

MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2017

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FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Ramsey Solutions will offer classes at several local churches.

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HIGH GAS PRICES

Gas prices in Midland continue to be the highest in the state.

Page 3A

US oilfield spending poised to climb in 2018

Companies are expected to spend billions more, survey indicates

By Colin Eaton
Houston Chronicle

Oil companies expect to spend billions more next year on drilling wells and pumping oil across the United States, a financial boost for firms that sell tools and equipment, farm out crews for rigs and

fracturing fleets and employ thousands in Houston.

A survey released Wednesday of more than 300 oil companies indicates the industry plans to boost U.S. oil field spending — the lifeblood of local oil field services companies — by 15 percent in 2018 to more than \$100 billion.

If oil prices stay high enough to

support those investments next year, it would mark the second year in a row in which U.S. drillers led a global spending hike as crude prices recover from the market's collapse in 2014. Companies lifted U.S. spending 49 percent in 2017, according to the survey by New York investment bank Evercore ISI.

"The pace of overall North American

spending through the recovery will moderate in 2018 as companies look to live within cash flow," James West, an analyst at Evercore, said during a conference call with investors. "But 2018 could be the first in several years that commodity prices surprise to the upside."

Please see CLIMB/2A

UGLY SWEATER MIXER



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Young Professionals of Midland hosted a Ugly Sweater Christmas Mixer and toy drive Thursday at the Blue Door to collect presents for children in the Buckner Home.

Natural Gas Services Group breaks ground on new offices

By Mella McEwen
mmcewen@mrt.com

The traditional gold shovels, topped with hard hats, stood at the ready, this time adorned with red bows to mark the Christmas season, as officials gathered for Midland's latest groundbreaking ceremony.

"It's been an exciting year for Midland, seeing all of these companies develop their headquarters," said Mayor Jerry Morales as Natural Gas Services Group launched construction of its new corporate headquarters at 404 Veterans Airpark Lane.

It's also exciting "to see employees do so well at making their company a success," he said.

"Groundbreakings are exciting; they're a sign of progress," said County Judge Mike Bradford.

A county is made of many ingredients, Bradford told the gathering.

"A county is not just a city or group of residents and county government. That community survives and advances and enjoys success because of its ingredients, which are good companies and good people and the engagement of both in every facet of a community," he said.

The three-story, 45,000-square-foot corporate office building, expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2019, will allow the company to control its own destiny, said Stephen Taylor, chief executive officer.

"The reason we wanted this building is to get to control our growth," he said after the ceremony, as bulldozers beeped in the background as they smoothed the dirt.

"It's a good piece of land; it's a good neighborhood," he said.

Incorporated in 1998, the company also has a fabrication facility that Taylor said continues to grow.

"We hope to continue to grow that base, add jobs, add manufacturing capacity. It all ties together," he said. "Expanding our fabrication and services means more office space."

Please see BREAKS/2A

MISD makes strides in bilingual/ESL education

By Stewart Doreen
sdoreen@mrt.com

For more than a year, Midland ISD has been working to rebuild its academic performance.

Steps have been made, including the reduction of failing campuses. The school board recently heard another metric that shows improvement.

Joanna Carrillo-Rowley, executive

director of bilingual and ESL for the district, told the school board Monday that her department has earned a ranking not achieved in more than a decade.

The state — using the Performance-based Monitoring Analysis System — had given MISD's bilingual/English-as-a-second-language programs a stage 4 ranking (the worst possible stage) nine of the previous 11 years. The district also has not been rated as stage 2 during

the previous 12 years. That changed with a stage 2 ranking for the 2016-17 school year.

But Carrillo-Rowley said that changed after results from the 2016-17 school year were analyzed. She also said the Texas Education Agency has recognized the district for "significant improvement for bilingual writing, bilingual math,

Please see MISD/2A

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Price of oil

\$53.59 ▼ \$0.74

January 2018

Did you know?

The FCC voted along party lines to end 'net neutrality.' Page 5A

Word of the Day: decadent

Do you know what it means? Find out the definition on Page 5A.

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Vol. 89, No. 279

Daily \$2, Sunday \$3



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MISD comments on firearm arrest involving Coleman HS student

From staff reports

Midland ISD officials locked down Coleman High School on Tuesday because of a social media incident. The student involved in the incident — which included a firearm — was "charged with places weapons prohibited and theft of a fire arm," according to the school district. Here is the statement from the

district regarding that incident. "(Tuesday), Coleman High School was under lock down for approximately one hour. An anonymous tip was received regarding a video that was seen on social media of a student holding a hand gun on campus. As a precautionary measure, campus administration issued a lock down on campus. The student was quickly identified, apprehended and the

weapon was found off-campus. The student seen in the video with the fire arm was taken into custody and charged with places weapons prohibited and theft of a fire arm. During the lock down, all students and staff were safe, and the Midland ISD police department, along with the City of Midland Police Department, and campus administration handled the situation promptly and professionally."

Woman arrested for allegedly stabbing man

Associated Press

A Midland woman was arrested Wednesday after she allegedly stabbed a man, according to court documents. Toni Lynn Coronado, 30, was being held Thursday on a second-degree felony



Coronado

charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Bond was not available as of Thursday evening. Midland County deputies were dispatched to a residence around 3 a.m. in reference to a medical assistance call. Coronado told deputies she used a box cutter to stab a man in the neck area, causing bodily injury, according to the affidavit. If convicted of the second-degree felony charge, Coronado could face up to 20 years imprisonment.

Wyoming man dies in two-vehicle wreck

From staff reports

A 29-year-old Pine-dale, Wyoming, man died early Saturday morning in a two-vehicle wreck at the intersection of Business Interstate 20 and South Loop 250, according to a press release from the Texas Department of Public Safety. Seth P. Gaines was driving a Ford F-350 southbound on the service road of Loop 250, approaching a stop sign at the intersection with BI-20. He disregarded the stop sign and collided with a Freightliner truck tractor towing a semi-trailer that was westbound on BI-20, according to the release that was received Thursday afternoon.

Gaines, who was wearing a seat belt, died at the scene of the wreck that occurred six miles east of Midland. The truck tractor driver, a 39-year-old Dallas man, was transported to Midland Memorial Hospital with non-incapacitating injuries, according to the release. Gaines was the 39th person to die this year in wrecks on roads in Midland County, according to Reporter-Telegram records. The most recent fatal wreck occurred Nov. 18, when a 43-year-old Big Spring man died in a two-vehicle wreck at the intersection of Farm-to-Market Road 307 and State Highway 137, according to a previous article.

Man accused of killing roommate's girlfriend extradited

Odessa American

An Odessa man accused of stabbing and killing his roommate's girlfriend and dumping her body in a dumpster was extradited to the Ector County Law Enforcement Center Wednesday night. Kevin Lee Roberts, 22, was booked in on a murder charge, a first-degree felony, and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, a state jail felony. There is no bond set at this time. Sheriff's Office spokesman Sgt. Gary Duesler said Odessa Police Department said Roberts admitted to killing 21-year-old Ashley Williams, who was reported missing Tuesday by her boyfriend, Kevin Michael Ramirez. Ramirez and Roberts

were roommates, police said. OPD spokesman, Cpl. Steve LeSueur said officers first responded to the apartment around 1 p.m. Tuesday about a disturbance neighbors had called in. "The complainant reported they could hear yelling from one of the neighbors inside the apartment," LeSueur said. But when officers arrived and knocked on the door, there was no response, LeSueur said, adding they cleared the call. LeSueur confirmed it was the same apartment officers returned to later that night where Ramirez reported his girlfriend missing. Officers were called back at about 5:30 p.m. Ramirez also reported his car stolen at that time, telling police the last time

he saw Williams she was driving his 2016 Chevrolet Impala at about noon. LeSueur said officers immediately became suspicious when they returned to the apartment because they observed blood outside and could smell a strong chemical odor coming from the apartment. Ramirez also told police he could smell a strong odor of bleach coming from multiple rooms in the apartment, a police affidavit stated. A witness also told officers they saw Roberts cleaning up blood transfer marks outside of the apartment, the affidavit detailed. OPD then obtained a search warrant and searched the apartment. LeSueur said. At about 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, the Department of Public Safety located the Impala near Weatherford. A red, bloodlike substance was found on the vehicle, the affidavit stated. Roberts was identified as the driver of the vehicle and was interviewed by Texas Rangers, at which point he admitted to stabbing and killing Williams while he was trying to leave

the apartment, the report stated. Roberts also told law enforcement he concealed Williams inside a large duffel bag and disposed of her body in a dumpster near Eight Street and Meadow Avenue. When OPD responded to the dumpster at the intersection, they located a body, which was sent to Tarrant County for an autopsy. LeSueur said. "We're still waiting on autopsy results to positively identify her 100 percent," LeSueur said. "As far as everything else, it's still under investigation." Roberts was being held in Parker County jail before he was transferred to Ector County on Wednesday night. Ramirez was also arrested Tuesday, but for unrelated charges issued in September, LeSueur said. Ramirez was charged with two counts of sexual assault of a child and one count of indecency with a child, sexual contact, both of which are second-degree felonies. His bonds totaled \$150,000, jail records show.

BREAKS

From 1A

He said the company expects to occupy only the first floor of the new building initially, leasing the remaining space to one or two tenants while NGSG continues to expand. Taylor said he anticipates that expansion will come as the company adapts to changing demands from its customers. The company manufactures, fabricates, rents, sells and maintains natural gas compressors and flare systems for oil and gas production and plant facilities. As operators move into pad drilling and central-

ized facilities, NGSG was prompted to move into bigger horsepower equipment, he said. "That gives us the ability to offer more varied equipment to our customers and gives us more markets to penetrate," he said. The company has fabrication facilities in Midland and Tulsa, Oklahoma, and service facilities in most of the nation's major producing basins, but the Permian will be the place to be long-term, he said. Gesturing toward the land adjacent to NGSG's building, Morales urged businesses to "keep adding on, keep building on all that vacant space."

CLIMB

From 1A

All told, companies that produce oil and gas will spend \$385.5 billion around the world, up \$24.8 billion, or 7 percent, over 2017. More than half of that increase — \$13.3 billion — will be spent in the U.S. Still, global spending will come in about 50 percent below the industry's 2014 peak. Over time, those investments will put more drilling rigs to work next year. This month, Evercore said, oil companies could take out some 5,000 U.S. on-shore drilling permits, the biggest monthly haul of the year, as domestic oil prices rise above \$55 a barrel. State agencies issued 2,460 drilling permits this month through Dec. 8.

Canada, Brazil, Norway and others add another 700,000 barrels a day. It also expects OPEC to lift production by 200,000 barrels a day. Meanwhile, oil demand could rise 14 percent to 1.6 million barrels a day next year. But that demand growth, as strong as it is, the EIA said, is not going to be able to keep up with rising supplies, increasing global liquid fuel inventories by an average of 50,000 barrels a day next year. Still, that is a downward revision from its forecast that oil stockpiles would grow by 290,000 barrels a day next year.

That's in part because the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries' efforts to curb the global oil glut over the past year appear to be paying off, as worldwide oil inventories decline. Last month, just before OPEC met in Vienna to extend its oil production cuts through the end of next year, the group's output fell to the lowest level since this summer, according to secondary sources cited in the cartel's monthly oil market report on Wednesday. The 14 member nations of OPEC pumped 32.4 million barrels a day in November, down by 133,500 barrels a day compared with October and down 273,000 barrels a day compared with September.

MISD

From 1A

limited English proficiency (LEP) students "not served science" and limited English proficiency students' annual dropout rates. There are 1,493 "bilingual students" on 10 MISD elementary campuses and 617 ESL students in elementary schools and 800 on secondary campuses, according to the district. The total number of "English language learners" is 3,081, or 12 percent of the district's 25,699 student population. MISD officials said there has been growth. There were fewer than 400 ESL students in secondary schools seven years ago, and the total number of ELL students was about 1,200 five or six years ago. English is considered the "student home language" by around 78 percent of the student population, according to the district. Spanish is second, at around 19 percent of students. There are 38 languages spoken at the homes of MISD students, according to the district. The district's goal, according to Carrillo-Rowley, is to teach English "as well as possible." Steps have been taken to help the district reach this goal. Teacher turnover has been the biggest issue, she said. In the recently completed district profile — approved by the school board last week — the turnover rate for teachers was listed at 19.5 percent (the state average is 16.4 percent). Carrillo-Rowley said turnover means teaching time is lost, which she said can be even more significant when one is breaking down a lesson for a student who doesn't understand English. Carrillo-Rowley said the trek to a better rating was made possible with data analysis and professional

learning communities (PLCs). She said there is now a more streamlined process in identifying areas of need and working together to make sure the proper training and exchanging of information takes place so students can be successful. The data shows that students involved in bilingual education outperformed the district as a whole and the state average on the STAAR test when it came to the percentage of students "meeting or exceeding progress" or those just "exceeding progress," according to the district's academic performance report. And when competing against percentages from 2016, Midland ISD bilingual education students showed improvement in all 19 possible areas that measured their abilities to "approach grade level or above," "meet grade level," master grade level, meet or exceed progress or exceed progress. That measures all grades and all subject categories; it was a perfect 19 for 19. Carrillo-Rowley said she believes the work to sustain a stage 2 ranking or move into stage 1 will be even harder. The district and community need to ensure that students understand that learning basic English isn't enough. The benefits of graduation must be stressed. The district can look at recent rankings for special education to know gains can be erased. Special education at Midland ISD dropped from level 3 (second from the worst) during at least the last two school years to level 4 last year. "Stage 2 is not the goal," Carrillo-Rowley said. "What do we need to do to make it more successful?" That is what MISD officials are asking themselves, she said.

STATEBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

TEXARKANA

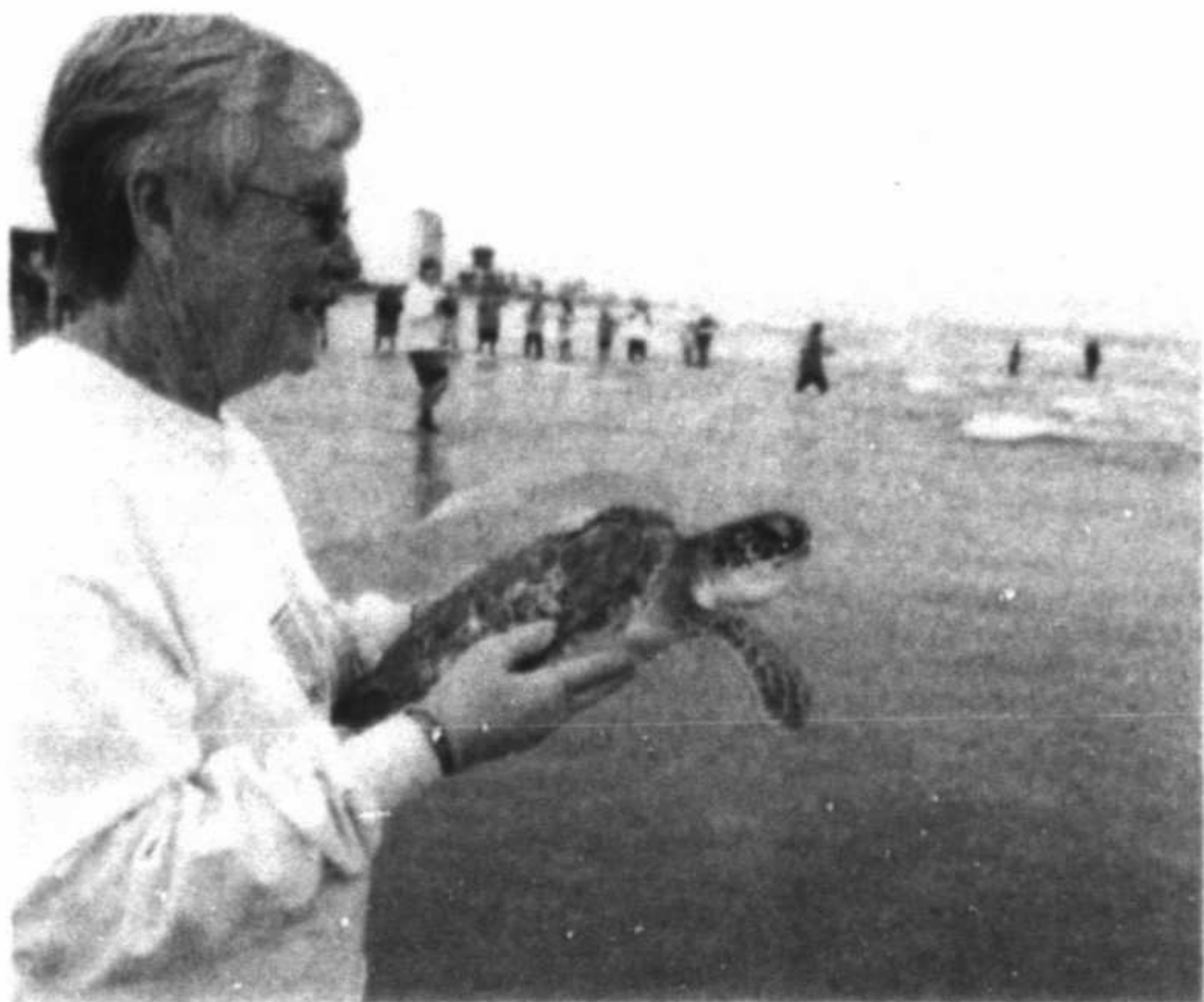
Five junior high students charged with sexual assault

Felony arrest warrants have been issued for five Texarkana middle school students accused of involvement in the sexually assault on a 10-year-old girl aboard a school bus. A Texarkana Police Department statement Thursday says the students are ages 13 and 14 and face charges ranging from sexual assault to indecency with a child. The statement says officers are working with the juveniles' parents to arrange for the suspects to turn themselves in. The assault report initially filed Dec. 1 says the bus was carrying the Pleasant Grove Middle School boys' basketball team back from a Nov. 30 game in Paris when the incident happened.

DALLAS

DaVita Rx to pay nearly \$64M in billing dispute

A Texas-based pharmacy chain that specializes in patients with kidney problems will pay nearly \$64 million to settle allegations of improper billing and other disputed financial practices. Federal prosecutors in Dallas announced the agreement Thursday with DaVita Rx. The company is based in nearby Coppell. Authorities say the settlement resolves allegations that DaVita billed federal health care programs for prescriptions that were never shipped. Allegations were raised that the company didn't comply with requirements for documentation of proof of delivery, refill requests or patient consent. The settlement also resolves claims



Miguel Roberts/The Brownsville Herald via AP

Sea Turtle Inc. volunteers and employees release dozens of cold-stunned Atlantic green sea turtles Wednesday at Isla Blanca Park on South Padre Island.

that DaVita violated laws against paying kickbacks to program beneficiaries or extending unwarranted discounts. DaVita released a statement Thursday saying it self-disclosed the allegations to the government in 2015 and 2016, and continues to embrace transparency and rigorous compliance.

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND Sea turtles shocked by cold returned to Gulf of Mexico

Sixty endangered Atlantic green sea turtles that went into shock when South Texas experienced snowy

weather have been released back into the Gulf of Mexico. The Brownsville Herald reports that hundreds of onlookers watched the turtles' return to the water on Wednesday at Isla Blanca Park. A total of 72 cold-stunned turtles washed up during the cold spell. Kat Lillie, assistant curator at Sea Turtle Inc., says some of the turtles have stayed behind because they need a little more medical attention. Lillie says many of the turtles that were rescued were found by their volunteer patrols or by fishermen. Crowds cheered and took photos and videos as the 60 turtles that were medically healthy to be released were ushered by volunteers into the surf.

WORD OF THE DAY

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Decadent

[dek-uh-duh nt, dih-keyd-nt] adjective

1. characterized by decadence, especially culturally or morally.

2. (often initial capital letter) of or like the decadents.

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Midland again
home of
highest gas
prices in Texas

COPPELL — For the second
straight week, drivers in Midland face
the highest gasoline prices statewide.
AAA Texas on Thursday reported
an average price in Midland at \$2.51
a gallon, which is 30 cents higher
than the state average and 6 cents
higher than the national average.
The association survey found San
Antonio has the cheapest gasoline in
Texas this week at an average \$2.10
per gallon.
Retail gasoline prices in Texas and
across the nation declined by 3 cents
per gallon this week.
AAA Texas on Thursday reported the
average price at the pump state-
wide was \$2.21 per gallon. U.S. retail
gasoline prices settled at \$2.45 per
gallon.
AAA analysts say drivers can
expect prices to continue to drop
heading into the holiday season as
supply strengthens and fall gasoline
demand weakens.

Source: Associated Press

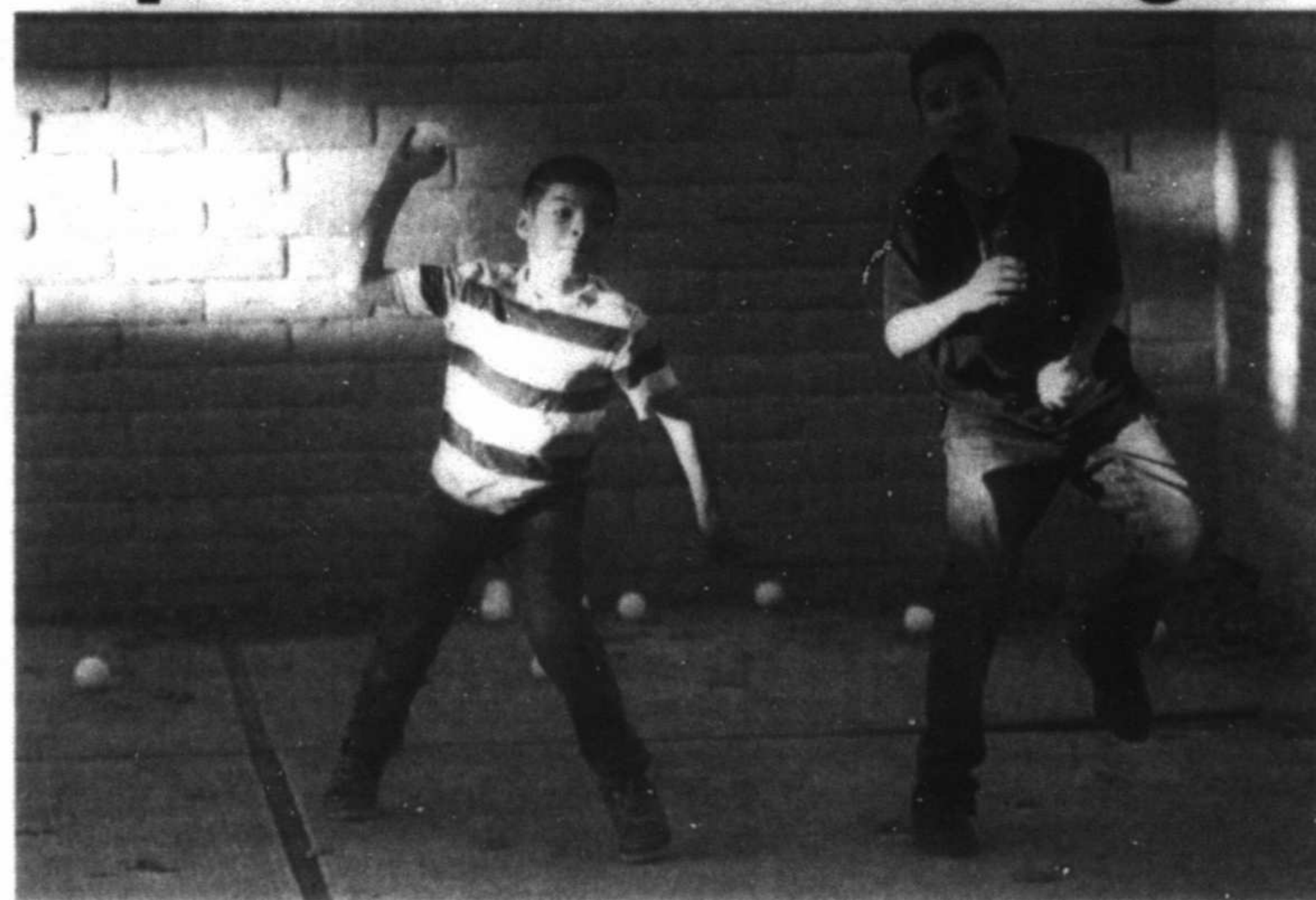
Gas prices in Midland

Cheapest gas: \$2.24 (Sam's Club,
Trudewind/SH 191)
Cheapest gas (non-membership
store): \$2.30 (Murphy USA, Midland
Drive/Briarwood)
Most expensive: \$2.55 (multiple
stations across Midland)
Most common price: \$2.55
Cheapest prices across West
Texas: San Angelo \$1.96, Lubbock
\$2.09, Abilene \$2.16, Midland \$2.24,
Odessa \$2.31
Mid-Odessa Texas
Thursday \$2.473 \$2.177
Last week \$2.504 \$2.237
Last month \$2.506 \$2.305
Last year \$2.024 \$2.023

Source: TexasGasPrices.com

Things to do

"Holiday Magic" by FirstCapital
Bank of Texas and KWEL Radio,
noon, FirstCapital Bank of Texas, 310
W. Wall St. Celebrate the holiday sea-
son with a free musical performance
by StrickLee Orchestra from Lee High

TODAY IN MIDLAND
Operation Elf snowball fight

James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Children participate in a snowball fight during a Christmas party for Centers clients
Wednesday at the Junior League of Midland.

School

Evening Storytime at the
Library, 4:30 p.m. (2-6 years), Midland
County Public Library Center-
nial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N.
co.midland.tx.us/lib
Old Miner's Maze interactive
adventure features a maze, rock
walls, mechanical bull and more, 6-10
p.m., 4305 N. County Road 1140,
Oldminersmaze.com
Bingo Nights, 4 p.m., American
Legion, 501 Veterans Airport Lane,
682-5511

Hold 'em poker tournaments

7 p.m., The Delour, 1709 Rankin
Highway
Tim Kreitz Band, 9 p.m., The
Bar, 606 W. Missouri Ave.
"A Place Called Christmas"
and "Twelve Days of Christmas," 7-30
p.m., Permian Playhouse, 310 W.
42nd St. Odessa. \$10, permianplay-
house.com
Musical on 34th Street: The
Musical, 7-30 p.m., Midland Com-
munity Theatre, 2000 W. Wadley Ave.
\$28, midland.org

