MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2016 mrt★com *235,000 readers in print and online monthly*

52 FACES

Meet Janice Henry, Community Bible Study founder.

Page 1B

A&M COACH OUT

After three seasons under head coach Kevin Sumlin, Texas A&M University and offensive coordinator Jake Spavital have officially parted ways. Read more inside Sports.

Page 4C

New Texas laws go into effect with the New Year

By Anna M. Tinsley
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

As the New Year rings in, much attention will focus on a new law that lets licensed Texans openly carry their holstered handguns throughout the state.

But there are dozens of other measures — touching on issues ranging from abortions for Texas teens to franchise taxes for businesses — that will quietly become law.

"Given (that) the timing of the new laws goes into effect over the holiday season — competing with family dinners, football and champagne corks popping — most Texans will be too busy with personal obligations to notice most changes," said Brandon Rottinghaus, associate political science professor at the University of Houston.

"Any changes to most Texans' daily lives will be gradual and likely incidental."

But some groups might well be keeping an eye out for the changes.

"The largest group are those business owners who will now pay a tax rate that is 25 percent lower than in 2015," said Mark P. Jones, a political science professor at Rice University in Houston.

Here's a look at some of the measures that became law on New Year's Day.

Money matters

Drivers for ride-share services such as Uber may find themselves stocking up on insurance in the New Year. A new Texas law sets guidelines for Transportation Network Services, requiring drivers for companies that offer prearranged rides to have $1 million in liability insurance "for death, bodily injury and property damage for each incident."

House Bill 1733 — This is required when a driver is giving a ride to someone who made a request through a "digital network," which would include a smartphone app.

HB 275 — Putting all your eggs in one basket isn't that bad of an idea, now that eggs will be added to the list of farm products that are exempt from property taxes.

HB 32 — Businesses should see some relief when the Texas Franchise Tax is permanently reduced by 25 percent, which, along with a few other tax changes, is expected to create more than $2.5 billion in tax relief to businesses over the next two years.

The logic is that this tax cut will spur investment followed by economic growth and as a result more tax revenue in the future.

Mark P. Jones, political science professor at Rice University

The reduction could create budget problems for lawmakers in 2017, "since this tax cut simultaneously signifies $2.56 billion reduction in revenue for the state, meaning less money available for schools, roads and health care for the poor," Jones said.

"Of course, the logic is that this tax cut will spur investment, followed by economic growth and, as a result, more tax revenue in the future."

Abortion laws

Texas teens trying to get an abortion

Please see LAWS/4A

2015 WAS WARM YEAR

High winds kicked up a dust storm in Midland at sunset on Jan. 4, 2015. *James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram*

Four of past five years among warmest in Midland history, according to NWS

■ Prediction center: Wet weather to continue

From staff reports

2015 was a year of extremes when it came to weather in Midland.

The year opened with the worst ice storm in recent memory and ended with the third largest daily snowfall on record (7.6 inches).

And in between, the history books will show 2015 was one of the wettest and one of the warmest the National Weather Service has recorded in Midland.

The rainfall was a needed change after one of the worst — if not the worst — droughts baked the region for more than four years. The 22.63 inches made 2015 the sixth wettest on record, more than 8 inches above normal, according to the National Weather Service. To bring context to the drought, from 2011-2014 Midland was 23.99 inches (or nearly 1.5 years or nearly the amount recorded in 2015) below average rainfall for that period. The heat continued a trend felt in Midland. The NWS reported an average temperature of 65.0 degrees, which was tied for the 14th warmest year on record. Four of the last five years are among the warmest 15 years experienced in Midland, including No. 1 and 2 in 2012 and 2011, respectively.

More inside

Weather took the state on wild ride in 2015.

Page 3A

The NWS reports the typical average temperature in Midland since 1931 is 63.7 degrees. It also reports that 15 of the past 17 years have been above that average, and nine years have ranked among the warmest 15 years in the city's recorded history.

The Climate Prediction Center expects that rain should continue to soak the region in 2016. The CPC is calling for a 50 percent chance of above-average rainfall for January through March and a 30 percent chance of above-average rainfall April through June. Even with 2015's abundant rainfall, there is room for catch-up. Going back to 2011, Midland is still nearly 16 inches short of normal rainfall.

The CPC also expects lower than average temperatures during the same period. Of course, the same prediction was made for late 2015 when Midland turned in one of the warmest fall periods (September through November) on record.

Warmest recorded years in Midland

(1931-present)

1. 2012	67.0 degrees
2. 2011	66.7 degrees
3. 1998	66.4 degrees
4. 1964	65.9 degrees
5. 1977	65.7 degrees
6. 1953	65.5 degrees
6. 1954	65.5 degrees
8. 2006	65.4 degrees
8. 1999	65.4 degrees
8. 2000	65.4 degrees
8. 2014	65.4 degrees
12. 1934	65.2 degrees
12. 1950	65.2 degrees
14. 2003	65.0 degrees
14. 2015	65.0 degrees

Note: Average temperature is 63.9 degrees.

Oil: Expect a 'market share battle for the ages'

By Collin Eaton
Houston Chronicle

The oil bust of 2015 washed out dozens of small U.S. drillers, and the New Year is expected to bring a wave of additional pain to the oil industry.

At least one in five domestic oil companies are at risk to go through significant corporate reshuffling, downsizing or bankruptcy proceedings in 2016, the biggest shakeout the industry has seen since the 1980s, according to Talara Capital Management, which specializes in restructuring transactions.

"The industry is sorting itself out," said David Zusman, managing partner and chief investment officer at Talara. "What we learned in 2015 is the industry is all about cost structure, and the downturn is separating those that can produce efficiently and those who can't."

Cost cutting and other survival tactics kept most U.S. drillers pumping crude through last year's oil-market collapse, but the downturn this year is likely to eviscerate straggling companies pushed closer to the financial brink by a year and a half of low oil prices.

"We're going to shrink the population of (companies) who have been hanging in there," said Michelle Foss, chief energy economist at the University of Texas' Bureau of Economic Geology. "For people who managed to get through 2015, this is it. This is the end of the road."

Crude prices, which fell more than 30 percent in 2015, are widely expected to remain low for most of 2016 as global demand ebbs and international markets absorb more oil from the Middle East.

Forty oil producers have filed for bankruptcy protection in the United States and Canada since the downturn began, and toward the end of 2015, the pace of oil-company bankruptcies rose to levels last seen during the financial crisis seven years ago. Houston-based Swift Energy Co. and Magnum Hunter Resources Corp. capped the tumultuous year with separate bankruptcy filings in December.

Another round of corporate reshuffling that clears out the weakest players would only amplify the economic pain and add to the 70,000 U.S. jobs the oil industry lost last year.

The energy sector performed worse than any other major segment of the U.S. economy, with the S&P 500's energy index tumbling 24 percent. In recent months, major stock indexes have begun following crude prices both up and down as investors focus on the link between tumbling prices and lower activity in other sectors of the economy, including

Please see BATTLE/4A

Weather
Sunny
50/31
Get your complete forecast on 7C

Did you know?
Oscar-winning cinematographer **Vilmos Zsigmond** has died from "a combination of many illnesses" Page 2A

The big number
After a peaceful rally, **more than 150** people gathered in support of ranchers. Page 4A

Today in Opinion
Our view: Open carry requires responsibility. Page 6A

Coming Tuesday
Check out the latest in the Education section.

Vol. 87, No. 299
Daily $1, Sunday $2

Index Classified 1D | Comics 6C | Dear Abby 7C | Names & Faces 2B | Obituaries 2A | Puzzles 7C | Sports 1C | TV 3B

Obituaries

Jane De Nyse

Jane Channing DeNyse, 99, of Midland,Texas, passed away on Sunday, December 6, 2015 at Manor Park. Memorial services will be held on Wednesday, January 6, 2015 at 4:30 PM at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Chapel with Rev. Tyler Lunberry, son in law, of Hyderabad, India.

Jane was born on September 21, 1916 to James Gordon Channing and Louise Muller Channing in Staten Island, NY. Jane had four brothers and one sister. In 1942, Jane married Louis Frederick DeNyse, her husband for 66 years. They raised their family in Ridgewood, NJ. They retired to Florida In 1985, they moved to Manor Park and were one of the first residents.

Jane loved singing and dancing throughout her life. She sang on the radio, auditioned and was selected to be a member of the Rockettes as well as writing, directing, and acting in plays for theatre in New Jersey. Jane was an assistant to the Chaplain at Valley Hospital in Ridgewood, NJ and also volunteered as a nurse's aide. She was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Midland Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, and Midland Community Theatre. In later years, Jane was very accomplished at needlepoint and crochet, a member of the Senior Bowling League and the En Amie Book Review Club. Jane was a very caring and loving person to everyone she met.

She is survived by her son, Louis DeNyse, Jr., of Kernersville, NC; daughter, Carol (Dee) Morris and husband Paul of Midland; daughter, Georgene Lunberry and husband Tyler of Hyderabad, India; ten grandchildren, Dawn Herbert and husband Rick, Deanne Puglise and husband James, Dara DeNyse, Darla Chandler and husband Terry, Tamara Beachum and husband Graham, Amy Atnipp and husband Marc, Paige Worley and husband David, Megan Korman and husband Phillip, Trent Lunberry and wife Katie, and Dana Lunberry and husband Dev; and sixteen great grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her husband, her parents, four brothers, Gordon, Richard, Robert, and Walter Channing; one sister, Edna Channing.

Donations can be made to Manor Park or charity of your choice. Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Midland. Online Condolences can be made at www.npwelch.com.

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

Kristie Jo Evans

Our mother, daughter, sister, partner and friend, Kristie, will always be remembered because she will always have a place in our hearts. She's with our heavenly father now. Alas, she's finally whole. The fear, the pain, the suffering has finally gone away. The tears that felt like rain are replaced with sunny days. Even as our hearts break, we have peace with knowing you're safely home. Your soul is free in heaven now and with the angels you will roam.

Kristie was born in Oklahoma City, OK on November 12, 1963. She grew up in Abilene and San Angelo, TX. She loved NASCAR racing, Dallas Cowboys, floating in the lake and road trips. Kristie loved her friends and family and we loved her.

Kristie is survived by her best friend and partner Christy Erwin. Her parents, Sandy and Ray Crenshaw; daughter Jessica Weis and her son, Oakley; son Dusty and wife Stacy Norred and their children Kegan & Charlotte; brothers, Jason Crenshaw, John Crenshaw, Curtis and wife, Mindi Green, Kevin and wife, Sharie Crenshaw; and sister, Markie Kelley; grandchildrenm Sarah and Jasmine Holden, great grandson Baby J and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Kristie was preceded in death by her son, Derek Holden, and father, Charles Green Jr.

A memorial service will be held January 6th at Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral home, 2508 N. Big Spring Street, Midland, TX 79705 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Home Hospice of Midland.

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

Lewallen Garcia Pipkin Funeral Home 2508 N. Big Spring · Midland, TX · (432) 682-3700

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

Marcia Chandler

Marcia Yvonne Chandler, 89, of Midland, passed away on December 29, 2015.

She was born September 3, 1926, in Abilene, Texas and was adopted by O.O. and Eva Dever as a newborn and raised in Snyder, Texas, until graduating from Snyder High School. Marcia then lived in Long Beach, CA, while working at the Boeing Bomber Plant during WWII, then Lubbock, TX, while attending Texas Technological College for a short time, and then off to Dallas, TX., where she met and married John Howell Chandler in 1948. They moved to Midland in the spring of 1953, and Mom grudgingly learned to adjust to the pervasive sand storms that roved the area during the early to mid-1950's drought. Ever the warrior, she settled into Midland on her own terms and became involved in many social circles that were starting to develop during that time period. She worked as a bookkeeper for several Independent Oil Operators during the 50's and 60's, and was manager of the Elks Club for a brief time.

Mom's true passion was buying and renovating homes, living in them for a short period, then off to a new project that required her attention. Mom used to tell me with pride that Dad didn't know how to hammer a nail until he married her. Dad always had other comments. She finally found her dream job when she became a realtor in her 60's. Surviving a heart attack, a broken hip, a broken leg, osteoporosis, Mom refused to give up her independent ways...and car keys. She fell ill after finishing weed eating her yard in October and did not recover. What else can you say about an 89 year old "redheaded" dynamo and a member of the greatest generation that ever walked this planet?

She is survived by her son, Stephen L. Chandler (Lucy); grandsons, Cory C. Chandler (Summer), Andrew C. Chandler (Rachel); step grandsons, Tony Chandler (Melissa), and Louis Chandler, and 10 great grandchildren.

Mom, may you find your next project in eternity with hammer in one hand and paintbrush in the other.

I wish to thank the staff at Midland Memorial Hospital, the Continued Care Hospital, Senior Care facility, and Home Hospice, for their valiant efforts to bring Mom back, then to make her end a peaceful one without pain.

A graveside service will be held at Resthaven Memorial Park on Wednesday, January 6, 2016, at 11:00 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, please make a make a donation to your favorite animal shelter in Mom's name.

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

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

Margaret Flanagan

Margaret Flanagan, 71, of Midland, Texas, passed away on December 28, 2015.

Margaret is survived by her son Dickie Flanagan II, of San Angelo, Texas; grandson, Eric Flanagan of Midland, Texas; and granddaughter, Katy Flanagan of San Angelo, Texas; her brother, Merle Richardson, Jr. of Lake Brownwood, Texas; sister, Betty Boyd of Sarasota, Florida and her sister, Crystal Swanner of Monahans, Texas.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Dickie Flanagan, Sr. of Midland, Texas; and her parents, Merle and Bea Richardson of Lake Brownwood, Texas.

Margaret was born on August 8, 1944 in Wellsville, New York to Merle and Bea Richardson.

Margaret was a loving mother and grandmother. She married Dickie Flanagan, Sr. in Bakersfield, Texas and the couple had four children together, including three sons who died in infancy.

A Graveside Service has been scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 6, 2015 at Glen Rest Cemetery in Big Lake, Texas.

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

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Questions about death notices or online Guest Books?
Email: obits@mrt.com

Margie Engelke

Margie Engelke entered her heavenly home on December 31, 2015. A visitation will be held 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm Sunday, January 3, 2016. A funeral service will be held at 11:00 am Monday, January 4, 2016. Graveside services will be held at 1:00 pm Wednesday, January 6, 2016 at Sealy Cemetery, Sealy, Texas.

She was born the first of seven children to Mary Louise Parker White and Orley Raymond White on October 13, 1929 in Simonton, Texas, what was then known as the Brazos River Bottom. Her early years were spent in Missouri City, Texas with her mother and father, two brothers and four sisters. She graduated from Missouri City High School and Draughon's Business College in Houston. She was employed by Gulf Oil Corp and Jefferson Chemical Company in Houston. She met and later married Clarence Engelke from Sealy, Texas on August 29, 1962. They lived in Houston and Richardson, then transferring to Midland in 1968. She loved spending time with her family, children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. She was a devout Christian and a long-time member of Grace Lutheran Church. She enjoyed league bowling. She loved music, reading and singing with her kids, grandkids and great grandkids.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Clarence and daughter, Paula, also brothers Darrell Raymond White and Kenneth White, sister Margaret Bell Medve and great granddaughter Angel Marie Engelke.

Surviving are her son, Paul Engelke and wife, Ida; daughter, Holly Walker; granddaughter, Jamie Nicholas and husband, Joe, all of Midland, Texas; stepdaughter, Louise Andrews and husband, Dale of Tuttle, Oklahoma; grandchildren, Kari Engelke of Loving, New Mexico; Kaci and Kali Engelke, Braden and Bonny Walker all of Midland, Texas; Darren and Daniel Andrews of Oklahoma; great grandchildren, Corey Nicholas and Tyler Nicholas of Midland, Texas; Trent Echavarria and R.J. Echavarria of Loving, New Mexico; Terran and Kayson Scurlark of Midland, Texas; and Dallas and Leah of Oklahoma; sisters, Bessie White, and Lavada Fuller of Missouri City, Texas and Diane Kure of Brenham, Texas; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

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

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

Wanda C. Reed.

On April 22, 1932, I was brought into this world in Troup, Texas, the 8th child of Charlie and Bertie Cooper.

After high school in 1949, I moved to Dallas and attended Southwestern Business Institute and Patricia Stevens while working for the City of Dallas and volunteering for the YWCA and USO until 1955, when I moved to Houston. There I started working for the former REED ROLLER BIT COMPANY - and also met my husband-to-be (Richard Reed). We married in 1960, had a son, George, in 1962 and moved to Midland in 1967.

I did a lot of volunteer work (meals on wheels, lay ministry, M-Squad, Garden Lane Outreach Center, PBAMI, PDAP, CRISP and miscellaneous church work). Since I had a Lifetime Membership in the NSA, I started working for MMH, later set-up NEWCOMERS GREETING SERVICE for Midland. My friend, Rhuine McDonald had already set it up in Odessa.

My parents, grand-parents, seven siblings and our son have all preceded me in death. I am survived by my sister, Joyce Lane of Mt. Pleasant, and sister Francene Esensee and her husband, E.W. of San Angelo; and numerous nephews and nieces, and one sister-in-law (Jane Cooper) who lives in Mansfield, and my loving husband.

My appreciation goes to Hospice of Midland, Doctors Summer Merritt and Manny Mangat, Laurie Franklin, Susan Condley, Dave and Judy Swenson, Ross Mason, Terry and Sherry Dummer, Don and Evelyn Byerly, Fred and Corey Telshow, Shirley Qualia, Rosemary and Joe Sanchez, Bertine Sliger and the many others who have helped me over "the rough spots".

Burial will be at Union Grove Cemetery in Smith County where most of my family have been buried.

THERE WILL BE NO SERVICES-and NO FLOWERS, PLEASE.

Arrangements were made with Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home and Chapel. Family messages and condolences may be emailed to: pipkin@nts-online.net or you can visit our website at *lewallengarciapipkinfh.com*

Lewallen Garcia Pipkin Funeral Home 2508 N. Big Spring · Midland, TX · (432) 682-3700

Death Notices

Delia DeLucas

Delia DeLucas, 59 of Midland, passed away Thursday, December 31st, 2015.

Services are pending with Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home.

Delia is survived by her children; two sons, Juan Manuel DeLucas and Edi DeLucas; two daughters, Mary Jane Bejarano and Daisy DeLucas and five grandchildren.

Vilmos Zsigmond, Oscar-winning cinematographer, dies at 85

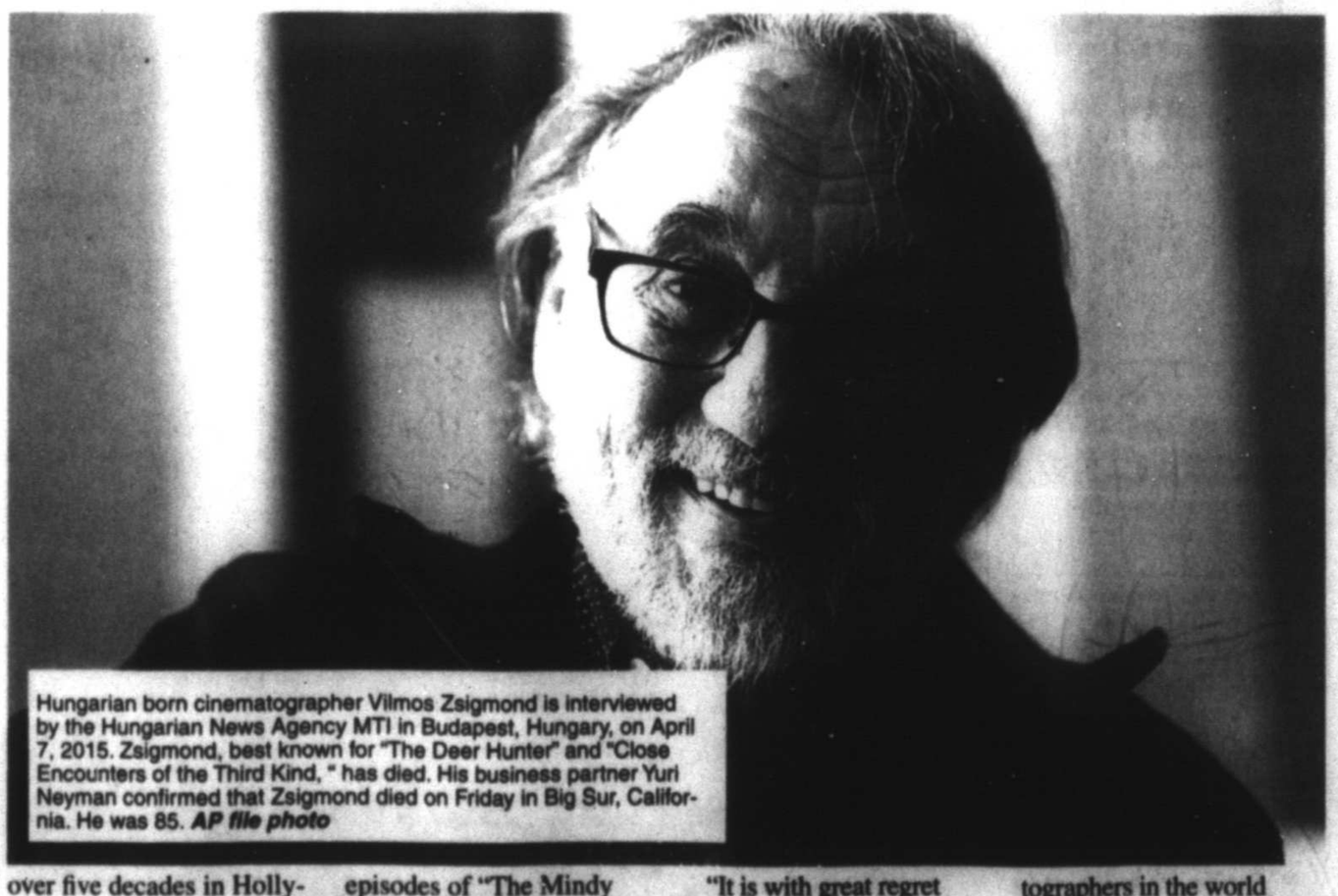
By Tre'vell Anderson
Los Angeles Times

Oscar-winning cinematographer Vilmos Zsigmond, whose work on classics such as "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," "The Deer Hunter" and numerous other films made him one of the most influential cinematographers in film history, has died, according to his business partner Yuri Neyman. He was 85.

The Hungarian-born Zsigmond died Friday from "a combination of many illnesses," said Neyman, who received notice from the deceased's wife.

Zsigmond won an Oscar for 1977's "Close Encounters of the Third Kind." He was also nominated three other times, for 1978's "The Deer Hunter," 1984's "The River" and 2006's "The Black Dahlia."

He won an Emmy for the 1992 miniseries "Stalin," and was nominated for 2001's "The Mists of Avalon."



Hungarian born cinematographer Vilmos Zsigmond is interviewed by the Hungarian News Agency MTI in Budapest, Hungary, on April 7, 2015. Zsigmond, best known for "The Deer Hunter" and "Close Encounters of the Third Kind, " has died. His business partner Yuri Neyman confirmed that Zsigmond died on Friday in Big Sur, California. He was 85. *AP file photo*

In a career that spanned over five decades in Hollywood, Zsigmond continued to work well into his later years. He shot a number of episodes of "The Mindy Project" from 2012 to 2014 as well as several films that have yet to be released.

"It is with great regret and deep sorrow that I must inform you that on Friday one of the greatest cinematographers in the world ... passed away," Neyman wrote on his Facebook page. "Please join with all of us in offering thoughts and prayers for Vilmos' family at this difficult time."

In a phone interview with the Los Angeles Times, Neyman elaborated on Zsigmond's influence on the industry.

"He discovered and created new styles in cinematography in the United States and in independent cinema," he said. "He was a very first voice. He taught people how to look and think differently. He was unique at a time when he was just in independent cinema, (before all the awards). He changed how people view cinematography."

Zsigmond and Neyman co-founded the Global Cinematography Institute, an organization "devoted to the educational steps toward the extension of the cinematographer's profession into the digital and virtual-based creative realms."

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Weather took the state on wild ride in 2015

By Dylan Baddour
Houston Chronicle

Texas saw ruinous hailstorms, floods, tornadoes, blizzards and even an acute summer drought in 2015.

Add it all up, and the past year was the state's wettest since record-keeping began in 1895, official numbers through November and federal estimates for December indicate.

"I've called this year's climate 'Texas' wild ride,'" State Climatologist John Nielsen-Gammon said of 2015. "We recovered from one drought, then had another one, then recovered from it. Texas had its wettest month ever, and its wettest storm ever, and the wettest storm was not in the wettest month!"

San Antonio saw its ninth-rainiest year on record, National Weather Service data shows.

Normally, the Alamo City gets about 32 inches of precipitation a year. The total for 2015 is more than a foot above that, 44.22 inches, which end the drought that started in 2010.

The yearly total still falls short of San Antonio's all-time rainfall record of 52.28 inches, set in 1973.

Across the state, preliminary numbers show last weekend's rains that accompanied a North Texas tornado outbreak dropped an average of 1.3 inches. That brings the statewide yearly rainfall total to 41.29 inches, surpassing the 40.22 inches in 1941 and 39.45 inches in 1919 for the top spot in the rankings. In Houston, yearly rainfall was 20 inches above average, and ranked fifth overall.

Experts credit phenomenal global weather patterns in 2015 for the relentless storms, but also point to climate models that long ago predicted that an Earth warmed by greenhouse-gas emissions would see a higher volume of intense downpours like the ones that struck Texas this year.

"The intensity of storms is going up," said Ron Sass, a fellow in global climate change at Rice University.

Such wet weather is expensive.

Statewide flood damages as of October were estimated at $3 billion, largely in repair costs to waterlogged roads with soaked foundations. That figure didn't cover the recent tornadoes that destroyed hundreds of structures in North Texas.

Mark Hanna, a spokesman for the Insurance Council of Texas, said he expected billions of dollars in homeowner claims, but couldn't provide estimates for damages to vehicles or commercial property.

"It's just been storm after storm after storm," he said Tuesday from Dallas, where he'd traveled to assess tornado damage. "I couldn't keep up with it."

The amount of rain that hits Texas in concentrated bursts has grown steadily over the past 40 years, said Gerald North, a veteran climate researcher at Texas A&M University.

That effect long had been predicted by computer models of greenhouse gas-induced climate change; warmer air currents hold more moisture, so when storm clouds break, there's more water to fall.

"It seems to be a real trend," he said. "Probably more of our rain will be concentrated in these heavy events."

But a global weather phenomenon, El Niño, also exacerbated Texas storms.

Every three to 12 years, water on the surface of the Pacific Ocean gets so warm that it heats the air above it, which rises in massive columns, thwarting the typical flow of atmospheric currents.

Typically, it bumps the subtropical jet stream north, directly into Texas airspace, bringing a steady supply of airborne moisture to the Lone Star State.

Last year saw the strongest El Niño on record by many metrics.

At the start of 2015, Texas' searing four-year drought lingered, but finally faded with rains in early May. Then, tremendous downpours over Memorial Day weekend swept across Central and Southeast Texas, washing homes from foundations, stranding motorists on flooded roads and causing tens of millions of dollars in damage, especially in Wimberley.

May became Texas' wettest month on record.

Rains that were a nightmare in urban areas were welcome relief for farmers and ranchers, who'd struggled since 2011 and through a record drought. But Mother Nature was heavy-handed with its compensation.

Texas' most fertile fields lie in creek floodplains, where water delivers nutritious silt. But by late spring, too much water had left fields submerged.

When fields turn muddy, farmers can't take their tractors out. Many in the plains couldn't plant their cotton — Texas' highest-grossing crop — until the last day of the planting season, in June. Then, the rain stopped. By September, half the state — including San Antonio — was in drought again, and the rains didn't return until it was too late for good cotton.

Then, between Oct. 22 and Oct. 25, the wettest single storm in Texas history struck, Nielsen-Gammon said. One Central Texas rain station logged 0.15 inches of rainfall between June and September, while another reported 0.15 inches per minute on Oct. 30. Streets and neighborhoods flooded from Houston to Dallas. In San Antonio, October turned into the second rainiest month of the year, 7.78 inches.

Two-thirds of the state's wheat crop never made it into the ground, Miller said.

The dramatic weather bears the markers of man-made climate change, according to Andrew Dessler, professor of atmospheric sciences at Texas A&M University and former senior tech policy analyst at the White House.

Decades of computer models with millions of data points and variables have suggested that precipitation would concentrate into heavy outbreaks as the climate warms. This year is strongly poised to overtake 2014 as the Earth's warmest year on record, according to federal data.

Sass started studying climate change in 1988, when most of its outcomes were theoretical. But, starting in the late 1990s, he said, the climate started producing precisely what the earlier models had predicted, motivated by a steady warming trend.

Scientists credit that trend to centuries of burning fossil fuel. Since the start of the Industrial Age, more than 350 billion tons of carbon has wafted out of smokestacks and exhaust pipes into Earth's air, in the form of methane or carbon dioxide.

Those molecules — named greenhouse gases for these heat-reflecting properties — bear a characteristic structure that reflects space-bound radiation back to the planet's surface, causing it to warm.

Scientists acknowledge they can't pin down precise manifestations of climate change, thanks mostly to the complexity of Earth systems.

But so far, events have lined up well with predictions made decades ago via climate-change models.

