Dec. 24
Hawaii Bowl
Honolulu
Middle Tennessee (8-4) vs. Hawaii (9-7), MH

Monday, Dec. 26
St. Petersburg (Fla.) Bowl
Mississippi State (5-7) vs. Miami (Ohio) (6-6), 10 a.m. (ESPN)
Quick Lane Bowl
Detroit
Boston College (6-6) vs. Maryland (6-6), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN2)
Independence Bowl
Shreveport, La.
NC State (6-6) vs. Vanderbilt (5-6), 4 p.m. (ESPN2)

Tuesday, Dec. 27
Heart of Dallas Bowl
Army (5-5) vs. North Texas (5-7), 11 a.m. (ESPN)
Military Bowl
Annapolis, Md.
Wake Forest (6-6) vs. Temple (10-3), 2:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Holiday Bowl
San Diego
Minnesota (8-4) vs. Washington State (8-4), 6 p.m. (ESPN)
Cactus Bowl
Phoenix
Boise State (10-2) vs. Baylor (8-6), 9:15 p.m. (ESPN)

Wednesday, Dec. 28
Pinstripe Bowl
Bronx, N.Y.
Northwestern (8-4) vs. Pittsburgh (6-6), 1 p.m. (ESPN)
Russell Athletic Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
Miami (8-4) vs. West Virginia (10-2), 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Foster Farms Bowl
Santa Clara, Calif.
Indiana (6-6) vs. Utah (9-4), 7:30 p.m. (FOX)
Texas Bowl
Houston
Kansas State (8-4) vs. Texas A&M (8-4), 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Thursday, Dec. 29
Birmingham (Ala.) Bowl
AAC vs. SEC, 1 p.m. (ESPN)
Belk Bowl
Charlotte, N.C.
Virginia Tech (8-4) vs. Arkansas (7-5), 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Alamo Bowl
San Antonio
Oklahoma State (9-3) vs. Colorado (10-3), 8 p.m. (ESPN)
Friday, Dec. 30
Liberty Bowl
Memphis, Tenn.
Georgia (8-4) vs. TCU (8-4), 11 a.m. (ESPN)
Sun Bowl
El Paso
North Carolina (8-4) vs. Stanford (9-3), 1 p.m. (CBS)
Music City Bowl
Nashville, Tenn.
Tennessee (8-4) vs. Nebraska (9-3), 2:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Arizona Bowl
Tucson, Ariz.
Air Force (9-3) vs. South Alabama (6-6), 4:30 p.m. (ASN)
Orange Bowl
Miami Gardens, Fla.
Florida State (9-3) vs. Michigan (10-2), Miami Gardens, Fla., 7 p.m. (ESPN)

Saturday, Dec. 31
Citrus Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
LSU (7-4) vs. Louisville (9-3), 10 a.m. (ABC)
TaxSlayer Bowl
Jacksonville, Fla.
Kentucky (7-5) vs. Georgia Tech (9-4), 10 a.m. (ESPN)
CFP Semifinals Peach Bowl
Atlanta
Alabama (13-0) vs. Washington (12-1), 2 p.m. (ESPN)
Fiesta Bowl
Glendale, Ariz.
Clemson (12-1) vs. Ohio State (11-1), 6 p.m. (ESPN)

Monday, Jan. 2
Outback Bowl
Tampa, Fla.
Florida (8-4) vs. Iowa (8-4), Noon (ABC)
Cotton Bowl Classic
Arlington
Western Michigan (13-0) vs. Wisconsin (10-3), Noon (ESPN)
Rose Bowl Game
Pasadena, Calif.
Penn State (11-2) vs. Southern Cal (9-3), 4 p.m. (ESPN)
Sugar Bowl
New Orleans
Oklahoma (10-2) vs. Auburn (8-4), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Monday, Jan. 9
College Football Championship
Tampa, Fla.
Semifinal winners, 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Saturday, Jan. 21
East-West Shrine Classic
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
West vs. East, 2 p.m. (NFL)
NFLPA Collegiate Bowl
At Carson, Calif.
National vs. American, 3 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 28
Senior Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
South vs. North, 1:30 p.m. (NFL)

LeBron's block in The Finals is the play of 2016

By Tim Reynolds
Associated Press

They came from many sports, in many countries, with varying forms of pressure involved.

But if there's one parallel between all the entries on this list of sports plays of the year for 2016, it's this: They were all unexpected, and all teeming with drama.

From the NBA Finals to the Rio Olympics, the Super Bowl to a smaller-division college playoff game, and whether they were offered up by global icons like LeBron James or relative unknowns like Kevin Rader, they were unforgettable.

Here, the plays of 2016:

10. Comeback putback.

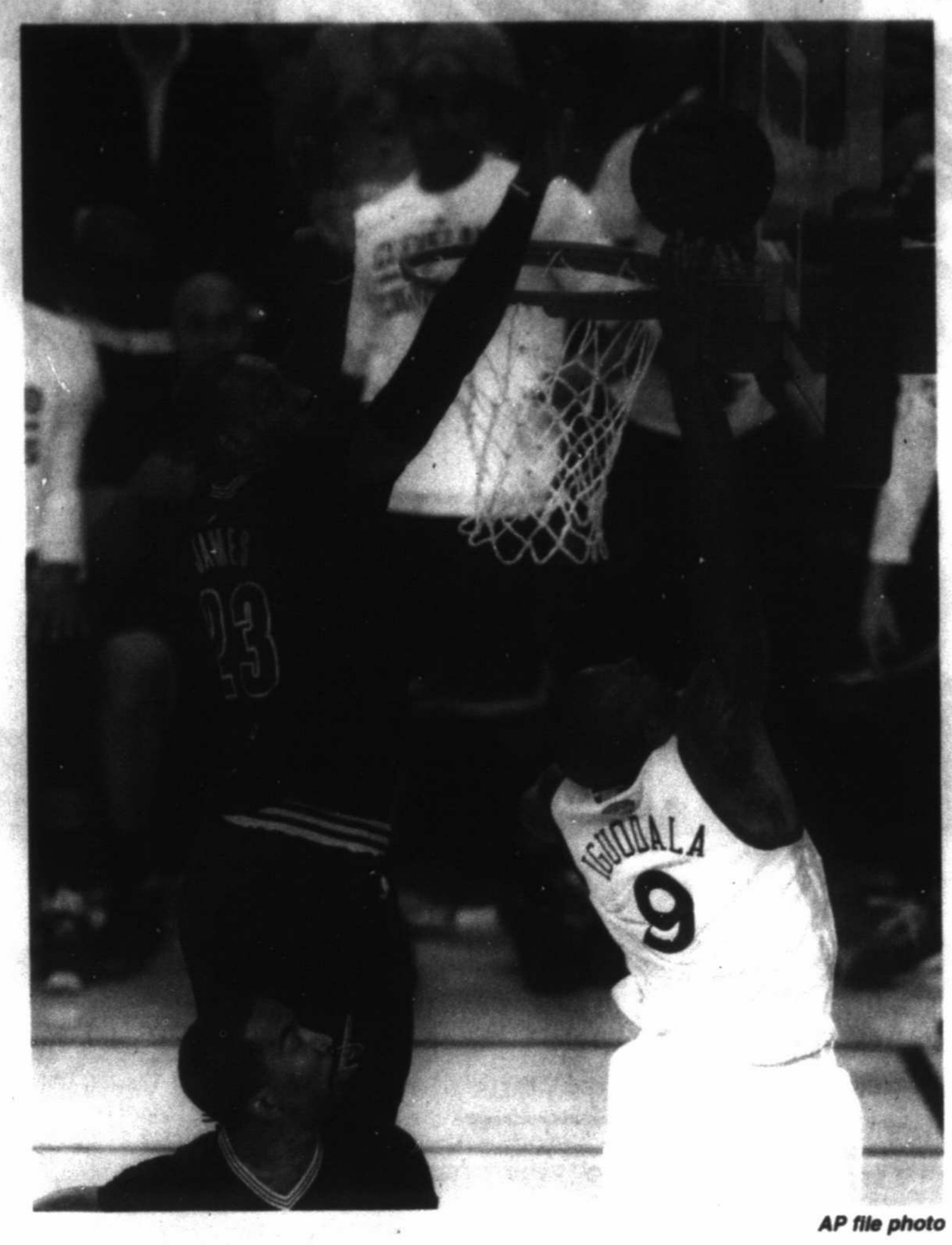
The scene: No time-outs left, a big late lead having turned into a one-point deficit, and an entire arena in Minnesota screaming for you to fail. Somehow that brought out the best in Nneka Ogwumike of the Los Angeles Sparks. Her basket with 3.1 seconds left in a thrilling Game 5 of the WNBA Finals gave the Sparks a 77-76 victory over the then-reigning-champion Lynx.

9. Catch it all.

One of the last college football plays of 2016 year provided one of the plays of 2016. Kevin Rader somehow — even with a defender wrapped all over him — catches the game-winning pass from Hunter Wells, giving Youngstown State a win over Eastern Washington in the FCS national semifinals. Rader was deemed to be in control of the ball, even while pinning it against the body of Eastern Washington linebacker Ketner Kupp.

8. Simone's splash.

Simone Manuel of the U.S. was trailing by 0.47 seconds halfway through the women's 100-meter freestyle gold medal race at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics, and a half-second is quite a bit to make up in such a race against the world's best. But she made it look easy with a frantic final 50 meters, and made history — she became the first African-American woman to win an individual swimming Olympic gold , tying Canada's Penny Oleksiak for the win.



AP file photo

Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James (23) blocks a shot by Golden State Warriors forward Andre Iguodala (9) during the second half of Game 7 of the NBA Finals in Oakland, Calif., on June 19. James had three blocked shots, including this key one against Iguodala on a fast break in the final minutes.

7. Super strip, sack, score.

Last season, but still this year — and still memorable. Denver's Von Miller had two critical strip-sacks of Carolina's Cam Newton in Super Bowl 50, the second one just about sealing the game. But the first one is the one that gave the Broncos a 10-0 lead midway through the first quarter and setting the tone. Malik Jackson pounced on this ball in the end zone, and Miller wound up winning Super Bowl MVP.

6. Nerves of steel.

On the LPGA Tour, teens aren't afraid of the moment. Lydia Ko, 19, and Brooke Henderson, 18, went to a playoff to decide the KPMG Women's PGA Championship. And on the first extra hole, Henderson stood with a 7-iron in her hands, 158 yards from the hole. She knocked the approach within 3 feet, made the birdie putt and captured her first major title . "Like winning the Stanley Cup," the budding Canadian star said.

5. A skate-off winner.

They made it look so easy. Pittsburgh's Sidney Crosby won the faceoff in overtime of Game 2 of the Stanley Cup final against San Jose, played it back to Kris Letang, who found Conor Sheary — who fired the puck between the legs of oncoming defender Justin Braun and scored to give the Penguins a 2-1 win in the game and 2-0 lead in the series . The Penguins would take the Stanley Cup in six games.

4. For you, Jose.

Dee Gordon of the Miami Marlins hit one home run in 2016. It was of the you-cannot-make-this-up variety — and it will forever live in Marlins lore. It was the first at-bat for the Marlins after the death of ace pitcher Jose Fernandez in a boating accident. Gordon, a lefty hitter, started on the right side of the plate as part of his Fernandez tribute. After moving back to the left side, he hit a ball farther than he ever has, while wearing a "Fernandez 16" jersey . Even some of the New York Mets were in tears, and the Mets tweeted out "BiggerThanBaseball."

3. A truly 'golden' goal.

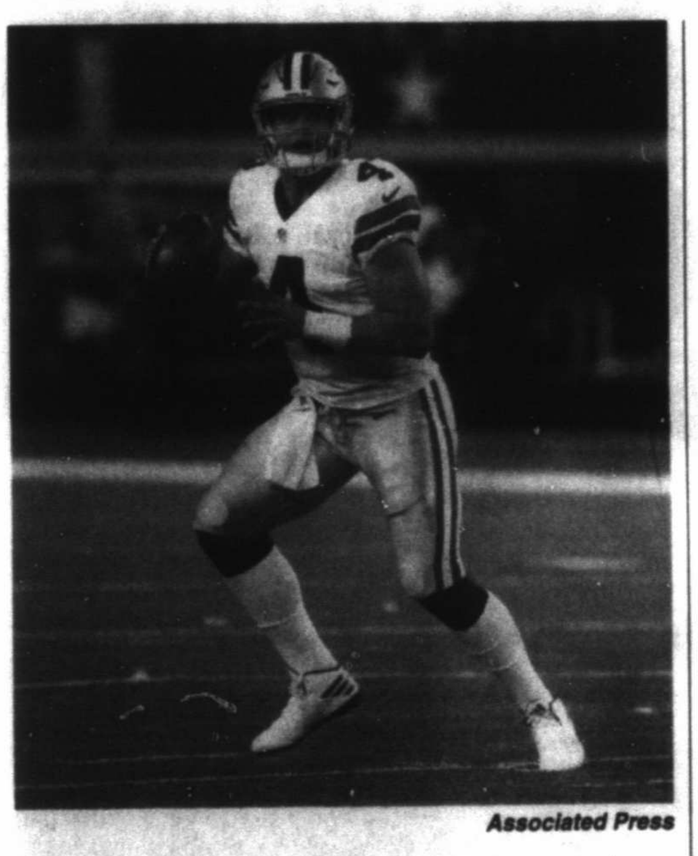
Imagine the pressure. Brazil, a soccer-crazed nation, is hosting the men's gold-medal soccer match at the Olympics. The stadium is packed, and all the brilliant young star Neymar needs to do to clinch the perfect medal is make the final kick of a penalty-shot tiebreaking shootout. He found a spot to his right, started approaching the ball, stutter-stepped a bit and then finally delivered the kick . Germany goalie Timo Horn guessed wrong, the ball went into the net and Brazil roared in delight . Most of the crowd stayed in the stadium for an hour afterward, many weeping in joy.

2. For the title.

Marcus Paige might have just hit one of the biggest shots in NCAA men's basketball championship game history for North Carolina, a double-clutched, acrobatic-leg-kicking 3-pointer with 4.7 seconds left to pull the Tar Heels into a tie with Villanova. And then Kris Jenkins did him one better. Jenkins took a pass from Ryan Arcidiacono, leaped and let fly from well beyond the arc. "Bang," Wildcats coach Jay Wright said softly to himself as the ball was in flight — and bang was right. Jenkins' shot went in as time expired, and Villanova had just beaten the Tar Heels 77-74 for the national title.

1. The Block.

All due respect to Kyrie Irving's 3-pointer, The Play of The Finals was offered by King James. LeBron James' chasedown block of Andre Iguodala with 1:51 remaining in Game 7 of the NBA Finals — a shot that would have given Golden State the lead — wasn't just the defining moment of 2016, but perhaps the defining moment of James' Hall of Fame career as well. He didn't do it alone, as J.R. Smith helped impede Iguodala's path and give James the extra split-second that he needed to get to the rim. But the enormity of the moment made the block even bigger: Golden State had a record-setting 73-win regular season, the series was tied 3-3, the total points in that series were tied at that moment 699-699. After that block, the Warriors wouldn't score again. And James would soon become a three-time NBA champion.



Associated Press

Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott (4) prepares to throw a pass in the second half of a game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Dec. 18 in Arlington.

COTE

From 6C

Washington).

■ Others still alive, in order of likelihood (4) — Redskins, Vikings, Saints, Panthers.

■ Eliminated (5) — Bears, Cardinals, Eagles, 49ers and Rams.

This and that

■ Dolphins DE Cam Wake and DT Ndamukong Suh making the Pro Bowl marked the fifth time the club has had two defensive linemen make it the same year. Also happened in 1983 (Bob Baumhower and Doug Betters), 2000 (Trace Armstrong and Jason Taylor), 2002 Tim Bowens and Taylor) and 2012 (Randy Starks and Wake).

■ Cowboys' Ezekiel Elliott needs 258 rushing yards in last two games to break Eric Dickerson's durable rookie record of 1,808 set in 1983.

■ Old Cane Frank Gore is 109 yards from becoming Colts' first 1,000-yard rusher since Joseph Addai in 2007.

■ Giants' Odell Beckham Jr. joined John Jefferson (1978-80) and Randy Moss (1998-00) as only receivers with at least 1,000 yards and 10 TDs in each of first three seasons.

■ Cardinals' Larry Fitzgerald finished his 200th game with 1,116 catches — one more than Jerry Rice had in his first 200.

■ Green Bay's win last week tied its all-time series with Chicago at 93-93-6. The last time the rivalry was tied: 1933.

■ Entering Week 16 there have been 165 games within one score in fourth quarter, most ever and most since 2002.

■ Cowboy Dak Prescott 88.9 percent completion percent last week was second-highest ever in a game (minimum 30 attempts), to Rich Gannon's 89.5 percent in 2002.

■ Ravens kicker Justin Tucker's tied NFL season mark with 10 made field goals of 50-plus yards.

■ Rob Gronkowski gets all the tight end love, but Panthers' Greg Olsen (the ex-Cane) leads all TEs with 992 receiving yards and has most at the position (4,763) since 2012.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

For Wade and others, NBA Christmas games remain a privilege

By Tim Reynolds
Associated Press

Christmas has already been celebrated at Dwyane Wade's house. His wife and kids unwrapped their presents on Wednesday night, since waiting until Sunday morning wasn't an option this year.

Dad's got to work. Again.

Wade will wake up on Christmas morning in San Antonio, instead of being with his family in Chicago. He's part of the NBA's lineup on Christmas for the 12th time in his 14 professional seasons — and even though it meant having a nontraditional holiday celebration, the Bulls guard still relishes being part of the league's showcase day.

"I won't lie to you and say it means as much as it did when I was young or when I got to be in my first Christmas game," Wade said. "But it is still special. At the end of the day, no matter what's happened in my career, the NBA has put me on Christmas, let me play on Christmas, let me be part of Christmas. One day, I won't be playing. But for now, it's still so cool."

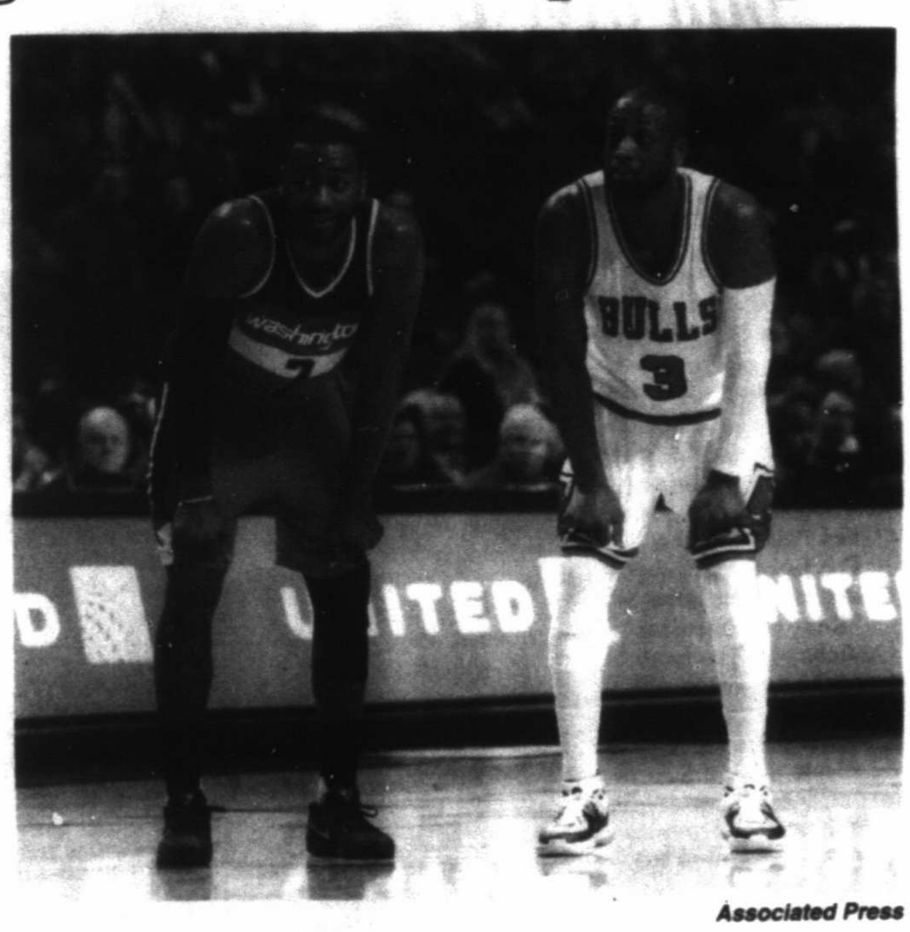
The annual Christmas quintuple-header — highlighted by the NBA Finals rematch of Golden State visiting champion Cleveland — involves 10 teams, five arenas, hundreds of players and team employees, who-knows-how-many workers in those various buildings and will draw about 100,000 fans.

And no fewer than seven other teams will be traveling at some point on Christmas, because they play on Dec. 26.

"It's not a burden," Cavaliers guard James Jones said. "You come to find out that it's a privilege because if you're playing on Christmas, that means you are on one of the good teams. You're one of the teams people want to see. You don't lose sight that our business, my business, is entertainment and there's no better time to play than when everyone is at home."

It's a smorgasbord of basketball, starting with Boston visiting New York at noon and followed by Golden State at Cleveland, Chicago at San Antonio, Minnesota at Oklahoma City and the Clippers visiting the Lakers in the building they share in Los Angeles.

The league's schedule mandate is simple: There's usually a Finals rematch, and the other four games are about finding matchups of high-profile teams or players and hoping fans at home watch.



Associated Press

Washington Wizards' John Wall (2) and Chicago Bulls' Dwyane Wade talk during a free throw attempt during the second half of a game Wednesday in Chicago.

And they will. There's two NFL games on Christmas as well, but the NBA always is a huge TV draw on Dec. 25.

"It's the responsibility of being the best," Milwaukee coach Jason Kidd said. "You're going to play on Christmas."

LeBron James is playing on Christmas for the 11th time, Pau Gasol for the ninth time, and Chris Paul and Kevin Durant will be making their seventh appearances. Some of the league's next stars — Kristaps Porzingis, Karl-Anthony Towns, Zach LaVine and Andrew Wiggins — all will make Christmas debuts.

"Being able to play on Christmas is like a privilege," Wiggins said. "Not a lot of people get to do that. Usually it's the best teams in the league or the most exciting teams, and for the NBA to think that we're one of the most exciting teams to play on Christmas, that says a lot for us."

There's obvious inconvenience, but Boston's Jae Crowder said it gets canceled out by the opportunity.

Besides, it's a 40-minute flight from New York to Boston. That means he'll be home for Christmas night.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime deal for me," Crowder said.

Knicks star Carmelo Anthony abhors day games. He makes an exception once a year. For him, the atmosphere on Dec. 25 at Madison Square Garden is as Christmasy as the North Pole.

"You can't beat playing in the Garden on Christmas," Anthony said. "I mean, that's a dream come true for people and I know, I remember watching games in New York and that feeling. It's a different feel playing here on Christmas."

Memphis coach David Fizdale wants that feeling again.

He spent the past eight seasons as an assistant in Miami, and the Heat were a Christmas fixture on the NBA schedule during his tenure. The rebuilding Heat weren't picked this year, nor were the Grizzlies — something Fizdale hopes to change soon.

"Our guys (in Miami) really got up for that Christmas game," Fizdale said. "They all got their new Christmas shoes that they could wear that day, and the new Christmas uniforms. They knew everyone was watching that game. That was always a great game to watch and at some point, while I'm here, we're going to get ourselves on Christmas Day."

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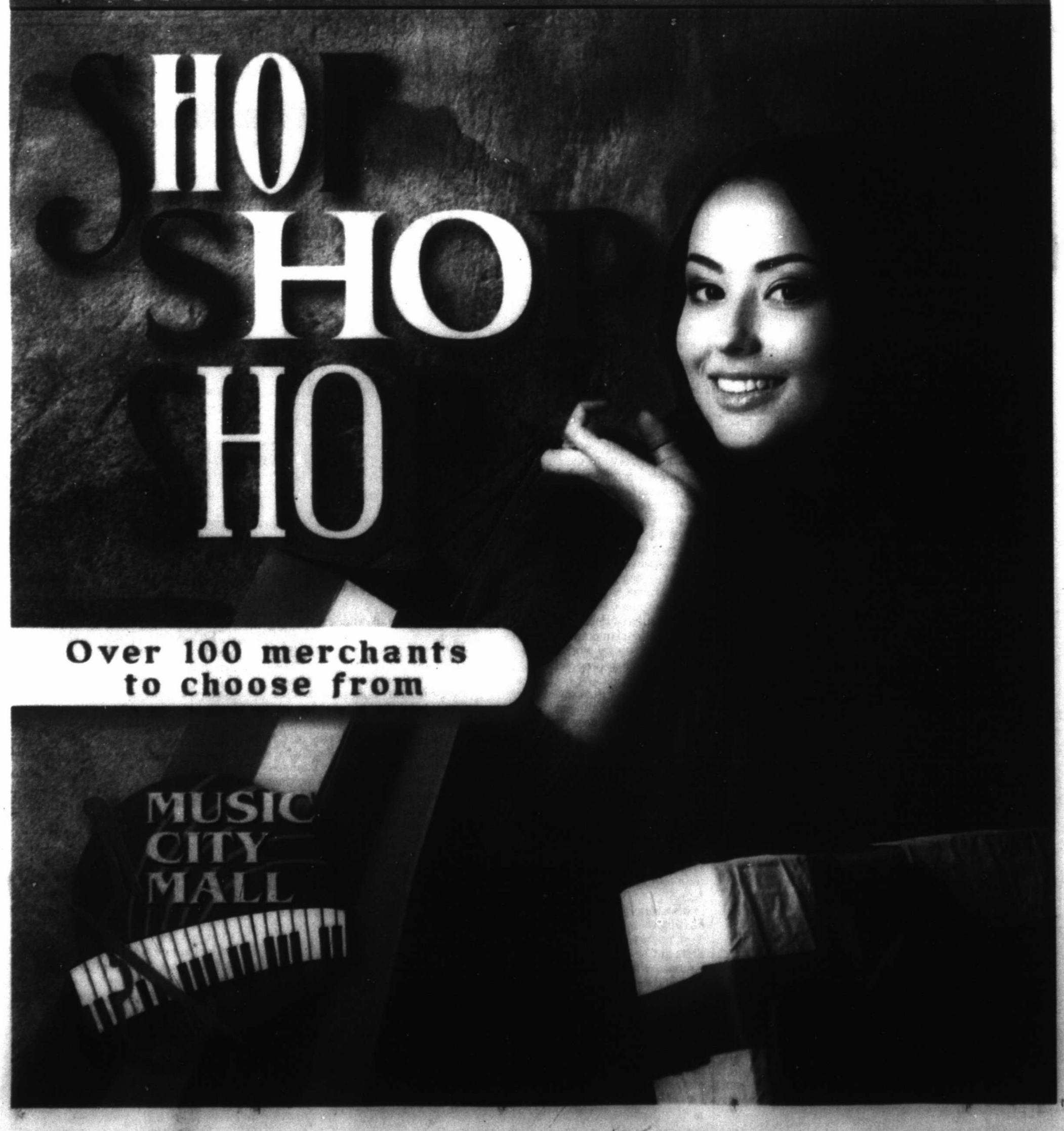

D
SUNDAY
December 25, 2016

homes & classified

4607 Island Drive

Purchasing a new home is a little like opening a Christmas present-you never really know what you will find until you take away the layers of wrapping. As you look beyond the front door of this beautiful listing in Green Tree North, you will be ecstatic you chose this particular address as your new home. Constructed in 1991, everything looks new! It was updated in 2004 by M.R. Lary Construction with elegant amenities including pillow top travertine flooring, new kitchen, new bathrooms and more! Within 4,900 square feet (per MCAD), there are five bedrooms, four full baths, two living areas, two dining areas, bonus room and a three car garage. Schools include Fasken Elementary, Abell Jr. High and Lee High.

Gorgeous flooring, tall ceilings, crown molding, plantation shutters and wide open spaces are the first things you will see. Formal dining is on the left and a modern chandelier hangs over the place for your table. Formal living is straight ahead where you can make future family memories by the fireplace which is constructed of cross cut travertine. Windows and doors on each side of the fireplace lead to the oversized covered porch and back yard. What a view! Located on the golf course, you can relax and watch as golfers go by or join in the fun. The yard has mature trees and ample space for a pool!

To the right of the entry is a hallway with several storage closets as well as two bedrooms that share a Jack and Jill bathroom. All bedrooms have plush carpeting, walk-in closets and ceiling fans. Another bedroom has a full bathroom and is near the master suite. Used as a bedroom or office, you have the opportunity for either.

Open double doors to reveal the master suite, which also shares the view of the back yard and golf course. Cozy up to read Christmas stories by your fireplace or relax in the jetted tub or walk-through glass shower with dual shower heads. A skylight provides natural lighting and two walk-in closets with built-ins are perfect for hiding Christmas gifts. Custom made countertops of Brazilian walnut with hammered copper sinks and slate floors complete the elegant atmosphere.

From the formal living area is the spacious den and gourmet kitchen. Mesquite floors, granite countertops, stainless appliances including new double ovens, beautiful cabinetry and island with stovetop make cooking a breeze. Eat at the wrap around bar or at the informal dining area.

The living area has a built-in wall unit and fireplace with a mesquite mantle. Exterior doors open to a side porch. Past the den is a sequestered bedroom with full bath and access to the back porch.

A hallway from the den also leads to the laundry room with walls of storage, sink and an extra area perfect for pets. Access to the three-car garage is here as well. Inside, you will discover another surprise! A large bonus room with heating and air conditioning--perfect for anything you can imagine!

Listed at $849,000, this is the house that keeps on giving! Additional amenities include: water softener, large pantry, security system, reverse osmosis, impact resistant roof, water well for yard and it is located on the golf course. MLS#50005551

More information may be obtained by contacting Roberta Aldridge, Real Estate One Midland (432)683-3424, or Claire Heck (432)553-2517 or Craig Aldridge (432)352-6176.

Listed by Real Estate One
Roberta Aldridge, Broker, CRS, GRI, ABR
Claire Heck, Realtor Associate
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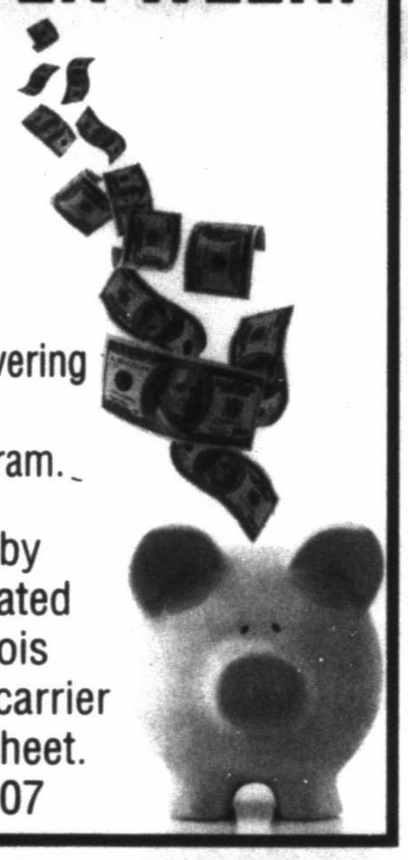

Please come by our office located at 201 E. Illinois and fill out a carrier information sheet.
Linda 687-8807

SALES JOBS

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Delivery driver with some warehouse and light maintenance duties needed. Benefits available. Clean driving record required. Apply in person at Basin Engine & Pump, 1914 S. County Rd., Midland, TX.

Electronic Billing Specialist
Local service company is looking for an experienced electronic billing specialist for a fast paced office has an opening for experienced electronic billing specialist. Must be organized, have accurate data entry skills and an attention to detail. Must have the ability to multi-task with distractions while still meeting strict goals. This candidate will have the skills listed above while being self-motivated and a team player. We offer an excellent work environment with good salary and benefits package for the right person. Send your resume to P-111 c/o Midland Reporter Telegram, 201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX. 79701

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Eagle Automation in Midland, TX is hiring for the following position:
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Vaquero Midstream is now hiring for an I&E Technician
Interested candidates should submit their resume to demi.carrasco@vaqueromidstream.com. Basic/Required Qualifications: Hold a minimum total of three years' experience as a Plant Mechanic. Obtain a minimum of five years' experience in the natural gas industry or related field. Possess a high school diploma or equivalent. Demonstrate the ability to work under limited supervision. Have basic knowledge of Plant operations and Cryo Plant Mechanics. Have a valid State Operators Driving License and excellent driving record, be willing to work after hours and on-call rotations. Possess adequate communication skills. Ability to carry and lift items that can weigh 50lbs or more. Team orientated and the ability to work well with others. Excellent organizational, interpersonal, and initiative skills.

SKILLED LABOR

Salesman
Salesman needed: South Environmental Services is looking to hire an experienced salesperson. Oilfield experience a must. Please send resume to joanna@southenv.com or apply in person at 2400 S. loop 250W Midland Texas. Across the loop from the DPS.

Vaquero Midstream is now hiring for a Mechanic
Interested candidates should submit their resume to demi.carrasco@vaqueromidstream.com. Basic/Required Qualifications: Hold a minimum total of two years' experience as an Instrumentation & Electrical Operations Technician. Obtain a minimum of two years' experience in the natural gas industry or related field. Possess a high school diploma or equivalent. Demonstrate the ability to work under limited supervision. Have basic knowledge of Microsoft Office Application and PC skills. Have a valid State Operators Driving License and excellent driving record, be willing to work after hours and on-call rotations. Possess adequate communication skills. Ability to carry and lift items that can weigh 50lbs or more. Team Orientated and the ability to work well with others. Excellent organizational, interpersonal, and initiative skills.

