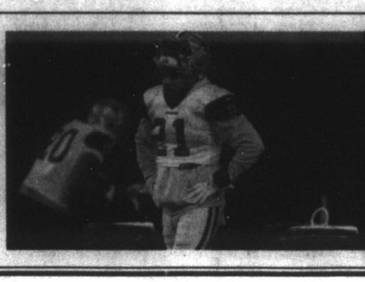
MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2017 mrt★com *235,000 readers in print and online monthly*

SERIOUS COMEDY

Abby Benes takes her stand-up comedy seriously.

Weekender



TODAY IN SPORTS

Ezekiel Elliott is seeing how winning Ohio State the national championship translates into the NFL playoffs as he tops the college playoff vets in the postseason. More in Sports.

Page 1C

Companies scrambling for lenders after rough year

Energy industry's drunken-sailor legacy hangs over debt rescue plans

By Alex Nussbaum
Bloomberg

Debt-laden energy companies that still don't have a financial escape plan in place are running out of time and willing lenders even after oil doubled from its February lows.

Crude prices topping $50 a barrel helped to ease pressure on distressed energy companies, allowing at least 27 issuers to sell $16 billion of junk-rated bonds in last year's final quarter, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. That still leaves about $44.5 billion maturing by the end of 2020, according to Fitch Ratings. A "mountain" of more than $18 billion in credit-line commitments comes due in 2019, said Spencer Cutter at Bloomberg Intelligence.

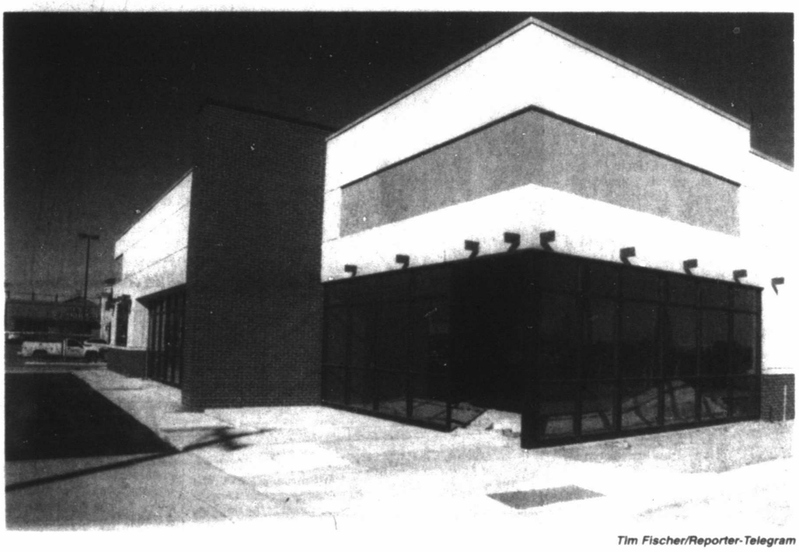
Those still vying for new capital such as Vanguard Natural Resources and Pacific Drilling need prices above $55 to $60 to win over lenders, according to credit analysts. What's more, banks face tougher limits from U.S. regulators on energy loans, spurred by memories of previous booms and busts.

Creditors remain mindful that drillers "get very happy about their cash flow" during good times, Evercore ISI analyst James West said. "And when financial markets become wide open, they spend like drunken sailors."

Borrowers are trying to avoid the fate of more than 230 exploration, drilling, production, servicing, transportation and storage companies that have gone bankrupt since the start of 2015, affecting about $96.2 billion of debt, according to data tracked by the Haynes and Boone law firm.

Please see **SCRAMBLE**/4A

BREAD BOWLS WILL ABOUND



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Construction continues Tuesday where Panera Bread will open in a standalone building at The Commons off Loop 250

Lori's Cafe closes; Panera Bread is hiring

RICH LOPEZ

Small Bites is a weekly look at area restaurant and food news. We explore the activity among area restaurants new and existing, menu changes, meal deals and more. This was previously posted at mrt.com on Jan. 6.

This week, a Midland institution closed, while a new chain is now hiring.

■ Lori's Cafe has closed down without much fanfare. Chef Timm Rogers moved the restaurant from its old-school digs on Wall and Garfield streets to a more contemporary setting at 210 W. Longview Ave. early in 2016. Rogers had added alcohol service to its menu as well as pairing dinner events and art shows. Rogers didn't say much about the closing other than he will focusing on his other ventures, which include catering.

■ Saucedo Tamale Factory, 1809 Big Spring St., opened its doors over the week of Christmas.

■ Panera Bread has posted a sign outside its new building in The Commons that it is now hiring for management positions. You can apply today by emailing careers@tcgtx.com or by visiting panerapeople.com.

■ Brew St. Bakery held its first wine pairing event, Bubbles and Babes, on Jan. 8. Sparkling wines were paired with regional courses by Chef Alejandro Barrientos from Curb Side Bistro. The event included five wines and four courses.

■ Rosa's Cafe is selling breakfast — breakfast tacos and migas — at its State Highway 191 and Faudree Road location. Breakfast will be served 6:30 to 10 a.m. daily but in the drive-through only. Breakfast service is expected to be added to the chain's other locations.

■ The Kent Cos. have announced that prices have been "officially lowered" for the new year on their Kwik Eats Cafe food menu at Kent Kwik stores. Sandwiches, desserts, breakfast items now start as low as 97 cents.

■ Kwik Eats Cafes are located at 3300 N. Midland Drive and 6106 Andrews Highway.

MISD to set deadline for campus transfer requests

■ Deadline probably will be mid-April, administrator says

By Stewart Doreen
sdoreen@mrt.com

The Midland ISD board of trustees approved proposed revisions for transfer requests for the 2017-18 school year.

Executive Director of Student Services Teresa Moore told the Reporter-Telegram this week that the district has not published a specific deadline date for transfer requests, but that she expects it to be in mid-April. The district processes 2,000 to 2,500 requests a year and approves 1,200 to 1,500, she said.

Recent development inside the community is a reason for the change, Moore said the district looks at housing trends and teacher staffing. The district attempts to "save space" for children who live in or might move into an assigned area. Schools in slow-growth areas are slotted at 96-98 percent full, while officials hope to keep schools at 90 percent occupied in high-growth areas.

"We have different needs and challenges than when (the transfer criteria) was written before," Moore said.

An intradistrict transfer shall be granted for one year at a time, and the district shall notify the parent regarding an approval or denial not later than the 15th calendar day before the first instructional day of the school year, according to the proposed revision.

Transfers can take place because of a school's placement on the state's Public Education Grant (or PEG) list, which identifies campuses with passing rates on STAAR or TAKS that are less than or equal to 50 percent in any two of the preceding three years or were rated "improvement required" by the state accountability system during the previous three years, according to the TEA. Transfers can be requested to a non-PEG list school.

Other reasons for transfers include a "parent's concern of potential risk of physical or emotional harm to his or her child at the assigned campus," according to MISD's agenda packet information. Moore said geography and district employment of a student's parent are also grounds for transfer consideration.

One change to the policy for this current school year is that MISD will no longer allow transfers due to "extenuating circumstance related to child care needs for a student in prekindergarten through grade 8."

Moore said this was one of the most-approved transfers, and the sheer number added to the challenge of predicting enrollment at schools across the district.

Please see **TRANSFERS**/4A

Texas warned of backlash over transgender bathroom bill

By Paul J. Weber and Will Weissert
Associated Press

AUSTIN — Texas is flirting with losing major sporting events like North Carolina did, Dallas civic leaders warned Wednesday as they urged Republican lawmakers to stand down on a proposal that would require transgender people to use bathrooms corresponding to their sex at birth.

The issue was already stirring heated debate on the second day of the legislative session. A best-selling author has snubbed a state honor over the bill and a GOP legislator tried to implement the restrictions on bathrooms in the Capitol building. Texas has no transgender lawmakers, and state Rep. Matt Schaefer ultimately dropped the idea.

Schaefer's attempted rule change was a taste of the likely bruising fight ahead over bathroom regulations. The bill is akin to one passed last year by North Carolina that led to significant fallout, including companies canceling expansion plans in the state, the NCAA moving championship games elsewhere and the NBA moving next month's All-Star Game out of Charlotte.

Please see **ALMANAC**/3A

■ ALMANAC

Weather
Mostly sunny
71/52
Get your complete forecast on 7C

Energy prices

WTI Futures	$52.25 ▲	$1.43
WTI Posted	$48.75 ▲	$1.50
WTS Posted	$44.30 ▲	$1.50
Natural Gas	$3.224 ▼	$0.084
Gasoline	$2.171 ▼	$0.002

Did you know?
A woman who tried to perform **an abortion on herself** has pleaded guilty to felony and was released from jail. Page 5A

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

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Obituaries

Alex A. Ortega

Alex A. Ortega, 31, of Midland, passed away January 9, 2017.

The rosary will be held at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, January 12, 2017 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Chapel.

Funeral mass will be held at 10:00 a.m., Friday, January 13, 2017 at St. Stephen's Catholic Church. Interment will follow at Serenity Memorial Gardens.

Alex was born July 12, 1985 in Midland to Tiburcio "BB" and Leticia Ortega. He was currently employed at Impact Chemical Technologies for the last six years. He was the life of the party and people knew when he arrived with his "whoo!" He loved his children and his wife. He was very involved in his kids' sports. Alex enjoyed BBQing and claimed that he made the best ribs in town! His presence will be missed.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandfather, Alfredo Sanchez, and his paternal grandparents, Tiburcio, Sr. and Patricia Ortega.

He is survived by his parents, Tiburcio, Jr. "BB" and Leticia Ortega; his wife, Bianca Ortega; his children, Arissa, Brisa, Alex "son," Madison, and his baby Gabriel; his maternal grandmother, Lucila Sanchez; his sisters, Sonya Salcido (Heriberto) and Carolyn Castaneda (Tim); his brother, David Ortega; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Honorary pallbearers will be David Ortega and Orlando Barraza.

Pallbearers will be Tiu Castaneda, Alfred Sanchez, Ricardo Nieto, Eddie Villalobos, Lorenzo Reyes, and Edward Sanchez.

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

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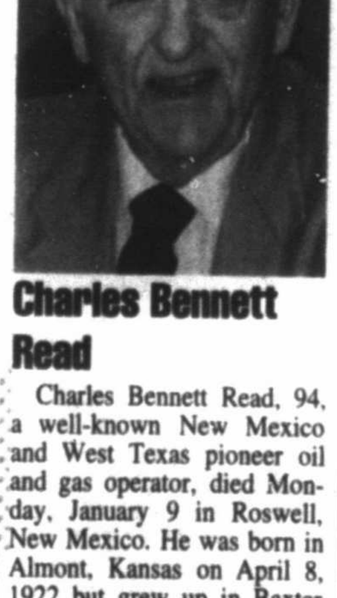
(432) 550-5800



Charles Bennett Read

Charles Bennett Read, 94, a well-known New Mexico and West Texas pioneer oil and gas operator, died Monday, January 9 in Roswell, New Mexico. He was born in Almont, Kansas on April 8, 1922 but grew up in Baxter Springs, Kansas, where he graduated from high school in 1939.

Charlie graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a degree in Petroleum Engineering in 1943 and enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps and first trained at Yale University. He subsequently was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant as an engineering officer with a P-51 Squadron in Germany for two years, returning to a job with Gulf Oil Corporation for three years living in Hobbs, New Mexico.

Charlie married his university sweetheart, Jean Votrian, in 1947. She died from cancer in 1990. He resigned from Gulf Oil and moved to Roswell in 1950 as an independent petroleum operator. In 1969, he and Norman Stevens, a Gulf Land Man, organized Read and Stevens Inc., a two man, one secretary business, evolved into a thriving company today. Read bought Stevens' interest in the company in 1979.

Charlie married Laura Sue Kennedy in 1993 and they lived in Roswell where Charlie was active in the community as is his wife today.

Over the past 65 years here, he served as a director, member of the Executive Committee of the old Sunwest Bank of Roswell, N.A., chairman of the Board of Sierra Drilling Co., the Executive Committee of the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association, Chairman of the Depletion Committee, and of the Public Land Committee of the Association.

He was President of the New Mexico Landman's Association, member of the New Mexico Oil and Gas Engineering Committee, Director of the Permian Basin Petroleum Association, Board of Directors of the Independent Petroleum Association of America, and Vice President of the Petroleum Association of America.

In Roswell, he was a founding board member and past chairman of St. Mary's Hospital Foundation and board member of the Conquistador Council of the Boy Scouts. He helped start the Chaves County United Way in 1959 and served on the United Way Board for many years. He was honoree of the Sun Classic Charity Golf Tournament in 1992 and was named Citizen of the Year by the Roswell Association of Realtors in 1999.

Survivors include his children, Carolyn Beall and husband Tom of Midland, Texas, Jim Read and his wife Mary of Ardmore, Oklahoma, and Betty Young and her husband Jim of Roswell; two step-children, Lee Kennedy and his wife Diane of Maui, Hawaii and Susan Head and her husband Chris of Albuquerque; seven grandchildren; and one sister, Bernadine Glenn of Charleston, South Carolina.

His parents and one brother are deceased.

Memorial services will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, January 13, 2017 at First Presbyterian Church in Roswell with Reverend Larry Snydow officiating, assisted by Fr. Dale Plumber of St Andrews Episcopal Church.

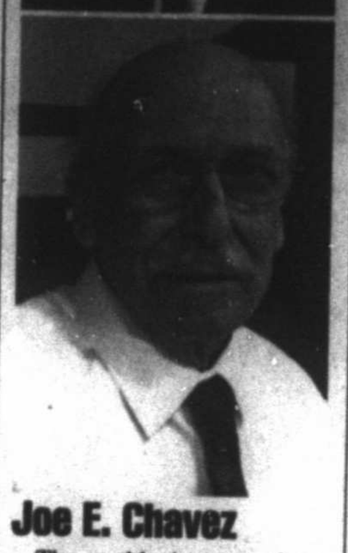
The family suggests memorials to Charlie may be made to First Presbyterian Church, 400 West 3rd Street, Roswell, NM 88201; New Mexico Landmen's Association, P.O. Box 718, Roswell, NM 88202; Presbyterian Ear Institute, 415 Cedar St. SE, Albuquerque, NM 87106, or the charity of one's choice.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Ballard Funeral Home and Crematory.

An online registry can be accessed at *www.ballardfuneralhome. com.*

Midland Reporter-Telegram
mrt.com

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



Joe E. Chavez

The earthly journey of our beloved father was completed on January 11, 2017 on Mom's birthday. Dad was born on September 25, 1928 to Felipa Escobar and Juan Chavez in Midland, Texas. He was proud to call Midland his hometown.

Dad was featured in the book, *"A History of Character, The Story of Midland, Texas."* Dad attended school at the Latin American school. He loved school and excelled. Since the school only offered an education through the eighth grade, he repeated the eighth grade. Much later in life, he was proud to study for and obtain his General Equivalency Diploma (GED.)

Dad met Mom in Midland when they were 14 years old. He said as soon as he laid eyes on her, he knew "she was the one." They were married on May 18, 1947 in St. George's Catholic Church.

Our parents attended St. George's Catholic Church, where he was asked to serve on the Finance Committee. He and Mom were founding members of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church. Dad was a faithful servant of Christ. He lived his Catholic faith by being active in the Holy Name Society, serving as a Lector, Eucharistic Minister, on the Finance committee, and as a member of the Knights of Columbus.

He began his employment in the Sanitation Department of the City of Midland. The work required the men to lift the metal trash containers manually. Most of Dad's work history was as a produce manager in several grocery stores. He had many special memories of working at Collins Food Service, where he met so many people. He later returned to the City of Midland as a truck driver in his last employment.

He enjoyed playing baseball, and was one of the star pitchers for Los Potrillos de Midland, the Midland Colts. They were part of a semi-professional league that played in several towns in the Permian Basin and the Trans-Pecos. He had a good fast ball and a mean curveball and taught his sons the game of baseball.

Dad was an avid non-fiction reader, and especially enjoyed autobiographies. He was fascinated by politics. He enjoyed watching a congressional debate on C-Span more than a football game. Go figure! He delved into local politics in the early 1970s when he ran for the city council. This was prior to single member districts. He was unsuccessful in his run for office, but thoroughly enjoyed the political campaign. He also served on the Midland Housing Authority Board.

One of his favorite pastimes was conversing with anyone. He would engage anyone that was willing to talk about anything. His character is best described as a true gentle man with a calm demeanor, and earned the respect of many.

Mom preceded Dad in death on October 3, 2016.

Dad is survived by sons, Art Chavez and wife Alice, and Robert Chavez; daughter, Sylvia Chavez and husband Joe Guerra; grandchildren, Stephanie Chavez, Christina Jones (Darrell), and Marc Chavez (Allison); and by great-grandchildren, Jaden Limon, Layla, and Darrell Jones, II.

The family appreciates the compassionate care provided by Midland Memorial Hospital CCU and Hospice of Midland. Memorial contributions may be made to Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish and Shrine or to a charity of your choice.

Viewing will be held on Thursday, 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., and Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Rosary will be recited on Friday at 7:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church. The Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday at 11:00 a.m., also at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church. Father David Herrera will be the celebrant. Burial will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park.

Funeral service is under the direction of Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home and Chapel.

Family messages and condolences may be emailed to pipkin@nts-online.net or you can visit our website at *www.lewallengarciapipkinfh.com.*

Lewallen Garcia Pipkin
Funeral Home
2500 N. Big Spring - Midland, TX - (432) 682-3700

Linda Laverne Kirkpatrick

Linda Kirkpatrick, of Midland, Texas, passed away peacefully at the age of 70 on January 6, 2017 after a brief illness.

Linda was born March 31, 1946 in Hanford, California, daughter of Robert and Dorothy Mitchell. She attended Kerman High School in Kerman, California and married Raymond Kirkpatrick in 1967. They raised their family in Midland and Plainview. Linda's beloved husband, Raymond, passed away in 2005.

Linda was preceded in death by her parents.

She is survived by her son, Jared (Sonia) Kirkpatrick of Keller, Texas; daughter, Melody (Jose) Leal of Odessa; nine grandchildren, Hayley (Chase) Anderson of Midland, Morgan Reed of Midland, Kelsey Reed of Brownwood, Bailey Reed, Jordan, and Marissa Leal of Odessa, and Megan, Katherine, and Abigail Kirkpatrick of Keller; and by her sisters, Lora (Jim) Miller of Allen, Texas and Lola (Steve) Box of Frisco, Texas.

The family will accept guests from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Friday, January 13, 2017 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home in Midland.

Funeral services for Linda will be held at The Midland Primitive Baptist Church, 411 W. Shandon Ave., Midland, TX on January 14, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. Interment will immediately follow the services at Evergreen Cemetery in Stanton.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Midland Primitive Baptist Church 411 W. Shandon Ave. Midland, TX.

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

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Paul Crisp, Jr.

Paul Crisp, Jr., 48, a lifelong Midlander, passed away on Friday, January 6, 2017 with his loving family by his side.

Paul was born on November 28, 1968 in Stanton, Texas, one of 14 children born to Paul, Sr. and Bertha Crisp. Paul was gifted with the ability of working with individuals with developmental disabilities. Even the most challenging of individuals responded to Paul's calming presence.

Paul was a very friendly, happy, and outgoing person who loved life. He loved being outside whether it was fishing, BBQing, or just sitting at the park getting fresh air. He was always the life of the party and will truly be missed. Most of all, Paul was a devoted family man with a big smile and an even larger heart. Paul loved his wife, his children, his grandchildren, and his big, wonderful family.

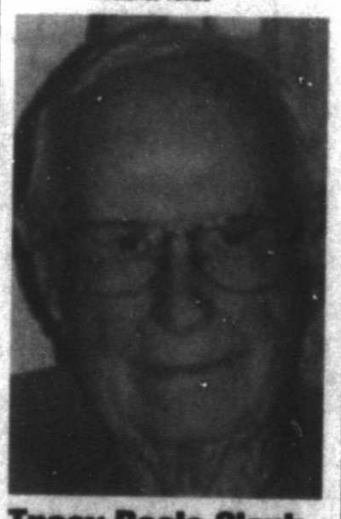
Paul was preceded in death by his parents, Paul and Bertha; sisters, Pauline and Bertha Mae; a brother, Elvin Earle; four siblings lost before birth; and his son, Le'Paul Crisp.

He leaves to cherish his memory his loving wife, Conjetta; a daughter, Asiaanne (Shanti) of Temple; a son, Travon Crisp of Midland, three grandchildren, Audryna Crisp of Midland, and Desmond and Dezaria Forest of Temple; four sisters, Addie Faye Haynes of Stanford, Diana Durham of San Angelo, and Janice Stephenson and Betty Crisp, both of Midland; four brothers, Aron Crisp of Dewey, Arizona, Herbert Crisp of Midland, John Crisp of Amarillo, and Frederick Wayne Crisp of Midland; and numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family and friends.

A wake will be held on Thursday, January 12, 2017 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the Thomas Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, January 13, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. at the Thomas Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will be in Serenity Memorial Gardens.

Thomas
FUNERAL HOME
FUNERALS / CREMATIONS
Midland, Texas



Tracy Peele Clark

Tracy Peele Clark was born April 30, 1921 in Spring Grove, Indiana to Tracey and Frances Clark. Tracy passed away in his home on December 22, 2016 surrounded by his family and his amazing care givers.

After graduating high school in Richmond, Indiana, Tracy served four years in the United States Army. He then received his Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from Texas College of Mines and Metallurgy in 1948 (now UTEP.) Tracy accepted a job with Stanolind Oil & Gas (Amoco-BP) in Roswell, New Mexico as their District geologist. It was during this time the company discovered the Empire ABO Field.

Tracy also met the love of his life Mary Jane Villard in Roswell and they were married in 1952. Tracy and Jane had three children. Tracy moved his young family to Artesia, New Mexico to accept a job with Carper Drilling Company where the Corbin ABO field was discovered.

Moving to Midland in 1965, Tracy accepted a job with McGrath & Smith as their Chief Geologist and when the company formed Coquina Oil Corporation in 1969, Tracy moved up the ladder becoming president of Coquina in 1980. Under his leadership, Coquina was very active in southeast New Mexico and was sold in 1983 with total assets of 17,649,000 equivalent barrels of production.

Tracy became an independent Geologist in 1983 working closely with his son Reb Clark, and Landmen David Rogers and Ferrell Davis until early 2016, when he retired at the age of 95.

Tracy received the Pioneer Award for his discoveries from West Texas Geological Society (WTGS) in 2009 and the Oil & Gas Pioneer award from New Mexico Landman Association in 1999. He was a member of several organizations including WTGS, NRA, Ducks Unlimited, and the Dirty Dozen.

Tracy was a very giving and generous man and supported many causes like WTGS, Scott & White, and United Way of Midland. He was also an avid fisherman and hunter his entire life, harvesting his last buck at the age of 94.

Tracy is survived by his three children, Alyson McMinn of Roswell, Kim Pooley of Mineral Wells, Texas, and Tracy Reb Clark and his wife Molly of Midland, Texas; and by five grandchildren, Traci McMinn Jobert and her husband Greg of Santa Fe New Mexico, Clint Pooley of Mineral Wells, and Seth Clark, Duncan Clark, and Cooper Clark, all of Midland.

Tracy is also survived by his sister, Cynthia Corsi of Tucson, Arizona; and brothers-in-law, Jack Villard of Alamogordo, New Mexico and Richard Villard of Roswell.

A celebration of life gathering is planned for Thursday, January 12, 2017 at Green Tree Country Club from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to West Texas Geology Foundation (WTGS) Scholarship Fund, P. O. Box 1595, Midland, Texas 79702 or Noah's Ark Animal Sanctuary, P.O. Box 51051, Midland, Texas 79710.

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

Nalley-Pickle & Welch
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& Crematory
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Death Notices

Margaret Ann Hanna Diaz

Margaret Ann Hanna Diaz went to be with her Lord and Savior on January 7, 2017.

She is survived by her children, Paulette F. Casey, Michael J. Mooney, Tomas Daniel Diaz, Mackenzie M. Diaz, and Anthony C. Diaz; and by three sisters and two brothers.

Memorial services have been scheduled for Saturday, January 14, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. at Second Baptist Church.

Journalist Clare Hollingworth, who broke news of WW II, dies

Associated Press

HONG KONG — As German tanks encircled the Polish town of Katowice, rookie British newspaper reporter Clare Hollingworth picked up the phone and dialed the British Embassy. An official there didn't believe what she told him, so she dangled the phone out the window so he could hear the ominous rumbling for himself.

"Listen!" she implored. "Can't you hear it?"

Hollingworth was 27, and just a week into her job with the Daily Telegraph of London. She had the scoop of a lifetime: World War II had just begun.

She hung up and called the Telegraph's Warsaw correspondent, who dictated to London her story about the Nazi invasion of southern Poland in late August 1939.

As the Nazis moved in, Hollingworth scrambled to get out of Poland, sometimes sleeping in cars, and eventually made her way to Romania. Hollingworth, who died at the age of was 105, would go on to write many more chapters in a decades-long career as a foreign correspondent.

She had scored another big exclusive days before the invasion, when she had borrowed a British consulate official's car to drive into German-occupied territory, which was off-limits to all but diplomatic vehicles.

Hollingworth saw tanks, armored cars and artillery massing.

Burlap screens beside the road, "constructed to hide the military vehicles, blew in the wind, thus I saw the battle deployment," she recounted in her autobiography.

"I guessed that the German Command was preparing to strike to the north of Katowice and its fortified lines and this, in fact, was exactly how they launched their invasion in the south."

Returning to Poland, she filed her story, but her name was not on the byline — a common practice for newspapers in those days.

WORD OF THE DAY
brought to you daily by
JimBurrito
vagabond
[vag-*uh*-bond]
adjective
1. wandering from place to place without any settled home; nomadic: a vagabond tribe.
2. leading an unsettled or carefree life.
3. disreputable; worthless; shiftless.

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Ralph Barrera/Austin American-Statesman via AP

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and Senator Lois Kolkhorst introduced Senate Bill 6 known as the Texas Privacy Act, which provides solutions to the federal mandate of transgender bathrooms, showers and dressing rooms in all Texas schools. The two legislators answer questions from a press availability Jan. 5 in the Senate Conference room at the State Capitol in Austin.

ALMANAC

From 1A

Texas is often picked to host major sporting events, including the Super Bowl in Houston next month, the NCAA women's Final Four in Dallas in March and the NCAA men's Final Four in San Antonio in 2018. Phillip Jones, president of the Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau, said he doesn't think leagues will hesitate to steer big sporting events elsewhere if Texas goes the way of North Carolina.

"This is not speculation. This is facts, based on what we've seen first-hand," Jones said of the economic fallout.

The NCAA didn't immediately respond to a request for comment Wednesday about Texas' transgender bathroom bill. Jones was joined by tourism counterparts from Austin, Fort Worth and San Antonio to unveil a campaign called "Texas Welcomes All," and although no one from Houston attended, the city's tourism agency also signaled support in a statement that expressed "no need for such a bill."

The Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau previously supported a broad equal rights city ordinance that Houston voters rejected in 2015, when opponents campaigned on a message of "No men in women's bathrooms."

The proposed statewide bathroom restrictions have already exposed cultural rifts.

Rick Riordan, a former San Antonio teacher who wrote the popular "Percy Jackson and the Olympians" fantasy series, said in a tweet that he declined an honor from the Texas Legislature over "this nonsense." At least two other Texas writers also rejected the same invitation to have their work ceremonially recognized by lawmakers in March.

"I'm just trying to recognize the great contributions of our Texas authors. I'm sad and disappointed that it's being used as a tool to make a public statement about this issue," said Rep. Jason Villalba, a Dallas Republican who organized the event.

Driving Texas' anti-LGBT bill is Republican Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who campaigned for president-elect Donald Trump and is the powerful leader of the state Senate. Republican Gov. Greg Abbott hasn't publicly endorsed the new bathroom restrictions.

Republican House Speaker Joe Straus, meanwhile, has signaled his opposition to it. His welcome-back speech to lawmakers Tuesday included him pointedly saying, "This state should invite economic activity, not turn it away."

Texas Senate keeps 'two-thirds' rule suspended

The Senate also voted Wednesday for the second straight session to break with 70-plus years of past tradition and suspend a rule making it easier for Democrats to block hot-button legislation along party lines.

The GOP holds a 20-11 Senate majority. The old "two-thirds" rule left them one vote short of bringing up controversial bills for debate without at least one Democrat.

But Republicans used a simple majority vote to keep the rule suspended. It had dated back more than seven decades, prior to being nullified last session in 2015.

By reducing the number to 19, the GOP maintains controlling majority over nearly every major upcoming vote this session.

The move means Democrats remain largely powerless to block bills allowing school vouchers, restricting abortion and cutting state spending.

Top house republican wants Trump to secure border, with or without wall

A top Republican in the Texas Legislature said that he wants the Trump administration to keep its promise to secure the U.S.-Mexico border and doesn't care if that means "a wall figuratively or literally."

House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dennis Bonnen said Texas demands a border that's "no longer porous and lawless."

The Angleton Republican addressed reporters with dozens of GOP colleagues to present the Obama administration with a pretend invoice for $2.8-plus billion.

That's what they say Texas spent securing the border since 2013 because the federal government didn't, including $1.4-plus billion for extra state troopers in South Texas.

Bonnen said Donald Trump can avoid getting a similar, future invoice from Texas with a border crackdown — whether it requires walling off the whole area or not.

On deck

After putting in two days' work, the Legislature is taking five days off. The Senate next convenes Tuesday at 11 a.m. and the House heads back into session that same day at 2 p.m.

Quote of the day

"We've got another 138 days to fight about things," Rep. John Smithee, R-Amarillo, imploring that the House not to squabble or get bogged down on complicated changes and simply pass a set of chamber rules for the session. His request fell mostly on deaf ears, as his colleagues spent hours arguing about 30-plus proposed changes, many on very small points, including an unsuccessful proposal to remove the word "public" from the House Public Education Committee's name.

Texas carries out first US execution of 2017

By Michael Graczyk
Associated Press

HUNTSVILLE — Texas on Wednesday put to death an inmate convicted of killing two men over phony a drug deal, the first U.S. execution of 2017.

Christopher Wilkins, 48, was declared dead at 6:29 p.m., 13 minutes after a lethal injection of pentobarbital.

Before the drug was administered, he twice mouthed "I'm sorry," to two relatives of one of the murder victims as they watched through a window. He gave no final statement.

Wilkins had explained to jurors at his capital murder trial in 2008 how and why he killed his friends in Fort Worth three years earlier, saying he didn't care if they sentenced him to death.

Wilkins shot Willie Freeman, 40 and Mike Silva, 33, after Freeman and an unidentified drug supplier duped Wilkins into paying $20 for a piece of gravel he thought was crack cocaine, according to court records.

Freeman was killed on Oct. 28, 2005, after he laughed about the scam and Silva was shot because he was there, Wilkins said. Wilkins' fingerprints were found in Silva's wrecked SUV and a pentagram matching one of Wilkins' numerous tattoos had been carved into the hood.

Wilkins also testified that the day before the shootings, he shot and killed another man, Gilbert Vallejo, 47, outside a Fort Worth bar in a dispute over a pay phone, and about a week later used a stolen car to try to run down two people because he believed one of them had taken his sunglasses.

"I know they are bad decisions," Wilkins told jurors of his actions. "I make them anyway."

Wes Ball, one of Wilkins' trial lawyers, described him as "candid to a degree you don't see," and had hoped his appearance on the witness stand would have made jurors like him.

"It didn't work," Ball said.

While awaiting trial, authorities discovered he had swallowed a handcuff key and fashioned a knife to be used in an escape attempt.

"This guy is the classic outlaw in the model of Billy the Kid, an Old West-style outlaw," said Kevin Rousseau, the Tarrant County assistant district attorney who prosecuted Wilkins.

Twenty convicted killers were executed in the U.S. last year, the lowest number since the early 1980s. That tally includes seven executions in Texas — the fewest in the state since 1996. Wilkins is among nine Texas inmates already scheduled to die in the early months of 2017.

Martinez avoids criticizing Trump over no Hispanics in cabinet selections

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The nation's only Latina governor is avoiding attacking President-elect Donald Trump over not appointing a Hispanic cabinet member.

New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez, who clashed with Trump during the election, said Tuesday the new president has the right to pick "the best and the brightest" for his team — even if that means there won't be a Latino in his cabinet.

None of Trump's cabinet picks is Hispanic. The Trump administration could be the first one in three decades not to have a Hispanic cabinet secretary.

Martinez had been part an initiative with the Republican Party to recruit more Hispanics and women to run for office. She openly clashed with Trump for his comments about Mexican immigrants

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TODAY IN MIDLAND

Things to do

■ Storytime at the Library.10:30 a.m. (birth-2 years), 11:30 a.m. (2-6 years), Midland County Public Library downtown branch, 301 W. Missouri Ave. co.midland.tx.us/lib.

■ Watercolor art classes by Sara Drescher, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., Arts Council of Midland, 1506 W. Illinois Ave. The class is for all levels. To register, email sara@artbysaradb.com.

Livestock show

■ Today's schedule for the Midland County Livestock Show at the Horseshoe.

■ All species must be in the barns, 9 a.m.

■ Begin weighing & classifying of lambs & goats, 9 a.m.

■ Begin weighing & classifying steers and heifers, 9 a.m.

■ Weigh in Rabbits & Poultry, 10 a.m.

■ Weigh-in and check in closes for All Species, except swine, 11 a.m.

■ Poultry Show, noon

■ Rabbit Show (immediately following Poultry) PeeWee Rabbits (immediately following Rabbits)

■ Roaster Show then followed by Swine Show (pictures of swine will be taken on Thursday, during and after the show), 5 p.m.

Support groups, club meetings today

■ Permian Basin Community Service Organization (for individuals, organizations or businesses that provide services to improve quality of life), 11:45 a.m., Mi Piaci Italian Restaurant, 2607 N. Grandview Ave., Odessa; 432-210-4234.

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

■ Permian Basin Chess Club, 6 p.m., University of Texas of the Permian Basin student union; Steve Dudley, 556-1920; Brian Farrell, 288-7141; pbcc.50gigs.net; odessachess@cableone.net

■ The Midland Blue Star Military Family, 7 p.m., Koinonia Room at First Presbyterian Church; Doc Weathers 631-7646 or docweathers@suddenlink.net.

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When it's open

Midland County Tax Assessor/Collector
■ 2110 N. "A" St
■ 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, Friday
■ 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday
■ 688-4810

Midland Central Appraisal District
■ 4631 Andrews Highway
■ 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
■ Monday through Friday
■ 699-4991

Department of Public Safety: Driver's License Office
■ 2405 South Loop 250 West
■ 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday and Wednesday through Friday
■ 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesdays
■ 498-2100

U.S. Postal Service
■ Downtown, 100 E. Wall St. 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday
■ Village, 2315 W Louisiana Ave. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday
■ Graves, 3304 W Wadley Ave. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday
■ ClayDesta, 612 Veterans Airpark Lane 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday - Friday
■ GMF Midland, 1000 Loop 40 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday

Centennial branch
■ 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Saturday
■ 2503 W. Loop 250 N.
■ 432-742-7400

Downtown branch
■ 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Saturday
■ 301 W. Missouri Ave.
■ 432-688-4320

Midland Municipal Court
■ 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. (M, T, W, F); 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Thursday
■ 201 E. Texas

How to submit

■ Births: Have information and a picture about a newborn son, daughter, grandson or granddaughter you want in the paper? Call Managing Editor Mary Dearen at 687-8852.

■ Engagement, wedding anniversary or quinceanera announcements: email write-up and photo to weddings@mrt.com. For more information, call 682-5222.

■ Items for "Names & Faces," a roundup of community and society events: email information and photo to Managing Editor Mary Dearen at mdearen@mrt.com or Editor Stewart Doreen at sdoreen@mrt.com. For more information, call 687-8852.

■ Items of local interest: contact Editor Stewart Doreen at 687-8856 or sdoreen@mrt.com.

■ Letters to the editor: email to letters@mrt.com. For more information call 687-8852.

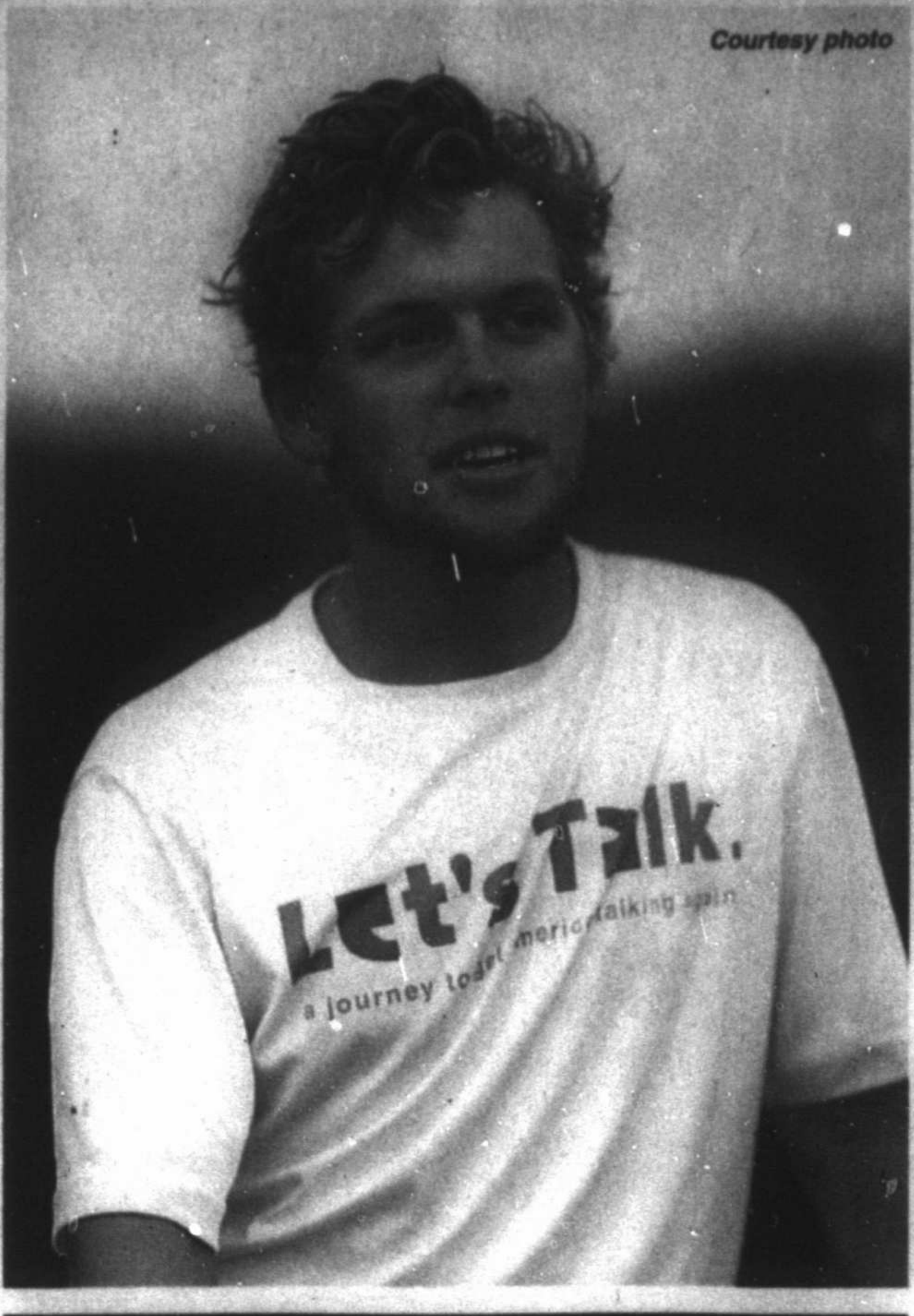
Lottery

Pick 3 morning: 7-1-3
Pick 3 day: 3-7-3
Pick 3 evening: 4-1-5
Pick 3 night: 3-4-7
Daily 4 morning: 8-6-3-8
Daily 4 day: 7-1-4-8
Daily 4 evening: 3-0-8-7
Daily 4 night: 8-6-2-6
Cash Five: 9-13-25-26-28
Lotto Texas: 4-13-16-19-43-51
Powerball: 1-3-13-16-43 PB: 24 Power Play: 2
Texas Triple Chance: 4-10-11-12-18-37-38-42-43-52
All or Nothing morning: 1-2-5-7-9-12-13-14-16-20-22-23
All or Nothing day: 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-15-16-18-23-24
All or Nothing evening: 3-4-8-10-12-14-15-16-17-21-22-24
All or Nothing night: 1-2-4-5-7-11-13-18-19-22-23-24

Man on cross-country journey stops in Midland

By Simone Jasper
sjasper@mrt.com

Courtesy photo



Want to go?

"Let's Talk." Chris Andrews to speak at Midland County Public Library today 5:30 - 7 p.m. at Centennial branch.

Midlanders may notice a new figure on the West Texas horizon: a man pushing a 120-pound cart. The man is Chris Andrews, who is stopping in the Tall City this week as he journeys across the country.

Andrews, 23, has already walked alone for nearly 150 days to highlight the importance of face-to-face interactions. At various stops, he interviews locals and shares the message of his project, called Let's Talk.

"They're good opportunities to speak to people about how they navigate the pervasive digital age today," Andrews said in a phone interview Tuesday. "I want to walk around a busy area of Midland and see how they view this message."

Andrews traveled 1,865 miles from the Washington, D.C., area before first reaching Midland on Dec. 16. After taking a flight to visit family members for the holiday season, he returned to this region Wednesday to continue walking.

"Being home with them is a luxury," Andrews said. "But parts of me — my body and mind — are still in the mode of the journey. When I take a couple of steps after the break, I think I will realize how lucky I am to be on this journey."

While in Midland, Andrews wants to share the purpose of his trip with the public. He's scheduled to speak 5:30- 7 p.m. today at the Midland County Public Library Centennial branch.

Edward McPherson, education and program coordinator, said the library system welcomes the chance to give the community access to Andrews' perspective.

"This is an opportunity to chat with somebody doing something unusual for a bigger cause," McPherson said. "We are geographically isolated in the Permian Basin, and we can take advantage to connect with the outside world — someone who might not think like us."

Midlander Read Johnston said the Let's Talk message sparked his interest. He provided accommodations in December after meeting Andrews through the travel website Couchsurfing. He also invited Andrews to explore local sites and share his viewpoint during a movie night.