Four Texas political stories to watch for in the new year

By Patrick Svitek
Texas Tribune

The new year is already shaping up to be one of the most active in Texas politics — and not just because the presidential race will center on the state come March 1, the day of the primary.

On top of a race for the White House with plenty of connections to Texas, the state will elect — or re-elect — a new wave of lawmakers at both the state and federal level.

Meanwhile, current lawmakers will hash out major issues that are bound to shape the next legislative session.

And the fate of state's top law enforcement official, indicted Attorney General Ken Paxton, will continue to hang in the balance.

Here are four stories to watch for as 2016 gets underway:

1. How big a role does Texas play in the presidential race?

With an earlier-than-usual primary, Texas is set to have expanded influence in the 2016 presidential race on March 1.

That is especially true on the Republican side, where candidates are paying special attention to the group of mostly Southern states expected to vote March 1 in what is being called the "SEC primary." That group includes the Lone Star State, whose 155 delegates make it the biggest prize that day for the GOP contenders.

From the outset of the Republican race for the White House, it looked like Texas could play host to a showdown among several hopefuls with strong ties to the state, including at least U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, former Gov. Rick Perry, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and U.S. Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky.

But with Perry now out of the race and Bush and Paul struggling in the polls, expectations are higher than ever for Cruz to notch a home-state victory — as long as he can fend off national frontrunner Donald Trump.

2. How much redder does Texas become?

Despite high-profile efforts to turn Texas blue, there have been few signs that the state is headed in that direction; in fact, recent elections suggest the state is becoming even redder. That could be borne out in the March 1 primaries, when a number of Texas House and Texas Senate districts could turn even redder than they already are.

The number of Republicans in the Legislature is unlikely to change dramatically, but the type of Republican could — which matters in a state where the most competitive races are often between Republicans and Republicans, not Democrats and Republicans. That's evident in places like Senate District 1, where retiring Sen. Kevin Eltife of Tyler, a moderate Republican, is all but guaranteed to be replaced by a more conservative lawmaker.

3. What issues foreshadow the next legislative session?

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and House Speaker Joe Straus have given committees in both chambers a series of issues to study that range from the largely noncontroversial to the politically touchy. Falling in the latter category are all types of issues that could expose divides between Democrats and Republicans — not to mention Republicans and Republicans — such as ethics reform and religious liberty.

What will also be telling is which issues the state's top three leaders — Gov. Greg Abbott, Patrick and Straus — take charge of ahead of the 2017 session. Political considerations may be heightened for Straus, who faces two challengers for his seat and a likely one for the gavel if he wins re-election.

4. Can Ken Paxton hang on?

Several months since he was indicted on securities fraud charges, there has been little public political pressure for Paxton to step down. But that could change in 2016, especially after a judge's denial in December of all his lawyers' motions to quash the charges — a decision that moved him closer to a trial.

Under state law, Paxton does not have to give up his job unless he is convicted. However, if the prospect of a trial looks more and more likely as the new year unfolds, discussions about Paxton's potential replacement could intensify, making it harder for the former state senator to hold on to his post as the state's top law enforcement official.

STATEBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

FORT WORTH

School board travel spending soars

The Fort Worth school board over the last school year has spent more on travel than previous boards did over the previous 10 years and almost double the average over that decade.

Records examined by the Fort Worth Star-Telegram show school trustees spent more than $82,000 in travel from July 1, 2014, to June 30 last year.

School Board President Jacinto Ramos alone accounted for $24,000 of the expenses.

Trustees said they're participating more in state and national activities dealing with urban school district reforms. Ramos says they're putting the district "back on the local and national map" and that it's important for him to be visible at events.

HOUSTON

Harris County detectives investigating 2 bodies found in car

Harris County sheriff's deputies are investigating the discovery of two bodies in an abandoned car.

Homicide investigators arrived at the scene in a rural area just east of Houston before daybreak Sunday.

Details haven't been immediately released.

EL PASO

3 dead, 2 hospitalized in truck wreck

Three people have been killed and two others hospitalized in a truck wreck on a private road in El Paso.

El Paso County Sheriff's officials said two people died at the scene and a third was pronounced dead at a hospital after their pickup truck failed to navigate a curve, drove over an embankment and rolled.

The sheriff's office tells El Paso television station KVIA that two other people in the truck when it crashed Saturday evening were taken to a hospital.

HOUSTON

State lawmaker Sylvester Turner takes over as Houston mayor

Houston officially has a new mayor with Sylvester Turner taking the oath of office.

A public inauguration is set for Monday but legal requirements mandate Houston's mayor be sworn in Jan. 2, so Turner took over on Saturday with a private ceremony.

Turner comes to City Hall in Texas' largest city after serving in the Texas House since 1988. He resigned from that post effective Friday.

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Thursday January 7
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Commanche Trail Park
100 Whipkey Drive
Big Spring, Texas

Lubbock Travel Show
Tuesday January 12
2:00 PM
MCM Elegante Hotel
801 Avenue Q
Lubbock, Texas

Permian Basin Travel Show
Thursday January 7
2:00 PM
Holiday Inn Express Hotel
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TODAY IN MIDLAND

Meeting

Planning and Zoning Commission
3:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers, City Hall
300 N. Loraine Ave.

Support groups, club meetings today

■ Midland Walkabout Volkssport Club, 6 p.m., Murray's Deli, 687-2588, midlandwalkabout.org.
■ Midland Parkinson Support Group, 6:30 p.m., HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital, 699-6640.
■ for miscarriage grief recovery, call 570-5935.
■ for post-abortion healing, call 570-5935.
■ Tall City VFW Post 7208, 1303 E. Taylor, bingo games 7 p.m.

What's on the radio

News talk
■ KCRS (AM 550)
6-9 a.m. The Morning Drive with Robert Hallmark and Kurt Verlei
9-11 a.m. Lynn Woolley
11 a.m.-2 p.m. Rush Limbaugh
2-5 p.m. Dave Ramsey
5-6 p.m. Local news reports
6-9 p.m. Roger Hedgecock
9-midnight Hugh Hewitt
Midnight-6 a.m. Coast to Coast with George Noory
Web: http://www.newstalkkcrs.com

■ KWEL (AM 1070, FM 107.1)
6-10 a.m. Morning Show with Craig Anderson
10 a.m.-noon. Herman Cain
Noon-2 p.m. Glenn Beck
2-5 p.m. Sean Hannity
Web: http://www.kwel.com

Sport talk
■ KMND (AM 1510)
6-9 a.m. Mike and Mike in the Morning
9 a.m.-noon Dan Le Batard Show
Noon-3 p.m. The Dan Patrick Show

Other options
■ Contemporary Christian: KFRI (FM 88.7); KLVW (FM 90.5)
NPR: KOCV (FM 91.3)

How sick are you?

Midland Memorial Hospital is offering a nurse triage program "68-NURSE."

The program is designed to help people determine whether or not their health situation warrants a trip to the emergency room. Midland residents can call the line by dialing 686-8773.

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

Contact your government

■ LOCAL TAXING ENTITIES
MISD
615 W. Missouri, Midland, TX 79701
Phone: 689-1000. Fax: 689-1932
Website: midlandisd.net
Superintendent Ryder Warren 689-1001

■ MIDLAND COUNTY
P.O. Box 421, Midland, TX 79702
Website: www.co.midland.tx.us
County Judge Mike Bradford 688-4310

■ CITY OF MIDLAND
P.O. Box 1152, Midland, TX 79702
or 300 N. Loraine, Midland, TX 79701
Phone: 685-7203; Fax: 686-1600
e-mail: cityofmidland@midland-texas.gov
Website: midlandtexas.gov
Mayor Jerry Morales 685-7204

■ MIDLAND COLLEGE
3600 N. Garfield, Midland, TX 79705
Phone: 685-4500; Fax: 685-4522
Website: midland.edu
President Steve Thomas 685-4520

■ MIDLAND MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
400 Rosalind Redfern Grover Parkway, Midland, Texas, 79701
Phone: 221-1111
Website: www.midland-memorial.com
President Russell Meyers 221-1584

Today in history

Today is Monday, Jan. 4, the fourth day of 2016. There are 362 days left in the year.

On this date:

In 1821, the first native-born American saint, Elizabeth Ann Seton, died in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

In 1904, the Supreme Court, in Gonzalez v. Williams, ruled that Puerto Ricans were not aliens and could enter the United States freely; however, the court stopped short of declaring them U.S. citizens. (Puerto Ricans received U.S. citizenship in 1917.)

In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in his State of the Union address, called for legislation to provide assistance for the jobless, elderly, impoverished children and the handicapped.

In 1943, Soviet dictator Josef Stalin made the cover of TIME as the magazine's 1942 "Man of the Year."

In 1951, during the Korean War, North Korean and Communist Chinese forces recaptured the city of Seoul (soh'ul).

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson delivered his State of the Union address in which he outlined the goals of his "Great Society."

In 2007, Nancy Pelosi was elected the first female speaker of the House as Democrats took control of Congress.

Ten years ago: No. 2 Texas won college football's championship, beating No. 1 Southern California 41-38 in the Rose Bowl.

Associated Press

Sheriff says refuge occupiers trying to overthrow government

By Nigel Duara
Los Angeles Times

PORTLAND, Ore. — A group of armed activists who have seized control of part of a federal wildlife refuge in southern Oregon appear to be aiming "to overthrow the county and federal government," a local law enforcement official said Sunday.

Harney County Sheriff David M. Ward said authorities from "several organizations" are working to peacefully resolve the standoff, which began Saturday when an unknown number of armed activists occupied an uninhabited building at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, about 30 miles outside the town of Burns, Ore.

"These men came to Harney County claiming to be part of militia groups supporting local ranchers, when in reality these men had alternative motives, to attempt to overthrow the county and federal government in hopes to spark a movement across the United States," Ward said in a statement Sunday.

There were no signs of confrontation Sunday at the small refuge headquarters building, seized in what activists said was a protest against the federal prosecution of two ranchers and a bid to reclaim local control of federally managed land.

"We ask that people stay away from the refuge for their safety," Ward said.

"At this time, we do not have any information that any other areas in Harney County are in immediate danger," he said.

County officials announced that schools would remain closed through the week pending a resolution.

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., said the FBI was leading the law enforcement response, in coordination with the Oregon State Police and local law enforcement authorities.

Wyden said he was himself heading to southern Oregon to meet with local residents.

"I understand why rural Oregonians are so frustrated about this economy," Wyden said a news conference. "But the next step from frustration is not to walk off a cliff, misled by some outsiders who seem willing to take the law into their own hands."

Those leading what amounts to an armed occupation at the small, remote building say they are the vanguard of a national movement to resist the government's ownership of vast stretches of land in the West.

The move began Saturday after a peaceful rally near Burns, where more than 150 people gathered in support of the ranchers who are facing additional jail time for arson.

A small, armed breakaway faction then moved on the wildlife refuge, which was closed and empty.

Dozens of protesters who marched through the town of Burns called for the federal government to back down in its enforcement of public lands regulations.

"We're here to stand up for our brothers and sisters and show the world, show America: You mess with us, you mess with all of us," co-organizer Jeff Roberts told a gathering.

"This isn't an Oregon problem, this is a national problem, and it's happening everywhere," he said.

Dwight Hammond, 73, and his son Steven Hammond, 46, said they set fires in 2001 and 2006 to reduce the growth of invasive plants and protect their Harney County property from wildfires.

The two were convicted of the arsons three years ago and served time — Dwight three months, and Steven a year.

But a judge ruled their terms were too short under federal law and ordered them back to prison for about four years each.

Hammond has said he and his son plan to report to prison Monday in Los Angeles as ordered by a judge, but the court decision has generated controversy across the West.

Protesters at the Burns rally came from as far away as Idaho, Nevada and Arizona.

The procession stopped briefly at the Hammonds' home, where supporters greeted the elder Hammond on the front porch and sang "Amazing Grace."

The group at the wildlife refuge is apparently led by sons of Cliven Bundy, the Nevada rancher who in 2014 led a standoff against federal agents who sought to collect Bundy's cattle over his $1 million debt to the Bureau of Land Management for grazing fees.

Hundreds of self-styled militiamen flocked to Bundy's ranch and, after pointing weapons at federal agents, ended the standoff.

At the time, BLM and law enforcement officials worried privately that the standoff would embolden the movement and cement Bundy's status as a movement leader.

"We can enforce the Constitution in Harney County and that's what we intend to do," Bundy's son Ammon told reporters at the rally. "We have a lot of plans."

His father told Oregon Public Broadcasting that he had spoken to his son and it appeared he and his cohorts were equipped with food and a generator.

"He told me that they were there for the long run. I guess they figured they're going to be there for whatever time it takes — and I don't know what that means," the elder Bundy said.

Another of Bundy's sons, Ryan, who also appears to be at the wildlife refuge, told the Oregonian that the protesters want to see local control of federal land.

"The best possible outcome is that the ranchers that have been kicked out of the area, then they will come back and reclaim their land, and the wildlife refuge will be shut down forever and the federal government will relinquish such control," he said.

"What we're doing is not rebellious. What we're doing is in accordance with the Constitution, which is the supreme law of the land."

The main body of protesters sought to distance themselves from the breakaway faction, which Ammon Bundy said does not consider itself a militia, and the father and son for whom the protest was held are similarly unaffiliated with the occupation.

Distributed By Tribune Content Agency

Vacation over, Obama looking at ways to reduce gun violence

By Kevin Freking
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hawaiian vacation over, President Barack Obama says he is energized for his final year in office and ready to tackle unfinished business, turning immediate attention to the issue of gun violence.

Obama scheduled a meeting Monday with Attorney General Loretta Lynch to discuss a three-month review of what steps he could take to help reduce gun violence. The president is expected to use executive action to strengthen background checks required for gun purchases.

Republicans strongly oppose any moves Obama may make, and legal fights seem likely over what critics would view as infringing on their Second Amendment rights. But Obama is committed to an aggressive agenda in 2016 even as public attention shifts to the presidential election.

Obama spent much of his winter vacation out of the public eye, playing golf with friends and dining out with his family. He returned to the White House about noon Sunday.

"I am fired up for the year that stretches out before us. That's because of what we've accomplished together over the past seven," Obama said his weekly radio and Internet address.

While in Hawaii, he also worked on his final State of the Union address, scheduled for Jan. 12. The prime-time speech will give the president another chance to try to reassure the public about his national security stewardship after the attacks in Paris and San Bernardino, California.

Congressional Republicans have outlined a competing agenda for January, saying they will spend the first days of 2016 taking another crack at eliminating keys parts of the president's health insurance law and ending federal funding for Planned Parenthood. The legislation is unlikely to become law, but it is popular with the GOP base in an election year.

The debate about what Obama may do on gun violence already has spilled over into the presidential campaign.

Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton has called for more aggressive executive actions on guns, and rival Bernie Sanders said he would support Obama's expected move.

The Vermont senator told ABC's "This Week" that he believes "there is a wide consensus" that "we should expand and strengthen the instant background check." He added: "I think that's what the president is trying to do and I think that will be the right thing to do."

Republican candidates largely oppose efforts to expand background checks or take other steps that curb access to guns.

"This president wants to act as if he is a king, as if he is a dictator," unable to persuade Congress and forcing an "illegal executive action" on the country, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie told "Fox News Sunday."

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, also on Fox, said Obama's "first impulse is always to take rights away from law-abiding citizens, and it's wrong."

In the radio address, Obama said tens of thousands of people have died from gun violence since background check legislation stalled three years ago.

"Each time, we're told that commonsense reforms like background checks might not have stopped the last massacre, or the one before that, so we shouldn't do anything," Obama said. "We know that we can't stop every act of violence. But what if we tried to stop even one?"

Federally licensed gun sellers are required by law to seek criminal background checks before completing a sale. But gun control advocacy groups say some of the people who sell firearms at gun shows are not federally licensed, increasing the chance of sales to customers prohibited by law from purchasing guns.

LAWS

From 1A

might find it harder now that lawmakers have revamped a longtime practice known as "judicial bypass" that helps girls under 18 who are facing extreme situations.

Those youths, perhaps hundreds a year, have to prove to a judge that asking their parents for consent to have an abortion would not be in their best interests because it could lead to physical or emotional abuse at home.

Girls who are denied parental consent can also turn to the courts for help.

Now, with changes lawmakers made during the 2015 legislative session, girls seeking judicial bypass must show ID, providing "proof of identity and age." They must disclose their address and telephone number.

And they may no longer seek a bypass in any county. Instead, teens must seek that bypass in their home county, or a neighboring one if the home county has fewer than 10,000 residents.

Judges will now have more time — five days rather than two — to make their ruling in these cases.

"This addresses several issues," state Rep. Geanie Morrison, R-Victoria, said when arguing for the bill's passage.

The girl must "prove by clear and convincing evidence she is mature and well-informed enough" to know that an abortion is in her best interest, she said. HB 3994

Governmental transparency

HB 283 — Most governmental bodies, if they weren't already doing it, will now have to make audio or video recordings of their open meetings available on the Internet.

HB 991 — Next time you are pumping gas into your vehicle, look to see if there's a notice on the gas pump showing the current rates of federal and state motor fuel taxes. The Texas Department of Agriculture is now required to display that information.

Housing

Texas who have spent time in jail or prison might have an easier time finding a place to live when they get out.

HB 1510 gives landlords protection against liability for renting or leasing to someone with a criminal record.

HB 2404 — And landlords who find the need to re-key a security device after a renter breaks his or her lease can legally use some of the security deposit to do that within seven days of the person leaving.

Miscellaneous

Professional sports teams can now hold 50-50 raffles at home games that will give half the winnings to a local charity and half to a lucky individual.

HB 975 — Texans approved a constitutional amendment allowing this in the November election and these raffles — at local events such as Texas Rangers games or those for the Cowboys, Stars, Mavericks or FC Dallas — can begin after Jan. 1.

HB 1683 — Now, a notary public will get an identifying number when he or she applies for a commission or reappointment.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency.

NATIONBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

IOWA

Powerball jackpot expected to grow to $400 million Wednesday

DES MOINES — The next Powerball winner will have a chance to claim one of the game's 10 biggest prizes this week when the jackpot grows to roughly $400 million.

Lottery officials say no one claimed Saturday's $334 million prize, although someone from Pennsylvania won $2 million and three players from California, Connecticut and South Carolina won $1 million in the game.

When the jackpot reaches $400 million, it might exceed the size of the sixth-largest prize in Powerball history. That was a $399.4 million prize won in 2013 by someone from South Carolina.

The odds of winning the Powerball jackpot are 1 in 292.2 million.

NEW ORLEANS

Police: body apparently dragged 6 miles in hit-and-run

New Orleans police say a driver apparently hit a pedestrian in the city's French Quarter and dragged the body more than 6 miles, crossing a Mississippi River bridge to the other side.

Police say a driver found the disfigured body about 3:30 a.m. Friday in the road leading from the bridge.

BATTLE

From 1A

construction, manufacturing, transportation and trade.

For example, some U.S. manufacturing benchmarks have declined alongside the rig count since this summer.

The sharp drop in crude prices last year triggered the biggest retreat from U.S. oil fields in decades and quashed a roaring domestic energy boom that had put the United States, long dependent on crude from overseas, in the same league as top oil producers Russia and Saudi Arabia.

The tumultuous year emptied once-crowded shale oil plays in Texas and North Dakota and forced domestic drilling to fall to levels last seen in 1999.

In Houston, center of the U.S. energy industry, the jobless rate rose from 4.3 percent last year to 4.9 percent in November as the price of oil fell below $40 a barrel.

Revenue for the world's biggest publicly traded oil companies — Exxon Mobil Corp., Chevron Corp., Royal Dutch Shell, BP and Total — plummeted by $464 billion, and the top 20 U.S. producers lost $64.3 billion in profits during the first nine months of the year.

On Thursday, the Dow Jones industrial average ended the year down 2.2 percent, marking its first annual loss since the financial crisis in 2008, and the S&P 500 slipped 0.7 percent for the year. The link between the oil sector and the broader economy could be amplified this year as the oil bust becomes more exacting in its toll on the industry.

In the United States, two thirds of the oil hedges that shielded many smaller drillers from low crude prices will expire soon. At today's prices, shale drillers are losing $13 to $18 for each barrel of crude they extract.

History has not been kind to investors who bet that crude prices would recover quickly in 2015. In the early spring, those financiers poured billions into U.S. oil companies in hopes of rewards if crude prices rose higher. For a few months early in the year, U.S. crude prices did increase, and hovered around $55 to $60 a barrel until late summer, when new fears of slowing economic growth in China jolted markets, and Saudi Arabia and Iraq began throttling up oil output.

'Star Wars' box office surpasses 'Titanic,' 'Jurassic World'

By Lindsey Bahr
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" marched confidently into the new year, raking in an additional $88.3 million over the New Year's weekend and topping the box office for a third week, according to studio estimates Sunday.

In addition to setting a new high mark in New Year's box office history, the record-busting film blew past the domestic grosses of both "Jurassic World" ($652.3 million) and "Titanic" ($658.7 million) to become the second-highest earner of all time with $740.3 million in just 19 days of release.

The top domestic film is "Avatar" with a $760.5 million lifetime domestic gross, but "Star Wars" is barreling in to surpass it soon. For context, it took "Avatar" 72 days to reach $700 million. "Star Wars" did that in 16 days.

Internationally, "Star Wars" earned $96.3 million this weekend, boosting its global total to $184.6 million.

The film opens in China on Jan. 9.

While "Star Wars" might not give up its throne any time soon, films like "Daddy's Home" and "Sisters" have proven to be incredibly strong performers.

"Daddy's Home," the comedy starring Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg, came in second with an estimated $29 million, bringing its total to $93.7 million in just two weeks. The film fell only 25 percent from its first weekend in theaters. Even more formidable is the mere 11 percent drop from the Tina Fey and Amy Poehler comedy "Sisters," which brought in $12.6 million in its third weekend for a fourth-place spot. The film has earned $61.7 million so far.

"When you look at the holding power of 'Daddy's Home' and 'Sisters,' it shows you that those films are for many people the antidote to 'Star Wars,'" said Paul Dergarabedian, a senior media analyst for box office tracker Rentrak. "The diversity of the slate that the studios created by not retreating from 'Star Wars' is helping."

Quentin Tarantino's bloody Western "The Hateful Eight," meanwhile, took third with $16.2 million in its first weekend in wide release after a strong limited debut. The three-hour epic, which cost a reported $44 million to produce, has made $29.6 million to date — just shy of what "Django Unchained" made in its first weekend.

"There is still a big audience out there for auteur-driven cinema," Dergarabedian said. "Tarantino, no matter what, is an interesting filmmaker. Film fans want to see what he's up to. It's not as big as some of his other films, but it's still doing well as it expands."

"Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip" took fifth place with $11.8 million, dropping only 10 percent from last weekend.

The year is off to a strong start overall, up 24.5 percent from last year. This New Year's weekend could even set a record if it tops the $220 million total of 2009/2010, when both "Avatar" and "Sherlock Holmes" were in theaters.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Rentrak.

Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released today.

1."Star Wars: The Force Awakens," $88.3 million ($96.3 million international).
2."Daddy's Home," $29 million ($9.2 million international).
3."The Hateful Eight," $16.2 million.
4."Sisters," $12.6 million ($650,000 international).
5."Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip," $11.8 million ($10.3 million international).
6."Joy," $10.4 million ($9.3 million international).
7."The Big Short," $9 million ($2.2 million international).
8."Concussion," $8 million ($1.4 million international).
9."Point Break," $6.8 million ($6.8 million international).
10."The Hunger Games: Mockingjay — Part 2," $4.6 million ($4.4 million international).

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to Rentrak:

1. "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," $96.3 million.
2. "Detective Chinatown," $45 million.
3. "Mr. Six," "$38 million.
4. "Mojin: The Lost Legend," $32 million.
5. "Nuovo progetto Di Checco Zalone," $20 million.
6. "The Peanuts Movie," $16.8 million.
7. "The Himalayas," $11 million.
8. "Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip," $10.3 million.
9. "Little Door Gods," $10 million.
10. "The Good Dinosaur," $9.5 million.

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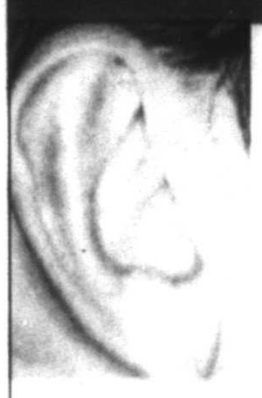

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OPINION

Police are de facto mental health workers

■ Mental illness often is the issue — instead of race — in police-involved shootings

RICH LOWRY
Washington Post Writers Group

The latest police shooting to roil Chicago was all too familiar — and not because it fits the poisonous narrative of rampant police racism alleged by Black Lives Matter.

Quintonio LeGrier's father called police after locking himself in a bedroom when his son menaced him with a baseball bat. When the police arrived, LaGrier, a 19-year-old with emotional problems, allegedly charged them with the bat. An officer shot him dead, and accidentally killed a neighbor as well.

The heart-rending case is, tragically, almost routine. Consider two other recent cases. On Dec. 29, Siolosega Velega-Nuufolau of Santa Nella, California, a 50-year-old woman with mental problems, was shot dead when allegedly charging a sheriff's deputy with a kitchen knife. On Dec. 19, police killed Ruben Jose Herrera, a 26-year-old Los Angeles-area man suffering from bipolar disorder, when he allegedly lunged for an officer's gun in the hospital.

For all the attention devoted to police-involved shootings and race, mental illness is the more salient issue. A joint report by the Treatment Advocacy Center and National Sheriffs' Association in 2013 examined cases between 1980 and 2008, and estimated that roughly half involved people with mental illness. A Washington Post analysis of 1,000 fatal police shootings in 2015 puts it at about a quarter.

These shootings are another tragic symptom of our contemptible outsourcing of the severely mental ill to law enforcement. The police are our de facto front-line mental-health workers — "armed social workers" in the pungent phrase of one observer — and jails are our de facto psychiatric hospital system.

In its analysis of 2015 police shootings, the Post found dozens of cases where the police were called as a means of getting treatment. Shirley Marshall Harrison called the Dallas police when her schizophrenic, bipolar son was out of control. He was shot down while allegedly charging police with a screwdriver. "I didn't call for them to take him to the morgue," she said of the cops. "I called for medical help."

It's a poignant lament, but why do the families of the severely mentally ill need to rely on the police for medical assistance? When someone has a heart attack or gets cancer, we don't call the police.

The answer is simple. In response to abuses, we emptied out mental institutions, but didn't make adequate provisions for otherwise treating the severely mentally ill, who are often left to suffer their delusions with overwhelmed, often frightened family members, or to rot on the streets or in jails.

"There are less than 100,000 seriously mentally ill in psychiatric hospitals being cared for by the mental health system," D.J. Jaffe, the executive director of Mental Illness Policy.Org, writes. "But there are 365,000 incarcerated. There are also 770,000 on probation or parole and 165,000 homeless."

With the mental-health industry essentially abdicating when it comes to the severely mentally ill who refuse treatment or are too sick to realize they need it, the responsibility of the police is increasingly to serve, protect — and deal with desperately ill, irrational people. In 2013, the Arizona Daily Star reported that police in Tucson received "more calls about mental illness than about burglaries or stolen cars."

Yes, police should be better trained in how to try to de-escalate. But there always will be legitimate danger in these incidents — cops can, and do, get killed. The Post analysis "found that about nine in 10 of the mentally troubled people killed by police were armed, usually with guns, but also with knives or other sharp objects."

A more rational and humane policy would give families robust treatment options before it gets to the point of calling the cops. This would mean more psychiatric hospital beds and more options for mandated care. Rep. Tim Murphy, R-Pa., has a bill to push the mental-health system in this direction. The alternative is to continue to default to police to cope with out-of-control people, often brandishing weapons, and hope for the best — and brace for the worst.

OUR VIEW

Open carry requires Texans to act responsibly

Days into the open carry era, and all appears to be quiet. That's a good thing.

Open carry is a big deal, because it means a change in laws pertaining to firearms. We should never take that lightly.

There are some who still want to debate the politics that made open carry a reality in the state of Texas. We have moved past it. Open carry is the law of this land, and in our opinion, the best role for this newspaper is to get more information out there to help people understand the law and the impact it could have on our lives.

The Reporter-Telegram had this in mind with the open carry reporting to this point and the presentation of open carry op-eds in Sunday's edition.

We would like to thank state Rep. Tom Craddick, Police Chief Price Robinson, Sheriff Gary Painter, Midlander James Franklin of the website Western Journalism and the Reporter-Telegram's James Durbin. They provided the perspective of the politician, law enforcement official, gun rights activist and enthusiast, respectively. If you missed any of the coverage, please check out mrt.com.

Because open carry will continue, we welcome the perspective of any Reporter-Telegram reader who wishes to write a letter to the editor.

Durbin made a point that we believe is worth repeating.

"The wearer of an openly carried gun faces a unique problem that the concealed carrier does not. The open carrier should be aware that weapons retention is an ever-present issue. The same holster you used for concealed carry may not be suited to open carry. Law enforcement professionals train to be constantly aware of their surroundings and usually wear duty holsters that incorporate three different levels of retention. Have you thought about what you would do if someone reached for your gun? What if that person is bigger than you?"

In our view, the right to protect yourself should never infringe on the safety of others. Should someone with bad intentions gain possession of your firearm, then open carry will not have served its purpose. You do have a responsibility to keep on your person your weapon that is now out there for the whole world to see. The rest of us are depending on that.