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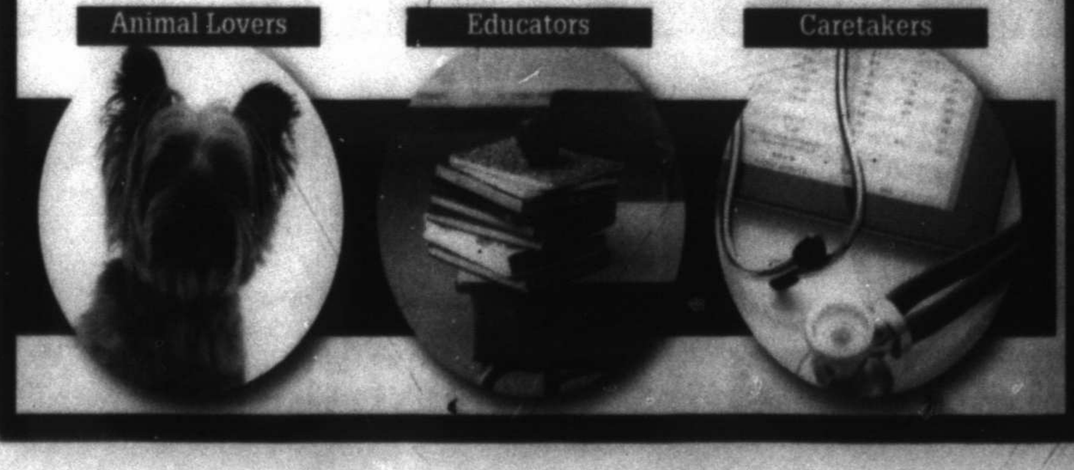

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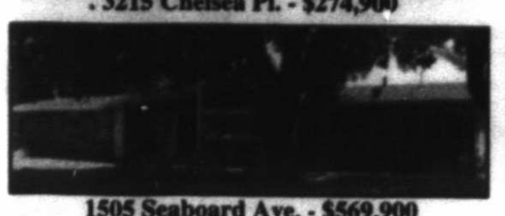

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11 Midnight Dr. -Exquisite 4/4.5 home w/much updating in exclusive gated Saddle Club Estates $824,000
1505 Seaboard-Spacious 4/3-2 living areas, formal dining, office and awesome loaded kitchen ..... U/C...$569,900
4919 Rustic Trail-Fabulous on the golf course! 4BR/2.5BA, nice high ceilings! Beautifully updated kitchen! ..... U/C...$525,000
3124 Fairfield Ln-Stunning Mike Jackson home. Great layout! Backyard w/POOL is an oasis for your enjoyment! $451,400
3604 W County Rd 145 - Beautiful custom home w/incredible woodwork throughout! Huge 35" x 70' insulated w/shop! So much more! On 3 acres. $429,900
2501 Culpepper Dr. - Lovely spacious home remodeled in 2013 nestled on quiet established cul-de-sac close to Midland College ..... U/C...$399,900
10505 E. Co. Rd. 104 - Fabulous 4 BR near Greenwood schools, gorgeous outdoor area with covered patio $380,000
4308 Llano Ct. -Beautiful custom 4BR/2BA w/large covered patio and perfect sized backyard! ..... U/C...$349,900
10508 S. County Rd. 1080-Beautiful new construction on quiet street! (dead ends) Large open floorplan ..... U/C...$345,000
2302 Stutz Pl. -Four spacious bedrooms and three and half baths plus an enormous living/dining area, great price! $324,900
1708 Connelly Ln -Very spacious tree shaded home in Polo Park Estates. 4br/3BA big kitchen! Easy access to Loop 250 ..... SOLD...$315,000
2623 Northtown Pl. -Great plan, 4/3.5, updated kitchen and sequestered master! ..... U/C...$305,700
2502 W Cuthbert Ave - Large 4Br/3Ba in IMMEDIATE location! Updated master + 4 gorgeous!! Plus Bonus rooms and office space $299,000
602 Nolan Ryan Dr -Gorgeous 4 Bedroom w/spacious living area and dining, plus a study/office $279,000
2904 Purple Sage Trl. -Lovely 4BR/3BA on cul-de-sac w/walls of windows and beautiful yard $269,500
5011 Los Alamitos Dr - Lovely 4 Bedrooms/3 Bath home in Saddle Club South ..... U/C...$269,000
3313 Stewart - Complete remodel of kitchen, new cabinets, granite counters, stainless appliances so much more $219,500
3300 S. County Rd. 1080-Great opportunity to have an acre of land in Greenwood 4br/3 bath w/lots of space $199,000

Five or More Bedrooms

3101 Pala Verde Glen - Wonderful family home on 1.9 acres. Pristine condition, great floorplan $1,295,000
4007 Island Dr. - Gorgeous 5/4 on the course in Green Tree w/beautiful travertine tile and wood floors $849,000
6802 Island Circle - Outstanding home on the water in Green Tree! Well maintained dream home $819,000
10210 S. County Rd. 1210-SkyWest airport home w/massive heated & cooled workshop. Plus so much more .WOW! $549,000
3101 S. County Rd 1210 - Lots of space here in this 5 bedroom/5 bath home on 1 acre $299,000

For Lease

1513 Club Dr. -Lovely 2 bedroom/2 bath townhome on the corner of Club & Douglas. For Lease ..... monthly $2,100
1708 E. New Jersey Ave. -3,200 sq ft office/warehouse, recently remodeled with water well ..... monthly $1,725
2101 Wadley #29-Spacious condo w/3 bedrooms, master is downstairs ..... monthly $1,700
1014 Bedford Dr. -Great home in Old Midland! Corner lot with side entry 2 car garage .Large backyard with cinder block fence and storage building ..... monthly $1,700
1003 Tennessee-Extremely clean 3/1.5 rental two block from the hospital .Updated bathrooms and kitchen ..... monthly $1,500
705 N Midkiff Rd - Nice Rental w/fresh paint, tile floors, updated baths, stainless appliances ..... monthly $1,500
1400 Connell St. -6,000 sq. ft. industrial/whse w/2 restrooms, paved and fenced yard. Perfect for light duty manufacturing, warehouse or storage ..... Call Bill Scott or Brandee Noll 682-1111

Lots, Land and Acreage

S. Co. Rd. 1120-Could be a great location for cattle and livestock, truck yard, pipe yard, etc. on 160 acres in Greenwood $2,000,000
I-20, West Murphy & Loop 338 in West Odessa-1116.26 acres, terrific frontage .Call Bill Scott or Brandee Noll 682-1111 ..... $2,000,000
S. Co. Rd. 1040-Perfect area for subdivision development - 325.8 acres in Greenwood $1,303,200
4110 E. Co. Rd. 130-Land 325.8 acres. No Restrictions $742,500

Lots, Land and Acreage

1100 E. Co. Rd. 150-56.39 acres with a 4,500 sf quonset barn, mobile home can stay for $50,000. Perfect for or field / business or pipe yard. Call Bill Scott or Brandee Noll 682-1111 ..... $451,128
5703 E. Co. Rd. 80-2784 sq. ft. w/in-law plan $399,900
4110 E. County Rd. 130-Land 15.70 Acres. No Restrictions $381,100
2306 Sinclair Ave.-Wonderful, old Midland corner lot .Cleared and ready for construction $165,000
2701 S. County Rd. 1110-Prime location ! 336 acres to build a home that could face either South County Road 1110 or East County Road 95 ..... $87,000
2513 Regency Oaks Ct.-Wonderful cul-de-sac lot .Building Restrictions ..... U/C...$84,000
2507 Legacy Oaks-Residential lot in Mockingbird Oaks .Building Restrictions ..... U/C...$84,000
E. Co. Rd. 120-Four 1 acre lots in new subdivision in Greenwood. The Meadows ..... U/C...$65,000

Commercial Investment Property

2150 Oregon St .. Odessa, Tx. 79764-Approx. 64,905 sq. ft. on 9.5377 acres .combination of warehouse/shop/office property ..... Call Bill Scott or Brandee Noll 682-1111
3609 S. Co. Rd. 1298. Midland, Tx.-includes 5 buildings on 9.852 acres .Total of 50,035 sq. ft. ..... Call Bill Scott or Brandee Noll 682-1111
301 S. Lark Hwy. . Odessa. Tx.-includes 3 tracts with 3 buildings .Total square footage of 14,562 with both office buildings, warehouses, and a truck maintenance shop. ..... Call Bill Scott or Brandee Noll 682-1111
1400 Connell St.-6,000 sq. ft. industrial/whse w/2 restrooms, paved and fenced yard. Perfect for light duty manufacturing, warehouse or storage ..... Call Bill Scott or Brandee Noll 682-1111
Centennial Tower-Downtown Sublease approx. 3,725 sq. ft. Class A Bldg. with covered parking. ..... Call Bill Scott or Brandee Noll 682-1111
Craddick Hwy. & 158-205.4 Acres available for immediate industrial development. Call Bill or Brandee $3,000,000
Interstate 20-44.38 acres in Leeco Addition w/city utilities next to FE Oil & Gas. Call Bill or Brandee $2,884,7000
2211 E. County Rd. 1120-Greenwood property .3 bdrm/2.5 bth home on 36 acres $799,000
2900 E. County Rd. 1150-Approx. 11,800 sq. ft. shop or industrial space & 1,000 sq. ft. office space & 4,000 sq. ft. separate spaces. Great main cave. Call Bill Scott or Brandee Noll at 682-1111 ..... $725,000
917 E. Industrial Loop-Midland, TX. - 1,470 sq. ft. warehouse or distribution center $625,000
5000 Block of N. Midkiff-2.5+/- acres for development, great for office complex .Call Bill Scott $575,000
901 S. Garfield St.-Wonderful money making commercial building $560,000
Faudree Rd.-4.00 acres with city utilities in the Leeco Industrial Addition .Call Bill or Brandee $296,475
1730 FM 1936-Odessa, TX.-Two warehouse/shop buildings .fenced yard .city water .480 sq. ft. office space $239,900
1010 W. Co. Rd. 126-Midland, TX.-Two buildings with fenced yard on 2.00 acres $249,000
1418 N. Big Spring-Midland, TX.-Approximately 3,354 sq. ft. retail building $139,900
0 Cotton Flat Rd.-Zoned Industrial Park $100,000

Out of Town Properties

51 Ward Rd.-Fabulous Lake Henry get-away .3 bdrm/2bth home located within +/-4 gated community in San Jacinto County, Texas $248,000
7254 Westord Ln.-Wonderful, like new 3/2 townhouse in a fantastic central location in Odessa ..... U/C...$162,000

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REALTOR

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cbcovenant.com

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COLDWELL BANKER COVENANT
Welcomes

Emily English, Realtor
325-692-3247

Glenda Mathews, Realtor
432-254-8243

SUNDAY FEATURED HOMES

2604 HODGES ST.
$243,500
Charming 3 bedroom, 2 /12 bath home nestled on a tree lined, quiet street. This home has 2 living areas, 2 dining areas and a large sun room with walls of windows that look out into the lovely established backyard. The bedrooms are all large with nice size closets. There are numerous open patio areas for entertaining and two producing pecan trees. Don't miss this move in ready home. Call to view.
Call Sharon Horton, 432-853-7875

1406 W. INDIANA AVE.
$350,000
Stunning home...in Midland coveted Museum Historic district built in 1930's and with so many upgrades!! Home has gorgeous hardwood floors.. Main house has 3 bedroom, 2 bath! This home has so much character and Great for Entertaining!!! 2 story in-law quarters in back with 2 bedroom, 2 bath and spacious laundry room and kitchen all updated with its own yard. This home is a must See!!
Call Emily English, 325-692-3247

2215 S. COUNTY RD. 1122
$569,500
This home has everything!! 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bathrooms, Sparkling swimming pool, greenhouse, horse barn and pens! This home is a MUST see! Located in Greenwoods coveted Reata Ranch.
Call Genie McMahan, 432-664-0813

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Legal and Public Notices

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR EXCEPTION TO SWR 26/27 SURFACE COMMINGLING PERMIT:

Notice is hereby given that Diamondback E&P LLC (RRC P-5 # 217012) has filed with the Texas Railroad Commission the following P-17 Application for the Exception to SWR 26 and/or 27 to surface commingle production from oil and gas leases: ST S-ST RR D 504H (RRC Lease #45319); ST S-ST RR E 501LS (RRC Lease #47213); ST S-ST RR F 502LS (RRC Lease #47215); ST S-ST RR I 503LS (RRC DP #816369); and ST S-ST RR H 504LS (RRC DP #816371). All wells are in the Spraberry (Trend Area) Field in Midland County, Texas. This application is for off-lease storage, common separation, common storage and casinghead gas metering by allocation by well test. Production will be allocated by W-10 Tests. Any royalty or working interest owners or offset operators who have not received written notification, please consider this your Notice of Application. If you have objections to the issuance of this permit, you may submit a letter to P-17 Department, Railroad Commission of Texas, PO Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711. Unless the Railroad Commission receives a protest to this application, the Commission may issue a permit within 21 days following the date of last publication.

Legal and Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE:
This Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket game will close on January 15, 2017. You have until July 14, 2017, to redeem any tickets for this game. #1797 Cashword Multiplier ($10) overall odds are 1 in 3.65. This Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket game will close on January 20, 2017. You have until July 19, 2017, to redeem any tickets for this game. #1758 $27 Million Payout ($5) overall odds are 1 in 4.02. These Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket games will close on February 22, 2017. You have until August 21, 2017, to redeem any tickets for these games. #1757 $7 Million Payout ($1) overall odds are 1 in 4.54. #1735 Hit $50,000 ($2) overall odds are 1 in 4.69. #1597 Lucky Numbers ($5) overall odds are 1 in 4.00. #1784 Bonus Break The Bank ($5) overall odds are 1 in 4.29. #1803 Hit $200,000 ($5) overall odds are 1 in 4.13. #1644 $200,000,000 Cash Blowout ($10) overall odds are 1 in 2.82. The odds listed here are the overall odds of winning any prize in a game, including break-even prizes. Lottery retailers are authorized to redeem prizes of up to and including $599. Prizes of $600 or more must be claimed in person at a lottery claim center or by mail, with a completed Texas Lottery® claim form; however, annuity prizes or prizes over $2,500,000 must be claimed in person at the Commission Headquarters in Austin. Call Customer Service at 800-375-6886 or visit the lottery website at txlottery.org for more information and location of nearest claim center. The Texas Lottery is not responsible for lost or stolen tickets, or for tickets lost in the mail. Tickets, transactions, players and winners are subject to, and players and winners agree to abide by, all applicable laws, Commission rules, regulations, policies, directives, instructions, conditions, procedures and final decisions of the Executive Director. A scratch ticket game may continue to be sold even when all the top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 years of age or older to purchase a Texas Lottery ticket. The Texas Lottery supports Texas education and veterans. PLAY RESPONSIBLY. For help with a gambling problem, ncpgambling.org. © 2016 Texas Lottery Commission. All rights reserved.

General Announcement

Mark Bernyhill.com Ministering for Christ Teach the Lord's Word 1-4

Lost and Found

DID YOU lose some money 12-21-16. Call me and tell me where & how much money it was and I'll return it. 432-813-4590

Classified CAN 682-6222

Dogs

Dogs

****CHRISTMAS PUPPIES****
AKC German Shepherd puppies
5 females & 3 males. Ready to go! this weekend, 12/18. $500. 432-634-4618.

Legal and Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of David Leroy Jezek, Deceased, were issued on December 6, 2016, in Cause No. P18909, pending in the County Court of Midland County, Texas, to: DAVID JEZEK II.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: **DAVID JEZEK II**
P.O. BOX 4284
MIDLAND, Texas 79704

DATED the 12th day of December, 2016.

Brent A. Morgan
Attorney for DAVID JEZEK II
State Bar No.: 24051084
1902 W. Illinois Ave.
Midland, Texas 79701
Telephone: (432) 683-2703
Facsimile: (432)684-7314
E-mail: paralegal@tomsmorgan.com

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit ***www.sudoku.org.uk***

	3		7				8	
	7		1					
6		5			9			1
	9	7				1		
4								2
		3				5	4	
			9			2		7
					4		3	
	8				5		9	

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

8	3	1	6	9	7	4	2	5
6	7	2	4	1	5	8	9	3
5	4	9	8	2	3	1	7	6
1	9	7	2	5	6	3	4	8
3	8	5	7	4	9	2	6	1
2	6	4	1	3	8	7	5	9
9	1	8	5	7	4	6	3	2
4	2	3	9	6	1	5	8	7
7	5	6	3	8	2	9	1	4

12/25/16

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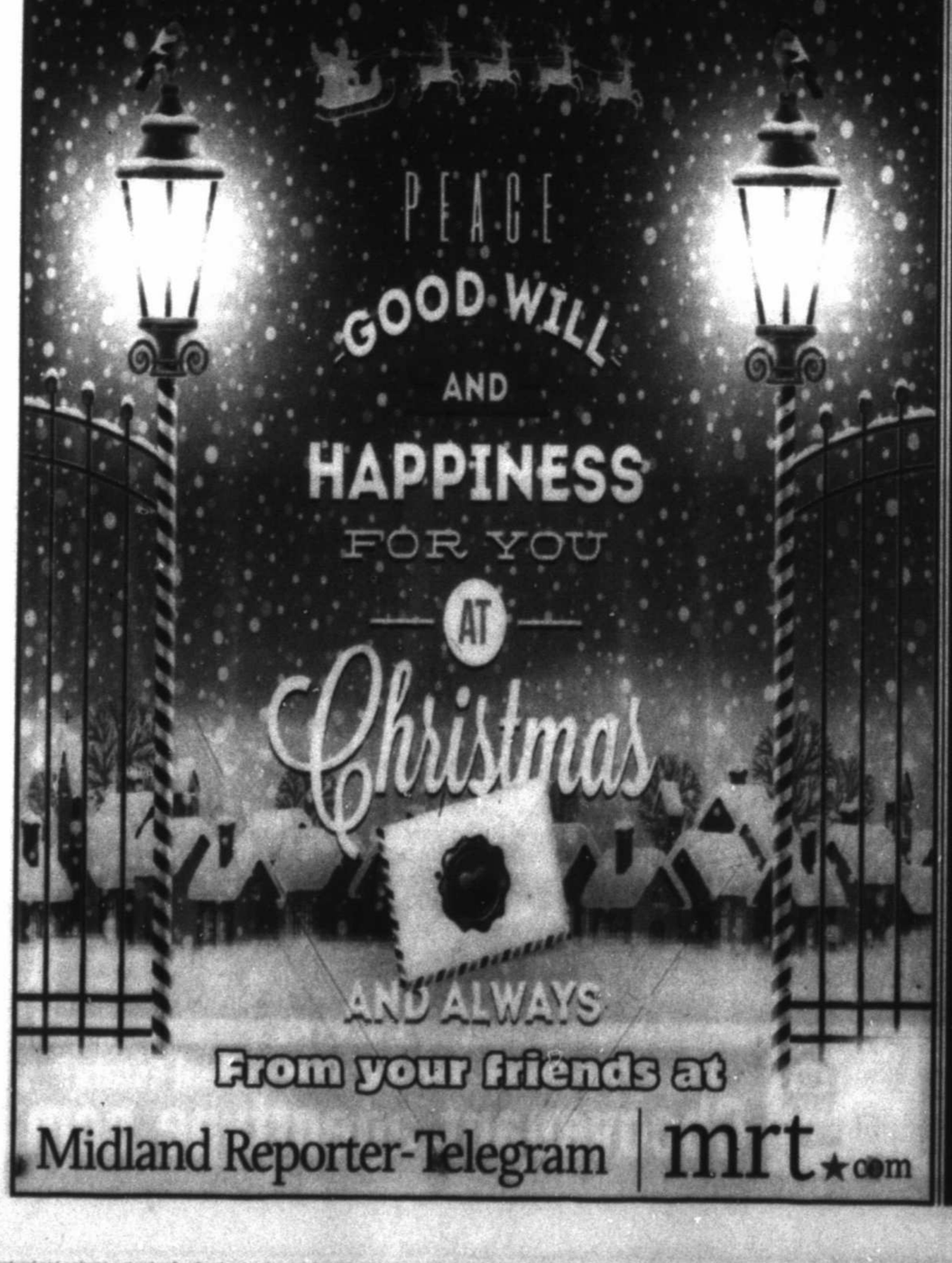

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Lone Star Sanctuary for Animals

Saving and Changing Lives

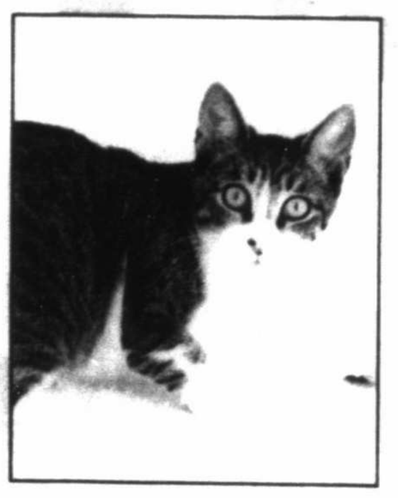
4200 N Fairgrounds Road, Midland, TX 79705

ADOPTION SPECIAL

Cici
Chihuahua Mix • Adult
Female • Small

Kay
Rat Terrier & Shepherd Mix
Senior • Female • Medium

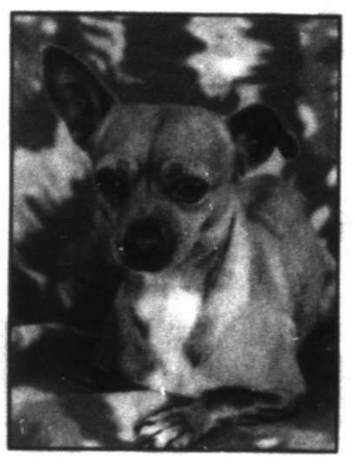
Thorin
Domestic Short Hair
Young • Male • Medium



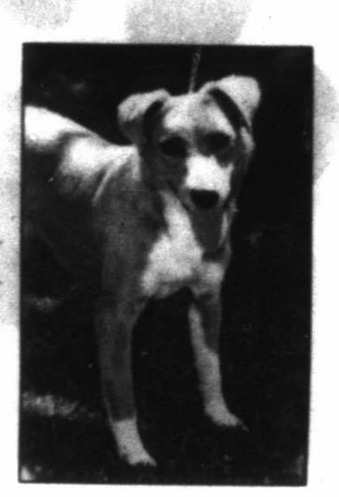
Trinity
Domestic Short Hair
Young • Female • Medium

Trusty
Australian Shepherd Mix
Young • Male • Large

Trooper
Boxer Mix • Young • Male
Large



Roberta
Chihuahua Mix • Adult
Female • Small



Muffin
Jack Russell Terrier Mix
Young • Female • Medium

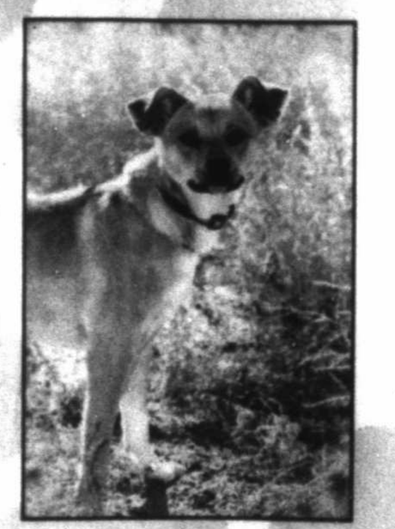
Marrietta
Vizsla & Labrador Retriever
Mix • Adult • Female
Large

Louie
Pit Bull Terrier & Boxer
Mix • Adult • Male • Large

Bath Sheba
Domestic Short Hair • Adult
Female • Medium

Beowoof
Shepherd Mix • Adult
Male • Large

Artemis
Domestic Short Hair
Adult • Female
Medium



Art
Shepherd Mix • Adult
Male • Medium

Spud
Labrador Retriever Mix
Adult • Male • Large

Vivien
Domestic Short Hair
Adult • Female • Small

Donations are gladly accepted:
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To make a donation over the phone, or for any questions please call: (432) 683-7387

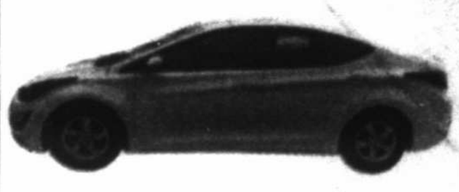
ADOPT A NEW BEST FRIEND!

ROGERS

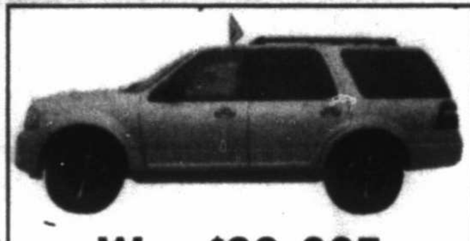
Ford LINCOLN

4206 W. WALL - MIDLAND, TX • 432-694-8801

~~Was $36,995~~
NOW $33,995
2014 Ford Mustang
Roush Stage 3
Supercharged, 28,809 Miles
Stk# 15398061



~~Was $15,995~~
NOW $11,995
2014 Hyundai Elantra
50,277 Miles
Stk# 1641408



~~Was $33,995~~
NOW $30,995
2015 Ford Expedition
44,250 Miles
Stk# 1641420

~~Was $13,995~~
NOW $10,995
2015 Hyundai Accent
37,437 Miles
Stk# 1641404

~~Was $45,995~~
NOW $41,995
2015 Ford F150
7,705 Miles
Stk# 16800552

~~Was $26,995~~
NOW $21,995
2016 Ford Mustang
15,084 Miles
Stk# 1650023

~~Was $26,995~~
NOW $22,995
2009 Chevrolet Tahoe
42,716 Miles
Stk# 1650029

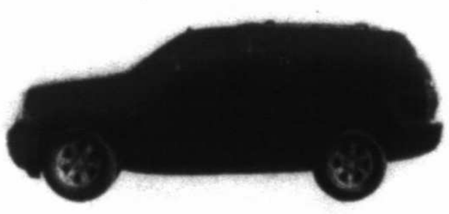
~~Was $26,995~~
NOW $23,995
2013 Ford Flex
30,862 Miles
Stk# 16698367

~~Was $55,995~~
NOW $48,995
2016 Nissan Titan XD
Platinum
11,105 Miles
Stk# 16306031

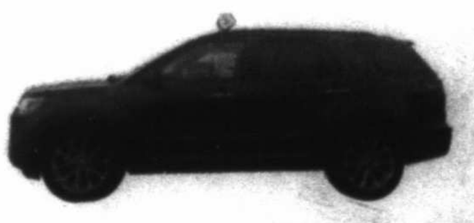
~~Was $16,995~~
NOW $14,995
2015 Kia Optima
39,407 Miles
Stk# 1641431

~~Was $28,995~~
NOW $25,995
2014 Nissan Murano
23,714 Miles
Stk# 16500181

~~Was $18,995~~
NOW $15,995
2016 Chrysler 200
7,229 Miles
Stk# 1650022

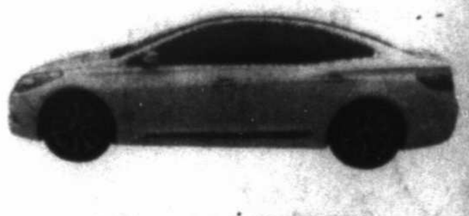


~~Was $30,995~~
NOW $26,995
2012 GMC Yukon
61,947 Miles
Stk# 1650026



~~Was $36,995~~
NOW $33,995
2016 Ford Explorer
30,863 Miles
Stk# 1641424

~~Was $37,995~~
NOW $33,995
2015 Jeep Grand Cherokee Limited
24,483 Miles
Stk# 1641428



~~Was $24,995~~
NOW $20,995
2014 Hyundai Azera
16,793 Miles
Stk# 16800641

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ACTIVE LISTINGS

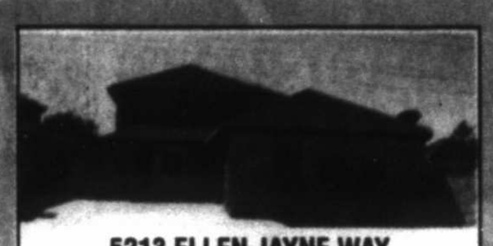
3201 LANTANA LANE
$1,375,000

3114 PALO VERDE GLEN
$1,299,000

913 KEYSTONE CT.
$1,150,000

2012 FRINGEWOOD DR.
$610,000

1909 PAGEWOOD DR.
$605,000



5213 ELLEN JAYNE WAY
$469,000

2007 COLEMAN CT.
$445,000

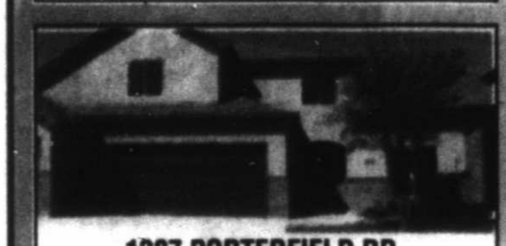
1903 S. CO. RD. 1140
$400,000

809 WOODLAND PARK
$370,000

2806 EMERSON LANE
$343,000

806 LAWSON AVE.
$310,000

1208 PORTERFIELD
$309,500



1207 PORTERFIELD RD.
$309,500

6118 CANDLESTICK
$300,000

2805 DOUGLAS AVE.
$287,000

3412 PINEMONT DR.
$290,000

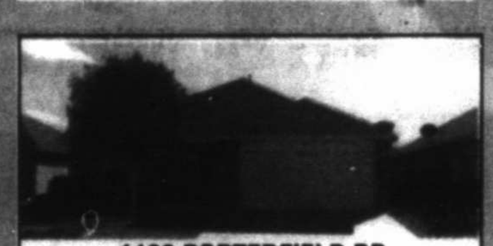
1602 N K ST.
$275,000

3322 HAYNES AVE.
$275,000

7305 GIOTTO STREET
$270,000

6102 KING KELLY CT.
$265,000

1203 PORTERFIELD
$264,500



1102 PORTERFIELD RD.
$225,000

2602 SPARTAN DR.
$225,000

3002 PRINCETON AVE.
$220,000

5208 BLUE HAVEN
$220,000

307 GODFREY ST.
$210,000

808 CALUMET ST.
$204,900

813 SHELL AVE.
$200,000

UNDER CONTRACT LISTINGS

SALE PENDING
2503 TEXLAND CIRCLE
$1,325,000

SALE PENDING
4437 VERDE GLEN CT.
$459,900

SALE PENDING
5611 LOS PATIOS
$375,000

SALE PENDING
2606 LOCKHEED DR.
$350,000

SALE PENDING
5907 SABINE DRIVE
$349,000

SALE PENDING
808 ALMONT
$445,000

SALE PENDING
5812 OAK CREEK DR.
$372,500

SALE PENDING
6020 FRIO DR.
$316,500

SALE PENDING
5004 MT VERNON CT.
$300,000

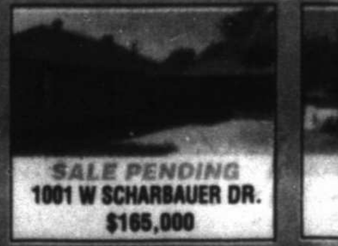
SALE PENDING
3013 MOSS AVE.
$272,500

SALE PENDING
5213 SAN ANTONIO AVE.
$235,000

SALE PENDING
5801 NOLAN RYAN DR.
$220,000

SALE PENDING
2403 EMERSON CT.
$210,000

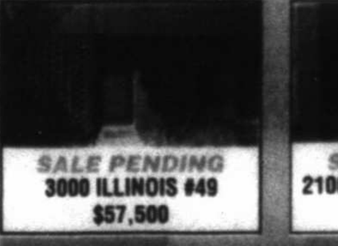
SALE PENDING
4306 NELSON
$195,000



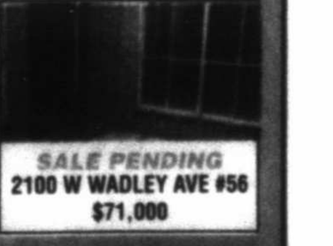
SALE PENDING
1001 W SCHARBAUER DR.
$165,000

SALE PENDING
2512 STOREY AVE.
$158,000

SALE PENDING
3620 SINCLAIR AVE.
$157,500



SALE PENDING
3000 ILLINOIS #49
$57,500



SALE PENDING
2100 W WADLEY AVE #56
$71,000

SOLD LISTINGS

****SOLD****
4100 BAYBROOK DR.
$525,000

****SOLD****
1905 JADEWOOD DR.
$525,000

****SOLD****
4406 COYOTE TRAIL
$510,000

****SOLD****
1502 PRINCETON AVE.
$370,000

****SOLD****
2011 COLEMAN CT.
$369,000

****SOLD****
6105 SAN ANTONIO ST.
$275,000

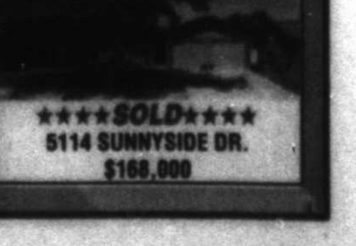
****SOLD****
2905 CALDERA BLVD.
$276,000

****SOLD****
2902 DORA PLACE
$230,000

****SOLD****
2102 ROSITA DRIVE
$215,000

****SOLD****
5210 BLUE HAVEN DR.
$200,000

****SOLD****
3310 CAMARIE AVE.
$195,000



****SOLD****
5114 SUNNYSIDE DR.
$168,000

Autos For Sale-Lease

Passenger Cars

NICE CLEAN' BMW 2003 model 325, must see. New tune up, clutch & fuel pump. Asking $5,000. 432-349-0041

TO SETTLE ESTATE: 2016 Red Mercedes-Benz SLK 350 convertible. 950k. $59,000 Firm. 325-473-2609. San Angelo, TX.

Will buy wrecked & unwanted cars, trucks & RVs. 432-685-4078

Pickup Trucks

FORD 350, 1999, 7.3 Diesel Hotshot Welder, 220,000 miles refurbished; good condition. Asking $10,000.00. make an offer. Come see at 1209 W. Illinois, Midland, TX.

FORD F150 Lariat, 2007. 75,000 Miles. GREAT CONDITION! $9,000 OBO. 432-210-6561.

4WD and SUV

CHEVROLET 2000 Suburban 227K miles $2,900. 432-634-0950 Text or leave message.

4WD and SUV

LIKE NEW 2006 Yamaha Raptor ATV. Garage kepted, only ridden 4 times. $5,000 432-349-0041.

Recreation Vehicles

31' RV/ Motor home for sale. Great condition - less than 50K miles. 2001 Fleetwood Jamboree/ Ford 10 cylinder. $20,000. See & drive by appointment. Henry K Hermann - 432-684-8813.

REDUCED

HARLEY DAVIDSON 2005 Road King. 13K miles. $8,000 OBO. MUST SEE! 432-697-9787 leave message

Merchandise

Free Stuff

CALL FOR FREE Christmas Gift: GRIFFIN. 5-YEAR Old longhaired Maine Coon male cat. Neutered. Fully declawed. Vaccinated. Good natured/ affectionate. 432-528-3569

Miscellaneous 4-Sale

HAVE a lot of incoganaron underwear for reasonable price. Women's size large 432-686-7513 between 9am-5pm

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OLD PLAYER Piano with a LARGE number of rolls, can also be played as a regular pano. Makes a nice Christmas present! 432-682-9146, 432-212-2590.

OAK, PECAN, hickory, mesquite, pinon. 432-209-0416 or 325-762-4262

Pets-Animals

Other Pets

TWO MALE, Applehead, brindle chihuahua puppies. Have had their first shots. Good Christmas present! $200 each. 432-212-0316.

Real Estate Rental-Sale

Residential Rentals

Condo Thome Rent Unfurn

FAIRGATE TOWNHOME $1,300 month $1,000 deposit. Small pets welcome with pet deposit. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. 432-686-2800

GREAT GUY SPACE

2 bedroom apartment with all utilities paid. Inside of a security fence with an electric gate. Located on the east side of Midland inside of Loop 250. $850 per month. For more information call Terry at 432-889-6073

Residential Rentals

House Rent Unfurn

1 BEDROOM house. $500/mo. $200 deposit. No kids. Call Sandra 432-230-1444.

210 N. Jackson 1 bedroom, 1 bath, storage, central heat & air, stove & refrigerator. $650 monthly, $650 deposit. Available november 15th. 432-683-5130.

2613 Haynes B
Midland, TX. $1,800
3 Bedroom, 3 Baths
2,400 sq. ft.
Storage & Carport.
Berkshire Hathaway HS Cooper Realty
Call 432-689-7700 or 432-230-1331

3BD/2BTH ig bk yard. No pets/no smoking. 6301 Shawnee across from MCC. $1200/mo. & $1200 deposit. Now available; call for appt! 432-683-2243.

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

Residential Rentals

House Rent Unfurn

402A WEST PINE, 3 bedroom 2 bath duplex. All tile floors. $1,075 month $1,075 deposit. Pets permitted with deposit. Background & credit check required. 12 month lease minimum. 432-557-0018.

4512 PARKDALE 3 bedroom 2 bath, single carport, recently remodeled. Non smoker. 600 credit score required. $25 application on anyone over 18. $1,500 month, $1,500 deposit. 1 year lease. 432-940-0920.

Residential Sales

Single Family Homes

HOME FOR sale in Midland, 3 bedroom, 2 baths with den. Nice cabinets. 5 rooms with hardwood floors. Well priced call 903-783-0259

Residential Sales

Vacation Resort

LAKE LEON, Eastland TX. Waterfront home. 2 BD, 2 full BA, fireplace, peer fishing dock, concrete boat ramp, 2 storage buildings, 2 carports - 1 for RV or pontoon size SB, long back southern style porch, beautiful yard and sunsets. Built in 2009. $225,000 price negotiable. 254-647-5399, Cell- 432-270-3506 leave message.

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Lots and Land

47.75 AC. W. TX. HUNTING, N OF COMSTOCK. DEER, JAVELINA, TURKEY, QUAIL & DOVE. $2,375 DN-$394/MO. CALL/ VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO. 866-286-0199 ranchenterpriseltd.com

Lots and Land

Acreage

21.23 AC. N. OF SAN ANGELO. LEVEL WITH NICE MESQUITE TREE COVER. DEER, HOGS, TURKEY, QUAIL & DOVE. NEAR LAKE E. V. SPENCE. $2,926 DN-$485/MO. CALL/ VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO. 800-876-9720 ranchenterpriseltd.com

CondoThomeRentUnfurn

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Water, 3 houses,
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$795/ Acre
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2 AC CALICHED
ELECTRIC GATE
$2200/MONTH
JUST EAST OF MIDLAND
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3,795 sq. ft. building for sale on
2606 W. Front St.
Call 432-684-5933 or 432-816-8051 for details.

Commercial

READY-RANCH RR
WWW.READY-RANCH.COM
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.READY-RANCH.COM

- **Kent County**
  - *11,155 ac. n. of Snyder, 4 houses, pens/roping arena, 800 ft. mtn., creek, lakes, Whitetail deer, mule deer and quail $795/ac
  - *4,212 ac. Maveric Creek, canyons, whitetail and mule deer and quail $825/ac
  - *1,771 ac. windmill, creek, blinds and feeders, great whitetail and mule deer, turkey, hogs, quail $850
- **Nolan County**
  - *648 ac. over 1 mile SOLD creek, blinds, feeders, elevation change, oaks $3,550/ac
  - *565 ac. Pecan Creek, New Living/Shop, 200 acres cleared for cattle, blinds/feeders, windmill $4,425/ac
- **Howard County**
  - *842 ac. canyons, blinds/feeders, great deer, cedar/mesquite, surface water, some refined traffic $750/ac
  - *150 ac. big canyon, SOLD anks, cedar/mesquites, great deer, turkey, jav $895/ac
- **Martin County**
  - *135 ac. Sulphur Springs SOLD deer and whitetail, hogs, varminits, metal stor $1,150/ac

(432) 664-7764 or (432) 934-7777
No Realtors - Buy Direct!!!
Deal with Landowners that know the Country!!!
Owner Financing Available

Commercial

GREAT SPOT FOR
a commercial yard. 1, 2, or 3 acre calache yard for lease with secured fencing & electric gate. Located on the east side of Midland just outside of the city limits inside of Loop 250 For more information call Terry at 432-889-6073.

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45' X 75'
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Call Matt
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MOM & Pop Retail Convenience store, with house on side, paid $176,000 in 2006, willing to take offers due to health issues. Serious inquires only! Call Diane at 325-656-1254 or email blackwell357@gmail.com

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Closed Sunday

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Vintage Costume Jewelry
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Estate Jewelry
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50% off
Vintage Clothing and Fur
30 - 50% off
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50% off
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50% off
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Single Family Homes

Single Family Homes

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FIREWOOD BY Midland Fireman. Oak, Pinon, Mesquite firewood. Full, half and quarter cords. Free delivery. Also, Tree Trimming services and firewood racks for sale. Call 432-557-2897, 209-1131.