Holiday events

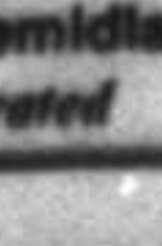
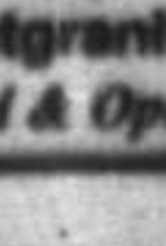
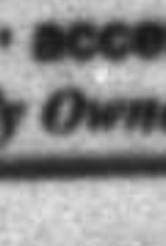
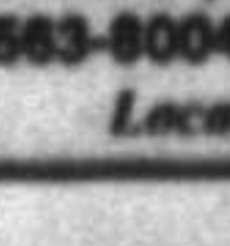
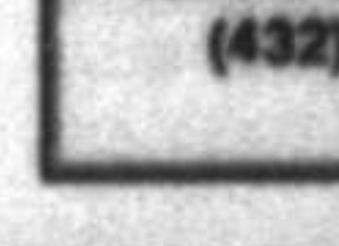
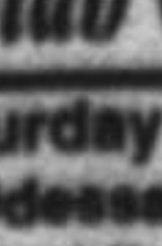
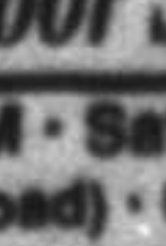
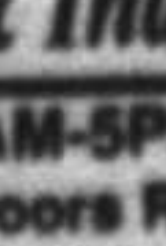
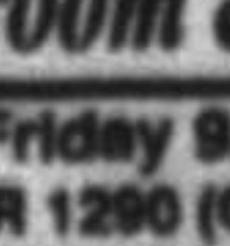
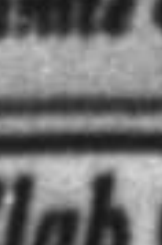
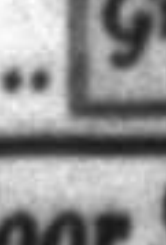
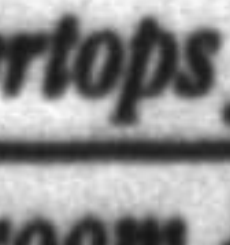
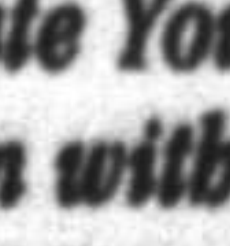
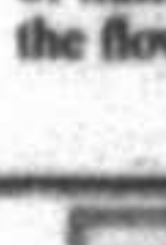
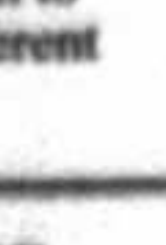
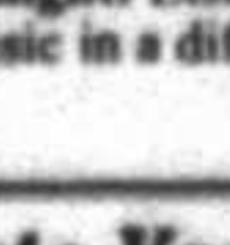
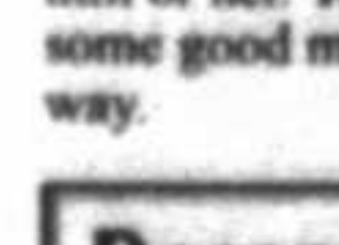
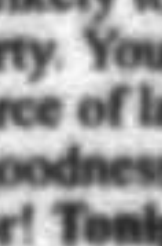
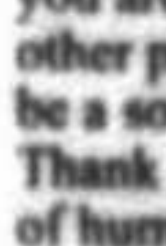
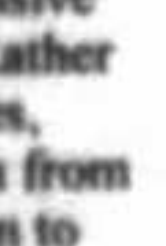
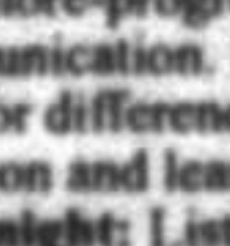
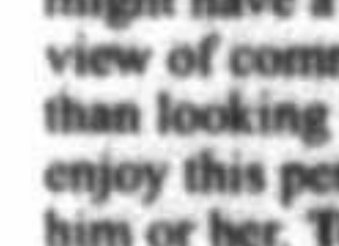
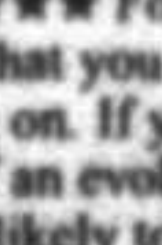
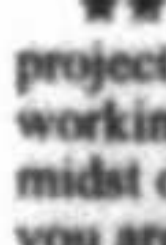
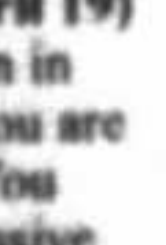
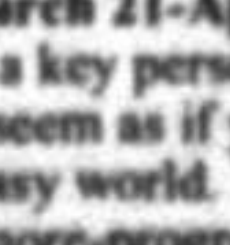
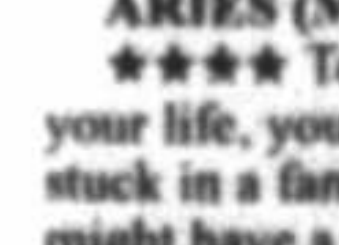
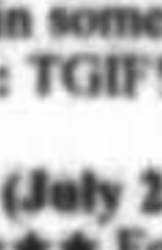
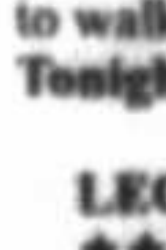
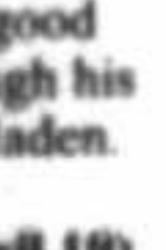
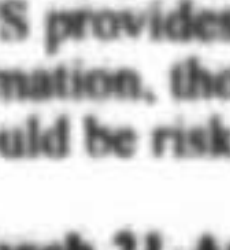
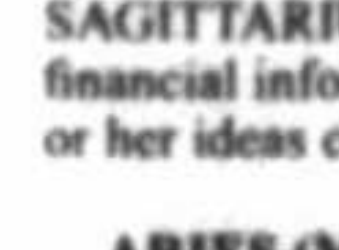
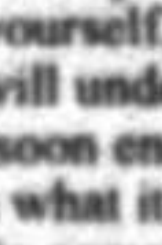
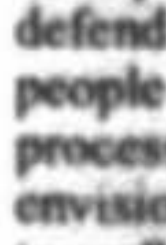
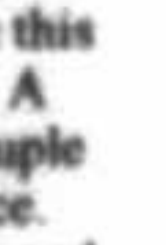
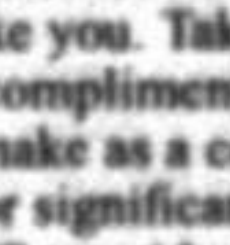
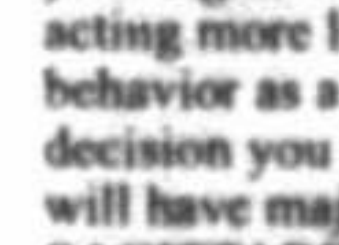
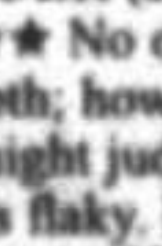
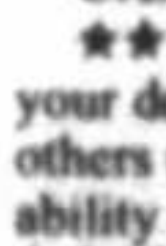
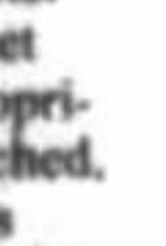
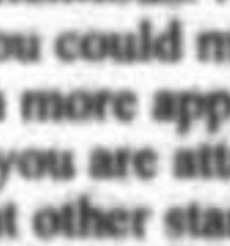
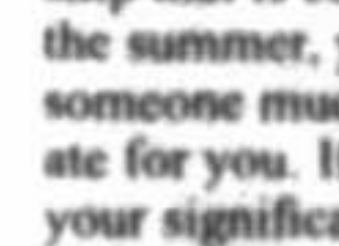
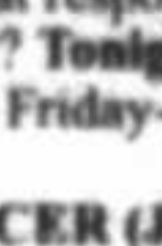
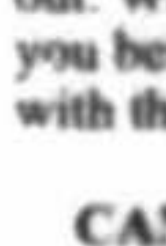
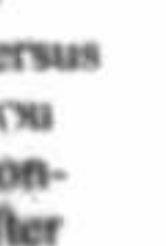
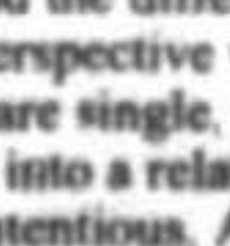
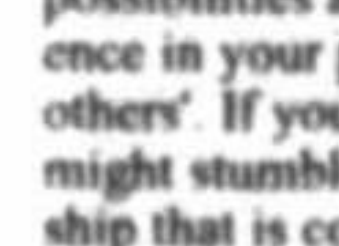
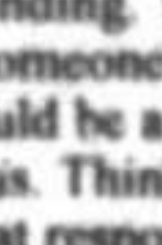
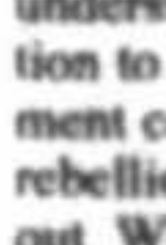
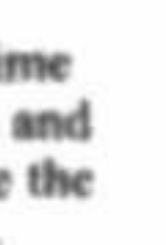
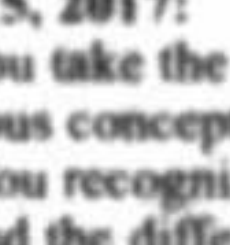
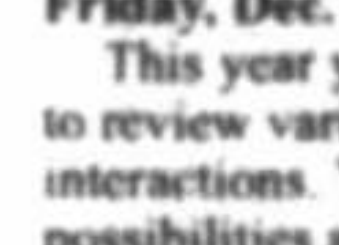
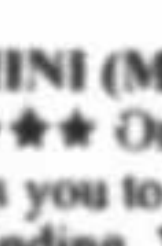
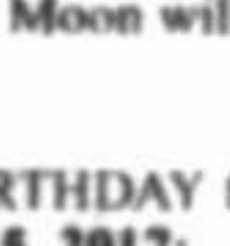
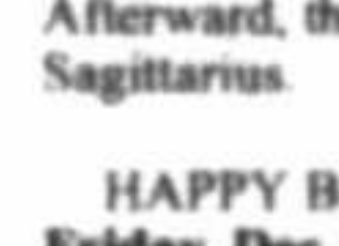
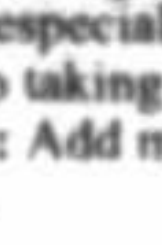
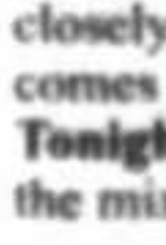
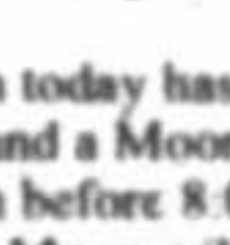
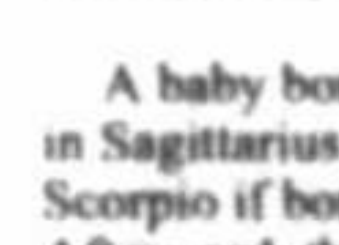
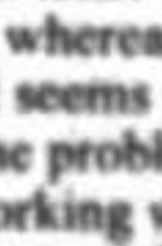
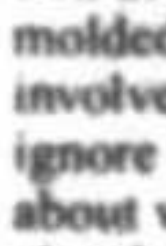
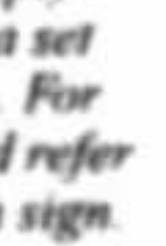
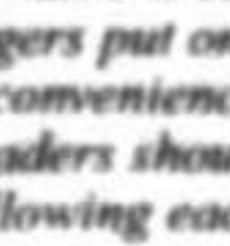
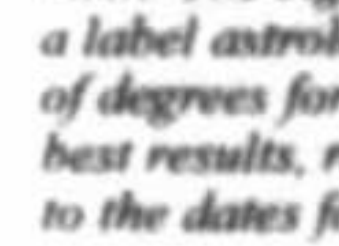
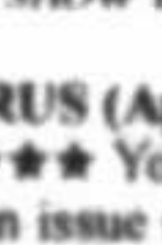
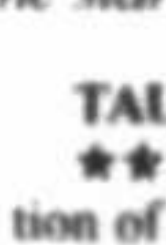
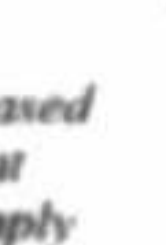
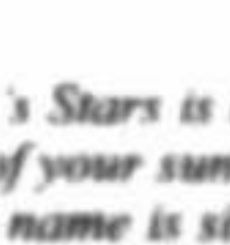
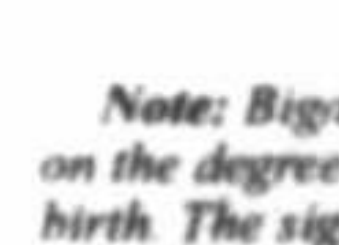
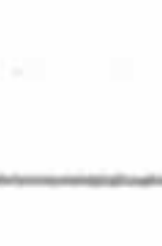
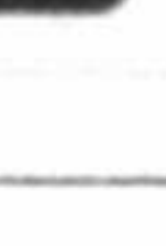
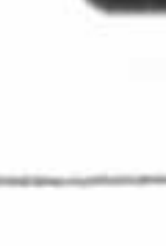
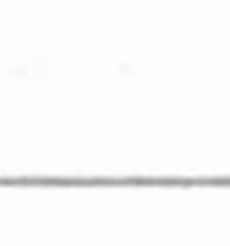
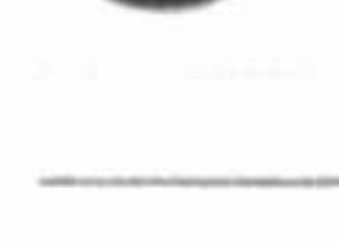
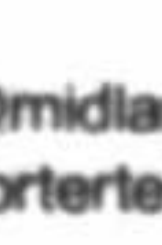
Saturday
Family Fitness is a healthy
holiday celebration with obstacle
courses, a trail mix bar and photos
with Santa. Open to the community,
7 a.m.-2 p.m., Midland YMCA, 800 N.
Big Spring St. midlandymca.org
Saturday Movie: "The Polar Ex-
press," 2 p.m., Midland County Public
Library Central branch, 2503 W.
Loop 250 N.
Pancakes with Santa by the

Knights of Columbus, 6-8 p.m., St.
Ann's Catholic Church, 1906 W. Texas
Ave. Guests can listen to the story of
St. Lucy, make an ornament for the
church and have a picture taken with
Santa.
JCPenney at Midland Park
Mall is hosting a holiday ornament-
decorating event 11 a.m.-noon at
the kids department. The arts and
crafts project is part of the company's
new Kids Zone program. For more
information, call 699-4347 or visit
jcpenny.com

Lottery

Pick 3 morning: 0-7-7
Pick 3 day: 6-8-0
Pick 3 evening: 0-8-3
Daily 4 morning: 5-4-3-1
Daily 4 day: 5-8-5-1
Daily 4 evening: 0-9-9-2
Daily 4 night: 1-9-3-0
Cash Five: 10-30-32-34-35
Triple Chance: 11-13-22-25-26-
34-35-42-49-52

Texas Two Step: 4-16-23-35
BB: 25
All or Nothing morning: 1-4-
5-6-9-11-14-17-18-20-21-24
All or Nothing day: 1-2-4-5-6-
9-10-11-13-14-19-21
All or Nothing evening: 1-2-4-
5-7-8-11-12-14-17-19-21
All or Nothing night: 2-6-7-8-
9-10-11-14-15-16-18-24

Stay
connected

Weather

Thursday's temperatures
High: 57
Low: 30
Normal high: 58
Normal low: 31

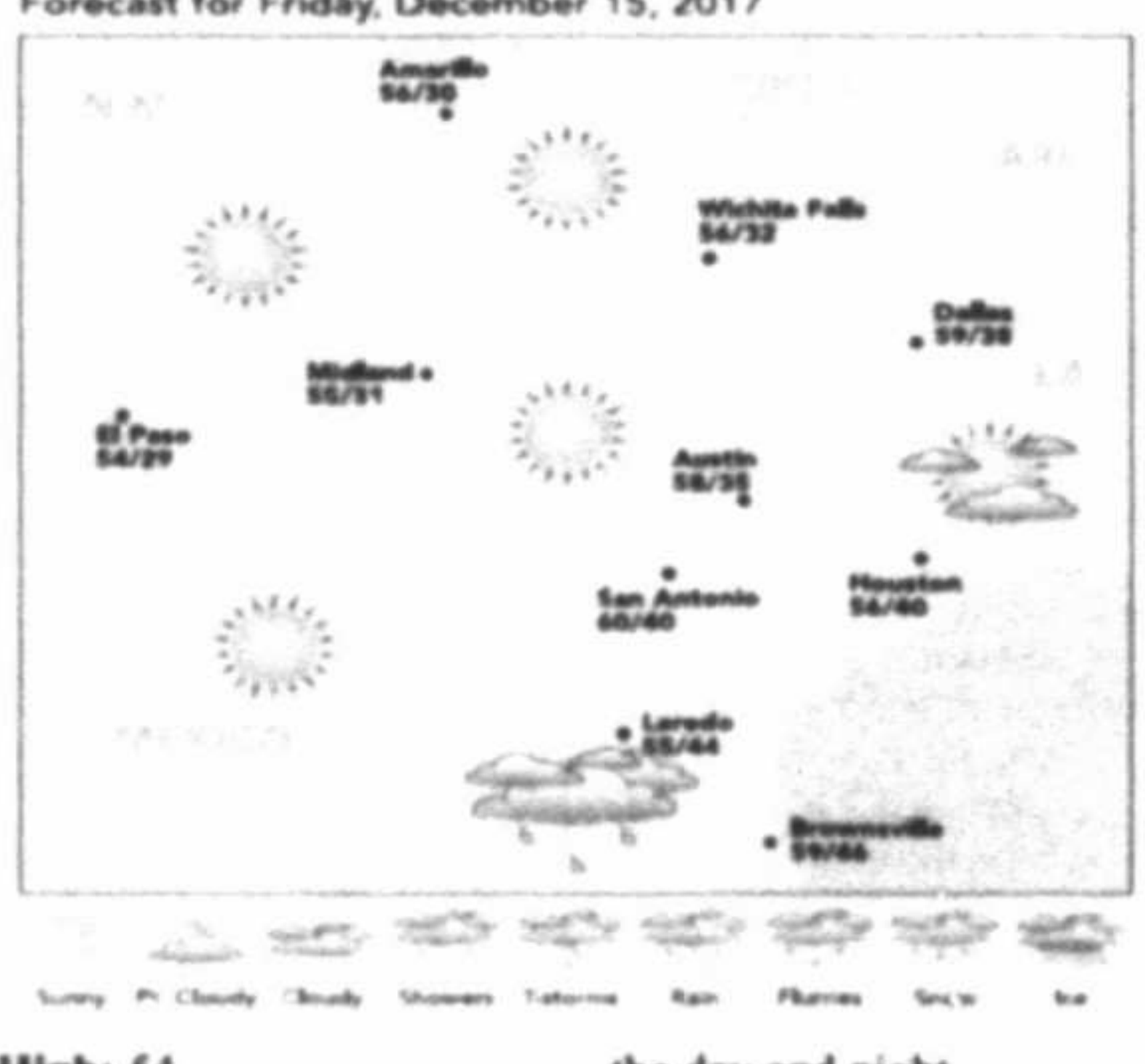
Dec. 14's records
Record high: 82, set in
1995
Record low: 14, set in 1985

Precipitation
Wednesday: 0.00 in.
Thursday: 0.00 in.
Month total: 0.36 in.
Year total: 17.70 in.
Normal total
(year to date): 14.28 in.

Winds
Average speed: 12 mph
Highest speed: 24 mph
Highest gust speed: 29 mph

Today's forecast

Forecast for Friday, December 15, 2017



the day and night
High: 54
Low: 32
Conditions: Sunny during
the day/clear at night
Winds: 5-10 mph during

Source: National Weather Service

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

A baby born today has a Sun
in Sagittarius and a Moon in
Scorpio if born before 8:07 p.m.
Afterward, the Moon will be in
Sagittarius.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Friday, Dec. 15, 2017:

This year you take the time to
review various concepts and
interactions. You recognize the
possibilities and the difference
in your perspective versus
others'. If you are single, you
might stumble into a relationship
that is contentious. After the
summer, you could meet
someone much more appropri-
ate for you. If you are attached,
your significant other starts
acting more like you. Take this
behavior as a compliment. A
decision you make as a couple
will have major significance.
SAGITTARIUS provides good
financial information, though his
or her ideas could be risk-laden.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ To a key person in
your life, you seem as if you are
stuck in a fantasy world. You
might have a more-progressive
view of communication. Rather
than looking for differences,
enjoy this person and learn from
him or her. Tonight: Listen to
some good music in a different
way.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Your percep-
tion of an issue is still being
molded, whereas the other party
involved seems to have opted to
ignore the problem. Think twice
about working with this person
closely, especially when it
comes to taking financial risks.
Tonight: Add more intensity to
the mix.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ One-on-one relat-
ing takes you to a new level of
understanding. Your innate reac-
tion to someone's sharp com-
ment could be a bit dramatic and
rebellious. Think before you act
out. What response will serve
you best? Tonight: Go along
with the Friday-night rituals.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ No one questions
your depth; however, at times
others might judge your change-
ability as flaky. Resist trying to
defend yourself, and know that
people will understand your
process soon enough. Try to
envision what it would be like
to walk in someone else's shoes.
Tonight: TGIF!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Focus on a creative
project that you have started
working on. If you are in the
midst of an evolving romance,
you are likely to be very into the
other party. Your children could
be a source of laughter and fun.
Thank goodness for your sense
of humor! Tonight: Go with
the flow.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ If you're feeling off,
you might want to call in and
stay home. You could trigger a
lot of confusion wherever you are.
Can the workplace handle
so much uproar right now?
Keeping your distance might
demonstrate greater effective-
ness and sensitivity toward
others. Tonight: Out late.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You will want to
rethink your perspective on
a relationship with someone
younger. This person might not
be getting your message at this
point in time. Instead of forcing
the issue right now, consider
having a chat of significance at
a later date. Tonight: Enjoy the
here and now!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Be willing to think
through a money matter in
different and/or new terms. You
don't have to agree with the
conclusion, but you will under-

stand the process that creates a
certain type of thinking. Given
some time, you'll find a solution.

Tonight: Celebrate the night
and the weekend.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Your larger-than-life
attitude might work well for
you; however, someone close
to you seems almost frightened
and overly worried when you
express your thoughts. Listen
to what is being shared, and
learn more about this person.
Tonight: An adventure calls
to you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You are likely to
overhear a secret or a matter that
is meant to be kept hush-hush.
You might want to pretend that
you did not see or hear anything
in order to help the other party
maintain his or her composure
and sense of well-being. To-
night: Not to be found.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ What you want
might not be attainable at this
point. Keep the faith, and you
will see that your wish material-
izes soon enough. Be calm and
collected when dealing with
others, especially in a meeting.
Choose to say less for now.
Tonight: Join a friend or two
for dinner and drinks.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Allow greater
give-and-take between you and
others. You will want to be extra
sensitive to a friend's moodi-
ness, as misunderstandings can
happen easily. You might not be
able to get your viewpoint com-
municated, but given some time
you will! Tonight: A force to be
dealt with.

BORN

Second report finds law enforcement missteps in Charlottesville

By Sarah Rankin
Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — A report on Virginia's response to a violent white nationalist rally this summer in Charlottesville found some missteps by law enforcement, including a "chaotic scene" in a joint command center and little "on-the-ground collaboration" between agencies.

The after-action review prepared by the International Association of Chiefs of Police is the second independent report released this month on the deadly Aug. 12 rally. Some of this report's findings overlap with the blistering, much longer report by former U.S. Attorney Tim Heaphy, who conducted a review for the city. But the most recent report is generally far less critical of the state's response.

"Without the presence of such a large, well-trained, well-equipped contingent of state assets and close, collaborative planning between entities, arguably the outcome of the event could have been far worse," the state's report says.

Charlottesville became a target for white nationalists after the city council voted to remove a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee from a downtown park. After several smaller rallies, hundreds of white nationalists and counterprotesters converged downtown on Aug. 12.

Fighting broke out before the event officially began, and the brawling went on for around an hour in front of officers until an unlawful assembly was declared and the crowd was forced to disband. Later, as counterdemonstrators were peacefully marching through a downtown street, a car drove into the crowd, killing 32-year-old Heather Heyer and injuring many more.

Plans for the reviews were announced shortly after the rally amid anger and scrutiny from residents and activists over what many perceived as an overly restrained response by authorities as the violence unfolded. So far, no disciplinary actions have been announced as a result.

The IACP team that conducted the review interviewed more than 30 people involved in "various stages of the state's response," the report says. The team traveled to Richmond and Charlottesville three times and conducted a walkthrough of the site. It reviewed video, operational plans, news reports and other materials and also interviewed officials in other states about their responses to similar rallies.

The state provided "ample resources" and conducted "thorough preparation" ahead of the rally, the report said.

"During interviews, city officials spoke very highly of the support they received from the Commonwealth, in particular from the Virginia State Police. Cooperation among all parties throughout the planning stage was excellent," it says.

Heaphy's report, by contrast, character-

ized police planning as "inadequate and disconnected."

Both reports acknowledge that state and city police had separate operational plans, including different guidance on when to make arrests. However, they describe the resulting problems in far different terms.

"Despite ongoing communication and collaboration between VSP and CPD," the fact that they didn't sort out the rules of engagement led to "hesitation and the appearance of inaction in the field," the state report says. It also says there was "little on-the-ground collaboration."

Heaphy's report says law enforcement "elevated officer safety over public safety" and "failed to maintain order and protect citizens from harm, injury, and death."

This latest report emphasizes that the Charlottesville Police Department was the lead agency and state police played a supporting role.

It says city officials did not heed advice from high-ranking state officials including Gov. Terry McAuliffe ahead of the event. Those suggestions included that the event permit require protesters to be bused in, and to prohibit firearms, even though Virginia law does not allow authorities to do this.

"The activity at Emancipation Park could have been contained had these recommendations been heeded," it says.

Like Heaphy's report, the state's also notes communication problems the day of the event. State and city police couldn't communicate by radio, which led to information having to be relayed two to three times, the state report says.

Interviews also suggest "a chaotic scene" in the unified command center, the state report says, adding that not all "key personnel" were in the building.

McAuliffe's spokesman, Brian Coy, said there is "a lot to learn" from both reviews. "This is not really an exercise in blame-placing. This is just a matter of finding out what went well and what went wrong and doing better in the future," he said.

A report from a task force the governor convened was released along with the IACP's review. It makes 16 recommendations, including modifying Virginia code to allow localities to prohibit firearms at permitted events.

All the reports point to the need for better cooperation and coordination, Charlottesville spokeswoman Miriam Dickler said.

"We look forward to working with our partners at the state level to better respond to future events," she said in a statement.

Charlottesville police didn't comment. A Virginia State Police internal after-action review is ongoing, spokeswoman Corinne Geller said. She noted that they prepared for weeks in partnership with other state and local agencies for "a multitude of worst-case scenarios," and ultimately made the largest deployment of personnel and resources in the agency's 85-year history.



Suspect in car attack faces new 1st-degree murder charge

By Sarah Rankin
Associated Press

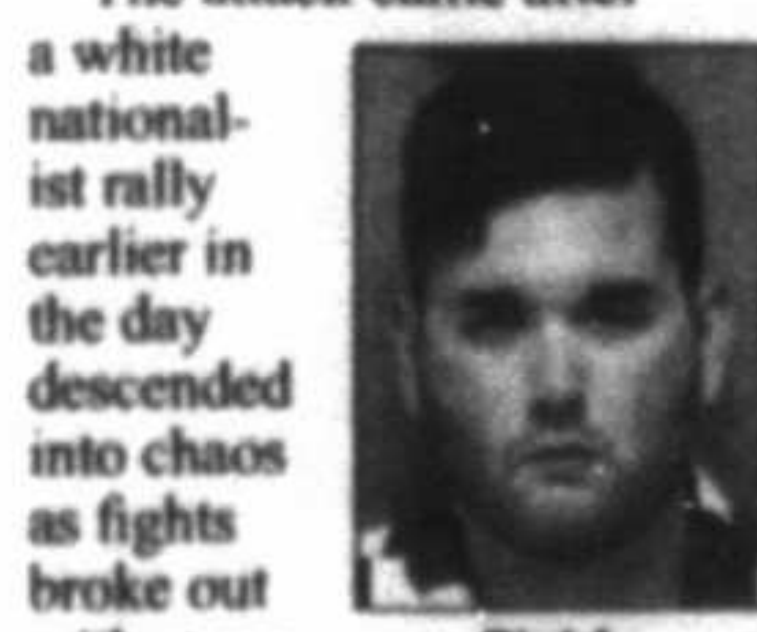
CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — The Ohio man accused of driving a car into a crowd of people protesting a white nationalist rally this summer in Charlottesville had his most serious charge upgraded to first-degree murder Thursday.

James Alex Fields appeared in court for a preliminary hearing, where prosecutors said they had filed a motion earlier in the day seeking to amend the second-degree murder charge he had previously faced.

Charlottesville General District Judge Robert Downer Jr. certified the first-degree murder charge and all others against Fields. The case will now be presented to a grand jury for an indictment.

Authorities say the 20-year-old, described by a former teacher as having a keen interest in Nazi Germany and Adolf Hitler, drove his speeding car into a group of counterprotesters on Aug. 12, killing 32-year-old Heather Heyer and injuring

dozens more. The attack came after a white nationalist rally earlier in the day descended into chaos as fights broke out with counterdemonstrators, and authorities forced the crowd to disband. Charlottesville became a target for white nationalists after the city voted to remove a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee.



Fields, of Maumee, Ohio, sat quietly in a striped jumpsuit with his hands cuffed during Thursday's hearing. Fields' attorney Denise Lunsford did not present evidence or make any arguments at the hearing, although she did cross-examine a Charlottesville police detective whom prosecutors called as a witness.

A former teacher, Derek Weiner, has said Fields was fascinated in high school with Nazism, idolized Adolf Hitler, and had been singled out by officials at

his Union, Kentucky, school for "deeply held, radical" convictions on race.

Fields was photographed hours before the attack with a shield bearing the emblem of Vanguard America, one of the hate groups that took part in the rally, although the group denied any association with him.

During her cross-examination of Charlottesville Police Det. Steven Young, Lunsford asked if searches of Fields' computer, phone or social media revealed any evidence that he was part of Vanguard America or any other white nationalist group. Young said, "No."

The judge also presided over preliminary hearings earlier Thursday for three other defendants charged in cases related to the August rally: Richard Preston, who is accused of firing a gun, and Jacob Goodwin and Alex Ramos, who are accused in an attack on a man in a downtown parking garage.

The judge certified the charges against all three men.

Their cases will also proceed now to a grand jury.



J. Scott Applewhite/Associated Press

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, center, talks with Sen. Chris Coons, D-Dele., left, as they leave the chamber following a vote Thursday on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Rubio defection threatens GOP's majority on tax bill

By Stephen Ohlemacher and Marcy Gordon
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Republicans' razor-thin margin for driving their sweeping tax package through the Senate was thrown into jeopardy Thursday when GOP Sen. Marco Rubio declared he will vote against it unless negotiators expand the tax credit that low-income Americans can claim for their children.

Rubio's potential defection complicates Republican leaders' goal of muscling the \$1.5 trillion bill through Congress next week, handing President Donald Trump his first major legislative victory by Christmas.

Senate Republicans could still pass the package without Rubio's vote, but they would be cutting it extremely close. An original version was approved by only 51-49 — with Rubio's support. The co-sponsor of Rubio's proposed change, Republican Sen. Mike Lee of Utah, is undecided on the overall bill and pushing to make the credit as generous as possible, said Lee spokesman Conn Carroll.

The Senate turmoil came on the same day that a key faction of House Republicans came out in favor of the bill, boosting its chances. Members of the conservative House Freedom Caucus predicted that the vast majority of their members would support the package.

The developments came a day after House and Senate Republican leaders forged an agreement in principle on the most sweeping overhaul of the nation's tax laws in more than 30 years. The package would give generous tax cuts to corporations and the wealthiest Americans, and more modest tax cuts to low- and middle-income families.

Confident Republican leaders predicted swift passage next week, sending the bill to Trump for his signature.

At the White House, Trump said he was confident that Rubio will get onboard.

"He's really been a great

guy and very supportive. I think that Senator Rubio will be there," said Trump, who belittled Rubio during the Republican presidential primaries, calling him "little Marco."

The tax package would increase the child tax credit from \$1,000-per-child to \$2,000. The bill makes a portion of the credit — \$1,100 — available to families even if they owe no income tax. They would receive the money in the form of a tax refund, which is why it is called a "refundable" tax credit. Rubio wants to increase this amount but wouldn't say by how much.

"Given all the other changes they made in the tax code leading into it, I can't in good conscience support it unless we are able to increase the refundable portion of it. And there's ways to do it, and we'll be very reasonable about it," Rubio said.

During debate on the Senate version of the bill, Rubio offered an amendment that would have made the entire \$2,000 credit available to families, even if they owe no income tax, but it was soundly defeated. To pay for the expanded credit, Rubio proposed to slightly scale back a steep cut in the corporate income tax rate.

A few days after the earlier Senate vote, Rubio tweeted a link to a news story that said GOP leaders were indeed considering scaling back the corporate tax cut — but not to pay for an expanded child tax credit.

"They freaked out when I proposed small reduction in Corporate tax cut to pay for cut for working families. Now this?" Rubio tweeted.

The final package slashes the corporate rate from 35 percent to 21 percent. The initial Senate and House bills had set it at 20 percent.

Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, said Senate negotiators got the best deal they could on the overall child tax credit. House GOP negotiators were proposing a \$1,600 tax credit.

"We won everything in the child tax credit," Portman said. When asked if it could be changed further to appease Rubio, Portman

said, "We've already won. I mean, we should celebrate our victory."

Rubio's opposition comes at a bad time for Senate Republicans, with two of them missing votes this week because of illness.

John McCain of Arizona, who is 81, is at a Washington military hospital being treated for the side effects of brain cancer treatment, and 80-year-old Thad Cochran of Mississippi had a non-melanoma lesion removed from his nose earlier this week. GOP leaders are hopeful they will be available next week.

The tax legislation would cut the top tax rate for the wealthiest earners — Trump among them — from 39.6 percent to 37 percent.

The package would nearly double the standard deduction, to \$24,000 for married couples. But it would scale back the deduction for state and local taxes, allowing families to deduct only up to a total of \$10,000 in property and income taxes. The deduction is especially important to residents of high-tax states such as New York, New Jersey and California.

Business owners who report business income on their personal tax returns would be able to deduct 20 percent of that income.

The agreement also calls for repealing the mandate under the "Obamacare" health law that requires most Americans to get health insurance, a step toward the ultimate GOP goal of unraveling the law.

The business tax cuts would be permanent, but reductions for individuals would expire in 2026 — saving money to comply with Senate budget rules. In all, the bill would cut taxes by about \$1.5 trillion over the next 10 years, adding billions to the nation's mounting debt.

The tax package is polling badly among the public, but Republicans say that will turn around after Americans see the benefits.

"The results are going to be what sells this bill, not the confusion before it passes," said Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis.

Retreat for wounded warriors wraps up on a snowy note

Associated Press

ROME, Maine — A retreat for combat-injured veterans that was created by a man who lost all four limbs in Afghanistan is wrapping up its first season with a "winter" session.

The Travis Mills Foundation is hosting five veterans and their families from hurricane-damaged Florida and Texas for a snowy holiday that kicked off Wednesday.

Mills created the retreat to serve as a place where veterans and their families can get together with others who've experienced disabilities. Mills said he wants to show veterans they still can do things with their families and not be sidelined by their disabilities.

"We are looking forward to a few days of rest and fun as a family with others who understand our daily struggles," said Brian Costello of Eustis, Florida, who came with his wife and four kids.

Mills attended the kickoff Wednesday night that was replete with a visit by Santa and Mrs. Claus.

There's no more kayaking or tubing in the lake because of the season, but there's still plenty to do, including cookie making, pottery painting and yoga.

Kids will no doubt create a snowman or two.

The Travis Mills Foundation's facility at the former home of cosmetics magnate Elizabeth Arden has served 88 families, all free of charge, in its inaugural season. Daniel Burgess of Cape Coral, Florida, said he was looking forward to "the positive impact of other service members and their families."

"Also to get away from our norm and reconnect as a family. Plus my wife and daughters were all born and raised in Cleveland, so they are excited to see snow and winter again," said Burgess, who was accompanied by his wife and two teenage daughters.

Mills is a busy guy. In addition to launching the retreat, he became a father for a second time, welcoming a son, Dax, into the world. He's also been busy with a business partner, running a dock and motel on Cobleskill Lake in East Winthrop.

Texas official out after post disparaging 'pathetic' women

By Paul J. Weber
Associated Press

AUSTIN — A top aide to Republican Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton resigned Thursday after reports surfaced of him disparaging the stories of sexually harassed women as "pathetic" on Facebook.

Paxton spokesman Mark Rylander said views expressed by associate deputy attorney general Andrew Leonie on social media "do not reflect our values." The announcement came hours after The Dallas Morning News reported comments posted on Leonie's page about sexual

harassment.

"Aren't you also tired of all the pathetic 'me too' victim claims? If every woman is a 'victim,' so is every man. If everyone is a victim, no one is. Victim means nothing anymore," read the Facebook post published early Wednesday.

Leonie didn't immediately respond to messages for comment through social media.

The post disappeared from his public Facebook page after his resignation was announced.

His resignation came on the same day the Texas Senate began publicly revising its own sexual harassment

policies criticized as outdated and insufficient. Republican state Sen. Lois Kolkhorst, who is spearheading the revisions as chairwoman of the Senate Administration Committee, said even she might be hesitant to come forward under the current framework.

"It's ambiguous enough that I would be hesitant to come forth with a complaint," she said.

Rylander said the attorney general's office is committed to a workplace "free from discrimination and harassment." Paxton's wife, Angela Paxton, is running as a Republican for the state Senate.

Farenthold retiring from House amid harassment accusations

By Alan Fram and
Will Weissert
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Texas Republican Rep. Blake Farenthold announced Thursday that he won't seek re-election next year, adding his name to the list of lawmakers leaving Congress amid sexual harassment allegations that have cost powerful men their jobs in politics, the arts and other industries.

In a five-minute video on his campaign's Facebook page, Farenthold denied a former aide's three-year-old accusations, which included that he'd subjected her to sexually suggestive comments and behavior and then fired her after she complained. But he apologized for an office atmosphere he said included "destructive gossip, offhand comments, off-color jokes and behavior that in general was less than professional."

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., told reporters he'd spoken twice to the Texan on Wednesday and suggested there were additional accusations that had yet to surface.

"Unacceptable behavior has been alleged in those stories, and I think he's made the right decision that he's going to be leaving Congress and that reflects some of the conversations we've had," Ryan said.

Farenthold's decision comes as congressional leaders have shown little desire for lawmakers facing credible harassment allegations to remain in Congress as 2018 elections roll into view.

Democrats had criticized Ryan for not forcing Farenthold out sooner. But



Andrew Harnik/Associated Press

Rep. Blake Farenthold arrives for a House Committee on the Judiciary oversight hearing Wednesday on Capitol Hill. Two Republicans say that Texas GOP Rep. Blake Farenthold won't seek re-election next year. The lawmaker is under pressure from sexual misconduct allegations that surfaced three years ago but have come under renewed focus.