As Durbin wrote, "Being a well-trained concealed carrier was always important, but now, the open carrier places himself or herself under public scrutiny as an example of how a safe gun owner should act, making the need for advanced levels of training even more important."

We believe in personal responsibility. Often, the lack of responsibility of those in the community is the reason for government to enact new laws. We hope that in future legislative sessions our lawmakers can address issues other than open carry. If Texans act responsibly, that should never be an issue.

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Obama fumbles deportation issue

■ Officials are hunting down first wave of Latin American immigrants

RUBEN NAVARRETTE
Washington Post Writers Group

In a revealing exchange with Jerry Seinfeld in the comic's Web series, "Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee," President Obama — who Seinfeld explains has fired off enough one-liners to appear on the show — compares politics to football.

Sometimes you move the ball inches at a time, Obama says. Occasionally, you score points. You get hit a lot. And, he notes, much of the time, you punt.

The president forgot one: In politics, most of the time, you hide the ball.

And during the summer of 2014, that's what Obama did when dealing with the refugee crisis along the U.S.-Mexico border.

You'll recall that tens of thousands of women, children and others made a mess of election-year politics because the huddled masses took literally the inscription on the base of the Statue of Liberty and showed up at our back door "yearning to breathe free."

All they wanted was to keep breathing. This wasn't the usual tale of immigrants coming here for a job, a fresh start, an escape from oppression.

These people came from dangerous countries — Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador — where hundreds of police officers have in recent years been assassinated by violent street gangs, and where innocent bystanders are beaten, threatened, raped and murdered. Many of the refugees' friends and family members had already been killed by these gangs, and they had a credible fear they would be next. In fact, some had specifically been targeted.

That border crisis is back in the news. According to The Washington Post, the Department of Homeland Security has begun preparing for a series of raids — kicking off as early as this month — that would target for deportation hundreds of families that had been apprehended but released with a notice to appear before an immigration court.

Conservatives wailed at the time that folks were getting away scot-free. Now it seems, as usual when it comes to issues related to immigrants and refugees, the right was wrong.

If these people failed to appear as ordered, it's hard to argue they shouldn't be deported. People make choices, and they live with the consequences.

But you can't have effective enforcement if the system lacks honesty and integrity. And there is no sign of either in this story.

These desperate souls seem to fit the definition of refugees. That's for immigration judges to decide. Sadly, in many cases, we never got that far. The numbers were so big that the system was overwhelmed, and — in devising its formal response — the administration was making it up as it went along. The fate of the new arrivals was, in large measure, decided not by the usual factors — what country they came from, their life circumstances, whether they had family members in the United States, etc.

Instead, during that chaotic time, what seems to have mattered most was when you arrived. The third wave was turned around, put on airplanes and deported back home. The second wave was detained indefinitely in grotesque holding facilities in Texas and New Mexico.

It is the first wave that immigration officials are now planning to hunt down. It's true that many of these people were released, but they were't told when they were supposed to report back. That information was supposed to find its way to them later, but there's no way of knowing if they ever received it. In other cases, people were told to report for hearings that were thousands of miles away. And no attorneys were provided.

According to immigration lawyers familiar with these cases, thousands of people were ordered removed in absentia.

It was all about political expedience. Just as the George W. Bush administration found it problematic, after the attacks of Sept. 11, to acknowledge that some terror suspects were U.S. citizens because it gave them due process, the Obama administration must have known that designating people as "refugees" would make it nearly impossible to deport them.

And deport them is what Team Obama wanted to do. After all, while liberals don't want to accept it and conservatives can't afford to concede it, repopulating Latin American countries is Obama's special skill. This administration isn't proficient at much, but it does have a knack for removing the brown-skinned immigrants who raise the anxiety level of white Americans.

Now it's preparing to do it again.

From the Left | Doonesbury

From the Right | Mallard Fillmore

A year of political pregame gives way to a sprint into Iowa

By Thomas Beaumont
Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — It's been a year of town halls and weekend forums and lunchtime meet-and-greets for those who would be president, with nights spent sparring in televised debates and endless days fundraising to pay for TV ads, direct-mail fliers and organizers to get out the vote.

All of it is aimed at people like Jocelyn Beyer, a Republican from the small town of Sully in rural central Iowa, who says despite the many months of political clamor, she's only just now starting to think about her vote for the White House.

"I can't say I've paid much attention," Beyer said. "The moral issues are what I focus on. If I had to vote today, I'd vote for Ted Cruz."

While that's not a solid "yes" for the Texas senator, at least he's doing better with Beyer than he is with Brian Metcalf, a Republican from nearby Pella. Metcalf is thinking about Cruz, but also former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla.

That is, when he's spending any time thinking about the race.

"Until now, it's just been noise," he said. "But I'd like to see someone with a Reagan-esque approach."

For all the attention showered on early state voters in the past year by candidates, their unpaid volunteers and high-dollar admakers — and, yes, journalists, too — the truth is that what happened in 2015 was only the pregame show.

The race for the White House starts in earnest this week as voters such as Beyer and Metcalf begin to tune in and the candidates try to win them over during a four-week sprint to the leadoff Iowa caucuses on Feb. 1. It's then that voters have their first say and push pundits, predictions and polls aside.

AP file photo

Republican presidential hopeful Ted Cruz speaks in Oklahoma City on Dec. 23, 2015. Despite a year of campaigning, 10 televised debates and millions of dollars in advertising, most people in even the earliest voting presidential voting states are just now beginning to focus on their choices in the 2016 campaign.

"The race is still fluid," said Beth Myers, who managed 2012 GOP nominee Mitt Romney's campaign and supports Bush in 2016. "There's still a twist or two in this primary story that we don't know yet."

Where to begin?

It's easier to start with the Democrats.

Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont hopes an upset in Iowa and a victory in the New Hampshire primary a week later will dent the apparent inevitability of front-runner Hillary Clinton. Wins in the first two states for the former first lady, New York senator and secretary of state would all but cement her place atop her party's ticket.

There is no such clarity in the Republican race.

Despite shedding five candidates before New Year's Day, the GOP contest is an unpredictable mix of a dozen hopefuls with vastly different visions for the party and the country.

Ahead now in Iowa is Cruz, who spent 2015 quietly building a traditional campaign organization and will kick off his month with a bus tour — six days, 28 cities — covering the state's most fertile ground for Republicans.

Candidates often try to recruit a political leader to stand for them in each of Iowa's 99 counties. Cruz has also sought a pastor in each to do the same, hoping to corner the market on the evangelical voters who make up a significant part of the GOP caucuses.

"For Cruz, it's about the complete consolidation of the evangelical wing to snuff the life from the others," said Phil Musser, a Republican consultant who is not affiliated with a campaign.

While Cruz has edged ahead in preference polls of Iowa voters in recent weeks, nationally, he still trails the unquestioned political star of 2015: Donald Trump.

The billionaire real-estate mogul has so far forgone the grind-it-out approach in favor of free media exposure and a few rallies a week in front of largely adoring crowds. "He says what everybody's thinking, and he's not afraid to say it," said Trump supporter Bill Kullander of Des Moines.

The unknown for Trump: Are Kullander and the thousands of others who pack the bleachers at Trump's rallies and tell pollsters he's their top choice for the GOP nomination likely voters? Or are they merely fans entertained by his show?

"If I do have a frustration, it's that we're being led by the nose, and the news media is led by the nose, to think that somehow Trump is going to win this because of these polls," Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, whose numbers in preference polls hardly register by comparison, said Sunday in an interview with NBC.

"The polls don't, I believe, capture who's going to actually vote."

Voters are not likely to find Trump dropping in at one of Iowa's many Pizza Ranch restaurants to ask for their support, as Cruz will do on his bus tour.

But Trump's top adviser in Iowa is a veteran organizer who ran former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum's winning 2012 caucus campaign.

Also, it's notable that after almost no paid advertising in 2015, Trump said last week he plans to start spending at least $2 million a week on TV ads in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina, which holds the South's first primary on Feb. 20.

"Honestly, I don't want to take any chances," Trump said last week.

Neither Cruz nor Trump will win the nomination with a victory in Iowa, but caucus-goers probably will deliver a verdict on whether several GOP candidates continue on to New Hampshire. Count Santorum and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, who won the caucuses in 2008, in that group, and maybe retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, too.

Carson was an early favorite in Iowa among evangelical and tea party conservatives, but he enters January without several members of his senior staff. They quit last week and questioned his readiness for the White House on their way out.

Candidates with more traditional political experience will spend the month trying to bridge the gap between the anger and frustration that's powered Trump's rise and the Republican establishment, which desperately wants to win after eight years out of the White House.

For Rubio and Bush, as well as New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Ohio Gov. John Kasich, that likely means lighting the match with a strong finish in Iowa, then igniting their bid with a win in New Hampshire.

"The most important thing to watch is what happens in New Hampshire," said GOP presidential adviser Charlie Black. "That's going to set the field in terms of a mainstream candidate."

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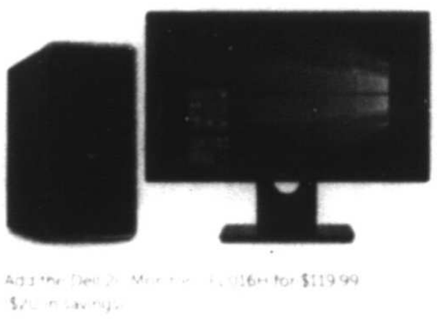

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52 FACES

OF COMMUNITY
PRESENTED BY CHEVRON AND MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

RECOGNIZING MIDLAND'S UNSUNG HEROES & VOLUNTEERS

JANICE HENRY

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY FOUNDER

Professional and community involvement: With a huge team of passionate people in Midland and around the U.S., I encourage 5- to 30-year-olds through Student Community Bible Study and SGY at Stonegate Fellowship. I also serve on teams and committees for Rock The Desert, Watch and Pray, PressOn Productions and China Aid.

What does it mean to serve the community, and how do you do so? We were all designed by God to live in community — we need others' help, and they need our help. God gave each of us different gifts and talents that we are to work to develop. My greatest fulfillment in life comes as I serve in Midland, the USA and the world. The statement "There is no I in team" is true.

What role does Community Bible Study play in strengthening the community? Community Bible Study in Midland is available to all — babies, ladies, men, teens, young professionals — and is led by a team of leaders who are passionate to be a friend to others and walk through life with them. I created three CBS programs — After School Kids, teen, and Capstone, for young professionals — that now exist all over the USA. Working with children, teenagers and young professionals on most every weeknight, I have seen amazing love and made lifetime relationships. I believe that as you have deep conversations about the important things of life centered on the truth of the Bible, the most unexpected things happen. Recently in After School Kids CBS, we were studying about Stephen when he was killed by people who did not believe in Jesus. Stephen's life taught those kids about heaven being a wonderful forever home for Christ followers and also forgiving those who hurt you, and about religious persecution. A few days later, one of our ASK CBS children had his precious father suddenly go to be with Jesus in a plane crash. He was able to comfort himself and his mom because he had just learned about how Stephen looked up to heaven and saw a beautiful place. Death is not the end for a Christ follower, but rather an amazing new place to live with our amazing and loving God and his son, Jesus. The truth of the Bible can help us live encouraged each day in every situation. This lovely child has confidence that he will see his dad again because he knows where he is. Children need strength to overcome discouragement from bullying to divorce to school work issues to parents bad choices.

How long has Midland been your home, and why have you stayed? My husband, Bobby, and I moved to Midland 39 years ago. He was an Air Force major in Alaska and is now an orthodontist who owns Smiles Inc. He loves helping generations of Midlanders have beautiful smiles. Moving to Midland has been a blessing times a million. I love working for awesome Midlanders as an interior designer through Janice Lane Henry Interiors and The ScreenDoor Showroom. I recently completed the Crownquest Operating offices for Bobby Floyd and Tim Dunn. Midlanders have allowed Bobby and me to serve them from their smiles to their homes and offices. Our hobby is visiting our married children, Kristen, Carrie and Blake, their stalwart spouses and our 10 kind and lovable grandchildren. Attending Stonegate Fellowship is where we have learned that God is committed to our great joy. Midland continues to be a big part of our joy, and we are forever thankful. We continue to PressOn.

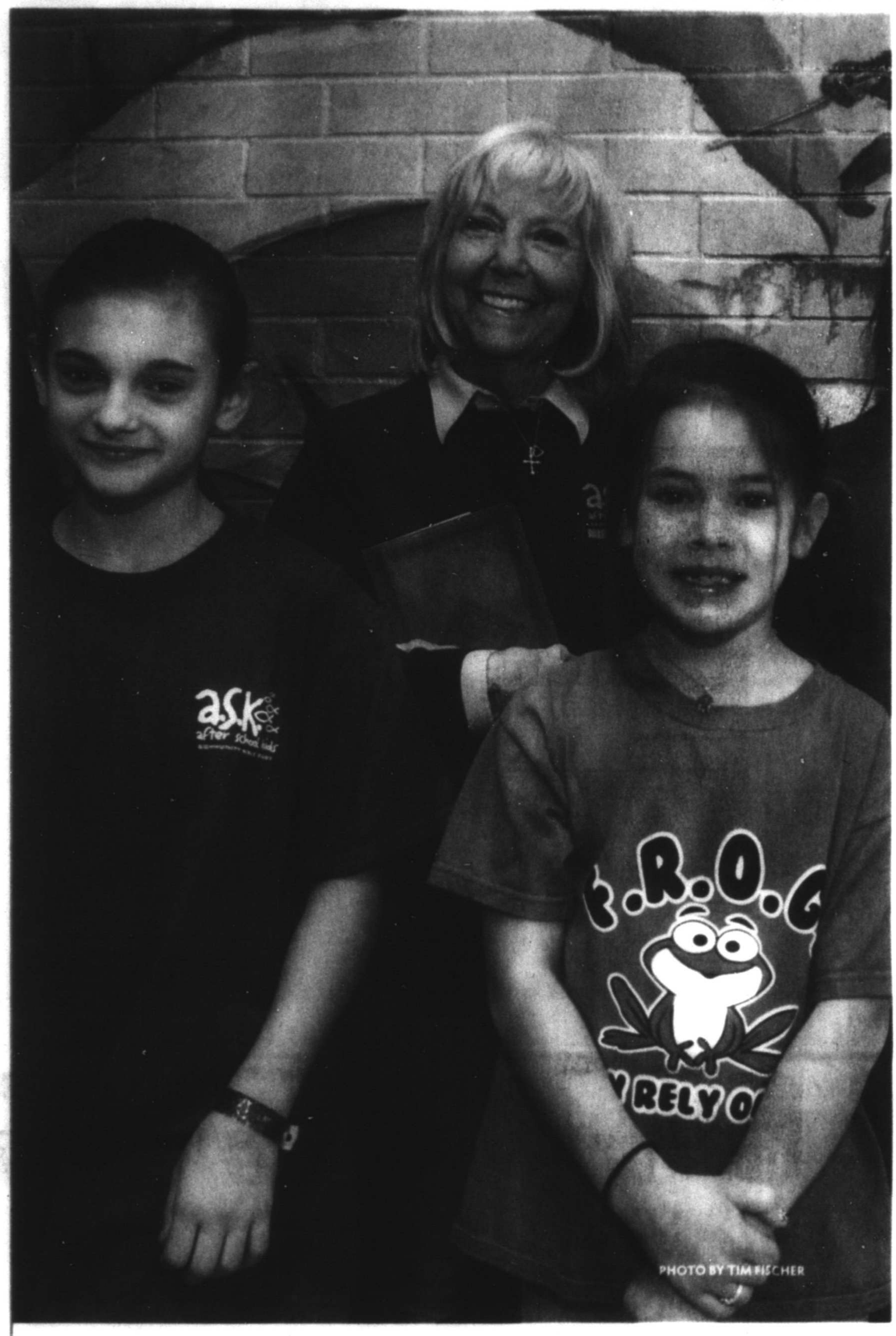

PHOTO BY TIM FISCHER

"HER LOVE AND COMPASSION HAS ETERNALLY CHANGED LIVES"

Janice has touched the lives of so many people in this city. She started Teen CBS to reach the teens in our community through an undenominational Bible Study. Through her efforts, there are countless teen classes all over the country and a few outside the United States. eTeen CBS is in existence because of her — it reaches the sixth- and seventh-grade preteens. She also started ASK CBS (After School Kids) to reach the kindergarten through sixth-grade kids in our community. This class has multiplied across the country into many different classes across the U.S. She more recently started Capstone to reach the young executive-type adult who were coming to Midland in droves due to the economy. Her heart is so large and so on fire for Jesus. She has worked on many projects around Midland including the new opening of Crownquest. Her love and compassion has eternally changed lives in this community!

***Kelly Hullender**, CBS friend*

"YOU WOULD BE HARD-PRESSED TO FIND A PLACE THAT HER HAND AND HEART HAVE NOT TOUCHED"

When I met this petite pixie with a smile as big as Texas, I never dreamed she would be my friend for life. First and foremost, she is a wife to Dr. Robert (Bobby) Henry, DDS., mother to three incredibly talented children and Mumsie to her 10 grandchildren and hundreds of children in Midland. Janice is not only a visionary at work implementing her design skills. Her vision for all people is life-changing. It would be hard to find someone that can match her energy and heart to be a problem solver — that natural ability is a compliment to her design business and her service to this community. She has been active in everything from co-producing a video series, "The Hurleyville Show," a modern look at the Ten Commandments for children, to designing a large complex for an oil company from the ground up and all the interiors. She has helped bring missionaries from war-torn countries to Midland for their safety, started Community Bible Study here and has been involved in all forms of community service. You would be hard-pressed to find a place that her hand and heart have not touched. Currently, she is in a new chapter of her life, opening her first brick-and-mortar store, "The ScreenDoor Showroom," located at Imperial Shopping Center, offering her design services, giving her customers a place to experience what their home or office will feel like, and always ready with a cup of coffee and a moment to sit and listen.

***Debi Hughes,** lifelong friend*

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2015 DEBUTANTE PRESENTATION

Courtesy photo

Debutantes presented Dec. 22 by the Minuet Club are Caroline Steger, back row from left, Abigail Folger, Anne Bergman, Brooke Yarborough and Sara Tull; and Audrey Grimes, from row from left, Shelby Beard, Alyssa Edgerton, Brittney Rathbone and Lauren Wagner.

Minuet Club hosts 58th annual debutante presentation at the Petroleum Club

From staff reports

The 58th annual Minuet Club debutante presentation was Dec. 22 at the Petroleum Club. Ten debutantes were presented. They are:

■ **Shelby Fayth Beard** is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dustin Beard and the granddaughter of Mrs. Janas Morin, the late Kennard Windham and Mr. and Mrs. George Johnson.

Beard is a junior at Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts where she is majoring in culinary arts. She was escorted by Jake Parrish, son of Mr. and Mrs. Billy Parrish and a student at the University of Texas.

■ **Anne Caroline Bergman** is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Bergman and the granddaughter of Mrs. Charles Casebier and the late Charles Casebier and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bergman.

Bergman is a junior at the University of Texas where she is majoring in communications. She was escorted by John Hillman, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. John Hillman Sr. and a student at Texas Christian University.

■ **Alyssa Ann Edgerton** is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Edgerton and the granddaughter of Betty Hawk, the late B. J. Hawk, Reva Edgerton and the late J. R. Edgerton.

Edgerton is a junior at the University of Oklahoma where she is majoring in health and exercise science. She was escorted by Kenneth Hamby, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dean Prather and Houston Hamby and a student at Texas Tech University.

■ **Abigail Marie Folger** is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Folger and the granddaughter of Jerry Prestridge, the late Joyce Prestridge and the late Mr. and Mrs. Guy Folger.

Folger is a junior at New York University where she is majoring in photography. She was escorted by Hill Davenport, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Davenport Jr. and a student at Tulsa University.

■ **Audrey Condron Grimes** is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Grimes and the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Grimes and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Roach.

Grimes is a junior at the University of Texas where she is majoring in theater. She was escorted by Robert Montgomery, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Montgomery and a student at the University of Texas.

■ **Brittney Faures Rathbone** is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Jackson Rathbone IV and the granddaughter of the late Dr. and Mrs. Monroe Rathbone III, Brenda Brauner and the late Col. Clarence Brauner Jr.

Rathbone is a junior at Louisiana State University where she is majoring in prenursing. She was escorted by Brantley Harrington, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Harrington and a student at the University of Texas.

■ **Caroline Michelle Steger** is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Scott Steger and the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Steger, Elta McAfee and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Nickel.

Steger is a junior at Texas Tech University where she is majoring in restaurant hotel institutional management. She was escorted by Tanner Culp, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tim Culp and a student at Texas Tech University.

■ **Sara Lynn Ashley Tull** is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Tull and the granddaughter of Mrs. Ted Butts, the late Ted Butts, Mrs. C.C. Tull Jr. and the late C.C. Tull Jr.

Tull is a junior at Texas Tech University where she is majoring in communication design. She was escorted by Kyle Mulloy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Craig Mulloy and a student at Texas Tech University.

■ **Lauren Elizabeth Wagner** is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Wagner and the granddaughter of Mrs. Laurence McMakin, the late Dr. Laurence McMakin, Johnna Curle, Mrs. Cyril Wagner Jr. and the late Cyril Wagner Jr.

Wagner is a junior at the University of Oklahoma where she is majoring in entrepreneurship. She was escorted by James Essman, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Essman and a student at the University of Texas.

■ **Katherine Brooke Kleberg Yarborough** is the daughter of Linda Yarborough and the granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. W.B. Yarborough.

Yarborough is a junior at the University of Texas where she is majoring in psychology. She was escorted by Luke Weissler, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Weissler and a student at Texas A& M University.

I Will Survive

Emergency preparedness event and gun show

Photos by James Durbin Reporter-Telegram

Josh Proctor, far right, shows off some of the camping and survival equipment available for rent and purchase at his business, Trailblazers High Adventure Outpost, during the "I Will Survive" emergency preparedness event and gun show Dec. 12 at Horseshoe Pavilion.

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52 FACES OF COMMUNITY

To nominate a Face of Community, please visit mrt.com/52Faces

PRESENTED BY CHEVRON AND THE MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

MONDAY PRIME TIME JANUARY 4, 2016

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

		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
BROADCAST	KMID ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	The Bachelor Ben Higgins gets some words of wisdom. (SP) (N)		Bachelor Live (N)				KMID News	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:35) News Nightline	
	KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	CBS 7 News	Ent. Tonight	Supergirl "Blood Bonds" (N)		Scorpion "White Out" (N)		NCIS: Los Angeles "Core Values" (N)		CBS 7 News	(:35) Stephen Colbert	(:35) J.Corden	
	KWWT CW	5	14		5	14	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	A. Griffith	A. Griffith	Happy Days	Laverne & Shirley	Hogan's Heroes	Hogan's Heroes	Carol Burnett	Mason "The Case of the Unwelcome Bride"	★ Perry Mason:...	
	KPEJ FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Superhuman Contestants push their ability to the limit. (N)		TMZ		2 Broke Girls		Modern Family	Two and Half Men	Met Your Mother	Hot in Cleveland
	KMLM IND	11	12	12	11	11	Dollars & Sense	The Wings of Truth	Update News	What's the Cost	Light of the Southwest		Light of the Southwest		House Call	Dr. Brad Young	Dr. R.Booker	Y.Salamanca
	KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	NewsWest 9 at 6 p.m.		Supersto re (N)	Teleno vela (N)	Biggest Loser "Money two compete for the $250,000 prize. (SP) (N)		Hungry" Eight teams of		NewsWest 9 at 10	(:35) The Tonight Show		(:35) Seth Meyers
	KPBT PBS	13	13		13	8	PBS NewsHour		Antique "Spokane (Hour One)" (N)		Antique "Pittsburgh (Hour Two)"		IndLens "Chuck Norris vs. Communism" (N)		Charlie Rose (N)		World News	Tavis Smiley
	KUPB UNI	4	4		4	16	Muchacha Italiana viene a casarse		Antes muerta que lichita		Pasion y poder		Yo no creo en los hombres		Noticias Tejas	Noticiero noctu.	Contacto Deportivo	
	KOSA MNT	16	16		16		Fam.Feud	Fam. Feud	SVU "Trophy"		SVU "Penetration"		Mike&M.	Mike&M.	Anger M.	Anger M.	Office	Access H.
PREMIUM	FLIX	340	575		165		(4:45) ★ Quiz Show		★★★★ American Graffiti				★★ The Last Days of Disco				★★ Buffalo '66	
	HBO	300	550	14	14		(5:15) ★ 3 1/2 minut...		★ Calvary Brendan Gleeson.		(:45) ★★★★ Milk ('08, Bio) Emile Hirsch, Sean Penn.						(:555) ★ Borat: Cult...	
	HBO2	302	591	15	101	23	(5:00) ★ A Little Cha...		Heroin: Cape Cod		(:20) ★ Insurgent Shailene Woodley.				(:20) ★★ Get Hard ('15, Com) Will Ferrell.			
	HBO5	304	552	16	102		(:05) ★★★ Horrible Bosses 2				★ Run All Night ('15, Act) Liam Neeson.				★★★★ Lone Survivor Mark Wahlberg.			
	MAX	380	557	17	120	24	Movie	(:45) ★ Jersey Boys ('14, Bio) John Lloyd Young.					★★ Barbershop Ice Cube.			Femme	Femme	Movie
	MAX2	382	558	18	122		(:15) ★★ Get Shorty John Travolta.				★ A Walk Among the Tombstones				★★ The Boy Next Door			Movie
	PLEX			96			(5:20) ★ Mee-Shee:...		★ The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep				(:555) ★★★★ MirrorMask			(:40) ★ Jeremy Fink & the Mea...		
	SHOW	320	565	19	140	25	(4:45) ★ Good Will H...		★ The Giver ('14, Sci-Fi) Brenton Thwaites.				★ St. Vincent Bill Murray.			(:45) ★★★ Traffic		
	TMC	336	573	22	155	26	(5:15) ★ Tiny Furniture		★★★ Away From Her Julie Christie.				★ 5 to 7 Anton Yelchin.			(:40) ★★ Crazy/ Beautiful		
CABLE	A&E	27	58	28	35	47	The First 48 "Murder Rap/ New Year's Terror"		The First 48: Drugs Kill "Dropped Call" (N)		First 48: Drugs Kill "Blood Money" (N)		★ Cartel Land (2015, Documentary) (P)				The First 48: Drugs Kill "Dropped Call"	
	AMC	40	74	23	42	51	(4:30) ★★★★ Rocky		★★★★ Rocky II ('79, Dra) Talia Shire, Sylvester Stallone.				★★★ Rocky III ('82, Dra) Sylvester Stallone.					
	BET	58	-		40		(5:00) ★★ B.A.P.S			Martin	Martin	Martin	Martin	Martin	Life of "Brandy"		Wendy Williams	
	BRAVO	65	76		41		VanderK "Dirty Thirty"		Vanderpump Rules		Vanderpump R. (N)		Untying the Knot (N)		Watch (N)	Vanderpump Rules		UntyKnot
	CNBC	46	52		39	72	The Profit "SJC Drums"		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		The Profit		The Profit	
	CNN	43	50	51	30	56	OutFront		A. Cooper 360		A. Cooper 360		CNN Tonight		A. Cooper 360		CNN Newsroom	
	DISC	50	60	31	24	42	Fast Loud Revved Up		"Hot Wheels, Big Deals"		Fast N' Loud (N)		Diesel Brothers (N)		(:05) Fast N' Loud		(:05) Diesel Brothers	
	DISNEY	56	64	36	25	36	Liv/Mad	Austin/Ally	★ Zapped ('14, Fant) Zendaya.			Mickey	Friends	Austin	Girl M.	Underc.	Jessie	Jessie
	ESPN	32	35	48	31	30	NCAA Basketball UNC/Fla. S. (L)				30 for 30 "The '85 Bears"				SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
	ESPN2	34	36	49	32	31	NCAA Basketball West Virginia vs. TCU (L)				NCAA Basketball Virginia at Virginia Tech (L)				Basketb.	NFL Live		NBA
	FAMILY	53	63	34	42	33	(5:00) ★★★ The Notebook Ryan Gosling.				★★★ The Lucky One ('12, Dra) Zac Efron.				The 700 Club		Middle	Middle
	FNC	45	48	53	23	55	On the Record		The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File		Hannity		The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File	
	FOOD	64	70	27	68	54	Chopped Junior		Kids Baking (N)		Diners, Drive-Ins		Pleasure	Top 5 (N)	Diners	Diners	Diners, Drive-Ins	
	FSSW	37	38	50	45	29	Pell. Inside (N)	SportsDay OnAir (N)	Play Pevs (N)	H.S. Football UIL State Championship 6A Division I Galena Park North Shore vs. Austin Westlake						Cowboys/ Conf.	Texans Press	SportsDay OnAir
	FX	31	56	59	64	69	(5:00) ★ After Earth		★★ The Purge ('13, Hor) Ethan Hawke.				★★ The Purge ('13, Hor) Ethan Hawke.				★ After Earth	
	HALLMARK	54	71	58		34	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls
	HGTV	63	69	26	48	44	Love It or List It, Too		Love It or List It		Love It or List It		H.Hunt	House (N)	House	House	Love It or List It	
	HISTORY	71	59	29	50	43	Nostradamus				Signs of Apoc. (N)				(:05) Nostradamus			
	LIFETIME	28	30	25	28	48	(5:00) ★★★ Made of Honor		★ To Be Announced						Biography "Julia Roberts"		★ To Be Announced	
	MSNBC	47	53		49	73	Hardball		All in With C. Hayes		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word		All in With C. Hayes		Rachel Maddow	
	NBCSN	38	43				Derek Sanderson		NHL Live! (L)		NHL Hockey Los Angeles Kings at Colorado Avalanche (L)				NHL Overtime (L)			Blazers
	NICK	55	-	39	34	37	MakePop	Thunder	H.Danger	Nicky	F.House	F.House	F.House	F.House	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
	SPIKE	30	-	55	53	58	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Jail	Jail
	SYFY	66	82	41	57	67	(5:30) ★★ Galaxy Quest Tim Allen.				★★★ Blade: Trinity ('04, Thril) Wesley Snipes.					★ John Carpenter's Vampires		
	TBS	25	33	44	66	41	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	American Dad	American Dad	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Conan (N)		2 Broke Girls	Conan
	TCM	41	75	24	63	66	(5:00) ★ Johnny Bel...		★★★★ For Whom the Bell Tolls Gary Cooper.					(:45) ★★ Behold a Pale Horse ('64, Dra) Gregory Peck.				
	TELE	20	-	10	20		Caso cerrado		Celia		Bajo el mismo cielo		Señora acero		Al rojo	Titulares	Bajo el mismo cielo	
	TLC	51	61	32	38	52	48 Hours "Why Did Josh Kill?"		48 Hours: Evidence "Death at Soho"		48 Hours: Evidence "Ambushed"		48 Hours Mystery "Exposed"		48 Hours "Why Did Josh Kill?"		48 Hours: Evidence "Death at Soho"	
	TNT	24	34	40	26	50	(5:00) ★★★ Terminator Salvation		★★ Resident Evil (2002, Action) Michelle Rodriguez, Oscar Pearce, Milla Jovovich.				★★ Resident Evil: Apocalypse ('04, Sci-Fi) Sienna Guillory, Oded Fehr, Milla Jovovich.				Law & Order "Sheltered"	
	TVLAND	49	-	35	54	35	FactsLife	FactsLife	FactsLife	FactsLife	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens
	USA	26	55	42	27	49	NCIS		WWE Monday Night Raw						(:05) ★★★ The Rundown ('03, Adv) Seann William Scott, Dwayne Johnson.			
	WGN	19	85				★★★ Red Dragon An FBI agent seeks help from a cannibalistic murderer in order to stop a serial killer.				★★★ Batman Michael Keaton. A masked vigilante defends Gotham City from a madman known as The Joker.						Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother

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Courtesy photo

Carolyn Hatcher, center, Midland Crime Stoppers board president, recently presented a certificate of appreciation to Collier Pennington, left, owner of TMP Hunters Supply, and Dane Bowden, also with TMP, for supplying the guns for the nonprofit's 40 Guns in 40 Days fundraiser.