"Old-timers in Midland used to sit in coffee shops for hours and hours — I know my dad did," Johnston said. "With younger generations, a lot of people are pressured to go from one thing to another. They don't have time to sit down and talk."

"I hope my journey inspires people to be more interactive. I think about it more since starting the journey. When I take out my phone, I think about sending a message or checking my email. I hope people will measure it more."

Chris Andrews

Andrews first became interested in learning about personal interactions a year and a half ago. He noticed he was consumed with his phone but not connecting with the people around him.

"After doing research, I saw a shift going on in the way we use devices these days," Andrews said. "We lose patience and empathy in the digital age. Face-to-face is the most significant way we can be in contact."

Andrews decided to walk across the country to gain attention for his cause. But before he took his first step, he made some preparations.

"Six months before, I started getting into the rhythm," Andrews said. "I did a 100-mile hike, but it was nothing like going out there and pushing a cart for 30 miles a day for months and months."

Andrews also mapped out his path, which was designed to head westward while avoiding the north's low temperatures. He made changes to the route along the way.

"I like to talk to locals," Andrews said. "And I get a chance at a gas station to ask, 'Is this road better than that road?' I trust local advice."

Andrews originally planned to walk across much of Oklahoma but decided going through urban areas would allow him to reach more people. He then altered his course to visit Dallas and Midland.

Andrews is accustomed to meeting new people. After growing up in South America, he lived in the United States, attended the University of St. Andrews in Scotland and completed long-distance walks in Europe.

"On a technical level, (living abroad) gave me the skills to be able to go on a journey like this — to start a stove, ration food or grind in the rain for hours," Andrews said. "But it wasn't on the scale of this."

Despite previous experience, he still faced challenges on his newest journey. At the start, he struggled to push the cart uphill in humid Virginia weather. More recently, he endured unfavorable conditions in Texas.

"I was on the interstate outside of Abilene during the week when there was snow and cold weather in December," Andrews said. "It was a challenge because I was sleeping outside. I was knocking on doors, asking people if I could pitch a tent on their lawns."

Andrews said strangers have been generous, which helped as he spent months without seeing familiar faces. Even when he wants to connect with others, he's learned how to use technology in moderation.

"I hope my journey inspires people to be more interactive," Andrews said. "I think about it more since starting the journey. When I take out my phone, I think about sending a message or checking my email. I hope people will measure it more."

Energy choice Perry steps away from Dakota Access pipeline

By Matthew Daly
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former Gov. Rick Perry says he has stepped down from the boards of two energy companies that are developing the controversial Dakota Access Pipeline project.

Perry, who is President-elect Donald Trump's choice for energy secretary, said in a letter to ethics officials that he resigned Dec. 31 from Energy Transfer Partners LP and Sunoco Logistics Partners LP. The two companies are developing the proposed 1,200-mile crude oil pipeline that has stoked mass protests in North Dakota.

Perry said he still owns stock in the two companies but will divest the stock within three months of his confirmation as energy secretary. He will not take part in any decisions involving the two companies for at least two years, Perry said.

Perry also said he has resigned positions with Celltex Therapeutics and MCNA Insurance, as well as Grey Rock Energy Partners, which his son co-founded. He said he will not take part in decisions involving Grey Rock for at least a year and for as long as his son works there.

Perry's involvement with the pipeline companies has drawn criticism from project opponents, who also have criticized Trump's stock ownership in companies developing the pipeline.

Trump's transition team said in December that Trump sold all of his stocks last summer as he plunged into the costly general election campaign. Advisers provided no proof of the transactions and would not explain the apparent sell-off.

A financial disclosure form filed last year showed Trump held a small amount of stock in Energy Transfer Partners and at least $100,000 in the energy company Phillips 66, which also is involved in the Dakota Access project. Last month, the Army declined to issue a permit for the pipeline to cross a Missouri River reservoir in North Dakota. Trump supports construction of the pipeline, and aides say he will review the project after taking office.

Perry would not have authority to intervene directly with the pipeline, which is opposed by the Standing Rock Sioux tribe and many environmental groups.

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee is expected to hold a hearing on Perry's nomination next week.

SCRAMBLE

From 1A

Despite last year's rally, oil prices are still down from more than $107 a barrel in mid-2014, making debt loads based on those near-record levels unaffordable. Lenders may want to see sustained prices of at least $55 a barrel before agreeing to extensions, Cutter said.

Even then, bankers might hesitate because regulators issued stricter leverage guidelines last year on energy lending that suggests limiting debt to four times adjusted earnings. Approach Resources Inc., a Fort Worth-based producer, cited the cap as one motive for its pending debt-for-equity swap, telling investors it could chop leverage to 3.5 this year from 9.6 in 2016's fourth quarter.

Last year's oil price rally spurred some investors toward the "junkier names," said William Costello, senior portfolio manager and research analyst at Westwood Holdings Group Inc., but he doesn't see that as a winning formula.

"The caution phase is behind us; I don't necessarily think it should be," said Costello, whose Dallas-based firm manages about $21.3 billion in assets.

Companies without a foothold in the most profitable drilling areas, especially the Permian Basin in Texas and New Mexico, will still struggle to perform, he said.

Vanguard had about 6 percent of its oil and gas acreage in the Permian as of October. Banks cut the company's credit line a second time late last year, leaving it overdrawn, and Houston-based Vanguard has said bankruptcy "may be unavoidable." Pacific Drilling, the ultra-deepwater driller with operations headquartered in Houston, said debt talks stalled after creditors demanded a bigger equity stake, and S&P Global Ratings is predicting no recovery for offshore contract drilling services until 2019.

Representatives for Vanguard and Pacific Drilling didn't respond to messages seeking comment. Pacific Drilling has said it expects cash will last through 2017.

For those that do find a solution, the rewards can be substantial. Bonds issued by Chesapeake Energy Corp., which conducted more than a dozen debt deals, accounted for six of the 10 best-performing energy sector bonds in the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Corporate High Yield Index in 2016, with each returning over 240 percent, according to BI calculations. S&P, which had added Chesapeake to its list of "weakest links" last year, now has the CCC+ rated company on its roster of issuers it might upgrade.

STATEBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

MADISONVILLE

Texas teen calls mom, a 911 dispatcher, to say house ablaze

An emergency call a 911 dispatcher in Texas recently answered turned out to be from the dispatcher's daughter who was reporting that their house was burning.

Layla Wray was working an overnight shift in Madison County, north of Houston, when her 14-year-old daughter called to say the fire began on a back porch.

Wray maintained her composure during the call early Saturday and told the teen to remain calm and that firefighters were en route.

Wray's daughter, son and husband were not hurt but the home was destroyed.

Her only moment of agitation came when her children starting bickering and she told them to stop.

Sheriff Travis Neeley told KTRK-TV in Houston that Wray did a "fantastic job" in calming her daughter while dispatching firefighters as her own home burned.

HOUSTON

Company recalls chicken product because of mislabeling

Federal officials say a Houston company is recalling more than 3,500 pounds of chicken breast product due to mislabeling and undeclared allergens.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service says the chicken — produced by Perfect Fit Meals — might contain milk and wheat, known allergens that aren't declared on the product label.

Officials say there have been no confirmed reports of anyone getting sick from eating the chicken.

The ready-to-eat chicken breast items were made on Dec. 20 and Dec. 21 and placed in 10.5 ounce packages labeled "From the Kitchen of Cooking Light Magazine: Lemon Pepper Chicken." The package has a "use or freeze by" date of 1/21/17 and a lot code 2457744.2.

The chicken product was shipped to military commissaries and retail establishments nationwide.

TRANSFERS

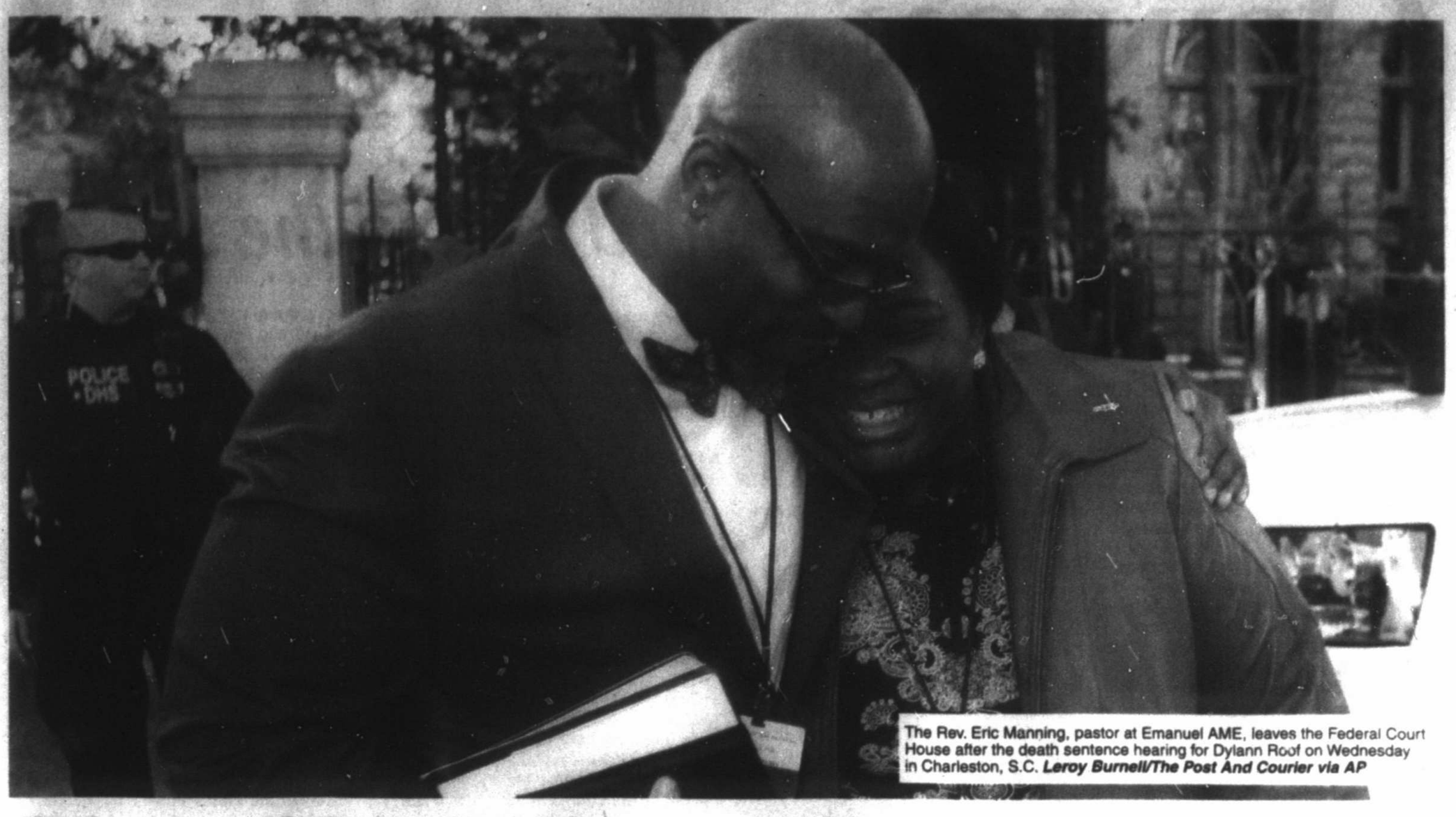
From 1A

"Our PEG transfers and child care transfers have historically moved children from one school to another as if we have changed a boundary," Moore said.

"We want to let parents know now," Moore said. "This allows them to have the entire spring and summer to make arrangements for child care."

The new policy doesn't mean transfers can't take place at other times, Moore said. The superintendent's office or a designee can approve a transfer based on unique situations that arise.

"We want to be as accommodating as we can," Moore said. "We understand things will come up. Administratively, if something arises where it is in the student's best interest to change schools, we can give that consideration."



The Rev. Eric Manning, pastor at Emanuel AME, leaves the Federal Court House after the death sentence hearing for Dylann Roof on Wednesday in Charleston, S.C. *Leroy Burnell/The Post And Courier via AP*

Relatives of slain churchgoers confront gunman for last time

By Jeffrey Collins
Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. — One by one, family members of nine slain black parishioners confronted Dylann Roof for the last time Wednesday, shouting at him, offering forgiveness and even offering to visit him in prison as he awaits execution for the slaughter.

The 22-year-old avowed white supremacist refused to meet their gaze and simply stared ahead, his head tilted down slightly as it had been for much of his trial.

"Dylann," Janet Scott said quietly as she started speaking. "Dylann! DYLANN!" she said, her voice rising. Toward the end of her remarks, she said, "I wish you would look at me, boy."

Scott, an aunt of 26-year-old Tywanza Sanders, the youngest victim killed in the massacre, demanded that Roof look at her as she talked about her nephew's "great big heart," which could not be donated because of the police investigation.

The final statements came a day after jurors sentenced an unrepentant Roof to death. The gunman had one final opportunity to ask for mercy but instead told jurors he still "felt like I had to do it."

On Wednesday, U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel formally confirmed the sentence, saying "This hate, this viciousness, this moral depravity will not go unanswered."

Some family members already testified at Roof's trial. The formal sentencing hearing gave 35 of them a chance to speak directly to him, without prosecutors or the judge interrupting or asking questions.

Roof also had an opportunity to speak but declined to say anything. He is the first person ordered executed for a federal hate crime.

Some of the relatives looked directly at Roof. Others chose to look at jurors, who did not have to be in court Wednesday but told the judge they wanted to attend.

Sheila Capers, the sister-in-law of Cynthia Hurd, said she prayed for Roof's soul to be saved.

"If at any point before you are sentenced and you're in prison and you want me to come and pray with you, I will do that," Capers said.

Felicia Sanders, who survived the attack, said she forgave Roof, repeating comments she made after the shooting. But, she noted, Roof did nothing to save himself.

He served as his own attorney during the sentencing phase and never explained the massacre, expressed remorse or asked for his life to be spared.

Sanders brought the bullet-torn, bloodstained Bible she had with her on the night of the June 17, 2015. She told Roof he still lives in her head, and that when she hears a balloon pop or fireworks, it returns her to that night.

"Most importantly, I can't shut my eyes to pray," Sanders said.

On the night of the shooting, Roof sat through a 45-minute Bible study session at the black church known as Mother Emanuel with 12 others. He opened fire as they stood and closed their eyes for a final prayer. In all, he fired 77 shots. Each victim was hit at least five times.

Three people survived. Roof told one of them he was sparing her life so she could tell the world he was killing the worshippers at Emanuel AME because he hated black people.

The willingness of some of the relatives to forgive the gunman was widely discussed in the days after the killings. But that did not mean they felt his life should be spared. And there are others who said forgiveness is still a work in progress.

"You are Satan. Instead of a heart, you have a cold, dark space," Gracyn Doctor, the daughter of DePayne Middleton-Doctor, said, expressing hope that Roof would "go straight to hell."

When he was arrested, Roof told FBI agents that he wanted the shootings to bring back segregation or perhaps start a race war. Instead, the slayings had a unifying effect as South Carolina removed the Confederate flag from its Statehouse for the first time in more than 50 years. Other states followed suit, taking down Confederate banners and monuments. Roof had posed with the flag in photos.

The jury convicted Roof last month of all 33 federal charges he faced. He insisted he was not mentally ill and did not call any witnesses or present any evidence.

Roof, who also faces murder charges in state court, plans to appeal the federal case. Prosecutors say he will remain jailed in Charleston until the state charges are resolved. No trial date has been set.

Tenn. woman who tried to self-abort pleads guilty to felony

By Jonathan Mattise
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A Tennessee woman accused of trying to end her pregnancy with a coat hanger has pleaded guilty to a felony and was released after more than a year in jail.

Anna Yocca, 32, pleaded guilty this week to attempted procurement of a miscarriage, according to Rutherford County Criminal Court documents. Her baby survived, and state officials said the child is OK.

The case was unsettling for abortion rights advocates, who fear that President-elect Donald Trump might try to follow through on campaign rhetoric about penalizing pregnant women who have abortions. Trump also said he would appoint an anti-abortion Supreme Court justice who could be open to weakening or reversing the landmark abortion case, Roe v. Wade.

National Advocates for Pregnant Women, which aided Yocca in the case, called the charge "unconstitutional and a violation of international human rights principles."

"This plea deal should not be understood as validation of arresting and punishing pregnant women who have or try to have abortions but rather a frightening example of how the criminal law system can be used to bully and punish pregnant women and mothers — with or without a conviction or valid law," said Lynn Paltrow, Executive Director of National Advocates for Pregnant Women.

Yocca, a Murfreesboro woman, was sentenced to one year with credit for time served, court documents state. She had been incarcerated since December 2015, and jail officials said she has been released.

> *"This plea deal should not be understood as validation of arresting and punishing pregnant women who have or try to have abortions but rather a frightening example of how the criminal law system can be used to bully and punish pregnant women and mothers — with or without a conviction or valid law."*
>
> **Lynn Paltrow**, executive director of National Advocates for Pregnant Women

Police said Yocca filled a bathtub with water in September 2015 and attempted an abortion with a coat hanger. After she began bleeding, her boyfriend took her to a hospital and doctors delivered a 24-week-old, 1.5-pound baby.

At the time, doctors said the child would need medical support the rest of his life because of his injuries.

The baby was put into state custody shortly after his birth. He is no longer in custody of the state Department of Children's Services, but the child is safe, said agency spokesman Rob Johnson.

Tennessee has several stringent abortion restrictions, including a 2015 law requiring women seeking abortions to receive mandatory counseling and wait 48 hours before they can get the abortion. That law faces a court challenge.

There are seven abortion providers in Tennessee, said Planned Parenthood of Middle & East Tennessee Executive Director Jeff Teague.

Prosecutors dropped an initial attempted murder charge and filed other charges.

The public defender's office did not comment and prosecutors didn't immediately return a phone message.

Media needs to take a good look in the mirror

■ Trump campaign and transition show there is a double standard in how journalists cover the news

RUBEN NAVARRETTE

Washington Post Writers Group

Every occupation has blind spots. Doctors sometimes make the worst patients. Teachers can be the worst students. Lawyers might make the worst clients. And many journalists — who are supposed to hold people accountable — don't like being held accountable by others.

Luckily, if folks in my line of work are ever at a loss to understand what we're doing wrong, Donald Trump will gladly point it out. The president-elect tweets often about what he calls the "dishonest media."

In a recent example, after Meryl Streep blasted Trump at the Golden Globes for allegedly mocking a physically disabled reporter during the campaign, the billionaire tweeted that he never did any such thing and blamed the misunderstanding on a "very dishonest media."

I bet many journalists are tired of Trump using them as a punching bag. But the truth is, the Fourth Estate deserves to be roughed up a bit.

For one thing, with all this sudden concern about "fake news," there is a clear double standard in how we cover real news. The media is getting all worked up at the moment over Trump naming his son-in-law Jared Kushner as a senior White House adviser.

But I don't remember many in the media raising a fuss in the 1990s when Bill Clinton created an office in the West Wing for his wife, Hillary, to occupy while trying to reform the nation's health care system.

In an attempt to tweak Trump over his Cabinet selections, some Democrats insist that nominees should have substantial experience in matters dealt with by that department.

Great idea. But why isn't anyone in media pointing out that, if this rule were in effect when Barack Obama took office, he wouldn't have been able to nominate Kathleen Sebelius as secretary of health and human services because the Kansas governor hadn't studied medicine? Or Hilda Solis as labor secretary since the former congresswoman had never been a labor organizer. Or Anthony Foxx to be transportation secretary because the former mayor of Charlotte, North Carolina, had never run a railroad, highway or airport.

During the campaign, the media was hardly an honest broker when it came to, for instance, defending Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server. Time and again, many reporters, anchors and commentators accepted at face value whatever spin the Clinton campaign offered about the scandal.

Meanwhile, thanks to WikiLeaks, we know that Democratic strategist Donna Brazile — then a CNN contributor — saw nothing wrong with leaking a debate question to the Clinton campaign to help it torpedo the insurgent candidacy of Sen. Bernie Sanders.

The collusion between the Clinton camp and the media actually started before Clinton announced that she was running for president. Again, thanks to WikiLeaks, we know that, in April 2015, several dozen hand-picked reporters, anchors and commentators who were expected to cover the campaign gathered for off-the-record schmooze fests at the Washington home of Clinton campaign chair John Podesta and the New York home of Joel Benenson, the chief campaign strategist for Clinton.

On the guest lists: John Harwood of CNBC and The New York Times — who played political consultant and observed in an email to Podesta that "the opposition party" had gone "off the rails"; Maggie Haberman, then a reporter for Politico and now at the New York Times, who seems to have had a reputation with the Clinton camp as being a dependable conduit for spin, so much so that a campaign operative at one point expressed confidence that they could "do the most shaping by going to Maggie"; and Glenn Thrush, who was then a reporter for Politico and is now at the Times, who during the campaign sent Podesta a chunk of an article he was writing beforehand, gushed that he was so eager to accommodate the Clinton camp that he had "become a hack," and told Podesta, "Please don't share or tell anyone I did this."

OK, Glenn. Your secret is safe with us.

How could so many journalists become the story — and then miss the story? For example, Haberman — who is still allowed to write articles about the Trump transition — doesn't seem to grasp the irony of the Times demanding that its post-election meeting with Trump be on the record when her dinner with Podesta was off the record.

Now I read that reporters are worried about the challenge of having to cover Trump, since the president-elect lies so often and so effortlessly.

Oh, yes. If there is one thing that the media can't abide, it's dishonesty.

GUEST VIEW

A-F school district grades are reasonable

Beaumont Enterprise

Although Texas school superintendents and trustees are a diverse group, many of them agree on one issue: The new A through F grades levied on their districts by the Texas Education Agency are an unfair barometer of how they're doing. Some even call the new system an "attack" on public education.

We hope parents and taxpayers take a broader view. The new system has promise.

Almost any method of evaluating something as complex as a school district will produce complaints. Educators maintain that progress from one year to another can be undervalued. Districts with more at-risk students than others will often end up with lower ratings. But the pursuit of perfection here should not stop the effort.

The new system has a big advantage. It produces a letter grade that parents and taxpayers can easily understand. Clearly, that grade should be as accurate as possible, but there's a lot to be said for simplicity in a field that is often bogged down with jargon.

Unfair? If Jimmy gets a 59 on his math test, he gets an F. Would you call the grade unfair if he didn't get a lot of sleep the night before or missed that class on square roots?

If superintendents and trustees have a better way to evaluate school districts, let's hear it. But we have a feeling that any fair system would inevitably produce some winners and losers — and a new round of complaints about a stacked deck.

It's important for Texans to remember that the new A-F grading system is preliminary. It won't fully kick in until 2018. The early grades are designed to allow districts to ramp up to the ones that count, and that also seems reasonable.

Critics of the new system should tell the Legislature and TEA how it can be improved in 2017. But any changes should not sugarcoat problems or mimic the Lake Wobegon quip about everyone being above average.

Some districts need to improve their quality of education, and Texans should be able to monitor that progress. In education or any facet of government, accountability should not be compromised.

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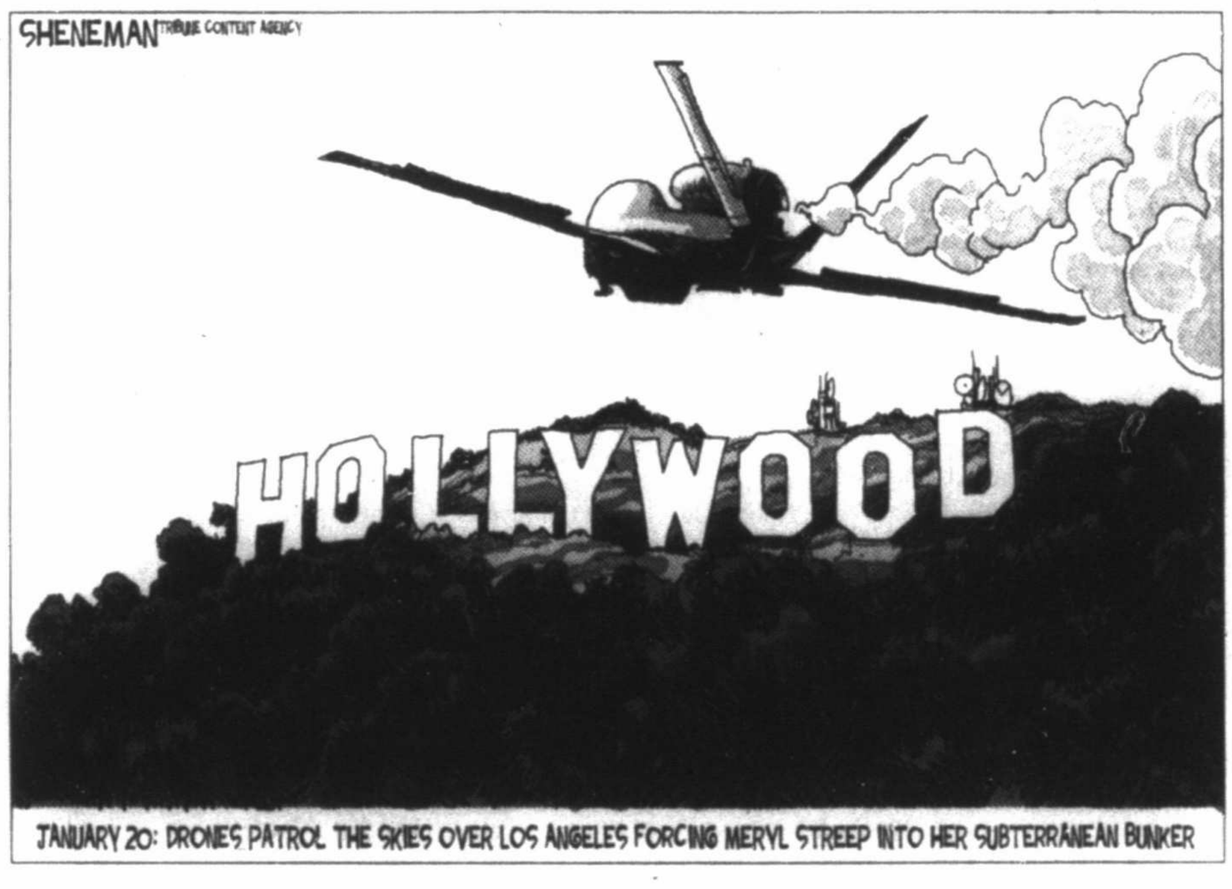

Streep's rant was hateful, ignorant

■ There is nothing about making movies or music or playing a sport or any other platform of fame that makes anyone's opinions any more (or less) worthy

MARK DAVIS

Dallas Morning News

In view of what follows, I should say that I disagree with Donald Trump about Meryl Streep being "overrated." From the "Holocaust" TV miniseries in 1978, through her 19 Oscar nominations and three wins, she has become, on film, a national treasure.

At Sunday night's Golden Globes microphone, not so much.

I could not care less about her politics or the views of all of the actors and musicians whose work I consume. But if they take a particular pleasure in spewing derisive venom at every American who shares my views, then, as the saying goes, silence is complicity.

Wait, you may say, her remarks were reserved only for Donald Trump. No sale. In a tirade as filled with malice and slander as her Globes speech, the message is clear: No decent human being could have voted for a monster such as she described.

But what she described was a work of fiction as craftily concocted as "Ricki and the Flash" or "The Devil Wears Prada." Except in her case, the devil wears Brioni suits and red ties.

Let's review. After describing an impressive cross-section of actors of a variety of races and national origins, she cobbled together this gem: "If we kick them all out, you'll have nothing to watch but football and mixed martial arts, which are not the arts!"

Last time I checked, Donald Trump was not planning to deport any of the bejeweled millionaires in the crowd. This colossal straw man is as telling as the clumsy attack on two forms of entertainment that are currently a far bigger deal than she is.

This ham-handed outburst, a textbook example of why Hollywood is so widely reviled, showed how low the pop-culture left will go to demonize Americans who oppose their views.

In her characterization of Trump as mocking a disabled reporter, she is merely presumptuous. Evidence abounds of the president-elect using the same gestures to refer to many people flustered in a variety of settings from Ted Cruz to Donna Brazile to himself.

But in describing that misunderstood moment as making "its intended audience laugh and show their teeth," which "sank a hook in my heart," she makes clear the object of her derision. It is you, if you were a Trump voter. It is me. It is 63 million people.

So how are we to react to such rank political bigotry, this obvious characterization of our next president — and his voters — as racists, xenophobes and bullies?

We can cancel our plans to catch "Florence Foster Jenkins," I suppose. Maybe it sparks the urge to tell all the actors to just shut up and make movies.

You'll never hear that from me. I want all of Hollywood to show us exactly who they are, what they think and whom they despise. First of all, it is their right. But it is also of great benefit. Clarity is always useful, no matter what we learn.

And there is much to learn from this latest in a long series of insults from the preening ranks of Hollywood privilege. On one level, perhaps it is worthy to note that a woman (and an entire room) who applauded child rapist Roman Polanski for a 2003 directorial Oscar does not have much of a foundation for lecturing other people about much of anything.

But a larger truth is that there is nothing about making movies or music or playing a sport or any other platform of fame that makes anyone's opinions any more worthy. Or any less. So from actresses to plumbers to doctors to burger flippers to columnists, let everyone speak freely, and be judged by what they actually say.

And no matter from whom it may have come, that Sunday night rant was a wave of hateful condescension that added to the spectacle of sore losers incapable of coping with a White House that will no longer be an echo chamber for their views.

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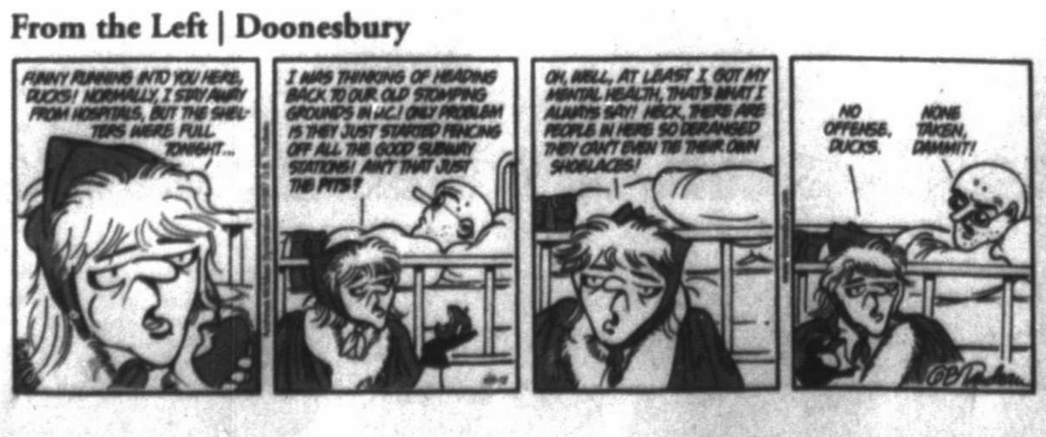
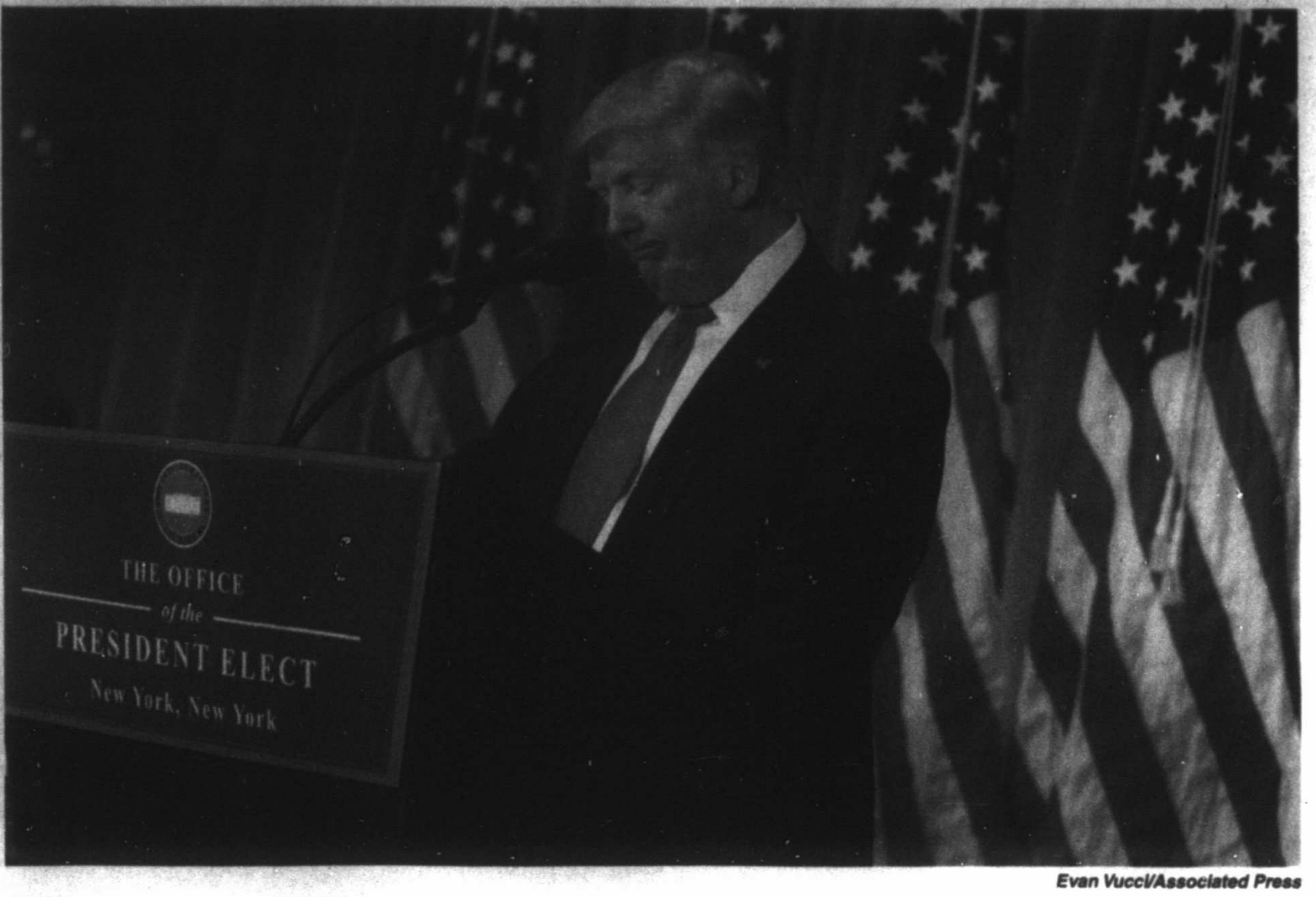
From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore

Trump denounces 'disgrace' of reports of Russian ties to him

By Julie Pace
Associated Press



Evan Vucci/Associated Press

President-elect Donald Trump pauses during a news conference in the lobby of Trump Tower in New York on Wednesday.

NEW YORK — A defiant President-elect Donald Trump on Wednesday adamantly denied reports that Russia had compromising personal and financial information about him, calling it a "tremendous blot" on the record of the intelligence community if material with any such allegations had been released.

The incoming president, in his first news conference since late July, firmly chided news organizations for publishing the material late Tuesday night. After weeks of scoffing at reports that Russians had interfered in the election, he conceded publicly for the first time that Russia was likely responsible for the hacking of the Democratic National Committee. "As far as hacking, I think it was Russia," he said and quickly added that the United States is hacked by other countries as well, including China.

Trump's extraordinary defense against the unsubstantiated intelligence report, just nine days before his inauguration, dominated a highly anticipated press conference in which he also announced a new Cabinet member, detailed his plans to disentangle himself from his sprawling global business empire, gave his outlook on the future of the "Obamacare" health care law and said he would soon nominate someone to fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court.

"I think it's a disgrace that information would be let out. I saw the information, I read the information outside of that meeting," he said, a reference to a classified briefing he received from intelligence leaders. "It's all fake news, it's phony stuff, it didn't happen," Trump said in a news conference that saw him repeatedly joust with reporters. "It was gotten by opponents of ours."

Asked about his relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Trump boasted that it is an improvement over what he called America's current "horrible relationship with Russia" and did not criticize the Russian leader for any interference in the election.

"If Putin likes Donald Trump, guess what, folks, that's called an asset not a liability. I don't know if I'm going to get along with Vladimir Putin — I hope I do — but there's a good chance I won't."

Trump, Vice President-elect Mike Pence and incoming White House press secretary Sean Spicer also denounced the report about Russia's influence on Trump, and the incoming president said it never should have been released. He thanked some news organizations for showing restraint.

A U.S. official told The Associated Press on Tuesday night that intelligence officials had informed Trump last week about an unsubstantiated report that Russia had compromising personal and financial information about him. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because the official was not allowed to publicly discuss the matter.

Trump and President Barack Obama were briefed on the intelligence community's findings last week, the official said.

Media outlets reported on the document late Tuesday and Trump denounced it on Twitter before his news conference as "fake news," suggesting he was being persecuted for defeating other GOP presidential hopefuls and Democrat Hillary Clinton in the election.

The dossier contains unproven information about close coordination between Trump's inner circle and Russians about hacking into Democratic accounts as well as unproven claims about unusual sexual activities by Trump among other suggestions attributed to anonymous sources. The Associated Press has not authenticated any of the claims.

Only days from his inauguration as the nation's 45th president, Trump announced that he would nominate David Shulkin to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs, elevating him from his current role as VA undersecretary.

He promised that a replacement for the health care overhaul would be offered "essentially simultaneously" with the repeal of Obama's signature health law — something that would be virtually impossible to quickly pass given the complexity of the policy changes. Republicans agree on repealing the law but nearly seven years after its passage have failed to reach agreement on its replacement.

Trump has repeatedly said that repealing and replacing "Obamacare" was a top priority, but has never fully explained how he plans to do it. House Speaker Paul Ryan has said that the House would seek to take both steps "concurrently."

Turning to his plans to build a border wall along the southern border, Trump said he would immediately begin negotiations with Mexico on funding his promised wall after he takes office. He again vowed that "Mexico will pay for the wall but it will be reimbursed." Trump recommitted to his plans to impose a border tax on manufacturers who shut plants and move production abroad. While the tax policy could retain jobs, it would also carry the risk of increasing prices for consumers.

Trump also said he would probably name his choice to fill the vacancy left by the death of Supreme Court justice Antonin Scalia in about two weeks after the inauguration.

And he announced his plans for the future of the Trump Organization, bringing to the podium attorney Sheri Dillon of Morgan Lewis, who worked with the Trump Organization on the arrangement.

Dillon said the Trump Organization would continue to pursue deals in the U.S., though Trump will relinquish control of the company to his sons and an executive, put his business assets in a trust and take other steps to isolate himself from his business. She said Trump "should not be expected to destroy the company he built."

The move appears to contradict a previous pledge by the president-elect. In a tweet last month, Trump vowed to do "no new deals" while in office.

The lawyer said Trump would donate all profits from foreign government payments to his hotels to the U.S. treasury.

And pushing back against some ethics experts, Dillon said the so-called emoluments clause of the U.S. Constitution does not apply to foreign payments to Trump's company. While some ethics officials have said that foreign leaders who pay for rooms and services at his various hotels would run afoul of the constitutional ban on foreign gifts or payments to the president, Dillon referred to it as a "fair-value exchange."

Black lawmakers say Sessions unfit to be attorney general

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Black lawmakers said Wednesday that Sen. Jeff Sessions at times has shown hostility toward civil rights, making him unfit to be attorney general, as a 1986 letter from the widow of Martin Luther King Jr. surfaced strongly expressing opposition to the Alabama senator.

In the second day of confirmation hearings, New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, Sessions' colleague, and Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., who was beaten when he marched for civil rights in the 1960s, warned that Sessions could move the country backward if confirmed as Donald Trump's top law enforcement official.

Booker said the "arc of the universe does not just naturally curve toward justice, we must bend it," and the country needs an attorney general who is determined to bend it.

"Senator Sessions' record does not speak to that desire, intention or will," Booker said, noting his opposition to overhauling the criminal justice system and his positions on other issues affecting minority groups.

Lewis told the Senate Judiciary Committee that the country needs "someone who's going to stand up, speak up and speak out for the people that need help, the people who have been discriminated against."

And Louisiana Rep. Cedric Richmond, the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, urged senators to reject Sessions' eventual nomination because he has "advanced an agenda that will do great harm" to African-Americans.

The lawmakers' criticism echoed Cornell Brooks, the head of the NAACP, who told the panel earlier in the day that the organization "firmly believes" Sessions is unfit to serve.

The Alabama Republican was rejected by the Judiciary panel in 1986 for a federal judgeship amid accusations that he had called a black attorney "boy" — which he denied — and the NAACP and ACLU "un-American."

Sessions on Tuesday called those accusations "damnably false" and said he is "totally committed to maintaining the freedom and equality that this country has to provide to every citizen."

The lawmakers' testimony brought two days of confirmation hearings for Sessions to a close. He has solid support from the Senate's Republican majority and from some Democrats in conservative-leaning states, and is expected to easily win confirmation. But Democrats are using the hearings to try to show that Sessions — and Trump's administration — won't be committed to civil rights, a chief priority of the Justice Department during the Obama administration.

On Tuesday, the NAACP released a 1986 letter from Coretta Scott King, widow of the civil rights leader, in which she said that Sessions' actions as a federal prosecutor were "reprehensible" and that he used his office "in a shabby attempt to intimidate and frighten elderly black voters."

Tillerson takes tough line on Moscow

By Matthew Lee
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Barraged by questions about Russia, Donald Trump's pick for secretary of state promised a far more muscular approach toward the Kremlin on Wednesday, abandoning much of the president-elect's emphasis on improving ties between the Cold War foes. Instead, Rex Tillerson suggested the outgoing Obama administration responded too softly to Moscow's takeover of Ukrainian territory.

The surprising shift in tone by Tillerson, a former Exxon Mobil CEO and Russian "Order of Friendship" recipient, reflected the difficulty Trump will have in convincing Democrats and Republicans to broach a broad rapprochement with President Vladimir Putin's government. Calling Russia a "danger" to the United States, Tillerson said he would keep U.S. sanctions in place and consider new penalties related to Russian meddling in the presidential election.