Republicans cited a recommendation by the independent Office of Congressional Ethics that the House Ethics Committee dismiss the allegations.

"There is not substantial reason to believe that Representative Farenthold sexually harassed or discriminated against complainant," the office had said.

Last week, three lawmakers facing accusations of sexual harassment announced their resignations.

Reps. John Conyers, D-Mich., and Trent Franks, R-Ariz., have already left Congress while Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., has said he will step aside soon. Franks left under pressure from Ryan after Franks was accused of pressuring aides to serve as a surrogate mother to carry his child, with one former staffer telling The Associated Press he'd offered \$5

million to do so.

Farenthold, a seven-year House veteran, had said he'd engaged in no wrongdoing when he settled the case in 2015. But after congressional sources said he'd paid the \$84,000 settlement using taxpayers' money, the House Ethics Committee said last week it would investigate him and public focus intensified, even though he said he'd reimburse the Treasury Department.

In his video, Farenthold said if he stayed in Congress, he'd have to spend months trying to vindicate himself.

"Quite simply my constituents deserve better," he said. "They deserve a primary campaign that's focused on the serious issues facing our country and our state and fixing a broken system. Therefore I'm announcing my decision not to run for re-election."

The lawsuit by former Farenthold aide Lauren Greene alleged that the congressman had discussed his sexual fantasies about her and said at a staff meeting that a lobbyist had propositioned him for a threesome. It accused Farenthold of repeatedly complimenting her appearance, then joking that he hoped the comments wouldn't be construed as sexual harassment.

Five Republicans filed to challenge Farenthold in Texas' March 6 Republican primary even before he resigned.

Farenthold upset long-serving Democratic U.S. Rep. Solomon Ortiz during the tea party wave of 2010, but the district has since been redrawn to make it more reliably Republican. That included removing many areas along the Texas-Mexico border which had favored Democrats.

Lawmaker who spun history of heroics ends life in suicide

By Adam Beam
Associated Press

FRANKFORT, Ky. — The Kentucky lawmaker's resume included enough material for an award-winning memoir: He was a peacekeeper at the Rodney King riots in Los Angeles, a White House chaplain to three presidents and a 9/11 first responder who gave last rites to hundreds of people at Ground Zero.

But Republican Dan Johnson's carefully crafted history crumbled this week following an extensively reported story from the Kentucky Center for Investigative Reporting. The story tore down his claims and portrayed him as a con man whose deceptions propped up his ministry of a church of outcasts in Louisville and hid a sinister secret: a sexual assault allegation from a 17-year-old girl.

Johnson denied it all, declaring his innocence from the pulpit of the church where he was the self-appointed "pope." By Wednesday night, he was dead, his body found on the side of a secluded road with a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head.

The death of the 57-year-old jolted Republican leaders, who were already struggling with a sexual harassment scandal that toppled the state's first GOP House speaker in nearly 100 years plus three other Republican committee chairmen. Most in the party had already turned their back on Johnson, calling for his resignation following the sexual assault allegation and his history of posting racist photos on Facebook that depicted President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama as monkeys.

By Thursday, many were offering messages of sympathy while acknowledging Johnson's complex life.

"He was passionate about others, I saw it often yet he needed help himself," GOP state Rep. Jim DuPlessis, who sat beside Johnson on the House floor, posted on Twitter.

Johnson's wife, Rebecca Johnson, said her husband was the victim of a "high-tech lynching" and announced she would run to replace him in the Legislature.

Elected in 2016, he was part of a wave of Republican victories that gave the GOP a majority in the Kentucky House for the first time in nearly 100 years. But before that, he was the pastor of Heart of Fire Church in Louisville, which prided itself on welcoming "real people."

"It was a biker church, so there was lots of leather jackets, lots of long hair and people that if you ran into them on the street, you might have a different first impression," said David Adams, a political operative who worked with Johnson on his campaign.

On the church's website, Johnson claimed to have healed sick people during a visit to South America in 1991, including the incredible story of raising a woman from the dead. The miracles were detailed in a letter from David Fischer, pastor of a church in California. Fischer told the investigative reporting center that he did not witness those events and could not point the agency to anyone who had.

On his financial disclosure forms, Johnson listed his only source of income as workers compensation from the state of New York. He said that money was from injuries he sustained while working as a chaplain immediately following the 9/11 terrorist attack in New York City. But the reporting center, after a seven-month effort, could find no evidence that Johnson was in New York that day.

In a Facebook message posted hours before his death, Johnson hinted that he suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder relating to what he witnessed in New York, details that he shared with friends through the years, including Republican state Sen. Dan Seum.

"He struggled with that. I know he did. The fact it was so horrific that he was involved in praying over these people," Seum said. "I believed him. I had no reason not to."

The sexual assault allegation came from Maranda Richmond, a former member of Johnson's church. Richmond told the reporting center she was spending the night at Johnson's house on New Year's Eve 2012 when she awoke several hours after midnight to find Johnson standing over her. She said he stuck his tongue in her mouth and put his hands down her pants and into her vagina. She said she begged him to stop and eventually he did.

The Associated Press does not generally identify victims who report sexual assault but is doing so because Richmond has gone public with her story.

Richmond's public comments match what she told police two years ago, according to police documents obtained by the reporting center. In 2013, police investigated the matter, including a secretly recorded phone call between Johnson and Richmond's father. But a detective later closed the case, saying Richmond refused to cooperate. Richmond denied that.

As a result of the center's reporting, the Louisville Metro Police Department re-opened its investigation.

Johnson held a news conference Tuesday at his church, denying the allegations with his wife by his side. He said he would not resign, calling the accusations part of a strategy to attack conservative Republicans nationwide. He saved his criticism for the media, saying he did not "want to blast this girl. I have compassion for her. I'm very sorrowful she is in this dark place in her life."

The reporting center interviewed people who were at the Rodney King riots and spoke with an expert on religious faith and the presidency. All of them said Johnson's claims were false.

He insisted it was all true. "This whole piece was so outrageous. It was as though I had never lived or never done anything I had ever done," he told reporters.



MISCONDUCT ROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

NEW YORK

Walmart, book distributor suspend ties with Tavis Smiley

Walmart and a book distributor distanced themselves from Tavis Smiley on Thursday after PBS said an investigation found "troubling allegations" of sexual misconduct by the radio and TV host.

The moves came a day after PBS said it was suspending Smiley following an independent investigation by a law firm. PBS said the firm uncovered "multiple, credible allegations of conduct that is inconsistent with the values and standards of PBS." His show's page at PBS was scrubbed on Thursday.

Smiley has denied any wrongdoing.

Walmart, which had been a sponsor of Smiley's talk show and an upcoming touring theatrical show, cut ties with him. "We take these issues very seriously and are troubled by the recent allegations," the retail giant said in a statement. "As a result, we are suspending our relationship with Mr. Smiley, pending the outcome of the PBS investigation."

Hay House, which distributes the Smiley Books imprint, said all Smiley projects were "on hold" pending an internal review. Smiley had planned in September to release "Leading by Listening: Connecting through Conversation to Transform Your Relationships and Your Business."

Smiley responded to the allegations on Facebook, saying PBS "overreacted" and calling it "a rush to judgment."

NEW YORK

Simmons says he will 'defend' himself following rape claims

Music mogul Russell Simmons said on Instagram that he plans to defend himself a day after a New York Times story published claims by three women saying he raped them.

The allegations in the Times' Wednesday report stem from the 1980s and 1990s. Simmons denied the allegations Wednesday and again on Thursday.

"Today, I begin to properly defend myself. I will prove without any doubt that I am innocent of all rape charges," Simmons wrote Thursday on Instagram.

Simmons posted his words under a photo that read #NotMe, explaining that he isn't trying to go against the anti-harassment movement #MeToo, where millions have shared their stories about being sexually harassed and assaulted.

"My intention is not to diminish the #MeToo movement in any way, but instead hold my accusers accountable," he wrote.

"Again, this is not a movement against or even in conjunction with #MeToo. It's just a statement about my innocence."

The allegations in the Times story weren't the first to hit Simmons. Model Keri Klugh said Simmons coerced her to perform a sex act and later penetrated her without her consent in 1991. Simmons said the sex with Klugh was consensual.

ATLANTA

Spurlock on sexual harassment: 'I am part of the problem'

Declaring "I am part of the problem," documentarian Morgan Spurlock confessed in an online post to sexual harassment and infidelity, and said a woman accused him of rape in college.

In the post, which he linked to from his verified Twitter account, Spurlock wrote that as he watches other influential men brought down by allegations of sexual misconduct, "I don't sit by and wonder 'Who will be next?' I wonder, 'When will they come for me?'"

Spurlock recounted a sexual encounter in college he said he thought was consensual, but said the woman believed it was rape.

"I tried to comfort her. To make her feel better," Spurlock wrote. "I thought I was doing ok, I believed she was feeling better. She believed she was raped. That's why I'm part of the problem."

Spurlock also said he paid a settlement to a female assistant who worked at his office and whom he called "hot pants" or "sex pants." In the post, Spurlock says he thought the nickname was funny but later realized he was demeaning her.

"So, when she decided to quit, she came to me and said if I didn't pay her a settlement, she would tell everyone," he wrote. "Being who I was, it was the last thing I wanted, so of course, I paid."

OPINION

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Media's response to Trump hurts its credibility

Nation seems to be caught in a destructive loop of biased journalism presenting itself as simple fact, corrosive distrust from conservatives and cynical manipulation by a dishonest White House

Sarah Huckabee Sanders, the White House press secretary, claimed this week that reporters often lie: "There's a very big difference between making honest mistakes and purposefully misleading the American people. Something that happens regularly." Her evidence for this accusation consisted entirely of a reference to a "number of reports that have taken place over the last couple of weeks."

It's a gross falsehood, but the truth is bad enough. Reporters have made some high-profile errors in recent weeks, and they have all tended to put the Trump administration in an unfavorable light.

ABC offered the worst example. Brian Ross claimed that Donald Trump had told his then-adviser Michael Flynn to talk to Russian officials before he was elected

RAMESH PONNURU

Bloomington



president. The network had to retract that claim, and suspended Ross for a month. The contacts actually took place during the transition. The initial story seemed to back up the claim that Trump colluded with Russia to defeat Hillary Clinton. The corrected one merely showed he was doing what incoming presidents do routinely.

Sanders said of reporters that "you are purposely putting out information that you know to be false." There's no reason to think Ross or ABC knew their story was false. No news outlet wants to put itself in the position of having to issue a correction. What appears to have been at work here was instead sloppiness and bias: the desire to run with a hot story as soon as

possible, and a predisposition to believe the worst about Trump.

While most Americans trust the media more than they trust Trump, a lot of journalists feel besieged and frustrated. News organizations aren't sure how to respond to the criticisms they are getting from the Trump White House and its allies.

Some media organizations are patting themselves on the back for no obvious reason. CNN's "this is an apple" ad suggests that its reporting simply describes things as they are — apples as apples — contrary to what the disinformation campaigns would have you believe. The ad is misleading both about what CNN does and why conservatives dislike the network: It doesn't just report plain facts, and most critics aren't upset when it does.

We can debate what the 2016 election meant, but it didn't signal an untapped market for more media smugness. Or, for that matter, for more media whininess. Yet CNN responded to a childish Trump tweet by charging him with "bullying" Don Lemon, one of its on-air personalities.

A lot of journalists are reacting to

criticism not by pointing out when it's unfair but by indulging in hysterics.

When Trump tweets that TV networks' licenses should be revoked because of their partisanship, he is attacking the First Amendment. When he says that various reporters should be fired, he's not, even if his comments are obnoxious and would previously have been considered unpresidential. Too many journalists can't tell the difference.

While the press could do more to combat bias and error, it can't eliminate either. And conservatives too often react badly to the liberalism and fallibility of the press. Instead of consuming journalism with a healthful skepticism, they just discount stories they don't want to be true.

Right now we seem to be caught in a destructive loop of biased journalism presenting itself as simple fact, corrosive distrust from conservatives, and cynical manipulation by a dishonest White House.

It's not clear how to escape this cycle. But it is clear that the way the press is responding to Trump is not enhancing its credibility.

OUR VIEW

Competitors should have to earn way into National Spelling Bee

The people at the Scripps National Spelling Bee are making changes that could nearly double the number of students in the field.

Currently, there are 275 regional bees. One is centered in Midland. The winner of those bees advance to the national spelling bee. The champions get an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., courtesy of a local sponsor, which in Midland is the Reporter-Telegram.

Scripps, however, feels the competitiveness in certain regions mandates that more spellers should be added to the field. As it was written in an Associated Press article that ran in Tuesday's edition, "For the runners-up, it can be a bitter experience to watch less accomplished spellers compete on the biggest stage."

So, Scripps announced it will hand out up to 225 "wild cards." Priority will be given to spellers who have been to nationals before and then to older spellers who are running out of eligibility.

We are not sure what to make of the change. On one hand, this appears to be a University Interscholastic League-type move. The UIL is the governing body of high school athletics in Texas and has opened the postseason to four teams in each district. If one went back far enough, it seems likely that every time the field was expanded, someone said, "You know, in certain districts, there is a team left out that is better than all the teams from other districts."

We don't know how many spellers will be added to the field. The criteria at this point still leads to a subjective call about who is in and who is out. There is also the cost factor. There may be students who are deserving based on a runner-up finish, a previous trip to nationals or some other criteria but can't afford the cost of participation, which includes a \$750 entry fee, plus the cost of travel, lodging and food. What about them? Will Scripps pick up some of the costs for the spellers who didn't win but were selected to participate?

One other point we hope Scripps makes clear. There could be as much as \$150,000 in revenue generated by more than 200 families paying \$750 a piece to participate in this expanded bee.

The National Spelling Bee is a good competition, and we like the idea of a student earning his or her way to Washington. There should be pressure as a spelling bee goes down to the final words. There should be a reward for excellence, whether at the school, regional or national level. There should be an exclusivity, which disappears when people can buy their way into the national bee.

We have to admit we never liked it when sports tournaments are expanded to allow more teams in, and we probably won't care much for an expanded field that is made up of more than regional champions.

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Phone: 432-240-1000
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District 1: James Fuller, District 2: Robert Marquez, District 3: Timothy Bishop, District 4: John Kennedy, District 5: Karen Nicholson, District 6: Rick Davis, District 7: Bryan Murry

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Facebook: facebook.com/MidlandCollege
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SHENEMAN



President Trump surprises world with the truth about Jerusalem

President Donald Trump has recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, and it absolutely, undeniably is and has been for 70 years. In fact, an American law has said as much since 1995 and past presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama all echoed the indubitable verdict at one time or another.

But, oh, what a Trumpian horror, it's said. The U.N. Security Council has condemned Trump's decision, especially his intent to finally move our embassy from Tel Aviv to where the Israeli government is. That is seen as a kind of conclusiveness, and, with rabble-rousing anger, Palestinian leaders have said it's no longer going to meet with U.S. representatives to discuss a two-state peace solution with Israel. Other Arab nations in the Middle East are snarling, too, and European leaders are astonished at so flagrant a foul.

Here, we are told, could be a significant setback to peace negotiations, but such setbacks started with the founding of Israel and have been mainly the fault of Palestinians wanting Jewish settlers tossed out or extinguished. In the beginning, the international community mapped out a plan in which Israel and Palestine would get different territories. The Palestinians weren't having any, went to war in 1948 to get rid of the Israelis and Israel won enough land to sustain itself.

Part of what Israel captured was the western portion of Jerusalem. It had been declared an international city, but Israel established its capital there despite some still insistent naysayers. In a war with Arab states in 1967, Israel captured the eastern portion of Jerusalem from Jordan along with the West Bank it continues to control militarily.

If the Palestinian leaders thought a two-state solution might include Israel handing over western Jerusalem as a capital for them, they were living in never-never land. However, eastern Jerusalem as a Palestinian capital remains a possibility. Trump said nothing in his remarks about refusing to divide up the city again, and his U.N. ambassador, Nikki Haley, said the United States would have no objections if the two parties agreed to such a thing.

The real hindrance to the two-state solution is that the Hamas terrorists who run the Palestinian

JAY AMBROSE
Tribune News Service



Gaza Strip still see the only answer as the elimination of Israel, occasionally firing missiles to make the point. Then there is the Palestinian Authority representing the Palestinians on the West Bank and its funding of terrorists who visit Israel for fatal purposes. The issue of Jerusalem as the capital is nothing compared to all of this.

Of course, many will tell you that the Jews fleeing Europe after World War II had no right to settle in Israel despite their ages-old holy sites and Jews already there. They say Israel has violated international rules, that it has occupied the West Bank for far too long and that Palestinians there have been badly mistreated.

To say Israel has done no wrong would be fallacious. But look at the context of all of this: the Holocaust, anti-Semitism, tiny Israel surrounded by major Arab states wanting its demise, Israel twice making generous offers to the Palestinians demanding all or nothing, the Palestinian reluctance to even talk to Israelis and the Israeli need for endless self-defense to survive.

What we have in Israel is a self-disciplined, industrious, innovative nation that is humane and democratic despite the endless assaults of a United Nations filled with nations that are no such thing. Israel is one of our best allies, is hugely important to us and deserves our support.

Right now, other Arab nations that are likewise threatened by Iran are considering a closer relationship with this militarily fit nation. It's said that, if the two-state solution fails, Israel will have to absorb the Palestinians, but there is another suggested solution in which Israel returns much of the West Bank to Jordan, Egypt gets the Gaza Strip and Palestinians work things out with other Arabs.

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From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



Disney buying much of Fox, will help it compete with Netflix

By Tali Arbel
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Disney is buying a large part of Fox, including its movie and television studios, for about \$52.4 billion, as the home of Mickey Mouse tries to meet competition from technology companies in the entertainment business.

Disney's all-stock deal for the Murdoch family's 21st Century Fox gives it the studios that produce the Avatar movies, "The Simpsons" and "Modern Family." Murdoch will form a new company to keep the U.S. television networks, including Fox News Channel, Fox Business Network and Fox Broadcasting. "The Simpsons" will continue to air on Murdoch's Fox stations.

The deal also brings Marvel characters such as X-Men and The Avengers under one roof — Disney's.

In owning these properties, Disney will be in a better position to compete with the likes of Netflix when it launches ESPN- and Disney-branded streaming services in the coming years.

That Rupert Murdoch and his sons were willing to sell off much of the business that has been built up over decades came as a shock to the entertainment industry.

Murdoch, who built a global media and entertainment empire out of an inheritance from his father in Australia, said what remains of his family's business will be able to focus on American news and sports.

During a call with investors Thursday, Murdoch and his sons described the move as a return to the company's lean and aggressive roots.

Murdoch's new company will get national rights to Major League Baseball, the NFL, NASCAR and college sports through the Fox TV network and cable networks FS1, FS2 and Big Ten Network. Disney is getting Fox's regional sports networks, including the Yes Network showing the New York Yankees.

Disney also gets some cable and international TV businesses from Fox.

BATTILING NETFLIX

The deal — announced Thursday on the eve of a major "Star Wars" movie release from Disney — comes as the entertainment business goes through big changes. TV doesn't have a monopoly on home entertainment anymore. There's Netflix, which is spending up to \$8 billion on programming next year. Amazon is building its own library, having splashed out on global TV rights to "Lord of the Rings." Facebook, Google and Apple are also investing in video.

As consumers spend more time online, TV's share of U.S. ad spending is shrinking. Advertisers are following consumer attention to the internet, where Google and Facebook win the vast majority of advertisers' dollars.

To combat this trend, Disney is launching its own streaming services with exclusive video to sharpen its ability to compete with Netflix for consumer dollars.

Disney CEO Robert Iger said many Fox properties will fit with the new service, including National Geographic and additional Marvel productions. In some cases, though, Disney will have to wait for existing Fox deals to expire. Fox movies are exclusive to HBO through 2022, for example.

Before the buyout, Fox will separate the busi-

nesses it's keeping into a newly listed company. It will also keep the Fox studio lot in Los Angeles and equity investment in Roku.

Disney will get at least a 39 percent stake in European satellite-TV and broadcaster Sky. Fox is hoping to acquire the remainder of Sky before the deal closes, so that it could give Disney full control after the sale.

Disney is also acquiring Star India, a major media company with dozens of sports and entertainment channels.

Disney will also win majority control of Hulu, both its live-TV service and the older service with a big library of TV shows.

Not everyone thinks this is a good bet by Disney, though. Rich Greenfield, a longtime Disney critic, thinks the deal is a bad idea that ties Disney to older TV-distribution systems — cable and satellite TV — rather than helping it look toward the future.

He also notes that regulators may not like the idea of combining two major movie studios. The Justice Department surprised many in the industry and on Wall Street when it sued to block another media megamerge, AT&T's acquisition of Time Warner, in November.

A watchdog group, the Parents Television Council, worries that in getting larger, Disney would be able to extend the traditional big cable bundle to newer online services, resulting in higher prices for consumers.

That said, the White House says President Donald Trump supports the deal and called Murdoch to congratulate him.

MURDOCH FAMILY TAKES A BOW

Murdoch built his empire by buying a string of papers in Australia, the U.K. and the U.S., building an influential platform for his views. He expanded into TV and movies, launching the Fox network and Fox News and changing the face of American news and entertainment.

"Rupert has spent many, many years assembling the components of his empire," said NYU business professor Samuel Craig, who specializes in the entertainment industry.

Rupert Murdoch has ostensibly already handed the reins over to a new generation at Fox. His son James is CEO, while his other son, Lachlan, like Rupert, has the title of

executive chairman.

The Murdoch empire has already been divided. After a phone-hacking newspaper scandal in the U.K., News Corp. was split off into a separate company for the publishing and newspaper businesses, which include the New York Post, The Wall Street Journal, The Sun and The Times in the U.K., and book publisher HarperCollins. Now, Fox is slimming down, with the bulk of the company going to Disney.

"The Murdochs realize they don't have the same kind of leverage Disney has, the same kind of brand power," USC Annenberg communications professor Chris Smith said.

It would be harder to launch a Fox-branded streaming service that attracts lots of the new generation of consumers, for example. Smith said that makes it a great time to sell off the entertainment business.

Fox will be left with the live events, news and sports that are key parts of the traditional TV bundle.

MIGHTIER MOUSE

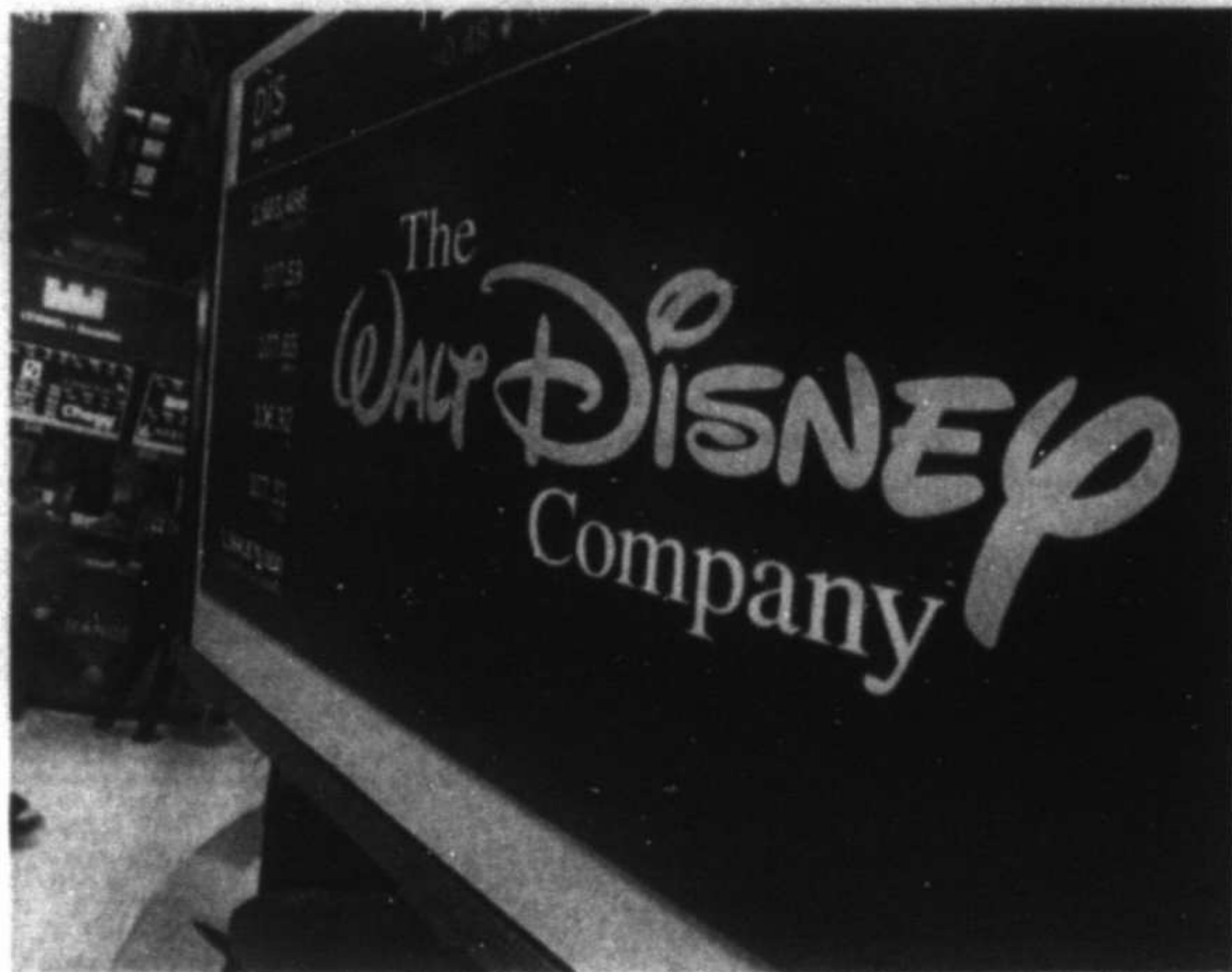
The Disney-branded service, expected in 2019, will have classic and upcoming movies from the studio, shows from Disney Channel, and the "Star Wars" and Marvel movies.

With Fox video, the new service could have more titles than Netflix, Barclays analyst Kannan Venkateshwar said. Buying Fox's FX networks will add edgy TV shows that complement Disney's long list of kid-friendly series and films, he said.

Disney also plans an ESPN Plus service for next year.

It isn't a duplicate of the ESPN TV network, but it will stream tennis matches along with major-league baseball, hockey and soccer games, as well as college sports. It might be able to add more sports through Fox's regional sports networks — cable channels that show popular sports in the viewer's region.

Disney also owns Marvel, but not all the Marvel characters. It's made movies starring Thor, Doctor Strange and Captain America and the Avengers crew. But the X-Men are at Fox. Bringing them home under one roof could mean movies with more of the characters together. Sony will still have rights to Marvel's Spider-Man, though a deal with Disney lets Spider-Man appear in Disney movies.



Richard Drew/Associated Press

The Walt Disney Co. logo appears on a screen Aug. 8 above the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Disney is buying a large part of the Murdoch family's 21st Century Fox in a \$52.4 billion deal, announced Thursday, including film and television studios, cable and international TV businesses as it tries to meet competition from technology companies in the entertainment business.

What stays, what goes: Disney and Murdoch after the sale

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Disney is buying a large part of Fox, but Fox News Channel and other U.S. television businesses are staying with the Murdoch family.

Here's a look at what the Disney and Murdoch empires will look like under The Walt Disney Co.'s \$52.4 billion deal for 21st Century Fox:

THE DISNEY BANNER

Besides classics such as Mickey Mouse and Goofy, Disney already owns several iconic franchises, including the Muppets, "Star Wars" and Marvel superhero movies and comics. It operates a major movie studio and several TV networks, including ABC, ESPN, the Disney Channel and Freeform.

With the deal, Disney gets the Fox movie business, including Twentieth Century Fox, Fox Searchlight Pictures and Fox 2000.

Fox held rights to some Marvel characters; this deal will bring Marvel's X-Men, Fantastic Four and Deadpool under the Disney roof. Disney will also take ownership of the "Avatar" franchise, which has already spawned a Disney theme park; sequels are on the way.

In terms of television production, Disney will get Twentieth Century Fox Television, FX Productions and Fox21, with shows including "The Simpsons" and "Modern Family."

Disney will get at least a 39 percent

stake in European satellite-TV and broadcaster Sky. Fox is hoping to acquire the remainder of Sky before the deal closes, giving Disney full control. Disney is also acquiring Star India, a major media company with dozens of sports and entertainment channels.

Disney, a co-owner of Hulu, will get Fox's share in the streaming company, giving Disney a majority control.

THE MURDOCH FAMILY

Before the sale, Fox will spin off some properties into a separate company, which the Murdoch family will control. Murdoch's new Fox will have the Fox television network and stations, Fox News Channel, Fox Business Network and the U.S. sports channels FS1, FS2 and Big Ten Network. It will also keep the Fox studio lot in Los Angeles and an equity investment in Roku, a maker of TV-streaming devices.

The publishing and newspaper businesses will stay with Murdoch, as those have already been separated into a different company, News Corp. Those businesses include the New York Post, The Wall Street Journal, The Sun and The Times in the U.K., and book publisher HarperCollins.

There's been speculation the Murdoch family will try to combine News Corp. with what's left of Fox, though Rupert Murdoch told investors Thursday, "We haven't thought about combining with News Corp."

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FCC votes along party lines to end 'net neutrality'

By Tali Arbel and
Barbara Ortutay
Associated Press

The Federal Communications Commission repealed the Obama-era "net neutrality" rules Thursday, giving internet service providers like Verizon, Comcast and AT&T a free hand to slow or block websites and apps as they see fit or charge more for faster speeds.

In a straight party-line vote of 3-2, the Republican-controlled FCC junked the long-time principle that said all web traffic must be treated equally. The move represents a radical departure from a decade of federal oversight.

The push toward eliminating the rules has touched off protests and stirred fears among consumer advocates and ordinary Americans that cable and phone companies will be able to control what people see and do online. On Thursday, about 60 demonstrators gathered in the bitter chill in Washington to protest the FCC's expected decision.

But the broadband industry has promised that the internet experience for the public isn't going to change.

The telecommunications companies lobbied hard to overturn the rules, contending they are heavy-handed and discourage investment in broadband networks.

"What is the FCC doing today?" asked FCC chairman Ajit Pai, a Republican. "Quite simply, we are restoring the light-touch framework that has

governed the internet for most of its existence."

The FCC vote is unlikely to be the last word. Opponents of the move plan legal challenges, with New York's attorney general vowing to lead a multi-state lawsuit, and some hope to make it an issue in the 2018 midterm elections. There is also some hope that Congress might overturn the FCC decision.

Mark Stanley, a spokesman for the civil liberties organization Demand Progress, said there is a "good chance" Congress could reverse it.

"The fact that Chairman Pai went through with this, a policy that is so unpopular, is somewhat shocking," he said. "Unfortunately, not surprising."

The FCC subscribed to the principle of net neutrality for about a decade and enshrined it in rules adopted in 2015.

Under the new rules approved Thursday, the Comcasts and AT&Ts of the world will be free to block rival apps, slow down competing services or offer faster speeds to companies that pay up. They just have to post their policies online or tell the FCC.

The change also eliminates certain federal consumer protections, bars state laws that contradict the FCC's approach, and largely transfers oversight of internet service to another agency altogether, the Federal Trade Commission.

AT&T and other big internet service providers welcomed the decision. AT&T senior executive vice president Bob Quinn

said in a blog post that the internet "will continue to work tomorrow just as it always has." Quinn said the company won't block websites and won't throttle or degrade online traffic based on content.

FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn, a Democrat appointed by President Barack Obama, lambasted the "preordained outcome" of the vote that she said hurts small and large businesses and ordinary people. She said the end of net neutrality hands over the keys to the internet to a "handful of multibillion-dollar corporations."

With their vote, she added, the FCC's Republican commissioners are abandoning the pledge they took to make a rapid, efficient communications service available to all people in the U.S., without discrimination.

But Michael O'Rielly, a Republican commissioner appointed by Obama, called the FCC's approach a "well-reasoned and soundly justified order."

The internet, he said, "has functioned without net neutrality rules for far longer than it has with them." The decision "will not break the internet."

New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, a Democrat, has been investigating what appears to be large numbers of fake public comments submitted to the FCC during the net neutrality comment process. Schneiderman said 2 million comments were submitted under stolen identities, including those of children and dead people.

What is net neutrality and why does it matter?

Associated Press

What is net neutrality?