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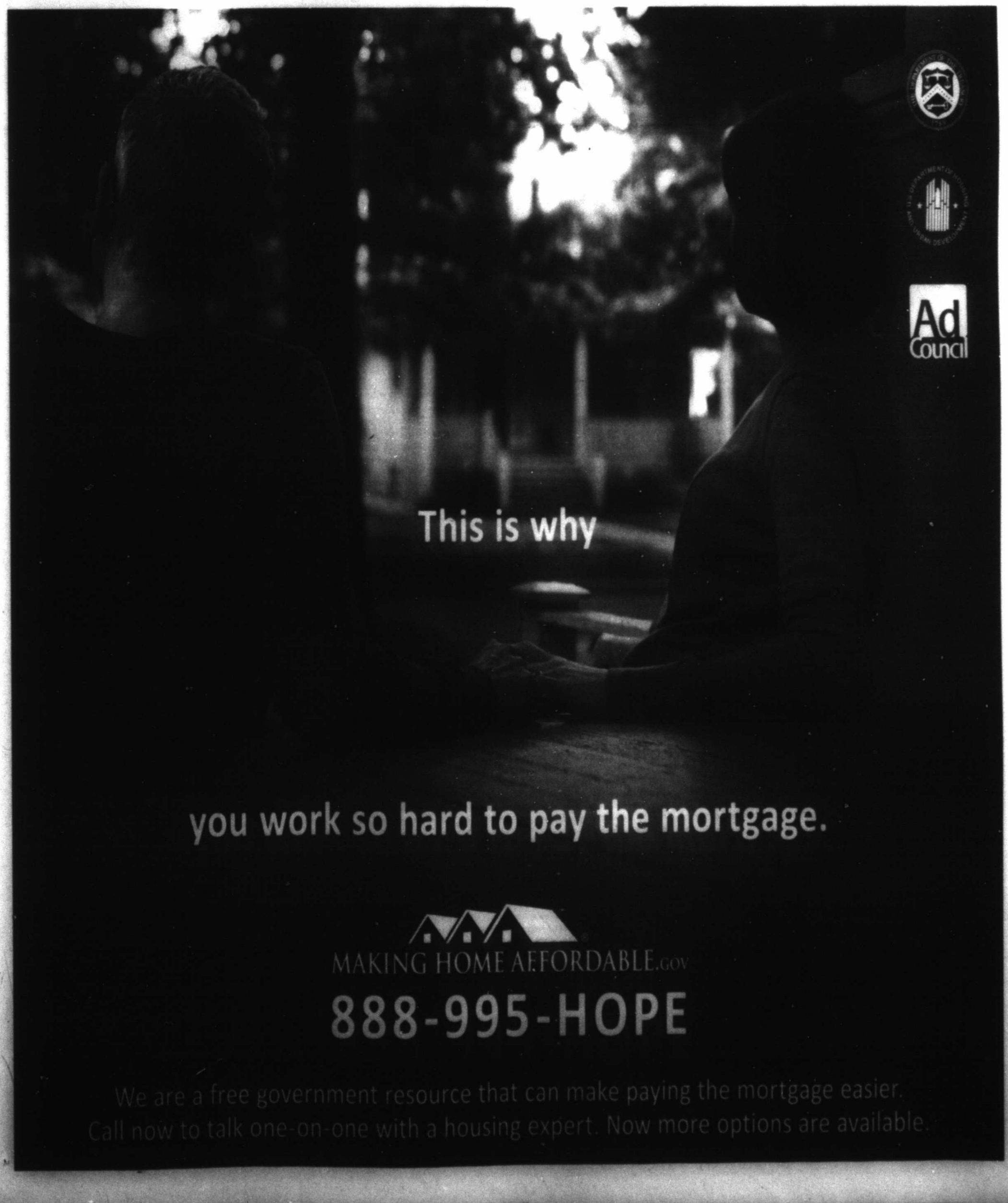
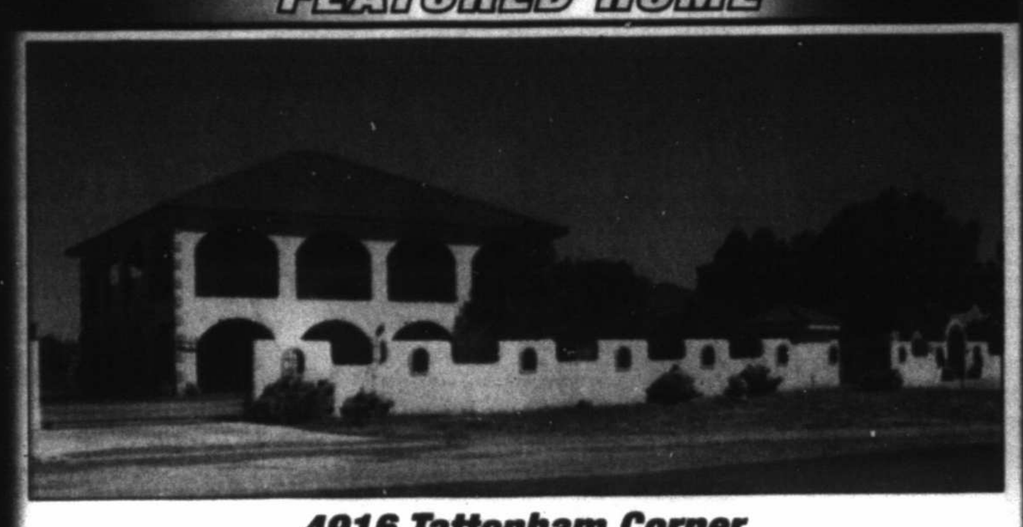


The Real Estate Company

432-618-0286

FEATURED HOME



4916 Tattenham Corner

5 bedrooms, 5.5 baths, 9 car garage, priced @ $819,000

NEW CONSTRUCTION

Carrasco Homes

303 S. Mineola Street
3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage, priced @ $198,500

Ashington Homes

8307 Balfour Court
3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 3 car garage, priced @ $414,900

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Custom Homes & Fine Cabinetry

5300 Brown Heart Lane
4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 3 car garage, priced @ $464,900

Elgin Homes

1209 S. County Rd. 1118
4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 3 car garage, priced @ $469,900

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a
Saviour
which is Christ The Lord.
-Luke 2:11

RESIDENTIAL LISTINGS/HOME SITES/ACREAGE

REDIDENTIAL

3209 Kessler ... 3 Bdrm/1 Bar/1 Car Garage	$109,900
3216 Roosevelt Avenue ... 3 Bdrm/1 Ba	$109,900
1403 S. Fort Worth ... 3 Bdrm/1.5 Ba	$134,500
3904 Willingham Dr ... 3 Bdrm/2 Bar/2 Car Garage	U/C
2507 Country Club Dr ... 2 Bdrm/2 Bar/1 Car Garage	U/C
4405 Crenshaw Dr ... 3 Bdrm/2 Bar/2 Car Garage	$209,000
518 E. 8th Street ... Odessa/4 Bdrm/2 Bar/2 Car Garage	$235,000
5109 Ashdown Place ... 3 Bdrm/2 Bar/2 Car Garage	$239,900
3908 Trinity Drive ... 4 Bdrm/2.5 Ba	U/C
5302 Widener Strip ... 4 Bdrm/3 Bar/3 Car Garage	U/C
2407 N. Golf Course Rd ... 3 Bdrm/2.5 Ba/2 Car Garage	$319,900
1706 Ward Street ... 6 Bdrm/4 Bar/2 Car Garage	$357,000
4417 Guadalupe St ... 3 Bdrm/2 Bar/2 Car Garage	$365,900
205 Skywood Circle ... 3 Bdrm/2 Bar/2 Car Garage	U/C
3400 Limestone Lane ... 4 Bdrm/2.5 Ba/3 Car Garage	U/C
1609 W. Indiana Ave ... 4 Bdrm/2.5 Ba/4 Car Garage	$458,000
19 Lafayette Place ... 4 Bdrm/3.5 Ba/2 Car Garage	$479,900
2102 Deeanna Lane ... 4 Bdrm/3.5 Ba/4 Car Garage	$535,000
4000 Inn Drive ... 4 Bdrm/3 Bar/2 Car Garage	$535,000
4916 Tattenham Corner ... 5 Bdrm/5.5 Ba/9 Car Garage	$819,000
6106 Dunbarton Oaks Blvd ... 4 Bdrm/4.5 Ba/3 Car Garage	$895,000

NEW CONSTRUCTION

303 S. Mineola St ... Carrasco Homes/3 Bdrm/2 Bar/2 Car Garage	$198,500
5103 Binney Cove ... Ashington Homes/3 Bdrm/2 Ba/3 Car Garage	$369,900
5307 Balfour Ct ... Ashington Homes/3 Bdrm/2 Ba/3 Car Garage	$416,900
5303 Balfour Ct ... Carrasco Homes/4 Bdrm/3 Ba/3 Car Garage	$453,000
5305 Dunraven Ct ... Carrasco Homes/4 Bdrm/3 Ba/3 Car Garage	$458,500
5315 Half Moon Circle ... Sanchez Diamond Homes/4 Bdrm/3 Ba/3 Car Garage	$485,000
7219 E. Co. Rd. 113 ... Crystal Homes/4 Bdrm/3 Ba/3 Car Garage	$488,000
5300 George Yard Ct ... Midland Gallery Homes/4 Bdrm/3 Ba/3 Car Garage	U/C
18 La Campana ... Rome Homes/4 Bdrm/4.5 Ba/3 Car Garage	$899,500

SUBURBAN/ACREAGE

4201 E. Co. Rd. 79 ... 3 Shop buildings/2 RV Hook-ups/Approx. 1.056 acres	$89,500
14041 N. Sunflower Ave ... Gardendale/4 Bdrm/2.5 Ba	$169,500
2363 Co. Rd. 2831 ... Stanton/Mobil- Home/3 Bdrm/2 Ba	$189,000
15306 N. Hallybock Ave ... Gardendale/3 Bdrm/2 Ba/2.205 Acres	U/C
8002 S. Co. Rd. 1110 ... 4 Bdrm/2 Ba/4 Car Garage	$280,000
2705 S. Co. Rd. 1114 ... Greenwood/4 Bdrm/2.5 Ba/1 Car Garage	$279,000
4201 S. Co. Rd. 1185 ... 3 Bdrm/2 Bar/2 Car Garage	$284,500
16433 N. Western Ave ... Gardendale/3 Bdrm/2 Ba/2 Carport	U/C
205 E. Co. Rd. 127 ... 3 Bdrm/2 Ba/3 C'v Garage	$329,900
2100 S. Co. Rd. 1130 ... 3 Bdrm/3 Ba/3 Car Garage	$369,900
310 Co. Rd. 221 ... 4 Bdrm/3 Ba/232 Approx. Acres	$875,000

SUBURBAN HOME SITES

Luna Rose Estates ... W. Co. Rd. 30/1.5-2 Acre Lots	Call Gary

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

302 S. Marienfeld ... 11,840 Sq. Ft./0.482 Acres	$750,000
Deal Parkway ... 5.00 Acres	$1,475,000
3008 Elkins Rd ... 3.25 Acres/Office/Warehouse	$1,000,000

OUT OF TOWN PROPERTIES

1401 HWY 176 ... Big Spring/20 Acres	$279,900
1901 Co. Rd. C 3200 ... Tarzan/4 Bdrm/3 Ba/Approx 4 Acres	$299,450

RENTAL PROPERTIES

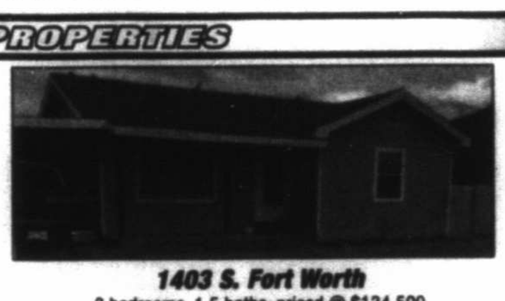
18 La Campana Dr ... Odessa/5 Bdrm/4.5 Ba/3 Car Garage	$4,500
2407 Golf Course Rd ... 3 Bdrm/2.5 Ba/2 Car Garage	$2,500
3125 Storey Ave ... 2 Bdrm/1 Ba	$1,000
3316 Cedars Blvd. #107 ... 1 Bdrm/1.5 Ba	$800
3316 Cedars Blvd. #233 ... 1 Bdrm/1 Ba	$800

Contact Lillian Reynolds @ 432-210-9682

FEATURED PROPERTIES

3209 Kessler
3 bedrooms, 1 baths, 1 car garage, priced @ $109,900

3216 Roosevelt Avenue
3 bedrooms, 1 baths, priced @ $109,900



1403 S. Fort Worth
3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, priced @ $134,500

4405 Crenshaw Drive
3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage, priced @ $209,000

4400 N. Big Spring Street, Ste. C-30 www.midlandreco.com

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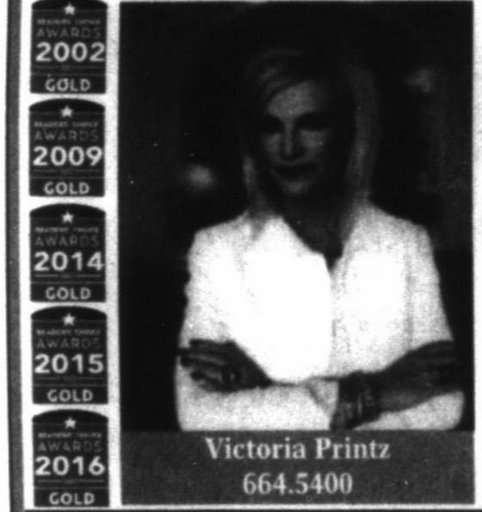

The VICTORIA Printz Team, Realtors®
683-1000

4+ BEDROOMS

14750 Kobyn Lane-Recently completed elegant estate in gardendale on 6.03 Acres! Main home has 5 (or 6) bed/6 Full+2 1/2 baths/great room, study, theatre & playroom!, pool, workout room, workshop, barn, pond & playground! ... $2,800,000

116 Soloman-Austin stone exterior, extensively landscaped 2 acres of gorgeous grounds, dazzling pool, outdoor kitchen & 3780 sw ft party barn! Is delightfully finished w/huge living areas, kitchen, bath, media~enormous workshop! ... $1,380,000

4 Bay Meadows Lane-Absolutely fabulous stucco hacienda in saddle club estates~1.4 Acres! Dazzling pool & spa! 6 Bed/6.5 bath/9 living guest quarters, workshop & a delightful casita! Splendid outdoor living spaces abound! ... $1,050,000

401 Affirmed-Stunning custom 'none w/granite' hardwood floors, soaring ceilings, walls of windows & gorgeous cabinetry ! Beds each w/private baths + 2 half baths! 4 Living, 2 Dining & 3 car gar! Seq master ste w/2 sinks, jetted tub & huge linen! Gourmet kitchen w/sub-zero & fabulous granite! Beautiful dazzling pool/spa! ... $999,900

5409 Unbridled Trail-Fabulous new construction 4 bedroom, 6 bathroom, 3 living areas + huge gameroom, 3 car garage and large workshop! make your own color selections! Grand versatile plan, safe~room & amazing storage! ... $999,000

16794 Dogwood, Gardendale-Phenomenal Estate~a country lover's dream! 4 Bed/4.5 Bath/4 living areas/2 Dining/3 car gar/2 carport! Huge workshop w/half bath, covered rv parking pad & storage shed! Gourmet kitchen w/granite, island & stainless custom appliances! ... $995,000

85 Muirfield, Odessa-Beyond spectacular estate w/incredible open floor plan~4 bed/4.5 Bath/4 living/2 dining on gorgeous landscaped grounds! Covered circle drive, 4 car gar & service driveway! Dazzling pool & spa, outdoor grill, sep dog yard & outdoor shower! ... $950,000

4515 Meadowlark Lane-Absolutely beautiful home with soaring ceilings, plantation shutters & miles of tile! Light & bright 4bed/3.5 bath with carpet in bedrooms & living areas! Gourmet kitchen with granite, rich cabinetry & stainless appliances! Backyard with dazzling pool, hot tub & wind swept on a huge lot! ... $624,900

3712 Timber Wolf-Fabulous! 4 bed/3.5 Bath/2 living/3 dining & oversized 3 car garage! Miles of gorgeous stained concrete flooring, soaring 12 & 13ft ceilings, solid core doors, & archways thru-out! Gourmet kitchen w/granite island, beautiful cabinetry & gas cook top! Seq master suite w/walk thru shows, dual vanities & jetted tub! ... $599,900

4705 Green Tree-Spectacular 2~story open floorplan home~4 bed/3.5 Bath/4 living/2 dining/3 car garage/circle drive~ on incredible golf course lot! Miles of tile, soaring ceilings, walls of windows & sweeping course views thru~out! Abundant storage! Upstairs master suite! ... $599,000

6631 Z Driftwood-Immaculate Gardendale estate on 1 acre! Fabulous open floor plan featuring 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, office/study and mudroom with sink! Miles of stained concrete floors (carpet in bedrooms)! Master suite with oversized walk-in closet, separate tub and huge shower! Grand 30 x 14 metal workshop! Beautiful entry with soaring ceilings! ... $499,500

1204 Brockenridge-Spectacular 2~story home in beautiful cul-de-sac! Open floor plan w/4bed/4bath/2 dining/2 living& 3 car gar! Seq master ste w/dual vanities, sep garden tub & walk~in closet! Soaring ceilings, crown molding, walls of windows & plantation shutters thru~out! Gourmet kitchen ... $454,900

4109 Radcliff Ct-Absolutely spectacular 4 bed/3 bath/1 living/1 home on the inner cul-de-sac! Updated to the minute w/hardwood floors, soaring ceilings, stacked crown molding, walls of windows & plantation shutters! Sep mstr suite w/granite & walk~in shower! Gourmet kitchen w/granite & stainless appliances! Den has austin stone wall, 2Nd fireplace + formal to mantle! Dazzling pool! ... $450,000

3929 Baybrook Ct-Terrific buy in mockingbird! Spacious 4 bedroom/2.5 bath/2 living plus den w/fireplace & formal w/fireplace/2 dining area home on corner lot on cul-de-sac w/large yard, brick & wood fence! Soaring ceilings, walls of windows, plantation shutters thru~out, lots of storage & built-ins! Rv & water softener 2nd living would make terrific gameroom! ... $450,000

5002 Crista Lee-Pristine condition in a wonderful location! Crown molding, arched doorways, soaring ceilings, plantation shutters, bright windows! Granite countertops in the gourmet kitchen, along with stainless double ovens, pantry, island, breakfast bar & tons of cabinet space! Spacious bedrooms! Covered patio! 3 Car garage! ... $364,900

1208 Harvard-Absolutely spectacular & incredibly spacious 4 bed/3 bath/4 living /2 dining/3 car gar home on corner lot in lovely old midland! Pristine condition! Gorgeous hardwood & travertine tile floors! Fabulous master suite w/2 walk~in closets, sep jetted tub, walk~in shower, dry sauna & workout room! ... $360,000

1409 San Miguel Ct. ~Absolute fabulous! 4 bed/3 bath/3 living /gar. mediterranean room/2 dining area home w/plantation shutters, rc, water soft, sec system & lovely extended patio w/gorgeous pergola! Huge master suite w/7 areas, granite & jetted tub! Gourmet kitchen w/stainless appliances, gas cooktop/ovens! Zoned heat/ Excellent condition w/archways & rounded corners! Cul-de-sac location! ... $299,900

2507 Tamarind- Spectacular 4br/3bath/2 living/gar/formal/2 dining area home! Extra room w/ fantastic built in's & cozy fireplace open to the kitchen with walls of windows & hardwood flooring that leads you to the stunning pool! Sequestered master w/ tile walls & big closets. Recent flooring in the spacious bedrooms! Located on a quiet cul-de-sac w/ mature trees! Fenced w/side yard & parking pad on the side! ... $282,000

2808 Boardwalk-Absolutely sterling 4 bed/3 bath/2 car garage home~a~rific in 2015! Stained concrete flooring thru~out! Seq master suite w/2 large walk~in closets & dual sinks! Soaring ceilings! Huge living area! Gourmet kitchen w/stainless appliances, gorgeous cabinetry, beautiful backsplash & countertops! ... $299,900

3352 County RD C 2308, Stanton-Fantastic 4 bed/3 bath modular home built 2007 w/2 acres! Country living north of stanton! 2 Living areas w/wood-burning fire place! Bright kitchen w/breakfast bar, large island, dining area & lots of cabinets! Inside utility room w/sink! 2 Car carport, circle drive! ... $185,000

101 Dewberry-Super cute 3 bed, 2 bath, 2 car garage home on corner lot! Spacious den with cozy wood burning fireplace! Charming breakfast book off of kitchen! Gorgeous hardwood flooring in all 3 bedrooms! Bath baths nice and updated! Large backyard with covered patio! 1276 square feet per appraisal! ... $164,500

2308 W 11th St, Menchaca-Absolutely charming country living in nice & quiet neighborhood~4 bed/3bath home on 0.916 Acres! Roomy bedrooms! Tile flooring thru~out! Great kitchen w/stainless appliances & island! Covered patio! $300 Right way home warranty. New oven/range, water heater and microwave! ... $149,900

1, 2 & 3 BEDROOMS

3300 Feldspar Lane-Spectacular 4 bed/2.5 Bath/2 liv/2 din/3 gar w/dazzling pool (amazing waterfall) & resort~like backyard w/bar! Hardwood & tile flooring (carpet in 2 bed), dramatic soaring ceilings, walls of windows, crown molding, rounded corners & archways! ... $499,900

5308 Bella Place-Fabulous & low maintenance 3 bed/3 bath/2 dining 2~story home! Open floor plan w/beautiful brick floors & crown molding! Open gourmet kitchen w/granite, abundant counter space, beautiful cabinetry & stainless appliances! Seq master suite w/dual vanities, jetted tub, walk~in shower & huge closet! ... $309,900

608 Canonero-Absolutely fabulous, light & bright 3 bed/3.5 Bath/5 living/2 dining/3 car gar low~maintenance townhome in saddle club! Amazing 2~story open floor plan w/soaring ceilings, abundant cabinetry & granite thru~out! Dazzling pool & outdoor living area! ... $399,900

6211 Ellen Joyce Way-Fabulous & move~in ready 7~story low maintenance home! 3 bed/2.5 Bath/2 dining/3 car garage! Wood like flooring, walls of windows & crown molding! Gourmet kitchen w/granite, abundant cabinetry & stainless appliances! Master suite w/dual vanities, sep jetted tub & huge walk~in closet! ... $309,900

4013 Spring Meadow Lane #7~Fabulously updated home w/2 living/2 dining, soaring ceilings, rounded corners & grand archways! Sep, master w/2 vanities, jetted tub, steam shower & heated floors! Gourmet kitchen w/granite, 3 ovens, 6 burner cooktop & lg. island! Front courtyard + lg. backyard w/ brick & iron fencing~ 2 landscaped right! ... $349,900

2102 Neely Ave.~Lovely & spacious low~maintenance stone home w/ 4bd/2ba/2living areas/1dining area/2car garage! 1 huge bedroom/2.5 Baths? living area, stone, gas~open w/hot tub/2 dining areas/2 car garage! Nice exterior w/updated landscaping! Huge backyard! Tile flooring thru~out! Great kitchen w/granite countertops, custom cabinetry, stainless appliances, gas cooktop & large dining area! Plantation shutters thru~out! Downstairs seq master suite! ... $299,900

16 Lafayette~Lovely & barely lived~in 2 bedroom/2.5 Bath/2 living area, stone/ plus custom media/game room/ low~maintenance townhouse in gorgeous ellworth place! Lovely landscaping among cobblestone~like street! Gourmet kitchen w/granite countertops, custom cabinetry, stainless appliances, gas cooktop & large dining area! Plantation shutters thru~out! Downstairs seq master suite! ... $299,900

1906 Pueblo-Fantastic 2 bed/2 ba home on large landscaped lot! 400/40 insulated workshop in back w/1 gar bay! Shop includes bath & office area! Beautiful crown molding, tile, carpet & like~wood floors thru~out! High vaulted ceilings w/fabulous cozy loft leading to covered porch! ... $295,000

2910 Mannon Dr. ~Fabulous 'Open Floor Plan' 3 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath, 2 Living, 2 Dining & 2 Car Garage! Amazing size bedrooms featured on the opposite side of the home. Master Suite sat in the back of the home with dual vanities and walk-in closet. Large, spacious den with wet bar, fireplace and patio and spacious back yard! ... $295,000

5100 Greenhouse Ave~Sale or lease $2750~ spectacular 3 bed/2 bath/2 or 3 living/2 dining area home w/circle drive and plenty of parking! Arched doorways, rounded corners, jet tubs, soaring ceilings...Really nice! Versatile plan has great room, study w/built-ins + game room or third/4 living/dining room! Lovely wall-to-wall carpet! Nice kitchen w/breakfast bar, large walk~in pantry & 2 car garage! Fenced backyard with covered patio! ... $329,000

6103 Copper Sky Ct-Absolutely fabulous & better than new 3 bed/2 bath home in wonderful new neighborhood! Gorgeous landscaped front yard! Perfect floorplan~charming entryway & huge open den & kitchen! Master suite w/separate tub & shower, 2 sinks & giant closet! ... $245,000

1507 Club Drive-Absolutely stunning & super low~maintenance 2 bed/2 bath townhome w/soaring ceilings, walls of windows & miles of gorgeous hardwood floors thru~out! Greatroom open to gourmet kitchen! Charming front & back patios! Gorgeous stone exterior! ... $229,900

2503 W Cuthbert~A Charming home with original hardwood floors! 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 large living areas, 1 dining area and 2 covered carport! Bathrooms and kitchen have been recently updated. New Metal roof was place in October of 2016! Amazing outside covered patio with a built in bar and a huge backyard! ... $214,500

1305 E. Pine ~Spectacular find at this fantastic price~low construction! 2 spacious bedrooms/2 bath/formal dining area/great room + 2 car garage! High ceilings & lots of window, 2 inch blinds! Gourmet kitchen w/granite countertops, stainless appliances & gas cooktop! Seq master suite w/walk~in closet! Landscaped grounds (by back yard w/grass) w/sprinkler system! ... $209,900

1315 E Spruce~What a find on this new construction by lance friday~incredible price! 3 Spacious bedrooms/2 full baths/formal dining area plus great room & 2 car garage! Gourmet kitchen with stainless appliances~microwave, dishwasher & gas range & oven! Fenced yard! ... $197,500

1321 E Spruce~What a find on this new construction by lance friday~incredible price! 3 Spacious bedrooms/2 full baths/formal dining area plus great room & 2 car garage! Gourmet kitchen with stainless appliances~microwave, dishwasher & gas range & oven! Fenced yard! ... $197,500

1327 E Spruce~What a find on this new construction by lance friday~incredible price! 3 Spacious bedrooms/2 full baths/formal dining area plus great room & 2 car garage! Gourmet kitchen with stainless appliances~microwave, dishwasher & gas range & oven! Fenced yard! ... $197,500

1325 Spruce Avenue~Fabulous new construction & simply stunning built in 2016! 3Bed/2bath/1dining/2car garage sequestered master suite with large walkin closet. Gorgeous stained concrete floors, gourmet kitchen with stainless steel appliances & beautiful back splash w/granite countertops. ... $197,500

3023 Esmond, Odessa~Absolutely darling 3 bedroom/2 bath home has tile, high ceilings, security system & some updated appliances! Spacious greatroom plus formal dining area, large walk~in pantry & 2 car garage! Sequestered master suite w/soaking tub, separate shower & two sinks! All bedrooms are large w/nice closets! ... $190,000

1291 E Chestnut~Super cute new construction! 3 Bed/2 bath home on corner lot! Fabulous kitchen with granite, tons of cabinets & range with self cleaning oven! Kitchen open to fabulous formal dining area! Spacious living area w/soaring ceilings, crown molding & miles of tile! Large backyard! ... $180,000

16902 WCR 5B~Super cute 2 bedroom & 2 bath. 1 dinning & two living areas! Gorgeous hardwood flooring throughout the home (carpet in bedrooms only), stunning fireplace in the main living area! Gorgeous outside covered patio perfect for entertaining on 2 acres of land! Includes your own water well with pump! ... $150,000

2100 Wadley #14~Super cute and spacious 3 bed/3 bath condominium! Open floorplan with large den with brick fireplace! Formal dining area! Master suite downstairs with wet bar! Both guest bedrooms are upstairs with private baths! Oversized & covered redwood deck, overlooks community pool perfect for another outdoor living area and entertaining! 2 assigned parking spaces! ... $150,000

4017 B West Illinois~Super cute 3 bed/2 bath/2 car garage townhome! Charming & private courtyard entrance! Cozy den w/fireplace! Great size kitchen w/gas cooktop, abundant cabinetry, storage & counter space open to wonderful family size dining area! Recent interior paint in den & dining room! Microwave replaced in 2016 & disposal replaced in 2015! ... $135,000

2912 Cuthbert~Great drive-up appeal on this 3 bed/2 bath home w/2 car garage & lots of potential! Smart buy! Large corner lot w/water well, hvac replaced in 2010, water heater replaced in 2013, hot & cold water lines replaced thru~out house in 2015! ... $134,900

2901 Mariana~Completely remodeled 3 bed/2 bath home! Exterior updates: new plants, fresh wet paint & some fencing replaced! Interior updates: fresh paint, new a/c, fresh carpet, tile, cabinets, glass backsplash, stainless steel stove & dishwasher, 2" faux wood blinds, new shower fixtures & lighting fixtures! Full-size sun-flex in carport! ... $129,900

COMMERCIAL, LAND AND LOTS

6000 Dunbarton~Amazing 1.04 Acre lot in sought after Mockingbird Oaks! Ready to build your dream house! Between Garfield and Midkiff, just east of midland classical! Call Kerri Payne for details! 432-553-7443 ... $187,500

5000 Shadyview~Huge corner lot (0.353 Acre) in mockingbird heights across from clubhouse & pool! Fabulous residential homesite! Call kerri payne with questions and for building specifications! 432-553-7443! ... $149,900

Timber Wolf Estates~Fast-growing subdivision in~par well estates~city of midland, martin co. Appr 5 acre lots @ $13/acre, plat available. Water well/septic system/fence can be added to price but @ buyers expense. Overplant electric. Can attend midland isd or stanton isd. Min home 2,800 sq ft ... $65,000

6742 E County Road 90~Stunning 1.00 Acre tract north of highway 307 ready for home! Buyer must drill their own water well and install a septic system. Water wells on the property have produced fantastic water (24-30 gallons/min)! Overhead utilities provide electricity! Minutes from graineyard isd schools & 15 minutes from downtown Midland! ... $25,000

Colter Estates~Fabulous subdivision conveniently located in gardendale~colter estates~10 lots (appr .25 Acre) plat available. Roads will be paved by developer. Water well/septic system/fence can be added to sales price but @ buyers exp. min home 2800 sq ft. Buyer has choice of builder, plans approved by developer ... $25,000

For information on rentals contact Leasing Agent, Maria Arippe at 528-9396

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UNDER CONTRACTS & SOLDS!

6103 Copper Sky Court	UNDER CONTRACT!
18002 WCR 58	UNDER CONTRACT!
2100 Wadley #14	UNDER CONTRACT!
2901 Mariana	UNDER CONTRACT!
4109 Radcliff Court	UNDER CONTRACT!
19 Lafayette	UNDER CONTRACT!
3303 Trinity Meadows	UNDER CONTRACT!
1115 Almeloo	UNDER CONTRACT!
1311 E. Spruce	UNDER CONTRACT!
2301 Castleford	UNDER CONTRACT!
2512 Lockwood Dr	SOLD!
5305 Half Moon Circle	SOLD!
2401 Arbor Circle	SOLD!
4105 Timberglen Circle	SOLD!
3503 W. Ohio Ave	SOLD!
2711 Savoy	SOLD!
4023 Spring Meadow Lane	SOLD!
5409 Crosby	SOLD!
1109 Buffalo Ct	SOLD!

PRINTZ PROPERTY MANAGEMENT 684-8202 FOR LEASE

2109 Deeanna~6 Bdrooms, 6 Bathrooms	$4,200
3011 Stoneleaf Ave	$2,700
2906 Boardwalk~4 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms	$2,000
2900 N. Penn St	$1,900
3202 Teakwood~3 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms	$1,800
2302 Haynes Drive~3 Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms	$1,800
2311 A Haynes~3 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms	$1,600
5110 Storey Ave	$1,300
2301 A Haynes~3 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms	$1,200
2503 Dunbarton B	$1,000
2503 C Dunbarton~2 Bedrooms, 1 Bathroom	$1,000
2911 B Haynes	

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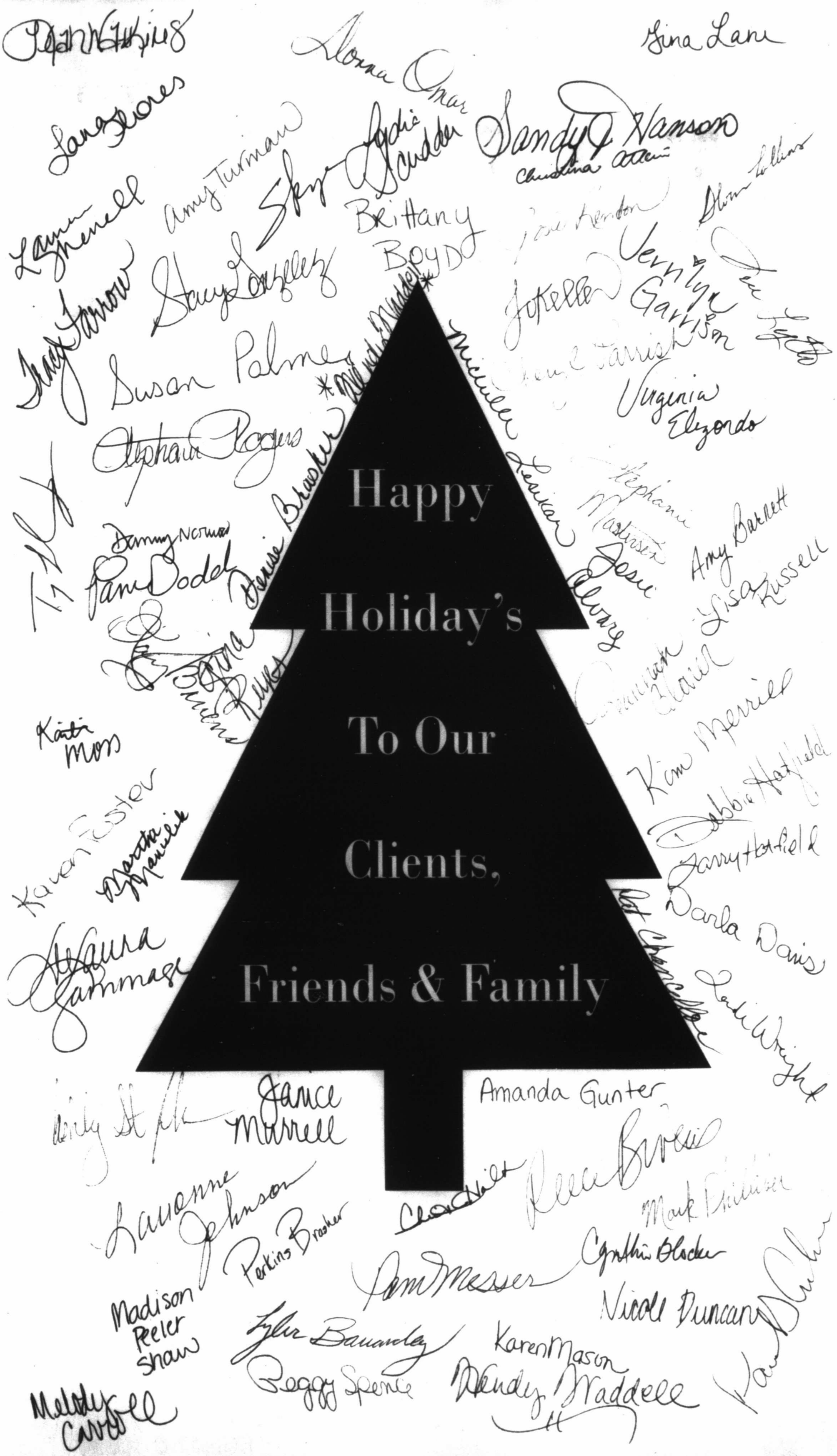

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HOMEWISE

Real Estate Tips and Advice

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Looking to make a buy in a housing market poised for progress? Forbes lists 20 metro areas where you might find an investment opportunity in the coming year.

How to Spot a Deal

By ANNA CHANG-YEN | Green Shoot Media

The housing market continues to peek further out of the lows of the Great Recession, but investors and bargain hunters who know where to look can still find deals.

Forbes analyzed markets across the country for its list of Best Buy Cities for 2016. It found 20 metro areas it believes to be on the cusp of a housing boom, with Grand Rapids, Mich., at the top.

Grand Rapids' diverse economy and growing labor markets propelled it to the top of the list, according to Forbes. Employment expanded by 3.9 percent in the year leading up to November, Bureau of Labor Statistics numbers showed — the highest rate among the 100 metro areas Forbes studied.

Florida notched up 7 cities on the list, including No. 2 Orlando. Forbes' experts reasoned that Florida's popularity with vacationers and retiring seniors made it particularly vulnerable to the market downturn of the mid-2000s, an event from which it is proving slow to recover.

Texas, where energy investment has kept real estate markets out of the gutter, also landed three cities on the list: San Antonio, Dallas and Austin.

KEEP AN EYE ON JOBS

So how can you spot a market poised to boom? Forbes looked for job markets and populations that were growing, where depressed housing prices could have the fuel they need to catch fire.

Plenty of markets have shown strong recoveries in the past few years, and there's no shortage of professional opinions about how and when recovery will happen. But it may be wise to follow the jobs.

In October 2015, the National Association of Home Builders said the current recovery "is all about jobs."

"If people can get good jobs that pay decent incomes, the housing market will continue to move forward," said NAHB Chief Economist David Crowe.

He pointed out that nationwide, labor markets are better than they were in 2008 — 142 million vs. the 2008 peak of 138 million.

FIELDS TO WATCH

Service jobs, in particular, are fueling growth, NAHB said.

In 2014, the Bureau of Labor Statistics marked health aides, nurses, food service workers and retail workers as the jobs favored for the most growth by 2024.

While the idea of keeping tabs on the intricacies of labor markets in your desired markets may not sound like your idea of fun, one thing is for sure: the best way to find a bargain is by doing your homework. And of course, a little luck never hurts.

REAL ESTATE 101

Know the Limits

Read Forbes' list of Best Buy Cities for 2016 and watch a slide show about cities on the list at **http://onforb.es/1OYVSXX**.

HOMEWISE GLOSSARY

Market value: The most probable price that a property should bring in a competitive and open market, provided that all conditions requisite to a fair sale are present, the buyer and seller are knowledgeable and acting prudently, and the price is not affected by any undue stimulus.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

You Can Email your Classified Ad to: mrtclassified@mrt.com

Build Equity

Did you know that you can actually live in your real estate investment property? Owning a rental property and living in it can be an excellent way to reduce your monthly payment outlay, while building home equity for your future. And, you can even do it as a first-time home buyer, if you plan ahead. The key is to purchase a home with 2-units, 3-units, or 4-units. Homes with 2-4 units can be financed as home loans, which means you get access to "regular" rates, as opposed to rental rates. You also may get access to larger loan sizes because loan limits for multi-unit homes are higher than for 1-unit properties. When you purchase a 2-unit, 3-unit, or 4-unit home, it's your right as a homeowner to live in any of the home's available units. For many homeowners, living in a multi-unit rental building is a way to defray, reduce, or eliminate the monthly cash outlay to their lender. Rents collected from the home's other units offset the payment due on the primary one. Owning and living in a rental building is allowed by residential lenders and, according to lending guidelines, when you live in a building you rent out, the entire property can be classified as your primary residence, which gives access to lower rates and potentially larger monthly profits. In addition, renting out a building in which you live grants you access to a wider range of financing products as opposed to properties you don't live in.
Source: The Mortgage Reports

Smith

SUBMITTED BY:
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432.687.2612 (fax)
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7 Things You Should Never Do to Your Home

New homeowners can be overwhelmed with the list of things they should do to their homes on a regular basis – clean the gutters and replace the furnace filters, for example. But, say the Wall St. Journal's home advisors, there are at least seven things a homeowner should never do—and here's why:

Don't do your own plumbing chores—No matter how handy you think you are, leave the plumbing to the pros, experts say. The risks are high if you mess up, and homeowners may not have a good grasp on building codes and safety requirements.