Although he said he hadn't read last week's classified assessment by the U.S. intelligence community, Tillerson said it was a "fair assumption" that Putin would have ordered the operation that purportedly included hacking, propaganda and internet trolls to harm Hillary Clinton's candidacy and advance Trump's. But in a puzzling revelation, the oil man conceded he hadn't yet talked with Trump about a Russia policy.

"Russia today poses a danger, but it is not unpredictable in advancing its own interests," Tillerson told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He added that Trump's administration would be committed to the defense of America's NATO partners, an obligation the president-elect called into question during the campaign if allies failed to meet defense spending pledges.

While his prepared statement reflected some of Trump's desire for improved ties, Tillerson quickly pivoted under pressure from both sides of the aisle. On Russia's 2014 annexation of the Crimea region, he said, "That was a taking of territory that was not theirs."

Still, he criticized President Barack Obama's sanctions on Russia, which ended up costing Exxon hundreds of millions of dollars. And he declared that he would have responded by urging Ukraine to send all available military units to its eastern border with Russia and recommending U.S. and allied support through defensive weapons and air surveillance, to send a message to Moscow.

"That is the type of response that Russia expects," he said in a response to questions from Sen. Marco Rubio, Tillerson's toughest GOP inquisitor. "If Russia acts with force," Tillerson said, "they require a proportional show of force."

Trump offered a sharply different account of Ukraine during the presidential campaign and never proposed a show of U.S. military force in Ukraine. In an August interview, he claimed Russia would not enter Ukraine, not seeming to know Russian troops were already there. He suggested Crimea didn't count because the peninsula's people preferred being part of Russia, restating Putin's reason for taking the territory in 2014.

Like Trump, Tillerson vowed complete support for Israel, which he called America's "most important ally" in the Middle East. He said the new administration would undertake a full review of the Iran nuclear deal to deny the Islamic republic the ability to acquire an atomic weapon. He said that might only be possible if Iran can no longer enrich uranium, which the accord permits under strict constraints and without which Tehran wouldn't have made the deal.

Some of the questioning reflected the traditional friction between a Congress that wants to prescribe foreign policy and an executive branch that traditionally seeks to maintain broad flexibility in its international affairs, tinted by Tillerson's vocal opposition to economic sanctions as a business leader.

Addressing some of Congress' most experienced architects of U.S. economic pressure, Tillerson called sanctions "a powerful tool" in deterrence that could, however, also project weakness if applied poorly.

He said neither he nor Exxon had lobbied against sanctions. But the company did try to influence sanctions legislation on Russia two years ago, congressional records and data from the Center for Responsive Politics show, and Tillerson made numerous White House visits, to no avail.

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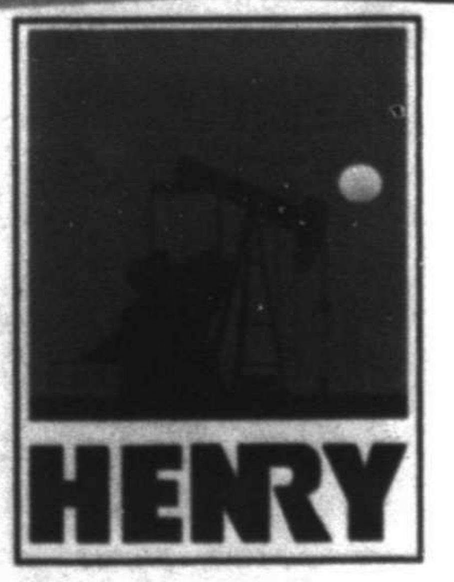

Romans 15:13
Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

6 things we learned at the Detroit auto show

By Dee-Ann Durbin
Associated Press

DETROIT — This year's North American International Auto Show reflects an industry that's flush with cash but uncertain about the future.

Multi-million-dollar displays show new versions of big sellers like the Toyota Camry, GMC Terrain and Honda Odyssey. New technology, from gesture controls in BMWs to further advances in self-driving cars, is everywhere. Auto companies are making big promises, like Chinese automaker GAC's plan to sell a vehicle in the U.S. by the end of 2019 and Volvo's goal of preventing all fatal crashes in its vehicles by 2020.

But there could be bumps ahead. U.S. sales are leveling off and the Trump administration could change the rules on trade. And it's not yet clear which companies will be the winners in a future of car-sharing and self-driving.

"The ground is so unstable beneath them right now," said Karl Brauer, a senior director of content at Kelley Blue Book.

Here's what we learned at the Detroit auto show:

Paul Sancya/Associated Press

Models unveil Guangzhou Automobile Group's GS7 at the North American International Auto Show on Monday in Detroit. GAC unveiled three new vehicles at the auto show, including a plug-in hybrid, and said it plans to sell a five-passenger SUV in the U.S. by 2019.

Plateauing sales

After an unprecedented seven-year streak of sales increases and record sales of 17.55 million in 2016, U.S. sales of new cars and trucks are expected to slow down slightly in 2017. Interest rates and car prices are rising. A glut of used cars will also put pressure on new-car sales. Automakers are cutting production of cars to lower their inventories, but they're also counting on new vehicles, gadgets and must-have technology, like Apple CarPlay and backup cameras, to fuel demand. At the auto show, BMW is showing off a 5 Series with gesture controls, which let drivers control volume and other functions with hand signals. Lexus' new LS sedan has seats that give occupants Shiatsu massages. And multiple automakers are introducing new vehicles that will brake automatically to avoid an accident.

Trump effect

President-elect Donald Trump and his Twitter threats to tax Mexican auto imports were the talk of the show. Automakers reacted in different ways. General Motors, Volkswagen and Nissan said they won't change their production plans. Toyota warned that the price of a U.S.-built Camry could rise by $1,000 if Trump taxes auto parts from Mexico. Sergio Marchionne, CEO of Fiat Chrysler, said FCA might be forced to abandon Mexico if the tax is too punitive, but he's waiting for more details. "This is new territory for most of us. None of us has had a tweeting president before," he said. But AutoNation CEO Mike Jackson said Trump could help the industry by easing expensive regulations and lowering corporate taxes. He also thinks Trump will tread carefully with border taxes. "He will be a failure if he hurts consumers or companies," Jackson said.

Tech tussle

The auto show isn't just for carmakers anymore. Waymo, Google's self-driving car division, reiterated that it doesn't plan to make its own cars, but wants to partner with established auto companies and others. Waymo announced the development of an in-house system of sensors and radars and showed off a self-driving minivan it has developed with Fiat Chrysler. Fiat Chrysler CEO Sergio Marchionne says it makes sense for smaller companies to hook up with Waymo instead of developing self-driving platforms of their own. "I have no intention of recreating Silicon Valley in Michigan," he said. But other automakers, including Nissan and Ford, insist they will go it alone, partly because they don't want Waymo to own all the customer data that can be collected from self-driving vehicles. "We don't believe all the change coming to the market is going to be a private garden for anybody," said Nissan CEO Carlos Ghosn.

Mobility moves

Automakers aren't just developing self-driving cars. They're trying to figure out where they fit in a world of car-sharing and ride-hailing. Ford said it's working with former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and others to help cities plan for future transportation trends. Nissan has joined a similar group, 100 Resilient Cities, to help future city planning. Volvo is signing up 100 families in Sweden and giving them self-driving cars to see how they use them in everyday life.

China's coming

Volvo and Buick are already selling Chinese-built vehicles in the U.S. But so far, no Chinese automaker has managed to crack the U.S. market, where tough safety regulations and dealer franchise laws can be a barrier for newcomers. Guangzhou Automobile Group hopes to change that. GAC unveiled three new vehicles at the auto show, including a plug-in hybrid, and said it plans to sell a five-passenger SUV in the U.S. by 2019. The GX7 SUV would have a starting price of $15,000, or around $10,000 less than the Toyota RAV4.

Nostalgia factor

Automakers are tugging at buyers' heartstrings. Volkswagen is showing a prototype based on its iconic 1960s minibus. Dubbed the ID Buzz, it's an electric van that goes 270 miles on a charge. Ford announced the return of the Bronco, the rugged SUV — and O.J. Simpson chase vehicle — which was last sold in 1996. And Jeep is bringing back its Wagoneer, the three-row, wood-sided classic that was discontinued in 1991.

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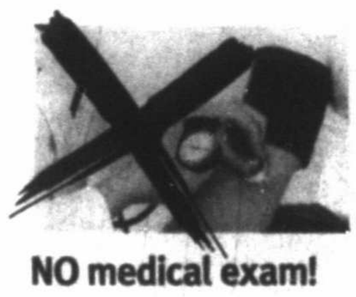
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- Builds cash value and is renewable up to age 100!**... Then automatically pays YOU full benefit amount!
- Policy cannot be canceled – EVER – because of changes in health!

Why this policy? Why now?

Our graded death benefit whole life insurance policy can be used to pay funeral costs, final medical expenses...or other monthly bills. You know how important it can be to help protect your family from unnecessary burdens after you pass away. Maybe your own parents or loved one did the same for you. OR, maybe they DIDN'T and you sure wish they would have!

The important thing is that, right now, you can make a decision that could help make a difficult time a little easier for your loved ones. It's a responsible, caring and affordable decision. And, right now, it's something you can do with one simple phone call.

You may have been putting off purchasing life insurance, but you don't have to wait another day. This offer is a great opportunity to help start protecting your family today.

United of Omaha Life Insurance Company
Companion Life Insurance Company
Mutual of Omaha Affiliates

Your affordable monthly rate will "lock-in" at your enrollment age ...*

	$25,000.00 Benefit		$10,000.00 Benefit		$5,000.00 Benefit		$3,000.00 Benefit	
Age	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
45-49	79.75	66.00	32.50	27.00	16.75	14.00	10.45	8.80
50-54	88.50	73.50	36.00	30.00	18.50	15.50	11.50	9.70
55-59	111.00	92.25	45.00	37.50	23.00	19.25	14.20	11.95
60-64	136.00	103.50	55.00	42.00	28.00	21.50	17.20	13.30
65-69	163.50	126.00	66.00	51.00	33.50	26.00	20.50	16.00
70-74	221.00	171.00	89.00	69.00	45.00	35.00	27.40	21.40
75-79	301.00	243.50	121.00	98.00	61.00	49.50	37.00	30.10
80-85	413.50	347.25	166.00	139.50	83.50	70.25	50.50	42.55

The rates above include a $12 annual policy fee.

This is a solicitation of insurance, an agent (in OR & WA: producer) may contact you. **These policies contain benefits, reductions, limitations, and exclusions to include a reduction in death benefits during the first two years of policy ownership.** Policy Form ICC11L057P or state equivalent (in FL: 7722L-0505; in NY: 827Y-0505). Not available in all states. In NY, during the first two years, 110% of premiums will be paid. Website unavailable for NY residents. EASY WAY Whole Life Insurance is underwritten by United of Omaha Life Insurance Company, Omaha, NE 68175, which is licensed nationwide except NY. Life insurance policies issued in NY are underwritten by Companion Life Insurance Company, Hauppauge, NY 11788. Each company is responsible for its own financial and contractual obligations. *Age eligibility and benefits may vary by state. **In FL and MD policy is renewable until age 121.

AFN44167

WEEKENDER

YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS IN THE PERMIAN BASIN

BEST BETS

TODAY

DOUBLE THE COUNTRY The Judson Cole Band and Chris Brazeal Band take over Dos Amigos in a doubleheader country show. 7 p.m.

SATURDAY

BIG SCREEN MICKEY Disney Junior goes to the movies with this special presentation. Fathom Events presents "Mickey and the Roadster Racers" screening at Tall City Stadium for one show only. 10 a.m. Concert at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY

TENOR TONIGHT Broadway showtunes, inspirational hymns and personal stories all make up a Tenore concert. See the singing group at the Wagner Noel. 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

BRAIN GAMES True Texas BBQ at the new H-E-B is now hosting live trivia each week with prizes to the winning teams. 7 p.m.

ONLINE

Read about the new Mardi Gras downtown event in Midland on mrt.com.

See complete schedule of weekend events on Page 2.

MOVIES

Films opening and closing this week at Midland theaters:

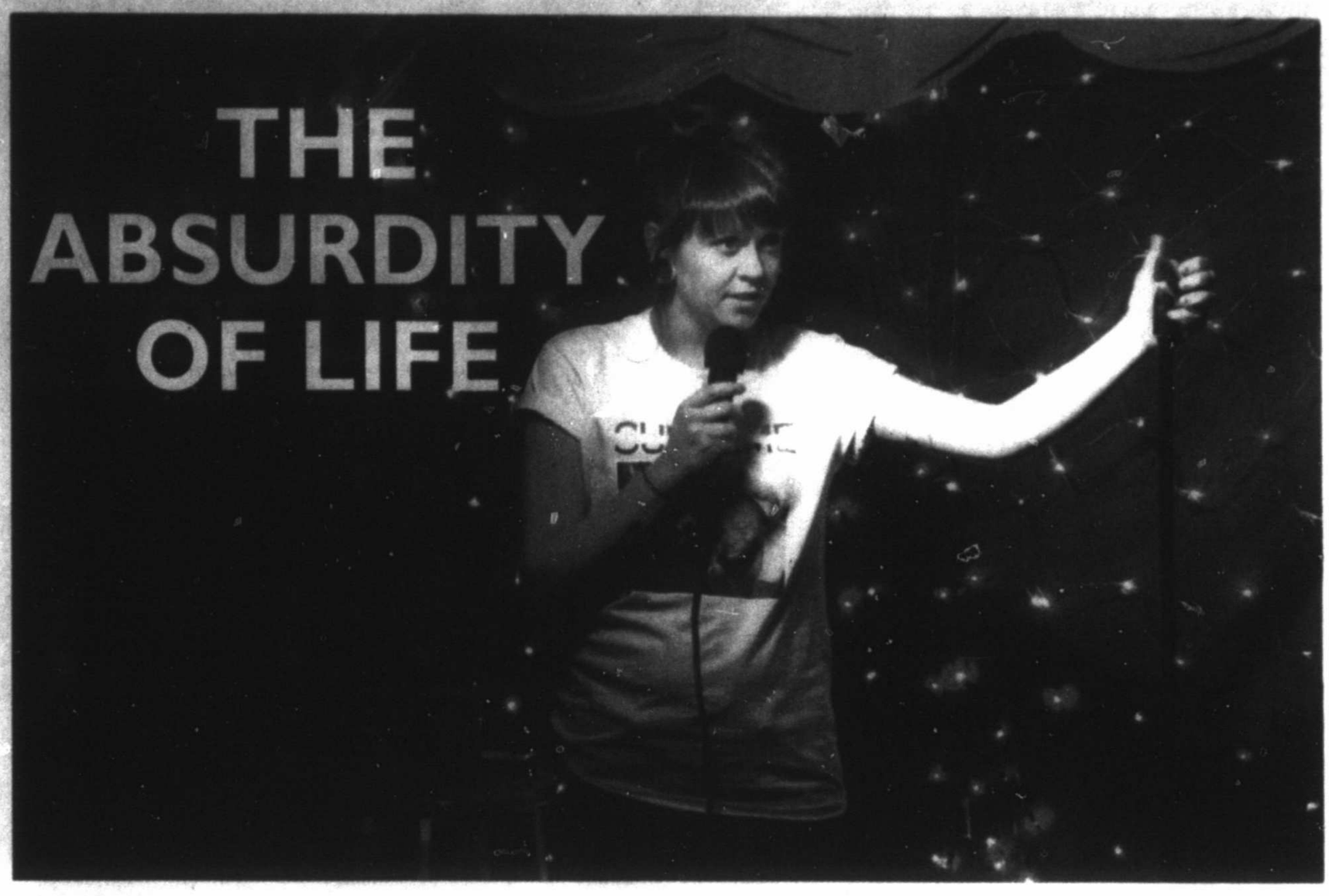
TALL CITY 14
Opening: "The Bye Bye Man," "Live by Night," "Monster Trucks," "Patriots Day," "Sleepless."

CINERGY CINEMAS
Opening: "The Bye Bye Man," "Live by Night," "Monster Trucks," "Patriots Day," "Sleepless."
Closing: "Assassin's Creed," "Collateral Beauty," "Fences."

STAYING IN? Find out which movies are worth watching from the comfort of your couch. Page 4

COMING SOON

The boys will be back in town. The Oak Ridge Boys and the Gatlin Brothers headline the Wagner Noel on Jan 23. Tickets available at wagnernoel.com.



Abby Benes takes her comedy seriously

By Rich Lopez
jrlopez@mrt.com

Abby Benes seemed to be made for stand-up comedy. She's been in front of an audience since her high school days in San Antonio. But really, the 26-year-old comic just has so much to say.

"I think my friends really just get tired of me talking about myself, so I just share my opinions in my stand-up," she said in a phone interview.

She'll share those opinions in the form of jokes and punchlines at Kamiposi on Saturday.

Although Benes sees comedy as an outlet for her musings, it seems to be more about her observations on the adage that real life is stranger than fiction.

"Life is really absurd and that's what I want to come across in my comedy," she said. "Everything about it is weirder and funnier and (more) intense than any movie."

IF YOU GO

Abby Benes, Holli Cuomo presented by Tilted Halo Comedy. 8 p.m. Saturday at Kamiposi, 510 S. Big Spring St. $5.

As a high school freshman, Benes performed oral interpretations that she sees as the genesis of her comedic career. She described it as a stand-up for in which students dressed in characters and performed for judges in tournaments. Benes would make a life-changing discovery.

"I think I knew I was funny when I started winning," she said.

That time also turned out to be a preview for her current career. In a short time, Benes has been able to make a career solely out of stand-up.

"It's been about a year and half when I officially started, but I came in swinging. Now I run a showcase at the Blind Tiger Comedy Club and have been living off comedy for the past six months now," she said.

Although she makes a life off laughs, Benes is absolutely serious about the business.

"I'm always pretty wacky, but I want to be taken professionally. I take this very seriously. This is something I plan to do for rest of my life," she said.

Her ultimate goal is to work on "Saturday Night Live." With her studies in creative writing, her character impersonations and comedic timing, she could be a perfect fit. In the meantime, she's delivering her work throughout Texas and writing a one-woman show.

When she started, San Antonio comic Allie Amrien took Benes under her wing. Reflecting that karma, she's pushing fellow comic Holli Cuomo to get more exposure.

"There's only like four of us in San Antonio. We all help each other out," Benes said.

Cuomo joins Benes at Saturday's performance.

HEAT INDEX: Livestock show is at the Horseshoe

By Rich Lopez
jrlopez@mrt.com

Midland County Livestock Show at the Horseshoe Pavilion

A livestock show may not immediately come off as a "hot thing to do for the weekend," but hear us out. You can see steers, horses and other farm animals aplenty in fine form, but consider the cuteness overload you'll enjoy with the showing of pee-wee rabbits and goats. Both animals get a starring role in this weekend's show. The show is capped off by Saturday's culinary arts show and barbecue lunch for the public for a mere $10.

Today through Saturday at 2514 Arena Trail. Free.

The Four Tops and The Temptations at the Wagner Noel

This doubleheader of retro soul will be a night packed with hits. Not only have both been a part of the American music soundtrack, but practically have been a part of everyone's lives. Songs such as The Four Tops' "Baby, I Need Your Lovin'" or The Temptations' "My Girl" are not only iconic but have appeared throughout pop culture since their releases in the '60s. Today's iterations of both groups still throwback to the original members, but the music has thankfully stayed the same.

7:30 p.m. Sunday at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $39-$109. wagnernoel.com.

Granger Smith at Dos Amigos

With Granger Smith's performance Saturday, he must be well enough to be back on the road. In December, he suffered a nasty fall during a concert in which he broke his ribs and punctured a lung. On New Year's Day, he posted on Facebook that he was ready to get back to the stage. Welcome him back at this weekend's gig. Houston duo The Powell Brothers will open the show.

8 p.m. Saturday at 4700 N.

Please see **HEAT INDEX** Page 3

LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

Affleck's stylish 'Live by Night' is by the numbers

Ben Affleck is no doubt an ambitious and tasteful filmmaker, but he's gotten himself in a bit of hot water with the bloated period gangster epic "Live by Night." It looks and sounds right and all the elements are there. A conflicted anti-hero with a granite jaw, a fast talkin', two-timin' moll, crooked cops, and a sweaty loyal partner. There's the one-last-job-gone-awry, some rum-running, a few epic shootouts and the big questions about whether or not our man has become everything he swore he wouldn't. It seems like enough to hold audience interest for a few hours, but somehow even with all that going for it (not to mention a parade of recognizable faces), "Live by Night" is dull as sin.

The story is adapted by Affleck from a Dennis Lehane novel of the same name. Lehane is the author of the source material for some good to great films like "Mystic River," "Shutter Island" and Affleck's first stab at directing, "Gone Baby Gone." It was a decent gamble that "Live by Night" would be pretty good, too.

Affleck has put himself front and center here as the lead, Joe Coughlin, a once good man who became jaded after serving in World War I. He came back to his hometown of Boston, where his father (Brendan Gleeson) is the Police Chief, with the intention of never answering to anyone. We don't ever see Joe as a standup citizen, only robbing banks and sleeping with Emma Gould (Sienna Miller), the mistress of the town's most notorious mob

Please see **BAHR/Page 3**

CALENDAR

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

ART & DANCE

Works by Katie Pack, 6 p.m. Fridays at Kamiposi, 510 S. Big Spring St. facebook.com/kamiposi.

"Spirit Lines: Helen Hardin Etchings" features 23 first editions of the artists copper-plate etchings. Through March 26 at Ellen Noel Art Museum, 4909 E University Blvd, Odessa. noelartmuseum.org.

FAMILY FUN

Pretend and Play provides a structured environment for caregivers and their children. For ages 2-6. 10:30 a.m.'s at Midland County Public Library downtown branch, 301 W. Missouri Ave. Fridays at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N. co.midland.tx.us/lib.

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

Storytime at the Library. 10:30 a.m. (birth-2 years), 11:30 a.m. (2-6 years). Thursdays. Midland County Public Library downtown branch, 301 W. Missouri Ave. co.midland.tx.us/lib.

Evening Storytime at the Library. 4:30 p.m. (2-6 years) Fridays at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N. co.midland.tx.us/lib.

Pretend and Play for ages 3-6. 10 a.m. Friday at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N. Every other Friday. co.midland.tx.us/lib.

Old Miner's Maze interactive adventure features a maze, rock walls, mechanical bull and more. Fridays 6-10 p.m., Saturdays noon-8 p.m., Sunday noon to 6 p.m. 4305 N. County Rd. 1140. oldminersmaze.com.

FOOD & DRINK

Karbach Brewing Tap Takeover will feature craft beer tastings of six different beers. 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at The Hemingway, 2200 W. Wadley Ave.

GAMES

Bingo Nights. The American Legion Auxiliary hosts weekly play throughout the week. 7 p.m. todays and Fridays, 4 p.m. Sundays. 501 Veterans Airpark Lane. 682-5511.

Zia Park Casino Hotel and Racetrack bus trips by Midland Shuttle Services. Departs at 5 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays to Hobbs, New Mexico. $55 adults, $45 65 and older. RSVP by calling 432-260-5428. midlandshuttleservices.com.

Hold 'em poker tournaments, 7 p.m. Fridays at The Detour.

Bridge lessons, 10 a.m. Saturdays at Allison Bridge Center, 913 W. Wadley Ave. $3. permianbridgeclub.com.

Bingo, 6 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays at the Tall City VFW Post 7208, 1306 E. Taylor Ave. Children welcome.

Bridge game play, 6:45 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and todays; 1 p.m. Tuesdays; 10:30 a.m. Saturdays; 1:30 p.m. Sundays. Allison Bridge Center, 913 W. Wadley Ave. $6. permianbridgeclub.com.

Monday Mayhem features unlimited bowling for $14.09 with free shoe rentals after 8 p.m. Bowlero, 5320 W. Loop 250 N. bowlero.com.

$2 Tuesdays bowling after 8 p.m. Bowlero, 5320 W. Loop 250 N. bowlero.com.

LECTURES, MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS

Plant Pressing Part 1 of Sibley's Natural Hobbies Series. Participants will explore the Sibley Herbarium and press plants. For children grades K through 3. 10 a.m., Saturday at Sibley Nature Center, 1307 E Wadley Ave. $5 members, $7 nonmembers. sibleynaturecenter.org.

Watercolor art classes by Sara Drescher. The class is for all levels. 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at Arts Council of Midland, 1506 W. Illinois Ave. To register, email sara@artbysaradb.com.

MUSIC

AMERICANA SINGER-SONGWRITER

Darby Sparkman Music, 9 p.m. Saturday at Desert Flower Art Bar, 123 S. Main St., Big Spring.

CLASSICAL/VOCAL

Tenore, 7 p.m. Sunday at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $33. Liveonstage-pb.com.

COUNTRY

Chris Brazeal Band, Judson Cole Band, 7 p.m. today at Dos Amigos, 4700 N. Golder Ave., Odessa.

Noah Cleveland, 7 p.m. today at the Sandhills Stock Show and Rodeo, 218 W. 46th Odessa. sandhillsstockshow.com.

Granger Smith, The Powell Brothers, 8 p.m. Saturday at Dos Amigos, 4700 N. Golder Ave., Odessa. $17 advance, $20 door. Dosamigos.com.

COVER/TRIBUTE

Mister Happy, 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday at The Bar, 606 W. Missouri Ave.

DJ/DANCE

#Hangovertodays, 7 p.m. today at Atrium Lounge, 3904 W. Wall St.

DJ Wildman, 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday at The Lift on 7th, 1401 E. 7th St. Odessa.

KARAOKE

Karaoke, 9 p.m. today at The Detour Bar, 1708 Rankin Highway. thedetourbar.com.

Karaoke with Ali, 8 p.m. Tuesdays at Your Place, 3704 W Wall St.

R&B/SOUL

The Temptations and The Four Tops, 7:30 p.m. Sunday at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $39-$109. Wagnernoel.com.

THEATER, COMEDY & FILM

One Piece Film: Gold, 7:30 p.m. today and Tuesday at Tall City Stadium 14, 4915 SW Loop 250 N. $13.53. fathomevents.com.

Comedy Show featuring Abby Benes, Holli Cuomo, Alex Rios, Sergio Cervantes, 9 p.m. Friday at Desert Flower Art Bar, 123 S. Main St., Big Spring.

Disney Junior at the Movies: "Mickey and the Roadster Racers," 10 a.m. Saturday at Tall City Stadium 14, 4915 SW Loop 250 N. $14.88. fathomevents.com.

Abby Benes, Holli Cuomo presented by Tilted Halo Comedy. 8 p.m. Saturday at Kamiposi, 510 S. Big Spring St. $5.

TCM Big Screen Classics: "Singin' in the Rain" 2 and 7 p.m., Sunday and Wednesday at Tall City Stadium 14, 4915 SW Loop 250 N. $14.88. fathomevents.com.

COMING SOON

JANUARY

Third Thursday Reading will featured the book "Is There Really a Human Race?" 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. Jan. 19 at the George W. Bush Childhood Home, 1412 W. Ohio Ave. bushchildhoodhome.org.

Book of Hebrews Bible Study in 12 sessions. Jan. 19 and every Thursday through March 30 at First Baptist Church, 2104 W. Louisiana Ave. $20. Fbcmidland.org.

Empty Bowls 2017 benefiting the West Texas Food Bank. 7 p.m. Jan 20 at West Texas Food Bank, 411 S. Pagewood Ave., Odessa.

Mark McKinney, 8 p.m. Jan. 20 at The Lone Star Bar, 621 W. Wall St.

Symphony Sound-Bites "Beethoven" is a pre-concert dinner with maestro Gary Lewis and guest artist John Gunther speaking. The menu will feature an Italian pasta trio. Tickets must be purchased by Jan. 16. 6 p.m. Jan. 21 at Rea-Greathouse Hall, 1310 N. FM 1788. $25. MOSC.org.

Robert Burns Dinner hosted by the Celtic Heritage Society of the Permian Basin. The event honors the Scottish poet and will feature social hour, a toast, buffet dinner, cash bar and entertainment. 6 p.m. Jan. 21 at Midland Country Club, 6101 N. SH 349. $36 registration by Jan. 15, $40 late registration by Jan. 19. facebook.com/celticheritagesocietypermianbasin.

MOSC Masterworks: Beethoven, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 21 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $9-$30. MOSC.org.

Intocable, La Reunion Nortena, Los Bravos de Ojinaga, 8 p.m. Jan. 21 at La Hacienda Event Center, 12610 SH 191. $35. Haciendamidland.com.

Barry Waller and Dixie River, 9 p.m. Jan. 21 at Escape Lounge, 3001 E. Business Loop 20, Odessa.

Indie Lens: "The Bad Kids" screening about at-risk students by Basin PBS. 6 p.m. Jan. 24 at Ector County Library, 321 W. 5th St., Odessa. basinpbs.org.

The Oak Ridge Boys, The Gatlin Brothers, 7:30 p.m. Jan 23 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $38-$63. Wagnernoel.com.

Toddler Block Party is an hour of playtime with wooden blocks. 10:30 a.m. Jan. 24 at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 Loop 250.

The Odd Squad Live, 6:30 p.m. Jan. 24 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $18-$68. wagnernoel.com.

An Evening with Kristin Chenoweth: Celebrating the Art of Elegance, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 26 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. FM Road 1788. $59-$125. Wagnernoel.com.

Urban Pioneers, Texicano Folk Rock Punk, 9 p.m. Jan. 26 at Some Place Else Club, 7409 W. Industrial Ave. 21 and older. Free.

Third annual Midland on Tap Craft Beer Fest will feature more than 100 brews from American breweries. Jan. 27 and 28 at High Sky Wing CAF, 9600 Wright Drive. 21 and older only. $20. Americaontap.com.

Ron White, 8 p.m. Jan 27 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $49-$239. Wagnernoel.com.

Beginner 3D Print Class, 11 a.m. Jan. 28 at Midland County Public Library downtown, 301 W. Missouri Ave.

Annual Dances from the Islands, 7 p.m. Jan. 28 at the Yucca Theatre, 208 N. Colorado St. alohahulahalau.com.

Naughty by Nature, Coolio, Tone Loc, 8 p.m. Jan. 28 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $43-$63. wagnernoel.com.

Trout Fishing in America, Jan. 29 and 30 at The Yucca, 208 N. Colorado St.

Drumline Live, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 30 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $35-$55. wagnernoel.com.

FEBRUARY

"The Hunchback of Notre Dame," Feb. 3-25 at Midland Community Theatre, 2000 W. Wadley Ave. mctmidland.org.

Los Tigres del Norte, La Maquinaria Nortena, 8 p.m. Feb. 3 at La Hacienda Event Center, 12610 SH 191. $55. Haciendamidland.com.

A.J. Gaither, 9 p.m. Feb. 3 at Riley's Bar and Grill, 3421 W. Wall St.

IF: Gathering 2017 is a day-long spiritual workshop for women. 9 a.m. Feb. 4 at Golf Course Road Church of Christ, 3500 W. Golf Course Road. ifgathering.com.

Foreigner, 8 p.m. Feb. 4 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $55-$75. wagnernoel.com.

Super Bowl Party with 15 big screen tvs and full menu available. 4 p.m. Feb. 5 at The Bar, 606 W. Missouri Ave. Table reservations available by calling 685-1757.

Rockabilly Riot featuring The Legendary Shack Shakers, The Brains and The Delta Bombers. 9 p.m. Feb. 5 at Some Place Else Club, 7409 W. Industrial Blvd.

Gabriel Iglesias: Fluffymania Tour, 8 p.m. Feb. 9 and 10 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $33-$148. Wagnernoel.com.

Love Rekindled is a marriage retreat focused on strengthening relationships. The weekend retreat is open to all married couples. Feb. 10-12 at Hilton Garden Inn, 1301 N. Loop 250 W. $250. eventbrite.com.

Camila, 7 p.m. Feb. 10 at La Hacienda Event Center, 12610 SH 191. $50-$75. Haciendamidland.com.

Daddy and Daughter Valentine's Barn Dance, 7 p.m. Feb. 10 at Golf Course Road Church of Christ, 3500 W. Golf Course Road.

Sweetheart Family Pancake Breakfast benefiting the Midland Children's Rehabilitation Center. 8 a.m.-10 a.m. Feb. 11 at On the Border Mexican Grill and Cantina, 4306 W. Loop 250 N. $8 for ages 11 to adult, $4 for ages 3-10.

Heart and Sole 5/10 K, 11 a.m. Feb. 11 at Midland YMCA, 800 N. Big Spring St. webscorer.com.

Country Music Night with Justin Dominguez and Mary Martin. 7 p.m. Feb. 11 at Lincoln Tower, 311 W. 4th St., Odessa. westtexastalent.com.

Styx, 8 p.m. Feb. 11 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $45-$246. Wagnernoel.com.

Eric Johnson, 8 p.m. Feb. 11 at Rea-Greathouse Recital Hall, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $49.50. Wagnernoel.com.

Wang Dang Doodle with Victor Wainwright and the Wild Roots, 8:30 p.m. Feb. 11 at Doubletree Hotel, 117 W. Wall St. $10-$25. ticketfly.com.

MOSC West Texas Winds: Spring — Our Favorites, Vol. 1, 3 p.m. Feb. 12 at Rea Greathouse Recital Hall, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $11.90-$14. MOSC.org.

Second Tuesday Salon is a free lunchtime concert series. Brown bag lunches or purchase from the local food truck onsite beginning at 11:30 a.m. Open to the public. Noon, Feb. 14 at The Rose Building, 415 N. Grant Ave., Odessa. Free. odessaarts.org.

Complexions Contemporary Ballet, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 14 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $25. wagnernoel.com.

West Texas Kennel Club AKC Dog Show, Feb. 16 at Midland County Horseshoe Arena, 2514 Arena Trail.

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. Feb. 16 at the George W. Bush Childhood Home, 1412 W. Ohio Ave. bushchildhoodhome.org.

Kaki King, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 16 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $22. wagnernoel.com.

"Once: The Musical," 7:30 p.m. Feb. 17 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $45-$88. Broadwayinthebasin.com.

Scott Tenant, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 17 at Rea-Greathouse Recital Hall, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $16. wagnernoel.com.

MercyMe: The Texas Takeover Tour with Micah Tyler, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 17 at First Baptist Church Odessa, 709 N. Lee Ave., Odessa. $35-$50. Fbcodessa.com.

Jimmy Gonzalez y Grupo Mazz, Ruben Ramos and the Mexican Revolution, La Fiebra la Nueva Era, 8 p.m. Feb. 18 at La Hacienda Event Center, 12610 SH 191. Haciendamidland.com.

Freedom Quartet, 6 p.m. Feb. 19 at Calvary Assembly of God, 908 Johnston St. freedomquartet.com.

Yes: The Album Series, 8 p.m. Feb. 20 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $49.75-$79.75. VIP packages $175-$325. Wagnernoel.com.

The Sewell Leadership Event with John Maxwell and Andy Stanley, 9 a.m. Feb. 23 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $42-$62. Wagnernoel.com.

Adam Crabb, 7 p.m. Feb. 23 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. wagnernoel.com.

31st annual Texas Cowboy Poetry Gathering, Feb. 24 and 25 at Marshall Auditorium at Sul Ross State University, U.S. 90, Alpine. $15. texascowboypoetry.com.

America, 8 p.m. Feb. 24 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $40-$65. Wagnernoel.com.

Men are from Mars Women are from Venus — Live, 8 p.m. Feb. 24 and 4 p.m. Feb. 25 at Rea-Greathouse Recital Hall, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. wagnernoel.com.

Jeanne Robertson, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 25. At Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $24-$44. wagnernoel.com.

MOSC Permian Basin String Quartet: British Invasion, 3 p.m. Feb. 26 at Rea Greathouse Recital Hall, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $14. MOSC.org.

LWV

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

MCSOC Midland County System of Care

What is the Midland County System of Care? (MCSOC)

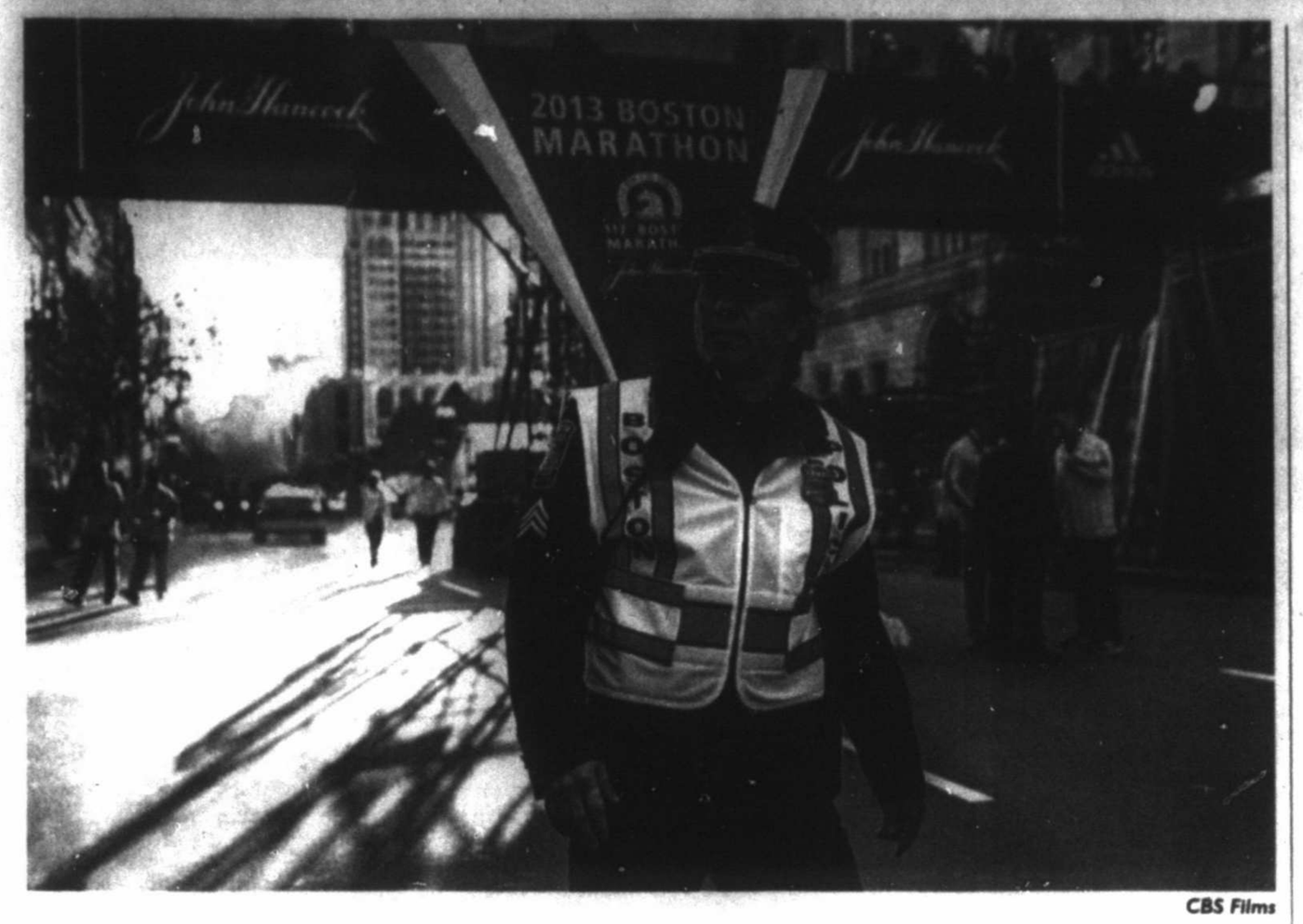
"Children's mental health is a huge concern, especially when the children are unable to cope with it themselves. Usually a lot of what we see is self-medication with different drugs and marijuana. They use that as their best coping mechanism." ~ Gabby Paulo

Speaker: Gabby Paulo, Community Care Coordinator
Carrasco Room at Midland College
Thursday, January 12
7:00pm

How does the Midland County System of Care strive to help children, youth, and families function better at home, in school, in the community and throughout?

The League of Women Voters, a *nonpartisan political organization* encourages the *informed* and *active* participation of citizens in government, works to *increase understanding* of major public policy issues, and *influences public policy* through *education and advocacy*

EVENTS & MORE



CBS Films

Mark Wahlberg plays Boston Police Sgt. Tommy Saunders in the film "Patriots Day."

'Patriots Day' retells important historical story but lacks heart

RICK BENTLEY
Fresno Bee

'Patriots Day" is the story of the 2013 bombing of the Boston Marathon and the search for the two men who planted the bombs that killed three and hurt more than 250. The incident remains a vivid memory because it happened so recently as everything unfolded on TV.

That created major problems for the filmmakers.

Director Peter Berg, who wrote the screenplay with Matt Cook and Joshua Zeturner, has meticulously recreated everything from the morning of the attack to the moments after the investigation wrapped. It's a very detailed telling of the story. But because the events were covered so thoroughly in the news media, this retelling offers nothing new.

Yet, there was plenty new that could have been explored.

Mark Wahlberg's character, Tommy Saunders, is a cop who has ruffled the feathers of his bosses. His having to work at the finish line of the marathon is a punishment for his insubordinate attitude. Instead of following him as he takes command at the blast zone and helps with the investigation, it would have been more interesting to see what brought him to this moment in time.

The same goes for J.K. Simmons' role of Sgt. Jeffrey Pugliese, who was in command of the Watertown station where the police ended up in a massive gun battle with the suspects. Simmons does a great job playing the role, but Pugliese's real story of being the shooting instructor for the station and how that played into his shooting one the of the suspects multiple times is fascinating.

Berg concentrates more on staging the shootout than digging deep into the characters. This makes for a flashy looking film with a shallow feeling.

The biggest stumble is how little is revealed about those who were injured or killed in the bombing. One of the most poignant moments in the movie shows an officer standing a long vigil over the body of a small boy who was killed by the blast. His devotion to protecting the child's body is an example of what would have given this film more heart. This is the only moment in the movie that completely embraces the human story more than the legal matters.

Another big miss is the young married couple of Jessica Kensky (Rachel Brosnahan) and Patrick Downes (Christopher O'Shea). Both of the race spectators had to have their left legs amputated because of injuries caused by the blasts. They were sent to different hospitals and had no idea if the other had even survived. Their story is far more compelling than watching the police plowing through hours of video in hopes of spotting the suspects.

The way "Patriots Day" is structured, it would be a great episode of a procedural cop TV show. It takes the story from start to finish in a very logical manner. It is inherently mechanical.