Crime Stoppers gives away 40 Guns in 40 Days

From staff reports

Midland Crime Stoppers Board of Directors' third annual 40 Guns in 40 Days fundraiser came to an end on Christmas Day. The nonprofit sold 1,000 tickets at $40 each for a chance to win one of 40 guns. Forty tickets were drawn — one a day beginning Nov. 2 and continuing through Dec. 25. (drawings were Monday through Friday). Winning tickets were put back in the pot for subsequent drawings, said Angie Valenzuela, Crime Stoppers executive director.

TMP Hunters Supply donated the weapons, which were valued at $16,000, Valenzuela said.

Winners of the 40 guns are: Kevin Ashmore, Benjamin Gault, Jo Ann Velasquez, Ralph Venerable, DeeAnn Rohmfeld, Clay Othold, Dustin Kargl, Donald Pradon, Kathy Freeman and John Blevins.

Also, Patrick and Jenifer Holeva, Wade Mertz, Camille Seabourn, Jason Guzman, Glen Luff, Jenell Niedecken, Neil Dufford, Barry Price, Aaron Wilson and Tonya Urias.

Also, Sal Pagano, Larry Hill, Ben Williams, Thomas Bruce, Mary Murphy, Bill Bynum, Oscar Strain, Lana Loyd, John Vollke ad Joel Walker.

And, Ben Lane, Keith Morris, Chuck Bane, Jason Chavez, Dennis Wallace, Sharon Cornal, Camille Seabourn, Beth Frederickson, Manny Hernndez and Susan Barton.

Employee recognition

Becky McCraney, left, and Kathy Harrison, right, owners of Miss Cayce's Christmas Store, honored longtime employee Alta Lynn Gerlach, center, on Dec. 15, 2015. Those who attended the celebration were asked to bring a new or gently used handbag. The 150 handbags that were collected were donated to Safe Place of the Permian Basin in Gerlach's honor. She has worked at Miss Cayce's for 30 years.

BANANAGRAMS!

LEVEL

Use the 15 tiles in this bunch to create words that fit into the grids below. The BANANA BITES provide hints. Reuse the tiles for each grid.

A B D E U E F
L N E U V W X Y

BANANA BITE: One word is a type of pipe.

BANANA BITE: One word means "an abundance."

Yesterday's Answer: DIGITAL, SWARTHY, MAJESTY

1-4

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HAVEYOUHEARD

BY MARILYN MCKNIGHT HARRISON

CHI OMEGA

MCC LADIES ASSOCIATION

Ann Parish, left, and Betty Ann Prentice.

MCC LADIES ASSOCIATION

Bonnie Hubbard, left, and Sheree Robb.

ZETA TAU ALPHA TEA

MCC LADIES ASSOCIATION

Jo Douglas, left, and Kim Hatchett.

MCC LADIES' ASSOCIATION

The sounds of the season greeted members of the Midland Country Club Ladies' Association and their guests when they arrived for the December luncheon meeting.

Music was provided by Jazz Cafe, which was founded by **Pano Mata**, who plays saxophone. He was joined by **Mark Lowe** on bass and **Dan Ferguson** on piano.

Kim Hatchett, president, conducted her final meeting of the year before turning the gavel over to her successor, **Sheree Robb.**

Door-prize winners were **Claire Woodcock** and **Kim Hatchett.**

Among others in attendance were **Evalyn Halvorsen, Marion Kimberly, Virginia Jones, Ann Westerman, Mary Summersgill, Joan Henry, Stephanie Sanders, Marilyn Allen, Edith Libson Hardy** and her sister, **Reba Hammond** of Birmingham, Alabama.

CHI OMEGA TEA

The Chi Omega sorority alumnae held their annual mother-daughter Christmas tea at the home of **Audrey Curry.** Co-hostesses were **Katherine Curry** and **Sara Valentine.**

Each college active received a glass owl, which symbolizes the Chi Omega emphasis on academics and knowledge. The members from various universities shared information about the successful efforts of their chapters in raising funds for the Make a Wish Foundation; the sorority's national philanthropy.

Active members include **Laura Ann White, Raylee Starnes, Darby Smith, Chloe Snell, Drew Colburn, Emily Scharlach, Grace Ann Brown, Macy Essman, Emili Robin,** and **Caitlyn Terrebessy.**

Poinsettias decorated the ballroom of the home. and hundreds of collectible owls adorned the Christmas tree.

ZETA TAU ALPHA TEA

Zeta Tau Alpha Alumnae's mother-daughter Christmas tea was Dec. 13 at the home of **Margaret Williams.** Her daughters, **Sarah Williams Phillips** and **Ellen Williams** were co-hostesses, along with **Andra, Angela** and **Lyn Lancaster.**

Twenty members of the Zeta Tau Alpha Alumnae attended. Each brought toys to be donated to Casa de Amigos.

healthy living

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Texans own AFC South

Associated Press

Houston Texans wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins (10) makes a catch in front of Jacksonville Jaguars strong safety Johnathan Cyprien (37) during the first half on Sunday in Houston.

Texans clinch division title with win over Jags

By Kristie Rieken
Associated Press

Texans	30
Jaguars	6

HOUSTON — J.J. Watt was asked what it was like to play with two hands on Sunday after spending the past three games with a cast over his broken left hand.

"You tell me," Watt said with a laugh.

Watt was back to his old self on Sunday, leading a dominant defense that helped the Houston Texans to their first AFC South title since 2012.

Watt and Whitney Mercilus combined for 6 1/2 sacks and Jonathan Grimes scored twice to help the Texans to a 30-6 win over the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Watt, playing without a cast for the first time since breaking his left hand Dec. 9, had three sacks, forced a fumble and recovered another one to help the Texans (9-7) to their third playoff berth and first since 2012.

"It was beautiful," Watt said. "I think for a little while there people started to forget so today was a little bit of a reminder what it's like when I have both hands."

Mercilus tied a career high with 3 1/2 sacks and forced a fumble and recovered one on a day when Houston set a franchise record with eight sacks.

Blake Bortles threw for 239 yards with two interceptions for the Jaguars (5-11).

"It's tough to end the year on a note like that," Bortles said. "I guess the good thing is that we have a lot of time to look at it and figure out how to fix it."

Watt, who had been slowed by wearing a club-like cast on his injured hand in recent weeks, got to work early, sacking Bortles on the third play of the game for an 8-yard loss. He got up after the sack, held his wrist and wiggled the fingers on his left hand to display that he wasn't wearing a cast.

Watt, who leads the NFL with 17 1/2 sacks, had a little fun after a sack in the third quarter when he did basically every dance that's been hot in the past year. He did the "whip," "nae nae," "dab" and finished by running off on the "da plug" twice.

"I'm just a big white guy trying to have some fun out there," Watt said. "I realize they're very terrible ... but I'm having some fun out there and if people don't like it then they can do whatever sack dance they want when they get a

Please see **TEXANS**/3C

Cousins has 'perfect' tuneup as Redskins top Cowboys

By Schulyer Dixon
Associated Press

Redskins	34
Cowboys	23

ARLINGTON — Kirk Cousins had the perfect game — got a few quick scores, kept his rhythm and headed to the bench early in a playoff tuneup for the Washington Redskins.

Cousins threw for three touchdowns before leaving late in the first half, and the Redskins finished the regular season with a 34-23 victory over the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday.

"It was perfect," tight end Jordan Reed said. "He came out there hot, got it over with and got out."

The statistical target for Cousins — or maybe more for the teammates who wanted him to have the record — was Jay Schroeder's 1986 franchise mark for passing yards in a season.

Cousins got it on his second throw of the second quarter — a 28-yarder to Jamison Crowder after he had already thrown all three of his TD passes in the first. He finished with 176 yards for the game and 4,166 for the season, just the third 4,000-yard performance in team history.

Had the game mattered, he might have threatened Sonny Jurgensen's 48-year-old team record of 31 touchdown passes, instead settling for 29.

"I'm happy for Kirk," coach Jay Gruden said. "Kirk did a great job of staying within himself, and continuing to compete and study the game plan. He's got a lot of confidence now. It's great to see him progress. He's got a chance to be a really good one."

The Redskins (9-7) won four straight to finish the season, their longest streak since winning the last seven the last time they made the playoffs in 2012. The NFC East champions will be the No. 4 seed on wild-card weekend, when they will host Green Bay, Minnesota or Seattle.

Kellen Moore had 435 yards passing and three touchdowns after throwing an interception and losing a fumble on a snap to help dig a quick 21-0 hole for the Cowboys (4-12).

It's the most losses for Dallas since going 1-15 in 1989, the year owner and general manager Jerry Jones bought the team.

The stunning reversal for last year's 12-4 division champion in a season mostly without quarterback Tony Romo because of a twice-broke left collarbone

Please see **COWBOYS**/3C

Sunday's Week 17 NFL Scoreboard

Texans	**30**	**Bengals**	**24**
Jaguars	6	Ravens	16
Redskins	**34**	**Steelers**	**28**
Cowboys	23	Browns	12
Dolphins	**20**	**Colts**	**30**
Patriots	10	Titans	24
Bills	**22**	**Chiefs**	**23**
N.Y. Jets	17	Raiders	17
Lions	**24**	**Seahawks**	**36**
Bears	20	Cardinals	6
Saints	**20**	**Panthers**	**38**
Falcons	17	Buccaneers	10
Broncos	**27**	**49ers**	**19**
Chargers	20	Rams	16
Eagles	**35**	**Vikings**	**20**
N.Y. Giants	30	Packers	13

No. 4 Baylor women rebound, win over No. 18 Oklahoma

Associated Press

WACO — Alexis Jones scored a career-high 25 points, Nina Davis had 24, and point guard Niya Johnson added a double-double in her return to the lineup to help No. 4 Baylor bounce back from its first loss with a 78-68 victory over No. 18 Oklahoma on Sunday.

More basketball

See a roundup of Sunday's college basketball games along with scores and today's schedules.

Page 2C

Johnson had 10 points and 11 assists while playing all 40 minutes for the Lady Bears (14-1, 1-1 Big 12). The senior missed Baylor's conference opener, a 52-45 loss at Oklahoma State on Wednesday night, because of a bone bruise in her ankle.

Oklahoma (10-3, 1-1) had an early five-point lead, but never led again after Baylor finished the first quarter with an 8-2 run that was started by consecutive jumpers by Johnson.

Peyton Little scored 19 points for Oklahoma. Gabbi Ortiz added 14, and Kaylon Williams and T'ona Edwards had 11 each.

Little had a layup and a 3-pointer to cap an 11-2 run in the third quarter for the Sooners, getting them to 53-50. But they got no closer, with Johnson converting a third-play play late in the quarter to end that spurt and make it 56-50 — and Baylor maintained at least a six-point lead the rest of the game.

No more zero

At halftime, Baylor retired the No. 0 jersey of former All-America point guard Odyssey Sims, who was part of Baylor's 2012 undefeated national championship team and left two seasons ago as the school's career assists leader. It is the fifth jersey retired by the Lady Bears. Sims is No. 3 on Baylor's career scoring list with 2,533 points and now No. 2 in assists with 641, behind the 815 by her predecessor, Johnson.

Tip-ins

Oklahoma: Ortiz and Little each had four 3-pointers. ... The Sooners committed turnovers on three consecutive possessions late in the first quarter that that led to six Baylor points. Oklahoma finished with 16 turnovers, two fewer than Baylor.

Baylor: Lady Bears coach Kim Mulkey is 98-40 against ranked teams, 42-8 since 2011-12.

Up next

Oklahoma: at TCU on Wednesday night.

Baylor: at Kansas on Wednesday night.

No. 16 Texas A&M women beat Georgia 73-62

Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION — Courtney Walker scored 20 points and No. 16 Texas A&M topped Georgia 73-62 in an SEC opener on Sunday.

Walker was 5 of 12 from the floor and 10 of 12 from the line. She added five rebounds, three assists and a steal. The Aggies (11-3) shot over 45 percent and made 28 of 34 (82 percent) free-throw attempts. Texas A&M won the rebound battle 40-33 and blocked seven shots.

Georgia (12-2) was led by Shacobia Barbee with 17 points, 14 rebounds and six assists. Tiaria Griffin added 14 points. The Lady Bulldogs made just 4 of 18 from beyond the arc.

Both teams started slowly, and Georgia led 13-11 after the first quarter. Texas A&M made its first five shots of the second quarter — including 3-pointers by Danni Williams and Jordan Jones — and led 33-26 at the break.

The Aggies stretched the lead to 51-34 near the end of the third after a 10-0 run, with eight points coming at the line.

DAILYRUNDOWN

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

IIHF WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS
Semifinal 1, 8 a.m., NHL
Semifinal 2, Noon, NHL
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
North Carolina at Florida State, 6 p.m., ESPN
West Virginia at TCU, 6 p.m., ESPNU
LIU Brooklyn at Central Connecticut State, 6 p.m., FCSA
Oklahoma at Kansas, 8 p.m., ESPN
Virginia at Virginia Tech, 8 p.m., ESPN2
Alcorn State at Texas Southern, 8 p.m., ESPNU
MEN'S SOCCER
La Liga: Sporting vs. Getafe, 1:20 p.m., beIN/beIN2
NBA
Indiana at Miami, 6:30 p.m., NBAtv
San Antonio at Milwaukee, 7 p.m., FSSW+/FSSWSA
Memphis at Portland, 9 p.m., NBAtv
NHL
Los Angeles at Colorado, 8 p.m., NBCSN
TENNIS
ATP: Qatar Exxonmobil Open, 6 a.m., TENNIS
WTA: ASB Classic, 5 p.m., TENNIS
WTA: Brisbane International, 7 p.m., TENNIS
Hopman Cup: Australia Gold vs. USA, 3:30 a.m., TENNIS
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Tennessee at Missouri, 6 p.m., SEC
Rutgers at Iowa, 7 p.m., BTN
Stanford at Arizona State, 7 p.m., P12, P12 AZ, P12 BAY
Washington at Utah, 7 p.m., P12 Mtn, P12 WA
Oregon at USC, 7 p.m., P12 LA, P12 OR
Oregon State at UCLA, 9 p.m., P12, P12 LA, P12 OR
California at Arizona, 9 p.m., P12 AZ, P12 BAY
Washington State at Colorado, 9 p.m., P12 Mtn, P12 WA

WHAT'S ON DECK

High school

GIRLS BASKETBALL
Midland Christian at Fort Stockton, 6 p.m.
Jim Ned at Big Spring, 7:30 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

BASKETBALL
NBA Development League
RIO GRANDE VALLEY VIPERS — Acquired G Matt Carlino from the available player pool.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
CLEVELAND BROWNS — Fired general manager Ray Farmer and coach Mike Pettine.
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — Released DT Reid Fragel from the practice squad.
MIAMI DOLPHINS — Placed WR Rishard Matthews on injured reserve. Signed LB Mike Hull from the practice squad.
NEW ORLEANS SAINTS — Signed RB Tobias Oliver from the practice squad.
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Placed NT Bennie Logan on injured reserve. Signed CB Randall Evans from the practice squad.
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Fired coach Jim Tomsula. Placed LB Michael Wilhoite on injured reserve.
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
CAROLINA HURRICANES — Recalled F Brock McGinn from Charlotte (AHL).
CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS — Acquired F Richard Panik from Toronto for F Jeremy Morin. Loaned D David Rundblad to ZSC Lions (National League A, Switzerland).
TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING — Assigned F Jonathan Drouin to Syracuse (AHL).
American Hockey League
AHL — Suspended Toronto LW Richard Clune one game.
BAKERSFIELD CONDORS — Assigned G Ty Rimmer to Norfolk (ECHL).
LAKE ERIE MONSTERS — Recalled F Peter Quenneville from Cincinnati (ECHL).
TORONTO MARLIES — Assigned G Rob Madore to Orlando (ECHL).
ECHL
ECHL — Suspended Tulsa F Matheu Gagnon eight games. Rapid City D Garrett Clarke and D Jonathan Narbonne five games. Tulsa G Kevin Carr three games and Tulsa F Emerson Clark one game.
IDAHO STEELHEADS — Released G Will Gagnon as emergency backup.
INDY FUEL — Signed F Adam Lapsansky.
NORFOLK ADMIRALS — Released G Adam Courchaine.
ORLANDO SOLAR BEARS — Released G Bobby Fowler as emergency backup.
WHEELING NAILERS — Signed F Massimo Lamacchia.
COLLEGE
GEORGIA — Named James Coley wide receivers coach; Dell McGee running backs coach and Marshall Malchow recruiting director.
N.C. STATE — Fired offensive coordinator Matt Canada.
NOTRE DAME — Announced WR Will Fuller and RB C.J. Prosise will enter the NFL draft.
SOUTH CAROLINA — Announced G Shay Colley has left the women's basketball team.

SKI REPORT

New Mexico
Angel Fire — Fri 5.41 am packed powder machine groomed 22.31 base 78 of 78 trails. 100% open 1.7 lifts. Mon-Thu: 9a-4p Fri: 9a-8p Sat Sun: 9a-4p
Pajarito — Sun 9.44 am machine groomed 21.35 base 34 of 44 trails. 77% open 5 of 7 lifts. Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Red River — Fri 7.20 am powder machine groomed 30.35 base 56 of 57 trails 98% open 10 lifts. 7 of 7 lifts. sm Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat Sun: 9a-4p
Sandia Peak — Fri Reopen 1.18 packed powder machine groomed 16.32 base 38 of 39 trails 97% open 4 of 5 lifts. Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p Open Fri-Sun
Taos — Sun 4.35 am powder machine groomed 33.40 base 42 of 42 trails. 100% open 10 lifts. 200 acres. 6 of 6 lifts. sm Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Ski Apache — Sun 12.52 am machine groomed 40.84 base 44 of 55 trails 80% open. 9 of 11 lifts. sm Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Ski Santa Fe — Fri 8.55 am packed powder machine groomed 86.86 base 79 of 79 trails 100% open. 7 of 7 lifts. Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Taos — Sun 1.45 am powder machine groomed 73.73 base 103 of 113 trails. 93% open 1300 acres. 12 of 15 lifts. Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat Sun: 9a-4p
Enchanted Forest XC — Wed No Recent information packed powder machine groomed 20.30 base 40 of 40 trails. 22 miles Mon-Fri: 9a-4:30p Sat/Sun: 9a-4:30p

Colorado
Arapahoe Basin — Sun 5.53 am packed powder machine groomed 39.39 base 91 of 109 trails 83% open. 825 acres. 8 of 8 lifts. Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p
Aspen Highlands — Sun 5.30 am packed powder machine groomed 36.52 base 122 of 122 trails 100% open 1040 acres. 5 of 5 lifts. Mon-Fri: 9a-3:30p Sat/Sun: 9a-3:30p
Aspen Mountain — Sun 5.29 am packed powder machine groomed 29.30 base 76 of 76 trails 100% open 675 acres. 7 of 8 lifts. Mon-Fri: 9a-3:30p Sat/Sun: 9a-3:30p
Beaver Creek — Sun 5.14 am packed powder machine groomed 32.32 base 142 of 150 trails 97% open 1739 acres. 24 of 25 lifts. Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Breckenridge — Sun 5.18 am packed powder machine groomed 38.38 base 161 of 187 trails 86% open. 2512 acres. 34 of 35 lifts. Mon-Fri: 8:30a-4p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p
Buttermilk — Sun 5.31 am packed powder machine groomed 26.36 base 42 of 44 trails 95% open. 458 acres. 7 of 8 lifts. Mon-Fri: 9a-3:30p Sat/Sun: 9a-3:30p
Cooper — Sun 5.47 am packed powder machine groomed 33.37 base 39 of 39 trails. 100% open 26 miles. 400 acres. 4 of 4 lifts. Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Copper Mountain — Sun 5.15 am machine groomed 32.39 base 123 of 143 trails 88% open. 1682 acres. 22 of 23 lifts. Mon-Fri: 8:30a-4p Sat Sun: 8:30a-4p
Crested Butte — Sun 7.47 am packed powder machine groomed 49.49 base 81 of 121 trails 93% open. 646 acres. 14 of 16 lifts. sm Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Echo Mountain — Operating no details
Eldora — Sun 1.43 pm packed powder machine groomed 35.35 base 50 of 53 trails. 94% open 10 of 11 lifts. Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Keystone — Sun 5.16 am packed powder machine groomed 33.33 base 116 of 131 trails 94% open. 2974 acres. 19 of 20 lifts. Mon-Fri: 8:30a-4p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p
Loveland — Sun 4.59 am packed powder machine groomed 41.41 base 80 of 93 trails. 86% open 1282 acres. 10 of 10 lifts. sm Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p
Monarch — Sun 6.52 am packed powder machine groomed 55.55 base 62 of 62 trails. 100% open 800 acres. 5 of 6 lifts. Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Powderhorn — Sun 5.49 am powder machine groomed 47.47 base 44 of 44 trails 100% open. 4 of 5 lifts. sm Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Purgatory — Sun 5.12 am packed powder machine groomed 46.50 base 91 of 91 trails 100% open. 1360 acres. 9 of 10 lifts. Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat Sun: 9a-4p
Silverton Mountain — Sun Reopen 1.8 powder 60-100 base 69 of 69 trails. 100% open 1819 acres. 1 of 1 lift Fri: 9a-3p Sat/Sun: 9a-3p Open Fri-Sun
Ski Granby Ranch — Sun 1.51 pm packed powder machine groomed 20.21 base 41 of 43 trails 95% open. 5 of 5 lifts. Mog-Fri: 9a-4p Sat 9a-4p. 5p-8p Sun 9a-4p
Snowmass — Sun 5.29 am packed powder machine groomed 29.41 base 68 of 94 trails. 94% open 3172 acres. 19 of 20 lifts. Mon-Fri: 8:30a-4p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p
Steamboat — Sun 5.18 am packed powder machine groomed 45.50 base 164 of 165 trails 99% open. 2962 acres. 16 of 18 lifts. Mon-Wed 8:30a-4:30p Fri: 8:30a-4:30p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4:30p Thu-Mon: 5:30p-8:30p
Sunlight — Sun 7.02 am packed powder machine groomed 28.34 base 54 of 67 trails. 95% open 600 acres. 3 of 3 lifts. Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Telluride — Sun 5.50 am packed powder machine groomed 49.49 base 102 of 127 trails 94% open. 1880 acres. 18 of 18 lifts. sm Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Vail — Sun 5.12 am packed powder machine groomed 38.38 base 191 of 195 trails. 98% open 5168 acres. 31 of 31 lifts. Mon-Fri: 8:30a-3:30p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-3:30p
Winter Park — Sun 5.42 am packed powder machine groomed 41.48 base 130 of 143 trails 91% open. 2494 acres. 24 of 25 lifts. sm Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p
Wolf Creek — Sun 10.42 am packed powder machine groomed 84.117 base 77 of 77 trails 100% open. 42 miles. 1600 acres. 7 of 8 lifts. Mon-Fri: 8:30a-4p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p
Ashcroft XC — Mon No Recent information packed powder machine groomed 28-38 base 8 of 20 trails. 7 miles Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Crested Butte XC — Sun 7.47 am packed powder machine groomed 30-46 base 20 of 23 trails 28 miles Mon-Fri: 8a-5p Sat/Sun: 8a-5p

TOUR DE SKI RESULTS

Sunday
At Lenzerheide, Switzerland
Men
10k Freestyle Pursuit
1. Martin Johnsrud Sundby, Norway, 21.44.7
2. Petter Northug Jr., Norway, 1:25.2 behind
3. Finn Haagen Krogh, Norway, 1:50.2
4. Sergey Ustiugov, Russia, 1:50.2
5. Sjur Roethe, Norway, 1:52.9
6. Didrik Toenseth, Norway, 1:54.7
7. Alexey Poltoranin, Kazakhstan, 2:32.3
8. Dario Cologna, Switzerland, 2:32.9
9. Alex Harvey, Canada, 2:35.0
10. Evgeniy Belov, Russia, 2:35.1
Also
25. Noah Hoffman, United States, 4:30.1
33. Erik Bjornsen, United States, 5:54.7
69. Simeon Hamilton, United States, 10:27.6
76. Andrew Newell, United States, 12:23.0
Tour de Ski Standings
(After three of eight races)
1. Martin Johnsrud Sundby, Norway, 1:37:09.2
2. Petter Northug Jr., Norway, 1:30.2
3. Finn Haagen Krogh, Norway, 2:00.2
4. Sergey Ustiugov, Russia, 2:05.2
5. Sjur Roethe, Norway, 2:07.9
Also
25. Noah Hoffman, United States, 4:45.1
33. Erik Bjornsen, United States, 6:09.7
69. Simeon Hamilton, United States, 10:42.6
76. Andrew Newell, United States, 12:38.0
Overall World Cup Standings
(After 12 of 36 events)
1. Martin Johnsrud Sundby, Norway, 828 points
2. Petter Northug Jr., Norway, 499
3. Finn Haagen Krogh, Norway, 395
4. Niklas Dyrhaug, Norway, 352
5. Sjur Roethe, Norway, 347
6. Federico Pellegrino, Italy, 315
7. Didrik Toenseth, Norway, 291
8. Hans Christer Holund, Norway, 282
9. Maurice Manifica, France, 274
10. Sergey Ustiugov, Russia, 258
Also
31. Simeon Hamilton, United States, 89
39. Andrew Newell, United States, 64
70. Noah Hoffman, United States, 20.
104. Erik Bjornsen, United States, 1.
Women
5k Freestyle Pursuit
1. Ingvild Flugstad Oestberg, Norway, 13:02.3
2. Therese Johaug, Norway, 9.3
3. Heidi Weng, Norway, 2:03.6
4. Charlotte Kalla, Sweden, 2:30.8
5. Anne Kyllonen, Finland, 2:37.2
6. Kerttu Niskanen, Finland, 2:41.7
7. Krista Parmakoski, Finland, 3:27.6
8. Jessica Diggins, United States, 3:27.9
9. Sadie Bjornsen, United States, 3:28.6
10. Ragnhild Haga, Norway, 3:29.3
Also
22. Elizabeth Stephen, United States, 4:52.6
27. Sophie Caldwell, United States, 5:13.2
37. Caitlin Gregg, United States, 6:42.3
42. Rosie Brennan, United States, 7:09.8
51. Ida Sargent, United States, 7:44.5.
Tour de Ski Standings
(After three of eight races)
1. Ingvild Flugstad Oestberg, Norway, 56:25.6
2. Therese Johaug, Norway, 14.3
3. Heidi Weng, Norway, 2:13.6
4. Charlotte Kalla, Sweden, 2:45.8
5. Anne Kyllonen, Finland, 2:52.2
Also
8. Jessica Diggins, United States, 3:42.9.
9. Sadie Bjornsen, United States, 3:43.6.
22. Elizabeth Stephen, United States, 5:07.6.
27. Sophie Caldwell, United States, 5:28.2.
37. Caitlin Gregg, United States, 6:57.3.
42. Rosie Brennan, United States, 7:24.8.
51. Ida Sargent, United States, 7:59.5.
Overall World Cup Standings
(After 12 of 36 events)
1. Therese Johaug, Norway, 767.
2. Ingvild Flugstad Oestberg, Norway, 682.
3. Heidi Weng, Norway, 519.
4. Stina Nilsson, Sweden, 502.
5. Charlotte Kalla, Sweden, 421.
6. Maiken Caspersen Falla, Norway, 410.
7. Krista Parmakoski, Finland, 368.
8. Kerttu Niskanen, Finland, 351.
9. Ida Ingemarsdotter, Sweden, 349
10. Astrid Uhrenholt Jacobsen, Norway, 331.