Don't do electrical work—The same caveats apply here—and the greatest risk of all is electrocution!

Don't be too quick to remove a wall—It may seem like a great idea to give yourself a little extra space. But don't do anything until you check with a contractor or an engineer to be sure the wall you want to remove is not a load-bearing wall.

Re-think a bump-out—In the same vein, think twice about moving a wall only slightly to gain a little space. Contractors say these little bump-outs are too costly. You'll get more bang for your buck by opening the new space on a bigger scale.

Don't remodel too much—By the same token, give plenty of thought before you start remodeling. If you want the best return on your investment, keep remodeling costs in line with what other homes in your neighborhood are worth.

Don't neglect your yard—Bad front yards anger the neighbors and bring down property values. Don't be the one who doesn't get around to cleaning up and caring for the yard.

Don't forget not everyone loves your pets—even if the pet smells, hair and stains don't bother you, they likely bother your guests—and they will certainly bother potential buyers, so keep the carpets clean and open the windows when you can.

RISMedia TOP 5

This story was submitted by
Norma Pine, Broker/Owner
Chris Beckett, Broker/Owner
Pine & Beckett, REALTORS
www.pineandbeckett.com

The Bottom Line

76 percent of adults have read a daily newspaper in the past five days.

Source: Scarborough Research 2005

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Wishing God's blessings upon you and your families as you gather to celebrate the birth of our Lord. I am blessed to count you as friends and family. Merry Christmas to You All!

Sandy J. Hanson

FEATURED LISTINGS

6708 FM 307	Residential or Commercial Land, Will subdivide into 1 Acre Tracts	MLS #50005743		$860,000
7000 Abney Court	5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 2 LA, 2 DA, outdoor kitchen, pool	MLS #50005640	NEW PRICE	$614,900
5715 SCR 1214	New Construction 4 bed/2 bath on 1.019 Acres	MLS #50005193		$399,950
4102 Stratton	4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage	MLS #50002399	NEW PRICE	$329,950
5601 SCR 1214	New Construction 4 bed/2.5 baths on 1.048 Acre	MLS #50002203		$329,800
801 ECR 130	4 bedrooms, 2 bath, 4.44 acres, pool	MLS #50003946	NEW PRICE	$325,000
5805 SCR 1214	New Construction 4 bed/2 bath on 1.045 Acre	MLS #50002196		$303,750
7411 ECR 93	4 bedrooms, 2 baths, Greenwood	MLS #50003884	NEW PRICE	$260,000
3004 Baybridge Ct.	3 bedrooms, 2 bath, 1 living,	MLS #50004478		$299,900
1004 N. A St.	3 bedrooms, 2 baths, across from Pond	MLS #50004815	UNDER CONTRACT	$258,950
4002 Lehigh Dr.	4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, 1 living	MLS #50004868	UNDER CONTRACT	$259,950
3902 Placid Ct.	3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 living, just installed wood like vinyl strip flooring!	MLS #50005220		$245,900
3200 W. Wadley	3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, 2 living, 2 car garage, RV space	MLS #50004231		$242,900
3182 C. 1900	4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 5 acres, Stanton	MLS #50002036		$242,500
3907 Placid Court	3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2 car garage, 2 living areas	MLS #50005856	NEW LISTING	$237,900
2304 Apperson	3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, 2 car garage	MLS# 50005472		$212,000
505 Coliseum Ct.	3 bedroom, 2 baths, 1 living, 2 garage, cul-de-sac	MLS# 50005030	SOLD	$208,900
5252 Lake Co. Rd. 256	3 Bed, 2 Bath, On Lake Colorado City	MLS #100038	OWNER CARRY	$99,400
6213 Dunbarton Oaks Blvd.	.97 acres RESIDENTIAL LOT	MLS #102876		$140,000
6714 FM 715	22 Acres	MLS #100883		$365,000
0000 E. FM 1212; Stanton, Tx.	3.888 acres with Caliche pit on property, non-restricted	MLS #100892		$32,000
SUNRIDGE RANCH ESTATES SECTION III				
6400 WCR 41	Lot 1, Block 6, 3.950 Acres	MLS #50003963		$119,300
6401 WCR 41	Lot 1, Block 8, 3.658 Acres	MLS #50003962		$119,000
6407 WCR 41	Lot 2, Block 8, 3.548 Acres	MLS #50003961		$119,000
6607 WCR 41	Lot 6, Block 8, 3.548 Acres	MLS #50003960		$119,000
6400 WCR 44	Lot 14, Block 8, 3.655 Acres	MLS #50003959		$119,000
FOR LEASE: 4309 Downing Ave. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1 living, 2 garage		MLS #50005738		$1,975/MONTH

Sandy J. Hanson
REALTOR ASSOCIATE
ABR, GRI, CRS, ASR
Office: 432-618-0613
Cell: 432-638-3819
EMAIL: sandy@sandyjhanson.com

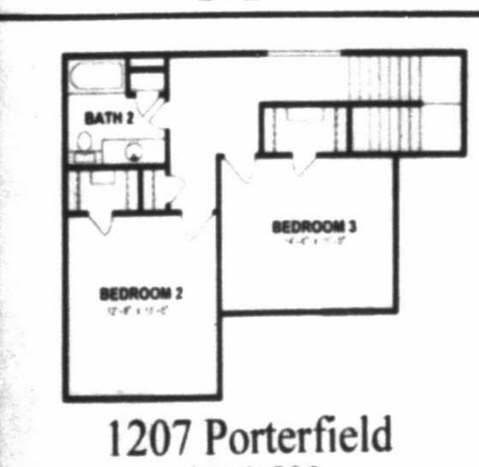
The "KEY" to your Real Estate needs!

Single Family Homes

Mark Payne Homes

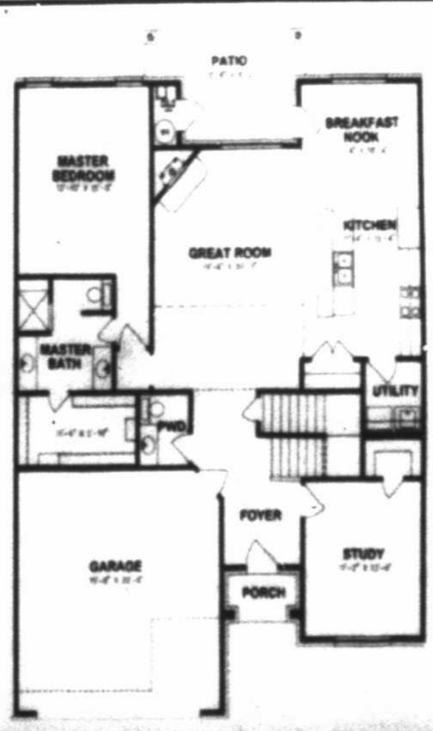
6024 Frio Drive
$318,500

Beautiful 4 bedroom, 2 bath home located on a corner lot in Heritage Oaks. Features painted cabinets, granite countertops, subway tile & plenty of seating at the breakfast bar. Abundance of storage and an oversized 2 car garage.



1207 Porterfield
$309,500

Gorgeous 2 story townhome featuring 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths & a study. Open floor plan, breakfast bar w/ painted cabinets, beautiful subway tile, & granite countertops. Master bedroom on the first story! Low maintenance.



Mark Payne Homes Available Homes

6101 Frio Drive- 4 Bed, 2 Bath, Study, 2 Car Garage	$342,500
6103 Frio Drive- 4 Bed, 2 Bath, 2 Car Garage	$337,500
6107 Frio Drive- 4 Bed, 2 Bath, 2 Car Garage	UC
6110 Turtle Creek- 4 Bed, 3 Bath, Study, 3 Car Garage	UC
6108 Turtle Creek- 3 Bed, 3 Bath, Flex Room, Formal Dining, 3 Car Garage	$406,500
6116 Turtle Creek- 3 Bed, 3 Bath, Formal Dining, Flex Room, 3 Car Garage	UC
1101 Breckenridge- 4 Bed, 3 Bath, Formal Dining, Game Room, 3 Car	UC

For More Information call Jamie Pruitt 432-520-0000

LEGACY REAL ESTATE BROKERAGE

687-6500

www.LegacyRealEstate.com

NEW CONSTRUCTION IN MIDLAND

E. CO. RD. 06, VISTA DEL SOL, GREENWOOD...Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... $474,900
1206 PORTERFIELD...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... SOLD
5715 SCR 1214...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #50005193 ..... $399,900
JD CHAVEZ CONSTRUCTION
501 S. TERRELL...Josie Rendon 889-6394 ..... $159,000
MASTER BUILT HOMES
800 CALUMET ST...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50003453 ..... $294,500
DOZIER CUSTOM HOMES
5301 HALF MOON...Cheryl Parrish ..... MLS #50001193 ..... $499,900
TROY HUNT
809 CALUMET ST...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #108155 ..... SOLD
MARK PAYNE
1202 PORTERFIELD...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50005327 ..... $264,500
6100 WICHITA...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50003444 ..... SOLD

4004 TEAKWOOD TR...Cheryl Parrish 352-3053 ..... MLS #108254 ..... SOLD
5011 OAK CREEK DRIVE...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ..... MLS #50003471 ..... SOLD
5712 GRASSLANDS BLVD...Ashley St. John 352-6254 ..... MLS #50000488 ..... $387,700
5012 OAK CREEK DR...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50004468 ..... SALE PENDING
5401 LOS PATIOS...Cheryl Parrish 352-3053 ..... MLS #50000605 ..... $372,000
4309 CORONADO CT...Melody Carroll 325-330-1182 ..... MLS #50005658 ..... $370,000
4709 PRINCETON AVE...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50003360 ..... SOLD
2124 PATRICK...Wendy Waddell 638-9955 ..... MLS #50002486 ..... $368,500
4200 EDGEWOOD...Skye Farris 294-3336 ..... MLS #50004294 ..... SALE PENDING
2903 PRINCETON...Amanda Gunter 413-7330 ..... MLS #50002294 ..... SALE PENDING
2405 TERRACE...Danny Norwood 413-2764 ..... $349,900
5911 COLEMAN CT...Melissa Manulik 557-8744 ..... MLS #107897 ..... $349,900
3007 SABINE DRIVE...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50003507 ..... SALE PENDING
2906 EMERSON LANE...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50004974 ..... $347,000
5911 COLEMAN CT...Melissa Manulik 557-8744 ..... MLS #108856 ..... $342,500
4102 STRATTON...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #50005399 ..... $329,900
1001 ALMONT PL...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50003244 ..... SOLD
3007 CRESTLINE AVE...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50003198 ..... SOLD
3211 STANOLIND...Virginia Elizondo 349-7782 ..... MLS #50005798 ..... $320,000
5001 NOTTINGHAM LANE...Mark Phillber ..... MLS #50002494 ..... SOLD
3403 LANCASTER...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50003381 ..... $318,000
3803 GUADALUPE...Virginia Elizondo, 349-7782 ..... MLS#50003215 ..... $305,000
3804 MT. VERNON CT...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50005997 ..... SALE PENDING
5110 CARDINAL STICK...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50004077 ..... $297,500
1719 NORMANDY...Leah Watkins 599-2187 ..... MLS #50002167 ..... SALE PENDING
5111 STANOLIND CT...Martha Manulik 557-8744 ..... MLS #50001703 ..... SALE PENDING
512 WAGNER...Lisa Russell 741-5964 ..... MLS #50001562 ..... SOLD
7 STUTZ COURT...Kay Bivens 934-5995 ..... MLS #50004707 ..... SALE PENDING
3612 PIEDMONT DR...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50003821 ..... $290,000
4012 NORWOOD ST...Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... MLS #50004883 ..... SALE PENDING
2200 PRINCETON...Virginia Elizondo ..... MLS #50004137 ..... SOLD
1001 PEDERNALES...Martha Manulik ..... MLS #50005539 ..... SOLD
1001 CLEMENTE CT...Lana Flores 385-5843 ..... SOLD

6001 E. CO. RD. 02...Josie Rendon 889-6394 ..... SALE PENDING
MISSION SERVICES LLC
1203 HICKORY...Karen Foster 559-4086 ..... MLS #108305 ..... SALE PENDING
HANSON HOMES, LLC
5601 S. CO. RD. 1214...Brittany Boyd 978-7202 ..... MLS #50002263 ..... $329,900
JDA BUILDERS, LLC
5715 S. CO. RD. 1214...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #50005193 ..... $399,900
5601 S. CO. RD. 1214...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #50002203 ..... $329,900
5605 S. CO. RD. 1214...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #50002196 ..... $303,750
SDA CUSTOM HOMES, LLC
7301 E. COUNTY RD. 93...Josie Rendon 889-6394 ..... $449,900
VANESSA CONSTRUCTION
904 S. JEFFERSON...Josie Rendon 889-6394 ..... $134,900

FOUR OR MORE BEDROOMS IN MIDLAND

5401 W. CO. RD. 44...Susan Palmer 978-7016 ..... MLS #50005628 ..... $3,900,000
3201 LANTANA LANE...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50005524 ..... $1,375,000
2503 TEXLAND CIRCLE...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50005231 ..... SALE PENDING
3114 PALO VERDE DR...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50003404 ..... $1,299,900
913 KEYSTONE CT...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... #1000031268 ..... $1,150,000
2711 SHANKS...Larry Hatfield 349-4788 ..... MLS #50005451 ..... $985,000
5112 HOMESTEAD...Danny Norwood 618-5012 ..... MLS #50004699 ..... $849,900
2700 CALLAWAY...Mark Phillber ..... MLS #50004948 ..... $749,000
7000 ALMEY CT...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #50005649 ..... $614,900
331 SIR BARTON...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #107327 ..... SOLD
4303 E. CO. RD. 00...Virginia Elizondo ..... MLS #50004033 ..... $610,000
1211 CASTLE ROCK COURT...Kay Bivens 934-5995 ..... MLS #50003742 ..... SALE PENDING
2012 FRINGEWOOD DR...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50002343 ..... $610,000
1909 PAGEWOOD DR...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50003980 ..... $600,000
910 DOUGLAS AVE...Ashley St. John 352-6254 ..... MLS #50003105 ..... $598,000
4001 FAIRWOOD...Danny Norwood 413-2764 ..... MLS #107438 ..... $549,900
5100 WIDENER STRIP...Danny Norwood ..... MLS #50004532 ..... $529,900
4100 BAYBROOK DRIVE...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50001799 ..... SOLD
1605 JADEWOOD DR...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50004685 ..... SOLD
2803 SENTINEL DR...Pam Messer 349-3075 ..... MLS #50004878 ..... $474,900
4457 VERDE GLEN CT...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50005566 ..... SALE PENDING
4001 EDGEBROOK DR...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50001288 ..... SOLD
729 PINEHURST DR...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50003099 ..... SOLD
5821 HATHAWAY CT...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50002952 ..... SOLD
808 ALMONT...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50005225 ..... SALE PENDING
2007 COLEMAN CT...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50005662 ..... $449,900
3407 TRINITY MEADOWS DR...Denise Brasher 889-5022 ..... MLS #50003284 ..... SOLD
4803 RUSTIC TRAIL ..... MLS #50003401 ..... $429,900
2415 CULPEPER...Amanda Gunter ..... MLS #50005379 ..... SALE PENDING
3204 STANOLIND AVE...Stephanie Rogers 978-9751 ..... MLS #50005208 ..... $399,900
6005 BARTON SPRINGS CT...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50003641 ..... SOLD
5909 OAK CREEK DRIVE...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50002644 ..... SOLD
2011 COLEMAN CT...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50001401 ..... SOLD

THREE BEDROOMS IN MIDLAND

1803 MABERRY...Danny Norwood 413-2764 ..... $649,900
804 CANONERO ST...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50002868 ..... SOLD
4408 COYOTE TRAIL...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50004030 ..... SOLD
5213 ELLEN JAYNE WAY...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50004735 ..... $469,900
3007 LOCKHEED DR...Denise Brasher 889-5022 ..... MLS #50004245 ..... $419,900
5611 LOS PATIOS...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50005554 ..... SALE PENDING
809 WOODLAND PARK...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50005446 ..... $375,000
2008 LOCKHEED DR...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... SALE PENDING
5502 LOS PATIOS...Pam Dodd 413-0780 ..... MLS #109152 ..... SALE PENDING
2010 COUNTRY CLUB DR...Denise Brasher 889-5022 ..... MLS #50003851 ..... $327,500
5011 CARMEL COURT...Cherith Hamilton 556-0306 ..... MLS #50005117 ..... $315,000
5908 LLANO COURT...Danny Norwood 413-2764 ..... MLS #108526 ..... SALE PENDING
3004 BAYRIDGE CT...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #50004476 ..... $299,900
6001 MEDINA DR...Leah Watkins 559-2187 ..... $299,900
3706 CASADY COURT...Wendy Waddell 638-9955 ..... MLS #50001122 ..... $294,500
5509 RIO GRANDE AVE...Kelli Moss 661-904-7715 ..... MLS #50004297 ..... $289,900
2905 DOUGLAS AVE...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50004043 ..... $287,000
1802 N. I ST...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50005587 ..... $275,000
5202 HAYNES AVE...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50002248 ..... $275,000
3213 CHELSEA PLACE...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ..... MLS #50005021 ..... SALE PENDING
5910 MEDINA DR...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50003915 ..... SOLD
5709 SAN SABA AVE...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50002557 ..... SOLD
6203 CROSLEY DR...Mark Phillber ..... MLS #50003212 ..... SOLD
3414 COLISEUM CT...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50003751 ..... SOLD
3013 MOSS AVE...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #108982 ..... SALE PENDING
5010 LLANO CT...Lauren Therrell 557-4114 ..... SOLD
1006 N. A ST...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #50004815 ..... SALE PENDING
5012 PEDERNALES...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50003615 ..... SOLD
102 CLUB DR...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50003374 ..... SOLD
604 E. BROADWAY ST...Leah Watkins 599-2187 ..... MLS #50002190 ..... SALE PENDING
1009 VENTURA...Larry Hatfield 349-4788 ..... MLS #50003010 ..... $259,900
3301 WEDGWOOD STREET...Kay Bivens 934-5995 ..... MLS #50004991 ..... $255,000
3708 E. COUNTY RD 98...Brittany Boyd 978-7202 ..... MLS #50005426 ..... $255,000
6208 SHEA LANE...Tina Atkins 661-0062 ..... MLS #50005836 ..... $250,000
6304 DRIFTWOOD...Leah Watkins ..... MLS #108780 ..... SOLD
4006 BISHOPS CASTLE DR...Sherry Parrish 352-3053 ..... MLS #50003188 ..... $249,900
3501 CLAREMONT DR...Darla Davis 260-8077 ..... MLS #50001061 ..... $249,000
3903 PLACID CT...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #50005220 ..... $245,900
2901 CALDERA DR...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50002786 ..... SOLD
4102 DYER CIRCLE...Lana Flores 385-5843 ..... MLS #40204633 ..... $244,900
3200 W. WADLEY...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #50004213 ..... $242,000
3214 STUTZ DR...Madison Shaw 528-4640 ..... MLS #50004740 ..... $240,000
2515 HUMBLE...Danny Norwood 413-2764 ..... $239,900

3305 EDGEMONT DR...Leah Watkins $239,000
3007 PLACID COURT...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #50005856 ..... $237,900
3325 WHITTLE WAY...Martha Manulik 557-8744 ..... MLS #50005874 ..... $237,500
3913 SAN ANTONIO AVE...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50004315 ..... SOLD
3304 CLAREMONT...Donna Omar 349-1458 ..... MLS #50005493 ..... SALE PENDING
6213 MILE HIGH...Virginia Elizondo ..... MLS #50004013 ..... SOLD
1603 NEELY AVE...Martha Manulik 557-8744 ..... MLS #50004091 ..... $232,500
2902 DORA PLACE...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50003127 ..... SOLD
2910 PURPLE SAGE TRAIL...Virginia Elizondo 349-7782 ..... MLS #50004403 ..... SALE PENDING
3209 FAIRHAVEN CT...Ashley Brasher-St. John 352-6254 ..... MLS #50004043 ..... $229,900
2902 SPARTAN DR...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50005507 ..... $225,000
405 CRENSHAW DR...Leah Watkins 599-2187 ..... MLS #50004711 ..... $225,000
3203 W. DONGAN AVE...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50002894 ..... SOLD
2410 W. DENGAR AVE...Ashley Brasher-St. John 352-6254 ..... SOLD
2601 STANOLIND...Danny Norwood 413-2764 ..... $225,000
2203 DOWNING...Karen Foster 559-4086 ..... MLS #50002999 ..... SALE PENDING
908 SHEA LN...Jerrilyn Garrison 202-0276 ..... MLS #50003251 ..... $220,000
3002 PRINCETON AVE...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50003430 ..... $220,000
5801 NOLAN RYAN DR...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50004158 ..... SALE PENDING
5210 CANADIAN...Donna Omar ..... MLS #50003775 ..... $220,000
2500 CIMARRON AVE...Denise Brasher ..... MLS #50004672 ..... SOLD
6106 SPAHN ST...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50002566 ..... SOLD
6108 SPAHN ST...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... SOLD
3001 ROSITA DRIVE...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50003503 ..... SOLD
3203 W. SHANDON...Martha Manulik 557-8744 ..... MLS #50001315 ..... $215,000
3216 FRONTIER DR...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ..... MLS #50003614 ..... $214,000
3905 JORDAN AVE...Skye Farris ..... MLS #50004291 ..... $213,000
2304 APPERSON...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #50005472 ..... $212,000
2403 EMERSON CT...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50003838 ..... SALE PENDING
3007 GODFREY ST...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50005625 ..... $210,000
505 COLISEUM CT...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #50005030 ..... SOLD
3902 DOUGLAS AVE...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ..... MLS #50004613 ..... SOLD
3501 STEWART AVE...Virginia Elizondo ..... MLS #50004262 ..... $208,000
4302 FERNCLIFF...Karen Foster 559-4086 ..... MLS #50001466 ..... SALE PENDING
6304 DARTMOUTH...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50003941 ..... $200,000
406 ILDEWILDE DR...Josie Rendon 889-6394 ..... SOLD
3341 PROVIDENCE DR...Josie Alvarez 618-5013 ..... $199,900
1709 HOTIA DR...Leah Watkins 599-2187 ..... MLS #50002192 ..... $199,000
4305 NELSON RD...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50003204 ..... SALE PENDING
2204 WARD ST...Stacy Gonzalez ..... MLS #50005593 ..... $195,000
3101 E. CO. RD. 37...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ..... MLS #50005508 ..... $194,900
3316 CAMARIE AVE...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50001767 ..... SOLD
2602 FRONTIER...Karen Foster ..... MLS #50004099 ..... $193,300

1297 COTTONWOOD...Donna Omar ..... MLS #50005050 ..... $199,000
2309 COUNTRY CLUB DR...Lauren Therrell 557-4114 ..... MLS #50004098 ..... SOLD
3306 DENGAR...Josie Alvarez 618-5013 ..... MLS #50004072 ..... $190,000
5010 HOUSTON...Pam Dodd 413-0780 ..... SOLD
6005 RAINBOW RD...Amanda Gunter 413-7330 ..... MLS #50001365 ..... SALE PENDING
3516 CAMARIE AVE...Stacy Gonzalez 413-7061 ..... MLS #108161 ..... SALE PENDING
3109 PRINCETON...Martha Manulik 557-8744 ..... MLS #50001320 ..... SALE PENDING
3510 W. SHANDON...Susan Palmer ..... MLS #50005328 ..... $175,000
4307 CRENSHAW DR...Sue Lytle 661-5338 ..... MLS #50003905 ..... $175,000
3005 W. MICHIGAN...Susan Palmer ..... MLS #50005985 ..... SALE PENDING
3330 PROVIDENCE DR...Pam Messer 349-3075 ..... MLS #50004880 ..... $169,900
402 WICKLACE ST...Kim Merrill ..... SALE PENDING
3311 FRONTIER DR...Lisa Russell 741-5964 ..... MLS #50001970 ..... SOLD
3019 STOREY AVE...Jerrilyn Garrison 202-0276 ..... MLS #50001786 ..... SALE PENDING
201 S. KESSENDEN DR...Leah Watkins ..... SALE PENDING
3230 WHITTLE WAY...Leah Watkins 599-2187 ..... $167,000
3115 SUNNYSIDE DR...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50004278 ..... SOLD
1001 W. SCHARBAUER DR...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50004355 ..... SALE PENDING
4827 VERSAILLES...Kim Merrill 664-4702 ..... MLS #50005701 ..... $165,000
4706 SUNRISE DR...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50004108 ..... $165,000
5204 SAN ANTONIO...Danny Norwood ..... MLS #50004827 ..... $160,000
1605 PUEBLO...Kati Moss 661-904-7715 ..... $160,000
3312 STOREY AVE...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... SALE PENDING
3400 W. GOLF COURSE RD...Amanda Gunter ..... MLS #50002095 ..... SALE PENDING
3820 SINCLAIR...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50001680 ..... SALE PENDING
4202 ANITA...Ashley St. John ..... MLS #50004332 ..... SALE PENDING
3008 W. OHIO...Lavonne Johnson 770-3883 ..... MLS #50001730 ..... $140,000
4807 MERCEDES DR...Brittany Boyd 978-7202 ..... MLS #50005240 ..... $140,000
3307 THOMAS...Andrea Snell 559-4417 ..... MLS #50004108 ..... $135,000
901 NEELY...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ..... MLS #50005468 ..... $130,000
6403 STOREY AVE...Pam Messer 349-3075 ..... MLS #50005371 ..... SALE PENDING
1310 E. COUNTY RD 90...Lisa Russell 741-5964 ..... MLS #50003394 ..... $125,000
402 S. TILDEN...Josie Alvarez 618-5013 ..... SALE PENDING
2102 HICKORY...Karen Foster 559-4086 ..... MLS #108305 ..... SALE PENDING
4810 MERCEDES...Virginia Elizondo 349-7782 ..... MLS #50003518 ..... SOLD
703 RUBY...Donna Omar ..... MLS #50002293 ..... SALE PENDING
3309 W. OHIO...Ashley St. John ..... MLS #50003817 ..... $115,000
1008 DELMAR...Virginia Elizondo 349-7782 ..... MLS #50003818 ..... $114,000
309 E. PINE...Karen Foster 559-4086 ..... MLS #50003468 ..... $100,000
4402 THOMAS...Susan Palmer ..... MLS #50005662 ..... SALE PENDING
308 CEDAR STREET...Karen Foster 559-4086 ..... SALE PENDING
3119 KESSLER AVE...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ..... MLS #50004434 ..... SALE PENDING

ONE/TWO BEDROOMS IN MIDLAND

3706 CASADY CT...Wendy Waddell 638-9955 ..... MLS #50001122 ..... $299,000
5003 IRUNDWICK...Martha Manulik 557-8744 ..... MLS #50004623 ..... SOLD
4526 LANHAM ST...Cherry Parrish ..... MLS #50004808 ..... $199,900

3230 WHITTLE WAY...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ..... MLS #50004487 ..... $159,000
211 E. CIRCLE DRIVE...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ..... MLS #50003464 ..... SOLD
104 HOLLY...Amanda Gunter ..... MLS #50004592 ..... $132,500

2105 W. WASHINGTON...Sue Lytle ..... MLS #50002944 ..... $93,500
1400 E. NEW YORK AVE...Pam Messer 349-3075 ..... MLS #50005387 ..... $89,000

HOMES IN MIDLAND COUNTY

11500 W. CO. RD. 39...Pam Messer 349-3075 ..... MLS #50002990 ..... $2,000,000
4400 E. CO. RD. 63...Danny Norwood 413-2764 ..... MLS #108422 ..... $999,000
3703 S. CO. RD. 1065...Ashley St. John ..... 32 Acres/$975,000
2711 SHANKS...Larry Hatfield 349-4788 ..... $895,000
7298 E. CO. RD. 113...Leah Watkins 599-2187 ..... MLS #50001535 ..... $900,000
12107 W. CO. RD. 52...Lisa Russell 741-5964 ..... MLS #108236 ..... $494,900
7309 E. CO. RD. 06 VISTA DEL SOL, GREENWOOD...Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... MLS #50004906 ..... $474,900
10200 E. CO. RD. 103, GREENWOOD...Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... MLS #50003989 ..... $450,000
1903 S. CO. RD. 1140...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50002151 ..... $409,000
5715 S. CO. RD. 1214...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #50005193 ..... $399,900
10506 E. CO. RD. 104, GREENWOOD...Lana Flores ..... MLS #50002338 ..... $363,000
2702 S. CO. RD. 1085, GREENWOOD...Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... MLS #50003930 ..... $370,000

12119 E. CO. RD. 102...Lana Flores 385-5843 ..... MLS #50001291 ..... $365,000
3315 W. CO. RD. 105, SKYWEST AIRPORT...Madison Shaw 528-4640 ..... MLS #50004106 ..... $360,000
5601 S. CO. RD. 1214...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #50002203 ..... $329,900
601 E. CO. RD. 138...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #50003946 ..... $325,000
12900 FM 307, GREENWOOD...Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... MLS #50001345 ..... $314,900
10602 FM 307, GREENWOOD...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ..... MLS #50004496 ..... $314,900
5603 S. CO. RD. 1208...Susan Palmer ..... MLS #50003447 ..... SALE PENDING
3700 W. CO. RD. 145...Danny Norwood 413-2764 ..... MLS #50004262 ..... $305,000
5605 S. CO. RD. 1214...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #50002196 ..... $303,750
3101 E. CO. RD. 63, GREENWOOD...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #50003884 ..... $300,000
10909 E. CO. RD. 108...Lisa Russell 741-5964 ..... MLS #108961 ..... 0.51 Acres/$295,000
4607 S. CO. RD. 1177...Daria Davis 260-8077 ..... MLS #50002162 ..... $279,000

8705 SAN ANTONIO ST...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50004090 ..... SOLD
9103 W. CO. RD. 100...Lisa Russell 741-5964 ..... MLS #50001570 ..... $265,000
3006 S. CO. RD. 1185, RIDGE HEIGHTS...Reannah Glover ..... MLS #50005354 ..... SOLD
5806 E. CO. RD. 57...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ..... MLS #50003506 ..... $194,900
3906 S. CO. RD. 1185...Susan Palmer 978-7816 ..... MLS #50004294 ..... SALE PENDING
4207 S. CO. RD. 1135...Josie Rendon ..... SALE PENDING
3100 E. CO. RD. 37...Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... SALE PENDING
4005 S. HWY. 349...Susan Palmer ..... MLS #50004932 ..... SALE PENDING
5600 S. CO. RD. 1136...Andrea Snell 559-4417 ..... MLS #50003799 ..... $179,000
7104 CO. RD. 1230...Karen Foster 559-4086 ..... MLS #50004854 ..... $149,900
3308 S. CO. RD. 1216...Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... MLS #50003260 ..... $125,000
3714 S. CO. RD. 1182...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ..... $84,000

HOMES OUTSIDE OF MIDLAND COUNTY

401 4TH ST...STANTON, TX...Lisa Russell ..... MLS #50004541 .....
1001 NW 11TH ST...ANDREWS, TX...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ..... MLS #50005859 ..... $749,900
624 OAK POINT DR...MAY, TX...Kim Merrill 664-4702 ..... MLS #50001949 ..... $560,000
3351 FM 3113...STANTON, TX...Denise Brasher 889-5022 ..... MLS #50002786 ..... 1.0 Acre/$342,900
10014 W. SWAN RD...ODESSA...Mark Phillber ..... MLS #107111 ..... $310,000
1017 JESSICA LOOP...CRANE, TX...Tina Atkins 661-0062 ..... MLS #50004318 ..... SOLD
16100 N. DOGWOOD AVE...GARDENDALE...Janice Murrell 349-7242 ..... MLS #100605 ..... SOLD
9208 DUBLIN...ODESSA...Susan Palmer $285,900

7305 GIOTTO STREET...ODESSA...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50004733 ..... $270,000
903 W. 3RD, STANTON...Lana Flores $260,000
3102 C. 1900...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #50002006 ..... $242,500
2622 E. 90TH STREET, ODESSA...Amanda Gunter 413-7330 ..... $189,900
9400 LAMAR AVE...ODESSA...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50002237 ..... SOLD
3102 EASTOVER DR...ODESSA...Mark Phillber ..... MLS #100898 ..... SALE PENDING
14241 LOYOLA...GARDENDALE...Leah Watkins ..... MLS #50002358 ..... $189,000

200 W. GOLD, GARDEN CITY, TX...Pam Messer 349-3075 ..... MLS #50001229 ..... $179,000
812 CORONADO...Jerrilyn Garrison 202-0276 ..... MLS #100010 ..... $160,000
604 HONEYSUCKLE, ODESSA...Susan Palmer ..... MLS #102268 ..... $157,500
10979 E. EMERSON ST...GARDENDALE...Leah Watkins 599-2187 ..... MLS #50004438 ..... $149,000
1103 CARPENTER, STANTON...Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... MLS #105750 ..... SOLD
404 S. ODESSA ST...Leah Watkins 599-2187 ..... MLS #107041 ..... $100,000
5252 LAKE CO. RD. 256...Sandy J. Hanson ..... MLS #106038 ..... $99,400

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL

13007 W. CO. RD. 91...Ashley Brasher-St. John 352-6254 ..... SALE PENDING
10204 FM 307...Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... MLS #106620 ..... $1,500,000
3400 W. 7TH ST., BIG SPRING...Mark Phillber 222-5071 ..... MLS #106813 .....
807 E. 2ND ST...ODESSA...Sue Lytle ..... MLS #107382 ..... $870,000

9708 FM 307...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #50005743 ..... $800,000
PANDALE RESORT w/F&CDS RIVER FRONTAGE...Mark Phillber 222-5071 ..... MLS #109135 ..... 16+ Acres/$949,000
313 E. SUMMITT...Josie Rendon $190,000
1118 N. BIG SPRING...Janice Murrell 349-7242 ..... MLS #50004052 ..... $159,900

4800 S. HWY. 349...Susan Palmer ..... MLS #50004932 ..... SALE PENDING
1109 W. HWY. 80, STANTON...Kay Bivens 934-5995 ..... MLS #108426 ..... 0.743 Acre/$150,000
401 MIDLAND DR...Lydia Scudder 853-2200 ..... MLS #103887 ..... $90,000

LAND AND LOTS

9708 FM 307...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #50005743 ..... $800,000
3009 N. CO. RD. 1278...Mark Phillber ..... MLS #50002830 ..... 40 Acres/$720,000
N. CO. RD. 1250...Reannah Glover ..... MLS #107929 ..... 70.5 Acres/$493,500
3706 FM 715...Stacy Gonzalez ..... MLS #50005690 ..... $240,000
2900 S. CO. RD. 1200...Lisa Russell 741-5964 ..... MLS #50001167 ..... 2 Acres
1121 E. DORMARD AVE...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ..... MLS #50003414 ..... $175,000
2607 W. CO. RD. 140...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ..... MLS #50005801 ..... 10 Acres/$150,000
1100 W. HWY. 80, STANTON...Kay Bivens 934-5995 ..... MLS #108426 ..... 0.743 Acre/$150,000

6001 CO. RD. 41...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #103862 ..... $125,000
6400 W. CO. RD. 41 LOT 1, BLK 8...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #50003663 ..... $119,000
6401 W. CO. RD. 41, LOT 1, BLK 8...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #50003662 ..... $119,000
6407 W. CO. RD. 41, LOT 2, BLK 8...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #50003661 ..... $119,000
6607 W. CO. RD. 41, LOT 6, BLK 8...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #50003660 ..... $119,000
6400 W. CO. RD. 44, LOT 14, BLK 1...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #50003659 ..... $119,000
CO. RD. 54...Pam Messer 349-3075 ..... MLS #100052 ..... SALE PENDING
000 HWY. 137...STANTON...Michelle Kidd ..... MLS#50002598 ..... $100,000

5. CO. RD. 1133, GREENWOOD...Lana Flores ..... 2 Acres/$60,000
2401 N. CO. RD. 1278...Gina Reyes 553-6381 ..... MLS #50001009 ..... $70,000
E. CO. RD. 115, CHAMPIONS RUN ADDN...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ..... MLS #50004077 ..... 1.5 Acres/$75,000
E. CO. RD. 116, CHAMPIONS RUN ADDN...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ..... MLS #50004076 ..... 1.5 Acres/$75,000
5601 S. CO. RD. 1185...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50003719 ..... $60,000
QUAIL RIDGE SUBDIVISION...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... 84 Lots Available/Starting At $42,500
0000 E. FM 1212, STANTON, TX...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #108092 ..... 3.886 Acres/$32,000
000 FM 307 (Greenwood) Appx 3.34 acres...Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... MLS #106786 .....