A more personal approach would have elevated "Patriots Day" from a solid effort to retell a familiar story to a deep and moving reminder of the kind of personal damage that comes with this kind of tragedy.

"Patriots Day"

2.5 out of 4 stars

Cast: Mark Wahlberg, John Goodman, J.K. Simmons, Michelle Monaghan, Kevin Bacon

Director: Peter Berg

130 minutes

Rating: R (violence, graphic images, drug use)

Claire Folger/Warner Bros. Entertainment via AP

Zoe Saldana, left, and Ben Affleck in a scene from "Live By Night."

Bahr

From Page 1

boss Albert White (Robert Glenister). Naturally, as soon as Emma and Joe decide to skip town and find a new life somewhere warm (where they come so close to saying that they'll "live by night" it's almost annoying that they don't), things take a turn and Joe is left beaten to a pulp, imprisoned and alone. When he gets out, revenge against Albert White is the only thing on his mind, so he heads to Florida to work for a rival.

While the Boston scenes are paint-by-numbers gangster pic, with a few gorgeous shots thanks to cinematographer Robert Richardson, in Florida at least the plot gets somewhat interesting as Joe pairs up with a nearly unrecognizable Chris Messina as Dion Bartolo to get in the Prohibition-era rum business while butting heads with the local KKK thugs, a complicated cop (Chris Cooper) and his troublesome evangelist daughter Loretta (Elle Fanning). Oh, and Joe also falls in love with a Cuban expat Graciela (Zoe Saldana).

By the time Loretta becomes the main focus, and foe, of Joe and Dion the film has already lost most of its steam. "Live by Night" wants to be about everything — capitalism, racism, the American dream, the hypocrisy of the good and moral — while also providing shoot 'em up thrills. It's hard to do that when you don't even care for or about any of the characters, though. In fact, there are so many characters and so much story (not to mention at least four false endings) that it wouldn't be surprising if there exists a better three-hour version of this.

Affleck may have done his film a disservice by making himself the star. On screen the generally effortlessly charismatic Affleck seems to be sleepwalking through the movie — with the exception of his moments with Miller's Emma Gould. He looks out of place and uncomfortable most of the time, and the distractingly ill-fitting jackets don't help.

It was always going to be a tricky thing to follow up a smash like "Argo," so taut and smart and thrilling. Affleck went maximalist with "Live by Night," and it was, indeed, too much.

"Live by Night" a Warner Bros. release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for "strong violence, language throughout, and some sexuality/nudity." Running time: 128 minutes. Two stars out of four.

MPAA Definition of R: Restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

New documentary focuses on 1984 mass shooting

By Rich Lopez
jrlopez@mrt.com

Documentary filmmaker Charlie Minn will screen his newest film, "77 Minutes," this weekend at Midland Community Theatre. The film explores the violent shooting at a McDonald's restaurant in San Ysidro, California, in 1984. With more than 20 people killed and 40 injured, it stands today as the second-deadliest shooting in America behind the one at Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, last year.

"It was so long ago but so timely today," Minn said in a phone interview.

But instead of focusing on perpetrator James Huberty, Minn preferred to focus on the heroism and humanity of the victims.

"The victims' stories were never told," he said. "There were people shielding others with such selfless heroism. When someone takes a bullet for you, what can you say?"

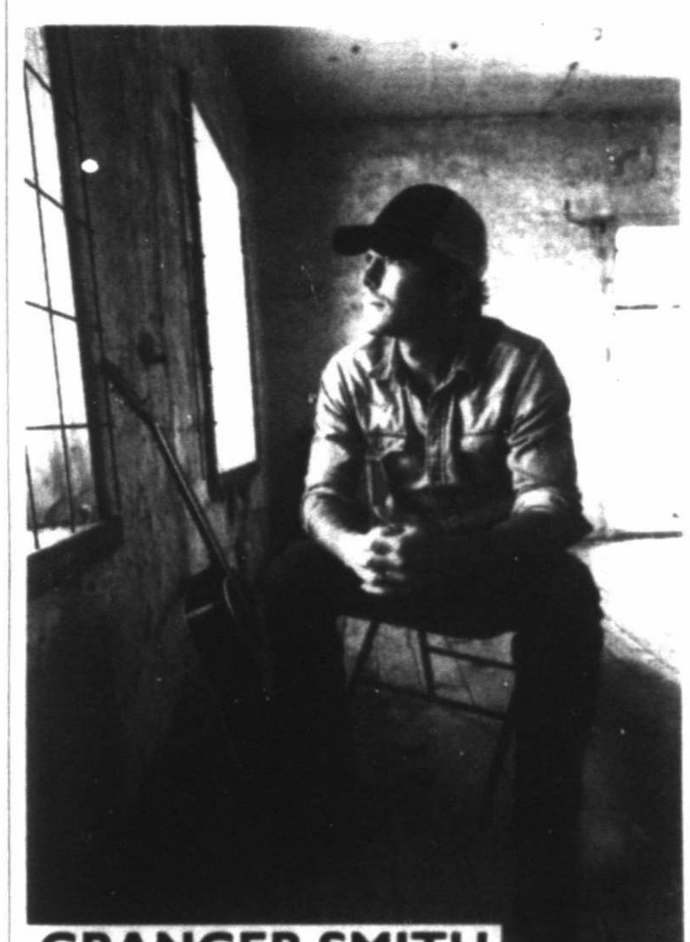
Minn never names the shooter in the film. He says too much attention is given to killers. He speculates this is why mass shootings have become a trend.

"There are so many social issues here that are still with us. He hunted Mexicans and blamed immigrants for taking jobs," he said. "Now with Trump, all that sentiment is back."

As he explores the incident in his film — which includes the original crime scene video — Minn mostly wants to look at the humanity behind the victims and give them a voice.

"Violence has seeped into our culture, but victims should never be seen as a statistic," he said.

"77 Minutes" is being shown at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday at Midland Community Theatre, 2000 W. Wadley. Tickets are $10. Minn will be in attendance.



GRANGER SMITH

Heat Index

From Page 1

Golder Ave., Odessa. $17 advance, $20 door. dosamigos.com.

All-Day Skate at KC's Nutty Roller

Monday is Martin Luther King Jr. Day, which may mean a day off work for some and a school holiday for students. KC's invites everyone to their All-Day Skate event. Get your fill of couples' and backward skating without falling down.

Noon-5 p.m. at 1004 Andrews Highway (behind Albertsons). $6 admission, rentals $1 skates, $5 rollerblades. kcsnuttyroller.com.

Contest will pick opening acts for Bon Jovi tour

By Wayne Parry
Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — Who says you can't open for Bon Jovi?

The New Jersey-based platinum-selling rockers are holding a contest to choose bands or singers to open for their upcoming tour.

Artists will upload videos of themselves performing original music, and concert promoters Live Nation will select 10 finalists.

Bon Jovi management will then pick winners from the finalists to perform 20-minute sets.

"Every great band starts small and builds their rep one show at a time," Jon Bon Jovi said Tuesday in a statement on the band's website announcing the contest. "That's the opportunity we were given, and now we want to pay it forward. If you're ready for the arena stage, submit your audition tapes and join us in playing for the best audiences in rock music."

Formed in Sayreville, New Jersey, the fledgling Bon Jovi landed opening act gigs with some of the biggest names in music at the time, including ZZ Top in 1983, and the Scorpions, Kiss and Ted Nugent in 1984, exposing them to millions of new fans.

The band will begin its "This House Is Not For Sale" tour Feb. 8 in Greenville, South Carolina. The last listed tour date is April 11 in Toronto, but additional dates are expected to be announced.

Entries will be judged on entertainment value, creativity and originality. No-nos include profanity, nudity, violence, drug or alcohol use, commercial endorsements of products, and disparagement of any group of people.

In addition to performing live, the winners will be featured on the Bon Jovi and Live Nation Facebook pages.

ON SCREEN

'THE BYE BYE MAN'

FILM CAPS

"The Bye Bye Man" (PG-13) Three college students unwittingly unleash a supernatural entity. With Carrie-Anne Moss, Faye Dunaway, Douglas Smith. Written by Jonathan Penner, based on a short story by Robert Damon Schneck. Directed by Stacy Title.

"Fences" (PG-13) Denzel Washington directs and reprises his 2010 Broadway role opposite Viola Davis in this adaptation of playwright August Wilson's drama about a former Negro League baseball player struggling to provide for his family in 1950s Pittsburgh. With Stephen Henderson, Jovan Adepo, Russell Hornsby, Mykelti Williamson, Saniyya Sidney.

"Hidden Figures." (PG) Taraji P. Henson, Octavio Spencer and Janelle Monáe are terrific in this feel-good family movie about a group of black female mathematicians who worked at NASA during the 1960s. The true story is about overqualified scientists who could only get jobs crunching numbers for their white male bosses, but who overcame prejudice to make their own mark on the space program. Where it lacks as serious history, the film makes up for with an empowering social message. The ensemble casts includes Kevin Costner, Glen Powell, Mahershala Ali and Aldis Hodge.

"La La Land" (PG-13) Starring a well-paired Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone, writer-director Damien Chazelle's tuneful tribute to classic movie musicals is often stronger in concept than execution, but it's lovely and transporting all the same.

"Manchester by the Sea" (R) Powerful, emotional filmmaking that leaves a scar, Kenneth Lonergan's drama starring Casey Affleck and Michelle Williams is both heartbreaking and heartening, a film that just wallops you with its honesty, its authenticity, and its access to despair. Now showing at Regal Cinemas Permian Place 11 in Odessa.

"Moana." (PG) A Polynesian princess (well, a chief's daughter, anyway) joins forces with a shape-shifting demigod (no, not a shape-shifting demagogue) to bring peace to a troubled South Pacific isle. Songs are sung, cutesy sidekicks are introduced, oceanic canoe trips are taken, in Disney's 56th animated feature. With the voice talents of 2016's sexiest man alive, Dwayne Johnson, and Auli'i Cravalho in the title role.

"A Monster Calls" (PG-13): A boy (Lewis MacDougall) befriends a tree monster (Liam Neeson) to help him with his terminally ill mother (Felicity Jones).

"Monster Trucks" (PG) Determined to escape the town where he grew up, a high school senior builds a vehicle from salvaged parts and encounters an unusual subterranean creature, who quickly becomes an ally. With Lucas Till, Jane Levy, Barry Pepper. Written by Derek Connolly. Story by Matthew Robinson and Jonathan Aibel & Glenn Berger. Directed by Chris Wedge.

"Passengers" (PG-13) Jennifer Lawrence and Chris Pratt play interstellar commuters traveling to a far off planet who awaken 90 years prematurely, threatening their survival and forcing them to investigate the cause as they fight their attraction to each other. With Michael Sheen. Written by Jon Spaihts. Directed by Morten Tyldum.

"Rogue One: A Star Wars Story" (PG-13) Before "A New Hope," a ragtag group of rebels set out to steal the plans to the Death Star. With Felicity Jones, Diego Luna, Ben Mendelsohn, Donnie Yen, Mads Mikkelsen, Alan Tudyk, Riz Ahmed, Jiang Wen and Forest Whitaker. Directed by Gareth Edwards.

"Sing" (PG) Animated musical about a theatrical mogul koala who stages a singing competition to save his stage. Voices by Matthew McConaughey, Seth MacFarlane, Tori Kelly, Reese Witherspoon, Taron Egerton, Scarlett Johansson. Written and directed by Garth Jennings.

"Sleepless" (R) Jamie Foxx plays a Las Vegas undercover police officer caught between crooked cops and a gangster-controlled casino underground. With Michelle Monaghan, Dermot Mulroney, Gabrielle Union. Written by Andrea Berloff. Directed by Baran "Bo" Odar.

"Underworld: Blood Wars" (R) Kate Beckinsale returns as a Vampire death dealer, simultaneously battling the Lycan clan and the Vampire faction that betrayed her. With Theo James, Lara Pulver, Charles Dance. Written by Cory Goodman, story by Kyle Ward and Cory Goodman, based on characters created by Kevin Grevioux and Len Wiseman & Danny McBride. Directed by Anna Foerster.

"Why Him?" (R) A vigilant father visits his daughter at Stanford and clashes with her tech mogul boyfriend. With James Franco, Bryan Cranston, Megan Mullally, Zoey Deutch, Cedric the Entertainer, Griffin Gluck, Keegan-Michael Key. Written by John Hamburg & Ian Helfer, story by Jonah Hill and Hamburg & Ian Helfer. Directed by John Hamburg.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

'DENIAL'

Powerful courtroom drama is based on true story

Reeled & Stream

By Nancy Adamson | nadamson@mrt.com

PICK O' THE WEEK

"Denial" (PG-13) Rachel Weisz, Tom Wilkinson and Timothy Spall turn in magnificent performances in this film based on the true story of a Holocaust denier's lawsuit against a professor who publicly mocks his claims. It doesn't quite rank among the holy trinity of courtroom dramas like "Inherit the Wind," "To Kill a Mockingbird" and "The Verdict," but it comes pretty close. **A-**

ICK! O' THE WEEK

"The List" (unrated) This faith-based drama follows the template to a tee, but does so in an excruciatingly long time, running just shy of two hours. Honestly, though, even if the filmmakers trimmed 30 minutes, it still would have fallen into the "been there, done that" category that hundreds of films have done in a far superior way. **D**

MORE REVIEWS

"Blair Witch" (R) The phenomenon that was 1998's "The Blair Witch Project" has been attempted hundreds of times since without the same results. This official sequel, however, is a respectable — albeit not too scary — film deserving of the title. **B-**

"Don't Think Twice" (R) Story about an improvisational comedy troupe whose members long to get cast on a weekly skit show is a thinly disguised tribute to the real life story of Chicago's Second City group and "Saturday Night Live." The ensemble cast really does work as a team in the film, though, giving it an unexpected depth and warmth. **B+**

"The Hollow" (not rated) Formulaic crime drama is somewhat distinguished for its performances, but its predictability and two-dimensional characters destroy any real hope for greatness. **C+**

"In Order of Disappearance" (R) Stellan Skarsgard returns to his snowbound roots — he's Swedish — for this taut Norwegian thriller. His performance as a distraught father seeking revenge for his son's death lifts this film to dizzying heights. **A-**

"The Late Bloomer" (R) Despite a few great comedic moments — all of which are too naughty to describe here — this sex comedy directed by Kevin Pollak misses the mark. **C**

"Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life" (PG) Whimsical story is reminiscent of the "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" enterprise but lacks the depth and humor of that franchise. **B-**

"The Monster" (R) There's nothing new or inventive to the tale, but it packs a punch nonetheless. It does what a good horror tale should without any cinematic bells or whistles and does so in a wickedly good way. **B+**

"Natural Selection" (not rated) Story of deception and heartbreak among high school students falls prey to a script that doesn't flesh out the characters as much as it should have, letting it sink into cliche. **C**

"Operation Avalanche" (R) Clever story explores the possibility that the 1969 Apollo 11 trip to the moon was staged. Film's low budget does not affect the quality of this endeavor. Be sure to catch the featurette on the making of the film, which explains how Stanley Kubrick was brought to life. **B+**

10 (ish) films to look forward to in 2017

By Lindsey Bahr
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood might still be patting itself on the back for its 2016 films, but there's a lot to look forward to in film this year — in all genres. Here are 10-ish films to put on your radar for the year.

"John Wick: Chapter 2" (Feb. 10), "The Fate of the Furious" (April 14)

Two franchises, both unlikely, both silly and both endlessly watchable get new installments this year. Keanu Reeves is back as the vengeful hit man John Wick in the sequel to the 2014 sleeper hit. And the "Fast and Furious" crew is joined by Charlize Theron and Helen Mirren in movie No. 8, directed by "Straight Outta Compton's" F. Gary Gray.

"Beauty and the Beast" (March 17)

"Harry Potter's" Emma Watson stars as the beautiful, bookish Belle in director Bill Condon's live-action, musical adaptation of the fairy tale, which he promises will include nods to both Disney's animated feature, as well Jean Cocteau's black and white classic. "Downton Abbey's" Dan Stevens plays the Beast.

"Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2" (May 5), "Spider-Man: Homecoming" (July 7), "Thor: Ragnarok" (Nov. 3)

What superhero fatigue? The studios have assembled some formidable talent behind some of the year's most high profile sequels (and reboots). Taika Waititi will bring his comedic edge to the "Thor" world, while James Gunn tries to recreate that mixtape magic with "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2." One film that doesn't require any catch-up work is "Spider-Man: Homecoming," yet another reboot of the web-slinging teen, but a promising one.

"Alien: Covenant" (May 19), "Blade Runner" 2049 (Oct. 6)

Ridley Scott is back to playing his old hits this year, with a twist. Scott directs the sixth installment in the "Alien" universe with "Alien: Covenant," about a crew traveling to a remote part of the galaxy in search of paradise, only to find something much more horrifying. Katherine Waterston stars with Michael Fassbender. As for "Blade Runner 2049," Scott's only producing — "Arrival" and "Sicario" director Denis Villeneuve is directing the longtime-coming sci-fi sequel, set 30 years after the original film. Ryan Gosling stars as a new LAPD officer who needs to find Harrison Ford's Rick Deckard.

"Wonder Woman" (June 2)

Gliding by the crazy fact that it's taken until 2017 for one of the most popular characters in comic book history to get her own feature film, this one also looks like it packs the potential to define this whole modern era of DC Comics adaptations ("Justice League," out Nov. 17, could too). "Wonder Woman" has the promising team of "Monster" director Patty Jenkins at the helm and Gal Gadot wielding the iconic lasso in this World War I-set origin story.

"The Beguiled" (June 23)

Sofia Coppola is making a Western, and not just any Western — a remake of Clint Eastwood's 1971 film (itself an adaptation of "A Painted Devil" by Thomas P. Cullinan) about an injured Union soldier in an all-girls Confederate boarding school whose presence causes rifts among the women. Kristen Dunst, Nicole Kidman, Colin Farrell and Elle Fanning star.

"Dunkirk" (July 21)

Christopher Nolan is perhaps the only filmmaker working on this level whose movies are events in and of themselves. He doesn't need the stamp of Intellectual Property to make his a must-see (regardless of what you think of "Interstellar"). "Dunkirk" takes us to the beaches of France early in WWII when the Allied forces were surrounded and evacuated.

"Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets" (July 21)

Most Americans probably aren't familiar with the French comic source material Valerian and Laureline, but don't let that dissuade you from checking out Luc Besson's ("Lucy," "The Fifth Element") wildly ambitious sci-fi epic starring Dane DeHaan and Cara Delevingne as a pair of space and time travelling agents.

"Baby Driver" (Aug. 11)

So Edgar Wright didn't get to do "Ant-Man." The maestro behind "Hot Fuzz" and "The World's End" has his own action pic up his sleeves, and an original one at that, about a getaway driver (Ansel Elgort), the girl he wants to leave it all behind for (Lily James) and the crime boss (Kevin Spacey) who might destroy it all.

"Star Wars: Episode VIII" (Dec. 15)

At the rate of one new Star Wars film (spinoff or otherwise) a year for the foreseeable future, it's hard to imagine that The Force Awakens-level excitement can be sustained, but "Episode VIII" has its own credentials separate from the nostalgia of that galaxy far, far away. Simply: It's a Rian Johnson film, the mind behind "Looper" and "Brick," and he's setting the story for the final two films of the main trilogy (he's writing Episode IX but ceding directing responsibilities to Colin Trevorrow). There's also the bittersweet knowledge that it'll feature one of Carrie Fisher's final performances, fittingly in her most iconic role.

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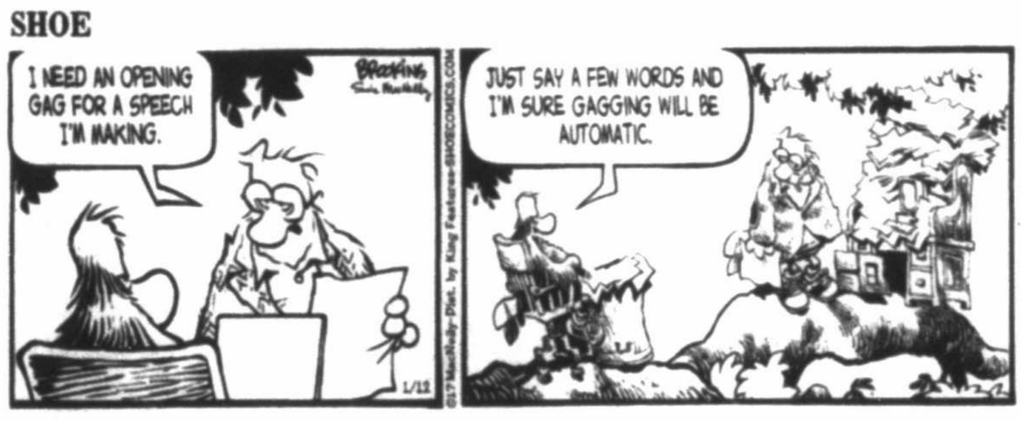

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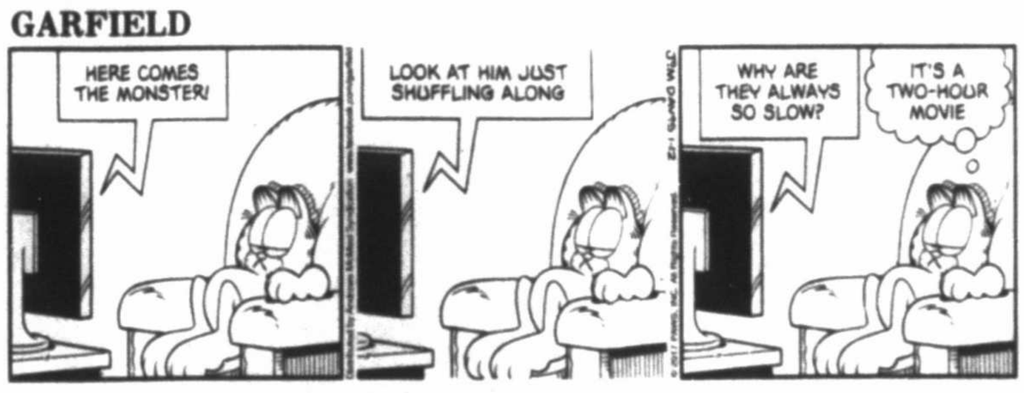
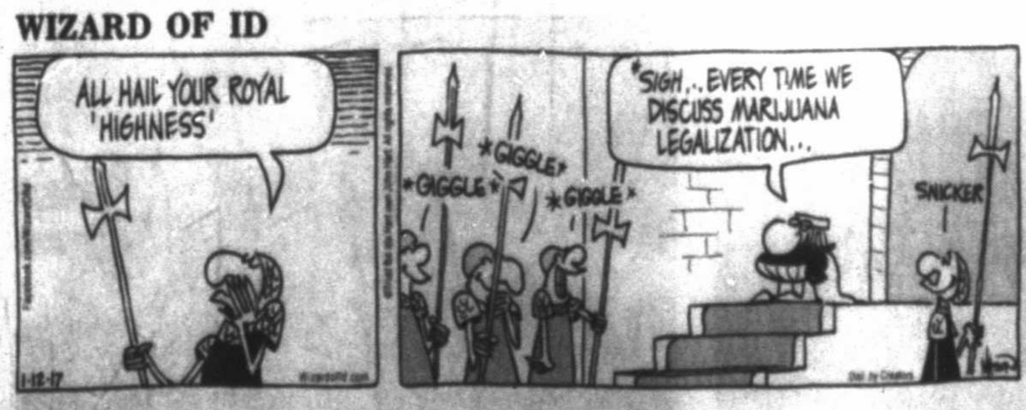


PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

WIZARD OF ID



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MARY WORTH

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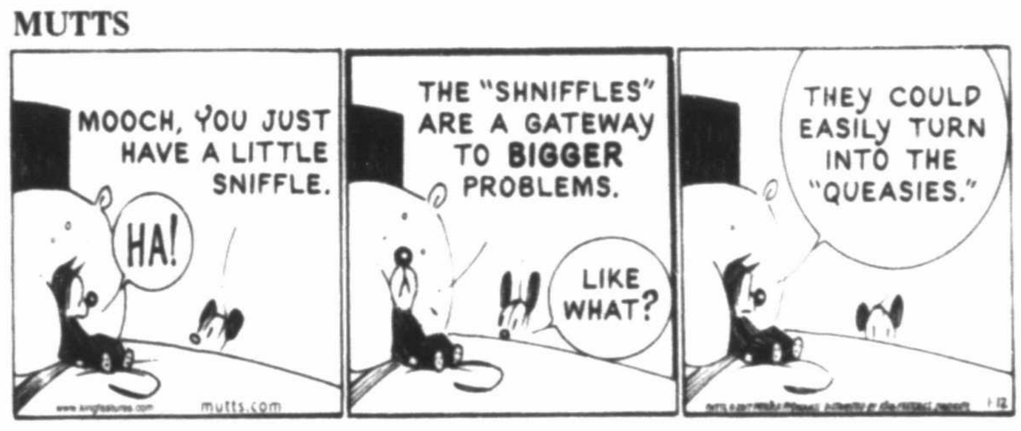

CLOSE TO HOME

DENNIS THE MENACE

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DINING

WEEKENDER PUBLISHES A PORTION OF THE RESTAURANT GUIDE EACH WEEK. ENTREE PRICE RANGE IS BASED ON THE AVERAGE ENTREE PRICE ON THE MENU: $ = $1-10, $$ = $10-20 AND $$$ = $20 OR MORE. RESTAURANTS ARE GIVEN A GENERAL RATING BASED ON QUALITY OF FOOD, SERVICE, CLEANLINESS, ATMOSPHERE AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE. 1 SPOON = POOR, 2 SPOONS = AVERAGE, 3 SPOONS = ABOVE AVERAGE, 4 SPOONS = GOOD AND 5 SPOONS = EXCELLENT.

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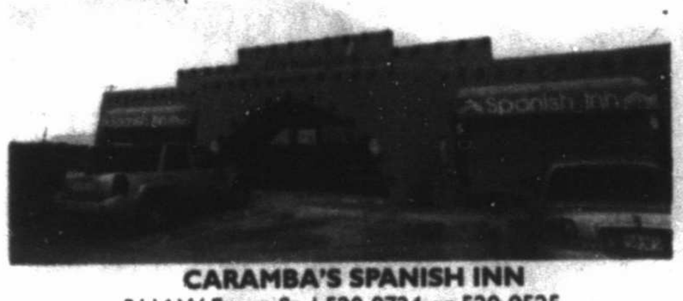
2411 W. WALL ST. | 682-5074



CARAMBA'S SPANISH INN
3116 W. FRONT ST. | 520-9724 or 520-9525

CHITO'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT & SPORTS
4400 N. MIDLAND DRIVE | 689-8646

DONA ANITA'S
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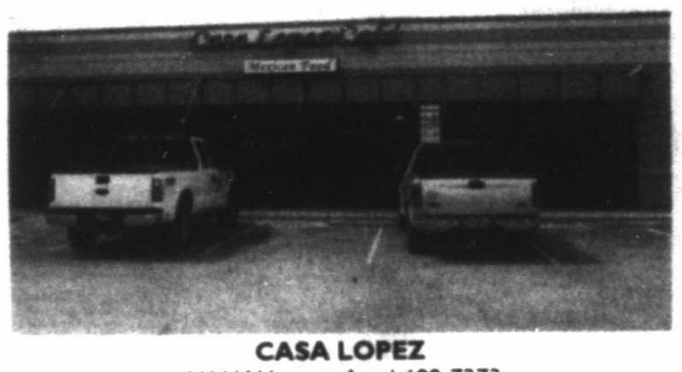

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MEXICAN

ABUELOS Mix of traditional Tex-Mex with unique menu items featuring steak and seafood. Tired of rice and beans on the side? Try papas con chile and espinaca casserole. 2908 W. Loop 250 N. 685-3335 www.abuelos.com | $$ | 4 spoons

AJUUA'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT Tex-Mex favorites such as enchiladas, tacos, burritos and combination plates. Daily specials and menudo served on weekends. 3205 W. Cuthbert Ave. 694-4116 | $ | 2 spoons

CANCUN GRILL Stylish downtown Mexican restaurant inside Wall Towers. Start with the corn queso and then move on to the seafood enchiladas or one of the steaks 223 W. Wall St. 618-0390 | $$ | 4 spoons

CARAMBA'S SPANISH INN Bustling Mexican restaurant with a variety of foods and combination plates. Tex-Mex favorites and burgers, steaks and seafood. 3116 W. Front St. 520-9724 or 520-9525 | $ | 4 spoons

CASA DEL SOL RESTAURANTE Y CANTINA Reminiscent of a Mexican cantina. Mexican stir-fry is a popular choice or try one of the West Texas specialties like country-fried steak, shrimp or catfish. 523 East Illinois Ave. 686-1118 | $ | 3 spoons

CASA LOPEZ CAFE Sports bar, restaurant and catering service with entrees like enchiladas and fajitas and appetizers such as bacon wrapped shrimp and stuffed jalapenos. 4411 W. Illinois Ave. 699-7373 | $ | 4 spoons

CHARLAS RESTAURANTE & BAR With a casual atmosphere and full service bar, Charla's serves enchiladas, shrimp nachos, tortilla soup and tropical salad. Delicious chips and salsa. 3330 W. Illinois Ave. 699-2440 | $ | 3 spoons

CHITO'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT & SPORTS Traditional Mexican fare with sports bar atmosphere. Breakfast served on weekends. 4400 N. Midland Drive 689-8646 | $ | 4 spoons

DONA ANITA'S Some of the best chile rellenos in town. Or try the tacos or enchiladas. Hueves con chorizo, menudo, huevos rancheros and migas on Sundays. 305 W. Florida Ave. 683-6727 | $ | 3 spoons

DOS COMPADRES We recommend the carne guisada or any of the enchiladas with a tangy and mild green sauce. 2200 W. Wadley Ave, #1 Oak Ridge Square 684-7239 www.Doscompadres.net | $ | 3 spoons

EL BANQUETE Traditional Mexican cuisine such as soft beef and pork tacos. Breakfast burritos, fajitas and enchiladas. 1802 Rankin Highway 620-0123 | $ | 2 spoons

EL BURRITO RESTAURANT Serving burritos for more than 30 years. Breakfast and lunch burritos on homemade tortillas and other Tex-Mex favorites. Also known for their burgers. 1106 N. Big Spring St. 683-9701 | $ | 4 spoons

FAJITAS BRAVO Delicious and tender beef and chicken fajita burritos. Or try nachos, burgers, quesadillas or barbecue. 409 E. Scharbauer Drive 682-6848 | $ | 3 spoons

FREEBIRDS Create your own burrito, tacos, nacho, salad or bowl with fillings that range from cilantro lime rice, black beans and tomatillo sauce to carnitas, queso and pico de gallo. 3322 N. Loop 250 West www.freebirds.com 689-9100 | $ | 4 spoons

GARCIA'S BURRITOS Pick up a breakfast burrito for $2 starting at 7:30 a.m. on weekdays. Or try a fajita plate with beans, rice, guacamole and sour cream. 1306 N. Lamesa Road 684-4383 | $ | 2 spoons

GERARDO'S CASITA Try the tortilla soup or the fajitas. Don't forget a margarita from the full-service bar. 2407 N. Big Spring St. 570-8012 www.gerardoscasita.net | $ | 4 spoons

JORGE'S CAFÉ Serving Tex-Mex fare, Jorge's does a simple queso without chunks of peppers or tomatoes — you'll either love it or hate it. 4400 N. Big Spring St. 683-6303 www.jorges.com | $ | 4 spoons

JUMBURRITO Drive-through or eat-in for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Try the stewmeat with cheese and avocado and smother it with queso and/or Jumburritos' hot sauce. Expect a line for weekend breakfast. 1301 Lamesa Road, 682-5060 | 2101 W. Wadley Ave., 683-7017 | 908 S. Midkiff Road, 689-0350 | 4509 N. Midkiff Road, 689-3894 | www.jumburrito.com | 4 spoons

LA BODEGA MEXICAN RESTAURANT AND BAR Try the chile rellenos — stuffed with beef, chicken, cheese or shrimp, deep-fried and topped with red sauce, sour cream, pecans and raisins — or the rueda, described on the menu as a Mexican pizza. The upstairs bar allows smoking and keeps later hours than the restaurant. 2700 N. Big Spring St. 684-5594 www.mylabodega.com | $ | 4 spoons

LA HERRADURA MEXICAN CUISINE Go for breakfast and try the huevos rancheros with beans, potatoes and tortillas. Menudo, caldo de res and cabrito en salsa verde on the weekends. 1422 Rankin Highway 687-3000 | $ | 2 spoons

LA MISION Festive, colorful restaurant with great Tex-Mex favorites. In a hurry? Go for the lunch buffet. 1008 S. Big Spring St. 682-0320 | $ | 4 spoons

MANUEL'S AUTHENTIC MEXICAN FOOD Home of the "Son of a Gun" plate — a 90 percent lean hamburger steak with onions, jalapeno gravy, beans, potatoes and tortillas — Manuel's also is known for its hot sauce. After you try it, you can buy some to take home with you. 3905 Texas 349 www.manuelsdeli.com 682-2258 | $ | 4 spoons

MONTERREY COCINA MEXICANA The same family has been running this restaurant since 1957. Many may remember the wonderful food and live music when it was located on East Illinois Avenue. It's been in West Midland for several years now and the food is just as fabulous. 3323 Midland Dr #100 689-0032 www.monterreycocina.com | $ | 4 spoons

OSCAR'S SUPER BURRITO Serving Lee High School students, and other loyal customers, for years, Oscar's offers almost endless choices of burritos and other Tex-Mex favorites for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Try the brisket and cheese burrito and don't skimp on the salsa. 4306 Neely Ave. | 699-0242 | 4 spoons

PENO'S CAFÉ & CATERING COMPANY Try the tacos or the variety of breakfast burritos. Some menu items can be bought by the pound. Order tamales by the dozen. 4305 W. Illinois Ave. 262-5720 Facebook: Café J-Peno | $ | 3 spoons

REYNA'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT An order of fajitas is too much for one person to eat, but they're so good you'll try anyway. 3601 W. Wall St. 699-2109 | $ | 4 spoons

ROMIE'S MEXICAN RESTAURANTE Don't underestimate this hole-in-the-wall restaurant serving traditional Tex-Mex fare. Quick service, daily specials and delicious food. 701 S. Marienfeld St. 683-5344 | $ | 3 spoons

ROSA'S CAFÉ & TORTILLA FACTORY If you're a native Midlander, you get it. If you're not, try the queso and tortillas or the chicken fajitas with queso or the combo burritos. It's worth the long drive-through lines. 903 Andrews Highway 520-2358 2501 N. Big Spring St. 620-0634 | 4301 N. Midland Drive 520-0489 | $ | 4 spoons

TAQUERIA JALISCO One patron on Yelp called it a "hidden gem." Another said the carnitas are "delicious, juicy morsels of fried porky goodness." We heartily agree. 4416 Briarwood Ave., Suite100 www.facebook.com/Taqueriajalisco14/timeline 699-2195 | $ | 5 spoons

TAMPICO SPANISH INN Go early to get a table. Start with an appetizer like queso, quesadillas or avocado salad. 2411 W. Wall St. 682-5074 | $ | 4 spoons

ATHENIAN RESTAURANT
4610 N. GARFIELD AVE., STE. B | 247-5280

CAFE UNIQUE
3303 N. MIDKIFF ROAD STE. B | 247-1487

SHAHI TANDOOR
3400 W. WALL ST. | 618-9090

GREEK

ATHENIAN RESTAURANT The only Greek restaurant in town features classics like dolmades, spanakopita and gyros along with Greek-style burgers for lunch and an extensive menu of seafood, lamb, beef, chicken and vegetables for dinner. 4610 N. Garfield St. Suite B | 247-5280 | $$ | 4 spoons

VENEZUELAN

CAFE UNIQUE Chef Gabriel Alvarado hails from Venezuela and serves Midlanders a variety of arepas, empanadas and other unique specialities. Try any of the arepas. Our favorite is stuffed with black beans, shredded beef, sauteed plantains and white cheese. 3303 N. Midkiff Road | 247-1487 | $ | 4 spoons

INDIAN

SHAHI TANDOOR In a hotel lobby off of West Wall Street, Shahi Tandoor offers authentic Indian cuisine to West Texans. The lunch buffet offers a variety of salads, meats and vegetarian dishes. Try the sag paneer or chicken tikka masala. Evening is menu service only. 3400 W. Wall St. | 618-9090 | www.indianfoodmidland.com | $$ | 4 spoons

Cowboys' Elliott tops college playoff vets in NFL

By Schulyer Dixon
Associated Press

FRISCO — Ezekiel Elliott was in the original group of college players to go through something resembling the NFL playoffs when Ohio State won the national championship two years ago.

Now the Dallas rookie running back and a handful of young pros are seeing how the experience translates. For the NFL rushing champion, there's an easy place to start.

Win as the NFC's top seed in a divisional game against Green Bay on Sunday, or watch along with quarterback and fellow rookie sensation Dak Prescott as a magical season goes "poof."

"We got to come into this playoff hot," said Elliott, one of three rookie All-Pro selections . "It doesn't matter what we did coming up to now. We've got to come in there clicking on all cylinders and ready to rock and roll."

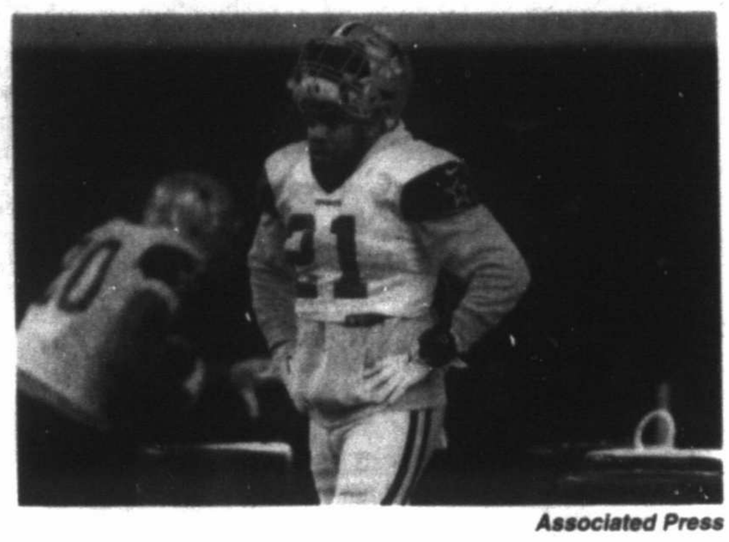
That was certainly Elliott's experience during the 2014 season, when he rushed for 696 yards and eight touchdowns in a three-game run that carried the Buckeyes to the title. That makes him the best example so far among what figures to be a growing group of players bringing the College Football Playoff experience to the NFL.

There are four others from one or both of the first two years of the CFP with at least minor contributions among the eight teams in the NFL's second round: Houston nose tackle D.J. Reader (Clemson), Kansas City linebacker Terrance Smith (Florida State), New England cornerback Cyrus Jones and Seattle defensive tackle Jarran Reed (both Alabama).

"I think the biggest thing for all of our players is to use the experiences you have up to this point, whether it's NFL playoff experience, college playoff experience or whatever it is in your life," Cowboys coach Jason Garrett said. "To get you prepared for a new experience you rely on some of the experiences you have up to that point. No different for him than any of the other guys."

But Elliott is somewhat unique. For instance, he sat out the regular-season finale at Philadelphia

Please see **PLAYOFF VETS**/4C



Associated Press

Dallas Cowboys running back Ezekiel Elliott (21) walks the field during an indoor practice at the team's headquarters in Frisco on Wednesday.

President's Cup features another strong field

Will Korn
wkorn@mrt.com

High school boys soccer has returned to the spotlight at Grande Communications Stadium.

Midland's staple tournament, the President's Cup, is set to begin at 2 p.m. today and will run through Saturday afternoon.

Cottle

Hicks

To accommodate the 10-team field, matches will be played at Grande Communications Stadium as well as the Lee High School turf pitch.

This year's field features six returning clubs from last year's President's Cup, headlined by North Crowley, which advanced to the regional quarterfinal of the 2016 playoffs. Rounding out the group is a quartet of formidable El Paso programs, all of which qualified for the playoffs last season.

In total, eight of the 10 teams in this year's tournament made the playoffs last season and they combined for an 8-8 record in postseason action.

Lee, one of the two squads that missed the playoffs, won last year's President's Cup title with a 1-0 regulation victory over North Crowley.

So as usual, the tournament is expected to produce competitive soccer throughout the weekend.

"We're talking about some of the best teams in Texas and in Region I," said MHS head coach Warren Cottle.

Lee and MHS kick off their home tournament with varying narratives.

The Rebels (2-1), who will open play against El Paso Parkland at 6 p.m. today at Grande, are coming off a solid showing at the New Braunfels Unicorn Tournament last weekend. They toppled Victoria East, 1-0, to win the consolation championship and will take the turf at Grande with the momentum of a two-match winning streak.

Lee is aiming for nothing less than being crowned back-to-back President's Cup champions. Co-head coach Scott Hicks said he likes what he's seen from his club over its first three matches and is excited to take on some of the top teams in from El Paso this weekend.

He added that so far his players have shown a true dedication to correcting early technical mistakes and improving as a unit.

"We were able to view film every night (during the New Braunfels Tournament) and so we were able to correct things on a game-by-game basis," Hicks said. "The mistakes we pointed out the kids were trying to correct the next day and that's what is important."

Meanwhile, MHS (1-2) opens tournament play against El Paso Austin at 8 p.m. today at Lee's field and the Bulldogs find themselves on familiar ground.

A younger MHS squad got off to a sluggish start last weekend in the Coppell Showcase, as it dropped two of its first three matches by a combined score of 5-1.

MHS' win came courtesy of a forfeit by W.T. White, its scheduled opponent last Friday, which had to pull out of the contest due to travel complications caused by weather.