MC men lose to Ranger College

From staff reports

BROWNWOOD – The Midland College men's basketball team lost its first game coming off the winter break on Sunday, 69-67, to Ranger College at the Region V Shootout.

Ranger is coached by Billy Gillispie, who is in his first year coaching the Rangers after resigning under a cloud at Texas Tech in 2012.

Jachai Simmons led MC with 18 points, Norbertas Giga had 11 and Daeshon Francis added 10 in a losing effort.

The Chaparrals fell to 13-3 on the year and will resume Western Junior College Athletic Conference play at 5:45 p.m. Saturday at Howard College.

RANGER COLLEGE 69, MIDLAND COLLEGE 67
Midland College (13-3) – Jachai Simmons 7-13 0-0 18, Kendall Rollins 1-3 1-1 3, Austin Dasent 2-4 0-1 4, Norbertas Giga 5-8 1-4 11, Daeshon Francis 4-10 1-2 10, William Tchiangang 0-0 0-0 0, Jordan Furlow 3-6 2-3 8, Dylan Cham 0-0 0-0 0, Bryce Erwin 2-2 0-0 5, Tavian Coad 3-4 0-0 8, James McPherson 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 27-51 5-11 67

Ranger College – Carlton 2-5 1-2 7, Geist 6-17 2-5 17, Diaz 0-1 2-4 2, Conrod 5-8 2-3 14, Jo. Simmons 6-12 3-3 15, Clyburn 3-10 2-4 8, Turner 0-1 0-0 0, Stephens 1-3 0-0 3, Perez 1-5 0-0 3, Thomas 0-0 0-0 0, Jones 0-0 0-0 0, Tolson 3-4 0-2 13-21 69

Halftime – Ranger 36. Midland 30. 3-point goals – Midland 8 (Simmons 4,Coad 2, Francis, Erwin), Ranger 9 (Geist 3, Carlton 2, Conrod 2, Stephens, Perez). Total fouls – Midland 16, Ranger 16. Fouled out – Conrod, Jo. Simmons. Rebounds – Midland 33 (Simmons 6), Ranger 36 (Jo. Simmons 9).

Next: Midland College at Howard College, 5:45 p.m. Saturday

NBAROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

BULLS 115
RAPTORS 113

TORONTO — Jimmy Butler broke Michael Jordan's team record for points in a half, scoring 40 of his 42 after the break to lead the Chicago Bulls over the Toronto Raptors 115-113 on Sunday.

Jordan had 39, also in the second half, in a game against Milwaukee in 1989. Butler shot 14 of 19 in the final two quarters after a 1-for-4 start in the Bulls' fourth straight win.

Pau Gasol had his 17th double-double of the season with 19 points and 13 rebounds as Chicago beat Toronto for the second time in a week and a seventh consecutive time overall.

DeMar DeRozan led the way for the Raptors with 24 points.

KNICKS 111
HAWKS 97

NEW YORK — Arron Afflalo scored a season-high 38 points and the Knicks beat the Hawks.

Afflalo was 14 for 17 from the field and 7 for 8 from 3-point range, making his first seven attempts and nearing his career best of 43 points.

The Knicks improved to 8-2 when Afflalo scored 15 or more points.

Paul Millsap scored 19 points and Kent Bazemore had 18 for the Hawks.

HEAT 97
WIZARDS 75

WASHINGTON — Chris Bosh scored 23 points, Goran Dragic had 18 and the Heat dominated the undermanned Wizards.

With just nine healthy players, Washington was outscored in the second quarter 25-7. The Wizards missed 20 of their 22 field goal attempts as the Heat took a 50-31 halftime lead.

John Wall, who led Washington with 14 points, hit just six of his 21 field goal attempts.

The Wizards shot just 34.1 percent and their 75 points were a season low. Miami allowed its fewest points of the season.

NBA GLANCE

Standings

	W	L	Pct	GB
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
Toronto	21	14	.600	—
Boston	18	15	.545	2
New York	16	19	.457	5
Brooklyn	10	23	.303	10
Philadelphia	3	33	.083	18½
Southeast Division				
Miami	20	13	.606	—
Atlanta	21	14	.600	—
Orlando	19	15	.559	1½
Charlotte	17	16	.515	3
Washington	15	17	.469	4½
Central Division				
Cleveland	22	9	.710	—
Chicago	20	12	.625	2½
Indiana	19	14	.576	4
Detroit	18	16	.529	5½
Milwaukee	14	21	.400	10
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
San Antonio	29	6	.829	—
Dallas	19	15	.559	9½
Memphis	18	17	.514	11
Houston	16	19	.457	13
New Orleans	11	22	.333	17
Northwest Division				
Oklahoma City	24	10	.706	—
Utah	15	17	.469	8
Portland	14	21	.400	10½
Denver	12	22	.353	12
Minnesota	12	22	.353	12
Pacific Division				
Golden State	31	2	.939	—
L.A. Clippers	22	13	.629	10
Sacramento	13	20	.394	18
Phoenix	12	24	.333	20½
L.A. Lakers	7	27	.206	24½

Scores and schedule

Sunday's Scores
Chicago 115, Toronto 113
New York 111, Atlanta 97
Miami 97, Washington 75
Portland at Denver, late
Phoenix at L.A. Lakers, late
Today's Games
Toronto at Cleveland, 6 p.m.
Minnesota at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.
Indiana at Miami, 6:30 p.m.
Boston at Brooklyn, 6:30 p.m.
Orlando at Detroit, 6:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Milwaukee, 7 p.m.
Sacramento at Oklahoma City, 7 p.m.
Houston at Utah, 8 p.m.
Memphis at Portland, 9 p.m.
Charlotte at Golden State, 9:30 p.m
Tuesday's Games
Milwaukee at Chicago, 7 p.m.
New York at Atlanta, 7 p.m.
Sacramento at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Golden State at L.A. Lakers, 30 p.m.

COLLEGEROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Men

NO. 8 ARIZONA 94
ARIZONA STATE 82

TEMPE, Ariz. — Gabe York scored 22 points, Allonzo Trier added 20 and No. 8 Arizona outlasted rival Arizona State 94-82 on Sunday in both teams' Pac-12 opener.

Arizona (13-1) dominated inside in the first half and built a 16-point lead in the second. The Wildcats shot 55 percent overall and made 7 of 12 from 3-point range, including 5 of 8 in the second half.

NO. 18 LOUISVILLE 65
WAKE FOREST 57

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Freshman Donovan Mitchell had season highs with 18 points and eight rebounds in his first start and Louisville held off Wake Forest.

Chinanu Onuaku added 12 points, a career-high 15 rebounds and blocked four shots for Louisville (12-2) in the Atlantic Coast Conference opener for both teams. Damion Lee also had 12 points.

Bryant Crawford and Devin Thomas each had 14 points for Wake Forest (9-4).

CALIFORNIA 71
NO. 21 UTAH 58

BERKELEY, Calif. — Ivan Rabb scored 11 of his season-high 19 points in the final 6:45 and California handed Utah its second straight loss.

Jordan Mathews added 14 points, hitting two late 3-pointers, and Tyrone Wallace had 10 points and six assists for the Golden Bears (12-3, 2-0 Pac-12).

Women

NO. 3 NOTRE DAME 65
PITTSBURGH 55

PITTSBURGH — Brianna Turner scored 20 points and No. 3 Notre Dame gave coach Muffett McGraw her 800th victory, beating Pittsburgh 65-55 on Sunday.

McGraw became the 10th coach to reach 800 victories and the sixth-fastest to accomplish the feat. She joined Connecticut's Geno Auriemma, Tennessee's Pat Summitt, Duke's Mike Krzyzewski and North Carolina's Dean Smith as the only coaches in men's or women's Division I history to have 800 wins, seven Final Four trips and five championship-game appearances.

NO. 2 SOUTH CAROLINA 85
ARKANSAS 32

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Tina Roy scored a career-high 21 points off seven 3-pointers and South Carolina opened Southeastern Conference play with a blowout victory over Arkansas.

The game was tied at 9 at the end of the first quarter before Roy and the undefeated Gamecocks (13-0) took control and put away the overmatched Razorbacks (5-9).

AUBURN 66
NO. 7 KENTUCKY 61

AUBURN, Ala. — Brandy Montgomery had 27 points and seven rebounds and Auburn beat Kentucky for its first victory over a Top 10 oppenent since January 2010.

Tra'Cee Tanner added 17 points, all in the second half, and 10 rebounds to help Auburn (11-3) overcome a 17-point deficit in the Southeastern Conference opener for both teams.

NO. 8 MISSISSIPPI STATE 76
FLORIDA 70

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Morgan William scored a season-high 21 points and Mississippi State beat Florida in the Southeastern Conference opener for both teams Sunday.

The Bulldogs (14-1) extended their winning streak to nine and ended Florida's 12-game winning streak.

SYRACUSE 86
NO. 12 DUKE 50

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Maggie Morrison made seven 3-pointers and scored a career-high 25 points, and Syracuse snapped Duke's 18-game winning streak in Atlantic Coast Conference openers.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL GLANCE

Sunday's scores

MEN
SOUTHWEST
South Dakota 94, Oral Roberts 84
UTEP 84, North Texas 75
UTSA 85, Rice 80
SOUTH
FIU 76, FAU 59
Hampden-Sydney 75, Johns Hopkins 70, OT
Louisville 65, Wake Forest 57
Marshall 94, W. Kentucky 76
Princeton 89, Hampton 59
UAB 78, Middle Tennessee 67
FAR WEST
Arizona 94, Arizona St. 82
California 71, Utah 58
Grand Canyon 74, Bethune-Cookman 53
Oregon St. 70, Oregon 57
Washington 87, Southern Cal 85
MIDWEST
Illinois St. 67, Drake 62
Minn.-Morris 91, St. Scholastica 75
N. Dakota St. 75, Denver 49
Nebraska-Omaha 76, IUPUI 71
Ohio St. 75, Illinois 73
S. Dakota St. 63, W. Illinois 59
Wichita St. 85, Bradley 58
EAST
Becker 97, Salve Regina 64
Berkeley (NY) 83, Stockton 76
Colgate 56, American U. 37
Franklin Pierce 80, Dominican (NY) 74
George Washington 69, Fordham 63
Holy Family 59, Chestnut Hill 48
Lehman 70, CCNY 69
Medgar Evers 97, Baruch 95, OT
NYU 78, Emmanuel (Mass.) 61
Skidmore 71, Hobart 54
UMass 74, La Salle 67
Vermont 65, Harvard 62
Williams 81, Castleton 55
WOMEN
SOUTHWEST
Baylor 78, Oklahoma 68
Rice 49, UTSA 48, OT
Texas A&M 73, Georgia 62
UTEP 75, North Texas 67
SOUTH
Alabama 62, LSU 45
Auburn 66, Kentucky 61
ETSU 73, Lees-McRae 46
Elon 67, UNC Wilmington 60
FAU 87, FIU 82
Louisville 76, Georgia Tech 65
Memphis 83, Tulane 67
Middle Tennessee 68, UAB 40
Mississippi 55, Vanderbilt 52
Mississippi St. 76, Florida 70
NC State 64, Wake Forest 47
North Carolina 72, Clemson 56
Old Dominion 71, Charlotte 59
South Carolina 85, Arkansas 32
Virginia 76, Miami 56
Virginia Tech 58, Boston College 33
William & Mary 65, James Madison 59, OT
FAR WEST
CS Bakersfield 65, UC Irvine 39
MIDWEST
Drake 94, Evansville 52
Illinois St. 70, Wichita St. 49
Indiana 77, Michigan 69, OT
Loyola of Chicago 67, Bradley 54
Michigan St. 77, Wisconsin 67
Milwaukee 55, Chicago St. 48
Minnesota 98, Penn St. 85
Missouri St. 59, Indiana St. 51
Nebraska-Omaha 76, W. Illinois 66
Northwestern 85, Nebraska 62
Oral Roberts 52, IUPUI 47
Purdue 89, Illinois 65
S. Dakota St. 81, N. Dakota St. 63
S. Illinois 65, N. Iowa 60
West Virginia 65, Kansas 45
EAST
DePaul 71, St. John's 61
Drexel 68, Coll. of Charleston 54
Duquesne 89, Dayton 58
George Washington 70, Saint Joseph's 45
Georgetown 69, Creighton 57
Hofstra 58, Delaware 49
Marist 66, Rider 54
Notre Dame 65, Pittsburgh 55
Princeton 79, Hampton 55
Seton Hall 99, Marquette 68
St. Bonaventure 69, Rhode Island 56
Syracuse 86, Duke 50
Towson 72, Northeastern 71
Villanova 67, Providence 39

Today's schedules

MEN
SOUTHWEST
West Virginia at TCU, 6 p.m.
New Orleans at Lamar, 7:30 p.m.
Southern U. at Prairie View, 7:30 p.m.
Alcorn St. at Texas Southern, 7:30 p.m.
SOUTH
Reinhardt at Kennesaw St., 1 p.m.
Baptist Bible (Pa.) at Delaware St., 6 p.m.
North Carolina at Florida St., 6 p.m.
ETSU at NC Central, 7 p.m.
Sam Houston St. at Northwestern St., 7 p.m.
Stephen F. Austin at SE Louisiana, 7 p.m.
Alabama St. at Grambling St., 7:30 p.m.
Alabama A&M at Jackson St., 7:30 p.m.
Ark.-Pine Bluff at MVSU, 7:30 p.m.
Virginia at Virginia Tech, 8 p.m.
MIDWEST
Youngstown St. at Oakland, 6 p.m.
Cleveland St. at Detroit, 6:30 p.m.
Wright St. at Green Bay, 7 p.m.
N. Kentucky at Milwaukee, 7 p.m.
Oklahoma at Kansas, 8 p.m.
EAST
Sacred Heart at St. Francis (Pa.), 3 p.m.
Dartmouth at Fairfield, 5:30 p.m.
Niagara at Iona, 6 p.m.
Siena at Manhattan, 6 p.m.
St. Peter's at Marist, 6 p.m.
Canisius at Monmouth (NJ), 6 p.m.
St. Francis Brooklyn at Mount St. Mary's, 6 p.m.
Rider at Quinnipiac, 6 p.m.
Bryant at Fairleigh Dickinson, 6:30 p.m.
Wagner at Robert Morris, 6:30 p.m.
LIU Brooklyn at CCSU, 7 p.m.
WOMEN
SOUTHWEST
Alcorn St. at Texas Southern, 3 p.m.
SE Louisiana at Stephen F. Austin, 4:30 p.m.
New Orleans at Lamar, 5 p.m.
Southern U. at Prairie View, 5:30 p.m.
McNeese St. at Houston Baptist, 7 p.m.
SOUTH
Furman at N.C. Central, 4:30 p.m.
Norfolk St. at Coppin St., 5 p.m.
Harvard at Chattanooga, 5:30 p.m.
Alabama St. at Grambling St., 5:30 p.m.
Alabama A&M at Jackson St., 5:30 p.m.
Ark.-Pine Bluff at MVSU, 5:30 p.m.
Sam Houston St. at Northwestern St., 5:30 p.m.
Gardner-Webb at Campbell, 6 p.m.
Longwood at Coastal Carolina, 6 p.m.
Mercer at Mercer A&M, 6 p.m.
Charleston Southern at High Point, 6 p.m.
UNC Asheville at Liberty, 6 p.m.
Radford at Presbyterian, 6 p.m.
Allen at Savannah St., 6 p.m.
Warren Wilson at W. Carolina, 6 p.m.
FAR WEST
Stanford at Arizona St., 7 p.m.
Oregon at Southern Cal, 7 p.m.
Washington at Utah, 7 p.m.
Arizona Christian at Grand Canyon, 8 p.m.
W. New Mexico at New Mexico St., 8 p.m.
California at Arizona, 9 p.m.
Washington St. at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Oregon St. at UCLA, 9 p.m.
MIDWEST
Cleveland St. at Detroit, 4 p.m.
Tennessee at Missouri, 6 p.m.
Rutgers at Iowa, 7 p.m.
EAST
LIU Brooklyn at CCSU, 1 p.m.
Brown at NJIT, 1 p.m.
St. Francis Brooklyn at Mount St. Mary's, 3 p.m.
Bryant at Fairleigh Dickinson, 4 p.m.
Wagner at Robert Morris, 4 p.m.
Sacred Heart at St. Francis (Pa.), 4 p.m.
Misericordia at Binghamton, 6 p.m.
Siena at Canisius, 6 p.m.
Fairfield at Niagara, 6 p.m.
Iona at Saint Peter's, 6 p.m.

NFL ROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

DOLPHINS 20 PATRIOTS 10

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — Tom Brady was sacked twice and knocked down at least half a dozen times, and New England missed a chance to clinch the No. 1 seed in the AFC playoffs.

Brady watched New England's final offensive series from the sideline. With the Patriots eager to protect his health, he threw a season-low 21 passes, but even so was lucky to make it through the game in one piece.

BILLS 22 JETS 17

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Ryan Fitzpatrick threw interceptions on each of New York's final three drives and the Jets' playoff hopes were dashed.

The Jets (10-6) would have made the postseason for the first time since 2010 with a win, but the defeat combined with Pittsburgh's win at Cleveland ended those hopes. New York had a five-game winning streak stopped, and the loss came against former Jets coach Rex Ryan — fired by New York and hired by the Bills (8-8) last January.

BRONCOS 27 CHARGERS 20

DENVER — Peyton Manning replaced Brock Osweiler in the third quarter Sunday and led the Broncos a 27-20 win over the San Diego Chargers that clinched the top seed in the AFC playoffs for Denver.

Combined with New England's loss at Miami, the Broncos (12-4) secured the No. 1 seed even as they head into the playoffs with a quarterback quandary on their hands.

VIKINGS 20 PACKERS 13

GREEN BAY, Wis. — The Minnesota Vikings won the NFC North by holding on for a 20-13 win Sunday night over the Green Bay Packers.

Adrian Peterson ran for a touchdown, cornerback Captain Munnerlyn returned a fumble 55 yards for a score, and Minnesota (11-5), which claimed its first division title since 2009.

STEELERS 28 BROWNS 12

CLEVELAND — Ben Roethlisberger threw three touchdown passes, Pittsburgh's defense dominated and the Steelers slipped into the AFC playoffs with the win over Cleveland, which fired coach Mike Pettine and GM Ray Farmer after the game.

The Steelers (10-6) had to win and needed Buffalo to knock off the New York Jets to make the postseason. Pittsburgh did its part, then earned a wild-card berth when the Bills beat the 22-17. Pittsburgh will play at Cincinnati next weekend.

BENGALS 24 RAVENS 16

CINCINNATI — AJ McCarron overcame a rough start and threw a pair of touchdown passes.

The Bengals (12-4) matched the best record in franchise history — they also won 12 games during the 1981 and 1988 seasons when they reached the Super Bowl.

Cincinnati will host Pittsburgh next weekend in a wild-card game.

The AFC North champions wasted a chance to clinch the No. 2 seed when they lost in Denver 20-17 on Monday night.

The Ravens finished 5-11.

PANTHERS 38 BUCCANEERS 10

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Cam Newton ran for two touchdowns and threw for two more, and Carolina captured the NFC's No. 1 seed for the first time.

Newton tied Steve Young's NFL record for most career TDs rushing by a quarterback with 43. Young took 15 seasons to reach that plateau; Newton did it in five.

CHIEFS 23 RAIDERS 17

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Alex Smith threw two touchdown passes, Kansas City sacked Derek Carr six times, and the Chiefs collected a franchise-best 10th straight win.

SEAHAWKS 36 CARDINALS 6

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Russell Wilson threw three touchdown passes in a second-quarter outburst and Seattle snapped Arizona's nine-game winning streak.

EAGLES 35 GIANTS 30

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The New York Giants suffered another tough loss in what may have been Tom Coughlin's final game.

Former Giant Walter Thurmond scored on an 83-yard fumble return in the third quarter and Philadelphia added to Coughlin's season-long frustrations.

COLTS 30 TITANS 24

INDIANAPOLIS — Recently signed Josh Freeman and Ryan Lindley each threw a touchdown pass in the first half and Jerrell Freeman scored on a 23-yard interception in the second for the Colts.

The Colts (8-8) won their last two games to avoid the first losing season since 2011, but didn't get the help they needed — a Houston loss and seven other games to go the right way — to make the postseason.

SAINTS 20 FALCONS 17

ATLANTA — Jamarca Sanford's interception at the Atlanta 25 with less than two minutes remaining set up Kai Forbath's 30-yard field goal as time expired.

Sanford cut in front of Devonta Freeman for the interception with 1:47 remaining.

LIONS 24 BEARS 20

CHICAGO — Matthew Stafford threw for 298 yards and three touchdowns, Calvin Johnson had 137 yards receiving for the Lions.

Detroit (7-9) avoided a last-place finish in the NFC North with its sixth win in eight games. Whether the Lions bring back coach Jim Caldwell for a third season remains to be seen.

49ERS 19 RAMS 16, OT

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Phil Dawson kicked a 23-yard field goal 11:33 into overtime for his fourth of the game to lift San Francisco in what might have been Jim Tomsula's last game as coach.

Dawson came through after Greg Zuerlein's 48-yard field goal attempt was blocked by Dontae Johnson, giving San Francisco the ball back with 4:49 to play.

Browns fire GM, head coach

CLEVELAND — The Browns changed uniforms to start the season and their coach and general manager to end it.

Hours after a 28-12 loss to the rival Pittsburgh Steelers in the season finale, owner Jimmy Haslam fired coach Mike Pettine and general manager Ray Farmer following their second straight losing season in charge.

It's almost a tradition.

Pettine went 10-22 in two years, dropping 18 of his final 21 games after a promising 7-4 start in 2014. Pettine's job security had been in doubt for months, and not even Haslam's vow at the start of training camp not to "blow things up" could stop another regime change in Cleveland.

Associated Press

TEXANS

From 1C

sack in the NFL."

He forced a fumble with his third sack in the fourth quarter and it was recovered by Mercilus.

Watt joins Reggie White as the only players in NFL history to have three 15-sack years in their first five years in the NFL.

"If you are behind in the game, they can pin their ears back," Jacksonville coach Gus Bradley said. "That is one of the most talented rushers in the game for many years. He can be disruptive."

Grimes had a 12-yard touchdown reception and added a 3-yard rushing score in the second quarter to help Houston take a 20-3 lead by halftime. Kareem Jackson added a score on an interception return in the fourth quarter to pad the lead.

The win completes a remarkable turnaround for the Texans, who have used four quarterbacks this season, and bounced back after starting the season 2-5.

"We are not happy with just winning the AFC South," receiver DeAndre Hopkins said. "There are bigger goals ahead of us."

Brian Hoyer threw for 249 yards with a touchdown and an interception in his return after missing the past two games after his second concussion in less than a month.

Mercilus has a career-high 12 sacks this season and gives Houston two players with 10 or more sacks for the first time in franchise history.

COWBOYS

From 1C

put the Cowboys back at .500 (152-152) going all the way back to 1997.

"It's probably been as difficult as any season we've been a part of," said 13th-year Dallas tight end Jason Witten, who scored his first touchdown since getting two in the opener. "It makes for a long offseason, and you really can't put into words how you feel coming off last year."

Cousins became the first Washington quarterback to throw at least one scoring pass in all 16 regular-season games on a 5-yarder to Ryan Grant.

He also had a 39-yard touchdown to Pierre Garcon and a 3-yarder to Crowder, the latter giving Washington a 21-0 lead late in the first quarter. He was replaced by backup Colt McCoy late in the second quarter.

By completing 12 of 15 passes for 176 yards, Cousins is likely to lead the NFL with a 69.8 completion percentage. Jurgensen was the only other Washington quarterback to do that, in 1970.

The Redskins, who won their last three road games after starting 0-5 away from home, had a couple of injury scares in the first half, even though they were sitting several defensive starters.

NFL BOXES, STANDINGS AND PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

Boxes

TEXANS 30, JAGUARS 6

Jacksonville	0	3	3	0	–6
Houston	3	17	0	10	–30

First Quarter
Hou—FG Novak 29, 5:24
Second Quarter
Hou—Grimes 12 pass from Hoyer (Novak kick), 14:14
Jax—FG Myers 43, 10:13
Hou—Grimes 3 run (Novak kick), 5:37
Hou—FG Novak 51, 03
Third Quarter
Jax—FG Myers 34, 43
Fourth Quarter
Hou—FG Novak 51, 3:24
Hou—Jackson 27 interception return (Novak kick), 3:09
A—71,899

	Jax	Hou
First downs	11	25
Total Net Yards	215	402
Rushes-yards	14-32	31-180
Passing	183	242
Comp-Att-Int	17-32-2	25-41-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	8-56	2-7
Punts	5-50.2	4-47.5
Fumbles-Lost	3-2	1-0
Penalties-Yards	7-53	9-55
Time of Possession	24:23	35:37

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Jacksonville, Gray 9-23, D.Robinson 5-9, Houston, Blue 21-102, Hunt 3-28, Grimes 4-28, Polk 3-4.
PASSING—Jacksonville, Bortles 17-32-2-239. Houston, Hoyer 25-40-1-249, Grimes 0-1-0-0.
RECEIVING—Jacksonville, A.Robinson 5-108, Lee 3-30, Hurns 3-17, Thomas 2-12, Lewis 1-45, Harbor 1-18, Greene 1-5, Gray 1-4. Houston, Hopkins 7-89, Strong 6-56, Grimes 4-28, Griffin 3-27, Fiedorowicz 2-14, Hunt 1-27, Washington 1-6, Blue 1-2.
MISSED FIELD GOALS_Houston, Novak 50 (WL).

REDSKINS 34, COWBOYS 23

Washington	21	3	3	7	–34
Dallas	0	14	0	9	–23

First Quarter
Was—Grant 5 pass from Cousins (Hopkins kick), 9:07
Was—Garcon 39 pass from Cousins (Hopkins kick), 4:20
Was—Crowder 3 pass from Cousins (Hopkins kick), 19
Second Quarter
Was—FG Hopkins 27, 8:16
Dal—Witten 4 pass from Moore (Bailey kick), 3:35
Dal—Beasley 5 pass from Moore (Bailey kick), 21
Third Quarter
Was—FG Hopkins 33, 2:57
Fourth Quarter
Was—Ross 71 pass from McCoy (Hopkins kick), 14:51
Dal—Wilcox safety, 12:20.
Dal—Beasley 7 pass from Moore (Bailey kick), 4:18.
A—90,127

	Was	Dal
First downs	19	27
Total Net Yards	437	512
Rushes-yards	36-146	16-100
Passing	291	412
Comp-Att-Int	19-26-0	33-48-2
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-13	4-23
Punts	4-50.0	5-46.2
Fumbles-Lost	2-0	2-2
Penalties-Yards	3-20	4-44
Time of Possession	33:57	26:03

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Washington, Morris 19-100, Thomas 7-30, Thompson 7-18, McCoy 3-(minus 3). Dallas, McFadden 12-92, Turbin 2-6, Heath 1-2, Moore 1-0.
PASSING—Washington, Cousins 12-15-0-176, McCoy 7-11-0-128. Dallas, Moore 33-48-2-435.
RECEIVING—Washington, Crowder 5-109, Reed 4-45, Garcon 3-49, Grant 3-18, Ross 2-71, Young 1-7, Thomas 1-8. Dallas, Williams 8-173, Witten 6-58, Beasley 5-53, McFadden 5-53, Butler 4-60, Hanna 3-28, Street 1-11, Turbin 1-(minus 1).
MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

DOLPHINS 20, PATRIOTS 10

New England	0	3	7	0	–10
Miami	3	7	0	10	–20

First Quarter
Mia—FG Franks 38, 6:07.
Second Quarter
NE—FG Gostkowski 34, 8:06.
Mia—Parker 15 pass from Tannehill (Franks kick), 36.
Third Quarter
NE—S.Jackson 2 run (Gostkowski kick), 12:32.
Fourth Quarter
Mia—Cameron 2 pass from Tannehill (Franks kick), 6:58.
Mia—FG Franks 19, 1:56.
A—62,918.