Net neutrality is the principle that internet providers treat all web traffic equally, and it's pretty much how the internet has worked since its creation. But regulators, consumer advocates and internet companies were concerned about what broadband companies could do with their power as the pathway to the internet — blocking or slowing down apps that rival their own services, for example.

What did the government do about it?

The FCC in 2015 approved rules, on a party-line vote, that made sure cable and phone companies don't manipulate traffic. With them in place, a provider such as Comcast can't charge Netflix for a faster path to its customers, or block it or slow it down.

The net neutrality rules gave the FCC power to go after companies for business practices that weren't explicitly banned as well. For example, the Obama FCC said that "zero rating" practices by AT&T violated net neutrality. The telecom giant exempted its own video app from cellphone data caps, which would save some consumers money, and said video

rivals could pay for the same treatment. Under current chairman Ajit Pai, the FCC spiked the effort to go after AT&T, even before it began rolling out a plan to undo the net neutrality rules entirely.

A federal appeals court upheld the rules in 2016 after broadband providers sued.

What telcos want

Big telecom companies hate the stricter regulation that comes with the net neutrality rules and have fought them fiercely in court. They say the regulations can undermine investment in broadband and introduced uncertainty about what were acceptable business practices. There were concerns about potential price regulation, even though the FCC had said it won't set prices for consumer internet service.

What silicon valley wants

Internet companies such as Google have strongly backed net neutrality, but many tech firms have been more muted in their activism this year. Netflix, which had been vocal in support of the rules in 2015, said in January that weaker net neutrality wouldn't hurt it because it's now too popular with users for broadband providers to interfere.

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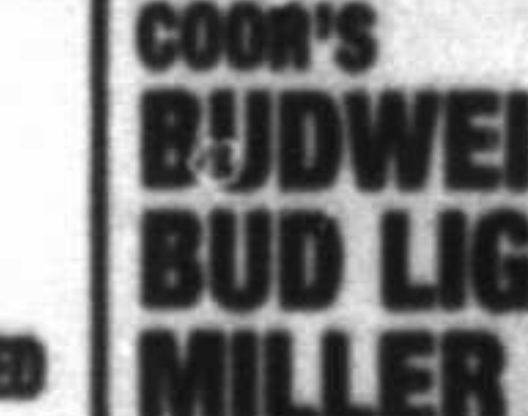


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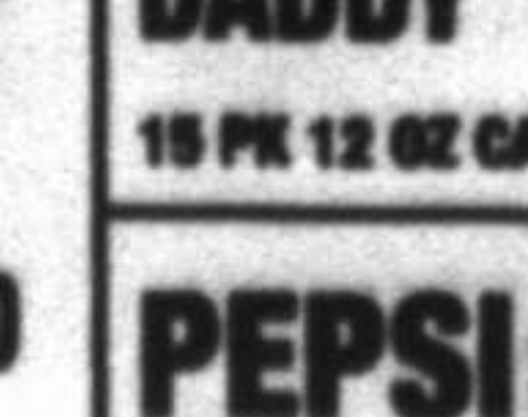


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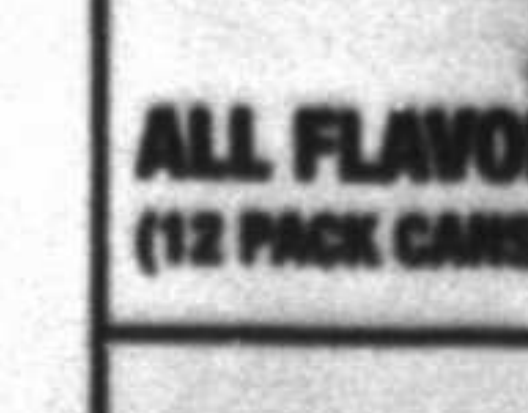


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FAITH & PHILANTHROPY

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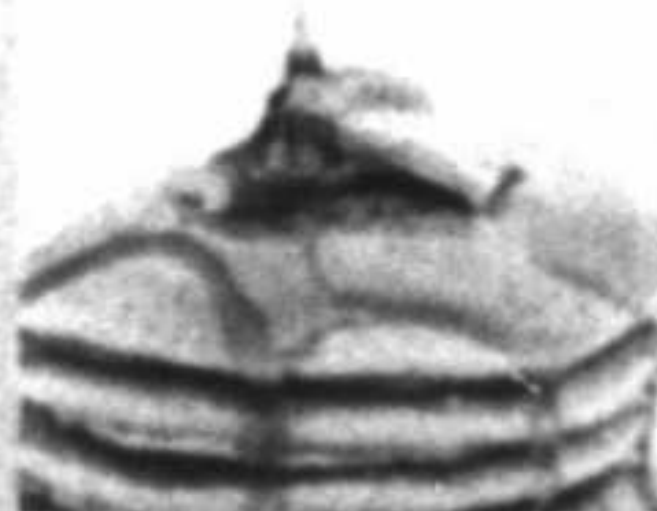
THIS WEEK

TODAY



TOY DRIVE
Today is the final day for Midland Soup Kitchen's toy drive which accepts new, unwrapped toys for ages 2 to 12 and \$25 gift cards for teens.

SATURDAY



SHORT STACK
The Knights of Columbus hosts Pancakes with Santa at St. Ann's Catholic Church. Guests can listen to stories, make ornaments and have a picture with Santa. 6 p.m.

SUNDAY



GOOD GRIEF
Enjoy a night with the Peanuts gang at "Christmas, Chocolate and Charlie Brown" at the Palmer Activity Christian Center. Enjoy refreshments, games and watch the classic "A Charlie Brown Christmas." 6 p.m.

SUNDAY

BOOK NIGHT
The George W. Bush Childhood Home hosts Third Thursday Reading with the featured book "It's Christmas" with copies given to each child. Free reservations are encouraged. 4:30 p.m.

See more calendar items on page 4B.

IN NEED

BELL RINGERS
The Salvation Army is looking for more volunteers to serve on its Red Kettle team. For information on volunteering call 683-3614.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
Midland Volunteer Connections offers an online list of opportunities at midlandvolunteerconnections.com for current needs by area nonprofits.

HOSPICE HELP
Volunteer opportunities for two to four hours a shift. Call 682-2855 for more information.

RETAIL SKILLS
Habitat ReStore is in need of people who enjoy decorating and setting up displays to help set up the ReStore for maximum customer appeal. Must be at least 16 years old. bbbmidsland.org.



Tom Gratish/The Philadelphia Inquirer via AP

Sister Kathleen Schipani, left, director of the office for persons with disabilities and the deaf apostolate in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, signs/talks with Robert Pomroy, second from left, 11, while his sister, Rachael Pomroy, second from right, 8, signs/talks with their grandmother, Pat Pomroy, right, Nov. 20 after school at their Crydon home. The siblings are deaf. Schipani found many existing apps for learning American Sign Language, but there were none dedicated to religious terms, daily devotions or prayers. So she created one, an app called Religious Signs for Families.

Nun develops app for deaf children learning to pray

By Kristin E. Holmes
The Philadelphia Inquirer

PHILADELPHIA — Pat Pomroy had just gained custody of two of her young grandchildren and wanted to say prayers with them. But she had no idea how.

Robert and Rachael are deaf. In Pomroy's struggle to learn enough American Sign Language (ASL) to get through the basics of everyday life with them, expressions of faith would have to wait.

Then Pomroy came upon a teacher, one who could show her and her grandchildren that the sign for Jesus Christ is a finger alternately tapping the palm of the opposite hand, in reference to the crucifixion; that a clap followed by hands and fingers spinning in the air is "alleluia"; that palms together with a twisting motion means "peace."

Until she met Sister Kathleen Schipani four years ago, "I didn't have a way to communicate religion and faith" to the children, said Pomroy, of Crydon, Pennsylvania. "My faith has seen me through a lot of things in my life, and I want them to have the same."

Schipani, director of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's Deaf Apostolate, has since enlisted Robert and Rachael, now 11 and 8 years old, as

stars of an app she has created to teach families with deaf children how to pray, worship and talk about faith in ASL.

"Religious Signs for Families" is one of the first apps to focus solely on religious terminology, giving visual interpretations to concepts such as prayer, blessing, and praise.

"When parents go to community programs to learn sign, they are not learning religious signing," said Schipani, 62. "Religious topics don't come up in these settings."

In her new app, seven adults and 13 children sign words including angel and blessing, and simple prayers such as "God bless mommy," "Holy Spirit, guide me," and "Angel of God, watch over me as I sleep." The signs are captioned and voiced in English and Spanish.

Schipani introduced the app — available on iPhone and Android platforms for \$2.99 — at an October meeting at the Vatican of the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization, which included seminars on how to involve people with disabilities in church life.

The \$20,000 project is being funded by the Deaf Apostolate, several small grants, and proceeds from app sales. Schipani said she hopes it will be the first of several developed by her office, which serves about 900 households in the archdiocese.

The app is a "marvelous and glorious" tool for

families, said Roz McKelvey, an ASL interpreter, foster parent to deaf children, and founder and president of Germantown Deaf Ministries Fellowship, a faith-based social services agency. At her own congregation, Grace United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, she leads a monthly religious sign class that teaches the "ABC's and colors," the basics of religious sign language.

Likewise, Schipani's app introduces elementary words and concepts, most of which can be applied across Christian denominations, and even to some other faith traditions, Schipani said. Prayers such as "God, thank you for my family" and "God, keep me safe" are ecumenical requests of the almighty.

Nonetheless, there are distinctions. Like other languages, ASL has expressions that are specific to region, race and ethnicity, socioeconomic class, gender and religion, said Kirk VanGilder, an associate professor at Gallaudet University, a college for deaf and hard-of-hearing students in Washington, D.C. For instance, the sign for baptism might be based on the sprinkling of water on an infant in one religious tradition, and the full immersion of an adult in another.

Religious signing in Judaism has an added complexity, requiring the interpretation of the Hebrew used in services, prayers and rituals, said Gabrielle Kaplan-Mayer, director of the office of Whole Community Inclusion at Jewish Learning Venture, a Jenkintown, Pennsylvania, nonprofit that advocates Jewish engagement.

Thirty years ago, as an eighth-grade teacher, Schipani began learning what she calls a basic form of sign language to better reach students with intellectual disabilities. When a child with deaf parents invited her to a Mass at which the

Please see APP/6B

Financial Peace University classes to begin next month

From staff reports

Ramsey Solutions' Financial Peace University will be offered at several local churches beginning next month.

Created by financial expert Dave Ramsey, the nine-week course provides families and individuals with practical tools to gain control of their finances and set themselves up for long-term financial success.

The classes will be held at the following locations beginning on the date and time listed.

For more information or to register, visit fpu.com.

Jan. 7 | 6 p.m. at Mid-Cities Community Church, 8700 State Highway 191. fpu.com/1052954.

Jan. 9 | 6:30 p.m. at Wilshire Park Baptist Church, 801 S. Bentwood Drive.

Jan. 16 | 6 p.m. at Elevate Church, 200 Baldwin St.

Jan. 17 | 6:30 p.m. at Fairmont Park Church of Christ, 3813 Midland Drive.

Jan. 17 | 6:30 p.m. at Kelview Heights Baptist Church, 402 West Scharbauer Drive.

Jan. 17 | 7 p.m. at Mid-Cities Community Church.

Jan. 24 | 6:30 p.m. at Christ Church Anglican, 5501 N. Midkiff Road.

The course teaches lessons on budgeting, relationships and money, getting out of debt, saving for emergencies and investing.



Dave Ramsey

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Big Brothers Big Sisters eyeing program in Odessa

From staff reports

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Midland and a group of Odessans are working together to bring the mentoring program to Ector County, but they must raise approximately \$75,000 to make it happen.

Midland BBBS Executive Director Kay Crites said Odessans Todd Richardson and Chris Stanley approached her in April regarding the need for the program in Odessa.

She said the agency receives several calls a month from Odessa parents who want to enroll their children in the program.

"We knew there was a definite need, but we've always had to tell them the service wasn't available in Ector County," Crites said in a press release. "So, we were excited to start exploring this possibility."

The group requested preliminary authorization from Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, formed a committee to spearhead the effort and sought to partner with Ector County ISD.

Committee members

are Jay Arrick, president; Feliz Abalos, vice president; Pat Canty, David Watts, Dawn Weaks, Charles Cotten, Richardson and Stanley. Arrick and Richardson formerly served as Big Brothers.

The group plans to begin with a school-based program, matching mentors with children at an Odessa elementary school.

Crites said part of the requirements from the national organization include completion of a three-year business plan, including a detailed budget. Before the program can start in Odessa, the group must demonstrate the first year of operating costs are pledged or received and that there is a "reasonable expectation" for raising the necessary funds for the following two years.

The annual budget is approximately \$100,000, although start-up costs will take the first-year's total slightly higher. To date, Big Brothers Big Sisters has received pledges of \$31,200 from the Education Foundation of Odessa and \$7,500

Please see ODESSA/4B

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let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Psalm 118:24*

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303 E. Shandon
432-682-4931
- Mt. Rose Baptist Church**
211 N. Tyler St
432-682-4777
- New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist**
1801 N. Carver
432-682-6457
- Northwestern Baptist Church**
3901 Mockingbird Lane
432-369-0612
- Ranchland Heights Baptist**
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432-697-4471
- Second Baptist Church**
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432-694-9856
- South Memorial Baptist Church**
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432-262-1192
- Southwest Baptist Church**
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432-561-8885
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432-694-5100
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432-694-3634
- Travis Baptist Church**
1000 E. Gast
432-685-3220
- Valley View Baptist Church**
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432-682-4633
- Victory Fellowship**
3500 Anetta
432-563-2353
- West Kentucky Baptist Church**
1507 W. Kentucky Ave
432-684-5458
- Wilshire Park Baptist**
801 S. Bentwood
432-694-7787
- Kelview Heights Baptist Church**
402 W. Scharbauer Drive
432-682-3842
- Bible**
Calvary Chapel of Midland/Odessa
Highway 191 & FM 1788
432-561-9141
- Colonial Bible Church**
6112 N. State Highway 349 FC 2
432-685-2612
- Midland Bible Church**
5900 Whitman Dr
432-684-9722
- Catholic**
Our Lady of Goodhope Catholic Church
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432-682-2581
- St. Ann's Catholic Church**
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432-682-6303
- St. Michael The Archangel Traditional Catholic Church**
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432-686-7709
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432-687-1419
- Christian Church of Midland**
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432-684-7581
- Community of Christ**
3603 Douglas
432-694-7720
- St. Paul CME Church**
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432-682-0010
- Christian Worshipers of Christ**
First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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Midland, TX 79701
432-682-3541
- Church on the Journey (Disciples of Christ)**
Fellowship Hall at Grace Presbyterian
2801 N. Garfield
432-694-2685
- Christian and Missionary**
Alliance Fellowship Community Church
5206 N. Midland Dr.
432-699-6068
- The Redeemed Christian Church of God**
3201 Heritage Blvd., Midland
347-737-8952
- Christian Science**
First Church of Christ, Scientist
1001 W. Tennessee
432-682-8197
- Christian Science Reading Room**
Mission Square, 4400 N. Big Spring
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432-682-8476
- Church of Christ**
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- Eastside Church of Christ**
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432-684-4733
- Fairmont Park Church of Christ**
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661-3233, 634-1948
- Iglesia de Cristo (En Espanol)**
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432-272-3724, 432-262-3969
- Gardendale Church of Christ**
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432-366-0042
- Golf Course Road Church of Christ**
3500 W. Golf Course Rd
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- Lamesa Rd. Church of Christ**
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432-685-0885
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432-683-1750

Camino de Vida Midland Hispanic y Foursquare Church
100 West Oak
432-352-9524

Full Gospel

Living Hope Church
2911 CR 1140
432-693-6398

Voice of Victory - A Word Church
1508 S. Main St.
432-686-7566

Redeemer Christian Fellowship
3000 Franklin Street
432-683-1370

Hindu

Hindu Association of West (HAWT)
4401 Cardinal Lane
432-520-4298

Interdenominational

Midland Center for Spiritual Living
1908 W. Wall, Ste. D-Midland, Texas
432-684-4230

Sovereign Grace Church
(formerly Christian Life Center)
2901 W. Kansas
432-683-4506

West Texas Cowboy Church
12144 E. Hwy 158, Gardendale, TX
432-488-8588

Jewish

Temple Beth El
1501 N. Grandview, Odessa, TX
432-550-5111

Lutheran

Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church
3800 Bluebird Lane
432-694-4971

Grace Lutheran Church
3000 W. Golf Course Rd.
432-697-3221

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
5110 N. Garfield
432-570-8149

Hope Lutheran Church (ECLA)
2003 N. A St.
432-683-1936

Lutheran Church of the Risen Lord
1603 N. Grandview, Odessa, TX
432-362-2549

Midland Lutheran Church
2705 W. Michigan
432-694-1373

Muslim

Belt Haderekh
13370 Hwy 191, Odessa, TX
432-264-8976

Methodist United

Resurrection United Methodist Church
9541 W. 57th St., Odessa, TX
432-385-1212

St. Mark's United Methodist
1701 N. Main
432-683-3339

First United Methodist Church
Main & Ohio St.
432-682-3701

First United Methodist Church
600 N. Goldsmith St., Goldsmith, TX
432-385-1212

St. Luke's United Methodist Church
3011 W. Kansas
432-694-2571

St. Paul's United Methodist Church
4501 Thompson Drive
432-694-2544

Visionary Hollowell Community UMC
400 S. Marshall St.
432-682-1574

Muslim

Muslim Association of West
1200 S. Midland Dr.
432-262-6226

Islamic Center of the Permian Basin
5010 W. Loop 250 N. Apt. 10E
432-520-3751

Nazarene

The Gathering @ Midland (A Church of the Nazarene)
3303 W. Illinois, Space #2
432-889-9178

Non-Denominational

The Seed
4201 W. Illinois
432-269-6988

The Pottery House

4411 W. Illinois, #B5
432-279-0198

The Orchard, Your Neighborhood Church
6112 N. Big Spring Street

Renew Life Church
Cole Theatre, 2000 W. Wadley Ave.
432-689-7284

Abiding in Christ Ministries
1208 A County Road 138 West
Midland
432-699-4513

Christian Faith Ministry
2215 N. Midland Dr., #5A
432-218-6412

Church of God 7th Day
609 N. Dallas
432-218-8595

Church of New Beginnings
4309 W. Illinois, Suite A
432-553-1400

Cornerstone Christian Fellowship
901 N. Midland Dr.
432-689-8898

Crossroads Fellowship
6901 East State Hwy 191, Odessa, TX
432-368-2500

Family Faith Christian Center
7909 Hwy. 307
432-686-9468

The HUB Outreach Ministry & Church
4201 W. Illinois, Midland, TX
432-269-6988

Inner City Tabernacle of Life Ministries
3607 N. Dixie, Odessa, TX
432-272-2544

LifeHouse Fellowship
3300 Thomas Avenue
432-262-LIFE

Manna of the Word Ministry
1312 S. Jackson, Odessa, TX
432-230-0599

Mid-Cities Community Church
8700 W. Hwy. 191
432-563-9444

Mount Moriah Disciples of Christ
701 S. Calhoun
432-687-0630

New Harvest Fellowship Church
4010 North County Road 1130
(432) 853-9830 and (432) 894-6281

Our Savior's Christian Fellowship
3309 Neely
432-694-4517

The Cowboy Church of the Permian Basin
3900 N. FM 1788
432-563-0028

Apostolic Assembly in the Faith Christ Jesus
2309 S. Fort Worth
432-686-8526

Beacon Light Outreach Ministries
410 S. Lee
432-599-0793

Christian Motorcyclists Association
4632 Corley Ave., Odessa, TX
432-978-1986

Christian Tabernacle Church
10807 W. CR 145
432-262-5072

Church in the Wind
1001 Austin St.
432-556-2062

Crossway Church Adult
1000 Upland
432-528-8541

Destiny by Grace Christian Worship Center
3303 S. Hwy 349
432-556-6638

Elevate Church
200 Baldwin
432-685-1981

Faith Apostolic Church
4001 W. Illinois Ave.
432-520-5371

Faith Country Church
Exit 142 11-20 E. to FM 1208, 5 miles
432-458-3580

Footprints Redemption Church
6005 E. Hwy 80 (Bus 1-20)
432-664-9113

Greater Grace Temple Christian Faith Center
Midland Center Room 3
866-544-7223

Harvest Time Church
8300 State Hwy. 591
432-563-5683

Heart of Worship Baptist Fellowship
1306 E. Taylor
432-337-9372

Iglesia de Dios 70 Dias

405 E. Stokes
432-684-8541

Inner City Tabernacle of Life Ministries
3607 N. Dixie Blvd., Odessa, TX
432-272-2544

New Day Christian Fellowship
4200 W. Illinois, Suite 280
432-694-4233

New Harvest Fellowship
4010 NCR 1130
432-699-5821, 432-853-9830

Rock Fellowship Church
410 S. Pecos
432-685-3858

Salvation Army Church
3500 Park Lane
432-683-3614

Solid Rock Fellowship Outreach
4601 W. Interstate 20 (South Service Road Between Midkiff and Loop 250)
432-664-4279

St. Paul C.M.C. Church
409 S. Lee Street
432-682-0010

Teen Challenge Services
6901 S. CR 1200
432-687-0348

Teen Flow Service
711 S. Main
432-686-2525

Temple Jerusalem
1205 S. Belmont
432-683-4806

The World Wide Church of God Bible
1207 W. 10th St., Odessa, TX
432-381-8352

True Life Christian Fellowship Church
3001 N. A St.
432-687-3077

Orthodox
Holy Cross Orthodox Church
1616 W. Golf Course Rd.
(432) 741-1040

Pentecostal Assemblies of the World
Jesus Home United Pentecostal Church
3110 W. C.R. 116
432-694-8702

Lighthouse Pentecostal Church
200 N. Lincoln
432-682-7186

Temple Glorious Mahana
511 S. Stonewall
432-664-0803

The Pentecostals
5110 W. Illinois Ave.
432-697-4007

The Generation (UPC United Pentecostal Church)
409 W. Pine
432-685-3919

Presbyterian
First Presbyterian Church
800 W. Texas
432-684-7821

Grace Presbyterian Church
2801 N. Garfield
432-684-6542

Providence Presbyterian Church (PCA)
2900 Princeton
432-520-5255

Seventh Day Adventist
Seventh Day Adventist Church
3114 Travis
432-694-2746

Midland Spanish Seventh Day Adventist Church
110 W. Pennsylvania
432-620-0882

Southern Baptist
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4712 Shadylane
432-684-5490

Grace Covenant Church
5711 Whitman
432-563-1053

Unitarian Universalist
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3301 Neely
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Matthew 19:26

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PSALM 31:24

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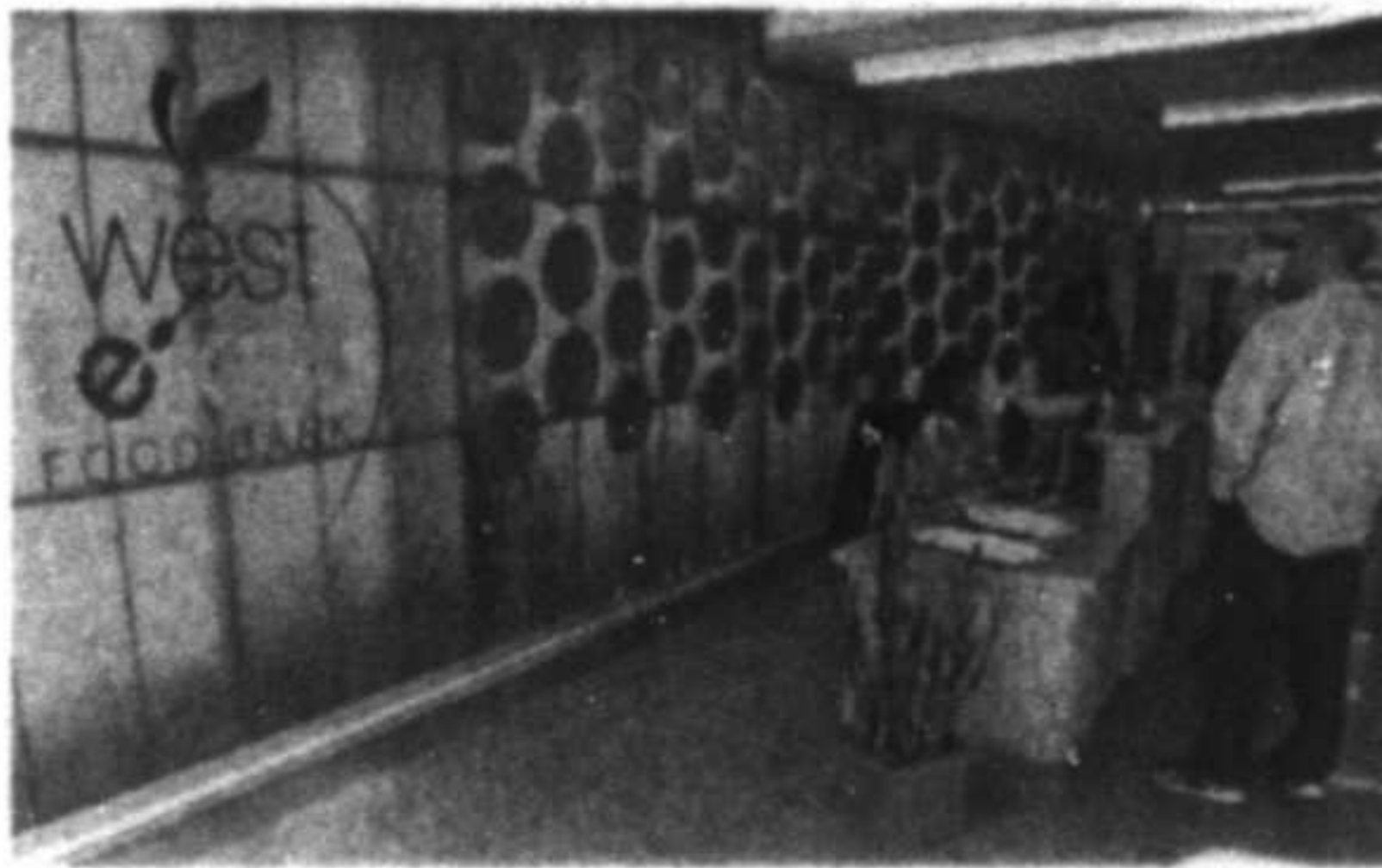
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H-E-B donates oatmeal to WTFB

From staff reports

The West Texas Food Banks is among food banks across Texas that will be receiving a delivery from H-E-B this week.

The grocery chain is donating H-E-B Select Ingredients Quick Oats oatmeal to 17 facilities across the state. Each food bank will be receiving 5,760 boxes of oatmeal, or enough to make 172,800 bowls of the cereal, according to a press release from H-E-B.



MRT file photo

Arkansas panel clears way for new commandments marker

By Jill Bleed
Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — An Arkansas commission cleared the way Tuesday for the installation of another Ten Commandments monument outside the state Capitol, after a previous marker was shattered when a man crashed his car into the monolith less than 24 hours after it was put in place.

The Arkansas Capitol Arts and Grounds Commission signed off on the final design, which will include four concrete posts for the monument's protection.

Officials and supporters said there's no guarantee that such security measures will prevent the monument's destruction but that they're confident with the final design.

"There's nothing you can do to make it perfect," said Republican state Rep. Bob Ballinger, who attended Tuesday's meeting as a representative of the American History & Heritage Foundation, the private group that's paying for the monument. "We think that considering cost, time and everything, we've done everything reasonable possible."

Chief Deputy Secretary of State Kelly Boyd said the commission will review the security of all monuments on Capitol grounds, which also include ones honoring firefighters, veterans and the nine students who desegregated Little Rock's Central High School. The Little Rock Nine monu-

ment already includes concrete posts similar to the ones that will be placed with the Ten Commandments monument.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Arkansas said Tuesday that it plans to sue over the monument.

"Erecting this monument is unnecessarily divisive and undermines our fundamental constitutional commitment to religious liberty for all Americans," said Holly Dickson, the organization's legal director. "Religious liberty means the government doesn't take sides on questions of faith."

The previous Ten Commandments monument was in place for less than 24 hours before it was destroyed by a man who was also accused of destroying Oklahoma's Ten Commandments monument in the same manner. The man, who livestreamed the incident on Facebook, was charged with criminal mischief in Arkansas but has been found mentally unfit for trial.

Ballinger said the replacement monument has already been built and should be installed in the coming weeks.

Arkansas' monument is a replica of a display at the Texas Capitol that was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2005. After Oklahoma's monument was destroyed in 2014, a replacement was erected but then ordered removed by that state's Supreme Court, which determined its location on state property violated a constitutional prohibition on the use of state funds to support a religion.

In Alabama, Roy Moore was removed as chief justice of the state Supreme Court for refusing a federal court order to remove a Ten Commandments monument from the state judicial building.

Plans for Arkansas' monument also sparked a push by the Satanic Temple for a competing statue of Baphomet, a goat-headed, angel-winged creature accompanied by two smiling children.

Obituaries



Karen Victoria Gigstad Martin

Karen Victoria Gigstad Martin died peacefully in her home on December 11, 2017. She was born on January 25, 1925 in Beach, North Dakota. She was the fifth child of seven born to the Reverend Walter and Selma Gigstad. Karen cherished her childhood and delighted in sharing many stories of the time spent with her parents and siblings.

Karen spent her childhood in Lessor, Wisconsin and moved to Clifton, Texas in 1941. After High School, she went to North Texas State Teacher's College and graduated in 1947 with a degree in Education. She then taught school in Carthage, Texas. In 1956, she accepted a teaching position in Midland. Soon thereafter, she met and married the love of her life, William Henson Martin. Their marriage was blessed with two daughters, Marjean Martin Murphy and Sigrid Martin Coats.

The family was active in Midland Lutheran Church where Karen taught Sunday School, sang in the choir, trained the acolytes and was also active in the Ladies Circle. Karen was a lifelong Lutheran and for the last several years of her life, was a faithful member of the Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

Throughout her life, she was motivated by having fun. Whether playing golf, eating out, travelling, spending time with friends, family or grandchildren, she was always ready to go. She was blessed with a fighting spirit that helped her remain healthy and to live at home. Karen gave generously to many causes, especially charities that supported those in need.

Karen was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, brothers, Walter Theodore Gigstad, Goldbrin Gigstad and a sister Marie Harvick. She was survived by her daughters Marjean Martin Murphy and husband Dan Murphy, Sigrid Martin Coats and husband Richard Coats, sisters Jordice Browning, Constance Smith, and Audri Dehlinger Welch. She is also survived by five grandchildren, Mark McClurg, Sarah Murphy and husband Jerry, Karen Story, Harlan Coats and Adrienne Coats, and three great grandchildren Isabelle, Elizabeth and J. Murphy and many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to her caregivers, Maria Florez and Raimie Gandy, and also to Nurses Unlimited for all of the great caregivers that helped take care of Karen in the last weeks of her life.

Funeral services are scheduled for 3:30 p.m. on Friday, December 15, 2017, at the Holy Cross Lutheran Church. A reception will follow at the Petroleum Club. Memorials may be directed to the Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Good News Ministries, P.O. Box 3315, Midland, TX 79702 or a charity of one's choice.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory.

Crematory of Midland. Online condolences may be made at www.npwelch.com.
Nalley-Pickle & Welch
Funeral Home & Crematory
(432) 550-5800



Lee B. Herndon

Lee B. Herndon, 92, of Big Spring, died Sunday, December 10, 2017 in a local nursing home. Funeral services will be 2:00 PM Saturday, December 16, 2017 at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel in Big Spring. There will be a private family committal service.

He was born May 17, 1925 in Jones County, Texas and married Neva Rue Conner February 21, 1952 in Colorado City, Texas.

Lee served in the United States Navy on the USS Hughes during World War II and was in many of the major battles in the Pacific Theater. After the war Lee attended Abilene Christian College and graduated in 1949 with a Bachelor in Business Degree. He moved to Big Spring in 1954 and had worked as an accountant for Jones-Laughlin Steel, CRMWD, Shroyer Motor Company and Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home. Lee had been a member of Howard ARC and had served as treasurer.

Survivors include his wife, Neva Rue Herndon of Big Spring, one daughter, LeAnn Bruton of Bandera, two grandchildren, Jason Baskin of Nashville, Tennessee and Lauren Bowman and husband, Robert, of San Antonio, and two brothers, Eldon Herndon of Midland and Jack Stanley Herndon of Abilene.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Clifton W. and Ruby Herndon two brothers, C.B. Herndon and W.D. Herndon and a son-in-law, Martin Bruton.

The family suggests memorials to 14th and Main Church of Christ, 1401 S. Main St., Big Spring, Texas 79720 or to Howard County ARC, P.O. Box 1762, Big Spring, Texas 79721.