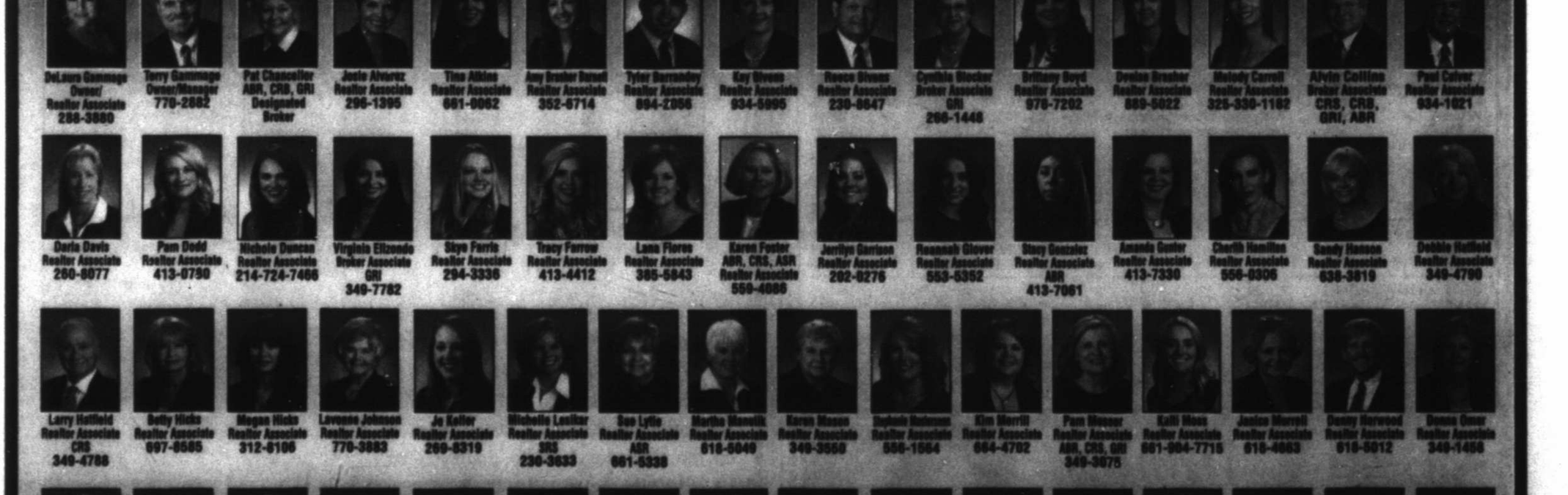
TOWNHOMES-PATIO HOMES

4802 OAKWOOD CT...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50003557 ..... SOLD
1405 W. PINE AVE...Brittany Boyd ..... MLS #50003132 .....
3301 WEDGWOOD COURT...Kay Bivens 934-5995 ..... SALE PENDING $262,500
1009 VENTURA...Larry Hatfield 349-4788 ..... MLS #50003010 ..... $250,000
3200 W. WADLEY...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #50004231 ..... $242,500
3010 MOSS...Karen Mason ..... MLS #50001781 ..... $229,900
3316 CALDERA BLVD. D-121...Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ..... MLS #50003260 ..... $124,900
3100 TEAL WOOD PL...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50003228 .....
4700 BOULDER #1303...Larry Hatfield 349-4788 ..... MLS #50004259 ..... $95,000
4700 BOULDER #1301...Ashley St. John ..... MLS #107963 ..... $76,500
2100 W. WADLEY AVE #56...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50005429 ..... SALE PENDING
4700 BOULDER #101...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50003815 ..... SOLD

3000 ILLINOIS #49...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50002388 ..... SALE PENDING

FOR LEASE

4311 ST. ANDREWS...Pam Dodd 413-0780 ..... $2,400/MONTH
5015 LLANO CT...Mero Elizondo 349-6490 ..... MLS #50004930 ..... $2,250/MONTH
4309 DOWNING AVE...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ..... MLS #50005738 ..... $1,975/MONTH
3230 WHITTLE WAY...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ..... MLS #50004487 ..... $1,800/MONTH
6104 CANADIAN...Ashley St. John 352-6254 ..... $1,750/MONTH
5100 STOREY AVE...Mero Elizondo 349-6490 ..... $1,595/MONTH
1117 HICKORY...Mero Elizondo 349-6490 ..... MLS #50005486 ..... $1,500/MONTH
2200 NORTHRIDGE...Mero Elizondo 349-6490 ..... MLS #50005430 ..... $1,350/MONTH
4700 BOULDER #101...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ..... MLS #50003863 ..... $1,100/MONTH


DeLaura Gammage Owner/ Realtor Associate 288-3880
Terry Cunningham Owner/Manager 770-2002
Pat Chancellor ABR, CRB, GRI Designated Broker
Josie Alvarez Realtor Associate 296-1395
Tina Atkins Realtor Associate 661-0062
Amy Bowker Hamel Realtor Associate 352-5714
Peter Bowker Realtor Associate 894-2856
Kay Bivens Realtor Associate 934-5995
Shanna Bowker Realtor Associate 230-5647
Jennifer Brasher Broker Associate GRI 268-1448
Brittany Boyd Realtor Associate 978-7202
Denise Brasher Realtor Associate 889-5022
Melody Carroll Realtor Associate 325-330-1182
Ashley Collins Realtor Associate CRS, CRB, GRI, ABR
Pam Colony Realtor Associate 934-1021
Darla Davis Realtor Associate 260-8077
Pam Dodd Realtor Associate 413-0780
Michele Dunson Realtor Associate 214-724-7400
Virginia Elizondo Realtor Associate GRI 349-7782
Skye Farris Realtor Associate 294-3336
Tracy Farrow Realtor Associate 413-4412
Lana Flores

6 QUESTIONS

With Santa Claus & Mrs. Claus

In this very special Five Questions, the Clauses took some time from their hectic schedules of preparing reindeer, delivering toys and tasting cookies to partake in the MRT's weekly column.

We have to thank Scott and Nikki Windham's of Scott's Santa and Company for their help in connecting us with the first couple of Christmas.

Both have visited the Permian Basin often with recent stops at Miss Cayce's Christmas Store, Permian Playhouse and at Crossroads Church.

With all the toys delivered, the two finally have some downtime before getting ready for the next year of list-making and toy shopping.

And just for Christmas, we went with six questions this week.

MRT: Today's the big day. How are you two feeling?

Santa: Great! Nothing brings me greater joy than to hope and excitement to others. However, I will be taking a nap until New Years.

Mrs. Claus: Relieved that another year has come and gone successfully and Santa made it home safely after the long journey.

MRT: What is the best thing you each cook for the holiday?

Santa: Well, the missus makes these incredible Serbian dishes. I can't spell them, but I can eat them.

Mrs. Claus: You can just call it a traditional Serbian nut roll. It's a walnut and sugar filled sweet bread baked from scratch, thank you very much.

Santa: I do pride myself on roasting the perfect turkey, though. I start marinating it a day or so before Christmas and Mrs. C puts it on early Christmas morning and bastes it all morning. Think Rosemary, lemon peel, orange juice and some white zinfandel. I may sneak a sip but don't tell anyone.

MRT: What are your favorite Christmas traditions?

Mrs. Claus: We have a wonderful hand-painted advent calendar that we use to count down to the big day. The elves love it.

Santa: Every year before I take off we all gather around the sleigh, Mrs. the elves, the reindeer, all our children and I read the story of the very first Christmas, long before I ever came along. It's easy to get so caught up in the busyness of this wonderful season that we forget that it all started with a baby in a manger and the hope and joy and promise that he brought to our world.

MRT: Santa, what do we not know about Mrs. Claus?

Santa: She's a very accomplished toy maker herself.

MRT: What exactly do you do after Christmastime?

Santa: Like I said, sleep to get ready for next year.

Mrs. Claus: And we like to spend time with our family. Don't we?

MRT: And where exactly do the Clauses go on vacation?

Santa: Why, Hawaii. Doesn't everyone? Ho ho ho.

Mrs. Claus: You should see him hula dance.

The Clauses: Merry Christmas to all!

A house full of Christmas in Colorado City

TUMBLEWEED SMITH
Columnist

Every room in Glenda Wilson's house in Colorado City has a Christmas display.

"In our back bedroom, you'll see our original aluminum Christmas tree. We were married in March of 1966 and that was our first Christmas tree. We have a color wheel turning on it now. We don't ever throw away anything. I guess that's why we have so much stuff."

One room has a complete farm scene.

"We have fond memories of growing up in the country, so we made sure we have some agricultural things."

An elaborate infrastructure of saw horses and plywood holds up a multi-level display of 127 little lighted Christmas houses and buildings. And that's just in her living room. She pointed out a few items.

"The candy factory up here has a windmill that's turning and making peppermint candy. At the gumdrop factory, the gumdrops are on a conveyor belt. Over here is the rocking horse factory. Down on that end we've got Santa Claus flying around, testing the toys. Next we have the ornament factory."

One room of her home has a Victorian village.

She and her husband started collecting the little houses and accessories in 1994 when their daughter gave them one.

"People found out that we had them and

Please see TUMBLEWEED/6E

What's inside

Dear Abby..... Page 6E

Names & Faces ..... Page 2-4E

Amanda Byrom ..... Page 6E

Out & About ..... Page 2E

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.

When I heard about their new development for active seniors, Village South, I chose my floorplan and signed up!

Village South at Manor Park

Manor Park's newest enclave! manorparkinc.org 699-3414

OUT&ABOUT

BY JULIE DONNELLY

CHRISTMAS AT THE MANSION

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Anayden Holloway, from left, Tristan Lambright, Kyse Holloway and Madisyn Lambright, Hayden DeLa Cruz, Callie cooper, from left, Kamran Monahan and Briggs Elliott, Alayna Gonzales, left, and Evan Gonzales, Teddy Perkins, Max Merritt

CHRISTMAS AT THE MANSION

Home for the Holidays is the theme for this year's Christmas at the Mansion at Museum of the Southwest. Children lined up on Saturdays throughout December to tell Santa Claus their Christmas list and take pictures with him.

After making their wishes known, kids made gingerbread houses and other crafts. The events included performances by choirs from Midland and Lee high schools, St. Ann's School, Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church and Abell Junior High.

PI BETA PHI CHRISTMAS TEA

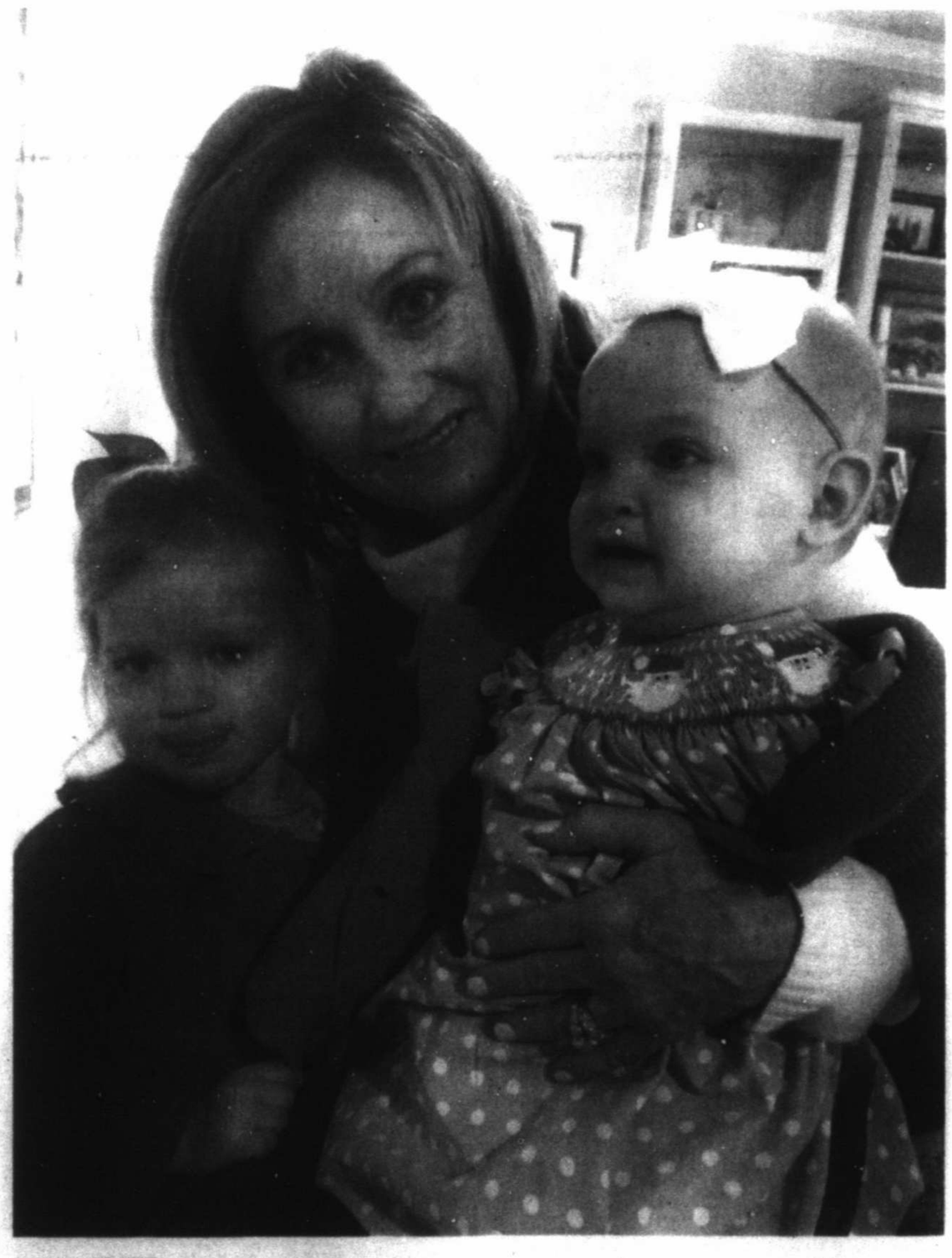
The Midland Pi Beta Phi Alumnae club held its annual "Gathering of Angels" at the home of Natalie Prieto. Mothers, daughters and granddaughters enjoyed an array of sandwiches, desserts and drinks as they visited with one another.

Among those attending were Katie Joyner and her daughters, Willa and Fay; Abbie Giraud and her daughter, Lucy; Suzanne Martin, Tamara Spinks, Cici Westmoreland, Elizabeth Haile, Liz Hutt and Nancy Hull.

To have an event included in "Out and About," contact Julie Donnelly at mrtjulie@outlook.com.

Pi Beta Phi

COUNTERCLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Natalie Prieto, from left, Millie Prieto and Peyton Prieto; Campbell Davis, from left, Karla Davis and Annie Davis; Lillian Earl, from left, Laura Earl and Linda Snider; Cliffy Beal, left, and Patti LaForce; Elizabeth Low, left, and Jo Anna Low; Mackenzie Kidwell, left, and Lisa Kidwell



SHARING HOLIDAY MAGIC

Employees of Apache Corp.-Permian Region contributed to Christmas for Buckner Family Services and March of Dimes Toy Chest. The employees purchased gifts for about 70 Buckner children and about 80 toys for March of Dimes.

Courtesy Photos

Representing March of Dimes are Alexis Nauman, far left, and Tracy Renton, second from right. Apache employees involved in the toy drive are Austin Adkins, from second from left, Katie Disher, Joni Young, Mary Burkholder, Louise Gierisch, Pamela Stewart, Alexis King and Jan Carter.

Collecting for Bucker were Clay Arrington, back row from left, Jan Carte and Kendra Coleman; Arvin Aguilar, second row from left, Louise Gierisch, Ruby Leible, Cindy Rios, Mackenzie Smith, Toni Isbell, Janie Routh, Jeff Mason and David Guisinger; and Gigi Warrick, kneeling from left, Tina Romo, Marta Carrasco, Pamela Stewart, Ashley St. Pierre, Cierra Hughes and Ken Weaver.

Courtesy photo

JumBurrito presented a "check" on Dec. 19 to the West Texas Food Bank. The $12,166.50 was raised from the restaurant's annual holiday promotion, in which $50 was pledged for each rewards card visit between Nov. 6 and Dec. 13. Representing the nonprofit is Tina Corbett, far left, the food bank's development director. Holding the check is Debbie Hazel, JumBurrito's director of operations.

BRIDGE RESULTS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

PERMIAN BRIDGE CLUB, INC.

DECEMBER 12

Marilyn Higgins-Dorothy Brenneman, Ann Servatius-Linda Buzan, Audie Brooks-Marlene Blumentritt, Ann Brooks-Mary Tift, Peter Berzanskis-Terri Melton-Don Troy-Belle Harris

DECEMBER 13

No Game

DECEMBER 14

Jean Pistole-Gloria Crites, Scott Vaughan-Higgins-Charlie Grimes-Servatius, Paula Baggett-Brenneman, Ann Parish-Harris, Brooks-Brooks, Linda Buzan-Betty Moore, Berzanskis-Richard Stein

DECEMBER 15

North/South

Servatius-Buzan, Mike Robinson-Mike Schlueter, Vaughan-Pistole, Brenda Leonard-Patti Witt, Baggett-Brenneman, Bob Schuler-Delores Schuler, Linda Farrar-Ann Brooks

East/West

Sarana Savage-Harris, Kay Arrell-Blumentritt, Debra Jones-Lonnie Yee, Les Neal-Stein, Dorothy Baird-Dorothy Blair, Greg Keys-David Hudson, Brooks-Brooks

OVERALL

Servatius-Buzan, Harris-Savage, Blumentritt-Arrell, Robinson-Schlueter, Vaughan-Pistole, Leonard-Witt, Jones-Yee, Baggett-Brenneman, Stein-Neal, Baird-Blair

DECEMBER 16

Brooks-Brooks, Martha Poss-Janet Stoltz, Tommie Strack-Blumentritt, Bonnie Hubbard-Ricki Perry

DECEMBER 18

KC Evans-Bob Baker, Vaughan-Baggett, Servatius-Buzan-Marilyn Matthews-Blumentritt, Bob Bacon-Yee

HOME DECOR 50% OFF
Categories Listed
Does not include Seasonal Department

Candle Holders
Wall and table

Wood Decor
Wood wall decor and finished decorative wood accessories
Does not include furniture or unfinished craft wood

Decorative Lanterns, Birdcages & Terrariums

Knobs, Drawer Pulls & Handles

Decorative Bottles
Fruit & vegetable filled

Collage Frames

Trays, Coasters & Place Mats

Framed & Canvas Art

Glass Decor
Glass department, floral glass vases and craft glass containers
Does not include craft stained glass or glass tabletops

Metal Decor
Metal wall decor, functional & decorative metal accessories (Includes metal containers in our Floral & Craft Departments)
Does not include furniture

Wicker, Decorative Boxes & Storage
Does not include large trunks or craft & paper craft storage

Decorative Memo Boards, Chalkboards & Corkboards
Priced $24.99 & Up

Men's Metal & Wood Decor
Wall and table

Valentine's Day items and items labeled The Spring Shop™ are not included in Home Decor sale.

Remaining CHRISTMAS 66% OFF
Does not include fabric
Limited to supply on hand
Selection will vary by store
Includes candy

FLORAL 50% OFF
Categories Listed
Does not include seasonal department or items labeled "floral accents"

Ribbon & Trims by the Roll
Ribbon, bows, tulle & deco mesh in our wedding, floral and fabric departments
Does not include ribbon, trim or tulle sold by the yard

Floral Arrangements
Flowering and greenery
Does not include custom designs or potted trees

Garlands, Swags, Wreaths & Teardrops
Flowering and greenery

Wedding
Items Labeled Studio His & Hers*
Invitations, toasting glasses, ring pillows, cake toppers and more

FURNITURE
ALWAYS 30% OFF THE MARKED PRICE*

YARN & NEEDLE ART

Artiste® Cotton Crochet Thread 300 - 400 yds 1.99

I Love This Yarn!® Acrylic yarn, solids, stripes, ombres and metallics 5 & 7 oz 3.66
Does not include overdyed

Poly-fil® 100% Polyester Fiberfill with Stuffing Tool 12 oz 3.99

Needle Art Kits Priced $5.99 & Up
Counted, baby, children's, latch hook and stamped 30% OFF

FRAMES 50% OFF
Categories Listed

Photo Frames
Always 50% off the marked price*
1 or entire selection of basic & fashion tabletop frames and wooden photo storage

Collage Frames

Wall Frames
Poster, document and portrait frames with glass

Custom Frames
ALWAYS 50% OFF THE MARKED PRICE*
Applies to frame only

CRAFTS 30% OFF
Categories Listed

Crayola® Products

Pre-Cut Stained Glass
Single sheets only

Crafts by Playside Creations™

Krylon® Spray Paint

Unfinished Wooden Letters & Numbers

T-Shirts
Always 30% off the marked price*
Youth & adult t-shirts, sweatshirts, infant & toddler t-shirts, crespers and dresses

PAPER CRAFTS

Gemstones by the Paper Studio® Over 300 styles 50% OFF

Cards, Tags & Envelopes by the Paper Studio® 50% OFF

Punches & Punch Sets 40% OFF

Tim Holtz® Products Inks, paper, stamps, embellishments and more 30% OFF
Does not include Tim Holtz® Vagabond™ machine

Cricut® Cartridges & Accessories 30% OFF
Cutting mats, replacement blades, tools, totes and more
Does not include machines

ART SUPPLIES

Master's Touch® Single Art Brushes 50% OFF

Art Pads & Sketchbooks 40% OFF

2-Pack Canvas 8 Sizes available
8x10 3.99 11x14 5.99 16x20 7.99

Master's Touch® Artist Acrylic Tube Paints 4.1 oz $3.99 Regular price 3.57

Sargent Art® Tempera Paints 16 oz $1.99 Regular price 1.27

JEWELRY MAKING 50% OFF
Categories Listed

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Recycle the right way on this holiday

AMANDA BYROM
Keep Midland Beautiful

Last week, I wrote about approaching the holidays with an eco-friendly perspective.

Today, when all the parties and gift exchanges over, there is the inevitable aftermath.

Some may see recycling as another burdensome thing to do but it really makes sense when you start to think of the amount of waste that can be reduced and the overall benefits that can be gained from an economic and environmental standpoint.

Between the time you carve the turkey and take down the Christmas tree, there is an extra six million tons of trash that has to be dealt with in the United States.

In fact, half of the paper America consumes is used to wrap and decorate consumer products, many of those purchases happening at this time of year.

One thing we can do to reduce the amount of waste is to start thinking about our trash as not just a byproduct of our lives, but rather a resource to be properly 'reinvested' in the cycle.

Paper, cardboard, aluminum and even plastic have a value on the market and are traded like commodities.

When you start thinking about the items you throw away as potential dollars, even if they aren't ultimately going to be yours, you might start to think about recycling in a different way.

Of course, recycling is just one part of the overall approach to becoming a more mindful consumer.

Don't forget that it's even better to first reduce your overall consumption, then reuse the things that you can, and finally recyle what's left.

Reduce. Reuse. Recycle.

So how should you recycle this holiday season? Be mindful of the following and you will have success at the bin.

1. Don't leave items next to the recycling containers if they are full. Everyone is eager to get the gift packaging out of the house and regain their space, but if the container is full, either take your items to another recycling location, or hold on to your items until the bin is emptied. Items left outside of the bin are easily scattered and create unsightly litter.

2. To ensure there is as much space for everyone as possible, break down all cardboard boxes before depositing in the bin.

3. Do not put Styrofoam peanuts or plastic packaging in the recycling bin. Please remove all additional packaging materials and properly dispose of before depositing in the recycling containers.

These materials are not recyclable and can cause litter as well as recycling equipment malfunctions.

Some packaging materials, like peanuts or air packs, can be reused if you take them to a shipping store.

4. Do not put any items that are soiled in the recycling. All items to be recycled should be clean and dry.

Be sure to rinse any cans or bottles out and let them dry before you recycle. Never leave liquids inside.

For plastic bottles, you can crush the air out and put the lid back on to save space. Don't recycle any cardboard or paper that has had water or any other liquid or oils spilled on it.

Paper plates, napkin and paper towels are not recyclable, even if they have not been used.

And don't even think about putting the empty pizza box in the recycling bin.

5. Be mindful of the city's holiday hours and that containers may not be emptied due to the holiday schedule.

You can find the schedule online at midlandtexas.gov.

If you have any questions along the way, contact Keep Midland Beautiful at 432-688-7745, on facebook, or online at www.keepmidlandbeautiful.org. Happy Recycling!

Woman's use of free guest pass to gym isn't working out

DEAR ABBY

Universal Press Syndicate

DEAR ABBY: I go to the gym regularly. Part of my membership includes a free guest pass. Working out with others can be much more fun and a really good motivator.

I have a friend who has taken me up on my offer to join me at the gym. She goes with me two to four times a week.

Initially, I made the offer to get her going. Never in a million years did I think she'd still be piggybacking off of my membership all these months later.

Now that it has become routine, I feel bad saying anything to her. Should I suggest she get her own membership?

Or must I just own this since I invited her along in the first place without clear and obvious boundaries? — **WORKING OUT AT THE GYM**

DEAR WORKING: You have a right to draw the line. Tell your friend how pleased you are that she now works out regularly, and that because she seems to enjoy it, she should get a gym membership of her own.

If she asks why, tell her it's so you can bring other people with you if you wish. If she objects, then she has been taking advantage of your generosity, and that's not how "friends" treat each other.

P.S. If money is an issue for her, you could always suggest she split the cost of your annual membership with you.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to my wife for four years, but we have been together for 11.

She has three children whom I love and treat as my own. My problem is that my wife is a baker and lets the kids eat whatever, whenever, and as much as they want.

My older daughter has graduated from college, where she worked out regularly and lost weight.

However, my son and younger daughter have ballooned to obese. I have tried to talk to my wife about instilling better eating habits, but it never materializes.

Food with no nutritional value is consumed each school night, along with bowls of my wife's homemade ice cream.

I know being obese will have lifelong consequences for them. How can I fix the problem and help them change how they eat? — **NEEDS GUIDANCE IN FLORIDA**

DEAR NEEDS GUIDANCE: You're correct that childhood obesity can set the stage for lifelong health problems. I'm surprised your wife hasn't been told this by their doctor.

If she thinks stuffing them with unhealthy food and failing to instill good eating habits is showing them "love," she's misguided.

If she is doing this because of some emotional need of her own, she may need both nutritional and emotional counseling to get past it.

A step in the right direction would be for you to involve your kids in family time that includes exercise and encourage them to choose a sport that interests them and to pursue it.

If you ask your older daughter, I'll bet she would be glad to support the idea.

DEAR ABBY: One of my friends says I work too much, that I have little to no time for myself or her, and when I'm off, I spend the majority of my time sleeping.

Abby, I'm a certified nursing assistant and work in a hospital that requires me to work 12-hour shifts. (7 a.m. to 7 p.m.) What should I do?

Yes, they are long hours, but I love what I do. Does this make me a workaholic? — **LOVES MY WORK IN OKLAHOMA**

DEAR LOVES: No. It makes you a lucky person who is dedicated to a profession she enjoys.

What matters is that your schedule works FOR YOU, not for your friend, and that you get sufficient rest to do it efficiently.

17 stolen masterpieces returned to Italy with only scratches

Associated Press

VERONA, Italy — Seventeen masterpieces valued at 17 million euros ($17.7 million) were returned to Italy from Ukraine on Wednesday after being stolen by masked, armed robbers from a Verona art museum last year.

Italian Culture Minister Dario Franceschini, who traveled to Kiev to retrieve the paintings — which included works by Rubens, Tintoretto and Mantegna — said the possibility of ever recovering them once seem remote. Still, the paintings returned with little more than scratches after their long ordeal, according to an art expert.

The paintings, wrapped in plastic bags, were recovered in May by Ukrainian border guards who intercepted them on a small island on the Dniester River during an attempt to smuggle them into Moldova.

TUMBLEWEED

From 1E

they started bringing them to us. Our daughter gives us a piece every Christmas. They're always different."

Tables throughout the house are set with red and green napkins, tablecloths, dishes and centerpieces all reflecting the holiday season. She has three Christmas trees full of lights and decorations.

They have a special building where the items are stored when they're not on display. All of the ornaments and displays take hours to set up.

"If we want it up by Thanksgiving we usually start around the first of October. It's different every year. I've never put it up the same way two years in a row. It takes a long time to put them away because we think about where we got this one or that one."

Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

"HOLIDAY DOINGS" By NORA PEARLSTONE

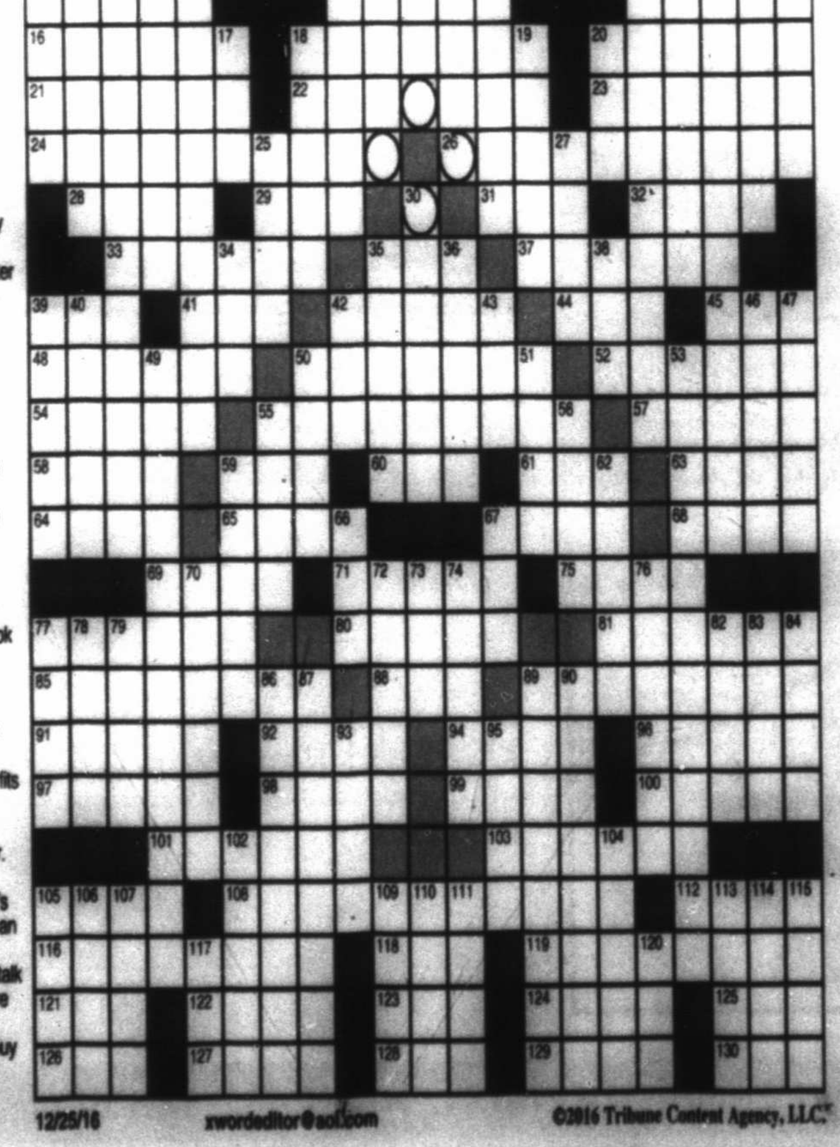
This grid's gray squares form a holiday image. Treat them like black squares when solving.

ACROSS

1 WWII investment
6 Sri Lankan language
11 It may be seen to the left of venous
16 Quashed
18 Psyched
20 Frightened
21 Frightens
22 Bagfuls for 24-Across
23 Poet Levertov
24 His personal Canadian postal code is H0 H0 H0
26 With 71-Across, holiday classic
28 Kiss and caress, in Kent
29 Cousin of the Vulcan mind meld
31 It's bonded in bales
32 Etta of old comics
33 Word before and after "is"
35 Concert shirt
37 Indiana county or its seat
39 L.A.'s __ Center
41 Shine, in ads
42 Do-it-yourself mover
44 Columnist Hentoff
45 UV index monitor
48 Prepared with mixed vegetables, in Chinese cooking
50 Ivy support
52 Parish leader
54 Wide-eyed look
55 Seasonal hangings
57 It might accompany a "meh"
58 Hot-and-cold fits
59 Cartoon shopkeeper
60 Old map abbr.
61 Monthly payment that's often more than the prin.
63 Sleek, in car talk
64 Capitol feature
65 Mall department buy
67 Song from Carmen
68 Last ones to deal with
69 Impact sound
71 See 26-Across
75 Longtime rival of Tiger
77 Longhorn rivals
80 Climber's target
81 Futile
85 Team for 24-Across
88 Sharable PC file
89 Things to open
91 Fort near Fayetteville
92 __ bonding
94 Tan relative
96 Descriptively named support
97 From that time
98 They often include ages
99 Maneuverability
100 Speak
101 Embellishes
103 UPS carton phrase
105 "Bearing gifts, we traverse __"
108 Sets on tracks
112 Prettify with paper
116 Sweet-scented flower
118 Cry of revelation
119 Resonant barbershop sound
121 __ out a living
122 Bank deposit
123 Type of garden
124 __-bitty
125 Trouble
126 Narc's employer
127 Narc's assignment
128 To this time
129 Julia's "Ocean's Twelve" role
130 Rev (up)

DOWN

1 Spacewalks, briefly
2 Lugosi and Karolyi
3 Classic 71-Across
4 Popular virus remedy
5 Rabble-rouser
6 Jam on the road
7 Dance and drama
8 Got together
9 Concept
10 Sudden move
11 Winter pastime gear
12 City on the Loire
13 Attend to a holiday symbol
14 Found a new table for
15 Picnic drinks
17 U.S. Army medal
18 Instant
19 "Nonsense!"
20 Star Wars initials
25 Small construction piece
27 NFL coach Rex
30 Bailiwicks
34 German university city
35 A.L. West team, familiarly
36 "Elements of Algebra" author
38 Prevent
39 Syrian leader
40 Expenses
42 Caterer's vessel
43 Author Yutang
46 Really comes down
47 One may end in "-ase"
49 Holiday mailing
50 Indisputable
51 Slowly emerge from sleep
53 Title annual holiday character since 1965
55 Slanted page?
56 Barbershop sound
59 Mistreatment
62 Sierra Nevada vacation mecca
66 TV monitor
67 E.T. from Melmac
70 Equivocated
72 Suisse peaks
73 Relieved
74 Bid
76 "Whew!"
77 Some Wall St. traders
78 English singer Halliwell
79 Composer __ Carlo Menotti
82 Draft category
83 "Right now!"
84 Salinger title choir singer
86 Gets mixed up in
87 Outdoor event contingency
89 Outlaw
90 Ponder
93 Drop in the stadium
95 Toledo thing
102 __ vincit amor
104 Classroom exchanges
105 Allowed to ripen, as cheddar
106 Art expert's discovery
107 Bailiwick
109 Likely to loaf
110 What you once were?
111 Carry on
113 Where no one can sit in front of you
114 Tiny bit
115 Single animal-shaped candy?
117 PC backup key
120 Mac OS part: Abbr.



12/25/16 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2016 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

GOREN BRIDGE

With Bob Jones

Teachers can play too

Neither vulnerable, South deals

NORTH
♠ 4
♡ A 7 6 5 4
◇ K 10 7 3
♣ Q 10 2

WEST
♠ A 8
♡ K J 10
◇ A J 6 4
♣ J 9 8 3

EAST
♠ 7 6 5 3 2
♡ Q 9 8 2
◇ 8
♣ 7 6 4

SOUTH
♠ K Q J 10 9
♡ 3
◇ Q 9 5 2
♣ A K 5

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠	Dbl	Rdbl	2♡
3◇	Pass	4◇	Pass
4♠	Pass	5◇	All pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♡

Joan Butts has been the head of the national teaching program for the Australian Bridge Federation for many years. She was South, in today's deal.

Butts won the opening heart lead with the ace, crossed to her hand with the ace of clubs, and led a low diamond to dummy's 10. A diamond back to her queen and West's ace revealed the trump position. West, trying to protect his jack of trumps, continued with a second heart, ruffed in hand. Declarer tried to sneak the nine of spades through West, but West wasn't buying, rising with the ace of spades to play a third round of hearts. Butts ruffed.

NORTH
♠ Void
♡ 7 6
◇ K 7
♣ Q 10

WEST
♠ 8
♡ Void
◇ J 6
♣ J 9 8

EAST
♠ 7 6 5
♡ Q
◇ Void
♣ 7 6

SOUTH
♠ K Q J 10
♡ Void
◇ Void
♣ K 5

Butts continued with two rounds of spades, discarding hearts from dummy. West couldn't ruff without losing his trump trick. Butts played two rounds of clubs, ending in her hand, and another spade finished West, who had to play a trump in front of dummy's king-seven. Well played by a fine player.

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Sunday, Dec. 25, 2016:

This year you express more of what you want with the belief that others will listen. Know that people will want to know your desires and will support you in what feels reasonable to them.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★ One-on-one relating proves to be the most rewarding, even if you are surrounded by lots of people. However, you don't appreciate fickle personalities.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ Enjoy being doted upon today. You can't seem to get enough time with a loved one. The feelings between you are mutual. Express your caring in a meaningful way.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★ How you let someone know that you like and appreciate his or her gift could have a great impact. Wherever you are, you might feel the need to pitch in.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★★ Being very emotional and adoring is natural for you; however, others could have a problem with your intensity.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★★ How you let a family member know how much you appreciate his or her efforts could make a big difference in the next few days.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★ You'll want to clarify a change of plans, but you might overexplain. Sometimes the less said, the better. Open up a discussion with a neighbor or sibling.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ You might try several different approaches to make a key person feel better. Perhaps the best remedy is more moderation. Relax with loved ones wherever you are.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ You seem impervious to the ups and downs of the moment. You decided a while ago to give more of yourself during this holiday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★ You tend to be in touch with your feelings, but lately you have been closing down. Make an effort to stay more open.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★ How you handle someone who is determined to dote on you to the point that you are uncomfortable could be an indication of the type of relationship you will have.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ You could be happy that the holidays are nearly over, even though you feel content with what has occurred.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★ You could be at your wits' end when dealing with children and someone who wants much more out of life than you are willing to give.