	NE	Mia
First downs	12	20
Total Net Yards	199	438
Rushes-yards	27-70	34-96
Passing	129	342
Comp-Att-Int	13-25-0	25-38-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-14	1-8
Punts	7-51.6	5-48.6
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-0
Penalties-Yards	7-61	10-93
Time of Possession	28:55	31:05

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—New England, S.Jackson 14-35, Bolden 9-31, White 3-5, Brady 1-(minus 1). Miami, Miller 19-60, Tannehill 3-17, D.Williams 3-11, Landry 2-6, Ajayi 7-2.
PASSING—New England, Garoppolo 1-4-0-6, Brady 12-21-0-134. Miami, Tannehill 25-38-0-350.
RECEIVING—New England, White 2-63, Gronkowski 2-18, Amendola 2-17, LaFell 2-7, Bolden 2-5, S.Jackson 1-20, Hoomanawanui 1-14, K.Martin 1-4. Miami, Landry 6-75, Parker 5-106, Jennings 4-74, Sims 3-40, D.Williams 3-38, Cameron 2-6, Stills 1-11, Miller 1-3.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—New England, Gostkowski 46 (WR). Miami, Franks 46 (WR).

BILLS 22, JETS 17

N.Y. Jets	0	7	10	0	–17
Buffalo	7	9	3	3	–22

First Quarter
Buf—Taylor 18 run (Carpenter kick), 5:43
Second Quarter
Buf—Ka.Williams 7 run (kick failed), 12:58
NYJ—Marshall 17 pass from Fitzpatrick (Bullock kick), 9:39
Buf—FG Carpenter 20, 23
Third Quarter
NYJ—FG Bullock 39, 13:21
Buf—FG Carpenter 37, 5:02
NYJ—Decker 21 pass from Fitzpatrick (Bullock kick), 1:10
Fourth Quarter
Buf—FG Carpenter 42, 3:48
A—68,670.

	NYJ	Buf
First downs	15	18
Total Net Yards	300	295
Rushes-yards	17-122	43-113
Passing	178	182
Comp-Att-Int	16-37-3	18-28-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-3	2-0
Punts	4-40.3	5-48.6
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	2-1
Penalties-Yards	6-41	4-45
Time of Possession	20:47	39:13

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—N.Y.Jets, Ivory 6-81, Ridley 9-29, Fitzpatrick 2-12. Buffalo, Taylor 10-51, Gillislee 24-28, Ka.Williams 6-24, Dixon 2-6, Hogan 1-4.
PASSING—N.Y.Jets, Fitzpatrick 16-37-3-181. Buffalo, Taylor 18-28-0-182.
RECEIVING—N.Y.Jets, Marshall 8-126, Decker 5-50, Ridley 2-0, Enuwa 1-5. Buffalo, Watkins 11-136, Salas 3-41, Ka.Williams 3-3, Hogan 1-2.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—N.Y.Jets, Bullock 40 (WR).

BRONCOS 27, CHARGERS 20

San Diego	3	3	7	7	–20
Denver	7	0	7	13	–27

First Quarter
Den—Thomas 72 pass from Osweiler (McManus kick), 14:29
SD—FG Lambo 50, 10:10
Second Quarter
SD—FG Lambo 42, 5:52
Third Quarter
SD—Gates 13 pass from Rivers (Lambo kick), 8:18
Den—Anderson 1 run (McManus kick), 5:24
Fourth Quarter
Den—FG McManus 48, 13:09
SD—Ty.Williams 80 pass from Rivers (Lambo kick), 12:56
Den—FG McManus 35, 9:45
Den—Hillman 23 run (McManus kick), 4:44
A—76,844

	SD	Den
First downs	15	21
Total Net Yards	317	503
Rushes-yards	29-110	32-210
Passing	207	293
Comp-Att-Int	21-35-1	19-31-2
Sacked-Yards Lost	3-21	2-8
Punts	7-50.7	3-44.7
Fumbles-Lost	3-0	3-3
Penalties-Yards	7-45	6-35
Time of Possession	34:32	25:28

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—San Diego, Brown 21-81, Hamdon 1-13, Woodhead 5-11, Rivers 2-5. Denver, Hillman 15-117, Anderson 15-95, Manning 3-(minus 2).
PASSING—San Diego, Rivers 21-35-1-228. Denver, Osweiler 14-22-2-232, Manning 5-9-0-69.
RECEIVING—San Diego, Woodhead 8-51, Gates 3-34, Inman 3-25, Herndon 3-18, Ty.Williams 2-90, Brown 2-10. Denver, Thomas 5-117, Sanders 5-99, Norwood 3-48, Hillman 2-10, Daniels 1-15, Green 1-14, Fowler 1-3, Anderson 1-(minus 5).
MISSED FIELD GOALS—None

49ERS 19, RAMS 16

St. Louis	3	13	0	0	0	–16
San Francisco	0	10	3	3	1	–19

First Quarter
StL—FG Zuerlein 33, 8:11
Second Quarter
SF—Boldin 33 pass from Gabbert (Dawson kick), 14:52
SF—FG Dawson 26, 9:03
StL—FG Zuerlein 32, 2:43
StL—Mason 4 run (Zuerlein kick), 1:31
StL—FG Zuerlein 44, 0:4.
Third Quarter
SF—FG Dawson 28, 9:37
Fourth Quarter
SF—FG Dawson 38, 4:28.
Overtime
SF—FG Dawson 23, 3:27
A—70,799.

	StL	SF
First downs	21	21
Total Net Yards	364	458
Rushes-yards	33-133	33-108
Passing	231	350
Comp-Att-Int	22-38-0	28-44-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	0-0	1-4
Punts	5-51.8	5-38.0
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	2-0
Penalties-Yards	11-105	7-60
Time of Possession	38:30	33:03

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—St. Louis, Mason 18-44, Cunningham 4-38, Austin 6-32, M.Brown 4-17, Keenum 1-2. San Francisco, Harris 19-67, M.Davis 10-34, Gabbert 7-7.
PASSING—St. Louis, Keenum 22-37-0-231, Hekker 0-1-0-0. San Francisco, Gabbert 28-44-1-354.
RECEIVING—St. Louis, Kendricks 5-37, Austin 5-30, Britt 3-81, Cunningham 3-34, Quick 2-23, Weber 2-16, Hartley 1-12, M.Brown 1-(minus 2). San Francisco, Harris 8-66, Boldin 5-71, Smith 5-61, McDonald 3-37, M.Davis 2-18, Miller 2-2, Ellington 1-44, Patton 1-20, Bell 1-5.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—St. Louis, Zuerlein 52 (WR), 48 (BK).

CHIEFS 23, RAIDERS 17

Oakland	0	10	0	7	–17
Kansas City	14	0	9	0	–23

First Quarter
KC—Maclin 25 pass from A.Smith (Santos kick), 10:52
KC—Ware 3 run (Santos kick), 51
Second Quarter
Oak—FG Janikowski 29, 13:40
Oak—Amerson 24 interception return (Janikowski kick), 3:27
Third Quarter
KC—Alexander safety, 9:01
KC—Harris 15 pass from A.Smith (Santos kick), 7:03
Fourth Quarter
Oak—Crabtree 31 pass from Carr (Janikowski kick), 2:01
A—76,114

	Oak	KC
First downs	14	23
Total Net Yards	205	339
Rushes-yards	18-48	39-189
Passing	157	150
Comp-Att-int	21-33-1	15-25-2
Sacked-Yards Lost	6-37	1-9
Punts	7-38.7	5-35.6
Fumbles-Lost	2-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	7-59	5-55
Time of Possession	25:05	34:55

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Oakland, Murray 11-31, Carr 2-12, Helu Jr 3-5. Kansas City, Ware 16-76
A.Smith 9-61, West 13-34, Maclin 1-18.
PASSING—Oakland, Carr 21-33-1-194
Kansas City, A.Smith 14-24-2-156, Santos 1-1-0-3
RECEIVING—Oakland, Walford 4-46, Murray 4-25, Crabtree 3-34, Roberts 3-20, Helu Jr 2-23, Cooper 2-20, Rivera 2-12. Olawale 1-14. Kansas City, Maclin 3-54, A.Wilson 3-24, Conley 2-22, Sherman 2-21, Avant 2-15, Harris 1-15, Kelce 1-10, West 1-(minus 2).
MISSED FIELD GOALS—None

PANTHERS 38, BUCCANEERS 10

Tampa Bay	3	0	7	0	–10
Carolina	0	24	7	7	–38

First Quarter
TB—FG Barth 39, 1:28
Second Quarter
Car—Newton 1 run (Gano kick), 12:35
Car—FG Gano 49, 9:29
Car—Artis-Payne 11 run (Gano kick), 4:17
Car—Colchery 31 pass from Newton (Gano kick), 1:52
Third Quarter
Car—Newton 1 run (Gano kick), 9:18
TB—Winston 4 run (Barth kick), 4:45
Fourth Quarter
Car—Funchess 16 pass from Newton (Gano kick), 7:22
A—74,169

	TB	Car
First downs	21	23
Total Net Yards	386	366
Rushes-yards	22-77	32-111
Passing	309	255
Comp-Att-int	29-47-2	21-26-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-16	4-38
Punts	4-36.8	2-38.0
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	2-2
Penalties-Yards	5-65	7-33
Time of Possession	28:10	31:50

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Tampa Bay, Martin 15-48, Sims 4-15, Winston 3-14. Carolina, Tolbert 10-59, Artis-Payne 14-44, Newton 6-10, Anderson 2-(minus 2)
PASSING—Tampa Bay, Winston 29-47-2-325
Carolina, Newton 21-26-0-293.
RECEIVING—Tampa Bay, Sims 9-74, Martin 7-60, Evans 4-99, Dye 4-31, Seferian-Jenkins 3-48, Brate 1-10, Stocker 1-3. Carolina, Funchess 7-120, Brown 3-58, Colchery 2-52, Benson 2-25, Artis-Payne 2-17, Olsen 2-16, Dickson 2-0, Tolbert 1-6.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—None

SEAHAWKS 36, CARDINALS 6

Seattle	10	20	6	0	–36
Arizona	0	6	0	0	–6

First Quarter
Sea—Brown 1 run (Hauschka kick) 5:22
Sea—FG Hauschka 52, 3:08
Second Quarter
Ari—Fitzgerald 17 pass from Palmer (kick failed), 11:59
Sea—Tukuafu 7 pass from Wilson (Hauschka kick), 8:02
Sea—Coffman 8 pass from Wilson (Hauschka kick), 3:51
Sea—Kearse 24 pass from Wilson (kick failed), 2:08
Third Quarter
Sea—FG Hauschka 33, 9:39
Sea—FG Hauschka 52, 4:49
A—64,646

	Sea	Ari
First downs	22	16
Total Net Yards	354	232
Rushes-yards	37-145	13-27
Passing	209	205
Comp-Att-int	22-32-0	20-43-3
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-16	2-8
Punts	2-45.5	6-47.3
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	6-70	6-43
Time of Possession	36:37	23:23

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Seattle, Michael 17-102, Brown 10-20, Wilson 5-13, Lockett 2-7, Williams 1-5, T.Jackson 2-(minus 2). Arizona, D.Johnson 11-25, Ellington 2-2.
PASSING—Seattle, T.Jackson 3-4-0-28, Wilson 19-28-0-197. Arizona, Stanton 8-18-2-84, Palmer 12-25-1-129.
RECEIVING—Seattle, Baldwin 5-46, Heffel 4-42, Coffman 4-29, Kearse 3-34, Lockett 2-36, K.Smith 1-17, Williams 1-8, Tukuafu 1-7, T.Jackson 1-6. Arizona, Fitzgerald 6-55, Jo.Brown 4-45, D.Johnson 3-34, Gresham 2-36, Floyd 1-16, Niklas 1-8, Ellington 1-7, Fells 1-7, B.Golden 1-5.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—Seattle, Hauschka 40 (WL). Arizona, Catanzaro 51 (WL).

LIONS 24, BEARS 20

Detroit	7	3	7	7	–24
Chicago	0	0	10	10	–20

First Quarter
Det—T.Wright 9 pass from Stafford (Prater kick) 10:14
Second Quarter
Det—FG Prater 59, 00
Third Quarter
Chi—FG Gould 49, 9:03
Chi—Bellamy 34 pass from Cutler (Gould kick), 5:28
Det—C.Johnson 36 pass from Stafford (Prater kick) 1:07
Fourth Quarter
Chi—Forte 23 pass from Cutler (Gould kick), 13:20
Det—Ebron 1 pass from Stafford (Prater kick), 8:46
Chi—FG Gould 34, 5:39
A—61,177

	Det	Chi
First downs	22	16
Total Net Yards	349	342
Rushes-yards	21-67	25-108
Passing	282	234
Comp-Att-int	28-39-0	17-23-3
Sacked-Yards Lost	4-16	4-11
Punts	3-47.7	2-51.0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	4-21	1-15
Time of Possession	32:30	27:30

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Detroit, Abdullah 10-44, Stafford 6-10, Bell 3-9, Riddick 2-4. Chicago, Forte 17-76, Langford 5-14, Cutler 1-11, Carey 1-10, Manning 1-(minus 3).
PASSING—Detroit, Stafford 28-39-0-298
Chicago, Cutler 17-23-3-245
RECEIVING—Detroit, C.Johnson 10-137, Ebron 5-25, Tate 4-34, Riddick 4-29, Bell 2-49, T.Wright 1-9, Burton 1-8, Abdullah 1-7. Chicago, Manarite 4-80, Bellamy 3-17, Fiore 3-34, Meredith 2-19, Houston 2-18, Thompson 1-45.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—Detroit, Prater 54 (WR)

EAGLES 35, GIANTS 30

Philadelphia	14	7	7	7	–35
N.Y. Giants	3	17	7	3	–30

First Quarter
Phi—Murray 54 run (Sturgis kick), 13:10
NYG—FG Brown 22, 4:07
Phi—Sproles 6 run (Sturgis kick), 1:36
Second Quarter
NYG—FG Brown 30, 13:48
NYG—Tye 9 pass from Manning (Brown kick), 11:01
Phi—Matthews 4 pass from Bradford (Sturgis kick), 4:38
NYG—Jennings 2 run (Brown kick), 1:13
Third Quarter
NYG—Randle 45 pass from Manning (Brown kick), 9:11
Phi—Thurmond 83 fumble return (Sturgis kick), 3:34
Fourth Quarter
NYG—FG Brown 48, 4:30
A—78,023

	Phi	NYG
First downs	23	30
Total Net Yards	435	502
Rushes-yards	26-120	36-208
Passing	315	294
Comp-Att-Int	30-38-1	24-43-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-5	2-8
Punts	3-41.3	3-36.7
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	2-1
Penalties-Yards	3-11	2-10
Time of Possession	28:06	31:54

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Philadelphia, Murray 12-69, Sproles 3-24, Barner 5-18, Mathews 4-11, Bradford 2-(minus 2). N.Y. Giants, Jennings 27-170, Williams 5-26, Vereen 4-12.
PASSING—Philadelphia, Bradford 30-38-1-320. N.Y. Giants, Manning 24-43-0-302.
RECEIVING—Philadelphia, Ertz 9-152, Matthews 7-54, Barner 5-21, Sproles 3-20, Celek 2-38, Agholor 2-23, Mathews 1-7, Burton 1-5. N.Y. Giants, Vereen 6-72, Tye 5-67, Bockham Jr. 5-54, Randle 4-79, Nicks 2-24, Jennings 2-6.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—None

BENGALS 24, RAVENS 16

Baltimore	0	9	0	7	–16
Cincinnati	7	7	14	3	–24

Second Quarter
Bal—FG Tucker 28, 12:56
Bal—FG Tucker 50, 4:55
Cin—Eifert 22 pass from McCarron (Nugent kick), 1:49
Bal—FG Tucker 49, 00
Third Quarter
Cin—Green 5 pass from McCarron (Nugent kick), 11:22
Cin—Hill 38 run (Nugent kick), 6:55
Fourth Quarter
Cin—FG Nugent 52, 4:06
Bal—Juszczyk 2 pass from Mallett (Tucker kick), 1:47
A—57,254

	Bal	Cin
First downs	22	17
Total Net Yards	341	292
Rushes-yards	21-59	27-145
Passing	282	147
Comp-Att-int	30-56-2	17-27-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-10	3-13
Punts	4-42.5	7-43.3
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties-Yards	4-38	11-72
Time of Possession	29:16	30:44

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Baltimore, Allen 15-38, West 5-17, Mallett 1-4. Cincinnati, Hill 16-96, Bernard 6-36, Sams 2-11, McCarron 3-2.
PASSING—Baltimore, Mallett 30-56-2-292. Cincinnati, McCarron 17-27-0-160.
RECEIVING—Baltimore, Butler 6-57, M.Williams 6-53, Allen 6-32, Aiken 5-78, Matthews 4-51, Juszczyk 2-18, West 1-5. Cincinnati, M.Jones 5-38, Eifert 4-51, Green 4-34, Hill 2-19, Bernard 1-12, Sams 1-8.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

STEELERS 28, BROWNS 12

Pittsburgh	7	7	3	11	–28
Cleveland	3	6	0	3	–12

First Quarter
Pit—Miller 2 pass from Roethlisberger (Boswell kick), 7:06
Cle—FG Coons 29, 1:11
Second Quarter
Cle—FG Coons 39, 1:56
Pit—Brown 17 pass from Roethlisberger (Boswell kick), 58
Cle—FG Coons 33, 00
Third Quarter
Pit—FG Boswell 39, 9:39
Fourth Quarter
Cle—FG Coons 29, 14:53
Pit—Wheaton 8 pass from Roethlisberger (Toussaint pass from Roethlisberger), 10:43
Pit—FG Boswell 21, 7:40
A—66,693

	Pit	Cle
First downs	16	22
Total Net Yards	379	263
Rushes-yards	19-30	23-86
Passing	349	177
Comp-Att-int	24-36-2	24-46-2
Sacked-Yards Lost	0-0	1-63
Punts	3-52.0	3-47.7
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	3-2
Penalties-Yards	9-45	8-43
Time of Possession	26:03	33:57

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Pittsburgh, Toussaint 12-24, D.Williams 5-8, Roethlisberger 2-(minus 2). Cleveland, Crowell 15-53, Davis 3-22, Johnson 4-11, Benjamin 1-(minus 2).
PASSING—Pittsburgh, Roethlisberger 24-36-2-352. Cleveland, Davis 24-46-2-240.
RECEIVING—Pittsburgh, Brown 13-181, Wheaton 3-57, Miller 3-18, Heyward-Bey 2-14, D.Williams 2-13, Bryant 1-9. Cleveland, Bernhardt 8-66, Jennings 6-45, Benjamin 5-53, Johnson 2-14, Pryor 1-42.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—Pittsburgh, Boswell 48 (WR)

COLTS 30, TITANS 24

Tennessee	7	7	3	7	–24
Indianapolis	10	10	7	3	–30

First Quarter
Ind—FG Vinatieri 49, 8:57.
Ten—Mettenberger 5 run (Succop kick), 2:12
Ind—Freeman 51 pass from Jo.Freeman (Vinatieri kick), 12
Second Quarter
Ten—Cobb 1 run (Succop kick), 10:25
Ind—FG Vinatieri 52, 6:29
Ind—Johnson 18 pass from Lindley (Vinatieri kick), 13
Third Quarter
Ind—Je.Freeman 23 interception return (Vinatieri kick), 14:19
Ten—FG Succop 49, 7:30
Fourth Quarter
Ten—Green-Beckham 5 pass from Tanney (Succop kick), 11:07
Ind—FG Vinatieri 35, 2:25
A—65,733

	Ten	Ind
First downs	14	20
Total Net Yards	231	327
Rushes-yards	27-137	32-127
Passing	94	200
Comp-Att-int	15-27-1	21-38-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	4-43	1-7
Punts	4-50.0	5-43.2
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	6-60	6-71
Time of Possession	26:43	33:17

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Tennessee, Cobb 19-73, Walker 1-36, Sankey 4-16, McBride 1-8, Mettenberger 2-4. Indianapolis, Gore 19-76, Jo.Freeman 8-24, Williams 2-12, Dorsett 1-11, Herron 2-4.
PASSING—Tennessee, Tanney 10-14-0-99, Mettenberger 5-13-1-38. Indianapolis, Lindley 6-10-0-58, Jo.Freeman 15-28-1-149.
RECEIVING—Tennessee, Walker 9-94, Green-Beckham 2-7, Douglas 2-19, Andrews 2-3. Indianapolis, Fleener 7-88, Johnson 4-46, Hilton 4-44, Dorsett 4-28, Doyle 1-3, Moncrief

Browns not commenting on report of Manziel trip to Vegas

By Tom Withers
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Johnny Manziel's weekend itinerary remains a mystery.

The Browns are not commenting on a report that their polarizing quarterback, who sustained a concussion last week in Kansas City, went to Las Vegas on Saturday as his teammates got ready for their season finale.

Manziel was not going to play Sunday against the Pittsburgh Steelers because he's in the NFL's protocol on head injuries. Manziel got hurt while rushing for 108 yards in a loss to the Chiefs.

USA Today quoted an employee and patron who said they saw Manziel at Las Vegas' Planet Hollywood on Saturday. The report said he ate at a restaurant in the casino and sat down at a blackjack table.

It's not clear if the team has a policy prohibiting players from traveling when they are out with an injury.

Typically, players who have concussions are sensitive to noise, light and are encouraged to rest as they recover. The Browns do not require concussed players to be at the stadium for home games.

Manziel was not seen at FirstEnergy Stadium in the hours leading up to kickoff against the Steelers.

He posted a photo on his Twitter account on Saturday night of him lying on the floor with his dog. He used the hashtag #SaturdayNights.

Manziel has had a second turbulent season with Cleveland. The 2012 Heisman Trophy winner started six games, and while he did show progress on the field, the 23-year continued to be a distraction off it.

Browns coach Mike Pettine, who is expected to be fired following the finale, said last week that Manziel needs to address personal issues.

"Here is a guy that has an NFL skillset," Pettine said. "He's very talented. If you spend some time with him, he's a likable guy. You root for him, but there are problems there. We'll talk as we're headed to the offseason about getting addressed to make sure that, I said this before, we want to make sure that all of our places are grounded or in good shape as people first, players second. I don't think you can be as effective as you can be as a player if things aren't right off the field and he's a good example of that."

Manziel spent 10 weeks in a rehab facility last winter specializing in drug and alcohol abuse. He began the season as Josh McCown's backup, eventually took over as starter and was benched two games by Pettine after a video surfaced of him partying in Austin during the team's bye week.

Jets loss to Bills sends Pittsburgh into AFC playoffs

By Tim Booth
Associated Press

Leave it to Rex Ryan to continue the New York Jets' playoff drought.

Ryan and the Buffalo Bills stopped the Jets from making the playoffs Sunday and gave the Pittsburgh Steelers the final playoff spot in the AFC.

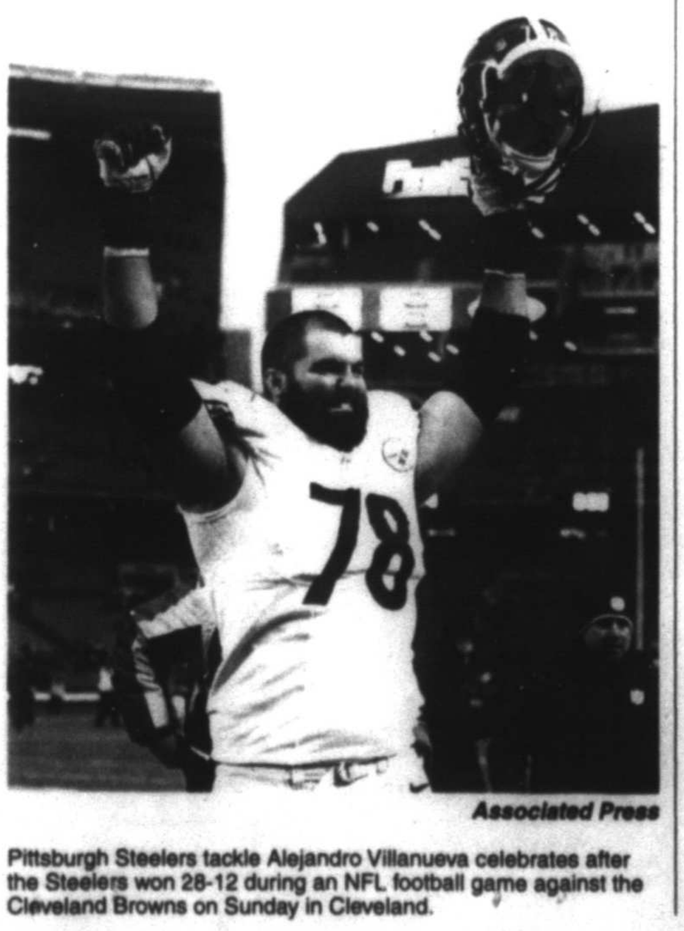
The Bills beat the Jets 22-17, while Pittsburgh knocked off Cleveland 28-12, the only results that would have gotten the Steelers into the postseason. Pittsburgh will be the No. 6 seed and travel to the No. 3 seed.

Home-field advantage in both conferences remained in question because of Miami's upset of New England. Denver will remain home for the playoffs if it can beat San Diego. Carolina can wrap up the home field in the NFC with a victory over Tampa Bay, but a loss would give Arizona a chance at the No. 1 seed.

Houston also clinched the AFC South with its win over Jacksonville and will host the No. 5 seed next week. That No. 5 seed could end up being Kansas City or Denver depending who ends up winning the AFC West.

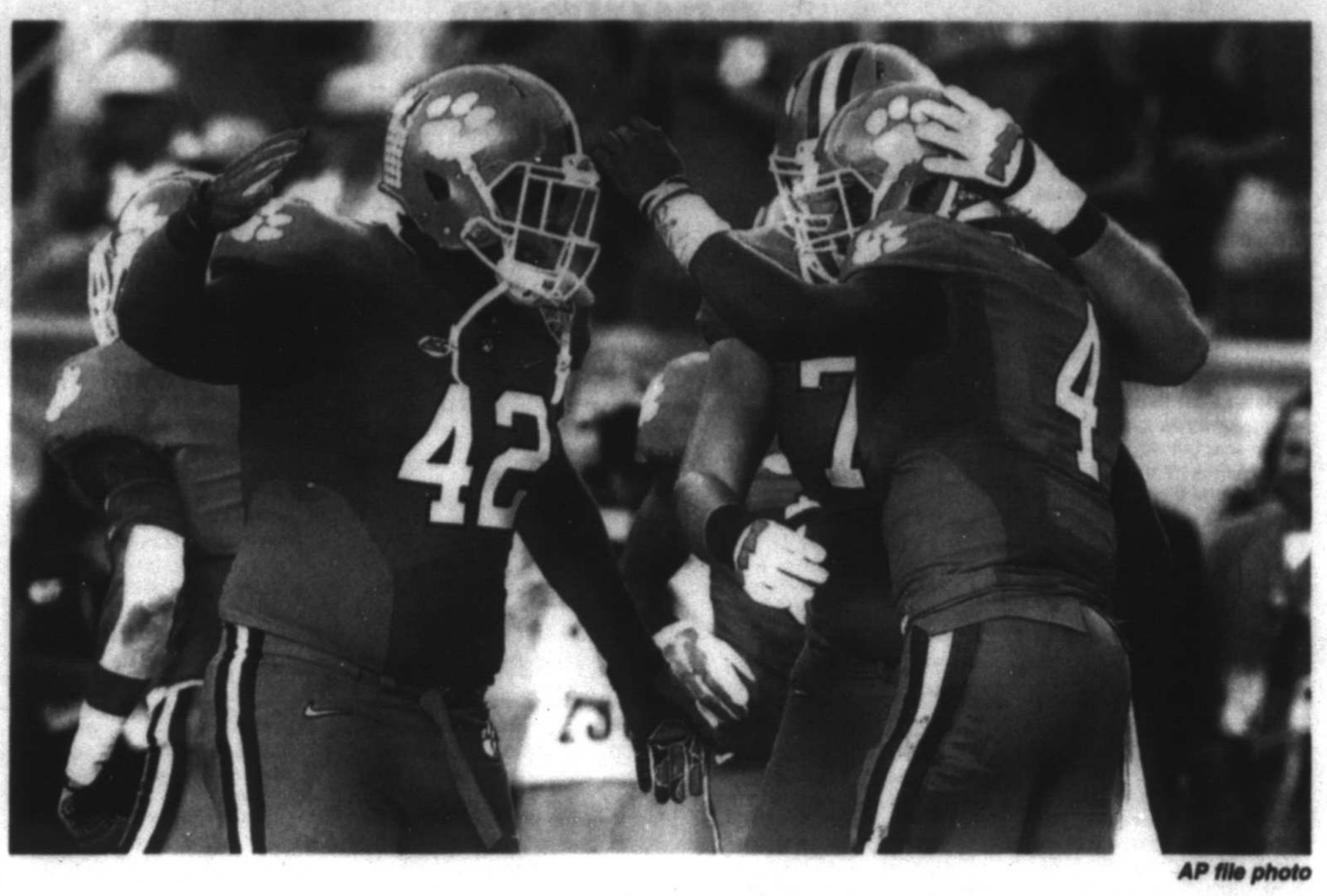
All of the playoff teams in the NFC are set, but the seeds are still unknown for Nos. 3, 5 and 6. Seattle will finish as either fifth or sixth, but won't know its opponent until after completion of the Sunday night game between Minnesota and Green Bay to decide the NFC North champion. Losing to Arizona would lock the Seahawks into the No. 6 spot and a matchup against the winner of the NFC North.