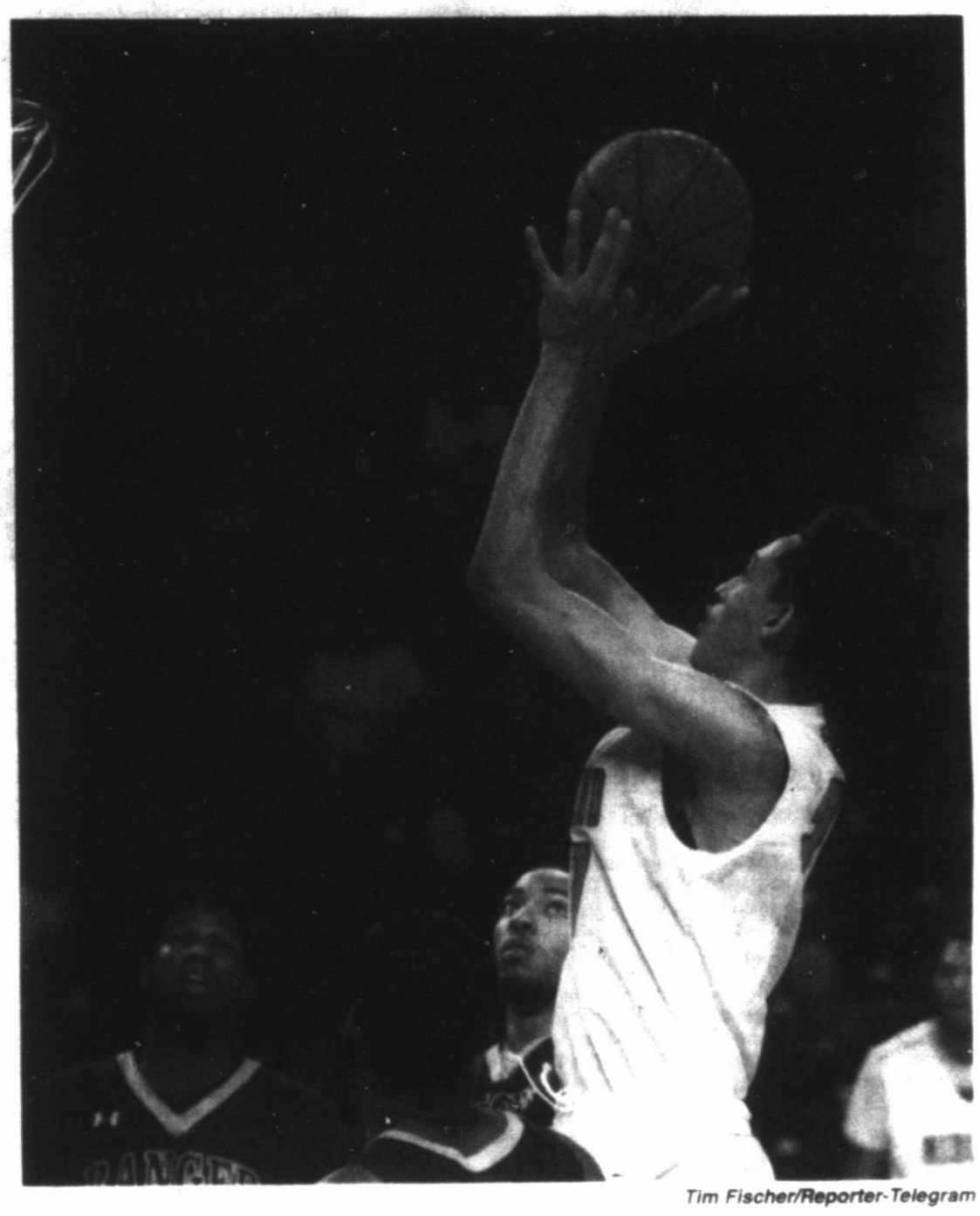
But last year's President's Cup served as a major springboard for the Bulldogs. Though they went 1-2 in PC play, they

Please see **PRESIDENT'S CUP**/2C

Team mentality pays off

Gracious Cardenas ready to step up for MC

By Oscar LeRoy
oleroy@mrt.com



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Midland College's Juan Cardenas pulls up for a jumper Monday at Chaparral Center against Ranger College

Midland College men's basketball coach Jordan Dreiling said Juan Cardenas is the kind of player coaches love to coach and players like to play with.

Not only is the 6-foot-7 sophomore forward from Medellin, Colombia, a talented basketball player but he's polite, grateful for the opportunity to play in the United States and he is always respectful to those around him.

"He's always going to have your back, you always know what you're getting with him," Dreiling said. "Obviously, he's a talent. He's our leading rebounder. I think he's second in the conference in rebounding and block shots and he's top 10 in scoring. He's a heck of a talent but that's just second to other things. He treats people the right way and he's a guy that sets a high standard for himself and for his team."

The Chaparrals (10-6, 1-1) will look for Cardenas to have another good game tonight when they resume play in the Western Junior College Athletic Conference against rival Howard College (12-4, 1-1) at Chaparral Center.

"The conference is going to have some tough games but we have a good team," Cardenas said. "If we continue to play the way we have been playing, we have a chance to have the success we want and possibly win the conference championship. What we need to do is to stay focused on defense, which is the most important, and to continue to shoot and move the ball well. Each player has the ability and everybody has to contribute in order for us to win."

Cardenas is coming off one of his better games of the year in a come-from-behind 84-65 non-conference win over Ranger College on Monday. Cardenas scored 14 of his game-high 23 points in a tight first half and Dreiling said the Chaps' second-half surge was other players rising up the Cardenas' level from the first half.

Cardenas said it's important for him to always play hard in order to try to help his team win.

"I always focus on doing my best and giving it my all," he said.

But basketball wasn't always his sport.

Born and raised in Colombia it was only natural for him to start playing soccer, which is the most popular sport in the South American country.

He said he started playing at the age of 5 but as he started growing, he started playing basketball at the age of 13. His mother, Thelma, had also played basketball in Colombia and he credits her for helping him get into the sport.

"I liked that it was a team game and that it doesn't depend on just one player," said Cardenas about playing basketball. "It's more of a contact sport, more physical. It was a game where you need to use your entire body to play the sport."

Cardenas said he always dreamed of playing in the United States so he took advantage of an opportunity when a friend in the U.S. helped him get to First Love Christian Academy, a prep school in western Pennsylvania loaded with Division

Please see **CARDENAS**/3C

Bretherton brings fire to the court for MC

By Oscar LeRoy
oleroy@mrt.com

Midland College women's basketball coach Ron Jones is always looking for his team to bring a lot of energy to the court.

One of those players he doesn't have to worry about bringing that energy every day is sophomore Kayla Bretherton.

The 5-foot-11 guard from Melbourne, Australia, always seems to come ready to play and run up and down the court behind her quickness and ball handling abilities.

"She is really fast with the ball in her hands," said Jones about Bretherton. "She does a really good job of pushing the ball and doesn't really slow down with the ball."

Bretherton will look to push the ball up the court today when the No. 17-ranked Lady Chaparrals (10-4, 1-1 in Western Junior College Athletic Conference) resume league play today by hosting rival Howard College (6-10, 2-0) at Chaparral Center.

" I feel like I need to step up a little bit more," said Bretherton, who is averaging 6.2 points and a team-high 2.5 assists per game. "I feel like I do what I have to do, but I have to be more of a leader on the court and obviously the freshmen look up to us as sophomores, so we have to bring that energy."

Jones said that energy from the entire team hasn't always been an easy thing to see for an entire games at times this season.

"I think on a daily basis, (Bretherton) has good energy and that's one thing that our team is missing, is that daily energy," Jones said. "It's a little bit of a learning behavior, but at times our players just need to cut loose. They're worrying about mistakes and they need to understand that you can cover up a lot of mistakes with intensity. It's just us maturing."

Being in Jones' system for the last two seasons, Bretherton also has a better understanding of what Jones wants and what she needs to do on the court. Jones

Please see **BRETHERTON**/3C

MRT file photo

Midland College's Kayla Bretherton (2) moves the ball against South Plains on Nov. 30, 2016, at Chaparral Center.

DAILYRUNDOWN

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

ON TV

GOLF

PGA: Sony Open in Hawaii, 1st Round, 6 p.m., GOLF

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Notre Dame at Miami-FL, 6 p.m., ESPN

Ohio State at Wisconsin, 6 p.m., ESPN2

Belmont at Morehead State, 6 p.m., ESPNU

Clemson at Georgia Tech, 6 p.m., FSSW

Portland State at Northern Arizona, 7:30 p.m., FCSP

SMU at Cincinnati, 8 p.m., ESPN

Arizona State at Arizona, 8 p.m., ESPN2

Northwestern at Rutgers, 8 p.m., ESPNU

Washington at Cal, 8 p.m., FS1

St. Mary's at Portland, 10 p.m., ESPNU

UCLA at Colorado, 10 p.m., FS1

NBA

Indiana at Denver, 2 p.m., NBAtv

Chicago at New York, 7 p.m., TNT

LA Lakers at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m., FSSW+

Dallas at Phoenix, 9 p.m., FSSW

Detroit at Golden State, 9:30 p.m., TNT

NHL

Montreal at Minnesota, 7 p.m., NBCSN

TENNIS

ATP: Auckland and AO Qualifiers M Round 2, 5 p.m., TENNIS

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Georgia at South Carolina, 6 p.m., SEC

UTEP at FIU, 9 p.m., beIN

ON RADIO

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Howard College at Midland College, 7:30 p.m., KBEST 95.7 FM, KBYG 106.1 FM/1400 AM (Big Spring)

NBA

LA Lakers at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m., KXCS 105.5 FM (Big Spring)

Dallas at Phoenix, 9 p.m., KBST 1490 AM (Big Spring)

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Howard College at Midland College, 5:30 p.m., KBEST 95.7 FM, KBYG 106.1 FM/1400 AM (Big Spring)

WHAT'S ON DECK

High school

BOYS SOCCER

Lee, MHS at President's Cup Tournament, Grande Communications Stadium

GIRLS SOCCER

MHS at Lubbock Monterey Tournament

Junior college

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

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

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Howard College at Midland College, 7:45 p.m.

NJCAA POLLS

NJCAA Division I Men's Basketball Poll

First place votes in parentheses

Rank College	Record	Pts.	Pvs.
1. South Plains (13)	14-0	348	1
2. Hutchinson (1)	15-0	335	2
3. Georgia Highlands (1)	15-0	318	3
4. Moberly Area	16-0	306	4
5. San Jacinto-Central (1)	14-0	295	5
6. Mineral Area	17-0	278	6
7. Eastern Florida State	16-1	269	7
8. Walters State	15-0	253	8
9. Tallahassee CC	18-1	240	9
10. McLennan CC	17-0	222	11
11. Lamar College	16-1	206	13
12. Gillette	15-1	189	14
13. Tyler College	12-0	170	17
14. Jones County	9-0	162	15
15. Southern Idaho	14-2	150	10
16. Odessa College	13-2	146	18
17. North Dakota SCS	15-1	123	22
18. Northwest Florida St.	14-2	100	24
19. Vincennes	14-1	96	RV
20. Marion Military	11-1	85	25
21. Salt Lake	13-3	59	12
22. Arizona Western	13.2	50	RV
23. Shelton State	AL	13-2	37
24. Indian Hills	14-3	26	19
25. Snow College	14-2	19	RV

NJCAA Division I Women's Basketball Poll

Rank College	Record	Pvs.
1. Gulf Coast State	18-0	1
2. Odessa College	13-0	2
3. Chipola College	16-0	3
4. Seward County	15-0	6
5. South Plains	17-1	7
6. Hutchinson CC	14-1	8
7. New Mexico JC	12-4	9
8. Salt Lake CC	14-2	10
9. Northeastern Oklahoma A&M	12-1	12
10. Pensacola State	16-1	15
11. Tallahassee CC	15-2	11
12. Northwest Florida State	13-2	14
13. Shelton State	15-2	4
14. Palm Beach State	11-2	16
15. Motlow State	12-2	17
16. Harford	14-2	20
17. Midland College	**10-4**	**13**
18. Cowley County	12-3	18
19. Cochise College	13-1	23
20. Wabash Valley	13-1	24
21. Tyler College	13-2	NR
22. Walters State	9-5	19
23. Arizona Western	11-4	NR
24. Southern Idaho	11-5	21
25. Southeastern Illinois	13-1	RV

TEXAS TECH BRIEF

RED RAIDER RECRUITING REVIEW TICKETS

Texas Tech fans can now purchase tickets for the 2017 Red Raider Club Recruiting Review taking place on Feb. 7 at the Horseshoe Pavilion.

The recruiting review provide fans a unique opportunity to gain insight from head coach Kliff Kingsbury and his coaching staff on not just the new signees but upcoming spring practices and the 2017 football season as well. Tech will announce its 2017 recruiting class as part of National Signing Day on Feb. 1.

This year's recruiting reviews have been tabbed the "Tailgate Edition" as fans are encouraged to dress casually to any of the three events.

To purchase tickets or for questions, please contact the Red Raider Club at 806-742-1196 or via email at RRC.Events@ttu.edu.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

American League

BOSTON RED SOX — Named Eric Velazquez trainer of Pawtucket (IL), Lee May Jr. hitting coach of Portland (EL), Wilton Veras hitting coach and Phil Millan trainer of Greenville (SAL), Nate Spears hitting coach and Joel Harris trainer of Lowell (NY-P), Angel Berroa assistant coach and Nick Green coaching assistant of the GCL Red Sox. Carlos Coste catching coach and Leonel Vasquez bullpen coach of the DSL Red Sox.

MINNESOTA TWINS — Agreed to terms with RHPs Ryan Vogelsong and Nick Tepesch on minor league contracts.

SEATTLE MARINERS — Traded OF Mallex Smith, SS Carlos Vargas and LHP Ryan Yarbrough to Tampa Bay for LHP Drew Smyly.

TAMPA BAY RAYS — Designated RHP Dylan Floro for assignment. Claimed OF Jason Coats off waivers from the Chicago White Sox.

National League

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Agreed to terms with OF Reymond Fuentes; LHPs Josh Taylor, Yuhei Nakaushiro, Jared Miller and Daniel Gibson; and RHPs Joey Krehbiel, J.J. Hoover, Miller Diaz and Rubby De La Rosa on minor league contracts.

ATLANTA BRAVES — Traded OF Mallex Smith and RHP Shae Simmons to Seattle for LHPs Luiz Gohara and Thomas Burrows.

NEW YORK METS — Agreed to terms with RHP Zack Wheeler on a one-year contract.

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Agreed to terms with RHP Pedro Beato, C Bryan Holaday and LHP Cesar Ramos on minor league contracts.

SAN DIEGO PADRES — Agreed to terms with RHP Carter Capps on a one-year contract.

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Agreed to terms with 3B Conor Gillaspie on a one-year contract.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

NBA — Fined Dallas G/F Justin Anderson $25,000 for striking Minnesota G Kris Dunn in the head, and New York C/F Kyle O'Quinn $25,000 for striking and pushing New Orleans F/C Anthony Davis from behind.

LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS — Named Kevin Garnett a consultant.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

BUFFALO BILLS — Named Sean McDermott coach.

DENVER BRONCOS — Named Vance Joseph coach.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

BUFFALO SABRES — Recalled G Jason Kasdorf from Elmira (ECHL) to Rochester (AHL).

CALGARY FLAMES — Assigned D Ryan Culkin from Stockton (AHL) to Adirondack (ECHL).

EDMONTON OILERS — Assigned C Anton Lander and G Jonas Gustavsson to Bakersfield (AHL). Recalled C Jujhar Khaira and G Laurent Brossoit from Bakersfield.

NASHVILLE PREDATORS — Assigned F Frederick Gaudreau to Milwaukee (AHL). Claimed F Derek Grant off waivers from Buffalo.

ST. LOUIS BLUES — Recalled D Tommy Vannelli from Missouri (ECHL) to Chicago (AHL).

WINNIPEG JETS — Assigned G Jamie Phillipes from Manitoba (AHL) to Tulsa (ECHL).

SOCCER

Major League Soccer

ATLANTA UNITED — Signed M Yamil Asad.

NEW YORK CITY FC — Signed M Miguel Camargo to a one-year contract.

COLLEGE

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF — Extended the contract of executive director Bill Hancock for three years.

CAMPBELL — Named David Marsh offensive coordinator.

CINCINNATI — Named Brady Collins director of football sports performance, Joker Phillips receivers coach and Jon Tenuta safeties coach.

CLEMSON — WRs Mike Williams and Artavis Scott will enter the NFL draft.

COLUMBIA INTERNATIONAL — Named Bill Brindley men's soccer coach.

LOUISVILLE — Named Peter Sirmon defensive coordinator and Lorenzo Ward secondary coach.

MARQUETTE — Announced sophomore men's basketball C Harry Froling has transferred from SMU.

MISSISSIPPI STATE — Named Todd Grantham defensive coordinator.

NEBRASKA — Fired defensive coordinator Mark Banker.

SOUTH CAROLINA — Named Joshua Lawson assistant strength and conditioning football coach.

TENNESSEE — Dismissed G Detrick Mostella from the men's basketball team.

WAGNER — Named Tatum Coltz associate athletic director/senior woman administrator and Craig Noto assistant baseball coach.

NHL GLANCE

Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Montreal	42	26	10	6	58	132	101
Boston	44	22	17	5	49	110	108
Ottawa	39	21	14	4	46	99	102
Florida	43	19	16	8	46	100	114
Toronto	39	18	13	8	44	120	116
Tampa Bay	42	19	19	4	42	118	127
Buffalo	40	16	15	9	41	93	110
Detroit	41	17	18	6	40	103	119

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Columbus	40	28	8	4	60	135	90
Pittsburgh	39	26	8	5	57	139	109
Washington	40	26	9	5	57	115	84
N.Y. Rangers	42	28	13	1	57	146	107
Philadelphia	43	21	16	6	48	124	133
Carolina	41	19	15	7	45	109	111
New Jersey	42	16	18	8	40	95	124
N.Y. Islanders	39	15	16	8	38	107	119

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Chicago	44	27	12	5	59	124	107
Minnesota	39	25	9	5	55	123	85
St. Louis	41	21	15	5	47	117	123
Nashville	41	18	16	7	43	114	111
Winnipeg	44	20	21	3	43	122	133
Dallas	42	17	17	8	42	109	127
Colorado	39	13	25	1	27	79	130

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
San Jose	41	25	14	2	52	110	93
Anaheim	43	22	13	8	52	115	113
Edmonton	43	21	15	7	49	123	118
Calgary	43	22	19	2	46	114	119
Los Angeles	41	20	17	4	44	102	105
Vancouver	43	20	19	4	44	106	123
Arizona	40	12	22	6	30	86	128

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

Scores and schedules

Wednesday's Scores

Florida 2, N.Y. Islanders 1

Montreal 7, Winnipeg 4

Pittsburgh at Washington, late

San Jose at Calgary, late

Today's Games

Vancouver at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.

Buffalo at Tampa Bay, 6:30 p.m.

Pittsburgh at Ottawa, 6:30 p.m.

Boston at Nashville, 7 p.m.

Montreal at Minnesota, 7 p.m.

Detroit at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.

Anaheim at Colorado, 8 p.m.

New Jersey at Edmonton, 8 p.m.

St. Louis at Los Angeles, 9:30 p.m.

Benefits and pitfalls of a 48-team World Cup

By Graham Dunbar

Associated Press

Associated Press

A man sweeps snow next to the FIFA logo on the occasion the FIFA Council meeting at the Home of FIFA in Zurich, Switzerland, on Tuesday. FIFA will expand the World Cup to 48 teams, adding 16 extra nations to the 2026 tournament which is likely to be held in North America.

ZURICH — As the soccer world digests FIFA's decision to expand the World Cup, a look at the some of the benefits and pitfalls of a 48-team tournament in 2026:

Pros

■ With 16 more teams joining the World Cup party, feel-good stories should keep flowing in soccer. Just look at Costa Rica's run to the 2014 World Cup quarterfinals and Wales reaching the European Championship semifinals in 2016. FIFA President Gianni Infantino believes this generates "football fever" far beyond the host nation(s).

■ With 16 additional games, there's more soccer for fans to watch in stadiums and on television, generating additional cash for FIFA. For broadcasters, there are 24 extra broadcast slots, not just 16, because there will no longer be final rounds of group games kicking off simultaneously.

■ FIFA estimates its commercial income will climb 20 percent, and raise profits by $640 million compared to the equivalent rates for the $5.5 billion 2018 World Cup. This would help guarantee the $5 million grants from each World Cup for each of the 211 FIFA member federations, and create extra for development projects.

■ The 80 games can be squeezed into 32 days, the current length of the 32-team World Cup, according to FIFA. The individual players' workload won't increase as the four semifinal teams will still play a maximum of seven matches.

Cons

■ There will be no rest day for players or fans until the quarterfinals. And there's a grueling rate of four games per day — up from the current three — for each of the first 16 days, including a new round of 32.

■ There could be fewer top quality matches. FIFA acknowledged that higher-ranked teams will meet less often in the 48-game group stage, leading to a tournament of lower "absolute quality" than the popular 32-team format used since 1998.

■ A group stage allowing too many teams to advance reduces the drama. The 16 three-team groups would be tenser if only the group winner advances. Two will go through, creating a new round of 32 where the excitement should ramp up.

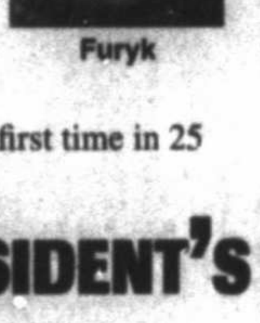
■ With more teams making it to the World Cup, qualifying could be devalued, particularly in the Americas. There will be less uncertainty about whether the big teams in CONMEBOL and CONCACAF could miss out on the World Cup, so matches will be less captivating for fans considering watching qualifiers on television or in stadiums.

■ FIFA expects World Cup profits to rise $640 million but European clubs will want a bigger share of the increased revenues. Currently $209 million per tournament is distributed under a European Club Association deal with FIFA.

Furyk appointed next US Ryder Cup captain

By Doug Ferguson

Associated Press



Furyk

Jim Furyk was appointed Wednesday as the U.S. captain for the 2018 Ryder Cup in France, where his team will try to win on European soil for the first time in 25 years.

Furyk was a unanimous choice by the Ryder Cup committee last month.

The former U.S. Open champion, and the only player in history to twice post rounds in the 50s, brings more playing experience than any other U.S. captain. Furyk played on nine consecutive teams starting in 1997, and he was an assistant captain to Davis Love III last year at Hazeltine.

Love will be one of his assistants in France.

"He's going to be a very tough act to follow," Furyk said from PGA of America headquarters in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. "He put a system in place. He put the players behind it. It won't make my task easier, but it makes it easier knowing there is a system in place. To have him by my side — his advice, his experience, two captaincies and one vice captaincy — is going to be priceless for me."

The Americans reshaped their thinking after the 2014 loss at Gleneagles, where Phil Mickelson publicly questioned Tom Watson's leadership and the lack of player involvement. That spawned a Ryder Cup Task Force that allowed for more input from the players, and now a Ryder Cup committee comprising three players (Mickelson, Love and Tiger Woods) and the top three PGA of America officials.

PRESIDENT'S CUP

From 1C

settled into form and won their next six matches by a combined 20 goals. During that span, a robust MHS defense posted three shutouts and conceded just five goals.

Cottle's message to his team heading into today's match is the same as it was a year ago before MHS took the field against Amarillo Palo Duro to open the PC.

"I told the boys it's not where you start, it's where you end up," Cottle said. "It comes down to playing as a unit, (having) 11 guys on the same page. I'd rather take my lumps now than at the end of the year, and with the character of my boys, I know where we can end up."

Follow Will on Twitter: @Will_MRT

2017 President's Cup

Today's matches

At Grande Communications Stadium

2 p.m. — Odessa High vs. El Paso High

4 p.m. — El Paso Montwood vs. North Crowley

6 p.m. — El Paso Parkland vs. Lee

8 p.m. — El Paso Socorro vs. Amarillo High

At Lee HS Field

8 p.m. — Midland High vs. El Paso Austin

Friday's matches

At Grande Communications Stadium

Noon — Amarillo High vs. El Paso Parkland

2 p.m. — North Crowley vs. El Paso High

5 p.m. — Odessa High vs. El Paso Austin

7 p.m. — El Paso Socorro vs. MHS

At Lee HS Field

7 p.m. — El Paso Montwood vs. Lee

Saturday's matches

At Grande Communications Stadium

9 a.m. — El Paso Austin vs. Amarillo High

11 a.m. — MHS vs. El Paso Montwood

1 p.m. — Lee vs. El Paso High

At Lee HS field

9 a.m. — North Crowley vs. El Paso Socorro

11 a.m. — El Paso Parkland vs. Odessa High

TEXAS FISHING REPORT

WEST

ALAN HENRY: Water clear; 48 degrees; 2.09' low. Black bass are slow on deep diving crankbaits, swimbaits and jerkbaits. Crappie and bass are slow on minnows. Catfish are good on rod and reel with punchbait on a #6 treble hook up the river.

ARROWHEAD: Water fairly clear; 49-56 degrees; 0.94' low. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs, drop shot rigs and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are fair on live minnows. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers.

COLORADO CITY: 12.91' low. No report available.

FT. PHANTOM HILL: Water murky; 50-56 degrees; 0.6' low. Black bass are fair on shakyheads, chatterbaits and Texas rigs. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water off color; 51-55 degrees; 0.71' low. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs, jigs and spinnerbaits. Crappie are fair to good on jigs and minnows. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers and cut bait.

NASWORTHY: 49-55 degrees; 1.42' low. Black bass are fair to good on Texas rigs and chatterbaits. No reports on crappie. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers and cut bait.

OAK CREEK: Water stained; 48-56 degrees; 9.32' low. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs, crankbaits and shakyheads. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on chartreuse (use Worm-Glo) nightcrawlers.

O.H. IVIE: Water stained; 49-56 degrees; 34.93' low. Black bass are fair on pearl crankbaits, Texas rigs and swimjigs. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair to good on cut bait and nightcrawlers.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water off color; 48-55 degrees; 0.01 low. Black bass are fair to good on swimjigs, Texas rigs and medium running crankbaits. Crappie are fair on live minnows. White bass are fair to good on slabs. Striped bass are fair on live shad. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers.

SPENCE: 50.1' low. No report available.

STAMFORD: 0.43' low. Black bass and crappie are fair to good, but mostly undersized. White bass are fair to good on minnows and Rooster Tails. Blue catfish are fair to good on cut and live bait.

SWEETWATER: Water off color; 47-53 degrees; 23.1' low. No report available.

WHITE RIVER: Water stained; 45-52 degrees; 19.64' low. Black bass are very slow (the bass population was greatly reduced during the drought). No reports on crappie. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers and cut bait.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water murky; 65-69 degrees; 16.29' low. Black bass are good on crankbaits, jerkbaits, and soft plastics. Striped bass are good on slabs, spoons, and jigs in 30-65 feet. White bass are good on slabs, spoons, and jigs in 30-65 feet. Catfish are good on shrimp, chicken livers, nightcrawlers, and cheesebait. Yellow catfish are fair on trotlines baited with live perch. Everyone in a boat must have a Mexico fishing license (if fishing the Mexico side) whether fishing or not.

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water stained; 61-65 degrees. Black bass are fair on watermelon soft plastics, spinnerbaits, and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are good on stinkbait, shrimp, and frozen shrimp. Yellow catfish are slow.

BELTON: Water stained; 60-64 degrees; 0.64' high. Black bass are slow. Hybrid striper are slow. White bass are fair on slabs. Crappie are fair on minnows at night. Channel and blue catfish are fair on trotlines baited with frozen shad. Yellow catfish are slow.

BROWNWOOD: Water stained; 62-66 degrees; 0.08' high. Black bass are fair on chartreuse/black jigs, small crankbaits, and watermelon red 4" worms over brush piles in 10-20 feet. Hybrid striper are fair on green striper jigs. White bass are fair on Li'l Fishies and watermelon red crankbaits under lighted docks at night. Crappie are good on Li'l Fishies and minnows over brush piles in 10-20 feet. Channel catfish are fair on stinkbait, minnows and shrimp in 10-20 feet. Yellow catfish are slow.

BUCHANAN: Water stained; 61-65 degrees; 2.04' low. Black bass are good on black Curb's hair jigs, tequila sunrise JDC curl tail grubs on jigheads, and suspending crankbaits over rock piles in 8-18 feet. Striped bass are good on white striper jigs, and jigging Spoiler Shad swim baits and Pirk Minnows near Garrett Island in 20-30 feet. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on live minnows over brush piles. Channel catfish are slow. Yellow and blue catfish are slow.

CANYON LAKE: Water stained; 62-65 degrees; 0.07' high. Black bass are good on watermelon red crankbaits, pumpkinseed worms, and watermelon tubes on jigheads along bluffs. Striped bass are fair trolling Gizz 4's on down riggers over humps in the lower end of the lake in 40-60 feet. White bass are fair but small on white spinnerbaits and crankbaits. Smallmouth bass are very good on Tomato Red JDC grubs and smoke/red flake tubes on jigheads. Crappie are slow. Channel catfish are slow. Yellow and blue catfish are slow.

COLEMAN: Water stained; 62-66 degrees; 1.40' low. Black bass are good on watermelon Rat-L-Traps and crankbaits. Crappie are fair on minnows. Channel catfish are good on stinkbait, nightcrawlers, and frozen shrimp. Yellow catfish are slow.

COLORADO RIVER: (At Colorado Bend State Park) No report available.

FAYETTE: Water murky. Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits and crankbaits over grass, and on watermelon Carolina rigged worms. Channel and blue catfish are fair on stinkbait and minnows over baited holes.

GRANBURY: Water stained; 61-65 degrees; 0.13' low. Black bass are good on chartreuse/blue flake soft plastics and Rat-L-Traps. Striped bass are slow. White bass are fair on small spinnerbaits. Crappie are fair on minnows. Catfish are good on frozen shrimp, stinkbait, and liver.

GRANGER: Water stained; 60-64 degrees; 0.38' high. Black bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Blue catfish are fair on shrimp and prepared baits in 6-15 feet. Yellow catfish are slow.

LBJ: Water stained; 60-64 degrees; 4.70' low. Black bass are good on black/blue Curb's jigs and PBJ colored Snag Proof jigs. Striped bass are slow. White bass are fair to good on Pirk Minnows and Li'l Fishies in the channel near the power plant. Crappie are fair on minnows in brush piles and under heated docks. Channel catfish are fair on shrimp and nightcrawlers. Yellow and blue catfish are slow.

NAVARRO MILLS: Water stained; 61-65 degrees; 0.19' low. Black bass are slow. White bass are fair on spinnerbaits and crankbaits. Crappie are good on minnows in 9-15 feet. Channel and blue catfish are fair on shrimp and stinkbait. Yellow catfish are slow.

PROCTOR: Water stained; 59-63 degrees; 0.56' low. Black bass are good on chartreuse spinnerbaits and soft plastics. Striped bass are fair on green striper jigs. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are good on frozen shad and shrimp. Yellow catfish are slow.

SOMERVILLE: Water murky; 61-65 degrees; 0.20' high. Black bass are fair on chartreuse crankbaits and Rat-L-Traps. Hybrid striper are fair on silver striper jigs. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows and green/black tube jigs. Channel and blue catfish are good on bloodbait. Yellow catfish are slow.

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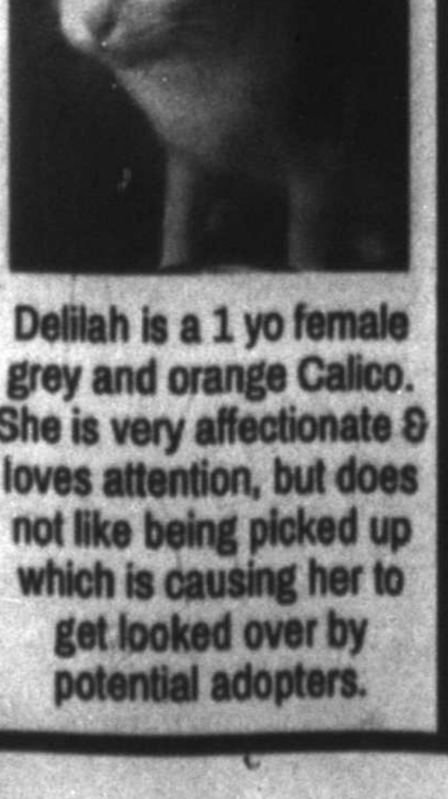


Delilah is a 1 yo female grey and orange Calico. She is very affectionate & loves attention, but does not like being picked up which is causing her to get looked over by potential adopters.

TEXASCOLLEGEROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

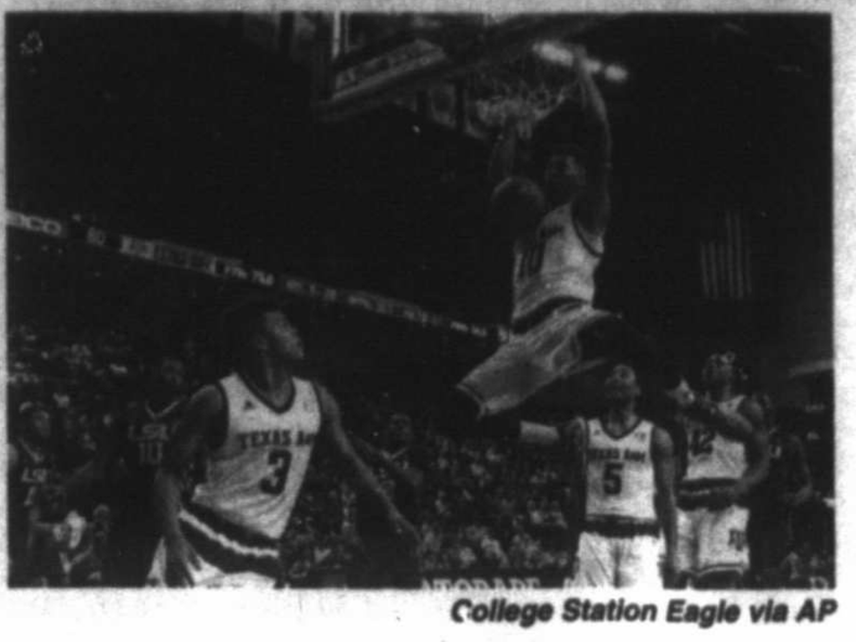
Men

TEXAS A&M 92 LSU 62

COLLEGE STATION — Admon Gilder and Tonny Trocha-Morelos each scored 14 points and Texas A&M won its first Southeastern Conference contest as the Aggies defeated LSU 92-62 on Wednesday night.

A&M (9-6, 1-3) jumped on LSU (9-6, 1-3) from the start, leading 13-3 after a little more than five minutes. Robert Williams and Chris Collins each added 12 points for A&M, and LSU's Antonio Blakeney scored a game-high 17 points, the only Tiger to reach double digits.

A&M held a lopsided 11-0 edge in blocks, with Williams leading the way with four and Trocha-Morelos and D.J. Hogg chipping in three each. The Aggies also held a 46-36 advantage on points in the paint.



College Station Eagle via AP

Texas A&M center Tonny Troche-Morelos (10) dunks against LSU during a game Wednesday in College Station.

The Aggies knew it would be their night when Trocha-Morelos smoothly tossed a behind-the-back pass to Tavario Miller for a wide-open dunk, giving the Aggies a 21-5 lead with 11:31 left in the first half.

Women

NO. 2 BAYLOR 77 TCU 54

WACO — Freshman Lauren Cox made her first seven shots and scored 19 points as second-ranked Baylor won its 51st consecutive home game, beating TCU 77-54 on Wednesday night.

Alexis Jones added 14 points and Alexis Prince 10 for the Lady Bears (16-1, 5-0 Big 12), who had their smallest margin in a conference game so far but trailed for only a 12-second span after TCU made a 3-pointer for its first basket of the game.

TCU (8-8, 0-5) has lost 21 in a row since 1991 against the Lady Bears, including 0-9 mark in the five seasons the Frogs have been in the Big 12.

AJ Alix led TCU with 17 points, while Jada Butts had 15.

Brodziansky scores 19, Fisher adds 16 to lead TCU past Texas

By Mark Rosner
Associated Press

AUSTIN — Vladimir Brodziansky scored 19 points, including the go-ahead basket with 50 seconds remaining, to lead TCU to a 64-61 victory over Texas on Wednesday night.

Jaylen Fisher added 16 points and Kenrich Williams grabbed 13 rebounds for TCU.

Jarrett Allen led Texas with 18 points.

Kerwin Roach Jr. gave Texas (7-9, 1-3 Big 12) a one-point lead with a driving shot with 1:13 remaining. After Brodziansky put TCU (13-3, 2-2) back ahead, Roach missed a layup before Fisher added two free throws. Eric Davis Jr. missed a potential tying 3-pointer with eight seconds left.

TCU went scoreless for more than five minutes, and without a field goal for nearly seven, in the second half. The Horned Frogs trailed by seven with less than nine minutes remaining. Then they made a 12-0 push, including six points by Brodziansky, as Texas went scoreless for 5:33.

TCU and Texas rank ninth and 10th in the Big 12 in 3-point shooting accuracy, but both were hot in the first half Wednesday. The Horned Frogs hit 6 of 11 treys, while Texas made 3 of 6.

Big picture

TCU: The Horned Frogs surpassed their win total from last season with their 13th victory Wednesday.

Fisher is the highest ranked recruit ever to play for the Horned Frogs, at least according to ESPN, which listed him at No. 34. Fisher converted all four of his 3-point attempts in the first half Wednesday.

Texas: The Longhorns had won 14 straight over TCU in Austin, dating to 1987 when TCU's first-year coach Jamie Dixon was a Horned Frogs guard who contributed 18 points and nine assists, according to a team spokesman.

NBAROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

TIMBERWOLVES 119 ROCKETS 105

MINNEAPOLIS — Andrew Wiggins scored 28 points, Karl-Anthony Towns had 23 points and 18 rebounds, and Shabazz Muhammad scored 20 Wednesday night to help the Minnesota Timberwolves beat the Houston Rockets 119-105.

James Harden scored 33 points and had 12 assists for Houston, which saw its nine-game winning streak end.

Ricky Rubio tied his own franchise record with 17 assists to go with 10 points.

Wiggins carried Minnesota early, scoring 15 first-quarter points as the Wolves opened up an 11-point lead. Muhammad provided six quick points early in the second quarter and energized the crowd with a transition dunk.

Ryan Anderson's 3-pointer gave Houston a 69-68 lead midway through the third quarter, but Minnesota followed with a 17-4 run capped by a thunderous dunk by Towns. The Wolves ended the third quarter leading 89-77.

76ERS 98 KNICKS 97

PHILADELPHIA — Joel Embiid wrapped his hands around T.J. McConnell's neck, and let out a yell for a victory sweeter than the taste of endless rounds of Shirley Temples.

With his team down 10 with 2:29 left, Embiid sparked a 76ers' rally like the franchise player Philly expects him to become. McConnell's baseline jumper for the win, well, that was just the cherry on top.

McConnell shot at the buzzer gave the suddenly streaking Philadelphia 76ers a 98-97 victory over the New York Knicks on Wednesday night.

Embiid had 21 points and 14 rebounds to help the Sixers rally from a 17-point deficit and win for the fourth time in five games.

The postseason still seems a bit optimistic for the Sixers. But playoff hopes are crashing for the Knicks with their ninth loss in 10 games.

Derrick Rose returned from a one-game hiatus and scored 25 points for the Knicks. Carmelo Anthony had 28.

CELTICS 117 WIZARDS 108

BOSTON — Isaiah Thomas scored 20 of his 38 points in the fourth quarter and the Boston Celtics pulled away late for a 117-108 win over the Washington Wizards on Wednesday night.

Al Horford added 16 points and nine rebounds for the Celtics, who won for the fifth time in six games and ended Washington's three-game winning streak. Jae Crowder scored 20 and Terry Rozier had 11.

Bradley Beal led Washington with 35 points. Otto Porter Jr. scored 20 and Markieff Morris finished with 14.

Boston held John Wall to a season-low nine points. The star guard did have 10 assists for the Wizards, who fell to 19-19 a day after moving above .500 for the first time since November 2015.

The game got chippy several times and included five technical fouls — two of them on Boston for three-second violations. Another was on Beal, who went at it verbally and physically with Smart right up to the end.

THUNDER 103 GRIZZLIES 95

OKLAHOMA CITY — Russell Westbrook posted his 18th triple-double of the season, and the Oklahoma City Thunder defeated the Memphis Grizzlies 103-95 on Wednesday night.

Westbrook finished with 24 points, 13 rebounds and 12 assists for the 55th triple-double of his career. He already has matched his triple-double total from last season less than halfway through this one, and last season's total was the most for an NBA player since Magic Johnson had 18 during the 1981-82 season.

Enes Kanter scored 19 points and Victor Oladipo added 16 for the Thunder, who won their third straight and avenged their worst loss of the season. Oklahoma City lost 114-80 in Memphis on Dec. 29, a game Westbrook was ejected from.

NBA GLANCE

Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	25	13	.658	—
Boston	24	15	.615	1½
New York	17	22	.436	8½
Philadelphia	11	25	.306	13
Brooklyn	8	29	.216	16½

Southeast Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	22	16	.579	—
Charlotte	20	19	.513	2½
Washington	19	19	.500	3
Orlando	16	23	.410	6½
Miami	11	29	.275	12

Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	28	9	.757	—
Indiana	20	18	.526	8½
Milwaukee	19	18	.514	9
Chicago	19	20	.487	10
Detroit	18	22	.450	11½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	30	8	.789	—
Houston	31	10	.756	½
Memphis	24	17	.585	7½
New Orleans	15	24	.385	15½
Dallas	11	27	.289	19

Northwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	24	16	.600	—
Oklahoma City	24	16	.600	—
Portland	17	23	.425	7
Denver	14	23	.378	8½
Minnesota	13	26	.333	10½

Pacific Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	33	6	.846	—
L.A. Clippers	26	14	.650	7½
Sacramento	16	22	.421	16½
L.A. Lakers	15	27	.357	19½
Phoenix	12	26	.316	20½

Scores and schedules

Wednesday's Scores

Philadelphia 98, New York 97
Boston 117, Washington 108
Minnesota 119, Houston 105
Oklahoma City 103, Memphis 95
Cleveland at Portland, 10:30 p.m.
Orlando at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Today's Games

Indiana at Denver, 2 p.m.
New Orleans at Brooklyn, 6:30 p.m.
Chicago at New York, 7 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m.
Dallas at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Detroit at Golden State, 9:30 p.m.