BORN TODAY

Actor Humphrey Bogart (1899), singer Jimmy Buffett (1946)

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE

E	B	O	N	D		T	A	M	I	L		I	N	T	R	A
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SUNDAY MORNING — DECEMBER 25, 2016

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

BROADCAST

	G	S	R	C	W	6 AM	6:30	7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30
KMID ABC	3	3	4	3	2	In Touch Ministries		GMA/Sunday		The Truth	House	Disney Parks Cmas (N)				J.Jones	Huddle
KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	Bucket	Hunt	First Baptist Church		CBS Sunday Morning (N)			Face the Nation		Mission	First Baptist Odessa	
KWWT CW	5	5	14	5	14	Hunters	Hunters	Beakman	Beakman	Bill Nye	Bill Nye	SaveBell	SaveBell	SaveBell	SaveBell	Brady8.	Brady8.
KPEJ FOX	8	5	5	8	3	XPoints	W.Minist	Insight	Faith Live	Fox News Sunday		Odessa	Cowboy	First Baptist Church		Gospel Music	
KMLM IND	11	11	12	11	11	Southwest "Part 2"		Walking	Mission	In Touch Ministries		Aleph	Zion	Chur.Way	R/Manusc	Nueva Vida	
KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	Minute	Secrets	In Search	B&N Min.	Sunday Today (N)		Meet the Press (N)		MuscleCa	Xtr. 4x4	Paid	Paid
KPBT PBS	13	13		13	8	Cat In the Hat		Curious George...		Wild Kratts		Masterpiece Classic				Masterpiece Classic	Masterp.
KUPB UNI	4	4		4	16	Nacional	Mercury	Programa pagado		Planeta U		*** Jesús, María y José				Premios Juventud	
KOSA MNT	16	16		16	-	LatiNat.	Latino	Spaces	Homenaje	Green	Hazelton	O.House	HomeT.	First Baptist Church		American Christmas	
FLIX	340	575		165		Movie	(:35)	** Free Money		(:10)	** The Presidio	Sean Connery				*** Shopgirl ('05, Dra) Steve Martin,	
HBO	300	550	14	14		(:515)	Dr. Seuss' ...	My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2		(:35)	Hitchcock/ Truffaut					Miracle on 34th Street	Movie
HBO2	302	551	15	101	23	(:345)	Sports	(:45)	*** The Man From U.N.C.L.E.			(:20)	*** Minority Report ('02, SG-Fi) Tom Cruise.			(:515)	Coyote Ugly
HBO3	304	552	16	102		Movie		(:20)	*** Life or Something Like It			(:20)	*** Ocean's Thirteen			(:45)	*** The Aviator
MAX	380	557	17	120	24	(:40)	*** Innerspace Dennis Quaid.			(:40)	*** The League of Extraordinary Gen...					*** The Birdcage	
MAX2	382	558	18	122		Movie	** Fool's Gold	(:35)	*** Jurassic World Chris Pratt.			(:40)	** The Sweetest Thing			(:05)	* Pretty in Pink
PLEX			96			Movie	*** Peggy Sue Got Married	(:25)	Getting Even With Dad	(:15)	** Songcatcher Janet McTeer.					(:05)	* Love Story
SHOW	320	565	19	140	25	(:35)	*** 45 Years	(:15)	Inside the NFL	(:15)	*** What Women Want ('00, Com) Mel Gibson.					*** The DUFF	
TMC	336	573	22	155	26	(:10)	Santa Claws	(:35)	** Wonder Boys Michael Douglas.				5 to 7 Anton Yelchin.			(:10)	Paddington
A&E	27	58	28	35	47	Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds		The Way Home		Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds	
AMC	40	74	23	42	51	*** Two Moles for Sister Sara Clint Eastwood.						*** The Shootist ('76, West) John Wayne.				The Cowboys	
BET	58	-		140		D. Grier	Carpenter	BET Rx	Abundant	Sparkle ('12, Drama) Carmen Ejogo, Whitney Houston, Jordin Sparks.						(:10)	*** Ray
BRAVO	65	76		41		(5:00)	The Fighting Temptatio...	Jingle All the Way II Larry the Cable Guy.				Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde				Watch	
CNBC	46	52		39	72	Paid	Paid	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Billion Dollar Buyer		Billion Dollar Buyer		Shark Tank	
CNN	43	50	51	30	56	New Day Sunday		New Day Sunday		The Legacy of Barack Obama		Reliable Sources		CNN Newsroom			
DISC	50	60	31	24	42	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Dirty Jobs		Dirty Jobs		Dirty Jobs		Dirty Jobs	
DISNEY	56	64	36	25	36	Stuffins	Lion Guard	Elena	M.Mouse	Elena	Lights	Mickey	(:25) Bunk'd	(:55) Bunk'd	Jessie		
ESPN	32	35	48	31	30	SportsCenter		SportsCenter		SportsCenter		SportsCenter		SportsC.	Count	NBA Basketball (L)	
ESPN2	34	36	49	32	31	(5:00)	30/30	30 for 30 "The '85 Bears"			30 for 30	"Four Falls of Buffalo"			30 for 30	"Believeland"	
FNC	45	48	53	23	55	(5:00)	FOX & Friends Sunday					Morning Futures		MediaBuzz		America's News HQ	
FOOD	64	70	27	68	54	Heart	Patricia H	Southern	Pioneer	Big Bite	Cooking	Southern	Barefoot	Pioneer	Rules	Holiday	Brunch
FREEFORM	53	63	34	42	33	The Search for Santa Paws				(:10)	Santa Buddies ('09, Fam) Craig Anton.			(:20)	*** Arthur Christmas		
FSSW	37	38	50	45	29	Whitetail	Cowboys	Mavricks	Thunder	Paid	Paid	Golf Life	Motocross	X-Fighters		Game365	Xterra (N)
FX	31	56	59	64	69	Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted				** Puss in Boots Antonio Banderas.				Rise of the Guardians Hugh Jackman.			
HALLMARK	54	71	58		34	(5:30)	Christmas ...	Sleigh Bells Ring Erin Cahill.		My Christmas Love				Looks Like Christmas		Movie	
HGTV	63	69	26	48	44	Island	Island	Island	Island	Island	Island	Hawaii	Hawaii	Hawaii	Hawaii	Hawaii	Hawaii
HISTORY	71	59	29	50	43	Pawn S.	Pawn Star	Pawn Stars		Pawn Stars		The Lost Pyramid				Great. Prison Breaks	
LIFETIME	28	30	25	28	48	In Touch Ministries		Amazing	David Jer.	J.Osteen	Paid	The Way Home		A Christmas Wedding Date			
MSNBC	47	53		49	73	Hardball	Business	PoliticsNation		MSNBC Live		AM Joy				MSNBC Live	
NBCSN	38	43				(5:00)	Auto Auctions	Mecum Auto Auctions "Dallas, TX"						Mecum Auto Auctions "Indianapolis"			
NICK	55	-	39	34	37	Guppies	PAW	PAW	PAW	Albert: The Littl...		SpongeBob SquarePants				Loud H.	Movie
SPIKE	30	-	55	53	58	Paid Program		Paid Program		*** Star Trek (2009, SG-Fi) Zachary Quinto, Eric Bana, Chris Pine.						*** Thor	
SYFY	66	82	41	57	67	(5:00)	Paid Program	The Twilight Zone		Twilight		Ice Twisters ('09, SG-Fi) Mark Moses.				Christmas Icetwisters	
TBS	25	33	44	66	41	(5:00)	A Christmas...	*** A Christmas Story Peter Billingsley.				*** A Christmas Story Peter Billingsley.				A Christmas Story	
TCM	41	75	24	63	66	(5:00)	*** Going My Way	Bing Crosby, Barry Fitzgerald.				*** The Robe ('53, Rel) Victor Mature, Richard Burton,					
TELE	20	-	10	20		Pagado	Pagado	Pagado	Pagado	Pagado	Pagado	Pagado	Pagado	Angel		Enfoque	Conducta
TLC	51	61	32	38	52	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Invasion Christmas		Christmas Lights 2		Ex:treme C'mas Trees		Yes Dress	Yes Dress
TNT	24	34	40	26	50	(5:00)	A Christmas...	*** A Christmas Story Peter Billingsley.				*** A Christmas Story Peter Billingsley.				A Christmas Story	
TVLAND	49	-	35	54	35	Christine	Christine	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls
USA	26	55	42	27	49	(5:00)	The Family Stone	** He's Just Not That Into You Ginnifer Goodwin.						Couples (2011)			
WGN	19	85				Lord	Creflo	Key David	Paid	Home Videos		Home Videos		Home Videos		Home Videos	

SUNDAY AFTERNOON — DECEMBER 25, 2016

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

BROADCAST

	G	S	R	C	W	12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30
KMID ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Church	Paid	Count		NBA Basketball Golden State vs Cleveland (L)				NBA Basketball Chicago vs San Antonio (L)			
KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	Homecoming (N)		Sports Spectacular		Strongest Man		MVP: Superstars (N)		A Baylor Christmas		Paid	News
KWWT CW	5	5	14		5	14	BradyB.	BradyB.	Hillbillies	Gilligan	HappyD.	Laverne	Family		The Love Boat		The Love Boat	
KPEJ FOX	8.	5	5	8	3	Funniest Christmas		This Just In		Spirit of Christmas		BigBang	BigBang	BigBang	BigBang	Paid	Paid
KMLM IND	11	11	12	12	11	11	Z. Levitt	Mani Erfan	Jerusalem	Restore		Southwest "Part 1"		Southwest "Part 2"	HaYesod	Hebrew	About Us	Housecall
KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	9	Paid	Paid	Paid	PGA Tour		Nitro Circus			Advent.	Spartan Race	Inside Ed.	News
KPBT PBS	13	13		13	8	Masterp.	Masterpiece Classic		Masterpiece Classic		Masterpiece Classic		Masterpiece Classic		Masterpiece Classic			
KUPB UNI	4	4		4	16	(11:00)	Premios Juventud			Republica deportiva		Juego de Estrellas		Primer Impacto		Nacional	Noticiero
KOSA MNT	16	16		16		Cycling	Bucket List	Green	Homes	CARS.TV	A.Athlete	Entertainers		Missing	Insider	Major Crimes	
FLIX	340	575		165		*** The Royal Tenenbaums				*** Bubble Boy				** Punch-Drunk Love		(:15)	The Presidio
HBO	300	550	14	14		(11:40)	Doctor Do...	(:10)	*** Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice			(:45)	Fight	Movie	(:25)	My Big Fat Greek Wed...	
HBO2	302	551	15	101	23	(11:15)	Coyote Ugly	Harry Potter & the Order of the Phoenix				(:20)	The Divergent Series: Allegiant			(:25)	St.Play
HBO3	304	552	16	102		(10:45)	*** The Aviator	(:40)	StLook	(:10)	** The Soloist ('09, Dra) Jamie Foxx.			(:10)	*** Everest Jake Gyllenhaal.		
MAX	380	557	17	120	24	Movie		*** Parenthood ('89, Com) Steve Martin.				(:35)	** Riding in Cars With Boys			(:50)	The Longest Ride
MAX2	382	558	18	122		Movie		(:45)	*** Knocked Up ('07, Com) Seth Rogen.			(:55)	*** Feast of Love			(:40)	Search Party
PLEX			96			Movie		(:45)	*** Peggy Sue Got Married				** Mrs. Winterbourne			(:20)	Bruce Lee, The Legend
SHOW	320	565	19	140	25	(:15)	No Escape ('15, Thril) Owen Wilson.					*** Carol ('15, Dra) Cate Blanchett.			The Affair		The Affair
TMC	336	573	22	155	26	Movie		(:45)	*** Why Did I Get Married?					(:45)	*** The Lucky Ones Tim Robbins.	(:40)	*** Hidalgo
A&E	27	58	28	35	47	Criminal Minds		C.Minds "Snake Eyes"		Criminal Minds				Criminal Minds		Remini: Scientology	
AMC	40	74	23	42	51	(11:00)	*** The Cowboys John Wayne.					*** The Outlaw Josey Wales ('76, West) Clint Eastwood.				*** El Dorado	
BET	58	-		40		(11:10)	*** Ray ('04, Bio) Kerry Washington, Jamie Foxx.					(:10)	Get on Up ('14, Bio) Nelsan Ellis, Chadwick Boseman.				
BRAVO	65	76		41		Watch	Housewives Atlanta	Housewives Atlanta		Housewives Atlanta		Housewives Atlanta		Housewives Atlanta		K'ouswewives Atlanta	Atlanta
CNBC	46	52		39	72	Shark Tank		Billion Dollar Buyer		Billion Dollar Buyer		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank	
CNN	43	50	51	30	56	CNN Newsroom		CNN Newsroom		Find Jesus "Judas"		Finding Jesus		Finding Jesus		Finding Jesus	
DISC	50	60	31	24	42	Dirty Jobs		Dirty Jobs		Dirty Jobs		Dirty Jobs		Dirty Jobs		Dirty Jobs	
DISNEY	56	64	36	25	36	Disney Special		GoodLuck	Friends	Friends	Austin	Austin	Girl M.	Girl M.	Underc.	Underc.	Liv/Mad
ESPN	32	35	48	31	30	(11:00)	NBA Basketball	Bos./N.Y. (L)	PBA Bowling				Highly?	O.Lines	E:60Pics	SportsC Featured (N)	
ESPN2	34	36	49	32	31	Drone Racing		Drone Racing		S.Sci.	O.Lines	Pool Trick Shot Magic		Pool Trick Shot Magic		NCAA Basketball	
FNC	45	48	53	23	55	(11:00)	News HQ	Fox News Sunday		Journal E.	Housecall	America's News HQ				Fox News Sunday	
FOOD	64	70	27	68	54	Holiday Baking		Holiday Baking		Holiday Baking		Holiday Baking		Holiday Baking		Holiday Baking	
FREEFORM	53	63	34	42	33	Movie	(:25)	*** The Polar Express Tom Hanks.		Santa Claus		(:35)	Without Santa		(:40)	*** Elf Will Ferrell.	
FSSW	37	38	50	45	29	H.S. Football UIL State Championship								H.S. Football UIL State Championship			
FX	31	56	59	64	69	Turbo ('13, Ani) Ryan Reynolds.						The Croods ('13, Ani) Nicolas Cage.				** Kung Fu Panda 2 Jack Black.	
HALLMARK	54	71	58		34	(11:30)	A Perfect C...	Christmas Cookies				The Mistletoe Promise				My Christmas Dream	Movie
HGTV	63	69	26	48	44	Life	Caribbean	Life	Life	Life	Life	Life	Life	Bargain	Bargain	Bargain	Bargain
HISTORY	71	59	29	50	43	(11:00)	Prison Breaks	Atlantis Found				Roanoke: Search for the Lost Colony				A. Pickers "Let It Go"	
LIFETIME	28	30	25	28	48	The Spirit of Christmas Jen Lilley.						Christmas in the City John Prescott.				Wish Upon a Christmas Aaron Ashmore.	
MSNBC	47	53		49	73	MSNBC Live		Meet the Press		Pulse of America		MSNBC Live				MSNBCDocumentary	
NBCSN	38	43				Auctions	Mecum Auto Auctions "Kissimmee, Fla."					The Mecum Auction crew heads to Kissimmee Fla., and works like an orchestra.					
NICK	55	-	39	34	37	(11:30)	Santa Hun...	H.Danger	Thunder	Loud H.	Sponge	Albert: The Littl...		Nicky	H.Danger	Ho Ho Holiday	
SPIKE	30	-	55	53	58	(11:00)	*** Thor			*** The Dark Knight Rises (2012, Action) Christian Bale, Tom Hardy, Anne Hathaway.						*** Thor	
SYFY	66	82	41	57	67	Movie	The 12 Disasters of Christmas Ed Quinn.					*** Salt ('10, Act) Angelina Jolie.				Indiana Jones & the King...	
TBS	25	33	44	66	41	(11:00)	A Christm...	*** A Christmas Story Peter Billingsley.				*** A Christmas Story Peter Billingsley.				*** A Christmas Story	
TCM	41	75	24	63	66	*** Ben-Hur (1959, Epic) Jack Hawkins, Stephen Boyd, Charlton Heston.										*** King of Kings Jeffrey Hunter.	
TELE	20	-	10	20		Maria								Noticiero	Conducta	Videos asombrosos	
TLC	51	61	32	38	52	Yes Dress	Yes Dress	Yes Dress	Yes Dress	Yes Dress	Yes Dress	Yes Dress	Yes Dress	Yes Dress	Yes Dress	Yes Dress	Yes Dress
TNT	24	34	40	26	50	(11:00)	A Christm...	*** A Christmas Story Peter Billingsley.				*** A Christmas Story Peter Billingsley.				*** A Christmas Story	
TVLAND	49	-	35	54	35	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	Reba	Reba	Reba	Reba
USA	26	55	42	27	49	Movie	*** Easy A ('10, Com) Emma Stone.							Bridesmaids ('11, Com) Maya Rudolph, Kristen Wiig.			Movie
WGN	19	85				Home Videos		Home Videos		Home Videos		Home Videos 1/2		Home Videos 2/2		Home Videos	

SUNDAY PRIME TIME — DECEMBER 25, 2016

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

PRIMETIME

	G	S	R	C	W	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
KMID ABC	3	3	4	3	2	(4:00) NBA Basketb.	NBA Post-game (L)	*** Beauty and the Beast ('91, Ani)				Speech-less	Black-ish	Local 2 News/ 10	(:35) Dr. Carrasco	(:05) American Ninja Warrior	
KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	60 Minutes		Voices of Richard White, Paige O'Hara. I Love Lucy "Lucy Gets in Pictures"		Madam Secretary "Sea Change"		MacGyver "Toothpick"		CBS 7 News	CBS 7 Wire	Falcon Focus	(:35) Element.
KWWT CW	5	5	14		5	14	A. Griffith	A. Griffith Show	Columbo "Try and Catch Me"		MASH	The Odd Couple	Honey-mooners	Cheers	B.New-hart	Mary/Ty-lerM.	Taxi
KPEJ FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Bob's Burgers	Bob's Burgers	The Simpsons	Son of Zorn	Family Guy	Last Man on Earth	First Baptist Church of Midland		2 Broke Girls	Texans Game	Jack Van Impe	Texans Buzz
KMLM IND	11	11	12	12	11	11	Mission: M25	Shepherd's Heart		Walking	Light of the Southwest	"Part 1"	Light of the Southwest "Part 2"		Update News	Behind the Veil	Wings of Truth	Creation Proclaims
KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	9	Football Night in America (L)		(:20) NFL Football Denver Broncos at Kansas City Chiefs Site: Arrowhead Stadium -- Kansas City, Mo. (L)						(:35) News	Country Reporter	Whacked Out
KPBT PBS	13	13		13	8	Masterpiece Classic "Downton Abbey: Season Six"		Great Performances In his quest for the crown, Richard plans the murder of his brother George. (N)							Vicious	Mormon Choir	
KUPB UNI	4	4		4	16			Sal y pimienta	Pastorela			Aquí y Ahora		Familia P. Luche	Noticiero Univision	Republica deportiva	
KOSA MNT	16	16		16		Rizzoli & Isles		Castle		CSI: Miami		Mike&M.	Mike&M.	Anger M.	Anger M.	Scandal	
FLIX	340	575		165		(3:15)	The Presidio	*** Pulp Fiction ('94, Cri) John Travolta.				(:35)	*** Traffic ('00, Dra) Michael Douglas.				
HBO	300	550	14	14		(:425)	My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2			(:10)	Hail, Caesar! ('16, Com/Dra) Josh Brolin.				*** Any Given Sunday Al Pacino.		
HBO2	302	551	15	101	23	(:55)	The Intern ('15, Com) Robert De Niro.			(:35)	Eddie the Eagle			(:50)	Vice ('15, Act) Bruce Willis.		Movie
HBO3	304	552	16	102		(:15)	Seventh Son ('14, Adv) Jeff Bridges.					*** Ocean's Thirteen George Clooney.		(:05)	*** I Am Legend		Movie
MAX	380	557	17	120	24	(4:50)	The Longes...	(:05)	The Water Diviner Russell Crowe.						*** A Beautiful Mind Russell Crowe.	(:20)	Term Life
MAX2	382	558	18	122		(:15)	The Winning Season Sam Rockwell.					We Are Your Friends		(:40)	Tenacious D In The Pic...	(:15)	Soul Food
PLEX			96			(5:50)	*** Rescue Dawn Zach Grenier.					*** Rough Riders		(:40)	*** Rough Riders	(:15)	Bruce Lee, ...
SHOW	320	565	19	140	25	The Affair		The Affair		The Affair					** Southpaw ('15, Dra) Jake Gyllenhaal.	(:05)	Shameless
TMC	336	573	22	155	26	(:40)	*** Hidalgo	Paddington Ben Whishaw.				(:30)	*** Why Did I Get Married?			(:25)	*** American Wedding
A&E	27	58	28	35	47	L. Remini "Fair Game"		Remini "The Bridge"		Remini: Scientology		Hoarders "Laura" (N)		(:15) First48	(:04) First48	(:05) L. Remini	
AMC	40	74	23	42	51	(5:00)	*** El Dorado John Wayne.					*** Big Jake ('71, West) Richard Boone, John Wayne.				*** Rio Bravo John Wayne.	
BET	58	-		40		(5:10)	Get on Up									Abundant	Fellow.
BRAVO	65	76		41		Atlanta	Atlanta Social (N)					*** The Devil Wears Prada Meryl Streep.				*** The Devil Wears Prada	
CNBC	46	52		39	72	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank	
CNN	43	50	51	30	56	Finding Jesus		Finding Jesus		Find Jesus "Judas"		Finding Jesus		Finding Jesus		Finding Jesus	
DISC	50	60	31	24	42	Dirty Jobs		Dirty Jobs		Dirty Jobs		Dirty Jobs		Dirty Jobs		Dirty Jobs	
DISNEY	56	64	36	25	36	Liv/Mad	Call Style	Good Luck Charlie, It's Ch...		Liv/Mad		Girl M.	Underc.	Bizaard	MECH-X4	Austin	Jessie
ESPN	32	35	48	31	30	SportsCenter		NBA Basketball Minnesota vs Oklahoma (L)						NBA Basketball L.A. Clippers vs L.A. Lakers (L)		SportsC.	
ESPN2	34	36	49	32	31	(5:00)	NCAA Basketb.	NCAA Basketball Diamond Head Classic (L)						SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
FNC	45	48	53	23	55	FOX Report Sunday		Legends & Lies		The Kelly File		Greg Gutfeld Show		Legends & Lies		Hannity	
FOOD	64	70	27	68	54	Guy's Grocery Games		Guy's Game (N)		Holiday Baking (N)		Diners, Drive-ins (N)		Cooks vs. Cons		Holiday Baking	
FREEFORM	53	63	34	42	33	Movie	(:45)	*** National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation				(:55)	*** Scrooged Bill Murray.			(:25)	Cottoneye Jeremiah
FSSW	37	38	50	45	29	H.S. Football UIL State Championship						WPT Poker		DCowboy	School (N)	WPT Poker	
FX	31	56	59	64	69	*** How to Train Your Dragon 2 Jay Baruchel.						*** How to Train Your Dragon 2 Jay Baruchel.				The Croods	
HALLMARK	54	71	58		34	(5:30)	A Heavenly...	Calls Heart "Christmas (N)				A Crown for Christmas Danica McKellar.				A Christmas Detour	
HGTV	63	69	26	48	44	Bargain	Bargain	Bargain	Bargain	Life	Life	Islnd.Lif	Islnd.Lif	H.Hunt	House	Life	Life
HISTORY	71	59	29	50	43	American Pickers		American Pickers		American Pickers		American Pickers		(:05) Amer. Pickers		(:05) Amer. Pickers	
LIFETIME	28	30	25	28	48	The Flight Before Christmas Mayim Bialik.				*** Christmas With the Kranks						The Flight Before Christmas	
MSNBC	47	53		49	73	MSNBC Documentary		MSNBCDocumentary		MSNBCDocumentary		MSNBCDocumentary		MSNBCDocumentary		MSNBCDocumentary	
NBCSN	38	43				(12:30)	Auto Auctions	Mecum Auto Auctions "Monterey" The Mecum Auction crew heads to Monterey.								Auctions "Anaheim"	
NICK	55	-	39	34	37	Santa Hunters		GShakers	F.House	F.House	F.House	F.House	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
SPIKE	30	-	55	53	58	(5:30)	*** Thor Chris Hemsworth.					*** Dark Knight Rises ('12, Action) Christian Bale, Tom Hardy, Anne Hathaway.				*** Land of the Lost	
SYFY	66	82	41	57	67	(5:30)	Indiana Jones & the Kl...	(:30)	*** Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade Harrison Ford.							*** Thor	
TBS	25	33	44	66	41	(5:30)	A Christmas...	*** Transformers ('07, Act) Megan Fox, Shia LaBeouf.					People	People	People	People	
TCM	41	75	24	63	66	(5:30)	*** Mr. Deeds Goes to Town							*** Sullivan's Travels	(:45)	It Happened One Night	
TELE	20	-	10	20		(:30)	Seabiscuit (2003) Jeff Bridges, Elizabeth Banks, Tobey Maguire.						Dun Francisco		Titulares	Conducta	Beverly Hills Ch...
TLC	51	61	32	38	52	Yes Dress	Yes Dress	Sister Wives "Guide to Wedded Bliss" (N)							Sister Wives "Guide to Wedded Bliss"		
TNT	24	34	40	26	50	(5:00)	A Christmas...	The Librarians (N)				*** The LEGO Movie Chris Pratt.				The Librarians	
TVLAND	49	-	35	54	35	Reba	Reba	Reba	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens
USA	26	55	42	27	49	(5:00)	Media's Witness Protection					*** The Proposal ('09, Com) Sandra Bullock,					
WGN	19	85				Home Videos		Home Videos		Home Videos		Home Videos				Bones	

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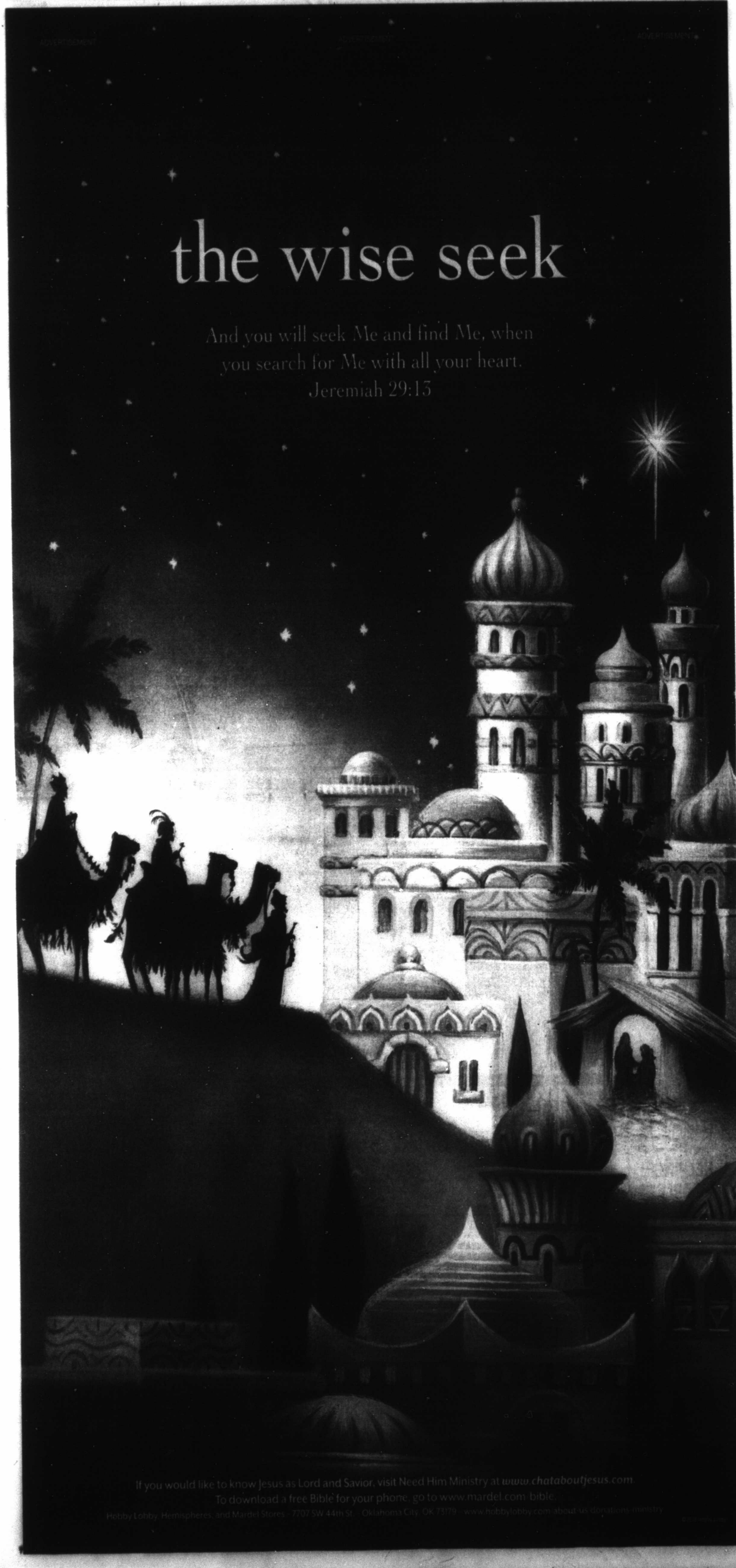
the wise seek
And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.
Jeremiah 29:13
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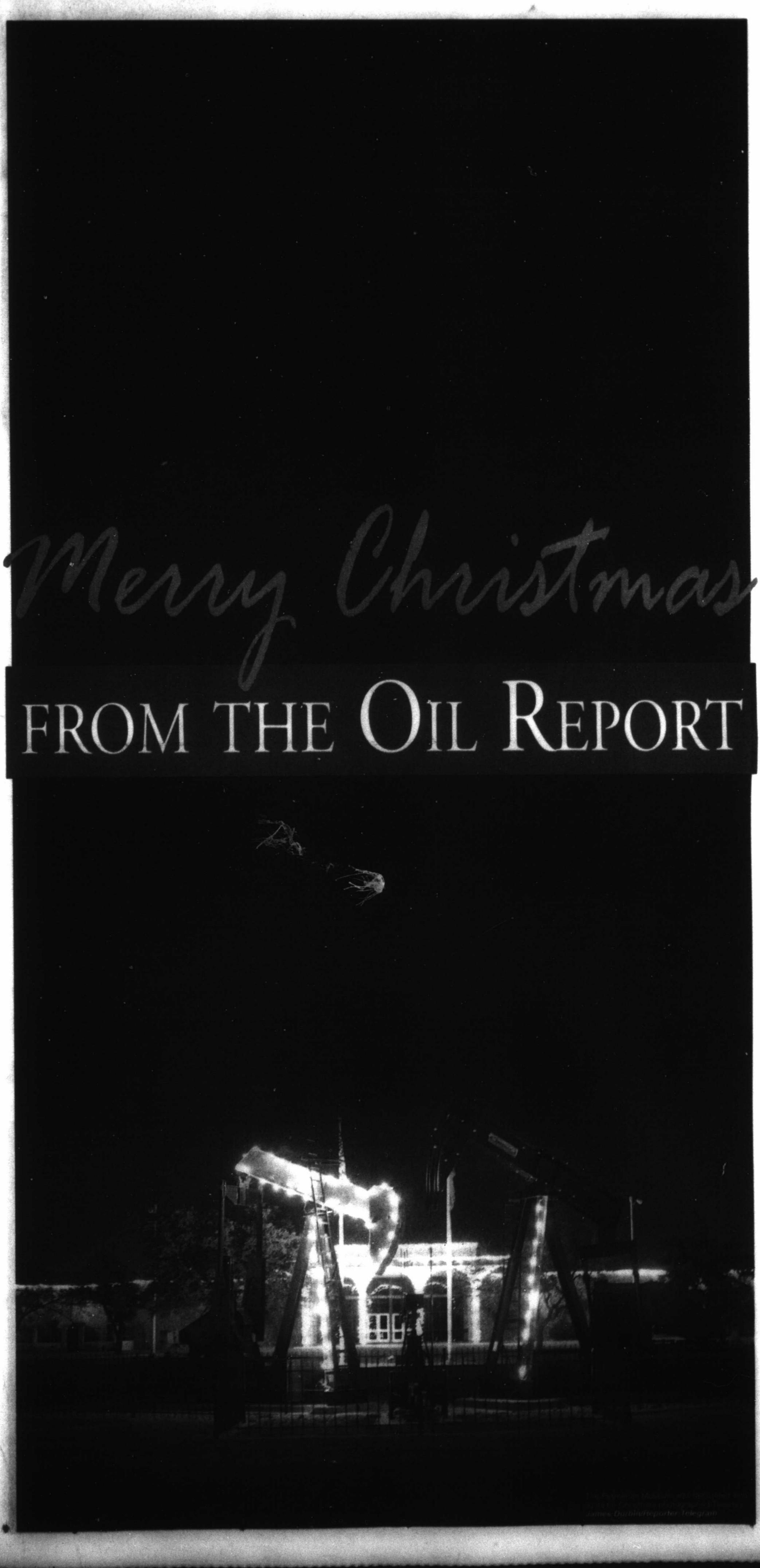
OIL REPORT



Photos by Mark Mulligan/Houston Chronicle

An oil well still churns out oil from the parking lot of the Liberty Cafe in Freer on Dec. 7. **BELOW:** Colton Lee scores deer antlers Dec. 8 inside the Freer Deer Camp where he has worked since he was 16.

Towns hit by oil downturn cast eye to Mexico

By Lydia DePillis
Houston Chronicle

FREER — When oil prices soared and times were good in this small town somewhere in the vastness between Mexico and the Gulf, Sheila Kunstler could feel it in the walls of her little craft and flower shop along U.S. 59, the windows shaking each time an 18-wheeler roared by.

But on a recent Monday afternoon, sitting at a large desk cluttered with invoices and ribbon, all was quiet. When someone knocked on the door looking for a job, Kunstler turned the person away — she's barely hanging on herself.

"You hear people say all the time, 'Gas prices are low,'" Kunstler said. "Well, when gas prices are low, people don't have a job."

The fracturing revolution flushed millions of dollars through this cluster of 2,700 people near the Eagle Ford Shale. The bust hit almost as quickly, crippling the economies of Freer and other rural communities and leaving them few ways to revive. Unlike cities such as Houston, these outposts can't simply lean on other industries, recruit other businesses, and find other jobs for people thrown out of work.

Reading the headlines, it's easy to think Texas' oil industry is headed for a recovery. Prices are back above $50 a barrel, and drillers are flocking to the rich Permian Basin in West Texas, where geology makes extraction easier. But that doesn't do much good for Freer and its neighbors. Oil fields in the Eagle Ford remain largely fallow because they're still too expensive to drill at current prices.

Now, year and a half after the shale play went south, Eagle Ford towns are in danger of sharing the fates that befell scores of ghost towns across Texas' scrubby expanse.

For a few months out of the year, Freer has open season to buoy its spirits, with trophy hunters streaming through gas stations and eateries. The rest of the time, it languishes in a county with one of the highest unemployment rates in the state and little hope on the horizon.

Little hope, that is, but for Mexico's rumbling appetite for oil — and the new refineries that will be needed to satisfy it.

An ephemeral reprieve

Freer's mayor, Arnold Cantu, remembers the town back in the 1960s and '70s, when he was a cop:

Two stoplights, businesses lining Main Street, frequent parties and festivals.

"All this used to be full at one time. Thriving," Cantu said, driving past vacant and faded storefronts. "Saturday mornings, the town was full. We had like five grocery stores, and there was enough business for everybody."

The area had conventional oil reserves as well as a significant amount of uranium. But over time, the local wells tapped out, and low prices made uranium mining impracticable. By the early 2000s, major oil companies had mostly shut down operations, and Freer scraped by on jobs provided by the school district and local construction companies.

As drilling in the Eagle Ford ramped up in 2010 and 2011, better days returned here. Workers moved in so their kids could go to school while they commuted some 45 minutes to the heart of the shale play. Many longtime residents had jobs in town serving meals and making beds for the fracturing crews.

The impact was visible everywhere. Cantu, who has a number of business enterprises in town, made a nice profit selling land for a new hotel, since the other inns were booked solid. His car wash was always busy. His apartments and storage units had waiting lists, and his Chevy dealership was selling 60 cars and trucks a month.

"The money was all over Freer. They made it, and they blew it," said Geri van Pelt, who owns a boutique in town. "These guys were coming back and buying duallies, big old pickup trucks with big old tires, because 'Ohh, I work in the oilfield and I'm making all this money.'"

Then, in late 2014, oil prices crashed. The rig count plunged from more than 260 to fewer than 50 by early 2016. The unemployment rate jumped from 4.8 percent to 12.1 percent this past August, the highest in the Gulf Coast region.

Falling revenues, rising needs

"For Rent" signs went up on trailers and ramshackle houses. Idled drilling equipment littered yards on the outskirts of town. Hotels emptied out, and Brush Country Bank's parking lot filled up with repossessed cars.

The local pawn shop was so busy it had to send excess inventory to the Rio Grande Valley.

Please see **FREER**/3F

Planned OPEC production cut bringing out the bulls

Bloomberg

Investors are the most optimistic on oil since the slump began two and a half years ago.

Money managers boosted bets on rising West Texas Intermediate crude prices to the highest level since July 2014 after the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and producers outside the group agreed to coordinate crude production cuts.

"There's been a full embrace of the OPEC, non-OPEC deal," John Kilduff, a partner at Again Capital LLC, a New York-based hedge fund that focuses on energy, said by telephone. "They are being given the benefit of the doubt. The consensus is that supplies will tighten quickly, and as a result investors are positioning for higher prices in the near term."

Hedge funds increased wagers on rising WTI by 2.5 percent in the week ending Dec. 13, U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission data show, while shorts, or bets on lower prices, tumbled 30 percent to the lowest level since May.

OPEC agreed on Nov. 30 in Vienna to reduce output by 1.2 million barrels a day to 32.5 million for six months starting in January. On Dec. 10, the group was joined by other producers, including Russia and Kazakhstan, which pledged to trim supply by 558,000 barrels a day.

Target adherence

"Money managers have loaded up on the long side of the market," Tim Evans, an energy analyst at Citi Futures Perspective in New York, said by telephone. "They are looking for higher prices and therefore their fortunes are closely linked to the rate of compliance to these production cuts."

In the past, OPEC countries and their partners have often struggled to fully deliver promised output cuts due to a reluctance to cede sales volumes and market share to competitors. Former Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi said on Dec. 2 that, in the history of OPEC agreements, "the unfortunate part is we tend to cheat."