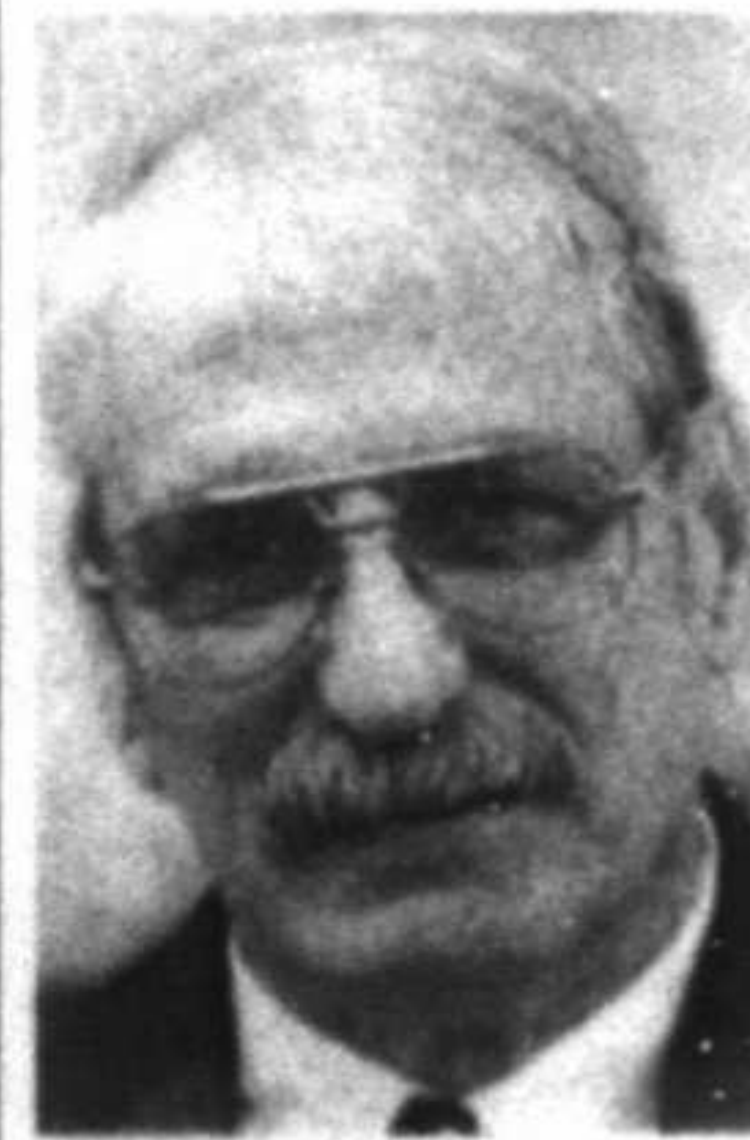
Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory, Big Spring, Texas. Online condolences can be made at www.npwelch.com.

Nalley-Pickle & Welch
Funeral Home & Crematory
(432) 267-4331

Midland Reporter-Telegram

MRT.com

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



Richard Dolan

Richard Dolan, 75, of Midland passed away Monday, December 11, 2017 in Midland. Memorial service will be 2:00 pm Saturday, December 16, 2017 at Westside Church of Christ.

Richard was born November 20, 1942 in Pueblo, Colorado to Richard Woodrow Dolan and Wilma Jean Hobson Dolan. After graduating high school he joined the U.S. Air Force and proudly served his country for eight years. He married Glenda Jean Miller November 3, 1961 in Brownwood, Texas. Richard started and attended Howard Payne College where he attained a Bachelor degree. He attended Abilene Christian University and finally graduated University of Texas Permian Basin with a Masters in Counseling. He worked for Buena Vista ISD and Midland ISD before retiring in 1998. Richard was a member of the Texas State Teachers Association, Classroom Teachers Association and the National Education Association. Just this year in May he was honored with a seat and trip on the Texas Permian Basin Honor Flight.

Richard is survived by his mother Wilma Howell of Midland; loving wife of 56 years Glenda Dolan of Midland; sons Rich Dolan and wife Ronda of Cambodia, Ross Dolan of Midland, and Russell Dolan and wife Dee Dee of Midland; 13 grandchildren; numerous great grandchildren and great great grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made in his honor to the American Lung Association, Westside Church of Christ or a favorite charity of your choice.

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

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

Death Notices

Adelina Martinez

Adelina Martinez, 65, passed away peacefully on Monday, December 11, 2017.

A memorial service will be Saturday, December 16, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at Family Faith Christian Center.

He is survived by her husband, Reynaldo F. Martinez; two daughters, Melinda Martinez and Lisa Martinez; mother, Herlinda (Linda) Melendez; and by five brothers and two sisters.

Charles DeWayne Hayes

Charles DeWayne Hayes, 63, of Odessa, passed away December 8, 2017. He was born August 19, 1954 in Lubbock, Texas to Quannah and Edythe Hayes.

He is survived by his children, Brandon Hayes, Shawna Hayes and Tiffany Archer; four siblings.

There are no services scheduled at this time.

ODESSA

From 1B

in pledges from private individuals and groups. In addition, First Christian Church of Odessa has offered office space in its new building at a very affordable rate, Crites said.

Crites said she is confident there is sufficient support in Odessa to get the program going.

"We have some really great people on the committee who are excited to make this happen because they know the difference our program can make in children's lives," she said.

The program could be launched in the spring 2018 semester.

Cinergy collects 1,735 pounds of food for WTFB

From staff reports

More than 1,700 pounds of food were collected during Cinergy Entertainment Group's recent food drive to benefit the West Texas Food Bank, according to a press release from Cinergy.

Patrons could bring two canned food items in exchange for a \$5 game card or small popcorn during the Thanksgiving holiday. "Partnerships with

companies like Cinergy are important because it raises awareness about the issue of hunger in West Texas," said food bank Executive Director Libby Campbell. "We are always looking for ways to get our communities involved, and during the holidays people are already going to the movies."

The 1,735 pounds of food collected equals 1,446 meals, she said.

CALENDAR

COMPILED BY STAFF REPORTS AND THE ARTS COUNCIL OF MIDLAND | ACMIDLAND.ORG
DEC. 15-21

Today

Midland Soup Kitchen Toy Drive ends today. The organization will accept new, unwrapped toys for ages 2 to 12 and \$25 gift cards for teens at 1401 Orchard Lane.

Breaking Bread Christmas Party for the community 5:30-7 p.m. at Breaking Bread Soup Kitchen, 410 E. Florida St. Santa with distribute gifts for children and adults.

Saturday

Family Fitmas is a healthy holiday celebration with obstacle courses, a trail mix bar and photos with Santa. Open to the community. 7 a.m.-2 p.m. at Midland YMCA, 800 N. Big Spring St. midlandymca.org.

Winter Market by the Midland Downtown Farmers Market. 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Museum of the Southwest, 1705 W. Missouri Ave.

Yoga classes are offered weekly. 9 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church, 3301 Neely Ave. Free. uumidland.org.

Pancakes with Santa by the Knights of Columbus. Guests can listen to the story of St. Lucy, make an ornament for the church and have a picture taken with

Santa. 6-8 p.m. at St. Ann's Catholic Church, 1906 W. Texas Ave.

Sunday

"Christmas, Chocolate and Charlie Brown." Guests can enjoy refreshments, games and of "A Charlie Brown Christmas" and "The Peanuts Movie." 6-9 p.m. at Palmer Activity Christian Center, 1305 E. Illinois Ave.

Monday

SciGirls STEM Camp for ages 8-12. 5 p.m. at Midland County Public Library downtown branch, 301 W. Missouri Ave.

Grief Support six-week session, 6:30-8 p.m. at Hospice Midland, 911 W Texas Ave. hospiceofmidland.org.

Belly dancing class, 8 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Church, 3301 Neely Ave. uumidland.org.

Tuesday

Brown Bag Lunch and Sing will feature Andy Wilkinson of the Crossroads of Music Archive. Wilkinson will also perform during the event. 11:30 a.m. at the Petroleum Museum, 1500 Interstate 20. Tea and dessert provided. Free. pbpetro.org.

Intro to Buddhism

features basic meditation and then discussion. Hosted by Permian Basin Buddhists. 7 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Church, 3301 Neely Ave. meetup.com/Permian-Basin-Buddhists.

Wednesday

Caregiver Support group, noon-1 p.m. at Hospice Midland, 911 W Texas Ave. hospiceofmidland.org.

Thursday

Brothers in Christ is a weekly men's group with studies that range from the Bible to topical issues. 6:30 a.m. at Midland Bible Church, 5900 Whitman Drive. midlandbible.org.

Third Thursday Reading will have a featured book with copies given to each child. The monthly event is part of the Laura Bush Literacy Program. Free but space is limited so reservations are encouraged. Refreshments provided. 4:30 p.m. at the George W. Bush Childhood Home, 1412 W. Ohio Ave. bushchildhoodhome.org.

To include your event on this calendar, please email Rich Lopez at rlopez@mrt.com.

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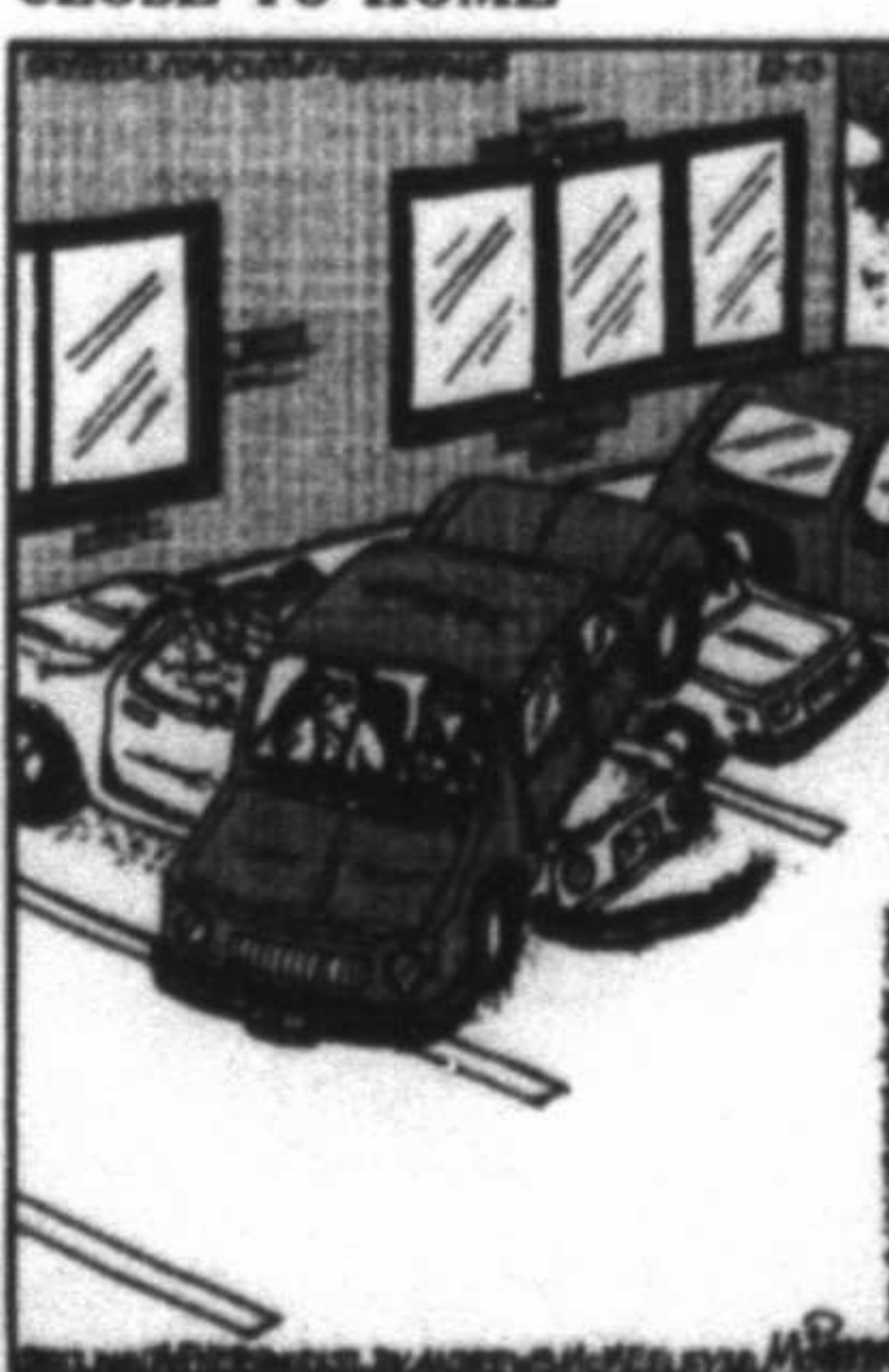
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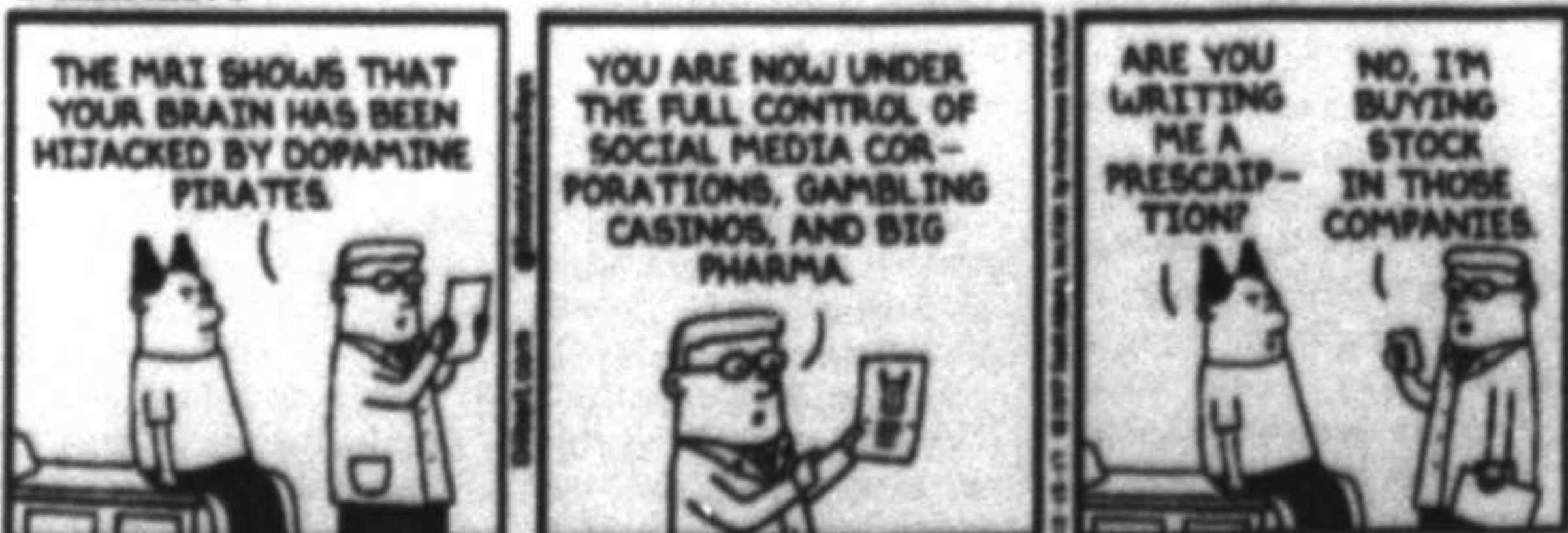
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FAMILY CIRCUS



Harvey recovery continues in Houston as Hanukkah begins

By Paul Takahashi
Houston Chronicle

HOUSTON — Steven Plumb recently walked out of his apartment, headed down seven flights of stairs and started toward the synagogue.

It was Shabbat, the Jewish holy day, so there could be no driving or using electronic conveniences such as elevators. Following the orthodox faith, Plumb and his family walk to synagogue every Saturday, rain or shine, through searing summers and frigid winters, as their ancestors have done for centuries.

But these days, every step along the 10-minute walk from The Halstead apartments to the United Orthodox Synagogue brings painful reminders of when Hurricane Harvey wreaked havoc on Houston and upended Plumb's life.

He walked past three apartment complexes filled with displaced friends and neighbors.

He walked the bridge across Brays Bayou, which three months ago overflowed its banks and flooded his Meyerland home of nearly 17 years.

He walked around the waterlogged synagogue off Greenwillow, once a sanctuary for some 300 faithful that now sits empty.

"It's like a nuclear bomb was dropped on our neighborhood," he said.

Harvey devastated rich and poor. Black and white, Hispanic and Asian. But it had an outsized impact on the city's tight-knit Jewish community in flood-prone Meyerland, many of whom will celebrate Hanukkah this year in temporary quarters.

About one out of every 13 Jewish families in Houston flooded during Harvey. The storm damaged three of the city's largest synagogues, with a combined membership of 3,900 families. The Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center of Houston took on 10 feet of water. Floodwater inundated the Jewish senior home, the community resource center and the Beth Yeshurun Day School.

"Nobody in this community was completely immune," said Suzanne Jacobson with the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston.

The Plumbs are one of an estimated 2,000 Jewish households that flooded during Harvey.

Plumb's father flooded. So did his in-laws and all of his neighbors. Friends, co-workers, acquaintances flooded. Half of the kids in his eldest son's Jewish day school class flooded. They know more than 100 flood victims personally.

Growing up in Meyerland, Plumb remembers kids paddling canoes in the streets in front of Kolter Elementary after heavy rains. He's been through Tropical Storm Allison, Hurricane Ike and the Memorial Day and Tax Day floods.

Harvey was something else.

Steven Plumb, a certified public accountant, and his wife, Tammy, prepared as best they could. They had their three kids — Nathan, 17; Jacob, 14; and Sarah, 11 — pack their bags



Jacob Plumb, 14, opens the blinds behind still-unpacked boxes in the two-bedroom apartment in Houston his family of five is renting after their home flooded Nov. 28 during Hurricane Harvey. One in 13 Jewish families in Houston were flooded by the hurricane.

with clothes, important paperwork, laptops, phones and personal things. What couldn't be carried, they put on countertops. They took pictures for insurance purposes.

Then they waited. The water came in through the front door around 4 a.m. on Aug. 27. Steven and Tammy woke up the kids and, with their dog, Schnitzel, escaped to their neighbor's two-story home. From the second floor, the Plumbs watched as their home flooded and neighbors were rescued by helicopters and boats.

"It's a helpless feeling," Nathan said. "The water gets closer and there's literally nothing you can do."

When the water finally receded, Steven couldn't believe how much had come into their home.

"I thought if it got inside, it'd be a few inches, not 2 feet," Steven said.

Gone were the boys' bar mitzvah photos, Tammy's childhood pictures and negatives of photographs that Steven took for his high school yearbook. Heirlooms from Tammy's aunt. A piano from one of Steven's uncles, handed down through the generations.

"We hope to restore it, but I don't know if we can," Tammy said of the piano, stranded inside their gutted home.

When Steven Plumb reached the synagogue's reception hall, hundreds of worshippers — wearing kippah head coverings and tallit prayer shawls — were gathered for Rabbi Barry Gelman's sermon.

Gelman, whose home was flooded, stood on a makeshift bimah platform in the middle of the reception hall, freshly patched with 4 feet of new drywall. Floodwater had claimed the main prayer rooms and classrooms, destroying hundreds of religious texts and items. The congregation now relies on donated books and shawls.

After the Torah was read and prayers were recited, Steven returned to his two-bedroom, two-bathroom apartment where Tammy was preparing to host 17 friends for Shabbat lunch.

It was a tight squeeze, but they made do with folding tables and chairs. As

guests wandered in, kids on the sofa played mahjong, a game they learned from a neighbor while cooped up for three days without power and running water.

It's important to remain hospitable, following Jewish tradition, Steven said. He recalled the biblical story of Abraham, who three days after his ritual circumcision welcomed guests at his tent in the middle of the desert.

"He immediately got up to be hospitable, leaving God to tend to his guests," Steven said. "That's how important hospitality is to us."

The meal was uniquely Jewish and Texan: Challah bread, broken over red wine, followed by beef and chicken fajitas cooked over an apartment grill that Steven sterilized with aluminum foil and high heat.

Tammy misses her old kitchen. With two sets of sinks, dishwashers and several sets of cutlery, it was easy to prevent milk and meat from mixing, per kosher rules. After Harvey, Steven and Tammy watched as that dream kitchen was pulled out one piece at a time and carried to the curb.

The Plumbs bought their midcentury modern home shortly before Tropical Storm Allison in 2001. Though just two blocks away from Brays Bayou, the single-story home was spared the widespread flooding.

The four-bedroom, four-bathroom home was a good size for their growing family and a short drive to Tammy's job in the Texas Medical Center. Most importantly, it was within walking distance to their synagogue and near everything in their Jewish community.

Since Harvey, they have moved in with friends and changed apartments twice. They've decided to move out of Meyerland.

There's a buyer lined up to purchase their home "as is." The contract just needs Steven and Tammy's signature, but they couldn't make themselves sign it. Not yet, at least.

"Rationally it's the right thing to do, but emotionally it's hard to do," Steven said. "This home is the only one my kids know."

Steven tries to go by there once a week, typically after work.

Floodlights illuminating homes up and down the street belie the fact that only two of some 20 families on the block have moved back in.

Every week, Steven notices a few more for-sale signs in debris-strewn lawns. Other neighbors are rebuilding. Most are in limbo as they wait for insurance money to come in and the government to mitigate the flood risk.

The Plumbs hope to buy or build an elevated home in Willow Meadows. It'll be closer to synagogue but farther from their friends and neighbors in Meyerland. And it probably won't flood, Tammy said.

"We moved in with a flood," she said. "And we're moving out with a flood."

The conversation over Shabbat lunch quickly turned to Harvey, and the city's plans to purchase flooded homes and convert them to green space. Good intentions aside, buyouts would change the character

of the Jewish community in Meyerland, Steven said.

"I don't think buyouts are the solution," he said. "Lifting is the solution. I think it would cost less to lift up homes. Then you would be preserving our community."

Dr. Jeff Morgan, a heart surgeon at the Texas Medical Center, agreed.

"This is our community. Our synagogue is here," Morgan said. "We need to build up to the appropriate height."

Preserving the Jewish community is paramount as families begin to rebuild, Steven said. As homes are renovated or replaced with more expensive ones, Steven fears young families looking to practice their faith could be priced out.

"You need economic diversity," he said. "You need young families to move here; otherwise, we will wither away."

As an afternoon sun shone through apartment windows that overlook Brays Bayou, Steven noted that construction crews have been working since Harvey to widen the channel.

"It should have been done 10 years ago," he said as he began clearing the tables.

Yet Harvey has drawn the community closer together.

There have been donations big and small. A kosher food truck pulled up in Meyerland, feeding workers free meals for a month. Cups and food warmers arrived from around the country.

More than 12,000 donors, from all 50 states and around the world, have helped the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston raise more than \$17 million toward its \$30 million goal for Harvey relief. Donations included a \$1 million gift from the state of Israel.

Nathan, president of a student club called Making a Difference, helped coordinate a school fundraiser that generated \$25,000 in online donations.

"You appreciate the residents of the Jewish community and the incredible amount of support," Tammy said. "It may be hard for others to understand, but that's what keeps us here."

ADVENT 2017

Light Shines

IN THE DARKNESS

December 17
 8:15 and 11:00 a.m. - Worship in the Sanctuary
 11:00 a.m. - The Bridge in the Chapel
 5:00-7:00 p.m. - *iFeliz-La-Ti-Dahl*, Lynn Hall
 (Family Christmas event)

December 20
 6:30-7:30 p.m. - Healing and Wholeness Service in the Chapel.
The Longest Night Service, also known as Blue Christmas is a modern Christian service designed to temper the struggle with darkness and grief faced by those living with loss. Loss may include the death of a loved one, divorce or separation, separation due to military service, the loss of a job, or living with serious illness. Shannon Wessentfehl will be sharing her personal journey with grief.

December 24 - Christmas Eve Worship Services
 10:00 a.m. - Worship in the Chapel
 5:30 p.m. - Family Worship with Candle lighting in the Sanctuary. Nursery available.
 7:30 p.m. - Worship with Communion in the Chapel. Nursery available.
 9:00 p.m. - Worship with Communion and Candle lighting in the Sanctuary.

December 25 - Christmas Day, No Services



First Presbyterian
 400 West 17th Street, Midland, TX 79701
 409.693.1111

App

From 1B

priest and participants used ASL. Schipani joined them to worship and practice her signing.

"I fell in love with the language," she said. "Signing is conceptual. You sign the concept, not the spoken word," Schipani said. "For instance, the signs for running as in jogging, or for your nose is running, or for a run in your stocking are all different. That is the case in religious signs."

Through the years, she has come to understand the challenges in communicating religious language to children who are deaf. In families for whom faith is important, spirituality is so ingrained in their everyday life that it is passed on by incidental learning, Schipani said. Youngsters learn by hearing adults talk to each other about faith.

"A deaf child (in a hearing family) misses that incidental learning," she said. Sometimes, hearing

parents and their deaf children are learning ASL at the same time. Parents face the difficulty of conveying abstract concepts about faith in a language that isn't their first.

With the app, Schipani aims to help families adapt. To develop it, she turned to CANCAN Productions, based in Oxford, Pennsylvania. Co-owners Catherine Miller and Ann Calamia had met Schipani about 10 years ago while making "Universal Signs," an award-winning film about a troubled young man who is deaf. The three women then collaborated on a video series about deaf children preparing for confirmation, produced for the National Catholic Office for the Deaf. They began working on the app more than two years ago.

Schipani put together a focus group made up of deaf parents, some of them literacy specialists, to brainstorm. They carved out categories such as "Religious Words" and "Religious Actions," divided prayers into groups

that include blessing, thank you and peace prayers.

The filmmakers used a crew that included deaf people and interpreters and found programmers to turn their videos into an app.

Pomroy's grandchildren sign some of the prayers.

Before she got custody of Robert and Rachael, Pomroy attended ASL classes at the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf. The children had been going to public school, but she instead chose a Catholic education for them.

When the family met Schipani, they knew few signs associated with religion and faith.

"It's difficult for parents when they have to learn a new language to meet the needs of their children," said Meghan Dearnley, Rachael and Robert's social worker. "Having an app that is so visually accessible makes the process easier. Having it on cool technology makes it even better."

SPORTS

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

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Friday, December 15, 2017 | Section C

Sooners RB Anderson won't be charged with sex assault

By Cliff Brunt
Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — An Oklahoma prosecutor decided against charging Sooners running back Rodney Anderson with sexual assault on Thursday, clearing a major cloud hanging over the team ahead of its College Football Playoff semifinal against Georgia.

"Definitely, charges are not warranted under these circumstances," Cleveland County District Attorney Greg Mashburn said during a news conference.

The accusation stemmed from a petition for a protective order in which a woman said Anderson assaulted her in her apartment last month and that she feared for her safety. Anderson had gone to her home after the two met during a night of drinking.

Mashburn's assistant prosecutor, Susan Caswell, said one of the woman's close friends told an

investigator the accuser called the friend from a bathroom saying she was excited that Anderson was at her house.

"She said that she had vomited, but intended to brush her teeth and go back and kiss him some more," Caswell said, describing what the friend told the investigator. "She sounded tipsy, but not drunk."

Caswell said two other witnesses relayed similar accounts — that they understood that Anderson and the woman had a good time. They added that the woman had hoped to have a romantic relationship with Anderson.

Derek Chance, Anderson's attorney, had called the accusation "patently false," saying the woman made it after Anderson declined her social invitations.

"The investigation reveals what we have maintained, Mr. Anderson is innocent of these allegations," Chance said in a statement. "Anderson is ready to focus on his

obligations as a student-athlete."

Anderson has been one of Oklahoma's breakout stars after season-ending injuries the past two years. He leads the Sooners with 960 yards rushing and 11 touchdowns and has 283 yards and five touchdowns receiving. Anderson took over this year for departed running back Joe Mixon, who was suspended for a year after he punched a woman in a restaurant in July 2014. Mixon is now with the NFL's Cincinnati Bengals.

The prosecutor's decision answered a key question hanging over Oklahoma ahead of its showdown with Georgia in the Rose Bowl on Jan. 1.

The Bulldogs have had some off-field distractions, too.

Starting inside linebacker Natrez Patrick and receiver Jayson Stanley were arrested earlier this month on charges of marijuana possession.



Sue Ogrocki/AP File Photo

Oklahoma running back Rodney Anderson (24) carries the ball in the second quarter against West Virginia on Nov. 25 in Norman, Okla. Anderson will not be charged after a woman accused him of sexual assault, Cleveland County District Attorney Greg Mashburn said Thursday. The accusation stemmed from a petition for a protective order in which the woman said Anderson assaulted her in her apartment and that she feared for her safety.

One more without Zeke



Ron Jenkins/AP File Photo

Dallas Cowboys running back Ezekiel Elliott (21) and quarterback Dak Prescott (4) walk off the field after an unsuccessful two-point conversion against the Los Angeles Rams, on Oct. 1 in Arlington. The Cowboys won't have to adjust for Ezekiel Elliott's absence much longer. Elliott has one game remaining in his six-game suspension, when Dallas travels to Oakland on Sunday night and will be allowed back in the team facility on Monday.

Prescott concedes that things changed minus Elliott

By Sean Shapiro
Associated Press

FRISCO — Now that Ezekiel Elliott is near the end of a six-game suspension over domestic violence allegations, Dak Prescott doesn't mind acknowledging that things changed for the Dallas Cowboys.

Prescott was more defiant while the Cowboys were losing their first three

games without last year's NFL rushing leader and the quarterback's backfield mate during their remarkable rookie seasons that fueled a 13-3 record.

Dallas (7-6) won the past two without Elliott and has to keep winning to stay in the wild-card race. The last game before Elliott's return is Sunday night at Oakland (6-7).

"It's a different team," said Prescott, who had eight turnovers without a

touchdown pass in the first three games without his fellow star.

"I think that's the first (thing) you got to recognize is it's not the same and things are going to be different and play-calling is going to be different. But for what I've learned I guess is everybody is embracing their role, their new role, different role or maybe it's the same role."

Please see COWBOYS/3C

Yates back as starter for Texans after injuries

By Kristie Rieken
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Third-string quarterback T.J. Yates will get his first start this season for Houston on Sunday against the Jacksonville Jaguars with Deshaun Watson out for the season with a knee injury and backup Tom Savage recovering from a concussion.

But Yates already has plenty of history with the Texans, starting nine games for them including leading the franchise to its first playoff win in the 2011 season.

Yates was a rookie that season when injuries to Matt Schaub and Matt Leinart thrust him into action.

Linebacker Brian Cushing, one of the few players remaining from that team, recalled what he thought of Yates after he led Houston to that playoff victory.

"Calm (even) under pressure," Cushing said. "Nothing seemed to rattle him and I always respected him for that ... he stepped up during that playoff run and did a great job."

"Nothing really bothers him. He has a lot of composure sitting back there and really does exactly what we needed him to do."

Cushing saw the same qualities in Yates when he took over in the second quarter last week after Savage was injured.

"Just stepped right in and it didn't seem like he even missed a beat," he said.

Yates, who hadn't played since November 2015, threw for 175 yards

Please see YATES/3C



Karen Warren / Houston Chronicle

Houston Texans quarterback T.J. Yates (2) passes the ball during the fourth quarter at NRG Stadium on Sunday, in Houston.

Fisher piecing together new staff at Texas A&M

By Brent Zwerneman
Houston Chronicle

COLLEGE STATION — Jimbo Fisher is a hands-on coach, so he knows it will be tough to keep his hands off Texas A&M's bowl preparation. Good thing he has a big distraction on his hands.

"Our job right now is to look at recruits," Fisher said with a new early signing period starting Wednesday.

"When we watch bowl practice, I'll get to see our own players."

The Aggies arrive in Charlotte, North Carolina, on Christmas Day to prepare for the Belk Bowl against Wake Forest on Dec. 29. Fisher also has been piecing together his new staff at A&M, when he's not turning over every tidbit concerning the 15 verbal pledges and some anticipated additions in the class of 2018.

This week Fisher, hired from Florida State to try and get the Aggies back into conference title contention, uttered those three little words A&M fans have been longing to hear concerning his most important hire:

"Very, very soon." He was asked by the Chronicle when he anticipated bringing onboard a defensive coordinator, and some anxious Aggies figure that

isn't soon enough. Fisher is heavily involved in the offense and typically calls the plays, so there's no question a new defensive boss will go a long way toward determining if A&M actually starts competing for Southeastern Conference titles.