Friday's Games

Charlotte at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.
Brooklyn at Toronto, 6:30 p.m.
Boston at Atlanta, 7 p.m.
Memphis at Houston, 7 p.m.
Miami at Milwaukee, 7 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
Orlando at Portland, 9 p.m.
Cleveland at Sacramento, 9:30 p.m.
Detroit at Utah, 9:30 p.m.

CARDENAS

From 1C

I caliber talent. Cardenas said that same friend helped him get to Midland College because he had heard that it was not only a good program but a good school.

"For me, it means a lot (being here) because it's a huge opportunity for me to continue my education and to play the sport that I love," he said.

Although he misses his home country, his family and friends, he said that sometimes these kind of sacrifices are necessary to achieve a dream.

Another challenge is learning the English language and he still feels more comfortable having a conversation in Spanish. But he believes he's learning as best as he can after only a year in the U.S.

"Midland College is always helping me improve," he said. "The teachers know that I have some difficulty with English but they try very hard to help me."

Cardenas said he's interested in remaining in the United States to continue his playing career at the four-year university level and added that he wants to see how far he can go.

He said there are programs that have shown interest but his main focus is helping the Chaparrals succeed this season.

"Because we are a team, we always have to have each other's backs," he said. "If we are united, we can accomplish anything. It's also important to have fun playing the game."

Follow Oscar on Twitter: @OLeRoy_MRT

Men's WJCAC standings

Team	Conference W	Conference L	Overall W	Overall L
South Plains	3	0	15	0
Odessa College	2	1	13	3
Clarendon College	2	1	11	6
Howard College	1	1	12	4
Midland College	1	1	10	6
Western Texas	1	1	9	6
New Mexico JC	1	2	13	4
New Mexico Military	1	2	5	11
Frank Phillips	0	3	11	6

Monday's Scores

South Plains College 101, Odessa College 88; Howard College 81, Western Texas College 73; Clarendon College 78, Frank Phillips 64; New Mexico JC 88, New Mexico Military Institute 60; Midland College 84, Ranger College 65 (non-conference)

Today's Games

Howard College at Midland College; Clarendon College at Odessa College; South Plains College at New Mexico JC; New Mexico Military Institute at Western Texas College; Frank Phillips College is open

Howard College at Midland College

When/where: 7:30 p.m., Chaparral Center

Records: Midland College 10-6, 1-1 in Western Junior College Athletic Conference; Howard College 12-4, 1-1

Notes: Midland College is riding a three-game winning streak, including back-to-back wins on Sunday and Monday after coming back from the holiday break. ... Monday's 84-65 non-conference win was arguably the Chaparrals' most complete game as they scored 55 points in the second half after trailing 30-29 at the break. Four Chaps were in double figures, led by Juan Cardenas with 23 points and nine rebounds, Jordan Jackson had 17 points, Jachai Simmons had 16 and Roland Griffin added 12. ... Howard is coming off an 81-73 home win over Western Texas College as the Hawks jumped out to a 37-21 halftime lead. HC was 11-of-27 from 3-point range and was led by Marcel Cherry with a game-high 25 points, Kavin Riley added 12 and Dante Scott added 11 points and 10 rebounds in the win. ... MC coach Jordan Dreiling said it's important for his team to defend its home court during WJCAC play if the Chaps want to make the postseason.

Next: Western Texas College at Midland College, 7:30 p.m. Monday; Frank Phillips College at Howard College, 7:30 p.m. Monday

BRETHERTON

From 1C

said because of that better understanding, Bretherton has become a more aggressive player.

"I feel like I have developed a lot since last year I have come a long way," she said. "I know what to expect from the other teams and stuff and I've learned how to be a leader and how to help the team get ready."

As one of six sophomores on the team, Bretherton knows that it's important to help the younger players understand the ins and outs of not only playing at the college level but playing in one of the most competitive junior college conferences in the country.

Bretherton said her team learned from the first two WJCAC games before the holiday break in which it split with South Plains and Clarendon College, and also from Saturday's 63-58 non-conference loss at Temple College.

Now Bretherton knows that her team has be prepared to face a rival in Howard that is undefeated in conference play.

"There's definitely a bit of a rivalry there," she said. "We're going to come out hard because we want to win, for sure."

And Bretherton will look to continue to bring that spark to her team.

"My goal is to bring energy to every game and lift the team up and start winning games," she said. "We want to make it back to nationals, so we have to win games."

Follow Oscar on Twitter: @OLeRoy_MRT

Women's WJCAC standings

Team	Conference W	Conference L	Overall W	Overall L
South Plains	2	1	17	2
Odessa College	2	0	14	0
Howard College	2	0	6	10
Frank Phillips	1	1	11	2
New Mexico JC	1	1	12	4
Midland College	1	1	10	4
Western Texas	0	2	6	6
Clarendon College	0	3	11	8

Monday's Scores

Odessa College 78, South Plains College 72; Howard College 84, Western Texas College 52; Frank Phillips 71, Clarendon College 62; Midland College and New Mexico JC were open

Today's Games

Howard College at Midland College; Clarendon College at Odessa College; South Plains College at New Mexico JC; Western Texas College and Frank Phillips College are open

Howard College at No. 17 Midland College

When/where: 5:45 p.m., Chaparral Center

Records: Midland College 10-4, 1-1 in Western Junior College Athletic Conference; Howard College 6-10, 2-0

Notes & quotes: Midland College returns to WJCAC play today after playing three non-conference games since coming back from the holiday break. MC looks to get back in the win column after a 63-58 loss at Temple College on Saturday in which MC shot just 32.4 percent and hit just 7 of 19 free throws. Janea Bunn had 11 points and Kayla Bretherton and Lisa Kaempf each added 10 in the victory. ... MC coach Ron Jones said his team has had a couple of good days of practice and added that his team has to work on being more consistent with its intensity level. ... Howard has won its last two games, including an 84-52 home win over Western Texas College in WJCAC play on Monday in which the Hawks shot 55 percent. DeAuja Thompson scored a game-high 22 points and 11 rebounds. Fabrianna Dixon had 18 points and Marie Tsoungui added 10 points off the bench. "They're 2-0 and they're excited to play, and as always, we'll have a good game with Howard," Jones said.

Next: Western Texas College at Midland College, 5:45 p.m. Monday; Frank Phillips College at Howard College, 5:45 p.m. Monday

COLLEGE BASKETBALL SCORES AND TOP 25 FARED

Men

SOUTHWEST

Lamar 87, Incarnate Word 72
Stephen F. Austin 79, Texas A&M-CC 46
TCU 64, Texas 61
Texas A&M 92, LSU 62
Tulsa 81, Memphis 71

SOUTH

Allen 86, Bryan 77
Campbell 76, Gardner-Webb 60
Charleston Southern 70, Radford 64
Chattanooga 83, The Citadel 73
Fontbonne 64, Spalding 61
Fordham 60, Davidson 54
Georgia 69, Mississippi 47
Houston 74, East Carolina 58
Liberty 62, High Point 58
Louisville 85, Pittsburgh 80
Mercer 66, Samford 65
NC Central 69, Md.-Eastern Shore 52
Norfolk St. 80, Savannah St. 76
North Carolina 93, Wake Forest 87
Richmond 78, St. Bonaventure 61
South Carolina 70, Tennessee 60
Thomas More 69, Waynesburg 66
Transylvania 87, Franklin 71
Tulane 82, South Florida 67
UNC Asheville 89, Longwood 68
Union (Ky.) 87, Truett McConnell 65
VCU 85, George Washington 55
Winthrop 75, Presbyterian 52

MIDWEST

Albion 87, Kalamazoo 66
Augsburg 111, St. Mary's (Minn.) 106, OT
Bethel (Minn.) 93, Gustavus 82
Calvin 87, Olivet 69
Carroll (Wis.) 72, North Central (Ill.) 65
Concordia (Moor.) 63, Carleton 55
Hope 88, Alma 77
Illinois St. 60, S. Illinois 53
Indiana Tech 85, Davenport 66
Lawrence Tech 77, Marygrove 75
Madonna 70, Concordia (Mich.) 62
Marquette 89, Seton Hall 86
Michigan St. 65, Minnesota 47
Michigan-Dearborn 63, Aquinas 56
Missouri St. 55, Evansville 51
Mount Vernon Nazarene 83, Goshen 69
N. Dakota St. 70, South Dakota 69
Omaha 79, IUPUI 71
Snake 87, Indiana St. 70
St. John's (Minn.) 78, Macalester 55
St. Olaf 64, St. Thomas (Minn.) 56
Trine 68, Adrian 54
Wichita St. 87, Loyola of Chicago 75
Wis.-Eau Claire 62, Wis.-La Crosse 58
Wis.-Oshkosh 71, Wis.-Platteville 60
Wis.-River Falls 90, Wis.-Whitewater 74
Wis.-Stevens Pt. 71, Wis.-Stout 68

EAST

Baruch 76, Brooklyn 61
Boston U. 76, American U. 66
Colgate 79, Army 76
Duquesne 73, Saint Louis 66
Holy Cross 71, Lafayette 54
Lehigh 82, Bucknell 71
Maine 73, Mass.-Lowell 71
Navy 75, Loyola (Md.) 62
New Hampshire 75, Albany (NY) 67
Stockton 70, NJ City 65
UMBC 84, Hartford 66
UMass 67, Dayton 55
Vermont 67, Binghamton 50

Top 25 fared Wednesday

1. Baylor (15-1) did not play. Next: at No. 25 Kansas State, Saturday.
2. Kansas (15-1) did not play. Next: vs. Oklahoma State, Saturday.
3. Villanova (16-1) did not play. Next: at St. John's, Saturday.
4. UCLA (16-1) did not play. Next: at Colorado, Thursday.
5. Gonzaga (15-0) did not play. Next: vs. Loyola Marymount, Thursday.
6. Kentucky (14-2) did not play. Next: vs. Auburn, Saturday.
7. Duke (14-3) did not play. Next: at No. 14 Louisville, Saturday.
8. Creighton (15-1) vs. No. 12 Butler. Next: vs. Truman State, Saturday.
9. Florida State (16-1) did not play. Next: at No. 11 North Carolina, Saturday.
10. West Virginia (14-2) did not play. Next: at Texas, Saturday.
11. North Carolina (15-3) beat Wake Forest 93-87. Next: vs. No. 9 Florida State, Saturday.
12. Butler (14-2) at No. 8 Creighton. Next: vs. No. 15 Xavier, Saturday.
13. Oregon (15-2) did not play. Next: vs. Oregon State, Saturday.
14. Louisville (14-3) beat Pittsburgh 85-80. Next: vs. No. 7 Duke, Saturday.
15. Xavier (13-3) did not play. Next: at No. 12 Butler, Saturday.
16. Arizona (15-2) did not play. Next: vs. Arizona State, Thursday.
17. Purdue (14-3) did not play. Next: at Iowa, Thursday.
18. Wisconsin (13-3) did not play. Next: vs. Ohio State, Thursday.
19. Virginia (12-3) did not play. Next: at Clemson, Saturday.
20. Notre Dame (14-2) did not play. Next: at Miami, Thursday.
21. Saint Mary's (14-1) did not play. Next: at Portland, Thursday.
22. Cincinnati (13-2) did not play. Next: vs. SMU, Thursday.
23. Florida (13-3) did not play. Next: vs. Georgia, Saturday.
24. Minnesota (15-3) lost to Michigan State 65-47. Next: at Penn State, Saturday.
25. Kansas State (13-3) did not play. Next: vs. No. 1 Baylor, Saturday.
25. Southern Cal (15-2) did not play. Next: at Utah, Thursday.

Women

SOUTHWEST

Baylor 77, TCU 54
Cent. Arkansas 80, Houston Baptist 49
South Dakota 69, Oral Roberts 47
Texas A&M-CC 77, SE Louisiana 61
Texas Tech 75, West Virginia 66
Tulane 71, SMU 59

SOUTH

Alcorn St. 70, Jackson St. 53
Austin Peay 85, SIU-Edwardsville 62
Belmont 74, E. Kentucky 58
Bryan 76, Allen 61
Fontbonne 57, Spalding 51
George Washington 79, George Mason 71
King (Tenn.) 94, Barton 60
Lincoln (Pa.) 55, St. Augustine's 29
Maryland 89, Penn St. 83
Miami 82, Virginia Tech 75
Murray St. 92, E. Illinois 74
NC Central 68, Md.-Eastern Shore 59
Norfolk St. 61, Savannah St. 55
Tennessee St. 69, Morehead St. 66
Thomas More 84, Waynesburg 52

MIDWEST

Albion 74, Alma 65
Aquinas 74, Michigan-Dearborn 41
Calvin 64, Adrian 58
Carleton 53, Concordia (Moor.) 51
Cent. Michigan 101, Ball St. 92
Davenport 70, Indiana Tech 61
Green Bay 60, Detroit 55
Gustavus 62, Bethel (Minn.) 58
Hope 86, Olivet 54
Iowa 78, Illinois 58
Lawrence Tech 100, Marygrove 55
Madonna 105, Concordia (Mich.) 97
Miami (Ohio) 72, E. Michigan 61
Minnesota at Northwestern, ppd.
N. Illinois 98, Kent St. 97
Oakland 75, Milwaukee 73
Ohio 85, Akron 69
Oklahoma 67, Iowa St. 57
Purdue 79, Wisconsin 57
S. Dakota St. 88, IUPUI 49
Saint Louis 64, St. Bonaventure 49
St. Mary's (Minn.) 81, Augsburg 79
Trine 78, Kalamazoo 48
W. Illinois 78, Omaha 74
W. Michigan 75, Bowling Green 58

EAST

American U. 73, Boston U. 62
Army 76, Colgate 69
Binghamton 64, Vermont 55
Brooklyn 73, Baruch 39
Bucknell 77, Lehigh 58
Farmingdale 80, St. Joseph's (NY) 70
Fordham 67, Richmond 41
Hartford 80, UMBC 73
Harvard 66, La Salle 64
Holy Cross 67, Lafayette 61
Maine 65, Mass.-Lowell 44
Mount St. Mary (NY) 57, Old Westbury 48
Navy 77, Loyola (Md.) 51
New Hampshire 71, Albany (NY) 58
SUNY Canton 67, Maine-Presque Isle 53
Saint Joseph's 64, VCU 58
Scranton 66, Susquehanna 53
Temple 78, East Carolina 47
Toledo 73, Buffalo 64
Tufts 73, Worcester St. 46

Top 25 fared Wednesday

1. UConn (15-0) did not play. Next: at SMU, Saturday.
2. Baylor (15-1) vs. TCU. Next: at Kansas, Sunday.
3. Maryland (16-1) beat Penn State 89-83. Next: at Iowa, Saturday.
4. Mississippi State (17-0) did not play. Next: vs. Florida, Thursday.
5. South Carolina (13-[illegible]) did not play. Next: [illegible] Georgia, Thursday.
6. Notre Dame (15-2) did not play. Next: [illegible] Pittsburgh, Thursday.
7. Florida State (15-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 9 Louisville, Thursday.
8. Washington (16-2) did not play. Next: at Arizona, Friday.
9. Louisville (15-3) did not play. Next: at No. 7 Florida State, Thursday.
10. Oregon State (15-1) did not play. Next: at No. 17 UCLA, Friday.
11. Ohio State (14-5) did not play. Next: at Purdue, Sunday.
12. Duke (14-2) did not play. Next: vs. North Carolina, Thursday.
13. Stanford (13-3) did not play. Next: at Utah, Friday.
14. Miami (14-3) beat No. 15 Virginia Tech 82-75. Next: at No. 9 Louisville, Sunday.
15. Virginia Tech (15-1) lost to No. 14 Miami 82-75. Next: vs. Wake Forest, Monday.
16. Texas (11-4) did not play. Next: at No. 18 West Virginia, Saturday.
17. UCLA (11-4) did not play. Next: vs. No. 10 Oregon State, Friday.
18. West Virginia (14-3) lost to Texas Tech 75-66. Next: vs. No. 16 Texas, Saturday.
19. Arizona State (12-3) did not play. Next: vs. Washington State, Friday.
20. South Florida (13-2) did not play. Next: vs. East Carolina, Saturday.
21. DePaul (14-4) did not play. Next: vs. Butler, Friday.
22. Oklahoma (12-4) at Iowa State. Next: vs. Texas Tech, Saturday.
23. N.C. State (13-4) did not play. Next: at Syracuse, Thursday.
24. California (13-3) did not play. Next: at Colorado, Friday.
25. Kansas State (12-4) vs. Kansas. Next: at Oklahoma State, Saturday.

Broncos hire Vance Joseph as their head coach

By Arnie Stapleton
Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — A runner-up two years ago, Vance Joseph is John Elway's pick this time around.

"It's official. Excited to announce Vance Joseph as head coach of the Denver Broncos!" Elway tweeted Wednesday afternoon.

Joseph

The 44-year-old ex-Colorado quarterback built a reputation as one of the league's best secondary coaches as he worked his way through the ranks in San Francisco, Houston and Cincinnati before serving as Dolphins defensive coordinator last season and helping Miami end an eight-year playoff drought.

"Becoming head coach of the Denver Broncos is a dream job for many reasons," Joseph said in a statement. "The Broncos have an unbelievable winning tradition and great fan support. But what makes this even more special is it's a place that's ready to win.

"This is not a rebuilding situation — it's a reboot. There is a culture of winning here, and the standards around here won't change. Those are to win championships."

Joseph, who will be formally introduced as the team's 16th head coach on Thursday, impressed Elway in 2015 when Gary Kubiak got the job and the Broncos even tried to hire him as their defensive coordinator, a move the Bengals blocked. So, he stayed in Cincinnati for another year as secondary coach before joining Adam Gase's staff in Miami.

Kubiak, 55, stepped down over health concerns last week, capping a tumultuous season by the Broncos (9-7), who missed the playoffs a year after winning the Super Bowl.

Elway also interviewed Chiefs special teams coach Dave Toub and Falcons offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan over the weekend. Joseph flew to Denver on Tuesday following Miami's wild-card loss at Pittsburgh.

Joseph also had interviews lined up with the Chargers on Wednesday, the 49ers on Thursday and the Rams on Friday. But he canceled his California trip after his meeting with Elway, which was followed by dinner at Elway's signature steakhouse.

He returned to Broncos headquarters Wednesday morning to negotiate a four-year contract.

Although the Dolphins ranked ahead of only the Colts, Browns and 49ers in yards allowed in 2016, Joseph took his takeaway touch to Miami, where the Dolphins doubled their forced fumbles from 2015 and Ndamukong Suh and Cameron Wake enjoyed resurgent seasons.

"He took so much off my plate I never had to worry about anything with the defense," Gase said. "He really did a great job with all those guys in that room. He did a great job at directing those guys and he made my life a lot easier than probably what it could have been. There was a big trust factor there with me."

Gase lauded Joseph's management style in saying he's ready to run his own team.

"He brings a leadership quality that you really love about him. He has such a great personality and such a strong personality," Gase said. "He has that ... alpha-type personality where he demands a lot from players and they give him everything they have."

Denver was widely considered the most desirable of the half-dozen head coach openings because of its talented roster, championship culture, front-office acumen, long-admired ownership and fervent fan base.

Joseph also steps into a pressure cooker that chased away both Kubiak and his predecessor, John Fox, who bolted for the Bears' rebuilding job after going 49-22 with four AFC West titles and a Super Bowl appearance in his four seasons in Denver.

Kubiak was 24-11 when he stepped down Jan. 2, saying the 100-hour work weeks were no longer a good fit.

"This is a great place to work, but the expectations are high," Elway said last week, noting that standard was set decades ago by owner Pat Bowlen. "Everybody that comes here, whether it's a coach or a player, understands that the standard is to be able to compete for world championships. Does it add a little bit more? Sure it does. I think if you're good at what you do, I think you want that challenge."

When Elway tweeted Tuesday afternoon that his meeting with Joseph went well, it appeared Joseph might leave town without a contract offer. Yet, Elway didn't let him get away 24 months after Joseph was Elway's second choice.

Joseph inherits an elite defense that features All-Pros Von Miller, Aqib Talib and Chris Harris Jr., and he'll need an experienced hand coordinating the offense, which sputtered for two seasons under coordinator Rick Dennison.

Joseph steps right into the middle of a QB competition between Trevor Siemian, who was pin-balled behind a leaky O-line, and first-rounder Paxton Lynch, who looked lost in his two starts.

Denver's defense ranked fourth in the NFL in 2016, its offense 27th.

That divide led to fissures in the locker room with members of the team's stellar secondary jawing with the offensive linemen for failing to protect the young QBs or open holes for a backfield that sorely missed C.J. Anderson after he went on IR in October with a knee injury.

NFL BRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

FORT WORTH

Hospitalized Texas baby soothed by Dallas Cowboys games

The parents of a Texas baby hospitalized with a congenital heart defect are turning to an unlikely source to soothe her: the Dallas Cowboys.

WFAA-TV reports 3-month-old Lola Catron has already undergone heart surgery twice since her Oct. 4 birth. While sitting with Lola at Fort Worth's Cook Children's Hospital, her mom and dad discovered that Cowboys games on Sundays had a calming effect on her.

Now, whenever Lola is in pain from headaches brought on by the surgeries, Laura Catron finds a replay of a Cowboys game online. She has shared a Facebook video of a crying Lola settling down while watching the Cowboys.

Laura Carton says she hopes media coverage raises awareness about Lola's battle with her congenital heart defect.

FRISCO

Cowboys RB Ezekiel Elliott OK after minor traffic accident

Star Dallas Cowboys running back Ezekiel Elliott was involved in a minor vehicle accident not far from the team's practice facility Wednesday. The rookie didn't miss practice and said he wasn't injured.

Frisco police said there were no injuries in the accident at an intersection about a mile from Cowboys headquarters in the suburb about 30 miles north of Dallas. Police responded, but an accident report wasn't immediately available.

Elliott wouldn't discuss details of the crash, saying "I'm fine. I'm healthy. I'm good, it's like nothing happened. My car is messed up. That's about it."

Dallas, the top seed in the NFC playoffs, plays Green Bay in a divisional game Sunday. Elliott was the NFL rushing champion with 1,631 yards.

HOUSTON

Former NFL QB Manziel to offer photos with fans, at a price

Johnny Manziel will be in Houston ahead of the Super Bowl to give fans a chance to take a photo with the 2012 Heisman trophy winner — at a price.

Stadium Signatures, a Houston company that sells autographed sports memorabilia, says Manziel will appear at Houston malls in the days before the Feb. 5 Super Bowl at NRG Stadium.

He'll take selfies with fans for $50 and those wishing for more professional photos will need to hand over $99. He'll provide his autograph for $99. Manziel also will provide an inscription for $29, but it'll be no more than four words.

The 24-year-old Manziel is a free agent who hasn't signed with a team since the Cleveland Browns released him in March. He starred at quarterback at Texas A&M.

NEW YORK

Deadline for Chargers' relocation decision extended 2 days

The deadline for the San Diego Chargers to exercise their option to relocate to Los Angeles has been extended for two days.

The original deadline was Jan. 15. Because that is a Sunday and Monday is Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a federal holiday, the NFL moved back the deadline until Tuesday. The league initiated the move.

But the Chargers can announce their intentions at any time before Tuesday if they choose.

San Diego would become a tenant in the stadium being built in Inglewood, California, for the Rams if the Chargers exercise that option. If not, the Oakland Raiders would have the option to join the Rams in the LA area, though Raiders owner Mark Davis has indicated his intention to seek a move to Las Vegas.

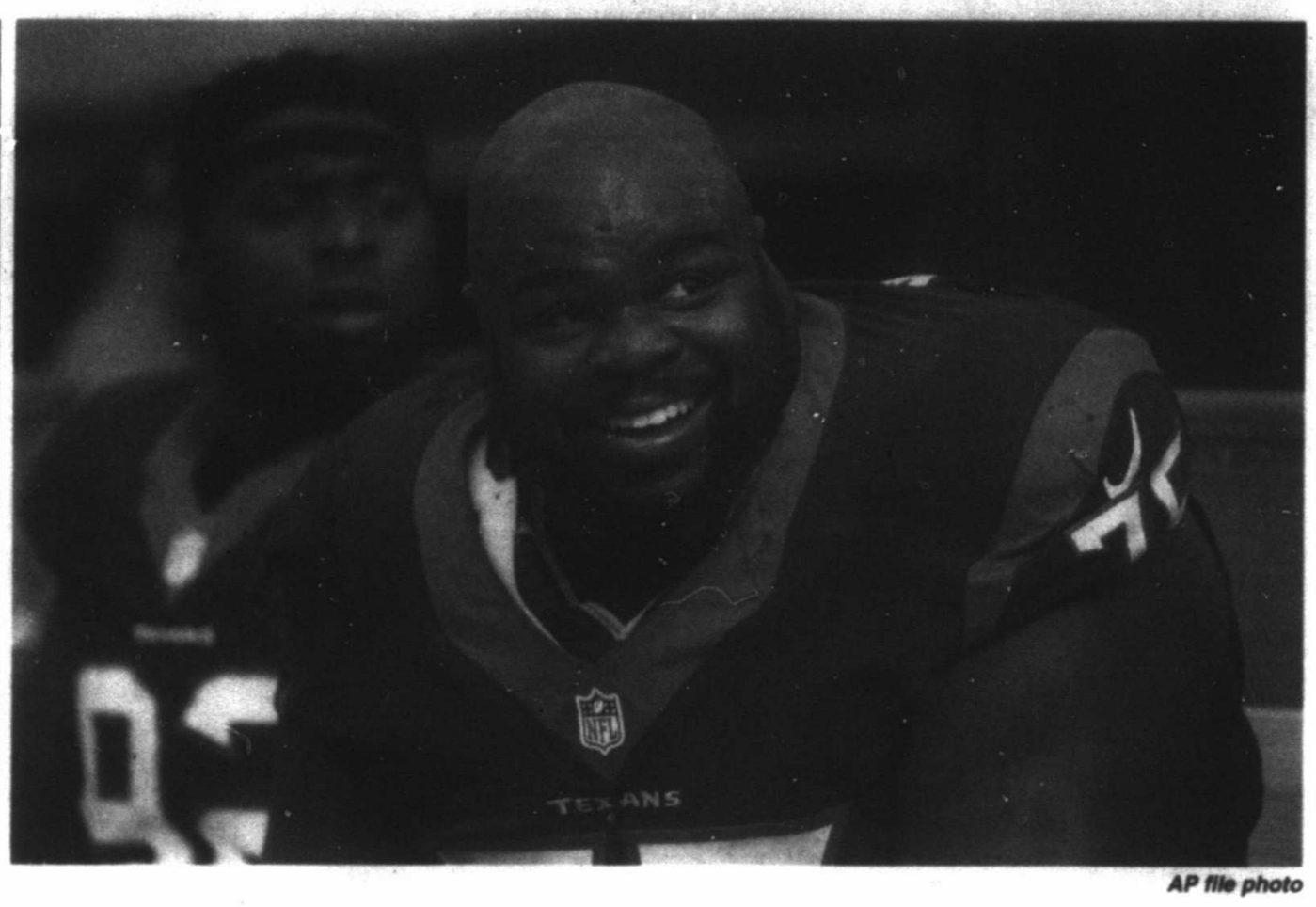
The NFL's stadium and finance committees met Wednesday for about 3 1/2 hours to discuss relocation of the Chargers and Raiders. The fact-finding meetings mostly centered on the Raiders' plan for a potential move to Nevada. No filings for relocation were made; Oakland has until Feb. 15.

"There was little to no discussion on the topic of the Chargers," league executive Eric Grubman said.

And no decisions were planned nor made at the meeting, in which all members of the two committees took part, some by teleconference. Those owners are finance chairman Bob McNair of Houston, along with Atlanta's Arthur Blank, Tampa Bay's Joel Glazer, Kansas City's Clark Hunt, Indianapolis' Jim Irsay, Jacksonville's Shahid Khan, New England's Robert Kraft, Philadelphia's Jeffrey Lurie and Miami's Steve Ross.

Participating from the stadium committee were chairman Art Rooney of Pittsburgh, Arizona's Michael Bidwill, the Jets' Woody Johnson, Dallas' Stephen Jones, Chicago's George H. McCaskey and San Francisco's Jed York.

The owners did talk about possible relocation fees, though Rooney said no specific numbers were discussed. PJT Partners, which analyzed what the relocation fee for the Rams' move from St. Louis last year should be, has been hired by the league to do the same job again. The Rams paid $550 million to move to LA.


AP file photo

Houston Texans nose tackle Vince Wilfork (75) watches from the bench during the second half a game against the Jacksonville Jaguars in Jacksonville, Fla., in 2015. Wilfork is considering retirement after this season.

Wilfork looks to lead Texans on Saturday

By Kristie Rieken
Associated Press

HOUSTON — After spending his first 11 seasons with the Patriots before joining the Texans last season, Vince Wilfork has influenced plenty of players on both teams, which meet Saturday in a divisional playoff game.

"He was huge for me," New England defensive back Devin McCourty said. "He taught me a lot about being a pro, being a good football player — and this is coming from a defensive lineman talking to a secondary guy. But what you need to do to be a good player, the time, the film work, taking care of your body. So I've learned a lot from him."

Wilfork appreciates the kind words from his former teammate. But his focus this week is making sure his new team realizes the opportunity it has, despite critics who say Houston has no chance to win.

"We are excited to have a chance. You have to be excited," Wilfork said. "There's a lot of teams that are sitting back right now wishing that they were in our position. We aren't feeling sorry for nothing. We don't care if we're the last seed ... it's a new season. I have seen teams be where we are win it all. That's motivation."

Wilfork's return on Saturday to the place where he built his career could be the final chapter in his successful run. The 35-year-old revealed recently he's contemplating retirement and said again this week that he was pondering hanging it up after this season.

"That's something I'll think heavy about once the season ends, to see what I really want to do," he said. "It's hard to walk away from something that you love and you've been playing for so long, but we can't play the game forever."

Wilfork, in his 13th NFL season , has started 15 games this season. It's his second year with the Texans after spending his first 11 years with the Patriots, where he won two Super Bowls. He's been to the postseason in all but one of his NFL seasons, and said the excitement of the playoffs never gets old.

"It always feels good to play football going into January and hopefully into February, because that means you've been doing something well, your ballclub's been doing something well, and you're playing toward one goal, and that's to win the Super Bowl," he said. "I've been on both sides where I won it and I've lost it, so I know both feelings, and I know what it takes to get to that."

Wilfork stepped in and immediately became a leader on Houston's defense when he arrived last season. His veteran presence became even more important this season when the 2015 Defensive Player of the Year J.J. Watt suffered a season-ending back injury after just three games.

Defensive end Jadeveon Clowney, the top overall pick in the 2014 draft who has had a breakout season to help Houston's defense rank first in the regular season, credited Wilfork for much of his improvement.

"Vince has taught me so much. He's a smart player. One of the smartest defensive players I think I've played with," Clowney said. "He knows what's going on. He knows what to look for when he sees certain formations. To have him in the room with me and learning from him, it's big."

NFL playoff glance

Wild-card Playoffs
Jan. 7
Houston 27, Oakland 14
Seattle 26, Detroit 6
Jan. 8
Pittsburgh 30, Miami 12
Green Bay 38, N.Y. Giants 13
Divisional Playoffs
Saturday
Seattle at Atlanta, 3:35 p.m. (FOX)
Houston at New England, 7:15 p.m. (CBS)
Sunday
Pittsburgh at Kansas City, 12:05 p.m. (NBC)
Green Bay at Dallas, 3:40 p.m. (FOX)
Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 22
NFC
TBD, 2:05 p.m.
AFC
TBD, 5:40 p.m.
Pro Bowl
Sunday, Jan. 29
At Orlando, Fla.
AFC vs. NFC, 7 p.m. (ESPN)
Super Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 5
At Houston
TBD, 6:30 p.m. (FOX)

PLAYOFF VETS

From 1C

because the Cowboys (13-3) had clinched home-field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs. As a result, it will be three weeks between games for him, almost as long as he sat between Ohio State's win in the Big Ten championship game and the national semifinals.

"All I really focused on, which was really important, was just kind of maintaining my wind and making sure I'm in playing shape going into this next game," Elliott said.

And to help with that, he wore a hoodie in practice Wednesday to crank up the heat.

"I didn't get those same reps those past couple of weeks. And so just getting used to being tired out there and still having to perform mentally, because that's a big part," said Elliott, who had 1,631 yards and 15 touchdowns in the regular season. "I think it's great just to feel fresh, be fresh and go out and produce."

A look at those other players with college playoff experience in the NFL postseason:

READER, TEXANS: A fifth-round pick after Clemson lost the title game to Alabama last season, Reader played all 16 regular-season games, starting seven. He had a sack in the regular season and added another in a 27-14 wild-card win over Oakland. He says the experience translates.

"So it's like now every play counts, every moment counts," Reader said. "So I think we understood that and it helps us out a lot as players."

REED, SEAHAWKS: A second-round pick after two CFPs with the Crimson Tide, Reed started five of 15 games before getting another start in the 26-6 wild-card win over Detroit. "We would play long into the season, and in college, practices are usually more intense. And so with the job coach Pete (Carroll) and the staff do of helping us keep our bodies clean and we're still playing so long makes it that much easier," Reed said.

JONES, PATRIOTS: After winning the title with Alabama last season, Jones was the first pick by New England in the second round after the Patriots lost their first-round choice in the "Deflategate" saga. He had fumbling issues as a punt returner, causing him to be a healthy scratch four times in a six-game stretch.

SMITH, CHIEFS: Undrafted a year after losing in the semifinals with Florida State as a junior, Smith has been mostly a special teams contributor. But his role could expand because of a late-season injury to veteran linebacker Derrick Johnson.

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52 FACES OF COMMUNITY

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

PRESENTED BY CHEVROLET AND THE MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

THURSDAY PRIME TIME — JANUARY 12, 2017

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

		6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
KMID ABC	3 3 4 3 2	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Baking Show "The Finals" (5?) (N)		Taking the Stage The National Museum of African American History. (N)				Local 2 News/ 10	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live		(:35) News Nightline
KOSA CBS	7 7 7 7 7	CBS 7 News	Ent. Tonight	Big Bang Theory	Great Indoor (N)	Mom (N)	Life in Pieces (N)	Pure Genius "Touch and Go" (N)		CBS 7 News	(:35) Stephen Colbert		(:35) J.Corden
KWWT CW	5 14 5 14	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	A. Griffith	A. Griffith	MacGyver "Out in the Cold"		Hogan's Heroes	Hogan's Heroes	Carol Burnett	P. Mason "The Case of the Brazen Bequest"		Twilight Zone
KPEJ FOX	8 5 5 8 3	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Hell's Kitchen "Black Jacket Lounge" (N)		My Kitchen Rules (N)		Fox 24 News	TMZ	Modern Family	Two and a Half	Hot in Cleveland	Met Your Mother
KMLM JND	11 12 12 11 11	All About Us	Mission: M25	Update News	Wings of Truth	Light of the Southwest "Part 1"		Light of the Southwest "Part 2"		Faith for Families	Dollars & Sense	Hidden in Sight	Biblical Israel
KWES NBC	9 9 9 9 9	News-West 9	NewsWest 9 Now	Supers-tore (N)	The Good Place (N)	Chicago Med "Heart Matters" (N)		The Blacklist "The Forecaster" (N)		NewsWest 9 at 10	(:35) The Tonight Show		(:35) Seth Meyers
KPBT PBS	13 13 13 8	PBS NewsHour		Two for the Road	Daytri-pper	Nazi Mega Weapons "The Eagle's Nest"		Globe Trekker "Wild West USA"		Charlie Rose (N)		Newsline	Tavis Smiley
KUPB UNI	4 4 4 16	La rosa de Guadalupe		Despertar contigo		Vino el amor		El color de la pasion		Noticias Telas	Noticiero noctu.	Contacto Deportivo	
KOSA MNT	16 16 16	Last Man	Last Man	The X-Files "Syzygy"		The X-Files "Pusher"		Mike&M.	Mike&M.	Anger M.	Anger M.	Tosh.0	Access H.
FLIX	340 575 165	(5:25) Hidden in A...		Detention Dolph Lundgren.		(:45) Death Warrant				(:15) Flyboys ('06, Act) James Franco.			
HBO	300 550 14 14	Movie	Vice News	Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice						(:35) Spy Melissa McCarthy.			Movie
HBO2	302 551 15 101 23	(:20) Keanu ('16, Com) Keegan-Michael Key.		Demolition Jake Gyllenhaal.						(:45) One Hour Photo Robin Williams.			Movie
HBOS	304 552 16 102	(:05) Definitely, Maybe Ryan Reynolds.		Romancing the Stone						The 33 ('15, Doc/Dra) Antonio Banderas.			
MAX	380 557 17 120 24	(5:35) Vacation		(:15) The Fantastic Four						Mission: Impossible II Tom Cruise.		(:05) Tropic Thu...	
MAX2	382 558 18 122	Movie	(:25) The Transporter			Traders ('15, Thril) Killian Scott.				Resident Evil		(:15) Vixens Fr...	
PLEX	96	(5:15) Mad Money		Far and Away ('92, Dra) Tom Cruise.						(:20) The Young Victoria		(:05) Austin Po...	
SHOW	320 565 19 140 25	(4:45) The Hurt Lo...		Love the Coopers Diane Keaton.						The Affair	SEX With	SEX With	The Affair
TMC	336 573 22 155 26	(5:20) The Forger		The Imitation Game						American Heart Jeff Bridges.			Meskada
A&E	27 58 28 35 47	The First 48 "Cranked"		The First 48 "Murder on the Bluff"		The First 48 "A Fighting Chance" (N)		Nightwatch "105 and Rising" (N)		(:05) The First 48 "Taken for a Ride"		(:05) The First 48 "Murder on the Bluff"	
AMC	40 74 23 42 51	(3:30) The Dark Kn...		Gladiator (2000, Epic) Joaquin Phoenix, Connie Nielsen, Russell Crowe.							Open Range		
BET	58 - 40	Soul Men ('08, Com) Bernie Mac, Samuel L. Jackson.						Martin	Martin	Martin	Martin	Fresh P.	Fresh P.
BRAVO	65 76 41	(5:00) Vanderpump R.		To Be Announced		Top Chef "Booty" (N)		(:15) Beverly Hills		(:15) Watch	(:45) Top Chef "Booty"		
CNBC	46 52 39 72	Blue	Blue Collar	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Rich	Rich	Rich	Rich	Rich	Rich
CNN	43 50 51 30 56	OutFront		A. Cooper 360		CNN Special		CNN Tonight		A. Cooper 360		CNN Special	
DISC	50 60 31 24 42	Naked and Afraid		Naked and Afraid		Naked and Afraid		Naked and Afraid		Naked "23 Days"		Naked and Afraid	
DISNEY	56 64 36 25 36	Underc.	Good Luck	StuckMid	GoodLuck	Liv/Mad	Liv/Mad	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Jessie "G.I. Jessie"		Girl M.	Friends
ESPN	32 35 48 31 30	NCAA Basketball Notre Dame vs. Miami (L)				NCAA Basketball SMU vs Cincinnati (L)				SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
ESPN2	34 36 49 32 31	NCAA Basketball (L)				NCAA Basketball Arizona State at Arizona (L)				NFL Live		Basketb. J & J	
FNC	45 48 53 23 55	On the Record		The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File		Hannity		The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File	
FOOD	64 70 27 68 54	Chopped		Chopped				BeatFlay	Beat Flay	Beat Flay	Beat Flay	Chopped	
FREEFORM	53 63 34 42 33	(5:30) I Love You, Beth Cooper		Because I Said So ('07, Rom) Diane Keaton.						The 700 Club		Gilmore Girls	
FSSW	37 38 50 45 29	NCAA Basketball Clemson at Georgia Tech Site: McCamish Pavilion -- Atlanta, Ga. (L)				SportsDay OnAir	Mavs Pre (L)	NBA Basketball Dallas Mavericks vs. Phoenix Suns Site: Mexico City Arena -- Mexico City, Mexico (L)					Mavericks Live (L)
FX	31 56 59 64 69	(4:30) Elysium		Avatar (2009, Fantasy) Sam Worthington, Giovanni Ribisi, Zoe Saldana.							Avatar Zoe Saldana.		
HALLMARK	54 71 58 34	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls
HGTV	63 69 26 48 44	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	H.Hunt	House (N)	H.Hunt	House	FlipFlop	FlipFlop
HISTORY	71 59 29 50 43	Pawn S.	Pawn Star	Alone		Alone (N)		(:05) The Selection (N)		(:05) Alone		(:05) Alone	
LIFETIME	28 30 25 28 48	Project Runway: Junior		Project "En Garde Avante Garde" (N)		Runway "Step It Up From Day to Night" (N)		Tiny House Nation: Family Edition (N)		Runway "Step It Up From Day to Night"		Project Runway "En Garde Avante Garde"	
MSNBC	47 53 49 73	Hardball		All in With C. Hayes		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word		11thHour	Hardball	Rachel Maddow	
NBCSN	38 43	NHL Live! (L)		NHL Hockey Montreal Canadiens at Minnesota Wild (L)					(:45) NHL Overtime (L)	Rally		Rally	Rally
NICK	55 - 39 34 37	Paradise	Thunder	Dolphin Tale 2 ('14, Fam) Morgan Freeman.				Friends	Nashville			Friends	Friends
SPIKE	30 - 55 53 58	The Waterboy Adam Sandler.				Lip Sync	Lip Sync	Lip Sync	Caraoke	Awkward	Caraoke	Lip Sync	Lip Sync
SYFY	66 82 41 57 67	Movie	The November Man ('14, Act) Pierce Brosnan.							Salt ('10, Act) Angelina Jolie.		The November...	
TBS	25 33 44 66 41	2 Broke Girls	2 Broke Girls	2 Broke Girls	2 Broke Girls	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Conan (N)		Billy/Street (N)	Conan
TCM	41 75 24 63 66	(5:00) Marriage on...		Johnny Belinda Jane Wyman.						The Yearling Gregory Peck.		(:15) The Lost W...	
TELE	20 - 10 20	Caso cerrado		Silvana Sin Lana		La Doña		El Chema		Al rojo	(:35) Titular.	La Doña	
TLC	51 61 32 38 52	My 600-lb Life "Gideon's Story"		600 Lbs: Supersized "Ashley R.'s Story" Ashley decides it's time for a drastic change.				Extreme Weight Loss "Bruce"		600 Lbs: Supersized "Ashley R.'s Story" Ashley decides it's time for a drastic change.			
TNT	24 34 40 26 50	Castle "Still"		NBA Basketball Chicago Bulls at New York Knicks Site: Madison Square Garden -- New York City, N.Y. (L)						NBA Basketball Detroit Pistons at Golden State Warriors Site: The Oracle -- Oakland, Calif. (L)			
TVLAND	49 - 35 54 35	Griffith	A. Griffith	Griffith	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens
USA	26 55 42 27 49	(5:05) Fast & Furious Vin Diesel.		(:15) John Wick ('14, Act) Adrianne Palicki, Keanu Reeves.				Colony "Eleven. Thirteen" (N)		Shooter "Ballistic Advantage"		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Avatar"	
WGN	19 85	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops "Liar Liar #4"	Cops	Cops	Cops

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Carl Edwards makes private decision to leave NASCAR

By Jenna Fryer
Associated Press

HUNTERSVILLE, N.C. — Carl Edwards listed reason after reason for stepping away from full-time NASCAR competition this season, less than two months removed from nearly winning his first Cup title.