Oil stockpiles will decline by about 600,000 barrels a day in the next six

Please see **BULLS**/3F

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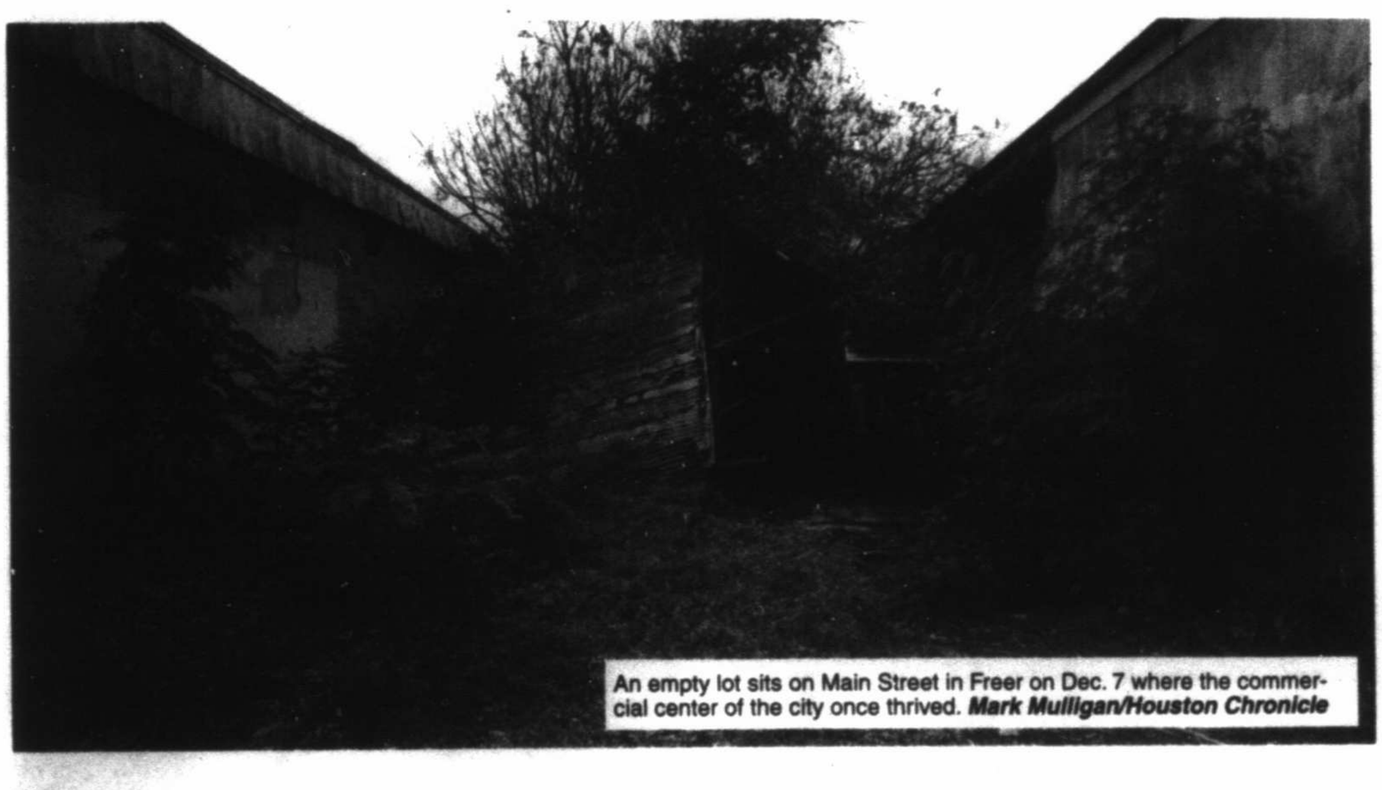
Merry Christmas to the Basin!

LITTLE IGNACIO PARDUE OF KERMIT, TEXAS FINALLY GETS THE DRUM HE WAS WANTING FOR CHRISTMAS.....

MID-WEEK WTI AVERAGE PRICES

Posted	**$48.30**	**Sunoco***	**$47.50**
Flint Hills Resources*	**$47.50**	**Nymex futures**	**$51.84***
Phillips 66	**$47.66**		
Plains*	**$47.50**	Net price without transportation charge	
Shell Trading	**$47.70**	Note: Posted prices as of Dec. 14	



An empty lot sits on Main Street in Freer on Dec. 7 where the commercial center of the city once thrived. ***Mark Mulligan/Houston Chronicle***

FREER

From 2F

Those who could leave, left; the population is down more than 15 percent since 2000. Others tried to hang on as unemployment benefits dwindled.

"I don't think people thought that the oil would hit this quick," said Kunstler of the flower shop. "When you get a $5,000 check every month for years, and it goes down to $700, that's a big change."

The bust took a toll on the city's finances. Sales tax revenues were cut in half. So was the staff at City Hall, which fell from 28 to 15. Along with slower services, the town's residents noticed the little things, like not being able to afford the fireworks display on the Fourth of July.

County government was in trouble, too — both property valuations and tax collections declined, since residents couldn't pay their bills. Duval County cut its $17 million budget by about 10 percent, releasing defendants from jail early, delaying road maintenance and idling squad cars to save on fuel.

As revenues fell, needs for services rose. The county and local churches restarted a food bank that a year and a half earlier hadn't been needed. Today, it serves 200 people.

The community also experienced a rise in petty crimes, which Ana Garcia, Freer's city manager, speculated was caused by hard times after the bust.

"The oilfield trickles down," she said. "People are hungry and hurting. I know the amount of security systems that have been sold are on the rise."

Trying to diversify

A few cities in rural South Texas have tried to diversify their economies, soften the blow of energy cycles.

Gonzales, for example, has made over its historic downtown on the banks of the Guadalupe River to build its tourism industry. Cotulla is applying to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to create a free trade zone, which could attract importers and manufacturers by deferring tariffs.

Freer is trying to branch out, too, catering to deer hunters who come in the fall to stay at surrounding ranches charging thousands of dollars to kill a mature whitetail. Shane Smith, whose family has run a hunting supply store for 24 years, said the city could play that up — by posting big "Welcome, Hunters!" signs at the gateways to town, for example. Still, he admits, outdoor recreation won't be enough.

"We all know that, in our town, the biggest economy is the oilfield," he said.

But a related industry might provide an answer. Last month, Houston-based Raven Petroleum purchased 800 acres along a rail line roughly 50 miles southeast of Freer and said it would build a $500 million refinery to export gasoline, jet fuel, diesel, and liquefied petroleum gas to Mexico. The project would create 1,500 jobs during construction, scheduled to start in early 2017, as well as about 400 well-paid permanent jobs.

For the last year and a half, Ricardo Carrillo, a soft-spoken county judge, has sought such an opportunity for Duval County by promoting access to the Kansas City Southern rail system, which extends from the Midwest, through the county and down to southern Mexico.

Mexico, in recent years, has opened its energy markets to both production by foreign oil companies and imports of foreign fuels. A spokeswoman for Kansas City Southern said the railroad has seen increased traffic of refined fuels to Mexico, which could ramp up further as facilities are built south of the border to handle more railcars.

"The one thing I kept telling my office was, the biggest asset we have is the railway," said Carrillo, sitting in his office in San Diego, the county seat, where the courthouse's window frames are chipping and the light at the main entrance is secured with duct tape.

Looking for a selling point

The new refinery would double the county's property tax base, and drive down taxes for everybody else by 40 percent because of the state-mandated revenue cap, according to Carrillo.

And Carrillo doesn't think Raven will be the last business coming to the county. Another company, T&R Terminals, has announced plans for a facility on the rail line to load fuels from trucks onto railcars.

The energy trade with Mexico could be a lifeline for Freer, which is strategizing ways to attract people who might come to work for the Raven refinery, which would be built about a half-hour away.

Freer's selling point: a strong public school system. Over the last few years, Freer Independent School District has built an accelerated college program, which allows teenagers to earn credits at a community college in Laredo. It used to be that kids could get jobs in the oilfield right out of high school — but no longer.

"That's a tough argument to fight," said the district superintendent, Steve van Matre. "And we're not having to fight that as much as we have in the past."

Last year, 100 percent of the graduating class went to college or joined the military — an impressive achievement for a rural community. In combination with a fresh source of jobs, Garcia, the city manager, hopes the schools will help Freer reverse its longterm decline.

"My dream is that people will start noticing that and move here," she said. "And if they move here, the houses for rent will no longer be for rent."

BULLS

From 2F

months as curbs by OPEC and its partners take effect, the International Energy Agency said in a monthly report on Dec. 13. The IEA previously assumed inventories wouldn't drop until the end of 2017. OPEC said a day later that the production curbs won't result in demand exceeding supply until the second half of next year.

"If OPEC doesn't adhere closely to the production cuts and supply exceeds demand in the first half of 2017, these money managers won't be happy," Evans said.

Money managers' net-long position in WTI rose by 32,661 futures and options to 303,146, a fifth week of increases. In fuel markets, net-bullish bets on gasoline slipped 4.6 percent to 38,625 contracts, as futures advanced 1 percent in the report week. Money managers increased net-bullish wagers on ultra low sulfur diesel by 11 percent to 26,975 contracts, the highest since July 2014, as futures climbed 2.2 percent.

U.S. oil companies are using the rally to hedge their price risk for the next two years, potentially boosting output next year. Producers' short positions, protecting against a drop in prices, increased to 670,158 contracts, the most since August 2007.

In November 2014, Saudi Arabia led OPEC in adopting a pump-at-will policy. The group, which supplies roughly 40 percent of the world's crude, decided to fight for market share against higher-cost rivals such as U.S. shale producers, exacerbating a price collapse.

"The Saudis have decided to take the steps needed to end the two-year glut," Kilduff said. "Investors are counting on it."

Petroleum Professional Development Center

All classes will be held at the PPDC, 221 N. Main St.

To see more classes and to register, go to the Midland College PPDC's Website: www.midland.edu/ppdc

PPDC Courses

Midland College Closed December 19th through January 2nd for Christmas and New Year Holidays.

Continuous Gas Lift
Instructor: Juan Alvarez
Start Date: January 9-11, 2017 - Monday - Wednesday - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cost: $950; Out of State: $975

On-Line Land Management Certificate Program: Module 4 of 6: Title: Oil & Gas Law and Its Impact on Land Practices
Instructor: Alyce Hoge
Start Date: Jan 9 - Feb 4, 2017 Registration Deadline: Noon, Jan 9, 2017
Cost: See PPDC website for more information on course fees for new and returning students: www.midland.edu/ppdc

On-Line Division Order Certificate Program: Module 4 of 6: Calculations
Instructor: Sherry Robinson
Start Date: Jan 9- Feb 4, 2017 Registration Deadline: Noon, Jan 9, 2017
Cost: See PPDC website for more information on course fees for new and returning students: www.midland.edu/ppdc

Petra Fundamentals
Instructor: Greg Hinterlong
Start Date: January 12th - 13, 2017 - Thurs -Fri, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: $625, Out of State $650

CO2 and ROZ School
Instructor: Stephen L. Melzer
Start Date: January 17th - 20th, 2017 - Tuesday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: $1,895; Out of State $1,920

CO2 and ROZ School - Day 3
Instructor: Stephen L. Melzer
Start Date: January 19, 2017 -Thursday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: $1,000; Out of State $1,025

CO2 and ROZ School - Day 4
Instructor: Stephen L. Melzer
Start Date: January 20, 2017 - Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: $1,000; Out of State $1,025

Overview of the Energy Business, Including History, Present and Future
Instructor: Dr. Patrick Fitzgerald
Start Date: January 17, 2017 - Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cost: $350; Out of State $375

Regulatory Commission, New Legal, Regulatory and Environmental Concerns
Instructor: Dr. Patrick Fitzgerald
Start Date: January 18, 2017 - Wednesday - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cost: $350; Out of State $375

Raising/Spending Money - Lenders, Investors and Other Decision Makers
Instructor: Dr. Patrick Fitzgerald
Start Date: January 19, 2017 - Thursday - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cost: $350; Out of State $375

IHS Markit: Petra Advanced Cross Sections and Correlation Techniques
Start Date: January 24 - 25, 2017 - Tues - Weds - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cost: $1600
Register directly with IHS Markit on the PPDC Website: www.midland.edu/ppdc

Petroleum Land Management
Instructor: Alyce Hoge
Start Date: January 25th -26th, 2017 - Weds-Thurs - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cost: $649, Out of State $674

Measurement While Drilling/ Logging While Drilling for Unconventional Reservoirs
Instructor: Jeff Prilliman
Start Date: January 25, 2017 Wednesday - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Location: Midland College Carrasco Room
Cost: $25 (Lunch Included); Out of State $50

Well Control Drilling/Workover (Well Sharp)
Instructor: Larry Chapman
Start Date: January 30 - February 3, 2017 - Mon - Fri, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: $800; Out of State $825

Petroleum Geology for Non Geologists
Instructor: Paul Pause
Start Date: January 30th - February 2, 2017 - Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cost: $1860; Out of State $1835

On-Line Land Management Certificate Program: Module 5 of 6: Title: Legally Enforceable Oil & Gas Contracts
Instructor: Alyce Hoge
Start Date: February 7 - March 4, 2017 Registration Deadline: Noon, Feb 7, 2017
See PPDC website for more information on course fees for new and returning students: www.midland.edu/ppdc

On-Line Division Order Certificate Program: Module 5 of 6: Oil & Gas Law
Instructor: Alyce Hoge
Start Date: February 7 - March 4, 2017 Registration Deadline: Noon, Feb 7, 2017
Cost: $612.50; Out of State, $637.50

Basic Oilfield Operations
Instructor: Albert Garza
Start Date: February 8th - February 9th, 2017 - Weds - Thursday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: $475; Out of State $500

PHDWin
Instructor: Celia Houston
Start Date: February 14- 15, 2017, Tuesday - Wednesday - 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Cost: $625; Out of State $650

Energy Land Management
Instructor: Patrick Fitzgerald
Start Date: February 21-22, 2017 - Tuesday - Wednesday - 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Cost: $675; Out of State $700

Petra Fundamentals
Instructor: Greg Hinterlong
Start Date: February 23 -24, 2017 - Thursday - Friday - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: $625, Out of State $650

Critical Title Issues for Petroleum Land Management
Instructor: Patrick Fitzgerald
Start Date: February 23, 2017 - Thursday - 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Cost: $675; Out of State $700

PetroSkills: Geochemistry: Tools for Effective Exploration - MGT
Instructor: Dr. Mark A. McCaffrey
Start Date: March 6, 2017 End Date: March 10, 2017 - Mon - Friday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: $4,000; Register directly with PetroSkills on the PPDC Website: www.midland.edu/ppdc

On-Line Division Order Certificate Program: Module 6 of 6: Oil & Gas Contracts
Instructor: Alyce Hoge
Start Date: March 7 - April 1, 2017 Registration Deadline: Noon, March 7, 2017
Cost: $612.50; Out of State, $637.50

On-Line Land Management Certificate Program: Module 6 of 6: Title: Federal Laws that Impact the Oil & Gas Industry
Instructor: Alyce Hoge
Start Date: March 7 - April 1, 2017 Registration Deadline: Noon, March 7, 2017
See PPDC website for more information on course fees for new and returning students: www.midland.edu/ppdc

Oilfield Terminology
Instructor: Tommy Lent
Start Date: March 7-8, 2017 - Tuesday - Wednesday - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cost: $430; Out of State $455

Well Control Drilling/Workover (Well Sharp)
Instructor: Larry Chapman
Start Date: March 20, 2017 - March 24, 2017, Mon - Fri, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: $1200; Out of State $1225

Introduction to Log Interpretation
Instructor: Gary Batcheller
Start Date: March 20 - 22, 2017 - Monday - Wednesday - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: $1095; Out of State $1120

Managing Sucker Rod Lift Well Failures
Instructor: Kent Gantz
Start Date: March 21, 2017 - Tuesday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cost: $350; Out of State $375

Introduction to Well Completion Design
Instructor: Gary Batcheller
Start Date: March 23-24, 2017 - Thursday - Friday - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. -Thursday; 8 am to Noon - Friday
Cost: $695; Out of State $720

IHS Markit: Petra Advanced Mapping Techniques
Start Date: March 28th - 29, 2017 - Tues - Weds - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cost: $1600
Register directly with IHS Markit on the PPDC Website: www.midland.edu/ppdc

Petroleum Engineering for Non Engineers
Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Miskimins
Start Date: March 29 -30, 2017 - Wednesday - Thursday - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cost: $695; Out of State $720

IHS Markit: Petra Project Management Techniques
Start Date: March 30th - Weds - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cost: $700
Register directly with IHS Markit on the PPDC Website: www.midland.edu/ppdc

On-Line Land Management Certificate Program - Module 1 of 6 Modules: Title: Intro to Land Management
Instructor: Alyce Hoge
Start Date: April 3, 2017; End Date: April 28, 2017; Registration Deadline: Noon, April 3, 2017
See PPDC website for more information on course fees for new and returning students: www.midland.edu/ppdc

How will the oil and gas industry do in 2017?

By David Hunn
Houston Chronicle

U.S. independent oil and gas drillers will lead the industry out of survival mode in 2017, according to a new report from an energy research firm.

Oil and gas companies that survived the 2-year-old oil price crash have cut their operating expenses in half, paid off debt and increased cash flow, the energy research firm Wood Mackenzie said on Monday. Most will make money in 2017 for the first time since the downturn, according to the report — but only if oil prices hold above $55 a barrel.

U.S. independent exploration and production companies will respond first to rising prices. Operators in the lower 48 states have three competitive advantages, the report said: access to capital, low-cost oil and gas acreage, and the ability to scale back spending if prices dip.

They could increase investment by more than 25 percent if oil prices average above $50 a barrel, the report said. Sixty corporations will grow production by an average of 2 percent next year, "which is impressive," the firms says, since development spending was slashed by more than 40 percent between 2014 and 2016.

The rebound still won't be quick, said Tom Ellacott, WoodMac's senior vice president of corporate analysis. He called it a "cautious, U-shaped recovery."

Companies are going to focus on boosting savings, reducing debt, cutting expenses and modestly increasing production. Spending by the major oil companies — ExxonMobil, Chevron, Shell, etc. — will fall by 8 percent as big capital projects wind down.

Still, all of that means some companies — now leaner and more productive — will be more attractive for corporate mergers and acquisitions.

"Overall 2017 will be a year of stability and opportunity for oil and gas companies in positions of financial strength," Ellacott said. "More players will look at opportunities to adapt and grow their portfolios."

KLR to combine with Tema Oil and Gas, take company public

By David Hunn
Houston Chronicle

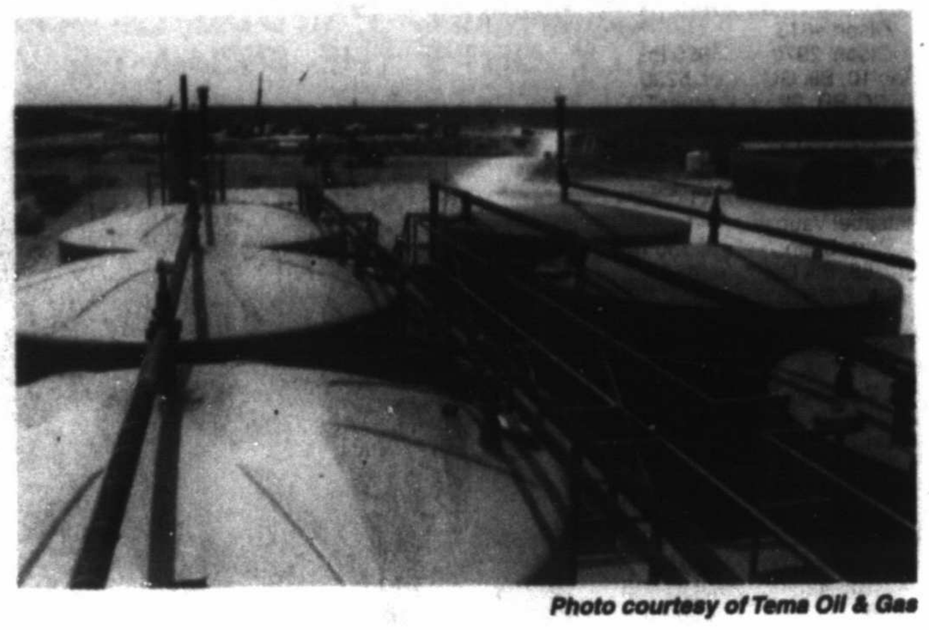


Photo courtesy of Tema Oil & Gas

A Tema Oil & Gas hydraulic fracturing site in the Delaware Basin desert in 2013.

West Texas' popular Delaware Basin is about to get busier.

A public affiliate of the investment bank KLR Group is combining with a portion of the Houston-based Tema Oil and Gas Co. and focusing on the Delaware.

The new company, to be renamed Rosehill Resources and publicly traded under the ticker ROSE, will "significantly accelerate" drilling on Tema's acreage in the Delaware, the announcement said, and also buy other Delaware-focused companies.

Rosehill will issue $95 million in stock. KLR will buy about 40 percent of the equity for $35 million, assume $55 million in debt and contribute some cash.

Tema's current owner, the Baltimore-based holding and investment company Rosemore, will retain $310 million in equity and become Rosehill's largest stockholder. KLR will seat two representatives on its board of directors.

Gary Hanna, chief executive of KLR affiliate KLR Energy, will serve as Rosehill's chairman. Tema's management team will serve at Rosehill. Tema President Alan Townsend will become CEO.

"Following the business combination, we will immediately begin to accelerate development of the Tema assets," Townsend said in a statement, "while also pursuing focused acquisitions."

KLR values the company at $445 million, and projects Rosehill will have $117 million in cash to fund its development plan.

Tema holds 4,771 acres in the core of the Delaware Basin, the companies said, with 70 million barrels of oil and gas reserves. The companies estimate Rosehill will have 200 potential drilling locations on current leases, including multiple underground layers stretching 3,000 feet in thickness. They expect oil and gas production to crest 6,000 barrels a day by January.

KLR Energy stockholders must approve the sale, expected to close in the first half of 2017.

Tema Oil and Gas will remain operating in several other fields in Texas, including some in Cochran, Crockett, and Val Verde counties.

PAID CONTENT

around the oil patch

To appear in *Around the Oil Patch* call Paul Wiseman at 697-7468 or your Oil Report account executive at 687-9004.

Are you on the EPA's methane ICR list? If so, call the LDAR experts at OTA Compression

For several years the EPA has been ramping up efforts to trap volatile organic emissions and other gases from storage and compression sites. As of the spring of 2016 they turned their sights to methane leaks at oil and gas wells—and they've selected the operators of 2,757 wells for an Information Collection Request (ICR) to, in their words, "require oil and natural gas companies to provide extensive information needed to develop regulations to reduce methane emissions from existing oil and gas sources.

"In addition, the agency announced plans to issue a Request for Information to seek information on innovative strategies that can accurately and cost-effectively locate, measure and mitigate methane emissions.

Another EPA publication explains what facilities it wants to learn about: "The ICR seeks information from the following segments of the oil and gas industry: onshore production, gathering and boosting, gas processing, transmission, storage, and liquefied natural gas (LNG) import/export."

In short, if you received one of the EPA notifications you have a set amount of time to report methane leaks—and the EPA is also asking for help in deciding how best to reduce them.

While previously regulating VOCs and related emissions the EPA discovered that a bigger issue was methane emissions at the tens of thousands of oil and gas wells across the US. By accounting for and dealing with these emissions they expect to reduce them by 510,000 short tons of methane by 2025.

Compliance is not optional, even with an upcoming administration change. OTA's Lead, Environmental Services, Gabriel Kent, points out that changing or revoking previous administrations' rulings is a long an challenging process.

Using advanced equipment such as FLIR cameras OTA Compression experts can help you meet the EPA's ICR deadlines if you've been selected to participate. Call OTA at 972-835-6383 or 432-270-4157.

Compliance deadlines range from 30-180 days depending on the information required.

How can OTA help? Their state-of-the-art Leak Detection and Remediation teams use FLIR cameras to locate leaks that are undetectable with standard Audible, Visual, Olfactory (AVO) methods.

Compliance includes cataloging and numbering every possible leak source and supplying test results for it. The purpose of the ICR is to establish base numbers around which the EPA can build future limits.

And this is just the beginning. Does this sound overwhelming? Can you spare the people, the expense of equipment and time to first LEARN the rules then comply?

OTA Compression's LDAR (Leak Detection and Remediation) team, experts at Quad 0-A, Section 111 (d) of the Clean Air Act and other regulations, can help you with all aspects of ICR and more. They can catalog and test your applicable equipment then give you a report satisfying all EPA requirements—no more and no less.

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AP file photo

Cattle graze around an idle pump jack on a South Texas ranch near Bigfoot on May 17.

Texas RRCD 7C

Crockett County

Aspen Operating Company LLC
Olson #613
Olson; 2970 fwl, 4950 fnl, Sec 10, Blk GG, Abst. 5236, T&NO RR, 32 nw Ozona; TD 2415; API #42-105-35145 Permit issued 11/16

Bonfire Operating LLC
Isabel Vaughn #4
Pure-Bean; 330 fsl, 330 fwl, Sec 88, Blk OP, Abst. 4843, GC&SF RR, 9 nw Ozona; TD 1499; API #42-105-42341 Permit issued 11/29

EP Energy E&P Company LP
University Salt Draw #3820AH
Lin (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 8605 fnl, 11188 fwl, Sec 20, Blk 38, Abst. 262U, ULS, 7.3 se Barnhart; TD 8999; API #42-105-42342 Permit issued 12/16

EP Energy E&P Company LP
University Salt Draw #3820FH
Lin (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 8604 fnl, 11288 fwl, Sec 20, Blk 38, Abst. 262U, ULS, 7.3 se Barnhart; TD 8999; API #42-105-42347 Permit issued 12/16

EP Energy E&P Company LP
University Salt Draw #3820BH
Lin (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 8604 fnl, 11208 fwl, Sec 20, Blk 38, Abst. 262U, ULS, 7.3 se Barnhart; TD 8999; API #42-105-42343 Permit issued 12/16

EP Energy E&P Company LP
University Salt Draw #3820CH
Lin (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 8604 fnl, 11228 fwl, Sec 20, Blk 38, Abst. 262U, ULS, 7.3 se Barnhart; TD 8999; API #42-105-42344 Permit issued 12/16

EP Energy E&P Company LP
University Salt Draw #3820DH
Lin (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 8604 fnl, 11248 fwl, Sec 20, Blk 38, Abst. 262U, ULS, 7.3 se Barnhart; TD 8999; API #42-105-42345 Permit issued 12/16

EP Energy E&P Company LP
University Salt Draw #3820EH
Lin (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 8604 fnl, 11268 fwl, Sec 20, Blk 38, Abst. 262U, ULS, 7.3 se Barnhart; TD 8999; API #42-105-42346 Permit issued 12/16

Remuda Operating Company
Bean Consolidated #V2
Pure-Bean South; 2321 fnl, 330 fsl, Sec 88, Blk OP, Abst. 4843, GC&SF RR, 9 nw Ozona; TD 1500; API #42-105-42339 Permit issued 11/29

Irion County

Broad Oak Energy II LLC
Lange AB Pooled Unit #N044HM
Lin (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 2081 fwl, 645 fnl, Sec 10, Blk 1, Abst. 988, H&TC RR, 10 nw Mertzon; TD 9000; API #42-235-36154 Permit issued 11/30

Permian Resources LLC
Woods 1 #2122HA
Lin (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 350 fnl, 271 fel, Sec 218, Blk 1, Abst. 1188, T&P RR, 7.03 nw Barnhart; TD 7500; API #42-235-36153 Permit issued 11/10

Tracker Resource Development III LLC
Barnhart 76N78 #1LU
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 990 fwl, 300 fnl, Sec 76, Blk 14, Abst. 968, H&TC RR, 20.3 w Mertzon; TD 7200; API #42-235-36155 Permit issued 12/13

Tracker Resource Development III LLC
Barnhart 76N78 #2LM
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 990 fwl, 325 fnl, Sec 76, Blk 14, Abst. 968, H&TC RR, 20.3 w Mertzon; TD 7500; API #42-235-36158 Permit issued 12/13

Tracker Resource Development III LLC
Barnhart 76N78 #3LU
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 990 fwl, 350 fnl, Sec 76, Blk 14, Abst. 968, H&TC RR, 20.3 w Mertzon; TD 7200; API #42-235-36156 Permit issued 12/13

Reagan County

Bold Operating LLC
Bold Sinclair Unit 8 #1H
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 300 fnl, 330 fel, Sec 13, Blk 2, Abst. 460, T&P RR, 15.5 nw Big Lake; TD 10500; API #42-383-39649 Permit issued 12/16

Bold Operating LLC
Bold TSRH Unit 28S #4H
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 2250 fnl, 2191 fwl, Sec 28, Blk 1, Abst. 448, T&P RR, 14.4 n Big Lake; TD 9400; API #42-383-39753 Permit issued 12/15

Bold Operating LLC
Bold TSRH Unit 28S #5H
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 2250 fnl, 2231 fwl, Sec 28, Blk 1, Abst. 448, T&P RR, 14.4 n Big Lake; TD 9400; API #42-383-39754 Permit issued 12/16

Bold Operating LLC
Bold TSRH Unit 28S #6H
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 2250 fnl, 2271 fwl, Sec 28, Blk 1, Abst. 448, T&P RR, 14.4 n Big Lake; TD 9400; API #42-383-39755 Permit issued 12/16

BTA Oil Producers LLC
Texaco-Coates A Unit 3 #1HM
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 2370 fsl, 1408 fwl, Sec 5, Abst. 31, J.W. Bills, 8.2 n Big Lake; TD 8000; API #42-383-39749 Permit issued 12/14

BTA Oil Producers LLC
Texaco-Coates A Unit 4 #1HM
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 2370 fsl, 1368 fwl, Sec 5, Abst. 31, J.W. Bills, 8.2 n Big Lake; TD 8000; API #42-383-39750 Permit issued 12/15

EP Energy E&P Company LP
University Central #0112LH
Lin (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 310 fnl, 664 fwl, Sec 12, Blk 1, Abst. 12U, ULS, 13.2 w Big Lake; TD 8999; API #42-383-39737 Permit issued 11/18

EP Energy E&P Company LP
University Central #0112MH
Lin(Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 310 fnl, 684 fwl, Sec 12, Blk 1, Abst. 12U, ULS, 13.1 w Big Lake; TD 8999; API #42-383-39738 Permit issued 11/18

EP Energy E&P Company LP
University Central #0112NH
Lin (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 310 fnl, 704 fwl, Sec 12, Blk 1, Abst. 12U, ULS, 13.1 w Big Lake; TD 8999; API #42-383-39739 Permit issued 11/18

EP Energy E&P Company LP
University Central #0112OH
Lin (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; Sec 12, Blk 1, Abst. 12U, ULS, 13.2 w Big Lake; TD 8999; API #42-383-39740 Permit issued 11/18

Laredo Petroleum Inc.
Sugg -D- #1046NM
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 9050 fnl, 1407 fel, Sec 104, Blk 2, Abst. 263, T&P RR, 26 n Big Lake; TD 9000; API #42-383-39751 Permit issued 12/16

Laredo Petroleum Inc.
Sugg -D- #1047NU
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 9051 fnl, 1382 fel, Sec 104, Blk 2, Abst. 263, T&P RR, 26 n Big Lake; TD 9000; API #42-383-39752 Permit issued 12/16

Oxy USA WTP LP
Hawker 1501A #1H
Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC-Horizontal; 400 fsl, 5821 fwl, Sec 15, Blk B, Abst. 290, L&SV RR, 22.9 sw Garden City; TD 12500; API #42-383-39735 Permit issued 12/15

Oxy USA WTP LP
Hawker 1501A #1H
Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC-Horizontal; 400 fsl, 5861 fwl, Sec 15, Blk B, Abst. 290, L&SV RR, 22.9 sw Garden City; TD 12500; API #42-383-39736 Permit issued 11/10

Oxy USA WTP LP
Vespucci 904A #1H
Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC-Horizontal; 226 fsl, 1811 fel, Sec 9, Blk B, Abst. 287, L&SV RR, 22 sw Garden City; TD 12500; API #42-383-39741 Permit issued 12/13

Oxy USA WTP LP
Vespucci 904BL #2H
Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC-Horizontal; 235 fsl, 1771 fel, Sec 9, Blk B, Abst. 287, L&SV RR, 22 sw Garden City; TD 12500; API #42-383-39756 Permit issued 12/16

Parsley Energy Operations LLC
Julie Hughes 8 #4202H
Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC-Horizontal; 224 fnl, 508 fwl, Sec 8, Abst. 676, GC&SF RR, 12.7 n Big Lake; TD 7780; API #42-383-39757 Permit issued 12/16

Parsley Energy Operations LLC
Kathryn "43-42" #4407H
Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC-Horizontal; 475 fnl, 2310 fwl, Sec 6, Blk D, Abst. 732, L&SV RR, 25.5 nw Big Lake; TD 9375; API #42-383-39676 Permit issued 12/13

Permian Resources LLC
Hughes West #113HK
Lin (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 314 fsl, 1651 fwl, Sec 11, Abst. 176, GC&SF RR, 4.33 w Big Lake; TD 8630; API #42-383-39742 Permit issued 12/2

Permian Resources LLC
Hughes West #111HS
Lin (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 306 fsl, 1690 fwl, Sec 11, Abst. 176, GC&SF RR, 4.33 w Big Lake; TD 8500; API #42-383-39744 Permit issued 12/2

Permian Resources LLC
Hughes West #112HA
Lin (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 310 fsl, 1690 fwl, Sec 11, Abst. 176, GC&SF RR, 4.33 w Big Lake; TD 8350; API #42-383-39743 Permit issued 12/6

Permian Resources LLC
Tucker Unit 1 RE 1 184 #17HA
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 310 fnl, 1927 fwl, Sec 184, Blk 1, Abst. 907, T&P RR, 10.3 ne Big Lake; TD 7225; API #42-383-39455 Permit issued 12/1

SEM Operating Company LLC
University 9 #2816WB
Lin (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 7112 fnl, 7182 fel, Sec 28, Blk 9, Abst. 198U, ULS, 9.4 nw Big Lake; TD 9000; API #42-383-39745 Permit issued 12/14

SEM Operating Company LLC
University 9 #2820WA
Lin (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 7112 fnl, 7152 fel, Sec 28, Blk 9, Abst. 198U, ULS, 9.4 nw Big Lake; TD 9000; API #42-383-39746 Permit issued 12/15

SEM Operating Company LLC
University 9 #2814WB
Lin (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 7112 fnl, 7122 fel, Sec 28, Blk 9, Abst. 198U, ULS, 9.4 nw Big Lake; TD 9000; API #42-383-39747 Permit issued 12/14

SEM Operating Company LLC
University 9 #2822WA
Lin (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 7112 fnl, 7092 fel, Sec 28, Blk 9, Abst. 198U, ULS, 9.4 nw Big Lake; TD 9000; API #42-383-39748 Permit issued 12/14

Tom Green County

Banner Operating LLC
Livingston #1101
Funk (San Andres); 1575 fsl, 660 fel, Sec 11, Blk 5, Abst. 892, H&TC RR, 20 nw San Angelo; TD 2000; API #42-451-32851 Permit issued 11/22

Maverick Operating LLC
Flying B Ranch #2
Garden City South (Wolfcamp); 445 fwl, 2434 fnl, Sec 86, Blk 6, Abst. 8672, H&TC RR, 19 sw Water Valley; TD 7000; API #42-451-32852 Permit issued 12/16

Upton County

Apache Corporation
Connell 47 #2HM
Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC-Horizontal; 249 fsl, 945 fwl, Sec 38, Blk 39, T-5-S, Abst. 1181, T&P RR, 22.4 ne Rankin; TD 10000; API #42-461-40463 Permit issued 11/10

Apache Corporation
Connell 47 #1HM
Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC-Horizontal; 249 fsl, 900 fwl, Sec 38, Blk 39, T-5-S, Abst. 1181, T&P RR, 22.4 ne Rankin; TD 10000; API #42-461-40307 Permit issued 11/10

Apache Corporation
Connell 47 #3HM
Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC-Horizontal; 249 fsl, 990 fwl, Sec 38, Blk 39, T-5-S, Abst. 1181, T&P RR, 22 ne Rankin; TD 10000; API #42-461-40479 Permit issued 12/6

Apache Corporation
Connell 47 #4HM
Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC-Horizontal; 249 fsl, 1497 fwl, Sec 38, Blk 39, T-5-S, Abst. 1181, T&P RR, 22.4 ne Rankin; TD 10000; API #42-461-40476 Permit issued 12/6

Apache Corporation
Connell 47 #5HM
Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC-Horizontal; 249 fsl, 1542 fwl, Sec 38, Blk 39, T-5-S, Abst. 1181, T&P RR, 22.4 se Rankin; TD 10000; API #42-461-40477 Permit issued 12/6

Apache Corporation
Connell 47 #6HM
Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC-Horizontal; 249 fsl, 1587 fwl, Sec 38, Blk 39, T-5-S, Abst. 1181, T&P RR, 22.4 se Rankin; TD 10000; API #42-461-40478 Permit issued 12/8

Apache Corporation
Stone 5202D (ALLOC) #6H
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 1570 fnl, 1308 fwl, Sec 52, Abst. 1241, GC&SF RR, 3.2 se Rankin; TD 11000; API #42-461-40480 Permit issued 12/13

Bold Operating LLC
Bold Neal 9 #1H
Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC-Horizontal; 330 fsl, 1647 fel, Sec 14, Blk 4-1/2, Abst. 593, GC&SF RR, 10.9 ne Rankin; TD 11000; API #42-461-40481 Permit issued 12/6

Bold Operating LLC
Bold Neal 9 #2H
Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC-Horizontal; 330 fsl, 1607 fel, Sec 14, Blk 4-1/2, Abst. 593, GC&SF RR, 10.9 ne Rankin; TD 10000; API #42-461-40475 Permit issued 12/6

COG Operating LLC
Vanessa P1 Unit #5228AH
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 330 fnl, 2605 fwl, Sec 51, Blk C, Abst. 36, CCSD&RGNG, 18 sw Midkiff; TD 10500; API #42-461-40392 Permit issued 11/10

COG Operating LLC
Vanessa P1 Unit #5202BH
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 330 fnl, 2645 fel, Sec 51, Blk C, Abst. 36, CCSD&RGNG, 18 sw Midkiff; TD 10500; API #42-461-40393 Permit issued 11/17

Parsley Energy Operations LLC
Welch Trust 8 #4409H
Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC-Horizontal; 500 fsl, 2085 fel, Sec 7, Blk D, Abst. 124, D&W RR, 26.3 nw Big Lake; TD 9450; API #42-461-40464 Permit issued 11/10

Parsley Energy Operations LLC
Dusek 5 #4214H
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 475 fnl, 260 fel, Sec 8, Blk 39, T-5-S, Abst. 1493, T&P RR, 9.4 sw Midkiff; TD 9750; API #42-461-40465 Permit issued 11/17

Parsley Energy Operations LLC
Dusek 5 #4413H
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 475 fnl, 290 fel, Sec 8, Blk 39, T-5-S, Abst. 1493, T&P RR, 9.4 sw Midkiff; TD 10175; API #42-461-40466 Permit issued 11/18

Parsley Energy Operations LLC
Ratliff 28 #4213H
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 500 fsl, 396 fel, Sec 21, Blk 39, T-5-S, Abst. 433, T&P RR, 25.1 n Rankin; TD 9567; API #42-461-40474 Permit issued 12/1

Parsley Energy Operations LLC
Ratliff 28 #4215H
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 440 fsl, 396 fel, Sec 21, Blk 39, T-5-S, Abst. 433, T&P RR, 25.1 n Rankin; TD 9567; API #42-461-40471 Permit issued 12/2

Parsley Energy Operations LLC
Ratliff 28 #4413H
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 530 fsl, 396 fel, Sec 21, Blk 39, T-5-S, Abst. 433, T&P RR, 25.1 n Rankin; TD 10069; API #42-461-40473 Permit issued 12/2

Parsley Energy Operations LLC
Ratliff 28 #4415H
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 470 fsl, 396 fel, Sec 21, Blk 39, T-5-S, Abst. 433, T&P RR, 25.1 n Rankin; TD 9994; API #42-461-40472 Permit issued 12/2

Silver Creek Oil & Gas LLC
Snickers (A) #1H
McElroy-Horizontal; 200 fnl, 430 fwl, Sec 100, Abst. 1271, Mrs. F.G. Howard, 20.7 nw Rankin; TD 3800; API #42-461-40451 Permit issued 12/16

Silver Creek Oil & Gas LLC
Crunch #4H
McElroy-Horizontal; 5081 fnl, 2534 fel, Sec 100, Abst. 1271, Mrs. F.G. Howard, 19.8 w Rankin; TD 3800; API #42-461-40462 Permit issued 12/16

SM Energy Company
Wilma Dorcus (SA) J #2979WB
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 892 fnl, 1026 fel, Sec 41, Blk 41, T-4-S, Abst. 482, T&P RR, 21.4 w Midkiff; TD 10200; API #42-461-40436 Permit issued 12/2

SM Energy Company
Wilma Dorcus (SA) K #2980WB
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 876 fnl, 1001 fel, Sec 41, Blk 41, T-4-S, Abst. 482, T&P RR, 21.4 w Midkiff; TD 10200; API #42-461-40437 Permit issued 12/2

SM Energy Company
Wilma Dorcus (SA) L #2981WB
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 860 fnl, 976 fel, Sec 41, Blk 41, T-4-S, Abst. 482, T&P RR, 21.4 w Midkiff; TD 10200; API #42-461-40438 Permit issued 12/2

SM Energy Company
Judy Julibeth (SA) C #1372WB
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 563 fnl, 1523 fwl, Sec 25, Blk 42, T-4-S, Abst. 510, T&P RR, 27.2 sw Midland; TD 10200; API #42-461-40414 Permit issued 12/6

SM Energy Company
Judy Julibeth (SA) D #1373WB
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 592 fnl, 1531 fwl, Sec 25, Blk 42, T-4-S, Abst. 510, T&P RR, 27.2 sw Midland; TD 10200; API #42-461-40426 Permit issued 12/6

SM Energy Company
Judy Julibeth (SA) E #1374WB
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 620 fnl, 1540 fwl, Sec 25, Blk 42, T-4-S, Abst. 510, T&P RR, 27.2 sw Midland; TD 10200; API #42-461-40428 Permit issued 12/6

Texas RRCD 8

Andrews County

Elevation Resources LLC
University 1-27 South Unit #3H
Emma (Devonian)-Horizontal; 200 fel, 81 fnl, Sec 27, Blk 1, Abst. 27U, ULS, 11 se Andrews; TD 15000; API #42-003-47423 Permit issued 11/22

ParallelPetroleumLLC
Lucky Texan #1H
Harris (San Andres)-Horizontal; 750 fsl, 543 fel, Sec 24, Blk A-22, Abst. 561, PSL, 15 nw Andrews; TD 5500; API #42-003-47424 Permit issued 11/22

XTO Energy Inc.
Means San Andres Unit #6116
Means; 9966 fnl, 7238 fel, Sec 2, Blk A-35, Abst. 1727, PSL, 10 ne Andrews; TD 5000; API #42-003-47422 Permit issued 11/18

Culberson County

BHP Billiton Pet(TXLA Operating) Co.
HS State 113-24X13 #1H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 1106 fwl, 416 fsl, Sec 24, Blk 113, Abst. 1853, PSL, 14.5 ne Orla; TD 14000; API #42-109-33020 Permit issued 11/22

Capitan Energy Incorporated
J. S. Blair Fee 2 #2H
Ford West (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 15 fwl, 580 fsl, Sec 2, Blk 112, Abst. 1570, PSL, 47.5 ne Kent; TD 10200; API #42-109-33018 Permit issued 11/17

Charger Shale Oil Operating LLC
Plummer State 20-29 #2HA
Ford West (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 2305 fnl, 1320 fwl, Sec 20, Blk 42, Abst. 4807, PSL, 27 sw Orla; TD 9600; API #42-109-33022 Permit issued 12/1

Charger Shale Oil Operating

Please see Page 6F

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UTPB holds Fall Commencement Ceremonies

UTPB held Fall Commencement Ceremonies on Saturday, December 17, 2016. 404 graduates received their diplomas in two ceremonies held at the Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center.