Houston avoided the headache of possibly having to look at eight different tiebreakers by beating Jacksonville 30-6 to win the AFC South, making Indianapolis' victory over Tennessee moot. The Colts entered the day with the slimmest of chances to win the division, but a Texans loss was needed. Houston is the fourth-seed.



Associated Press

Pittsburgh Steelers tackle Alejandro Villanueva celebrates after the Steelers won 28-12 during an NFL football game against the Cleveland Browns on Sunday in Cleveland.



AP file photo

On Dec. 31, 2015, Clemson quarterback Deshaun Watson (4) is congratulated by linemen Christian Wilkins (42) and Mitch Hyatt (75) after Watson scored a touchdown during the first half of the Orange Bowl NCAA college football semifinal playoff game against Oklahoma, in Miami Gardens, Fla. Clemson's offensive line has conquered challenges all season. Its final, and perhaps biggest, will come in the national championship game against Alabama's dominating defense.

Title fight: Clemson's O-line vs. Alabama's defensive front

By Pete Iacobelli
Associated Press

CLEMSON, S.C. — Clemson's offensive line has conquered challenges all season. Its final one — and perhaps biggest — will come in the national championship game against Alabama's dominating defense.

"We've always been a question mark around here," Tigers center Jay Guillermo said.

There will certainly be more questions about the line and the top-ranked Tigers (14-0) leading up to their matchup on Jan. 11 in Arizona with the powerful Crimson Tide (13-1), which completely shut down Big Ten champion Michigan State 38-0 in the Cotton Bowl last Thursday night.

No. 2 Alabama held the Spartans to a season-low 239 yards as linebacker Reggie Ragland and defensive end Jonathan Allen had their way with Michigan State's offensive line, combining for four sacks and six tackles for loss.

The Clemson offensive line — none who were starters before this year — know they have to fare better, even if there are questions whether they actually can.

"People doubt us all the time," Tigers coach Dabo Swinney said. "Nobody believes in this team except these guys."

The Tigers' unit is a group that early on didn't look like it could anchor a national championship run.

Of the two returning starters from last season, center Ryan Norton was slowed by an injury and tackle Isaiah Battle left the team for the NFL supplemental draft in the summer.

Clemson had to rely on Guillermo, a junior who had given up football last season because of personal issues, to snap the ball to quarterback Deshaun Watson and a talented, yet at that time, unproven true freshman Mitch Hyatt to protect Watson's blindside.

They managed to answer the challenges 14 straight times.

The group, which also includes guards Eric Mac Lain and Tyrone Crowder and right tackle Joe Gore, gradually gelled and became the engine that drives Clemson's relentless offense.

Watson and tailback Wayne Gallman surpassed 100 yards on the ground in the 37-17 win over Oklahoma at the Orange Bowl and the Tigers finished with 312 yards rushing.

The line helped Watson become Clemson's single-season total yardage leader (4,731) and Gallman gain the most rushing yards (1,482) in school history.

All five members of the offensive line received honors on one of the three all-Atlantic Coast Conference postseason teams.

"It's been a long journey," said Mac Lain, the former tight end who had made only one start before this season.

Watson, who was coming off a knee injury this offseason, remembers the bond he saw growing among the linemen.

"It was just really during summer workouts, all the stuff they did," Watson said. "Just hanging out. You could see the relationship building."

Once the season began, things did not come so quickly.

The Clemson offense was held to 20 points, its lowest total all year, against Louisville in September then 296 yards, also a season low, a game later against Notre Dame.

But the linemen knew they were close to putting things together.

Clemson has had 10 straight games of 500 yards or more on offense, powering to an undefeated season, an ACC title and the chance to try for the program's first national title since 1981.

"We really had a mentality here of wanting to prove people wrong," Guillermo said.

Clemson will do that in a big way if it can hold off the Crimson Tide defense, which limited Michigan State to 29 yards rushing.

Alabama's Allen said the Crimson Tide concentrates on taking away the run so they can get after the quarterback.

"If you stop the run, you get rewarded with pass rushing," said Allen, who had two sacks against the Spartans. "That's just our mentality."

If Alabama shuts down Clemson's run game, it will go a long way in helping Alabama win its fourth national championship in seven years. The Tigers, however, believe they can slow down the Crimson Tide so Watson and Gallman can make the plays they've made all season.

"We know we're only going to go as far as our offensive line takes us," Guillermo said. "It starts with us putting the game on our back. That's what we want to do."

Arizona State loses to West Virginia in Cactus Bowl

By John Marshall
Associated Press

PHOENIX — Arizona State's point-after conversion chart called for the Sun Devils to go for 2 after scoring a go-ahead touchdown late in the fourth quarter.

Instead, they inexplicably kicked the extra point to take a six-point lead, making it easier for West Virginia to pull out a wild 43-42 victory in the Cactus Bowl early Sunday.

"We were supposed to go for two, and we didn't," Arizona State coach Todd Graham said. "Mismanagement there and that is my responsibility."

The Cactus Bowl made up for its late start with an assault on the record books.

The teams combined for 1,196 yards of offense and the 950 yards passing were the most in the Cactus Bowl's 27-year history as the game crept well past midnight.

West Virginia (8-5) is typically a run-oriented team, but went to the air against the Sun Devils.

Skyler Howard shredded Arizona State's shoddy defensive backfield, throwing for a Cactus Bowl-record 532 yards and five touchdowns, including a 15-yarder to David Sills with 2:19 left.

The junior broke the Cactus Bowl record of 476 yards set by Washington State's Drew Bledsoe against Utah in 1992, and blew past the school bowl record of 429 yards set by Marc Bulger against Missouri in Tucson in 1998.

Texas A&M offensive coordinator Spavital leaves

Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION — Texas A&M offensive coordinator Jake Spavital is leaving after three seasons at the school.

The Aggies issued a statement that said Spavital and the school "have mutually decided to part ways."

Spavital coached quarterbacks at Texas A&M before spending the last two seasons as offensive coordinator.

It's been a tough few weeks for the Aggies, who had quarterbacks Kyle Allen and Kyler Murray both transfer before a loss in the Music City Bowl.

BOWL GLANCE

Wednesday, Dec. 23
GoDaddy Bowl
Mobile, Ala.
Georgia Southern 58, Bowling Green 27

Thursday, Dec. 24
Bahamas Bowl
Nassau
Western Michigan 45, Middle Tennessee 31

Hawaii Bowl
Honolulu
San Diego State 42, Cincinnati 7

Saturday, Dec. 26
St. Petersburg (Fla.) Bowl
Marshall 16, UConn 10

Sun Bowl
El Paso, Texas
Washington State 20, Miami 14

Heart of Dallas Bowl
Washington 44, Southern Mississippi 31

Pinstripe Bowl
Bronx, N.Y.
Duke 44, Indiana 41, OT

Independence Bowl
Shreveport, La.
Virginia Tech 55, Tulsa 52

Foster Farms Bowl
Santa Clara, Calif.
Nebraska 37, UCLA 29

Monday, Dec. 28

Military Bowl
Annapolis, Md.
Navy 44, Pittsburgh 28

Quick Lane Bowl
Detroit
Minnesota 21, Central Michigan 14

Tuesday, Dec. 29
Armed Forces Bowl
Fort Worth, Texas
California 55, Air Force 36

Russell Athletic Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
Baylor 49, North Carolina 38

Arizona Bowl
Tucson
Nevada 28, Colorado State 23

Texas Bowl
Houston
LSU 56, Texas Tech 27

Wednesday, Dec. 30
Birmingham (Ala.) Bowl
Auburn 31, Memphis 10

Belk Bowl
Charlotte, N.C.
Mississippi St. 51, NC State 28

Music City Bowl
Nashville, Tenn.
Louisville 27, Texas A&M 21

Holiday Bowl
San Diego
Wisconsin 23, Southern Cal 21

Thursday, Dec. 31
Peach Bowl
Atlanta
Houston 38, Florida State 24

Orange Bowl (Playoff Semifinal)
Miami Gardens, Fla.
Clemson 37, Oklahoma 17

Cotton Bowl Classic (Playoff Semifinal)
Arlington, Texas
Alabama 38, Michigan State 0

Friday, Jan. 1
Outback Bowl
Tampa, Fla.
Tennessee 45, Northwestern 6

Citrus Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
Michigan 41, Florida 7

Fiesta Bowl
Glendale, Ariz.
Ohio State 44, Notre Dame 28

Rose Bowl
Pasadena, Calif.
Stanford 45, Iowa 16

Sugar Bowl
New Orleans
Mississippi 48, Oklahoma State 20

Saturday, Jan. 2

TaxSlayer Bowl
Jacksonville, Fla.
Georgia 24, Penn State 17

Liberty Bowl
Memphis, Tenn.
Arkansas 45, Kansas State 23

Alamo Bowl
San Antonio
TCU 47, Oregon 41, 3OT

Cactus Bowl
Phoenix
West Virginia (7-5) vs. Arizona State (6-6), late

Monday, Jan. 11
College Football Championship Game
Glendale, Ariz.
Clemson (14-0) vs. Alabama (13-1), 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Saturday, Jan. 23
East-West Shrine Classic
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
East vs. West, 4 p.m. (NFLN)

NFLPA Collegiate Bowl
At Carson, Calif.
National vs. American, 6 p.m. (ESPN2)

Saturday, Jan. 30
Senior Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
North vs. South, 2:30 p.m. (NFLN)

Associated Press

Australia's Oliver Anderson plays a shot in his match against Tim Smyczek during the Brisbane International tennis tournament in Brisbane, Australia, on Sunday.

Czech Republic beats Hewitt, Australia team at Hopman Cup

By Dennis Passa
Associated Press

BRISBANE, Australia — Lleyton Hewitt lost just weeks away from his retirement as Czech Republic beat the Australia Gold team at the Hopman Cup mixed teams event Sunday.

Jiri Vesely defeated Hewitt, who will retire after the Australian Open, 6-3, 6-7 (1), 6-4 before Karolina Pliskova came from 3-1 down in the second set to beat Jarmila Wolfe Gajdosova 7-5, 6-3 at Perth, Western Australia.

The Czech team won the later mixed doubles 6-2, 7-5 to sweep the match 3-0.

"Jiri is a quality player and deserved to win, but it was just good to come out here for the first game of the year and get a tough match," Hewitt said. "Hopefully I can come out for the rest of the week now and get better from here to get ready for the rest of the summer."

Hewitt, a two-time Grand Slam champion and former No. 1, has already been named Australia's Davis Cup captain and will be in charge of the team against the United States in the first round of World Group play from March 4-6 at Kooyong in Melbourne.

For the first time in the Hopman Cup's 28-year history, Australia is being represented by two teams.

Earlier, Nick Kyrgios broke Alexander Zverev's service at 3-3 in the deciding set for a 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 win, giving his Australia Green team the winning edge over Germany. Russian-born Daria Gavrilova beat Sabine Lisicki 6-2, 6-2 to give the Australian side the early lead, and Kyrgios and Gavrilova later combined for a 6-3, 4-6, 10-7 (match tiebreak) win in mixed doubles to complete a 3-0 win.

Associated Press

Dominika Cibulkova plays a shot in her match against Yanina Wickmayer of Belgium during the Brisbane International tennis tournament in Brisbane, Australia, on Sunday.

The 18-year-old Zverev, at 83rd, is the youngest player in the top 100 in ATP rankings.

"I really like the kid," the 20-year-old Kyrgios said. "He's got a great future ahead and he's a great athlete for his size and moves well and serves big."

On Monday, Serena Williams and Jack Sock of the United States play Ukraine, while Andy Murray and Heather Watson lead Britain into its match against France.

At the Brisbane International, former Australian Open finalist Dominika Cibulkova overcame Belgium's Yanina Wickmayer, recovering from 4-3 and 0-40 down on her serve in the third set to win 3-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Cibulkova missed four months of competition last year to undergo Achilles tendon surgery.

The Slovakian will next face the winner of the first-round match between former No. 1 Jelena Jankovic of Serbia and eighth-seeded Roberta Vinci of Italy, who upset Williams in the U.S. Open semifinals last year, ending Williams's attempt at a calendar-year Grand Slam.

In other first-round matches Sunday, Switzerland's Timea Bacsinszky, at No. 5, became the first seeded player eliminated when she was beaten by Russia's Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, a 2013 finalist in Brisbane, 6-2, 6-1.

American Varvara Lepchenko defeated Slovakia's Anna Karolina Schmiedlova 6-2, 6-1 to set up a meeting with last year's Wimbledon finalist Garbine Muguruza, who is seeded second.

In an all-French matchup, Alize Cornet beat Kristina Mladenovic 6-3, 6-4 and Andrea Petkovic of Germany defeated Brazil's Teliana Pereira 6-1, 6-2 in the final match of five first-round matches on the opening day.

Top-seeded Roger Federer and second-seeded Kei Nishikori of Japan have first-round byes in the men's draw at Brisbane. Defending champion Maria Sharapova could play her first-round match on Tuesday.

Federer might not play until Wednesday, and when he does he'll have former No. 3 Ivan Ljubicic as his coach for the first time. The 17-time Grand Slam champion hired the Croat to work alongside head coach Severin Luthi in 2016 after Stefan Edberg opted not to continue with a third year in Federer's camp.

"What I like about him, he's very direct — he lets you know what he sees and thinks," Federer told Australian Associated Press. "We train very well together. He's got good insight. He's played against a bunch of players that I've played against. We played against each other over 15 times as well so he knows my game very well."

Okposo, Clutterbuck lead Islanders past Stars, 6-5

By Vin A. Cherwoo
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Coming off a bad road loss the previous night, the New York Islanders returned home and got a big win against the NHL-best Dallas Stars.

Kyle Okposo had two goals and an assist, Cal Clutterbuck scored twice and the Islanders beat the Stars 6-5 on Sunday.

Anders Lee had a goal and an assist, and Mikhail Grabovski also scored to help the Islanders win for the fourth time in six games and improve to 4-0-1 in their last five against the Stars. New York was coming off a 5-2 loss at Pittsburgh on Saturday night.

"We're feeling good," Okposo said. "It was key for us to come back strong after last night in Pittsburgh. They are a heck of a team over there."

Thomas Greiss finished with 36 saves for the Islanders.

New York trailed 2-1 in the first period before scoring the next four goals and then held off Dallas in the third to improve to 12-4-1 against Western Conference teams.

Valeri Nichushkin had two goals for Dallas. Vernon Fiddler, Patrick Sharp and Jason Spezza also scored, and Kari Lehtonen stopped 38 shots.

The Stars, coming off an overtime defeat at New Jersey the previous night, lost consecutive games for the first time this season. Dallas was the last remaining NHL team without back-to-back defeats.

The Islanders, 1 for 14 on the power play over their last six games, went 2 for 6 against the Stars.

Clutterbuck, who left Saturday night's game at Pittsburgh with an upper-body injury, was briefly knocked out of this one at 5:07 of the second after a high hit by Dallas' Jason Demers.

"I feel good and we're feeling good," Clutterbuck said. "The key is to keep this going and peak at the right time."

Demers was issued a major and a game misconduct, ending his night.

"I think the guy that got hit has a history of diving," Stars coach Lindy Ruff said. "I looked at the play. I don't think he elbowed him. I don't think he did anything, really. And (Clutterbuck) didn't seem to be hurt. But he sold a pretty good one. Maybe (Demers) deserved a minor penalty."

During the ensuing 5-minute power play, Okposo didn't get a clean attempt on a rebound of Nick Leddy's shot. The puck was headed wide left of the net but caromed off defenseman Alex Goligoski's skate and trickled in near the right post at 8:13.

With just under 5 minutes to go in the period, Grabovski took a pass from Ryan Strome at the right side of the net and fired it past Lehtonen to make it 4-2.

Clutterbuck extended the Islanders' lead to three with 2:17 left in the period.

Nichushkin pulled the Stars to 5-3 at 1:46 of the third when his shot deflected in off Leddy's skate.

Clutterbuck restored New York's three-goal lead near the midpoint of the period.

Nichushkin got Dallas back within two on a power play less than 30 seconds later, and Spezza pulled the Stars to 6-5 with 1:42 left.

"That's a good hockey team," Islanders coach Jack Capuano said. "Our power play did a great job. We created momentum. This was a good win for us."

The Stars, tops in the league with 60 points, have lost four of six (2-2-2).

"We haven't played our best, obviously," Goligoski said. "We're mentally not there. We have to reset and reset quick. We have a bunch of games coming up."

Fiddler put the Stars on the scoreboard first, knocking in a rebound of a shot by Radek Faksa at 5:55 of the opening period.

NHL GLANCE

Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Florida	39	23	12	4	50	106	85
Montreal	40	22	15	3	47	116	99
Detroit	39	19	13	7	45	100	106
Boston	37	20	13	4	44	116	102
Tampa Bay	39	19	16	4	42	100	95
Ottawa	39	18	15	6	42	111	118
Toronto	37	15	15	7	37	99	103
Buffalo	39	15	20	4	34	91	105

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	38	28	7	3	59	121	83
N.Y. Islanders	40	22	13	5	49	113	99
N.Y. Rangers	39	21	14	4	46	112	103
New Jersey	39	20	14	5	45	93	94
Pittsburgh	38	19	15	4	42	91	93
Carolina	39	16	17	6	38	92	110
Philadelphia	37	15	15	7	37	79	102
Columbus	40	15	22	3	33	103	127

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	41	28	9	4	60	144	107
Chicago	40	23	13	4	50	111	97
St. Louis	41	23	14	4	50	101	100
Minnesota	38	20	11	7	47	101	90
Nashville	39	19	13	7	45	103	102
Colorado	39	18	18	3	39	109	110
Winnipeg	38	18	18	2	38	103	110

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Los Angeles	38	25	11	2	52	104	83
Arizona	38	18	16	4	40	107	122
Vancouver	39	15	15	9	39	95	110
San Jose	37	18	17	2	38	101	106
Calgary	38	18	18	2	38	101	121
Anaheim	37	15	15	7	37	69	89
Edmonton	40	16	21	3	35	101	122

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Scores and schedules

Sunday's Scores

N.Y. Islanders 6, Dallas 5
Florida 2, Minnesota 1
Chicago 3, Ottawa 0
Winnipeg at Anaheim, late

Today's Games

Detroit at New Jersey, 6 p.m.
Ottawa at St. Louis, 7 p.m.
Los Angeles at Colorado, 8 p.m.
Carolina at Edmonton, 8 p.m.
Arizona at Vancouver, 9 p.m.

THE SPOTLIGHT ON EMPLOYMENT

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The Bottom Line

76 percent of adults have read a daily newspaper in the past five days.

Midland Reporter-Telegram
mrt.com

Source: Scarborough Research, 2005

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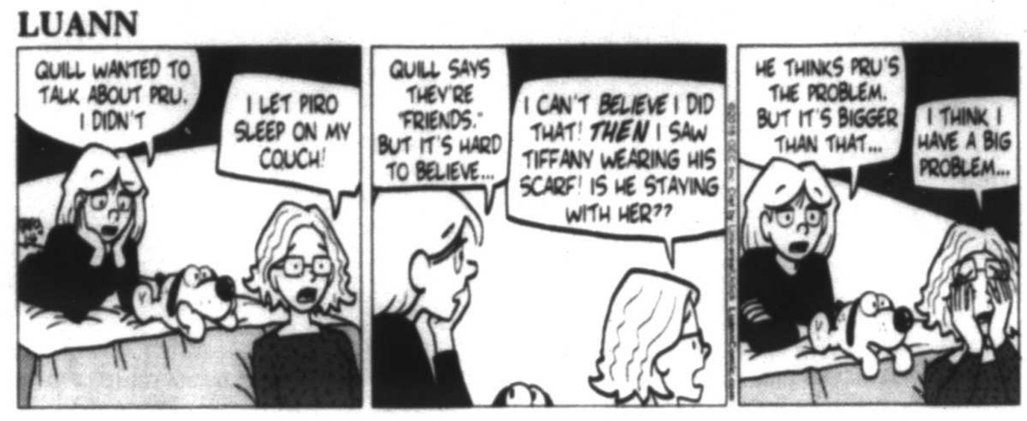
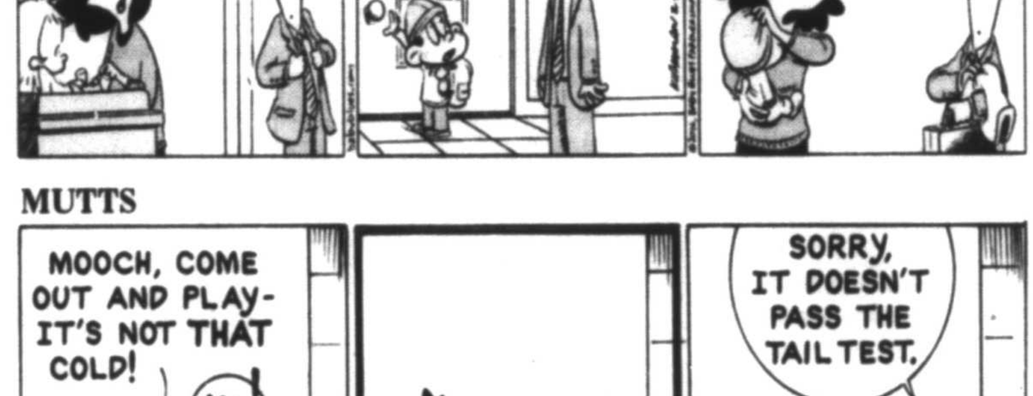


MARY WORTH

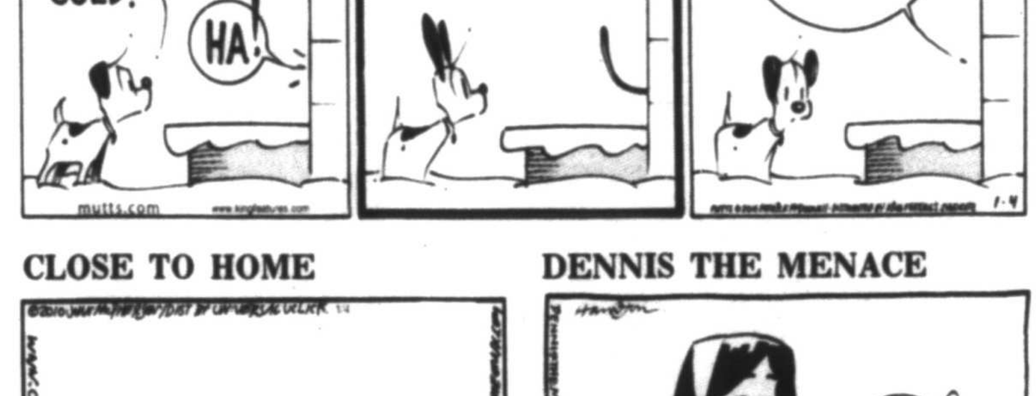
ZITS

BABY BLUES

MUTTS

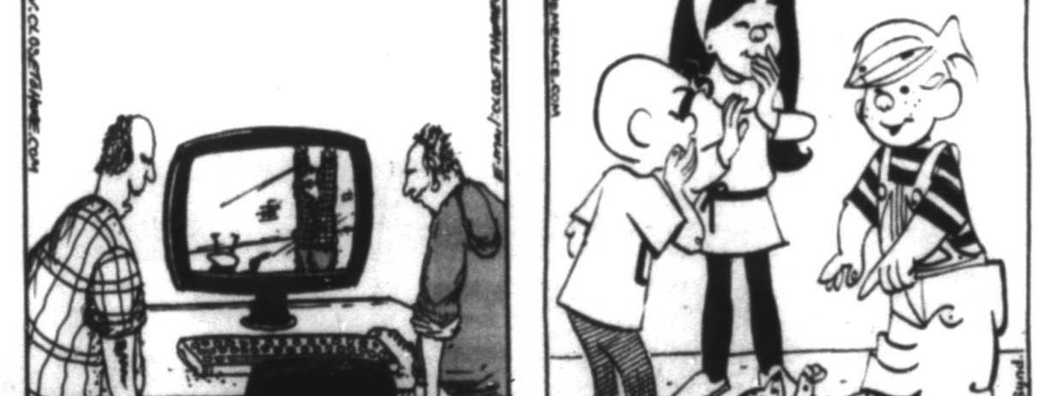


CLOSE TO HOME



"These days I do all my muggings online using computer-guided drones."

DENNIS THE MENACE

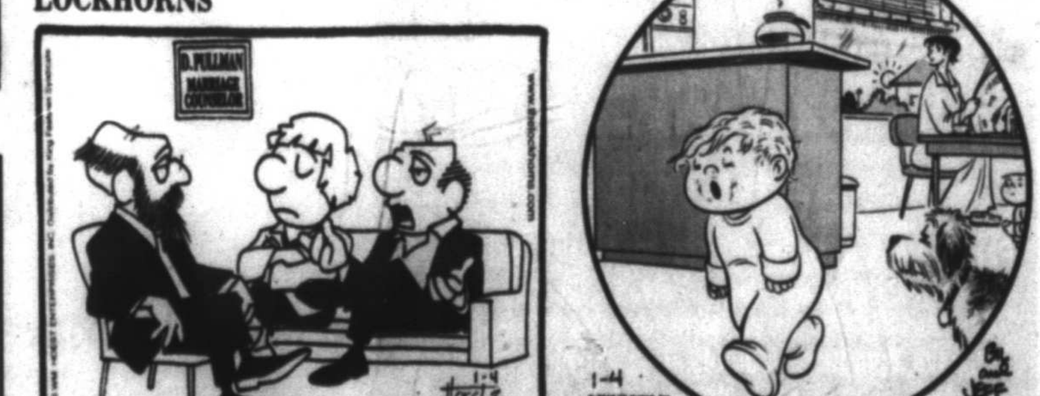


"LOOK, HOT DOG'S BREAKDANCING!"

LOCKHORNS

"LORETTA GIVES ME PLENTY OF CREDIT, BUT THE INTEREST RATES ARE MURDER."

FAMILY CIRCUS



"I need to go back to bed. I think I underslept."

TODAY: Sunny High: 50 Low: 31

TUESDAY: Mostly cloudy High: 50 Low: 36

WEDNESDAY: Partly sunny High: 56 Low: 41

THURSDAY: Sunny High: 60 Low: 37

FRIDAY: Mostly sunny High: 57 Low: 36

SATURDAY: Mostly sunny High: 52 Low: 31

Local forecast

The National Weather Service forecast calls for a chance of rain four of the next six days.

There is a 30 percent chance of rain all day Tuesday and Wednesday, according to the NWS. The forecast also shows a slight chance of rain Friday and Saturday.

The record high for Jan. 3 is 83 set in 2006. The record low is 8 set in 1983. On Jan. 3 of last year, the high was 49 and the low was 28.

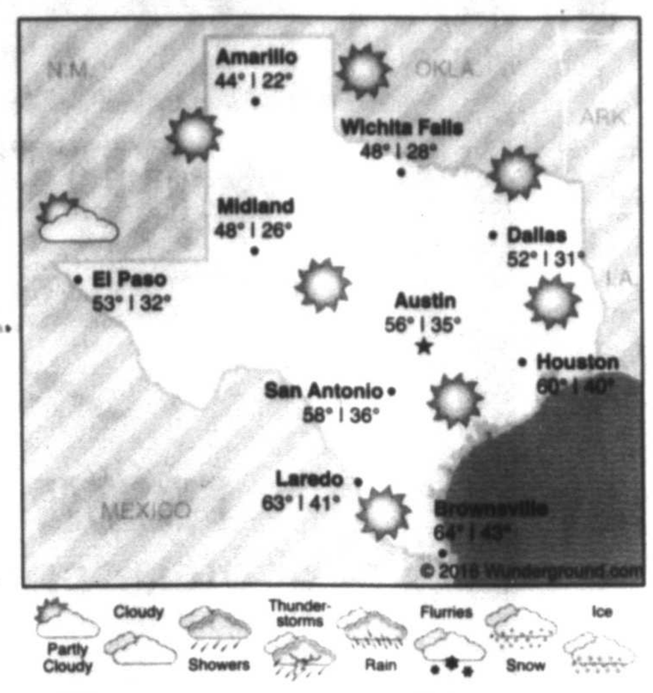
Weather brief

NEW ORLEANS

Water falling on Red River, rising on Mississippi River

The Mississippi River continues a steady rise, but the Red River's falling in northwest Louisiana.

The Red crested at 10 p.m. Saturday at 31.55 feet, and will fall slowly through the week, National Weather Service reports said Sunday. In Shreveport, hydro-meteorological technician Lisa May said she had heard of flooding only along one road and in low areas of some parks.