Only one thing on the defensive side appears clear nearly two weeks into Fisher's

Please see FISHER/4C



7

GAME TIME 7-11 | ODESSA JACKALOPES

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TEXAS HS FOOTBALL PLAYOFF PAIRINGS

CLASS 6A DIVISION I
State Semifinals
Allen (14-0) vs. Round Rock Cedar Ridge (13-1), 2 p.m. Saturday, Round Rock Stadium
Katy (11-0) vs. Little Texas (12-0), 3 p.m. Saturday, San Antonio Alamogordo Stadium

CLASS 6A DIVISION II**State Semifinals**
Waco Midway (14-0) vs. Longview (13-1), 6 p.m. Saturday, Allen's Eagle Stadium
Cypress Fairbanks (13-0) vs. Austin Westlake (14-0), 3 p.m. Saturday, Houston's NRG Stadium

CLASS 5A DIVISION I**State Semifinals**
Denton Ryan (14-0) vs. Mansfield Highland Park (13-1), 3 p.m. Friday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium
Marvell (13-0) vs. Angleton (13-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Houston's NRG Stadium

CLASS 5A DIVISION II**State Semifinals**
Abilene (14-0) vs. Mansfield Legacy (12-0), 2 p.m. Saturday, Baylor's Pennington Field
College Station (12-0) vs. Austin McCulloch (14-0), 7 p.m. Saturday, Houston's NRG Stadium

CLASS 4A DIVISION I**State Semifinals**
Stephenville (12-0) vs. Rennerdale (13-1), 5 p.m. Friday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium
Carthage (14-0) vs. Waco La Vega (14-0), 7 p.m. Friday, Precourt Ford Center

CLASS 4A DIVISION II**State Semifinals**
Tarrant County (14-0) vs. Graham (14-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Katy's Legacy Stadium
West Orange-Stark (12-0) vs. Wintersville (13-1), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Katy's Legacy Stadium

CLASS 3A DIVISION I**State Semifinals**
Brock 49, Ramp 21
Rockdale (11-0) vs. Natusum (13-1), 7 p.m. Friday, Cypress FCU Stadium

CLASS 3A DIVISION II**State Semifinals**
Canadian (14-0) vs. Quinter (14-0), 7 p.m. Friday, Vernon
Houston (13-0) vs. Boiling (9-2), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Porter's Bear One Stadium

CLASS 2A DIVISION I**State Semifinals**
Marl 33, Stratford 13
Refugio 63, San Augustin 21
Marl (14-1) vs. Refugio (13-1), 3 p.m. Thursday

CLASS 2A DIVISION II**State Semifinals**
Munster 31, Wellington 28
Tamaha 60, Burton 22
Munster (15-0) vs. Tamaha (15-0), 11 a.m. Thursday

CLASS 1A 93-MAN DIVISION I**State Championship**
Borden County (14-0) vs. Jewett (13-1), 11 a.m. Dec. 20, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 1A 93-MAN DIVISION II**State Championship**
Barnesville (13-0) vs. Stepan (14-0), 2 p.m. Dec. 20, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

Sports unions unveil universal declaration of player rights

By Stephen Whyno
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Leaders from the NFL, NBA, NHL and Major League Baseball players associations helped unveil a universal declaration of player rights that is designed to establish a new approach to governing sports and protecting athletes.

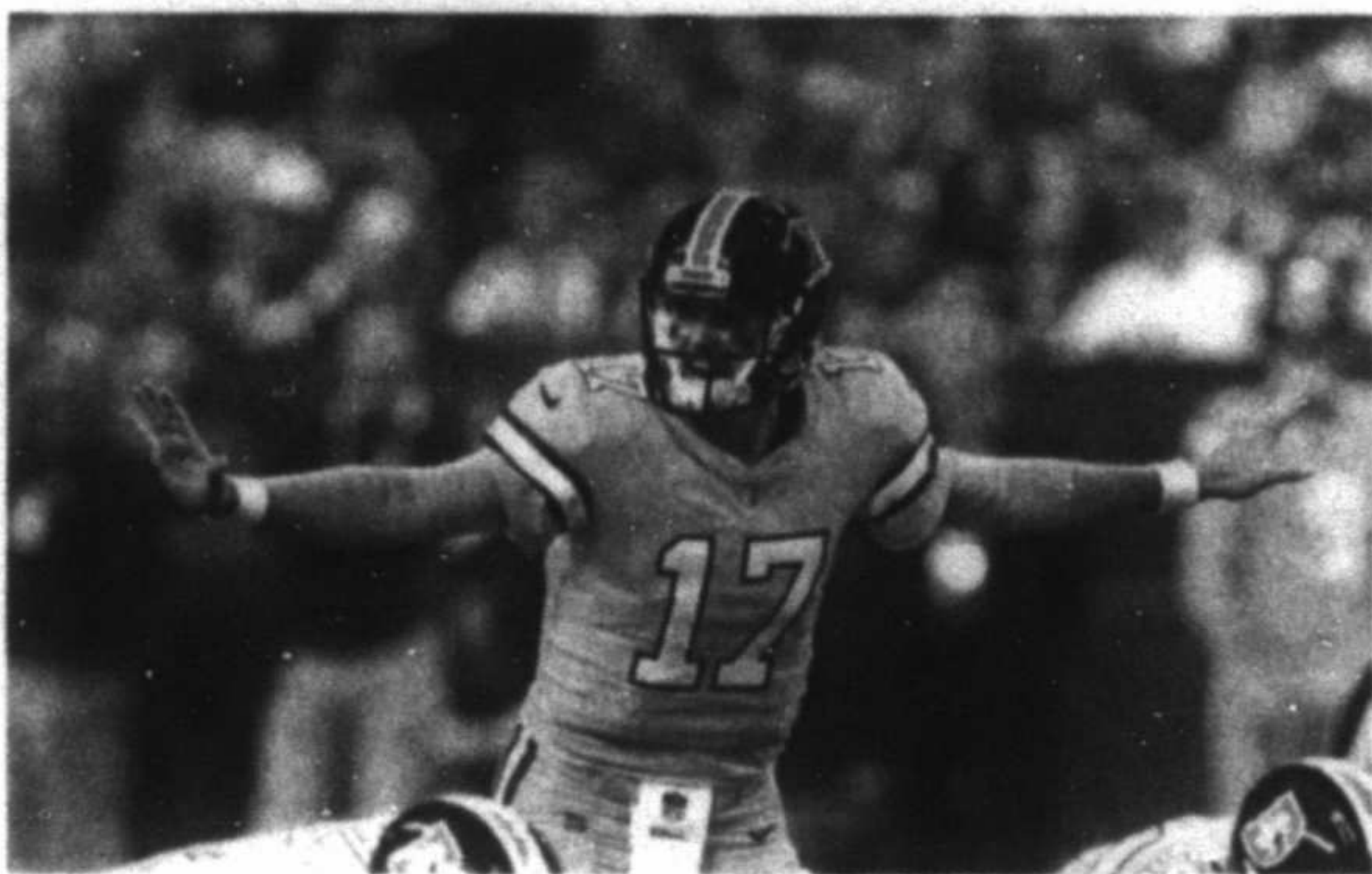
Among the 17 articles laid out in the declaration are rights to unionize and collectively bargain, express opinions freely and receive equal pay for equal work. The declaration was made Thursday by the World Players Association, which is affiliated with 100 organizations that represent 85,000 professional athletes.

"It will change the content and the terms under which sport is regulated," said Brandon Schwab, the association's executive director. "And secondly it will change the culture of sport. Sport must now be run in partnership with the players and sport must act proactively to prevent and minimize and address any adverse human rights impacts."

Executive directors DeMaurice Smith of the NFL Players Association, Michele Roberts of the National Basketball Players Association, Don Fehr of the NHL Players' Association and Tony Clark of the Major League Baseball Players Association are part of the group of more than 100 unions that released the declaration.

"The importance of the declaration is actually philosophically bigger than just the issue of collective bargaining," Smith said as the NFLPA hosted the gathering of 40 union representatives. "It's reminding everyone that where we stand in this process is the men and women who play sports did not choose to give up the basic human rights that we would want for every worker."

The launch of the universal declaration of player rights comes on the heels of Colin Kaepernick and other NFL players kneeling or sitting during the national anthem to protest racial inequality and police brutality. Roberts said she and members of the NBPA "full-throatedly support" the declaration that seeks to provide athletes worldwide with the type of constitutional protections that exist in the United States.



Darron Cummings/Associated Press

Denver Broncos quarterback Brock Osweiler (17) signals at the line of scrimmage against the Indianapolis Colts during the second half in Indianapolis on Thursday.

Osweiler's strong relief appearance leads the Denver Broncos past Colts

By Michael Marot
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Denver quarterback Brock Osweiler ran for one touchdown and threw for two more Thursday night to lead the Broncos past Indianapolis 25-13.

Osweiler replaced the injured Trevor Siemian in the first quarter and played his best football of the season.

The Broncos (5-10) needed it. After ending an eight-game losing streak Sunday, they picked up their first road win since Dec. 4, 2016.

For Indianapolis (3-11), it was more of the same. The Colts blew an early 10-0 lead and have now lost five in a row, the longest skid of coach Chuck Pagano's six-year tenure.

Osweiler looked more like the player Denver envisioned when it drafted him in the second round in 2012, and the guy who filled in for an injured Peyton Manning during the Broncos' 2015 Super Bowl season.

He was 12 of 17 with 194 yards and took the Broncos on three second-half scoring drives — giving the league's top-rated defense more than enough points.

C.J. Anderson ran 30 times for a season high 158 yards. But it was a rugged night. Siemian went to the locker room with an injured left shoulder after Barkevious Mingo drove him into the ground on the Broncos' second series. Siemian did not return and the Broncos had no other immediate details on the injury.

The scariest moment came with 14:01 left in the second quarter when Denver linebacker Deiontre Mount appeared to make helmet-to-helmet contact with Colts tight end Brandon Williams on a punt. Williams was knocked over backward and stayed on the ground as players from both teams dropped to their knees while trainers and doctors strapped him to a backboard and removed his facemask.

When he was lifted onto a golf cart, Williams' teammates came over to offer support. Colts officials said Williams had movement in his extremities and had suffered a head injury. He also did not return. Otherwise, the game between two non-playoff teams went pretty much as expected.

After Colts quarterback Jacoby Brissett scored on a 7-yard run and Adam Vinatieri made it 10-0 with a 45-yard field goal midway through the second quarter, all Indy could muster was a 39-yard field goal early in the third.

Osweiler, meanwhile, got the Broncos

in sync. He capped a 75-yard drive with an 18-yard TD run to make it 10-7 at halftime, then gave Denver the lead with a 22-yard TD pass to Cody Latimer 4:16 left in the third quarter. Osweiler added a 54-yard TD pass to Jeff Heuerman and a 2-point conversion pass to Latimer to make 22-13 and Brandon McManus sealed the victory with a 40-yard field goal.

Key numbers

Broncos: Osweiler's TD pass to Heuerman ended an 18-game regular-season streak without a 50-yard completion and a 13-game regular season streak without a TD pass of 40 more yards. ... Emanuel Sanders had seven catches for 68 yards and Demaryius Thomas had five catches for 69 yards.

Colts: Brissett was 17 of 30 with 158 yards. ... Indy had 228 yards in offense.

T.Y. Hilton caught five passes for 41 yards. ... Indy fell to 2-5 at home and will have its first losing season at home in Pagano's tenure.

Gored

Colts running back Frank Gore added to his milestone career on a night it looked like he might not even finish.

The 34-year-old running back left during the second quarter with a knee injury.

When he returned for the start of the second half, he quickly became the second player in league history to post 1,000 yards from scrimmage in 12 consecutive seasons. Only Emmitt Smith (13) has more.

Gore finished with 10 carries for 31 yards and remains fifth on the NFL's career rushing list.

Injury report

Broncos: With the exception of Siemian, Denver stayed relatively healthy. The only other significant concern came was an ankle injury that didn't allow Sanders to finish the game.

Colts: In addition to Williams, the Colts lost right tackle Denzel Good (knee) and linebackers Jeremiah George (neck) and Jon Bostic (knee) in the second half.

Up next

Broncos: Play their road finale Dec. 24 at Washington.

Colts: Head to Baltimore on Dec. 23 in their final road game of the season.

NFL GLANCE

Standings

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	10	3	0	.769	308	230
Buffalo	7	6	0	.538	240	289
Miami	6	7	0	.462	238	318
N.Y. Jets	5	8	0	.385	288	311

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Jacksonville	9	4	0	.692	329	202
Tennessee	8	5	0	.615	273	294
Houston	4	9	0	.308	212	335
Indianapolis	3	11	0	.214	225	368

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	11	2	0	.846	320	251
Baltimore	7	6	0	.538	318	248
Cincinnati	5	8	0	.385	228	271
Cleveland	0	13	0	.000	197	385

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	7	6	0	.538	320	289
L.A. Chargers	7	6	0	.538	298	225
Oakland	6	7	0	.462	294	304
Denver	5	8	0	.385	254	328

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	11	2	0	.846	404	250
Dallas	7	6	0	.538	318	294
Washington	5	8	0	.385	280	344
N.Y. Giants	2	11	0	.154	199	321

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New Orleans	9	4	0	.692	370	263
Carolina	9	4	0	.692	300	262

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Minnesota	10	3	0	.769	308	230
Detroit	7	6	0	.538	328	329
Green Bay	7	6	0	.538	285	302
Chicago	4	9	0	.308	224	274

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
L.A. Rams	9	4	0	.692	395	265
Seattle	8	5	0	.615	314	252
Ariana	6	7	0	.462	291	317
San Francisco	3	10	0	.231	228	314

— clinched division

Scores & Schedule

Thursday's Games

Detroit 25, Indianapolis 13

Saturday's Games

Chicago at Detroit, 5:30 p.m.

L.A. Chargers at Kansas City, 7:25 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants, noon

Cincinnati at Minnesota, noon

Houston at Jacksonville, noon

Ariana at Washington, noon

N.Y. Jets at New Orleans, noon

Miami at Buffalo, noon

Green Bay at Carolina, noon

Baltimore at Cleveland, noon

L.A. Rams at Seattle, 3:05 p.m.

New England at Pittsburgh, 3:25 p.m.

Tennessee at San Francisco, 3:25 p.m.

Dallas at Oakland, 7:30 p.m.

Monday's Game

Atlanta at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.

COWBOYS

From 1C

A loss would put a damper on Elliott's return because it would end any realistic hopes of the young duo making the playoffs again. But his return to the team's facility, likely on Monday, will be celebrated either way.

"I know he's excited, and I've kept up with him on text," tight end Jason Witten said. "One thing I know about Zeke through his first year and half I've been around him is he loves football. He'll have to bear down here and help us make this push."

The Cowboys scored just 22 points in the first three games without him and were outscored 72-6 in the second half, when they grew used to wearing down opponents with Elliott's physical running style.

After those five interceptions and three lost fumbles, Prescott became more comfortable even through some sluggish starts for the offense. He threw for a career-best 332 yards and three touchdowns in last week's 30-10 win over the New York Giants.

"He's done a good job of getting through a dry spell," Cowboys offensive coordinator Scott Linehan said. "He really worked on his game, from fundamentals to everything else and it just shows he's going to be here for the long haul."

That's the upside for the Cowboys if they don't make the playoffs. Barring suspensions and injuries, Prescott and Elliott could be a backfield pair for a long time.

"We've adjusted to it and we've figured it out,"

Prescott said. "It'll make me a better player. ... Any experience I get, especially when you're losing a player or just even that tough stretch we had, everything that I encounter I'm going to make sure I use it to make me a better player."

Alfred Morris and Rod Smith have split snaps at running back in Elliott's absence. Morris has started four of the five games, but Smith has an edge in playing time with 158 snaps to Morris' 136.

"Zeke Elliott is a very good player, and when he is available to us, he makes a positive difference to our team," coach Jason Garrett said. "In a lot of ways those opportunities for those other guys get minimized, but that doesn't diminish our confidence in them."

Smith has rushed for a touchdown in three straight games and took a short pass 81 yards for a touchdown against the Giants. Morris has gotten the bulk of the carries and ran for a season-best 127 yards against Washington.

Morris, who turned 28 earlier this week, is a free agent after this season. The player said he isn't thinking about it right now, but Elliott's absence may have been the showcase he could parlay into a better opportunity in the offseason.

"He's just got that style in the run game where he can carry the load," Linehan said. "He can be a 20-plus carry guy, and that's where he's going to have his best production."

YATES

From 1C

and two touchdowns in a 26-16 loss to the 49ers. He said he was so in the moment that he didn't even consider his long layoff when he entered Sunday's game.

"Just like normal," he said. "I try not to think about it too much and it was kind of good that I was thrust right into like a two-minute drill. You don't have to think much, you just go out there and play and read and react."

Yates is in his third stint with the Texans after spending 2011-13 and 2015 in Houston before being re-signed in the days after Watson tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee.

Coach Bill O'Brien thought Yates did some good things against San Francisco and is looking for him to play even better on Sunday with an entire week of practice as the starter under his belt.

"He's got a good command out there and he's got a good idea of what we want to do," O'Brien said. "He doesn't hold the ball. I think he's got pretty good anticipation. I think he throws the ball at all levels pretty well. So, I'm glad we have him."

Yates relied heavily on star receiver DeAndre Hopkins last week, with 110 of his yards passing going to him. He also found him on both of his TD passes — one for 7 yards and one for 29 yards.

"He's incredible ... he's a security blanket and he's one of the best receivers in the league and he makes it easy on me," Yates said.

"Obviously we're going to try to give him the ball as much as possible, but we're going up against a tough defense that knows that, too, and they've got some great guys in the secondary. We're going to have to scheme up our best work to try to get everybody the ball."

Along with figuring out ways to target Hopkins, another focus for Yates this week will be getting rid of the ball quickly as the Texans try to snap a three-game skid.

The Jaguars lead the NFL with 47 sacks this season and had 10 in the season opener against the Texans, including a strip-sack that was returned for a touchdown.

"It's definitely going to be a point of emphasis for us," Yates said. "We know what type of defense we're going up against and how talented they are up front and in the back end, so we have to be sharp. Definitely the ball has to come out quick."

O'Brien wouldn't give away any specifics about how he hopes to slow down Jacksonville's pass rush. But he did acknowledge that Houston will make a lot of adjustments this week.

"You have to change it," he said. "You can't do what you did in the first game. I don't want to get into that, but you have to change up how you protect the edge of the front. You have to change up how you run the ball. You have to change up your routes. You have to change everything because nothing we did in the first game was any good."

MLB ROUNDUP

RANGERS ACQUIRE RULE 5 PICK CARLOS TOCCI FROM WHITE SOX

ARLINGTON — The Texas Rangers have acquired outfielder Carlos Tocci from the Chicago White Sox and signed infielder Hanser Alberto and right-hander Kevin Jepsen to minor league contracts, with invitations to major league spring training.

The Rangers got Tocci from the White Sox for cash after Chicago selected the 22-year-old in the Rule 5 draft Thursday. Anthony Gose, a Texas outfielder assigned to Triple-A Round Rock, was selected by Houston in the Rule 5 draft.

Tocci hit .294 with three home runs and 52 RBIs in 130 minor league games in the Philadelphia system last season.

Alberto, a 25-year-old utility man, became a free agent when he wasn't offered a major league contract by the Rangers after spending last season on the disabled list with shoulder issues that led to surgery in June.

The 33-year-old Jepsen didn't appear in the majors last season. In 2015, he tied for the AL lead with 75 relief appearances and had a career-best 15 saves with Minnesota and Tampa Bay.

JOE SMITH, CHAMPION ASTROS AGREE TO \$15M, 2-YEAR CONTRACT
LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Right-hander Joe Smith and the World Series champion Houston Astros have agreed to a \$15 million, two-year contract.

The 33-year-old gets \$7 million next year and \$8 million in 2019.

He was 3-0 with one save and 71 strikeouts over 54 innings in 59 relief appearances this year for Toronto and Cleveland, which reacquired him for

a pair of minor leaguers at the July 31 trade deadline. Smith pitched 2 1/3 scoreless innings over four games in the AL Division Series against the New York Yankees.

Smith is 44-28 with a 2.97 ERA in 698 relief appearances over 11 big league seasons that also included time with the New York Mets (2007-08), Cleveland (2009-13), the Los Angeles Angels (2014-16) and the Chicago Cubs (2016).

His deal was announced Wednesday at the winter meetings, and Smith was to be introduced at a news conference Thursday at Minute Maid Park.

PISCOTTY DEALT TO A'S AFTER MOTHER DIAGNOSED WITH ALS
LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Stephen Piscotty has been traded by the St. Louis Cardinals to the Oakland Athletics for two infield prospects, allowing the outfielder to be near his family's home in Pleasanton, California, following his mother's diagnosis with Lou Gehrig's disease.

Gretchen Piscotty was diagnosed in May with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a disease that attacks nerve cells. He left the Cardinals for five days after the diagnosis and returned May 31.

St. Louis receives Yairo Munoz and Max Schrock in the deal announced Thursday.

The 26-year-old Piscotty hit .235 with nine homers and 39 RBIs in 107 games last season, spending stretches on the disabled list because of a strained hamstring and groin.

He has hit 268 with 38 homers and 163 RBIs in 2½ major league seasons. He agreed in May to \$33.5 million, six-year contract.

Munoz, 22, hit .300 with 13 homers and 68 RBIs this year for Double-A Midland and Triple-A Nashville. Schrock, 23,

batted .321 with seven homers and 46 RBIs for Midland, and was a Texas League All-Star.

AP SOURCE: RODNEY, TWINS AGREE TO \$4.9M, 1-YEAR DEAL

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Right-handed reliever Fernando Rodney and the Minnesota Twins have agreed to a \$4.5 million, one-year contract, bringing an experienced, three-time All-Star closer to a bullpen in need of a ninth-inning specialist.

Texas Tech DC Gibbs gets new 2-year contract

From staff reports

LUBBOCK — Texas Tech announced on Thursday a new two-year contract for David Gibbs, which will keep the third-year defensive coordinator in Lubbock through the 2019 season.

The new multi-year contract comes with an increase in annual compensation, raising Gibbs' salary from \$550,000 per year to \$650,000, which now ranks sixth among Big 12 Conference assistant coaches.

"We are fortunate to have one of the top defensive coordinators in the country in Coach Gibbs," Texas Tech head coach Kliff Kingsbury said in a press release. "Since the conclusion of the regular season, finalizing this new contract to keep Coach Gibbs at Texas Tech has been a priority for myself and (Texas Tech athletic director) Kirby (Hocutt). We look forward to continuing to build one of the nation's top defenses in the years to come under Coach Gibbs."

Under Gibbs, the Red Raiders have become one of the nation's leaders in forced turnovers

this season as Tech has created a Big 12-leading 27 takeaways entering the Birmingham Bowl. Tech currently ranks sixth nationally in the category and tied for second among power-five conference schools.

Tech's improvements on the defensive side of the ball have come with a relatively young unit that is slated to return 10 of its 11 starters and the bulk of its reserves next season. Defensive lineman Mychalton Thomas the lone senior starter for a Tech defense that has primarily featured sophomores and juniors this season.

"There isn't a better person to work for than Kliff Kingsbury, and I'm looking forward to continue building this program with him," Gibbs said in a press release. "There is still plenty of work that needs to be done, but I'm excited about the future of our team."

The Red Raiders (6-6) will make their third bowl appearance under Kingsbury and second with Gibbs when Tech faces South Florida (9-2) in the Birmingham Bowl at 11 a.m. Dec. 23 at Legion Field in Birmingham.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL ROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

DALLAS UCF's Frost wins Eddie Robinson coach of the year award

Scott Frost, who led Central Florida to a perfect regular season before taking the Nebraska job, has won the Eddie Robinson Award as the national coach of the year.

The Football Writers Association of America and the Sugar Bowl announced the winner Thursday. In his second season at UCF, Frost guided the Knights to a 12-0 record, the American Athletic Conference championship and a Peach Bowl bid.

ALABAMA Texas A&M-Commerce QB Luis Perez wins Harlon Hill Trophy

FLORENCE — Texas A&M University-Commerce quarterback Luis Perez has won the Harlon Hill Trophy as Division II's player of the year.

Perez has led his team into Saturday's national championship game against West Florida with a 13-1 record. The senior from Chula Vista, California, received 198 total points in voting.

FISHER

From IC

new job, third-year defensive coordinator John Chavis will not be retained, and defensive line coach Terry Price likely will.

As for the defensive coordinator candidates? Fisher and his crew are keeping their lips sealed along the way, perhaps because the top contenders are preparing for their own bowl game or maybe even one of the College Football Playoff semifinals.

Fisher nearly has his offensive side of the ball complete, with the additions of offensive coordinator Darrell Dickey from Memphis, and tight ends coach Tim Brewster, receivers coach Dameyune Craig and running backs coach Jay Graham, who all followed Fisher from FSU.

The gung-ho Brewster spent from 1989-2001 with Mack Brown at North Carolina and then at Texas, and along the way became a University of Minnesota head coach before spending the past five years at FSU with Fisher.

"He's a great on-the-field coach, he's a great recruiter and he's a great staff member," Fisher said. "And he knows the state of Texas. He's a winner everywhere he's been, and has done a tremendous job."

Brewster, Craig and Graham are considered top-notch recruiters with the latter two owning deep SEC ties, with Craig a former Auburn quarterback and Graham a former Tennessee running back.

"Both guys were dominant players in the SEC," Fisher said.

Dickey, like Brewster, has plenty of head coaching experience after leading North Texas from 1998-2006.

"Darrell Dickey has been in Texas forever and ever, and you see the offense he's produced at Memphis in the last few years," Fisher said. "He's won conference championships at North Texas, and he knows how to recruit and is deep-rooted in Texas."

"I'm very blessed to have all of those guys," Fisher said he intends to mesh his offensive philosophies with that of Dickey, although he didn't address specifics on that front.

"He would come down and visit me and I would visit with him at different times in our career," Fisher said. "It will be a great combination of how I do things along with what he does, and he's also been a great play caller and a great 'idea' guy."

Fisher, who won a national title at FSU in 2013, attended Wednesday night's Touchdown Club of Houston dinner honoring area high school football players, and so did first-year Texas coach Tom Herman, along with plenty of other prominent college coaches.

Herman, whose University of Houston team defeated FSU 38-24 in the 2015 Peach Bowl, said he looks forward to going toe-to-toe with Fisher in recruits' living rooms moving forward. The Aggies and Longhorns haven't met on the football field since 2011, prior to A&M exiting the Big 12 for the SEC.

"It's always difficult to recruit against (A&M) regardless of who the head coach is," Herman said. "But anytime somebody new comes in, the newness of it sells it a little bit. It has made things ramp up the last week or so, but I think it will be that way for a long time."



Heather Rousseau/The Roanoke Times via AP

Wisconsin-Oshkosh quarterback Brett Kasper throws during NCAA college football practice at Salem Stadium in Salem, Va., Thursday for the Stagg Bowl NCAA Division III college football championship. Kasper, the Division III player of the year, was selected as the first-team quarterback on The Associated Press D-III All-America team on Thursday.

Division III Player of Year Kasper leads AP All-America Team

Associated Press

Division III player of the year Brett Kasper of Wisconsin-Oshkosh was selected as the first-team quarterback on The Associated Press D-III All-America team.

Kasper won the Gagliardi Trophy on Wednesday night in Salem, Virginia, where the Division III championship game will be played Friday. Mount Union faces Mary Hardin-Baylor in a matchup of undefeated teams.

Mary Hardin-Baylor placed four players on the first team, more than any other school, with offensive lineman Corbin Campbell, all-purpose player Bryce Wilkinson, defensive lineman Haston Adams and defensive back Kris Brown. Mount Union offensive linemen Cole Parrish made the first team and three of his team-

mates were second-team picks.

The team was chosen by a panel of sports information directors from around the country and released Thursday.

FIRST TEAM

Quarterback — Brett Kasper, senior, Wisconsin-Oshkosh.
Running backs — John Smith, senior, Husson; Austin Brumby, senior, North Central.
Linemen — Cole Parrish, senior, Mount Union; Matt Davis, senior, Western; Corbin Campbell, senior, Mary Hardin-Baylor; Ty Summers, senior, Wisconsin-Oshkosh; Vic Rodriguez, senior, Hardin-Simmons.
Tight end — Jason Maher, sophomore, Worcester State.
Defensive — Jason Zubi, senior, Washington & Jefferson; Nick Hootman, senior, Wisconsin-La Crosse.
All-purpose player — Bryce Wilkinson, senior, Mary Hardin-Baylor.
Kicker — Billy Worne, junior, Linfield.

SECOND TEAM

Quarterback — Chase Butler, senior, Franklin.
Running backs — Ryan Walker, senior, Morehead; Josh Brown, senior, Washington & Lee; (tie) Christian Williams, sophomore, Ohio Northern.
Linemen — Adam Benavente, senior, Bridgport; Joe Fehle, senior, North Central; Matt Beck, junior, St. Thomas; Ben McFay, senior, Wisconsin-Oshkosh; Brock Riggs, senior, Hardin-Baylor.
Tight end — Zach Lindquist, senior, Wheaton.
Defensive — Justin Hill, sophomore, Mount Union; Riley Brock, senior, Wartburg.
All-purpose player — Reese Childress, junior, Hardin-Simmons; (tie) Cameron Voth, senior, Hardin-Baylor.
Kicker — Nathan Harding, junior, Radford.

DEFENSE

Linebackers — Charlie Deas, senior, Mount Union; Jason Farnes, senior, Linfield; Mason McIlwain, senior, John Carroll.
Defensive back — Jordan Powell, junior, Weber; Fred Hargrove, sophomore, Oberlin; Quan Sayon, junior, Husson; Trevor Staley, junior, St. Francis.
Punter — Andrew Dittman, senior, Catholic.

Selection panel: Mark Adams, Manchester; Kelly Bird, Linfield; Ryan Ellis, Concord; Jeff Glavin, Hardin-Baylor; Timothy Glan, Ohio Northern; Chad Grubbs, Hardin-Simmons; Brent Harris, Weber; Geoff Hansen, Ohio; Craig Hicks, Denison; Jeff Hirsch, Trine; Jennifer Jones, Birmingham Southern; Sean King, Washington & Jefferson; Kevin Lankin, Rose-Hulman; Brian Lubacher, Washington & Lee; Chris Lusk, UW-Whitewater; Brian Magallon, Springfield; Brad Marantz, Wheaton (Ill.); Mike Stolt, Washington State; Clark Tschetter, North Central; Matt Tills, Becker.

Froome maintains innocence as rival doubts handling of case

By Rob Harris
Associated Press

LONDON — Chris Froome's renewed protestations of innocence on Thursday were accompanied by doubts about why the four-time Tour de France champion was not immediately suspended for failing a doping test.

Froome has been ordered to explain to the International Cycling Union why a urine sample he provided at the Spanish Vuelta in September showed a concentration of the asthma drug salbutamol that was twice the permitted level.

While accepting the case is "damaging" for a sport scarred for years by doping scandals, Froome maintained Team Sky has the evidence to prove he is not guilty of cheating.

"I know that within me fundamentally I have followed the protocol and I have not overstepped any boundaries," Froome said, "and I hope by the end of this process that will be clear to everyone and I'll be exonerated of any wrongdoing." Froome offered a defense of his integrity in an interview with Sky, the broadcaster that owns his cycling team.

"I am being tested every single day of the race that I am in the leader's jersey, I knew I was being tested," Froome said. "We also have a wealth of information from within the team of what I ate every single day, how many times I have stopped to pee every day."

The detail of the information that we have been able to provide is vast."



Joan Llado/Associated Press

Britain's Chris Froome arrives back at his hotel after training in Palma de Mallorca, Spain, Wednesday. Froome failed a doping test during the Spanish Vuelta in September and is facing a suspension from cycling ahead of his attempt to win a record-equaling fifth Tour de France title next year.

Sky and the UCI confirmed Froome's failed test early Wednesday in response to media reports.

Rival rider Tony Martin said he believes something is amiss with the UCI's handling of the case.

"I am totally angry," the German cyclist wrote on Facebook. "There is definitely a double standard being applied in the Christopher Froome case. Other athletes are suspended immediately after a positive test. He and his team are given time by the UCI to explain it all. I do not know of any similar case in the recent past. That is a scandal, and he should at least not have been allowed to appear in the World Championships."

"Not only the public but

also I have immediately the impression that there is wheeling and dealing going on behind the scenes, agreements are being made and ways are being sought as to how to get out of this case. Do he and his team enjoy a special status?"

The UCI did not immediately respond to a request for comment about its actions, which Martin denounced as a "major blow to the difficult anti-doping fight." "We need a (consistent) and transparent approach by the UCI," Martin wrote. "What is going on here is (inconsistent), not transparent, unprofessional and unfair. Our credibility is at stake!"