Edwards

He's content with his career accomplishments. He wants to spend more time on his outside interests. He's healthy and doesn't want that to change.

Edwards, one of NASCAR's top stars and driver for a top organization, really seemed at peace with a personal decision he made right before Christmas. But for a brief moment, he had to turn his back to the audience and compose himself.

"Yeah, I just want to be a good person, you know?" he said, his bottom lip quivering.

Edwards quickly recovered and returned to script. He has so many outside interests — aviation, agriculture, a possible career in politics — that he literally has no idea what will come next.

"There's no life raft I am jumping on to, I'm just jumping," he said. "This is a pure, simple, personal decision."

Edwards had one year remaining on his contract with Joe Gibbs Racing, and he came 10 laps away from winning his first Cup title two months ago. He informed Joe Gibbs in late December he did not want to race this season, and used about 40 minutes Wednesday at team headquarters to explain his reasoning.

"This was such a surprise," Gibbs said. "When he sat down in front of me and shared what he was thinking, I was totally surprised. I said, 'This is a huge decision, let's take some time with this.'"

Four days later, Edwards and Gibbs spoke on the telephone and the team owner knew the decision was made.

"I could tell he was totally committed," Gibbs said.

Roughly 10 minutes after Edwards finished, Gibbs began a second news conference in which Mexican Daniel Suarez was introduced as the replacement for Edwards' No. 19 Toyota. Suarez is the reigning Xfinity Series champion and the first foreign-born winner of a national series crown.

"Since I moved to NASCAR when I was 16 years old, this has been something that I've been dreaming about," Suarez said. "To be in this position is just something amazing."

Suarez took an unusual path to NASCAR in that he moved to North Carolina alone intent on pursuing a career in racing that is rare in his country. He knew almost no English, taught himself by watching TV and has rapidly risen through the national ranks. He will now be the fourth driver for the most dominant team in NASCAR.

Edwards also had a difficult path. He was a Midwest racer who filled in the financial shortfalls by substitute teaching. He handed out business cards at race tracks, placed ads in trade magazines, anything to get his big break.

It paid off with a job driving for Jack Roush that led to a Truck Series championship and a rapid rise through NASCAR's ranks.

Edwards twice came within moments of winning a Cup title. He lost to Tony Stewart in 2011 on a tie-breaker, then again in November when he was leading the season finale with 10 laps remaining when a debris caution set up a final restart. Edwards had to block Joey Logano on the restart and it triggered a crash that ended his title hopes.

Despite that heartbreak, he said he's walking away content with his 28 career victories.

"You guys know I don't race just for the trophies," Edwards said. "I'm rewarded by the challenges. I feel accomplished. I know sitting in that car, I'm the best I can be."

Edwards, who lives in his home state of Missouri, is married to a doctor and has two young children, also wants more time to focus on outside interests.

"This is all-encompassing. Full time. Not just physical time," he said. "I think about racing all day, wake up and have dreams about it. I've been doing it for 20 years. I need to take that time right now and devote it to people and things that are important and I'm really passionate about."

He also insisted he's healthy and that no one in his family needed his attention for medical reasons. But, his wife specializes in neurological rehabilitation, and Edwards admitted the concussion issues that plagued Dale Earnhardt Jr. most of last season were a wakeup call to the industry.

"I can stand here healthy after all the things I've done," Edwards said. "That's a true testament to NASCAR, the tracks. It's a risky sport. I'm aware of the risks. I don't like how it feels to take the hits we take. I'm a sharp guy. I want to be sharp in 30 years."

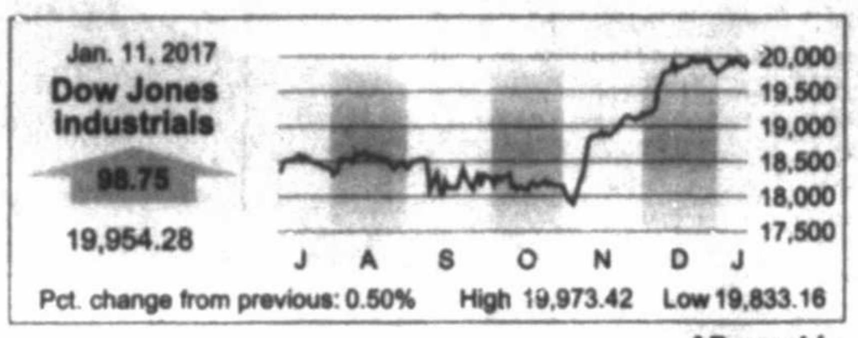
NASCAR Chairman Brian France praised the contributions Edwards has made to NASCAR and the news conference was attended by a large contingent of NASCAR executives.

Attention Readers

Unfortunately Bananagrams is no longer available for Newspaper publications. We apologize for an inconvenience this may have caused. We are in the process of searching for a new daily puzzle.

If you have any recommendations please contact Lori Diaz at 687-8865

A DAY ON WALL STREET



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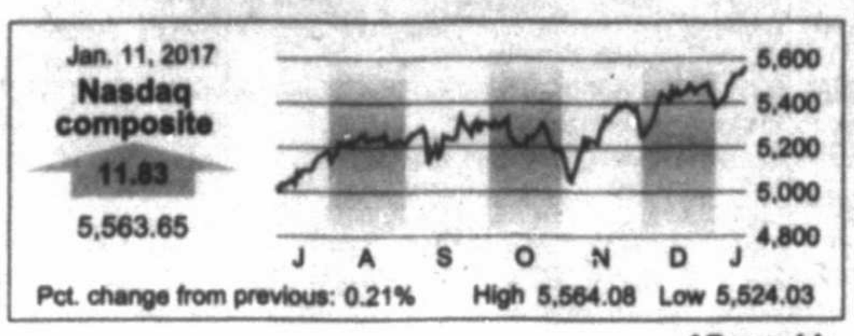

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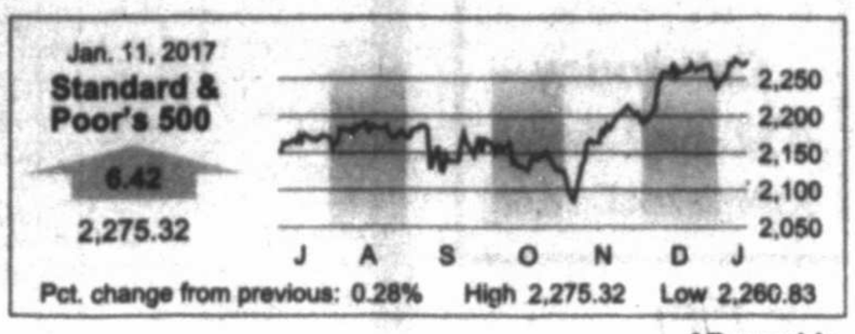

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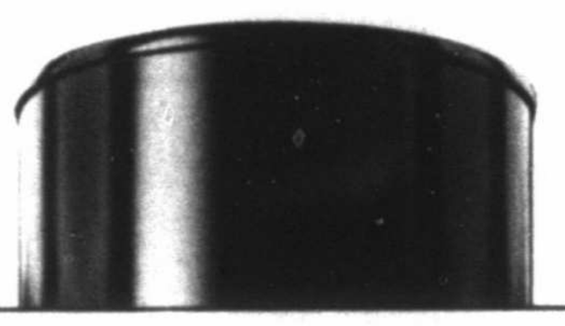
OIL PRICES

FUTURES
Wednesday: $52.25
Previous: $50.82

POSTED
Wednesday: $48.75
Previous: $47.25

WEST TEXAS SOUR
Wednesday: $44.30
Previous: $42.80

NATURAL GAS
Wednesday: $3.224
Previous: $3.278



Job market heats up for fast-food workers

Bloomberg

Lisa Aragon just couldn't get the headhunter to take no for an answer. Five times in a month, she turned down enticements, including higher pay and four weeks of paid vacation.

Aragon doesn't work in Silicon Valley or on Wall Street. Far from it. She is a manager at a Wendy's in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In 20 years, Aragon had never been pursued as aggressively as she had by the recruiter from the Pilot Flying J chain of truck stops, a major franchisee of fast-food restaurants.

"I told him, 'I'm happy where I'm at,'" said Aragon, 41, who already looked forward to quarterly bonuses and a bump for her work as a trainer. "There's no need for change right now."

In today's tight labor market, restaurants are embroiled in a full-on food fight over workers. The rank-and-file is winning referral bonuses, free meals and days off, and the scarcity of candidates may be raising the minimum wage without help from lawmakers. While good news for workers, it may not be for companies and customers. Restaurants will either have to raise prices or accept falling margins. Some stores' service is suffering.

The U.S. unemployment rate was 4.7 percent in December, near a nine-year low. With its insatiable appetite for new workers, the fast-food business serves as a leading indicator of a labor shortage. In September, annual turnover for restaurant workers jumped to 113 percent, the highest since industry-tracker People Report began collecting data in 1995.

Andrew Puzder, President-elect Donald Trump's nominee for U.S. Labor Secretary, will be acutely aware of the phenomenon. A foe of raising the minimum wage, he is chief executive officer of CKE Restaurants Inc., which owns the Hardee's and Carl's Jr. burger chains. Further intensifying demand for lower-skilled employees, Trump has promised to curb illegal immigration.

"It's a hot job market," said Michael Harms, executive director of operations at Dallas-based TDn2K, People Report's parent. "Every employee, whether they're 17 years old or 40 years old, has options."

Aragon's boss is already pulling out all the stops to keep employees. Over the last year, Eddie Rodriguez, who operates 177 Wendy's in Florida, New Mexico and Texas, raised hourly pay by nearly a dollar, to an average $9.05.

Rodriguez gave referral bonuses of up to $250 to employees who found prospects. He offered more flexible schedules and used his own headhunters to find staff for his corporate office in Pompano Beach, Florida. He also makes sure he doesn't take anyone for granted.

"Today's employee, they want to feel wanted," Rodriquez said.

"I rotate through the restaurants, and they see me. If you treat them right and have a vested interest in them, they'll stick around."

Terry Smith, owner of three McDonald's franchises

Customers, however, may feel less appreciated. Rodriguez can't find enough employees for the lunchtime rush, which means it takes longer to get a junior bacon cheeseburger.

Diners are also being kept waiting at Chipotle Mexican Grill Inc., which is trying to hire about 600 "crew members" for its U.S. restaurants. To be able to pay more, the company, for the first time since 2014, is considering raising prices in some parts of the country.

Chipotle is already paying an average $10 an hour. (For those inside the Federal Reserve looking out for evidence that the tightening labor market is sparking inflation, this could be exhibit A.)

Chief Executive Officer Steve Ells in a December conference call complained that the lack of well-trained workers has resulted in napkins left on tables, untidy drink stations and slower meals.

"We took our eye off the ball on the customer service side," Ells told investors.

Restaurants aren't just competing with the fast-food joint down the street. Wal-Mart Stores last year raised wages of more than a million employees to either at least $10 an hour or by 2 percent for those making more.

Casual restaurants such as Olive Garden-owner Darden Restaurants and quick-service haunts like Taco Bell are all struggling to hire.

"It's as hard as it's ever been to attract and retain great people," said Greg Flynn, CEO of Flynn Restaurant Group, which runs franchised Applebee's, Taco Bell, and Panera Bread restaurants.

Terry Smith, who owns three McDonald's, said he has been able to avoid the crunch and maintain his staff of 150 to 160 employees with small perks such as free meals and paid days off. He also visits each of his restaurants every day, making sure he knows workers by name.

"I rotate through the restaurants and they see me," he said. "If you treat them right and have a vested interest in them, they'll stick around."

Stock indexes close higher

Energy companies led U.S. stocks modestly higher Wednesday, nudging the Nasdaq composite to its fifth record-high close in a row.

Rising crude oil prices gave energy companies a boost, including oil rig operator Transocean, which rose 4 percent.

Health care stocks fell after President-elect Donald Trump spoke about the need for the government to stem drug costs by creating new bidding procedures. Pharmaceutical company Endo International led the decliners in the Standard & Poor's 500 index, sliding 8.5 percent.

The stock market spent much of the day wavering between small gains and losses as investors sized up outlooks from several companies ahead of the latest batch of corporate earnings reports.

"The heavy load comes in the coming weeks," said Tim Dreiling, regional investment director for U.S. Bank's Private Client Reserve.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 98.75 points, or 0.5 percent, to 19,954.28. The S&P 500 index added 6.42 points, or 0.3 percent, to 2,275.32. The Nasdaq gained 11.83 points, or 0.2 percent, to 5,563.65. The index has risen every day this year.

Metal prices end mixed

Among metals, the price of gold rose $11.10 to $1,196.60 an ounce. Silver slipped 2 cents to $16.83 an ounce. Copper was little changed at $2.61 a pound.

MIDLAND STOCKS

Midland-Headquartered Publicly Traded Companies

Clayton Williams Energy (CWEI)
Closing Price $110.63 Up 0.13

Concho Resources (CXO)
Closing Price $135.22 Up 1.53

Dawson Geophysical (DWSN)
Closing Price $7.99 Unchanged

Diamondback Energy (FANG)
Closing Price $103.91 Up 1.20

Legacy Reserves (LGCY)
Closing Price $2.38 Up 0.05

Mexco Energy (MXC)
Closing Price $4.63 Down 0.02

Natural Gas Services Group (NGS)
Closing Price $31.00 Up 0.15

RSP Permian (RSPP)
Closing Price $43.40 Down 0.40

Ring Energy (REI)
Closing Price $13.47 Down 0.20

Viper Energy Partners (VNOM)
Closing Price $16.82 Up 0.29

NYSE

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
BkofAm	904872	23.07	+.13
iShEMkts	902810	36.55	+.43
DxGBull s	786764	9.48	-.06
VanEGold	745510	22.57	-.05
DrGMBll s	723105	8.48	+.04

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
SthcrssEn	2.32	+.29	+14.3
Veritiv	59.00	+6.30	+12.0
Mesab	12.50	+1.25	+11.1
MV OilTr	7.03	+.65	+10.2
Workday	81.70	+7.35	+9.9

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
CastlightH	3.65	-.65	-15.1
GranaMon	5.02	-.74	-12.8
DxBiotBll rs	37.90	-4.51	-10.6
EthanAl	31.25	-3.70	-10.6
DirCybSec	26.03	-2.92	-10.1

DIARY

Advanced	2,023
Declined	942
Unchanged	107
Total issues	3,072
New Highs	123
New Lows	14
Volume	3,504,184,442

AMEX

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
UraniumEn	71705	1.66	+.18
B2gold g	59762	2.76	+.01
NwGold g	51676	4.02	
Globalstar	43052	1.53	-.07
iShindia bt	37262	27.60	+.41

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Gastar pfA	20.29	+2.47	+13.9
Gastar pfB	21.44	+2.48	+13.1
Air Inds	3.00	+.25	+9.1
US Geoth rs	4.67	+.37	+8.6
AltisrcAst	64.15	+4.20	+7.0

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
ImunoCll rs	2.78	-1.42	-33.8
Compx	13.10	-1.71	-11.5
NovaBay rs	3.80	-.30	-7.3
AcmeU	25.46	-1.54	-5.7
Ballanty	7.40	-.45	-5.7

DIARY

Advanced	194
Declined	153
Unchanged	25
Total issues	372
New Highs	14
New Lows	3
Volume	152,286,351

NASDAQ

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
AriadP	354678	23.70	+.02
SiriusXM	318381	4.59	-.04
Apple Inc	265808	119.75	+.64
Cisco	211933	30.15	-.23
MicronT	206089	22.79	+.31

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
MYOS	6.82	+5.52	+424.6
Galectin un	11.20	+8.05	+255.6
FuweiF rs	3.72	+1.89	+103.3
DexteraS rs	2.07	+.93	+81.6
Biocept rs	2.71	+.90	+49.7

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
EnteroM rs	15.30	-12.40	-44.8
SignalG rs	10.90	-6.58	-37.6
DiffusPh n	6.00	-2.35	-28.1
GenVec rs	6.51	-2.28	-25.9
Neuralst rs	4.65	-1.41	-23.3

DIARY

Advanced	1,531
Declined	1,282
Unchanged	214
Total issues	3,027
New Highs	125
New Lows	23
Volume	1,837,966,136

HOW STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST FARED

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
AK Steel		32	11.02	-.03	+7.9
AT&T Inc	1.96	16	40.61	-.20	-4.5
AbbVie	2.56f	14	61.14	-2.29	-2.4
Abraxas	...	...	2.82	+.06	+9.7
AdaDvsEq	.92e	...	12.99	+.04	+2.2
AMD			11.20	-.24	-1.2
AlonUSA	.60		12.27	+.11	+7.8
Ambev	.06e		5.17	+.11	+5.3
Amgen	4.60f	14	156.62	-2.14	+7.1
Anadarko	.20	...	71.60	+2.02	+2.7
Apache	1.00	...	63.77	+.90	+.5
Apple Inc	2.28	14	119.75	+.64	+3.4
ApldMatl	.40	20	33.47	+.34	+3.7
Archrock	.48f		15.10	+.30	+14.4
AriadP			23.70	+.02	+90.5
ATMOS	1.68	22	74.09	+.80	-.1
AutoData	2.28f	29	100.20	+1.00	+.4
BP PLC	2.40a	...	37.55	+.44	+.5
BakrHu	.68		63.38	+1.00	-2.4
BkofAm	.30f	18	23.07	+.13	+4.4
B iPVxST rs			21.44	-.46	-16.0
BaringsCp s	1.20		15.92	+.29	+2.8
BarrickG	.08	38	16.68	-.12	+4.4
BasicEnS			45		
BerkHa A	...		16243160.00	+1082.99	-.4
Biocept rs			2.71	+.90	+249.7
BlkHillsCp	1.68	22	61.18	+.15	-.3
BrMySq	1.56f	40	56.80	-3.18	-2.8
BrownFA s	...	28	45.85	-.26	-.9
BrownFB s	...	...	44.35	-.22	-1.3
CVS Health	1.70f	15	82.77	+.10	+4.9
Caterpillar	3.08	26	94.65	+.82	+2.1
Celestic g	...	10	12.30	+.03	+3.8
CntryLink	2.16	10	25.24	+.04	+6.1
ChesEng			6.92	...	-1.4
Chevron	4.28	...	115.93	+.97	-1.5
Chicos	.32	30	13.76	-.26	-4.4
Cimarex	.32	...	142.47	+1.13	+4.8
Cisco	1.04	14	30.15	-.23	-.2
Citigroup	.64	16	59.96	-.27	+.9
ClayEng	...	...	110.63	+.13	-7.2
CliffsNRs		22	9.79	+.40	+16.4
CocaCola	1.40	25	41.05	+.01	-1.0
ColgPalm	1.56	23	65.31	-.98	-.2

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
ColNrthS n	...	...	14.44		
ConAgra	.80	20	38.64	+.35	-2.3
ConchoRes	...	...	135.22	+1.53	+2.0
ConocoPhil	1.00	...	51.22	+1.56	+2.2
CrackerB	4.60	21	157.23	-.68	-5.8
CSVInvNG	...	...	4.08	-.04	+34.7
CSVelIVST	...	...	55.34	+1.17	+18.4
CSVixSh rs	...	...	6.65	-.27	-30.1
CrosTim	1.06e	14	18.53	-.27	+3.1
DCP Mid	3.12	18	38.25	+1.54	-.3
DTE	2.92	22	98.41	+.98	-.1
Dataram rs	...	...	1.53	-.03	-30.5
DermaSci	...	...	6.95	+1.95	+33.7
DevonE	.24	...	47.40	+.70	+3.8
DxGlMBr rs	...	...	20.19	-.22	-42.5
DrGMBll s	...	...	8.48	+.04	+52.0
DxGBull s	...	...	9.48	-.06	+24.1
Disney	1.56f	19	109.44	+1.06	+5.0
DowChm	1.84	19	58.26	+.59	+1.8
DryShp rs	...	1	2.19	-.18	-40.7
EOG Rescs	.67	...	104.92	+1.52	+3.8
EmpDist	1.04	23	34.09	...	...
Endo Intl	...	...	14.01	-1.30	-14.9
Energen	.08	...	57.64	+.17	-.1
EngyTsfr	4.22	...	36.22	+.61	+1.1
EnPro	.84	52	68.49	+1.84	+1.7
EntProdPt	1.64	21	27.33	+.49	+1.1
Ericsson	.46e	...	5.88		+.9
ExxonMbl	3.00	34	86.81	+.88	-3.8
Facebook	...	35	126.09	+1.74	+9.6
FordM	.60a	6	12.67	-.18	+4.5
FrptMcM	...	...	15.87	+.32	+20.3
FrontierCm	.42	...	3.61	-.02	+6.8
GATX	1.60	9	59.34	+.01	-3.6
GabMultT	.94e	...	7.47	+.02	+3.2
GAInv	1.15e	...	32.04	+.06	+2.8
GenElec	.96f	28	31.47	+.10	-.4
GenMotors	1.52	6	37.95	+.60	+8.9
Gerdau	.02e	...	3.96	+.24	+26.1
GileadSci	1.88	7	73.77	-1.24	+3.0
GtPlainEn	1.10f	16	27.41	+.19	+.2
Hallibrtn	.72	...	55.39	+.75	+2.4
IAMGld g	...	16	4.50	-.08	+16.9
iShBrazil	1.03e	...	36.03	+.78	+8.1

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
iShChinaLC	.76e	...	36.53	+.26	+5.2
iShEMkts	.84e	...	36.55	+.43	+4.4
iS Eafe	1.70e	...	59.28	+.31	+2.7
iShR2K	1.77e	...	136.33	+.24	+1.1
iShCorEafe	1.55e	...	55.10	+.35	+2.7
Intel	1.04	17	36.95	+.41	+1.9
InterDig	1.20	16	91.40	+.50	+.1
iShCorEM	1.09e	...	44.22	+.43	+4.2
JPMorgCh	1.92	15	87.08	+.65	+.9
JohnJn	3.20	18	114.73	-1.43	-.4
JohnContl n	1.31e	30	44.08	+.47	+7.0
KimbClk	3.68	19	114.41	+.05	+.3
Kinross g	...	...	3.37	-.02	+8.4
LegacyRes	.60m	...	2.38	+.05	+12.3
Lubys	...	...	4.08	-.08	-4.7
MYOS	...	...	6.82	+5.52	+478.0
MastThera	...	...	.15	-.01	+70.1
McDnlds	3.76f	23	120.88	+.63	-.7
Merck	1.88f	16	61.63	+1.71	+4.7
MeritMed	...	34	26.00	+.05	-1.9
MerrimkP	...	...	3.29	-.11	-19.4
MexcoEn	...	...	4.63	-.02	-7.4
MicronT	...	...	22.79	+.31	+4.0
Microsoft	1.56f	26	63.19	+.57	+1.7
Nabors	.24	...	18.19	+.50	+10.9
NatGrid	3.35e	...	57.33	+.49	-1.7
NOilVarco	.20	21	38.53	+.77	+2.9
NobleCorp	.08	...	7.56	+.36	+27.7
NSTFI3	.55e	...	14.43	+.16	+1.8
NTXQI	.65	...	13.91	-.03	+1.4
OcciPet	3.04f	...	69.35	...	-2.6
ParTech	...	17	5.60	+.02	+.4
ParkDrl	...	...	2.80	...	+7.7
ParsleyEn	...	...	36.00	-.67	+2.2
PattUTI	.08	8	28.22	-.04	+4.8
Penney	...	...	7.05	+.05	-15.2
PennaRE	.84	76	18.35	-.25	-3.2
Prmian	.41e	23	8.17	+.17	+6.0
Petrobras	...	...	11.54	+.52	+14.1
Pfizer	1.28f	13	32.83	-.61	+1.1
PioNtrl	.08	...	182.89	+1.62	+1.6
PlainsAAP	2.20	29	31.95	+.03	-1.1
PwShs QQQ	1.52e	...	122.93	+.33	+3.8
Praxair	3.00	22	116.92	+1.07	-.2
PrmEgy	...	...	54.00	...	...

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
PUVixST rs	...	...	6.12	-.26	-30.1
PrUCrude rs	...	...	10.96	+.54	-6.2
ProctGam	2.68	23	83.75	+.26	-.4
RangeRs	.08	...	33.53	+.17	-2.4
RegionsFn	.26f	19	14.52	-.04	+1.1
RennovaH	...	...	.11	+.03	+36.1
RiteAid	...	78	8.60	+.28	+4.4
Rowan	.40	7	20.08	+.85	+6.3
RoyDShllA	3.76	84	55.47	+1.10	+2.0
SpdrDJIA	3.98e	...	199.33	+.93	+.9
S&P500ETF	4.13e	...	227.10	+.64	+1.6
SpdrBiot s	.44e	...	63.49	-2.26	+7.3
SpdrOGEx	.73e	...	41.00	+.40	-1.0
SabnR	1.86e	17	36.85	+.30	+4.8
SanderFm	.96f	11	93.98	+.46	-.3
Schlmbrg	2.00	56	85.66	+1.06	+2.0
SiriusXM	.01p	38	4.59	-.04	+3.1
Smucker	3.00f	17	130.65	+1.91	+2.0
SP HlthC	1.01e	...	70.78	-.72	+2.7
SPDR Fncl	.46e	...	23.58	+.15	+1.4
SunocoLog	2.04f	52	24.26	+.41	+1.0
TelefEsp	1.03e	...	9.65	+.01	+4.9
Tesoro	2.20	10	81.77	+.18	-6.5
TevaPhrm	1.36e	12	34.28	-.92	-5.4
3M Co	4.44	22	177.89	+1.31	-.4
Torchmark	.56	17	73.75	-.26	...

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
Transocn	...	...	15.75	+.61	+6.9
TriContl	.82e	...	22.44	+.04	+1.8
TylerTech	...	54	151.91	+1.80	+6.4
UBSI	1.32	23	45.30	+.10	-2.1
US OilFd	...	...	11.37	+.30	-3.0
USSteel	.20	...	35.20	-.30	+6.6
UranmRs rs	...	...	3.19	+.94	+132.8
Vale SA	.29e	...	9.31	+.35	+22.2
ValeantPh	...	17	15.33	-1.07	+5.6
ValeroE	2.40	14	67.08	+.55	-1.8
VanEGold	.12e	...	22.57	-.05	+7.9
VanE JrGld	...	...	36.80	-.01	+16.6
VangEmg	1.10e	...	37.19	+.32	+3.9
VerizonCm	2.31f	15	52.46	-.30	-1.7
VulcanM	.80	42	123.48	-.13	-1.3
WEC Engy	2.08f	20	58.65	+.55	...
WalgBoots	1.50	18	84.43	+1.76	+2.0
Weathfintl	...	...	5.66	-.02	+13.4
WellsFargo	1.52	14	54.80	+.18	-.6
WstnRefin	1.52	25	35.53	+.04	-6.1
WhitingPet	...	...	12.77	+.37	+6.2
WmsCos	.80	67	28.78	+.28	-7.6
XcelEngy	1.36	19	40.69	+.40	...
Xerox	.31	9	7.00	-.03	+21.7
Yamana g	.02m	...	3.19	+.01	+13.5

Can't find your favorite stocks or mutual funds listed?
Send your favorite to sdoreen@mrt.com or mmcewen@mrt.com.
We will regularly update the Permian Basin stocks list.

INDEXES

52-Week High	52-Week Low	Name	Last	Chg	Net %Chg	YTD % Chg	52-wk % Chg
19,999.63	15,450.56	Dow Jones Industrials	19,954.28	+98.75	+.50	+.97	+23.55
9,490.29	6,403.31	Dow Jones Transportation	9,186.32	+91.25	+1.00	+1.57	+36.67
723.83	570.73	Dow Jones Utilities	657.06	+5.92	+.91	-.39	+13.48
11,688.45	8,937.99	NYSE Composite	11,226.79	+43.46	+.39	+1.54	+19.76
5,564.25	4,209.76	Nasdaq Composite	5,563.65	+11.83	+.21	+3.35	+22.92
2,282.10	1,810.10	S&P 500	2,275.32	+6.42	+.28	+1.63	+20.37
1,698.70	1,215.14	S&P Midcap	1,686.91	+5.81	+.35	+1.59	+32.37
23,875.45	18,462.43	Wilshire 5000	23,808.26	+64.77	+.27	+1.63	+22.46
1,392.71	943.09	Russell 2000	1,373.30	+2.40	+.18	+1.19	+35.95

TODAY: Mostly sunny	FRIDAY: Showers	SATURDAY: Showers	SUNDAY: Mostly cloudy	MONDAY: Mostly sunny	TUESDAY: Mostly sunny
High: 71 Low: 52	High: 57 Low: 44	High: 58 Low: 47	High: 60 Low: 38	High: 57 Low: 35	High: 57 Low: 37

Local forecast

Showers are in the forecast for the weekend, according to the National Weather Service. There is a 20 percent chance tonight, a 50 percent chance Friday night, a 60 percent chance all day Saturday and rain is likely Sunday.

The wet weather is going to cool high temperatures back to the normal level for this time of year.

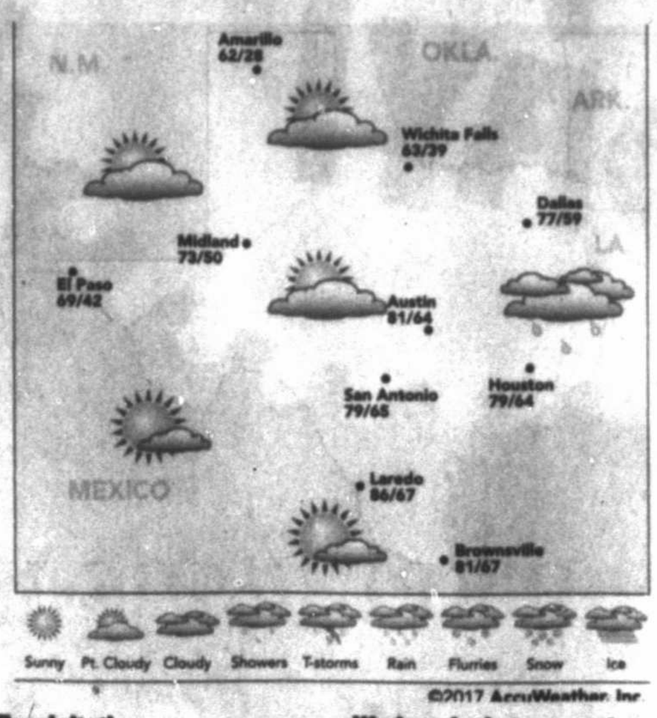
The record high for Jan. 11 is 83, set Wednesday. The previous record was 78, set in 1935 The record low is (minus 8), set in 1962. On Jan. 11 of last year, the high was 54 and the low was 27.

Weather brief

Portland, parts of Washington buried by massive snowstorm

PORTLAND, Ore. — A major snowstorm spread Wednesday through Portland and parts of Washington state — toppling trees, closing schools and cutting power to thousands in the heaviest snowfall for the city since at least 2008.

Some Portland neighborhoods got more than a foot of snow.



Precipitation

Tuesday	0.00 in.
Wednesday	0.00 in.
Month total	0.08 in.
Year total	0.08 in.
Normal total (year to date)	0.16 in.

Wednesday's temperatures

High	83
Low	45
Normal high	57
Normal low	30
Sunrise	7:50 a.m.
Sunset	6:05 p.m.

National weather

AccuWeather.com

Forecast for Thursday, January 12, 2017

Bands separate high temperature zones for the day.

Girl who shies away from gym can enjoy a good, long walk

DEAR ABBY

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

DEAR ABBY: My mom wants me to exercise more. Currently, I just walk a lot (in my house and around the block). I know exercise is a good idea, but I'm really self-conscious about it. I never feel like I'm doing it right (because I know you can easily pull a muscle), and I feel like everyone else in the gym is judging me.

Now that I'm 17, Mom expects me to be more mature about this. I don't even feel comfortable swimming in public places anymore. I feel stressed about it, but Mom just thinks I'm being picky.

Being in a gym makes me feel unhappy and judged. I wish there was a better way to exercise, but I don't know what. How can I get my mom to understand how hard this is for me? — WONDERING IN WICHITA

DEAR WONDERING: Going to a gym can be fun if you do it with a buddy. Most of the people there are more concerned with what THEY are doing than what anyone else is. That said, going to the gym isn't for everyone. There are many forms of exercise.

Tell your mother you would prefer to exercise on your own rather than go to a gym. Then put on your walking shoes, leave the house and walk for 20 to 30 minutes a day. It's good for you. Listen to music when you're doing it and it will make the time go quickly. And on days when you don't want to go outside, put on some music and dance. It's good for the circulation, and it's also good for the soul.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for 44 years. We eloped in high school and still feel like newlyweds. We built a successful business, ran it for 40 years and recently had an opportunity to sell it.

The problem is my mother. We bought a second home in California but kept our first home. Every time I call to ask how she and Dad are doing, she responds with, "You don't care how we are. If you did, you would be here."

I love our new life. Our kids are grown, and we are enjoying ourselves to the fullest. We are both in excellent health, and still young at heart. How can we tell her that we have a life we love without her being so resentful? — LOVING LIFE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR LOVING: You can't, because your mother feels you should be at her beck and call. She has had you close since you were a child, and now she may be feeling deserted.

At this point, I don't advise telling your mother that you "have a life you love" without her. Instead, I suggest that you phrase your greeting to her more carefully.

Rather than ask how she and your dad are doing, say that you are "calling to check in." Say that you were thinking about her. And if she starts in with "you don't care," tell her that you DO care or you wouldn't be on the phone with her, but if she keeps giving you a guilt trip, she'll be hearing from you less.

DEAR ABBY: If you go to a party and bring something (chips, soda, etc.), what is the rule of etiquette about taking it home when you leave? — PRACTICAL IN IDAHO

DEAR PRACTICAL: When someone brings food to a party, it could be considered a host/hostess gift. Before taking any of it home, first ask your host or hostess if it would be all right. While some people wouldn't mind, others may, so you shouldn't assume that because you brought something that the leftovers are yours.

GOREN BRIDGE

With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Suit preference

Neither vulnerable, South deals

NORTH
♠ K 10 9
♡ 10 9 8 3
♢ K 10 2
♣ A 7 5

WEST
♠ Q J 6 3 2
♡ 6 5
♢ A 7 5
♣ J 4 3

EAST
♠ A 8
♡ K 7 2
♢ Q 9 6 4
♣ 10 9 8 2

SOUTH
♠ 7 5 4
♡ A Q J 4
♢ J 8 3
♣ K Q 6

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♣	1♠	Dbl*	Pass
2	Pass	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	3	All pass

*Negative, values with no clear bid

Opening lead: Queen of ♣

West's overcall was based on the legal minimum, perhaps less. East's two-spade bid was not terrible by itself, just wrong with this partner. North might well have doubled two spades and easily exacted a two-trick penalty, but he chose to bid on. Except for South, every player had a close decision or two to make.

Suit preference signals have become a staple of good defense. They are used when attitude or count signals would be pointless, and there are many creative ways to use them. The suit used for the signal and the trump suit are always excluded, so a high card shows strength in the higher-ranking of the two remaining suits and a low card shows strength in the lower-ranking.

West's queen of spades lead held the first trick. West knew that his partner's delayed raise meant that East only held two spades, and it was possible to give East a spade ruff. How could West get his partner to return a diamond rather than a club after winning the ace of spades?

West found the solution by leading his jack of spades at trick two! This was a strange-looking play, with the king-10 in dummy, and East knew exactly what it meant — West's entry was in the higher-ranking side suit. East duly shifted to a diamond at trick three, which West won with his ace and gave East a spade ruff. The defense still had a trick coming from the queen of diamonds and the contract failed by one trick.

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Jan. 12, 2017:

This year you often wonder whether to respond to your feelings or to your intellectually driven thoughts. You will try both, until you find out which voice works best for you. If you are single, you have a strong magnetic quality that attracts many potential admirers. You might have difficulty choosing who, when and where. Just go with the flow. If you are attached, the two of you discover what a special year this could be. You seem capable of increased closeness and caring; your significant other can't help but respond. LEO is always fun to hang out with.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★ Good news comes via a close associate or partner. You probably will have to make a choice once you give consideration to the different possibilities. Your intuition guides you, whether you admit it or not. Tonight: Get an early start on the weekend. Let the wild child out.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★ You need to have an important conversation. Calls flood your desk during the daylight hours. You could be deciding which way to go with an emotional matter. You'll hear news from someone at a distance. How much do you want to add to this conversation? Tonight: Nap first.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★ Let go of immediate concerns. You could feel overwhelmed by an already busy schedule, and you still might need to factor in some last-minute visits. Your sixth sense comes out when dealing with an authority figure; use your skills well. Tonight: Out and about.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★ You might feel more rambunctious than you have in a while. While you might take a comment lightly today, recognize what would have happened if you had been in just a so-so mood. Take responsibility for something you've said. Tonight: Get into weekend mode already.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★★ You'll sense a shift in the wind that turns in your favor, and you will be right. You might have to jump through some hoops today to get where you want to go. You should be able to get through your to-do list. Your sense of humor comes out when confusion hits. Tonight: In the limelight.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★ Use the daylight hours to the max. You tend to come off as bold, direct and efficient. What a deadly combo, especially if you are dealing with a serious matter. A new acquaintance might act strangely, which will stimulate the need for some deep thought. Tonight: Be naughty!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ You feel ready to handle a personal issue, which might emerge when you least expect it to. Express your feelings in a meeting. You could get some diverse feedback. Sometimes, it all boils down to this: Which perspective do you like best? Tonight: Where your friends are.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★ You might need to rethink one of your basic concepts. How you handle a personal matter could radically change as a result. Others are emotional, to say the least. Don't push yourself too hard right now. Even mental processing can be tiring. Tonight: Out and suddenly energized.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★ After a heavy day of discussions, you'll feel ready speak your mind. You might want to update your plans for the weekend. A trip out of town might be exactly what you need. Your sense of humor points out the confusion in a money matter. Tonight: Look beyond the obvious.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★ One-on-one relating could take on a serious tone. You might be tired of repeating the same pattern over and over. As a result, you'll opt to respond in a different way. By changing your approach, you will see a difference in how the other party responds. Tonight: Make it cozy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ Your perspective probably will change because of feedback you hear from a partner or close friend. You might need to have a lengthy conversation about where you perceive a problem to be and what is going on in reality. Tonight: Go along with a loved one's suggestion.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★ Your imagination is working overtime, which could force you to rethink a decision. You might not be sure which path is best for you. Use your creativity to go through the various options available to you, and focus on your priorities. Tonight: Do what you want.

BORN TODAY

Actress Rachael Harris (1968), actress Kirstie Alley (1951), actor Piolo Pascual (1977)

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Buccaneers home
6 Silly bird
11 Revolting word?
14 Plane lead
15 Large grouping
16 Pen user
17 Miss America runner-up?
19 Part of a royal flush
20 Anastasia __ "Fifty Shades of Grey" character
21 Emergency signal
22 Frosted flakes
23 Called up
25 "Unsafe at Any Speed" author
27 Put in order
30 Fab alternative
32 Special Forces trademarks
35 Legendary horse tale setting
36 Passage for the birds?
38 Gold, in Granada
39 "My bad"
41 Wartime prez
42 Little Jack Horner's dream?
44 Proofreading mark
45 Overwhelm
46 Biological building block
48 Flight-related prefix
49 Emerged
51 Carrier that doesn't fly on the Sabbath
53 Order with tzatziki sauce
55 Some Samsung TVs
57 "Yay, me!"
61 Fishing __
62 Emulating the writing style of "The Quiet American"?
64 Weaken, perhaps
65 Jack's links rival
66 Start a correction process
67 Secret competitor
68 Bounded
69 Ice cream purchases

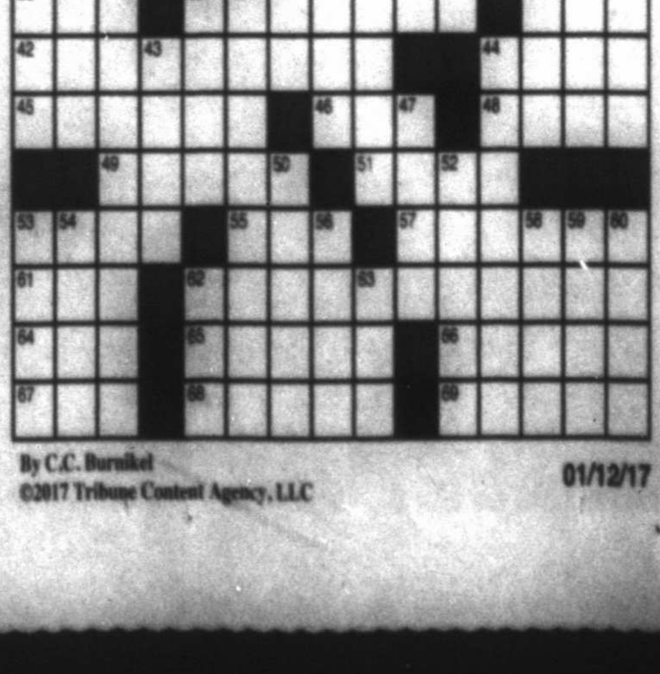
DOWN

1 Hardy heroine
2 Minimally
3 Lawn disruption
4 "The parent of revolution and crime": Aristotle
5 Cub Scout leader
6 Yak
7 Miner matters
8 DuPont acrylic
9 Mexican buffet feature
10 Contact's spot
11 "Tell me about it"
12 Nickname for late-night host O'Brien
13 Didn't just think
18 Russo of "The Intern"
22 Feudal grunt
24 Comprehend
26 Shoot down
27 Ripped off
28 Longtime Utah senator Hatch
29 Area for urban growth
31 Get around
33 Potato, e.g.
34 Look after
37 Goddess of peace
39 Red cup brand
40 Like some oil rigs
43 Mark's successor
44 "Amadeus" narrator
47 Eccentric Sacha Baron Cohen persona
50 Twin Cities suburb that hosted the 2008 U.S. Women's Open
52 Madison Ave. agent
53 Snatch
54 Discipline with poses
56 Cut
58 Big man on campus
59 Caltech, e.g.: Abbr.
60 Golf tournament souvenirs
62 Country miss
63 Comprehend

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

R	E	S	E	T		E	D	A	M			H	O	P
U	S	H	E	R		T	U	B	E		R	E	D	O
D	A	I	L	Y	B	R	E	A	D		I	D	O	L
Y	U	P		O	R	E	L	S	E		A	G	R	O
			A	N	E		S	E	A	M	L	E	S	S
S	A	P	I	E	N	T			A	T	F			
A	R	I	D		D	A	I	S		R	O	U	S	E
S	E	Z		B	A	C	K	P	A	Y		N	A	T
H	A	Z	E	L		T	E	A	L		A	D	A	S
		A	V	A			S	T	O	P	S	B	Y	
C	O	D	E	B	L	U	E		K	I	T			
A	N	O	N		I	S	R	A	E	L		U	M	A
B	T	U	S		F	U	N	N	Y	M	O	N	E	Y
L	O	G	O		E	R	I	N		A	L	I	N	E
E	P	H			S	P	E	E		N	E	X	U	S

xwordeditor@aol.com 01/12/17



By C.C. Burnikel
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01/12/17

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CONSTRUCTION AND FACILITIES

Electrician

Experienced electricianians needed for a commerical project in Odessa. Please call 817-360-1818.