Precipitation

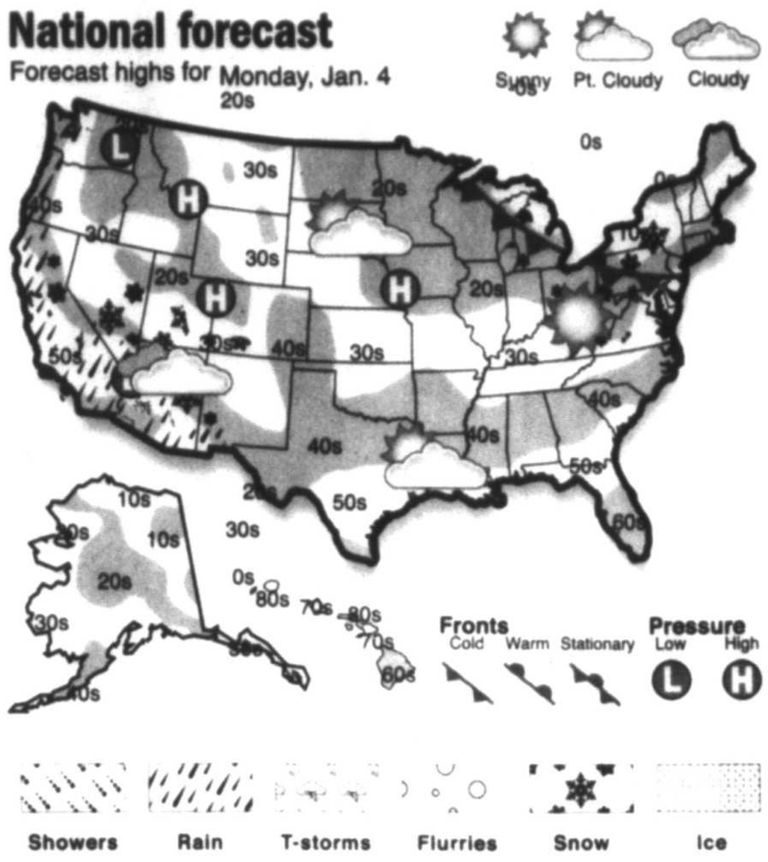
Saturday	0.00 in.
Sunday	0.00 in.
Month total	0.04 in.
Year total	0.04 in.
Normal total (year to date)	0.03 in.

Sunday's temperatures

High	54
Low	30
Normal high	57
Normal low	30
Sunrise	7:50 a.m.
Sunset	5:58 p.m.

National forecast

Forecast highs for Monday, Jan. 4



Husband who's aiding ex-lover appears to be helping himself

DEAR ABBY

Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Her column is distributed by Universal Press Syndicate.

DEAR ABBY: My husband went to Florida three months ago to care for an ailing former lover. He told me she will be leaving him a sizable inheritance and he needs to protect her from "vultures." I admit I am suspicious of his motives. I think there may be more going on than what he's telling me, but he has been painting a pretty picture of how rosy our future will be with her gift.

He has now suggested that we get a temporary divorce so he can marry her in order to get her entire estate! He claims it will be nothing more than a business arrangement. His suggestion left me flabbergasted. Even though our marriage has been rocky at times, I have never seen this side of him. I don't know whether to believe him and be simply disappointed at his callous behavior, or not believe him and conclude that he really wants a divorce so he can marry her. Any thoughts? — HEARTSICK IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR HEARTSICK: Your husband appears to still be carrying a torch for his old flame. Are you sure she is really sick? If it's the truth, then the "vulture" I see on the horizon may be him.

I hope you appreciate how extremely manipulative your husband appears to be. Because of it, and since he has spoken the "D" word, consult a lawyer to ensure that your interests will be protected regardless of his motives. I'm saying that in case the woman turns out to be healthier than both of you.

DEAR ABBY: How do you help someone who doesn't want to be helped? My adult son, "Greg," who lives with me, is slowly drinking himself to death. He was laid off two years ago, and I know he is depressed and has given up on life.

It has reached the point where he is showing signs of cirrhosis, but he refuses to do anything about it. The last time he saw a doctor was three years ago. The doctor said Greg's liver functions were not normal and he needed to stop drinking. I've tried to make my son listen to reason, to no avail.

My sister tells me if I don't get Greg some help, I could be charged with adult neglect. But I don't know how to fix this. The outcome is increasingly bleak. What can I do? — MOM WITH A PROBLEM

DEAR MOM: If the inability to convince a substance-addicted adult relative to get help were against the law, there wouldn't be enough prisons to hold all the "offenders."

As much as you love your son, you can't "fix" his alcohol addiction. You should, however, find the nearest Al-Anon group and attend some meetings. And while you are at it, bring your sister with you because she has a lot to learn. Chief among the lessons is that someone else's drinking is not another person's fault or responsibility to control. I am sorry for your pain, because I'm sure it is considerable.

DEAR ABBY: I'm an attorney. Recently at a party, an acquaintance was talking about some litigation his company is involved in. I commented briefly on something he said, and he responded, "We take advice from attorneys we PAY," and walked away. Should I feel insulted, or should I have stayed out of the conversation to begin with? — HURT FEELINGS IN FLORIDA

DEAR HURT: Some people think that anything that's offered for free is without value, and it appears the man you encountered is one of them. Because this is his world view, try not to take it personally. Your motives were generous. I see no reason to muzzle yourself in the future if you think you have something helpful to say.

GOREN BRIDGE

With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Bidding Quiz

Q 1 — Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ Q 5 3 ♡ A 7 ◇ A Q ♣ Q J 10 8 6 5

As dealer, what call would you make?

A — In days of old, it would be verboten to open one no-trump with this distribution. Many modern experts, though, would do exactly that. We like it! Bid one no-trump.

Q 2 — East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ K 10 ♡ Q ◇ A Q 7 3 2 ♣ A K 10 8 6

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1◇	Pass	1♡	Pass

What call would you make?

A — Should we bid two clubs or three clubs? We like the aggressive game force. Bid three clubs.

Q 3 — North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ K 10 9 7 2 ♡ A 10 6 ◇ 10 9 ♣ A 8 3

As dealer, what call would you make?

A — 5-3-3-2 distribution with only 11 high-card points is usually not worth an opening bid. The rich intermediate cards make this hand an exception. Bid one spade.

Q 4 — Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ A K J 10 8 2 ♡ A Q ◇ 10 ♣ K 5 4 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠	2◇	Pass	3◇

What call would you make?

A — Double would focus partner's attention on hearts, which you don't want. You would bid three spades with a bit less, but this hand is not worth a jump to four. Bid three spades.

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, Jan. 4, 2016:

This year your ideas come from a strong sense of direction and intuition. You often might dress them up as being logical, but on some level they are not. Your creativity soars, and the people around you are naturally positive. A new group of friends who reflect your most dynamic self evolves. If you are single, don't even consider a commitment until you can accept someone completely. Don't be critical of this person's unique qualities and limitations. If you are attached, travel plays a significant role in your relationship. As a couple, you open up more because of your exposure to different cultures. SCORPIO sticks to you like glue.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★ Touch base with your dreams early in the day. You will be able to move with certainty on a plan that you have long thought about. Indulge a higher-up, but still express your views. You are in a position where you can clear up snafus. Tonight: Make time for a loved one.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ Defer to a friend. Detach some when speaking to others, as they are likely to come up with some controversial plans. Know that nuggets of wisdom could be embedded in this discussion. You will need to sort through what you hear. Tonight: Play devil's advocate.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★ Though you certainly don't approve of sloppiness or incomplete work, you inadvertently might have created exactly that. Let a trusted critic go over what you are doing and point out problem areas. Be grateful rather than defensive. Tonight: Walk off some stress.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★★ Evaluate a different point of view. Observe what is happening behind the scenes before coming to a conclusion. Others might be challenging, yet you could see them as being negative and controlling. Walk away from defensiveness. Tonight: Express an ability to identify with others.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★ A partner will present an option that could have you pinching yourself. Evaluate a change and its effectiveness. You still might nix it because of some of the implications involved. You would prefer to wait, mull over what you hear and find another path. Tonight: Say "yes."

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ You are coming from a grounded perspective, but your views could differ from those of the majority of people. Controversy might result in a plethora of ideas and solutions. You might find some ideas more ethical or positive than others. Tonight: Return calls and emails.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ Realize what is happening behind the scenes between you and a loved one. Your personal life could be controversial on some level, but you refuse to be open enough to receive comments or criticism. Before you sink more money into a project, listen. Tonight: Gather bills.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ Seize the moment, and don't create a problem where there is none. If you adjust your thinking and open up some, you'll empower your own ideas. Know that you don't always need to be right. Use your intuition when sorting through suggestions. Tonight: Others seek you out.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★ As difficult as it might be, take a step back and listen to suggestions. In fact, you might not even want to take the lead. If that's the case, you will see a true learning experience evolve for some of the people involved. Tonight: Take some much-needed personal time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★ You have always aimed high, but you need to know when you have pushed yourself too hard. When you use your talents, you add dimension to what is happening. Be willing to support a friend or group in a project. Tonight: Act as if you don't have a care in the world.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★ You will attempt to do something in a new way. You might experience a certain amount of fatigue, as you notice others becoming more controlling. Consider how many times friends or loved ones have seen you in the same light. Be less critical. Tonight: A must show.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ While others might push you too hard for your taste, you'll come to the conclusion that you need to get more information, seek out more opinions and detach a bit. Understand that there is a whole set of new ideas and possibilities that you are missing. Tonight: Follow your sixth sense.

BORN TODAY

Actor Dave Foley (1963), inventor Louis Braille (1809), singer Patty Loveless (1957)

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Hockey disk
5 Blows, as one's lines
10 Belmont Stakes, e.g.
14 Workplace protection org.
15 Parts in a play
16 British prep school
17 Arab League prince
18 Deed holder
19 Weaponry
20 Canadian flag symbol
22 "Farewell, mon ami!"
23 "Put a __ on it!"
24 Prevailing weather
26 After-dinner brandy
30 Every 24 hours
31 "Hold Me" Grammy winner K.T.
32 Rap sheet abbr.
33 Speech therapy subject
37 Actor Baldwin
38 Advertising handout
40 Wedding vows
41 Honky-__
42 Rowboat need
43 High-80s grade
44 Like mountain roads
46 Mojave or Gobi
47 Two-deck rummy variety
50 Dylan or Dole
51 Hotelier Helmsley
52 Final details to take care of ... and, literally, what the last words of 20-Across and 10- and 29-Down can be
58 The Emerald Isle
59 Heavenly food
60 Injured, as a muscle
61 Wealthy, in Juárez
62 In the midst of
63 Unexpected problem
64 Sharp-edged
65 Shopping binge
66 Tranquil discipline

DOWN

1 Sonnet or haiku
2 West Point initials
3 Poker player's token
4 Hoopster Malone
5 Play friskily
6 Mooed
7 Elbow-to-wrist bone
8 Sexy photos in women's mags
9 Ukr. or Estonia, during the Cold War
10 Preface to Bush Sr.'s "no new taxes" promise
11 Open-air courts
12 Halley's __
13 Occur as a result
21 Stylish vigor
22 Have a bug
25 Unreliable witness
26 Winter wear
27 Capital on a fjord
28 Secluded valley
29 "America's Got Talent" host since 2009
30 Eggs and butter market section
34 Sit at a four-way stop, say
35 Sweet's opposite
36 Furtive "Hey!"
38 __ Knox
39 Psychedelic light source
43 Emmy winner Neuwirth
45 Land between Can. and Mex.
46 Prescription amount
47 Supermarket staffer
48 Eagle's nest
49 Straight up, cocktailwise
50 Good, in France
53 "Want the light __ off?"
54 Crafts website
55 Taboo
56 Really dull time
57 Arcade giant
59 Pas' mates

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

U	P	S	E	T		I	S	L	A	N	D	H	O	P
L	A	Y	L	A		S	P	A	C	E	R	A	C	E
A	N	N	E	X		P	O	W	E	R	U	S	E	R
L	O	A	V	E	S		N	Y	R	O		T	A	V
U	P	P	E	R	C	A	S	E	B		N	I	N	A
M	L	S			O	D	O	R		G	E	L	I	D
E	Y	E	L	I	N	E	R		M	R	H	Y	D	E
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F	E	M	M	E	S		K	E	N	B	U	R	N	S
A	Q	A	B	A		P	E	R	K			E	O	E
R	U	S	S		K	H	Y	B	E	R	P	A	S	S
E	A	T		F	L	A	W		N	A	I	L	I	T
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S	T	R	I	C	T	E	S	T		O	N	S	E	T
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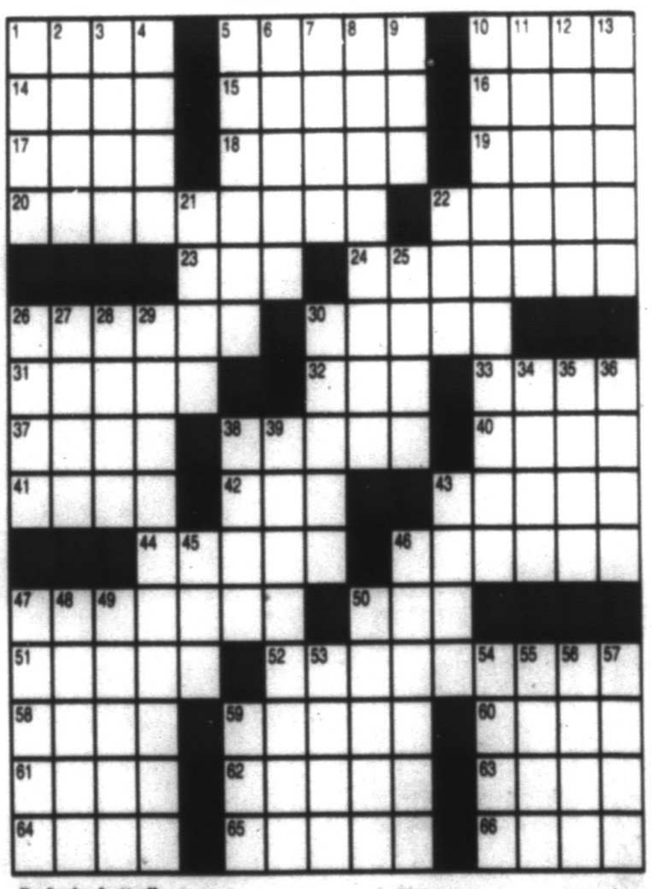
xwordeditor@aol.com 01/04/16



By Janice Luttrell
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Omelettes, Belgian Waffles, Carved Prime Rib, Baked Ham, *with your favorite sides!*

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Fajitas, Enchiladas, Menudo, and Caldo *with* **ALL** *the fixens!*

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MCM Grandé Outdoor Pavilion

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mrt★com/jobs

Employment ads by:

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432.682.6222

mrtclassifieds@mrt.com

OTHER JOBS

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN ITS DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR NIGHT TIME ASSOCIATE

Night time associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE

Must be able to count at a fast pace. Be able to work between the hours of 12-6 am Sunday night thru Friday night and be able to work Saturday night 8pm -4am. Will be working inside and outside depending on the job you are doing that night. Will be 5-6 nights per week. We will train the right person

$10.00 per hour

These positions require some physical lifiting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr. shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspaper bundles. Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.

Apply in person at: 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk • Monday-Friday 8-5 or email: jmaddox@hearstnp.com

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN ITS DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR PART TIME DAY ASSOCIATE

Part Time Day Associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE

Must be able to work Monday thru Saturday from 8am-6pm. Tuesday will be here later till about 8 or 9 pm. Need to be able to work on your feet thru 6-8 hour shift. Will work at night occasionally. We will train the right person

$10.00 per hour

These positions require some physical lifiting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr. shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspaper bundles. Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.

Apply in person at: 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk • Monday-Friday 8-5 or email: jmaddox@hearstnp.com

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE

Lead Teller & Teller

Citizens Federal Credit Union is seeking the following positons: • Lead Teller - full time • Teller - full time. Positions are well paying with excellent health and retirement benefits. Please send a resume to: Citizens Federal Credit Union, ATTN: HR, P.O. Box 51070, Midland, TX. 79710

CITIZENS Federal Credit Union

CLERICAL & ADMINISTRATIVE

Sales Assistant

Midland Reporter-Telegram - A Hearst Media Company

Immediate opening for a dynamic self-starter with great communication skills. Must be able to multi-task in a deadline oriented environment with minimal supervision. Duties include supporting the advertising sales staff in day-to-day operations and helping the sales team consistently reach its revenue targets. Conducting sales and marketing research, creating sales presentations, event coordination and preparing reports are a few of the duties required. Working knowledge of PowerPoint and Excel is necessary. Excellent wage and benefits package.

Please email resume to: Midland Reporter-Telegram, 201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX 79701, attn: Jeri Houston, Director of Advertising. No calls please.

HEALTHCARE

Medical Receptionist

Medical receptionist needed for busy walk in clinic M-F 12:00pm-8:00pm. Great benefit package. Please send resume to Premier Physicians, 4214 Andrews Hwy., Ste. 240, Midland, TX 79703 or fax to 432-682-2284 Attn: Anita Routh. CC 9060

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MANAGEMENT & EXECUTIVE

Sales Manager

Midland Reporter-Telegram - A Hearst Media Company

Immediate opening for an experienced and dynamic sales manager with great communication skills. Must be able to multi-task in a deadline oriented environment and lead by example with confidence and enthusiasm. Responsibilities include managing all aspects of the inside sales department and lead generation process, including training and coaching Account Executives, helping the sales team consistently meet/exceed established revenue targets, monitoring and reporting on sales metrics, managing the administration process and providing support to the Director of Advertising as needed.

Working knowledge of PowerPoint and Excel is necessary. Excellent wage and benefits package.

Please send resume to: jhouston@mrt.com or Midland Reporter-Telegram, 201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX 79701, attn: Jeri Houston, Director of Advertising. No calls please.

OTHER JOBS

LVN

Premier Physicians has a current opening for an LVN with strong primary care experience. Full time position M-F 8:00-5:00 with a great benefit package. Please send resume to Premier Physicians, 4214 Andrews Hwy., Ste. 240, Midland, TX 79703 or fax to 432-682-2284 Attn: Anita Routh. No phone calls please COM9003

Outside Sales Rep

Midland Reporter-Telegram

The Midland Reporter-Telegram is looking for someone with excellent communication skills to provide outstanding customer service to our Retail Advertising customers. Responsibilities include prospecting new clients, working closely with new and existing clients to develop multi-media advertising campaigns that provide outstanding results, tracking sales activity, and meeting/exceeding established monthly sales goals.

Qualified candidates must be a self-starter and possess excellent communication and organizational skills, be detail oriented and assertive, excel in spelling/grammar/punctuation, excel in time management, and possess a positive attitude.

We are willing to train and offer a competitive compensation and benefits package, guaranteed commission for three months, a cell phone allowance and the opportunity to advance your career in an exciting, progressive and innovative organization in one of the fastest growing markets in Texas.

If you want to join a **GREAT TEAM** and are ready to **SUCCEED**, please send a resume to:

Jeri Houston, Director of Advertising, 201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX 79701 or **jhouston@mrt.com**. No phone calls please.

OTHER JOBS

Resident Guards

Looking for a second retirement? Company funded, 100% vested in as little as 6 years. Please apply online at www.dismas.com or in person at 24 W Industrial Loop, Midland, TX. Residential re-entry center wants, Resident Guards for immediate openings. Must have high integrity and background checks conducted.

SALES JOBS

Outside Sales Rep

Midland Reporter-Telegram

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Working knowledge of PowerPoint and Excel is necessary. Excellent wage and benefits package.

Please send resume to: jhouston@mrt.com or Midland Reporter-Telegram, 201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX 79701, attn: Jeri Houston, Director of Advertising. No calls please.

SKILLED LABOR

Sales Manager Position

United Production & Construction Services, Inc. is currently taking applications for a Sales Manager position. Apply at our main office 9518 W. CR 160, Midland,TX. 79706. Inquiry call 432-498-9200.

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Local Positions - Class A CDL/ Hazmat, 2 yrs exp. (tanker preferred), good MVR. Full Benefit Package. Call 806 744-2067. Ask for the Transportation Dept. Fax 806 785-4182. Day & Night Shifts Available

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Events and Notices

General Announcements

Mark Berryhill.com Ministering for Christ. Teach the Lords' Word 1-4

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Autos For Sale or Lease

Passenger Cars

BMW 535I 1984. Very clean, runs and drives great. Asking $2,000 OBO. Call 432-599-3473

FORD 1997 Taurus, good condition, new tires & battery, asking $1800. Call 432-528-1029

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Pickup Trucks

FORD, 2008 Ranger, $11,000. 53,500 miles, dark grey, excellent condition, bed liner & locked cover, clean title. Call or text Mike 432-664-6924.

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2008 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER, fully loaded. Heated leather seats, sun roof, chrome wheels. 90,628 miles. Asking 11,500 OBO. Please call 432-413-3792.

RVs

RV PARK spaces between Midland & Stanton: quiet, clean, & safe. Adults only please. 432-238-3937

RV SPACES for rent. $500 month, utilities, furnished. Call 432-894-8234.

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Free Stuff

FREE PUPPIES to a good home. Adorable 8 weeks olds, 2 females. 432-230-2763.

FREE TO GOOD HOME - Rescued cats & young cats, fixed, boxed trained shots, Call 661-1817.

Free Stuff

FREE WOODEN PALLETS!

Midland Reporter-Telegram (on dock side)

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TEAK DINING room set, table with 6 chairs, china cabinet with sliding glass doors, and buffet. Excellent condition. $9,500. Call Chip 432-638-8372

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GOLF CART 2004 Electric Club Car, white w/blue cover. Blue & white seat covers. Call 432-699-6979

OAK, PECAN, mesquite, pinon, 432-209-0416 or 325-762-4262

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2008 PJ 40' Dovetail-dual- tandem gooseneck trailer. Like new. 432-254-9209

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Real Estate Rentals & Sales

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2901 W ILLINOIS. 1600sft 2BD/2BA Remodeled Executive Patio apartment with garage. $1,150 monthly. Call 432-631-8100 or 432-266-1212

Apartments for Rent Unfurnished

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DUPLEX FOR LEASE 3105 Mark Lane 2bed/2bath/2car garage/ fireplace. $1,250 mo. $1,000 deposit. No Pets. 432-557-5557.

MIDLAND VILLAGE APARTMENTS, single story, never an upstairs neighbor. 1, 2 & 3 bedrooms 432-683-9726.

Townhouse/ Condo for Rent Unfurnished

2811 MOSS Ave Patio Home for Rent 4/3/2 Near Emerson Elementary & Goddard Junior High 432-934-4938 or 432-685-1711

SPECIAL!!! 2 BD/1 & 1/2 baths. Townhouse, no pets, utility room with washer & dryer $1,250 per month, $1,000 deposit. Small front & back yards. 432-699-4420 or 432-553-8397

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Houses for Rent Unfurnished

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Residential Rentals

Houses for Rent Unfurnished

4707 A Harvard, Cute 2BD/2B duplex. 2 carports, fenced yard, applicances, non-smoker, no pets prefered. $1,200 mo. 432-620-9222 or 432-425-2739

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Residential Sales

Condos/ Townhouses

NEW TODAY!

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Homes for Sale

2403 METZ Place: 5 bd, 3 1/2 bath, 2 lvg. areas, dining room and office. Great location close to Emerson Elementary and Goddard Jr High For more info please call 432-352-1218

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4500 SQ. ft. spec home on 20 acres off 349 (still under construction). Qualified buyers only by appointment. Call Eric 432-934-6196 for home built your way.

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Residential Sales

Homes for Sale

5225 Brazzos Ave, Midland. 3/2. Sequestered master bedroom. Breakfast nook. Dining room. 2 car garage. Central heat and air. Kids swing set. Good school district. Home warranty for 1 yr. $229K. Call Robert anytime 4328533009.

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4 bed, 3 bath, approximately 2800 sq. ft. Fully furnished. $349,000. Available now. Realtors welcome. 432-685-7041

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Lots & Land

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Fax It! 432-682-6999

Lots & Land

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Lots & Land

Ranches

15.6 AC. W. OF MENARD, LIVE OAK, MESQUITE COVER. NATIVE, EXOTIC GAME. $2,485 DOWN, $453/MO 800-876-9720 ranchenterprisesltd.com

Commercial

COMMERCIAL BLDG For Lease 2817 W. Industrial Ave. Office Area includes reception area, 5 offices, 2 restrooms and break area. Shop area includes 1 restroom with overhead door. Gross building area approx 8500 sq ft. Fenced Yard. Call 683-6276 ext 305 leave a message.

Commercial

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*11,155 ac. ft. of Snyder, 4 houses, pens/roping arena, 800 ft. min., creek, lakes, Whitetail deer, mule deer and quail $795/ac
*4,212 ac, Maverick Creek, canyons, whitetail and mule deer and quail $925/ac
*1,771 ac, windmill, creek, blinds and feeders, great w-tail and mule deer, turkey, hogs, quail $895/ac
• Nolan County
*646 ac, over 1 mile SOLD d creek, blinds, feeders, elevation change, oak/mesquite $3,550/ac
*365 ac, Pecan Creek, New Living/Shop, 200 acres cleared for cattle, blinds/feeders, windmill $3,350/ac
• Howard County
*842 ac, canyons, blinds/feeders, great deer, cedar/mesquite, surface water, some drilled traffic $750/ac
*150 ac., big, canyons SOLD anks, cedar/mesquites, great deer, turkey, jav $895/ac
• Martin County
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1640 Dallas Parkway
Plano, TX 75093

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		9	7					2
	2					7	5	
4					8			3
	9	5	8		6			
		2				9		
			2		1	4	8	
9			3					1
	8	3					4	
5						2		

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

SOLUTION TO SATURDAY'S PUZZLE

7	4	1	2	3	6	9	5	8
9	8	3	1	5	4	6	7	2
5	6	2	9	7	8	4	3	1
1	9	4	5	2	3	8	6	7
2	3	6	7	8	9	1	4	5
8	7	5	6	4	1	3	2	9
6	5	8	3	1	7	2	9	4
3	1	7	4	9	2	5	8	6
4	2	9	8	6	5	7	1	3

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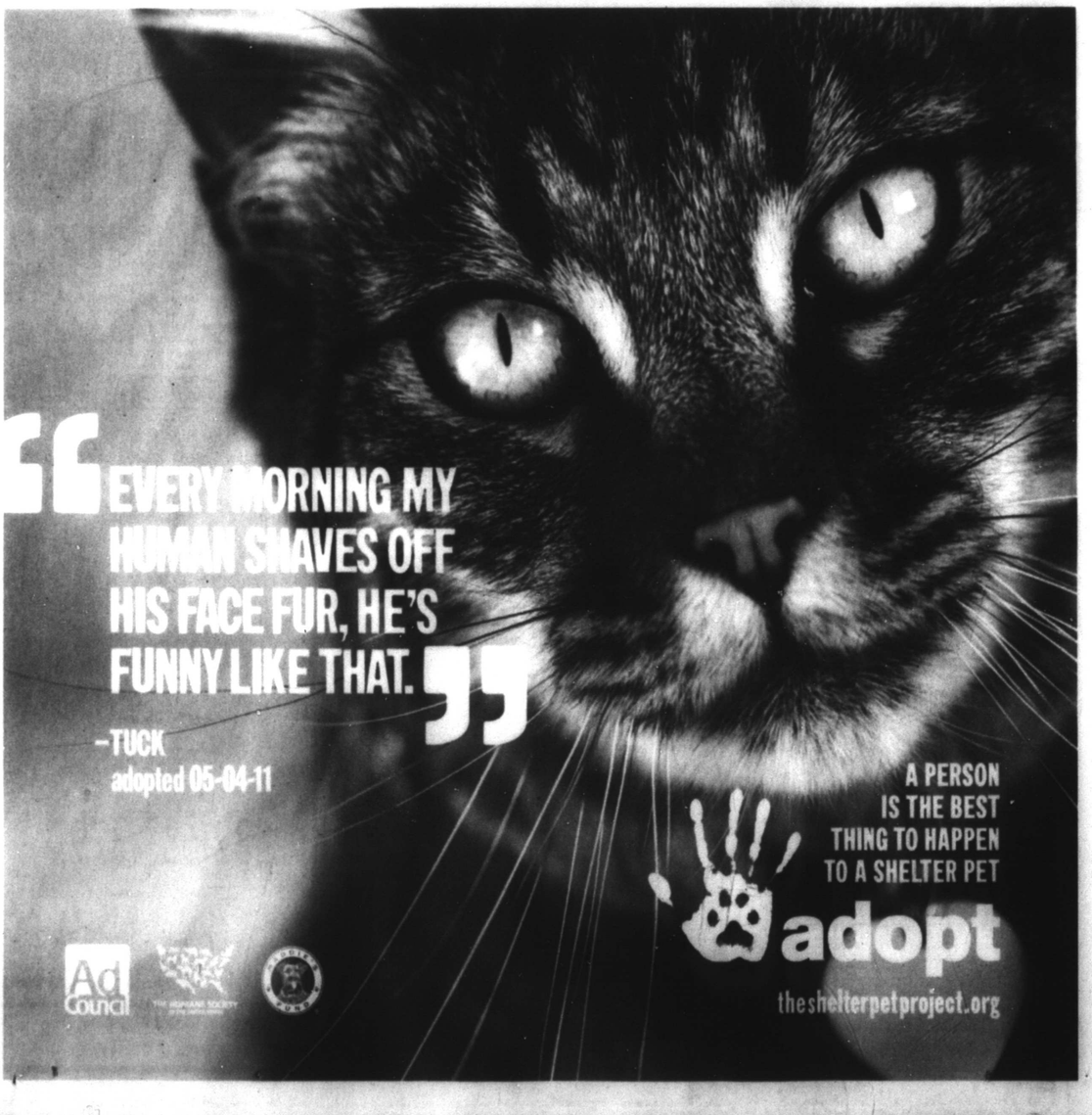
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