An acclaimed poet, Ms. Loretta Walker gave the commencement address at both of the 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. ceremonies. Walker teaches music at Reagan Elementary in Odessa, Texas. She graduated from Ector High School, received a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Texas Tech University and earned a Master's of Elementary Education from the University of Texas at the Permian Basin. "Dreams are hard task masters," Walker said in her commencement address. "Your diploma is your victory wreath. Do not let your diploma limit you. Do not let your degree limit your dreams. Do what you have to do until you can do what you want to do."

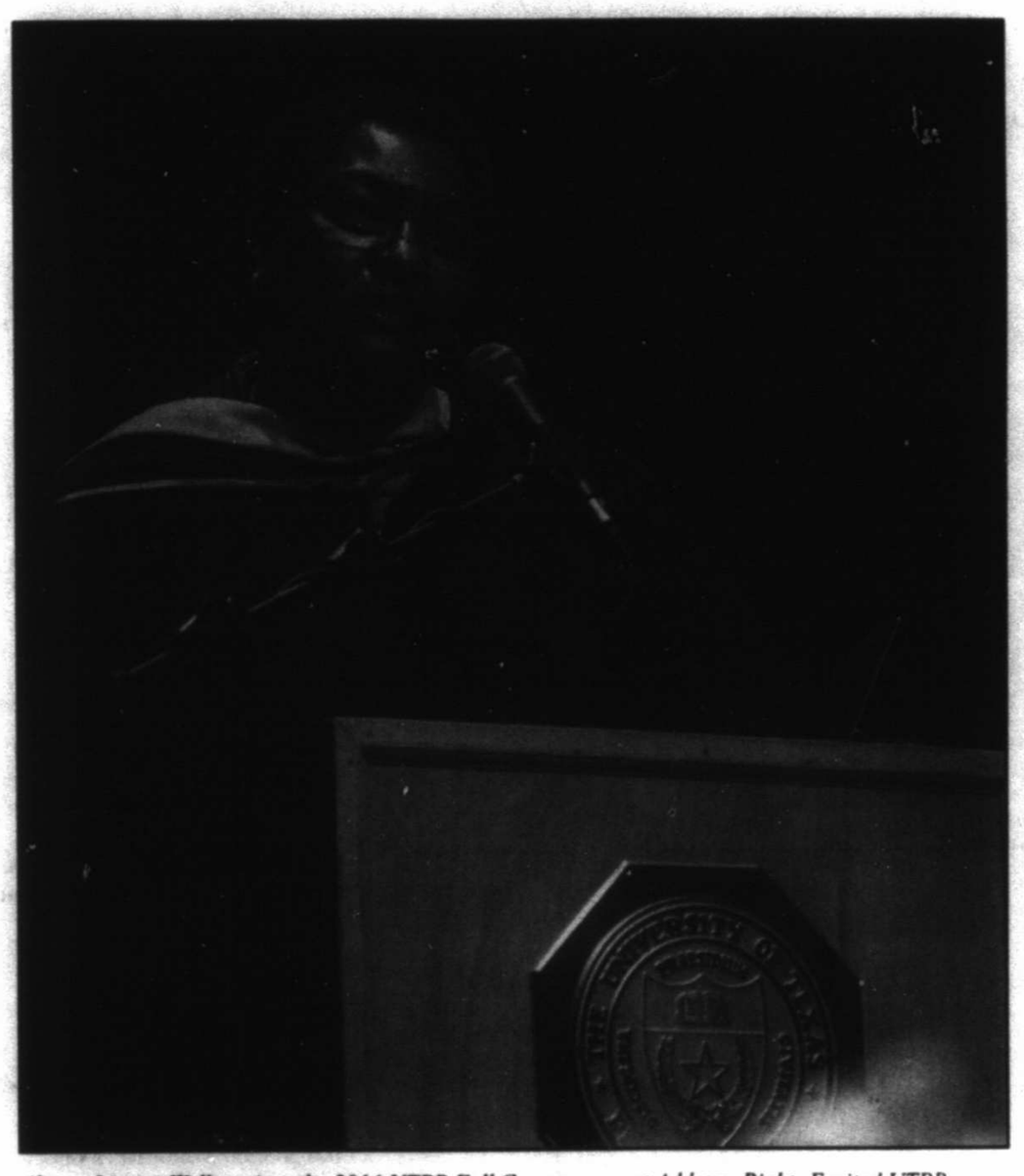
Ms. Walker is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and the Permian Basin Poetry Society. She is also a member of the Texas Music Educators Association, the Poetry Society of Texas, the Pennsylvania Poetry Society, Texas Mountain Trail Writers, the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, and serves as a volunteer at the Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. In addition, she is a multiple Pushcart Prize Nominee. Her poems and essays appear in publications throughout the United States, Canada, and the UK. Her book *Word Ghetto* won the 2011 Blue Light Press Book Award. Miss Walker was elected as the 2014 "Community Statesman in the Arts" by the Heritage of Odessa Foundation. Her most recent work of poetry is entitled *In This House*.

In her final commencement summation, Ms Walker added, " Let go of the past and remember that you can make a difference. You are better than your last failure and much greater than your last success. Remember to invest your life in others."

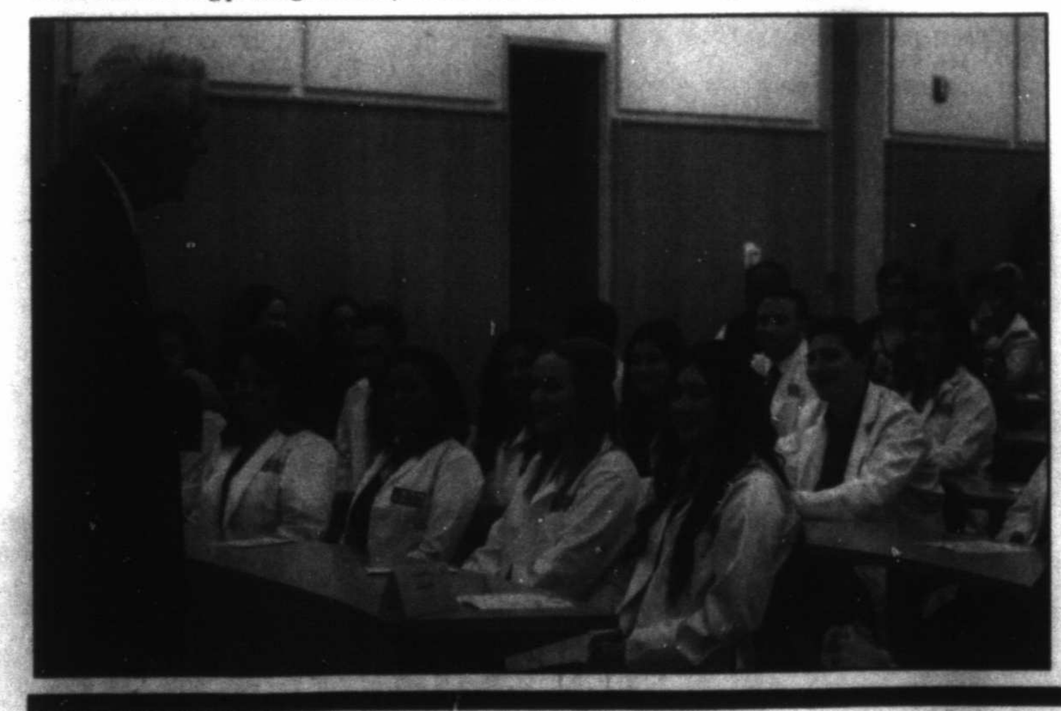
Wesley Burnett gave the alumni address. Burnett currently serves as the Director of Economic Development for the Odessa Texas Chamber of Commerce. He began his duties there in September of 2016 after 10 years as the Director of Economic Development in Andrews, Texas. Prior to his years in Andrews, Wesley was the Director of Business Retention and Expansion for the Odessa Chamber of Commerce from 1999 until 2006. He also served as the President and CEO of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce and Development Corporation in Jacksonville, Texas from 1996 to 1999.

Wesley is a Certified Economic Developer with over 20 years' experience in the field. He is a 1991 graduate of UT Permian Basin with a degree in Political Science and a 2006 graduate with a Master's Degree in Public Administration. He is also a graduate of the Economic Development Institute and the Institute for Organizational Management.

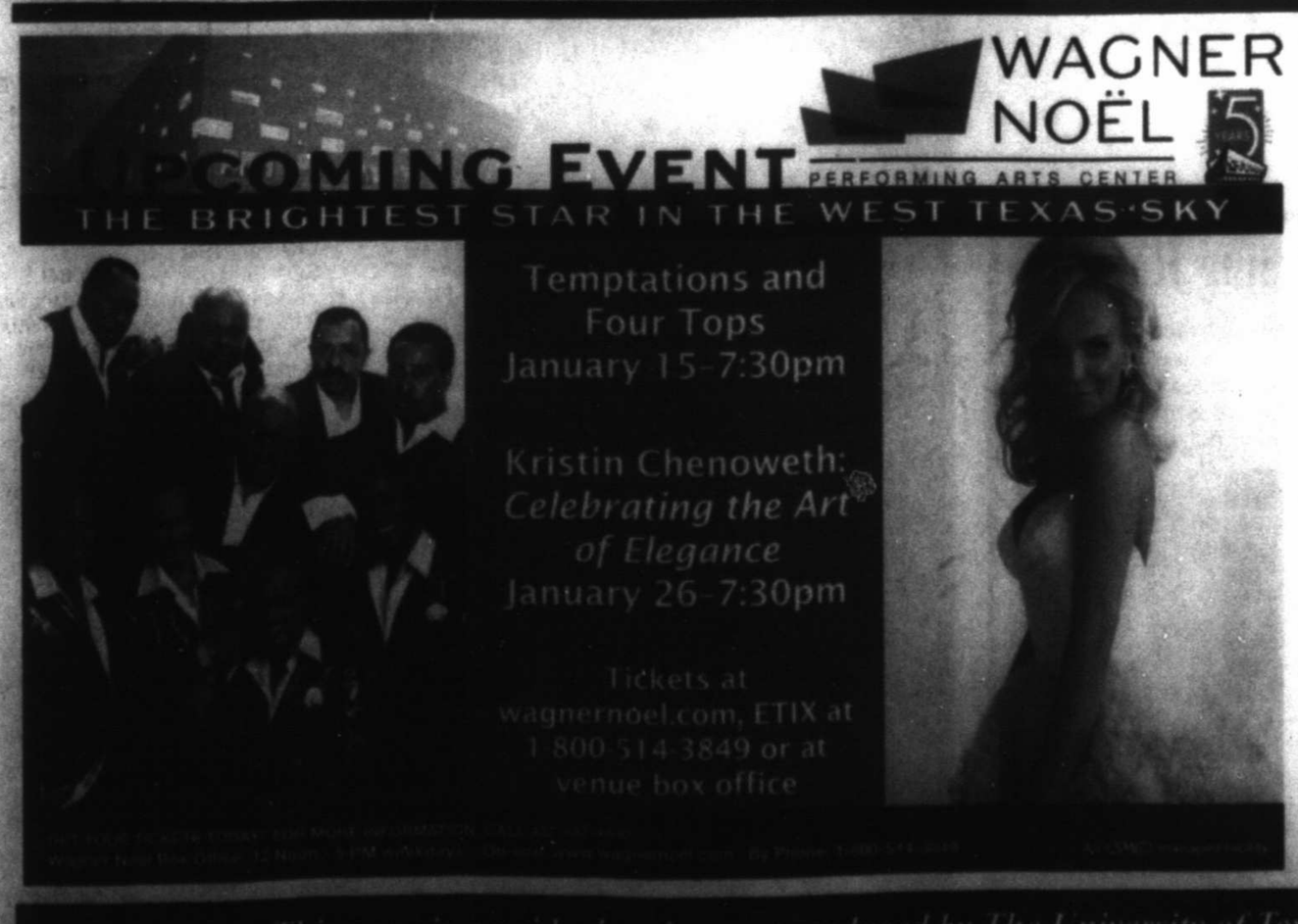
The Spanish Convocation was held at 12 pm in the Rea Greathouse Recital Hall. This ceremony honors graduates from Spanish speaking families.



Above: Loretta Walker gives the 2016 UTPB Fall Commencement Address. Right: Excited UTPB graduates wait to receive their diplomas while friends and family watch and applaud. Below: The 2016 UTPB Fall Nursing pinning ceremony honors and celebrates graduating nursing students.



Pictured are students who have received a patriotic "Americana Cord" to be worn during graduation. To receive the recognition an individual must have previously served, or is currently serving in one of the five branches of the armed forces



Upcoming Events at UTPB

Winter Break
University closed
December 22-30, 2016

Register NOW for Spring!

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DEVELOPMENT WELL PERMITS

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From 5F

WTH 16-21SL (ALLOC) #4LA
Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC-Horizontal; 575 fsl, 2536 fel, Sec 9, Blk 37, T-3-S, Abst. 132, T&P RR, 3.2 sw Spraberry; TD 11000; API #42-329-41341 Permit issued 11/22

Endeavor Energy Resources LP
WTH 16-21SL (ALLOC) #4UA
Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC-Horizontal; 575 fsl, 2511 fel, Sec 9, Blk 37, T-3-S, Abst. 132, T&P RR, 3.2 sw Spraberry; TD 11000; API #42-329-41342 Permit issued 11/22

Energen Resources Corporation
Dickenson A SN 20-17 01 #101H
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 200 fsl, 546 fwl, Sec 20, Blk 37, T-1-S, Abst. 984, T&P RR, 9.5 ne Midland; TD 11000; API #42-329-41331 Permit issued 11/16

Henry Resources LLC
Gwendolyn #2518LB
Parks (Consolidated)-Horizontal; 250 fsl, 4935 fel, Sec 25, Blk 41, T-2-S, Abst. 73, T&P RR, 8 e Odessa; TD 12500; API #42-329-41324 Permit issued 11/18

Lario Oil & Gas Company
Peggy #402WA
Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC-Horizontal; 355 fwl, 255 fnl, Sec 8, Blk 37, T-3-S, Abst. 905, T&P RR, 13 se Midland; TD 11500; API #42-329-41281 Permit issued 12/9

Lario Oil & Gas Company
Peggy #401WB
Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC-Horizontal; 330 fwl, 255 fnl, Sec 8, Blk 37, T-3-S, Abst. 905, T&P RR, 13 se Midland; TD 11500; API #42-329-41282 Permit issued 12/9

Pioneer Natural Resources USA Inc.
Texas Ten Y PU #4013H
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 390 fnl, 2695 fwl, Sec 40, Blk 39, T-2-S, Abst. 846, T&P RR, 7.1 s Midland; TD 11000; API #42-329-41329 Permit issued 12/1

Pioneer Natural Resources USA Inc.
Texas Ten Y PU #4014H
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 390 fnl, 2725 fwl, Sec 40, Blk 39, T-2-S, Abst. 846, T&P RR, 7.1 s Midland; TD 11000; API #42-329-41330 Permit issued 12/2

Pioneer Natural Resources USA Inc.
Texas Ten Y PU #4016H
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 1230 fnl, 825 fwl, Sec 40, Blk 39, T-2-S, Abst. 1064, T&P RR, 7.1 s Midland; TD 11000; API #42-329-41333 Permit issued 12/1

Pioneer Natural Resources USA Inc.
Texas Ten Y PU #4015H
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 390 fnl, 2755 fwl, Sec 40, Blk 39, T-2-S, Abst. 846, T&P RR, 7.1 s Midland; TD 11000; API #42-329-41332 Permit issued 12/1

Pioneer Natural Resources USA Inc.
Texas Ten Y PU #4017H
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 1230 fnl, 870 fwl, Sec 40, Blk 39, T-2-S, Abst. 1064, T&P RR, 7.1 s Midland; TD 11000; API#42-329-41356 Permit issued 12/7

Pioneer Natural Resources USA Inc.
Preston 5 #24H
Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC-Horizontal; 156 fsl, 2300 fel, Sec 4, Blk 37, T-5-S, Abst. 908, T&P RR, 27.5 se Midland; TD 11020; API #42-329-41334 Permit issued 11/22

Pioneer Natural Resources USA Inc.
Preston 5 #25H
Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC-Horizontal; 156 fsl, 2255 fel, Sec 4, Blk 37, T-5-S, Abst. 908, T&P RR, 27.5 se Midland; TD 11020; API #42-329-41335 Permit issued 11/22

Pioneer Natural Resources USA Inc.
Preston 5 #26H
Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC-Horizontal; 156 fsl, 1350 fel, Sec 4, Blk 37, T-5-S, Abst. 908, T&P RR, 27.5 se Midland; TD 11020; API #42-329-41336 Permit issued 11/22

Pioneer Natural Resources USA Inc.
Preston 5 #27H
Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC-Horizontal; 156 fsl, 1305 fel, Sec 4, Blk 37, T-5-S, Abst. 908, T&P RR, 27.5 se Midland; TD 11020; API #42-329-41337 Permit issued 11/22

Pioneer Natural Resources USA Inc.
Germania 42 #6H
Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC-Horizontal; 5529 fsl, 1211 fel, Sec 42, Blk 36, T-1-S, Abst. 756, T&P RR, 14.3 ne Midland; TD 10250; API #42-329-41083 Permit issued 11/16

RSP Permian LLC
Mask HZ Unit #1009H
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 230 fnl, 1730 fwl, Sec 10, Blk X, Abst. 1276, H.P. Hilliard, 5 nw Midland; TD 12000; API #42-329-41269 Permit issued 12/5

XTO Energy Inc.
Maralo 41-32 Allocation 3218 #3218AH
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 386 fel, 539 fnl, Sec 44, Blk 38, T-4-S, Abst. 879, T&P RR, 24.3 se Midland; TD 10200; API#42-329-41308 Permit issued 12/7

XTO Energy Inc.
Maralo 41-32 Allocation 3216 #3216AH
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 1757 fel, 379 fnl, Sec 44, Blk 38, T-4-S, Abst. 879, T&P RR, 24.2 se Midland; TD 10200; API #42-329-41309 Permit issued 12/7

Pecos County

Crimson Exploration Operating Inc.
Rude Ram 2120 #1H
Hoefs T-K (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 1354 fnl, 302 fel, Sec 19, Blk 49, T-9-S, Abst. 979, T&P RR, 23.7 nw Fort Stockton; TD 10250; API #42-371-39448 Permit issued 11/29

Forge Energy LLC
UL 23 Mercury #1H
Wolfbone (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 200 fnl, 1650 fel, Sec 36, Blk 23, Abst. 199U, ULS, 16.5 se Fort Stockton; TD 7500; API #42-371-39447 Permit issued 11/30

Reeves County

Anadarko E&P Onshore LLC
Chimera State 56-3-7 Unit #1H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 400 fnl, 330 fwl, Sec 7, Blk 56, T-3-S, Abst. 880, T&P RR, 5.93 se Orla; TD 13000; API #42-389-35523 Permit issued 11/22

Atlantic Resources Company LLC
State Clark 38-47 #1H
Ford West (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 275 fnl, 330 fel, Sec 38, Blk 56, Abst. 2181, PSL, 23.2 nw Pecos; TD 12000; API #42-389-35554 Permit issued 12/14

Crossing Rocks Energy LLC
Hardin-Simmons CRE 10 #4H
Wolfbone (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 350 fnl, 2594 fwl, Sec 10, Blk C-4, Abst. 5590, PSL, 17.8 se Pecos; TD 13000; API #42-389-35553 Permit issued 12/13

Crossing Rocks Energy LLC
State CRE 15 #1H
Wolfbone (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 350 fnl, 1005 fel, Sec 15, Blk C-6, Abst. 5021, PSL, 11.9 se Pecos; TD 13000; API #42-389-35545 Permit issued 12/9

Devon Energy Production Co. LP
Eiken VDW #1
Phantom (Wolfcamp); 810 fnwl, 4591 fswl, Sec 15, Blk 4, Abst. 388, H&GN RR, 11 nw Reeves; TD 12500; API #42-389-35525-Permit issued 11/28

Energen Resources Corporation
Checkers State Unit 54-12-21 #606H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 250 fnl, 490 fel, Sec 12, Blk 54, T-4-S, Abst. 5076, T&P RR, 15 nw Pecos; TD 12500; API #42-389-35506 Permit issued 11/17

Energen Resources Corporation
Checkers State Unit 54-12-21 #706H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 250 fnl, 540 fel, Sec 12, Blk 54, T-4-S, Abst. 5076, T&P RR, 15 nw Pecos; TD 12500; API #42-389-35507 Permit issued 11/17

ExL Petroleum Operating Inc.
Fowler State Unit 1720 #1724
Phantom (Wolfcamp)/Sandbar (Bone Spring)-Horizontal; 330 fsl, 309 fnel, Sec 17, Blk 4, Abst. 389, H&GN RR, 6.8 nw Peco; TD 11300; API #42-389-35503 Permit issued 11/18

Panther Exploration LLC
Fiver State 18 #1H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 250 fsl, 500 fwl, Sec 18, Blk 54, T-4-S, Abst. 778, T&P RR, 16.4 nw Pecos; TD 11500; API #42-389-35512 Permit issued 11/18

Parsley Energy Operations LLC
Ligon State Unit 7-22 #4301H
Phantom Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 398 fnl, 1337 fwl, Sec 29, Blk C-3, Abst. 4793, PSL, 21.9 se Pecos; TD 11057; API #42-389-35532 Permit issued 12/1

Primexx Operating Corporation
Lujan State #1810H
Wolfbone (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 1015 fnl, 330 fwl, Sec 18, Blk C-10, Abst. 3796, PSL, 17.9 sw Pecos; TD 12000; API #42-389-35519 Permit issued 11/22

Rosetta Resources Operating LP
City Of Pecos 15-16 #4HL
Wolfbone (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 2011 fsl, 395 fel, Sec 15, Blk 5, Abst. 428, H&GN RR, 4.6 sw Pecos; TD 13000; API #42-389-35529 Permit issued 12/2

Silverback Operating LLC
Ninja 4-50 49 #1H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 1187 fnwl, 1102 fswl, Sec 50, Blk 4, Abst. 3157, H&GN RR, 4.76 nw Pecos; TD 1200; API #42-389-35505 Permit issued 11/22

Three Rivers Operating Co. III LLC
Smither State Unit 12-13 #2WA
Ford West (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 600 fsl, 1980 fwl, Sec 1, Blk 53, Abst.2628, PSL, 33.2 nw Pecos; TD 12500; API #42-389-35531 Permit issued 12/1

Sterling County

PPC Operating Company LLC
Renderbrook Creek (Miss) Unit #512
Renderbrook Creek (Miss); 1456 fsl, 1809 fwl, Sec 36, Blk 2, Abst. 917, H&TC RR, 13 n Sterling City; TD 9000; API #42-431-33503 Permit issued 11/21

Ward County

Anadarko E&P Onshore LLC
Monroe 34-172 #4H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 730 fnel, 550 fnwl, Sec 172, Blk 34, Abst. 1499, H&TC RR, 2.4 ne Barstow; TD 11600; API #42-475-37154 Permit issued 11/16

Diamondback E&P LLC
Coldblood 7372 Unit #1WA
Phantom (Wolfcamp)/Sandbar (Bone Spring)-Horizontal; 556 fwl, 2415 fnl, Sec 73, Blk 34, Abst. 214, 22.8 e Pecos; TD 12130; API #42-475-37157 Permit issued 11/29

Felix Energy Holdings II LLC
UL Loveland 1902-17 #2H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 303 fwl, 709 fnl, Sec 17, Blk 19, Abst. 58U, ULS, 2.4 w Pyote; TD 14000; API #42-475-37155 Permit issued 11/22

Winkler County

Blackbeard Operating LLC
Sealy & Smith Foundation -A- #101
Monahans North (Clearfork); 1980 fwl, 7264 fnl, Sec 52, Blk A, Abst. 44, G&MB&A, 9.2 n Monahans; TD 7000; API #42-495-33766 Permit issued 11/29

Felix Energy Holdings II LLC
Halfmoon 2930-27 #1H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 200 fsl, 200 fwl, Sec 21, Blk 27, Abst. 1738, PSL, 11.22 w Kermit; TD 12000; API #42-495-33757 Permit issued 11/21

Felix Energy Holdings II LLC
Kilpacker 2919-27 #1H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 200 fwl, 225 feel, Sec 21, Blk 27, Abst. 1738, PSL, 11.2 w Kermit; TD 14000; API #42-495-33758 Permit issued 11/23

Felix Energy Holdings II LLC
Cottonwood 27-27 #1H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 400 fnel, 2360 fsel, Sec 28, Blk 27, Abst. 975, PSL, 10 w Kermit; TD 12500 API #42-495-33767 Permit issued 11/21

Felix Energy Holdings II LLC
Manitou 23-27 #1H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 380 fsl, 200 fwl, Sec 24, Blk 27, Abst. 1741, PSL, 8.26 nw Kermit; TD 14000; API#42-495-33772 Permit issued 12/13

Forge Energy LLC
UL 20 Yellowtail #1H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 444 fwl, 200 fsl, Sec 20, Blk 21, Abst 60U, ULS, 5.8 sw Wink; TD 12500; API #42-495-33769 Permit issued 12/1

Paladin Petroleum III LLC
K.D. #1H
Keystone (San Andres)-Horizontal; 160 fnl, 463 fwl, Sec 10, Blk B-2, Abst. 1907, PSL, 9.5 ne Kermit; TD 5500; API #42-495-33765 Permit issued 12/12

QEP Eenergy Company
Bruce And Bar A55A56-2303 #N 02WS
Emperor (Woodford Shale)-Horizontal; 467 fsl, 517 fel, Sec 3, Blk A-56, Abst. 1452, PSL, 14.7 ne Kermit; TD 11070; API #42-495-33768 Permit issued 11/29

New Mexico

Eddy County

Yates Petroleum Corp.
Roy AET Com #10
North Seven Rivers; Sec 17 T19S R25E; 1935/N & 15/E; 8 mi NW Lakewood; Rot 7392 Glo/Yeso; API #30-015-43955

Lea County

Targa Midstream Service LLC
Monument AG1 D #2
AG1; Sec 36 19S R36E; 685/S & 2362/E; 3 mi SW Monument; Rot 9200 Fusselman; API #30-025-43470

WILDCATS

Texas RRCD 7C

Concho County

K9 Energy LLC
Crenweige #1
Wildcat; 796 fnl, 736 fel, Sec 116, Blk 72, Abst. 1663, T&NO RR, 5 se Eden; TD 5000; API #42-095-32432 Permit issued 12/5

Irion County

TXP Incorporated
Ostrander #4
Wildcat; 1358 fnl, 2388 fwl, Sec 1127, Abst. 113, GC&SF RR, 15 ne Mertzon; TD 7100; API #42-235-36159 Permit issued 12/14

Tracker Resource Development III LLLC
Barnhart 76N78 #4LM
Wildcat-Horizontal; 990 fwl, 375 fnl, Sec 76, Blk 14, Abst. 968, H&TC RR, 20.3 w Mertzon; TD 9000; API #42-235-36157 Permit issued 12/13

Runnels County

Enrich Oil Corporation
Pam #3
Wildcat; 330 fwl, 1650 fnl, Sec 59, Blk 63, Abst. 101, CT RR, 4 sw Winters; TD 5000; API #42-399-35515 Permit issued 11/17

Heart Land Petroleum Corporation
Hoelscher #1
Wildcat; 1025 fsel, 1477 fnel, Abst. 17, H.L. Bays, 6 nw Winters; TD 5350; API #42-399-35517 Permit issued 12/12

Heart Land Petroleum Corporation
Chapman #1
Wildcat; 517 fsel, 4259 fswl, Blk 8, Abst. 17, H.L. Bays, 6 nw Winters; TD 5350; API #42-399-35516 Permit issued 12/12

Sha-Jam Operating Corp.
Teresa #2
Wildcat; 467 fsel, 840 fnel, Abst. 17, H.L. Bays, 7 nw Winters; TD 5000; API #42-399-35518 Permit issued 12/15

Upton County

Apache Corporation
Elliott A #4
Wildcat; 2686 fnl, 1796 fwl, Sec 10, Abst. 651, GC&SF RR, 11.1 ne Rankin; TD 12000; API #42-461-40450 Permit issued 12/7

Texas RRCD 8

Culberson County

Charger Shale Oil Operating LLC
Plummer State Laura Lou 34-27 #5HR
Wildcat-Horizontal; 20 fsl, 1150 fel, Sec 34, Blk 42, Abst. 6353, PSL, 26.5 sw Orla; TD 9600; API #42-109-33024 Permit issued 12/1

Martin County

Element Petroleum Operating III LLC
Cuda #1
Wildcat; 467 fnl, 467 fwl, Sec 17, Blk 35, T-3-N, Abst. 92, T&P RR, 9 sw Ackerly; TD 12000; API #42-317-40603 Permit issued 11/22

Mitchell County

Purvis Operating Co.
Black Angus 47 #4
Wildcat; 150 fel, 2550 fnl, Sec 47, Blk 29, T-1-S, Abst. 612, T&P RR, 10.2 sw Westbrook; TD 6500; API #42-335-35949 Permit issued 11/17

Reeves County

Apache Corporation
Redwood #3H
Wildcat-Horizontal; 200 fsk 1165 fel, Sec 41 Bl 71, Abst. 1689, PSL, 11 sw Toyah; TD 15000; API #42-389-35277

Apache Corporation
Dogwood State #1H
Wildcat-Horizontal; 250 fsl, 1199 fwl, Sec 48, Blk 58, Abst. 3087, T&P RR, 13 sw Toyah; TD 16000; API #42-389-35513 Permit issued 11/28

Apache Corporation
Dogwood State #3H
Wildcat-Horizontal; 250 fsl, 1259 fwl, Sec 48, Blk 58, Abst. 3087, T&P RR, 13 sw Toyah; TD 16000; API #42-389-35514 Permit issued 12/14

Apache Corporation
Dogwood State #1M
Wildcat-Horizontal; 1933 fsl, 1730 fwl, Sec Sec 48, Blk 58, Abst. 3087, T&P RR, 12.9 sw Toyah; TD 16000; API #42-389-35511 Permit issued 11/28

Apache Corporation
Dogwood State #5H
Wildcat-Horizontal; 250 fsl, 1890 fel, Sec 48, Blk 58, Abst. 3087, T&P RR, 13 sw Toyah; TD 16000; API #42-389-35515 Permit issued 11/28

Apache Corporation
Dogwood State #7H
Wildcat-Horizontal; 250 fsl, 931 fel, Sec 48, Blk 58, Abst. 3087, T&P RR, 12.7 sw Toyah; TD 16000; API #42-389-35516 Permit issued 12/6

Apache Corporation
Dogwood State #9H
Wildcat-Horizontal; 250 fsl, 871 fel, Sec 48, Blk 58, Abst. 3087, T&P RR, 12.7 sw Toyah; TD 16000; API #42-389-35517 Permit issued 12/7

Apache Corporation
Dogwood State #11H
Wildcat-Horizontal; 250 fsl, 1860 fel, Sec 48, Blk 58, Abst. 3087, T&P RR, 12.7 sw Toyah; TD 16000; API #42-389-35518 Permit issued 12/7

Apache Corporation
Mont Blanc #5H
Wildcat-Horizontal; 275 fnl, 2404 fel, Sec 24, Blk 57, Abst. 5615, T&P RR, 18.1 nw Balmorhea; TD 16000; API #42-389-35502 Permit issued 11/16

Apache Corporation
Black Hawk State #5H
Wildcat-Horizontal; 275 fnl, 1301 fwl, Sec 48, Blk 56, T-7-S, Abst. 3291, T&P RR, 11.7 nw Balmorhea; TD 16000; API #42-389-35524 Permit issued 11/22

Apache Corporation
Black Hawk State #7H
Wildcat-Horizontal; 279 fnl, 569 fel, Sec 48, Blk 56, T-7-S, Abst. 3291, T&P RR, 11.5 nw Balmorhea; TD 16000; API #42-389-35508 Permit issued 11/17

Apache Corporation
Weissmies #7H
Wildcat-Horizontal; 300 fsl, 523 fwl, Sec 49, Blk 13, Abst. 469, H&GN RR, 1.6 ne Balmorhea; TD 16000; API #42-389-35542 Permit issued 12/8

Atlantic Resources Company LLC
State Dagger 37-48 #1H
Wildcat-Horizontal; 225 fnl, 330 fel, Sec 37, Blk 56, Abst. 4577, PSL, 23.2 nw Pecos; TD 12000; API #42-389-35548 Permit issued 12/12

COMPLETIONS

Texas RRCD 8

Andrews County

Tabula Rasa Energy LLC
Emma (San Andres) Unit #1080
Emma; 7294 fnl, 3413 fwl, Sec 1, Blk 44, T-2-N, Abst. 61, T&P RR, 14.3 sw Andrews; TD 4504; Comp 11/28/2016; producing from 4184-4385, treated with acid; pump 2 BO, 145 BO, 33 Oil Gravity; API #42-003-47176

Ector County

Capstone Natural Resources II LLC
Flag Ranch "C" #2
Goldsmith (Clearfork); 330 fnl, 330 fwl, Sec 17, Blk 45, T-1-N, Abst. 342, T&P RR, 13.5 nw Goldsmith; TD 7000; Comp 12/3/2016; producing from 6421-6758, treated with acid; pump 3 BO, 5 MCF, 320 BW, 37.4 Oil Gravity; API #42-135-43444

Texas RRCD 8A

Crosby County

Custer & Wright Operating Inc.
Phil #1240
Hoople (Clearfork); 3241 fel, 1085 fsl, Sec 12, Blk 2, Abst. 952, D&SE RR, 17 s Ralls; TD 4105; Comp 12/1/2016; producing from 3868-3910, treated with acid and fracture stimulated; pump 101 BO, 169 BW, 35 Oil Gravity; API #42-107-32099

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