ENERGY AND UTILITIES

All Field Positions

Rush Wellsite Services, LLC is now hiring for all field positions. Wireline Operators, Engineers, Crane Operators, CDL Drivers, all with experience. Please submit your resume to jobs@rushwellsite.com or complete an application at our office, 3006 N County Rd 1106, Midland, TX 79706 P: 432-458-3528

Automation Technician

Tanklogix is hiring for the position of Senior Level Automation Technician. We are seeking qualified, committed professionals to join our team in the fast-growing automation industry. This position requires a minimum of 3 years oilfield experience and 2 years electrical experience. Journeyman electricians preferred. Competitive pay based upon qualifications. Great benefits and working environment. Applicants must pass a background check, drug screen, and electrical aptitude test. Applications must be picked up at 12200 W. Hwy 80 E., Odessa, TX. Applicants must provide a resume in person. Applications must be received by January 23rd, 2017 at 4:00 P.M.

Geotech/ Mudlogger

Two years of wellsite experience or 1 year of experience plus 12 semester hours of college. Use MainLog software. Email resume with references to admin@miphillips.com and 'GEO-TECH' in subject line

Shop Helper

Permian Petroleum Services, Inc. Shop Helper: Need experienced shop helper to service and wash trucks, change tires, and assist mechanics. Must be at least 21 years of age and have a valid driver's license with clean driving record. Competitive wages, paid health insurance with dental and vision insurance available. Uniforms furnished. Company retirement plan and paid vacation. Apply at 4601 S. Rankin hwy. 349 Midland, Tx. Call 432-682-0434 or email resume to rvmaskell@gmail.com

West Texas Mud Loggers Needed

Co. in business since 1953. Good benefits. Exp. Req. Send resume w/contact info. & exp. to: OFFICE@PWL-INC.COM

HEALTHCARE

LVN

LVN -Full Time needed for Addiction medical clinic. Early morning hours. Medication Management, TB tests, blood draws, medical orders. Paid vacations, holidays, personal days. Routine travel between Midland and Odessa. Periodic travel to Abilene/San Angelo area required. No health insurance available. Please fax resume to 800-671-8364.

Registered Nurse

Immediate opening for **RN,** experience preferred. FT.
Excellent benefit package. Send resume with references to:
jodyclinic@gmail.com or Midland Women's Clinic, Attn:
Jody Bulla, 2500 W. Illinois Ave Suite 100, Midland, TX 79701.

Registered Nurse

Immediate opening for **RN,** experience preferred. FT.
Excellent benefit package. Send resume with references to:
jodyclinic@gmail.com or Midland Women's Clinic, Attn:
Jody Bulla, 2500 W. Illinois Ave Suite 100, Midland, TX 79701.

MANAGEMENT-EXECUTIVE

Assistant Managers

Panera Bread is coming to Midland, Texas and we have immediate positions open for Assistant Managers. If you have restaurant management experience, excellent communication skills and experience managing and motivating a team, Panera Bread wants to talk to you! As an employee of Panera Bread, you'll receive competitive pay, bonus program, meal discount, medical, dental and vision benefits, paid vacation, and an opportunity for growth.
Send resumes to Careers@tcgtx.com. The Cain Holding Group, LLC, a Franchisee of Panera Bread is an equal opportunity employer.

OTHER JOBS

Available Positions

YMCA of Midland is currently seeking Childcare Counselors, Van Drivers, Fitness Attendants, Lifeguards. Please apply in person at 800 N. Big Spring St. No phone calls please.

Construction Positions

Johnson Bros now hiring Construction jobs position. Apply @ 5905 W I H 20 Big Springs, TX. 79720. Call Ryan 817-825-2403.

NOW HIRING EQUIPMENT OPERATORS

Entry Level & Experienced Equipment Operators. Must have a Class A CDL License. Apply at TITAN PETROSERVICES 6100 E I-20, MIDLAND TX or submit resume online at www.titanpetroservices.com

OTHER JOBS

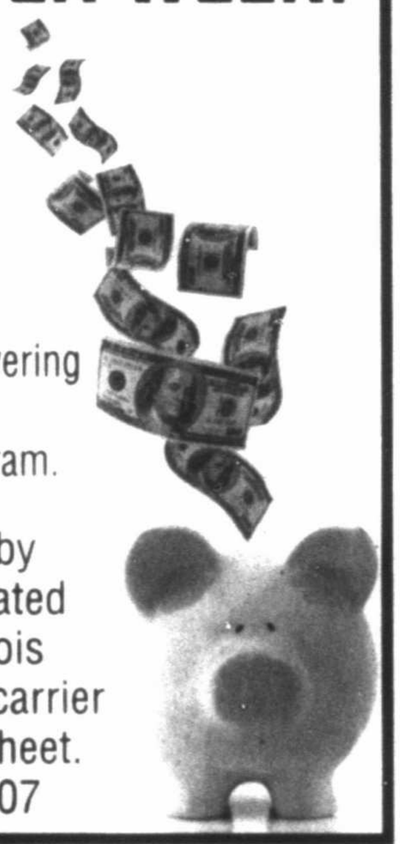
Gate Attendants needed

Gate Guard Services is looking for Gate Attendants in West Texas area, must have RV or Traveling trailer and must pass background. Requirements needed: Non-Commissioned license. Please call Patty for more information @ 361-949-6992.

GATE GUARD SERVICES, L.P.

EARN UP TO $500 PER WEEK!

Do you have a reliable car with insurance and a phone?? Become an independent contractor delivering the Midland Reporter-Telegram.



Please come by our office located at 201 E. Illinois and fill out a carrier information sheet.
Linda 687-8807

Multiple Positions Available

Midland County has the following positions available:
*** Technical Clerk-Elections * Maintenance Helper in Jail**
*** Jailer * Senior Foreman- Road & Bridge**
*** 142nd District Court Bailiff * Employee Relations Coordinator**
Please see our website
www.co.midland.tx.us/departments/hr/pages/employment.aspx for more details, pay and applications. To be considered you must send a completed application with job reference numbers to the address indicated on the application.

Multiple Positions Open

Production Chemical Company looking for experienced account managers, service technnicians, and CDL Drivers.
Call 432-558-8227 or mail resumes to:
M-2 C/O The Midland Reporter-Telegram
201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX. 79701

RETAIL JOBS

SALES ASSOCIATE

Wood's Boots is currently hiring part time sales associates. No phone calls! If you are interested in wearing boots and jeans to work, and working with great customers, come see us at 4803 Andrews Highway & 812 West I-20.

SALES JOBS

Salesperson

Experienced pump salesperson needed. Excellent compensation and benefit plans provided. Please submit resume by fax to 432-570-1115 or email to bobby@basinengine.com. Applications can be filled out at 1914 S. County Rd. 1083, Midland, TX 79706

Sales Person

Sales Person Wanted. Experienced in RV industry. Texas RV Superstore formally Ken's RV. Call for more info. 432-697-6447

SKILLED LABOR

Survey Field Hand

Survey Field Hand Needed. 432-934-5502

SKILLED LABOR

Field Mechanics

Basin Engine & Pump
Mechanics needed for Industrial Oilfield Shop. Must be experienced working on centrifugal & positive displacement pumps. Furnish your own tools. Uniforms provided. Benefits package includes vacation, health insurance and retirement match savings. Salary depends on experience. Please submit resume by fax to 432-570-1115 or email to bobby@basinengine.com. Applications can be filled out at 1914 S. County Rd. 1083, Midland, TX 79706.

NG RESOURCES CORPORATION

WELDER

The Welder will display basic mathematical skills (working with fractions down to 1/32") and basic structural welding and layout skills. The Welder possesses a general mechanical aptitude demonstrating his/her ability to proficiently operate hand and power tools and an understanding of plumb, level, and square. The Welder must be punctual, reliable, and motivated. The Welder must also take exceptional pride in their work and must pass a GMAW 1G plate or the pipe 6G test.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES include the following. Other duties may be assigned.

- Coordinate with Shop Supervisor to accomplish general assignments
- Pass GMAW 1G plate or pipe 6G test
- Mechanical aptitude, knowledge of how to use hand and power tools drill press, grinder, ect.
- Have a general understanding of shop drawings
- Ability to work with minimal supervision
- Abide by all policies and procedures, including those related to quality, safety, and environmental issues
- Identifies and segregates materials and or products that may have potential nonconformances

ESSENTIAL SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- The ability to read and write English
- A basic understanding of the mechanical aspects of gas compressor packages
- Must be code certified on flat plate in the 1G position
- Thorough understanding of all company safety, environmental, and practices
- Willing to attend training classes
- Be reliable, dependable, and able to work overtime when required
- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Strong team player

EDUCATION

High School Diploma, GED, or formal vocational training is preferred. Formal training in welding is preferred.

Please apply in person at NG Resources Corporation
5500 NCR 1150, Midland, Texas 79705

TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

Class A CDL Drivers

Minimum of 2-3 years experience. Hazmat endorsement preferred but not necessary. Vacuum truck experience. Call 432-934-3829 or 432-561-8334

Class A CDL Driver with Hazmat & Tanker endorsement

Service Seal LLC has an immediate opening for a Class A CDL Driver with Hazmat & Tanker endorsement. We are a stable company that offers a **sign-on bonus**, competitive hourly pay and excellent benefits. More information regarding our benefits will be given during the interview process. This position requires at least 3 years of verifiable professional driving experience, strong computer skills, along with passing the pre-employment background screening. Our Drivers have most weekends off and will not have many overnight deliveries. Please submit your resume to tammy@oilcenter.com for review and consideration or contact Rodolfo Sanchez at 432-889-6985 to complete an application in person.

Truck Pusher/Salesman

Truck Pusher/Salesman for a local trucking company. **Must have experience, good references and ability** to follow D.O.T. regulations. **Please send resume** to P. O. **Box 53**, Midland, Texas 79702

Vacuum Truck Driver

Vacuum Truck Drivers needed. Midkiff Transports, Class A CDL **required. Apply at 6601 FM 715**, Midland, Texas

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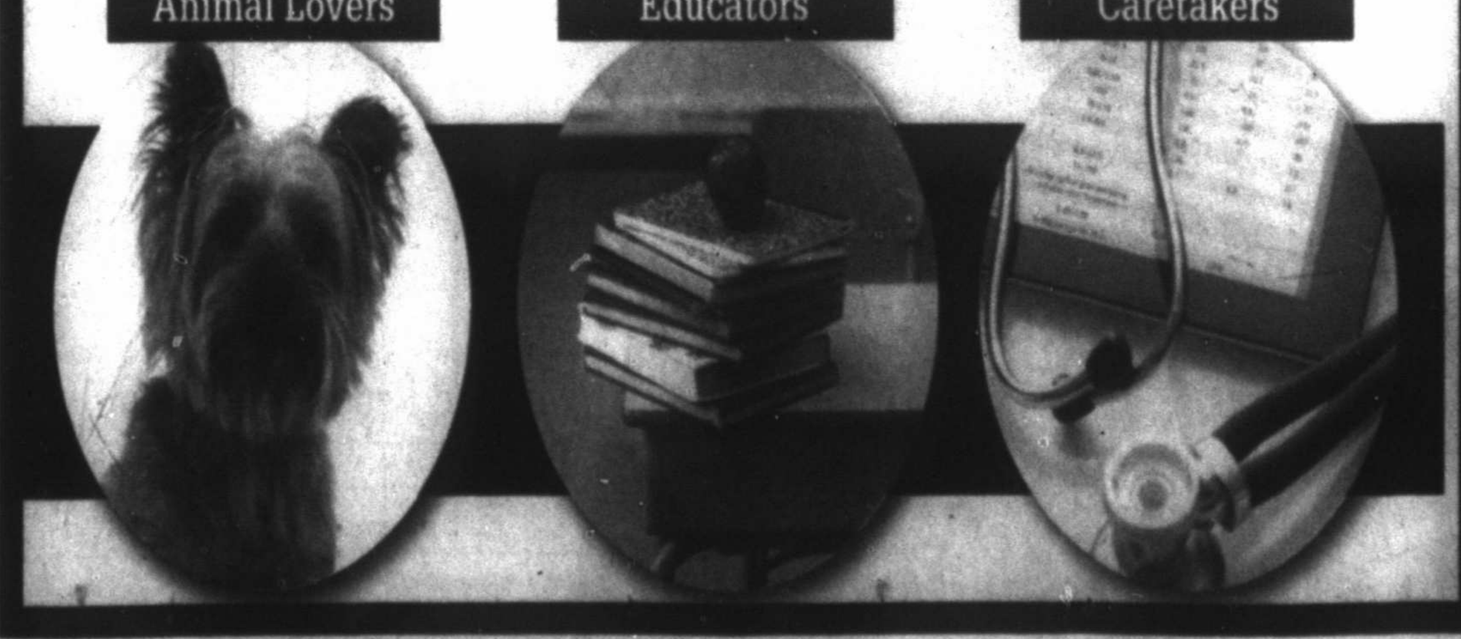

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Legal and Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Facundo H. Borrego, Jr., Deceased, were issued to Mary V. Borrego on January 5, 2017 in Cause No. P18913, pending in the County Court of Midland County, Texas.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Mary V. Borrego
c/o Brandon W. Pinson
P. O. Box 8530
Midland, Texas 79708

DATED the 9th day of January, 2017.

PINSON LAW FIRM
By: Brandon W. Pinson

Legal and Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Norman K. Barker, Deceased, were issued on January 5, 2017, in Cause No. P-18,931 pending in the County Court of Midland County, Texas, to Co-Independent Executors, Dorothy Joan Barker, 4459 Hackberry Court, Midland, Texas 79707 and Susan K. Barker, 2807 Terrace Avenue, Midland, Texas 79705.

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, in care of the Executor.

DATED the 5th day of January, 2017.

STUBBEMAN, McRAE, SEALY, LAUGHLIN & BROWDER, INC.
550 W. Texas Ave, Suite 800
Midland, Texas 79701
(432) 682-1616
(432) 682-4884 (FAX)

By: Cory R. McDowell
State Bar No. 24051888
Whitney S. Ellis
State Bar No. 24083795

ATTORNEYS FOR CO-INDEPENDENT EXECUTORS

Legal and Public Notices

Notice Of Application For Fluid Injection Well Permit

XTO Energy, Inc., Opr. No. 945936, 500 W. Illinois Street, Suite 100, Midland, Texas 79701 applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas to amend an existing injection permit to inject produced water and salt water into a porous formation which is productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to dispose of these fluids into the Clearfork and Wichita Formations in the Fullerton Clearfork Unit Lease, well number 2427. The proposed injection well is located 17 miles Northwest from Andrews in the Fullerton Field, in Andrews County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 5660' - 7400' feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Request for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P. O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512-463-6792)

Legal and Public Notices

Notice To Physicians and Providers
Superior Health Plan Inc., a licensed HMO in Texas, 5900 E. Ben White Blvd, Austin, TX. 78741 provides CHIP, Medicaid, and Commercial benefits to eligible members. Application can be made to participate at any time.

Legal and Public Notices

NOTICE TO PHYSICIANS and PROVIDERS

Applications for participation in DentiCare, Inc.'s network of general and specialty dental commercial providers will be accepted March 1, 2017 through March 20, 2017. All applications will be reviewed and responses will be made within 90 days of receipt. To request an application, or for further information please write: Humana, Attention: Specialty Networks-Den, N19 W24133 Riverwood Drive, Suite 100, Waukesha, WI 53188, or email your request to dentalrecruitment@humana.com.

Legal and Public Notices

Notice to Physicians and Providers (per TAC § 11.1402)

SHA, L.L.C. dba FirstCare, 12940 N. Hwy 183, Austin, TX 78750, a basic health service, individual practice model health maintenance organization, will accept written applications during the period of February 1, 2017, through February 20, 2017, from physicians and providers who wish to participate in the FirstCare network. FirstCare offers services for the following products: STAR Medicaid and CHIP, Commercial and Federal Marketplace. Marketplace applicants must FirstCare's practice standards and qualifications for acceptance. Applicants will be notified in writing of acceptance or non-acceptance within 90 days after FirstCare receives an application for participation. Applications should be sent to the attention of the Provider Relations Department.

Legal and Public Notices

Notice to Physicians and Providers: Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas, a Division of Health Care Service Corporation (Blue Essentials℠ (formerly HMO Blue Texas℠), and Blue Advantage HMO℠) administers individual practice association health maintenance organizations that arrange for the provision of both basic and supplemental health services to their members. Any physician or provider can make application to participate in the Blue Essentials (formerly HMO Blue Texas), and/or Blue Advantage HMO networks, at BCBSTX, 3300 N. A Street, Bldg. 8, Ste. 120, Midland, TX 79705 or Fax: 432-620-1428 from January 13, 2017, until February 1, 2017.

Legal and Public Notices

Garney Companies, Inc. is soliciting proposals for the Crane County Water District Well Field Expansion and Water System Upgrades project.

Proposals are to be submitted electronically prior to **2:00 p.m., prevailing time on January 24, 2017** in accordance with 00100 - Instruction to Bidders.

One single combined PDF proposal shall be submitted to the email addresses provided in "00100 - Instruction to Bidders addressed" to Mr. John Sedbrook & Mr. Kyle Krueger, and clearly denote: **"Bid Package 02: Edwards and Frost Well Field Rehabilitation"**

No proposal may be changed, amended, or modified after the above time and date. A proposal may however be withdrawn and resubmitted any time prior to the time set for receipt of proposals. Any proposal received after **2:00 p.m.**, prevailing time on **January 24, 2017** will not be considered.

A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held on **January 17th, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Museum of the Southwest located at 409 South Gaston Street, Crane, TX 79731.

Bid documents are available on the website below.

https://team.garney.com/CCWD

Respondents will be required to include contact information on the Contact List. Following, respondents will be emailed a link and password to access the Proposal Documents.

Proposal Documents may be downloaded from the above mentioned website for free. No hard copies will be made available. It is the responsibility of the interested party to download and print all necessary documents. Please contact John Sedbrook by email: jsedbrook@garney.com or phone at 303-335-6155 with any questions.

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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

		2	4					
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		5		1				
2		6						1
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SOLUTION TO WEDNESDAY'S PUZZLE

5	9	6	2	1	8	7	4	3
4	7	8	9	5	3	2	6	1
3	1	2	7	6	4	8	5	9
7	8	5	3	9	6	4	1	2
2	4	9	1	8	7	5	3	6
6	3	1	5	4	2	9	7	8
8	5	4	6	3	9	1	2	7
1	6	7	8	2	5	3	9	4
9	2	3	4	7	1	6	8	5

1/12/17

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Legal and Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Beer and Wine off premise permit by Jim L. Trillo dba Jimmy T's to be located at 4321 W. Illinois. Midland, Texas 79703. Officers of said corporation Jim L. Trillo are Jim L. Trillo owner.

Legal and Public Notices

Notice to Bidder

The Midland Independent School District (MISD) invites qualified bidders to submit a sealed bid for Bid#17-002 "Copy Paper" through the MISD electronic bid system at www.midlandisd.com/domain/44. Bids will be publicly opened and read in the MISD Procurement Services Office at 615 W. Missouri Avenue, Suite 707, Midland, Texas at 10AM CST on Tuesday, January 31, 2017. Bid forms and specifications may be obtained by registering as a vendor at www.midlandisd.com/EBID.

Legal and Public Notices

Notice to Bidder

The Midland Independent School District (MISD) invites qualified bidders to submit a sealed bid for Bid#17-004 "Charter Bus Service" through the MISD electronic bid system at www.midlandisd.com/domain/44. Bids will be publicly opened and read in the MISD Procurement Services Office at 615 W. Missouri Avenue, Suite 707, Midland, Texas at 2:00PMCST on Wednesday, February 1, 2017. Bid forms and specifications may be obtained by registering as a vendor at www.midlandisd.com/EBID.

Legal and Public Notices

Notice to Bidder

The Midland Independent School District (MISD) invites qualified bidders to submit a sealed bid for Bid#17-003 "Paper Products" through the MISD electronic bid system at www.midlandisd.com/domain/44. Bids will be publicly opened and read in the MISD Procurement Services Office at 615 W. Missouri Avenue, Suite 707, Midland, Texas at 2:00 PM CST on Tuesday, January 31, 2017. Bid forms and specifications may be obtained by registering as a vendor at www.midlandisd.com/EBID.

Legal and Public Notices

Midland Independent School District

Midland, Texas

Land for Sale

The Midland Independent School District invites qualified bidders to submit a sealed bid to purchase **10.0 Acres of Vacant Land located in S/2 of N/2 of Section 1, Block X, H.P. Hilliard Survey, Midland, Midland County, Texas.**

Bid #17-001 - Sale of 10 Acres located in North Midland County, Texas

may be obtained by registering as a supplier at www.midlandisd.com/domain/44. Bids must be submitted through the MISD electronic bid system. Bids will be publicly opened and read in accordance with the bid documents in the office of Rebecca Mull, Director of Procurement Services, at 615 W. Missouri Avenue, Suite 707, Midland, Texas at **2:00 PM C.S.T. on February 7, 2017.** For questions, contact MISD Procurement Services department at (432) 240-1961.

Legal and Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Charles Donald Conat, Deceased, were issued on January 5, 2017, in Cause No. P18911, pending in the County Court of Midland County, Texas, to: Steve Kuzmich.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: **Brad Miller**
24 Smith Road, Suite 400
Midland, Texas 79705

DATED the 9th day of January, 2017.

/s/ Brad Miller
Brad Miller
Attorney for Steve Kuzmich
State Bar No.: 14106300
TGAAR Tower
24 Smith Road, Suite 400
Midland, TX 79705
Telephone: (432) 686-7743
Facsimile: (432) 683-6229
E-mail: bmiller@brockettmcneel.net

Business Opportunity

MERGER OPPORTUNITY

A fully reporting public Company is seeking a fast growing, profitable company in the oil & gas industry that is planning to "Go Public". The company must have a profitable operating history or strong future potential. This opportunity gives the Company wanting to "Go Public" a quick and relatively inexpensive method of listing their shares of stock. If interested and you qualify as an accredited investor, please contact:

Mr. Charles Barkley, Attorney-at-Law
(704) 543-4110
or
cwbarkley@gmail.com

Events and Notices

General Announcement

Mark Berryhill.com Ministering for Christ Teach the Lord's Word 1-4

Autos For Sale-Lease

Passenger Cars

2003 PORSCHE 911. CONVERTIBLE Hardtop / Soft top. Lifetime garage. 6,800 miles. $35,000. Saddle Club. Charlie 432-570-1822.

2008 BMW 750I Series. Perfect condition. Beautiful black color. Asking $13,500. 432-770-7982.

MAZDA Miata, 1997. $2,900. Drives well. Needs paint job. 118K. 432-741-1768.

NEW 2016 Red Mercedes-Benz SLK 350 convertible. 950 mi. Paid $71,500 ask. $59,000. 325-473-2609, San Angelo, TX.

TOYOTA Sienna, 2000. 233K miles. One owner. Clean Carfax. New brakes, front end suspension, timing belt. Good tires. $2,000 OBO. Call 432-557-0519.

Will buy wrecked & unwanted cars, trucks & RVs. 432-685-4078

Pickup Trucks

FORD F150 Lariat, 2007. 75,000 Miles. GREAT CONDITION! $9,000 OBO. 432-210-6561.

FOR SALE CHEVROLET 2004 1/2 ton pickup. $5,950. See at 1501 W. Illinois. Call 432-557-3366. Bill Jackson.

Vans and Mini Vans

2013 Town & Country minivan, 72k miles, leather seats, free lifetime oil change, all upgrades, text 432-528-0395. se habla espanol.

Recreation Vehicles

REDUCED
HARLEY DAVIDSON 2005 Road King. 13K miles. $7,500 OBO. MUST SEE! 432-697-9787 leave message

Merchandise

Free Stuff

FREE TO good home: Lovable chiweenie! Outdoor dog. Please call 432-557-1621.

Miscellaneous 4-Sale

Brand New Startrac stationary excercise bicycle. All the bells and whistles. Asking $1000 or best offer. Please call Kelly 432-556-1045.

LANDSCAPING BRICKS - 8" Windsor Stone (red). 310 bricks never been used. On pallet (extra pallet - loading). $1.30 / brick (min 50). $350 for pallet. Call (432) 352-6832.

OAK, PECAN, hickory, mesquite, pinon. 432-209-0416 or 325-762-4262

Pets-Animals

Dogs

CHIHUAHUA PUPPIES $200 each. 432-271-0816

Real Estate Rental-Sale

Residential Rentals

Apartment Rent Unfurn

4407 CROCKETT Apt A, 2bed/1bath. $825 mo, $825 dep. 432-978-2074.

4407 CROCKETT Apt D, 2bed/1bath. $825 mo, $825 dep. 432-978-2074.

EFFICENDY APARTMENT call Candy 432-222-0454. 907 W. Dakota in rear. $600 monthly utilities paid appliances furnished. $200 deposit.

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Acreage

21.23 AC. N. OF SAN ANGELO. LEVEL WITH NICE MESQUITE TREE COVER. DEER, HOGS, TURKEY, QUAIL & DOVE. NEAR LAKE E. V. SPENCE. $2,926 DN-$485/MO. CALL/ VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO. 800-876-9720 ranchenterprisesltd.com

Lots and Land

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- **Kent County**
  - 11,155 ac. n. of Snyder, 4 houses, pens/roping arena, 800 ft. mtn., creek, lakes, Whitetail deer, mule deer and quail ... $795/ac
  - 4,212 ac. Maveric Creek, canyons, whitetail and mule deer and quail ... $825/ac
  - 1,771 ac. windmill, creek, blinds and feeders, great w-tail and mule deer, turkey, hogs, quail ... $850
- **Nolan County**
  - 646 ac. over 1 mile **SOLD** creek, blinds, feeders, elevation change, oak ... $3,550/ac
  - 565 ac. Pecan Creek, New Living/Shop, 200 acres cleared for cattle, blinds/feeders, windmill ... $4,425/ac
- **Howard County**
  - 842 ac. canyons, blinds/feeders, great deer, cedar/mesquite, surface water, some oilfield traffic ... $750/ac
  - 150 ac. big canyon, **SOLD** anks, cedar/mesquites, great deer, turkey, jav ... $895/ac
- **Martin County**
  - 135 ac. Sulphur Springs **SOLD** deer and whitetail, hogs, varmints, metal stor ... $1,150/ac

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MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT. 3BD/2BA. $1000/mo plus $1000 deposit. 2BD/1BA $800/mo plus $800 deposit. Call 432-210-4955, 432-634-4762 until 5pm, after 5pm text only for more info.

Residential Rentals

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★★ ESTATE SALE ★★
★★ by PATRICIA & TEAM ★★
2512 Lockheed - Midland, Texas
Thurs, January 12th & Fri, January 13th, 8:30am-3:00pm
Saturday, January 14th, 8:30am-12:00pm

Baldwin piano, dining room table, couch, Turkish rugs, Brass rubbing, paintings, entertainment center, breakfast table, Wicker chair, wicker lawn furniture, Designer purses: Michael Kors, Coach Dooney and Bourke, IPad air.

Go to EstateSales.Net to view picture

Estate Sales

Moving/Downsizing Estate Sale by Wall St. Antiques
2402 Seaboard
Thurs & Fri. 9 - 2 - Sat. 9 - 12

2003 S10 pickup, fridge, washer, dryer, trailer, Rockwell 20" band saw, Lincoln welder, air compressor, anvils, pressure washer, chop saws, scroll saw, table saw, chain saws, sanders, drills, woodworking tools, hand tools, power tools, motors, work tables, vise, acetylene tanks, mower, edger, hedgers, yard tools, vacuum system, guns & gun parts, knives, records, books, games, comics, toys, Pyrex, corningware, Pfaltsgraff dishes, small appliances, Atmos clock, clocks, ceramic bird collection, Murano, Fenton, American Fostoria, microscopes, scuba gear, camping equipment, luggage, trunks, antique wall phones, cast iron, costume jewelry, bookshelves, curio cabinet, maple hutch, sofa, end tables, upholstered chairs, lamps, filing cabinets, desk, full bed, chest of drawers, dresser, cameras, seasonal, linens, framed art, shop and house packed!

View full details at EstateSales.NET:
https://www.EstateSales.NET/TX/Midland/79705/1400070

Estate Sales

5728 GRASSLAND, in alley. Estate Sale & Aggie raising funds for Spring Semester! Lots! Antique oil lamps, fine art, old sports cards, jewelry, old comics, game systems, games, tufted chaise, tufted storage bench, antique trunk, loads of old glassware, grill, many chairs, silver service, books, nice clothes, baked goods! Thursday 9-5, 1/2 off starting at 3! Cash only. No early sales.

ESTATE SALE
BY JOSEPH & TEAM
5205 Hilltop (Midland)
Thursday - 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Friday 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Saturday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

For pictures go to...

http://www.estate sales.net/TX/Midland/79707/1407105

Yard - Garage Sales

79705

AFTER 15 YEARS in Midland We're Moving! ....THIS IS ONE HUGE GARAGE SALE...WAY TOO MANY ITEMS TO LIST...Everything from Furniture, antique cane bottom dining chairs, bed frames, household appliances, books, garden pots, 4 drawer file cabinets, sewing and quilting items: roll top desk, firewood ETC, ETC. 2400 KESWICK Rd. Saturday 8am-2pm.

Estate Sales

1710 S. Lamesa Rd. Thurs. & Fri. 9am-? Clothes 2/$1, bedding.

79707

1320 N. Fairgrounds trailer # 406, Stone Gate Trailer Park. Starting @ 1pm daily until everything is gone.

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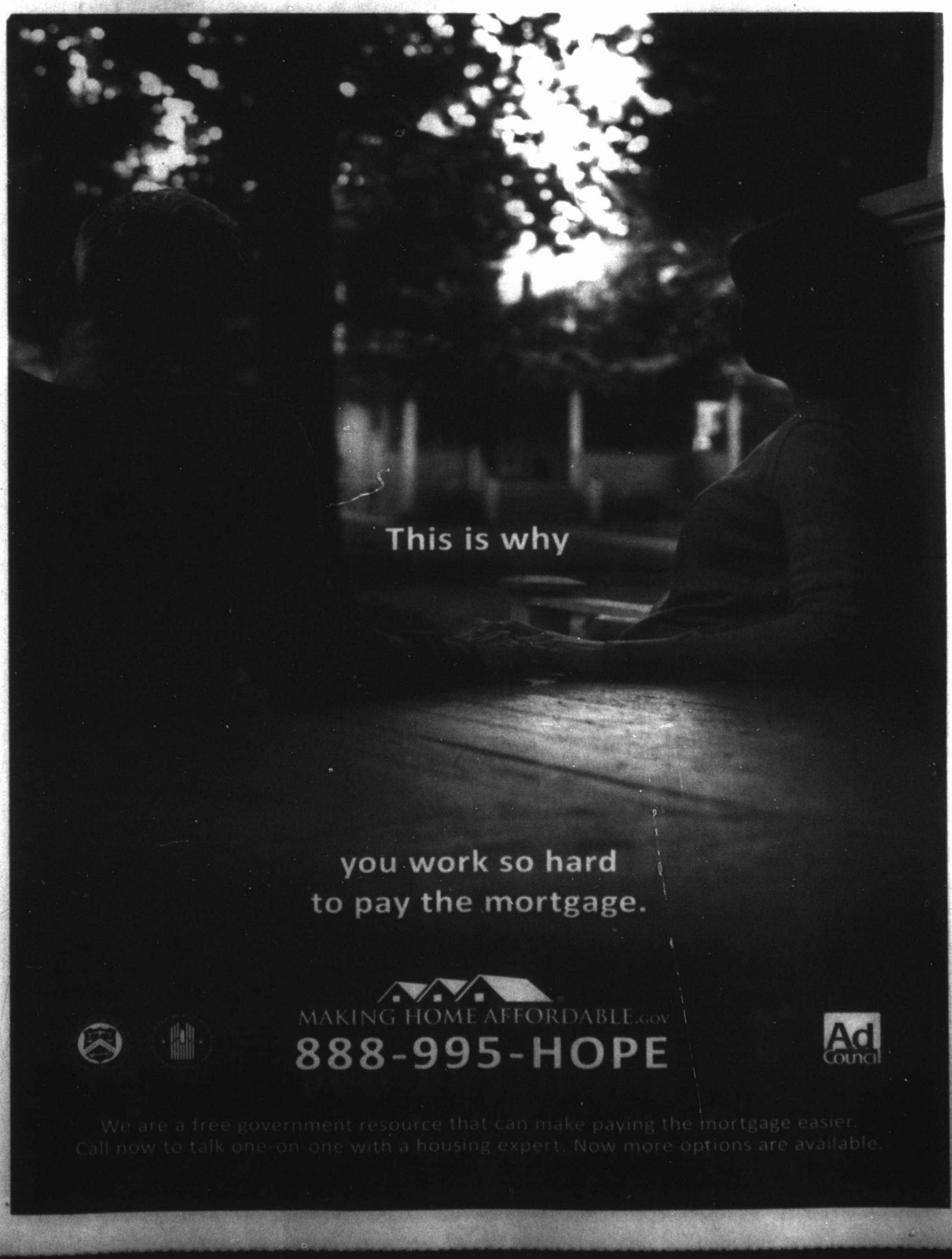

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A2 The Spottville Bugle

Fortune Shines on Freckled Faces

SPOTTVILLE, USA – The Spottville school board passed a new rule last night giving Spottville children with freckles more privileges than children without freckles.

Student Myron Fleming feels the new rule is "long overdue."

Freckled children will always sit at the front of the classroom and be first in line. They will get to use new pencils and the finest white paper. Children without freckles will have to sit at the back of the room or on the floor. Grocery bags will be used as paper for their assignments.

Many non-freckled children find the Freckle Rule unfair. "This rule stinks!" cried Alison Smythe, age 11. "I can't help it that I don't have freckles. Why can't I eat in the same cafeteria as my friends with freckles?"

Many children with freckles also disagree with the new Freckle Rule. "I plan to fight against this dumb idea," said Dottie Darling, a student at Spottville Elementary School. "Dr. Martin Luther King's message is that discrimination is always wrong, and this new rule is discrimination."

"Disgruntled nonsense," said school board president Spotz McDotter. "The rule is fair to the people that really matter most – people with freckles."

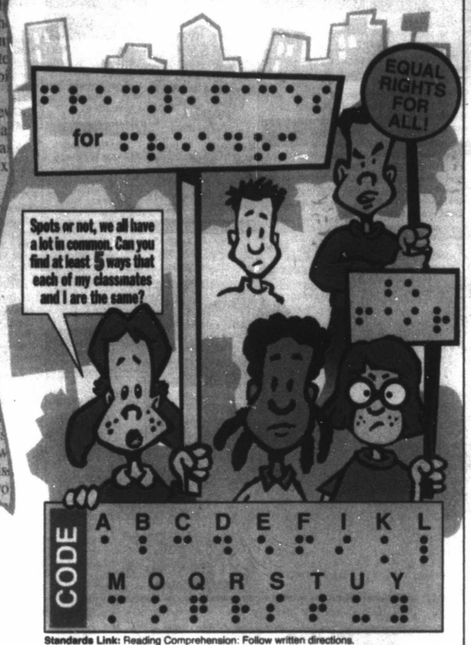
This story may seem a bit silly. Sadly, there is some truth to it. For many years, groups of people in the United States were treated differently just because of the way they looked.

Could this be true?

What if this news story were true? Are the schools in Spottville treating all children equally?

Dottie Darling Disagrees

Dottie and lots of kids from her school are speaking out against the Freckle Rule. Use the code to see what their signs say.



CODE

A B C D E F I K L

M O Q R S T U Y

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow written directions.

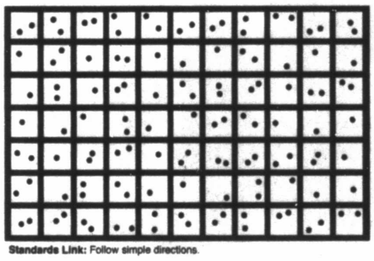
Dr. King's Dream of Equality

Dr. Martin Luther King knew what it was like to be discriminated against. He had been called names and told he could not do all of things other people could do. It wasn't because of freckles that Dr. King had these problems. It was because his skin was black.

In the 1950s and 60s, many Americans, black and white, spoke out and even fought against unfair laws that discriminated against black people. Dr. King was one of the leaders of this struggle called the Civil Rights movement.

Standards Link: History: Students understand the importance of individual action and character.

Did Dottie and her friends get rid of the Freckle Rule? To find out, color the spaces with two dots RED and the squares with one dot BLUE.



Standards Link: Follow simple directions.

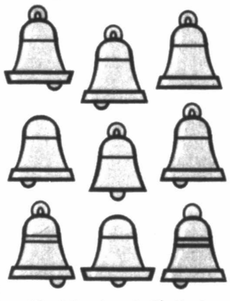
Extra! Extra!

Spirit of Freedom

Look through the newspaper for pictures and stories that show the freedoms Americans enjoy. Cut these out and make a poster called: "The Spirit of Freedom—The Spirit of America!"

Standards Link: History: Students understand the rights of citizenship.

Kid Scoop Puzzler



Find the two bells that are exactly the same.

Let Freedom Ring

After years of struggle, the Civil Rights Act made discrimination against the law. However, Dr. King knew it would take more than a law to change people's hearts and minds. He continued to teach people that discrimination was unfair.

Each year on his birthday, Americans remember this man who believed the dream of equality and freedom should ring true for all.

Standards Link: Visual discrimination: Follow written directions.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

EQUALITY
FORTUNE
SIGNS
FREEDOM
MARTIN
LUTHER
KING
DREAM
TEACH
STRUGGLE
SPOTS
SKIN
RULE
SAME
LAW

N	A	L	F	G	W	A	Y	Y	R
I	S	A	F	R	N	S	T	U	N
K	K	Q	O	D	E	I	L	U	I
S	E	S	R	L	L	E	K	S	T
S	I	E	T	A	U	H	D	P	R
A	A	G	U	W	T	C	T	O	A
M	I	Q	N	O	H	A	N	T	M
E	E	S	E	S	E	E	H	S	K
E	L	G	G	U	R	T	S	Q	O

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognizing identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Weekly Writing Corner

Leadership

Students describe the qualities of a good leader.

A leader is a person who is there to help, take charge and consider everyone's ideas and put them all together. A leader will have wishes for peace and kindness. My grandma, Liz, she is a leader. She wishes for peace and kindness and devotes her life to it. She leads groups for the goodness of all. She only wishes for the best for the world and all who live on it. The glass is half full, not half empty.

Madeleine, 6th grade

I think that a good leader is smart, courageous, kind and funny. Leaders can be parents, coaches, teachers, or anyone you look up to. I think of people that are leaders as kind, caring people and that anyone can be a leader as long as they have the right attitude and knowledge.

Megan, 6th grade

A good leader needs to have patience but be firm. They need to be open to listen. They can't be bossy. When I think of a good leader, I think about my mom. My mom has all the qualities I mentioned and is a great leader.

Audra, 5th grade

I know one person that is a great leader and that is my mom. She is nice, trustworthy and strong. My mom is the captain of a fishing boat and she takes people out fishing about every day. That is a big responsibility. She works very hard.

Amanda, 3rd grade

A good leader should be able to change things and have the will to do it. I asked a few people in my class who they thought was a good leader. Jeramiah—George Washington Chloe—Martin Luther King Emily—Abraham Lincoln Mrs. Caccese—Barack Obama Kevin—Benjamin Franklin And my answer—John Adams.

Aidan, 5th grade

A good leader knows what's best for his or her people. Teachers, for instance, are good leaders. They help you learn, they do what's best to help you have a great future. My teacher is great.

Viviana, 4th grade

My basketball coach is a good leader (otherwise known as my dad). He never puts people down. He always encourages us if we're losing. He always says that we can come back and win.

Liam, 5th grade

Write On!

Woman I Admire

Write about a woman, other than your mother, that you admire. Include reasons why you chose this woman.

Deadline: February 5
Published: Week of Mar. 5
Send your story to:

Newspaper In Education
201 E. Illinois
Midland, TX 79701
ljdiaz@mrt.com

Please include your school and grade.

From the Kid Scoop Lesson Library

Is the Dream Alive?

Has Martin Luther King's dream come true? Look through the newspaper for examples that show the dream is alive. Do you see examples that show that his dream still isn't alive for all people?

Standards Link: History/Social Science. Students recognize the forms of diversity in their school and community and the benefits and challenges of a diverse population.

Why do cows wear bells?

ANSWER: Because their horns don't work.

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