Sky said Froome had to take an increased dosage of salbutamol without exceed-

ing the permissible dose after experiencing "acute asthma symptoms" during the final week of the Vuelta.

Salbutamol helps expand lung capacity and can be used as a performance-enhancing drug to increase endurance. Commonly marketed as Ventolin, salbutamol is classified as a beta-2 agonist and WADA allows it to be taken through inhalation only, in limited amounts.

"It's sad seeing the misconceptions that are out there about athletes & salbutamol use," Froome wrote on Twitter. "My hope is that this doesn't prevent athletic athletes from using their inhalers in emergency situations for fear of being judged. It is not something to be ashamed of."

Putin accuses US agencies of manipulating doping testimony

By James
Ellingworth
Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin accused U.S. agencies of manipulating evidence from the main whistleblower on doping at the 2014 Sochi Olympics.

Putin said Thursday that former Moscow anti-doping laboratory director Grigory

Rodchenkov — who is under witness protection after fleeing to the United States last year — is "under the control" of the American agencies, including the FBI.

Rodchenkov being in the United States "is not a positive for us, it's a negative. It means he's under the control of American special services," Putin said. "What are they doing with him there? Are they giving him some kind of substances so that he

says what's required?" Putin added that Rodchenkov should never have been appointed to run Moscow's anti-doping laboratory in the first place.

"It was a mistake on the part of those who did it, and I know who did it," he said, but didn't name names or say they should be punished.

Testimony from Rodchenkov played a key role in International Olympic Committee investiga-

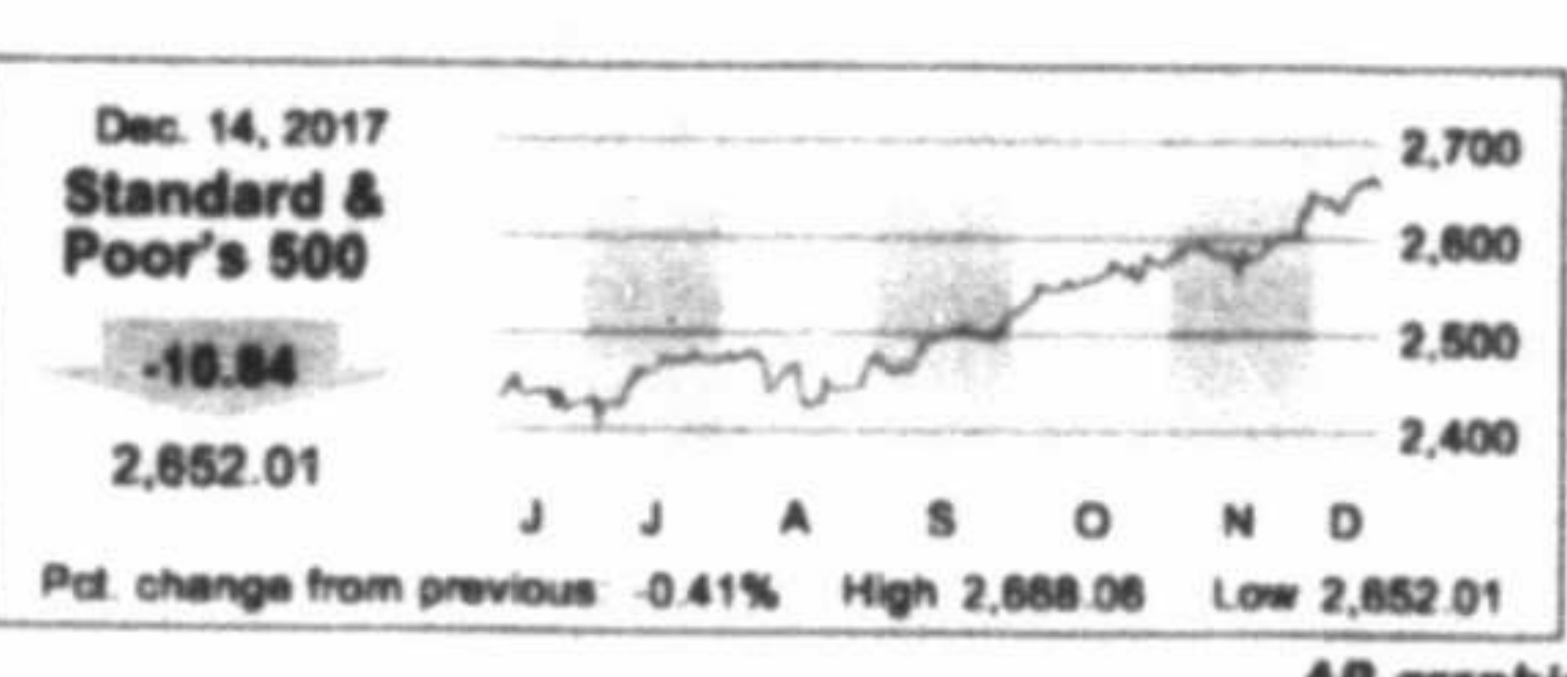
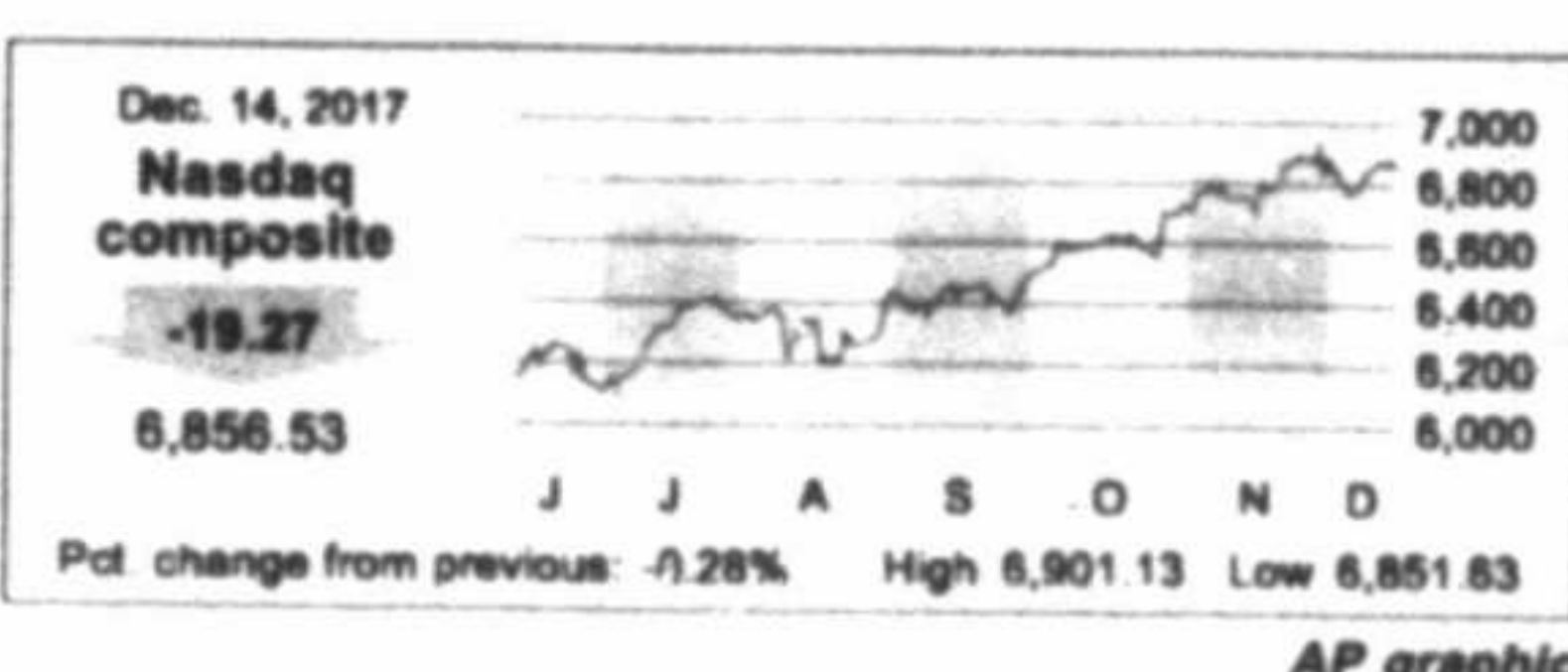
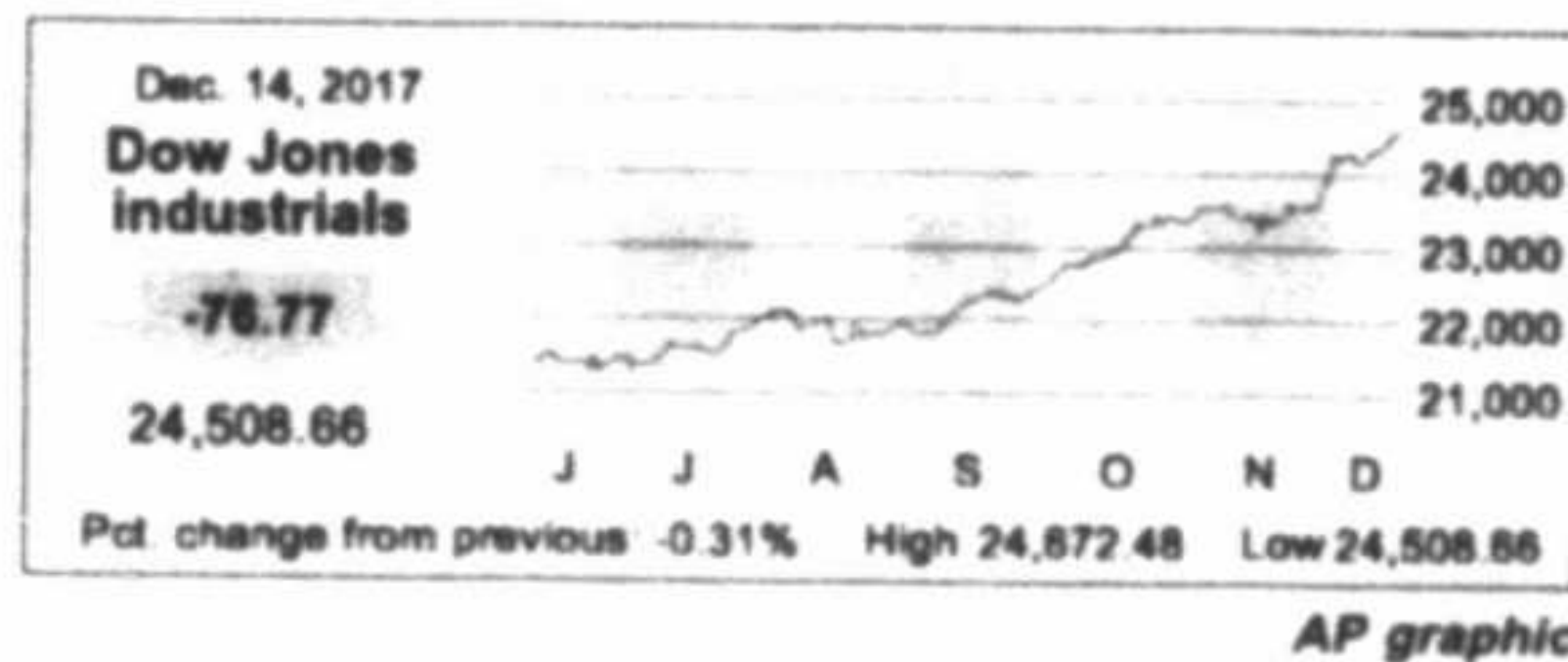
tions which led last week to Russian athletes being required to compete under a neutral flag at the upcoming Pyeongchang Games.

Rodchenkov said he was ordered by the sports ministry to oversee steroid use by Russian athletes in many sports, and to cover up their doping by falsifying test results and swapping dirty samples for clean ones.

BUSINESS & OIL

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Friday, December 15, 2017 | Page 6C

A DAY ON WALL STREET



OIL PRICES

FUTURES

Thursday: \$57.04
Previous: \$56.60

POSTED

Thursday: \$53.75
Previous: \$53.00

WEST TEXAS SOUR

Thursday: \$51.00
Previous: \$50.25

NATURAL GAS

Thursday: \$2.684
Previous: \$2.715



NYSE

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 on stock)

Name Vol (B) Last Chg %Chg
S&P500ETF 10,000,000 1.05
SPDR Fin 7,000,000 27.69
Tesla 1,500,000 17.30
Amazon 1,000,000 28.74
Vanguard 500 1,000,000 19.58

LOSERS (\$2 on stock)

Name Last Chg %Chg
Pier 1 4.12 -1.72 -29.5
Abl 38.18 -5.57 -12.7
O SA C 5.00 -1.72 -25.4
Vanguard 10 19.58 -2.37 -10.7
Quadr 12.73 -1.25 -8.9

DIARY

Name Last Chg %Chg
Pier 1 4.12 -1.72 -29.5
Abl 38.18 -5.57 -12.7
O SA C 5.00 -1.72 -25.4
Vanguard 10 19.58 -2.37 -10.7
Quadr 12.73 -1.25 -8.9

AMEX

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 on stock)

Name Vol (B) Last Chg %Chg
Amazon 1,000,000 28.74
Tesla 1,500,000 17.30
Amazon 1,000,000 28.74
Tesla 1,500,000 17.30

LOSERS (\$2 on stock)

Name Last Chg %Chg
Pier 1 4.12 -1.72 -29.5
Abl 38.18 -5.57 -12.7
O SA C 5.00 -1.72 -25.4
Vanguard 10 19.58 -2.37 -10.7
Quadr 12.73 -1.25 -8.9

DIARY

Name Last Chg %Chg
Pier 1 4.12 -1.72 -29.5
Abl 38.18 -5.57 -12.7
O SA C 5.00 -1.72 -25.4
Vanguard 10 19.58 -2.37 -10.7
Quadr 12.73 -1.25 -8.9

NASDAQ

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 on stock)

Name Vol (B) Last Chg %Chg
Amazon 1,000,000 28.74
Tesla 1,500,000 17.30
Amazon 1,000,000 28.74
Tesla 1,500,000 17.30

LOSERS (\$2 on stock)

Name Last Chg %Chg
Pier 1 4.12 -1.72 -29.5
Abl 38.18 -5.57 -12.7
O SA C 5.00 -1.72 -25.4
Vanguard 10 19.58 -2.37 -10.7
Quadr 12.73 -1.25 -8.9

DIARY

Name Last Chg %Chg
Pier 1 4.12 -1.72 -29.5
Abl 38.18 -5.57 -12.7
O SA C 5.00 -1.72 -25.4
Vanguard 10 19.58 -2.37 -10.7
Quadr 12.73 -1.25 -8.9

IRS criminal cases fell 11 percent as tax cops left beat

By David Voreacos
Bloomberg

Declining manpower continues to sap the Internal Revenue Service's ability to pursue criminal cases, as the number of new investigations dropped by 11 percent over the past year and recommendations for prosecution fell by 18 percent.

The IRS Criminal Investigation Division, which helps send people to prison for crimes such as tax evasion, money laundering and identity theft, opened 3,019 cases in fiscal 2017, compared with 3,395 in 2016. It recommended 2,251 prosecutions, a decrease from the 2,761 it sought in the previous year, the division said Thursday in its annual report.

But the division managed to slow the exodus of agents, who have a reputation as top financial investigators. Buoyed by a group of hires, the loss this year was only 2.6 percent, to 2,159 agents. Since 2011, the division has lost 21 percent of agents a trend in line with IRS as a whole.

Fewer agents mean fewer cases, so the division is trying to select investigations more carefully, said investigations chief Don Fort. Agents rely more on data analysis and an understanding of crimes that occur on the internet and dark web, he said, referring to portions of the web that are hard to find.

"We want to select the best possible cases in every program area in as wide a geographic area as possible," Fort told reporters.

Thursday. "Financial crime is definitely proliferating with the internet and the dark web."

New investigations of various kinds declined. The division's focus on identity theft, which many former agents say should be handled by other agencies, continues to wane. Fort's division opened 374 such cases in 2017, down from a high of 1,492 in 2013.

"We're not de-emphasizing identity theft, it just has dropped significantly," said Fort, who took over the division in June. "My goal is that the time that was spent on identity theft is now being devoted to traditional tax crimes."

The division has created a "nationally coordinated investigations unit" that will use data analysis to refer cases to field offices in such areas as micro-cap stocks, employment tax schemes and bio-fuel tax credit schemes. A Washington-based unit will also focus on international crimes, Fort said.

In its annual report, the division cited several successes, such as an undercover operation that led to the imprisonment of Carlos Rafael, known as the "Cofounder," a Massachusetts fishing magnate who mislabeled tons of fish and smuggled bulk cash.

The number of new investigations has dropped for several years in money laundering, questionable tax refunds, financial institution fraud and Bank Secrecy Act cases.

Agents saw an uptick in cases involving abusive tax preparers, employment tax and international operations.

Israeli drugmaker Teva Pharmaceutical to cut quarter of global workforce

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., the world's largest generic drugmaker, on Thursday said it would lay off over a quarter of its workforce as part of a global restructuring meant to salvage its ailing business.

The company said 14,000 workers would be let go. The cuts will be scattered across Teva's global operations and will occur over the next two years, with most expected in 2018.

The announcement marked a stunning setback for a company seen as a national source of pride in Israel. With roots going back more than a century, Teva has grown into a major global player over the past 40 years with a series of acquisitions, and by developing original drugs and leading the move toward cost-saving generic medications.

The country's main trade union scheduled a nationwide solidarity strike on Sunday, the beginning of the Israeli work week, and Teva's chief executive apologized to the prime minister for the company's dire situation.

Teva's most famous product is Copaxone,

a treatment for multiple sclerosis, and it recently became one of two companies offering a generic version of the blockbuster drug Viagra.

In a letter to employees, Chief Executive Kare Schultz, who only joined Teva in September, said the restructuring is "crucial to restoring our financial security and stabilizing our business."

"We have no time to waste," he said. "We are flattening our organization both top down and sideways, with fewer layers of management and increased accountability. This will ensure better integration, improve productivity and efficiencies, and reduce our cost base."

Teva's bottom line has been hit by the expiration of patents on Copaxone, pricing pressure on its core generics business and a \$35 billion debt load taken on in its acquisition of the generics business of Allergan.

It also has suffered from turnover and instability in senior management ranks.

Teva's U.S.-traded stock has skidded nearly 60 percent this year.

But after the announcement, its shares were sharply higher Thursday, up 14 percent at \$17.98 after trading opened on Wall Street.

Health care companies, banks drive lower close for US stocks

Health care companies and banks drove U.S. stocks lower Thursday, pulling major indexes below their recent highs.

The afternoon slide, which erased gains from earlier in the day, came on news that some Republican senators' support for the GOP's proposed tax overhaul bill was faltering.

Small-company stocks, which would be among the biggest beneficiaries of the bill's reduction of corporate income tax rates, declined more than the rest of the market.

"The market is focused almost completely on the corporate tax reduction," said Quincy Krosby, chief market strategist at Prudential Financial. "And there are still concerns that some of the key Republican senators are wavering."

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 10.84 points, or 0.4 percent, to 2,652.01. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 76.77 points, or 0.3 percent, to 24,508.66. The Nasdaq shed 19.27 points, or 0.3 percent, to 6,856.53. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks gave up 17.50 points, or 1.2 percent, to 1,506.95.

Metal prices rise

Gold rose \$8.50 to \$1,257.10 an ounce. Silver gained 7 cents to \$15.93 an ounce. Copper added 2 cents to \$3.07 a pound.

MIDLAND STOCKS

Midland-Headquartered Publicly Traded Companies

Concho Resources (CXO)
Closing Price \$136.80 Down 1.49

Dawson Geophysical (DWSN)
Closing Price \$4.67 Down 0.06

Diamondback Energy (FANG)
Closing Price \$111.03 Down 0.56

Legacy Reserves (LGCY)
Closing Price \$1.26 Down 0.05

Mexco Energy (MXC)
Closing Price \$3.82 Down 0.08

Natural Gas Services Group (NGS)
Closing Price \$24.40 Down 0.55

ProPetro Holdings (PUMP)
Closing Price \$18.74 Down 0.87

RSP Permian (RSP)
Closing Price \$35.87 Down 0.12

Ring Energy (REI)
Closing Price \$13.26 Up 0.02

Viper Energy Partners (VNOM)
Closing Price \$22.15 Down 0.04

HOW STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST FARED

YTD						YTD						YTD						YTD						
Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	%Chg	Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	%Chg	Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	%Chg	Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	%Chg	
AT&T	1.96	14	37.74	-0.30	-0.8	ConAgra	85	21	37.91	-0.33	-0.9	InterDig	1.40	10	74.25	-2.35	-3.2	PUMAS	—	—	11.12	-13	—	—
Alcatel	52	2.07	-0.95	-19.5		Concho	—	—	136.80	-1.49	-1.1	IntUnibH	32.0	12.33	-24	-20.1		ProGen	2.78	27	91.90	+12	+8.2	
AmGen	1.32	—	14.87	+1.17	+7.8	Conoco	1.86	42	92.31	+0.63	+0.7	JDCorp	—	24	40.63	-17	-40.7	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
AMD	—	—	10.13	-0.02	-0.2	Crescent	4.80	26	183.14	-8.0	-4.4	JP Morgan	2.40	16	104.66	-86	-81.3	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
Alkerm	49	17.75	-4.72	-9.6		CSX	6.00	04	83.6	-0.04	-0.05	Jaguar	—	13	—	-0.01	-0.1	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
Alkerm MLP	1.35	—	10.87	+0.06	+0.6	CSX	6.00	04	83.6	-0.04	-0.05	Johnson	3.50	20	147.85	-1.28	-0.9	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
Alkerm	69.23	-2.01	-2.9			Critco	21	24.42	-7.10	-40.6	Kimbark	3.88	19	117.25	-1.4	-1.2	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5		
Amazon	5.28	16	174.82	-2.46	-1.4	Crocs	3.00	14	14.41	+0.83	+5.8	Kinder	50	33	17.84	-0.1	-0.6	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
Amgen	—	—	2.33	+0.58	+25.3	DCP	3.12	32	37.18	-3.1	-8.1	Kroger	50	13	25.00	-7.9	-24.9	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
Anadarko	26	—	47.89	-37	-31.3	DTE	3.20	22	113.82	-2.0	-1.8	Legacy	—	1.26	-0.05	-4.0		Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
Apache	1.80	—	39.42	-38	-37.9	Delta	1.22	12	50.25	+1.62	+3.2	Lululemon	—	—	2.75	+0.91	+33.7	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
Apple Inc.	2.52	20	172.22	-0.05	-0.03	Devco	24	54	38.80	-0.06	-0.16	Macys	1.51	9	24.80	-0.05	-0.2	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
Applied	40	16	51.31	+0.55	+1.1	Digital	—	—	5.00	-0.05	-1.0	McDermott	4.00	29	173.14	-41	-23.2	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
Archrock	48	—	10.15	+0.35	+3.5	Digital	—	—	5.00	-0.05	-1.0	Merck	1.92	14	56.01	-42	-7.5	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
AT&M	1.80	25	89.43	-53	-58.6	Digital	—	—	5.00	-0.05	-1.0	Merck	1.92	14	56.01	-42	-7.5	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
AutoData	2.52	31	116.46	-56	-48.1	Digital	—	—	5.00	-0.05	-1.0	Merck	1.92	14	56.01	-42	-7.5	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
BP PLC	2.38	29	48.83	-0.2	-0.4	Digital	—	—	5.00	-0.05	-1.0	Merck	1.92	14	56.01	-42	-7.5	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
BioAm	48	16	28.74	-10	-35.0	Digital	—	—	5.00	-0.05	-1.0	Merck	1.92	14	56.01	-42	-7.5	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
BioPharm	—	—	29.12	-18	-62.0	Digital	—	—	5.00	-0.05	-1.0	Merck	1.92	14	56.01	-42	-7.5	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
BioPharm	1.20	—	15.81	-0.03	-0.2	Digital	—	—	5.00	-0.05	-1.0	Merck	1.92	14	56.01	-42	-7.5	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
BioPharm	12	21	14.17	+0.08	+0.6	Digital	—	—	5.00	-0.05	-1.0	Merck	1.92	14	56.01	-42	-7.5	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
BioPharm	—	—	45	—	—	Digital	—	—	5.00	-0.05	-1.0	Merck	1.92	14	56.01	-42	-7.5	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
BioPharm	—	—	342,000,000	-304,000	-21.2	Digital	—	—	5.00	-0.05	-1.0	Merck	1.92	14	56.01	-42	-7.5	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
BioPharm	1.78	18	98.47	-71	-3.0	Digital	—	—	5.00	-0.05	-1.0	Merck	1.92	14	56.01	-42	-7.5	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
BioPharm	18	25.82	-0.09	-18.4		Digital	—	—	5.00	-0.05	-1.0	Merck	1.92	14	56.01	-42	-7.5	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
BioPharm	1.60	22	62.13	-1.34	-2.1	Digital	—	—	5.00	-0.05	-1.0	Merck	1.92	14	56.01	-42	-7.5	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
BioPharm	79	39	65.73	+0.80	+1.2	Digital	—	—	5.00	-0.05	-1.0	Merck	1.92	14	56.01	-42	-7.5	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
BioPharm	79	—	65.84	+0.80	+1.2	Digital	—	—	5.00	-0.05	-1.0	Merck	1.92	14	56.01	-42	-7.5	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
BioPharm	2.00	12	70.80	-82	-10.3	Digital	—	—	5.00	-0.05	-1.0	Merck	1.92	14	56.01	-42	-7.5	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
BioPharm	—	—	12.00	—	—	Digital	—	—	5.00	-0.05	-1.0	Merck	1.92	14	56.01	-42	-7.5	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
BioPharm	33	16.57	-31	-31.2		Digital	—	—	5.00	-0.05	-1.0	Merck	1.92	14	56.01	-42	-7.5	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
BioPharm	3.12	38	146.28	-2.29	-1.6	Digital	—	—	5.00	-0.05	-1.0	Merck	1.92	14	56.01	-42	-7.5	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
BioPharm	7	10.32	-0.4	-12.9		Digital	—	—	5.00	-0.05	-1.0	Merck	1.92	14	56.01	-42	-7.5	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
BioPharm	29	—	7.48	-0.08	-1.1	Digital	—	—	5.00	-0.05	-1.0	Merck	1.92	14	56.01	-42	-7.5	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
BioPharm	2.16	8	16.47	-28	-30.7	Digital	—	—	5.00	-0.05	-1.0	Merck	1.92	14	56.01	-42	-7.5	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
BioPharm	6	3.64	-0.08	-48.1		Digital	—	—	5.00	-0.05	-1.0	Merck	1.92	14	56.01	-42	-7.5	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
BioPharm	4.32	79	119.53	-49	-41.8	Digital	—	—	5.00	-0.05	-1.0	Merck	1.92	14	56.01	-42	-7.5	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
BioPharm	33	12	8.54	-61	-40.7	Digital	—	—	5.00	-0.05	-1.0	Merck	1.92	14	56.01	-42	-7.5	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
BioPharm	32	30	113.05	-23	-16.8	Digital	—	—	5.00	-0.05	-1.0	Merck	1.92	14	56.01	-42	-7.5	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
BioPharm	3	1.16	20	37.90	-25	-25.4	Digital	—	—	5.00	-0.05	-1.0	Merck	1.92	14	56.01	-42	-7.5	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5
BioPharm	1.28	14	73.92	-1.22	-0.44	Digital	—	—	5.00	-0.05	-1.0	Merck	1.92	14	56.01	-42	-7.5	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
BioPharm	1.68	28	48.83	+14	+11.8	Digital	—	—	5.00	-0.05	-1.0	Merck	1.92	14	56.01	-42	-7.5	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
BioPharm	30	26	73.24	+11	+15.0	Digital	—	—	5.00	-0.05	-1.0	Merck	1.92	14	56.01	-42	-7.5	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	
BioPharm	83	19	38.12	+54	+15.3	Digital	—	—	5.00	-0.05	-1.0	Merck	1.92	14	56.01	-42	-7.5	Ramp	06	17	19.99	-23	-53.5	

Can't find your favorite stocks or mutual funds listed?

Send your favorite to sdoren@mrt.com or mmccowen@mrt.com.

We will regularly update the Permian Basin stocks list.

INDEXES							
52-Week		Name	Last	Chg	Net %Chg	YTD %Chg	52-Week %Chg
High	Low						
24,885.02	8,877.34	Dow Jones Industrials	24,508.68	-76.77	-31	+42.52	+23.45
10,594.80	10,774.98	Dow Jones Transportation	10,327.95	-71.03	-69	+24.20	+11.95
6,954.80	6,470.70	Dow Jones Utilities	759.57	+0.87	+01	+13.79	+15.61
18,735.00	11,024.05	NYSE Commodities	18,229.88	-79.40	-45	+14.22	+13.45
2,751.89	5,371.89	S&P 500	2,751.89	-19.27	-28	+27.37	+25.60
1,893.71	2,837.28	S&P Midcap	2,837.28	-18.84	-41	+18.46	+17.74
27,718.02	23,365.00	Wall Street 500	27,503.06	-123.72	-45	+17.44	+15.25
1,889.80	1,338.03	Russell 2000	1,338.03	-17.49	-15	+11.41	+15.25

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level:

1 2

3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

SOLUTION TO THURSDAY'S PUZZLE

8	2	9	7	5	6	1	3	4
1	5	6	3	4	9	7	2	8
4	7	3	2	8	1	9	5	6
5	1	4	8	9	2	6	7	3
6	8	7	5	1	3	4	9	2
3	9	2	4	6	7	8	1	5
2	6	1	9	3	4	5	8	7
7	4	8	1	2	5	3	6	9
9	3	5	6	7	8	2	4	1

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JUMBLE CROSSWORDS

by David L. Hoyt

CLUE ACROSS

1. Sumptuously
5. Elbow
6. Step
7. In this place

CLUE DOWN

1. United again
2. ___ change
3. Mesh, trellis
4. Rule, control

ANSWER

CYRIHL
IJTON
DEASI
EIRHEN

ANSWER

ONIRJE
ACEILMT
TECTLAI
RGONVE

How to play - Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS

12-15-17 **CLUE:** This actor died while filming "Wagon's East!" in Durango, Mexico.

BONUS ○○○○○○ ○○○○○○

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ANSWERS: 1A-Elbow; 5A-Joint; 6A-Handle; 7A-Where; 1D-Change; 2D-Change; 3D-Lattice; 4D-Govern; 5D-Join; 6D-Land; 7D-Where
Send comments to TCA - 435 N. Michigan Ave., Third Floor, Chicago, IL 60611 or DLHoyt@aol.com.

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TLAGO

○○○○

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RAYHI

○○○○

PLUTIP

○○○○

EETUQA

○○○○

○○○○

○○○○

○○○○

○○○○

○○○○

○○○○

○○○○

○○○○

○○○○

○○○○

○○○○

○○○○



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here: ○○○○○○ ○○○○○○

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SPURN TEASE FALLEN UNEASY

Answer: Track star Usain Bolt dreamed of breaking records when he was — FAST ASLEEP

DAILY CROSSWORD

Edited By Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Meet of which Australia is among the largest producers

5 Down-and-out inn

12 Apt brew for a golfer?

15 Healing salve

16 Oral soporific?

17 Solo with memorable lines

18 Unfinished Puccini work a.k.a. "Homage to a Dairy?"

20 Fertilization target

21 Cashed, as a forged check

22 Hoosgow

24 Completely filled

27 Singers do it

29 Moist-eyed

30 "Argo" setting

32 It may make you 29-Across

35 "All bets ___ off"

36 Soak (up), as gravy

38 They may be raw

41 Whistle-blower

42 Unfinished Beethoven work a.k.a. "Salute to Manning?"

44 Cabin bed

45 Proceeded cautiously

48 Aroing shot

50 Side dish piece

51 Stuck

53 What the puzzled have

55 Baseball commission?

57 Mex. distances

59 Tie for cooking

60 Dictators

63 Track bet

65 View

66 Unfinished Beethoven work a.k.a. "Dracula's Boy?"

71 Actress Gabor

72 "M*A*S*H" unit?

73 "M*A*S*H" actor

74 Guitarist Paul

75 Held up

76 Putin's refusal

DOWN

2 In the style of

3 Stylish, '60s-style

4 Lab container

5 Like day-old seltzer

6 Garage services

7 Dodges

8 Key usually pressed and held

9 Takes cuts in a box

10 Slain brother

11 Belly dancer, e.g.

12 Unfinished Mozart work a.k.a. "A Sorcerer's Bug?"

13 Gung-ho

14 Steamed

19 Gift-ridden king?

23 List of options

24 Square one

25 Word on Spanish mail

26 Unfinished Vivaldi work a.k.a. "Water Music for the Mathematically Challenged?"

28 Soft finish?

31 Dietary watchwords

33 Farmer's habitat?

ACROSS

34 Boxy Toyota

37 Persian murmur

39 Bagel shape

40 Eye sores

43 Smell to high heaven

46 "Gangnam Style" genre, for short

47 Ricocheted

49 Make a mess of

52 Use

54 Ancient Krossos denizen

DOWN

55 Collectible lemon

56 "Still Me" memoirist

58 One way to come home

61 Hit the sauce

62 Get dirty

64 Like port, usually

67 DOD division

68 Underhanded

69 Keats forte

70 2017 NLDS player

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

B	E	D	S	P	A	N	S	T	O	P	G	O
R	A	E	I	L	S	A	T	I	V	O	E	D
A	R	S	C	A	S	H	B	O	N	U	S	E
S	L	I	N	K	Y	A	G	A	M	E		
C	A	R	S	O	N	C	I	T	I			
O	P	E	C	I	A	N	S	A	D	D	E	D
			A	C	R	E	M	O	O	E	D	
H	E	E	E	E	E	R	E	S	J	O	H	N
I	L	L	G	O					D	I	O	S
T	I	E	O	N	M	I	L	K	I	R	I	S
S	A	M			R	O	T	T	E	N	L	U
E	A	T	A	T					L	O	O	N
B	E	N	C	H	J	O	C	K	E	Y	O	T
M	A	T	T	E	A				V	I	S	E
W	U	S	S	E	S				S	A	S	S

xwordedfor@aol.com 12/15/17

DOWN

1 Hasty flight

By John Lamphkin
© 2017 Tribune Content Agency, LLC 12/15/17

WUZZLES

WORD PUZZLES BY WOOD TOM

Each Wuzzle is a word riddle which creates a disguised word, phrase, name, place, saying, etc. For example, NOON GOOD = GOOD AFTERNOON

3 WUZZLES BOOKLETS

"The Best of Wuzzles" (\$4.00), "More of the Best of Wuzzles" (\$4.50), and "Wuzzles for Kids" (\$4.25) are available, postpaid, from Wuzzles, Box 1141, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

1. **fault fault**

2. **BOOK**

Print Your Answers Here:

1.

2.

Today's Answers:

2. Little black book

1. Double fault

12-15

Answers

2. Little black book

1. Double fault

WUZZLES

Created by Tom Underwood
www.wuzzlesking.com © North America Syndicate, 2017

Be sure to check out Sunday's edition to read weekly
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A REFRESHING

Twist

THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR YOU OR A SPECIAL LOVED ONE

Located Inside
The MCM Elegant Hotel
5200 E. University Blvd. | Odessa, Texas | 432-362-6436

Tuesday - Saturday | 7:30am-8pm

**GOLDEN CHRISTMAS PACKAGE**Reg. \$415 | **\$365**

Your Choice of Peppermint or Eucalyptus Aroma

50 min. Facial of Your Choice

50 min. Seaweed Mud Mask

90 min. Massage of Your Choice

Aveda Manicure & Pedicure

Shampoo | Blow Dry | Style

Light Lunch & Beverage

\$20 Gift Card

CANDY CANE PACKAGEReg. \$240 | **\$215**

Candy Cane Soft Glow

Candy Cane Aromatique Massage

Candy Cane Aveda Pedicure

Aveda Manicure

\$10 Gift Card

EUCALYPTUS PACKAGEReg. \$150 | **\$130**

30 min. Mini Facial

30 min. Aromatique Massage

30 min. Mini Aromatique Pedicure

25 min. Manicure

SANTA BABYReg. \$110 | **\$95**

50 min. Swedish Massage

Your Choice of: Mini Pedicure | Mini Facial | Mini Manicure | Mini Salt Glow

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mrtclassifieds@mrt.com

ENERGY AND UTILITIES

Design Engineer

Natural Gas Services Group has an immediate opening for a Design Engineer. Responsibilities: Software improvement, design equipment, cost estimates, scheduling, client interaction and other duties as assigned. Qualifications: Strong computer skills, cost analysis capabilities, time management skills, and must be detail oriented. Education: Bachelor of Science in Engineering is required. BSME or BSCE preferred. Experience: 5 years of experience in natural gas business or related business. Knowledge of industry codes, piping and vessel codes, industrial drafting standards and symbols, wiring, instrumentation and client interaction are essential. Excellent Salary and Benefit package. For more information or to submit your resume, contact employment@ngsg.com or call 432-262-2700.

Mechanic

Predator Drilling is now hiring a Mechanic in Midland. Experience in rig repair and maintenance required. Must have knowledge of hydraulic systems, top drives, draw works and other fundamental parts of a drilling rig. Apply online at predatordrilling.com



MANAGEMENT-EXECUTIVE

District Manager

The Midland Reporter-Telegram has an opening for a Circulation District Manager. This individual would be responsible for overseeing a delivery force of independent contractors/carriers, as well as performing other duties involved with the delivery and distribution of our newspaper, other contracted products, and niche publications.

This position requires excellent communication skills, must be able to work flexible hours (largely in the early morning hours including weekends), have reliable transportation. Candidate with previous newspaper delivery experience preferred but not required.

This is a full time salaried position, eligible for full benefits including health, vision, dental and paid time off with excellent starting salary.

To apply, please email your resume and cover letter to: sheckler@hearstmg.com. No phone calls please.

OTHER JOBS

SURVEYOR
Land Survey Crew Chiefs

UINTAH is looking to hire in Seminole TX - Carlsbad NM

Qualifications:

- Minimum of 2 years experience with Trimble GPS Surveying Products
- Experience in Oil and Gas Surveying
- Experience collecting survey data to support Civil Engineering design projects

Excellent benefit package and competitive wages

Apply online at www.uitah.com

The employment and training program is required and all applicants must have a valid driver's license with an MVR that meets the company's requirements.



BORDER STATES

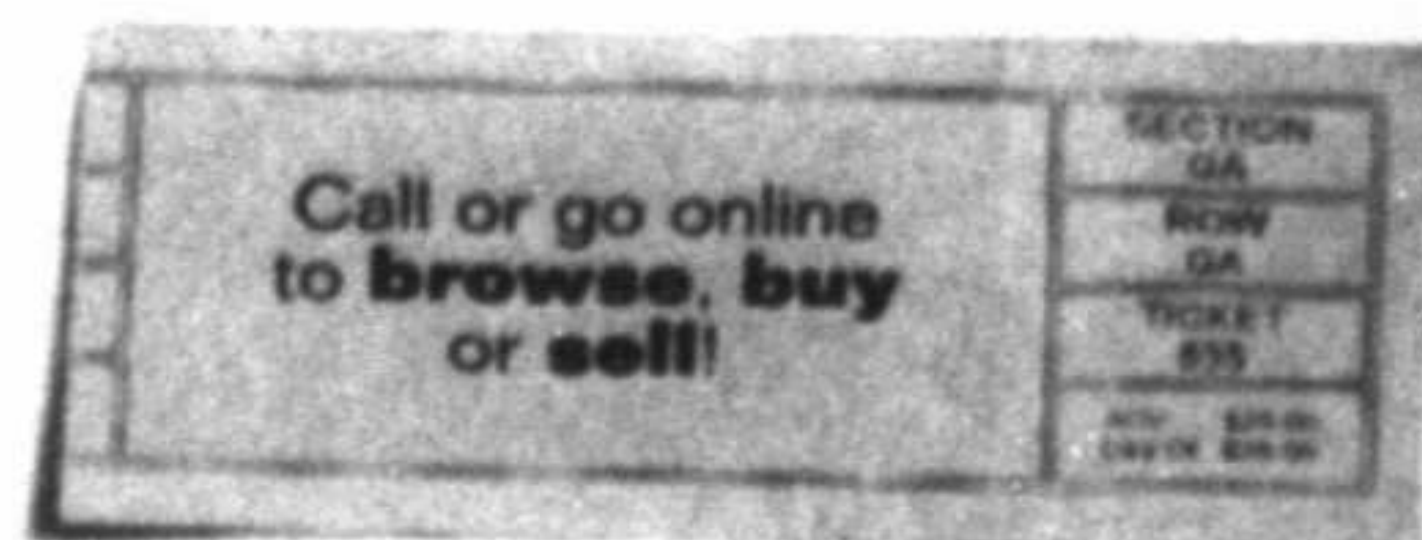
Supply Chain Solutions

Border States Electric - Midland is looking for a City Desk Rep (Counter Sales) & a Delivery Driver/Warehouse Associate to join our growing team.

Employee Owned - Competitive Benefits - Advancement Opportunities

Apply online at careers.borderstates.com and search for Texas openings.

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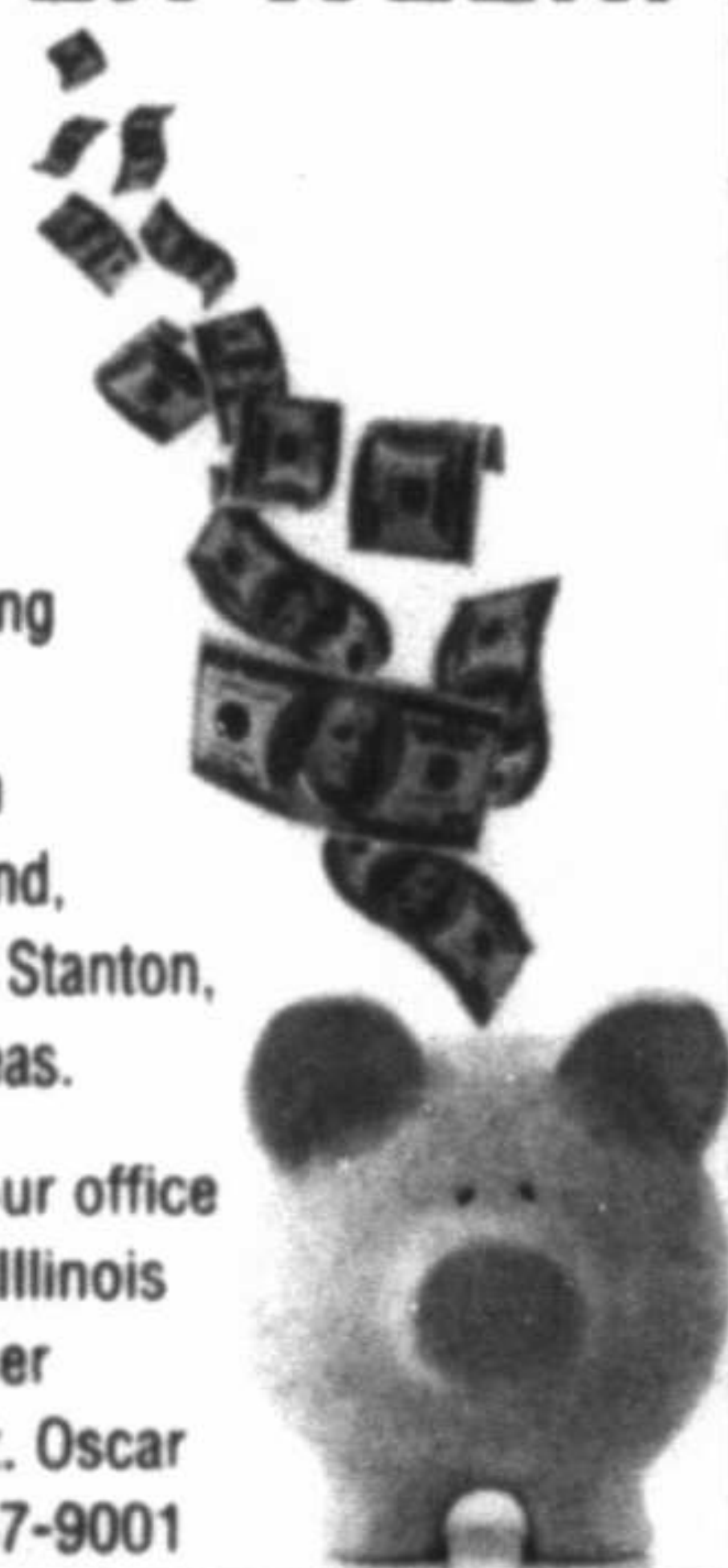
OTHER JOBS

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Reporter-Telegram
in the in the Midland,
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and Big Spring areas.

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located at 201 E. Illinois
and fill out a carrier
information sheet. Oscar
Ronquillo 432-687-9001



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SKILLED LABOR

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Mid-Tex of Midland, Inc. Now hiring commercial construction project superintendents. Competitive pay plus excellent benefits. Experience in commercial construction a must. Please send resumes to 5206 W. Wadley Ave. Midland, Texas 79707 or email them to Billy Mays at billy@midtexofmidland.com. You may also fax your resume to (432) 694-9627.

Lube Tech

Lube Tech - 3 yrs experience, Class A CDL required, must have own tools. Must pass background, DOT drug and physical screening. Please contact Rhett at rhett@lubeoil.com or apply online at www.lubeoil.com

TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

DRIVER NEEDED

Hazmat, Tankers & Class A CDL
Contact Roman Hernandez 432-894-1416
Fernando Uribe 432-556-0966
Send Resume to: Lynne.Gardner@CatalystOilfield.com

Class A CDL Drivers & Leasing Owner/ Operator

Total Logistics Corp. is hiring Class A CDL drivers. Multiple positions are available. Must have a clean driving record and be able to pass a DOT drug/alcohol test and physical. Also leasing owner/ operators. Please apply at 2701 Earhart Drive, Midland, TX or call 432-561-8850 between 9-5 M-F for more info.

LOCAL TRUCK DRIVER CDL A OR B - SHOT CREW MEMBER

Austin Powder Company is hiring at our Midland, TX location.

Duties:

- Operate company vehicles to transport products to and from job sites.
- Loading/unloading product for delivery. frequent lifting of 40-50 pound product bags or boxes.
- Perform labor support at job sites and location.

Qualifications:

- Class A or B CDL
- 2+ years' CDL driving experience
- HAZMAT, Tanker & Air Brakes endorsements preferred
- Able to work outside in all weather conditions

Benefits:

- Medical / Dental / Vision
- 401(k) / Profit Sharing

Apply at
www.austinpowder.com

Click on Careers

Or forward resume to Austin Powder Company.

Email: humanresources@austinpowder.com or Fax: (214) 591-1568

EEO Employer M/F/Vets/Disabled

Truck Driver

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

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PRINT MARKETING SERVICES

MRT Media Group is a seven day a week paper offering a variety of local content and specialized categories to fit all your needs. We offer Education, Health, The Weekender, Faith & Philanthropy, Oil and Gas and Cultural sections.

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Legal and Public Notices

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 08 Rule 37 Case No. 0308091
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Dec 4, 2017 Status/Permit No. 628806
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Jan 5, 2017
Address: Railroad Commission of Texas ATTN: Drilling Permit Unit
P. O. Box 12967
Austin, Texas 78711-2967
Fax: (512) 463-6780
Email: SWR37@RRCC.TEXAS.GOV

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the PERMIAN DEEP ROCK OIL CO., LLC, [RRC Operator No. 655805] has made application for a spacing exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 37 (16 Tex. Admin. Code section 3.37). Applicant seeks exception to the lease line distance requirement because the Applicant is less than the required Rule 37 lease line distance to an unleased or non-pooled interest within the subject unit. Applicant also seeks exception to the LEASE LINE requirement because the location is less than the required Rule 37 distance to an external lease line for the AMENDED NEW DRILL permit in Sec. 12, Bk. 39 T2S, T & P RR CO/ GARDNER, J E Survey, A-662, SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) R 40 EXC Field, MIDLAND County, being 2.4 miles SW direction from MIDLAND, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted **WITHOUT A HEARING** if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at (512) 463-6848. If you have questions which are specific to the Application or the information set forth in this Notice, please contact the Commission's Drilling Permit Unit at rule 37 (512) 463-6751.

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST **MUST BE RECEIVED** IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS: FAX NUMBER, OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY JAN 5, 2017, at 5:00 p.m. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO PROTEST AND THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.

THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION REQUIRES PUBLICATION

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

FIELD SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) R 40 EXC

Lease/Unit Name	REBEL
Lease/Unit Well No.	H115UH
Lease/Unit Acres	203.9
Nearest Lease Line (ft)	1.0
Lease Lines	720.0 F NW L 890.0 F SW L
Survey Lines	720.0 F NW L 890.0 F SW L
Wellbore Profile(s)	Horizontal
Lateral: TH1	
Penetration Point Location	
Lease Lines	100.0 F SE L 430.0 F NE L
Terminus Location	
BH County: MIDLAND	
Section: 36	Block: 39 T1S
Survey: T&P RR CO/MOODY, JM	Abstract: 1
Lease Lines	100.0 F NW L 252.0 F NE L
Survey Lines	100.0 F NW L 701.0 F SW L

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

SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) R 40 EXC Special Rules 3300; 80.0 acres

The well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 11800 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, Debbie Whiting, at (432) 662-6665, x357.

Legal and Public Notices

NO. P19274

ESTATE OF JULIA HITCHCOCK HARVEY, DECEASED

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF MIDLAND COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that on the 5th day of December, 2017, Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of Julia Hitchcock Harvey, Deceased, were issued to Allen Grambling Harvey, as Independent Executor of said Estate, in proceedings in the County Court of Midland County, Texas, numbered P19274, and pending in said Court and that he now holds such letters.

All persons having claims against the Estate are hereby required to present the same to the said Allen Grambling Harvey, as Independent Executor of said Estate, at the post office address given below and within the time prescribed by law.

The residence of said Independent Executor is in the City of Midland, Midland County, Texas, and his post office address is as follows:

Allen Grambling Harvey
2100 Seaboard Avenue
Midland, TX 79705

Dated the 8th day of December, 2017

FIZER, BECK, WEBSTER, BENTLEY & SCROGGINS,
a professional corporation

By KRISTIN L. ELSOM

State Bar No. 08631950
Attorneys for Allen Grambling Harvey, Independent
Executor of the Estate of Julia Hitchcock Harvey,
Deceased
2727 Allen Parkway, Suite 900
Houston, Texas 77019
Telephone (713) 840-7710
Facsimile (713) 963-8469
Email: kelsom@fizerbeck.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Irene S. Rotan, Deceased, were issued on December 5, 2017, in Docket Number P-19245, pending in the County Court of Midland County, Texas to VALARIE COWIN, Independent Executor.

The address of record for VALARIE COWIN is 6005 FM 715, Midland, Midland County, Texas 79706.

All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present their claims within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 12th day of December, 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,

LAW OFFICE OF J. BRIAN MARTIN

J. Brian Martin
3700 N. Big Spring St.
P.O. Box 3981
Midland, Texas 79705
Ph: 432-684-0402
Fax: 432-683-8087
State Bar#13084500

ATTORNEY FOR THE ESTATE OF
IRENE S. ROTAN

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LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed Bids will be received until 2:00 P.M. local time, January 17, 2018 to be opened at 2:00 P.M. in the office of the City Secretary, City Hall, 300 N. Lorraine, Midland, Texas for the following Bids(s):

Bid No. 18000815

For: Sealed bids for the City of Midland - WPCP Primary Treatment Rehabilitation Project for the Utilities Department. The project manual may be obtained at a non-refundable charge of \$25 per electronic set 1/4 or full size, \$100 per hard copy set of 1/4 size or \$125 per hard full size copy of plans and specifications by contacting HDR Engineering, Inc. at 512-912-5192 or by email: isa.singer@hdrinc.com.

A pre-bid conference for this project will be held at 1:30 PM local time on January 3, 2018 at the City of Midland, 300 N. Lorraine, Basement Conference Room, Midland, TX 79701. A site visit will take place immediately following the pre-bid conference. ATTENDANCE AT THE PRE-BID CONFERENCE IS MANDATORY.

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

Purchasing Division
City of Midland, Texas

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Frances C. Mills, Deceased, were issued on December 12, 2017, under Docket No. P19263, pending in the County Court of Midland County, Texas, to: Melinda M. Williamson.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Independent Executor addressed as follows:

Melinda M. Williamson, Independent Executor
The Estate of Frances C. Mills, Deceased
c/o Larry A. Harman, P.C.
Two Riverway, Suite 1080
Houston, Texas 77056-2062

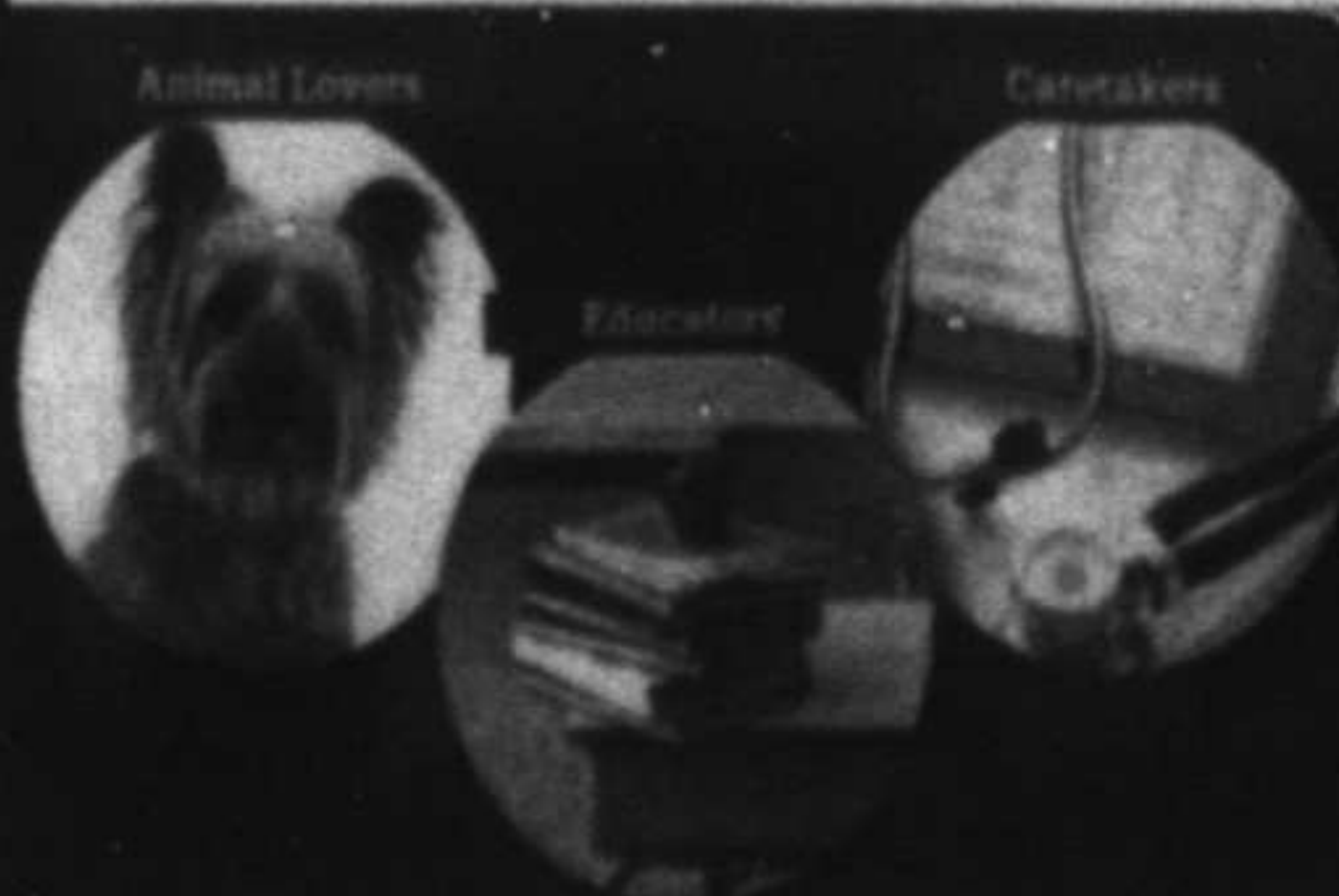
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated: December 13, 2017.

By: Larry A. Harman,
Attorney for the Independent Executor

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to the Decree and Order for Partition by Public Sale entered in Cause No. 7104 in the 118th District Court in Martin County, Texas, the following property will be sold by public auction:

THE SURFACE ONLY OF SECTION 43, BLOCK 37, TOWNSHIP 1 NORTH, TEXAS & PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY SURVEY, ABSTRACT NO. 233, MARTIN COUNTY, TEXAS, CONTAINING 640.81 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS.

Such sale will be for cash, which may also be in the form of certified funds. The public auction will take place in front of the northeast corner of the Martin County Courthouse on the 2nd day of January, 2018 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

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

Midland Independent School District

Midland, Texas

Notice to Vendors

Request for Proposals for Kitchen Equipment Repair

The Midland Independent School District invites qualified vendors to submit a sealed proposal(s) for RFP #18-01 Kitchen Equipment Repair through the MISD electronic bid system. Proposals will be publicly opened and read in accordance with the proposal documents in the office of Rebecca Mull, Director of Procurement Services, at 615 W. Missouri Avenue, Suite 707, Midland, Texas at 10:00 A.M. Wednesday, January 18, 2018. Request for Proposal documents may be obtained by registering as a supplier at www.midlandisd.net/dmsn/154 - Bid Opportunities. For any questions, contact MISD Procurement Services department at (432) 240-1965.

Notice of Sale of Personal Property to satisfy a landlords lien for CASH ONLY.
Sale date is Thursday January 11, 2018 @ 10:20am.

Aztec A-1 Storage
1219 S Midland Dr
Midland TX 79703

#208 Elise Barr
#229 Daniel DeLeon
#296 Jacob Fumero
#342 Ian Emmanuel
#352 Petra Lucio

*Household Goods

★
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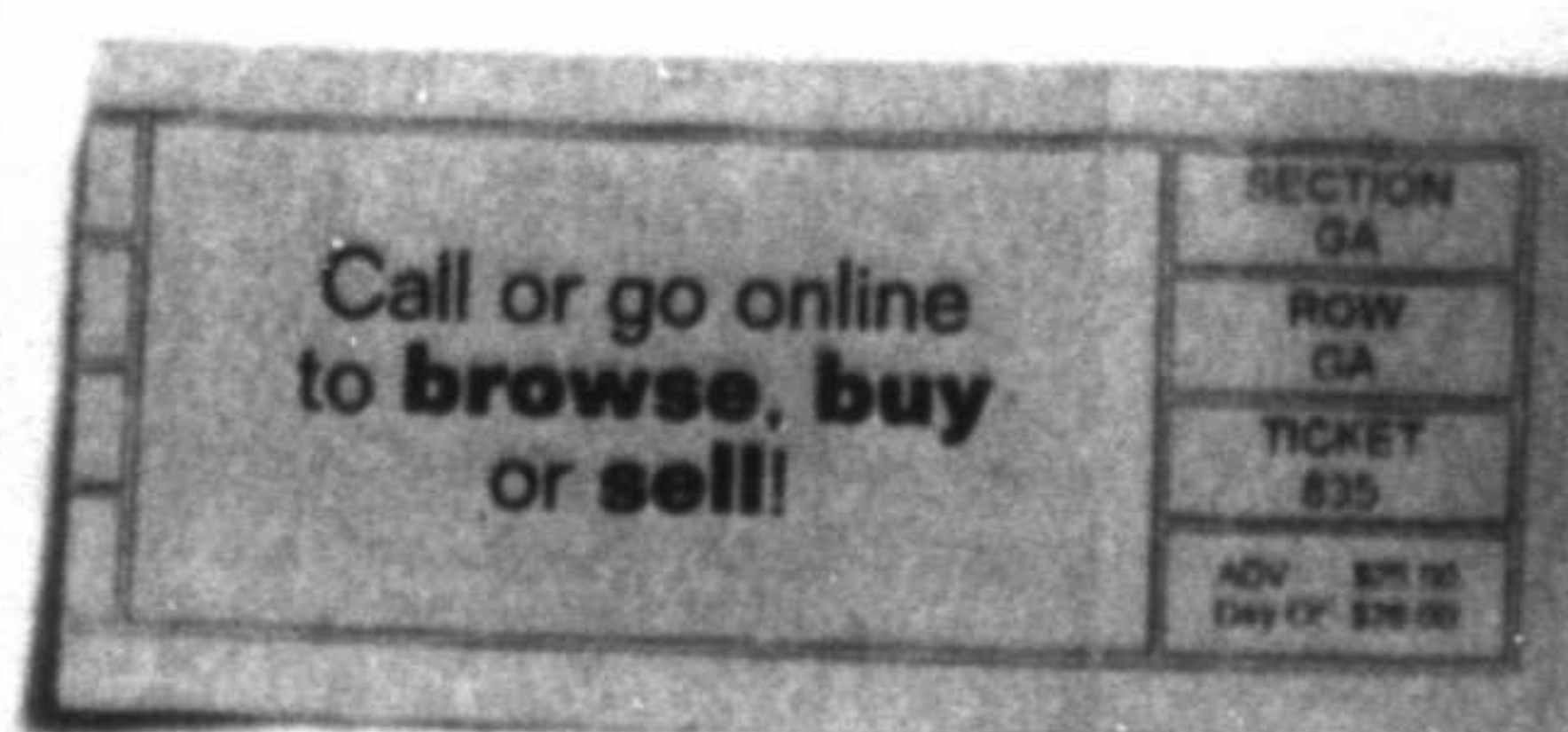
Notice to Creditors of THE ESTATE OF Timothy Scott Wendt, Deceased

Notice is hereby given that Letters of Administration on the Estate of Timothy Scott Wendt, Deceased, were granted to the undersigned on August 22, 2017, by the County Court of Midland County, Texas. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same to Shirley Davis, Administrator of the Estate of Timothy Scott Wendt, within the time prescribed by law. My address is 3125 Williamsburg Road, Irving, Texas, 75061. CAUSE NO. P19021

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Legal and Public Notices NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that origi- nal Letters Testamentary for the Estate of James D. Sumrall, Deceased, were is- sued to Sharon K. Sumrall on December 5, 2017 in Cause No. P19262, pending in the County Court of Midland County, Texas. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently be- ing administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Sharon K. Sumrall c/o Brandon W. Pinson P.O. Box 8530 Midland, Texas 79708 DATED the 13th day of Decem- ber, 2017 PINSON LAW FIRM By: Brandon W. Pinson	ORDINANCE NO. 9718 AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A SPE- CIAL EXCEPTION FOR LOT 10A, BLOCK 1, MIRA VISTA, SECTION 2, CITY AND COUNTY OF MIDLAND, TEXAS (GENERALLY LOCATED SOUTHWEST OF THE SOUTHERN IN- TERSECTION OF MIRA VISTA CIRCLE AND NORTH BIG SPRING STREET), BY PERMITTING AN INCREASED HEIGHT OF A FENCE WITHIN THE FRONT YARD SETBACK AND BY PER- MITTING A DETACHED ACCESSORY STRUCTURE IN FRONT OF THE POR- TION OF THE PRINCIPAL STRUCTURE THAT IS CLOSEST TO THE FRONT YARD SETBACK LINE, CONTAINING A CUMULATIVE CLAUSE, CONTAINING A SAVINGS AND SEVERABILITY CLAUSE, PROVIDING FOR A MAXI- MUM PENALTY OR FINE OF TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$2,000.00); OR- DERING RECORDATION BY THE CITY SECRETARY IN THE DEED RECORDS OF MIDLAND COUNTY, TEXAS; AND ORDERING PUBLICATION City of Midland Amy M. Turner City Secretary	ORDINANCE NO. 9719 AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION BY AMENDING CHAPTER ONE, TI- TLE XI, OF THE CITY CODE OF MIDLAND, TEXAS, BY PERMIT- TING LOTS 1-6, BLOCK 21, BEL- MONT ADDITION, CITY AND COUNTY OF MIDLAND, TEXAS, WHICH IS PRESENTLY ZONED MH, MOBILE HOME DWELLING DISTRICT, TO BE USED AS AN LR-2, LOCAL RETAIL DISTRICT (GENERALLY LOCATED SOUTH- WEST OF THE INTERSECTION OF WEST FRANCIS AVENUE AND BELMONT STREET), CONTAIN- ING A CUMULATIVE CLAUSE, CONTAINING A SAVINGS AND SEVERABILITY CLAUSE, PROVID- ING FOR A MAXIMUM PENALTY OR FINE OF TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$2,000.00); AND OR- DERING PUBLICATION City of Midland Amy M. Turner City Secretary	4WD and SUV 2015 JEEP WRAN- GLER UNLIMITED SPORT S 4X4, mint condition, clean carfax, white w/ black appearance group by Mopar w/ black 3 piece hard top. 41,000 mi. \$29,900. 432-489- 8337 ORIGINAL PRICE \$69,800. now \$48,995! 1999 Lexus LX470 SUV. Black, garage kept, regularly serviced. 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